



Climate Action Eswatini

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"The potential existential threat' to humanity is looming and in this regard our concerted efforts towards climate action can never be enough to overcome climate change impacts if still, we do not look at our national and world affairs through the climatic prism..."

IN FOCUS: CLIMATE A RESOURCE WORTH PRESERVING

By Emmanuel DLAMINI, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs

Climate is a resource! Though climate as a resource may not conform to our normal idea of a resource, however, its variability in time and space does, in fact, confer upon it the many of the characteristics of a resource. While we are aware that access to climatic resources is restricted by national boundaries and property rights, still climate has characteristics of a common property resource because it can be modified by the remote actions of man. It is this common aspect of the climate resource that raises the most difficult issues for our governments and humanity.

In this issue will look at climate as a natural resource, worth preserving on its own merits just like the water we drink and the air we breathe. We recognize that ignoring the resourcefulness of the climate system has resulted in its exploitation, with humanity using it as a dumping ground for carbon, destroying the very essence of the climate system. Though climate is intangible and seemingly elusive to us, but the essential services it provisions are crucial to all the other natural resources we enjoy as humankind. Climate change is a threat, lurking in carbon shadows and the resulting complexities are plaguing us from multiple sides. Knowing more about the climate system is of utmost importance not only to satisfy our scientific curiosity but also to help us prepare for any threats and risks that may arise in the natural environment. Effective use of any resource needs detailed information to aid planning, strategizing and risk management. Climate information in our case can help us achieve that and be the getaway to increased adaptive capacity and climate resilience.

Welcome to the second Issue of Climate ACTION Eswatini!!!

SEE THROUGH THE CLIMATE PRISM: THE FRAGILITY OF HUMANITY TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE

Humanity is vulnerable to the variations in climate, and in turn climate is also vulnerable to the actions of human kind. We are still learning of the many consequences of human impacts on the climatic resources. The broader climatic vulnerability stemming from population growth, the increased demand for food, energy, and other resources, the increased interdependence of nations, and the pace of economic development shows that this vulnerability can only increase as underlying causes intensify. Climate change over the past decades has shown the vulnerability and sensitivity of human welfare and global economics to climatic events. Such events have opened our eyes to the instability of world food production and the delicate agro-economies we rely on. We now truly comprehend the extent to which commerce continues to depend on the workings of the natural world.

The remarkable aspect of these climatic changes is that they are not unusual. Similar events have occurred in the past, however, what is new is the realization that the vulnerability of the human race to climatic events has not disappeared with our technological development and advances. It is true that we cannot entirely link all human suffering exclusively to natural events or climate change; as the vulnerability or resilience of any society to climate obviously depends on a multitude of factors. However, the complex interplay between climate, man and the environment, as exemplified by food and energy, forces us to realize the degree to which climate is a key element in a global ecological system involving the atmosphere, the oceans and the biosphere.

Because no social system, or economic condition of development, renders nations impervious to the physical processes of nature, it is essential that we join together to consider what we can do collectively and as individuals about climatic issues. The challenge to science is at an unprecedented level. What other problems of global concern invoke a knowledge of the geophysical and geological structures of the earth? Requires the knowledge of the interrelation between the processes of the biosphere as they are impacted by human settlements and their effects on the chemical composition of the atmosphere? How many scientific problems have the potential for shaping the economy of nations and as well as disrupting the economic and political relations among them?

You may ask yourself, "Why are climate change concerns threading beyond scientific and technical matters into the realms of economics and social structures?" The answer is clear. The potential 'existential threat' to humanity is looming and in this regard our concerted efforts towards climate action can never be enough to overcome climate change impacts if still, we do not look at our national and world affairs through the climatic prism, recognizing that climatic processes play a central role in shaping our national and the world's economic and environmental welfare.

Ours is not just to identify priority areas for our scientific curiosity in climate science, but to elaborate our mandates and inform our governments of the complex interactions and what should be done to protect our present and preserve our future. Therefore, there is need to be cognizant of not raising expectation beyond the scientifically reasonable as well as not raise fears beyond those scientifically warranted. Yet still it is equally our responsibility to ensure that the possible consequences of man-induced climatic changes are fully appreciated. Our charge is clear, our responsibility great, and our task complex. Our national climate action depends entirely upon the state of our scientific knowledge and climate information systems. The use of traditional knowledge systems and scientific data can help us to learn from the past, endure the present, and preserve the future. A bright, sustainable future for mankind through national and international climate action can be a reality, provided that we wisely use our climatic resources and mitigate the destructive impacts of climate change to improve the economic and environmental welfare for the people in the Kingdom of Eswatini.

