

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group

Tools and Approaches for Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Africa

Workshop Summary and Highlights

Introduction

From 18-20 July 2011, the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) held a training and workshop entitled "Tools and Approaches for Addressing Climate Change Adaptation in Africa," hosted by World Wildlife Fund-US. The 18 July training was organized by Shaun Martin and Eliot Levine (WWF) and Terry Hills (CI) while the 19-20 July workshop was organized by Natalie Bailey (ABCG), Judy Oglethorpe (WWF), Radhika Dave (CI) and Anton Seimon and James Watson (WCS). This workshop was generously supported by a grant to ABCG from the U.S. Agency for International Development's Biodiversity Analysis and Technical Support (BATS) program of the Africa Bureau.

Objectives

- To provide training on climate change adaptation to field practitioners, conservation professionals and others that will be increasingly addressing adaptation issues in their work
- To share climate adaptation approaches, lessons from the field, and tools for addressing climate change adaptation by ABCG members and their partners, with a particular focus on adaptation in Africa
- To review current status of adaptation monitoring and explore the possibility of developing monitoring guidance and protocols

What is ABCG?

The Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG) comprises seven international conservation NGOs (African Wildlife Foundation, Conservation International, the Jane Goodall Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Resources Institute, and World Wildlife Fund) with the goal of working collaboratively and efficiently and effectively to further a sustainable future for the African continent. Funding has been generously provided by The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and our members.

ABCG's Vision

ABCG's vision is of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.

ABCG's Mission

ABCG's mission is to tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work toward a vision of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.

Stay Involved

Information, presentations, and other resources from this workshop and others are available on the ABCG website: www.abcg.org. To keep up with ABCG, you are invited to join our listserv, follow us on Twitter (@ABCGconserve) or "like" us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/ABCGconserve).

18 July 2011 – Training on Climate Change Adaptation

Marcia Marsh, WWF's Chief Operating Officer, and Judy Oglethorpe, Managing Director for WWF's Climate Adaptation programs, opened the workshop and welcomed all the participants.

The training session on climate change adaptation, given by Shaun Martin and Eliot Levine (WWF) and Terry Hills (CI), was an abbreviated version of a one-week adaptation workshop that WWF has developed. This training session set the platform for the workshop by defining key concepts in climate change adaptation to build a common understanding and promoted an integrated ecosystems and people approach to climate change adaptation.

Presentation Highlights

What everyone needs to know about climate change for adaptation in 15 minutes

1. Understand the difference between climate variability and climate change.
 - a. Reducing vulnerability to variability is a good starting point to adaptation.
2. The Earth is committed to warming even with successful mitigation – locked into at least a century of warming, even if we stop burning fossil fuels tomorrow.
3. Mitigation targets do not guarantee the extent of warming the Earth will experience.
4. At temperatures above 4 degrees C, nearly nothing we can do to adapt.
5. Precipitation patterns are very difficult to project.

Key Concepts in Climate Change Adaptation (handout available on www.abcg.org)

- Adaptation – actions to reduce vulnerability to actual and expected changes in climate.
- Climate change changes everything.

Q&A/Discussion:

- Can conventional conservation activities be adaptation activities?
 - Conventional conservation activities can be adaptation, but it isn't necessarily adaptation unless it's being looked at through a climate change lens. We must re-evaluate activities given the new climate.
- It's curious that WWF is moving away from ecosystem-based adaptation, especially after the battle to get EBA included in the IPCC declaration. Nature-based strategy vs. "cement ball" strategy of insulation against change
 - The principle behind EBA is sound, but easily misinterpreted. It's not enough to do just EBA, we must work with development organizations to do adaptation in a way that won't damage ecosystems. We need feedback loop that isn't currently there. How do we integrate CBA and EBA? We are wrangling over how adaptation funds would be used and the development sector seems uncomfortable with "EBA" terminology.
- What's in the basket of approaches for failure to adapt to severe weather events? (Contingency plans, etc.)What are the reactive responses?
 - We can't adapt to everything so we will cope with some events. If we can't get moving, we go out of business. Disaster recovery might be one start for a reaction phase. There is a huge body of work that development organizations are interested in regarding green rebuilding (DRR – disaster risk reduction).
- Corridors aren't necessarily "business as usual conservation" but can they have the adaptation benefits of typical conservation approaches?
 - Yes, if that strategy has been examined in the light of climate change.
- What do we think about how adaptation is viewed by multilateral agencies?

