EVENT REPORT

MORNING FORUM ON CLIMATE INNOVATION FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Organized by **African Loop Consulting**, in partnership with the **Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal** (METE) and the **African Climate Foundation**

CLIMATE INNOVATION MORNINGS

African Loop Consulting

République du Sénégal
METE
MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET DE LA TRANSITION ÉCOLOGIQUE

AFRICAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION

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1. CONTEXT OF THE EVENT

Economy and Climate Impacts

The first pillar of transformation of the Senegal 2050 vision, championed by His Excellency Bassirou Diomaye Faye, President of the Republic of Senegal, rests on “building a competitive economy through a sound and stable macroeconomic framework” [1]. Yet economic analyses show that without climate action, Senegal will lose 3 to 4% of its GDP as early as 2030.[2]

Climate and economy are thus inseparable. Whether in Senegal, where a large share of the economy relies on its coastline, threatened by coastal erosion, or more broadly across Africa, one of the world's regions most vulnerable to climate shocks (flooding, coastal erosion, droughts, etc.), climate impacts already cost 5 to 15% of African GDP growth per capita every year, according to the African Development Bank [3].

Behind these figures lie damaged road infrastructure, flooded warehouses causing financial losses, and residents losing their homes and at risk of becoming candidates for clandestine migration.

Climate Change and Geopolitics

In recent years, discussions around climate change have gained ground and highlighted a geopolitical paradox.

Africa is historically responsible for less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, yet is home to 9 out of 10 of the countries most vulnerable to the consequences of climate change [4].

This asymmetry has given rise to international negotiations aimed at restoring a form of justice through international contributions to financing climate action in Africa.

For example, through a “loss and damage” fund that targets the irreversible material and non-material consequences of climate change, particularly in so-called countries of the Global South.

Although incomplete, these tools pave the way for institutional mechanisms of climate justice and reparation.

[1] Senegal 2050, National Transformation Agenda, 2024
[2] Senegal – Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR), World Bank Group, 2024
[3] African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa's Economic Outlook Reports, 2022
[4] United Nations University (UNU) / ND-GAIN Vulnerability Index (Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative)

A space for Public-Private Dialogue

The African private sector must also engage with the climate issue in order to understand the economic and human risks facing its organizations, and innovate accordingly.

We therefore need frameworks for exchange that allow private sector representatives to understand precisely what climate risks weigh on states and their industries, but also to engage in direct dialogue with public authorities, in order to share their constraints, needs and ideas to help refine national climate planning.

It is to meet this need that the first edition of the Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector was held in Dakar, driven by African Loop Consulting, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal, and the African Climate Foundation.

As Senegal prepares to publish its NDC 3.0 [5], this half-day event placed emphasis on green industrialization and innovation financing, and was marked by artistic highlights centered on African climate solutions.

This report brings together the key takeaways from this first edition, in order to open up the discussion to stakeholders who could not be present.

To learn more, feel free to contact us at contact@african-loop.com.

[5] Nationally Determined Contribution: a country's official climate roadmap, updated every 5 years

2. PARTNERS' EDITORIALS

TAMAN MHOUMADI

CLIMATE INNOVATION STRATEGIST, SPEAKER, FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN LOOP CONSULTING

Innovation is the cornerstone of a company's sustainability, and in 2026, climate innovation stands out as the strategic turning point that the African private sector must seize.

Businesses are already well aware of this: 68% of French-speaking African SMEs consider climate change to be a major threat, according to a study by the International Trade Centre [6].

But the real challenge lies in execution. According to the same study, despite this awareness, only a small percentage of these business leaders have actually launched a climate adaptation initiative within their organization.

We regularly observe this gap between leaders' awareness and the difficulty of translating it into concrete, structured and ambitious action. This is what prompted us to organize this Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector.

Because the opportunities are real, and so are the expectations of international partners. Africa only captures 3% of global climate finance flows [7], and traditional investors are imposing increasingly strict ESG [8] criteria. Launching a climate initiative is therefore becoming an organizational asset for accessing new types of financing at attractive interest rates.

