



INTRA-ACP GCCA+ PROGRAMME An initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States funded by the EU Development Fund



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Dear Readers, Supporters, Partners and Friends

Welcome to the sixth issue of our Intra-ACP GCCA+ newsletter! Welcome to 2021 after a tumultuous 2020. It is nonetheless with great hope that we step into this new year. From the environment perspective, there is indeed much optimism that the Covid-19 pandemic would be a game-changer and trend accelerator.

It is therefore fit for us to kick-start the year by looking at the key issues at stake for the Members of the OACPS in the Climate change negotiations, and this, as we prepare for COP26. The creation of the new Environment and Climate Action (ECA) Department, at the Secretariat of the OACPS last year, is no doubt a clear signal of the importance of Climate Change issues for the OACPS. This is one of the issues that we cover in the current edition of our Newsletter. Besides sharing with you some new exciting success stories and News, we will also update you on the state of play on NDCs submission and on our latest Policy paper on "SDGs and building resilience in a changing climate".

Our team would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our very best wishes for 2021. We hope it will be a brighter year for us all, where we will be able to move forward on climate issues, in meaningful ways.

Kind regards,

Pendo Maro,
Team Leader, Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme



HIGHLIGHTS



KEY ISSUES FOR MEMBERS OF OACPS IN CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATIONS FOR 2021

The COP26 set to take place in Glasgow in November 2020 was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The conference has been rescheduled for 1-12 November 2021- same venue. Despite this set back crucial work to tackle climate change has continued throughout 2020, under the umbrella of the UNFCCC.

As we are stepping into 2021 and in preparation for COP26, it is worthwhile recalling the highlights of COP25, which were covered in *issue #2* of our Newsletter of December 2019. It is to be noted that priority issues for the members of the OACPS, namely: Long term finance; Article 6 (Market Mechanism); Adaptation; Development and transfer of Technologies, are all still outstanding.

A new momentum on Oceans has emerged in the context of the recent "Climate Dialogue", organised by the UNFCCC on 23 November to 4 December 2020. These series of virtual events have allowed Parties to the UNFCCC and other stakeholders the opportunity to continue exchanging views and sharing information to advance work and maintain momentum in the intergovernmental climate change process.

Click here for a full coverage of the discussion on how to strengthen adaptation and mitigation action on ocean and climate change [READ>>](#)

"We cannot quarantine climate change"

Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu
Chair of the SBSTA 52

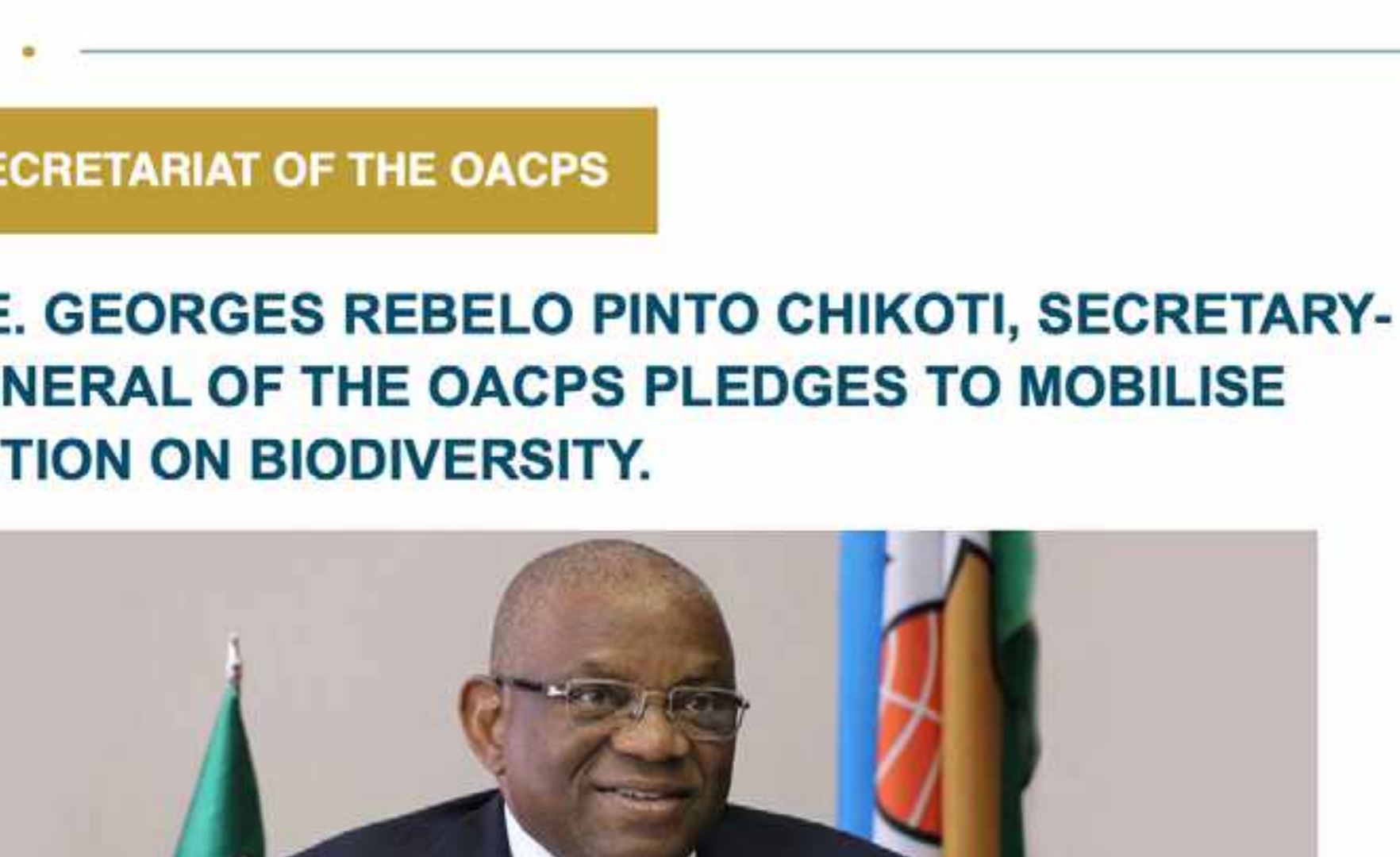


"COVID-19 is wreaking havoc in countries around the world, causing a global health crisis and forcing economies to slow down due to strict quarantine measures. However, nature keeps reminding us that we cannot quarantine climate change. Therefore, it is important, now more than ever, not to cut off communication. The climate dialogues are providing Parties to the UNFCCC and other stakeholders the opportunity to continue exchanging views and sharing information to advance work and maintain momentum in the intergovernmental climate change process. The Dialogues are also a key platform for participants to showcase how climate action is progressing under the challenging circumstances caused by COVID-19.

Moreover, the Climate Dialogues form part of the continuum of high-profile events convened under the UNFCCC in the second half of this year, starting with the Race to Zero convened by the Climate Champions focusing on action while the dialogues are focusing on guidance, support and engagement under the intergovernmental process. These events will culminate with the celebration of the Paris Agreement on 12 December that will highlight ambition".

Mr Tosi Mpanu Mpanu, Chair of the SBSTA 52 at UN Climate Change negotiations

WATCH OUR VIDEO ON THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF PARIS AGREEMENT



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SECRETARIAT OF THE OACPS

H.E. GEORGES REBELO PINTO CHIKOTI, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE OACPS PLEDGES TO MOBILISE ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY.



On the occasion of the UN Biodiversity Summit, held on 30th September 2020, H.E. Georges Rebelo Pinto Chikoti, Secretary-General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, calls on the 79 OACPS Member States to not only pursue, but also to enhance their efforts towards the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

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A NEWLY ESTABLISHED DEPARTMENT ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE OACPS



Climate change and its impacts on the environment, society and livelihoods can constrain efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) created the **Environment and Climate Action (ECA) Department**, following a decision at the 110th Session of the then ACP Council of Ministers at the 9th Summit of OACPS Heads of State and Government in Nairobi, in December 2019. The ECA Department, under the leadership of Assistant Secretary General, **Ms. Cristelle Pratt**, seeks to support Members of the OACPS to undertake climate change adaptation and mitigation actions; protect biodiversity; promote the sustainable use and management of natural resources; strengthen ocean governance, including fisheries and aquaculture; and build resilience to disasters from natural hazard risks.

