

Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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Climate and Development
Knowledge Network

CDKN helps decision-makers to design and deliver climate-compatible development by combining research and advisory services and knowledge-sharing.

CDKN launches IPCC report on climate-related disasters

In November 2011, the IPCC released a policy summary of 'Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation' also known as the SREX summary. CDKN co-sponsored a launch event in London on the 24th November, chaired by Tom Mitchell, co-author of the report and CDKN adviser. The event proved to be one of ODI's most watched and accessed events of the year, with the online video of the event proving to be extremely popular. CDKN is working with the IPCC and other partners to organise a series of seven regional launch events in Asia, Africa and LAC during April and May to highlight the findings of the full SREX report (due out in March 2012) to policy makers and other stakeholders. These events will be a key part of CDKN's emerging thematic work on climate-related disaster risk reduction.

INSIDE »

- CDKN at CoP17: sharing knowledge on climate compatible development
- Building resilience in Cartagena, Colombia
- Rwanda: Emerging in a changing climate
- Climate vulnerable nations speak out

Building climate resilience in South Asia

PAKISTAN'S POST-FLOOD RECONSTRUCTION

In 2010, Pakistan's Punjab province experienced catastrophic floods. Twenty million people were negatively affected. Since then, the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has been replacing houses, schools, health centres and other community infrastructure that were destroyed. CDKN has appointed Mott MacDonald to assist the provincial government in making these replacement villages more resilient to extreme weather in the future.

Ghulam Haider of Model Village Meeran Mullah, has benefited directly from the scheme. He said, "We are thankful to the Government who provided us our well constructed shelter and all other facilities. We think that if the flood comes again than hopefully the extreme damages will not occur". Fahim Khan, the project's deputy team leader, said, "The Model Village Programmes have great value if the design criteria ensure that both the inhabitants are informed and equipped to maintain these properties, and if future climatic risks to these communities are taken into account". The Government of Punjab proposes to develop more such villages across the region, to showcase best practice.



Organised by the Humanitarian Futures Programme, the project is delivered by Senegal's National Meteorological Agency and Reading University (UK). The project "came at the right moment", said Dr Mariane Diop, Head of Forecasting at the National Meteorological Agency; "The groundnut basin is a particularly vulnerable area to weather-related disasters. Rural communities are trying to cope with negative impacts of climate vulnerability, and we wanted to help the community". The project got underway in July 2011 with training workshops for rural communities and Red Cross volunteers on how to understand weather forecast data – including the concept of uncertainty. An SMS message-relay system was launched in three villages.

Between July and September, the project transmitted warnings of extreme weather events, 3-6 hours, 24 hours, 48 hours, 72 hours and a week in advance. Very short-term forecasts proved to be life-savers. "Where they [the villagers] live, they have deep ravines and the runoff fills the ravines", said Mariane. "It is important for them to know if rain coming because adults and children can fall into the ravines and drown."

Saving lives and livelihoods in Senegal:

EARLY WARNING EARLY ACTION PROJECT

CDKN is supporting Senegal's weather forecasting agency to use SMS messaging to alert local communities to forthcoming weather events. The project targets the country's groundnut basin, where groundnuts are grown as a major agricultural export.



An evaluation in late 2011 yielded lessons that will lead to improvements this year. These include translating the early warning messages from French to local languages to reach more local people, and equipping villagers with solar power chargers for their mobile phones, to keep their batteries charged. Project volunteers have also identified community spaces such as mosques where villagers agree to post warning information regularly.

Building resilience in Cartagena, Colombia

“Adaptation in Cartagena is a massive challenge”, reports Pati Leon, CDKN project manager. CDKN is working closely with this Colombian city to develop its vulnerability study and adaptation guidelines. “As my colleague and I travelled from one meeting to the next, we can see that sea level rise is not a projected risk, it is a current one”, said Pati. “At high tide, the ocean reaches the main transport artery of the city. A mild rain makes the drainage system overflow. Regardless, new construction and infrastructure projects continue to be built, just a few metres away from the coastline”.

CDKN is partnering with INVEMAR to review and update a vulnerability assessment for the city, which was first completed in 2008. The project’s hard work to reach out to public and private sectors generated very good attendance at consultation workshops on the vulnerability study, in late 2011. During the workshops, participants actively identified ideas for adaptation guidelines and projects. CDKN supported a member of Mexico’s agency for water, CONAGUA, to take part in the knowledge exchange. Representatives of Colombia’s national government say that Cartagena’s Adaptation Plan will generate important lessons and experience to feed into the National Adaptation Policy.

