



WWF AFRICA

COP27 EXPECTATIONS PAPER

TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT AFRICA

SEPTEMBER 2022

UNFCCC COP27, TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT AFRICA ▶

The IPCC Working Group II report on Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability, part of the IPCC's sixth assessment report, shows clear evidence that many climate risks are bigger than previously anticipated, particularly for countries in Africa on account of their vulnerability. Severe droughts, flooding, sea level rise, heat waves and other extreme events are already devastating the African continent.

The world is currently heading towards 2.7°C warming,¹ and with “only” +1.5°C of global warming, several climate impacts are anticipated. Half of the assessed African species are expected to lose more than 30% of their population or area of suitable habitat; staple crops and fish harvest with fisheries catch are expected to decline by up to 40%; 108-116 million people will be exposed to sea level rise; 17-40 million may be forced to migrate internally; and the distribution and seasonal transmission of vector-borne diseases will increase. The next few years will be very critical for the continent. The time to act is now to secure a resilient and safe future for Africa.

Based on evidence so far, Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents in the world to climate change. As the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP27 takes place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from November 6–18, 2022, it is imperative that this high-level policy event is a critical moment to mount an effective response on a path to

make Africa resilient to climate vagaries. COP 27, the African COP, should serve as a platform that ties together intense engagements, legitimate consultations, and the mobilisation of various stakeholders to pave the way for a climate resilient Africa. This includes, in particular, policy recommendations made by the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), as directed by the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC).

Bolder commitments supported by urgent implementation of existing commitments should be secured around: the Glasgow Climate Pact; existing finance goals as the way to achieve multiple goals of addressing adaptation needs; reducing GHG emissions; accounting for loss and damage; securing climate finance; ensuring energy access and just transition; scaling up food systems approaches; and tapping into the potential of nature-based solutions.



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AMBITION AND SHIFTING TO IMPLEMENTATION ▶

Speeding up implementation would be dependent on but not limited to delivering on prior commitments, fostering cooperation at scale and strengthening institutional capacity. For COP27;

- Developed countries Parties should deliver on their promises to mobilise US\$100 billion per year for climate action in developing countries to support both adaptation and mitigation. This needs to translate into at least US\$600 billion cumulatively between 2020 and 2025. Urgent and immediate implementation on the ground is only possible if the support is long-term and predictable. Constructive dialogue with clear commitments is required to realise a new collective quantified goal on climate finance for the post-2025 period and dramatically scale up the finance required to address climate urgency beyond 2025.
- Tangible commitments should be made on the urgent need to enhance Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for increasing the ambition for emissions reduction goals for 2030 and new ones for 2035, through the Global Stocktake and the Work Programme on pre-2030 mitigation ambition and implementation. This requires countries to move fast to implementation and update their NDCs with increased ambition and long-term strategies to close the existing gaps while also responding to equity considerations.
- Parties should state upfront the need for enhancing institutional capacity as a critical enabling condition and create a forum to share lessons and identify resources for enhancing institutional capacity. The discussion on implementation tends to ignore the importance of overall capacity building needs in developing countries, particularly in African countries. The perceived need for enhancing capacity can be surmised from the simple fact that the NDCs of 113 developing countries out of 169 countries list capacity building as a condition of NDC implementation.² Institutional capacity is also one of the six enabling conditions identified by IPCC WG3.³
- Africa should showcase concrete solutions to:
 - Enhance MRV systems and climate related investment plans to meet NDCs targets,
 - Ramp up measurable adaptation investments including for key economic sectors,
 - Reiterate its needs for delivering on an ambitious agenda by means of finance, technology and capacity building.
 - Find new ways to support cooperation at scale for implementing concrete, sector-specific actions that overcome institutional and human capacity constraints while simultaneously realising climate and developmental goals.



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1 <https://climateactiontracker.org/global/cat-thermometer/>

2 Pauw, W. P., P. Castro, J. Pickering, and S. Bhasin, 2020: Conditional nationally determined contributions in the Paris Agreement: foothold for equity or Achilles heel? *Clim. Policy*, 20(4), 468–484, doi:10.1080/14693062.2019.1635874.

