

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative  
for Policy Dialogues

- ACCID -

FANRPAN  
Forum of African National Parliamentarians



The Position of African Civil Society

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogues - ACCID

- News Digest -

Week ending 2 October 2009

[Share](#)

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)



[ACCID News Feed](#)



[FANRPAN News Feed](#)

## Editor's choice

### [Africa seeks common stand on climate change](#)

*Business Daily*

Nairobi: African countries have asked legislators to draft a common position on climate change, a decision that could put to an end years of debate on who is best suited to represent the continent's interests at global negotiations. Africa, the lowest emitter of carbon gasses and the most vulnerable region to climate change, does not have a common position to negotiate for compensation from industrialised nations...

### [Climate extremes already costing Zambia millions every year](#)

*Irin*

Johannesburg: Ongoing extreme changes in Zambia's climate could bring losses of more than US\$4 billion in agricultural income in the next 10 years, driving hundreds of thousands into poverty and food insecurity. Agriculture contributes 21 percent to the gross domestic product (GDP) of \$14.3 billion...

### ['Tanzania's agric has 20 years to adapt to climate change'](#)

*ThisDay*

Dar es Salaam: Economists warn that Tanzania has just 20 years to adapt its agriculture to climate change or face major impacts that will cascade through the country's entire economy. In a first study of its kind in East Africa, published by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), the researchers stress that time is running out for Tanzania to adapt...

### Climate change threatens Brazil's rich agriculture

*Reuters*

Varginha: A freak tornado and floods last month may be a harbinger of a troubled future for Brazilian farmers, who worry that climate change could severely disrupt production in one of the world's breadbaskets. Rising temperatures, a shift in seasons, and extreme weather in coming decades are likely to cut output in some areas and wipe out crops entirely in others, experts say...

### 'Dry' SA must rethink water usage

*Business Day*, 28 September 2009

Johannesburg: Development priorities may have to be re-evaluated after a new study revealed that SA had 4% less water than previously believed. The latest national study, released last week, conducted on behalf of the Water Research Commission, tried to quantify the natural state of water resources in SA...

### India can't play the victim on climate change

*The Guardian*, 28 September 2009

London: The Copenhagen conference on climate change will most likely fail. And two parties will bear the principal responsibility for its failure: the United States and India. No one should be surprised by President Hu Jintao's pledge to significantly reduce his country's CO2 emissions. Beijing's dictatorship is keen to assuage international anxieties...

### Declaration of Nueva Esparta: climate change, environment issues

*Voltairenet*, 29 September 2009

We, the Heads of State and Government of Africa and South America, meeting in the Second Africa-South America Summit (II ASA) in Nueva Esparta State, Isla de Margarita, Venezuela on 26 and 27 September of 2009...

### China changing climate of global negotiations

*Hindustan Times*, 29 September 2009

Delhi: On Thursday, Beijing will scramble 18 jets in a biggest-ever exercise to disperse rain and clouds while soldiers and missiles are paraded through roads flanking ancient palaces and five-star hotels. China is also steadily changing the political climate of global warming negotiations in its favour...

[Is 350 the new 450 when it comes to capping carbon emissions?](#)

*New York Times*, 29 September 2009

New York: When it comes to fighting climate change, pick a number -- any number. Nearly 200 countries have signed a U.N. treaty pledging to avoid “dangerous” climate change. But lately, it seems, “dangerous” is lost in translation. Fifteen years since that agreement took effect, scientists and governments are still grappling with what carrying out its promise means...

[What has carbon talk to do with Kenya?](#)

*Business Daily*, 29 September 2009

Nairobi: As the current Kyoto Protocol that governs protection against global warming expires in 2012 and a new one is negotiated in December in Copenhagen, we need to understand the implications of the carbon debate on Kenya. Ministries with direct influence on carbon management are those responsible for Energy, Transport, Industry, Forestry and Agriculture...

[Africa's burning charcoal problem](#)

*BBC*, 29 September 2009

Dar es Salaam: At a road block in western Tanzania, miles from anywhere, a uniformed official raises a flagged barrier. Nearby is a spill of black, like an oil slick. This is one of several checkpoints which have been set up around the country in a half-hearted attempt to curtail the largely unregulated trade of charcoal, widely used across the continent as a fuel for cooking...

[Nile River Basin states in appeal to countries](#)

*Daily Nation*, 30 September 2009

Nairobi: Countries of the River Nile basin have appealed to Egypt and Sudan to cooperate in the formulation of an agreement which would allow equitable utilisation of water resources. Water minister Charity Ngilu said it was unfair for the two countries to maintain a status quo on the usage of the Nile water resources at the expense of other states...

