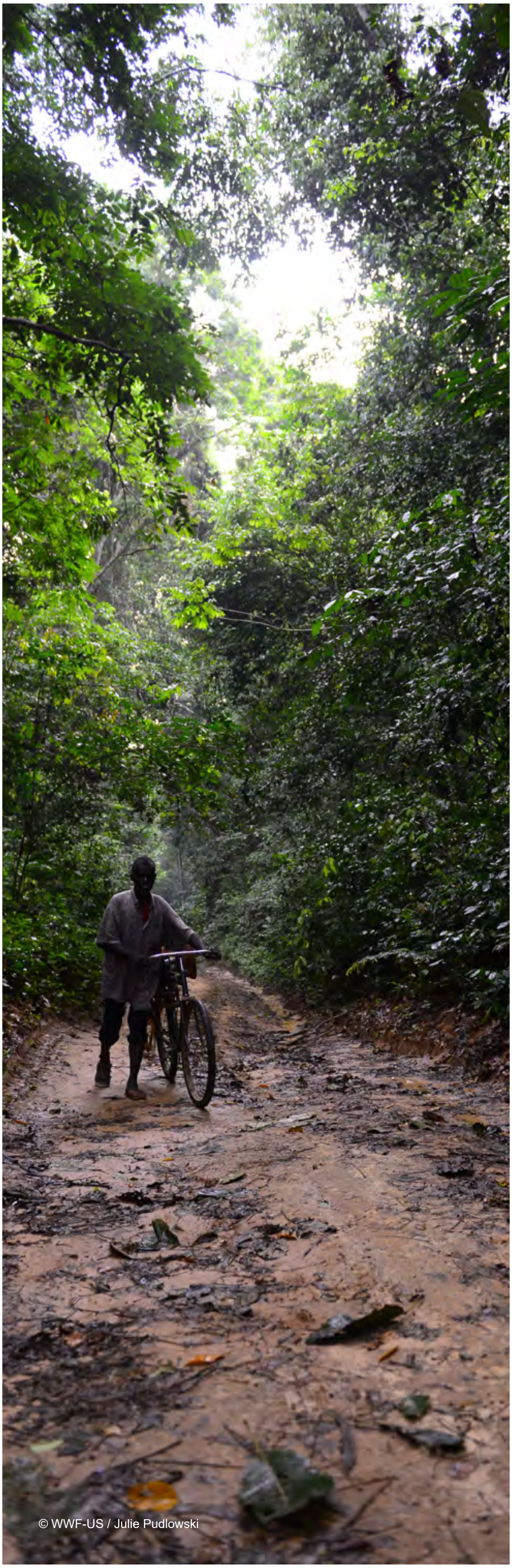
A New World Is Coming
#NDCsWeWant

AFRICA NDCs: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DECISION-MAKERS

September 2021


© WWF-US / Julie Pudlowski

CONTENTS

Cover photo: © ventdusud / Shutterstock.com

PURSUING THE NDCs THAT AFRICA WANTS

Even as it begins to emerge from under the shadow of the Covid pandemic, Africa is on the front line of the crises in climate and nature. Despite the limited contribution the continent has made to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere - less than 4% of global emissions, it faces some of the most worrying climate impacts, in terms of extreme weather, drought and the degradation of its natural ecosystems.

The ability of African governments to respond to climate change, by building resilience and adapting to the impacts we are already seeing, is limited. With government budgets already stretched, access to finance constrained, and with uneven capacity, it is proving difficult for countries on the continent to prepare for a climate-insecure future.

But the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that governments are required to revise ahead of this year's COP26 climate talks provide an opportunity to seek international support to build that capacity.

These NDCs allow developing countries to set out their financing, technology transfer and capacity-building requirements alongside their near-, medium- and long-term conditional and unconditional emission reduction pledges. The NDC drafting process enables governments to assess their needs and development pathways as they respond to climate change – and, crucially, it allows them to set out the international finance they will require supporting ambitious NDC implementation.

This is an important opportunity for African decision makers: governments across Africa face significant challenges in accessing climate finance. The funding landscape can be difficult to navigate, given the wide range of sources of finance and the differing criteria they have for eligibility and use.

A survey conducted during Africa Climate Week in 2019 found that more than half of countries in the region have faced problems mobilizing climate finance, while fewer than one in four had a financing strategy in place – despite the fact that two-thirds of countries were already starting to implement their (original) NDCs. Two years later, and amidst a global COVID-19 pandemic, many of these difficulties remain.

The good news is that the donor community is engaged on the issue, as are the multilateral development banks. Resources such as the NDC Partnership Economic Advisory Initiative, UNDP's NDC Support Programme and the African Development Bank's Africa NDC Hub can support governments on the continent in this endeavour. This report supports these efforts by setting out WWF's guidance to decision makers on NDC enhancement using the criteria in our #NDCsWeWant checklist.

Evidently, considerable scope exists to address these issues; only twenty countries of the 55 in Africa – have thus far submitted revised NDCs, which we analyse in this report. By following the guidelines we set out in its pages, we hope decision makers in Africa can challenge the international community to support ambition in the NDCs to come ahead of COP 26.

