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ETHIOPIA

NDC HIGHLIGHTS

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NDC Highlights is a bimonthly newsletter of the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission, focusing on disseminating information and knowledge on the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC.



PM Abiy Ahmed congratulated all Ethiopians for finalizing a successful season this year with 6.7 billion seedlings planted

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NEWS

Project Launch - Climate Change Adaptation in the Lowlands Ecosystems of Ethiopia

The project, funded by the Global Environment Facility through the LDC Fund, will be implemented in six regions, for the next six years (2021-2027). It is expected to deliver multidimensional benefits to vulnerable communities in twelve woredas. It aims to increase understanding of key adaptation issues such as community-based adaptation techniques; enhance capability to respond to ongoing and emerging threats; and strengthen capacity of land users to create, improve and sustain diversified livelihood options while rehabilitating degraded watersheds. [Source](#)

Ethiopian Delegation at the 2021 Ministerial and Head of Delegation Meetings

An Ethiopian delegation led by HE Professor Fekadu Beyene, Commissioner, EFCCC took part in the London Ministerial and Head of Delegation meetings from 24-26 July 2021, in London.

The in-person ministerial meeting gave Ministers around the world an opportunity to discuss expectations for COP26 at Glasgow and provide guidance on outstanding issues. Key discussions were around keeping 1.5 alive, scaling up adaptation, loss and damage, Article 6, and mobilising finance.

At the head of delegation meeting, the team presented suggestions on urgent priorities on the lead up to Glasgow on behalf of the LDC group. The key suggestions included the need to capture the outcome of the ministerial meeting esp. that of increased ambition, the need to show commitment by developed countries to fulfil their promised financial contributions, having inclusive inter-sessional meetings on some technical issues and using upcoming events to mobilize political efforts.

From the meeting it was clear that more work is needed on various issues including finance and adaptation. Further, it was clear countries' NDCs need to be taken seriously and revised with high ambition and in light of the 1.5-degree commitment.

Ethiopia's NAMA COMPOST Project: Mitigation Action in Urban Areas

- Tigist Alemu, Head, Urban climate Resilient Bureau and Project Director; and Girma Workie, Project Manager, Ministry of Urban Development and Construction

Ethiopia aspires to become a middle-income country by 2025, as detailed in the Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy of the Government of Ethiopia. In addition to the CRGE, Ethiopia has developed a number of strategies supporting urban green development that addresses both Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) and Urban Green Infrastructure (UGI).

In Ethiopia urbanisation is generating a range of environmental impacts from the perspectives of both ISWM and UGI, the principal ones being:

- Increasing volumes of solid waste generated in towns and cities. Municipal solid waste is collected and disposed of at landfills (semi-engineered or sanitary) which increases the generation of methane (CH₄) emissions.
- Increasing population in informal settlements, which do not necessarily benefit from the collection of municipal solid waste. The end-result is the dumping of waste in public spaces such as open areas and riverbanks, and the deterioration of urban open green areas and riverbanks.
- Increasing demand for primary energy in urban areas, predominantly in the form of non-renewable biomass, as well as the demand for timber for construction, both of which are driving rapid forest degradation and deforestation in Ethiopia.

Ethiopia's NAMA COMPOST (Creating Opportunities for Municipalities to Produce and Operationalise Solid Waste Transformation) project, which was launched in 2017, is designed to

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promote greater use of ISWM and UGI approaches in Ethiopian cities and towns that will assist the national development agenda. The project aims at achieving:

- Strengthened regulatory and legal framework and institutional coordination mechanisms to integrate ISWM and UGI within urban systems.
- Develop a market-based system within which micro and small enterprises (MSEs) are supported professionally to ensure financial sustainability of compost production and utilization.
- Implementation of a Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) that transforms the capacity of integrated urban systems to generate large emission reductions.
- Operationalised urban systems that integrate ISWM and UGI, with quantified GHG emission reductions, within a NAMA framework.

At the end of its lifetime, the COMPOST project aims at delivering direct annual emission reductions from UGI initiatives and ISWM equal to approximately 306,000 tCO₂e and 132,321 tCO₂e, respectively. These emission reductions will accrue from the annual generation of 45,489 tons of compost from 151,629 tons of household organic waste, and the reforestation of 33,309 ha of degraded land by the end of the 5-year project lifetime. By assuming a lifetime of 20 years for compost facilities and managed landfills as well as for carbon sequestration and the generation of renewable biomass for thermal energy, the direct emission reductions generated by the project will be 8.33 MtCO₂e.

