



# NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA

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## NBDF RWANDA TO RAISE AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSO ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN RWANDA

The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda, in September 2009 started a project on **“Building capacity and raising awareness for a sensitive community on climate change adaptation in Rwanda”** . The 90,000USD project is funded by CC DARE from the Danish Foreign Ministry.



**Flooding in N.Rwanda due to climate changes**

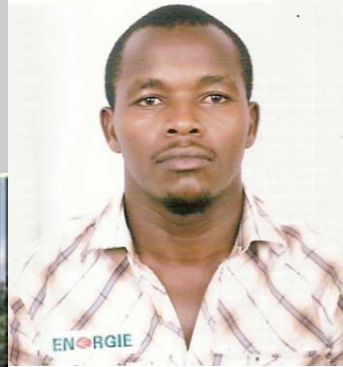
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As African civil society, we have followed the negotiations over the past week with keen interest. We are saddened to observe a strong degree of mistrust permeating the dialogue process. There is a real danger we are headed towards a tragic breakdown of the negotiations in Copenhagen unless political will is enhanced, particularly from industrialized countries. Renewed genuine commitment and leadership by the United States, EU and other Annex I countries is a pre-requisite to enable discussions to move forward.

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## NILE BASIN DISCOURSE FORUM IN RWANDA ON WORLD BANK'S CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUND TRUST COMMITTEE



The Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda Ag. National Project Coordinator was in July, 2009 selected to represent African Civil Society Organization on the Observer Seat of the Clean

Technology Fund Trust for Climate Investment Fund of the World Bank. Mr. GAKUMBA John B. Walter, through a very tight competition of the famous body emerged best. He will be in charge for representation of the CSOs in Africa to the committee on Energy, Transport, Agriculture and Industrial sectors.

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## SABOTAGE BY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES UNACCEPTABLE

### MEDIA STATEMENT FROM PACJA

Representatives from African civil society attending the climate change talks here in Bangkok during these two weeks wish to express our outright disapproval at the deliberate attempt by developed countries to sabotage the progress being made in the talks. Such sabotage, we believe, threatens to undermine any chance of attaining a fair and equitable deal in Copenhagen in December 2009.

National Coordination Office,

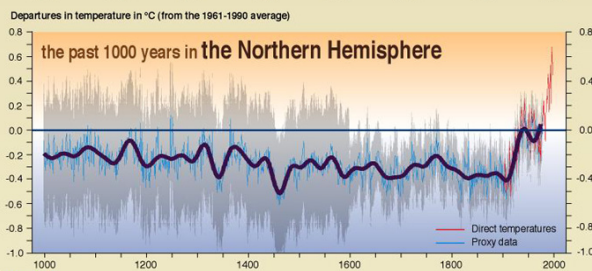
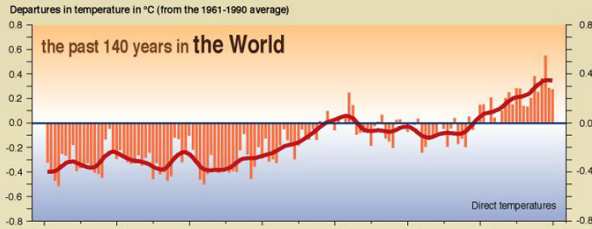
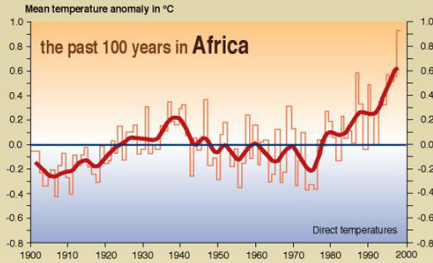
NBDF-Rwanda, Opposite Amahoro National Stadium, on Kimironko Rd.

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Africa follows the global trend of recent increases in temperatures.

