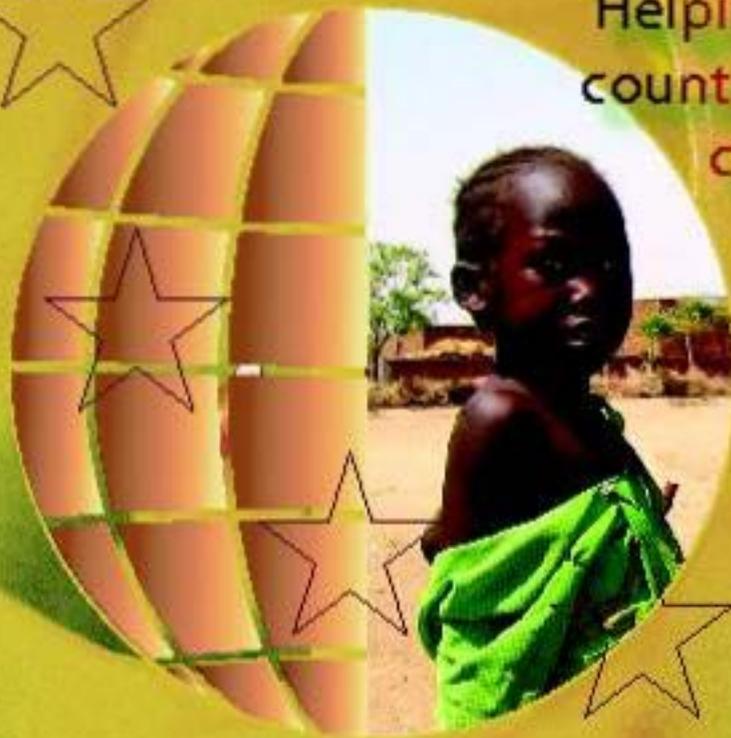


EU Action against Climate Change



Helping developing countries cope with climate change



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Helping developing countries cope with climate change



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Introduction

As the world's largest donor of development assistance, the European Union is strongly committed to supporting developing countries in the fight against poverty, the fulfilment of the UN Millennium Development Goals and the promotion of sustainable development. Combating climate change, one of the gravest challenges facing mankind, forms an integral part of this agenda.

The EU is actively pursuing this objective both multilaterally through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol as well as through regional and bilateral cooperation with partner countries in all developing country regions.

Climate change is not only an environmental problem but also poses a clear risk to development if not addressed effectively. The adverse impacts of climate change, for instance decreased precipitation in arid and semi-arid areas, will disproportionately affect poorer countries with economies dependent on natural resource-related sectors such as agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Rising sea levels pose a threat to the very existence of some small island states.

Developing countries with more diversified economies are also vulnerable since lack of financial resources, adequate technology and effective institutions limit their capacity to adapt to the consequences of climate change.

At the same time, increasing industrialisation by developing countries to meet their legitimate development needs will lead to higher energy consumption and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in these countries, even if their per capita emission levels are likely to remain below those in industrialised countries for the foreseeable future. It is thus in the interest of all parties to promote sustainable emission trends in developing countries in parallel with action by industrialised nations to limit and reduce their own GHG emissions.

The EU recognises that the most effective way to promote adaptation to and mitigation of climate change is to 'mainstream' these into strategies for poverty reduction and/or sustainable development. It also attaches importance to ensuring that these strategies are owned and driven by the developing countries themselves.



The 2005 European Consensus on Development⁽¹⁾ commits Europe to supporting its partners' efforts to incorporate environmental considerations into development and to helping strengthen their capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements such as the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

This brochure in the *EU action on climate change* series provides an overview of the many ways in which the EU is helping developing countries adapt to the negative effects of climate change and mitigate its causes.

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals are laid down in the Millennium Declaration adopted by 189 nations at the United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. The goals are to be met by 2015 except where stated otherwise.

