

The East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance Formally Launched



The East African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance was launched on the 21st June 2019 during a side event held on the margins of the 50th Session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body meetings in Bonn, Germany. The event was organized by the UNFCCC-Regional Collaboration Center Kampala (RCC Kampala) together with the GIZ Carbon Markets Programme in Uganda/East Africa on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The event was moderated by Chebet Maikut, Commissioner of the Climate Change Department, Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda and provided an overview of the vision, objectives, structure and activities of the Alliance, with participants from all the East African countries taking part, including Designated National Authorities (DNAs) and National Focal Points, representatives from countries within the region, the UNFCCC Secretariat, the CDM Executive Board and the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN).

The Alliance aims to enhance the long-term vision of Eastern African countries on carbon markets and climate finance. It further aims to foster an active and coordinated participation of delegates from the East African region in UNFCCC negotiations as well as other international fora. In addition, it seeks to enhance and support the readiness of the countries to implement Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

In his opening remarks, Mr. James Grabert the director of the UNFCCC SDM programme, highlighted the unprecedented need for such an alliance to catalyze the need for rapid and far reaching changes across societies and economies in order to hold the temperature rise to 1.5 degrees.

Mr. El Hadji Mbaye Diagne the lead negotiator on markets for the Africa Group of Negotiators (AGN), and Co-chair of the CDM Executive Board mentioned that even when the future of the CDM is not yet certain, the Paris Agreement has a provision for the carbon markets with different instruments under negotiations. He further emphasized that the East African Alliance is an important platform to build capacity with regard to carbon mechanisms and climate finance, provide representation at international climate change negotiations, as well as to enhance cooperation of countries with regard to Art. 6 and climate finance.

Mr. Ousmane Fall Sarr, Coordinator of the West African Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance shared some experiences from the West African Alliance, a predecessor of the Eastern African Alliance, which is supported by the BMU and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Center Lomé. He provided an overview of the operationalization and organization structures as well as key milestones of the West African Alliance. He further highlighted the importance of pilot activities for defining rules, modalities and procedures for Art. 6.

Country representatives, which are the Alliance National Focal Points appointed by the member countries, emphasized the role of the Alliance to facilitate and accelerate implementation of their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and the Paris Agreement as well as a way to strengthen regional collaboration on Art. 6 and climate finance. Countries further highlighted the inclusive nature of the Alliance and encouraged other countries in the extended East African region to seek membership.

Through its established network of Alliance National Focal Points, the Alliance has identified several activities aimed at supporting the member states, such as:

- The calculation and development of Standardized Baselines
- An upcoming training for East African negotiators on market mechanisms and Article 6 PA, which aims at preparing delegates for upcoming climate change negotiations during COP25 in Chile;
- A regional private sector dialogue, which aims to increase the knowledge base on carbon markets in the transition from the CDM to the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement amongst the private sector.

The inception members of the Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance are Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda and Ethiopia, UNFCCC-RCC and GIZ Uganda will act as the interim Secretariat for the alliance in order to kick start the work-plan and activities while the establishment of the secretariat takes place.

A webcast for the event is available and can be accessed [here](#)

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