

# **AfricaInteract: Enabling research-to-policy linkage for adaptation to climate change in Africa**

## **Report on methodology workshop for the review of research and policy related to climate change adaptation in Africa; held Nairobi, Kenya: January 30 &31, 2013**

### **Background**

In 2011, IDRC selected CORAF to manage the pan-African research-to-policy platform AfricaInteract. AfricaInteract has the mandate to facilitate the communication and transfer of information between researchers and policy-makers in four areas central to climate change adaptation: agriculture, human health, urban development as well as water as a cross-cutting issue. This involves taking stock, synthesizing and reviewing existing research results (from IDRC programs such CCAA, CCW but also beyond) and understanding how these have influenced the development of policies related to climate change adaptation.

### **Workshop proceedings**

This brief provides a summary of the proceedings of the Regional Methodology Workshop held in Nairobi, Kenya from January 30 to 31, 2013. The objective of the workshop was to bring together all the consultants, the project coordination team and the regional representatives to develop a common methodology for undertaking the review as well as to agree on a realistic roadmap and time frame for this review.

The workshop focused on producing four main outputs:

- Harmonized methodology for undertaking the review as per the terms of reference of the consultants;
- Agreed table of contents for the review papers;
- Agreed time frame and schedule for submitting reports; and
- Links established between consultants and the focal point persons in the respective regions.

The workshop was attended by a total of 19 participants, comprising of 9 consultants, the project coordination team (CORAF staff and focal points from regional coordination organizations: Enda energy - west Africa, ASARECA – East Africa; FANRPAN – Southern Africa and staff COMIFAC – Central Africa) together with two IDRC Programme Officers (see list of participants - Annex 4).

The brief official opening of the workshop included a welcome address by Dr Hezron Mogaka – Manager of the ASARECA Natural Resources Management Programme and Focal point of the project in East Africa. This was followed by statements by Dr Evans Kituyi of the IDRC office in Nairobi and Dr Melanie Robertson who is the IDRC Programme Officer

supervising the project. Both IDRC representatives stressed the importance of the project and relevance of the synthesis in delivering part of key expected results of the project.

Dr Abdulai Jalloh, Coordinator of AfricaInteract then made a presentation on the overview of the project with particular emphasis on the activities related to the synthesis within the context of the overall project. Discussions during the ensuing plenary sessions threw more light on the focus of the synthesis and the expected added value of the project against the background of similar initiatives on the continent. Breakaway work groups comprised of members of thematic areas from the various regions.

## **Key issues discussed**

### **National sectoral responsibilities for climate change adaptation**

It was noted that addressing climate change adaptation in Africa is a big challenge given the diversity in national institutions that play a role in climate change-related policies. Such institutions include ministries of water, forestry, agriculture, finance, and ministry of planning, livestock, fisheries and land development as well as other government statutory bodies. The consultants were therefore advised to take this into consideration when developing recommendations. The identification of the leaders of NAPAs in each country and building relevant relationships with them and their respective institutions was recommended.

### **Challenges in reaching out to policy makers**

There was a general consensus on the immense challenges involved in linking researchers and policy makers. Participants recognized that an effective linkage between researchers and policy makers is not only crucial for realization of the objective of the project and the synthesis in particular, but also determines how successful the policy process will be captured. Therefore every effort should be made to foster the researcher-policy maker linkage for successful outcomes.

### **Communication strategy**

Communication between research, public opinion, civil society, and policy-makers must be optimized. While all policy-makers are attentive to public perception, the assessment of what that public opinion is frequently based on inadequate if not wrong information. Scenarios should be used to communicate potential impacts of climate change and the effects of various adaptation options. Because of the diversity of the audiences and the complexity of the subject matter, communication professionals should be employed when the synthesis are done to ensure that information is effectively customized to the needs of these various stakeholders.

### **Making a difference**

Against the background of several ongoing initiatives related to climate change adaptation in Africa, the need for value addition and demand driven contribution of the synthesis was emphasized. Two other continental and regional programs with similar mandates as

AfricaInteract are ECA (Economics of Climate Adaptation) and the AU-NEPAD Environment Management Framework. Another program is ICPAC, which is already engaged in implementing NAPAs. There is also COMESA and the regional authorities, which are most likely pursuing different approaches to combating the effects of climate change in the four domains (i.e., agriculture, human health, urban development, water). RUFORUM and ANAFE, for their part, have developed their own approaches to at least some of these four areas of action. It is believed that the experience of the consultants will be crucial in guiding and identifying relevant areas to emphasize. Furthermore, the input of expert reviewers as well as the validation of the key conclusions and recommendations by major stakeholders in the respective regions will ensure demand driven focus of the synthesis.

### **Addressing cross cutting issues**

Concern was raised on the inadequate reflection of the identified cross cutting issues – **water and gender** in the Table of Content (ToC). The CORAF gender specialist did a very good job in drawing the attention of participants to gender related issues and used the ToC for the agricultural sector to illustrate how gender issues can be appropriately addressed in the synthesis. A similar exercise was repeated with the other sectors during the thematic group working sessions. On the other hand, extensive discussions were held on how to adequately address water in all the sectors.