In this issue, we tackle these questions: how can we ensure that raw climate data is translated to climate information that is actionable and can be used to prepare for looming climatic events? Can we improve the use of weather and climate forecasts; analysis, impact outlooks as well as communication to end-users? Are we weather-ready and climate-smart? What role can early warning systems play in contributing to our adaptive capacity and in turn help curb our vulnerabilities to climate change?

by Minky GROENEWALD,
*Fourth National Communication and Biennial Update
Report Project, Ministry of Tourism and Environmental
Affairs*

2. CLIMATE SERVICES IN SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

By *Duduzile NHLENGETHWA-MASINA*, Department of Meteorology

The year 2015 was the year the global community agreed on three important agreements that are shaping socio-economic development today, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Kingdom of Eswatini subscribes to all three and is committed to fulfilling her obligations in this regard. As part of her obligations to the Paris Agreement, the country developed a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), which has commitments for both climate change adaptation and mitigation. The adaptation component of the NDC comprises of action for the biodiversity and ecosystems sector, the water sector, agriculture sector and the health sector. This presents a huge overlap with priority sectors identified by the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO's) Global Climate Services Framework (GCSF), namely agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, health and water. It is worth noting that energy is part of the mitigation component of the NDC, and that energy is also vulnerable to climate variation and change and therefore also requires adaptation action. This is particularly the case as Eswatini's energy mix includes hydro-electricity and the country has further committed to increasing the renewable energy share in the energy mix.

The observed overlap between the NDC sectors and the priority sectors of the GCSF is an indication that the country needs to invest in improving climate services if her commitments under the both the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction are to be fulfilled. It is also worth noting that the priority areas for the climate services framework are also critical for the attainment of the sustainable development goals. The eSwatini Meteorological Service provides climate information, which is then transformed into climate services in collaboration with stakeholders classified as partners or intermediary users for the benefit of end-users. The intermediary users include the Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Management Agency, Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Energy sector. The level of collaboration with these users is currently at different levels and all have a potential for improvement in order to better support the country's development priorities. The Eswatini Meteorological Service provides climate information, which is then transformed into

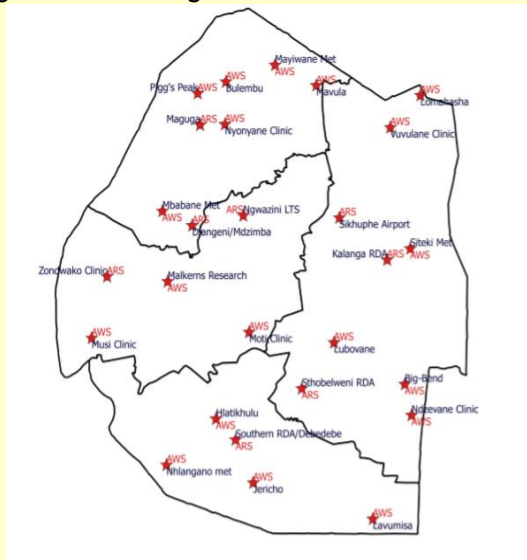


Climate Services priority areas in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals

climate services in collaboration with stakeholders classified as partners or intermediary users for the benefit of end-users. The intermediary users include the Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Management Agency, Department of Water Affairs, Ministry of Health and the Energy sector. The level of collaboration with these users is currently at different levels and all have a potential for improvement in order to better support the country's development priorities. Strengthening collaboration and cooperation with the intermediary users is one of areas that are envisage to support climate action and sustainable development.

There is also a need to consider the available climate information. One of the key components of climate information is meteorological observations, wherein the Meteorological Service operated an observation network, which is currently undergoing modernization, with the automatic station network having been introduced in 2006 and has grown to 18 Automatic Weather Stations and 8 Automatic raingauge Stations. The advantages of having a modernized station network is the improved temporal resolution of climate data, which allows for improves climate information and services. Coupled with the advances in ICT, the modernized, automatic stations also minimises data gaps. The introduction of the modernized station network has, however, come with some challenges. These include the need to build capacity for the operation and maintenance of the network (operations and maintenance budget and human resource capacity).

