



26th September 2025

**HIS EXCELLENCY, THE GOVERNOR OF SIAYA COUNTY,
In your capacity as the Chairperson,
COUNTY PROGRAM STEERING COMMITTEE,
KENYA DEVOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (KDSP) II,
COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA,
P.O. Box 803. 40600,
SIAYA**

Your Excellency,

**RE: REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION AND INCLUSION OF CLIMATE GOVERNANCE AND
RESILIENCE ACTIVITIES IN THE KENYA DEVOLUTION SUPPORT PROGRAMME (KDSP)
II WORK PLAN**

We, the ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG), the petitioner and acting as the convener of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum, present our compliments to you and the esteemed members of the County Program Steering Committee for the Kenya Devolution Support Programme (KDSP) II.

We are aware of the critical role of the Committee, which you chair, in guiding strategic investments that strengthen devolution and improve service delivery in Siaya County. It is in this context that we respectfully submit for the Committee's consideration a set of interconnected proposals designed to address a fundamental governance gap that currently impedes climate resilience, effective planning, and investment.

These proposals are strategically designed to create an enabling environment for the adoption of **Four Targeted Legal Reforms**. These reforms are essential for giving effect to Article 42 and 43 plus Schedule Four of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and unlocking climate finance and rebuilding local resilience, as detailed in the attached document. Our integrated request for KDSP II support is summarized as follows:

1. **Funding for a Quadripartite Conclave:** To support a high-level dialogue involving the County Government, National Government, Development Partners, and Community representatives. The primary outcome will be the signing of the **Siaya Climate Governance Pact**, a binding commitment to advance the four key legal reforms.
2. **Financing the Siaya County Climate Change Barometer (2025-2028):** A comprehensive Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) survey to generate the critical



evidence base required to inform and justify the proposed legal and institutional reforms.

3. **Support for Participatory Delimitation of Village Council Boundaries:** A foundational governance activity to create the clear spatial framework necessary for the effective implementation of the reforms, particularly the operationalization of the Climate Change Fund and the empowerment of Village Councils.
4. **Objective: Adoption of Four Key Reforms:** The goal supported by the activities above is the county's adoption of reforms to:
 - Amend the Siaya County Climate Change Act (2021) for carbon market access, realign the climate governance structures with those provided for in the Climate Change Act Cap 387A, the County Government Act 2012, and the Siaya County Village Administrative Act 2020.
 - Operationalize the Siaya County Climate Change Fund.
 - Revise the Village Administrative Units Act geared towards operationalizing the Village Councils.
 - Establish the Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA) – An incorporated action research entity, green fund mobilization vehicle, and monitoring, verification, and reporting entity.
 - We have attached detailed concept notes for your in-depth review and consideration.

Alignment with KDSP II Objectives:

These activities are strategically designed to contribute directly to KDSP II's key result areas, including **(a) Strengthened County Capacity, (b) Improved Service Delivery, and (c) Enhanced Accountability** by creating a robust legal and institutional framework for climate action.

We are confident that this comprehensive approach will position Siaya County as a leader in localized climate action. We kindly request the Committee, under your leadership, to consider these proposals for inclusion in the forthcoming KDSP II work plan and budget.

We are readily available to provide any further clarifications and to partner with the County Government in the successful implementation of these critical activities.



Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Oremo".

Dr. David Walter Odede Oremo, PhD

Chief Executive Officer,

Acacia Community Development Group (ACDG)

On behalf of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum

Email: David.Oremo@a4ge.org

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Attachments:

1. Four Targeted Legal Reforms to Unlock Climate Finance
2. Concept Note: Quadripartite Conclave & Siaya Climate Governance Pact
3. Concept Note: Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study
4. Concept Note: Delineation of Commune Boundaries in Siaya County



MAKING DEVELOPMENT SUSTAINABLE THROUGH CLIMATE ACTION: ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN GOVERNANCE IN SIAYA COUNTY



A PITCH TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF SIAYA

24th September 2025



ABOUT SIAYA COUNTY CLIMATE & SDGs SYNERGY COORDINATION FORUM

The **Siaya County Climate & SDGs Synergy Coordination Forum** is an advocacy platform established by the ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG)—a registered nonpolitical grassroots organisation committed to advancing social justice, equity, and the public good across Siaya County. ACDG serves as the formal petitioner advancing climate and developmental reforms in Siaya County, supporting open civic space and public dialogue with the devolved government.

Profoundly touched by Gandhi's Independence movement and particularly, the idea of making sacrifice for the common good of others, ACDG's work is rooted in the belief that meaningful change requires commitment beyond self-interest.

We believe that **climate action is the 21st century's greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals**. Guided by this vision, our mandate centres on advocating for sustainable development, environmental justice, and the constitutional rights of local communities.

We recognize that combating climate change is not only about reducing emissions or building resilience—it is about transforming every sector of our economy to be not only climate-friendly, but also equitable and regenerative for both people and nature. Through evidence-based advocacy, inclusive dialogue, and legal empowerment, we work to ensure that climate and socioeconomic development policies and finance mechanisms translate into tangible benefits for the communities most affected by environmental injustice and marginalization.

The Forum brings together voices from grassroots communities, government, academia, and development partners to advance this holistic and justice-centred vision of climate-resilient development in Siaya County and beyond.

Contact:

Dr David WO Oremo, PhD

Chief Executive Officer

ACACIA Community Development Group

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FOUR TARGETED LEGAL REFORMS DESIGNED TO UNLOCK CLIMATE FINANCE AND REBUILD LOCAL RESILIENCE

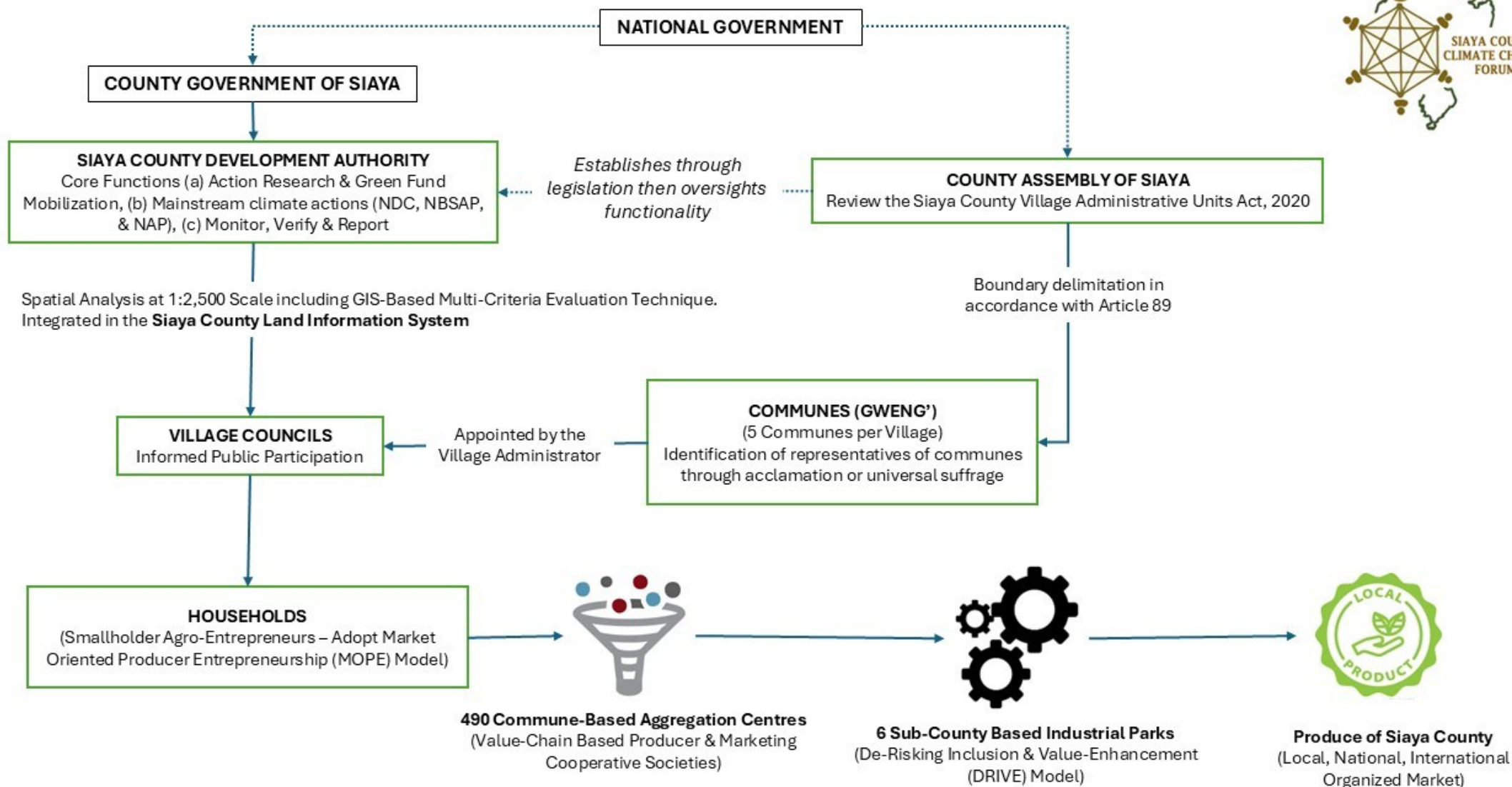
- a. **Amend the Siaya County Climate Change Act (2021)** to harmonize with the national Climate Change Act (Cap 387A) and the County Government Act (2012), enable full carbon market participation, and align with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement—unlocking international climate finance and private investment.
- b. **Enact legislation to operationalize the Siaya County Climate Change Fund**, creating clear governance and disbursement mechanisms to accelerate Locally Led Adaptation and ensure timely resource deployment.
- c. **Revise the Village Administrative Units Act** to empower Village Councils in climate action and socio-economic development decision-making and project implementation, facilitating the integration of SDGs, UNFCCC commitments (NDCs and NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies into local development planning.
- d. **Establish the Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA)** as a centralized technical institution mandated to conduct action research, inform policy, and mobilize, manage, and direct green financing toward high-impact, community-led sustainable development projects.



