

KENYA NDC ANALYSIS 2022

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of global efforts to combat climate change, in 2016 Kenya ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and submitted its first ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). It submitted an updated version in December 2020, in accordance with paragraphs 22-35 of Decision 1/CP.21 and Decision 4/CMA.1 and its annex. This NDC analysis focuses on gender, youth, emissions, and climate finance from a youth and gender point of view. Additionally, it uses the policy targets and frameworks consistent with the Paris Agreement and domestic policy targets and frameworks such as Vision 2030, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2015-2030, National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) I and II, along with other targets and frameworks, to assess the scope, limitations, gaps, and target ambitions of the updated NDC. This NDC analysis provides strategic insights on emission targets, financial sources, and recommendations on governance, planning, and policy that will strengthen the inclusion of various stakeholders in the NDC planning and implementation process. The key recommendations in this analysis are:

- The Climate Change Directorate and the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender should **develop clear guidelines on mainstreaming gender and youth considerations into climate change sectors**, supported with tangible targets and indicators including **Training and capacity building** on gender mainstreaming and climate change.
- Proper and uniform dissemination of information to the general public.

INTRODUCTION

Climate change presents a major threat to Kenya's sustainable development and the realization of the nation's Vision 2030, which seeks to create a competitive and prosperous nation with a high quality of life. Kenya, like its neighbouring countries in East Africa, has felt the impacts of climate change as weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable and climate-related disasters increase in frequency and magnitude. As a country whose economy is dependent on climate-sensitive natural resources, challenges from an unpredictable climate can increase vulnerability and have the potential to reverse development gains and further entrench inequalities.

It's important to highlight that Kenya's first NDC sought to abate its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 30 percent by 2030 relative to the "business as usual" (BaU) scenario through adaptation and mitigation actions that will build resilience to climate change. Furthermore, it put in place the necessary policy and regulatory framework to effectively address the adverse effects of climate change and support the implementation of its NDC. This includes the National Climate Change Framework Policy, the Climate Change Act (2016), and 5-year National Climate Change Action Plans.

With continuous efforts to curb climate change, Kenya revised and updated its NDC. The updated NDC commits to abate GHG emissions by 32 percent compared to the first NDC target of 30 percent by 2030 relative to the BAU scenario of 143 MtCO₂eq. The NDC gives a new focus on committing to mobilize resources locally to meet 13 percent of the estimated implementation budget of USD 62 Billion, requiring

international support of 87%, unlike the first NDC, which was 100% reliant on international funding.

This report focuses on youth (intergenerational) and gender focused analysis of Kenya's NDCs from a young feminism perspective, with research work on emissions, youth, gender, and climate finance. To support this analysis, an in-depth comparison and research between the first and updated NDCs' drafting processes and implementation processes in various sectors were undertaken. The analysis ensured that key stakeholders are included in such a process, including gender and youth mainstreaming into Kenya's NDC. It mentions the extent to which gender issues have been considered within Kenya's policy, legal, and institutional frameworks and their suitability for supporting gender-responsive climate change actions. It further provides key recommendations on how the government should act to ensure inclusion in climate change processes.

Country context

Kenya is located in Eastern Africa and has a population of 47.6 million (2019 Population Census), of which 50.5% are female. The country boasts of the largest economy among East Africa countries with a GDP of \$ 110.35 billion according to the World Bank. Kenya hosts the eighth wonder of the world, the great wildebeest migration, which is considered one of the greatest spectacles of nature and also a bird watcher's paradise with 1,124 confirmed bird species and an important migratory corridor for birds from Europe, Asia, and South Africa.

NDC Overview

YOUTH

The mandate of youth is not clearly outlined in Kenya's NDC, even though youths are the drivers of the current behavioural change in our societies and are strategically and suitably placed to spearhead and significantly contribute to turning the tides against climate change. The youth have been vibrant and active in organizing campaigns and raising public awareness on climate change, and generally involved in taking part in activities aimed at combating climate change and its effects.

Surprisingly, with the tremendous and rapid measures that Kenya has taken towards policies and framework development on climate response issues, youths have been neglected with no significant engagement and participation in decision-making. In the whole framework on climate governance and response, there is a lack of “Youth leadership element” with functional mandates and responsibilities, which can help permanently solve the puzzle of intergenerational transition.

