



DEW Point Newsletter

Issue 11 – October 2008

The DEW Point Resource Centre focuses on water, sanitation and the environment and, in association with two other Resource Centres, also provides advice to DFID on climate change issues. For many developing countries, stress from extremes of weather is not unusual but it is important to understand and be prepared for the potential impact of longer term changes in climate on the environment, economy and livelihoods.

This month we have contributions from two of our consortium partners on climate change issues:

- ◆ Rachel Berger of Practical Action Consulting focuses on the increased profile of adaptation measures in policy discussions and the need to align the requirements of the developing nations with support from developed nations.
- ◆ Gill Wilkins of AEA reports on a tool developed to measure climate change risk and its application to DFID's development programme in Kenya. A major conclusion from the work is that climate change impact should be factored into future programme design and subsequent performance reviews.

Our Director's Word this month rings a note of caution – that whilst it is excellent that we strive for new innovations to make all our lives easier, we must not forget the need for long term, steady, development support. The 'Climate Risk – Impacts on Sectors and Programmes' (CRISP) tool that was used in the Kenya study, is also designed to ensure that in focusing on immediate development targets, programmes do not exacerbate vulnerability to climate-related stresses in the long-term.

In the October 2008 issue:

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Adaptation to climate change in international climate policy discussions

By Rachel Berger, Practical Action Consulting

Only five years ago, discussion of adaptation to climate change was limited to a relatively small circle of academics, and government negotiators in a few developing countries; development organisations were just beginning to be aware of the issue.



Climate change is now widely recognised as already impacting on the livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities, particularly rural communities dependent on natural resources. Today most development organisations are assessing how climate change will impact their work, and whether they need new programmes of 'adaptation'. Developed countries are talking about, and costing, the measures they must take to adapt, and developing countries are realising that they will need large sums to assist them to cope with climate change impacts.

Adaptation, from being a neglected aspect of international climate policy compared with mitigation, is at last receiving serious attention, and is on an equal level with mitigation in the Bali Action Plan, along with the technology and finance needed to achieve them. It is now recognised that we will have to adapt to climate change even if emissions are reduced rapidly enough to prevent a climate catastrophe.

Under the climate change convention, the responsibilities of developed countries are clear: to finance the costs of adaptation in developing countries, additional to any development assistance. Developing countries, and the NGOs that work to reduce poverty in those countries, see the funds required for adaptation as an issue of equity – of compensation for the additional costs of development that climate change will impose on them, including the costs of recovery from the increasing number of severe weather-related disasters occurring.

In 2007, several estimates were produced, albeit rough and ready, of the costs of adaptation for developing countries, to highlight the scale of funding likely to be generated; the sums are of the order of \$50-86bn. (Oxfam, UNFCCC, UNHCR, for example). In the last few months, some serious proposals have been put forward by several governments (including Mexico, Switzerland and Norway) on how such large sums might be raised.

This is good progress – though the pace needs to quicken. For adaptation, there are two issues that negotiations will need to resolve. The first is the gap between the developing countries, who see adaptation funding as compensation, which should be provided unconditionally – and the developed countries who would not hand large sums to governments with no certainty that the funds would reach the poor and vulnerable.

The challenge on how to resolve this is one that development NGOs are actively working on, and in the EU are engaging with government in useful discussions to share thinking. NGOs, many of whom have a good track record in delivering community-based programmes that demonstrate real poverty reduction and increased resilience, are looking to propose forms of partnerships between developing country governments and civil society as one way of providing oversight of international adaptation funding. From their side, developing country governments are looking for international institutions to provide guidance and technical support for adaptation strategies, programmes and projects.



With time so short, there is a need for constructive dialogue between all parties to the negotiations: from developed countries, more open recognition of the scale of funding needed and the technical support for spending it appropriately, and from the potential recipient countries, a recognition that their most vulnerable and marginalised communities should receive a substantial proportion of the available funds.

