



COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROGRAMME FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS IN NIGERIA SOUTHWEST COASTAL AREAS

Proposed Methodology

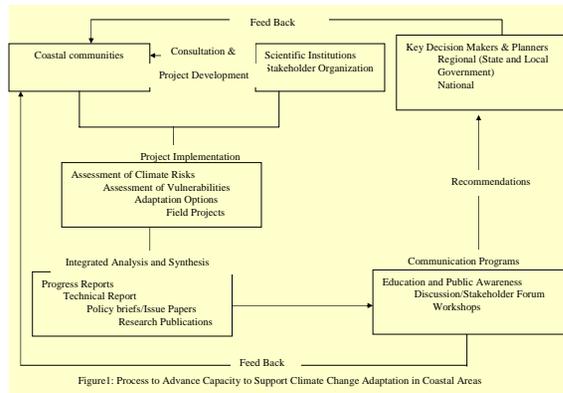
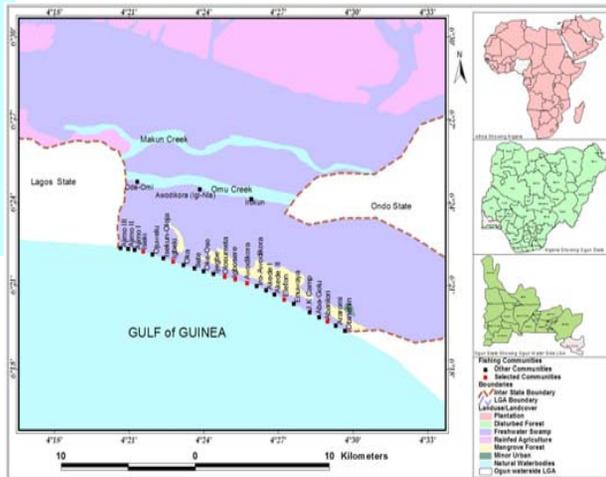


Figure1: Process to Advance Capacity to Support Climate Change Adaptation in Coastal Areas

Through the active engagement of fisher folks in participatory methods of knowledge elicitation, in-depth vulnerability to past, present and future climate risks and the range of adaptation options is assessed. Output of integrated analysis and synthesis of data collected will be employed in developing risk communication products. These will be used in education and public awareness of coastal communities, general public and in stakeholder forums and workshops as decision support tools to enable target stakeholders, particularly, influential decision makers at the regional and national levels to work towards implementing policies and measures that will advance effective adaptation to climate change.

Pilot Action Area: Coastal Southwestern Nigeria



Highlighted gaps in data

The fieldwork has highlighted gaps in data on the following:

- relative sea level rise along Nigerian coastline
- climatic data(rainfall, wind and wave characteristics)
- extent of saltwater intrusion
- rate of sediment accretion in certain regions
- climate impacts on livelihoods and health
- socio-economic characteristics of study area

Understanding Climate-related Vulnerabilities

Prioritization of climate risks identified by fisher folks indicated that the issue of flooding due to storm surges and heavy rainfall is the primary concern of all local stakeholders. Gender differences were however observed in prioritization of other climate risks. The absence of roads in the entire area is considered a key limitation to successful adaptation to climate risks by livelihood groups in the coastal communities .



Climate-influenced decisions faced are evident at three levels:

- (a) Community
 - Periodic movement of whole communities with retreating ocean
 - Annual community efforts directed at fresh water provision
 - Dredging of outlets from beels to empty floodwater to the ocean
 - Local foot bridge initiatives
- (b) Households
 - Annual reinforcement of building structures before storm season
 - Use of mosquito nets by 100% of households
 - Younger children prevented from going to school at flood peak periods
 - Rainwater harvesting
- (c) Livelihoods
 - Timing and productivity of fishing and fish processing activity dependent on climate

Areas of future work

- Collaboration with international institutions to share remotely sensed climatic data and satellite imageries for assessment of accretion patterns as highlighted by fieldwork
- Climate-impact assessment
- Vulnerability assessment of households, livelihood groups and communities to climate variability and change
- Assessment of the adaptation process which determines the actual impacts of climate variability and change
- Determination of critical flood water levels

Introduction

The focus of the pilot action is to enhance the capacity of fishing households and communities in the low-lying southwest coastal region of Nigeria to effectively adapt to the increasing impacts of climate variability and change, including environmental change. It also addresses the need to link understanding of local adaptation strategies to climate risks in the context of wider range of vulnerabilities faced by livelihood groups in the pilot action area with policies. This will engender increased capacity for informed decision making and planning, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation and sustainable development in coastal communities.

Fieldwork in Nigeria

The project scoping exercise undertaken between 17th October and 2nd November 2006 enabled the project team with the active participation of fisher folks in sampled coastal communities to identify and prioritize climate risks. The climate influenced decisions that they face were also identified. Past and present adaptation strategies to cope with climate risks were elicited from local stakeholders and by participant observation. Perceptions of climate issues including risks was also assessed.

