THE EAC PARTICIPATION AT THE UNFCCC COP 28, DUBAI

BURUNDI | DRC | KENYA | RWANDA | S.SUDAN | UGANDA | TANZANIA

THE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

BACKGROUND

COP28 will be held from 30th November-12th December,2023 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Conference will will comprise:

1. The COP28/CMP18/CMA 5 will bring together parties to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
2. For EAC, the event presents an opportunity to showcase measures for halting global warming, highlighting Parties achievements in addressing climate change and promote measures for strengthening resilience and cooperation including dedicating technical sessions to deliberate on the NDCs
3. Implementation and realization by Partner States.

EAC PREPARATIONS AND PARTICIPATION AT COP28

WHY?

1. All EAC Partner States are Parties and the EAC/ LVBC Secretariat has an observer status to UNFCCC processes and intends to participate in the forthcoming COP28 sessions and showcase the milestones, achievements and lessons learned from the implementation of climate change programs in the region.
2. As part of the preparations for forthcoming conference, EAC Secretariat in collaboration Partner States and Development Partners conducted climate change pre-COP consultative meetings on the road to UNFCCC COP28 to deliberate on the progresses in the implementation of Convention, the Paris Agreement, Africa Climate Summit declarations, Food Security Summit resolutions and develop common position to guide regional participation in the forthcoming global climate change conference in Dubai.

NEXT STEP TAKEN

1. The National Consultations took place from 9th – 18th October 2023 and culminated with a Virtual Meeting of Experts on 20th October 2023 to consolidate the national views into a Regional position. The consultative meetings reviewed the progresses in the implementation of the previous COP decisions and directives and identified climate change priorities to guide negotiations during COP 28 in Dubai, UAE.
2. The meetings also deliberated on mechanisms for realization of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and align countries priorities to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other global frameworks on Sustainable Development.
3. The position was subsequently discussed and adopted by the Ministers during the planned meeting of the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources.

IN DUBAI

During the COP 28 sessions, EAC Secretariat will support and coordinate Partner States participation in order to ensure the regional interests are taken into account during the consultations and negotiations processes. Furthermore, EAC Secretariat in collaboration with Partners will organize side events to showcase experience and lessons learned from the implementation of climate change initiatives and programmes.

EAC DELEGATION @ COP 28

- Due to its importance, Partner States and the EAC and LVBC Secretariat plan to participate and contribute to the UNFCCC COP28 conference and sessions.
- The delegation of the EAC Secretariat will be led by the Secretary General supported by experts from the EAC and LVBC Secretariats and Nominated representatives from Partner States.

THE EAC CONCEPT NOTES FOR CLIMATE ACTION INTERVENTIONS

PROJECT 1: ENHANCED CLIMATE RESILIENT LAND AND SEASCAPES FOR IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Climate Rationale

The annual economic value of the natural capital of four targeted landscapes has been assessed to be approximately US$11.3 billion annually, inform of unpaid ecosystem services such as water availability flow, pollution filtration, erosion prevention, crop pollination, and increased resilience to climate change. According to the EAC Climate Change Master Plan 2011-2030 and the seven Partner states' NDCs, over 75% of the EAC citizens depend heavily on ecosystems for their livelihoods.

Increasing temperatures and rising sea levels, in combination with increased human-induced drivers (such as agriculture expansion) due to climate change, pose a high risk of degradation and loss of several landscapes, wetlands, catchment areas, and rivers. Without an effective whole-of-society steward system, the resilience of dependent communities is threatened, and the resulting GHG emissions from land use changes will be significant in all the projected climate scenarios.

As partner states have significant transboundary landscapes and the drivers for ecosystems and ecosystem services loss and degradation are similar, this regional programme will be crucial in leveraging collective political support and increasing monitoring and accountability to effectively support communities at risk. The project interventions are informed and aligned with the Partner states' NDCs.

