AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

Regional Bank-Civil Society Forums 2023: FROM THE WINNING REGIONAL MARATHON TO THE APOTHEOSIS OF THE BAOBAB CHALLENGE RAISED AT COP281

CSO
Civil Society
Société Civile

Décembre 2023









[1] Speaking at the Bank-Civil Society Coalition session on climate and energy at COP28 on December 5, 2023, President Adesina invited all participants to stand up and hold hands to take up the «Baobab challenge»: «If you're in an African village, under a baobab tree, and you try to wrap your arms around it, you won't be able to do it on your own - the trunk is too wide. On the other hand, if you join hands, you can make it. This is Africa's «Baobab challenge». Together we'll win for Africa.

ACRONYMES

AHHD.2	Public Health, Nutrition and Welfare Division
AHGC.1	Gender and Women's Empowerment Division
AHGC.2	Civil Society and Community Involvement Division
BAD	African Development Bank Group
DAI	Dissemination and access to information
MRI	Independent Review Mechanism
KOAFEC	Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation
PIAC	Integrity and Anti-Corruption Office
SMES	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
OSC	Civil Society Organization
RDGC	The Bank's Regional Office for Central Africa
RDGE	The Bank's Regional Office for East Africa
RDGN	The Bank's Regional Office for North Africa
RDGS	Bank's regional office in South Africa
RDGW	The Bank's regional office in West Africa
RDGW	The Bank's regional office in West Africa





FOREWORD



Dear readers,

We launched the series of forums in Nairobi for East Africa, followed by those for Southern Africa in Pretoria, North Africa in Cairo and West Africa in Cotonou. The marathon ended in the capital of the «continent», Yaoundé, for Central Africa. From October 18 to November 17, 2023, we held in-depth discussions on engaging civil society, alongside the Bank and the private sector, for climate resilience and just energy transition in Africa, more specifically on the theme «Engaging civil society in mobilizing private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa». The holding of this forum is proof of how far we have come, as the African Development Bank, in our engagement with civil society. There was a time when integrating civil society into country dialogue was a challenge within the Bank. As for civil society organizations, they too had their doubts about the Bank's willingness to truly collaborate with them. The creation of the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division in 2017 spurred significant change. Today, I am proud to see that engagement with civil society is institutionalized in the Bank's in-country dialogues, and in its policies and projects, and to see this Forum grow over the years and evolve in substance and format. For the second year running, we also benefited from the support of the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC), proof of the quality of this platform and the renewed confidence of the Department in charge of funds mobilization and partnership (FIRM) and the Korean donor.

Civil society is also increasingly interested in the Bank's work. This is evidenced by the existence of the African Development Bank - Civil Society Committee, represented in the different regions by Masheti Masinjila (East), Shiphra Chisha (South), Julien Agbessi (West) and Robert Mabala (Center)! Thank you for your commitment! Our marathon took us to various countries on the continent, where we were able to benefit from the support of country and/or regional offices, some of whom have been showing an interest in civil society and support for many years, and to whom I would like to express my deep gratitude, such as Managing Director Nnenna Nwabufo (RDGE), Managing Director Leila Mokkadem (RDGS), Country Manager Egypt Abdourahmane Diaw (RDGN), Country Manager Benin Robert Masumbuko (RDGW) and Managing Director Serge N'Guessan (RDGC).

Dear participants, dear readers

This was the 14th edition of the Bank's Civil Society Forum, which has been held continuously every year since 2009. For the Bank, the Civil Society Forum is the ideal platform for structured dialogue with African civil society on the theme of its Annual Meetings. We now alternate from one year to the next between a continental Forum and sub-regional forums. The theme of this year's regional forums was to foster collaboration between civil society, the Bank and the private sector on climate financing in Africa. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Bank-Civil Society Climate and Energy Coalition, represented by Pauline Nantongo (Gender, Environment and Biodiversity), Mithika Mwenda (Climate Justice), Augustine Njamnshi (Climate and Energy), Secou Sarr (Energy) and Soumaya Zaddem (Youth). So I'm delighted to share this general report with you, so that you can (re)experience the high points of our collaboration! Let's keep up the momentum and, «together, let's win for Africa». Thank you for your participation, and see you next year!

Zéneb Touré
Head of the Bank's Civil Society and Community Involvement Division

TABLE OF CONTENTS - REPORT CSO FORUMS 2023

Acronyms 2
Foreword 3
Executive summary 5
1. The 2023 Regional Civil Society Forums in brief 6
2. Introduction and background 7
3. Purpose and justification 7
4. Methodology 8
5. Session overview 9
- High-level discussions on: Engaging civil society in mobilizing private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa 9
- Induction Sessions/Bank Programs 11
- Sharing the experience of civil society organizations 17
- On the road to COP28 17

6. Action points 20
7. Challenges and lessons learned 21
8. Conclusion 22
9. A word from the Task Manager 23
Appendices 23
- Reports and photo albums 23
- Forum diaries 23
- Participation statistics 23
- MEDIA REPORT.. 23

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



On your marks...

Responding to the call made by the President of the Bank at the Civil Society Forum 2022, the Bank-Civil Society 2023 regional forums aimed to strengthen collaboration between civil society, the Bank and the private sector to stimulate sustainable, green economic growth in Africa. The aim of these forums was also to improve mutual understanding between civil society and the Bank, so as to better identify the specific needs and priorities of the communities it serves, and adapt its interventions accordingly, to meet the aspirations of the citizens of each region.

