GOAL

Climate change is expected to increase the severity, duration and frequency of weather related extreme events, threatening water availability and food security for millions of poor people. Hence, it is clear that adaptation strategies have to be implemented from the level of farmers to communities to national governments.

The ADAPTS project aims: “to increase developing countries’ adaptive capacities by achieving the inclusion of climate change and adaptation considerations in water policies, local planning and investment decisions”. This will be achieved by supporting local practical initiatives in climate proofing; influencing regional water management; and if feasible in up scaling the activity to other regions.

During the inception phase (Jan – Sept 2008) local initiatives will be identified in 7 river basins. They will be described through desk studies and field visits. During a kick off meeting 3 to 4 cases are selected for further in depth study that should eventually lead to up scaling.

Local Action: To assure that local knowledge and visions are included in basin and national policy dialogues through the identification, support, documentation, analysis and dissemination of innovative, locally-based interventions.

Knowledge development: to study how local water management can be made climate proof.

Examples of adaptation: to show adaptation is already taking place at the local scale. This information should support the discussion on water and adaptation on the international level.

ACTIVITIES

Desk studies: In March and April, desk studies are carried out to find suitable activities and partners in the selected basins, using the following criteria:

- The activity is water related and ongoing
- The local actor has credibility among the population and the government
- The government has addressed climate change and sustainable water management as a relevant topic
- Sufficient data available (climate, economic, population, hydrologic, etc.)

Fig. 1 The seven case study areas.

Fig. 2 Sand dams in Kenya store water from the rainy season to bridge dry periods.
FUTURE PHASES

Stakeholder dialogues & pilot project design

The core of the follow-up phase is to assess how existing local activities in each pilot area can be strengthened by enhancing stakeholder dialogues on adaptation and how new adaptation information can help in designing measures to strengthen local activities to better cope with climate change.

Monitoring and implementation

In this phase, the agenda is further developed and adaptation strategies are implemented. This implementation will be monitored, and the adaptation measure will also be analyzed for their potential for replication and up-scaling.

Policy dialogues

The implemented measures and the local agenda will be pushed forward to a national agenda, using a bottom-up approach. If it is feasible, the projects will be extended to a national or basin-level work plan.

ACTIVITIES

- **Field visits:** In April and May, field visits are made to:
  - Make a scan of available information and assess the need for additional information
  - Conduct a stakeholder analysis of local and national actors in water management and adaptation activities and policy discussions
  - Identify relevant policy processes and ongoing adaptation initiatives

- **Selection of case studies:** The information gathered during the desk study and field visit will be combined in a report per case study. The cases are ranked and 2 to 3 cases will be selected for further activities. The selection-criteria of the ranking are based on several indicators characterising the NGO, the government and the examined projects.

- **Kick-off meeting:** The inception phase will end in September with a kick-off workshop in Amsterdam. The partners of the selected cases will present the results of the inception phase, discuss their expectations of the project and develop draft work plans for the follow-up phases of the ADAPTS project.

The outcomes of the inception phase will be a plan for further studies of ADAPTS, containing a detailed list of activities, distribution of tasks and expected deliverables per river basin.

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTES

IVM-VU, Both ENDS and Acacia Water are the main participating institutes.

CONTACT

Ralph Lasage: Ralph.Lasage@ivm.falw.vu.nl

For more information visit: www.adaptation.nl