

## CSO VNR 2020 – SEI’s contribution to SDG implementation in Kenya

### **Target 17.14: Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development**

The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) contributes to the analysis of national actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Kenya through its extensive work on SDGs interactions and policy coherence for sustainable development. This work builds on SEI’s [NDC-SDG Connections tool](#) that analyses and quantifies the connections between climate change and the SDGs. By identifying synergies, the tool enables more effective and ambitious national action to implement the 2030 Agenda on SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

#### ***Policy coherence for NDCs- SDGs interactions***

Through its recent research on overcoming incoherence in national climate and SDG implementation in Kenya (2019), SEI analysed the most critical synergies and conflicts between climate actions in the Kenyan NDC (Nationally Determined Contribution) which is part of Goal 13 and other SDGs to understand the existing policy incoherence. SEI took the climate action (SDG 13) as a reference goal and identified key synergies and conflicts between climate goals (SDG 13) and three specific clusters of goals: (i) the water-energy-land-food nexus (SDG 2, 6, 7 and 15); (ii) economic growth, resilient infrastructure, and responsible consumption and production (SDG 8, 9 and 12); and (iii) poverty, and inequality (SDG 1, and 10). SEI also identified synergies and conflicts within the SDGs themselves.

Overall, the analysis found that synergies and conflicts abound within and across the three clusters of SDG Goals, with particularly important interlinkages among energy (Goal 7), economic growth (Goal 9) and inequality (Goal 10): Synergies exist in the switch to sustainable and renewable energy sources (G7) to boost economic growth (G9) and reduce inequality (G1) as these contribute to the achievement of the climate goals (G13). Potential conflicts emerge on the reliance on fossil fuels to promote socio-economic growth and reduce inequality, as this conflicts with goals to reduce carbon emissions.

Furthermore, findings reveal that despite a well-established institutional framework to coordinate the implementation of actions to meet the SDGs and climate goals, and enhance policy coherence; in practice, inadequate institutional coordination and operationalisation of policy and legal frameworks contribute to policy incoherence. Strategies for increased policy coherence include: tracking the progress and alignment of the climate and SDG agendas – through monitoring, reporting and evaluation mechanism-; adequate resource allocation to operationalize the policy and legal frameworks; enhancing capacity and technical expertise at the county level, strengthening institutional coordination by operationalizing existing intergovernmental platforms and; research on SDGs interactions to inform integrated intervention in the different sectors.

#### ***Policy coherence on air pollution at the nexus of energy and health pollution in urban areas***

SEI has also explored policy coherence on air pollution at the nexus of energy and health pollution in urban areas in Kenya. Taking energy (SDG 7) as the reference goal, SEI analysed interactions among policies addressing energy related pollution (transport (SDG11, SDG9), waste management (SDG11, SDG12), housing (SDG11), etc.) and air quality and climate change policies (SDG 11, SDG 13) to identify synergies and trade-offs and the implication on human health (SDG3).

Generally, the analysis shows at the national level, there are clear synergies between policies to address air quality and climate change, and sector policies for transport, energy, waste management, and housing. These policies mutually reinforce each other and contribute towards improving air quality and, ultimately contribute to better health outcomes. The key trade-off is in the energy policy objectives which encourages the use of renewable energy, including, the use charcoal and fuelwood which conflicts with the policies to reduce and control outdoor and indoor air pollution, which is a leading cause of upper respiratory illnesses in Kenya. Air pollution prevention and control objectives reinforce health policy objectives to reduce and prevent mortality and morbidity associated with air pollution and address non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The implication for policy is the need for close coordination between sectors pertaining to air pollution, energy and health nexus during policy implementation and enforcement, particularly the energy, environment and health sectors to minimise trade-offs and maximise policy efforts to improve air quality and public health.