



2009-10 in brief

Message from CCAA's Advisory Board

I am pleased to introduce the fourth annual report of the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa program, which addresses the theme of informing policies for successful adaptation.

Successive IPCC assessment reports have established that adaptation efforts should be grounded in scientific knowledge, and integrated into policy and development strategies, to provide a basis for effective action on climate change. This report reflects on experiences gained from the CCAA program that can be harnessed to inform the development and implementation of climate adaptation policies in Africa. It builds on the assumption that while adaptation is essentially local, it requires different levels of support and political commitment.

Drawing on locally focused case studies of adaptation in Africa, it illustrates how the uptake of research is strengthened when policymakers are involved throughout the research process. The program's emphasis on the participatory action research methodology and designing strategies to inform policies has ensured that policymakers were engaged alongside researchers and communities from the beginning.

The experiences and lessons presented here provide valuable insights for both researchers and policymakers, and we hope will contribute to a broader understanding of communities' experiences coping with climate change in Africa.

Dr. Balgis Osman Elasha, Vice-Chair, CCAA Advisory Board



Left to right: Advisory Board Chair Mbareck Diop, Program Leader Fatima Denton, Coleen Vogel, Vice-Chair Balgis Osman Elasha, Heidi Braun of IDRC, Estherine Lisinge Fotabong, Yvan Biot of DFID, Jean Label of IDRC, Izabella Koziell of DFID, and Program Manager Simon Carter. Missing advisors: Alexander Alusa and Mohamed Senouci
Photo: IDRC



In 2008, CCAA Vice-Chair Balgis Osman Elasha received a United Nations Champion of the Earth Award for her work on climate change and adaptation. She has been named as a Lead Author on the IPCC's upcoming Fifth Assessment Report. Photo: IDRC/ M. O'Neill



Executive Summary

Though Africa contributes little to the causes of climate change, it has no choice but to prepare for its consequences. Launched in 2006, the CCAA research and capacity building program works on the premise that Africans themselves are best equipped to find effective adaptation solutions. We support the adaptation efforts of African researchers and institutions through three main strategies:

- participatory action research (PAR),
- education and training, and
- communications and networking.

Making policies that work for the most vulnerable

Most adaptation occurs at the local level, through changes in practice, governance and infrastructure that give people options to deal with uncertainty. Facilitating such local adaptation requires a supportive policy environment, one that commits leadership and resources to addressing climate change in plans, policies and budgets. The importance of contributing to policies has been a fundamental criterion in our selection of projects. The PAR methodology we support offers opportunities for policymakers to learn about climate change and adaptation with researchers and the communities most directly affected.

This report on our fourth year of programming highlights the range of approaches our partners have taken to influence adaptation policies – and the results they are achieving. For example:

- In Tanzania, officials have made small but practical changes at the district level by budgeting for new tools and seed varieties proven effective in field tests led by University of Dar es Salaam's Institute of Resource Assessment.
- In Kenya, national resources have been committed to protect indigenous forecasting knowledge based on efforts led by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC).
- Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) has injected climate change scenarios and adaptation options into regional policy dialogue about protecting West Africa's fisheries.

- Seminars on climate change and adaptation have been held for parliamentarians in West Africa (by IUCN), and in Kenya and Tanzania (by ICPAC).

We also report on the steps CCAA has taken to engage African policymakers and institutions in confronting the implications of climate change.

Kenya committed resources to protect indigenous forecasting knowledge based on research efforts by ICPAC.

Our contribution to shaping policies for successful adaptation can be found in:

- **Lessons learned** on policy engagement drawn from experiences of CCAA and our research partners in the section, *Reflections: Strengthening research's influence on adaptation policies in Africa*;
- a **story from the field**, *Adapting fishing policies to address climate change in West Africa*; and
- a **map showing the policy links our research partners have made** at the local, national and regional levels, through the research and capacity building efforts we support.

Additional reflections on CCAA programming experience can be found in the sections *Providing monitoring and evaluation support for CCAA projects* and *Strengthening our approaches to building capacity*.

Measuring our progress

We measure the success of our strategies by monitoring the resulting **outputs**, such as the number and range of projects supported, the range and quality of training provided, and the networks and communication channels created. The section *Strategies* reports on our outputs in research support, education and training, and communications and networking.

