



# Strategies

*The CCAA program aims to improve the capacity of African countries to adapt to climate change in ways that benefit the most vulnerable. To achieve our aim, the program supports three activity areas or **program strategies**:*

- *Support for participatory action research (PAR)*
- *Education and training*
- *Communications and networking*

This year's key outputs for each strategy area are summarized below.

## **Supporting new research**

Given the rapid urbanization of Africa and the weaknesses in city infrastructure and governance, CCAA launched a call, in September 2008, for research to address urban Africa's vulnerability to climate change. Some 83 eligible proposals were reviewed by staff and outside experts for their scientific merit, leadership by African organizations, program objectives, evidence of participatory processes, and demonstrated management capacity. We approved eight new projects in 2009.

Building on lessons learned from our first round of proposal development, capacity building was provided early, once a short list of 10 finalists was identified. An April 2009 workshop covered PAR, social and gender analysis, and monitoring and evaluation. By the time projects were approved, research teams had already begun to strengthen these dimensions of their research plans.



Construction underway in Sao Vicente, Cape Verde. The new housing, shown here, lies in the path of run off from the surrounding mountains. This makes it vulnerable to flooding that may increase with climate change. The KSIDS project, approved this year, will look at urban adaptation options in Cape Verde and Sao Tome and Principe. *Photo: IDRC/N. Beaulieu*

The final selection also widened the program's geographic reach. Two new projects involve small island states. One of these is CCAA's first project in Portuguese-speaking Africa. This project, "Building Capacity for Sustainable Responses to Climate Change in Cities of Portuguese-speaking Small Island Developing States – KSIDS", resulted from a training workshop we hosted for lusophone researchers in 2008.

***Eight new projects will extend knowledge on African cities' vulnerabilities to climate change.***

All projects approved in 2009–10 are listed in the *Investments* section.

## Education and training

From the inception of our first projects in 2007, we have supported research teams with capacity building that complements their action research. This includes training in topics core to addressing climate change and adaptation, a mentoring project to strengthen PAR practice, and a project that helps partners strengthen their links to adaptation policy development. CCAA also supports a fellowship program for African scholars and professionals.

### Training workshops

We continued to work this year with strong African training organizations, offering support to more than 20 research teams not involved in earlier training. Among these were projects approved for the Climate, Water and Health research initiative in 2008 and our newest urban research projects. Training was provided in integrated climate risk assessment, gender analysis, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Two M&E workshops held this year introduced partners to a variety of monitoring approaches compatible with PAR. A May 2009 workshop targeted our first cadre of research partners, while a second, held in December 2009, was designed for 23 of our recent projects.

***More than 20 of our newer research partners were trained in risk assessment, gender analysis and M&E.***

Many partners are applying their new skills and insights in the field. Internal evaluation suggests the workshops also provide a valuable opportunity for francophone and anglophone researchers to meet, with participants choosing to learn together rather than in separate language groups. The workshops have also attracted other research stakeholders, including policymakers, researchers, journalists and members of vulnerable communities.

Our training schedule is summarized in a table in the Investments section. Lessons from CCAA's experience with capacity building can be found in two *Reflections* sections: *Strengthening our approaches to building capacity*, and *Providing monitoring and evaluation support for CCAA projects*.

### PAR mentoring

Seven research teams benefited this year from a mentoring project led by CIFOR that we approved in 2008. The aim is to strengthen the practice of PAR on adaptation. After an initial planning session in June 2009, mentoring visits and workshops were held in Benin, Burkina Faso, DRC, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Senegal and Zimbabwe, giving tailored support to project teams to strengthen their work with communities at risk. The teams began to develop briefs and case studies capturing their PAR learnings at a final workshop held in Algiers in March 2010. We expect to see this rich body of experience published later in 2010.

### Linking to adaptation policy processes

The project "Linking African researchers with adaptation policy spaces", led by the Institute for Development Studies (IDS), works with five CCAA-supported research teams. It aims to help them identify and contribute relevant research to local policy processes. This year, teams from Kenya, Tanzania and Malawi learned about policy development processes. They are now conducting case studies on policy engagement and using outcome mapping to track changes in policy-making partners. At year's end, eight case studies were underway in the three countries.



**African Climate Change Fellow Arame Tall, hosted at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal, has focused on training Red Cross National Societies in climate change adaptation and early warning.**  
*Photo courtesy of START*

## African Climate Change Fellowships

In 2007, CCAA funded the African Climate Change Fellowships Program (ACCFP) to deepen Africa's capacity in policy, teaching and research on climate change adaptation. Following the selection of 45 fellows from 18 African countries in November 2008, a number of awardees completed and submitted their research this year. Seventeen fellows have now completed their projects. The rest will conclude by September 2010, with final reports submitted as research papers suitable for journal publication. Fellows will share their findings at two ACCFP events planned for next year and final reports will be available on the START website ([www.start.org](http://www.start.org)).

