

Africa Adaptation Initiative - AAI

Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa

Newsletter - COP24 Edition



Africa Union



Republic of Gabon



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Katowice, Poland



AFRICA DAY@



African countries stand united to accelerate action on climate change

This year the Conference of Parties (COP24) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), comes at a critical moment as the geopolitical dynamics which underpins climate diplomacy is rapidly changing. Whilst many developed countries, development partners, research and advocacy organizations are working hard to ensure that COP24 is a success, to prove that multilateralism is still delivering benefits, there is also a rising tide of resistance by countries which are willing to make compromises to their global climate commitments, due to growing nationalism and unilateralism. African countries however have remained resolute through consensus agreements at African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSSC).

Through the determined leadership of the Government of Gabon as the current Chair of CAHOSSC and champion of the AAI, African countries have been able to reach a clear consensus on what their aspirations and priorities are for COP24.

Whilst the world needs COP24 to agree on the details of the rules and mechanisms under the Paris Agreement, there is also a greater challenge to strengthen political will needed to raise ambitions to meet climate targets and agenda by 2020. For in 2020 all countries will finalize their course of climate action until 2030. As highlighted by the IPCC 1.5 report, decisions over the next decade will determine whether the world mitigate the worst risks of climate impacts or lock in a carbon pathway that is likely to keep us on a pathway to over 3 degrees warming. Appropriate and timely adaptation actions implemented on the African continent will be critical catalysts to help the world make progress towards climate resilient futures.

At the 7th Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA – VII) Seventh Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa, in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-11 October 2018, the following priorities were agreed for African countries at COP24:

- effective implementation of existing instruments and conventions;
- entry into force of Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol;
- completion of work on the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP);
- predictable and adequate finance to fight climate change; and
- support for African initiatives, such as the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI).

From COP21 to COP24: Keeping the promises to Africa

Dr. Akinwumi A. Adesina President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) COP 24 opened with a celebration of Africa Day, a joint initiative of the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

Estimated financing for NDC in Africa is **US\$ 4 Trillion** by 2030.



AFRICA DAY @COP24 The fact that the opening day at COP24 this year also marked Africa Day at the climate summit, is an indication of how far the continent has come in establishing its place amongst the global community of leaders tackling climate change. Each year harsher climatic events and more dramatic negative impacts are devastating millions of lives and communities. Indeed the conference opened with an alarming message from the renowned naturalist Sir David Attenborough who warned “Civilisations are going to collapse and much of nature will be wiped out to extinction if humanity doesn’t take urgent action on climate change.”

Africa’s particular vulnerability to climate change is often experienced as recurrent droughts and in the decade from 1995 to 2015 the continent suffered 136 episodes of drought, 77 of which were in East Africa alone. Other impacts threaten food security, health, infrastructure and also creates millions of climate migrants, all of which destabilises the region and reverberates around the world. Of the 10 countries in the world considered most threatened by climate change, seven are in Africa – Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. And this is despite the fact that the continent contributes less than four percent of world greenhouse gas emissions. However the Africa Day partners are also encouraged by the fact that 49 African countries out of 54 have ratified

their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – representing 90% of African nations. This demonstrates the continent’s level of commitment to fight climate change and to pursue climate-resilient development pathways. Therefore the theme of this year’s Africa Day was: “The Africa NDC Hub: Going further and faster with NDC implementation in support of Agenda 2063”.

These high-level political commitments must now be matched by financial support, which experts estimate to be around USD 4 trillion to meet adaptation and mitigation targets for the NDCs submitted by 2030. It is now time to balance the equation of provision against need, since sub-Saharan Africa only received an average of USD 12 billion per year in 2015/16. In raising ambitions to fight climate change, an urgent elevation of scale from billions to trillions of dollars is also needed, otherwise it becomes impossible to keep the promises made by countries signed to the Paris Agreement.

In accordance with the mission to coordinate regional activities for enhancing adaptation actions, the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) is currently developing a flagship programme in partnership with the AfDB to raise over USD 55 Million for an Africa Programme on Climate Information Services (CIS) for adaptation and resilience. Africa Day is organised at the request of African Heads of State and has been held at every COP since COP17 in Durban.

“To combat climate change, African countries need to develop their own resource-mobilization strategies”

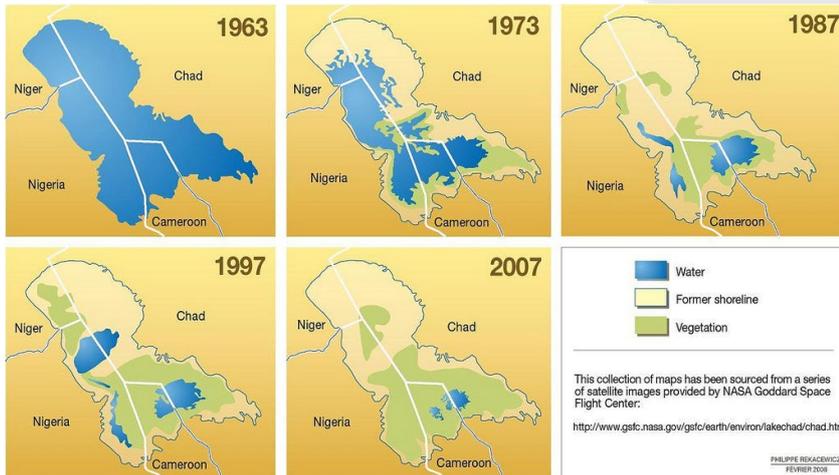
Seyni Nafa, African Ambassador to COP24
Speaking from Katowice, Poland at COP24) to UNFCCC





President Muhammadu Buhari, speaking to delegates at COP24 in Katowice, Poland on Monday 3rd December 2018, affirmed Nigeria's commitment to the Paris Agreement and urged countries to cooperate towards meeting targets. "In the next 15 years, we aim to achieve 20% emissions reduction below Business as Usual (BAU) and 45% emissions reduction with the support of our international partners by 2030. Our efforts include the review and introduction of new responsive Legislation/policies, strengthening institutional and manpower capacities, and encouraging gradual transition to low carbon economy. Nigeria has also recently ratified the Doha Amendment and will soon deposit the instrument for ratification. 'In support of our NDC aspiration, we have embraced the issuance of green bonds as an innovative and alternative source of funding projects that would reduce emissions and provide robust climate infrastructure like renewable energy, low carbon transport, water infrastructure and sustainable agriculture that our country needs.'" The President also highlighted the need to resuscitate and safeguard the vulnerable Lake Chad which was once the 6th largest fresh water Lake in the world. The AAI is currently developing a flagship programme to raise over USD 8 Million, alongside other technical and human resources for the Lake Chad River Basin Early Warning System, in partnership with the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC), which will promote resilience for over 40 million people who depend on Lake Chad for their livelihood.

KEY FACTS OF THE WEEK - Lake Chad: almost gone



Since 1963, the surface area of Lake Chad has decreased from approximately 25,000 km² to 1,350 km², threatening the lives of the **50 million** people that live there.

Source:
GRIDA - Philippe Rekacewicz, February 2006

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The African Group of Negotiators (AGN)
Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change



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