

Africa-wide Civil Society Climate Change Initiative
for Policy Dialogues

- ACCID -

FANRPAN
The Agriculture and Rural Extension Policy Institute of Southern Africa



The Position of African Civil Society

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

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Week ending 20 November 2009

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Editor's choice

[Declaration of the Hamburg City Climate Conference 2009](#)

Hamburg City Climate Conference

Hamburg: The signatory cities declare that combating climate change is above all a matter for cities. They commit to do everything in their power to mitigate climate change and to master the consequences of climate change. They support the commitments by the cities of the Covenant of Mayors. They call upon COP15, national governments and international bodies, to adopt regulations which will make it possible to achieve the 2-degree target...

[Climate change and the population 'bomb': a debate not to shy away from](#)

South African Civil Society Information Service

Cape Town: The United Nations Population Fund released its "[State of the World Population 2009](#)" report on the 18th of November. It chose to take up a politically delicate topic, the relationship between climate change, population stabilisation and the importance of gender. The fundamental question it seeks to address is: how much of a threat is the growth in population to the world and how much of this increase will lead to a spike in green house gas emissions? As the report demonstrates, answers are not straightforward...

Red Cross: G20 sees climate change as biggest humanitarian issue

Earth Times

Nairobi: G20 governments see climate change as the greatest humanitarian challenge facing the world, according to a [survey](#) released by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. The IFRC hired a research group to poll the G20 and found that many members expect to see increasing humanitarian needs driven by climate-change related disasters, poverty and hunger...

UN/ISDR briefing note on lessons and practices in adaptation

Climate-L.org

The Secretariat of the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction has released a briefing note titled '[Adaptation to climate change by reducing disaster risks: country practices and lessons](#).' The note includes examples of recent experience where national and local governments, as well as civil society participants, have worked to strengthen their disaster risk reduction and adaptation actions...

Ghana: Involve more women in climate change process

Peace FM, 16 November 2009

Accra: Groups involved in climate change and disaster risk reduction strategies have been asked to involve more women in their work - since they bear the consequences of disasters most...

V11: Climate-vulnerable countries send SOS over climate change

Afrique en ligne, 16 November 2009

Nairobi: Ahead of the forthcoming climate change conference in Copenhagen, the world's most climate-vulnerable countries have called on the developed countries to provide money amounting to at least 1.5 per cent of their gross domestic product to assist developing countries make their transition to a climate resilient low-carbon economy...

[Australia excludes farms from carbon scheme](#)

Reuters, 16 November 2009

Sydney: Australia's government has agreed to exclude agriculture from its emissions trading scheme in a major concession to the opposition to try to get carbon trading laws through parliament, a minister said on Sunday...

[Barroso: Food security must rank with climate efforts](#)

The Japan Times, 16 November 2009

Brussels: There are plenty of summits to choose from this year, but the World Summit on Food Security deserves not to be lost in the crowd. This meeting provides badly needed political momentum to three linked issues that rank among the most challenging of the current era: food security, biodiversity and climate change...

[Common position of Brazil and France on climate change](#)

Elysee Palace/CAWA, 16 November 2009

Paris: Brazil and France reiterate their conviction that climate change is one of the most pressing challenges we face today and that it requires immediate global response guided by fairness and equity. The two countries underline that combating climate change is an imperative that must be fully compatible with sustainable economic growth and the fight against poverty...

[Brazil celebrates 45% reduction in Amazon deforestation](#)

The Guardian, 16 November 2009

London: The Brazilian government yesterday announced a "historic" drop in the deforestation of the Amazon. Brazilian authorities said that between August 2008 and July this year, deforestation in the world's largest tropical rainforest fell by the largest amount in more than 20 years, dropping by 45% from nearly 13,000 square kilometres to around 7,000 square kilometres (5,000 square miles to 2,700 square miles)...

