



Paris Agreement in practice: what next for Africa and developing countries?

Based on the proceedings of the 3rd Global Climate Policy Conference
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 13-14 July 2016





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Cover Picture: Aerial of Droogfontein Solar Power project in the Northern Cape. Photo Via [Allafrica](#), Image by [Droogfontein Power](#).

Foreword¹

*Based on speech by H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete,
Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania*



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The Global Climate Policy Conference (GCPC) was held in Africa for the first time and I commend the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development (UONGOZI Institute), Climate Strategies, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and the Stanley Foundation for organising this dialogue on how to implement the Paris Agreement on climate

change with a particular emphasis on Africa.

The reality is that climate change is already having a profound impact on the lives of millions of Africans and on the economic development of the continent more generally. In recent years, there has been renewed optimism on the prospect of harnessing Africa's natural resources to realise social, economic and political transformation and deliver sustainable development and prosperity to citizens. However, while industrialisation is an imperative for African development, it is vital to stress that the ambition to industrialise must be based on green principles and sustainable practices, rather than the historic approach of developing first and cleaning up later.

Climate change is an issue that gets to the very core of our relationship as human beings with the planet we all call home. In Africa, climate change is already intensifying tensions over access to resources like water, grazing land and arable land, forcing many into poverty while many others are fleeing for greener pastures elsewhere in the world. Tackling climate change will require new ways of thinking and new partnerships across sectors, nations and societies. It poses a challenge to us all to think differently about how we secure the most basic resources – clean air, land, and water – on which economic development ultimately depends. On their part, developed nations must rethink value chains and economic systems that have been large contributors to the situation.

1. Adapted from the opening speech to the 3rd Global Climate Policy Conference.

Climate change gets to the very core of our relationship as human beings with the planet we all call home.

In December 2015 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) reached a historic agreement. As part of the process, more than 180 countries submitted their pledges – the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) – laying out the actions they will take to reduce emissions and increase resilience to climate change impacts. The challenge now is to implement these pledges and this conference is a unique opportunity for policy makers and researchers to interact on how to take the commitments of the Paris Agreement forward.

Research is critical to develop evidence-based policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change. It must indeed inform policy on what needs to be done, how and why. We need to understand climate change and the relationship between resource access and social vulnerability at local, national and global level. Research must be practical and actionable in our contexts, suited to our values and circumstances in Africa, but also keep the rest of the world in mind. This will require a combination of the best scientific expertise and some of the indigenous knowledge, honed through generations, about our land and climate.

The results of the increased interchange between research and policy must fit within a broader framework of inclusivity, so that decisions are informed by the aspirations of the people who will be living the reality that researchers and policy-makers work to develop. To succeed, we must include particularly the youth, on whose behalf we are the custodians of this planet.



Introduction

Professor Chukwumerije Okereke, Member of Climate Strategies, Chair of GCPC 2016, Associate Professor in Environment and Development at the Department of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Reading, United Kingdom

I was delighted to chair GCPC 2016, organised in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 13-14 July 2016. After its hugely successful introduction in London in 2014 and in New Delhi in 2015, the conference has become Climate Strategies' flagship event. The aim is to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners to discuss and develop novel ideas for action on climate change.

The theme of the 2016 edition was "Implementing the Paris Agreement: new research solutions for developing countries". It was a great success, with over 60 people attending from government ministries, research institutions and the NGO community.

Despite the comprehensive and universal nature of the Paris Agreement, much support is still needed to help developing countries deliver on their pledges. Specifically, there is a need to support the implementation of the INDCs, given existing technology and capacity gaps, as well as grossly inadequate international climate finance.

The good news is that almost all African countries have signed the Agreement and - at the national level - Tanzania has been among the first to sign it. But its success will depend on the implementation. With this in mind, the conference placed special emphasis on the African continent, which has the least responsibility for climate impacts and yet faces the highest risks from climate change.

In Africa, there is a great need to invest in research to generate robust data and insights that can inform policies and institutions for monitoring and addressing climate change. This event provided the opportunity to identify and promote the talent of young researchers, who were invited to present their work following a competitive selection process. From this perspective, the conference achieved a key objective, as it opened space for early-career researchers to network and share solutions relevant to Africa.



In Africa, there is a great need to invest in research in order to generate robust data and insights that can help inform policies and institutions for monitoring and addressing climate change.

One of the key ideas that emerged from the meeting was that Africa should embrace the concept of green growth, as this is ultimately to the advantage of the continent, given the abundant natural resources. Large-scale development of renewable energy, in particular, can help make African economies greener and more resilient while creating millions of jobs.

Climate change is an issue of development, justice and equity. So developed countries should take their own responsibilities and support technology transfer and the building of local capacity. This aspect has been neglected for a long time in the climate negotiations and is nowhere near where it should be. It is therefore crucial to work with African educational institutions to respond to this challenge. Poor research and weak capacity affects all aspects of climate governance in Africa including monitoring, reporting, impact assessment, communication, institutions and policy development.

Finally, it was suggested that African countries need to develop ambitious green growth plans at national level, but also come together to press harder for their interests on an international level. By pooling resources and policies through regional and continental initiatives, they will be able to do much better in managing climate change and green growth.