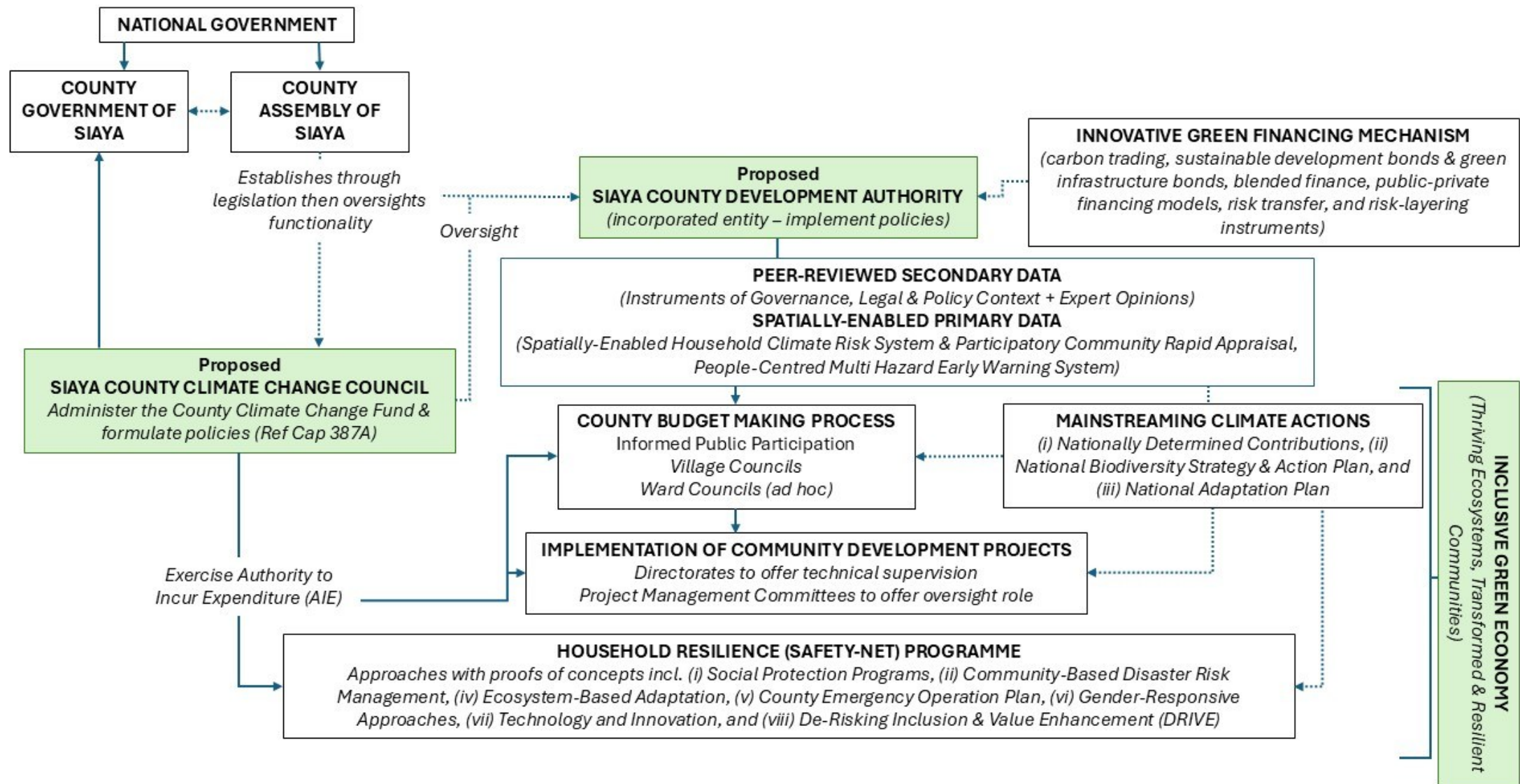
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR UNLOCKING CLIMATE FINANCE & SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SIAYA COUNTY

Objective	To establish a knowledge-driven governance model in Siaya County that facilitates sustainable and equitable growth
Mechanism	Leverage strategic partnerships to de-risk and structure local adaptation projects, thereby enhancing their investability and scalability.
Focus	Strengthen locally led adaptation to ensure climate resilience is built at the household level facilitated through informed public participation and agile village councils (also known as "the devolution last mile").
Long-Term Vision	To create the enabling conditions for a transition to a low-carbon, socially inclusive green economy.
Vehicle	The proposed SIAYA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (SCDA)

SCALING UP NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: A MULTI-LEVEL FRAMEWORK FOR GREEN JOBS FROM HOUSEHOLDS TO MARKETS: AGROENTERPRENEURIAL APPROACH



INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK FOR ADVANCING SIAYA COUNTY'S CLIMATE RESILIENT
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH LEGAL REFORMS





CONCEPT NOTE

Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Knowledge – Attitudes – Practices Survey 2025 – 2028

1. Purpose and Context

Climate change is not a projected risk for the 1.1 million residents of Siaya County (Table 1); it is the daily context within which they now operate. For instance, over the past twelve months, veterinary reports document a marked rise in climate-sensitive livestock diseases across multiple wards, underscoring the urgency for systematic, county-level response.

Despite these pressures, Siaya County is committed to climate resilience, as evidenced by its Climate Change Act and participation in Kenya's County Climate Change Fund. However, effective policy implementation requires a deep understanding of community perspectives. The proposed Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study will address this gap by surveying about 50,000 scientifically identified households to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding climate change. The resulting Barometer Report will provide actionable knowledge to inform targeted sectoral interventions and public awareness campaigns.

Anchored in Kenya's Constitution (Fourth Schedule, 2010) and harmonised with every relevant legal statute and the Paris Agreement, the Directorate of Climate Change—working together with the Siaya County Climate Change Forum, convened by Acacia Community Development Group—proposes to institutionalise a rolling, triennial Climate Change Knowledge–Attitudes–Practices Barometer.

The proposed Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study aims to:

- a. **Assess Knowledge:** Evaluate citizens' understanding of climate change, its causes, and local impacts.
- b. **Understand Attitudes:** Explore community concerns, priorities, and trust in climate information sources.
- c. **Identify Practices:** Document current climate-friendly behaviours and barriers to adoption.
- d. **Inform Policy:** Provide data-driven recommendations to enhance Siaya County's climate resilience strategies.
- e. **Engage Communities:** Amplify local voices to ensure inclusive, participatory climate solutions.

This study aligns with:

- a. Kenya's Vision 2030 and the National Climate Change Action Plan, emphasizing community-driven climate solutions.
- b. SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 1 (No Poverty), by fostering resilience and reducing vulnerability.
- c. Global climate finance priorities, including those of the African Development Bank and World Bank, which support evidence-based adaptation in vulnerable regions.

By investing in this study, the County Government of Siaya will contribute a scalable model for community-centred climate action, with potential replication across Kenya and beyond.

2. Strategic Objectives of the Siaya County Climate Change KAP Barometer

2.1 Baseline Establishment (2025)

Generate a statistically rigorous, gender-sensitive baseline of climate-change knowledge, attitudes and adaptive practices among the County's 1.1 million residents, with dedicated oversampling of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other historically marginalised groups.

2.2 Policy Alignment & Iterative Refinement

Conduct identical, triennial surveys in 2026 and 2028 to establish a county-owned, living barometer. This mechanism will continuously gauge policy performance, allowing Siaya County to synchronise its governance tools¹, sector strategies, NDC targets, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and National Adaptation Plan with emerging climate risks and vulnerability in real time.

2.3 Disaggregated Data Equity

Produce granular data—disaggregated by gender, age, disability status, livelihood source and village—to ensure that every policy action, budget allocation and programme design is inclusive and leaves no community behind.

2.4 Evidence-to-Finance Pipeline

Compile and release an open-access evidence package (datasets, policy briefs, investment cases) specifically tailored to unlock domestic budget reallocations, green-bond issuances and concessional external resources, while embedding gender-responsive investment criteria throughout.

3. Methodology in Brief

- i. Conduct in-depth 49,834 statistically representative households survey using a pretested questionnaire across all six sub-counties, using Probability-Proportional-to-Size sampling strategy.
- ii. Rigorously translate 11-item Knowledge Index that mirrors global best practice yet rooted in the local dialects (Dholuo, English, and Kiswahili).

¹ County Integrated Development Plan, County Sectoral Plans, County Spatial Plan, County Programme Based Budget, County Climate Change Action Plan, Cities & Urban Areas Plans

- iii. Integration of high-resolution satellite data with household-level vulnerability snapshots within the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework to produce policy briefs and actionable high resolution georeferenced dashboards for visualization.
- iv. Ethical clearance already obtained from Kenyatta National Hospital-ERC; anonymized data will be curated in the County Open Data Portal within six months of collection.

4. Value Proposition for Good Governance in Siaya County

The Barometer is conceived as a soft-power instrument: it showcases the County's leadership in transparency and evidence-driven governance, thereby offering a replicable model for other Counties and beyond. By embedding an equity lens, it speaks directly to the Leave-No-One-Behind imperative that underpins the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Goal on Adaptation. Moreover, the data architecture is designed to dovetail with the forthcoming European Union Global Gateway, the Adaptation Fund's Enhanced Direct Access modalities, ensuring seamless alignment with partner priorities.

5. Resource Mobilization Framework and Partnerships

The total estimated cost for the study is **KES43,825,934** broken down as presented in Table 2. Our proposed resource mobilization strategy involves engaging the following potential co-funding partners:

- i. National Government, through appropriation of the National Climate Change Fund, (10%, KES 4,382,593.40)
- ii. National Government, through appropriation of the National Government Constituency Development Fund, (10%, 4,382,593.40)
- iii. County Government, through appropriation of the County Climate Change Fund (10%, KES4,382,593.40)
- iv. International Development Partners for financial and technical support (25%, KES10,956,483.50)
- v. Public Benefit Organizations. The Forum will actively engage organizations working in the climate change space for financial and technical support (15%, KES6,573,890.10)
- vi. Private Sector. The Forum will seek partnership with magnates and conglomerates to enhance their corporate social responsibility (25%, KES10,956,483.50)
- vii. Philanthropists and crowd fund raising through donations, endowments, grants and gifts (5%, KES 2,191,296.70)

Furthermore, we propose to seek technical collaboration with the following key stakeholders

- a. UNDP Kenya
- b. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University for Science & Technology
- c. Global Centre on Adaptation
- d. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- e. Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis
- f. The National Treasury & Economic Planning

A transparent Memorandum of Understanding, countersigned by the Office of the Governor and each development partner will guarantee fiduciary integrity and provide the opportunity for joint oversight.

6. Management of Expectations and Accountability

A Steering Committee chaired by the County Executive for Climate Change, with quarterly press briefings convened at the Governor's Boardroom, will ensure strategic alignment. An independent Technical Advisory Panel—comprising representatives from development partners, civil society, and academia—will validate findings before public release. All anonymized micro datasets, that's minus personal identifiers, will be deposited in the Kenya Open Data Initiative portal, thereby meeting IATI standards.

7. Expected Outcomes and Impact

The Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study will deliver:

- a. Comprehensive Insights: Data on community knowledge (e.g., 65% awareness in pilot studies), attitudes (e.g., priority for sustainable agriculture), and practices (e.g., barriers like lack of resources).
- b. Policy Recommendations: Evidence-based strategies, such as subsidies for climate-smart technologies or targeted flood management in high-risk wards.
- c. Community Empowerment: Amplified community voices through qualitative insights and inclusive engagement.
- d. Scalable Model: A framework for other Kenyan counties to assess and address climate vulnerabilities.

The Barometer Report will inform Siaya County's climate policies, enhance resilience for 1 million residents, and contribute to national and global climate goals. It will also strengthen partnerships with NGOs, community groups, and government bodies, fostering collaborative action.

8. Sustainability and Exit Strategy

By 2028/29, the Barometer will be fully budgeted within the County's annual climate change vote, supported by a trained cadre of 30 county statisticians and a revolving Green Facility housed at the proposed Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA). External partners will transition from financiers to strategic advisors, ensuring long-term ownership without perpetual donor dependency.

9. Call to Action

The Acacia Community Development Group, together with its consortium of technical partners, respectfully addresses the Siaya County Directorate of Climate Change to signal its formal interest in the forthcoming Climate Change Knowledge–Attitudes–Practices (KAP) Survey.

We are prepared to enter a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out mutually agreed deliverables, timelines and resource commitments. This instrument will empower Acacia to act as the designated KAP survey coordinator, initiating dialogue and securing the participation of prospective development partners.

Mindful that the atmosphere recognises no administrative boundaries, we remain at the Directorate's disposal to conclude a concise Partnership Agreement at the earliest mutually convenient date.

