

Rural Adaptation in East Africa:
synthesising evidence for
targeted national responses to
climate change

April 2018

Project:
HyCRISTAL

Authors:
Rosalind Cornforth

IMPACT

A key output is the development of an Integrated Database for African Policymakers (IDAPS). IDAPS is a platform that is being developed to provide users with a rich and integrated data resource that will span climate, crops, fisheries, hydrology, and livelihoods. Interpreting and analysing this data will assist policymakers to understand and respond to the effects of climate and other significant changes in the Lake Victoria Basin.

The rural work has led to explicit demand from the Ugandan Parliament for a Briefing Paper to share HyCRISTAL's new understanding on rural adaptation for Uganda. Through HyCRISTAL's proactive advocacy, engagement and partnerships they have also been invited to pull this learning through to new legislation through the contribution of seven new clauses into the second drafting of the Ugandan National Environment Bill.



THE CHANGE STORY

Successful rural adaptation to climate change and other drivers such as population increase, requires scientists, social scientists, policy and decision makers to work together, to share information and practice. This will reduce the vulnerability of rural communities, leading to timely, evidence-based interventions, and promoting sustainable development. Providing access to local data and the skills required for interpretation is a key part of this. Also, it is increasingly recognised that short and long-term decisions on adaptation cannot be made in isolation of each other.

HyCRISTAL's rural work, is developing pathways for new climate research to support the resilience of rural communities vulnerable to climate change in two pilot locations, Mukono in Uganda and Homa Bay in Kenya, that capture two different Lake Victoria Basin national governance and policy regimes.

It is providing a rich suite of data and methodological training to understand current livelihood patterns and factors limiting peoples' ability to adapt their sources of livelihood and policy implications through learning platforms and policy engagement in partnership with HyCRISTAL's advocacy and academic partners in Uganda and Kenya. These tools are building an evidence-based pathway to rural adaptation at the county and national level. As HyCRISTAL's climate modelling projections become available, they will intersect with the data on adaptations and the growing knowledge of decision-making processes.

FURTHER RESOURCES

[Big data to help plan for climate shocks in East Africa](#)

[The Integrated Database for African Policymakers](#)

FCFA area of change 3:

Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.

FCFA area of change 4:

Approaches that support co-production of decision-relevant climate information and enable channels for on-going dialogue between the providers and users of climate information.

LEARNING

HyCRISTAL's approach emphasises the point that robust decision-making in the future requires reliable and up-to-date integrated data, beyond the lifetime of HyCRISTAL.

HyCRISTAL are working directly with the Ugandan Parliament, the National Disaster Management Agency and the Uganda Met Authority together with key advocacy civil society organisations to support policy making around climate change interventions and impact-focused flood management through the integration of climate and livelihoods information, and the ability to monitor this.

Future Climate for Africa's Areas of Change are:

1. Enhancing scientific knowledge and prediction of African climate and new understanding of the resulting impact on the robustness of future climate change scenarios.
2. Strengthening scientists' capacities to develop decision-relevant climate information.
3. Increasing the capacities of users/decision making bodies/institutions to appropriately integrate climate information within medium-term decision-making.
4. Approaches that support co-production of decision-relevant climate information and enable channels for on-going dialogue between the providers and users of climate information.
5. Identifying social, political, behavioural and economic barriers to the use of climate information in long-term decision-making, working to elicit solutions which support effective integration of climate risks within decision making across scales, sectors and social groups.
6. Approaches to climate science research and climate-sensitive risks within medium-term decision making which enable active participation and address the specific concerns of women and marginalised groups.

Funded by:



**Natural
Environment
Research Council**

Disclaimer

This document is an output from a project funded by the UK Government's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for the benefit of developing countries and the advance of scientific research. However, the views expressed and information contained in it are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by FCDO or NERC, which can accept no responsibility for such views or information or for any reliance placed on them. This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representation or warranty (express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Future Climate for Africa's members, UK Government's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), their advisors and the authors and distributors of this publication do not accept or assume any liability, responsibility or duty of care for any consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it. Copyright © 2021, Future Climate for Africa. All rights reserved.