



Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

NAMIBIA

Approaching community adaptation to climate change holistically by using multiple coping strategies

Grantee: Creative Entrepreneurs Solutions (CES)

Type of organization: NGO

Location: Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana, and Kavango regions

CBA Contribution: \$250,000 USD

Project Partners: Green Life Trust, Ministry of Agriculture, Water, and Forestry, Agronomic Board, Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden)

Co-financing: Government of Japan (\$50,000 USD); community contribution (cash \$75,000 USD; in kind \$75,000USD)

Project Dates: April 2009 – April 2011

BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) global initiative funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) within the Small Grants Programme (SGP) delivery mechanism. The UN Volunteers partners with UNDP and GEF/SGP to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteers' contribution and ensure inclusive participation around the project, as well as to facilitate the capacity building of partner NGOs and CBOs. In addition, funding is provided by the Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Australia. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities addressing climate change impacts.

This CBA project targets communities living in Omusati, Ohangwena, Oshikoto, Oshana and Kavango regions of northern Namibia. One of the largest countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Namibia is also the driest. With an estimated population of about two million people, Namibia has the world's second lowest population density. Half of Namibians rely on subsistence agriculture, making them highly vulnerable to climate change variability. In the project area, the majority of the community members are subsistence farmers who depend highly on rainfed dry land crops and livestock rearing both for subsistence and income. Climate change poses significant challenges to the poor and marginalized communities of this area. It negatively affects food and water security jeopardizing the livelihoods of these communities. Accordingly, designing and implementing relevant responses to climate change is necessary to reduce vulnerability and protect lives.



Drought resistant maize planted on tilled and furrowed land. This innovative conservation tillage method will ensure double or triple yield increases.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Climate change projections for Namibia predict both an increase in temperatures and a decline in precipitation. By 2050, temperatures are projected to increase by 2-4°C and rainfall is expected to decline by 10-20%, in comparison to 1961-1990 baseline. Water scarcity is expected by 2020. The country will experience severe floods and droughts that will change growing seasons. Increased soil degradation will impair the traditional crops and grazing practices, thereby reducing the potential for food and water security. Reduced natural resource availability will likely lead to the adoption of environmentally damaging practices, which will contribute to deforestation and desertification.

Contact information: Project Management Unit at cba@undp.org
304 East 45th St., 9th Floor New York, NY 10019 Tel: (212) 906-5006

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

This CBA project's goal is the pilot implementation of six coping strategies to climate change vulnerability that can be duplicated on a large scale in other similar communities. It has been prepared by a small NGO, Creative Entrepreneurs Solutions (CES), through a participatory process involving different sectors of the communities. The project seeks to achieve its goal through the following activities:



CES testing the energy efficient stove in Olukonda

- Building awareness of climate change, coping strategies and nutrition needs whilst supporting the social mobilization of community members into Self Help Groups
- Ensuring water security with flood and rain water harvesting for agricultural irrigation, livestock and fish farming
- Ensuring food security by using sustainable agricultural practices and methods that protect against land degradation such as irrigated vegetable production (supporting HIV/AIDS affected families) using harvested flood and rain water
- Improved dry land crop production through the introduction of improved soil conservation methods such as composting (rehabilitation of degraded soil by using natural fertilizer), bio char, crop rotation and conservation agriculture such as CONTILL
- Increased usage of improved drought and flood resistant crops such as pearl millet varieties (the national staple food referred to locally as 'mahangu'), rice, mushroom and sweet stem sorghum for human nutrition and fodder security for livestock, chicken and fish to boost availability of protein nutrition and incomes
- Energy efficient stoves and agroforestry in combination with general reforestation techniques

From the above activities, the proposed project will contribute to the development of adaptive strategies in response to climate change. They will help sustain food security and income generation with no adverse impacts to the land or other natural resources.

FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefits

The project contains components on agro-forestry training and practices, and the creation nurseries that will help reforest northern Namibia. It will also contribute to reducing deforestation by introducing the use of energy efficient wood stoves and renewable energy technologies such as solar pumps and bio-gas.

Community ownership and sustainability

Members of participating communities have played important roles during the formulation of the project. Women and young people in particular have committed to volunteer their time, labour, materials, and knowledge during its implementation. The sustainability of the project will be ensured through training and awareness-raising programs that will increase residents' skills and knowledge in sustainable water harvesting, food and fodder security, agro-forestry and reforestation techniques, nutrition and entrepreneurship. Also, the formation of Self Help Groups will enhance sustainability as these support marketing and keep the motivation levels of the community high.

Policy influence

The project will develop sustainable coping strategies that can be replicated on a large scale and inform policymaking locally, nationally and internationally. The involvement of numerous regional government leaders in the implementation of the project will pave the way for later influence on policy changes and development.

For more information about CBA or CBA projects visit: www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba

Further information, lessons learned, and experiences gathered from climate change adaptation activities globally can be found at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: www.adaptationlearning.net

