

# Regional Collaboration Center Kampala December 2020



## Regional Collaboration Centre – Kampala

Promoting Climate Action in Eastern and Southern Africa

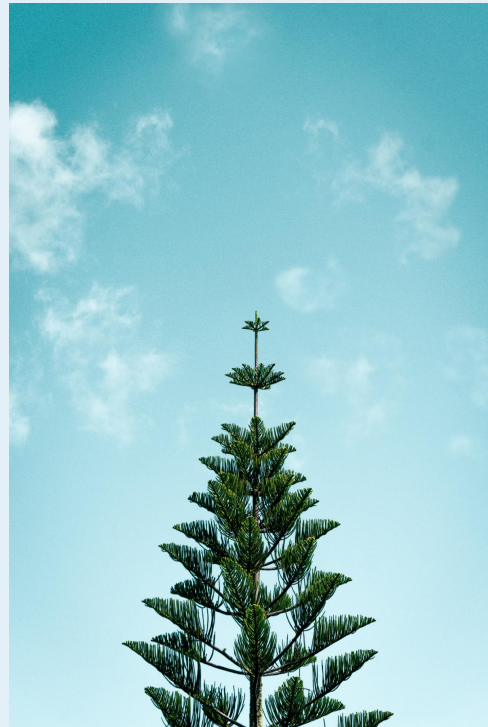
### Seasons Greetings from RCC Kampala

Dear RCC Stakeholder,

Another year is almost complete. And what a strange and challenging year it has been for everyone, dealing with the pandemic – and for the first time, no COP. To fill this void a little, we have an in-depth interview with the COP26 regional ambassador to sub-Saharan Africa – Sir Nick Kay. As this is a long read, we have kept the rest of this issue concise. On the subject of the Presidency, see [\*the ambitious announcement made by their Prime Minister about cutting emissions\*](#) by 68% as compared to 1990 levels (by 2030).

Finally, don't miss the regular sections 'Opportunities' and 'Upcoming events' at the bottom of the page.

The RCC Kampala Team.



### Interview with Sir Nick Kay

#### **RCC: Tell us about your role as the UK's COP26 Envoy to Sub-Saharan Africa**

*Sir Nick Kay:* The UK government has appointed four senior diplomats as dedicated COP26 Regional Ambassadors for Latin America and the Caribbean; Asia Pacific and South Asia; Middle East and North Africa, China, Russia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia; and I am covering the fourth, Sub-Saharan Africa. Along with Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, the newly appointed International Champion on Adaptation and Resilience for COP26, we will drive forward global ambition and action to support countries on the frontline of climate change to adapt to its impacts and build resilience. The COP26 Regional Ambassadors will strengthen our

international engagement ahead of COP26, pushing for climate action ambition and hearing from partners about their climate priorities and concerns, and conveying these to the COP26 Presidency team to deliver a successful COP26 for all nations.

The role also involves sharing information about the UK's focus for the Presidency, in particular the five COP26 themes, many of which respond directly to the needs and priorities raised by African partners. The themes are:

1. Adaptation and resilience;
2. Climate finance;
3. Nature-based solutions;
4. Energy transition;
5. Clean transport.

Regional Ambassador engagement is not limited to governments. I am also engaging with non-state actors, such as business, civil society, NGOs and youth representatives and climate change champions to understand their priorities for COP26. I am working with them to increase climate action ambition on adaptation and mitigation in their countries and in so doing, across the African continent.

I am keen to engage with all stakeholders, virtually and in person, over the next year and I would welcome invitations to discussions and events through the British Embassy or High Commission in African countries. I can't guarantee I can attend them all, but I recognise the importance of hearing from everyone and incorporating those views into the UK's approach to COP26.

**RCC: Finance for climate action is the big issue for Sub-Saharan Africa, how is the UK government and its COP26 Presidency approaching the question of finance?**

*Sir Nick Kay:* Alongside adaptation and resilience, availability and access to climate finance is the issue that comes up most regularly in my engagement with African partners. Our COP26 Presidency has recognised the importance of a step change in terms of climate finance by making it one of our five priority themes.

We will use our Presidency to advocate for increased access to climate finance through work with donors, multilateral development banks and other public and private sources. We will also drive forward initiatives that attract investment and mobilise expertise, to ensure that available funding is achieving maximum impact. In order for this to be successful, we must simplify climate finance access procedures and look to increase the capacity of recipients.

At COP26 in 2021, the UK will spearhead talks on the successor to the current climate finance goal of mobilising \$100bn per year from 2020 through to 2025 for mitigation and adaptation action in developing countries. Last year, the UK announced increased international climate finance commitments and we are putting pressure on other donors to make similarly ambitious commitments.