- There are silos of funding and we're trying to figure out what goes where. Mainstreaming is building, but is still separated by funding streams.
- How do we collect and analyze better information and get better predictions (with monitoring, data collection and models)?
 - Mainstreaming is ultimate goal for adaptation, but because it is new and complex, it's very difficult to jump into mainstreaming. We're just beginning to grapple with the impacts of climate change. We're setting up adaptation pilot projects and it's important to have money right now for these pilots; however, we'll but need more money in the future. Right now a person can now get specialization in adaptation in a science degree program; however, so many changes will happen that you don't need a few people studying it in a few areas, must be spread through all departments (engineering, medicine, etc.).
- Does community-based adaptation include hard infrastructure?
 - Sure, if it's appropriate an especially if it's a rights-based approach that comes from the bottom-up.
- Check out www.climateprep.org.

Adaptation Options

Key lessons:

1. Some adaptation options require creativity and innovation. Many will be similar to what you already do.
2. Adaptation options are highly dependent on the context in which they're developed. Not all options will work everywhere, even if they are addressing the same problem
3. There are lots of potential options to address a single problem. The challenge is to find the best ones.

Happy Village: Exploring adaptation options

- Clockwise vs. counterclockwise – it depends on your perspective!

Integrated Adaptation Solutions for People and Ecosystems

- We cannot ignore the effects a changing climate will have on the relationships between people and ecosystems.
- Adaptation efforts that don't integrate conservation and development are at higher risk of failure.
- For an integrated approach:
 - Start by considering species and people as part of same ecosystem.
 - Work with partners to discover common ground, shared goals, values.
 - Negotiate tradeoffs for the long-term benefit of the entire ecosystem.
 - Develop a shared strategy with conservation groups working on conserving biodiversity and development groups working on improving human well-being.
 - Always maintain a continuous dialogue, shared learning and adaptive management.

Q&A/Discussion:

- This concept sounds like the ICDPs in the 1990s – what didn't happen then was strong linkage of conservation and development actions and goals. How do we avoid a retread of the same situation and truly integrate in a linked way across disciplines?
 - The ICDPs were about development through biodiversity resources - this is different.

- All trying to get a piece of the adaptation funding that's available and much will go to hard infrastructure and community approaches that don't necessarily go to conservation purposes
 - We must be very proactive now to get on the development agenda. When people are suffering more and we're losing biodiversity at the same time it will be harder to make the case.
- Do we do more projects where there's both a conservation organization and a development organization, already with two sets of overhead? Or do we do more to integrate conservation and development resources within a single organization and focus on approaches that aren't doubly expensive.
- A lot of this is about constituency building. WWF is essentially a constituent group that receives money to do conservation work. Is WWF leadership in sync with these issues? How well are conservation groups doing with integration as the true path?

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Links to Adaptation

- Disaster risk reduction can be regarded as an insurance policy.
- Adaptation can be a response to positive change; DRR is always a response to negative change.
- Climate change can be seen as abstract, whereas disasters are considered to be more tangible.

Vulnerability Assessments (VAs)

- Vulnerability is the potential to be harmed and depends on:
 - Exposure – degree to which a place is experiencing a climate change related stress.
 - Sensitivity – degree of impact that a stressor has on something.
 - Adaptive Capacity – system's ability to respond to climate stressors
- Vulnerability assessments are tools and there is no perfect one.

Q&A/Discussion:

- What about a resilience assessment as opposed to a vulnerability assessment?
- What about VA guidelines as opposed to VA assessment process? There was nothing about identifying the key uncertainties related to data and how those might be used in assessments.
 - There are many ways at getting at this. For example, come up with different scenarios about the effects of CC in an area (wetter, drier, with indices of development etc.). Then design adaptation plans around it as one way to deal with uncertainty. However, you must be careful with assumptions but you must also make assumptions when you don't have a lot of information available. Communicating uncertainty is a big issue and there is a difference between the general public and the scientist which requires a change in the delivery of information found and presented.
- What about the time scale involved?
 - The best way to make sure a VA gets done is to budget for it. The problem is with the project cycle and funding issues. There aren't many that continue.
- Are there vulnerability assessments that assess human systems and ecosystems?
 - This is all really new – there currently aren't many integrated approaches

19-20 July 2011 – Climate Change Adaptation

The workshop was organized by Natalie Bailey (ABCG), Judy Oglethorpe (WWF), Radhika Dave (CI) and Anton Seimon and James Watson (WCS). Day 1 centered on sharing many ABCG partners' climate adaptation approaches, lessons learned and tools used, with a particular focus on Africa while mainstreaming, partnerships, capacity building, and monitoring for successful adaptation were the

major themes of Day 2. Full of informative and interesting presentations and productive discussions, one highlight of the workshop was the adaptation tools fair.

