



The Africa Adaptation Programme's

**The story of the**  
Giving climate change and development news the prominence it deserves p7

**Consulting for a resilient future**  
100 'ambassadors' help secure Namibia's development p9



# THE Baobab Coalition

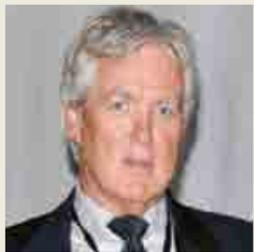
For climate resilient development in Africa

## JOURNAL

www.undp-aap.org • aap@unops.org

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### Welcome to The Baobab Coalition Journal



**Ian Rector**  
AAP Programme Manager

**W**elcome to the first issue of *The Baobab Coalition Journal*, the community newspaper for everyone involved with the Africa Adaptation Programme.

Why Baobab?

Because the baobab tree is a distinctly African symbol of resilience able to survive and even thrive for centuries in harsh climatic conditions.

Why Coalition?

Because it takes the united efforts of many actors—governments, civil society, business, academia, media, donors and the U.N.—to make the shift to climate resilient paths of development.

And why Journal?

Because we need to stay in touch with each other, share our experiences, learn from the challenges and breakthroughs, and coordinate our efforts for maximum impact.

That's why here you will find articles on the progress of each of the national AAP teams, introductions to new tools and techniques, papers analysing issues of concern to us all, reports on meetings and calendars of upcoming activities.

We hope you enjoy *The Baobab Coalition Journal*. Share it with everyone you think could contribute to our common effort to advance climate resilient development in Africa. And please contribute your own news, views and feature stories to future editions.

I look forward to seeing you in the pages of *The BCJ!*

### Scenarios for a sustainable Kenya

Simulation tool helps plan protection of agriculture and tourism risk areas



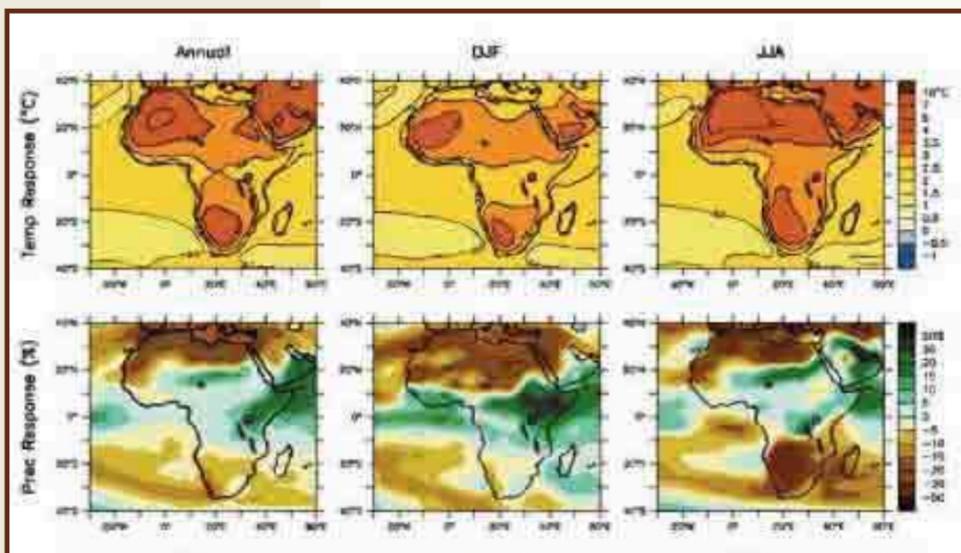
**Ally Jamah**

**C**limate change is one of the most serious threats to sustainable development in Kenya. This is one of the key points of the *Kenya National Climate Change Response Strategy*, a policy paper published

by the Government of Kenya in April 2010.

The paper says droughts are reducing the production of not only staple food crops such as maize but also major cash crops such as tea, sugarcane and wheat. This has a potentially enormous impact on the people of Kenya, 80 per cent of whom are either directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture.