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve the proportion of people living on less than one dollar a day
- Halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger

1

Achieve universal primary education

- Ensure that all children complete a full course of primary schooling

2

Promote gender equality and empower women

- Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

3

Reduce child mortality

- Reduce the mortality rate among children under five by two thirds

4

Improve maternal health

- Reduce the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters

5

(1) The European Consensus on Development is a joint statement on EU development policy by the Council of the European Union, EU governments, the European Parliament and the European Commission. It was signed on 20 December 2005.



Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases



Ensure environmental sustainability

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes, and reverse the loss of environmental resources
- Halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation
- Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020

Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system (including a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction — both nationally and internationally)
- Address the special needs of the least developed countries (includes: tariff- and quota-free access for least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous Official Development Assistance (ODA) for countries committed to poverty reduction)
- Address the special needs of landlocked countries and small island developing states
- Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term
- In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.



EU cooperation with developing countries on climate change

Climate change has been an issue of growing concern in cooperation between the EU and developing countries since the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed in 1992. In recent years specific cooperation on climate change has been significantly strengthened across a range of different frameworks.

The UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, and institutions linked to them such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), are naturally among the main channels through which the EU provides general support and financial assistance on climate change to developing countries. The EU also provides significant support through other multilateral and bilateral channels.

The EU was instrumental in the 2001 Bonn political declaration on climate change funding for developing countries, and since 2005 EU Member States are providing the bulk of the US\$ 410 million promised annually. The EU is a major backer of the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM) (see p. 18). The EU also fully supports the operationalisation of an Adaptation Fund to be financed mainly from a share of CDM revenues.

In 2004 the EU further underlined its commitment to help developing countries tackle climate change by adopting an Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation for the period up to 2008.⁽²⁾

(2) Council of the European Union, 22 November 2004



EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation 2004-2008

Adopted by the EU Council of Ministers in November 2004, the Action Plan has five strategic objectives:

- **Raising the policy profile of climate change.** Measures include: putting climate change on the agenda of high-level consultations under EU development cooperation agreements; preparing country- or region-specific briefs on climate change; promoting exchange programmes between the EU and partner countries to foster mutual understanding.
- **Support for adaptation.** Measures include: supporting partner countries in preparing vulnerability and adaptation assessments and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) for least developed countries; developing guidelines for integrating climate change into development programmes – including measures to avoid maladaptation – based on consultation with all stakeholders; supporting capacity-building in developing country institutions to prepare for and reduce the impact of climate change-related disasters.
- **Support for mitigation and low GHG development paths.** Measures include: supporting pilot projects to strengthen the links between government ministries and the research community; supporting partner countries to carry out research on low-carbon technologies and further develop local mitigation technologies; supporting capacity-building for developing countries' participation in the Kyoto Protocol's clean development mechanism (CDM).
- **Capacity development.** Measures include: building individual and institutional capacity in impact prediction and vulnerability assessment; identifying ways to support improved coordination between developing countries to prepare for climate change negotiations; establishing knowledge banks to disseminate information and provide training for action on climate change.
- **Monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan.** Measures include: regular discussions on implementation of the Plan and encouragement of feedback from stakeholders; preparation of a biannual evaluation report and, based on this, modification and updating of the Plan.





Based on a strategy⁽³⁾ drawn up by the European Commission,⁽⁴⁾ the Action Plan seeks to help strengthen developing countries' capacities to cope with both mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.

One of the Action Plan's strategic objectives is to raise the policy profile of climate change. This is being achieved in practice by putting climate change on the agenda of high-level meetings between the EU and developing countries or country groupings with which it has cooperation agreements, such as the 78 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP)⁽⁵⁾ countries, the Asian and Latin America countries (ALA) and the Mediterranean, Eastern European and Central Asian countries.

