

Ethiopian Panel on Climate Change (EPCC) Overview

Why the EPCC is needed

There is a critical lack of institutions that foster dialogue and knowledge sharing among researchers. Climate research is currently done in silos leaving other departments and universities unaware of other related climate research. Furthermore, neither the government nor the EPA is able to utilize the research findings to inform their environmental policies due to lack of accessibility. The Ethiopian Panel on Climate Change (EPCC) will bridge the gap between academics, experts, and policy-makers by establishing a national knowledge-sharing network. This network will serve as a platform for experts to communicate and collaborate on the climate agenda through various forums such as conferences, trainings, and seminars. Furthermore, enabling academics to peer-review research better informs their ability to participate in the national climate discussion.

What the EPCC will accomplish

The EPCC provides an unprecedented opportunity to provide rigorous and balanced scientific information directly to decision makers. Strengthening the EPA's monitoring capacity and management is key to ensure the success of the CRGE initiative and Ethiopia's economic growth priorities. The EPCC will create a dynamic knowledge-sharing network of climate-related research and establish an environmental management system that works in congruence with the EPA. The primary purpose of the EPCC is to establish a database system to validate and to verify climate research, which will create synergy among policy makers, development sectors and scientific communities. The EPCC will streamline the findings and recommendations to the Federal EPA, thus doubly incentivizing collaboration amongst researchers and policy-makers. A national database of accredited peer-reviewed research will strengthen the government's and the Federal EPA's institutional capacity to monitor environmental change and to strategize adaptive policies. Eventually, it is expected that the EPCC will be a driving force for climate change shaping policies, advocacy and knowledge sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

How we will do it

The Horn of Africa Regional Environment Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N) will provide coordination support while Ethiopian Academy of Sciences (EAS) will be the lead implementing organization. Both partner organizations will collaborate with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) throughout all the stages of EPCC's establishment. Focused on building Ethiopia's human and institutional capacity, the EPCC will work with domestic partners, academic institutes and government agencies. The EPCC will mirror the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) framework and governance system as to streamline validated research to the global level. Therefore, HoA-REC&N and EAS will consult with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to fully understand the processes involved with setting up the EPCC.

National consultations and plenary meetings will be held to adapt the IPCC framework to the local Ethiopian context. Furthermore, to ensure transparency and accountability, the EPCC will write an operational manual to clearly outline the steps of the establishment and operational phase while clearly indicating the appropriate roles and responsibilities of

the members, partners and stakeholders. In December, a national operational training will be held in Addis Ababa to gather relevant climate experts from around the country to disseminate the manual. The operation manual will sketch out the structure of the EPCC bodies: three technical working groups (1 - Physical Science Basis; 2 - Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability; and 3 - Mitigation of Climate Change), a special gender working group, a Secretariat, an Executive Committee and a Bureau. The EPCC will build on EAS's existing network of thematic working groups. Each body will host regular plenary meetings that will give the members and experts an opportunity to collaborate on technical thematic issues.

During the operational phase, institute will collect, review, and validate academic research findings through its technical working groups. A yearly situation assessment report, comprised of each working groups findings, will be published and disseminated to the stakeholders. The EPA will receive regular reports and recommendations of the research findings. The EPCC will serve as a platform for experts to communicate and collaborate through various forums such as conferences, workshops, and trainings. By strengthening the forums for collaboration, the EPCC will strengthen institutional capacity at the academic, governmental, and civil societies levels.

Project Implementation Partners

Horn of Africa Regional Centre and Network (HoA-REC&N)

The HoA-REC&N focuses on environmental concerns and sustainable development options within the Horn of Africa. It facilitates, strengthens and advocates for initiatives related to environmental conservation and natural resource management. The Climate Change Programme aims to both increase the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities in the Horn of Africa to the shocks of climate change, and mitigate its impacts. By promoting sustainable and participatory interventions, building capacity and investing in research, the programme will improve livelihood, food security and support environmental conservation across the Horn.

Ethiopian Academy of Science (EAS)

EAS has a strong network of academic and professional societies domestically and internationally. EAS addresses critical issues of climate change through knowledge generation, knowledge dissemination, and networking activities. EAS will provide vital services such as research analysis and facilitate partnerships with regional and international institutions. Furthermore, they will provide technical guidance on climate change impacts, climate change modeling, climate technology markets, environmental service monitoring, and public policy research.

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