



FOOD SYSTEMS
NDC SCORECARD

Kenya Assessment

September 2025

I. Introduction

Kenya is a tropical country in East Africa with a coastline along the Indian Ocean and Lake Victoria. In 2025 the World Bank classified Kenya as a lower-middle-income country ([Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), Appendix II). Kenya is known for its vast wildlife preserves, and tourism is an important economic sector. Kenya has a national government with 47 county governments ([Kenya's Second Nationally Determined Contribution \(2031–2035\)](#) [NDC], p. 3). The national government is responsible for policymaking under the UNFCCC, and county governments implement these policies at subnational levels (NDC, p. 3). More than "84% of Kenya's land area is arid and semi-arid ... leaving less than 16% of the land area to support the food security needs of over 80% of the population" (NDC, p. 4).

The NDC, submitted on April 30, 2025, describes the challenges the country faces with climate change and relates concerns about Kenya's limited ability to implement its adaptation goals without additional international funding (NDC Registry). The NDC states that Kenya is currently experiencing an above-average warming trend, increased dry spells leading to droughts, and intense bursts of rain leading to floods (NDC, p. 3). The NDC estimates that climate change and climate extremes cost the Kenyan economy 5% of its GDP yearly (NDC, pp. iii, 3, 20). Since Kenya's cumulative contribution to global emissions is less than 0.1%, Kenya asserts that the climate goals in this NDC show that the country is undertaking more ambitious mitigation measures than its fair share (NDC, p. 28). Its average per capita emissions (2.09 t CO₂-e in 2022) are lower than the global average of 6.76 t CO₂-e (NDC, pp. 2, 28). Kenya has revised its 2035 reduction target from 32% to 35% relative to the business-as-usual scenario of 215 Mt (megatonnes) CO₂-e (NDC, pp. 13, 18, 28). The NDC also states that part of Kenya's enhanced ambition is to increase its domestic contribution of the NDC cost from 13% to 19%, implying that it will need global funds to cover the other 81% (NDC, pp. 14, 18, 20, 28, 32).

This NDC was evaluated according to the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#) using the documents below. All scores are based on evaluations of the NDC and documents cited within each area of the assessment. Where not specified, in this assessment "NDC" may refer to content within an NDC submission document or other documents analyzed as part of the NDC (see Appendix).

For Kenya, we analyzed the NDC and the [National Climate Change Action Plan \(NCCAP\) III 2023–2027](#) (NCCAP). For additional information on policies considered within this evaluation, please see the Appendix.

Kenya

Overall Score: Strong

Specific to Food System

Scope of food systems coverage



Context-specific action



Promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation



Broader Considerations

Equity and inclusiveness in NDC development



Total Score

10/12

II. Scope of Food Systems Coverage (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates whether the NDC or policies referenced within the NDC addresses each stage of the food system to assess the full extent of the country's climate mitigation and adaptation potential. The stages are as follows: (1) food production; (2) food loss; (3) food processing; (4) food distribution; (5) food consumption, including food access, diets, and nutrition; and (6) food waste. This area does not assess the policies' benefits or harms; these considerations are addressed in subsequent areas of this assessment. The NDC will receive a "strong" score of 3 points if it addresses all subareas; a "medium" score of 2 points if it addresses at least food production, food consumption, and either food loss or waste; a "weak" score of 1 point if it addresses at least one subarea; and an "absent" score of 0 points if no subarea is addressed.

Since Kenya's NDC demonstrates action or plans for future action at all stages of the food system, it received **a strong score of 3 points** for the scope of food systems coverage area.

(1) Food production

The NDC and NCCAP demonstrate action at the food production stage through various targets and measures, such as improving irrigation to increase crop productivity from irrigated fields from 50% to 90%, adopting more sustainable land-management practices—including soil and water conservation measures—and promoting the use of drought-tolerant crops ([NCCAP](#), p. 83; [NDC](#), p. 20). Kenya's NDC and NCCAP prioritize climate-smart agricultural practices through the value chain and in food and nutrition security policies ([NDC](#), p. 21; [NCCAP](#), pp. 80, 82, 150). Additionally, the NCCAP discusses using climate technology in the crops subsector and to inform decision-making ([NCCAP](#), pp. 49, 56, 70).

