



KENYA IN THE RUN-UP TO PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Minutes of the France-Madagascar and Indian Ocean countries interparliamentary group's visit to Kenya

6th to 11th September 2015

A delegation of the France-Madagascar and Indian Ocean countries friendship group composed of Mr Hervé Maurey, Deputy President for Kenya, Mr Ronan Dantec, Deputy President for Tanzania and Mr Patrick Chaize, Vice President, visited Kenya from 6th to 11th September 2015.

The delegation was received in Nairobi by Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Director of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), Mrs Anne Waiguru, Minister for Local Government, and Mr Kinuthia Wamwangi, Chairman of the Transitional Authority.

The delegation met Mr Lenny Kivuti, Chairman of the Senate Committee for Land and Natural Resources and Mrs Joyce Laboso, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, at the Parliament.

Through working breakfasts and receptions given by Mr Rémy Maréchaux, France's Ambassador to Kenya, the French community was heavily involved in these exchanges. The delegation also met young French experts serving in UN bodies in Nairobi.

In the field, the delegation visited the district of Kibera, considered to be one of the largest slums in Africa, to visit a water sanitation project funded by the French Development Agency (*Agence Française du Développement* - AFD). On a trip to Nakuru, the delegation visited the geothermal power plant in Olkaria, which also received support from the AFD. The friendship group's visit to Kenya ended with a meeting with the Governor of Nakuru.

As part of preparations for the Paris Climate Conference, and following a letter from Mr Jean-Claude Gaudin, Senate Vice-President in charge of International

Activities, asking the friendship group Presidents for input on climate issues, most of the delegation's discussions and visits concerned climate issues in Kenya and across Africa more generally.

The Senators' visit was intended to give them a better understanding of the issues at stake for Kenya and the African continent as a whole in the negotiations aimed at reaching an agreement at COP21. The visit showed that Kenya is a model for Africa through the actions it has already taken and those it has committed to.



Kenya: facts and figures

Area: 580,000 km²
 Capital city: Nairobi
 Official Language: English, Swahili
 Population: 44 million
 Population growth: 2.3%
 Literacy rate: 87 %
 Growth rate: 5.4% (2014)
 GDP by sector (2013): agriculture (29%),
 manufacturing (17%), services (53%).

1. The challenges of COP21 for the African continent

The meeting with Mr Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Director of UNEP, helped provide the delegation with an overview of African contributions to COP21.

Mr Thiaw reminded the delegation that UNEP supports the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and oversees implementation of agreements made at previous annual Conferences of the Parties (COP). It trains negotiators and prepares reports, including The Adaptation Gap, a report which is a benchmark for many delegations.

Mr Thiaw considered it difficult to measure the objective of limiting global warming because not all States have submitted their contributions, whether this be countries that are large emitters, or those that are not yet large emitters but are expected to become so because of their population growth. Africa will have 4 billion inhabitants by 2100.

Africa's ecological footprint increased by 240% between 1961 and 2008 as a result of population growth and the increase in per capita consumption. Assuming that resource constraints do not limit growth, Africa's ecological footprint is expected to double by 2040.

While we cannot oppose Africa's economic development on the pretext of preserving nature, the challenge is to ensure that economic growth does not occur at the expense of the "sustainability" of natural resources.

We must take a long-term view, which makes negotiations problematic.

According to the annual Adaptation Gap report, two thirds of Africa's population currently have no access to electricity. To remedy this, it recommends encouraging investment in clean energy over the long term. In the short term, an

increase in coal consumption will be inevitable, because of its lower cost. Various scenarios are being studied: 2020, 2050 and 2070.

Beyond talking about street lighting and connecting homes to the grid, the "electrification of development" will be at the heart of discussions. The various activities of the agricultural sector (production, storage, processing) must enjoy access to local renewable energy so that surrounding populations can benefit from the creation of added value.

Mr Thiaw believes that access to energy on the African continent and Africa's electrification initiative, supported by Mr. Jean-Louis Borloo, must be driven by African Heads of State.

Priorities for successfully engineering Africa's ecological turning point must be clearly expressed. For African experts, there are two priorities:

1/ Transforming African agriculture to make it more profitable.

On one hand, production is expensive because of the lack of energy and on the other hand, half of production is lost due to poor storage conditions. This is particularly regrettable because there are significant opportunities in Europe, and African products are healthy.



At UNEP headquarters, from left to right: Mr Chaize, Mr Maurey, Mrs Annick Mathis, Mr Thiaw, Mr Dantec and Mrs Inès Abdel Razek-Faoder

2/ Creating small and medium enterprises in Africa to industrialise the continent

Production is at the heart of sustainable development in Africa.

Africa needs financing. Funds could be channelled through the African Development Bank, which would coordinate the finance -whether through grants, investment or loans.

