



Climate & Development
Knowledge Network

Climate and Development Knowledge Network

Providing developing countries with access to
the best available information, research and advice



Photographer Anthony Robbins. Image provided by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Mission statement

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network supports decision makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge sharing in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally.



Foreword

Climate change poses the greatest challenge to the world's poorest countries. New climate-related risks are adding to the existing challenges of tackling poverty and promoting human development. One cannot be resolved without addressing the others.

Decisive action is needed. Making the right decisions is far from easy given the uncertainties about future climate impacts, regulations and financial support, and the potential trade-offs between generations, geographies, sectors and social groups. However, some decisions offer 'no regrets': they limit greenhouse gas emissions, make society more resilient to possible climate impacts, reduce poverty and advance human development.

To identify these opportunities, decision makers need access to the best available information, research and advice. And they will need to work in partnership, engaging the public and private sector, civil society and the international community.

What is climate compatible development?

'Climate compatible development' is development that minimises the harm caused by climate impacts, while maximising the many human development opportunities presented by transitions to a low emissions, more resilient future.

Charting a path towards climate compatible development will be a major challenge for all countries, whatever their level of development and current greenhouse gas emissions.

New policies, technologies, and sources of finance will all need to be mobilised and backed by new levels of political commitment – locally, nationally and internationally.

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network is positioned to support decision makers in developing countries to design and deliver climate compatible development. We will support national leaders and policy makers as they shape plans and policies that lead to practical action. Our support will be demand driven, and will be aligned within the broader context of national development policies and planning.

In the following pages, we set out some of the challenges faced by decision makers, and how the Climate and Development Knowledge Network can provide support.

“The Network lies at the interface of climate change and development policy. The challenge – and the exciting opportunity – is to plot a course where a low carbon and climate resilient future meets poverty reduction and human development.”

Simon Maxwell *Executive Chair, Climate and Development Knowledge Network*

Navigating the challenges

Climate change is changing patterns of innovation, trade, production, population distribution and risk in complex and unpredictable ways. This is creating a new development landscape for policy-makers in poor countries, who need to nurture and sustain economic growth and social development in the face of multiple threats and uncertainties and without further exacerbating climate change.

Planning for climate compatible development

Climate compatible development moves beyond the traditional separation of **adaptation, mitigation** and **development**. Instead it emphasises responses to climate change that foreground development goals while encouraging development planning that embraces the threats and opportunities presented by

climate change. This may herald a new generation of approaches that embrace low carbon development paths, build resilience and reduce poverty simultaneously – a ‘triple win’.

There are many types of interventions that we may deem ‘climate compatible’ because they meet these aspirations. At the micro level, for example, more efficient stoves can generate development and health benefits, while reducing emissions. At a macro level, climate compatible development allows for the possibility of more transformational change across economies. For instance, some developing countries may benefit from exploiting new markets for forest carbon. This could lead to forest conservation with significant climate benefits, and to strong development benefits if communities are widely involved.

Accessing the best information

Policy communities need access to the best available information on climate change and development that enables them to create practical policies. This includes basic climate impacts data, costs and benefits of adaptation and mitigation options, and risk-based approaches to decision making.

Increasingly, climate finance is available to help developing countries make the transition from high to low-carbon development. Decision makers need to know how to take advantage of these opportunities, and how to build the knowledge and institutions, secure the right technology and capacity to plan and deliver climate compatible development.



A regional view: Africa

Africa has contributed the least to historic greenhouse gas emissions, yet it is likely to be affected disproportionately by the impacts of climate change. Many parts of the continent will endure falls in agricultural productivity, a rising number of people exposed to water and food stress, volatile hydropower resources, flooding of coastal settlements, and possibly a significant increase in disease burden.

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, African states raised their political voice together, calling for strong, unified action. The message: for developed countries to strengthen resolve, finances and action to support African states in meeting the climate change challenge.

Climate and development funds can be harnessed together to catalyse new growth paths. Low-carbon technologies and innovative land-use management provide new economic opportunities for the continent.

“What we need to do is look at shaping new paths of development for Africa that will solve the poverty problem, and at the same time, create climate resilient economies.”

Stefan Raubenheimer

*Africa Director, Climate and
Development Knowledge Network*

How CDKN can help

What is the Climate and Development Knowledge Network?

We are an alliance of six private and nongovernmental organisations operating across four continents. Our team includes climate scientists, researchers, economists, consultants, project managers and knowledge specialists. The Network is able to provide support through its alliance organisations as well as procure the best services from around the world.

What support can the Network provide to developing countries?

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network can help decision makers in developing countries by providing support in four areas described below: research, technical assistance, knowledge sharing and partnerships.

We will identify key **research** gaps and priorities, and commission new policy-relevant applied research that responds directly to demands from developing country decision makers. Emphasis will be placed on building research capacity of local research institutions and experts, wherever possible.

Our **technical assistance** programme will provide tailored and demand-driven technical support to developing country governments and other decision makers to:

- Increase the integration of climate resilient and low carbon growth in policy making, planning and implementation
- Increase institutional capacity to leverage climate change financing to achieve maximum impact
- Increase coordination among decision makers across sectors and countries to implement climate compatible development

Effective **knowledge sharing** is a fundamental pillar of the Network. Our work will be shaped by the demands emerging at country level. We will fill the gaps and connect to existing initiatives, rather than duplicating them. We will make full use of the latest communication tools, organise face-to-face events and use print, video and other formats to reach different audiences.

Partnerships are central to the Network. Across all our work we will seek to foster and support local partnerships, while providing access to the best available expertise in the climate change and development field. This approach to convening individuals and organisations around issues of climate compatible development will support capacity-building in developing countries.

A photograph of a man wading through floodwaters. He is carrying a bicycle on his back and holding a large green leaf over his shoulder. The water is murky and reflects the sky. In the background, other people and trees are visible under a clear blue sky.

A regional view: Asia

Asia is affected by all the issues related to climate change. Many of its large and growing populations live in coastal and low lying areas where flooding will be worsened by changes in climate.

The continent has pockets of rapid economic growth with surging greenhouse gas emissions. It has three of the top five emitting countries worldwide and it is home to two thirds of the world's poor.

Future planning is needed to increase the ability of vulnerable communities to adapt to climate change. Low-carbon energy alternatives are important to counter rapid increases in the use of coal and petroleum in electricity generation. Economic opportunities exist, for example, through carbon markets. Opportunities also lie in harnessing the huge research capabilities of parts of the continent for the benefit of all.

“There’s a broken triangle in Asia, consisting of the scientific, policy-making and local communities. We are aspiring to fix this broken triangle, to make policy-making an easier process based on the best evidence, and improve the dialogue between local communities and government.”

Ali Tauqeer Sheikh,
*Asia Director, Climate and
Development Knowledge Network*

A distinctive approach

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network supports decision makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development.

- We respond to requests for support from developing countries.
- We offer an integrated range of services including research, advisory services, capacity building and knowledge management support.
- We seek to build institutional capacity in developing countries.
- We bring people together to work in partnership.
- We are committed to sharing knowledge.

Our aim is to reach 60 countries by 2015.

How we are funded

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network is supported by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Netherlands Foreign Ministry. Funds have been secured for an initial 5-year period and the Network is able to provide many of its services free of charge. The Network is also able to enter into co-funding arrangements with other donors.



A regional view: Latin America and the Caribbean

Climate-related issues in the Latin American and Caribbean region are varied. In the Caribbean islands, a stark future of sea level rise and coastal erosion requires an immediate solution. Latin America houses the biodiversity wealth of the Amazon, threatened by droughts induced by climate change. Melting of glaciers causes floods, affecting a range of communities.

But areas of common interest are clear for the region: food security, water management, ecosystem resilience and good governance. Climate science can be tailored to provide more accurate data on climate change. With improved scientific understanding, governments can make informed investment decisions, for example on infrastructure.

“When it comes to climate and human development, we need to integrate the visions and goals of the government, private sector, civil society, indigenous peoples and other communities in Latin America to ensure a better quality of life for the poor.”

Yolanda Kakabadse

Latin America Director, Climate and Development Knowledge Network

Our work so far

The following early examples illustrate the type of work CDKN will be looking to expand across Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean over the next five years.

A strategy framework for Rwanda

Although Rwanda is a very low emitter of carbon, it is among the most vulnerable to climate change, with frequent floods and droughts. The Government of Rwanda is determined to mainstream climate change into the national development agenda and the Office of the President has requested assistance from CDKN in drafting a national strategy on climate change and low carbon development. CDKN and the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, Oxford University are working with the Government to develop the strategy over a nine-month period. This stakeholder-rich process draws on input from across a range of ministries, the private sector and civil society.

Funding for climate compatible development in Africa

Currently, Africa receives insufficient funding for its short-term development, adaptation and mitigation needs. CDKN has fast-tracked a new project on behalf of the African Development Bank (AfDB) on climate finance, bringing together a range of partners to provide the best knowledge and expertise. These partners include consultants Vivid Economics, selected for their proficiency in climate finance. The Network's support to the AfDB to date has included information on the High-Level Advisory Group on Climate Change Financing (AGF), and the preparation of papers on the 'African Perspective' to ensure that African views are fully incorporated into the AGF recommendations.



Planning for climate compatible development in the Caribbean

In July 2009, 18 Caribbean Community leaders endorsed the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change prepared by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs). The Framework provides a roadmap for climate compatible development over the period 2009 to 2015. Now that the priorities have been established in the Framework, a detailed Implementation Plan and accompanying monitoring and evaluation plan is to be developed.

CDKN is supporting 5Cs in creating the Implementation Plan over a period of nine months. The project includes development of a database of policies and programmes, extensive stakeholder engagement and formal consultation.

The Implementation Plan has the potential to be a “one-stop” mechanism for large scale coordinated climate change financing in the region, as well as provide the impetus for adaptation and mitigation actions as agreed in the Framework. The Plan will be presented to Heads of Government at their meeting in July 2011.

Strengthening the Government of Pakistan's capacity to negotiate on climate issues

CDKN has responded to a request from the Government of Pakistan to enhance its capacity to negotiate on climate change issues. The Network has marshalled expertise in climate compatible development to advise the Government on its participation in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in December 2010. The Network is preparing bulletins and policy briefs to advise relevant government officials, and holding small consultations to build a common platform among members of the Pakistani delegation.



Who to contact

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**Sign up for email updates from CDKN and register
for our Roster of Experts at: <http://www.cdkn.org>**



The Climate and Development Knowledge Network is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience: PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano, South-South-North, LEAD International, and INTRAC.

Many of the Network's services will be provided by collaborating organisations and individuals from around the globe. We will source the best expertise, wherever it is found in the world, helping to build capacity where needed, and fostering long term collaborative relationships.

For further information please visit our website: www.cdkn.org

We can be contacted at: enquiries@cdkn.org



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