



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK  
**DANIDA** | INTERNATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



## Empowering the Public Service

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### DANIDA ALUMNI THINK TANK EVENT ON GREEN GROWTH AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

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Rapporteur Report

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## **Acknowledgement**

The organizers of this workshop wish to express profound gratitude to the Danida Fellowship Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, for the grant that enabled us organize the Green Growth and Circular Economy Danida Alumni Think Tank Event; we appreciate the Kenya School of Government- Directorate of Linkages and Collaborations, Centre for Environmental Governance and Climate Change, Communications Department and the e-Learning and Development Institute (eLDi) for technical and logistical support.

Immense gratitude to the three facilitators of the event, Mr. Augustine Kenduiwo, from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; Mr. Willis Ochieng, from the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), and, Ms. Diana Musyoka, from the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA). You excellently handled the interactive sessions.

Heartfelt thanks to the Danida Alumni who actively participated in the event and made it buoyant. Likewise, special thanks to the non-alumni participants, who expressed gratitude for the knowledge they acquired on green growth and circular economy and a yearning for more similar events for such knowledge and experience sharing. Last but not least, we express earnest gratitude to God Almighty without whose daily support we would not have lived to experience the successful event and tell about it.

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DFC	Danida Fellowship Centre
eLDi	e-Learning and Development Institute
GESIP	Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan
GGCE	Green Growth and Circular Economy
ICT	Information Computer Technology
KENGEN	Kenya Electricity Generating Company
KSG	Kenya School of Government
NUPEA	Nuclear Power and Energy Agency
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
UNEP	United Nations Environment Program

# DANIDA ALUMNI THINKTANK EVENT ON GREEN GROWTH AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

## 1.0 Introduction

The ecological sphere continues to face immense land degradation and natural resource depletion to keep up with the ever increasing population and the need to industrialize further to meet the needs of its inhabitants. Consequently, the Earth's carrying capacity is compromised due to the large ecological footprint which threatens to exceed the bio capacity, already evident in the present Earth overshoot days. As the world continues to enjoy the conveniences attributable to the industrial revolution and innovations of the second half of the twentieth century, there is a growing focus on sustainable growth and circular economies in the twenty first century in order to secure the safety of the posterior generations. A number of green programs have been initiated in Kenya with the support of donors such as the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). A case in point is the green growth and employment program-supported by DANIDA, with an objective of having an inclusive greener growth with higher employment within the context of Kenya's blue print of Vision 2030-of having a prosperous country, with high quality of life by the year 2030. The program supported the following intervention areas: Sustainable growth and jobs from investment; and, trade, sustainable use of natural resources and community resilience.

Kenya committed to transition to the green economy since 2012 after a deliberation at the third United Nations Conference on sustainable development, commonly known as the Rio+20 summit. To domesticate the concept, Kenya has institutionalized legal and policy frameworks that will enable the adoption and implementation of green growth and circular economy in its development endeavour. A document to guide the implementation of green growth and circular economy known as the Green Economy Strategy and Implementation Plan (GESIP 2016-2030) is in place. The strategy is a blue print for enhancing low carbon, resource efficient, equitable and inclusive socio-economic transformation in Kenya. The strategy is domiciled in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

The Kenya School of Government is a state corporation that was established under an Act of Parliament in 2012 with the mandate to transform the public service by offering training, providing expert consultancy and conducting research designed to inform public policy, promote national development and standards of competence, and integrity in the public service. In order to achieve the objective of social inclusion and improvement of livelihood in GESIP, the Kenya School of Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and the National Treasury undertake capacity building programs to public service officers from various sectors and counties in an endeavour to mainstream the green economy strategy in all sectors and counties. Such trainings are experiential in nature and practical oriented. In line with this goal, DANIDA financed a think tank event on green growth and circular economy organized by DANIDA alumni in Kenya School of Government to share knowledge and experience on how bespoke green growth and circular economy can be implemented to work in the Kenyan context.

