

GCCA +

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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REPORT

**GCCA+ AFRICAN REGIONAL
CONFERENCE**
KIGALI, 15-18 OCTOBER 2019

REPORT

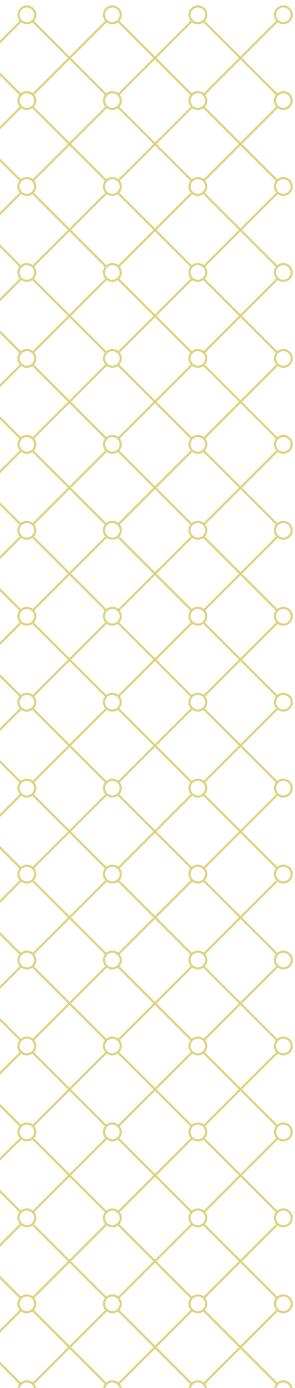
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FOREWORD



Themed 'Climate Smart Africa - Harnessing Growth and Protecting the Gains', the conference convened 130 project developers, representatives of European Union delegations, private sector, and policy decision makers from across Africa. The shared objective was to move from talk to action.

The theme that underpinned almost all discussions was the need to focus resources and action around efforts to manage Africa's land resources. Effective land use and management is a foundation of wealth. Land lies at the heart of Africa's rich and biodiverse natural capital. The true value of its riches and the diverse ecosystems services it produces have traditionally been radically undervalued, excluded from the real economy, misallocated, misused, and too often given away or lost.

From nature-based solutions which leverage the innate infrastructure of natural resources to solve societal problems such as flooding and water scarcity, food insecurity and poor air quality; through to ecosystems based approaches that recognise human activity as integral to the health of ecosystems; many lessons and insights shared experiences of how improved land management and use can grow societies' health, wealth and wellbeing.

Discussions also provided important insights on challenges implementing Nationally Determined Contributions, many of which in Africa focus heavily on the land sector. As we look toward 2020 and the need to act with growing ambition, it became clear that with policies now more or less in place across the region, the best opportunities for increasing NDC implementation and ambition lie in better coordination among key stakeholders, and more effective mobilisation of financial resources from domestic, international and private sector sources. Many participants, including Mayors from Benin, Togo, Cameroon and Kigali, also stressed the need to integrate action and finance at all levels of administrative authority from national to local, and from regional to urban.

Since its inception in 2008, the European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance has focused its resources on supporting the poorest and most vulnerable countries to build resilience, and more recently, to build low emissions development pathways.

The conference demonstrated the depth of the GCCA+'s engagement in the region, with programmes spanning from national planning and institution building, through to pilots testing climate smart approaches that have also improved energy access, raised agricultural productivity, restored degraded coastlines and lands, to name just a few benefits.

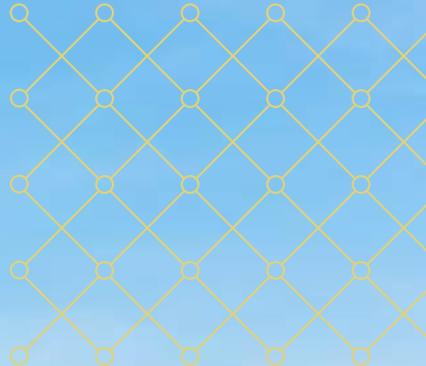
We thank all who took part in 'Harnessing Growth and Protecting the Gains', from near and afar, and I congratulate the organisers, the GCCA+ Support Facility along with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, for convening such a successful event.

Dr. Jeanne d'Arc Mujawamariya *Minister of Environment, Republic of Rwanda*

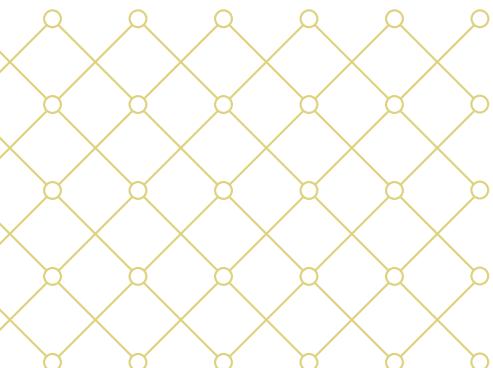


Climate Smart Africa

The European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance Flagship Initiative (GCCA+) together with IUCN and the Rwandan Ministry of Environment, hosted the GCCA+ African Regional Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, 15-18 October 2019.



CONFERENCE BACKGROUND



Seventy per cent of Africa's 1.2 billion citizens derive their livelihoods from agriculture (WEF, 2016). Africa's geographic position and high climate vulnerability compounded by low adaptive capacity in most African countries, threatens agricultural production and food security across the continent. In many countries natural resources ranging from arable land to virgin forests, and from minerals to water tables, have been dramatically under-valued resulting in their misallocation and depletion. The ecosystem services they provide such as clean air and water filtration services, and fertile land for food crops have been degraded and crucial national revenues lost. Fast growing populations, high youth unemployment, and rapid rural-urban migration trends are escalating demand for energy, putting pressure on water on biomass resources, and rapidly increasing greenhouse gas emissions from key sectors including transport and waste. At the same time dramatic poverty persists across the continent and some 600 million African citizens still lack access to electricity (World Bank, 2016). In terms of climate finance, 14% of the world's population living in sub-Saharan Africa access only 3% of global climate finance flows.

Climate change is often poorly understood by local populations and authorities. And demands for all countries – not only developed ones – to contribute to mitigation efforts are often viewed with scepticism. In fact, African countries have everything to gain and very little to lose from taking strong climate action.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this conference were (in no priority):

To showcase GCCA+ projects across the continent and in Rwanda and to promote their learnings in a community of practice; to derive lessons and strengthening the GCCA+ network of practitioners, experts and policy makers and to inform ongoing strategic discussions around the delivery of EU funded climate assistance in Africa (and beyond).

To explore pressing issues that will impact the ability of African countries to achieve economic growth that is environmentally and socially inclusive.

KEY ISSUES

Four key issues were explored in a variety of sessions and formats:

The potential of ecosystem-based adaptation, including the integration of natural capital and ecosystem services into the real economy, to mitigate climate change, build resilience and encourage socially inclusive environmentally sustainable economic growth;

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – to consider lessons learned since Paris 2015 and how can we harness development planning and finance policies to support systemic climate action in African countries, cities and communities in the context of 2020 updated NDCs;

Climate finance – understanding how international climate finance and national policies and institutions can help private sector help actors from households to corporations to invest in transformational climate action;

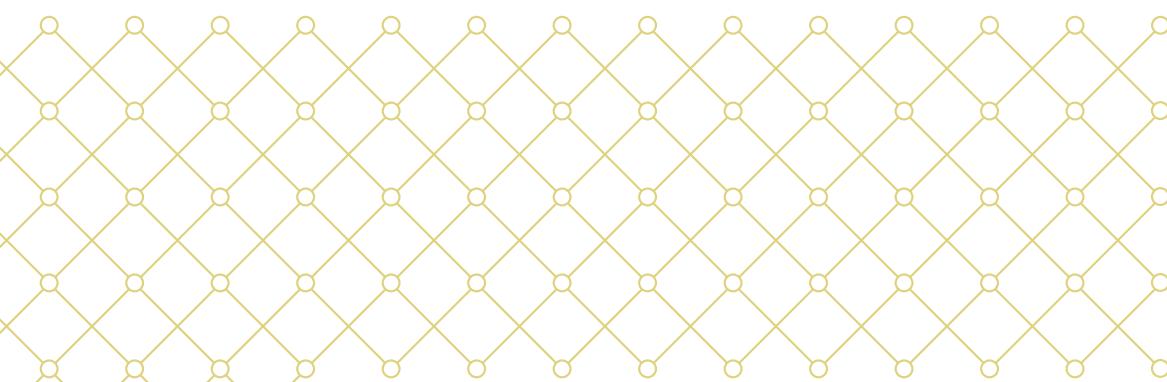
Climate action in cities – introducing the Covenant of Mayors and showcasing GCCA+ projects focusing on cities and municipalities.

PARTNERSHIP WITH IUCN

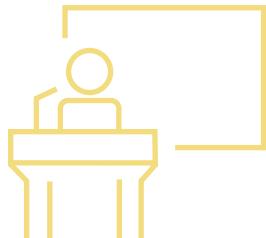
The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was the main conference partner.



Established in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. With Germany, it leads the Bonn Challenge, a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. To this end, its Forest and Land Restoration Africa Regional Hub is in Kigali. It is a leading proponent of Agroforestry solutions to improve agricultural productivity while building climate resilience. IUCN organised a field trip on the final day of the conference, October 18.



OFFICIAL OPENING



PANELISTS

Around 130 participants including GCCA+ project implementers, EU Delegation representatives, decision makers from various countries, scientists and other technical experts were registered to participate in the four-day event.

Vincent Biruta Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Lluis Navarro Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to Rwanda

SESSION MODERATOR

Fiona Mbabazi Event Master of Ceremonies



KEY MESSAGES

- Concrete actions to harness socially inclusive growth and protect development gains made under the Millennium and Sustainable Development Goals (MDGs and SDGs), must be prioritised in African Nationally Determined Contributions, with strong backing by development partners.
- Urgent investment in action to protect and rehabilitate Africa's land resources and natural capital stocks is critical to build climate resilience and future prosperity across the region.
- The GCCA+ regional conference is a key opportunity for this community of practitioners to learn from their successes and build experience before the next critical scaling-up of commitments to global climate action in 2020.