Tourism, Kenya's second largest income earner, is expected to suffer under climate change with some of the country's most popular attractions being degraded or destroyed. These include the snow caps of Mount Kenya, coastal rainforests and fragile marine ecosystems. The great wildebeest migration across the Mara River, often considered one of the wonders of the natural world, is under threat as the river's



**Temperature and precipitation changes predicted for Africa**

Top row: Annual, December-January-February and June-July-August temperature change between 1980-1999 and 2080-2099, averaged over 21 models.

Bottom row: Same as top, but for fractional change in precipitation.

'All of Africa is very likely to warm during this century. The warming is very likely to be larger than the global, annual mean warming throughout the continent and in all seasons, with drier subtropical regions warming more than the moister tropics'. Fourth Assessment Report (2007), IPCC, Working Group I, Chapter 11 (Fig. 11.2 above)

See page 11 for how the AAP's data team is working to help African countries get access to the best information available on climate variability and its impacts.

### In this issue

**The AAP in Bonn —and elsewhere p3**

Ryan Laddey/Luke Dunstan

As climate negotiators met in Bonn for the recent UNFCCC intercessional, elsewhere in the city the AAP was briefing a room of mostly African delegates on its progress in supporting 20 African countries to build the capacities needed to strengthen their climate resilience.

**Professional development for development professionals p4**

Charles Dickson/Annelies Hickendorff

The AAP's Professional Development Programme, which supports the personal learning and professional development of key members of the AAP's national teams, got underway in April with workshops convened in Zanzibar and Casablanca.

**Comment: Global climate focus turns to Africa p8**

Alex Abutu

Africa has again become the international focal point of discussions on climate change as it prepares to host the next UN global climate change conference in Durban, South Africa in late November. The outcome of these talks sets the backdrop for the work of the AAP.

flow has reduced substantially due to below-normal rainfall upstream.

'Kenya is on the list of countries to be worst affected by climate change', says Dr Harun Maina Warui,\* National Project Manager for the Africa Adaption Programme in Kenya.

'Decision making in all levels of the public and private sectors must factor in the impacts of climate

continued on page 5

## Editorial

# Truth be told

Predictions suggest that the planet is headed for at least a 2-degree Celsius warmer climate within the next 20 years. Very few tangible outcomes have resulted from almost 20 years of negotiations—from Rio to Kyoto, Copenhagen and Cancun—to suggest that humanity is prepared to change this reality.

Clearly, Africa will not be able to rely on the major GHG emitters reducing their emissions enough to avoid potential negative variations in temperature, rainfall and rising sea levels.

So Africa must adapt.

And no, it's not fair. Africa produces a small fraction of the GHGs that contribute to climate change. And it is more vulnerable given its low levels of development and a climate that already pushes the limits of habitability. We should be constantly reminded, however, that climate change is not always the primary trigger for increased levels of risk and vulnerability, and therefore the design of adaptation solutions must consider a broader range of factors.

The slow pace of the global negotiation process should not be an excuse for delaying actions required to build resilience any longer. Countries must take action now and, as Zanzibar's Minister Ali Juma Shamahuna recently said, failure is not an option (see article on our Professional Development Programme on page 4).

Many leaders across the African continent are guiding their countries through the transformation from climate vulnerability to climate resilience. They are not prepared to allow the effects of climatic and non-climatic impacts to translate into human disaster.

And they are acknowledging more and more that effective and sustained

development is not just the best resilience strategy, it's the only one.

This is why 20 African countries have joined UNDP's Africa Adaptation Programme, which owes its existence to the insight and generosity of the Government of Japan. The AAP supports the efforts of its host governments to strengthen the capacities they need to make their development more effective, thereby enhancing the resilience of their societies to climate change and other events that threaten to undermine the integrity of their development efforts. Because challenges are inevitable—be they human-caused climate change, diseases or insect plagues or economic downturns—the resilience to withstand them is what distinguishes developed from developing countries.

