



INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the ACP Group of States funded by the European Union's European Development Fund

2020, A PIVOTAL YEAR

for defining the next decade of climate change

WHAT'S INSIDE?

Climate
Change in the
context of a
decisive year



Exclusive
Interview with
Dr. Gomes
Secretary
General, ACP
Secretariat



Exclusive
Interview
with Assistant
Secretary
General,
Mr Viwanou
Gnassounou



The Intra-ACP
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Dear Readers, Supporters, Partners and Friends

Welcome to this third Edition of our Intra-ACP GCCA+ newsletter!

As you are aware, the year 2020 is set to be a crucial year for defining climate actions for the next decade. This newsletter presents the challenges and opportunities of this pivotal year from an ACP perspective. We have accordingly sought the views of two key actors from the ACP Secretariat: Secretary-General Dr. Patrick I. Gomes and Mr. Viwanou Gnassounou, Assistant Secretary-General for the Department of Sustainable Economic Development and Trade.

They have both been at the forefront, steering the debate on climate change for the ACP Group over the past five years. They have been, *inter alia*, involved in raising the climate ambition of ACP Member States through supporting the development of concrete action plans, known as "nationally determined contributions" (NDCs). Furthermore, through their previous longstanding diplomatic experiences, they represent a wealth of institutional memory of the ACP in the context of climate policies and multilateralism aimed at achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We hope you will enjoy this Newsletter.

Kind regards,

Pendo Maro

Team Leader, Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme

2020, THE CONTEXT

A DECISIVE YEAR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Today's world may seem both complex and full of polarities to overcome, yet for many, 2020 is believed to be a landmark year, both for international decision-making processes and individual changes in behavior that support climate resilient economies. As we race into the new decade, there is collective momentum to urgently move forward the debate on climate change, biodiversity, oceans and related sustainable development goals. For instance:

Climate Change at the heart of the agenda of the World Economic Forum

Business leaders are also sounding the alarm about climate change issues, which was a top item of their agenda for the new decade. In the wake of this, some international groups want to show that they are ready to take action with clear intentions to invest massively in eco-responsible materials or in concrete actions to reduce their carbon footprint.

The European Commission's Green Deal

The European Commission's Green Deal is presented as a highly ambitious package of measures that should enable EU citizens and

businesses to benefit from a sustainable ecological transition. These measures will be accompanied by a first roadmap consisting of a series of key policies, from ambitious emission reductions to investments in cutting-edge research and innovation, with the objective to make Europe the world's first climate-neutral continent by 2050.

The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

The United Nations has proclaimed this new decade "The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)" to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework. The main objective of this action is to build a new generation of expert ocean scientists

and technicians focused on the creation of new research networks and a new generation of scientific equipment systems and infrastructures.

The post-2020 global biodiversity framework

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will adopt a post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a stepping-stone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature". This new framework will be adopted at the next IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in June 2020 in Marseille and subsequently by the COP 15 of the CBD in October, in China. As the largest platform of conservation expertise and the only international forum on biodiversity, whose outcomes are jointly decided by governments, civil society and indigenous peoples, the IUCN Congress provides a unique opportunity to shape ambition

and galvanize action at scales commensurate with the challenges we face.

The Glasgow Climate Conference (COP 26)

The Glasgow Climate Conference (COP 26) will be held under the theme "**2020 - year of Climate Action**". The Conference, which is jointly hosted by the UK and Italy, will be held in Scotland from 9th -20th November 2020. COP 26 will be very important as the revision and updates of NDCs under the Paris Agreement are expected. One of the most decisive aspects of this COP will be to agree on rules for the implementation of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. Ambition on emissions reduction and finance for climate action, are also expected to be key issues.

 **VIDEO INTERVIEWS**

INTERVIEW

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH ACP SECRETARY GENERAL, H.E. DR. I. PATRICK GOMES.



We spoke to Dr. Patrick I. Gomes, Secretary General, ACP Secretariat, who gave us his insights on how the ACP Group of States can work together at the Multi-lateral level to pursue the climate change ambition. He also expressed his views on the priorities on Environment and Climate Action for the ACP countries and Regions for the coming decade. In response to his statement that the "ACP Group should act as a Catalyst"

Dr. Gomes was asked to further elaborate on how he sees the Group embracing this role for COP26. Last but not least the Secretary General also addressed his perspectives on how ACP Group could align itself in view of the EU's Green Deal.

