THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, actively participated in COP24 with five broad objectives: building and strengthening partnerships to promote climate-resilient and low-carbon development in Africa, supporting African positions in negotiations, mobilizing finance, acquiring and sharing knowledge, and presenting the work of the Bank in aligning its investments with the Paris Agreement.

At the end of the two week-long COP24, the African Development Bank’s Pavilion hosted some forty round tables and conferences addressing all aspects of the fight against climate change in crucial economic sectors. The Bank presented investment opportunities in Africa’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), as well as spoke loudly and strongly during the negotiations in defense of the continent’s interests.

We are conscious of the urgency and the need to respond to the challenges facing Africa as revealed by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on 1.5 degrees Celsius. We will continue to support African countries in the bid to implement their NDCs within the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement. We will continue to work with development partners and our regional member countries to ensure that the modest developmental gains that Africa has made must not be obliterated by climate change.

Beyond the African Development Bank’s participation at COP24, the Bank has invested substantially in supporting Africa’s transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient development. I am taking advantage of the last days of 2018 to send you my best wishes and those of the African Development Bank’s Climate Change and Green Growth Department for the new year. We look forward to unveiling new initiatives in 2019 to mobilize resources at scale to support climate change related investments in Africa.

Best regards,

Anthony Nyong
Director, Climate Change and Green Growth

"Having been short-changed by climate change, Africa must not be short-changed by climate finance."

Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group

African Development Bank at COP24 and Africa Day

Coming out in full force at the global climate meeting to represent the voice of Africa and defend the continent’s interests, the African Development Bank prepared a full and rich program of conferences and daily round tables arranged by thematic days and organised in its Pavilion and beyond.

Africa Day marked the starting point for the program, with the theme “The Africa NDC Hub: Going further and faster with NDC implementation in support of Agenda 2063.” Discussions at the high-level ministerial panel and parliamentary dialogue focused on ways to deepen collaboration among development partners and realize their commitments in terms of actions and resources to enable African countries to achieve the goals set in their NDCs.

Investments by the African Development Bank and other Multilateral Development Banks (MDB) play a vital role in steering global finance towards sustainable and inclusive projects in Africa. To align their actions with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the MDBs announced in a joint declaration, the establishment of a common framework based on six pillars: aligning their operations against mitigation and climate-resilience goals; ramping up climate finance; capacity building support for countries and other clients; plus an emphasis on climate reporting.

The African Development Bank’s pavilion activities started with a training workshop benefitting...
The African Development Bank joined a diverse group of people who cycled to COP24 by bike, under the banner "Moving for Climate NOW."

**Energy**

Africa’s capacity to develop renewable energy (RE) and the risks the continent would face by depriving itself of the opportunity were discussed during the Energy Day organized at the African Development Bank's Pavilion.

During a session entitled “Unlocking commercial finance for small scale generation of RE in Africa,” the Facility for Energy Inclusion, a $500 million financing platform for small scale renewable energy generation in Africa, sponsored by the African Development Bank, and the Desert to Power Initiative, were presented. The latter, launched by the Bank in collaboration with the Green Climate Fund, aims to harness solar energy in 11 Sahel countries. It builds on a collaborative and innovative approach to catalyse private, public and institutional investment to address the capital deficits of RE-related projects in Africa.

The energy efficiency market in Africa was the subject of a round table which opened up discussion on its increased needs, particularly those related to financing, technical support including institutional strengthening, development of dedicated policies and capacity building. The vulnerability of Small Developing Island States, such as Seychelles and Mauritius, and the possibility of transitioning to 100% RE was discussed at an official UNFCCC side event.

In addition, a vibrant plea from a 12 year old Chadian boy in favour of renewable energy, and in particular solar energy, was highly applauded by the audience at the session dedicated to Desert to Power.

**Climate information and technology**

At the Bank’s Climate Information and Technology Day, several experts reviewed different approaches to tackling the effects of climate change and its impacts.

At the session "Digital Decarbonisation: Harnessing digital technologies for new climate action," the African Development Bank led a debate on the importance of technology in the fight against climate change. Panelists discussed the need to create funding mechanisms for large-scale deployment of digital technologies while ensuring that “policies, regulations and business models that are more effective and responsive to African economies are in place to prevent Africa from becoming the new landfill for outdated technologies.”

