Africa Think Tank Summit

Event Report

Theme: "Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa"

8 - 11 October 2024, Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire

Acknowledgments

The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) extends heartfelt gratitude to everyone whose support and guidance were essential to the success of the **10th Africa Think Tank Summit (ATTS),** the launch of the **Ubora Academy, and the 33rd Board of Governors (BoG) meeting,** which took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 8 to 11 October 2024.

We are incredibly grateful to:

Organizing Committee
ACBF Leadership
Sponsors and Partners

These contributions were crucial in advancing ACBF's efforts to build human capital and institutional capacity across Africa. We have taken vital steps toward strengthening these capacities by bringing together thought leaders, practitioners, and policymakers. We look forward to continuing our partnership in future initiatives and collectively making a difference in Africa's sustainable development.

Overview

This report provides an overview of the ACBF's events, which took place in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, from 8 to 11 October 2024. Under the theme ***Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa,*** this year's events focused on catalyzing resources and fostering strategic collaborations to address the urgent need for sustainable climate finance solutions across the continent.

ACBF's flagship event, the **10th Africa Think Tank Summit (ATTS)**, occurred from 8 to 10 October 2024. It brought together key stakeholders from diverse sectors to advance evidence-based approaches to sustainable climate finance. Discussions centered on scalable, data-driven strategies to strengthen Africa's resilience to climate impacts while empowering local economies.

Complementing the Summit, ACBF launched **Ubora Academy,** the go-to learning and knowledge-sharing platform. This new capacity-building initiative is dedicated to equipping African professionals with the skills and knowledge to drive innovation and address complex governance and development challenges across the continent.

Concluding the series of key events, the **33rd Annual Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting** of the ACBF was convened on 11 October 2024. This meeting provided a forum for governors to assess the ACBF's activities over the past year and strategize on critical capacity-building interventions at continental, regional, and national levels for a sustainable African future.

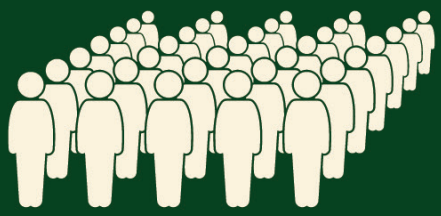
As Africa steps up its call for a leading role in global climate finance, ACBF's flagship events have crafted a strategic roadmap, turning pressing challenges into practical steps toward resilience and sustainable growth across the continent.

We hope this report offers meaningful insights and strengthens our shared commitment to Africa's journey toward sustainable development.

30 COUNTRIES

1 MINISTERIAL SESSION

23 FEMALE SPEAKERS



365 PARTICIPANTS

14 SESSIONS

Africa Think Tank Summit
Sommet des Think Tanks d' Afrique

A snapshot of the 2024 Africa Think Tank Summit

6 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1 ALL-FEMALE PARALLEL SESSION

2 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSIONS

10 SIDE-EVENTS BY PARTNERS

31 THINK TANKS REPRESENTED

10 EXHIBITORS

3 AWARDS TO BEST THINK TANKS

+10 000 SOCIAL MEDIA IMPRESSIONS

+500 COMMENTS AND SHARES

BI-LINGUAL (FR AND EN)

PART 1

PROCEEDINGS OF THE 10th AFRICA THINK TANK SUMMIT

EXHIBITION & SIDE-EVENTS

Day 0 - Tuesday 8 October 2024

From Ideas to Impact for Climate Resilience, Adaptation, and Climate Finance Mechanisms

Leading think tanks and policymakers came together to assess progress, align health and trade policies, and champion evidence-based strategies for climate resilience and economic development across Africa.

Key highlights include:

- The Economic Policy Analysis Unit of the Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research (CAPEC)'s 30-year impact on Cote d'Ivoire's economic transformation was reviewed, featuring key insights on the institution's performance and proposed reforms. The celebration of CAPEC's 30th Anniversary was also an opportunity to reflect on the reforms needed for CAPEC to perform better in the concert of Think Tanks serving the Ivorian and sub-regional economies.
- Tobacco Control and The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) explored the integration of tobacco control measures within AfCFTA to support a smoke-free continent, aligning trade and health policies.
- Climate Finance for Green Growth: Climate finance models were discussed to support Africa's transition to sustainable economies, focusing on accessible and effective financing solutions.
- Mobilizing civil society to respond to climate challenges for inclusive green growth allowed the Programme Pays de Renforcement des Capacités (PPRC) of Côte d'Ivoire and its local partners to bring the voices of local communities and share their perspectives on how to tackle climate challenges by fostering inclusive green growth initiatives.

The side event on ***"Assessing the Organizational Capacity Needs of Think Tanks: Experience of CADAST Project"*** shared insights on how to assess the organizational capacity needs of think tanks to enhance their effectiveness and sustainability. By identifying gaps in skills, resources, and processes, the project aims to strengthen their ability to contribute to evidence-based policymaking and foster informed public discourse.

On Think Tanks (OTT) Sector Report 2025

The OTT report identified major challenges and growth opportunities in the think tank sector.

Evidence-Based Climate Policy

Senegal's Agricultural and Rural Prospective Initiative

(IPAR) highlighted the need for data-driven climate policies in West Africa, underscoring the critical role of research-backed solutions.

Key Takeaways

Strengthening Regional Economies
CAPEC's achievements and upcoming reforms are set to drive substantial economic impact across the region.

Innovations in Climate Finance
New financial models to support resilient, green economies are paving the way for sustainable development in Africa.

Aligning Health and Trade through Tobacco Control
Tobacco regulation emerges as a strategic alignment of health and trade policies within the AfCFTA framework.

Data-Driven Climate Policy
Evidence-based policies are essential for effective climate action in West Africa, underscoring the need for robust data in decision-making.

Day 1 - Wednesday 9 October 2024

Innovative Solutions for Climate Finance

OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY

Introductory Remarks

Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Opening Addresses

- Prof. Alban Alphonse E. Ahoure; Executive Director, Cellule d'analyse de politique économique du Centre ivoirien de recherche économique et sociale (CAPEC), Côte d'Ivoire
- Mr. Abdoul Salam Bello; Executive Director, Africa Group II (EDS13), World Bank Group
- Dr. Eric Ogunleye; Director, African Development Institute, African Development Bank

Address by Guest of Honor and Official Opening

Hon. Adama Coulibaly; Minister of Finance and Budget, Cote d'Ivoire

Keynote Speech

Hon. Jacques Assahoré Konan, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Cote d'Ivoire

Innovative Solutions for Climate Finance

Africa Think Tank Summit Opening Highlights by Mr. Mamadou Biteye, Executive Secretary of the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

The Africa Think Tank Summit (ATTS) opened with the theme ***"Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa."*** The Summit focused on innovative climate finance solutions. With escalating climate disruptions, including prolonged droughts in Southern Africa and severe flooding across East and West Africa, bridging the climate finance gap has become a priority for advancing resilience and sustainable development.

Mr. Biteye called for transformative action, saying Africa must bridge the gap between innovative ideas and practical, scalable climate solutions. He urged African countries to move beyond planning and into implementing robust climate financing solutions.

While Africa needs an estimated US$400 billion annually to mitigate and adapt to climate-related impacts effectively, only US$30 billion currently reaches the continent. Despite notable progress made by the global community at COP28 - such as advancing the Loss and Damage Fund and pledging investments in renewable energy - these measures remain insufficient to meet Africa's immediate and substantial financing needs. ***"This funding gap underscores an urgent need for Africa to drive forward innovative financing mechanisms that address these critical gaps, enabling us to build resilient and sustainable economies across the continent,"*** Mr. Biteye emphasized.