Sub-County	Population (2019 Census)	Households (2019 Census)	Projected Population	Projected No. of Households	Probability Proportional to Sample Size	No. of Households to be Sampled
Alego Usonga	224,343	57,386	248,221	63,646	0.23	14,639
Gem	179,792	44,696	198,928	51,007	0.18	9,181
Ugenya	134,354	33,554	148,654	38,116	0.14	5,336
Ugunja	104,241	26,321	115,336	29,573	0.10	2,957
Bondo	197,883	50,454	218,945	56,140	0.20	11,228
Rarieda	152,570	36,930	168,809	43,284	0.15	6,493
	993,183	249,341	1,098,892	281,767	1	49,834

Table 1 Respondent Sampling Schedule

Category	Details	Cost (KES)
Planning and Preparation		2,250,000
Data Collection	Enumerator hiring	13,263,158
	Training	3,315,790
	Survey materials and mobile data collection	4,144,737
	Respondent incentives	7,500,000
Data Management and Analysis		3,000,000
Policy translation workshop & dissemination		2,578,689
Report Production and Dissemination		2,500,000
Steering committee & QA/QC audit		1,289,384
Sub-Total		39,841,758
Miscellaneous and Contingency (10%)		3,984,176
Total		43,825,934

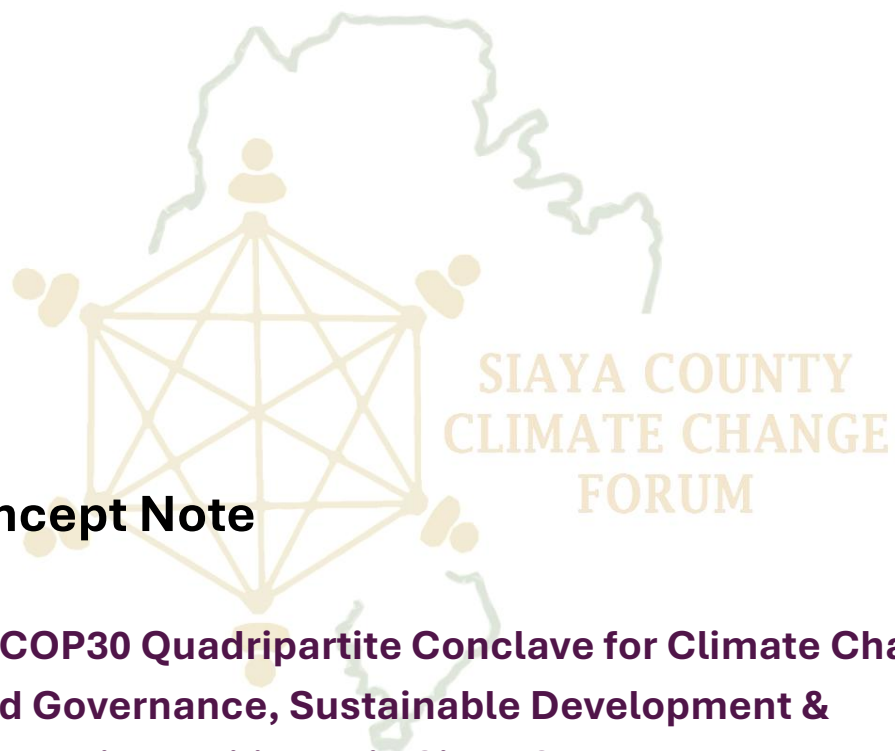
Table 2 Proposed Budget & Cost Centres



OUR CALL TO ACTION

- a. **Secure political buy-in and ownership** of the proposal to facilitate expeditious processing of the petition submitted to County Assembly of Siaya on the 16th December 2024.
- b. **Finance the proposed quadripartite conclave** in support of (a) above, culminating into the signing of the **Siaya Climate Governance Pact**. This is a binding agreement to be signed at the conclave, committing signatories to specific climate governance reforms and timelines.
- c. **Finance the Siaya County Climate Change Barometer** Knowledge – Attitudes – Practices Survey 2025 – 2028; thereby, contribute to a scalable model for community-centred climate action, with potential replication across Kenya and beyond. The proposed Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study will build on a previously published report in a peer-reviewed Journal of international circulation¹. The aims to:
 - i. **Assess Knowledge:** Evaluate citizens' understanding of climate change, its causes, and local impacts.
 - ii. **Understand Attitudes:** Explore community concerns, priorities, and trust in climate information sources.
 - iii. **Identify Practices:** Document current climate-friendly behaviours and barriers to adoption.
 - iv. **Inform Policy:** Provide data-driven recommendations to enhance Siaya County's climate resilience strategies.
 - v. **Engage Communities:** Amplify local voices to ensure inclusive, participatory climate solutions.
- d. **Partner with the County Government of Siaya and showcase the concept** at the forthcoming SIAYA INTERNATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT CONFERENCE^{14th – 17th Oct 25} for wider reach and to attract potential development partners.

¹ Yang et al., 2024. Perceived values and climate change resilience dataset in Siaya County, Kenya. Data in Brief 54 (2024) 110317. Elsevier.

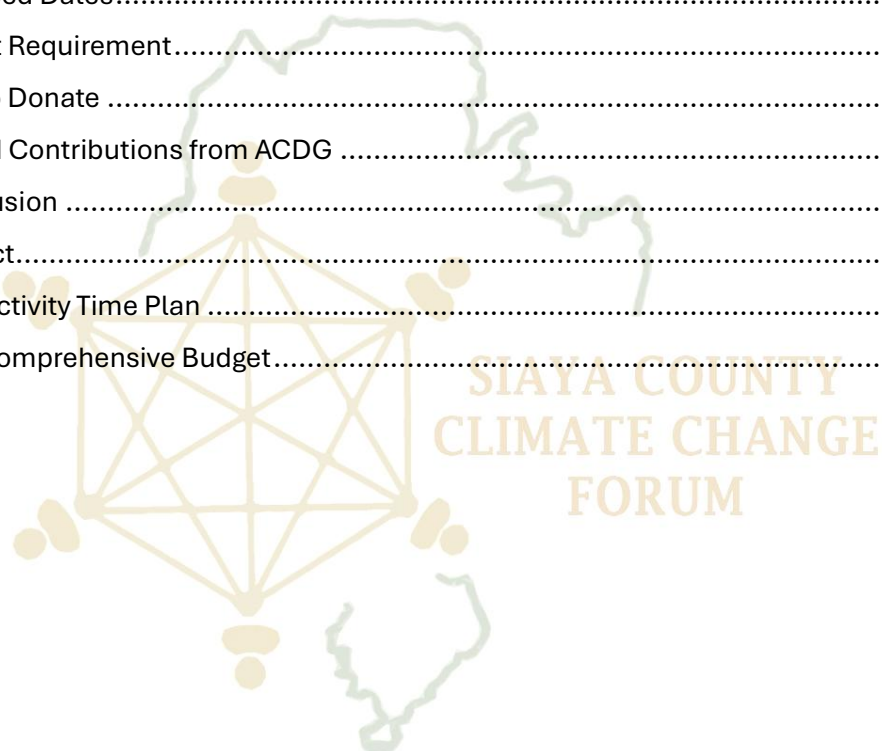


Concept Note

**Pre-COP30 Quadripartite Conclave for Climate Change
Good Governance, Sustainable Development &
Community Resilience in Siaya County**

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Glossary

Term	Definition
ACDG	Acacia Community Development Group – A grassroots advocacy organization driving sustainable development and climate action in Siaya County.
COP30	The 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to be held in Brazil in 2025.
Green Finance (used interchangeably with Climate Finance)	Financial investments from public, private, and alternative sources—spanning local, national, and transnational scales—that support environmental benefits, including climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, as well as sustainable development projects.
Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) (used interchangeably with community-led)	An approach to climate adaptation that empowers local communities and institutions to lead planning, decision-making, and implementation.
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	Climate action plans submitted by each country under the Paris Agreement outlining commitments to reduce national emissions and adapt to climate impacts.
National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	A process for identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing strategies to address them.
Paris Agreement (Article 6)	Allows for international cooperation and carbon market mechanisms to help achieve climate targets.
Quadripartite	Involving four key parties: community, county government, national government, and development partners.
Siaya Climate Governance Pact	A binding agreement to be signed at the conclave, committing signatories to specific climate governance reforms and timelines.
Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA)	A proposed centralized technical body to mobilize, manage, and direct green finance toward community-led projects.
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – the international treaty guiding global climate action.
Village Administrative Units Act	County legislation governing local governance structures. Its revision is sought to empower Village Councils in climate planning and project implementation.

Executive Summary

Siaya County faces a critical governance and climate crisis, characterized by systemic vulnerability exacerbated by economic exclusion and institutional inertia. A citizen-led petition submitted in December 2024 outlining four key legal reforms to unlock green finance remains stalled due to financial and consensus-building challenges within the county government. This inaction violates constitutional rights; blocks access to essential climate funds and deepens local insecurity.

In response, the ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG) is convening a **Pre-COP30 Quadripartite Conclave** on **23rd – 24th October 2025**. This high-level dialogue aims to bring together community representatives, the County Government of Siaya, national ministries, and development partners to break the deadlock through the adoption of a **Siaya Climate Governance Pact**. The Pact will commit stakeholders to implement four reforms within six months: amending the Climate Change Act, operationalizing the Climate Change Fund, revising the Village Administrative Units Act, and establishing the Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA).

Strategic Linkage: This initiative directly contributes to Kenya's position and local action ahead of COP30 (2025, Brazil) by creating a scalable model of sub-national climate governance. The conclave outcomes will demonstrate practical implementation of Kenya's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and provide tangible case studies for the country's COP30 delegation, highlighting locally led adaptation and finance mechanisms that can be replicated across other counties.

With a budget of KES 2,342,000, this inclusive and action-oriented forum seeks co-funding and strategic partnership from all stakeholders in the climate change space to ensure its success. The Conclave will not only address Siaya's immediate challenges but also position the county as a model of sub-national climate governance ahead of COP30.

1.0 About Siaya County Climate Change Forum

The **Siaya County Climate Change Forum** is an advocacy platform established by the ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG)—a registered nonpolitical grassroots organisation committed to advancing social justice, equity, and the public good across Siaya County. ACDG serves as the formal petitioner advancing climate and developmental reforms in Siaya County, supporting open civic space and public dialogue with the devolved government.

Profoundly touched by Gandhi's Independence movement and particularly, the idea of making sacrifice for the common good of others, ACDG's work is rooted in the belief that meaningful change requires commitment beyond self-interest.

We believe that **climate action is the 21st century's greatest opportunity to drive forward all the Sustainable Development Goals**. Guided by this vision, our mandate centres on advocating for sustainable development, environmental justice, and the constitutional rights of local communities.

We recognize that combating climate change is not only about reducing emissions or building resilience—it is about transforming every sector of our economy to be not only climate-friendly, but also equitable and regenerative for both people and nature. Through evidence-based advocacy, inclusive dialogue, and legal empowerment, we work to ensure that climate and socioeconomic development policies and finance mechanisms translate into tangible benefits for the communities most affected by environmental injustice and marginalization.

The Forum brings together voices from grassroots communities, government, academia, and development partners to advance this holistic and justice-centred vision of climate-resilient development in Siaya County and beyond.

2.0 The Crisis in Siaya: A Systemic Failure Demanding Systemic Solutions

The instability in Siaya County extends far beyond a mere law enforcement challenge—it is a manifestation of profound systemic failure. The region's deep vulnerability to climate risk is intensified by a critical lack of economic opportunity and chronic governance deficits, together fuelling widespread community insecurity. This has resulted in pervasive youth idleness, driven by scarce livelihoods and escalating climate-induced pressures, trapping the community in a cycle of despair.

At the core of this multidimensional crisis is the prolonged non-response to a formal, citizen-led petition submitted by ACDG, which proposes four targeted legal reforms designed to unlock climate finance and rebuild local resilience:

- a. **Amend the Siaya County Climate Change Act (2021)** to harmonize with the national Climate Change Act (Cap 387A) and the County Government Act (2012), enable full carbon market participation, and align with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement—unlocking international climate finance and private investment.

- b. **Enact legislation to operationalize the Siaya County Climate Change Fund**, creating clear governance and disbursement mechanisms to accelerate Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and ensure timely resource deployment.
- c. **Revise the Village Administrative Units Act** to empower Village Councils in climate decision-making and project implementation, facilitating the integration of SDGs, UNFCCC commitments (NDCs and NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies into local development planning.
- d. **Establish the Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA)** as a centralized technical institution mandated to conduct action research, inform policy, and mobilize, manage, and direct green financing toward high-impact, community-led sustainable development projects.

