

# COP27 AFRICA MANIFESTO

A Climate Resilient Africa by 2030



6-18 November 2022



## ACT NOW TOWARDS A CLIMATE RESILIENT AFRICA ►

The United Nations Climate Change Conference, the COP27, which will be held at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt, from November 6–18 2022 could not have come at a more critical time for Africa.

That Africa is one of the world's most vulnerable continents to the vagaries of climate change is no longer in doubt. Research now indicates more devastating climatic risks on our soils than previously anticipated. Despite accounting for roughly only 4% of global emissions, Africa is the region 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.

Droughts are getting more severe and more frequent as weather patterns become erratic and unpredictable and low-lying lands and cities are more prone to flooding. Along the coasts, sea levels are rising, and heat waves and other extreme events now visit Africa's shores time and again.

The anticipated 2.7°C rises in global temperatures will be particularly harsh for the African continent and her people. Habitat change and loss occasioned by this climate shift will strike the region's already declining biodiversity hard, with ecologists estimating a 30 per cent loss within and across species. Livelihoods will be disrupted, with severe droughts,

flooding and a rise in sea levels not only affecting livestock, crop and fish production and harvests but exposing millions to internal migrations, and intra- and inter-community conflicts arising from competition for pasture and water as well.

Climate change will impact public health, too, by limiting people's access to clean water for sanitation and hygiene and exposing them to vector-borne diseases. Previously insulated highland populations will begin to suffer malaria as cold areas hitherto unsuitable for mosquito survival warm up.

Paramount is securing the financial resources to address adaptation needs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, account for climate change-related loss and damage and secure climate finance.

Individual states will also need to honour their commitments to progressively reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and support implementing capacity within developing nations, particularly in Africa where institutional capacity remains weak.

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 allocated towards its protection.

# What should be addressed at COP27 as a matter of priority for Africa;



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## Elevation of climate adaptation

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.



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## Establishment of mechanisms for Loss and Damage

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.



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## Tangible finance commitments

Developed countries should deliver on their promise to mobilise US\$100 billion per year set in 2009 for climate action for developing countries to support both adaptation and mitigation. Even more, financing will be required to address climate urgency beyond 2025, the deadline for actualising a new finance goal.



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## Nature Based Solutions (NbS) in mitigation and adaptation

Nature-positive food production systems that provide sustainable and nutritious food for all while addressing emissions related to agricultural production will also go a long way in reducing emissions.

Across Africa, nature-based solutions remain unexploited, too. These include restoring degraded ecosystems and effectively and equitably conserving 30 per cent of our land, freshwater and ocean habitats to boost nature's capacity to absorb and store carbon, as we accelerate progress towards sustainable development.



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## Renewable energy transition and energy access

Around 600 million people in Africa still lack basic access to affordable, reliable, clean energy while over one billion people in 54 countries lack access to cooling, which is crucial to food security, medical supplies, livelihoods and the prevention of heat-related deaths.

Africa must also secure resources to ensure access and just transition to renewable energy by exploiting its vast wind, sunshine, hydropower and geothermal resources. Parties should also reiterate their commitment to support Africa in phasing out fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas).



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## Food systems approach for a resilient and 1.5°C world

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.



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## Africa's special needs and circumstances

Africa is both the region that is most vulnerable to and the least capable of protecting itself from the adverse impacts of climate change. 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.

### Contact details:

Laurent Some, Head of Policy and Partnerships, Africa, WWF International. Email [lsome@wwfint.org](mailto:lsome@wwfint.org)  
Prabhat Upadhyaya, Senior Policy Analyst, Climate and Plastics. Email: [pupadhyaya@wwf.org.za](mailto:pupadhyaya@wwf.org.za)  
World Wide Fund for Nature, P.O. Box 62440, 00200, Kenya, Nairobi.  
Further information please visit: <https://africa.panda.org>