Delegation from

 Swaziland

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The country of Swaziland strongly believes that there is a huge impact of climate change on human health. Although it is a small country, the IPCC declares that climate change will have severe effects on the environment especially for water availability, food security and human health. Africa is a continent already under pressure from climate stresses and is highly vulnerable to any problems related to climate change, including malaria, tuberculosis and diarrhea. HIV/AIDS related to stresses can also increase risk to infectious diseases, for example, cholera and malnutrition. Even with a small rise of temperature, the consequence would be severe. “Over the years Swaziland, has suffered from many climate change impacts such as droughts, change in rainfall patterns and increasing temperatures. In January 2000, the country was severely affected by torrential rains that led to flooding with an estimated 21% of the population affected (IFRC, 2000)”.1 40% of the population faced water shortage due to the droughts. Swaziland is experiencing severe El Niño drought and to mitigate the above challenges, many emergency response plans are put in action.

**The Impact of Climate Change on Human Health**

The country of Swaziland is in the south-eastern part of the African Continent.  Swaziland’s climate is subtropical with wet hot summers and cold dry winters. Swaziland recognizes that climate change can have a severe impact on the country. Even if Swaziland has contributed little to greenhouse gas concentration in the atmosphere (less than 0.002%) it faces severe climate change impacts. The country is known for variable precipitation patterns, droughts, desertification and high temperatures. Due to the climate, Swaziland faces challenges including poverty, food insecurities and mostly HIV/AIDS which brings health issues to the population. The health sector is mostly affected by climate change due to an increase in vector-borne diseases such as malaria and epidemics of meningococcal meningitis and cholera resulting from increased temperature and precipitation. Malaria on the other hand is caused by the bite of the female mosquito. These mosquitos are present when the temperature is very hot. Many deaths are caused by heat waves (thermal stress). The increase of extreme temperatures will have both direct and indirect effects on health.  A reduction of 40% of the water sector will have a huge impact on food security and human health. The contamination of water increased the number of water-borne diseases.  Higher temperatures can also lead to exposure to food-borne diseases due to contamination of food. “Swaziland is committed to taking urgent and long-term actions to reduce the vulnerability of its people and risks to national development”2. From October to March, when 75% of the annual rainfall is present, causes floods. During this time the inhabitants suffer from malnutrition and mental health disorders (Anxiety and depression). Swaziland experiences its share of extreme weather, ranging from tropical cyclones to drought. The Swaziland Department of Meteorology believes such extreme weather events are likely to become more frequent in the future due to climate change. Children, pregnant women and the elderly are more vulnerable to infectious diseases and to water insecurities. Swaziland has participated in many climate actions including the establishment of a multi-stakeholder: National Climate Change Steering Committee     Swaziland is pleased to submit its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to the Convention. “This INDC presents yet another step that the country is taking towards the development of an effective climate change response, both in terms of reducing GHG emissions and adapting to the impacts of climate change.” 3 Swaziland recognizes that it still has an important role to play in GHG mitigation efforts.  For example; “Developing a robust national GHG inventory, a credible baseline and emissions trajectory, and a comprehensive MRV system- Doubling the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix- Introducing to use of a 10% ethanol blend in petrol for use in all vehicles to double the share of renewable energy. “4 Swaziland will also contribute into adaptation plans for example: “5Reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by building adaptive capacity and resilience.” In response to the issues, Swaziland proposes many solutions including the construction of larger earth dams and water canals to ensure that there is no shortage of drinking pure water.

**Climate Refugees**

Although Swaziland has climate issues, climate refugees isn’t an issue for Swaziland. As we can see on the displacement related to disasters worldwide map, we see that 19,3 million people have migrated. But if we look at Swaziland, no info is shown. Although we know that Mozambique, which Is situated right next to Swaziland, faces a lot of refugees because of floods. These refugees migrate to Swaziland to protect themselves, even though it also faces many health problems. Although Swaziland itself suffers from extreme droughts. The inhabitants are known for always deforesting which causes this act and is a reason for refugees to leave the country because they don’t have enough food… But they are still better off than Mozambique. And since poverty is a key factor of these displacements, it’s easy for them to refugee to Swaziland because of its proximity.

Swaziland is recognized as a country having emergency response plan. “6Disaster risk levels are spiraling up due to extreme vulnerability to increasing hazards such as droughts, environmental degradation, windstorms, floods and hailstorms," The mountain kingdom has been working on DRR for some years now. One of Swaziland’s region Lubombo known as the driest region, perhaps the one that has suffered most from global warming, has put together UNDP, together with the GEF (Global Environment Facility) and national partners to draft a climate change project.

**Steps to enforce the Paris Agreement and further Reduce Green House Gas Emissions**

As mentioned before, Swaziland has contributed little to greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. “Estimates put Swaziland’s 2010 emission inventory at 0.8 MtCO2 (including the Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector), meaning that Swaziland’s emissions represent less than 0.002% of global emissions).”7

Swaziland has also signed and ratified the Paris Agreement and has well ratified both the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol. Threw awareness we can convince other country’s to ratify the agreement.   “The Swazi Parliament ratified EPA along with 28 other international instruments which Swaziland has recently signed. Also amongst these instruments was the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.” 8 The country also participates in many actions including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the united Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as well as the IPCC. As mentioned previously, Swaziland has also responded to many mitigation and adaptation plans.

The European Union has expressed great support with Swaziland. “The Delegation is also working to increase the awareness among the Swazi public of the EU and its involvement in Swaziland, building on and further upscaling the previous visibility actions.”9

Swaziland, a country in Africa is known for having poverty in its country. Although even if it is poor, Swaziland has participated into trying to change the world in a good way. It doesn’t pollute to much nor does it contribute much in greenhouse gas concentration. Swaziland isn’t completely innocent but has severe climate issues that we can come up to fix.