Welcome Address by Representative of the European Union



Mr Lluis Navarro, Head of Cooperation at the European Union Delegation (EUD) to Rwanda, welcomed delegates and set the scene for the conference headline – Harnessing Growth and Protecting the Gains. Noting many reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Mr Navarro warned climate action fell far short of what was needed to stabilize temperature rise at below 2° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. He recalled in the lead up to the Paris Agreement, building upon the GCCA+ action-oriented dialogue the EU had forged an alliance with Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This "high ambition coalition" prosecuted the objective of limiting global warming to 1.5° Celsius, an ambition that is embedded within the Agreement.

Mr Navarro pointed to the EU's ambitious climate and energy agenda in terms of domestic action and investment goals backed by legislative frameworks as setting the global pace. He noted the EU was also the largest state-provider of international climate finance and anticipated it would channel €750 million through GCCA+ initiatives by the end of 2020, mostly for SIDS and LDC countries. Numerous examples of other EU climate action support could be found in programmes such as the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa for Climate and Energy initiative, which complemented GCCA+ programming and pilots. Mr Navarro welcomed strong GCCA+ collaboration with Rwanda since 2010 on land tenure reform and beginning in 2020, on building a sustainable supply chain for clean cook stoves, as examples of what GCCA+ partnerships could achieve in the African context. He then introduced Minister Vincent Biruta to officially open the conference.

Opening Speech by the Hon. Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rwanda



The Hon. Dr Vincent Biruta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Rwanda emphasised the challenge African countries face fostering rapid development while protecting against future climate change impacts. He highlighted the climate-energy nexus as an emblematic example of where systemic changes are needed to tackle energy poverty while managing climate risks across the continent. In Rwanda's case, he underscored over-reliance on wood fuel for cooking as a key continuing driver of deforestation. While Rwanda had achieved its 30% forest cover goals, foraging for cooking fuel continues to hamper land rehabilitation efforts while smoke from biomass damages the health of Rwandans, especially women. Relatedly, soil erosion and land degradation that results from deforestation increases vulnerability to landholders and certain communities in the face of more frequent extreme weather events.



Video Opening Session

www.gcca.eu/videos/gcca-regional-conference-africa-opening

Minister Biruta underscored core elements that would support delivery of Rwanda's complex NDC goals such as border-to-border landscape restoration. He emphasised that as in many countries within the region, policies and institutions are in place and partnerships are supporting limited implementation. However, he noted that developing countries still face challenges accessing sufficient international climate finance and are repeatedly therefore falling short of national investment goals. Minister Biruta called upon the EU and African countries to do more in their partnerships to raise ambition, funding opportunities and to expand climate action. Anticipating the launch of a new GCCA+ program in Rwanda, Minister Biruta closed by welcoming the GCCA+ as a powerful approach to inspire new areas of research, to strengthen ambitions and build partnerships for rapid implementation of the Paris Agreement and other major commitments to protect the planet.



High-Level Panel

Key climate change challenges for Africa

PANELLISTS

Coletha Ruhanya Director-General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), Ministry of Environment

Arnaud de Vanssay Team Leader Agriculture and Rural Development Section, EU Delegation to Rwanda

Hubert Ruzibiza Chief Executive Officer Rwanda Green Fund (Fonerwa)

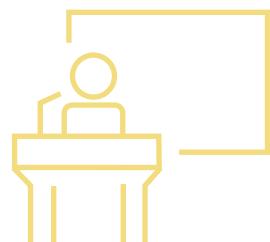
Stephen Rodrigues UNDP Country Director for Rwanda

Andrew Mold UNECA Acting Director for Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Office

Luther Bois Anukur IUCN Regional Director for Eastern & Southern Africa

SESSION MODERATOR

Jane Wilkinson GCCA+ Support Facility



KEY MESSAGES

- African countries' allocation, use and management of land resources is key to Africa's future growth trajectory and capacity for long-lasting adaptation and mitigation action.
- Most African countries should exploit their comparative advantage in being limited contributors to global greenhouse gasses by ensuring their energy, transport and industrial systems leapfrog 19th and 20th technologies, by adopting those of today.
- Climate change policies, plans and strategies have largely been developed. By contrast, coordinated action is in short supply in most African countries. Mass movements linked to behavioural change are needed to take strong action now.

SUMMARY

This session set the stage for the each of the subsequent agenda elements, introducing big-picture policy problems and local insights into where further and/or different solutions were needed to harness growth in Africa while protecting gains already made. Panellists from the Rwandan Government and key regional institutions and organisations introduced some of the key social, economic, demographic and environmental challenges and opportunities facing African countries and communities that need to be considered when planning climate responses at local and regional levels.

1.

Land tenure and property rights is a key determinant of both poverty, land misallocation and sub-optimal land-use. The regularisation of land tenure such as that undertaken in Rwanda does not alleviate poverty in itself. However, land tenure can provide landowners with important incentives to take care of their land, is an avenue to securitise loans, and to participate in land markets via lease or purchase agreements. In Rwanda, land tenure regularisation has provided a foundation for government to minimise social conflict, and to incentivise and support more sustainable land use linked to agriculture extension services, monitoring technologies and data-based policy making. Maintaining still-new technology platforms and expertise should be a priority, though financial resources have not been allocated to do so.

2.

Access to adequate climate finance is a major challenge across the continent. For example, even though agriculture makes up a major part of the economy, small holders face significant barriers accessing international climate finance flows and traditional finance institutions regard agriculture as a high-risk investment. To address this, Rwanda's Green Fund is among a new class of African national institutions designed to access international climate finance sources including donors and the GCF, and to tailor the delivery of finance to suit local economic indicators while paying attention to co-benefits of sustainable agriculture, including the value of ecosystem/environmental services, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

3.

More action is needed to mobilize investment by the private sector domestically and internationally. Some national institutions such as Fonerwa are reviewing their business models, to decide if it is possible to offer concessional retail banking services to SMEs and others not currently served by commercial banking models, in addition to payment for performance-based systems and grants. A second option could be to work with the EU at an institutional level, which has ambitious carbon neutral goals, to develop a 'New Green Deal' for Africa aiming to vastly scale up funding for clean development.

4.

Climate change is a problem of externalities and the globalisation of trade has locked in some complex social and climate interactions which need to be managed as the region moves to harmonise and modernise its trading regimes. For example, overvaluing the 'benefits' of some inputs (for example, cheap labour) while under-pricing environmental costs (for example, water use in cotton production) has led to a textile industry 'boom' in some economies while depleting natural resources. As major infrastructure developments come online, governments will need to choose if these will minimise or exaggerate externalities over significant time frames. In the end, investing in green infrastructure may be more cost-effective by providing climate resilience and mitigation opportunities over the long-term.

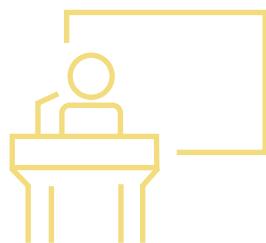
5.

The socio-cultural dimensions of climate change such as its effects on women and youth can be leveraged to drive behavioural change at scale. Nature based solutions (NBS) to societal problems, for example, to help green cities, give local communities ownership of climate action but remain under-funded. Standards to measure impacts of NBS could help to build a compelling body of evidence supporting behavioural changes at massive scale. More inclusive consultation is needed during planning, implementing and monitoring phases to understand climate impacts that go beyond biophysical dimensions.



SESSION 1

Can nature-based solutions build effective climate resilience and lift people out of poverty?



PANELLIST

Luis Sánchez Green Climate Fund Independent Evaluation Unit

SESSION MODERATOR

Charles Karangwa GCCA+ Support Facility



KEY MESSAGES

- Nature Based Solutions (NBS) can address climate change adaptation and mitigation by protecting, managing or restoring natural or modified ecosystems – in a way that generates benefits in terms of both human wellbeing and biodiversity / ecosystem protection. NBS can thus be used as a structuring, inclusive approach towards resilience.
- Capturing the full set of adaptation and mitigation benefits of NBS remains challenging due to their broad encompassing features. This requires systematic mapping of baselines, approaches and geographies, across time.
- Short-and longer-term cost-benefit analyses of the net environmental and socio-economic outcomes generated by NBS would help build a business case for action and catch the attention of investors and decision-makers.
- There is a lot happening in the field of NBS on the African continent. Cross-country learning and peer exchanges represent an opportunity for mainstreaming successful practices into national and local development plans, and scale-up environmentally and socially sound climate action.

SUMMARY

This session began by introducing the broad set of issues and questions most associated with NBS, including whether they were capable by themselves of alleviating poverty. Subsequently group discussions enable participants to share their actual experiences of NBS, to identify opportunities to improve the 'business case' for their implementation and to close data gaps that impede uptake. The following captures the key take outs of the group conversations. There was broad recognition that NBS were widely used and had been implemented for years. A note of caution highlighted important data gaps that need to be closed to encourage community understanding and engagement, and to build an evidentiary base to encourage support for NBS actions in both the short-and long-term.

1. NBS offer a structured, multifaceted and inclusive approach to building climate resilience. When accompanied by other measures such as the development of new value chains, NBS can generate substantial socio-economic benefits. Examples discussed during this session included restoring wetlands to provide urban flood protection; reforestation to rehabilitate watersheds and prevent siltation of hydropower reservoirs; constructing of small dams to increasing groundwater recharge; rehabilitating mangroves and coral reefs to protect land from coastal erosion and to improve fisheries; improving energy efficiency and reducing deforestation by adopting improved cook stoves, and others.
2. NBS outcomes take time to reach full maturity. Measuring the societal benefits from reduced exposure to floods and droughts, enhanced food and water security, agricultural productivity and income diversification requires evaluation over time.
3. Scientific data calculating the full value of multi-faceted benefits remains relatively scarce and there are significant knowledge gaps. Existing data sets relate mainly to agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors. Developing standards and good practices to guide NBS implementa-

tion in other adaptation relevant sectors, for example, water; built environment and land use; and society, economy and health, would help to close these data gaps. Defining and measuring NBS baselines is challenging. Options for collecting baseline data include in the context of an existing programme, during the preparation of national adaption or low-emission development strategies, national development plans or sector strategies. In many cases the collection of some ad hoc baseline data may also be needed.

4.