Reflecting on Africa's ability to innovate through projects like the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative and the Great Green Wall, he outlined specific pathways to amplify these successes:

Bridging Science and Policy: Translating complex climate data into actionable policies that decision-makers can readily adopt.

Accelerating Accountability: Ensuring that African governments uphold their commitments to climate initiatives.

Fostering a Just Transition: Addressing socio-economic impacts while transitioning to a low-carbon economy, prioritizing resilience and inclusivity.

Mr. Biteye called for reshaping Africa's climate financing landscape, urging high-level commitments to translate into resilient, practical outcomes, reinforcing the Summit's goal: to position Africa as a leader in climate action by leveraging evidence-based strategies and tapping into local innovation to bridge the funding gap.

Highlights of the statement by Prof. Alban Alphonse E. Ahoure; Executive Director, Cellule d'analyse de politique économique du Centre ivoirien de recherche économique et sociale (CAPEC), Côte d'Ivoire

Prof. Alban Alphonse E. Ahoure emphasized several key points during his address, underscoring the significance of the upcoming 2024 Africa Think Tank Summit, as well as the celebration of CAPEC's 30th anniversary. For him, the Summit represents a vital platform for intellectual exchange and policy dialogue among African scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. Besides, the 30th anniversary of CAPEC was highlighted and serves not only as a milestone for the institution but also as a testament to its enduring commitment to economic research and policy analysis in Côte d'Ivoire and beyond. Prof. Ahoure reflected on the organization's journey, noting its significant contributions to the development of evidence-based policies that have positively impacted the region. This celebration is an opportunity to honor past achievements while also looking forward to future challenges and opportunities in economic policy.

Highlights of the statement by Mr. Abdoul Salam Bello; Executive Director, Africa Group II (EDS13), World Bank Group

Mr. Bello emphasized the World Bank Group's unwavering commitment to supporting sustainable development across African nations. He articulated the importance of aligning financial resources and technical expertise with the continent's unique challenges, particularly in areas such as climate change and climate financing. Mr. Bello underscored the necessity of collaboration among governments, private sectors, and civil society and working with ACBF in support of Africa's socio-economic transformation. A significant point in Mr. Bello's address was the role of innovation and technology in driving economic growth. He advocated for investment in new technologies and capacity development.

Highlights of the statement by Dr. Eric Ogunleye; Director, African Development Institute, African Development Bank

Dr. Ogunleye emphasized the necessity of enhancing economic resilience across African nations. He pointed out that building robust economic systems capable of withstanding global shocks, such as pandemics and economic downturns, is critical for sustainable growth. The AfDB is committed to supporting member countries in developing strategies that promote economic stability. A significant focus of Dr. Ogunleye's address was the need for substantial investment in human capital. He also called for urgent action to mitigate the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities and ecosystems. The AfDB is actively involved in financing climate-resilient projects and promoting sustainable agricultural practices to ensure food security and environmental sustainability.

Africa's Path to Unlocking Climate Financing

Address by Hon. Jacques Assahoré Konan, Minister of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Ecological Transition, Cote d'Ivoire

Africa has access to various funding sources, from public and private sectors and national and international financing options, such as grants, green bonds, debt guarantees, and loans. These funding avenues hold significant potential to support climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts, particularly in vulnerable communities. Green bonds are among the most promising options, enabling governments and institutions to channel funds into climate and environmental sustainability projects. Through green bonds, initiatives in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable infrastructure can receive direct support, addressing Africa's climate challenges.

Global carbon markets also offer promise, incentivizing low-carbon development that promotes sustainable practices while creating new revenue streams for climate-resilient projects. Access to these markets could accelerate Africa's transition to a low-carbon economy, generating essential funds for adaptation and resilience initiatives. Yet, despite these opportunities, Africa faces real challenges in accessing the climate finance it needs. Funding remains limited, and environmental issues are often seen as secondary to other pressing development needs, making it more challenging to prioritize climate action. This lack of focus, clear strategies, and inclusive, long-term planning has slowed the continent's progress toward building climate resilience.

The stakes are considerable. In Cote d'Ivoire, the World Bank indicates that without urgent climate action, the country could see up to a 13% decline in GDP by 2050, with cocoa production - a significant economic driver - expected to fall by 25% due to global warming. Every percentage point lost in GDP growth equals approximately 100,000 people pushed into poverty, with another 50,000 rendered vulnerable. ***"We have a range of solutions, all awaiting exploration,"*** said Hon. Assahoré. ***"It's crucial to establish structures that leverage our expertise and ensure long-term vision for our initiatives."*** Africa must seize this opportunity to unlock diverse financing options by developing targeted strategies that place climate action at the forefront. With a robust and coordinated approach, the continent can tap into available resources, tackle climate challenges, and secure a sustainable, resilient future.

PLENARY MINISTERIAL SESSION

Leading the Way: African Countries' Innovative Approaches to Climate Finance Policy and Regulation

Moderator

Prof. Fadel Ndiame; Chief Executive Officer, Food Systems Transformation Solutions (PTY) Ltd

Panelists

- Hon. Anthony Myers; Deputy Minister for Fiscal Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning, Liberia
- Mrs Fatima Haram Acyl, Assistant Minister to the Minister of Finance, in charge of
- the Economy and Planning, Chad
- Mr. Guylain Nyembo; Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Planning and Coordination of Development Aid, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
- Mr. Rished Bade; Commissioner, External Finance Division, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Tanzania

This ATTS session served as a platform for advancing climate finance solutions uniquely suited to Africa's needs. As African ministers face the pressing challenge of bridging the climate financing gap, they increasingly turn to institutions to prioritize African-led approaches in climate discussions, advocating for self-sustaining strategies that put Africa's priorities at the forefront.

The scale of the need is enormous. Leaders underscored the disparity between available funds and actual requirements: although global climate finance reaches US$633 billion annually, the estimated need is US$4.5 to US$5 trillion. For Africa, one of the most climate-vulnerable regions, the need to combat climate impacts effectively is projected at US$1.6 to US$2 trillion annually. Yet, the continent currently receives only 3% of global climate financing.

Prof. Fadel Ndiame highlighted Africa's substantial funding shortfall, stressing the urgent need for homegrown solutions. African leaders acknowledged the value of international funding and advocated for building local expertise to drive sustainable, continent-specific programs.

Key Ministerial Insights on Capacity Building

Strengthening Implementation Capacity: Ms. Fatima Haram Acyl, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Finance, Economy, and Planning, emphasized the importance of enhancing Africa's ability to manage climate finance projects effectively. We need to ensure we have the capacity," she stated, highlighting the need for improved inter-ministerial coordination and noting that competition between institutions often hinders cohesive action—a challenge that ACBF will address by promoting collaborative climate strategies.

Tracking and Accountability: H.E. Mr. Guylain Nyembo Mbwizya highlighted the need to establish robust tracking systems for efficient and transparent use of climate funds.

Integrating Climate Finance into National Budgets: Hon. Anthony G. Myers, Acting Minister of Finance and Development Planning in Liberia, emphasized the need to integrate climate finance directly into national budgets. Empowering locally driven initiatives over externally led programs is essential for Africa's climate action efforts.

Enhancing institutional strength and fostering inter-ministerial collaboration can advance African-led climate initiatives that are built by Africans, for Africans, ensuring a resilient future.

