

African Development Bank Civil Society Engagement

Newsletter

"Voices of Citizens in Africa"

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Engaging CSOs in building Climate Adaptation for Resilient Growth amid Covid-19: on route to COP26



Words from the Manager: Putting African civil society at the heart of the Bank's High 5s to be part of the solution

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"Development is all about people and must be accountable to people. To be meaningful and impactful, development programs must address the hopes and aspirations of people", these are the words of Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, which not only are our motto but also words that resonate and drive our civil society engagement agenda across the Bank and beyond.

The African Development Bank has placed African citizens at the center of its interventions, making civil society a key partner in ensuring the impact on African livelihoods. The ambitious development goals set for Africa can only be achieved through the active engagement, regular consultations and enhanced participation of civil society.

Covid-19 has brought to the forefront the critical role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their ability to enhance interventions' impact as well as reinforce transparency, accountability, and resilience. They are considered as "first responders" in emergency situations and in many instances they play the critical roles of community advocates, enablers for change, policy influencers, project incubators and experts.

We strongly believe that engaging with civil society will help achieve our priorities of inclusive and sustainable development as well as the delivery of the Bank's High 5s priorities.

Our vision at the Civil Society and Community Engagement division is to be the thought leader of civil society engagement across the continent, leveraging on CSOs' comparative advantage in terms of local expertise, data collection, knowledge and proximity on the ground.

Climate impacts are hitting Africa hard, and the continent's voice of citizen need to be heard.

It is crucial that those most impacted by climate change have a bigger say in decision-making to find solutions including at the upcoming COP26 se for November in Glasgow. ■

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

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The Role of African Civil Society Organisations in Climate Change, Mitigation, Adaptation in Africa's post COVID Recovery (Building Back Better)

In order to achieve the Bank's High 5s and similar frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, there is need for cohesive and deliberate partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society organizations (CSOs). The advent of COVID-19 and climate change calls for societal actors to devise mitigation and adaptation measures that are attainable and rural community centric.

CSOs have an important role in the recovery process. Advocating and actively participating in the design and implementation of better climate change plans, which includes revising Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Strategies and new Long-Term Strategies (LTSs), should be a priority for all civil society actors in the climate change sphere.

In the revision of these climate change strategies, CSOs should ensure that NDCs and LTSs are relevant, reflect recent developments in technology, data and science. They (CSOs), adhering to their traditional watchdog role, should support the efforts of the African Development Bank (the Bank) in creating climate resilient and low carbon economies, by holding governments accountable and advocating to ensure an increase in mitigation and adaptation commitments and that national policies do not exclude the poor and vulnerable rural communities.

The advantage of engaging CSOs in climate change discussions is that they are able to lobby their governments to fulfill their climate ambitions and accelerate the implementation of actions highlighted in their countries' national priorities through active participation in the Bank's Country Strategy Paper (CSP) Consultations. Additionally, CSOs have proven instrumental in knowledge sharing, sharing lessons- learned, with the Bank, spearheading community led, and contextually appropriate solutions for climate mitigation and post COVID recovery mechanisms.

With regard to development programme design and implementation, CSOs and the private sector can work with governments, to advocate for changes in their respective countries' policy environment in order to encourage climate compatible investments based on extensive research and evidence detailing priorities that achieve better developmental outcomes.

The upcoming COP26 presents an opportunity for African Civil Society to present a unified continental "voice" on key priorities as concerns Africa's position on climate change. For Africa, at COP26, top priorities remain a vulnerable population-centric and equitable transition. More emphasis will be on adequate and fair financing for adaptation, the urgent need to safeguard ecosystems to increase adaptation and mitigation benefits, enhanced youth engagement in climate advocacy, climate finance, transparency mechanisms (to ensure transparency in reporting of climate change commitments and to help African governments maintain national transparency systems that meet reporting requirements as stipulated in the Paris Agreement) and meeting pre-2020 mitigation commitments.

