

Potsdam Spring Dialogues

16-17 April 2010

**EXTERNAL SHOCKS AND  
AFRICA'S REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

**OBSERVATIONS FROM EXISTING  
INSTITUTIONS**

BY

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# REGIONAL ACTIONS AGAINST THE CLIMATE CHANGE SHOCKS

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# THE SPECIAL POSITION OF AFRICA IN THE CLIMATE CHANGE DEBATE

**Within the IPCC Circles, and throughout the World, there is general agreement that apart from the small island states, Africa is the most disadvantaged continent when it comes to the impacts of global warming, and global climate change, and that the pressures being put on the continent are unfairly large and uncalled for.**

# AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO ANTHROPOGENIC CLIMATE CHANGE IS SMALL

The IAEA Statistics clearly show that Africa's emissions of GHGS are less than 4 percent of the global total, and that within that figure South Africa accounts for close to 60 percent of the African total.

**DESPITE THESE GLARING STATISTICS THERE HAS BEEN AN OUTCRY FOR AFRICA TO BUILD MITIGATION INSTITUTIONS**

# ADAPTATION INSTITUTIONS ARE A PRIORITY IN AFRICA

During the failed COP 15 in Denmark, there was a concerted effort to get Africa to commit to REDD and AFOLU, which are strictly mitigation activities, but the crying need in Africa is for institutions that deal with adaptation , more than with mitigation.

Over the decades, assistance to Africa to help deal with climate shocks have tended to end at information of a general nature.

# REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

- ACMAD- This was the first African-wide regional institution created to deal with climate and development in the whole of Africa, but its limited funding made quite sure that it was not effective in dealing with a complex issue like climate, let alone bringing about meaningful dialogue about climate change, and the impacts or “shocks” that are associated with it.

# REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS 2

- THE DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRES-Like ACMAD, the idea of establishing sub-regional drought monitoring centres under the aegis of UNDP and WMO was a good one, but coming in the 1980s, the real nature and complexity of climate change issues had not yet been revealed.
- If one is to talk about shocks, DROUGHT is a major climate shock that requires attention, but it was not until the IPCC spelt it out that we know better.

# DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRES

**ACMAD(African Centre for Meteorological Applications and Development)**

**OSS**

**AGRHYMET**

**DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRE-EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA- NAIROBI-HARARE**

**DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRE-NOW ICPAC**

**DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRE –SADC**

**HARARE-GABORONE-COVERING SN AFRICA**

# THE FUNCTIONS OF DROUGHT MONITORING CENTRES

- The establishment of Drought Monitoring Centres was the first line of action in dealing with one of the impacts or symptoms of climate change, namely prolonged droughts, and to that extent it could be regarded as one of the series of activities used to respond to climate change shocks.
- When climate change became topical drought monitoring centres became the first port of call.

# ICPAC CLIMATE INFORMATION PRODUCTS

- **Climate risk assessment and risk management**
- **Impacts of climate on agriculture and livestock production**
- **Climate change impacts on water resources**
- **The link between climate change and human health**
- **The importance of climate information to the Media**

# ICPAC APPROACH TO CLIMATE CHANGE SHOCKS

❖ The IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre has a fully loaded programme which covers among other things, the following:

Climate Information, prediction services

Climate Applications

Climate Early Warning

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# ICPAC ACTIVITIES -2

- Importance of climate change adaptation
- Downscaling of global climate models to the sub-regional and national levels
- Monitoring of extreme events, especially drought
- Early warning systems for agriculture , livestock and malaria incidences

# ICPAC COF REPORTS

**As a method of responding to climate change shocks, ICPAC has an active programme of engagement with the various economic sectors which may be impacted by climate change. Examples include**

**Climate change and the agricultural and livestock sectors**

**Malaria Outlook**

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# ICPAC PROGRAMMES II

**Climate change and water resources  
management**

**The role of the Media in climate change**

**Food/Livestock Early Warning Systems**

**Socio economic impacts of climate change**

# OTHER ICPAC PROGRAMMES

- Climate predictions
- Downscaling of climate data from global to regional and sub regional levels.
- Modeling of sub regional climate change scenarios
- Working with rural groups who use Indigenous knowledge for weather forecasting and food early warning purposes

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# OTHER POSITIVE APPROACHES

**Training in climate related disaster preparedness**

**CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT**

**CLIMATE RISK MANAGEMENT**

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STUDIES-It has been realized that training people to adapt to climate change is one of the most important methods to handle climate change shocks. Training is provided on adaptation at various levels.**

# HOW TO DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

After the inclusion in institutional programmes to face climate change shocks, the long term issue of adaptation remains to be tackled. It is being proposed that issues such as adaptation, and where appropriate, mitigation, should be handled at the national, rather than the regional, or sub-regional levels. Already the UNFCCC devised a way to influence least developed countries in Africa

# MAIN STREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE INFORMATION IN DEVELOPMENT

Once again it has been realized that development projects should be climate-proofed to enable them to survive climate change shocks

It is not easy to convince Governments at a sub-regional level on the importance of climate change screening of projects, and mainstreaming.

# CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION II

**That they should work on National Action Plans on Adaptation (NAPAs). Similarly those few African countries which feel they must start on active mitigation programmes, should do it at the national level. South Africa is such an example, with high GHG emission burden, and hence the need to mitigate.**

**Africa as a whole accounts for less than 4 percent of the global total, hence mitigation**

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# CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**Even though it has been suggested that Africa has the required institutions to handle climate change shocks, most of these institutions such as ACMAD, CILSS, AGRHYMET, ICPAC, THE SOUTHERN AFRICA CENTRE, AND OSS, are operating below par because they are not properly funded, and have limited manpower.**

# THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITIES

**The Secret of ICPAC's success is its close links with the local Universities, and this should be tried throughout Africa. The alternative is to properly fund the various centres, so that they can be "Centres of excellence", able to provide internship arrangements for high level human power, for example sourced from University, or from Government.**

# EFFECTIVENESS IN FACING CLIMATE CHANGE SHOCKS

❖ **IN MY VIEW THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE HAVE IN AFRICA FOR DEALING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE SHOCKS IS HIGHLY INADEQUATE. FOR A CONTINENT THAT IS LEADING IN TERMS OF IMPACTS AND VULNERABILITY, WE NEED A MORE ROBUST INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENABLE AFRICA TO MEET THE CHALLENGE**

❖ **THANK YOU ALL**