



MESHA Science Café –
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The Climate Agenda: Are we making progress, and what's needed ahead of COP28?

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Ideas that fly.

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Burkina Faso



Burundi



Cape Verde



Côte d'Ivoire



Nature Conservation Egypt
الجمعية المصرية لحماية الطبيعة

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Ethiopia



GHANA
WILDLIFE
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Liberia



Madagascar



Malawi



Mauritania



Mauritius



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AFRICA



Nigeria



Senegal



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Sierra Leone



South Africa



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Tanzania



Tunisia



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Uganda



Zambia



Zimbabwe

Evidence – climate change action needed now!

The science is unequivocal – We are at a tipping point. Climate action is needed now to keep 1.5°C alive

- Agriculture – shorter growing seasons. Net crop revenues to fall by 90% in Africa by 2100
- Food security: maize crop yield to drop by 40% by 2050. 300 Million Africans depend on maize as a main food crop.
- Water: Access to water a main source of conflict in the next 24 years. 350-600 million Africans to experience water stress by 2050
- Temperatures: In Africa, temperatures expected to rise by 1.5 - 3°C if no action is taken. Warming will be higher than global annual mean.
- Human health: More than 80 million people at risk of contracting malaria by 2080
- Africa's mountains to lose their glaciers in the next two decades



Cyclone Ida – Mozambique, 2019



2022 drought in East Africa

What must WE do?

*Key message: The **climate** and **biodiversity** crises threaten nature, human lives, livelihoods and well-being around the world, and they **must be tackled together**. Protecting intact ecosystems is a key climate solution.*

- Biodiversity and ecosystems must play a key role in providing solutions to climate change, as part of Nature based Solutions.
- Healthy and well-connected ecosystems and biodiversity play a key role in **helping people adapt** to adverse effects of climate change.
- Healthy forests, wetlands, grasslands and marine areas also play a key role in **absorbing carbon** thus playing a key role in climate mitigation.
- More than **2 billion** local people globally rely on healthy ecosystems for **fuel wood** to meet their energy needs; **70%** of all **cancer medicines** are derived from or inspired by nature, while **75%** of key food and cash crops depend on animal **pollination**. Healthy ecosystems => healthy soils=>enough water=>food security
- **Governments and stakeholders should scale up efforts in protecting, and better managing biodiversity and intact ecosystems and restoring those that are degraded.**
- Climate action should be matched with adequate and predictable **Finance**

Definitions

- **Adaptation:** Altering our behaviour, systems and ways of life to protect our families, our economies, and the environment in which we live from the impacts of climate change.
- **Mitigation** is avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures.
- **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA):** is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of an overall adaptation strategy to help people to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.
- **Nature based Solutions (NbS)** are: Actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.’ – 5th *United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP*

Adaptation

*Key message: All adaptation must be **ecosystem based** – using healthy ecosystems to help people adapt adverse effects of climate change*

- At COP 27: countries agreed on a draft framework for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). It will guide negotiations on how to assess collective progress on adaptation. **Framework must be approved at COP28.**
- GGA aims to give adaptation the same level of attention and priority as mitigation
- Ecosystem based Adaptation helps to **reduce exposure** to the impacts of climate change (e.g. restoring and protecting our wetlands helps to protect people against flooding).
- Crucially, natural ecosystems underpin the **existence** of all people through the provision of basic needs, including food and water,
- Negotiations on a Global Goal on Adaptation, whose aim is to enhance climate change adaptation by increasing awareness of and funding towards countries' adaptation needs, must be fast tracked and agreed by COP28.
- We support the call by developing countries for a clear roadmap for **doubling of adaptation** finance

Mitigation

***Key message:** Nature and healthy ecosystems can provide 30% of the cost-effective solutions, including mitigation, needed to address climate change. Climate mitigation must include protection and restoration of intact ecosystems*

- At COP 27: Little progress made around mitigation. Failure to agree on phasing out of coal and fossil fuels.
- In order to limit global warming to 1.5°C, there is need for an urgent phase out of fossil fuels. **Rapid** phasing out of fossil fuels holds the answer to the climate question.
- UNEP says the world must cut emissions by 45% to avoid a global catastrophe.
- We should shift focus from **tree planting** and re-focus on **ecosystem restoration**. Tree planting is not an end in itself. We must **plant right trees, in the right places, with the right stakeholders**. Ecosystem restoration is holistic and provides multiple benefits including adaptation, mitigation, soil restoration, land productivity as well as well as livelihood opportunities for local communities.

BirdLife's restoration work in Kivu-Rusizi basin Rwanda

- Climate **vulnerability assessments** & baselines
- Climate adaptation **planning**
- **Mobilisation** of local communities
- Identification of **priority interventions** including sites and tree species
- Planting of **fruit, fodder and agroforestry** trees
- Training of **Community Tree Stewards**
- **Tree and biodiversity Monitoring** **beyond** project life



Young people and women playing a key role



Loss and Damage

At COP27: The establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP27 was a historical moment, a fund that will help vulnerable countries **respond** and **recover** from climate impacts

- Financial support to deal with consequences/unavoidable risks of climate change - rising sea levels, extreme heat waves, desertification, forest fires, crop failures...
- Discussions on the structure and hosting of the Fund ongoing
- Divide between developed and developing countries
- Fund potentially to be launched at COP28
- Accessibility is key.



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Climate finance

Key message: Developing nations and donor institutions must fulfil their climate finance pledges

- Countries must deliver on **previous climate finance commitments** (**Fulfil the pledges** made at One Planet Summit, the UN General Assembly, CBD COP 15.1, UNFCCC COP26 and COP27 & Paris climate Finance Summit)
- We support the **call by developing countries** to developed countries and multilateral financial institutions to **fulfil pledges** made since (incl \$100 billion per year) pledged since 2009.
- Donor countries should ensure their funding **does no harm** to **biodiversity** but supports **ecosystem integrity** and the **rights** of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- There is a huge gap in adaptation finance. International adaptation finance flows to developing countries are **5-10 times below** estimated needs and the gap is widening.

(About \$160-340 billion will be required globally for adaptation by 2030 and \$315-565 by 2050)
- Make financial **system** that supports climate action **equitable** and **inclusive**. Address the **debt burden** of developing countries.

Towards COP28

COP28 Presidency (UAE) has created a 4-point Action plan

- Fast-tracking a just and orderly energy transition.
- Fixing climate finance.
- Putting nature, lives, and livelihoods at the centre of climate action.
- Enhancing inclusivity in national climate action.



Conclusion

COP 28 is once in a lifetime opportunity for governments to put nature at the heart of efforts to address the climate crisis

- Governments must agree on a formula to reduce carbon emissions - especially a plan to phase out coal and other fossil fuels.
- It is also a moment to move from talk to action on climate finance – new additional, predictable climate finance. Fix it!
- Governments must fulfil past pledges (where is the 100billion?)
- A moment to actualize the Loss and Damage Fund.
- An opportunity for countries to objectively measure and report their Paris Agreement actions.



Burj Khalifa, UAE – the tallest building in the world.
Should our hope and ambition for COP28 be as high?

THANK YOU!



Ideas that fly.

