

# 11<sup>TH</sup> MALABO MONTPELLIER FORUM

## EVENT BRIEF

“Policy Innovations to Unlock  
Climate Finance for Resilient Food  
Systems in Africa”



December 5, 2022 | Dakar, Senegal

# Background

The biannual [Malabo Montpellier Forum](#) convenes senior decision-makers to assess strategies for meeting global agriculture and food security goals. Dialogue between the Panel, key stakeholders, NGOs, and the private sector promotes the sharing of high-quality research across borders. Through exchange and mutual learning among leaders in agricultural growth and food security, the Malabo Montpellier Forum provides a platform to promote policy innovation using evidence produced by the [Malabo Montpellier Panel](#).

The Forum seeks to create a space for politicians and policymakers to exchange directly on issues of strategic importance in a context free from domestic pressures. Every meeting of the Forum is guided by a technical report prepared by members of the Malabo Montpellier Panel; these research reports provide high-level decision-makers with access to the latest evidence to guide effective implementation of policies and programs that benefit smallholder farmers in Africa, especially women and young people.

## The 11<sup>th</sup> Malabo Montpellier Forum

The December 5 Forum was convened to unveil the Malabo Montpellier Panel's 11<sup>th</sup> report on the topic of climate adaptation finance for food systems transformation.

Organized in partnership with the Centre de Suivi Écologique (CSE), the hybrid event attracted

 **39**  
in-person

 **275**  
virtual attendees

with Benin, Gambia, Mali, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, and Zimbabwe represented at senior government level. The session featured an exciting lineup of high-level



stakeholders, including Senegal's Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development, and Ecological Transition, H.E. Alioune Ndoye, Forum Co-Chair, H.E. Dr. Assia Ben Salah Alaoui, Ambassador at Large to His Majesty King Mohamed VI of Morocco, CSE Director General, Prof. Cheikh Mbow, and Panel Co-Chairs, Dr. Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson at AKADEMIYA2063 and Prof. Joachim von Braun, Distinguished Professor at ZEF, University of Bonn.

The meeting of the Forum was held in four parts: (i) keynote addresses from the session Chairs and the Minister, (ii) a technical part drawing on the findings and recommendations from the Panel, with presentations from Panel Members **Dr. Debisi Araba** and **Eng. Dr. Dorothy Okello**, (iii) a policy roundtable composed of senior representatives from African governments, development partners, civil society, and the private sector, (iv) and a final part dedicated to reactions and reflections on the way forward. **Full list of speakers.**



“The theme of today’s Forum is of the utmost importance to the world and especially to us here in Africa. The climate emergency comes at a time when countries are grappling with the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. We must act quickly. In this context and at the behest of President Macky Sall and the President of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, the leaders of more than 25 countries and 20 organizations launched the International Alliance for Drought Resilience at COP27 to accelerate action and help countries better prepare for future droughts”.

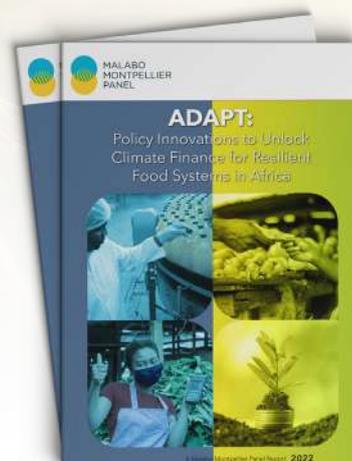
### **H.E. Alioune Ndoye**

*Minister of Environment,  
Sustainable Development, and  
Ecological Transition, Senegal*



## About the Climate Finance Report

This Malabo Montpellier Panel report, entitled [ADAPT: Policy Innovations to Unlock Climate Finance for Resilient Food Systems in Africa](#), highlights opportunities for African countries to stimulate more public and private sector financing while also calling for greater access to global funding. The report analyzes the experience of four systematically selected African countries: Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe to apprehend what government actions – policy and institutional innovations and programmatic interventions – have contributed to building a conducive enabling environment for leveraging



international climate finance for food systems transformation. The report brings to the fore what these four African countries are doing right and explores lessons for the continent for replication and scaling up.



