



## Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA): Helping policy-makers understand rural adaptation

CDKN Project Code RSAF 0004

Project [webpage](#)

Project duration: January 2011 – January 2013

Project value: £184,250

The Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance (ACCRA) is run by a consortium of International NGOs, including ODI. Its aim is to improve the design and delivery of humanitarian and development interventions so that they increase the adaptive capacity of poor and vulnerable communities. Through an extensive research process, capacity building and policy-relevant work carried out between 2009 and 2011, ACCRA successfully influenced relevant policies and plans at the national level in three targeted countries - Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda, bringing together key government institutions responsible for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and climate change, and significantly increasing the capacity of government stakeholders to understand and address climate-related challenges.

Following on the successful outcome of the first phase of the project, CDKN has agreed to a no-cost extension to the project. ACCRA’s second phase will focus on one particular characteristic of adaptive capacity: “flexible and forward looking decision-making”. More specifically, the following research questions will be addressed:

- How can planning be more ‘forward looking’ and take into account change and uncertainty?
- How can planning at local level inform higher level planning and allocation of resources and take more account of institutions and power, and build agency?

This research agenda will thus also investigate the type of participatory processes, information and analysis that are required at the community level for planning purposes, as well as the approach that would help planners understand and support institutions fostering adaptive capacity.

<b>Project partners</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfam (Project Lead) (Saskia Daggett PI - previously Jo Lofthouse)</li> <li>• Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (Lindsey Jones and others)</li> <li>• Save the Children Alliance (Mozambique)</li> <li>• World Vision (Uganda)</li> <li>• Oxfam (Ethiopia)</li> <li>• Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre</li> <li>• CARE International</li> </ul>
<b>Key project impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong existing links with influential/high level policy makers via established NGOs in country and high potential for policy change and capacity building throughout project duration;</li> <li>• Excellent progress ensured throughout the project: high confidence in good outputs; insider understanding through existing ODI team on project;</li> <li>• Potential wider lessons learned to be replicated;</li> <li>• Strong interest/substantive engagement by funders/alliance partners;</li> <li>• Innovative tools for promoting flexible forward looking decision making.</li> </ul>
<b>Fit within CDKN’s portfolio</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CCD and Disaster Risk Reduction themes</li> <li>• Engagement with Mozambique government (through TA component of CDKN)</li> </ul>

<b>Research impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project has already produced a total of 27 written publications across a wide spectrum of outputs. As part of this, two ODI-led Working papers furthered understandings of adaptive capacity and resilience, and increased the visibility of ODI researchers on these themes.</li> <li>• Governments used the research findings as baseline information for planning policies and strategies. The programme was also the driving force behind the first ever seasonal forecast in Uganda; broken down in different languages and communicating messages around variability and adaptation across the whole country.</li> <li>• In Ethiopia and Mozambique national planners and finance leaders have been using evidence and best practice generated by the programme to do things differently. In Ethiopia national officials are rolling out training across 56 <i>woredas</i> (districts) based heavily on ACCRA training materials. The same is happening in Mozambique where new adaptation finance is flowing; national agencies are using ACCRA information and idea to inform their practice and policies.</li> <li>• Under Phase 2 of ACCRA, the research component will seek to evaluate the success of an ACCRA game, which will be applicable to a district government context and specifically tailored to each of ACCRA's three countries: it will be first tried in Uganda (Oct 2012), and then repeated in Mozambique and Ethiopia (Jan/Feb 2013).</li> </ul>
<b>Thought leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combination of approaches to adaptation – different disciplinary perspectives and groups of people working in disasters, adaptation and development planning brought together conceptually and in practice. The programme acts as knowledge broker and focuses at making long term sustainable connections between local and international experts, capacity support agencies, government officials and civil society in the focus nation states.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy interactions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the independent review, ACCRA was considered well-placed to influence the following policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Climate Resilient Green Economy strategy and DRM Strategic Programme Investment Framework in Ethiopia;</li> <li>○ The Afar Regional Adaptation Plan in Ethiopia;</li> <li>○ National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management in Uganda;</li> <li>○ National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) in Uganda;</li> <li>○ The ToR for the National Climate Change Strategy in Mozambique;</li> <li>○ District Development Plans in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Capacity building</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field visits (55) to build capacity within ministries and 12 field visits in Uganda (representing 6 different key ministries);</li> <li>• 24 government officials participated in field visits in Ethiopia, representing central, state and <i>woreda</i> levels; 19 officials from Mozambique's central, provincial and district governments participated in 3 field visits;</li> <li>• ACCRA and government representatives participated in the 5th and 6<sup>th</sup> Community Based Adaptation Conference (March 2011); with a whole session booked on mainstreaming for the 7<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>• Trial and evaluation of an ACCRA game to promote flexible forward-looking decision-making within district governance;</li> <li>• Train of in-country staff to facilitate the game so as to use it in different districts and across the three countries.</li> </ul>
<b>Deliverables to date</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All deliverables made publicly available via Eldis on ACCRA website: available online <a href="#">here</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 17 videos from ACCRA's you tube channel;</li> <li>○ 11 reports including country case studies; one pagers on research and capacity building scoping study; policy recommendations; policy brief on Local Adaptive Capacity framework (over 4000 copies disseminated by the end of 2011);</li> <li>○ Regional workshop (July 2011) and report;</li> <li>○ Attendance and hosting governments to CBA workshop with blog;</li> <li>○ Site visits and reports;</li> <li>○ Political Economy Analysis for each of the three country sites;</li> <li>○ International workshop to design and consolidate an ACCRA game.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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