The AAP's work focuses on building capacity in five areas—risk identification through data analysis, strengthening institutions and leadership, building knowledge and information management systems, putting policy into practice and accessing finance—all crucial to optimising effectiveness and maximising development returns on investments of scarce resources.

**Effective development is not just the best resilience strategy, it's the only one.**

What started as a programme involving 20 countries is now clearly a coalition in which mutual reliance multiplies resilience. We wanted to capture this idea in a way that the words 'Africa Adaptation Programme' do not, hence our adoption of The Baobab Coalition for climate resilient development in Africa.

So far, The Baobab Coalition is an expression of the collaboration among 20 African countries, the UNDP and Government of Japan. But everyone interested in supporting or strengthening the effectiveness of African development—whether in government, civil society, academia, business, media, the international community or beyond—is more than welcome and, truth be told, very much needed.

**Ian Rector**

Programme Manager, AAP

### About the Africa Adaptation Programme



Africa Adaptation Programme

The Africa Adaptation Programme supports the governments of 20 countries across Africa in strengthening the effectiveness of their development efforts, crucial to their transformation from vulnerability to greater resilience to climate change, among other threats to human well-being. The AAP is a flagship programme of the United Nations Development Programme, in partnership with UNIDO, UNICEF and WFP, with funds provided by the Government of Japan.

#### AAP participating countries

Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia

#### About The Baobab Coalition Journal

The Baobab Coalition Journal is the community newspaper for everyone involved with the Africa Adaptation Programme. It exists to connect participants, share knowledge, report progress, examine challenges, showcase successes and build mutual reliance among AAP countries and across Africa. We welcome input from our readers in any form—be it tips, suggestions, news, events or submissions. Please write to us at [aap.bcj@unops.org](mailto:aap.bcj@unops.org). New or updated subscriber details are also very welcome.

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The Baobab Coalition Journal was designed by **Saki Mafundikwa**, a multi-award winning graphic designer and award-winning documentary film-maker based in Harare, Zimbabwe. Saki is the founder and director of ZIVA—the Zimbabwe Institute of Visual Arts—the country's first graphic design and new media college. [www.ziva.org](http://www.ziva.org)

### A message from the Government of Japan



## Forming networks for resilience

'Baobab trees link the ground and the sky,' a friend of mine from Africa once told me. Like the baobab's spreading roots, we should pursue resilience to climatic changes by forming networks to increase our adaptive abilities. The Baobab Coalition Journal is a vehicle for forming such a network.

Climate change severely constrains the sustainability of development, including the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, in many African countries. There is a desperate need for adaptation. Crucially, the actions taken in pursuit of adaptation must be closely associated with overall development strategies and effectively formulated in order to mobilise national and international resources.

The Africa Adaptation Programme was launched in 2008 through a US\$92.1 million contribution from Japan to the United Nations Development Programme. The AAP supports capacity and institution building, such as informing policy-making and facilitating access to climate change data, and carries out pilot projects for adaptation.

Capacity and institution building play a key role in promoting adaptation at the national level. We hope the AAP will be a stepping stone for African countries to increase their capacity to achieve resilience as well as to strengthen international partnerships for adaptation. We also hope to see the valuable lessons and experiences shared not only among the 20 AAP countries but among all African countries.

Japan hosted the first Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) in 1993 and was one of the conference's co-organisers. Summit-level conferences

have since been held every five years in Japan. The TICAD process is extremely useful for strengthening cooperation between Africa and Japan and promoting partnerships in the international community in pursuit of Africa's development. TICAD IV in 2008 set climate change as a priority area for cooperation. The AAP is one of the concrete examples of Japan's contributions in this area.

Japan continues to work closely with African countries to combat the effects of climate change. Japan has offered US\$1.2 billion for Africa as of March 2011 under the framework of 'Fast Start Financing' for 2010-2012, which was referred to in the Cancun Agreements. The funding covers a number of adaptation projects in the areas of water, disaster-management, agriculture and forestry.

