

# Climate and Development Knowledge Network

Helping developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development



# About CDKN

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience: PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, SouthSouthNorth, LEAD (International and Pakistan) and INTRAC.

Many of CDKN's services are provided by collaborating organisations and individuals from around the globe. We source the best expertise wherever it is found, helping to build capacity where needed, and fostering long-term collaborative relationships.

Find out more on our website and sign up for our monthly newsletter.

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## Our mission

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network supports decision makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge sharing in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally.



# The challenge

Climate change is already having a negative impact on development and poses the greatest challenge to the world's poorest countries. New climate-related risks are adding to the existing challenges of tackling poverty and promoting human development. One cannot be resolved without addressing the others.

Decisive action is needed. Making the right decisions is far from easy given the uncertainties about future climate impacts, regulations and financial support, and the potential trade-offs between generations, geographies, sectors and social groups. However, some decisions offer 'no regrets': they limit greenhouse gas emissions, make society more resilient to possible climate impacts, reduce poverty and advance human development.

## WHAT IS CLIMATE COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT?

'Climate compatible development' is development that minimises the harm caused by climate impacts, while maximising the many human development opportunities presented by transitions to a low-emissions, more resilient future. Charting a path towards climate compatible development is a major challenge for all countries, whatever their

level of development and current greenhouse gas emissions.

New policies, technologies and sources of finance need to be mobilised and backed by new levels of political commitment – locally, nationally and internationally.

## SEEKING THE 'TRIPLE WIN'

Climate change is altering patterns of innovation, trade, production, population distribution and risk in complex and unpredictable ways. This is creating a new development landscape for policy-makers in poor countries, who work to nurture and sustain economic growth and social development without further exacerbating climate change.

Climate compatible development moves beyond the traditional separation of **adaptation, mitigation** and **development**. It emphasises responses to climate change that prioritise development goals, and encourages development planning that embraces the threats and opportunities presented by climate change. This may herald a new generation of approaches that simultaneously follow low-carbon development paths, build resilience and reduce poverty – a 'triple win'.

***"CDKN lies at the interface of climate change and development policy. The challenge – and the exciting opportunity – is to plot a course where a low-carbon and climate-resilient future meets poverty reduction and human development."***

**SIMON MAXWELL,  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN,  
CLIMATE AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
KNOWLEDGE NETWORK**

# How we work

We are an alliance of six private and non-governmental organisations operating across four continents. Our team includes climate scientists, researchers, economists, consultants, project managers and knowledge management specialists, bringing together a wide range of experience across the fields of climate change and development, research, policy development, knowledge management, networking and capacity-building, and management of global initiatives.

CDKN is able to provide support through its alliance organisations and procure the best services from around the world. We strive to deliver the highest quality technical advice, forge uniquely effective partnerships, and

drive the latest and best thinking on climate compatible development.

## CDKN'S PRIORITY THEMES

Within the broad scope of climate compatible development, we work across four strategic themes:

- Climate compatible development strategies and plans
- Improving developing countries' access to climate finance
- Strengthening resilience through climate-related disaster risk management
- Supporting climate negotiators from the least developed and most vulnerable countries.

## THE CDKN ALLIANCE



# How we can help

Increasingly, climate finance is available to help developing countries make the transition from high- to low-carbon development. CDKN helps decision-makers take advantage of the increasing opportunities for climate finance by offering a distinctive, demand-led approach: decision-makers determine the kind of support we provide, and we can help align it with the broader context of national development policies and planning.

Specifically, we provide support to decision-makers in developing countries through research, technical assistance, knowledge sharing and partnerships.

CDKN has been working with different stakeholders to identify key **research** gaps and priorities around our four focus themes in climate change and development. We are now commissioning new policy-relevant, applied research that aims to fill these gaps.

Our work is shaped by country-level demands. Through our **technical assistance** programme we help developing country governments and other decision-makers to increase:

- the integration of climate-resilient and low-carbon growth in policy-making, planning and implementation
- institutional capacity to leverage climate change financing
- coordination among sectors and countries to deliver climate compatible development.

Through effective **knowledge sharing**, we fill the gaps and connect to existing initiatives, rather than duplicating them. We make full use of the latest communication tools, organise face-to-face events and use print, video and other formats to reach different audiences. Our website is a source of cutting-edge thought on climate compatible development issues, including frequently updated blogs and a monthly newsletter.

**Partnerships** are central to CDKN. We foster and support local partnerships, while providing access to the best available expertise in the climate change and development field. This approach – convening individuals and organisations around issues of climate compatible development – supports capacity-building in developing countries.



