



Towards just transition in Africa Continental coordination on green financing and job creation

6 October 2022

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | and online via Zoom

[Radisson Blu Hotel, Addis Ababa | and online via Zoom](#)

09.00 – 17.30 (EAT, Addis Ababa) | 07.00 – 15.30 (BST, London)

Global climate policies towards a ‘just transition’ under the Paris Agreement should align with and support African states’ national sustainable development priorities – in particular, the need for decent and fair job creation, as well as resilient and sustainable land, environment, and ecosystem management policies. They must also be cognizant of African nations’ urgent requirements for sustainable and accessible energy to underpin economic development. Achieving green growth requires innovative and more accessible financing models, especially as wealthy nations’ financial pledges have fallen short. It also requires clarity and cooperation to unlock investment in both renewable and transitional energy. African countries face collective climate and employment related challenges. However, policymaking often remains regionally siloed according to differing political, energy sector, and ecological realities. There is a need for transformational strategic thinking and context-specific action from African governments, civil society, businesses, and financiers, in their green financing demands and national implementation plans.

At this hybrid conference in Addis Ababa, speakers will take stock of policy efforts and preparations ahead of the ‘African COP27’ in November and discuss the key priorities for streamlining continental cooperation on policy approaches to just transition, job creation and green financing.

This event is held in partnership with the UNDP, Chatham House’s Sustainability Accelerator, and UNECA. It is the fourth in a series on Towards Just Transition: Connecting Green Financing and Sustainable Job Creation in Africa.

Agenda

08.30 – 09.00 [Registration and Coffee](#)

09.00 – 09.30 [Welcome and Opening Keynote Address](#)

H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn, Co-Founder and Chairperson, Hailemariam & Roman Foundation; Prime Minister, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia [2012-2018]

Chair: **Bob Dewar**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

09.30 – 11.00 [Session 1: Regional Green Financing Innovation and Priorities](#)

- *What should the composition of blended green finance look like (e.g., public/private; international/regional/domestic; donor/commercial) – and what vehicles should such financing be drawn from (e.g., debt, equity, green bonds, compensation, official development assistance)?*
- *Are the anticipated linkages between green finance and job creation credible? Do African economies have the absorptive capacity for the suggested levels of finance required?*
- *How do we define success? And are there replicable examples of successful financing initiatives at continental, regional and national level?*

Dr Mallé Fofana, Africa Director and Head of Programme, Global Green Growth Institute

Dr Eugene Itua, CEO, Natural Eco Capital

Tomas Sales, Special Advisor for Private Sector and SDG Financing, UNDP
Kidanua Abera Gizaw, Senior Climate Finance Officer, Climate and Environment Finance Division, African Development Bank Group (*Virtual*)
Reuben Wambui, Africa Regional Coordinator, UNEP Finance Initiative (*Virtual*)

Chair: **Jean-Paul Adam**, Director, Climate Change, Natural Resource Management and Technology, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee Break

11.30 – 13.00 Session 2: **Job Creation in New Energy Supply Chains**

- *What are the priorities for financing sustainable energy infrastructure?*
- *Where natural gas is identified as a transition fuel, what measures can be implemented to encourage investment and mitigate the risk of stranded assets?*
- *Do sufficient mechanisms exist to facilitate regional and continental cooperation towards broad energy transition?*
- *Are human rights, including energy access and the right to decent work, appropriately recognised in regional and international just transition frameworks and proposals?*

Tesfaye Hailu, Country Director, Ethiopia, Power for All
Darias Jonker, Africa Scenarios and Energy Transition Principal, Anglo American
Rekik Bekele, Chief Executive Officer, Green Scene Energy PLC
Esther Githinji, Programs Manager, Clean Energy 4 Africa (*Virtual*)
Professor Carlos Lopes, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House (*Virtual*)

Chair: **Robert Ondhowe**, Carbon Markets Development Expert, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Session 3: **Valuing Africa's Ecosystems and Biospheres**

- *Is Africa's natural capital appropriately and accurately valued?*
- *Are there common factors of valuation or of value creation across ecosystems – forests, marine, savannah, and deserts?*
- *What are the priorities for increasing transparency in natural resource management?*
- *How can support for local livelihoods be better integrated into protection/ conservation/ restoration approaches?*

Frederick Kumah, Vice-President, Global Leadership, African Wildlife Foundation
Lalao Aigrette, National Technical Advisor for Mangrove and Blue Carbon, Blue Ventures
Dr Bowen Banda, Climate Adaptation Specialist, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
Dorothee Marie Lisenga, Coordinator, Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (*Virtual*)

Chair: **Christopher Vandome**, Senior Research Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