The financing needs of climate-vulnerable countries in Africa and elsewhere are far from being met. There is an urgent need for donors to step up with the climate finance, the capacity and the technology transfer that they will need to meet the twin crises of climate and nature loss. It is vital that the opportunity is seized to advance the low-carbon transition. NDCs should set out a pathway to leapfrog to a low-carbon economy paradigm, with the environmental, human health and economic co-benefits that it offers. What's next is for climate funders to step up to the plate to secure ambitious NDC implementation alongside green recovery across Africa.

Alice Ruhweza

WWF Africa Region Director

CONTEXT

The impacts of climate change pose specific and urgent challenges to Africa.

Agriculture forms the backbone of much of Africa's economy, and sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most food insecure region. Climate change is increasing that insecurity, with many countries already experiencing lower rainfall, while others are confronted by more extreme weather conditions damaging and destroying crops and vital infrastructure. During August/September 2020, more than one million people in 12 different countries were affected by floods in East Africa. 2020 also saw the worst locust swarm in 25 years, which devastated crops in many areas. The swarms followed an unusually long and wet rainy season. Efforts to deal with natural disasters are often hampered by armed conflicts in the region.

Africa is a diverse region, comprising more than 50 countries. It is also home to approximately one-third of the world's languages, with somewhere between 1000 and 2000 languages – 75 of which have more than a million speakers. Africa also has a rich variety of ecosystems including coastal environments, deserts and semi-deserts, mountains, savanna grasslands and forests. The continent continues to bear the brunt from climate change impacts. COVID-19 has also created challenges and opportunities to rally investment towards green and blue v solutions, with governments reworking budgets and revising sector economic plans.

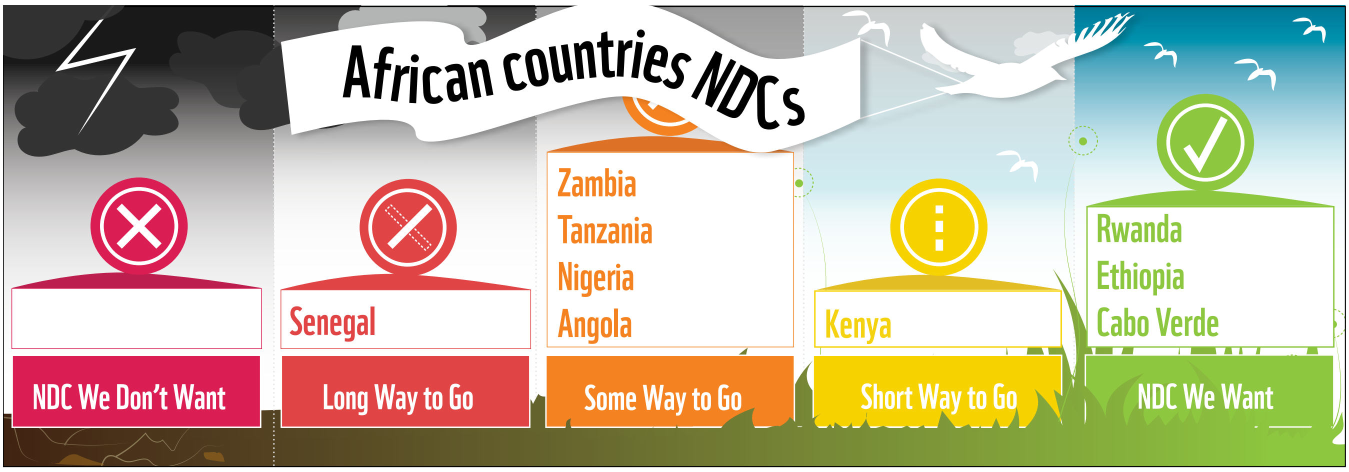
Resilience to the impact of climate change is limited by factors such as low savings and access to finance and insurance. Greater efforts are needed in Africa to build resilience and adaptation to limit the worst impacts of climate change. These efforts can be challenging given countries' limited capacity and financial resources.

At the same time, Africa can contribute to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases by reducing deforestation and promoting forest landscape restoration. In the Mai Ndombe province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa's largest REDD+ (Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and forest degradation) is protecting 10 million hectares of tropical forest in the Congo Basin.

Africa also has the potential to leapfrog traditional, expensive energy systems and move to a climate-smart and renewable energy future. The submission of revised National Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP26 is an opportunity to signal ambition and inform the international community of the priorities for finance, capacity building and technology transfer needs in the region. The international community should stand ready to support action through many programmes and instruments and this support will be most effective when aligned with country priorities. NDCs provide a vehicle for African countries to set out expectations for transformative ambition where this support is forthcoming.

