

# Africa Adaptation Initiative - AAI

Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa

## Newsletter - COP24 Edition



Africa Union



Republic of Gabon



December 2018



Left to right: José Mendes, Chairman, Transport Decarbonisation Alliance; Mr. Régis Immongault, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Gabon; Mr. Alexander Van der Bellen, President of Austria; Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki, Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland; Mr. Michał Kurtyka, COP 24 President; and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

## As final agreement emerges at COP24, Africa continues to raise ambitions on adaptation

The climate summit at Katowice, Poland this year has now ended with qualified success after two weeks of intense negotiations and high-level climate diplomacy. The talks were attended by nearly 14,000 delegates from 195 countries, who were primarily hoping for an agreement on the “rule book” for putting into practice the Paris agreement of 2015, which commits the world to keeping global warming “well below” 2°C relative to pre-industrial times, and preferably within 1.5°C, as recommended by the latest IPCC report on Climate Change.

African countries were mainly looking for greater transparency from the “Katowice package” to monitor and assess how governments from richer countries will measure, report on and verify their emissions-cutting efforts, a key element because it ensures all countries are held to proper standards and will find it harder to misrepresent or renege on their commitments.

This trust building exercise was difficult yet crucial, therefore despite the tensions over formal adoption of the climate science detailed in the latest IPCC 1.5°C report; and the disagreements over “Article 6,” regarding the so-called “market mechanisms” which allows countries to meet a part of their domestic mitigation goals by trading their emissions allowances, a compromise was eventually reached that if any cannot meet the standards, they must explain why and present a

plan to make amends. Therefore the Paris Agreement is succeeding in establishing global rules to safeguard the integrity of all countries’ efforts and ensure that each tonne of emissions released into the atmosphere is accounted for.

The unity of the African delegations at COP24 and the leadership shown by the Gabonese Government as the current chair of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) helped to ensure particularly favourable outcomes for Africa this year on adaptation measures.

The Foreign Minister Immongault noted that the outcomes of COP 24 should facilitate development in Africa. He emphasised the need to develop strong partnerships to implement the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Africa. **Currently about 90% of African countries – 49 out of 54 – have ratified their NDCs.** This affirms the continent’s awareness and increasing commitment to the fight against climate change.

All countries must now support their citizens, businesses, and investors to enhance climate action by 2020. That is the deadline for governments to commit to increased ambition and scale-up finance for developing countries to adapt to climate impacts and build resilience.

## Raising the Stakes on Climate Finance



Left to right: Kulthoum Omari, Coordinator, Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and Benoît Bosquet, Director of Environment and Natural Resources Group, World Bank.

Raising finance for adaptation in Africa was placed firmly on the agenda by Kulthoum Omari during the World Bank Facebook Live Discussion on Africa Climate Business Plan on Thursday, December 6th at the COP24 climate summit in Katowice, Poland.

**“Adaptation is not just an option but a necessity for Africa. For many countries, it's the only means of survival”** She concluded in response to the announcement of the World Bank's pledge to double its climate finance over its current five-year with plans to direct \$200 billion to climate-related projects between 2021 and 2025, and \$50 billion of that total to climate change adaptation.

Other countries also offered support for adaptation efforts. The UK's Energy and Clean Growth Minister Claire Perry announced an extra £100m is to be assigned to the Renewable Energy Performance Platform, providing support for up to 40 new renewable energy projects across Africa over the next five years.

Germany also pledged an additional 70 million euros to the Adaptation Fund. With 240 million euros already contributed, Germany is the fund's biggest donor. The German Environment Minister Svenja Schulze said.

