Local action

Sustainability and livelihoods have been successfully contracted for ACTION for Development (ADAPTS) across areas of the Borana zone, in a joint activity between ADAPTS and the WASH foundation. The hydrological and socio-economic impacts have been evaluated under the ADAPTS project. The sand dams successfully store water. The experience is shared with other NGOs and governmental institutions climatically vulnerable to similar changes in other regions.

Successes

Sand dams are successful and the potential role of sand dams in the management of the areas is being explored. Development experts who have been involved in ADAPTS have been developing criteria for identifying significant areas. For resilience, the governance needs to be reformed in the areas, and sand dams are proving additional to the more conventional water resources, like deep aquifers. It is a strong example of a small-scale community-based intervention that can help reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

PERU

The Huong River basin area in central Vietnam is a strong example of a small-scale community based measure that can help reducing the negative impacts of climate change.

The local centerless basin in the South-western Huong River covering areas of 16,322 km² and situated from sea-level to 4,613 m above sea-level. Most of the 70,000 inhabitants are busy growing rice in the wet months and the upland potatoes in the dry months, and the dry season temperature has been raised by 2°C. The project is a consultant in adaptation measures and local communication on adaption.

PERU

The Ocoña river basin lies in the South-western Andes of Peru, covering an area of 16,322 km² and extending from the Cordillera Blanca to the Peruvian Amazon. The basin is one of the most vulnerable basins in the region under the influence of climate change. The issue is on the political agenda and local adaptation initiatives are being realised.

The retreat of the Coropuna glacier is monitored in conjunction with the National Institute of Glaciology. Parallel, local partner organizations are involved in a project to protect the Polylepis forest. The Polylepis forest is one of the rarest of the tropical forest vegetation and the ecosystem plays an important role for the region. The Polylepis forest has decreased significantly. This project aims to assess how climate change will influence the regional hydrological system and to propose measures to reduce the negative impacts on the population and the ecosystem.

Successes

The effectiveness of several adaptation measures is being evaluated, including the storage of water in high-altitude wetlands (bufferlands), storing water in small-scale reservoirs, improvements in irrigation practices (crop irrigation), the introduction of drought-resistant crops and the potential effect of the preservation of natural forest vegetation in protecting the glacial retreat. The project is also involved in climate change adaptation, vulnerability and adaptive capacities in the region and the structural interactions between stakeholders in small-scale adaptation.

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The ADAPTS approach to adaptation to climate change is an approach that builds on the needs, priorities and actions of local people and their communities. The ADAPTS approach works in different contexts and makes adaptation to climate change in water management practical.

ADAPTS enables developing countries to effectively respond to the consequences of climate change in the water sector. ADAPTS combines local and global knowledge and experiences to adapt to changing climate and the effects of local policies and investments. Together with local and national governments, ADAPTS teams develop local initiatives to adapt to climate change in the context of water management. ADAPTS aims to up-scale the approach to larger geographical areas. In this part of the approach we link local and global knowledge in the assessment of the impacts of local actions, to larger geographical areas. In this part of the approach we link local and global knowledge in the assessment of the impacts of local actions, and the activities initiated or taken up by local and national governments.

ADAPTS sets out to assure the replication and the activities initiated or taken up by local and national governments. ADAPTS provides a concrete, practical example of adaptation in the context of water management, which can be used to design and implement climate-proof water policies.

The ADAPTS approach starts with gathering information on vulnerability and capacity of local communities, and the capacity of local, national and international ADAPTS teams. The aim is to build awareness on the potential climate change and the effects of local policies and investments on the livelihoods of the poor communities and the environment under changing climate.

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Improving water management and reducing vulnerability to climate change

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Knowledge development

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Local action

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Success stories: the ADAPTS Approach in practice

GHANA

The Dayi River basin lies in the southern sub-tropical Ghana. This basin is the fastest growing water basin in Ghana and is densely populated. The agricultural activities are rain-fed and the farmers are mainly subsistence farmers. The main activities in the region are rain-fed subsistence farming and some cash crop farming. The average annual rainfall is approximately 1200 mm/year. The basin is one of the most vulnerable to climate change in Ghana.

The ADAPTS approach in practice

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