



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE **COP23/CMP13/CMP1.2**

6 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2017 | BONN, GERMANY



THEME:

***Climate Change in the EAC Integration: Showcasing
Success Stories, Lessons Learned, and Future Plans
in the implementation of the EAC Climate Change
Policy framework***

EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY
EAC Secretariat
Arusha, Tanzania

www.eac.int

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1.0 PREAMBLE

The 23rd Session of the Conference of Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention to Combat Climate Change (UNFCCC) which will also serve as the 13th Meeting of Parties to Kyoto Protocol (CMP12) and 2nd Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, will be held from 6th-17th November, 2017 in Bonn, Germany. COP 23 will be organized by Fiji and hosted at the headquarters of the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany. The major objective of COP 23/ CMP13/CMA 1.2 is to review the progress made in the implementation of resolutions of COP 22/CMP12/CM1 and chart the way forward to ensure strong outcomes that will advance climate actions across the globe.

COP23 presents a moment of opportunity to keep momentum on the implementation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The conference will allow Parties to harness this collective enthusiasm to strive for ambitious goals and advance the concept of "Talanoa" which had already begun to take root in the negotiations and consultations. The Talanoa concept advocates for inclusive, respectful and participatory approach and will lead to decision making that moves the global climate agenda forward. Furthermore, COP 23 provide an opportunity for East Africa to assert itself in global climate governance and ensure that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is congruent with the region's development vision.



The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization, which consists of the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Uganda. The total population and annual population growth rate in the EAC Sub-Region is about 160 million and 2.6 %, respectively. The total population in the EAC Sub-Region is more than 10% of the entire African region.

 **160** Mil
Population

2.6 % 
Population growth
rate

 **919** \$
GDP per Capita

1.1 EAC'S PREPARATIONS TO COP23/CMP13/C

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat has an observer status to UNFCCC processes and plans to participate in the forthcoming COP 23 sessions and showcase the milestones, achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of climate change programs in the region.

As part of the preparations for forthcoming conference and with financial support from US Government, EAC Secretariat organised and facilitated national and regional climate change consultative meetings. The national consultations were undertaken from 13th to 31st October, 2017 in all Partner States with the view of identifying national climate change priorities that will inform development of the regional position paper to guide negotiations. The national consultations devised measures for realization of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and aligned countries priorities to the EAC road map for implementation of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, EAC Secretariat in collaboration with GIZ (Uganda) further organized and facilitated advocacy and capacity building workshop for the regional Climate Negotiators as part of pre-COP 23 preparations.

EAC Secretariat as one of the admitted observer organizations has limited speaking opportunities in the formal negotiations. It will also facilitate Side events to allow EAC to engage with Parties and other participants for knowledge sharing, capacity building, networking and exploring actionable options for meeting the climate challenge. It will be an opportunity for EAC delegation to share experience, success stories and best practices in implementing the AU Vision 2063, the Sendai Framework for DRR, the Sustainable development Goals and the Paris Agreement. It will be also

Another opportunity to present its work or foster discussions on key issues and engaging the audience in a Q&A session.

Beside the official side events and other events coordinated by the UNFCCC secretariat where Parties and observer organizations organize their own events relating to the climate change negotiation process in different Pavilions and outside the conference premises, EAC will also engage in bilateral discussions with new and existing development Partners to assist in implementing the 2015 agreements.

2.8 %
of EAC
Population
affected by
Hazards





LANDSLIDE
Iringa, Tanzania | 2017



FLOODS
Lushoto, Tanzania | 2017



DROUGHT
Kenya | 2013



FLOODS
Bujumbura, Burundi | 2017



FLOODS
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | 2016



EARTHQUAKE
Bukoba, Tanzania | 2017

2.0 SUCCESS STORIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA 2063, THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DRR, THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND SDGS

1 *Addressing Climate Change in an integrated manner: The EAC Climate Change Policy Framework*

2 *Vulnerability Hotspot maps to improving climate change adaptation planning*

3 *Low Emissions Development*

4 *Increase Climate information and communication: EAC's Climate Change Knowledge Portal*

5 *Building Resilience in the Agriculture Sector: Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices with agricultural-based emission reduction*

6 *Increasing availability and accessibility of sustainable, reliable and affordable renewable energy resources.*

7 *Infrastructure Development*

8 *Management of Transboundary Ecosystems:*

9 *Pollution Control Programme*

10 *Addressing Disasters: integrated approach in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*

2.1 ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE IN AN INTEGRATED MANNER: THE EAC CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY FRAMEWORK

The Impacts of climate change in the region include extreme weather events (droughts and floods) that are occurring with greater frequency and intensity. This has resulted in food insecurity, unreliable hydro-power generation, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, reduced revenue from tourism, increase in pests and diseases infestation, sea level rise, water scarcity, natural resources based conflicts and damage to infrastructure among others. These impacts threaten the livelihoods of the people and economies of the region with the impacts spreading in almost all socio-economic sectors.