Ready to...

In an **innovative hybrid format**, the Bank took the necessary steps to engage civil society in all five regions of the continent, confirming the Bank's people-centred approach. Once the technical rigging was in place, the crew deployed and the green light from overall command had been obtained, the caravan was able to embark on a marathon that proved to be a winner.

Off you go!

The Climate and Energy Caravan set off for East Africa from Nairobi on October 18 under the motto HAKUNA MATATA[2] . The caravan then witnessed the epic success of South Africa's Springs Boxes[3] , crowned world champions. The caravan then headed for the Pyramids of Egypt in North Africa, before heading for West Africa for a high-level session with Benin's Vice-President and Vice-President Beth, under the watchful eye of Benin's Amazon[4] and the djembes of our country representative Robert Masumbuko. The last forum was held in Yaoundé on November 16-17, in the country known as the «continent», where we eat the international Ndolè[5]

Over the course of this capacitive itinerant journey, the caravan has mobilized an audience of over **300,000 people** along its route (physically and on digital platforms, social media, followers and contributors...), keeping this edition of the Civil Society Forum at the top of the list of high-level events organized by the Bank in 2023.
Through various sessions co-conducted with the skilful dexterity of civil society leaders, the forums mapped out ways to **better mobilize the private sector to finance climate change adaptation and inclusive green growth**.
The commitment of the Bank's senior management, such as VP Beth, and the representation of governments at the highest levels, such as the Vice-President of Benin, also gave **particular resonance to the voices of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). It was certainly a winning marathon!**

Beyond the numbers, these regional forums have succeeded in consolidating the dialogue between the Bank and civil society, generating levers for extending these dialogue frameworks into tripartite gateways integrating the private sector. The osmosis was total, and the priorities identified together were convergent. Throughout this journey, the Bank and civil society also laid the foundations for the essential pillars of the Action Plan for engagement with civil society 2024-2028, with the watchword being the co-creation of a coherent, mutually supportive roadmap. The culmination of this inclusive dynamic, this formalized ownership and joint accountability was the congruence of the five priorities that the Bank-Civil Society Coalition chose to present to COP28 in a joint declaration.
Dubai was the apotheosis, the coronation and the crowning glory of this winning marathon! The presence of the President of the Bank, the official presentation of the joint declaration and the exceptional mobilization of African civil society sealed the alliance and crowned the course with a new challenge, that of the Baobab, symbol of Africa anchored in its values, the Africa we want, the Africa that wins! Success, success and consecration under the slogan: together, we win! More than ever, the Bank is committed to accompanying civil society in the race, without running in its place; and civil society is committed to continuing to co-build, with its preferred and benchmark partner, a green, prosperous and dignified continent, with a high citizen intensity





[2] »No worries» or «EVERYTHING GOES WELL» in Swahili
[3] Nickname of the South African rugby team that qualified today for the finals and went on to win the world trophy.
[4] Emblematic statute of Cotonou in Benin, representing an Amazon, «symbol of [the] love and commitment [of the Beninese] for the Country».
[5] Traditional Cameroonian dish with Vernonia leaves

1. THE 2023 REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY FORUMS IN BRIEF

A people-centred approach

A collaborative construction of the joint declaration presented at COP28

Participative development of the Bank-Civil Society Action Plan 2024-2028

A fruitful dialogue Civil Society Bank in each region of the continent and a convergence of views for the inclusive development of the continent

A session organized in each region provided an opportunity to work jointly on the priorities for Africa in terms of climate and green growth, put forward by African civil society and the Bank at COP28.

TO session details
LINK DECLARATION ATTACHED

Civil society across the continent has been invited to contribute to the action plan for the Bank's engagement with civil society.

TO session details
ACTION PLAN LINK



REGIONAL REPORT
RDGE ALBUM LINK



REGIONAL REPORT
RDGS ALBUM LINK



REGIONAL REPORT
RDGN ALBUM LINK



REGIONAL REPORT
RDGW ALBUM LINK



REGIONAL REPORT
RDGC ALBUM LINK

COP TO session details
ARTICLE LINK
PHOTO ALBUM LINK

A steadily growing audience



In 2022 :
211 133



In 2023 :
300 000

Interpretation

English
Arabic
French
Portugues

Media visibility

15 LinkedIn posts / XXXX Impressions / XXXX Views / XXXX Comments XX Facebook posts / XXXX reach / XXX Comments 2 National media TV / Press

FULL MEDIA REPORT

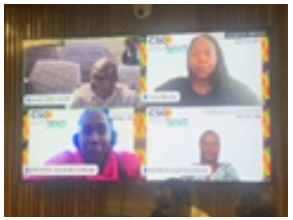
A unique hybrid event



Live-streaming on Linkedin, Youtube and Facebook



Special envoys to engage the online community



Bank doors open to civil society Here in Yaoundé, the first major meeting to be held in the Bank's new multi-purpose meeting room!



High-profile involvement of the Bank's senior management and governments








2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Over the years, the Bank has organized annual civil society forums to bring together representatives from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences, challenges and aspirations in contributing to development efforts.

The Bank-Civil Society Regional Forums respond to the call made by the Bank's President at the 2020 Civil Society Forum online, and reissued in 2023 in a hybrid format, for a transition from process-based to results-based engagement, with achievable programs involving civil society organizations. Through these forums, the Bank is able to better understand the specific needs and priorities of the communities it serves, and tailor its interventions accordingly to meet the aspirations of citizens in each region. In addition, the Bank's deliberate commitment to strengthening the involvement of civil society is reinforced by the regional forums.

