

Weaving knowledge and action on climate change

Impacts from CDKN's Knowledge Accelerator, 2018-2021



JUNE 2021



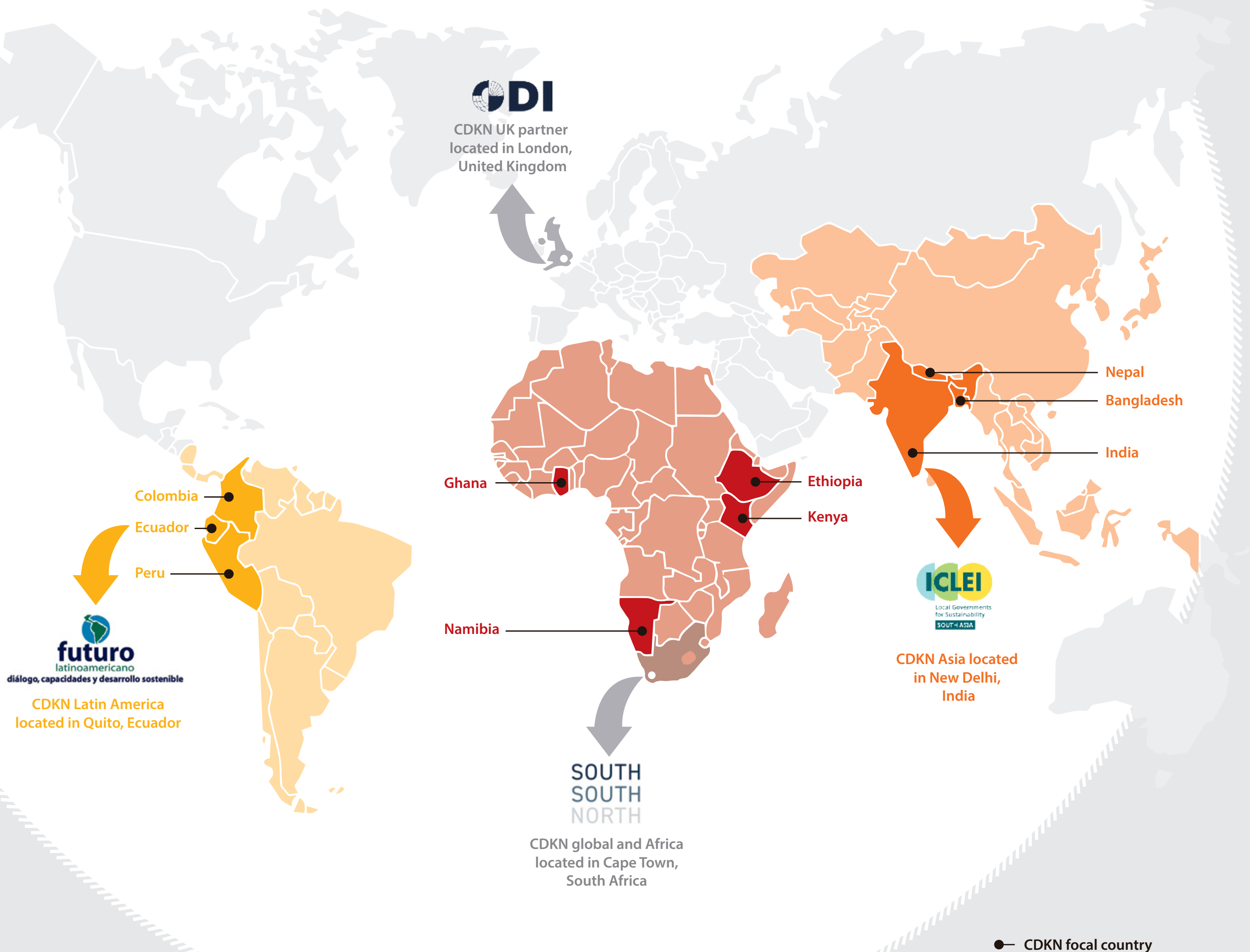
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Netherlands



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International Development Research Centre
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Canada

Who we are and where we work





Peruvian fisherman © SPDA

A note from the CDKN Director

In June 2018, CDKN launched a second phase, building on the wealth of experience and learning gathered through ten years of advancing climate-compatible development in developing countries.

This new phase of CDKN saw a radical shift in leadership to an alliance of non-profit organisations based entirely in the global South.

