



**L'Afrique
à la COP21**



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Event Title	REALISING AFRICAN RENAISSANCE THROUGH SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE: THE CRITICAL NEEDS FOR AFRICA TO INVEST IN HOME GROWN SCIENCE AND APPROPRIATE BLUE AND GREEN TECHNOLOGIES TOWARDS POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Date, time & room	10 December 2015, 18:00-19:30, Africa Pavilion, Room 2 at the COP21 Le Bourget
Organiser – contact persons	Justin Ahanhanzo , IOC/UNESCO-Paris, France – j.ahanhanzo@unesco.org and Jackie Olang , NASAC-Nairobi, Kenya – jolang@nasaconline.org
Host organisation/s	THE NETWORK OF AFRICAN SCIENCE ACADEMIES (NASAC) and THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION OF UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO)
Speakers / panelists	<p>Jackie Olang, Executive Director of NASAC, Vladimir Ryabinin, Executive Secretary of IOC/UNESCO, Justin Ahanhanzo, IOC/UNESCO Regional Liaison Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO); Salif Diop, Member, National Academy of Sciences and Techniques of Senegal (ANSTS) and NASAC</p> <p><u>Panel on Climate Change Adaptation,</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amb. Prof. Mary Khimulu, Chairperson, Kenya Water Institute and former Kenyan Ambassador, Kenyan Delegation to UNESCO • Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director UNEP/ROA • Dr. Edith Madela-Mntla, Regional Director, ICSU/ROA • Dr. Valérie Quiniou-Ramus, Head of Geotechnics/Geophysics/ Geomatics/Civil Eng./Metocean Department of TOTAL S.A • Prof. Marie-Lise Chanin, CNRS Research Director and Member of the Académie des sciences-Institut de France • Prof. Norbert Hounkonnou, President, Académie Nationale des Sciences, Arts et Lettres du Bénin (ANSALB) • Prof. Manta Nowbuth, Member, Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology • Prof. Mark New, Member, South African Academy of Sciences (ASSAf) • Prof. Jide Alo, Member, Nigerian Academy of Sciences (NAS) • Mr. Wondifraw Mengist, Intern at IOC-UNESCO
No. of attendees (approx)	22 (there was also a number of participants who came in and out without registration)
Summary of the meeting	The NASAC/IOC-UNESCO side event organised at the Africa Pavillon at the main COP21 venue at Le Bourget, France was supported by NASAC, IOC-UNESCO, the InterAcademy Panel, UNDP, and Africa Department of UNESCO. The Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie upon the kind request of the Delegation of the Republic of Senegal to the COP21/UNFCCC offered interpretation services. The side event was organised in collaboration with UNEP and ICSU Regional Office for Africa. The event brought together a wide range of African and Overseas partners including Representatives from Academies, universities, private sector including oil and gas industries, policy makers including Diplomats and Ambassadors and civil society. The



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meeting consisted of the following sequences:

- (i) Introduction and science sessions
- (ii) Science-policy dialogue panel and
- (iii) Interactive exchanges and discussions session with participants.

Ms. Jackie Olang, Executive Director of NASAC, co-organiser of the event welcomed participants and provided the background for the side event. She first, introduced NASAC to participants taking into consideration that many are unaware of the activities of the continental knowledge building Network. The main objective of NASAC is to serve as an independent platform, which provides science advices to African countries and regional institutions. Major activities include institutional capacity building at university and academic levels, empowering and engaging the youth in today's scientific challenges related to sustainable development in Africa including climate change. She recalled that on the eve of this side event at the Africa Pavilion, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, IOC/UNESCO hosted at its Paris based Headquarters on **09 December 2015, a full day COP21 Africa Science Seminar** on the same topic bringing together African and overseas earth systems sciences specialists including marine scientists, oceanographers, climatologists, educators, social science specialists, policy makers including Diplomats, Ambassadors and Permanent Delegates at UNESCO, civil society and African youth. The African Youth Forum at the COP21 Africa Science Seminar was a cornerstone bringing together African students and start up entrepreneurs who provided candid look forward views on Africa's future.

The Executive Secretary of the IOC/UNESCO, Dr. Vladimir Ryabinin recalled the unique role and mission of the Commission, which is the sole United Nations body entirely dedicated to promote international cooperation and capacity building in ocean sciences, observations and services. The IOC/UNESCO with the support of the Africa Department of UNESCO and other partners fulfilled a needed commitment as they provided a platform for a full day seminar at UNESCO enabling thorough scientific exchanges, science-policy dialogue among scientists and policy makers and the youth at the UNESCO Headquarters, the day before. **"I like what I saw yesterday, outstanding interdisciplinary and inter-generations exchanges on climate change"**, he said. He concluded his remarks with the view that Africa, oceans and climate change are three important challenges that require the world attention and support. He recalled that GOOS-AFRICA is an important framework aimed at supporting observations and ocean services needs in Africa. The IOC/UNESCO is engaged to embrace new partnerships with NASAC and local African universities and academies with the view to meet the capacity building needs of African Member States.