In addition to helping decision-makers, we work with a number of important stakeholders:

- CDKN coordinates with **multilateral and bilateral funders** on assistance to developing countries, to increase efficiency, avoid overlap and scale up the impact of our work, by providing additional finance and sharing knowledge and concepts.
- CDKN works with **researchers and academics**, providing research funding.
- CDKN seeks to access the best available national and global expertise. **Consultants** and other potential **service providers** can register on our **Roster of Experts** to engage with us on our ongoing projects.
- CDKN shares its high-quality original content with other **knowledge brokers** and encourages closer collaboration between them,

enabling decision-makers to readily access information.

- CDKN reaches out to **journalists and the media**, and has a range of articulate, informed spokespeople available for interview on climate compatible development issues.

## HOW WE ARE FUNDED

CDKN is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Netherlands Foreign Ministry (DGIS). We have secured funding for an initial 5-year period, and CDKN is able to provide many of its services free of charge. Where appropriate, we are also able to enter into co-funding arrangements with other donors.





## Regional views

### ASIA

Asia is severely affected by climate change. Many of its large and growing populations live in coastal and low-lying areas where flooding will be worsened by shifting weather patterns. The continent has pockets of rapid economic growth with surging greenhouse gas emissions. It has three of the top five emitting countries worldwide, and is home to two thirds of the world's poor.

Planning is needed to build the capacity of vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change. Low-carbon energy alternatives can counter rapid increases in the use of coal and petroleum in electricity generation. Carbon markets bring potential economic benefits, and opportunities lie in harnessing the huge research capabilities of the continent.

***“There’s a broken triangle in Asia, consisting of the scientific, policy-making and local communities. We are aspiring to fix this broken triangle, to make policy-making an easier process based on the best evidence and improve the dialogue between local communities and government.”***

**ALI TAUQEER SHEIKH, ASIA DIRECTOR,  
CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT  
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### AFRICA

Although it has contributed the least to historic greenhouse gas emissions, Africa is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, given its reliance on rain-fed agriculture, limited supply of freshwater resources, widespread poverty, HIV/AIDS and inadequate access to basic services. Climate change is a major threat to Africa's development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

However, decisive action on climate change is a development opportunity for Africa. Climate and development finance can be harnessed to catalyse a new climate-resilient infrastructure comprising low-carbon technologies and innovative land-use management practices.

With the 2011 UNFCCC meeting in Durban, South Africa, the continent has a unique opportunity to promote African climate change priorities and solutions, and push for developed countries to strengthen resolve, finances and action to support African states in meeting the climate change challenge.

***“What we need to do is look at shaping new paths of development for Africa that will solve the poverty problem and, at the same time, create climate-resilient economies.”***

**CARL WESSELINK, AFRICA DIRECTOR,  
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## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Climate-related problems in the Latin American and Caribbean region are many and varied. In the Caribbean islands, a stark future of sea-level rise and coastal erosion requires an immediate solution.

Latin America houses the biodiversity wealth of the Amazon, threatened by climate change-induced droughts. Glacier melt causes floods, affecting a range of communities. But there are clear areas of regional common interest: food security, water management, ecosystem resilience and good governance. With improved scientific understanding of climate change, governments can make informed investment decisions.

***“When it comes to climate and human development, we need to integrate the visions and goals of the government, private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and other communities in Latin America to ensure a better quality of life for the poor.”***

**YOLANDA KAKABADSE, LATIN AMERICA DIRECTOR, CLIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE NETWORK**



## Our projects

CDKN's work across Africa, Asia, and Latin America focuses on the four priority themes of **climate compatible development strategies, climate finance, disaster risk management** and **supporting climate negotiators in least developed and most vulnerable countries.**



# Climate compatible development strategies and plans

For large, rapidly growing economies such as China, India and Brazil, embracing climate compatible development means adapting to climate change and improving human development while reducing the carbon intensity of economic growth.

In smaller, more vulnerable economies, adapting to climate change and reducing poverty are at the heart of climate compatible development. But there are also opportunities to avoid emissions by identifying low-carbon development paths.

To transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient future, developing countries need strong policy, institutional and financial frameworks, as well as a good evidence base and technical skills. CDKN's vision is to see national frameworks for climate compatible development that are fully driven and supported by a wide range of stakeholders.

In support of this goal, CDKN

- responds to developing country government requests for climate compatible development strategies
- helps developing country governments navigate the maze of planning methods

and tools around 'green growth', 'low-carbon development' and 'climate compatible development'

- supports participatory, iterative planning processes
- funds research to strengthen the evidence base on planning for, and implementing and evaluating of climate compatible development tools
- coordinates its country support efforts with the other donors, to avoid overlap and create effective partnerships
- supports access to the best available information on which to base plans and strategies.