In addition to emission reduction, the project has other multiple benefits such as job creation, increased resilience of urban areas to drought and flooding hazards, overall environmental protection and improved quality of life in urban areas.

The project is implemented in six cities and towns - Adama, Bahirdar, Bishoftu, Diredawa, Hawassa and Mekelle.

It is funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and United Nations Developmental Program (UNDP) with co-finance (cash and in-kind) contribution from the cities and the Ministry of Urban Development and Construction.

Project Achievements

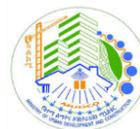
Urban Green Infrastructure

Working in partnership with like minded organizations, the project has achieved remarkable improvements both at system as well as ground level. Federal Urban Green Infrastructure Development and Solid Waste Management Standards have been transposed to the six cities. Staff of the municipalities, and relevant stakeholders such as urban environmental protection, urban land management and urban agriculture offices, have received training. Cities are now using the standards to guide their planning and implementation of urban greening and waste management activities.

The project has supported the start of new nursery sites in three cities - Mekelle with seedling raising capacity of 1,500,000/year, Diredawa 2,600,000/year and Bahir Dar 2,000,000/year. Moreover, seedling raising capacity of two nursery sites, Bishoftu and Adama has increased by 800% (2.2 Million/year) and 600%, (2.5 Million/year), respectively. The project has identified tree species suitable for the agro-ecological conditions of each city to guide species selection in raising seedlings and provided water reservoirs.

Bishoftu used to be the only source of seedlings in the country and cities were forced to travel long distances to buy seedling, which made the cost per tree planted very high. With the support of this project, however, the remaining five cities have now become local sources of seedlings for themselves as well as neighboring cities and towns.

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MSEs are supported to start nursery businesses through the provision of training and certification of people employed by the nursery sites. Encouraging market linkages with afforestation programs have helped them continue operating until additional market sources can be identified.

As a result of repeated awareness raising programs, and by providing seedlings for free, communities within the six cities are planting trees in their compound and surrounding areas. Community participation during tree plantation is increasing, waste dumping sites have been rehabilitated, degraded areas have been restored and peri-urban areas reforested. As a result, green coverage of the cities is improving.

People engaged in urban greening and waste management business as well as those employed in government nursery sites and waste management are well trained and certified (level 1 to level 3) after passing through Certificate of Competency (COC) evaluation process. This has narrowed the existing skill and knowledge gap in urban greenery practices and made the sector more successful. As a result, participation of MSEs in urban greenery related businesses, seedling raising and sales, landscaping, and park management has increased. Temporary and permanent jobs are created to more than 47,459 people (50% women) in this sector.

Integrated Solid Waste Management

The project intervention in ISWM includes community awareness raising activities on waste handling in general, and waste segregation in particular, through door-to-door communication, school outreach programs, posters, community sensitization workshops as well as using national and local print and non print media such as radio and television. This is followed by the

establishment of model villages where colored bags are distributed to encourage waste segregation at source. Primary waste collecting MSEs are also made responsible to teach and lobby the community to segregate waste at source. Similarly colored dust beans are erected for pedestrians along streets with high traffic.

As a result of these collective interventions, community behavioral change has been observed. The communities within the model villages have started segregating waste at the source and ensuring proper disposal of waste from their houses. The model villages are regularly cleaned, and illegal dumping of waste has reduced in these areas as compared to prior to project intervention. Some of the households with enough space in their compound have started small scale composting in their house and use it for their gardening.

Transposing the ISWM Standard has also contributed to the improvement in waste collection and transportation in the six cities. There have been trainings on solid waste management to staff and leadership of the municipalities, including exposure visits to countries with more sophisticated waste management systems. People engaged in solid waste collection and transportation have been trained and certified, resulting in knowledge-based operations. The project has also provided training on occupational health and safety procedures and distributed materials to enhance the safety of people engaged in this business. With the support of the project, the municipalities have cleaned illegal dumping sites, converting (mainly) riverbanks found within the center of the cities into nursery sites and recreation areas utilising MSEs that provide coffee services and sale of seedlings.

The start and scaling up of composting in the six cities have also contributed to the improvement seen in municipal solid waste collection and transportation. The project has supported construction of six composting sheds with total area size of 18,900 m² and annual composting capacity of 86,000 tons of waste. In addition to constructing the sheds, the project has supported the development of composting

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EVENTS

Globally, in view of the continued spread and severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, several climate change and environmental sustainability related events, continue to be digital. The following are a list of events that will be conducted online. These events are accessible to a broader audience. For further information on each event please click on the 'source' link.

