

# Climate and Development Outlook

Stories of change from CDKN



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**Climate and Development  
Knowledge Network**  
Helping developing countries  
to design and deliver climate  
compatible development

## Negotiations programme gives island states a greater voice

### REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS BENEFITS FROM CDKN'S ADVOCACY FUND

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is a small island state which, like many others, is highly exposed to negative climate impacts such as sea level rise, storms and flooding. CDKN is supporting the RMI with a year-long programme to increase the country's voice in international climate negotiations. The programme not only aims to help the government become more effective in tracking and influencing international talks, but also to apply its new capacity toward creating stronger domestic climate policies, including the creation of a climate diplomacy plan.

The Hon. Tony de Brum, Minister-in-Assistance to the President of RMI, said that CDKN's support to enable the RMI and the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) to engage "more forcefully and effectively" in international climate talks had been vital. "As a low lying atoll nation whose long term viability is threatened, this support was, and continues to be, absolutely essential," Minister de Brum said. CDKN has funded Independent Diplomat, a non-profit advisory group, to provide tailor-made legal and technical assistance to the country's top leadership.

This work "helped us emerge in 2011 as a vocal and constructive force at the technical

negotiator level in the UNFCCC and Cartagena Dialogue," Minister de Brum said, "and to play a role in producing the Durban Platform, which will now guide our work towards a new climate treaty by 2015." (*Editor's note: the Cartagena Dialogue is a network of countries seeking constructive solutions in the international climate talks.*)

"I am really struck by the mainstreaming of climate change into foreign policy by the Republic of the Marshall Islands," said Dan Hamza-Goodacre, CDKN's Head of Negotiations Support. "Their 'climate diplomacy' is really beginning to bear fruit as we see the country putting forward progressive and innovative solutions as part of the Cartagena Dialogue and broader UNFCCC process."

At home in the Marshall Islands, CDKN's support programme has helped the Government to prepare an increased number of quality proposals for 'fast start finance', the climate finance available to assist developing countries to implement climate adaptation and low emissions development projects.

### Rwanda creates climate and environment fund

The Government of Rwanda hopes to become one of a handful of nations to develop a national climate change and environment fund. The fund, named Fonerwa (a French acronym), will be the primary mechanism through which Rwanda accesses, programmes, disburses and monitors international and national finance for climate and environment activities, outside its national budget.

CDKN supported Fonerwa's six-month design phase, following its support for Rwanda's Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy, which the government adopted last year. The fund should be operational in late 2012, and open for line ministries and districts, the private sector, civil society and communities to apply. Rose Mukankomeje of Rwanda's Environment Ministry said: "The Government of Rwanda has demonstrated commitment to integrate environmental sustainability, climate resilience and green growth as critical inputs towards sustainable development. It has become increasingly evident that a sustainable financing mechanism presents the most realistic opportunity for our government to live up to this commitment."

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- 'Lessons from SREX' events reach all the right places



## GUEST COLUMN

# Pakistani planners learn from climate-resilient, post-disaster construction

**DINA KHAN, CDKN ASIA OFFICE – LEAD PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD**

CDKN and Mott MacDonald are coming to the end of a year-long project to assist the Government of Punjab province, Pakistan, to develop guidelines for climate compatible reconstruction. Pakistan was devastated by severe floods in 2010. Around 20 million people were affected across the country, many in Punjab province. CDKN and Mott MacDonald have been supporting the Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) to prepare guidelines for rebuilding rural housing and infrastructure that it is more resilient to climate extremes and disasters. The project also seeks ways to integrate climate adaptation with low carbon growth.

Pakistan has some history of including disaster risk reduction measures in its building codes: after the 2005 earthquake in northern parts of the country, aspects of earthquake resiliency were addressed. However, national and provincial building codes have never gotten to grips with the risks from floods, temperature increase, energy shortages, and extreme climate events. Rural areas are particularly lacking in guidance and regulation.

With CDKN's support and the engineering expertise of Mott MacDonald, the PDMA-Punjab is overseeing preparation of rurally appropriate, climate compatible construction guidelines. These will provide local planners with options for building designs that reduce vulnerabilities and exposure to natural hazards, and improve energy efficiency.

