



The Just Energy Transition CSOs' Recommendations to SADC Leaders, during the 45th SADC Summit, Antananarivo, Madagascar, 18 August 2025

The Southern African Development Community (SADC), with a population of about 382 million people, is facing a severe energy crisis, with governments across the region struggling to consistently supply electricity, which is essential for powering their economies and furthering regional economic integration. Historically, the region has faced challenges in ensuring that the vast majority of its population, particularly those in rural areas lacking basic infrastructure, have access to electricity. Currently, only about 50 percent of the SADC region has access to electricity, underscoring the urgent need to ramp up electrification efforts.

The region's energy mix is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, particularly coal, which supplies 62% of power generation. SADC countries are struggling with an unreliable electricity supply due to aging power infrastructure, delays in the construction of new power plants, and maintenance issues at their coal-fired power stations. This has led to frequent load-shedding that has impacted key institutions and households across the countries. Moreover, the reliance on fossil fuels contributes to environmental degradation and exacerbates the impacts of climate change, disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities. Also, many households rely on polluting fuels for cooking, impacting health and contributing to deforestation,

Renewable energy can offer 100% electrification by 2050 and the realization of a Net-Zero Carbon economy for Southern Africa, not only to meet rising energy demands but also to strengthen the region's resilience to climate change. As the region continues to experience recurring and devastating climate-related impacts, including droughts, floods, cyclones, and heat waves, a transition to clean energy can also help in dealing with these impacts. Decentralized renewable energy systems, such as solar mini-grids and off-grid solutions, provide more reliable access to power in remote and vulnerable communities, supporting local livelihoods, food systems, education, and healthcare services. In doing so, renewable energy becomes a tool for adaptation, development, resilience-building, and justice, securing a safer and more sustainable future for all in the face of a worsening climate crisis.

To address the energy crisis, the SADC countries have been working to diversify their energy sources and increase the share of renewable energy in the mix. The SADC region has

abundant renewable energy resources, including solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, and biomass, which were included in ambitious targets for renewable energy deployment.

The Southern African countries are making significant strides in renewable energy development, driven by targets and policies aligned with the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, in 2023, renewable energy sources accounted for around 20-25% of the total installed power capacity in the SADC region, which is a significant increase from the previous years. However, the RE deployment has been relatively slow compared to the region's potential, due to various factors, such as limited grid infrastructure, energy financing challenges, and policy/regulatory barriers in some member states. Currently, the implementation and financing of renewable energy projects in the region remain a significant challenge. However, there's still room for improvement, and continued international cooperation and financial support are crucial to achieving their climate goals.

Southern Africa Region Climate Action Network (SARCAN), under the overall CAN Africa campaign, dubbed "Renewables4AfricaNow", champions the widespread adoption of renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures to ensure a sustainable future for the sub-region. By harnessing the abundant renewable energy resources available, we can significantly reduce carbon emissions and manage the impacts of climate change. This transition must be adequately funded to realize its potential.

Southern African CSOs are recommending that during the 45th SADC Heads of States Summit and beyond, the leaders prioritize the following:

1. **Promotion of Renewables & Energy Efficiency:** Adopt renewable energy technologies and energy efficiency measures to reduce carbon emissions and address climate change impacts in the sub-region.
2. **Adoption of a Human Rights Approach in the Region's Energy Transition Pathways:** Prioritize human rights in renewable energy transitions, ensuring equitable access to clean energy, hence the promotion of justice to the poor and most affected communities across the board.
3. **Raise Awareness on Renewables & Energy Efficiency:** SADC Heads of States facilitate and encourage the increase in public understanding of renewable energy technologies and practices through targeted campaigns in their respective countries. This can foster community and stakeholder buy-in.
4. **Partnerships & Technology Transfer:** Facilitate collaboration and transfer of appropriate technologies for scaling up renewable energy deployment in Southern Africa.
5. **Adoption and Implementation of REEESAP:** Leaders of SADC are being urged to comprehensively execute the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP), adopted in 2017, which seeks to enhance the adoption of renewable energy resources and secure financial resources for the sector. This will ensure energy security among its members while aligned with the SDGs targets.
6. **Increased Investment in Renewables:** SADC leaders should encourage investment in renewable energy projects, including solar, wind, and other technologies, to fulfill

Southern Africa's growing energy demand while reducing reliance on traditional nonrenewable sources such as coal.

