

Africa Adaptation Initiative

Enhancing Action on Adaptation in Africa



Key Messages

Discussion Paper

Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR)

Africa is rising but economic growth is threatened by climate change

African economies have been growing at an above global average rate in the last 10 years. In Sub-Saharan Africa, economic growth is recorded at 4.7 per cent. Continued increased growth is critical to the socio-economic development of the continent, and its contribution to global prosperity. [The impacts of climate change threaten this development trajectory towards sustainable development objectives, primarily due to the resource based structure of many African economies.](#) Economic losses for some African regions are expected to reach 2.3 per cent of GDP even if no temperature increases are experienced from today's climate. The situation has more dire effect for a 4°C world, where GDP losses would range from 4.9 per cent to 26.6 per cent in different parts of Africa by the end of the century.

Global average temperatures are also rising, leading to significant changes in the climate change system

Climate science confirms that global average surface temperatures have increased by approximately 0.61°C since preindustrial times, as measured in 2015. [With the continent being a huge landmass, average temperatures are projected to rise rapidly, at 1.5 to 2 times the global rate of temperature increase in Africa.](#) The impacts of climate change can therefore be expected to be drastic in Africa during the 21st century under low mitigation futures scenarios. The decision by African governments to prioritise adaptation is therefore well considered, and also crucial to global prosperity and stability.

Africa is at risk from floods, droughts, disease and extreme weather related disasters

The key risks for the African continent have been identified as being to water resources, due to droughts in an environment of increasing water demands.

There is a risk to food production and food security driven by unfavourable climatic conditions, diseases and pests, as well as flood impacts, and; health risks due to an increase in the range of water and vector borne diseases. The potential to reduce these risks in the near term (2030-2040) is much higher. The imperative to act for Africa is now. For the continent to mitigate these risks, it is important that adaptation action and investments are accelerated, however this should be based on informed planning and decision making based on sound science.

Better climate information services are needed to make better decisions to respond to climate related threats

For Africa to achieve enhanced climate services to inform decision making including the co-benefit of building big data and Artificial Intelligence skills for a future economy the enhancement of the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) initiatives on the continent, ranging from the development of observation infrastructure, and the development of national frameworks in line with the GFCS for the provision of climate information services, would be a sound and effective entry point. [Observation infrastructure already exists, however the distribution and types of instruments is sparse and rudimentary, with the different regions, such as Mediterranean Africa, the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, the Gulf of Guinea, and midaltitude southern Africa not adequately covered.](#)

More investment is needed for African Climate Governance Systems across the continent and within countries

The investment in computing infrastructure that covers at least the five regions in the continent will benefit the building of human capacity and information technology infrastructure to disseminate of climate services information. Investments in both the deployment of observation and computing infrastructure cannot only be measured in financial returns, as most finance instruments would, but by their contribution to social and economic transformation.

The African Climate Governance Systems does not lend itself to conventional financing, as it is primarily a social good, so it is important to explore innovative opportunities for increased funding to tackle the understanding of risks posed by the climate system. Furthermore, due to the expanse of the climate system, opportunities for amplifying the benefits across the region by building a broad range of capabilities (infrastructure, information services, and human capacity) cannot be overemphasized.

Africa needs to accelerate its ability to plan for long-term shifts in the climate system and increased variability

Remarkably, African countries are still making progress in translating climate science information into action, even with limited infrastructure capacity. The continent is lagging behind on a comprehensive planning regime that covers economy-wide, subnational and sector specific planning. Therefore, it is important to expedite climate adaptation planning and integration in development planning.

With emerging obligations such as the communication of NDCs arising from the Paris Agreement, the support through the GCF Readiness Programme amongst others, this state of affairs could rapidly improve. The African Climate Governance System has a role of ensuring that the continent makes best use of such opportunities through knowledge-based support and facilitating coordination between various players in adaptation planning.

The major gap in terms of adaptation action is that most of the projects implemented in Africa so far relate to technical assistance, policy development, and advocacy, rather than the implementation of actions on the ground, especially at sub-regional and regional levels. While those areas remain important, they are certainly not the overriding priorities in terms of addressing climate impacts. There is also an overlap in the focus of the various initiatives, therefore strategic partnerships hold promise for increasing the effectiveness of programme investments and strengthening capacity building at all levels across multiple countries.

African governments are already investing in adaptation at a rate that is about 10 times Official Development Assistance (ODA)

African governments are spending close to 2 per cent of GDP on adaptation projects and activities, with bilateral ODA, which is not necessarily additional for climate change reaching \$7.2billion in 2016. The proportion of public expenditure on adaptation however remains at about 10-times ODA.

