



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION ON
CLIMATE CHANGE,
AGRICULTURE AND
FOOD SECURITY



Concept Note

Community Based Adaptation and Resilience in East and Southern Africa's Drylands

A learning event for practitioners, researchers and policy makers

ILRI complex, Addis Ababa, September 1st to 4th 2014

Background

The impacts of climate change are threatening the livelihoods of already vulnerable communities in East and Southern African drylands, reversing or undermining development progress. Pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, farmers and other people who depend on dryland natural resources for their livelihoods face increasing challenges in these regions. Changing climate, markets, conflict, land use management and other risks threatens their capacity to adapt to already longstanding harsh living conditions and recurrent drought. Their ability to avoid or absorb risks, recover from shocks and continue on a positive development trajectory is a precondition for resilience. Responding to current and future impacts of climate change and its inherent uncertainty will be critical to this process. In order to meet the scale and magnitude of these challenges, where extreme events and recurrent drought will be ongoing features, actors in development, adaptation, risk management, social protection and humanitarian action are recognising the need to focus on achieving resilient outcomes. Community based adaptation (CBA) to climate change is providing valuable practical approaches and evidence which can be integrated in programming and policy decision making affecting dryland communities and the ecosystems they depend on.

Aim of the learning event

Bringing together stakeholders from a diverse range of disciplines working with dryland communities across East and Southern Africa, the aim of the event is to facilitate learning from experiences and evidence on climate change adaptation, in particular CBA, and resilience. Participants will co-generate new insights on the links between CBA and achieving resilient development on an ongoing basis across disciplines. Understanding how integration of CBA, disaster risk reduction (DRR), social protection, humanitarian action and development can be better achieved in practice will be central to this. CARE Ethiopia will host the event together with CARE's Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP), the CGIAR Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security programme (CCAFS) and the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE).

The conference will focus discussions around the following questions:

1. What is the added value that CBA brings to achieving resilience in dryland communities which can be applied from CBA practice and evidence?
2. How are climate change and related responses exacerbating the entrenched drivers of differential vulnerability among communities living in drylands? What are the barriers and drivers to change?
3. What would an integrated and coherent approach to achieving resilience in vulnerable dryland communities look like? What synergies and trade-offs would be needed?

Learning and Conference outcomes:

- Better understanding of the links between climate change adaptation and resilience in drylands with good practices, success factors, challenges and key lessons identified and analyzed to inform future actions and policy.
- Participants strengthen their networks, coordination and ability to engage with resilience in their area of work.
- A communique collectively produced by participants to share emerging recommendations for improved practice, policy and to inform decisions on adaptation finance and resilience programming in the region's drylands.

Format:

The event will take a social learning approach, providing space over 4 days for a variety of learning and sharing sessions using a mixture of structured panel discussions, small group discussions and open space sessions. Sessions will build on each other, exploring the learning questions through sharing and learning from practical experiences in specific themes, identifying successes and challenges, raising critical questions and reaching consensus on good practices and new knowledge on how to address critical issues.

Formal presentations and plenaries will be kept to a minimum to allow for structured participant interaction. A 'market place' will provide space for exhibiting different programmes, practical approaches, tools and more, where participants can share their work and learn about others' ideas and practices in more detail.

Some core thematic areas will be explored, for example:

- Climate information and communications services, early warning systems and risk reduction.
- Sector-based/technical themes - water, agriculture, livestock, food and nutrition security, social protection, disaster risk reduction etc.
- Adaptation and resilience at scale – e.g. pastoralist and agro-pastoralists adaptive capacity, mobility and sedenterisation, land use and planning systems, transitioning livelihoods in the face of climate change, landscape level/ecosystem based decision making.

Participants:

The Learning Event will bring together around 70 participants, predominantly practitioners from agencies and institutions working with drylands issues (government, non-government and donors) and researchers, who have knowledge and experiences to share on adaptation and resilience in drylands. Key policy makers concerned with East and Southern African drylands are also welcome to register. Participation will be dependent on the relevance of information shared in the registration form.

Application process:

Download and fill in the participation registration and information form [here](#):

Return via email to Sylvia Miyumo, ALP Programme Officer: alp@careclimatechange.org

Deadline for applications: Midnight (GMT + 3) Tuesday 10th June

