



# 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 four-day long World Environment Day celebration took place in Addis Ababa and Jigjiga

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### NEWS

#### World Environment Day Celebrated Colorfully in Ethiopia

Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Environment Day is celebrated annually on 5 June since 1973. The global campaign for World Environment Day 2022 was #OnlyOneEarth.

In Ethiopia it was celebrated for the 29<sup>th</sup> time from June 3-6 at Addis Ababa and Jigjiga. Different events including exhibitions of sustainable products, services and technologies, panel discussions, cleaning up campaigns, running events, and competitions among school environmental clubs were organized in the two cities to raise awareness and encourage promising initiatives.

#### Stockholm +50

On 2-3 June 2022, Sweden and Kenya co-hosted the UN high-level conference Stockholm+50 in Stockholm. The aim of Stockholm+50 is to help increase the pace of the transition towards a sustainable and green society, more jobs, and an environment in balance for everyone, where no one is left behind.

In plenary sessions, leaders made calls for bold actions including the Prime Minister of Sweden who stated, "We must ensure that no country is left behind in the green transition...this is not just an option, this is our moral obligation." President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya added "by the time we head to COP 27 we should aim to have developed a comprehensive, holistic, and transformative package of environmental actions,"

Many leaders, including PM Abiy Ahmed sent recorded messages. In his message, the PM stressed the need to collaborate for environmental actions and prepare for environmental challenges. He confirmed Ethiopia's continued commitment through its green legacy initiative which is closely collaborating with neighboring countries.

The conference featured plenary sessions, leadership dialogues, side events as well as a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations.

### An overview to State of the Environment Reporting

- Anteneh Teshome, Director General, State of the Environment and Reporting, EPA

#### What is a State of the Environment Report?

Prior to the 1960s, State of the Environment Reports (SOERs) were non-existent. The United States and Japan pioneered preparation of SOERs in the early 1970s, respectively titled Environment Quality and Quality of the Environment. Since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, countries of the world committed themselves to preparing regular SOERs. A SOER covers a pre-defined geographical area (for example, national or National Regional State) and is a document that describes the status and trend of the areas of environmental systems, which is made up of the natural environment (the biophysical), the economy and society (the demographic component). SOERs are invaluable tools for generating timely, accurate, reliable and relevant data/information on various sectors of the environment to support sound decision-making on environmental issues. Thus, it informs decisions for sustainable management, and measures the impact of these decisions on the environment.

It is important to recognize that a SOER is not an end to itself. It is part of a broader process aimed at achieving sustainable resource management, by providing accurate and relevant information to the correct target audience and influencing decisions through effective communication. Thus, a SOER is considered an important tool in decision-making processes and policy formulation towards effective implementation of Sustainable Development.

A SOER has in the past represented the systematic acquisition, analysis and presentation of information on environmental conditions and trends.

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The underlying theme of the traditional SOER has been the link between human activities, natural processes, and environmental conditions. However, as the style of reporting moves away from only trends and conditions to analysis, there is need to integrate these with an assessment of key driving forces and policies that cause or influence the environmental trends that have been identified. This approach is now popularly referred to as Integrated Environmental Assessment and Reporting (IEAR), which is simply defined as "a process of producing and communicating policy-relevant information on key interactions between the natural environment and society".

### Why Produce State of the Environment Reports?

SOERs are important to know the conditions, trends and key driving forces and policies influencing the environment in a country. SOERs are also valuable as sources of environmental education and public awareness. A SOER is essentially produced to confront the public and policy makers with environmental quality indicators so that the former would appreciate the consequences of its own actions while the latter would understand what needs to be done and where.

A SOER prepared at national scale is not very useful for purposes of sub-national planning, such as Ethiopia's Regional State level, due to the level of aggregation of environmental information and the need for comprehensiveness. A National Regional State SOER, therefore, represents a very useful tool which decision and policy makers and the public can use to address environmental issues, including the incorporation of environmental concerns into the national regional state development process.

A national regional state SOER can be a powerful tool of competitiveness among districts for attracting

investment. A Region with a cleaner environment, together with adequate infrastructure and reasonable tax regime is likely to attract more private investment than one with poor infrastructure, is heavily polluted and has high tax rates. Generally, a cleaner environment bestows upon a district a comparative advantage over others in attracting private capital.

A SOER presents analysis on the state of the environment concerning air and climate change, land, aquatic resources, forests and biodiversity. It also includes policy analysis and crosscutting issues such as gender and environment, environment and health and waste management.

### The Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response Framework

The Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) Framework is an internationally accepted framework for reporting socio-ecological systems. This framework is adapted to make national scale assessments.