Going forward, capacity building for beneficiaries and demonstrating short-term gains rather than just longer-term benefits will help to build active engagement with beneficiaries and communities. Integrating indigenous knowledge and methodologies based on scientific evidence, validated approaches and good practices supported by clear guidelines will encourage decision makers to mainstream successful practices into national and local development plans. Linking outputs to national climate change monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) platforms using well defined performance indicators would encourage the integration of NBS into community-based and national climate action and development plans.

5.

Countries could foster greater uptake of NBS by undertaking ecosystem services valuations with international support where necessary. Cost-benefit analysis to compare the net benefits of grey versus natural infrastructure solutions could also offer a compelling business case. These can eventually justify payment systems for ecosystem services, which would financially sustain the provision of quality natural services. Over time, verified carbon savings could potentially be traded on national and international carbon markets or used to generate income through payment for performance schemes.



The Marketplace



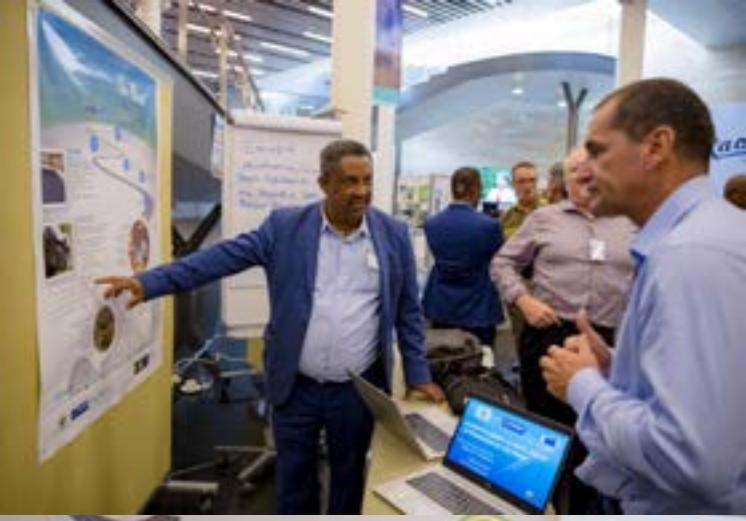
Video Market Place

www.gcca.eu/videos/gcca-regional-conference-africa-market-place

The Marketplace enabled participants to set up stalls to showcase their methodologies, communication products and in some cases products associated improved livelihoods supported by specific programmes. 15 stalls were set up (from Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Rwanda (IUCN and Rwanda Green Fund), LoCAL, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Shire River Basin Management Project, Seychelles, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda) including 11 GCCA/GCCA+ projects. Participants circulated among the stalls, shared learnings, and ultimately, voted for their favourite stall.

And the winner was... Tanzania! Eye-catching handmade leather products including footballs and high fashion handbags on display, were integral to Tanzania winning 'Best Market Stall'. With an emphasis on women taking on leadership roles, especially in income-generating activities, the items were made mainly by women and youth groups.





SESSION 2

How to apply integrated EbA with territorial authorities

PANELLISTS



Rafael Moser Regional Programme Officer, LoCAL Africa

Roberto Zolho Forest and Land Restoration Coordinator, National Sustainable Development Fund, Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development, Mozambique

Barthélémy Ndongson Directeur Agence Municipale de Gestion des Dechets (Urbaniste), Commune de Dschang, Cameroon

Thomas Sberna IUCN Regional Technical Coordinator for Marine and Coastal Resilience

SESSION MODERATOR

Geraldo Carreiro GCCA+ Support Facility

KEY MESSAGES

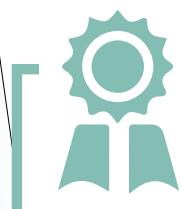
- 66% of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) include ecosystem based adaptation (EbA) measures.
- EbAs recognise the full array of interactions within an ecosystem, including humans, rather than considering a single issue or service in isolation.
- Managing competing ecosystems services may require trade-offs and complex interactions between levels of governance and political administration.



SUMMARY

This session focused on ecosystems-based approaches to adaptation, to understand where challenges lay particularly in managing approaches that required complex integration across several territorial authorities. Panellists shared their perspectives in relation to the specific challenges of securing political support for local ecosystems-based action, managing competing ecosystems services, waste management and oceans.

- 1.** Climate change actions may be supported at a variety of administrative levels, but action takes place in a local context. The UNCDF's Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL) initiative encourages the vertical integration of action via a performance grant mechanism that allows different national and international funding resources to be distributed at sub-national levels. Solid performance monitoring systems and an emphasis on social, governance, financial and climatic issues, have helped to build a path for a more cohesive approach to resourcing and implementing local climate change action, as well as promoting coherence from country to country where the LoCAL programs is implemented.
- 2.** EbAs may solve specific adaptation challenges. However, competition between ecosystems services may require trade-offs between them to deliver complex societal, economic and environmental returns. For example, Mozambique's urban sprawl is contributing to growing demand for food and fuel, encroaching on forests and contributing to significant deforestation across the country. Policy makers must identify these needs in competition and identify optimal trade-offs. For example, order to promote forestry in Mozambique, forest management policy makers associate it with EbA actions that deal with provisioning services (wood/fuelwood, water, food, etc.), cultural services (natural heritage, recreational values), and regulating services (temperature control, erosion control, biodiversity etc.)
- 3.** Other barriers to implementing EbAs include low awareness among the general population, enforcement issues, and the divergence between landscape-level policy planning and local implementation. Administrative coordination and particularly integrating action and resources at different territorial levels crucial. Performance based interventions, in which financial, environmental, governance and climatic aspects are accommodated, improves targeting and efficiency.
- 4.** Work to regenerate ecosystems is still feasible if immediate action is taken this generation. An integrated approach that incorporates different elements such as local leadership, partnerships, sustainable financial mechanisms, circular economy and scientific knowledge generation is necessary in order to ensure effective action in EbA.
- 5.** As with NBS, high quality metrics to generate baselines and measure progress toward outcomes of EbA are a priority. Only a limited number of NDCs have proposed solid metrics to measure interventions. There is need to strike a balance between complex metrics and transparent monitoring indicators so that they can be integrated and monitored by all stakeholders. Engaging diverse actors and mainstreaming local knowledge, practices and complex negotiation are at the centre of EbA.

GCCA+ COMMUNICATION AWARD



To encourage participants to share with delegates their project outcomes and outreach, the GCCA+ created two new awards.

Comoros received the "GCCA+ Communication Award" for awareness raising on climate change through seven short films and a comic strip featuring a typical Comorian family.

"The videos are part of a wider publicity campaign using radio, the internet and local newspapers," explained Mohammed Ali Mlazahane, the GCCA+ Project Director for Comoros. "We wanted to attract the attention of the entire population to these issues and their challenges for Comoros. We wanted to get people to link their everyday actions with climate change. A lot of them don't really understand climate change and how it relates to how they live day to day. Using simple language and illustrations, people get to understand climate change better."




GCCA+ BEST MARKET STALL AWARD

SESSION 3

Climate smart cities and municipalities – Introducing the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa

KEY MESSAGES FOR BOTH SUB-SESSIONS

- There are opportunities for the GCCA+ to link to other EU supported climate action programmes, like the Covenant of Mayors Sub-Saharan Africa (CoMSSA), to scale and replicate action piloted locally.
- The CoMSSA, like the IPCC special report on global warming of 1.5° C, recognises the potential of local authorities and cities to become regional "powerhouses" of climate change action, inclusive growth and innovation.
- Beyond the CoMSSA, other African cities including Kigali, are recognising myriad opportunities to act at the local city level and are developing green master plans to guide the development of socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable cities of the future.



Technical Sub-Session

Department of Zou project under CoM SSA: "Context, benefits and achieved results"

PANELLISTS



SUB-SESSION MODERATOR

Hermann Padonou Department of Zou, Bohicon, Benin
Team Leader of the Project Management Unit, CoM SSA

Michel Houndjo Tsévié, Togo, Coordinator PPED, CoM SSA

Saleck Ahmed Cherid Director for the studies, project and cooperation, Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania

Fred Mugisha Director of Urban Planning and Construction OSC, City of Kigali, Rwanda

Monica Bonfanti GCCA+ Support Facility

SUMMARY

Ideally, climate action programmes supported by the EU can leverage and complement each other, avoiding duplication, filling gaps, and eventually linking up to facilitate action to scale. Panellists in this session considered why the role of local actors cannot be ignored and shared compelling examples of how their own local contributions have actively supported national NDC targets. The CoMSSA pilot activities in 13 pilot cities of all sizes, offer examples of how local climate change action are impacting the sensitiveness and daily life of citizens. Presentations demonstrate how local actors are powerfully aware of their citizens needs and are seeking to influence national governments to support them as direct agents of the NDC implementation process.



- 1.** The CoMSSA provides technical support to build an evidentiary base at various points of planning and financial support for implementation to help local authorities implement dynamic adaptation and mitigation plans that address community priorities.
- 2.** In Nouakchott, Mauritania, rapid population growth, high unemployment, limited capacity for energy and climate planning and insufficient exploitation of renewable energy sources were barriers to implementing low carbon growth and climate resilient strategies. At the programme's inception, vulnerability assessments identified key entry points, while feasibility studies on options identified the most efficient actions with greatest reach. Populations in 9 communities benefited from increased resilience and the introduction of solar lighting and recharge services while technical training ensured new technologies could be maintained in the long-term.
- 3.** In the City of Tsevie, Togo, the CoMSSA supported the installation of reliable renewable energy sources for both the city and its satellite villages. Large solar kits were installed in seven hospital and school facilities; solar lighting was installed in key urban settings and improved cookstoves were distributed in four cantons. Impacts from the program included better provision of essential public education and health services; improved security for citizens, reduced pressure on biomass resources, and growing awareness among the citizenry about opportunities to preserve the environment.
- 4.** Under its NDC, Benin committed to sequestering 163,000 tonnes of CO2 between 2020-2030. Reforestation and ambitious goals to provide access to clean energy and cook stoves were core activities in addition to improving agricultural production and building resilience to flooding. The CoMSSA initially supported an intense period of community consultation in 9 communities before beginning vulnerability and diagnostic assessments and ultimately, pilots in each location. Solar energy services in key public buildings have already improved the provision of key services. Improved irrigation and runoff services are expected to boost agricultural production while protecting against floods (by 2024), and gradual roll-out of clean cooking facilities and access to card-based clean energy services are expected to improve energy efficiency.
- 5.** Although not a signatory to the CoMSSA, the City of Kigali has developed a citizen-centred and participatory city master plan as part of Rwanda's smart cities agenda. The Green Master Plan demonstrates it is possible to reduce the distance between citizens and decision makers while increasing citizens ability to access climate services and energy innovations.