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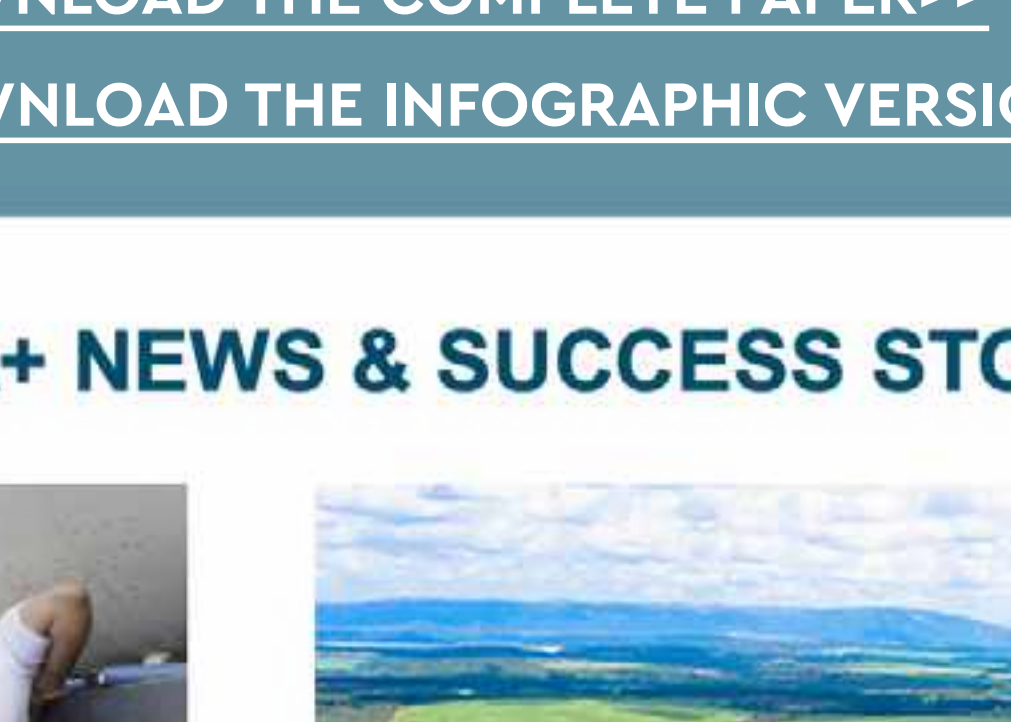
STATE OF PLAY OF NDC'S SUBMISSION FOR OACPS MEMBERS STATES

Currently, out of the 188 Parties to the Paris Agreement, only 15 have submitted their second NDCs. Of these Parties, **5 are from ACP States: Cuba, Jamaica, Marshall Islands, Rwanda and Suriname**. 33 countries have expressed their intention to update their NDC by 2020, including Kenya and Lesotho. 103 countries have stated their intention to enhance ambition or action by 2020. Of these, **67 states are from ACP countries, representing 64% of the total count**. Out of the 67 ACP States, **48 are Small Island States or LDCs**. These ACP States, which have committed to enhance their NDC by 2020, represent a very small share of global GHG emissions, but are among the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

5 OACPS members States have submitted a 2020 NDC

67 OACPS members States have stated their intention to enhance ambition or action in an NDC by 2020

2 OACPS members States have stated their intention to update an NDC by 2020.



POLICY PAPER

SDGs AND BUILDING RESILIENCE IN CHANGING CLIMATE - An analysis of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States' 2020 Voluntary National Reviews



In this policy paper published by the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme, the 2020 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of member states of the OACPS are assessed. The objective being to show how climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity loss land degradation and oceans, are being addressed in the context of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), processes and actions. In the light of the findings, recommendations are proposed for actions at the National, Sub-Nationals and Intra-ACP Levels.

[DOWNLOAD THE COMPLETE PAPER>>](#)

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INTRA-ACP GCCA+ NEWS & SUCCESS STORIES



CARIBBEAN

Climate Change Can Ravage the Water Sector in the Caribbean, says a CCCCC Report commissioned by the CARICOM Climate Change Centre under the Intra-ACP GCCA+ Project