In this context, in June 2006 ACP and EU leaders agreed a Joint Declaration on Climate Change and Development that includes commitments to cooperate closely within the UNFCCC process and to better integrate climate change considerations into the EU's development strategies, policies and programmes. Helping Africa, particularly least developed countries and small island developing states, to counter the effects of climate change is also an integral part of the EU Strategy for Africa endorsed by EU leaders in December 2005, which focuses on supporting Africa's own efforts to promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.⁽⁶⁾

The EU has recently established important climate change partnerships with China and India, and the European Commission and Brazil have set up a dialogue on the environment and climate change dimension of sustainable development that is expected to develop into a broader EU-Brazil partnership. Concrete initiatives for closer cooperation on climate change are also planned with South Africa, Mexico and South Korea.

(3) *Climate change in the context of development cooperation*. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament COM(2003) 85 final.

(4) The three major institutions of the EU are the European Commission, the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament. The Commission proposes policies and legislation and is responsible for ensuring the correct implementation of legislation once it is adopted. Legislation must be adopted by the Council of Ministers, which comprises representatives of the governments of the 25 EU Member States, and the European Parliament, which is made up of directly elected deputies from the Member States.

(5) Relations between the EU and ACP countries are governed by the Cotonou Agreement, signed in 2000.

(6) *The EU and Africa: Towards a strategic partnership*. European Council, December 2005.

ACP-EU Joint Declaration on Climate Change and Development, June 2006

We, the Representatives of the States of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group and the European Community⁽⁷⁾ and its Member States, meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, hereby agree to proceed as follows:⁽⁸⁾

At the level of the UNFCCC process:

- Commit to continued international collaboration given that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge to sustainable development and poverty reduction that has the potential to affect every part of the globe and by its global nature calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with the principles of UNFCCC.
- Urge the implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility, UNEP, World Bank and the UNDP to continue their engagement on climate change with ACP countries and invite the EU to continue to support a substantial replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.
- Agree to consult regularly on issues related to climate change and sustainable development in the context of meetings of the Subsidiary Bodies and Conferences of the Parties to the UNFCCC.
- Build capacity and strengthen the effectiveness of ACP country participation in the upcoming negotiations on the future of the UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol processes.

At the level of European Community and its Member States' development cooperation with ACP States through their respective cooperation agreements, including the Cotonou Agreement:

- Agree to enhance dialogue, involving relevant stakeholders at country level, and to improve the integration of climate change considerations into ACP country and regional development strategies, derived from the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), in coherence with the MDGs.
- Agree to continue support for all decisions of COP11, including on agenda item 6 "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation in Developing Countries: approaches to stimulate action," an important initiative launched by a number of ACP countries to link climate stability and the Millennium Development Goals.
- Support a better integration of climate change considerations into development cooperation strategies, policies and programmes of the European Community and its Member States, including the consideration of climate change aspects in strategic environmental assessments and environmental impact assessments.
- Consider the need to provide substantial resources for climate change activities, including support for the implementation of the UNFCCC.
- Agree to report on the progress of implementation of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change and Development at subsequent sessions of the ACP-EC Council of Ministers.

(7) The European Community is the first of the three pillars that comprise the European Union. Under this pillar policies and legislation are proposed by the European Commission and require approval by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament.

(8) For space reasons the preamble to the Declaration is not reproduced here.



Supporting adaptation and capacity building

Developing countries, and especially the poor in developing countries, are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, for example on water resources, agriculture and the spread of infectious diseases.

Adaptation strategies are needed to strengthen developing countries' resilience to these impacts while at the same time protecting national and EU efforts to eradicate poverty. Developing countries may also have



weaknesses in their human and institutional capacities to deal with climate change and need help to build these up.

To be effective, adaptation must be firmly integrated into development cooperation by both donors and recipient countries. The EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation for 2004-2008 (see p. 9) is an important first step in this direction.

Reflecting the particular vulnerability of less developed countries and small island developing states, the European Consensus on Development makes assistance for adaptation to climate change a central element of the Community's support.

