



Strategies

IDRC / Thomas Omondi

The Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (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 has supported three mutually reinforcing core activity areas or **program strategies**:

- support for participatory action research (PAR)
- education and training
- communications and networking

We measure the success of our strategies by monitoring **outputs**, such as number and range of projects supported, range and quality of training provided, and networks and communication channels created. We also look ahead to **outcomes** resulting from these strategies by monitoring the progress of supported projects. (See *Stories from the field* for case studies illustrating progress in each of our four outcome areas.)

As the program entered its fifth year in April 2010, most funding for new research had ended. By agreement between IDRC and the Department for International Development (DFID), the program was extended to March 31, 2012. The focus is on devolution of programming activities and synthesis and dissemination of research to end-users.

Devolving adaptation support to African leadership

As envisioned from its launch in 2006, shifting leadership of programming activities to strong African institutions is an important part of CCAA's legacy. The extension agreed between DFID and IDRC in September 2010 focuses on devolving two major strands of the CCAA program: the African Climate Change Fellowship Program and the AfricaAdapt knowledge sharing network. In both projects, a strategy for transferring leadership from northern institutions to African partners was included in the first phase. With the program extension, the projects received renewed support so they could make lasting contributions to Africa's adaptation capacity and knowledge base.

Shifting leadership of programming activities to strong African institutions is an important part of CCAA's legacy.

CCAA's legacy will also be seen in the continued support for African climate change adaptation by both IDRC and DFID. Building on the CCAA experience, IDRC this year launched the African Adaptation Research Centres (AARC) to support leadership and excellence on climate change research. This initiative will strengthen the capacity of seven African institutions, four of which are CCAA partners. DFID anticipates



ACCFP Host Supervisor Julius Arinaitwe of Birdlife International and Fellow David Kuria of Kenya proudly display David's graduation certificate. *Photo courtesy of START International*

major new investments in research on adaptation, low carbon energy, water security, green growth, and climate change and agriculture. Ongoing support includes programs on climate science, ecosystem services, and modelling. Research currently funded by DFID is expected to shed light on the potential impacts of climate change on agriculture and trade in sub-Saharan Africa.

Supporting new projects

CCAA's last call for research was in September 2008. Eight new projects on Africa's urban vulnerability to climate change were funded in 2009 as a result. The African Climate Change Fellowships Program (ACCFP) and the AfricaAdapt knowledge sharing network received two additional years of support to build on the successes seen in their first phases.

By March 31, 2011, 11 CCAA projects had closed. These included a project that developed coastal adaptation strategies for Morocco's northern coastal governorates, one that fine-tuned a malarial outbreak prediction model now being adopted by health officials in Kenya's highland districts, and another that helped secure national funding to sustain ongoing links between meteorological service providers and traditional weather forecasters in western Kenya. Results of these projects are found in IDRC's digital library and on our website.

Education and training

Over the program's first four years, we supported training workshops for researchers — in French and English — on PAR methods, climate risk assessment, social and gender analysis, research to policy links, and monitoring and evaluating research outcomes.

This year, the newest cadre of CCAA-supported researchers, focusing on urban vulnerability to climate change, received training. Nine teams attended a workshop on PAR methods in September 2010 in Accra, Ghana, hosted by the University's Regional Institute of Population Studies (RIPS), which leads a CCAA project on Climate Change and Human Health in Accra. Consistent with our shift toward synthesis and dissemination, we hosted learning forums for CCAA's earlier partners on cross-cutting themes to allow teams to present, share, and

A growing circle of Fellowship



Arame Tall was among some 40 ACCFP Fellows who took part in the June 2010 Forum on Education, Capacity Building, and Climate Change held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

"Train the next generation of scientists to understand that they also need to be communicators," she recommended, after presenting her research on training Red Cross national groups for climate change adaptation, early warning, and action.

In ACCFP's first phase, African Fellows received 16 policy, 13 doctoral, 13 post-doctoral, and three teaching awards to pursue graduate studies on climate change and adaptation. In all, 45 Fellows from 18 African countries received awards. Several have subsequently received additional scholarships, postings, and the opportunity to organize events to further spread their new expertise. Fourteen peer-reviewed publications have resulted so far from their work.

In 2010, CCAA funded a second phase of the Fellowships Program, led by the Institute of Resource Assessment at the University of Dar es Salaam.



discuss the wider relevance of their research and identify common findings or issues across projects.

Lessons from CCAA's first learning forum were captured in the paper "Integrating meteorological and indigenous knowledge-based seasonal climate forecasts for the agricultural sector," edited by Gina Ziervogel and Alfred Opere, which we published this year. The paper crystallizes insights arising from eight projects. Key lessons for decision-makers appear in the accompanying policy brief, "Tailoring climate information to user needs." Both are online and were promoted through our bulletin and distributed at COP 16 and other events.

