



## **Open Letter to African Heads of State and Governments**

We are writing to you ahead of the Africa Climate Summit, with a shared concern about the devastating impacts of the climate crisis on the lives and livelihoods of every African. Africa citizens are feeling the heat, the drought, the instability in food supply and prices, the boiling oceans and the impact of dwindling forests. Floods, cyclones, and wildfires events are becoming less predictable and more intense, destroying lives and displacing thousands as the climate crisis deepens. It is evident that we are in the midst of a human-made climate crisis, one that will get much more catastrophic if we collectively fail to act.

From 1900 to 2000, the continent already warmed by 2°C in some regions. Africa's ten hottest years since records began have all been since 2005. If high emissions continue, the mean annual temperature increase for much of Africa is projected to heat up by as much as 6 °C by the end of the 21st century. [Studies](#) project that during this century heatwaves will occur more often, at higher intensities, and last for longer - as greenhouse gas concentrations increase.

Africa is the frontier of a new scramble for oil, gas, and coal, much of which is driven by former colonial powers: from Total in Mozambique and Uganda to Woodside and BP in Senegal, from Shell in Nigeria and South Africa to the Canadian ReconAfrica in Namibia, from Eni in the Republic of Congo to Perenco and others in DRC. Instead of modernising our economies and energy systems for the benefit of Africa's young generations, we're being locked to the old and dirty for the benefit of few, and left to deal with the growing chaos that it entails.

As leaders, much of the responsibility for our people and the nature we depend on lies with you. Africa can either lead the world in a transition to 100% renewable, secure and affordable energy, or it could let big oil and extractive industries continue to plunge our lands and oceans into disaster after disaster.

The African Climate Summit is an opportunity for genuine dialogue, where African leaders, civil society organisations, scientists, youth activists, and other stakeholders can assert their perspectives, needs, and solutions.

Greenpeace Africa calls upon the African Union to:

- Put an end to costly and destructive fossil fuel [subsidies](#) and shift that support to Renewable Energy projects.
- End the new scramble for oil and gas in Africa by rejecting new fossil fuel investments that are incompatible with the Paris Agreement and its 1.5°C warming limit.
- Commit to pursuing access to clean and safe fossil fuel free energy for all, enabled by international co-operation and support.
- Make polluters pay. Ensure that the UN Loss and Damage Fund and national adaptation plans will be financed by revenues from those with the most responsibility for causing the climate crisis and with the biggest ability to pay, particularly the fossil fuel industry.
- Take concrete action, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to prevent the loss of biodiversity in all spheres (marine, freshwater and terrestrial), which is exacerbating the climate crisis.
- Act decisively to protect carbon sinks such as the peatlands, the Congo Basin forest and our oceans.

- Reject diversions from real climate and biodiversity action by rejecting offsets, including carbon markets and biodiversity credit markets, as [hundreds of African civil society organisations have warned](#).