DIAPOL-CE – Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management on Climate Protection Strategies

Context

Governments around the world have signed the Paris Agreement and adopted measures to protect natural landscapes in the Convention on Biological Diversity. They now need to present the strategies they plan to follow to transform their economies into resilient, low-carbon and eco-friendly systems. At the same time, the significant increase in the resources required by the countries of Africa, West Asia, Central Asia and South Caucasus is expected to continue in the coming decades. This will result in more greenhouse gas emissions and place ever greater stress on ecosystems and natural resources.

To counteract these trends, paths of economic development need to be coupled with long-term strategies to preserve the climate and biodiversity. International support and the sharing of related experiences make it possible to identify specific ways to achieve resilient, climate-friendly economies. These efforts can factor in objectives related to biodiversity, nature conservation and environmental protection, along with corresponding implementation structures that help ensure climate-compatible development.

Objective

The project helps governments to apply internationally proven approaches in developing resilient, climate-friendly, and eco-friendly economies. The project's measures support policy makers and responsible institutions to systematically design and successfully implement integrated and ambitious climate and biodiversity policies in the form of emission reduction, adaptation, and natural resource management strategies. The project contributes to the planning and implementation of ambitious adaptation and nature-based mitigation approaches in the partner countries and supports them in integrating the measures into their respective NDC targets. In the long term, this supports the transformation to climate-friendly and resilient economies.

Approach

The project is aiding its partner countries in incorporating the potential of natural carbon sinks like forests and peatlands into their climate protection strategies. In the process, experts are analysing economic development paths that strengthen biodiversity and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Project title	Policy Dialogue and Knowledge Management on Climate Protection Strategies
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV)
Implementing organization	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Countries	Georgia, Mongolia, Oman, Rwanda, Senegal, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and other selected countries
Overall term	03/2014 – 06/2025

The project is also supporting pilot approaches to managing natural resources in sustainable, climate-sensitive, and environmentally friendly ways that also facilitate local economic growth. In addition, funding options are being formulated with the countries involved to disseminate successful methods.

Finally, regional specialist forums are providing opportunities for the relevant technical authorities and stakeholders from the private sector and academia to learn from each other. The project is also helping to refine experiences from individual countries and sharing knowledge at the regional and international levels.

Work Areas

The project advises on natural climate protection (mitigation), adaptation and natural resource management strategies, identifies climate-friendly technologies and solutions, promotes regional initiatives, and disseminates information on effective measures in six fields of work:

Natural climate protection

In cooperation with the Nile Basin Initiative the project focuses on natural climate protection in two transboundary **peatland landscapes** in the Kagera Sub-basin shared between the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda (Cyohoha-Rweru-Akanyaru Marshlands and the Sango Bay-Minziro Transboundary Wetlands). The project enhances the scientific

knowledge and understanding of their potential as carbon sinks and of their socio-economic values. The analyses help to leverage climate financing for economic development and green growth.

Adaptation strategies

In Senegal, the project supports the partner ministry in the strategic planning and **implementation of NDC in the forestry sector focussing on adaptation**. In addition to the NDC implementation plan, the project works in cooperation with the Senegalese Ministry of Environment and Development to fight forest fires by developing of a national forest fire management strategy with pilot measures in the province of Sédhiou.

In Mongolia, the project cooperates with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Water Agency on **climate-sensitive water management**. International and national experts will integrate climate aspects during the update of a river basin management plan.

With the Ministry of Economy and Planning and the Bank of Mongolia, DIAPOL-CE works on computer-based **modelling of macroeconomic impacts of climate change adaptation** for a more resilient national economy.

In Nigeria, DIAPOL-CE and the World Resource Institute are joining forces to offer climate-economic modelling for evidence-based policy making to the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and involved Ministries, Departments and Agencies. And in Uganda, the project supports economic modelling of climate change adaptation measures in the water sector to better integrate sectoral with economic planning.

Uptake and financing of climate and environmentally friendly technologies and management methods

To improve the uptake of climate and environmentally friendly technologies and management methods, the project provides advice for specific technical solutions, implements feasibility studies and supports adaptation and biodiversity finance approaches. In this line DIAPOL-CE is adopting the NDC Partnership Request of the Iraqi government to support investment planning for NDC implementation.

The project finances the initiative of the Kazakh-German University to integrate green finance modules in a master program. The program aims to create an opportunity for future decision makers in Central Asia, Mongolia, and the Caucasus to learn about sustainable finance approaches.

Regional policy initiatives

As part of the regional policy initiatives the project and the Environmental Department of the League of Arab States (LAS) work on studies and trainings in biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration as well as a training on financing of climate change adaptation.

Cooperation with Gulf States

A climate policy exchange with the Gulf States explores the specific potentials and challenges of the group of countries in the diversification of the oil and gas-based economy. The project adviced the Omani Environmental Authority on sustainable management of protected areas through the biosphere reserve approach as well as on sustainable tourism.

Knowledge management

To make the experience usable in the long term, the project is engaged in knowledge management and is working on successful regional activities and making them accessible for IKI projects worldwide. 21 good practice cases were selected within this framework, which can be accessed here and here.

In addition, the project finalises its contributions to climate protection by increased energy efficiency that started in the previous project phase. In Jordan the project consults on the introduction of Minimum Energy Performance Standards for industrial equipment.