

Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN

Green future beckons for Kenya

In an exclusive interview with CDKN, Stephen King'uyu of the Government of Kenya shares his optimism—and some of the challenges—for making Kenya's economy more climate compatible.

Is Kenya's future green? That's the hope for Stephen King'uyu and many of his compatriots as they draw breath at the end of an intensive, year-long consultation to develop Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan. Mr King'uyu's team, which reports to the Kenyan Cabinet, ran "a thorough consultation, involving government, non-state actors like the private sector and civil society organisations," he said. Their mission was to identify priority climate change action for the short, medium and long term. CDKN and other donors have supported the process.

Mr King'uyu, the Action Plan coordinator, sees the long consultation as essential for helping to create a common understanding among diverse national groups of how climate change could impact Kenya's development. It has also created a shared sense of how green growth could catapult Kenya toward its dream of being a highly competitive, middle income country by 2030.

When it comes to implementing the Plan, everyone will have a role to play. Mr King'uyu said: "The government does not want to pretend that it has all the solutions and that it can play all the roles to address climate change. The government's idea is to provide an enabling environment, knowing very well that most of the investment will be done by the private sector. We have played a 'midwifing' role." The Plan is currently being validated by ministries and stakeholder groups and should be launched by March 2013.

The Plan covers most sectors of the economy, and contains practical, well-researched options for Kenya's next steps. Take the energy sector alone: whose greenhouse gas emissions are currently growing faster than those of any other sector. The Plan suggests that geothermal power resources, which Kenya has in abundance, could be far more extensively exploited to increase energy access and drive industrial growth, without harmful emissions. Kenya also has excellent bioenergy, solar, wind and hydro resources for the supply of electricity. Meanwhile, there is vast potential to use biomass from Kenya's dwindling forests more efficiently in improved cookstoves, and to provide home lighting through alternative clean technologies. In other words, the menu of climate compatible development options—which improve human lives and livelihoods and curb emissions—is a promising one, if investment can be mobilised to support it.

Once the Plan is validated by government and non-government representatives, and approved by the Cabinet, Mr King'uyu's attention will be squarely on how to make Kenya the low carbon climate resilient investment destination of choice. "To align the preferences of investors with national priorities has been one of the challenges, and that is why the country wants to put mechanisms in place so that it becomes an attractive place for investors both within and outside the country."



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Helping developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development

Can we build climate consensus?

In October, CDKN and PwC hosted an event 'Is international consensus on climate change the way to save the planet?', which placed seven leading thinkers before a panel of judges to pitch their big ideas on how to catalyse ambitious, collective action on climate change.

Each speaker had just three minutes to share their idea. They explored: the structure of UNFCCC negotiating groups and the Convention's voting rules; the representation of diverse peoples and interests on UNFCCC delegations; the role for national climate legislation; the role of other international instruments and forums outside the UNFCCC; and the need for social movements to drive change.

Sam Bickersteth, Chief Executive of CDKN, concluded that there is no 'silver bullet', but all ideas could be pursued in parallel. To view text and films of the event and have your say, visit www.cdkn.org/climateconsensus.

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Climate information exchange

CDKN's Innovation Fund has supported an initiative in eastern Kenya to bridge the information gap between climate scientists and those who most need to make use of the science: agriculturists in disaster-prone districts. The knowledge exchange by Humanitarian Futures Programme (HFP), Christian Aid, Christian Community Services Mount Kenya East and the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) has been undertaken as a 12 month pilot. It shows great promise for similar projects in the future.

The project enables scientists to learn more about what kind of weather information farming communities want—and it helps users to better understand how to apply the range of scientific information available.

For the people of Mbeere, a semi-arid district in Kenya, knowing what the weather will be like in the coming week, month, and season can protect lives and livelihoods. Samuel Mwangi of the Kenya Meteorological Department said: "this area is ravaged by very variable weather in terms of seasonable rains. One time they have good rains, the next time they don't have good rains. This variability really effects people's ability to cope. Weather and climate information are key to people's livelihoods."



With access to the right information, farmers are empowered to plan for current climate variability and future changes. Ernest Mutari Ndwiga, a farmers' group representative, said: "we need it to be broken down a bit so that we can digest [the information] and come up with a solution."

Milcah Muthoni Mjue, another farmers' representative, said: "Now we can predict what type of food is good to plant, what variety [of seed] and when to do this. We can get something and all work together. The weather changes and we change our activities."