Public expenditure has also been shown to be effective more than ODA in delivering adaptation benefits; this could be attributed to leveraging existing institutional arrangements for social protection systems. This suggests an appropriateness of a budgetary support modality for adaptation finance, compared to the project based support, which has proved effective for mitigation, including through instruments such as the Clean Development Mechanism.

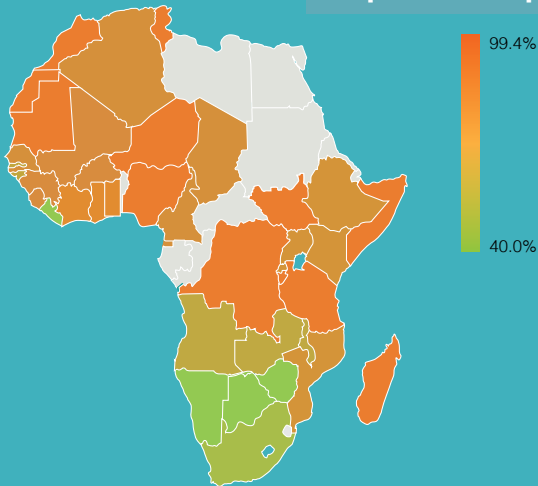
Policy and normative guidance for adaptation finance by Multilateral Development Banks, Donor Agencies and UNFCCC Finance Mechanism need to respond to emerging understanding of effective adaptation instruments and integration of climate adaptation considerations in development planning. As such, the funding criteria of these institutions need to recognise the importance of 'integration' compared to 'additionality' for adaptation projects.

Despite the strides being made, the funding gap however remains high, in a range between 40 per cent 90 per cent. It is therefore imperative to increase investment in adaptation in Africa now.



Africa Contains 7 Out Of 10 of the African nations are now at high risk of debt distress following debt build-up from disasters, including climate vulnerabilities. **Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Nigeria, Chad, Ethiopia, the Central African Republic, and Eritrea.**

Adaptation Gap in Africa



The **adaptation gap** can be defined as the difference between the level of adaptation that is currently undertaken and the envisioned needs to avoid climate change impacts noting the competing demands and resource limitations.

The **adaptation finance gap** specifically refers to the difference between the costs and the finance required to deliver a certain adaptation target.

1

Adaptation Response: Climate Information Services (CIS) in Africa

Africa is ready for scaling-up investment in climate infrastructure, climate services information and climate information services.

2

Adaptation Response: Institutional Capacity Building in Africa

Many African countries are increasingly rising to the challenge of developing integrated adaptation plans that are aligned to their national long-term visions and goals. The pace must increase with further support.

3

Adaptation Response: Implementation in Africa

The continent is investing in prioritised adaptation action, more investment needed to meet full scale of the challenge.

4

Adaptation Response: Adaptation Investment In Africa

Africa is investing its own resources on climate change adaptation, and public expenditure is effective in delivering adaptation benefits.



Strategic partnerships are highly recommended as a pathway for increasing effective adaptation actions on the ground.

This optimizes investments and broadens the scope capacity building programmes at all levels across countries.



1 Africa Programme on Climate Services for adaptation and resilience
Lead organisation: African Development Bank



2 Lake Chad River Basin Early Warning System
Lead organisation: Lake Chad River Basin Commission



3 Advancing Risk Transfer in Africa
Lead organisation: African Risk Capacity



4 Knowledge Management Programme for Adaptation Planning in Africa
Lead organisation: United Nations Development Programme and Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

AAI Flagship Programmes

BACKGROUND:

The **Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI)** was formally launched at COP 21, in Paris, in December 2015, by the President of the Republic of Egypt, **H.E. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi**. The AAI leverages support and expertise to significantly scale up climate adaptation on the African continent. The four pillars of the AAI's mandate are: Enhancing climate information services to support decision-making; Strengthening policies and institutions; Enhancing on-the-ground action; and Mobilizing climate finance and investment.

This discussion paper has been prepared to inform participants attending the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) Roundtable Meeting, side event at the 73rd United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), on September 24th, 2018 in New York. It contains preliminary findings and insights from authors of the forthcoming AAI Africa State of Adaptation Report (SoAR) to be published in December 2018. The specific focus of this paper is to provide participants with the evidence base for the Value Proposition document for the AAI and the proposed flagship programmes.



AAI
Enhancing action on adaptation in Africa



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

