

Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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Issue number 1

Climate and Development Knowledge Network
Helping developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development

Quito innovation leads the nation

Work in Quito supported by CDKN has helped stimulate climate action by city leaders across Ecuador.

CDKN Alliance member Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) is working with the City of Quito to devise an Action Plan that will build on its Climate Change Strategy. The plan will address such sectors as energy, health and water management, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change. CDKN is helping to develop the methodology, assisting with a vulnerability study and supporting increased participation from civil society groups.

Recently, Quito hosted the National Summit of Local Authorities at which 80 other participating cities signed the Quito Climate Pact, a commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the local level.

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- Building climate resilience into India's housing construction

Towards action in the Caribbean



CDKN SUPPORTS CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS TO DELIVER ON THEIR PLANS FOR CLIMATE ACTION

The small island nations of the Caribbean are among those most vulnerable to extreme weather events and sea level rise. Their economies are also heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels. That's why climate compatible development features high on the political agenda, and why the Caribbean community of 18 nations (CARICOM) produced a climate change strategy and roadmap for action.

This year, CDKN has worked with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC or '5Cs') to develop the strategy and roadmap into a detailed Implementation Plan that will be embraced by national governments. The plan includes measures to improve infrastructure resilience and encourage low-carbon energy development. It was endorsed in September 2011 by the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development and is expected to be approved by Heads of State in December 2011.

CDKN is involved at both regional and national levels, supporting implementation in selected countries in the coming months. In Suriname, the Government established a Climate Compatible Development Agency as a direct result of a CDKN-

supported presentation to their Senate. John Goedschalk, CEO of the new agency, said: "The establishment of the Climate Compatible Development Agency puts us in the fraternity of developing countries that are signalling their seriousness regarding adaptation and mitigation... Almost our entire economic zone is located within our coastal areas, so when sea level rises we stand to lose a whole lot."

CDKN has also supported the CCCCC to improve knowledge management on climate and development issues in the Caribbean by consolidating information that used to be dispersed and fragmented. The new database and online tool provides decision makers with useful information and has established CCCCC as an important regional knowledge hub (see www.caribbeanclimate.bz).

"Without CDKN's support, I doubt whether we could have accomplished and achieved the output that you see now," said Ulrich Trotz, Science Advisor to the CCCCC. "It has given us confidence and now I think that we can go through any type of process, with any sort of donor."



Promoting African climate models

AFRICAN SCIENTISTS ASSESS CLIMATE IMPACTS

While the African continent faces a significant threat from climate change, the types of impacts could be very different in particular countries and sub-regions. To improve forecasting, the World Climate Research Programme is downscaling its climate models to provide finer detail through its Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX).

CDKN is supporting a team of scientists from across Africa to analyse and interpret CORDEX data and to link with policy-makers. By doing so, CDKN is not only building the capacity of African scientists, but also helping African decision makers to plan more effectively for future climate impacts.

The scientists are analysing the models together and writing joint publications. They have met once as a full group and, in July, several of them received hands-on training in data analysis and presentation at the University of Cape Town. Working with cutting-edge software, they learned how to understand and manipulate raw data.

The full group will meet again in November, just before CoP17. "In terms of capacity building for the African climate community, I believe there has been significant progress," said South African Weather Service participant, Mxolisi Shongwe. "After the training workshop in March, several of our colleagues improved their data handling skills and can now write code and get useful information out of the CORDEX data."



Sharing lessons in disaster risk reduction

ACCRA PROJECT STRENGTHENS CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AFRICA

CDKN is helping African countries share lessons in disaster risk reduction and climate resilience through its support of the Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA). ACCRA is run by a consortium comprising Oxfam, Overseas Development Institute, Save the Children, World Vision and Care International. The project aims to improve governments' and development agencies' design and delivery of humanitarian and development interventions so that they increase the adaptive capacity of poor and vulnerable communities.

A key conceptual tool developed by the ACCRA programme is the Local Adaptive Capacity Framework, which has been used to frame detailed research in 11 projects across Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda.

Mr Fernando Tavares Caniua, Head of Mozambique's Department of Natural Resources, attended the ACCRA conference. "Mozambique was involved in a long period of war, which didn't allow us to carry out research," he said. "With ACCRA's results, we can now plan better and the government is able to intervene more effectively."

Exploring private climate finance

It is widely acknowledged that public funding alone will not deliver the global target of US\$100 billion a year in climate finance for developing countries by 2020. To help meet the shortfall, a CDKN initiative is exploring how business and capital markets could provide a substantial proportion of this financing.

Since CoP16, a high-level Transitional Committee has been working to design a new, global Green Climate Fund. In August 2011, CDKN commissioned The Brookings Institution to brief the Transitional Committee on the case for creating a private sector window in the Fund.

The Brookings paper examines the benefits and barriers to increased private sector involvement, in both raising and delivering climate finance. It goes beyond the discussion of whether to engage the private sector at all, and focuses on the mechanisms through which this can be achieved. The latest draft report of the Transitional Committee includes specific reference to the presence and role of the private sector in the Green Climate Fund.



Global research proposals under review

CDKN is considering applications to the second global research call. Approximately £4 million is expected to be allocated for projects of 18 to 24 months' duration. The call covered two themes: the policies and processes of climate compatible development, and climate-related disaster risk management and resilience. We expect to notify applicants of the results in mid-February 2012.

Watch this space . . .

