

Spotlight on Community Based Adaptation

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.

AfricaAdapt at the 4th International CBA conference in Dar es Salaam !

Nearly 180 participants gathered at the 4th International Community Based Adaptation (CBA) Conference in Tanzania co-sponsored by AfricaAdapt. This meeting marked the **first time that the CBA conference was held on the African continent.**



Participants in the field

The main objectives of the conference were to (1) Bring practitioners to share and discuss knowledge of CBA from the developing world, particularly Africa (2) Capture the latest learning from CBA planning and practices (3) Enhance capacity of the practitioners to help the most vulnerable people in improving livelihoods.

The conference started off with two days of field visits to communities, it was an opportunity to discover the challenges that African communities face in confronting climate change and the innovative ways that they are trying to adapt.

One of the exciting features of the CBA Conference is the way that it bridges the formal conference-based discussions with hands-on experience. For more information : <http://bit.ly/9VkyC>

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Call for a Network Co-ordinator :

The AfricaAdapt Network seeks to appoint a **Network Co-ordinator** who will be responsible for co-ordinating the day-to-day implementation of the AfricaAdapt work programme. Closing date for applications is Friday 16th April 2010. For more information, visit our website : <http://bit.ly/cnppXw>

Upcoming event :

A conference on **Climate Change and Pastoralism in Africa** will be hosted by Egerton University, Kenya, from 24th to 28th May, 2010. Details of the conference programme and information can be accessed from the conference website: <http://bit.ly/apZuOf>

First ever French language session at CBA Conference

On the occasion of an African-based conference, organizers took the opportunity to schedule a French session. While the number of participants was small, **exchanges were extremely lively and attendees seemed very happy to have this new forum.** Particularly encouraging was the participation of many who speak French as a second or third language who challenged themselves in order to take part in the discussions.

Presentations ranged from adaptive practices in agriculture, to participatory methodologies, to video-making. Our presentation broke from the dominant PowerPoint-based presentation mode to engage everyone in attendance in a discussion on knowledge sharing and climate change. The positive feedback from the session suggests that a French-language regional CBA event would meet with great success!

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

The AfricaAdapt team continues to introduce the network, establish partnerships and promote knowledge sharing :

- AfricaAdapt at COP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark**
 While the outcomes of the recent climate change negotiations were a clear disappointment to many, AfricaAdapt was still very active in promoting and reporting on African voices during the event. We provided daily updates from inside the conference through: video interviews on our [YouTube channel](#), regular posts on [Twitter](#) as well as blog posts and discussions via the [AfricaAdapt](#) website. Partners ENDA-TM and IDS hosted side events focusing on community based adaptation and knowledge intermediaries.
- Support for African community radio participation**
 In partnership with the [World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters \(AMARC\)](#), we supported the participation of 3 African community radio journalists from Mali, Burkina Faso and Kenya. They provided daily reporting and interviews to keep African listeners updated on the progress of the negotiations. They also had the opportunity to strengthen their capacity in covering international negotiations and translating relevant news items into meaningful news for local listeners. For more information, visit : <http://bit.ly/d26194>

Visit the AfricaAdapt online calendar for upcoming events in Africa. **Please let us know about events you are organising! Email us at info@africa-adapt.net**

New initiative : NarrAdapt !



Collecting climate change narratives

Climate Change is a reality. But how does it affect the lives of vulnerable people? Which practices and policies are implemented to reduce its impacts? The answers these questions are most often found in reports. If they were expressed in a different forms, we could be able to see how men and women experience climate change.

To turn this into reality, the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Programme (CCAA) has just launched the **Narradapt** initiative on our website. Visit us for advice on acquiring testimonials and sharing narratives on CCAA supported projects : <http://bit.ly/d2QRaC>

Project highlights

Network 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.

CBA pilot action in Banjul, the Gambia

Gambia's old capital, Banjul, is situated on a sandy spit on an island at the estuary of the River Gambia.

ENDA and Women In Service Development Organisation (WISDOM) a local CBO, have been assessing risks and impacts of rising sea levels in Banjul in a pilot action with a Participative Action Research (PAR) methodology. Rising sea-levels not only destroy beaches, but also cause saline infiltration and expose inhabitants to diseases.

On March 24-25, a Community and Local Decision Makers Workshop was held to feed back the results of the in-depth field research in Half-Die to ascertain the evidence of climate change impacts. Scientific evidence and analysis has been shared and local adaptation measures developed by community members. As a positive step towards this adaptation process, the local CBO is prepared to take up projects targeting the implementation of these adaptation strategies.



Standing water in the narrow streets

For more info, visit : <http://bit.ly/95nKt3>

AfricaAdapt Innovation Fund : Supporting citizen voices through community radio

Senegal is experiencing flooding, sea level rise and desertification, all these exacerbated by rapid population growth and unchecked urbanisation.

The project funded through our Innovation Fund will develop innovative participatory radio programmes to support citizens' groups in the coastal zone of Rufisque and Linguère. It aims to strengthen communities' capacities to engage in public debates and influence citizen action on climate change. It seeks to **reverse conventional flows of information and places listener feedback at the centre of radio programming.**

Communities will be organised into listening groups that will meet regularly to share their knowledge and experiences.