19 July Presentation Highlights

Session 1: Setting the scene

1.1 Overview of projected climate change impacts on biodiversity and communities in sub-Saharan Africa

- Brief review of Africa's vulnerability to climate change
- All data from the Wallace Initiative – Mapping the Refugia in a Warming World
- Refugia – areas that will lose less than 25% of species
- Areas of concern – projected to become climatically unsuitable for more than 75% of species
- Adaptation is a journey, and not a destination
- Adaptation without mitigation is not a good strategy
- Adaptation options become more limited after an increase of 2 degree Celsius.

1.2 Overview of ABCG Member Approaches to Adaptation in Africa

- Brief overview of ABCG partners' adaptation work in Africa, presented in white paper
- Principal project work
 - AWF: mountain gorilla work w/IGCP; Kenya/Samburu landscape vulnerability assessment
 - CI – Madagascar and South Africa initiatives
 - JGI & TNC – Western TZ project
 - WCS – Albertine Rift and Coral Reef initiatives
 - WRI – World Resources Report and case studies
 - WWF – mangrove projects and others

Session 1 Q&A/Discussion:

- Are conservation groups connecting with larger-scale thought processes?
 - Biodiversity is typically a side note in products such as the National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPA) country reports, unless it's linked to tourism or income generation. There is a clear disconnect and a big difference between what information they contain and information that might be used by on-the-ground conservation managers. Biodiversity-related ministries are minimized and much more poorly funded than those that work on energy, etc. Biodiversity falls through the cracks most of the time and it's likely to continue to happen unless organizations are involved in the NAPA process; often NGOs are not welcome in that arena.
- Does the Wallace Initiative take species' adaptive capacity into consideration? Is there any ability to integrate adaptive ability into it?
 - The tool needs paleo-data on where species existed when they were in different climates for climate modeling: What is the range of climate species exposed to over recent evolutionary history? Life history traits to be incorporated better as well. There isn't enough data. They developed a series of parameters with life history traits – according to these life history traits, they skew the vulnerability charts/expectations but the models are proxies.
- Is there any indication of why NGOs and projects aren't influencing policy? Is it the lack of ability to influence policy work or are we not being proactive enough? To be successful, efforts must be at a much larger scale.

- 1) There are fundamental problems with the NAPA process. The NAPA process is funded for one time only and knowledge generated by projects isn't getting into NAPA reports because they've already been written. The knowledge that's being produced isn't getting into reports. The NAPA process isn't yet iterative and the knowledge is outdated – frozen with early 2000's knowledge. 2) Most communications with national governments is on other issues rather than climate adaptation such as biodiversity or other issues that they are well-connected on. Organizations don't speak at the same level of authority on other issues. Capacity is relatively low for engaging some issues at a good level.
- Is there any synergy in the Wallace Initiative modeling between projections between plants and other taxa? Did the unsuitability of habitat for plants influence the unsuitability of habitat for animals?
 - The model doesn't include information on the direct or indirect interactions with specific species. Generally, we can say that yes, there will be an effect but for specific expectations it requires a lot of local knowledge that isn't yet available. This task is left to others' future research.

Session 2: Vulnerability assessment and planning

2.1 Assessing vulnerability and species range shifts in Madagascar

- Modeling the effects of climate change on species distribution – using Marxan
- Conservation planning using future modeled species distributions – using Zonation software
- Recommendations: Technical Aspect of Restoration
 - Understand the dynamic of the zone to restore: Identify factors which determine the evolution of the landscape and guarantee the success of restoration;
 - Identify the objectives of the restoration with stakeholders
 - Determine with the local population the activities to undertake
 - Define the benefit offered by the restoration and the recipients
 - Define the adequate techniques of restoration
 - Develop a collaboration and synergy between various sectors

2.2 Lessons from vulnerability assessment of a mangrove ecosystem in Tanzania

- There is no formula for conducting vulnerability assessments
- Reliable trend data for key climate parameters is often not available
- Downscale projections can provide useful backdrop but are ambiguous, theoretical and data dependent
- No single study conclusively characterizes CC vulnerability as vectors of change are multiple
- Need to triangulate results from different studies
- Changes in vegetation over time can provide a proxy indicator of climate trends and impacts
- But need to be interpreted with care
- Community based assessments are necessary but not sufficient
- Quantifying severity of impact is important... time scales of climate change impacts and livelihood concerns may not be reconciled

2.3 Changes in adaptation strategy development at the landscape scale: AWF's progress and challenges in pilot sites

- Goal: Reduce the vulnerability of mountain gorillas to the negative effects of climate change

