

SUMMARY OF CRISTAL

COMMUNITY-BASED RISK SCREENING TOOL – ADAPTATION & LIVELIHOODS



Photo by Anne Hammill



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 **SEI** STOCKHOLM
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**inter
cooperation**
Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society



Photo by Jo-Ellen Parry

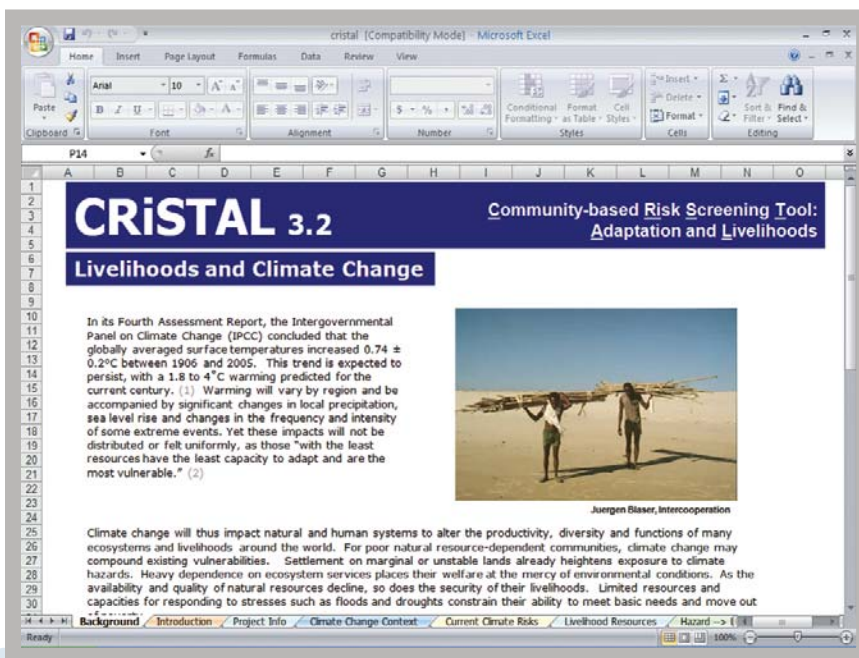
SUMMARY OF CRISTAL

1

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

IUCN, IISD, SEI-US and Intercooperation have developed and tested a project planning and management tool called CRiSTAL (**C**ommunity-based **R**isk **S**creening **T**ool – **A**daptation & **L**ivelihoods). The tool seeks to help project planners and managers to integrate risk reduction and climate change adaptation into community-level projects.

CRiSTAL was developed in response to the outcomes of Phase 1 of the **Livelihoods and Climate Change** project, which examined how ecosystem management and restoration (EM&R) or sustainable livelihoods (SL) projects reduced community vulnerability to climate stress. Projects that secured the local natural resource base, reduced exposure to climate hazards and diversified livelihood activities had, in many cases, increased community resilience to a range of threats, including climate change. In effect, these projects contributed to climate change adaptation.



Recognising the potential contribution of EM&R and SL projects to adaptation, project planners and managers began asking how they could integrate climate change adaptation considerations into their work. Community-level projects are rarely designed with a look to the implications of climate change, and especially how they might affect local adaptive capacity. Without a mechanism for assessing the role and impact of a project vis-à-vis climate adaptation, it is often difficult for project planners and managers to design activities that actually foster adaptation and minimize maladaptation.

IUCN, IISD, SEI-US and Intercooperation therefore decided to dedicate the next phase of the Livelihoods and Climate Change project to developing a decision-support tool that will help project planners and managers better understand the links among climate change, livelihoods and their work. By focusing on community-level projects, CRiSTAL promotes the development of adaptation strategies based on local conditions, strengths and needs.

2

OVERVIEW OF CRiSTAL

•• **GOAL:** To promote the integration of risk reduction and climate change adaptation into community-level projects.

•• **OBJECTIVES:** (a) Help users to systematically understand the links between local livelihoods and climate; (b) Enable users to assess a project's impact on community-level adaptive capacity; (c) Assist users in making adjustments to improve a project's impact on adaptive capacity.

•• **STRUCTURE:** Focus on four framing questions divided into two modules:

•• **APPROACH:** (a) Draw on environmental impact assessment model; (b) Use the sustainable livelihoods framework to enable users to focus on elements of coping and adaptive capacity at the community level; (c) Offer the tool in multiple formats (e.g., hard-copy, Excel) and in several languages; (d) Encourage users to adapt the use of CRiSTAL to suit specific needs.