Thematic Parallel Session 1

Strengthening Institutions and Governance for Climate Finance in Africa

Moderator:

Dr. Malle Fofana, Global Executive and Africa Director, Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), Cote d'Ivoire

Panelists:

- Dr. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma; Division Manager, Climate and Green Growth Department, African Development Bank Group
- Dr. Fode Ndiaye; Founder and President, Centre d'Excellence pour le Leadership et le Management pour le Développement de l'Afrique (CELMAD), Senegal
- Ms. Seyram Agbemenya; Program Coordinator- Climate Change & Energy, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

This session highlighted the urgent need for African countries to prioritize climate finance within their national development plans. Although global funds are available for climate adaptation and mitigation, many African nations still underrepresent climate finance in their strategies, limiting coordinated and effective responses.

Climate finance is often viewed solely as the responsibility of ministries of the environment, creating institutional silos that weaken national climate initiatives. Al-Hamndou Dorsouma, Acting Director of the Climate Change and Green Department (PECG) and Manager of Climate and Green Growth (PECG2) at the African Development Bank (AfDB), underscoring the importance of inter-ministerial collaboration, emphasizes that climate finance is not solely the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment. Countries can align development priorities with climate finance opportunities by involving finance and development planning ministries, making it easier to access and leverage available funds effectively.

The cross-cutting nature of climate finance calls for institutional alignment to create a unified approach. Countries without access to climate funds rely on intermediaries, such as multilateral development banks or UN agencies, to secure financing. Strengthening institutional capacities for direct access can enhance responsiveness and reduce dependence on external intermediaries.

Encouraging progress emerged as several African nations are exploring the development of national climate finance funds to mobilize their resources, ramp up climate investments, and increase their independence in tackling climate challenges. By establishing these funds, African countries can tap into local and international resources, building a more self-reliant and resilient approach to climate finance.

Dr. Ndiaye emphasized the essential role of political leadership in climate finance and management, noting that finance alone is just a tool. He asked: "To finance what, for whom, and for what objective?" advocating for a holistic approach driven by policy coherence, sustainability, transparency, and innovation. He

highlighted Rwanda as a model, where President Paul Kagame's leadership in climate initiatives sets a powerful example. *"President Kagame is on top of this, leading it himself. Climate is so important that the higher it is placed, the better,"* he remarked.

The session closed with a solid call to prioritize climate finance within national development plans, urging leadership and collaboration across institutions to break down silos and streamline governance. By strengthening institutions, creating domestic climate finance funds, and fostering innovative, transparent leadership, African countries can improve access to and management of climate finance, supporting sustainable development tailored to Africa's needs.

Thematic Parallel Session 2

Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Climate Finance in Africa

Moderator:

Ms. Diop Aissatou Diouf, National Alliance for Women and Land, Climate Finance Expert and Advocacy Manager, Enda Energie

Panelists:

- Mr. Malvern Chirume, Chief Underwriting Officer, African Risk Capacity (ARC) Ltd
- Prof. Mitowanou E. Koffi-Tessio; Executive Director, Centre de Recherche et d'Etude sur la Pauvreté et la Sécurité Alimentaire (CREPSAD)
- Mrs. Susan Wavinya Wairimu, Founder and CEO of Inspire Teenagers Foundation, Kenya
- Dr. Eric Ogunleye; Director, African Development Institute, African Development Bank (AfDB)

This session established a strategic blueprint for African climate finance, emphasizing the importance of innovative and inclusive financing models to meet the continent's pressing climate challenges. Climate finance experts and stakeholders discussed actionable strategies to improve African fund mobilization. The discussion highlighted Africa's acute vulnerability to climate impacts and the substantial financing gap hindering critical adaptation and mitigation efforts.

Africa faces an urgent climate finance gap, highlighting disparities in global adaptation funding distribution. Despite being one of the most climate-vulnerable regions, the continent received only 20% of international adaptation finance (US$13 billion annually) in 2021 - 2022, compared to East Asia and the Pacific's 45%. In West Africa alone, only 12% of the US$2.5 trillion required for climate adaptation and mitigation has been secured, with barriers as follows:

- **Limited Fiscal Capacity:** National budgets are constrained, limiting the scope for climate investments.
- **Bureaucratic Inefficiencies:** Complex procedures hinder the mobilization and utilization of available funds.
- **Institutional Preparedness:** Insufficient infrastructure and capacities restrict access to global climate finance channels.

Key Strategies

Climate finance instruments should be aligned to meet the needs of African countries as follows:

Enhanced Data and Monitoring

Developing data frameworks to provide transparent, credible information that attracts funding.

Robust Business Models

African institutions must present comprehensive, viable proposals to appeal to global financiers.

Dr. Agossou Gadedjisso-Tossou, an expert in crop modeling, emphasized that *"strengthening institutional capacities is essential to attract global financial support."*

A knowledge gap restricts Africa's access to global finance opportunities. Strengthening communication across African governments and institutions can raise awareness of available funding and improve access to climate finance resources. Inclusive financing is also essential, engaging marginalized groups, especially women and youth, who are often left out of climate finance discussions despite their critical role in grassroots efforts. Ms. Susan Wavinya noted, *"By not empowering these groups, we're missing out on the grassroots drivers of climate action."*

Successful models that require further scaling include:

Carbon Finance

Expanding carbon credit markets can attract investment and incentivize emission reductions.

Debt-for-Climate Swaps

Negotiating debt swaps can free up resources for climate initiatives.

Green Banks

Establishing and scaling green banks can catalyze investment in sustainable projects.

Despite substantial global investments in green finance, Africa's share remains disproportionately low, accounting for only 0.26% of international funding in 2021. Expanding these models in Africa will be essential for equitable access to climate finance.

Africa can bridge the climate finance gap by reinforcing institutional capacities, expanding awareness of financing options, and promoting inclusive, scalable financing solutions. Aligning these strategies can drive transformative climate finance in Africa, positioning the continent for a sustainable, climate-resilient future.

Thematic Parallel Session 3

Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Finance: Strategies for Equitable and Inclusive Climate Solutions

Moderator

Ms. Fatou Diouf, Head of Communication and Influencing, ACBF

Panelists

- Mrs. Beatrice Gakuba; Executive Director, African Women Agribusiness Network Afrika (AWAN-AFRIKA)
- Ms. Memory Kachambwa, Executive Director, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)
- Ms. Nancy Marangu, Executive Director, Chemichemi Foundation & Climate Policy Expert, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- Dr. Linda Etale; Program Officer, Climate Change and Energy, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

This session focussed on equitable and inclusive climate solutions, underscoring the need to address the intersection of gender and climate finance and highlighting the disproportionate impact of climate change on women in Africa.

Across Africa, climate change disproportionately impacts women, who are often on the front lines of environmental degradation due to entrenched social, economic, and political inequalities. Ms. Gakuba noted that while substantial resources are directed toward addressing women's climate challenges, structural inequalities persist, limiting women's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts. Such disparities heighten women's vulnerabilities in the face of climate change and hinder their potential contributions to resilience and adaptation efforts. The session underscored the need for a gender-responsive approach to climate finance.

Ms. Kachambwa highlighted that Africa receives a minimal share of climate finance, and funding specifically for women's rights initiatives and other marginalized groups remains scarce: *"Women are the true custodians of the environment; they live off the grid, protect the forests tied to carbon credit deals, yet reap none of the benefits,"* she argued. Gender-responsive policies thus require greater transparency and accountability to bridge the "energy deficit" faced by rural women, ensuring that funding reaches those who need it most. Critical barriers that limit women's access to climate finance and decision-making processes were noted, including restricted access to financial resources, lack of representation in policy formulation, and limited access to technology.

Discussions on climate justice must involve representatives from the gender, youth, and health sectors. These stakeholders bring essential perspectives on women's complex challenges in climate change, leading to meaningful change. Policies that ensure equitable access to climate finance for women and prioritize financial support for local, women-led initiatives were highlighted. Ms. Marangu's work supporting women-led community-based organizations aims to bridge information gaps and improve access to funding, empowering women to play an active, leading role in climate resilience efforts.