### **Risk management**

The meeting also noted the need to bring out clearly issues on risk management and other related safety nets. This is a possible area that can appeal to policy makers and therefore render the study meaningful and ensure due recognition and positive contribution to climate change adaptation challenges.

### **Targeting the appropriate regional economic community**

While countries in West and Central Africa belong to single recognized Regional Economic Communities (REC), the Economic Community of West African states (ECOWAS) and the Central Africa Economic Community (CAEC), there exist several economic communities in East and Southern Africa. Identifying the most relevant economic block was therefore deemed as crucial in undertaking the study if the results are to be relevant. In this regard, it was therefore agreed that the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) will be targeted in East and Southern Africa, respectively.

### **Literature**

In addition to the fact that there is disparity in the extent of research undertaken in the various thematic areas (agriculture, health and urban) as well as the regions, it was also noted that a considerable body of research output exist only in project and meeting reports. Moreover, access to such material remains a considerable challenge. Consultants were urged to make every possible effort to access relevant literature. It was a consensus that peer reviewed literature is the target while every effort should be made to cite relevant grey literature that is in conformity with peer reviewed findings. It was noted that the credibility of their studies will largely depend on how clearly the evidence was analysed and presented.

### **Positive impacts of climate change**

Participants agreed that while the thrust of the synthesis is to bring out possible negative effects and impacts of climate change, it was necessary to point out possible positive impacts that could be capitalized on for enhanced resilience and adaptation.

### **Coordination**

To achieve the expected results of the synthesis and produce practical and effective advice for policy-makers, greater coordination is needed within each of the four domains and each of the regions. In this regard, the following must be ensured: Effective linkage between focal points and consultants in the respective regions, access to CCAA accomplishments and other relevant literature, sharing information, follow ups; and proper process and output/outcome documentation and communication.

### **Key recommendations on methodology**

- The general framework of the proposed ToC was considered to be good.
  - **Number of pages** is indicative and approximate which should provide adequate guidance
  - Regional differences in farming systems, health and urban issues should be reflected in the as required in the various sub sections
  - Where possible and necessary, highlight and analyse possible positive impacts of climate change
- Research results should as much as possible cover all initiatives in all the **countries** in each **region**, while at least three (3) countries should be used as case study for the policy process viz a viz the regional perspective.
  - The policy frameworks for the identified regional economic community should be clearly outlined and how this links to the case study countries and vice versa.
- The following regions and communities are the target **economic communities**
  - ECOWAS – West Africa
  - CAEC – Central Africa
  - EAC – East African Community
  - SADC – Southern Africa Development Community
- The nature of the **evidence** was discussed and it was agreed that the consultants should rely mainly on credible evidence coming from peer-reviewed sources. However, grey literature is permissible where necessary, in particular when seeking to demonstrate what has worked.
  - The Harvard referencing style should be adopted:  
<http://www.neilstoolbox.com/bibliography-creator/>

- **Gender** must be mainstreamed in the analyses. Reference to a series of gender studies undertaken in Africa would be of great help. In short, the document should be gender smart. Climate change has varied impacts on various segments of gender and hence intervention mechanisms should differ for each of the segments.
- **Water** should feature adequately and appropriately within the agricultural and health sectors as well as urban areas.
- Every effort must be made to provide reliable regional **climate data** as well as the most appropriate and widely used predictions.
- **Critical analysis** of available research information should be done within the context of the objectives of the synthesis with the aim of achieving the desired and specific outputs of this activity.
- Conclusions must be tailored towards **demand driven interventions** so that the results of the synthesis are relevant and attractive to policy makers and have the potential to make a positive impact on climate change adaptation

## Road map

Given the constrained time frame remaining for the project implementation, the following issues were discussed:

- a. Each consultant will be provided with an additional \$ 1,000 (one thousand) to cover local transportation, telephone and accessing literature.
- b. The main accomplishments of the CCAA program should be circulated (Mélanie)
- c. Ensure that the consultants have access to the IDRC database library.(Mélanie)
- d. Set up a Facebook page to ensure easy communication among consultants (Maruf)
- e. The Focal points are available for possible links among consultants as well as with the Project Coordinator and IDRC.
- f. The Focal points will follow up with consultants in their respective regions on progress with synthesis
- g. Consultants should assist one another particularly within the region for relevant contacts with key policy makers and heads of organizations with pertinent information (project documents, meeting reports, interim reports) within their countries as well as sharing relevant literature.