A legal youth leadership framework mandated to address youth issues in climate governance and response that is free of influence and modification of its actions from other actors should be established; this will increase youth mandated participation in NDCs and other climate response issues. The roles of youths are not clearly outlined in the NDCs; for proper exploitation of the youth's capabilities in the fight against climate change, proper outlining of their roles and substantial support are required. Effective consultation with youths is required, and their participation in decision-making is also critical for their successful integration into the fight against the major global challenge of climate change.

GENDER

Effective climate action includes anticipating the considerations and integration of gender equality and gender-responsive approaches in the NDCs, which will coincide with increasing recognition and commitments on gender equality under the international climate framework. Comprehensive integration of gender into climate change is essential to advancing the fulfillment of women's human rights and gender equality and effectively addressing the multiple intersecting challenges posed by the climate crisis. NDCs are fundamental in establishing goals and targets for climate action and frameworks for gender-responsive approaches to implementation. Kenya has adopted a "whole-of-society" approach in their commitment, policy development, and implementation of their NDC, recognizing the importance of integrating gender equality with an approach and tools accessible for achieving results. Policy and legal frameworks have been enacted to support gender equality and non-discrimination including in the Climate Policy and Climate Change Act (2016) with clear provisions for integrating gender. The National Climate Change Action Plan (2018-2022) follows on this with an objective to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, with gender specific actions budgeted. With this in mind, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry established a Technical Working Group (TWG) tasked with facilitating gender integration. The TWG initiated gender analyses focused on the agriculture, water, and energy sectors for inclusion of evidence and recommendations for redefining the strengthened NDC actions, including the development of gender-responsive indicators for tracking NDC implementation in the National MRV system. This has also facilitated increased collaboration and coordination between

gender focal points of ministries and increased participation of the National Gender and Equality Commission, with civil society notably recognized by the government as playing a crucial role in Kenya's development and implementation of a gender responsive NDC. Additionally, Kenya's NAP has a focus on "Gender, Vulnerable Groups, and Youth," outlining the government's commitment to achieving gender equity in all aspects of society and in addressing climate change. Conscious of the fact that different gender groups have different vulnerabilities in regards to climate change and contribute differently to the same due to their respective gender roles, Kenya is on the path of implementing the outlined adaptation and mitigation priorities in a gender responsive manner. The NDC mentions gender, vulnerable groups, and youth as priority groups for adaptation action, and that this should be done by strengthening the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable groups and communities through social safety nets and insurance schemes. In addressing climate change issues, public entities are required to undertake public awareness and consultations and ensure gender mainstreaming, in line with the Constitution and the Climate Change Bill (2014).

Although Kenya has done a tremendous job in gender integration to climate change response evident by the developed and the available robust and aggressive multisector (MDAs) policy frameworks on plan executions and administrative formulation there is a weak and little relationship between the latter frameworks and policies with the actual expected implementation.

EMISSIONS

The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) 2022 affirms that it is unequivocal that human related activity is responsible for the rise in greenhouse gas emissions that has led to the rise in weather and climate extremes, causing some irreversible impacts as natural and human systems are pushed beyond their ability to adapt, resulting in widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people, and emphasizes that the current trends of unsustainable development are increasing the exposure of ecosystems and people to climate hazards.

Kenya's updated NDC commits to a slightly higher emission reduction target of 32% below the Business as Usual (BAU) scenario by 2030 compared to its previous target of 30% below BAU. The National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2013-17 established a baseline for the country's emissions projections up to 2030 that asserts adaptation and mitigation actions as the country's priorities in pursuance of a low carbon, climate resilient model of economic development, and NCCAP II 2018-2022 affirms commitment and prioritization of climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. The country's contribution to the historical greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (less than 0.1% in 2018) causing human-induced climate change is negligible.

However, this does not preclude the country from experiencing widespread impacts of climate change, resulting in great socio economic losses and damages. To this effect, Kenya has witnessed an increase in drought severity and frequency (once every three years from once every six years) and variability in precipitation patterns, which culminate in loss of life, loss of biodiversity, water shortages, reduced food production, and reduced economic growth.

IPCC AR6 affirms that “substantial emissions reductions over the next few decades can reduce climate risks in the 21st century and beyond, increase prospects for effective adaptation, reduce the costs and challenges of mitigation in the longer term, and contribute to climate-resilient pathways for sustainable development.” Kenya has committed to developing domestic legal and institutional frameworks to help effectuate her efforts in emissions reduction targets in respect to her national circumstances.