Within the context of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) the EU fully supports the frameworks for capacity-building for developing countries contained in the Marrakech Accords as well as the work under way on national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) for least developed countries. The EU is assisting NAPAs through contributions to the Least Developed Countries Fund and bilateral support.

The EU also strongly backs the operationalisation of the specific Adaptation Fund and the five-year programme of work on adaptation under the UNFCCC. The work programme provides a major opportunity to strengthen understanding of the impacts of climate change and of countries' vulnerabilities, adaptation needs and responses.



The BASIC project

BASIC⁽⁹⁾ aims to strengthen the national capacities of Brazil, South Africa, India and China to determine which initiatives to combat climate change best fit their national circumstances, interests and priorities. Supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment, the project is creating a multi-level network by bringing the governments of the four countries together with domestic and international non-governmental institutions with expertise in research, policy and implementation.

BASIC will provide an important starting point for shaping future climate policy, domestically and internationally, by supporting the capacity of the four countries to draw lessons from their implementation experiences. The project covers the core issues of mitigation, adaptation and legal, institutional and procedural considerations at the domestic and international levels. BASIC is running for two years until January 2007 but if successful should lead to a longer-term collaborative effort.

Beyond the multilateral framework, the EU is also supporting specific bilateral or regional projects to help adaptation and capacity-building efforts by developing countries.

For example, the European Commission-funded **ACCCA⁽¹⁰⁾ (Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation) project** will create a geographically diverse set of adaptation schemes to address climate risks in developing countries. It will bring together partnerships between stakeholders and scientific communities in Africa and Asian developing countries to help develop effective adaptation decisions that reduce vulnerability to climate change while promoting sustainable development.

These partnerships will carry out pilot projects to identify and prioritise relevant climate risks, then assess available knowledge about these risks and opportunities for adapting to them. Selection and adoption of appropriate responses will be aided by stakeholder forums. A call for preliminary project proposals was launched in June 2006.

With regard to capacity building, the European Commission is a major supporter of the **Climate Change Capacity Development (C3D)⁽¹¹⁾ project**, which, like ACCCA, is managed by the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Launched in 2003, C3D is helping developing countries respond to the causes and impacts of climate change, particularly those that affect the poorest and most vulnerable. The project has created an innovative South-South training and capacity-building partnership between institutes in Senegal, South Africa and Sri Lanka that are focusing, respectively, on vulnerability and adaptation, greenhouse gas mitigation, and climate change and sustainable development. Each trains the others as well as local and regional stakeholders.

(9) www.basic-project.net

(10) www.acccaproject.org

(11) www.c3d-unitar.org



Their training modules have already helped define national climate change policy in South Africa, formulated sustainable development and climate change strategies in Sri Lanka and trained experts in West and Central Africa. The second phase of the project will help develop national and regional pools of expertise in both the science of climate change and international climate change negotiations.

Examples of other adaptation and capacity building projects supported by the the EU can be found in the sections *Stimulating clean development through EU emissions trading* and *Assisting developing countries through climate research*.



EU humanitarian aid and civil protection assistance

The EU is a major provider of humanitarian aid to help developing countries prepare for and cope with disasters, including those linked to extreme weather and climate change. In 2005, the European Commission spent just over €650 million providing humanitarian aid around the globe, €244 million of it in ACP countries. This included €45 million to aid victims of the conflicts in Sudan, where political rivalries are being exacerbated by competition for ever-diminishing natural resources – a phenomenon that could become more common worldwide as climate change intensifies.

Besides disaster relief, the EU's humanitarian aid effort includes the DIPECHO disaster preparedness programme to help the most vulnerable populations in disaster-prone regions prepare for natural catastrophes including cyclones, storms and floods. Over time the EU's ambition is to integrate disaster risk reduction measures not only into humanitarian aid operations but also long term development projects and national policies.

Through its Community mechanism for civil protection, the EU also provides urgent humanitarian and environmental assistance to EU Member States and third countries in the immediate aftermath of major natural or man-made disasters. This has included assistance to Bulgaria and Romania during floods in 2005 and the USA following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It can be expected that disasters caused by extreme weather events will account for an increasing share of EU civil protection assistance work as climate change progresses.