(2) Food loss

Through the NCCAP, the NDC demonstrates action toward reducing food loss through various climate-smart methods ([NCCAP](#), pp. 84, 86). For example, the NCCAP states that Kenya plans to reduce postharvest losses of animal-source foods from 15% to 7.5% through improved food safety practices and a hazard analysis and critical control point management system ([NCCAP](#), p. 84).

(3) Food processing

Through the NCCAP, the NDC demonstrates action at the food processing stage. For example, the NCCAP includes the use of geothermal energy to dry grain along with a goal to commercialize the Menengai grain dryer, which could reduce costs and emissions ([NCCAP](#), p. 180).

(4) Food distribution

The NDC demonstrates action at the food distribution stage, including by enhancing the uptake of climate-smart agriculture technologies. Kenya expects 100,000 more farmers to access specialized markets for climate-smart products ([NCCAP](#), p. 82). This action provides an outlet for the sale of climate-smart products.

(5) Food consumption

The NDC demonstrates action at the food consumption stage through, for example, its prioritized adaptation and loss and damage programs and interventions for 2031–2035 ([NDC](#), p. 21). The fifth priority listed is to increase sustainable access to adequate nutritional food for everyone ([NDC](#), p. 21).

(6) Food waste

The NDC demonstrates action at the food waste stage. The NCCAP indicates that Kenya aims to reduce GHG emissions from food waste by establishing one composting facility in nearly every county, which should repurpose food waste and prevent it from going to landfills ([NCCAP](#), p. 173).

III. Context-Specific Action (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the depth of food systems integration within the NDC through a framework of seven critical subareas for climate change mitigation and adaptation in the food system: (1) addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, (2) mitigating emissions in food production, (3) reducing fossil fuel use in the food system, (4) reducing agricultural deforestation, (5) shifting from high-impact dietary patterns, (6) reducing food loss and/or waste, and (7) enhancing climate-resilient food production. Subareas 6 and 7 are evaluated for all countries, and the other five are evaluated if applicable to a given country.

Subarea 1 is evaluated for all countries except high-income countries. Although food insecurity is present in high-income countries, this subarea is assessed only for low- and middle-income countries where the prevalence of food insecurity and malnutrition are associated with greater climate vulnerabilities. Subareas 2 and 3 are evaluated for high- and upper-middle-income countries only. Subarea 4 is scored for countries that are ranked among the 25 countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation according to Global Forest Watch data, and subarea 5 is evaluated for countries with a high-impact diet—countries whose consumption of animal-source foods (ASFs) exceeds EAT-Lancet recommendations by 25%.

The action in each applicable subarea is first assessed as strong, medium, weak, or absent:

- Actions are strong when a specific policy has been adopted or a plan to adopt a specific policy is in place.
- Actions are medium when an intent to take action is mentioned (i.e., no detailed implementation plan exists).
- Actions are weak if only a descriptive mention of it is included and absent when no action is mentioned.

On the basis of these assessments, the NDC will receive a strong, medium, weak, or absent rating for the area as a whole. (See more details in the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 7.)

Subareas 2 and 3 were not analyzed because Kenya is a lower-middle-income country. Subarea 4 was evaluated but not scored because Kenya is not one of the countries with the highest rates of agricultural deforestation. Subarea 5 was not analyzed because Kenya is not considered to have a high-impact diet ([Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), Appendix IV).

Since Kenya's NDC demonstrates strong action in the remaining three applicable subareas, it received **a strong score of 3 points** for the context-specific action area.

(1) Addressing food insecurity and malnutrition

The NDC demonstrates strong action to address food insecurity and malnutrition ([NDC](#), p. 16). The NDC states that Kenya is committed to its people's basic right to food, and the NCCAP mentions the Kenya Food Security Steering Group ([NDC](#), p. 16; [NCCAP](#), p. 29). The NCCAP identifies Kenya's second climate change priority as food and nutrition security ([NCCAP](#), p. 80), which sets forth a goal to increase food and nutrition security through enhanced productivity and resilience via low-carbon pathways ([NCCAP](#), p. 81). The NDC recognizes that climate change poses an acute and long-term threat to Kenya's food security ([NCCAP](#), p. 13; [NDC](#), p. 19) and notes that 2023 saw an increase in acute malnutrition ([NCCAP](#), p. 19). The NCCAP states that the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework, 2018–2027, supports food security, helping guide national policy that county governments implement ([NCCAP](#), p. 68). For counties with arid and semi-arid land, the NCCAP states that Kenya plans to implement practices for sustainable land, pasture, and water management to decrease mobility and displacement of farmers and pastoralists while increasing food security and safety ([NCCAP](#), p. 148).

