



KENYA

CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

Climate risks pose serious threats to Kenya's sustainable development goals and development gains. With the largest economy in East Africa and a population of 54 million, Kenya serves as the region's financial, trade, and communications hub. The country's economy is largely dependent on rainfed agriculture, tourism and natural resources, sectors that are susceptible to climate variability and change and extreme weather events. Kenya's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) that was submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 2020 notes that successive climate change impacts result in socio-economic losses estimated at 3-4 percent of Gross Domestic Product annually and that they impede development efforts. According to the March 2021 Climate Policy Initiative article "The Landscape of Climate Finance in Kenya," in 2018, Kenya received \$2.4 billion of public and private capital invested in climate-related activities; a mere third of the annual amount needed to meet its NDC targets and a gap that underscores the urgency of mobilizing public and private finance.

Although Kenya contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually, the country has put measures in place to pursue a low carbon and resilient development pathway to help realize its Vision 2030: to transform Kenya into a newly industrializing, middle-income country. Furthermore, Kenya submitted an updated, more ambitious NDC on December 24, 2020, with a commitment to abate greenhouse gasses by 32 percent by 2030 relative to the business-as-usual scenario and in line with its sustainable development agenda and national circumstances.

GOVERNMENT OF KENYA CLIMATE PRIORITIES

Kenya is a leader in addressing climate change and was one of the first countries in Africa to enact a comprehensive law and policy to guide national and subnational climate action. The Climate Change Act of 2016 and the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2018 - 2022 provide guidance for low-carbon and climate resilient development. Kenya's priorities as articulated through these, and other, instruments include: adaptation, afforestation and reforestation, landscape restoration, climate-smart agriculture, geothermal and clean energy development, energy efficiency, and drought and flood risk management.

USAID'S CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM: OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

USAID supports the Government of Kenya's (GOK) development and climate priorities through programs and partnerships addressing climate adaptation and resilience building, renewable energy, and natural climate solutions. USAID has also supported the development of key GOK policy documents, including the Climate Change Framework Policy, the Climate Change Act, and the Climate Change Finance Policy.

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

USAID supports Kenya in building its capacity to assess vulnerability in key sectors, protect key watersheds, adapt dryland livestock and wildlife management, promote climate smart agriculture and drought tolerant crops, and improve early warning and action systems. USAID works with the GOK National Drought Management Authority, other ministries, and county governments to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in Kenya's arid and semi-arid lands.

RESULTS

- Leveraged \$8.1 billion invested by the GOK to implement the Ending Drought Emergencies framework (2012-2020) in a multi-sectoral and integrated approach.
- Supporting community conservancies to conserve wildlife and protect rangelands through the Northern Kenya Carbon Project, the world's first large-scale grasslands soil carbon project that targets the removal and storage of 50 million tons of CO₂ over 30 years and uses the revenue generated to fund adaptation and conservation activities.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Through **Power Africa**, USAID supports the development of renewable power generation projects through technical assistance, transaction advisory services, and the creation of supportive frameworks to ensure 100 percent penetration of clean energy in Kenya by 2030. Increased geothermal, wind, and solar power generation will reduce GHG emissions by replacing fossil-fuel based power generation. USAID also supports decentralized power systems such as mini-grids and solar home systems that provide renewable electricity to populations living outside the grid.

RESULTS

- To date, Power Africa has supported the development and commissioning of 691 MW of clean power generation in Kenya, including the 310 MW Lake Turkana Wind Power project, the 158 MW Olkaria V Geothermal Power Plant, the 83 MW Olkaria I Unit 6 Geothermal Power Plant, the 100 MW Kipeto Wind Power Project, and the 40 MW Malindi Solar PV Power Project.

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

USAID has helped Kenya improve protection of key forested watersheds and strengthen rangeland management in community conservancies. USAID works alongside the private sector, local governments, and indigenous communities that are reliant on these natural resources to help ensure sustained

investment and viability beyond donor funding. USAID continues to explore opportunities in climate finance, a growing area of interest for donors, the private sector, and the Kenyan government.

RESULTS

- Facilitate private finance and investment for working capital needs of smallholder farmers and MSMEs that are integrating climate-smart solutions into their business models.
- Developed an ecosystem services valuation of three key watersheds that is used to revise the national budgeting database and increase the GOK's budget to support watershed conservation.
- Development and implementation of ward development plans that foster community engagement in planning and budgeting and facilitates sustainable rangeland management.