CLIMATE FINANCE

There is no universal consensus on the definition or scope of climate finance. Climate finance refers to the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles into business, economic, and investing decisions. In the period to 2030, the global economy will require US\$89 trillion in infrastructure investments across cities, energy, and land-use systems and US\$4.1 trillion in incremental investment for the low carbon transition to deliver on the 2 degree Celsius goal.

In its updated NDC submission, Kenya takes into account her economy's exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards due to reliance on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture. The country prioritizes adaptation actions “not only through preventing further losses and damage but also by underpinning infrastructure and economic development while safeguarding lives, livelihoods, and social development in line with Kenya Vision 2030. MTP III (2018-2022), NCCAP II (2018-2022) and NAP (2015-2030).”

Kenya's updated NDC estimates adaptation actions total cost upto 2030 at USD 43.927 million and mitigation efforts that are estimated to cost USD 17,725 million for the period between 2020-2030. The country aims to mobilize and raise 10% and 21% of adaptation and mitigation costs, respectively, from domestic resources. The country calls on international support to make up for the remaining 90% of the adaptation, and 79% of mitigation actions are in the form of finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity building.

The Group of 77 + China is pushing for loss and damage finance to be included on the agenda of every COP, starting with COP27 in Egypt. They seem to have made significant progress as UNFCCC confirmed that matters relating to funding arrangements for addressing loss and damage would be added to the provisional agenda for COP 27. This is promising as it could provide a space to negotiate loss and damage finance during COP27 outcome and set precedence on mobilising the much needed financing .

Pursuing its Kenya Vision 2030 and consistent with the Paris Agreement, Kenya aims to undertake holistic adaptation and mitigation efforts. Availability and access to climate financing facilities at home and abroad are required and critical to facilitate Kenya's adaptation and mitigation actions that are tailored to meet the intricacies of its local environment and local cultures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The roles of the youths are not clearly outlined in the NDCs, for proper exploitation of the youth's capabilities/potential in the fight against climate change there is need for proper outlining of their roles and provision of substantial support. Effective consultation to the youths should be done and their involvement in decision making is also significant for their successful integration to the fight against the major world challenge that is climate change.
2. Creation of a legal framework to enhance youth mandated participation in the NDCs and other climate response issues among other critical issues affecting the youths.
3. The Ministries in charge of youth, gender and climate change should facilitate the establishment of a Gender and Climate Change Coordination Platform to coordinate and promote gender in climate change actions. The platform should be co-chaired by the Ministry for Public Service, Youth and Gender and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and should have multi-stakeholder representation from other NDC relevant ministries, development partners, private sector and civil society organizations.
4. The National Gender and Equality Commission should develop comprehensive reporting guidelines for use by state and non-state actors. Annual gender reports should be informed by sector with comprehensive and specific sex-disaggregated data. Guidelines should be customized and used by all sectors with clear follow up and tracking.

5. The national government should concentrate on increasing local resource mobilization and develop clear channels for obtaining funding for both adaptation and mitigation, on the same note; there is an urgent need to increase finance for adaptation in Kenya, particularly in the water, disaster risk management, and forestry sectors. This should be the priority of Kenya's NDC given the unique challenges in financing adaptation, and the focus of both domestic and international public finance.
6. Climate finance tracking and reporting should be a major NDC sector. To better understand whether finance is meeting Kenya's NDCs needs and how to scale-up investment, there is a need for regular reporting from Ministries to the National Treasury on climate-related expenditure. This can be implemented through the new segment 8 component of the Integrated Financial Management and Information System (IFMIS). Once in place, the National Treasury should annually monitor the climate finance flows relative to the need to monitor progress and respond to short falls.

CONCLUSION

Kenya's NDC analysis illustrated common gaps and challenges faced in coordinating, supporting, and implementing climate change adaptation and mitigation actions. These includes:

- Meeting financial and human resource capacity needs surrounding both climate change and gender across climate change governance institutions, sector Ministries, Departments, and Authorities, and in county government;
- Unclear guidelines to facilitate climate change and gender mainstreaming into sector policies, strategies and plans, and interventions. This guidelines if available would stipulate the use of gender responsive sector indicators and targets, gender budgeting, and the collection of sex-disaggregated data.

Additionally, the recommendations provided will strengthen Kenya's ability to meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement as well as facilitate the nation on its path towards low-carbon, climate resilient economic growth and development for all of its citizens equally, women included in government.

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