

## ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change poses a significant and direct threat to African development through its impacts on water resources, health, and food security, and from climate-induced disasters. The impact of climate change affects natural resources conservation and their sustainable use, and threatens to reverse decades of socio-economic development efforts on the continent.

Failure to respond will undermine international efforts to achieve MDGs and seriously affect human security. Among priority actions are mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce the impact of climate change, and development of renewable and alternative energy with appropriate technology.

The TICAD Ministerial Conference on Energy and Environment for Sustainable Development, held in March 2007 in Nairobi, explored ways and means to enhance cooperation among African countries, donor countries, and other international institutions by analyzing best practices in access to energy and environmental protection and looking for the best policy-mix measures for the future.

Efforts toward African energy and environment development were divided into three categories: (a) establishing ownership, represented by local and central government initiatives; (b) promotion of regional cooperation; and (c) deepening of partnerships, including public-private cooperation, by making the best use of the private sector's advanced technology.

### Environment and energy initiatives

The Government of Japan has supported African development in energy and environment through a number of initiatives, including a study on desertification prevention measures in Segou, Mali; technical cooperation in intensification of farm forestry activities in semi-arid areas in Kenya; grant aid to improve water supplies in coastal regions in Guinea; and construction of a wind power plan project in Zafarana on the Red Sea coast in Egypt.

Japan has also assisted regional cooperation on groundwater development, including a water supply training project in Ethiopia; a technical cooperation program at the African Institute for Capacity Development; a joint venture between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with the participation of 15 schools; and an energy for poverty reduction initiative that uses multi-functional diesel power systems in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, and Senegal.

An international framework: Cool Earth 50

To address the pressing issue of climate change, an effective international framework is needed following the expiration of the Kyoto Protocol in 2012. Japan therefore proposed the Cool Earth 50 initiative in 2007, calling for halving of global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, with three principles for a post-Kyoto framework:

- All major emitters must participate, leading to the global reduction of emissions;
- The framework must be flexible and diverse; and
- The framework must achieve compatibility between environmental protection and economic growth.



Japan's Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda built on this initiative at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2008, presenting the Cool Earth Promotion Programme, which proposes: (1) Japan and other major emitters will set a quantified national target for the greenhouse gas emissions reductions; (2) A global target of 30 per cent improvement in energy efficiency by 2020, and Japan will establish a new financial mechanism, the Cool Earth Partnership, to provide US\$10 billion to support developing countries' climate change mitigation and adaptation activities; and (3) Japan will develop innovative technologies and a shift to a low-carbon society, investing approximately US\$30 billion in research and development in the fields of environment and energy.

The Cool Earth Promotion Programme offers significant opportunities for cooperation with Africa within the TICAD process to address issues relating to the environment and climate change that pose major development challenges.