This ongoing inaction constitutes a violation of constitutional rights¹, undermines the county's own climate planning efforts, and continues to jeopardize community resilience. Without these reforms, Siaya remains excluded from international climate financing mechanisms. Although internal consultations within the county government are underway, financial constraints have significantly slowed consensus-building and implementation. This delay deepens local vulnerabilities, blocks access to urgently needed climate funds and threatens to exclude Siaya's story and potential from Kenya's strategic narrative at COP30.

The situation calls for immediate, coordinated action to transform governance, secure finance, and restore hope—making the proposed conclave not just timely, but essential.

3.0 The Opportunity: A Cooperative Path Forward to COP30

In a spirit of collaboration, ACDG and partners have begun joint fundraising to host the **Pre-COP30 Quadripartite Conclave**. This forum is designed to:

- i. Overcome financial and procedural barriers.
- ii. Secure multi-stakeholder buy-in.
- iii. Translate dialogue into binding commitments through the **Siaya Climate Governance Pact**.
- iv. Create a showcase example of localized climate governance and finance that Kenya can present at COP30.

We propose a two-day high-level conclave designed to translate dialogue into action, culminating to the pact. The event will bring together four core stakeholders:

- i. **Community Representatives** – ensuring grassroots voices shape outcomes
- ii. **County Government of Siaya** – providing legislative and executive leadership
- iii. **National Government** – offering policy guidance and resource facilitation
- iv. **Development Partners** – linking reformed governance to financing mechanisms

¹ Articles 42 & 43 plus the 4th Schedule of the Constitution of Kenya 2010

The conclave will be structured to produce the Siaya Climate Governance Pact—a binding roadmap with clear timelines for adopting the proposed reforms.

4.0 Objectives of the Conclave

- i. **Secure formal adoption of all four legal reforms by the Siaya County Assembly within six months** through structured stakeholder consultations, technical drafting support, and public advocacy campaigns.
- ii. **Establish fully operational governance structures for the Siaya County Climate Change Fund and SCDA within nine months**, including finalized operational manuals, disbursement protocols, and trained staff ready to access international climate finance.
- iii. **Launch the Siaya County Climate & SDG Coordination Platform** that convenes community, county, national, and development actors quarterly to track progress against Kenya's NDCs and NAP, with published implementation reports.
- iv. **Draft memorandum of understanding for four participatory policy gap analysis workshops with the petitioners and other aligned non-state actors and county technical staff** to identify and prioritize regulatory barriers and co-create solutions to strengthen local ownership of climate actions.
- v. **Publicly sign and launch the Siaya Climate Governance Pact at a high-profile ceremony**, followed by a six-month county-wide awareness campaign and the establishment of a publicly accessible implementation dashboard.

5.0 Participants

- i. **Community Representatives:** ACDG and local advocates.
- ii. **County Government of Siaya:** Executive and Assembly members.
- iii. **National Government:** Ministry of Interior, National Treasury, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Forestry.
- iv. **Development Partners:** Green Climate Fund, AFDB, World Bank, FCDO, USAID, and other COP30-aligned donors and investors.
- v. **COP30 Preparatory Committee Representative:** To link local outcomes to the national COP30 strategy.

6.0 Expected Outcome

- i. Signed Siaya Climate Governance Pact, adopting the four legal reforms within six months

7.0 Proposed Dates

Tentative dates are 23rd and 24th October 2025 at a convenient location within Siaya County. The Activity Time Plan is presented in Annex One.

8.0 Budget Requirement

A budget of KES 2,342,000 (USD 15,613) is a necessary investment to ensure the Quadripartite Conclave is inclusive, representative, and effective at scale. This cost reflects the critical need

to incorporate a broader range of voices from Siaya County to build consensus and legitimacy for the essential governance reforms that will break the legislative deadlock and create an actionable pathway for unlocking climate change finance in Siaya County. The comprehensive budget plan is presented in Annex Two.

9.0 How to Donate

	Account Name	ACACIA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP
	Bank	POSTBANK KENYA
	Account Number	0795140001166
	SWIFT Code	KPOBKEN1
	PayBill	200999
	Account	0795140001166

10.0 In-Kind Contributions from ACDG

ACDG remains committed to providing the following in-kind contributions to reduce the overall cash burden:

- i. **Project Management:** Overall project leadership and coordination by ACDG staff.
- ii. **Community Mobilization:** Logistics for identifying, selecting, and preparing community representatives.
- iii. **Liaison with Siaya County Government:** Leveraging existing relationships to ensure county participation.
- iv. **Content Development:** Drafting of background papers, pre-reading materials, and the initial framework for the "Siaya Climate Governance Pact."

11.0 Conclusion

The profound vulnerability to climate risk—exacerbated by a lack of economic opportunity and failed governance—continues to deepen local insecurity, making the upcoming Quadripartite Conclave a necessary intervention to address this crisis and unlock sustainable development. With co-funding and physical participation, this October dialogue represents a critical opportunity to transform vulnerability into opportunity, achieve lasting impact for Siaya, strengthen Kenya's position as a climate leader, and contribute a powerful model of sub-national implementation to the COP30 agenda. We urgently request your partnership and physical participation to ensure the success of this timely and necessary forum.

12.0 Contact

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Chief Executive Officer

Acacia Community Development Group

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ACDG – Local Initiatives, Global Impact

Annex One – Activity Time Plan

Activity Plan Quadripartite Conclave on Climate Governance & Sustainable Development

Theme: From Deadlock to Action: Unlocking Green Finance for Siaya's Resilience

Duration: 2 Days

Participants: 100 pax (Community, County, National Government, Development Partners)

Desired Outcome: A signed "Siaya Climate Governance Pact" with a clear action plan and timelines.

DAY 1: UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM & FRAMING SOLUTIONS

Time	Activity	Objective	Key Participants / Facilitators	Notes
08:00 - 09:00	Registration & Welcome Refreshments	Ensure all participants are registered and settled.	ACDG Logistics Team	Background music, display of Siaya's climate challenges and opportunities on screens.
09:00 - 09:20	Official Opening & Welcome Remarks	Set the tone, emphasize the urgency and national importance of the conclave.	MC, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, & Forestry Representative, Siaya County Governor	Focus on the call for collaboration and the cost of inaction.
09:20 - 09:40	Keynote Address: Governance for Security	Link good climate governance directly to national and community security.	Senior Official, Ministry of Interior	
09:40 - 10:15	The Community Perspective: The Human Cost of Delay	Ground the discussion in the lived reality of Siaya's citizens.	ACDG Representative, Community Leader(s)	Personal testimonies on climate vulnerability and economic exclusion.
10:15 - 10:30	Health Break			
10:30 - 11:15	Expert Input: The National Green Finance Landscape	Provide a clear pathway for how Siaya can access existing national and international funds.	Mr. Peter O Odhengo (The National Treasury)	Practical, step-by-step guidance on mechanisms and requirements.

11:15 - 12:30	Panel Discussion: The Quadripartite View	Facilitate a high-level dialogue on breaking the impasse.	Panel: County Exec, County Assembly Rep, Nat. Govt. Rep, Development Partner, Community Rep. Moderator: Professional Facilitator	Q&A from the audience. Focus on accountability and commitment.
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch & Networking Themed tables to encourage mixed stakeholder interaction.			
13:30 - 15:00	Deep Dive: The Four Reforms (Parallel Breakout Sessions)	Generate specific, actionable recommendations for each legal reform.	Participants split into 4 groups. Each group has a dedicated rapporteur and moderator.	Group 1: Amending the Climate Change Act. Group 2: Operationalizing the Climate Fund. Group 3: Revising the Village Units Act. Group 4: Establishing the SCDA.
15:00 - 15:15	Health Break Groups can continue informal discussions.			
15:15 - 16:45	Plenary Session: Report Back from Breakouts	Synthesize the discussions and identify common themes, challenges, and solutions.	Rapporteurs from each group present key points (5 mins each). Facilitator leads plenary discussion.	
16:45 - 17:00	Day 1 Wrap-up & Preview of Day 2	Recap conclusions and set expectations for the decisive final day.	Facilitator	Emphasize that Day 2 is for finalizing the Pact.
19:00 - 21:00	Official Dinner (Optional)	Foster deeper relationships and informal dialogue in a relaxed	All participants	Hosted by the Ministry of Interior / County Government.

		setting.		
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DAY 2: DRAFTING THE PACT & COMMITTING TO ACTION

Time	Activity	Objective	Key Participants / Facilitators	Notes
09:00 - 09:15	Recap of Day 1	Re-energize participants and refocus on the task ahead.	Facilitator	
09:15 - 10:45	Drafting the Siaya Climate Governance Pact	Translate the previous day's discussions into a binding document with clear actions and timelines.	Working Drafting Committee: 2-3 reps from each stakeholder group. All other participants: Review draft sections in real-time (via projector).	Focus on SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound).
10:45 - 11:00	Health Break			
11:00 - 12:30	Plenary Review and Adoption of the Pact	Ensure collective ownership and agreement on the final text of the Pact.	Facilitator leads a clause-by-clause review and consensus-building process.	The Pact must be unanimously adopted by acclamation.
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch			
13:30 - 14:30	Pre-Signing Ceremony & Media Briefing	Formalize the commitment and ensure public accountability.	Designated signatories, media.	Photo opportunity with the signed Pact.

14:30 - 15:15	Next Steps & Implementation Framework	Outline the immediate actions required to operationalize the Pact.	Facilitator leads discussion on forming a technical implementation committee.	Who does what, by when? Define the first 30, 60, and 90-day milestones.
15:15 - 15:45	Official Closing Ceremony	End on a high note of unity and purpose.	Closing remarks from: ACDG, County Government, Ministry of Interior.	Messages of commitment and hope.
15:45	Departure			



Annex Two – Comprehensive Budget

Proposed Budget: Tripartite Conclave for 100 Participants

Prepared for: Potential Development Partners

Prepared by: ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG)

Date: [Date of Preparation]

