



United Nations Climate Change
Paris Committee on Capacity-building



Regional Collaboration Centre – Kampala
Promoting Climate Action in Eastern and Southern Africa



Regional Collaboration Centre – Bangkok
Promoting Climate Action in Asia and the Pacific



Regional Collaboration Centre – Dubai
Promoting Climate Action in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia



IDRC · CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

3rd Capacity-building Hub UNFCCC Bodies, Entities, and Processes Day

RCC Bangkok, RCC Dubai, RCC Kampala and IDRC

Are SMEs ready for Climate Action: sharing global experiences on capacity-building?

Concept Note

Background:

Private sector action, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), will be critical actors in addressing climate change. Private sector involvement is essential for multiple reasons. First of all, given the scale and pace of emissions reductions needed, it is critical that companies across the board urgently act to reduce carbon emissions both in their direct operations and in their supply chains. Secondly, climate change presents material risks to business operations e.g. through infrastructure damage from flooding, droughts and severe weather systems, which in turn introduces new challenges to a fragile and vulnerable enterprise system, in particular for the SMEs. Thus, it is critical for SMEs to both find ways to mitigate emissions, and to be prepared to deal with future climate impacts to increase resilience.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) form the backbone of economies, accounting for an average 97% of all enterprises, 69% of employment, and 41% of GDP in the ASEAN region (ADB, 2020¹), or employing 80 percent of the workforce in sub-Saharan Africa², or between 10 -40% in several Arab countries³. Strengthening SMEs offers a great opportunity to further green businesses and support several actors of the society, including youth and women, to help them formulate climate-resilient investment plans. Through enhanced skills and know how on understanding and addressing climate risks, SMEs can pave the way for greening and adapting to climate change across economic sectors, including industry and manufacturing, agriculture, sanitation, tourism and energy sectors.

Given this background, UN Climate Change Secretariat and International Development Research Centre (IDRC), in collaboration with several partners conducted mapping studies of capacity-building gaps and needs on climate action by the private sector SMEs in the Asia-Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

¹ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/646146/asia-sme-monitor-2020-volume-1.pdf>

² Crick F. et al, "How do African SMEs respond to climate risks? Evidence from Kenya and Senegal," *World Development* 108, 157-168 (2018).

³ IMF 2019: *Enhancing the Role of SMEs in the Arab World- Some Key Considerations*.





Objectives:

This event hosted by UN Climate Change Secretariat and its Regional Collaboration Centres in Bangkok, Dubai and Kampala in collaboration with other partners has the following objectives:

- (i) present the results of the studies conducted to identify capacity-building gaps and needs in relation to climate action of SMEs from mapping studies in the different regions
- (ii) advance understanding of existing initiatives on climate engagement with the SMEs to address the gaps and needs and formulate forward looking recommendations.

Format:

Venue: 3rd Capacity-building Hub within COP26 (Blue zone)

Location: Glasgow, UK

Date: November 8th, 2021, Monday; 10:15-11:15 UCT, Glasgow

Length: 60 minutes

Language: English

The session is divided into two sections. In the Introductory session, 4 global and regional speakers will deliver their introductory remarks. Following this at the Panel 3 RCCs will present their study (presentation) followed by interventions from regional partners (Q&A).

General Structure:

Moderators		
Name	Role	Affiliation/Organization
Alejandro Kilpatrick	Moderator	UN Climate Change
Speakers (Tentative)		
Name	Title	Affiliation/Organization
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS (15 min)		
Mr. Kaveh Zahedi	Deputy Executive Secretary	UNESCAP
Ms. Sanda Ojiambo	CEO and Executive Director	UN Global Compact
Mr. Kareem Hassan	Executive Director	UNESCWA Technology Centre for Development
PANEL SESSION- PART A (20 min)		
Mr. Jens Radschinski	Regional Lead	RCC Bangkok
Ms. Supriya Dharkar	Associate Program Officer	RCC Dubai
Mr. Suriya Mues	Regional Lead	RCC Kampala
PANEL SESSION- PART B (15 min)		
Mr. Stein Hansen	Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific	Regional Director, UNIDO, Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNIDO
Ms. Rehmah Kasule	Perspectives from Africa	Founder, CEDA International





CLOSING REMARKS (5 min)

Mr. Santiago Alba-
Corral

Director of Climate Resilience
and Food Security Division

International Development
Research Centre (IDRC)

Outcomes:

- Enhance the understanding of the SMEs of climate actions and initiatives and the opportunities that exists in the respective regions
- Identify critical actors from the regions to capitalize on existing initiatives and support a forward-looking action plan

Relevant Links:

RCC Bangkok: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-bangkok>

RCC Dubai: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcc-dubai>

RCC Kampala: <https://unfccc.int/about-us/regional-collaboration-centres/rcckampala>