Providing clean and secure energy supplies

The EU Energy Initiative

Ensuring people in developing countries obtain access to modern and affordable energy services is a prerequisite for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, and in particular for eradicating poverty. The EU's framework for dialogue and partnerships with developing countries to meet this challenge is the EU Energy Initiative for Poverty

Eradication and Sustainable Development (EUEI), launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg in 2002.

The EUEI seeks to help end the limited access to energy services and heavy reliance on traditional biomass that are hallmarks of poverty in developing countries. Currently, 1.6 billion people do not have access to electricity, and 2.4 billion people rely on traditional biomass – wood, agricultural residues and dung – for cooking and heating. These fuels cause harmful indoor air pollution that leads to chronic health problems among women and children.

The EUEI is a joint commitment by the EU Member States and the European Commission to support improved access to sustainable energy services in developing countries. It is also a catalyst for action. Through the Initiative, the EU is working with developing countries to create the necessary conditions in the energy sector to achieve their national economic, social and environmental objectives. This is being done in particular by maximising energy efficiency, including more efficient use of fossil fuels and traditional biomass, and increasing the use of renewable energy. In this way the Initiative is also contributing to mitigating climate change.

Activities implemented under the EUEI are driven by the needs and priorities of the participating developing countries. Their ownership of activities is a key feature. Official Development Assistance (ODA) provides a basic funding framework for the Initiative but the aim is also to attract considerable funding from private resources for further investment.



Achievement of the EUEI's goals in Africa is being aided by the Africa-Europe Partnership on Infrastructure, which forms part of the EU's Strategy for Africa approved in December 2005. The Partnership will support development of cross-border and regional energy infrastructure including enhanced use of renewable and other sustainable local energy sources.

ACP-EC Energy Facility

A key result of the EUEI is the €220 million ACP-EC Energy Facility. Created in June 2005, it aims to facilitate access to sustainable energy services for poor rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Facility also contributes to projects supporting better governance and management in the energy sector, and to facilitating investments in cross-border electricity interconnections - in line with the priorities of the African Union's New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the Africa-Europe Partnership on Infrastructure.

A first open call for project proposals under the Energy Facility was launched in June 2006. Sustainability, including projects' impact on climate change, is one of the five selection criteria.

COOPENER programme

One of the first major vehicles for implementing the EUEI on the ground is the COOPENER programme, which is helping to strengthen developing countries' local capacities to use sustainable energy for alleviating poverty. So far 24 projects in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America have been signed, involving activities in around 35 African countries and four in Latin America.

These projects include **MIRREIA** for mitigating risk and strengthening capacity for rural electricity investment in Africa, **PEPSE**, which targets poverty eradication and planning of sustainable energy, and **REEPASA** for renewable and efficient energy to alleviate poverty in southern Africa. A final group of projects in Africa, Latin America and South-East Asia will begin before the end of 2006 and run for two to three years.



COOPENER builds on earlier initiatives such as the European Commission-funded **Regional Solar Energy Programme**, under which solar photovoltaic systems for pumping water have been installed in hundreds of villages in nine West African countries.

Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition

The EU is also helping to expand the use of renewable energy in developing countries and elsewhere through the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition (JREC)⁽¹²⁾. The coalition was launched at the WSSD by the EU and a number of other like-minded nations committed to promoting renewable energy.

JREC promotes active follow-up of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation's recognition that there is a need to "substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources with the objective of increasing its contribution to total energy supply." It does this by promoting policy initiatives at national, regional and international level and cooperation, including sharing of best practice, between member countries.

Membership of the coalition currently stands at 88 countries, of which half are ACP nations. The European Commission acts as the secretariat for JREC and co-chairs the coalition together with the government of Morocco. Within the context of JREC the Commission has recently announced the creation of a €100 million public-private Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund to mobilise further investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects by providing affordable risk capital.