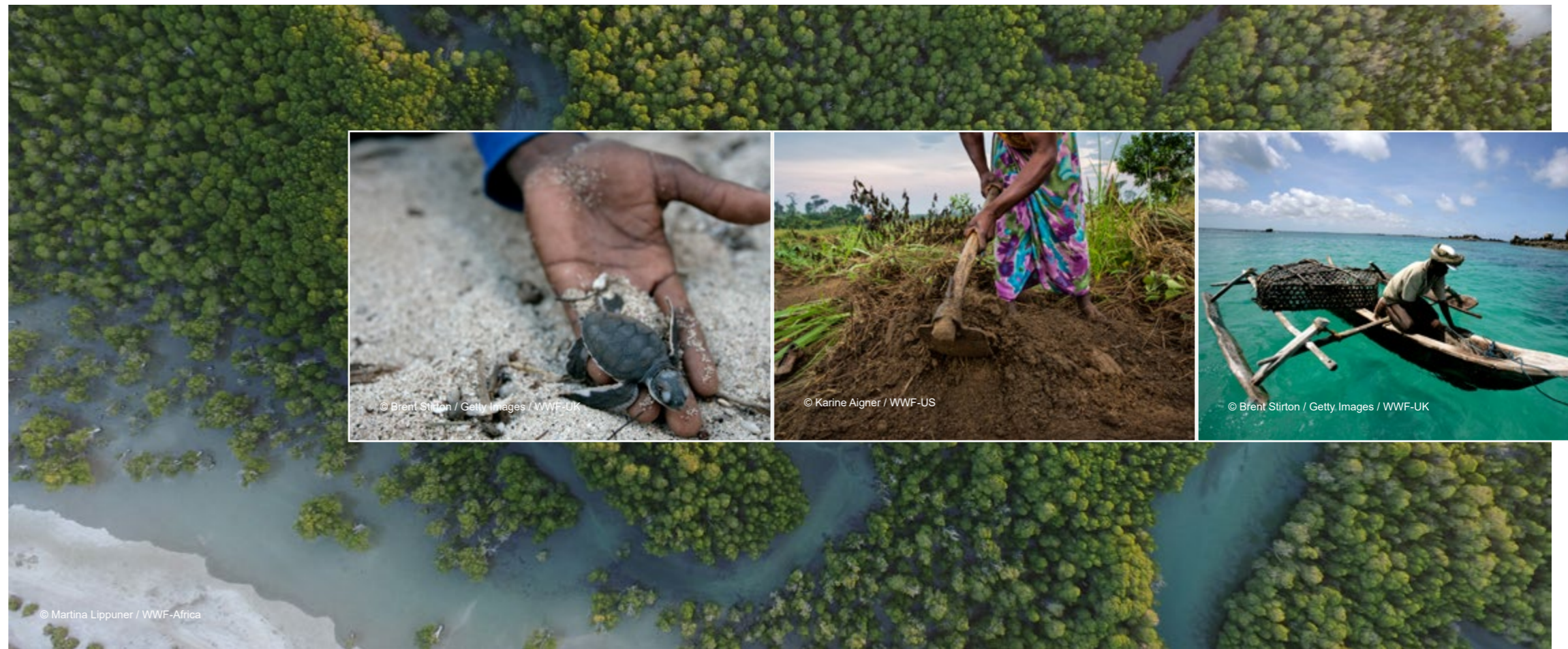
3 The other five enabling conditions are: finance, technological innovation, strengthening policy instruments, multi-level governance, and changes in human behaviour and lifestyles.

AFRICAN PRIORITIES FOR COP27

Primacy of Adaptation, more urgent than ever

The IPCC Working Group II report concludes that current adaptation measures are insufficient, progress is uneven and that we are not adapting fast enough. Building resilience and responding to climate related disasters is expected to cost African countries 3-5% of their GDP annually by 2030, but in certain scenarios this can rise to over 15% of GDP.⁴ For COP27;

- Africa should stress the need for further elaboration of adaptation planning and implementation, including reaching an agreement on the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GlaSS) to meet Africa's adaptation needs and associated cost. This should imply the development of a framework that helps to identify Africa's adaptation gaps and needs, and accelerate the development and implementation of transformative adaptation actions at scale.
- The Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation should define and put in place enabling conditions to support African countries in speeding up the development and implementation of their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in line with their NDCs' adaptation commitments. As of August 2022, only fifteen African countries have submitted NAPs to the UNFCCC Secretariat.⁵ Africa should advocate for a Synthesis Report on NAPs and Adaptation communications to be presented by the GlaSS work programme at COP28 at the latest, to serve as a benchmark on policy action on adaptation in the context of the GGA.
- Africa should leverage the role of nature-based solutions (NbS) in addressing the climate urgency and in closing the gaps on reducing the impacts of climate change. Many organizations both public and private institutions have begun to seriously consider NbS for climate change as a key component to deliver tangible adaptation benefits for people and biodiversity, and Africa is in the frontline to deliver measurable NbS to support adapting to climate change. The recent Africa Protected Areas Congress - Kigali Call to Action highlighted the need to value the role of nature in the implementation and revision of Africa NDCs, and should be pledged during COP27.⁶



