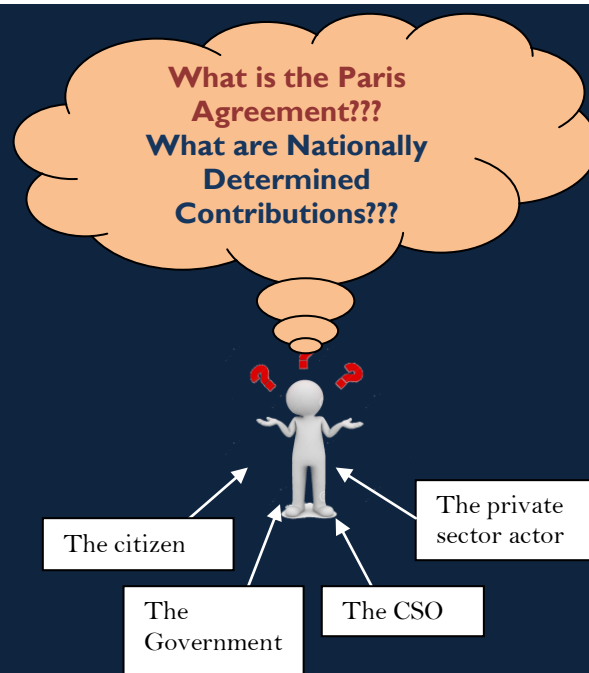


TAKE THE FIRST STEPS: Make the Nationally Determined Contributions- the key pillar in the Paris Agreement- familiar to all East Africans

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are not well known by many citizens, state and non-state actors including the media. This finding is derived from three national baseline studies conducted in March 2017 by SusWatch-Kenya, Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development (UCSD) and Tanzania Traditional Energy Development organization (TaTEDO), to ascertain the status of implementation of the NDCs in the 3 countries. The findings further indicate that the Paris Agreement remains a new concept to the majority of non-state actors, although, of great interest to them. It is therefore important that more information is provided and public awareness be scaled-up on the significance of the NDCs and by extension the Low Emission Development possibilities and options in order to secure effective stakeholder participation in planning, decision-making and implementation of the Paris Agreement at the national and local levels.



KEY MESSAGES

- ❖ NDCs are fundamentally one of the cornerstones of international climate policies as they include the targets and measures that each country commits to reduce emissions with the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ However, according to a recent baseline study, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are not well known by many citizens, state and non-state actors including the media
- ❖ Nevertheless, NDCs play a critical role in articulating how countries are integrating climate change into other national priorities, such as sustainable development and poverty reduction, as well as send signals to the private sector to contribute towards these efforts.

- ❖ It is essential to raise awareness of the NDCs, which are still unfamiliar to many people. It is therefore important that NDCs be clearly communicated to the varied stakeholders at the local, national and regional levels so that they can anticipate how the planned actions will contribute to global emission reductions and climate resilience in the future.
- ❖ At the EAC regional level, there are commonalities in focus by the 3 Partner States on adaptation focus (agriculture, energy and water) and on mitigation focus (forestry and energy). This provides a potential starting point to collectively implement the NDCs as part the ongoing integration process.
- ❖ Ways in which the relevant stakeholders (EAC, Partner States, Development Partners, CSOs and Private sector) could be involved to effectively popularize the NDCs in the East African Region are suggested.

Background

As a global initiative to address Climate Change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP21) on 12th December 2015. In anticipation of this moment, countries publicly outlined what climate actions they intended to take under the new international agreement, known as their Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (WRI, 2016). The climate actions communicated in these INDCs largely determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement: to hold the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C, to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C, and to achieve net zero emissions in the second half of this century

Table 1: Summary of Countries NDC priority sectors and actions

Country	NDC FOCUS		
	Adaptation	Mitigation	Other issues
Kenya	Energy; Science, Technology and innovations; Public sector reforms; Human Resource Development, Labour and Employment, Infrastructure, Land Reforms, Education and training; Health; Environment; Water and irrigation; Population, urbanization and housing; Gender Vulnerable Groups and Youth; Tourism; Agriculture, livestock development and fisheries; Private Sector/Trade; Manufacturing; Business Process Outsourcing, Financial services; Oil and mineral resources; Devolution.	Energy; Forestry; Transport; Agriculture; Waste management.	Implementation Strategies include: mainstreaming climate change into integrated development plans; implementing the Ending Drought Emergencies Strategy; and implementing the National Water Master Plan
Tanzania	Agriculture; Livestock; Forestry; Energy; Coastal Marine Environment and Fisheries; Water Resources; Tourism; Human Settlements; Health	Energy; Transport; Waste Management; Forestry	The implementation of Tanzania INDCs is based on the country's various policies, development vision, Programmes, strategies and action plans, which are set to be reviewed regularly.
Uganda	Agriculture; Forestry; Water; Infrastructure (including human settlement; social infrastructure and transport); energy; Health; Risk Management (particularly in urban areas)	Energy (power supply); Forestry; Wetlands (incl. increased coverage);	Additional mitigation measures planned: Energy (sustainable energy solutions in public buildings, promotion and wider uptake of energy efficient cook stoves or induction cookers, energy (transport), Agriculture (climate smart agriculture for cropping, livestock breeding research and manure management practices). Cross-cutting: gender equality, human rights observance

Following the unexpected early entry into force of the Paris Agreement (PA) on the 4th of November 2016, all countries became anchored in this Agreement's five-year iterative cycles in form of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

As countries formally join the Paris Agreement and look forward to implementation of proposed climate actions the "intended" has been dropped and an INDC converted into Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). This conversion happens when a country submits its respective instrument of ratification, accession or approval to join the Paris Agreement. The East African Communities countries including Kenya,

Uganda and Tanzania submitted their INDCs in 2015. These INDCs have since become NDCs, with the exemption of Tanzania which is yet to ratify the Agreement.

