



## Concept Note

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**CC DARE<sup>1</sup> Side Event**  
**26th Session of UNEP Governing Council**  
**NAIROBI, Kenya**  
**February, 2011**

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<sup>1</sup>UNEP-UNDP- Climate Change Adaptation & Development (CC DARE)

**EVERY ACTION FOR ADAPTATION  
COUNTS IRRESPECTIVE OF SIZE:  
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE *CC DARE*  
INITIATIVE IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA**

### 1. Context and Scope

All global reports put Sub Saharan Africa at the frontline of climate change impacts for a region that lacks the capacity and resources to face the challenges. Not only is climate change complicating national development planning, but also overturning previous development efforts and constricting human survival opportunities as the impacts are already being felt. Following the Bali Road Map, shaping the future of adaptation requires approaches that go beyond words into actions that inform policy and guide practices. The effectiveness of these demonstration actions will depend on how well they create an enabling environment and empowers people into self-owned actions. Using a flexible implementation mechanism that engages new actors, generate quick-turnovers of target actions, can provide the right framework to catalyse synergies between national adaptation activities, facilitate transition into green growth and resilient development. In line with the Paris Declaration on aid effectiveness, an enabling environment can be created down streaming in feeding upstream policy processes while simultaneously providing the immediate needs for the people. Where the beneficiary country drives the process, while the development agency partners – guides the process from the rear with technical assistance and financial support, the capacity developed and the lessons learnt in a ‘learning-by-doing-process’ can easily help countries put in place the necessary institutional, organisational, financial/fiscal, human, and technological measures required for effective response. These five ingredients are also central to sustainable adaptation actions with high multiplier and spill-over effects to catalyse large-scale policy process at the national level.

## 2. The CC DARE Programme and Approach

The CC DARE Programme is a joint UNEP-UNDP initiative to improve the ability of countries in removing barriers and creating opportunities for integrating adaptation into their national development agenda. The programme uses flexibility and targeted approach that allows for project actions in national priority areas that provide the opportunity for solutions across multiple sectors, but linked to a common national strategy for adaptation. With a combination of upstream and downstream activities stemming from national-innovative solutions proposed by countries, the country-led demonstration actions are backstopped with technical and financial supports, and surrounded with the required networks of knowledge, practitioners etc through CC DARE.

Using this approach, the first phase of the CC DARE programme in Sub-Saharan Africa has demonstrated how lessons learnt can trigger new actions, shape national policies and attract national budgetary allocations, including recruiting new actors and sectors to expand the implementation of adaptation.

## 3. Some Lessons Learnt

Following the implementation of a diverse range of activities, CC DARE has tested the quick-turnover, and fast delivery approach of adaptation solutions in 11 African countries. For example,

- i. In **Togo**, the rehabilitation of small dams for harvesting rainwater has improved year-round supply of water to the local communities in the drier northern Savane Region of the country. This have reduced physical stress on women in search of water during the long dry periods stretching over 9 months, and also improved water security that have expanded rural livelihood activities and triggered emerging entrepreneurs in market gardening, brick construction and fisheries besides the regular uses for domestic and agropastoral consumption. The co-benefits of the project action in having year-round water supply to the surrounding ecosystem include natural regeneration and restoration of biodiversity serving as medicinal products for the household and dietary supplements for local communities. The adaptation action also provided an economic cost analysis for nationwide implementation of small dams' rehabilitation and local sourcing of the labor and materials.
- ii. In **Seychelles** rainwater harvesting from rooftops is addressing the water adaptation needs and sanitation in primary schools. The measure has reduced monthly water bills of the schools by about \$250 USD as direct savings on school budgets. An economic valuation of the mitigating impacts of the action on national healthcare and sanitation in preventing the risks of waterborne diseases outbreaks among pupils and teachers following the availability of water will further illustrate the economic benefits of the adaptation action to the national healthcare system. Following the national relevance of the demonstration action, the government of Seychelles will table a bill to the national assembly for the inclusion of rainwater harvesting systems in the national building code.
- iii. In **Tanzania**, the integration of climate change perspectives for the sustainable management of community woodlots was supported by CC DARE. The project has spurred