- Five decades of research on gorillas in the Virungas yet little understanding of how gorillas might be impacted by climate change
- Vulnerability assessments at ecoregional and localized scales
- Different results with different projections
- Successes:
 - First time all 44,000 mountain gorilla observations were pooled
 - Coalition-building among stakeholders
 - Capacity building/stakeholder buy-in

Sessions 2.1-2.3 Q&A/Discussion

- Is there any interplay of climate change effects at the Virungas on mangroves and other resources in regards to pathogens, salinity, etc., making them more vulnerable to invasive species or other threats? (Based on experience in the Gambia river basin and mangrove die off)
 - They found that the approach of doing basic field assessment and talking to communities was very helpful. Assessing the impacts first and then identifying the causes is useful in answering the question: Can impacts be related to climate trends? In regards to gorillas and pathogens, some pathogens might be climate propelled as gorillas are subject to the same pathogens that humans are.
- What conversations are happening thus far with donors and others to identify good locations for adaptation work? Were sites based on priority areas, project areas, or specific appointments and restrictions due to donors and funding? Are there any challenges?
 - WWF is about to review of all of WWF's priority places around the world and their vulnerability to climate change. Geographic scales are complicated. You can look at regions, but results within a region can vary. It's a scale issue in terms of how we're going to think about vulnerability prioritization.
- From your big perspective (to Jeff Price), how should the conservation community work with the transformation of the food industry, agricultural community or livestock community to optimize conservation in this new environment?
 - How do we maintain the status quo in a new environment where everything is changing? Facilitate change– doesn't necessarily mean moving wildlife but it does mean that there need to be far more people at the table than just biodiversity people. Examples: We need to communicate with industry and markets for market transformation and need to be working with China in Africa. We also need to start using the term "Proactive futures." We as development groups and conservation groups are reactive and we need to be proactive. We need to think about what the future looks like in the horizon and how we get the right players involved.

2.4 Case study: Integrating Adaptation into conservation planning; An example from Western Tanzania

- Ultimate goal is to develop climate adaptation strategies: Are actions and strategies robust to climate change?
- Used Climate Wizard and other models to estimate impacts from climate change to determine outcomes:
 - Not everything is going to get worse – there are tradeoffs.
 - Use both sides of your brain – create a space where people can think both creatively and analytically in incorporating adaptation planning
 - Articulate specific hypotheses to determine what needs to be monitored
 - Be critical and think broadly

- Comparison made to New York Climate Clinic – similarities in lessons:
 - Despite uncertainty, we have enough information to develop scientifically credible hypotheses about potential climate impacts
 - And to start working on adaptation
 - People are empowered by demystifying climate change
 - Implementation often doesn't require major overhaul of what's already in place
 - Important to think about how people are going to respond to climate impacts
 - Connectivity is key
 - Peer review strengthens the process
 - Similarities of impacts and barriers around the world make for a rich set of adaptation work that we can learn from
- Barriers to implementation and proposed solutions:
 - People don't understand impacts → use local examples
 - Common to focus on short-term rather than long-term needs → make long-term benefits clear and make them affordable in the short-term
 - Time/resources are limited → collaborate with partners, including non-traditional ones
- Recommendations:
 - Develop a conceptual ecological model
 - Think through how people will respond to climate impacts
 - Include colleagues who have developed adaptation strategies in other geographies
 - Choose the process that works for your team
 - Include partners and outside perspectives early and often
 - Don't sweat the small stuff
 - Build off what others have done
 - We are developing hypotheses – critical to monitor, evaluate and adjust over time

Session 2.4 Q&A:

- Is there any attempt to influence policy making?
 - The next workshop will have heavy focus on policy makers. We should bring them in early and often. The staff asked for help in reaching their bosses once they were on board. We need people above the district level so that everyone is on the same plan. There are tradeoff between the number of people in the room and ability to talk to everyone.
- In regards to the use of scenario building in planning – is there enough used?
 - We can use models and scenarios; couching projected changes in terms of proxies. Proxies are a way of making it real. If we incorporate understanding climate variability in our normal conservation plans and projects, it won't be a big, scary, ugly thing we don't know how to deal with.
- Is there a review of existing projects to include adaptation?
 - For new projects, we are trying to think about adaptation from Day 1. For existing projects, we are trying to go back and to review them and include adaptation in the near future. TNC has toolkit to help go through steps for adaptation planning which is available for public download. (either on conserveonline.org or naturepeoplefuture.org)
- Is the information from Jeff Price and the Wallace Initiative for East African crops publicly available? Thinking about pastoralists and agriculturalists, how do you culturally shift to growing crops? It would be interesting to see the modeling to identify where people are currently growing crops.

