

EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE LOW CARBON DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS



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Exploring Sustainable Low Carbon Development Pathways

Setting the Agenda and
Stimulating the Debate between Policy Makers, Science and
Civil Society in:

Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Peru, Tanzania.

A project organized by national partners in co-
operation with:

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

Bread for the World – Protestant Development Organization

WWF Germany (Vietnam & Peru)

Climate Action Network International – CAN

ACT Alliance – Action of Churches Together (Peru & Tanzania)

I. The general objectives

The proposed series of activities aims to support the development of Low Carbon Development Strategies (LCDS), which identify pathways to a low emission and climate resilient economy in order to achieve sustainable development. Therefore, LCDS need to be nationally appropriate, pro-poor and human-rights based, taking into account a country's socio-economic and development priorities.

The fundamental basis to fulfill this aim is to illustrate that low carbon development is not only possible, but can be economically beneficial: Low Carbon Development offers the chance to modernize, innovate and strengthen economic systems and labor markets, create new and sustainable jobs and to strengthen participation and social cohesion.

The **overall objectives** of this project are to:

- Establish a new and inspiring narrative and public messaging about Low Carbon Development and national, regional and international levels;¹
- Illustrate in the different national contexts that low carbon development is feasible/affordable and fertilize the international climate negotiations by supporting academic research/evidence/models/best practices etc.;²
- Create platforms for dialogue at the national level for a range of different stakeholders (civil society actors from environmental NGOs, development organisations, trade unions, science and media);
- Support and intensify networks between civil society actors in order to enable them to participate in local and national policy formulation.

II. Background & partners

Two of the major challenges in the world nowadays are to deal with climate change and to eradicate poverty and grant access to sustainable development for all people. There will be no 'one-size-fits-all' solutions and strategies towards sustainable development including those for climate change and poverty alleviation. They have to be country-specific. As a possible solution, the Copenhagen Accord refers to "a low-emission development strategy" (Draft Decision -/CP.15, Para. 2) followed by the UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun in 2010, which came up with the concept of *Low Carbon Development Strategies (LCDS)* as a common but differentiated approach to meet the overall emissions reductions objectives.³ While obligatory for developed countries,⁴ developing countries are encouraged to develop LCDS.⁵

The Friedrich-Ebert Foundation, Bread for the World (BftW), and WWF Germany (for Vietnam and Peru) have jointly initiated a project to support local and regional as well as international network partners to promote LCDS in four countries namely Tanzania, Kazakhstan, Peru and Vietnam.

¹ In line with CAN (Climate Action Network) Strategic Objective on Low Carbon Development.

² In line with CAN (Climate Action Network) Strategic Objective on Low Carbon Development.

³ Cancun Agreements: "*All countries shall prepare Low Emission Development Strategies...nationally-driven and represent[ing] the aims and objectives of individual Parties in accordance with national circumstances and capacities.*"

⁴ Cancun Agreements: "*Further decides that developed countries should develop low-carbon development strategies or plans;*"

⁵ Cancun Agreements: ("*Encourages developing countries to develop low-carbon development strategies or plans in the context of sustainable development*").

The project will be implemented in close co-operation and ownership with different national partners in the four countries, representing a broad range of societal stakeholders, including civil society, science, and the policy level.

Moreover, Climate Action Network International (CAN) and Action of Churches Together (ACT) as two global networks working on climate change and climate policies, have agreed to be associated closely partners in this project in order to ensure sustainability and to widespread lessons that can be drawn from this approach.

In each of the four pilot countries a national steering group is formed to plan the workshops and steer the process at national level, including develop and monitor the strategic direction for the program, to jointly develop a concept and program for the kick-off-workshop, to identify participants for the kick-off workshop from the country and other countries from the region, and to analyze and evaluate challenges and efforts for Low Carbon Development.

III. Selection of pilot countries

Vietnam has been chosen as one of the world's fastest-growing economies over the past three decades, which led to the expansion of energy-intensive sectors such as manufacturing, transport and power generation. In other words, energy consumption will continue to increase over the next decades but energy efficiency is very low in comparison to most other East Asian countries. Due to its dependence on fossil fuels, GHG emissions have more than doubled over the past decade, and are expected to triple reaching 515.8 megatonnes of CO₂ equivalent emission by 2030⁶. At the same time Vietnam is highly exposed to the effects of climate change (floods, storms, and sea-level rises). In addition to the National Target Programme for climate change and the National Climate Change Strategy, Vietnam has promulgated the National Green Growth Strategy (GGS), which addresses in a comprehensive manner the issues of green growth and low carbon development. In that sense, the GGS can be considered as a LCDS for Vietnam.

