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.



"We can instil many positive values in children early on, including an outlook for environmental preservation, so they form a better relationship with nature" P.M. Dr. Abiy Ahmed

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NEWS

The Green Legacy Initiative

On World Environment Day, June 5th, 2020, H.E. Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, officially launched the continuation of the Green Legacy program of 2020 that aims to plant 5 billion trees and build on the success of the initiative of 2019. This year's planting campaign is will be conducted in a manner that ensures adherence to national COVID-19 protocols. We will share more information on this in the upcoming issue of the newsletter. Source

Survey: Engaging online during COVID-19

During COVID-19 people around the world have been figuring out how to engage with each other and their key partners as face-to-face meetings and travel are banned. Virtual, online spaces are providing a much-needed solution. However, these platforms often rely on access to fast and stable internet connections, speedy computers and a reliable electricity supply; conditions often not met in many locations in the Global South. Please do this brief survey about your experiences, needs and challenges with interacting in these virtual spaces. It should only take you five minutes to complete. The results will be summarised in a brief aimed to increase the visibility of southern perspectives in engaging remotely. Source

Ethiopia's climate compatible development journey: Based on the CRGE review

❑ Contribution from EFCCC

Climate compatible development has been a national priority for Ethiopia since the launch of its Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) strategy in 2011. To assess the progress in CRGE implementation and to guide its future direction, a national level CRGE implementation assessment was conducted for the period covering 2011 to 2019. This article summarizes the key findings and recommendations of the review report. The CRGE strategy set a target to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 64% (255 Mt CO_2e) below Ethiopia's projected emissions in 2030 on a business-as-usual trajectory. With a vision for becoming a middle-income country by 2025, the strategy sets out how structural transformation and increased efficiency across sectors could enable the country to avoid the additional GHG emissions that would arise from strong economic growth.

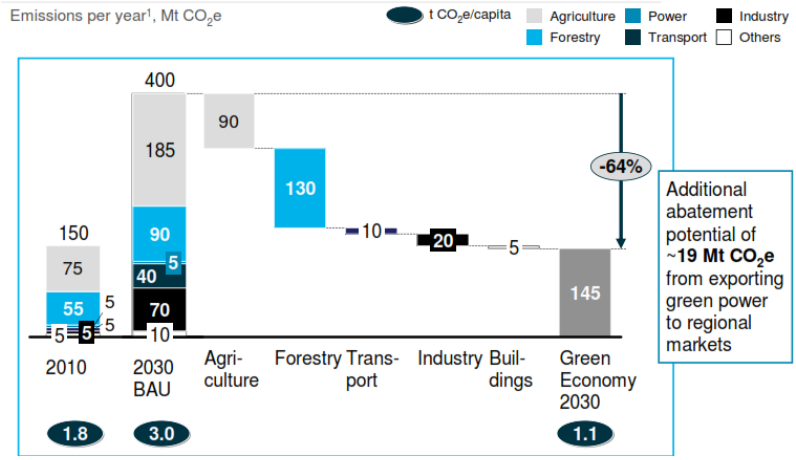


Figure: Ethiopia's Low-Carbon Economic Development Pathway (Source: FDRE Intended Nationally Determined Contribution to UNFCCC, 2015)

It is to be noted that Ethiopia took this ambitious development roadmap, despite being only accountable for 0.04% of the world's GHG emission and ranking 93rd in the ranking of nations contributing to global GHG emission. Moreover, despite Ethiopia's fast economic growth in the region, it remains to be one of the poorest nations on the continent, with a per capita income of $790 annually.

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Furthermore, it is the second most populous nation in Africa with a population of about 110 million people. Hence, Ethiopia has emerged as one of the most committed Least Developed Countries in responding to the implications of climate change, cognizant of its developmental and long-term impacts.

The progress assessment report examined the efforts made to implement the priorities in the CRGE strategy in terms of mitigation, adaptation, financing, institutions, and policy development and spelt out major achievements and challenges. As far as achievements are concerned, successful initiatives have been implemented, thereby tangibly contributing to the realization of GTP I targets, their GHG abatement potential, and the creation of an enabling environment for the implementation of initiatives.

