TITLE: Strengthening climate change responsiveness: An overview of Corporate environmental practices report

Contents

1. Relationship between Climate change and COVID-19(similarities and differences)
2. Overview of Kenya's Corporate Environmental overview
3. Critical observations from the findings
4. Summary conclusions and Viable Recommendations
5. Sourcing for Environmental performance indicators as tool for proper climate change mitigation strategies
6. Interpretation of the Environmental performance indicators

.

Climate change and Covid -19

- Whereas There has been no indication that climate change is linked to the development or spread of COVID-19 disease, Climate change can have an indirect impact on the COVID-19 response because it erodes environmental determinants of health and puts additional strain on health care systems. More broadly, most newly emerging infectious diseases and nearly all recent pandemics have their origins in wildlife, and there is evidence that rising human pressure on the natural environment could be driving disease emergence and therefore Strengthening health systems, improving infectious disease monitoring in animals, livestock, and humans, and enhancing biodiversity and environmental security can all help to reduce the likelihood of new disease outbreaks in the future.

Climate change and Covid -19 Cont...

- COVID-19 transmission management efforts have slowed economic development and resulted in temporary changes in air quality in some regions. Temporary pollution reductions, on the other hand, have a minimal impact on ozone concentrations because carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that cause climate change remain in the environment for a long time.
- Environmental improvements resulting from the COVID-19 response may be reversed by a rapid expansion of polluting economic activities once the measures have ended, unless there is a clear focus to promote equity, environmental health, around a just transition to a green economy.
- NB:COVID-19's short-term environmental gains come at an unsustainable human and economic expense, and are no substitute for long-term action on air pollution and climate change.

Relationship between global response to COVID-19 and climate change

- The COVID-19 pandemic is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) that has killed people and thrown populations into chaos. Climate change is a growing stress that could be the most significant public health problem of the twenty-first century.
- Ensuring universal health coverage (UHC), through well-resourced, equitable health systems, is essential to protect the public from both short and long-term health threats.
- Guaranteeing global health security requires an all-hazards approach to preparedness, from infectious disease outbreaks, to extreme weather events, to climate change.

Relationship between global response to COVID-19 and response to climate change

- Ensuring access to the environmental determinants of health, such as clean air, water and sanitation, safe and nutritious food, is an essential protection against all health risks. WHO estimates that avoidable environmental risks cause about a quarter of the global health burden.
- Early action saves lives. Delay in responding to clear evidence of threats, whether from pandemics, or from climate change, increases human and socioeconomic costs.
- Inequality is a major barrier in ensuring health and wellbeing, especially for the most vulnerable in society. Social and economic inequality manifests in unequal health risks. When faced with public health threats of a global scale, such as COVID-19 or climate change, we are only as strong as our weakest health system.

Overview of Kenya's Corporate Environmental performance

Critical observations

- From the survey results-Foreigners own 12% of the companies, 80% of which are not listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange (NSE), and 64% of which claim they do not export their goods and/or services. Given these findings, it's reasonable to conclude that most businesses lack foreign exposure to environmental best practices. Furthermore, the lack of firms listed on the NSE means that the vast majority of firms are invisible to potential investors who are mainly interested in companies with a "green picture." As a result, businesses do not position environmental sustainability as a top priority on their corporate agenda. Unlike in local markets, where purchasing decisions are primarily focused on price, consumers in developed countries are eager to promote green consumerism by pressuring businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

Critical observations cont…

- 55 percent of businesses say they haven't been able to adopt any energy-saving measures, leading us to believe that a significant amount of energy is being lost in industry. An observation exemplified by the fact that 53% of companies confess to having inadequate technological resources to fix their energy inefficiency. The picture remains bleak, with a modest majority of 62 percent of companies admitting that they do not conduct energy management trainings, campaigns, or awareness programs for their employees.
- Other results point to a lack of action in the area of energy conservation. A large number of companies, for example, indicated that they had not invested in renewable energy sources. Furthermore, 69% had not conducted an energy audit in the previous three years.

