

Building capacity for adaptation in Asia and Africa

Country/region:	Asia and Africa
Project name:	Advancing Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation
Partners:	United Nations Institute for Training & Research (UNITAR); SEI (Oxford and Bangkok); Global Change System for Analysis Research & Training (START); Southeast Asia START Regional Center; Temperate East Asia START Regional Center; Climate System Analysis Group - Cape Town (CSAG-UCT); Environnement et Développement du Tiers Monde (ENDA-TM)
Funding agency:	United National Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Duration:	January 2007 – December 2008

Introduction

The ACCCA project addresses climate risks and adaptation in an integrated, multidisciplinary way. It stresses the importance of substantively engaging stakeholders as well as the the long-term benefits of partnership between institutions from the scientific and policy communities. The project draws on lessons learned about communicating climate risk information that is relevant to decision-makers.

The project's objectives, methods and activities have been developed in discussion with the European Commission, the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and the partner organisations involved in the project. Project activities are specifically focussed on building capacity, engaging civil society, and implementing pilot actions related to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other multilateral environmental agreements.

The pilot actions selected for funding under ACCCA aim to:

- identify climate risks to stakeholders and work with stakeholders to prioritise climate influenced decisions;
- assess available knowledge about risks and adaptation opportunities, as well as presenting this knowledge in terms that are directly relevant to stakeholder concerns and decision-making needs;
- develop, test and disseminate risk communication materials that are designed to assist adaptation decisions;



Photo: Gina Zienvogel

- use the risk communication materials in stakeholder forums to develop recommendations for climate change adaptation and promote the adoption of these recommendations;
- identify critical knowledge gaps that impede effective adaptation decisions and design assessment activities that would generate new knowledge to fill them.

The ACCCA pilot actions began in January 2007, and are scheduled to complete their work at the end of 2008. The ACCCA project is now supporting 19 pilot actions across 17 countries in Africa and Asia

ACCCA Asia actions

Five of these pilot actions are in Asia:

- application of community based adaptation measures to Weather Related Disasters (WRDs) in Nepal (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- policy framework for adaptation strategies for the Mongolian Rangelands (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- promoting integration of adaptation strategies into developmental policies by effectively communicating climate risks and adaptation measures in India (Bundelkhand region) (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- mainstreaming climate change adaptation into watershed management and upland farming in the Philippines (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);

- participatory climate risk assessment and development of local adaptation action plans in Bangladesh (funded by ETC-NCAP).

ACCCA Africa actions

The remaining pilot actions are based in Africa:

- pilot project for building capacity to adapt to climate variability, extreme climatic events and climate change in urban and peri-urban Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso (funded by CCAA/IDRC);
- global climate change and socioeconomic impact on Cameroon: examining the risks and adaptive strategies of agrarian households, Cameroon (funded by CCAA/IDRC);
- food security and adaptation to climate change in the Afram Plains of Ghana (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- capacity development and adaptation to climate change on human health vulnerability in Ghana (funded by ETC/NCAP);
- improving decision-making capacity of smallholder farmers in response to climate risk adaptation in three drought prone districts of Tigray, Northern Ethiopia (funded by CCAA/IDRC);
- livelihoods under climate variability and change: an analysis of the adaptive capacity of the rural poor to water scarcity in Kenya's Drylands (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- strengthening community-based adaptation to climate-sensitive malaria in the Western Kenyan Highlands (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);
- improving decision-making processes through climate change scenario generation in the Kano Plains of Western Kenya (funded by CCAA/IDRC);
- audiovisual tools for community-based adaptation: bridging the work of the meteorological service and the Red Cross in Malawi (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);

- climate adaptation from the bottom up: collaboration between Malian communities and scientific organizations to identify and implement responsive water management actions (funded by ETC/NCAP);

- analysis of adaptation strategies to climate variability in the Sahalien Zone, Niger and Tunisia (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);

- community-led climate adaptation programme for sustainable livelihoods in coastal areas of South-Western Nigeria (funded by EC/DEFRA UK);

- adaptation options for impoverished Mshayazafe settlement, South Africa (funded by CCAA/IDRC);

- adaptation strategies and challenges associated with climate and ecological changes to the Lake Victoria community in Tanzania (funded by EC/DEFRA UK).

Technical support

The ACCCA pilot actions are supported by monitoring teams, who provide implementation assistance to every pilot action. Each lead project partner bears the responsibility of coordinating the monitoring and evaluation process. SEI Oxford leads the monitoring teams on risk communications and climate change science and provides support to the Kenya Drylands, Nepal, Malawi, Mali, and Bangladesh actions. SEI Bangkok provides technical support to the India and Philippines actions.

The monitoring teams are responsible for, among other things, providing guidance where requested, and establishing links between the pilot actions and the climate change and risk communications support teams. They also coordinate and carry out field visits as needed with the support team members.

Project Staff

Tom Downing (Project Leader), Kai Kim Chiang, Kate Lonsdale, Lisa Schipper, Takeshi Takama, and Fernanda Zermoglio.



Published by:
Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia
15th Floor, Witthyakit Building
Chulalongkorn Soi 64, Phyathai Road,
Bangkok 10330, Thailand
+(66) 2 251 4415-8

www.sei.se

2008

Author: Lisa Schipper
lisa.schipper@sei.se
Further information:
Robert Watt
robert.watt@sei.se
+46 709 675808