



DOWN2EARTH SIDE EVENTS AT COP29

Friday 15th Nov 2024

10.00 - 11.30 am

&

18.00 - 19.30 pm

**IGAD Pavilion No D9, UNFCCC COP29 Blue
Zone – Baku, Azerbaijan**

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A. RESULTS FROM THE DOWN2EARTH PROJECT AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS TO ADAPTATION POLICIES IN THE IGAD REGION INCLUDING NDC 3.0 & NAPS

1. Introduction

The UNFCCC COP29 took place in Baku, Azerbaijan and the Down2Earth Project was able to make use of the forum for the dissemination of its key project outputs. The Down2Earth project aims at translating climate information into multilevel decision support for social adaptation, policy development, and resilience to water scarcity in the Horn of Africa Drylands

In recent times, climate has become highly variable in the Greater Horn of Africa region. There has been significant temperature increase, changes in rainfall patterns among others. The 6th Assessment Report of the IPCC found that the region is one of the climate hotspots of the world where all types of adverse impacts are already evident. The region also continues to experience extreme climate events in the form of droughts, floods, extreme heat and sea level rise among others leading to adverse socio-economic and ecological impacts.

The event highlighted how the IGAD regions Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) can better respond to climate change especially to water scarcity and food insecurity. It also focused on the fact that 85% financing for NDCs is reliant on international climate finance and that countries in the region need to proactively advocate for international adaptation finance and also innovate around this to support implementation of their NAPs and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) which will be updated in 2025.

It explored how tools, namely the CUWALID hydrological forecasting model can support adaptation and early action to address climate extremes. Additionally, the session focused on how communities respond to climate extremes specifically drought and floods and how their actions can inform strategies, the climate information they require and policies on how to enhance their resilience and adaptive capacity.

The key objectives of the event were to:

- To disseminate results of the policy analysis undertaken within the D2E project
- To share elements of the adaptation policy framework that is useful for adaptation to water scarcity and food insecurity in the IGAD region
- To share insights on countries ongoing NDC update processes

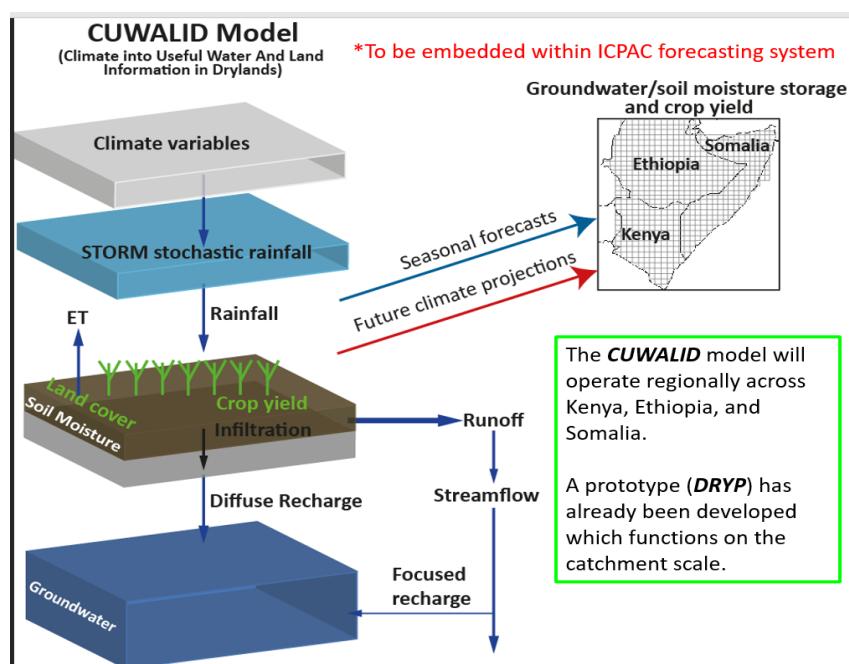
The event is expected to:

- To inform development and update of NDCs planned for 2025
- To discuss how to ensure increased visibility and enhanced profile of adaptation especially international climate finance mobilization post-2025

2. Presentations

Down2Earth Project and the CUWALID Model – Mr Abebe Tadege, PI D2E Project, ICPAC

The Down2Earth project was introduced to the participants with a particular focus on what had been achieved in the projects' lifetime especially in terms of the CUWALID model which is specifically designed to provide hydrological forecasts for the horn of Africa drylands.



