

Brief report on the Eastern and Southern Africa Community Based Adaptation (CBA) and Resilience Learning Event in Ethiopia



Malawi representatives at the Learning Event



Date: 1st – 4th
September
2014

Venue: IRLI,
Ethiopia

Introduction

CARE Adaptation Learning Programme, CARE Ethiopia, the CGIAR Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security Programme and the International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology jointly organized the learning event on Community Based Adaptation and Resilience. The event brought together stakeholders from diverse range of expertise working with dryland communities from Eastern and Southern Africa.

From Malawi, Aldwin Mtembezeka from CARE Malawi, Arthur Lichenya from CARD and James Lwuanda from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources also participated in the event.

The event used a mixed approach of group work, presentations, market place stall and presentations.

Objectives of the event

- A better understanding of the links between climate change adaptation and resilience in the drylands
- Participants strengthens their networks coordination and ability to engage with resilience in their area of work
- Communiqué collectively produced to share emerging recommendations for improved practice, policy and to inform decision on adaptation finance.

The Event

The four days event was divided into themes, day one was for setting the mood, day two was on understanding synergies, complementarities, added value of CBA, day three was on successes and challenges and the final day focused on building consensus to produce the communiqué. The Event commenced with an opening speech from Adaptation Learning Programme emphasizing on the need to be focused and make a difference to the communities. Among other things, the presenter defined the semantics that the event was to refer to all the time and these include climate change and resilience among others.

The workshop was facilitated through a process of identifying what was called “open door hell” meaning things that that the workshop should not waste time on. Such things include defining terminologies, discussing impacts of climate change. Throughout the session when a participant makes reference to a term marked for open door hell, he or she was told to sit down to avoid diverting the discussion. Terms or themes qualified for the open door hell because they have been over discussed.



Apart from open door hell, there was another parking list which defined the discussion for the event. All key issues were grouped and parked on the board. These issues were categorized into

themes such as: measurement of resilience; decision making under certainty; governance, agency and rights; community based approach; integrating knowledge sources and changing face of drylands.

The various side group works fed into these sub themes to form the communiqué. To ensure that group works were focused there were a number of techniques used including grouping the groups according to countries, regions and expertise, drawing rich pictures for the future we want and assessing various scenarios in terms of issues/challenges, success factors and good practices



An example of a rich picture

The Market Place

Representing ECRP, CEPA mounted a market stall with publications, roll up banners and posters. The posters was on vulnerability map, the roll up banner on conservation agriculture and publications on various materials within ECRP and CEPA like position papers, policy briefs, CISONNECC and low carbon flyers, newsletters and bulletin among others. There more than 15 market stall holders. *The vulnerability map from Chikwawa draw attention of the visitors to the market place, as*



they appreciated that such initiative promote participation from communities since they own the process and map the vulnerability on their own. As ECRP we learnt the other way of developing the vulnerability map which extends the picture to the future that we want like what Uganda is doing.

Take Home Message

On the last day, after agreeing on the communiqué (**Annex 1**) and final remarks countries grouped together and developed the tasks that they will implement from the workshop. The Malawi team agreed on the following tasks to be undertaken after the workshop. They also agreed that these activities will use opportunities that exist within ECRP

- Integration of local and scientific information

- Downscaling of climate information services
- Support policy development, review and implementation at all levels
- Multi-stakeholder interaction for information sharing and best practices
- Strengthen ecosystem management
- Community participation in decision making (integrating community plans into district/sectoral plans)

All countries including Malawi agreed to implement the communiqués once they return to their respective countries.

Some of the activities in pictures



Annex 1

Achieving resilience in East and Southern African drylands: Communique from the CBA and Resilience Learning Event, Addis Ababa, September 2014

This communiqué is the collective product of more than 80 participants engaged in policy, practice and research from across 11 countries in East and Southern Africa who came together in Ethiopia, 1st – 4th September 2014. It captures the conference discussions, conveying strong messages on the need to develop effective approaches to community based adaptation (CBA) and secure resilient and productive livelihoods for communities living in the region's drylands, in the face of an uncertain and changing climate.