- Cities Transition Summit, Climate Action, September 2021 | [Source](#)
- 2021 Climate Jobs Summit, Cornell University, September 2021 | [Source](#)
- 2nd World Forum on Climate Justice, Climate Justice Forum, September 2021 | [Source](#)
- Tropentag 2021 – Towards shifting paradigms in agriculture for a healthy and sustainable future, CIFOR, September 2021 | [Source](#)
- Putting Gender at the heart of climate security, CGIAR, October 2021 | [Source](#)
- Reimagine Series: Climate Finance, Climate Action, October 2021 | [Source](#)
- Hydrogen Transition Summit, Climate Action, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Sustainable Innovation Forum 2021, Climate Action, November 2021 | [Source](#)
- Sustainable woodfuel value chains in Africa: Governance, social, economic and ecological dimensions, CIFOR, November 2021 | [Source](#)

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standards and a manual and arranged hands-on training to the MSEs on compost preparation. In addition, it has provided basic composting equipments such as semi-automated composting machines that has improved quality and quantity of compost, compost fleece, thermometer etc. to the MSEs. So far 68,830 tons of compost has been produced from 210,460 tons of waste.

Laboratory tests on C:H ratio, PH value and moisture is conducted on sample compost with the support of the project and the MSEs have established relationships with nearby agricultural research institutions and universities for similar support. Major buyers of the compost are the city administrations for nursery and urban greening, urban safety net program for urban greening, business firms for compound greening and individuals for home gardening.

The project has also contributed to the start and strengthening of solid waste recycling in the six cities. MSEs are organized and supported to collect and sell (semi processed or as it is) recyclable waste such as paper, PET plastic water bottles, materials made of HDP, metal etc. to companies operating in the recycling business. So far 65,000 tons of recyclable waste has been collected and sold.

The intervention in the ISWM has also job creation benefits in addition to the improvement in the solid waste management practices of the cities. So far, temporary and permanent jobs have been created for 20,592 people (50% women) in this area of operation.

Project Benefits

The project is designed to generate multiple benefits as discussed above. During the course of four years of project implementation, the project has positively impacted the environment and the society living in the six project intervention cities. The following have been identified as positive environmental and socio-economic outcomes in the intervention areas.

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Environmental Benefits

The changes in the six cities as a result of project intervention in waste management and urban greening have resulted in positive environmental impact through:

- Reduced illegal dumping of waste by households.
- Reduced difficulties for municipalities to separate and treat waste.
- Improved waste collection rate. For example, PET water bottles used to be the biggest problem of the cities by blocking drainage canals and rivers causing flooding. Since the start of waste recycling businesses, however, such types of wastes are no more a problem because the MSEs and scavengers collect and sell them to earn income.
- GHG emission reduction from composting and urban/peri-urban greening by diverting the organic waste from landfill which otherwise would emit CH₄, and sequestering of CO₂, respectively. The project has achieved an estimated total of 128,089 tons of CO₂ emission reduction so far from both the greenery and composting activities.
- Use of compost as replacement to chemical fertilizers for urban greening.
- Avoidance of erosion and increased vegetation regeneration due to the soil and water conservation structures built and the increase in vegetation cover as a result of area closure and tree plantation.
- Reduced siltation into lakes and rivers due to the rehabilitation of gullies and degraded areas.
- Prevention of extreme heat and enhanced urban resilience to climate change due to trees planted by the community in their compounds, roadsides, parks, and areas surrounding the cities.
- Increased seedling production capacity of new and old nursery sites supporting local and large government tree planting initiatives and contributing to increased tree coverage.
- Ensuring sustainability by supporting communities and MSEs to administer the project activities and creating ownership.