In the framework, drivers are those factors responsible for the state of environment which are the results of the interaction between society and the environment. They explain the existing condition in which the country/region is working and how these impact the environment. These include economics, the policy environment, and the population dynamics (demographics). Pressure is the actual impact that the people put on the environment such as emissions and waste. These result in the states or conditions (physical, chemical, and biological) of the environment. These in return impacts the ecosystem, human health, and function, eventually leading to political responses.

The DPSIR (environmental process) framework is currently widely used in many IEAR processes in Africa.

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### 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.

- Electrolysis of Water for Green Energy Generation: The Way Forward, The Energy and Resource Institute, June 2022 | [Source](#)
- Climate Innovation Forum 2022, Climate Action, June 2022 | [Source](#)
- Africa Green Economy Conference: Innovative Pathways for a Nature-Positive Future from Policy, Business, and Finance, June 2022 | [Source](#)
- Climate Week 2022: World Conference on Climate Change & Sustainability, Climate Links, August 2022 | [Source](#)
- World Water Week 2022, Stockholm International Water Institute, August 2022 | [Source](#)
- The International Water Association (IWA) World Water Congress and Exhibition 2022, September 2022 | [Source](#)
- Daring cities 2022, ICLEI, October 2022 | [Source](#)
- Cairo Water Week 2022, Egypt's Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, October 2022 | [Source](#)

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### Ethiopia's State of the Environment Reports

Ethiopia has been preparing the state of the environment report since 2003. The institution responsible for the production of the report, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, is the Environmental Protection Authority - EPA (which has seen several restructurings through the years from the level of ministry to commission and now an authority).

The EPA was reorganized in 2021 with a mission to "provide the Ethiopian community with improved access to meaningful environmental data and information, and to help increase the capacity of the Federal Government and the National Regional States and City Administrations to use environmental information for decision making and action planning for sustainable human development."

To date, three national level reports (in 2003, 2008, and 2017) and one regional and city administration level report (in 2015) have been produced.

### Ethiopia's 3<sup>rd</sup> National State of the Environment Report

The most recent SOER was developed in 2017 to fulfill the then Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Commission's mandate to regularly assess the state of the environment and provide objective information to policy makers and the public at large. The report applied the DPSIR framework and covered wider scope and depth in its reporting, setting a good baseline for future reports.

The report presents analysis on the state of the environment concerning conditions of the air, land, aquatic resources, forests, biodiversity, and climate change. It also includes policy analysis and crosscutting issues such as gender and environment, environment and health and waste management. The next report is expected to be published this year.





### Key Messages from the Stockholm+50 National and Global Consultations

- ❑ Contribution from EPA

#### Ethiopia's Stockholm+50 National Consultation

Ahead of the Stockholm+50 global conference held in June 2022, Ethiopia organized two national in-person and virtual consultations in Addis Ababa, on April 11–12 and May 12–13, 2022. The events focused on leadership dialogue themes, identified by the Stockholm +50 organizers, and national priorities.

The events showcased Ethiopia's progress over the past 50 years in integrating environment issues into its development agenda; identified challenges and opportunities; and reached out to stakeholders to expand partnership to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

During the consultations, four nationally prioritized themes were discussed, viz.: nature-based solutions (NbS) for reducing vulnerability; environmental pollution and Ethiopia's responses; policies, institutions and legal frameworks supporting environmental sustainability in Ethiopia; and Knowledge Management and Communication.

The national consultations showed that Ethiopia has high biological, ecosystem, and cultural diversity to build its development responses. Good practices for potential scaling-up, some of which are traditional and have been tested over centuries, were also presented. The discussions included several Multilateral Environmental Agreements Ethiopia has ratified and various environmental policies, strategies and laws developed nationally by different sectors.

Practical challenges identified as besetting uptake of NbS included deforestation, forest degradation, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, pollution, climate change and waste management. It was noted that these challenges are exacerbated by technical, financial, and social constraints, overlapping mandates, and weak

collaboration and coordination of stakeholders.

The major solutions identified were Nature based Solutions, innovations in waste management, including recycling and transition to a circular economy, partnerships, active engagement of relevant stakeholders, co-generation of knowledge, and capacity building of research communicators.

As part of the national consultations, three leadership dialogues were also presented.

*Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all*

Restoring and regenerating nature by adopting NbS will also economically benefit the society. Ethiopia is endowed with rich diversity in agro-ecology, biodiversity (ecosystems, species, and genetic diversity) and cultures and thus is in a good position to implement NbS. Several best practices were presented that can make a difference if implemented at scale, including the Humbo-assisted natural regeneration site, the Gedeo traditional agroforestry practice and the traditional terracing and tree planting in Konso. However, scaling up these practices will require a number of actions and concerted efforts by partners.

