

Integrating Adaptation into Local Planning in Ghana

Experiences from Community
Land Use Responses to Climate
Change project

By

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Development Planning process in Ghana

- Development of national level development framework every four years guided by policy direction of ruling government
- District level plans informed by national level framework
- Weak link between district level plans and national level framework
- Even though Ghana is on course to achieve MDG 1 halving poverty by 2015, there are wide disparities between region and different segments of society

What is the project trying to do?

- Three key elements:
 - Identify the most vulnerable groups within communities
 - Empower them to engage in local planning processes
 - Build capacity of local stakeholders to integrate climate change adaptation into planning

Why

- Plans at district and national level do not reflect priorities of vulnerable
 - weak capacity of Stakeholders; govt and NGO, poor and vulnerable to articulate issues
 - Preference of politicians for infrastructure development
 - National level prioritization too restrictive , guidelines do not allow flexibility at district and community level
 - No mechanism for holding local government leaders accountable

Purpose

- The purpose of the Community Action Planning process is to empower communities and vulnerable groups, in a participatory way and within the planning process of the District Assembly, to plan and initiate strategies that will enhance their resilience to climate change.
- The process has benefitted from using CARE's CVCA tool (Hazard Mapping, Seasonal Calendar, Historical Timeline, Vulnerability Matrix)

Seasonal Calendar

	<div>dry</div> <div>rainy</div>											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
ploughing + sowing				X	X	X						
early millet harvest							X	X	X			
harvest (late mil. sorgh. etc.)											X	X
hot period	X	X	X									
lack of food	X	X	X	X	X	X						
malaria, cholera, diarrhoea										X	X	
pests				X	X	X						
hunger period				X	X							
festival			Bansi ♀							X	X	X

Vulnerability matrix

Kansa ♀ animals	human disease	animal disease	drought	floods	erratic rain
animals	2	3	3	3	1 (12)
food reserves	3	3	2	3	3 (14)
well-fed ♀ + children	3	3	3	2	2 (13)
kids going to school (clothes, shoes)	3	2	2	3	1 (11)
♀ engaged in income gen	3 (14)	2 (13)	1 (11)	2 (13)	2 (9)

Underlying principles

- Community-driven devt (CDD) approach which puts communities at the centre and build their capacity to manage their devt plans.
- Increase the capacity of sub-district structures to support the development process.
- Strengthen the interface between communities and their local governments.
- Use an appreciative approach that builds on existing resources and strengths.
- Encourage innovation and use of indigenous knowledge.
- Contribute to the sustainability of the environment

Key strategies of integrating CBA into District and National level planning

- Lobbying for the inclusion of adaptation issues into national level planning priorities and frame work
- Composition of facilitating teams should include the district planning officers and other key local government personnel
- Facilitators trained on:
 - Priorities of the district assemblies
 - the use of the frame work that fits the district level plans
 - Tools that ensure effective participation of the vulnerable

Community planning process

- Community situational analysis to identify community resources
- Community vulnerability analysis by identifying the various hazards (floods , drought, diseases, erratic rain fall, and how various groups respond in the event of such hazards.
- Those most affected by the hazards are identified included poor women, female headed households, Persons With Disability, aged, settlers, youth etc.
- Planning done with each of these focus groups
 - Visioning and agreeing on key issues; i.e. developing visions, goals and strategies
 - Action planning
 - Compilation
 - Validation







Thank You for Your Attention