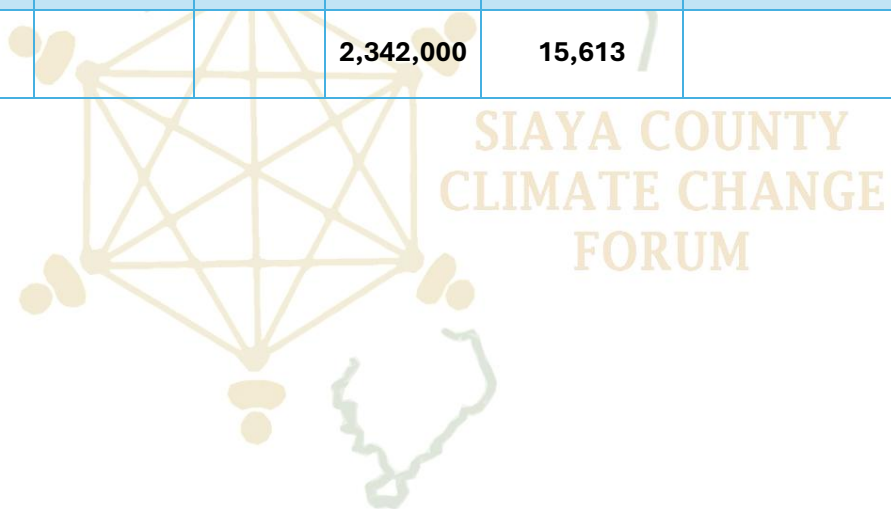
Event Duration: 2 Days

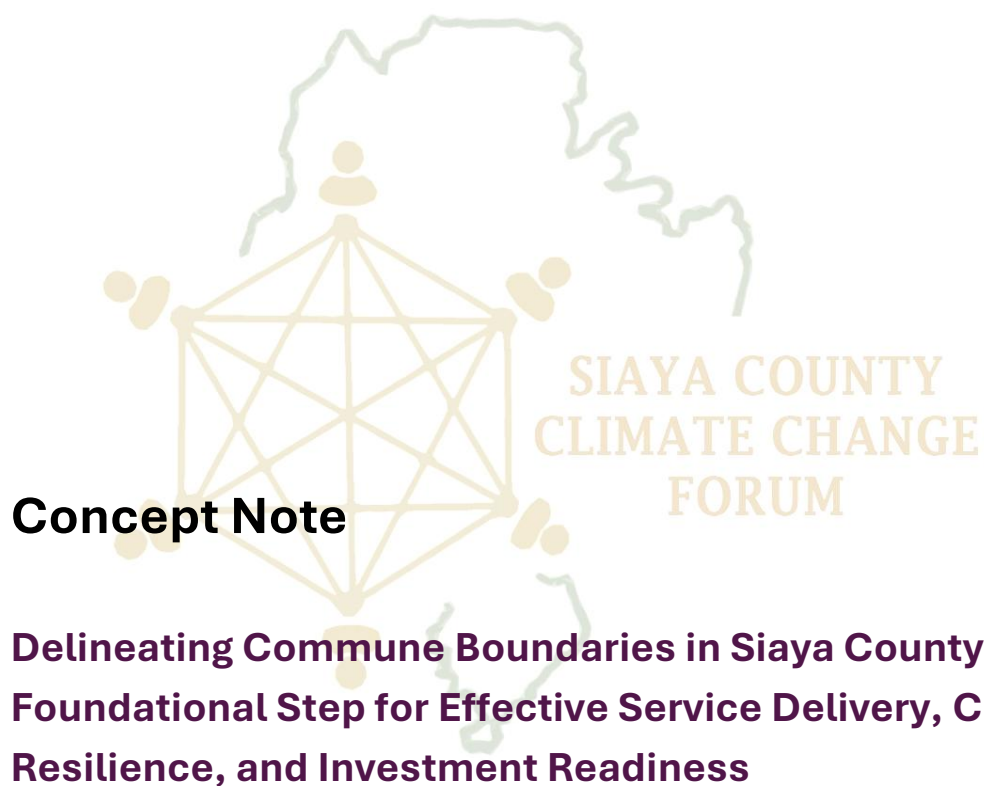
Total Participants: 100 Persons

Objective of Budget: To secure co-funding for a high-level, inclusive, and productive conclave that will break the legislative deadlock and create an actionable pathway for unlocking green finance in Siaya County.

Budget Line Item	Quantity	Unit Cost (KES)	Total Cost (KES)	Total Cost (USD) ~\$1=150 KES	Justification
Pre-Conclave Planning & Coordination	1	Lump Sum	150,000	1,000	Increased stakeholder mapping, communication, and logistical complexity for 100 pax.
Venue & Conference Facilities	2 Days	75,000	150,000	1,000	Larger venue required to host 100 pax in plenary and breakout sessions.
Accommodation & Meals	80 pax*	15,000	1,200,000	8,000	Full board for 80 non-local participants. (*Assumes 20 local participants not needing accommodation).

Local Transport & Per Diem	60 pax	5,000	300,000	2,000	For community reps and county officials to offset travel costs and time.
Facilitation & Technical Expertise	2 Days	100,000	200,000	1,333	Professional facilitator and additional note-takers for larger groups.
Communication & Materials	1	Lump Sum	120,000	800	Increased costs for printing, branding, and signage for a larger event.
Contingency (10%)	1	Lump Sum	222,000	1,480	For unforeseen expenses and cost overruns.
GRAND TOTAL			2,342,000	15,613	





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

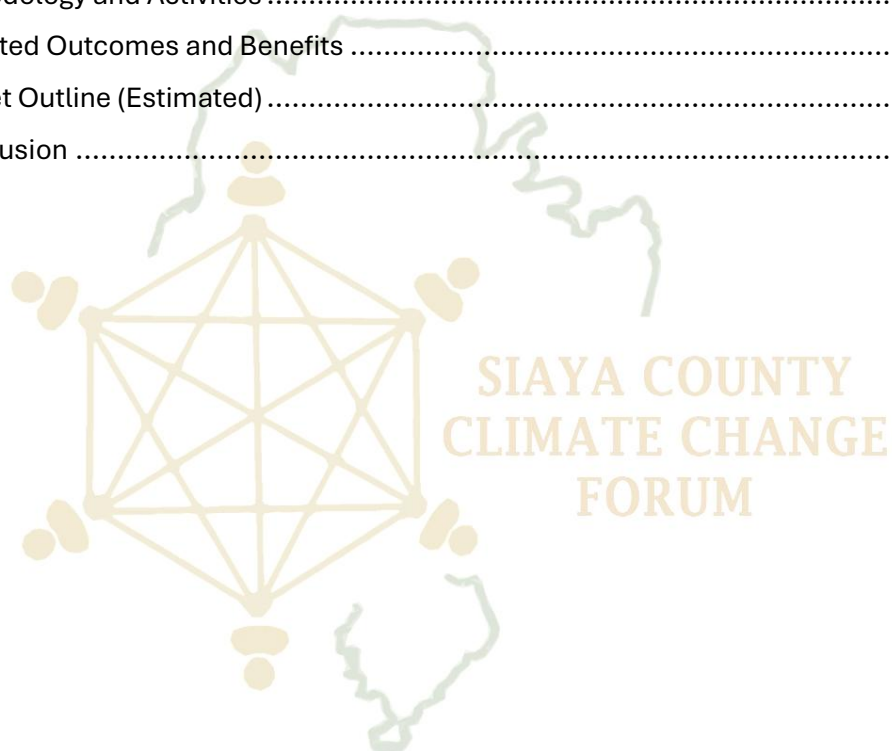
Technical & Community Mobilization Partner: ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG) on behalf of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum

Duration: 12 Months

Date: 26th September 2025

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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.

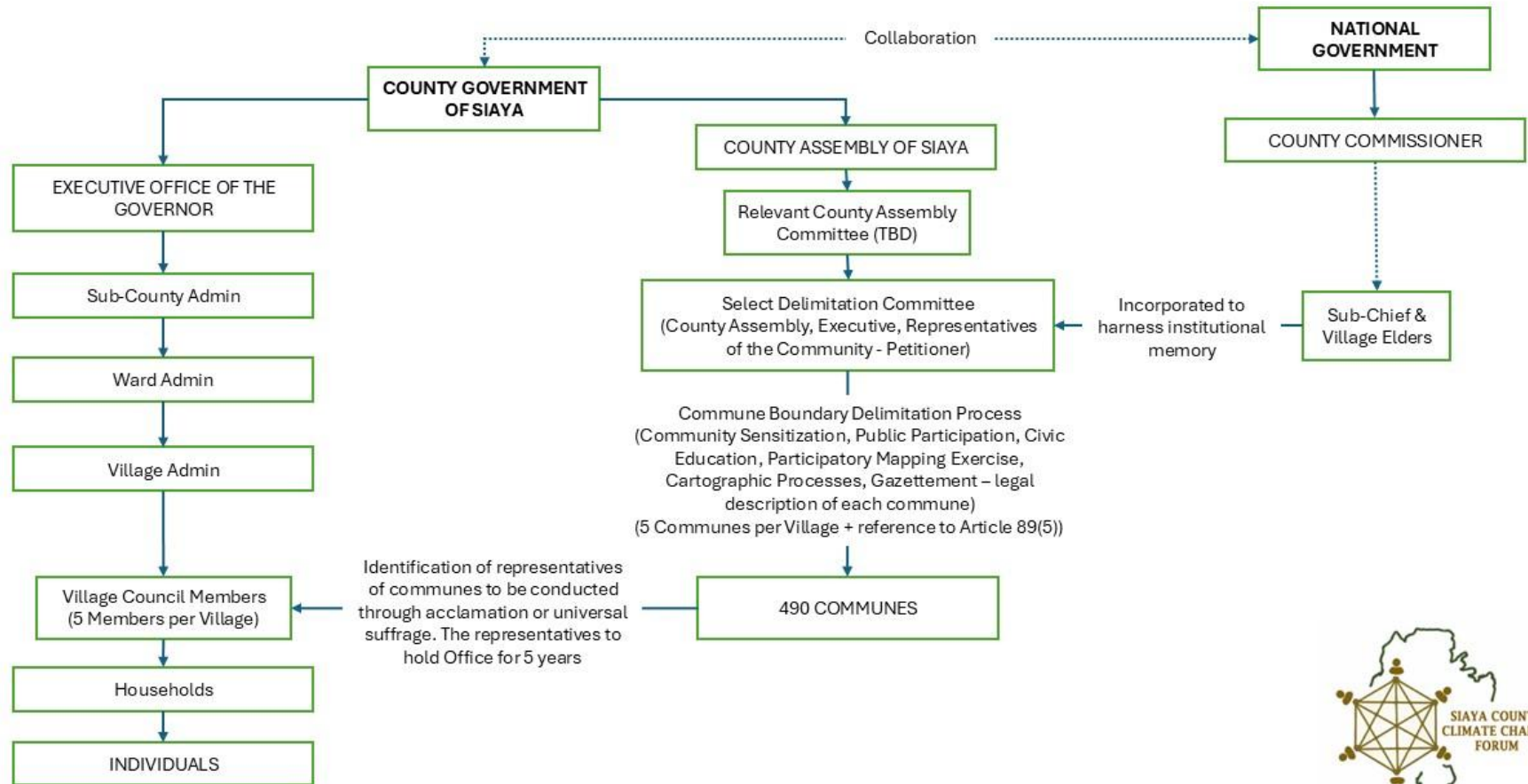
Budget Line Item	Estimated Cost (KES)	Justification
Technical Experts (Allowances for Members of the Select Committee Members, GIS, Facilitators)	16,666,667	For participatory mapping, conflict mediation, and report drafting.
Community Mobilization & Sensitization	6,666,667	Transport and allowances for 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
Prepared by	ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG) on behalf of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum
Contact	Dr. David WO Oremo, CEO, ACDG T: +254 733 755 766 Email: David.Oremo@a4ge.org

**FRAMEWORK FOR DELIMITATION OF COMMUNE BOUNDARIES
FOR EFFECTIVE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLANNING & MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ACTION**





CONCEPT NOTE

Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Knowledge – Attitudes – Practices Survey 2025 – 2028

1. Purpose and Context

Climate change is not a projected risk for the 1.1 million residents of Siaya County (Table 1); it is the daily context within which they now operate. For instance, over the past twelve months, veterinary reports document a marked rise in climate-sensitive livestock diseases across multiple wards, underscoring the urgency for systematic, county-level response.

Despite these pressures, Siaya County is committed to climate resilience, as evidenced by its Climate Change Act and participation in Kenya's County Climate Change Fund. However, effective policy implementation requires a deep understanding of community perspectives. The proposed Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study will address this gap by surveying about 50,000 scientifically identified households to assess their knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding climate change. The resulting Barometer Report will provide actionable knowledge to inform targeted sectoral interventions and public awareness campaigns.

Anchored in Kenya's Constitution (Fourth Schedule, 2010) and harmonised with every relevant legal statute and the Paris Agreement, the Directorate of Climate Change—working together with the Siaya County Climate Change Forum, convened by Acacia Community Development Group—proposes to institutionalise a rolling, triennial Climate Change Knowledge–Attitudes–Practices Barometer.

The proposed Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study aims to:

- a. **Assess Knowledge:** Evaluate citizens' understanding of climate change, its causes, and local impacts.
- b. **Understand Attitudes:** Explore community concerns, priorities, and trust in climate information sources.
- c. **Identify Practices:** Document current climate-friendly behaviours and barriers to adoption.
- d. **Inform Policy:** Provide data-driven recommendations to enhance Siaya County's climate resilience strategies.
- e. **Engage Communities:** Amplify local voices to ensure inclusive, participatory climate solutions.

This study aligns with:

- a. Kenya's Vision 2030 and the National Climate Change Action Plan, emphasizing community-driven climate solutions.
- b. SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 1 (No Poverty), by fostering resilience and reducing vulnerability.
- c. Global climate finance priorities, including those of the African Development Bank and World Bank, which support evidence-based adaptation in vulnerable regions.