It has also been noted that some communities are concerned that the presence of the automatic weather stations within their vicinity might come with potential health impacts, creating the need to raise awareness on the stations, including on their environmental friendliness and the advantages, to the community, of having the meteorological data for their areas.



Eswatini current Automatic Weather Station network

Another component of climate information is remotely sensed data. The spatial and temporal resolution of the data has been improving over the years, with the latest developments leading to the discussions about big data within the global meteorological community. Over the years, the resolution of satellite observations is expected to improve to 1km resolution.

This improved resolution, if effectively utilised, has huge benefits for our country, whose spatial variation is quite high. This as a result of the topographic variations coupled with the latitudinal and continental position, wherein the position of the country allows the country's climate to be influenced by tropical air masses, onshore winds/sea breezes and frontal systems. The ground observations and remotely sensed data together form the "observations and monitoring" pillar of the climate services framework. The data is used to create additional information, including through the use of yet another pillar, "research, modelling and prediction". This is another area the Eswatini Meteorological Service is working on improving, looking into improved dynamic modelling in order to better predict the country's weather and climate.

The improved forecast will need to be taken through an improved “climate services information system”, which includes intermediary users to produce climate services that will be meaningful to the end user and allow them to take appropriate decisions and climate action that will support sustainable development. As users of climate services span through all sectors of the economy, there is need for appropriate, effective and efficient user interface platform(s). The Kingdom of Eswatini is working towards improved climate services in support of climate action, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development. Working together we can achieve our goals.



3. WEATHER READY, CLIMATE SMART

By *Khetsiwe KHUMALO, Climate Change Programme*

Weather Ready, Climate Smart! This slogan is echoing even louder now as our neighbor Mozambique, is recovering from the devastating cyclone Idai and cyclone Kenneth.

Cyclone Idai has been declared the worst disaster to hit Southern Africa, it has been termed “Africa’s Hurricane Katrina.” In Mozambique alone it is estimated that over 2 Million people have been affected, which is largely by far the population of Eswatini. Lives have been lost, properties destroyed, infrastructure damaged and livelihoods lost. This cyclone has brought misery and hopelessness to many families and the government of Mozambique. The big question is what can we learn from it? We know that climate change does not cause tropical cyclones, but it exacerbates the impact. This means that as climate change continue and intensify so too do these storms. This will lead to a greater frequency of not only severe damage from storms, but damage over a larger region. This means that cyclone Idai level events must be factored in the risk horizon.

A changing climate means extreme weather is making it harder to guess what lies ahead, how seasonal rainfall patterns might change, and how these winds of change might threaten to disrupt delicate vulnerabilities in this country where our economy largely rely on rain fed agriculture, with more than 30% of the population already facing food insecurities and high poverty levels. With all these changes, reliable weather forecasts, early warnings and consistent climate information can mean the difference between life and death, profitable harvests or destroyed crops, sustainable economic and social development, or a continued cycle of poverty. Now more than ever, we need to be weather-ready, and climate-smart! The ultimate goal is sustainable development, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. This nexus between climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and sustainable development require a systematic approach in protecting lives, livelihood and property from hazards associated with weather and climate events. This is why early warning systems and other disaster risk reduction measures are becoming a necessity we can no longer ignore. The significance of early warning for disaster reduction has been repeatedly emphasized in major international agendas and right here at home His Majesty King Mswati III in his speech from the throne clearly articulated the need to enhance early



Devastating effects of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique

“With all these changes, reliable weather forecasts, early warnings and consistent climate information can mean the difference between life and death, profitable harvests or destroyed crops...”



Aftermath of Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Africa

warning to support agriculture and other critical sectors for sustainable economic development of the Kingdom of Eswatini. This should therefore raise the issues of early warning right up into our priority list as government and stakeholders at large. We need to understand that early warning is one of the major elements of disaster-risk reduction, which could save lives and help protect livelihoods and national development gains. To boost the resilience of our communities, we now need weather forecasts not only on how the weather will BE but on what the weather will DO. And such information needs also to reach the people at risk, they in turn need to understand it and use it to take informed decisions.