Overall Objective

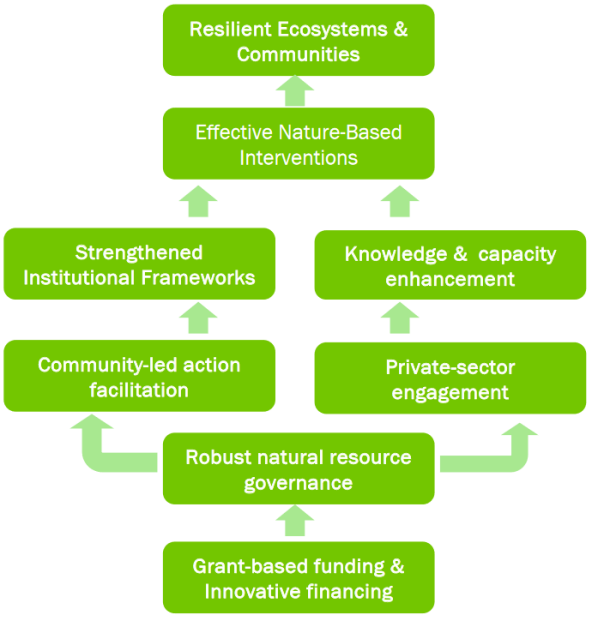
The project aims to enhance the resilience of small-scale farmers and SMEs through sustainable land and seascape management practices and nature-based solutions to increase land productivity, access to diversified livelihood options, and sustain ecosystem and ecosystem services.

Theory of Change

The Theory of Change for the project focuses on bolstering the resilience of ecosystems and communities in East Africa through Nature-based Solutions (NbS). It aims to strengthen institutional frameworks, enhance knowledge and governance of natural resources, and encourage community engagement. The financial strategy prioritizes grants and sustainable funding, like the NbS Innovation Fund, to involve the private sector and address debt concerns.This approach is expected to solidify value chains, diversify livelihoods, and promote the sustainability and scalability of climate resilience across the region.

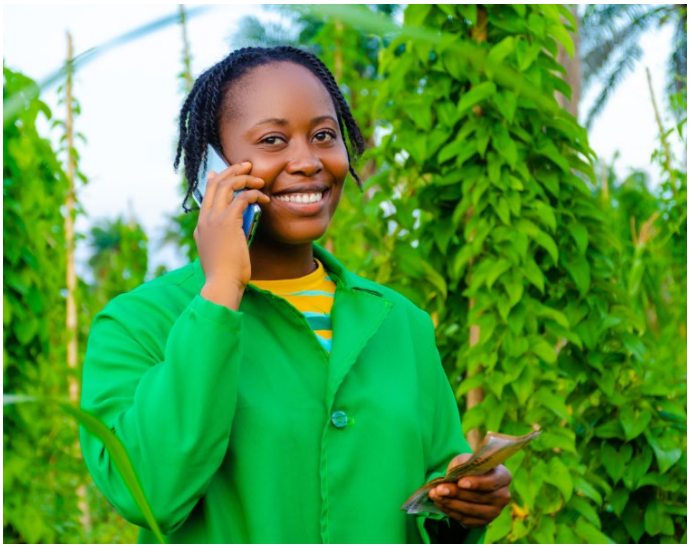
Cost and financing:

The project's total cost is estimated to be around US$300 million. Except for Kenya, the remaining six partner states are the least-developed countries. As of August 31, 2023, Kenya, South Sudan, and Burundi are at high risk of debt stress, while other states are at moderate risk. Given these circumstances, the financing plan aims to prioritise grant-based funding for public good interventions and equity or highly concessional loans and guarantees to establish the proposed NbS Innovation Fund pilot phase and attract domestic private sector financial institutions.



Scan the barcode to get detailed information about the project concept note

PROJECT 2: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FOR STRENGTHENED FOOD SECURITY



Climate Rationale

Th EAC Partner states have experienced an annual temperature rise of more than 1.3 degrees Celsius since 1960. Rainfall, meanwhile, has declined by 20–100 millimetres per decade over the period and rainfall patterns have become more variable but trending toward longer dry seasons and shortened growing periods for staple foods. The resulting heat and water stress are causing considerable reductions in farmable land, crop yields, and livestock productivity. These trends are even expected to worsen in future; in South Sudan, for example, the effects of global warming 2.5 times more than the global average are projected. By the end of the century, rising temperatures are predicted to cause a 36% average decrease in grain yields across sub-Saharan Africa.