In an effort to foster NDC enhancement, WWF has developed the #NDCsWeWant Checklist to benchmark updated NDCs submitted in 2020/21 against five areas: i) ambition (in mitigation, adaptation and finance), ii) fostering systemic change, iii) inclusiveness and participation in the NDC design process, iv) contribution to sustainable development, and v) systems for tracking progress. In this report WWF adds a sixth criteria to consider efforts for a green recovery. Using the Checklist enables WWF to hold countries accountable and to shine a light on the main advances and challenges towards implementation of the Paris Agreement. The checklist is also used to open conversations with governments on how to improve NDCs – to lay foundations for a proper long-term response to the climate crisis. WWF also provides resources to support enhancing NDCs in several areas.

As of 12 September 2021, twenty countries in Africa have submitted new or updated NDCs. Rwanda was the first Least Developed Country to submit an updated NDC and is rated as an #NDCWeWant, the NDC from Kenya has a #ShortWaytoGo, Senegal and Zambia both have #SomeWaytoGo and Angola is an #NDCWeDon'tWant. Sudan and South Sudan both submitted an interim NDC statement indicating it will follow with enhanced ambition in an updated NDC. Thus far WWF has assessed nine of these NDCs against our NDCsWeWant checklist



Ahead of finalizing its updated NDC, South Africa has made a draft public NDC, and called for feedback from stakeholders - see Box 1, below.

Using the NDC checklist as guiding principles in development.

Whilst South Africa has not yet submitted a revised NDC to the UNFCCC, it has circulated a draft document internally for public consultation. WWF South Africa provided technical inputs in this process, using the NDCsWeWeant framework as an assessment tool to guide both formal submissions, and to provide feedback to other social partners (both businesses in the Alliance for Climate Action and partner NGOs/CSOs) to advise their framing of responses where they lacked relevant analytical capacity.

South Africa's draft NDC is an improvement in some ways on the previous submission, but lacks the ambition to meet a 1.5 °C aligned target. In particular, South Africa presents a range for the proposed emissions; and whilst it has improved the upper limit significantly, the lower limit still does align with a national fair share. Using the NDCsWe Want framework was invaluable in examining different elements of the submission, helping to provide specific enumeration and comparison for this assessment.

For assessment of fair shares, WWF turned to the Climate Equity Reference Calculator (CERC). This approach was reflected in the formal government documents in this NDC, reflecting some impact on the national approach. The upcoming revision of the CERC (to DB version 7.3) highlights how SA's unrealistic baseline growth estimates inflated the national fair share claim, and therefore represents a clear tool for public engagement – framing South Africa's commitment in terms of climate justice, using a tool that has effectively been utilized by both civil society and government.

Whilst the NDC has not been formalized, WWF's approach has been instrumental in leveraging a response from the Presidential Climate Change Coordination Commission recommending for further ambition. Using the NDCsWeWant framing before formal submission presented an opportunity to highlight the potential risks and pushback that the current draft will receive if it goes ahead in an unmodified manner. This useful approach for leveraging change in NDCs **prior** submission may facilitate improved ambition in the near term, rather than waiting for the next stocktaking period to apply pressure to government responses.

With COP26 postponed until November 2021, countries have been given a greater window to reflect on their ambition and propose stronger targets and measures. Even now, there is opportunity still for all African countries to reflect on regional progress, and apply lessons learned to further develop their own NDC commitments ahead of COP26.

LESSONS FROM THE AFRICA REGION

1. Ambition

LESSONS

A number of African countries have increased their mitigation ambition, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal. Rwanda has added a reduction target of 38% relative to business as usual by 2030 and Senegal presents strengthened conditional and unconditional targets. While Kenya has increased ambition, the Climate Action Tracker (CAT) suggests that even with current policies it is on track to meet and even overachieve its NDC target, suggesting there is room for more ambition. Angola submitted conditional and unconditional targets which were said to be aligned with 2°C in its original NDC submission, and these have not been updated in the most recent submission. While these targets seem ambitious, progress towards them through, for example, policy developments, has not been demonstrated. Zambia has not increased ambition. In terms of alignment with 1.5°C, according to CAT Kenya's target is in line with 2°C which falls within a country's "fair share" range but is not fully consistent with the Paris Agreement.

None of the analysed NDCs present long-term targets. Kenya is reported to be working on a long-term strategy. Rwanda adopted the Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy in 2011, which charts the course of Rwanda's climate-resilience and low-carbon development up to 2050 and forms the basis for the development of the NDC.

Despite the importance of adaptation in Africa, the picture on adaptation ambition in the NDCs is mixed. Rwanda has significantly improved that component with details on indicators, implementing entities, timeline, funding estimates and mitigation benefits for specific interventions included. These interventions have been developed with the participation of stakeholders. Rwanda also includes cross-cutting interventions such as disaster-risk monitoring and early warning systems. Kenya also provides clear adaptation measures and addresses loss and damage. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) is referenced, which provides a medium-term horizon (2015-2030). Senegal provides details related to the means of implementation but, although development of the NAP is mentioned, does not say when it will be launched. Angola has not updated its National Adaptation Programme of Action since 2011 and Zambia does not detail indicators.

