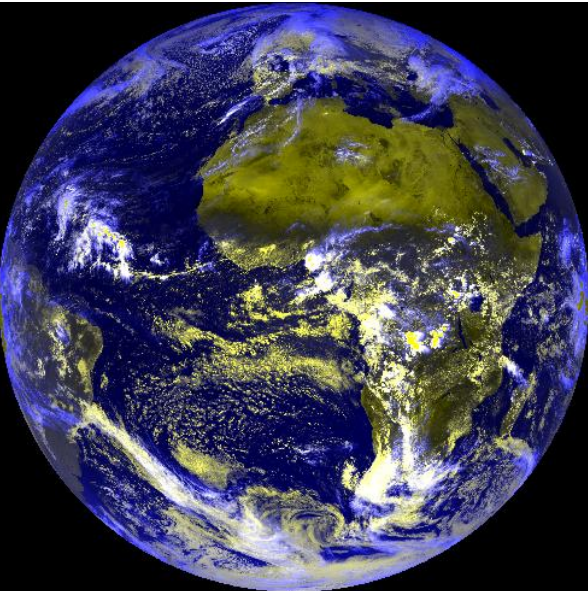


An overview of the international climate change process under the UNFCCC

“On the road to Copenhagen”



Yvo de Boer

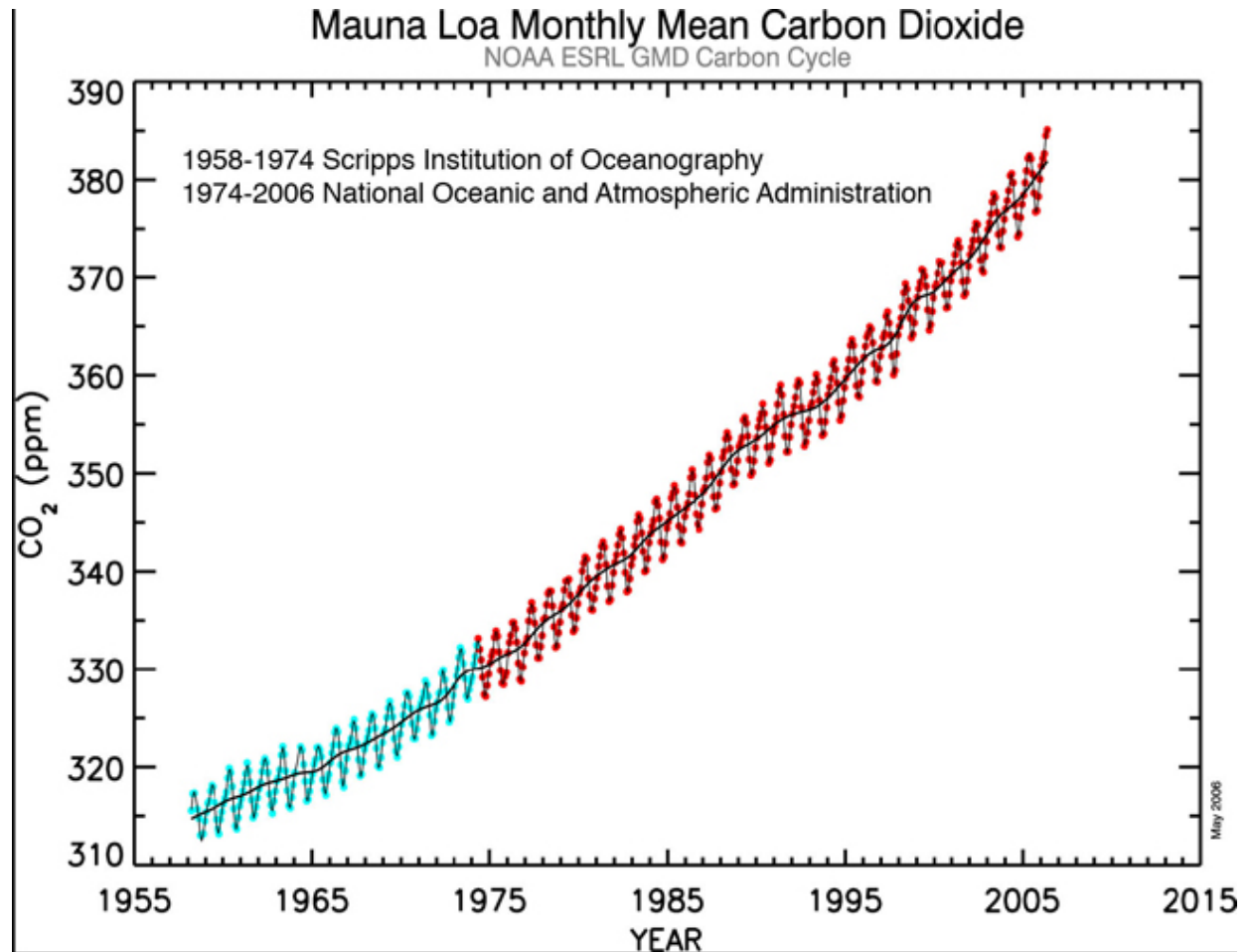
Executive Secretary

UNFCCC



Atmospheric carbon dioxide measurements at Mauna Loa, Hawaii

**April 2008
measurement
at 389 ppm**



Source: NOAA



Effects of climate change according to the IPCC

- In the **21st Century**, the Earth could warm by about **3°C**
- **Reduced food security**
- **Stress on water resources**, e.g. as many as 250 million people in **Africa** could be at increased risk of water stress in 2020
- **Rise in sea levels**, e.g. millions of people in Africa and Asia at risk of river flooding and storm surges; **SIDS**
- Increase of **intensity and frequency of extreme events**

Climate change is no longer only “environmental” in nature