“We must build on the [COP27] momentum and learn from those countries on our continent that have been able to successfully mobilize and tap into international climate finance to build stronger and more resilient food systems.”

**H.E. Dr. Assia Ben Salah Alaoui**

*Ambassador at large to the King of Morocco  
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Forum*



## Recommendations from the Malabo Montpellier Panel Climate Finance Report

Given the degree of vulnerability of Africa's food systems and the implications of too little being done too late, calls have been issued for urgent action to unlock additional climate adaptation finance and to meet existing commitments that will make US\$ 100 billion available to developing countries annually.

As shown in this report, a wide range of innovative financing tools and mechanisms exist to mobilize additional finance from both the public and the private sectors. Moreover, our analysis of the policy and institutional innovations in four systematically selected African countries – Benin, Mali, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe – provides examples of effective government action to leverage climate adaptation finance for food systems transformation.

In this report, the Malabo Montpellier Panel hence makes the following recommendations to mobilize climate adaptation finance for resilient food systems:

1. Systematically align the food and climate agendas
  - » Build the technical knowledge and capacity that straddles climate, agriculture, and finance across government.
2. Mainstream climate change adaptation and resilience-building activities into policies and investment decision-making across government.
  - » Develop a pipeline of bankable projects focused on food systems and related infrastructures and supported by investible adaptation plans.
  - » Support locally led adaptation efforts to ensure that resilience-building interventions meet the needs of the most vulnerable and have a sustainable impact.
3. Scale up efforts to attract private capital for adaptation across food systems.
4. Design reliable tracking mechanisms and simple digital tools to record climate finance flows at the national level.
5. Streamline, coordinate, and rationalize policies at donor institutions to unlock opportunities for recipient countries to access more and better finance.



“African countries are already seizing the initiative to direct national resources toward helping agriculture and food production cope with climate extremes. Our report shows how governments can maximize existing tools and leverage homegrown innovative financing to further bolster food security on the continent”.

**Dr. Ousmane Badiane**

*Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063  
Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel*



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“The African Union has made addressing the impacts of climate change a top priority because of its far-reaching consequences for people, livelihoods and communities. This report provides valuable insights to empower African governments in the many ways they can direct more streamlined and effective funding towards future food security.”

**Prof. Cheikh Mbow**

Director General, Centre de  
Suivi Écologique



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“The countries highlighted in this report have shown that Africa is mobilizing proactively to determine its own destiny when it comes to resilience under climate change. Rural populations will benefit from investing in climate resilient food systems by green economic growth with green jobs”.

**Prof. Joachim von Braun**

Distinguished Professor, ZEF,  
University of Bonn

Co-Chair, Malabo Montpellier Panel

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# Recap of Communications Activities

A wide range of communications initiatives were deployed to drive stakeholder engagement and media coverage around the event, with the following outputs.

## Press Release and Blog Post

The press release featured statements from the spokespersons of the co-organizers, the Malabo Montpellier Panel and CSE, with more details about the key findings of the report, as well as the policy implications. The press release was followed by a blog post highlighting key findings and recommendations from the climate finance report. [Press Release](#). [Blog post](#).

## Media Coverage

The 11th Malabo Montpellier Forum attracted coverage from over 29 media outlets. Some key outlets that took interest in the Malabo Montpellier Panel climate finance report and Forum include [CNBC Africa](#), [Context Newsroom](#) (by Thompson Reuters), [Down to Earth Magazine](#), [RTS](#), and [Seneweb](#). View the [Media Coverage Tracker](#).

## Video and Photo Coverage

Coverage of the Malabo Montpellier Panel climate finance report and the 11th Forum is captured in four videos: (i) a [promotional video](#) providing insights into the climate finance research, (ii) Forum [highlight video 1](#), (iii) Forum [highlight video 2](#), (iv) and [full highlights](#) of the event. Visit the [YouTube Playlist](#). View the [pictures on Flickr](#).

## Climate Finance Resources





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