

BRIEF ON THE AFRICA INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT OF AIR POLLUTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA, 2020-2021

The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) Assessment is a scientific led process on the role and potential of emission mitigation strategies to support development, health and wellbeing in Africa sustainably. This assessment is envisaged to bring together practitioners working across Africa to address the growing air pollution and associated climate threats while promoting capacity building and action to reduce air pollution with a focus on both short-lived climate pollutant (SLCPs) and long-lived greenhouse gas (GHG) strategies. The assessment aims to build a community of practice, integrating and enhancing existing science-policy-practice networks, to consider the role and potential of emission mitigation strategies to support sustainable development in Africa.

The African regional Assessment will:

- 1) determine how development in Africa can proceed at the same time as limiting air pollution and its impact on health and agriculture, environment, forestry and
- 2) to understand the potential to limit climate change, and its adaptation implications in Africa.

The assessment will concentrate on enhancing capacity as part of the assessment process and develop information flows and activities to create a network for collaboration in the region to address the issues now and in the future.

The work will proceed in two phases – **a scoping phase** that will:

- i. Embed the assessment in the region and respond to demand;
- ii. Consult widely with African and international stakeholders;
- iii. Develop the modelling platform to be used in the assessment, alongside capacity building and training activities related to scenario generation;
- iv. Identify all the implementers: Co-Chairs, Lead authors, contributing authors, reference group, reviewers;
- v. Develop a draft story line, annotated outline and modelling brief.

The second and **main assessment phase** will:

- i. Start with a meeting to agree on the outline and approach and develop a draft zero of the assessment to be finalized and sent for internal review, and agree on the mitigation scenarios to be developed;
- ii. Develop the modelling scenarios, including training events allowing participants to share information;
- iii. Conduct an external Peer review of Draft 1;
- iv. Finalization of the assessment, editing, layout and publication;
- v. Undertake outreach and communication throughout the assessment process and continuing after publication.

There are **2 co-chairs** appointed to guide the assessment:

Dr Alice Akinyi Kaudia, former Environment Secretary at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Resources, Kenya, and Prof Youba Sokona, Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as co-chairs of the Assessment. Work is ongoing to appoint a third co-chair..

The Assessment Team has so far participated in the following events:

- Africa Climate Week, March, 2019, Accra Ghana
- AMCEN, 2019, 7th to 15th November 2019, Durban, South Africa

To date activities have concentrated on linking to major stakeholders in the air quality and climate change area in Africa. This has included holding side events at Africa Climate Week, held in Accra, Ghana, in the week of 18th March 2019 and at the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) meeting held in Durban, South Africa, in week of 11th November 2019. Discussions with the Africa Union Commission (AUC) at AMCEN considered three possible areas of work: 1. Support to Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change in African and AUC to give the political backing; 2. Development of Framework on Air Quality in Africa; 3. Development of Strategic Actions on Air Quality in Africa with technical Support from CCAC. The above would be our possible areas of work in accordance with the outcome of AMCEN-17, at which African Ministers decided to support mitigation of short-lived climate pollutants and the Africa Integrated Assessment of Air Pollution and Climate Change, as follows:

“to emphasize the benefits of improving air quality, including through managing, and as nationally appropriate, reducing short-lived climate pollutants in the environment, agriculture, health and forest conservation, while responding to the aspirations of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals, noting the need for an assessment of the linkage between policies to address air pollution and policies to address climate change”;

In Addition, the assessment responds to global commitment to action on air pollution as captured below:

- i) The African Union agenda 2063 goal on environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities in the context of sustainable development, where a key priority is to *“develop/facilitate the implementation of Africa Quality Standards for air and other forms of pollution”;*
- ii) The globally acknowledged link between air pollution and climate change and associated serious health outcomes:
- iii) United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) adopted resolutions 1/7 *“Strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in promoting air quality”* (2014); 3/8 *“Preventing and reducing air pollution to improve air quality globally* (2017); 3/4 *“Environment and health”* (2017); and 4/21 *“Implementation plan Towards a pollution-free planet”* (2019);

- iv) World Health Assembly (WHA) resolutions (WHA) 68.8 “Health and the environment: addressing the health impact of air pollution” (2015) and 69.11 “Health in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (2016);
- v) UNEP’s mandate to support countries to implement the resolutions through technical assistance, building from regional cooperation fora and intensifying partnerships such as the CCAC.

The Assessment is now in the process of:

- (i) working with the UNEP Regional Office for Africa to embed the assessment in existing regional thematic assessments including collaboration with the Environmental Ministries in Africa by seeking Focal Points for air quality work and the assessment;
- (ii) building its network of stakeholders and appointing authors who will contribute to the finalization of the scoping report that will inform the strategic development of the assessment.

The CCAC Secretariat is recruiting authors , co-authors and reviewers. Expression of interest can be sent to : valentin.foltescu@un.org and kevin.hicks@york.ac.uk