The Bank duly recognizes and supports Africa's position, unique needs and circumstances as relates to climate change and COP26. The Bank has had several forums, engaging civil society organizations on concrete actions needed to build climate resilience in Africa in the post pandemic recovery process and also to summon CSO's collective position in the upcoming COP26.

In an effort to address one of the main hindrances of the transition to resilient, carbon-neutral societies, climate finance, the President of the African Development Bank, Dr. Akinwunmi Adesina recently launched a joint initiative with the Global Center on Adaptation, to mobilize $25 billion in order to scale up and accelerate climate change adaptation actions across Africa. In addition, as the youth are an integral part of civil society and the climate debate, the Bank has established the Youth Adaptation flagship program, which will unlock $3 billion for the youth, support 10,000 youth-led SMEs in climate resilience, and build capacity for one million youth on climate adaptation.

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate change crises have illustrated the strong social and developmental standing that CSOs hold. Climate change is locally experienced and can only be effectively addressed by engaging local community organizations and institutions. Hence the extensive ongoing civil society engagement, by the Bank, through its Civil Society and Community Engagement Division, on climate change and a variety of thematic areas in response to the needs of populations at the base of the pyramid in Africa. ■



Maria M. Mulindi
Director Special Programmes, Office of the President

Engaging CSOs in building climate adaptation for resilient growth amid Covid-19 Africa: on the road to COP26

The Bank's position and investments in climate change adaptation

The climate change challenge for Africa is primarily about adaptation and making development climate resilient. Ramping up climate finance flows for adaptation is critical to addressing the irreversible impacts of climate change. At present, adaptation finance accounts for only 5% of global climate finance[1], with only about 19% targeting Sub Saharan Africa.[2]

Engaging CSOs in Building Climate Adaptation for Resilient Growth is a very crucial step as we seek to on one side, rebuild from the coronavirus and its impacts on the world, and on the other side tackle the challenges of fighting climate change, ensuring adaptation and resilience, and ecosystem and biodiversity sustainability.

1 https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-Global-Landscape-of-Climate-Finance.pdf page 21
2 Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) and Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) Adaptation Finance in the context of COVID-19 report (2021) https://gca.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GCA-Adaption-in-Finance-Report.pdf

The African Development Bank has placed sustainability at the centre of Africa's development agenda. Over recent years, the sustainability of Bank projects has improved, and all projects are screened for climate risks, ensuring resilience building. We also screen our projects for greenhouse gas emissions to determine less polluting and more viable options. Consequently, we have an entire basket of projects based on climate-informed designs.

As Africa's Premier Financial Institution, the Bank is committed to both adaptation and mitigation finance on the continent. In the five years between 2016 and 2020, the Bank committed USD 12.4 billion to climate – Adaptation finance making up USD 6.1 billion or 49 %. In 2020, the Bank's climate adaption finance commitments exceeded its mitigation finance commitments for the second year in a row, helping to reverse the historical imbalance that skewed in favor of mitigation. Adaptation finance made up 63% of the Bank's USD 2.1 billion climate finance commitment in 2020. Over the next five years (2020–2025), the Bank has pledged to double its climate finance commitment to a total of USD 25 billion, with 50% targeting Adaptation finance.

In partnership with the GCA and with the endorsement of the African Union and the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), the Bank launched a bold and ambitious initiative, the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP), to accelerate and scale up adaptation action on the continent. The Bank intends to use the new USD 12.5 billon adaptation finance pledge to leverage an additional USD 12.5 billon with other key partners through the AAAP, thus mobilizing a total of USD 25 billon for adaption action on the continent by 2025.

The Bank is developing its **new ten-year strategy (2021–2030) and five-year action plan (2021–2025) on climate change and green growth** that will emphasize investments in climate-friendly infrastructure; mobilize more labour and technology than traditional infrastructure; deliver smart grids to accommodate renewable electricity; develop early warning systems against natural disasters; transportation systems that respond to more flexible patterns of mobility; nature-based solutions to floods, droughts and storms; and ***ensure an enabling environment for CSO involvement, gender mainstreaming and right-based approach to the Bank's climate change work***.