*Leadership Dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic*

A variety of sustainable and inclusive recovery practices are being applied by public, private and civil society groups, including:

- Traditional community self-support systems. Ethiopians have strong family and community bonds, strong social capital, and a culture of sharing and caring for one another. Following COVID-19, the government and civil society organizations designed a resource mobilization system for the needy through these social

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Heterogeneous impacts of climate change on crop yields across altitudes in Ethiopia

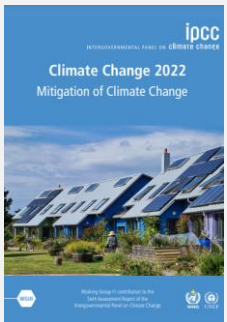
This research indicates that yields of different crops will increase or decrease in different altitudes due to climate change. It recommends tailoring agricultural development programs and climate adaptation strategies to address location and crop-specific sensitivity to climate change to build resilience and improve the livelihood of smallholder farmers. [Source](#)

### Plastic Pollution in Africa



This is a first-of-its-kind report on the state and impacts of plastic pollution in Africa, combined with existing policy and legal frameworks to address the issue and recommendations on the policy options required to tackle the challenges – urgently, holistically and in a coordinated manner. [Source](#)

### Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change



The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report on Mitigation of Climate Change provides an updated global assessment of climate change mitigation progress and pledges and examines the sources of global emissions. It explains developments in emission reduction and mitigation efforts, assessing

the impact of national climate pledges in relation to long-term emissions goals. [Source](#)

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Networks and by providing prevention materials including masks, sanitizers, and vaccines at public places.

- Government mandated partial shutdowns during the high points of the pandemic, meaning those able to work from home could do so, while allowing others to go to workplaces if the necessary COVID-19 protocols were observed. This helped safeguard jobs and incomes, especially for the poor who rely on daily income.

*Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development*

We are in the global Decade of Action to overcome three planetary crises (climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss) and the COVID-19 pandemic. Accelerating actions are required to avoid irreversible outcomes and achieve sustainable development. The biggest challenges we are facing globally in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other environmental commitments include:

- Lack of strong solidarity and partnership between developed and developing nations.
- Weak economies and technical capacity in developing countries to play their roles in contributing towards the planetary crises and green recovery from COVID-19.
- Weakening of multilateralism due to polarization of powerful nations and proliferation of armed conflicts around the world.

Recommended actions include

- Strong multilateral institutions with fair representation of the developing world.
- Clear policy directions and strengthened institutions at national and sub-national levels.

It was agreed that implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development can be accelerated, by building on good practices and pathways.

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### Stockholm+50 International Meeting

The UN General Assembly convened the international meeting, “Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” in Stockholm from 2–3 June 2022.

Stockholm+50 featured four plenary sessions in which leaders made calls for bold environmental action to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Three leadership dialogues, hundreds of side events – including several youth-led sessions – and webinars were conducted in the two-day global meeting.

A series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations held in the run-up to the meeting enabled thousands of people around the world to engage in discussions and put forward their views. Country statements (including Ethiopia’s) were also presented through recorded videos.

### Summary and highlights from the national consultations of 50 countries

- Countries called for stronger partnerships on improved means of implementation of the Decade of Action, including improved capacities, technology transfer, North-South and South-South cooperation.
- There is a need for strengthened environmental governance at all levels, building upon enhanced public participation and access to environmental information, improved evidence-base and risk knowledge, rebuilt trust between governments and society, and an effective response to the needs of stakeholder groups, including women, youth, indigenous peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, and others.
- There is a call to radically improve financing for the delivery of environmental targets of SDGs by unlocking and consolidating environmental finance across all sources—domestic and international, public and private, and hybrid—and by smarter and

more effective management of the environment and climate finance.

- Countries are looking for strong drivers for economic transformation towards greener and healthier development. This includes support to adjust national targets and metrics, to reform economic systems and investment flows towards sustainable consumption and production and circularity, and to reduce the environmental footprint from high-impact sectors such as food, energy, extractives, tourism, transport, and infrastructure.
- National stakeholders highlighted the need for a just and inclusive transition towards greener and resilient development, which should include targeted support to workers across formal and informal sectors and their families who might be negatively affected by the economic transformation, with a particular focus on groups living in vulnerable and marginalized contexts.
- Youth leaders and activists across all supporting countries were very vocal, sharing their views on the Stockholm+50 Leadership Dialogue themes. Youth participants highlighted the need for environmental and climate education, training, capacity building and access to information; the importance for their governments to unlock and promote green jobs and green businesses, and youth innovations; and the need for increased and consolidated international and national funding flows for the accelerated implementation of environmental and climate action.

The event concluded with a statement from co-hosts Sweden and Kenya, drawn from Member States and stakeholders through the meeting’s plenaries and leadership dialogues. The statement contains several recommendations for an actionable agenda, including placing human well-being at the center of a healthy planet and prosperity for all; recognizing and implementing the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment; adopting systemwide changes in the way our current economic system works, and accelerating transformations of high impact sectors.







## NDC Highlights

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