



▲ Poster from the DECLIC COP21 campaign in West Africa. By @Diop.

Promoting Poverty-Reducing Low-Carbon Development Strategies in Africa, South Asia and Latin America

Since 2014, INFORSE and Climate Action Network have cooperated with regional and national member organisations to promote pro-poor, low-carbon strategies regionally and in eight countries. Now we have the first results.

Though raising out of poverty historically has led to increases in CO₂ emissions, this is not a law of nature. Today, sustainable energy solutions allow for developments that are both low-carbon and benefit the poor.

The mere existence of low-carbon solutions, however, does not guarantee a low-carbon development, even when they are cheaper than the high-carbon alternatives. A pro-poor, low-carbon development will only be realised in a country or region in which it is a political priority. It must be what energy planners and politicians are working for.

Success requires new policies and new ways of planning. Thus, a pro-poor, low-carbon development is only likely to happen if there are sufficient advocates for it from civil society as well from other actors.

It is important to stress that, for many promoters of low-carbon development, it is not necessarily about cutting emissions, but about the opportunities and benefits that it can bring for human development, for access to modern energy, and for poverty reduction.

This is the basis for INFORSE's and Climate Action Network (CAN)'s promotion of pro-poor low-carbon strategies in a number of regions and countries.

Focus on UNFCCC Process

The project partners are organising three events during UNFCCC COP21 (see p.2). In the first quarter of 2016, they will have dialogues on how best to use and to implement the COP21 outcome.



East Africa

In East Africa, TATEDO (Tanzania Traditional Energy Development Organisation) is promoting low-carbon development in its role as INFORSE-East Africa coordinator, together with CAN-Uganda and a number of stakeholders in Tanzania and Uganda, including CAN-Tanzania. As many areas in East Africa are suffering from depletion of biomass resources, the main focus is on biomass. As much as 1/3 of the use of wood for energy in Tanzania is unsustainable. The country loses 400,000 ha of forest per year to deforestation. Since 85- 90% of the energy used in Tanzania is from biomass, major problems are ahead with the deforestation, which also threatens the energy supply.

In Tanzania, TATEDO and its coalition of stakeholders are addressing the lack of focus and of strategy for biomass in the national policies. They promote a strategy combining:

- Promoting renewable energy, including, among others, solar and use of agricultural residues for energy

West Africa

In West Africa, ENDA is promoting low-carbon development in its role as INFORSE-West Africa coordinator together with Mali Folkecenter as well as with coalitions of stakeholders in Senegal and Mali. They focus on local energy supply for productive and household use. They see the need for local available energy for productive use as a key to further development. They promote, among others, energy-efficient baking ovens and solar electrification as solutions.

In Senegal, ENDA has organised a civil society coalition and has promoted low-carbon development solutions together with the coalition members at various events, including a march for the climate in Dakar in May 2015 with 1000 participants. The coalition also organised a stakeholder seminar, and promoted good practice solutions in other ways. To support the work, policy briefs were produced on the subjects of improved baking ovens and biogas plants.

- Improving and promoting energy efficiency
- Large-scale dissemination of clean, fuel-saving cook stoves and other clean cooking methods
- Improving forest management and protection

They have promoted the strategy in meetings with ministries & a Parliament committee, in several events including a workshop on future biomass actions, and in task forces. To explain their positions, they have produced a policy brief for decision-makers.

At the regional level, the focus has been on the East African Community (EAC), where TATEDO and partners have promoted low-carbon development at an expert workshop on Africa's energy challenge, and at regional meetings on strengthening the capacity of African countries to promote renewable energy. TATEDO and partners also developed two regional policy briefs.

▲ Around 1000 people participated on the People's March for the fight against climate changes and for the promotion of renewable energy in Dakar, Senegal on May 31, 2015.

Photo: ENDA-Energy



▲ Regional knowledge sharing seminar: "Promotion of Pro-Poor Low-Carbon Development Strategies" organised by INFORSE West Africa and ENDA-Energy in Dakar, Senegal on November 5, 2015.



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▲ Workshop on low-carbon development and climate change in July 2015 in Dehradun, India. Photo by AIWC.

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South Asia



In South Asia, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANS A) and the INFORSE regional coordinator INSEDA are promoting low-carbon development together with a number of stakeholders as well as with activities in India and Sri Lanka.



The activities focus on national climate strategies and the development of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC's) to UNFCCC.

In India, All India Women's Conference (AIWC) is a key partner in the activities that have included 11 national and state-level consultations, policy briefs, other publications, and public outreach via TV.

In Sri Lanka, IDEA is a key partner in the activities that have included nine local and national consultations as well as development of documentation of the benefits of pro-poor, low-carbon development.

Regionally, the focus is on the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

Latin America



In Latin America, CAN Latin America (CANLA) is promoting low-carbon development in activities with partners in Bolivia, Haiti, and also regionally.

In Bolivia, the main focus is on land use. The national NGO FIDES (Integral Development Foundation) is coordinating activities that have included a civil society workshop, a communication platform to civil society, a dialogue event with authorities on greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, a solutions workshop, and articles.

The basis for the focus on land-use is that 48% of Bolivian CO₂ emissions are from deforestation, mainly from the "Santa Cruz" department in Bolivia.

In Haiti, the activities have included an internet forum on low-carbon development, an awareness workshop on global warming, and focus on small-scale solutions such as energy-efficient bakeries and laundries.

Regionally, the focus is on the regional organisation UNASUR, where CANLA is working to have NGOs better included and to improve the South American Energy Strategy.

Read more on the project *Promoting Pro-Poor & Low-Carbon Development Strategies (LCD)* by INFORSE and CAN at:

- Africa: www.inforse.org/africa/Low-Carbon-Strategies.htm www.tatedo.org www.endaenergie.org
- Asia: www.inforse.org/asia/Low-Carbon-Strategies.htm www.cansouthasia.net www.aiwc.org.in
- Latin America: www.fidesbolivia.org www.can-la.org
- INFORSE: www.inforse.org/Low-Carbon-Strategies.htm and CAN : www.climateactionnetwork.org
- Project coordinator SustainableEnergy: www.sustainableenergy.dk/global-network

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