Early on we recognised the urgent need for countries to access relevant knowledge tailored to their context for policy design and implementation on climate change. And so, we've focussed on growing our 'knowledge-into-action' services, as well as further cultivating climate leadership, learning and collaboration within and across developing countries.

This brochure showcases some of our main achievements over the last three years. It has been a tumultuous period for us all navigating the Covid-19 pandemic. The climate crisis continues and the experiences shared here demonstrate how climate champions from across government, civil society, academia and the private sector have continued to forge climate solutions in the face of tremendous odds.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our funders, Canada's International Development Research Centre and the Royal Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who have helped us to adapt to our new global reality. This support has enabled CDKN to thrive and deliver multiple outcomes with our partners in grassroots communities, cities, countries, across regions and globally.

CDKN invites existing and new partners to join us on this journey, to continue to deepen our impact into 2022 and beyond. We have all learned many lessons from Covid-19. Perhaps the most significant is that in a global emergency, collaboration is the only way forward.

We look forward to hearing from you, and working together in the transition to a more resilient and more prosperous future for all.

With warmest regards,

Shehnaaz Moosa
Director, CDKN

Our mission

CDKN works to enhance the quality of life for the poorest and most vulnerable to climate change. We support decision-makers to design and deliver climate-compatible development.



Solar engineering student from Malawi, training in India. © UN Women



CDKN Knowledge Accelerator

Weaving knowledge and action
on climate change

**We tailor the wealth of
knowledge on climate
change to meet developing
country needs,
facilitate collaboration and
learning, and empower
climate leaders and
champions.**

Potato grower in Ecuador. © SPDA



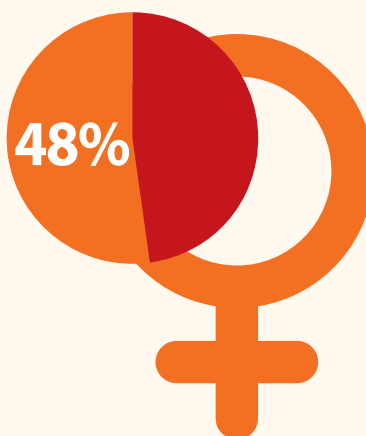
The CDKN team at the programme's mid-term reflection meeting in The Hague, October 2019. © CDKN

What is different about us?

- Southern-led knowledge brokers, who understand the context and needs of developing countries.
- On-the-ground local presence in nine focal countries, ensuring needs-driven and long-term interventions, in collaboration with local actors.
- Empowering local climate leaders to bring about change.
- Working in partnership with a range of actors in government, non-governmental and private sectors, at national, regional and global levels.
- A network of leading non-profit organisations with decades of climate and development experience.
- Combining knowledge, research and technical advisory services in support of locally-owned and managed policy and implementation processes.

CDKN in numbers: 2018-2021

160 events and 16 peer learning exchanges on climate change



8,854 people have attended CDKN events, 48% of them women

40+



projects have been implemented across **ten** countries in Africa, Asia and South America.

136

requests for knowledge & collaboration



18,666

Twitter followers

(4,704 Spanish and 13,962 English)



164,483

Facebook followers

(155,754 Spanish and 8,729 English)

376

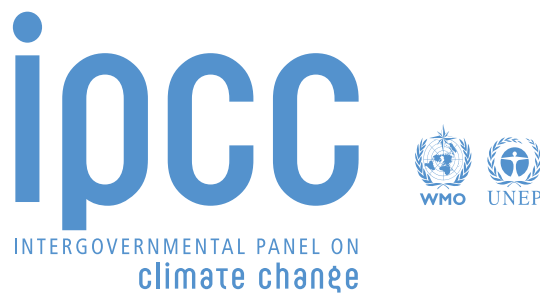
knowledge products, including publications, films, toolkits, animations and infographics



13,505

average monthly unique visits to the CDKN website

CDKN in partnership



Our headline impacts



The quality and accessibility of online climate knowledge is being enhanced **through Wikipedia**. 281 of Wikipedia's climate change articles are improved and more relevant to Africa and the global South, and 69 developing country experts are more skilled to contribute to the platform.



CDKN co-hosted the **2019 Global NDC Conference**. Bringing together 350 participants from 80 countries, the conference provided an important platform for sharing learning on NDC implementation. CDKN supported developing country gender experts to share their experiences, led on all live-blogging, and drafted the **conference statement**.



