



Conference Brief

Final AI-CD Conference for Horn of Africa 25th August 2021

1. Background of AI-CD

The African Initiative for Combating Desertification to Strengthen Resilience to Climate Change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa (AI-CD) was developed against the background that;

- i. The Sahel and Horn of Africa region face mounting development challenges and environmental deterioration
- ii. Much of the region is dry and highly degraded and suffers from frequent and severe droughts
- iii. Climate change is likely to accelerate desertification within the region.

Therefore, addressing desertification and strengthening resilience to climate change was identified as the key strategy to making nations of the Sahel and Horn of Africa achieve sustainable development. The AI-CD was therefore developed to enhance knowledge and experiences sharing, and to facilitate technology transfer among African countries in order to collectively combat desertification.

2. Formation and Implementation of AI-CD

Recognizing that drought and desertification had not been given sufficient international attention despite their importance and urgency, AI-CD was formulated and initiated during UNCCD COP 12 in Ankara, Turkey in 2015. In July 2016 the then Kenya Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR), Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI), and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) organized a Preparatory Meeting in Nairobi, towards the launch AI-CD. The AI-CD was thereafter launched in August 2016 during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) Side Event held in Nairobi. During the launch, a statement was signed by the (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource (MENR)-Government of Kenya, JICA, Government of Senegal and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) to accelerate efforts to combat desertification and to strengthen nations and communities resilience to climate change in the Sahel and Horn of Africa. AI-CD was therefore initiated in Sahel and Horn of Africa as a 6-year initiative to be implemented from 2016 to 2022.

In the Horn of Africa AI-CD is implemented in seven (7) countries namely; Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, with Kenya being the regional hub.

3. Objective and output of AI-CD

The main objective of AI-CD is to contribute to making nations and communities resilient to climate change by promoting measures for combating desertification in the Sahel and Horn of Africa.

This objective will be achieved through three outputs namely; Building networks, knowledge sharing, and improving access to finance. The actions under each output are as follows:

Building networks: A robust network among participating countries and development partners is built for combating desertification and strengthening resilience to climate change.

Knowledge-sharing: Knowledge and experiences on combating desertification are shared among African countries to enhance the effectiveness of development efforts in the region.

Improving access to finance: Access to available international development finance is improved to promote measures for combating desertification in the region.

4. Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Countries, AI-CD Secretariat

Participating countries will be expected to identify, collect, document and promote adoption of good practices that address challenges within the Horn of Africa region, improve networks as well as improve their capacity to access finance.

The secretariat shall:

Coordinate overall activities of the African Initiative as well as provide any other support to promote the African Initiative

5. Harmonization of AI-CD with Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management Activities

Activities of AI-CD are implemented jointly with those of related Initiatives within participating countries. In Kenya, AI-CD activities are harmonized with those of Capacity Development Project for Sustainable Forest Management (CADEP-SFM), a collaborative project between the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), KEFRI, Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

CADEP-SFM is expected to contribute to; sustainable forest management, combating desertification as well as mitigation and adaption to climate change. The project is implemented through five components one of which is Regional Cooperation. The Regional Cooperation component technical activities are being spearheaded by KEFRI while the MoEF provides policy guidance. The Component aims to enhance capacity for promoting knowledge sharing and transfer of technologies for strengthening resilience to climate change and drought within Sub-Saharan Africa.

To accelerate knowledge sharing, technology transfer and adoption of existing good practices, the CADEP-SFM Regional Cooperation component has a mandate to build capacity of partners and relevant stakeholders within AI-CD the participating Horn of Africa countries. Capacity is built through various scheduled project regional events which include; forums, meetings, technical training, workshops and conference. As the AI-CD comes to conclusion in 2022, KEFRI in partnership with Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Kenya), JICA and AI-CD Secretariat are organizing a final project conference, to evaluate gains made within the project period as well chart a way forward for Horn of Africa towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

6. Final AI-CD Conference for Horn of Africa

The Conference, to be held virtually on Wednesday 25 August 2021. The Conference theme is, Sharing Experiences on Impacts from Networking, Knowledge Sharing and Access to Finance on combating desertification.

The main objective of the Conference is to share experiences of AI-CD on impact in combating desertification and making communities resilient to climate change in Horn of Africa. The objective will be achieved through sharing; progress and achievements made, challenges encountered and opportunities presented by AI-CD in HoA countries from 2016 to 2021.

During the Conference Focal Points from participating Horn of Africa countries will present updates on; networking, knowledge sharing and access to finance.