



NDC HIGHLIGHTS

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NDC Highlights is a bimonthly newsletter of the Environmental Protection Authority, focusing on disseminating information and knowledge on the implementation of Ethiopia's NDC.



A historic resolution endorsed to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024.

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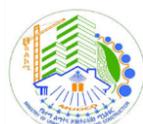


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NEWS

Ending plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument

The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was held in Nairobi, Kenya. The initial online session was held from 22–26 of February 2021 and the second online and in-person session was held from 28 February – 2 March 2022.

The assembly made a breakthrough in drafting a resolution which upon its ratification will be binding to deter the high and rapidly increasing levels of plastic pollution. According to the draft law, plastic pollution is negatively impacting the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Experts stated that the ratification of this law will reaffirm the United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, by which the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principles of the Rio Declaration on environment and development adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. [Source](#)

Women’s empowerment critical in promoting resilience and mitigating effects of climate change during emergencies

The 2022 International Women's Day was celebrated under the theme of “Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow”. This year’s theme mainly focused on advancing gender equality in the context of the climate crisis and disaster risk reduction.

A press release sent across the globe by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), stated “As the world marks International Women’s Day, celebrated globally on March 8, many women, children and other disadvantaged groups in the world are yet to recover from the effects of different catastrophes amid COVID-19 challenges”.

The Ethiopian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) in partnership with the Global Green Growth Institute and SouthSouthNorth celebrated International Women’s Day at Adama, on 21st of March 2022, under the national theme, “I am the guardian of my sister”. Speaking at the Opening of the event, Dr. Getahun Garedew, Director General of EPA, stated “If change is to come regarding women’s empowerment, we need to focus on practical actions beyond celebrating this day every year!”.

Access to sustainable cold chains in Ethiopia

- Girma Gemechu, Director General, Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement Directorate, EPA

Ethiopia aims to become Africa’s green industry hub by expanding eco-friendly industrial parks. Recent initiatives, such as the creation of “Modjo-Djibouti-Europe” cool logistics corridor, is among the key government initiatives aimed at supporting food security while attaining climate resilience. However, there is very low cooling technology penetration and a lack of domestic experience with sustainable cooling. As a result, the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is collaborating with development partners to assess the technical and economic viability of climate-friendly and energy efficient cooling technologies in selected sectors, among which include agriculture, commercial, transport, and health sectors. The project entitled “Establishing Access to Sustainable Cold Chains in Ethiopia” will establish the evidence base and develop methodologies for calculating climate and sustainable development benefits of improved access to sustainable cooling.

Ethiopia is Party to both the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol of the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The Kigali Amendment to the [Montreal Protocol](#) is a legally binding, international agreement to gradually reduce the consumption and production of [hydrofluorocarbons](#) (HFCs). The country is committed to green development aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the cooling sector and replacing potent greenhouse gases that are commonly used in cooling equipment such as hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with sustainable alternatives.

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The “Establishing Access to Sustainable Cold Chains in Ethiopia” project contributes to the target defined in Ethiopia’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), submitted to UNFCCC, and published in July 2021, which indicates sustainable cooling and HFCs reduction as an area for further exploration. Against this background, the project strives to further assess the interplay between the Paris Agreement and the Kigali Amendment in the context of Ethiopia’s plans to catalyse a transition to sustainable cooling. A scoping study will analyze and prioritize technologies from identified sectors, which will then contribute to Ethiopia’s national report on its commitment under the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol. It will also explore and prioritize mitigation options in various sectors and analyse how those can contribute to Ethiopia’s HFC emission reduction efforts beyond the obligations set by the Kigali Amendment. The project is supported by the [Clean Cooling Collaborative](#), and is being implemented by [SouthSouthNorth](#) and [Perspectives Climate Group](#).

Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) Phase-Out

As a Party to the Montreal Protocol, which established mandatory targets and mechanisms to gradually lower the consumption of ozone depleting substances, Ethiopia has taken a number of steps to reduce climate and ozone-damaging hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) based on its HCFC phase out management plan (HPMP). The objective of the plan is to ‘attain both, ozone and climate benefits through implementing an integrated plan for reducing HCFCs consumption in the refrigeration sector as well as promoting and adopting ozone friendly and energy efficient technologies in Ethiopia’.