"Meeting the farmers' needs requires an integrated approach," says Emma Visman of HFP. The Kenya workshop required input from—among others—meteorological, agricultural, livestock, and market price experts.

"Communities working on climate change—environmentalists, humanitarian NGOs, disaster risk reduction experts and scientists—have tended to work exclusively in their silos. HFP and its partners are working at community level in Kenya, to bring together science and humanitarian policymakers to develop an effective dialogue which enables the user to ask the right question of the scientist and the scientist to provide information which is understandable and may make the difference between survival or disaster," says Emma.

The exchanges are showing signs of sustainability: a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed among the KMD, Christian Aid and other project partners which ensures that seasonal, monthly and weekly forecasts are provided to farmers groups in MBeere. The KMD has expressed a strong interest in scaling up this process to other parts of Kenya.

The lasting impact will take long to assess, but there are already signs of early impact. A seasonal forecast provided through the exchange projected that the rainy season would begin early. In response, farmers either planted early maturing crop varieties or used agricultural techniques that provided resilience against an early end to the season's rains.

Regional LEDS partnerships take off

The Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS) Global Partnership, is a group of developing country and donor representatives dedicated to sharing practical experience on low carbon development. Members of the global group have now created regional versions: the Asia and Latin America and Caribbean LEDS groups and the Africa Climate and Development Society met for the first time in October/November. Participants reviewed emerging initiatives in their regions, exchanged experiences with LEDS tools and processes, and explored sector challenges and financing. Read more on www.cdkn.org

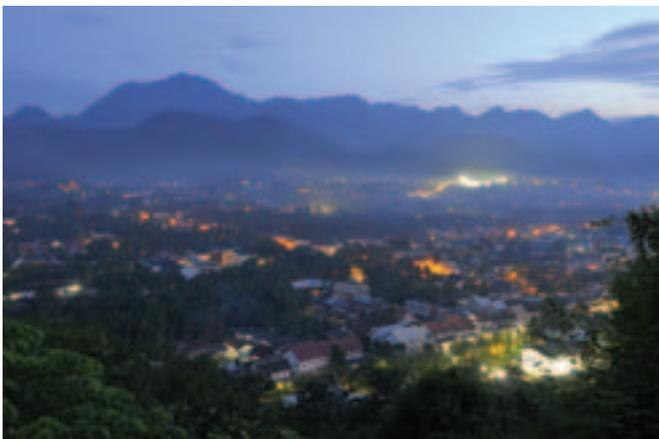
Integrating sustainable urban drainage, sanitation, biogas and food security

How can the capital of Lao PDR become a modern, vibrant and green city, where drainage networks are an integrated part of its climate compatible development? These are questions explored by CITYBLUES++, a project supported by CDKN's Innovation Fund.

Vientiane is at a juncture in deciding how it will deal with the serious impacts of its drainage water: wastewater causes pollution and health issues within the city as it is not properly treated, and its discharge damages aquatic ecosystems downstream.

CITYBLUES++ is a multi-stakeholder project delivered by Kristianstad University, Sweden and the Lao Institute for Renewable Energy (LIRE) in partnership with many Lao government agencies. It aims to research and provide options for delivering an integrated, sustainable solution to Vientiane's wastewater problem.

Over a series of workshops, stakeholders discussed the impacts of wastewater discharge—such as loss of fisheries productivity in surrounding rivers—and the potential for processing waste in modern facilities



that can capture biogas for energy use. It is hoped that biogas can be captured on a sufficient scale to generate carbon credits for sale, and so yield revenues to be ploughed back into the city's sustainable development. What's more, rather than relying on the current outdated infrastructure of septic tanks and slurry channels, improved infrastructure could capture slurry for use in agriculture, thus enhancing the region's food security prospects. Noanta Hormpathoum of the Department of Public Works and Transport said that: "the proposed approach fits well with Vientiane's policy to make the capital a clean, green city."

Jean O. Lacoursière of Kristianstad University said: "Over a decade of relationship building with practitioners and policymakers through previous research projects made clear to us that science is not the issue... ownership of the fact-finding process is critical to the acceptance of 'challenging' approaches. Partner agencies are involved every step of the way." Both the Vientiane Urban Development Administration Authority and the Department of Public Works and Transport have helped to convene stakeholders to debate and develop the resulting ideas and proposals. A dozen other line agencies with a stake in climate compatible development (commerce, health, tourism, energy and education sectors) have also become involved.