### Variations of the Earth's Surface Temperature for...

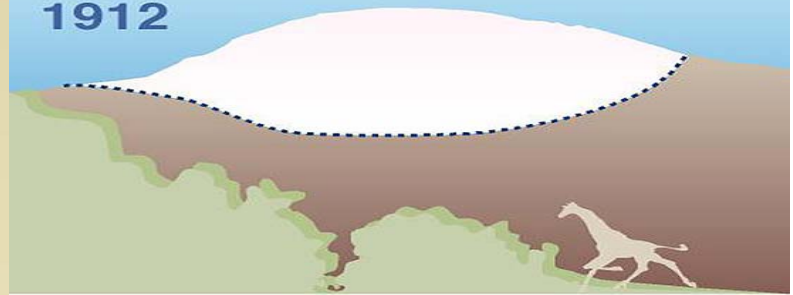


Sources: World Meteorological Organization (WMO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Climate Change 2001, Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, and Synthesis Report.

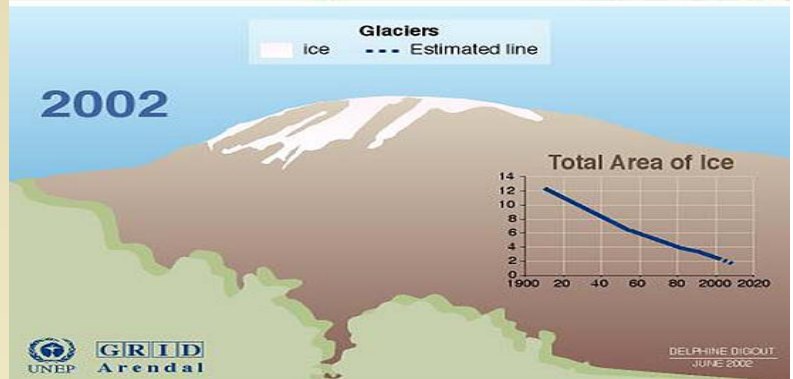
Observational records show that the continent of Africa has been warming through the 20th century at the rate of about 0.05°C per decade with slightly larger warming in the June-November seasons than in December-May (Hulme et al., 2001). By the year 2000, the 5 warmest years in Africa had all occurred since 1988, with 1988 and 1995 being the two warmest years. This rate of warming is not dissimilar to that experienced globally, and the periods of most rapid warming-the 1910s to 1930s and the post-1970s-occur simultaneously in Africa and the world.

### The Melting Snows of Kilimanjaro

1912



2002



Sources: Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), February 2001 ; Earthobservatory.nasa.gov.

The white cap of Kilimanjaro varies in size over the year, and may grow and shrink at intervals depending on solar influx, precipitation and other factors. But since 1912, there is clear evidence that the glaciers have shrunk consistently and dramatically. At the February 2001 meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), researchers reported dramatic changes in the volume of ice capping the Kibo summit of Kilimanjaro. An estimated 82 % of the icecap that crowned the mountain when it was first thoroughly surveyed in 1912 is now gone, and the ice is thinning as well - by as much as a meter in one area. According to some projections, if recession continues at the present rate, the majority of the glaciers on Kilimanjaro could vanish in the next 15 years.

Source: <http://www.grida.no/publications/vg/africa/page/3104.aspx>

### Climate Change is a Challenge and an Opportunity

By Abdoulie Janneh, Stanislas Kamanzi and Andreas Carlgren

Climate change is here, it is real and it has to be urgently dealt with. African and European institutions should work together to take advantage of the existing and emerging opportunities to counter the threat posed by this global public danger.

There is a fundamental unfairness implicit in climate change. The poorest and most vulnerable countries, groups and people, who are the least to blame for the steep increase in emissions of green house gases, are at the same time the most affected and the least able to adapt.

The threat to Africa in particular is extreme. Measures are therefore needed to protect the most vulnerable communities against climate destruction. We need to act to build the resilience of these communities as well as African economies.

Waiting will make matters worse in terms of human suffering, economic costs and damage to the ecosystem assets. This underlines coping with climate change as one of the most important and urgent challenges facing all governments as well as regional and international bodies. ....to page 11



## SABOTAGE BY INDUSTRIALISED COUNTRIES UNACCEPTABLE

From Page 1

This is particularly important in the areas of mid-term mitigation targets as well as adaptation finance and technology transfer.

