

Adaptation Committee: Boosting region-wide coherence on adaptation – Africa Region

**Africa Climate Week (ACW)
5 and 6 September 2023**

Kenyatta International Convention Centre, Nairobi, Kenya

Summary report

I. Background

The [Adaptation Committee \(AC\)](#) is the leading body under the United Nations providing coherence and guidance on adaptation, promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. At COP 27, the COP and CMA encouraged the AC to organize regional events and knowledge dialogues.

In 2023, the AC, consistent with its flexible three-year work plan and mandates is working towards launching longer-term work aimed at enhancing coherence across the intergovernmental architecture with the goal of supporting more ambitious worldwide adaptation action and collaboration. A number of specific activities are planned by the AC to this end, culminating in the 2023 Adaptation Forum. As part of this global endeavour, and responding the above mandate, the AC aims to foster synergies among multi-country and transboundary initiatives in line with global efforts by advancing modalities for regional cooperation.

The [AC meeting at the Africa Climate Week](#) was the second in the series of the regional engagement events, which aim to foster an exchange with the key regional actors on region-wide and transboundary solutions, good practices, initiatives, priorities and needs, as well as to establish a long-term channel of information between the AC and relevant organizations and programme partners.

The meeting was complemented with a survey¹ on existing region-wide and multi-country adaptation initiatives and support opportunities, which was disseminated through relevant networks and the event participants.

During the week, the AC also provided contributions to region-wide conferences and meetings, such as the various tracks of the Africa Climate Week.

The findings from this regional workshop, including those from the survey, will feed into the 2023 Adaptation Forum, and key organizations that contributed to the workshops will be essential partners in the longer-term work that will be discussed at the Forum.

¹ The AC launched a survey supported by the secretariat for each region, inviting organizations to share their region-wide, transboundary, and multi-country activities and suggestions for enhanced collaboration. The surveys were widely disseminated before and during the workshops and made available on the web pages of the respective workshops. Interim findings were introduced during the workshops and the surveys are open for further inputs until the end of 2023.

II. Objectives

The objective of the meeting was to foster coherence and a collaborative approach towards region-wide and transboundary adaptation action and support, by bringing together and facilitating an exchange among regional organizations, development banks, and other key stakeholders for working together to step up adaptation in the region. The meeting was attended by over 90 participants representing various multilateral and regional agencies, as well as national governments.

The meeting served as a platform to deepen participants' understanding of the challenges and opportunities in advancing the coherent implementation of adaptation action towards a resilient future.

III. Agenda

DAY 1: 5 SEPTEMBER, 14:00 – 18:00

14:00-14:30 **Welcome, opening remarks and expected outcomes of the meeting**

Carlos Ruiz Garvia, Team Lead, Adaptation Division, UNFCCC

14:30-15:30 **What are the adaptation priorities in the area, and which multi-country and region-wide adaptation solutions and projects exist?**

Presentations:

- Ermira Fida, Deputy Executive Secretary, IPCC Secretariat
- Seif Hamisi, Africa Rangelands Director, Conservation International
- Cindy Kushner, Climate Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Focal Point for Climate, Energy and Environment, UNICEF
- Vincent Oparah, Head of Disaster Risk Reduction, Recovery and Management, AUDA-NEPAD

15:30-16:00 **Coffee break**

16:00-17:00 **What are the existing windows of support for regional action on adaptation?**

Presentations:

- Mahamat Assouyouli, Senior Climate Change Specialist, Adaptation Fund
- Nfamara Dampha, Senior Climate Change Consultant, The World Bank
- Sophie de Coninck, Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) Global Manager, UNCDF

17:00-17:50 **Exploring the landscape of adaptation action and support: understanding and leveraging available resources and success stories. Discussion:**

Are there any regional or transboundary adaptation projects and support opportunities that were not mentioned?

What are examples of successful inter-agency or multistakeholder regional projects? What were the keys to success and how can these strategies be replicated?

What are the existing resources for collaboration, and how can they be leveraged to scale up adaptation regionally?

17:50-18:00 **Closing of day 1**

Pallavi Sherikar, AC member

DAY 2: 6 SEPTEMBER, 9:00 – 13:00

9:00-9:30 **Opening of day 2**

Recapitulation of key points from day 1

Presentation of a preliminary mapping of regional adaptation efforts

9:30-10:00 **Identifying the remaining gaps and needs**

What are the region-wide and/or transboundary adaptation gaps and needs that are not met by existing efforts?

What can be done to fill those gaps, and by whom?

10:00-10:30 **Recognizing opportunities for strengthening coherent implementation and support**

Are there any areas that could benefit from further cooperation to increase efficiency?

How can synergies be enhanced in these areas?

10:30-11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00-12:00 **Co-designing solutions aligned with global efforts**

What [additional] modalities for collaboration can be suggested?

What are good examples of joint adaptation projects in other regions or scales that could be replicated in Africa?

What are good examples of collaboration in other areas that could be replicated in the adaptation space?

What other solutions can be implemented?

How do regional adaptation efforts align with global processes and directives (e.g. UNFCCC process [GGA, GST, etc.], funds and development banks global strategies, other multilateral processes [e.g. CBD, UNCCD, etc.]?).

How can these links be strengthened for increased coherence and efficiency?