This will profoundly impact all EAC Partner States with a fast-growing population heavily dependent on climate-sensitive agriculture as the primary source of income, accounting for 24% to 40% of GDP and employing over 70% of the population. Moreover, agricultural commodities also account for 65% of the trade within the region. As the level of food security varies considerably across the region, a more robust, coordinated collective effort is inevitable to reduce food loss and avoidable price inflation.

Overall Objective

The project aims to enhance the resilience of agricultural and pastoral communities and improve food security in East Africa.

Theory of Change

To achieve the development objective, the project will invest in transforming agricultural systems and communities that are currently underdeveloped and highly exposed to the impacts of climate change to climate-smart agricultural systems. For the region to realise its potential to produce enough for domestic consumption and export, barriers of limited access to quality inputs, risk management capacities, and private sector trade limitations to move food from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, especially across borders, have to be addressed. Thus, the project will establish and enhance early warning systems, food information systems, and appropriate regulatory measures. It will also address low technology adoption by ensuring extension services to promote adopting smart agriculture, food processing, and handling practices are easily accessible and rural agricultural finance.

Cost and financing:

This will be a five-year program with an estimated cost of US$ 70 million. A considerable portion of this budget is required in grant form to deliver extension services to communities, enhance non-infrastructure value chain efficacy, and establish a conducive environment for expanding private sector investments. Furthermore, matching grants and other innovative financing mechanisms will unlock considerable investments and financing by households and commercial financial institutions.

Scan the barcode to get detailed information about the project concept note

PROJECT 3: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH ENHANCED TRANSBOUNDARY WATER SECURITY AND SANITATION

Climate Rationale

The East African Community Partner States are increasingly facing frequent and severe floods and droughts due to rising sea levels and changes in rainfall quantities and patterns, reducing the availability of freshwater sources. The Potential Available Water Storage (PAWS) index estimates that a decrease of 10% in future water resources would impact approximately 37% of Africa's population in 2025 (around 600 million people) and about 57% of the projected population in 2050 (around 1.4 billion people). As of October 2022, about 226 million people in Eastern and Southern Africa have no access to basic water services, and 381 million lack basic sanitation services. Four EAC Partner states are among the nine African countries with 80% of underserved people, and all Partner states are off track to achieve SDG 6 targets, threatening the region's health, agriculture, and industry systems.

Overall Objective

This project aims to strengthen water security among impoverished communities, particularly those in transboundary arid and semi-arid regions facing acute water, sanitation, and health challenges.

Theory of Change

Achieving water security in East Africa Community hinges on a multi-faceted approach that includes the development of

early warning systems, the establishment of efficient water transfer systems, the adoption of water-saving technologies, and the implementation of advanced engineering solutions. The current use of water resources is suboptimal and the resources themselves are insufficient. This project will amplify the impact of prior investments by providing rural communities with the tools and knowledge required to comprehend and adapt to the seasonal fluctuations of water availability. It will also seek to fill the existing gaps in integrated water resource management capacity and enhance flood mitigation efforts. To tackle the issue of resource adequacy, the project will lay the groundwork for critical infrastructure that incentivizes private sector investment in innovative water storage and conveyance solutions at the grassroots level. The envisioned outcomes include a marked improvement in water use efficiency, heightened adaptability to water supply changes, and the mobilization of private capital to augment public water infrastructure.

Cost and financing:

The project will consolidate achievements from various investments to enhance their impact on regional water security. To fully realize this project's impact, $5 million is needed annually for at least five years. The urgency to address the impacts of water scarcity affecting millions of people, coupled with the limited fiscal capacities of countries, makes grant-based funding more appealing for this project. Beneficiary co-financing – no value yet, is also expected to be substantial.

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OUR PARTNERS

East African Community

PARTNER WITH US

One People, One Destiny