

African Non-State Climate Action (ANSCA) platform

Submission to the Talanoa Dialogue for COP 24

Introduction

This is a joint submission to the three Talanoa dialogue questions by various organizations and institutions, comprising the African Non-State Climate Action (ANSCA) platform. ANSCA is a platform that was conceptualized and inspired by the preliminary findings of the ‘Strengthening Sub/non-state climate action in the global south’ project which is looking at how to effectively enhance participation and leadership for non-state actors with Kenya and India as the case studies. ANSCA was launched during the project workshop in Nairobi on 17th October, 2018 with support from stakeholders present. The development of the platform was also informed by the uncoordinated manner climate action in Kenya was evidenced through the project. Thus, it is the ideal pathway for fostering non-state climate action and closing the visibility gap in Kenya and Africa at large. The primary objective of the ANSCA platform is to close the “visibility gap” of non- and sub-state actors in Africa, and to subsequently catalyse action to realise the Paris Agreement targets.

Contributing partners:

The platform is supported by organizations and institutions with vast experience in research and policy making processes of addressing climate change towards achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement. These include:

1. African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS)
2. The Africa Sustainability Hub (ASH)
3. ASDGC Kenya/NGO Council
4. Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (SUSWATCH) Kenya
5. Stockholm Environment Institute - Africa Center
6. The Council of Governors (CoG)

Where are we?

Through the ANSCA platform, we commit to the following objectives in line with the aims of the Paris Agreement:

1. To enhance the visibility of ongoing non-state climate action in Africa, hence close the “visibility gap”
2. To catalyse non-state climate action in Africa
3. To foster linkages and synergy between state and non-state climate action in Africa

Strengthening non-state climate action in Africa is crucial to closing the “visibility gap” and catalysing such action. We endeavour contribute to greater recognition of non-state climate action in Africa and to assist the UN processes to accurately capture the broad range of climate action in Africa through the UNFCCC platforms such as NAZCA. The platform will also put in place programmes and activities to aid grassroots sensitization of the Paris Agreement. In addition to holding similar stakeholder workshops, more national advocacy forums will be convened. The platform will thus contribute to taking stock of the current state of non-state climate action in Africa, through an ongoing data collection process, hence contribute to understanding “where we are”.

Progress so far:

We have developed an online platform to showcase non-state climate action in Africa: the Africa Non-State Climate Action (ANSCA) platform. This was realized at a workshop that ACTS convened in Kenya that brought together state and non-state climate actors from the country and region, who committed to scaling up their initiatives and committed to support the work of the ANSCA platform. Importantly, the platform partners recognize and jointly support the idea of continual capacity building for subnational action in Africa to address challenges in utilising online platform.

Quantitative impact so far with respect to mitigation, adaptation, resilience and/or finance:

1. An initial database of non-state climate actors and action in Kenya, under the Strengthening Non/Sub-state Climate Action project
2. Database comprising stock-listed companies, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and county governments in Kenya, highlighting their climate action and targets.
3. A conceptual framework for the further operationalization of ANSCA platform

As a value addition, Kenya's legal basis for climate action - Climate Change Act 2016 - has different elements being operationalised at varying stages, which the platform aims to contribute to.

It is however too early to tell the quantitative impact of adaptation, resilience, mitigation and finance actions of the platform.

Where do we want to go?

Vision of the future for the ANSCA platform:

The ANSCA platform has great potential to engage and catalyse non-state actors in addressing climate change in Africa; Foster strong linkages between state and non-state climate actors and action; Create a better understanding of the landscape of non-state climate action particularly in Kenya, and Africa in general, by closing the "visibility gap" of such action; and advocate for the necessity of minimising the "visibility gap" of non-state actors climate actions in Africa to provide an accurate picture of where we are going.

Possible and potential new commitments and pledges:

For the Kenya case, fully operationalizing the Climate Change Act 2016 will enable it build its resilience that achieves 1.5 degrees and contribute to net zero emission by the 2050s.

Foreseen positive impact of these commitments once they are realized, including contributions to the sustainable development agenda:

The major impact expected from the realization of the commitments of the platform will be the achievement of African countries' NDC targets towards achieving the targets of the Paris Agreement by catalysing non-state climate action. Further, since the platform has been pioneered and steered from Kenya, we hope that its impacts will influence and inspire other non-state actors in Africa, and beyond, to strengthen their commitments to climate action. The platform also embraces the aspect of inclusivity which will be necessary for the expansion of resilience building, leaving no one behind.

How do we get there?

Ways in which the UN Climate Change process can help achieve the vision and goals of ANSCA to expedite sustainable transitions to climate neutral societies:

Linking the work of the ANSCA platform to the UNFCCC process will be crucial for showcasing ongoing climate action by non-state actors in Africa to close the “visibility gap”. We see a great opportunity in linking the platform to other existing, analogous platforms such as ActionLAC and NAZCA. Expanding communication of information and outcomes to wider audiences to share some of the key insights with climate policy makers in Africa will also go a long way in achieving ANSCA’s vision and goals.

Concrete solutions that have been realized while implementing ANSCA’s commitments:

The major achievement so far is the development of the African Non-State Climate Action (ANSCA) platform to foster climate action in Africa, which is already fully operational.

Collaboration models with other stakeholders:

ANSCA will be regularly convening multi-stakeholder workshops to deliberate on progress and way forward. ANSCA’s community of practice will continually be strengthened through collaborations with multi-stakeholders who have set similar ambitions.

Opportunities to further scale up action:

We’ve made progress and have made commitments as described above. This is what we need from national governments, other non-Party stakeholders and the UN Climate Change process to take even further action:

- Policy levers
When updating policy documents, in the case of Kenya for example the Medium Term Plans (MTPs) and the National Climate Change Action Plans (NCCAPs), there is need to ensure sufficient budgetary support for operationalisation.
- Collaboration/cooperation opportunities
Active interrogation and inclusion of Africa’s/Kenya’s scientific community’s findings in deliberation of policy options, and the expansion of communities of practice which provides grounds for collaboration opportunities with non-state actors.
- Lessons learned based on the experience and progress so far
Kenya’s experience of tackling climate change has been very enriching as it drew on the experiences and backgrounds of state and non-state actors.
The policy documents of the 3rd Medium Term Plan (MTP3) 2018-2022, National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018-2022 which arose from implementing sections of the Climate Change Act 2016 are case in point.
- Public and private financing models
Public and private financing models are still nascent works in progress. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is not turning out to benefit adaptation action at equal level with mitigation. On one hand Kenya seeks financing models to help it achieve its aspirations which include a low carbon path and building resilience, on the other hand Kenya’s accused to accumulating too much debt. Kenya’s effort to utilise public and private finance models is yet to bear meaningful fruits.
- Impact on non-Party stakeholders if these actions by national level governments and the UN Climate Change process and other opportunities are implemented and how much further they could go
Building resilience and reaching 1.5 degrees would be a much more pleasant journey.

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