Indeed, based on feedback from previous forums and drawing on the main recommendations of the capitalization study on the Bank's ten years of annual CSO forums, the Bank alternates between continental and regional forums. This year, the African Development Bank (AfDB) organized five regional forums across the continent.

The theme of the Bank-Civil Society 2023 Regional Forums was **«Engaging civil society in mobilizing private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa».** Running from October 18 to November 17 over two-day periods per region, these forums were intended to be a platform for inclusive, constructive and structured dialogue between the Bank and civil society, with a view to reaching a common African position on climate change and green growth at COP28.

This was in line with the Bank's commitment to a development program centered on the communities it serves. The Bank is convinced that the ambitious development goals set for Africa can be achieved if CSOs are actively engaged, regularly consulted and more fully involved. The mobilization of CSOs enables the Bank to access people who are often excluded from policy-making, i.e. rural populations, women, girls, youth and other marginalized groups. This report includes the following points: objective and rationale; methodology; overview of sessions; action points (for COP28 and beyond); challenges and lessons learned, and conclusion.

3. PURPOSE AND JUSTIFICATION

Civil society is the most relevant link between the Bank's development priorities and the collective aspirations of African populations. The African Development Bank appreciates the growing involvement of civil society organizations in the issues of climate change and renewable energies, which must be taken into account for Africa's sustainable development.

The overall aim of the 2023 regional forums was to foster collaboration between civil society and the private sector to stimulate sustainable, green economic growth in Africa, but also to discuss the main challenges, options and above all opportunities for mobilizing civil society for this important agenda. In other words, the Forum was held to establish a structured dialogue between different stakeholders in the run-up to COP28, and to showcase CSO best practices at community level.

More specifically, the regional consultations provided a suitable platform for the following operational objectives:

- Present an overview of the Bank's climate change and green growth financing strategy from a community engagement perspective.
- Present and share CSO experiences in the field of climate change and green growth financing in the region.
- Deliberate on the challenges, existing opportunities and future focus of the Bank's engagement with civil society that can improve the relevance, inclusiveness, impact and quality of the Bank's operations in the field of climate change, adaptation and green growth financing.
- Present and exchange with African civil society on the 2024-2028 Action Plan currently under development, in an iterative dynamic.
- Adopt key recommendations and conclusions with concrete areas on which the Bank can engage with CSOs and regions in preparation for CoP28.

CONCEPT NOTE LINK

4. METHODOLOGY

The hybrid format brought several major innovations to the Civil Society Forum 2023, with face-to-face participants in one of the region's cities and the largest online audience. As each Forum matured, it adopted a participatory approach in which participants built up their knowledge of the issues at stake, took stock of existing approaches and, on the basis of successful experiences, developed appropriate perspectives to meet the challenges of future accountability. The pedagogical objective of each Forum remained to cross-fertilize current initiatives to open up promising horizons for climate and energy. Work took place in the form of panels, illustrative presentations and debates, with exchanges facilitated by moderators.

Throughout the five regional stages up to COP28 in Dubai, participants from a wide range of backgrounds confirmed the international stature of the event, with strong participation from the diaspora. This iterative approach has produced results that have exceeded expectations, and forged perfect collaboration between the players, based on trust. The prerequisites of active participation, ownership, involvement and accountability generated a transformational impact.





5. SESSION OVERVIEW

The first day of each Forum session was divided into three to four sessions: (i) the inaugural session and (ii) the high-level panel were followed by (iii) an accountability session on the Bank's civil society engagement (RDGE and RDGS) and the day ended with (iv) an induction session for

The second day consisted of four main sessions: (i) an experience-sharing session led by CSOs; (ii) a session to share the Bank's Action Plan for Engagement with Civil Society (iii) a discussion session on the attached statement to be presented at COP28 and (iv) the closing ceremony.

High-level discussions on: Engaging civil society in mobilizing private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa

The theme of the 2023 Regional Forums is closely aligned with that of the Bank's 2023 Annual Meetings, namely «Engaging civil society in mobilizing private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa». The Bank recognizes that the private sector can play a crucial role in mobilizing climate finance and green growth in Africa. However, it is necessary to involve civil society organizations (CSOs) to ensure that private sector investments are aligned with the development needs of local communities and promote sustainable and inclusive growth. Each Regional Forum was an opportunity for stakeholders to share their views on the key findings and policy recommendations of the Bank's Africa Economic Report (AEO), focusing on the role of private sector financing and natural capital in addressing climate change and green growth in Africa

Voices of the panelists



Key messages :

- **Urgent need to mobilize private funding:** $2,800 billion is required to close the climate commitments gap for Africa. The mobilization of the private sector is therefore expected, and will be essential alongside the public sector, whose commitments have yet to be implemented. Civil society will bring the added value of trust, transparency and accountability, as well as a definite community impact.
- **Innovative African Development Bank instruments:** Use of innovative solutions, including the African Climate Finance Alliance and the Adaptation Benefits Mechanism, to mobilize the private sector.
- **Collaboration between the public, private and civil society sectors:** Mobilizing financing requires close collaboration to create a favorable environment for private investment in climate action. ·
- **Unquestionable importance of civil society:** The presence of civil society is crucial, with an emphasis on training to influence private investors and gender mainstreaming.
- **Urgent need for climate financing in Africa:** A call for significant funding, underlining the growing impact of climate change worldwide.
- **Crucial role of the private sector with innovative financial approaches:** Focus on the African Development Bank's innovative climate action initiatives.