Climate finance requires a holistic approach that recognizes the multifaceted nature of gender

inequality. Dr. Linda Etale from the ACBF emphasized that acknowledging women's roles in natural resource management and climate resilience is essential for developing more effective and inclusive policies. She introduced the Ubora Academy, which aims to support African countries accessing gender-responsive climate finance programs and enhance their understanding of gender mainstreaming in climate finance. Urgent and decisive action to ensure Africa's transition to a sustainable future must be equitable and inclusive, advocating for policies that recognize and actively support women in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. By fostering greater transparency, inclusivity, and access to resources, stakeholders can empower women to be key players in Africa's climate resilience and sustainable growth.

Recommendations

Strengthen Gender-Centered, Intersectional Climate Finance Mechanisms

Design funding initiatives that explicitly address the complex, overlapping needs of women in various roles (entrepreneurs, mothers, community leaders) to ensure climate finance reaches those at the grassroots level.

Develop Practical Data Tools for Women and Youth

Provide tools, platforms, and training to help women and youth gather, interpret, and use data to advocate for their needs. Invest in AI and technology solutions that increase accessibility to climate finance data and insights, bridging the information gap that often leaves marginalized groups uninformed.

Promote Large-Scale Investment in Women-Led Projects

Shift focus from small-scale, low-impact projects (e.g., microfinance for poultry) to substantial investments in infrastructure and agribusiness. Empower women to lead more significant initiatives that address systemic needs and provide sustainable, scalable economic benefits.

Support Locally Led, Decolonized Solutions

Encourage locally rooted approaches and decolonial narratives in climate finance strategies. Amplify African voices and prioritize solutions that foster ownership and longevity, moving away from one-size-fits-all approaches that don't address specific regional and cultural contexts.

Prioritize Technology-Enabled and Youth-Inclusive Interventions

Develop inclusive interventions that recognize and harness today's youth's technological skills and educational backgrounds. Embrace modern, adaptable strategies that allow youth to challenge and improve existing climate finance and gender equity frameworks, fostering genuine transformation aligned with Africa's Agenda 2063.

CEO Plenary Session

Financing Climate Resilience and Adaptation in Africa

Moderator:

Mr. Amadou Kanouté, Executive Director, Pan-African Institute for Citizenship, Consumers and Development (CICODEV).

Panelists:

- Dr. Mithika Mwenda; Executive Director, Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
- Mrs. Fatimata Wopa Gaye; Board Member & West Africa Representative, African Evaluation Association (AfrEA)
- Dr. Ali Abdi Issa; Managing Director, Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (HESPI)
- Dr. Fode Ndiaye; Founder and President, Centre d'Excellence pour le Leadership et le Management pour le Développement de l'Afrique (CELMAD), Senegal

This session underscored the urgent need for Africa to explore and expand sustainable climate financing through domestic resources, moving beyond reliance on external funds. As climate impacts intensify, the continent faces a critical funding gap. Current estimates suggest that while Africa receives around US$20 billion annually in climate finance, the actual need is between US$200 and US$250 billion annually to meet climate adaptation and resilience goals by 2030.

Despite its relatively low contribution to global emissions, Africa faces severe climate vulnerabilities, making adaptation and resilience critical to the continent's survival and economic stability. However, the continent's dependence on international climate financing limits its capacity to implement large-scale, long-term adaptation measures. Key issues highlighted include:

- Inadequate External Funding: Africa's annual climate finance intake falls drastically short of the estimated requirement, posing a significant threat to achieving climate adaptation objectives.
- Dependency Risks: Excessive reliance on foreign funding exposes African climate projects to uncertainties associated with international political and economic shifts, making sustainable, predictable financing challenging to secure.
- Illicit Financial Flows: Africa loses billions to illegal financial flows, increasing the funding gap. In 2022 alone, Africa saw an outflow of US$88.6 billion, nearly triple the amount received in climate finance, highlighting the need for improved resource management.

Internal Resources as an Alternative for Climate Financing

1. **Domestic Funding through Accountability and Transparency**

Dr. Abdi advocated maximizing internal funding options, including diaspora contributions and tighter controls on financial flows. Africa has substantial untapped potential in funds lost through illicit financial flows and inefficient management. By implementing more stringent governance measures, Africa can better harness domestic resources and reduce its dependency on external funding sources.

2. Leveraging Diaspora and Private Sector Involvement

The African diaspora presents a unique opportunity for mobilizing funds for climate

resilience. Diaspora remittances are a significant financial flow, often directed towards family support, infrastructure, and small businesses. By structuring incentives for climate-focused diaspora investments, African countries can tap into this resource for climate adaptation financing. Additionally, local private sector involvement is crucial. Partnerships between governments and the private sector could drive innovative financing solutions that support resilience-building initiatives, reducing the strain on public budgets.

3. Pooling Resources and Regional Collaboration

Collaboration among African nations is essential to maximize resource utilization and share knowledge on climate adaptation. Dr. Abdi emphasized that without a unified approach, countries can face difficulties independently funding the high costs associated with climate adaptation. Regional funds, pooled investments, and cooperative frameworks provide a foundation for more cohesive climate adaptation strategies across the continent.

Key Takeaways and Recommendations

Strengthen Financial Accountability

To curb illicit financial flows and retain capital for domestic climate financing, enforce stringent anti-corruption measures, and improve transparency in financial management.

Enhance Diaspora Engagement

Create investment opportunities and incentives aimed explicitly at African diasporas to generate targeted funding for climate resilience.

Foster Regional and Continental Cooperation

Develop regional financing mechanisms and collaboration frameworks to support cross-border climate adaptation projects, leveraging shared resources and knowledge.

Empower Local Institutions and CSOs

Empower local civil society organizations (CSOs) and financial institutions to spearhead climate finance mobilization and foster grassroots participation in adaptation and resilience initiatives.

Facilitate Private Sector Participation

Encourage partnerships with private businesses to innovate around climate finance solutions and to integrate climate resilience as a core part of business sustainability strategies.

To confront its climate challenges sustainably, Africa must turn inward, leveraging its financial resources, regional cooperation, and the strength of its diaspora. Through more robust governance, regional alliances, and innovative funding solutions, Africa has the potential to become more self-reliant in climate finance. Doing so can reduce its dependency on international funds and build a climate-resilient future rooted in self-sufficiency and local empowerment.

10th Anniversary Celebration of the Africa Think Tank Summit

ATTS's 10th-anniversary celebration united esteemed guests, partners, and members to honor a decade of impact and collaboration. Key figures presided at this dinner, including Hon. Adama Coulibaly, the Minister of Economy and Finance of Côte d'Ivoire, and Mr. Mamadou Biteye, the Executive Secretary of the ACBF.

10th-anniversary highlights

- A commemorative video, "Walk Down Memory Lane," added link reviewed ATTS' growth and milestones over the past 10 years, setting a reflective and celebratory tone for the Summit.
- The event also celebrated the 30th anniversary of CAPEC, a leading think tank in Cote d'Ivoire, which was also an opportunity to present awards and recognition to CAPEC's longstanding supporters and partners.
- Attendees participated in a unique interactive session where two notable think tanks shared their contributions and experiences, showcasing impactful moments from their history.
- Awards Ceremony: Awards were presented to think best tanks in research output, policy influence, and innovation in advocacy.
- The event concluded with final remarks, leading to a networking session of exchanges and insights into the Summit's decade-long journey and achievements.

