

Regional Collaboration Center
Kampala
February 2021



Regional Collaboration Centre – Kampala

Promoting Climate Action in Eastern and Southern Africa

Greetings from RCC Kampala

Dear RCC Stakeholder,

Already in the second month of the year, but, as this is our first issue – let us begin by wishing you a good start to the year.

This month we are delighted to bring you an announcement on the Regional Climate Weeks 2021 and 2022. Then there is an overview of a capacity building research project we have just launched in partnership with the International Development Research Council and you will find a new report on NDCs in the region. We round up the newsletter, like usual, with interesting opportunities.

We would also like to use this opportunity to welcome two new members to the RCC Kampala team: Messrs Julius Atulinde (Climate Finance Expert) and Urbans Benywanira (Technical Officer).

Your RCC Kampala Team

Regional Climate Weeks are Back!



Last year, one of the questions we heard the most was ‘when is Africa Climate Week?’. Finally, we can give a definitive answer to that question: There will be a series of events on 3 and 4 March, and 15 to 18 June, culminating with the Ministerial sessions on 9 and 10 August.

Big thanks to the Government of Uganda, who have generously agreed to host the package of events. The series of events leading up to the Ministerial session are envisaged to be conducted virtually, whereas the Ministerial is planned to be in-person.

[Find here the press release related to this announcement.](#)

Capacity building: Needs and gaps in the SME sector



RCC Kampala and UNFCCC together with the IDRC ([International Development Research Centre](#)) have launched a study on the capacity building needs of SMEs in Eastern and Southern Africa. The study will help map out the needs and gaps faced by SMEs to take greater climate action. A [precursor study in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) confirmed that the private sector has great potential to support climate action as long as there is adequate support to build their capacity.

Likewise, with this study, in Eastern and Southern Africa, we will look at how national and regional research organizations and academic institutions can partner with SMEs to build the necessary capacities to support the implementation of national climate action plans and strategies. We hope to provide concrete recommendations for the development of actionable strategies and approaches to enhance private sector participation in climate related capacity-building actions towards decarbonization and enhanced resilience.

The first step to this work is to canvas SMEs in the region. If you would like to participate in our survey or you know of suitable companies or umbrella associations who would enrich the research, please [contact us](#). Finally, the results will be published before COP26, and before then, we plan to update you on the study during Africa Climate Week.

Photo credit: Gerd Altmann from [Pixabay](#)

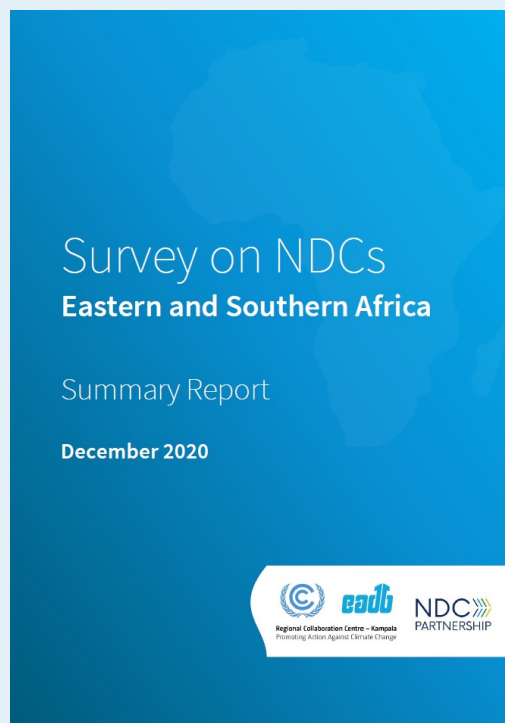
Survey on NDCs: Eastern and Southern Africa

Find out what countries are saying about the status of their efforts in updating their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the challenges and opportunities in this process.

NDCs are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of long-term goals. RCC Kampala and the NDC-Partnership jointly developed a survey for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to seek feedback on the progress and features of their NDCs.

The results of the survey, now compiled in this summary report, contribute to an enhanced understanding of countries' efforts on preparations of updated or new NDCs in these regions and the road ahead.

[Read the report here](#)



Opportunities to get involved

NAMA Facility: Ambition Initiative Call Now Open



The NAMA Facility has announced that its Ambition Initiative Call is open for NAMA Support Project (NSP) Outline submissions until 31 May 2021. The Ambition Initiative targets an even higher level of ambition than in previous Calls of the NAMA Facility. It will support countries to implement their enhanced Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and build back greener.

The upper funding limit has been increased, the range is now EUR 5–25m.

[Visit the NAMA FACILITY website for more information on the Ambition Initiative](#)

Apply now! UN Global Climate Action Awards



If you are taking bold leadership on climate change, nominate your work for a special 10 year anniversary edition of the UN Global Climate Action Awards.

This year's award will showcase people and projects taking bold and effective climate action in the areas of climate neutrality, innovative climate finance and climate leadership.

And the incentive? Award winners will be celebrated at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26) in Glasgow, in November – the most important climate conference since Paris in 2015. For inspiration, [see this video](#) that tells the story of the 2020 UN Global Climate Action Awards.

Applications for the 2021 UN Global Climate Action Award [are being accepted from 8 February until 30 April](#).

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