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AFRICA PRACTICE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE CLIMATE ACTION IN AFRICA



Windhoek - 5 September 2024 - Africa Practice (AP), a mission-led strategic consulting firm, and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), a global nonprofit organisation tackling climate change, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together to address climate challenges and promote sustainable energy solutions across Africa. The partnership was officially announced by Richard Kiplagat, Director at Africa Practice, at the Global Africa Hydrogen Summit taking place in Windhoek, Namibia.

The MOU aims to support a successful energy transition in Africa by accelerating the reduction of methane emissions from the oil and gas sector, while ensuring that new green hydrogen projects achieve their potential as climate solutions. The MoU outlines several key objectives:

1. **Elevating climate policy discourse:** The partnership will focus on disseminating EDF's research findings to local audiences, promoting more informed debate on critical issues such as hydrogen development and methane reduction.
2. **Amplifying African voices:** Africa Practice will work to share African perspectives with global policymakers, ensuring that international climate initiatives are better adapted to local contexts and dynamics.
3. **Methane abatement strategy:** A joint advocacy strategy will be developed to address methane abatement opportunities in Africa's oil and gas sector, including efforts to secure additional signatories to the Oil and Gas Decarbonization Charter. Cutting methane emissions could slow down climate change by avoiding more than 0.2°C of global warming, improve air quality and public health, enhance agricultural productivity by preventing millions of tons of crop losses and strengthen Africa's role in global climate leadership.
4. **Stakeholder engagement:** The partnership will convene key stakeholders to advance conversations on methane abatement opportunities across the continent.

According to the [International Energy Agency Methane Tracker for 2024](#), the aggregate methane emissions from Africa's Oil & Gas sector were approximately 9,200 kilotons in 2023; this equates to 67% of all energy sector methane emissions for the region. Methane poses severe health risks as high-emitting companies and processes pollute the air, often in areas where marginalised communities live and work.

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"This partnership builds on the Environmental Defense Fund's long history of effective collaboration globally and locally and commitment to turn science into action to stabilise the climate. We look forward to working with Africa Practice to help put sound science at the heart of Africa's energy and climate policy discourse and to focus on two immediate action areas: cutting climate-warming methane emissions from Africa's oil and gas sector and getting its emerging hydrogen systems right," said **Mark Brownstein, EDF Senior Vice President, Energy Transition**.

Richard Kiplagat, Managing Director of East Africa and Group Chief Commercial Officer at Africa Practice, commented on the partnership: "This MoU with the Environmental Defense Fund marks a significant step in our commitment to driving sustainable development in Africa. Green hydrogen is poised to be a significant catalyst for Africa's sustainable development. This clean energy carrier offers immense potential to transform Africa's energy landscape, drive economic growth, and contribute significantly to global decarbonization efforts. By combining our local expertise with EDF's global experience, we are in a unique position to make a real impact on climate policy and action across the continent."

The announcement of this MoU at the Global Africa Hydrogen Summit underscores the growing importance of collaborative efforts in addressing climate challenges and shaping the future of clean energy in Africa.

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For more information about this partnership or to request an interview, please contact:

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Notes to the editors:

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Richard Kiplagat, Managing Director East Africa and Group Chief Commercial Officer at Africa Practice and Mark Brownstein, EDF Senior Vice President, Energy Transition, at the Global Africa Hydrogen Summit taking place in Windhoek, Namibia.

About [Africa Practice](#)

Africa Practice is a mission-led strategic consulting firm advising investors and development partners across the continent. The firm has 20+ years of experience bringing stakeholders together to identify solutions to complex social and economic development challenges and creating the conditions for impact-led innovation to be applied at scale.

Africa Practice is a member of the [African Hydrogen Partnership](#), the leading trade association dedicated to scaling green hydrogen initiatives across Africa.

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About the [Environmental Defense Fund](#)

One of the world's leading international nonprofit organisations, **Environmental Defense Fund** ([edf.org](#)) creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. To do so, EDF links science, economics, law, and innovative private-sector partnerships. With more than 3 million members and offices in the United States, China, Mexico, Indonesia and the European Union, EDF's scientists, economists, attorneys and policy experts are working in 28 countries to turn our solutions into action.