As many other countries, **Kazakhstan** is in urgent need of setting the path towards a sustainable and low-carbon development. On the one hand, the country has experienced significant economic growth in recent years, peaking at nearly 10 percent annualized between 2000 and 2008. In 2012, Kazakhstan's GDP expanded by 5 percent and stood at \$200 billion, for 2013 the government forecasts it to grow by 6 percent to \$227 billion at current exchange rates. In addition, the country holds about 3 percent of the global recoverable oil reserves as well as about 3 percent of the global black coal reserves, furthermore minerals and gas. On the other hand, exactly this wealth of resources is the main obstacle to sustainable development: Coal-fired power stations currently account for around 80 percent of Kazakhstan's electricity generation. This leads to environmental problems such as heavy air pollution, desertification in the largely semi-arid country, increased floods and mud flows, shrinking glacier areas and the depletion of water resources (the economy now consumes 20 billion cubic meters of water a year) but also social imbalances such as the economy's sensitivity to external shocks due to volatile prices for oil and other raw materials or low wages and bad working conditions in the oil industry.⁷

⁶ MONRE of Vietnam (2010), Vietnam's Second National Communication to the UNFCCC on climate change

⁷ In the oil town Zhanaozen, oil workers were on strike for a half a year in 2011. 15 people were shot during clashes between protesters and the police, more than 1000 workers were laid off.

In the past, the governments' strategic answer was and in parts still is mainly based on a traditional development paradigm, i.e. on the exploitation of natural resources and revenues from fossil energy, as illustrated in 'Kazakhstan 2050', the country's economic strategy. However, the government has increasingly realized the need to take action towards sustainable development and has started a couple of initiatives, the most recent is the announcement to spend 1% of the GDP yearly until 2050 on cleaner energy sources in order to reduce its dependence on coal. According to this plan, Kazakhstan's "energy basket" by 2030 would be made up of 11 percent generated by wind and the sun, 8 percent by nuclear power, 10 percent by hydro power, 21 percent by gas and 49 percent by coal. It is estimated, that the "green revolution" can add annually up to 3 percent of GDP to Kazakhstan's current economic growth in the period until 2050 and create up to 600,000 new jobs. Further, in recent years, laws on energy efficiency, conservation and the use of renewable energy were drafted and a national market for greenhouse gas emissions quotas was introduced in 2013. The latter includes 178 oil and gas, mining and other big industrial emitters.

Tanzania is highly dependent on the climate-vulnerable agricultural sector, i.e. extreme weather events such as droughts and floods already lead to major economic costs. Further, there are potential threats from climate change to coastal zones (sea-level rise), health, energy supply and demand, infrastructure, water resources, agriculture and ecosystem services. At the same time, the unsustainable use of inefficient bioenergy is leading to deforestation and an increasing dependence on fossil fuels is causing fuel price shocks and inflation as well as air pollution. Even though Tanzania, ranking 152 from 187 countries according to the Human Development Index 2011, made considerable improvements in human development such as an increase in life expectancy or increase in per capita income according to PPP (purchasing power parity), still 43,7% of the population live in poverty. Further, maternal death rates and lacking access to drinking water are still major developing problems.

Due to the national urgency of climate protection and adaptation measures as well as development needs, Tanzania engages both at the national and international level: Internationally, Tanzania is active in the Cartagena Group/Dialogue for Progressive Action. Nationally the country is in the process of developing a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS).

Further, comprehensive development strategies such as Poverty Reduction Strategy papers (PRSP) are complemented by national strategies such as the second "National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction" (Swahili: MKUKUTA) or the "Tanzania Development Vision 2025". When discussing a development strategy for Tanzania it has to be kept in mind that the country has immense public debts and is highly dependent on soft loans and grants. It is expected, that 40% of the national budget in the next years will be funded from abroad ('donor economy').

Peru, on the one hand, is a relatively small contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions (app. 0.4%), on the other hand it is very vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Approximately 71% of the world's tropical glaciers are found in Peru, where they provide an important source of water for consumption, agriculture, electricity generation and mining. 22% of these glaciers have been lost in the last 35 years. Further, deforestation and forest degradation have been increasing rapidly over the years due to factors including rapid economic growth, resulting in land-use change being one of the main causes of the country's GHG emissions. Peru, ranking 80 from 187 countries according to the Human Development Index 2011, is hit by a widening poverty gap: wealth is concentrated in a few coastal cities while great party of the rural population in the highlands lives in poverty. The

country's economic development is mainly based on mining and resource exploitation and a vision for the sustainable use of prevailing resources and a socially balanced development is urgently needed.

These circumstances create political pressure for climate policy measures at the national and international level: Nationally, Peru has developed a plan for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and is in the process of developing a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Internationally, Peru is active in the Cartagena Group/Dialogue for Progressive Action and will host COP 20 in 2014.