The Heads of State of the East African Community (EAC) directed the EAC Secretariat to develop a Climate Change Policy and strategies to address the adverse impacts of Climate Change in the region and harness any potential opportunities posed by Climate Change in the context of the principle of sustainable development.

The overall objective of the EAC Climate Change Policy is to guide Partner States and other stakeholders on the preparation and implementation of collective measures to address Climate Change in the region while assuring sustainable social and economic development.

The Policy prescribes statements and actions to guide Climate Change adaptation and mitigation to reduce the vulnerability of the region and enhance adaptive capacity and build socioeconomic resilience of vulnerable populations and ecosystems. Adaptation to Climate Change is of priority to the EAC region in view of the high vulnerability of the region to the impacts of Climate Change, with the emerging associated challenges, especially food security.

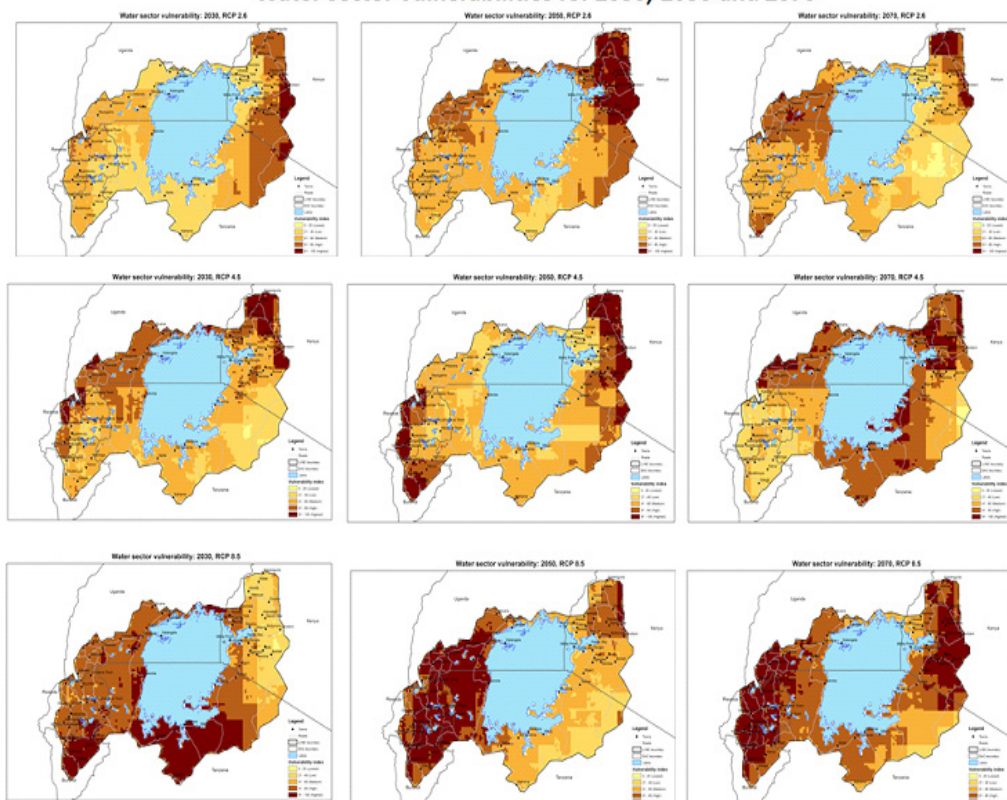
Other climate change documents include the EAC Climate Change Master-Plan and the Climate Change Strategy. The purpose of the Master Plan is to provide a long-term vision and a basis for Partner States to operationalise a comprehensive framework for adapting to and mitigating Climate Change in line with the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management and with international climate change agreements. The Master Plan's Vision is to ensure that: "The People, the Economies and the Ecosystems of the EAC Partner States are climate resilient and adapt accordingly to Climate Change".