A second learning forum was held in Dakar, Senegal, in October 2010 on "Evaluating the contribution of climate change adaptation to poverty reduction." Participants from 13 CCAA projects discussed the mechanisms through which adaptation initiatives can help reduce vulnerability and improve the livelihoods of the poor. They explored various approaches to evaluating adaptation processes. Documents prepared for the forum, and a report on its outcomes, are available online.

Communications and networking

We actively share programming news and adaptation knowledge through our website and e-bulletin updates, media outreach, and hosting events. We also fund events and networks aimed at reaching regional decision-makers, adaptation researchers, and vulnerable communities. This year, we provided small supplementary grants to research teams for additional efforts to package and share their results with those who can benefit most from them.

Helping researchers reach end users

We established a support fund for knowledge sharing, which has been accessed by research teams working with pastoralists in northern Kenya, Senegalese farming communities, traditional forecasters in Kenya, rural producers in Benin, and community-based groups and farmers' associations in West Africa. The funds will be used to develop communication materials and approaches, allowing teams to share findings in forms best suited to users' needs.



Fatima Denton shakes hands with Senegal's Minister of Environment, Djibo Leity Ka, at an international conference hosted in July 2010 by the Centre de Suivi Ecologique, leader of the CCAA-supported Infoclim project. *Photo courtesy of CSE*

As highlighted in last year's report, our interactions with African regional policy bodies suggested areas in which CCAA could support deeper integration of climate change issues in important policy frameworks. We provided a grant this year to strengthen the climate change units of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC). This grant will help them respond to the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) Secretariat's call to champion the implementation of a comprehensive framework of African climate change programs. The activities focus mainly on technical and organizational capacity, and assist the LVBC and SADC to develop a climate change strategy and action plan for their regions.

CCAA is helping African regional institutions to integrate climate change into policy frameworks.

We granted funding through the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to support the Climate Change and Policy Option chapters of the Third Africa Environment Outlook. The first two were used extensively by AMCEN and other African scholars, policymakers, and practitioners. The Third Outlook focuses on environment and health linkages. The steering committee, chaired by UNEP, has expanded to

include representatives of the CCAA program and the World Health Organization.

Conferences and events

Given the profile of and high-level attendees at each year's UN Climate Change Conference, these meetings afford the program and its partners a unique opportunity for networking. At the 16th Conference of Parties, held this year in Cancun, Mexico, CCAA staff and researchers from teams in Kenya, Senegal, and Sudan, and from AfricaAdapt, participated in three main events: an official side event, the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's Agriculture and Rural Development Days, and the International Institute for Environment and Development's Climate and Development Days.

In July 2010, Senegal's Minister of State for the Environment and Natural Protection, M. Djibo Leity Ka, presided over an international conference hosted by the Centre de Suivi Ecologique, leader of the CCAA-supported project Infoclim: Platform for Helping Vulnerable Communities Adapt to Climate Change. The conference gathered over 200 participants from across Africa, North America, Asia, and Europe to discuss how adaptation knowledge can better reach and serve at-risk communities. The conference attracted researchers, members of Senegal's national climate change committee, local decision-makers from Infoclim project sites in Thiès, and representatives of decentralized state services.

At year's end, AfricaAdapt Symposium 2011 — the network's first continent-wide gathering — was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It assembled nearly 200 researchers, activists, community representatives, international donors, and government ministers from 23 African nations to discuss the impact of climate change on Africa and what communities are doing to adapt. A number of CCAA partners and ACCFP Fellows presented research findings.



Moussa Na Abou Mamouida and Blane Harvey of AfricaAdapt introducing the network's Knowledge Sharing Innovation Fund at COP 16 in Cancun. *Photo courtesy of AfricaAdapt*

Web and media

CCAA web pages on IDRC's site (www.idrc.ca/ccaa) remain key to sharing program news, information, and results. Online material is further promoted through our quarterly bulletins, which reach over 2,400 subscribers, and shared with journalists.

A new IDRC website was launched in December 2010 to streamline content and improve functionality. Visitors now find an impressive number of CCAA results and publications emanating from supported research.

We captured 44 media hits this year on the CCAA program and its research partners. Highlights included coverage of research on Morocco's coastal vulnerability in the France 5 television series *Sale temps pour la planète*; a Reuters article on sea level rise in the Nile Delta that quoted CCAA partners; and articles in the East African *Standard* and UK *Independent* on Kenya Medical Research Institute's research on climate change and malaria links. Reflecting the global trend in media coverage of climate change, ours dipped this year, from 64 hits in 2009–10.