Day 2: Thursday 10 October 2024

Leveraging Africa's Carbon Markets: Pathways to Sustainable Development

Recap of Day 1 & Opening of Day 2 The day began with a recap of the previous day's highlights, setting the stage for discussions on carbon markets.

Fire Side Chat Plenary Session

Africa and Global Carbon Markets: Challenges, Measures, and Perspectives

Moderator: Mr. Kenneth Igbomor, CNBC Africa

Speaker: Mr. Paul Muthaura, CEO of the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative (ACMI).

This session explored perspectives on how Africa can fully overcome challenges to integrate and benefit from the global carbon trading landscape. Key discussion points included:

1. Urgency of African Engagement in Carbon Markets

Africa's minimal contribution to global carbon emissions starkly contrasts with its disproportionate exposure to climate change impacts. Therefore, the continent's active participation in carbon markets is strategic and essential. Africa's involvement must extend beyond nature-based solutions towards a comprehensive and diversified approach to carbon market engagement.

2. Shaping the Narrative

The importance of Africa shaping its narrative within the global carbon market was underscored. African countries should actively influence carbon market regulations to ensure equitable access. African priorities must align with global market mechanisms to support emission reductions and fair carbon credit pricing structures.

3. Addressing Verification and Validation Bottlenecks

A significant barrier identified is the lengthy verification and validation process for carbon projects, which can extend beyond five years. This delay limits Africa's ability to effectively monetize carbon credits. Local expertise, such as training for auditors and validators, was proposed to reduce delays, enhance market participation, and attract implementation partners.

4. Regulatory Frameworks and Accountability

Establishing robust regulatory frameworks is essential for Africa's engagement in global carbon markets. Mr. Muthaura stressed the role of African governments in setting and enforcing clear guidelines that benefit both public and private sector participants. Strong emphasis was placed on transparency and accountability to foster trust in Africa's carbon projects.

5. Regional Collaboration for Greater Bargaining Power

The session highlighted the advantages of collective African action in climate finance negotiations. By negotiating as a unified bloc or regional alliances, African nations can strengthen their bargaining position and influence carbon credit pricing more effectively, setting favorable terms for African participants in global markets.

6. Governance and Equitable Benefit-Sharing

Governance is key to successful carbon market engagement. African governments must ensure that carbon credits' benefits extend beyond financial returns to foster positive behavioral changes, improve community livelihoods, and promote gender equality. Effective governance and transparent benefit-sharing mechanisms can ensure that carbon credits' social and economic advantages reach local communities.

Africa must position itself strategically in the evolving global carbon markets. By addressing verification challenges, strengthening regulatory frameworks, and approaching carbon markets through regional cooperation, Africa has the potential to leverage carbon markets for sustainable development. African nations can navigate challenges while driving green growth through a collective and transparent approach.

Recommendations

Capacity Building
Enhance local expertise in project verification, validation, and carbon credit auditing.

Regional Coordination
Foster intergovernmental alliances to maximize bargaining power in climate finance and carbon trading negotiations.

Regulatory Development
Implement clear, continent-wide regulatory frameworks to support transparent and accountable carbon market participation.

Community Engagement
Establish benefit-sharing mechanisms that support community empowerment, gender equality, and livelihood improvement.

Unifying Africa's Voice in Global Climate Change Negotiations

Africa's strategic involvement in global carbon markets is essential to address climate challenges and foster sustainable growth aligned with the continent's development goals. Three parallel sessions focused on developing carbon markets across diverse African stakeholders as follows:

Stakeholders' Panel Session 1

Building Capacities and Engaging Local Stakeholders in Africa's Carbon Markets Development

Moderator:

Ms. Eugenia Kayitesi, Institute of Policy Analysis and Research, IPAR, Rwanda

Panelists:

- Ms. Joseph Lucie Atangana Balla; Lead Champion, Women & Youth in the Cacao Sector, African Women Agribusiness Network Afrika (AWAN AFRIKA)
- Mrs. Diop Aissatou Diouf; Alliance Nationale Femmes et Foncier, Climate Finance Expert and Advocacy Manager, Enda Energie
- Mr. Lionel Essima, Assistant Project Manager for West Africa and North Africa, Afrobarometer
- Dr. Lindy Fursman; Director, Climate and Energy Policy, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

African countries must harmonize their climate approaches and strategies to strengthen their bargaining power on the global stage.

Key Points

1. Harmonize Climate Change Negotiation Approaches

Africa's fragmented approach to climate negotiations and carbon market development has limited its impact in global forums. Dr. Lindy Fursman, Director of Climate and Energy Policy at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, noted that capacity-building initiatives targeting local stakeholders had often fallen short due to regulatory complexities, insufficient local stakeholder engagement, and the high cost of participation. Africa must, therefore, prioritize local contexts, ensuring that carbon market initiatives are adaptable to the continent's diverse socio-economic landscapes.

2. Engage Local Stakeholders and Increase Impact

The session underscored the importance of a grassroots, consultative approach to carbon market projects. Top-down implementations, where local communities were not adequately consulted, have led to mistrust, particularly concerning land rights and land tenure. By directly involving local communities in the design and implementation of climate initiatives, Africa can foster ownership, enhance project outcomes, and address equitable land use and benefit-sharing concerns.

3. Climate Compensation from Major Global Emitters

Participants strongly advocated climate compensation from the world's largest carbon emitters. They called on countries like China, Russia, and the United States to compensate Africa for its minimal emissions yet severe climate impacts. This unified call was a powerful strategy for mobilizing resources for the continent's climate resilience efforts.

4. Benchmarking and Adopting Best Practices across African Nations

Adopting successful regulatory frameworks from other African countries was highlighted, rather than reinventing the wheel. Ms. Kayitesi highlighted Rwanda's carbon market regulatory framework as an example that other African countries could benchmark against and adapt to their unique circumstances. This approach, termed "benchmarking" rather than "copying," was seen as an efficient way to foster coherence across Africa's climate policies.

5. Joint African Climate Change Framework

Africa needs a joint framework for climate action to consolidate national efforts and amplify Africa's collective voice. Given that each country's framework on carbon markets is often limited in scope, a harmonized regional approach was called for to streamline regulations, enhance market access, and secure equitable terms in global carbon markets.

6. Proactive Climate Action at the National Level

There was a strong call for African countries to act on climate change by implementing parts of international agreements, such as the Paris Accord, tailored to local contexts. Rather than waiting for global bodies like the African Union or the United Nations, individual countries must proactively apply these agreements at the national level.

Recommendations

Harmonize Climate Policies Across Africa

Develop a continental framework that enables African countries to negotiate with a unified voice in global forums and ensure regulatory coherence within the carbon market.

Engage Local Stakeholders Early

In carbon market projects, inclusionary consultation processes should be prioritized to build trust with local communities and address land rights and equity issues.

Advocate for Climate Compensation

Strengthen Africa's collective call for climate compensation from major emitters to secure resources for climate resilience initiatives.

Benchmark Best Practices

Facilitate the exchange of regulatory best practices between African countries to accelerate carbon market development without duplicating efforts.

Implement International Climate Agreements Locally

Adapt elements of global climate agreements to suit national contexts, with proactive measures to mitigate climate impacts on local communities.

By harmonizing national frameworks, advocating for climate compensation, and engaging local communities, Africa can strengthen its position in the global carbon market while advancing sustainable growth and climate resilience across the continent.

