

KENYA CLIMATE CHANGE FACTSHEET



CONTENTS

Background and definitions	1
Climate change impacts in Kenya	2
Government of Kenya information	3
NGO documents and papers	4
Adaptation	4
NIDOS members working on climate change in Kenya	5

BACKGROUND and DEFINITIONS

NIDOS members requested information sheets on the impact of climate change on a number of countries where NIDOS members work. This factsheet is one of these and, as with the others, covers the key climate impacts in the country, what the government there is trying to do in terms of climate adaptation measures and what other agencies including NGOs and NIDOS members are also doing. The following outlines briefly the current international approach to supporting Southern governments with Climate Adaptation programmes and the international context for climate change campaigns.



The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which came into force in 1994, established the first intergovernmental framework aiming to tackle climate change. This treaty ensures that member states work collaboratively in order to develop initiatives that not only reduce negative impacts associated with climate change, but also build capacity to cope with effects of increasing temperatures. The *Kyoto Protocol*, enforced in 2005, enshrined this commitment in legislation and presented legally binding targets which imposed requirements for ratified member states to reduce green house gas (GHG) emissions. The commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol ends in 2012. <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) <http://www.napa-pana.org>

In order to help developing nations plan for tackling the effects of climate change, the UN established NAPAs. NAPAs build the capacity of developing nations to identify priority actions required for effective adaptation to climate change. The aim of NAPAs is to decrease developing nation's climate change adaptation costs and climate change vulnerability more generally.

Next steps – Copenhagen

At a UN Conference of Parties in Bali 2007, ratified member states made the crucial decision to begin new negotiations aiming to establish tougher targets on reducing GHG emissions and ensure that ratified member states fulfil obligations. Negotiations were reviewed in Poznan, Poland, in 2008 and will conclude in **Copenhagen, Denmark, on December 7th – 18th 2009** and should strengthen global ambitions and commitments to cut GHG emissions and also include mechanisms enabling developing countries to have low carbon development that does not undermine efforts to tackle poverty. Many NGOs are currently campaigning to ensure that Government commitments represent more than just fine words, but instead represent firm action.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN KENYA

KENYA does not yet have a formal NAPA. The following is an EXTRACT FROM:

KENYA'S CLIMATE CHANGE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pdf/TNA/Kenya/TNA%20%20REPORT%20Kenya%20final%20_nov05.pdf

Also see: http://www.aiaccproject.org/working_papers/Working%20Papers/AIACC_WP_21_Leary.pdf

Agriculture: Agriculture has been the mainstay of the Kenyan economy, but its contribution to GDP declined from 37% in 1964 to 24.5% in 1999. It is the basis for food security, for economic growth, employment creation and foreign exchange generation. Most Kenyan industrial and manufacturing firms are agro-based. The development strategy depends on agriculture and industry for faster economic growth. Most of the agricultural production in Kenya comprises mixed farming – raising of crops and livestock. It accounts for 60% of foreign exchange earnings and provides raw materials for industries. Agricultural production systems in the high potential areas are more intensive as compared to the semi-arid areas. Maize is the staple food crop, while the dry bean is the most important legume crop. Coffee, tea and sugarcane are the major commercial crops.

Livestock production falls under two systems: dairy, predominantly in the high potential areas and pastoral in the semi-arid areas. Climate change projections to the year 2030 indicate increasing temperature changes with doubling of CO₂ levels from baseline scenarios resulting into a decline in precipitation in the semi-arid areas. This will lead to reduction in maize yields. The impact of climate change on livestock would be shortage of forage, increased disease incidences and breakdown of marketing infrastructure. Adaptation options in the agriculture sector would include: development of early maturing and high yielding crop varieties and adaptation of agricultural technologies from analogue environments.

(See http://www.aiaccproject.org/working_papers/Working%20Papers/AIACC_WP48_Leary_etal.pdf)

Water: Kenya is fairly endowed with water in the form of rainfall, ground water, river flows, lakes and oceans. The country is divided into five main drainage basins. Hydrological models have been used to estimate the impact of climate change in several water sub-sectors, viz, soil moisture, ground water recharge, river runoff, lakes wetlands, water quality and mountain glaciers. Projections indicate that the region from Lake Victoria to the central highlands east of the Rift Valley will experience mild increase in rainfall. The highest increments of annual rainfall were observed to be in the areas in the vicinity of Mt. Elgon.

Increasing human population will exert pressure on Kenya's hydrological systems and water resources. This will be further compounded by climate change impacts. The ability to adapt to variability and change will be affected by a range of institutional, technological and cultural factors at national, regional and local levels.

Aquatic and Marine Resources: The coastal environment and habitats support some of the most diverse resources in the country. These include mangrove forests, coral reefs, sea grass beds, and rocky and sandy shores. Fisheries activities are pivotal to the household economies of riparian communities. The bulk of the country's fisheries resources come from Lake Victoria, while the aesthetic value of coastal resources contributes significantly to the national economy, mainly through tourism. Climate Change is expected to alter the physical, biophysical and biochemical characteristics of marine ecosystems in Kenya. The Kenyan coast is regarded as one of the most vulnerable to sea level rise. Agriculture, infrastructure and tourism in this area are considered to be under threat.