By investing in this study, the County Government of Siaya will contribute a scalable model for community-centred climate action, with potential replication across Kenya and beyond.

2. Strategic Objectives of the Siaya County Climate Change KAP Barometer

2.1 Baseline Establishment (2025)

Generate a statistically rigorous, gender-sensitive baseline of climate-change knowledge, attitudes and adaptive practices among the County's 1.1 million residents, with dedicated oversampling of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other historically marginalised groups.

2.2 Policy Alignment & Iterative Refinement

Conduct identical, triennial surveys in 2026 and 2028 to establish a county-owned, living barometer. This mechanism will continuously gauge policy performance, allowing Siaya County to synchronise its governance tools¹, sector strategies, NDC targets, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and National Adaptation Plan with emerging climate risks and vulnerability in real time.

2.3 Disaggregated Data Equity

Produce granular data—disaggregated by gender, age, disability status, livelihood source and village—to ensure that every policy action, budget allocation and programme design is inclusive and leaves no community behind.

2.4 Evidence-to-Finance Pipeline

Compile and release an open-access evidence package (datasets, policy briefs, investment cases) specifically tailored to unlock domestic budget reallocations, green-bond issuances and concessional external resources, while embedding gender-responsive investment criteria throughout.

3. Methodology in Brief

- i. Conduct in-depth 49,834 statistically representative households survey using a pretested questionnaire across all six sub-counties, using Probability-Proportional-to-Size sampling strategy.
- ii. Rigorously translate 11-item Knowledge Index that mirrors global best practice yet rooted in the local dialects (Dholuo, English, and Kiswahili).

¹ County Integrated Development Plan, County Sectoral Plans, County Spatial Plan, County Programme Based Budget, County Climate Change Action Plan, Cities & Urban Areas Plans

- iii. Integration of high-resolution satellite data with household-level vulnerability snapshots within the Drivers-Pressures-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework to produce policy briefs and actionable high resolution georeferenced dashboards for visualization.
- iv. Ethical clearance already obtained from Kenyatta National Hospital-ERC; anonymized data will be curated in the County Open Data Portal within six months of collection.

4. Value Proposition for Good Governance in Siaya County

The Barometer is conceived as a soft-power instrument: it showcases the County's leadership in transparency and evidence-driven governance, thereby offering a replicable model for other Counties and beyond. By embedding an equity lens, it speaks directly to the Leave-No-One-Behind imperative that underpins the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Goal on Adaptation. Moreover, the data architecture is designed to dovetail with the forthcoming European Union Global Gateway, the Adaptation Fund's Enhanced Direct Access modalities, ensuring seamless alignment with partner priorities.

5. Resource Mobilization Framework and Partnerships

The total estimated cost for the study is **KES43,825,934** broken down as presented in Table 2. Our proposed resource mobilization strategy involves engaging the following potential co-funding partners:

- i. National Government, through appropriation of the National Climate Change Fund, (10%, KES 4,382,593.40)
- ii. National Government, through appropriation of the National Government Constituency Development Fund, (10%, 4,382,593.40)
- iii. County Government, through appropriation of the County Climate Change Fund (10%, KES4,382,593.40)
- iv. International Development Partners for financial and technical support (25%, KES10,956,483.50)
- v. Public Benefit Organizations. The Forum will actively engage organizations working in the climate change space for financial and technical support (15%, KES6,573,890.10)
- vi. Private Sector. The Forum will seek partnership with magnates and conglomerates to enhance their corporate social responsibility (25%, KES10,956,483.50)
- vii. Philanthropists and crowd fund raising through donations, endowments, grants and gifts (5%, KES 2,191,296.70)

Furthermore, we propose to seek technical collaboration with the following key stakeholders

- a. UNDP Kenya
- b. Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University for Science & Technology
- c. Global Centre on Adaptation
- d. Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
- e. Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research & Analysis
- f. The National Treasury & Economic Planning

A transparent Memorandum of Understanding, countersigned by the Office of the Governor and each development partner will guarantee fiduciary integrity and provide the opportunity for joint oversight.

6. Management of Expectations and Accountability

A Steering Committee chaired by the County Executive for Climate Change, with quarterly press briefings convened at the Governor's Boardroom, will ensure strategic alignment. An independent Technical Advisory Panel—comprising representatives from development partners, civil society, and academia—will validate findings before public release. All anonymized micro datasets, that's minus personal identifiers, will be deposited in the Kenya Open Data Initiative portal, thereby meeting IATI standards.

7. Expected Outcomes and Impact

The Siaya County Climate Change Barometer Study will deliver:

- a. Comprehensive Insights: Data on community knowledge (e.g., 65% awareness in pilot studies), attitudes (e.g., priority for sustainable agriculture), and practices (e.g., barriers like lack of resources).
- b. Policy Recommendations: Evidence-based strategies, such as subsidies for climate-smart technologies or targeted flood management in high-risk wards.
- c. Community Empowerment: Amplified community voices through qualitative insights and inclusive engagement.
- d. Scalable Model: A framework for other Kenyan counties to assess and address climate vulnerabilities.

The Barometer Report will inform Siaya County's climate policies, enhance resilience for 1 million residents, and contribute to national and global climate goals. It will also strengthen partnerships with NGOs, community groups, and government bodies, fostering collaborative action.

8. Sustainability and Exit Strategy

By 2028/29, the Barometer will be fully budgeted within the County's annual climate change vote, supported by a trained cadre of 30 county statisticians and a revolving Green Facility housed at the proposed Siaya County Development Authority (SCDA). External partners will transition from financiers to strategic advisors, ensuring long-term ownership without perpetual donor dependency.

9. Call to Action

The Acacia Community Development Group, together with its consortium of technical partners, respectfully addresses the Siaya County Directorate of Climate Change to signal its formal interest in the forthcoming Climate Change Knowledge–Attitudes–Practices (KAP) Survey.

We are prepared to enter a Memorandum of Understanding that sets out mutually agreed deliverables, timelines and resource commitments. This instrument will empower Acacia to act as the designated KAP survey coordinator, initiating dialogue and securing the participation of prospective development partners.

Mindful that the atmosphere recognises no administrative boundaries, we remain at the Directorate's disposal to conclude a concise Partnership Agreement at the earliest mutually convenient date.

Sub-County	Population (2019 Census)	Households (2019 Census)	Projected Population	Projected No. of Households	Probability Proportional to Sample Size	No. of Households to be Sampled
Alego Usonga	224,343	57,386	248,221	63,646	0.23	14,639
Gem	179,792	44,696	198,928	51,007	0.18	9,181
Ugenya	134,354	33,554	148,654	38,116	0.14	5,336
Ugunja	104,241	26,321	115,336	29,573	0.10	2,957
Bondo	197,883	50,454	218,945	56,140	0.20	11,228
Rarieda	152,570	36,930	168,809	43,284	0.15	6,493
	993,183	249,341	1,098,892	281,767	1	49,834

Table 1 Respondent Sampling Schedule

Category	Details	Cost (KES)
Planning and Preparation		2,250,000
Data Collection	Enumerator hiring	13,263,158
	Training	3,315,790
	Survey materials and mobile data collection	4,144,737
	Respondent incentives	7,500,000
Data Management and Analysis		3,000,000
Policy translation workshop & dissemination		2,578,689
Report Production and Dissemination		2,500,000
Steering committee & QA/QC audit		1,289,384
Sub-Total		39,841,758
Miscellaneous and Contingency (10%)		3,984,176
Total		43,825,934

Table 2 Proposed Budget & Cost Centres



Data Article

Perceived values and climate change resilience dataset in Siaya County, Kenya



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ABSTRACT

This dataset presents perceived values and socioeconomic indicators collected in Siaya, a rural county in Kenya in 2022. The data was obtained from 300 household surveys and group interviews conducted in six sub-counties across eleven villages. Socioeconomic data were collected with a special focus on climate change vulnerability. Information on housing, health, water accessibility and usage, electricity accessibility and usage, extreme weather events, community service, and information accessibility were mapped across survey questions. The user-perceived value (UPV) game – a perception-based surveying approach – was used to elicit local communities' needs and perceptions of climate change challenges. The UPV game involves asking interviewees to select which graphically depicted items would be most necessary in different situations and probing them for the reasons behind their choices (why-probing). The data was collected in two languages (Dholuo and English) and then translated into English. These surveys and interviews were conducted to better understand the needs of rural Kenyan communities and their perceptions of climate change, with the aim to identify ways to build resilience. Kenyan policymakers can use the dataset to inform county-level energy and development plans, while researchers and development practitioners can

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use the dataset to better design their research and programmes to reflect local needs and values.

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Specifications Table

Subject	Social science
Specific subject area	Planning and development
Type of data	JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file, Comma-separated values (CSV) file, accompanying tables and figures.
How the data were acquired	Data was collected through face-to-face interviews, using the user-perceived value (UPV) game, and a socio-economic household survey. Semi-structured survey data is documented in the CSV and JSON files. Descriptive statistics are presented in tables and figures. Interview data was obtained from UPV game transcripts.
Data format	Raw and analysed
Description of data collection	The data collection process involved targeted community sampling to recruit participants who represent different social and economic needs of residents in Siaya county. County coordinators recruited participants from venues like restaurants, places of worship, markets and community groups from within each community. Grassroots authorities, organizations, and societies were also approached to ensure the inclusion of marginalised groups, for example, the elderly, youth and people with disabilities. Consent forms were signed by all participants.
Data source location	Siaya (County of Kenya)
Data accessibility	Repository name: Zenodo Data identification number: 10.5281/zenodo.10160737 Direct URL to data: https://zenodo.org/record/10160737

1. Value of the Data

- The data can be used to understand what is important to rural communities in Kenya and to identify potential factors influencing decision-making for different demographic groups (e.g. women, youth, elderly and low-income).
- The rich, verbatim interview text sheds light on the perception of climate change and vulnerabilities within communities.
- Using the data to identify gaps in existing infrastructure and services, policymakers could determine where resources could be allocated to improve overall community well-being.
- This dataset can be used to identify the qualities comprising community resilience. It reports on multiple socioeconomic statuses relevant to rural Kenya, including; community networks and relationships; communication; health; governance and leadership; resources; preparedness; mental outlook; and economic investment.
- The role of energy services within community resilience can be examined in detail and used to enhance community resilience against climatic and social risks, and vulnerabilities.
- Academics can use the cleaned dataset directly for analysis, or it can be used to guide the collection of further sub-national data which reflects the needs of rural communities.

2. Objective

Sustainable development initiatives in the 21st century must increase well-being under the constraints of climate change. However, the perception of well-being among citizens themselves remains generally under-studied in developing regions. In order to develop effective strategies

for reducing poverty and improving living standards in the face of climate change, surveys and interviews are required to provide information on what people value and need.

This dataset gathers insights from rural communities in Siaya County, Kenya regarding their values, needs, and perceptions of climate change challenges with a focus on energy services. This data can be used to identify ways to build community resilience and to understand the role of energy in climate change adaptation measures. The data was collected through a perception-based surveying approach called the user-perceived value (UPV) game. This involves interviewees selecting items which they value most from a contextualised set of graphically depicted items, and subsequently asking the reasons behind their selection (i.e., why-probing). For more details on the UPV methodology, please refer to Hirmer [1]. A socioeconomic survey was conducted to contextualize the UPV data, which included questions on demographics, climate events, communication, household decision-making and farming practices.

This dataset is expected to contribute to Kenya's ongoing county-level energy planning and provide indicators to better understand local resilience and community needs. The data can provide insights as to how energy services can be strategically planned to strengthen community resilience against existing vulnerabilities and climate change risks. The dataset may also be useful in understanding the role of particular items and appliances in enhancing community resilience and energy security. We hope that the data can be used to provide insights which can help to reduce energy insecurity, improve energy access decisions, and support rural communities' resilience in both daily life and climate emergencies. Such work can help to mitigate the effects of climate change and support the agricultural sector. This dataset can furthermore help address data gaps pertaining to the impacts of appliances, as outlined in the "Off- and Weak-Grid Appliances Impact Assessment Framework" by Rural Senses et al. [2].

