



A word from the Director

The COP26 UN Climate Change Conference, held in Glasgow, Scotland, was an opportunity for African countries to show **their commitment** to implementing the **Paris Climate Agreement**. Last September, The Gambia was acclaimed globally for being the only country in the world on track with the 2015 Paris Agreement. At COP26, other African countries, such as Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda also benefitted world recognition for their climate ambition through Nationally Determined Contributions – to achieve climate mitigation and strengthen resilience.

UNDP's support is instrumental in helping African countries reach their climate goals. In the lead up to **COP27 to be held in Egypt** in 2022, through **UNDP's Climate Promise** we will continue to bring new solutions for climate action working with governments to call for a just transition to green energy, green economies, and for more inclusion in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.

Ahunna Eziakonwa

Dear World Leaders... messages from Africa

All too often, voices of world citizens, particularly those most marginalized and vulnerable, are forgotten in the debate around climate change. Ahead of COP26, UNDP launched a new **Dear World Leaders** initiative to amplify the civil society voice on climate to world leaders. Watch messages from **Paul Chukwama** from Rwanda, **Bekeme Masade-Olowola** from Nigeria, **Christopher Laiser** from Tanzania, **Jeff Epse Bime Marilyn Bongmo** from Cameroon, **Voi Tamia**, a community-based organisation from Madagascar. **See all messages from Africa...**

Spotlight - Preserving Africa's natural resources and our planet's lungs

One of the major announcements at COP26 was The Democratic Republic of the Congo and the United Kingdom **signature of an ambitious ten-year agreement** to protect the rainforest of the Congo Basin - the second largest forest in the world. The partnership will unlock multi-donor investments totaling \$500 million over the first five years. Loss of forests in Africa is partly due to a growing population that rely on firewood for cooking. UNDP investments in clean cooking and other initiatives make a strong contribution and **fight food insecurity** in **Benin, Ivory Coast & Mauritius**, making use of tech and African ingenuity to preserve the continent's green treasures while **planting new trees**. In 2022, we will scale this ambition, working under the Great Green Wall in the Sahel and stretching all the way to **Madagascar**.



African youth taking over Glasgow

This year, African youth were not cut out of the photos at COP26. From **Vanessa Nakate** and **JulietGrace Luwedde Kalemeela** to **Elizabeth Gulugulu** and Kaluki Paul Mutuku, many claimed their seat at the table where the future of their generation was being discussed. Even more generated online conversations. Youth are the drivers of change in Africa and our initiatives remain essential to facilitating their climate action and innovations that will spur a greener, more inclusive and sustainable future.

An accompanied and just transition

Another unexpected guest at COP26 was **Frankie the Dino**, who stormed the United Nations General Assembly, and the world, calling for all to wake up to our dire reality and take action today. The campaign fostered new conversations on the necessity for all countries to embark on a just transition towards green economies. Looking at innovations, digital green solutions and **minerals for climate actions**, UNDP, working with the UN family and key partners will accompany governments in fostering new actions towards a more prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future for all in Africa.

Gabon, Africa's future Green Superpower

Gabon is seeking to **reposition itself as a "green superpower"**, and to be recognized for continuing to preserve its tropical forests, especially the Congo Basin - the "lungs of Africa," and the most important forest ecosystem on the planet after the Amazon. Iftikhar Ali, Director of debt capital at African Conservation Development Group is considering both an ecotourism project and the launch of a bond which he hopes will raise up to \$300 million. **Read more about UNDP's work on climate action in Gabon...**