(12) <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/jrec/>



Stimulating clean development through EU emissions trading

The EU's strong support for the Kyoto Protocol's three flexible mechanisms – emissions trading, the clean development mechanism (CDM) and joint implementation (JI) – is helping developing countries move towards sustainability by promoting projects that use clean technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Emission-saving projects located in developing countries are carried out under the CDM while those in



industrialised countries are covered by JI. CDM and JI projects promote sustainable development by transferring environmentally sound technologies to the host nation. The emissions saved generate emission reduction credits which can be sold and traded.

Several EU Member States have set up programmes to buy emission reduction credits generated by CDM and JI projects - either directly or through government-financed 'carbon funds' - in order to offset part of their national emissions and thus help meet their emission reduction or limitation targets under the Protocol. EU Member States plan so far to buy CDM and JI credits equivalent to 500-600 million tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂), and have budgetted more than 3 billion euros for these purchases.

Additional investment in CDM and JI projects is being spurred by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS), which caps overall CO₂ emissions from some 10,000 large emitters in energy-intensive industrial sectors and power generation in the EU. The scheme was launched in January 2005 and has rapidly become the driving force of the global carbon market.

The EU ETS is creating demand from European industry for emission reduction credits from CDM and JI projects because the scheme recognises most of these credits as being equivalent to the emission allowances allocated to industrial installations under the scheme. Since at the end of each year companies must surrender a number of allowances equal to their actual emissions, buying credits from CDM and JI projects provides an additional way for industry to meet this requirement. The scheme's acceptance of CDM and JI credits also increases the liquidity of the trading market created by the EU ETS as well as potentially lowering the price of allowances, and thus compliance costs, for industry.



The EU is committed to a balanced geographical distribution of CDM projects and under its SYNERGY programme has supported nine projects to help build the necessary capacities in selected developing countries. However, it is clear that further efforts are needed at international level to achieve a balanced distribution of CDM projects. The EU is determined to help increase the number of projects in Africa in particular.

Examples of CDM projects involving EU Member States

Denmark has contracted to buy 444,862 certified emission reductions from a biodiesel project in Gauteng province in **South Africa** between 2006 and 2012. The project will manufacture diesel fuel from fresh and waste vegetable oils as well as from waste containing fats and fatty acids. Biodiesel produces lower carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions than fossil fuels because the biomass it is produced from absorbs CO₂ while it grows. Emission savings from the project are expected to average 84,736 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. An application for the project to be registered under the CDM is in preparation.

The Netherlands, through its IFG-Netherlands Carbon Facility, is buying emission reduction credits from a CDM-registered wind power project in Rajasthan in **India**. Nine wind farms have been built and linked to give a total electricity generating capacity of just over 58 megawatts. This renewable energy project is reducing greenhouse gas emissions by producing electricity that would have otherwise have been generated from fossil fuels. Emission savings are estimated to be 98,225 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent each year between 2004 and 2014.



Capacity-building for CDM

The EU is helping to build developing countries' awareness and knowledge of the CDM as well as their capacities to identify and propose potential CDM projects. Under the **SYNERGY programme**, 13 capacity-building projects have been carried out jointly between organisations in the EU and sub-Saharan Africa, southern Mediterranean countries of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership⁽¹³⁾, Latin America, China, India and the Gulf.

Among these, the **CDM for Sustainable Africa project** has, among other things, produced an action plan to overcome institutional and other barriers to CDM projects in sub-Saharan Africa and identified both a number of existing projects plus numerous potential projects (mainly small scale) that would be suitable for CDM. It has also undertaken pre-feasibility studies for three potential projects, in Zambia, Botswana and Mozambique.

Promoting sustainable forestry

Forests play a crucial role in regulating the global climate and are also a vital resource for many developing countries. Forests help prevent climate change by acting as 'sinks' that absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂), but conversely deforestation is a major source of global CO₂ emissions – second only to the burning of fossil fuels.