As would be expected from the stage of development of the countries, the NDCs all include some conditional targets. Except for Zambia, all the countries provide some details of the international financing needs. For example Angola provides details of projects that could receive international support to achieve conditional targets. Kenya, Rwanda and Senegal all detail total and/or sectoral funding requirements. The financial estimates for Senegal are very different from the previous NDC and rationale for the estimates is not very clear, but an NDC implementation and finance strategy is promised.

MITIGATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries should develop LTS with specific targets to signal where investments are needed to meet development and climate objectives.
- Countries use NDCs and LTS as a mean of setting out expectations for enhanced mitigation from a number of sources (amongst many) Green Climate Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa, Climate Investment Funds and the Urban and Municipal Development Fund
- Countries should increase unconditional and conditional ambition alongside, wherever possible, sufficient detail so that international finance can be channelled to where it will deliver the largest emissions reductions.
- Countries should ensure that development funding and policy reforms support electricity sector reforms and that long-term plans reflects the imperative to increase access to energy through renewable and off-grid energy solutions, for example by introducing competitive procurement for electricity supply.

- Countries in the region should coordinate NDC implementation in initiatives such as the Great Green Wall or sustainable transport corridors to leverage economies of scale.

ADAPTATION

RECOMMENDATION

- Countries should explore the opportunities that emerged in the Biden Summit to further this agenda, including the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Programme.
- NDC priorities for adaptation and detailed plans for implementation should be prepared as soon as possible to increase a countries' economic, environmental and social resilience to the impacts of climate change. These plans should be sufficiently detailed to attract international support.
- Climate resilient agriculture is a priority in many African countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and actions to deliver this, including involvement of private-sector actors, should be developed. Resources needed to deliver these actions should be clear in NDCs and implementation planning.
- Countries should consider support available for adaptation from (amongst many others) to Adaptation Benefit Mechanism, Africa Climate Change Fund, and the Global Environment Fund, alongside domestic priorities to best formulate NDC and LTS pledges.

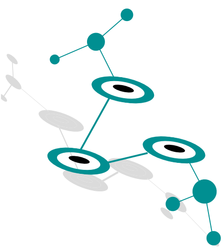
FINANCE

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries should provide sufficient detail of financial and capacity building needs in NDCs so that international support can be channelled to where it will be most effective. Countries should work with finance institutions to develop de-risking instruments to facilitate investments in community projects to address climate change and provide local economic opportunities.
- Some countries need to develop the systems to allow them to access international finance and should consider applying for support for financial readiness from a number of sources including the NDC partnership and the African Development Bank (amongst others). Engagement with international donors should draw on NDC pledges to set out priorities.

2. Fostering systemic change

LESSONS



The response to climate change needs not just top-down targets, but systematic change across the whole of the economy. All the revised NDCs present increased sectoral coverage, with several now covering the whole of the economy with specific sectoral targets. Nearly all countries include specific targets for agriculture and land use, as well as energy sectors. The exception is Rwanda, which includes agriculture but not yet land use. Senegal for example includes unconditional targets to increase reforested or restored areas by around 1297 ha of mangroves and 21,000 ha of various plantations and conditional targets to reduce deforestation by 25%. Zambia has several measures relating to protection and conservation of water and watersheds.

While not directly related to emissions reductions, structural sectors such as health and education are important to build an enabling long-term foundation for climate policies, emissions reductions and enhanced adaptation. The importance of these two sectors in particular is recognized by most of the NDCs. The Emerging Senegal Plan is a cross-sector plan integrating climate change in the formulation of policies on health, the fight against poverty and malnutrition, energy transition and gender main streaming.

Most NDCs mention policies to protect vulnerable groups, the exception is Rwanda. Gender equality is mentioned as important in most countries. Angola refers to the potential for youth job creation through renewable energy and forest economy. Kenya addresses just transition through an extensive consultation process for social protection to ensure all stakeholder interests are considered in climate action.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Sectoral targets are key for credibility and to monitor implementation. Countries should make efforts to include them in their NDCs accompanied by analysis to determine the scale and nature of investment needs across these sectors. This should include an understanding on the function of different actors, including private sector, in respective climate finance landscapes.
- Social policies to address equity and just transition issues should be linked to climate pledges in NDCs, including support needs.
- All just transition policies should be embedded in a long-term political vision and reflected in LTS.
- Social considerations should be informed by local communities and built through knowledge and best practice sharing and collaboration, both in NDC development, and implementation.

3. Inclusiveness and participation

LESSONS

Transparent processes to obtain inputs from a wide range of stakeholders will strengthen the quality of policy measures and their implementation. However, this seems to be an area of weakness in many of the NDCs submitted, maybe because of the difficulties posed by the pandemic. Exceptions include Kenya where an all-society approach was followed including in-person and virtual workshops; and Rwanda, where there were bottom-up working groups for establishing mitigation and adaptation measures. Zambia reports that the Technical Committee on Climate change includes representatives from a broad range of stakeholders and provides technical advice. However, details of how his inputs to NDC development are not included.