### **1.1 Problem Statement**

Some developed countries like Denmark have made great strides towards achieving a green and circular economy. The concept of GGCE is becoming widespread and policies are in place for Kenya to transition to the same. However, the context in Denmark is different from Kenya's situation, and a few green initiatives successful in Denmark might not be exactly what might work for Kenya.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Event**

The purpose of the Green Growth and Circular Economy Danida Alumni Think Tank event was thus to bring together experts for knowledge and experience sharing on how green solutions can be implemented *mutatis mutandis* to work in various sectors in Kenya.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Event:**

The think tank event on GGCE endeavoured to:

- i) Promote knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration within and across sectors in Kenya.
- ii) Contribute to promoting sustainable development by addressing one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals.

- iii) Strengthen the local alumni network.
- iv) Contribute to promoting knowledge into action initiatives targeting and benefitting the general public, special interest groups, or local communities.

#### 1.4 Guiding Questions

- i) How will the event promote knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration within and across sectors in Kenya?
- ii) How will the event contribute to promoting sustainable development by addressing one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals?
- iii) How will the event strengthen the local alumni network?
- iv) How will the event contribute to promoting knowledge into action initiatives targeting and benefitting the general public, special interest groups, or local communities?

#### 1.5 Green Growth and Circular Economy Defined

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development {OECD}, (2011) defined green growth as “fostering economic growth and development, while ensuring that natural assets continue to provide the resources and environmental services on which our well-being relies.”

It advocates for complimenting actions between how we utilize our natural resources and our daily development endeavors. Green growth aims at fundamental shifts in production and consumption that reduce pollutants, improve energy and resource efficiency, minimize greenhouse gasses and avoid natural resource degradation. Furthermore, it orients policy and associated subsequent actions in regard to climate change issues. The United Nations Environment Programme {UNEP}, (2011) further defined a green economy as one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.

A circular economy, on the other hand, is a systemic approach to economic development designed to benefit businesses, society, and the environment. In contrast to the 'take-make-waste' linear model, a circular economy is regenerative by design and aims to gradually decouple growth from the consumption of finite resources. A circular economy represents “A development strategy that provides for the economic growth without increasing the consumption of resources and reducing the impact on the environment” (Heshmati, 2015).

## 2.0 Methodology

Upon receipt of the good news of the award of the grant, the Royal Danish Embassy in Kenya was informed of the same via the elected coordinator of DFC Alumni Network for Kenya (DAN-Kenya), Dr. John Flookie. Alumni members were mobilized via the Kenya Danida Alumni WhatsApp platform, Facebook pages of Danida Alumni network of Kenya and Danida Fellowship Centre, as well as the LinkedIn Page for Danida Fellowship Centre. The publicity materials were also posted on the KSG social media platforms, for example twitter handles, so as to also incorporate non alumni members in the spirit of social inclusion. It was felt that the concept of GGCE needed to be known far and wide for smooth adoption and implementation of related policies.

Since the event was meant to be a think tank, which is usually very interactive, we had approached a number of facilitators to spark up discussions among participants (with or without PowerPoint presentations), which came out very well as we had envisaged. These facilitators included: Mr. Augustine Kenduiwo from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, who has long worked in various other projects of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark; Mr. Willis Ochieng from the Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen) and Ms. Diana Musyoka from the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA). Their facilitation style was excellent, in that there was only once PowerPoint presentation (with discussions) and the rest was a two way active conversation between facilitators and other participants, and amongst participants.

Logistical planning of the virtual event was done among the three applicants and the ICT technical team from the e-learning and Development Institute (eLDi), who also recorded the proceedings of the event and shared to the team shortly after the event. The event was hosted at the eLDi Video Conferencing hall with shared display screens. The KSG Lower Kabete

communication department participated in photography. After the meeting, the team involved in planning met shortly to recap on the event and areas of future improvement.

### **3.0 Results /Output of the workshop.**

This section depicts the responses gathered from the online registration tool which doubled up as a questionnaire. There was a total of 60 participants who participated in filling the form. The questions provided covered the demographic details of participants to enable the team have sex disaggregated data about the respondents, questions of expectations for the event, the willingness to share experiences and location of participants, which was a component of diversity and social inclusion.