Executive Summary

This report summarises findings of the 3rd Global Climate Policy Conference (GCPC) held on 13-14 July 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The conference was convened by Climate Strategies, a network of senior climate policy researchers, in partnership with the Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development (UONGOZI Institute) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

After its introduction in London in 2014 and in New Delhi in 2015, the conference has become a key moment to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners. The aim is to develop and discuss novel and actionable ideas for action on climate change.

The theme of GCPC 2016 was “Implementing the Paris Agreement: new research solutions for developing countries”. Despite the comprehensive and universal nature of the Paris Agreement, much support is still necessary to help developing countries deliver on their pledges. Specifically, there is a need to support the implementation of the **INDCs**, given technology and capacity gaps, as well as inadequate international climate finance.

The conference provided researchers living and working in Africa and in other developing regions with the opportunity to exchange ideas and work out solutions to implement the Paris Agreement. It was also a chance to identify and promote the talent of young researchers who were invited to present following a competitive selection process. The first day focused on INDC implementation and climate change **adaptation**. The second day addressed capacity building and transformation pathways to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C.

This report reflects the order of the sessions and was developed on the basis of the proceedings.

It is clear that Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, both in terms of environment and people’s needs. Much more has to be done to ensure that the Paris Agreement works for Africa and other developing countries.

The discussions revealed that, in terms of INDCs, African countries may have been ambitious but now lack resources, capacity and mechanisms for implementation, even where the political will is present and consistent.

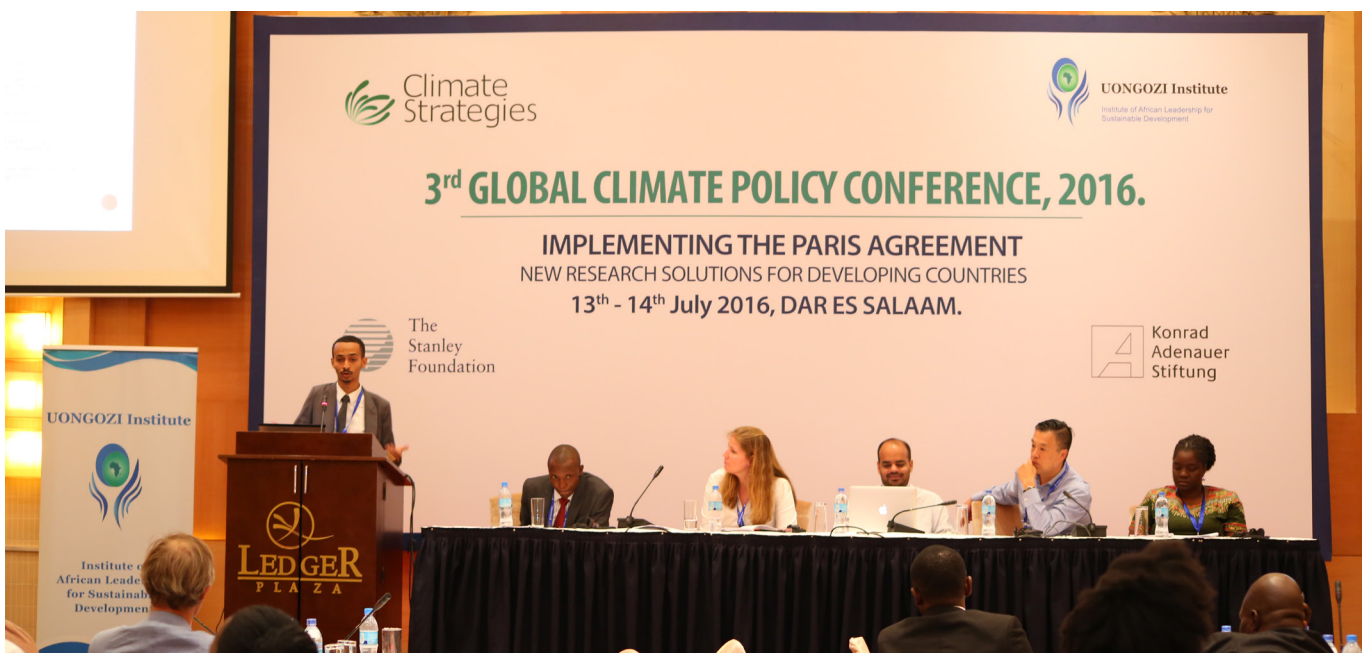


Photo: Session 2 of GCPC 2016 on Adaptation

One particular area of weakness is adaptation, often neglected in national and international policy development. The current institutional and policy frameworks in Africa are not designed to cope with the cross-cutting nature of climate change, so stakeholders believe it is important to establish a coordinated approach both within African countries, and amongst them. In the context of Africa, a top-down approach will never succeed on its own, but must be complemented with a bottom-up mechanism so that the grassroots are involved to the greatest extent. It is critical that decision-making about adaptation involves those 'living' with climate change. A robust and accessible database on climate indicators is also necessary to project potential future impacts, for both mitigation and adaptation activities.