Japan was struck by a massive earthquake followed by devastating tsunami on March 11. Nevertheless, we will continue to work with the African people, doing everything we can. It is with this spirit that Japan proposed to formulate, together with the countries of Africa, a 'Low-Carbon Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy in Africa', which will provide a medium- and long-term vision to address climate change issues in Africa. At the Third Ministerial Follow-up Meeting of TICAD in Dakar in May 2011 we exchanged views on the challenges and needs of African countries as well as what Japan and the international community can do. We are happy to continue such a dialogue to follow up the TICAD process.

In conclusion, let me express our best wishes for success to The Baobab Coalition Journal as a platform to share information and experiences and pursue mutual reliance in addressing common challenges and securing our future against the threats of climate change.



**Masaki Noke**

Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation; Ambassador for Civil Society

# AAP in Bonn—and elsewhere

Taking the adaptation and development message on the road **Ryan Laddey/Luke Dunstan**

In early June, climate negotiators from 190 countries met in Bonn for the UNFCCC intercessional. This annual mid-year stock-taking sets the stage for the Conference of the Parties, which, this year, will convene in Durban in late November.

## From the sidelines Bonn

Meanwhile, in another room in Bonn, representatives of the AAP provided a briefing to an audience of largely African delegates on the programme's progress in supporting efforts by 20 African countries

**'The Africa Adaptation Programme provides an opportunity to assist African countries in overcoming their vulnerabilities to climate change, promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals.'**

**Masaki Noke, Deputy Director General of International Cooperation, Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

At stake in the now 20-year-old negotiations is the question of whether global warming will be held to a 2-degree Celsius increase or will hit 3.5 degrees over coming decades, a matter of great concern for Africa where many countries already struggle under current climate conditions.

At the heart of the discussions is whether a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol will be enacted and how its terms will differ between developed and developing countries. Understandably, among issues of particular concern to Africa are those relating to the regime that will be put in place to support climate adaptation.

Progress was acknowledged at Bonn in talks on adaptation, finance and the Green Climate Fund, with discussions in these areas focusing on the creation of bodies that will address these issues.

to build the capacities needed to strengthen their climate resilience.

This informal social event hosted by the AAP let negotiators get more acquainted with the programme and meet with AAP experts and UNDP staff as well as members of the Japanese delegation. The gathering was attended by more than 30 African negotiators from both AAP and non-AAP countries.

In his welcoming comments, Masaki Noke, Deputy Director General of International Cooperation at the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reiterated Japan's commitment to its climate change engagements and confirmed his country had doubled its initial commitment to climate change-related development.

'The Africa Adaptation Programme provides an opportunity to assist African countries in overcoming their vulnerabilities to

climate change, promote sustainable development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals,' said Mr Noke.

Jose Levy, AAP Knowledge Management Expert, followed with a brief presentation on AAP emphasising its strategic nature, its targeting of decision makers and the need to link the programme to low-emission, carbon resilient development strategies.

'The Africa Adaptation Programme is enhancing the adaptive capacity of countries to climate change risks, promoting early

action and laying the foundation for long-term adaptation planning that integrates climate change into all

national development plans,' said Mr Levy.

The following day AAP representatives participated in a side event organised by the Japanese delegation. Deputy Director General Noke also spoke at this event, discussing Japan's energy and climate change adaptation programmes in developing countries.

'Climate change is one of the global issues that threaten human security and needs support from the international community. It is closely related to the achievement of the MDGs. That is why the international community needs to work together to tackle climate change, and the Government of Japan supports such efforts,' said Mr Noke.

David Payton of UNDP gave a presentation on the AAP, in which he stressed the importance of the programme in relation to coordination and evidence-based decision making as well as the advantages of having UNDP, an agency committed to supporting vulnerable countries, as an implementing agency.

'UNDP has a strong record of tackling climate change adaptation. UNDP understands the vital role of adaptation in sustainable development and is recognised as a world leader in the promotion of the Millennium Development Goals,' said Mr Payton.

