**“INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND A TRANSITION TO GREEN GROWTH” IN AFRICA.** These are the two key objectives of the African Development Bank’s (AfDB) new strategy for 2013-2022. Since 2012, the Bank has been working alongside African countries to assist them in establishing institutional, policy and regulatory enabling environments for greener growth. For instance, thanks to the continued support of the Bank, Sierra Leone has integrated green growth into its poverty reduction strategy, which was approved in 2013. Today, the government is focusing on encouraging partners and the private sector to invest in initiatives that have a high potential for green growth. Mozambique’s national action plan for green growth was developed with the support of the AfDB and approved by the Council of Ministers in September 2013. The Bank has also initiated scoping work in Morocco, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Kenya, and Rwanda.

**THE FOCUS ON INCLUSIVE AND GREEN GROWTH** highlights the AfDB’s continuous commitment to the sustainable development of the continent. Indeed, in the past ten years, the Bank has increased investments in clean energy, adaptation to climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources, among others. This intensification of “green” investments was made possible by the development of appropriate financial instruments, as well as by the establishment of expert groups within the Bank. This includes the creation of the AfDB’s Environment and Climate Change Division and, most recently, the African Natural Resources Center. Over the coming years, the AfDB will look to reinforce strategic partnerships and facilitate discussions around green growth, with a view to realizing the objectives of its 2013-2022 strategy to the benefit of African people.

**Sierra Leone: Mobilising resources for green growth**

The AfDB has just put the finishing touches on a new tool as part of its ongoing support to Sierra Leone, as the country transitions to greener growth. The publication, *Sierra Leone: Investing in environmentally sound economic growth* (see **Our publications**) aims to facilitate the mobilization of funds dedicated to green growth interventions under Sierra Leone’s 2013-2018 poverty reduction strategy. Designed for public and private investors alike, the publication will help more easily identify opportunities for investment in green growth in the country.

*Alex Rugamba*

*Director of the Energy, Environment and Climate Change Department (ONEC)*
AfDB steps up involvement in natural resources management in Africa
To help African countries better benefit from the use of their natural resources, the AfDB has created the African Natural Resources Center. The center is expected to play a strategic role in the sustainable development of the continent, providing advisory services and technical assistance to member countries.

The Bank supports green growth initiative in Egypt
In December 2013, the AfDB and the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation signed a grant agreement of US$2 million. The grant, which comes from the Middle East and North Africa Transition Fund, will be used for the creation of an integrated industrial waste exchange system that will link industrial waste generators, potential users and recyclers. The objective is to reduce the environmental impact of industrial waste while creating green jobs.

Call for proposals under the Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program (SREP)
The Climate Investment Funds (CIF) launched a second call for proposals for innovative programs and projects in renewable energy. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2014. US$36 million are available for new projects in support of private sector investment in renewable energy in SREP pilot countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali and Tanzania. For more information, click here.

By the numbers
85% of the AfDB’s investment in power generation were in clean energy

Our publications
Climate Change Action Plan 2011-2015
Sierra Leone: Investing in environmentally sound economic growth
An OPEV evaluation of environmental mainstreaming, safeguards, and results in AfDB road projects (1999–2010)
SE4ALL Africa Hub: Powering affordable, reliable and sustainable energy

Sustainable Energy For All: Partner meeting in Tunis
In December 2013, the AfDB, which hosts the African platform of Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL), gathered the initiative’s partners in Tunis. The proceedings of the workshop were used to develop a methodology for promoting SE4ALL at the country level. “The AfDB is ready to mobilize a range of its financial instruments” in support of the initiative, said Bank Group President, Donald Kaberuka. For more information on SE4ALL, visit: http://www.se4all.org.

The Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa invests in Morocco and Mauritius
In late December 2013, the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (SEFA) approved a grant of nearly US$1 million for the preparation of the Jbel-Sendoug wind project in northern Morocco. This project involves the development of a 120 MW wind farm in an area with a high demand for electricity.

SEFA also approved a grant of US$1 million for a Mauritian company that will develop and install an innovative cooling system for buildings on the island using seawater.
Burkina Faso: New member of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Burkina Faso, supported by the World Bank and the AfDB, has just joined the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and thus qualifies as a REDD+ country. The country’s membership results from its collaboration with the Forest Investment Program. A grant of US$3.8 million will allow Burkina Faso to implement a national REDD+ strategy to fight the deforestation and degradation of its woodlands, which represent 43% of the country’s territory.

Ghana: Increasing community participation in sustainable forest management

With support from the AfDB, Ghana has received a grant of US$14.5 million from the Forest Investment Program for a project aimed at reducing deforestation and forest degradation with the support of local communities. This project will indirectly benefit 175,000 people and directly benefit 12,000 through capacity building activities and the provision of seeds and equipment.

African Water Facility: Improved natural resources management for more resilient communities

The African Water Facility (AWF) has awarded a €2 million grant to the African Ministers Council on Water to establish a monitoring system of Africa’s water resources. Moreover, the AWF has provided a €960,000 grant to the Niger Basin Authority to support the preparation of an infrastructure program. The initiative will help curb the degradation of natural resources resulting from climate change, and thereby improve agricultural production and the resilience of communities.

An ambitious water management program to promote the development of Kenya’s semi-arid regions

The AfDB has committed to support the implementation of Phase 1 of the Thwake Multi-purpose Water Development Program. This program includes the construction of a dam that can store 681 million m³ of water. The objective is to increase the resilience and autonomy of the inhabitants of two of the poorest counties in Kenya. In addition to technical support, the Bank will provide 35% of the funding for Phase 1 investments.

AfDB: Key Power Africa partner

In 2013, the AfDB mobilized a total of US$670 million for various investments in connection with Power Africa. Examples...
of the operations funded include the interconnection of power grids in Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea; the proposed Lake Turkana wind farm in Kenya; and the energy sector privatization program in Nigeria.

**AfDB becomes first African partner of new online platform dedicated to green growth knowledge management**

The AfDB is a member of the *Green Growth Knowledge Platform*, which was launched in late January 2014. The website facilitates the sharing of information generated by the different green growth partners. The AfDB already has two publications on the platform – *Towards Green Growth in Africa* and *Sierra Leone: Transitioning Towards Green Growth; Stocktaking and the Way Forward*.

**AfDB commits to help ensure the sustainability of China’s projects in Africa**

During a meeting with the Chinese government in Beijing, the AfDB agreed to support Chinese companies operating in Africa so that the firms can improve the environmental and social sustainability of their activities. China is one of the most important partners in Africa, with a total investment portfolio of over US$19 billion.

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