

Preface

State of the Climate in Africa reports are yearly snapshots of science-based information for climate policy and decision-making in Africa, which the African Union uses in its leadership role to support member states in the implementation of weather- and climate-related strategic frameworks in Africa.

Africa is warming at a rate higher than the global average and becoming drier, resulting in droughts over different regions. The rate of sea level rise over the continental coastlines is higher than the global mean rate, which contributes to increases in the frequency and severity of coastal flooding and salinity in low-lying areas, and therefore coastal erosion.

Climate is one of the main challenges threatening the continent's realization of the goals of Agenda 2063. Prolonged drought, extensive floods and tropical cyclones negatively affect Africa's progress and become amplifying factors of the fragile economies and communities, resulting in loss of lives, property damage, and population displacement that affect Africa's ability to achieve some of its commitments to meet the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Building and strengthening synergies among all stakeholders is critical for achieving the sustainability of water resources in Africa. Continental frameworks such as the 'Africa Water Vision for 2025: Equitable and Sustainable Use of Water for Socioeconomic Development', and the 'Sharm El-Sheikh Commitments for Accelerating the Achievement of Water and Sanitation Goals in Africa' are designed to avoid disastrous consequences of natural and human threats, stimulating and sustaining growth economic development and social well-being. Sustainable water initiatives that are firmly and consistently adhered to and implemented require employment of a coordinated and coherent approach.

Transboundary cooperation in mitigation and adaptation of water resource management is crucial to prevent possible negative impacts of unilateral measures and allow exchange of data as well as sharing the costs and benefits.

As we prepare for the forthcoming UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 27), member states are encouraged to consider sustainable frameworks and plans that would attract financial support from the international community to fully implement their National Determined Contributions (NDCs), especially in flood- and drought-related hazards through capacity building and technology transfer. Furthermore, member states are encouraged to seek bilateral and multilateral cooperation to ensure effective and coherent development and delivery of adequate, science-based and sector-specific weather, water and climate services for the continent's socio-economic development.



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