Being weather-ready require us as a nation including individuals and communities to be prepared for and respond appropriately to weather extremes. This basically means building community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather and climate threats. It is imperious to emphasize, early warnings must be “useful, usable and used”, and they must address real problems and generate viable responses. In order to significantly reduce losses, communities and individuals need to become more resilient through actions that integrate weather and climate information in decision-making processes. This is only possible through enhancing the link between early warning and early action through ‘impact-based’

forecasts’ that paint a picture of what extreme weather will do on the ground as well as simply what it will be. An effective early warning system has multiple benefits beyond saving lives from disaster preparedness to disaster response and for generally building more climate-resilient livelihoods. If effectively implemented, EWS can contribute to increasing the resilience of Eswatini to natural disasters and climate related risks, and offer simultaneous support for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in reducing the loss of life and livelihood. An Effective early warning system will deliver us to vision 2022.

Needless to say, to be effective, early warning systems need to actively involve the people and communities at risk, facilitate public education and awareness of risks, effectively disseminate messages and warnings and ensure there is a constant state of preparedness and that early action is enabled. As we look towards vision 2022 and beyond it’s incumbent upon us as a nation and the government, to boost key investments and innovations that will make Eswatini more resistant to the worst impacts of disasters. Even so, the immediate development priorities which we must deal with on a daily basis also need to be understood in part as a way to reduce the costs of trade-offs between present needs and future risks.



4. POWER TO THE FARMERS: SAVING LIVES AND BUILDING RESILIENCE

By *Nqobizwe DLAMINI, National Adaptation Project*

Prioritizing the conversation on how to better protect ourselves as societies and as individuals from a well predicted food crisis can no longer be understated. Agriculture still remains the backbone of our rural livelihoods with over 70% of the population primarily reliant on it. This reliance however, has in recent years been threatened by number of climate induced hazards like floods, drought and storms, which has led to crop failure and loss of livestock. This poses a serious threat to food security and poverty eradication to rural communities. Moreover, apart from damage and loss of standing crops, livestock and food stocks, extreme weather events also disturb other capital infrastructure which are vital for agriculture. Such include tools/equipment, buildings, irrigation and drainage systems, transportation networks and others.

Even in years when extreme weather events do not occur the sector has still underperformed in terms of production. According to preliminary reports from the Vulnerability Assessment Committee (VAC) for this year, harvests are expected to decline mainly due to miscommunication of early warning information to farmers. This once again raises the concern on escalating numbers of food insecure households in the country. This also shows that the deep uncertainty that exists in terms of climate related risks is an impediment to sustainable intensification of agriculture, ending hunger and ending poverty. There is therefore a genuine need for us as a country to move swiftly in strengthening and improving our Early Warning Systems (EWS) to communicate accurate and timely early warning information.

To build resilience of our communities, farmers need to be informed of the risks in order to ward off, counteract, prepare and cope with imminent threats affecting their crops and livestock. For farmers, the largest challenges come from unreliable rains, changes in weather patterns, severe storms, and droughts. These changing weather patterns are testing age-old farming wisdom, and making it harder for people especially in rural areas to make a living and feed their families from rain-fed agriculture. With 70 percent of the country's population dependent on rain-fed agriculture, reliable weather advisories, weather forecasts, and other climate services for farmers are imperative.

To avoid a repeat of the current losses as a result of poor prediction and dissemination of weather information there is need to strengthen mechanisms for predicting and passing the information to farmers. The weather information should be simplified and packaged in a way that can easily be understood by farmers. Interpretation and understanding of weather information and warnings by farmers is equally important as this allow a farmer to better utilize the information appropriately and improve his/her decision making. In fact, early warning information is only useful if it is accurate, timely and understood.

In India for instance, studies revealed that simple text messages are improving farmers decision making on when to plant and harvest. We could also facilitate such, as a small country surely a comprehensive database of our farmers with contact details exists somewhere. This however is not to suggest that other traditional mediums like radio, televisions, newspaper, etc are inadequate, but we could blend these! Even though the devastation from extreme weather events is severe to farmers, they themselves have an equally important role to play to equip themselves to understand early warning information and act accordingly to reduce food insecurity and eradicate poverty. In other words, farmers must integrate disaster prevention within their agricultural practices. Success to this requires changes in attitudes from farmers.



