

Adaptation Futures 2016

practice and solutions

Pathways of Community Based Adaptation learning from Tanzania

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Outline

- Tanzania background
- Impacts
- Initiatives
- Challenges
- Lessons Learnt
- Way Forward

Background



- The United Republic of Tanzania is located in East Africa. With a total area of 945,087 Km² .
- It borders Kenya and Uganda in the North, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo in the West, Zambia and Malawi in the South-West and Mozambique in the South
- A country with various landscapes from the spice groves and palm-fringed beaches of Zanzibar to the great plains of the Serengeti and the snow-capped peak of Kilimanjaro.
- Population of 44M ;

Background



- The primary economic sector in the country is agriculture (including livestock), providing livelihood income and employment to over 80% of the population.
- The sector accounts for the production of raw materials for industries and the generation of foreign exchange.
- The three most important crops are maize, coffee and cotton.
- Highly vulnerable to droughts and floods which impacts food production
- Adaptation is a priority for responding to the climate change challenges

Impacts of CC in Tanzania



Initiatives/ Actions

- Vulnerability assessments and adaptation (1998)
- Initial National Communication (2001)
- EMA 2004
- NAPA 2007

These facilitated the initiatives that are adaptation/climate change response orientated.

Many initiatives were specific and analysed the components independently eg: impacts on water, agric, livestock etc basing on vulnerability assessments

Communities were approaching situations individually with efforts to sustain livelihood

Adaptation interventions

- Basing on predictions and scenarios developed various interventions were suggested as measures/actions to address situations
 - eg; Agriculture, water management, livestock keeping, forest management, wildlife management , energy etc
- While all these actions were taking place droughts, floods, diseases and pests events intensified in various landscapes
- Resulting to increased conflicts, movements, encroachment eg: Kilosa, Katavi, Ruaha wetlands, Ngorongoro,

- **Now**
 - Paradigm shift of how interventions are approached (tipping point)
 - Transformative approach??
 - ✦ Sectors advocating for more participatory approach advocating for initiatives such as IWRM, increase opportunities for decision making such as creation of WUAs, active management of resources eg: wildlife,
 - ✦ Increase coordination among institutions eg: merging ministry of agricu and livestock , creation of sections/units for addressing environment/cc issues

Challenges



- Lack of institutional change among the actors involved in climate change adaptation.
- We have been slow to look beyond our sectoral approaches and have difficulty planning and implementing transformative initiatives .
- Most initiatives are project cycle mindset.

Lessons learnt



- Adaptation is time specific and space specific interventions need to reflect on the past and the strategically address the future.
- Due to uncertainties known and unknown communities, decision makers need to be able accommodate changes to their set of actions and know what worked yesterday doesnot necessary apply today

Lessons learnt



- Generating adaptation strategies with communities and other local stakeholders improves the uptake and sustainability of the process because communities develop a strong sense of ownership and their priorities are met.
- Enhancing communities' awareness and understanding of climate change and uncertainty enables them to create responsive plans and make more flexible and context-appropriate decisions.
- Embedding new knowledge and understanding into existing community structures expands and strengthens those structures as well as institutional mechanisms.
- There are efforts to move from incremental adaptations, towards the wider processes of systems change that might lead to transformative .

Way forward



- Unprecedented impacts of climate change and climate variability in the twenty-first century are likely to require transformational social, organizational and human responses.
- Interventions at community levels can be more effective while accommodating uncertainties (diverse and shifting contextual challenges)

Conclusion



- Adaptation is an iterative process backward reflecting and forward focusing
- CBA generates knowledge that should be continuously used and not only provided when responding to crisis-
 - knowledge is valuable when put into action.
- communities are undergoing constant social transformation, therefore adaptation planning must always take into account community aspirations.