Clear mechanisms for Loss and Damage

Enhancing adaptation actions alone will not be sufficient to avoid and reduce all the loss and damage from the impacts of climate change we can expect if we do not sufficiently reduce emissions immediately. In around 54% of NDCs (including 14% of African NDCs), mention of loss and damage has been put forward by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)⁷. Vulnerable countries should set clear targets in their respective NDCs to advocate for the increased technical and financial assistance needed. For COP27;

- Africa should push for an ambitious outcome on loss and damage and ensure a solution for financing within the climate negotiations. A loss and damage finance facility should be established under the UNFCCC financial mechanism with a dedicated fund and be included as an element of the New Collective Quantified Goal, in addition to mitigation and adaptation finance.
- Parties should also ensure the full operationalization of the Santiago Network on Loss and Damage, with dedicated funding and capacity needed to effectively implement its functions.

Tangible finance commitments

According to the IPCC WG3 report, finance flows for fossil fuels are still greater than those for climate adaptation and mitigation, and "accelerated international financial cooperation is a critical enabler of low-greenhouse gas and just transitions and can address inequities in access to finance as well as the costs of and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change."⁸

As per one calculation, only 4–8% of all climate finance has been allocated to adaptation investments.⁹ Based on an assessment of the climate finance needs of African countries,¹⁰ it has been estimated that collectively, the cost of implementing the NDCs represents more than 93% of Africa's GDP and that it will cost around USD 2.8 trillion¹¹ between 2020 and 2030 to implement Africa's NDCs. This significant financing gap needs to be addressed on a priority basis. While adaptation is a priority for African countries, the adaptation needs tend to be underestimated, possibly due to lack of data and technical expertise. This partially explains why, despite Africa's vulnerability, only 24% of climate finance needs are identified as adaptation needs. Overall, a significant climate finance gap remains that external international support needs to fill. With further delay in climate action, these needs and associated costs can be expected to increase significantly. For COP27;

- Financing mechanisms should support the full implementation of NAPs and NDCs in Africa, including

financial commitments and pledges from developed countries to multilateral funding. Achieving the Paris climate objectives requires substantially scaled-up and easily accessible financial support to developing countries, particularly African countries. To help realise transformative adaptation in Africa, there needs to be increased public and private finance flows by billions of dollars per year, increased direct access to multilateral funds, strengthened project pipeline development, and a shift in finance from readiness activities to project implementation.

- All countries, especially developed countries, need to commit to no new finance – particularly public finance - for fossil fuel exploration and infrastructure on the African continent. Realizing climate commitments while funding fossil fuels is just not possible, particularly for gas, as that not only undermines climate action everywhere on the continent and globally, but also locks-in constrained resources in sunset industries.
- Adaptation finance should be significantly scaled up, towards achieving at least a doubling of the amount before 2025, as urged to do in the Glasgow Climate Pact, with an agreed process for monitoring progress towards this goal. This needs a clear commitment to allocating at least 50% of public climate finance to support adaptation measures in developing countries.

⁴ ECA, African Climate Policy Centre, as featured in WMO, State of the Climate in Africa 2019 (Geneva, 2020). Available at: https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10421

⁵ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Pages/national-adaptation-plans.aspx>

⁶ https://mcusercontent.com/2fb332cf3ab7b65967b1632b1/files/ea1a7ad0-8da1-ad4d-9a44-625a1bebb11b/APAC_Kigali_Call_to_Action_Final.pdf

⁷ http://www.climate-loss-damage.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/LD_NDC_PB.pdf

⁸ [https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/resources/spm-headline-statements/#:~:text=\(high%20confidence\)%20Accelerated%20international%20financial,climate%20change%20\(high%20confidence\)](https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg3/resources/spm-headline-statements/#:~:text=(high%20confidence)%20Accelerated%20international%20financial,climate%20change%20(high%20confidence))

⁹ Climate Investment Funds. 2022. Available online at: <https://climateinvestmentfunds.org/news/call-action-more-adaptation-more-climate-finance>

¹⁰ Guzmán, S., Dobrovich, G., Balm, A., and Meattle, C. 2022. Climate Finance Needs of African Countries. Climate Policy Initiative. Available online at: <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/publication/climate-finance-needs-of-african-countries/>

¹¹ The study uses various sources of finance and therefore cannot be directly compared to USD 100 Billion goal.

