

Title: Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Kenya Plus (Starck+) Programme - supporting the development and implementation of Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP)

Background

Through our £32 million Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Kenya Plus (Starck+) Programme, we are supporting scaling up of private sector innovation and investment in low carbon and adaptation products, services and assets (e.g. clean energy, sustainable agriculture, water management).

Theme:

Adaptation and low carbon: Development in Kenya is best served by harnessing a comprehensive response to climate change – one that involves building resilience through adaptation measures, one that invests in and achieves due rewards from reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and one that captures the benefits of low carbon emission development. For this reason planning for adaptation and low carbon development has been integrated in Kenya's National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2013 - 2017.

Local Context

Kenya's economy is highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors including agriculture, tourism, and energy. Kenya's carbon emissions are relatively low but they have increased by 50% in the last decade. Agriculture and forestry combined account for 75% of Greenhouse Gas emissions.

Current economic policy could lock Kenya into a high carbon emission pathway, doubling total emissions by 2030. 80% population does not have access to electricity. The continued annual burden of the extreme climatic events could cost the economy as much as US\$500 million a year, which is equivalent to approximately 3% of the country's GDP and affecting 40 million people. Climate change impacts will have a disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups and fragile areas such as the arid and semi-arid lands (80% of geographical area of Kenya). Among the vulnerable groups are women whose livelihoods are directly affected by extreme weather events such as droughts/floods.

In order to respond to the impacts of climate change on the country's socio-economic growth, proper planning and implementation of actions for appropriate adaptation and resilience building are necessary. This is exactly what the NCCAP addresses, along with development choices that minimize carbon emissions.

What is being done

The comprehensive NCCAP has been developed, through an extensive consultative process, and has received support from a wide range of stakeholders and development partners. The summary findings of the NCCAP include:

- a low carbon, climate resilient development pathway;
- recommendations for an enabling policy and regulatory framework;
- adaptation analysis and priority actions;
- mitigation options;
- considerations for technology requirements;
- a national performance and benefit measurement system;
- recommendations for knowledge management and capacity development;
- a climate change financial mechanism.

Results

StARCK+ has achieved significant results in mobilising private sector investment in climate change; and increasing citizen engagement and participation around climate change policy and planning. The programme has successfully mobilized private sector climate finance through the Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund, Kenya Climate Ventures and Climate Smart Agriculture, which have the potential to transform climate work in Kenya, the sub-Saharan region and even globally.

The programme has supported fundamental and far-reaching reforms across both the adaptation and low carbon development agendas:

- 2 million people (50% women) with ability to cope with the effects of climate change
- the launch of the National Climate Change Action Plan in 2013 and enactment of Climate Change Act 2016, identifying climate change as an emerging threat in Kenya's Second Medium Term Plan, and the reinstatement of Government led climate coordination group.
- 2 County level climate change adaptation funds are fully operational; 3 are at an advanced stage of establishment
- 23 Civil Society Organizations have built capacity to advocate for climate change activities and lobbied for new legislation and policies at national and county level
- 9 new private sector climate adaptation and low carbon businesses have been created
- A higher than expected number of 380 direct jobs has been created
- £4.1 million private sector finance mobilised for climate change purposes.