

COMESA POSITION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

COMESA's Climate Change Initiative



Climate Change is a major threat to sustainable growth and development in Africa and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At its January 2007 Summit, the African Union highlighted the scale of the problem and called for an urgent international response. The Summit, also, called for the integration of climate change adaptation strategies into African national and sub-regional development policies, programmes and activities. Within the African Union framework, regional economic communities (RECs), such as COMESA, are the continental building blocs with a common vision and a firm and shared conviction, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development. In response to the call, COMESA has put in place a comprehensive climate change initiative.

Goal

The goal of COMESA's Climate Change Initiative is: ***“Achieving economic prosperity and climate change protection.”***

Objectives

The overall objective of the Initiative is to address climate change and its impacts in a manner that builds economic and social resilience for present and future generations.

Specific Objectives

The specific objectives are to:

- (a) Consolidate a shared vision for Africa on climate change and a common and informed voice for the continent in the Post Kyoto Climate Change negotiations and beyond.
- (b) Foster regional and national cooperation to address climate change and its impacts.
- (c) Promote integration of climate change considerations into regional, national policies, sectoral planning and development and budgeting.
- (d) Enhance human and institutional capacities of COMESA Secretariat, specialized institutions and Member States to effectively address the challenges of climate change.
- (e) Mobilize African and international scientific and technical communities to increase knowledge base and its management to support informed decision making processes.
- (f) Promote and enhance collaboration, synergy, partnerships and effective participation of Governments, business community, civil society and other stakeholders in climate change matters.
- (g) Provide a framework for the establishment of an African BioCarbon Facility that combines market-based offsets, public and private funds.