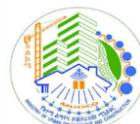
The HPMP phase I work (2011-2021) targeted 30% equaling a reduction of 3.58 ODP tonnes of HCFCs from the baseline, but it exceeded its target achieving a 47.5% reduction by 2021. HCFC reduction has become part of the national 10-year development plan which clearly demonstrates the commitment of the government. The second phase of the HPMP has been recently approved with a budget of 653,570 USD from the Multilateral Fund of the Montreal Protocol (MLF) – a funding vehicle established to assist developing countries in their effort to complying with their obligations to phase out ODS.

In the next 10 years, Ethiopia intends to achieve a complete phase out HCFCs by 2030 and to ban the import of HCFCs by 2030 except for those allowed for a servicing tail between 2030 and 2040, where required, consistent with the provisions of the Montreal Protocol. The National Ozone Unit (NOU) will gather information from stakeholders from different sectors – including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Transport, and the Ethiopian Airlines. The NOU, housed in the EPA, plans to create a platform to engage partners to jointly work and meet the national target.

Hydrofluorocarbon (HCF) phase-down

Ethiopia adopted the Kigali Amendment in 2019 and has developed a 10-year strategic plan for Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) phase-down. HFCs were used to replace the substances banned in the Montreal Protocol as they have zero impact on the ozone layer. However, HFCs are powerful greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Thus, the Kigali Amendment covers these

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gasses in the list of chemical substances that countries commit to phase down as a contribution to national climate mitigation endeavors. Currently the EPA is assessing in-house capacity to initiate activities such as the quantification of the HFCs use and identification of potential mitigation measures. There was a comprehensive ODS alternatives study done in 2016 which will be updated with recent data to support these activities.

The Ethiopian Customs Authority and the various customs ports are among the major stakeholders implementing the phase-out plans under the Kigali Amendment are already identified by the NOU and are in regular consultation. There are 14 checkpoints in the country out of which 5 (Jigjiga, Modjo, Adama, Diredawa and Kaliti) are designated as hotspots. These are the main routes for transport of refrigerators into the country. The government has already assigned gas identifiers at these hotspots with a view to facilitate random checks for all relevant imports. The major challenge affecting implementation of actions is the huge turnover at customs offices, which necessitates the need to provide continuous training courses on a rather uninterrupted manner. This is often difficult as it demands the availability of huge resources dedicated for continuous capacity enhancement.

Other key stakeholders are the various Technical Education and Vocational Training centers (TVETs) and colleges in the country. Institutions in four regions and two city administration (Amhara, Oromia, Tigray SNNPR, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa) were selected and provided Training of Trainers on Ozone Depleting Substances and related regulatory obligations. In addition, required equipment is being delivered to these institutions. However, massive civic engagement in this area is needed to cascade trainings and provide support to these institutions.

Sectoral Implementation

The EPA is looking into different sectors for the roll out of sustainable cooling activities and measures. One priority sector is the agriculture sector, due to the large volume of refrigerants used. The health sector is also a promising sector as it is relatively well organized, has systematically arranged data and uses refrigerants for various activities including for vaccine distribution, storage, and transport. Furthermore, the EPA has assisted the health sector in developing guidelines on disposal of old equipment containing ODS. The beverage industry is yet another potential sector, as brewers have their own fleet of cold chains and refrigerators. They have also centralized their refurbishment centers as per the guidance provided by the EPA, hence the gas they use is already aligned with EPA's guidance and is ensured to be environment friendly. Currently, only five importers of gases operate in Ethiopia. With such a few numbers and a bit of coordination, we believe, monitoring of imports could be effectively managed.

Even though cold chains are largely unavailable in Ethiopia, the sector has seen rapid growth parallel to the economic development of the country during the past few decades. The 10-year development plan in Ethiopia aims to increase access to sustainable cooling, especially in the agriculture and transport sectors. Sustainable cooling through efficient refrigeration technologies with low global warming potential (GWP) refrigerants, such as natural refrigerants (e.g., propane, iso-butane, and ammonia), are therefore supported through required policy and can play a significant role in the sustainability and economic productivity of priority sectors.





EVENTS

Globally, in view of the continued spread of the COVID-19 outbreaks, most 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.

