Climate Journalism Project

Climate change is one of the most pressing and contentious issues of our time. Although Africa contributes less than 4% of greenhouse gas emissions, it is the region most seriously affected by climate change. Some argue that African governments have not addressed it as seriously as required. But in recent times, more governments are revising their stance as the damage that climate change is inflicting on society is becoming more evident.

Against this backdrop, Penplusbytes in partnership with Africa Confidential with funding from the European Journalism Fund will produce journalistic and research pieces that will track African states’ negotiating strategies at the UN COP climate summits: awareness of the technical issues; challenges among diplomats and parliamentarians; and coordination between its national governments, NGOs, commercial and financial entities and pan-African organisations.

The research intends to reveal the detail of what is actually happening around Africa as well as peering into the detailed workings of government in the two important economies of Kenya and Ghana.

Under the second phase of the project, Penplusbytes and Africa Confidential will provide both a briefing dossier and three specific articles ahead of COP28 and two articles post COP28.

Our journalists will pull together details on the climate debate in Africa from both public sector and civil society sources. And also take a deep dive into the inner workings of policy-making in Kenya and Ghana which will provide a special insight on the challenges as governments address the key issues and open negotiations for transitional funding.

This project will go beyond the initial reports and concerns to see which governments are developing new core policies in sectors such as energy and agriculture. Which countries are formulating viable policies to reorient national development in the coming decade? And which governments have yet to pay anything more than lip service to the issues raised?