



Revue de presse

Réseau des journalistes africains spécialisés sur le développement durable et le changement climatique

Janvier 2022

1





Références : ODD, OMS, FAO, PNUE, COP 26, Accord de Paris, FEM, UNESCO, Convention de Ramsar, Banque africaine de développement, Banque mondiale, FMI, UNITAR, UNFCCC, PNUD, UICN, OCDE, COP 15, COP 16, COP 21, WWF, UNCCD, Interpol, CITES.

Table des matières

Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Centre for Science and Environment to conduct online guidance training on clean air action planning for African cities ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.....	5
Ebrima N Sanneh (Gambia), FAO concludes tour on farmer field schools across the country ; GRTS, january 2022.....	8
Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Documentary to showcase African voices in combating the challenges of plastic pollution ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.	9
Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Government of Zimbabwe initiates survey to gauge perceptions on adoption of electric vehicles ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.....	10
Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; le rôle de l'abeille dans notre alimentation ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.	11
Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; Le covid-19 a modifié nos habitudes ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.....	12
Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; La forêt sacrée d'Avocanzoun ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.	12
Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Nigeria Steps Up Actions On Climate Financing ; Metro Daily NG, January 3, 2022.	13
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Zimbabwe : le FEM alloue 71 millions de dollars pour un programme de reboisement ; Afrik 21, 4 janvier 2022.	16
Albert Oppong-Ansah (Ghana) ; Weather changes on cocoa production – Farmers feeling the impact ; Ghana News Agency, 4 January 2022.....	18
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique centrale : la Comifac s'engage à stopper la déforestation d'ici à 2030 ; Afrik 21, 5 janvier 2022.	22
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Ghana : vers l'inscription de 17 sites au réseau de réserves de biosphère de l'Unesco ; Afrik 21, 7 janvier 2022.....	24
Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Focus On Plastics Recycling And Its Impact On Environment ; Channels TV, Earthfile, January 8, 2022.....	25
Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Climate Change : AFDB Seeks Establishment Of Carbon Sink Fund ; African Examiner, January 10th, 2022.....	26
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Madagascar : le sud-coréen Samsung va planter 2 millions d'arbres en 3 mois ; Afrik 21, 12 janvier 2022.	30





Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Focus On E-Waste Recycling In Dubai, Other Countries ; Channels TV, Earthfile, Jan 18, 2022.	31
David Njagi (Kenya) ; Ghana's farmers arm against freak weather with crop insurance ; Thomson Reuters Foundation, Tuesday, 18 January 2022.	32
Jenifer Gilla (Tanzania) ; Women rice farmers in Pemba threatened by rising sea lever ; IPP Media, 19 January 2022.	37
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Sénégal : sécurité renforcée pour les parcs nationaux du Niokolo-Koba et du Djoudj ; Afrik 21, 20 janvier 2022.	42
Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo Tasks African Insurance Coys On Climate Change ; African Examiner, January 20th, 2022.	44
Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Climate Change: How To Curb Methane And CO2 Emissions ; Channels TV, Earth File, Jan 20, 2022.	46
Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Walk The Talk On Climate Change Obligations, Nigeria Urges International Community ; Metro Daily NG, January 23, 2022.	47
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Rwanda : 3 anciens chefs d'État parrainent le Congrès des aires protégées d'Afrique ; Afrik 21, 25 janvier 2022.	50
Hadeer Al-Hadary (Egypte) ; Les "scorpions d'Assouan" attirent l'attention sur les risques sanitaires liés au changement climatique ; le 26 janvier 2022.	52
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; MENA: les 4 points clés de la nouvelle stratégie de la Banque mondiale pour le climat ; Afrik 21, 26 janvier 2022.	56
Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; A Look At Extreme Weather Conditions In Mali, Gabon ; Channels TV, Earth File, January 27, 2022.	57
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Côte d'ivoire : Abidjan abrite la 15e COP sur la désertification du 9 au 20 mai 2022 ; Afrik 21, 28 janvier 2022.	58
Rabah Karali (Algérie) ; Dégradation des sites touristiques : Halte aux touristes démolisseurs ! DZ Charikati, janvier 27, 2022.	60
Sebastian Nyirenda (Malawi) ; Stripped off their barks, trees are dying in Lunjika forest; The Times, 29th January 2022.	62
Jenifer Gilla (Tanzania) ; Water storage technology brings womend back to agriculture in Zanzibar ; IPP Media, 30 January 2022.	66
Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique : Interpol saisit plus de quatre tonnes d'ivoire en transit vers l'Asie ; Afrik 21, 31 janvier 2022.	72





**Ernest Agbota (Bénin) ; Justice socio-énergétique et climatique en Afrique !
ORTB, janvier 2022.**

Pour accéder à l'émission : <https://soundcloud.com/user-60926866/justice-socio-energetique-et-climatique-en-afriquepad1mp3>

Cette production est une invite à la justice socio-énergétique et climatique de la part des dirigeants politiques et de la société civile en Afrique. Elle désigne un plaidoyer pour des actions politiques, éthiques, moraux faisant appel à la justice, et qui se rapportent à la question de l'égalité sociale face aux énergies renouvelables et au dérèglement climatique en Afrique sub-saharienne. Cette partie du monde regorge de nombreuses potentialités pour déclencher une transition énergétique juste, durable, abordable, non polluante et profitable à tous face à la crise climatique. Mais ce n'est pas le cas. Comment peut-on comprendre cette situation très liée au Développement Durable de l'Afrique sub-saharienne ?

4





Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Centre for Science and Environment to conduct online guidance training on clean air action planning for African cities ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.

To access the article : <https://panafricanvisions.com/2022/01/centre-for-science-and-environment-to-conduct-online-guidance-training-on-clean-air-action-planning-for-african-cities/>

CSE **AAETI**

ONLINE TRAINING

**GUIDANCE
ON CLEAN
AIR ACTION
PLANNING IN
AFRICAN CITIES**

January 31 to February 6, 2022

5

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) will on January 31 to February 6, 2022 conduct an online guidance training programme on clean air action planning for African cities.

According to Priyanka Chandola, Programme Manager, Clean Air and Sustainable Mobility Programme for Centre for Science and Environment in New Delhi in India air pollution is the fourth leading risk factor for premature deaths globally.

Association Africa 21, C/o Maison Kultura, Rue de Montbrillant 52, 1202 Genève- Suisse
<http://www.africa21.org> / info@africa21.org

Statut consultatif spécial auprès de l'ECOSOC, accréditée à l'OMC, auprès du PNUE, Observateur à la CNUCED
 Partenaire de l'université de Genève et de la European Business School in Geneva



It is reported that particulate pollution is a serious concern as over 90% of the world's population live in areas exceeding the PM2.5 WHO guideline.

It is added Africa is also in the grip of particulate pollution as it reports the highest annual average PM2.5 exposure.

'With limited air quality monitoring and management higher daily exceedance poses a challenge in African cities,' Chandola said.

It is added that this has made it necessary for the national and city governments in the countries of Africa to prepare and implement a clean air action plan for time bound improvement in air quality even as their economy is growing.

CSE adds that rapid urbanisation, motorisation and sprawls are making African cities victims of killer pollution and congestion that threaten to destroy quality of life.

It is added that clean air action planning and implementation is imperative for cities.

CSE recommends the need to improve air quality monitoring and data analytics to estimate air quality trends, assess health risk, identify key pollution sources and implement pollution source-wise strategies to meet the clean air target.

It is said that a range of strategies will have to be designed and developed including air quality monitoring and management, clean vehicle technology and fuels roadmap, reduction of importation of used vehicles, in-use vehicles emissions reduction, protecting sustainable travel modes such as non-motorised transport (NMT) through walking, cycling and informal and formal bus transport and vehicle restraint measures such as parking policy to reduce travel demand and address industrial pollution.

CSE, a New Delhi, India based public interest research and advocacy organisation has been researching and building capacity for air quality management and clean air action plans will be offering online self-paced training to provide guidance on clean air action planning and build knowledge and regulatory capacity of officials from concerned departments and agencies in the African countries.

It is reported that the training represents an initiative to promote good regulatory practices, facilitate exchange of ideas, build knowledge and strengthen capacity in countries of the Africa region to address the emerging challenge of air quality monitoring and management.

Topics to be covered include understanding urban air quality and public health challenges, strategies to strengthen air quality monitoring and adoption of new generation approaches including low cost sensor based monitoring and remote sensing based air quality assessment,





understanding pollution source inventory and source apportionment, preparation of pollution source-wise clean air action planning, designing of specific strategies related to clean vehicle technology and fuel quality roadmap including vehicle import policy and towards zero emission vehicles, planning for sustainable transportation systems including NMT, informal and formal bus transport and vehicle restraint measures including parking policy, mitigation strategies for industrial pollution such as clean technology and clean fuel strategies for big and small scale industry, waste management strategies for controlling emissions from waste burning, strategies for dust control with special focus on construction and demolition.

Also according to CSE, as the Global South battles the impacts of air pollution, it is highlighted that there is considerable interest in understanding how countries in Africa are preparing to take on the challenge, as well as what they can learn from each other and from other nations in the Global South.

CSE has also previously organised an online network conversation to understand what Africa is doing to tackle the challenge of toxic air pollution. This was a part of CSE's initiative towards carrying forward multi-stakeholder discussions on finding solutions to air pollution that are of common interest to the nations of Africa.

CSE has also set up a Pan-Africa Network on Clean Air Solutions that brings together key regulators from different countries of Africa to foster knowledge-sharing, cross-learning and South-South experience-sharing on emerging good practices in the Africa region.

The conversation helped participants to understand the challenges the region is facing, especially the implications of the pandemic and economic slowdown for air quality improvement, as well as the progress on ongoing initiatives and the ones undertaken in the post-pandemic times to bring in change as part of the new normal agenda.

It is reported that already, many parts of Africa are on their way to adopting new policies and strategies for air quality management, emission standards roadmap, fuel quality improvement, restraining old vehicle import, improving public transport, walking and cycling, car-free zones and pedestrianisation.

The conversation focused on strategies related to clean vehicle technology and fuel quality roadmap, vehicle import policy to reduce second-hand vehicle imports, mobility transformation and electric mobility.

This experience-sharing interaction sought to inform on progress and action to be taken further.





Ebrima N Sanneh (Gambia), FAO concludes tour on farmer field schools across the country ; GRTS, January 2022.

To watch the video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBBraF5yzzk>

The Regional Agriculture Director for Lower River Region has said that the Farmer Field School initiative by the European Union sponsored project through the Food and Agricultural Organisation FAO has brought significant achievements for farmers in food and nutrition security, amidst climate change effects. Demba Sanyang was speaking at Jenoi Agricultural Center on the final leg of the countrywide tour by the officials of the Ministries of Agriculture, Climate change and Environment and the FAO on its “**Agriculture for Economic Growth**” project sites across the country. He said with the intervention of Farmer Field Schools, has expanded the work of agricultural extension through collaboration with the farmer field school facilitators. Mr. Sanyang highlighted some challenges that need urgent redress, the issue of data collection on progress made and cool storage facility for perishable farm produce, he appealed to relevant stakeholders for support. The Coordinator, Farmer Field Schools Lamin Marong said the project has increased farmers knowledge in both horticulture and field crops, through climate smart agriculture, and unite farmers in their endeavor to achieve food and nutrition security. He said the farmer field schools also introduced village savings and loan associations. The project has also concluded screening for vulnerable farmers in four regions of the Gambia to support them with inputs for the coming cropping season.

8





Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Documentary to showcase African voices in combating the challenges of plastic pollution ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.

To access the article : <https://panafricanvisions.com/2022/01/documentary-to-showcase-african-voices-in-combating-the-challenges-of-plastic-pollution/>



9

An opportunity for Africans has been initiated by GRID-Arendal which is working on a crowd-sourced documentary in collaboration with the Sustainable Seas Trust, a non-profit organization based in South Africa dedicated to keeping plastic out of the oceans.

The initiative called 100 African Voices documentary aspires to unite over 100 different cellphone videos of people from the African continental and island states in an effort to shed light on the challenges of plastic pollution and initiatives to fight it.

It is reported that the film will drive home the idea that now is the time to invest in waste management solutions in Africa. It is added that there is already a lot of innovation and potential on the continent, but more work is needed, as cities grow, creating more and more waste.



The organizers report that they seeking contacts in Africa to add value to the project and participation in the ambitious crowd-sourced documentary by sending of cellphone videos.

‘Although we will have a public call for submissions for anyone who is concerned about this problem to have their voice heard, we do want to hear from Africans who are actively involved in the issue, whether that’s from the perspective of educators who are teaching the next generation about these issues, researchers who are quantifying the problem, government officials who are working on policy, activists who are holding government officials accountable or entrepreneurs who are finding private sector solutions,’ the organizers said.

The promotional video can be watched at: <http://www.100africanvoices.com/>



10

Wallace Mawire (Zimbabwe) ; Government of Zimbabwe initiates survey to gauge perceptions on adoption of electric vehicles ; Pan African Visions, January 2022.

To access the article : <https://panafricanvisions.com/2022/01/government-of-zimbabwe-initiates-survey-to-gauge-perceptions-on-adoption-of-electric-vehicles/>



HARARE,ZIMBABWE-The government of Zimbabwe has initiated a survey to understand the perceptions and willingness of different users towards electric vehicles adoption as the country moves with the global agenda to minimize climate change.



Currently the government is developing an e-mobility policy framework and roadmap with the aim to promote deployment and adoption of electric vehicles in the country.

It is also reported that the survey is part of work currently being done by the Ministry of Environment, Climate, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, Ministry of Energy and Power Development, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-DTU and Mobility For Africa Trust in developing an e-mobility roadmap for Zimbabwe.

Some of the issues which are being targeted by the survey include occupation of consumers, average income, if one owns an electric vehicle, electric vehicle supply chain including mobility patterns.

It is also reported that an electric vehicle is a vehicle that is propelled by one or more electric motors using energy stored in rechargeable batteries. Compared to internal combustion engines, vehicles like petrol and diesel vehicles, electric vehicles make no noise, have no exhaust emissions and lower emission levels.