The latest scientific material from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been tailored and shared with African, Asian and Latin American audiences. In Latin America, CDKN's communications toolkits and explainer guides on the IPCC Special Reports on **Land** and the **Ocean and Cryosphere** were shared with 500 people at an **online event with the IPCC Working Group III** in April 2020.



CDKN partnered with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands to enhance engagement around the **Africa anchoring event** of the **Climate Adaptation Summit** (25-26 January 2021), which explored ways to accelerate adaptation action on the continent. CDKN invited leading African adaptation scientists and practitioners to provide their perspectives in a specially-commissioned series of **interviews and articles**. We also synthesised their insights into a **framing paper** highlighted on the **CAS website**,

a **short film** screened at the opening of the event, and a longer **film series**.



CDKN **trained UNFCCC Gender and Climate Change Focal Points** on effective communications and advocacy around the topics of climate and gender in mid-2020.



Gender issues are being mainstreamed across ministries and sectors in Ethiopia and Ecuador. This includes working with governments to establish gender and climate change committees, **train climate specialists and government officials on gender**, and co-develop gender mainstreaming toolkits and **training materials**.



Climate change is being **integrated into gender and rural development programming** in Namibia. The University of Namibia has strengthened the capacity of gender and rural development ministries to understand local and district-level vulnerability and better integrate climate issues into project portfolios.



Women and Afro-Peruvian organisations are being empowered to participate in Peru's national climate change policy-making. CDKN is collaborating with these organisations to develop road maps that will guide their effective participation in the country's multi-stakeholder climate commission. More than 60 women and 47 Afro-Peruvian organisations throughout the country have participated in the road-map process. The women formed a National Committee on Women and Climate Change.

Our headline impacts (continued)



Peer learning is contributing toward enhanced knowledge sharing on integrating gender and climate change considerations amongst gender specialists in Peru, Ecuador and Chile. Participants in environment ministries are more equipped to develop gender and climate change action plans inspired by **Peru's example**.



In Nepal, collaborative urban water governance is being strengthened in the cities of Dhulikhel and Dharan. The South Asian Institute of Advanced Studies has helped to further institutionalise **urban water forums** in municipal operations and integrate recommendations for more effective water management in Dhulikhel's water security plan.



In Latin America, **CDKN established a Climate Knowledge Hub (Clik Hub)** – a regional 'network of networks' to enhance knowledge for climate action and the collective impact of 19 Latin American networks. Together the Hub worked on delivering a regional **online climate change communications course** based on CDKN's popular **Communicating Climate Change** manual. The course was completed by 367 people and over 100 interesting project proposals were generated.



Gender-responsive and climate-smart agriculture technologies have been **successfully demonstrated** with the help of Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development in the villages of Gandaki Province of Nepal. These technologies are now adopted in the Chief Minister's Environment-Friendly Model Agriculture Village Programme for the province.



Peri-urban ecosystem concepts have been integrated into university course curricula in India through a partnership with the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group. India's National Institute of Disaster Management has developed **training modules** on peri-urban ecosystems and urban resilience that will be used in the official training of local governments.



Multiple **localised communications initiatives** were implemented through seed funding from the Clik Hub communications e-course: a **three-part T.V. series** called *Breathable* for children and teenagers who live in a highly-polluted area in Chile, a **video** campaign on good practices in fire management in rural Ecuador, **youth mobilisation** for climate action in Peru, scientists **bridging the gap** between science, gender and decision-making in Argentina, and an **inspiring documentary** on climate change, gender and rural realities in Colombia.



Collaboration and expertise is being strengthened amongst district-level officials in Ghana through **peer learning** on the role of peri-urban ecosystems in flood risk management.

CASE STUDIES OF IMPACT:

The global programme



Voices from the frontline of Covid-19

Learning from Covid-19 to enhance climate resilience

Covid-19 is causing and exacerbating inequalities and existing risks in marginalised communities across the globe. In response, CDKN is collaborating with the International Centre for Climate Change and Development and the Global Resilience Partnership to share learning from grassroots community practices in Asia and the Pacific, Africa and Latin America that foster more effective responses to future crises, and greater resilience.

What CDKN did

- Provided a platform for grassroots leaders and organisers to share their stories on the Covid-19 frontline, through interviews and web articles written by community organisations.
- Published 45 stories on www.cdkn.org and www.icccad.net, and shared through multiple online fora.