Climate change - for instance a shift to hotter, drier conditions - can itself damage the health of forests, impeding their ecological functions and reducing their economic productivity.

Helping developing countries to manage their forest resources sustainably, combat illegal logging and monitor changes in their vegetation helps mitigate climate change and is an important aspect of EU development policy. As far back as 1991 the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and the European Space Agency set up the **TREES project** to monitor changes in forest cover in the tropics.

Through its budget line to support tropical forests and other forests in developing countries, the EU has provided 228 million euros for sustainable forest management since 2000.

The EU is contributing actively to scientific discussions under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change to find approaches to stimulate and recognise developing countries' efforts to reduce deforestation, in response to the important initiative on this by a number of ACP countries.

(13) Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Turkey



The European Commission's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan aims at helping build up the capacity of developing and emerging-market countries to control illegal logging as well as at addressing trade in illegal timber products between these countries and the EU.

Besides promoting mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions through sustainable forest management, the EU is also supporting adaptation-related forest projects in developing countries and the development of improved environmental data systems as a basis for more effective decision-making.

Among these is the **Tropical Forests and Climate Change Adaptation (TroFCCA) project** co-funded by the European Commission to help tropical forests and the communities who depend on them adapt to climate change. Managed by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and the Tropical Agriculture Center for Research and Higher Education (CATIE), the four-year project is being carried out in Burkina Faso, Mali and Ghana in West Africa, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in Central America, and in Indonesia.

Beginning with an evaluation of the impacts of climate change on tropical forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities, TroFCCA will develop and test criteria and indicators for implementing 'adaptive' forest management to minimise the adverse effects of climate change and climatic variability. Policy-oriented adaptation strategies will then be elaborated, reflecting the project's broader objective of helping efforts to 'mainstream' adaptation to climate change into development policies.

The European **VEGETATION programme** provides daily monitoring of terrestrial vegetation cover through remote sensing by satellite. The **VGT4AFRICA project**, part of the joint EU-European Space Agency Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) programme, ensures timely distribution of VEGETATION data and derived information products to all African countries through the EU-supported PUMA network of national meteorological services and regional environmental monitoring centres.

These derived products include 'burnt area' information products which can serve to guide sustainable management of natural resources in Africa, particularly forests and biodiversity resources. Knowledge of burnt areas can be used among other things for rainfall predictions and estimates of greenhouse gas and other pollutant emissions from the burning of biomass.



The **PUMA project** itself assists all 53 African countries and the four regional environmental monitoring services with equipment, training and application support so that they can use the received satellite data for multiple purposes. Fields for which applications are expected to be developed include forest fire monitoring and risk assessment, land cover changes, agricultural management, water management, and flood forecasting, monitoring and damage assessment.

ECOFAC

The **Forest Ecosystems in Central Africa (ECOFAC)** programme was launched by the European Commission in 1992 to help conserve the region's tropical forests through the creation of protected areas. Central Africa is home to the world's second largest tropical forest system after the Amazon and the livelihoods of some 65 million people there depend heavily on this vast resource.

Thanks to the ECOFAC programme, today no fewer than 28,000 km² of forest are managed as protected areas in six countries: Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Congo-Brazzaville, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and São Tomé e Príncipe.



Assisting developing countries through climate research

Research is crucial to improving our understanding of climate change, and thus to developing the most effective strategies for adapting to its impacts and mitigating its causes. Climate change has consequently become an increasingly important area in the EU's research and technological development (RTD) programmes since the 1980s.

The current RTD framework programme, covering 2002-2006, allocates around €2 billion to research projects directly or indirectly addressing climate change, plus a further €1.2 billion for nuclear research. These sums are additional to the financial resources that the 25 EU Member States commit nationally to climate change-related research and development.

For the EU's 7th Framework RTD programme, which will cover 2007-2013, the European Commission has proposed an almost three-fold increase in funding for climate-relevant research.