The session entitled "Services for contingency planning and action to support disaster resilience in Africa," was organized by the Bank in collaboration with the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) and the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) — the pan African organization focused on natural disaster risk management in Africa, the role of meteorological and climate services to guard against it, and the role of insurance to face the costs induced by extreme weather events (storms, droughts, floods ...). A session led by the Observatoire du Sahara et du Sahel (OSS) provided opportunities to discuss "Climate Change Adaptation Technologies and Processes in the Water and Agriculture Sectors" while the Bank presented its recently approved Africa Disaster Risk Financing Programme (ADRiFi) during an event entitled "Improving Disaster Risk Management and Financing in Africa."

**Agriculture, land and forests**

Numerous experts shared their views at various Agriculture, Land and Forests Day events on the impacts of climate change on Africa’s agriculture and forestry transformation. It was generally recognized that climate-smart agriculture should consider the need for longer-term, more systemic and transformative adaptation approaches.

The anniversary session organized by the African Development Bank commemorating 10 years of implementing the mechanism for reducing GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD +) in Africa, emphasized the need for a holistic approach to ensure a successful implementation of REDD+. Representatives from Côte d’Ivoire and Burkina Faso presented the experience of their countries in its implementation.

The African Development Bank also organized a session on “Operationalisation of African initiatives to strengthen the resilience of rural populations to climate change." Participants agreed on the importance of coordination and synergy between the various initiatives being deployed such as the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), the Great Green Wall, the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), the Great Green Wall, and the Desert to Power.

**Water and sanitation**

The need for water and sanitation was highlighted during the Water and Sanitation Day. The session "Operationalisation of African initiatives to strengthen the resilience of rural populations to climate change," Participants agreed on the importance of coordination and synergy between the various initiatives being deployed such as the Adaptation of African Agriculture Initiative (AAA), the Great Green Wall, and the Desert to Power.

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Transport and cities Day: 8 December

**Water and sanitation**

The African Development Bank dedicated 7th of December to water and sanitation to highlight its importance throughout the world and in Africa in particular in responding to climate change. The African Development Bank is providing essential funds to provide basic services to all Africans through its Africa Urban Sanitation Investment Fund (AUSIF), which supports inclusive sanitation approaches across the continent.

During a session entitled “Advancing urban water security in the face of climate change,” the African Development Bank presented the impacts of climate change on water security in Africa and the importance of investments in sustainable water and sanitation infrastructure.

Challenges and solutions associated with transboundary water resource were shared at an expert workshop on “Supporting transboundary actions to address climate change.” The debate focused in particular on the integration of the private sector into basin-wide management, the governance and use of water in transboundary aquifers, and the recent success of climate finance in cross-border projects.

**Transport and cities**

During the African Development Bank’s Transport and Cities Day sessions dedicated to the state of African cities, resilient pathways for sustainable urban development in Africa, monitoring and mapping of emissions in the transport sector and financing urban resilience, several speakers highlighted the challenge of creating solutions for ever-changing African cities.

During the session dedicated to the monitoring and geographical location of transport emissions, speakers shared their respective experiences in the development of cleaner and more efficient transport infrastructures. The debate also highlighted the lack of reliable data on the levels of air pollution, due to the weakness or lack of air quality monitoring networks in different countries.

In a flagship report “Transport Emission Mapping, Monitoring and Capacity Building in 5 Selected African Cities,” the African Development Bank made several recommendations to strengthen the coordination of air quality efforts in African cities.

The session entitled “Resilient pathways for sustainable urban development in Africa” highlighted the importance of adequate urban planning to ensure an inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban environment to enhance resilience to climate change in African cities.

NDC implementation

One day was dedicated to the implementation of NDCs. The round table co-organized by the African Development Bank, the Global Partnerships of the Africa Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS) and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) was an opportunity for the Bank to share its experiences on the value and potential of shared practices in the implementation of Africa's NDCs and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

A meeting on cooperation between the regional hubs (African, Pacific and Caribbean) dedicated to the NDCs enabled participants to discuss best practices and common strategies, and share lessons and best practices in mobilizing climate actions.