## **INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO RWANDA'S DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY**

Rwanda is one of Africa's economic success stories, enjoying GDP growth rates averaging 8.5% in the past 5 years. Its economic growth plan, Vision 2020, seeks to transform the subsistence agriculture economy to a knowledge-based one by 2020. President Kagame and the Government of Rwanda asked CDKN and DFID to support the development of a National Strategy





on Climate Change and Low Carbon Development to integrate climate planning into the country's development pathway and policy architecture.

### **CORDEX-AFRICA: SUPPORTING EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY-MAKING**

The World Climate Research Program established the Coordinated Regional Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) programme as an international coordinated framework to generate regional climate change projections worldwide. CDKN is supporting the development of African expertise to analyse and interpret CORDEX, and is linking these researchers with policy-makers. The project will host several workshops, including one in early 2012 that will produce peer-reviewed contributions to the Africa chapter of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report.

### **CLIMATE COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG REGION**

The IPCC has identified the Mekong region in South East Asia, with its densely populated river deltas and coastal regions, as likely to be one of the worst climate change-affected regions worldwide. Yet exactly

how climate change will impact the region remains unclear. CDKN partnered with SUMERNET to identify and fund research projects that fill this knowledge gap. The selected projects involve collaborations between research institutes from across the region, and advocate cross-country and policy-oriented solutions to particular problems.

### **PLANNING FOR CLIMATE COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN**

In 2009, 18 Caribbean Community leaders endorsed the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change prepared by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) – a roadmap for climate compatible development from 2009 to 2015. CDKN helped 5Cs develop a detailed Implementation Plan through a multi-stakeholder consultative process, which provided an unprecedented opportunity to raise awareness that climate change is not just an environmental problem; it also affects the economic, trade and development sectors.

# Improving developing countries' access to climate finance

Developing countries need an estimated US\$100 billion in climate finance between 2010 and 2020 to adapt to the negative effects of climate change and help them to transition to low-carbon development paths. Although this target was agreed by the international community in the 2009 Copenhagen Accords, the funds are still only partly committed by governments – and only partly available on private markets. There is often a long lag before the committed money is disbursed.

CDKN's vision is for an international climate finance system that is 'fit for purpose' – i.e., that will support the delivery of the US\$100 billion urgently needed by developing countries in the medium term, and their far greater funding needs in the long term.

Individual countries must be capable of accessing those funds. They need the skills and institutional capacity to qualify, and the systems for allocating the funds fairly and transparently among projects and programmes. The very significant potential of the private sector to provide investment capital for low-carbon development and

climate adaptation projects must be unlocked if the world is to reach and sustain these ambitious climate finance targets and their underlying emissions reductions goals.

In support of this vision, CDKN

- seeks to influence the evolution of the international climate finance architecture so that it benefits developing countries
- disseminates best practice and catalyses innovative partnerships among private sector actors and government decision-makers in support of climate compatible development
- strengthens developing countries' institutions and processes for gaining access to climate finance, allocating climate funds fairly, and monitoring and reporting accurately on climate investments.

## **MAKING CLIMATE FINANCE WORK FOR MOZAMBIQUE**

CDKN, with DFID Mozambique and the Southern African Regional Climate Change Programme (RCCP), is supporting a large programme of work in Mozambique to enhance its climate change response





framework. One component involves helping the government to access finance for adaptation projects and programmes. Extreme drought and flood events, often triggered by El Niño and La Niña, already constrain development in the country, and a changing climate will further aggravate current climate variability. Resources exist in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)'s Adaptation Fund to assist developing countries to adapt to climate change, but strict fiduciary standards set by the Adaptation Fund Board must be met to become National Implementing Entities (NIEs) and access these funds. CDKN and RCCP will take the Government of Mozambique through the requirements for attaining NIE status.

### **MOBILISING CLIMATE FINANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**

The UN-appointed High-level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF) aimed to identify how industrialised countries could mobilise US\$100 billion per annum by 2020 to support climate-resilient development. The Group consisted of 21 members from both the public and private sectors and from the developed and

developing worlds. Working through most of 2010, the AGF reported in November 2010 that reaching the goal of US\$100 billion was challenging but feasible.

But turning the recommendations into tangible flows of new finance required senior political leadership. AGF members asked CDKN to help developing country decision-makers respond to the AGF's recommendations. We supported climate finance experts at Vivid Economics to prepare reports on the opportunities and challenges presented by the AGF's findings to countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Small Island Developing States.

