

News from CDKN: Designing Climate Finance Roadmaps

CDKN has launched an exciting new partnership with GIZ in South East Asia to support Governments to access and use climate finance. Funding to support a Government’s priority climate change actions has many sources – national, international, private etc. But identifying these funding opportunities is only a small part of the story. There are often complex requirements and conditions to accessing or attracting climate finance, and carefully designed institutions and regulations are needed to manage and use funding transparently and effectively.

Piloting in Indonesia and Viet Nam, the partners involved in the project will be assessing current capacity, and opportunities, and identifying priority finance development options. The output will be a roadmap of prioritised climate finance activities to shape the national climate finance architecture. The partnership of CDKN and GIZ in this endeavour will ensure that the learning and outputs from this process reaches a wide and varied audience.

Highlights of Recent Impact

- CDKN is breaking down barriers between the gatekeepers of our news, the editors, and the journalists wanting to write stories about climate change. As part of [a Panos fellowship](#), editors and journalists from South Asia collectively decided in a workshop in August how to **increase the quality and quantity of climate change coverage**.

As Dilrukshi Handunnetti, Editor, Ceylon Today, Sri Lanka said: “Bringing together editors and reporters to one interactive forum is a brave thing to do; as gaps exist between the two groups which do not get addressed in the routine humdrum of functioning. So sitting them down together will help better understanding of each other’s constraints. There was palpable tension when the retreat began, which reduced significantly with time.”

- Vientiane, the capital of Lao PDR, is now on track to become a **modern, green city with a sustainable and integrated wastewater system**. A CDKN research project being led by Kristianstad University, Sweden and the Lao Institute for Renewable Energy (LIRE) has designed, in partnership with the authorities, a solution to its current problem of untreated sewage causing pollution and health problems. The Governor of the city is now committed to supporting a full scale pilot of the system on the upper reaches of Vientiane’s drainage network.

How we provide support in Asia

Promote cross-country research, technical assistance and knowledge sharing on climate compatible development, learning lessons locally to scale up nationally and regionally.

Selection of CDKN Partners in Asia and the Pacific:



Strengthening Regional Research Networks

“The relationship with CDKN has been profoundly positive for SUMERNET from a financial and technical perspective to date....It is hoped that research of the high quality expected by CDKN may lead to a deepening of this relationship.”

“The overall research programme has evolved over time to be genuinely demand driven and competitively determined.”

Excerpts from SUMERNET’s Mid-Term Review, 2012



CDKN funded research under SUMERNET programme (with lead partner)

Sustainable urban tourism through low carbon initiatives; Experiences from Hue & Chiang Mai (Asian Institute of Technology (AIT))

Climate change implications to food security & livelihoods of small scale farmers (University of the Philippines Los Banos)

Participatory Social Return on Investment (PSROI): Mekong Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Costing Project (International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT))

Communicating water related climate change risks to improve local adaptation in the deltas of the Mekong Region (Asian Management & Development Institute (AMBI), Viet Nam)

Research on integrating community based participatory carbon measurement & monitoring with satellite remote sensing & GIS in an MRV system for REDD+ & agroforestry carbon forestation activities (Viet Nam Forestry University (VFU))



CDKN-SUMERNET Research partners at a 3-day write shop in Oct 2012.

Story of Change:

CDKN is strengthening the evidence base for climate compatible development across the region. But rather than just funding one-off research projects, CDKN is also making sure this research is of high quality, relevant, and crucially, used.

One example of this is in the Mekong Sub-region, where a partnership with the Supporting Mekong Research Network (SUMERNET) is resulting in new research collaboration and policy engagement in the region.

CDKN is supporting under this programme 5 consortiums of research partners to collect new evidence, and work with local policy-makers in 5 countries (see opposite). This research in itself is providing new insights and evidence in the key planning areas of urbanisation, energy, food security and livelihoods.

However, the partnership with SUMERNET is making sure this research goes beyond localised changes. Firstly, the programme is strengthening the researchers’ capacity to write-up and disseminate their research, to ensure it is not only accessible to the target audience but reaches a wide audience. Secondly, the research teams are interacting with each other, sharing learning and exchanging ideas and best practices. This cross-country collaboration is resulting in new relationships and partnerships.

CDKN’s support of SUMERNET is breathing new life into the network. For example, it is developing a new expertise in engaging institutions and Governments at the sub-national and local level. This is the level where most of the CDKN supported research is having influence, and SUMERNET is learning how to translate research into action at this level.