Political Sub-Session

The role of the Association of Mayors and the political role of mayors in promoting climate change in city planning and budgeting.

PANELLISTS



Hermann Padonou Department of Zou, Bohicon, Benin
Team Leader of the Project Management Unit, CoM SSA

Etse Kodjo Kadévi Prefect of Zio, Togo

Cheikhna Ahmed Benane Deputy President, Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania

WORDS FROM

Prudence Rubingisa Mayor City of Kigali



SUMMARY

Through networking and learning programmes from other countries, the CoMSSA has increased the visibility of what is being done locally in the fight against climate change across the African continent and beyond. In this session, panellists explored the importance of local authorities to engage politically to encourage central governments to dedicate resources to support local action. It was also evident that political 'sponsorship' by Mayor's political networks helped to ensure that lessons learned at the local level are transmitted back up the policy chain to central line ministries who can support scale by dedicating budgets, resources and learning, to replicate successful pilots.

- 1.** Local authorities know their communities and their circumstances best. Engaging citizens where they live, in cities and in villages, is paramount to facilitate ownership of climate change initiatives where they occur.
- 2.** In many African cities, development plans include strategies to switch energy production away from wood and petroleum sources to clean and renewable sources. As increased energy generation comes on-line, countries and cities have the potential to avoid future emissions while increasing the availability of efficient, affordable energy services to growing populations. Political commitments to pursue longer term goals over short-term gains lie at the heart of leapfrogging.
- 3.** The CoMSSA has encouraged local authorities to build partnerships and knowledge networks to share and learn lessons that can amplify implementation and provide new insights into finance and budgeting. Engaging small businesses and private enterprises as delivery and investment partners improves the management of some activities and invites private investment where there are opportunities to make profits. The CoMSSA has also encouraged partnerships between cities both within Africa and abroad with EU Covenant of Mayors counterparts. By coming together, small cities are demonstrating that effectively delivering their own climate change action programmes is crucial when aggregating national actions.
- 4.** Home-grown solutions are gaining popularity across Africa, encouraging citizens to contribute to green city outcomes. For example, "Clean Up City Days" take place in Kigali on the last Saturday of the month during which citizens do community work such as collecting garbage, clean trenches, work on ravines, plant trees among other activities. This is a green and climate-smart approach which gaining popularity in the African region. However, more needs to be done in implementing CoMSSA including sensitization of all stakeholders involved at different levels and integration of the CoMSSA plan in the national agenda.

Cocktail event

After a welcome by Mr Christophe Legrand, GCCA+ Support Facility Team Leader, on behalf of the European Union, the Conference Cocktail Reception was opened by Mr Hubert Ruzibiza, CEO of the Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), representing Minister Biruta. Mr Rubiza emphasized that the innovative approaches being developed including by funds such as FONERWA and the learnings and experiences gleaned in international conversations that took place outside of the formal climate change negotiations. He welcomed the contribution of the GCCA+ and its concrete actions taking place across the region. The GCCA+ "She changes" virtual photographic exhibition was presented, and winners of the GCCA+ Communication and GCCA+ Best Market Stall awards were announced.

Traditional dances were also performed during the course of the Reception.



SESSION 4

From projects to sectors to whole economies – NDC implementation in Africa

PANELLISTS



Juliet Kabera Director-General for Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Rwanda

Lucy Ssendi Senior Climate Change Advisor to the President's Office for Regional and Local Government Tanzania, and Advisor to the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)

Margaret Barihaihi NDC Partnership Regional Specialist for Anglophone Africa and Mozambique

SESSION MODERATOR

John Heermans Senior Country Engagement Specialist, NDC Partnership



KEY MESSAGES

- As 2020 approaches growing work is to align political commitments embodied in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with practical actions that leave capacity in country.
- Coordination among responsible entities and development partners is an area that requires attention. Mechanisms such as NDC Partnership Plans are encouraging governments to identify actions needed to implement NDCs, while helping development partners to align resources in accordance with country priorities. Mechanisms to help mainstream climate smart development into broader planning processes and partnerships will be key to successful and timely implementation.
- High-quality, predictable and accessible financing is still needed to support developing country action in line with the Paris Agreement climate change aspirations.

SUMMARY

NDCs have become a focal point for action and support, including for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This all-female panel explored why NDCs are relevant even for the LDCs, why countries in Africa are taking ambitious action in their own interests, and whether there are trends to be observed and learned from across the continent.



- 1.** The LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR) is encouraging LDCs to integrate adaptation, mitigation and resilience into the national development agenda. By focusing on the potential co-benefits of strong adaptation action among multiple stakeholders, it is encouraging deeply embedded approaches that improve the climate resilience of people, economies and landscapes.
- 2.** Successful NDC implementation requires many things to go well at the same time. Vertically integrating coordination within government while encouraging horizontal collaboration with partners, investors and stakeholders helps to improve coordination and resourcing while reducing duplication and transaction costs. A holistic and complex approach based upon the notion of 'leaving no one behind' facilitates deepened climate knowledge, access to better technology and strengthened national and local institutional capabilities and mobilized citizens. Focal points in ministry of finance and planning need to be involved in the adaptation and mitigation planning processes as key enablers of action. The private sector hold assets that need to be invested to support action in crucial production and consumption sectors. Involvement of youth and women is critical to the success of dealing with climate change.
- 3.** Adequate and predictable finance is still a systemic weakness. With proper and effective capacity building, countries can utilize own finances even as they mobilize external financing from donors such as GCF, GCCA+ and GEF among others. Some countries including Rwanda, Namibia and Mozambique, are dedicating resources to support national budget tracking which is helping to highlight opportunities to optimise finance from a range of sources.
- 4.** Countries are doing it for themselves. The time when developing countries set climate goals based upon international expectations has long since passed. The panel proposed that Africa's NDCs are the most ambitious in the world in part because countries now recognise their vulnerability and their interests in building resilience. National policies are largely developed, but coordinated action is still a challenge. More effort is required to communicate the benefits of strong climate actions to citizens who will lose most in the absence of the same.
- 5.** Some of the biggest NDC gaps across the continent currently concern monitoring, verification and reporting systems. Monitoring progress in real time that could facilitate nimble adjustments based on data requires the selection of robust indicators (harmonized with global ones) and systemic data collection and analysis. Currently as NDCs actions are monitored at a sub-sectoral level, if at all, and MRV systems are similarly siloed. Further efforts to mainstream climate actions aligned with development agenda goals at least at the sectoral level, will encourage more efficient data systems and more accurate monitoring of progress. Beyond measuring progress for UNFCCC purposes, adequate and fit for purpose data collection and analysis systems are critical tools to support robust and effective policy design and implementation at national and sub-national levels.

SESSION 5

Climate Finance – New approaches to mobilise climate finance for stronger local climate action

PANELLISTS



Karl Aribeb Chief Operations Officer, Environmental Investment Fund Namibia

Teddy Mugabo Head of Business Development, Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA)

Lucy Ssendi Senior Climate Change Advisor to the President's office for regional and local government (PO-RALG) and advisor to the LDC Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR)

Rafael Moser Regional Programme Officer, LoCAL Africa

SESSION MODERATOR

Jane Wilkinson GCCA+ Support Facility

KEY MESSAGES

- The use of limited domestic resources requires careful planning, including to leverage other available resources. Public sector resources, so far the primary source of climate finance, will and should increasingly be used to catalyse and leverage private sector investment, notably in the form of guarantees for de-risking private investment.



- In testing new approaches, pilot and demonstration projects provide opportunities to learn and develop better processes. However even pilots should, where possible, build upon existing, country-owned systems to encourage sustainability and scaling up.
- More attention must be paid to developing structural mechanisms, embedded in national public financial management systems, for financing adaptation at the local level. Diversifying sources of funding helps achieve improved predictability in the availability of resources. Engaging the private sector in adaptation is also needed – requiring the prospect of a good return on investment as well as de-risking.

SUMMARY

The session's panellists considered the challenges of mobilising finance given strong global competition for limited international public finance resources. The presentations and debates pointed to important success factors. Among these, the importance of solid partnerships between diverse international, national and local actors; diversifying sources to reduce reliance upon limited international public funds and creating incentives to drive behavioural change, and finally, building capacities at all levels financial structuring and project development within the countries themselves.

1.

New green funds are being established across the continent to mobilise resources from international and domestic sources. Namibia's Environmental Investment Fund (EIF) was accredited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in 2015, learning some important lessons in the process:

- ▶ accreditation requires demonstrating a good track record in administrative and financial management, project management and grant making, as well as potential for meeting rigorous fiduciary requirements;
- ▶ it requires a significant investment in developing multiple aspects of institutional capacity;
- ▶ developing in-house capacities is essential;
- ▶ understanding the functioning of the GCF (for example through participation in Board meetings and the GCF policy formulation process) is very helpful.

The accreditation process was expensive but helped improve the EIF's financial standing.

2.

Domestic resource mobilisation strategies include collecting revenues from mechanisms such as environmental levies. In Namibia, "Pushback" by some public and private sector actors resulted in the removal of some products from the initially envisaged list of items to be taxed (including lubricating oils used in the mining sector). Levies are not collected by customs at import entry points into the country and are allocated into the general budget, before a proportion (30%) is transferred to the EIF. Such mechanisms have the advantage of incentivising behaviour change by raising the cost of activities that have negative externalities.

3.

National institutions can also speed up access to international financial instruments designed to leverage private sector investment at scale.

The Sustainable Use of Natural Resources and Energy Finance (SUNREF) initiative supported by Agence de Development Française has tapped €46 million in international funds to be channelled through commercial banks in the South, to lower financing costs associated with 'more risky' renewable energy and other sustainable development projects. However, commercial banks are not currently willing to lend to projects in communal areas and this is an issue which needs to be addressed by bringing on board some development finance institutions.