The belief that agricultural disasters can be prevented; a culture of self-reliance; and the practice of participatory governance will be essential. This means in effect, to shift from the current focus on relief and mitigation activities to all-round early warning, prevention, preparedness, relief, rehabilitation and sustainable recovery activities. Community leaders, extension officers, governments and relevant stakeholders need to work together in a participatory manner involving meteorological services to promote effective actions from farmers.

Given the prospects of a good rainfall season for example, climate and weather information can advise farmers to plough and plant early using available draught power, diversify their crops and use recommended crop varieties. Community leaders (Chiefs) can also play their part in ensuring that livestock is removed from arable land as early as possible to enable early planting. Extension officers also receive such information advise farmers on best varieties and recommended methods. Farmers will then be able to choose the most suitable options according to their particular circumstances, including contingency farming practices to mitigate adverse effects of natural and man-made disasters.

It is clear therefore that to build resilience and adaptive capacity amongst our farmers so to ensure poverty eradication and achieve food security, everyone has an equally important role to play. Coordination structures on who does what should be clear and known by everyone. Enhanced coordination amongst EWS stakeholders can go a long way in facilitating easy access of usable and timely early warning information to farmers.

“To build resilience of our communities, farmers need to be informed of the risks in order to ward off, counteract, prepare and cope with imminent threats affecting their crops and livestock.”



5. CLIMATE FINANCE FACILITY - DE-RISKING CLIMATE INVESTMENTS IN ESWATINI

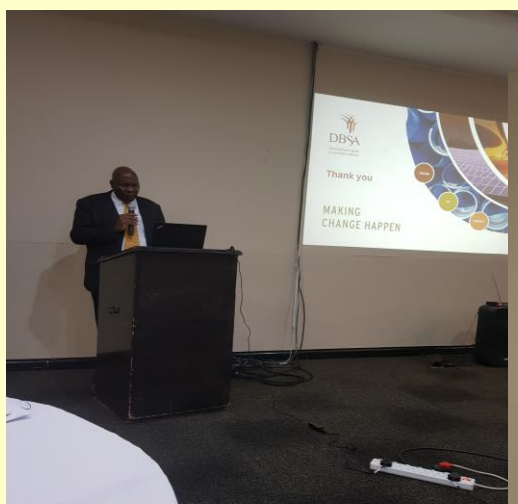
By Rodney CARVAL, GCF Readiness Project

The investment needs for low-carbon, climate-resilience growth is substantial. With insufficient public funds channelled into climate action and the commitments made by industrialised countries still inadequate to the magnitude of the challenge of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the private sector is therefore an indispensable partner. This has increased the need for private sector investments in building resilient and low carbon Eswatini, presenting a clear business case for private sector to invest in climate action. Developing countries like Eswatini will endure the worsening physical and economic impacts of climate change.

Advancing private sector participation in low carbon and resiliency markets will not only contribute to “climate proofing”, but it will also contribute to the viability of these markets ensuring the long term sustainability of such markets. Private investors tend to lack capacity in climate finance and consider such markets as high risk. It is therefore vital to support the private sector in dealing with the risks and recognising the opportunities resulting from climate change with the aim of an increase in private capital flows. Responding to this opportunity, the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) has formulated the Climate

Finance Facility (CFF) through funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). On the 17th of May 2019, the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs hosted DBSA CFF Outreach Workshop, held at Happy Valley hotel. The objective of this workshop was to raise awareness on the GCF funded Climate Finance Facility including the requirements of assessing funds from the facility. A delegation from the DBSA was in the country to meet with senior representatives from the private sector including commercial banks, industry representatives as well as relevant ministries.

The CFF is defined as a finance facility to catalyze private capital to support low carbon and climate resilient private sector projects. It is a structured finance platform that will have initial committed debt funding of ZAR2 billion. By taking a blended finance approach with highly concessional funding that is being provided by the GCF, the CFF can offer long term competitively priced funding. The facility will be the first of its kind in Africa using a pioneering green bank model adapted from emerging markets. It will de-risk and increase the bankability of climate projects in order to crowd in private sector investment. Its successful implementation will prove that similar financial models can be replicated in other developing countries.