By engaging key authorities and stakeholders in the process, the PDMA-Punjab has sparked communication across government



departments on rural-urban planning issues and by-laws for local construction. At a high level meeting in May 2012, officers met with the Provincial Departments of Housing, Urban Planning, Communication and Works to discuss the draft construction guidelines and assess the potential for their uptake in public programmes. Experts from NESPAK, UN-HABITAT, and engineering professionals attended and the Chairman of Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) flew in from Islamabad to join the consultation and see the possibilities for country-wide learning and replication.

Useful suggestions have resulted from these lively debates. The general consensus is that guidelines are an important stepping stone towards developing suitable construction by-laws in hazard-prone districts. A full consultation and consensus-building process will take place with district authorities and community planners to align the guidelines with on-the-ground realities, and further efforts will be made to improve the flows of information between provincial and local levels.

We do not know what each monsoon season will bring Punjab province, but at least we are making substantial progress to prepare the area for whatever weather is on the way.

## Chile embraces planning for low emissions development

The Government of Chile has embarked on a two-year 'Mitigation Action Plans and Scenarios' (MAPS) project, with CDKN's support. The project aims to generate options for Chile to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions through a process of research and multi-sectoral involvement. The project will help guide public and private sector decision-making towards low carbon solutions.

In the first stage of development – during the past few months – the project has swung into action: research workshops involving academic researchers and national and international experts have been held, along with public seminars in Chile's regions, and working sessions of the Scenario Building Group have taken place, some of them headed by the Minister of Environment.

Diego Luna, CDKN Project Manager for Chile, said, "the project is progressing steadily through a highly participatory and dynamic process that has called so far over 200 key players in building consensus."

Studies are underway on the emissions trajectories "required by science" in Chile's future, and seven sectoral studies are beginning that together will build the country's emissions baseline. The project's technical working groups progress their work in earnest, from mid-2012.

*Chile's MAPS project is part of a larger international MAPS programme, see [www.mapsprogramme.org](http://www.mapsprogramme.org).*



## The Rio+20 Summit: a mixed news story

CDKN hosted two major events at the Sustainable Development Conference in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The first looked at the impacts of climate change on energy, water, health and food security; the second explored mainstreaming climate change into urban planning.

CDKN's Ari Huhtala and Pippa Heylings wrote, "The Rio+20 government document *The Future We Want* has 283 paragraphs and addresses a very wide variety of issues, but it left many with a hollow feeling of having achieved very little." However, they were cheered by the willingness of government, private companies and NGOs to start measuring wealth beyond GDP, i.e. the integration of natural capital considerations into reporting, accounting and decision-making – and by advances in understanding of climate compatible development among participants at the CDKN and related side events.



## Bold new approach to climate adaptation in rural Uganda

The CDKN-supported Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) project is brightening prospects for remote communities in Uganda, as they tackle the impacts of climate change.

In 2010, CDKN supported ACCRA to undertake research in Bundibugyo, a mountainous district in western Uganda that has suffered terrible soil erosion, flooding and landslides in recent decades. These disasters have become increasingly frequent, as a result of climate change. "Poor agricultural practices such as massive tree-clearing, bush burning, and an absence of soil conservation structures such as terraces, only make the disasters worse," said Margaret Barihaihi of World Vision, a project partner.

ACCRA's research found that district development plans did not take account of villages' vulnerability to climate-related disasters, even though the plans determine where local and national funds are spent.

ACCRA arranged for national officials to visit communities in Bundibugyo, to increase their understanding of climate vulnerability and strengthen links with local government. "The visit to Bundibugyo allowed us to see the impact of climate change and understand what is needed", commented Annunciata Hakuza, Ministry of Agriculture. "The research results will help inform our future policy".

District planning teams were trained on how to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their sector plans, and these aspects were later integrated into the five year District Development Plan. Jockas Matte, the District Senior Environment Officer commented: "Before, my colleagues thought that climate change was just an environmental issue. Now that all of us planned together, as a result, we now have a plan that addresses climate change and we share responsibility".

Later, Bundibugyo scored highly on the annual assessment of its Development Plan by the Ministry of Local Government – and so received a financial bonus of 20% on its budget allocation from the central government. Delivering on Bundibugyo's plans will touch the livelihoods of the most vulnerable: plans include soil and water conservation such as terraces and tree planting, creation of new by-laws, distribution of fuel efficient stoves, and awareness raising.

Ms Barihaihi said, "Bundibugyo District has become a learning lab for Ministries, and neighbouring districts whose officials have closely followed the process."