COP 26 offers a unique momentum for climate stakeholders to work together to mobilize and bridge the financing gap for adaptation, build resilience and foster a more inclusive and economy-wide climate resilient Africa. Let us join hands to achieve this for the Africa we want! ■



Al Hamndou Dorsouma
Director Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank

Strengthening climate action by promoting gender equality

Imagine doubling the time you take to fetch water for your family because the nearby water sources have dried up. *Imagine* watching your crops die under the increasing temperatures of the sun. Imagine experiencing sexual violence because you need to look further for precious fuel wood for cooking. This is the reality of many African women brought on by climate change. The impact of climate change in Africa is not gender neutral and is compounding the inequalities that women already face such as low access to productive resources, information, and decision-making power. These impacts are not readily perceived and therefore efforts are needed in highlighting and responding to them. As we look forward to COP26, women's voices are needed in this conversation and at the table where decisions are made.

There is growing recognition that adopting gender transformative approaches in climate actions will lead to more inclusive and resilient communities. The Bank's Gender Strategy (2021–2025) on *Investing in Africa's women to accelerate inclusive growth* incorporates climate change as a guiding principle in its strategic approach to ensure that women and men have enhanced resilience to climate change. There are many examples of how gender equality and climate actions reinforce one another in the Bank's operations. More than 30 climate change related sovereign operations have been categorized using the Bank's Gender Marker System.

The *Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation* (TAAT) program continues to improve the socioeconomic status of farmers including women and youth due to higher incomes and job creation resulting from higher productivity through the deployment of climate smart agriculture technologies and innovation.

Sudan's *Solar PV Powered Pumping for Irrigation* project, which is within the Desert-to-Power Initiative, is installing solar water pumps that will lead to faster extraction of water, saving time for women, and improving their health outcomes. This project will ensure that 50 percent of the pumps are installed at female-headed farms and female labour-intensive farms while women will be trained to operate and maintain solar pumps.

The new USD 20 million program AFAWA *Financing Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices in Ghana* is expected to benefit 400 women-led farm-based association and medium, small and micro-enterprises with credit for climate resilient agriculture.

In Côte d'Ivoire, the *Project to Improve the Livelihoods of Smallholders and Women in the N'zi Region* is promoting resilient technologies for water mobilization and irrigation and disseminating climate-resilient agricultural practices targeting 35,000 women.

What more can we do? A crucial gap in addressing climate change in Africa is increasing women's leadership and participation in policy and institutional platforms on climate action. Women have demonstrated their strengths in mobilizing and acting on issues that affect them through their cooperatives, business and trade associations, savings groups, and civil society organizations. These groups apply their collective power to influence how resources are distributed, how policies are designed and how institutions are structured to respond to women's needs. Such platforms are critical for amplifying the voices of African women and can be a powerful force of positive change. Women's mobilization capacity has the potential to rapidly scale up the adoption of green energy initiatives, climate resilient technologies and enhance public accountability for climate actions. More investment is needed towards supporting women's organizations in enhancing their capacity to engage in building climate resilience and building gender responsive climate action platforms. Most recently, the Africa Climate Change Fund announced the third call for proposals focused on gender equality and climate resilience. This promises to be a catalyst for climate change in the region. ■



Nelly Maina
Principal Gender Officer, Gender and Women Empowerment Division

Building momentum for Action: on the road to COP26

African Civil Society Organisations are rising ahead of COP26 with the urgent call to action for ambitious and rapid reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and an end to financing fossil fuels, while also highlighting the significant need for ecosystem restoration and investments in climate resilience.

We see worldwide public support for enhanced, urgent action on the climate crisis. Countries under the Paris Agreement must submit updated NDCs – but collectively, the current NDCs are far from ambitious enough. For example, South Africa's heavy reliance on fossil fuels and weak emissions reduction targets means the government's updated draft NDC is unambitious and unassertive, and does not constitute the country's fair share contribution to global mitigations efforts. According to the "code red" warning of the latest IPCC report, unless there are immediate large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to even 2 degrees Celsius will be beyond reach.

On the road to COP26 and beyond, countries must bridge the gap between governments and civil society to adopt an effective climate action framework that intersects mitigation and adaptation, and keeps justice and equity at its centre – and translates from policies to successful implementation. In addition, investments must increase for climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. As climate change impacts become more severe, the need for robust public financing continues to grow.

African Climate Reality Project (ACRP) leads two campaigns that link to both mitigation and adaptation ambitions. Zero Emissions | Omissions is the coalition campaign calling on the African Development Bank to implement a fossil fuel finance exclusion policy and fund the Africa we want – one that is equitable and sustainable. The just transition to renewable energy has never been more crucial, as the climate crisis and its impacts threaten the African continent and its people.

Sink Our CO_2 is the ACRP campaign creating awareness around forests and soils as crucial carbon sinks in both mitigating the climate crisis, and building our resilience to adapt to it. Ending deforestation, and protecting and restoring soil health would make a significant contribution in meeting our climate goals. The campaign focus on nature-based solutions with a people-centred approach will build momentum towards COP26 by calling on decision makers and policy influencers to design recovery plans that protect biodiversity, create employment opportunities, and support climate resilience through key goals of food security, climate action, and ecosystem restoration.

ACRP is collaborating with several of our partners and civil society, such as the Strategic Youth Network for Development Ghana and the Africa Coal Network ahead of COP26 to draft a position paper on our collective stance on the AfDB and other Development Finance Institutions' climate related policies and investments – with a clear call to action as the IPCC has warned: The climate crisis will not wait for us. The time for action is now. ■



Dean Bhekumuzi Bhebhe
Campaigns Coordinator for African Climate Reality Project

Approach to capacity development for climate adaptation

The project "Synthropic Agriculture as Strategy to Foster Resilience, Climate Adaptation and Recovery of Vulnerable Communities Living in Degraded Marine and Coastal Ecosystems", financed by the ACCF 2nd Call for Proposal, is implemented in 10 rural communities of Zambezia Province in Mozambique, by ICEI – *Istituto Cooperazione Economica Internazionale*, Italian NGO, and ORAM – *Associação Rural Ajuda Mutua*, local CSO.



ICEI and ORAM have been working together for the past few years to support local vulnerable communities, by raising awareness and developing capacities and empowerment – especially of marginalized groups such as women and young people – to increase control over their territory, natural resources, and livelihoods, with a perspective of climate adaptation for a resilient growth. Agroforestry and syntropic agriculture are promoted as climate-smart farming techniques, together with other sustainable and resilient income generating activities like beekeeping.

What happened in Barada, one of the villages involved in the project, is a typical example of the proposed approach.

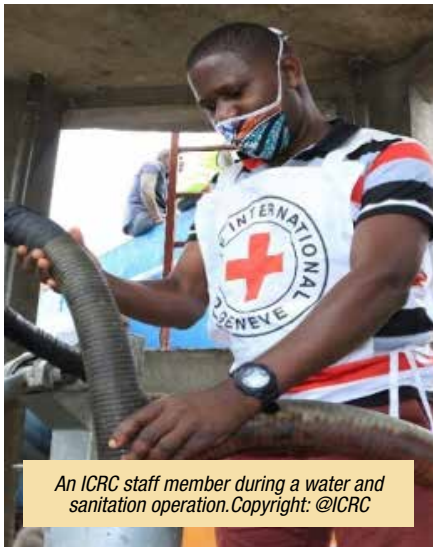
Located on the coastline of the District of Mocubela, Barada has a rather arid territory and very poor soil fertility. The community members travel long distances to find land suitable for farming and families are often separated for weeks during the agricultural campaign. The few livelihood sources are fishing, salt and charcoal production, and not much more. Barada's main treasure and asset is its mangrove forest: it provides resources for the necessities of human life such as food, shelter, and material for fossil fuel production and construction. Like in many other areas of the country and of the world, the problems of poverty and inequality within a mangrove-dependent community like Barada often lead to overexploitation of these already dangerously diminishing resources.