11



Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; le rôle de l'abeille dans notre alimentation ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.

Pour écouter l'émission : <https://soundcloud.com/association-africa-21/le-role-de-labeille-dans-notre-alimentation-ortb-janvier-2022-hermann-k-kpokame>





Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; Le covid-19 a modifié nos habitudes ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.

Pour écouter l'émission : <https://soundcloud.com/association-africa-21/le-covid-19-a-modifie-nos-habitudes-de-vie-ortb-janvier-2022>



Hermann K. Kpokame (Bénin) ; La forêt sacrée d'Avocanzoun ; ORTB, émission Tapis vert, janvier 2022.

Pour écouter l'émission : <https://soundcloud.com/association-africa-21/foret-sacree-davocanzoun-ortb-janvier-2022>

12

Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Nigeria Steps Up Actions On Climate Financing ; Metro Daily NG, January 3, 2022.

To access the article : <https://metrodailyng.com/2022/01/03/nigeria-steps-up-actions-on-climate-financing/>



13

In a bid to further demonstrate its commitment to the fight against climate change, the Federal Government of Nigeria has sealed a partnership deal with the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) to develop a robust climate financing framework for the country.

The framework is aimed at helping issuers navigate climate disclosure and ultimately improve the climate data available to the investment and finance community. It is also a step taken immediately after COP26, in line with Nigeria's commitment towards the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Moreover, partnership with NGX will provide investors with important new tools to enable capital reallocation. The NGX is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nigerian Exchange Group (NGX Group), a leading listing and trading venue in Africa with its history dating back to 1960. It is an open, professional, and vibrant exchange, connecting Nigeria, Africa, and the world.

Nigeria's Minister of State for Environment, Chief Sharon Ikeazor disclosed this during the Digital Closing Gong Ceremony hosted by NGX to mark the end of the 2021 stock trading year last week in the city of Lagos, South West Nigeria.

The minister said investors are increasingly working together in response to climate change, adding that the Federal Government will continue to engage NGX on climate disclosure and data.





“I hope there would be a continuous collaboration between Nigerian Exchange Limited and the Federal Ministry of Environment to build a framework that will help issuers navigate climate disclosure, associated engagement with their shareholders, and ultimately improve the climate data available to the investment and finance community”, she said.

Ikeazor noted that NGX has played an exemplary role in Nigeria’s commitment to mitigating the effects of climate change. She added that as part of measures to comply with the National Determined Contributions (NDC) in emissions reduction to climate change in Nigeria, the Federal Government launched the Nigeria Deep Decarbonization Project.

Climate change, according to her, is a serious and long-term threat to which Nigeria has continued to show commitment to the goals of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with the revision of the NDC pre-COP 26 and also the recent accent of the Climate Change by Mr. President which provides, amongst other things, the mainstreaming of climate changes in the country and the establishment of Council on Climate Change to be chaired by the President.

Notably, members of the Council include ministers of relevant ministries, chairman of the Governors’ Forum, President of Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), National Security Adviser, representatives of the youths, Persons Living with Disabilities, women, climate-related Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), the private sector, etc.

14

A member of the House of Representatives who sponsored of the Climate Change Act, Hon. Sam Onuigbo observed that the all-encompassing nature of the composition of the Council is to ensure that the voices of all is heard, adding that the high-level nature of the council was intentional.

Hon. Onuigbo also explained that the Act further sets up the Climate Change Fund to be administered by the Council and that the fund will be channeled towards adaptation efforts, support for innovations that will lead to decarbonization, investments into green economy, support for nature-based solutions and many more.

He said the Act equally sets a net zero emissions target for the country while setting up five-yearly carbon budgets and annual carbon targets, stressing that there are also provisions for proper oversight on Nigeria’s Climate Change efforts by the National Assembly and a communication process that is time-bound, and transparent.

“The first part of a very important journey has been done. Proper implementation demands full attention and action by all of us. Together, and only together, can we realize our objectives and set our country on the path of an important transition to green and sustainable economy. Make no mistakes about it, the world is transiting and we must join or wake up in a few decades an impoverished and uninhabitable country with stranded assets”, he stressed.





The lawmaker who represents Ikwuano/Umuahia North/Umuahia South Federal Constituency of Abia State, said by the climate change enactment, Nigeria has joined frontline nations of the world who have taken deliberate and sure steps towards retrieving the planet from the country's reckless past and saving it for generations yet unborn.

He also maintained that the historic development is already creating positive vibes for Nigeria in the international community and is surely a colourful contribution to the global stature of Africa's most populous country and host to the world's largest contribution of black people.

Chief Executive Officer of NGX, Temi Popoola said his organization remains committed to promoting sustainable finance because it recognises that urgent action is required to combat climate change and its impact as incorporated in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Goal 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

"We are committed to fostering the growth of sustainable financial products which integrate the financial risks and opportunities associated with climate change and other environmental challenges. NGX has shown strong commitment to sustainable finance over the years.

"In 2016, NGX collaborated with the Ministry of Environment and the Debt Management office to deepen the Green Bond market. This effort led to the issuance of the maiden N10.69 billion (\$25.8 million) 13.48 per cent 5-year green bond in 2017 to fund projects to develop renewable energy. The second tranche, N15 billion (\$36.1 million) 14.5 per cent 7-year Green Bond was issued in June 2019 and was over-subscribed.

"In 2017, NGX played host to a conference on Sovereign Green Bonds which served as a strategic engagement between the Federal Government and financial market players on the prospects of investing in sustainable development", he further disclosed.



Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (cameroun) ; Zimbabwe : le FEM alloue 71 millions de dollars pour un programme de reboisement ; Afrik 21, 4 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/zimbabwe-le-fem-alloue-71-millions-de-dollars-pour-un-programme-de-reboisement/>



©Reimar/Shutterstock

Le Fonds pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) débloque un peu plus de 71 millions de dollars en faveur du Zimbabwe. Ce financement issu de la 7e reconstitution du FEM (FEM-7), est destiné aux programmes de restauration des terres et de reboisement du Zimbabwe, un pays d'Afrique australe connu pour ses paysages spectaculaires et sa faune diversifiée.

Le Fond pour l'environnement mondial (FEM) apporte son soutien aux efforts de reboisement et de remise en état des terres menés par le Zimbabwe. Ce pays d'Afrique australe connu pour ses paysages spectaculaires et sa faune diversifiée, vient de bénéficier d'une enveloppe de 71,125 millions de dollars, destinée aux programmes de remise en état des terres et de reboisement. « Ce financement s'attaquera également aux moyens de subsistance, au changement climatique, à la conservation de la biodiversité et à la sécurité environnementale ». explique Mongaliso Ndlovu, le ministre zimbabwéen de l'Environnement, du Climat, du Tourisme et de l'Hôtellerie.

Les projets ciblés par ce financement du FEM sont mis en œuvre dans les provinces du Manicaland (à l'est du pays), Masvingo (située à 252 km au sud d'Harare) et Midlands (au centre du pays).





La restauration de 2 150 hectares de terres

Ce financement du FEM intervient dans le cadre de son programme baptisé Global Environmental Facility 7th Cycle, Dry Lands Sustainable Landscapes Impact Program (GEF7 DSL IP). Lancé dans le cadre du septième cycle de reconstitution du FEM-7 (2018-2022), ce programme vise à éviter, réduire et inverser la désertification, la déforestation et la dégradation des écosystèmes des terres arides, grâce à la gestion durable des paysages en Angola, au Botswana, au Burkina Faso, au Kazakhstan, au Kenya, au Malawi, en Mongolie, au Mozambique, en Namibie, en Tanzanie et au Zimbabwe.

Ces pays ont été choisis pour leur capacité à générer des avantages environnementaux grâce aux investissements qui favorisent un changement transformationnel.

Dans le cas du Zimbabwe, les avantages environnementaux mondiaux attendus à travers le nouveau financement du FEM sont de 2 150 hectares de terres à restaurer. Par ailleurs, 172 540 hectares de terres seront mis sous pratiques améliorées à travers une utilisation intégrée des terres, 1,26 million de tonnes d'émissions de gaz à effet de serre seront évitées et 15 000 personnes (au moins 52% de femmes) bénéficieront directement des programmes financés.



Albert Oppong-Ansah (Ghana) ; Weather changes on cocoa production – Farmers feeling the impact ; Ghana News Agency, 4 January 2022.

To access the article : <https://www.gna.org.gh/1.21316073>

Accra, Jan. 4, GNA - Having observed a rise in temperature and irregular rainfall patterns, Mr Dominic Oduro, a cocoa farmer, is bracing the odds to adapt to the change.



18

In the last five years, he had been nurturing species of shade trees including Terminalia Ivorensis (Emire), Terminalia Superba

(Ofram) and Milicia Excelsa (Odum) on his four-acre farm located at Atobiasi in the Adansi South District of the Ashanti Region.

Dominic describes the weather changes as serious threat to farming, which validate the United Nations Development Programme's Climate Change Country Profile projection for Ghana.

The projections are that the country's mean annual temperature will rise by one to three degrees Celsius by the 2060s and by 1.5 to 5.2 degrees Celsius by the 2090s.



Already, literature from the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that increasing temperature and rainfall variability are key challenges that cocoa farmers are already experiencing.



19

Aside embracing the planting of the traditional shade trees, 45-year-old Dominic has adapted improved agronomic practices to address his major challenge of declining yields while preserving the forest areas, which, hitherto, would have been targeted for farm expansion.

This is where organisations, such as Nestlé, are funding cocoa sustainability initiatives to ease the burden on farmers.

Dominic whose cocoa yield has doubled in five folds as a result of planting the trees and practicing the good agronomic practices is one of many beneficiary farmers.

There are more than 4,000 cocoa farmers in New Edubiase in the Ashanti Region, 17,000 in the Eastern, Central, Western and Ahafo regions benefiting from the initiative as Nestlé is sourcing an estimated 202,890 tonnes of cocoa for its Nestlé Cocoa Plan initiative.

The Nestlé Cocoa Plan seeks to help farmers, of which Dominic is a beneficiary, to improve on their activities by providing training in good agronomic practices and economic empowerment to increase their income.





They work with a host of partners including Agro Ecom, International Cocoa Initiative, and Beyond Beans in Ghana. In an interview with the Ghana News Agency, Mr John Essel, a cocoa farmer, said implementing the improved agronomic practices, which included timely pruning, application of agrochemicals and harvesting methods had enabled him to increase yield by more than ten folds.

He explained that prior to the introduction of shade trees, flowers that bloomed on the cocoa trees either got burnt or fell off due to intense sunshine or heavy wind preventing the formation of cocoa pods.

Sadly, many farmers have lost their cocoa trees to this phenomenon.

“The rain does not come regularly as it used to. The wind and the intensity that characterizes it when it starts also clear the flowers. At first the rains start gradually, and the tempo helps the flowers to mature into pods, which we harvest a few months into the season,” he said.

“Normally, we have two wet seasons, one from March to July and a shorter one from September to November; it does not follow that pattern anymore”.

“I have observed that timely pruning for instance makes the farm clean and ensures adequate ventilation, which helps flowering and pollination. This has also reduced pest and disease infestation in the farm.”

20

Similarly, Madam Agnes Okoh, a farmer at Obonsu in the New Edubiase District of the Ashanti Region, said through the timely advice and training she received, she had stopped burning the cocoa pod husks on the farm.

The pod husks are now left on the farm to decompose and sprinkled around the cocoa trees to serve as organic manure.

Mr Kweku Okyere, a cocoa farmer at Anwona Community at Adansi North in the Ashanti Region who also embraced the cocoa rehabilitation, expressed joy at the current shape of his farm.

“My cocoa trees were then very old and tall. I could not even harvest some of the pods and continuously recorded low yields year on year. The advice to reduce the height of the trees to enable fresh growth was a good one,” he said.

“People heaped insults on me for taking that decision but I remained focused and followed the directions from the technical officers. My farm is looking good like a demonstration farm. Some farmers have visited me to give them guidelines in order to transform their farms too.”

Mr Daniel Nyarko, the Nestlé Cocoa Plan Manager, Ghana, says Nestlé is encouraging farmers to plant more shade trees to protect their crops from heat stress and excessive rainfall.





These trees will also help to improve water management, local biodiversity, soil organic matter and carbon sequestration, while providing an additional income source for farmers.

Nestlé and its partners, through this initiative, have distributed 256,370 shade trees to more than 16,360 farmers. Also 2,568,412 high tech cocoa plantlets were distributed for rehabilitation and replacement purposes.

He says Nestlé will continue to work with suppliers and farmer cooperatives to help them reduce diseases in crops, improve bean quality, rejuvenate farms and improve the environment.

Mr Paul Tweneboah-Kodua, a field officer of Cocoa Merchant and Beyond Beans, told the Ghana News Agency that before the commencement of the intervention most of the farmers did not show interest in the intensification aspect of cocoa farming.

“They mainly focused on expanding their farms in order to harvest more. Parts of our intervention with them helped address the issues of farm sanitation, rehabilitation and integrated pest management among other things.”

Testimonies from farmers indicate that nurturing trees on cocoa plantations and adhering to good agronomic practices improve yields and income, while reducing pest infestation and diseases.

21

With the impact of climate change staring Ghana’s agriculture sector, especially the cocoa industry, which is the backbone of the economy, many more farmers may have to brace themselves by adopting climate smart technology to stay afloat.



Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique centrale : la Comifac s'engage à stopper la déforestation d'ici à 2030 ; Afrik 21, 5 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/afrique-centrale-la-comifac-sengage-a-stopper-la-deforestation-dici-a-2030/>



©Fabian Plock/Shutterstock

C'est l'une des retombées africaines de la 26e conférence des Nations unies sur les changements climatiques tenue du 31 octobre au 12 novembre 2021 à Glasgow en Écosse. Les pays membres de la Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale (Comifac) ont signé la déclaration de Glasgow sur les forêts et l'utilisation des terres. Les signataires de cette déclaration s'engagent à lutter contre le changement climatique, enrayer la destruction de la biodiversité et la faim, et protéger les droits des populations autochtones.

