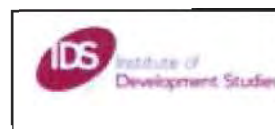




Stories of Change

May 2011



Content

1	Introduction-----	3
2	Stories of Change from Meet and Greet/Symposium participants-----	4
2.1	Ethiopia-----	4
2.2	Kenya-----	8
2.3	Uganda-----	11
3	Stories of Change from CCAA Researchers-----	16
4	Stories of Change from Innovation Fund winners-----	19
4.1	Akameze Tikatya Musana Women Group -----	19
4.2	Lwigule Women Group, Iganga District-----	20
4.3	Bukawa Area Cooperative Enterprise, Iganga District-----	21
4.4	Bakusekamajja Women's Group, Jinja District-----	22
5	Annex I: Guidelines for interview questions -----	24

1. Introduction

The mission of AfricaAdapt is 'To promote and facilitate knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation in Africa, in particular between African communities, their leaders and researchers, across institutional and language barriers, and in ways that ensure African adaptation knowledge and perspectives inform and shape sub-national, national and international debate'.

The AfricaAdapt Network has carried out a number of knowledge sharing activities in Africa using both online resources and face to face meetings during the first phase of the project. As part of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of AfricaAdapt activities, ICPAC collected stories of change from three countries, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. These were collected from participants who attended AfricaAdapt's meet and greet events, participants from the AfricaAdapt Symposium held in Addis Ababa, CCAA/PAR researchers who are members of AfricaAdapt network and posted resources on AA website, and AfricaAdapt innovation fund winners.

Interviews were conducted from 28 April - 05 May 2011 by teams within each country. The Ethiopia team was composed of Mr. Abebe Tadege of ICPAC, Mr. Hailu Wudineh, Editor in Chief of Meteorological News, Mr Tewodros Gebereamlak, Senior Reporter of Neway Street Newspaper, and Mr. Abate Getachew, a meteorologist from NMA. The Uganda team was composed of Cromwel Lukorito, a researcher at IGAD Climate prediction and Applications centre (ICPAC), Patrick Luganda, Farmers Media Link, Tanywa, Uganda Meteorological Agency, and Richard Bwayo, Uganda Broadcasting Corporation. The Kenya team was composed of Dr Gilber Ouma from ICPAC and University of Nairobi, Dr. Maria Onyango of Maseno University, Mr. Walter Nganyi, and Mr. Simon Achola from Kenya Broadcasting Corporation.

Interviews were held with 12 Meet and Greet /Symposium participants, 2 CCAA/PAR researchers and 4 women groups which benefited from the Innovation Fund project in Uganda titled "Climatic Change Awareness Creation and Adaptation for Improved Livelihoods among Rural Communities".

These stories provide compelling evidence that AfricaAdapt is making a meaningful contribution on the ground towards solving the challenge of climate change in Africa. Many of the interviewees also made recommendations to improve the service of AfricaAdapt, which we will look to implement and build upon as the network moves into Phase 2 of its activities.

2. Stories of Change from participants of Meet and Greet events and the AfricaAdapt Symposium

2.1 Ethiopia

Mr. Workneh Degefu, President of Met Society of Ethiopia

The first person we interviewed was Mr Workneh Degefu. Mr Degefu was a participant in AdaptAfrica's Meet and Greet in Ethiopia, the AgKnowledge Share Fair and the AfricaAdapt Climate Symposium 2011, which were held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Mr Workneh Degfu was previously a WMO regional director for Africa. Although he has retired from



Mr. Workneh Degefu

WMO, he now leads the Ethiopian Meteorological Society that promotes research activities and advocacy in meteorological issues. He became aware about AfricaAdapt Network while he was attending one of the Climate Outlook Forums (COFs) a few years ago in Kenya. He registered with AfricaAdapt on behalf of the Society he is leading. He was invited to attend various face to face events which were conducted here in Ethiopia. He is also a frequent visitor of the AdaptAfrica website.

On a Meet and Greet Forum held in Addis he made a presentation on what the Meteorological Society of Ethiopia is doing in Ethiopia. According to Mr. Degefu, the Ethiopia Meteorological Society has established connections with similar thinking individuals and organizations through AfricaAdapt's activities. Mr Degefu says "That Meet and Greet Forum was an eye opener for our Society to build contacts with institutions and individuals to work together. Especially the presentation made by Mr. Peter Ballantyne, knowledge manager of ILRI, regarding the role of social medias and how they can be made operational has impressed me. They are easy and cost efficient." The Ethiopian Meteorological Society was impressed by such products and he goes onto explain that "we are going to launch our new website soon which makes use of Web 2 technologies".

Mr Degefu also benefited receiving the policy brief publication 'Jotoafrika' which is published in Kenya by Arid Lands Information Network (ALIN) in collaboration with AfricaAdapt and other partners. Jotoafrika's target audience are policy makers. According to Mr Degefu, "I think there is no such kind of publication in Ethiopia, and we want to publish publications like Jotoafrika here in Ethiopia for the Ethiopian policy makers in the local language very soon". The packaging of information and knowledge such as that of Jotoafrika is the most significant change identified by him.

" 'Jotoafrika' like publications will be produced soon here in Ethiopia" Workneh Degefu,

Mr. Degfu believed that climate scientists are neglected in climate change issues, and he recommends AfricaAdapt seek to involve climate scientists further in the debate of climate change.

Mr. Gebru Jember, program Officer, Climate Change Forum - Ethiopia

Mr. Gebru Jember works as a program officer for the Climate Change Forum, a local NGO based in Ethiopia. We interviewed him at his office situated in the center of Addis called Cazanchiz.



Mr. Gebru Jember

Gebru remembers how a friend of his invited him to be a member of the AfricaAdapt network, and he was very interested in the idea so immediately become a member. Since then, he frequently visits the website of AfricaAdapt, and has attended different face to face events organized here in Ethiopia, including the meet and greets and the AfricaAdapt Symposium.

