Photo: Neil Palmer/CIAT

Are climate and security policies coherent and integrated in Kenya?

A Policy Coherence Analysis

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This fact sheet assesses the coherence and climate security-sensitivity of policy and strategy documents extracted from sectors relevant to the climate, peace, and security nexus at both the national level in Kenya and regional level across East Africa.

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This publication is part of a factsheet series reporting on the findings of the CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security Observatory work. The research is centered around 5 questions*:

1 **How does climate exacerbate root causes of conflict?**
Climate Security Pathway Analysis

Ethiopia   Guatemala   Kenya   Mali   Nigeria   Senegal   Sudan   Uganda   Zimbabwe

Econometric analysis

Kenya   Mali   Nigeria   Senegal   Sudan   Uganda   Zimbabwe

Scopus analysis*

2 **Where are the climate insecurities hotspots?**
Spatial analysis

Kenya   Mali   Nigeria   Senegal   Sudan   Uganda   Zimbabwe

3 **What is the underlying structure of the climate, conflict, and socio-economic system?**
Network analysis

Kenya   Mali   Nigeria   Senegal   Sudan   Uganda   Zimbabwe

4 **Are climate and security policies coherent and integrated?**
Policy coherence analysis

Guatemala   Kenya   Phillipines   Senegal   Zambia

5 **Are policy makers aware of the climate security nexus?**
Social media analysis

Kenya   Mali   Nigeria   Senegal   Sudan   Uganda   Zimbabwe

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Questions 1, 2, 3, 5 are analyzed at country level through a Climate Risk Lens (impact pathways, economic, spatial, network and social media analyses). The policy coherence and scopus analyses are at continental level.

*Scopus is one of the largest curated abstract and citation databases, with a wide global and regional coverage of scientific journals, conference proceedings, and books. We used Scopus data for analyzing: (1) how global climate research addresses the dynamics between climate, socio-economic factors, and conflict, and (2) how the countries studied are represented in the database.

