BACKGROUNDER

November 2016

Building Resilience through Mainstreaming Climate Change into County Development Planning

Animals drinking water at the rehabilitated Urura Strategic borehole - Isiolo/Jane Kiiru

Introduction

The Paris Agreement of 2015 established a global goal focusing on enhancing adaptation and mitigation by reducing vulnerabilities to climate change and causes of global warming in the context of the 2°C temperature goal. The agreement further establishes a financial framework balancing between adaptation and mitigation. It provides clear guidelines on financial (Green Climate Fund) flow consistent with lowering the current emission and building resilience. Indeed, the Green Climate Fund (GCF) was asked to expedite support to developing countries for formulating National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and their implementation. As of September 2016, the GCF raised USD 10.3 billion equivalent in pledges from 43 state governments for mitigation and adaptation.

The GCF will function in addition to pre-existing multilateral and bilateral climate funds. Climate vulnerable countries, such as Kenya, that demonstrate capacity to channel these funds to the most vulnerable, while demonstrating strong fiduciary standards, will be well placed to access global climate finance.

In Kenya, pre-established county level funds such as the Wajir and Makueni County Climate Change Funds could prove to be versatile mechanisms through which to channel this funding. Their devolved nature could also make them preferred mechanisms for direct access to fund disbursements, supporting the county driven focus of the fund. Access to the fund is in accordance with the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) regulations anchored on the Kenyan Constitution (2010) and Kenya Climate Change Act of 2016. The Kenyan Constitution and Kenya Climate Change Act grants county government's authority and responsibility for developing the social and economic aspects of their county according to the local priorities. In addition the Kenya Climate Change act creates the climate change fund to finance implementation of climate change activities.

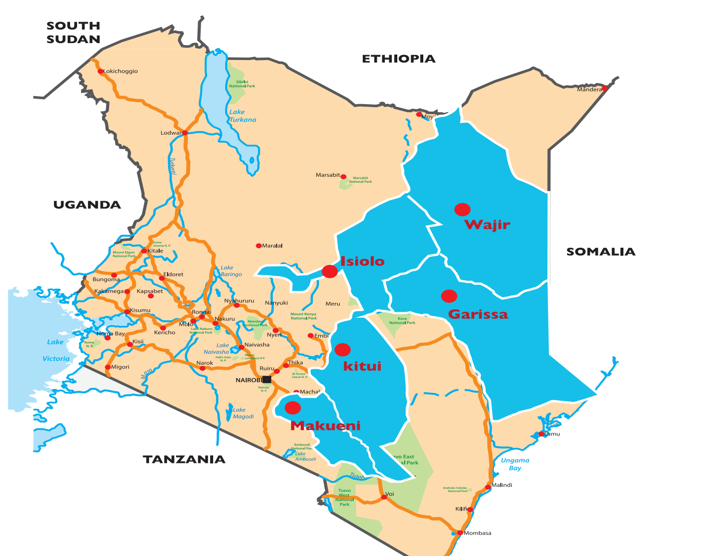
Devolved Climate Finance (DCF)

The Adaptation Consortium (Ada) is helping strengthen the institutional arrangements that will enable climate finance from the GCF and other sources to flow through County Governments, as subnational implementing entities. The DCF mechanism (known as the County Climate Change Fund (CCCF) is set up by County Governments with support from Ada to enable vulnerable communities prioritize adaptation investments through representative ward-level institutions. Through the ward level institutions, the local communities know in advance the annual budget they have for their investment ensuring a high level of engagement and ownership.

The CCCF approach acknowledges and fulfills the principles set out in "Article 7.5 of the Paris agreement that state, adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate"[1]

Currently the CCCF approach is being implemented in five Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL) counties of Garissa, Isiolo, Kitui, Makueni and Wajir which covers approximately 29% of Kenya's land area and a population of 4 Million plus. At the end of the project in 2017, it is expected that 2.5 million people will be supported to cope with impacts of climate change. The support include provision of climate information services, support to the dominant economic activities by creating an enabling environment that help population cope better with extreme climate related hazards.

CCCF Operational Counties



[1] http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/paris_nov_2015/application/pdf/paris_agreement_english_.pdf

Ada Integrated Approach

The Government of Kenya recently passed the Climate Change Act 2016 providing for Climate Change Fund to finance climate change activities. In September 2016, Kenya GCF readiness programme was also launched. The program will contribute towards strengthening the Country's national capacity to effectively and efficiently plan for, access, manage, deploy and monitor climate change fund. The National Environment Management Authority is a National Implementing Entity (NIE) for both the Adaptation Fund and GCF, whereas the National Treasury is the National Designated Authority for the Green Climate Fund with a number of institutions pursuing accreditation as NIE for GCF. However, relatively little attention has been paid to developing mechanisms through which climate funds can be channeled from national to local level and to the most vulnerable. In response to this situation, the Ada Consortium is supporting county governments to address this gap through an integrated approach that consist of four elements intended to strengthen their devolved planning processes.