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2.2 VULNERABILITY HOT SPOT MAPS TO IMPROVING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PLANNING

The Lake Victoria Basin in East Africa is highly vulnerable to climate change. However, through USAID/East Africa’s introduction of an innovative analytical mapping tool, key decision makers in the five Partner States within the East African Community (EAC) can better identify “vulnerable hotspots” in the region, and access information critical to developing adaptive measures to accommodate uncertain climate features.

Water sector Vulnerabilities for 2030, 2050 and 2070



USAID/East Africa’s planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project is strengthening and improving access to decision—support tools for climate change adaptation planning in East Africa. PREPARED developed and introduced a vulnerability indexing method that maps areas within the EAC most vulnerable to climate change based upon exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity . Planners from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda can now predict potential impacts of future climate events on key economic and environmental programs.

With the training provided by the PREPARED Project, planners from national agencies, such as the Uganda Ministry of Environment and Water, continue to refine the tool and develop maps most relevant to their own socioeconomic and environmental conditions.

EAC Partner States have also trained experts to support spatial vulnerability assessment and hotspot mapping. A strong foundation is in place for the EAC to use climate information to develop and support adaptation strategies for communities, governments, and landscapes

Trained regional experts in climate vulnerability mapping will continue improving the index and maps to a level that can be used for decision making.

2.3 LOW EMISSIONS DEVELOPMENT

As countries aim to limit the global temperature rise to below 1.50C, there is need to cut domestic emissions through implementing low emission development projects. While several parties are looking forward to meeting their emission reduction targets in their (Intended) Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), East African countries have implemented mitigation activities under the Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and Clean Development Mechanism Programme of Activities (CDM PoAs) in particular.

Standardized baselines (SBs) are vital milestones beyond the CDM to encompass Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems and may serve as appropriate tools to establish sectoral baselines. SBs therefore serve as a validated benchmark for new mechanisms under article 6 of the Paris Agreement and NAMA development as they facilitate prior calculation of emissions that would have occurred without mitigation projects. Standardized baselines have been developed for different sectors in the East African countries. The Grid Emission factor SB for instance has been developed for Rwanda and Uganda. Other SBs developed by countries in the region are in the biomass sector (charcoal and energy efficiency cook stoves) and waste management.

The East African region has strong foundations in SB development. They have been developed to strengthen the region's participation in international and local carbon markets and to boost the development of emission reduction projects. The development of SBs has also resulted in positive impacts within the host countries that go beyond generating the actual baseline figures. These effects include improved institutional capacity with accompanying data collection processes as well as enhanced governance structures.

Following the successful regional level interactions on Standardized baselines during the Africa Carbon Forum in Kigali, countries in the region discussed potential sectors for further SB development. The event was organized for Designated National Authorities (DNAs) in the region and it was supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in collaboration with the East African Community (EAC) and UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre in Kampala. The key outcomes for this event included the need to have a regional expansion of existing SBs such as those for institutional cook stoves and charcoal; development of an East African regional grid emission factor SB and priority sectors such as transport and agriculture were proposed for further SB development. GIZ in collaboration with EAC secretariat and other development partners in the region continue to provide support partner states in the development of Standardized baselines in a bid to emphasize the region's climate mitigation efforts.

2.4 INCREASE CLIMATE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION: EAC'S CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Climate change is the most important contemporary global environmental, social and economic challenge, predicted to have severe impacts on a planetary scale. Climate change has primarily manifested itself in temperature increases, variability of precipitation patterns, and change in the frequency and intensity of extreme events such as floods and drought. The impacts of climate change are already affecting the livelihoods of the people in almost all sectors of the economies in the East African region. The Climate Change Knowledge Portal is a metadata base of online information, Knowledge and best practices on Climate Change Adaptation, mitigation and the impacts of Climate Change on the economies of East African Countries. This Portal primarily collects meta data for content published about the member states of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), also including the IGAD Region (Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan). We also harvests meta data for any knowledge, globally, that is of importance to the East Africa Community stakeholders.

2.5 BUILDING RESILIENCE IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR: PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES WITH AGRICULTURAL-BASED EMISSION REDUCTION

The majority of agricultural activity in the region is rain-fed both at small-holder and commercial levels. The sector is thus highly exposed to climate variability, at both annual and decadal scales, as well as recurrent natural disasters, with drought as a particular threat. The Livestock sub-sector is highly vulnerable to adverse impacts of climate change. Drought leads to reduced forage availability, degradation of the environment and an increase in destitution of pastoralists. Climate change is modifying fish distribution and the productivity of marine and freshwater species. This has impacts on the sustainability of fisheries including aquaculture, on the livelihoods of the communities that depend on fisheries, and on the ability of the oceans to capture and store carbon (biological pump).