A semi-pro basketball player left his training to start an agribusiness in Keta, Ghana, to bolster community food security and women's and young people's employment of women and young people in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. © SEDLA Ghana

Impact



The series is shining a light on the leadership and capacities of communities, especially women, to respond to crises.



The stories have been shared widely through online channels, with over 26,000 views to date. A story on young people demonstrating initiative during Covid was published by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the **Race to Zero website**.



The initiative has given community leaders and organisers across the world direct access to global discussions, where they have presented at numerous global events including the **Resilience Dialogues**, **Climate-Red** and the **14th International Conference on Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change**.



Individuals from the Hijra community in Dhaka Bangladesh. The community has faced increased victimisation, exclusion and economic hardship during the Covid-19 pandemic. © President of Somporker Noya Setu (SNS)

Enhancing climate change information on Wikipedia

Why Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is a powerful tool to communicate climate knowledge. From December to 2019-2020, there were approximately **87 million views** of climate-related Wikipedia articles. However, those working in the climate change field often overlook Wikipedia as an outreach channel and knowledge source. This is why CDKN and Future Climate for Africa have been working with the Wikimedia Foundation to raise awareness of the opportunity Wikipedia provides to share robust, verified climate change information in the digital domain.

Wikipedia's vision is a "world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of human knowledge". However only about **20% of Wikipedia editors** are female, and only around **20% are from the global South**. It is critical that more female editors and editors from the global South contribute to achieve Wikipedia's vision and ensure the platform's information is pertinent and contextually-relevant for decision-makers.

What CDKN did

CDKN, the Future Climate for Africa programme and the Wikimedia Foundation collaborated to:

- Directly support climate change experts, especially women, from Africa and the global South to contribute to climate-related Wikipedia articles.
- Host Africa's first Wikipedia edit-a-thon on climate change to tackle the '**Africa gap**' in 2019.
- Produce a **guide on editing Wikipedia**, specifically targeted to climate change practitioners, researchers and communicators.

- Run a **digital awareness-raising campaign** to encourage the climate change community, most especially women and researchers from the global South, to contribute their expertise to the platform.
- Host a seven-day online edit-a-thon, **Wiki4Climate**, in 2020.

Impact



Enhanced quality and accessibility of climate information related to the global South

- 281 articles improved, 5 articles created, over 2,500 edits made.
- **34.8 million views** to date (June 2021) of articles edited at the Africa edit-a-thon.
- **14.6 million views** to date of articles edited at the Wiki4Climate event.
- Numerous improvements were made to climate-change related pages, including **Climate change in Africa, Climate change adaptation, Water in Africa, Climate change and agriculture**.
- The Wiki4Climate brand and hashtag will be used for future (even non-CDKN) Wikipedia climate change campaigns to increase awareness of Wikipedia in widening the reach of climate knowledge.



Increased confidence and skills among climate experts in the global South

- Over 69 new editors trained from the global South.
- An '**Africa task force**' created as a sub-group of the Wikipedia climate change project.



A more diverse community of climate editors

- At the Wiki4Climate event, 51% of participants were female and 72% were from the global South.
- At the Africa event, 30% of participants were female and 90% were from the global South.

Perspectives of a new Wikipedia editor

"Truth be told, I was nervous before editing and worried that I might end up worsening the quality of information on a page... Then I took the big leap keeping my apprehensions aside and started with topics which I was confident about... The sense of empowerment came from the thought that 'even I can make a contribution and it is so easy'. I also shared my glee on Twitter that it was thrilling to see the local evidence being shared on a global platform which was freely accessible, and thus empowering in itself."

From a **blog** by Sumana Banerjee, "What I learned from the Wiki4Climate edit-a-thon"



Researchers editing the Climate Change Adaptation Wikipedia article at Africa's first Wikipedia edit-a-thon on climate change, August 2019. © CDKN and FCFA

Making good science go viral – the IPCC initiative

Tailoring IPCC Special Reports for regional audiences

There is significant demand in CDKN focal countries for region-specific material and engagements on the science of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). CDKN's first phase had great success in creating communications' toolkits from IPCC reports to make them more relevant and accessible — generating tens of thousands views and downloads:

www.cdkn.org/ar5-toolkit

What CDKN did

CDKN synthesised +1,000 of pages of IPCC material to produce explainer guides and communications toolkits for African, Asian and Latin American audiences from the Special Reports on Land and the Ocean and Cryosphere:

www.cdkn.org/oceanreport

www.cdkn.org/landreport

The toolkits include infographics, presentations and images that are free to use and adapt. All materials were translated into French and Spanish for wider use.