Without **capacity**, however, there is no possibility to deliver on the Paris agenda. In this regard, the meeting indicated that not all forms of capacity are directly linked to finance and skills. Other support is needed, from education to communication and leadership. To emphasise this, climate change should become part of school curricula to appropriately equip future generations.

With regard to the **1.5°C limit**, and related cuts of greenhouse gas emissions, it was noted that climate change goals and Sustainable Development Goals are not necessarily aligned with INDCs.

These may be revised as the Paris Agreement is implemented, but the right links – or “hooks” – are needed to establish a beneficial connection among various public policy objectives. Climate resilient entrepreneurship and innovation, with a robust ecosystem of private, public and civil society collaboration, will also be needed.

In light of these outcomes, a number of recommendations were formulated on the way forward. And researchers will have a special role in bringing them to fruition.

It was agreed that Africa needs to **articulate its own research agenda** in a comprehensive and cooperative way in order to meet these challenges. There is already a lot of information available on the ground, and it is up to the academic community to pull it together and make it available for stakeholders. It would be useful, for instance, to set up and encourage **national institutes** to share solutions and make the link to what is happening on the ground. There was also a recommendation to create a **funding system** to implement recommendations from the research. Participants repeatedly stressed the need for more **youth involvement** and for **broader education**, e.g. through media, advertising and celebrities.

A number of research ideas (listed at the end of this report) emerged from the discussion and universities are encouraged to take them up. Their implementation could represent the lasting legacy



Photo: Group photo at GCPC 2016



Delivery of national commitments

Rapporteurs Nura-Lisa Karamagi, Policy Analyst, and Gwamaka Kifukwe, Programme Coordinator, UONGOZI Institute

Key findings

- **The INDCs of African countries are often too ambitious and overall lack a “policing mechanism” and resources (technical and financial) for a successful implementation, even where the political will is present and consistent.**
- **Adaptation has been neglected. Climate change is already taking place, but it remains difficult to quantify and therefore to finance.**
- **Considering the cross-cutting nature of climate change, it is important to establish a coordinated and holistic approach both within and amongst African countries.**

Different angles and approaches for the implementation of the INDCs were explored at the conference.

The inadequacy of INDCs

Chipo Mukonza, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of South Africa, discussed the adequacy and equitability of INDCs, analysing the cases of Tanzania and South Africa. These countries were chosen for their differences and the learning opportunities they present. The adequacy of their INDCs was calculated using the Carbon Action Tracker (CAT) and other assessments, e.g. from the International Energy Agency. The results show that in South Africa coal is still an important part of the energy mix and will continue to be for some time. This is leading to an increase of greenhouse gas emissions, even though the country is implementing an ambitious renewable energy programme. In Tanzania emissions are relatively low, but deforestation plays an important role. In both cases the INDCs appear to be inadequate.

| South Africa INDCs | Tanzania |
|---|---|
| Ambitious but based has a clause on conditionality | Condition that there is support for implementation, finance and technological support from the international community. |
| -4.5% | - |
| Target 2030 34% by 2020 and 42% by 2025 | 10-20% by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario of 138-153 Million tons of carbon dioxide equivalents (MtCO ₂ e) - gross emissions, depending on the baseline efficiency improvements, consistent with its sustainable development agenda. |
| Peak, Plateau and decline approach | - |
| Mitigation and adaptation | Mitigation and adaptation |
| Key climate and economic policies have been put in place | Key climate and economic policies have been put in place |
| South Africa has no legislation that governs carbon emissions, taxation that supports South Africa's emission reduction commitment. | |

Based on session 1 - “**NDC implementation**”: <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/AGENDA-FINAL-1.pdf>

Chair

Maurits Blanson Henkemans, former Senior Policy Officer at the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Acting Chair of the Board of Climate Strategies.

Presentations

Chipo Mukonza, University of South Africa: “Adequacy and Equitability of NDCs: Case of Tanzania and South Africa”. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Chipo-Mukonza.pdf>

Bernard Namanya, BNB Advocates: “Towards Harmonization of the East African Community Climate Change Policies, Laws and Institutions”. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Bernard-Namanya.pdf>

The presentation highlighted Africa's vulnerability to climate change, as agriculture is the backbone of the continent's economies which are, to a large extent, rain-fed and susceptible to changing weather patterns and climates. Despite this, the INDCs have created opportunities for new forms of management of resources and governances. This, in turn, could (and should) stimulate appropriate investments, assuming conducive policies and frameworks are put in place.

Regional policy harmonisation to help deliver

In his presentation, Bernard Namanya, Climate Change Law Consultant at BNB Advocates, reminded the audience that the INDCs were agreed with the provision that they would be mainstreamed into pre-existing frameworks and plans, to avoid additional processes. Furthermore, it is understood that the use of carbon-based energy would continue to grow in Africa in the short and medium-terms, but will decrease in the long term. This is because the technological leapfrog would be too expensive for most African states. In addition, technical skills for building, maintaining and operating many of the INDCs are lacking, as are supporting laws. Questions were asked on whether - given the pressing developmental challenges facing countries like Tanzania - aspirations captured by the INDCs were realistic. Participants agreed that further research is needed, given that INDCs were proposed in a rush to meet the Paris deadline. Fortunately the Paris Agreement states they will be reviewed every five years.