We believe Annex 1 parties should now urgently acknowledge their responsibility for and capability to deal with the climate crisis. Now is the time for them to show genuine commitment to providing the support needed by countries in Africa to respond and adapt to climate change.

In view of the above, African civil society calls for the following:

- The fulfillment of commitments by industrialized countries under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, including the polluter pays principle.
- Provision of adequate and predictable financing for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries.
- Deep emission cuts by Annex 1 countries of 45 % below 1990 levels by 2020, and of a 90% reduction by 2050.

Compensation to African Countries and establishment of an Adaptation Fund for Africa.

We re-affirm our support to the African Group of Negotiators and our solidarity with the G77&China. It is our firm belief that a fair, ecologically just and equitable deal will only be attained through the frank and honest commitment from all parties.

Signed on 5<sup>th</sup> day of October 2009 by Mithika Mwenda , PACJA Coordinator

### RWANDA'S NATIONAL ADAPTATION PROGRAMMES OF ACTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Adopted from NAPA document

The Republic of Rwanda has finished its report on National Adaptation Programmes of Action to climate change "NAPA" in conformity with the guidelines prepared by the Least Developed Countries Groups of Experts (LEG) and adopted by the November 2001 Assembly of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Decision 28/CP.7). Being a country with an economy essentially based on rain-fed agriculture, it is with no doubt vulnerable to negative effects of climate change. With a rate of 60% of the population below poverty line, its adaptive capacity to impacts related to extreme meteorological phenomena is very low.

Having in mind scientific predictions that climate change shall have a serious effect on Least Developed Countries (LDC), the Rwanda NAP A report constitutes a decisive step in its search to respond to immediate and urgent needs for adaptation to negative effects of this change. It therefore offers integration opportunities of measures and strategies of adaptation to climate change in the document for Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS).

This NAPA document shall guide political decision makers and national planners on priorities in vulnerable economic sectors as well as strategies and priority actions of adaptation to climate change which were identified according to retained criteria during workshops and seminars of stakeholders organized for this purpose.

*From the ranking of priority actions*, the project profiles were developed with an urgent character requiring funds to immediately respond to needs caused by the impacts of climate variability in our country.

The NAPA Rwanda report is the result of a process of study, concertation and consultation carried out by NAPA national team from January 2005 to July 2006. It is said that this team comprised:

- NAPA national project coordinator,
- UNFCCC Focal Point and Director within Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA),
- Environment programmes representative in the Ministry of Lands, Environment, Forestry, Water and Mines (MINITERE),
- Environment Focal Point in the development planning unit / Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), and
- The Director of Lands and Environment in the Prime Minister's office.

The work process not only involved sectors represented in this team and national experts, but also a considerable number of actors, regional and local partners namely local communities as well as women and youth associations.

Following directives of LEG – NAPA experts, the exercise aimed at evaluating current vulnerabilities to climate change according to the eight steps of NAPA guide in consideration of socioeconomic aspects and land use that exacerbate these vulnerabilities, to identify most vulnerable population groups, regions and sectors, determine priority adaptation options, select urgent and immediate project activities to be implemented as well as defining their profiles. ....to page 7

The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) seeks to promote scaled-up financing for demonstration, deployment and transfer of low carbon programs and projects with a significant potential for long-term Green House Gas (GHGs) emissions. The CTF promotes the realization of environmental and social co-benefits thus demonstrating the potential of low-carbon technologies to contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

**Clean Technology Fund Principles;** In developing a proposal for a Clean Technology Fund (CTF), the following principles have been taken into account:

- (a) The core mission of the MDGs is sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction. Climate change mitigation and adaptation considerations need to be integrated into the sustainable development process as addressing these issues contributes to the basic human needs of the poorest who are disproportionately impacted by the negative effects of climate change;
- (b) Multilateral development banks can and should play a role in ensuring access of developing countries to adequate financial resources and appropriate technology for climate actions;
- (c) The MDGs should mobilize new and additional financing for adaptation and mitigation programs to address climate change that are country-led and designed to support sustainable development and poverty reduction. Activities financed by the fund should be based on a country-led approach and should be integrated into country-owned development strategies, consistent with the Paris Declaration;
- (d) Achieving sustainable outcomes will require sustaining the total wealth – produced, human, institutional and natural – on which development depends;
- (e) The UN is the appropriate body for broad policy setting on climate change, and the MDGs should not preempt the results of climate change negotiations. Actions to address climate change should be guided by the principles of the UNFCCC;
- (f) The MDGs, in collaboration with other development partners, should assist developing countries to build country-level knowledge, capacity and development project experience;
- (g) It is appropriate for the MDGs to build partnerships with each other and a wide range of institutions and stakeholders on climate change, including the private sector. In doing so, each MDG should remain accountable to its governing body;
- (h) Complementarities between activities foreseen for the CIF and activities of the GEF and the UN, especially at the country level, should be identified, and effective cooperation established, to maximize synergies and avoid overlap.
- (i) The CTF should provide for transparency and openness in its governance and financing operations.

### **Objectives of the Clean Technology Fund**

The Clean Technology Fund (CTF) will aim to finance transformational actions by:

- (a) providing positive incentives for the demonstration of low carbon development and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through public and private sector investments;
- (b) promoting scaled-up deployment, diffusion and transfer of clean technologies by funding low carbon programs and projects that are embedded in national plans and strategies to accelerate their implementation;
- (c) promoting realization of environmental and social co-benefits thus demonstrating the potential for low-carbon technologies to contribute to sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- (d) promoting international cooperation on climate change and supporting agreement on the future of the climate change regime;
- (e) utilizing skills and capabilities of the MDGs to raise and deliver new and additional resources, including official and concessional funding, at significant scale; and
- (f) providing experience and lessons in responding to the challenge of climate change through learning-by-doing.

### **Types of Investment**

The Clean Technology Fund will invest in projects and programs that contribute to demonstration, deployment and transfer of low carbon technologies with a significant potential for long term greenhouse gas emissions savings. As country circumstances differ, investment programs will be developed on a country-specific basis to achieve nationally-defined objectives. The range of options include:

- (a) programs and large-scaled projects;
- (b) at the sectoral or sub-sectoral level in a given country;
- (c) sub-nationally, by focusing activity on a particular province/state/municipality;
- (d) regionally, particularly where regional cooperation is required;
- (e) through the private sector, or public-private partnerships.

## Fund to Promote African Climate Change Adaptation

By David Njagi and Naomi Antony



Africa's most marginalized communities will be able to share their experiences of adapting to climate change thanks to a new fund that seeks to promote knowledge sharing across the continent.

AfricaAdapt, a network set up in May to aid the flow of information between stakeholders, launched a Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund on 16th June, 2009, offering grants of up to US\$10,000 to projects testing new ways of sharing knowledge, such as theater performances and radio broadcasts.

The network, funded by the UK Department for International Development and Canada's International Development Research Center, is a collaboration between the UK-based Institute of Development Studies and three African research organizations: Environment and Development in the Third World, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA), and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre.

"Our expectation for AfricaAdapt is that communities in Africa who are most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change will be able to draw on information shared within the network — both scientific research and indigenous knowledge — and use it to cope with or become more resilient to climate-change impacts," says Jacqueline Nnam, knowledge-sharing officer at FARA.

Blane Harvey, AfricaAdapt's UK-based knowledge-sharing officer, told SciDev.Net that although AfricaAdapt has an active French and English web portal containing a wealth of information on adaptation projects, Africa's most isolated communities find the portal difficult to access, either because they don't have the Internet or they speak different languages.

The online portal is not intended to be a center point for local communities to access information but rather an archive that can be accessed by the research community and policymakers.

In contrast, the Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund will be used to develop non-web-based resources for local communities, although the information will also be accessible via the portal.

Abebe Tadege from ICPAC says he thinks that AfricaAdapt is the first pan-African network with the potential to overcome linguistic and geographical divides. "We will work with community-based radio [stations] and seek opportunities to collaborate with journalists across the region," he said.

The first round of submissions to the fund can be made until 1 August.

Musonda Mumba, project officer for the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Climate Change Adaptation Unit in Africa, welcomes AfricaAdapt and commends its local focus.