La conservation et la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers prennent une dimension régionale en Afrique centrale. La quasi-totalité des pays de la sous-région, réunis au sein de la Commission des forêts d'Afrique centrale (Comifac), ont signé la déclaration de Glasgow sur les forêts et l'utilisation des terres. C'était le 2 novembre 2021 à Glasgow en Écosse, à l'occasion de la 26e Conférence des Nations unies sur le climat (COP26). Cette déclaration signée par 90 autres pays du monde, s'accompagne d'une longue liste d'engagements de la part d'acteurs des secteurs public et privé pour lutter contre le changement climatique, enrayer la destruction de la biodiversité et la faim, et protéger les droits des populations autochtones.





Le texte note également l'autonomisation des communautés locales, y compris les peuples autochtones, négativement affectés par l'exploitation et la dégradation des forêts. La déclaration vise également à mettre en œuvre et à remanier les politiques et les programmes agricoles afin de réduire la faim et de protéger l'environnement.

Le rôle des institutions financières

La finance est également un élément clé de l'engagement, les dirigeants promettant de faciliter l'alignement des flux financiers sur les objectifs internationaux visant à inverser les pertes et les dégradations, tout en garantissant des politiques permettant d'accélérer la transition vers une économie plus verte.

Selon les Nations unies, la dernière décennie a vu environ 40 fois plus de fonds injectés des pratiques d'utilisation des terres destructrices plutôt qu'à la protection des forêts, à la conservation et à l'agriculture durable. C'est la raison pour laquelle la déclaration de Glasgow sur les forêts et l'utilisation des terres a été signée également par plus de 30 institutions financières couvrant plus de 8700 milliards de dollars d'actifs mondiaux sous gestion. Le but étant d'inverser cette situation, en s'éloignant des portefeuilles qui investissent dans des chaînes d'approvisionnement de produits agricoles de base à haut risque de déforestation et en s'orientant vers une production durable.

Pour le Premier ministre britannique, cette initiative s'inscrit également dans le cadre de la nouvelle promesse mondiale de financement des forêts, qui s'élève à plus de 12 milliards de dollars. « Les plus grands engagements collectifs de fonds publics pour l'action climatique de l'histoire. Mettons un terme à ce grand massacre mondial à la tronçonneuse », a déclaré Boris Johnson.



Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Ghana : vers l'inscription de 17 sites au réseau de réserves de biosphère de l'Unesco ; Afrik 21, 7 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/ghana-vers-linscription-de-17-sites-au-reseau-de-reserves-de-biosphere-de-lunesco/>



©Bartek Zobek/Shutterstock

Le Ghana vient d'identifier 17 réserves forestières, en vue de leur inscription au Réseau mondial de réserves de biosphère de l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (Unesco). Le pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest intégrera désormais les questions de biosphère dans le processus de planification et de budgétisation de son développement.

Le Comité ghanéen de l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (Unesco) sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), a procédé le 21 décembre 2021 à Accra la capitale du Ghana, à la présentation d'un manuel sur le concept de réserve de biosphère. Le document de 47 pages propose des solutions pour la prise en compte de la biosphère dans le processus de planification et de budgétisation du développement du Ghana à tous les niveaux, comme base pour un financement durable de ses activités.

Pour ce faire, la réserve forestière d'Atiwa au sud-ouest du pays, et 16 autres sites ont été identifiés en tant que futures propositions d'inscription au Réseau mondial des réserves de biosphère de l'Unesco. Les sites sélectionnés comprennent également la réserve de Shai Hills, les



parcs nationaux de Kakum, Mole, Digya et Bui et la réserve de ressources de Gbele. La chaîne de Tano-Ofei, les collines d'Apedwa, l'escarpement de Kwahu, la réserve transfrontalière de Kyaboo et le sanctuaire de faune du mont Afadzato et d'Agumatsa font également partie des sites.

Selon l'organisation onusienne, les réserves de biosphère sont des « lieux d'apprentissage du développement durable ». Ce sont des sites qui permettent de tester des approches interdisciplinaires afin de comprendre et de gérer les changements et les interactions entre systèmes sociaux et écologiques, y compris la prévention des conflits et la gestion de la biodiversité. Ce sont des lieux qui apportent des solutions locales à des problèmes mondiaux.

Déjà trois réserves de biosphère reconnues

Pour garantir la pérennité de ces réserves de biosphère, le manuel conceptuel prévoit des activités d'intégration telles que la communication et le partage d'informations sur les réserves, le renforcement des capacités des éco-gardes, l'allocation conséquente de fonds pour les activités liées à la biosphère et un engagement effectif des parties prenantes.

Selon Dennis Aheto, le président du sous-comité du Comité national de l'Unesco sur l'Homme et la biosphère (MAB), sur le réseau de 727 réserves de biosphère dans 131 pays au monde, le Ghana en héberge trois. Il s'agit de la réserve de biosphère de Bia, la plus grande, située dans la région Occidentale, le site Ramsar de Songor dans le Grand Accra et la réserve de biosphère du lac Bosomtwe dans la région d'Ashanti, au centre du Ghana.

25



Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Focus On Plastics Recycling And Its Impact On Environment ; Channels TV, Earthfile, January 8, 2022.

To watch the video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70OQZhGNqe0>





Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Climate Change : AFDB Seeks Establishment Of Carbon Sink Fund ; African Examiner, January 10th, 2022.

To access the article : <https://www.africanexaminer.com/climate-change-afdb-seeks-establishment-of-carbon-sink-fund/>



(AFRICAN EXAMINER) – African Development Bank (AfDB) has harped on the need to establish the proposed long-term carbon sink to offset carbon emissions with a view to ameliorating the impact of climate change.



Carbon Sink Fund involves activities and mechanisms that absorb carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to offset carbon emissions through afforestation, reforestation, forest management, and other activities. The Fund remunerates participant countries in accordance with negotiation contracts for verifiable emission reductions (ERs).

As the effects of global climate on modern society become increasingly severe, the international community has begun to pay greater attention to the economic ecological function of forests, especially their function of absorbing carbon dioxide and directly or indirectly improving the climate and environment.

After the Kyoto Protocol came into effect, forestry carbon sinks were officially added to the transaction types of clean development mechanism projects, which have since been widely regarded as an important way to deal with climate warming.

President of the AfDB, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina made this observation recently at the bank's 2021 Kofi Annan Eminent Speaker Lecture Series.

The Kofi Annan Lecture Series has covered a range of African and global development topics, which include economics, finance, regional integration, human development and the environment, over the years. The lectures have been a forum for eminent persons to share policy insights on development challenges in Africa.

Dr. Adesina said it is pertinent to establish the proposed long-term carbon sink fund to compensate countries like Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for preserving vast forests that sequester carbon dioxide.

Data from the National Climate Council shows that Gabon, a central African nation with pollution of over 2 million, is the second most forested country in the world. With 87 percent of its territory covered in tropical rainforest and an annual deforestation rate lower than 0.1 percent over the last 30 years.

In addition, the forests of Gabon have immense biodiversity, with more plant species than all West Africa's forests combined. The country is also one of the few places left in the world where forest elephants can roam all the way from forest to sea and can be found sauntering along the beach. Moreover, Gabon currently has 13 national parks and its forests are home to about 60 percent of the African forest elephants.

Similarly, the DRC is another frontline country that is superfluously endowed with tropical rain forest, which serves as a carbon sink and important buffer to fight climate change.





Notably, the DRC Government has been working with the World Bank and partners since 2010 to develop the Mai-Ndombe Emission Reductions Programme, which has already established over 13,000 hectares of forest ‘exclosures’ (areas where animals are not allowed to graze). It also has close to 4,000 hectares of acacia plantations, improved the livelihoods of very poor farmers, and reduced slash-and-burn agricultural practices that cause deforestation and carbon emissions.

DRC’s Minister of Finance, Yav Mulang said the forest communities are the real winners, adding that the agreement will allow the DRC to secure long-term public and private finance to provide alternatives to deforestation and reward efforts to mitigate climate change, reduce poverty, and manage natural resources sustainably.

“It is a major step towards implementing the country’s green development vision and contributes to the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals”, he added.

According to experts, the Gabonese and Congolese forests help to create the rainfall in the Sahel and that if the Congo Basin is lost, rainfall will consequently be lost across Africa. In other words, losing the carbon stocks in the Congo Basin, which represent about 10 years of global emissions of CO₂, will result in losing the fight against climate change in the region.

The AfDB president also stressed the importance of accurate carbon pricing as an incentive to developing nations. He equally harped on the need to weigh the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of countries by the extent of negative externalities they create. “GDP tells us very little about how wealth is produced”, he further stated.

Earlier in her keynote address, entitled “Good Economics for Warmer Times – How to Address Our Climate Change Challenge”, the 2019 Economics Nobel Laureate and professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Prof. Esther Duflo said the poorest countries will bear the worst effects of climate change and the highest costs in terms of economic production and higher mortality.

Prof. Duflo noted that the imbalance between wealthy and poor countries followed the ‘10-50 rule’ which according to her, implies that 10 percent of the highest polluters are responsible for about 50 percent of global emissions, and 50 percent of the bottom emitters are responsible for 13 percent of global emissions.

She attributed the disparity in part to the reluctance of wealthy countries to forcefully commit to tackling climate change. She however, pointed out that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had made an estimate of \$50 billion as the cost package for Covax to help most of the countries of the world vaccinate up to 60 percent of their population within two years. The estimated potential benefit, she said, was \$9 trillion, which she added was an obvious win-win.





The Nobel laureate further noted that the global efforts to tackle COVID-19 pandemic had dampened her optimism about the global responses to climate change. Prof. Duflo therefore urged immediate action but warned that the world cannot rely on innovation alone.

“The impact of purely technological solutions is often very disappointing in real life. Combating climate change globally will require changes in behavior and consumption patterns. Economists underestimate the capacity of humans to change behaviors, and that shifts in consumption would need to be made primarily in industrialized countries. I don’t think we can tell Africans with a straight face that they need to consume less when they in fact need to consume more”, she stressed.

AfDB’s Acting Chief Economist and Vice President Kevin Urama said the topic could not be timelier, coming right after the COP26 global climate conference in Glasgow barely two months ago.

In a related development, Africa Climate Change Fund interim coordinator, Audrey-Cynthia Yamadjako said the Fund through its action of building the climate finance readiness of African countries, adding that its unique objectives of targeting local communities, national institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), is an instrument showing great complementarity with the international climate funds and promoting direct access.

29

“The huge interest received during our calls for proposals and requests for more engagement received from member countries shows that more needs to be done and more resources are required in the Africa Climate Change Fund to continue its action”, she further explained during a panel discussion with climate experts on the sidelines of the COP26.

The event which was moderated by Arona Soumare, Principal Climate Change and Green Growth Officer at the African Development Bank (AfDB), showcased the Fund’s work supporting African countries in unlocking climate finance through a portfolio of 16 projects.

Soumare reiterated the role of the Africa Climate Change Fund in bridging the gap and offering opportunities to entities that otherwise would not have access to climate finance.

Interestingly, private investors have also expressed their interest in exploring the inherent opportunities in getting fully involved in Africa’s fledgling transition to net-zero carbon dioxide emissions.



Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Madagascar : le sud-coréen Samsung va planter 2 millions d'arbres en 3 mois ; Afrik 21, 12 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/madagascar-le-sud-coreen-samsung-va-planter-2-millions-darbres-en-3-mois/>



©Grand Warszawski/Shutterstock

30

Samsung Electronics America, filiale du groupe sud-coréen Samsung, annonce la plantation de deux millions d'arbres à Madagascar d'ici la fin du premier trimestre 2022. L'opération sera suivie par la plateforme numérique de solutions climatiques, Veritree.

La transparence et l'immutabilité des blockchains, se mettent au service du reboisement à Madagascar. Samsung Electronics America, filiale du géant sud-coréen de l'électronique Samsung, a annoncé le 3 janvier 2022, le déploiement de son programme de compensation carbone et de protection de l'environnement à Madagascar. Dans ce pays d'Afrique de l'Est, Samsung Electronics America entend planter deux millions d'arbres d'ici la fin du premier trimestre 2022.

Mais la particularité de ce projet d'atténuation du changement climatique, c'est son encrage sur la technologie des registres distribués (DLT) et la cryptomonnaies. Le géant de l'électronique s'est associé à la plateforme numérique Veritree. Celle-ci assurera le suivi objectif et efficient du projet. Il s'agira entre autres pour Veritree d'exploiter la blockchain pour atténuer le risque de double comptage des arbres et pour ajouter de la transparence aux bailleurs de fonds du projet. Veritree



permet aussi d'associer le travail effectué sur le site de plantation à une signature numérique et à la génération d'actifs sur la blockchain, fournissant une chaîne de données inviolable pour la vérification.

« La reforestation est l'un des meilleurs moyens de lutter contre le changement climatique. En collaborant avec Veritree, les marques soucieuses de l'environnement comme Samsung, peuvent disposer de données précises, prélevées sur le terrain, sur l'impact de leur plantation d'arbres » explique Derrick Emsley, cofondateur et PDG de Veritree.

Le choix de Madagascar pour l'implémentation du programme de compensation carbone de Samsung Electronics America n'est pas le fruit du hasard. La grande île a perdu en 60 ans près de 40% de ses forêts naturelles. Ceci en grande partie à cause de la déforestation massive et de la coupe abusive d'arbre par les réfugiés climatiques qui ont fui les régions touchées par la famine pour se retrouver dans la zone forestière du Sud.



31

Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Focus On E-Waste Recycling In Dubai, Other Countries ; Channels TV, Earthfile, Jan 18, 2022.

To watch the video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEK2HMAoiBY>





David Njagi (Kenya) ; Ghana's farmers arm against freak weather with crop insurance ; Thomson Reuters Foundation, Tuesday, 18 January 2022.

To access the article : <https://news.trust.org/item/20220118122428-n5ggz/>





NAFARING, Ghana, Jan 18 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - As the sun slid towards noon, Adam Fuseina's daughter jumped off a bicycle at their home in Nafaring village, northern Ghana, and called out to her mother that she was back from shopping.