(2) Mitigating emissions in food production

This subarea was not analyzed for Kenya.

(3) Reducing fossil fuel use in the food system

Although this subarea was not analyzed for Kenya, the NCCAP describes one of Kenya's goals of having two million farmers adopt climate-smart postharvest technologies, such as green-energy-powered cold storage and solar crop dryers ([NCCAP](#), p. 151).

(4) Reducing agricultural deforestation

Although we did not score its NDC on this subarea, Kenya does have policies on reducing agricultural deforestation. One example related to the food system is Kenya's use of improved cooking stoves, including solar-powered ones, which has reduced deforestation ([NCCAP](#), p. 50). The NCCAP also mentions planned measures regarding forests and preservation in the tourism, restoration, wildlife, and research sectors, including REDD+ (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) projects ([NCCAP](#), pp. 95–99).

(5) Shifting from high-impact dietary patterns

This subarea was not analyzed for Kenya.

(6) Reducing food loss and/or waste

Although Kenya's NDC focuses heavily on food security, it details only one action regarding food loss in the food supply chain, which contributes to food insecurity. One of the priorities listed in the NCCAP is to "enhance sustainable blue economy and fisheries development," and the plan sets forth a goal of developing 10 fish landing sites and 10 fish markets to reduce postharvest losses ([NCCAP](#), p.161).

The NDC demonstrates more action on food waste. The national government sets the policy and provides support for the 47 counties or private sector to implement. For example, the NCCAP states that Kenya intends to "enhance composting/biological processing of waste" ([NCCAP](#), p. 173). The NCCAP states that the national government will provide technical support to county governments and the private sector to help manage food and organic waste collection ([NCCAP](#), p. 173). The national and county governments will also carry out feasibility studies to identify potential sites for composting plants and determine the cost of composting technology ([NCCAP](#), p. 174). This strong focus on composting as a waste-management or repurposing strategy, while valuable, could be complemented with policies for waste reduction, such as food banking for food-waste diversion.

(7) Enhancing climate-resilient food production

The NDC demonstrates strong action on enhancing climate-resilient food production. For example, the NCCAP states that Kenya intends to increase farmers' use of climate-smart agriculture in crop production through building capacity at the subnational level, strengthening agro-weather and climate information services, increasing the number of beneficiaries for crop insurance, increasing access to appropriate inputs subsidies, encouraging 100,000 farmers to participate in specialized markets for climate-smart agriculture, and other initiatives ([NCCAP](#), p. 150). Additionally, to prevent the stress of acute event migration, the NCCAP shows Kenya's commitment to improving the productivity and resilience of the country's farmers and pastoralists ([NCCAP](#), p. 153).

IV. Promoting Synergies and Avoiding Maladaptation (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 1 POINT (WEAK)

Measures put forth in the NDC can promote synergies with other sustainability, social, and health objectives. These measures could also conflict with the same objectives. In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the extent to which the NDC has sought to promote synergies and avoid maladaptation or make trade-offs with other sustainable development objectives. This is a two-step evaluation process. The first step is an assessment of whether the NDC considers seven topics in relation to the food system that support sustainable development synergies: (1) nutrition; (2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare; (3) other health considerations; (4) human rights; (5) biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems; (6) gender; and (7) small-scale producers. For each synergistic subarea addressed 0.5 points are given, up to a maximum of 3 points.

Kenya's NDC **received 3 points in the synergies main subarea** because it addresses all seven synergistic topics.

The second step is an assessment of the NDC for risks of maladaptation related to the inclusion of five to eight high-risk activities: (1) expansion of agricultural frontier; (2) increasing production of crops such as soy, corn, rapeseed, wheat, and sugar cane for animal feed and energy; (3) increasing pesticide use; (4) intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers; and (5) increasing water consumption. The remaining high-risk activities are evaluated only for high- and upper-middle-income countries: (6) intensification of animal agriculture (and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors), (7) increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption, and (8) increasing fertilizer usage.

Kenya's NDC **lost 2 points in the maladaptation main subarea** because it engages in high-risk activities.

For each synergistic subarea, the NDC receives 0.5 points up to a maximum of 3 points. For each maladaptive high-risk activity, the NDC loses 1 point. The number of points subtracted from high-risk activities or policies can equal but not exceed the number of points gained for the synergistic topics mentioned.