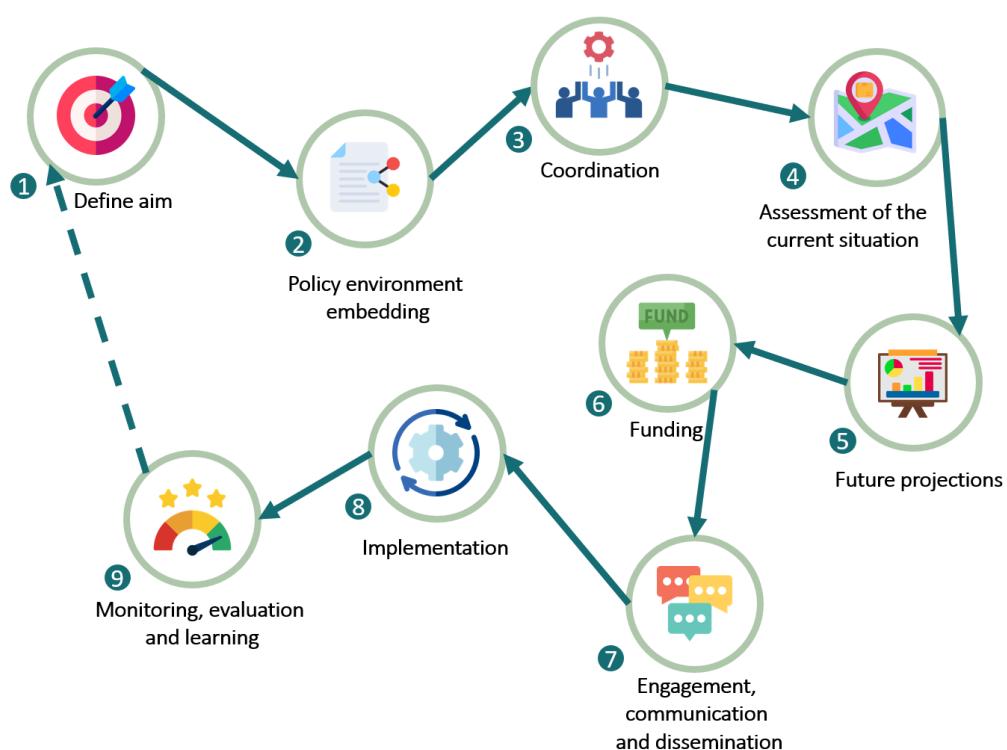
Mr Abebe also highlighted the plans in place by ICPAC to ensure the sustainability of the project including through training participants on the model from the three countries,

utilizing the model in its forecasts and disseminating information to end-users via the chatbot that was developed under the project.

At the end of this session a [video](#) summarizing the Down2Earth project was shown to the audience.

The Adaptation Policy Framework – Winnie Khaemba, Adaptation Analyst – Climate Analytics

There was a presentation of the adaptation policy framework which is an outcome of the policy analysis, efficacy analysis, agent based modelling, household survey and further literature reviews. The adaptation policy framework is mean as a guide for policymakers and practitioners in their policy development, review as well as update to ensure robust policies that can effectively support climate adaptation especially to water scarcity and food insecurity.



Community Engagement – Kitasi Swaleh, Action Aid

There was a presentation on the community engagement work that had been undertaken by the Down2Earth project. This had been done in Isiolo County, Kenya and also in Odweyne District in Somaliland. The aim had been to engage communities in generating information for the project for example through the inception meeting, household surveys and subsequently community feedback meeting where research results and outputs were

shared with community members. This was to ensure that communities are actively engaged throughout the process and that information they give is not seen as extraction rather a channel for their further awareness, knowledge exchange and engagement in climate adaptation.

3. Panel Discussion

The panel discussion focused on some key issues which are outlined below.

1. Processes countries should be undertaking to finalize their NDC updates ahead of the 2025 deadline.

It was noted that the Eastern Africa countries need to focus on including research outputs in their analysis and tools such as the CUWALID model can help provide such information. The countries need to engage various stakeholders in their processes to ensure that their policies are robust.

2. Elements of the adaptation policy framework and the Down2Earth work most useful in the NDC update process and for NAPs.

One important element is that of coordination which countries have to consider and this should be at both government level to ensure that each sector is fully involved to non-state actors who also have a stake in the process. There is also the aspect of inclusion to ensure that communities, civil society, academia, women and youth are included and fully engaged in the process.

Another element is financing for the NDC and NAP processes for both development as well as implementation. Given that previous NDCs in the region were 85% reliant on international climate finance which was not forthcoming it is important that countries think of other ways of mobilizing resources for the actualization of their NDCs and NAPs.

3. Inclusion of frontline communities in the NDC update and NAP processes

Frontline communities have to be engaged and for this to happen the language used has to be simplified so that they understand what the NDCs and NAPs are and how they can engage. In Kenya, for example communities are able to directly get involved in implementing adaptation initiatives in their communities – in this case there has to be enhanced capacity building to ensure that their involvement is meaningful and that they track the projects which they have designed for themselves or those implemented by government and other stakeholders.

4. Discussions and Q&A

During the discussion session, there arose a number of questions including the issues of access to credit for women. It was explained that this is largely because of collateral issues which in most places is land which is not owned by women but rather men thus hindering women's access to credit.

There was also a question on how to pick these important research findings to be able to apply. It was explained that for the adaptation policy framework, the summary is being translated into Kiswahili, Amharic and Somali languages so that it can have a wider reach for both policymakers and other stakeholder groups including communities who can use this tool for local policymaking.