By law, local authorities have to submit a Land Use Zoning Plan for approval by Regional Environmental Administrations.

CDKN supported the Cartagena city administration to integrate climate change considerations and the findings of the vulnerability study into their Plan. The Land Use Plan directly influences land use permits granted in Cartagena, and therefore has the potential to regulate new private and public development in areas that have been identified as flooding zones. The Plan is still being refined and will be resubmitted for government approval next year.

LDCs central to Durban outcome

The Least Developing Country (LDC) negotiators in the UNFCCC talks played a central role in shaping the Durban Platform for Action at CoP17. Pa Ousman Jarju of The Gambia, the group’s Chairman, attributes this influence and new-found confidence, in part, to CDKN’s support.

LDCs have found it difficult to navigate the complex maze of UNFCCC negotiations. It’s been a challenge for LDCs to prepare for the sessions, obtain strong, impartial analysis of what’s on the table, and defend the interests of the world’s most vulnerable peoples.

In the run-up to CoP17 and in Durban, CDKN provided Pa Ousman with technical and legal advice on key issues (via our Negotiations Support programme, the climate window of DFID’s Advocacy Fund). An important contributor was Achala Chandani of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), who provided regular briefings to Pa Ousman and the LDC Group.

Pa Ousman said, “I was part of all the high-level meetings and was called by the CoP President twice to ensure that there was an outcome acceptable to LDCs during the final AWG plenaries (Editor’s note: the ‘Ad Hoc Working Group’ is one of the main negotiation streams). This is the first time we have been recognised as one of the key brokers in the UNFCCC negotiations and

Making the links between agriculture and climate change

CDKN is supporting the Meridian Institute to facilitate dialogue among developing country leaders on agriculture-climate links and produce high quality briefing materials. At CoP17, Meridian launched a policy brief exploring trade-offs and synergies among food security, adaptation and mitigation. The team distributed the brief widely and held in-person briefings with many Northern and Southern delegations. They convened an informal donor dialogue to explore topics of interest.

The policy brief was based on a longer report, ‘Agriculture and climate change’. A diverse audience of high-level policymakers and NGO representatives thanked Meridian for this easily accessible, condensed version. In 2012, Meridian will continue to support dialogue among government officials interested in climate and agriculture negotiations and intends to publish a report on best practices taken by forward-looking countries to link agriculture, adaptation and mitigation. Governments will make a formal decision on how to integrate agriculture into the UNFCCC at CoP18.



Climate resilient development in India

In India, CDKN has engaged Development Alternatives to work with state governments in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh to integrate climate compatibility into public housing and infrastructure development. Shailesh Kr. Agrawal, Executive Director of the Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council, 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.”

we are proud to be associated with it. This would not have been possible without the support of Achala and her team”.

Pa Ousman reported that “the group of 48 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) left Durban in December with mixed feelings of satisfaction and concern” (read his full blog on www.cdkn.org). He cites as key achievements in Durban: the decisions to operationalise the Adaptation Committee; progress on enabling LDCs to develop and implement national adaptation plans; and the adoption of the governing instrument of the Green Climate Fund.

LDCs are most concerned about governments’ failure to establish global commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The current mitigation pledges would place humanity on a path of global temperature rise of 3 to 4 °C above pre-industrial levels, this century. The greatest priority for 2012, says Pa Ousman, is for developed countries to commit to, and deliver on, adequate emissions reductions targets. CDKN will support the LDC Group in the negotiations in 2012.

CDKN at CoP17:

SHARING KNOWLEDGE ON CLIMATE COMPATIBLE DEVELOPMENT

CDKN sent a delegation to CoP17 in Durban to support knowledge-sharing on climate compatible development. CDKN staff spoke at and organised more than a dozen side events on our focal themes: national climate compatible development strategies and plans, disaster risk reduction, and access to climate finance. These included side events with the governments of Kenya and Rwanda on CDKN-supported national climate change strategies, and an event with the Government of Bangladesh on compensation for the most climate-affected countries under an international Loss and Damage Mechanism. Please see video highlights of the events on our website, www.cdkn.org.

CDKN launched the first policy briefs in the series ‘Inside Stories in Climate Compatible Development’ in collaboration with authors from the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL), International Development Law Organisation (IDLO) and World Resources Institute (WRI). The series was initiated in response to policy makers’ demand for lessons learned from climate compatible development experience in other countries.

