



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

Different circumstance & context for development

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**

Understanding Rural Futures

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*

Vision

Accelerated Development and Sustainability in Africa

Goals

1. Expansion of employment and livelihood opportunities

2. Diversified and accelerated economic growth

3. Enhanced local-to-global environmental sustainability

Outcomes

- ✓ 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

Rural Futures: Pathways to change

Building a 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.