#### **3.1 Key Issues Highlighted During the Sessions**

The event had a total of three sessions, preceded by opening remarks. Key points noted included the following:

##### **3.1.1 Opening Remarks**

- i) Members received a warm, welcome note by the Director, Linkages and Collaborations (also in charge of the Centre, Climate Change and Environmental Governance), Dr. Prisca Oluoch. Profound gratitude was expressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and DANIDA Fellowship Centre for previous immense support as well as the 2022 grants worth 9,000 DKK won by DANIDA Alumni members from KSG's Centre for Environmental Governance and Climate Change. The grant facilitated the auspicious think-tank event on green growth and circular economy (GGCE).
- ii) It was mentioned that the School endeavours to go green and reduce its carbon footprint, envisaging to be a model institution championing GGCE and supporting the mainstreaming of green growth and circular initiatives amongst public institutions in Kenya.

iii) The words of His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta while in Glasgow, Scotland, on 2nd November 2021, were echoed; he informed the international community that Kenya is determined and on course to achieving full transition to clean energy by the year 2030, which is a milestone towards GGCE, further noting that renewable energy in Kenya currently accounts for 73% of the installed power generation capacity, while 90% of the electricity in use is from clean sources. Additionally, that Kenya is on course to achieve her target of 100% use of clean energy by 2030 and to achieve 100% access to clean cooking by 2028.

### 3.1.2 First Session

The following is a communique that emanated from the event:

#### **The Attendees;**

Noting that the world is in crisis manifested by the prevailing climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, which is attributable to the human race owing to their unsustainable anthropogenic activities; affirmed the need to shift towards green revolution to reverse the damage done so far to the environmental sphere; acknowledging that green growth is a concept, just like a religion, which influences people's behaviour and mindset in utilization of the available natural resources; admitted that green growth comes as a cure for the prevailing degradation; advocating for a paradigm shift in procurement processes, consumption and handling of waste; resolved to join hands with other stakeholders to translate the concept of green growth into reality.

Appreciating the efforts of the Swedish-Kenyan company, "Opibus", which has introduced the first African-designed and manufactured electric bus in Kenya with the aim of bringing clean energy to public transportation; thanking the Danish Government also for spearheading the Green Growth and Employment Program (GGEP) whose agenda is ongoing in Kenya with major outputs; recognizing the outputs of the GESIP, including the vision for extended user responsibility and sustainable waste management policy; taking cognizance of the milestones

towards green procurement, development of GGCE policies, climate planning and the Bamboo for Good (B4G) in Kenya.

Acknowledging the milestones on GGCE initiatives and activities implemented in Denmark and the need to borrow lessons and mainstream the concepts into curricula in Kenya, including development of bespoke curricula; noting the need for implementation of the already available green policies and approval of green projects only; pointing out the need for improving coordination for crosssectoral collaboration in Kenya, conducting awareness campaigns and enforcement of the green policies by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); urging for social groups to be proactive in seeking for such events and sensitization for a on GGCE, including reaching out to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry for such related inquiries; realizing that the “*Moms in Business*” stood a chance to benefit from such programs since the greatest beneficiaries of GGCE are mothers.

Underscoring the need for developing tailor-made, green programs that suit universities, primary schools and the public service in Kenya; noting the ongoing discussions with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and other key stakeholders to mainstream GGCE into school curricula; noting poignantly that the processes are still weak requiring to be strengthened; cognizant of the prevailing challenges that come with developments in nuclear power, including inadequate laws and low “social license to operate” due to fears of accidents and other uncertainties; resolving to harness renewable energy as the hope for Kenya to substitute the current sources, primarily hydro and fossil fuels.