Gebru has benefited from AfricaAdapt in a number of ways. He frequently visits the website and he gets new ideas posted from network members. This helps keep himself updated in what is

happening in the region on climate change issues. He has also built good relationships with people and institutions working on climate change issues in different thematic areas, which helps greatly with his job. Gebru explains "It is in these kind of events that all actors can discuss who is doing what, whatever you have or need. Unless you know where you can find it, it will be difficult. Now for example if my organization plans a workshop and I need some presentations, I can easily get it done because I have good connections. Thanks to the relationships built through the AfricaAdapt network!"

"AfricaAdapt should also include mitigation in its activity!" Mr. Gebru Jember,

He would like to see "infrastructure and climate change" as one of the thematic areas in the AfricaAdapt website in phase 2. With a big smile he also comments "I am not sure whether you may need to change your name. But I think AdaptAfrica has to work on mitigation as well, because in the future the climate change funding will be fifty percent for adaptation and fifty percent for mitigation".

Mr. Hailu Wudineh, Director of Public Relations and Communications Affairs Directorate NMA

Mr. Hailu Wudineh is editor in chief of Meteorological News magazine, and Director of Public Relations and Communications Affairs Directorate of National Meteorological Agency (NMA). His department handles the communication and media relation activities of NMA. He is also a member of the Climate and Environment Journalists' Association in Ethiopia. We interviewed him in his office at NMA headquarters in Addis.



Mr. Hailu Wudineh

Hailu became a member of the AfricaAdapt network after he learned about the network at a Climate Outlook Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya.

He regularly visits the AfricaAdapt Website, and receives emails of news which are useful for climate communicators.

As a member of the AfricaAdapt network he got the opportunity to attend the Meet and Greet Forum and the AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Hailu said "As a climate communicator I write climate related articles, interviews, and so on. In this regard the information that I obtained from the AfricaAdapt website gives me a lot of insight. For example, I didn't fully understand the relationship between gender and climate change. So I used your theme-based resources on gender and climate change for my work". He explained that the information gathered from the AfricaAdapt platform gives him confidence in communicating climate related issues.

He was impressed by the presentation made on the role of Social Media at the meet and greet forum, and learned the potential of social media in sharing information and knowledge. He started tweeting, using facebook and blogging as a result of the capacity building at the Meet and Greets. The most significant change for Hailu is the relationships created among multidisciplinary professionals. He said "My business is writing climate related stories... so the resources of AfricaAdapt helped me a lot. Thanks to the relationship built!"

"My business is climate related story writing ... The resources of AfricaAdapt have helped me a lot in this regard." Hailu Wudineh,

Finally Hailu said "...someone said knowledge has to be created, shared and used... and the cycle goes on. What I have seen at these face to face events and online resources is that the knowledge is there and it is up to us to use it. So I want AfricaAdapt to keep on sending email updates on calls for papers, innovation fund awards, news etc to its members, and the theme based resources need to be scaled up!"

Mr. Negash Teklu, Executive Director, Consortium of Population Health and Environment (PHE)

We interviewed Mr. Negash Teklu, Executive Director of Consortium of Population Health and Environment (PHE), in his office located at Bole in Addis Ababa. PHE is an umbrella organization for 48 member institutions. Its area of focus is climate change, gender and integration of population.



Mr. Negash Teklu

Negash got in touch with the AfricaAdapt network while he was attending the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) meeting held in Copenhagen, Denmark. In one of the side events he met a member of the AfricaAdapt team who invited him to become a member which he duly accepted.

He enjoys all the resources of AfricaAdapt, both the online and face to face events. The most significant change for him is the relationships he

has built.
Negash said
"the

connections I have built is the most significant change I have experienced ... it can't be expressed in monetary terms".

"The connections I have built is the most significant change I have experienced ... it can't be expressed in monetary terms!"

Dr. Mekuria Argaw, Lecturer at the Natural and Environmental Science program of the Addis Ababa University (AAU)

Dr. Mekuria is a lecturer at the Natural and Environmental Science program of the Addis Ababa University. Just like any academic institution, his major activity is research and education.

He was introduced to AfricaAdapt by the meet and greet meeting held in Addis Ababa in 2009. He was invited to attend by a colleague, and once there he received an official invitation and became a



Dr. Mekuria Argaw

member of AfricaAdapt. Since then he has been in the email list of AfricaAdapt, receiving emails such as calls for proposals and email exchanges among members of the AfricaAdapt network.

Dr. Mekuria disclosed that he has benefited out of the AfricaAdapt activities, with the networking aspect a big benefit for him. He says "AfricaAdapt has enabled me to connect with people in other African countries and exchanged information and knowledge, particularly on adaptation issues."

In addition to this, AfricaAdapt has given him the opportunity to "learn more about adaptation activities in Africa and the role of local knowledge in climate change adaptation. I have referred to a number of documents from the online sources of AfricaAdapt, and I think AfricaAdapt's online resources are one of the richest sources

when it comes to information regarding adaptation issues in Africa"

He established a link between AfricaAdapt and his institution. As a result some students of the Addis Ababa University have also become members of the AfricaAdapt network. The most significant change for him is using online resources of AfricaAdapt for the Africa "I use it to prepare lecture notes and I refer to the website with my students to encourage them to download and use it for their thesis."

"...Africa Adapt online resources are one of the richest sources when it comes to information regarding Adaptation issues in Africa. I use these resources for preparing lecture for my students..."

Dr. Mekuria Argaw

Mr. Peter Ballantyne Head, Knowledge Management and Information Services, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)

Mr. Peter Ballantyne is the head of Knowledge Management and Information Services of the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI). His main job is to ensure that the knowledge produced by ILRI is communicated, shared and put to use by the people ILRI work with.

His first contact with the AfricaAdapt was an email introduction from an IDS researcher, which led to his excellent presentation on social media tools at AfricaAdapt's Meet and Greet Forum held in Addis Ababa. This helped to enhance the relationship between AdaptAfrica and ILRI, and AfricaAdapt members in Kenya also benefited from the training on local content and research communication that was organized by ILRI in Nairobi in 2010. AfricaAdapt also participated in the AgKnowledge Sharefair Africa, which was organized by ILRI. In this event AfricaAdapt led the thematic area on climate change.