CDKN hosted a range of regional outreach events:

- In Latin America, key messages and CDKN toolkits were shared with 500 people at an **online event** with the IPCC Working Group III in April 2020.
- In Africa, African IPCC authors presented key findings to over 100 researchers and practitioners at the **African Climate Risk Conference** in October 2019. CDKN also provided special training to 30 African journalists at this conference, where journalists could engage directly with IPCC authors and receive story guidance.

Impact



The Policy advisor for the Prime Minister of Dominica used parts of a CDKN opinion piece about the IPCC Ocean and Cryosphere report to prepare the Prime Minister's speech to the United Nations.



Both CDKN guides have been featured on the IPCC and UNFCCC websites, and numerous other online platforms.



The toolkits and reports together have generated over 6,500 views on the CDKN website alone and been used by many organisations to prepare presentations, train students and inform national reports.



Ann Wanjiru shares innovative work of the Mikoko Pamoja project in Kenya at the CDKN session on the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere at the African Climate Risks Conference in Addis Ababa in 2019. © IISD/ENB, Kiara Worth



CASE STUDIES OF IMPACT:

The South America programme

Fostering peer learning on gender and climate change in South America

An opportunity to mainstream gender into NDC implementation

Peru, Chile and Ecuador are developing implementation plans for their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) and have appointed gender specialists to mainstream the issue across all sectors. This is a complex process given the number of sectors involved, the many adaptation and mitigation measures and the need for effective monitoring. Some countries in South America are further ahead than others. Peru was the first country in South America to develop a **gender and climate change action plan** (2016) and has been integrating gender into its NDC and sector plans (2017-2021). Ecuador started developing a gender and climate change plan in 2019, and Chile has just embarked on this process.

What CDKN did

In 2019 CDKN facilitated peer learning amongst gender specialists based in environment ministries in Peru, Ecuador and Chile – recognising that it was the right moment to share approaches since each country was at a different stage in the planning process.

Through the exchange, the country more ahead in gender and climate change planning has been able to share learning and successes with those earlier on in the process, enabling those starting out to develop their plans more effectively.

Impact



Ecuador's gender specialist developed the gender and climate change action plan using the inputs from the peer exchange, and subsequent informal engagements with the gender specialists. Peru's and Ecuador's processes have informed Chile's, as Chile has just embarked upon the planning process.



The process has built relationships, with specialists continuing to share information informally, as new issues emerge in each of their national contexts.



In December 2019, the Peru and Ecuador gender specialists shared their experiences of inclusive climate policy and planning at an event hosted by Peru's Ministry of Environment and CDKN at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25).



Gender specialists from Peru and Ecuador share their experiences of inclusive climate policy and planning at a COP25 event hosted by Peru's Ministry of Environment and CDKN. © Michelle du Toit

Enhancing inclusivity in Peru's national climate change policy processes

Peru's integrated approach creates window for action

Peru's Ministry of Environment has adopted a cross-cutting approach for climate change management, which takes into account different genders, cultures and generations. The Ministry has also identified ten high priority interest groups to engage with through the National Commission on Climate Change, a multi-stakeholder forum.

What CDKN did

- Collaborated with organisations representing women, Afro-Peruvian groups and the youth to develop road maps that will guide their effective participation in the Commission.
- Worked with the Ministry to synthesise Peru's learning on integrating gender in the development of the country's Nationally Determined Contribution.
- Published a CDKN case study in **Spanish** and **English** authored by the gender specialist in Peru's Ministry of Environment, sharing the experience more widely.

Impact



Forty-seven Afro-Peruvian organisations across the country self-organised and put forward a climate agenda based on their contributions and needs. This led to the election of their representatives to the National Commission on Climate Change.



More than 60 women throughout the country participated in the road-map process and the women are now formally organised as the “National Committee on Women and Climate Change”.



The CDKN-supported synthesis of Peru's gender mainstreaming has been shared at **international** and regional events, and adopted by the Ministry as part of its series of **publications**.



Online consultations to engage women in Peru's climate change policy process, 2021.
© Peru's Ministry of Environment (MINAM)

A close-up photograph of a woman's hands and arms as she weaves on a traditional loom. She is wearing a white short-sleeved shirt. The loom is made of wood and has a large blue cloth draped over it. The woman's skin is dark and her hair is pulled back. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the loom and the workshop environment. There are some orange dashed lines overlaid on the image, possibly indicating a design or pattern.

