OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, the AfDB has administered USD 7 billion for climate-smart development. But financing alone will not be enough. Formal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to existing climate changes must be acknowledged in a legally binding agreement. At the end of this year, we will be given one of our last opportunities to do so at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21) in Paris.

WE APPLAUD the efforts of the Government of Gabon as the first African country to formally submit its commitment to COP21. As we move closer to December, the AfDB will continue to partner with governments across the continent to assist and encourage them to expeditiously follow a similar path.

MEANWHILE, we are witnessing additional momentum in the lead up to COP21 with African ministers calling for a universal agreement and sufficient finance during the recent 7th Africa Carbon Forum in Marrakesh. Strong attendance is also expected at a high-level event discussing the proposed agreement at the upcoming AfDB Annual Meetings. And, in an effort to help channel greater funding to the continent, the Bank is working toward becoming a key implementing entity of the Green Climate Fund.

AS NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE over the next eight months, 2015 will remain a pivotal year in determining the future sustainability of the continent.

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AfDB soon to gain Green Climate Fund accreditation

AfDB expects to soon join the Green Climate Fund’s seven newly accredited entities to become a key multilateral implementing agency which will channel much-needed additional adaptation and mitigation funding to the continent. Eligible for fast track accreditation, the Bank hopes to be granted accreditation soon following completion of the application process.

Mali: On track to mobilize climate finance

Thanks to financing from the Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP), Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA), and its Project for Scaling-up Renewable Energy in Mali, officially launched in Bamako from 7th to 14th of April, additional...
climate finance has been mobilized with AfDB support. A high level meeting which focused on climate change and its challenges in the CFA zone also took place in Mali early April during which all participants agreed on the need for African countries to place greater emphasis on climate funding.

**The AfDB at the Africa Carbon Forum in Marrakesh**

During the 7th Africa Carbon Forum, co-sponsored by the AfDB, it renewed its promise to assist African countries in their low carbon development pathway. Two clear messages from participants also emerged. First, climate finance linked to results is essential to stimulate greater funding and secondly, African countries need tools such as the Clean Development Mechanism and COP21 to anchor carbon markets in the long-term climate agenda. During the closing session, attendees reiterated the need for Africa to have adequate, predictable, and sustainable climate finance resources to transition to low carbon development and to demonstrate its ability to deploy them in an efficient manner to achieve global climate change objectives.

**SEFA: New projects in Africa**

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa approved a USD 780,000 technical assistance grant for the development of the first 40 MW phase of a Solar PV Plant near N’Djamena in Chad. The country’s first Independent Power Producer scheme to be connected to the national grid will contribute to 45% increased installed capacity and will benefit about 17,000 homes and enterprises in the capital.

Meanwhile, the Government of Mozambique, was granted USD 740,000 from SEFA to enhance the enabling environment for private investments in the country’s renewable energy sector.

**AfDB works with African countries to advance their SE4All agendas**

On 24th and 25th of March, AfDB and ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency organized a workshop for West African countries to take stock of progress made and create a technical support platform that facilitates working together to prepare quality national action plans and Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) action agendas. Meanwhile, UNDP and AfDB organized a similar workshop in Cameroon to assist six Central and South African countries to develop their action plans.
Burkina Faso receives new support to monitor forest sustainability

In April, the Forest Investment Program, known as FIP, approved USD 101,000 for Burkina Faso to ramp up its monitoring and reporting on its Gazetted Forests Participatory Management Project for REDD+ and Decentralized Forest and Woodland Management Project. FIP is an instrument of the Climate Investment Funds of which the AfDB is an executing agency in Africa. The new funding will allow the country, with AfDB support, to carry out a series of agreed upon activities to advance effective monitoring of the projects on the ground as they develop.

AfDB supports the resilience to climate change by financing a water project in the Seychelles

AfDB has allocated a loan and a grant amounting to USD 26 million to the government of the Seychelles to reinforce the country’s resilience to climate change. The funding will finance a water project to promote the country’s economic development by improving water supply capacity to reduce mandatory rationing on the main island of Mahé.

AfDB and WWF: Collaboration Opportunities

A meeting between AfDB President, Donald Kaberuka and WWF’s Special Representative to the AfDB, Hawa Sow, was an occasion to discuss the future launch of their joint publication, “Africa Ecological Futures,” on the sidelines of the upcoming AfDB Annual Meetings end of May. The report projects the future of the continent over the next 50 years and covers various development scenarios and their social and ecological implications. The meeting also allowed them to discuss additional opportunities to collaborate on wildlife protection and poaching.

AfDB and CO2balance: A win-win partnership

AfDB is offsetting the carbon emissions from transportation and electricity use during its 2015 Annual Meetings by contributing to the financing of an efficient wood burning stoves project in Cameroon run by CO2balance, in partnership with a local NGO, ACREST.