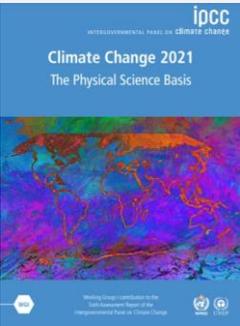
Socio-economic Benefits

- Decreased flooding from surface runoff due to soil and water conservation structures and increased vegetation cover has resulted in reduced damages on the cities' infrastructure, minimising maintenance costs to the government and community. The Adama City Beautification and Greening Bureau team Leader stated *"we have never experienced heavy rain as was last summer. But there was no significant flooding in the city. Prior to the start of project intervention, small rains were enough to create huge flood on roads and slum areas in our city"*. This is a good indicator that the project is contributing to resilience capacity of the urban community in the six cities to extreme weather condition such as flooding and extreme heat caused by climate change.
- The partnerships with communities have contributed towards community attitudinal change and enhanced communities' understanding of the benefits of greening the environment, resulting in observable changes in these cities.
- Some of the rehabilitated areas and areas given to the MSEs for nursery sites were illegal waste dumping sites and two of them were open landfills that people used to avoid even to pass by. After the rehabilitation, however, these places are no longer health threats and are now used by the community for special occasions such as weddings and graduation ceremonies. The value of land and rental price of houses close to these areas have also increased.
- The project has introduced compost production technology from municipal solid waste and scaled it up in the past four years in all the cities.
- Permanent and temporary jobs are created to 68,051 people along the value chain of both UGI and ISWM. The trainings, awareness raising programs and community engagement have resulted in attitudinal change towards urban greening and waste management. The cities are becoming cleaner and greener as a result.



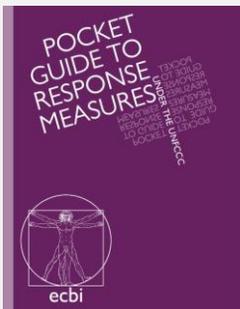
PUBLICATIONS

Climate Change 2021: the Physical Science Basis



The recent IPCC Working Group I report, provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach. [Source](#)

Pocket Guide to Response Measures



The term 'response measures' is not in regular use outside of the UNFCCC process, and is not easily understood by policymakers and stakeholders even within the process. This Guide aims to increase understanding of the topic, particularly among climate negotiators, to facilitate the UNFCCC negotiations on response measures. [Source](#)

Investing for sustainable climate services: insights from African experience



This technical report presents the findings of a study on whether WISER (Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa) projects create sustained capacity for effective climate services delivery. [Source](#)

Key issues for COP26 and Ethiopia's priorities

- Contribution from EFCCC

Introduction

Five years has now passed since the adoption of the Paris Agreement and yet its rulebook is not finalized. Many climate scientists, policymakers, and advocates agree that 2021 is a pivotal year in the global fight against climate change. The postponed 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which will take place in Glasgow from 31 October to 12 November 2021 under the presidency of the United Kingdom, is expected to usher the start of the Paris Agreement post-2020 implementation. Yet, there are various contentious issues that need to be solved to successfully deliver the Glasgow package at COP26. There are uncompleted topics carried over from COP24 and COP25, ranging from article 6 of the Paris Agreement, to common timeframes for NDCs for transparency.

Owing to the importance of the forthcoming COP26, our editorial team has decided to cover some of the key issues to be dealt with at Glasgow in this edition of the NDC Highlights Newsletter. In so doing, an attempt is made to shed light on Ethiopia's expectations and priorities for the long-awaited COP26.

What are key issues to be dealt with at COP26?

COP26 is expected to deal with 'unfinished businesses' from COP24 and COP25 that are pivotal to operationalize the Paris Agreement in its totality. Key issues that are carried over from COP24 and COP25 and that determine the success of COP26 are highlighted briefly below.

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Cooperative approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement:

one of the crunch topics that needs to be tackled at COP26 is the carbon market mechanisms stipulated under article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Considering that the previous two COPs failed to deliver concrete outcomes on this agenda, there is a high expectation from parties to find a common ground in Glasgow. There exist glaring gaps among parties on a range of issues, including operationalization of the corresponding adjustment and 'overall mitigation in global emissions' (OMGE), whether the 'share of proceeds' for the Adaptation Fund applies to trading under Article 6.2 and the scale of the share, and on carryover of Kyoto Protocol units.

Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF):

while the rulebook on the ETF was adopted at COP24, there are additional negotiating mandates expected to be completed at COP26. There are ongoing negotiations regarding the outlines of the National Inventory Reports, Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), the Technical Expert Review Reports, Common Tabular Formats, the Structured Summary, as well as Common reporting Tables, just to mention a few. Completion of negotiation under this agenda item is crucial as Parties are expected to submit their first BTRs by 2024.