A key action to reinforce countries' ability to deliver on the INDCs could be the harmonisation of policies. This is particularly true in the energy sector, within the broader framework of regional organisations such as the East African Community (EAC). As the fastest growing trade bloc in the world, the EAC could take advantage of economies of scale by investing in renewable energy generation. The climate agenda could be fast-tracked as there is already a commitment to harmonise frameworks. Institutional arrangements are also increasingly aligned across Member States (as per 1999 EAC Treaty). Implementation of these policies remains however a challenge, which could hinder or even derail commitments to scaling up investments. In this respect, panellists called for new opportunities for collaboration and partnerships between private and public sectors.

Microfinance to involve the most vulnerable

The presentation by Dumisani Chirambo, Analyst at the Northern Alliance Financing Corporation, examined the role of microfinance in enabling the INDCs. At present, the majority of interventions and financing is geared towards mitigation, not adaptation. This is partly because the impacts of adaptation are difficult to quantify beyond hypothetical models and complex methods for establishing counter-factual trajectories and outcomes. This, and a top down approach, fails to reach out to the most vulnerable people. Yet, a solution is possible. Given the deep level of penetration of microfinance, green financing is accessible and non-state actors could play a critical role in advancing this option.

Augustine Njamnshi, of BDCP Cameroon and Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, reminded participants that most users have a poor understanding or awareness of microfinance products, as well as of their potential in relation to climate change. Felix Liilakako, from Juristes pour l'Environnement au Congo (Jurists for the Environment in Congo), added that the judicial framework needs to be improved, too.

*Dumisani Chirambo,
Northern Alliance
Financing Corporation:
"Finance Beneficiary-
Led Development
Framework in the SDG
and Climate Change
Domain".
[http://
climatestrategies.
org/wp-content/
uploads/2016/07/
Dumisani-Chirambo.pdf](http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Dumisani-Chirambo.pdf)*

A key conclusion was that Africa recognises the urgency of climate change given the continent's vulnerabilities, but lacks the resources and capacities to properly implement the INDCs. National contributions will not be enough in isolation and regional cooperation will have to be an integral part of the strategy to reach the targets agreed in Paris. "One doesn't simply pollute a country's air, but everyone's air," someone said in this regard. And while adaptation has not received due attention in research and policy discussions, it was agreed it cannot be separated from mitigation, so both will have to be addressed to succeed.



Photo: Market in Arusha, Tanzania, 2007. Credit: Hansco / Flickr / Creative Commons



New techniques for adaptation to climate change

Rapporteurs Gwamaka Kifukwe, Programme Coordinator, and Godfrey Nyamrunda, Researcher, UONGOZI Institute

Key findings

- **No single sector can tackle climate change adaptation on its own. Climate resilient entrepreneurship and innovation require a robust ecosystem of private, public and civil society collaboration.**
- **Although the current institutional and policy frameworks in Africa are not appropriately designed to cope with the cross-cutting nature of climate change, decision-making about adaptation should involve those ‘living’ with climate change (e.g. farmers and industrialists), not only technocrats or politicians.**
- **A robust and accessible database of climate indicators is necessary to project potential future impacts, for both mitigation and adaptation activities.**

The ‘ownership’ of climate change adaptation is questionable as much as the financing is not driven through domestic resources mobilisation. Ensuring buy-in to adaptation efforts is a great challenge in Africa and, more generally, in developing countries. This session discussed how education, agriculture and partnerships that involve the grassroots can develop the awareness and the ability to adapt to climate change.

The role of education

The initial presentation by Tatenda Mutasa, Resercher from Zimbabwe, made the case for national curriculum reforms to support adaptation. The Paris Agreement calls for a global response to the threat of climate change. To be effective, such a response will need well-informed and responsibly engaged citizenry. Education, which is referenced in Article 11 and 12 of the Paris Agreement, is considered a critical means to create new behavioural patterns. It was therefore suggested that there should be mandatory education on how the climate works and on the causes of climatic changes. Overall, climate change adaptation and mitigation should be mainstreamed and aligned with the national vision. Awareness about local, regional and global initiatives should be promoted.

It was noted that in Zimbabwe, there is no climate change topic in the national curriculum, but the issue has been ‘mainstreamed’ throughout the education system. Additionally, it was noted that the national curriculum in Tanzania should put more emphasis on climate change. Nonetheless, individual efforts have been made to develop and distribute climate change teaching modules to primary schools. The Ministry of Education as well as the East African Community were notified about this effort. In order to enhance climate change education and national curriculum reforms, it was suggested that a national climate change training institution could be established. Educators could be involved in the curriculum development.

