

> **good outcomes, but not enough**

# In Glasgow, a small step in the right direction

The Glasgow Climate Pact is a much-needed step in the right direction, but we must continue the work of COP26 if we are to keep 1.5C within reach, writes **Anne Angwenyi**

**A**fter a series of tense negotiations and more than 24 hours overtime, November 13 marked the final day of the UN Climate talks in the UK, and the Glasgow Climate Pact agreed by 197 countries was born. While some claim the Pact is an “uncomfortable climate deal”, many experts confirm the decisions at COP26 take us in the right direction — to accelerate climate action within this decade. But, specifically, what did COP26 achieve for Kenya? Using the centre stage of the World Leaders’ Summit, President Kenyatta showcased Kenya’s leadership on climate, announcing Kenya’s intention of targeting net zero by 2050, 100 per cent renewable energy by 2030, and universal clean cooking by 2028. Joined by UK PM Boris Johnson and others, President Kenyatta signed up to the Glasgow Breakthroughs on green hydrogen, renewable energy and the Declaration on Forestry and Land Use.

## Keeping 1.5°C in sight

To stop the world warming above 1.5 degrees, we need to do more, but we are on the right track. Two years ago when the UK took on the COP26 mantle, in partnership with Italy, only 30 per cent of the world was covered by net zero targets. This figure is now at around 90 per cent. During this time, 154 countries, including Kenya, have submitted

new national targets, representing 80 per cent of global emissions. Tackling climate change is an urgent matter, and the Glasgow Pact now asks countries to resubmit stronger bolder plans by 2022, rather than 2025. History was also made, as for the first time ever a decision was taken to reduce the use of coal as an energy source — watered down to “phase down” rather than “phase out”. This is a positive step, and means more money is likely to go towards supporting clean energy, bringing Kenya’s goal of achieving 100 per cent clean energy closer in sight.

## Cash to Cope

Money to adapt to climate change is one of the most significant issues for countries in Africa. Sizeable amounts of adaptation finance were pledged, including committing to doubling 2019 levels of adaptation finance by 2025 — the first time an adaptation specific financing goal has been agreed globally. Developed countries, including the UK pledged over \$365 million to the Adaptation Fund. This is a record amount, but collectively more is needed to compensate countries on the sharp end of climate change. Countries did not earmark a share of finances towards the Adaptation Fund, however, doubling of adaptation financing is a win for countries like Kenya who pushed hard for the measure as this finance targets adaptation interventions.

## Carbon Markets and financing

We now have a strong Rulebook on carbon markets that gives countries the tools to seek private investments into conservation projects that cut emissions. This means community-run projects such as Mikoko Pamoja and the Vanga Blue Forest Project located on Kenya’s coast will continue to benefit from carbon credits that come from mangrove conservation. Carbon credits can potentially support Kenya’s ambitious drive of growing two billion trees by 2030.

## Defining adaptation

Globally, 80 countries are now covered by either Adaptation Communications or National Adaptation Plans, increasing preparedness to climate risks. Fourty five of these plans were submitted over the last year. Wealthy nations have a duty to help developing countries grow their economies and create jobs in a green and sustainable way — and adapt to the very real impacts of climate. Countries agreed that more work is required to define what a global goal on adaptation looks like. A two-year Glasgow-to-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme was set up to drive adaptation action forward to COP27, when the UK hands over the Presidency to Egypt. Through COP26’s Adaptation Action Coalition, Kenya can work with other vulnerable countries to increase ambition and action of national adaptation

plans. Higher ambition can increase access to, and volumes of money for adaptation from donor countries, multilateral banks, and the private sector.

## Disasters, loss and damage

Developing countries fought hard for a dedicated loss and damage funding mechanism to support those on the front line. Kenya’s delegation was extremely vocal on this issue, informing attendees that two million people were facing starvation and loss of life due to a climate-caused drought. This dedicated facility was blocked by several developed nations and the conclusion was a “moral commitment” to commence dialogue. With the critical issue of loss and damage now on the main stage, it is essential that at COP27 countries like Kenya turn commitment into action.