Energy: In Kenya, energy is harvested from a variety of renewable and non-removable resources such as hydropower, biomass, solar, wind, and petroleum and geothermal. Petroleum fuel is the major source of energy used by commercial and industrial establishments. Electricity is the third most used source of

energy in Kenya after fuelwood and petroleum products, but is second to petroleum fuel as a source of commercial energy. About 80% of Kenya's population depends on woodfuel for its domestic energy needs and by the rural informal industries such as brick making, pottery, jaggery, manufacturing and food processing. The scarcity of fuel-wood and the impact of its escalating prices are acute at the household level because of poverty and limited alternatives. The most significant impact of climate change on energy will be by extreme weather events such as those caused by the El niño-La niña phenomenon. Vulnerability in this sector will be manifest in changes in river flows and increased rates of depletion of biomass.

Health: Climate and weather variability affect natural processes, which in turn affect human health. One of the major impacts will be increased incidences of vector and water borne diseases and poor nutrition. Development of preventive mechanisms for vector and water borne diseases, surveillance for epidemics that follow episodic weather events and improvement of infrastructure in the health sector are among key policy issues to be pursued.

(See <http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/climchange.pdf>)

Socio Economic Context: Kenya's Human Development Index (HDI) estimated the socio-economic development progress of the nation at 0.539 with variations across provinces and districts. Such disparities are reflected in differences in regional resource base, infrastructure development and life opportunities.

GOVERNMENT OF KENYA INFORMATION

KENYAN GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES

These links will only give you the names of Ministers and in some cases the functions of the Ministries and email contact details.

Ministry of Agriculture

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/agriculture.htm>

Ministry of Cooperative Development

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/cooperative.htm>

Ministry of Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands

http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/nothern_kenya.htm

Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/environment.htm>

Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/environment.htm>

Ministry of Lands

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/lands.htm>

Ministry of Livestock Development

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/livestock.htm>

Ministry of Public Health and Sanitation

http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/public_health.htm

Ministry of Water and Irrigation

<http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke/government/water.htm>

NGO DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS

Adaptation for Smallholders to Climate Change (AdapCC) supports coffee and tea farmers in developing strategies to cope with the risks and impacts of climate change.

<http://www.adapcc.org/en/kenya.htm>

Green Water Credits (GWC) is a mechanism for paying or otherwise rewarding land users in return for specified land and soil management activities that determine the supply of fresh water at source. Report of a workshop on Green water credits held in 2006

http://www.isric.org/ISRIC/webdocs/docs/greenwatercredits%20kenya_workshop_report.pdf

Climate Change: Kenya's responses, paper by Jason S Ogola

<http://www.un-ngls.org/orf/documents/publications.en/voices.africa/number6/vfa6.11.htm>

The economic impacts of climate change on Kenyan agriculture, Policy paper from Centre for Environmental and Economic Policy in Africa

<http://www.ceepa.co.za/docs/POLICY%20NOTE%2012.pdf>

Climate Change in East Africa - STEPS

The STEPS Centre is a new interdisciplinary global research and policy engagement hub, funded by the Economic and Social Research Council. We aim to develop a new approach to understanding, action and communication on sustainability and development.

<http://www.steps-centre.org/ourresearch/crops.%20kenya.html>

Experts react to Kenya NGO's views on Carbon trading

http://africasciencenews.org/asns/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=245&Itemid=2

Climate Change on Environmental Education: Climate Challenge for Schools

http://www.ermisafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=blogcategory&id=70&Itemid=136

Vulnerability to Climate induced highland malaria in East Africa

Working paper of AIACC (Assessments of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change in Multiple Regions and Sectors)

http://www.aiaccproject.org/working_papers/Working%20Papers/AIACC_WP25_Wandiga.pdf

ADAPTATION

Climate Change adaptation by design, A guide for sustainable communities

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/downloads/20070523_CCA_lowres.pdf

Climate Change adaptation

This dossier is intended to provide a summary of current thinking on climate adaptation issues with access to relevant and up to date resources and publications for researchers, practitioners, and policy formers. The guide is divided into four sections:

- An introduction to climate change adaptation
- Organisations working on climate adaptation issues
- Documents and publications related to seven themes in climate adaptation
- Adaptation resources organised by region of focus

<http://www.eldis.org/climate/index.htm>

A case study from MADRE, working with women farmers to combat desertification

<http://www.madre.org/index.php?s=2&b=20&p=51>

Preparing for Climate Change in Kenya

Case study published by IISD on increasing community resilience to drought in the Makueni District.

http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2008/preparing_for_climate.pdf

NIDOS MEMBERS WORKING IN KENYA

Organisation

Contact email address

IIED

simon.anderson@iied.org

Mission Aviation Fellowship

max.gove@maf-europe.org or
peter.booth@maf-uk.org

Save the Children

d.hamilton@savethechildren.org.uk

Islamic Relief UK

iruk@islamic-relief.org.uk

IVS GB

info@ivsgb.org

Books Abroad

booksabroad@aol.com

VSO

sally.halsey@vso.org.uk

VetAid

Jennifer@vetaid.org

Tearfund

peter.chirnside@tearfund.org

Mercy Corps

dmcintosh@uk.mercycorps.org

Christian Aid

Ubartley@christian-aid.org

International Network of Street Papers

Imaclean@street-papers.org

Orskov Foundation

contact@orskovfoundation.org

IACD

debi.fry@iacdglobal.org

Oxfam GB

khopper@oxfam.org.uk

Challenges Worldwide

lucy@challengesworldwide.com

Christian Engineers in Development

mail@rankinarchitect.co.uk