

Understanding the fiscal regulatory mechanisms necessary to achieve CCD in the coastal zone (iCoast)

CDKN Project Code RSGL 0024d

Project duration: April 2012 – March 2014

Project value: £ 427,704

Coastal ecosystems play a fundamental role in providing services for the survival and development of individuals, communities and states. Yet, their increasing degradation and high vulnerability tend to be overlooked, challenging the capacity of countries in coastal areas (and particularly developing ones) to cope with climate change. Carbon markets, social carbon, biodiversity premiums and other PES schemes have created new opportunities for achieving “triple wins”: climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development. However, there remains scant evidence of the fiscal and regulatory mechanisms required to deliver the incentives and governance conditions for leveraging CCD in coastal zones through emerging PES markets. The iCoast project attempts to address these gaps and challenges, with a view to decrease environmental degradation while providing economic benefits especially to the most vulnerable communities. Focusing on the two case studies of Kenya and Sri Lanka, the iCoast project has five main objectives:

1. To undertake evidentiary analysis of the social, cultural, political, economic and environmental barriers to CCD implementation in coastal zones;
2. To carry out an economic valuation of mangrove ecosystem services and a financial and economic cost-benefit analysis of different scenarios, incorporating a distributional element;
3. To identify the fiscal and regulatory mechanisms necessary to achieve CCD in the coastal zones of Kenya and Sri Lanka under different market scenarios;
4. To map the value of coastal landscapes and their potential to support CCD highlighting priority areas for attention in the short, medium and long-term national strategies.
5. To improve understanding and engagement in terms of the role coastal ecosystems can play in CCD in developing countries.

Project partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Napier University (Prof. Mark Huxham) • Ruhuna University, Sri Lanka (Prof. Loku Jayatissa) • Kenya Marine Fisheries Research Institute (Dr. James Kairo) • LTS International (Lesley King) • Birmingham University (Dr. Fiona Nunan)
Key project impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-country context: the iCoast project interestingly focuses on two very diverse countries (Kenya and Sri Lanka), which nevertheless face similar climate-related challenges. The project’s outcomes, therefore, bear the potential to inform international thinking on how to achieve climate compatible development also in other coastal zones. • Strong emphasis on local ownership and leadership of the project: the approach proposed by the iCoast project avoids viewing research outcomes as a ‘blueprint’ developed by ‘outsiders’, and is developed in close collaboration with researchers in

	<p>Kenya and Sri Lanka.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High value (£374,950)
Fit within CDKN's portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The iCoast project perfectly fits into CDKN's thematic and cluster focus on climate compatible development. Its analysis of coastal zones in Kenya and Sri Lanka, in addition, makes it a potentially fundamental part of the cluster on coasts.
Research impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed intention to connect researchers and policy makers throughout the research process, by involving the groups that are most knowledgeable about CCD, as well as those that are most influential in achieving policy changes in Kenya and Sri Lanka (e.g. the government, research and private sector). • Well-developed Communications Strategy (not only dissemination of research products to a passive audience) consisting of a mix of communication mechanisms, such as: workshops and face-to-face communication with local stakeholders, policy briefs and technical reports to policy makers, social networking, blogs and press releases, and peer-reviewed scientific articles to wider audiences.
Thought leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-disciplinary research bringing together social science, ecology, economics, and policy development.
Policy interactions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenyan Government institution as co-leader; • Integration and interaction with other national and sub-national programmes; • Strong sense of local ownership of both the research and its outcomes, allowing the project to be fully responsive to the political situation in both countries.
Capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • iCoast is made up of five groups, each with their own areas of expertise and knowledge. The delivery of the project will draw upon the skills and expertise of each partner to generate new knowledge and understanding of how to achieve CCD in the coastal zone. • iCoast emphasises the need for the work to be driven and owned by researchers in Kenya and Sri Lanka rather than an approach developed by 'outsiders'.
Deliverables to date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project runs from June 2012 – June 2014. The iCoast Inception workshop has taken place on 18th-22nd June 2012 (proceedings available) and policy workshops are taking place in November in both Kenya and Sri Lanka. The initial Communications Plan has been drafted and a one-pager of the project been produced for external dissemination.
Deliverables expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals; • Four policy briefs; • A minimum of three technical reports (for each case study); • Three small-scale workshops in both Kenya and Sri Lanka; • Presentations at a minimum of two international conferences.
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