



Climate Change: Trends and Perspectives in Africa

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Climate Change Scenarios

- The world is in the throes of a triple crisis – the COVID-19 pandemic, economic decimation and climate change and environmental degradation.
- There is consensus that a green pathway which promotes carbon neutral investments, clean jobs and reduced pollution will guarantee sustainability.
- According to the IPCC, human activities have so far caused 1.0 degree C of global warming
- With business as usual, global warming is likely to reach 1.5 degree C between 2030 and 2052
- In order to limit global temperature rise to 1.5⁰C, we must cut global emissions by 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels, reaching net zero emissions by 2050.
- Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5⁰C with no or limited overshoot would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems
- These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options.



Climate Change Scenarios

- The Paris Agreement sets out a global framework to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C.
- The combined impact of revised NDCs of 75 parties reviewed by UNFCCC puts them on **a path to achieve a less than 1 per cent emissions reduction by 2030** compared to 2010 levels (UNFCCC's Initial Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Synthesis Report 02/2021)
- The rapid and far reaching transitions required in order to stay within the 1.5°C target require enormous financing.
- Article 9 of the Paris Agreement specified that developed countries would provide financial resources to assist developing countries with both mitigation and adaptation, and **the minimum financial goal agreed to by the Parties was \$100 billion per year.**



Climate Change Scenarios

- **Zero Chance** of avoiding one degree of global warming
- **93% Chance** of avoiding two degrees of global warming if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 60% over the next decade (by 2030)
- **Poor chance** of avoiding three degrees of global warming if rise breaches two degrees and triggers carbon cycle-feedbacks
- **Poor chance** of avoiding four degrees of global warming if rise reaches three degrees and causes massive thaw of the permafrost
- **Negligible chance** of avoiding six degrees of global warming if rise reaches four degrees and releases trapped methane into the atmosphere



Africa Vulnerability

- Because of historical, structural and institutional reasons, Africa and other developing nations are more vulnerable to climate change impacts.
- This is the basis for the G77 Negotiating Group at the UNFCCC of which Africa, with its 55 members is the largest bloc.
- Poor and complex governance, conflicts, weakened capacities, high disease burden, food insecurity and endemic poverty greatly exacerbate Africa's vulnerability to climate change.
- Several global and/or international funding and capacity enhancing mechanisms, facilities and partnerships have been set up within and outside of the UNFCCC to support vulnerable developing country actions to tackle climate change and its impacts.
 - ***Substantial amounts have been mobilized or pledged for these initiatives. African countries are lagging other regions in accessing these resources.***
- Addressing climate change and its impacts cannot, and should not, be addressed separately from Africa's development.



COVID 19 pandemic deepens vulnerability

- Africa's GDP will drop by 1.4 per cent if the impact of COVID-19 takes the world into a deep recession.
- This recession will further see a drop in Africa's total exports by 16.7 per cent with the resultant revenue losses of up to 5.3 per cent
- Many Africans face food insecurity because of this crisis
- Health systems are likely to be overwhelmed by a rapid spread of the disease
- Prolonged suspension of critical economic activity, inequalities in access to food and basic services etc. disproportionately affect the poor and other vulnerable groups.



Financing Climate Actions (adaptation only)

- Financial Flows for Adaptation in Africa fall far short of needs
- To-date, only 6 African countries have submitted National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)
- However, all African countries (except Libya) have submitted NDCs
- The adaptation priorities of the NDCs are:
 - *1) agriculture, 2) water, and 3) either health or forestry, land-use, and ecosystems*
- 40 African countries provided estimated investment needs for adaptation, totaling roughly USD 331 billion through 2030.
 - Fifteen countries provided a breakdown of conditional vs unconditional cost estimates, with an average ratio of 80:20.
- Thus annual investment needs are USD 33 billion
- Countries expect to contribute USD 6.6 billion unconditionally
- Leaves a gap of investment gap of USD 265 billion (or 26.5 billion annually)