Fuseina looked at the basket full of cooking oil, flour, greens and other items on the bike's front rack and smiled at the agriculture officials who were visiting her farm.

"This will keep us going for a week," said the 43-year-old mother of five, standing amid the village's mud-walled shelters with fraying thatched roofs.

Things were very different a year ago, when Fuseina's family could sometimes only manage one meal a day.

Ghana's worsening floods and droughts have made growing fruit and vegetables harder, and when the staple maize and rice crops are hit as well, families like hers are left with meagre yields of grains that lack essential nutrients and vitamins.

But in March last year, Fuseina joined a free crop insurance project that tries to ensure farmers aren't thrown into poverty by the extreme weather, pest infestations and crop disease outbreaks becoming increasingly destructive as global temperatures rise.

Now when long dry spells destroy a share of the crops on Fuseina's 6.5-acre (2.6-hectare) farm, her family can still eat healthily, she said.

Since joining the pilot project run by social enterprise Roots of Change, she has received two payouts of up to 200 Ghanaian cedis (\$33), covering 80% of the value of her crop losses to drought.

Those may be tiny payouts, but combined with low-interest loans of nearly 600 cedis that come as part of the insurance package they have helped supplement the income she makes and carry the family through to the next planting season, she said.

"I cannot wait to plant new crops on my farm because I know I will get returns whether there is bad weather or they are attacked by pests and diseases, thanks to crop insurance. Before the programme I never felt excited," Fuseina said.





Adam Fuseina stands near the family bicycle at her home in Nafaring village, northern Ghana, October 8, 2021.
Thomson Reuters Foundation/Kagondou Njagi

Part of a larger initiative by Roots of Change, under the charity Opportunity International, the insurance programme uses farmland and crop data collected by the agriculture ministry to help provide cover for about 1,360 farmers in northern Ghana.

The Ghana Agricultural Insurance Pool (GAIP), a group of 15 insurance providers, compare data on historical farm yields to actual harvests to verify insurance claims enrolled farmers make.

Since it launched last year, the project has paid out 7,000 cedis (\$1,120) to more than 300 farmers, according to Ebenezer Laryea, the Ghana head of agricultural businesses at Opportunity International, which pays the farmers' insurance premiums.

Some farmers invest the money they get through the programme into community savings schemes, where people pool their funds to be used by individual members when they need it.

"Crop insurance is a game changer," Laryea said, particularly in a country where about half of people make their living from farming.

MORE STABLE FARMING

As temperatures rise in Ghana as a result of climate change, the country's northern region no longer gets two rainy seasons of a few months each but one five-month-long wet season, which can flood fields and drown crops, Laryea said.



The rest of the year is dry, leaving crops parched.

Food and agriculture minister Owusu Afriyie Akoto has said crop insurance could make farming a more stable livelihood and attract more young people to an occupation now dominated by the aging.

"It is not just about building resilience against erratic weather but also making agriculture attractive to youth and women by making it a financial asset," he said at the 2021 African Green Revolution Forum in Nairobi.

Ghana's Food and Agriculture Ministry did not respond to the Thomson Reuters Foundation's requests for comment.



35

Adam Fuseina works on her farm in Nafaring village, northern Ghana, October 8, 2021. Thomson Reuters Foundation/Kagondou Njagi

BUILDING TRUST

GAIP first introduced crop insurance to Ghanaian farmers in 2011, but studies show it has been a tough sell.





Uptake has been slow in rural areas, mostly due to a lack of understanding of how insurance works, according to a study published last June in the BioMed Central (BMC) journal.

It shows 90% of small-scale farmers see crop insurance as a useful tool, but less than a fifth said they had signed up for it.

More than half of farmers responded that they lacked adequate knowledge about insurance, and about 5% said it is too expensive.

Another issue was the farmers' lack of trust in how companies calculate insurance payouts.

Early crop insurance programmes based payouts on a weather index, with insurance triggered when a preset number of days passed without rain, for instance.

But in Ghana and some other parts of Africa weather data is known to be imprecise, said Hedwig Siewertsen, head of inclusive finance at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an agriculture nonprofit.

Newer models make the process of calculating crop loss more accurate.

In the Roots of Change programme, the agriculture ministry uses satellite data to project how much each farmer could produce per acre, then compares that to the actual harvest during a visit to any farm making a claim, said Ibrahim Sulley, an agriculture relationship officer with the social enterprise.

The programme's officers expect to visit about 335 farms a year to follow up on insurance claims, noted Lydia Baffour Awuah, the Roots of Change senior program manager for Ghana.

Sending people to visit farms is more expensive than a weather-index based insurance model - but the interaction with farmers brings other benefits, backers say.

Siewertsen at AGRA said a face-to-face relationship is vital if insurance is going to gain traction in Ghana.

"The main issue in agricultural insurance is gaining the trust of farmers," he said in an email interview.

"This can be done through field presence, first to explain how insurance works and second to show that the actual damage is seen and measured."

Opportunity International is still analysing the impact of its young project, Laryea said, to determine whether it will be extended, with farmers eventually paying a share of the premiums.



Fuseina, the farmer in Nafaring, said she hopes crop insurance will catch on in Ghana.

"I felt like nobody when I did not have crop insurance. But now I feel like somebody," she said.

(\$1 = 6.0500 Ghanaian cedi)



Jenifer Gilla (Tanzania) ; Women rice farmers in Pemba threatened by rising sea lever ; IPP Media, 19 January 2022.

To access the article : <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/features/women-rice-farmers%20pemba%20threatened%20rising%20sea-levels>

A 45-year-old Lailatu Rashid planted her rice in September last year and she expected a lot from the farm.





But, the story became bitter as during her harvest in December last year, Lailatu of Kiongoni village, Micheweni District, Pemba Region is the month of laughter and smile for her and family.

December always is the harvesting time in her one and a quarter acre of rice. But, her smile faded away; as she ended up getting one bag of 100kgs in her rice farm she used to get more than ten bags.

Lailatu was confused as she thought ways to feed her family with just one sack.

Her heartbeats slowed after learning that she is not the only one caught up in the situation, everyone was complaining about the same problem.

According to her, the situation started to get worse in 2014 when seawater invaded the basin and affected the rice fields little by little from top to bottom.

"Last year, it came to my farm and caused me to harvest only one sack from five I harvested in July," Lailatu recounts.

Before the disaster, Lailatu used to harvest 15 to 20 sacks from her farm and selling 10 to 15 sacks, each 60,000/- each and giving her 60,000/- to 1,000,000/- which was helping her raise the family.

For Lailatu, to survive during this period, she decided to pick cloves from other people's farms and sell them where she earns 3,000/- a day if she manages to get them, the situation she admits is not good for the development.

Lailatu is one of 240 female farmers (86.96 percent) of the Tovuni Basin farmers from Kiongoni and Wingwi Mjananza villages with 36 male (13.14 percent).

An assessment of the impact of climate change in Zanzibar, conducted by the Department of Environment, Office of the Vice President Zanzibar, shows that the Shehia with a population of 1,702 (856 men and 846 women), 40percent of its area is affected by seawater, and agriculture, livestock and fisheries are the mainstay of people in the area.

According to the 65-year-old Saidi Issa, and chairman of the Rice Basin, 40 out of 216 hectares of the basin can no longer used for agriculture due to seawater invasion, leaving 40 out of 276 farmers without land for cultivation.

Association Africa 21, C/o Maison Kultura, Rue de Montbrillant 52, 1202 Genève- Suisse
<http://www.africa21.org> / info@africa21.org

Statut consultatif spécial auprès de l'ECOSOC, accréditée à l'OMC, auprès du PNUE, Observateur à la CNUCED
Partenaire de l'université de Genève et de la European Business School in Geneva



Efforts made

According to the chairman, they made various efforts to prevent seawater from entering their fields but it did not bear fruit.

"In 2017, we donated money from farmers and got 1.1m/-, we built a wall with a height of 451 meters, but in 2018 the wall was washed away due to heavy rainfall," Issa says, adding:

"After that we wrote a letter to Wete District Commissioner, who made an effort to build gates for them to take out salt water so that they would cultivate the land, but the plan did not work as sea water continues to get in."

Abandons farms

Some of the farmers decided to stop farming because of the loss that they got as days went on. Rehema Alihamad (55), a resident of Kiongoni is one of them. She says: "I've decided to give up rice farming for now, because I do not see the reason to cultivate crops that I know that I will not harvest anything, I use my energy and skills in the field and finally I get nothing."

The mother 12 was initially earning 460,000/- each time she sold 8 sacks of rice she harvested from acre and the remaining two sacks were used as food at home.

Rehema is now growing different types of vegetables after realising that rice farming decline in the area due to climate change. She grows vegetable such as okra, tomatoes and eggplant in one acre, where she realise profits.

"After seeing the rice harvest decline every season in 2018 I rented one hectare where I started horticultural crops now I am thankful to harvest these vegetables a day and sell 5,000/- to 10,000/-, I use the money to buy rice and other family activities," she says.

Rehema is proud of the success she has achieved from the new business, where she bought an acre of land from the sales in 2020 which she uses to grow the crops now, while he complained that drought in the land and lack of irrigation equipment is a major challenge as she has to rely on seasonal rains on the farm.





Khadija Bakari expressed her worries on the children health, saying: "This is another challenge. Child health deteriorates because of not eating rice they are accustomed to."

"You know here our main food is rice despite the fact that we grow other crops like cassava and vegetables, due to the shortage of rice we have to give them cassava that they are not used to so they are not eating well , my fear is my children will get sick," explains Khadija.

Adaptation Fund to Save the Ark

The Zanzibar Irrigation Department expects to receive \$131,893 from Second Vice President office for the implementation of the Tovuni project. The fund was provided by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to mitigate the effects of climate change (Adaptation Fund).

Irrigation engineer in the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources and Livestock, Mohamed Mohammed says that the funds will help to renovate Tovuni Basin in Pemba Islands, so that farmers can continue their activities as before.

"In the case of the Tovuni Basin, we'll build a 450-meter embankment to prevent salt water from entering the fields, which will cost \$118,125, but will also build drainage ditches in the fields so that water can flow in and out of the flow to prevent flooding in the fields (\$3,768), " he explains

He adds that large rainwater harvesting tanks would also be built to harvest water during heavy rains for the drip irrigation system at a cost of \$10,000.

Director of the Environment in the Second Vice President's Office Zanzibar, Farhat Mbarouk says the Adaptation Fund project will be implemented in nine villages of Unguja and eight in Pemba, will cost \$1million for three years to improve sectors affected by climate change.

"These sectors are the Ministry of Agriculture, Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA), Energy and Minerals, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, we chose these areas because the research we conducted in 2012 found them as most affected areas," says Farhat.





National Environmental Management Council's senior environmental officer and national coordinator of the Adaptation Fund, Fredrik Mulinda said that NEMC is the said the implementation of the project would officially start in January 2022 and thanked the Second Vice President's Office for raising the challenge.

"We received a report on the effects of climate change in Zanzibar from the Second Vice President Office and we wrote a proposal to request funding from the Adaptation Fund. For the Glory of God our proposal was accepted and implementation will begin shortly" he added.

Climate change is not the only challenge women are facing, they have also cited lack of modern agricultural education as well as access to credit as a source of underdevelopment.

"If we had the knowledge of modern agriculture we would probably have relocated our rice fields to other areas and cultivate or even cultivate other crops such as maize, but this knowledge is known to men not us," complains Lailatu.

While a 38-year-old Mchanga Kombo Saidi complains of not having access to credit like the women of other villages is the source of economic backwardness.

"We heard that our colleagues in the city joined groups of 10 people and are given business loans, we want those loans and entrepreneurship education to reach us, the issue of depending on agriculture only is what has made us poorer now, because we have no other means of earning an income," says Kombo.

The UNDP report on Gender, Climate Change and food security shows that despite significant strides in addressing gender inequalities over the years, rural women are still among the most marginalized groups in society and are particularly vulnerable to current and future climate change and food insecurity.

The agency of rural female farmers is essential for enhancing agricultural productivity to ensure food security (SDG 2) and addressing the perils of climate changes (SDG 13) because they play a pivotal role in the three components of food security: food availability (production), food access (distribution), and food utilization.



Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Sénégal : sécurité renforcée pour les parcs nationaux du Niokolo-Koba et du Djoudj ; Afrik 21, 20 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/senegal-securite-renforcee-pour-les-parcs-nationaux-du-niokolo-koba-et-du-djoudj/>



©Anton_Ivanov/Shutterstock

Les parcs nationaux du Niokolo-Koba et du Djoudj, situés respectivement au sud-est et nord-ouest du Sénégal, sont au cœur d'une feuille de route définie par l'État du Sénégal, conformément aux principes du Comité du patrimoine mondial. La feuille de route prévue sur la période 2022-2024 vise à relever le niveau de conservation de deux sites du patrimoine mondial, confrontés à diverses menaces d'origine naturelle et anthropique.

Des actions de conservation connaîtront un renforcement durant les deux prochaines années dans les parcs nationaux du Niokolo-Koba et du Djoudj, situés respectivement au sud-est et au nord-ouest du Sénégal. La Direction des parcs nationaux du Sénégal, l'Organisation des Nations unies pour l'éducation, la science et la culture (Unesco), l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) et la Norvège y travaillent. Ils ont réuni à cet effet près de 80 partenaires techniques et financiers le 16 et 17 novembre 2021 à Dakar (la capitale du Sénégal).

À l'issue de cette rencontre, la Direction des parcs nationaux du Sénégal a établi une feuille de route coordonnée pour la période 2022- 2024. Alignée sur les besoins et les recommandations du





Comité du patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco, ce document propose une réponse coordonnée des futures interventions du gouvernement et de ses partenaires techniques et financiers dans les parcs nationaux du Niokolo-Koba et du Djoudj.