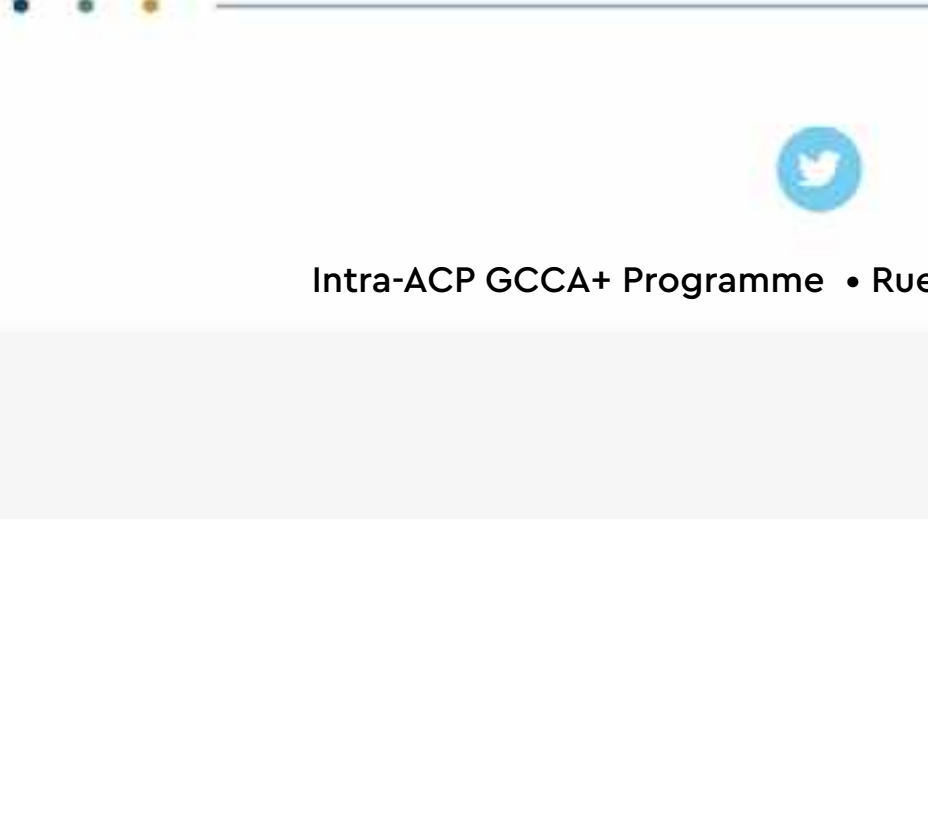
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ESWATINI

The COMESA Intra-ACP GCCA+ Programme, has supported the implementation of a **Climate Smart Market-Oriented Agriculture (CSMA)** project to upscale market-led small-scale commercial agriculture in Eswatini.

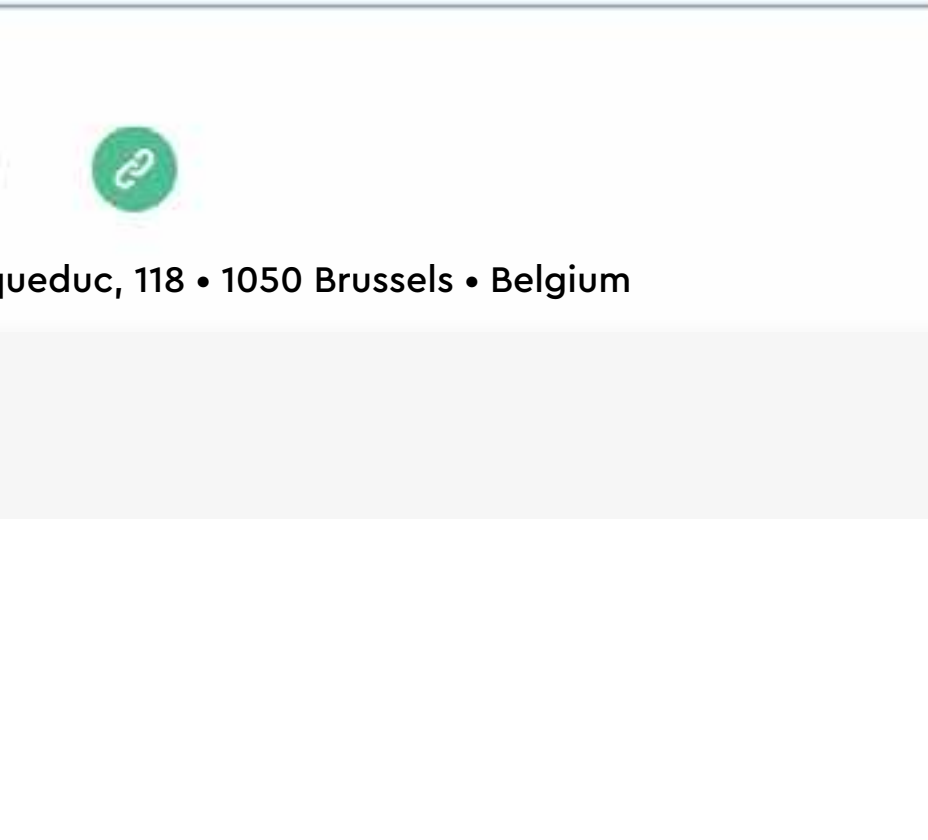
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SAMOA

Training in Traditional Samoan farming practices, such as planting resilient crops and using soil improvement techniques, as a possible solution to climate change.

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WEST AFRICA

With the support of the Intra-ACP GCCA+ West Africa Programme, ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) has launched a project to map climate-related financial flows.

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