What are the two approaches in the international climate change process?

Mitigation

- **Reducing GHGs**, e.g. CO₂ from burning petrol, coal or from deforestation – or **capturing CO₂** by e.g. planting forests
- Between **1970 and 2004**, emissions of greenhouse gases have **increased by 70%**, **CO₂ by 80%**
- Globally, emissions need to be reduced by **well over 50% by 2050 compared to 2000**
- **Technologies are part of the solution:** e.g. solar energy, wind energy or CCS



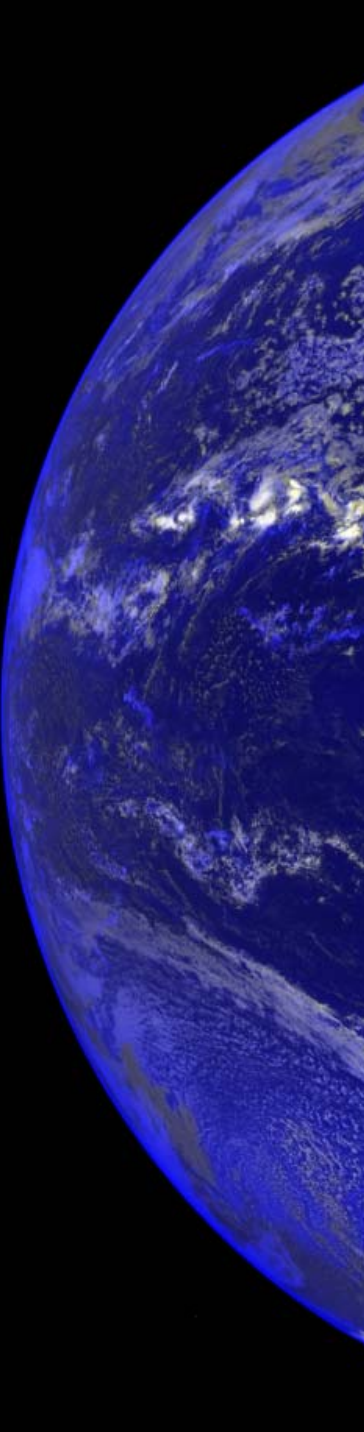
What are the two approaches in the international climate change process?

Adaptation

- Coping with climate change impacts: taking measures to **reduce the negative effects**, by making adjustments
- **Adaptation reduces vulnerability**, e.g. dykes, drought-resistant crops
- **All countries** will be affected, **developing countries most**
- Without adaptation, countries will **remain locked in poverty**