Critical observations cont…

- Our point of view on energy conservation reinforced our concerns that it is always equated with "energy deprivation." When pressed further, some of the respondents mentioned that they save energy by turning off lights throughout the day. Much as we don't disagree, we expected responses like replacement of obsolete technologies, robust maintenance exercises and clear demonstration of knowledge on steps that have been taken to improve energy efficiency
- Energy regulations from 2012 mandate that at least 50% of energy audit recommendations be enforced; however, only 20% of companies who had an energy audit reported that they had implemented more than 40% of the audit recommendations

In summary and conclusions

- The national government should provide financial incentives and subsidize the costs of conducting energy audits to increase interest in renewable energy sources
- Although we applaud the efforts of the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) for its perceived environmental stewardship, the question remains: is it enough? The government should, in theory, lay the groundwork for an environmental policy, but in practice and for the sake of feasibility, businesses should coordinate their internal operations to self-regulate, which can be accomplished by voluntary environmental legislation, such as sectoral emissions reduction agreements, third-party certifications, and emission permit market trading

In summary and conclusions…

- Opportunities exist in the adoption of circular economy principles; designing and building products and packaging with recyclable and renewable materials.
- Sector players should collaborate to enhance awareness and build capacity on environmental management practices.
- Public and private sector partnership to navigate through the policy and regulatory landscape, identify areas
- of synergies in sustainable environmental management practices in Kenya's manufacturing sector. Firms need to invest in research and development so as to promote creativity and innovation in solving challenges towards sustainable development.
- Firms should be encouraged to initiate private voluntary standards to promote sustainable business practices.

Environmental performance indicators inference diagram

Environmental performance indicators

- EPI can be derived from the footprint family and provides information that helps evaluation and decision making within organizations/institutions that engage in environmental efforts.
- One of the goals of environmental performance indictors is that it serves to comprehensively quantify and analyze environmental burdens, environmental issues that need to be addressed, and the results of environmental efforts in order to encourage environmental practices and obtain knowledge that aids decision-making.
- The second goal is to provide a shared foundation of knowledge between an organization and interested parties so that interested parties, such as customers, business partners, local community residents, shareholders, and financial institutions, can better understand the organization's environmental activities.
- The third objective is to provide a common foundation of information for macro-level environmental policies of the national and local governments

Environmental performance indicators…

- Among the multiple footprints, the carbon footprint, water footprint, and ecological footprint are the most commonly used ones in the environmental assessment; which are correspondingly related to the hot issues of global warming, depletion of water resources, and ecosystem destruction

Environmental performance indicators…

INDICATOR INFERENCE	content	description	tool
Carbon footprint (kg)	Carbon iv oxide, GHGs	It represents the total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases (GHGs) emitted during the entire life cycle of a process or product	Carbon footprint calculators
Energy footprint (J)	Renewable energy footprint (wind, solar, etc.)	It refers to the total energy consumption of the evaluated object in a certain period (except for the food consumption), which is used to indicate the energy dependence of a system, service, or product	Mathematical programming tools
Emission footprint (kg)	Sulphur (iv) oxide, carbon (ii) oxide	It is the total amount of emissions that a system or product releases into the air (SO_2, particles, CO, CO_2, etc.), water (COD, etc.), and soil (waste residue)	Mathematical programming tools

Environmental performance indicators…

Ecological footprint (m^2)	Arable land, Forest/woodland, Built-up land, Productive sea space, Forest land to absorb CO_2	It measures the amount of "biologically productive" land or water that enables sustainable development, including sub-indicators like the use of arable land, pasture land, forest/woodland, built-up land, productive sea space, and forest land to absorb CO_2	RegiOpt, Bottomline
Water footprint (L)	Blue water, Green water, Grey water	It refers to the total amount of fresh water used, consumed, or polluted, directly or indirectly. In which, blue is the consumption of surface and groundwater, green is the total consumption of rainwater resources, grey is the amount of water needed to be treated for satisfying the water quality	Mathematical programming tools

References

- https://www.env.go.jp/policy/j-hiroba/PRG/pdfs/e_p_guide.pdf
- https://kam.co.ke/kam/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Kenyas-Corporate-Envrionmental-Perfomance-Report.pdf
- https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-climate-change
- https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/environmental-performance


thank you
hvala
shukran
kiitos
tack
mh'gòi
paldies
tänan
dankie
ačiū
grazzi
hvala
terima kasih
nandri
choukrane
danku
danke
danke
obrigado
mahalo
tak
gracies
grazie
děkuji
faleminderit
merci
благодарам
takkhvala
arigatô
takk
xièxiè
gracias
danke terima kasih
tak
mèrci
gracias
hvala