

CCAA: CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF INCREASED COPING STRATEGIES

In practical terms, the CCAA expects to improve coping mechanisms of the most vulnerable populations in Africa through the following programme outcomes:

A. Improved ability to cope with extreme events

1. Settlements and infrastructure

- Towns grow in a planned manner, avoiding flood-prone areas

Appropriate priorities and practices in infrastructure and urban development are adopted:

- Innovative building designs, improved/traditional housing material and techniques
- Effective use of information for planning, such as secure access to land and water

2. Food security

- Less hunger from repeated droughts

Food production techniques are improved, with the implementation of adaptive agricultural strategies, such as:

- Improved crop reliability through genetic diversification (more tolerant, high yielding, drought-resistant, early maturing, and disease – and pest-tolerant grains)
- More effective/resilient pest and weed control
- More appropriate execution times of farming operations
- Improved and diversified community-managed food storage location and techniques
- Preservation of productive assets (seed banks, breeding livestock, tools and land)
- Voluntary food rationing and availability of micro-insurance

3. Natural resource management and biodiversity

- The quality of natural resources (soil, forest, etc.) are enhanced

Resilience of the local environmental is improved through:

- Ecosystem-based management and conservation, such as soil conservation practices, desalinization techniques, reforestation and grassland management
- Finance alternative sources of energy (reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduced time to collect fuelwood from natural forests by children and women, reduce government spending on imported oil)

4. Water resources

- Community-owned standpipes and wells have alternative sources of water

Reduced vulnerability to drought and climate-induced water shortages through:

- Rainwater harvesting, greywater use, water conservation and other innovative water-use strategies of artificial systems that improve water treatment and availability
- Water demand management – in industry, settlements, and agriculture
- Shared basin management (negotiations on water-sharing arrangements)
- Flood control management: coastal defence facilities and use of local vegetation as buffer (e.g. mangrove protection belts)

5. Human health

- Better understanding of changing disease patterns brings better health care

Improved preparation and anticipation of disease epidemiologies, including:

- Readiness of health system and emergency response
- Cross-boundary cooperation to respond to outbreaks of diseases (solution-sharing)

6. Community linkages

- People are engaged in identifying risks and developing effective responses

This area of outcomes is at the basis of the previous five and encompasses a number of human-related results:

- Increased support for local adaptation initiatives through decentralised structures:
 - Added support for new and traditional means of enhancing livelihood resilience
 - Strengthened community- and ecosystem-based management and networks
 - Coordinated with a wide range of actors to achieve effective dialogue¹
 - 'Resource pooling' systems (soil and water conservation, seed banks)
 - Strengthened role of women (land ownership, credit, production assets)
- Diversified income sources and asset accumulation:
 - Incorporation of non-farm components
 - Ability to migrate or commute to non-farm activities outside of affected area
 - Build up of seed reserves and investment in cattle
- Improved communications and information dissemination:
 - Reinforced informal interaction between communities with similar problems to work on problem-solving and coping mechanisms
 - Make information available in practical terms for farmers and pastoralists
 - Inform actors of successful coping strategies through effective communication
 - Effective flow of information, goods and services in and out of affected areas
- Effective response policies are in place, such as:
 - Encourage links between environmental degradation and economic policy
 - Minimise conflicting trade and agricultural policies
 - Improve international legislation on environmental refugees and migratory populations

B. More adequate response capacity

- People living in flooding-prone areas get adequate warning and can evacuate/respond

- Effective early warning systems and improved weather forecasting
- Effective infrastructure (evacuation roads, emergency housing and water supplies)
- Climate change workshops on theory and background that include: Community training in disaster response, incentives of strengthened family structure and create dynamic civil society /strong local governments

C. Improved ability to rebuild

- The poor have greater access to financial services and resources to rebuild their lives after disasters

- Innovative micro- insurance schemes
- Availability of credit, access to the credit market, especially for women
- Integration of both relief and development interventions
- In general: ensured access to resources, income generation activities, greater equity between genders and social groups, and an increase in the capacity of the poor to participate in local politics and actions.

¹ "Dialogue is necessary, because isolated local initiatives and partial government actions will not be able to address the multiple factors that create risk in relation to climate change" (Proceedings of the International Conference on Adaptation to Climate Variability and Change, New Delhi, Jan 2006: ISET, Winrock International, p284).