Bataze James, Senior Meteorologist in the Directorate of Meteorology, Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda, recently returned from an ACCRA-organised field trip to Bundibugyo district, Western Uganda. "It was clear to me from the visit that adaptation activities and disaster risk reduction need to be strengthened, to take into account geographical characteristics within the country, as experienced in Western Uganda," he said. "The field trips and the ACCRA framework are paving the way to that."

CDKN supports Kenya's integrated climate planning

Kenya is taking an approach to climate planning that crosses economic sectors and involves diverse stakeholder groups.

Since Kenya's National Climate Change Response Strategy was published in April 2010, government ministries and stakeholder groups have been working together to develop a comprehensive action plan. The plan covers eight areas for action, including low-carbon development, a national adaptation and mitigation plan, a technology action plan, finance, and knowledge management. CDKN is one of several donors working with the Government of Kenya since early 2011 to drive the plan forward.

There has been a high level of inter-ministerial and donor interest in the process, leading to new dialogue and cooperation. Civil society, academics and the private sector are involved in a Taskforce providing oversight to the process. A recent meeting of civil society organisations saw a very broad representative mix of participants.

John Kioli, Member of the NCCRS Implementation Plan Taskforce, said: "The thematic working groups towards NCCRS have given an opportunity to involve more local and experienced people. This is a good opportunity to keep reviewing and improving the content; we'll get a better outcome."



Building climate resilience into India's housing construction

CDKN is funding a project that develops guidelines on low-carbon and disaster resilient construction in disaster-prone areas.

Working with partner Development Alternatives, CDKN is helping to train policy makers, planners and construction workers on techniques and policy planning for climate compatible construction. Guidelines and tools cover various themes, including using low-carbon construction materials, incorporating energy efficiency into building design, selecting appropriate building sites and building in features that reduce risk from flooding, heat and storms.

Training workshops planned for early 2012 will be tailored to the participants' contexts. The training of workers, for example, will

Negotiations aid for developing countries

In September 2011, UK Secretary of State for International Development, Andrew Mitchell MP announced the launch of a UK Government initiative to foster least developed and most vulnerable countries in international climate talks. CDKN will manage this negotiations support fund, the climate window of the DFID-funded Advocacy Fund.

One of CDKN's first initiatives is to provide technical, legal and logistical help to Pa Ousman Jarju from Gambia, who chairs the Least Developed Country (LDC) negotiating group at the UNFCCC talks. Pa Ousman has asked that CDKN should procure services from key international experts to help in building capacity and facilitating the Group's participation in the negotiations.

Support from CDKN will enable the LDC group to strategise and plan more effectively and result in improved engagement and a stronger contribution by the Group to the negotiation process. This assistance will include the provision of legal and technical briefing papers and help for a core group to strategise and plan in advance of COP17 in Durban in December 2011. Support is likely to extend to training and development of a future cadre of developing country negotiators.

CDKN plans to extend similar assistance to negotiators from the Africa Group.

NEW Climate Planning Users' Guide

With support from CDKN, Ecofys (a consultancy in energy and climate policy) and the UK Institute of Development Studies (IDS) have just launched a new, innovative interactive users' guide to tools for climate and development planning. The Climate Planning Users' Guide is targeted at national decision makers in developing countries. It helps them to identify the most suitable tools and methodologies to use in their national context, which might range from economic scenario development to spatial planning methods. Information is provided about the cost of different tools, training and language requirements, and how to contact the developers. Visit www.climateplanning.org for more information or email enquiries@cdkn.org to request a CD-ROM copy.

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by providing demand-led research and technical assistance, and channelling the best available knowledge on climate change and development to support policy processes at the country level. CDKN is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience.

Sign up to CDKN's monthly newsletter and Roster of Experts on www.cdkn.org

allow them to practice new techniques in dummy buildings.

Dr. Shailesh Kr. Agrawal, Executive Director of the Building Materials and Technology Promotional Council (BMTPC), Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India, said: "Development Alternatives and CDKN have been doing commendable work in the area of climate-responsive construction and there is an urgent need to take it forward by joining hands with them."

Sharing climate and development knowledge

There are many climate and development organisations working in information and knowledge sharing, but few networks for collaborative thinking. To catalyse joint working, CDKN convened 20 online climate and development 'knowledge brokers' in June 2011. Knowledge brokers are groups

or platforms that collect, curate and disseminate knowledge from many sources. Since the workshop, the groups involved have formed a dynamic community of practice with a shared web forum, several working groups and many collaborative projects.

Florian Bauer of REEGLE, a clean energy search tool (www.reegle.info), said the workshop "definitely gathered a lot of people who are now working together on projects, instead of making their own portals without knowing what others are doing". REEGLE has experienced a dramatic increase in traffic over the past few months, which managers attribute to the expansion of their remit and a new, CDKN-supported thesaurus on climate compatible development.



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Dashboard

July to September 2011

- Unique visits to website (monthly average): 16,500
- Newsletter growth: more than 2750 subscribers
- CDKN's Roster of Experts: experts from 140 countries worldwide
- Projects initiated in last quarter: 35
- Total number of projects initiated or completed: 109
- Percentage value of projects being delivered by Southern-based suppliers: 27%

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In the next issue:

- Raising Least Developed Countries negotiators' voices
- Latest news on CDKN's Innovation Fund
- Building climate resilience in South Asia - Pakistan's post-flood reconstruction
- Improving preparedness for climate-related disasters