### **3.1.3 How objectives were met:**

#### **3.1.3.1 Objective 1:**

##### **To promote knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration within and across sectors**

The think-tank event promoted knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration within and across sectors by availing a platform where experts and those with indigenous knowledge from diverse sectors happened to share experiences on green interventions they had worked with, and what could be replicated from other best cases, for example, lessons from Denmark. Since the context of Denmark is not *ceteris paribus* to the Kenyan context, members were privileged

to discuss the necessary changes required to be effected for successful upscaling of interventions.

The participants worked in diverse sectors. This made it possible for them to exchange ideas and share experiences from different angles. The various sectors were as shown on figure 1, majority having been from the agriculture, environment and natural resource sector (37%).

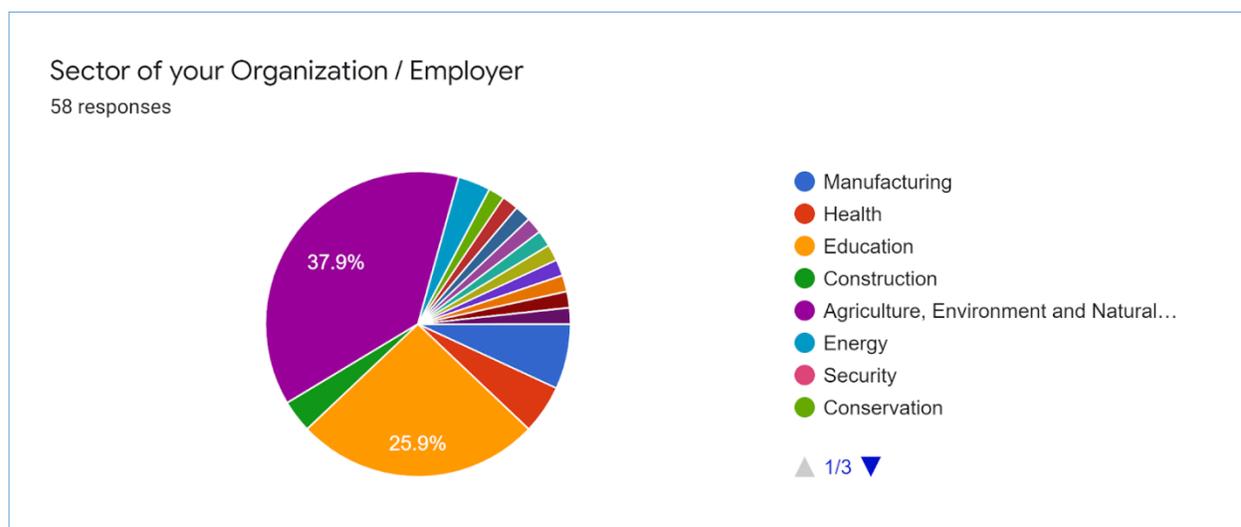


Figure 1: Sector of organization

### 3.1.3.2 Objective 2:

**To contribute to promoting sustainable development by addressing one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The event's topic was on green growth and circular economy, which is vital, the way to go and a means to sustainable development. Green growth advocates for growth suitable for uplifting the living standards of people in an eco-friendly way, which addresses issues of poverty alleviation, consequently good health and wellbeing; climate action affordable and clean energy through promoting low carbon emissions; decent work and economic growth through provision of green jobs, and reduced inequalities by promoting social inclusion.

### 3.1.3.3 Objective 3:

#### **To strengthen the local alumni network**

The local alumni network was strengthened because the event was highly participatory. Members got to learn from each other through the discussions. Of the 70 participants who registered and participated in the event, about 25 were local alumni. Members also had an opportunity to view other alumni on video, which brought about a sense of togetherness.

### 3.1.3.4 Objective 4:

#### **To contribute to promoting knowledge into action initiatives targeting and benefitting the general public, special interest groups, or local communities**

Green growth is about social inclusion, which is a key issue for the developing countries due to increasing inequalities between the rich and the poor, and also among the vulnerable and marginalized, for example, the women, youth, and persons with disabilities. Among the solutions discussed were on how to ensure social inclusion, and also address climate change, which has exacerbated the vulnerabilities.