Though Europe-led, EU research activities have a strong international dimension that benefits developing countries. The EU's RTD programmes are open to cooperation with research institutions in third countries. Over recent years this has led to some 125 researchers from ACP nations participating directly in a range of EU projects, many of them focusing on climate-relevant issues such as food security, health and ecosystem management.

Many projects carried out under the EU's RTD programmes concern global or regional climate change questions of relevance to developing countries. The results are also an important contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) work on assessing climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation.

Climate-relevant information is at the heart of a dedicated information system for Africa that the EU is developing under its RTD programme. Based on satellite and computer-mapping technologies and known as

the **Africa Observatory for Sustainable Development**, the system will provide information on food security, environment and crisis issues. This information is intended to assist Africa's decision-makers in steering their countries towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals and to guide the EU in setting priorities for its assistance to Africa.

Climate-relevant research projects funded by the EU and benefiting developing countries include the following:

The **CarboAfrica project** aims to quantify and predict the cycle of carbon and other greenhouse gases in sub-Saharan Africa in order to evaluate the region's potential as a global carbon 'sink.' Greater understanding is needed of photosynthesis and respiration by African ecosystems, which are subject to regular modification due to continual changes in land-use. The project will start in October 2007 and run until 2009. African partner countries are expected to include Congo-Brazzaville, South Africa and Sudan.

The EU is helping to build a Europe-South America climate research network. This is the goal of the **Europe-South America Network for Climate Change Assessment and Impact Studies (CLARIS)⁽¹⁴⁾ project**, which is promoting common research strategies to monitor and predict climate change and its socio-economic impacts in South America. The project will contribute to the development of adaptation strategies for sectors including agriculture, healthcare and hydro-electric power generation. It involves institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay.

The **Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies (ADAM)⁽¹⁵⁾ project** funded by the European Commission aims to improve understanding of the synergies, trade-offs and conflicts between adaptation and mitigation policies. Results will be relevant globally but will improve climate change projections for ACP countries in particular. The project, which includes China and India amongst its partners, started in March 2006 and will conclude in 2009.

(14) <http://eolo.cima.fcen.uba.ar>

(15) www.adamproject.eu

AMMA

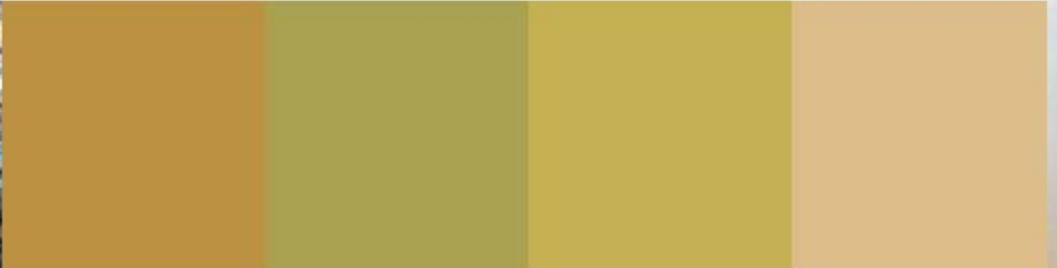
A major example of EU research support to developing countries is the **African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA)**,⁽¹⁶⁾ to which the European Commission has contributed €11.7 million.

The region of the West African Monsoon underwent a dramatic change from wet conditions in the 1950s and 60s to much drier conditions in the 1970s to 90s. Since then, marked annual variations have resulted in extremely dry years that have had devastating environmental and socio-economic impacts. West African countries' vulnerability to variations in climate is likely to grow as demands on natural resources increase in line with their rapidly expanding populations.

AMMA was developed to meet this challenge. Involving partners in Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Senegal, the project aims to improve predictions of the monsoon and its impacts as well as forecasts of the influence of climate change on monsoon variability. The project is strengthening regional environmental monitoring systems covering topics such as the water cycle, atmospheric dynamics, crop yields and human health.

(16) www.amma-eu.org





European Commission

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