both economic and environmental benefits to the local community. The District annual financial report declared over 64% increase in the council revenue for 2009/2010 (from 217,909,000 to 357,758,000 Tanzania Shilling) generated from the collection of timber royalties following the use of guidelines for improved management of the woodlot as output of the project. A “Tree growers SACCOS (Cooperatives)” have been set up to provide financial credits to low income people using trees in their woodlots as collaterals. Majority of the beneficiaries are rural women. This has promoted inclusive growth and promoted savings and credit operations in rural areas for other income diversification activities.

- iv. **In Mozambique**, CC DARE sub-national activity with the Municipal Council of the City of Xai Xai have developed adaptation measures to assist the city inhabitants in addressing the higher risk of gully erosion resulting from frequent and intensive erratic rainfalls, using a combination of earth bricks manufactured locally by the people, and native tree planting in rehabilitation of the landscape and stabilization of the slopes. Over 15,000 people around the affected neighbourhoods have directly benefited from the action. The bricks and masonry techniques/skills acquired by the youths during the project implementation process, have led to an emerging brick industry serving the local economy and creating jobs opportunities. The vegetation cover planted to stabilize the infrastructure is providing beautifying scenery and now constitutes touristic attractions in the city with the potential to spurring income generation and greening the local economy. The merits of the approach is evident in the engagement of local communities, using local materials, keeping the implementation process simple and thus, making adaptation actions more efficient, more effective, more affordable, more equitable, and more environmentally sustainable.
- v. In an effort to reduce the vulnerability of displaced communities and also ecosystems to climate change impacts in **Rwanda**, the Government - guided by the CC DARE national project that mapped and developed a comprehensive plan for land suitability and use – has allocated USD \$25 Million from the national budget to relocate human settlements from Gishwati to safer zones. The greening ecosystems usher in new economic opportunities in the global carbon trade.

The outcomes of the first phase of activities using the CC DARE approach demonstrate that it is possible to achieve consolidated solutions for national priorities on adaptation to climate change that serve communities now and in the future. To avoid re-inventing the wheel and fast tracking uptake and replication processes, the outcomes have the potentials to serve as global goods for countries and regions that share similar risks and require similar solutions. It is important therefore to showcase these outcomes by the country proponents and actors to share the experiences, knowledge and lessons learnt with different countries across in Sub Saharan Africa and other global regions.

## 4. Objectives:

The objective of the CC DARE Side Event hosted by Rwanda is to showcase the outcomes of nationally demonstrated actions on adaptation using the CC DARE delivering model of

climate change adaptation and the catalytic effects it has had in building national capacity, inspiring policy making processes and empowering countries in undertaking bigger actions.

## 5. Expected Outcomes in supporting the GC26 outcomes

Following the current theme of the GC26-Green Economy and International Environmental Governance, the expected outcomes of the GC26 include the followings: (List)

In support of the GC26, the CC DARE side event is expected to have the following outcomes:

- Demonstration of adaptation actions from countries showcasing how CC DARE approach is providing both national adaptation solutions and catalysing low-carbon transition pathways, and resource efficient economy in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Sharing experiences in addressing current needs and scope of climate change adaptation in sub-Saharan Africa and how best to capitalize on the CC DARE approach in delivering adaptation.
- Suggestions and plans for up scaling and replicating the actions within the bigger framework of national development programmes in Africa.

## 6. Organising Partners

The side event is organised under the leadership of Rwanda in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and DANIDA. This is representative of CC DARE modus operandi. It will be a unique forum involving other UN Agencies, governments, local governments, NGOs, Donors, Civil society, research institutions, scholars etc.

## 7. Format of the Side Event

There are two parts to the side event which comprise a) lessons from countries following project implementation and b) panel discussion on drawing from the implementation lessons of the MDGs in fast tracking adaptation actions. The first part will be led by countries as the principal proponents of CC DARE activities, leading implementing entity, and as the primary beneficiaries of the solutions.