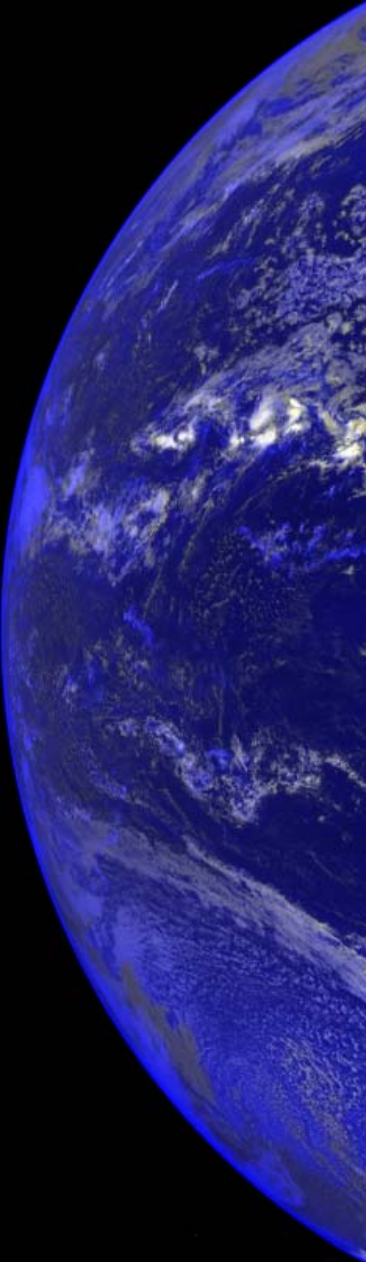


Achievements to date

- 
- UNFCCC has **near universal membership**: 192 Parties
Impartial platform for Governments to negotiate the international response to climate change facilitated by UN Climate Change Secretariat
 - The Kyoto Protocol: first commitment period: 2008-2012:
 - Legally binding targets for industrialised countries
 - New **international market-based instruments** creating a new commodity: carbon
 - **E.g. Emission trading, Joint Implementation, Clean Development Mechanism**

Clean Development Mechanism

- Industrialized countries pay for projects that **cut or avoid emissions in poorer nations**
- **Sustainable development benefits**
- Has grown: **1146 projects** registered; over **3000** projects in the **pipeline**
- bulk of projects in **India and China**
- **27 projects in Africa**
- Nairobi Framework: aims to increase number of projects in Africa
- Increase is starting: **44 projects** requesting registration
- New agreement could yield greater benefits