- The International Scene, American University School of Public Affairs, May 2022 | [Source](#)
- Atmospheric CO2 and CH4 Budgets to Support the Global Stocktake: Tracking Greenhouse Gases, NASA, May 2022 | [Source](#)
- Who Pays for Climate Action?, American University School of Public Affairs, May 2022 | [Source](#)
- Sustainable Planet, Sustainable Health - How Science-based Solutions Can Drive Transformative Change, June 2022 | [Source](#)
- Climate Week 2022: World Conference on Climate Change & Sustainability, Climate Links, August 2022 | [Source](#)
- Climate and Disaster Risk Screening: Identifying Risk to Enhance Resilience, training, World Bank, self-paced e-learning | [Source](#)

Stockholm +50 – Preparation for Ethiopia’s National Consultations

- ❑ Contribution from EFCCC

Stockholm +50 is an international meeting to be convened by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in Stockholm, Sweden from 2-3 June 2022. It will commemorate the 50 years since the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which made the environment a pressing global issue for the first time.

The roots of the Stockholm Conference lay in a 1968 proposal from Sweden that the UN needs to hold an international conference to examine environmental problems and identify those that required international cooperation to solve. The 1972 conference was attended by delegations from 114 governments.

The upcoming meeting will comprise an opening segment including a commemorative moment dedicated to the 1972 Stockholm conference, as well as four plenary meetings, three leadership dialogues, and a closing segment.

All relevant major stakeholder groups, including women, youth, elder persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as other representatives from civil society and the private sector are encouraged to contribute to the discussions of the international meeting and its preparation through consultations at global, regional, and national levels.

The objective of the national consultations is to stimulate an inclusive whole-of-society and whole-of- government dialogue on the main themes of Stockholm +50 as they relate to each national context.

Ethiopia is one of the 58 countries selected for the national consultation. These consultation outcomes will inform the Stockholm +50 international meeting through national

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reports and a global synthesis report that captures key findings, recommendations, data, media coverage, and links to national policy frameworks.

In this regard, after a global orientation call meeting, different preparatory tasks have been conducted in Ethiopia. These include completing a data template provided by the global organizers on national policy & strategies, which have been developed since 1972, developing a workplan and budget for the national consultations resulting in the approval of the allocated 75,000 USD budget range.

In addition, the county has selected key thematic areas based on the global leadership dialogue agenda. A series of meetings have been conducted to select these thematic areas, sub-topics, and presenters/speakers by engaging relevant stakeholders from government, UN agencies, academia, and different development partners.

The selected thematic areas and sub-topics for Stockholm +50 national consultations in Ethiopia are:

1. Nature Based Solution (NBS) for reducing vulnerability, ensuring food security, and building resilience in Ethiopia

Sub-Topics under this thematic area:

1. The State of climate variability and change and its impact on renewable natural resources in Ethiopia.
2. The impact of climate variability and change on food systems, smallholder farming, pastoral and agropastoral livelihood systems and food security.
3. Landscape restoration and livelihood improvement for building resilience and

reducing the impact of climate variability and change: Lessons from Ethiopia.

4. Bio-diversity conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable benefit sharing, progresses made and lessons learned in the conservation of biodiversity through participatory/inclusive approach.

Under this thematic area the current and projected state of climate variability and change and its impact on communities, forests, protected areas, and biological diversity including genetic erosion, ecosystem functions and processes, shifts in geographical range of indigenous plant and animal species, loss of stopover and breeding sites for bird species, spread of invasive species and diseases, will be addressed.

This topic will also include the Green Legacy Initiative in Ethiopia, Sustainable Land Management, and watershed practices contributions, the role of forests and forest lands for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and climate change and mobility.

2. Environmental Pollution and Ethiopia's Response

Sub-Topics under this thematic area:

1. Progress made to reduce the adverse effects of air and water pollution on health.
2. Advancements made to overcome the effects of industrialization and urbanization on the use and disposal of hazardous chemicals and solid waste management.
3. Environmental crime, Ethiopia's effort and challenges to combat environmental crime.
4. Pesticide management and efforts to dispose stockpile to avoid legacy Hazardous Household Products.

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5. National Implementation Plan and Ethiopia's effort to reduce and eliminate Persistent organic pollutant (POPs).
6. Ethiopia's national environmental law development and enforcement program.
7. Plastic pollution, environmental challenges and the adoption of banning of single use shopping bags.

