

Climate Action Moves Into the Operating Rules

What six developments actually changed, why their institutional status differs and what Kenyan decision-makers should look for next.

Ahmed Nadhir Omar

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The finding

Six developments reached different stages

Climate action did not move in a single direction this week. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) produced a forecast. The World Bank Group continued a policy through ordinary operations. Climate Bonds Initiative published comparative research. The Lancet Countdown added a city-health evidence base. Baku hosted an implementation forum. The United States completed one regulatory act and opened another.

ICPAC A seasonal forecast and guidance for eight sectors across the Greater Horn

World Bank Group A climate plan carried into ordinary operations and scorecard reporting

Climate Bonds Initiative Comparative evidence on whether taxonomies enter regulation, incentives and markets

Lancet Countdown Twenty-eight climate and health indicators developed for European cities

United Nations (UN) Climate Week, Baku An implementation programme, but no binding negotiated outcome

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) A completed partial repeal and a separate proposal concerning the remainder

These facts do not carry equal institutional weight. A seasonal forecast is not a local impact prediction. A climate co-benefit or taxonomy classification is not proof of delivery. A forum programme is not a negotiated outcome. A final repeal and a proposed repeal are different legal acts. This edition reports each development at the stage it actually reached.

Greater Horn

A strong wet signal across the region

ICPAC's seasonal outlook gives governments and communities a planning condition for the October–December short-rains season. It does not settle local timing, exposure or action.

On 10 September, ICPAC published its Summary for Decision Makers [source address: <https://www.icpac.net/publications/summary-for-decision-makers-october-to-december-2026-season/>] with guidance for agriculture, disaster management, health, livestock, conflict and peace, water, energy and the blue economy. It also directs readers to weekly and monthly forecasts and national meteorological products. Those shorter-range sources will determine when a regional signal becomes a local decision.

Figure: ICPAC October to December 2026 rainfall probability map

Rainfall probability Official ICPAC seasonal map

Figure: ICPAC probability of exceeding 400 millimetres during October to December

Probability above 400 mm Official ICPAC seasonal map

90 per cent enhanced rainfall Southern Ethiopia, central-to-southern Somalia and north-eastern Kenya.

Greater than 90 per cent probability above 400 mm Parts of Somalia, central Kenya, the Lake Victoria basin, Burundi, western Rwanda and western Tanzania.

How to read it. Use the outlook for seasonal planning. Use shorter-range forecasts and impact warnings to decide the timing and location of action.

Kenya

One regional forecast creates four decision fields

Geography, exposure and statutory responsibility determine what follows. One seasonal category cannot settle all four fields.

North-eastern Kenya

Prepare for flooded roads, unsafe water, livestock disease and interruptions to essential services, while protecting the gains that good rainfall may bring to pasture and water supply.

Central Kenya

Use shorter-range evidence to guide drainage, slope stability, crop management and storage decisions.

Lake Victoria basin

Track lake and river levels, urban drainage and public-health warnings through local monitoring.

National and county roles

National agencies issue forecasts and coordinate major responses. Counties act through health, local water, agriculture, county roads and emergency services.

The practical question is not whether a place sits inside a coloured forecast zone. It is which public authority has to decide, what information it needs next and what service, asset or warning must be ready. The forecast establishes the planning condition; local evidence determines the response.

Climate finance

Commitments entered ordinary operations; delivery remains open

The World Bank keeps its climate plan in force indefinitely

A World Bank Group clarification published on 10 September [source address: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/brief/2026/09/10/frequently-asked-questions-on-the-june-2026-extension-of-the-world-bank-group-clim>] says climate considerations will continue through operations, knowledge work and Corporate Scorecard reporting. Paris-alignment assessment and Country Climate and Development Reports also continue.

The stated targets cover the twenty-first replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA21), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

45% IDA21 climate co-benefits

30% IBRD target to 2030

32% IFC target to 2030

35% IFC target by 2035

These commitments establish the policy position. Project documents must still show whether design, finance, procurement or delivery changed.

A 13-country study tests whether taxonomies enter real decisions

Climate Bonds Initiative published Taxonomy Uptake [source address: <https://www.climatebonds.net/data-insights/publications/taxonomy-uptake>] on 14 September. The study compares 13 countries across 46 indicators covering policy integration, market signals, incentives, support, visibility and guidance.

The research was not issued by the governments examined as an official evaluation. Its useful test is whether classification altered regulation, lending terms, incentives, investment or project conditions. Publication alone cannot answer that question.

Climate and health

European city indicators need Kenyan validation

The 2026 Europe Cities Report of the Lancet Countdown [source address: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(26\)00100-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(26)00100-3)] was published online on 9 September. Fifty-eight researchers from 31 institutions developed an extensive evidence structure for European cities.

28 indicators

5 domains

820 cities in the heat analysis

29 European countries

Heat and wildfire smoke Exposure and health burden

Air quality and infection Environmental conditions linked to health risk

Green space, mobility and urban form Everyday exposure in the built environment

Governance and public engagement The institutions and choices behind city responses

The numerical findings describe Europe. Kenyan cities need measures tied to local exposure, county powers, budgets and data that can be maintained over time. The report offers a structure for that work, not a ready-made African benchmark.

