



# 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-X)

**Theme: Just Transitions in Africa: Transforming Dialogue into Action**

Windhoek, Namibia 24 - 28 October 2022



Event Title	Towards the Energy Recovery from Solid Waste in Africa in the Context of Just Transition
Event Date & Time	09H30 to 13H30
Room	TBC
Online Link	TBC
Event Sponsor	ACSEA/PACJA, ULGA
Event Partners	
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## Summary

This initiative provides the platform to confront the challenges posed by solid waste management in the continent and formulate actionable recommendations. Through concerted efforts, United Cities and Local Authorities of Africa (UCLA), ClimDev-Africa partners consisting of Africa Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (AfDB), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), in collaboration with the Government of Namibia, are convening the 10<sup>th</sup> Climate Change and Development in Africa Conference (CCDA-IX) in Windhoek, Namibia in October 24 - 28, 2022.

The discussions during the preconference presented in a policy document for engagement with policy makers and CSOs will contribute to the plenary sessions and with its recommendations being incorporated in the conclusions of the CCDA-IX, and as a common position on Africa's approach to just transitions in the lead up to COP-27.

## Context

In Africa, waste production will continue to increase due to economic and demographic growth and the rapid urbanization. According to the United Nations projections, waste generation will not only double in North Africa but will triple in sub-Saharan Africa by 2050. This trend is corroborated by the projected growth of population living in the cities, which is indicated to increase from the current 55% of the world population to 68% or an additional 2.5 billion. This has serious implications for energy demands as well as the amount of solid waste to be produced. This challenge calls for the urgent implementation of innovative solutions for sustainable cities in relation to waste management.



Improving climate actions towards a low carbon economy will likely benefit from better waste management as a necessary condition for decoupling growth and pressure on resources. This priority issue is underscored by a number of African states Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as part of the implementation of the national climate objectives that require reduction of carbon emissions released into the atmosphere, scaling up clean energy supplies, and the generation of green jobs through waste to wealth initiatives. For Africa, conversion of ‘smelly waste to smiling wealth’ could unlock potentials in the circular economy and help drive sustainable cities paradigm that can reduce energy poverty. The circularity of such an approach to sustainable waste management is an effective lever to cut on pollution while laying a solid foundation at the scale of local authorities and governments in Africa. Circularity in this case can be promoted through :

- i. Energy recovery : Energy recovery from waste by the conversion of non-recyclable waste materials into usable heat, electricity, or fuel through a variety of processes, including combustion, gasification, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and landfill gas recovery. This process is often referred to waste to energy and entails development of renewable energy technologies (RETs) to convert discarded waste to electricity. This renewable energy source helps to reduce carbon emissions by offsetting the need for energy from fossil sources and reduces methane generation from landfills.
- ii. Material recovery : Material recovery strategy focus on reducing fresh resources and discharge of waste materials through reuse, regeneration, and recycling. Several techniques for material recovery are now widely accepted through municipal solid waste separation and recycling solutions and systems of organic waste recovery, compost, biofuel, and electricity.
- iii. Organic recovery : An organic waste recovery activity also constitutes a reduction of landfill disposal and benefits include recycling organic materials through composting and in-vessel digestion activities and the use of leaves, twigs, grass clippings and food scraps that are environmentally benign and sustainable.

### **Theme and Objectives**

This pre-conference event with the overarching theme as : *Towards efficient energy recovery of solid waste in Africa* will be an opportunity to launch the debate on policy imperatives for energy recovery from solid waste, scaling up technologies and approaches and the nature of decisions that should be made in global negotiations spaces such as COP27 to support these aspirations.

### **Objectives**



The session aims to generate knowledge and strategies to deliver a transition that is truly just for Africa as well as how the continent can develop appropriate frameworks to prepare for the just transition, sustainable cities, and waste management. In specifics it seeks to :

1. Contribute to the conversation on a more inclusive transition in waste management through strengthening approaches for energy generation from the solid waste in Africa
2. Deliberate on the actions required for this transition (solid waste – energy) in Africa to occur and how to finance the transition, including possibilities of scaling up the ambition in NDCs.
3. Leverage on key stakeholders including African leaders' voices to mobilize greater international support for a green and resilient recovery in Africa using the energy recovery from waste models that promotes job creation, poverty reduction through waste to wealth initiatives to drive improved financing, economic growth and investment.

### Outcomes

The session is made to contribute to policy dialogue on sustainable just transitions in the cities by strengthening city-level resilience measures through addressing solid waste challenges, energy deficiencies and contributing to scaled up employment opportunities through circular economy.

In specifics it shall contribute to :

- Just energy transitions structuring and commitments on diversification of energy mix to include energy recovery from waste
- Contributes to local authorities initiative on 50% reduction of waste by 2050.
- Influence discussions on how best to tap on existing climate financing architecture without risking the debt portfolios in the continent
- Advance for people centred green growth opportunities and job creation to improve income and economic growth for women, young people and communities in the informal economies.

### Participants

PACJA and its partners with the CCDA-X will gather a wide range of stakeholders and constituencies, including the following:

- Policymakers and technocrats, including African parliamentarians and representatives of the ministries of finance and economic planning of various African countries, the African Group of Negotiators on climate change; Local governments, cities and regions' decision makers ;
- Research institutions and scientists: Climate Research for Development in Africa and academia, including universities, regional climate centres and research centres;



- Private sector and investors for just transition and energy recovery from waste towards a low carbon economy
- Civil society organizations, including women groups, farmers, youth, indigenous, handicapped, IDP and refugee groups;
- Development partners; and International organizations;

## Format

The pre-conference will be organized to anchor :

- A 30 minutes exhibition to show case innovations and initiatives related to energy recovery from waste.
- The workshop format will employ the hybrid model of participation, including virtual and in-person speakers and delegates, as a way to enlarge the outreach.
- Key note speaker with panelist sessions and a process rapportuer to provide a summary wrap up of the discussions

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## Programme :

### Session 1 : Exhibition session (30 minutes)

### Session 2 : (30 minutes)

**Moderator: Mr. Mohamed Nbou**, Director of the Climate, Biodiversity and Food System Department, UCLG Africa.

**Keynote speaker : Generating energy from solid wastes : prospects and priorities for unlocking the potential (\*\*\*)**

### Session 3 : Panel Group discussion (40 minutes)

**Moderator :Philip Kilonzo**

#### Panelists:

- **Mr. Alex Mangwiro**, Regional Coordinator, Chemicals, Waste and Air Quality
- **Mr. Mithika J. Mwenda**, Executive Director & Secretary to the Continental Executive Board, PACJA
- **Mr. Cheick Sylla Ndaye**, Director, Ministry of Environment of Senegal
- **Mr Tim Gabriel**, Senior Lawyer and Policy Advisor ; Enviromental Investigation Agency (EIA)



## Plenary session (20 minutes)

Feedback from **Rapporteur**: Key Asks from the session (Delivery strategies and Communique)

Closure