Climate adaptation in the Caribbean: Local level adaptation

1. Collaborative networks of people and organisations

Network mapping

Tools such as Net-Map can help communities understand the local organisations that influence climate adaptation decision making.

Building collaboration

Engaging individuals and organisations in a shared dialogue can be a useful way of strengthening local ties and finding collective solutions to shared challenges.

Improving local governance

Research in Jamaica and Saint Lucia found that local networks were most effective when they include:

- Influential people/organisations
- Strong links between the people/organisations
- A diverse range of people/organisations
- Links to organisations at national/regional level
- A high level of trust and cooperation

2. Local communities can provide valuable insight into vulnerability to climate change and its impacts, through Community Based Vulnerability Assessments (CBVA).

CBVAs employ semi-structured interviews and participatory workshops to gather nuanced information from communities affected by climate variability and change.

The CBVA process can identify potential climate hazards and reasons why communities may be susceptible to them. They complement data-driven approaches to vulnerability assessments.

In Saint Lucia, farmers identified fresh insights into the barriers to adapting to drought through a CBVA.

3. The Local Adaptive Capacity (LAC) approach can help communities better understand their collective ability to respond to climate challenges.

The LAC framework assesses adaptive capacity in five areas: physical and social assets; institutions; information and knowledge; innovation; and decision-making.

In Saint Lucia the LAC framework was applied to the Soufrière region. It found that while the region's natural resources gave it some resilience to climate impacts, this could be undermined by a lack of financial and social resources.

Soufrière's high and growing unemployment rate (23.8% in 2012), high poverty rate (42.9% of residents live on less than $5/day) and over-reliance on the tourism sector make it less able to adapt to climate variability and change.

4. Collaboration with organisations at different scales is vital for effective adaptation at the local level and to allow communities to influence the national policy agenda.

Community level approaches to climate resilience building are important. But they are more effective when they are linked closely to the regional and national level.

Tools like the Rapid Institutional Analysis for Adaptation (ARIA) can help communities understand national institutional preparedness and lobby for action.

National organisations involvement in local networks is important for information sharing between scales.

5. Scaling up local action to influence regional and national policy.

To learn more and access the Caribbean research on which this infographic is based visit: www.CDKN.org/caribbean

References for the data and information in this infographic can be found in the related policy brief at https://cdkn.org/2017/03/feature-caribbean-communities-front-lines-climate-change-adaptation/