But to capture these flows, organizations' executive leadership must be the first to lead by example. For instance by training their executive committees on the climate risks facing their sectors, by integrating climate innovation into their annual planning, or by developing innovative approaches that mobilize the collective intelligence of their teams: employees, financial officers, technicians, engineers.

[6] SME Competitiveness in Francophone Africa 2023: Building Resilience to Climate Change, International Trade Centre, October 2023
[7] The State of Climate Finance in Africa, Climate Policy Initiative, October 2024
[8] Environmental, Social, Governance

Structuring innovation is vital to creating the products and services needed to respond concretely to increasingly visible and disruptive climate risks: flooding that disrupts supply chains, heat waves that endanger workers, or entire areas gradually becoming uninsurable.

To be deployed in time, innovation must be anticipated, and one need only visit Dakar, Abidjan or Cotonou to identify pockets of innovation in sustainable construction, energy efficiency and water management. These are projects found as much in universities as in the informal economy, which could be developed with the private sector to address the defining climate challenge of the century while creating economic value and jobs. Provided that organizations and their leaders seize these opportunities.

African Loop
Consulting

ABOUT AFRICAN LOOP CONSULTING

African Loop Consulting (ALC) supports innovation in the African private sector in addressing its organizational climate risks, combining training, strategic consulting and artistic creation.

Based in Dakar, the firm deploys its expertise through two complementary areas.

On one hand, training and advisory missions on climate risk and innovation for executives and their teams. On the other hand, Loop production, an artistic production label specialized in short films and live performance, which tells the story of climate solutions to raise broad awareness and make the green economy more accessible.

African Loop Consulting also develops its own innovation programs, co-built with its clients and partners. For example, the “Morning Forums on Climate Innovation” whose first edition dedicated to the private sector, took place in January 2026, or the “Fil Rouge des solutions climatiques” [Common Thread of Climate Solutions] program, launched in 2025 to support the integration of homegrown climate solutions into the real economy.

Through these four levers (training, consulting, artistic creation and innovation programs), African Loop Consulting pursues a simple mission: to support the structuring of African green economies that address the climate and economic risks facing organizations. For more information, go to www.african-loop.com/en

MADELEINE DIOUF SARR
DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND GREEN FINANCE, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION OF SENEGAL

The first edition of the Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector, held under the chairmanship of the Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal, illustrates the need to strengthen synergies between public authorities, the private sector, technical and financial partners, the research community and innovation stakeholders, in order to accelerate the ecological transition in Senegal.

The Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, through the Directorate of Climate Change, Ecological Transition and Green Finance (DCCTEFV), and the African Climate Foundation, are pleased to have supported this initiative led by African Loop Consulting, which helps strengthen dialogue around the challenges and opportunities of climate action in Senegal.

The discussions confirmed that the fight against climate change is also a lever for economic transformation. The implementation of the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) and the Senegal 2050 Vision call for greater mobilization of the private sector, which is expected to play a major role in developing innovative solutions, green investment and the creation of sustainable jobs. By developing renewable energy (particularly solar and wind power), strengthening energy efficiency, sustainably valorizing waste, and supporting nature-based solutions, our country is progressively building a more resilient, more competitive and low-carbon economy, while fostering the creation of sustainable jobs and improving its competitiveness.

This gathering also highlighted the considerable potential of Senegalese companies to contribute to national climate objectives, provided they have access to an environment favorable to innovation, investment and climate finance. Strengthening partnerships between public institutions, the private sector, development partners and innovation stakeholders remains essential to accelerate the scaling-up of innovative initiatives, mobilize climate finance and foster inclusive, sustainable growth.

We commend the commitment of African Loop Consulting, under the leadership of its founder, Ms Taman Mhoumadi, as well as the contribution of all speakers and participants, whose exchanges made this first edition a genuine space for dialogue, mutual learning and strategic reflection. May the lessons of this Morning forum nurture new collaborations and inspire concrete action in service of a resilient, innovative Senegal, committed to an ecological transition that brings prosperity for all.

ABOUT THE DIRECTORATE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND GREEN FINANCE

The Directorate of Climate Change, Ecological Transition and Green Finance (DCCTEFV) at METE operates under the authority of its Director, Ms. Madeleine Diouf Sarr. Its mission is to implement, within the framework of national policies, strategies to combat the effects of climate change and to promote ecological transition and sustainable finance.