- **Recognition of the vital role of civil society:** its role in promoting climate action, influencing policy and empowering stakeholders.
- **Challenges of transitioning away from coal:** Discussions on development plans taking into account the impact on marginalized communities.
- **Obstacles to mobilizing private funds highlighted:** Call for a common framework, learning from past experience and effective collaboration to overcome these obstacles.

(Re)View the sessions in full on the civil society engagement platform :

VISUALVIDEO RDGE	VISUAL VIDEO RDGS	VISUAL VIDEO RDGN	VISUAL VIDEO RDGW	VISUAL VIDEO RDGC







Induction Sessions/Bank Programs

The induction session is an important initiative to strengthen civil society organizations engaging with the Bank at regional and country level. It focuses on improving awareness, knowledge and sustainable partnership between the Bank and CSOs. Following the change management framework (Prosci/ADKAR), the session aims to impact and align civil society with the Bank's evolving strategies.

The civil society engagement team gave a brief presentation of the division's climate change priorities and achievements, and the Bank's preparatory actions for Cop28. An update on the results of previous forums (continental in 2022 and regional in 2021) was provided (Accountability). Bank departments also presented ongoing processes from a community engagement perspective, alongside the Civil Society and Community Engagement Division: 1) Strategic Framework on Climate Change and Green Growth 2) AfDB Gender and Women's Empowerment Strategy 3) AfDB Group Strategy to Address Fragility and Build Resilience in Africa, 4) Good Governance Strategy and Anti-Corruption Policy (GGAP), 5) the Bank's efforts to develop the skills and employment of young Africans 6) implementation of the Bank's new Disclosure and Access to Information (DAI) policy, 7) updating of the Bank's Integrated Safeguard System (SNSC), 8) Affirmative Financial Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) initiatives.

The AfDB's commitment to civil society

Collaboration with civil society, established since the 1990s, is seen as fundamental to inclusive and sustainable development, with initiatives such as the 2024-2028 action plan and guidelines for civic engagement.

The Bank's efforts are focused on engaging with civil society through dialogues, forums, committees and consultations, reinforcing transparency and ensuring participation throughout the project cycle

- ·**Integral engagement:** The African Development Bank adopts a three-level approach - corporate, regional and project - to ensure comprehensive collaboration with civil society, involving dialogue, open days and committee formation.
- **Evolution over time:** The presentation provides a historical overview of the bank's involvement with civil society since 1999, illustrating its ongoing efforts to improve its approach over time.
- **Achievements and Commitments:** Achievements such as the ongoing development of the action plan, civil society forums and integration initiatives underline the bank's ongoing commitment to transparency and partnership.

Civil Society Engagement Platform — LIRE

CSO database — LIRE

RDGE LINK
RDGS LINK
RDGN LINK
RDGW LINK
RDGC LINK

Contact : CSO@AFDB.ORG

Focus on the Civil Society Action Plan 2024-2028

The vision of the Civil Society Engagement Action Plan 2024-2028 is for the Bank to become the engine of an inclusive Africa, firmly positioned to meet development challenges and harness the opportunities of civil society engagement in development policies and programs.

Aligned with the Bank's Civil Society Engagement Framework and the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy 2023-2032 (currently under development), the Action Plan will promote transformative social change that addresses the Bank's priorities. The plan was developed using a participatory approach, with input from Bank staff, civil society organizations and government representatives. The regional civil society forums provided an opportunity to share the results of the study, which served as the basis for drawing up the action plan. This participatory approach is likely to increase the impact of the Bank's engagement with civil society, and promote the effectiveness of the Bank's operations and policies. In brief :



- The 2024-2028 action plan follows the institutionalization of the African Development Bank's engagement with civil society, from a residual approach to the creation of a dedicated division in 2017.
- It was presented at each of the regional civil society forums, for comments and contributions from civil society organizations across the continent.
- Structured around three key pillars, the plan aims to create an enabling environment for collaboration, integrate civil society into policies and projects, and encourage knowledge generation for effective policy dialogue and advocacy.
- Critical concerns raised during the Q&A sessions included the need for two-way communication, clarification of stakeholders'roles, action plan development methodology, citizen control of ADB-financed projects, and the idea of a scientific council.
- Particular emphasis is placed on the diversity of civil society organizations, the establishment of effective communication mechanisms, and the adoption of continuous improvement approaches to ensure the impact and inclusiveness of the action plan.

RDGE LINK
RDGS LINK
RDGN LINK
RDGW LINK
RDGC LINK

Strategic framework on climate change and green growth

The outlook on climate challenges highlights the importance of national contributions to the Paris Agreement, underlining the Bank's commitment to adaptation and mitigation

The Bank's ambitious climate strategy framework focuses on four key pillars, emphasizing the transition to a green economy and the crucial role of civil society in influencing global policies. Climate finance, partnerships with the private sector, and the central role of civil society in advocacy are necessary for the implementation of sustainable policies in Africa.