[Congo Basin Heads of State and conservation groups celebrate 10 years](#)

*PRWeb*, 30 September 2009

Washington DC: Leaders of the Congo Basin countries and conservation groups are pressing for more attention, funds and technical support to save the world's second largest rainforest and benefit its population during a Congo Basin Forest Forum and Congressional Hearing. The leaders agree that the 46 billion metric tons of carbon stored in the forests should be recognized as a valuable asset during global climate change talks in Copenhagen this December...

[Climate change to cut crop yields, boost prices, study shows](#)

*Bloomberg*, 30 September 2009

Paris: Farmers in South Asia may reap only half of today's wheat harvest in 40 years' time as global temperatures rise and rain falls in different places, according to a study on climate change and agriculture. Climate change may cut corn, wheat and rice yields across developing countries by 2050, boosting prices and causing hunger, according to a study by the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute...

['Gender is no distraction in climate change talks'](#)

*Inter Press Service*, 30 September 2009

Bangkok: As the countdown to the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit draws to a close, gender and climate change advocates are doubling their efforts to make sure that 23 gender-related paragraphs in the negotiating text will make it to the new treaty that will be hammered out in December...

[Copenhagen negotiating text: 200 pages to save the world?](#)

*The Guardian*, 30 September 2009

London: It is a blueprint to save the world. And yet it is long, confusing and contradictory. Negotiators have released a [draft version](#) of a new global agreement on climate change, which is widely billed as the last chance to save the planet from the ravages of global warming. Running to some 200 pages...

[CCS technology can help SA reduce emissions - Minister](#)

*Engineering News*, 30 September 2009

Johannesburg: "We cannot neglect any technology that will assist us to address the matters of energy security and climate change," said Energy Minister Dipuo Peters on Tuesday, as she officially opened the South African Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) conference...

[Calls for CCS technology to be included under CDM](#)

*Engineering News*, 1 October 2009

Johannesburg: Speakers at the South African Carbon Capture and Storage conference agreed that including CCS under the Clean Development Mechanism would be imperative in driving the technology forward, particularly in the developing world...

[We are victims of the rich world's acts and omissions, Raila tells UN](#)

*Daily Nation*, 1 October 2009

Nairobi: Prime Minister Raila Odinga was in the US to attend the UN climate change summit. The following is an abridged version of his speech: It is most encouraging that the world is turning to the United Nations to find a common global path to resolving the most intractable difficulties facing humanity...

[Africa experiments with climate insurance -- for \\$5 a year](#)

*New York Times*, 1 October 2009

New York: Ethiopian farmers are buying drought insurance with a muscular currency: their own labor. The experiment is designed to protect about 200 farmers in the village of Adi Ha from dry spells that can wither small fields of teff, a grass with grain seeds, about once every five years...

[US: Farmers prove tough sell on climate bill](#)

*Zanesville Times Recorder*, 1 October 2009

Washington: Farmers think they can play a part in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but they want to get paid for what they do. That demand is proving to be a tough one for Congress to meet. A House-passed climate bill would allow farmers and landowners to earn credits for measures that can remove or keep carbon out of the atmosphere...

[Synergies in fight against desertification, climate change](#)

*Inter Press Service*, 1 October 2009

Buenos Aires: Climate change aggravates soil degradation, but sustainable use of land resources can, in turn, mitigate global warming, according to participants at the United Nations conference on desertification in the Argentine capital...

[Karisimbi to host COMESA climate change observatory centre](#)

*The New Times*, 1 October 2009

Kigali: The modern high altitude antenna on Mt. Karisimbi will house a regional climate change observatory centre due to the strategic location and the technology in the facility, the project coordinator said yesterday...

Walvis in climate change hot spot

*New Era*, 1 October 2009

Windhoek: Walvis Bay municipality has been identified as one of the world's local authorities to participate in three projects that will help with how to deal with the impact of climate change. The coastal town was identified after the Ministry of Environment and Tourism conducted an assessment of sea level rises, which showed that the municipality would be the most impacted upon in the advent of climate change...

Southern Africa faces difficult hydropower trade-offs

*Engineering News*, 2 October 2009

Johannesburg: It is either lights or water. That's a choice Southern Africa could face in a few years as the region comes under pressure to build massive hydro-power projects, stripping an already dry region of water. A University of Cape Town (UCT) research study warns that even a small decrease in rainfall could cause drastic reductions in river flows in Africa...

