



## CLIMATE SMART AFRICA: GGCA+ REGIONAL CONFERENCE SET TO BOOST CLIMATE AMBITION

### PRESS RELEASE

**Kigali, Rwanda 14.10.2019** - As challenges related to climate change continue to become more urgent, the European Union's flagship initiative Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is hosting together with the Rwandan Ministry of Environment and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the 2019 GCCA+ Regional Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, from 15-18 October 2019: "Climate Smart Africa: Harnessing growth and protecting the gains". #GCCAPlus @EU ClimateAction.

The conference, which will be officially opened by the Hon Dr Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister for Environment, is designed to foster exchange of ideas and solutions that impact the ability of African countries to achieve economic growth that is environmentally and socially inclusive.

The conference will bring together over 100 participants from across the region including policy makers, regional leaders from public and private sectors, senior representatives of the international development cooperation community, EU senior officials, leading climate change experts, youth and community representatives.

The meeting, which aims to showcase amazing climate action from the region, is building on the momentum of the 2019 Climate Action Summit hold in New York on 23 September and takes place in the lead up to the annual UNFCCC COP 25, in Chile, in December 2019.

"Climate change poses a threat to continued economic growth and to livelihoods of vulnerable populations in Africa. EU's commitment to its long standing partnership with Rwanda and the rest of Africa to achieve the Agenda 2030 is outstanding. In Rwanda for example, the GCCA+ initiative has supported a land titling system and so far 11 million parcels of land have been registered. This is certainly strengthening climate smart investments by farmers across the country," said Dr. Vincent Biruta, Rwanda's Minister for Environment prior to the event.

"From its establishment in 2007, the GCCA prioritised building resilience in least developed and small island state countries. GCCA+ continues to focus on the most vulnerable countries, and has added mitigation to its scope of support, to encourage even the poorest to pursue development pathways that are clean, resource efficient, socially inclusive, and long-lasting," said the EU Ambassador to Rwanda, Nicola Bellomo.

"This meeting is vital in promoting learnings from the various stakeholders and deriving lessons that will support actions towards building climate resilience," said Luther ANUKUR, Regional Director IUCN Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office

The conference will include high level panel discussions and plenary sessions focusing on integration of practices that can help mitigate climate change, build resilience and encourage socially inclusive environmentally sustainable economic growth.

### GCCA+ Regional Conference - Africa

Climate Smart Africa: Harnessing Growth and Protecting the Gains  
Kigali Conference Centre, Kigali  
October 15-18 2019



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**Conference website:**

<http://gcca.eu/multimedia/gcca-regional-conference-rwanda-15-18-october-2019>

## Background

### **GCCA+ The alliance for a changing world**

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) is a European Union flagship initiative, is helping the world's most vulnerable countries to address climate change. Since the GCCA was established in 2007, and expanded in 2015 to include middle-income countries, 77 programs have been implemented. Given the initial focus on building climate resilience in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the African region has always been a natural focal point. In fact, 31 African countries have already benefited, sometimes in successive funding rounds, from EU GCCA+ grant finance for climate action. Two thirds of the GCCA+ funds are dedicated to African projects.

[www.gcca.eu](http://www.gcca.eu)

## **GCCA+ Regional Conference - Africa**

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