Welcome to the new-look Africa Adapt newsletter featuring stories from our partners!

Winners of the 2010 Innovation Fund revealed!

We received over 450 applications for the second round of the Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund. After a rigorous selection process we now have six finalists. These projects are from Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar and Malawi.

This issue of the AfricaAdapt newsletter features articles on community radio in Ghana:

Cynthia Awuor talks about CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme in Africa

Knowledge sharing officers from AfricaAdapt provide their reflection on Addis knowledge share fair

In the Community Voices page Estelle Mawal talks about how climate change is affecting Pygmies in Eastern Cameroon. You can also get information on project highlights; network news; latest events; and meet other members.
**Member profiles**

**Yewande Famuyide**

Yewande Famuyide is a development officer working for West Africa Network for Peace building (WANEP-Nigeria) based in Nigeria. She holds BSc in International Relations. Her area of interest in relation to climate includes climate change and conflict resolution.

**Martin Doleagbenou**

Martin Doleagbenou is a project coordinator at Togolese Red Cross. He is working on a project aimed at reducing risks related to flood-disasters in Togo. In cooperation with the German Red Cross he has implemented a community-based flood early warning system along the major rivers in Togo.

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**Community Radio in Ghana engages with climate change**

Knowledge about how to adapt to climate change is fragmented – millions of Africans are left out of discussions on adapting to climate change. New climate change research often fails to reach those who need it most. This project uses the experience of the Ghana Community Radio Network and the AfricaAdapt network to support three Community Radio stations in Ghana in developing effective methods for sharing climate change knowledge.

Through Community Radio:

- Ghanaian communities speak to each other about their experiences and concerns as they adapt to a changing climate.

- Broadcasters are trained to share climate research in an easy-to-understand format with local listeners and policymakers.

- Climate and development researchers hear about valuable local innovations from communities at the frontline of climate change.

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**Latest events**

**Nov. 28-Dec. 10, 2010**

16th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.
Cancun, Mexico

**27 February – 3 March 2011.**

Local Climate Solutions for Africa 2011.
ICLEI congress on climate change challenges and solutions

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**Viewpoints: Introducing CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme in Africa**

Cynthia Awuor is a community based adaptation advisor at CARE International. She discusses the program’s goal and approach to address community based adaptation in Africa.

[Click here to read Cynthia’s full article](#)
**Project highlights**

**Mt Elgon Climate Change Adaptation Programme**

is a program that is being implemented by the Network for Integrated Community-based Research and Development in Uganda. The project will sensitize communities on the slopes of Mt Elgon on emerging micro-climate changes, their causes, effects, coping mechanisms and suitable adaptation strategies. To achieve this, the capacity of civil society organizations will be strengthened to: act as agents for harnessing and disseminating climate change adaptation practices; support the communities to implement action plans and; advocate for increased allocation of resources towards climate change adaptation practices.

**Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management (CSRDM)**

is a new DFID funded programme that aims to enhance the ability of governments and civil society organisations in developing countries to build the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change as part of their development work. In order to do this, the disaster risk management (DRM) community are being targeted as a starting point to encourage more thorough thinking on the integration of climate change adaptation (CCA) in local and national development plans and strategies.

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**AfricaAdapt and ALIN in Addis Knowledge Share Fair**

The first ever knowledge share fair on African agricultural and rural development took place in Addis Ababa from 18-21 October 2010. The fair which was organized by the International Livestock Research Center (ILRI) brought together more than 300 participants including researchers, practitioners, information scientists, knowledge managers, indigenous people and policy makers.

The Share Fair used three innovative ways of learning and sharing. The first day of the fair was dedicated for training participants on new skills and tools on knowledge sharing including social media, face-to-face and geo-spatial techniques such as Google earth. This day was labeled as the "I know how to" day.

![Photo: Mrs Flora Nzambuli of Kenya singing a climate change song during the Fair](image)

The rest of the Share Fair days were dedicated to learning pathways on four thematic areas and focus group sessions on nine topics.

AfricaAdapt and Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN.) collaboratively led the climate change and agriculture learning pathway. This event attended by over 75 people consisted in three sessions around Mapping, Sharing and Brokering of knowledge.

**Lessons learned include:**

- The mapping exercise has shown us that the minimum knowledge required for adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is already there. However, the remaining challenge is about sharing

- The best way to share knowledge is through building partnerships, relationships and even friendships. If we have an indicator to measure the success of this Share Fair, it will the number of friendships made during this event.

- Participative methods and approaches like world café, open spaces and speed dating, are very effective ways to share knowledge with all kind of stakeholders.

- Language barriers, choice of appropriate tools, lack of well written and succinct knowledge products from research and lack of communication skills are some of the challenges for knowledge sharing.

The Share Fare was innovative and a great experience for all participants. It blended modern and indigenous methods of knowledge sharing. Another interesting aspect was the featuring of the Ethiopian culture throughout the period of the event.
Community voices: Pygmies of Eastern Cameroon face climate change

Estelle Mawal, after several months in the field, shares with us the challenges and the successes of her project that aims at raising climate change awareness among the Baka pygmies of Cameroon.

Which goal presented a challenge and why?

It has been challenging to explain the relevance of the project for Baka Pygmies. Our partners in the project thought that Bakas people had more important problems than climate change.

Which goal presented a challenge and why?

I would say that the main benefit is the satisfaction of the participants when we held a meeting to feedback the results of the project. They suggested scaling up the project to other Baka communities.

What is the most significant change within the community?

Bakas no longer associate any more climate change with the will of gods. They know they can develop mechanisms to reduce climate change impacts on their life. They have started to plant trees especially those with exploitable products like the "moabi" tree.

Tell us a story that helps explain the success of the project?

During a meeting, a departmental delegate of the Ministry of the Environment questioned the Bakas people about the project. They explained very well the concept of climate change in terms of impacts on their activities and even suggested adaptation techniques they learnt thanks to the project. Other participants punctuated this answer by applauses.