Participatory governance structures can facilitate effective implementation by promoting good co-ordination and meaningful engagement of both state and non-state actors. While governance structures are generally described, for most countries it is not clear how engagement with a wide range of stakeholders will be arranged. Both Kenya and Rwanda present institutional frameworks which should ensure broad participation. In Rwanda, a bottom-up list of mitigation and adaptation options in different sectors was developed through close consultation with stakeholders and experts. Through sector consultations and workshops, these were refined and used in the preparation of the NDC. Specific details on the process and workshop reports can be found on the NDC Partnership website.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- All countries should put in place a participatory and inclusive process to make sure all stakeholders have a say in the NDC design and implementation. Methods used should consider the diverse ethnic voices in Africa, and the best method to use will depend on the geographic and cultural circumstances of the country.
- For transparency, the processes on sharing drafts and on incorporating feedback should be described in the NDCs, including, for example, efforts to engage with ethnic minorities, women and vulnerable communities.
- Governance structures put in place by governments should ensure meaningful engagement of subnational governments and non-state actors.

4. Contribution to sustainable development

LESSONS

Climate action has an important contribution to a wide-range of sustainable development goals and should be an integral part of national development plans. By making the links explicit in NDCs, countries can build support for actions from a broad range of stakeholders, but these specific links are not made in most of the submitted NDCs. Kenya mentions alignment generically, and Rwanda makes the links between planned interventions and SDGs.

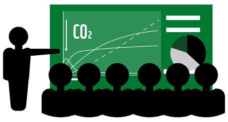
Nature-based solutions (NbS) are "actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits". Most of the submitted NDCs recognize the benefits of NbS to mitigation, adaptation and sustainable benefits by presenting measurable targets for NbS. Angola for example has identified improved management of natural resources as a key development priority and is committed to increasing carbon sequestration from forestry and avoiding deforestation. Activities such as establishing local sustainable and equitable management plans for woodlands for charcoal production are contributing to meeting the goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Countries should make the link between specific climate change actions, national development plans, and achievement of SDGs to help ensure alignment with broader development strategies and national targets. There are opportunities to make this link in Africa including harnessing the power of digital technologies to act on climate change and provide an engine of growth.
- Countries should explore all ecosystem types that can provide climate benefits, including oceans and coasts as appropriate, and specify what technical and financial support is needed to achieve results. Useful framing resources are available from WWF[1].
- The contribution of NbS to both mitigation and adaptation and to sustainable development should be recognized by defining measurable targets for all relevant ecosystems. These targets should be specific enough to guide development of concrete actions and mobilize international and national resources.
- The importance of community participating in developing and implementing NbS and actions to ensure inclusive participation should be put in place.

5. Tracking progress

LESSONS



Tracking progress is an important process for building credibility, allowing course correction if needed, and avoiding unintended consequences. Kenya has developed a robust and transparent tool for monitoring and reporting of both mitigation and adaptation actions. It is embedded in the Climate Change Act and obligates all state and non-state actors to report on their climate activities annually. Support required and received for climate action is tracked by the National Treasury. Rwanda also has a robust tracking system, which is described in an annex to the NDC. It tracks not only progress on actions and climate finance flow but also wider environmental, social and economic impacts that lead to transformational change. The other countries do not report national systems for tracking progress and indicate that support is needed for capacity building in this area.

RECOMMENDATION

- Those countries without a national system or concrete plans to develop one should address this lack as a matter of priority, indicating in NDCs what specific support including capacity building is needed in this respect to facilitate meaningful progress ahead of the next round of NDCs in 2025.
- One of the barriers to resource mobilization is the lack of reliable data and sector analysis. Countries should include in NDCs roadmaps to address the data parity, with a view to access funding for NDC implementation in the immediate term, but also to strengthen access in the future.

1 See for example, WWF 2020, Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through Nature-based Solutions: 8 simple recommendations for integrating nature into NDCs; and. Lecerf, M., Thomas, T., Delrieu, E., Elverum, C. and Picourt, L., (2021), Coastal and marine ecosystems as Nature-based Solutions in new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions, Ocean & Climate Platform, Conservation International, IUCN, GIZ, Rare, The Nature Conservancy and WWF.

6. Green recovery

As with other regions, there is an opportunity in Africa to implement measures that contribute to recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, while strengthening social and economic development and protecting nature. In line with this, ministers from countries across the Sahel region have called for further investment in the Great Green Wall – a 8000km green belt – to aid recovery from COVID-19. Rwanda committed to a green recovery on World Environment Day 2020, but concrete measures still need to be defined. Zambia's Economic Recovery Programme (2020-2023) places importance on the agriculture sector, with a focus on transforming the sector by encouraging private sector participation and promotion of climate resilient agricultural practices.