Both pictures by Practical Action.

Picture 1: Woman prepares to sew rice seed onto floating garden, Bangladesh, Iqbal Hossein.

Picture 2: Woman feeding her goats which are in a pen, Nepal, Rajesh KC.

Kenya: Climate Screening and Information Exchange

By Gill Wilkins, AEA

Kenya, like many developing nations, is vulnerable to existing climate-related shocks and these shocks have significant effects on its economic growth. In general, the country experiences floods that cost about 5.5% of GDP every seven years and drought that cost about 8% of GDP every five years. This translates to long-term fiscal liability of about 2.4% of GDP per annum. A study was commissioned by DFID to examine the potential impact of climate change on this already fragile environment.

This study, which was part of DFID's commitment from the Gleneagles Summit to screen its development portfolio for climate risk, modelled the climate science for Kenya (using global and regional climate models),

assessed impacts on key economic sectors, assessed risks to the DFID Kenya Portfolio and outlined potential adaptation options.

The study reviewed existing environmental, climate and disaster risk screening methodologies and developed an approach called 'Climate Risk – Impacts on Sectors and Programmes' (CRISP). CRISP assesses the 'impact' of climate on the 'physical environment' and then the 'consequence/risk/opportunity' of that impact on each sector of the economy. The sectoral impacts were subsequently used as reference points to determine the specific climate risks to those programmes that were found to be potentially most at risk. The study also examined adaptation options for each sector and programme.

Information from the study has been made available in a format that enables programme managers to assess potential climate impacts and identify possible adaptation options for other, existing and new programmes. A guidance note has been provided to assist programme managers in this process. The guidance note outlines a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) framework that can be used to prioritise the adaptation options.

CRISP aims to add adaptation into a programme so that, going forward, development and adaptation objectives can be achieved together. The aim was also to ensure that in focusing on immediate development targets, the programme does not exacerbate future vulnerability to climate-related stresses in the long-term (i.e. avoids so-called 'maladaptation').

The study revealed that the existing overall DFID Kenya portfolio of development projects is at low risk from climate change, due to the timescale and nature of the programmes. Significant climate change in Kenya is not expected before 2020, whereas most existing DFID Kenya projects end within ten years. DFID Kenya's portfolio does not include major transport or communications infrastructure development projects, which inherently are more exposed to climate change. However, the report recommends that future DFID programmes factor climate risk into programme design and subsequent performance reviews. By focusing development and pro-poor growth programmes on climate-related activities that increase people's resilience, the vulnerability of the poor to climate-related shocks could be reduced - both now and in the future.

The study was lead by AEA with contributions from the University of Oxford, University of North Carolina, Practical Action East Africa and Nairobi University. The full report and appendices are available at: <http://www.dewpoint.org.uk/Article.aspx?ArticleID=901>

The Director's word

By Richard Carter, DEW Point Resource Centre Director



Development work is difficult. It is full of intractable problems and traps. All of us who are engaged in some aspect of international development know that we desperately need to find new ways, better ways, to bring about beneficial outcomes in the lives of the poor. It is right that we should devote much effort to finding new approaches, new technologies, and combinations of the two, which work better than former ways. However, I believe that in this constant search for innovation we expose ourselves and our professions (and consequently the poor themselves) to two dangers.

First, we may have a tendency, despite what we really believe, to seek silver bullets. To find solutions which magically erase all the challenges which we know exist. Simple messages, amazing gadgets, which will enable us to leapfrog the difficult situations with which we engage. The hard fact is that very few of these exist. The harder fact is that some do – mobile telephony for example, or many aspects of information and communication technology. But this only confuses the picture because it is impossible to predict their emergence with any certainty, or their downsides.

