

UNDP-Kenya Country Office Climate Change Strategy - Brief

Background

Climate change will have a more immediate effect on many of the poorest people in the world, including those least able to recover from climate stress like droughts, floods, and changing conditions for crops and livestock. That is why reducing poverty and promoting human development will urgently require measures both to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The Kenya Country Office strategy is aligned to UNDP cooperate Climate Change Strategy priorities of giving greater attention to mainstreaming climate change consideration in programming activities, helping strengthen national systems that manage climate variability, and securing financing for both environmentally-friendly investments and supporting the implementation of national adaptation priorities. In the spirit of delivering as one UN, the country office actively works with other UN agencies, in addition to other development partners including bilateral, multilateral donors, NGOs and the private sector.

Under the current UNDP Kenya Country Action Work Plan (CPAP), climate change priority intervention areas include:

- Building Kenya's capacity to address climate change by providing a set of integrated support services geared towards helping the country:
 - assess climate change impact and realistic response strategies
 - develop and implement relevant policies and regulations
- Mainstreaming climate change into core government development areas, including energy, agriculture, health, waters resources and infrastructure, emphasizing that climate change is not only an environmental issue, but a core developmental concern.
- Helping diversify funding sources Kenya can access to facilitate effective financing of sound solutions
- Building the country ability to access foreign direct investment and appropriate technologies through environmental finance opportunities such as the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

UNDP-Kenya: On-going and pipeline Climate Change Programs

UNDP/UNEP CDM Capacity Development Project in Kenya: This is part of a bigger program covering 6 countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Zambia) in the South and East Africa regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. The project forms part of the “UNDP-UNEP Partnership on Climate Change”, launched at COP12/MOP2 in Nairobi 2006, which is intended to optimize and unify the activities of both organizations in the area of CDM capacity building and adaptation. The Project also forms part of the UNDP/UNEP contribution to the Nairobi Framework that was announced at the Nairobi COP/MOP.

The objective of the project is to enhance public and private sector capacity to access carbon finance, and to overcome barriers impeding the take-off of a carbon project market in sub-Saharan Africa. Particular emphasis is placed in creating the enabling conditions for CDM, particularly addressing technical knowledge and awareness deficits through a targeted programme of workshops and tutorials.

UNDP/GEF Standards and Labels Project: This is a 5-years program designed to remove barriers to market transformation of energy efficient products and services in Kenya. The goal of this project is to reduce energy (electricity) related CO₂ emissions through working with the government and the private sector to improve energy efficiency of selected appliances and equipment in residential, commercial and industrial sector.

Africa Adaptation Program: This programme aims at supporting integrated and comprehensive approaches to climate change adaptation in Africa with a pilot in Kenya among the 21 countries being considered. The programme will help Kenya establish an enabling environment and to develop capacity required at local and national levels to design, finance, implement, monitor and adjust long term, integrated and cost effective adaptation policies and plans that are robust within a range of possible changes in climate conditions.

Adapting to Climate Change in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (KACCAL): This is a joint World Bank and UNDP program that seeks to develop and pilot a range of coping mechanisms for reducing the vulnerability of small holder farmers and pastoralists in Kenya to long-term climate change including variability.

Market Transformation for Highly Efficient Biomass Stoves for Institutions and Medium-Scale Enterprises: This project seeks to remove market barriers to the adoption of sustainable biomass energy practices and technologies in schools, hospitals and restaurants by promoting adoption of highly efficient cook stoves and establishment of woodlots. One of the project main performance indicators is the reduction of CO2 emissions.

Development of Kenya National Climate Change Strategy: UNDP has pledged to provide high level technical support towards this initiative. The government of Kenya is talking to various donors for support for this effort.

Way Forward

Climate Change is cross sectoral and should not be confined to environment domain/institutions/ministry alone - hence the need for proactive cross-sector/institutional coordination. It is envisaged that the National Strategy that the government is working on will inform national climate change coordination and programming activities in the country.

As is the case with many government strategies, the finalization of this document could have the usual innate delays. Challenges cannot wait; we propose to immediately start conceptualizing a national government lead climate change programme/framework.

Initial activities under this process will include:

- Initiating, together with other like minded partners critical analysis of the situation to elucidate options for long-term planning;
- Identifying climate change capacity and leadership needs within the government - and ways for building capacity on innovative options to meet climate change costs; and
- Identifying partners' strategic objectives on climate change, funds set aside - and develop modalities for working together where possible.

UNDP is willing to take lead role in the proposed way forward working closely with government and development partners.