Mr. Peter Ballantyne

Connecting with the wider network is one of the main benefits that Peter has experienced. According to Peter, "The main thing is you have the website and the email, and one finds out what is going on. What was interesting for us was that as we were organizing a big knowledge sharing event last October here on ILRI's Campus, AfricaAdapt was our partner. By getting involved with the Meet and Greet we come in contact with the Ethiopian members and the wider AfricaAdapt network"

For Peter the most significant change has been from the role AfricaAdapt played in the organisation of the Sharefair event in Ethiopia. He explains "There were other international organizations who wanted to organize but we said no! Let Africa organize it for Africa, and AfricaAdapt organized the climate change theme successfully. That's the most significant change. This coming September there will be another Sharefair in Rome, and they would like to follow the same model. I think it is because of the success of AfricaAdapt."

"In a big international Sharefare event here in Ethiopia, AfricaAdapt has brought the experience 'Africa organize for Africa.' In the coming September there will be a Sharefare in Rome too and they would like to follow the same model. I think it is because of the success of AdaptAfrica" Peter

Ballantyne

Finally Peter recommends AfricaAdapt keep the focus in Africa and not become too caught up in the bigger international climate conversations. He also wants AfricaAdapt to keep the face to face events for its second phase, in addition to the virtual ones.

Face to face events are also a good opportunity to collect video testimonies from members about how AfricaAdapt has helped them in their work.

2.2 Kenya

Dr. Barrack Okoba, Kenya agricultural Research Institute (KARI)

The team met Dr. Barrack Okoba, the National Research coordinator of KARI, at the National Agricultural Research Laboratories, Kabete in Nairobi. He is in charge of the Land and Water Management, and Conservation Agriculture Programmes at national level.

Dr. Okoba said "The programmes at KARI are aimed at introducing farmers to practices that could enable them adapt to climate change, as well as ensure soil productivity improvement. The research

undertaken on soil and water management focuses on making farmers adapt to climate change and become food secure in the face of the increasing climate shocks”.



Dr. Barrack Okoba

With regard to establishing his connection with AfricaAdapt, Dr. Okoba said “I got to know of AfricaAdapt in 2009 during a Meet and Greet meeting I attended at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), after which I became a member of the platform. In 2011, I was invited to a Symposium organized by AfricaAdapt in Ethiopia to share some knowledge and information gained in our research on climate change adaptation funded by the World Bank”.

As a new member of AfricaAdapt, Dr. Okoba said “For the short time I have been able to learn about many issues involving climate change across Africa through the platform website, the Meet and Greet Forum, and the Climate Change Symposium. I have gained free access to climate change adaptation papers posted on the AfricaAdapt website. Through the platform activities, I have also been able to meet many people and developed links with teams across Africa. As a result of the forums organized by AfricaAdapt I have initiated some collaborations and partnerships. For example, during the Symposium in Addis Ababa, I met Mr. Paul Cowles, the Senior Natural Resources Manager of PACT, located in Washington, USA, who expressed interest in conducting some studies with us here in Kenya. He will be visiting us soon so we can further develop the proposal”.

Dr. Okoba went on to state that “Climate change was never featured anywhere in our deliberations before we got involved with AfricaAdapt. Since we got on board the AfricaAdapt platform, we have strengthened our belief that climate change is real, and gone ahead to mainstream climate change thinking in all aspects of our research in our soil and water management practices in the Arid and semi-Arid Lands (ASALs) where we operate. As a result, we have strengthened the capacity of farmers to engage in climate change adaptation activities following the lessons learnt from what others are doing across Africa. From the lessons learnt from the AfricaAdapt platform, we are now able to share information through print and electronic media to inform people outside villages where we are working”.

Dr. Okoba singled out the most significant change that has taken place in their work as a result of the AfricaAdapt intervention as “a change of mind set regarding climate change issues and enhanced confidence that we can help farmers successfully adapt to climate change”.

Ms. Sarah Murabula, Intern at Kisumu City Council

Ms. Sarah Murabula is a recent graduate of the Department of Environmental Planning and Management, Kenyatta University, Kenya. She is currently an intern at the City Council of Kisumu in the Department of Urban Planning. She is also an active member of a Community Based Organization called Environmental Solutions and Management which deals with raising environmental awareness and capacity building for communities. Among some of the activities they have been involved in include raising awareness about land and soil degradation, and upgrading and

conservation of river basins. Ms. Murabula is twenty five years old and is a registered member of AfricaAdapt. The following is her story told in her own words.

"We are trying to incorporate disaster risk reduction into the planning of the town because there are so many disasters brought about due to the prevailing climatic conditions, and the change in climate



Ms. Sarah Murabula arrack

is affecting so many things that have to do with planning. So we are trying to integrate disaster risk reduction into the planning because climate affects so many planning aspects of buildings. For example, since most trees have been cut down in many places, we find that strong winds have a direct bearing on the safety of buildings and building designs. This is both as a mitigation and adaptation strategy because there are buildings that have been constructed but the new buildings coming up, they have to undergo a certain approval process at the council and these ones have to conform to the new standards that have been set in the by-laws because of the same.

We therefore require up to date scientific information on such matters, and most of the information we get come from research that has been done by experts. We get these from the internet, books and in particular from the AfricaAdapt website since I came to know about the AfricaAdapt network. There are very informative articles posted on this website. I get this and what is relevant to town planning and urban planning, and incorporate the information mostly into the reports and the proposals we make to the Town Planner, and also incorporate it into the by-laws that we are trying to institute.

I came to know about the AfricaAdapt network when there was a call for papers, which was in late 2010. I submitted an abstract which was accepted and I was asked to write a full paper which I presented at the AfricaAdapt Symposium held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in March 2011e, and this is how I came to know about AfricaAdapt network. I am a registered member of AfricaAdapt.

From being a member, first and foremost, I have had the opportunity to network. We network through the website, through social networking websites and through email. I met most of these people during the Symposium and we have kept communication. This has helped me get information on what they are trying to do, and we share ideas on research that brings change.

One of the people I made contact with is Mansour from Senegal. She is a consultant who deals with environmental communication. I have learnt a lot from her about how to disseminate information gathered by researchers. According to her, we researchers tend to get information but the dissemination part of it tends to be difficult. So she takes this information and disseminates it so the common person can use it to bring about change in their day to day activities.