Second, in the quest for innovation, we may forget the importance of actions and interventions which simply have to be carried out routinely, day-in-day-out. Actions which do achieve results, but only as a consequence of slow, steady, cumulative effort. Unsexy, old-hat, but nevertheless important actions. Supporting learning,

connecting practitioners and policy-makers to information and experience, supporting and expanding networks of professionals, all of these and many more routine tasks which only work if they are consistently delivered, with steady improvement over time, for the long haul.

DEW Point news

Selection of documents recently added to the website

Climate change and coastal cities: the case of Mombasa, Kenya. This paper published in Environment and Urbanization examines the risks that the city of Mombasa faces from the direct and indirect impacts of climate change. [More...](#)

More than rain: Identifying sustainable pathways for climate adaptation and poverty reduction, which looks at how to integrate climate variability and change into poverty reduction programs and natural resources management. Commissioned by a Norwegian NGO, the report draws from case studies in Ethiopia, Nepal and Nicaragua. [More...](#)

Prioritizing climate change adaptation needs for food security in 2030. This paper presents new data that identifies “climate risk hot spots” where food security may be vulnerable to climate change. [More...](#)

Climate variability and climate change: implications for chronic poverty. Published by the Chronic Poverty Research Centre, this paper looks at how the various climate change scenarios might affect India’s vulnerability to climate change. [More...](#)

Clean energy investment, a report by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) that looks at the barriers and opportunities for clean energy investment in developing countries. [More...](#)

Understanding the CDM's contribution to technology. Studies have suggested that Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) can contribute significantly to the Kyoto targets. This paper describes which type of financing deals have been the most successful for developing countries. [More...](#)

UN-Water Global Annual Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS). GLAAS is a new initiative whose aim is to improve the reporting on the drinking-water and sanitation sectors in order to inform policy-making. [More...](#)

Selection of recent helpdesk enquiries

- ◆ DEW Point is currently sourcing candidates for a temporary Environment and Development Adviser post with DFID.
- ◆ A review of the governance and delivery arrangements of various climate and non-climate funds was carried out.
- ◆ Two technical enquiries were answered by DEW Point: one on latrines in high groundwater tables and flood-prone areas in Madagascar, and one on field water quality testing kits and equipment. DEW Point members can access these two enquiries via their member page.

Other news

Mansoor Ali from Practical Action attended a DFID Meeting on 'African Infrastructure Country Diagnostic' and 'Building Bridges - China's Growing Role as Infrastructure Financier in Africa' and reports back for DEW Point. [Read](#)

Find out about the UK statistics on international development with a report published by DFID. [Read](#)
The illustrated WEDC guide 'Sanitation for primary schools in Africa' is now freely available for download and print. [Read](#)
Course materials on potable water treatment are available to all, and for free, on the Open University's OpenLearn website. [Read](#)

Conferences and events

- ◆ First International Conference on Water Resources and Climate Change in the MENA Region, 2-4 November in Oman. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ World Toilet Summit & Expo 2008, 6-11 November in Macau. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Towards a political ecology of irrigation & water use efficiency and productivity, 6 November in London. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Third South Asian Conference on Sanitation (SACOSAN III), 16-21 November in New Delhi. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Sanitation Options in the Asia-Pacific, 18-21 November in Hanoi. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Sanitation for the Urban Poor: Governance and Partnerships, 19-21 November in Delft. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Earthwatch Debate: Irreplaceable - the World's Most Invaluable Species, 20 November in London. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Third International Conference of the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists, 23-28 November in Nigeria. [>> Info](#)
- ◆ Second World Aqua Congress - Global Climate Change and Water Resources, 26-28 November in New Delhi. [>> Info](#)

If you have any relevant news, conferences or training events that you would like to publicise in our newsletter then please do get in touch. You can email us the details at helpdesk@dewpoint.org.uk, or submit website content via your member homepage on the DEW Point website.

If you wish to unsubscribe, send us a quick email to helpdesk@dewpoint.org.uk.

Questions or comments? E-mail us at helpdesk@dewpoint.org.uk.

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