Increasing Community Resilience to Drought in Sakai

“A Bottom-Up Approach: Influencing Climate Change Adaptation Policy in Kenya”

Climate Change Adaptation Workshop
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Overview

• As part of efforts to mainstream climate change adaptation into sustainable policy GEF initiated a regional project: “Integrating Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change into Sustainable Development Policy Planning and Implementation in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACCESA)” in 2006

• Through pilot projects in Kenya, Rwanda and Mozambique, ACCESA has worked with communities to promote the integration of vulnerability and adaptation to climate change into sustainable development plans and planning processes

• “Increasing Community Resilience to Drought in Sakai in Kenya” is one of the three pilot projects of ACCESA
Goal

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the achievement of global environmental benefits by providing practical examples of how:

• a community can cope with climate change-induced drought

• national policy may be modified based on inputs from local communities
Aims

• increase food security by enhancing drought resilience of local agricultural practices

• reduce poverty through diversification of livelihoods

• facilitate integration of adaptation to climate change into Kenya’s sustainable development plans and policies
Project activities

• Downscaling climate forecasts to guide choice of crops planted and the timing of agricultural activities

• Improving agronomic practices by providing access to fast maturing and drought-resistant crop varieties

• Building sand dams, shallow boreholes and drip irrigation systems to improve access to water for use in crop production

• Increasing local self-help groups’ access to income-diversification activities
Policy Engagement

- The project’s continual engagement with district- and national-level policy makers is also facilitating the integration of adaptation to climate change into sustainable development policies.

- The CSTI & ALRMP implementation teams have worked to influence the content of Kenya’s draft National Disaster Management Policy and its revised policy on the sustainable development of arid and semi-arid lands.

- Meetings with policy makers
  - Local level (March 2010)
  - Technical officers (national level) (May 2010)
  - Top level officers (i.e. PSs & Ministers (?)) (national level) (June 2010)
  - Consultant from ASALs Ministry (June 2010)
**Policy Up-scaling at the Local Level**

- Establishment of 240 demonstration sites

- Demonstration sites provided with quality seeds, weather info in agricultural planning and GAPs

- Farmer to farmer training outside of pilot project site (each demo farmer trained 2 neighbours who in turn trained another 2 etc = approx. 840 farmers)

- Through ALRMP – training on use of weather info in agricultural planning and GAPs conducted in other ASAL districts

- The communication of downscaled weather climate has been so successful the information is now provided to all ASAL districts through the ALRMP
Policy review and change process in Kenya

• Identification of a concern by the Minister

• Initiation of internal discussion that will lead to agreement within the ministry on how to respond to this problem

• Agreement reached internally and a task force composed of various stakeholders is formed and given responsibility for producing a draft policy

• Once this draft is agreed upon, it is recommended to Cabinet
Policy review and change process in Kenya

• Cabinet agrees and taken to parliament debated and legislated

• Presidential assent

• Thus the importance of influencing the process early on, when the ministry is determining the approach that will be taken to address an identified concern

• Opportunity also exists to influence the policy process through the stakeholder consultations
Policy Context 1

- Environment and Development Policy (E&DP) (1999) in response to increasing concerns about the effects of development of environment

- Recognition of government and other stakeholders inability to manage and reduce vulnerability to disasters caused by hazards such as drought led to National Disaster Management Policy Draft (NDMP)

- Draft Policy on Sustainable Development of Arid and Semi Arid Lands (SDASALs) to further support implementation of NDMP
Policy Context 2

- 2004 – Government taskforce constituted and finalised draft policies on NDM and SDASALs however these two policies not discussed by the cabinet

- 2007 – NDM draft policy recalled from cabinet office to enable revisions and inclusion of hazards such as tsunami and avian flu by the taskforce

- ALRMP coordinator – (also member of the taskforce and Sakai project) informed them of the pilot project and need to include CV and CC issues into the policy
Policy Context 3

• Taskforce members agree that issues of CV & CC be included in NDM draft policy

• An environmental scientist tasked with policy revision to cover main issues on climate change and adaptation

• Revision included issues on climate change and adaptation in nearly all sections of draft policy on NDM

• NDM draft policy now at cabinet level and likely to be approved late 2010 (once new constitution is passed)
Policy Context 4

• Draft national policy for the sustainable development of arid and semi arid lands of Kenya (April 2007)

• The Minister of State for Development of Northern Kenya and Other Arid Lands withdrew the revised ASAL policy from Cabinet office and returned it to the Ministry for a full review

• This decision was made because the Minister was of the view that the draft policy required more inputs, especially from his newly created Ministry (2008)
Policy Context 4 . . . Cont/d

- A consultant has been hired to revise the policy and stakeholder workshops with MPs, NGOs, government, communities and research institutions are planned.

- The revised policy is planned to be completed by June 2010 at the earliest.

- As part of this process, it is planned that a Drought Management Authority will be established.

- This authority will effectively take over the drought management activities currently undertaken by the Arid Lands Resource Management Project and will have some autonomy.
Policy Context 4 . . . Cont/d

• This will enable the Drought Management Authority to be moved under the jurisdiction of other Ministries in the future if desired without its activities being compromised.

• The Drought Management Authority is expected to be established before the policy is revised.

• Specific areas in which the ASAL policy could be improved has been identified by the project:
  – Sharpening the strategies for promoting proper drought tolerant seed varieties
  – Stating specifically how the management of (for example) water and livestock will be improved
  – Incorporating climate change adaptation into the content of the policy
  – Specifically addressing livestock issues, such as how the needs of people who can no longer engage in pastoralism will be met
Influence of Sakai Project on Policy

• Revision of the draft NDM policy to capture CV & CC issues

• ALRMP implementation of project activities in other ASAL regions

• Through the ALRMP, the team will meet with the consultant within the Ministry coordinating the review of the ASAL policy.
Policy Lessons

- The recent drought in Kenya tested the measures introduced by the project and their potential usefulness in adapting to long term climatic changes.

- It highlighted the need for the government to promote an integrated drought management system that links together:
  - The distribution of a diversified mix of locally appropriate, traditional seeds at the community level
  - Improved water security
  - Sand dams have proven to be effective water structures enabling drip irrigation systems
  - The diversification of livelihoods through promoting and using drought-tolerant crops, training in small-scale business management and providing micro-credit

- The direct involvement of district and national government officials in the project has led to continual opportunity to identify and promote policy changes, creating the potential for significant up-scaling of benefits.
Policy Recommendations

1. Improve access to meteorological information at the local level in Kenya in order to help farmers cope with increasingly unpredictable weather conditions.

2. Increase the availability of drought-tolerant seeds in other semi-arid districts and expand the emerging network in order to provide drought-tolerant seeds to more farmers.

3. Improve agricultural extension capacity in Kenya and to raise the capacity of district level officers to access sufficient information about climate change, its potential implications and actions they can promote to reduce vulnerability in the agricultural sector.
Challenges to integrating adaptation into national policies

• Limited understanding of climate change and capacity to address this challenge within the ministries

• Turn-over of staff in departments, which means that the process of raising awareness will need to be renewed

• Convincing ministry officials that adaptation to climate change is an issue of relevance to their immediate priorities and needs to be addressed

• Disagreements internally between Ministry personnel regarding the most effective way to proceed

• The selection and engagement of stakeholders – who and how many – to ensure the development of an effective policy