Report of the workshop on Adaptation and Water in Africa

Climate Chance Summit - Africa 2018, Abidjan 28 June 2018

Road Map of coalition for Adaptation and Water in Africa

Coalition Eau, Eau et Vie, Eau Vive, OIF/IFDD, OFQJ, PFE, RECOJAC, RC&D, SUEZ

I – WHERE ARE WE?

The workshop started with the identification of several observations:

1. The impacts of climate change on water resources in Africa are and will be manifold, and with strong variations across the continent, aggravating already existing water deficits and highlighting infrastructure and equipment deficits. The percentage of the African population that could be exposed to water scarcity could increase from 47% in 2000 to 65% in 2025[1].
   At the same time, the continent's population is undergoing rapid urbanization; by 2040, nearly 6 out of 10 Africans will live in cities, thereby exacerbating the issue of the water supply and management of urban water resources.
   According to Diane Binder (Suez), there are 3 major challenges to be met: i) the permanent availability of water in sufficient quantity and quality (consider in particular alternative sources), ii) the distribution of this resource (reduce leakages, ensure the development of a network of local SMEs/start-ups), iii) the management of extremes (raise awareness/change behaviour towards water). International operators such as Suez are helpful in providing expertise, but water resource management must remain public and rely on a network of local SMEs that must be strengthened (on customer service, resource management, etc.).
   In general, there are various possible solutions and when they are implemented they have very significant impacts: UCLG-Africa presented in particular the example of Casablanca where, in 20 years, work on reducing losses has saved resources for the equivalent of a city consumption with a population of 1 million inhabitants.

2. The need to work at several territorial levels (the city and its hinterland, the country, the catchment area) by increasing the stakeholders' involvement. Communities lack skills; for example, in Abidjan, most of the city demand is satisfied by groundwater supplies, which are now in an alarming dwindling trend with little or no response from water authorities.

[1] Source : Livre Bleu Eau & climat, Conseil Mondial de l'eau, 2016

This is partly due to the lack of dedicated training on the African continent despite some important initiatives (e.g. the Master's degree on water resources and environmental risks in African major cities shared by 5 African partner universities: University of Abomey Calavi, Nangui Abrogoua University, Institut National Polytechnique Houphouët Boigny, Yaoundé I University, Ngaoundéré University - http://www.marema.org/).

Non-state actors must be more widely involved in the issue of adaptation and water management in particular. Strategic climate-related documents (National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Defined Contributions) do not engage companies, while the latter may not feel truly concerned, as they do not specifically identify the impact of climate risk in their own "value chains". National adaptation plans have several limitations, starting with the lack of "territorialisation" approach up to the limited inclusion of the private sector.

The Moroccan Water Coalition (COALMA) or the French Water Agencies has made overcoming these challenges its purposes. Several basins are transboundary; with the projected reduction in river flows due to climate change and the increasing pressure on the resource (population growth, establishment of hydroelectric dams), adaptation projects must be transboundary, but still be developed having in mind local applications, otherwise the riverside populations will not be part of the process.

3. Financing:

Half of the climate finance on adaptation is dedicated to water resource management and wastewater treatment (USD 11 billion of the 22 disbursed in 2015/2016 worldwide), but these amounts are still far from the estimated needs. Adaptation remains the deficient in climate finance, representing only a small part of latter. The costs of adaptation could represent up to 6% of the African continent's GDP in a world at +4°C (1% in a world below +2°C)[2]. They are vary between 50 and 95 billion USD per year by 2050.

In addition to the limited volumes of funding, it is the modalities of access to funding that are constraining for African actors, both state and non-state.

For example, international climate finance could help mobilize domestic investment, particularly in the water sector. However, in 2016, only 3% of global multilateral adaptation funding was allocated to private sector recipients. At the same time, with regard to mitigation, 75% of international climate finance came from the private sector. The private sector is therefore ready to invest in the climate, but there are some difficulties regarding adaptation, which is generally seen as a way to reduce future costs, while the business is more inclined to invest in actions that increase income. Private sector revenues must therefore be secured to make it easier for private sector companies to take this "risk" and create an incentives.

Luc Gnacadja (UNCDF) and Louise Brown (AfDB) presented a currently being developed tool to enable greater involvement of the private sector (in a broad sense)

[2] UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, 2016, http://africanclimatefinancehub.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Africas_adaptation_gap_2_Bridging_the_gap_mobilising_sources_2015.pdf

in the financing of adaptation: Adaptation Benefit mechanism (https://www.afdb.org/fr/topics-and-sectors/initiatives-partnerships/adaptation-benefit-mechanism-abm/), based on the same principle as the Clean Development Mechanism (result-based finance). A pilot project is currently being conducted in Tanzania to support small farmers, with only 11% of public funding raising 51% of funding from local commercial banks.