La feuille de route prévoit également la mise en place d'une revue sur les interventions des différents partenaires et la sensibilisation des entreprises d'exploitation ou d'exploration sur les menaces actuelles et les mesures d'atténuation nécessaires pour allier développement et protection de la biodiversité.

Deux sites fragilisés

Créé en 1971, puis agrandi en 1975, avant d'être classé en 1980 zone humide d'importance internationale par la Convention de Ramsar, le parc national du Djoudj, encore appelé le paradis des oiseaux migrateurs, est un site inscrit au patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco depuis 1981, tout comme le parc du Niokolo-Koba.

Les deux sites sont aujourd'hui confrontés à de graves menaces, particulièrement liées aux activités illégales, à la prolifération d'espèces envahissantes, l'exploitation minière ou encore à l'impact des activités agricoles. Au fil des ans, ces multiples agressions d'origine naturelle et humaine ont conduit à leur inscription sur la Liste du patrimoine mondial en péril. Ainsi les efforts envisagés par la Direction des parcs nationaux du Sénégal et ses partenaires, visent à sortir les deux sites de leur situation de fragilité.



Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Nigeria’s Vice President Yemi Osinbajo Tasks African Insurance Coys On Climate Change ; African Examiner, January 20th, 2022.

To access the article : <https://www.africanexaminer.com/nigerias-vice-president-yemi-osinbajo-tasks-african-insurance-coys-on-climate-change/>



(AFRICAN EXAMINER) – Nigeria’s Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo has urged key players and stakeholders in the insurance industry in Africa to brace up to the challenge of addressing damages arising from climate change across the continent.

Prof. Osinbanjo gave the charge at the closing of the 2021 Conference of African Insurance Practitioners, with the theme, “Rebuilding Africa’s Economy: An Insurance Perspective”.

He urged African insurance practitioners to leverage opportunities in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which according to him, offers great opportunities for Africa’s socio-economic transformation.

“How is the African insurance industry preparing for the interesting days ahead? While there will obviously be opportunities for new insurance products and solutions, especially in the property and casualty segment of the business, insurance companies must also be prepared for the systemic nature of climate induced damage, with the possibilities of market failures and more system-wide destabilization.

“Here in Nigeria, the growing intensity of flooding and damage to vast agricultural acreages might have a knock-on effect on other areas of the economy. Further slumps in the economy are bad for everyone, even insurers. Every smart economic grouping, whether governments or businesses, must be thinking, planning and strategizing for these new times”, he said.





The VP noted that the free trade agreement presents a major opportunity for African countries, adding that by some estimates, if we get it right, a huge population will be lifted out of abject poverty across the continent.

“If we get it right, we can bring several millions out of extreme poverty and raise the incomes of 68 million others who live on less than \$5.50 per day. There are potential income gains of up to \$450 billion, and just cutting red tape and simplifying customs procedures alone could drive up to \$250 billion of that sum. So, what does all this mean for the insurance industry in Africa?”

“Well, plenty of opportunities. More trade in goods will mean greater need for insurance services, brokers, in particular, should expect a boom; demand for trade facilitation services will rise, but obviously companies that already have market presence in other African countries, even if by collaboration, will benefit more than others”, he added.

Prof. Osinbajo further explained that “we can expect to see more well capitalized insurance providers from other African countries coming to compete in the Nigerian market. And we shouldn’t be surprised if this happens quickly”.

He said services can be set up faster than manufacturing plants, adding that Nigerian financial services companies, especially banks, are already in many African Countries, the likes of Zenith, Access, United Bank for Africa (UBA). “How about Insurance companies? We should now be looking at developing homegrown international African insurance conglomerates. The time is now”, he stressed.

45

In a statement by his spokesman, Laolu Akande, the VP noted that there is perhaps a more significant climate change challenge for the African continent.

“In the past two years, the wealthier countries, after building their own economies on fossil fuels, are now banning or restricting public investments in fossil fuels, including gas. Seven European countries, including France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, announced that they would halt public funding for certain fossil fuel projects abroad.

“Also, the World Bank and other multilateral development banks are being urged by some shareholders to do the same. The African Development Bank, for instance, is increasingly unable to support large natural gas projects. Already, some OECD based insurance companies are already committing to reducing their commitments to carbon intensive industries by 2030”, he further stated.

Prof. Osinbanjo also observed that considering the implication of the trend on Africa’s growing oil and gas markets, it is imperative that insurance companies operating in the continent lend their voice to the narrative.



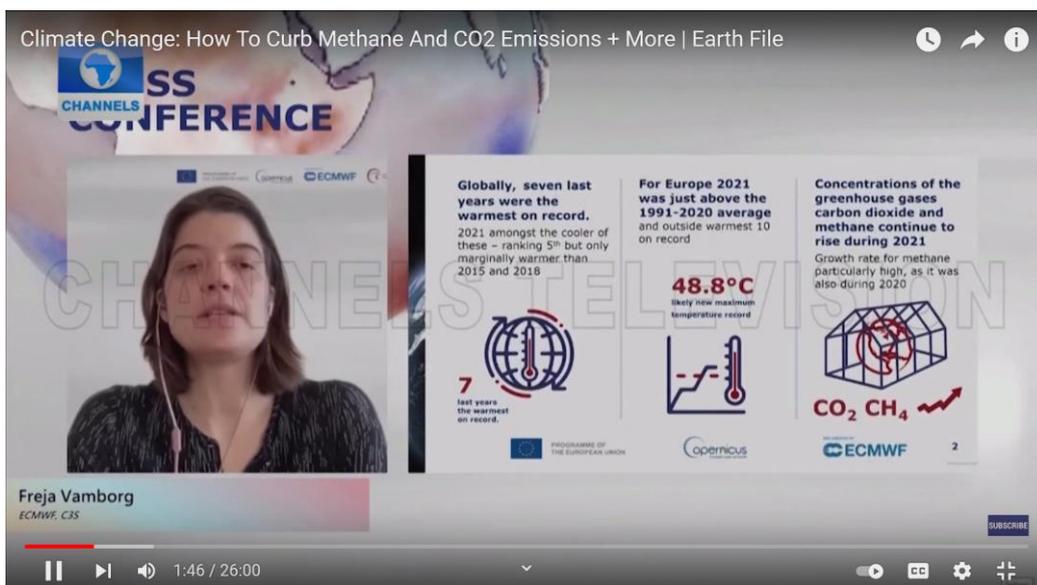
“I think African insurance companies must now speak and act differently. You must be at the forefront of the campaign for a just and equitable transition to a low carbon future. This means that we cannot accept a defunding of gas projects when gas is an important transition fuel for us. Not just to get our people from the environmentally damaging firewood to cooking gas, and also autogas for our auto vehicles, but to also provide much needed power for industries and domestic use.

“Africa’s economic future might really be at risk if we do not find our voices and, in unison, insist that the necessary speed to zero emissions must not mean disaster for our African economies”, he warned.



Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; Climate Change: How To Curb Methane And CO2 Emissions ; Channels TV, Earth File, Jan 20, 2022.

To watch the video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Lr-o9eeMNC>



Eric Ojo (Nigeria) ; Walk The Talk On Climate Change Obligations, Nigeria Urges International Community ; Metro Daily NG, January 23, 2022.

To access the article: <https://metrodailyng.com/2022/01/23/walk-the-talk-on-climate-change-obligations-nigeria-urges-international-community/>



47

The Nigerian Government has urged the international community to steadfastly stay on course and redeem its pledge to tackle climate change frontally for the common good of humanity.

The West African nation said it was time for the international community to 'walk the talk' by meeting its commitments towards advancing growth in developing economies, especially climate change obligations.





At the United Nations (UN) climate change conference COP15 in Copenhagen in 2009, developed nations committed to mobilising \$100 billion from public and private sources per year by 2020 for climate action in developing countries.

The money is aimed at helping poorer countries to reduce their emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. The goal was formalised at COP16 in Cancun, and at COP21 in Paris it was reiterated and extended to 2025.

Also at the recently concluded COP26 in Glasgow, United Kingdom (UK), similar optimism was unequivocally expressed by representatives of the developed nations. However, data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) indicates that climate finance for developing countries in 2019 amounted to about \$80 billion only.

Moreover, recent estimates based on current plans and pledges made by Oxfam have shown that wealthy governments would continue to miss the \$100 billion goal even in 2025 if nothing changed.

Nigeria's Vice President, Prof Yemi Osinbajo gave the charge in a Special Address delivered at the virtual edition of the 2022 World Economic Forum featuring leaders from across the world.

48

This year's edition of the forum features a mix of visionary 'state of the world' special addresses and ambitious high-level leadership panels focusing on critical collective challenges, among others.

According to a statement by his special media aide, Laolu Akande, the VP was chosen to deliver one of the 12 Special Addresses at this year's event which featured about 25 Heads of State and Government.

Prof. Osinbajo who spoke on a wide range of issues, said it is now common knowledge that Africa contributes least to climate change but has been most negatively affected by it.

"We must not allow this worrying situation to be compounded further by global inaction, processes and rules that make it difficult for Africa to adapt to climate change or indeed to develop.

"Although we in Africa are working towards the globally accepted net-zero future, we are also conscious that our energy needs are increasing with the growth in our economies. We need to ramp up energy access in response to this situation which is why the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energies must be just and fair", he said.

He also noted that Africans are emphatic in their view that natural gas which the continent has in abundance must be accepted as a transition fuel, adding that moves in the international community especially by development finance institutions to defund gas projects will have severe





implications in the medium to long-term for African economies and will slow down the process of phasing out more polluting fuels such as coal, diesel, and heavy fuel oil (HFO).

He therefore urged the international community to meet its pledge recently re-affirmed at COP26 of providing \$100 billion annually in climate finance to support climate change efforts in developing countries.

The VP equally called for a partnership to tackle poverty, access vaccinations and achieve debt sustainability. He also acknowledged that there are giant strides recorded across Africa, adding that there are still challenges to overcome for which reasons, “we need partnerships that help to tackle climate change, address security concerns, promote economic prosperity, combat disease, and improve governance”.

Prof. Osinbajo listed some of the progress on the African continent, including the recovery from the global pandemic, economic growth by 3.7 percent last year, and a projected 3.8 percent growth in 2022.

He also observed that there is now in place an African Continental Free Trade Area agreement to fast-track economic transformation just as the continent is making giant strides in agriculture, manufacturing, and digital technology. He added that in Nigeria for instance, 6 unicorns have emerged in the past six years.

“Economic recovery in Africa is contingent on the containment of the pandemic including through wide-spread vaccinations. Right now, less than 10 percent of African countries have vaccinated 40 percent of their population. The reality is that due to resource constraints, there will be a relatively slow rollout of vaccinations in Africa and that full national rollouts may take several years.

“The international community must accordingly support Africa with the resources including vaccine doses that will assist in making vaccinations available to all”, he added.

He further urged the international community to support African countries overcome fiscal challenges arising from their limited revenues. Prof. Osinbajo said creation of \$650 billion in new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) last year was a step in the right direction, adding that more needs to be done to enable African and other developing countries access the SDRs that are not needed or being used by developed or emerging economies.

The VP also called on multilateral organizations to consider the huge obligations placed on African countries and adopt debt relief initiatives such as the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments in a manner that will not further constrain the resumption of growth to the continent.



On governance, he harped on the need for the international community to support the efforts of West African leaders under the auspices of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), particularly their condemnation of the incidences of coups and unconstitutional changes in government.

He said African countries face a serious threat of terrorism arising from the encroachment of global terror groups and their franchises into the continent.

“It is imperative for the international community to make more robust interventions to clear terrorists from Africa just as it did in the Middle East and other parts of the world. The United Nations Security Council must find unanimity in working with and assisting African countries to eradicate the menace of terrorism in the continent once and for all”, he stressed.

Afrik 21

50

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Rwanda : 3 anciens chefs d’État parrainent le Congrès des aires protégées d’Afrique ; Afrik 21, 25 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l’article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/rwanda-3-anciens-chefs-detat-parrainent-le-congres-des-aires-protegees-dafrique/>



©U. Eisenlohr/Shutterstock





Le 1er Congrès africain sur les aires protégées (Apac), tient ses parrains. L'événement qui se tient du 7 au 12 mars 2022 à Kigali au Rwanda, bénéficie des cautions morales accordées par Hailemariam Desalegn, ancien premier ministre de l'Éthiopie, Issoufou Mahamadou, ancien président du Niger et Festus Mogae, ancien président du Botswana.

Trois anciens chefs d'État africains acceptent de parrainer la première édition du Congrès africain des aires protégées (Apac), qui se tient du 7 au 12 mars 2022 à Kigali la capitale du Rwanda. Il s'agit d'Hailemariam Desalegn, ancien premier ministre de l'Éthiopie, Issoufou Mahamadou, ancien président du Niger et Festus Mogae, ancien président du Botswana. Les trois parrains ont été présentés le 20 janvier 2022 à Kigali, par la ministre rwandaise de l'Environnement, Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya. « Il est essentiel que toutes les nations et tous les dirigeants africains fassent ce voyage ensemble. Le Congrès sur les aires protégées en Afrique arrive à un moment où l'attention mondiale se porte de plus en plus sur notre relation tendue avec la nature », affirme Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya.

Dans leurs différents discours d'acceptation, les trois anciens chefs d'État ont exprimé leur reconnaissance pour l'honneur qui les est ainsi accordé, avant de souligner les enjeux de l'événement. « L'Apac présente une opportunité sans précédent de tracer une voie qui équilibre la croissance économique et la conservation du capital naturel de l'Afrique. Cela devra se faire par des choix et des investissements stratégiques fondés sur les meilleures connaissances disponibles et une réflexion à long terme », affirme Hailemariam Desalegn, ancien premier ministre de l'Éthiopie.

Le financement de la protection de la biodiversité en Afrique

L'un des terrains sur lesquels les parrains de l'Apac sont attendus, est celui de la finance. Ce segment demeure défaillant dans les efforts de protection des aires protégées. D'après le ministère rwandais de l'Environnement, il faut 700 milliards de dollars supplémentaires par an pour la biodiversité, soit moins de 1 % du PIB mondial. L'Afrique dépense moins de 10 % de ce qui est nécessaire pour protéger et restaurer la nature.