## Communications and networking

To extend knowledge on adaptation in Africa, we share news through our web site, electronic bulletins and media outreach. We fund networks and conferences that extend adaptation knowledge, aiming to reach regional decision-makers, adaptation researchers and vulnerable communities.

## Knowledge sharing network

The AfricaAdapt network ([www.africa-adapt.net](http://www.africa-adapt.net)) was launched in May 2009. This initiative stems from the project "Knowledge Sharing for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa" funded by CCAA in 2008. In less than a year, AfricaAdapt's web site has received 17 000 visits and gained 550 members, 80% based in Africa. The web platform provides information on more than 50 adaptation projects in text, audio and video formats. A new magazine on adaptation research – *JotoAfrika* – was also launched in coordination with AfricaAdapt.

***In its first year, AfricaAdapt gained 550 members, 80% in Africa.***

In November 2009, AfricaAdapt awarded nine small grants to support activities – such as oral testimonials, rural radio and community-led surveys and video – that offer new ways to engage hard-to-reach African communities. The network also hosts small scale events to link researchers and policymakers, and hosts topical seminars at major conferences.



**AfricaAdapt's Innovation Fund is helping communities find new ways to communicate about climate change. In the biggest slums of Accra, People's Dialogue Ghana and Ghana Federation of the Urban Poor are reaching out to women merchants, savings groups, fishmongers, and youth to raise awareness about climate change and a host of environmental problems plaguing these informal settlements.**

**This year, nine small grants were awarded through the CCAA-supported AfricaAdapt Innovation Fund.**

*Photo courtesy of People's Dialogue on Human Settlements.*

In 2010, IDS will hand over coordination of the network to Dakar-based Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA) as part of the original plan to transfer leadership of this knowledge sharing project to African partners.

## Media coverage

There were 64 media stories about CCAA and supported research teams this year, 60% more than last year. Program activities garnered considerable coverage in Africa and were profiled in leading UK and Canadian news sources. Research on enhancing malaria prediction in Kenya and managing water risk in South Africa was featured in



Canada's *Globe and Mail* prior to the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 15). Britain's *The Independent* profiled research on indigenous weather forecasting in Kenya and drought-tolerant rooibos tea in South Africa. CCAA's program manager was featured on Radio Canada and in *The Hill Times* and *La Presse*. A program officer was interviewed by Kenya's *Nation TV* at COP 15.

**Media coverage rose by 60%, with 64 stories on CCAA research.**

### Outreach events

This year, we reached out to media and regional stakeholders through thematic roundtables organized alongside regional and international events. We also funded a third round of conference support to increase African participation in national, regional and international events on adaptation. We received more than 100 applications for support this year and 12 events were selected.

At our May 2009 Advisory Board meeting in Agadir, Morocco's *Institut National de la recherche agronomique* co-hosted a roundtable on the role of PAR in supporting climate change adaptation in Morocco. The event brought together four CCAA-supported research teams, with officials and community representatives. DFID's chief science advisor highlighted the value of participatory methods in involving communities directly in testing adaptation approaches. The event was covered in Morocco's *Aujourd'hui* and *Libération* newspapers.

In November 2009, we hosted a roundtable in Cape Town on the challenges South African water users face because of climate change. Researchers led by the University of the Free State, and a representative of the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry, addressed the risks for agriculture and water resources in South Africa. The head of environmental policy and strategy in Cape Town talked about the risks of flooding and sea-level rise. Five African



CCAA staff and partners at COP 15 in Copenhagen. Above: Researchers Boniface Mbilinyi (Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania), Said Hounkponou (IDID-ONG, Benin), and Paul Mapfumo (University of Zimbabwe) address a panel on climate information needs for humanitarian response and rural livelihoods. Inset: Said Hounkponou with CCAA Research Officer Alioune Kaere at the IDRC information booth. Photos: IDRC/H. Braun



Climate Change fellows based at the University of Cape Town presented their research. The event was covered by *Sci.Dev.net*.

Our staff and partners also participated actively in the UN Climate Change Conference, as we have each year. Research partners from Benin, Zimbabwe and Tanzania presented in December 2009 in Copenhagen at a session on climate information for improved humanitarian response and rural livelihoods organized jointly with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre. Partners also took part in Agriculture and Rural Development Day discussions on the topic "Strategies and responses for adaptation of farmers and food systems" hosted by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the University of Copenhagen.