*The ACCRA project is a partnership among Oxfam, World Vision, Save the Children, CARE and Overseas Development Institute. Visit [www.cdkn.org](http://www.cdkn.org) for more information.*



## 'Lessons from SREX' events reach all the right places

In the last six months, CDKN has been working with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Overseas Development Institute and the Government of Norway to inform developing country stakeholders about the possible impacts of and options for managing the risks of climate

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## Building climate resilience on the shores of Lake Victoria

Lake Victoria is the largest lake in Africa and the largest tropical lake in the world. Approximately 30 million people benefit from the Lake, directly or indirectly. It stretches 68,800 square kilometres across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities Cooperation (LVRLAC), a network organisation of local authorities, formed in 1997 to preserve this precious shared resource from invasion by exotic plant and fish species, and to promote the wellbeing of communities that are dependent on the Lake for food and income.

One of CDKN's Innovation Fund projects is helping communities tackle another environmental threat: climate variability. "Flood waters are reaching homes it didn't in the past. When it rains, it floods. When it dries, the pipes run empty", said Lilian Omondi, a researcher at Maseno University.

CDKN is supporting LVRLAC, with Maseno and Gothenburg Universities, to develop a roadmap for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into local planning for the 113 cities and towns dotted along the shores of Lake Victoria. The project held national workshops in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda to ask diverse stakeholders to identify the most critical climate change issues and knowledge gaps in the Lake region, and suggestions for mainstreaming climate action into local plans. This work culminated in a regional workshop where the Honorable Mohammed Kezaala, Mayor of Jinja Municipal Council, Uganda, said: "This work is part of fast tracking cooperation in East Africa, as the environment is a common concern for everyone".

In the project's next stage, the partners will develop a proposal to fill some of the knowledge gaps identified, so that climate change can be better integrated into local plans.

## Climate Change and Green Asia

CDKN supported the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to debate their 'Climate Change and Green Asia' study with government officials from 15 Asian countries at an event in March 2012. Recommendations included: transferring skills and knowledge from those with experience of voluntary carbon markets, establishing intellectual property right (IPR)- free technology databanks and involving the corporate sector in the development of green bonds.

**The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)** aims to help decision-makers in developing countries design and deliver climate compatible development. We do this by providing demand-led research and technical assistance, and channelling the best available knowledge on climate change and development to support policy processes at the country level. CDKN is managed by an alliance of six organisations that brings together a wide range of expertise and experience.

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extremes and disasters, by region, as assessed in the IPCC Special Report: *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation* (known as 'SREX').

The event series aims to make the best available science on changing climate extremes available to senior policy makers in developing countries. CDKN and partners have convened policy makers to learn about, and interrogate IPCC authors about, the findings of the SREX report and to discuss how their countries and regions will respond. At the time of writing, the partners had successfully organised six outreach events in China, Cuba, Ethiopia, India, Senegal and Thailand, reaching more than 1,000 senior policy makers directly with the key messages of SREX (see [www.cdkn.org/srex](http://www.cdkn.org/srex) for more information on each event).

The outreach event in Delhi caused big waves, as CDKN's Elizabeth Colebourn reports: "The event provided a unique occasion for the heads

of the two national disaster management authorities (NDMA) in India and Pakistan to share a platform, both during the workshop and the press conference. These cabinet level officials talked openly and honestly about the challenges of disaster risk management in their countries. Pakistan put forward their ambitions for a disaster risk insurance framework, and invited India and others to learn from their experience. This had a number of positive spin-offs, including the following day the Chairman of NDMA Pakistan visited the NDMA India to meet with staff and learn more about their work."

Governments who attended the event were so enthusiastic that they have organised further events in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Vietnam to explore the implications of SREX for their countries. "This is a mark of the great appetite among developing country governments to discuss and respond to the SREX report," said Ali Tauqueer Sheikh, Director of CDKN Asia.

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## Dashboard

### April – June 2012

- Unique web visitors: 8,414 (monthly average)
- Unique web visits: 12,373 (monthly average)
- Web visitors from developing countries: 43%
- Enewsletter subscribers: 4,023
- Number of new contracts awarded in the quarter: 54

Please sign up to our monthly enewsletter for CDKN news, opinion, and opportunities, by visiting [www.cdkn.org/newsletter](http://www.cdkn.org/newsletter)

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