



Met Office

Case study: Climate information services for Kenya



Project Award Winner
Outstanding International
Collaboration.

Supported by:



Strengthening adaptation and resilience to climate variability and change in Kenya

Challenge

The majority of the population in the five arid and semi arid counties of Kenya — Garissa, Isiolo, Wajir, Kitui and Makueni, are vulnerable to the changing and variable climate. This vulnerability has been increased by a heavy reliance on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture and livestock, as well as planning and implementing activities without taking into account climate information.

To ensure food security, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists require weather and climate information such as advice about the next season in order to plan their activities. Traditionally, decisions have been made based on culture and the behaviour and discussion around the up-coming season. Additionally confidence in scientifically-derived forecasts was low in many parts of Kenya.

Solution

The UK Department for International Development has supported the Adaptation (ADA) Consortium with UKaid under the Strengthening Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change in Kenya plus (StARCK+) programme. The Consortium is made up of Christian Aid, the Kenya Meteorological Services (KMS), the National Drought Management Authority Kenya, the Met Office and led by the International Institute for Environment and Development. The consortium has supported the introduction of a combined approach to adaptation by implementing County Adaptation Funds within county governments, which enable communities to access funding to build their resilience to climate change. KMS, with support from the Met Office, is developing improved climate information services (CIS) in the five counties. This focuses on improving the understanding, uptake and access to new and improved CIS at local level:

- Developing monthly and seasonal forecasting techniques to support timely, demand-led weather and climate products.
- Developing replicable approaches for the downscaling, communication, understanding and use of weather and climate products.
- Research, documentation and cross-learning between counties, inside and outside the initiative, regionally and internationally (with respect to CIS).

Benefits

By the end of the programme, the aim is that county governments are able to access climate finance and help ensure this is spent on appropriate climate adaptation initiatives that make a real difference to Kenya. The Consortium is focused on long-term sustainability which means that many of the approaches developed under the ADA Consortium have been, or are in the process of being, mainstreamed into KMS and County Administration planning. This will help ensure that the approaches and techniques developed with ADA support are incorporated into KMS future plans for their decentralisation of services to enable replication elsewhere.

By the end of the project (August 2017), the consortium expects that 3.3 million people across the five counties will be better equipped to cope with the effects of climate change. Of these, it is anticipated that 800,000 will have benefited directly from resilience-building projects.

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