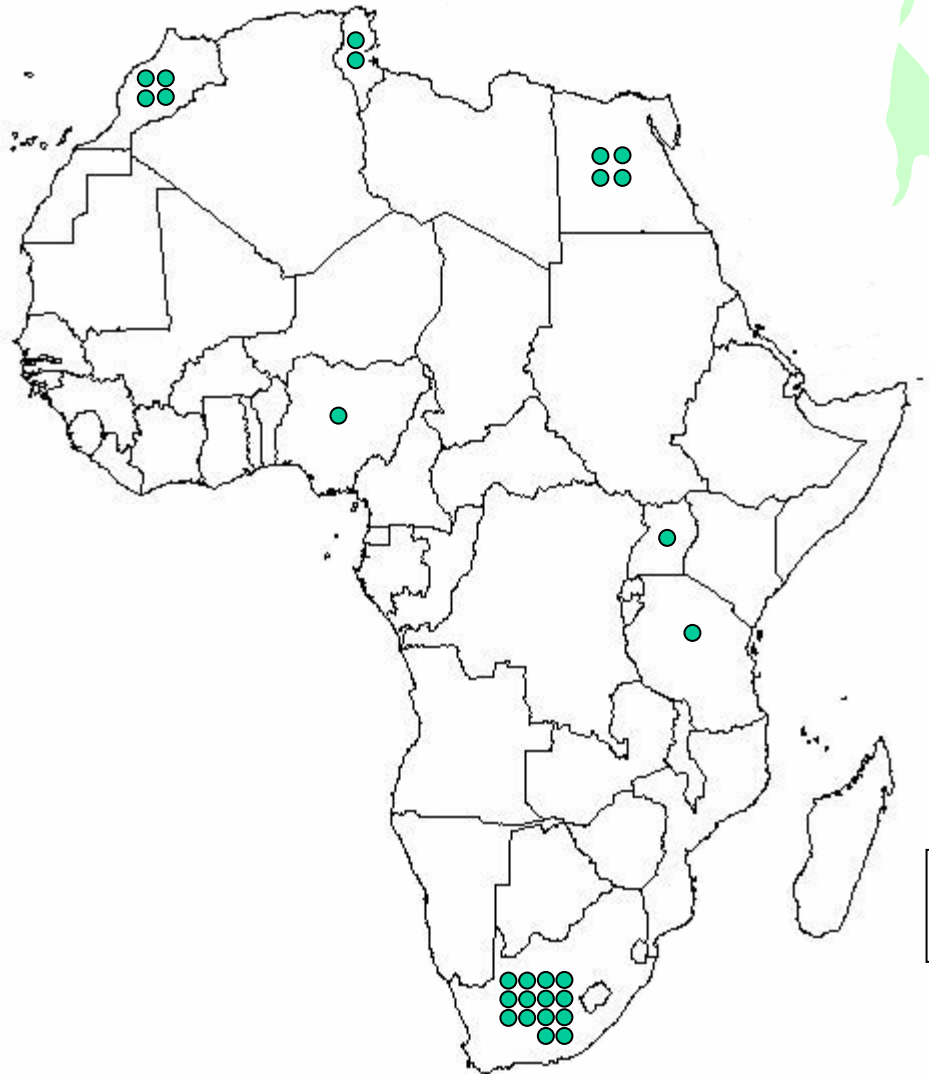


CDM in Africa – currently

Estimated

\$3.9 billion

capital investment*



... in 27 projects
in 7 countries,
expected to generate
38 million CERs
to 2012

 Registered CDM projects

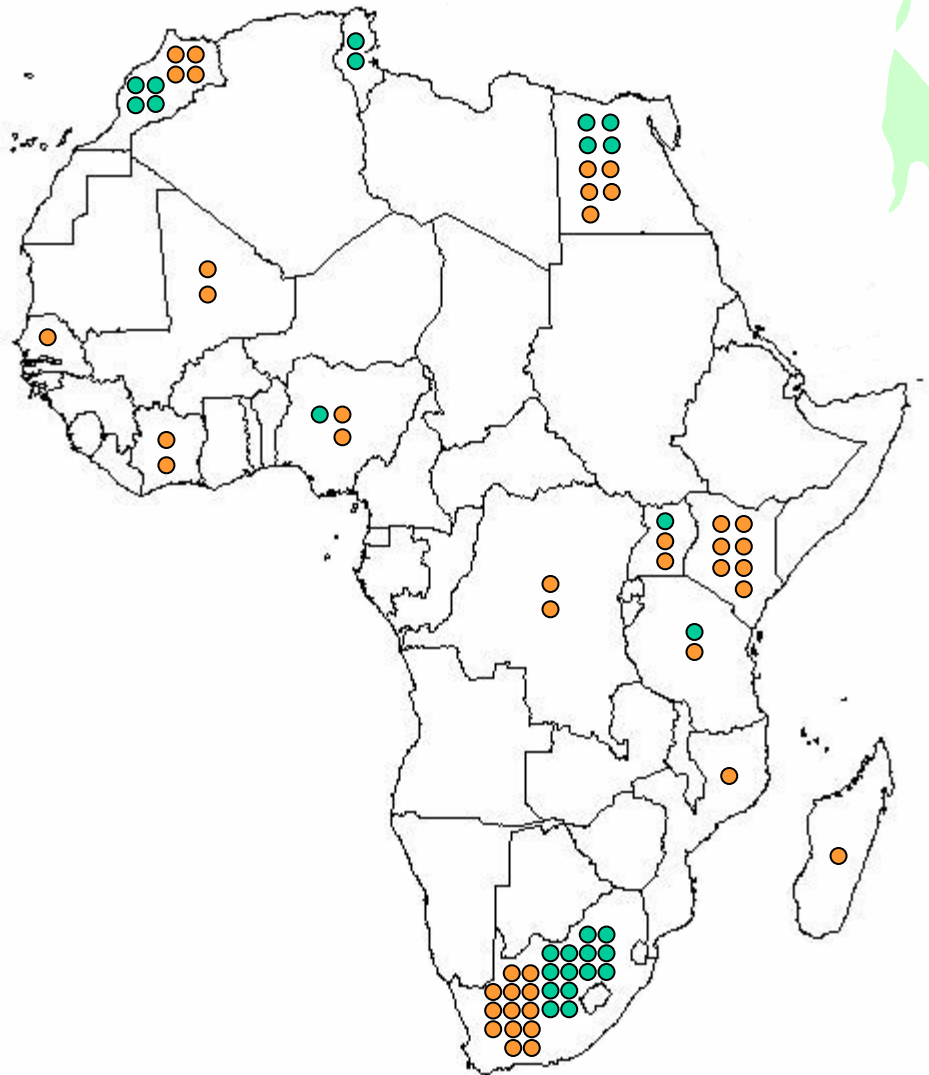
* Based on average investment estimates per tonne CO₂ equivalent reduction;
from: UNFCCC, Investment and Financial Flows to Address Climate Change

CDM in Africa – looking ahead

Estimated

\$18 billion

capital investment



. . . in projects
expected to generate
90 million CERs to 2012

● Registered projects (27)

● Projects seeking registration (44)

The Bali Road Map

- A **mandate** adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference in December; covers **3 main areas**:
 1. Strengthen **on-going work**
 2. Strengthen **climate change action in the future**
 - Working Group on long-term cooperative action to negotiate outcome
 3. **Further commitments by industrialised countries under the KP**
 - Working Group under the KP to negotiate outcome
- **Deadline:** the UN Climate Change Conference in **Copenhagen in December 2009**



How is adaptation addressed in the Bali Road Map?