- Priority to Adaptation and Mitigation: The importance of adaptation and mitigation to climate challenges is crucial, with a particular focus on nationally determined contributions and commitment frameworks.
- Strong commitment from the Bank: The Bank's commitment to the fight against climate change is significant, illustrated by an ambitious strategic framework and concrete actions, notably in the field of climate finance, such as the Africa Climate Change Fund.
- Central role of civil society: The role of civil society is crucial, both in advocating compliance with climate commitments and in implementing sustainable policies, underlining its need to influence global and local policies

Related programs :
Climate Fund Climate Investment Fund Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund. Window dedicated to climate action to mobilize funds

Strategy for 2021-2030 LIRE
Action plan 2021-2025 LIRE

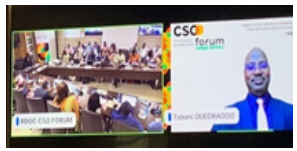
RDGN LINK
RDGC LINK

Contact: Arona SOUMARE (Climat), A.SOUMARE@AFDB.ORG, and Rita EFFAH (ACCF), R.EFFAH@AFDB.ORG

ADB's Gender and Women's Empowerment Strategy

The AfDB emphasizes the central role of civil society organizations in promoting gender equality, surpassing the efforts of development banks. The AfDB's strategy, developed collaboratively with the active participation of civil society, focuses on three strategic pillars. Key operational actions, such as dedicated financing pockets for women, underline the crucial importance of integrating gender into every action to significantly reduce inequalities.

- The AfDB's strategy is based on three key pillars: empowerment through access to financing, boosting employment through skills development, and improving access to infrastructure, with systematic integration of the gender dimension.



- Operational actions include the use of a gender tagging tool, the production of insightful data, and innovative initiatives such as dedicated funding pockets for women, underlining the AfDB's ongoing commitment to gender mainstreaming to reduce inequalities.

ADB Group Gender Strategy 2021-2025 LIRE

RDGS LINK
RDGC LINK

Contact: Apolo KYEYUNE (monitoring and evaluation officer), A.KYEYUNE@AFDB.ORG

AfDB Group strategy to address fragility and build resilience in Africa

The AfDB's States in Transition Coordination Office presents a strategy (2022-2026) to combat fragility in Africa. Coordination with civil society is crucial, with principles of prevention, selectivity and partnerships.

The AfDB underlines the essential role of civil society in its fragility and resilience agenda, with an active contribution to the strategy. The cyclical nature of fragility is highlighted, requiring ongoing efforts. The strategy encourages capacity-building, building resilient societies and catalyzing private investment as priority areas, with the integration of civil society to maximize impact.

- The AfDB is adopting a strategic approach (2022-2026) to combat fragility in Africa, focusing on institutional strengthening, building resilient societies and stimulating private investment, with crucial coordination with civil society.
- The AfDB recognizes the importance of digital technology for financial inclusion and actively collaborates with civil society, particularly in conflict zones, as illustrated by a project in the DRC aimed at facilitating access to financial services for small farmers.
- Civil society plays a central role in the AfDB's fragility and resilience agenda, actively contributing to the strategy and benefiting from access to facilities such as the Transition Support Facility to build capacity.

Bank Group strategy to address fragility and build resilience in Africa (2022-2026) LIRE

RDGE LINK
RDGS LINK
RDGN LINK
RDGW LINK
RDGC LINK

Contact: Jérôme BERNDT, J.BERNDT@AFDB.ORG

ADB Integrated Backup System

The presentation of the updated Integrated Safeguards System (ISS), approved in April 2023, highlights its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, its simplification, and the importance of stakeholder engagement plans, including CSOs. The ISS will be operational from 2024

- The crucial importance of CSO engagement, access to information, and effective engagement plans in project development is emphasized.
- The updated ISS highlights its alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals, its simplification, and the importance of stakeholder engagement plans, with particular emphasis on CSOs.
- ISS aims to improve project implementation by addressing environmental and social risks, promoting transparency through disclosure of documents, and encouraging the active participation of NGOs and CSOs.

ADB Integrated Backup System 2023 LIRE

RDGE LINK
RDGS LINK
RDGN LINK

Contact: Justin ECAAT, J.ECAAT@AFDB.ORG

Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM)

The AfDB's Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) fosters compliance with standards, the resolution of concerns, and the promotion of accountability in financed projects, which are crucial to sustainable development.

- The AfDB's IRM plays an essential role in ensuring compliance, addressing concerns and promoting accountability in financed projects, underlining its crucial importance for sustainable development.
- The AfDB, with its robust policies, entrusts project authorities with overseeing compliance, and complaints often focus on project mechanisms, highlighting the central role of stakeholders in sustainable development.

RDGN LINK

Contact: https://www.linkedin.com/company/irm-adbg/, Frédéric BAMBARA, F.BAMBARA@AFDB.ORG

Public Health, Nutrition and Social Protection (AHHD.2)

The AfDB is putting considerable effort into skills development and employment for young Africans, highlighting challenges such as inadequate infrastructure and the quality of education. Initiatives, including the Enable Youth program and the Employability and Entrepreneurship Action Plan, emphasize collaboration with partners and strategic areas such as agriculture and ICT.

- The efforts of the African Development Bank have generated 1.6 million jobs and trained 652,000 people, underlining the success of initiatives focused on skills and youth employment.
- Collaboration with partners and a focus on strategic sectors are crucial to strengthening the skills and entrepreneurship of young people in Africa.