Stakeholders' Panel Session 2

Integrating Carbon Markets into National Development Strategies

Moderator:

Prof. Sarah N. Ssewanyana, Executive Director, Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC)

Panelists:

- Dr. Sam Mugume Koojo; Assistant Commissioner, Macro-Economic Policy Department, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
- Dr Eliud Moyi; Deputy Director, Partnerships Department, Directorate of Economic Management, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA)
- Mr. Fréjus Lingue, Deputy Country Director for Côte d'Ivoire, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change
- Mrs. Beatrice Gakuba; Executive Director, African Women Agribusiness Network Afrika (AWAN-AFRIKA)
- Prof. Fatima Arib; Professor and expert, Sustainable Development Economics, Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco

The session explored the transformative potential of carbon markets to drive sustainable economic growth in Africa. Experts and stakeholders examined how carbon credits and offset strategies can be tailored to align with African nations' unique climate and economic profiles, offering insights on integrating these mechanisms into national development plans. Effective carbon market integration requires comprehensive planning and alignment with national policies. While Africa's diverse landscape calls for tailored approaches, aligning carbon market strategies with national development goals offers substantial economic and environmental benefits.

Uganda's Approach

Uganda is a model for integrating carbon markets into national development by incorporating climate action directly within its development framework, led by the Ministry of Finance's Climate Finance Unit. Utilizing tools such as the World Bank's Carbon Price Indicator Calculator, Uganda evaluates the economic impacts of carbon pricing, enabling data-driven decisions in tax policy and comprehensive climate planning. This strategic approach strengthens Uganda's capacity to harness carbon finance for sustainable growth.

Kenya's Carbon Market Leadership

Kenya has taken a proactive role through an advanced regulatory framework and a commitment to renewable energy. Home to the most extensive geothermal project globally, Kenya's policies emphasize clean energy and carbon finance integration. Amendments to the Climate Change Act (2016) in 2024 prioritize carbon markets, incorporating community-focused provisions that reinvest 40% of earnings from land-based carbon projects into local development, especially within forestry and blue economy sectors.

Addressing Knowledge and Coordination Gaps in Carbon Markets

Many African countries lack awareness of the workings and benefits of carbon markets, underscoring the need for extensive education and capacity-building to enable broader participation and effective use of carbon finance.

Coordination Challenges

Climate finance responsibilities are often fragmented across ministries, complicating the integration process. E.g., Cote d'Ivoire treats climate action as an inter-ministerial issue involving sectors such as agriculture and the environment. Although challenging, this approach allows for more cohesive climate finance strategies and efficient carbon market integration.

Inclusive Consultations and Community Empowerment

Women and local communities, particularly those in the agriculture and blue economy sectors, are often excluded from carbon market benefits. Broader inclusivity is critical to ensuring these groups have a voice in policy decisions and can participate in and benefit from carbon market initiatives.

Building Capacity for Sustainable Carbon Market Development

To bridge knowledge and skill gaps, panelists advocated for support from the African Union and the ACBF. Enhanced capacity-building efforts will empower African nations to manage and scale carbon finance strategies effectively, providing ownership of climate finance frameworks and outcomes. As Africa advances its carbon market initiatives, aligning these efforts with national goals is crucial to ensure the delivery of broad-based, sustainable benefits, positioning Africa to leverage carbon markets for resilient and sustainable economic growth.

Stakeholders' Panel Session 3

Carbon Markets Participation: Role of Youth, Women and CSOs in Africa

Moderator:

Dr. Nqobizitha Dube, Manager of the Climate Finance and Sustainability Division at the Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ).

Panelists:

- Ms. Eva Ndamono Shitaatala, Chapter Country Head for Namibia, African Women in Business (African-WIB)
- Ms. Susan Wavinya Wairimu, Founder and CEO of Inspire Teenagers Foundation, Kenya

This session highlighted the urgent need to empower women, youth, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to participate in carbon markets, acknowledging the barriers these groups face despite the critical role of carbon markets in climate action and sustainable development.

Carbon markets, which enable the trading of carbon credits, offer financial incentives for emission reductions and encourage sustainable practices by placing a value on carbon emissions. However, complex terminology and exclusive operations often restrict access for youth and women. Simplified communication and targeted capacity-building initiatives are essential to foster inclusive participation, ensuring broader engagement for impactful climate solutions.

In many African countries, particularly rural areas, women and youth often need more information and resources to participate effectively in carbon markets. In Kenya, for example, the technical jargon surrounding carbon credits can alienate grassroots communities, reinforcing the perception that carbon markets are reserved for experts. Thus, it is essential to make carbon market information accessible and relevant to underrepresented groups, focusing on reaching small enterprises, farmers, and local community leaders who can benefit from participating in these markets.

Key Challenges

Complex Terminology and Systems

Carbon markets benefit more giant corporations financially. However, they must be made available to smaller players and grassroots communities due to overly technical language and unclear trading processes.

Limited Representation in Decision-Making

Profits and policy negotiations within carbon markets frequently happen in closed environments, excluding the voices of youth, women, and local communities whose insights could drive impactful climate action.

Resource Constraints for Small Enterprises

Small businesses and rural youth face challenges in negotiation and need more resources to engage with more prominent carbon market stakeholders effectively.

Knowledge and Skills Gaps

Due to the limited exposure to carbon market dynamics, women and youth often need to prepare more to participate actively in these markets.

CSOs play a critical role in bridging knowledge gaps, acting as facilitators of information and advocates for inclusive participation. They can champion training programs, workshops, and informational sessions to meet the needs of women, youth, and small enterprises.

Recommendations

Simplify Communication

Use clear, relatable language and tools that resonate with community members. Tailored communication strategies can demystify carbon market concepts, making them accessible to broader audiences, including rural youth and women.

Facilitate Capacity-Building Initiatives

Workshops and educational programs should be established to train women and youth in the skills necessary to navigate carbon markets. This includes negotiation skills, market comprehension, and the technicalities of carbon credit trading.

Encourage CSO-Led Engagement

CSOs should lead dialogues on carbon markets, empowering women and youth through community-driven discussions and knowledge-sharing platforms.

Create Enabling Policies

Governments and regulatory bodies should establish policy frameworks that reduce entry barriers for women, youth, and small enterprises in carbon markets. By actively encouraging their participation, the benefits of carbon trading can be democratized, making climate finance more inclusive and accessible.

Develop Support Mechanisms for Small Enterprises

By providing resources and financial incentives to small businesses and community-led projects, stakeholders can ensure a fairer distribution of carbon market benefits, fostering long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

Empowering women and youth in carbon markets is a matter of equity and a necessary step towards effective climate action. By fostering understanding, building skills, and promoting engagement through CSOs, carbon markets can fully realize their potential as tools for sustainable development.

OFFICIAL CLOSING CEREMONY

Reading of 2024 Africa Think Tank Summit Communique: Ms Cynthia CURTIS, PPRC National Coordinator

Access the Commnique here: bit.ly/48WQqpH

Closing Statements

Prof. Alban Alphonse E. Ahoure ; Executive Director, Cellule d'analyse de politique économique du Centre ivoirien de recherche économique et sociale (CAPEC), Côte d'Ivoire

In his closing remarks, Prof. Alban Alphonse E. Ahoure expressed gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions and insights. He acknowledged the diverse perspectives shared during the discussions, which enriched the dialogue and highlighted the collective effort needed to tackle Africa's challenges. The Professor reiterated the need for ongoing collaboration among African nations, think tanks, and international partners. In conclusion, Prof. Ahoure reaffirmed CAPEC's commitment to advancing economic policy analysis and research in Côte d'Ivoire and across Africa. He invited all stakeholders to remain engaged in the ongoing discussions and to continue fostering a culture of collaboration and inclusivity.

