

Welcome to our 2nd newsletter!

AfricaAdapt is a French/English network for knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation in Africa.

Get the latest news from our network, meet some of our members, see what kind of projects we are featuring on our website and learn what resources and opportunities are available for you.

AfricaAdapt network members meet in Nairobi and Accra

In recent weeks the AfricaAdapt network hosted "meet and greet" events for network members in Kenya and Ghana to meet face to face. Each of these informal events brought together NGOs, academics, government representatives, and media organisations.



Participants of the Nairobi Meet and Greet. Photo by AfricaAdapt

work members could best contribute. A mailing list was created so that participants can continue to keep one another informed. In Accra, participants discussed the potential of community radio as a tool for community-based adaptation. They were then invited to participate in an online discussion to explore these questions in more depth.

We are pleased that participants found these informal meetings useful and will continue to convene them in other cities as a way of bringing together members of the adaptation community in Africa.

In Nairobi, discussions focused on Kenya's strategies for the climate change negotiations in Copenhagen, and how net-

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Where to find us at the Climate Change Conference, COP15

- Knowledge sharing to support implementation of the Nairobi Work Programme, **11 December 2009, Copenhagen, Denmark (IDS side event)**
- Building sustainable community partnerships for adaptation in Africa, **11 December 2009, (ENDA side event)**

Please check our website for **daily updates** on voices from Africa at COP15.

Where to find us in 2010!

- 4th International Conference on Community Based Adaptation, **21-27 February 2010, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**
- Climate Change Communication Conference Africa, **1-3 March 2010, Kampala, Uganda**

AfricaAdapt Fund supports climate change film in Morocco



A palm oasis. Photo from <http://bit.ly/6E15un>

AfricaAdapt has just announced the nine winners of its 2009 Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund. One of the winning projects "**Think and gather together for adaptation**", in Morocco, will make a documentary on the impacts of climate change on oases and how communities can cope. In Morocco, climate change manifests as rising temperatures, drought and soil salinisation. Oases are among the most vulnerable ecosystems to these impacts. This film will capture the collective memory of the community on how the climate has changed over the years and what adaptation practices the farmers have implemented.

Please visit <http://bit.ly/5p3VJK> for a full list of the grant winners.

Our bilingual website is now fully operational! Visit us at www.africa-adapt.net to share information about yourself and your work and keep up to date with African initiatives, events and more.

News from the network

Our team continues to introduce the network, establish partnerships and promote knowledge sharing at key events:

- We engaged with the research community at the conference “**The Integration of Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development, and Ecosystems in the Context of Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Insecurity**” held in Agadir, Morocco.
- AfricaAdapt presented on the basics of climate change during the “**Africa Talks Climate**” briefing in Dakar, Senegal. At the event researchers from the BBC Trust shared the results of their research on the public understanding of climate change carried out in six African countries.
- In September AfricaAdapt attended the UNESCO/UNEP **Broadcast Media and Climate Change Conference** in Paris, France bringing together regional broadcasting organisations and unions to consider a global consensus to raise public awareness on the challenges of climate change.
- We participated in a **Science-Policy Dialogue** in support of the project “Integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Development Planning” held in Accra, Ghana.

Check the section ‘News and Events’ on the AfricaAdapt website for details of the above events and more. Visit our online calendar for upcoming climate change events taking place in Africa and Internationally. **Please let us know about events you are organising!**

Joto Afrika second issue out



Water scarcity and climate change is the focus of this issue of the *Joto Afrika* briefings on adapting to climate change in sub-Saharan Africa. It is produced by the Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) in Kenya in partnership with AfricaAdapt and the Institute of Development Studies.

For more information visit: <http://bit.ly/6eCY2M>

Project highlights

Our members are actively using the website to disseminate information about their projects. These are just a few examples. Check our website to access some of the reports, videos and pictures on projects and key themes related to adaptation.

Enhancing millet yield through use of *Jatropha* fertiliser

This project is developing fertilizer out of oilcake from the *Jatropha curcas* plant. Oil cake is the residue left behind after extraction of oil from the *Jatropha* seeds. The project expects that use of the *Jatropha* fertilizer in millet production will enhance productivity, reduce soil moisture stress and control soil temperature variation. This will in effect help mitigate the vulnerability of small scale farmers to climate change.

Presently, the project is carrying out field experiments with small holder farmers in Burkina Faso and Niger to compare the effects of different fertilizer applications on soil conditions and millet properties.



A jatropha garden. Photo from AfricaAdapt.

Partial data on the effect of the experiments on soil conditions and millet growth is available, but data on millet yield will only be available after it has been harvested.

For more information visit:

<http://bit.ly/4CGWud>

Managing Climate Risk to Agriculture and Water Resources in South Africa

The Western Cape is a valuable agricultural area and is experiencing increasing competition for water from agricultural and urban use. Projections suggest a future reduction in rainfall.

This project brings a multidisciplinary team of scientists together with farmers, community and industry groups, and local planning authorities to analyze and suggest the most practical and efficient ways of sharing water. It uses an integrated modeling approach combining climate change scenarios, hydrological and economic models.