**“Our support for the Adaptation Fund is a sign of solidarity, the people who suffer most from climate change are those who have contributed the least [to global warming]. The Fund enjoys a high reputation in the climate negotiations because it is tailored to the needs of the particularly affected developing countries. The fund supports people and regions who suffer most from the effects of climate change to better adapt, for example by financing early warning systems for floods, or measures to ensure water supply.”**

## “Adaptation is not just an option but a necessity for Africa. For many countries, it's the only means of survival”

**Kulthoum Omari**, Coordinator,  
Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)

Speaking from Katowice, Poland at COP24



## Adaptation Day with AAI & AfDB



Left to right: Mr. Mithika Mwenda, Director, PACJA; Ms. Christina Chan, Director Climate Resilience, World Resources Institute; Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Manager Adaptation Fund; Mr. Pa Ousman- Director of Country programming, Green Climate Fund; and Ms. Kulthoum Omari, Coordinator, AAI.



HE Ms. Nezha El Ouafi, State Secretary in charge of Sustainable Development of Morocco and H.E. Minister Régis Immongault of Gabon, Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaking Adaptation Day

The High-level segment event was organised by the African Development Bank Group in collaboration with the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) to discuss action to scaled-up finance and action at all levels, including at the community-level across Africa.



## Promoting Consensus: The African Group of Negotiators (AGN)



Clockwise: Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Mohamed Nasr, Chair of the African Group of Negotiators 2018-2019, Arab Republic of Egypt.

**The African Group of Climate Change Negotiators (AGN)** has been very active in this climate summit ensuring that the “special needs and circumstances of Africa under the Paris Agreement” were carefully considered at COP24. Since it was established at COP1 in Berlin, Germany in 1995, the AGN represents the interests of the region in the international climate change negotiations, with a collective and unified voice.

It is the technical body of the three-tier African negotiating structure that engages in the technical negotiations during the Conferences of the Parties and the inter-sessional negotiations. The AGN prepares and drafts text and common positions, guided by decisions and key messages from Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment and Natural Resources (AMCEN), and prepares text for adoption by Ministers during the COPs.

Recognising the need for a unified African voice and a common African position, particularly in the run-up to the COP in Copenhagen in 2009, African Heads of States and Governments called at the AU Summit in February 2009 for a common African platform which was prepared by the AGN. This common platform was adopted by AMCEN as part of the Algiers Declaration of May 2009, titled, “African Common Platform to Copenhagen,” and was endorsed and captured as the “Algiers Platform,” in an AU decision at the 13th AU Assembly held in Sirte, Libya in July 2009.

From such a platform, the African Group, currently chaired by Egypt, played a significant role as part of the Group of 77 and China, which was chaired by Sudan at the time, and maintained a strong and unified African position during the COP.

Since 2015 the role of the AGN has evolved to become what has been described as an “incubation Mandate,” which involves helping member countries to mobilize resources and build their capacities in order to facilitate their tangible actions. This led to the formulation of concrete initiatives such as the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) which aims to cover at least 10GWh by 2020 and 300GWh by 2030 and which has received support from the G7, and a pledge of at least USD 10 billion by 2020, as well as the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI).



Stimulating the key component of building trust during the climate negotiations is dependent on the skills of expert negotiators such as the AGN, who support the political process with focus and dedication. By Friday 14th December at the official end of COP24 no agreement had been reached, and the delegates were returning home in dismay, it was merely the intense commitment of the negotiating teams who stayed behind and kept the momentum that helped to achieve consensus on a final text, which was signed one day later on 15th December 2018. Amidst the jubilation that follows, it is important to remember that the world owes much to the acumen of these invisible champions - the climate change negotiators.