The Directorate of Climate Change, Ecological Transition and Green Finance is responsible, among other things, for:

- ensuring the coordination, monitoring and evaluation, in conjunction with all stakeholders, of government policy on managing the effects of climate change;
- promoting a low-carbon ecological transition, notably by developing, in coordination with all relevant bodies, the national strategy for ecological transition, and ensuring its regular monitoring;
- working to ensure that climate change is factored into programs and projects carried out by decentralized local authorities;
- mobilizing climate finance for the implementation of national commitments and promoting the green economy.

LAMINE CISSE
COUNTRY DIRECTOR,
AFRICAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION IN SENEGAL (ACF)

Africa remains the least industrialized continent in the world and must inevitably undergo its own revolution, following the example of Asian countries, in order to sustainably increase capital productivity and create millions of jobs to durably reduce poverty and underemployment with 440 million people currently living below the poverty line. Despite its low contribution to cumulative global carbon emissions (less than 3%), Africa is today the region most severely affected by the impact of climate change, which further increases the vulnerability of economic activities, populations and ecosystems. This paradox gives us both a legitimate right and a responsibility: to industrialize, but to do so differently.

Our assets are considerable. The continent holds 40% of the world's solar potential, more than half of global cobalt reserves, and 65% of the planet's uncultivated arable land. Renewable energy is not just a climate response: it is a tremendous source of wealth and jobs for a youth in search of opportunities. Senegal has understood this. With 31% renewable energy in its installed capacity (set to rise to 40% by 2030), our country is establishing itself as a regional pioneer.

The real challenge now is to build local industrial value chains, rather than exporting our raw resources only to reimport finished products. The possibilities are vast. In the renewable energy sector, opportunities span the assembly and maintenance of solar and wind equipment. The circular economy offers multiple options for recycling and valorizing waste and wastewater, transforming them into raw materials, energy, and useful inputs. Agribusiness is full of potential for local processing and the utilization of agricultural by-products, ranging from biomass to bio-based materials like Typha (a wetland reed used as a biosourced material). Finally, regarding our critical minerals, local chemical processing and initial transformation will allow us to capture value here on our own soil, rather than leaving it to be exploited elsewhere.

But let us be clear-eyed about the pitfalls to avoid. Today, Senegal, and African countries in general, must not be placed in a position where they are forced to give up their industrial ambitions in the name of the fight against climate change, nor to adopt a "grow now, clean up later" policy, which would lock us into unsustainable trajectories and soon-to-be-stranded assets. Alongside these pitfalls come concrete risks: an industry that is too geographically concentrated, environmental management perceived as a constraint rather than an opportunity, and an inability to structure bankable projects.

None of this will happen without strong political will. It is up to the State to build an environment attractive to private investment and to provide a clear, stable and incentivizing legislative and regulatory framework. At this price, Senegal will be able to fully realize its agricultural, mining and energy potential, and create the many green jobs its youth need.

Green industrialization is not a luxury reserved for wealthy nations: for Africa, it is both a necessity and a historic opportunity.

AFRICAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION

ABOUT THE AFRICAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION (ACF)

The African Climate Foundation, established in 2020, is the first African-led regional climate foundation working at the nexus of climate change and development. Over six years, it has grown from a South African initiative into a continental platform present in 35 countries, with more than 467 projects completed and 60 staff members.

ACF's vision is that of a dynamic and resilient Africa, where inclusive socio-economic development generates sustainable and equitable growth, with the goal of ensuring that the climate transition is shaped from within. The institution works to support African governments, coalitions and communities in strengthening their capacity to act, creating the conditions that allow them to move faster and negotiate from a position of strength.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORNING

a. Masterclass on National Climate Strategies

Madeleine DIOUF SARR,
Director of Climate Change, Ecological Transition and Green Finance, Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE)

This masterclass laid out the regulatory and strategic framework within which national climate action takes place: the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), the central instrument of the Paris Agreement, updated every five years.