Climate change aspects are not explicitly covered in the COVID-19 recovery plans in Kenya, which focuses on the four pillars of the President's Big Four Agenda: manufacturing; affordable housing, universal health coverage and food security. Indeed, some measures such as the introduction of taxes on clean cooking and solar products could undermine climate action. In contrast, Senegal has exempted 22 different products used in renewable energy from VAT to boost green energy. Angola has been trying to diversify away from dependence on oil, but the impact of COVID-19 and a fall in the price of oil have had a significant economic impact. In response, the Angolan government revoked a ban on oil and gas drilling in some nature preservation zones and announced an auction of nine onshore oil blocks.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GOVERNMENTS TO SET THE RIGHT CONDITIONS FOR GREEN RECOVERY BY:

- Use NDCs and long term strategies (LTS) to facilitate and incentivize early investment to maximize environmental and social benefits. This can be done by, for example, unconditionally and conditionally pledging to increase the use of renewable and off-grid energy solutions to improve energy access and developing cities to provide safe, resilient and sustainable living places for the growing population.
- Focusing NDC implementation on investing in resilient infrastructure and food and water security to address climate change and reduce inequality and vulnerability of populations.
- Actions to diversify the economy away from fossil fuels, including by phasing out subsidies and inefficient taxes, need to continue and be stepped up wherever possible, and ambitious unconditional and conditional fossil fuel pledges should be updated in NDCs when needed.
- Recovery spending should focus on creation of green jobs in renewable energy, conservation and sustainable tourism, supporting NDC implementation alongside supporting the SDGs.
- Stopping habitat destruction such as deforestation, ensuring the rights and livelihoods of local indigenous territories and empowering indigenous peoples with land and water-use rights.
- Including climate pledges in NDCs which generate opportunities through restoring ecosystems and developing the sustainable use of natural resources, including nature-based solutions such as conservation and recovery of mangroves or increasing community-managed forest areas (where appropriate) to address social and economic issues.
- Further recommendations for Governments on economic measures for a green and just recovery are outlined in WWF's recent publication, Africa in the Context of COVID-19.

© Jennifer Sophie / Shutterstock.com

INSIGHT

MOBILIZING INTERNATIONAL FINANCE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

There are significant challenges for countries in Africa to access finance for climate action generally. For example, only around 2.5% of global climate finance in 2018 directed to Sub-Saharan Africa[2]. The main challenges and needs have been summarized by the NDC Partnership.

FIGURE 1. NDC FINANCE CATEGORIES OF NEED

	Developing climate finance strategies and financial roadmaps This includes: The development of climate finance strategies, national, local and sectoral NDC investment plans, and the development of financial roadmaps.
	Integrating NDCs into national planning, budgets, and revenue This includes: Blended finance mechanisms, financial mechanisms or vehicles such as national climate funds, green bonds, revolving funds, etc, and access to capital markets.
	Project and program financing and resource mobilization This includes: Blended finance mechanisms, financial mechanisms or vehicles such as national climate funds, green bonds, reloving funds, etc, and access to capital markets.
	Developing bankable projects and pipelines This includes: Project feasibility assessments, project financial structuring, and accessing international sources of finance through the development of project concept notes and proposals.
	Private sector engagement This includes: Private sector engagement, assessment of private sector needs, mapping of private sector partners, and assessments of private capital markets.

While not a substitute for energy transition from fossil fuels, nature-based solutions (NbS) are essential tools to both adapt to and mitigate climate change - a fact that has been recognized in many of the NDCs submitted already in Africa. At the same time, African countries need international finance as well as domestic resources to deliver fully on the ambition of their NDCs in all aspects, including NbS. The finance community is beginning to recognize that nature is embedded in our economies not external to it and this should bring a greater willingness to finance NbS. But given the multitude of sources for finance (bi- and multi-lateral, public and private), matching finance with country needs and then delivering that finance is a complex challenge. While most NDCs provide indications of needs to varying levels of detail, work is needed to translate those needs into investment-ready projects.

Finance needs to be mobilized around specific projects and programmes. Financial institutions will be less familiar with some types of NbS projects than for example energy/ infrastructure projects, and it is likely that some public sector money will be needed at least initially to reduce the risk to private investors. Climate financing is expanding the types of instruments used beyond the traditional grants to include debt, equity and risk mitigation options.

For NbS, bankable projects are ones that protect nature and deliver climate solutions and at the same time generate

2 CDP (2020) Africa report benchmarking progress towards climate safe cities, starters and regions.

an acceptable return on money invested. An NDC (or NDC finance strategy) can begin the process by specifying areas of priority actions, with indications of the outcomes expected and scale of finance required. These areas of priority would form the basis for project developers to develop bankable projects for investment by the public or private sector.

This insight piece uses examples in Africa to draw out principles for mobilizing international finance for NbS.

RWANDA – FINANCING NBS

Rwanda submitted its revised NDC in May 2020, setting a combined conditional and unconditional target of 38% relative to business as usual (BAU) by 2030. 16% of this target is based on domestically supported mitigation and 22% conditional on international support. The total cost to 2030 of the identified mitigation measures is estimated at around US$ 5.7 billion, and for adaptation measures over US$ 5.3 billion. The conditional contribution is intended to be met through the use of climate finance and international market mechanisms where appropriate. The monitoring and reporting framework set out in the NDC includes indicators relating to international finance and technology transfer and capacity building activities.

The Rwanda NDC identifies specific mitigation and adaptation measures that are suitable for international financing. Although the term NbS was not used specifically in the NDC, identified measures include water conservation practices such as wetlands restoration, developing sustainable land management practices and promoting afforestation/reforestation and reduced degradation of forests.

The Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), is identified as playing a vital role in financing projects and programmes and leveraging investment and has as one of its investment priorities conservation and sustainable management of natural resources. FONERWA launched in 2013 with the mission to be the engine of green growth in Rwanda. The funding for investments comes from bilateral, multilateral and domestic sources. Investments are available to public and private entities.

An example of a project funded by FONERWA is the rehabilitation of the river Nyabarongo to address critical land degradation and water pollution issues. Not only is this designed to reduce soil erosion and increase water flow, but it will also provide green jobs for youths and women in the region.

A second project example invested in sustainable biodiversity through a project to create an inventory of edible mushrooms in Rwanda's forest and identify species that have the potential for cultivation. The findings of the study helped start a new business venture to produce mushroom species adaptation to local environment and soil. Production of the yellow oyster mushroom has increased and resulted in more than 70 full-time jobs and 1000 casual jobs. In total, fund investments have protected 19,642 hectares of land against soil erosion, 42016 hectares of forests and agroforestry coverage, 21145 hectares of watersheds and water bodies protected and created 137785 green jobs. [www.fonerwa.org]

KENYA – ENHANCING THE CLIMATE FINANCE LANDSCAPE

Kenya submitted its revised NDC in December 2020 and has increased the ambition of the mitigation target to 32% by 2030 relative to BAU. The priority mitigation activities identified in the NDC includes several types of NbS: enhancement of REDD+ activities; scaling up NbS for mitigation; achieving tree cover of at least 10% of its land area; implementation of climate smart agriculture and harnessing the mitigation benefits of the sustainable blue economy, including coast carbon Payment for ecosystem services. The latter activity was added in response to evidence from a report by a range of stakeholders, including the Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute and WWF. The report addressed one of the barriers to inclusion of blue carbon (specifically mangroves), which was a lack of systematic information on the carbon and economic value of mangrove ecosystems. The study demonstrated the benefits of exploring different ecosystem types.

Most of the identified mitigation solutions also bring adaptation benefits, which is recognized in the priority adaptation programmes outlined in the NDC.

The Kenya NDC includes estimates of the domestic and international resources to deliver the mitigation and adaptation actions. For mitigation, Kenya intends to bear 21% of the total cost for the period 2020 to 2030 (US$3,725 million) with US$14,000 million to come from international support. For adaptation, the total cost up to 2030 is estimated at US$43,927 million, with Kenya intending to provide domestic resources to cover 10% of the total. While Kenya provides total resources needed, there is no disaggregation in the NDC to specific measures that could be used by financial institutions to identify where to invest. The National Climate Change Act signalled that a national climate change fund would be formed, though its implementation has been delayed.

Kenya has taken steps to enhancing the transparency of climate finance support needed and received through international and national sources by commissioning a report on the climate finance landscape. The report found that climate-related investments in Kenya in 2018 amounted to US$2.4 billion, around half of the finance needed annually to meet the NDC ambition. Nearly 80% of the finance was directed towards mitigation, despite the adaptation focus of the NDC. The biggest gap in finance for the NDC is in the water and blue economy sector. There is therefore an urgent need to increase finance for adaptation.

There are gaps in national funding, but also at the local level. WWF has been working with a number of sub-national governments (counties) in Kenya to support development of climate change policies that embed financing mechanisms for local climate solutions. With support from WWF and other organizations, two counties have developed mechanisms for setting aside part of their budget for climate change activities. NbS that bring local economic benefits as well as protecting nature and tackling climate change could be an important part of the portfolio for these counties.