Participating in the Symposium and being part of the AfricaAdapt network has broadened my perspective. I am able to get more information easily than before because here I can find a concentration of papers that are relevant to most of the work I do. This has made it more convenient for me to go online and know that I am searching for a specific thing and be able to find it. It has also given me the ability to follow projects. This is because, in the network you are able to follow projects that are of interest to you and this gives you more information at the click of a button, allowing you to integrate it into whatever work you are doing.

Most of the research on this site is work that is ongoing and current. You therefore don't get out-dated information, and it is information that has been tested for best practice since most papers are those that have been presented elsewhere and given peer-reviews, and their sustainability has been certified so you find that it is easier for you to pick up best practice from the papers.

The most significant change I can talk about is that getting involved in AfricaAdapt has enabled me to get mentors. I have been able to get a mentor who is helping me even as I continue with the new line of work that is research. She has and is teaching me how to go about research work, how to do detailed research and relevant research so I am learning a lot and the information is being made available since all I have to do is call her and I get this information just by asking her. My mentor is Dr. Maria Onyango."

2.3 Uganda

Mr. Enock Nimpamya Biine, Director of Research, Action Coalition on Climate Change (ACCC)

The first meeting took place at the Action Coalition on Climate Change (ACCC) head offices in Kamwokya, based in the suburbs of Kampala. The team met the Director of Research at ACCC, Mr.



Mr. Enock Nimpamya Biine

Enock Nimpamya Biine, who provided vital insights into how the organization has built a relationship with AfricaAdapt over time.

With regards to first finding out about AfricaAdapt, Mr. Nimpamya said "We were connected to AfricaAdapt through a colleague, Dr. Jackson Epheteri of the Zoology Department, Makerere University, who introduced us to the AfricaAdapt website. Thereafter, I started interacting with colleagues working on activities related to climate change in various organizations. We have introduced the website to other NGOs in Uganda, as well as organizations in Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania. We have also discussed the AfricaAdapt website and activities to the Swedish Water Institute, who have been inquiring about possible collaborating partners. Our relationship with the AfricaAdapt platform has added value to the information we are disseminating to our various target groups. We regularly update our information base thanks to the unlimited access to the AfricaAdapt website, and also use it for skills development."

Mr. Nimpamya was quick to express desire for additional training services by AfricaAdapt. He said, "We expect AfricaAdapt to offer training on climate change. Climate change is a new concept that requires capacity building. Already we have used the downloaded materials to empower our staff through knowledge sharing and knowledge acquisition. For example, we have had training on trans-boundary water management of Lake Victoria waters, and others have been trained on basic issues on climate change."

Asked on what else AfricaAdapt could do, Mr. Nimpamya responded, "AfricaAdapt could develop packages for capacity building for specific needs on climate change adaptation and mitigation. For instance, we could do better in our organization if we had a focal point officer on climate change who was trained to better interpret and advise on matters of climate change, enabling better interfacing of the weather/climate forecasting with organizational needs. A bigger collaboration could be enabling members of the AfricaAdapt platform to build a continental advocacy function".

The biggest benefit to his organization has been creating awareness using information from the AfricaAdapt website. Mr. Nimpamya said, “We would want to continue to liaise with the media to inform the common man on the streets on climate matters. In terms of climate change awareness, we have advanced a lot since we began interacting with the AfricaAdapt network. Although we cannot quantify this, we have been using materials from AfricaAdapt to produce radio programs on Radio West and other media houses. Our information has led to increased demand for tree seedlings, but AfricaAdapt should come up with advice on which trees should be planted. People are willing to plant trees but need better information. Planting locally available tree species should be explored”.

Asked to make an observation about the seasons in the localities where his organization operates, Mr. Nimpamya said, “The elders know the seasons but the people in the urban areas do not. The elders, for example, know the signs of the onset of rains. These include certain type of flowers, insects such as grasshoppers and the shedding of tree leaves. We need to capture this knowledge as the old people are dying off, and with them this knowledge will die off and the indicators will disappear”.

At the community level, Mr. Nimpamya observed that their connectivity with AfricaAdapt has led to a change of perception regarding environmental management. Mr. Nimpamya said, “People are now rethinking about how their activities are destroying the environment. Community members who we are working with are demanding that leaders and authorities should conserve the wetlands. For instance, communities were empowered with knowledge to make decisions regarding electing environmentally friendly politicians. Environmental journalists have been trained on reporting about the environment, which has led to responsive journalism on the environment”.

Mr. Nimpamya went on to add that, “the public is now more environmentally responsive, as indicated by their participation in the “Earth Hour” event recently. This was a demonstration of the individual willingness to participate in environmental protection. We have sensitized elders, schools and clubs to demonstrate to others the need to protect the environment. We have also developed a scorecard based on local government action. It is an indicator of the district leadership responsibility towards environment protection. Leaders are now held accountable.

Our awareness raising is at all levels, and includes academics, and it is a broad approach that includes all factors that will influence climate change. Our awareness raising has led to policy makers ensuring that Environmental Impact Assessments are now prepared. Another benefit has been the youth joining the project activities as a result of the awareness created.”

Mr. Nimpamya suggested that AfricaAdapt should shift from the website-based information dissemination and supplement it with other communication channels such as radio, given the low literacy rates and limited access to internet services in the country.

Dr. Evelyn Komutunga, National Agricultural Research Organization (NARO)

The team met Dr. Evelyn Komutunga at the National Agricultural Research Laboratories at Kawanda, to the North of Kampala. She explained how she got involved with the AfricaAdapt program, and how over time the interaction has enabled the work she does on climate change to grow.

Regarding connectivity with AfricaAdapt network, Dr. Komutunga said, "We were already working on adaptation to climate change projects supported by the International Development Research Council (IDRC) when need arose for the establishment of a knowledge sharing platform. The introduction of



Dr. Evelyn Komutunga

the AdaptAfrica platform reduced duplication and encouraged others to share ideas. I was part of the initial think tank that formed the AfricaAdapt program".

With regard to the benefits gained from the AfricaAdapt network, Dr. Komutunga stated that, "There are four things that I consider to have been of great benefit to us. First, the journal has been helpful in making it possible for calls for papers. The small grants offered by AfricaAdapt have enabled messages for people to talk more about climate change. There has also been information accessed from the website and a feedback from any information submitted".