## Geneva

At UNISDR's Third Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva on May 11 the AAP held a side event to discuss climate information-gathering as well as gender mainstreaming and disaster risk reduction.

Representatives from two AAP countries, Kenya and Ghana, gave presentations on their experiences

with the AAP. Kenya is currently implementing the AAP's Climate Action Intelligence initiative, an analytical research method that allows countries to understand the complex set of stakeholders that are active in the field of climate change and provides decision makers with evidence to drive change.

'Climate Action Intelligence helps gain clarity of who does what, when and where,' said Moses Omedi Jura of Kenya's Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources.

Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, Resident Representative UNDP Ghana, also discussed her experiences with the AAP.

'Ghana needs to shift the national agenda from a disaster response approach to disaster preparedness, for which AAP's capacity building component is crucial,' she said. 'AAP brings all partners together in a coherent and comprehensive manner. AAP's holistic approach to adaptation and disaster risk reduction is ensuring their integration into development policy overall.'

Dr Rose Mwebaza, AAP Gender Expert, explained that climate change and natural disasters have a strong potential to magnify existing gender inequalities.

'AAP's integrated gender approach supports countries to mainstream gender in national climate change response strategies and ensures the inclusion of gender in all AAP's capacity building programmes,' said Dr Mwebaza.

## Senegal

On 1 May the AAP held a side event at the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Dakar, Senegal.

The side event showcased capacity-development results related to climate data and information management for AAP countries.

'AAP supports the countries in laying the foundation for long-term efforts to further increase resilience to climate change and ensure development progress that is aligned with national development priorities,' said AAP Programme Manager Ian Rector in his opening speech.

'It introduces long-term planning, implementation and monitoring mechanisms to manage the impacts of climate change, supports the piloting of adaptation initiatives in priority sectors in this field and provides guidance on financing frameworks to meet national adaptation costs.'

Presentations by AAP staff illustrated how, by building capacity, the AAP enables countries to identify climate-related risks to their development and design and implement holistic, climate-resilient, long-term development strategies.



(R to L) AAP Programme Manager Ian Rector with Minister Koichi Mizushima, Permanent Mission to Japan to the United Nations in Geneva; Resident Representative UNDP Ghana Ruby Sandhu-Rojon; AAP Kenya representative Moses Omedi Jura; AAP Gender Expert Dr Rose Mwebaza; and AAP Data and Information Expert Dr Joseph Intsiful at the UNISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva.

# Professional development for development professionals

Charles Dickson/Annelies Hickendorff

A programme to support the personal learning and professional development of key members of the AAP national teams got underway in April with workshops convened in Zanzibar and Casablanca.

The Professional Development Programme (PDP) aims to optimise the effectiveness of project implementation in each of the 20 AAP countries by supporting the professional development of AAP project coordinators as well as government and UNDP staff who are working with AAP.

'The success of the national projects depends on a lot of elements, from information and tools to institutions and strategies. But behind all of these things are people and, ultimately, everything depends on their capabilities,' says Keith Cundale, Institutions, Leadership and Capacity Development Expert and originator of the PDP. 'That's

'Brothers and sisters, the programme you are implementing is crucial for our survival, the survival of the Earth. I trust you have all noted that failure is not an option in this fight. The adaptation of our continent to the climate change phenomenon is therefore crucial,' he said.

Minister Shamahuna welcomed Mr Shigeru Nemoto, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania, who attended on behalf of Ambassador Nakagawa and participated fully in the four-day workshop. Minister Shamahuna invited delegates to join him in a minute of silence in honour of the victims of the recent tsunami and nuclear catastrophe in Japan and of the UN personnel who had recently died in Afghanistan and the DRC.

Dr Mark Manley, the primary resource person for the workshop, ably animated the discussion.

**'This workshop is about helping people acquire new skills and also new thinking, as it is thoughts that change actions and actions that change the world.'**

Dr Mark Manley, Zanzibar workshop.

why it's important to support their efforts to strengthen skills that will improve their effectiveness.'

