



Financing Climate Research for Development in Africa

African Pavilion, Thursday, November 17, 2016, 17:30 – 19:00

Background

Climate Change and Development in Africa: Africa's socio-economic development is heavily dependent on natural resources and other climate-sensitive sectors. Observed changes in the past and recent climate paints a picture of increasing warming and threshold changes in our global climate system that has resulted in the increase in the intensity and frequency of climate-related disasters. Unpredictability of the onset and cessation of the rainy seasons is threatening the modest economic growth that Africa has enjoyed in the recent decade. This trend in growth has become unsustainable as changes in climate variability and change as evidenced in the recent loss of investments associated with El Nino episodes and related extreme events. These impacts are projected to get worse as climate variability and change gathers pace.

In effect, Africa's long-term sustainable development faces one of its greatest threats from the impacts of climate variability and change. As if these were not problematic enough, Africa's capacity to manage current climate variability and change is woefully inadequate and current approaches to address future climate variability and change is not well articulated. It is therefore important to establish a robust mechanism for mainstreaming climate change considerations in Africa's sustainable development over a range of decision timescales.

To comprehensively articulate the nature of the problem and formulate effective solutions for addressing the climate change and development challenge, a new research agenda that integrates the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development as stipulated in the Agenda 2030 is required. This research Agenda must be aligned with Africa's Agenda 2063, and most importantly, respond to Africa's priorities in contributing to and the shaping of the global climate change governance. In the current discussion on the implementation of the Paris Agreement, this research agenda should be able to articulate the science-policy issues of the global climate change debate within the context of Africa's long-term development and provide robust scientific, socio-economic, technological, policy and innovative solutions to address the core elements of the agreement. The research agenda should assemble a critical mass of multi-disciplinary experts and provide a roadmap for harnessing Africa's rich human capital potential into a sustainable think-tank resource for addressing Africa's climate change and development challenges.

Financing for Africa's climate change and development research is not well established. As a matter of fact Africa is the continent with the least investments in research and development although it is the

most vulnerable to the impacts of climate variability and change. For the African climate change and development research agenda to make any meaningful impacts and support its transformative agenda, a predictable, significant and sustained investments will be required. The scale and scope of such an investment is yet to be determined.

To address Africa's climate research for development challenges, the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) initiative was established by the UNECA, WMO, GFCS and African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) in 2013 during the African Climate Conference in Arusha, Tanzania and endorsed by African Ministers Responsible for Meteorology during the Third Session of AMCOMET in Cabo Verde, in February 2015. The **CR4D** initiative aims to establish an urgently needed bridge between climate research and user needs in Africa, to deliver improved climate information services, now and into the future, which can inform the critical decision-making needs of policy-makers and vulnerable communities in Africa under a changing climate. In a post Paris COP-21 world, CR4D's implementation becomes even more important.

This side event will bring together researchers, policy makers, high level decision makers and development partners to discuss the unique role and contribution of CR4D to Africa's long-term sustainable development within the context of climate change, in particular, the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement. It will also discuss approaches for establishing an innovative financing mechanism for its long-term resource mobilization and sustainability.

Organization: DAVOS style with chair, MC, solicited talks and panel discussion and Q&A

Chair: AMCOMET chair

MC: Arame Tall/Joseph Intsiful

Solicited talks

- Climate Change and Development in Africa – **Dr. James Murombedzi, ACPC, UNECA**
- The CR4D initiative and its role in Africa's transformative agenda – **Dr. Joseph Mukabana, AMCOMET**
- The role of CR4D in the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement – **Prof. Laban Ogallo**
- Innovative financing for climate research and development in Africa – **Mr. Justus Kabyemera, CDSF, AfDB**

Panel discussion

- **Prof. Bruce Hewitson, University of Cape Town**
- **DFID/EU (TBC)**
- **Prof. Richard Anyah,**
- **Mr. Antonio Palazuelos, SYAH, Cabo Verde**
- **Dr. Amos Makarau, President, WMO RA I**