She went on to highlight other benefits as follows: "As a member of AfricaAdapt, I have been able to link up with many people through the website and share information, and the work we are doing on climate change can be put up on the AfricaAdapt website. It is also linked to a wider outreach. On publications, we have already sent our policy abstracts to journals and are looking forward to popularizing our policy work through the AfricaAdapt network. My capacity to put together and write projects has been enhanced because of the partnerships I have developed through the AfricaAdapt network. As a person who deals with research, I have also been able to find other agro-meteorologists in Ethiopia and Kenya as well as Burundi. We have linked with ISAR in Rwanda. In Tanzania, we have been able to get to network with an NGO on climate change issues. We had never known them but got to know them through the AfricaAdapt platform. We have been able to get more in terms of projects and collaboration. We have become more knowledgeable and gained more expertise on climate change issues. Our interface with vulnerable communities has since increased".

"My capacity to put together and write projects has been enhanced because of the partnerships I have developed through the AfricaAdapt network. As a person who deals with research, I have also been able to find other agro-meteorologists in Ethiopia and Kenya as well as Burundi. We have linked with ISAR in Rwanda. In Tanzania, we have been able to get to network with an NGO on climate change issues. We had never known them but got to know them through the AfricaAdapt platform"

Dr. Evelyn Komutunga

Dr. Komutunga indicated that working with communities following lessons learnt from AfricaAdapt has enabled them to establish Climate Change Adaptation Villages. These are one-stop centres demonstrating the impacts and adaptation strategies to climate change. She said "Go to a one-stop shop and you can find demonstrations of water harvesting, soil conservation and the impacts of climate change working with individual farmers. The major impact of our work on climate change has been through working on soil and water management as well as water harvesting in the Pallisa and Iganga districts of Eastern Uganda. We have pasture work involving establishing new pastures,

as well as conserving nutrition. The project is putting money in people's pockets and food on the table".

On gender issues, Dr. Komutunga shared some of the lessons learnt from her climate change adaptation work with communities. She said "In all the trainings, we ensure that gender issues take centre stage. We have noticed that when adaptation projects start making money the men who were not initially participating start coming in. For example, when the women started growing vegetables, the men came after seeing them making money and antagonized them".

Dr. Komutunga suggested that AfricaAdapt should bring on board the small professional networks engaged in climate change issues in order to further strengthen its network. These professionals are steadily growing stronger and could help to substantially grow the AfricaAdapt network.

Mr. David Musoke, Makerere University (School of Public Health)

The team met with Mr. David Musoke, a Lecturer at Makerere University working at the College of Disease Control and Environmental Health. He gave the team insights on how he got to know about AfricaAdapt, the benefits derived and suggestions on how the AfricaAdapt platform could better serve its members.



Mr. David Musoke

On how he came on board the AfricaAdapt network, Mr. Musoke said "I got to know about AfricaAdapt when my Dean, Professor William Bazeyo, told me about opportunities for accessing a small grant which I applied for. Although I did not get the funding, I became a member of AfricaAdapt and I never regretted thereafter. I have continued to receive information from fellow members in the network, and also unlimited access to the AfricaAdapt website. Through the website I have got information on

funding opportunities. I have also met other people in Uganda who are doing climate change work. However, I would have wished to participate more in conferences and meetings locally or regionally. I believe meeting people enables more enlightenment on climate change issues".

Mr. Musoke has benefited quite a lot from being a member of the AfricaAdapt network, both at his work place and outside his university. He said "I have benefited quite a lot, especially, through the use of information from the AfricaAdapt website for literature reviews while writing grant proposals. The information has in addition helped me tremendously in educative materials for my students at the university. I have managed to connect a few friends outside the university to the AfricaAdapt network, especially those with an interest in climate change work. In total I have introduced about 10 people to the AfricaAdapt platform".

With regards to how joining the AfricaAdapt network has benefitted his work, Mr. Musoke said "It has been the access of website information for teaching and for better proposal writing purposes. Public health can benefit from the climate change work. This could be of assistance on adaptation. In addition it has been useful in modelling and predicting future incidents of disease and disease patterns".

Mr. Musoke made various recommendations for improving the services offered by the AfricaAdapt network. He said "There is need for regular meetings of AfricaAdapt members. There should also be monthly information alerts to inform members of new information on the AfricaAdapt website. There is also a need to formalize and strengthen the Uganda AfricaAdapt Chapter."

Mr. Douglas Lugumya- Entebbe District Wildlife Association

The team interviewed Mr. Douglas Lugumya, the Coordinator of the Entebbe District Wildlife Association. On how Mr. Lugumya got connected to AfricaAdapt, he said "I came to know of AfricaAdapt when we met with David Musoke, a Lecturer at Makerere University, School of Public Health, who is also a member of the AfricaAdapt platform. He gave me information on the AfricaAdapt website and I became a member".

Mr. Lugumya indicated that the main objective of their association has been the mobilization of resources for development. He said "With the AfricaAdapt website, we used it to access uploaded reports to broaden our knowledge on issues related to the activities we were engaged in. When we registered with the website, it enabled us to have free unlimited access".

We carry out the work in partnership with the Uganda Wildlife Centre, said Mr. Lugumya. He said "Through networking in collaboration with UNEP, we trained environmental teachers in Uganda at Elsamere Field Study Centre in Naivasha, Kenya. We are interested in networking with others, including the department of Zoology at Makerere University, schools through films, sponsored debates on climate change. We also intend to engage in climate change mitigation activities by planting trees and adaptation to climate change activities through water harvesting".

The major benefit has been the unlimited access of information from the AfricaAdapt website on climate change issues, which has enabled them to carry out sensitization activities in schools on climate change. Mr. Lugumya said "We think that if there was some funding from the AfricaAdapt platform, it could have assisted in improving their programmes. We could also have had country level projects with other members, which could provide an opportunity for members to share their expectations or shortcomings".

Mr. Lugumya went on to say "If these people came together, it could be of great benefit to the people of Uganda. If they are successful, they could have projects within the country through the Ministry of Education, which could increase the visibility of these organizations. It could also create a position for local people to enable networking and regular meetings. For example, there is a meeting planned for June 2011 for the "Teaching Day" which is intended to provide visibility up to individual level, and this workshop will enable the network to start".