Delegates from all 20 AAP countries participated in one of two PDP workshops in April, convened in English in Zanzibar and in French in Casablanca. During a series of modules that will take place through 2011 and 2012, the PDP will help develop the leadership skills of key people engaged in the process of responding to the challenges of climate change, strengthen their technical knowledge and skills, maximise their personal effectiveness and encourage their personal growth.

## 'Karibu Zanzibar'

With these words, delegates to the workshop in Zanzibar were welcomed by H.E. Honorable Ali Juma Shamahuna, Minister for Land, Housing, Water and Energy of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

In his opening remarks, Minister Shamahuna reminded delegates that the 4th Assessment of the IPCC says the warming of the Earth's climate is unequivocal.

'Of great concern to us in Zanzibar,' said Minister Shamahuna, 'is the increase in the number of severe storms, typhoons and torrential rains that result in floods as well as raise the sea level.'

'This workshop is about helping people acquire new skills and also new thinking, as it is thoughts that change actions and actions that change the world. In a word, upskilling,' he said. 'But just as important is networking, the opportunity for people who have the same cause at heart to connect and strengthen each other.'

In a breakout exercise, participants discussed real problems they are encountering in the implementation of their national projects—procurements taking too long, slow processes in engaging staff, low participation of key stakeholders in implementation, conflict between lead ministries, too many uncoordinated projects—and together worked these problems through a process of identifying and removing obstacles along a causal chain in the formulation of strategies to bring about the desired changes.

'As anyone strives to create a better world, there will always be problems to solve; but how we solve them will either help or hinder the long-term sustainability of the effort,' said Dr Manley. 'We really have to get to the root causes, only then can you design a strategy capable of achieving a particular desired future outcome,' he said.

'This type of workshop gives



Left to Right: H.E. Honorable Ali Juma Shamahuna, Minister for Land, Housing, Water and Energy, Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar; Keith Cundale, AAP Institutions, Leadership and Capacity Development Expert; and Shigeru Nemoto, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Japan in Tanzania, on behalf of Ambassador Nakagawa, at AAP's Professional Development Programme workshop in Zanzibar.

tools to people responsible for driving this agenda and making it a reality in a world of competing interests,' said Elaine Venter, UNDP's Capacity Development Practice Leader for Eastern and Southern Africa and partner in the PDP.

'We are doing this by helping them strengthen their own capacities as individuals and also the institutional frameworks that they need to deliver. We are assisting them in understanding the strengths, challenges, bottlenecks and

implementation of the AAP.'

## Problem solving in Morocco

The parallel workshop in Casablanca resulted in similar endorsements from the AAP's French-speaking staff.

It was opened by Mohamed Nbou, National Director of AAP Morocco.

'Morocco has, in the context of the AAP, granted significant importance to the development of

**'Now we have the know-how to solve problems that are delaying the implementation of the AAP.'**

Limomane Peshoane, AAP Lesotho

possibilities, and how to translate those into practical solutions.'

'I liked very much to hear the experiences my colleagues bring from other countries and to discuss how they are solving their problems,' said Felizarda Mangoele from Mozambique. 'We exchanged experiences, and for me it was very good.'

'Here we have discussed what the real problems are,' said Limomane Peshoane of Lesotho.

'Now we have the know-how to solve problems that are delaying the

professional expertise in the field of climate change. Your Professional Development Programme therefore comes at an opportune moment and constitutes an appropriate platform that will allow Morocco to fully benefit from the opportunities offered by the Africa Adaptation Programme,' said Mr Nbou.

Madookur Desha, National Coordinator Climate Change UNDP Mauritius, said that along with offering an opportunity to network with counterparts from other AAP

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## Scenarios for a Sustainable Kenya

continued from page 1

change.'

Dr Warui heads the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) under the Ministry of Environment and Mineral Resources, which coordinates AAP activities in Kenya in consultation with UNDP Kenya. He and his team of professionals began work in earnest in late 2010. They have since hit the ground running to prepare Kenya for the challenge posed by climate change.