- The average is drier and wetter, but the models are aggregate. Wetter means more grass – think about the effects on pastoralists. Do changes in rainfall and crops viability drive land grabs? Need to look at set of models instead of single one.
- It seems there is a cognitive disconnect. Everyone knows it's happening, but it may be a surprise to African colleagues that some in the US don't think climate change is real. How do we get the messages about the reality out to more policy makers, technical experts, etc?
 - As a person living in the US and working in Tanzania, Elizabeth Gray was completely blown away when didn't get resistance to climate change in Tanzania. One hypothesis: in Tanzania, people are more closely tied to natural ecosystems than we are in the US. People can chronicle changes in rainfall, disease, etc. Another personal note: In Ghana and West Africa, people are blaming everything on climate change, when some issues can be easily explained by other factors (land use). There is resistance to accepting that the climate is changing in US, and there is more acceptance in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In the US, we're protected from weather much more so we don't see it. But we don't have to talk about climate change to talk about adaptation – we can talk about vulnerabilities. Algae blooms in Long Island, floods in North Dakota, etc. On a TNC donor trip to Tanzania, some conservation supporters were anti-climate change but agreed that we need to help adapt to climate change.

Session 3: Multiple level adaptation approaches

3.1 Climate Change Adaptation in the Albertine Rift

- Phase I – Assessment; Phase II – Monitoring; Phase III – Stakeholder Meeting.
- Albertine Rift highland protected areas are among best-hope locations for Africa wildlife conservation
- Must increase efforts to measure and monitor climate, ecology and species
- Direct climate change induced impacts will be significant, with major horizontal and vertical range reconfiguration of habitats, species distributions, agriculture, human livelihoods, etc.
- Human response likely to increase pressure for highland forest conversion to cultivate to levels far greater than present
- Disease threat is largely unknown, research critically needed

3.2 Adaptation in Namaqualand: Restoring resilience through restoration and innovation

- Namaqualand is the world's only arid hotspot
- Lessons:
 - Requires knowledgeable, committed, accountable and influential political leaders
 - Communication strategy identification is key
 - Continued engagement with stakeholders
 - Access to quality information that includes local knowledge
 - Adaptation plans must be mainstreamed with new/existing plans
 - Ensure systematic and integrated adaptation process
 - Draw in relevant institutions to determine actual value of things like grazing, water, etc.
 - Very useful exercise – shows farmers benefits they get from their own conservation action in exchange for what they are giving up
 - Use an ecosystem based approach to adaptation that links to improving livelihoods

3.3 Madagascar/West Indian Ocean Program Office Adaptation Work in Madagascar

- Several pilot adaptation projects; basis for WWF MWIOPO Climate Smart Conservation

- Capacity Building Lessons:
 - Need for practical and useful training tools
 - Guidelines for integrating CC into WWF project
 - Capacity need assessment and detailed training plan before any training on climate change adaptation
 - Monitoring and evaluation system on the progress of the knowledge and skill of people trained
- Vulnerability Assessment Lessons:
 - Climate change team needs to be familiarized with climate science, particularly the climate data
 - Should take into account both social and ecological aspects and their complex interactions
 - Must be conducted in participatory manner with key stakeholders and sectors
 - Must be relevant to produce reliable results and avoid maladaptation
- Adaptation Lessons:
 - Formal collaboration w/regional and local stakeholders including authorities is very crucial to ensure the effectiveness and implementation of adaptation plans
 - Adaptation process must be conducted in participatory manner with key stakeholders and sectors to ensure ownership and sustainability of adaptation work
- Approach Lessons:
 - Work at several scales - need more partnerships
 - Rapid social surveys are important before undertaking a scientific VA
 - Combine EBA and CBA approach to respond effectively to CC effects
 - Integration of non-climatic factors in process of VA

Session 3 Q&A:

- For WWF Madagascar: There was a lot of information on the lack of capacity building. Has your office embarked to work on capacity building or not? Addressing this is important to prevent projects from ending up maladaptive. What is WWF doing within and with partners?
 - There is a need for practical approaches and specific training. We have a capacity building program but the tools themselves aren't useful. We need reports like Shaun's yesterday and experiences to share. They're working with WWF-US to give practical training.
- For Anton Seimon. What did you learn from sharing results from models with community members during participatory work? What was interesting?
 - They learned that they can't just hand information down to communities. We need to poll people to find out what information they need on the ground. They thought if they could reach out at that level with governments and other partners, etc. and make concepts and tools understandable, that then the next stage would be stakeholder workshops for managers. But to start over, they would start with the stakeholder workshop, followed by modeling and monitoring, all with consultation. This project could have been more efficient. Had we had this meeting 5 years ago, we could have designed a much smarter project from the start.
- REDD+ will have to compete successfully with agriculture, but where will the agricultural pressure go? Are there plans to capture potential REDD+ activities in addition to adaptation?
 - REDD is an example of climate change mitigation, and mitigation gets far more attention than adaptation efforts. Ideally looking for win-win situations when we can. It is ideal for

