

Summary of the CS4RRA Stocktaking Conference (Parallel Session 4)

Working Group 4: Funders for Climate-resilient Development, incl. present and future impacts of climate change and socio-economic scenarios

Discussion did not follow the transverse questions given in the agenda as Prof. Ingunn Borlaug which should have chaired the WG remotely participated. Dr. Francis Boateng AGYENIM co-chaired. Furthermore, focus was not primarily on funders, instead priority topics for climate-resilient development and sustainable funding of climate services have been discussed.

1. Key Presentations and Themes

1.1. Role of the French National Research Agency and Belmont Forum

- The French National Research Agency, co-chairing the session, highlighted its commitment to transdisciplinary research addressing global environmental challenges.
- The Belmont Forum, comprising over 30 members from 55 countries, supports climate adaptation research.
- The agency promotes transnational collaboration, requiring at least three participating countries per project.
- A systems approach integrates natural sciences, social sciences, humanities, and non-academic stakeholders from the start.

1.2. Work Packages and Climate Services

- The session discussed key challenges in climate services, including:
 - Duplication of climate services in Africa due to a lack of comprehensive analysis.
 - Absence of relevant digital forecasts for end-users.
- The first work package involves evaluating existing climate services to enhance their effectiveness.
- The second work package promotes co-constructed knowledge by engaging multiple stakeholders and scientific disciplines.

1.3. Co-Designing Knowledge and Scientific Policy Dialogue

- A central theme was bridging the gap between science and policy through effective dialogue.
- Research must integrate traditional knowledge systems with scientific advancements.
- Promoting low-carbon research was emphasized, aligning with climate-smart policies.

1.4. Financing and Collaboration for Climate Services

- Funding sources for climate services include Germany, France, and the EU, with efforts to encourage African funders.
- Challenges identified:

- Youth unemployment and the need to support startups and entrepreneurship in climate adaptation.
- Mobilizing diverse funding sources across Africa, especially West Africa.
- Formation of an advisory board to coordinate funding efforts.

1.5. Priority topics for sustainable funding of climate-resilient development/climate services

- climate change and conflicts
- reuse and creation of jobs
- blue economy
- migration
- gender
- climate and energy
- issue of insurance
- use taxation systems to foster climate-smart activities and impede negative activities

1.6. What should be improved to enable sustainable funding of climate-resilient development

- different sectors should be considered
- reduce climate impact costs
- implementation of results remains challenging
- communication between science into decision/practice
- better integration of community/local based solutions
- foster nature-based solutions
- bigger projects incl. implementation
- foster co-design
- stakeholder consultation uses much of funding
- foster involvement of socio-economic sciences – incl. law and finance
- dialogue platform between science and economy
- more holistic approaches
- foster transition and transformation processes on all levels

2. Future Funding and International Collaboration

2.1. African Funding Agencies and Global Partnerships

- African funding agencies, including the African Union and the African Development Bank, play critical roles in supporting climate research.
- There is a need for African countries to make financial contributions to climate initiatives.
- The United Nations Sustainable Climate Change (UN SCC) framework is a potential funding mechanism.
- Reflecting on past multinational collaborations (e.g., WASCCA) was encouraged to identify best practices.

2.2. Challenges in the Global Funding Environment

- Existing global funding mechanisms have limitations, including insufficient coverage for Africa.

- Weaknesses in current financing models threaten the sustainability of climate services.
- Strategic partnerships with global agencies are crucial for addressing these funding gaps.

3. Regional and Thematic Priorities

3.1. Climate Services for Agricultural Adaptation

- Improving agricultural resilience through tailored climate services.
- Case studies from Tanzania, Mozambique, and Mauritius showcased approaches to integrating climate data into food systems, water management, and energy infrastructure.
- Emphasis on a value-chain approach in delivering user-centered climate information.

3.2. Science Communication and Policy Advocacy

- Scientists need to improve communication of research findings to policymakers.
- Encouraging researchers to become policy advocates and secure government and donor support.
- Importance of open-access climate data to foster widespread adoption of climate services.

3.3. European Union and Africa Research Collaborations

- Africa-Europe collaborations on climate adaptation, sustainable energy, and food security.
- The EU Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Platform (CCSE) supports African climate research.
- Funded projects include initiatives in renewable energy, climate services, and disaster risk reduction.

4. Urbanization and Climate Risks in Africa

4.1. Vulnerability of African Cities

- Africa's urban population is projected to exceed 60% by 2050.
- Rapid urbanization exposes cities to floods, heatwaves, and infrastructure stress.
- Over 200 million people in West Africa reside in climate-vulnerable urban areas.

4.2. Climate Services for Urban Development

- The Fractal Project focuses on seven African cities, addressing climate risks and infrastructure challenges.
- Need for climate-proof urban planning and improved disaster risk reduction strategies.

5. Policy Recommendations and Future Directions

5.1. Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement

- Co-creating climate solutions with government agencies, researchers, businesses, and local communities.
- Developing customized climate services based on local needs.

5.2. Improving Access to Climate Data and Forecasting

- Expanding digital climate services to enhance predictability and response mechanisms.
- Addressing data accessibility issues to ensure widespread adoption.

5.3. Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability of Climate Projects

- Diversifying funding sources to reduce reliance on international donors.
- Establishing African-led financing mechanisms for climate adaptation.

6. Closing Remarks and Next Steps: The session ended with a call to action for all stakeholders to implement the discussed strategies. Future funding opportunities, including the Horizon Europe program, were highlighted. Collaboration and innovation in climate services remain a top priority for sustainable development.