4.

Bilateral partnerships are also important sources of grants that can be redistributed through national institutions. In its first phase (2012-2018), Rwanda's Green Fund (Fonerwa) raised grants from bi- and multi-lateral sources, and used them to provide: (i) grants to NGOs and governments institutions; and (ii) innovation grants and subsidised loans to private sector entities. Fonerwa finances not only "purely" environmental projects but also projects in other sectors that are aligned with the national Green Growth Strategy.

5.

Diversification provides better risk coverage in terms of accessing adequate finance and providing tailored products. In its current second phase, recognising that the climate finance landscape is changing, FONERWA will seek to gradually move away from grant funding to blended finance and dedicating more resources to the private sector, by setting up of:

- ▶ a private sector facility, including an incubator and an accelerator programme;
- ▶ a green investment bank, to be established as new, distinct institution, which will use grants to de-risk investments.

6.

Developing systems to deliver finance to local actors is essential to foster action where it occurs. Through the LoCAL initiative, UNCDF helps to secure finance for local adaptation actions through a system of climate resilience performance-based grants (CRPBGs) that are paid into national treasuries but distributed by local authorities using the national public financial management systems. Key features of the approach include: (i) the use of country-owned mechanisms; (ii) a phased approach, starting with a pilot involving only a few local governments, then extending to 5-10 more, before rolling out nationally; (iii) the provision of technical support to build capacities, notably for local adaptation planning; and (iv) the use of annual performance assessments determine the release of tranches of financial resources.

7.

Building on existing systems to the extent possible helps to entrench success. In Tanzania, the Local Climate Finance Initiative (LCFI) is based upon broader delivery of CRPBGs channelled to local authorities. The program takes the lessons learned in the LoCAL pilot and broadens the scope of its implementation. Technical capacity building support is delivered to local government, which (with the help of community-based adaptation planning committees) identifies priority investments from a menu of eligible investments (water supply & efficiency, livestock and agriculture, small infrastructure, local markets etc.). Investments are subject to annual performance assessments. By coordinating with LoCAL, the LCFI was able to scale the pilot approach, consolidate learning, and expand to multiple regions and sectors.

SESSION 6

Putting it all together – Developing new approaches to scale up NDC action and spur sustainable development

SESSION MODERATOR

Jane Wilkinson GCCA+ Support Facility

Group sessions were facilitated by panellists including from the financing and NDC sessions, and the GCCA+ Support Facility.



KEY MESSAGES

- The GCCA+ community of practice demonstrated outstanding awareness of the need to coordinate across sectors and institutions, and to consider multiple sources of funding to support complex NDC implementation.
- In most working groups, MRV was recognised as a key challenge that needed to be resolved going forward.
- Climate action does not happen in isolation. Coordination and consultation is essential to ensure opportunities are not lost, progress is leveraged across multiple relevant actions, and learning is retained.

GROUP EXERCISE

Groups were asked to discuss possible NDC actions in a hypothetical example, focused on one of the target areas set out below:

Xanadu is highly vulnerable to climate change, as it is strongly reliant on rain-fed agriculture both for rural livelihoods and for exports of maize. 70% of the population rely on agriculture for their livelihoods. Adaptation concerns are central. Extreme weather events have increased in frequency and magnitude, and floods and droughts are not uncommon. While Xanadu does has only recently become a net source of emissions, ambitious growth targets mean that careful decisions need to be taken about energy, transport and infrastructure.

Key targets are to:

- ▶ Increase the productivity of agriculture;
- ▶ Increase access to energy for rural and peri-urban populations;
- ▶ Increasing renewable energy to 70% of the energy mix by 2025;
- ▶ Forestry, agroforestry and biomass production: creating a supply chain for clean cookstoves;
- ▶ Building a mass transport system for its major cities;
- ▶ Improving waste management.

Drawing on discussions we have had so far, consider which EbA or mitigation action/s could be implemented and what is needed to make that possible?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.

Setting baseline values, establishing inventories for GHG data and setting up M&E and MRV systems and standards for monitoring progress, including indicators and targets, help to establish an evidence base to learn lessons and to monitor and assess the performance of climate change actions.

2.

Establishing more accessible financing and incentives mechanisms using a combination of subsidies for green energy and disincentives for polluting activities could be linked with hybrid and blended approaches including equity investments, revolving funds, green bonds, subsidized loans at below market rates (digital), e-taxes/levies, climate risk insurance.

3.

There is a need for more case studies, policy and regulatory reviews to aid unlocking barriers to the implementation of NDCs in key sectors such land, energy, agriculture and forestry.

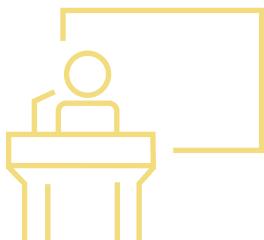
4.

Setting up a multi-sector climate actions coordination committee to oversee integrated coordination of initiatives should involve diverse actors with clear delegations. Also, Public and Private Partnerships (PPPs) are necessary for sustainable implementation of agriculture, energy, forestry/agro forestry and waste management initiatives.

SESSION 7

Understanding the GCCA+

PANELLISTS



Christophe Legrand Team Leader, GCCA+ Support Facility

Jane Wilkinson Strategic Mitigation Advisor, GCCA+ Support Facility

Geraldo Carreiro Climate Change expert, GCCA+ Support Facility & Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility

Francesca Predazzi Communication and Knowledge Management experts, GCCA+ Support Facility

SESSION MODERATOR

Catherine Paul GCCA+ Support Facility

SUMMARY

This session provided Support Facility experts an opportunity to update EU delegations and GCCA+ project representatives (past, present and future) on programming, technical services, communication platforms and future events. It also provided an opportunity to discuss linkages with the Mainstreaming Facility, and for participants to ask specific questions of individual experts.



KEY MESSAGES

- The Mainstreaming Facility tracks the EU commitment to make at least 20% of EU expenditure climate-related in 2014-2020.
It has implemented activities including
 - ▶ awareness-raising
 - ▶ capacity building
 - ▶ technical support
 - ▶ review of Action Documents
 - ▶ tracking of environmental and climate funds in DEVCO (climate change, biodiversity, combat desertification and aid to environment)
 - ▶ communication supporting DEVCO in programming.It has also developed sector notes, environmental and climate change integration guidelines, SEA booklet and other publications to assist implementation.
- The GCCA+ has implemented 77 programs worldwide plus other additional eight to be approved by the end of 2019 . The GCCA+ is a EU flagship initiative using currently two different financial instruments. What is known as the GCCA+ is directly coordinated and managed by DEVCO and funded under DEVCO's Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) since 2007. Under the overall coordination and management of DEVCO, the GCCA+ Support Facility (GCCA+ SF) is contracted to provide technical support to partner countries and DEVCO for the effective implementation of GCCA+ national and regional actions. Most of the technical services provided are demand-driven and can cover all phases of project implementation as well as training courses.
- As part of this same initiative but funded under the European Development Fund (EDF) since 2012, the Intra-Africa Caribbean Pacific GCCA+ (Intra-ACP) programme is managed directly through the ACP Secretariat. The programme specifically targets ACP Member States, helping them to better tackle climate change as a challenge to their development and implement appropriate adaptation and mitigation responses. It finances regional programmes managed by ACP regional organisations, and it also includes a technical assistance component, the Climate Support Facility (CSF), to provide demand-driven technical support.
- Communication tools developed by the GCCA+ Support Facility include:
 - ▶ the GCCA+ Communication guidelines;
 - ▶ a revamped website with a photo gallery;
 - ▶ a thematic magazine produced every four months (already three issues) to showcase thematic issues sharing experience via feature stories from different countries;
 - ▶ the GCCA+ newsletter, often featuring stories from the projects, encouraged to share more systematically their communication products with the GCCA+ SF;
 - ▶ the GCCA+ online Community of practice on "Capacity for Development (Cap4Dev)" platform which enables users to share information and participate in thematic discussions;

- ▶ the GCCA+ collaborative platform, presented for the first time during the conference, which will soon allow the GCCA+ SF and project focal points to better manage project knowledge and resources, and facilitate update of project fiches as well as the collection of monitoring data.
- New Focus of the GCCA+ SF on mitigation actions: After the Paris Agreement, the mandate of GCCA+ was expanded to include NDC and mitigation actions. NDC shall be regarded as the entry point for States, and all mitigation sectors are covered under the new component of GCCA+.
- At the UNFCCC COP25 the GCCA+ will host side events on the oceans, climate security, and waste management in Africa.
- The 2020 Global strategic event will take place in Brussels. It will include all the GCCA+ projects from Pacific, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean (tentatively around May-June 2020).
- The 2020 AAP process is likely to feature calls for proposals linked to a specific thematic or geographical focus, to encourage better coordination and work between the different units in charge of climate change and related themes within DEVCO.
- New technical and information resources focused on mitigation will be made available on the website in late 2019, in line with the new mandate to include mitigation and MRV in GCCA+ Actions. NDCs are a global entry point for request to EUD's in countries.



Communications and visibility

A detailed communication plan was prepared well in advance and shared with partner IUCN, who assumed the responsibility of media relations. Participants were able to register online, and were informed thought the means of flash news, before and after the Conference. A dedicated web site page was contently updated with information and presentations. Visibility of the site included panels on GCCA+ in Africa, Climate change solutions panels and conference banners, both in print and on screens, as well as tote bags with a fact sheet, USB key with GCCA+ materials, and other branded items. A special set up was prepared to make the "Market Place" an area easily recognizable and GCCA+ branded. A photo booth engaged participants in taking pictures holding signs with climate specific statements.

During the conference photos and video coverage of the event were organized and shared with participants the following day. The strong presence of GCCA+ programmes also allowed for a series of written and video interviews with the programmes, which were released in the following weeks as part of GCCA+ communication activities. The conference was also the occasion to project the virtual exhibition "She Changes – Women and climate change" to a new audience and to hold two awards for GCCA+ projects: a Communication Award and a Best Marker Stall award, which were won respectively by GCCA+ Comoros and Tanzania.