Mr. Douglas Lugumya (Right)

On adaptation, a lot of work has to be done if we are to make an impact because it is multi-sectoral, Mr. Lugumya observed. He added "If you have to create awareness, you have to bring a positive approach now. In a way, we have been able to create awareness. We have been able to download the information and share it with others. Also other members have been able to hook into the AfricaAdapt website. The platform has brought us together through the

AfricaAdapt meeting in Uganda and we all know each other now”.

“At an individual level, connectivity with AfricaAdapt has enabled me to do better in my work place”, said Mr. Lugumya. “I have been able to write a proposal for funding of an upcoming meeting to be held at Nkumba University, in Uganda, where many people will come to know about the AfricaAdapt platform. Many people do not know where to access climate change adaptation information. We expect to sensitize 300 to 400 students about climate change. Themes in the AfricaAdapt website are very well written and laid out, especially on water related issues and climate change adaptation.

Connectivity with AfricaAdapt has resulted in many changes in the organization. Mr. Lugumya said “We have been able to pass on well refined, reliable information that makes work easier. We have read a lot of success stories on the website which have inspired the work of the organization. We are now able to make simpler dissemination materials to people at the grassroots, interactive exercises like competitions in schools and provide students with a package of materials for public awareness. We have also established interactivity with the media in our activities”.

Finally, Mr. Lugumya observed that “There is a lot of information that needs to be put in simpler formats so it can be disseminated to the public. Accessibility of information by the public requires it to be in hard copy form for ease of access”.

3. Stories of Change from CCAA/ PAR researchers

Dr. Ayub Macharia, NEMA, Kenya

The team met Dr. Ayub Macharia, Acting Director of the National Environment Management Agency (NEMA) for Kenya in his office in Nairobi. He highlighted the roles and functions of the organization.

He indicated that his organization, being in charge of environmental management in the country, was the principal agency of implementation of all policies regarding the environment on behalf of the Kenyan government. It supervises and coordinates all environmental interventions in the country with a view to ensuring a clean and healthy environment. As a regulator of environmental



Dr. Ayub macharia

quality standards, the agency is also responsible for licensing, inspection and coordination of theme based aspects of the environment such as waste and water among others. It is also responsible for preparing the State Of The Environment report for the country, as well as the National Environmental Action Plans.

With regard to his responsibility and connectivity with Africaadapt, Dr. Macharia said “My major responsibility as an Acting Director General for the agency has been overseeing the operations of the agency for the last eleven months. I got involved with AfricaAdapt

when I was working on a project on ‘enhancing the adaptive capacity of pastoralists to climate variability in Northern Kenya’. I attended a meeting in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania in which the AfricaAdapt initiative was introduced to me. I got interested and became a member. When I begun developing a CCAA/ PAR project, I got more involved in the activities of AfricaAdapt”.

Having joined the AfricaAdapt platform, Dr. Macharia said “We have shared a lot of information with other members of the network through the uploaded results of interviews we have held with the scientists from AfricaAdapt. The platform has also captured our success stories through print and visual information formats and shared it within the network. We have also been able to acquire lots of information from other members of the network through the AfricaAdapt website which has added value to our products. The information on climate change issues has enabled us develop the National Climate Change Response Strategy that was implemented in 2010. Secondly, the information we have received from the AfricaAdapt website on climate change adaptation strategies has enriched our country position paper for international negotiations through the UNFCCC. This information has also enlightened us on how to influence our country to develop climate-smarter projects.

Having joined the network, the AfricaAdapt platform has enabled us to conduct our businesses differently. The enhanced interactivity with AfricaAdapt scientists has enabled us to disseminate information in a simplistic manner that captures the audience target groups of people using cameras and training. We have also gained a lot of confidence in knowledge sharing, and this partnership has enabled us to share information through AfricaAdapt’s YouTube video channel.

The stories learnt and experiences gained while working with the platform have changed our thinking as a regulator in environmental protection to an agent of change. The platform has changed many of our initial perceptions of outcomes, and our monitoring and evaluation activities. We now focus more on the outcomes on the ground, and the use of outcome mapping has been institutionalized in the organization. This has enabled us to engage in several partnerships to encourage people to do what we used to tell them not to do but to enhance compliance to set environmental standards. We have focused more on communities, encouraging them to share their needs with us so that we can facilitate development of awareness materials for communication.

We now take climate change issues more seriously as we endeavour to create awareness on the ground. This has led the organization to allocate more resources for creating awareness in climate change adaptation.

The most significant change that has taken place in our organization following the partnership with the AfricaAdapt platform has been a shift from being just a regulator to being a partner and agent of change at community level. Nowadays, we focus more on making the change happen through outcome mapping approaches.”

Finally, Dr. Macharia made some recommendations for improvements to AfricaAdapt’s services during the second phase. He said “AfricaAdapt should make its website easier to navigate. The platform should deliver quick updates for twitter users, as I find it to be faster following AfricaAdapt on twitter. The platform also needs to create e-mail alerts of new updates to enable members to quickly follow up on issues. Finally, platform members need to be challenged to freely share what they have using simple stories, and not necessarily journal published works.”

Dr. Maria Onyango, Senior Lecturer, Bondo University College of Maseno University, Kenya

Dr. Onyango was a faculty member of Maseno University for fourteen years, where she served in various capacities. She recently moved to the newly established Bondo University College, a

constituent college of Maseno University, where she is now a Senior Lecturer in the School of Business and Legal. Dr. Onyango is a long-term participatory action researcher who has implemented several community projects. One of these is the Nganyi project 'Integrating Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Risk Management to Support Community Based Adaptation', which is posted on AfricaAdapt. The following is Dr. Onyango's story in her own words, briefly summarizing the Nganyi project and talking to us about her connection to AfricaAdapt.



Dr. Maria Onyango

"The Nganyi project was linked to an earlier project that had focused on disaster risk reduction in flood prone areas, which was funded by UNEP. From this earlier project, we learnt a lot of lessons from many local communities who had co-existed with climate and weather changes in the absence of any modern-day scientific inputs. This led us to believe that there must be some value in Indigenous/Local Knowledge that needed documenting. This project focused on Budalang'i and Kanoc communities because of flood risks, and the Nganyi community because of their fame for being associated with rainfall making or prediction.

