

Africa LEDS Partnership: Proposal for Side Event at CCDA-V

Objectives

The Africa LEDS Partnership (AfLP) is hosting a public event to promote awareness of, and support for, the AfLP and its activities within African climate change and development communities.

Focus of Side Event

The recent publication of the Africa Progress Panel's 2015 Report has again highlighted that Africa has a huge development deficit, which is both manifested in, and intrinsically linked to, energy provision in Africa. As Africa attempts to reduce this deficit, undergoing a huge transformation in its energy infrastructure, various options arise around energy generation and access, including decisions around which options offer the cheapest energy, but also the cleanest and most sustainable energy. Furthermore the complex question of funding of this deficit needs deeper analysis and comprehensive solutions.

However such decisions around energy policy often have dramatic implications on developmental progress (or lack of), and as such there are multiple developmental impacts to consider under various energy scenarios. There are therefore many aspects Africa's transition from a low-carbon economy (in the sense that emissions are minimal) to a low carbon economy based around low-carbon energy, to be resolved, if trickle-down of benefits to the poorest and most climate vulnerable is to take place. Hence questions about energy access, as well as distributional questions that go to problems of poverty and inequality need to be addressed as well. The APP speaks of "not leaving anyone behind".

Sub-Saharan Africa in particular is especially short of electricity for cooking, heating, and light, which in turn impacts on income generation, health, and a plethora of other socio-economic factors. Furthermore, of the 90GW currently generated in the region, more than half comes from South Africa.

This discussion will use the framing outlined in the APP to discuss the various developmental impacts of low-carbon energy, drawing on examples from South Africa's renewables programme and the experiences of the Africa LEDS Partnership around such themes as economic empowerment, community ownership of low carbon energy. It will go on to encourage participation of attendees in the African LEDS Partnership, providing an overview of the support and technical assistance on LEDS it provides.

Expected Outcomes

- Stakeholders have a clearer understanding of the links between energy and Africa's Development Deficit, as outlined in the APP report;

- Stakeholders have increased awareness of the varying developmental impacts of low emissions energy projects and policies, based on examples from the South African context;
- Stakeholders have the understanding of how to stimulate local entrepreneurial activity, build a real sense of ownership and develop a positive relationship between communities and low emission energy projects;
- The Africa LEDS Partnership and its colleagues grows its community of practice amongst researchers and practitioners, and increases its mandate to operate as a pan-African coordinator of LEDS work;

Target Audience

This event is targeted at practitioners of Low Emissions Development, in particular those working in government. It is also interested in engaging with researchers working on energy, and modelling/co-benefits assessments in Africa.

Organisers

Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and the Africa LEDS Partnership (AfLP)

Background on CDKN and the Africa LEDS Partnership

The Africa LEDS Partnership (AfLP) is the Africa regional network of the LEDS Global Partnership (LEDS GP), which is working towards a prosperous climate resilient Africa with inclusive green growth for the welfare of current and future generations. It aims to promote low carbon emissions climate resilient development, in support of poverty alleviation, job creation and environmental management in Africa. The partnership consists of governments and technical institutions across African countries, and international organisations working on LEDS.

The Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) supports decision-makers in designing and delivering climate compatible development. We do this by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. We work in partnership with decision-makers in the public, private and non-governmental sectors nationally, regionally and globally. We hold strongly to the ideals of human development and environmental sustainability.

Contact information

For more information, please visit:

- Africa LEDS Partnership (AfLP) pages of the (LEDS GP) website: <http://ledsgp.org/about/AfricaLEDS>
- CDKN website: www.cdkn.org
- CCDA-V conference: www.climdev-africa.org/ccda5
- Queries can be directed to Leo Roberts (leo.roberts@cdkn.org.uk), Zukisani Jakavula (zuki@southsouthnorth.org), or Edward Awafo (awafoe@hotmail.com)