# Scaling Global South Climate Solutions | Siaya Community Resource & Climate Justice Hub - Kenya






The Siaya Knowledge Hub converts 2,275 dormant paper cadastral plans and local knowledge into a live, community-owned geospatial system that enables village-level climate adaptation planning, disaster risk management, and realisation of constitutional rights for Siaya's 98 Village Administrative Units and their 1.05 million residents.

**Challenge**

Siaya County faces intensifying floods and droughts that destroy livelihoods for over 1 million people, while 2,275 completed cadastral plans remain locked as paper records. Without village-level geospatial data, communities, especially smallholder farmers, women, youth and persons with disabilities, cannot shape adaptation plans, access climate funds, or hold duty-bearers accountable for their constitutional rights to a clean environment, food, water and housing.It matters now because adjudication is already complete in 96 of 98 villages, climate shocks are accelerating, and the window to convert this dormant public asset into a living decision system is open, but closing.

**Solution**

What we built or did: We are building the Siaya Knowledge Hub, a community-owned geospatial and data system that digitises 2,275 dormant cadastral plans and integrates them with live, village-level citizen data to produce People's Adaptation Plans for all 98 Village Administrative Units.

How it works:

- Digitise & integrate paper land records into a living GIS system.
- Train community data champions (prioritising women, youth, and persons with disabilities) to collect georeferenced socio-
- economic and climate data at village/sub-village scale.
- Co-produce adaptation plans for each village, feeding evidence into county budgets, the Climate Change Fund, and disaster
- risk management.
- Institutionalise through county planning, M&E systems, and a sustainable financing model.

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**Solution**

What makes it distinct and replicable:

- Constitutional grounding: Directly links citizen data to Articles 42 and 43 (right to clean environment, health, food, water, housing).
- Turns dormant public assets (paper cadastral plans) into active, rights-based planning tools.
- Community ownership: Data is generated, owned, and used by villagers themselves, not extracted by external actors.
- Fits within Kenya's existing hierarchical planning framework (from national to village level), making it scalable to other counties with minimal policy change.

**Impact**

People Reached

- Population Covered: The project will benefit an estimated 993,165 people (2026 projected population).
- Households Reached: Community data collection will cover approximately 25,000 households.
- Direct Poverty Impact: Will directly serve the county's estimated 76,000 extreme poor and its 38.3% poverty-stricken population.
- Youth Engagement: The plan prioritizes training youth as "community data champions"; currently, over 12,800 youth inthe county are already engaged in related agricultural programs.

Key Outputs

- Community Plans: Develop "People's Adaptation Plans" for all 98 Village Administrative Units (VAUs).
- Land Data: Digitize and integrate 2,275 cadastral plans into a live GIS system.
- Capacity Building: Train Village Councils, Ward Committees, and community data champions (prioritizing women, youth,
- and persons with disabilities).

Environmental & Climate Benefits

- Climate Vulnerability: 80% of the county's farmers rely on rain-fed agriculture, making them highly susceptible to climate shocks. The project aims to enhance resilience through precise, localized data.
- Ecological Restoration: The county's forest cover is only 0.42%—one of the lowest nationally. The project will directly support the restoration of degraded lands through data-driven land-use planning.

Economic & Fiscal Benefits

- Economic Backbone: Agriculture contributes nearly 60% of the county's output, valued at approximately KES 9.2 billion annually. The project will safeguard this core economic driver through climate-resilient investments.
- Fiscal Integration: By Months 25–36, the project aims to systematically integrate village-level data into the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) and annual budgets.