3. Data Description

This dataset presents socioeconomic surveys and UPV interviews collected in Siaya County, Kenya. Siaya has undergone significant development over the past decade, particularly in the areas of health and education.

Based on data from the 2019 census [3], Siaya County's population is estimated at 993,183 individuals, with an annual growth rate of 1.7% between 2009 and 2019. The county is comprised of 250,698 households, with an average household size of 3.9. 52.5% of the total population are female, and the majority of residents (91.4%) reside in rural areas. By conducting these surveys and interviews, we hope to support county-level planning in Siaya and in Kenya more broadly. We aim to identify gaps in existing services and infrastructure and provide insight to inform how resources can be allocated to improve overall community well-being. Based on the dataset, we performed a further analysis to identify the household's intersectional needs [4].

The dataset is formed of two parts: (1) household characteristics, obtained from socioeconomic surveys; and (2) personal values, gathered through interviews with community members using the UPV game. Surveys and interviews were conducted in six sub-counties of Siaya (i.e., Ugenya, Ugunja, Alego Usonga, Gem, Bondo and Rarieda). They provide insights into the challenges faced by local residents, such as their living situation, infrastructure, household shocks, access to healthcare, education, employment, and subjective well-being.

The dataset is accompanied by a codebook that describes the values that were used in annotation of the UPV game transcriptions and the questionnaires that were used for data collection. All identifying variables, including names, GPS coordinates, and village names were removed, and the dataset is thereby anonymized.

The sample construction process for the dataset is documented in Table 1. A total of 300 household representatives participated in the surveys and interviews. The recruitment venues were specifically selected to try to engage participants from different social classes and with diverse economic needs. To better reflect needs of marginalized groups, we aimed to include a 5% representation of people with disabilities within each sub-county sample. In the final sample, 28 participants (9%) reported disabilities. This strategy helps to ensure that the gathered infor-

Table 1
Timeline and logistics of dataset construction.

Data Collection	Timeline	2022
	Location	Siaya County
	Collectors	Interviews are conducted by Kenyans fluent in local languages who have been trained through a workshop.
	Methodology	The interviewees were interviewed at the homes of participants. The UPV interviews were conducted in a semi- structured manner, to avoid direct inquiry from the inter- viewer. Additionally, each interviewee completed a socio- economic survey.
Data Translation	Timeline	2023
	Location	Online
	Translators	The translators were Kenyan citizens from neighbouring villages where the data were collected. All translators spoke English fluently as a second language.
Data Annotation	Timeline	2023
	Location	Online
	Annotators	Trained and experienced annotators from primarily Kenya were used to undertake annotation.
	Methodology	We employed trained annotators to conduct sentence-level annotations. Each utterance was carefully annotated with value labels following the UPV game framework. To ensure reliability, each sentence was annotated five times by different annotators. Only labels where a minimum of three out of the five annotators agreed were considered and used. This methodology helps ensure consistency and quality in the annotations.

mation can support development efforts that are inclusive and considerate of the needs of all members of the population, particularly those who may be marginalized or disadvantaged.

3.1. Survey

The socio-economic survey data was first collected orally in the preferred language of the participants. The collected information was then translated into English. Questionnaire used for the survey are provided as *Questionnaire_Siaya.pdf*.

The results are presented in a CSV file (*Siaya_UPV_Survey.csv*) where the questions are represented as column headers and the responses of each individual speaker are recorded in the rows. Each row contains a unique interview ID which can be used to inter-relate the data to the other files in this dataset. Note that the CSV file has also been converted to JSON for ease of analysis (*Siaya_UPV_Survey.json*).

The survey questions were designed to gather data on a wide range of factors that could affect the participants' perspectives. They fall under the following eight categories: Demographic data, housing status, accessibility of healthcare services, water usage and availability, energy consumption, experience of extreme weather events, community service, and access to information.

Fig. 1 illustrates the demographic characteristics of the 300 participants in the study, obtained from the survey data. The sample consisted of 184 females and 116 males, with an age range spanning from 16 to 92 years (Fig. 1a). A greater proportion of females reported no education or primary education only, as indicated by a female/male discrepancy of 20 and 1.76, respectively, which exceeded the overall sample discrepancy of 1.59 (Fig. 1b). Conversely, the trend was inverted for secondary education (1.11), tertiary (0.43), and higher education (0.6), suggesting that males were likely to have higher education opportunities compared to females. 21% of the participants held multiple occupations as shown in Fig. 1c. The largest occupational group among the sample is farmers, comprising 50% (150) of the participants who primarily cultivate crops. Of this group, 14% (43) are livestock farmers, and 35 individuals engage in both crop and animal farming (Fig. 1d).

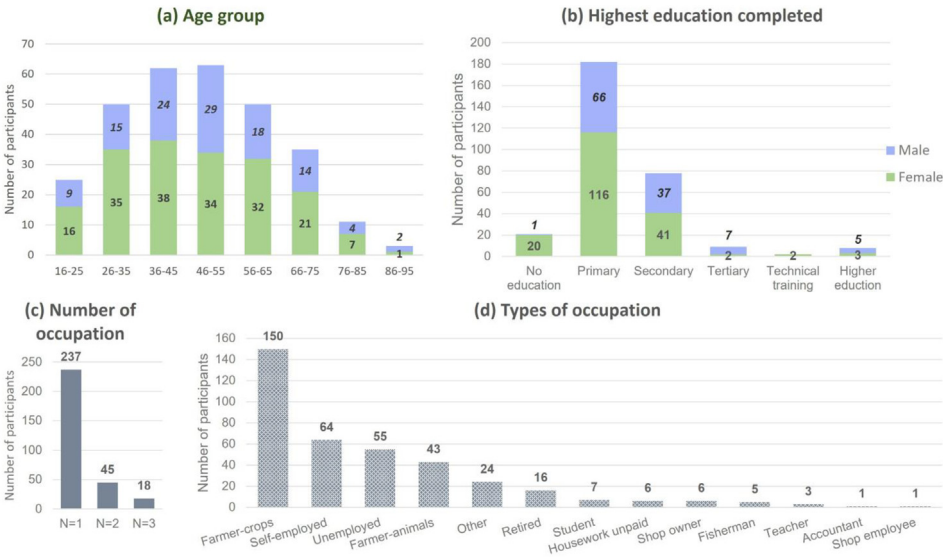


Fig. 1. The most concerned extreme climate event perceived by interviewees (N = 300).

3.2. Interview

The perceived values data, which were derived from the UPV game, are presented in three separate CSV files to facilitate efficient and effective analysis. Note that each CSV file has also been converted to a JSON file with the same name for ease of analysis.

- *Siaya_UPV_Paragraphs.csv*: During the UPV game, interviewees were asked to select ten items they valued and discuss the reasons behind each selection, which were recorded. In addition, thirteen
- open-ended questions on attitudes and perceptions regarding climate change were asked. Responses to each question were extracted as a separate paragraph. This file therefore extracts each answer to any of these open-ended questions in a separate row (i.e., 3942 rows with one row per paragraph). [Table 2](#) provides a description of the paragraph specifications (i.e., items in the table beginning with P). This dataset also contains interview IDs for interrelation with the survey questions.
- *Siaya_UPV_Utterances.csv*: This file extracts each utterance (i.e., sentence) from the open-ended answers in a separate row (i.e., 16,650 rows with one row per utterance). Additional columns are added to tag the sentiment and value annotations for each sentence, as described in [Table 2](#). This dataset also contains the paragraph specifications and interview IDs for interrelation with the other files. Natural language processing (NLP) methods were employed to extract and analyse the sentences from each paragraph, as discussed by [\[5\]](#).

[Fig. 2](#) presents the distribution of utterances based on demographic characteristics. Single females with higher education who respond to questions in English exhibit a lower number of utterances in their answers. Divorced individuals tend to be more talkative when answering questions, whereas singles are generally less talkative in their responses. The impact of education on the number of utterances follows an inverted U pattern, with individuals who have received a moderate level of education exhibiting the highest level of talkativeness. Conversely, individuals with no education and those with higher education use fewer utterances in their responses.

Table 2
Data specifications in the paragraph- and extract-level UPV datasets. The specifications starting with P are present in both the paragraph and extract file. The specifications starting with E are only present in the extract file.

Key	No.	Value
Paragraph ID	P1	Description: Unique code of each paragraph Type: string
Paragraph Number	P2	Description: Order in which the item was picked by the speaker Type: integer $\in [1, 25]$
Questions	P3	Description: Open questions the text is referring to Type: string
Item Name	P4	Description: Item chosen as part of the UPV game Type: string
Text	P5	Description: The answers from interviewee Type: string
Extract ID	E1	Description: Unique code of each utterance Type: string
Start Offset	E2	Description: Locating the first character of each utterance Type: integer
End Offset	E3	Description: Locating the last character of each utterance Type: integer
Sentiment	E4	Description: Type: string $\in$ Negative, Neutral, Positive
Annotations	E5	Description: The answers from interviewee Type: string $\in$ Faith, Food security,

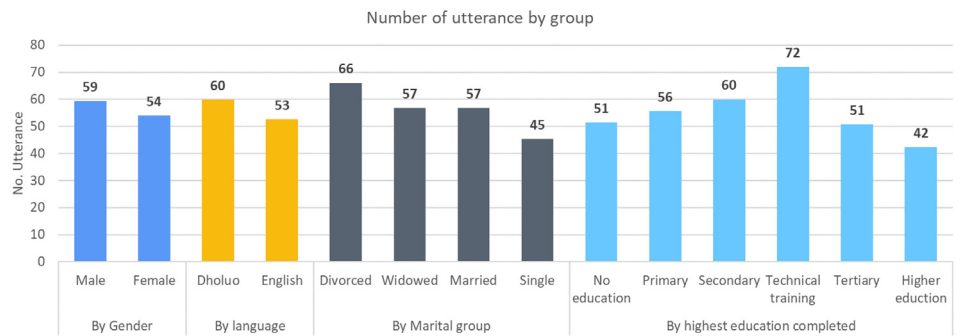


Fig. 2. Number of utterances (i.e., sentences) by group throughout the dataset ($N = 297$).

4. Experimental Design, Materials and Methods

4.1. Case selection

This project took Siaya County in Kenya as a case study. Kenya has made significant economic and political reforms in the past decade that have contributed to sustained economic growth, social development, and political stability. In spite of this, ongoing drought, as well as the increase in the cost of living, have adversely affected households throughout the country. The agricultural sector, which directly contributes 33% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and indirectly contributes an additional 27% to the GDP through linkages with other sectors such as manufacturing and distribution [6], plays a critical role in the country's economy.

Over 40% of the country's population is employed in the agriculture sector, with a significant portion of that employment being in rural areas where 70% of the population is employed in agriculture [7]. Siaya County, located in western Kenya, was selected as a case study due to its high levels of poverty (48% live below the poverty line) and food insecurity. This makes it an interesting location to study climate resilience, as these are risk factors in the case of climate

shocks. The agricultural sector, which is particularly important to Siaya's economy and livelihoods, is susceptible to instability due to droughts, floods, etc.

4.2. Sampling strategy

The participant selection was guided by the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI), and was facilitated by the Siaya County Commissioner and local area chiefs. Over a two-week period, 300 individuals from across the county were interviewed. To ensure a diverse representation of the population with varying social and economic backgrounds, a targeted community sampling approach was employed to recruit participants. Participants were selected from four distinct settings: coastal/port towns, urban village towns, rural villages, and special interest villages. Eleven villages, three from each setting, were randomly selected out of the 75 villages in Siaya County [8]. Participants were sourced from diverse socio-economic backgrounds and age ranges, with an aim to achieve a balanced representation of gender, disability, income, age, education, and employment. The sample was intended to represent 5% of people with disability, but the final sample included 9% of those with disabilities. Due to availability and willingness, some demographics were not fully represented, and participants were selected based on their willingness to participate.