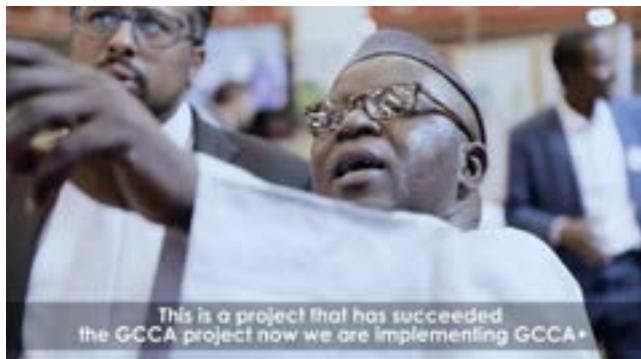
A strong media presence led to coverage on main Rwandan media as well as pans African ones –on TV, print and online.



Virtual exhibition "She Changes – Women and climate change"

Communication material

VIDEOS



Saving the coastal zone in The Gambia
www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-s3ypHUjUQ



GCCA+ Regional Conference Africa
www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_TcnXgLdjc



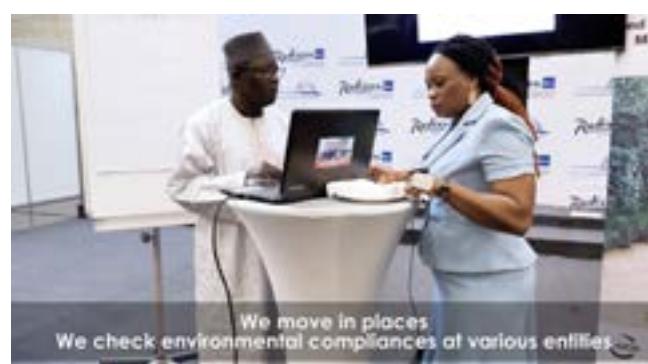
GCCA+ for a Climate Smart Africa
www.youtube.com/watch?v=80Pa2mAMZaE



Turning waste into something usable
www.youtube.com/watch?v=y52YflB-mqo



GCCA+ Climate change solutions video
www.youtube.com/watch?v=r32aDFFLIS4&t=64s



GCCA+ Regional Conference Africa - Market Place
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElN8KtWO0Uc&t=120s

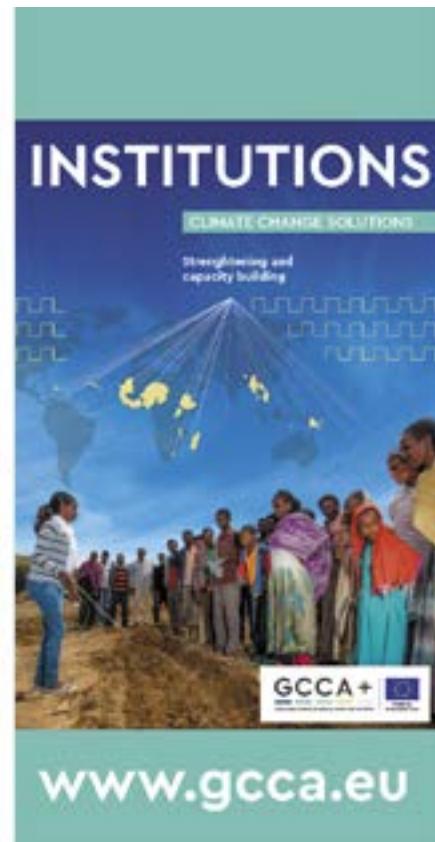
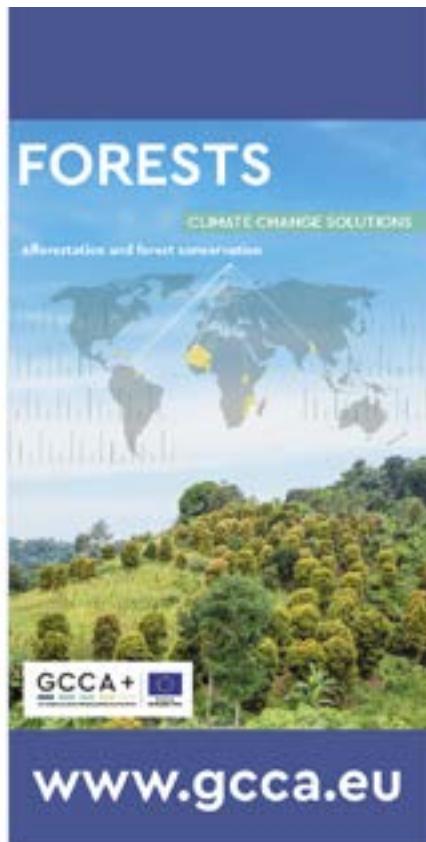
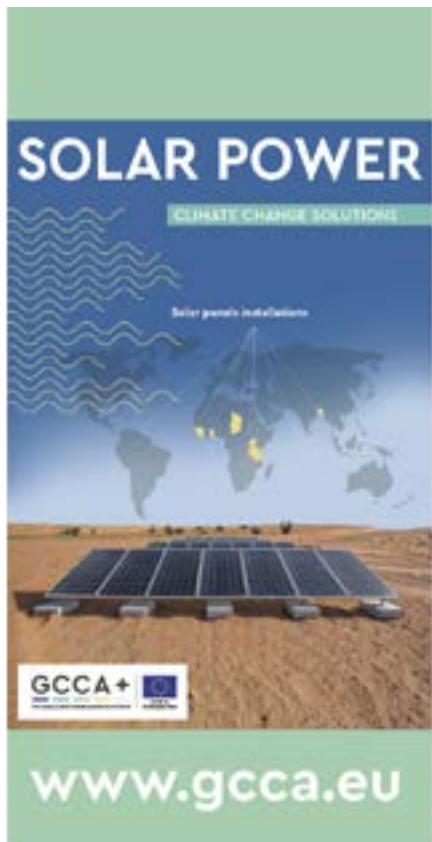
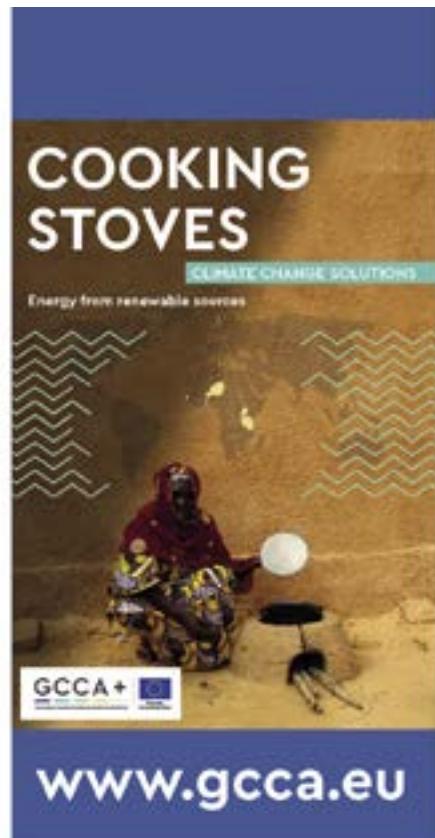
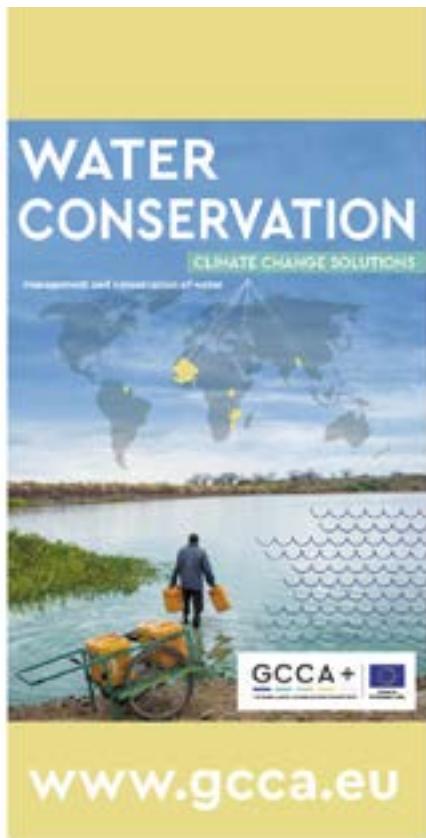
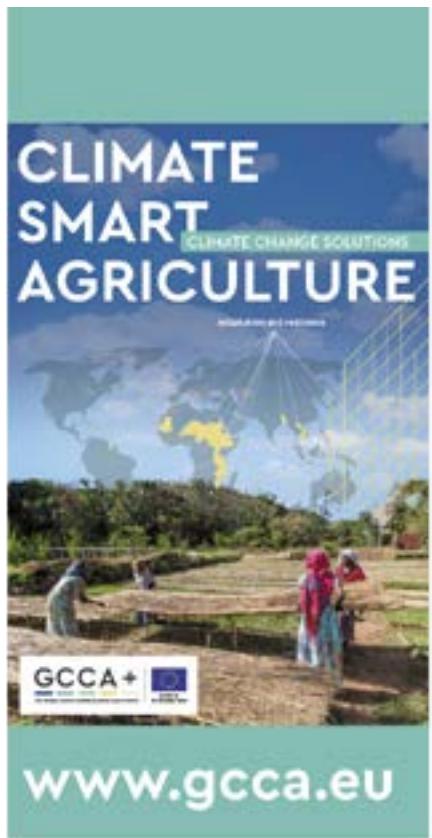
POSTERS

The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape in Rwanda. It shows rolling hills covered in green vegetation under a bright, cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent green diamond-shaped grid is overlaid on the left side of the image. In the bottom right corner, there is a small, semi-transparent inset map of Africa with a red dot indicating the location of Rwanda.

PANELS



BANNERS



STATIONERY



AGENDA



Conference Booklet

<http://gcca.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2019-11/GCCA%2B%20Africa%20Regional%20Conference%20-%20Agenda%20EN.pdf>

Closing the conference



Mr Christophe Legrand, GCCA+ Support Facility Team Leader first summarised the three days of work and rich discussions.

Ms Fatina Mukarubibi, Permanent Secretary in Rwanda's Ministry of Environment, then thanked GCCA+ for bringing together such a distinguished group of policy makers, researchers and the government to discuss climate change. She highlighted the important role climate financing (e.g. from GCCA+) plays in Nature based solutions (NBS) and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA).

