

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

FANRPAN  
The Agriculture and Rural Extension Policy Institute for Southern Africa



The Position of African Civil Society

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

Week ending 30 October 2009

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## Editor's choice

### [Africa's common position: key political messages](#)

*African Union/AMCEN*

Addis Ababa: These key messages [agreed by African negotiators on 21 October 2009] are based on Africa's common position on climate change as adopted in Algiers on 21 November 2008 and updated by Special Session of AMCEN held in Nairobi on 29 May 2009 and endorsed by the Thirteenth AU Summit held in Sirte, Libya, 1-3 July 2009...

### [The science of climate change in Africa: impacts and adaptation](#)

*Grantham Institute for Climate Change*

The Grantham Institute for Climate Change at Imperial College, London, has just released its first [discussion paper](#): Although much has been learned in recent years, there is still a great deal about climate change in Africa that we do not know. The African climate is determined at the macro-level by three major processes or drivers: tropical convection, the alternation of the monsoons, and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation of the Pacific Ocean...

### [El Niño and food security in southern Africa](#)

*FewsNet*

El Niño is a phenomenon which occurs in the Pacific Ocean, but affects climate globally. This [document](#) summarizes the known historic impacts of El Niño in southern Africa. The impact of El Niño in the SADC region has varied significantly in its severity, though it generally has a greater impact in the southern half..

[Communique: Second pre-AMCEN African civil society consultative workshop](#)

*PACJA*, 26 October 2009

Nairobi: The African civil society working on climate change, on the platform of PACJA, an alliance of civil society organizations operating in 43 countries across Africa, met in Addis Ababa from 19 - 20 October 2009 at the second Pre-AMCEN Civil Society Organisations Climate Equity consultative workshop...

[Declaration: Pan-African Parliamentarians Network on Climate Change](#)

*PAPNCC*, 26 October 2009

Nairobi: We, members of the Pan-African Parliamentarians' Network on Climate Change having met in Nairobi for the Second African Parliamentarians Summit on Climate Change, from 12 to 15 October 2009 under the theme "Climate Change: One Africa, One Voice, One Position"...

[PACJA statement to African high level expert panel forum](#)

*PACJA*, 26 October 2009

Addis Ababa: The African civil society working on climate change through the platform of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), a network of civil society organizations operating in 43 countries, thanks you for the honour of presenting our statement at this critical stage of negotiations...

[Satellites to help Kenyans insure against drought](#)

*Reuters*, 26 October 2009

Oslo: Satellites measuring the greenness of Kenya from space are set to help insure livestock herders against droughts and mitigate the effects of climate change. "This is a new approach to tackle an old problem," Carlos Sere, director general of the International Livestock Research Institute, said...

[Climate change and Latin America: the long way to Copenhagen](#)

*Brookings Institute*, 26 October 2009

Washington DC: Only a few regions in the world are more affected by climate change than Latin America. Yet, the region is not speaking with a strong voice, in part because a common perspective is lacking...

[China's ambitious climate change plan](#)

*Financial Post*, 26 October 2009

Ontario: China plans to announce an ambitious climate change plan at the climate change talks in Copenhagen, in December as it positions itself to muscle in on the growing opportunities in the clean technology sector, says Fan Gang, a monetary policy official and senior advisor to the Chinese government...

### Legislators won't wait until December on climate change

*Times of India*, 26 October 2009

Copenhagen: The time to act is now, whether or not there is a consensual international agreement on climate change at the UN Copenhagen talks in December, say the 100-odd legislators from major economies representing major political parties -- including the US, UK, France, China, Brazil, Mexico and India...

### SA lawmakers take on climate challenge at home

*Mail and Guardian*, 27 October 2009

Copenhagen: South African parliamentarians are positioning themselves to take on the climate challenge at home. Sixteen South African delegates attended a climate-change forum for legislators held in Copenhagen, Denmark. This was by far the largest delegation to represent a country at the forum, which is hosted by the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment...