For more info: <http://bit.ly/9Eldqj>

Profiles of AfricaAdapt network members

We have over 540 members now and our membership is expanding! Members are diverse in terms of expertise, language, nationality and fields of practice. Here below are profiles of the members.



Eric Kisiangani

Project coordinator for Practical Action Eastern Africa, he is working on an IDRC-funded project aimed at sensitising pastoralists in Kenya about **climate change adaptation**.

See an interview with Eric at: <http://www.bit.ly/cuTZGE>



Betty Kibaara

Research Associate at the Rockefeller Foundation with a background in Agricultural and Resource Economics. She is currently working with Rockefeller to support the integration of **climate change resilience into agricultural research and development programming in Africa**.



Edward Yeboah

Soil scientist at the CSIR Soil research institute in Ghana. He works with **vulnerable rural communities in Ghana to improve the productivity of their soils** using locally-available or-

ganic inputs and improve their food security.



Nancy A. Omolo

Researcher with Foodlink Resources, Kenya. She is working on her PhD at University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa on **women and climate change in pastoral**

communities as a part of the African Climate Change Fellowship.

Viewpoints

Saleemul Huq, organizer of the 4th International CBA Conference in Dar es Salam, shares his views on community-based adaptation.

- What are the challenges for upscaling CBA projects?

CBA projects are now being initiated in a number of developing countries. The main challenges at this early stage include how to share knowledge and experience from many small efforts and how to develop robust methodologies for these projects, including monitoring their impacts.

- UNFCCC negotiations: what is at stake for vulnerable communities?

In the UNFCCC negotiations, the need to support vulnerable developing countries to adapt to adverse impacts of climate change has now been well accepted. Annex 1 countries have also accepted the need to focus on the most vulnerable communities within the vulnerable countries and that is where CBA can play an important role, as it aims to **provide assistance to the most vulnerable communities in the developing countries**.

- Financing CBA: How to ensure CBOs/CSOs' involvement?

Most CBA activities have so far been initiated by NGOs and CBOs, so they have a critical role to pilot and set up new projects. However, in the long run, other actors including the governments of the developing countries as well as international funders need to support efforts to scale up the CBA activities to achieve bigger adaptation gains.

- What is the future of GICBA ?

The Global Initiative on CBA(GICBA) is trying to bring together all the relevant actors at the national and international level who have an interest in doing or supporting CBA activities. These include NGOs, CBOs as well as researchers, funders and policy makers.



Engaging with communities

We visited local communities in Tanzania that are facing the impacts of climate change. Below are two of their stories.

Community laws save a well in Tanzania

A prison sentence or monetary fine awaits anyone who cultivates within twenty metres of the water catchment in Homboza Village, in Tanzania. This was a by-law instituted by the local community to protect their water catchment after realising that the village well, which in the past supplied up to 15 villages, was drying up.



Field visit in Homboza Village

According to a representative of the village environment committee, once the community became aware of the link between their activities in the water catchment and the drying of the well, they needed **no further incentive** to protect their water source. Although the area is experiencing the effects of climate change, like receiving less annual rainfall, conserving their water catchment reduces their vulnerability by ensuring that their water source does not dry up completely. Homboza's success in protecting their environment has made it a learning centre for neighbouring villages.

Climate change and conservation in Tanzania: Mixed results for communities

Climate change is a threat to the livelihoods of fishing communities of Boma, Buyuni and Saadani living along the coast of Tanzania. The volume of their catch has dramatically reduced because of changes in weather patterns in recent years.



Examining the catch of the day

These climatic changes, paired with establishment of the Sadaani National Park, have had negative impacts on the communities' livelihoods. Land use restrictions imposed by establishment of the park have limited community access to land and prevented them from diversifying into agricultural activities.

Although conservation has brought about positive environmental changes such as the restoration of mangroves, without agriculture to fall back on in bad times, the communities are now more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. There is therefore **need for planning policy that takes into account the needs of vulnerable local communities.**

New on our website

Advance Guard: Climate change impacts, adaptation, mitigation and indigenous peoples

A compendium of more than 400 case studies from around the world, 70 from Africa, which reveal how indigenous people have been affected by and are adapting to climate change.

For more info : <http://bit.ly/9O7xx9>

Adapting to the wild side: climate friendly rooibos (video)

Small scale farmers in the Suid Bokkeveld in South Africa are adapting their farming practices to accommodate the more extreme weather events that are likely to come their way.

For more info : <http://bit.ly/dgkkw7>

First Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Learning forum

Reports and presentations from the forum held for CCAA researchers in May 2010 on the theme "Improving accessibility and usability of climate information for increased food security in Africa".

For more info : <http://bit.ly/9dGn12>

Questions or comments?

You can send us an email at info@africa-adapt.net or visit our website : www.africa-adapt.net

If you wish to be added or removed from our newsletter mailing list, please send us an email at the above address.

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 via Twitter <http://twitter.com/africaadapt>.



AfricaAdapt is hosted by Environment and Development in the Third World (ENDA-TM); Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA); IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC); and Institute of Development Studies (IDS). The network is funded through the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Climate Change Adaptation in Africa programme.