The event entitled “From Policy to Action: Integrating gender into NDCs and national climate actions in Africa” allowed participants to discuss the opportunities and challenges of mainstreaming gender considerations into NDCs in Africa, and how gender sensitive climate policies and actions can improve resilience and bring economic benefits especially to women and girls who are adjudged most vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change but are often left out of climate change interventions.

Research shows that female participation in decision making promotes the chances of ratification of environmental agreements and the success of projects that focus on natural resources, such as water.

**Climate Finance**

Like the President of the African Development Bank Group, Akinwumi Adesina, all participants attending the Bank’s Climate Finance Day agreed that Africa must not be short changed by climate finance.

The day started with a session led by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) focusing on innovative financing solutions, the opportunities to move from billions to trillions of dollars, including through domestic resources mobilization, to implement Africa’s NDCs. Other sessions discussed the importance of ensuring that climate finance reaches the local level, the critical role of civil society in ensuring funding responds to the needs of those most vulnerable to climate change...
Policy and Enabling Environment Day: 14 December

Adaptation

On Adaptation Day, co-organised by the African Development Bank and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), numerous participants pointed to the glaring lack of funds that would allow national and local actors to implement adaptation strategies at the scale and speed required to cope with climate change.

Climate resilience of agricultural value chains and the role of insurance against climate-induced disasters was discussed at an event led by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). Examples and success stories of building resilience at the local level with the support of the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) were shared, and the opportunities to scale up private sector investment in adaptation were explored.

The African Development Bank places a high priority on mainstreaming climate change resilience into all its projects as well as actively funding investments that build resilience and adaptive capacities of our communities.

Private sector

During Private Sector Day, numerous experts stressed the need to ensure private sector development and the involvement of financial sector players to make the most of the continent's opportunities. The various sessions of the day highlighted the imperative for international financial institutions to support low-carbon and climate-resilient investment schemes in Africa. The African Development Bank also presented the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM), a results-based approach to incentivize the private sector to invest in adaptation.

The session on green and eco enterprises - climate resilient entrepreneurship and SME development highlighted the importance of the participation of young African entrepreneurs and the challenges they face such as in adequate training opportunities, limited market access, lack of mentoring and limited access to innovative mechanisms. Thanks to the Jobs for Youth in Africa Strategy and Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation Multi-Donor Trust Fund, the African Development Bank hopes to advance the next generation of climate resilient enterprises.

Policy and Enabling Environment Day

At the Policy and Enabling Environment Day, held on the last day of COP24, the session entitled "Managing Carbon Risks and Raising Climate Ambition - New policy approaches for countries with fossil fuels," aimed at exploring the best coordinated approaches to carbon-related risk. The session was an opportunity to reiterate the role of the Natural Resource Centre for Africa, which was established to support African countries in integrating climate change into their natural resource development strategies.

The pavilion closed its activities with a vibrant and youthful panel organised by Climate Tracker to discuss the ongoing negotiations. The African Development Bank supports capacity building for climate change journalism in Africa, with the ultimate aim of strengthening awareness and governance.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

28-29 January, Ouarzazate, Morocco:
Climate Investment Funds: THE POWER OF 10 - Shaping the Future of Climate Action

19-23 February, Bamako, Mali:
Renewable Energy Week

18-22 March, Accra, Ghana:
African Climate Week

SUCCESS STORIES

Kenya. About 300,000 ha of forest were destroyed between 1980 and 2000 due to intensive logging, coal production and large-scale conversion of forested areas into tea plantations. More than 14,000 ha were reforested between 2007 and 2016 thanks to the Bank’s $38.8 million Green Zones Development Support Project.

Mozambique: The only country in Africa to pose a high risk for each of the major negative impacts of global warming with economic and human repercussions. Between 2000 and 2013, three out of four Mozambican farmers lost their crops or livestock each year. Thanks to loans totalling $35.2 million (African Development Fund and PPCR/CIF) aimed at supporting agricultural production in the south of the country, Mozambique has been able to gradually mitigate the damage that is regularly caused by the effects of climate change.

PUBLICATIONS

IN THE MEDIAS

Most tweeted #AfricaCOP24

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