But she notes that there is still no "one-stop shop" for climate adaptation information and information is spread among several networks. To avoid duplication, she would like to see a portal that points stakeholders to what information is available and helps to disseminate it.

Mumba hopes that UNEP's Global Climate Change Adaptation Network, which will be formally launched in Copenhagen in December, will fill that gap.

The project “**Building capacity and raising awareness for a sensitive community on climate change adaptation in Rwanda**” will involve Nile Basin Discourse Forum in Rwanda’s 30 NGOs working in the Nile Basin region of Rwanda, will local community leaders in all the five provinces of Rwanda, liaise with Rwanda Environmental Management Authority, MINIRENA, some academic institutions as well as other NGO Forums such as RENGOF.

**The project seeks to achieve 3 main objectives:**

1. To build capacity of Civil society Organizations on climate change adaptation
2. To provide adequate information by producing and disseminating awareness materials on climate change adaptation
3. Document and disseminate best practices of climate change adaptation and vulnerability reduction

The project is implemented for six months beginning from September 2009 to February 2010. The main beneficiaries are civil society organizations. Other beneficiaries include media, general public and other stakeholders. The activities will vary from trainings, workshops, production and dissemination of information materials, and field studies on climate change adaptation initiatives and best practices.

**Project Background**

Lack of information and unconsciousness of Rwandan communities on climate change slow down efforts to mitigate climate change challenges.

Over the past 14 years, Rwanda has made significant progress in rebuilding economic, administrative and judicial infrastructures devastated by the 1994 genocide. Rwanda has also made advances in environmental protection, and measures have been taken to tackle problems related to environmental degradation. Rwanda’s population of more than 9 million is one of the most densely populated in Africa, and fertility rates are among the highest in the continent. In a rain-fed agrarian economy with a high rate of poverty and food insecurity, climate change sharpens its claws for potentially devastating impact. Any reduction in rainfall will damage farm yields whilst extreme or torrential downpours will hasten the process of soil erosion.

All these problems are seen in almost all the regions of Rwanda, and more specifically in the Nile Basin region, which covers more than 80% of the national territory. Experts say population pressure has led to a rapid degradation of the wetlands and forests over the past two decades, making the population prone to hazards of climate change. It is estimated that in the past two decades, Rwanda has lost about 60 percent of its forest cover. This situation put most of the population vulnerable to climate change with very limited capacity for adaptation. Unfortunately, most of the people think that climate situation is the will of God, and therefore they can not do anything to change God’s will.

Despite recent advances in environmental protection, Rwanda still faces many challenges in implementing a comprehensive and sustainable environmental policy, while political will is strong, traditional, cultural, poverty and lack of adequate behavior change strategy exert a strong influence, and existing government and civil society institutions at every level lack the knowledge, skills and capacities to fully act on changing local population mindset and practices. Rwanda has been prompt on climate changes by trying to help its population in various ways through propositions on adaptation and mitigation.

Results of this process focused on identification of high vulnerabilities to climate change of the population and sectors of agriculture, water resources and energy due to mutual influences and cumulative impacts of: High degradation of arable land due to erosion, following torrential regime of rains in Northern regions (Gisenyi, Ruhengeri and Byumba), Centre/West (Gitarama, Kibuye, Gikongoro) and floods in their downhill slope; Desertification trend in agro-bioclimate regions of the East and South-East; The lowering of level of lakes and water flows due to pluviometric deficit and prolonged droughts; and Degradation of forests.

This situation is translated into high vulnerability of high proportion of Rwanda population to climate change because it essentially lives on biophysical support and its modes of existence highly depend on services that are directly offered by ecosystems, not only for food but also for energy. These services are currently more and more sharpened and altered by climate change and anthropogenic action. The strategy for adequate response to this situation reached by NAPA Rwanda is articulated on six (6)-priority adaptation options to climate change which include:

1. An Integrated Water Resource Management – IWRM;
2. Setting up an information systems to early warning of hydro-agro meteorological system and rapid intervention mechanisms;
3. Promotion of non agricultural income generating activities;
4. Promotion of intensive agro-pastoral activities;
5. Introduction of species resisting to environmental conditions;
6. Development of firewood alternative sources of energy.

