

## CFE conference on adaptation, Tbilisi 17-18 May 2017

Below is a summary of the group work sessions on lessons learned from the project experience in developing local adaptation plans and implementing small scale adaptation projects. These lessons learned and recommendations will eventually be compiled into a “local adaptation checklist” to support future local adaptation planning.

### Local adaption plans

#### WHO

##### Participatory approach to increase ownership

- Sectorial consultations (aquatic resources, waste, public health, biodiversity, agriculture etc.)
- Including different sectors/stakeholders increases possibility for additional financial resources for community
- Involve community directly in planning and decision-making processes – in all stages
- Address and include specifically leaders of community (official and unofficial). For sustainability local leaders need to lead on this.
- Use tools for conflict management, e.g. every stakeholder has a chance to speak up etc.
- When creating working group(s) of experts, local authorities, CSOs, community leaders and other target groups, use and create opportunities for awareness raising and training (specifically for local communities) so they can take more informed decisions

#### HOW

##### Guidance on methodology and design – build on the one from this project

- Cost-benefit analysis chapter should be added. Possible topics to address:
  - Figure out who benefits: maximise on stakeholders who benefit and consider the timeframe for yields
  - Identify gaps in national expertise, seek out examples and case studies, document approaches and learn from mistakes
  - Difficult to get concrete data, so need to apply educated guesswork
  - Apply CBA approach after vulnerability assessment to help choose projects
- Climate vulnerability assessment methodology should be simple and help reach better and deeper understanding of the problem
- At local (district) level inter-sectorial committee meetings every six months could be helpful
- Consider funding sources from national/international level for higher sustainability and/or for reducing costs through upscaling.
- Long-term vision on impact can bring different activities of plan really together and use possibilities for building on previous results and upscaling. Add a chapter on how to build such vision.
- Consider creating Networks to enable upscaling and better access to different/bigger funding sources

## WHAT

### No-regret strategies prevent maladaptation

- Use different data sources for your plans, include national and local public authorities (e.g. emergency office, public health office, forest department etc.)
- Explain co-benefits to people, raise their awareness on examples from other countries and regions
- Work together with nature, not against it – use ecosystem-based approach!
- Understanding and incorporating community needs raises acceptance of adaptation measures
- Use local knowledge for planning and implementation
- Vulnerability map is a useful tool to increase understanding of problem

## Adaptation projects

### WHO

#### Ensure ownership by local community

- Clear communication of benefits to communities
  - Cost benefit analysis might be a useful tool
  - Ongoing active communication is necessary
  - Clear expression that behavioural change is needed
- Use participatory planning and implementation
  - Form working groups of all stakeholders
  - Involve local educational institutions and experts
  - Sense of ownership increased the more the communities are involved in the whole process
- Seek out co-financing where possible
  - Encourage ownership through co-financing from municipality (e.g. project funds and municipality funds pay, landowner looks after newly planted trees)
  - Explore innovative funding mechanisms
  - Create local adaptation funds
- Work with open-minded and interested people
  - Work with communities and local authorities who have a clear interest in adaptation
  - Ensure and understanding of the need to change behaviours/mentality in the community
- Use projects as tools for community mobilisation
  - Mobilise and engage community through concrete activities and projects

## **WHAT: DEFINE/DESIGN**

### **No-regret strategies help to avoid maladaptive projects**

- Use diverse data sources/tools to capture data
  - Clarify real data needs
  - Use alternative tools such as seasonal calendars
  - More and different info required for cities and towns
  - Use drones to capture extra data
- Use information from previous projects and plans
  - Documents and assessments
  - People and human resources
- Include people as a primary data source
  - Focus group discussions and local interviews
  - Census results
  - Expert assessments and think tanks
- Assess vulnerability first
  - Multidisciplinary approach
  - Surveys
  - VCA (by IFRC)
  - Mapping
- Develop clear benefits for communities through participatory approach
  - Use cost-benefit analysis where appropriate
  - Gender-based assessments
- Include sustainability aspects in all development/planning stages
- Prioritise by choosing 5 key issues most needed to address vulnerabilities

### **Good project selection is key to effective implementation**

- Consider application process and criteria
  - Balance community needs and vulnerabilities with support from local authorities and other stakeholders
  - Aim for mandatory co-financing from community and local authorities
- Prioritise based on existing plans
  - Where possible, use existing development plans to help prioritise activities
  - Link to existing local and national adaptation strategies where relevant
- Ensure community involvement in project selection process
  - Community should be involved in all stages of project selection and prioritisation
  - Ensure community fully understands projects and why they were chosen

- Ensure transparency of selection process
  - Develop and publish clear criteria for selection
- Consider timing of selection process
  - To ensure sufficient proposal, consider timeline of announcement and application deadline carefully
  - Ensure sufficient time to resolve contracting and organisational uses before implementation

## HOW

### **Strategic monitoring is needed to measure success and impact**

- Be strategic
  - Develop activities that have immediate effect and are easy to monitor
  - Chose small local interventions with large impact on problem as a whole
  - Find resources for long-term assessment
  - Include adaptive management processes in plans
  - Include M&E in plan from the start – based on vulnerability assessment
  - Needs additional funding for monitoring from local budgets
- Be collaborative
  - Involve different specific experts in monitoring parts of plans and actual Monitoring/Evaluation process
  - Include beneficiaries in assessment
- Be Specific
  - Define impact properly
  - Define indicators
- Examples of actual results:
  - Activity results: Construction finalised, Kindergarten has hot water
  - Outcomes/Impact: Clean water for the village, additional income for community from excess solar power sold to energy companies, Healthier kids, etc.

### **Ensure sufficient support is in place**

- Support on project content
  - Clarification of terminology and methodology for climate risk assessments
  - Mentorship from experienced practitioners
- Collaboration and steering committees
  - Intersectoral support committees/experts
  - Communication platform for experts
  - Consult with more experienced organisations
- Endorsement of local communities/authorities
  - Ensure ongoing support of local authorities (n.b. elections!)

- Ongoing consultation with local communities
- Policy connection
  - Connect local adaptation plans with other local strategies and national adaptation plans
- Resources
  - Formalise contributions of local authorities and communities where possible (can include human resources and materials)

### **Effective project management ensures effective implementation**

- Keep structures and processes simple
  - Simple reporting formats are easy to understand and often better at conveying information
  - Ensure tender procedures are transparent and straightforward
- Formalise relationship with authorities
  - An MoU between government and CSOs will clarify roles and responsibilities
  - Keep authorities actively involved after MoU is signed
- Think strategically
  - Shift from response to adaptation in planning and budgeting
  - Support specific budget lines for adaptation measures
  - Consider how to inform, education and work with mass media
- Plan project monitoring
  - Regular monitoring with the involvement of communities
  - Ensure that sufficient human and financial resources are allocated to M&E
  - Conduct evaluation and consider how to share information with beneficiaries