C'est dans ce contexte qu'intervient le congrès inaugural de l'Apac. Il s'annonce comme le tout premier rassemblement continental de dirigeants, de citoyens et de groupes d'intérêt africain, dont l'objectif est de discuter du rôle des aires protégées dans la conservation de la nature, la sauvegarde de la faune et de la flore sauvages emblématiques de l'Afrique, la fourniture de services écosystémiques vitaux, la promotion du développement durable ainsi que la conservation du patrimoine culturel et des traditions de l'Afrique.

Organisé par la Commission mondiale des aires protégées de l'Union internationale pour la conservation de la nature (UICN) en partenariat avec le gouvernement rwandais et des



organisations de conservation, le congrès inaugural de l'Apac s'articulera autour de trois thèmes clés : les aires protégées, les populations et la biodiversité.

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN **للعلم**

Hadeer Al-Hadary (Egypte) ; Les "scorpions d'Assouan" attirent l'attention sur les risques sanitaires liés au changement climatique ; le 26 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.scientificamerican.com/arabic/articles/news/aswan-scorpions-draw-attention-to-health-risks-associated-with-climate-change/>

À l'échelle mondiale, les pays en développement représentaient 91 % des décès dus au changement climatique, sur plus de deux millions de cas signalés entre 1970 et 2020.



Credit: Abdallah Salah

السيول تغرق

في ساعة هادئة من مساء يوم الجمعة 12 نوفمبر الماضي، انتهت "بتعة عبد الله" من إعداد العشاء لتتشاركه مع بناتها وأحفادها، وضعت الأطباق وقبل تناول اللقمة الأولى ضربت السيول المنزل المبني من الطوب والأسمنت، ليسقط أحد حوائطه وينتشر الغبار الممزوج بالثلوج ويسود المكان في لحظات قليلة، مشهد مهيب وصفته السيدة الخمسينية بقولها: "كأن السد العالي انفتح علينا".

تبلغ الجدة "بتعة" من العمر 59 عامًا، وتسكن مع عائلتها في منطقة عزبة الفرن بأسوان، عاشت عمرًا طويلًا في منزل لم تتوقع أن تراه ينهار أمام عينيها ذات يوم بسبب سوء الطقس، حين عصفت السيول بمنزلها بدأت الجدران في السقوط، فركضت في هلع لتنتقذ الأطفال بينما اقتحم الجيران البيت لمساعدتهم، حملت طفلين من الأحفاد وخرجت بينما تدفقت المياه بعنف، لتشعر فجأة بلسعة مؤلمة في ساقها من "عقرب" لم تر مثلها طيلة ثلاثين سنة قضتها في هذه المنطقة، وفق وصفها.

في هذا اليوم، ضربت سيول غير معتادة بعض المناطق في محافظة أسوان المصرية، ولم تقتصر آثارها على هدم المنازل وتدمير محتوياتها، بل تسببت في مخاطر صحية للسكان بعدما جرفت عشرات العقارب من مخابنها في الجبال إلى القرى لتلدغ نحو 503 من الأشخاص، وفق بيانات وزارة الصحة التي وفرت مخزونًا من الأمصال قدره **3350 جرعة**.

لدغات العقارب قد تسبب مضاعفات خطيرة، إذ يصاحب سريان السم في الجسم عاصفة من "الأدرينالين"، ويحدث ارتفاع شديد في ضغط الدم، ولها تأثير خطير على القلب والرئة، كما يعاني المصاب من آلام مبرحة قد لا تستجيب للمسكنات القوية، وفقًا للدكتور محيي المصري، أستاذ السموم الإكلينيكية بكلية الطب بجامعة عين شمس، في تصريحات لـ "العلم".

العقارب والتغيرات المناخية

تختبئ العقارب في التربة أو في جحورها في الشتاء، ولا تبدأ في الخروج إلا مع ظهور بواذر الصيف في شهر أبريل، لكن ترحل التربة بفعل الفيضانات أجبرها على مغادرة أماكنها، وهي تلدغ حين تشعر بالخوف أو في أوقات الصيد أو عند مقابلة جسم دافئ أمامها لأنها لا ترى جيدًا، ولها آثار سمية شديدة، كما يقول "المصري" في تصريحات لـ "العلم".

المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية صنفت الفيضانات ضمن الأخطار المناخية المؤثرة على الصحة، إذ كانت مسؤولة عن 43% من الكوارث الطبيعية بين عامي 1994 و2013، كما تؤثر على صحة الإنسان مباشرةً بالتسبب في آلاف الوفيات كل عام بخلاف الإصابات والصدمات العقلية، أو بطرق غير مباشرة بتهيئة أحوال مواتية لانتشار الأمراض، والإضرار بالبنية التحتية للصحة العامة.

في أسوان، تسببت التغيرات المناخية في زيادة غزارة الأمطار وسقوط الأمطار الثلجية غير المعتادة، وبالتالي جرفت السيول الشديدة كميات كبيرة من الرمال في مخزرات السيول وحملت معها العقارب المدفونة إلى المنازل، وفق محمود شاهين، مدير مركز التحليل والتنبؤات بهيئة الأرصاد الجوية، في تصريحات لـ "العلم"، وهو ما اتفق معه محمد فهمي، رئيس مركز تغير المناخ بوزارة الزراعة المصرية، الذي رأى أن التغيرات المناخية جزء أصيل مما حدث؛ لأنها تسبب في زحزحة حزام الأمطار وتغيير شدتها، وبما أن أهل أسوان غير معتادين على هذا النوع من المناخ، لم يستطيعوا اتخاذ احتياطات مسبقة تجعلهم في مأمن من العقارب.

بعد السيول، سحب عاملون بوزارة الصحة عينات عشوائية من المواطنين لإجراء فحص الملاريا كإجراء وقائي، كما نظمو حملات لمكافحة العقارب والحشرات في المناطق المتضررة وأولها مخزرات السيول والأماكن الجبلية ورشها بالمبيدات، كما أفادت مروة محمود، مدير إدارة الأمراض المتوطنة بمديرية الصحة بأسوان.

أكبر تهديد صحي يواجه البشرية

تغير المناخ هو "أكبر تهديد صحي يواجه البشرية" كما وصفته منظمة الصحة العالمية في أكتوبر الماضي، إذ توقع أن يتسبب في حدوث 250 ألف حالة وفاة إضافية كل عام، لما ينتج عنه من سوء التغذية والملاريا والإسهال والإجهاد الحراري، كما تقدر تكاليف أضراره المباشرة على الصحة بما يتراوح بين 2 إلى 4 مليارات دولار أمريكي سنويًا بحلول عام 2030.

بشكل عام، يؤثر تغير المناخ على أهم المحددات الأساسية للصحة، وهي الهواء النظيف والمياه النقية والغذاء والمأوى الملائم والسلامة من المرض، ويتسبب في خمس عواقب وخيمة حدتها المنظمة، وهي سوء التغذية نتيجة لنقص الأمن الغذائي بعد تضرر الزراعة من ارتفاع الحرارة والجفاف والفيضانات، والإصابات والوفيات المحتملة ناتجة للعواصف والفيضانات التي قد يعقبها نقشي أمراض مثل الكوليرا، وانتشار مرض الإسهال، وآثار موجات الحر التي ترفع معدلات المرض والوفيات خاصة بين المسنين، وتغير التوزيع الجغرافي للحشرات الناقلة للأمراض المعدية مثل الملاريا وحمى الضنك بسبب تغير درجات الحرارة وأنماط هطول الأمطار.

وفي الآونة الأخيرة، زاد عدد الحشرات الناقلة للأمراض وانتشرت بشكل غير معتاد، مما زاد من احتمالات تعرُّض الإنسان للإصابة بالأمراض المعدية؛ إذ صاحب تغيُّر المناخ ارتفاع في درجات الحرارة تسبَّب في زيادة سرعة دورة حياة الحشرات في مراحلها الثلاث "تشكُّل البيضة واليرقة والعذراء"؛ إذ يفقس البيض بمعدل أسرع من المعتاد، كما حدثت للحشرات طفرات جعلتها تقاوم الظروف الجوية، فزادت أعدادها، مما أحدث خللاً في النظام البيئي، وفقاً للمهندس أيمن عبد الحليم، مدير عام إدارة مكافحة ناقلات الأمراض بالقاهرة، التابعة لوزارة الصحة، في تصريحاته لـ"العلم".

تطبق مصر عدة إجراءات احترازية، وفقاً لعبد الحليم، فتقوم بفحص البضائع القادمة من الخارج وتلقيحها، وحصر أماكن توالد الحشرات ومكافحتها بالمبيدات، وإجراء ما يُعرف بـ"الترصّد الحشري" للوقوف على مدى وبائية هذه الحشرات.

الدول النامية المتضرر الأكبر

كل الحقائق تشير إلى أن تغيُّر المناخ أزمة عالمية غير عادلة، ففي الوقت الذي تُسهم فيه عشر دول متقدمة في تصدير أكثر من ثلثي انبعاثات غازات الاحتباس الحراري، تتحمل الدول النامية والأكثر فقراً النصيب الأكبر من آثار المناخ وعلى رأسها المخاطر الصحية، في ظل ضعف البنية الصحية وزيادة الكوارث ونقص التمويل.

كان نصيب الدول النامية 91% من حالات الوفيات الناجمة عن تغيُّر المناخ عالمياً، من بين أكثر من مليوني حالة تم الإبلاغ عنها بين عامي 1970 و2020، وفقاً لأطلس منظمة الأرصاد الجوية للوفيات والخسائر الناجمة عن الظواهر المتطرفة.

في الوقت نفسه، عانت هذه الدول من انتشار الأمراض الحساسة لتغير المناخ، وكما أظهر تقرير الملايا العالمي الأخير، فإن الإقليم الأفريقي حاز الحصة الكبرى من عبء المرض، كما ينتشر الإسهال على نطاق واسع في الدول النامية، وينتقل بالأساس عن طريق المياه الملوثة بالبراز، وبينما يقتل 1400 طفل يومياً حول العالم، كان أكثر من نصف هذا العدد بسبب مياه الشرب غير الآمنة، وسوء النظافة والصرف الصحي.

تغير المناخ كان أيضاً من الأسباب الرئيسية التي هددت غذاء السكان وحياتهم في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وشمال أفريقيا، حيث زاد الجوع بنسبة 91.1% عما كان عليه منذ عشرين عاماً، ووصل عدد الجياع إلى 69 مليون شخص في العام الماضي، وفق تقرير جديد أصدرته منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة "الفاو".

وكان للبلدان منخفضة الدخل ومتوسطة الدخل النصيب الأعظم من وفيات تلوث الهواء، فوقع فيها 91% من إجمالي 4.2 ملايين وفاة مبكرة على مستوى العالم في 2016، وتركز العدد الأكبر في إقليمي جنوب شرق آسيا وغرب المحيط الهادئ.

في السياق ذاته، كان الإجهاد الحراري من أبرز الآثار الصحية الخطيرة، ووجدت دراسة حديثة منشورة في دورية "نيتشر" في مايو الماضي أن تغيُّر المناخ كان مسؤولاً عن نحو 37% من الوفيات المرتبطة بالحرارة في الفترة ما بين 1991 و2018، وهذا يعني وجود حاجة ملحة إلى إستراتيجيات التكيف والتخفيف لتقليل آثار تغيُّر المناخ على الصحة العامة.

عدم العدالة في تحمُّل الآثار الصحية رافقه ضعف في التمويل المناخي الموجه لدعم الصحة، والذي مثَّل العقبة الكبرى أمام تنفيذ الخطط الوطنية للصحة وتغير المناخ في 77% من الدول التي شملها المسح الأخير لمنظمة الصحة العالمية ومن بينها مصر، وكان العائق الثاني عدم التنسيق بين القطاعات داخل الدول، بينما كانت جائحة كوفيد-19 عاملاً رئيسياً في التأثير على العمل الصحي المرتبط بتغيُّر المناخ في نصف الدول تقريباً بعد تحويل معظم الكوادر الصحية والموارد للتصدي لها.

لم يتغير وضع التمويل المناخي للصحة كثيراً عما كان عليه منذ عامين حين أجرت منظمة الصحة العالمية دراسة استقصائية على 101 من الدول، ووجدت أن نصف الدول وضعت خطة وطنية في مجال الصحة وتغير المناخ، لكن عانى 60% منها من تخصيص محدود أو معدوم للموارد البشرية والمالية لمواجهة مخاطر الإجهاد الحراري، والإصابة والوفاة الناتجة عن الأحداث المناخية القاسية، والأمراض المنقولة عن طريق الطعام والماء وناقلات الأمراض.

هذا القلق من المخاطر الصحية الناجمة عن تغيُّر المناخ ربما يتفاقم أكثر في ظل توقعات دراسة نشرتها دورية "ساينس أدفانسيس" بأنه خلال السنوات القادمة سيواجه نحو ثلثي الأرض مناخاً مائياً أكثر رطوبة، وستشتد الدورة الهيدرولوجية "دورة المياه في

الطبيعة" في ظل الاحتباس الحراري، وهو ما يبرز ضرورة مرونة البنى التحتية، وتحديد أنظمة مختلفة لاستجابات هطول الأمطار.

على مستوى العالم، يزداد عدد المعرضين لمخاطر المناخ الصحية بشكل مخيف، فخلال ستة أشهر فقط من عام 2020، أثرت الكوارث الناتجة عن تغيير المناخ -مثل الفيضانات والعواصف والجفاف- على 51.6 مليون شخص في دول تكافح بالفعل ضد جائحة كوفيد-19، وكان الأشخاص الذين تزيد أعمارهم على خمسة وستين عاماً الأكثر تضرراً من درجات الحرارة القياسية، وفقاً لتقرير نشرته مجلة "ذا لانسيت" الطبية.

