Community-Based Adaptation
FAST FACTS

Grantee: SOS Sahel International Niger/Cellule de Recherche Action Concertée en Gestion des Ressources Naturelles (CRAC-GRN)

Type of organization: NGO

Number of participants: 300

Location: Tamalolo and Tanout (Region of Zinder)

CBA contribution: $49,429

Project partners: Tanout Department of Farming Development

Co-financing: Government of Japan, $46,814; CRAC-GRN, $1,054 in-kind; Local Communities, $7,170 in-kind

Project dates: June 2010 – May 2012

NIGER
Adapting to climate change in the community of Tamalolo

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 volunteer contributions, and ensure inclusive participation in the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner NGOs and CBOs. In addition, funding is provided by the Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

This CBA project aims at improving living conditions and the adaptive capacity of the rural communities of Tamalolo (Niger) through the implementation of enhanced farming practices. The project site is in the Sahelo-Saharan zone of Niger, identified by the country's National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) as the most vulnerable area in the region to effects of climate change. The area encompasses 14 villages and tribes, with a population of approximately 2,216 residents, 51 percent of whom are women. The principal ethnic groups are the Haoussa, Kanuri and Touareg. The communities' principal socioeconomic activities are farming and breeding. Farming is rain-fed and practiced by all three ethnic groups. The predominant crops grown are mil, sorghum, black-eyed peas, okra, and sorrel. There is extensive breeding of goats, cattle, sheep, camels, donkeys and horses, and limited trading of goods, including sugar, doughnuts, condiments and cola. All of these activities are highly reliant on annual rainfall. The repeated droughts, extreme temperatures and violent winds affecting the region make the communities of Tamalolo vulnerable. Food insecurity is high, access to water is scarce and all valued wildlife and vegetation species have disappeared and/or are now endangered. Ecosystems are also affected by these climate changes (soil degradation, rapid drying out of ponds, loss of woody and grassy vegetation species, disappearance of vegetation species, increased scarcity of young shoots). Water, which is increasing unavailable, is the key factor limiting development in Tamalolo. As the aridity in the area increases, agricultural production and the survival of the communities and animals reliant on water are significantly threatened.

Gardening by women Tamalolo with drip irrigation

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Several reports within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and projections of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecast an increase in average temperatures in Niger, growing precipitation variability, rising evapotranspiration and aridity. As described by the Nigerian NAPA, over the past decades the region has experienced several years of droughts, violent winds, extreme temperatures, dust storms, as well as grasshopper infestations and bush fires. In the long run, these climate risks are expected to increase. In addition, climate change will impact natural and agro-pastoral ecosystems, increase soil erosion and reduce the availability of water. This situation will augment production risks, and the survival of communities dependent on these natural resources will be jeopardized.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

The most significant impact of climate change on the community is the decreased agro-silvo-pastoral production, causing chronic food insecurity, the loss of animals and a significant fodder deficit. To help the population adapt better to the effects of climate change, the project aims at intensifying and diversifying agro-silvo-pastoral production mainly through the improvement of rainfall production systems and the introduction of drip irrigation, which allow the local communities to increase the quality and quantity of their agricultural products, including mil, sorghum, and black-eyed peas. While the project was developed by CRAC-GRN, an NGO working in Niger since 1988, nearly 12 other NGOs and associations are also involved in the Tamalolo process. Project activities are implemented in a participative manner through the different management committees established, including community members, CRAC-GRN and authorities of the department and commune of Tanout. In order to increase food security, decrease the loss of animals and fodder deficit, the following project activities are undertaken:

Training session in Tamalolo on drip irrigation techniques.

- Improve rain-fed farming activities (development of simple water and soil preservation technologies, improvement of the mechanism to acquire inputs, fighting against cultivation enemies, development of agroforestry).
- Construct two improved traditional wells and develop two old traditional wells.
- Introduce low-cost drip irrigation aimed at vulnerable social groups, in particular women, structured around two truck farming sites of approximately one ha each.
- Introduce *Zai*, half-moon and stone-line farming techniques to use uncultivated land and restore degraded soils to improve biodiversity.
- Construct biological chords to reduce the sand covering of farmlands.
- Raise community awareness on the risks of climate change and teach adjustment strategies (purchase of awareness raising materials, creation of communication tools, organization of screening sessions, etc.).

The project helps community members better understand climate change and the associated risks and impacts. It also aims at building the communities' organizational capacities, with the prospect of sustaining the activities and ensuring the long-term viability of project. Together, these activities make the area more climate-resilient and decrease the community and ecosystem's vulnerability to climate variability.

FOCUS ON…

Global environmental benefit

The project encourages local communities to adopt positive attitudes and practices toward protection and restoration of the ecological environment. In addition, the project helps to restore the environment through soil protection activities, surface water conservation and the development of agroforestry. Similarly, the reduction of wood harvesting intended for casing traditional wells, which the project addresses, will improve the ecological environment.

Community ownership and sustainability

Development of the current project took into account the population's concerns, translated them into activities, and made them the project's primary objective. The communities' role as the project beneficiary is to garner collective and individual commitment as well as ensure permanent mobilization to achieve the project (example of what members do). For instance, CRAC-GRN will hire a facilitator to raise community awareness on the issues addressed through the project. He/she will carry out this function by disseminating materials to organize film screenings that will further raise community awareness on climate change. The facilitator will be given a motorcycle to carry out his mission. The community and customary authorities already involved in the project development phase will be informed regularly of the project's implementation status and, if necessary, can take part in certain steps.

Policy influence

The project will promote the integration of climate change considerations into local-level natural resources management planning, maintaining a good partnership rapport with the urban community of Tanout, the technical authorities of Tanout and the local and international NGOs present in the zone. Also, lessons learned from the implementation of the project will be shared at the regional level, including representatives from the local populations, the NGOs, the administrative and customary authorities, the technical authorities and socio-political associations.

***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

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