

# **Work of ECA in the area of Statistics and Climate Change**

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## **Outline of the presentation**

- **Introduction to ECA and its mandate**
- **Statistics programme at ECA**
- **Work of ECA in the area of climate change**
- **Current situation of climate change statistics in Africa**
- **Steps needed to improve the situation**

## **Introduction to ECA and its mandate**

- ECA was established by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) in 1958.
- It is one of the UN's five regional commissions.
- ECA's mandate is to:
  - promote economic and social development, and environmental protection of its member States;
  - foster intra-regional integration; and
  - promote international cooperation for Africa's development.
- ECA is the only UN agency mandated to operate at the regional and sub-regional levels to harness resources and bring them to bear on Africa's priorities.
- The member States of ECA are fifty three African countries.

## **Introduction to ECA and its mandate (cont'd)**

- ECA's work programme focuses on achieving results in two related and mutually supportive areas:
  - Promoting Regional Integration in support of the African Union (AU) vision and priorities; and
  - Meeting Africa's special needs and emerging global challenges.

Within these two pillars, ECA focuses on the following thematic areas:

- Regional Integration, Trade and Infrastructure;
- Meeting the MDGs with a special emphasis on Poverty Reduction and Growth, Sustainable Development and Gender;
- Promoting Good Governance and Popular Participation;
- ICT, Science and Technology for Development; and
- Statistics and Statistical Development.

## **Statistics Programme at ECA**

- Statistics is one of the oldest programmes at ECA.
- It was started at the inception of ECA in 1958.
- The weakness of statistical infrastructures in ECA member States led to the establishment of the Conference of African Statisticians that held its first session in 1959.
- The Conference of African Statisticians is the apex subsidiary body especially devoted to statistics and statistical development on the continent.
- The Conference helped to identify regional needs and in setting priorities for the ECA work in statistics.
- The Conference of African Statisticians changed its name at different times as follows: In 1980 it was called the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists; in 1994 the Joint Conference of Planners, Statisticians and Population and Information Specialists; in 1997 the Committee On Development Information (CODI); and in 2007 it was again renamed as Statistical Commission for Africa (StatCom-Africa).
- The statistics programme at ECA covers economic, social, demographic, environment, and statistical development and data management sectors.

## **Statistics Programme at ECA (cont'd)**

- ECA maintains close contacts with the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of member States through meetings, seminars, workshops, advisory services and data dissemination, as well as through the exchange of published materials.
- Since 1990 ECA has been involved in the preparation of themes, posters, communiqués and other promotional materials for the celebration of the African Statistics Day (ASD) every year. The main objective of the ASD celebration is to increase public awareness about the importance of statistics in the economic, social and environmental fields.
- The African Statistics Day has been celebrated in all ECA member States on the 18th of November of each year since 1990.
- Starting the second half of the 1990s until the beginning of 2006 the statistical function at ECA was reduced from a division to a section in another division.
- The statistics function at ECA has been upgraded to a division level since August 2006 in form of the African Centre for Statistics (ACS).

## Statistics Programme at ECA (cont'd)

The Vision, Mission and Core values of ACS:

### **Vission:**

- To be the premier Centre for statistical development in Africa.

### **Mission:**

- To foster African statistical development through statistical advocacy;
- The harmonization of statistical concepts, standards and methods;
- Statistical capacity building;
- Coordination of statistical activities;
- Better data management and use for evidence-based policies and decision-making, all in support of national and international results-based development agenda including the attainment of the MDGs.

### **Core Values:**

- User orientation, data quality and integrity, innovation, partnership, knowledge and information sharing.

## **Statistics Programme at ECA (cont'd)**

### **Environment Statistics**

- In the late 1980s and early 1990s there were two staff members in the then Statistics Division who were directly involved in the area of environment statistics.
- Then the Division produced a publication entitled “African Compendium of Environment Statistics” in 1991. This publication was produced only once or twice.
- There was a decrease in the number of staff when the division was reduced to a section level which resulted in the discontinuation of the Compendium and other publications.
- Since August 2006 Environment statistics are now included in the African Statistical Yearbook publication. The environment indicators included in the publication are:
  - Carbon dioxide emissions per capita (in MT);
  - Protected area to total surface area; and
  - Proportion of population using improved sanitation facilities.



