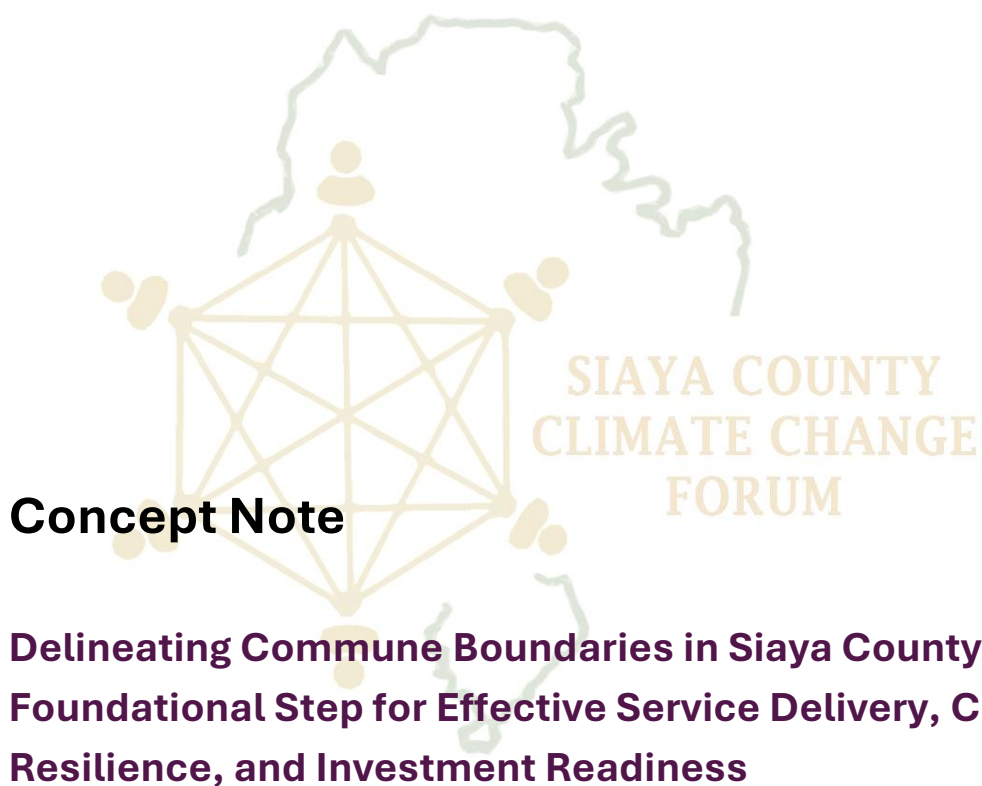




Proposed Activity: Participatory Mapping and Delimitation of Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) for Village Councils (Communes)

Funding Source Proposed: KENYA DEVOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (KDSP) II

Implementing Entity: County Government of Siaya (Executive Office of the Governor & Assembly) & Citizen Participation

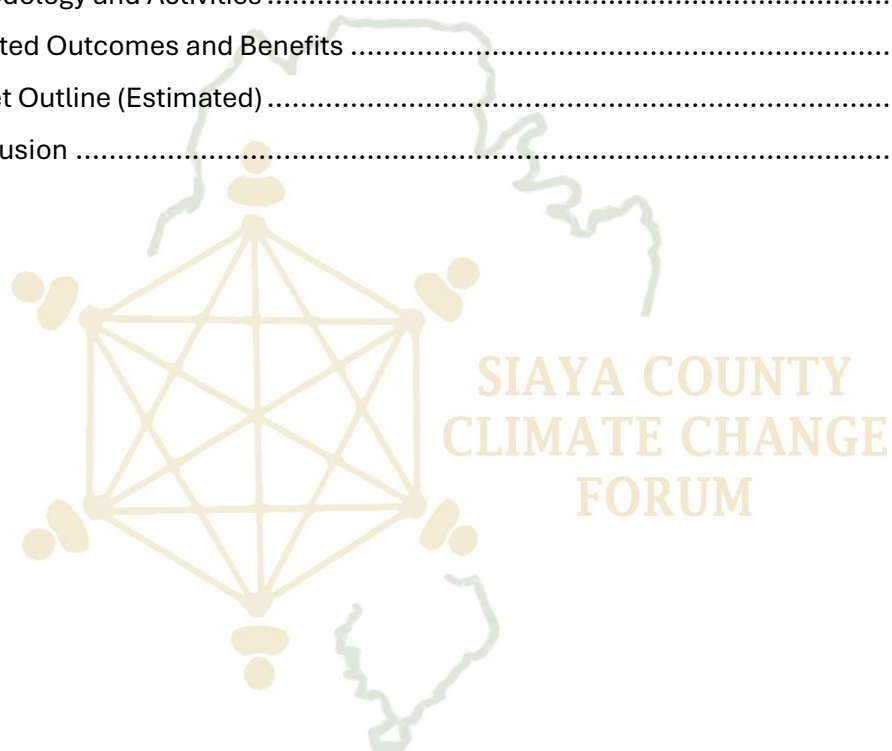
Technical & Community Mobilization Partner: ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG) on behalf of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum

Duration: 12 Months

Date: 26th September 2025

Table of Contents

Glossary	2
Executive Summary.....	4
1.0 Background and Problem Statement	5
2.0 Project Goal and Objectives.....	5
2.1 Goal.....	5
2.2 Specific Objectives.....	5
3.0 Alignment with KDSP II Objectives.....	6
4.0 Executing Team	6
5.0 Methodology and Activities	6
6.0 Expected Outcomes and Benefits	7
7.0 Budget Outline (Estimated)	8
8.0 Conclusion	8



Glossary

Term	Definition
Areas of Responsibility (AoRs)	The clearly defined geographical boundaries within which a Village Council has the legal and administrative mandate to plan, implement projects, and deliver services, including climate adaptation initiatives.
Climate Action	Efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and implement adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts, often integrated into local development planning.
Community Resilience	The ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from environmental, economic, and social stresses and shocks, particularly those exacerbated by climate change.
Baraza	A public meeting or forum used for community sensitization, consultation, and participation, often held at the village or ward level.
Commune	Synonymous with "Village" in the context of Siaya County; the lowest administrative unit under the County Government, governed by a Village Council.
County Governments Act (2012)	The national legislation that provides the legal framework for the establishment and functioning of county governments, including the creation of village units.
County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP)	A five-year strategic plan developed by the county government that outlines development priorities, projects, and resource allocation, including climate resilience components.
Gazettement	The official publication of a legal notice in the Kenya Gazette, conferring legal effect to boundaries, regulations, or administrative decisions.
Geodatabase	A structured collection of geographic data stored in a digital format, enabling advanced mapping, spatial analysis, and data management for climate vulnerability assessments.
GIS (Geographic Information System)	A computer-based system used for capturing, storing, analyzing, managing, and presenting spatial or geographic data essential for climate risk mapping.
GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite System)	Satellite-based technology, such as GPS, used for precise location mapping and boundary demarcation, critical for climate adaptation planning.
KDSP II (Kenya Devolution Support Programme II)	A World Bank-funded program aimed at strengthening the capacity of county governments in Kenya to improve service delivery, governance, and accountability, including climate resilience.
NGAO (National Government Administration Officers)	National government officials at the sub-county level, including County Commissioners and Sub-Chiefs, who provide administrative oversight.

Participatory Mapping	A collaborative process that involves community members directly in the identification, verification, and mapping of local boundaries and resources, incorporating local knowledge of climate vulnerabilities.
Preliminary Index Diagrams (PIDs)	Base maps sourced from the Land Registry that show approximate land parcel boundaries, used as a reference for detailed boundary demarcation.
Rectified PIDs	Corrected and georeferenced versions of PIDs that are accurately aligned with real-world coordinates, making them suitable for precise digital mapping for climate risk assessment.
Select Delimitation Committee	A committee comprising representatives from the County Assembly, County Executive, National Government Administration, and the community (e.g., ACDG) tasked with overseeing the boundary delimitation process.
Spatial Framework	A structured geographic system that defines boundaries and zones for planning, governance, and resource management, essential for targeted climate action.
Village Council	The elected or acclaimed governing body at the village (commune) level, responsible for local development planning and implementation, including climate resilience initiatives.



