

services and adaptation technologies. Private sector involvement is thus essential in the transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies across all economic sectors.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of African economies, accounting for the majority of all enterprises, employment, and GDP. Small and medium-sized enterprises can pave the way for mitigating and adapting to climate change across economic sectors, including industry and manufacturing, agriculture, tourism and energy sectors.

However, due to limitations in size, SMEs face larger challenges when it comes to the capacity to green their operations, including knowledge about technologies and process to reduce carbon emissions and to climate-proof their business.

For this reason, the UN Climate Change secretariat, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) Kampala have conducted a mapping study of capacity-building gaps and needs of SMEs to take climate action in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Objectives of the Side Event

This side event hosted by UNFCCC, IDRC and the RCC Kampala in collaboration with UNIDO and has the following objectives:

1. Present the initial findings from the UNFCCC/IDRC mapping study of capacity building gaps and needs in relation to climate action of SMEs in Eastern and Southern Africa;
2. Enhance understanding of the support provided to SMEs by different stakeholders in the region and identify areas for future collaboration to take meaningful steps on climate engagement with SMEs.

Programme:

Tuesday 28 September 2021; 18:00–19:00 hrs Kampala time (GMT+3)

Location: Virtual – Africa Climate Week Side Event (MS Teams meeting)

Moderator – Alejandro Kilpatrick, Team Leader, Means of Implementation, UNFCCC

Time (Kampala)	Agenda
5 min	Introduction Welcoming the participants and scene setting: Walter Ubal , Senior Program Specialist, IDRC

Time (Kampala)	Agenda
15 min	Key research highlights from Capacity Building mapping study/salient data insights – Prof. Collins Odote and Mr. Alfred Aleenje Questions and Answers – via Chatbox or questions from the floor
30 min	Panel discussion: Capacity Building for Climate Action with SMEs in Eastern and Southern Africa Facilitator: Mr. Suri Mues, Regional Lead, RCC Kampala Speakers: (i) Ms. Karin Reiss-Haimbala, Energy Systems and Infrastructure Division, Department of Energy, UNIDO; (ii) Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo, Assistant Executive Secretary, Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM); (iii) Mr. Eddie Sembatya, Finding X/Y, SEED Uganda Coordinator; (iv) Mr. Harun Kiogora Mukiiri, Participant Engagement Manager, UN Global Compact Network Kenya. The discussion will highlight key ideas and pathways for building/strengthening the capacities of SMEs <i>to better engage in Climate Action</i>. Representatives will be allocated 5 mins to share key ideas on the following guiding questions: (i) What are the core issues in dealing with capacity building gaps and needs of SMEs especially in the context of climate change mitigation and adaptation? (ii) Are there country examples of how Capacity Building challenges on Climate Action for SMEs can be addressed and modes of implementation? (iii) What role could academia and research organization play to help build and retain the capacities of SMEs at national and local level? (iv) How to strengthen collaboration between governments, cooperation partners, and academia and research organization to strengthen private sector engagement in climate action? (v) What role does gender play in SMEs effectively integrating mitigation and adaptation actions into their strategies and investments? Questions and Answers – via Chatbox or questions from the floor
10 min	Summary and Conclusions Alejandro Kilpatrick, Team Leader, Means of Implementation, UN Climate Change secretariat