She noted the conference has enhanced creation of more networks and friendships, and congratulated award winners. Finally, she expressed excitement to continue working with GCCA+ to promote clean cooking energy which is still a challenge in Rwanda but has immense potential to improve the health of its citizens and the environment. In closing the official proceedings, she welcomed all participants back to Rwanda in the future.



The field trip

SUMMARY AND OBJECTIVES

On Friday 18th October 2019, a majority of conference participants travelled to Rulindo district where sound forest management was showcased through a forest conservation model which involves amalgamating small holder forests into a single forest block through the Private Forest Management Unit (PFMU) approach. The sites visited were in Murambi, Cyinzuzi and Ngoma sectors. The main objective of the visit was to sensitize the participants and share experiences and lessons about the Participatory Forest Management approach in Rwanda.



BACKGROUND

Forest ownership in Rwanda is 67% by private small holder farmers, 3% by private institutions (e.g. churches), 27% by the state and 2% by the districts. Private small holders forests make up the majority of forests in Rwanda and are currently the biggest source of wood for cooking energy in the country. Participatory forest management therefore has a potential to create investment opportunities and this potential can be enhanced through the model of amalgamating smaller forest parcels into larger forest blocs.

According to a study conducted on the forest sector in 2016 by the National Forest Inventory (NFI), small holder forests in Rwanda were generally composed of very old and degraded woodlots. One of the main causes of this degradation was the frequent premature harvesting of the small woodlots and the scattered nature of the forest units which makes it difficult and expensive to manage. Following this finding, the Forest Department devised the approach of managing the smallholder farmer forests by fusing them into larger forest blocks. This approach was critical to secure a sustainable source of wood products and income for the farmers.

Private Forest Management Units (PFMUs) operating in districts help identify problems and provide solutions in relation to forest management. Some of the challenges encountered in the implementation of the PFMUs include mistrust by the farmers who initially feared that the government/state was using this approach to take over their forests. This fear was overcome through community sensitization and mobilization, resulting in buy in the PFMUs approach. The forest management and maintenance skills of the communities are below optimum and therefore continuous capacity building in forest extension services is still needed.

OBSERVATIONS

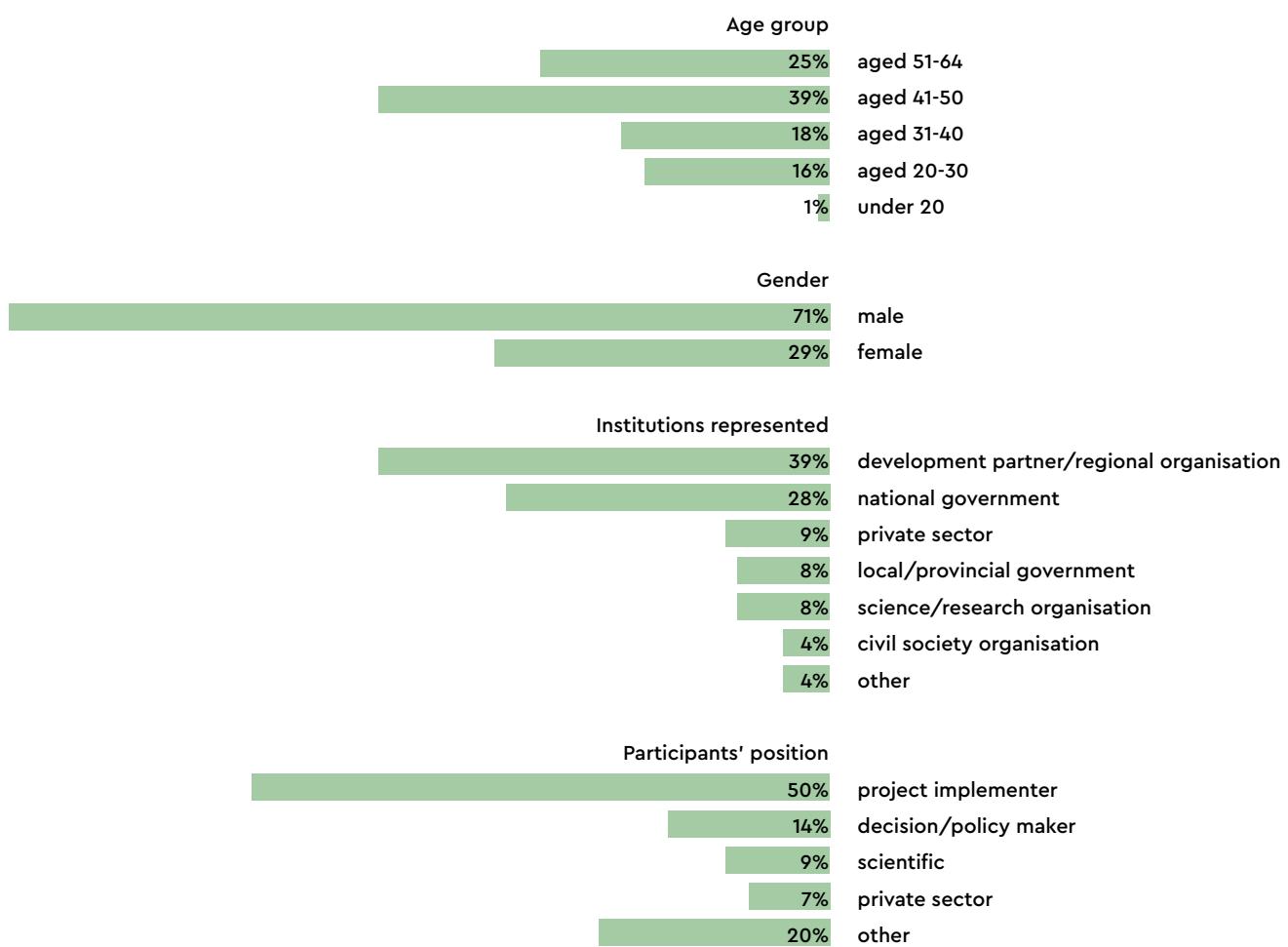
Grouping small holder forests into larger forest blocks creates different investment opportunities to the communities who plant, manage and harvest trees using guidelines that have been set and agreed upon by the members. The grouping of the communities on the basis of forest ownership gives the farmers a bigger negotiation and bargaining power when it comes to winning contracts and markets. The forests lands also serve as collateral for securing bank loans.

In terms of livelihoods, farmers may access markets for their forest products. For example, one PFMU group has been contacted by a local stove making company for pellets which are usually obtained when the branches of trees are pruned during maintenance practices. The farmers can also sell the eucalyptus leaves for making oil used in saunas or other purposes. Farmers have also engaged in bee keeping while forests mature, to provide alternative livelihoods. In addition to benefiting from provisioning services, the private farmer forests also offer regulating services such as soil erosion control.

The conference data

To engage participants and to collect statistics, the Support Facility ran a number of polls throughout the conference using Sli.do, an online platform designed to enhance communication and increase interaction at events and meetings.

Key audience insights collected through these polls were:



The gender bias amongst the participants was noted at different points throughout the conference. Many invited participants were identified by external parties to the organisers and this factor is difficult to control. The Support Facility is committed to considering gender representation during the identification of speakers and moderators for upcoming GCCA+.

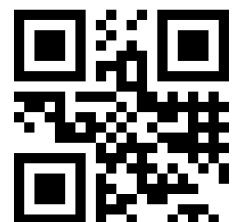
With 50% of project implementers, and a vast variety of stakeholders significantly represented, the conference met its objective in terms of audience profile.

Data on performance collected during the closing session through Slido

- The overall rating of the conference by the audience was 4.2 out of 5.
- In relation to the achievements of the objectives:
 - ▶ increased understanding of topics discussed – score: 4 out of 5;
 - ▶ the five key topics discussed (nature-based solutions, NDC, climate finance, Covenant of mayors, GCCA+) also appear clearly in the word-cloud created with the question "What is the one topic you learned most about?" (see figure 1 below);
 - ▶ a large majority (score 4 out of 5) noted they had learned more about what is working/challenging from African nations' perspectives;
 - ▶ a large majority (4.1 out of 5) agreed they had developed and broadened their network;
 - ▶ the last objective has not been measured since the conference organisers didn't have the mandate nor the required information to address the topic of the delivery of EU funded climate assistance in Africa and beyond.



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Life Q&A at Conference Sessions



GCCA+
COMMUNICATION
AWARD



Participants short bio

Speakers Day 1



Vincent Biruta

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for the Government of Rwanda, he has been Minister of Environment, Minister of Education, President of the Rwandan Senate, President of the National Transition Assembly, Minister of Public Works, Transport and Communication and Minister of Health. He is a qualified physician with degrees from ULB and UCL, Brussels. Dr. Biruta was the Minister of Environment at the time of the Conference and became Foreign Minister a few days later.



Lluis Navarro

Head of Cooperation at the EU Delegation to Rwanda. He held the positions of Head of Cooperation in the EU Delegations to Malawi and Nepal. Prior to that he worked at the EC Directorate for Enterprise and the think tank Institut Jacques Delors. He is an Economist with Masters from the London School of Economics and the College of Europe.



Fiona Mbabazi

A Rwandan Journalist with the state media Rwanda Broadcasting Agency and a Yelp 2017 Fellow, Fiona is an all rounded journalist and experienced moderator with a passion for Business news, Youth, Human rights, Climate change and politics. She told the "African story" on BBC-Horizons focusing on Energy, Health and Agriculture.



Coletha Ruhamya

Director General of Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and former Minister of State in charge of Energy & Water in Rwanda, where she also contributed in developing Rwanda Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy. She is an Environmental Engineer by profession with degrees from Wits University, South Africa and Maastricht School of management.



Arnaud de Vanssay

Head of Section Rural Development for the EU Delegation to Rwanda, after studying Agronomy and Forestry, he worked in Mayotte Island for the protection of local natural resources.

For the EU Arnaud worked on Energy and Nutrition, as well as Quality and Results. Before joining EuropeAid he was at the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.