رصد التقرير المنشور في أكتوبر الماضي زيادة عدد الأشهر التي تتوافر فيها الظروف الملائمة بيئياً لانتقال الملاريا بنسبة 39% في الفترة بين (2010 و2019)، مقارنةً بالفترة بين (1950 و1959)، في مناطق المرتفعات المكتظة بالسكان، كما زادت احتمالية انتشار فيروس حمى الضنك وفيروس زيكا وفيروس الشيكونغونيا الوبائي الذي يؤثر حالياً على السكان في أمريكا الوسطى وأمريكا الجنوبية ومنطقة البحر الكاريبي وأفريقيا وجنوب آسيا.

العمل المناخي سيخفض الوفيات

الوفيات الناتجة عن تغير المناخ تمثل مصدر قلق مستمر، لذا فإن تعزيز قدرة القطاع الصحي على الصمود أمام المخاطر المناخية، وبناء نظم صحية منخفضة الكربون كان من [أبرز توصيات](#) تقرير منظمة الصحة العالمية بشأن المناخ والصحة، الذي أعدته قبل مؤتمر cop26، والذي قالت فيه إن "حرق الوقود الأحفوري يقتلنا" ويتسبب في مصرع 13 شخصاً كل دقيقة حول العالم، لذا يجب اتخاذ إجراءات تُحدث تحولاً في كل القطاعات، ومن ضمنها مجالات الطاقة والنقل والطبيعة والنظم الغذائية والتمويل.

هناك أمل أيضاً إذا تم تخفيض مستويات التلوث أن تنخفض عدد الوفيات المرتبطة بتلوث الهواء حول العالم بنسبة 80٪، وإذا تم التحول إلى اتباع نظم غذائية نباتية أن تقل الانبعاثات العالمية وتزيد قدرة النظم الغذائية على الصمود، ومنع ما يناهز 5.1 ملايين وفاة سنوياً بسبب النظام الغذائي بحلول عام 2050، وفقاً للتقرير.

وقدمت شبكة المدن الأربعين المعنية بالمناخ [توقعاً](#) آخر بأن تحسين خدمات شبكة الحافلات يمكن أن يمنع الوفيات المبكرة لنحو مليون شخص كل عام من جراء التعرض لتلوث الهواء وحوادث المرور، كما أن استخدام الطاقة المتجددة للتدفئة والتبريد في المباني يمكن أن يمنع 300 ألف حالة وفاة مبكرة أخرى سنوياً بحلول عام 2030.

Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; MENA: les 4 points clés de la nouvelle stratégie de la Banque mondiale pour le climat ; Afrik 21, 26 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/mena-les-4-points-cles-de-la-nouvelle-strategie-de-la-banque-mondiale-pour-le-climat/>



56

Le groupe de la Banque mondiale publie sa feuille de route pour l'action climatique au Moyen-Orient et en Afrique du Nord (Mena), qui s'étend de 2021 à 2025. Le document propose la construction des sociétés résilientes et sobres en carbone, dans l'une des régions les plus vulnérables au changement climatique.

Le groupe de la Banque mondiale dévoile sa stratégie pour l'action climatique dans la région Moyen-Orient et Afrique du Nord (Mena). La feuille de route publiée le 24 janvier 2022 s'articule autour de quatre domaines clés de transformation pour construire des sociétés résilientes et sobres en carbone. Il s'agit de la préservation des systèmes alimentaires, de la sécurité en eau et d'un capital naturel résilient ; la promotion de la transition énergétique et de la mobilité bas carbone ; la promotion des villes intelligentes face au climat et des économies côtières résilientes ; ainsi que, la promotion d'un financement durable pour l'action climatique.

S'efforçant d'unir l'action climatique et le développement, la feuille de route 2021-2025 pour l'action climatique dans la région Mena est alignée sur le plan d'action sur le changement climatique de la Banque mondiale et sur son engagement à stimuler l'action climatique. Entre



2021 et 2025, la banque entend investir 10 milliards de dollars dans des projets et des réformes politiques intelligentes face au climat dans la région Mena, mobilisant 2 milliards de dollars supplémentaires de financement du secteur privé. Et 50 % de ce financement sera orienté vers des interventions qui contribuent à renforcer la résilience face au changement climatique, le but étant d'équilibrer les financements entre l'adaptation et l'atténuation.

Les pays arabes connaissent déjà les effets dramatiques du changement climatique, qui risquent d'entraîner des vagues de chaleur plus longues et plus étendues si aucune mesure n'est prise pour le contrer, rendant certaines régions invivables et certains sols impropres à l'agriculture. Selon la Banque mondiale, l'effet d'îlot thermique (une élévation localisée de la température, Ndlr) sera ressenti de plus en plus dans les villes, et la plupart des capitales du Moyen-Orient et de l'Afrique du nord pourraient connaître des vagues de chaleur d'une durée de 4 mois en moyenne. Cette hausse des températures exercera une pression intense sur les cultures et des ressources en eau déjà rares, deux phénomènes qui pourraient accroître les migrations et les risques de conflit.



Ayoola Kassim (Nigeria) ; A Look At Extreme Weather Conditions In Mali, Gabon ; Channels TV, Earth File, January 27, 2022.

To watch the video : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NcFN4tTw_HY





Afrik 21

58

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Côte d'ivoire : Abidjan abrite la 15e COP sur la désertification du 9 au 20 mai 2022 ; Afrik 21, 28 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/cote-divoire-abidjan-abrite-la-15e-cop-sur-la-desertification-du-9-au-20-mai-2022/>



©Madalin Olariu/Shutterstock





La 15e Conférence des parties à la convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification (COP15) se tient du 9 au 20 mai 2022 à Abidjan, capitale économique de la Côte d'Ivoire. Quelque 5000 participants, en provenance de 197 pays, y travailleront autour du thème de la « Restauration des sols arides et des forêts dégradées pour une agriculture du futur ». C'est ce qui ressort de la conférence de presse donnée le 24 janvier 2022 par le gouvernement ivoirien et la représentation du système des Nations Unies.

On en sait un peu plus sur la 15e conférence des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification (COP15). Le calendrier de l'événement prévoit un lancement officiel le 17 février 2022 à Abidjan, où le déroulement proprement dit des travaux aura lieu deux mois plus tard, du 9 au 20 mai 2022, sous le thème de la « Restauration des sols arides et des forêts dégradées pour une agriculture du futur ». Le site de l'événement prévu sur les bords de la lagune Ebrié, sera constitué de 100 stands et d'un village écologique. Il accueillera 5 000 participants, dont 1 000 experts, en provenance de 197 pays.

Pendant la tenue de l'événement, la Côte d'Ivoire, pays hôte, sera le centre névralgique de la diplomatie environnementale mondiale sur les questions de gestion durable des terres. Le pays d'Afrique de l'Ouest assurera la présidence de la Convention des Nations Unies sur la lutte contre la désertification et la sécheresse pendant deux ans. Selon les organisateurs, il s'agit du seul accord international contraignant les États sur la gestion durables des terres. La 15e session débouchera sur une déclaration finale, intitulée l'« Initiative d'Abidjan ».

59

Un contexte critique

C'est le 14 juin 2021 que la Côte d'Ivoire a donné son accord pour l'organisation de la COP15 sur la lutte contre la désertification. C'était deux ans après la COP14 qui s'est tenue du 2 au 13 septembre 2019 à New Delhi, en Inde.

L'« Initiative d'Abidjan » sera adoptée dans un contexte critique. Selon les experts scientifiques du système des Nations Unies, plus de 2 milliards d'hectares de terres sont dégradés dans le monde. Plus de 70% des écosystèmes naturels de la planète ont été transformés et d'ici à 2050, ce taux pourrait atteindre 90%. Par ailleurs, 250 millions de personnes sont affectées par la désertification et environ 1 milliard d'individus vivent dans l'un des 100 pays à risques.





Rabah Karali (Algérie) ; Dégradation des sites touristiques : Halte aux touristes démolisseurs ! DZ Charikati, janvier 27, 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://dzcharikati.net/degradation-des-sites-touristiques-halte-aux-touristes-demolisseurs/>



60

Environnement- L'Algérie est un pays touristique par excellence. Ce superlatif fait l'unanimité. Néanmoins, faute d'une véritable stratégie nationale de préservation de l'environnement des sites touristiques en Algérie, un jour viendra où il sera trop tard pour restaurer un patrimoine qui aura disparu du paysage.

Les causes de cette disparition sont : l'inconscience et l'incivisme d'une certaine catégorie de touristes.

Mohamed Dali, chargé des Affaires extérieures et des Relations presse de l'Association Tourisme, Loisirs et de l'Environnement, implantée à Saoura, au Sud du pays, vient, d'ailleurs, d'alerter sur l'incivisme de certains touristes, nationaux de surcroît, lors des vacances de fin d'année 2021, dans la Vallée de la Saoura.

Ce cadre associatif insiste sur « l'urgence de sauvegarder les trésors archéologiques que recèle la Vallée de la Saoura. »



Car de très nombreux sites, classés patrimoine architectural ou archéologique national, sont menacés de disparition. Parmi eux, des ksours, plusieurs fois millénaires, comme ceux de Kenadsa, Taghit et Beni Abbes ; des vestiges préhistoriques de Merhouma ; des peintures rupestres de Kerzaz et bien d'autres.

Une question de civisme

Lors notre entretien téléphonique, Mohamed Dali s'est indigné en ces termes : « A peine les fêtes de fin d'année passées, les associations de défense de l'environnement ont relevé des atteintes préjudiciables à l'environnement. »

« Nous citerons, a-t-il enchaîné, des graffitis laissés sur des sites préhistoriques, des déchets amoncelés au niveau des sites protégés. »

« Cette situation aura incité, aux dires de Mohamed Dali, une les associations à réclamer des restrictions pour les accès aux sites en question. L'objectif étant de mieux contrôler les flux, mais également de déterminer les responsabilités pour pouvoir sanctionner, désormais, les auteurs de ce type d'atteintes. »

Notre interlocuteur a tenu à ajouter que : « Notre mission est devenue difficile et dangereuse, car travailler au milieu des odeurs nauséabondes est souvent écœurant ! Alors que nous devrions être mobilisés sur d'autres missions, plus importantes pour les usagers des lieux, nous passons, malheureusement, beaucoup de temps à ramasser des déchets, et ce, bien que cette action fasse partie également de notre raison d'être. Nous constatons que des touristes n'ont aucune considération ni pour l'environnement, ni pour nos efforts ».

61

Volontariat citoyen

Les habitants de Taghit et Béni-Abbès, n'hésitent pas, toutefois, à chaque fois que cela s'avère nécessaire, d'organiser des campagnes de volontariat pour éradiquer les décharges sauvages après le départ des hôtes de la Saoura.

Protégeons notre nature !

En matière de sensibilisation, Mohamed Dali, plaide, en premier lieu, pour : « la découverte de votre pays et la protection de votre nature », un slogan accrocheur qu'il veut qu'il soit relayé, particulièrement dans le but d'encourager le tourisme domestique et d'élever le niveau des connaissances environnementales chez les jeunes et les familles.

Respect environnemental



Notre pays, faut-il le rappeler, n'est pas épargné du phénomène mondial du changement climatique, comme il est confronté à de sérieux problèmes de pollution industrielle, de désertification, de dégradation du Sahara, de pollution atmosphérique, de multiplication des décharges sauvages.

La culture du respect de l'environnement doit également être de mise. La finalité étant de ne pas aggraver davantage l'état des lieux du secteur touristique national, impacté par la Covid-19.

THE TIMES
G R O U P

Sebastian Nyirenda (Malawi) ; Stripped off their barks, trees are dying in Lunjika forest; The Times, 29th January 2022.

To access the article : <https://times.mw/stripped-off-their-barks-trees-are-dying-in-lunjika-forest/>



CONSERVATION INTERVENTION—Bee keeping is using as way of protecting forests

Forest apiculture is often considered as a strategic effort to protect and preserve forests through offering people alternative and improved livelihoods.

According to experts, communities that depend on forest products for their livelihoods know that bees are important not only for ecological reasons but also for generation of honey for sale.





STRIPPED AND DYING—These trees have had their barks removed to make beehives

But, as we have found out, in Mzimba District, forest apiculture through use of locally made beehives, is one of the factors that is promoting tree loss and degradation of forest beauty in a forest around Lunjika as people are using tree barks to make the beehives.

Take the bushy shortcut route to get to Lunjika Mission Hospital, in the area of Traditional Authority Kampingo Sibande in Mzimba, about 12 km away from Lunjika Turn-off on the M1 Road. Along the route, about 20 or so big natural trees have lost their barks.

Stripped of their barks, some of the trees have completely dried up while others are surviving by the skin of their teeth.

In an interview, Group Village Headman Mahuza Mkandawire, blames some of his subjects for being behind the killing of the trees.

“Due to high poverty levels, some of my people who cannot afford modern beehives engage in the malpractice of removing tree barks,” he says.





He says they beat the security system which the village set up and cut trees in the forest. According to Mkandawire, while some have been apprehended and punished before, the practice continues.

He further observes that it is cheaper to acquire beehives locally than to purchase a modern one. All the local one demands is a carpenter, a hanging wire, the bark of a tree and some nails. This may cost K500 only, he says.

With the modern one, it needs planks, metal sheet for water proofing it and plywood, among other materials. The cost could be as much as K30 000 or more.

Felix Namakhuwa, a citizen with interest in environmental issues, says trees that have received injury through stripping off their barks have few chances of survival.

“When injury takes place on the tree bark, some plant tissues get damaged and this disturbs transmission of food nutrients and water from the roots to the leaves,” he says.

He adds that failure of water and food nutrients to move from the roots to the leaves causes death of a plant, which could lead to loss of forest.

Namakhuwa further wonders why people go for locally-made beehives that promote deforestation when government, through projects such as the Agriculture Commercialisation (Agcom), supports bee keeping initiatives that are environmentally friendly.

Eliza Mhango says loss of trees in the area is causing heavy floods and, consequently soil erosion which is affecting crop production.

“Due to loss of trees, strong winds have blown off roofs of our houses,” says Mhango, adding that many people in the area have relocated to other places to escape from disasters and to seek water access.