The Acting Principal Secretary, Mr. John Hlophe during the official opening of the workshop



The GCF project Coordinator, Rodney Carval making his remarks during the workshop



Participants sharing their views during the workshop

The CFF was designed by the DBSA to influence other financial institutions in Southern Africa to invest in climate change related activities. The DBSA initially conducted consultations with South African financial institutions, to understand what was limiting them from investing in climate actions. Upon completion of the consultations, it was found that financial institutions were limited from investing in climate change activities by:

1. Regulations - banks have a maximum of seven years to invest in projects
2. The need of a first loss facility in case of project failure.

These two challenges informed the formulation of the CFF.

“The CFF is not here to compete with other financial institutions by offering lower interest rates to developers, “crowding out” other funders and causing a market distortion. The intention of the CFF is to “crowd in” or catalyze private sector funding by co-funding alongside developmental and private sector financial institutions to try and achieve a 1:5 leverage,” (For every Rand invested from the CFF, it has to attract 5 Rands from other sources) explained Olympus Manthata, fund manager of the CFF when he was presenting about the facility during the workshop. The DBSA understands the 1:5 leverage is quite ambitious and maybe challenging for project developers but this should not limit them from engaging the DBSA to negotiate the leverage rate. For commercial banks and asset managers, the CFF serves as a “first mover” and taking early stage risk. It addresses risk associated with “first application” of technologies, and difficulties underwriting multiple revenue streams. For development financial institutions, the CFF can provide additional co-funding for developmental finance using credit enhancement products such as tenor extension to projects that are commercially viable but not currently being financed by the private sector banks. It is important to note that the CFF will not fund projects that can be solely funded by banks.

The facility will focus on private sector infrastructure projects that mitigate or adapt to climate change. Under mitigation, the facility is targeting renewable energy generation, energy efficiency in both industry and residential, sustainable and low emission transport and waste to energy projects. Under adaptation, projects relating to water supply management including water treatment and climate-resilient water infrastructure will be funded by the CFF.

It is important to differentiate the focus areas of the CFF from that of the GCF. Projects will be required to demonstrate that they are focused on technically and economically feasible transactions where there is market interest but limited capital availability due to specific financing gaps and barriers. Developers will also be required to show that project cannot be fully financed by the private sector.

The DBSA is currently finalizing contracting with the GCF in terms of their contributions to the CFF, while the CFF is already set up in the bank. A project steering committee has already been put in place to check that a project complies with the CFF criteria from a climate change point of view. Once contracting is over and the money is with the DBSA, they will have the authority to execute the project without the concern of the GCF board. Project developers or financial institutions can engage the DBSA CFF team if they are interested in the facility. The DBSA will further share more information with stakeholders through the Ministry of Tourism and Environment once contracts have been finalized. Stakeholders can always contact the Climate Change Unit under the ministry if they need further information on the facility.

“The CFF is not here to compete with other financial institutions by offering lower interest rates to developers, The intention of the CFF is to “crowd in” or catalyze private sector funding by co-funding alongside developmental and private sector financial institutions to try and achieve a 1:5 leverage,”

6. ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE MBABANE MAKES ANOTHER GREEN TURN WITH THE EU GREEN DIPLOMACY PROJECT.

By Camille VALLÉE, Alliance Française

Building on the momentum of the Conference of the Parties (COP21), which led to the landmark environmental accord signifying a historic turning point in global action on climate change, the Alliance Française de Mbabane took upon itself to invest more on capacity building and public awareness initiatives to strengthen the resolve on climate action. Recognizing the importance of building synergies on its track to achieve a zero-carbon, resilient, prosperous and fair future, the Alliance Française has set up partnerships with key institutions in Eswatini to target youth climate action with a focus on sustainable environmental education. Recently, to celebrate the annual International Environment Day, on June 5, Alliance Française, together with John Wesley Secondary High School organized a TRASH CHALLENGE in the surrounding of Msunduzi Township. Forty willing students happily collected plastic waste around the soccer field, under the inquisitive gaze of the passers-by, who seemed to appreciate the initiative. In one hour, the area has been completely transformed and the plastic like landscape became a green grass field again.

