



INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

An assessment process on the role and potential of emission mitigation strategies
to support development in Africa

March 2019 - Spring 2021

INTRODUCING THE AFRICAN ASSESSMENT

Air pollution and climate change are closely linked. This interlinkage can exacerbate the impacts of poorly designed policies resulting in negative environmental and economic impacts but it is also an opportunity to amplify the multiple-benefits of actions to catalyse even greater ambition.

Africa has the second fastest growing economy of any region in the world, and more than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa. Sustaining this growth without simultaneous increases in near-term environmental and health impacts requires integrated planning to identify cost effective and efficient solutions.

Africa is also considered particularly vulnerable to climate change and, not surprisingly, climate adaptation is a key issue in Africa's current and future development. Reducing the rate of warming in the near term is particularly relevant to Africa, and so the prospects of limiting this warming using integrated solutions such as those that target short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) could be important.



The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and UN Environment Programme are developing an assessment process for Africa to:

- 1) determine how development in Africa can proceed at the same time as limiting air pollution and its impact on health and agriculture, and
- 2) understand the potential to limit climate change in the near term, and its implications for adaptation to climate change in Africa.

The assessment will also concentrate on enhancing capacity as part of the assessment process and develop information flows and activities to create a network for collaboration in the region to address the issues now and in the future.

TWO PHASES OF THE ASSESSMENT

The work will proceed in two phases – a **scoping phase** in 2019 that will:

- i. Embed the assessment in the region and respond to demand
- ii. Consult widely with African and international stakeholders
- iii. Develop the modelling platform to be used in the assessment, alongside capacity building and training activities related to scenario generation
- iv. Identify all the implementers: Co-Chairs, Lead authors, contributing authors, reference group and reviewers
- v. Develop a draft story line, annotated outline and modelling brief

The second and **main assessment phase** in 2020 will:

- i. Hold author's meetings / 'write shops' to agree on the outline, content, approach and drafts; conduct internal reviews, and agree on the mitigation scenarios to be developed
- ii. Develop the modelling scenarios, including training events allowing participants to share information
- iii. Conduct an external Peer review of Draft 1
- iv. Finalize the assessment, editing, layout and publication
- v. Undertake outreach and communication throughout the assessment process and continuing after publication
- vi. Determine follow up and complementary activities and seek additional funding for these follow up activities

POLICY CONTEXT

In 2015 the African Union adopted a 50-year, long-term development vision, 'Agenda 2063', which commits the region to act on climate change and environment challenges in the context of sustainable development. A key priority is to “develop/facilitate the implementation of Africa Quality Standards for air and other forms of pollution”.

The United Nations Environment Assembly produced Resolution 3/8 of 2017 entitled 'preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally'. The resolution lays the foundation for the international community to assist countries in assessing and acting on their air pollution problems and urges member states to 'pursue a shared response and to identify solutions to address air pollution'.

ASSESSMENT APPROACH

In response to the needs of the member countries and international agreements on sustainable development goals, and to tackle air quality and climate change, the CCAC has commissioned an African Integrated Assessment to enable science-based and fast-tracked action.

This assessment will bring together practitioners working across Africa to address the growing air pollution and associated climate threats while promoting capacity building and action to reduce air pollution with a focus on both short-lived climate pollutant (SLCPs) and long-lived greenhouse gas strategies. The assessment will build a community of practice, integrating and enhancing existing science-policy-practice networks, to consider the role and potential of emission mitigation strategies to support development in Africa.

GETTING INVOLVED

We seek to have many different stakeholders engaged throughout the development and implementation of this assessment. This will include national governments in Africa, academic institutions in Africa and globally, international inter-governmental organisations, NGOs and regional economic blocs.

Anyone interested in contributing to or finding out more about the African assessment is encouraged to contact one of the coordinating institutions:

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