

African Natural Resources Center

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

What is the African Natural Resources Center?

The African Natural Resources Center (ANRC) is a non-lending entity established by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to boost the capacity of African countries to manage natural resources for improved development outcomes and inclusive and green growth. The Center provides institutional capacity building, policy advice, strategic guidance on investments and negotiations, and targeted technical assistance on regulatory matters.

ANRC is also the focal point for AfDB's activities in the natural resources sector, collaborating with African governments, regional institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs) and donors. The Center's scope combines renewable (water, forestry, land and fishery) and non-renewable (oil, gas and minerals) resources.

How does ANRC support African countries to maximize development outcomes derived from natural resources?

ANRC provides African countries with practical, solution-focused products, tools and services to increase their capacity to achieve inclusive and sustained growth through improved natural resources management.

The Center also acts as a trusted advisor in dialogue between African governments and private investors. It provides strategic advice to negotiators to ensure that the interests of the country and its people are at the forefront of investment agreements.



What are the Center's strategic focus areas?

ANRC's six-year strategy (2015 - 2020) is focused around two pillars:

[Integrated natural resources management to balance development of renewables and nonrenewables through proper planning](#)

The Center's first strategic pillar advocates for an integrated and long-term approach to natural resources exploitation. This includes helping African countries understand the economic and environmental trade-offs associated with developing different resource types and providing the right tools to enable governments to develop natural resources while mitigating environmental impacts and ensuring the sustainability of renewable resources.

[Good governance of natural resources to support negotiations, local content and transparency through public participation](#)

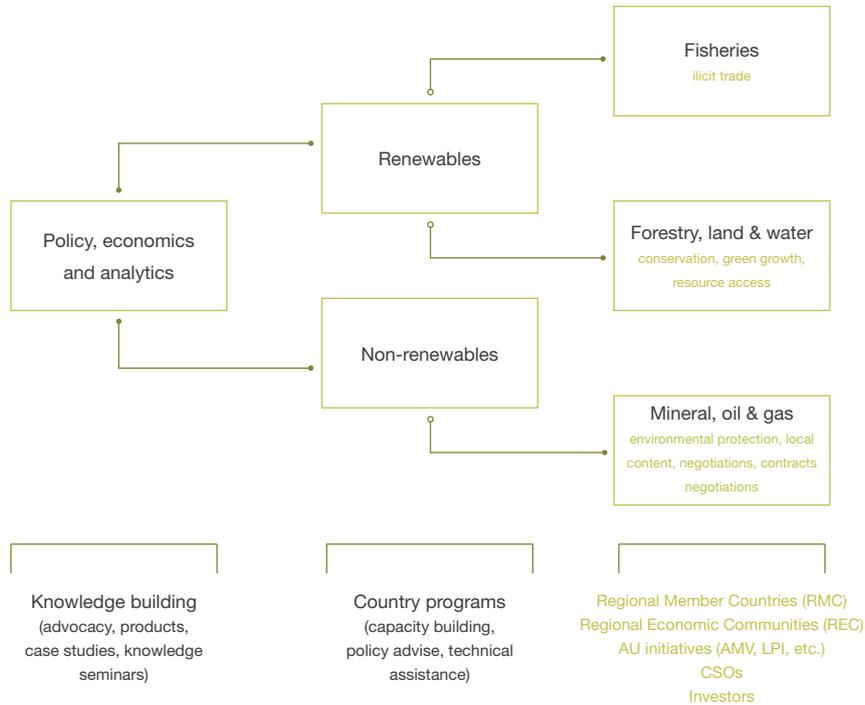
Under the second pillar, ANRC promotes accountability and public participation, as well as provides strategic advice to negotiations on natural resources contracts and agreements. The Center also helps design policies to ensure domestic linkages to multi-purpose infrastructure projects as well as to ensure that projects benefit local supply chains, manufacturing industries and service sectors.

What is the governance structure of the Center?

The Center is an entity of the African Development Bank. It benefits from an Oversight Committee made up of executives of the Bank. The structure also provides for the establishment of a Trust Fund.

What is the operating structure of the Center?

ANRC has 3 divisions, as shown in the figure below. One division provides country advisory services in the area of renewables, another division focuses on non-renewables and a third division focuses on knowledge building through policy analysis.



How does the Center work with partners?

Partnerships are at the core of the Center’s business model. Therefore time has been invested in consulting internal and external partners to identify gaps and complementarities. The outcome from these consultations has been a clear map of opportunities and gaps to ensure that the program scope avoids overlaps.

How does the Center work with governments?

ANRC assists governments in building knowledge and increasing capacity to effectively manage natural resources wealth. The Center provides practical advice, shares knowledge and provides legal and institutional tools to ensure that the effective management of natural resources directly contributes to the development of the country towards inclusive and green growth. The Center’s support is also aimed at narrowing the capacity and knowledge asymmetry between African countries, their global counterparts and investors.

How does the Center support CSOs?

The unique capacity of CSOs to bring together communities to contribute to policy dialogue makes them crucial partners for ANRC. The Center supports the contribution of CSOs to policy dialogue. Specifically, the Center promotes sustainability, good governance and supports CSO participation by sharing knowledge and improving their ability to engage decision-makers constructively.

How does the Center work with the private sector?

The Center leverages the African Development Bank’s position as a valuable partner to the private sector and as a trusted agent of the interests of African countries. The Center also helps promote private sector investment through practical tools and advice that help African countries promote their natural resource sectors.

How does the Center work with the African Legal Support Facility of the AfDB?

ANRC complements the African Legal Support Facility by providing strategic and technical advice to negotiation teams while the Facility continues to provide lawyers and transactional advice on purely legal matters. In addition, the two entities work together to determine the content and design for training courses for negotiators.

What is the Center's value proposition?

ANRC is unique in its focus on both renewable and non-renewable natural resources. This allows it to provide countries with comprehensive natural resource management support, tools and products. The Center's work is hands-on. It focuses on delivering practical support and tools that are adaptable from country to country and applicable to a range of issues.

ANRC's position within the African Development Bank allows the Center to leverage the Bank's resources, partnerships and comparative advantage as the leading regional development partner to administer practical solutions for African countries.



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