From these priority options, 7 high priority projects, hence urgent and immediate, have been selected and their profiles developed. These projects are prepared and identified by direct responses and cross-cutting positive impacts they target once implemented to improve the adaptation capacity of the populations and vulnerable sectors due to climate change and contribute to reinforce the resilience of highly fragilised ecosystems. They are centered on:

1. Land conservation and protection against erosion and floods at the level of Districts of vulnerable regions to climate change;
2. *Establish* the mastering hydro meteorological information and early warning systems to control extreme phenomena due to climate change: - Installation and rehabilitation of hydrological and meteorological stations;
3. Development of irrigated areas by gravity water systems from perennial streams and rivers in often vulnerable zones to prolonged droughts;
4. Support Districts of vulnerable regions to climate change in planning and implementing measures and techniques related to conservation and water harvesting and intensive agriculture, and promoting existing and new resistant varieties of crops adapted to different bioclimatic soil.
5. Increase adaptive capacity of grouped habitat "Imidugudu" located in vulnerable regions to climate change by the improvement of drinking water, sanitation and alternative energy services, and the promotion of non agricultural jobs.
6. Increase food and medicine modes of distribution to respond to extreme climate change and sensitize to stocking and conservation of agriculture products;
7. Preparation and implementation of woody combustible substitution national strategy to combat the deforestation and erosion as well.

These projects were launched starting from 2007. There is also need to consider with great importance the aspect of necessary *disconnection* of energy production of wood as an urgent strategy for Rwanda, which is in the urgent global "national" adaptation efforts to climate change. Also, the stabilization of populations around grouped habitat giving access to basic services and gradual and restabilized reconversion of the population towards agricultural or non agricultural related employments, participates to increase the adaptation capacity of the population to climate change, climate variability and extremes.

To be continued in next issue.



Africa is failing to benefit from global initiatives to help developing countries deal with climate change. The continent houses just 32 of the nearly 1,800 projects funded by the Clean Development Mechanism, a programme under the Kyoto Protocol whereby rich countries pay developing ones to run emission-reducing projects. This could change with discussions on new funding taking place as part of global climate negotiations that will culminate in a climate summit in Copenhagen in December. The summit is intended to set out binding agreements to curb global emissions after 2012, when current obligations under the Kyoto Protocol come to an end. But Africa faces a race against time to make sure its unique challenges — including endemic poverty and a lack of skills and resources — are reflected in the new agreements.

### Common goal

The continent's poor track record in influencing past climate negotiations has led its leaders to adopt a common negotiating position for Copenhagen.

The position, adopted in July this year, emphasises the need for rich nations — whose contributions to climate change exceed Africa's — to support adaptation and mitigation in poor countries.

It shows that although African states are willing to minimise their contribution to climate change, they want the international community to fund their, and other developing countries', mitigation efforts to the tune of US\$200 billion per year by 2020, with an added US\$67 billion per year for adaptation.

Adopting a common position may help to get Africa's needs into any future climate deal, but the overarching themes must be translated into detailed proposals if they are to reach the negotiating table.

No new propositions will be considered in Copenhagen, so African countries will need to put their proposals forward at one of the two preparatory meetings ahead of the summit — in Bangkok in late September and in Barcelona in early November.

This leaves African countries with little time to work out the details of their requirements and to lobby the rest of the world.

### Shared benefits

One opportunity for doing this will be a meeting on 3 September between African dignitaries and representatives from several countries from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to promote the continent's position on climate change. African delegates at the meeting will not only have to state their needs, but also offer concrete proposals for meeting them.

For example, one key issue for Africa is the mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD), which proposes to compensate landowners for not logging wooded areas (see [Reducing forest emissions](#)).

However, the form of REDD favoured by industrialised countries applies mainly to dense forests such as rainforests.

This would benefit heavily forested countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, but those dominated by sparser woodland, such as Tanzania, would fall by the wayside — clearly an undesirable outcome for the continent as a whole.

In addition, it is not clear how to ensure that compensation from REDD is distributed fairly in countries where many people are subsistence farmers.