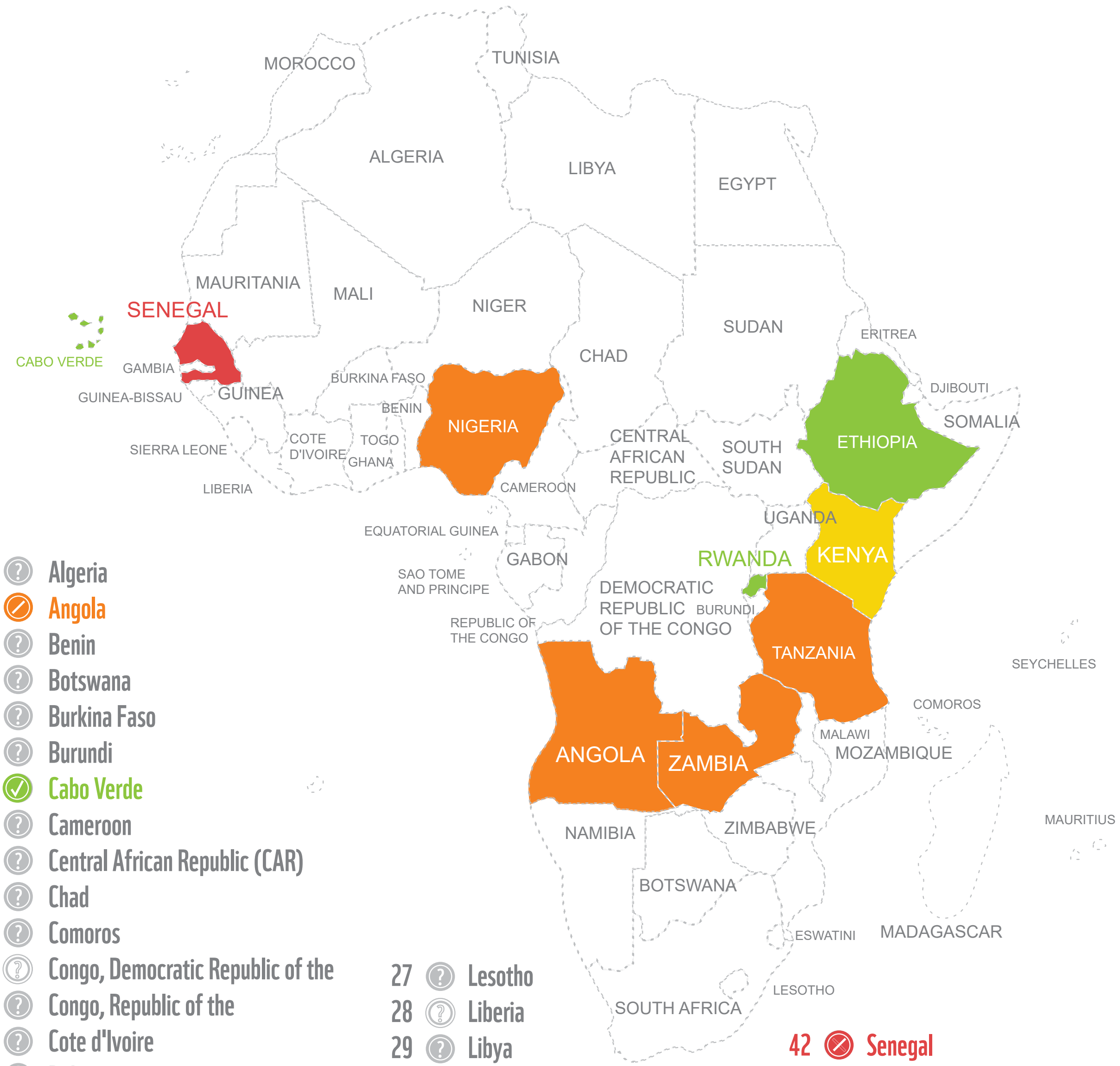
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR NBS IN AFRICA THROUGH THE NDC

In the NDC (or in a finance strategy for NDC implementation), decision makers should aim to

- Ensure clear responsibility for the implementation of financing structures, taking into account national and subnational government structures
- Specify resource and capacity building needs to strengthen the regulatory and financial enabling conditions in the country for investments in NbS
- Specify where there are knowledge gaps in the evidence across a full range of ecosystems and the resources needed to fill those gaps
- Specify how NbS implementation will be integrated into national planning, budgets and revenues, including how it will be tracked
- Specify areas of priority actions with financing needs and outcomes at a level of detail that can be used to develop bankable projects and enable financial institutions to prioritize support.

African countries NDCs

Not yet submitted | Submitted, not yet assessed | NDC We Want | Short Way to Go | Some Way to Go | Long Way to Go | NDC We Don't Want



1 Algeria
2 Angola
3 Benin
4 Botswana
5 Burkina Faso
6 Burundi
7 Cabo Verde
8 Cameroon
9 Central African Republic (CAR)
10 Chad
11 Comoros
12 Congo, Democratic Republic of the
13 Congo, Republic of the
14 Cote d'Ivoire
15 Djibouti
16 Egypt
17 Equatorial Guinea
18 Eritrea
19 Eswatini (formerly Swaziland)
20 Ethiopia
21 Gabon
22 Gambia
23 Ghana
24 Guinea
25 Guinea-Bissau
26 Kenya
27 Lesotho
28 Liberia
29 Libya
30 Madagascar
31 Malawi
32 Mali
33 Mauritania
34 Mauritius
35 Morocco
36 Mozambique
37 Namibia
38 Niger
39 Nigeria
40 Rwanda
41 Sao Tome and Principe
42 Senegal
43 Seychelles
44 Sierra Leone
45 Somalia
46 South Africa
47 South Sudan
48 Sudan
49 Tanzania
50 Togo
51 Tunisia
52 Uganda
53 Zambia
54 Zimbabwe


© Warren Parker / Shutterstock.com

With thanks to all our contributors for their research, writing and editing contributions:
Ann Gardiner, Irene Mwaura, Harisoa Hasina Rakotondrazafy, James Reeler, Kristin Reissig, Priscilla Santos, Laurent Somme and Mandy Jean Woods.

For further information contact

Fernanda de Carvalho
Global Policy Manger Climate & Energy
WWF International
fcarvalho@wwfint.org

Shirley Matheson
Global NDC Enhancement Coordinator
WWF European Policy Office
smatheson@wwf.eu

Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible. panda.org