Since Kenya is a lower-middle-income country, the NDC was evaluated only on the first five high-risk activities. The NDC's synergies score of 3 points was reduced by 2 points for the risks of maladaptation, resulting in **a weak total score of 1 point** for the promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area.

Synergies

(1) Nutrition

The NDC considers nutrition in various ways. As discussed, the NCCAP includes food and nutrition security as a climate priority. The NCCAP also demonstrates that Kenya considers how drought and pests contribute to high levels of malnutrition and undernutrition ([NCCAP](#), pp. 19, 24, 26) and how Kenya has developed policies to address those issues (see [NCCAP](#), pp. 83, 99). Additionally, the NCCAP also discusses nutrient deficiencies in children and youth and their subsequent susceptibility to additional risk, including disease and death ([NCCAP](#), p. 28). These are just a few of many examples in the NDC and NCCAP.

(2) One Health, animal health, and/or animal welfare

The NCCAP shows how animal health is considered. For example, the NCCAP indicates that one of Kenya's plans is to support dairy farming households in adopting climate-smart technologies and help with "management practices (TIMPS) on quality feeds, precision feeding, breeding management and enhanced animal health for efficient dairy management" ([NCCAP](#), p. 84). The NCCAP also shows consideration for the health implications of water scarcity on people and livestock, especially how floods can amplify the spread of waterborne disease ([NCCAP](#), p. 22).

(3) Other health considerations

As discussed in the nutrition section, Kenya's NCCAP considers the additional poor health outcomes youth and children face in light of climatic events ([NCCAP](#), p. 28). The NCCAP states that Kenya has developed and implemented the Kenya Climate Change and Health Strategy 2023–2027, which includes the WHO air-pollution roadmap and a five-year household air-pollution strategy ([NCCAP](#), pp. 105, 171). The NCCAP also describes Kenya's goal to transition to clean cooking, which has co-benefits for improving the health of women and children by reducing their exposure to toxic fumes, addressing time-poverty, and reducing the stress on forests from firewood collection ([NCCAP](#), p. 110).

(4) Human rights

The NDC mentions that Kenya's response "to climate change should safeguard citizens' basic rights to food" ([NDC](#), p. 16). In its third climate change priority, the NCCAP demonstrates how Kenya considers the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities by aiming to establish cooperatives in fisheries ([NCCAP](#), p. 161). The NCCAP also considers human rights with respect to pastoralists' increasing need to move frequently in search of water and pastures due to climate extremes ([NCCAP](#), pp. 30–31).

(5) Biodiversity, nature, and ecosystems

The NCCAP considers biodiversity in the context of water, fisheries, and the blue economy. The NCCAP notes that increased temperatures have decreased biodiversity in aquatic nesting and feeding grounds ([NCCAP](#), p. 34). For example, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, 2019–2030, includes strategies for reducing biodiversity loss by supporting local communities in the production and sustainable use of indigenous and traditional species for food ([NCCAP](#), pp. 51, 68).

(6) Gender

The NCCAP considers gender in many instances. For example, the NCCAP reports that women are responsible for many domestic tasks, including cooking and searching for water, and that they often suffer from time-poverty fulfilling these responsibilities ([NCCAP](#), p. 17). Additionally, the NCCAP states that women and children suffer more gender-based violence and resort to "transactional sex for basic needs including water" due to drought ([NCCAP](#), p. 20). Women represent 75% of the labor force in small-scale agriculture but own only 10% of the land titles ([NCCAP](#), pp. 28, 80). Accounting for these percentages, the NCCAP states that "gender-aware agricultural services will be critical for success" ([NCCAP](#), p. 80).

(7) Small-scale producers

The NCCAP considers small-scale producers in the context of women’s participation in the small-scale agricultural workforce ([NCCAP](#), p. 80). The NCCAP also recognizes the need for small-scale producers to be better equipped to handle climate risks, as the frequency of severe weather events is increasing ([NCCAP](#), p. v). In addition, the NCCAP describes a plan under the first climate change priority to “improve management of climate change-driven mobility and displacement” by implementing “sustainable land, pasture, and water management practices ... for farmers and pastoralists in ASAL [arid and semi-arid land] counties to promote food security, and reduce climate-driven conflicts” ([NCCAP](#), p. 77).