Prof. Fatima Arib; Professor and expert, Sustainable Development Economics, Cadi Ayyad University, Morocco

In her closing remarks, Prof. Arib reflected on the rich discussions that took place, emphasizing the importance of sustainable development as a central theme. She acknowledged the diverse perspectives shared by participants and the collective knowledge that can drive impactful change across Africa. She stressed the urgency of adopting sustainable practices in economic planning and development. Prof. Arib called for immediate action to integrate sustainability into all sectors, including energy, agriculture, and urban development, to ensure a resilient future for the continent. Prof. Arib underscored the need for continued collaboration among academia, government, and the private sector. In her concluding thoughts, Prof. Arib articulated a vision for a sustainable future in Africa, where economic growth is harmonized with environmental stewardship and social equity.

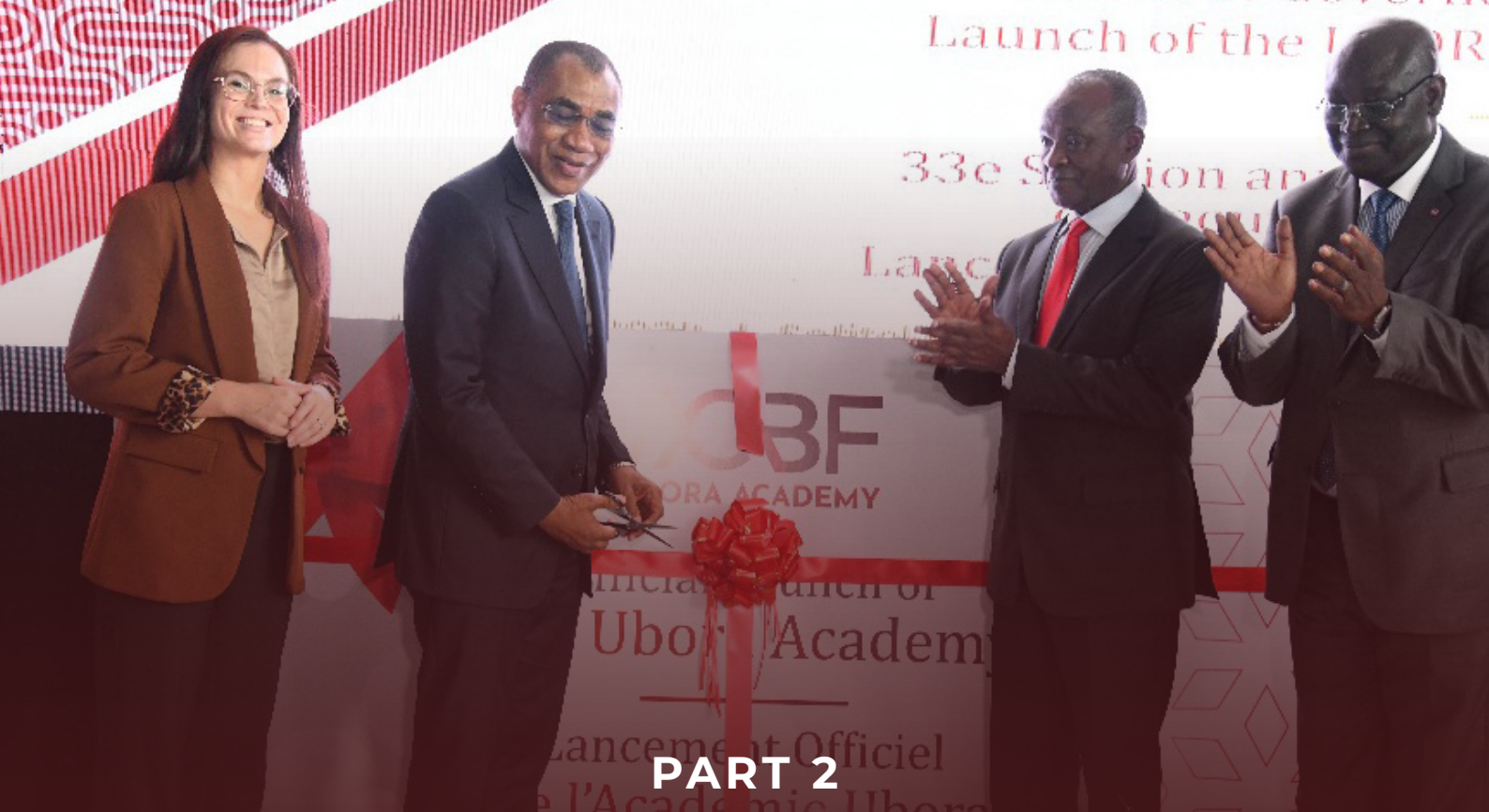
Mr. Mamadou Biteye; Executive Secretary, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)

Mr. Biteye began by expressing sincere gratitude to all participants, speakers, and partners for their invaluable contributions and engagement throughout the event. He acknowledged the diverse backgrounds and expertise represented, which enriched the discussions and highlighted the collective commitment to Africa's development. He underscored the foundational role of capacity building in achieving sustainable development across the continent. Mr. Biteye reiterated that empowering individuals and institutions is crucial for driving effective policy implementation and fostering innovation. He called on all participants to translate the insights gained during the event into actionable strategies. Mr. Biteye stressed that discussions must lead to concrete actions that address the pressing challenges faced by African nations, particularly in areas such as education, health, and economic resilience. Mr. Biteye shared an optimistic vision for Africa's future, emphasizing the potential for growth through harnessing local knowledge, fostering innovation, and embracing sustainable practices. He encouraged stakeholders to remain committed to this vision, working together to create a more prosperous and equitable continent. In conclusion, Mr. Biteye reaffirmed ACBF's commitment to supporting capacity building initiatives across Africa.

Official Closing Remarks

Prof. Lambert N'galadjo BAMBA; Special Advisor, Ministry of Finance and Budget, Lecturer at UFR-SEG, UFHB & Researcher at Centre Ivoirien de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CIRES), Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of Hon. Adama Coulibaly; Minister of Finance and Budget, Côte d'Ivoire

On behalf of Hon. Adama Coulibaly, Minister of Finance and Budget of Côte d'Ivoire, Prof. Lambert N'galadjo BAMBA delivered the official closing remarks, summarizing the event's significance and reiterating the commitment to ongoing collaboration. Prof. Bamba began by extending heartfelt thanks to all participants, speakers, and organizers for their active engagement and contributions. He acknowledged the collaborative spirit that characterized the event and highlighted the importance of such gatherings in fostering dialogue on critical issues facing Africa. Prof. Bamba reiterated the commitment of the Ivorian government to promoting sustainable development. He emphasized that sustainable economic growth, social equity, and environmental stewardship must be at the forefront of policy-making efforts. He highlighted the critical role of capacity building in empowering institutions and individuals to implement effective solutions. Prof. Bamba encouraged continued investment in education and skills development as essential components for driving progress in all sectors. Prof. Bamba concluded by encouraging all participants to remain engaged and committed to the action points discussed. He expressed hope that the momentum generated during the event would lead to tangible outcomes that benefit the people of Africa.



PART 2

Launch of Ubora Academy

A New Era for African Capacity Building

The launch of the Ubora Academy on the sidelines of the ACBF 33rd Annual Board of Governors (BoG) Meeting represents a groundbreaking step toward addressing Africa's pressing needs in governance and leadership. The Academy, a flagship ACBF initiative, is tailored to equip African leaders with the skills to transform public sector management, drive sustainable growth, and meet the continent's development targets. The ongoing gap in governance capacity across Africa challenges effective public service delivery and sustainable development. These capacity deficits consistently undermine well-intentioned policies, hindering developmental progress. Ubora Academy is a strategic solution designed to bridge these skill gaps by focusing on leadership, governance, and contemporary learning approaches that resonate with Africa's unique needs.