"There is a possibility that rich people would buy up land in order to claim the compensation," says Pius Yanda, director of the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. Such buy-outs could have devastating effects on poor communities, he adds.

There are likely to be similar accessibility issues with other funding instruments aimed at developing countries, including programmes to help transfer climate-saving technologies and the African Climate Fund, which is being promoted by some African governments.



### Gathering evidence

Attempts to address such concerns — and indeed the effectiveness of Africa’s negotiating position as a whole — will be hampered by the continent’s lack of data on the likely local effects of climate change. This is not a problem that Africa can solve in the short term, but it is critical to preparing for the future.

For example, the international community is seeking to limit the increase in global temperature to two degrees Celsius, but even this may be too much for Africa, experts say.

“We do not know enough about the local effects. Perhaps even two degrees is too much for critical systems, such as shared river basins in Africa,” says Belynda Petrie, chief executive of OneWorld Sustainable Investments, a company in Cape Town that runs the Southern African Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP).

The RCCP is carrying out impact studies in three river basins in Southern Africa — the Zambezi, the Limpopo and the Okavango — to gauge the impact of climate change. But the data are unlikely to be ready in time to influence Africa’s contribution to the Copenhagen summit.

It is up to African countries and regions to make sure they produce the evidence they need to make up their own minds about emissions control and sustainable development, Petrie adds.

“We should not sit around and wait for the international community to do this. We need to commit our own resources too,” she says.

*\*Linda Nordling is former editor of Research Africa.*

### The need for adaptation to be socially sustainable



Ensuring equitable access to land, water and other natural resources used in responding to climatic variability and change is an important sustainable adaptation measure.

Sustainable adaptation, climate change, poverty, vulnerability  
The concept of sustainable adaptation has emerged from an awareness that adaptation can have unintended negative effects both on peoples and on the environment and that there is a need to qualify exactly what types of adaptation are desirable. The concept of sustainable adaptation grew out of a concern that poverty and vulnerability to climate change are two major challenges that need to be addressed together, and that so far, attention paid to the role of sustainability in climate change responses has focused on mitigation of emissions (Markandya

and Halsnæs, 2002; Yohe et al., 2007). The climate change adaptation and poverty literatures have largely remained separate. The fact that poor people are often also highly vulnerable is often used as a justification for implementing adaptation, but whether the proposed measure will actually assist poor groups is seldom assessed. There is a need to qualify the types of adaptation required since it cannot be assumed that all adaptations are necessarily ‘benign’. Any and every adaptation intervention does not automatically reduce poverty and inequality, and some poverty eradication measures could aggravate vulnerability.

Eriksen and O’Brien (2007) show that poverty eradication and climate change adaptation are interconnected but distinct, and that understanding the distinction, and the relation, in any given vulnerability context is important in order to identify measures that both reduced poverty and vulnerability at the same time.

Eriksen and O’Brien argue that sustainable adaptation measures need to specifically target vulnerability-poverty linkages, which are manifested as failure to secure well-being in the face of climate change.

To be continued in our next issue

According to its analysis of vulnerability in National Adaptation Program Action (NAPA) Rwanda, a strategy for adequate response to this situation was reached that is articulated to six national priorities which include the following:

1. An Integrated Water Resource Management – IWRM;
2. Setting up an information systems to early warning of hydro-agro meteorological system and rapid intervention mechanisms;
3. Promotion of non agricultural income generating activities;
4. Promotion of intensive agro pastoral activities;
5. Introduction of species resisting to environmental conditions;
6. Development of firewood alternative sources of energy

However, community members and other stakeholders are not aware of these national priorities and their roles and responsibilities in implementation. During the national roundtable on climate change, which took place in May 2009 in Kigali, and in which NBDF Rwanda presented on the role of Civil Society Organizations on climate change adaptation, it was emphasized that lack of information, knowledge and capacities are the main challenges for stakeholders at all levels to address climate change issues. During that roundtable, NBDF presentation highlighted the opportunity of working with its members which are very active on the ground but lack information and knowledge to integrate climate change in their interventions.