These projects represent a great opportunity, especially for Europe, which is the gateway to Africa.

II. Kenya, a model for Africa

For some time now, Kenya has had an "ecological bent". This environmental awareness is symbolised by Mr Wangari Maathai, 2004 Nobel Peace Prize winner for his environmental work (the "Green Belt Movement").

Kenya's nature reserves and parks are among the most beautiful in Africa. About 10% of the land area is protected by law. Despite farming and poaching, these reserves still harbour an incredible diversity of birds and mammals.

Following the ban on hunting in the country in 1977, the Kenya Wildlife Service has devoted itself entirely to the protection of wildlife.

However, as in many developing countries, charcoal is the main source of energy. Illegal logging has a major impact on deforestation, a phenomenon that the delegation observed on its visit to Kibera. Extending access to electricity for Kenyans (coverage is now about 30%) is therefore a fundamental issue.

Kenya has been developing geothermal electricity since the 1980s. This endogenous resource provides Kenya with a reliable, sustainable and local electricity supply. It also helps the country to bring down the cost of electricity (between 7 and 11 euro-cents per kWh). Geothermal electricity is a low-carbon energy, which emits little greenhouse gas. Significant investments have been made in the Olkaria geothermal plant in Naivasha in the Rift Valley, which the delegation visited with Mr Albert Mugo, Managing Director of KenGen, the national power generation company. A fourth geothermal plant was opened in 2014 after a €60 million loan from the French Development Agency (AFD).

The Senators were therefore able to witness the significant investments made by Kenya and international donors to develop the production of renewable energies. The Kenyan government hopes that by 2030 more than half of the country's electricity production will come from renewable energies, with 25% of it coming from geothermal power plants.

Mr Mugo emphasized the financial benefits that energy transition represents for Kenya. The recent commissioning of geothermal plants has significantly reduced the average cost of electricity in Kenya. This country was

one of the first African countries to submit its national contribution to the UN in July 2015 and it is one of the most dynamic in the context of preparations for COP21.

Kenya currently emits about 20 times less CO₂ per capita per year than the European Union, for example. The country is therefore responsible for very little of the current climate change. It is interesting to note that Kenya has already submitted its national contribution to COP21, aiming to be among the global leaders in reducing greenhouse gases and adapting to the effects of climate change. It submitted its contribution before many rich countries and is more ambitious than most developed countries (*see box*).

The country is currently investing in renewable energies (geothermal, wind, solar and hydro), demonstrating that African countries can gradually free themselves from dependence on fossil fuels while reducing poverty and thus avoid repeating the mistakes of industrialised countries. However, this low-carbon development based on renewables requires international aid in the form of financial and technological support.

This is the challenge of the \$100 billion annual contribution –agreed in 2009 at the UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen– that developed countries have pledged from 2020 to help poor countries adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.



The Friendship Group delegation during a visit to the Olkaria geothermal plant, with teams from the AFD and KenGen

Kenya's contribution to COP21

Period: until 2030

Objective: Kenya expects to reduce its GHG emissions by 30%

Costs: Over \$40 billion. The Kenyan government has requested support from the international community to help finance its overall plan.

Estimated GHG emissions: 73 MtCO₂ in 2010

GHG profile:

- 75% originate from land use, changes in land use, forestry activities and the agricultural sector
- Energy and transport

Costs: Over \$40 billion. Kenya will request international support in the form of financial aid, investments, development and technology transfer in order to successfully carry out its project.

Objectives and measures:

- Drawing up a strategic response to national climate change (2010); a national action plan on climate change (2013), and a national climate adaption plan currently being prepared.
- Institutional reforms to improve coordination efforts in adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change. This includes setting up a National Council on Climate Change and also a Climate Change Board to advise the government on projects and national action plans relating to climate change.

It will provide coordination and technical assistance on all climate change issues in all the counties of Kenya.

Developing the production of thermal, solar and wind energy as well as other clean and renewable energy sources.

- Develop high-yield energy and resources across different sectors
- Increase forest cover to 10% of Kenya's total land area
- Develop energy technologies to reduce the amount of wood fuels used
- Develop low-carbon energy-efficient transport systems
- Develop climate-smart agriculture
- Develop a sustainable waste management system

Source :

http://www4.unfccc.int/submissions/INDC/Published%20Documents/Kenya/1/Kenya_INDC_20150723.pdf

Composition of the delegation

Mr Hervé MAUREY
Senator of Eure
(UDI-UC)
Deputy President (for Kenya)



Mr Ronan DANTEC
Senator of Loire-Atlantique
(Greens)
Deputy President (for Tanzania)



Mr Patrick CHAIZE
Senator of Ain
(Republicans)
Vice-President of the Friendship
Group

Composition of the Friendship Group: http://www.senat.fr/group-interparlementaire-amicie/ami_622.html