French agency makes €120m available for small SA renewable projects

*Engineering News*, 2 October 2009

Johannesburg: French development bank Agence Française de Développement (AFD) on Thursday announced that it would be extending a €120-million (about R1,5-billion) credit facility to commercial banks in South Africa, to be used for small- to medium-sized energy efficiency and renewable energy projects...

Delta State: Uduaghan canvasses respect for environment

*ThisDay*, 2 October 2009

Lagos: Delta State governor, Dr Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan yesterday canvassed a restoration of the eco-system in polluted and environmentally devastated oil-producing communities occasioned by the activities of multinational oil companies operating in the creeks and riverine communities of the Niger Delta region...

Cross River to lead FG's climate change programme

*ThisDay*, 2 October 2009

Calabar: The [Nigerian] Federal Government has picked Cross River State to lead the nation's effort in tackling climate change and global warming, in appreciation of the State's effort in environmental conservation. Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey, said this in Abuja while receiving a position paper from the Cross River State Governor, Senator Liyel Imoke, on 'Reduced Emission From Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) as a Climate Change Mitigation mechanism in Nigeria'...

### Does Nigeria have a blueprint for Copenhagen?

*Daily Trust*, 2 October 2009

Abuja: Given the mounting global concern over the Earth's changing climate, a coalition of civil society group has warned of the possibility of a backlash on the nation's economy, if the Nigerian government fails to take action to pursue a national blueprint for the Copenhagen talks. The group, Nigeria Climate Action Network (Nigeria Can) gave the warning at a one day workshop on Climate Change Negotiations for Environment Editors organised by the network in partnership with Christian Aid and Voluntary Service Organisation (VSO) in Lagos...

### Climate summit delegates like California's planned carbon trading market

*Los Angeles Times*, 2 October 2009

Los Angeles: Manoel Silva de Cunha, leader of a group of 200,000 Brazilian forest-dwellers, was blunt about why he traveled this week from the Amazon to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's Global Climate Summit. The rubber tappers, nut gatherers and fishermen who live off tropical forests want money from American corporations to help them preserve the trees that cool the planet...

### EU eyes permanent climate-change council with Brazil

*Earth Times*, 2 October 2009

Brussels: The European Union and Brazil want to set up a permanent high-level council to run their joint action on climate change at a summit in Stockholm next Tuesday, according to a draft declaration seen Thursday by the German Press Agency dpa. "It is in the interests of both the European Union and Brazil to deepen their bilateral cooperation to address the growing challenges of climate change as well as clean technology ...

### India challenges US over 'measly' climate change efforts

*The Guardian*, 2 October 2009

London: India demanded today that America step up its "measly" efforts to combat global warming - or risk jeopardising an international deal to avoid catastrophic climate change. The challenge from Delhi's environment minister, Jairam Ramesh, and recent moves from China, mark a deliberate ratcheting up of the pressure on Barack Obama to move more forcefully to reduce America's greenhouse gas emissions...

## Adaptation to climate change to cost US\$75-100b yearly - World Bank

*Afrique en ligne*, 2 October 2009

Lusaka: The costs of adaptation to climate change in developing countries will be about US\$75-100 billion per year for the period 2010 to 2050, a new global study from The World Bank has shown. In the draft consultation document released Wednesday at the UN climate change meeting taking place in Bangkok, Thailand, the report shows that the highest costs will be borne by the East Asia and Pacific Region, followed closely by Latin America and the Caribbean, and sub-Saharan Africa...

### **Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN)**

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogues - ACCID

This digest, compiled from a more extensive set of daily articles, was made possible through financial support provided by the Government of Norway and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA). FANRPAN is mandated by COMESA to implement the Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative for Policy Dialogues (ACCID).

The opinions expressed in the articles carried in this digest are those of the author(s) and quoted sources, and do not necessarily reflect the views of COMESA, FANRPAN, the Government of Norway and the SDC. FANRPAN acknowledges the copyright holder for each article used in this digest. This compilation is designed to promote public debate and knowledge sharing, primarily in Africa. Priority is given to articles appearing in the African media. This digest is available free of charge. For more details visit [www.africaclimatesolution.org](http://www.africaclimatesolution.org) and [www.fanrpan.org](http://www.fanrpan.org)

This digest is edited by Richard Humphries. FANRPAN appreciates any comments you might have on this digest: [feedback@africaclimatesolution.org](mailto:feedback@africaclimatesolution.org)

To subscribe: [subscribe@africaclimatesolution.org](mailto:subscribe@africaclimatesolution.org)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

ACCID website: [www.africaclimatesolution.org](http://www.africaclimatesolution.org)