The project leaders aimed to achieve broad understanding and buy-in from a range of government agencies at city and national level for this integrated vision. Over three proposal development workshops and an intervening consultation process, they have now achieved this buy-in. The Governor of Vientiane Province, Soukan Mahalath, has issued a formal letter of support for a next phase and offered the municipal government's full cooperation. A technical proposal for the next phase has been prepared, and should result in the implementation of a full-scale pilot of the CITYBLUES++ concept on the upper reaches of Vientiane's drainage network. Please visit <http://www.cityblues.la/> for further details.

Lessons on 'loss and damage' inform global debates

As global society continues to emit high levels of greenhouse gases, and action to curb emissions is insufficient, the world faces increasingly frequent and intense weather hazards, and associated loss and damage. CDKN is supporting a consortium of organisations to work with the Government of Bangladesh and other Least Developed Countries to develop a response to climate-related loss and damage. Germanwatch, United Nations University-Institute for Environmental and Human Security (UNU-EHS), International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Munich Climate Insurance Initiative (MCII) are carrying out this work. At CoP18 in Doha, the partners are launching a range of reports on this hot topic, including a collection of case studies to show the reality of loss and damage on the ground. Visit www.cdkn.org or www.loss-and-damage.net for more.

Climate change should be squarely on Latin American policy agenda



There is a deficit in implementing public policies on climate change in Latin America, and the issue is marginal on politicians' agendas, according to Peru's Minister of Environment, Manuel Pulgar-Vidal, the keynote speaker at a regional forum organised by the Latin American Platform on Climate, Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano (FFLA) and CDKN in October.

According to Minister Pulgar-Vidal, it's vital to strengthen environmental institutions across the entire region, and to recognise that public policies are an "art of coherence and consensus seeking", which may often be achieved by small but significant steps.

Yolanda Kakabadse, former Environment Minister of Ecuador and CDKN Regional Director claimed that "if climate change policies are not regional and intersectoral, or if they are not negotiated among the different social

actors, they will not have the necessary impact on climate change."

The forum provided an opportunity for more than 40 high-level officials and experts to discuss the Platform's report "The status and quality of climate change and development policy in Latin America". The report compares how well ten countries of the region have developed and implemented climate-friendly agriculture and forest policy.

The report finds that there is lack of integration between climate and macroeconomic policies in the region, as well as with other sectors. This diminishes the potential of climate policies, as development policies often run in opposition to climate adaptation and mitigation goals. Several national reports indicate the weakness, or lack, of appropriate land use planning, which affects the achievement of climate policy objectives. Tensions and contradictions between policies for forest protection and those for agricultural promotion have created a crisis for several countries in the region. Politicians from most Latin American countries do not yet have pragmatic and well defined positions for the main subjects on the climate agenda.

CDKN's continuing programme in Latin America addresses these deficits and aims to build the capacity of decision-makers to design and deliver climate compatible development. Please find more details of the report on www.cdkn.org

A renewable energy pathway for Central America

An ambitious project in Central America seeks to reduce fossil fuel dependency and harness its abundant renewable energy sources, instead. The Worldwatch Institute and the INCAE Business School of Costa Rica are working with government and business leaders to transform Central America into a global leader in renewable energy development.

The region relies heavily on petroleum imports and unsustainable forms of large hydropower to meet its energy needs, but has huge potential to develop solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and small-scale hydropower.

The CDKN-supported project 'The Way Forward for Renewable Energy in Central America' has created a network of experts and has reviewed practices in the region. In September, the team convened decision-makers and energy experts from several countries to explore how to replicate renewable energy successes.

Adam Dolezal of Worldwatch said: "We have been amazed by the amount of leadership on renewable energy in the region. The effective administration and governance of such policies remains a significant barrier. Through this consultation, we have identified key areas where reform is needed."

Smart tagging tool will help users find climate and development information

The Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP) has created and launched a programme that automatically tags and categorises digital publications about climate adaptation and mitigation, thanks to CDKN support. The Application Programme Interface (API) makes it much easier for internet users to find the information they need, by smart-searching pdfs and other online documents for key words. Now the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will all use the API to tag and categorise their materials.

GUEST COLUMN

Keeping Anguilla's lights on—with clean power

PATI LEON OF CDKN AND BETH BARRY OF ANGUILLA RENEWABLE ENERGY INTEGRATION PROJECT (AREIP).

We are privileged to work on a project in Anguilla that is embracing both mitigation and no-regrets adaptation measures – real climate compatible development in action.