The Magic System Foundation presented an adaptation project based on a cryptomoney, watercoin, initiated by a Toulouse start-up, and allowing the purchase of drinking water online by the local population (http://www.jeuneafrique.com/544348/economie/le-watercoin-une-cryptomonnaie-pour-securiser-lacces-a-leau-en-afrique/).

There are another effective financing tools dedicated to the water sector, which is the African Water Facility (https://www.africanwaterfacility.org/fr/a-propos-de-la-fae/), an initiative led by the African Ministers' Council on Water to mobilize resources to finance water resources development in Africa. It is hosted and administered by the African Development Bank and provides grants of between €50,000 and €5,000,000, including eligible non-state actors. However, due to a high number of submissions, this facility no longer accepts grant applications at this time.

AfDB Africa Climate Fund

Participants noted the need to better disseminate information on these financial tools (monitoring).

4. A lack of water research, merely considered and funded by the African national governments, with a lack of dissemination of scientific information to non-state actors (local authorities in particular, whereas water is generally one of their responsibilities). Several initiatives exist but suffer from a lack of efficient communication.

II – WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

At the end of the first part of the workshop on the findings, four general objectives were proposed and discussed; the main aim is to activate synergies.

Objective 1: contribute to improving the availability of climate finance.
Objective 2: contribute to the strengthening of local communities and successfully mobilize the local authorities by raising citizens' awareness, with appropriate messages reflecting realities of the regions with regard to water resources.
Objective 3: improve the coordination of actions and structuring of territorial planning actions. Allow the coordination and optimization of synergies to see the emergence of local sectors.
Objective 4: Empower the African research community in the field of water resources and climate and popularize the studies produced for the local authorities.

There was general consensus on these objectives. The proposals to implement them are numerous and require further discussion.

Among these proposals are several suggestions made directly to Climate Chance:

- Access to information on climate finance or related technologies
- Advocacy work with governments through platforms such as Climate Chance (on resources dedicated to the water sectors and research, as well as on climate integration in sectoral policies)
- The publication of funding opportunities (monitoring) on the Climate Chance portal
- The identification of pilot countries for working on the emergence of a "water & climate" platform at national level
- Etc.

Several major international events must be considered in the process of developing the roadmap as they constitute major opportunities to share progress and exchange inspiring practices across the continent:

- The One Planet Summit o in Africa in the first half of 2019, focusing on the issue of financing
- The 2nd Climate Chance Summit in Accra in the 2nd half of 2020
- The 9th World Water Forum in Dakar in 2021

List to be completed

III – HOW TO GET THERE?

It is necessary to be realistic about the capacity of the actors to be mobilized in collective efforts, without a leader dedicating 100% of his/her time. The Climate Chance Association cannot provide a full-time human resource and relies on the actors involved in the coalition.

As such, it is proposed to initially target only two or three initiatives, which are to be included in the 2018/2019 roadmap in order to be realistic and to be able to measure progress.

- Mapping

We propose that the members of the coalition continuously carry out a mapping of interesting actors, good practices and projects that have a particular impact and can be replicated on a large scale.

Coalition members will be able to communicate these information to the Climate Chance Association, which will highlight them in its Climate Action Portal, in its Library of thematic documentary resources and in the Observatory's annual report.

First Proposition: The realization of an in-depth mapping of African water actors and mobilization of major actors who are not currently represented (UNESCO, INBO, African Water Association, Chair of "Water for All" ...)

- Dissemination of information

In order to facilitate communication, a mailing group Adaptation.Af@climate-chance.org was created in order to encourage exchanges between actors who participated in the workshop. It will gradually accommodate new members. This is not necessarily the final tool, and a discussion will be held to determine which collaborative tool could be the most effective in the context of a multi-stakeholder approach in Africa.

A mailing list will allow to share all relevant information in the sector, such as: funding opportunities, calls for projects, training opportunities, interesting events, etc. It will be able to gradually welcome new members on request to the Climate Chance association team.

- Common Agenda

Define the common agenda of the coalition, the next steps to evaluate the progress made, the next events to meet or present progress, etc

The coalition supporting this roadmap is co-managed by the following organizations:

Coalition Eau, Eau et Vie, Eau Vive, OIF/IFDD, OFQJ, PFE, RECOJAC, RC&D, SUEZ