2.5.1 COMPREHENSIVE AFRICA AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CAADP)

The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), under the African Union, is Africa's policy framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security & nutrition, economic growth & prosperity for all. EAC has embraced and domesticated the CAADP agenda through the auspices of the EAC Food Security Action Plan (FSAP). EAC is well positioned and committed to the implementation of the African Union Heads of State and Government Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. The Malabo Declaration is a recommitment to the Principles and Values of the CAADP Process and directly addresses agricultural transformation and food security agenda in the 2015-2025 decade.

Key milestones include development and adoption of the EAC CAADP Compact by the Council of Ministers in 2016. The main objective of the Compact is to catalyze agricultural sector growth and facilitate the coordination of regional and crosscutting programmes. It is designed to ensure stronger alignment and complementarity between regional and national agricultural programmes in the region. Strategic priority areas of focus in the EAC CAADP compact include the following: (i) Sustainable Natural Resource Use and Management; (ii) Rural Infrastructure, ICT and Trade-Related Capacities for Improved Market Access; (iii) Food Supply and Reducing Hunger; (iv) Agricultural Research, Technology Dissemination and Adoption; (v) Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems and Management of Risks; and (vi) Institutional and Financial Strengthening.

The EAC CAADP Compact agriculture and climate-change nexus responds to the Malabo Declaration “Commitment to Enhancing Resilience of Livelihoods and Production Systems to Climate Variability and Other Related Risks”. Implementation of the EAC CAADP Compact will be realized through a Regional Agricultural Investment Plan (RAIP). Impact and outcomes of the interventions undertaken will be tracked and measured through the EAC CAADP Compact Results Framework.

While the above milestones have been achieved, the level of investment in agriculture in EAC needs to be stepped up in order to alleviate food insecurity, poverty and spur the desired degree of growth and transformation. EAC Partner States should strive to ensure that annual budgetary allocations for the agricultural sector are in line with Maputo and Malabo Declaration, goals and targets.

2.5.2 CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE

In responding to the impacts of climate change, Partner States have developed people centered programmes namely: Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA), PREPARED Project as well as instruments in the form of Acts, policies, strategies and action plans. They also established a Climate Change Coordination Unit (CCU) within the internal Structures of the EAC Secretariat as well as a Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) to provide technical guidance in the design and implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation projects and programmes. An EAC Information and Knowledge Management System were established. It is a portal (Metadata) designed to better inform policy planning in the area of climate change adaptation.

Recognizing that the resilience of agricultural systems to adverse weather events and climate change is fundamental to achieving food security in the region, EAC together with COMESA and SADC implemented a programme on climate change. This programme brings significant livelihood and food security benefits to at least 1.2 million small-scale farmers through the application of well tested, Climate Smart Agriculture that combines crop production with agro-forestry and livestock management. Pilot projects are being implemented in Partner States.

2.5.3 CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE IN THE MARA REGION IN TANZANIA

USAID/Kenya and East Africa, through its Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED) Project, designed and conducted a Community Climate Change Adaptation Assessment (C3A2) in 17 communities within the five EAC Partner States. The results of the C3A2 are now being used to inform the design and implementation of community-based adaptation projects.

In Tanzania for instance, the National Climate Change Strategy, under the agriculture and food security sector, emphasizes that more than 80% of the population in Tanzania depends on climate-sensitive rain fed agriculture as the main livelihood source. In response to changing climate conditions, the United Republic of Tanzania has identified strategic adaptation measures, focusing on promoting early maturing and drought tolerant crops, such as cassava and horticulture production. Butiama District, located in the

Tanzania portion of the Mara River Basin, has been identified as a climate hotspot subject to increasing drought; exposing communities to profound food security and livelihoods challenges. In this district, agricultural specialists from the district conducted a rapid and participatory C3A2 with about 300 community residents and the results were used to develop programs and conduct training on improved cultural practices that integrate improved varieties and sound water management techniques for seedling production. Ninety-six trainees then planted several acres of the pilot cassava plots and cultivated more climate resilient greenhouse tomatoes. In the district, the propagation of a drought tolerant cassava variety (Mkombozi) in Kirumi, Bukabwa and Kyankoma villages and a climate-resilient greenhouse initiative in Nyabange village has become a success story to recon with.