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**Partners**

1. Multilateral and Bilateral Development Agencies: These agencies can provide large-scale funding, technical assistance, and policy alignment support.
   - World Bank: As a co-funder of the "Financing Locally-Led Climate Action" (FLLoCA) program, the World Bank can provide funding for the project's "People's Adaptation Plans" and support the systematic integration of village-level data into county fiscal planning.
   - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD): As the lead funder of the "Integrated Natural Resources Management Programme" (INReMP), IFAD can provide financial support for climate-smart agriculture and natural resource conservation, directly contributing to the adaptation components of this proposal.
   - Green Climate Fund (GCF) & Global Environment Facility (GEF): As major climate funds co-financing INReMP alongside IFAD, they can directly fund the ecological restoration and community climate action elements of the project.
   - Governments of Germany, Sweden, Denmark, and the Netherlands: These countries provide funding for FLLoCA in Kenya, and the Dutch government also supports the "Voices for Climate Justice" (VCA) project. They can support the project's data- driven governance and community participation aspects.
   - United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): With experience in strengthening community-led climate action in Kenya, UNDP can assist in establishing the "citizen data" system and training "community data champions."

2. Kenyan National Government Agencies: These agencies can provide policy guidance, technical support, and ensure alignment with national strategies.
   - National Treasury: Responsible for managing national climate funds like FLLoCA, the Treasury can integrate the project into the national climate finance framework and provide funding channels.
   - Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Digital Economy (MICDE) & ICT Authority: Currently driving the"Jitume Digital Hub" initiative, they can support the digital infrastructure and talent development for establishing the "Siaya Knowledge Hub."
   - Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS): As the official statistical agency, KNBS can collaborate to launch a "Sub-Village Human Development Index," validating and standardizing community-generated data.
   - Kenya Meteorological Department: Can collaborate on strengthening village-level weather monitoring and early warning systems.

3. International NGOs and Consortia: These organizations can provide expertise in project implementation, community mobilization, and advocacy.
   - WWF and Hivos: As core implementers of the VCA project, they can provide professional support in community-led nature-based solutions and advocacy.
   - Natural Justice: With a focus on climate justice, they can assist with the legal and policy advocacy aspects of the proposal.
   - Adaptation Consortium (ADA): Which operates the "County Climate Change Fund" (CCCF), can help connect the project to county-level climate financing.
   - Slum Dwellers International (SDI-Kenya): A VCA project partner with extensive experience in community data collection
   - and participatory planning, they can provide technical guidance.

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**Partners**

4. Kenyan Local Organizations and Community Partners: These organizations are critical for on-the-ground implementation at the local level.
   - The County Government of Siaya: The core implementing partner, responsible for integrating outcomes into county planning, budgeting, and governance frameworks.
   - Kenya Community Development Foundation (KCDF): With experience in community development projects in Siaya, they can provide grants for community-level activities and capacity building.
   - Practical Action Kenya: Has experience with youth agricultural projects in Siaya and can support youth engagement and data collection efforts.
   - Lwala Community Alliance: A locally based organization already working in Siaya, they can serve as an on-the-ground partner for community mobilization and capacity building.
   - Acacia Community Development Association: The proponents of this proposal, responsible for overall coordination and implementation.

5. Private Sector and Corporations: These entities can provide technology, training, and potential commercial partnership opportunities.
   - Huawei: Already collaborating with the ICT Authority on digital skills training in Siaya, they can provide technical support and training for the "Siaya Knowledge Hub."
   - Konza Technopolis: Having partnered with Huawei to launch an AI-driven Business Process Outsourcing platform in Siaya, they can provide technical and business model references for the Knowledge Hub.
   - Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB): Having received GCF funding to scale climate technologies, they can provide financing channels for community enterprises and agricultural projects under the proposal.
   - Amazon Web Services (AWS): As an industry partner for digital hubs in Siaya, they can provide cloud computing and data storage services.

6. Foundations and Impact Investors: These organizations can provide flexible grants and impact investments.
   - Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation: Has pledged additional funding for INReMP and can support the climate information system components of the proposal.
   - Mastercard Foundation: Has visited Siaya to assess youth engagement programs and can fund the youth "data champion" training component.
   - Climate Justice Impact Fund (CJIFA): Specifically supports grassroots community climate projects in Africa and can provide small grants for specific community actions within the proposal.
   - Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via the VCA project): Already funding the VCA project, they can support the community advocacy and participatory governance aspects of the proposal.