For the CUWALID model, participants were informed that there had been trainings for government officials from the national hydro-meteorological services from Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia and that they were expected to use this model in their work to generate seasonal hydrological forecasts. Additionally, there had been training of journalists in the three countries to enhance their capacity for climate reporting in the region which is a legacy of the project.

In terms of community engagement it is important to pay attention to language because this is critical in ensuring that there is understanding of issues by communities so documents especially policies and their specific impacts on communities have to be in simplified language so that they are clearly understood. Capacity support is critical for communities to be able to understand NDCs and NAPs and be able to engage in their design and implementation.

NDCs updates have to be science-based with the use of available scientific information and thus countries have to rely on scientific information from such projects as well as from the IPCC and other research evidence including traditional knowledge to be able to formulate robust strategies that can be able to address climate extremes.

The Kenya Climate Change Working Group (KCCWG) pointed out that in their work with communities in the formulation of Kenya's Climate Change Act, the county climate change laws as well as the ward level climate plans there had been heightened awareness on climate across the country. They noted that involvement of communities is central and has to include women, youth, indigenous groups, pastoralists and other marginalized groups to

ensure that the policies that arise are not only able to address adaptation challenges but are also co-owned by the beneficiaries.

In terms of what support countries require for their NDC updates ad NAPs a key requirement for countries in the region is data and scientific information to support their targets. They also require capacity strengthening to enhance their capacity for comprehensive research e.g. on vulnerability and risks assessments for their NDCs and NAPs. Additionally, funding is critical in finalizing this process given the amount of information as well as consultations required in the formulation process.

B. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE DOWN2EARTH PROJECT FOR IMPROVED CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES IN HOA DRYLANDS

1800 – 1930 hrs @IGAD Pavilion

1. Presentations

Approach to community Research

Action Aid led by Zahra Hidou, Swaleh Kitasi and Nura Mohamed shared about their approach to community research. They noted that they ensured the co-creation of research tools, respectful and culturally sensitive approaches, ethical use of information as well as feedback when conducting community research.

In terms of adaptation practices, the research found that traditional knowledge as well as external sources of information about weather played a role in their decisionmaking. Some ways through which communities in the project sites adapt to climate change include conservation of pastures, change of livestock and crop types, setting up small businesses, water harvesting as well as migration. The main aspects that influenced adaptation choices included the level of education, peer influence, information availability and local capacities among others.

Some conclusions from the research in Kenya and Somalia were that communities in Isiolo have greater influence over policy as compared to Somaliland. It was also apparent that radio plays a key role in information dissemination thus can be a key tool in communicating climate information.

Down2Earth Outputs and their implications on COP29

In his presentation Mr Abebe (ICPAC) outlined some of the critical outputs from the project including the CUWALID model, the adaptation policy framework, the agent-based model among others. He mentioned that these have a bearing on policy and are also key for generating information that is important in informing UNFCCC processes.

In terms of the implications for adaptation finance and GGA it was emphasized that there is need for a focus on locally-led adaptation. Finance has to be provided to support this in all aspects including the provision of early warning information, adaptation options and financing for the implementation of the adaptation initiatives.

2. Discussions and Q&A

There were discussions about the feedback to the community at the end of the project and how they benefited from the project. In response it was mentioned that automatic weather stations had been set up in Somalia and this would generate information that supports member states provide climate information that enables communities to adapt to climate change impacts.

There were discussions around the adaptation options and the issues of finance which remains a key gap in implementing adaptation in communities that are most impacted by climate change.

C.ANNEXES

5.1 Agenda

RESULTS FROM THE DOWN2EARTH PROJECT AND THEIR POTENTIAL IMPLICATIONS TO ADAPTATION POLICIES IN THE IGAD REGION INCLUDING NDC 3.0 & NAPS

Time	Description
10.00 – 10.05	Opening and introduction
10.05 – 10.35	D2E Video Presentations <i>ICPAC</i> <i>Climate Analytics</i> <i>Action Aid</i>
10.35 – 11.00	Panel Discussion <i>Abebe Tadege – IGAD</i> <i>Kitasi Swaleh – Action Aid</i> <i>Winnie Khaemba – Climate Analytics</i> <i>Moderator: Zachary Atheru</i>
11.00 – 11.30	Discussions

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON THE DOWN2EARTH PROJECT FOR IMPROVED CLIMATE INFORMATION SERVICES IN HOA DRYLANDS

5 minutes	Session 1: Opening remarks / introduction
15 minutes	Session 2: Presentations by Down2Earth partners on project achievements, outcomes and findings
5 minutes	Session 3: Presentation on proposed follow up work in Somaliland
40 minutes	Session 4: Moderated panel discussion and Q&A <i>Moderator: Zahra Hdidou</i> Speakers/panellists: <i>Kitasi Swaleh, ActionAid International Kenya</i> <i>Ahmed Aden, ActionAid Somaliland</i> <i>Nura Mohamed, ActionAid Somaliland</i> <i>Abebe Tadege, IGAD</i>
5 minutes	Closing

5.2 Presentations

The presentations from the sessions can be found [here](#).

5.3 Photos