Butiama District Council has been actively engaged with supporting these initiatives in these communities, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustaining and expanding this highly successful climate change adaptation approach. "This project has helped to inform and educate the communities that the use of better cassava cuttings can increase production of cassava and improve adaptation to climate change," said Edmund Luena, the District Agriculture Officer and Cassava Specialist. "The local authority will do everything possible to sustain the project and ensure that in 3 to 5 years, the Mkombozi cassava variety will be spread in all the villages to ensure food security."

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2.6 INCREASING AVAILABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF SUSTAINABLE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

The EAC has committed is working towards provision of adequate and affordable energy to the East African people. The priority energy areas of focus include green energy, geothermal electricity and hydro-power generation. In all the EAC Partner States, a large percentage of electricity is met by hydro sources. Fuel-wood and charcoal are the dominant form of biomass energy consumed in the region.

In support of sustainable development through climate change mitigation measures, including through low carbon development pathways, the EAC and its Partner States aim to

- (i) Increase availability and accessibility of sustainable, reliable and affordable renewable energy resources;
- (ii) Reduce greenhouse emissions from the transport sector,
- (iii) Ensure that the forest sector continues providing global services in mitigation of climate change while supporting sustainable development needs of the Partner States,
- (v) Promote waste management for improved air and water quality; soil and mitigation of greenhouse gases

Whenever there is reduction in generation capacity of hydropower dams, as a result of droughts and flood-induced siltation, the manufacturing industries are forced to switch to expensive fossil fuels (oil) to meet their peak demand of electricity. Since most consumers are unable or unwilling to absorb the extra energy cost, it often leads to a deficit in industrial output, which has to be met by imports from e.g., the Southern African Development Community (SADC) (mainly South Africa), further tilting the regional balance of trade in favour of these economies.

The focus of Energy sector of EAC is ensuring availability of sufficient, reliable, cost effective and environmentally friendly energy sources in the region to facilitate the broader EAC objective of attracting investments and promoting competitiveness and trade.

EAC's installed electricity generation capacity is 65% from Renewable Energy Sources. The EAC has clear targets for increasing access to modern energy services through renewable energy solutions as articulated in the EAC Regional Strategy for Scaling Up Access to Modern Energy Services. EAC plans to accelerate deployment of renewable energy through the East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) launched in June 2016. The EAC Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Status Report launched in September 2016 shows that investment in renewable energy is on the increase in the region.

The EAC Power Master Plan promotes development of clean energy generation resources with interconnection projects facilitating the transmission of electricity from RE endowed areas to demand centres. The region has 8.5MW grid connected solar plant in Rwanda with several other solar plants lined up in other Partner States. One of the largest wind farms in Africa is under development in the region i.e 300MW Turkana Wind Farm in Kenya.

EAC Partner States are committed to the Sustainable Energy For All Initiative (SE4ALL) and are at advanced stages of completing their Prospectuses and Action Agendas.

2.7 INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

A good transport and communication infrastructure is critical for economic growth. Climate change impacts such as floods often wreak havoc to this underdeveloped infrastructure as it is in most cases, not built to withstand such impacts. Indeed, the resurgence of the regional economies in the recent past has been attributed to the growth in this sector. For instance, in 2009 Kenya's sector grew by 6.4%, mainly due to the expansion of the telecommunications sub-sector as well as improvement in the roads infrastructure. In Rwanda, transport and communication sector contributed about 8% to the GDP in 2009. In Tanzania, the sectoral contribution to the GDP averaged around 5.3% per annum between 2000 and 2007, and it grew by 6.5% in 2007. In Uganda, the sector comprised about 6.2% of the GDP in 2009.

The Road sector is the dominant mode of transport in all the EAC Partner States. Only three of the EAC Partner States, i.e., Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda have railway networks. Air transport is becoming an important mode of transport in the region. It is a crucial component of the regional thriving floricultural industry, where it facilitates the transportation of cut flowers and other horticultural products to Europe and overseas markets.

The EAC Partner States have identified the needed joint infrastructure investments aimed at overcoming the supply constraints which increases the transaction costs and thus induces profitability and productivity of investments.

2.8 MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY ECOSYSTEMS:

The Partner States share borders including valuable terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These ecosystems are primary assets and a store of wealth- wildlife, flora and fauna, which if sustainably managed, can contribute to poverty alleviation as well as future incomes. The EAC Partner States recognize the contribution of ecosystems to economic growth, and of the strong link between their over-exploitation and poverty. They have put in place Transboundary Environmental Assessment Guidelines for their Shared Ecosystems. The Guidelines are a means to institute measures to harmonize implementation of the policies, laws, standards and programmes for promoting cooperation in the conservation and sustainable use of shared ecosystems.