[Climate: A question of justice](#)

BBC, 17 November 2009

London: This week, lifelong human rights activist Kumi Naidoo takes over as international executive director of Greenpeace. He explains why he is making the jump to a mainstream environmental organisation, and what role he sees for organisations such as Greenpeace in the modern world...

[RSA parliament holds climate change hearings](#)

GCIS, 17 November 2009

Cape Town: The South African Parliament will hold public hearings on the political, economic, legal, gender and social impacts of climate change. Climate change issues require a multi-sectoral, inter-departmental, national, provincial and local government involvement, an approach that could address multiple issues at once...

[East African states ask for donor help on climate change](#)

The Citizen, 17 November 2009

Arusha: East African states have pleaded for financial support from donors to mitigate effects of climate change. Ministers responsible for environment and resources requested financial institutions to remove co-financing conditionalities to let the region have easy access to funds...

[Uganda: Katine farmers adapt to a changing climate](#)

The Guardian, 17 November 2009

Katine: At 7am, the first rays of sunshine reach the bent backs of the Otoo family as they hoe their acre of cassava. It is the rainy season and that means a lot of early labour for the subsistence farmers of Katine sub-county. All summer, a disastrous drought caused every crop to fail except for the new strains of cassava...

[Climate change boosts need for policies to support African farmers](#)

allAfrica.com, 17 November 2009

Akin Adesina, vice president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, talked to AllAfrica about the work of the young, Nairobi-based institution and how its priorities and programs are evolving to improve food security across Africa...

[Orengo: We must plan cities to reduce impact of global warming](#)

Daily Nation, 17 November 2009

Nairobi: Kenya contributes two per cent of global carbon emissions but has suffered devastating impacts of climate change due to activities in the developed world. In such circumstances, our planning system must take on board specific interventions as well as provide innovative planning policies to safeguard our urban environments...

[World Summit on Food Security: declaration](#)

ISRIA, 18 November 2009

Rome: We, the Heads of State and Government, or our Representatives and the Representative of the European Community have assembled in Rome at the World Summit on Food Security to take urgent action to eradicate hunger from the world. In adopting this declaration we agree to...

[Food security and climate change: a call for commitment and preparation](#)

Global Crop Diversity Trust, 18 November 2009

Rome: Alarmed by a substantial oversight in the global climate talks, more than 60 of the world's most prominent agricultural scientists and leaders underscored how the almost total absence of agriculture in the agreement could lead to widespread famine and food shortages in the years ahead...

[Africa climate demands unlikely to be met: Ethiopian PM](#)

AFP, 18 November 2009

Addis Ababa: African demands for climate change compensation and emission cuts by rich nations are unlikely to be met in next month's Copenhagen summit, Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi said Tuesday...

[SA coal industry urged to develop emission mitigation strategy](#)

Mining Weekly, 18 November 2009

Johannesburg: Role players in the South African coal sector should work together to form an industry greenhouse gas emission mitigation strategy, as this would be a more cost effective approach...

[Brazil to recover leadership role with CO2 limits](#)

Inter Press Service, 18 November 2009

Rio de Janeiro: Brazil's decision to adopt voluntary reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions is an indication that the planet's climate change emergency has joined strategic, economic and ideological issues as a new factor on the global political agenda...

[Bureaucracy way out of 'Catch 22'?](#)

IDN, 18 November 2009

Berlin: Catch 22, the title of the novel by U.S. author Joseph Heller, has become since the book's publication in the early 1960s a synonym of for a no-win situation. The title refers to a fictive, absurd military rule, which in the novel states that soldiers

who declare themselves insane must be healthy to do so and consequently have no excuse to fulfil their dangerous army missions...

[Global temperatures will rise 6C by end of century, say scientists](#)

The Guardian, 18 November 2009

London: Global temperatures are on a path to rise by an average of 6C by the end of the century as CO2 emissions increase and the Earth's natural ability to absorb the gas declines, according to a major new study...