Executive Summary

The effective implementation of the Siaya County Village Administrative Act is critically hindered by the absence of clearly demarcated Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) for Village Councils. This lack of spatial definition undermines governance accountability, obstructs equitable service delivery, and heightens the risk of inter-community conflict—particularly in the context of escalating climate vulnerabilities. This concept note proposes a targeted 12-month project to be funded under the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) II, focusing on the participatory mapping and legal delimitation of Village Council (Commune) boundaries across Siaya County.

This initiative transcends a mere technical mapping exercise; it is a foundational investment in climate action and community resilience. By establishing a clear and legally recognized spatial framework, the project will enable effective climate adaptation planning, enhance community-led resilience strategies, and create accountable entities for managing climate finance and interventions. The demarcated boundaries will serve as the essential spatial foundation for targeting climate-smart agriculture, sustainable resource management, and disaster risk reduction initiatives where they are most needed.

We propose a collaborative implementation model involving the County Government of Siaya and the ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG), as the technical and community mobilization partner. Successfully resolving this fundamental governance gap will not only improve service delivery but also significantly strengthen Siaya County's capacity to implement locally led climate action and build lasting community resilience against environmental shocks, while creating an investment-ready governance structure for sustainable development.

1.0 Background and Problem Statement

The Siaya County Village Administrative Act establishes Village Councils as the primary units for grassroots governance, development planning, and climate resilience action. However, the absence of legally recognized and clearly demarcated boundaries for these Councils has created critical operational gaps, directly undermining the county's ability to address climate vulnerability and promote sustainable development. Key challenges include:

- i. **Ambiguous Accountability:** Unclear jurisdiction impedes the effective implementation of climate adaptation projects, disaster risk management, and resource allocation, leaving communities exposed to climate shocks.
- ii. **Ineffective Climate Planning:** Without spatial clarity, climate vulnerability assessments, early warning systems, and resilience-building initiatives cannot be accurately targeted or monitored.
- iii. **Impediment to Green Investment:** Investors and development partners require well-defined administrative units to channel climate finance, implement green projects, and ensure accountability.
- iv. **Conflict Potential:** Unclear boundaries often trigger disputes over natural resources, especially under climate-induced scarcity, weakening social cohesion and adaptive capacity.

Addressing this gap is essential not only for improving governance but also for strengthening climate resilience and enabling locally led adaptation under the KDSP II framework.

2.0 Project Goal and Objectives

2.1 Goal

To establish a clear, participatory, and legally recognized spatial framework for Village Councils that enhances governance, climate resilience, and sustainable development planning in Siaya County.

2.2 Specific Objectives

- i. To delineate and digitally map the Areas of Responsibility (AoRs) for all 490 Village Councils using participatory and climate-responsive approaches.
- ii. To build community consensus on boundaries to reduce conflicts and strengthen collective action for climate adaptation and synergy with planning for the attainment of sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- iii. To produce and gazette official boundary maps and legal descriptions for adoption by the County Assembly.
- iv. To enhance the capacity of Village Councils and county staff in spatial data management and climate-resilient planning.

3.0 Alignment with KDSP II Objectives

This project directly contributes to the core components of KDSP II strategic pillars. We have presented the general workflow at Annex One.

- i. **Strengthened Institutional Capacity:** By operationalizing the Village Administrative Act, the project builds a foundational governance structure for decentralized climate action.
- ii. **Improved Service Delivery:** Clear boundaries enable targeted delivery of climate-sensitive services such as water management, agroecological extension, and disaster preparedness.
- iii. **Enhanced Accountability:** Demarcated AoRs clarify responsibility for climate adaptation efforts, strengthening community oversight.
- iv. **Evidence-Based Planning:** The spatial framework supports the integration of climate risk data into the CIDP and annual development plans.