2.8.1 EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TRANSBOUNDARY ECOSYSTEMS BILL

The East African Community Transboundary Ecosystems Bill 2010 was passed by the assembly in January, 2012. The object of the Bill is to provide for a legal framework to effectively streamline the management of trans-boundary ecosystems with a view to enhancing the quality of the environment and also ensure sustainable utilization of shared natural resources in the EAC. It seeks to provide for the management and regulation of transboundary ecosystems to establish a Commission managing ecosystems in the region and other related matters.

The Bill is a well thought-out law that manages the transboundary ecosystems for mutual benefit of the region. The law takes care of any existing or future bilateral between the Partner States as well. The law would help the EAC harness its natural resources for posterity since it among other areas sought to manage future conflicts on the shared regional resources. The Law complemented the national laws and institutions on issues of transboundary nature including in mitigating effects of Climate variability and Change.

2.8.2 EAC FORESTS MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION BILL

The EAC Forests Management and Protection Bill 2015 was passed by EALA on, November 26, putting in place a regional framework to conserve the environment.

The Bill whose mover is Hon Christophe Bazivamo hopes, to promote the development, protection, conservation, sustainable management and use of the forests in the Community especially trans-boundary forests ecosystems, in the interest of present and future generations. It further wants to espouse the scientific, cultural and socio-economic values of forests and harmonise national forest laws.

The Bill seeks to operationalize Article 112 (1) d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC in which Partner States undertook to co-operate in the management of the environment and agreed to take necessary disaster preparedness, management, protection and mitigation measures especially for the control of natural and man-made disasters, and to create a regional mechanism which would enable a timely intervention in disaster situations.

The Bill delineates the roles and responsibilities of Partner States and includes provisions for general measures on forest management and protection, governance and institutions of forest management and control, trade in forest related products and co-ordination matters under a Board known as the EAC Forests Board to be operationalized by the Council of Ministers.

2.9 POLLUTION CONTROL PROGRAMME

Environmental pollution has increasingly become a problem in East Africa where the environmental consequences of development cannot be ignored. Although development is desirable, if not well planned can be detrimental to environment and human being resulting into human health problems, inadequate supply of clean water, chemical contamination of water and air and threats to various ecosystems and living resources. In responding to the increasing problems of pollution, Partner States established Pollution Control Technical Working Group (PCTWG) to provide technical leadership in the management and control of pollution in the region.

2.10 ADDRESSING DISASTERS: INTEGRATED APPROACH IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

EAC Partner States and communities have realized the need to move from reactive (response actions) disaster risk management which has been based on emergency and crisis management to a proactive (Prevention actions) so as to mitigate disasters before they occur; and to link their Disaster Risk Reduction interventions, and the adaptation and mitigation of Climate Change

To minimize the negative impact of disasters on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the region, the EAC is emphasizing integration of disaster risk reduction and management into the regional poverty reduction, security, and sustainable development agenda.

The EAC has made positive moves in integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into its policies and programmes. In addressing Disasters Partner States have established DRR comprehensive Policy frameworks, enacted legislations and formed DRR Platforms that guide interventions in Disasters.

After approval and implementation of the EAC Climate Change Policy framework emphasizing on Disaster Risk Reduction as a tool for climate change adaptation, the EAC region developed DRR Policy and instruments including: (i) the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy adopted in 2013; (ii) the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) sub-regional Platform; (iii) and the EAC DRR Working Group under the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

Implementation of the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy (2013-2017) is underway through various activities including establishment of an EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Unit to coordinate

DRR related activities across the various sectors. Further to this, an EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill was introduced in 2013 for consideration by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and enacted in March 2016.

The objective of the Act is to provide a legal framework for intervention and assistance for people affected by natural hazard-related and human induced disasters, and to protect the natural environment through integration of comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management practices in the Community.

DRR activities are currently being implemented in collaboration with and guidance by the African Union Commission and through technical support from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR). The EAC DRR Strategy was developed under the financial support of the Government of Japan.

