



**Africa Think
Tank Summit**

2024 Africa Think Tank Summit

**Theme: “Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate
Financing in Africa”**

CONCEPT NOTE



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1. Background

For more than thirty years, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) has been building human capital and institutional capacity for Africa's sustainable development. With membership from 40 African Countries, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Bank, ACBF is the leading institution for capacity development in Africa. While serving all actors, ACBF recognizes the importance of and pays attention to improving the effectiveness of Africa's public sector institutions at country, regional, and continental levels to become effective systems integrators and catalyzers of sustainable and transformative change. Since its creation in 1991, ACBF has trained more than

50,000 personnel in civil service, most of whom hold key positions in Ministries of Finance, Planning or Economic Development, and Central Banks across the continent. The Foundation has established a network of over 50 think tanks supporting evidence-based policymaking across Africa and conducted over 290 policy research/analysis, which has been critical in informing economic management and establishing benchmarks for success. ACBF's Strategic Plan 2023-2027 focuses on responding to the current and future needs identified by member states and on building human capital and institutions for the future.

For the period 2023 to 2027, ACBF has come up with a Strategic Plan whose vision is a prosperous, resilient, and inclusive Africa and riding on the mission that aims at developing the human capital and institutions required to enable Africa's inclusive and sustainable development. To achieve this, ACBF is focusing on four key impact areas, namely:



Climate Change and Energy for Productive Use



Agribusiness and Food Sovereignty



Trade as an Engine of Economic Development



Economic and Social Governance

In carrying out its mandate to strengthen institutional and human capacities for sustainable development in Africa, ACBF organizes statutory meetings and peer-learning and knowledge exchange forums. This year, ACBF is convening its **33rd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the ACBF** under the theme ***“Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa”***. This statutory meeting will be held on 11 October 2024 and preceded by the **2024 Africa Think Tank Summit planned on 8-10 October 2024 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.**

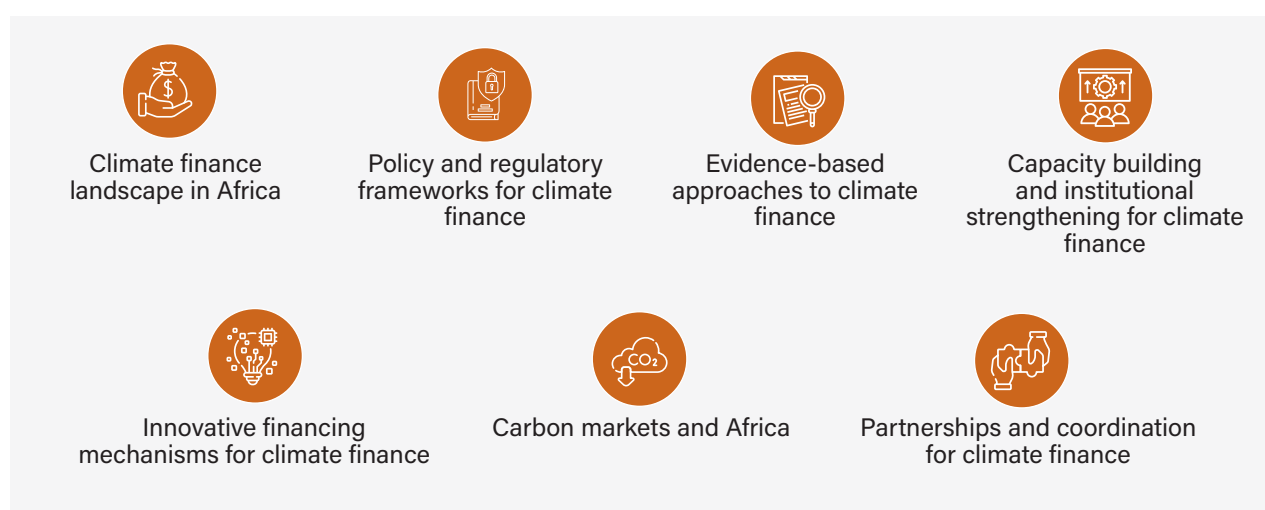
2. What: Event Theme and Components

2.1 Event theme

Proposed theme: "Evidence-Based Strategies for Sustainable Climate Financing in Africa".

This theme focuses on identifying and evaluating evidence-based strategies to mobilize, channel, and manage climate finance to support climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the African continent. It explores the challenges, opportunities, and best practices in ensuring that climate finance is utilized effectively and equitably to drive sustainable development.

Potential sub-themes:



2.2 Event Components

This event will consist of two complementary components: the **2024 Africa Think Tank Summit and the 33rd ACBF Board of Governors Meeting.**

2024 Africa Think Tank Summit (8-10 October 2024)

This 3-day summit will bring together think tankers, policymakers, researchers, practitioners (including the private sector), development partners, and other key stakeholders from across Africa and beyond to explore evidence-based strategies for mobilizing sustainable climate finance. The summit will feature panel discussions, interactive workshops, and networking sessions covering the following key topics, such as innovative financing instruments, strengthening technical and institutional capacity, successful initiatives, and policy and regulatory frameworks that can incentivize sustainable climate investments and overcome barriers to climate finance access.

