



Concept Note and Agenda

Webinar

Leveraging Climate Finance for Decent Jobs in Africa, Challenges and Opportunities

October 1st 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm (UTC+1)

Background

The contribution of Africa to climate change has been only marginal, Africa representing less than 4% of global GHZ. Yet this Africa is the continent most vulnerable to climate change. The impact of climate change on African economies is potentially huge, affecting all dimensions, particularly employment and poverty. ECA has estimated that a +1°C in global temperatures will decrease African GDP per capita by at least XX. Confronted with such a huge challenge, the effective mobilization and utilization of climate finance are essential for fostering resilience and promoting sustainable development across the continent. However, many African countries struggle with debt repayment (9 African countries are currently in debt distress, and 26 others are at high risk of debt distress)¹, excessive borrowing costs, lack of access to international financial sources due to complex international mechanisms and insufficient funding, along with poor resource mobilization capacity. The continent receives less than 5% of total climate finance (CPI, 2023). This limits their ability to implement effective adaptation and mitigation strategies, and their capacity to create decent and sustainable jobs. The cost of adaptation to climate change is estimated between costs of USD 30 billion and 50 billion annually over the next decade, representing 2% to 3% of the continent's GDP².

There are multiple channels through which climate finance impacts employment, directly and indirectly. Climate finance can indirectly support employment by enhancing food security and agricultural productivity, which are critical sectors for employment in Africa. Strengthening climate finance initiatives can help reduce food insecurity and support farmers, thereby creating more stable employment opportunities³. Climate finance can directly support employment by fostering investment in green activities, like energy and agriculture, where Africa has a comparative advantage. About 1.5 million to 3.3 million jobs are forecasted across Africa by 2030 in 12 green sectors⁴. Similarly, ILO has estimated that up to 60 million new jobs could be created by 2030 in renewable energy, waste management, and natural resource sectors. Green sectors have the potential to employ a large portion of the continent's workforce and reduce conflicts associated with unemployment⁵. Climate finance

¹ <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/dsa/dsalist.pdf>

² WMO "The State of the Climate in Africa report" 2024

³ Arsene Mouongue Kelly, « Battling for food security in Africa: Is climate finance the missing bullet? » World food policy, Nov 2024

⁴ <https://fundforyouthemployment.nl/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/Forecasting-Green-Jobs-in-Africa-2024.pdf>

⁵ Agba, A. M. O., Akpanudoedehe, J. J., Ojong, F. E., & Agba, M. S. (2021). Climate change, adaptation, and global jobs: Lessons and urgent policy options for Africa. *Quantitative Economics and Management Studies*, 2(3), 163-181. <https://doi.org/10.35877/454RI.qems298>



can also help build resilient infrastructures which are critical for growth and the development of the private sector. More generally, climate finance is critical for the sustainability transition of African countries.

Innovative financing solutions are needed. Innovative climate financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and debt-for-climate swaps, offer potential solutions for bridging the climate finance gap in Africa. These mechanisms can mobilize resources for climate solutions and support a just transition to a low-carbon economy⁶. Blended finance, which combines public and private investments, can act as a catalyst for attracting private sector investments in climate-related projects, thereby creating new employment opportunities in green sectors.

While climate finance presents significant opportunities for addressing employment challenges in Africa, it is essential to consider the broader socio-economic context. The effectiveness of climate finance in promoting employment depends on the ability of African countries to access and utilize these funds efficiently. Additionally, the focus should be on creating sustainable and productive, but also decent, jobs that contribute to long-term economic growth and resilience.

Addressing these challenges requires also building the foundations of a new growth model for Africa, and leapfrog to it. Currently, the grow now and clean up later is the dominant view, and recent backlashes at the world level on efforts to meet the Paris Agreement targets, along a reduction in development aid, constitutes a serious concern for African growth prospects.

Objectives and outcome

The webinar aims at discussing these issues and highlighting key transformative approaches to mitigate these adverse effects and pave the way to more and better tailored climate finance for African countries, including own African initiatives.

The overall objective of the webinar is to explore how climate finance can be strategically leveraged to support sustainable employment creation in Africa.

The specific objectives of the webinar are:

- Raise awareness of the impact of climate change on Africa and the necessity to leapfrog to a sustainable development model.
- Examine how green investment can help create decent and sustainable jobs
- Examine the key role of climate finance for Africa, the scale of the climate finance gap and the role of global commitments
- Discuss key policy reforms and transformations are needed in Africa to attract and leverage on climate finance to create more employment opportunities

The expected outcomes of the webinar are:

- Increased understanding of the employment impact of climate change, including the challenges of creating climate-resilient jobs and industries.

⁶ Han, S. (2023). Innovative Climate Financing for a Just Transition in Africa. *Social Science Research Network*. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4549111>



- Clear recommendations for policy reforms to better access climate finance and increase the capacity of African countries to use climate funds to foster sustainable job creation

Participants: The webinar is accessible to all participants interested in the issue of climate change, climate finance and sustainable development, public policy makers, private sector representatives, civil society, international organizations etc.

Event format: Webinar Link:

Date & Time: The webinar will take place on October 1st, 2025, from 10 am to 12:15 pm.
Rabat time (UTC+1)

Languages: The meeting language is English and French

Contact: Mr. Zoubir Benhamouche, Economist, UNECA Office for North Africa.

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Agenda

October 1 st 2025, from 10:00 am to 12:15 pm (UTC+1)	
Moderator: Zoubir Benhamouche , Economist, UNECA office for North Africa	
10:00 – 10:10	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adam Elhiraika, UNECA- Director of UNECA North Africa Office• Cosmas Milton Obote OCHIENG, UNECA- Director of Climate Change, Food Security and Natural Resources Division
10:10 – 11:30	Interventions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zoubir Benhamouche, Economist, UNECA North Africa Office• Syed Adeel Abbas, Regional Climate Change Coordinator – MNA - The World Bank• Giovani Valensisi, Economist, UNCTAD, Office of the Executive Secretary• Kamal Djemouai, Former President of the African Group on Climate Negotiations
11:30 – 12:15	Discussion with panelists and general audience