EAC'S efforts to initiating a DRRM Bill were recognized and applauded worldwide, making EAC the first Regional Economic Community to legislate on DRR. The next stage is the process of Assent by the EAC Heads of State in line with Article 63 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

In that regard, the EAC DRR Act is currently under consideration by Partner States officials and will be assented to during the 18th Ordinary Heads of State Summit scheduled to take place on 30th November 2016. EAC Council further approved an EAC work plan aligned to the recently adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The next steps include the implementation of the EAC work plan and the DRR Bill in respect to the 4 priorities and 7 targets of the Sendai Framework for DRR.


INVOLVING LEGISLATORS: ROLE OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

As the clock on the timeframe for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ticks away, the East Africa Legislative Assembly is gearing up to take a more central role in the implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advocate to allocate and appropriate more resources in the area of SDGs.

From the Paris Accord to Accra Declaration, the international community has continued to express hope that countries' institutions be sufficiently capacitated to ensure internal supervision of National Government's international engagements.



EALA Third Assembly, the Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel F. Kidega is sitting in the middle



Addressing the legislators attending a sensitization workshop on promoting SDGs, EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel F. Kidega maintained that Parliaments had a fundamental role to play in ensuring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

He urged Honorable members of parliament to take a more prominent role in ensuring full realisation of the SGDs and ensure Law development, enactment and enforcement.

EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources have been instrumental in developing / supporting the EAC Transboundary Ecosystem management Bill, the EAC DRRM Bill, the EAC Forest Management and conservation Bill , several Resolution on Climate Change, Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable natural Resources management.

THE EAC PARLIAMENTARIAN FORUM ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

During the first meeting of the East African Community (EAC) legislators in June 2015 in Uganda, parliamentarians formed the Regional Parliamentarian Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Forum intends to build a joint network through which East African countries can together build resilience of East Africans and systems to address both natural hazards and human-induced disasters to achieve sustainable development and resilience



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT FORUM & MEETING OF THE EAC
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
● TRAVELLERS BEACH HOTEL - MOMBASA, KENYA
26TH - 27TH APRIL 2017



The EAC Parliamentarian Forum aims at giving members of national parliaments an opportunity to plan their future engagement in supporting the region to attain the Sendai Framework target(s) on “substantially increasing the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020” among other desirable activities. The Parliamentarians made a resolution to engage themselves in the support of the implementation of the Sendai framework in the EAC region. This was due to their awareness of the damages caused by natural and manmade hazards, the increased impacts of disasters in the region, the region’s efforts in putting in place policy and institutions to address them, and the need to enhancing DRR governance through the development of risk sensitive policies, legal and legislative instruments. They also recognized their power, as legislators to influence Disaster Risk Management practices using the Sendai Framework as a reference tool for policy development.

3.0 FUTURE PLANS

The East African Community region is vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. It is already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather, rising sea-level, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty.

3.1 IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS AGREEMENT: EAC ROADMAP

To foster effective implementation of the Paris Agreement with adequate stakeholder's involvement, EAC has developed a roadmap showing how to approach NDCs implementation, translating what the Paris Agreement means in terms of concrete steps and offering advice on how countries might take this work forward. The roadmap provides targets, responsibilities and time lines for key interventions in line with the Paris Agreement.

3.2 ADOPTING COHERENCE IN BUILDING RESILIENCE TO HAZARDS AND RISKS THAT THE COMMUNITY MIGHT FACE:

LINKING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

In 2015 the world's governments agreed the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Paris Agreement on Climate Change (the Paris Agreement) These frameworks articulate a set of goals and targets that, if achieved, will create a future where significant progress will have been made on the disaster, sustainable development, climate and humanitarian challenges of today. Delivering this global

Vision by 2030 in a sustainable and inclusive way requires that we act upon all the major frameworks negotiated and agreed throughout 2015. 'Resilience' features in all four of the major frameworks and agreements. Each articulates the importance of resilience in achieving global change in a variety of sectors, contexts and scales.

3.3 THE EAC VISION 2050

The EAC Vision 2050 articulates the dreams and aspirations of the East African peoples (for a future of a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically-united East Africa) and makes a commitment to what the EAC Secretariat and stakeholders will do to achieve these dreams. It follows closely on the development of the African Union Agenda 2063 which articulates the aspiration of all the people of the African continent.

The region will therefore consider a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction. The Partner States will emphasize its role in contributing to reducing poverty as well as achieving sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the regional ecosystems.

The policies for green economy to be adopted in the region will be guided by and in accordance with all the Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and contribute towards achieving relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. The Vision 2050 will address issues of emissions of greenhouse gases that continue to rise globally.

