Climate Change and Green Business and Innovation Opportunities for Youth and SMEs in Eswatini



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Understanding climate change

Long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns — accelerated by human activity.

01

FOSSIL FUELS

Coal, oil and gas release CO_2 and N_2O

02

DEFORESTATION

Fewer trees means less carbon absorption

03

AGRICULTURE

Livestock and soils emit methane and nitrous oxide

04

INDUSTRY

Processes release heat-trapping gases

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Climate impacts are already here

Extreme weather damages infrastructure and crops. Recurrent drought and erratic rainfall reduce water availability. Scarcity stresses homes and businesses, while ecosystem loss, erosion and degraded soils threaten agriculture.

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Climate shocks ripple through the economy

70%

RURAL LIVELIHOODS

depend on agriculture; drought drives food insecurity and losses of 80,000+ cattle

AGRIBUSINESS

VOLATILE SUPPLY

yield instability, water rationing and broken supply chains

GDP

PUBLIC FINANCE

agricultural contraction and repairs divert development funds

HEALTH

RISING EXPOSURE

undernutrition, mosquito-borne disease and heat illness

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Growth can be green — and inclusive

A green economy connects jobs, resilience and development. Low-carbon growth, clean energy and circular systems are expanding worldwide — with youth and SMEs positioned as agile innovators.

2.24

$MtCO_2eq$ reduction by 2035

31 / 69

domestic resources / international support

25%

youth representation by 2035

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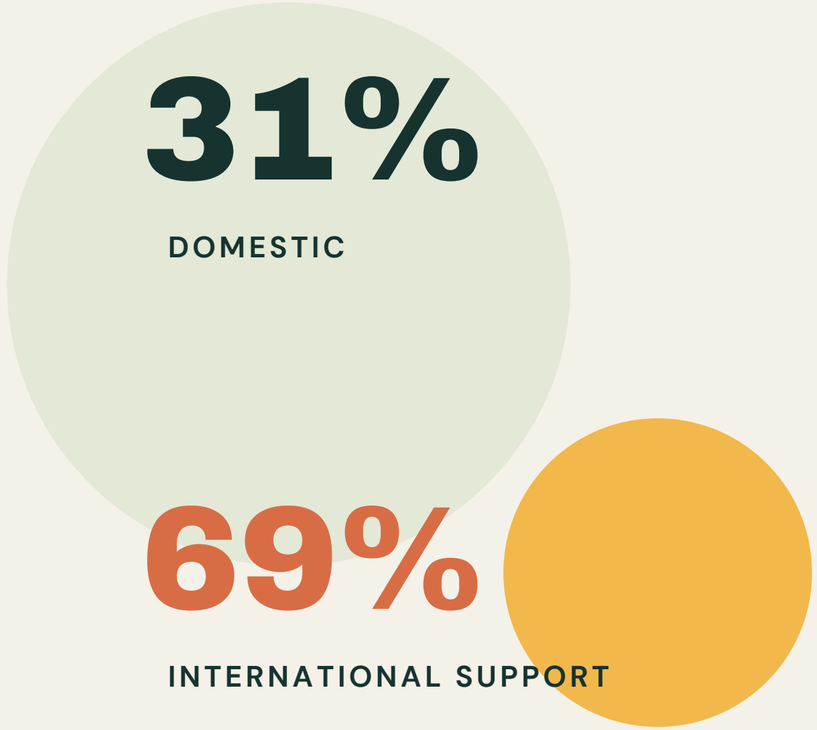
NDC 3.0 / SUBMITTED 22 SEPTEMBER 2025

A national roadmap — and an investment signal

Reduce emissions by 2.24 $MtCO_2eq$ by 2035 through clean energy, water security, ecosystems, waste management and meaningful youth participation.