Senegal's NDC rests on two complementary components.
The mitigation component, which focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the energy, transport, industry, forestry and waste sectors. And the adaptation component, which aims to strengthen resilience to impacts already underway: coastal erosion, rainfall variability, water stress and health risks. These impacts pose a direct threat to our economy, 70% of whose activity is concentrated along the coastline, and where half of the active population depends on agriculture.

Climate projections leave no room for ambiguity: if no major shift is made, the current warming trajectory could approach +4°C, placing Senegal on a very high-risk pathway within the coming decades. This risk translates concretely into a progressive rise in sea level, a retreating coastline (between 0.5 and 2 meters per year depending on the coastal zone), combined with ocean acidification and the intensification of extreme rainfall events. These physical constraints directly threaten existing economic models.

A More Ambitious NDC 3.0

The evaluation of NDC 2.0 found that Senegal had met its unconditional commitment of a 7% reduction in emissions, notably through investments in renewable energy and public transport (TER [Regional Express Train] and BRT [Bus Rapid Transit]).

NDC 3.0 was finalized in April 2026 with support from UNDP and international partners, and sets a more ambitious greenhouse gas reduction target: 20% (financed through domestic resources), rising to 40% subject to the mobilization of international climate finance. The total estimated cost is USD 3 billion for the 20% target, and USD 5 billion for the 40% target.

Among the new directions introduced in NDC 3.0: the explicit integration of the private sector within the scope of financial accounting, the inclusion of loss and damage as a stand-alone category, the territorialization of climate commitments, and openness to voluntary and regulated carbon markets as a lever for additional financing.

The Private Sector: An Essential Partner in the Transition

In her remarks, Madeleine Diouf Sarr was explicit on one point: the NDC cannot be delivered without the active involvement of the private sector. However, at this stage, private financial contributions to national climate efforts are not yet accounted for, due to the lack of an adequate tracking mechanism.

The concrete opportunities identified for the private sector cover a broad spectrum: large-scale deployment of solar pumps for agriculture and boreholes, the development of improved cookstove initiatives (with a target of 2 million units under the Green Climate Fund), the valorization of waste as alternative fuel in heavy industry, co-generation in the petroleum sector, the structuring of agroforestry and biochar value chains, as well as the development of mangrove projects eligible for carbon credits.

This masterclass was also an opportunity to encourage industrial players to diversify their value chains, as sectoral concentration represents a systemic risk in the face of future climate hazards.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORNING

b. Masterclass on Climate Innovation Strategies

Taman MHOUMADI,
Founder & Director of African Loop Consulting,
Climate Innovation Strategist, Speaker

Reframing Innovation: Starting from the Problem, Not the Solution

This masterclass opened with a structural observation: within organizations, as within the entrepreneurial ecosystem, there is a tendency to innovate before clearly defining the problem to be solved. Applied to the climate field, this imbalance produces solutions disconnected from real risks, projects that are difficult to defend before financiers, and a waste of resources on trend-driven initiatives rather than measured impact.

Climate innovation therefore requires a two-step approach: first, precisely identifying the climate risks specific to one's sector and operating model; then, selecting solutions based on their fit with the problem, not the other way around. This point is addressed directly to executive leadership, who must embody this posture by training their teams, and embedding climate innovation into their strategic planning and annual budgeting process.

A Low-Tech / Middle-Tech / High-Tech Framework to Overcome Technological Bias

The masterclass introduced a three-tier framework for structuring the analysis of available climate solutions: low-tech solutions with low adoption costs, middle-tech solutions with intermediate cost and complexity, and high-tech solutions, all illustrated with examples of application in the construction and agriculture sectors.

This framework also applies to the valorization of homegrown climate innovations, and for this purpose, the masterclass drew on the “Fil Rouge des solutions climatiques” [Common Thread of Climate Solutions]. This program, led by African Loop Consulting, carried out its first project in collaboration with the Heinrich Böll Foundation Dakar, to identify climate solutions from several Senegalese communities and produce two public reports on their dissemination and legal protection, in order to best support their scaling-up.