all efforts to work together, but the agriculture issue and the need for food for people in the same landscape is a complicated issue. REDD+ is linked to biodiversity but not every REDD project is going to help with biodiversity. The conversion of existing/degraded land will make sense; tradeoffs for food security may be very harmful for climate security. We almost can't talk about food security without climate security – it's at the forefront of thinking about climate change and adaptation. There is a recent publication CBD on the implications of REDD+ and biodiversity – possibly the first time one international convention has called attention to the impacts and actions of another convention. Mainstreaming is essential. It's interesting that agriculture is coming into the agenda with UNFCCC. We can't forget the politics and realities of the UNFCCC: there are mitigation and adaptation silos and that probably won't change. There is a framework that you have to work in to make changes that doesn't make any ecological sense, but that's the way it is. In Uganda, REDD+ and other projects have been approached by having joint projects and plans with other NGOs and dividing efforts. They're now looking at climate change and trying to incorporate it. There is an Eco-Ag workshop in Nairobi next year (March 2012) on climate-smart agriculture

- There seems to be a continuum of perceiving people as a threat; however, we need to work with the people to make them become part of the solution. How do we tackle this and make people part of the solution? How do we deal with the way that people need to adapt?
 - Specifically in South Africa, everything is connected. CSA believes in emerging conservation. A first step would be to take it from a political point because it takes a long time to get the trust of the people and get everything on the agenda. People follow political leaders. An example approach: start with municipality and get the council to sign an MOU for 15 years to commit to biodiversity conservation. Skeppies work on climate change and conservation enterprises had interesting results: profitability was the driver. We need to make the business case. Keeping track with a climate diary was empowering. Focus on the concept of climate variability rather than climate change.
- Do the various MacArthur funded adaptation components fit together or are they a series of disconnected grants?
 - MacArthur's work on website last updated in 2007. Based on present knowledge, it appears they're largely disconnected. They didn't communicate redundancies between the grantees; we need to share experiences and report things to each other. We're all advancing but need to converge – we need more partnerships and collaborations. However, MacArthur has learned from their experience in the Mekong/Asia to better link, coordinate and plan proposals and a common framework.

Session 4: Discussion groups: Key questions from the ABCG White Paper

Session 5: Tools Fair

Participants explored various tools shared by ABCG members and partners, including TNC's Climate Wizard, WWF's ClimaScope and Wallace Initiative, WCS's dynamic models used in Albertine Rift and WWF's mangrove vulnerability assessment approach.

20 July 2011 Presentation Highlights

Session 6: Mainstreaming adaptation

6.1 Capacity Building Lessons from East Africa

- SMART's Scope of Action – capacity building organization working on CC adaptation

- START’s Capacity Building Portfolio relevant to ABCG includes: advanced training, fellowships and grants, assessments and communication
- Foster collaborative networks of individuals and institutions at local/national/regional and global scales

6.2 The Climate Action Partnership- learning from a South African collaboration

- CAP – partnership of eight of South Africa’s larger conservation NGOs
- Promote healthy intact ecosystems and their services and showing how this links to sustaining livelihoods and aids adaptation and mitigation to climate change.
- Focus on implementation with demonstration projects as well as the enabling environment, with work on policy, research, finance and communications and networking.
- Four main projects in adaptation – many lessons learned

6.3 USAID strategy for supporting policy and partnerships in Africa

- Presidential Climate Change Initiative overall goal – assist countries as they develop in ways that reduce emissions while building resilience to climate change impacts
- Adaptation (one of three pillars) – building capacity in vulnerable countries and communities to prepare for, reduce or cope with negative impacts of climate change
 - Science and analysis for decision-making – monitoring and assessing climate and impacts – communicate climate information, generate and interpret analysis
 - Governance for climate resilience – coordinating response, education and engage stakeholders
 - Implementation of adaptation solutions – develop adaptation strategies in relevant sectors and implement risk education
- Adaptation is here to stay – developing countries need to be able to manage it themselves