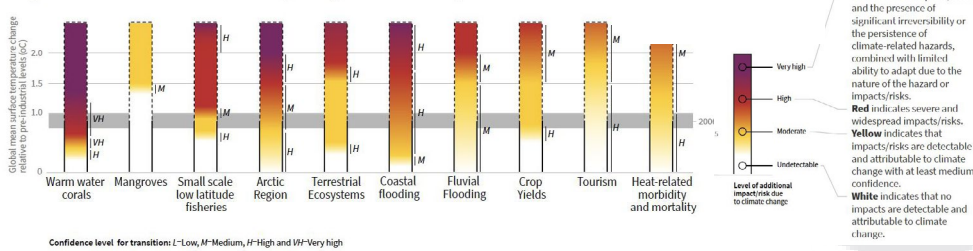
“It’s the suffering of the many that pay for the luxury of a few. We cannot solve a crisis without treating it as a crisis”

Greta Thunberg @COP24



# KEY FACTS OF THE WEEK - Not a Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the IPCC at COP24

Impacts and risks for selected natural, managed and human systems



Source:  
IPCC special report  
"Global warming of 1.5°C"

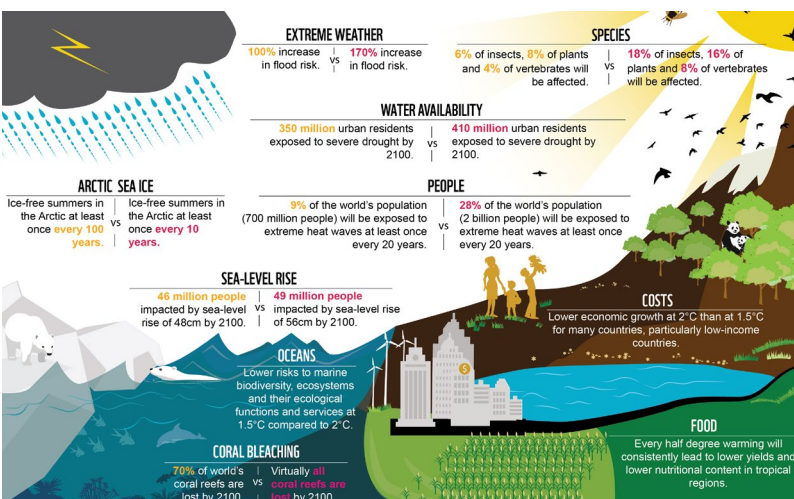
As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) celebrates its 30 years of climate change science and policy the adoption of its latest **special report "Global warming of 1.5°C"** failed at COP24 in Katowice, Poland. The report that was released this October not only revealed the unprecedented global action required to limit global warming but was requested by governments party to the Paris agreement three years ago. Even though delegates from Africa, Europe, Latin America, small islands, and elsewhere argued the need to address the findings, world leaders blocked the critical report.

The findings of the report are the assessment of more than 6,000 scientific papers with inputs from hundreds of expert scientists from around the globe. Some key findings of the IPCC 1.5°C Report:

- 2°C is no longer a safe goal to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. We can avoid much, but not all, of the loss and risk of climate change by limiting warming to 1.5°C.
- Impacts associated with forest fires and heavy precipitation events are projected to be higher at 2°C compared to 1.5°C global warming.

- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C, compared with 2°C, could reduce the number of people both exposed to climate-related risks and susceptible to poverty by up to several hundred million by 2050.
- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C could reduce the proportion of the world population exposed to a climate-change-induced increase in water stress by up to 50% compared to 2°C.
- Global annual catch for marine fisheries could decline by about 1.5 million tonnes for 1.5°C of global warming compared to a loss of more than 3 million metric tonnes for 2°C of global warming.
- The report explicitly finds that current Paris Agreement pledges are not enough to limit warming to 1.5°C, and governments need to strengthen national climate policies to limit warming.

While the IPCC report focuses on the findings, it also makes it clear that the world has the scientific understanding, the technological capacity and the financial means to tackle climate change. Therefore, will the new rulebook guidelines for the implementation of the Paris Agreement adopted at the end of COP24 going to be enough to cut carbon pollution as much as possible, as fast as possible or will we need to strengthen our actions even beyond?



Limiting global warming to  
**1.5°C compared to 2°C**

Source:  
Climate Risks - WWF

## STAY CONNECTED

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