Among the solutions identified was a biochar production unit made from peanut shells, developed by the NGO Villageois de Ndem [Villagers of Ndem]. This system addresses energy access needs, helps combat deforestation, and creates jobs, but struggles to scale due to a lack of structuring and appropriate financing. A concrete case that perfectly illustrates the gap between promising local climate innovations and the resources needed to achieve industrial viability.

Vision and Strategy as Prerequisites for Impact

The masterclass's closing message posed a simple equation: without a clear strategic vision championed by top management, any climate innovation strategy remains fragile.

The ambition of private sector climate action cannot rest on isolated initiatives led by CSR departments without a real mandate. It requires a governance decision, a resource allocation trade-off, and the ability to mobilize the collective intelligence of the entire organization - from operational leadership to field teams - in order to make it a genuine business priority, as other regions of the world are beginning to do.

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c. Conversation on the Challenges and Solutions for Financing Green Projects in Senegal

Abdou Aziz DIEDHIOU
Head of Studies and Strategy Department, Environment and Climate Officer, LA BANQUE AGRICOLE

Dr Eliane Raïssa FANKEM
PhD in Applied Physics, Mechanics and Complex Systems, Researcher, Head of Student Personal Development and Cooperative Education Program, AIMS SENEGAL

Rachel LOLLIA
Engineer, Consultant and Trainer in the Development and Structuring of Innovative and Sustainable Projects (Moderator)

Banking Mechanics Meet Green Projects

The discussion highlighted the structural tension between the solvency-driven logic that governs bank credit analysis and the specific requirements of climate innovation projects: a loan officer reasons first in terms of counterparty risk, available collateral and repayment capacity. Environmental and climate variables only enter the equation as secondary considerations, not out of disinterest, but because existing scoring tools do not yet integrate them as determining criteria.

The challenge, therefore, is not to convince banks of the value of green projects, but to provide them with robust scientific data that can translate climate impact into a quantifiable risk model since the Green Climate Fund's first questions are not environmental but financial, focused on co-financing capacity and additional resources available beyond the funder's contribution. These prerequisites eliminate, from the outset, the majority of project promoter who are insufficiently capitalized or structured.

On this front, La Banque Agricole is a trailblazing case, having secured the validation of its first project under the Green Climate Fund's private sector facility (EUR 48.2 million), obtained in February 2025.

What Makes a Project Financeable

The panelists converged on four conditions for a green project to reach the threshold of bankability.

First, a rigorous climate rationale supported by verifiable scientific data, for example, before/after scenarios, life-cycle analysis, or the modeling of co-benefits.

Second, a multi-instrument financial structure combining co-financing, concessional lines, guarantees and, where applicable, equity investment, to spread risk across multiple stakeholders.

Third, a demonstration pilot: start small, prove results on a limited scale, then negotiate scaling-up based on field data.

Fourth, the ability to translate climate impact into economic performance indicators that a financial analyst can understand: internal rate of return, reduction in operating costs, exposure to residual climate risks.

To support this framework, AIMS Senegal presented its incubation model, launched in December 2025 with six pilot projects in finance, healthcare and agriculture, as a partial response to this missing link between scientific proof and commercial maturity. The goal: to produce solutions that reach financiers not as intentions, but as documented prototypes.

A Systemic Bottleneck: The Absence of a National Green Taxonomy

One warning was nonetheless raised at the end of the discussion: Senegal does not yet have a green taxonomy shared among financial actors, which prevents interoperability between financial instruments and creates an information asymmetry detrimental to project sponsors. Each institution builds its own eligibility criteria in isolation, and until this common framework is established, ideally aligned with a regional taxonomy and international standards such as TCFD or GRI, green financial products will remain ad hoc constructs, difficult to scale and to audit.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORNING

d. Conversation on Activating the Levers of Green Industrialization by the Private and Public Sectors: Opportunities and Limitations

Samuel TABANE
Acting Director of Industrial Redeployment, Ministry of Industry and Trade

Fatou Dyana BA
Director of the Bureau de Mise à Niveau (Upgrading Support Office, BMN)

Taman MHOUMADI
Founder,& Director, African Loop Consulting (Moderator)

Dr Marième NDOUR DIALLO
Director of CSR & Compliance, SOCOCIM Industries

Mamadou Saliou SOW
President of the Employers' Council for Renewable Energy (COPERES)

This second conversation brought together public and private organizations, and gave panelists the opportunity to showcase their industrial decarbonization efforts, as well as prospects for support going forward.




