



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY
BUILDING FOUNDATION

FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT
DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

A Thriving Africa: Building Resilience Through Climate Action and Green Energy Access



In a world increasingly threatened by climate change, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has launched groundbreaking initiatives designed to enhance resilience and promote sustainable energy solutions across the continent. The Climate and Energy for Productive Use strategic pillar addresses two of Africa's most urgent challenges: climate adaptation and resilience, and sustainable energy access.

This strategic pillar focuses on strengthening the capacity of African countries to meet their

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the [Paris Agreement](#), and other national climate strategies and priorities, a critical step towards global climate action. By aligning with the 2030 [UN Sustainable Development Goals 7 \(Affordable and Clean Energy\)](#) and [13 \(Climate Action\)](#), this strategic pillar seeks to propel Africa towards a sustainable future.

Additionally, this pillar supports the objectives of multiple continental frameworks, including [Agenda 2063](#), particularly [Goals 1 \(High Standard of Living\)](#) and [7 \(Environmentally](#)

[Sustainable Economies\)](#), and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), which seeks to harness Africa's abundant renewable energy resources. It also aligns with the African Union's Strategy for [Climate Change, fostering long-term prosperity, resilience and sustainability across the continent](#). Through these synergies, the ACBF is committed to driving transformative change and ensuring a thriving future for Africa.



Overcoming Africa's Energy Challenge

Africa stands at a pivotal crossroads. Over 600 million Africans, particularly those in rural areas and micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), lack reliable access to electricity (AfDB). National grids are unable to meet the continent's growing demand for energy in terms of quantity, quality, and affordability. This energy shortage severely affects economic growth, hampering the ability of MSMEs to be more productive and efficient.

Recognizing the urgent need to transition away from traditional fossil fuels, ACBF is committed to strengthening the capacity of African countries to adapt to climate change and build resilience.

Through innovative programs and strategic partnerships, ACBF aims to enhance access to green energy for productive use by building the capacity of State actors for energy sector reform and regulation, building the institutional capacity of MSMEs offering off-grid and mini-grid energy solutions, and enhancing the application of cyclical economy principles to improve efficiency (e.g., production of biogas and compost through appropriate waste management).

By empowering African nations to implement renewable energy projects and improve energy efficiency, ACBF is committed to overcoming the continent's energy challenges and fostering a brighter, more resilient future for all.



A Two-Pronged Approach to Resilience

The Climate and Energy for Productive Use Strategic Pillar addresses climate change head-on through a powerful dual strategy:

Empowering Project Development



By equipping African countries with the expertise needed to unlock crucial funding for climate adaptation projects, the program empowers them to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement. This empowerment is essential for building a more resilient Africa.

Strengthening National Resilience



The program builds capacity at all levels, fostering coordinated efforts between governments and the private sector to ensure long-term resilience against climate challenges. By enhancing collaboration and strategic planning, it aims to create sustainable and robust systems to withstand future climate impacts.



Bridging the Capacity Gap: Empowering Action Through Targeted Interventions

A blue tractor is parked on a dirt path next to several solar panels mounted on a wooden frame. The background shows lush green trees and a clear sky, suggesting a rural, agricultural setting. The solar panels are tilted towards the sun, and some cables are visible at the base of the frame.

"Our interventions address specific challenges - the insufficient capacity to mobilize resources for NDCs and limited business opportunities for Africa's green MSMEs. We aim to empower African countries to develop bankable climate adaptation projects and grow their businesses, creating a ripple effect of positive change across the continent,"
says ACBF.

Logical Basis 1: The Funding Gap Challenge

Limited Project Development Hinders Climate Action in Africa

The Problem

African countries struggle to secure funding for climate adaptation projects. An analysis of proposals submitted to the Global Climate Fund (GCF) reveals a concerning trend - the lowest approval rate (39%) compared to other regions.

The Cause

One key reason for this disparity is the lack of capacity to develop bankable projects that meet international funding criteria.

The Effect

Limited access to funding hinders Africa's ability to implement critical climate adaptation measures, jeopardizing the continent's future.

The Solution

Our approach addresses this challenge head-on by equipping Member States with the expertise to develop strong climate adaptation project proposals, increasing their chances of securing vital funding for a more sustainable future.

