

# Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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

## World Economic Forum welcomes CDKN guide to 'Tackling Exposure'

Business leaders and governments must wake up to the growing economic losses imposed by disasters, especially climate-related disasters. That's the message of a hard-hitting new CDKN report, *Tackling exposure: placing disaster risk management at the heart of national economic and fiscal policy*, by Tom Mitchell, Reinhard Mechler and Katie Harris. The report details a range of economic tools that are being trialled worldwide to avert and manage these risks.

*Tackling Exposure* received a warm welcome from delegates at the World Economic Forum (WEF) Africa meeting in Addis Ababa in May, where government and business leaders were receptive to the report's stark messages. BBC World Service radio interviewed author Tom Mitchell and broadcast the piece several times during the meetings.

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## Raising the voice of Mountain Governments

The Government of Nepal wants to become a world leader in highlighting the special needs and interests of mountain regions in a changing climate – and CDKN is supporting the Government to achieve this goal. Mountains are a vital source of energy, food and water for billions of people. But climate change is affecting mountains disproportionately, making both ecosystems and people's livelihoods in these regions more vulnerable.

With CDKN support, the Integrated Development Society (IDS) Nepal is working with the Government to engage more effectively with the UNFCCC negotiations and to get Nepal's interests and mountain issues better integrated in the outcomes. Mr Krishna Gyawali, secretary of the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Government of Nepal, said: 'Nepal's participation at COP17 has created an opportunity to enhance the capacity of individual delegates, team performance, and leadership development for future COPs, contributing, ultimately, to building and enriching the country's capacity as a whole.'

In April 2012, the Government organised an 'International Conference of Mountain Countries on Climate Change', with CDKN support. Participants from 25 countries shared experiences and ideas for how to

highlight mountain issues internationally. The resulting Kathmandu Call for Action delivered a strong message, calling for a dedicated funding arrangement within the UNFCCC for mountain regions, incentives for conserving mountain ecosystem services, and recognition of the role of local traditional knowledge.

The Government's leadership was rewarded in May 2012 when they were elected as Chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group within the UNFCCC for 2013–14. This is a great opportunity for Nepal to use its new skills and confidence to promote an ambitious international agreement.

*Visit [www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org) to read about a four-month trek along the Great Himalaya Trail in Nepal, led by the world recordholding mountaineer Apa Sherpa and in partnership with the Government of Nepal, to raise awareness of climate compatible development.*



## GUEST COLUMN

## Protecting farmers' livelihoods in Colombia

**CLAUDIA MARTINEZ, CDKN COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT LEADER, COLOMBIA**

Colombia has much at stake in a changing climate, including its coffee, cocoa and other agriculture exports, which are popular among consumers all over the world. CDKN is managing a leading programme to brace Colombians for climate-related disasters, seize new opportunities in the agriculture sector, and support poor farmers' livelihoods in a changing climate.

The upper basin of the Magdalena River, known as the Alto Cauca region, yields millions of dollars' worth of agricultural exports every year. The agricultural industry provides jobs for thousands of Colombian farmers and labourers.

In 2010–11, heavy rainfall associated with La Niña swelled the Magdalena River, destroying crops, infrastructure and homes across the basin. Economic losses totalled 2% of Colombia's gross domestic product. Colombia's so-called 'winter emergency' affected more than 1.9 million people and wiped out more than 280,000 homes. Although this was a one-off weather event, the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) expects climate change to bring more climate extremes to Latin America during the 21<sup>st</sup> century (see [www.cdkn.org/srex](http://www.cdkn.org/srex) for more information).

It is always poor people who suffer the most from climate change, so we are looking at ways to reduce risks for them and make their futures more secure.



CDKN is supporting the development of a methodology in the Alto Cauca that uses a sophisticated variety of indicators to assess rural people's vulnerability to extreme events. The methodology has great potential for being replicated elsewhere.

It is not just extreme weather that could affect the livelihoods of Colombian farmers. Average temperatures in the Alto Cauca are projected to creep gradually upwards in the coming decades. There is a real question as to whether the Alto Cauca will retain the cool, moist conditions needed for growing coffee.

Fitting the scientific parts of the puzzle – which crops are likely to thrive in which zones? – with the socioeconomic parts – how can even the poorest households plan for change? – is the task for CDKN and its partner institutions: the Centre for International Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CENICAFE (National Institute of Coffee Research), the Universidad del Cauca, the Universidad del Valle, and the Instituto de Hidrología, Meteorología y Estudios Ambientales (IDEAM). Together, we are combining climatic, agronomic and socioeconomic approaches to create roadmaps for the Alto Cauca's future.

### Loss and damage programme builds momentum

Momentum is building in CDKN's project with the Government of Bangladesh to develop a Work Programme for presentation at COP18 that addresses losses and damages associated with climate change impacts. This will then be used as a model for other LDCs to replicate.

A series of formal and informal meetings have taken place to allow Bangladesh and other LDCs to clarify their common position on loss and damage.

At an expert meeting on the issue, convened by the UNFCCC in Tokyo, Japan, in March 2012, the space for debate allowed the group to collectively look at the big questions around loss and damage: How do we quantify the problem? What form might a mechanism take? Who is eligible? What is the interface with adaptation finance? And how do we cope with moral hazard?

### Sustainable energy for West Africa – that's climate resilient

Energy specialists HELIO International, with support from CDKN, have been assessing how Togo and Cameroon's national energy plans could be made more climate resilient. In April, HELIO convened policy-makers from these countries to discuss what energy security means for them in a changing climate. For example, they discussed how to develop renewable energy technologies that will not be vulnerable to damage by weather extremes such as droughts and storms.