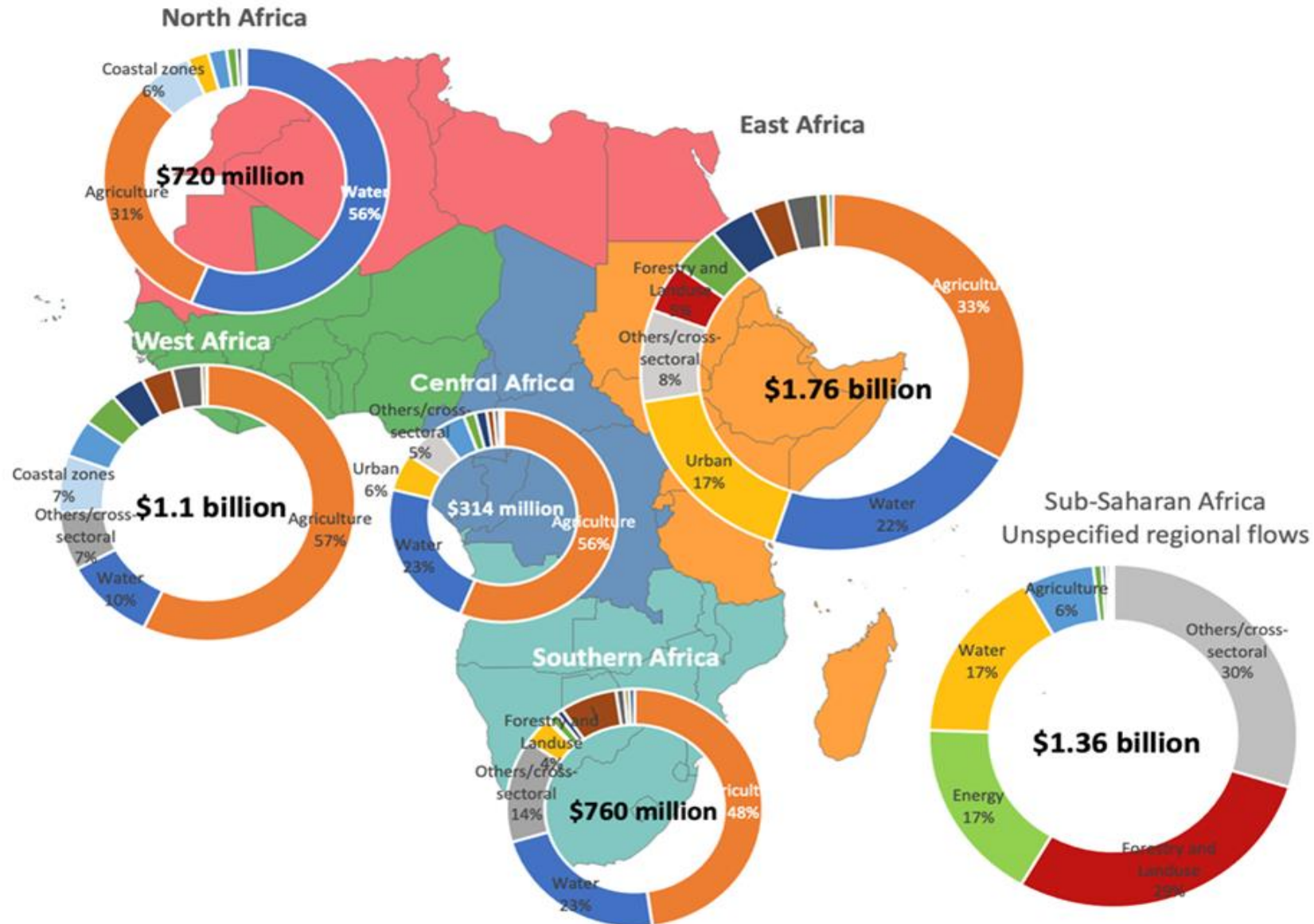


Financing Climate Actions (adaptation only)

- Globally an annual average of USD 30 billion in adaptation finance was tracked for 2017 and 2018,
- mostly provided by public actors (DFIs alone accounted for 67 percent of the total).
- Just over USD 6 billion was tracked in adaptation finance to Africa in that period.
- If this trend continued through 2030, total finance from 2020-2030 would only amount to USD 66 billion, far short of the USD 331 billion (or approximately USD 30 billion annually) in estimated needs per stated cost estimates in NDCs.
- Adaptation finance is therefore scaling too slowly to narrow the gap while the costs of climate impacts rise.