**Dr. Harun Maina Warui,**  
National Project Manager for AAP Kenya.

Their work was recognised in a review by the AAP board in New York City in February, which classified Kenya among the four countries

whose progress in implementing AAP objectives was 'Good'.

'The AAP is expected to steer Kenya towards climate change-resilient development by strengthening institutional and leadership capacity to address climate change risks and opportunities through a national approach to adaptation,' says Dr Warui.

### Integrating responses with long-term development

To help achieve the crucial outcome of mainstreaming climate change preparations, the AAP has helped Kenya's Ministry of State for Planning, National Development and Vision 2030 acquire the Threshold 21 (T21) dynamic simulation tool. A theoretical application that generates scenarios predicting the effects of proposed strategies, Threshold 21 plans the integration of comprehensive climate change responses with long-term national development.

'After their training, officers will use T21 to re-work their respective

ministry strategic plans,' says Aileen Ogola, AAP Kenya's Knowledge Management Officer.

'The officers will also advise on all policies within their ministries with an eye to responses to climate change.'

Dr Samson Wasao, Climate Change Technical Advisor to Kenya's Ministry of Planning, says Kenya is still at the infancy stage in terms of climate change planning. He considers Kenya's main planning document, Vision 2030, to be lacking on responses to climate change, but says T21 modelling will help improve it significantly.

'Using the tool we will be able to build scenarios to see what impact climate change will have on different sectors of the economy like agriculture, health and tourism and design appropriate responses. We can simulate how an increase in temperatures or reduction in rain can be dealt with effectively,' he says.

Dr Wasao adds that a mid-term review of Vision 2030 that is coming up in 2012 will incorporate a healthy dose of climate change adaptation planning, thanks to T21.

To boost the visibility of climate

change adaptation and associated development issues, the PMU in Kenya has established links with the Media Owners Association and the Kenya Editors' Guild. Special training on climate change for a select number of journalists and correspondents is also on the cards.

David Githaiga, Program Analyst with the Energy and Environment Unit of UNDP Kenya, says Kenya needs the AAP if it is to protect economic growth and keep the fight against poverty on course.

'Ongoing UNDP experience on climate change adaptation issues indicates that the right mix of policies, skills and incentives can encourage investment in climate-friendly economic development.'

\*A video interview with Dr [redacted] can be viewed in the Resources section of the AAP website: [www.undp-aap.org](http://www.undp-aap.org)

Ally Jamah is a Nairobi-based writer for *The Standard* newspaper, one of the largest dailies in Kenya. His main topics of interest are the impacts of climate change on developing countries like Kenya and the possible solutions to meet this challenge.

## Meet the Programme Manager

AAP Programme Manager Ian Rector hosted an informal press gathering in Nairobi in late July to discuss the work of the AAP.

In a wide-ranging discussion, the intersection of adaptation and development in Africa was a prominent theme, particularly in relation to emerging catastrophe in the north-west of the continent.

'It is poverty that makes people vulnerable, for which the only antidote is effective development that achieves the MDGs,' said Rector.

'There is a human disaster unfolding in the Horn of Africa. And the drought is clearly playing a role, but the drought is just the straw



*Ian Rector, Programme Manager of the AAP, speaking to 25 Nairobi-based Journalists on July 26.*

that broke the camel's back. It is the decades of failed development that have left the people in this region so desperately poor and vulnerable to any threat, whether it's drought or disease or armed conflict. There will always be threats, it's unavoidable. But if you want to prevent the threats from turning into human disasters, then you've got to do something meaningful about the poverty and the vulnerability of the people that will be exposed to those threats. The major factor is not whether you have a variation in temperature or rainfall, but how resilient your population is. And this is a function of where they are relative to the MDGs. What is their level of poverty, hunger, health, education? Effective development is not just the best resilience strategy, it is the only resilience strategy.'

