

## **Africa Climate Week 2019 Ghana**

### **African Nature Based Solutions: Delivering climate action at scale Report from the session**

Thematic Block: Policy 1 – Nature Based Solutions

Thursday, 21 March 2019  
8:30 – 10:55

## Summary

The overall aim of the session was to raise awareness of the significant opportunity of Nature Based Solutions in Africa and highlight the important role of ambitious policy in unlocking NBS at scale.

The session was in a Davos style format with panel speakers. The session was in two parts: the first half exploring the broader policy frameworks, and the second will be diving into how policy can drive action and investment from private sector.

Speakers were:

### Keynote Opening:

- Mrs. Shamiso Najira, Deputy Director for Environment and Climate Change Management of Malawi

### Ambitious policy to unlock Nature Based Solutions at scale

- Mouhamadou Bamba Sylla, West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL)
- Maggi Comstock, Conservation International
- Richard Eba'a Atyi, Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
- Isaac Gyamfi, Solidaridad West Africa
- Edwin Aalders, DNV GL
- Michael Thompson, Carnegie Climate Geoengineering Governance Initiative (C2G2)

### Accelerating action on Nature Based Solutions through climate policy

- Chris Webb – Senior Policy Advisor at TNC
- Thomas Yaw Gyambrab, Forest Commission, Ghana
- Marc Baker, Carbon Tanzania.
- Celine Ramstein, The World Bank
- Mithika Mwenda, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
- Matthew Reddy, World Business Council for Sustainable Development

## Key Messages

- Nature Based Solutions (NBS) have the potential to deliver up to one third of the solution to climate change needed by 2030, and these NBS present a huge opportunity in the African Continent.
- Incorporating Nature Based Solutions into the next revision of African countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) is an important opportunity (as while globally 80% of current NDCs reference land use, land-use change, and forestry in their mitigation contributions, only 17% detail a concrete and measurable target in the space).

- Enabling legal and institutional frameworks at the national level will then be instrumental for implementation of such commitments within revised NDCs.
- Countries will need a combination of domestic and international finance, from public and private sources alike. Businesses will need an enabling policy environment for investments e.g. simple national policy frameworks that gives significant market value to NBS and creates clear incentives for private sector investment.
- In order to give effect to policies we need to empower communities, give ownership to communities and have the benefits flowing directly to communities.
- Scaling NBS will require partnerships, no one group can do this alone. However, creating partnerships and trust is often a challenge – how can we increase capacity and support to those who are well placed to convene?

## Contribution to UN SG summit/Ambition

Relevant for global ambition

### Nature Based Solutions (Agriculture and land use, Forest, Food, Oceans)

Many excellent **policies NAMAs, NAPPs** but we have weakness in in the implementation

In order to give effect to policies we need to empower communities, give ownership to communities and have the benefits flowing directly to communities.

**Article 6 ITMOS** can serves a source of finance for adaptation and adaptation co-benefits (Mitigation), and this was a **clear policy 'ask'**.

**Focus on Entry Points** that can are cognizant of the political economy: E.g. leveraging cocoa in Ghana to bring the right political and financial decision makers to the discussion on NBS

Addressing first order problems needed to attract investment such **as easing the cost of doing business**. E.g. Land Tenure, clear fiscal regimes, tax systems and robust ownership to facility payments

**Decentralized policy to the appropriate level of governance is important** – policy can't all sit at the highest level of government. E.g. Ghana, Tanzania.

Need for **knowledge transfers ( South-South Partnerships)** to enable locally derived and locally driven solution building and policy development – could a dedicated support mechanisms be created?

Recognizing NBS can contribute to multiple SDGs and have multiple benefits beyond adaption and mitigation: this needs to be about rural economic development

NBS should enhance food security by linking food related policies to NDCs – this requires policy coherence.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly – is that scaling NBS will require **partnerships**, no one group can do this alone. However, creating partnerships and trust is often a challenge – how can we **increase capacity and support** to those who are well placed to convene?

#### Relevant for actors and processes in the region

- Nature Based Solutions can facilitate greater climate action, enabling NDCs to become more ambitious in their upcoming review in 2020.
- Through the signal it sends, long-term carbon pricing policies is a key tool that can enable a greater level of ambition

## Technical Examination Processes (TEP)

*Did the event address policy options to enhance mitigation or adaptation in Africa on the topics identified for 2019 as below? If so, please list them, specifying to which TEP they should be addressed.*

*TEM Topics for 2019:*

*Mitigation:* *Off-grid and decentralized energy solutions for smart energy and water use in the agrifood chain*

The points above relate to agri-food chain – as a number of panellists talked about policies that can enable scaling of private sector investment in sustainable supply chains.

*Adaptation:* *Adaptation finance*

NBS is however both a **mitigation** and **adaptation** opportunity, and thus also the points above equally apply under both.