

FACT SHEET ON THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE (GCCA)

GCCA: Origin and main focus

In September 2007, the European Commission launched an initiative on a Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.¹ **The GCCA intends to step up cooperation and dialogue between the EU and the developing countries that are hit earliest and hardest by climate change and have the least capacity to react.** These are typically the **Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)**, i.e. more than seventy countries. The Alliance is based on two pillars:

1) **Enhanced dialogue** on climate change. The results of the dialogue will feed into the discussions on the post-2012 climate agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The idea is to support the convergence of visions between Europe and the most vulnerable developing countries on the shape of a new climate agreement.

2) **Enhanced financial support** is focused on adaptation and, where beneficial for poverty reduction aims, mitigation can also be covered. Five priority areas are foreseen:

(i) **supporting adaptation to the effects of climate change:** Adaptation, particularly in the water and agriculture sectors, is of vital importance for the most vulnerable population. This will build on the National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs).

(ii) **reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD):** for LDCs, more than 60 % of their emissions originate from land-use change, primarily deforestation. The GCCA will support innovative solutions to avoid deforestation and builds on existing initiatives such as Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

(iii) **enhancing participation in the global carbon market;** so far the poorest countries have attracted very few Clean Development Mechanism investors. By building capacities, the GCCA promotes a more equitable geographic distribution of CDM projects.

(iv) **promoting Disaster Risk Reduction:** over the past decades, there has been an increase of natural disasters linked to extreme weather events, resulting from climate change. The GCCA will assist the most disaster prone countries in building their capacities to prepare for, mitigate and prevent the risk of natural disasters.

(v) **integrating climate change into poverty reduction efforts.** Climate change affects many sectors and needs to be "mainstreamed" into poverty reduction efforts.

GCCA: finance

The EC provided **€95 m** additional funds for the GCCA under the Environment and Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENRTP) over the budget period 2008-2010. This includes an additional **€25 m** under the 2010 budget corresponding to half of the **EC's fast start** contribution. Under the **10th EDF intra-ACP funding**, **€40 million** was decided for GCCA regional action and preparations are ongoing for related financing of Disaster Risk Reduction.

¹ Communication on Building a Global Climate Change Alliance between the European Union and poor developing countries most vulnerable to climate change - COM(2007)540.

The Commission appealed to the EU Member States to contribute resources to the GCCA.² The European Council of June 2008 called for the effective implementation of the GCCA.

GCCA: Implementation progress

Dialogue:

The GCCA acts as a platform for political dialogue between the EU, LDCs and SIDS on climate change, at the global, regional and national levels. While the GCCA dialogue on climate policy takes place outside the context of the international negotiations, **it aims to support a common vision on climate policy priorities and thus to contribute to achieving a sound post-2012 agreement.**

At the global and regional levels, the purpose of the dialogue is to promote climate change as one of the key issues for discussion and action between the EU and those countries, building confidence.

The GCCA dialogues resulted in **Joint Declarations** on climate change respectively **between the EU and the Caribbean** (in March 2008), **the Pacific** (October 2008) and **Africa** (November 2008). A **Joint ACP-EU Declaration** has also been adopted in May 2009. A declaration with **Asian LDCs and SIDS** was signed end of May 2010.

In order to facilitate the process of dialogue and defining concrete support activities in the target countries a **GCCA support facility** (3.2M€) is operational since January 2010.

Cooperation:

At the request of the Member States, the Commission finalised in July 2008 a Staff Working Document on the implementation modalities of the GCCA. Based on a number of criteria, four pilot countries were identified to start up activities under the GCCA. These are **Vanuatu, Maldives, Cambodia and Tanzania**. Eleven more countries were selected for GCCA cooperation under 2009-2010 budgets: **Bangladesh, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Mali, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal and Seychelles**.³ The additional resources under 2010 budget made it possible to identify more countries for GCCA support: **Ethiopia, Nepal, Solomon Islands and nine Pacific Small Island States as a region**. Preparations are under way envisaging support for: **Benin, Bhutan, Gambia, Sierra Leone and the members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States**.

Other countries within the overall target group of the GCCA will be added, depending on availability of resources in the coming period. For the selected countries, special attention will be paid to set up innovative ways to deal with climate change, for example through budget support. Regular coordination takes place with comparable efforts such as the World Bank's Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience.

Brief illustration of specific GCCA cooperation activities being implemented:

² Sweden and Czech Republic contributed € 4.4 m and € 0.2 m respectively in 2008 and 2009. Cyprus is providing € 0.6 m per year over 2010-2012 and Ireland decided end of 2010 to contribute € 23 m. Other Member States expressed interest to support the GCCA.

³ All these countries benefitted from a GCCA allocation, except Madagascar, for which this was postponed in view of the political situation.

- **Maldives** (€3.8 m): Institutional support to the Government plus pilot projects in particular in waste management in different atolls and islands with a feed-back process at central level to gain experience in this field. The programme is co-financed with WB.
- **Bangladesh** (€8.5 m): The overall objective is to protect and improve the lives of 10 million climate vulnerable people in Bangladesh by 2015 through climate change adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk reduction measures. This will be done by supporting the implementation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.
- **Vanuatu** (€3.2 m): The first component will support the capacity development of the Climate Change Unit at the Department of Meteorology of Vanuatu. The second component foresees a co-financing with the Global Environment Facility and will focus on the implementation of the NAPA including improved farming practices; scaling up successful water management practices and hazard risk mapping to demarcate high risk areas and help coastal communities to avoid settlements in flood prone areas.
- **Rwanda** (€4.5 m): The overall objective is to implement the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) focussing on sustainable land management. The specific objective is to contribute to land registration, which empowers people to conserve their land and reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- **Tanzania (€2.2m)**: support to the initiative of setting up ECOvillages with community actions in resources management and renewable energy (complementing other EDF support for renewable energy).
- **Senegal (€4m)**: focussed on combating coastal erosion.
- **Mauritius (€3m)**: budget support to contribute to Maurice Ile Durable initiative
- **Guyana (€4.2)**: to strengthen sea defences and mangrove replanting.
- **Jamaica (€4.1m)**: to reduce disaster risk and restore coastal ecosystems.

In addition to the country actions, there is also a **regional level GCCA support using intra-ACP funding under the 10th EDF (€40m)**. Regional support in the Caribbean will be via the Caribbean Climate Change Centre in Belize (€8m). In the Pacific, it will comprise adaptation priorities involving the University of the South Pacific (€8 m). At the **Pan-African level** GCCA supports takes place in the context of Africa-EU Strategic Partnership no. 6 on climate change. This will contribute to the flagship operation **ClimDev Africa** that intends to create the African Climate Change Centre in particular to improve links between weather data and policy response, In addition it will support sub-regional climate work in West Africa (with CILSS / ECOWAS) and in Eastern and Southern Africa (with COMESA). These regional actions are focussing specific African interest such as agriculture adaptation and participating in the carbon market.

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