Winifred K. Masiko, a former member of the Ugandan Parliament, commended CDKN on producing literature that was “really easy to read”. The briefing papers are all available on the CDKN website.

Rwanda: Emerging in a changing climate

Rwanda has accomplished what few developing – or developed – countries have. In October 2011, Rwanda’s Cabinet approved a national Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy. The strategy outlines climate impacts and proposes how adaptation and mitigation actions can be integrated across all sectors of the economy. It was developed over nine months as a collaborative effort among the Government of Rwanda, the Smith School of Enterprise and Environment (SSEE), DFID and CDKN. A steering committee including cabinet ministers provided oversight and direction to the team, and hundreds of stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society, academia and development partners were consulted.

It was an ambitious undertaking for a Least Developed Country. As President Kagame said, “If it can happen in Rwanda, it can happen anywhere”. Now Rwanda is seeking further international support to bring its aspirations for climate compatible development to reality.



Climate vulnerable nations speak out

The Climate Vulnerable Forum is a global partnership of leaders of countries most vulnerable to climate change. They are “actively seeking a firm and urgent resolution to climate change” (<http://daraint.org/cvf/>). The Climate Vulnerable Forum was founded by President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives and first met in November 2009.

CDKN supported the Forum’s meeting in Bangladesh in November 2011. Ministers of 19 climate vulnerable countries and UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon came together, facilitated by DARA International. The Forum produced a declaration for UNFCCC CoP17, calling for: “a comprehensive legally-binding global agreement capable of fully attaining the objective of the UNFCCC”. Further, the signatories resolved “to demonstrate moral leadership by committing to a low-carbon development path on a voluntary basis within the limitations of our respective capabilities”.

CDKN facilitated a special side event on vulnerability and the related issue of loss and damage at CoP17; see videos and blogs about the event on www.cdkn.org

CDKN publishes partner survey results

CDKN is pleased to release the findings of our annual survey of partners, which you can find in full on our website. The survey was distributed to members of CDKN’s Roster of Experts, Action Lab participants, and subscribers to CDKN’s newsletter. Findings include:

- 88 percent of respondents said CDKN publications were good or excellent; more than 80 percent said the website was good or excellent;
- Three quarters of respondents said CDKN was effective at facilitating partnerships among organisations.

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. It does this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge-sharing in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. CDKN works in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally. CDKN is managed by an alliance of organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience: PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, SouthSouthNorth, LEAD International, LEAD Pakistan and INTRAC.

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

John D Liu and the Environmental Education Media Project have produced a documentary film of Rwanda's experiences, entitled 'Rwanda: Emerging in a Changing Climate', with support from CDKN. The 25-minute film was launched to widespread interest at CoP17, where many African delegates said they wanted to learn about Rwanda's approach. Find the long version of the film, as well shorter versions, on CDKN's youtube channel (www.youtube.com/cdknetwork).

Latest on CDKN Innovation Funding

CDKN provides funding for innovative approaches to climate compatible development. In April 2011, CDKN held an Action Lab, a collaborative workshop to generate project ideas. CDKN is supporting several projects that developed at the Action Lab, including:

- Achieving triple wins: Identifying climate-smart investment strategies for the coastal zone

- A Green Guide: Aligning political and social contexts for green and inclusive growth
- Land use policy optimisation in Vietnam
- Promoting climate change adaptation policies in north-eastern Brazil

For a full list of supported projects, please visit our website.

Taking the core idea of support for innovative thinking and innovative action, we created a formal, competitive funding mechanism called the CDKN Innovation Fund. This mechanism provides two levels of support: Stage 1 focuses on the development of ideas into game-changing project proposals ready for funding (by CDKN or external sources); and Stage 2 focuses on supporting high-quality research proposals. The first application round of this formal fund was held in October 2011; a list of awarded projects will be posted on our website shortly.



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Dashboard

October to December 2011

- CDKN-supported policy change: 24 countries to date
- Website unique monthly visitors (quarterly average): 6,000
- Website unique monthly visits (quarterly average): 11,000
- CDKN's Roster of Experts: experts from 140 countries worldwide
- Total number of projects initiated this quarter: 36

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In the next issue:

- *Low Emissions Development partnership*
- *Knowledge management in Nepal*
- *Building resilience in Quito, Ecuador*
- *Loss and Damage*