Following an introduction of CC DARE and its activities on climate change adaptation, in Sub-Saharan Africa by the Project Manager, three country project managers will follow suit with short presentations of their national activities and their outcomes.

### a. Showcases of CC DARE Country Activities

This will include three speakers:

1. **Mr. Johnson Nkusi, Chairman of the Rwanda Environmental NGO Forum (RENGOF)** - Mr Nkusi will report on the improvement of a Land Use and Land Suitability Plan and Map for the Gishwati Area and how the map is being used in guiding the relocation of communities from high risk zones of landslide, to safe areas. He build on how the small action has led accessing funds from the government of Rwanda up to a tune of USD \$25 Million from the national budget to relocate human settlements from Gishwati to safer zones.
2. **Mr. Hatimi Tchabore, Director, Department of Village Water Supply, Ministry Water Sanitation and Village Water Supply of Togo.** Mr Hatim Tchabore will present the CC DARE national activity on the rehabilitation of small dilapidated dams in improving rural water

security in the drier northern Savane Region of Togo, and how this is enhancing the capacity of communities in building resilience to the risks of climate change through concrete actions and providing exit strategies from poverty, through emerging opportunities following year-round availability of water. With CC DARE support the communities have rehabilitated two small dams for retaining most of the water for use during water shortage periods over the extended dry season.

3. **Mrs. Rita Muianga, the Lord Mayor of Xai Xai Province Mozambique.** In demonstration of CC DARE sub-national activities, the Mayor will present the use of another approach in intervening on climate-induced gully erosion destroying city road and housing infrastructure hampering circulation and economic activities. Using a combination of ecosystem-based approach and minimum infrastructural construction using local materials and labor in implementing adaptation measures, the inhabitants of the City of Xai-Xai are able to adapt to the higher risk of pluvial top soil erosion that results from higher and more erratic rainfall. Comparative cost analysis of action versus the traditional engineering approach using heavy equipment could shed more lights to the cost saving measures for adaptation. The outputs of this project have benefited 15,000 people around the affected neighbourhoods.

As interlude, there will be video screening of successful adaptation stories from countries.

## **b. Panel Discussion**

Title: Lessons from the MDGs implementation in shaping rapid response actions on adaptation to climate change in Sub Saharan Africa

The MDGs were global targets with time bounds mindful of the importance in changing the face of humanity across the face of the globe. As measurable targets, improvement in human wellbeing was progressively monitored. However, in spite of some progress made in some of the goals and in some global regions, it is now certain that none of the MDGs will be met in Sub Saharan Africa before the deadline of 2015. The additional burden of climate change further makes this unlikely and is overturning national efforts made in this regard. Thus, the direct service of adaptation for the realisation of the MDGs is unprecedented. Setting the milestones in addressing the MDGs through adaptation actions will be better served drawing from the lessons learnt following the implementation of the MDGs in order to achieve the desirable outcomes of ground actions that address the immediate needs of the people. That will enable us to answer the following questions:

- How can the implementation lessons learnt from the MDGs change how adaptation is implemented
- How can we speed up ground actions?
- What should be done differently?
- What should be done the same?

Although adaptation to climate change is not currently bounded by a timeline like the MDGs, the urgency for adaptation measures following the severity and intensity of climate impacts, have been widely and frequently alerted by the scientific community. Being closely linked to the realisation of the MDGs that is severely delayed, adaptation, by default, is bounded by a timeline for concrete actions.

The invited high level panellists will explore the opportunities for rapid response on adaptation framing this with demonstrated cases and their outcomes as reported by countries using the CC DARE approach.

## 8. Panellists: *TBC*

1. The Executive Director of UNEP or his representative
2. The UNDP Administrator or her representative
3. The Minister of Environment, Rwanda
4. The Minister of Environment of Denmark
5. President Joaquim Chissano, Former President of Mozambique
6. The Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency of Ethiopia

## 9. Date and time: *TBC*

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