Snapshot of CDKN projects in the region

Strengthening the engagement of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) in the UNFCCC negotiations – Nov 2011 – Nov 2014

After a year of CDKN support, delivered by Independent Diplomat, the confidence and capacity of the RMI Government officials has grown significantly. It has stepped up to play a prominent role within the AOSIS, leading on mitigation issues. The country has also become an example for others in developing and now implementing a 'New Climate Diplomacy Strategy' as an integrated part of its foreign policy. Over the next year, CDKN expects the country to increase further its voice and visibility in the negotiations.

Building delivery at scale in Partners for Resilience – Jan 2012 – Jan 2015

The first iteration of the 'Minimum Standards for local climate-smart DRR: Enabling integration of local capacities into national climate adaptation strategies' and an associated policy brief has been published. (See first page).

These standards are not just aspirations. The group of 40 practitioners and policy-makers that developed this first draft during a workshop in Indonesia achieved consensus on what constitutes a minimum standard and what each can commit to following. They will now be applied and tested with policy-partners, and further iterations will be published over the course of the project.

Fieldwork and workshops have also taken place in Indonesia and the Philippines on developing new games for enhanced decision-making. An expert games developer spent 20 days in the field to introduce the concept and value of using games with PfR local partners. He was also able to pilot games, and observe and account for more subjective cultural behaviours, as well as get ideas for new games.



"I loved the game, the discussion, and the energy. I want to replicate this game for my constituents."

Vice-Mayor of Saint Bernard, Southern Leyte, Philippines after playing the PfR Game 'Diverting Disasters'.



PfR workshops to develop and test enhanced decision-making games with local partners in Indonesia and Philippines.

Sustainable urban tourism through low carbon initiatives – July 2011 – Sept 2013

The research team, led by AIT is working with the municipalities of thriving urban centres – Hue (Viet Nam) and Chiang Mai (Thailand) cities – to prepare low carbon development strategies for the urban tourism sector, and create green jobs in the process.

Progress is happening on various tracks. Chiang Mai municipality completed a Bilan Carbon Analysis for the locality using tourism data for 2011. A similar carbon analysis is underway in the second study city, Hue in Viet Nam.

Research work on income generation and job creation in the tourism sector has also been completed in both cities. This included city municipalities, researchers, and other stakeholders collectively identifying and prioritising GHG mitigation and green jobs creation options for the target cities.

The cross-country nature of the project is also facilitating valuable city-to-city learning visits, which have also been arranged under the study.

CDKN Inside Story on Climate Compatible Development: Distributing the benefits from REDD+, the case of Viet Nam

Viet Nam has a rich history of benefit distribution systems for decentralised forest management. This experience is being used to help build a benefit distribution system that will be compliant with the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme being developed under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Participating in international capacity building programmes is also helping to design an effective system.

As part of a CDKN series on 'Inside Stories on Climate Compatible Development, a new brief highlights key lessons learned from the Vietnamese experience, outlines the process of preparing such a system in the country, and lists the challenges that remain.

Viet Nam's benefit distribution system will comply with the new REDD+ requirements and raise sensitive human and indigenous rights issues that will be addressed partly through free, prior informed consent. However, issues of carbon, land and forest tenure remain. Providing local communities with a meaningful role in the benefit distribution system preparatory process is vital for safeguarding social and economic benefits for local and indigenous communities.

Viet Nam's experiences in planning for a REDD+ compliant benefit distribution system provide the following lessons:

- Be open to addressing sensitive governance issues.
- Learn from existing benefit distribution systems.
- Funding mechanisms must be flexible and transparent.
- Adapt the system to local needs through pilot programmes.
- Make free, prior and informed consent more effective.
- Safeguard benefits for communities.

Viet Nam's experiences hold broader implications for other countries including the need for communities to have sufficient legal status and rights to participate independently and effectively in REDD+ contracts and the carbon market, the need for a decentralised institutional structure and clear legal status for communities, the need to keep REDD+ funds separate from general government revenues, and the benefits of linking payments to performance by using a formula to assess the actual and potential carbon stock of local forests and to measure progress towards REDD+ social and environmental objectives.

Read the full brief at www.cdkn.org. Other 'Inside Stories' in the region include, 'Mainstreaming climate resilience into Government – the Philippines Climate Change Act' and 'A new direction in climate compatible development – Indonesia's forest moratorium'.

What is the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)?

CDKN is an alliance of six private and non-governmental organisations operating across four continents. The network provides support to decision makers in developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management, in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors.

For further information please visit our website www.cdkn.org or e-mail us at asia@cdkn.org

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