## **Statistics Programme at ECA (Cont'd)**

### **Environment Statistics**

- The data are taken from the MDG database and the environment section at the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
- There is still no professional staff in the Division who works in the area of Environment Statistics.
- Since January 2009 the ACS has been provided with six additional professional posts by the ECA administration. When the posts are filled the Centre will be in a better position to assist member States. Furthermore, a professional staff may be assigned to work in the area of environment statistics.

## **Work of ECA in climate change Area**

### **Climate for Development in Africa Programme (ClimDev-Africa)**

#### **Introduction**

- It is a programme under the Food Security and Sustainable Development Division (FSSDD) of ECA;
- The ClimDev-Africa is a joint initiative of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), ECA and the African Union Commission (AUC);
- The overall purpose of ClimDev-Africa is to strengthen the climate-resilience of economic growth and the MDGs through mainstreaming climate risk management in sensitive sectors;
- ClimDev-Africa is an African development programme to integrate Climate Risk Management (CRM) into pertinent policy and decision processes throughout the continent;
- It will be implemented under the direction of the Joint AUC-ECA- African Development Bank (AfDB) Secretariat with support from a number of sources;
- It aims to enhance economic growth and progress towards the MDGs through mitigating the vagaries of climate variability and climate change;

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

- It will ensure that development achievements already gained are climate resilient in the longer term;
- It is envisaged as a 3-phase programme over an 11-year period.

### **Main objectives of Clim-Dev Africa:**

- It aims to address the need for improved climate information for Africa and also strengthen the use of such information for decision-making by improving analytical capacity, knowledge management and dissemination activities.
- It will improve and facilitate practices, services, observation networks and communication with stakeholders to enable effective climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa. These stakeholders include Africa's regional economic communities, river basin organizations, national governments, parliamentarians, and regional climate, weather and water organizations.
- To support African countries in the negotiations for a post-Kyoto 2012 climate regime.

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

### **The expected outcome of ClimDev-Africa programme is:**

- improved availability and use of quality climate information and services addressing needs of local, national and regional scale decision makers, in support of sustainable development and achievement of the MDGs, in critical climate-sensitive sectors and areas in Africa such as:
  - Political engagement of all African regions and states in managing climate risk to assist development and adaptation to climate change;
  - Much improved agriculture and food security, water, health, energy and environment in African countries through better CRM;
  - Adequate information services provided for the full range of CRM practices required to deliver the desired development outcomes in all countries; and improved data and analytical methods for
    - a) sectoral CRM
    - b) monitoring climate variability, and
    - c) detecting climate change, with strengthened observation networks and service centres in Africa. Climate data is little used in development processes in Africa because of weaknesses in both demand for, and supply of, pertinent climate services.

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

### **Political engagement**

- The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government made key decisions on climate change on the continent in recent times.
- The 8th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly (January 2007) called upon Member States to integrate climate change into their respective development programmes.
- The 12th Session of the Assembly (February 2009), emphasized the need for international climate change negotiations to give Africa an opportunity to demand for compensation for damages caused by global warming.
- The February 2009 Summit also made a landmark decision for building a common Africa position in preparations of COP15 in Denmark, Copenhagen in December 2009, and for Africa to be represented by one delegation that is empowered to negotiate on behalf of Member States.
- The Assembly mandated the AUC to work out modalities of how such representation could be achieved.

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

- The ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development at its fortieth session requested ECA, in partnership with AUC, AfDB, and in collaboration with relevant African and international institutions, to take appropriate actions to effectively develop and implement ClimDev-Africa and to report on progress at each session of the Conference of the Commission.
- The first Joint Annual Meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development welcomed and endorsed the establishment of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) with the objective of providing policy guidance to member countries, and urged ECA to take the necessary action for its immediate operationalization.
- The twelfth session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) supported the process of developing the ClimDev-Africa programme and requested AUC, ECA and AfDB to accelerate the finalization of the programme document and the dissemination of this information to ensure that AMCEN participates in the Climate for Development Africa programme. It also welcomed and supported the establishment of ACPC at ECA.