She says with the depletion of the Viphya Plantation, many of those that used to rely on the pine plantation are now turning on natural trees in the area for poles and hardwood for planks.

District Forestry Officer for Mzimba, Lifred Banda, admits that forests in Mzimba in general are under siege.

“Wanton cutting down of trees is a big challenge in the district,” he says.

But he says his office is implementing a number of activities to deal with acts of deforestation. These initiatives include setting up Village Natural Resources Management Committees (VNRMCs) to lead communities in management of forests in various areas across the district.





“With these VNMRCs, we formulate and enforce bylaws to deal with illegal charcoal production, wanton cutting of trees and deforestation in general,” he says.

The committees also conduct periodic forest patrols with district patrol teams to enforce the Forestry Act.

Banda further says they also conduct sensitisation meetings with chiefs and various communities on effects of deforestation.

“We are lobbying for support from various stakeholders to assist in law enforcement, afforestation of deforested areas as well as management of naturally growing trees,” he says.

One of the challenges affecting operations of the Department of Forestry across the country is that of shortage of staff and lack of resources in general.

In an interview recently at the Association of Environmental Journalists (AEJ) media training workshop in Lilongwe, Chief of Party for Modern Cooking For Healthy Forests (MCHF), Ramzy Kanaan, tipped the Malawi Government to come up with projects with consideration on the available resources.

“Issues of human resources and finances are critical when it comes to managing big projects like forests, so my free advice to Malawi Government is that it has to venture into projects depending on these resources,” he said.

Minister of Forest and Natural Resources, Nancy Tembo, lauds development partners in forest management and natural resources, saying they are helping Malawi move towards achieving some of the natural resources related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Jenifer Gilla (Tanzania) ; Water storage technology brings womend back to agriculture in Zanzibar ; IPP Media, 30 January 2022.

To access the article : <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/features/water-storage-technology-brings-women-back-agriculture-zanzibar>





It's now experiencing frequent floods, droughts, and unpredictable rainfall in almost the entire islands.

A study conducted by the Office of the Second Vice President Zanzibar in 2019 shows that, large areas of Zanzibar (Unguja and Pemba) are low lying and thus vulnerable to the consequence of variability in temperature, rainfalls, and winds, which have imposed huge social-economic burden to the community including failing in agricultural activities.

Challenges of dry land and saltwater entering the fields which deteriorated agriculture forced some farmers of KiungweKidogo in Bumbwini Ward, led by women to neglect their farms, avoiding losses that they use to get every time they cultivate.

Kiungwe Kidogo village leader, Amir Juma says in 2016 only 20% of women were engaged in agriculture from 1000 women registered as farmers, but by 2020 they had increased to 30 percent and it's all because of the new technology.

"I believe this technology will bring women back to agriculture as they have always been in the frontline in agriculture, but the challenge of climate change is discouraging them," explains Amir.

Some of the farmers in the village did not give up, they disturbed their brain until hurt they came up with the technology of digging small wells which were used to harvest and preserve rainwater and use them for irrigation in vegetable farming such as tomatoes, spinach, watermelons and cucumbers during which the rain does not show.

According to the village chairman, they were not taught about the technology, it was their own idea on the way to find the solution to serve their families from starving.

"We called on a meeting to discuss how we can fight the drought in our farms, since relying on the rain alone was not enough in vegetable farming, we tried this way and appropriate, then we use it so far," he explains.



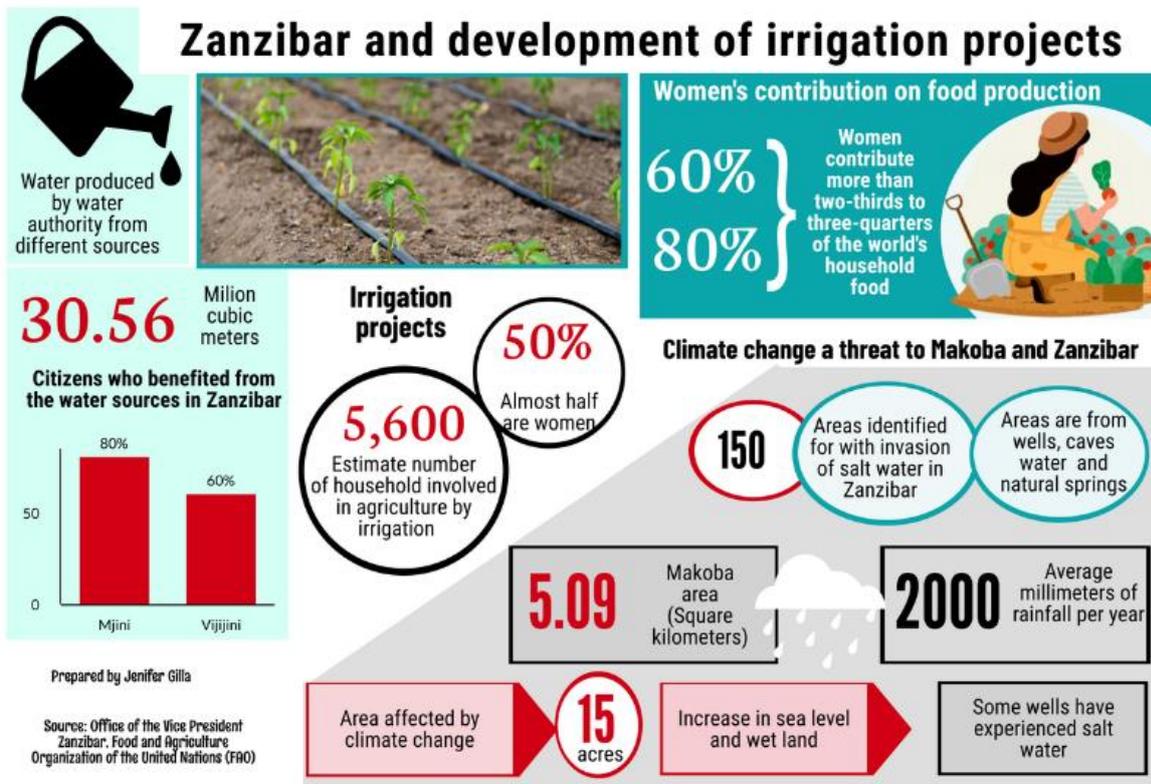
Abdi Athumani, a farmer from the village, says they harvest rainwater to use them for irrigation when the rains stop, but they start watering their crops when it rains.

"Water we harvest helps us when the rains stop, because these crops take three months to harvest and the rains fall for only one month or two weeks, so start watering our crops when it rains, when it stops we connect pumps to the well and start irrigation by using a generator," explains Athumani.

Zuena Makame a watermelon farmer in the village is one of the women who fled her farm due to the drought but came back after seeing that well technology is helping in the fields.

"I stopped farming for two years after my crops dried up in, but in 2019 I decided to go back again after seeing that this method of storing water in small wells helps in vegetable farming, now I am thankful the rigors of life have decreased compared to when I was just sitting at home," says Zuena.

In one acre of cucumber that she used the new irrigation technology, the mother of three earned 700,000/- which helps her pay for her son's fees and pay bills.





Azali Juma Ali says it was difficult to get back to vegetable farming due to the loss she got from the last cultivation, due to saltwater intrusion but well water storage technology restored his dream of farming again.

"I saw my dream fade in agriculture and I completely gave up, but I thank my husband for persuading me so far I see success even though the challenges are still there," says Azali.

Azali says during the two years he lived in agriculture he was running a small business such as selling mangoes and shells whereby her husband who is a fisherman was taking care of the family but now they are helping each other.

While Bahati Juma did not give up farming despite the challenges of drought and saltwater said she supported the men's idea of digging small wells to harvest rainwater which she praised as having changed crop growth on her farm.

"Before this technology were getting low harvest as expected because crops were not growing well, so when the men came up with the idea of digging water storage wells we supported them, we helped with small tasks while digging such as taking sand out of wells.

Thankfully we are now using the men's wells to water in our farms as well because we cannot dig our own wells, now on the half-acre of watermelon farm I earn 600,000/- while before I was earning 400,000/-, "explains Bahati.

Challenges

Despite the help they get from the wells technology, farmers complain that the technology is poor and not compatible with the speed of irrigation of large farms.

"When it rains we dig small wells for water storage, and that is what we use for irrigation in the fields, now it depends on the amount of water, if the fields are big you water finish when crops still need them, so you end up getting loss," says AzaliJuma, a farmer in the village that.

The situation caused LailatuAbdi (50) to incur a loss of 400,000/- when water started to run out when her cucumbers farm were in one and a half month instead of three.





"This situation happened to me a year ago, it did not rain enough so this well did not harvest enough water, I planted one hectare, when the crop came to the middle I saw that the water would not be enough and I had to water only half of the farm and neglect the other half, " she says bitterly.

Existing Strategies

Director of the Environment Department from the Second Vice President's Office in Zanzibar, Farhat Mbarouk, says Zanzibar has received \$1 million from the United Nations Framework Agency for Climate Change (UNFCCC) to help prevent the effects of climate change, 'Adaptation Fund'.

"We have launched the adaptation fund project on January 13, this year, one the areas that will be reached with the money to reduce the impact of climate change is Bimbwili and the implementation will be done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Zanzibar," she says.

While the Irrigation Engineer from the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock, Mohamed Mohammed explains that part of the money will be used to design rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation in Bimbwili ward located in the village.





"We will build a 500-meter wall in Kiungwe Kidogo while in Mafufuni we will build a 400-meter wall to prevent saltwater from entering the fields which will cost \$152,900, we will also build an irrigation system that will cost \$46,000, plus greenhouse \$ 29,000, water storage tank of 1,800,000 liters for irrigation that will cost \$ 75,000, "he explains

He adds that \$ 6200 will be used to provide education and increase awareness to local leaders on the proper use of the infrastructure to be built, thus making the total amount to be \$ 302,000 equivalent to 697.8m/-.

Fredrik Mulinda, Senior Environmental Officer of the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC), who is the National Coordinator of the Adaptation Fund, says NEMC is proud of the success of the project as it will revolutionize the economy in Zanzibar.

"Since we have launched the project, now the implementation is going to start immediately and our job is to closely monitor the progress of the implementation, the goal is to see economic activities hampered by climate change return to the line," says Mulinda.

FAO report on the role of women in Agricultural state that women comprise just over 40 percent of the agricultural labour force in the developing world, 50 percent of the agricultural labour force in sub-Saharan Africa, an increase from about 45 percent in 1980.



Afrik 21

Boris Ngounou (Cameroun) ; Afrique : Interpol saisit plus de quatre tonnes d'ivoire en transit vers l'Asie ; Afrik 21, 31 janvier 2022.

Pour accéder à l'article : <https://www.afrik21.africa/afrique-interpol-saisit-plus-de-quatre-tonnes-divoire-en-transit-vers-lasie/>



© Pav-Pro Photography Ltd /Shutterstock

« Golden Strike » paralyse le trafic d'espèces sauvages de l'Afrique vers l'Asie. L'opération menée de novembre à décembre 2021 par l'Organisation internationale de police criminelle (Interpol) a entraîné des arrestations et des saisies dans toute l'Asie et l'Afrique. L'on note entre autre, la saisie de 1 202 pièces d'ivoire pesant plus de quatre tonnes.

L'Organisation internationale de police criminelle (Interpol) remporte une nouvelle bataille contre la criminalité et le trafic d'espèces sauvages, de l'Afrique vers l'Asie. Le bilan provisoire des saisies est inquiétant. L'on dénombre 1 202 pièces d'ivoire pesant plus de quatre tonnes, 423 kg d'écaillés de pangolins, 50 cornes de rhinocéros pesant 72 kg, 46 kg de vessies de totoaba (un grand poisson argenté très prisé dans la médecine chinoise pour sa vessie natatoire), plus de 3 785 pièces et 52 kg de mollusques, 42 dents de requin, 33 coraux rouges, plus de 120 oiseaux, et 1336 autres espèces protégées par la Convention sur le commerce international des espèces de faune et de flore sauvages menacées d'extinction (Cites).



Ces saisies ont été effectuées dans le cadre d'une opération baptisée « Golden Strike », menée en novembre et décembre 2021 par Interpol, en partenariat avec 23 pays dont 13 situés en Afrique (le Botswana, le Cameroun, la République centrafricaine, la RD Congo, le Gabon, le Kenya, Madagascar, le Malawi, le Nigeria, l'Afrique du Sud, la Tanzanie, l'Ouganda, et le Zimbabwe). L'opération financée par la Chine ne visait que le trafic de l'Afrique vers l'Asie, d'espèces sauvages protégées par la CITES. « Des réponses fortes et coordonnées telles que l'opération Golden Strike sont nécessaires pour lutter contre les activités des groupes criminels organisés transnationaux impliqués dans la criminalité liée aux espèces sauvages et pour perturber les chaînes de commerce illégal dans les États de l'aire de répartition, de transit et de destination » explique Ilana de Wild, la directrice de la criminalité organisée et émergente d'Interpol.

Des arrestations et poursuites judiciaires

Dans le cadre de la même opération, la coopération policière internationale entre l'Afrique du Sud et la Malaisie a vu l'arrestation et la poursuite de deux suspects faisant la contrebande de 45 kg de cornes de rhinocéros entre les deux continents. Et selon Interpol, d'autres arrestations et poursuites judiciaires sont prévues à mesure que les enquêtes transnationales en cours progressent dans le monde.

La criminalité liée aux espèces sauvages n'étant pas confinée à un territoire national, Interpol adopte la nécessité d'agir suivant une approche internationale. En 2015, l'une de ses opérations, baptisée « Worthy II », ciblant le trafic d'ivoire en Afrique, a permis de procéder à 376 arrestations et à la saisie de 4,5 tonnes d'ivoire et de cornes de rhinocéros.

Quatrième commerce illégal au monde selon Interpol, le commerce illicite d'espèces sauvages est estimé à 20 milliards de dollars par an, par l'étude intitulé « The Rise of Environmental Crime », co-publiée en 2016 par Interpol et le Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE).