4.3. Preparation

To ensure the study's integrity, a risk and ethics assessment following the NACOSTI ethics board approval under license No: NACOSTI/P/22/21,652 in research involving human participants was approved. As per the guidance provided by [9], interviewees were compensated for their time. To protect the interviewees' identities, all names were removed from transcripts in line with NACOSTI ethical procedures.

4.4. User perceived value game

The User-Perceived Value (UPV) approach is a data collection method that utilizes a pictorial game-based approach. Participants are asked to select items they value most from a set of 40 everyday items found in case study communities. Among these items, eight are considered to be energy appliances, including a fan, fridge, TV, pump (for irrigation and water), motorbike, pressure cooker, solar PV, and grain mill. The UPV game involves probing the reasoning behind participants' item selections using 3+ rounds of why-probing process, as previously described by [1,9]. Specifically, the UPV game used in this dataset aims to identify:

1. The five items that communities perceive as important (General format).
2. The appliance that interviewees perceive as most useful and least useful (Appliance-specific format).
3. The three items that are most relevant to the interviewee given the climate event that they are most concerned about. (Climate format).

The full list of survey and UPV questions is provided in Table 3. The UPV questions are numbers 4 to 7.

4.5. Post-processing

The dataset was originally collected in two languages (Dholuo and English) and translated into English by local translators. The data were then extracted into paragraphs and utter-

Table 3
Full list of survey questions used in data collection.

Category	No.	Question
Basic information	1	In what language would you prefer to run the interview?
	2	Which of the following assets do you own?
	3	Which of the following items do you have access to in your daily life?
A. Preceived value	4	Which 5 items are most important to you in your daily life? Please indicate these in order of importance, starting with the most important
	5	Which appliance that you perceive as most useful?
	6	Which appliance that you perceive as least useful?
	7	Given the chosen climate event - which 3 items are most useful to you?
B. Demographic	8	Location - sub county
	9	What is your age?
	10	What is your gender?
	11	Marital Status
	12	What is the highest level of education have you completed? [*If Other]
B-1. Household Information	13	What is your current occupation? [*If Other]
	14	Number of females in household
	15	Number of males in household
	16	Who would you define as the head of your household?
	17	Who is the head of the household?
	18	Age of household head?
	19	Household members less than 18
	20	Household members between 18 and 30 years of age
	21	Household members between 31 and 55 years of age
	22	Household members over 55 years of age
	23	Who decides regarding: Buying assets (including animals)
	24	What is the monthly total income of your household (KES)?
B-2. Inclusion	25	Do you have a disability?
	26	What disability do you have?
	27	Type of disability
C. Housing	28	What is the ownership of the dwelling?
	29	Are you happy with the quality of the construction in your house?
	30	What would you change about your house and why?
D. Health	31	What are the main 3 building materials used to build your house?
	32	Who can you consult in case of health issues?
	33	Where do you receive health care treatment?
	34	How long does it take you to travel to receive healthcare?
E. Water	35	Do you treat the water to make it safer for drinking?
	36	What is the use of water from these different sources? [*For each type of usage.
		Sources including Community tap; Municipality tanker; Your house tap; River; Rainwater harvesting tank; Community well/borehole]
	37	Do you grow your own vegetables?
	38	What vegetables do you grow? [*If Other]
	39	How do you irrigate your land? [*If Other]
	40	How much has your yield increased since you started using an irrigation pump?
	41	What is the main source of lighting?
	42	What is the main source of electricity in your home?
	43	What is the electricity used for?
F. Electricity	44	Do you use electricity for your business?
	45	What do you use electricity for in your business?
	46	What do you use the energy from the following sources for [*For each type of usage.
		Sources including Coal/Charcoal; Solar (community); Firewood; Solar (private); Other fuels]
	47	What extreme climate event are you most worried about?
	48	What other extreme climate events are you worried about?
G. Extreme weather	49	Why are you most worried about this climate event?
	50	In your own words, how would you describe climate change?

(continued on next page)

Table 3 (continued)

Category	No.	Question
G-1. Flooding	51	Are you worried about climate change?
	52	What has changed in your community in recent years relating to climate change?
	53	Have you ever experienced flooding in your home?
	54	How many times do you experience flooding in your home every year?
	55	In which months have you experienced floods in your home?
G-2. Fire	56	Please describe how you were affected by the flooding?
	57	Who would you contact in case of a flood?
	58	Do you have any means of preventing flooding in your home?
	59	Please describe what you would do (actions you take) in case of a flood.
	60	Have you experienced fire in your home?
G-3. Other hazards	61	(If yes) Please describe how are you were affected by fire?
	62	Who would you contact in case of a fire?
	63	Do you have any means of preventing fire in your home?
	64	Please describe what you would do (actions you take) in case of fire.
	65	Are there any other hazards affecting you and your community?
H. Community Service	66	What other risks or hazards affect you and/or your community?
	67	How many days are spent on average during/after a catastrophic event to return to normality?
	68	How much money [in KES] is spent on average during/after a catastrophic event to return to normality?
	69	Which of the following community services do you use?
	70	How do you get to this community service?
I. Information communication	71	How long does it take to get to this community service?
	72	Do you find it difficult or easy to access this community service?
	73	How do you communicate with other communities?
	74	How do you receive political information? (e.g., about elections)
	75	How do you receive information about health?
	76	How often do you read the newspaper?
	77	How often do you use the internet? (How?)
	78	How often do you watch TV?
	79	How often do you listen to the Radio?
	80	How well connected do you feel within the community?
	81	Generally speaking would say that most people can be trusted or that one can't be too careful in dealing with people?
	82	What community organisation and/or social activity group you are part of? (e.g. church, stokvel, NGO, NPO, Community based organisation, etc.)

ances using NLP [5]. The dictionary for the topic's annotation is presented in a python file (*upv_definitions.py*).

Ethics Statements

To ensure the study's integrity, a risk and ethics assessment was undertaken and evaluated by the Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee (MS IDREC) at the University of Oxford in accordance with the procedures laid down by the University for Ethical Approval for all research involving human participants. It was completed and approved with Reference: R83092/RE001. Additionally, a risk and ethics assessment following the NACOSTI the National Commission for Science, Technology, and Innovation (NACOSTI) ethics board was undertaken, with approval under license No: NACOSTI/P/22/21652 in research involving human participants. To protect the participants' identity, all names were removed.

Data Availability

Perceived values and climate change resilience dataset in Siaya County, Kenya (Original data) (Zenodo)

CRedit Author Statement

Pu Yang: Investigation, Validation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing; **Alycia Leonard:** Investigation, Validation, Writing – original draft, Writing – review & editing, Supervision; **Micaela Flores Lanza:** Validation, Investigation, Writing – review & editing; **Makena Ireri:** Writing – review & editing; **Stephanie Hirmer:** Funding acquisition, Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing.

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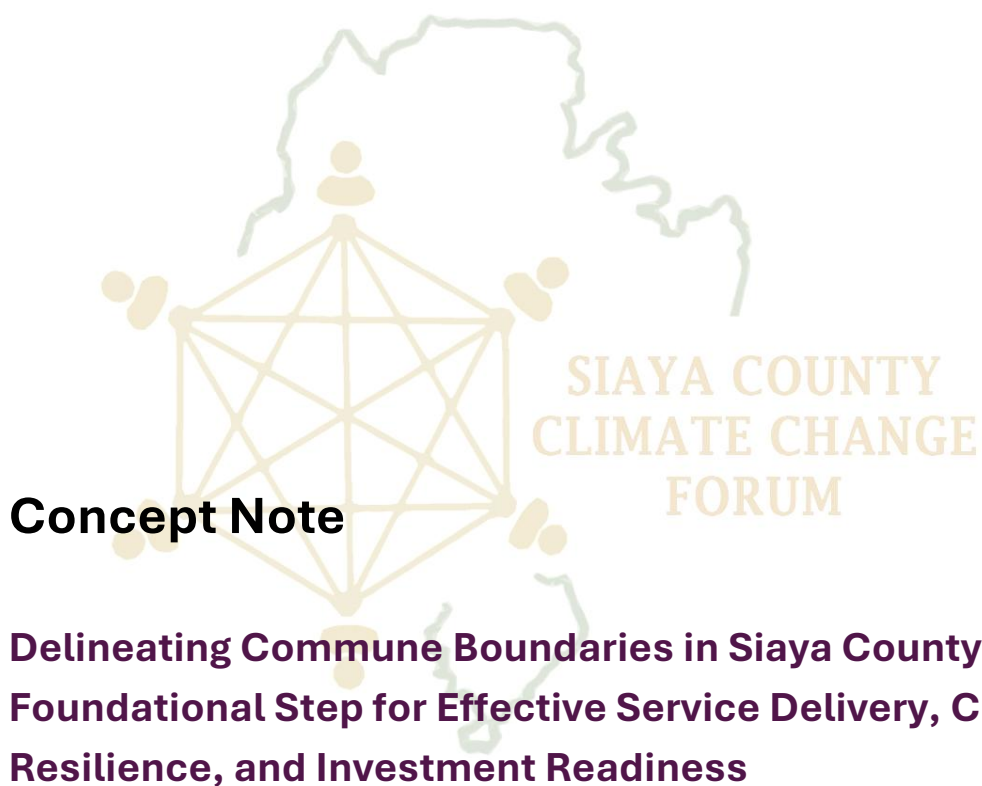
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Declaration of Competing Interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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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

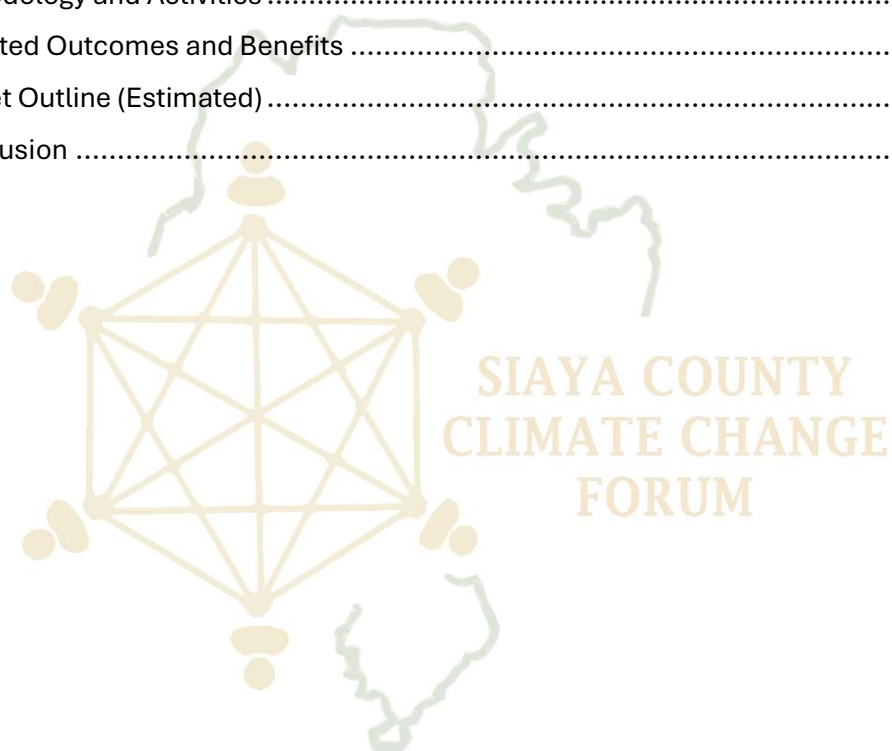
Technical & Community Mobilization Partner: ACACIA Community Development Group (ACDG) on behalf of the Siaya County Climate Change Forum

Duration: 12 Months

Date: 26th September 2025

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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**