SOCOCIM: A Model Case of Step-by-Step Industrial Decarbonization

Dr Marième Ndour Diallo shared a concrete account of the decarbonization trajectory of SOCOCIM Industries' cement plant, an inherently carbon-intensive industry.

Their approach relies on multiple levers: switching energy sources, valorizing alternative fuels, and optimizing water use.

Among the innovations implemented: the installation of a 6.9 MWp photovoltaic plant and the hybridization of thermal equipment with natural gas, which allowed them to reduce the share of fuel oil in their energy mix to 44%. Also notable is the development of alternative fuel supply chains using non-recyclable waste and biomass (peanut shells, sawdust, rice husks), in partnership with SONAGED [National Solid Waste Management Agency] and the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition.

The main success factor identified was the organizational transformation that preceded the group's technological innovation through training sessions for internal teams, the structuring of informal biomass supply chains, and building internal legitimacy for investments whose financial return was not immediate. This underscored the vital importance of top management involvement for the success of any climate innovation initiative.

The Bureau de Mise à Niveau (BMN): An Underused Co-Financing Mechanism

Fatou Dyana Ba took time to present the Bureau de Mise à Niveau (BMN) [Upgrading Support Office], a public subsidy mechanism directly accessible to private companies to finance their transition investments.

Since 2010, the BMN has explicitly incorporated energy efficiency and sustainability components into its support programs, going beyond traditional commercial competitiveness.

Two concrete cases were detailed: support for IBS (beverage production, Diamniadio industrial zone) in installing a 1 MW solar plant representing an investment of over FCFA 300 million, 50% of which was covered by the BMN; and the “Sustainable City” pilot program in the Diamniadio industrial zone, which supported around ten companies in achieving measurable results: 35,000 tonnes of CO_2 avoided, 2 MW of installed solar energy, and 5 mg/tonne equivalent of persistent organic pollutants avoided. The BMN also operates the country's only Cleaner Production Centre, dedicated to energy diagnostics, RECP (Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production) assessments, and the implementation of energy and environmental management systems.

The Director called for scaling up the mechanism in line with the industrial ambitions of the Senegal 2050 agenda, and raised the issue of valorizing CO_2 savings on the international carbon market.

Renewable Energy: Penetration Driven by Large-Scale Projects, Entire Segments Left Unaddressed

Mamadou Saliou Sow (COPERES) emphasized the need to put into perspective the figure of 40% renewable energy penetration in Senegal's electricity mix, noting that this rate is driven almost exclusively by large grid-connected solar and wind farms. Households, mid-sized industrial players and irrigated agriculture remain largely underserved, despite having some of the highest solar potential in West Africa. In his view, the barriers identified fall into three categories.

1) The initial cost of access remains prohibitive in the absence of public guarantee mechanisms that would allow banks to absorb part of the risk, which is why a guarantee fund tied to one of their programs is currently under study. 2) Equipment quality issues and confusion around roles in the solar installation market are fueling growing consumer distrust, which is slowing adoption of solar power even in otherwise profitable segments. 3) Regulations governing production licenses pose a structural problem, as the licensing procedures are costly and complex.

He concluded with a long-term perspective: the local manufacturing of renewable energy equipment in Senegal is not a utopian goal, but a viable trajectory. One that requires a clearly defined national sector strategy, identified centers of excellence, and public R&D funding commitments.

Public-Private Co-Construction as a Condition for Implementation

Samuel Tabane closed the discussion by highlighting the shift in the Ministry of Industry and Trade's approach to the private sector: from occasional consultation to a co-construction process from the strategy design phase onward. Companies and industrial players already engaged, such as SOCOCIM, are now involved in shaping policy direction, not just its implementation.

