

Forest and Climate Change Response in Africa

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Abstract:

Africa is facing serious constraints exacerbated by climate change. Several components of the development of the continent are now constrained by climate change. More important is the fact that the poorest are the most vulnerable to climate change. The response to climate change needs to take its mitigation and adaptation into consideration. The recent UNFCCC Cop (Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) of Paris was an important milestone that led to the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) with commitments to mitigate climate change, but also to address climate vulnerability. These efforts in responding to climate change need to be done in the context where the continent wants to improve its development. Despite the vulnerability, the continent is expected to contribute to the global climate change mitigation effort, while enhancing its resilience to climate change. Natural resources management have an important role in environment and development sectors in Africa. Forest is one of the main parts of this natural resources management. Several ecosystems of the continent are subject to climate change and thus also need to be taken into consideration in climate change responses. In Africa, forest plays an important role in the development and livelihood of the poor and forest can also play an important role in responding to climate change. The current presentation will review: (1) The vulnerability of Africa to climate change, (2) The climate change mitigation responses and (3) The place of forest in responding to climate change (both mitigation and adaptation) on the continent.