The workshop attracted a total of 70 participants who were both alumni (25) and non-alumni (45) members. This number included both those who had registered prior to the event (60) and those who directly joined via the shared link without prior registration (10). This is because there were those who managed to fill the online registration form which also doubled up as a questionnaire regarding the expectations from the event, while others, for one reason or the other, did not manage to register but were available during the event so they just joined using the link shared because the registration deadline had elapsed. Another possibility was that since the online form had changes incorporated, there could be those, especially from KSG, who registered via the first and second draft of the form, missing out on the final version. The registration form was advantageous because it provided rough estimates of those we expected in the event for ease of planning. The total number therefore exceeded by only 10, which the KSG team was prepared for. The total number of participants exceeded the total of 20 participants anticipated during the grant application process, which marked a success rate of 350% in terms of attendance. Of the registered participants, approximately 27% were females whilst males dominated by 73%. Figure 2 shows the sex disaggregated data for participants:

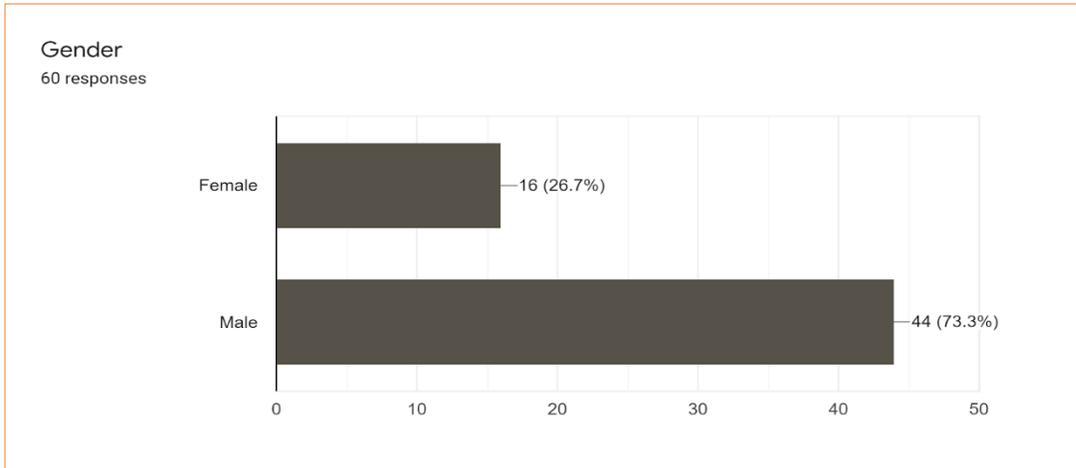


Figure 2: Sex disaggregated data for participants

Most participants (48%) worked in the public sector, and others worked in other sections as shown on figure 3. The specific organizations for participants are annexed in the last pages of this report (see Appendix 1).

