



Figure 1: At Lopii community, the water table has gone down leading to boreholes drying up, the community depends on trucked water from well-wishers and the County Government. Source: Trócaire (2019)

Unlocking Climate Financing for Enhanced Climate Resilience in Turkana County

1. Introduction: Status of Climate Change in Turkana County

Turkana is one of the counties worst affected by climate change in Kenya. It is the second largest county, covering about 13.5% of the country's total land space, and notably has the highest poverty index at 94.3%.¹ Turkana County Integrated Development Plan (2018-2022) points climate change as a key challenge that exacerbates degradation of natural resources.² It is evident that droughts and floods have become more frequent with devastating implications on social, economic and livelihood systems. Some of the effects of climate change in Turkana County include: conflicts over access and utilization of increasingly degraded resources, high infant mortalities, rising malnutrition, high morbidity, increased vulnerability and loss of biodiversity.³

2. Climate Change Governance in the Context of Climate Finance in Turkana County

Climate governance determines success of climate actions and a key component of climate financing (Odhengo *et al.*, 2019). Effective climate change governance in the context of climate financing requires strong political leadership, technical knowledge, policy coherence and stakeholder engagement (Worker, 2017). The current Turkana County Annual Development Plan (CADP) 2020/2021 outlines key climate action areas including: public sensitization on climate change adaptation and mitigation, building climate resilience among the community members, training technical staff on fundraising, mainstreaming stakeholders engagement in climate actions, establishing early warning committees and formulating legal frameworks on climate change.

Key Messages

1. Lack of policies and legal frameworks such as County Climate Change Fund, as well as inadequate mainstreaming of climate change in county planning are a major hindrance to climate financing in Turkana County
2. Climate financing in Turkana County is largely inadequate given that climate actions are expensive and require robust financing mechanisms
3. A wide scope of national and multilateral climate financing facilities exists for Turkana County to explore; including the GCF, AF, SCCF and Green Bond Markets in Kenya for Financing Environmental Solutions among others



Figure 2: Climate Governance Assessment Framework. Source: CAT (2019)

¹Turkana County Investment Plan 2016 – 2020: <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/Democratic%20Governance/TURKANA%20COUNTY%20INVESTMENT%20PLAN%20-%2027TH%20NOVEMBER%202015.pdf>

²Turkana County popular version County Integrated Development Plan CIDP II (2018-2022): https://www.turkana.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Turkana_CIDP_Book_POPULAR_V3.pdf

³Turkana County Integrated Development Plan, 2013/14- 2017/18

With understanding of the implications of climate change in the County, the CADP has also emphasized the need to set up county climate change advisory unit that will collate and provide evidence based advisory services on climate change for effective decisions. While this noble idea has been in the previous county plans, its realization remains in limbo since no recruitment of such experts is yet to be done. Cross review of previous and current county planning and budgeting tools indicate that climate change has not been adequately prioritized in Turkana County planning and budgeting processes as revealed by the relatively low budget allocation for climate actions.⁴

3. Mechanisms and Status of Climate Financing in Turkana County

Effective climate change responses call for robust financial mechanisms, including public and private facilities that are available at local, national and multilateral levels.⁵ Climate actions are substantially expensive investments that demand significant financing. The level of climate financing in Turkana County remains relatively low. This is attributable to lack of robust climate policy instruments and frameworks to support resource mobilization for climate actions. Various domestic and multilateral climate financing mechanisms exist.

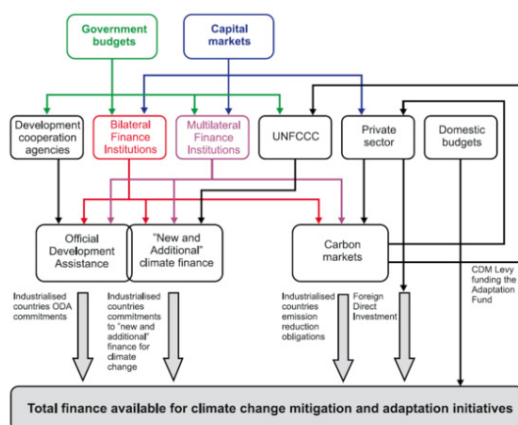


Figure 3: Financial flows for climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries. Source: WOCAT (2014)

It is however clear that Turkana County has only limited access to domestic sources and no access to the multilateral sources largely due to:

- Lack of institutional and legal structures on climate financing for proper coordinate and facilitate access and utilization of the finances.*
- Inadequate data and evidence to inform prioritization and decisions on climate financing*
- Lack of synergies and harmonization of efforts across various civil society organizations working on climate actions due to lack of a coordination mechanism.*
- Limited prioritization of climate actions in county budgeting*