### UNEP: Combating climate change and realizing low carbon growth in developing economies

*UNEP*, 27 October 2009

Cape Town: Ways of triggering multi-billion dollar, low carbon technology investments in developing economies are outlined in a new [report](#) issued by the UNEP and its partners. Experts indicate that investments of around US\$500 billion a year will be needed to assist developing countries adapt to climate change while powering low carbon growth...

### OECD: The economics of climate change mitigation

*OECD*, 27 October 2009

Paris: The global climate is changing, and the release of greenhouse gases from human activity has contributed to global warming. While there is significant uncertainty about the costs of inaction, it is generally agreed that failing to tackle climate change will have significant implications for the world economy, especially in developing countries...

### South Africa: The climate-change bottom line

*The Weekender*, 27 October 2009

Johannesburg: There's a widespread and significant misconception about the likely effects of strong action to cut or "mitigate" greenhouse gas emissions: that it will hurt economies. The chair at a recent climate debate in Cape Town summed up popular perception and prejudice when he said that those calling for a switch to a low-carbon economy are asking for a "huge sacrifice"...

[Climate change roils India's agri, threatens livelihood of 670 mn](#)

*Hindustan Times*, 27 October 2009

Mumbai: Over the last 48 hours, India's ruling combine had two reasons for euphoria: electoral triumphs in three states and the announcement that the economy will grow by 6.5 per cent this year. But a footnote in the economic data has revealed how the euphoria must be put aside immediately, as climate change poses the next big political challenge for the Congress party...

[Ravaged by drought, Madagascar feels the full effect of climate change](#)

*The Guardian*, 27 October 2009

Remanonjona Feroce founded the village of Anjamahavelo - meaning At the Lucky Baobab - in Madagascar a generation ago. With memories of a flood still fresh, he chose a spot far from the nearest river. He cleared the wild forest and sacrificed a sheep in the hope that it would make the owls, lemurs and snakes go away...

[Ms Rachel Shebesh to champion disaster risk reduction \(DRR\) in Africa](#)

*African Press Organisation*, 28 October 2009

Johannesburg: Rachel Shebesh, chair of the African Parliamentarian Initiative for Climate Risk Reduction, was appointed today as the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction champion in Africa...

[Kenya to develop a climate change policy](#)

*Kenya Broadcasting Corporation*, 28 October 2009

Nairobi: The Ministry of Environment is working towards a developing a comprehensive climate change policy and a fully-budgeted National Climate Change Response Investment framework...

[Opinion: It's time for funds to use data on emissions](#)

*Business Report*, 28 October 2009

Johannesburg: A few days after the release of the 2009 Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) report, detailing the carbon footprints of big South African firms, John Oliphant, the head of investments at the Government Employees Pension Fund, aptly asked: "The data is there, but who's using it?..."

### Developing countries push for \$400bn compensation

*ThisDay*, 28 October 2009

Abuja: As the build-up to the global summit on climate change in Denmark gathers momentum, countries of the developing world have asked the industrialized nations to cough-out \$400bn as financial reparation for the economic and social losses brought upon them as a result of many years of carbon emission into the atmosphere...

### Budgeting environmental justice

*Inter Press Service*, 28 October 2009

Copenhagen: There is a consensus that industrialised nations are mainly responsible for the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming. It should be equally clear that such responsibility should have political consequences. But it isn't...

### Micro loans bring light to rural poor

*Reuters*, 28 October 2009

Ahmedabad: When night falls in remote parts of Africa and the Indian subcontinent, hundreds of millions of people without access to electricity turn to candles or flammable and polluting kerosene lamps for illumination. Slowly through small loans for solar powered devices, microfinance is bringing light to these rural regions where a lack of electricity has stymied economic development, literacy rates and health...

### Brazil to get \$16 bln annually in carbon credits from UN-REDD

*People's Daily Online*, 28 October 2009

The inclusion of UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) programme in a new agreement to extend or replace the Kyoto Protocol could generate between 8 billion and 16 billion U.S. dollars annually in carbon credits for Brazil, the Brazilian Association of Carbon Market (Abemc) said...