Institutional status

Baku set an agenda. EPA changed legal obligations

UN Climate Week 4 concentrated on implementation

The Baku Implementation Forum programme [source address: <https://unfccc.int/event/climate-week-4-cw4-implementation-forum>] centred access to finance, public procurement, agrifood finance, implementation tracking, electrification and water. It produced no binding negotiated outcome. The next evidence would be named commitments, responsible institutions, dates, allocated finance and published results.

United States power-plant standards changed in two legally different ways

On 14 September, the EPA completed a partial repeal [source address: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-repeal-2024-power-plant-regulations-delivering-300-billion-savings>] of 2024 greenhouse-gas requirements and separately proposed withdrawing the remainder.

Final agency action The partial repeal changes the current federal position.

Separate proposal The wider withdrawal still faces hearing, comment and possible revision.

EPA's estimate of US\$310 billion in savings remains an agency claim. Courts, states, utilities, investors and affected communities will shape the consequences.

Watchlist

Five files to watch next

Each file could materially change the assessment. The relevant evidence is concrete: a forecast update, a commitment, a project record, market use or a legal act.

Greater Horn rainfall

Weekly and monthly updates, onset forecasts and impact warnings that change the regional assessment or the timing of action.

Likely record holders: Meteorological services, disaster agencies, ministries and counties

Horn preparedness forum

A published commitment that names institutions, dates and allocated finance.

Likely record holders: IGAD, member states, finance ministries and response agencies

World Bank operations

Project evidence showing a change in design, procurement, delivery or results.

Likely record holders: World Bank Group entities and client governments

African taxonomies

Regulatory use, financial incentives and actual issuance, rather than publication alone.

Likely record holders: Central banks, market authorities, treasuries, lenders and issuers

United States power-plant standards

Federal Register publication, court orders and the fate of the separate proposal.

Likely record holders: EPA, courts, states, utilities and affected communities

What this week permits us to say

Climate action moved, but not at one speed

The Greater Horn outlook establishes a planning condition; shorter-range evidence must determine local action.

The World Bank and taxonomy sources show institutional intent and classification, not project-level results.

The European city indicators offer a substantial evidence structure, but Kenyan measures require local validation.

Baku's programme and EPA's legal acts belong in different categories and should be reported that way.

For climate-financed and taxonomy-labelled projects, one concise public project page would make delivery easier to judge: the intended result, place, responsible authority, finance, procurement record, delivery evidence and reporting date. This is not a substitute for scientific evaluation or project appraisal. It is a practical record for claims that would otherwise stop at a label.

Source notes

Principal evidence used in this edition

ICPAC, Summary for Decision Makers: October to December 2026 Season [source address: <https://www.icpac.net/publications/summary-for-decision-makers-october-to-december-2026-season/>] , 10 September 2026. Official regional forecast and sector guidance.

ICPAC, Technical Statement from the 74th Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF 74) [source address: <https://www.icpac.net/publications/technical-statement-from-the-74th-greater-horn-of-africa-climate-outlook-forum-ghacof74/>] , 18 August 2026. Probability methods, onset guidance and territorial detail.

World Bank Group, Climate Change Action Plan extension: frequently asked questions [source address: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/brief/2026/09/10/frequently-asked-questions-on-the-june-2026-extension-of-the-world-bank-group-clim>] , 10 September 2026. Policy and stated commitments.

Climate Bonds Initiative, Taxonomy Uptake [source address: <https://www.climatebonds.net/data-insights/publications/taxonomy-uptake>] , 14 September 2026. Comparative research.

Chen-Xu and colleagues, 2026 Europe Cities Report of the Lancet Countdown [source address: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(26\)00100-3](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(26)00100-3)] , published online 9 September 2026. Peer-reviewed evidence with European scope.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Climate Week 4 Implementation Forum programme [source address: <https://unfccc.int/event/climate-week-4-cw4-implementation-forum>] , 9–10 September 2026. Programme evidence without a binding negotiated outcome.

EPA, final partial repeal and supplemental proposal for power-plant greenhouse-gas standards [source address: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-repeal-2024-power-plant-regulations-delivering-300-billion-savings>] , 14 September 2026. Final action and agency claims distinguished from the separate proposal.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), *Limiting Overshoot* [source address: <https://www.unep.org/resources/limiting-overshoot-navigating-exceedance>] , 2 September 2026. Late inclusion identified separately from the reporting period.

Late inclusion · published 2 September 2026

UNEP's Limiting Overshoot report [source address: <https://www.unep.org/resources/limiting-overshoot-navigating-exceedance>] falls outside this edition's reporting period. It finds that current policies and near-term pathways make an exceedance of 1.5°C unavoidable. Lower and shorter overshoot carries lower risk, increasing the urgency of mitigation and adaptation.

This edition distinguishes official forecasts, policy statements, peer-reviewed research, forum programmes, proposals and final legal action. Dates refer to the release of each source. The reporting period closed on 15 September 2026, so later outcomes are excluded.

Direct-overlap disclosure

The author serves as County Executive Committee Member for Health in Garissa County. This edition discusses north-eastern Kenya and county health preparedness. It is independent personal analysis based on public sources and is not an official county communication. Read the full disclosure statement →

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Review corrections and amendments →

Author and publisher

Ahmed Nadhir Omar

Governance practitioner and public administrator writing independently on public authority, climate, technology and institutional capability.

This edition includes a direct-overlap disclosure because it discusses institutions connected to the author's public role.

Biography, public office and disclosures →

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