Maladaptations

(1) Expansion of agricultural frontier

Although Kenya’s policy framework contains certain environmental safeguards, the NDC lost 1 point in the evaluation for Kenya’s expansion of its agricultural frontier (the Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2017–2026 [KCSAS] underscores the importance of environmental safeguards by referencing the Environmental Management and Coordination Act; [KCSAS](#), pp. 34–35). The NCCAP states that the long-term agriculture strategy “can ensure modest growth of livestock numbers and land converted to agriculture” ([NCCAP](#), p. 39). Given the absence of further information on the necessity of this expansion and lack of evidence of harm-mitigation measures, this has been assessed as maladaptive.

(2) Increasing production of crops primarily for nonfood uses (animal feed and energy)

Nothing in the NDC suggests that Kenya engages in this high-risk activity.

(3) Increasing pesticide use

The KCSAS requires that pesticide use be minimized and that environmental impact assessments be conducted on new pest-reduction programs ([KCSAS](#), pp. 14, 34–35). As this does not increase pesticide use, Kenya’s NDC did not lose a point in the subarea.

(4) Intensification measures that threaten the livelihood of small-scale farmers, pastoralists, and fishers

The NDC lost 1 point for this subarea. Although the NDC does seek to promote Indigenous Peoples’ rights, by establishing fishing cooperatives, it also supports the expansion of industrial fishing ([NCCAP](#), p. 161). The goals set forth in the NCCAP are to increase the number of fish ponds from 11,300 to 25,000; increase fish production from 27,000 Mt to 50,000 Mt; increase the number of fish landed from Lake Turkana from 17,000 Mt to 30,000 Mt; develop 10 fish landing sites and markets; and improve coastal fisheries “by increasing deep/offshore fishing” fleets from nine to 68 ([NCCAP](#), pp. 161–62). Intensification of fishing is known to impact small-scale operations to the point where it threatens fishers’ livelihoods (for more information, see the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 10).

(5) Increasing water consumption

Although the NCCAP’s second climate change priority includes “increased irrigation” to improve productivity and climate resilience ([NCCAP](#), p. 80), we did not deduct any points for this policy. Kenya’s increased irrigation is driven by the KCSAS and the [Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Implementation Framework](#) ([NCCAP](#), p. 86). The KCSAS aligns with the National Water Master Plan 2030, which emphasizes water management in irrigation and environmental impact assessments for irrigated agricultural projects that exceed 50 hectares ([KCSAS](#), pp. 34–35). Also, Strategic Issue 3 in the KCSAS promotes water harvesting and storage, irrigation infrastructure development, and efficient water use ([KCSAS](#), p. 58). The KCSAS also identifies the ministry responsible for water and irrigation as one that formulates policies, strategies, and programs for sustainable water resource development and management ([KCSAS](#), p. 66). The KCSAS stresses the need to prioritize investment in infrastructure for water harvesting, storage, and irrigation systems to enhance climate resilience and support climate-smart agriculture ([KCSAS](#), p. 66). Under our methodology, Kenya’s increased irrigation policy is deemed not to be high-risk, as it is in furtherance of food security with no less harmful alternatives ([Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 9).

(6) Intensification of animal agriculture and expansion of animal agriculture subsectors

(7) Increasing consumption of particular animal products in a country that already exceeds by 25% or more EAT-Lancet levels for ASF consumption

(8) Increasing fertilizer usage

Subareas 6–8 are not applicable to Kenya because it is a lower-middle-income country.

V. Equity and Inclusiveness in NDC Development (0–3 points)

TOTAL AREA SCORE = 3 POINTS (STRONG)

In this area, the scorecard framework evaluates the NDC on the main subareas of equity and inclusiveness throughout the NDC's development. The NDC as a whole was scored on this area, not just the NDC's content concerning food systems. Each main subarea was scored up to 3 points, and the total score is the average of the two main subarea scores.

Kenya's NDC received a **strong total score of 3 points** for the equity and inclusiveness area.

Equity

The scorecard framework evaluates equity through (1) equitable 1.5°C alignment, (2) just transitions, (3) consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups, and (4) equitable finance. Subarea 4 is evaluated only for high-income countries on whether they commit to financing for developing countries. The equity main subarea will receive a strong score of 3 points if all issues are addressed, a medium score of 2 points if two or three issues are addressed, a weak score of 1 point if one issue is addressed, or an absent score of 0 points if no issues are addressed.