AHHD LINK

Contact: Martha PHIRI, M.PHIRI@afdb.org

ADB's Dissemination and Access to Information (DAI) Policy



The African Development Bank revised its Information Disclosure and Access Policy in 2012 to enhance transparency. The policy aims to maximize information disclosure, promote good governance, and facilitate access to details of the bank's activities, contributing to its ranking as the world's leading multilateral development bank in 2022 for transparency.

ADB DAI Policy Project portal Map of Africa LIRE

RDGN LINK
RDGW LINK

Contact: DAI@afdb.org, Wanishi EVON, W.EVON@AFDB.ORG

Good governance strategy and anti-corruption policy (PIAC)

The Bank's good governance strategy, which covers research into the causes of corruption and capacity building for civil society organizations, involves collaboration with anti-corruption agencies and ongoing engagement with civil society. The AfDB states that it is necessary to report suspicions of fraud or corruption in order to trigger a thorough investigation and sanctions in the event of a violation

- The AfDB is resolutely committed to the fight against corruption, putting forward specific mechanisms such as the **Integrity and Anti-Corruption Office**.
- The need for transparency is highlighted, with emphasis on the use of the Project Portal for information disclosure.
- Reported suspicions of fraud or corruption ensure thorough investigation and sanctions in the event of violation, reinforcing ethics and responsibility in development.
- Pillar 3 of the Bank's Governance strategy enshrines the role of civil society, and mechanisms for involving civil society in its implementation must be promoted.

Strategy link

RDGE LINK
RDGS LINK
RDGW LINK

Contact: Carine SUGDEN, C.SUGDEN@AFDB.ORG

AFAWA

One of the aims of the AFAWA initiative is to facilitate women's access to finance in Africa. Entrepreneurs such as Ismène Ahamide from ISMATEnergy highlighted the challenges of stereotyping and collateral requirements. Initiatives such as the International Bank for Industry and Commerce's «BIIC with her» and Etrilabs' WHISPA program demonstrated specific approaches to meeting the needs of women entrepreneurs, while Akiba Finance in Guinea promotes financial inclusion via a flexible digital tontine approach. Astria Fataki from Energy Génération highlighted the persistent complexity of the financing issue, underlining the importance of diverse solutions. Finally, Dosso Christiane, Vice-President of the Benin Chamber of Commerce and Industry, highlighted the Chamber's actions in support of female entrepreneurship, including a dedicated women's investment fund project.

- **Diversity of initiatives:** The diversity of approaches, from programs such as «BIIC avec elle», Akiba Finance's digital microfinance, to Generation Energy, underlines the need for varied solutions to support women's entrepreneurship in Africa.
- **Crucial financial education:** The importance of financial education is highlighted by programs such as «BIIC avec elle» and initiatives by the Benin Chamber of Commerce, recognizing its crucial role in empowering women entrepreneurs
- **Collaboration and Experience Sharing:** The emphasis is on collaboration, illustrated by the desire to share experiences between women entrepreneurs, underlining the importance of mentoring and cooperation in strengthening the female entrepreneurial ecosystem.



AFAWA microsite LIRE

RDGW LINK

Contact Sakinatou BALDE, S.BALDE@AFDB.ORG

Sharing the experience of civil society organizations

VIDEO CSO 1	VIDEO CSO 2	VIDEO CSO 3	VIDEO CSO 4	VIDEO CSO 5
VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...	 htpps://cso.afdb.org/ Join the thousands of CSOs already registered!	VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...
VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...	VIDEO CSO ...

On the road to COP28

Context:

The Bank's participation in COP27 alongside civil society organizations built on the conclusions of Forum 2022, further underlining the value of such partnerships in achieving sustainable development results. One of the outcomes of Forum 2022 was the first-ever joint event with CSOs at COP27 in the Africa Pavilion, which led to the creation of the Bank-Civil Society Coalition on Climate and Energy. CSOs presented a joint Bank-civil society statement highlighting key priorities for African voices on the climate agenda. Capitalizing on this positive experience, the Bank-Civil Society Coalition on Climate and Energy organized a session at COP28 in Dubai on December 5, 2023, following on from the 2023 regional forums. This high-level session highlighted the Bank's efforts in collaboration with various partners, including CSOs, to address and prevent loss and damage, adaptation and mitigation, and in fine, climate finance. CSOs shared their perspectives based on local realities. Discussions focused on the added value of civil society engagement in Bank projects to strengthen the resilience of African communities to the impacts of climate change. The major conclusion was the presentation of a new joint declaration, and the collaborative commitment confirmed by the presence and inspiring speech of the Bank's President.

Overview:

This high-level session was a highlight of COP28: a strong call for collective mobilization. Echoing the powerful declaration, the determined commitments and the full readiness of civil society to continue to engage with the Bank, the President illustrated this alliance with the formula of the «baobab challenge». He invited all participants to stand up and hold hands: «If you're in an African village, under a baobab tree, and you try to wrap your arms around it, you won't be able to do it alone - the trunk is too wide. On the other hand, if we all join hands, we can make it. This is Africa's «Baobab challenge». Together, we're going to win for Africa. In unison, the participants, holding hands in a spirit of osmosis, reaffirmed: Together we will win for Africa. The following points, taken from the joint declaration and the panelists' quotes, sum up the key points of this session.









Panelists' voices

«The focus lies on prioritizing the resilience of our communities and economies, along with enhancing the adaptive capacities related to food security. Additionally, there's an emphasis on developing an economy rooted in landscapes or nature-based principles. The interventions employed to bolster research and adaptive capacities also yield mitigation benefits. Recognizing and rewarding these mitigation benefits, whether through carbon credits or other channels, is essential.»