# Strengthening resilience through climate-related disaster risk management

Climate change is increasing the frequency and severity of some hazards in certain regions, including heat waves, droughts and intense rainfall, and is changing the vulnerability and exposure of people and assets. Work is urgently needed to make countries more resilient to climate-related disasters, and to scale up short- and long-term disaster risk management strategies.

We are committed to strengthening the availability and use of scientific information on disaster risks. We also promote collaboration among the many government, civil society and private sector organisations working on development, climate and disaster risk at national and sub-national levels.

In support of this vision, CDKN

- makes scientific information on disaster risk more easily accessible to a wide range of decision-makers in developing countries
- seeks to understand and shape how national systems for managing disaster risks are adapted to the impact of climate change through research and technical assistance

- will encourage more coherent climate-related disaster risk governance across line ministries, civil society and private sector bodies in selected developing countries through our work on technical assistance and partnerships.

## FUNDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE RESEARCH IN AFRICA

CDKN has co-funded a Global Change Systems for Analysis, Research and Training (START) research call focusing on the sustainability of ecosystem services in Africa and how these underpin human development. The aim is to commission high-quality, independent, policy-relevant and credible research to support policy-making for sustainable development.

We are supporting 16 awards on the implications of global environmental change for agriculture and food security in Africa. The projects spread across several African countries, including Benin, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zimbabwe, as well as cities in East and West Africa. Topics range from research on variable water security and its impact on African agriculture, to the productivity of forest ecosystems, to





ecosystem services and future prospects for Africa's drylands in a changing climate.

## **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN SOUTH ASIA**

Pakistan's catastrophic flood in 2010 affected around 13.8 million people and was rated by the United Nations as one of the greatest humanitarian crises in recent history. Pakistan's Provisional Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) is faced with the huge task of rebuilding the 370,000 rural houses, 4,000 schools and 1,000 health facilities destroyed in the floods.

The PDMA requested support from CDKN to integrate climate resiliency into their post-disaster reconstruction plans and efforts. We are helping the government prepare guidelines for constructing low-carbon and disaster-resilient houses, schools and health centres in the hazard zones of the Punjab. CDKN is also providing technical support to the government on enhancing the climate compatibility of model villages being built in the region.

Working with India's Ministry of Rural Development and state-level authorities, CDKN is enhancing the capacity of policy-makers, building experts and developers to shift the focus of construction policy and

practice towards resource efficiency and disaster resilience.

## **MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN LATIN AMERICA**

CDKN has developed strategies to support two flagship cities in the region – Cartagena and Quito – in integrating adaptation and vulnerability factors into their land use plans. In addition, CDKN supports the national government of Colombia in its development of an inter-institutional, multi-sectoral analysis of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change for the agricultural sector in the Upper Cauca River Basin.

In El Salvador, CDKN will provide evidence-based quality information on five key sectors to help decision-makers identify priority actions for disaster risk management within the new national climate change strategy.

In response to demand from the Ministers of Environment of Chile and Peru, CDKN will support low-carbon development planning through the Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios (MAPS) process, ensuring stakeholder participation and inter-institutional coordination.

# Supporting climate negotiators from Least Developed Countries

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

CDKN's vision is that international climate change processes and agreements should reflect and respond to the positions and challenges articulated by the world's least developed and most vulnerable countries. We are working to help leaders and negotiating representatives of these countries to become informed, active, networked and influential actors in the international climate change negotiations. Only when they have a strong voice and can bring their influence to this international stage will more robust, progressive and equitable outcomes be possible for all parties.

In support of this goal, CDKN

- provides legal and technical support to inform national policy and negotiation positions
- facilitates training and capacity building to negotiations teams
- supports Least Developed Countries' meaningful participation in international talks and key meetings
- improves negotiators' access to information around emerging key issues.

## **RAISING LDC NEGOTIATORS' VOICES**

The Least Developed Country Group of negotiators at the UN climate change talks asked CDKN to procure services from key international experts to help facilitate the Group's participation in the negotiations. Support from the climate window of the Advocacy Fund in the form of legal and technical briefing papers will enable the Group to plan more effectively, resulting in improved engagement and a stronger contribution to the negotiation process in advance of the UNFCCC meeting in Durban.

***“Developing an international climate change framework that serves the needs of the poorest, most vulnerable countries is in everyone’s interest. Not only is it right to enable all countries to represent their interests properly in the UN climate talks, but in this globalised economy, what affects one region or set of countries will affect us all. Any global deal that represents diverse interests will be the stronger for it.”***

**SAM BICKERSTETH,  
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For access to recent policy papers, news, upcoming events, business opportunities, our roster of experts register, project information and contacts, visit [www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org).

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