Above all, he emphasized the value of field data produced by the private sector in feeding national emissions inventories and strengthening the credibility of proposals submitted to international funders. This is yet another bridge for collaboration between the private and public sectors: measuring, documenting and reporting are not regulatory burdens, but levers of competitive positioning for Senegal in climate finance markets. The next step is now to proactively seek out opportunities, backed by tangible evidence.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MORNING

e. Screening of Short Films

Artistic creation is one of the key pillars of African Loop Consulting's approach, through its dedicated label, Loop Production.

Indeed, we need compelling platforms to raise awareness of climate solutions, and creative work is one of the most powerful. This is why the Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector featured the screening of two short films combining dance, storytelling and filmmaking.

Etincelle Verte [Green Spark] (2026)

Production : Loop Production
Director : Rayan Amu, Nwaar Studio

Du champ au changement [From Field to Change] (2025)

Production : Loop Production, Heinrich Boll Stiftung Dakar, African Loop Consulting, Startup Bootcamp

Director : Serigne Mbacke Sarr, O’ Prestige Africa

4.SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH MS JOULDÉE SOUMARE OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, PLANNING AND COOPERATION OF SENEGAL

On the occasion of the publication of the summary report of the Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector, we wanted to complement the discussions with the perspective of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation, through a special interview with its Director of Private Sector Development, who kindly agreed to answer our questions.

Jouldée Soumare

Director of Private Sector Development,

Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation of Senegal

Q: The National Private Sector Development and Investment Promotion Strategy (SNDSPI), published last February, refers to Senegal's weak structural growth in recent decades. The green economy represents a growth driver but remains underexploited in Senegal, with few entrepreneurial ventures built around climate solutions. In your view, what is missing to stimulate private sector entrepreneurship around the green economy?

First, dedicated financing is lacking. Existing financing instruments are underdeveloped, and even more so for green projects with long-term returns on investment.

Second, the regulatory framework is not incentivizing. The revised Investment Code of 2025 offers an opportunity to incorporate targeted incentives for climate-impact projects.

Finally, the specialized support ecosystem is almost nonexistent. There is a lack of climate-focused incubators and a public procurement strategy capable of creating domestic demand for green solutions.

Q: According to the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition, Senegal will lose 8 to 10% of its GDP by 2035 without adaptation efforts. How does the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation factor climate constraints into private sector planning?

The SNDSPI recognizes that the primary sector faces the challenges of climate change, and that water and energy management are major constraints for businesses. The approach is interministerial, but the climate dimension remains more embedded in environmental texts than integrated into economic planning tools.

Q: What economic signal is Senegal sending today to an industrial player hesitant to invest in a green sector?

In September 2025, Senegal adopted a new Investment Code that provides sector-specific bonuses for green technologies and renewable energy, with the eligibility threshold lowered from FCFA 100 million to FCFA 15 million, opening the mechanism to small businesses.

But an industrial player who is hesitant will also look at the obstacles that the SNDSPI itself documents: energy costs among the highest in the UEMOA [West African Economic and Monetary Union], difficult access to land, underspecialized special economic zones (ZESs), and near-dormant public-private partnerships (PPPs).

Q: If, in five years, the SNDSPI has succeeded, what would that concretely look like for Senegal's private sector ? What would have changed in the life of an SME in Ziguinchor or an industrial player in Thiès?

For the SME in Ziguinchor, it should be able to find, locally, a “Maison de l'entreprise” [Business House] offering advisory and financing services, gain access to developed land, and obtain credit suited to its business cycle.

For the industrial player in Thiès, the expected change relates first and foremost to the cost and reliability of energy, thanks to the deployment of industrial-scale solar and wind power, as well as access to functioning PPPs.

Q: Africa captures only 3% of global climate finance flows, while NDC 3.0 estimates needs at USD 3 to 5 billion. How could the SNDSPI help the private sector access these flows?

Access to international climate finance remains limited for Senegal's private sector. Mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund require bankable, well-documented projects with impact measurement frameworks that few SMEs are currently able to produce.

The SNDSPI has a role to play on three levels: leveraging the instruments it already provides for (FONSIS, FONGIP, regional co-investment funds) as blended finance vehicles to de-risk green projects; integrating technical assistance for preparing climate fund applications into the “Maisons de l'entreprise”; and relying on territorialization to identify and structure bankable projects within regional hubs.