The Changing Face of the Drylands in East and Southern Africa

Drylands account for more than 40% of world's land area and are home to over 2 billion people, 325 million of them in Africa. Yet they are among the regions in the world where climate change impacts on ecosystems, livelihoods and human health are potentially the greatest (IPCC, 2014). They are fragile, dynamic and challenging environments in which to pursue a livelihood, often marginalized in terms of infrastructure, investment and policies. Yet pastoralists, farmers, conservationists, tourism, energy and business services and more, depend on and make multiple demands of dryland natural resources. The livestock value chain in East and parts of Southern Africa is a multi-billion dollar business growing at ever faster rates and together with wildlife tourism contributes highly to national GDP.

Despite this, vulnerability and challenges for pastoralists and farmers whose lives depend on drylands are increasing. Degradation of the environment and rangelands, invasive species and conflicting land uses are disrupting ecosystem functionality. Recurrent drought; changing aspirations, social and gender dynamics and mobility; population growth, transitioning and new livelihoods in peri-urban and urban centres are creating rapid changes in the family and social fabric. In Kenya's ASAL's for example more than 3 million pastoralist households are regularly hit by drought costing the economy an estimated \$12.1 billion in 2008 -2011. Economic trends are creating fewer wealthy families owning a larger proportion of assets resulting in new 'drop outs' from productive livelihoods from poor and vulnerable families.

Climate change impacts exacerbate these trends and create additional uncertainties and risks. Traditional coping mechanisms and emergency response measures are no longer sufficient to ensure recovery to productive livelihoods. New, scalable approaches for adaptation to climate change and realizing resilient livelihoods are needed which link local knowledge and adaptive capacity with economic opportunities, risk management and welfare systems, equity, and innovation in land use management. **Key Conference Recommendations for Policy and Practice:**

1. Community ownership and aspirations

Dryland communities have their own aspirations and the right to determine their own futures and engage actively in local and national development. Provided with the appropriate support to harness

and enhance existing local knowledge, skills, information and structures they are and can become agents of change in addressing the impacts of climate change rather than recipients of pre-determined solutions.

Recommendations:

- **Promote a people centred, rights based approach** to development policies and plans in the drylands, which focuses on empowerment and governance through increasing community voice and involvement in decision making.

Dryland communities should play a central role in determining their futures and pursuing locally owned and appropriate development pathways.

- **Build capacity of communities** to continuously adapt to the uncertainties and impacts of climate change, absorb shocks and transform their lives by learning and sharing of experiences and good practices, innovation, accessing and generating information, making informed decisions and developing and implementing collective action plans.

2. Equity and vulnerability

Climate change exacerbates the risks facing people already marginalized by the inequitable distribution of resources and denial of rights, and increases these inequalities further, particularly for women and children.

Recommendations

- **Ensure inclusive and meaningful participation of all groups**, including the most vulnerable and the youth, recognising their agency.
- **Recognise differences in vulnerabilities and capacities and increase investment in analysis and assessment** of social differentiation so as to avoid assumptions and respond effectively to norms and rules which determine differences in capacities, skills, rights and access to and control of information and resources.
- **Support a continuum of social protection measures from** social safety nets to springboard mechanisms like savings and loans which target the most vulnerable and promote pathways out of vulnerability and into resilience.
- **Facilitate activities which do not only support men and women separately**, but encourage them to work together and recognise the value and complementarity of each other's different skills, knowledge and capacities.

3. Risk Management

Climate change impacts exacerbate already recurring risks in drylands. Drought and floods are becoming more intense, frequent and unpredictable, occurring in places and times not experienced before. Avoiding disaster and chronic vulnerability from new and ongoing climate risks and uncertainties is critical to realizing resilient livelihoods.

Recommendations:

- **Mainstream risk management into development planning** in all sectors to ensure resilient livelihoods in the face of an uncertain climate, for example with contingency planning. Risk management cannot continue to be conducted in isolation or be limited to emergency response systems.
- **Risk management approaches should be holistic**, integrating risk analysis, early warning and early action, reduction, preparedness and emergency response and recognizing the links between different risks – e.g. climate, competition over natural resources, conflict - and their impacts.
- **Risk management strategies are most likely to succeed when they are community based** and build on locally identified risks, existing coping strategies and an understanding of risk profiles and projections for different vulnerable groups.
- **Promote risk spreading** through for example insurance products, village savings and loans, diversification of livelihood options or social protection systems.
- **Climate information is an important resource** for informing early warning systems, risk reduction and preparedness actions as well as reducing risk in livelihood choices.

