4. **Creation of user-friendly community awareness material that effectively communicates county government mitigation and adaptation projects and programs that the community can benefit from.**
   The county governments have the ability to make use of the most accessible forms of media, such as radio or television, in order to plan weekly shows that provide the community with updates on climate change and environmental protection and activities that are centred on these themes. These can be done in the regional vernacular language, which makes the material accessible even to people who have not had access to formal education but have a greater understanding of the regional languages.
5. **Beef up community-based awareness creation;** using community county structures like Community Resource Volunteers where each cluster can have at least one who will be engaged in community sensitization on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in their normal settings like churches, SHGs meetings, school parent meetings and welfare meetings.
6. **Formulation and integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and laws.**
   Makueni County can greatly benefit from targeted county legislation that delineates the county institutional, financial and social responses to climate change. Such a law would streamline climate change mitigation and adaptation as a central performance indicator at all levels of the county services delivery.
7. **Integration of home-grown solutions to address climate change.**
   Previously, African governments have looked outward for ideas on climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, it is increasingly becoming clear that the strategies employed by a potato farmer in Idaho, USA will vary greatly from the strategies employed by a mango farmer in Makueni, Kenya. It is imperative that the count considers home-grown climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies as such interventions will have a smoother entry point with Makueni citizens.

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Further Reading:
https://opencounty.org/county-about.php?com=8&cid=17
https://www.adaconsortium.org/index.php/ada-resources/news-blogs/ada-media-centre/114-media-articles/228-makueni-county-sets-pace-in-africa-with-climate-change-agenda



POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE AT COUNTY LEVEL; LESSONS FOR MAKUENI COUNTY.

Key Message

"Stronger action is required to meet adaptation and resilience objectives."

Introduction

Makueni County has experienced changes at the social, economic and political level. This is both in practice and perspective. The ongoing changes contribute to the overall outlook of resources which include environmental and natural resources. Most Makueni residents depend directly or indirectly on environmental goods and services. Environmental degradation and the expansion of agriculture into marginal areas and clearance of natural habitats such as forests and wetlands are a major driving force to degradation in the County. The loss of biological resources translates into loss of economic potential options and the exposure of the Makueni residents to the realities of climate change. The effects of climate change are becoming a reality for the people of Makueni. There is reduced supply of water from many springs in the county, intensified and increased natural disasters such as prolonged droughts and wild fires.



Validation of report on policy, legal assessment- 28th July 2022

Policy Issues

Makueni County has six main policy and legislative documents that drive adaptation and mitigation strategies in the county;

1. **Makueni County Climate Change Fund (2015).**
   The object and purpose of the Fund is to provide funding for climate change activities identified in the Makueni County which is then regulated by the County Climate Change Fund Management Board. which has the responsibility of approving the County Climate Change Budget; mainstreaming climate change projects, programs and activities in county planning and budgeting, and ensuring their approval and inclusion in the County Integrated Development Plan.

2. **Makueni County Water Act.** The Act has been specifically curated to suit the needs of the county by including the administration of water sanitation and sewage service providers, providing for sanitation service and pollution control measures, development and management of the County water works, storm water management and the recognition of external partnerships aiding to meet the needs of the County.

3. **Public Participation Policy**. The County has further formulated a policy that focuses on the mechanisms or platforms through which the citizens are involved and decisions reached in the context of governance.

4. **The Climate change policy**. The policy has the ambitious aim of providing the framework for coordination and implementation of NRM in the county.

5. **The Makueni County Climate Information Services Plan.**The plan intends to provide meteorological and climatic information to enable local, sub-county, and county level decision making across the primary livelihood groups and strategic climate-sensitive county government planning.

6. **Sand harvesting and utilization Act, 2015.** This Act regulates the harvesting of sand from river beds, an activity that has negative environmental consequences.



Sand River in Makueni

POLICY BRIEF

Despite having a robust legal and policy documentation, Makueni County still experiences challenges on weak enforcement, poor coordination of actors, weak disaster preparedness mechanisms, environmental pollution, inadequate resources (funding, human and institutional) weak climate resilience mechanisms, loss of biodiversity, overexploitation of natural resources and weak land use planning.



Makueni Sand Harvesting

Policy Recommendations

Makueni County has made substantial progress toward meeting its commitments to address the climate catastrophe and the degradation of the environment, but there remains a considerable gap between these pledges and their actual execution. It's extremely important to close this chasm.

1. **Implement multi-sectoral and community-based approaches to reduce vulnerabilities and agricultural and economic impacts of climate change.**
   As the climate crisis around the world gets worse, building resilience at the community level should be a top priority. Community-based approaches see people who have been affected by disasters as active participants and leaders in efforts to improve their resilience, rather than as passive recipients of help or support from outside sources.
2. **Address the large gaps that exist in funding both for mitigation of and adaptation to impacts of climate change.**
   Despite the existence of the climate change fund regulations in Makueni County, the budget allocation does not address the grassroots challenges. There is need to look beyond the county budget and create financing collaborations with private sector as well as development partners.
3. **Technical and Institutional support to private sector, SMEs and entrepreneurs to climate proof their businesses.**
   Agriculture being the main economic activity in Makueni County, there is need to support residents with climate smart agriculture technologies. Moreover, providing support to the business community to climate proof their businesses will deliver accelerated resilience for communities.