Recognition of the role of Nature Based Solutions (NbS) in mitigation and adaptation

Africa has a huge potential to build the evidence for how nature plays a critical role in building resilience to climate change and in contributing to limiting global warming to 1.5°C. The Glasgow Climate Pact recognises the role of NbS in achieving a 1.5°C world. By restoring degraded ecosystems and effectively and equitably conserving 30% by 2030 of Earth's land, freshwater and ocean habitats, society can benefit from nature's capacity to absorb and store carbon, and we can accelerate progress towards sustainable development.¹² When taking action to address climate change, Parties should ensure that nature's potential for climate change mitigation and adaptation is maximized, and used sustainably and equitably for present and future generations. At COP26 governments recognised the integral nature and importance of the ocean in the work of the UNFCCC and permanently anchored the inclusion of strengthened ocean-based action in the Glasgow Climate Pact, specifically establishing an annual ocean and climate change dialogue to strengthen ocean-based climate action.



Food systems approach for a resilient and 1.5°C world

Food systems produce around 30% of all GHG emissions, but we obviously cannot phase out food in the same way we can fossil fuels. This implies the need to change the way food is produced and consumed by transitioning towards nature-positive food production systems that provide sustainable and nutritious food for all while addressing emissions related to agricultural production as well as food loss and waste and unsustainable diets. In this context, the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) and its implementation will be critical. For COP27:

- Food systems should be considered in UNFCCC discussions beyond KJWA, like adaptation, the pre-2030 Mitigation Work Programme, NDCs and finance, to fast track and mainstream the implementation of actions to transform food systems.
- KJWA topics should go beyond the perspective of agricultural production and ensure agroecology plays a key role in transforming African food systems by calling on Parties to integrate agreed agroecology elements in policies, programs and processes.
- Discussion on food systems should also consider securing vital sources of food for vulnerable communities, such as fish.

¹² https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_SummaryForPolicymakers.pdf

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Shifting to renewable energy and ensuring affordable energy access

Promoting energy efficiency and shifting energy sources to accessible and affordable renewable energy will be critical. More than 600 million people in Africa still lack basic access to affordable, reliable, clean energy. Over one billion people in 54 countries assessed lack access to cooling, which is crucial to food security, medical supplies, livelihoods and the prevention of heat-related deaths.¹³ International crises, like COVID-19¹⁴ and the war in Ukraine, tend to disproportionately impact Africa due to the region's capacity constraints and institutional vulnerabilities. As we start witnessing the impacts of climate change on the ground, it is imperative that developmental gains on the continent be safeguarded against any geopolitical disruption. For COP27;

- Parties should reiterate their commitment to support Africa in phasing out fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas), using just transition principles in a timely manner to meet its needs based on its strong supply of wind, sunshine, hydropower, and even geothermal resources, which offer great potential for deployment and investment. Expensive investments in fossil fuels will be obsolete in a few years as the climate crisis worsens and fossil fuel companies potentially lose their social licence to operate. Africa's energy development should be based on capacitating it to unlock its massive renewable energy potential.

¹³ Sustainable Energy for All. 2020. Available at <https://www.seforall.org/news/over-one-billion-at-risk-from-lack-of-sustainable-cooling-access-as-covid-19-intensifies>
¹⁴ The pandemic has had a severe impact on the health and the economy of Africa by contracting the GDP of the continent by up to 3.4%, with an estimated loss of between \$173.1 billion and \$236.7 billion for the years 2020–2021 – Based on an interview with Chair of the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) on climate change, Mr. Ephraim Mwepya Shitima of Zambia. Available online at: <https://www.un.org/osaa/news/towards-cop27-views-africa%E2%80%99s-chief-climate-negotiator>

Africa's special needs and circumstances

Despite accounting for roughly *only* 4% of global emissions, Africa is both the region that is most vulnerable to and the least capable of protecting itself from the adverse impacts of climate change. Currently estimated to be warming 1.5 times faster than the global mean, the region is also experiencing disproportionate exposure to climate risks, which will worsen if ambitious commitments are not followed up by urgent implementation. The contribution of the continent towards global climate regulation, for example by the Congo Basin as a carbon sink, needs to be recognised and commensurate resources need to be allocated towards its protection. Africa's special needs and circumstances owing to high levels of poverty, unemployment, and underdevelopment, should be recognised globally. This would contribute to unlocking the necessary financial flow to Africa as it embarks on a just transition to a future powered by renewable energy expansion.



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