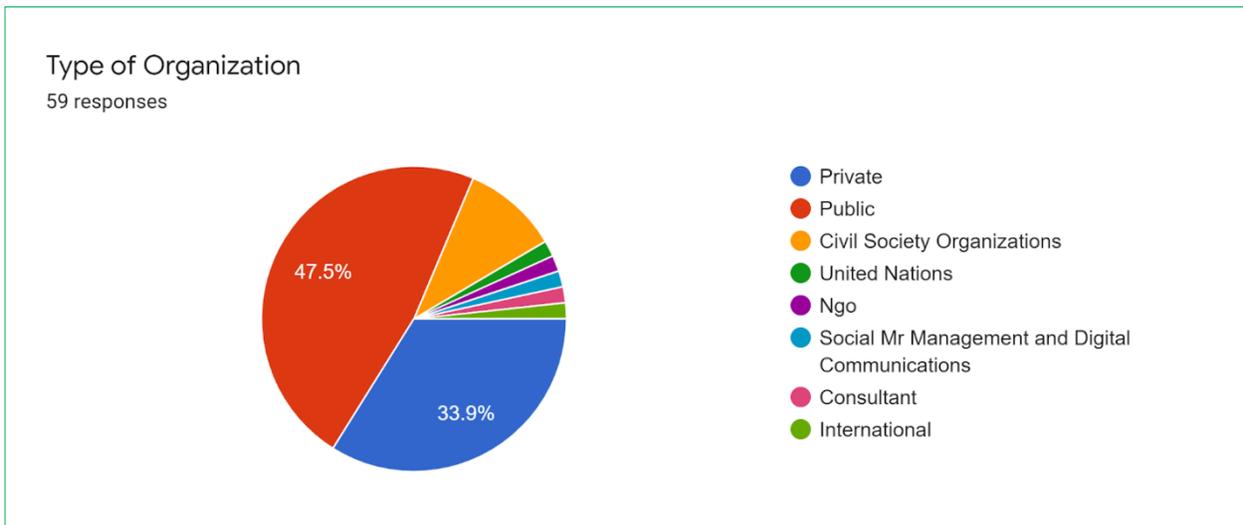


Figure 3: Type of organization

The virtual platform was advantageous in that participants from across the country were able to attend, and this presented the views from people living in Kenya but under diverse circumstances, for example, level of development and climatic conditions. Some were barely knowledgeable (21%), moderately knowledgeable (69%) and highly knowledgeable (10%) about GGCE, yet 57% worked on projects related to mainstreaming green growth and circular

economy whereas 43% did not. This notwithstanding, most participants (76%) were willing to share their indigenous/expert knowledge and experience on any GGCE initiatives encountered or undertaken. The detailed information for the different geographical locations of participants mobilized was as depicted on figure 4.

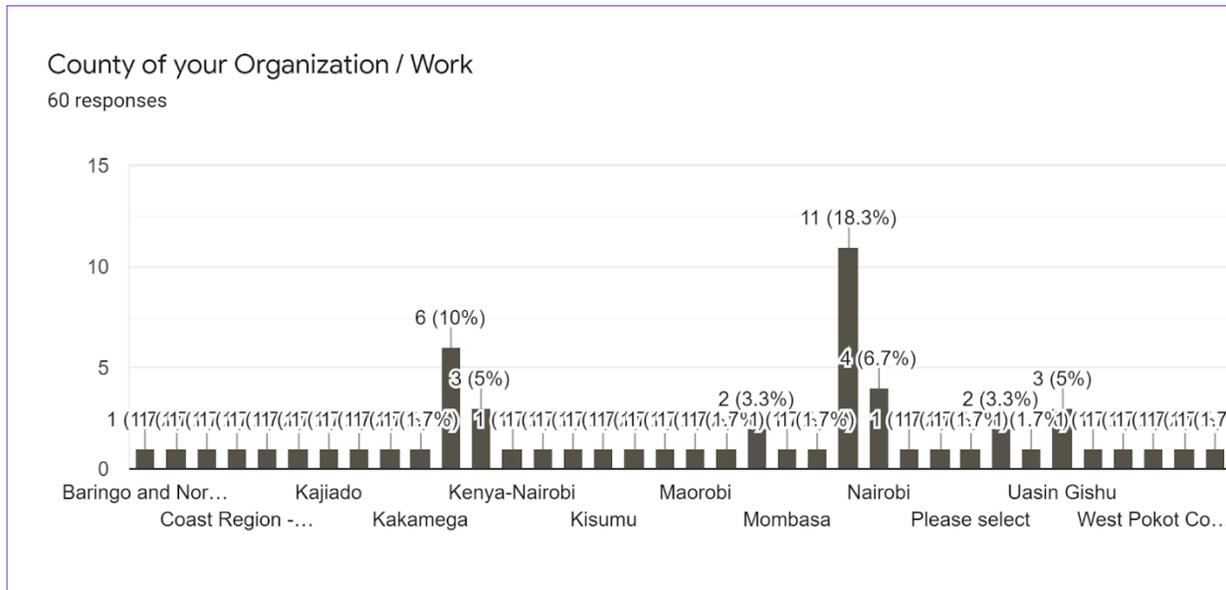


Figure 4: County of work

### 3.2 Summary of Findings

The findings were summarized as follows:

- i) The think-tank event provided a platform for knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration by experts and persons with indigenous knowledge from diverse sectors. Among the issues discussed were on how best to replicate green initiatives borrowing from lessons learnt in Denmark.
- ii) The event greatly touched on sustainable development goals by enhancing knowledge and experience sharing on GGCE, which advocates for growth, with social inclusion in an eco-friendly way; this translates to poverty alleviation, consequently good health and wellbeing; climate action; affordable and clean energy through promoting low carbon emissions; decent work and economic growth through provision of green jobs, and reduced inequalities by promoting social inclusion.

- iii) The local alumni network was strengthened after the interactive sessions, and brought about a sense of togetherness and a need to hold hands together to further the concept of GGCE.
- iv) The event, having been open to the general public, promoted knowledge into action initiatives which were of benefit to the the general public, special interest groups, and local communities in attendance. Most participants (57%) worked on projects related to mainstreaming green growth and circular economy, and (76%) were willing to share their indigenous/expert knowledge and experience on any GGCE initiatives encountered or undertaken.

## 4.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the event presented a number of opportunities to the participants, both the alumni and non-alumni members. Few challenges were also experienced, but these served as a learning point for future events, as follows:

### 4.1 Opportunities

The think-tank event presented a number of opportunities which included, but not limited to:

- i) Enhanced networking, collaboration and partnerships amongst participants from diverse sectors and across different social/ environmental and economic divides in the country.
- ii) The event was an eye-opener for some Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of future engagements in order to train members on GGCE. A good case in point was the 'Moms in Business International' who were informed that they could always visit the Ministry of Environment by the Assistant Director, Mr. Kenduiwo, for further inquiries of engagements to benefit the mothers in their organization. Generally, the event benefitted the general public, special interest groups, or local communities as well through information and experience sharing.
- iii) The event was a good platform to interact with other alumni and get to know each other better and exactly they do. This strengthened the bond beyond the usual social interactions that exist via social media groups, for example the WhatsApp group.
- iv) Other institutions gained recognition for the work they are doing in terms of green initiatives.
- v) KSG team got to identify new areas with a knowledge gap which would be mainstreamed in future trainings and sensitization plans.
- vi) The information accrued from the event would help inform the KSG Green Policy Document which is in draft.
- vii) The event promoted the realization of sustainable development goals by serving as a sensitization forum for some (especially non-alumni) members on the importance of sustainable actions to avert climate change (climate action); the importance of social

inclusion in development endeavours (reduced inequalities) and, green procurement, sustainable production and consumption, inter alia.

## 4.2 Challenges Faced

The following challenges were faced during planning, conducting and reporting of the DANIDA alumni think-tank event:

- i) Despite the publicity materials for the event circulated in time as per the DANIDA requirements, most alumni members were aware of the event but did not register.
- ii) Some alumni members registered for the event but did not participate due to other engagements. That way, there was wastage of resources that had been used to facilitate the event.
- iii) There was one guest facilitator who had confirmed attendance but did not show up. Fortunately there was a standby facilitator, and the session went well in her hands.
- iv) The last session was disrupted for few minutes as the zoom platform got hacked by unknown persons, despite using a licensed version. However, on writing to zoom offices, they apologized and explained that possibly the link was over-shared and that it was beyond their control. The apologies were made to participants or the disruption, and also extended to other alumni through the Dan-Kenya coordinator, Dr. Flookie.
- v) Few connectivity issues disrupted the event, but did not stop the successful completion of the day's agenda.

## 4.3 Lessons Learnt

The following was learnt for future purposes:

- i) The non-alumni members are usually very much interested to learn more about GGCE both from the alumni participants and facilitators, as was the case from the think tank event. It was noted that there is a hunger for knowledge and finding solutions in as far as GGCE is concerned.
- ii) An event with many participants benefits more from shorter sessions with less of PowerPoint presentations and more of open/ plenary sessions, as was the case for the event.