Based on session 2 - “**Adaptation**”: <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/AGENDA-FINAL-1.pdf>

Chair

Miriam Fischer, Desk Officer for East Africa, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

Presentations

Tatenda Mutasa, Climate Change and Livelihoods Researcher in Zimbabwe: ‘Curriculum reforms: essential tool for effective implementation of climate change adaptation strategies’. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Tatenda-Mutasa.pdf>

Vikrom Mathur, Senior Fellow, Observer Research Foundation. “Bright-spots: Scaling-up grassroots innovation for adaptation in India and Africa”. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Vikrom-Mathur.pdf>

Partnerships on pro-poor technologies

The presentation by Vikrom Mathur of the Observer Research Foundation focused on the “much-hyped but unrealised agenda” of South-South cooperation, especially with regard to adaptation. The spotlight was on India, as an emerging development partner for Africa. India views Africa as a critical partner in energy and agriculture, paving the way for investments in both directions. There are already many exchanges in the health sector too. Over-emphasis on large-scale interventions and actors, however, means pro-poor adaptation efforts are quite marginal and not well addressed. A call for more focus on ‘humble’ technologies that could be implemented and spread at the grassroots level was made in this regard.

The narrative echoed previous points on the need for collaboration across public, private and civil society organisations. In particular, there is an assumption that markets are the solution. But not everyone can participate in markets. And funding for climate change projects in Africa from the private sector is still low. The emerging narrative in climate change policy circles on the need for signals for private sector mobilisation is also seen by some as misleading, as these alone will not necessarily lead to pro-poor innovation. Governments have a key role to play in establishing and maintaining ‘enabling environments’. Pro-poor technologies also face challenges of commercialisation and scaling up, since they often emerge as context-specific solutions to local problems. There is therefore a need to strengthen research in this area, so that appropriate lessons can be learned and shared.

Climate smart agriculture

Jacob Park, Professor of Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Green Mountain College in the USA, explored the nexus between clean energy and climate smart agriculture. Access to energy, particularly clean energy, is a major challenge for Africa. However, it is also a major opportunity for the advancement of desirable climate-change interventions and policy or legal institutions. The struggle to access and spread clean energy comes from the difficulty to mobilise resources, whether domestic or otherwise. In particular, there are arduous and non-standard procedures, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and basic requirements for financing of climate resilient entrepreneurship and technological innovation. The importance of developing clean energy in Africa should be an issue of global concern, given population growth and the development trajectory of the continent, as these will increase energy demand exponentially.

Informal agents who can help adaptation

Varaidzo Chinokwetu of the Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe, identified key formal and informal agents of climate change adaptation at the local level. The former consist of the state (civil servants, judiciary, military etc.), officials, civil society organisations and businesses. The latter is made up of politicians (local and central government through projects) and traditional leaders as custodians of norms and values. She highlighted the tendencies of the formal agents to exclude the informal ones, and urged greater engagement and alignment of these categories in climate change adaptation.

Jacob Park, Professor of Strategy, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship, Green Mountain College (USA). “Accelerating Clean Energy and Climate Smart Agriculture”. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Jacob-Park.pdf>

Varaidzo Chinokwetu, Patience Mutopo, Chipso Plaxedes Mubaya, Chinhoyi University of Technology, Zimbabwe. “Smallholder farmer perceptions and experience of climate change adaptation policies”. <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Varaidzo-Chinokwetu.pdf>

The example was made on the case of Zvishavane, a semi-arid district in Zimbabwe, where decisions are based on community experiences, promoting a bottom-up approach. In the discussion, however, it was questioned how far this approach has been taken up at policy level and what are the impacts in terms of gender, to guarantee maximum inclusion.

The discussion with stakeholders involved Fazal Issa of the Forum Climate Change Tanzania, Matthew Kwabena of the Adeyanju Sekondi Takoradi Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Ghana, Matthew Matimbwi of the Tanzania Renewable Energy Association, and Katshioka Sangamina Forbes of the Provincial Ministry of Education, Environment, Communication and Gender of Kinshasa, DRC.



Photo: Source: Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA)



Capacity building: finance and beyond

Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University and Member of Climate Strategies

Key findings

- **Without capacity there is no possibility to deliver on the climate change agenda.**
- **Capacity building contains an array of needs including, but extending well beyond finance.**
- **Communication and co-ordination, technical and analytical capabilities, and political and cultural leadership are also crucial elements of capacity building and mobilization.**

Capacity building is key if the goals of the Paris Agreement are to be achieved. Already a number of capacity building initiatives have emerged within the global climate regime and this is becoming an increasingly central issue. For instance, the Paris Committee on Capacity Building is just now demarcating its focus and structure. Simultaneously, other initiatives – such as the Coalition on Paris Agreement Capacity Building – have started to draw attention to particular needs. These include those of monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRV), according to the presentation by Yamide Dagnet of the World Resources Institute.

Capacity building emerged as a cross cutting theme throughout the GCPC 2016, but it was also addressed explicitly in the second day through a wide-ranging discussion amongst panellists and participants. During this session it became apparent that there is significant diversity in how people understand what forms of capacity building are needed, and how best to support it.

Forms of capacity building

Finance and access to finance repeatedly emerged as central capacity building issues, especially in light of energy and technology access needs. Aidan Msafiri, Climate Change Ambassador for Tanzania, and other participants articulated the consistent challenges faced at all levels, including those working locally, to access finance even when it is technically available. This speaks to both the overall quantity of finance, but also to the way in which the processes and conditions attached to it can contribute to other capacity challenges.