1. Establishing County Climate Change Funds (CCCF) – a devolved finance mechanism under the authority of each county government that allows climate finance to reach the most vulnerable and enable them to make decisions on how it is used.
2. Representative Ward & County Adaptation Planning Committees that manage the CCCF & prioritise investments in public goods that build their resilience to climate change.
3. Integration of Climate information & participatory planning and resilience assessment into development planning and budgeting process
4. Monitoring system to track how adaptation builds resilience and strengthens economic development

Achievements

The Adaptation consortium is showing that local climate adaptation planning, supported by devolved funds managed by county authorities, and informed by enhanced climate information services, can render significant benefits for people in poor and marginalized households. Key achievements include:

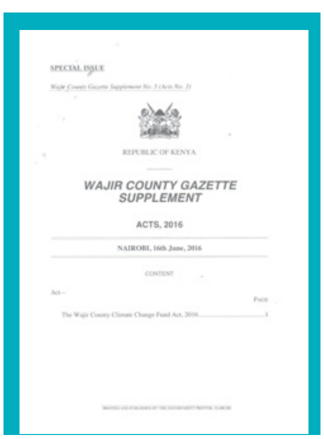
1. **Contributing to transformative change** – through the enactment of CCCF legislation to institutionalize CCCF as a public fund ensuring synchronicity with county planning and budgeting process and also providing a legal basis for counties to draw down climate finance from national and international sources. Wajir and Makueni counties have put in place CCCF legislation and related structures while the Isiolo, Garissa and Kitui are at advanced stage awaiting approval by the respective county assemblies. CCCF legislation commits counties to contribute between 1 and 2 % of their development budget to adaptation finance (sustainability), and to empowering local people to prioritize the majority (70%) of available adaptation finance (context driven, inclusion, community oversight).

2. **Gender Responsive** – CCCF structure facilitates greater inclusiveness in decision making through the establishment of credible and representative ward-level committees to determine investment that would strengthen the local economy. The representatives are made up of men, women, youth, one elected member of the local customary institution for resource management and one community-based organization working in the area. This ensures that prioritized interventions respond to the diverse gender needs.

3. **Transparency and Accountability in administration of the fund** – Knowing in advance the CCCF allocation ensures a high level of engagement and ownership by communities. This in turn ensures that prioritized investments, before they are chosen, are subject to much debate. The involvement of the community from the start to the end of the project not only ensures quality investments, community ownership and sustainability but also minimizes the risks of political and economic abuse by higher-level interests while making committee members accountable for the good use of their CCCF allocation.

4. **Linkage with national level processes** – In addition to piloting priority action from National Climate Change Action Plan 2013 (i.e. Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development M+E framework), the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2016 and Ending Drought Emergency (EDE) strategy (2015) have picked on devolved climate finance and planning as good example for scale –up to strengthen local level institutions and processes in support of adaptation.

5. **Building Capacity of climate vulnerable** – with over 2.5 million people supported to cope with effects of climate change through the investments in climate-resilience projects by the CCCF as well as provision of climate information.


SPECIAL ISSUE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

WAJIR COUNTY GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT

ACTS, 2016

NAIROBI, 16th June, 2016

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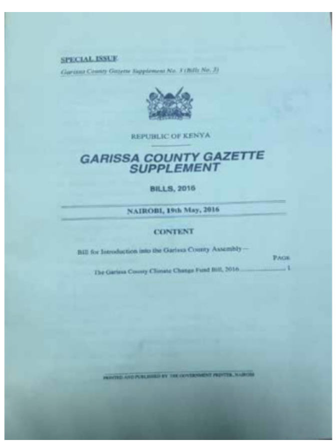
SPECIAL ISSUE

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

GARISSA COUNTY GAZETTE SUPPLEMENT

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NAIROBI, 19th May, 2016

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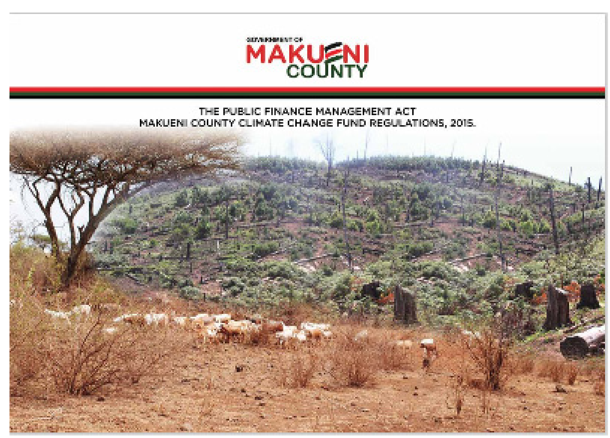

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