

October 2011

Road to Durban

This Newsletter is published under the auspices of the **EU Climate Change Counsellors' Group** in South Africa

In Ban Ki Moon's words

"All across Africa – the most vulnerable continent – climate change threatens to roll back years of development gains. Climate change is the pre-eminent geopolitical and economic issue of the 21st century. It rewrites the global equation for development, peace and prosperity. It will increase pressure on water, food and land.... reverse years of development gains.... exacerbate poverty.... destabilize fragile states and topple governments. Some say tackling climate change is too expensive. They are wrong. The opposite is true. We will pay an unacceptable price if we do not act now."

SA Department of Environment Affairs spokesperson Albi Modise said the country's [National Climate Change Response Policy White Paper](#) would give SA some "moral high ground" as it goes into COP17.

EU Environment ministers agree on EU stance for climate talks in Durban

The European Union is calling for a single legally-binding instrument to reign in global warming. However, it is open to a second commitment period under the [Kyoto Protocol](#), provided the essential elements of the Kyoto Protocol are preserved and that the Convention determines a roadmap towards a multilateral, rules-based legal framework engaging all Parties.

EU forges ahead to achieve 2020 Kyoto Protocol target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions

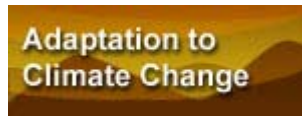
The European Commission published its annual report on the EU's [Progress towards achieving the Kyoto Protocol Objectives](#) for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The European Environment Agency also published its latest analysis of [Greenhouse gas emissions in Europe](#). Overall, EU emissions declined by 15.5 % from 1990 levels.

Engaging with Africa on Climate Change

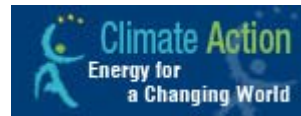
On 14 October the European Commission's Directorate for Climate Action (DG Clima) and the European External Action Service (EEAS) organised a roundtable to examine the relevance of EU relations with Africa regarding the fight against climate change and the EU and Africa agendas in response to climate change. Some 200 African and European participants took part.



http://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/roadmap/index_en.htm



<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/change/>



<http://ec.europa.eu/climateaction>



<http://ec.europa.eu/clima/sites/campaign>

UK helps build green house gas inventory capacity in South Africa

The British High Commission is supporting a variety of organisations in South Africa to promote low carbon growth. One of these projects, with help from the University of Witwatersrand, is assisting South Africa with its green house gas emission inventories, through web based databases for agriculture, transport and land use emissions.

EIB to provide €50 mil for water infrastructure in KwaZulu Natal

The European Investment Bank has signed an agreement to finance the upgrading and expansion of the water infrastructure programme for eThekweni Municipality, providing water/sanitation services to nearly 4 million people in the greater Durban area. This project will supplement existing water supply, improve efficiencies of the supply system, and help deal with climatic uncertainties.

Germany assists in shaping South African national climate change dialogue

On 27 September KwaZulu Natal hosted one of seven provincial "Climate Change Summits" with German support. The devastating effects of climate change were described alongside the opportunities that exist for a positive environmental future. The conferences seek to engage the public in the lead up to COP17 and so strengthen the climate change debate in South Africa.

Denmark initiates and hosts Global Green Growth Forum for ambitious public-private partnership

Copenhagen hosted the first Global Green Growth Forum (3GF) from 11-12 October. The mission of the Forum was to encourage green growth through better public-private collaborations. South Africa's Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, Ms Tobias-Pokolo, presented the South African Renewables Initiative. The UN Secretary General gave the key note address.

Netherlands conceive and drive Climate Finance Workshop to engage South African business sector

15 October saw the fourth Climate Consensus Workshop on Climate Finance, initiated by the Netherlands government, take place in Cape Town. The initiative invited contributions from South African businesses on the design of the Green Climate Fund and local business people were able to interact with international climate negotiators working on the Fund.

French-South African research into climate change adaptation

Innovative solutions are required to buffer small scale farmers as well as communities dependent on natural resources and ecosystem services for their livelihood against the effects of climate change. [CIRAD](#) and the University of Pretoria's [Centre for Environmental Studies](#) are working on practical solutions including landscape heterogeneity and diversifying farming enterprise diversification.

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