CLIMATE CHANGE AND AFRICA: IMPLICATIONS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

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1. Understanding the Paris Agreement

**Objective:**
1. Mitigate to $2^\circ$C, pursue $1.5^\circ$C;
2. Increase ability to adapt;
3. Adequate finance for M&A

**Party Obligations:**
1. Communicate;
2. Adjust;
3. Implement;
4. Report;
in respect of Mitigation, Adaptation, Finance

**Global Stocktake:**
1. Collective progress towards goals in the Objective
2. Comprehensive scope in ‘in light of science and equity’
3. Periodicity is 5 years, outcome to inform updating of NDCs

ARTICLE 2 > ARTICLE X > ARTICLES 13, 14, 15
2. What are the implications of the Paris differentiation solution for Africa?

- Structure of the Convention is ‘definition of common obligations and further obligations for developed and rich developed countries’
- Paris Agreement agreement defines obligations for developed countries defined ‘most rigorous’, developing countries less so, flexibility for SIDS and LDCs; progression over time
- African countries comprise mainly of LDCs, with some SIDS, most targeting graduation to middle income status; progressively will be expected to approach the ‘center’
3. Does the agreement provide time and space to pursue sustainable development?

The agreement constrains the temperature increases to 2°C, with serious provisions for working towards 1.5°C; The more stringent temperature goal is important for Africa, and its review can be achieved through the 2013-15 Review forming part of the the Global Stocktake; carbon constrained world

The challenge for African governments is how to drive industrial growth, highly dependent on water and energy to drive job creation in growing population in a carbon constrained world; what are industrial energy needs vs domestic energy access?

African governments to a degree understand their responsibilities in a carbon constrained world, however global economic slow-down, renewable technology maturity, and oil prices challenge prior assumptions, is there a need to update the LEPS prior to 2020 ‘communications
4. Does the agreement keep Africa safe from climate change and variability?

The climate system juggernaut is already committed to observable change and variability; The current set of INDCs to 2030 commit the world to 2.7°C, is plausible that ambition will be increased before 2020?

Implication is that African governments are committed to a level of adaptation costs and loss & damage, with the last 2 season of El Nino projected to occur more frequently going to 2030.

African governments need to understand and foresee impacts, costs, and communicate to the UNFCCC as part of their obligation under the Paris Agreement; further need to understand the implications to development through LTAS.
5. What obligations does the Paris Agreement place in African countries?

- Communication reporting obligations in respect of mitigation through m-NDC, will continue as per NatComms, BUR; further report on adaptation plans, needs, on own efforts as part of a-NDC; finance on support received

- African governments will have to build capacity for this reporting; which is to be supported; however it should be based on national circumstances; track their investments in climate action, as well as support received

- The agreement presents a top-down perspective through the the timing of the Global stock-take, which happens after communication, and prior to implementation
2015: Communication
2016
2017
2018: Facilitative Dialogue & Recommendation, IPCC report
2019
   Adjustment
2020: Communication
2021
2022: IPCC report
2023: Global Stocktake & Recommendations
2024
   Adjustment
2025: Final Communication
2026
2027: IPCC report
2028: Global Stocktake & Recommendations
2029
   Adjustment
2030: Final Communication
6. Conclusions

- The details of the Agreement are yet to be finalised, ‘interpretations’

- Immediate need is the economy-wide understanding of energy and development futures, through LEDS or an equivalent to better inform the m-NDC

- Understanding climate impacts under different temperature scenarios, needs and costs, and planning needs through Long Term Adaptation Scenarios for a-NDC

- Capacity to collect, document, track climate action for mitigation, adaptation and support; domestic MRV frameworks