Logical Basis 2: The Cost Challenge

Bridging the Financial Gap for Effective Climate Action

The Problem

African countries face a significant financial hurdle in implementing their climate commitments. The Climate Policy Initiative, estimates suggest a total cost of US\$2.8 trillion is needed between 2020 and 2030 for 53 African countries to fulfill their NDCs under the Paris Agreement.

The Cause

These substantial costs tremendously burden developing economies, hindering progress toward climate action.

The Effect

Limited financial resources can significantly restrict Africa's ability to implement effective climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Solution

ACBF's climate portfolio tackles this challenge indirectly. By strengthening the capacity of Member States to access critical climate funding, the Foundation empowers them to bridge the financial gap and achieve their climate goals. This not only benefits Africa but also contributes to global climate action efforts.

Logical Basis 3: The Institutional Capacity Building Challenge

The Problem

There is a limited capacity among African-led institutions to sustain long-term climate action. The African Capacity Building Foundation's (ACBF) report, titled '**Africa Capacity Report 2022: Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security: The Role of Human Capital,**'¹ illustrates these challenges. The report highlights the challenges faced by African institutions in maintaining and scaling up climate action efforts, particularly due to gaps in technical expertise, funding, and institutional capacity.

The Cause

Chronic underfunding and undervaluing of African-led institutions have led to significant capacity constraints, limiting their ability to sustain long-term climate action. The absence of valuable leadership, expertise, and context-specific knowledge at the decision-making table has resulted in uninformed and ineffective climate solutions. To empower these critical partners to lead more effectively and equitably in the climate space, these capacity gaps must be urgently addressed.

The Effect

Limited institutional capacities to lead and sustain climate action in Africa can significantly restrict institutions' ability to effectively influence relevant policy and development action.

The Solution

Enhance the capacity of the ACBF's target organizations/partners to lead in climate adaptation by improving their efficiency, effectiveness, relevance and sustainability, while improving their ability to develop an organizational culture of excellence, with the overall aim of improving the continent's ability to undertake the actions necessary to prepare for and adjust to current and future impacts of climate change

1. African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). (2022). Africa Capacity Report 2022: Building Resilience in Nutrition and Food Security: The Role of Human Capital. Harare: ACBF.

Measurable Impact, Lasting Change

This impact area is not just about addressing challenges; it is about creating a better Africa. Here is how we deliver impactful and lasting change:



Enhanced Climate Adaptation

ACBF partners to build capacity and knowledge for adapting to a changing climate. This empowers countries to create resilient communities and infrastructure, safeguarding future generations from the growing impacts of climate change. Under the Strengthening African Leadership for Climate Adaptation (SALCA) Program, ACBF is partnering with four African regional institutions to enhance their institutional capacities and climate adaptation projects, enabling them to effectively influence policy development and implementation.



Empowered Communities and Businesses

The program unlocks the true potential of green energy by focusing on accessibility. Improved access empowers not only communities but also businesses, particularly MSMEs and marginalized groups. This fosters economic growth, improves livelihoods, and promotes a more equitable and inclusive future for all.



Robust Clean Energy Policies

We go beyond simply providing access to clean energy. The program actively promotes the development of sound policies across Africa. These robust frameworks facilitate a smooth transition towards clean energy sources, ensuring long-term sustainability and environmental protection.



A Snapshot of some of Our Climate and Energy Programs

A Thriving Africa: **Building Resilience Through Climate Action and Green Energy Access**

Strengthening African Leadership for Climate Adaptation (SALCA):

This project focuses on enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of African climate adaptation organizations, ensuring they are well-positioned to lead the continent towards a sustainable future (2022-2026).

Support to African Leadership on Adaptation to Climate Change - African Adaptation Initiative (AAI):

This initiative strengthens political and technical leadership across Africa, ensuring climate change remains a top priority on global and continental agendas (2021-2024).

The Transformative Climate Finance program of the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan (AU-TCF-GRAP):

Building the capacity of AU member states to develop national strategies for green recovery and resilience is critical. This program equips partners with the necessary tools for success (2023-2025).



The ACBF's Climate and Energy for Productive Use thematic area is strategically aligned with the Foundation's mission to secure Africa's future. Through empowering Member States and key non-state actors, our initiatives strengthen climate adaptation and resilience. By promoting robust energy transition policies and enhancing institutional capacities, we are paving the way for a sustainable energy landscape. Our focus on democratizing access to green energy, particularly for MSMEs and marginalized communities, ensures that development is both inclusive and sustainable.



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