6.4 SCAPES Partnership – global learning in climate adaptation

- “Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems” – USAID’s largest global conservation initiative
- Objectives of SCAPES learning activity:
 - Explore how to integrate CC considerations and issues into cons program design and planning, w/focus on integrating ecosystems and livelihoods approaches
 - Investigate how to work simultaneously at local and landscape levels to assess vulnerabilities, build resilience and promote adaptation
 - Address key issues of climate adaptation and livelihoods with a strong focus on reducing threats to biodiversity
- Approach:
 - Review existing climate adaptation case studies involving ecosystems and biodiversity and human adaptation that integrates ecosystem approaches
 - Document an outline of adaptation work and lessons by SCAPES partners to date
 - Review and advise on existing adaptation frameworks
 - Hold workshop to share approaches, challenges and successes in addressing biodiversity and human adaptation, include training where necessary for SCAPES partners

6.5 Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network – Lessons from a multi-partner initiative

- ELAN – Partnership working with development sector/livelihoods

- Enhance poor/marginalized people’s resilience to the impacts of climate change by integrating ecosystem and rights-based approaches into adaptation policies and practices
- Phase 1 – building a solid foundation for ELAN; developing tools, methodologies, support for vulnerability assessments
- Lessons:
 - Partnerships are tough! Take time, diplomacy, learning each others’ language and values
 - Working at different scales presents challenges
 - But large overlap already exists between many EBA and CBA projects
 - Growing conviction in integrated approach from both sectors
 - Individual partner strengths enable us to achieve more
 - ELAN is enabling WWF to broaden approach, tools, etc.

6.6 Rural Futures – a continent-wide approach for African development and adaptation

- Rural Futures agenda organized around the multiple function of the rural sector and the role of rural transformation as pathway to create employment and livelihoods; accelerate econ/structural transition underlying national development; secure integrity in the natural environment and its fundamental importance to livelihoods, landscapes and prosperity
- Objectives:
 - Informing development discourse – building the knowledge base and broad consensus around a rural transformation agenda as an African-led pathway for development
 - Positioning the agenda – advancing enabling policy and institutional conditions/processes necessary for advancing rural transformation and integrated development action
 - Investing in action – promoting innovations with potential to serve as models for rural transformation and by launching strategic flagship interventions
 - Mobilize for change – building new partnerships and mechanisms to accelerate rural transformation and promoting alignment and accountability at national, regional, continental and global levels

6.7 The Great Green Wall: The Largest Adaptation Project in Africa?

- Eleven countries of the Sahel agreed to work together to address desertification and land degradation which are exacerbated by climate change
- Under the rubric of the collaborative Great Green Wall, supported by African Heads of State
- Three critical information challenges
 - What’s happening on the ground now?
 - What will survive on the ground in the future? – using climate impact assessment modeling
 - What should be planted and managed given local realities and what people are willing and able to do using best practices and learning dissemination?

Session 6 Q&A:

- 1) Are there any lessons from the Great Green Wall (GGW) in China? 2) Is there any collaboration between the adaptation community and the Chinese operating in Africa?
 - 1) It is really important that the GGW is not a tree-planting initiative. It started out as such and has evolved with input but we need to keep track of it. Developmentally, it’s quite interesting to track its evolution. It is also important to look at policies that go beyond the strip of trees. 2) We’d all love to help direct influence in a positive direction

with China. WWF is working with the Chinese government, corporations, etc to ensure involvement in issues, including climate change. There are many conversations about influencing China in Africa. Conservation organizations need to work closely with organizations like the AU and NEPAD to enter the currently bilateral conversation.

- WWF and others are operating various partnerships (SCAPES, ABCG, ELAN, etc.) but there are always issues with sharing information and ensuring synergies. On the ground they are working on projects with similar foci. Are there sharing mechanisms to avoid working on the same issues, etc? How do you manage all of the partners and partnerships?
 - It's a really good point to address and avoid duplication. SCAPES is waiting for decisions then trying to avoid and fill gaps but it is a challenge. Each partnership has a slightly different overlapping focus, with many busy people working on them: Africa, livelihoods, etc.
- For Jennifer Frankel-Reed: In regards to the countries that are partners on sustainable landscapes on sustainable landscapes, do you have a sense of which ministries are taking the lead on carbon counting?
 - It probably varies per country but the question would best be addressed by a Sustainable Landscapes person.
- For USAID: How is the process of mainstreaming adaptation or crosscutting into other work going?
 - The results are mixed. Real synergies exist where they can bring teams together, but it is difficult to always cross the streams. Underreporting, underperforming, and the inability to capture some things they are doing are all problems; it's a learning process.
- For Sarshen Marais: How well is adaptation being mainstreamed in South Africa?
 - They are seeing huge value in collaboration – there is a lot of strength from multiple logos and the organizations behind collaboration. The gist: there has been a lot of mainstreaming but there is still a need.