This is why ICEI and ORAM are implementing activities related to the protection and restoration of the local mangrove forest, in close collaboration with the local community. Laura Carimo, unmarried and mother of 3, is a member of the local Natural Resources Management Committee and one of the most active participants of the project. *"I very much enjoyed taking part in reforestation activities in our mangrove forest and also helped produce mangrove seedlings in the community nursery that ICEI helped us create within our village"*, she says. Thanks to the project intervention, conflicts in the management of the existing mangrove plants was reduced, and the community started monitoring the area to avoid intrusions and illegal cutting by strangers. *"Mangroves are important because they protect us from coastal erosion and help to protect the environment. It is also home to many species of fish and other animals that we eat, so we need to preserve them to ensure that our children and next generations also have food and resources for survival in the future"*.

Laura is also involved in different climate-resilient income generating activities promoted by the project. Her income increased since practicing agroforestry, because she can cultivate different crops all in the same plot (including maize, beans, cassava, peanuts), and since she was trained to produce and sell honey on the local market. ■

Addressing the vulnerabilities of populations affected by both Climate and Conflict – A humanitarian perspective



An ICRC staff member during a water and sanitation operation.Copyright: @ICRC



Somalia, Mudug region, Tulo Qorax village. Portrait of a herder who lost a large part of his cattle due to climatic shocks. Copyright: @ICRC

Fragile and conflict-affected countries are among the most vulnerable to climate crisis. They are also among the most neglected by climate action and climate finance. Of the 20 countries considered the most vulnerable to climate change and least ready to adapt, 60% are in conflict. In places that have been damaged by decades of conflict and fragility, people's coping mechanisms are radically eroded making them extremely exposed to any shocks, including those resulting from climate change.

People in conflict and violence-affected areas are impacted by food insecurity, rising food prices, income losses, health hazards and displacement, to only name a few. Moreover, conflicts harm assets required to facilitate the absorption of any shock and adaptation, such as institutions, markets and livelihood. Adding climate shocks to the mix creates further complexity and exacerbates hardship. Communities lose their way of life and livelihoods and may be forced to move away from their homes. As a humanitarian organisation, the ICRC is a daily witness to the interplay of climate shocks and environmental degradation on conflict-affected communities. These shocks cost lives. Recent droughts in Somalia and South Sudan are clear illustrations.

Furthermore, in the absence of institutions able to mediate tensions and manage resources equitably, climate risks and environmental degradation may further fuel local tensions and instability leading to dynamics of violence. For example, in Northern Mali, we observe that people commonly speak of tensions around access to resources. The climate crisis similarly provokes changes to transhumance patterns across the Sahel and beyond, which eventually exacerbates violence.

Development actors often have low tolerance for risk, which naturally prevents them from fully engaging in places affected by conflict, particularly in non-state-controlled areas. This has led organizations like the ICRC, to engage in longer-term programming to strengthen resilience in conflict-affected areas, notably through livelihood support and water and sanitation activities.

However, there are limits to our ability to compensate for the comprehensive development leading to solid avenues for climate adaptation. There are places where we work where instability and fragility have long deterred inclusive development efforts. In such settings, the activities necessary to facilitate people's adaptation are often beyond the scope of our capacities.

To avoid leaving behind communities already coping with conflict and other violence, we need to provide efforts to further understand the risks affecting those communities enduring multiple stressors. We should also seek to understand

the approaches that can help them adjust to the growing climate risks of today and tomorrow. In this process, we would seek to address obstacles to climate finance to support climate adaption in such environments.

No single actor can address these challenges alone, and so, we must work collaboratively across sectors. Complementary humanitarian, development and even peace efforts are critical. Combined efforts could result in comprehensive responses that address the immediate and long-term needs of individuals, communities and societies and strengthens their resilience while also addressing long-term instability and fragility.

For these reasons, the ICRC, working closely with the AFDB, the World Bank and other actors, has begun exploring how to better combine forces to identify practices to strengthen climate action and draw climate finance to conflict and fragile settings. ■



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