One of the other key gaps is effective **communication and coordination**. Participants discussed the need to have improve this amongst existing entities, such as government departments, NGOs and international mechanisms. The lack of coordination is a concrete challenge that is preventing further action and is an area in which capacity building investments could be useful. Similarly, improved information sharing across networks and various decision-making units at all jurisdictional scales, from villages to the national level, was highlighted as a distinct issue.

Based on session 3 -
“Strengthening Capacity of African policy-making and civil society”
<http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/AGENDA-FINAL-1.pdf>

Chair

Dr. Sonja Klinsky, Assistant Professor, School of Sustainability, Arizona State University.

Presentations

Prof. Rev. Aidan Msafiri, Climate Change Ambassador for Tanzania: “Towards a transformative and comprehensive climate change capacity building model for Africa.” <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Aidan-Msafiri.pdf>

Yamide Dagnet, Senior Associate, World Resources Institute (WRI): “Opportunities to strengthen capacity building from The Paris Agreement.” <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Yamide-Dagnet.pdf>

Technical and analytical capacity was also identified by participants as needed further work. Many parts of Africa chronically lack sufficient expertise to analyse and support policies – including but not limited to rigorous economic or climate impact modelling. As was repeatedly noted, many INDCs in developing countries were shaped by outside consultancies, reflecting a systematic lack of capacity or ability to mobilise domestic expertise effectively. One participant argued that failing to invest in these long-term analytical skills eroded the ability to critically engage in the policy process. It is notable that long-term and highly skilled analytical capacity is rarely explicitly identified in the current discussions and mechanisms set up within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. This goes beyond simple skills transmission and may require broader investments in education, training and employment retention opportunities.

Razack B. Lokina, Center Director and Senior Research Fellow at EfD Tanzania and Lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam: "Strengthening capacity of African policymaking and civil society." <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Razack-Lokina.pdf>

Finally, **leadership** emerged as a central theme. Participants expressed the need to better engage political leaders on climate issues, although a number of people also stressed the importance of including a much wider range of leaders in the climate discussion. For instance, individuals providing moral and ethical guidance, such as community and religious leaders, were seen as crucial in facilitating broader engagement with climate action. Others pointed to the social power commanded by celebrities as another form of leadership that could be better focused on shaping social and cultural capabilities to address climate action. As Stanley Ijeoma of Schrodinger Nigeria Ltd and other participants stressed, working with culturally important 'influencers' is a key strategy that in itself is a form of capacity mobilisation. Continuing to develop the ability to do this is a core capacity need.

Strategies of capacity building

Different models were presented and organically emerged through the discussion of how capacity building could best happen.

Peer learning either within or across communities or networks was one strategy that several people referred to. For instance, Yamide Dagnet looked to the European Union (EU) capacity building program aimed at supporting the integration of Eastern European governments within EU practice as an example. This features a peer-to-peer element and partnerships across similar entities in which lessons can be more easily transferred.

Programmatic approaches also emerged as a possible strategy. Aidan Msafiri stressed that there had already been many project-based capacity building efforts, but what was needed was broader, more systemic initiatives. The successful lighting energy efficiency program in India offered an example. Everything from technical expertise to finance and appropriate market development were addressed in order to ensure the implementation of the programme. In this case capacity building needs were treated as challenges to the ability to achieve a specific policy goal, which was the transformation of the residential lighting sector to feature efficient bulbs. This example supported the idea of embedding capacity building within a specific programme goal and addressing each specific need as it emerges. In addition, the motivator for many participants and customers in this programme came from human development concerns for higher quality lighting, not necessarily energy demand management.

Addressing the lack of **assessment and learning** could also be helpful. A number of panellists and participants pointed out that despite the breadth of capacity building effort across Africa (and elsewhere), there has been very little systematic assessment of effectiveness and few opportunities to learn about what has and has not worked. Participants called for “evidence based” capacity building efforts.

Education was a strong theme in the presentation by Razack Lokina, Centre Director and Senior Research Fellow at EfD Tanzania, but also across the entire conference. Kassim Gawsu Toure of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change similarly highlighted the need to ensure capacity of the youth, as Africa is the youngest continent. Resonating with global calls to more seriously engage with provisions embedded in the Convention, participants discussed the role that climate change education could play in mobilising action and systematically building capacity to engage in such policy discussions. Some of this discussion focused on formal education, such as through school curriculums, while others focused on informal learning, for example through better inclusion of youth in decision-making and policy planning at different levels.

Capacity building or capacity mobilisation?

As clearly articulated by Siaka Coulibaly of the African Capacity Building Foundation, without capacity it is not possible to deliver on the climate agenda. However, recognising capacity building as a central issue in the African context can be a double-edged sword. On one hand, there are a number of areas in which capacity is systematically lacking and limiting the effectiveness of local and national efforts to engage with the challenges posed by climate change. From this perspective capacity building is absolutely crucial to enable the kinds of changes desired to promote wellbeing in the face of climate change. However, the challenge could also be seen as one of capacity mobilisation. From this perspective there are already many forms in all communities, but the difficulty is how to mobilise them effectively. The risk of focusing only on capacity building is that it can devalue the skills, abilities and achievements of those who are already doing so much across all contexts of decision-making. The risk of focusing only on capacity mobilisation is that it can facilitate the avoidance of international obligations to those who have done little to cause climate change, and who are likely to face some of the most serious repercussions of it. At the end of the day it seems that both narratives coexist and the question is which one to use if the goal is to enable human wellbeing in a context of climate change.