CASE STUDIES OF IMPACT:

The Africa programme

Integrating climate into gender and rural development programming in Namibia

Namibia: In urgent need of climate action

The hot and dry country of Namibia is a climate change “hotspot” globally: a 2°C global increase will mean a 2.7°C increase in Namibia. Namibia has a national policy and action plan on climate change, as well as a Nationally Determined Contribution. Given Namibia’s vulnerability, implementing climate action is urgent.

What CDKN did

- Supported the University of Namibia to assist the Ministries of Gender and Rural Development to better integrate climate risks in their project portfolios. This has involved training officials to use the Vulnerability Risk Assessment tool to understand local and district-level vulnerability, and identify specific community and women-led projects to support in the Oshana region.
- With the Namibia project team, developed a range of communications materials in English and local languages, including a **documentary film**, to raise awareness about climate change impacts with regional council offices and Parliamentarians.

“I would like to thank you for the nice poster canvases the Oshana regional council received, particularly the office of the Hon Governor and Ongwediva Constituency. These posters are really contributing a lot to the region, as they are in the local language, and communities and Hon Councillors can understand them well. This information is also good for education, to our youth, etc. when they visit the regional offices in Constituencies.”

Ndapanda Kanime, Ministry of Environment, Namibia

Impact



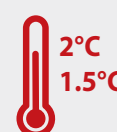
Through the Vulnerability Risk Assessment process, the government has identified one women’s group and two income-generating projects in Oshana and Omusati for financial and grant support.



An institutional platform is being established to enhance coordination on climate change and gender between regional departments, and between national and regional government.



Based on the success of the capacity building in Oshana and Omusati, the Environment Commissioner of Namibia has requested the process be scaled to the remaining 12 regions in the country.



An **animation** on the impacts of a 2°C increase for different regions, as well as adaptation responses, was presented to Parliament in June 2021. **Posters** on the impacts of a 1.5°C increase for Namibia are displayed in the Oshana regional council offices.



Regional leadership is increasingly engaged in the climate issue. For example, the Governor of the Oshana Regional Council requested CDKN support in producing awareness-raising slots on local radio stations.

Enhancing capacity on gender and climate change in Ethiopia

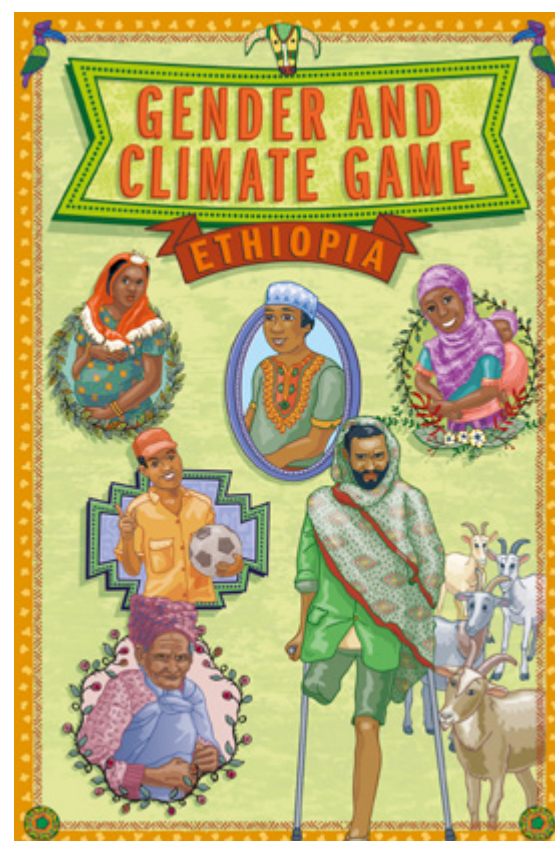
Gender equality: An increasingly prominent issue in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian government has been increasingly focussed on gender issues in recent years. Women currently fill half of the leadership roles in government, and gender units have been established within key ministries. The Ministry of Finance's Climate Resilient Green Economy facility is mandated to mainstream gender issues into climate change activities.

