FOREWORD

FOR AFRICA, CLIMATE FINANCE HAS BECOME ESSENTIAL FOR JUMP-STARTING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT. The AfDB, as one of Africa’s premier development partners, is committed to helping African countries access the climate finance they need to move firmly toward prosperous climate-smart sustainability, and has built this commitment into its 2013-2022 strategy promoting inclusive growth in Africa. The Bank’s work with countries through the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), in tandem with several other climate finance instruments, is key to ensuring its well-targeted delivery.

FINANCING DIRECTED AT CLIMATE-FRIENDLY PROGRAMS IS RECOGNIZED AS AN IMPERATIVE for actions many African nations need to take, and indeed are taking, to transform their economies. Climate finance serves development in a number of critical ways: it strengthens national finance so that out-of-reach innovations can be undertaken; it leverages new money from a variety of important public and private sources; it lowers critical barriers to engage private sector and other essential investors; it creates a platform to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders from community to global levels; and it supports application of new and innovative technologies, such as renewables and climate resilience mechanisms and forest management solutions which are vital to sustainability but might not be viable otherwise.

IN 2014, THE AFDB AND CIF SUPPORTED 23 COUNTRIES AND 1 REGION IN THEIR TRANSFORMATIVE WORK TO UNDERTAKE GREEN GROWTH. The AfDB CIF portfolio advanced exponentially this past year, moving into full implementation in the 16 original AfDB CIF Investment Plans and in some cases to a second stage of development; adding newcomer African pilots Benin, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Zambia under the Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP); moving forward in efforts to engage the private sector at the local and national levels, including through innovative private sector projects in Kenya, Mali, Ghana and Mozambique; facilitating innovative financial solutions such as financial intermediation through local commercial banks and long-term debt financing in local currency; and moving into an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation in the forest and agriculture sectors.

THROUGH THE WORK UNDERWAY, COUNTRIES CAN EXPECT TO SEE TRANSFORMATION FIRST-HAND. Examples of expected results include: 2.1 gigawatt (GW) of increased energy through renewables in CTF, a 390 megawatt (MW) increase in geothermal capacity through SREP, significant poverty reduction through PPCR, and an exponential increase in rural micro-enterprises through FIP.

THE REPORT TAKES A LOOK AT THE DETAILS OF THE AFDB PORTFOLIO and highlights some of the important advancements and emerging knowledge achieved during the year. We hope that it brings you a clear sense of the remarkable strides African nations are achieving in their urgent move to green growth, and the evolving ways in which they are overcoming barriers and making their climate-smart development an emerging reality.

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