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INTRODUCTION

Climate change impacts are not experienced uniformly, with patterns of intersecting socio-economic development, land use, historical and ongoing patterns of inequity causing different degrees of vulnerability across various social groups. Climate impacts may therefore disproportionately threaten the human security of often already marginalised communities with a limited choice of adaptive strategies, increasing the risk of competitive coping modalities being selected and the subsequent emergence of conflict. As such, rather than being viewed as an exclusively external phenomenon, it is imperative that climate change – and the extent and nature of its impacts across different contexts – is an inherent function of pre-existing socio-ecological conditions and dynamics.
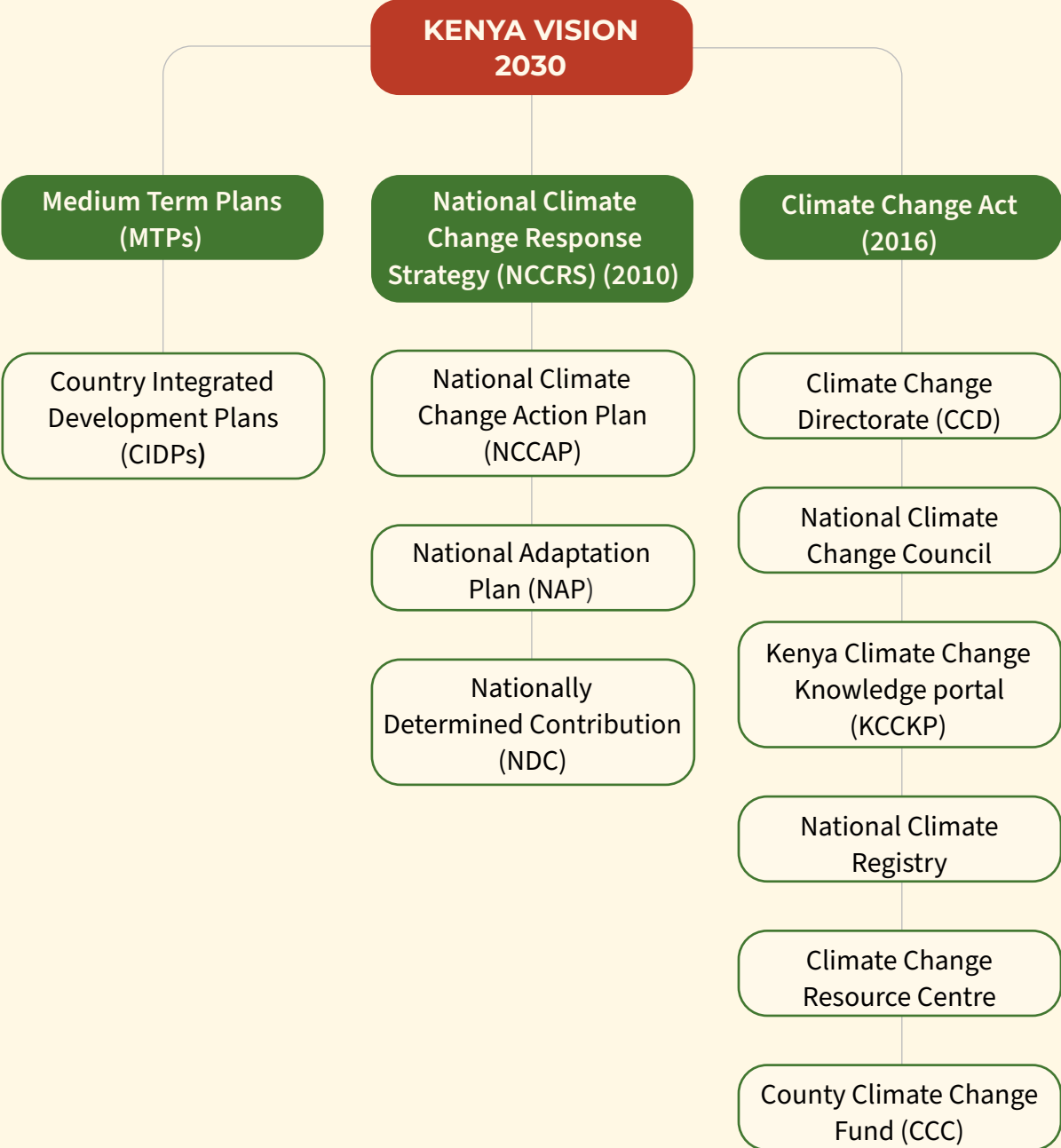
Climate policy design and formulation processes should therefore be conflict-sensitive in nature and cognisant of both how climate change and responses to it (if systemic interconnections are not recognised) may trigger conflict, but also sensitively account for vertical and horizontal policy linkages and interactions to ensure effective collaboration across multiple scales and sectors and minimise the risk of negative spillover effects for human security or conflict risk. Likewise, policies related to peace and security must be sensitive to the various ways through which climate change is likely to alter the landscape in which they seek to intervene by influencing conflict dynamics and drivers.

Given the human security and potential conflict risks attached to incoherent policy making and implementation processes that display no sensitivity to climate-related security risks, it is essential that thematic and implementation-related gaps in current policy outputs are found, opportunities for better integration of climate-related security considerations and cross-scalar/sectoral cooperation are identified, and that policymakers are provided with effective policy design and evaluation tools to help improve climate security-sensitivity. This policy brief – summarising the outcomes of a full length report – assesses the coherence and climate security-sensitivity of policy and strategy documents extracted from sectors relevant to the climate, peace, and security nexus across the national level in Kenya and across the regional level in East Africa. The report aims to answer the following research questions:

- **To what extent do the selected documents engage with the topic of climate and display an awareness of climate-related security risks?**

- **To what extent can coherence be detected between climate- and peace and security-related policy domains?**

- **How deep is the level of engagement with the topic of climate security evidenced by the documents?**

- **Does mitigation of climate-related security risk feature in implementation related policy programs?**

- **To what extent do the documents display in-text evidence of deploying multi-level and adaptive governance mechanisms?**

COUNTRY CONTEXT: Policy Processes & Institutional Structures

1. CLIMATE CHANGE GOVERNANCE at national and subnational levels

KENYA VISION 2030

Medium Term Plans (MTPs)

Country Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs)

National Climate Change Response Strategy (NCCRS) (2010)

National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP)

National Adaptation Plan (NAP)

Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

Climate Change Act (2016)

Climate Change Directorate (CCD)