Tracked Adaptation Finance by Region (2017-2018)



Climate Actions - Just Transitions

- Technology transfers have also by and large been limited.
- At the same time, the continent possesses significant and as yet largely unexploited reserves of **oil, gas and coal**, as well as other valuable rare earth and minerals such as **cobalt, lithium, uranium and bauxite** which are fundamental elements of renewable and digital technologies.
- This puts the continent in a developmental dilemma – it is the continent most vulnerable to climate change and therefore most ambitious in its climate change goals.



Just Transitions

- Yet at the same time it contributes the least to climate change largely because of its low levels of industrialization and energy consumption, and is thus in greatest need of rapid investment in infrastructure and industrialization
- If such rapid industrialization at a scale required to meet the continent's SDGs were to be based on the utilization of its fossil reserves, then the continent would contribute towards overshooting the 1.5°C goal,
- and thus worsen its own vulnerability to climate impacts.
- At the same time, investments in fossil fuel extraction, processing and distribution will be stranded as the rest of the world moves away from fossil to cleaner energy sources.



Opportunities for Green Development

- Opportunities exist for Africa to embark on transformative pathways to green development through fostering investments in green technologies and processes.
- Such pathways require the mobilization of finance and technology transfers on a large scale.
- Given the continent's energy deficits, such pathways also recognize the need for transitional development of existing reserves of natural gas to power the continent for the foreseeable future, and to contribute towards the green transition.
- African countries can also adopt strategies to mainstream a green recovery through investing in nature based solutions, to create jobs and economic multipliers while reversing environmental degradation and building climate resilience.
- This can also lead to additional opportunities to raise finance by using carbon trading and off-set opportunities, leveraging the fact that many African countries are 'net positive' in terms of their emissions. For example, the Congo Peatlands store three years-worth of global CO2 emissions.



Characteristics of African climate responses

- **The continental climate response is weak and fragmented**
- **Member states implementing uncoordinated policies, strategies, frameworks and action plans with some of the instruments being outdated and others in the process of being revised.**
- **Insufficient capacity development and resources at national, regional and continental levels**
- **Reliance on external support for implementation**
- **The responses are Adaptation centric, although growing recognition that mitigation can create new opportunities for green growth.**



UNFCCC negotiations

Parties usually organize themselves in 'like-minded' groups. The main groups include:

- Group of 77 (G-77), which was founded in 1964 and has nowadays over 130 developing country members; China generally collaborates with G-77 so that the group's inputs to the COP are usually tabled as G-77 & China submissions,
- Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), which is a coalition of 43 low-lying and small island countries (which are mostly also member of the G77 & China group),
- Least Developed Countries (LDC), which contains 50 countries and which share a common interest in, e.g., vulnerability and adaptation to climate change,
- European Union (EU), which as a regional economic integration organization has become a Party to the UNFCCC itself,



- The 28 members of the **European Union** meet in private to agree on common negotiating positions.
- The Party that holds the EU Presidency - a position that rotates every six months - then speaks for the European Union and its 28 member states.
- As a regional economic integration organization, the European Union itself is a Party to the Convention.
- However, it does not have a separate vote from its members.



African Group of Negotiators

- The **African Group of Negotiators (AGN)** was established at COP1 in Berlin, Germany in 1995
- An alliance of African member states that represents the interests of the region in the international climate change negotiations, with a common and unified voice.
- The Group comprises 54 Parties.
- Made up of climate change focal persons from members states
- Active in and supportive to all aspects of the climate change negotiating process



Some challenges

- Africa's climate governance in three tiers: CAHOSCC, AMCEN, And AGN;
- In principle CAHOSCC should give direction to AMCEN who in turn should guide the work of the AGN and define Africa's position;
- In practice, Africa's participation in the climate negotiations is mainly at the technical (AGN) level;
- The AGN is a very technically competent group but there is urgent need to institutionalize it under the AUC and give more responsibility to CAHOSCC and AMCEN; A similar set-up like the EU is desirable;
- African countries not funding the AGN, resulting in other countries like Germany providing funding to support the functioning of the AGN.



Ideas
to
Action