Climate Finance:

COP26 will also deal with one of the spilled-over issues from COP25, namely climate finance. This agenda item is crucial from the perspective of developing countries, particularly owing to the fact that the pledge to deliver \$100 billion annually by 2020 is not yet met. Negotiations under this agenda item were stalled at COP25 due to disagreements on various issues, *inter alia*, the definition of climate finance, methodologies for assessing international climate finance flows, as well as concern that developed countries are not stepping up to fulfill their pledge of delivering \$100 billion by 2020. Parties are expected to find common ground on some

of the contentious issues related to climate finance. More importantly, COP26 should adopt a decision on a new long-term climate finance goal

Common timeframes for NDCs:

the significance of a common time frame for NDC implementation is stipulated under the Paris Agreement, and a common timeframe was expected to be agreed at COP24. However, an agreement did not materialize, and negotiations carried over to COP25. In the same vein, COP25 failed to deliver an outcome, as the list of options for common timeframes expanded from two years (either a five- or ten-year implementation timeframe, with targets set for either 2025 or 2030) to 12 possible formulations. This list includes the original five- and ten-year options, as well as a hybrid option. Some parties are asserting separate common timeframes for developing and developed country NDCs. Parties will delve into this agenda item once again in Glasgow and agreement should be reached among parties to move forward.

Adaptation:

the forthcoming COP is also expected to deliver outcomes on adaptation, another very crucial agenda item for developing countries. A concrete outcome is expected on the Global Goal on Adaptation, one of the central elements of the Paris Agreement in the journey towards building adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Finalizing the Paris Agreement rulebook:

undoubtedly, finalizing the Paris Agreement Rulebook is among the top priorities at Glasgow as it is the precondition to implement the Paris Agreement's provisions. In addition, spilled over negotiations from COP25 on loss and damage, capacity building and the overarching ambition goal of the UNFCCC will be the center of discussions among COP26 delegates.

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Ethiopia's expectations and priorities at COP26

Ethiopia has been participating in international climate negotiations under the UNFCCC since 1992. The country is a member of three regional political groupings officially operating under the UNFCCC Secretariat, namely the African Group of Negotiators, Least Developed Countries, and the G-77 and China.

Ethiopia has been committed to represent the interest and voice of developing countries in different fora. The country was one of the founding members of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), established to ensure technical views of African Group of Negotiators (AGN) are strongly represented at a ministerial and Heads of State levels. Through CAHOSCC, Ethiopia represented Africa from COP15 in Copenhagen to COP17 in Durban on various thematic areas. Besides CAHOSCC, Ethiopia chaired the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) Group and Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) (from 2016/2017 to 2018).

Domestically, the Government of Ethiopia is committed to addressing the adverse impacts of climate change and recognizes the need for ambitious climate action. Ethiopia was amongst the first countries to charter a long-term strategy on climate change - the Climate Resilient Green Economy Strategy (CRGE) - that was launched at one of the most successful COPs held in Africa (COP17 in Durban), prior to the Paris call. As part of the commitment to the Paris Agreement, Ethiopia communicated one of the most ambitious updated NDCs last month and the preparation of the 2050

Long-Term Low Carbon Development Strategy is underway. Moreover, the government has intensified its commitment to the fight against climate change by launching an ambitious Green Legacy initiative in 2019, aimed at planting 20 billion tree seedlings by 2022, and thus far about 18 billion tree seedlings are planted.

As far as Ethiopia's priorities for COP26 are concerned, similar to most LDCs and the AGN, the country attaches high importance on achieving concrete outcomes on the following thematic areas: enhanced ambition, adaptation, climate finance, a market mechanism (Article 6), and a transparency mechanism.

In terms of enhancing ambition, parties cannot afford to leave Glasgow without a set of revised NDCs that closes the prevailing ambition gap and keeps the 1.5°C goal within reach. As such, developed countries and big emitters must take the lead and reduce emissions, and COP26 must give assurance that this will happen. On adaptation, Glasgow should also map out a key roadmap on the Global Goal of Adaptation (GGA), although not all areas of the GGA are expected to be resolved by COP26, owing to methodological and political difficulties related to adaptation discussion. As far as climate finance is concerned, COP26 should deliver a decision that provides a structured process for deliberations on the post-2025 goal. More importantly, the developed countries should come to Glasgow to deliver their \$100 billion per year commitment. On article 6, COP26 should finalize the rules for carbon markets by ensuring that their design is robust, transparent and results in real overall mitigation in global emissions. Common ground should also be forged on rules of transparency, namely reporting on the overall implementation of the Paris Agreement, and common timeframes for NDCs at COP26.



NDC Highlights

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