



Establishing a climate change competence centre in Morocco

Activity	Establishing a climate change competence centre to support national climate related activities
Area	Capacity Building
Countries	Morocco
Project title	National Competence Centre For Climate Change, Mitigation and Adaptation in Morocco
Duration	2013 – 2018
Partner institution	Moroccan Secretary of State in charge of Sustainable Development (former Ministry of Environment)
Implementing organisation	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
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Initial situation


The project was initiated in 2013 with the objective of creating a climate change competence centre in charge of all climate relevant activities as an integrated unit within the Secretary of State for Sustainable Development. After further consultations with the government, civil society, the private sector and research institutions, the project's objective shifted towards establishing an independent, non-profit entity with an innovative legal status. The new entity/Centre has a status of "organisation serving the public interest" ("Groupement d'Intérêt Public", GIP), thus integrating more than 30 members from the public sector, civil society, the private sector, and research institutions. This new design allows for seamless cooperation, consultation, and information exchange between the members, and will further facilitate the complex interactions that resolving climate change issues requires.

Summary

The IKI project "National Competence Centre for Climate Change 4C" was established to accumulate and concentrate climate change related knowledge and expertise and to accompany the set-up of a national climate competence centre. Flagship activities of the project in matters of technical assistance are the elaboration of Morocco's Nationally Determined Contributions to the fight against adverse effects of climate change (NDC Maroc) as well as the development of a National Green House Gas Inventory System. The project mainly provides capacity building, accompanying for example the Moroccan negotiating team for the COPs and organizing a wide range of trainings on the access to climate finance among many others. The project also supported the Moroccan COP22 Presidency in preparation of the climate summit held in Marrakesh in 2016. The project activities have since been transferred to the newly established organisation called "4C Maroc" in order to ensure continuity and to provide services beyond the project duration.



On behalf of

 Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

Implemented by

 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Contribution to GHG mitigation

The 4C project supported the development of a GHG National Inventory System (NIS) as part of a global MRV system to be established and Morocco's INDC and NDC. Within the framework of the project, instruments of sustainable knowledge management for mitigation and adaptation, including trainings and information programs, were established. A website (www.4c.ma) was developed to inform and communicate on climate change. The site also hosts a national climate change expert data base as well as a self learning platform.

Strengthening the country's engagement and ambition in the climate negotiations, the project has provided training and technical support to the Moroccan Delegation, starting from COP19, with special assistance for the preparation of COP22 in Marrakesh. This included organizing high-level international conferences, workshops, expert meetings, and informal negotiations sessions.

The project contributed indirectly to GHG emission reductions, by providing the capacities and instruments allowing the identification of concrete mitigation projects. It developed the centres' business plan, internal procedures and supported staffing, enabling continuation of activities. Furthermore, it is supporting the government in designing and planning the NDC implementation.

Success factors / Replication potential

A major success factor of this project was the supportive national context of interest for climate activities. The centre benefited from the strong commitment of the King of Morocco and the momentum of the COP22, representing an important milestone as a capacity building platform with an African outreach. The government had already aimed at promoting a carbon neutral economy beforehand, wherefore the Secretary of State had a strong interest in the project. In addition, the ratification of the Paris Agreement and the organization of COP22 in Marrakesh highlighted the importance of the activities carried out by the 4C.

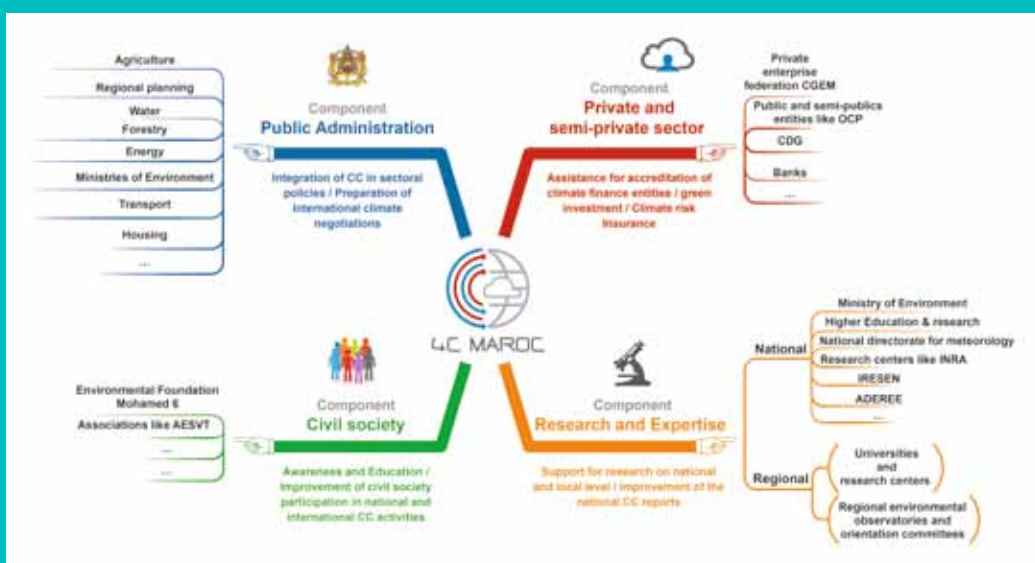
To replicate the successful implementation of a competence centre and the activities of this project in other countries, it is therefore crucial that strong political support, leadership and endorsement by the national partner are given. Moreover, as it was the case in Morocco, the development of a clear action plan should be based ideally on existing national strategies for green growth and carbon neutral development. In order to develop the appropriate instruments and trainings, the project team requires good knowledge of the national context.

Designation of clear processes, close coordination and constant communication with the different stakeholders are other key success factors. Finally, the flexible approach taken by the "IKI office" as donor organization was helpful as the activities could be adapted to the evolution of the project requirements driven by a changing local context.

Lessons learned

During the creation of "4C Maroc" as an independent entity of public-interest, disagreement emerged as one partner preferred a different legal status for the new institution, stressing the advantages of integration of the centre into governmental structures. Eventually, the issue was resolved through a strong mobilization on the political level emphasizing that the centre does not intend to take over responsibilities of the participating organisations, but instead would complement their work by providing a platform of dialogue, knowledge exchange, and capacity building as well as offer new business opportunities.

The project puts a strong focus on continuously informing stakeholders and training of key partners to ensure ownership and the project's overall success. International and national experts working together and carrying out trainings and other activities facilitated a complementary, coherent and inclusive approach for increasing the level of knowledge and expertise on climate issues in Morocco.



Overview of the four components of the 4C Maroc

This project has been selected as a good practice by the GIZ project "Policy dialogue and knowledge management on LEDS in the MENA region". Within this framework, ten projects of the International Climate Initiative have been selected in total.



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