GATHERED under the theme, “Transforming Agriculture for Wealth Creation in Africa,” the 2017 African Development Bank Annual Meetings in May brought together thousands of representatives from government, business, civil society, think tanks, academia and the media – from Africa and beyond – to discuss one of the Bank’s High 5 priority areas and its performance in delivering results to “Feed Africa.” In order to meet this goal, delegates discussed a wide range of issues, including creative energy solutions. One such example of this is the Ouarzazate solar energy project in Morocco, which won an Africa Development Impact Award for its innovative and sustainable contribution to carbon neutral growth.

The message that emerged from the meetings and was summed up nicely by AfDB President, Akinwumi Adesina, is the need for political will, a change in the perception of agriculture, and the involvement of youth in turning a sector vulnerable to climate change and variability into a trillion dollar industry by 2030. Our work is therefore at the core of this transformation. Moving forward we will continue to find solutions to scale-up climate financing aimed at inclusive and green growth while leveraging new solutions which contribute to realizing Bank goals.

Anthony Nyong
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FOCUS ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Focus on AfDB’s priority to light and power Africa

In 2016, the AfDB Board approved a total allocation of US$ 2 billion for priority projects to light and power Africa, 72.8% more than in 2015. The Bank also catalyzed US$ 61 million, mainly from the Climate Investment Funds, the Global Environment Facility and the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund.

SEFA invests in renewable energy in Congo and Zimbabwe

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) approved a grant of US$ 985,500 for an integrated project, including the construction of two small hydroelectric power plants and transmission and distribution networks in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This off-grid/mini-network project aims to install 12 MW of power and will provide access to electricity to ten thousand households.

SEFA also approved a grant of US$ 965,000 to Oxygen Energy Private Limited to support the preparation of a bankable business case for the development of an off-grid solar PV project placed on the roofs of buildings belonging to and managed by Old Mutual Property Group Zimbabwe throughout the country. The project will provide reliable energy to hundreds of the Group’s small and medium-sized enterprise tenant.

Ouarzazate solar project wins again

The innovative Ouarzazate solar energy project received one of the five Africa Development Impact Awards at the AfDB Annual Meetings in Ahmedabad, India. Finalists were selected through a thorough and multi-level process.

AfDB and UNEP launch Atlas of Africa Energy Resources

AfDB and the UN Environment Program launched the new Atlas of Africa Energy Resources at the World Economic Forum in Durban, South Africa. The Bank’s Vice President for Energy, Climate and Green Growth, Amadou Hott, highlighted the importance of the publication in “helping to implement the Bank’s ambitious New Deal for Energy in Africa. (See the Atlas in External Publications).
AfDB supports strengthening electricity distribution networks in South Sudan

The AfDB Board approved a supplementary loan from the African Development Fund (ADF) in the amount of US$ 14.57 million. The loan will finance the extension and rehabilitation of electricity distribution networks in Juba, South Sudan.

AfDB pledges support to Batoka energy project at Zambia investor conference

Vice President Amadou Hott reaffirmed the Bank’s support for the Batoka hydroelectric project at the investor conference in Livingstone, Zambia. The governments of Zambia and Zimbabwe have appointed the Bank as Lead Coordinator for the project which meets the objectives of the Bank’s New Deal on Energy in Africa.

AfDB and the African Legal Support Facility at the Africa Energy Forum

During the 19th Africa Energy Forum, the AfDB and the African Legal Support Facility, which it houses, called for the unlocking of capital investment to boost private sector participation in the energy sector. The Forum provided an opportunity to discuss ways to improve partnerships between organizations exploring similar pipelines across the continent.

AfDB working to accelerate deployment of Drought Resilience Program

On the eve of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, the Bank announced that it is working with partners to accelerate the deployment of the Drought Resilience Sustainable Livelihood Support Programme in Horn of Africa countries. At the beginning of the year, the Bank signed a loan and grant agreement in the amount of US$ 7.14 million to finance the fourth Drought Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods Program in Eritrea.

AfDB and GEF advocate healthy, sustainable and resilient ecosystems

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has agreed to provide a total of US$ 11.2 million for two projects co-financed with the AfDB. In Mali, the project aims to scale up a multiple benefits approach to enhance resilience in agro and forest landscapes of the Sahel regions. In Benin, the project aims to promote sustainable forest management and conservation in the central and southern parts of the country.

AfDB supports drought resilience in Ethiopia

AfDB and the government of Ethiopia have signed loan and grant agreements totaling US$ 5.6 million for Ethiopia’s One Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program. The Bank’s support focuses on the rural and pastoralist areas suffering from lack of water due to the drought in the horn of Africa.

AfDB calls for unlocking capital flows for forestry development in Africa

The Bank organized, as part of the Climate Investment Funds’ Forest Investment Program, the first African Forestry Investment Conference in Accra, Ghana. It provided an opportunity to gather more than 70 relevant stakeholders to discuss developing new sector financing models. During the conference, the Bank presented funding modalities for the innovative public-private partnership (PPP) project for the restoration of Ghana’s degraded forest reserve. Click here to view photos of the event.

President Adesina calls for strengthening economic, food and climate security in rural areas

In his speech at the conference “One World, No Hunger: Future of the Rural World” conference hosted by the German Development Ministry (BMZ) in Berlin, President Adesina called for urgent action to end rural poverty in Africa. Adesina stressed the need to pay particular attention to what he called the “disaster triangle”: extreme rural poverty, high unemployment among young people, and climate and environmental degradation.

In addition, a meeting with the Commission for Economic Cooperation and Development of the German Parliament provided an opportunity for the President to recall in his speech the Bank’s vision for Africa, its five priorities, the New Deal for Energy and successes of the institution in 2016. A vision and its deployment on the continent that he also shared during a passionate speech delivered on 19 April 2017, at the Centre for Global Development in Washington. In his speech, he emphasized the need for considerable funds to accelerate sustainable development
EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Global Tracking Framework 2017
Sustainable Energy for All

Atlas of Africa Energy Resources
AFDB/UNEP

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

28-30 June 2017, Benin:
Africa Carbon Forum

In the blog

- Public and private sector investment in adaptation
- Why is the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism a non-market mechanism?

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