



KENYA

CLIMATE CHANGE FACT SHEET

Climate risks pose serious threats to Kenya’s sustainable development goals. 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 and tourism, each susceptible to climate variability and change and extreme weather events. Kenya’s updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) notes that successive climate change impacts result in socio-economic losses estimated at 3-4 percent of Gross Domestic Product annually and impede development efforts.

Even though Kenya contributes less than 0.1 percent of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually, it has policies and measures to pursue a low carbon and resilient development pathway to 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 gases 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 and the National Climate Change Policy Framework provide guidance for low-carbon and climate resilient development. Kenya’s priorities as articulated through these, and other, instruments include: adaptation, afforestation and reforestation, climate-smart agriculture, geothermal and clean energy development, energy efficiency, and drought management. These priorities are operationalized through a number of sector specific policies and strategies.

USAID’S CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAM: OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

USAID supports the Government of Kenya’s development and climate priorities through programs and partnerships addressing climate adaptation, renewable energy, and natural climate solutions.

ADAPTATION

USAID has supported Kenya in building its capacity to assess vulnerability in key sectors, protect key watersheds, adapt dryland livestock and wildlife management, and improve early warning systems. USAID is working with the Government of Kenya’s National Drought Management Authority and other ministries and county governments to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities in the country’s arid and semi-arid lands. USAID has also initiated crop insurance and improved the quality of climate and weather

services in partnership with NASA. In collaboration with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), USAID is supporting the mapping of potable groundwater supply in Kenya.

RESULTS

- Supported development of a number of key policy documents, including: the Climate Change Framework Policy, the Climate Change Act, and the Climate Change Finance Policy
- Completed a groundwater exploration and mapping report and helped develop early warning action protocols to mitigate Kenya's disaster losses

KEY PROGRAM

- **Africa Groundwater Exploration and Assessment Program:** In collaboration with the USGS, USAID is supporting groundwater exploration and assessment, and is building local capacity to plan and manage groundwater resources under varying climate change scenarios.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

USAID, through the **Power Africa Initiative**, is supporting the development of renewable power generation projects through technical assistance, transactions advisory services, and creation of legal and regulatory frameworks. Increased geothermal, wind, and solar power generation will reduce GHG emissions by replacing diesel power generation. USAID also supports mini-grids and solar home systems that provide renewable electricity to populations living outside the grid.

RESULTS

- **Power Africa** supported development of the 310 MW Turkana wind power plant and the 158 MW Olkaria V geothermal power plant, which are both operational, and the 100 MW Kipeto wind power plant, which is currently under commissioning and will be operational by June 2021.

NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

USAID has helped Kenya improve protection of key forested watersheds and strengthen rangeland management in community conservancies.

RESULTS

- Developed an ecosystem services valuation of three key watersheds that is being used to revise the national budgeting database to capture ecosystem services. This is expected to increase the Government's budget allocations to support watershed conservation.

KEY PROGRAM

- **The Kenya Water Tower Climate Change Resilience project:** Helps develop climate change vulnerability assessments of key watersheds to enable Kenya to develop more resilient watersheds, which is expected to substantially reduce GHG emissions and thus contribute to the recently submitted NDC.