

# Wajir County Climate Change Financing



Women fetching water from a project funded through the Wajir County Climate Change Fund ©Mohamed Turane

**Transitioning to a low carbon climate resilient development pathway as envisaged in the National Climate Change Action Plan (2013-2017) requires substantial funding and investment. Some counties in Kenya have formulated regulations to help raise funds for climate change actions and achieve low carbon climate resilient development.**

Among these counties is Wajir, through the Wajir County Climate Change Fund Act, 2016. On 24 May 2016, Wajir Governor Ahmed Abdullahi signed the Act into law and its implementation commenced in June 2016. The Act was formulated through a participatory process that included communities and development partners, and guided by the Kenya Climate Change Act, 2016 and the Public Finance Management Act, 2012, in tandem with the Constitution of Kenya.

The Act commits the County Government to set aside not less than 2 percent of its development budget for climate change projects, programmes and activities. This is provided for in the Climate Finance Framework under the Act, ensuring the sustainability of the Fund.

Seed money equivalent to KSh 62,709,714 million (USD 615,000) was provided by the Department for International Development (DfID) through the Strengthening Adaptation and Resilient to Climate Change in Kenya (StARCK+) project to kickstart the implementation of the Act.

The seed money is being used to fund 12 water-related projects, including fencing and rehabilitation of 10 pans, and drilling of two boreholes that will be powered using a solar system.

Wajir is the second county in Kenya and Africa to set up such a legislation after Makueni. Other counties in the process of developing similar legislation include Kitui, Isiolo, and Garissa. The Act places Wajir County in a strategic position to access climate finance from the National Government, development partners, and international sources.

The Fund facilitates climate change financing in Wajir through establishing climate finance mechanisms, facilitating and planning for climate change adaptation and mitigation in the county planning and budgetary framework, and initiating and coordinating finance for climate change adaptation and mitigation activities at community level, among others.

The Adaptation Consortium (ADA), with funding from DfID, supports the five county governments named above under the StARCK+ Project to access climate finance in support of adaptation and climate resilient development. The consortium is also supporting the five counties to mainstream climate change into their planning processes.

The National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) coordinates the work of the consortium, which brings together Christian Aid (CA), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and UK Met office.

The Act provides a framework for sharing of finances in the Climate Change Fund, with 10% being set aside for administrative costs, 70% for projects in the wards, and 20% for county-wide projects. Further, it makes public participation mandatory, where each

Ward Planning Committee is obligated to convene, during the first quarter of every financial year, at least three community consultation forums in three different locations for climate change awareness, project eligibility criteria, and identification of priority projects from community members. In addition, the Act promotes transparency in planning, budgeting and tendering of climate change initiatives.

Since the formation of County governments, Wajir has spent the highest proportion of its development budget in funding water related projects. This exemplary work led to the appointment of the Governor of Wajir, Ahmed Abdullahi, as Water Ambassador for all the 47 counties by the Water and Irrigation Cabinet Secretary Hon. Eugene Wamalwa.

Increased water funding and better management has reduced water-related conflict in the county, and reduced water collection distance, enabling women and children to easily access water including watering points for livestock compared to previous years. Wajir County has consequently increased technical capacities of local experts and transparency of adaptation and mitigation funding.

**Abdirahman Ibrahim**  
CEC Environment Energy & Natural Resource  
Wajir County  
[admaalim@yahoo.com](mailto:admaalim@yahoo.com)

**Bob Aston**  
Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN)  
[baston@alin.net](mailto:baston@alin.net)

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