•• **INTENDED RESULTS:** Enhanced local adaptive capacity through a better understanding of:

- How current climate hazards and climate change affect a project area and local livelihoods;
- How people cope, looking specifically at the resources needed to cope with climate stress;
- How project activities affect livelihood resources that are vulnerable to climate risk and/or important to local coping strategies; and
- How project activities can be adjusted so they enhance adaptive capacity.

MODULE 1

SYNTHESIZING INFO ON CLIMATE & LIVELIHOODS

Q1: WHAT IS THE CLIMATE CONTEXT?

- What are the anticipated impacts of climate change in the project area?
- What climate hazards are currently affecting the project area?
- What are the impacts of these hazards?
- What are the coping strategies used to deal with these impacts?

Q2: WHAT IS THE LIVELIHOOD CONTEXT?

- What resources are important to local livelihoods in the project area?
- How are these resources affected by current climate hazards?
- How important are these resources to coping strategies?

MODULE 2

PLANNING & MANAGING PROJECTS FOR ADAPTATION

Q3: WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES ON LIVELIHOOD RESOURCES THAT...

- Are vulnerable to current climate hazards?
- Are important to local coping strategies?

Q4: HOW CAN PROJECT ACTIVITIES BE ADJUSTED TO REDUCE VULNERABILITY AND ENHANCE ADAPTIVE CAPACITY?

- How feasible is it to implement these changes in terms of...?
 - Local priorities/needs
 - Project finances
 - Institutional capacity
 - A supportive policy framework
 - Risks associated with future climate change

3

FIELD TESTING CRiSTAL

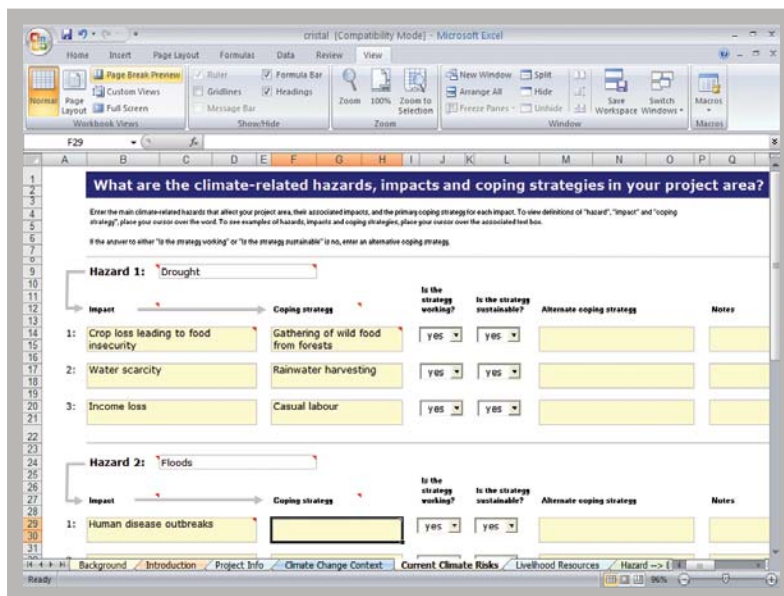


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In an effort to render this tool as useful as possible, IUCN, IISD, SEI-US and Intercooperation conducted a series of field tests on planned or ongoing natural resource management projects in Mali, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka. Project team members travelled to the field sites to work with local project managers and community stakeholders in gathering relevant information, applying the tool and developing recommendations on how to adjust project activities so they take into account local adaptive capacity.

Results from the field tests provided constructive feedback on the design and application of CRiSTAL, while the testing process itself has raised awareness of climate change issues in vulnerable communities. The tool provided an entry point for discussing local observations of climate variability and the impacts of climate change in a participatory manner, encouraging

communities to look for opportunities to enhance their adaptive capacities.



For project planners and managers, CRiSTAL provided a useful framework for understanding the links among climate, livelihoods and project activities.

4

USING CRiSTAL

Microsoft Excel™ is required to run CRiSTAL. The latest version of CRiSTAL can be downloaded from the Web site: <http://www.cristaltool.org>

CRiSTAL training workshops are being conducted in different regions around the world. Training workshops were conducted in Mozambique and Ghana in 2007 and a workshop was conducted in French in Niger in 2008. CRiSTAL is currently being used in projects in Africa and there are plans to expand activities to North America, Asia, Oceania and Latin America.

CONTACT INFORMATION: To learn more about CRiSTAL and associated training opportunities, please contact: Anne Hammill (ahammill@iisd.org) or Béatrice Riché (briche@iisd.org), International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).