ACCORDING TO *Africa Energy Outlook*, by 2040, almost half of Africa’s growth in electricity generation will come from renewable energy resources. Responsibly and efficiently harvesting the continent’s renewables to make this a reality is however, costly. Climate finance is therefore key to unlocking the continent’s potential in this arena.

AS A SIGN OF ITS COMMITMENT to energy generation from renewables in both the mid- and long-term, AfDB is an implementing agency of the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Scaling Up Renewable Energy in Low Income Countries Program (SREP) – funding windows for the international Climate Investment Funds for middle and low income countries respectively.

**NOOR**, one of the world’s largest concentrated solar and innovative power complexes in Ouarzazate, Morocco, is a beneficiary of CTF support. Meanwhile, for the region’s low income countries, climate finance became more accessible following the endorsement of nine new African countries by the SREP in 2014, adding to the original five.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION** is an important driver of inclusive, sustainable and green growth on the continent. Today, renewable energy projects represent one third of all projects in the AfDB’s active energy portfolio, while clean energy projects comprise half of them. Recognizing the need to do more, the Bank continues to work closely with its partners on scaling up climate finance and developing climate-smart projects necessary to ensure a sustainable future.

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**Towards greener growth in Africa**

**AfDB supports 27 African countries through the Climate Investment Funds (CIF)**

The AfDB CIF Annual Report 2014 (see *Internal publications*), published in February, shows that the Bank’s support to Africa through the CIF increased exponentially. The Bank now contributes to the implementation of 15 national and one regional investment plan(s) as well as the preparation of new plans related to the promotion of renewable energy in nine African countries. The Bank and the CIF already approved US$2.1 billion for 16 projects; 17 new projects will be approved in the coming months.

**Working toward integrated environmental management in the Seychelles**

In January 2015, the African Water Facility approved a €1 million grant for the development of an integrated comprehensive sanitation plan for the Seychelles. The archipelago is threatened by the fast pace...
of urban growth coupled with dysfunctional sanitation systems. The future ten-year plan will encourage the synergies with related sectors such as waste, energy, water supply and stormwater. It will also promote innovative water re-use technologies.

Priority on sustainable energy in Africa

The question of sustainable energy in Africa was at the forefront of the World Economic Forum which took place in Davos in January 2015. According to the AfDB President and the UN Representative for the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) initiative, the supply of sustainable energy, as well as energy efficiency in Africa, requires an expansion of the energy market, an increase in investment, as well as national reforms. The African Energy Leaders Group was also launched during the Forum to which AfDB, host to the African SE4ALL hub, will provide Secretariat support.

On the heels of the Davos Forum, the Bank organized a workshop with countries and partner institutions from the SE4ALL initiative. The meeting was an occasion to present the first draft African SE4ALL Action Agendas – conceived as an umbrella framework for the energy sector development until 2030 – which allowed for the identification of best practices. To read more about the summary and conclusions of the workshop, click here.

SEFA supports two photovoltaic projects

In Cameroon, at the end of 2014, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) approved a grant for JCM Greenquest Solar Corporation to support the development of a solar photovoltaic power plant. This power plant will produce 72 MW and will be the first independent renewable energy power producer in the country. The money will finance environmental and social impact assessments and the cost related to the technical, legal and financial advisory services.

In Tanzania, at the end of 2014, SEFA approved a US$420,000 grant to Jumeme - Rural Power Supply Ltd to support the development of a portfolio of independent solar-hybrid mini-grids.

Comorans pin their hopes on AfDB’s Project to Support the Energy Sector

During a visit to the Comoros in early February 2015, the president of the AfDB reaffirmed the Bank’s support to the archipelago’s national energy sector. The Project to Support the Energy Sector in the Comoros (PASEC), in the process of being implemented, received US$20.7 million from the AfDB to help the country address its insufficient electricity supply. The funding is aimed at diversifying the energy mix in order to rehabilitate existing hydroelectric
equipment and identify the country’s other potential geothermal and hydroelectric resources.

**AfDB prepares for the COP21 in Paris**

During a seminar in January 2015, the African Development Bank’s Climate Change Coordination Committee reviewed the main outcomes of the COP20. It further discussed the Bank’s support to the region’s negotiation process in anticipation of the agreement expected to be concluded during the COP21 in Paris.

**AfDB supports the strengthening of resilience for Niger’s vulnerable populations**

AfDB allocated US$61 million to Niger to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable populations and reduce food insecurity. This funding will finance programs on water management, environmental protection and agricultural productivity to improve the country’s ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

**AfDB, GEF and AWF reinforce climate change adaptation in Uganda**

The Bank approved a complementary financing amount of US$8.37 million to finance a project by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). The financing will further complement that given by the African Development Fund toward a water and sanitation project in Uganda. It will reinforce climate change resilience in drought- and flood-prone areas in Eastern Uganda and improve water and sanitation infrastructure.

A grant of US$2 million was awarded by the African Water Facility (AWF) on January 9, 2015 for the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program. The grant will help prepare the construction of a reservoir on the Nyimur River and a dam which would enable 350 kW of electricity to be produced from a hydropower facility. The objective is to improve the regularity of the water supply, especially for irrigation, while limiting the impacts of flooding and drought.

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