⁴Turkana county supplementary budget estimate FY 2019/2020: https://turkana.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/FY-2019_20-Supplementary-1-Budget.pdf

⁵UNDP (2016). Kenya Climate Public Expenditure and Budget Review. UNDP. Available online at https://www.undp.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/energy_and_environment/2016%20CPEBR%20Report.pdf

3.1 County Climate Change Funds (CCCFs) as Climate Financing Mechanism

The CCCF mechanism offers a robust approach to mobilize financing from diverse sources to support local climate actions (Odhengo *et al.*, 2019). It does not only facilitate the flow of climate finance to county governments but also empower locals through strengthening public participation in the use of those funds and build their climate resilience. The mechanism aims to help identify, prioritise and facilitate finance investments for reducing climate risks while achieving adaptation priorities. While CCCFs has proven effective in other counties like Makueni, Turkana County is yet to establish it; indicating institutional gaps which limit county efforts to prioritise and allocate finances for climate actions.

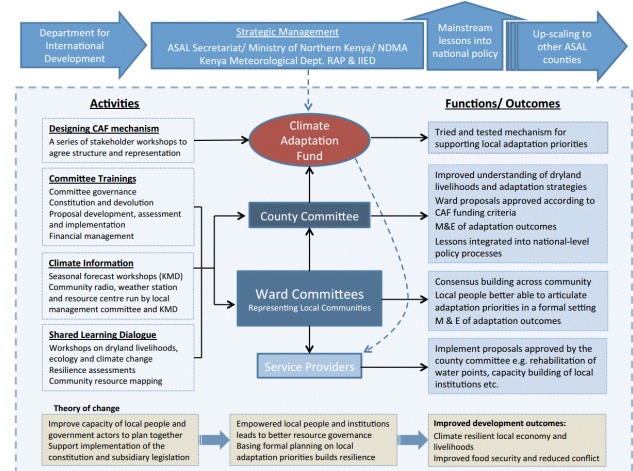


Figure 4: The County Climate Change Fund Approach. Source: Orindi, et al. 2017

3.2 Civil Society Organizations Financing Climate Actions in Turkana County

As an important component of climate financing, various civil society organizations have invested and financed climate actions, particularly at project and program levels in Turkana County. These have made significant contributions in addressing climate risks and vulnerabilities in Turkana County. Among such institutions include Trócaire, Child Fund Kenya, Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG), Inter-Religious Council of Kenya, World Vision. Such project based financing of climate actions play important complementary roles to support the efforts and investment by the county and national government in Turkana County.



Figure 5: Climate change awareness walk supported by Trócaire. Source: Trócaire, 2019

3.3 Private Sector Investment in Climate Actions

Leveraging private sector investment in climate actions is an equally important climate financing window. Several private sector initiatives exist such as: Centre for Energy Efficiency and Conservation at the Kenya Association of Manufacturers; Grassroots Business Fund; Kenya Climate Innovation Centre; Kenya Green Energy Foundation; Regional Technical Assistance Programme, and Africa Enterprise Challenge Fund. Such initiatives provide wider opportunities for investment and financing innovative climate actions. Through collaboration and partnerships with private sectors, the county government of Turkana needs to explore locally existing climate change initiatives to ramp up climate innovation and investments. These however, require enabling environment through policy reforms that will create incentives for private sector investments while supporting climate resilient development in the county. This also requires technical capacity development among the county staff to support incubation of local innovations and business ideas on climate change.

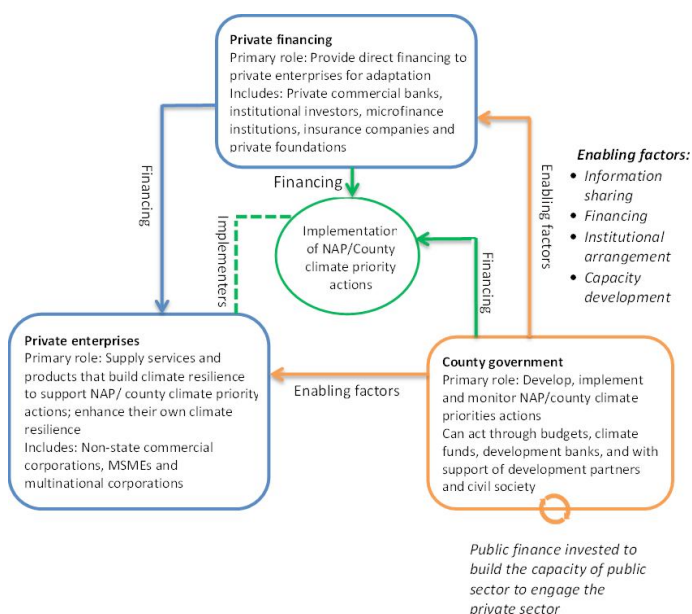


Figure 6: Engaging the Private Sector in National Adaptation Planning Processes. Adapted from Alec & Clare, 2019

3.4 Multilateral Climate Financing Mechanisms

Various multilateral climate financing mechanisms exist that Turkana County can explore. They include Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund (AF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) among others. These facilities are accessible in various forms including grants, concessional loans and technical assistance. Their access however requires establishment of legal structures and policies. Makueni County, for instance, has accessed KSh50 million for climate adaptation and resilience from United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) as a result of establishment of CCCF.