It is against this background that NBDF Rwanda presents this proposal “Building capacity and raising awareness for a sensitive community on climate change adaptation in Rwanda”

Overall Goal: Enhance capacity and raise awareness of civil society organizations and communities on climate change adaptation by reducing vulnerability in Rwanda

**Main objectives:**

4. To build capacity of Civil society Organizations on climate change adaptation
5. To provide adequate information by producing and disseminating awareness materials on climate change adaptation
6. Document and disseminate best practices of climate change adaptation and vulnerability reduction

All these objectives are linked to ongoing initiatives: if achieved, they will be an entry point to achieve the 6 national priorities of NAPA as stated above.

An aware and informed civil society will bring its members and the local communities to be able to reduce the vulnerability to climate change risks. Knowledge and information are among the priorities of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS) and the long term planning for Rwanda which is commonly known as “Vision 2020” “Skills for knowledge based society”.

By John GAKUMBA



## Climate Change is a Challenge and an Opportunity . .....From page 2

The financial crisis, with all its associated problems, may actually be an opportunity for taking on actions and measures necessary to effectively respond to the climate challenge.

As we prepare for Copenhagen in December 2009, where measures to deal with the global climate challenge will be agreed, we must make sure that the interests of the most vulnerable and least developed countries are not forgotten.

Global effort as a central pillar of response to climate change offers Africa an opportunity, in terms of providing a platform for strengthening and establishing new regional and international partnerships including in the business sector. There is plenty of room for cooperation and joint efforts.

Adapting to climate change and reducing emissions are of course interrelated;

the less the emissions are reduced, the greater the effects and costs for the countries affected.

In this partnership, developed countries must support developing countries in building resilience and adapting to the effects of climate change. A question is how this could best be done.

Clearly, the industrialized countries have a special responsibility to take the lead and make sufficient cuts in emissions.

Most of those cuts should be made at home and will require significant additional investments in clean technology. But considerable additional investments will also need to be made in developing countries.

A key element in the negotiations leading up to Copenhagen is how sufficient support can be mobilized to enable developing countries to make these investments.

Over the past few years, one of the key sources for additional private investment in clean technology in developing countries is the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

The CDM allows industrialized countries to make investments to reduce green house gas emissions where the impact of the investments is greatest. It is a win-win and cost-effective solution.

It has helped to transfer investments and technology from developed to some developing countries. It also allows entry into the international carbon market.

So far a total of 1450 CDM projects have been registered, resulting in reductions of some 270 million tonnes of green house gases. Most of these projects are in Asia. Very few are in Africa.

This regional disparity is one of the main weaknesses of the CDM, but also one that can and has to be corrected for African countries to meaningfully benefit from the CDM.

In addition, greater domestic capacity and institutional support in Africa are needed for the CDM, but the requirements are far from insurmountable.

The necessary reform of the CDM, to make it administratively less burdensome, while ensuring its integrity, should facilitate this further.

Joint efforts between the developing and the developed world are needed. Cooperation between African institutions and European countries are already thriving in many areas.

Climate Change and emissions trading should be a new and rapidly expanding area of cooperation. And one that will benefit all involved.

The seriousness attached to climate change by African institutions is evidenced by the Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) Programme, which is a partnership initiative of the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Development Bank.

ClimDev-Africa seeks to facilitate the development of policies, practices, services, observation networks and communication with stakeholders to enable effective climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa.

The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) being established at UNECA offers a platform and mechanism for multi-actor cooperation, including the pursuit of European ambitions to promote a wider distribution of CDM projects, to meet the African wish to deal effectively with climate change.

The European Union has clearly indicated its ambition to increase the flow of resources for the CDM especially to the least developed countries and the small vulnerable island states.

In March this year the EU announced its longer-term vision on the global carbon market, indicating that it intends to gradually move towards cap and trade systems also in advanced developing countries.

A key element of this strategy is however also the intention to strengthen the role of CDM for least developing countries.

Already in December 2008, the European Union took a decision to this effect, limiting the acceptance of new CDM projects under the EU's independent target to reduce its emissions by 20% in 2020 to CDM projects from least developed countries.

If we join efforts and work together, we shall promote sustainable development while strengthening our forces to deal with climate change through mitigation and adaptation.

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