

Partners

NEPAD developed the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), a manifestation of African governments' commitment to address growth in the agricultural sector, rural development and food security. African led and owned process, NEPAD-CAADP offers an integrated framework of development priorities.

COMESA, the responsible implementing agency for CAADP in East and Southern Africa, promotes the extension of areas under sustainable land management and reliable water control systems. And, in collaboration with NEPAD, has organized an African Working Group for Climate, Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use and Livelihoods.

CIFOR is developing a set of methodologies to assess vulnerability to climate change and to mainstream adaptation to climate change into development agendas. It achieves this through collaborative, strategic and applied research and by promoting the transfer and adoption of appropriate new technologies and social systems for national development.

ICRAF is promoting agroforestry systems that offer win-win opportunities for countries wishing to participate in carbon markets. Productivity growth of agriculture and natural resources are key drivers of economic development in agrarian economies, and these systems can help smallholder farmers cope with increasing climate variability and can sequester significant amounts of carbon.

WWF is working to organise sustainable agriculture, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use as tools to improve rural landscapes and livelihoods. These tools can assist communities to adapt to climate change, deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and link community-based sustainable land management and carbon sequestration projects with global carbon markets.



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COMESA Climate Initiative:

Sustaining African Landscapes and Livelihoods



A New Partnership

Many international conservation and development organizations have designed new projects and launched major new initiatives to address issues of biodiversity loss, deforestation, land degradation, agricultural productivity, poverty and climate change. But rarely are these problems addressed in a coordinated manner as COMESA, NEPAD, CIFOR, ICRAF and WWF are now proposing to do with a comprehensive proposal to link sustainable development practice with climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The Partnership seeks to:

- support the Millennium Development Goals with regard to both **poverty reduction and environmental sustainability**, by
- **enhancing useful biodiversity in lived-in working landscapes** through sustainable agricultural and agroforestry practices, and by
- **enhancing and safeguarding the productivity of farm fields** through sustainable land management.

But recognizing **climate change**, both local and global, as a threat to these objectives; by

- **using these well-established approaches as adaptation strategies to climate change;**

And, recognizing **the role that carbon plays** in agricultural and land management systems, as well as in the global climate system, by

- **linking mitigation strategies**, especially carbon sequestration, to the goals listed above.

The Role of Agroforestry

Sustainable agriculture and land management systems that include agroforestry are at the heart of the Partnership's strategy because of their potential to create integrated, diverse and productive land use systems. The spatial heterogeneity created by agroforestry plantings can help enhance resource quality, increase agricultural productivity, reduce risk from monoculture agricultural and forestry practices and promote ecosystem stability and sustainability. The point being that these advantages, in turn, provide economic and social values which, in many instances, may be important components of rural sustainability and climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Engagement

The Partnership is also working with governments, businesses and civil society institutions across Africa to promote these sustainable agriculture and land management systems. At the direction of the Ministers of Agriculture from Eastern and Southern Africa, COMESA and NEPAD have organized a **Working Group for Climate, Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use and Livelihoods**, with the following membership:

- The African Union Commission (AUC)
- NEPAD
- COMESA
- Ministry of Agriculture, Uganda
- FANRPAN
- ICRAF
- WWF

Strategy

Frameworks and Tools:

Develop an advanced prototype for measuring and monitoring carbon sequestration and related co-benefits for sustainable agriculture and land management projects

Develop a "toolbox" of best practices for sustainable agriculture, land management and related livelihood strategies

Identify the institutional and policy innovations necessary to create an enabling environment for sustainable agriculture, land management and improved livelihoods

Applications and Learning:

Build African participation in the international climate debate

Strengthen and collaborate with economic and social institutions to build the political and institutional infrastructure necessary to conserve and sustain African landscapes

Build national capacity to support CAADP, Pillar One specifically in regards to climate

"Carbon proof" all terrestrial investments planned by governments, donors, communities and related CSOs to ensure as many as possible of those investments are "eligible" for carbon finance

Establish a Carbon Readiness platform to support the design and development of investments that take account of both climate adaptation and mitigation opportunities

Launch a Carbon Fund to bring opportunities from global carbon markets together with an African context of sustainable land management