4.0 Executing Team

Functional Role	Representation	Personnel Involved
Select Delimitation Committee Members	County Assembly of Siaya	Relevant County Assembly Committee (TBD)
	Executive Office of the Governor	Directorate of Governance & Administration Directorate of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development
	Representatives of the Community - Petitioner	Chief Executive Officer, ACACIA Community Development Group & Siaya County Climate Change Forum
	National Government Administration Officers (NGAO)	County Commissioner
Secretariat	Executive Office of the Governor	Directorate of Governance & Administration Directorate of Lands, Physical Planning, Housing & Urban Development
	Representatives of the Community - Petitioner	Chief Executive Officer, ACACIA Community Development Group & Siaya County Climate Change Forum
	National Government Administration Officers (NGAOs)	Sub-Chief & Village Officers

5.0 Methodology and Activities

The methodology integrates participatory mapping, climate vulnerability considerations, and conflict sensitivity:

- i. **Stakeholder Inception Workshop:** Engage Ward Administrators, climate actors, and technical departments to align objectives with county climate goals.
- ii. **Community Sensitization Barazas:** Facilitate participatory village barazas to achieve two primary objectives: first, to build consensus and understanding of the boundary delimitation process and its benefits, and second, to integrate critical local knowledge—including historical boundaries, traditional resource management, and lived experiences of climate vulnerability—into the mapping exercise.
- iii. **Participatory Mapping:** Using the existing unrectified Preliminary Index Diagrams (PIDs) sourced from the Land Registry, GNSS technology and GIS platforms (QGIS/ArcGIS/AutoCAD), technical teams will work with community elders, and their respective Sub-Chiefs, and Select Delimitation Committee members to map the agreed-upon boundaries on the ground and onto the rectified PIDs in readiness for digitalization and generation of a geodatabase process.
- iv. **Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** Establish small mediation committees to amicably resolve any boundary disputes that may arise.
- v. **Draft Map Validation:** Present draft maps to communities for final review and sign-off.
- vi. **Legal and Technical Report:** Compile all maps, reports, and community agreements into a formal document for adoption by the County Executive and Assembly.
- vii. **Capacity Building Training:** Train Village Council members and county staff on using the maps for climate adaptation planning, disaster response, and resource management.

6.0 Expected Outcomes and Benefits

- i. **An Official GIS-Based Boundary Atlas for Siaya County,** a digital platform integrating administrative and climate risk data for planning systems.
- ii. **Enhanced Climate Governance:** Village Councils can effectively plan and implement localized adaptation measures.
- iii. **Improved Targeting of Climate Finance:** Defined AoRs enable transparent and accountable channelling of adaptation funds.
- iv. **Strengthened Community Resilience:** Empowered Councils lead coordinated responses to climate shocks, protecting livelihoods and ecosystems.
- v. **Enhanced Operationalization of Village Councils,** enabling them to function as effective units of planning and development.
- vi. **Reduced Inter-Village Conflicts** over resources and boundaries.
- vii. **Improved Equity in Resource Allocation** based on clear demographic and geographic data.

- viii. **Increased Investment Attractiveness** by providing a clear governance and spatial structure for project implementation.

7.0 Budget Outline (Estimated)

The project would be funded as a discrete activity under the KDSP II county work plan.

Budget Line Item	Estimated Cost (KES)	Justification
Technical Experts (Allowances for Members of the Select Committee Members, GIS, Facilitators)	16,666,667	For participatory mapping, conflict mediation, and report drafting.
Community Mobilization & Sensitization	6,666,667	Transport and allowances for community barazas across the county.
Equipment & Software (GPS units, Data)	3,333,333	Procurement of essential field equipment and GIS data processing.
Validation Workshops & Reporting	3,333,333	County-wide stakeholder workshops to validate final outputs.
Sub-Total	30,000,000	
Miscellaneous (10%)	3,000,000	
Total Estimated Budget	33,000,000	

8.0 Conclusion

The delimitation of Village Council boundaries is a strategic prerequisite for effective climate action and resilient governance in Siaya County. By leveraging KDSP II support, this project will not only resolve long-standing administrative gaps but also position the county to access and manage climate finance, implement targeted adaptation initiatives, and build community resilience. We urge the Executive Office of Governor and the County Assembly of Siaya to prioritize this initiative as a cornerstone of Siaya's climate-compatible development pathway.

Prepared for	The Executive Office of the Governor, Siaya County Government
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**FRAMEWORK FOR DELIMITATION OF COMMUNE BOUNDARIES
FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING & MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ACTION**