Hubert Ruzibiza

Hubert is the Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Green Fund – a dedicated national investment fund enabling the country's transition to climate resilience and low carbon development, as well as Board Advisor to The Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance and member of the Board of Directors of the University of Rwanda Teaching Hospital. He has vast experience in project management, global marketing strategy, banking and policy advocacy – both in Africa and further afield.



Stephen Rodrigues

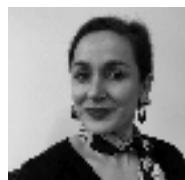
Resident Representative for UNDP in Rwanda, he is a social development practitioner with over 25 years experience in Government and the UN system. Stephen also served for UNDP in Indonesia, New York and Jamaica, where he worked for the Ministry of Local Government, the Jamaica Social Investment Fund and the National Planning Institute.



Andrew Mold

UNECA Acting Director for Eastern Africa Sub-Regional Office in Kigali, he has a Masters in Economics and Politics of Development from Cambridge University, and a Ph.D. in Economics.

He has previously worked for the UN Secretariat in Chile and in Addis Ababa, for UNICEF in Costa Rica as well as for OECD in Paris.



Jane Wilkinson

Strategic Mitigation Advisor for the GCCA+ Support Facility, Jane previously worked for Climate Policy Initiative on climate finance and as a diplomat for the Australian Government's international climate change team. A trained lawyer she is also the co-founder of the Global Innovation Lab on Sustainable Finance.



Luther Bois Anukur

IUCN Regional Director for Eastern and Southern Africa (ESARO). He worked for Plan International, Panos, World Vision International, Child Fund International. Luther is a winner of the British Council Professional Service Award 2006 and a Senior Fellow with Synergos. He holds an MBA from Maastricht School of Management.



Charles Karangwa

IUCN Country Representative in Rwanda and Regional Technical Coordinator of the Forests, Landscapes and Livelihood Programme. With over 16 years of Experience in landscape management, conservation enterprise development and climate finance, he also worked for WCS, Oxfam International, CARE International and UNHCR.



Luis Sánchez

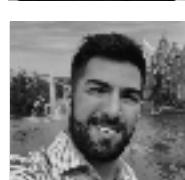
A social development specialist with the Green Climate Fund Independent Evaluation Unit and an evaluator with over 14 years of experience in social and environmental related areas for non-profit organisations, consultancies, and multilateral institutions in 20 different countries. He holds an MPH in Environmental and Development Economics.

Speakers Day 2



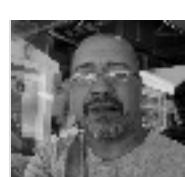
Geraldo Carreiro

Climate Change Expert for the GCCA+ Support Facility and the EU Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility, Geraldo has 16 years experience of sustainable development and climate change issues, specialising in support to public institutions, result-based planning, and public policy implementation.



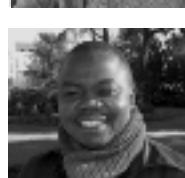
Rafael Moser

Programme Officer at the UNCDF in Tanzania, Rafael is implementing the GCCA+ LoCAL programme which supports local governments across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. He also served as Technical Advisor for UNDP's Montreal Protocol Unit and coordinated empirical research on the impact of climate change on microfinance institutions.



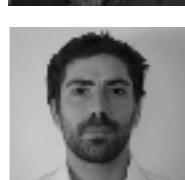
Roberto Zolho

Forest and Land Restoration Coordinator at the Ministry of Land and Environment in Mozambique, Roberto is a conservationist with over 30 years experience. He worked for government, NGOs, CSOs and private corporation in Africa and Europe, as well as Park Warden on 3 Protected Areas in Mozambique.



Barthélémy Ndongson

Director of the Municipal Waste Management Agency in the Municipality of Dschang in Cameroon, he leads the treatment and recovery of municipal solid waste and climate change issues. He holds a diploma in Urban Planning and Civil Engineering and is a trainer with the NGO PIPAD and the National Program of Participatory Development.



Thomas Sberna

IUCN Regional Technical Coordinator for coastal and ocean resilience in Eastern and Southern Africa he is a conservationist with extensive international experience in marine and coastal conservation across more than 40 countries. He worked for grass-roots organisations, the French Development Agency (AFD), Conservation International (CI).



Hermann Padonou

Chief Mission CoM SSA in the Department of Zou, Bohicon in Benin and a trained Engineer he leads the Energy Planning Project in Zou and was previously Head of the Integrated Rainwater Management Project in Zou, Director of the Za-kpota Professional Training Center in Benin and speaker for the Covenant of Mayors of Sub-Saharan Africa.



Michel Houndjo

Coordinator CoM SSA in Tsévié, Togo, he has 13 years of experience in managing development projects of partners such as UNDP, FAO, World Bank, and the European Union. He is currently the Chief of Planning and Development for the city of Tsévié and holds a Diploma of Advanced Studies (DEA) in Political Sociology.



Saleck Moulaye Ahmed Cherif

Director for Studies, Project and Cooperation of the Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania, he holds a Ph.D. in Urban Geography and is also a teacher-researcher at the University of Nouakchott. His experience developed around urban planning studies, set up and management of urban projects and cooperation with decentralized partners.



Fred Mugisha

Director of Urban Planning and Construction One Stop Centre, Kigali, Rwanda he has a background in Civil Engineering and environmental technology. He is an expert in planning and engineering of urban infrastructure, and specialised in the application of Geographic Information Science in sustainable urban infrastructure systems.



Monica Bonfanti

Technical expert for the GCCA+ Support Facility, Monica is a fully qualified lawyer specialising in climate, energy and transport topics. She has worked in the Balkan areas, Central and South East Europe, India, Nepal, Africa and Thailand, for multilateral development banks, public bodies, foreign governments, ministries, UN donors and NGOs.



Etse Kodjo Kadévi

Prefect of Zio, Togo, he was previously Head of Human Resources Division, Director of Administrative and Financial Affairs (DAAF) and advisor at the Minister of the Environment. He worked to develop a Wood Energy Supply Master Plan for the city of Tsévié and holds a Certificate in Environmental Management from Dresden University.



Cheikhna Gaouad Ahmed Benane

Deputy President of the Region of Nouakchott, Mauritania, was Deputy General Manager of Terrestrial Transport and Director General at the Ministry of Equipment and Transport. He was also Regional Coordinator of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in the Fight Against Poverty in the two Hodh regions and Assaba.

Speakers Day 3



John Heermans

Senior Country Engagement Specialist with the NDC Partnership Support Unit, and also consultant on climate change in Rwanda, where he supported the startup of the Global Green Growth Institute's Rwanda Country Program. John was previously a community planner for the District of Columbia, Wyoming, Vermont and Maryland.



Lucy Ssendi

Senior Climate Change Advisor to the President's office for regional and local government (PO-RALG) in Tanzania and Advisor to the LDC's Initiative for Effective Adaptation and Resilience (LIFE-AR). Lucy holds a PhD in Rural entrepreneurship and brings over 20 years of experience with the government at different senior positions.



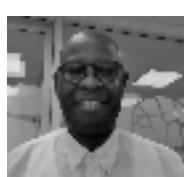
Juliet Kabera

Director General for Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Rwanda, and Chair of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund. She currently coordinates the development of policies related to environment and Climate Change and previously worked for the Rwanda Environment Management Authority.



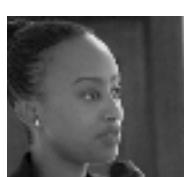
Margaret Barihaihi Musana

NDCP Regional Specialist for Anglophone Africa, Margaret is sustainability professional with expertise i.e. climate change adaptation, natural resource management. Previously she worked with international organizations IUCN, CARE, USAID, World Vision, Oxfam Great Britain and global think tanks like Overseas Development Institute (ODI).



Karl Aribeb

Chief Operations Officer, Namibia Environmental Investment Fund, with over 26 years experience in the environment and sustainable development sectors in civil society, public sector, 2 UN agencies, and state-owned organisations (SoEs). He holds a Masters of Sciences Degree in Integrating Conservation and Development from the University of Wales.



Terry Mugabo

Head of Business Development at the Rwanda Green Fund for the implementation of Rwanda's Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy. Teddy has also worked for the Ministry of Environment and closely with districts during the process of mainstreaming environment and climate change in district development plans and strategies.



Catherine Paul

Expert in environment, climate change and development, she joined Stantec's Business Development team. Catherine was an expert for the GCCA Support Facility and Team Leader for EuropeAid's Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming. She has longstanding experience in supporting development cooperation organisations and governments.



Christophe Legrand

Team Leader of the GCCA+ Support Facility. He has more than 20 years experience of climate change and sustainable development issues, island issues, including the leadership of large development programmes around the world. He previously worked for the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), UNDP and CARE International amongst other agencies.



Francesca Predazzi

Communication and Knowledge Management expert of the GCCA+ Support Facility, she is a professional journalist and author with long experience in strategic communication and outreach programmes. She worked for EU communication programmes in ACP countries, the EU Neighbourhood region, Russia, and Latin America.



Fatina Mukarubibi

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Rwanda. Before she served as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Vice Principal in charge of Administration & Finance for the IPRC Central and as Deputy Director General in Workforce Development Authority of Rwanda.

GCCA+

The alliance for a changing world



The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is a European Union flagship initiative, which is helping the world's most vulnerable countries to address climate change.

Since the GCCA was established in 2007 and expanded in 2015 to include middle-income countries and the new lens of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), more than 77 programs have been implemented. Given the initial focus on building climate resilience in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the African region has always been a natural focal point. In fact, 31 African countries have already benefited, sometimes in successive funding rounds, from EU GCCA+ grant finance for climate action. Two thirds of the GCCA+ funds are dedicated to African projects.

Join our GCCA+ community europaeu/capacity4dev/gcca-community



The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) co-leads global efforts under the Bonn Challenge to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested land into restoration by 2020 and 350 million by 2030. IUCN's Africa Forest and Land Restoration Regional Hub is in Kigali. IUCN is a leading proponent of agroforestry solutions to improve agricultural productivity and build climate resilience and pioneered the Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM), which provides a flexible and affordable framework approach for countries to rapidly identify and analyse forest landscape restoration (FLR) potential and locate specific areas of opportunity at a national or sub national levels.

www.iucn.org

Participants sharing messages





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GCCA +
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



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