### Progress in joining up climate and development initiatives online

The Climate Knowledge Brokers group recently reconvened in Bonn, Germany, for their second annual workshop, with support from CDKN and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The group aims to exchange information on what different user groups want from online climate and development information, and how to better meet these needs. At this year's workshop, the group quizzed participants in the UNFCCC meetings on their information needs, brainstormed on more ways to join up climate and development websites to improve the user experience, and discussed the challenges of communicating climate uncertainty.

## Agencies increase joint working on low emissions development

Many governments and multilateral agencies are coordinating climate finance efforts and sharing best practices to promote low emissions growth. This provides good news, even as a comprehensive global climate deal remains far away.

Participants at the Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS) Global Partnership 'Collaboration in Action' event, held in March 2012 near London, UK, demonstrated this spirit of joint working. More than 125 representatives from developed and developing country governments, multilateral agencies and think tanks took part. The event was convened by members of the LEDS Global Partnership, including CDKN, the World Bank, the US and UK governments, the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UNEP, UNDP and the World Resources Institute.

The workshop generated an impressive list of commitments, available to read at [http://en.openei.org/wiki/LEDS\\_Collaboration\\_in\\_Action\\_Workshop](http://en.openei.org/wiki/LEDS_Collaboration_in_Action_Workshop)

Among the highlights were the formation of the African Low Carbon Development Society to develop climate resilient, low carbon growth models and tools for Africa. Discussions began for similar working groups in Asia and Latin America, and by sector (such as transport).

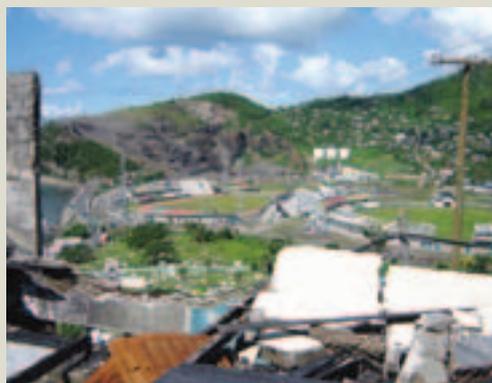
Ron Benioff, of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, said: 'There is a clear need for learning and exchange across

countries on low emissions development. Some learning can happen at the global level, but regional and sector approaches are needed to drive action and accommodate diverse country circumstances. The LEDS Global Partnership is about peer learning, about sharing approach, tools, successes and failures.'

Sam Bickersteth, CDKN's Chief Executive, said: 'It is important that the LEDS Global Partnership builds on lessons emerging from countries such as Chile, Costa Rica and Kenya, whose experiences we heard at the workshop. Like-minded governments such as these can catalyse action in other parts of the world.'

## Growing awareness on climate disaster risk

In March 2012, the IPCC launched its full *Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* (SREX). The SREX report issues a stark wake-up call to decision-makers in all walks of life to prepare for all forms of disaster – and particularly for climate-related disasters – in the years ahead.



## New framework launched: Integrating climate resilience into water investment and planning

In an effort to address the twin challenges of water security and climate change, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) launched the Strategic Framework for Water Security and Climate Resilient Development on 14 May 2012, during the '4<sup>th</sup> Africa Water Week' in Cairo, Egypt.

Supported by CDKN and to be implemented by the Global Water Partnership, the Framework was developed by AMCOW to help senior professionals and decision-makers to identify and develop 'no or low regret' investment strategies, integrate these into planning processes, and influence future development activities so that they are more resilient to climate change and variability.

Mrs Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission, called the Framework 'a key milestone towards the attainment of the Africa Water Vision 2025 of equity and sustainability in the use and management of water resources for poverty alleviation, socioeconomic development, regional cooperation, and the environment'.

Visit [www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org) to download the Framework and learn more news of this programme, and to keep up to date on new developments.

## Inspiring Inside Story from Niger

CDKN is publishing a series of case studies to reveal the critical factors that make for successful policies and programmes in climate compatible development. Our *Inside Story* on the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration programme in Niger helped inspire the Ministry of Agriculture in neighbouring Nigeria to learn more about this programme and the possibilities for replication.

**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](http://www.cdkn.org)**

CDKN and the Overseas Development Institute have teamed up with the IPCC and the Government of Norway to organise outreach events for policy-makers, business leaders, academics, civil society organisations and journalists to debate the Special Report's findings and next steps.

The event series began in Cuba in April 2012, and then continued in China, Ethiopia, India, Senegal and Thailand. A further outreach event is planned in August in Brazil.

CDKN has helped facilitate discussions by distributing its own *Lessons from SREX* guides, which distil the 500-page global IPCC report into short regional summaries (see [www.cdkn.org/srex](http://www.cdkn.org/srex)).

The event series has been warmly received, generating a cascade of requests from other countries to host similar outreach events. For example, CDKN will organise

an event in Pakistan to meet the high demand there.

Meanwhile, CDKN's *Lessons from SREX* guides and corresponding video interviews have been widely picked up by news websites and online portals. Given the response to these regional guides to SREX, CDKN has now commissioned *Lessons from SREX* guides for specific sectors, including agriculture and health.



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## Dashboard

### January – March 2012

- CDKN's Roster of Experts: experts from 140 countries worldwide
- Number of new projects initiated this quarter: 144
- Unique visitors to the website (monthly average): 8100
- Percentage of website visitors from Southern countries: 43–46%
- Number of newsletter subscribers: 3800

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### In the next issue:

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- *Climate compatible development: the Rio connection*
- *Building climate resilience around Lake Victoria*