### Forests much more than carbon storage

*Inter Press Service*, 29 October 2009

Buenos Aires: The world's forests and jungles are much more than carbon storage sites and compensation for greenhouse emissions, experts and activists point out to governments that are negotiating a new global climate change treaty...

### Success stories and drivers of CDM projects in sub-Saharan Africa

*Carbon Positive*, 29 October 2009

A UN [case study](#) of a CDM reforestation project in central Africa provides some valuable insights into two familiar obstacles in the carbon project development space. First, is the difficulty of establishing CDM projects in the afforestation and reforestation sector, and second, the barriers to getting any sort of carbon project up and running in Africa, a continent poorly represented in the CDM and voluntary carbon markets now worth hundreds of billions worldwide...

### Nuclear power plant on the way, says Raila

*The Standard*, 29 October 2009

Nairobi: Prime Minister Raila Odinga says Kenya will soon construct a nuclear energy power plant. Raila said the venture would be undertaken in collaboration with France. "We have opened talks with France to establish a nuclear energy reactor as we also pursue expansion of green energy production..."

### Municipal responses to climate change in South Africa

*Centre for Policy Studies*, 29 October 2009

Johannesburg: This [study](#) assesses the extent of progress made in institutionalising climate change policy responses within three metropolitan municipalities in South Africa - Cape Town, eThekweni (Durban) and Johannesburg. By focusing on the progress in some of South Africa's largest metropolitan areas, the study highlights South Africa's readiness and capacity at local government level to deal with climate change and related environmental problems...

### The African Initiative Congress on Climate Change

*The Centre for International Governance Innovation*, 30 October 2009

Kampala: The Centre for International Governance Innovation's African Initiative is hosting the first of its kind [congress](#) addressing the most serious and immediate impacts of climate change in Africa, November 1-4. This event aims to provide guidelines and strategies for mitigation and adaptation in African nations least able to cope with this global challenge...

### AU pushes the envelope on "climate migrants"

*Irin*, 30 October 2009

Johannesburg: An African international agreement has opened the door to a debate on the rights and protection of people displaced by natural disasters, with a nod to migration as a result of climate change. The Kampala Convention, a ground-breaking treaty adopted by the African Union (AU), promises to protect and assist millions of Africans displaced within their own countries...

### Drought need not mean hunger and destitution

*afrika.no*, 30 October 2009

Nairobi: With droughts becoming more common, donors and the Ethiopian government must look beyond the traditional “band aid” responses to disasters by using approaches that are more cost-effective, sustainable and better suited to the population, international aid agency Oxfam says in a [new report](#)...

### DRR: Facing up to disaster

*European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department*, 30 October 2009

The intensity and frequency of natural disasters in Southern Africa is on the increase as a combination of factors is appearing to change traditional weather patterns across the region...

### Malawi: When disaster strikes

*European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department*, 30 October 2009

A man desperately reaches for a river bank as flood water pushes him to a likely death in the Lingadzi river in Kasache village close to Lake Malawi. Four rescuers in bright orange life jackets throw him a line in a last frantic attempt to reach him, realising this may be the last opportunity of saving his life...

### Why the UN must form global organ to manage world habitat

*Daily Nation*, 30 October 2009

Nairobi: Global environmental crises, from vanishing biodiversity and degrading forests to collapsing fish stocks and climate change, will not be solved without some tough thinking about international governance. The way the world has evolved its response to the unfolding challenges has become a bewildering and confusing array of institutions, agreements and treaties that is in urgent need of reform...

### Jonathan Lash: WRI testimony to US Senate Committee

*World Resources Institute*, 30 October 2009

Washington: I have a single message to deliver today: The time is ripe for Congress to enact climate legislation to reduce emissions, establish energy security, and create new jobs in clean energy. Other nations are moving; the outcome depends on us. We need global action to solve this global problem...

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

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