Development, Environment and Climate
in search for integration

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RURAL FUTURES

GREAT GREEN WALL

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Influencing economic and social policies/institutions and development practices that shape conservation opportunities

Development and the Environment
- Development, trade and the environment
- Development, poverty and the environment
- Development, climate and the environment
Africa: Development, Environment and Climate

- Emergence of new policy and institutional centers
- Segmented international agenda (different regimes)
- Investments directed to sectoral programmes (weakened the role of the state)
- Absence of a larger, agreed upon development strategy
  - Integration and mainstreaming agenda is best lodged in the development context
Particularly urgent in Africa given its unique development context:

- Incomplete demographic transition
  - From 860 million people today, to 1.2 billion in 2025 and 1.8 billion in 2050

In a context of:

- Higher international competition linked to globalization
- Growing constraints related to climate change and environmental degradation

- Renewed emphasis given to economic transformation
The Agenda

Organized around the multiple function of the rural sector and the role of rural transformation as a pathway to

- create employment, livelihood opportunities for the majority of the population;
- accelerate economic or structural transition that underlies national development;
- secure integrity in the natural environment and its fundamental importance to livelihoods, landscapes and prosperity (from local to global scale).

The program

- Broad consultations in 2009/10
- Launch by NEPAD in collaboration with UNECA, AUC and WWF in 2010
- Endorsed by Africa heads of state in, at the Africa Summit in Jan 2011
- Strategic briefing meetings at regionally and globally in 2011
- Design and development of a five year strategy and implementation framework
Rural Futures Program - new thinking and action for development

Accelerated Development and Sustainability in Africa

1. Expansion of employment and livelihood opportunities
2. Diversified and accelerated economic growth
3. Enhanced local-to-global environmental sustainability

Platforms for African leadership established to build a new development vision
- New conceptual frameworks and approaches for rural transformation as an African-led pathway for development created
- Improved conditions and processes necessary for advancing rural transformation at the local, national and regional levels
- New investment in programs and projects promoting rural transformation and structural change
- New partnerships and mechanisms for accountability in place at the national, regional, continental and global levels to transform development in Africa

Objectives

1. Informing the development discourse: Building the knowledge base and broad consensus around a rural transformation agenda as an African-led pathway for development
2. Positioning the agenda: Advancing enabling policy and institutional conditions and processes necessary for advancing rural transformation and integrated development action
3. Investing in action: Promoting innovations with potential to serve as models for rural transformation and by launching strategic flagship interventions
4. Mobilize for change: Building new partnerships and mechanisms to accelerate rural transformation and promoting alignment and accountability at national, regional, continental and global levels

Outcomes

1. Diversified and accelerated economic growth
2. Enhanced local-to-global environmental sustainability
3. Informing the development discourse: Building the knowledge base and broad consensus around a rural transformation agenda as an African-led pathway for development
4. Positioning the agenda: Advancing enabling policy and institutional conditions and processes necessary for advancing rural transformation and integrated development action
Rural Futures: Pathways to change

Building an integrated development vision and interrelating actions to connect institutional frameworks, public policy, investments and market opportunities to:

- **Raising productivity of the rural economy**, looking beyond the agricultural sector to complementary opportunities for creating and diversifying employment and livelihoods

- **Adding value to rural and agricultural investments**, identifying and supporting opportunities associated with markets (rural – urban linkages) and value chain addition to on-farm and rural non-farm economic activity

- **Intensifying regional economic and political integration** while at the same time strengthening Africa’s position in global policy processes - building competitiveness from local to regional levels;

- **Enhancing environmental sustainability**, mitigating tensions and promoting synergies and innovative measures to safeguard ecosystem services and reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcity - addressing climate change and moving towards a green economic development pathway.