

FAST FACTS



United Nations Development Programme

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UNDP and climate change in Africa

Africa will be the continent hardest hit by climate change because it faces more severe climatic effects than other regions, its economies rely on climate-dependent sectors such as agriculture and its capacities to cope and adapt are generally limited.

The World Bank estimates that Africa's average annual temperature is likely to rise an additional 3-4 degrees by 2099. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, by 2020, 75-250 million people across sub-Saharan Africa could face water shortages, and rain-fed agriculture could contract by 50% in some African countries.



Climate change is an urgent developmental challenge with the potential to derail progress towards achieving all eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa. From Morocco to Mozambique, the poor, and especially women, will be the hardest hit. They rely on natural resources and ecosystems for their livelihoods, are vulnerable to the spread of tropical diseases such as malaria and dengue fever and are more likely to be affected by extreme weather events.

MATTERS OF FACT

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that by 2020, **75-250 million** people across sub-Saharan Africa could face water shortages, and rain-fed agriculture could contract by 50% in some African countries.
- According to the World Bank, even a minimum rise in temperature could cause permanent **GDP losses of 4-5%** for Africa.
- In Ethiopia, a survey of 48 annual crops grown in the Nile Basin shows that farmers who adapted to climate change produced about 95-300kg more food per hectare than those who chose not to adapt.
- The right combination of solar and hydropower could meet **80%** of the continent's electricity demands.
- African forests absorb **20%** of the carbon that is absorbed by trees across the world.

UNDP in action

With its presence in every African country and its extensive network of partners across the continent, UNDP provides services to help African countries and regional institutions to incorporate climate mitigation and adaptation into their strategies so they can attain sustainable, people-centered development:

1. We help decision-makers to tackle climate-related issues and access international finance: Thanks to a \$5.6 million initiative called "Boots on the Ground", we mobilized climate experts in 15 African Least Developed Countries, helping them to grasp climate-related issues; craft climate policies; and access and implement climate financing.

For instance, UNDP is currently helping **Mali** to establish a national executing agency with direct access to the Adaptation Fund, to shape a national climate fund and to develop its national climate adaptation plan. In **Niger**, a parliamentarian network on climate change, environment and sustainable development has been established with technical advice from UNDP.

We help countries to systematically link poverty and climate change. As part of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, UNDP is working with twelve African countries to mainstream environmental activities, including climate change, into poverty reduction and MDG strategies. In **Malawi** for instance, the programme has helped to design a coordination mechanism involving all government ministries that has incorporated climate change into planning processes.

Aiming to ensure developing and African countries can benefit from scaled-up climate financing, UNDP has also been an advocate of a new Green Climate Fund, which would handle large volumes of climate financing for developing countries.

2. We help African countries to adapt to climate

change: Under a \$92 million Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP), UNDP supports 20 countries across the region to develop integrated and comprehensive climate change adaptation actions and resilience plans. We help them to develop the capacity required to design, finance, implement and monitor long-term and cost-effective adaptation policies and plans. With support from the AAP, the Government of **Burkina Faso** is now implementing an approach to addressing climate change adaptation that spans multiple sectors.

At the community level, we collaborate with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to help communities to adapt to climate change. We helped to develop resilient farming practices and improved natural resource management in five of **Namibia's** 13 regions, which includes drought-resistant tree species and equipping schools with water tanks.

3. We help countries to develop low-carbon

development strategies: In November 2011, with technical and financial support from UNDP and the British Development Agency DFID, **Ethiopia** developed a \$150-billion strategy for green growth over two decades, aiming for middle income country status by 2025 while at the same time keeping greenhouse gas emissions constant.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, we contribute to a large UN programme that aims to preserve the world's second largest tropical forest. The UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest

Degradation creates a financial value for the carbon stored in trees, resulting in carbon offsets for standing forests.

Across the continent, from **Mauritius to Ghana, from South Africa to Niger**, UNDP is channeling financial support from the Global Environment Facility to programmes contributing to greenhouse gas mitigation and economic development. Most projects consist in promoting energy efficiency for the greater benefit of local populations.

In **South Africa**, we collaborated with GEF on a USD 11 million initiative to green transport ahead of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

In addition, we help African countries to draw national greenhouse gas inventories so they can embrace mitigation and develop low emissions development strategies.

4. We help countries to minimize the impact of

climate-related disasters: In 2010, UNDP helped **Ethiopia's** Ministry of Agriculture to approve a Disaster Risk Reduction programme that integrates all disaster-related issues into the country's national development strategy. In addition, UNDP has been supporting **Ghana's** National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) so it could shift its agenda from responding to emergencies to reducing risks and preventing disasters. The institution has developed both a national policy and an action plan on disaster risk reduction.

5. We help countries to sensitize people to the

consequences of climate change: UNDP held training events for dozens of African journalists throughout 2011, boosting their understanding of the issues at stake and increasing the quality of their coverage. In addition, UNDP helped to mobilize civil society, media organizations and senior environmental journalists so they could hold their own training events on climate change reporting.

In November 2011, we also sponsored a climate road show that took 150 European and African youths and international artists from Nairobi to Durban. The participants staged a series of concerts on the way. They were received by officials a day before the start of the climate negotiations in Durban, **South Africa**. To learn more about UNDP in Africa, please visit www.undp.org/africa