What CDKN did

- Produced a **scoping report** on how government bodies in Ethiopia are addressing gender issues in their climate change activities.
- Developed gender training materials in close collaboration with the gender expert from the Climate Resilient Green Economy facility. This **training toolkit** includes games, slide decks and case studies.
- Designed and produced an interactive, hand-illustrated **card game set** in a small fictional Ethiopian town. This can game can be used to role play how people from different backgrounds would feel when faced with climate hazards.

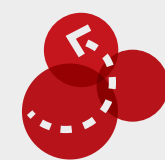
CDKN Ethiopian hand-illustrated card game set.



Impact



The Climate Resilient Green Economy facility has strengthened its relationship with the Ministry of Gender, Women and Youth.



With CDKN support, a national cross-sectoral community of practice has been established on gender and climate change. This involves multiple sectors across regional and national government including environment, finance, industry, agriculture, water and urban development and representatives from the gender, children, and youth affairs directorates.



The community of practice held its first official meeting in May 2021 to validate its terms of reference and develop a one-year action plan.

"It is important we coordinate between different sectors, directorates and development partners to ensure the integration of climate actions, gender equality and social inclusiveness. The Commission will continue to work with partners like CDKN to deliver these activities."

Opening remarks of Ato Negus Lema, General Director, Climate Change and Biodiversity Division of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Commission (EFCCC) at the first meeting of the Gender and Climate Change Community of Practice.

A close-up photograph of a woman's hands weaving on a traditional wooden loom. She is wearing multiple colorful bangles (red, yellow, and gold) and a ring. The background shows a blue and white patterned cloth. Overlaid on the image are several orange dashed lines that curve across the frame, adding a modern, graphic element to the traditional scene.

CASE STUDIES OF IMPACT:

The Asia programme

Enhancing collaborative water management in Nepal

The need for inclusive water governance

There is growing contestation over water in Nepal's rapidly urbanising cities. Over six years the Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies has conducted **extensive action research** on local water governance. This has involved working with local municipalities including Dhulikhel and Dharan to establish water forums (called pani chautaris) that bring together diverse stakeholders to resolve water disputes collaboratively. The Dhulikhel and Dharan municipalities have started to officially use these water forums in the management of their water resources.

What CDKN did

CDKN supported the Institute as an influential local knowledge broker to further institutionalise inclusive water governance by:

- Running more water forums in **Dhulikhel** and Dharan specifically focussed on gender issues, and bringing water forums to a new town: **Bidur**.
- Developing a **water forum toolkit** to support local leaders to run their own forums.
- Running online sessions to exchange experiences between Australian and Nepalese urban water management experts.

Impact



The Institute's on-going technical and research support in combination with the toolkit assists Dhulikhel and Dharan to further institutionalise the water forums.



Local government officials from Dhulikhel have included recommendations on collaborative water management in their water security plan based on discussions in the water forums.



The mayor of Dhulikhel plans to establish a Water Council to manage upstream and downstream issues related to water resource management.



Dhulikhel municipality has allocated budget from municipal funds in 2020 to carry out some activities of the water security plan.



Dhulikhel Water Forum, held outside in 2021 due to Covid-19. © Kaustuv R Neupane

Enhancing understanding of peri-urban ecosystems and urban resilience in Gorakhpur, India

Peri-urban ecosystems under threat

In India, peri-urban ecosystems play a crucial role in urban resilience. Despite this, peri-urban areas are under constant threat due to the lack of appropriate policies, urban encroachment, weak governance mechanisms, and limited understanding of their important contribution to urban resilience.

What CDKN did

CDKN supported the Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group as an influential local knowledge broker to:

- Assess knowledge needs and capacity gaps on linkages between peri-urban ecosystems and urban resilience.
- Undertake advocacy for the proper management and governance of peri-urban areas and ecosystems.
- Co-develop a **training toolkit** and collection of practical **case studies** on peri-urban resilience with the National Institute of

Disaster Management (as the lead author of the toolkit), and the School of Planning and Architecture.

- Offer a course on 'Urban Resilience and Transforming Communities' as part of a five-day professional development programme.

Impact



Concepts related to peri-urban ecosystems for urban resilience have been integrated into course curricula of the School of Planning.



India's National Institute of Disaster Management will use the training material and cases in its official capacity development programmes for local governments.



Women farmers working in an agriculture field in a peri-urban area in Gorakhpur, India. © GEAG



Launch of the Peri-Urban Ecosystems and Urban Resilience Training Toolkit with the National Institute of Disaster Management and Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group, 2021. © GEAG



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