The Nganyi research project adopted fully participative approaches right from the beginning. It was appreciated that if we were going to get information from communities, we needed to map out who would be the key stakeholders in the project for specific roles that they would be assigned. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre was the coordinating body and the convener of the other stakeholders. We had IDRC and DFID funding the project activities. Since we were concerned with climate issues, Kenya Meteorological Department was included as an organization that generates weather information. We learnt that the Nganyi community have survived on predictions based on flora and fauna that had lived for a long time, so the project brought in the National Museums of Kisumu to fill in the gap of preservation. We also realized that local communities are very resistant to giving away their detailed information, so they needed reassurance that they would not be robbed of their intellectual property, and hence Kenya Industrial Property Institute was brought on board as a strategic partner in the project. Finally we noted that if all the research was done and we wanted sustainability, then there was need for a curriculum for teaching that would capture these issues, so Great Lakes University of Kisumu was brought in with the hope that eventually curricula at different levels of certificate, diploma and maybe degree would be developed. So the selection of stakeholders was very specific. Of course I have mentioned the institutions and organizations but I have not included the other very core institutions that came on board. These were the public universities, because the project needed a lot of scientific research and decoding and demystification, and for that reason we had representative researchers from University of Nairobi, GLUK and initially Masinde Muliro.

We have posted some information about our project on the AfricaAdapt website, but I am hoping that the first official presentation of my knowledge sharing, that is my personal input into this project, would be included in the proceedings of the AfricaAdapt Symposium held in Addis Ababa in March 2011. I have been able to get quite a bit of information particularly pertaining to climate change policies and projects, and concerns from other parts of Africa from the AfricaAdapt website. The knowledge has been very instrumental to me in writing developmental papers, identifying information gaps, and particularly when addressing climate change adaptation through

understanding how communities are structured and issues of access and manpower relationships. I think AfricaAdapt is a very useful platform for exchange of knowledge and networking with other like-minded people because when you search their site you find a lot of people working on similar interests, and therefore one can easily forge collaboration and linkage through the AfricaAdapt website.

I think that it would add value on the slant of emphasis on issues as I see them. The reason being that it is an open platform where people in similar circumstances who have slightly different approaches can compare and contrast their methodologies, and are more likely to come out with better options.

I also like the ease with which one accesses information from the site. There aren't too many of these online regulations such as signing in and it is quite straight forward. You get to the site easily, and when you use the word tree you get the information you want easily. All in all it is very simplified. The information itself is also easily understood because most of it is work that has been reviewed by other scholars, so the quality of is good.

4. Stories of Change from Innovation Fund winners

4.1 Akameze Tikatya Musana Women Group, Jinja District

The team met with the Akameze Tikatya Musana Women Group of Jinja District in southeastern Uganda , and were given insights into the group's activities from the group's coordinator, Mrs. Susan Kiriganga.

Mrs. Kiriganga detailed the initial objectives of the group. "These are to assist each other in times of distress, sensitize other women against HIV /AIDS, poverty eradication, and engage in wealth creation activities. Our group, Akameze Tikatya Musana has 20 members with 3 men and 17 women. We were coached in various drama and songs to raise awareness in four schools in Busedde sub-county, Jinja district".

With regards to knowledge of AfricaAdapt, Mrs. Kiriganga said "There was a lot of sugarcane growing in the area. In May 2009, Dr. Nabirye Harriet introduced us to improved farming methods. Later on Mrs. Concepta Mukasa introduced us to climate change and AfricaAdapt. She also introduced us on raising awareness on climate change through drama. The group was enabled by the innovation fund to carry out various activities, and it was also supplied with music instruments".



Mrs. Susan Kiriganga

Mrs. Kiriganga went on to state "We were mainly taught about the planting of trees and protecting of our environment. In addition to the drama, the money we got from the innovation fund was used to buy agricultural inputs which could resist drought, such as tomatoes, maize,



Akameze Tikatya Musana Women Group on stage

upland rice and cabbages. Some of the money was used for other farm activities. The funds also helped us to set up demonstration gardens to raise the level of awareness on climate change through raising tree nursery seedlings without incurring additional direct costs”.

As a group, Mrs. Kiriganga said “We have changed the way we used to do our cooking activities through use of improved stoves. We have made our husbands more aware of the dangers of environmental destruction.

Both men and women are now planting trees, and they have been mobilized to plant fruits and Musizi, a local hard wood tree species. We have excelled in tree planting in the community. We can confidently do the work and teach others. Members have been encouraged to discuss issues publicly and the group cohesion has been enhanced. Members are able to learn from each other about farming activities and diversification of livelihoods”.

Mrs. Kiriganga highlighted the major challenge facing the group in its endeavour to plant trees. She said “The learning curve is not the same. In addition, some women want to plant trees but men insist that sugarcane is a preferred crop. As such tree planting is limited to the edge of the farm/plot”.

4.2Lwigule Women Group, Iganga District



Mrs. Tapenes Madondo

The team met the Lwigule Women Group of Nakirulwe village of Magogo parish, Iganga District, in southeastern Uganda and interviewed Mrs. Tapenes Madondo, the coordinator of the group. The group was started in 2005 with 25 members comprising of 3 men and 22 women.

Mrs. Madondo said “The main objective of the group was to come together to share knowledge/experiences for handicrafts making, and collective/group farming in order to uplift the development of members. One of the activities of the

group was to start a savings and loan association. We have been able to save 2.245 million Uganda shillings. After introduction to the use of improved farming practices with improved seeds and



Lwigule Women Group on stage

fertilizers, the group activities expanded. Originally, this project was introduced by an agricultural extension officer together with the Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE)”.

Mrs. Tapenensi Madondo went on to say: “They gave us 10kg of improved maize seeds and 50kg of urea. We cultivated and got large amounts of produce.

After this we were introduced to climate change and AfricaAdapt by Mrs. Concepta Mukasa of AUPWAE. Mrs.

