A SET OF BOLD AND AMBITIOUS COMMITMENTS to climate finance were made during the UN Climate Summit on September 23rd, which gathered around 120 heads of state. Pledges of around US$ 2.3 billion were made to the Green Climate Fund; over 150 supporters endorsed the New York Declaration on Forests, including countries who committed to halving deforestation by 2020 and ending it by 2030; and the Global Investment Coalition on Climate Change announced that it would double investments in climate change to US$ 84 billion by 2015 as well as increase current climate change investment 10-fold between 2016 and 2020. In addition, the multilateral development banks reaffirmed their Rio+20 commitment to deliver US$ 175 billion for sustainable transport projects over 10 years.

TO ENSURE THAT AFRICA benefits from this new wave of climate action, African leaders need to establish the requisite measures to access and deploy these additional resources and steer them towards bankable projects. The African Development Bank will hence continue to forge the path towards a climate-smart Africa with the creation of enabling environments, the formation of adequate institutional frameworks and the design of small-, medium- and large-scale projects that harness available climate financing.

AfDB adopts a green growth framework for Africa

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has established a framework to guide its staff in facilitating Africa’s transition to greener growth. The framework defines what green growth means in the African context. It also covers approaches, strategic entry points, methodologies and tools, as well as financial instruments and indicators for monitoring the integration of green growth into policies and projects. Sector Guidance Notes accompany the framework document.

AfDB commits to contributing to the development of the green bonds market

La BAD, à l’instar de 12 autres banques de développement, AfDB – along with other 12 development banks, investors and issuers – committed to developing the green bonds market at the United Nations Climate Summit on September 23rd in New York.
Within this growing market, the Bank’s outstanding green bonds amount to US$ 993 million, for a reserve of eligible green projects worth US$ 1.6 billion.

AfDB at the 2nd African Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation

During the forum, the Bank highlighted the importance of science, technology and innovation for engaging the continent on a greener and more inclusive growth pathway. For the AfDB – which recently invested in regional centres of excellence – skills development and technology in Africa are strategic priorities for its operations.

Promoting renewable energy in Mali: Creating synergies between AfDB-managed climate funds

With support from AfDB, Mali received US$ 1.5 million from the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program in Low Income Countries (SREP) of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). This funding goes towards the Project for Scaling-up Renewable Energy in Mali (PAPERM) and is supplemented by a US$ 530,000 grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA).

SEFA continues its support to renewable energy development in Africa

In August, SEFA approved a US$ 950,000 grant for the preparation of the WINDIGA solar photovoltaic power plant in Burkina Faso. The plant has a capacity of 20 MW and will be one of the first solar photovoltaic, independent power producer projects co-financed by the AfDB.

On September 4, SEFA also launched the second West Africa Forum for Clean Energy Financing (WAFCEF-2) with its partners. The companies selected during this second contest will benefit from technical assistance to improve their business plans and better target investors.

Finally, SEFA approved a US$ 265,000 grant for the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa and the United Nations Environment Programme. This funding will be used to develop an atlas of energy resources in Africa. Given the significant and largely untapped renewable energy potential of the continent, this atlas will facilitate more informed decision making as well as future public and private investment in the sector.

On October 30, SEFA approved a US$ 480,000 grant to the Comoros government. The funds will go towards technical assistance to promote private investment in renewable energy through improving the regulatory and tariff framework. The ultimate goal is to improve the access of households, businesses and industries to modern, reliable and cost-effective energy services.
Kenya: A partial risk guarantee for the Menengai geothermal project

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank approved a partial risk guarantee (PRG) from the African Development Fund for US$ 12.7 million. The PRG will bolster the independent power producer-developed, 105 MW, geothermal Menengai project, by mitigating the risk to the producers of either default of payment, or non-supply of steam by state enterprises involved in the project.

SE4ALL: Central African countries pledge to move forward

After the launch of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative (SE4ALL) Action Agenda by the Africa Hub in West, East and Southern Africa, Central African countries met from 14-18 October in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The objective of this ministerial and expert meeting was to validate the white paper on regional policy for universal access to modern energy services and socio-economic development in the context of the initiative.

Morocco: Visiting the solar power plant in Ouarzazate

In October, AfDB Vice President Aly Abou-Saba visited the concentrated solar power plant in Ouarzazate. The project – for which the Bank has mobilized EUR 100 million of its own funds and US$ 100 million from the Clean Technology Fund – uses the most powerful concentrated solar technology in the world.

African Water Facility (AWF) puts resilience of communities at heart of its operations

The AWF awarded a € 1.2 million grant to the Kenyan national water and sewage supplier, KIWASCO, to support an innovative private sector project. The project will enhance the resilience of some 240,000 people living in the Kisumu region, allowing them to access sanitation services while transforming sewage water into biogas or fertilizer. In a similar vein, a grant for € 1.3 million was made to the South African Water Research Commission to improve water services for over 20,000 people while strengthening their resilience to climate variability, including through rainwater harvesting structures.

The AWF has issued a call for proposals for "water and climate change investment projects". The fund has thus set aside € 16 million in grants for the preparation of projects and programs that will build resilience to climate change in Africa. Eligible African organisations were invited to submit their proposals no later than November 14, 2014. Click here for more information.

First call for proposals of the ClimDev-Africa Special Fund

The AfDB was a key partner of the Fourth Annual Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-IV), which was held from 8-10 October in Marrakech, Morocco. At the conference, the Bank announced the launch of the first call for proposals
of the ClimDev-Africa Special Fund. The fund has a budget of € 33 million and will finance innovative operations targeting both the improvement of climate information as well as adaptation activities. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 30 November. For more information, click here.

**Multilateral development banks (MDBs): United in the fight against climate change**

In early September ahead of the Climate Summit, 6 MDBs issued a joint statement stressing their determination to continue financing the fight against climate change and to stimulate private sector investment. AfDB is committed to investing US$ 10 billion as part of its Climate Change Action Plan for 2011-2015. Between 2011 and 2103, it had already invested 54% of this target.

MDBs also published their third annual joint report on climate finance. This confirms the Bank’s commitment to meeting the challenges posed by climate change in Africa. Indeed, for the second consecutive year, the Bank was the number one institution financing mitigation in Africa with US$ 768 million mobilized in 2013.

**Power Africa: AfDB and United States strengthen their partnership**

In its role as an anchor partner of the Power Africa initiative, AfDB reiterated its commitment to the initiative during the USA/Africa Summit in August 2014. Power Africa aims to scale up the use of off-grid technologies and mini-grids, develop geothermal power and strengthen regional electricity trade in the six target countries of the initiative.

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