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

**The operational design of ClimDev-Africa consists of two key elements:**

- ACPC
  - The ACPC is the policy arm of the ClimDev-Africa.
  - It will enhance the capacity of African countries to integrate climate change issues into their development policies, strategies and programmes.
  - It will undertake rigorous analytical and research work for robust assessment of the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change and the costs and benefits of the related adaptation and mitigation measures with respect to national and regional development priorities on the continent.
  - It will strengthen the capacity of countries to benefit from the emerging carbon trading system and the adaptation and mitigation financing mechanism.

## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

- It will enhance the capacity of countries to participate effectively in international policy discussions on climate change, particularly, the implementation of the Bali road map of multilateral negotiations for a post-2012 global climate agreement.
- Activities at ACPC
  - Recruitment of core staff, the arrangement of office spaces, the creation of a website and institutional mapping for ACPC.
  - Support African negotiators in developing Africa's common negotiating position for Copenhagen.
  - It will organize a training session on climate change to selected professional staff of ECA in November 2009.
- ClimDev-Africa Special Fund (CDSF)
  - The CDSF is being established in AfDB to finance demand-led programmes of ClimDev-Africa.
- ACPC and CDSF are being established with initial funding from the United Kingdom Department of International Development (DFID).



## **Work of ECA in climate change area (cont'd)**

In addition to ClimDev-Africa the AUC has also embarked on some initiatives to address the risks arising from climate change.

- its Executive Council adopted an action plan for the Great Green Wall for the Sahel and Sahara Initiative (GWSSI). This will enhance environmental stability, control land degradation, arrest the advancement of the desert, conserve biodiversity and improve the livelihoods of the poor.

### **Expected activities of countries**

- Climate change issues need to be integrated into national decision-making.
- Africa should continue to push for a reform of the current climate change financing governance system.
- Countries should build institutional, technical and managerial capacities and introduce incentives for actors to effectively access carbon markets.

## **Current situation of climate change statistics in Africa**

- Data on climate change are mainly produced by the concerned ministries such as environment, water, meteorology, agriculture, etc.
- The involvement of the national statistical offices in the area of climate change is minimal.
- The data related to climate change may not be available. Even if they are available they are of poor quality, incomplete coverage, may not be available on time, may not be comparable, etc.
- The number of meteorological stations in most countries is inadequate. Besides, the existing stations are not provided with adequate equipment and manpower resources.
- The data required for climate change analysis may be found in different offices in a country. A lot of efforts are needed to coordinate the activities of the offices.
- Climate data are little used in development processes in Africa because of weakness in both demand for, and supply of pertinent climate services.

## **Steps needed to improve the situation**

- There is a need to improve the working relationship among the various stakeholders involved in climate change area.
- There is a need to build the capacity of the various stakeholders in terms of training, technology transfer, financial assistance, and by sharing experiences.
- The national statistical offices have to be involved in climate change activities.
- There is a need for an office or ministry in a country to coordinate all activities related to climate change.
- The data that have been produced as part of official statistics that are relevant for climate change analysis need to be used.
- It is necessary to identify the data gaps and try to fill the gaps in collaboration with the various stakeholders. The NSOs need to assist to fill the gaps in observations and data management;

### **Steps needed to improve the situation (cont'd)**

- To build capacity in institutions and people to use climate knowledge more effectively in planning and decision making;
- To substantially increase the use of climate information and services in planning in order to reduce the threat of climate variability;
- To improve climate observing networks and related data management, data analysis and exchange in climate service activities;
- To ensure sustained collection of both environmental and socio-economic indicators;
- In collaboration with other institutions the ACS need to assist in developing the capacities of African countries in the area of climate change statistics;
- The ACS need to work with FSSDD of ECA to strengthen the activities of ACPC to enable it fulfill its mandate.

THANK YOU