Key Launch Highlights

1. Vision for Transformative Leadership

In his keynote address, Hon. N'Guessan Koffi, the Minister of Technical Education of the Cote d'Ivoire, emphasized the Academy's potential to empower African nations with critical skills for governance and resilience. He advocated for including crisis management modules within the Academy's curriculum to prepare leaders to address climate-related challenges, sustainability, and resilience—a focus aligned with Africa's broader development needs.

2. Alignment with Strategic Plans and Continental Goals

The Ubora Academy directly supports ACBF's 2023-2027 strategic plan, prioritizing robust capacity-building initiatives in climate resilience, economic governance, agribusiness, and trade promotion. Ubora's objectives align with Africa's overarching development agendas, including the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, reinforcing its role as a transformative instrument for regional growth.

3. Leadership Excellence in Africa's Public Sector (LEAPS)

Through its flagship program, LEAPS, the Academy is poised to redefine public sector leadership in Africa. LEAPS is a cornerstone initiative, equipping leaders to advance public finance management reforms and implement impactful strategies that serve Africans

4. Governance as a Pillar of Sustainable Development

Effective leadership and management are critical to sustainable development. H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, underscored the link between good governance and economic growth. The Ubora Academy is designed to reinforce this link by fostering capable leaders committed to transparency, accountability, and impactful decision-making. Watch the video (please insert a public link, not an ACBF SharePoint link).

5. International Support and Collaborative Partnerships

Ubora has received strong backing from international partners, highlighting the global significance of strengthening Africa's leadership capacity. Support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management demonstrates the shared commitment to advancing Africa's governance capacity through collaborative efforts. These partnerships will be instrumental in scaling the Academy's impact across the continent. The launch of the Ubora Academy marks a transformative moment in ACBF's mission to drive sustainable development through enhanced leadership and governance. This initiative represents an essential milestone in building a cadre of leaders equipped to meet Africa's most pressing challenges. ACBF, with the support of development partners, is laying a solid foundation for a future led by African leaders who are prepared to deliver prosperity, resilience, and stability to their communities.

Recommendations

Expand Curricular Offerings
Integrate modules on crisis management, climate resilience, and sustainable development to equip leaders with skills for adaptive governance.

Enhance Public-Private Partnerships
Engage the private sector in capacity-building initiatives to promote a comprehensive approach to development.

Strengthen Regional Collaboration
Foster partnerships across African countries to share best practices and establish a collective approach to governance challenges.

Increase Partner Engagement
Secure additional support from global institutions to ensure the Academy's programs are accessible to a broad range of African leaders.

Through the Ubora Academy, ACBF is poised to catalyze a new era of effective governance and leadership in Africa, positioning the continent for sustainable and inclusive growth.

PART 3

ACBF 33rd Annual Board of Governors Meeting

11 October 2024

Driving Africa's Sustainable Future: Key Outcomes and Strategic Actions

The 33rd Annual Meeting of the ACBF Board of Governors (BoG) gathered key stakeholders to assess the Foundation's recent achievements and discuss future strategies for advancing Africa's sustainable development. With a focus on enhanced collaboration, the meeting underscored ACBF's increasing role in driving continental resilience and capacity building, especially amidst the challenges posed by climate change. The theme, *"Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa,"* highlighted ACBF's key role in mobilizing resources and building capacity to meet the continent's evolving needs.

Key Discussions

1. ACBF's Expanding Role in Resource Mobilization

As the Foundation enters a transformative phase, its mandate is expanding to include coordinating resource mobilization efforts that address Africa's rapid development needs. ACBF's Executive Board Chair, H.E. Erastus Mwencha, emphasized the importance of continental ownership and securing member state support to enable capacity-building initiatives that effectively tackle emerging challenges across Africa.

2. Addressing Illicit Financial Flows and Enhancing Domestic Revenue

Domestic resource mobilization was strongly emphasized as a cornerstone of Africa's sustainable development. H.E. Albert M. Muchanga, African Union Commissioner for Economic Development, called for addressing illicit financial flows and strengthening tax administration as critical measures for retaining and mobilizing resources locally. This aligns with ACBF's commitment to fostering financial governance and economic independence for African nations. Watch the video (please insert the public link, not the ACBF SharePoint link).

3. Strategic Partnerships for Capacity Development:

Several global partners reaffirmed their commitment to ACBF's mission. Notable pledges included:

World Bank: Regional Vice President Victoria Kwakwa confirmed continued collaboration through knowledge-sharing and capacity-building programs to strengthen governance and economic resilience.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD): Gillian Dorner, Deputy Director in the Public Governance Directorate, underscored Africa's potential to lead the global green transition, highlighting the continent's rich resources and critical role in global sustainability.

African Development Bank (AfDB): Reinforcing its commitment, AfDB noted ACBF's integral role in building member countries' capacities in debt management, climate finance, and evidence-based policy, which are essential for long-term economic governance.

The Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA): Dr. Sidi Ould-Tah, President of BADEA, shared how collaborative efforts with ACBF have supported women-led agribusinesses and bolstered the global competitiveness of African exports.

HAUS Finnish Institute of Public Management: Focusing on digitalization, governance, and sustainability, HAUS confirmed its dedication to building capacity in these strategic areas to improve service delivery and quality of life for Africans.

4. Advancing Good Governance and Accountability

The session highlighted ACBF's emphasis on governance as a foundation for Africa's progress. Effective management of climate financing, economic policy, and domestic resource mobilization were vital in ensuring transparent, accountable development. Enhanced governance practices are essential to attract sustainable investment and facilitate long-term economic growth on the continent.

5. Prioritizing Innovation in Capacity Building

To address Africa's multifaceted challenges, ACBF focuses on innovative solutions to align with the continent's unique development needs. Through adopting evidence-based approaches to climate finance and advancing digital governance, ACBF will create sustainable systems that support efficient service delivery and resilience against global economic fluctuations.

Recommendations

Enhance Resource Mobilization

Strengthen partnerships and streamline processes to address Africa's funding gaps in climate resilience and development.

Leverage Digital Transformation

Support projects that use digital governance and service delivery tools to improve African development outcomes.

Build Local Governance Capacity

To ensure economic sovereignty and expand public finance management, taxation, and illicit flow prevention training.

Empower Regional Collaboration

Facilitate alliances between African countries to enhance bargaining power in global negotiations and resource allocation.

Conclusion

ACBF's 33rd BoG Meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from partners and stakeholders to collaborate in driving Africa's sustainable development. The Foundation's role in mobilizing resources, strengthening capacity, and fostering innovation will position it as a key player in building Africa's resilience and self-reliance. Through deeper regional collaboration, enhanced governance, and strategic partnerships, ACBF aims to lead Africa into a future where sustainable development is achievable and actively realized across the continent.

About ACBF

ACBF works towards achieving Agenda 2063 and realizing the vision of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). By building capacity, the Foundation equips African institutions and individuals with the skills and knowledge needed to drive sustainable development across the continent in the following sectors: Agribusiness and Food Sovereignty, Climate Change, and Energy Trade as an Engine of economic development, and economic and Social Governance.

Through targeted capacity-building initiatives, ACBF empowers member states, equips parliamentarians, and cultivates a skilled workforce. These efforts aim to strengthen national strategies, develop impactful policies, and prepare Africa for global economic competition.

ACBF is actively addressing key challenges facing Africa to create job opportunities for youth, build resilience against threats and natural disasters, equip Africans with digital skills, foster gender equity and empowerment, and bridge the service delivery gap through decentralization.

For more information, visit www.acbf-pact.org or contact us at Comms@acbf-pact.org.