[Green technologies in peril as rich nations dither on climate deal](#)

The Guardian, 19 November 2009

London: Vital business investment in clean technology to tackle climate change is being threatened by delays and doubts over the Copenhagen deal on climate change, senior figures have told the Guardian. Without urgent progress which will stimulate funding for renewables, nations could be locked into high-carbon energy and transport technologies for decades, inflating another unsustainable economic bubble, they fear...

[Women central to adaptation, mitigation](#)

Inter Press Service, 19 November 2009

Port Elizabeth: Poor women will bear the greatest 'climate burden', says the United Nations Population Fund in its 2009 State of the World Population report. The report emphasises that climate change is more than an issue of energy efficiency or industrial carbon emissions; it is also an issue of population dynamics, poverty and gender equity...

[Adaptation is the name of the game](#)

Inter Press Service, 20 November 2009

Montevideo: Uruguay must start focusing on efforts against global warming, and work in a coordinated manner with its South American neighbours, said one of the scientists consulted for the First Regional Report on Climate Change...

[Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security global programme launched](#)

CCFAS, 20 November 2009

Copenhagen: The secretariat of the global program on [Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security \(CCAFS\)](#) was recently launched in Copenhagen. The Minister for Development Cooperation, Ms. Ulla Tørnæs, noted that this research and development program will tackle the daunting challenges that climate change pose for hundreds of millions of already food-insecure children, women and men in developing countries...

[New approach to aid in Africa urgently needed](#)

Daily Nation, 20 November 2009

Nairobi: Twenty five years after the world was gripped by harrowing scenes of starvation and death in Ethiopia, chronic hunger has returned to the Horn of Africa. Last month, the Ethiopian Government called for urgent international assistance to help feed 6.2 million people. Across the region, an estimated 23 million people cannot get sufficient food...

[Rise in African hunger woes expected](#)

Inter Press Service, 20 November 2009

Berlin: According to data gathered by the German Institute for Meteorology and Climate Research, variability in the rain patterns in Africa, especially in the Western region, has substantially increased since the early 1980s...

[Janet Larson: Wildfires spreading as temperatures rise](#)

Earth Policy Institute/IPS, 20 November 2009

Washington: Future firefighters have their work cut out for them. Perhaps nowhere does this hit home harder than in Australia, where in early 2009 a persistent drought, high winds, and record high temperatures set the stage for the worst wildfire in the country's history. On Feb. 9, now known as "Black Saturday", the mercury in Melbourne topped 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46.4 degrees Celsius)...

[Framework in place for one-million-solar-water-heater vision, but funding plan needs firming](#)

Engineering News, 20 November 2009

Johannesburg: The next six months will see a watershed of activity in the solar water heating industry, as role-players gear up to meet the target of rolling out one-million solar water heaters by 2014. The longer-term target, which is vital in stimulating downstream manufacturing and installation capability, is 50% penetration of SWHs in the residential sector by 2020...

[South Africa: Insurers calculate the rising risks of climate change](#)

Business Report, 20 November 2009

Johannesburg: The risk of rising claims from severe weather events has prompted global insurers to warn that the continued availability of widespread insurance depends on taking immediate action to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects. Comparative figures for South Africa are not available...

Going for broke in Copenhagen

Engineering News, 20 November 2009

Johannesburg: The future of the climate change regime is to be decided in Copenhagen. It is not looking pretty. The US is not ready to put a firm number to the emission cuts it knows it must do. The European Union (EU) has proposed a step-up in finance, but still expects developing countries to pay in even more...

UN climate chief seeks \$10 bln rich-nations pledge

Reuters, 20 November 2009

United Nations: The UN environmental chief called on rich nations to pledge \$10 billion a year for three years at next month's Copenhagen summit to help poor states begin to tackle the impact of climate change. Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, told a news conference that it was a short-term figure...

Senator Kerry's speech at the World Bank

Bank Information Centre, 20 November 2009


Washington: In a speech titled "Building a Twenty-First Century Development Bank: New Challenges, New Priorities," Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee John Kerry laid out his vision for the role of the US and the World Bank in tackling climate change, energy investment, and economic development...

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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