On-going work, e.g.:

- Adaptation Fund: potential to generate 80 - 300 million USD per year 2008-2012;
 - Up to 1 - 5 billion USD per year (high demand)
- Nairobi Work Programme

Future-related work:

- Adaptation as a **key element of a long-term climate change agreement**
- **International cooperation** on urgent adaptation action – sustained and sufficient funding needed
- **Climate-resilient development**



How is mitigation addressed?

On-going work, e.g, boosting technology transfer

Future-related work:

- **Developed countries:** measurable, reportable and verifiable mitigation actions, including quantified emission limitation and reduction objectives. → **Industrialised countries must show leadership and set ambitious reduction targets!**
- **Developing countries:** nationally appropriate mitigation actions in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.





How can adaptation and mitigation be scaled up?

- **Finance and technology:** mechanisms to transfer technologies to the South while generating adaptation funding
 - Need for a **clever financial architecture** – that will spur green growth and lead to huge emission reductions and generate adaptation funding
 - **About 20 trillion dollars of investments are expected in the energy sector up to 2030, more than half in developing countries**
- **Need for a global low-emission development plan** to make green growth economically viable, and keep emissions growth manageable



Accra Climate Change Talks 2008

- This meeting is part of the two-year negotiating process to conclude in Copenhagen in 2009.
- Outcome to contribute to key issues of a Copenhagen deal

Group under the KP: discussion on the tools for cost-effective emission reductions available to industrialised countries to meet ambitious targets

- very important to come to a conclusion to quickly move into discussion on the ranges of developed countries future reduction targets
- the toolbox is important to determine the level of ambition



Accra Climate Change Talks 2008

Group on long-term cooperative action:

• **Sectoral approaches:**

- different interpretations: need for further clarification
- possibility to create financial support for sectoral policies by developing countries
- and possibility to enhance technology transfer for developing countries
- not an attempt to impose binding commitments on developing countries through the back door



Accra Climate Change Talks 2008

Group on long-term cooperative action (2):

- Possible **policies** and **incentives** for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (**REDD**)

- contributes to up to **20% of global emissions**
- issue of great interest of **developing countries**
- possibility to create financial incentives and provide alternatives for local communities
- discussion on **how REDD could be included in a Copenhagen deal**
- avoiding ‘carbon colonialism’



Accra Climate Change Talks 2008

Group on long-term cooperative action (3):

- Two meetings to assess **what finance and technology is needed to make progress on adaptation and mitigation**
- A meeting on the **mechanisms for finance and technology** needed to make progress on adaptation and mitigation



State of play in Accra

Group under KP:

- work in progress to identify options for tools and rules;

Group on long-term cooperative action:

- Positive discussions on sectoral approaches and REDD
- Good number of presentations and proposals received from countries on these issues
- Laying foundation for concrete text proposals

In general: advance is being made but important to capitalize on this at the Climate Change Conference in Poznan (December)



Next steps on the road to Copenhagen

- **Next landmark:** UN Climate Change Conference, Poznan, December 2008:
 - complete work under the KP in time to move into discussions on ranges of reduction targets for industrialized countries; important to complete work on time!
 - get to concrete proposals so that negotiations can start on what can be actually written into a Copenhagen agreement; work it out!



Next steps on the road to Copenhagen

- Additional meetings in 2009
- **Negotiating text for the deal** needs to be on the table **six months before the UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen, December 2009**
- **Negotiations need to speed up** - proposals are needed
- **There is little time left to get to a Copenhagen deal!!**





Possible elements of a Copenhagen deal

- **Radical emission reductions by industrialised countries** (according to most stringent IPCC scenario: 25-40% over 1990 levels by 2020)
- **Meaningful engagement developing countries:**
 - measurable, reportable verifiable action (no binding commitments)
- **Measurable, reportable and verifiable** financial support and technology transfer for developing countries:
 - to help **green their economic growth**
 - to help developing countries **adapt**



Copenhagen deal

An agreed outcome in Copenhagen should:

- Significantly **boost the implementation** of the Convention
- Be **ratifiable**