Anguilla is a small island developing state in the Caribbean where CDKN is supporting an important project to develop a climate compatible energy system. With abundant sunshine and consistent trade winds, this low-lying coral island has traditionally attracted many tourists, but is also vulnerable to climate impacts.

The global economic crisis that began in 2008 has reduced the number of tourists visiting Anguilla, and the accompanying earnings. At the same time, costs for imported oil, which fuels Anguilla's electricity grid, have soared. As a result of high electricity costs and an inability to pay, many homes have been disconnected and businesses have closed. The Government of Anguilla has faced an outcry from residential and commercial customers who want more sustainable alternatives to 'business as usual.'

"We had kerosene lamps and nothing else, growing up," said Desmond Gumbs, an older resident of the island. "I used to like to see a gas lamp glowing. Times changed and everyone could afford a gas lamp. Electricity came along and soon everyone had access. We've been able to live an affordable life within our means. Now there are a lot of people who can no longer afford access to electricity."

The Government is not only under economic and political pressure, it has also signed up to climate change commitments at home and abroad. Anguilla is a party to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)'s Implementation Plan for the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change (CARICOM IP), which was developed in 2010-11 with CDKN's support. Meanwhile, Anguilla's progressive National Energy Policy and Climate Change Policy both support a transition to renewable energy generation.

The Government set up the Anguilla Renewable Energy Integration Project to address the growing domestic energy crisis and meet the goals set out in Anguilla's national energy and climate change policies. The Project has been tasked with building a strong legislative and regulatory framework for the integration of renewable energy, requiring "gaps and deficiencies in existing legislation, policy and institutional



arrangements to be addressed...to ensure that the island is sufficiently able to manage the impacts and risks from Climate Change while transforming to [a] climate-resilient, energy-efficient, low carbon economy for present and future generations."

Through partnership with CDKN, the Government has received technical assistance from Castalia Strategic Advisors to address exactly these gaps. The advisory team has reviewed the country's legislation and regulations, identified renewable energy options, and developed a plan for integrating renewable energy.

The work has been highly consultative—as this is the only way to establish the best options and ensure public support. Two public consultation workshops for commercial and residential energy stakeholders were key elements of the project, and achieved high levels of attendance and participation. Local press releases and newsletter updates fostered public interest and involvement.

As a result, several renewable energy options have been identified that would cost less than electricity generated with diesel. These options are: solar photovoltaic (PV) energy at a large and a small scale; large-scale wind power; waste-based energy; and solar water heaters. Based on stakeholders' inputs, the team has built a plan for integrating the most viable options in the short term—solar water heating and large and small scale solar PV—in a way that would allow Government to address the key community concerns. The main concerns are: the sustainability of the local electrical utility; the potential increase of costs for customers who cannot afford to invest in distributed renewable energy generation; the potential instability of the 15MW grid if 'too much' renewable energy is connected; and the prohibitive cost of electricity in Anguilla today.

As a result of the consultations and technical analysis, a specific set of recommendations on how to modify the legal framework to allow for renewable energy integration will go before the Anguilla Parliament for debate and approval in early 2013. Soon after, the joint public-private utility is expected to complete a tender process to install utility-scale solar PV.

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 e-newsletter and Roster of Experts on www.cdkn.org

Rwanda film in the spotlight

CDKN worked with the Environmental Education Media Project (EEMP) to produce a film on Rwanda's climate challenges and its vision for a climate-resilient, low carbon development. Entitled *Rwanda: Emerging in a changing in climate*, the film was directed and produced by John D Liu. Thanks to EEMP's broad distribution networks, the film has now been viewed by hundreds of millions of people worldwide. It has formed part of the *What if we change?* television series broadcast by Citizen TV in 12 African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia. The film has been versioned for TV broadcast in Chinese and Korean,

which will potentially bring it to hundreds of millions of viewers.

The film has been shown at an international seminar on Forest and Landscape Restoration and has been featured on a number of websites and blogs including the Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange. View short and long versions of the film, in English, French and Kinyarwanda, on www.youtube.com/cdknetwork



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Dashboard

July—September 2012

- CDKN's Roster of Experts: experts from 140 countries worldwide
- Number of new contracts initiated this quarter: 38
- Unique visitors to the website (monthly average): 9,100
- Percentage of website visitors from developing countries: 52%
- Number of newsletter subscribers: 4,748

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In the next issue:

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- Tackling climate vulnerability in a world heritage site
- And more...