Kenya's NDC received a **strong score of 3 points for the equity main subarea** because it addresses all applicable subareas.

(1) Equitable 1.5°C alignment

Kenya aims to reduce its GHG emissions by 35% by 2035 relative to the business-as-usual scenario of 215 Mt CO₂-e in 2035, a reduction of 75.25 Mt CO₂-e ([NDC](#), pp. 13–14). Of this emissions reduction, 20% (15.05 Mt CO₂-e) is unconditional and the remaining 80% (60.20 Mt CO₂-e) is conditional on international support ([NDC](#), pp. 13–14).

Equitable 1.5°C alignment is assessed according to the fair shares assessment approach of the Civil Society Equity Review, using the Climate Equity Reference Calculator. Under this analysis, a country's emissions reduction is determined to contribute its mitigation fair share if it meets either of two CSER benchmarks, each corresponding to different but reasonable visions of equity.

In the Climate Equity Reference Calculator analysis, Kenya's target emissions levels are adjusted according to the non-LULUCF portions of these emissions (see the [Climate Equity Reference Calculator](#) analysis of Kenya for more on this adjustment and the [Food Systems NDC Scorecard methodology](#), p. 11, for details on how the Climate Equity Reference Framework considers emissions reduction from LULUCF and how this can affect a target's assessment). Under this analysis, Kenya's unconditional pledge equates to a 2035 target level of 117.4 Mt CO₂-e, while its conditional pledge equates to a target level of 82.1Mt CO₂-e by 2035.

According to the 1850 High Progressivity benchmark, Kenya's unconditional pledge would exceed its fair share allocation by 0.1 t CO₂-e per capita, while its conditional pledge would reduce emissions to 0.4 t CO₂-e per capita less than its fair share allocation.

According to the 1950 Medium Progressivity benchmark, Kenya's unconditional pledge would exceed its fair share allocation by 0.2 t CO₂-e per capita, while its conditional pledge would reduce emissions to 0.3 t CO₂-e per capita under its fair share allocation.

Therefore, according to each benchmark, Kenya's unconditional target would not be considered equitably aligned with efforts toward 1.5°C, while its conditional target would be considered equitably aligned with efforts toward 1.5°C. For the purposes of the Food Systems NDC Scorecard analysis, we have determined Kenya's NDC to be 1.5°C aligned according to the sufficiently ambitious conditional target.

(2) Just transitions

The NDC addresses several points relevant to just transitions. For example, the NDC's key priority mitigation initiatives include implementing the National Strategy on Green Skills and Jobs to "ensure just transition across sectors" (NDC, p. 13). In addition, the NDC includes as a priority intervention training and employment opportunities for youth in climate-resilient sectors, such as renewable energy and sustainable agriculture (NDC, p. 23). Kenya also plans to develop programs to "ensure a just transition of its workforce" (NDC, p. 13).

(3) Specific consideration of the needs of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups

Kenya's NDC was developed with a "strong focus on gender equity" (NDC, p. 10). The development process also included "youth-specific consultation meetings to ensure intergenerational equity and inclusion of youth in the development of the NDC" (NDC, p. 10). The NDC reports that the revision process included comprehensive gender analysis (NDC, p. 10).

(4) Equitable finance

This subarea was not analyzed for Kenya.

Inclusiveness in NDC Development

Inclusiveness in NDC development was evaluated on whether the following groups were included in the NDC's development: (1) multiple government ministries, (2) departments and agencies of government, (3) subnational bodies, (4) the private sector, (5) academia, (6) civil society organizations, (7) Indigenous Peoples, and (8) other vulnerable and/or marginalized groups, earning 0.5 points for each for a maximum of 3 points.

Kenya's NDC received a **strong score of 3 points for the inclusiveness main subarea.**

Kenya's NDC adopts a comprehensive "whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach to climate action" to prevent fragmentation and isolated efforts (NDC, pp. iii, 30). The NDC's development was spearheaded by the Climate Change Directorate within the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry (NDC, p. 10). The NDC states that this government-led initiative involved consultation with various government departments and agencies to conduct a detailed analysis for establishing adaptation and mitigation targets up to 2035 (NDC, p. 10). The NDC development process encompassed planning, reviewing official government documents, and engaging in public consultations (NDC, p. 10). The diverse stakeholders included national and county governmental bodies, civil society, academia, and the private sector (NDC, p. 10). These consultations included the private sector, labor movements, environmental justice organizations, youth organizations, and subnational (county) governments (NDC, p. 10).