4. Integrating Information and knowledge Sources

Local knowledge and information systems are a valuable resource that build on years of experience of pastoralists' and vulnerable communities' but which is gradually being eroded and lost, due to rapid biophysical and socio-economic change.

Recommendations

- **Recognise and strengthen the value of local knowledge** sources, mainstreaming them into existing systems (like agricultural extension services), whilst also facilitating access and linking to new information, skills, knowledge and technologies such as climate information, mobile phones and radios.

- **Undertake joint inventories and validation of local knowledge practices with local people**, which support climate change adaptation and resilience.
- Promote the validation and use of local climate forecast knowledge where it can facilitate **downscaling of information to be locally relevant** and useful for decision making.

5. Multi-stakeholder interactions

The impacts of climate change are complex and multiple and as such cannot be addressed by one group or individual alone but require multi-level, cross-sectoral approaches which bring together a range of different stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- **Enable two-way communication flow** between different stakeholders which allow for regular interactions and feedback in order to continually make decisions, refine and revise responses and plans and promote flexibility needed for effective adaptation.
- **Use multi-stakeholder forums to share** evidence of impact, good practices and learning, facilitate co-production of information that is locally relevant and promote holistic decision making and planning, as well as dissemination and scaling up.
- **Use existing local, national and regional structures and opportunities** like the seasonal forecasts announcements to facilitate the institutionalisation of multi-stakeholder forums. For example, **mainstream multi-stakeholder platforms** which include community representatives into local government level planning and review systems.

6. Decision making under uncertainty

Climate change means that managing uncertainty is an increasingly important skill for communities in the drylands and can become a powerful adaptation tool when considered, understood and interpreted effectively so that shocks do not come as surprises and risks can be anticipated, reduced, managed or turned into opportunities.

Recommendations:

- **Improve access, interpretation, value and use of climate information** and forecasts from meteorological services, weather stations and climate science, which communicate anticipated impacts, and levels of uncertainty and probability in the information. Support climate science to understand user information needs and develop new products in response.
- **Combine and interpret local knowledge and climate science**, including uncertainty in the

information, so that plans for seasonal and adaptation action relate to the local context and respond to changing needs and demands.

- **Enhance community recording and sharing of** local climate and environment information to build a body of locally based knowledge useful for anticipating future risks and impacts, innovation and actions to take.
- **Create systems which embrace uncertainty through in-built flexibility** for continuous and responsive decision making and planning including in funding and budget allocations.

7. Governance and Policy

Practical recommendations for adaptation and resilience will only be viable when policy and governance frameworks appropriately support their implementation at all levels.

Recommendations:

- **National climate change policy frameworks** should empower local governments to define needs and take actions which are tailored to their context and constituent communities' priorities, in line with local **development priorities** and governance systems and based on evidence and knowledge of successful approaches which can be scaled up.
- **Ensure policy and institutional support for strengthened and coordinated responses to risks** linked to community based systems and ongoing processes including drought monitoring, peace/conflict resolution, adaptation and development planning.
- **Enhance integrated approaches to policy development that** are multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder and multilevel, promoting coordination and coherent decision making across development, adaptation, risk and emergency response and resulting in effective use of resources and leveraging of synergies whilst managing trade-offs.
- **Increase investment** (public or private) in a range of initiatives that support resilient and productive livelihoods in the drylands, recognising their valuable contribution and strengthening linkages to the wider economy.
- **Strengthen and integrate traditional community structures with formal governance systems and institutions so that** responses are embedded within existing structures, and promote inclusivity and ownership.

8. Measuring resilience

A good understanding of the many changing socio-ecological factors in drylands: climate, crises, technology, development interventions and their impact on the lives of vulnerable people, is essential in order to assess and scale up and out good practices, and to identify areas for further research.

Recommendations:

- **Integrate adaptation and resilience into existing measurement / participatory monitoring and evaluation systems and develop new and innovative tools and approaches** to help better understand and measure resilience. The Resilience Analysis Unit set up by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to strengthen coordination, learning and information sharing on measuring resilience across the Horn of Africa region provides an opportunity for this.
- **Measuring resilience is scale dependant and must go beyond the numbers** and focus on changes in adaptive capacity, transformation to new livelihoods and fundamental shifts in practices, structures and systems of governance which support resilience.
- **Establish a baseline of social, economic and environmental indicators** which can be used as proxies against which changes in resilience can be measured.