Discussion under this topic will include the state of air, water and soil pollution and impacts on human health, the environment, and agriculture. The programs, projects and actions taken to reduce the impact of air and water pollution on health and lessons learned and recommendations for future improvement will also be discussed. Issues like types of chemicals in use in industries, volume of solid waste and the capacity of municipalities for solid waste management, policy, and legal tools/instruments for regulating the disposal of chemicals and solid waste, progresses made to improve regulation and facilities for the disposal of hazardous chemicals and waste will also be covered.

3. Policies, Institutions & Legal Frameworks Supporting Environmental Sustainability in Ethiopia

Sub-Topics under this thematic area:

1. Policy, institutional and legal responses to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in Ethiopia.
2. The contribution of Non-State Actors, including women and youth in implementing national policies, strategies and Programs/Plans designed to ensure environmental sustainability.

3. Capacity and capability to access existing and emerging financing opportunities, actions needed to mobilize resources from diverse financial sources, advancing public-private-partnership, capacity and capability requirements for engaging in carbon trade at national and global level.

4. The impact of COVID-19 on implementing Nature Based Solutions (NBSs) and green recovery in Ethiopia.

4. Knowledge Management and Communication

Sub-Topics under this thematic area:

1. Generating knowledge and communicating the evidence base to influence policy and decision makers and raising public awareness.
2. Imperative for establishing strong link between renewable natural resources development, environmental protection, education, research and extension.

The discussion under the last thematic area includes the importance of putting in place functional monitoring and evaluation system to generate reliable data and disseminate information at various levels and to various audiences; establishing centers of excellence for knowledge management; and training researchers and experts on effectively communicating research findings and empirical evidence to policy and decision-makers. It will also describe the current state of, and linkages between development, education, research and

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PUBLICATIONS

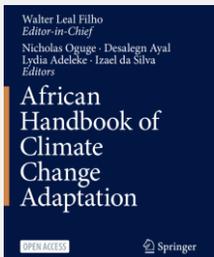
Assessment of Agricultural Emissions, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Practices in Ethiopia



The agricultural sector is a major contributor GHG emissions in Ethiopia, as it is the basis of the economy and the primary source of employment. This study investigated the implementation of mitigation and adaptation practices in smallholder farms in

Ethiopia, estimated GHG emissions associated with mitigation practices, and identified potential mitigation options and barriers and enabling factors for implementation. [Source](#)

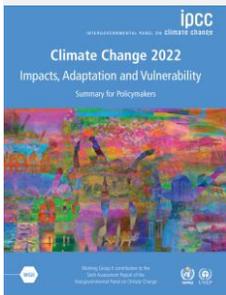
African Handbook of Climate Change Adaptation



This open access book discusses current thinking and presents the main issues and challenges associated with climate change in Africa. It introduces evidences from studies and projects which show how climate change adaptation is being – and may continue to be

successfully implemented in African countries.. [Source](#)

Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability



IPCC Sixth Assessment Report assesses the impacts of climate change, looking at ecosystems, biodiversity, and human communities at global and regional levels. It also reviews vulnerabilities and the capacities and limits of the natural world and human societies to adapt to climate change. [Source](#)

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extension, identifying major gaps and opportunities for improvement and expound the benefits that would accrue to the country by creating synergy between these areas.

National Consultation Timeline

To achieve this, two-day in-person national consultations will be held twice in Addis Ababa in April and May 2022.

Spark Blue will be used as an additional engagement platform, which is a digital platform designed for online engagement and collaboration with all stakeholders' groups and at all levels across the international development landscape. It is a space for policy makers, development practitioners and advocates from the public, private, and civil society sectors to think out loud, learn from each other, connect, collaborate, and co-create. A Spark Blue page will be created for national consultations.

Each country will have a website page intended to be a one-stop-shop for the national consultation. It will include background information on Stockholm +50, country-specific relevant data and information, details on each national consultation, live streamed and recorded plenary-style consultations, post-consultation question and discussion, consultation summaries, media coverage and translation options in over 100 languages.

The national consultations to be held in Ethiopia in April and May 2022 will create an excellent opportunity for Ethiopia to showcase the progress achieved so far in the development of different environmental and climate change policies and strategies, their implementation status and challenges faced.





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