The unique feature of the CRGE strategy is that it is economy-wide and holistically integrates sectors. Moreover, the strategy is mainstreamed into the country's overarching national development plan. Cognizant of its needs, Ethiopia's climate change adaptation interventions (projects/initiatives) are in the agriculture sector. In this regard, several large-scale food security and agricultural productivity programs have been implemented during 2011-2019 focusing on increasing the adaptive capacities and resilience for smallholders and pastoral communities. Some of the flagship programmes in this regard, include the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP), the Agricultural Growth Programme (AGP), the Sustainable Land Management Programme (SLMP), and the Participatory Small-scale Irrigation Development Project (PASIDP). Similarly, in the forestry sector, several large-scale initiatives have had adaptation co-benefits, on top of their intended mitigation and carbon sequestration impacts. With regards to mitigation, Ethiopia's REDD+ Programme, and its large energy and transport-related projects can be cited as important examples.

Ethiopia has managed to mobilize through its CRGE Facility a significant amount of resources to support climate actions across the country. The assessment report has highlighted the following points as important recommendations:

- There is a need to operationalize and maintain systems, giving the most critical attention to operationalize and update existing MRV frameworks at all levels and to eventually publish annual MRV reports.
- While Ethiopia continues to articulate and strengthen its climate change adaptation targets, in line with its national priorities, it is also important to develop detailed sector level climate change risk and vulnerability assessments to establish accurate baselines on vulnerability and to identify high-priority areas for intervention.
- There is a need for a consolidated database that is accessible and where detailed MRV data is tracked and recorded to assess progress in mitigation. To this end, it is important to select and officially notify the climate change indicators that are to be used across the board consistently. Sectors should also develop climate change mainstreaming plans using the chosen core indicators and annually submit climate change mainstreaming reports to the CRGE Facility
- It is recommended that the Ministry of Finance put in place a public expenditure review framework across all government institutions, at all levels that enable disaggregation of distinct budgetary flows and allocations. The CRGE Facility should also prepare annual reports on climate change finance budgeting and tracking at the national and sectoral levels and make them publicly available.
- Even though the CRGE facility developed a private sector strategy in 2016, the document lacks strategic guidance on what needs to be done and how; and thus, has not been an effective instrument. The facility and sector CRGE directorates need to establish dialogues with companies considering the steadily emerging private sector in Ethiopia.
- To ensure knowledge and information management is in place centralized information and knowledge management system, which will capture and store all climate change related data and information, is recommended. All relevant sector ministries should also maintain a similar online system within the sector at all levels. These sector systems should be integrated with the national centralized system.
- The assessment acknowledges the CRGE strategy as an ambitious and exceptional national climate change guiding document. However, it emphasizes the need to have the necessary tracking mechanisms in place as Ethiopia continues its leadership on climate change and strives to achieve its CRGE/NDC goals.

EVENTS

Globally, in view of the alarming levels of spread and severity of the COVID-19 outbreak, several climate change and environmental sustainability related event, have been postponed or cancelled. However, the following are a list of events that will be conducted online. Most of these events are accessible to a broader audience. For further information on each event please click on the 'source' link next to the event.

- Green Investments: Renewable Energy, free online course by Asian Development Bank Institute (self-paced) | Source
- Getting to Net Zero: How Climate Action Can Accelerate COVID-19 Recovery, webinar, July 2020 | Source
- African Forum on Green Economy – Session 7: Enabling Change, July 2020 | Source
- The Case for the Ocean as a Dual Solution to Climate Change and COVID Recovery, webinar, July 2020 | Source
- World Symposium on Climate Change Communication, July 2020 | Source
- Innovate4Climate: Stronger voluntary market - New rules to raise the bar post-2020, July 2020 | Source
- Summit on Biodiversity, September 2020 | Source
- E-Course: Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) – Improving Performance Irrigation Services Provision (self-Paced), December 2020 | Source
- E-Course: Policy Instruments for Low Emissions Development: From Design to Implementation (Self-paced), December 2020 | Source

Electrifying Ethiopia: Facilitating Investment for NDC Implementation

❑ Contribution from MOWIE

Ethiopia's National Electrification Program 2.0 (NEP 2.0) was launched in November 2017 and is the country's overarching strategy to achieve universal access to electricity by 2025. The NEP 2.0 contains ambitious targets, yet about 35% of the population living in rural areas will remain without access to power. The GoE has recognised that it needs private sector investment to meet this electrification gap through solar home systems and mini-grids. Particularly, the mini-grids sector, which is an off-grid electricity distribution network involving small-scale electricity generation, is emphasised in NEP 2.0.