IV. The concept

In each country, it is foreseen to have a 4-step process of activities:

Firstly, a **kick-off workshop** with key stakeholders aiming at identifying and analyzing the potential, the challenges, gaps and open questions with regard to low carbon development. All kick-off workshops shall be implemented between September 2013 and April 2014.

Secondly, the kick-off workshops are being followed by a **reflection phase**, aiming at compiling materials (studies, analyzes, examples) and contributing with small studies and briefing papers to fill identified knowledge gaps, combined with ongoing consultations of experts within the regions. This phase should last no longer than 4-6 months per country.

Thirdly, the reflection phase will cumulate in a **main conference** in each of the pilot countries, aiming at presenting and discussing the results with a variety of stakeholders in order to identify options and preferences for national low carbon development pathways. These conferences shall take place in 2014.

Fourthly, shortly after the conferences, a smaller **follow-up workshop** with the steering group members is planned in order to evaluate the process and agree on possible follow up action.

V. The specific objectives and expected outputs of the Kick off- workshops

The objectives of the kick-off workshop are:

1. To discuss the potentials and challenges of implementation of existing strategies related to low carbon development, including Green Growth Strategies, National Climate Change Strategies etc. with a particular focus on implementation of mitigation actions at grass root level.
2. To discuss linking and potential trade-offs of these strategies with the goals of poverty reduction and socially justified growth in the respective country.
3. To exchange experiences with international and regional experts on the LCDS.
4. To identify and propose follow-up activities (after the kick-off workshop) for the course of the project

After the kick-off workshop the national and international steering group members will have a separate meeting to:

- Select the follow-up activities and agree on working mechanism among stakeholder organisations in the framework of the project to raise the awareness for low carbon development strategies in the country.

The expected outputs of the kick-off workshop are:

- Approaches and lessons learned from other countries in particular from the region discussed and used as input for discussion of the potential and gaps in the debate and works on LCD and GG.
- The potential, challenges and gaps/outstanding issues for LCD and especially the national Green Growth Strategy identified and analysed.⁸
- The set-up of policy papers – if the stakeholders have the feeling that there is a gap on potentials and challenges of implementation of existing strategies related to low carbon development.
- The focus, key issues, and ongoing work on LCD among different stakeholder groups documented and discussed and potential linkages, synergies and gaps/overlaps as well as potential dialogues and collaborations identified.

VI. Target groups

Kick-off workshop: around 40-50 persons from various stakeholders including policy makers, international organisations, science and research institutions, environmental and development NGOs, civil society, trade unions, potentially media etc. will participate in the kick-off workshop to allow for focussed discussions. International and regional experts will also be invited to contribute their knowledge and experience. Interactive methods will be applied and English as well as the respective main national language – if necessary – will be the languages of the workshop.

Reflection phase: the steering group members in co-operation with selected experts (and potentially stakeholders).

Main conference: around 80 - 120 persons from various stakeholders including policy makers, international organisations, science and research institutions, environmental and development NGOs, civil society, trade unions, potentially media etc will participate in the main conference to allow for focussed discussions. International and regional experts will also be invited to contribute their knowledge and experience. Interactive methods will be applied and English as well as the respective main national language – if necessary – will be the languages of the conference. In comparison to the kick-off workshops the main conference should be larger, more high-level and will focus a little bit more on the visibility and awareness raising in the public/media/government. It is less focused on open questions and more on solutions.

Assessment workshop: the steering group members in co-operation with selected partners and/or stakeholders.

⁸ E.g. a template with a column with the current situation, the gaps and outstanding issues, a column to show where the ambition is not high enough and if some important aspects are missing. This should be separated for the two aims of poverty reduction (maybe together with adaptation) and mitigation. Last but not least maybe a differentiation between the different opinions of different stakeholders is necessary and helpful.

VII. Timeline of the overall project in Vietnam:

	Activity	Aims	Timeframe
1)	Kick-off workshop	Analyse potential, challenges and open questions for LCDS in the country; exchange of experience with experts from the region	September 2013 – April 2014
2)	Reflection Phase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compile material for the identified gaps(studies, analyses, examples) and develop and finalize the policy papers the partners have agreed on before (in or after the kick-off-workshop) ▪ Start to set up a new alliance etc. for a dialogue in the country ▪ Other follow up activities with different stakeholders to get a more ambitious LCDS in combination with a successful development threshold 	October 2013 – October 2014 (depending on the timetables of each country, but this reflection phase should last no longer than 4-6 months per country)
3)	Main conference	Present & discuss elements of a national LCDS, gap analysis and best practices; open a broader public debate, Discuss elements of a national LCDS, communicate them to other stakeholders and the media, call governments for action and mobilise interest in follow-up work	February 2014 – November 2014 (depending on the timetables of each country)
4)	Assessment & follow-up planning workshop	Assess the process so far, do a stakeholder mapping in view of possible follow up and initiate follow up cooperation/networking	September 2014 – December 2014