15.30 – 15.45 Coffee Break

15.45 – 17.15 Session 4: **Food System Resilience and Job Creation**

- *Where is there emerging best practice in reducing carbon intensive agricultural practices?*
- *What are the key areas for coordinated investments for improved agricultural labour?*
- *What role is technology playing in food systems and job creation?*

Helina Teklu, CEO & Founder, Seed Balls Ethiopia; Climate Change Africa
Alvin Munyasia, Fellow, Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI); Advisor, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)
Suffyan Koroma, Senior Policy Officer, UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Professor Lindiwe Sibanda, Professor, Director and Chair, African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA) Centre of Excellence in Food Systems, University of Pretoria; Associate Fellow, Chatham House (*Virtual*)

Chair: **Tighisti Amare**, Deputy Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

17.15 – 17.30 [Closing Keynote Address](#)

H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner, Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission (AUC)

Chair: **Bob Dewar**, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

17.30 – 17.45 [Wrap-Up and Closing Remarks](#)

Dr Linus Mofor, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer, African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Sophia Abra, Partnerships Coordination Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Bob Dewar, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House



Further resources on this conference and our work on regional environmental priorities and sustainable resource governance can be accessed by scanning this QR code with your phone.

Biographies

Jean-Paul Adam is the Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Prior to taking on this role, he served in the Government of the Republic of Seychelles in several Cabinet positions. He was Minister of Health from 2016-2019 and served as Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy from 2015-2016, where he negotiated a debt for climate change adaptation swap and launched the process for Seychelles to become the first issuer of a Blue Bond. Between 2010 and 2014, he was Seychelles' Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he advocated for countries to embrace the concept of the Blue Economy, to improve sustainability for island and coastal countries.

Lalao Aigrette is the National Technical Advisor for Mangroves at the NGO Blue Ventures. Passionate about conservation, she has been recognised as an IUCN Natural-born Heroine for her outstanding contribution to conservation in her home country of Madagascar. She has been working with the local coastal communities for 15 years, promoting nature and human rights-based solutions to preserve and sustainably manage mangrove forest, a productive but threatened ecosystem. Her achievements have included the validation of the 'Tahiry Honko', the world's largest community-led mangrove carbon conservation project and first mangrove carbon sequestration project in Madagascar.

Tighisti Amare is the deputy director of the Africa Programme at Chatham House. She has over ten years' experience of designing and managing a range of research projects, events with senior political figures, international conferences and roundtables relating to the political economy, international relations and governance and accountability of sub-Saharan African countries. Her research interests include Africa's agency in international relations, Africa-EU relations and the African Union. Tighisti's responsibilities also include oversight and quality control, fundraising, team development and management, outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Dr. Bowen Banda is the Climate Change Adaptation Specialist Advisor at the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Zambia. He provides specialist input into the design and implementation processes of ecosystems-based solutions for biodiversity restoration, climate adaptation and climate mitigation purposes. Dr Banda trained as an agriculturalist, then as a social scientist and later as an environmental scientist with a special focus on co-production of knowledge and its management processes; and integrating climate change biodiversity and disaster risk science into decentralized urban and rural development planning processes.

Rekik Bekele is the Founder and CEO of Green Scene Energy PLC, which works on solar systems for off-grid communities. Green Scene also aims to work on solar water pumping systems and productive systems that the rural community can benefit from, such as cooling systems and agricultural industry systems. Rekik is an electrical engineer with over ten years of experience and founded her first company in 2014: RK renew lighting and cooking, producing improved cooking stoves by traditionally making stove liners. Rekik was awarded an Influential Women in Energy Award at the annual Women In Energy event hosted by EWiEn.

H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn was the second Executive Prime Minister of Ethiopia who served from August 2012 until April 2018. Previously, he served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Social Affairs Minister, and Government Chief-Whip Minister. He also served as Governor of the

Southern Regional State for six years. After leaving office, he co-founded and is the chairperson of Hailemariam & Roman Foundation. The foundation focuses on mother and child healthcare, prevention of non-communicable diseases, nutrition and climate smart agriculture and conservation-based ecotourism. He also serves as a board member of organizations including Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, African Parks Network, Brenthurst Foundation, African Wildlife Foundation, Africa Protected Areas Congress, Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa, and the Global Steering Committee for the Campaign for Nature.

Bob Dewar is an Associate Fellow with the Chatham House Africa Programme. He was formerly British High Commissioner to Nigeria, non-resident Ambassador to Niger and Permanent Representative to ECOWAS, British Ambassador to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union, High Commissioner to Mozambique and Ambassador to Madagascar.