Pauline Nantongo, CSO Forum RDGE (3:43)

«We might consider developing a language of peace dedicated to addressing climate change comprehensively. Those who care about the environment, the air, animals, and trees also need to extend their concern to fellow human beings. It's crucial for people to focus on each other, and I hope that the COP can serve as a platform to discuss climate migration. Ideally, one day, climate migration can become a central topic at the COP, given its significance as a global issue.»

Ahmed Fathy, CSO Forum RDGN (2:12):

Statement by the Bank-Civil Society coalition on climate and energy

1. Improve the enabling environment for private sector engagement in climate action in Africa by providing policy, regulatory and institutional support, addressing barriers and risks, and encouraging partnerships and dialogue between different stakeholders.
2. Increase the mobilization and allocation of private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa by leveraging public financing and instruments, improving access to international and domestic sources, and ensuring transparency and accountability of financial flows.
3. Ensure that private sector financing for climate and green growth in Africa is consistent with the principles of environmental integrity, social justice, human rights, gender equality and the participation of local communities through civil society organizations, and that it prioritizes adaptation over all other measures.
4. Strengthen the capacity and voice of African CSOs to engage with and influence the private sector on climate and green growth issues by providing adequate resources, platforms, networks and mechanisms for consultation and feedback.

«In our current situation, we're pressured to sacrifice for limited development opportunities. Imagine a birthday party with 10 guests, where 2 arrive early and eat 8 pieces of cake. Later, they suggest forgetting the 8 pieces and sharing the remaining 2 equitably when the other 8 guests arrive. This analogy underscores the moral and legal issues, urging a fairer approach to shared resources.»

Augustine Njamnshi, CSP Forum RDGN (2:26)

«With all our current resources in Africa, the energy transition should guarantee universal access to energy services, enabling every citizen to access electricity and a clean energy source for cooking, among other things.»

Secou Sarr

«The horizon that has been set in relation to these concerns about climate and green growth is 2050. So we're thinking about it, we're taking action, but we're also thinking about future generations. It's a question of reconciling what we call the urgent conjunctural with the structural durable.»

Luther Yameogo

«I'm aware that we will keep you updated through our networks, but, more importantly, it is crucial to ensure a trickle-down approach to building ownership for this process at the local level. This is because when the people own it, they will contribute to shaping the policies.»

Mithika Mwenda

5. Work with public sources and other stakeholders to more than double adaptation funding by 2025, taking into account the Yaoundé African Youth Call to double adaptation funding for a resilient Africa.
6. The following concrete measures should be taken to achieve this objective:

- o Increase the share of adaptation funding in the overall climate finance portfolio, and ensure that it is proportionate to African countries' adaptation needs and costs
- o Improve access to and delivery of grant-based, predictable adaptation finance by simplifying and streamlining procedures and criteria for multilateral funds and bilateral donors, and by building the capacity and readiness of all institutions and stakeholders.
- o Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation financing by promoting participatory and inclusive planning and decision-making processes, and by ensuring accountability and learning in the implementation of projects and programs.
- o Foster innovation and increased financing for adaptation by supporting the development and deployment of new and emerging financing sources and instruments, and by leveraging investments and partnerships with the private sector.
- o Strengthen the coherence and coordination of adaptation funding by harmonizing the policies and standards of different funding sources and channels, and encouraging regional and cross-sectoral collaboration and integration of adaptation measures.

VISUAL VIDEO RDGE ILLUSTRATION 1	VISUAL VIDEO RDGS ILLUSTRATION 2	VISUAL VIDEO RDGN ILLUSTRATION 3	VISUAL VIDEO RDGW ILLUSTRATION 4	VISUAL VIDEO RDGC ILLUSTRATION 5

6. ACTION POINTS

Capacity building	Trilateral partnership	Strengthening Bank-Civil Society collaboration	Documentation and experience sharing
			
Strengthen the institutional and technical capacities and expertise of civil society organizations, in particular to help them gain access to the trust funds available at the Bank Improve CSO advocacy for an enabling business environment to promote accountability Ensure the inclusion of women's business organizations, which are both hardest hit by the impacts of climate change and have a key role to play in climate action and resource mobilization	Strengthen the partnership between the Bank, the private sector and CSOs to jointly build innovative people-centered financial solutions for climate action. Draw on the field experience of CSOs to ensure that no one is forgotten: women, girls, youth, generally marginalized groups, etc. Through the leverage of the Bank-CSO Climate and Energy Coalition, support the adaptation of the private sector's approach to CSOs and promote synergy.	Consolidate the participatory approach to the Country Strategy Paper process and the monitoring of Bank projects. Foster an environment conducive to the sharing of experiences by CSOs involved in ADB-funded projects. Communicate information on the Bank's financing opportunities and mechanisms to CSOs	Share on the CSE platform, the impacting experiences of CSOs thanks to their contributions Document civil society organizations' local climate change solutions as bankable business models

➤ To consult the action points for each region, please refer to the regional reports.

7. CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Regionality

One of the aims of organizing these regional forums was to bring out the specific features of the whole of Africa in relation to this year's theme.

The Bank's induction sessions focused on regional presence and strategy. These aspects did not emerge in any obvious way this year, so the Civil Society and Community Involvement Division takes note of the need to develop an action plan for better engagement with the regional and country offices in each region. This will include the development of technical material (e.g. session guidance notes) built in collaboration with regional teams, and specific to each region.