Table 1: Accessible multilateral climate facilities summary⁶

Fund	Summary description	Focal sector	Financial instruments
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	It's a global fund that was adopted by the UNFCCC to make funding available to developing and vulnerable countries in order to enable climate action.	Adaptation & mitigation	Grants & Concessional loans
UN Adaptation Fund (AF)	Finances adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries that are parties to the Kyoto Protocol and are vulnerable to climate change.	Adaptation	Grants
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Funds available to developing countries or those with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.	Adaptation & mitigation	Grants & co-financing
Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)	Destined for least developed countries to adapt to climate change. It has financed the creation of National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs).	Adaptation	Grants
Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)	This fund supports adaptation projects, technology transfer and capacity building activities.	Adaptation	Grants
Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)	This initiative aims to strengthen national institutions for transparency-related activities, and provide tools, training, and assistance for meeting Article 13.	Adaptation & mitigation	Grants, co-financing, technical assistance
Global Climate Change Alliance	An initiative by the European Union to help climate vulnerable countries to increase their resilience.	Adaptation & mitigation	Grants, Technical Assistance, official development aid
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)	The centre promotes the accelerated transfer of green technologies for low carbon and climate resilient development.	Adaptation & mitigation	Technical assistance
Transformative Carbon Asset Facility (TCAF)	A facility that supports developing countries in planning, implementing, and scaling up their NDCs to accelerate a transition to low-carbon economies.	Mitigation	Results based financing & technical assistance

3.5 Challenges Facing Climate Financing in Turkana County

Efforts to upscale climate financing in Turkana County are facing a series of challenges including:

- Lack of climate specific policies and legal frameworks to strengthen climate financing and effective utilization of such funds in building climate resilience in the county*
- Inadequate scientific evidence to inform climate decisions and integration in county plans.*
- Inadequate knowledge and institutional capacities to access multilateral climate financing mechanisms*
- High poverty levels in the county. Large proportions of county government resource are used to meet basic needs and address poverty related challenges*

Conclusion

Climate change has significant implications on key livelihoods, particularly pastoral and agro-pastoral systems in Turkana County. While climate financing remains relatively low, the Turkana County is progressively recognizing the need to increase budget allocations for climate actions given the far reaching adverse effects of climate change on livelihoods and development fronts. However, the county efforts are still hindered by lack of county level climate change policies, action plans and implantation frameworks. This implies inadequately guided climate actions. There is a wide scope of climate financing mechanisms; however, Turkana County has not been able to tap into them, particularly the non-domestic climate financing mechanisms. The county government has great opportunities to upscale its climate financing through establishing climate change policies and action plans, partnerships with private sectors, and institutional strengthening.

⁶ParlAmericas: http://www.parlAmericas.org/uploads/documents/Primer_on_Climate_Financing_ENG.pdf

Recommendations

To upscale access and effective utilization of climate financing from both local and international facilities, the Turkana County government should:

- i) Fast-track establishment of the **CCCCF** and other climate specific **legal tools** for effective and enhanced mobilization and utilization of climate financing
- ii) Increase priorities and **budgetary appropriation** for climate actions
- iii) Strengthen **institutional capacities** and **technical knowledge** for enhanced financial mobilization
- iv) Establish **partnerships** and **collaborations** with local private sectors towards strengthening investments in climate innovations
- v) Establish mechanisms for **tracking** and **reporting climate financing** for enhanced transparency in climate finance in Turkana County

Further Reading

IPCC, 2018: Summary for Policymakers. In: Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty.

Muhati, G. L., Olago, D., & Olaka, L. (2018). Past and projected rainfall and temperature trends in a sub-humid Montane Forest in Northern Kenya based on the CMIP5 model ensemble. *Global Ecology and Conservation*, 16, e00469.

Odhengo, P., Atela, J., Steele, P., Orindi, V., & Imbali, F. (2019). *Climate Finance in Kenya: Review and Future Outlook*.

Worker, J. (2017). *National climate change governance: Topic guide*. Birmingham, UK: GSDRC, University of Birmingham.

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