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AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP
ON
CLIMATE CHANGE

RATIONALE

Climate Change is affecting all countries, but Least Developed Countries and other vulnerable developing countries are expected to be hit earliest and hardest. Africa will be particularly affected in terms of food security, sustainable water supply and extreme weather phenomena such as floods, droughts and threats of desertification. Economies and livelihoods of an increasing number of communities, countries and sub-regions in Africa continue to decline due to desert encroachment partly emanating from climate change and locally generated land degradation processes.

In addressing these pertinent issues, Africa and the EU will engage in a partnership that will provide for dialogue, cooperation and exchange on concrete actions to respond to climate change and an effective channel for holding deliberations on a shared Africa-EU vision, with close links to the proposed Global Climate Change Alliance. This will take into account African initiatives such as the African Climate Information for Development in Africa (ClimDev Africa) Programme and the need to implement and further develop climate change related instruments, especially the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol (KP), but also the UN Convention on Combating Desertification (UNCCD) and will represent an integrated framework for Africa-EU cooperation on climate change.

Priority action 1: Build a common agenda on climate change policies and cooperation

Objectives

- Enhanced dialogue, and common approaches, including at multilateral level, on climate change challenges in Africa, Europe and globally, in particular in view to the negotiations for a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Strengthened capacities to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its negative effects.

Expected outcomes

- A strengthened Africa-EU dialogue on the development, implementation and further improvement of climate change related initiatives and treaties, in particular in view of the negotiations of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Systematic integration of climate change into African national and regional development strategies as well as into Africa-EU development cooperation;

- Increased capacity in African countries to adapt to climate change and mitigate its negative effects, including through climate risk management and resilience to deal with climate-related disasters;
- Improved data, analytical methods and infrastructure for sectoral Climate Risk Management (CRM), monitoring climate variability and detecting climate change with strengthened observation networks and service centres in Africa;
- Reduced rates of deforestation and better preservation of forest ecosystems, while improving the livelihood of forest dependent populations;
- Increased benefits for Africa from participation in the global carbon market and enhanced capacity of African negotiators in the international market;
- Increased energy efficiency and resilience to climate change in the African economies.

Activities

- Coordinate approaches on climate change challenges in Africa, Europe and globally, in particular in view of the negotiations of a global and comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement;
- Set up national/regional adaptation plans to climate change, and support the implementation of ClimDev Africa;
- Jointly promote and deploy environmentally friendly technologies and improve the monitoring of environmental effects of climate change;
- Launch risk-awareness and preparedness campaigns on climate-related natural disasters, in particular for vulnerable communities;
- Strengthen climate-monitoring and forecasting capacities;
- Elaborate and implement adaptation and mitigation strategies, particularly in relation to water, energy, health, environment, agricultural and food security issues;
- Integration of climate change in African development planning and in Africa-EU development cooperation;
- Build up reporting systems to monitor deforestation, support innovative performance based mechanisms to provide incentives for reducing emissions from deforestation and improve sustainable management of natural resources;
- Facilitate the participation of African countries in the global carbon market, including through the Clean Development Mechanism;
- Enhance capacities of African negotiators;
- Contribute to initiatives like European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI);
- Promote climate observation, in particular for the African continent, and enhance links to global climate observatory systems.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs

- European Commission, EU Member States;
- Local authorities;
- Private sector, civil society
- UN Agencies, AfDB, Global Climate Observing System;
- Regional technical institutions like Agrhymet, OSS (Observatory of Sahara and Sahel).

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes on Environment and Natural Resources;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states;
- Private sector, African Development Bank;
- Funds under UN Framework Convention on Climate Change/Kyoto Protocol (Least Developed Countries Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Adaptation Fund);
- Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA);
- Funds deriving from the Bonn political commitment;
- GEEREF (risk sharing and co-funding options for commercial and non-commercial investors).

Priority action 2: Cooperate to address land degradation and increasing aridity, including the "Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative"

Objective

- Combat desertification and improve the livelihoods of the inhabitants of the countries of the Sahara and Sahel zones of Africa.

Expected outcomes

- Progress towards reversal of desert encroachment and soil degradation;
- Improvement of micro-climatic conditions and reduction of land degradation.

Activities

- Identify the relevant activities in the "Green Wall Initiative" adapted to the national and regional context;
- Enhance environmental sustainability within the framework of regional and international environmental agreements;
- Advance the implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification;

- Improve the knowledge on land degradation and desertification;
- Control land degradation, promote sustainable land management with a view to integrate land management issues in national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), and increase land productivity and food production;
- Promote integrated natural resource management and conserve biological diversity;
- Address the problems of land degradation and increasing aridity at all relevant levels to respond to local needs and build on local and individual efforts and successes;
- Create awareness and promote wider public involvement in arresting desertification in a sustainable manner;
- Identify and promote alternative livelihoods and productive systems for the populations affected by desertification.

Actors

- AU Commission/NEPAD, African States, RECs, local communities;
- Regional technical institutions and networks;
- European Commission, EU Member States;
- AfDB, civil society and other interested actors.

Finance

- Appropriate financing sources in accordance with their respective scope and their relevance to objectives and activities concerned, their specificity and eligibility criteria, such as the 10th EDF, ENPI, DCI, and appropriate thematic programmes on Environment and Natural Resources;
- Bilateral contributions from EU Member States and African states;
- Private sector, African Development Bank.