## Revised road map

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date/Period</b>	<b>Responsible person</b>
Elaboration of Table of content	December 10 -15, 2012	Lead consultant
Experts undertake review	December 20, 2012	Thematic consultants
Participate in methodology workshop	January 29 & 30, 2013	Consultants and Project team
Experts submit first draft report	March 20	Thematic consultants
Review of 12 draft reports by lead consultant	March 20 – April 05	Lead consultant
Revision of report by Experts	April 01 – April 20	Thematic consultants
Review of draft by Ad hoc committee	April 05 – April 25	Ad hoc committee
Experts present report at regional workshop	April 25 – May 25	Thematic consultants
Experts finalize report	May 01 – May 15	Thematic consultants
Experts submit final report	May 25	Thematic consultants
Lead consultant consolidates report and presents at continental meeting	May 25 – June 30	Lead consultant

## **Annex 1: Deliberations on Table of Content - Agriculture group**

- a. The basis for selecting three countries from each region – population, agro-ecological, and extent of work in the selected countries as representative to map the policy process.
- b. No indication of consultation – this may have implications on time available – this is basically a literature review addressing questions such as: what has been done, what are the gaps and what are the next steps?
- c. How is agriculture affected by other sectors?
- d. Not clear on operational cost – addressed under (b) above
- e. Alternative ways of feedback from stakeholders – not feasible
- f. Chapter 3 – section is comprehensive
- g. Need for overview of climate and variability under Chapter 3
- h. Need to address rural-urban links
- i. Land resources – address implications on land resources
- j. Chapter 4 – the sub-sectors may differ depending on the region
- k. Chapter 5 – the three countries have to be a representative
- l. Chapter 6 – gaps section ok – included safety nets, risk management at the national level – food chain (address the vagaries of climate)
- m. Chapter 7 – analysis of stakeholders – ok

## **Annex 2: Deliberations on Table of Content - Health group**

- a. The group will bring any new evidence that has emerged recently in addition to IPCC reports and projections.
- b. The diseases listed should include airborne diseases, asthma, meningitis and other complex diseases such as West Nile Fever, which has several hosts. Yet, caution is advised as these diseases may not have any connection to climate change.
- c. Change as a social construct should be considered, i.e., does social construct expose one to climate risks? And if yes, where is the evidence?
- d. Need to consider dialogue with stakeholders to identify the key issues as a way of receiving feedback from the end-users.
- e. Further exploration of what is going on in terms of climate and health activities in the region.
- f. Malnutrition is key in climate change and health (stunted growth, which is amplified in the subsequent generations).
- g. Food safety and related diseases, brought about by heavy rains or droughts.
- h. Perspectives were provided for: anticipated changes in the spread of diseases and vectors for diseases; health problems related to mycotoxins in food as related to temperature increase.
- i. The group discussed the direct impact on human health of forecasted heat waves and dust bowls as well as of induced air pollution through climate change, in particular in cities.
- j. UN WHO should be contacted to suggest human health management initiatives related to climate change that could be suitable for the Eastern Africa region and to identify relevant sub-regional and national institutions.
- k. The AU-IBAR program and the OIE (International Office for Epizootics) should be contacted about impacts on animal health and any implications thereof on human health (avian flu, tuberculosis, leishmaniasis, Malta flu, etc.).

### **Annex 3: Deliberations on Table of Content - Urban group**

- a. How will the study on three countries reflect regional issues? Will the study focus only on studies done in the three countries?
- b. Peculiarities on agriculture will be included.
- c. Climate change should also be viewed in the context of opportunities, e.g., employment in urban greening.
- d. Rural-urban linkage should be included, as these are interdependent sectors (to be considered in the study).
- e. Urban climate is a relatively new field and hence may not get much attention.
- f. Gaps in existing research were identified, e.g., urban temperature, urban energy, urban sewage management.
- g. Gender will be considered as well as the urban poor.
- h. Niche – connect the initiative to sustainable development objectives in the region – e.g., poverty reduction.
- i. Impact of rising sea levels on urban areas – to be included.
- j. Risk management in cities – e.g., early warning on heat waves.
- k. The ongoing UN Habitat program should be considered as a valuable initiative. It could also provide a point of entry for identifying national climate change adaptation programs in cities.
- l. The group emphasized that the report should focus on the following:
  - heat waves that will impact cities, as urban structures trap heat;
  - the inefficiency of storm water management systems in most African cities;
  - waste water management in a context of rising temperatures, to reduce gas emissions;
  - fermentation and pullulating diseases in poorly serviced neighbourhoods, where storm water often causes the sewers to overflow;
  - urban water shortage due to decreased water drainage and diminishing replenishment of groundwaters;
  - air pollution generated by the transportation sector and industry, and which can be expected to increase as heat facilitates the production of toxic gases by engines; and
  - the casualties caused by the combination of dust bowls resulting from droughts on the one hand and urban air pollution on the other.
- m. Climate change leads to energy shortages to the extent that the demand for energy rises during times of excessive heat. This energy shortage then exacerbates the above-mentioned negative effects.
- n. Sea level rise will have a devastating effect on nearly all coastal cities. The lowlands will become flooded, the coastal line eroded, sea water will intrude into shallow aquifers, and fiercer and more frequent storms will put a toll on all public infrastructures and

networks. The latter, being more present in cities, will have a more imminent effect on urban dwellers. Finally, one further impact of sea level rise is the migration of rural people, deprived of their livelihoods, to the cities. For the cities, this usually translates into rising poverty rates, uncontrolled urban sprawl and informal settlements.

- o. Harness rural-to-urban migration and for maintaining the sizes of cities manageable. In particular coastal cities are in need of such actions in order to cope with the rise of sea level and storms. The refurbishment of dwellings and public buildings will be necessary to face rising temperatures as well as to reduce energy consumption.

#### Annex 4: List of participants

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