How to stay within the 1.5°C limit

Ambuj Sagar, Professor of Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Member of Climate Strategies

Key findings

- **Climate change and Sustainable Development Goals are not necessarily aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These may be revised as the Paris Agreement is implemented.**
- **To keep temperature increases within the 1.5°C limit, key connections – or “hooks” – need to be made among different goals.**

With the impending question of how to limit temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels, the discussion focused on what it would take for a country or a sector to engage in a transformational pathway, especially in developing economies.

The presentation by Gareth Phillips highlighted the climate change goals of the African Development Bank (AfDB) and their strong linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These are not specifically aligned to Nationally Determined Contributions but the Bank is encouraging governments to utilise technologies that will support the NDCs. The AfDB is restructuring to create a business delivery model to suit the NDCs and the aim for the future is that all finance is compatible with them. The point made was that finance is demand-driven and demand comes from governments. The Bank is starting to advise governments on the long-term emission liabilities that AfDB funded assets will create.

More broadly, Africa’s participation in climate action is relatively new as the Paris Agreement is radically different to what Africa had to do under the Kyoto Protocol. There is a lot to catch up with, especially in terms of knowledge gap. The Paris Agreement stated the responsibility of developed countries to provide financial support to developing nations and stressed the importance of the private sector. Another important aspect, however, is the need to change the expectations of the youth.

Based on session 4 -
“Exploring Transformational Pathways Towards 1.5C”
<http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/AGENDA-FINAL-1.pdf>

Chair

Ambuj Sagar, Professor of Policy Studies at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) and Member at Climate Strategies

Presentations

Gareth Phillips, African Development Bank: “African Development Bank – Getting ready for a post 2020 world.” <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Gareth-Phillips.pdf>

Ajay Mathur, Director General of TERI (The Energy & Resources Institute): “Exploring Transformational Pathways.” <http://climatestrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Ajay-Mathur.pdf>

As regards the 1.5°C limit, there is no single transformational pathway to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Phillips proposed 10 actions:

1. Improving the quality of national inventories
2. Developing and implementing greenhouse gas emission monitoring and reporting regulations for all point sources
3. Increasing the knowledge of policies and of measures amongst relevant ministries, industries and academia
4. Building and experimenting with General Equilibrium Models
5. Requiring all new infrastructure projects to submit lifetime estimates of greenhouse gases
6. Building marginal abatement cost curves
7. Reviewing the national education syllabus from children through to graduates
8. Supporting R&D into low emission technologies and business models
9. Building a shadow price of carbon into all investment decisions
10. Implementing well-designed emission trading schemes.

Finding the “hooks” to link development and climate change

The presentation by Ajay Mathur, Director of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), focused on “transformation” as a change of an entire structure. Addressing climate change is about meeting higher costs (at least in the medium term) and enabling rapid technological evolution. Developing countries need to find the right “hook” to link development and climate action, which is often difficult under the current economic pattern. This is about deciding where to start and how to enable the integration with national goals. India started with the promotion of energy efficient appliances because it worked both for development and climate change and although more expensive, energy efficiency products can help save money over time. Other “hooks” for developing countries could be better lifestyle with sustainable livelihoods, enhanced energy supply and resilience, and a combination of energy access, energy efficiency, renewables, forestry, water supply and urban development. For renewable energy, the key issue is bringing down the prices to make it affordable to all. It was argued that convincing people of the benefits is crucial because when people have the willingness to implement a successful project, the effect is huge.

A recurring theme was that many Intended INDCs were written in a rush by consultants, with a kind of “copy and paste” system. As countries ratify the Paris Agreement and move to implementation there is the possibility to strengthen them, taking into account the 1.5°C limit and improving them on the basis of evidence of specific needs and opportunities. This may appeal to funders too. Participants stressed the need for more evidence and research coming from ‘real world’ situations and for dialogue with local communities and indigenous groups, rather than simply adopting top down measures that do not work.

Ann Makena of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance suggested to involve faith-based organisations. Ntahorwamiye Aime Claude of the Ministry of Finance of Burundi questioned the AfDB in relation to adaptation and on the level of communication to enable countries to deal with climate change impacts.



Conclusions and Recommendations

The two-day GCPC 2016 concluded with a reflection on the way forward, blending speakers' expertise and discussion with participants. It is clear that Africa is particularly vulnerable to climate change, both in terms of environment and people's needs. Participants agreed that much more needs to be done to ensure that the Paris Agreement works for Africa and other developing countries. The global climate deal, while undoubtedly a major step forward, is not by itself adequate to keeping climate change within safe limits. And what is planned is not enough to deliver on the national commitments.

The discussion revealed in particular that, in terms of **NDCs**, African countries may have been ambitious, but now lack resources, capacity and mechanisms for implementation, even where the political will is present and consistent.