12:00-12:50

Next steps

What are the next steps that participating organizations and stakeholders can take to strengthen coherent implementation and collaboration?

What are the next steps for the Adaptation Committee to support this?

12:50-13:00

Closing

IV. Highlights from the discussion

Setting the scene

The event was moderated by Fatema Rajabali from SouthSouthNorth, and Joshua Amponsem from Green Africa Youth Organization. The event started with an overview of the work of the Adaptation Committee and the objectives of the meeting. This was followed by a scene-setting presentation by the IPCC on the main impacts of climate change in the African continent from the Sixth Assessment Report, which include an increase of hot extremes, increase of heavy precipitation in some subregions and increase in agricultural and ecological drought in other subregions. Furthermore, it was indicated that the rate of surface temperature increase in Africa has been more rapid than the global average. Key risks from climate change in Africa emphasized by the presentations included increased mortality and morbidity from heat and infectious diseases, as well as reduced food production from crops, fisheries and livestock.

Featured region-wide and transboundary initiatives

Throughout the discussions, various examples of existing multi-country adaptation projects and support opportunities in Africa were highlighted. Some of the activities mentioned were:

- Africa Adaptation Initiative from the African Union —a platform to enhance collaboration on adaptation;
- Herding for Health model from Conservation International and Peace Parks Foundation —a climate smart grazing approach for managing and restoring grasslands, savannah and shrublands across Africa;
- West Africa Coastal Areas Management Programme by the World Bank —a programme that aims to reduce coastal erosion and flooding while sustaining livelihoods;
- UNEP and Lake Victoria Basin Commission Adapting to Climate Change in Lake Victoria Basin project; and the Great Green Wall Initiative.

On the support side, some of the available windows that were spotlighted included:

- AUDA-NEPAD Climate Change Fund;
- Adaptation Fund Regional window and funding for transboundary adaptation projects;
- UNCDF Local climate adaptive living facility (LoCAL).

The data collected from the survey revealed that the region-wide, transboundary and multi-country adaptation efforts in Africa are currently concentrated on sharing information,

knowledge and guidance; facilitating the provision of financial support; as well as implementing of adaptation measures on the ground. On the other hand, the gathered information showed few activities focused on adaptation planning; monitoring and evaluation; and providing space for engagement.

Adaptation priorities, gaps and needs

The discussions, as well as the results from the survey, allowed the identification of key adaptation priorities in the region. Participants underscored the following areas:

- Food security and resilient agriculture;
- Sustainable water management;
- Ecosystem-based adaptation (Eba);
- Climate change education and capacity building;
- Climate information and data, including early warning systems;
- Accessibility of funding mechanisms;
- Diversification of livelihoods.

On the other hand, gaps and needs highlighted by participants for the African region included:

- Financial, capacity, technology and data gaps;
- Limited awareness of climate change impacts;
- Lack of an enabling environment, including strong institutions, governance and mandates;
- Widespread short-term and fragmented approach to adaptation.

Opportunities for collaboration and enhanced synergies

The meeting shed light on key enablers, success factors and opportunities for enhanced synergies on adaptation, such as:

- Political will and leadership at the highest level;
- Multistakeholder partnerships;
- Local ownership of projects by making sure they respond to local needs and priorities and are implemented in a participatory and inclusive manner taking into account women, youth and indigenous peoples;
- Leveraging of existing resources and social capital;
- Development of institutional capacities;
- Peer-to-peer learning mechanisms;
- Common monitoring and evaluation systems.

Participants suggested areas for transboundary and regional adaptation activities, including:

- Creating technical platforms at the regional level;
- Developing regional projects based on shared ecosystems, shared resources or in border areas;
- Collaborating on capacity building for common challenges;
- Setting up data-sharing schemes, including on best practices.

Furthermore, participants shared proposals to enhance collaboration, for example:

- Harmonizing national policies;
- Expanding funding opportunities for regional projects;
- Housing projects in existing regional institutions, and having these institutions accredited as implementing entities for multilateral funds;

- Identifying key partners across national boundaries;
- Calling for regional mandates to address adaptation;
- Encouraging partnerships among research organizations across Africa;
- Creating spaces for inter-governmental and inter-agency coordination.

On the last point, participants appreciated the meeting as a platform for discussing ways to enhance and plan joint activities on adaptation in Africa. In this regard, participants were given a space to find potential partners for future collaboration and discuss ideas for shared projects.

V. Outcomes and suggestions for future work by the Adaptation Committee

The meeting helped participants to better understand the landscape of region-wide adaptation in Africa, as well as to identify opportunities to strengthen collaboration and the coherent implementation of adaptation policies.

The ideas shared in the meeting will feed into the longer-term work stemming from the Adaptation Forum. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to engage directly in this global effort.

As a last step, participants were consulted on how the AC could further support the building of regional synergies on adaptation. Besides continuing to provide spaces for different stakeholders to discuss ways of working together on adaptation, the AC was encouraged to:

- Further include knowledge from the global South in its products and activities;
- Share good practices from different contexts that can be scaled up;
- Facilitate partnerships;
- Advocate for more streamlined adaptation reporting procedures and processes to access resources from multilateral funds.

These suggestions will be duly considered by AC members going forward.