In bringing together disparate stakeholders, the research aims to build relationships that endure as water allocation gets tougher in future.

For more information please visit:

<http://bit.ly/8U1CMR>

Profiles of AfricaAdapt network members

We have over 500 members now and our membership is rapidly expanding! Members are diverse in terms of expertise, language, nationality, and fields of practice. Here below are profiles of some of the members.



Monica Kansime

Socio-economist working in Heifer International in **Uganda**. She is carrying out a research on community-based adaptation and sustainable land use management for rural livelihoods in Uganda and Kenya.



Hermann Kambiire

Researcher at the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) in **Burkina Faso**. He works with local actors for decentralisation and local management of forestry resources. He is interested in issues related to forestry, poverty and vulnerability to climate change.



Benedict Tembo

Science journalist working for the **Zambia Daily Mail** and executive member of the African Network of Environmental Journalists (Zambia Chapter). His role is to raise awareness about climate change as well as raising the agenda of scientific research.



Lilia Benzid

A professional photographer working at the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS), **Morocco**. She is interested in climate issues related to vulnerability forestry and water. She is working on a documentary film on adaptation climate change in Tunisia and Niger.

Viewpoints

The Knowledge Sharing Officers share their views, experiences and insights into issues related to climate change and knowledge sharing.

What is dangerous climate change?

By Abebe Tadege, Knowledge Sharing Officer ICPAC

The ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at levels that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. But what is dangerous climate change?

Dangerous climate change is a change that increases the risk of adverse impacts to many natural and managed systems by destabilizing the earth's climate system.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) the earth's temperature could increase by up to 6.4° C degrees towards the end of the 21st century. Such drastic changes in a short span of time will have many consequences.

There is no universal agreement on what levels of Greenhouse gas concentration and temperature changes we should avoid. However, the IPCC, the main body assessing the scientific, technical and socio-economic information available on climate change, estimates that in order to avoid dangerous climate change, temperatures should not rise over 2°C compared to preindustrial levels.



Trees partially submerged by the sea at the coast of Mombasa. Sea levels are expected to continue rising as a result of climate change. Photo by AfricaAdapt

Look out for our new **resource guide on the basics of climate science** and sources of data for research. Available soon on our website!

Community voices

AfricaAdapt is a repository of community voices. We visited two local community initiatives to combat climate change. These are their stories.

Radio Ada, the voice of the Dangbe people

"In my community, I trust my mother first, followed by Radio Ada." Radio Ada is a community radio of the Dangbe people in Southern Ghana; this statement reflects the findings of recent research undertaken to ascertain its credibility among the community.



Radio Ada presenter at work

The radio serves a population of 500,000 people and broadcasts predominantly in the local Dangbe language. Radio programmes cover diverse issues ranging from politics, domestic relations to farming and, recently, climate change.

Through their pilot project "Climate is here", Radio Ada has been raising awareness on climate change among its audiences. Project activities involved the community and included a transect walk to track how climate change has transformed their environment over the decades. Asked whether community radio is the best channel to facilitate sharing of knowledge on adaptation, the former station director Kofi Larweh replies "If not Radio Ada, then who"?

One man's efforts to save mangroves in Senegal

Cyprien Sène is a committed conservationist trying to restore degraded mangrove ecosystems in Joal-Fadiouth, Senegal. Mangroves are saltwater forests of tropical trees and shrubs. Cyprien has been planting mangroves in his village since he learnt about their importance through a TV programme.

The oysters which grow between the mangrove's submerged roots are the main source of protein in Cyprien's village. Their roots are also a natural habitat for a variety of fish and crabs whilst their branches provide shelter to birds, mongooses and other animals.

According to Cyprien, the trees were mostly ravaged by drought and excessive harvesting. Now he and his son Antoine, are working with local community associations to reverse this. They have managed to plant 20 hectares of mangrove since 2002.



Cyprien at work in the mangrove

New on our website

Interview with Dr. Ayub Macharia: Pastoralism in Northern Kenya

Dr. Macharia gives an update on the links between climate change and the current crisis in among pastoralists in Northern Kenya. He describes current impacts, coping strategies, and the findings of his research in the region. Dr. Macharia is the Director General of the National Environment Authority, Kenya. <http://bit.ly/2WVVM8F>

Leading the way: A role for regional institutions

This paper, produced by LEAD Africa and ENDA-TM, gives an overview of the current leadership on climate issues in Africa. It highlights opportunities to show leadership on climate issues and provides recommendations how regional institutions in Africa can become climate leaders. <http://bit.ly/87EVNv>

The science of climate change in Africa: Impacts and adaptation

This discussion paper from Imperial College London examines the projected impacts of climate change on natural resources, agriculture, and health and discusses the process and challenges of adaptation in Africa. <http://bit.ly/7JhYZ4>

Questions or comments? Email us at info@africa-adapt.net or visit www.africa-adapt.net

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Why not try our other AfricaAdapt services available online? View our collection of useful links on our Delicious page at <http://delicious.com/africaadapt>; our video collection on our YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/user/africaadapt>; and follow network events on our Twitter feed at <http://twitter.com/africaadapt>.



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