We also look ahead to the **outcomes** of these strategies by monitoring the progress of the projects we fund. We look for signs that:

1. Research institutions are better able to assess climate-related vulnerabilities and to evaluate and develop adaptation options.
2. At-risk groups, policymakers and researchers share learning and expertise on climate vulnerability and poverty.
3. The poor in rural and urban environments apply their experience of adaptation with the knowledge and technologies generated by research to implement improved and effective adaptation strategies.
4. Policy processes are informed by good quality science-based work on vulnerability and adaptation and by the experiences of the rural and urban poor.

CCAA now supports 46 adaptation research and capacity building projects in 33 countries.

Outputs

This year the CCAA portfolio increased to 46 projects, with the approval of eight new research projects focusing on Africa's urban vulnerability. We built on lessons learned in proposal development to ensure capacity building was provided early, so proponents could integrate key methods and concepts from the beginning.

We hosted training workshops in climate risk assessment, gender analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) for over 20 research teams in 2009, including those approved under our 2008 call on Climate, Water, and Health research and our newest urban research projects. A second training workshop in M&E was also held for our earliest research partners.

Research teams gained further skills and peer support through two capacity building projects. One, led by CIFOR, provides mentoring in PAR; the other, led by the Institute for Development Studies, is helping five East African research teams analyze and link to policy processes. At year's end, teams were developing research-based case studies through both these initiatives.



CCAA Program Officer Evans Kituyi addresses Tanzanian MPs at a climate change sensitization workshop in 2009. Dr. Batilda Buriani, Tanzania's Minister of State for the Environment, is seated on the right. Photo: IDRC

In 2007 we funded the African Climate Change Fellowships Program (ACCFP) to build Africa's policy, teaching and research capacity on adaptation. Of 45 fellows selected in 2008, 17 completed their research this year, some already making noteworthy contributions to the field. Lessons from the ACCFP are included in the section *CCAA Reflections: Strengthening our approaches to building capacity*.

17 of 45 scholars have now completed their research through the African Climate Change Fellowships Program.

The CCAA project *Knowledge Sharing for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa* launched a new network on climate change and adaptation in May 2009. In its first year, AfricaAdapt gained 550 members, 80% based in Africa. In addition to its web platform (www.africa-adapt.net), AfricaAdapt offers print and multi-media resources, small grants for testing new means of knowledge sharing, and opportunities for face-to-face networking on adaptation. More than 50 adaptation initiatives have contributed to AfricaAdapt.



CCAA staff, supported research teams and experts in climate forecasting met in Nairobi in March 2010 for the program's first learning forum.
 Photo: IDRC/M. O'Neill

In 2009, there were 64 recorded media stories about CCAA and our partners, 60% more than last year. Program activities garnered considerable coverage in Africa and were profiled in leading UK and Canadian news sources.

Our first learning forum focused on how seasonal forecasting can better serve vulnerable groups.

At year's end, we hosted the first in a series of learning forums that aim to link and synthesize knowledge from groups of research projects addressing a common issue. In March 2010, eight research teams and climate information experts discussed the use of seasonal forecasting to increase resilience to climate change. Papers resulting from these forums will contribute to a growing body of knowledge on program findings and experience.

Outcomes

Examples of progress in each of our four outcome areas are given in *Stories from the Field*:

- ***Reducing vulnerability among pastoralists in Northern Kenya*** examines how climate data analysis, surveys and focus

groups led by the NGO Practical Action are helping to pinpoint biophysical and social vulnerabilities to climate change among pastoralist communities in Turkana and Mandera.

- ***Balancing competing water needs in Morocco's Saiss basin*** presents the efforts of Morocco's Al Akhawayn University to link local communities with basin management authorities to manage water demand as resources are threatened by growth and climate change.
- ***Protecting smallholders' food security by improving soils*** relates how farmers and researchers led by the University of Zimbabwe have tested soil fertility management options to protect livelihoods and food security in variable conditions.
- ***Adapting fishing policies to address climate change in West Africa*** illustrates how ENDA is bringing climate change analysis and new vigour to cross-border policy discussions in coastal West Africa that aim to sustain fisheries.

Our investments

This year we invested almost CAD 6 million (GBP 3.7 million) in research and capacity building. We report on our allocations in the *Investments* section. There you will find a financial summary for the year, complemented by graphs showing the distribution of our projects, and major milestones in the program's first four years.