



V-LED | STIMULATING URBAN CLIMATE ACTION



VERTICAL INTEGRATION AND LEARNING FOR LOW-EMISSION DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

## KNOWLEDGE NEEDS AND GOOD PRACTICE EXCHANGE WORKSHOP FOR COASTAL COUNTIES IN KENYA

### Integrating Science, Practice and Governance to Enhance Coastal Adaptation to Climate Change

Jacaranda Indian Ocean Beach Resort, Diani, 25 – 26 September, 2017

#### Introduction

The Institute for Law and Environmental Governance (ILEG) and Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO) are organising “**Knowledge Needs and Good Practice Exchange Workshop for Coastal Counties in Kenya**” to provide a platform for reflections on coastal climate change adaptation research, practice and governance. ILEG in partnership with adelphi GmbH is implementing a four-year project titled V-LED (**strengthening national and subnational capacities to promote climate-resilient low-carbon development at subnational level in Africa and Southeast Asia: learning through exchange and networking**). This project is funded by the Germany’s Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as part of International Climate Change Initiative (IKI). Other partners are the UN Habitat/Regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Philippines and Vietnam), Sustainable Energy Africa and ONE World Sustainable Investments in South Africa. In Kenya, the project is being implemented in Kwale County.

CORDIO in partnership with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) is implementing a four-year project titled EKLA (**modifying the symbiosis of knowledge and governance**) - a research focusing on local coastal governance and use of climate information in decision making within the context of integrated coastal zone management. The research project is being implemented in Kwale, Kilifi and Mombasa Counties. It is being funded by the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) through its Marine Science for Management (MASMA) Programme (Grant



No. MASMA/OP/2013/01). Other countries involved in the study and the respective implementing entities include South Africa (CSIR) and Mauritius (MOI)

The main objective of the V-LED project is to align climate change efforts at the national and county levels and create a framework upon which both actors can coordinate their activities. Good Practice exchange workshops are part of the capacity building component, which forms the core of the project. It is a tool whose aim is to enhance learning and understanding of relevant processes and motivate participants to take up action through communication on eye level. Good practice exchange workshops also seek to enhance peer-to-peer learning on planning and implementing local climate-resilient low-carbon aspects in Kwale County. It is hoped that information and experiences sharing would lead to improved awareness of practical options for action and replication activities. This objective and mode of delivery complement those of the EKLA project that aim at promoting evidence based decision making in responding to climate change at the county level particularly at the coast.

### **Rationale of the Workshop**

Coastal zones are among the most vulnerable regions to climate change. Climate models have projected acceleration in the rate of sea level rise, enhanced storm surges, more intense rainfall and higher temperatures. These changes will affect human settlements, infrastructure, ecosystem services, water resources and food production; all of which are closely linked to human livelihoods and already facing threats from other non-climatic stressors. These transformations are likely to have widespread implications for coastal communities. In particular, natural resource-dependent households will bear a disproportionate burden of the adverse impacts, both in terms of exposure to climatic changes and sensitivity to such changes, and in terms of their capacity to adapt. The extent to which these impacts will be felt depends in large part on the extent of local adaptations and adaptive capacities. Adaptation to climate change is therefore no longer a secondary and long-term response option only to be used as a last resort. It is now prevalent and imperative, and for those coastal communities already vulnerable to climate risks, an urgent imperative.

Devolution places Counties and their devolved units as the fundamental places where national adaptation priorities can be effectively implemented and additional local priorities determined. Besides the global frameworks that call for action at all levels of governance, the Climate Change Act 2016 creates a mandate for Counties to develop their adaptation plans besides implementing the National Climate Change Action Plan and integrating climate change into their development planning and budgeting. Furthermore, the national Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) Policy and action plan spell out the role of Counties in implementation of the policy and the prioritised strategic actions specific to climate change. However, local climate change planning is still not sufficient at the local level.

The above state of affairs illustrates the need for reflections on coastal climate change adaptation research, practice and governance. It is against this background that the **“Knowledge Needs and Good Practice Exchange Workshop for Coastal Counties in Kenya”** is being organised by ILEG (with adelphi) and CORDIO in collaboration with Kwale County Natural Resource Network (KCNRN). The event will offer a concrete contribution towards a better understanding of what (knowledge) needs to inform the cross-sectoral actions required to address climate change and its many consequences. The workshop will also serve the purpose of showcasing experiences from research, innovations and best practice to foster adaptation actions which may be useful and which could be adapted and replicated elsewhere. Furthermore, the discussions would feed directly into and help further the dialogue on Kenya’s current efforts to formulate a new National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) review and reporting that is due in 2020. Apart from interactions and networking, the event will foster learning through peer-to-peer and information exchange on climate change adaptation actions available locally.

### **Activity Outcomes and Objectives**

The workshop will provide a platform for dialogue between national government, coastal county governments, civil society organisations, private sector, research organisations

and other stakeholders with the aim of identifying appropriate mechanisms to support the transition to evidence-based decision making in local governance processes. The event will also create opportunity for county governments to learn from each other and share ideas on best practices in climate change adaptation research and practice. Further, the workshop will initiate discussions around any disparities between what is required and what is currently being done to deal with the current and projected impacts of climate change. Specifically, this workshop seeks:

- To foster learning through peer-to-peer and information exchange on coastal climate change adaptation;
- To showcase experiences from research, innovations and best practices on coastal climate change adaptation, including planning and governance;
- To contribute towards a better understanding of cross-sectoral actions required to address the climate change;
- To strengthen collaboration and networking between coastal county governments, civil society organisations, private sector, research organisations and other stakeholders in climate change governance;

## Expected Outputs

The workshop will:

- Identify, document and disseminate good practices and innovations in coastal climate change adaptation;
- Create a matrix of coastal and climate change information available and match that with the information needs of county governments;
- Create an opportunity for coastal county governments to define the most important coastal climate change risks and opportunities and the information needed for managing the same;

- Report on how county governments deal with coastal and climate change issues, and how to incorporate solutions into county development planning and budgeting;
- Create a register of county government staff and other actors interested in continuing to share ideas on coastal and climate change issues and the availability of information on how to manage and adapt with the possibility of evolving into a coastal climate change network;
- Propose mechanisms to improve flow of information between knowledge producers and users.

## Outcomes

- Improved ability of county governments to articulate information needs for coastal adaptation
- Enhanced adaptive capacity through improved delivery and uptake of climate information and transition to evidence-based decision making within the counties.
- Established multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral forums for exchange of climate information

## Impact

- Reduction in coastal vulnerability through implementation of robust adaptation interventions-policies, projects, plans, programmes.