One particular area of weakness is **adaptation**, often neglected in national and international policy development. The current institutional and policy frameworks in Africa are not designed to cope with the cross-cutting nature of climate change, so it is important to establish a coordinated approach both within and between African countries. In the context of Africa, it was noted, a top-down approach will never succeed on its own, but must be complemented with a bottom-up mechanism so that the grassroots are involved to the greatest extent. It is critical that decision-making about adaptation involves those 'living' with climate change. A robust and accessible database on climate indicators is also necessary to project potential future impacts, for both mitigation and adaptation activities.

Without **capacity**, however, there is no possibility to deliver on the Paris agenda. In this regard, the meeting highlighted that not all forms of capacity are directly linked to finance and skills. Other support is needed, from education to communication and leadership. To emphasise this, climate change should become part of school curricula to appropriately equip future generations.

With regard to the **1.5°C limit**, and related cuts of greenhouse gas emissions, it was noted that climate change goals and Sustainable Development Goals are not necessarily aligned with Nationally Determined Contributions. These may be revised as the Paris Agreement is implemented, but the right links – or "hooks" – are needed to establish a

beneficial connection among the various objectives. Climate resilient entrepreneurship and innovation, with a robust ecosystem of private, public and civil society collaboration, will also contribute.

In light of these outcomes, a number of recommendations were formulated by GCPC 2016 participants on the way forward and researchers will have a special role in bringing them to fruition.

1. On the delivery of the NDCs

- a** As the Paris agreement is enforced and NDCs are adjusted for implementation, **ensure that they are in line with national development plans**. It is especially important to speak of growth models rather than narrowly addressing climate change.
- b** **Mainstream climate change** in all other policy areas, including gender, and in all ministries. This will require research and data in various areas to help making decisions.
- c** **Address funding gaps**, mobilising multilateral funds including the private sector, but also diversifying funding sources.
- d** Promote **South-South cooperation**, for example leveraging on existing frameworks such as the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation.
- e** Design and implement a **governance system at national level**, with a more formal process for the **coordination of stakeholders**, a focus on practical solutions that work at the grassroots level and a clear system of monitoring and evaluation.
- f** Promote stronger **cooperation between industry, policy and academia** taking holistic, strategic approaches.
- g** Work more **together on a regional and pan-African level**, ensuring a greater harmonization of policies. This could be done through the creation of Strategic Climate Change Commissions in all four regions of Africa and ensuring a coordination point of national climate change commissions within the African Union.

2. On techniques for adaptation

- h** Inform the **global strategy** rather than only respond to demands of international institutions.
- i** Help develop and spread **pro-poor technologies**.
- j** Involve in decision-making those who “live” with climate change.
- k** Make climate change **part of the education system**, reviewing the national education syllabus from children through to graduates.

3. On capacity building

- l** Build capacity **at all levels**, from grassroots to policymakers, as part of a **continuous process**. African negotiators have already a huge disadvantage because their delegations are small, so it is essential that their intervention is maximised.
- m** **Customise the approach** in each sector and location, identifying who needs what, where and when.
- n** **Focus on climate finance** opportunities, as funds are available but most people in Africa lack the capacity to access them.
- o** **Engage more effectively the youth**, the leaders of the future and those who will be most affected by the decisions made today.

4. On how limit temperature increases to 1.5°C

- p** Find the right way to **link development and climate change goals**, and align related finance.
- q** **Improve NDCs** on the basis of evidence.
- r** Change the **expectations** of the youth.
- s** Support specific actions for the **reduction of greenhouse gas emissions**.

5. The role of research in Africa’s climate action

It was agreed that Africa needs to **articulate its own research agenda** in a comprehensive and cooperative way in order to meet these challenges. There is already a lot of information available on the ground, and it is up to the academic community to pull it together and make it available for stakeholders. It would be useful, for instance, to set up and encourage **national institutes** to share solutions and make the link to what is happening on the ground. There was also a recommendation to create a **funding system** to implement recommendations from the research. Participants repeatedly stressed the need for more **youth involvement** and for **broader education**, e.g. through media, advertising and celebrities.

A number of research ideas emerged from the discussion and universities are encouraged to take them up. Their realisation will ultimately represent the legacy of this conference:

- An African research agenda that maps out who is researching what on climate change and identifies gaps
- Analysis and data that supports a better design of NDCs
- Local success stories, e.g. on the use of microfinance, that inform action based on evidence from the ground
- Options of how NDCs can create jobs
- Assessment of capacity needs at all levels and in each country that facilitate appropriate decisions
- Sustainable African innovation library with best practices across the continent
- Policy and legal frameworks needed to implement the Paris Agreement, including how to use existing ones
- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework, including how to measure effectiveness of grassroots involvement in adaptation
- How South-South cooperation can work for climate change
- Models for sustainable economic growth
- Local and indigenous knowledge on food security
- How to harmonise and standardise renewable energy development in Africa
- What education can do to raise the awareness of climate change in Africa.



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In addition this report draws heavily on the presentations for day 2 of GCPC 2016 (links provided throughout the report).



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