Partner States will emphasize that adaptation and mitigation to climate change represents an immediate and urgent regional priority. The seriousness of nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all Partner States. Within the framework of Vision 2050, efforts will be made to mobilize funding from a variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including innovative sources of finance, to support nationally appropriate mitigation actions and adaptation measures. In this regard, the region will consider launching of its own the Green Climate Fund to address issues of climate change.

3.4 THE 5TH EAC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY ALIGNED TO RELEVANT GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The 5th EAC Development Strategy is the first EAC Development Strategy following the adoption of the UN's SDGs (2016); the EAC Vision 2050 (2015); and to a great extent, the AU's Agenda 2063 (2013), it is designed to, inter alia, be optimally cognizant of commitments made under the above-noted three initiatives. EAC Fund that The UN's post-2015 SDGs, the Agenda 2063, and EAC Vision 2050 are not mutually exclusive and, the EAC Vision 2050, for instance, takes due cognizance of the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN SDGs.

During its development of the 5th EAC Development Strategy (2017-2021), the EAC took cognizance of the SDGs – with a view to ensuring that the Partner States do pursue them to their logical conclusion – in line with the Treaty, as well as the corresponding regional Integration Protocols. Accordingly, the SDGs should be integrated into the appropriate EAC sector programs, projects and budgets, as well as in implementation, monitoring and evaluation frameworks – while, at the same time, also strategically utilizing them – at the regional and Partner States levels – as a platform for resource mobilization for promoting and pursuing them, as well as for monitoring their achievement.

As the EAC embarks on the implementation of its 5th Development Strategy, it intends to formulate and implement strategies and projects that take full advantage of the existing and emerging continental and global opportunities, as well as optimize compliance with its associated continental and global development obligations – including, inter alia, within the framework of the AU Agenda 2063 and the UN post-2015 Global Sustainable Development Agenda.

4.0 EAC CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1:

Facilitate implementation of enabling climate change policy, legal, funding and institutional frameworks within the context of the post 2020 international climate policy regime.

Key activities:

1. Strengthen the technical and financial capacities of EAC regional and national institutions to directly access climate change finance from multi-lateral and bilateral financing mechanisms - Support regional and national institutions to access direct climate finance through National Designated Authorities (NDA) and regional and national implementing entities
2. Develop frameworks to raise finance for climate action such as resource mobilization strategies and investment plans to leverage climate finance, especially from the private sector
3. Collate and review existing country plans and strategies to prioritize transformational opportunities, and to identify thematic and geographic programmatic options with a focus on trans-boundary interventions
4. Develop of the EAC Climate Change Bill
5. Delivery feasibility studies for UNFCCC Financing mechanism
6. Establishment of Regional Climate Change Centre of Excellency

PRIORITY 2:

Support the development of priority climate adaptation/ resilience building and low carbon growth programmes and projects.

Key activities:

1. Supporting technical assistance to the National Climate Change Structures in the implementation of National Adaptation Planning (NAP) processes, and NDCs including through the support for projects consistent with National Adaptation Plan (NAP) priorities
2. Providing technical assistance for the preparation of programmes and projects that enhance adaptive capacities and socio-economic resilience to the current climatic variability and change in vulnerable areas and sectors
3. Providing technical assistance for the preparation programmes and projects that promote low carbon development pathways in critical sectors such energy, transport, forestry, agriculture; waste management, industry etc
4. Development of low carbon development Strategy

PRIORITY 3:

Support climate change capacity building, training and networking, information, communication and knowledge management activities targeting various stakeholder groups.

Key activities:

1. Develop Climate Information and Knowledge Management Network/Platform, regional meetings and south-south dialogue, and consultative workshops
2. Facilitate training in climate finance, resource mobilization and programme/project
3. Preparation of a Regional Climate Change Communication and Advocacy Plan
4. Supporting stakeholders sensitization forums
5. Preparations and participation at UNFCCC process including COPs
6. Strengthening EAC's Climate Change Coordination Unit

5.0 OUR PARTNERS

East African Community maintains and strengthens partnerships in the region and collaborates with partners including UN Bodies, Africa Regional Office, African Union Commission (AUC), Governments, Bilateral, other Regional Economic Communities (SADC, COMESA and IGAD).The Secretariat works closely with other EAC organs and institutions and involves the national parliaments, private Sector and Civil Societies , local Communities Organisations, and national and regional researches and learning institutions.

The Secretariat also works closely with EAC Organs and Institutions and involves national parliaments through various fora.







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