



**KENYA CLIMATE
CHANGE WORKING
GROUP**

Uniting Voices and Action
on Climate Change

POLICY BRIEF

**ENTRY POINTS FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATION AND
MAINSTREAMING
IN KENYA**



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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Policy brief has been prepared by the Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), a national membership network of Civil Society Organizations working on climate change with the aim of creating synergies in response to the impacts. This Policy brief has been prepared as part of the outputs under the Africa Adaptation Initiative Project funded by World Wide Fund for Nature - Kenya (WWF-K) through support from Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). The project aims at “Enhancing the Role of Civil Society in Climate Change Adaptation in Kenya” and is expected to contribute towards providing an enabling environment for mainstreaming of climate adaptation in Kenya.

1.1 OVERVIEW

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a global response. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol has for many years governed the global climate change agenda with mixed outcomes. In order to increase ambition, the global community agreed to the Paris Agreement on December 12, 2015

during the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21) of UNFCCC. More recently, in October 2018, in the run-up to the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP24), IPCC report exposed the urgency and necessity to limit global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius and warned of the dire consequences for human rights, human lives, and the global environment if urgent action is not taken. At COP24 in Katowice, Poland, Parties translated the IPCC's findings into a commitment to raise ambition by adopting a rulebook to guide how for climate action will be delivered by nations going forward.

Kenya's economy is highly dependent on its natural resource base. Most sectors of the country's economy such as agriculture, energy, transport, tourism and water are climate-sensitive, making the country highly vulnerable to climate change and variability. Whereas Kenya's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) has both adaptation and mitigation actions, adaptation and resilience are Kenya's priority response mechanisms to climate change as provided for in Kenyan national and county level policy and legislative scenery.





1.2 KENYA'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY CONTEXT

Kenya has put in place policy framework as well as legislations, strategies, action plans and other related measures geared towards realizing its adaptation targets as outlined in the following policies and legislation:

- i. Constitution of Kenya (2010)
- ii. Kenya Vision 2030
- iii. National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS, 2010)
- iv. National Climate Change Action Plan (2013-2017)
- v. National Climate Change Action Plan (2018-2022)
- vi. National Adaptation Plan (2015-2030)
- vii. Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (2016 – 2030)
- viii. Environmental Management & Co-ordination Act (EMCA)
- ix. National Climate Change Framework Policy (Sessional Paper No. 3 of 2016)
- x. Climate Change Act (No.11 of 2016)



1.3 ENTRY POINTS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTION AND MAINSTREAMING AT NATIONAL AND COUNTY LEVELS

The table below summarizes the key entry points for climate change adaptation in Kenya at both national and county levels:

SECTOR	ADAPTATION AND MAINSTREAMING ENTRY POINTS
Environment, water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote capacity building for communities on sustainable use and sound management of natural resources; Restore degraded ecosystems e.g. mangroves and of wetlands; Manage and control alien and invasive species; Improve waste management and sanitation systems; Promote agro-forestry, forest restoration (afforestation and reforestation) and protection of water catchments; Promote research and development for climate resilience in the natural resources sector; Develop and implement early warning systems; Invest in climate-proofed infrastructure for water harvesting and storage, waste water, storm water and sanitation; Manage emerging climate related wildlife diseases and pests; Manage and control alien and invasive species; Establish and implement conflict resolution mechanisms for natural resource Collaborate with media and CSOs to disseminate climate related information.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in systems for provision of accurate, timely and reliable weather information to inform decisions of actors in crops, livestock value chains; Promote and facilitate the adoption of crop varieties, livestock breeds and agroforestry tree species that are adapted to varied weather conditions and tolerant to associated emerging pests and diseases; Promote diversification of enterprises and alternative livelihoods; Develop and implement systems for early warning and response, and ensure preparedness for extreme weather events; Invest in the development and use index-based multi-peril agricultural insurance; Promote climate smart water harvesting and storage, irrigation infrastructure development and efficient water use; Collaborate with media and CSOs to disseminate climate related information.
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in preventive approaches for climate related vector borne diseases; Improve access to health care and sanitation services; Enhance epidemiological surveillance among vulnerable communities; Develop and implement early warning systems for epidemics, especially during extreme weather events such as storms and floods; Build climate resilient health facilities and infrastructure; Promote nutrition and feeding programmes for vulnerable communities, especially during extreme weather events and disasters; Collaborate with media and CSOs to disseminate climate related information.

Energy, industry and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote sustainable management and utilization of natural resources; Promote renewable sources of energy; Promote energy and resource efficiency technologies in industries; Invest in climate-proofed infrastructure; Promote the adoption and implementation of the GreenMark Standard for Green Buildings Collaborate with media and CSOs to disseminate climate related information.
Disaster risk reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invest in systems for provision of accurate, timely and reliable climate/weather information; Develop and implement systems for early warning and response, and ensure preparedness for extreme weather events; Invest in climate-proofed infrastructure; Promote the adoption and implementation of the GreenMark Standard for Green Buildings Establish and implement mechanisms for resolving natural resource use conflicts; Collaborate with media and CSOs to disseminate climate related information.

1.4 POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation is never a 'one off' activity. There is need for continued sensitization to raise the public interest in readiness of receiving new knowledge and mentorship.
2. There is need to integrate top-down and bottom-up approaches, for example, integrating indigenous/local knowledge with scientific knowledge is fundamental in integration of climate change adaptation into plans, programs ,projects and policies.
3. Policy makers, CSOs and Private sectors should make it a priority to fill adaptation knowledge gaps, not only about climate-specific issues, but also about modeling, resource planning, participatory processes, vulnerability assessments, and sector-specific needs such as meteorological data-gathering and water-saving agricultural techniques.
4. Adaptation capacity-building needs to be stepped-up significantly, especially at county levels. There is also a need for formal training courses and hands-on learning opportunities. Some universities are already developing relevant courses; it is also important to integrate these topics into their training curricula for key sectors such as agriculture, forestry and water resources management.
5. The gap between research and practice needs to be closed. Researchers should take the lead, reaching out to policy-makers, planners and practitioners at all levels, helping them build their own capacity, and working to understand and address their needs. These interactions should be viewed as a true collaboration, with learning in both directions.

1.5 CONCLUSION

If appropriately embedded in policy and decision-making processes, climate change entry points can be utilized to inform adaptation strategies and approaches. This requires collaboration between institutions and across all economic sectors in Kenya. Therefore, both national and county governments should work with all stakeholders including the private sector, civil society organizations, faith based organizations and the media to facilitate programmes for climate change adaptation and resilience at community level.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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3. Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (2016 – 2030)

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