

Overview

**Making Development Climate Resilient:
A World Bank Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa**

Climate change is emerging as a key development issue in Sub-Saharan Africa, because of the region's special vulnerabilities. These vulnerabilities include the continent's natural fragility (two thirds of surface area is desert or dryland); a high dependency of livelihoods and economic activities on natural resources; the pivotal role of rainfed agriculture which is highly sensitive to climate variability and which contributes some 30% of GDP and employs 70% of the population while being the main safety net of the rural poor; a very low level of economically developed water resources and key infrastructure; rapid urbanization, and increasing disaster risk from droughts and floods; all of which are exacerbated by weak institutional capacity and little fiscal space.

With 800 million people, Africa accounts for only 4% of global CO₂ emissions. Climate change has been caused largely by the activities of industrialized countries. With only 25% of the population at present having access to electricity, energy consumption must grow in Africa. Furthermore land and forest degradation account for over 60% of CO₂ emissions in Africa, compared with about 30% in developing countries as a whole. Most existing carbon trading mechanisms, which focus on emissions reductions from energy and industry, are not well adapted to Africa's needs. However, new sources, such as the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) that are being put in place by the World Bank in collaboration with other partners offer promise. And African governments, faced with urgent development needs, must balance short term and longer term development priorities.

In response to the development challenges of climate risk faced by its client countries, the Bank is preparing a strategy to support climate resilient growth in Sub-Saharan Africa. The objective of the strategy is to provide a road map for the Bank to address climate variability and change in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the aim of helping its SSA clients achieve climate resilient growth. The strategy identifies knowledge gaps, expected impacts and key actions to be taken over time.

Since adaptation is inevitable, the strategy will help the Bank and its development partners support African countries make their development priorities climate resilient, with actions along four main pillars: (i) making adaptation a core component of development, with a particular focus on sustainable water resources, land, and forest management, integrated coastal development, increased agricultural productivity, health problems, and conflict and migration issues; (ii) focusing on knowledge and capacity development by improving weather forecasting, water resources monitoring, land use information, improving disaster preparedness, investing in appropriate technology development, and strengthening capacity for planning and coordination, participation and consultation; (iii) benefiting from mitigation opportunities through access to carbon finance against land use changes and avoided deforestation, promoting clean energy

sources (e.g., hydropower) and energy efficiency, and adopting cost effective clean coal energy generation and reduced gas flaring; and (iv) scaling-up financing.

There are several additional reasons why the Bank needs to be involved. In addition to its deep involvement in Africa's sustainable development agenda, the Bank can bring cross-regional and global experience to bear in countries that have middle income status, and those that are eligible for concessional financing from the International Development Association (IDA). The Bank can also bring other development partners on board (both at the political and technical levels). Furthermore, the Bank has played a pioneering role in developing financing instruments (e.g., for addressing risk, carbon trade), and is in a position to do more by contributing to the provision of global public goods for adaptation (knowledge about climate change, information base, research to improve production technologies and natural resource management, etc.). Overall, the Bank can provide technical, policy and financial support to help African countries incorporate climate risk management into development strategies, programs, and budgets.