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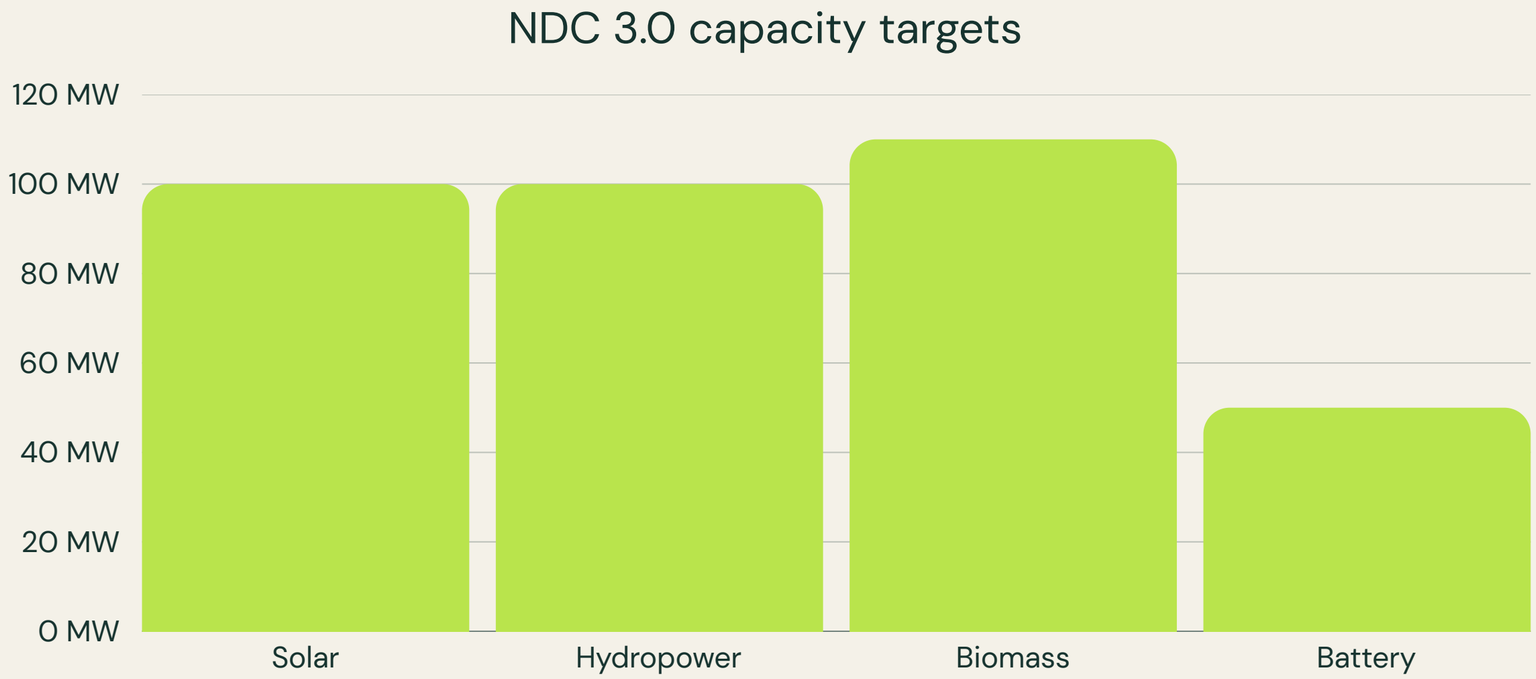
Build, install, maintain



50%

renewable electricity share by 2030

Business openings: solar installations and off-grid systems; biomass production and supply chains; battery storage servicing and maintenance.

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05 / NATURE-BASED GROWTH

Restore land. Grow enterprise.

15M

TREES TARGETED BY 2030

Climate-smart agriculture • efficient irrigation • organic soil practices • agro-processing • nurseries • seedling production • watershed management • carbon projects





06 / CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Waste is a feedstock

COLLECT + SORT

Recycling, composting and methane reduction

TRANSFORM

Fertilizers, eco-bricks and briquettes

USE LESS ENERGY

Efficient appliances, clean cooking, installation and servicing

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Five practical green business lanes

01 **CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE**

Solar drip irrigation, vermicomposting, rainwater harvesting

02 **CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Waste valorization, recycled packaging, eco-bricks

03 **RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Small-scale solar and livestock-waste biogas

04 **ECO MANUFACTURING**

Biodegradable packaging and indigenous plant products

05 **NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS**

Reforestation, carbon services and land restoration

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YOUTH PATHWAYS / BUILD, TEST, SCALE

Turn local climate challenges into viable green businesses—step by step.

01

SPOT A LOCAL BOTTLENECK



Drought, waste burning, unreliable energy, water scarcity, or land degradation

02

DESIGN A SIMPLE LOCAL SOLUTION



Use accessible resources and digital tools

03

BUILD SKILLS AND A SMALL TEAM



Across technical, business, and community knowledge

04

PILOT, TEST, IMPROVE



Pilot with real customers or communities, test demand, improve solution, and track results

05

MEASURE IMPACT AND SCALE



Scale through partnerships, cooperatives, hubs, and finance

PROFIT
Revenue and green jobs

PEOPLE
Resilience and inclusion

PLANET
Lower emissions and restored resources

Start with one problem. Prove one solution. Grow what works.

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No venture grows alone

250

MSMEs TARGETED FOR BLENDED FINANCE

FINANCE × RESEARCH × MARKETS × GOVERNMENT × SKILLS

Eswatini Environment Fund — grants up to E300,000
MTN PachiPanda — seed funding + incubation
Youth Enterprise Revolving Fund — low-interest loans
NAMBoard / SEDCO — capacity building + micro-loans

WHAT FUNDERS LOOK FOR

Climate alignment
Measurable people–planet–profit outcomes
A financially sustainable model

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