- iii) Mobilizing people in time, including facilitators, is key to having a higher turn up of participants.
- iv) For future purposes, the team from KSG could explore rescheduling the program to commence a little later than 8.00am. Maybe 9.00am-9.30am EAT would be convenient for most participants.
- v) The team from KSG learnt that despite the availability of licensed versions for zoom, it would be safer exploring other better online platforms in future which would give the ICT team more control over rights to present/talk. However, as the team discussed, it was realized that zoom could also be a good platform for webinars. Webinars work better in less interactive sessions, though. Another alternative would be admitting participants by strictly following the registration form, and on needs basis, admitting only those persons well known to the person with rights to admit.



## 5.0 Appendices

### 5.1: List of participants

	Email Address	Name	Gender	Mobile Phone	Name of Organization / Employer
1	aakoricha@gmail.com	Abdikadir Koricha	Male	0722472602	County Government of Isiolo
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4	annastacia.mwova@ksg.ac.ke	Annastacia Mwova	Female	0783949034	Kenya School of Government
5	annea3000@gmail.com	Anne Owino	Female	0725712826	National Environment Management Authority
6	asheik024@gmail.com	Abdullahi Abdirahman	Male	0723759347	Rihal Energy
7	augustkend1990@gmail.com	Augustine Kenduiwo	Male	0792100263	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
8	beatriceblessingwanjiru@gmail.com	Beatrice Wanjiru	Female	0702762164	Dawa Life Sciences
9	beneagroserve@yahoo.com	Eunice	Female	0727675689	Bene Agrovet
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23	halima.aden@ksg.ac.ke	Halima Aden	Female	0713308714	Kenya School of Government
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41	miotobo@gmail.com	Milton Oboka	Male	0712354967	One vision Kenya
42	mmazera28@gmail.com	Mary Mazera	Female	0726947527	KCB Bank Ltd
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48	onditisammy12@gmail.com	Samson Onditi	Male	0703117940	Happy Life For Development CBO
49	ondwasi.strategy@gmail.com	Ondwasi. A.D. Wesonga	Male	0721511117	Stavia Strategists of Kenya
50	patiencemain@gmail.com	Patience Maina	Female	0708035034	KEPHIS
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Table 1: List of participants



**KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT**

**Centre for Environmental Governance and Climate Change**

**PROGRAM FOR DANIDA ALUMNI THINK TANK EVENT ON GREEN GROWTH AND  
CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

ACTIVITY	TIME	GUIDING AREAS	FACILITATORS
Introduction	8.00am-9.00am	Opening Remarks	<b>Dr. Prisca Oluoch</b>  Director Linkages & Collaborations, KSG  Moderator: Ms. Eunice Weveti
1 <sup>st</sup> Session	9.00am-10.00am	Green Growth and Circular Economy: A pathway to achieving Kenya's development Agenda	<b>Mr. Augustine Kenduiwo</b>  Ministry of Environment & Forestry  Moderator: Ms. Eunice Weveti
<b>HEALTH BREAK (10.00AM-10:30AM)</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Session	10.30 am- 11.30am	Nuclear prospects for green growth and circular economy in Kenya	<b>Diana Musyoka</b>  Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA)  Moderator: Ms. Pauline

			Bala
3 <sup>rd</sup> Session	11.30am-12.30 pm	Harnessing Kenya's clean energy potential for industrial development and achievement of Vision 2030	<b>Mr. Willis Ochieng'</b> Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen)  Moderator: Ms. Pauline Bala
4 <sup>th</sup> Session	12.30pm-1.00pm	Final Plenary Discussions	Moderator: Ms. Eunice Weveti
	1.00pm-1.00 pm	Closing remarks	Ms. Pauline Bala
<b>CLOSING</b>			

Venue: KSG e-learning center (eLDi)-Virtual.

Rapporteurs: Ms. Eunice Weveti

Ms. Pauline Bala

Photography: Communications Department, KSG

ICT: eLDi

## 5.2: Final Program

