COP19: AfDB makes the case for green growth in Africa

At COP19 (Warsaw, Poland, November 11-22), the Bank organized a meeting with the theme “Africa’s transition to green growth: The role of the AfDB and other regional institutions”. The AfDB supports African countries to make better use of their natural resources and human capital. This will allow them to embark on a path of development that is once inclusive, climate resilient and sustainable.

The Bank also sponsored Transport Day 2013 to place this high CO₂ emitting sector at the heart of the climate change debate.

A partner organizer of Africa Day (which looked at Climate Change and Agricultural Development in Africa), the AfDB stressed the need to rethink how the agricultural sector is developing such that it can become more resilient to climate change.

AfDB: Leading finance institution for low-carbon development in Africa

According to the second joint report of multilateral development banks (MDBs) on climate finance, the AfDB mobilized US$2.2 billion...
in climate finance in 2012, 50% more than in 2011. Mobilizing US$1.7 billion for low-carbon emission projects (especially those in favour of clean energy), the Bank became the number one finance institution for the mitigation of climate change on the continent.

**CCDA-III: Lobbying for a gradual transition to green growth**

At the 3rd Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-III, Ethiopia, 21-23 October), the Bank pushed for the continent to benefit more from the strategic partnerships and technological advances available in the field of climate change. This would, the Bank argued, help accelerate Africa’s transformational development as well as its battle against poverty and climate change.

**Climate Investment Funds (CIF) encourage private sector mobilization in Africa**

CIF and the MDBs issued a call for proposals to mobilize private sector investment in the fight against climate change. In this context, the AfDB supported proposals from private sponsors willing to invest in CIF recipient countries; the proposals were approved in late October in Washington. The projects focus on forest management (Burkina Faso, Ghana and DRC), renewable energy (Kenya and Mali) and resilience to climate shocks (Mozambique). They will be developed with AfDB support in coming months.

**SEFA fosters the development of renewable energy projects in Africa**

The Africa Renewable Energy Fund, a US$65 million private equity investment package for small to medium-sized renewable energy projects in sub-Saharan Africa, has just been created. For now, it benefits from contributions from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) (US$35 million); AfDB (US$25 million); and the Global Environment Facility (US$4.5 million).

In addition, the West African Forum for Clean Energy Financing (of which SEFA is a partner) awarded the Palme d’Or of its business plan competition to a US$21 million project for the production of bioethanol and the manufacturing of improved efficiency cook stoves. The other projects selected were: an extension of an existing solar light distribution business in West Africa; a small hydro project; and a seawater desalination system that runs on wave energy.

**SREP finances an ambitious renewable energy program in Liberia**

At recent meetings of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF) in Washington, the investment plan for the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) of Liberia was approved.

The AfDB and the World Bank jointly supported the SREP Investment plan preparation. SREP funds account for US$50 million of the program’s total US$178.5 million budget. This program will contribute to the national goal of achieving a 35% electrification rate by 2030 (the current rate is 2%).
DRC: Inga 3, the mega hydroelectricity project makes great strides

On 20 November, the AfDB approved US$68 million of funding for a project to support the electricity sector and the Inga 3 hydroelectric plant in DRC. The plant’s potential is estimated at 4,800 MW, slightly less than half of the installed capacity of Algeria. A long time partner of the project, the Bank’s funding represents 43% of the total project cost.

AfDB supports the Rusumo hydroelectricity project

The AfDB has allocated US$97.3 million to an 80 MW regional hydroelectricity project at Rusumo, on the border between Rwanda and Tanzania. It also mobilized US$16 million from the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) window of the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund. The SE4All funding will help finance a portion of the transmission line that will link the hydroelectric plant to Burundi. This project will improve access to energy in Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

A pioneering project to electrify the Mano River countries

The AfDB approved the Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea (CILSG) electricity networks interconnection project. The Bank Group will invest US$197 million, or 40% of the total project cost. The construction of the power line connecting the four countries will help improve national electricity access rates, which are currently among the lowest in the world. At the same time, it will support the development of the countries’ hydroelectric potential. 24 million people will benefit directly from the project.

Liberia: A sanitation project receives an award at COP19

On 21-22 November, the COP19 nominated and awarded, a prize to a project that promotes innovations in sanitation and hygiene for the city of Monrovia, Liberia. By improving sanitation in the capital, this project will improve public health and resilience to flooding among the population. The project received a US$1.63 million grant from the African Water Facility, which covers 86% of its total cost.

Burkina Faso: FIP and AfDB support the participatory management of protected forests

With the support of the AfDB, Burkina Faso secured a US$11.5 million grant from the Forest Investment Program (FIP) of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). This grant will go towards the implementation of a participatory management project for 12 forest reserves. Specifically, it will strengthen their capacity to store carbon and enhance the resilience of 5,400 producers (of which 2,700 are women), and – directly and indirectly – the livelihoods of the 850,000 people living around the project site.

Ghana: African Water Facility supports innovative sanitation project

The African Water Facility has awarded a US$1.36 million grant to the Ghanaian NGO TREND (Training, Research and Networking for Development) for an innovative sanitation program. The grant will
be used to fund a waste treatment plant with an annual production capacity of 500 tons of bio-fertilizer and 580,000 kWh of electricity. The project will thus improve the quality of life of the poorest portion of the urban population of Accra.

**AfDB calls for the expansion and increased use of climate information in Africa**

Leveraging its expertise in climate finance, the AfDB cosponsored the Africa Climate Conference 2013 (Arusha, Tanzania, 15-18 October). The Bank argued for the development of an integrated climate research program (biophysical, social, etc.) to inform decision-making and meet the specific needs of planners and users.

**Status of payments for environmental services in Africa: CIF and AfDB provide an update**

A workshop dedicated to the status of payments for environmental services (PES) in Africa was co-organized by the AfDB and the CIF in Tunis on 5-6 November. Specialists from various organizations and countries were in attendance. Participants debated extensively the successes, challenges and ideal conditions for the success of PESs.

**AfDB and the Asian Development Bank**

The 6th meeting of the Asia Solar Energy Forum (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 20-23 November) provided an opportunity for the Bank and the Asian Development Bank to reflect on their cooperation and how to improve the services and assistance they provide to member countries.