

# **Linking the Information Society to Sustainable Development in Kenya**

by

Wainaina Mungai

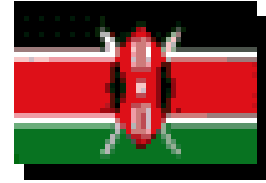
WSIS/ICT4D Platform,

Geneva, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2003

**iisd**

International  
Institute for  
Sustainable  
Development

Institut  
international du  
développement  
durable



## **Aug. 2003 – Draft ICT Policy**

### **4.10 E-Government**

*Completing the Land and Environment Information System to improve the performance of sectors that use the Global Information Systems.*

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## **mid. 2002 – Draft ICT Policy**

### **STRATEGY in 1<sup>st</sup> Draft (2002)**

1) Develop regulations to ensure safe recycling of high-tech related equipment such as computers, screens, printers and circuit boards in order to mitigate the *associated health problems and environmental hazards*;

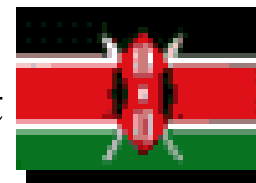
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### **19. ICT AND AGRICULTURE**

*....and minimising environmental abuse and degradation. ....*

*....Furthermore, Information technology will be used to aid in environmental monitoring and assessment of natural resources (wildlife, fisheries and forests).*

# **The 8 national priorities for sustainable development (WSSD) and Kenya's (Draft) ICT policy (2003)**



**Poverty Eradication** (*a shift to 'wealth creation'*)

**Agriculture and Food Security** – *Agricultural based Information Systems (not broad strategy in 1<sup>st</sup> draft)*

**Investment in Infrastructure** - *by private sector and development partners.*

**Promotion of Human Health** – *HMIS for hospitals and Ministry of Health.*

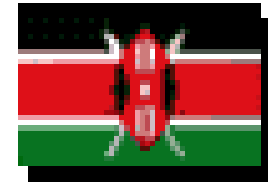
**Water and Sanitation** – *missing.*

**Energy** (*better in 1<sup>st</sup> draft than in 2<sup>nd</sup> draft*)

**Market Access** (*encourage investment, review taxation*)

**Regional Integration and Cooperation** – (*AfriNIC, Standards, submarine cable*)

# WSSD – Johannesburg, 2002



## Lead?

The process was guided by the Environmental Management Act, which outlines the Ministries involved in the various management and coordination activities.

## National priorities

Clearly outlined in the Kenyan National Assessment Report for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio + 10).

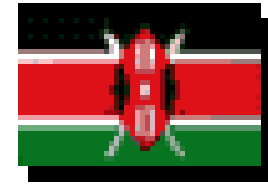
## Evolution of the National Position?

Civil society groups were involved in developing the position although most of their input was late.

## Civil Society Involvement

Civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were involved at different levels of the WSSD preparatory process, commenting on the national position (especially in the Prepcom 3).

# WSIS – Geneva, 2003



## Lead?

The process was guided by the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK); the Telecommunications regulator and lead ITU entity in Kenya as per the Kenya Communications Act (1998). The Ministry of Transport and Communications took a back seat in the process (except in leading the 30-man national delegation).

## National Priorities

Unclear and uncoordinated. However, the Draft National ICT Policy addresses most of the sustainability issues but with a bias to financial/economic sustainability.

## Evolution of the National Position?

Separate government and Civil society positions. Government has no collective position for WSIS due to lack of coordination by those responsible in the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

## Civil Society Involvement

Civil society organizations were involved in WSIS process from the onset through the Kenya CS WSIS Caucus and other WSIS families. Regional meetings were held and the Civil Society Declaration on WSIS & ICT Policy was presented to govt.

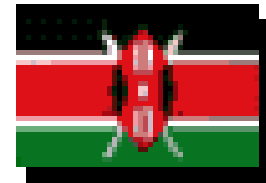
# Who is involved?

## Government

- Ministry of Transport and Communication,
- Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK)
- National Communications Secretariat (NCS).
- Ministry of Tourism and Information and the Ministry of Education
- Government IT Services (GITS) at Ministry of Finance; Public-Private sector Working Group on IT (PRSP team).
- Parliamentary Subcommittee on Energy, Transport, communication and Public Works.
- Office of the President

## Research organisations:

- ATPS – Africa Technology Policy Studies Network.
- IDRC – EARPO (funding research by Kenya-WSIS.org, ARCC, KEPSA and CCK).



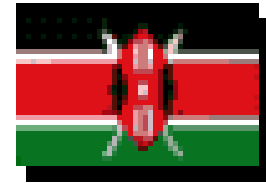
# Who is involved?

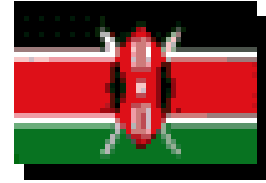
## Civil Society

- Kenya Information Society (KIS) – [www.kis.or.ke](http://www.kis.or.ke)
- Kenya Civil Society Caucus for WSIS – [www.kenya-wsis.org](http://www.kenya-wsis.org)
- WSIS Youth Kenya – <http://projects.takingitglobal.org/wsisyouthkenya>

## Private Sector.

- *ICT Board* of the Kenya Private Sector Alliance
- ISPs under the Telecommunications Service Providers of Kenya (*TESPOK*) – [www.tespok.co.ke](http://www.tespok.co.ke)
- Computer Society of Kenya (CSK) – [www.csk-online.com](http://www.csk-online.com).





# Policy Direction....

## National ICT Coordination Council (NICC)

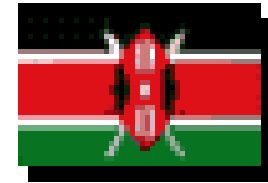
.....to provide national leadership and drawing members from Government, the Private Sector, the *Civil Society, Development Partners, Academia and Research based institutions*.

....to provide a central coordination in the policy formulation and coordination for ICT.

....to work with the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) for policy coordination and ensuring that ICT policy fits within the overall national development policy, goals and objectives.

.... Leadership in the Office of the President.

.....(*link Environmental Management Act to National Development Plans, ERSP as well as national and international policy positions*)



# Policy Direction...

## Proposed Advisors.

- Dr. James Kulubi – National Communications Secretariat
- Dr. Catherine Nyaki Adeya - INTECH/UNU and ATPS
- Dr. Edith Adera – IDRC, ATPS
- Mr. Muriuki Mureithi – Summit Strategies, KIS & AITET.
- Mrs. Mercy Wanjau – CCK, ITU/WGGI
- Mr. Brian Longwe – ICT Board, TESPOK, AfrISPA
- Mr. Bildad Kagai – FOSSFA, Kenya-WSIS.org
- Dr. Shem Ochuodho – ARCC & KPC