[**WATCH THIS INTERVIEW >>**](#)

INTERVIEW

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH MR. VIWANOU GNASSOUNOU, ACP ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR THE DEPARTEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TRADE



In this interview, ASG Gnassounou highlighted the achievements of the ACP Group in terms of implementation of the Paris Agreement and in particular on what has been the most impactful actions carried out at the Intra-ACP level. Mr. Gnassounou also expressed his thoughts on EU's Green Deal and on its potential in further strengthening cooperation between ACP and EU. Furthermore, he addressed the important role of the ACP Secretariat in supporting its Member States in the context of their NDC Commitments for 2020. As a final point, the ASG elaborated on what according to him, could be the key messages of the ACP Group at COP26.

[**WATCH THIS INTERVIEW >>**](#)



INTRA-ACP GCCA+ SUCCESS STORIES



West Africa

Training of West African Journalists to more effectively process climate information.

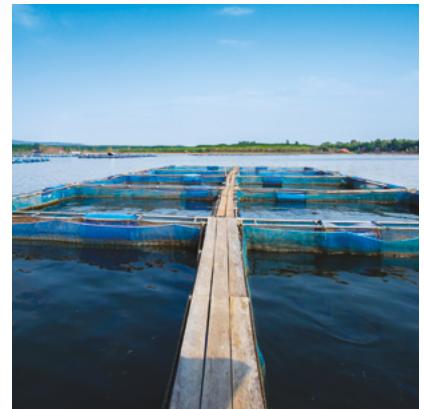
[READ >>](#)



Uganda

Enhancing resilience of agricultural landscapes and value chains in eastern Uganda – scaling up Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) practices.

[READ >>](#)

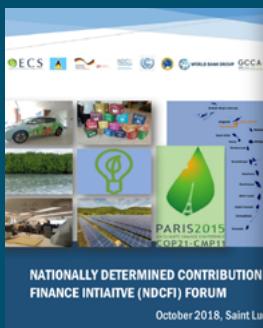


Namibia

Capacity building project for environmentally sustainable, climate-resilient inland fisheries and aquaculture development in Namibia.

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WHAT'S COMING UP?



**2ND NDCs FINANCE
FORUM,
to be held from
16-20 March
2020 in St. Lucia**

[FIND OUT MORE >>](#)



**REGIONAL ECONOMIC
COMMUNITIES (RECs)**
**23-27 March 2020 -
Johannesburg,
South Africa**

Technical Consultative Meeting on Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme Implementation and NDCs reporting write shop – Joint event of COMESA, SADC and AUC.

[FIND OUT MORE >>](#)

THE INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME GOALS IN 2020



PROMOTION OF STRATEGIC DIALOGUE

- Organisation of pre- as well as post-COP26 meetings for the ACP Group as well as related side events in the margins of the COP and other climate-related meetings, on key issues of interest to the ACP Group of States.
- Preparation of technical documents in support of strategic dialogue and ACP representation in climate change and related dialogues.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- To explore the implementation of a collaborative and interactive on-line component as part of the Programme's knowledge Management platform. This will greatly stimulate the cross-fertilisation of knowledge among the programme's partners and stakeholders.
- Encourage, through ongoing support, implementation of Regional programmes and knowledge management activities.



PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMUNICATION & VISIBILITY

- Support a consistent approach to communication across the programme
- Support awareness raising actions
- Support the organization of events aimed at facilitating stakeholders interactions
- Promotion of successful adaptation and mitigation practices (including ecosystem-based solutions).



MONITORING & REPORTING

Support monitoring and reporting of the ten (10) regional Programmes. This is done through the:

- implementation of our comprehensive M&E system, including report templates; and
- support to the organisation and work of the Programme's 2nd Steering Committee meeting; and regional coordination meetings.



DEMAND-DRIVEN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Short-term technical assistance and capacity building provided by the Climate Support Facility (CSF) to contribute to the implementation and/or development of climate change-related projects and policies in ACP countries and regions. Priority areas for CSF support include:

- Climate change mainstreaming in development policies, plans, programmes and projects.
- Implementation of the Paris Agreement, with a specific focus on nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- More generally, initiatives that integrate the climate change and sustainable development agendas



SUPPORT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Support to the development of a common, coherent vision among ACP member states and cross-fertilisation and exchange of expertise among the ACP countries and regions. This will:

- further strengthen the capacity of ACP member states to negotiate and speak with a common voice at international fora; and
- further reinforce the role of the ACP Secretariat as a Hub to promote and support the interests of the ACP Group of States on climate change and related issues. Main activities include:
 - Continuous communication and exchange with regional partners,
 - Organisation of annual inter-regional coordination meetings as well as capacity building events for regional partners particularly around climate ambition and NDCs.