BRIDGING THE GAP – MOBILISING SOURCES



Adaptation Gap 2

TECHNICAL REPORT









AFRICAN CLIMATE FINANCE HUB

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Foreword

In the midst of accelerating international climate negotiations, expected to culminate in a new agreement by December 2015, this second, Africa's Adaptation Gap Report provides a timely analysis of Africa's future in a climate-changing world, and with it, the continent's increasingly urgent adaptation needs. But it also provides an inspiring menu of options to address those needs internationally, regionally and domestically.

While the first Africa Adaptation Gap Report demonstrated how delaying action would result in exponentially rising costs down the road, the second report now turns to possible solutions to respond to this urgency.

Past global emissions already commit Africa to adaptation costs of USD 7-15 billion per year by 2020. So far, roughly USD 1-2 bn a year has been flowing to Africa for adaptation, through a variety of sources.

The report builds on the UNEP 2014 emissions gap report that showed global emission-reduction efforts are not yet at the level of what is required to put the world on track to hold global warming below 2°C. By 2050, Africa's adaptation costs could rise to USD 50 billion per year for a scenario holding global warming below 2°C, and up to USD 100 billion per year by 2050, if the world does not manage to turn away from the current path that could lead to more than 4°C warming by 2100.

To take a step back: this is not just a question of money, millions of people and their livelihoods are at stake. Africa's population would be at an increasing risk of undernourishment due to increasing food demand and the detrimental effects of climate change on agriculture on the continent. A warming of 2°C globally would put over 50% of the African continent's population at risk of undernourishment. Yet, right now, we are heading to 4°C of warming.

The report findings show that sea level could rise by a metre above present-day levels, putting millions of people at risk of flooding in the large coastal cities across the continent. These are the striking impacts of climate change risk reversing Africa's economic and development gains.

While not completely eliminating the risks, effective adaptation can reduce Africa's vulnerability to hundreds of thousands of people, rather than millions. Rising to the challenge and addressing the systemic harm that climate change may cause to Africa development prospects warrants leaving no stone unturned in exploring opportunities for supporting adaptation actions and measures in Africa.

The report findings show that even if the explored avenues for revenue generation were implemented across Africa, only a maximum of USD 3 billion per year would be raised by 2020. However, rapidly rising adaptation costs would exceed these potential revenues raised through levies as early as 2020. A steep and rapid increase in adaptation funding from developed to developing countries is therefore urgently needed to close the adaptation-funding gap that the continent faces.

Based on the analyses contained in this report, policy makers can consider how all options at international, regional and national levels can complement each other. All of these done together can protect Africa from much of the harm that even very stringent global mitigation alone cannot prevent.

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Africa is the continent where a rapidly changing climate will deviate from "normal" earlier than across any other continent, making adaptation a matter of utmost urgency

- Africa is beginning to experience annual-mean temperatures consistently higher than any temperature experienced locally in history. This is already happening in Central Africa and is projected to cover the entire continent in the next two to three decades earlier across Africa than any other continent.
- Warming projections under medium scenarios indicate that extensive areas of Africa will exceed 2°C by the last 2 decades of this century relative to the late 20th century mean annual temperature. Under a high warming pathway ("over 4°C world"), that exceedance could occur by mid-century across much of Africa and reach between 3°C and 6°C by the end of the century.
- By 2100, sea level rise along the Indian and Atlantic Ocean coastlines is projected to be around 80 cm above 2000 in an over 4°C world (compared to the global mean of roughly 70 cm), but there are chances it could be much worse. Particularly high numbers of people would be risk of flooding in the coastal cities of Mozambique, Tanzania, Cameroon, Egypt, Senegal and Morocco.
- Climate changes directly affect food security, water availability, flooding risk, urban areas, health and other sectors.

Africa's adaptation costs could rise to USD 50 billion/year by 2050 in a below 2°C world

- Costs could double to USD 100 billion/year by 2050 under a scenario that has the world warming more than 4°C warming by 2100¹
- The first Africa adaptation gap report (2013) noted already that past (global) emissions commit Africa to adaptation costs of USD 7-15 billion/year by 2020
- In the yet longer term, and relative to Africa's (growing) GDP, adaptation costs could rise to as much as 6% of African GDP by 2100 in an over 4°C world, but in a below 2°C world these would be less than 1% of GDP.
- Even if all cost-effective adaptation is realised, Africa will still suffer large "residual" damages, which are estimated to be double the adaptation costs in the period 2030-2050.
- Africa and the international community will need to find ways to cope with these residual damages, under any scenario of global mitigation and local adaptation efforts.

A steep increase in adaptation funding from developed to developing countries would contribute significantly in closing the adaptation-funding gap

- The climate change challenge exceeds the capacity of the continent to respond to projected damages and impacts through domestic resources, even if the base to raise additional funding is broadened. Scaled-up international support for African countries is therefore critical.
- Current levels of international funding are not sufficient.
- While international financial flows for adaptation have increased, and could bridge the deepening adaptation gap by 2020, disbursements need to continue to grow rapidly post 2020 to keep pace with warming, and even faster if global mitigation fails to put the world on a pathway to hold warming below 1.5 and 2°C by 2100
- Scaling up international climate finance under the UNFCCC may by itself lead to sufficient funding for adaptation in Africa, but even here, actual implementation can only reach its full potential if complemented by comprehensive and effective national and regional policy planning, capacity-building and governance.

¹

Note that costs in the 2013 Africa's adaptation gap technical report were reported in constant 2005 USD, while this report expresses costs in constant 2012 USD for easier comparison with other existing studies.

Since it is in countries' own direct interest to address the profound harm that climate change may cause to their development prospects, it is also in their interests to explore every opportunity for financing adaptation within their own jurisdiction

- To address the multiple challenges of adaptation in Africa, there will be no silver bullet that can solve all the funding and implementation issues faced by African countries. Addressing these challenges will require the deployment of complementary measures at the international, continental and national levels
- Results of the report suggest that a great deal still needs to be done, including the promotion of an effective enabling framework for private sector participation in adaptation activities

In the context of the current UNFCCC negotiations towards the post-2015 agreement, the findings in this report suggest:

- 1. The best insurance against potentially catastrophic impacts of climate change and unmanageable adaptation and (residual) damage costs in Africa is effective and ambitious mitigation action leading to deep global emission reductions;
- 2. Cancun climate finance commitments need to be met by 2020, the historical imbalance between adaptation and mitigation in the allocation of resources needs to be corrected, and ease of access ('modalities') for African countries needs to be improved. Adequate (large-scale, rapidly increasing) and predictable funding must be mobilised for the subsequent periods;
- 3. The potential and the feasibility of mobilising untapped international, regional and domestic sources should be explored further



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