

# Global



CDKN global staff and partners in the subnational and urban learning programme



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Kiran Sura  
Head of Negotiations  
Support

The Paris Agreement frames future economic development pathways for the least developed and most climate vulnerable countries as an element of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Critically, it will increase the flow of additional public and private finance for vulnerable countries for both low-carbon and climate resilient investments.



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Annabel Kalmar  
Chief Operations Officer

CDKN's team has the unique abilities to listen, build relationships of trust and respond flexibly and adaptively to needs, and be an honest and independent convener. We aim to co-create and share expert knowledge in a tailored, strategic way that is relevant to shaping policy, while helping Southern partners to increase their capabilities for the long term.



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Virginie Le Masson  
Gender Advisor

CDKN is committed to social inclusion and gender equality in its programme. Our research on *10 things to know: Gender equality and achieving climate goals* provides the evidence that gender-sensitive approaches are critical to delivering effective and sustainable climate solutions.



Learning exchange,  
geothermal power  
plant, Peru

## Building capability

CDKN combines technical assistance, research, knowledge networks, and support for international climate negotiators to deliver practical solutions to meet the needs of developing countries.

In 2015–2016, in response to requests from the governments of developing countries, CDKN has targeted its assistance particularly at the interface of the global climate negotiations and countries' national plans for increasing ambition on climate action. This work continues into 2016–2017 as we support countries to translate their Paris commitments into action.

You can read in the following pages about how we supported countries to prepare their climate plans – the Intended Nationally Determined

Contributions (INDCs) – in the run-up to the Paris summit. We complemented this by providing climate negotiation training for 986 delegates during the year.

Building deep-rooted capabilities in developing countries to deliver climate compatible development is a central pillar of the Paris Agreement. Capability building is not just for officials in government. It is also needed for students and young scientists, technical institutions and development agencies. In the following pages, we describe CDKN's important projects to support university curriculum development, professional training and peer support networks, which enhance the capabilities of emerging climate leaders across dozens of developing countries.

## Providing technical support for countries' climate pledges: INDCs

The 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Lima launched a process for countries to declare their national climate plans or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). The Lima Call to Action urged developed countries, and developing countries 'in a position to do so', to pledge climate mitigation actions from 2020 onwards. This required countries to assess the feasibility of different scenarios to avoid emissions, map which actions they could finance themselves, and which ones would require international funding. Many countries, especially those vulnerable to impacts of climate change, also made pledges on adaptation. The national exercises involved both political negotiation and technical work.

CDKN provided technical assistance for INDC preparation in ten countries: Bangladesh, Colombia, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Kenya, Pakistan, Peru, Pakistan, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and Uganda. In Peru and Bangladesh, we supported the production of economic growth and emissions projections, and mitigation options. In other countries we supported a range of activities: from supplying technical experts in Uganda and Kenya to economy-wide stakeholder engagement processes in The Gambia.

This work strengthened the foundations for drafting INDCs, and also for future climate compatible development policies more generally.

The interaction of the global framework and these national processes offered an unprecedented learning opportunity for staff in CDKN's focal countries. CDKN set up a working group with the project managers and senior experts from all nine focal countries and our international experts to share challenges and approaches – yielding useful comparative insights for everyone. CDKN, together with Ricardo Energy & Environment, co-produced a 'Guide to INDCs' for least developed countries and small-island developing states, which was issued first in draft form and circulated widely to climate negotiators, then in a refined version in English, French and Spanish. Our public affairs team organised multilingual webinars and outreach activities. The guidance, which is published on the UNFCCC's own INDC portal, remains one of our most popular publications to date. We carried out a learning exercise to reflect on how countries could improve their INDC planning processes, and these lessons will be important for future rounds of international commitments.



Closing Ceremony of COP21, Paris, 12 December 2015

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## Advancing a climate change curriculum for universities

Southern Africa is home to several centres of specialised knowledge in climate change research, across many disciplines. However, this knowledge is often found in 'silos' – in single disciplines and institutions – and does not effectively support public policy.

Seven universities from five southern African countries, led by the University of Cape Town and supported by CDKN, are working collaboratively to develop a master's curriculum on climate change and sustainable development for the Southern African Regional Universities Association (SARUA). The final master's programme aims to be a springboard for students and lecturers to produce policy-relevant, transdisciplinary research on climate compatible development. Collaborating in

the curriculum development process has allowed university lecturers and researchers to learn across disciplines and from different institutions.

The course aims to produce students who will either progress to PhD level or go on to work in public policy.

The consortium has created a total of seven modules, which have been reviewed by experts and will be supported by open access resources, to be used in universities across southern Africa. A curriculum innovation working group is working hard to get these endorsed by vice chancellors and deputy vice-chancellors throughout the region, while the SARUA curriculum innovation network (SCIN) provides for the active participation of over 200 individuals in the region.



Adult education

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## Promoting gender equality boosts climate compatible development

Although climate change and poverty are increasingly recognised as interlinked global problems, responses from governments and development agencies often focus on their scientific and economic dimensions only. Women's views, needs and participation are frequently excluded from climate change and development initiatives. Women are often perceived as victims, with little consideration for the contribution and leadership they could provide in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

A CDKN-commissioned research study by Practical Action Consulting, with the Institute of Development Studies and ODI, highlights the advantages and challenges of pursuing climate compatible development from a gender perspective, drawing on evidence from projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The field work focused particularly on cities, where there are less data than in rural areas.

Comparing three case studies in Gorakhpur (India), Ancash and Cajamarca (Peru), and Kisumu (Kenya), the report *10 things to know: Gender equality and achieving climate goals* and three related country reports document the experiences of men and women living in cities affected by climate change.

The study finds that the potential to combat climate change is lost when women lack a say in climate programmes. Women and men do not have the same priorities. For example, the India report shows that in families where women play a role in deciding what to do with their income, the money is spent on education, health and food. On the other hand, in all focus group discussions, participants agreed that men typically spend money on alcohol and food.

With mounting pressure on designing and implementing effective climate action following opening for signature of the Paris Climate Agreement, the authors call for more involvement by those who are primarily affected by the impacts of climate change. Tackling gender inequalities is crucial to ensuring the relevance and sustainability of climate action.

CDKN, together with researchers from Practical Action Consulting and others, produced the

*10 Things to Know* overview report, as well as eight associated technical reports and policy briefs. CDKN devised and delivered a public affairs, media and digital outreach campaign to promote uptake of the findings. We held a live-streamed panel event with a full-capacity crowd in the UK, plus viewers from more than 33 countries, who watched and commented online.

***“Had women not participated actively, the project outcomes would have been considerably less, maybe around 10–20% of what was achieved. It is largely because of women that the project has been sustainable so far, as well as effective in resilience building.”***

**Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group study team**



Community members, Gorakhpur

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