Session 7: Monitoring for Climate Adaptation (Chair: Elizabeth Gray)

7.1 Overview of scales of monitoring and type of monitoring (climate variables, impacts, adaptation effectiveness); current developments in adaptation monitoring

- M&E for adaptation needs to:
 - Foster learning
 - Ensure broad ownership
 - Support results-based management
 - Be relevant and flexible
- Defining adaptation depends on the implementation context
- Steps to form an adaptation-relevant M&E system
 - Describe the adaptation context
 - Identify contribution to adaptation
 - Adaptive capacity
 - Adaptation actions
 - Sustained development
 - Form and adaptation hypothesis
 - Create and adaptation theory of change
 - Choose indicators and set baseline
 - Use adaptation M&E system

7.2 Monitoring climate variables to assess trends in climate change

- There is a need for baseline knowledge and measurements of local climatology
 - There is no substitute for local, direct observations
 - Appropriate station siting is critical
 - Significant tradeoffs between cost, data accuracy and durability
- Data absence issues
- Working with informal data resources
 - With caveats, it is possible to work with informal/unofficial data resources
- Consider parameters other than temperature and rainfall

7.3 What do we know about monitoring for climate change impacts on species, ecosystems, ecosystem services, people and agricultural services?

- TEAM as an early warning system – started as monitoring system for forests about 10 years ago
- Need to monitor baselines, need to monitor changes
- Lessons:
 - Nested design for upscaling
 - Integration of socioeconomic surveys and biophysical measurements
 - Complex and resource intensive
 - Necessary expertise requires collaborations
 - Long-term funding
 - Community buy-in and short-term benefits
 - Local capacity building
 - Data management and dissemination

7.4 Monitoring the effectiveness of adaptation interventions

- What is being evaluated? Project and program level
 - Single intervention (project) versus collection of interventions (program)
- Consider both primary service and secondary services
- Challenges: Evaluation in Ecosystem-based Adaptation
 - Difficulty in the complexity in the relationships
 - Difficulty in capturing co-benefits

Session 7 Q&A:

- The term “resilience” is not well-defined – it can be confusing and interpreted differently. Is there a problem in defining the term resilience and how can we overcome it?
 - Resilience can mean many different things. There is a lot of work being done on resilience and vulnerability. Resilience based approaches will typically look at the diversification of efforts across different approaches – the less likely to be impacted by something.
- There is a big emphasis to collect information for establishing trends and they’re done over long-term time scales; however, this is short-term decision making. How can we reconcile this? We have the ability to collect lots of data but it’s not all relevant to on the ground practitioners about decision making. How can we design monitoring to inform the management decisions that we actually need to make on the ground?
 - Most monitoring systems are designed as observation systems and often the scale isn’t the same. Having said that, in biological systems, variability is inherent so it’s often difficult to make a decision. The use of adaptive management is essential to either

reinforce or change a management decision. Monitoring systems need to recognize that flexibility.

- How do we monitor the actions/impacts? What is our system state? How do the impacts of our systems change?
 - Stakeholders need to be including into the design of the monitoring system from the beginning. People might not know what they want, but know what they do. Scientists can push the data envelope, while other practitioners know what they do and what they need to do their jobs. It's always about getting the information and communicating it.
- There is a long-term time frame for effective adaptation yet the donor environment works in 3-5 year cycles. How do we reconcile this?
 - Do we need to push for a shift in thinking about the time length of a project and project life cycles? Question help for later.
- Comment on studies: The use of control areas and comparing an area with a project to one without a project is very difficult. The control area might not actually control for the factors.

Session 8: Group discussions and summary reporting

Groups discussed different topics:

1. Capacity building, policy, partnerships and scaling up adaptation
2. Monitoring
3. Tools

Session 9: Final plenary: synthesis, lessons, the way forward, and next steps (Chair: James Watson)

The day concluded with group discussions on next steps for climate adaptation work. Recommendations included:

- Increasing climate adaptation monitoring throughout sub-Saharan Africa
- Including public health and disease as conservation factors under climate change
- Support partnerships between conservation and development organizations to better integrate people and ecosystems in adaptation work
- Engage in national, regional and local policy and planning to mainstream adaptation
- Convene a similar workshop for donors to share lessons learned

For details from the agenda, presentations, and other resources, please see www.abcg.org.



ABCG's members are U.S.-based international conservation NGOs with field activities in Africa. ABCG's mission is to tackle complex and changing conservation challenges by catalyzing and strengthening collaboration, and bringing the best resources from across a continuum of conservation organizations to effectively and efficiently work toward a vision of an African continent where natural resources and biodiversity are securely conserved in balance with sustained human livelihoods.