So, did humanity avert the climate crisis and move the dial forward? The Glasgow Climate Pact is a much-needed step in the right direction, but we must continue the work of COP26 if we are to keep 1.5C within reach, deliver on pledges, drive ambition forward for a cleaner, healthier more prosperous and resilient world, and save humanity from this existential crisis.

Ms Angwenyi is Senior Climate Change Adviser at the British High Commission in Nairobi.

## Sustainable waste management solutions by Bamburi Cement

**B**amburi Cement PLC is the leading cement manufacturing company in Eastern Africa. It’s a Kenyan brand with a long history of unwavering commitment to sustainable environmental practices.

Right from its beginning, Bamburi has always invested in sustainable practices like quarry rehabilitation, a process that has produced world-acclaimed environmental showcases like the Bamburi Haller Park and Bamburi Forest Trails in Mombasa, among others.

In the last 10 years, Bamburi Cement has directly contributed to the country’s circular economy by converting waste into energy through its industrial operations – a process referred to as co-processing.

Co-processing is a globally recognised sustainable technology through which waste is used as a source of energy to replace fossil fuels such as coal, petroleum and gas (energy recovery), in energy-intensive industries such as cement, cutting down on greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, 100 percent of the waste input is recycled without leaving any additional residue. The technology also ensures a performing destruction of toxic components. A big part of this process is its contribution to solving the waste management problem.

Through its Geocycle Kenya brand, which handles its waste management operations, Bamburi



Jane Wangari, Ag Geocycle and New Projects Director at Bamburi Cement.

Cement has become an important player in providing sustainable solutions to the waste problem in Kenya. The company has partnered with different organisations to dispose of their waste at its cement kilns through this environmentally friendly process. These include waste oil, agricultural waste, waste tyres, condemned cargo, and others. Partnering with oil marketers (through a Safe Waste Oil Disposal (SWOD) programme with the Petroleum Institute of East Africa (PIEA), Bamburi supports them to safely dispose of their waste oil. Safe disposal of waste oil is important in curbing proliferation of adulterated oil in the market, as well as averting the environmental damage the oil would otherwise cause.

Other waste disposal partnerships are with logistics companies to dispose of their waste tyres (which globally, are among the largest and most problematic sources of waste), and agricultural producers and millers to dispose of wastes such as rice husks. We also help in the destruction of condemned cargo, including counterfeit products, and carbon black, among others.

We know that practices like open burning of farm waste, for example, causes severe pollution of air, land and water to local and regional scales.

In the disposal of condemned cargo, Bamburi partners with agencies like the Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA), Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

“Over 20,000 tons of waste is co-processed by Bamburi Cement every year. A total of over 250,000 tons of waste that could have otherwise ended up in the environment or landfills has successfully been converted into energy in the last 10 years within our industrial operations in Mombasa and Nairobi. We remain committed to a ‘Zero Waste Future’ and continued contribution to a circular economy,” says Jane Wangari, Ag Geocycle and New Projects Director at Bamburi Cement.

Bamburi’s target is to continue increasing its capacity to handle waste and convert it into energy year-on-year. Waste incineration is

done in compliance with NEMA requirements.

Bamburi, through its Geocycle Kenya waste management arm, is licensed by NEMA to carry out waste disposal in the country. The process is done in compliance with not only the NEMA requirements, but also in line with global standards, given that Geocycle (which is owned by Bamburi’s mother company Holcim) operates globally. Partners are also issued with a Certificate of Destruction to certify that the waste disposal was done according to environmental laws.

“Nothing goes to landfill, which is very important for organisations working towards a Zero Waste Future,” adds Ms Wangari.

Circular economy does not end there. The ripple effects include job creation. “As an example, Bamburi has contributed to over 200 direct and indirect employment opportunities in its operations to collect rice husks in Mwea and disposal at our Nairobi Grinding Plant. These include drivers, collectors, and suppliers contracted to deliver the rice husks safely to our cement kilns,” says Ms Wangari. Co-processing also supports the sustainability agenda on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions control for Bamburi Cement.

“We thank our partners for being part of our journey For a Zero Waste Future,” concludes Ms Wangari.



Bamburi Cement offers environmentally friendly solutions that replace open air burning like seen here.



Waste oil is an environmental hazard that Bamburi helps to eliminate through safe disposal.



Tyres ready for disposal.