In addition to the need for significant climate finance commitments from donors, building a financial system fit for net-zero will mean fundamental changes to the way investment decisions are made. Businesses and financial institutions need to move beyond seeing climate change solely as a corporate social responsibility issue – to

recognising it as a financial and strategic imperative. Finally, through our work with the African Union in developing a Green Recovery Action Plan partnership – to be launched soon – we are looking to bolster the efforts to access climate finance, support renewable energy, expand efforts in nature-based solutions, resilient agriculture, and green and resilient cities. The partnership will also look to establish a taskforce on climate finance that will bring together political, financial and technical leadership to explore solutions on climate finance.

**RCC: We have heard the COP26 Presidency mention ‘ambition’ time and again, what is this Presidency doing to get the revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) we need?**

*Sir Nick Kay:* Tackling climate change is a global challenge. Big commitments from one or two countries, or one or two regions will not be enough. As such, the UK government and its COP26 Presidency are committed to working with countries across the world to be more ambitious in their commitments to climate action. Ambitious climate action that we are looking for includes adaptation commitments; revised Nationally Determined Contributions; increased funding commitments from donors; and country commitments to reduce emissions through long-term strategies.

We recognise the particular importance of having measures in place to adapt and build resilience to climate shocks, given the impact that climate change is already having on the livelihoods and communities across Africa, despite African nations being responsible for only 2–3% of global emissions.

Besides supporting increased ambition through the UK’s contribution to the NDC Partnership and broader climate programming, the UK will also co-host an event with the UN, Italy, France and Chile on 12 December to mark the five-year anniversary of the landmark Paris Agreement. At the event, the UK will convene world leaders to announce new commitments and chart a path to a green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event will create momentum on climate ambition, which will raise expectations of other partners globally and we will look at other opportunities ahead of COP26 to showcase ambition, such as at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, in June next year.

Our COP26 Presidency will bring nations, industries, communities and young people together to build resilience to the impacts of climate change and drive forward the race to net-zero to deliver for people and the planet.

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## RCC Highlights

On 17, 18 and 19 November the Eastern Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance together with partners including GIZ and RCC Kampala, delivered a negotiator’s

workshop for Eastern Africa. The workshop brought together markets negotiators from the region, the UNFCCC secretariat, the African Group of Negotiator's and Presidency's lead negotiators on markets, the SBSTA Chair and subject experts.

The event was well received, and participants went away with a better understanding of the key issues under consideration in the Article 6 negotiations and a good basis for formulating their positions and options for when the negotiations restart.

## Decision 9/CMA.2

### Matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

*The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,*

*Recalling Article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, of the Paris Agreement,*

*Also recalling decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 36–40, and decision 8/CMA.1,*

*Having considered the outcomes of the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement in response to the request of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to*

## Opportunities

**Demand driven window** – Africa Climate Change Fund. Grants in the range of USD 250–500 thousand for:

1. Electrification of health centers in rural areas using renewable energy and energy storage technologies;
2. Low carbon management of medical and sanitary waste including hazardous waste incineration;
3. Land restoration in collaboration with farmers especially in the Sahel; and
4. Support to the development and implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Long-Term Strategies.

For more information, [see the ACCF website](#).

The **International Climate Initiative (IKI)** has got two opportunities open right now that may be of interest. Both calls are open until 10 March 2021:

**International Calls (IKI Small Grants)** – Projects in the field of greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation to climate change can, under certain circumstances, apply for funding of up to 200,000 euros.

For more information, [see the IKI website](#).

**Thematic selection procedure 2020** – The theme this year is: “Creating Green Societies in challenging times”, under which 13 thematic funding priorities have been identified. The focus lies on green recovery and outlines in the range of EUR 5–30 million are being accepted.

For more information, [see the IKI website](#).

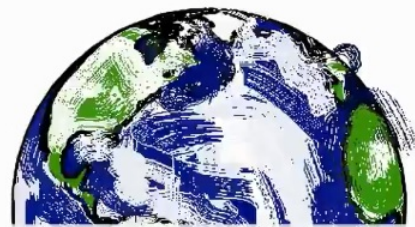
## Upcoming events

Including this here, just in case you have not heard about it yet. On **12 December 2020**, the United Nations, United Kingdom, and France, in partnership with Chile and Italy, will co-host the virtual **Climate Ambition Summit** to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Paris Agreement.

For more information, [see the website](#).

Not so much an event, but another type of opportunity for you to get involved in is '[Net Zero Climate](#)'. Net Zero Climate are developing a free, interactive, online library. To this end they are collecting the latest available tools, interventions, and best practices for achieving net zero. Do you know of one? Then please share it through [this form](#). Fill out this form with key resources, case studies, tools and reports that you are aware of which may enable governments and businesses to meaningfully set and achieve net zero targets.

Of course, we encourage you to share this initiative widely through your networks. This is an initiative by the University of Oxford, in collaboration with partners that include the UNFCCC secretariat



**On 12 December 2020, the  
UK, UN and France will host  
the Climate Ambition Summit**



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