National Climate Change Council

Kenya Climate Change Knowledge portal (KCCKP)

National Climate Registry

Climate Change Resource Centre

County Climate Change Fund (CCC)

2. PEACE, SECURITY, AND CONFLICT MANAGEMENT GOVERNANCE at national and subnational levels

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Medium Term Plans (MTPs)

Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government

Directorate of Peace Building and Conflict Management

National Steering Committee (NSC) on Peacebuilding and Conflict Management

National Cohesion and Integration Committee

National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC)

National Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Strategy

County CVE Action Plans

Kenya Defence Forces

National Intelligence Service

National Police Service

RESULTS

A total of 63 policies and strategy documents were assessed as part of the analysis, extracted from international climate policy databases, repositories, and government ministries and agencies and institutions active in sectors related to climate, peace, and security (climate and environment, peace and security, disaster risk reduction (DRR), development, food security, agriculture, and gender).

1. The majority of policy documents subjected to analysis demonstrated thematic awareness of the role that climate change impacts may play in exacerbating existing forms of insecurity and instability and in potentially increasing the risk of conflict. However, translating this awareness into integrated climate, peace, security-sensitive objective setting and programmatic priorities remained largely absent.

2. Within Kenyan and East African policy contexts, peace and security- and gender- related policy documents in particular appear to show limited thematic or conceptual engagement with climate change and the insecurities it may cause, as well as how climate change-related impacts may affect or exacerbate conflict-related outcomes.

3. Policies and strategies relating to development and DRR were more likely to translate acknowledgement of climate-related security risks into specific programmatic measures than other sectors, suggesting that integration of the climate, peace, and security nexus is primarily focused around preparation, prevention, and recovery from short-onset shocks (such as drought) rather than into longer-term adaptation or mitigation activities.

4. Very few policy documents deployed both climate- and peace-related forms of assessment or analysis. Climate and environment-related policy documents tend not to, for example, contain peace- and conflict-related analyses or assessments, whilst peace- and security-related documents tend not to undertake any form of climate vulnerability mapping or a comparable form of assessment.

5. Even though the majority of documents from across all sectors and scales of governance in some way appear to engage with the logic of policy adaptivity, operationalizing this awareness was much rarer.

CONCLUSION

Policymakers generally understand the conditions and circumstances that may heighten the chances of climate-related security risks. Climate adaptation and mitigation priorities appear to be well mainstreamed throughout the majority of sectors analysed, although climate-, peace-, and security-related programmatic measures remain absent. A foundation for integrated climate, peace, and security programming does however exist.

There is notable cross-sectoral variation in the extent and depth of engagement with climate-related risks and potential intervention to mitigate these are present. DRR-related policies and strategies in particular appear to have well-developed integrated programmatic initiatives that consider the climate, peace, and security nexus. By contrast, the nexus is virtually entirely absent in existing peace- and security-related strategies, suggesting that the potential co-benefits for peace and stability that may arise as a by-product of adaptation and mitigation activities have not yet been fully realised and integrated into planning, implementation, and evaluation.

There is very limited technical cross-fertilisation between climate and environment and peace and security realms. In practice, this means that evidence of having deployed analyses or approaches to ensure conflict-sensitivity are largely absent in climate and environment-related policies, whilst climate-related analyses are absent in peace and security-related policy documents.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Identify where adaptation and mitigation efforts can form entry points for conflict prevention, conflict transformation, and peacebuilding.

2. Existing integrated and multi-dimensional programmatic initiatives that include reducing the risks of climate-related conflict – currently predominantly undertaken as part of DRR efforts – should be upscaled and incorporated into longer-term adaptation efforts.

3. Improve opportunities and capacities for cross-fertilisation between climate, environment, peace, and security policy sectors, both at the institutional and the technical levels.

4. Improve the technical capacity of actors working at the intersection of climate, insecurity and conflict to operate on the basis of the principles of adaptivity.

Photo: Neil Palmer

About CGIAR FOCUS Climate Security

CGIAR aims to address gaps in knowledge about climate change and food security for peace and security policies and operations through a unique multidisciplinary approach. Our main objective is to align evidence from the realms of climate, land, and food systems science with peacebuilding efforts already underway that address conflict through evidence-based environmental, political, and socio-economic solutions.

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