Dr. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Director UNEP/ROA and **Dr. Edith Madela-Mntla**, Regional Director of ICSU-ROA provided information on the activities of their institutions and their reiterated their willingness to cooperate with IOC-UNESCO and NASAC for the follow up activities arising from the side event.

Professor Salif Diop, Member of Académie Nationale des Sciences et Techniques du Sénégal, ANSTS and NASAC Expert Panel on Climate Change Adaptation presented the newly published NASAC booklet entitled "Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa: Recommendations to Policymakers". He highlighted the salient points of the report including Climate change risks and vulnerabilities in Africa, adaptation and resilience in the context of climate change in African with respect to ach su bregion in Africa. The booklet provided background on the assessment of sectoral



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impacts and adaptation . The booklet was officially launched at the COP21 African Pavilion. The purpose of the Recommendations to Policymakers are to guide with independent scientific advices African national regional institutions in the process of negotiations and implementation of UNFCCC.

Eminent scientists, Chairs of Academies and senior research Directors from universities and national research centers presented success stories from African scientific institutions with a particular emphasis on best practices on training and education within local universities in association with overseas academic institutions. **Professor Norbert Houkonnou, President of the Académie Nationale des Sciences, Arts et Lettres du Bénin (ANSALB)** provided an inspiring presentation on education and training activities at the UNESCO Chair in Mathematical Physics and Applications hosting the unique Master and Ph. D programme in Physical oceanography and applications in west and central Africa. The training programme enrolls students from Africa and overseas. Owing to strong South/South and North/South partnerships, professors from Brazil, France, Belgium and USA contribute to the training programmes with lectures and exchange of students and staff. Win-win partnership is established with private sector, notably oil and gas industries, namely TOTAL, SA, which sponsors fellowships for students and visiting professorship, programme. Twinning with universities in the North enables dual recognition of diplomas.

Prof. Mark New, Member, Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), shed light on the challenge for Africa in scientific research in general and climate change research and applications in particular. Training young African specialists in earth observation systems is an imperative of African countries. **There are pockets of expertise related to climate change knowledge in African countries, what is required is networking and synergy. When all these isolated groups and expertise are put together, the gross total is at the level of expertise available in Oxford or Cambridge.** **Networking between Africa research and academic institutions is the Key to African solutions to African challenges.**

Justin Ahanhanzo, the IOC/UNESCO Regional Liaison Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific and Africa, the initiator and co-organizer of the event presented a paper on Why Oceans and Coasts matter for Climate Change in Africa? He recalled **President Mandela's statement at Conference of the African Process in 1998 in Cape town: "Africa's long and beautiful coasts and the abundance of marine resources can contribute to improve economic, food and environmental security for the continent. These coastal and marine resources, like the rest of Africa's environmental resources, continue to be exploited in a manner that does not benefit AFRICA and her PEOPLE. This is a paradox of a people dying from hunger, starvation and poverty when they are potentially so rich and well endowed"**. There is a critical need for African Governments and regional institutions such as African Union Commission to massively invest in scientific, technology and innovation infrastructures with modernisation of national universities and regional research centers towards promoting blue and green technologies for poverty alleviation in Africa. With appropriation of new technologies and innovations, Africa can lead the way to climate friendly infrastructures in the context of the UNFCCC.

Other speakers including Prof. Manta Nowbuth, Member of Mauritius Academy of Science and Technology, Prof. Babajide Aio, Member of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Marie-Lise Chanin, CNRS Research Director and Member of the Académie des sciences-Institut de France and Dr. Valérie Quiniou-Ramus, Head of



	<p><i>Geotechnics, Geophysics, Geomatics, Civil Engineering and Metocean Department of TOTAL S.A also provided insights into the importance of networking to foster scientific research and applications to meet societal goals in Africa. “Fight against privileges” insisted one of the speakers - fight against the privilege that money is only for the rich but instead, invest in the basic scientific, technological and innovation infrastructures! Fight against elitist privileges so as to serve the needs of local populations, fight against the privilege of knowledge but instead educate the youth.</i></p>
<p>Outcomes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1- NASAC launched the booklet titled “Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in Africa: Recommendations to Policy makers”. 2- Participants recognized that science-policy dialogue is an important foundation for African Delegates in the context of the COP/UNFCCC negotiations. 3- The meeting recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Partnership between NASAC and AUC, as well as between NASAC and UNFCCC Secretariat be pursued. b. A similar side-event be organized for the COP22, which will be held in Morocco in 2016. 4- NASAC will lead the development of a network of African universities and overseas counterparts with the view to empower existing African academies and educational institutions in the fields of climate change research. 5- NASAC and IOC-UNESCO will promote “Oceans” as a key and unique component of climate change systems in Africa. 6- NASAC and IOC-UNESCO together with the event partners intend to work together to organize an international science conference on Ocean and blue economy for Africa.

Group Photo:

