



Energy research Centre of the Netherlands

LCDS Panacea or Placebo?

side event 06 December 2010, Cancun

Xander van Tilburg (ECN)



ECN and LEDS

LCDS as an international instrument under the UNFCCC

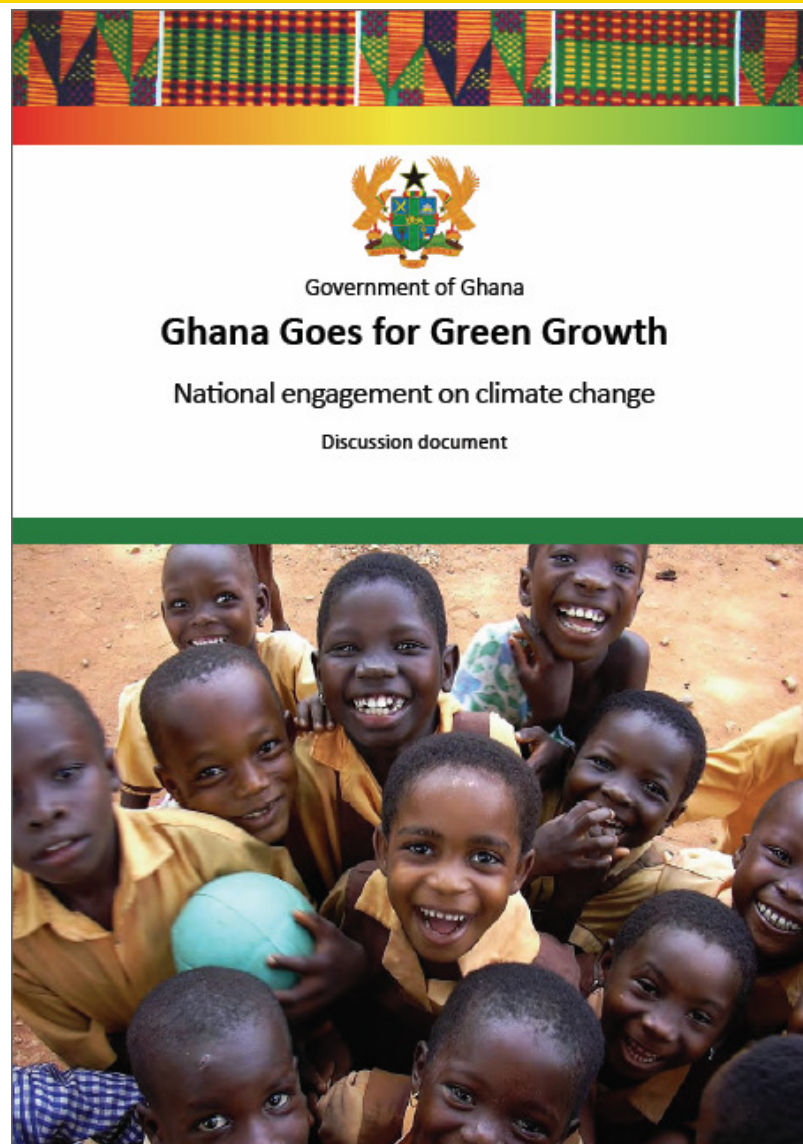
- How can the abstract concept of LCDS be operationalised
- Combination of desk study and practical work with country teams
- Aim was never to make an actual LCDS, rather to identify what it could look like

Indonesia

- Looked at existing efforts, at least 14 strategic documents contain elements
- Vast decentralised country, challenge is coordination and implementation

Ghana

- Government has ambition to move towards LEDS
- Challenges are capacity, evidence base and awareness
- Mid 2010, NCCC has embarked upon NCCPF in three stages
- ECN has provided technical assistance and process assistance
- The NCCC has launched a discussion document, the first step of the NCCPF



So what is a LEDS?

LEDS requires (OECD):

- Covers climate and development
- Senior economic policy makers involved
- Source of finance identified

Good practice (prerequisite for success):

- Government ownership
- Participation across all stakeholders; broad dialogue
- National priorities are central

It sounds good, and it does make sense to have a low emission development strategy, where climate and development are aligned and national priorities are pursued. Be it development, or emission reduction.

The LED process

Required

- Awareness and buy-in / involvement across senior decision makers
- Evidence base, fact based decision making
- Analytical capacity

So what if any of this requires improvement? Does that rule out making an LEDS in the country in question?

A Low Emission Development **Process** may be a more useful approach. This involves aspects like taking stock. It is inevitably a **chaotic** process which needs iteration, and which may gradually attract awareness and acceptance.

This involves aspects like

- Analysis of current situation
- Long term vision
- Plan for implementation
- Needs assessment, capacity, technology and finance

Focus on LEDS is too narrow

At some point, there is enough substance and clout to start making a first strategy, aiming at coordinating and stepping up efforts.

- LEDS **shouldn't be** a prerequisite for finance (start with capacity and awareness building)
- LEDS **shouldn't be** a prerequisite for NAMAs (start with demos)
- Starting with NAMAs **does make sense**, as it can help improve capacity and awareness, and gets implementation started!
- It does make sense to consolidate and coordinate climate and development efforts into a LEDS at some point.
- Coordination of efforts could be from the beginning, but it may not be so bad to start with parallel (NOT overlapping) initiatives without central coordination .

It does make sense to have a LED process, which at some point may involve a LEDS