Q: Do you see potential partnerships between your Directorate's work and the approach taken by the Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector?

There are points of convergence that could form the basis for collaboration.

The first point of connection: helping companies structure themselves to access climate finance. Both initiatives share the same need : specialized technical assistance to turn a climate idea into a financeable project.

The second area of convergence: green taxonomy. Senegal does not yet have a national taxonomy shared among financial actors, and the SNDSPI could lead this effort in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition.

The third lever: the Bureau de Mise à Niveau, an underused mechanism that the SNDSPI could help scale up to support green industrial projects.

5. CONCLUSION

The first Morning Forum on Climate Innovation for the Private Sector, organized in Dakar by African Loop Consulting in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition and the African Climate Foundation, brought together industrial players, public institutions, researchers and financing stakeholders around a shared ambition: making climate a lever of competitiveness for Senegal.

Through two masterclasses, two structured conversations and two short-movies, the event shed light on the structural challenges posed by the climate emergency in Senegal. Challenges affecting the country's territory, its people and its economy alike.

But above all, this event laid the groundwork for a shared framework of reflection on climate innovation, green finance and sustainable industrialization, with concrete perspectives (green taxonomy, joint public-private innovation approaches).

These challenges call for greater awareness within the private sector of the economic impact of climate disruption, and the need to train its leadership to embody climate innovation in order to address the organizational disruption risks that result from it.

But these issues also call for political decisions related to the adoption of shared standards and clear investment commitments.

Senegal has the resources, the talent and the will needed to make climate innovation a genuine engine of development. It is now up to every stakeholder to seize this opportunity, and it is in this spirit that African Loop Consulting wishes to continue this dialogue and support the transition from ideas to high-impact action. To contribute to this momentum or join future editions, contact us at contact@african-loop.com, on our website at www.african-loop.com/en or through our social media channels.

6. CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Our partners: Lamine Cissé, Charlene Nel, Lindela Mketeni, Baba Libasse (African Climate Foundation); Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Aminata Samb, Khalil Kamara, Ibrahima Fall, Fatma Sow (Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition of Senegal); Mass Thiam, General Administrator of Domitexka Saloum; Jouldée Soumare, (Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation of Senegal), Mountakha Fall, previous Technical advisor to the Senegalese Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition

Our speakers: Abdou Aziz Diedhiou, Head of Studies and Strategy Department, Environment and Climate Officer (La Banque Agricole); Dr Eliane Raïssa Fankem, PhD in Applied Physics, Mechanics and Complex Systems, Researcher, Head of Student Personal Development and Cooperative Education Program (AIMS Senegal); Rachel Lollia, Engineer, Consultant and Trainer in the Development and Structuring of Innovative and Sustainable Projects; Samuel Tabane, Acting Director of Industrial Redeployment (Ministry of Industry and Trade); Fatou Dyana Ba, Director of the Bureau de Mise à Niveau (BMN); Dr Marième Ndour Diallo, Director of CSR & Compliance (SOCOCIM Industries); Mamadou Saliou Sow, President of COPERES

As well as all the participants who took the time to attend this first edition.

Credits

Report Writing and Design
Taman Mhoumadi, African Loop Consulting (Writing)
Orianne Mbaka, African Loop Consulting (Design)

Photos
Photos taken during the Morning: Badara Preira

Short Films

“Etincelle Verte,” directed by Rayan Amu
Production: African Loop Consulting, Loop Production
Direction: Rayan Amu, Nwaar Studio
Performer: Hermann NDG
Director of Photography: Alberto Makunzi
Editing: Alberto Makunzi, Rayan Amu
Color Grading: Alberto Makunzi
Writing and Voiceover: Taman Mhoumadi
Music: Old Soul

“Du champ au changement,” directed by Serigne Mbacke Sarr
Production: African Loop Consulting, Loop Production, Heinrich Böll Stiftung Dakar, Startup Bootcamp
Direction: Serigne Mbacke Sarr, O' Prestige Africa
Screenplay: Ousmane Gningue
Dancer: Khadija Cissé

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