VI. Analysis and Conclusions (Total score 0–12 points)

KENYA'S NDC TOTAL SCORE = 10 POINTS (STRONG)

Kenya's NDC received a **strong total score of 10 points out of 12**. This score is based on evaluations of both the [NDC](#) and the [NCCAP](#). The NDC and NCCAP indicate a strong commitment to mitigating climate change impacts in the context of food systems.

All evaluations and scores are contingent on Kenya's continued implementation of existing policies and work toward existing goals regarding food systems since the NCCAP was developed before this second NDC and its timeline differs from that of the NDC.

Kenya's NDC received **strong scores** in the **scope of food systems coverage**, **context-specific action**, and **equity and inclusiveness areas** because the NDC demonstrates action or addresses all of the applicable subareas.

In the **promoting synergies and avoiding maladaptation area**, the NDC received a **weak score** because although it considers all seven synergistic topics, it also shows that Kenya is expanding its agricultural frontier and is adding intensification measures that are likely to threaten the livelihood of small-scale producers—both without the mention of measures to mitigate harm. Although it states that there will be only modest growth, the NCCAP does foresee an increase in the amount of land converted to agriculture, and Kenya's plans to intensify measures—as reported in the NDC—are likely to threaten the livelihood of small-scale fishers.

Due to the prevalence of malnutrition throughout Kenya, if agricultural expansion is deemed necessary for food security, it should be done in the most sustainable way possible. If no less harmful measures to address malnutrition exist, Kenya could improve its NDC score by specifying that, as well as seeking to counteract this expansion with positive activities, such as afforestation.

The NDC's strong score of 10 points leaves few areas to significantly improve the score. However, there are always ways to improve policies and their implementation. For example, under the scope of food systems coverage area, the food consumption subarea could be improved by including specific plans for how Kenya will increase access to nutritional food for everyone, as well as defining "nutritional food."

Appendix

Documents Evaluated

- [Kenya's Second Nationally Determined Contribution \(2031–2035\)](#)
- [National Climate Change Action Plan \(NCCAP\) III 2023–2027](#)

Document Selection

An NDC submission typically references a number of policy documents. In some cases, these policy documents are referenced to provide context clarifying the content of the NDC. In other cases, these policy documents are referenced because they form part of a country's contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Where a country considers the documents integral to its climate change response, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers the content of these documents, if adequately referenced in an NDC submission, to be part of the NDC.

As a reference's intended function is not always clear, the Food Systems NDC Scorecard considers it holistically:

- How the NDC discusses the policy document.
- Location of the reference. For example, if the reference is within the planning processes section of an "information to facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding" table, this is a strong indication that the policy was incorporated into the NDC.
- Content of the referenced policy document itself—namely, the extent to which it considers climate change and therefore constitutes part of the country's climate policy framework.
- The Party's overall policy framework—for example, whether a cited policy is active rather than obsolete or superseded by other policy documents and whether other policy documents should perform the same function.

For Kenya, this analysis primarily focuses on the NDC submission and the NCCAP, as the NDC describes the NCCAP as the implementation mechanism for the NDC. However, other documents referenced in the NDC, including the KCSAS, have been considered where they contribute additional clarity.

Scope of Assessment

This evaluation focuses on a food system perspective. While evaluating equity and inclusiveness more broadly, it does not specifically assess other sectors (such as energy) or indicate the quality of a country's climate policy overall. Additionally, the scoring reflects the presence or absence of particular types of action or consideration within the areas and subareas examined. This does not necessarily reflect ambition in the depth of action. For example, a policy to slightly mitigate food production emissions in a subsector will count equally in scoring to a policy to significantly mitigate emissions. The scores should be understood as indicators to consider alongside the fuller analyses. Finally, while NDCs are critical policy instruments, implementation is necessary to translate their ambition into action. Accordingly, an ambitious NDC alone does not guarantee effective action, just as the ambitiousness of action is not limited to the content of an NDC.

For Kenya, the [Kenya Climate Smart Agriculture Strategy 2017–2026](#) (KCSAS) was used for additional information but was not evaluated.



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Please contact the Food Systems NDC Scorecard project (info@foodsystemsndcscorecard.org) with any feedback, comments, or questions.