To strengthen the mini-grid sector, in 2018 The Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Energy (MOWIE) worked closely with a number of international and local institutions in undertaking a baseline assessment. The assessment covered in-depth market analysis of the current regulatory and financial barriers to the growth of the mini-grid sector. It also outlined stakeholders, projects and other opportunities, and provided a set of policy recommendations for the energy sub-sector.

As a subsequent step to the baseline study, comprehensive research into mini-grids for productive use (agricultural, commercial, and industrial activities involving electricity services as a direct input to the production of goods or provision of services) was conducted. This identified three categories of productive use cases, namely: (i) Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACCs), (ii) Milk Collection Centres, and (iii) Agro-industrial Parks. Of these, two: i.e. Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACCs) and Milk Collection Centres were considered high-potential opportunities.

Agricultural Commercialization Clusters

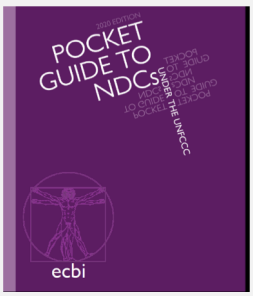
Agricultural Commercialization Clusters (ACCs) are spearheaded by the Agriculture Transformation Agency (ATA) and are collections of farmers and farms growing the same crops to take advantage of economies of scale. These clusters typically consisting of several hundred farmers, several hundred hectares of arable land, small businesses, shops, a clinic and a few schools. Horticulture crops (mangos, avocados, bananas, tomatoes and onions) generate much higher revenue for farmers than grains but require irrigation.

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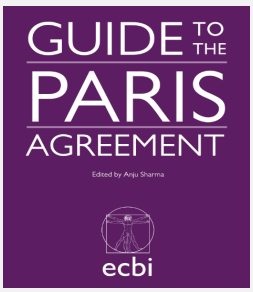
PUBLICATIONS

Pocket Guide to NDCs



ECBI has released an updated Pocket Guide, which now includes the provision of the Paris rulebook. The guide addresses questions like what should NDCs contain? What "information to facilitate clarity, transparency, and understanding" do countries need to provide? How should countries account for their actions? What happens if they fail to meet their NDC goals? Find answers to these and other questions related to NDCs. Source

Guide to the Paris Agreement



ECBI has recently launched its new Guide to the Paris Agreement, which includes the implementation guidelines adopted in 2018, and implications for domestic law and policy in developing countries. Source

IPCC's Special Reports on Land and the Ocean: What's in it for Africa?



CDKN has launched two new publications distilling the key messages of the IPCC's recently published Special Report on Land, and on the Ocean and Cryosphere for decision-makers in Africa. The CDKN What's in it for Africa guides on the ocean and land reports also include additional case studies and examples from the region. You can also access free slide packs, infographics and images to share the findings of the report with others www.cdkn.org/oceanreport and www.cdkn.org/landreport

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ACCs would be the primary users of the mini-grids for irrigation, storage and agri-processing, with secondary users, small businesses, clinics, schools and households. The agriculture users (the ACCs) will pay cost-reflective tariffs, which will help to subsidise other customers. ATA has confirmed the presence of substantial quantities of shallow groundwater at less than 30 meters in large parts of the country, and this is a viable source to tap into for irrigation for horticulture, livestock and communities. Groundwater abstraction will need to be monitored to ensure it is done sustainably.

Milk Collection Centres

Ethiopia has the fifth-highest livestock population in the world and a relatively favourable climate for diary but with the lowest rate of milk production per head of cattle in sub-Saharan Africa. Consequently, Ethiopia is a net importer of dairy products. Milk production is concentrated in rural communities which are still purely dependent on rainwater, and this has a direct effect on the quantity and production of milk as well as on feed and fodder. Many of the milk collection centres are without electricity, which means that cold storage of milk is impossible. As a result, mini-grid investment in this sector will improve productivity, generate improved livelihoods for rural farmers, and build resilience to climate change.

Next Steps: Mini-grid Investment Cases and NDC Integration

Focusing on ACCs, MOWIE is developing investment cases and pre-feasibility studies for a shortlist of ten horticulture ACCs. These sites will be presented to investment forums and funding calls with the aim to secure de-risked finance to establish demonstration mini-grid sites. These mini-grid sites will be closely monitored, and data collected to support the investment hypothesis and manage safeguards such as water abstraction. Moreover, as an input to its Nationally Determined Contribution update process, GOE has commissioned work to integrate this and other off-grid electrification programmes, to develop a mini-grid funding strategy.

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