Dr. Mallé Fofana is the Regional Director and Head of Programs for Africa at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI). In this role, he supports African member countries' green growth transitions from policy to investment by working with governments, private sector, financial windows, MDBs, and impact investors. Prior to joining the GGGI, Mallé worked at Dalberg and RMDA as the Africa Managing Director focusing on development issues in Africa. In 2020, Mallé was recognized as the Best African Promotor of Green Economy – Rwanda Award.

Esther Mukami Githinji is Programs Manager at Clean Energy 4 Africa, and an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya specialising in renewable energy law. She holds a degree in Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi with a specialisation in energy law, and environmental and natural resources law. During her studies and practice, she has extensively engaged in legal research, legal drafting, litigation, development and revision of policies, interpretation of laws and analysis of legal issues. She works as a legal consultant and youth advocate in the renewable energy sector and contributes through participation in national, regional and international forums.

Kidanua Abera Gizaw is a Senior Climate Finance Officer in the Climate and Environment Finance Division of the African Development Bank Group. She is a development and climate change expert with more than two decades of professional experience, including serving as an Energy and Low Carbon Development Expert for the UNDP country office in Ethiopia between 2008 and 2020. Kidanua began her career as head of the Power Sales and Reception team at the Ethiopian Electric Power Corporation. Kidanua has also worked for Action Aid Ethiopia as Development Officer and Save the Children as Regional Administrator for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Tesfaye Hailu is the Country Director of Power for All, based in Ethiopia. Tesfaye is a certified water and energy specialist with more than 12 years of experience in accessing and mobilizing climate finance to nationally accredited entities in the East African Region. Tesfaye currently manages the Powering Agriculture project funded by the IKEA Foundation. Prior to joining Power for All, he was the Country Head for Triple Line Consulting in Ethiopia and led the firm's Eastern Africa Energy, Water and Climate (EWC) sector practice within the Inclusive Growth and Resilience (IGR) division.

Dr. Eugene Itua is the CEO of Natural Eco Capital and an established sustainability and safeguarding expert. He recently led the team of experts for the AfDB in the development of climate investment tools and a position paper on green jobs under a project on scaling climate actions through technology and innovations by SMEs. Dr Itua co-led the Technical Committee for the 9th Assembly in the development of

the Climate Change Bill (now Climate Change Act, 2021) in Nigeria, and also serves as National Coordinator for Nigeria's Long-Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS).

Darius Jonker is the African Scenarios & Energy Transition Principal and member of the International Government & Sustainability Relations team at Anglo American, a global diversified mining company listed on the London and Johannesburg stock exchanges. He works from the group head office in London and primarily supports the rollout of Anglo American's regional renewable energy ecosystem in South Africa through strategic advice and policy analysis. Darius joined Anglo American from Eurasia Group, an international political risk advisory firm, where he was the director for Southern Africa. He spent most of his career in the South African foreign service, focusing on bilateral political relations with key international partners like Japan, China and the United States.

Suffyan Koroma is a Senior Policy Officer with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Suffyan has over 25 years' experience working as an economist, policy and program adviser and technical support specialist in the areas of agriculture, food security, trade and commodity market development with national governments, regional economic communities in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. At the FAO sub-regional office for Eastern Africa (FAO-SFE), where he joined in 2020, Suffyan leads the Policy Team for the sub-region. In addition, he is also the Programme Manager for the Priority Work Area 'Trade and Market Opportunities for Inclusive Growth' in the Africa Region through the FAO Regional Office for Africa (RAF). Prior to joining FAO-SFE, he was FAO Representative in Nigeria and the ECOWAS.

Frederick Kumah is the Vice-President of Global Leadership at the African Wildlife Foundation. He is involved in the steering committees of high-level engagements within the continent including Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) and the African CSOs Biodiversity Alliance (ACBA) that are successfully engaging with world leaders and global conventions that are setting the agenda for the next decade. Prior to joining AWF, Frederick was the Regional Director for Africa at WWF and later took on the role to drive the New Deal for Nature and People campaign in Africa.

Dorothee Lisenga is the Coordinator of the Coalition of Women Leaders for the Environment and Sustainable Development (CFLEDD), based in the Democratic Republic of Congo. CFLEDD strives for the recognition of women's land and forest rights in the provinces of Equateur and Maitland of the DRC, with the aim to strengthen their effective participation in reducing deforestation. CFLEDD has convened dialogues between local and indigenous women, customary chiefs and provincial authorities. Recommendations resulting from these dialogues have led to the adoption of 2 provincial edicts that guarantee land and forest rights for women.