33rd ACBF Annual Board of Governors Meeting (11 October 2024)

Following the Africa think tank summit, the event will conclude with a high-level Board of Governors meeting. This one-day meeting will bring together ACBF Governors (mainly Ministries of Finance, Planning, and/or Economic Development), senior policymakers, and development partners to discuss the activities of ACBF over the past year and receive guidance on the required critical capacity building interventions at the continental, regional, and country levels. This will be an opportunity to also discuss the key insights and recommendations emerging from the summit.

3. Why: The Rationale



Climate change poses an existential threat to many communities across Africa, requiring urgent action and innovative financing solutions. Africa is one of the region's most vulnerable to its impacts, yet it contributes the least to global greenhouse gas emissions. Many African nations lack the financial resources and technical capacity to respond effectively to the climate crisis. The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (CoP28) was the first COP to officially recognize that fossil fuels are the main cause of climate change. Over 100 countries agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double global energy efficiency rates by 2030. The event saw a record number of delegates, including over 2,000 representatives from fossil fuel companies. The summit started with a positive announcement of USD400 million in funding for climate disaster resilience in vulnerable countries and discussions about a new climate agreement that would phase out fossil fuels.¹ While the amount pledged is a positive step, it is likely not enough to meet the immense needs of vulnerable countries facing the brunt of climate change impacts.

For instance, estimates suggest the annual adaptation finance gap for developing countries to be at US\$194–366 billion per year, with adaptation finance needs in developing countries likely to be 10–18 times as great as finance flows – over 50 percent higher than the previous range estimate.² African countries are continuously searching for ways and means to generate evidence and knowledge to feed into the policy process, leading to a successful and impactful implementation of the recommendations of the outcomes of COP28 while preparing for the COP29 scheduled for 11-24 November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan. As prominent actors with expertise and experience in policy research, advocacy, advice, and capacity building, African think tanks have a significant role to play in shaping public policy around climate resilience, adaptation, and climate finance. As African countries are reflecting on how to best implement the recommendations of COP28 while preparing for COP29, think tanks can support the process by contributing to mobilizing expertise and sharing evidence on climate-related issues while spreading new ideas and catalyzing action for change.

1. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2023/12/cop28-key-outcomes-un-climate-summit/#:~:text=The%20UN%20climate%20summit%2C%20COP28,of%20energy%20efficiency%20by%202030> (accessed on 20 December 2023)
2. Adaptation Gap Report 2023: <https://www.unep.org/resources/adaptation-gap-report-2023>

4. How: The Process

The event will be organized by a multidisciplinary team made of staff based at the ACBF and various institutions and Ministries in Côte d'Ivoire. The team will work closely with local and regional partners in Africa to ensure the event's relevance and impact.

For the 2024 Africa Think Tank Summit, the organizers will:

- Develop detailed concept note, including an interactive agenda.
- Curate a diverse lineup of speakers and moderators representing various expertise, experiences, perspectives, and geographies.
- Facilitate interactive workshops and networking sessions to foster knowledge exchange and cross-pollination of ideas.
- Document the summit's proceedings and synthesize the key insights and recommendations into various knowledge products (newsletter, communique, report, etc.,).

For the Board of Governors Meeting, the organizers will:

- Invite Board Members and institutional partners.
- Structure the agenda to encourage open dialogue, spur strategic discussions, and catalyze specific commitments.
- Develop a post-event action plan to track the implementation of the agreed-upon initiatives and investments.

5. Outcomes: The Expected Impact

By the end of this event, participants will:



Gain a deeper understanding of the climate finance landscape in Africa and the key challenges and opportunities.



Establish new connections and collaborative opportunities to advance evidence-based climate finance solutions in Africa.



Discover innovative financing instruments that can be replicated and scaled up across the continent.



Secure high-level commitments and actionable roadmaps to translate the event's recommendations into tangible initiatives and investments.



Learn about effective strategies for strengthening institutional capacities and enabling policy environments to accelerate climate finance flows.

The insights, best practices, and commitments generated from this event will be widely disseminated to policymakers, financial institutions, and development partners to inform and catalyze future climate finance initiatives in Africa.



THE AFRICAN CAPACITY BUILDING FOUNDATION | FONDATION POUR LE RENFORCEMENT DES CAPACITES EN AFRIQUE

✉ comms@acbf-pact.org

🌐 <https://www.acbf-pact.org>

📖 <https://elibrary.acbf-pact.org/>

🌐 www.linkedin.com/company/africa-capacity-building-foundation

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