NDCs are actions and targets that countries have signaled they will undertake to help keep global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Celsius. They also address a range of issues, which can relate to avoiding, adapting or coping with climate change. Though NDCs are not legally binding commitments, they ultimately play a critical part in determining whether the world achieves an ambitious 2015 Agreement that is on a path towards a low carbon, climate-resilient future. In

East Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania have all proposed national climate actions in their NDCs, combining plans for climate adaptation with a mitigation co-benefit. In Kenya, the expected emission reductions are 30%, in Tanzania 10-20% and in Uganda 22% on a Business As Usual basis by 2030. Therefore, it is of urgent importance that NDCs are better understood by all stakeholders in East Africa, because they have a stake in ensuring that their countries meet their targets based on their focus, capacity and national circumstances by 2030.

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Concerning the NDC implementation road map, Uganda and Tanzania are in the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan while Kenya has already made strides in putting in place this important document. Despite this difference in implementation pace, a robust deliberate stakeholder engagement plan is crucial by the different EAC Partner states and consequently at the regional level on collective actions as deemed fit.

NDCs suggest the required support in terms of capacity building, knowledge transfer and financing for developing countries. In addition, the NDCs play a critical role by providing a constructive feedback loop between national and international decision making on climate change.

It is essential to raise awareness of the NDCs, which are still unfamiliar to many people. The NDCs can only fulfill their purpose if climate goals are integrated into national development planning and economic and financial policy, if the private sector recognizes and harnesses the opportunities afforded by a transition to a low-carbon economy, if the media report on the process, and if all those who urgently need improved resilience to climate risks are involved in implementing the national climate action plans (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung et al, 2017). It is in this regard that we flag out the importance and urgency of popularising the NDCs in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda amongst the key stakeholders in order to kick start early implementation of NDCs by the different actors. These include Government departments and Agencies, CSOs, Media, Community groups as well as individual citizens

This needs to happen regionally as part of the on-going East African regional integration. For example, at the EAC regional level, there are commonalities in focus by the 3 Partner States on adaptation focus (agriculture, energy and water) and on mitigation focus (forestry and energy).

Possible Actions to popularize NDCs in East Africa

In order to effectively popularize the NDCs in the East African Region, relevant stakeholders could be involved as suggested below:

The East Africa Community secretariat and institutions

- As part of the Paris Agreement roadmap, the EAC should draw up a plan to popularize the NDCs within the region through its own efforts through the EAC website and other social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube targeting different audiences.
- The EAC should deliberately integrate common areas of focus for the Partner NDCs in their regional activities and programs to ensure cost effective and efficient implementation of the NDCs in the region. The EAC should devote a clear budget line on climate change action to support these common areas of focus for the Partner NDCs that should gradually be expanded in future budget allocations
- All the planned events, meetings and other forms of citizen engagement via the partner states should be the primary avenues to disseminate information on the importance of NDCs and their relevance in curbing climate change in East Africa.
- All EAC development programmes actions in key livelihood sectors (like energy, agriculture, forestry and water resource management) should strive to incorporate small scale community climate change adaptation and mitigation actions in order for effective poverty reduction to be realized
- The EAC should robustly monitor progress of implementation of the EACCCP among its Partner states to ensure that EAC countries are taking strides in ensuring that its vulnerable communities are increasingly climate change resilient.

Partner states

- The relevant Climate Change Ministries and Departments should plan to package information in simplified and accessible formats such as the use of infographics /illustrations to enable the public to comprehend issues easily.
- The relevant Climate Change Ministries and Departments should embrace the use of pictorial texts and video animations to help further elaborate the importance of NDCs.
- Countries should partner with media houses for options to create awareness on NDCs through the use of media such as radio talk shows in local languages to enable different communities better understand the NDCs content and how they can contribute to their implementation.
- The relevant Climate Change Ministries and Departments in all countries should organize regular sensitization sessions as part of scheduled meetings / workshops to build capacity of community leaders who will in return empower their communities about the NDCs and the Paris Agreement at large

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

- CSOs and Climate Change Departments in all countries should work towards translating the NDCs into local languages to ensure the information is understood by the public
- CSOs should build the capacities of citizen groups and individuals on NDCs provisions, their role and that of the Partner States as well as monitoring implementation by the duty bearers at the national and local levels.

Private sector / business entities

- Should support NDC (climate change) awareness initiatives through their CSR activities
- For those in the manufacturing industry, they should endeavor to package their products with information on recycling and waste management in order to curb pollution which results in GHG emissions
- Respecting existing laws, regulations and guidelines in support of the NDC Implementation and climate change actions in general at the national and regional levels.

Development Partners in the region

Development partners need to support climate change departments and ministries in all countries to sustain multimedia public education and awareness that emphasizes citizen actions at their respective levels, dissemination of information to strengthen citizen capacities to hold duty bearers to account on implementation of the NDCs.

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