7. **Commit to universal energy access to expand equitable energy access in Southern Africa.** SADC leaders are encouraged to prioritize decentralized, community-led, and socially owned renewable energy, such as localized mini-grids and off-grid solutions, and remove barriers to renewable deployment, including high capital costs and lengthy permitting processes. These investments must be targeted to address energy poverty, improve affordability, enhance the resilience of rural and marginalized communities, and promote Mission 300 and Africa50 initiatives that center on social co-benefits and community ownership.

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations working in Southern Africa, call on all SADC Heads of State and policy makers to respond to this pivotal moment with bold leadership and concrete commitments. A just, equitable and sustainable renewable-based energy future for Southern Africa is within reach, but only if action is taken now.

Organization:

1. Climate Clock - DRC
2. Youth for Green Nature (Y4GN)
3. Quest For Growth and Development Foundation
4. Africa Centre for Governance - South Africa
5. Agents of Change Foundation - Zambia
6. Youth Impact Organisation - Malawi
7. Hlumisa - Eswatini
8. Youth4CHAN - Namibia
9. Young Emerging Farmers
10. Universal Greening Organisation - South Africa
11. Centre for Climate Change Action and Advocacy - Malawi
12. Environment Savers - Zambia
13. Rethink Platform - Zambia
14. United Nations Association of Zambia - Zambia
15. Environmental Conservation Initiatives Tanzania (ECOTA) - Tanzania
16. National Youth Network on Climate Change - Malawi
17. Youth Climate Action Coalition - Mozambique
18. Okahandja Action Force - Namibia
19. Conservation Music - Lesotho
20. Climate YES - South Africa
21. Célébrons le Courage de la Femme (Celebrating the Courage of Women)- DRC
22. Development Assistance International Inc (www.daicongo.org) - DRC
23. Youth Parliament - Mozambique
24. Africa Centre for Governance - Zimbabwe
25. Universal Greening Initiative -South Africa

26. Association Gasy Mikolo- Association pour le Developpement et la Gestion Rationnnnellet et Durable de l'Environnement - Madagascar
27. Rotaract Club de Moroni - Comoros
28. Scout WEZOMBELI- Comoros
29. Association pour la protection de l'environnement- Comoros
30. Africa Centre for Governance - Malawi
31. Southern Africa Climate Change
32. CAN Africa
33. Network-Botswana
34. Zimbabwe Climate Change Coalition-Zimbabwe
35. Emmaus International-Zimbabwe
36. African Coalition on Green Growth-Botswana
37. Centre for Climatology and Applied Research (CCAR) - Botswana
38. Climate Action Network Zimbabwe
39. We The World Botswana
40. AID LIFE LEARN ENVIRONMENT (ALLEN+)
41. CMA- Comunidade Moçambicana de Ajuda - Mozambique
42. UDAJA- Uniao dos Amigos de Jangamo - Mozambique
43. FOSCI - Fórum das Organizações da Sociedade Civil de Inhassoro- Mozambique
44. PNOSCMC- Plataforma Nacional das Organizações da Sociedade Civil Para as Mudanças Climáticas- Mozambique
45. Climate Action Network (CAN) Zambia
46. Christian Youth Volunteers Association Trust in Zimbabwe
47. Rise Up Movement Congo/ DRC
48. Qunu Community Advice Centre. South Africa
49. National University of Lesotho-Lesotho
50. Save the World DRC
51. Ensure Vaible Environment (EVE)- Angola
52. Southern Africa Region Climate Action Network (SARCAN)
53. Southern Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Alliance-South Africa
54. Greenpeace Africa
55. Africa Youth for social and climate justice