Mukasa introduced to us the use of drama and song to create awareness on climate change. We did not just stop at drama but also developed messages and in addition practiced in our homes what we were acting.”

The main challenge facing our group is the limited market for our products. We need education, awareness, visits to increase visibility of the group and its activities, and financial support to diversify our activities to include raising chicken, goats and improved dairy cows, tree seedlings and the establishment of nurseries.

4.3 Bukawa Area Cooperative Enterprise, Iganga District

The team met the Bukawa Area Cooperative Enterprise group and interviewed the group chairman and coordinator, Mr. Edward Kayiira.



Mr. Edward Kayiira

The Group Coordinator explains: “The group was set up as a marketing society where we wanted to uplift crops, especially maize, in the area. We used to bulk together our maize and negotiate with buyers. This gave us higher prices and discouraged middlemen. As a group, coming together has enabled us to market and ensure quality of produce. It has also increased our bargaining power. We could not have gone this far without the input from AfricaAdapt”.

The Association of Uganda Professional Women in Agriculture and Environment (AUPWAE) visited our group to see our development projects, and support us to produce maize with improved seed and fertilizer. We got a bumper harvest. Thereafter, AUPWAE wanted to assist women to cope with climate change through drama and dance in Nakigo Sub County, and got somebody called Noah Bamukyaye to train them.

The drama group came together in 2009 with 35 members. Funds from AfricaAdapt through AUPWAE supported the trainer and coach, as well as transport to enable the group to visit various sites and venues. The trainer had no previous knowledge of climate change. This knowledge was passed on to him by Mrs. Concepta Mukasa and her colleagues. The drama group has visited and performed in various schools in Nakigo Sub County, said Mr. Kayiira.



Mr. Noah Bamukyaye

“We have established linkages beyond the sub county, thereby improving our networks and widening our catchment areas of members”, said Mr. Kayiira. “Bringing people together, makes us have a sense of belonging, of unity and doing things together. The community has also been encouraged to use modern farming methods e.g. using of fertilizer”.

Mr. Kayiira went on to say “The biggest impact of the group has been at the community level through improved livelihoods, family welfare- through poultry and piggery farming and



Bukawa Area Cooperative Enterprise on stage

increased income from knowledge gained through group activities. Also, before intervention of the drama group, health was a big issue. It is now better. We have more protected water sources and more pit latrines have been sunk”.

However, Mr. Kayiira observed “On climate change public awareness, information is lacking on meteorological information. I would like to request AfricaAdapt to facilitate training on environmental issues as well as for setting up of tree nurseries and fruit trees”.

4.4 Bakusekamajja Women’s Group, Jinja District

The team met the Bakusekamajja Women’s Group, of Buwabuzi village located in Jinja district, and interviewed their Publicity Secretary, Mrs. Zaina Kalembe, who highlighted the group’s activities and achievements. The group has 40 members, comprising of 3 men and 37 women.



Mrs. Zaina Kalembe

On how they became connected with AfricaAdapt, Mrs. Kalembe said “AUPWAE gave us training after requesting us to perform drama about climate change in schools and villages. AUPWAE, besides training us, also introduced us to AfricaAdapt”.

Mrs. Kalembe went on to say “We have performed in four schools and 4 trading centres. We were sponsored to perform in the 4 schools and bought musical instruments for us. Our main performance centered around drought and the importance of planting trees. Besides drama and dance, we also engaged in keeping livestock and other income generating activities like brick making. In addition, we focused on food storage and production units”.

A lot of activities in their plays include getting indigenous knowledge from elders about good farming practices of cassava, millet and sorghum, and how one is able to store food. It also shows the negative impacts of drought, as well as depicting the challenges of women in supporting the family, and how tree felling negatively affects the environment. Using stage acts, the members show how charcoal burning and brick making can lead to drought and disease such as malaria, says Mrs. Kalembe. The rich play convinces the village leadership to abandon tree destruction and advises the use of trees for medicine and shade for crops. There are also health messages on preventive measures including feeding and nutrition.

With regard to the benefits from interacting with the AfricaAdapt network, Mrs. Kalembe says “We received



Bakusekamajja Women’s Group on stage

money for facilitation of the group activities amounting to USh 920, 000/=, out of which, we used some to purchase pigs and are now making bricks from the proceeds of selling off some of the pigs.



Bakusekamajja Women's Group with AfricaAdapt banner

The other benefit is keeping together as a group. Other groups in the area have been influenced by what the group is doing. We have a savings society that came out of this group activity. Every two weeks we give an individual Ush.70,000/= to facilitate their own business”.

Mrs. Kalembe went on to say “The performance on climate change awareness and environmental management has been very successful. We have excelled across the district. We are always invited to perform at functions organized at the

district level where high ranking officials are present. This has given our group and AfricaAdapt wide visibility”.

According to Mrs. Kalembe, the major challenge facing the group has been the lack of land to freely undertake tree planting activities. The trees are mostly planted on the edges of family land holdings because the rest of the land is occupied by sugarcane.

Finally, Mrs. Kalembe appealed for support from AfricaAdapt for good quality breeds of livestock including pigs and poultry; sewing machines as tools for development; and capacity building through workshops.

Annex I: Guideline for interview questions

Interview questions for meet and greet members

How did you get involved in AfricaAdapt?

(What do you benefit out of being a member of AfricaAdapt? Benefits could be in terms of knowledge/ information gained, relationships established, capacity built, awareness increased).

What has changed in your work by being a member of AfricaAdapt?

What is the most significant change in your opinion among the above?

Interview questions for CCAA/PAR researchers

What is your name and organization?

How did you get involved in AfricaAdapt?

What is the knowledge/information you have shared with others through AfricaAdapt platforms?

What knowledge/information have you gained from the AA platforms shared by others?

What has changed in your work by being member of AfricaAdapt?

What is the most significant change in your opinion among the above?

Interview questions for innovation fund winners

How did you get to know about the AfricaAdapt Innovation Fund?

What do you benefit out of the innovation fund?

(Benefits could be in terms of knowledge/ information gained , relationships established, capacity built, awareness increased, livelihoods improved)

What were the objectives of your project funded by the innovation fund?

What were the outcomes of your project?

What is the most significant change brought about by your project?