

Pro-poor, low carbon development: Improving low-carbon energy access and development benefits in LDCs

CDKN Project Code RSGL 0024b

Project [webpage](#)

Project duration: May 2012 – April 2014

Project value: £500,000

A partnership between the African Technology Policy Studies Network in Kenya and the University of Sussex in the UK (including the STEPS Centre, Sussex Energy Group and Tyndall Centre), this project is funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (an initiative which is in turn funded by the UK Department for International Development, DFID). It aims to inform the development of Climate Innovation Centres in various developing countries by analysing the history of, and actors involved in, the adoption of solar home systems in Kenya. The objective is to improve the ability of policy to facilitate the transfer and uptake of low carbon technologies in developing countries, and to do so in ways that can assist in their economic development. Especially challenging but of critical importance to this economic development, the project aims to identify ways in which low carbon technologies can benefit poor people by improving access to modern energy services. The project brings to bear innovative theory which builds on the STEPS Centre's Pathways Approach to bridge relevant insights from academic literature in the fields of both innovation studies and socio-technical transitions.

For more information see the project webpage http://steps-centre.org/project/low_carbon_development/ or contact Dr David Ockwell d.g.ockwell@sussex.ac.uk.

Project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr David Ockwell (co-PI), Department of Geography, University of Sussex, UK – also an affiliate of the Sussex Energy Group and the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research • Dr Kevin Urama (co-PI), African Technology Policy Studies Network, Kenya • Dr Rob Byrne and Prof Jim Watson, SPRU (Science and Technology Policy Research), University of Sussex, UK - also affiliates of the STEPS Centre, Sussex Energy Group and Tyndall Centre • Dr Nicholas Ozor and Dr. Kelali Adhana Tekle, African Technology Policy Studies Network, Kenya
Key project impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High value project in CDKN's research portfolio, at £500K. • Good potential for strong contribution to theory and practice around the transfer and uptake of pro-poor, low carbon technologies in developing countries. Policy impact is expected to be high, particularly in Kenya, but also with wider geographical relevance. • High number, quality and diversity of outputs, including academic and policy oriented outputs.
Fit within CDKN's portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project fits within the Energy cluster, a sub cluster of the broader Climate Compatible Development theme.
Research impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project will build upon and bridge academic thinking in the fields of innovation studies and socio-technical transitions. It is expected to make a valuable contribution to theory on how widespread access to low carbon energy technology can be achieved in developing countries. • Large set of high calibre outputs. This includes 3 peer-reviewed academic journal articles; two focusing on theoretical developments and one on the design of low carbon innovation centres. The results of the project will be presented at two academic seminars and conferences.
Thought leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is an innovative and policy oriented research project that builds on the combined experience of experts in the project team. • Theoretical developments, described under Research impact above.

Policy interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant policy interactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The project responds directly to demand from the Kenyan Government and broader policy demand. The scope of work goes beyond Kenya to replication in other country contexts and with other technologies. ○ Ensuring policy impact and influence is central to the project. In particular, the project will inform the design of centre-based approaches for facilitating the transfer and uptake of low carbon energy technologies in developing countries. These approaches include the various emerging Climate Innovation Centres initiatives and the proposed Climate Technology Centre and Network under the UNFCCC. ○ The project has been designed around an integrated process of stakeholder engagement and communication to maximise policy impact, and features a wide-reaching programme of dissemination activities. Many of these deliverables are policy oriented – a full list of deliverables can be found below.
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sussex University partners provide the theoretical academic background on this projects; the ATPS partners hold equal responsibility and financial resources in this project, with positive capacity building implications for researchers at ATPS. Positive capacity building opportunities also exist for Sussex in learning from ATPS's extensive contacts and on the ground experience. This will be supported by visits by ATPS researchers to the UK and vice versa. • Close engagement with decision makers and other key stakeholders throughout the project, providing multiple opportunities for stakeholders to inform the project's development, learn from its findings and to provide critical insights on the uptake of SHSs in Kenya.
Deliverables to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project runs from April 2012 to March 2014. To date, the project has delivered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A short, non-technical Briefing about the project, its aims, rationale and approach, available here. ○ A project webpage hosted by the STEPS Centre. ○ Media coverage on TV and Radio in Kenya ○ A range of presentations at academic and policy conferences, workshops and seminars ○ A newsletter (via the Tyndall Centre and STEPS Centre) with more than 2,000 subscribers to date ○ The Institute of Development Studies is running a front page news piece on the project.
Deliverables expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A wide range of deliverables will be produced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eight newsletters detailing progress, to be circulated across policy, practitioner, and other specialist audiences. ○ Six policy briefing notes targeting policy makers and other specialist audiences. Three will eventually be produced in Swahili (to be decided), to ensure accessibility for relevant policy audiences. ○ Four press releases, leveraging the policy briefing notes and seminars to gain press coverage both in Kenya and internationally. ○ Three peer reviewed journal articles: two focusing on the project's theoretical developments and one on the design of Low Carbon Innovation Centres. ○ Three project reports communicating findings with policy makers, expert practitioners and the broader interested public. ○ Seven seminars targeting policy makers and other stakeholders in the UK and Kenya to raise awareness and seek inputs. ○ Presentation of findings at two policy conferences: Sussex Energy Group's stand at the UNFCCC COP and presentations at COP. ○ Presentation at two academic conferences. ○ Two academic seminars will be held at other universities as a form of peer review and dissemination of research findings. ○ One workshop in Kenya bringing stakeholders with knowledge of technology involved in SHSs, policy makers and broader stakeholders with interests in climate change, energy and poverty reduction.
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