



Renewable Energy and Decentralization (Energy Literacy for Decentralized Governance)

1. Local Energy Governance: The Global Context

1. **Energy Trilemma** – energy access, climate change, energy security – plus trends towards energy decentralization
2. **Political Decentralization** - Challenges facing local authorities in the context of decentralization – transfer of responsibilities, transfer of resources, capacity building, trans-scale coordination.
 - But few **research** connections.
 - **Low profile** of local governance issues in discussions of energy across the Global South.
 - *E.g. Electricity access* –
 - At the same time, local governments frequently don't have **specific policies/budgets** for addressing energy issues.

Project Aims

- To assess the roles and responsibilities of African local authorities in relation to energy issues.
- To examine how the roles and responsibilities of local authorities in relation to energy issues have already been affected by the transfer of powers and budgets under decentralization initiatives.
- To analyze the implications of further transfer of powers and budgets under decentralization initiatives
- Underlying all of this is the question of what kind of capacity local authorities need in order to play the potentially crucial role of integrating clean energy transitions into local development planning and how those capacities are being enhanced
- Two specific country case studies: Rwanda and Kenya

What we've been doing so far

- Wide-Ranging Literature Reviews
- Interviews with international project developers/NGOs etc.
- Development of Project Website (DEVELOPMENT OF NEW KENYAN SECTION FLOWING OUT OF RECENT MEETINGS)
- Workshops in Nakuru and Kigali (April/May 2014) –
- Interviews with stakeholders in both countries
- Gap in Progress (August 2014 – January 2015 due to Investigator illness).
- Networking and awareness raising more broadly beyond the Rwandan and Kenyan contexts to convince key stakeholders of the importance of investing in local government capacity in this area.
- Recent Meetings in Kenya raising the profile of County-level energy governance (collaboration with SEI, pursuing impact acceleration funding)

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Welcome

This is the project website for the 'Renewable Energy And Decentralization' (READ) project. This project is funded via the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the UK Government Department for International Development (DFID) and the UK Government Department for Energy and Climate Change under their jointly funded Understanding Sustainable Energy Solutions research programme.

This project is basically about the importance of local governance (and in particular decentralization) to sustainable energy transitions. It arose out of a shared frustration with the general lack of attention being paid to the role of local government within the current explosion of interest within clean energy transitions across lower income and lower middle income economies, particularly within a context where the theme of political

Recent Posts

- Half-Day Expert Meeting on County Energy Planning in Kenya: Local Participation and Local Solutions (Monday 16th March 2015)
- Presentations from the Rwanda Workshop
- Presentations from the Nakuru Workshop