Commitment to Civil Society champions

The Civil Society and Community Involvement Division has a growing network of civil society organizations across the continent, with representatives of international stature. These representatives are often recognized by communities, governments, private sector players and others.
It therefore seems important to reinforce their visibility and involvement in the future, so that their status as champions can give another dimension to the work carried out with civil society.
Involving them in particular in aspects of participation could increase the representativeness of CSOs.

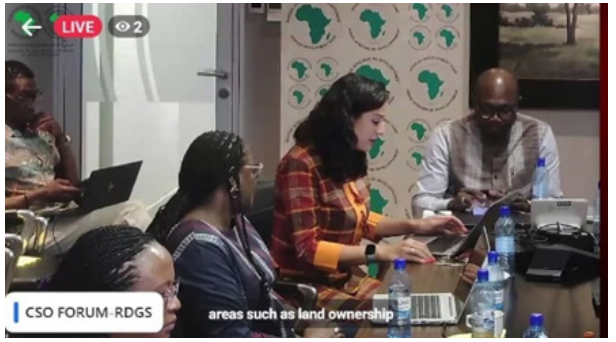


Panel preparation

Panelists seemed to have been unevenly prepared, depending on the region/panel. This may have affected the quality of some of the debates. The choice of panel composition should also take into account the disparities between different regions, some of which have a more developed private sector, for example, or a more committed government.

Members' commitment

Participation by country/regional office staff varied from region to region. Also, the coincidence of the West Africa Regional Forum with other major Bank events may have had an impact on the projected audience for certain sessions, particularly on the Bank's social networks.



8. CONCLUSION



The first Hybrid Regional Forums are considered a resounding success for several reasons. Nearly 300,000 participants from the 5 African regions, the diaspora and around the world were able to attend the sessions, promoting intra-regional exchanges on an unprecedented scale, fostering frank, productive and action-oriented exchanges between Bank staff and CSOs. In addition, the innovative format of the events enabled a number of CSOs who, for reasons of time and cost, would not have been able to attend a physical forum, to take an active part in the forums, notably thanks to the hybrid format, social networking and the use of chat rooms.

The regional forums also facilitated the sharing of ideas on challenges, good and best practices, and the diversity of experiences and perspectives between African civil society opinion leaders and Bank staff. These platforms served as forums for communicating the Bank President's primary commitment to CSO involvement, as well as CSO expectations of the Bank's role in inclusive development. CSOs also stressed the need for increased interaction and regular information sharing at regional forums, which will enable them to continue supporting the Bank's vital work in Africa. In the same vein, CSOs were able to participate in the groundbreaking construction of the Action Plan for the Bank's Engagement with Civil Society, which will be finalized with their support at the end of 2023.

The CSO Committee members' interactions with their constituencies have strengthened their understanding of key players and regional challenges, and augur well for continued advocacy and information sharing around the Bank's «High 5» priority areas to all relevant stakeholders.

In addition to presenting the results of the regional forums, COP28 will have helped unleash Africa's potential in terms of climate and green growth, and put forward robust and innovative solutions to bridge the climate financing gap, notably through a community commitment, as recalled in the joint declaration. The regional forums were envisaged as a space for dialogue, a platform for consolidating the convergence of perspectives between the Bank, civil society and the private sector, in addition to bringing the continent's climate and energy priorities to COP28 with a single voice. All these results were achieved with a high level of performance! The caravan has arrived at its destination! Together, we succeeded!



9. A WORD FROM THE TASK MANAGER



Together, we won! Teamwork made the dream come true!

What would the Civil Society Forum 2023 have been without the group dynamics, team spirit and positive vibes of the Global Task Force and the Regional Task Forces, which met for weeks, assiduously and in good spirit! What a commitment to the «One Bank» spirit

It's time to salute the perfect collaboration that goes beyond traditional roles and functions!

Well done to African civil society, the diaspora and the community of stakeholders, including the private sector, who co-conducted this eminently participatory process.

Thanks to the Bank's senior management for their confidence, and renewed gratitude to every link in the chain! Yes, the technical teams ensured a perfect osmosis between face-to-face and online participants (technical services, interpreting, protocol, logistics, technical assistance...). Together, we confirmed that the Bank's commitment to civil society is a forward movement! We have kept up the pace and, together, we will stay the course by continuing to irrigate the Bank's operations and projects with the inclusion of communities as stakeholders in our policies and strategies! Together, we have changed the discourse: CSOs are no longer seen only as advocates or service providers, but also as catalysts for change, policy influencers, project incubators, experts and implementing partners who benefit from their proximity to the majority of Africa's vulnerable populations. Together with civil society, we presented a joint declaration at COP28, resolutely committed to climate resilience and a just energy transition.

We've come a long way, a winning marathon, in unison! Together, we can make Africa what we want it to be. Together, we can make it happen: Teamwork makes the dream work!

APPENDICES

Reports and photo albums

COVER RAPPORT RDGE	COVER RAPPORT RDGS	COVER RAPPORT RDGN	COVER RAPPORT RDGW	COVER RAPPORT RDGC
COVER ALBUM RDGE	COVER ALBUM RDGS	COVER ALBUM RDGN	COVER ALBUM RDGW	COVER ALBUM RDGC

Forum diaries
Participation statistics

MEDIA REPORT