Building on the Environment Day, on the 6th of June, The Green Diplomacy Project, funded by the European Union, was officially launched in the honorable presence of the European Ambassador, H.E. Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones, with representatives from partner institutions the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Eswatini Environment Authority, members of the diplomatic corps and different stakeholders from public and private sectors.

The highlight of the evening was when the featured up-cycle artists Senelisiwe Mdluli and Pachimana challenged the audience, during an open conversation, on their waste impact, sparking a lively debate on waste management in the country. This official opening was aimed at setting the stage on what the Green Diplomacy Project entails and what more to come in the upcoming months as well as to mobilize the environment players in the Kingdom of Eswatini.



John Wesley Secondary High School students participating in the trash challenge



The European Ambassador, H.E. Esmeralda Hernandez Aragones sharing a light moment with the audience during the Green Diplomacy Launch



The Project Coordinator, Camille VALLÉE engaging sharing a moment with the various attendees of the launch

What is the Green Diplomacy Project one may ask and how did it come about? This year the only European Cultural Centre in the Kingdom decided on a long term “climate for the future” project funded by the European Union. The project, named the Green Diplomacy is planned to run from June to October with its focus on the youth. The main objective of this initiative is to encourage young people to voice their vision and solutions on environmental challenges towards a greener sustainable future. In the form of a national poster competition entitled DESIGN YOUR GREEN FUTURE, high schools students of the Kingdom of Eswatini will be invited to share their green vision in an artistic form. A jury of experts will select, by end of July, two posters from each of the four regions in the country. The eight finalists from the regional selection will then participate in a two days’ workshop to give the students efficient tools to clearly communicate the environmental message. The winning poster will then be distributed to all the high schools of the Kingdom, in order to raise awareness on climate and environment.

To top it all off, tertiary students will also be invited to participate in a training workshop to be held in August on graphic designing for the environment management and climate action. This multi skills and intergenerational workshop will also facilitate an environmental dialogue with the aim of finding concrete solutions and efficient communication tools. Wait! There is more!, the highlight of the project will be in October, in an event dubbed the Green Economic Fair, where main stakeholders will share their visions of a green future and the solutions to go with it. Various stakeholders at national level will be invited to the Alliance Française to take part in the festivities and partake in the discussions and share ideas with the hope that by the time people go back home their zeal to contribute toward climate action is renewed and strengthened. Green Diplomacy is an absolute puff of green wind that will surely have a strong positive impact on the current environmental situation as well as on future generations. We hope to see you soon in our green initiative!!



WIDEN YOUR HORIZON

QUEST FOR EXCELLENCE

- ❖ ACDI Masters (MSc/MPhil) in Climate and Development: This full-time, one-year taught Master's course at the University of Cape Town provides interdisciplinary training in climate change and sustainable development, with a focus on the issues of relevance to African development.

Deadline: 31 August 2019

ENABLING EMERGING GROWTH

- ❖ UNESCO Earth Science for Society: UNESCO invites proposals for its projects grants under the international geoscience programme. This supports international collaboration, via meetings and workshops. Funding is worth between USD 5,000 and USD 10,000 per year per project over a maximum of five years. Approximately 30 projects are supported per year.

Deadline: 15 October 2019

- ❖ National Geographic - Exploration grant - artificial intelligence for Earth innovation: The National Geographic Society, under its exploration grant programme, invites applications for its artificial intelligence for Earth innovation funding opportunity in at least one of the following core areas: climate change; agriculture; water. Grants are worth between USD 5,000 and USD 100,000 over one year.

Deadline: 9 October 2019

- ❖ EIT Climate-KIC's ClimateLaunchpad, the world's largest green business ideas competition, is open for applications in over 35 countries. Deadlines differ by country.

****Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects**

Mainstreaming Gender in Green Climate Fund Projects

A practical manual to support the integration of gender equality
in climate change interventions and climate finance



Did you know that to receive funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for mitigation or adaptation project, your project must contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment? This tool, developed by the GCF and UN Women, reviews the GCF Gender Policy, and explains how to integrate gender into the design of climate projects. It focuses on the elements needed to meet the GCF project cycle's core requirements, including gender analyses, gender assessment and action plans, gender-responsive results frameworks, project implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

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