Carlos Lopes is Professor in the Mandela School of Public Governance at the University of Cape Town, Visiting Professor at Sciences Po, Paris and Associate Fellow in the Africa Programme at Chatham House. He has occupied several leadership positions across the UN system, including Policy Director for Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

Alvin Munyasia is a Fellow of the Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI) and an advisor to the Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA). Alvin is passionate, dedicated climate change activist with a successful background in the implementation of people centered movement for structural and system change working with communities, youth, vulnerable groups and small-scale farmers across Africa.

Robert Ondhowe is a Carbon Markets Development Expert with UNDP, where he leads the initiative on Carbon Market Access and Finance. With almost 30 years of experience with various bodies of the United

Nations and the private sector, Robert has been involved in the negotiations of the key landmark treaties the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement, and participated in the evolution of the global financial mechanisms designed to catalyze climate finance, including the establishment of the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other specialized funds.

H.E. Ambassador Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko is the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission. Prior to her election, she was Special Adviser to two Ministers in Angola: the Angolan Minister of Environment where she also served as Ambassador responsible for Climate Change. As advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Ambassador Sacko oversaw Food Security, Eradication of Hunger and Poverty Reduction. She was also the former Secretary General of the Inter African Coffee Organization (IACO) for 13 years in Cote D'Ivoire where she oversaw the coffee economy of 25 African Coffee producing countries. During her tenure, she successfully advocated for the empowerment of small scale coffee farmers across the continent by setting up Regional Centres of Excellence for Capacity Building of Member States, on Genetic Material Conservation, Coffee Quality Improvement and Cup Tasting Liquor in Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, Cameroon and Zambia.

Tomas Sales is Special Advisor for Private Sector and Team Leader for Private Sector Development and Financing, at the UNDP Africa Sustainable Finance Hub, Pretoria. Prior to this, he was the UNDP Manager for the African Facility for Inclusive Markets (AFIM) unit. He has contributed to pioneering three Regional Food Value Chains Facilitation Platforms with ECOWAS, COMESA and EAC, co-developed the CAADP Investment Facilitation Project for investment agencies; the strategic and business plan for the creation of the AUC AIMEC (African Inclusive Markets Centre of Excellence); and the preparation of the South Africa SDG Investor Map. Prior to his career with UNDP, he served as an Emerging Capital Markets Director and Investment Advisor with Caswell Capital Partners, the Devpar Group, and the Aidoo Group in Wall Street.

Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda is a recognized leader, practising farmer and policy advisor with a career spanning 30 years. Prof. Sibanda is the incoming Research Chair for Sustainable Food Systems at the Future Africa Institute, University of Pretoria, and currently serves as Director and Chair of the African Research Universities Alliance - Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Food Systems (ARUA-SFS). She is also hosted by the University's Centre of Advancement of Scholarship as a Senior Research Fellow, and is Professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Pretoria. Prof. Sibanda sits on multiple international boards including Nestlé SA, World Vegetable Centre and the One CGIAR System. In previous roles, she has served as the Chief Executive Officer and Head of Diplomatic Mission for the Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (FANRPAN) and Vice-President at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA).

Helina Teklu is the CEO/Founder of Seed Balls Ethiopia and Climate Change Africa (CCA). She is also an East African Earth Champion for climate change, a blogger for SunSilk Ethiopia and coach for STEM Power. Helina is an alumni of YALIRLCEA cohort 30 Civic Leadership track, was a 2019 Tony Elumelu Foundation fellow at Connect4Climate (C4C), a Climate Reality Leader at WE4A (Women Entrepreneurs for Africa) program and worked as the Networking and Events Chair for YALIRLCEA Ethiopian chapter. In 2021 Helina won in two categories at the Climate Action Awards East Africa by ICPAC: Climate Neutral Now and Women For Results.

Christopher Vandome is a Senior Research Fellow with the Chatham House Africa Programme. His research focuses on the political economy and international relations of Southern Africa, as well as continental peace and security, environmental issues and extractive industries. In 2017 he was seconded

to a major international mining firm to assist on writing their Africa strategy. Christopher is currently a doctoral candidate in international relations at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.

Reuben Wambui is Africa Regional Coordinator at the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Finance Initiative. He has previously conducted research for the World Bank, UNICEF and UN PAGE, and published in the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Africa Ahead, Kenya Bankers Association and Africa Policy Journal of Harvard Kennedy School. Prior to joining UNEP, he worked at McKinsey and Crédit Suisse. He is also the founder of the Net-Zero Africa climate funds database and previously served as a subject matter expert for the Sustainability and Climate Risk (SCR®) certification. He holds a Master’s in International Economics from the Geneva Graduate Institute where he received the Rudi Dornbusch Prize in Economics.



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