### AAP Helpdesk Q&A

The AAP Helpdesk is the primary method for AAP national projects to request assistance from the regional team on all aspects of AAP project planning and implementation. National projects can request assistance in English or French by sending an email to [aap.helpdesk@unops.org](mailto:aap.helpdesk@unops.org)

#### Research programme funding

Dear Helpdesk,

We are seeking advice and guidance on a post-graduate research programme that we plan to finance under the AAP. The research programme falls under Activity 5.3 'Technical and scientific programmes established'.

We would like to know whether we could fund this research project knowing that the end results of the research will not be available at the end of the project, which is December 2012, but instead at the end of July 2014. Thanks and regards, Higher Ed.

Dear Higher Ed

Although one could argue that such training is of value it should not be undertaken with AAP

funds unless there is a clear link between the person doing the training and an AAP outcome. However, if project documents indicate that this training is to take place, and the documents are approved, then the activity is legal.

If the training is to occur, then it must take place during the period of the AAP so that there is evidence that this link has or is occurring. This does not mean the person has to achieve everything before the AAP closes, but they should, however, demonstrate that the new skills are being applied for long-term benefits. If these conditions cannot be met then AAP funds cannot be justified for such a purpose. Regards, Helpdesk.

#### ISS and AAP budgets

Dear Helpdesk,

I am writing to you regarding Implementation Support Service (ISS) and the AAP. I have been asked by the UNDP country office to include ISS 73500 in our AAP project budget. However, since the AAP is 'off-the-top', my understanding was ISS is not applicable to the AAP. If this is not the case, I'll need to undertake a budget revision in order to cover the ISS cost in line with the Universal Price List.

Many thanks in advance for urgently clarifying this point, Budgeting.

Dear Budgeting,

Yes, budget line 73500 must be introduced in the AWP budget. The amount will depend on the level of expected services. The information that AAP countries need to know, not only on ISS but also on GMS, is available at: [www.undp.org/rs/?event=public.costrecovery](http://www.undp.org/rs/?event=public.costrecovery)

Regards, Helpdesk.

#### Recruiting an economic consultant

Dear Helpdesk,

We are wondering if you can provide us with names of some economists who can provide the services as detailed in the attached document.

We have already launched an invitation for Expressions of Interest for the consultancy, but unfortunately this has not been successful as only one candidate has expressed interest.

We would be grateful if you could provide us with a list of names so that we can proceed with a bidding exercise through a Request for Proposal Document.

Thanks, Recruiting.

Dear Recruiting,

If you could send us the full TOR, including duration of assignment and other necessary details, I'll contact our New York headquarters and have it reviewed against a wider roster.

In addition, I'll also disseminate it among a group of experts I know personally.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Helpdesk.

Helpdesk,

Thank you for your prompt reply. Please find attached for full TOR. Recruiting.

Dear Recruiting,

Please find attached three CVs provided by our team in New York concerning the high-profile Climate Change Economist position.

They are all expensive, \$700 to \$900 per day, but could be what you need. Another option is a consultancy firm in Dakar—reply for details.

Kind regards, Helpdesk.

# The story of the century

**AAP's Media Capacity Building Project works to give climate change and development news the prominence it deserves** **Jacqueline Frank**

Journalists play an important role as the public's watchdog, both safeguarding people's interests and representing them to governments.

In this role they are uniquely positioned to warn of impending climatic changes, explain complex policies and science and highlight coping strategies that work on the ground. They can set the agenda for the actions needed to promote and protect sustainable development. Most importantly, they can monitor and analyse how their governments spend the climate change funds that are starting to stream into national budgets.

One of the priorities of the AAP is to increase public awareness of climate change, the responses it requires and the development issues it highlights. To this end, in conjunction with the United Nations Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, AAP launched the Media Capacity Building (MCB) Project in November 2010 as its vehicle for promoting media engagement on these issues. The project focuses on building the capacity of journalists in AAP countries to report on, and thereby raise public understanding of, the need to protect the sustainability of African development by mainstreaming climate resilience into national development strategies.

## Media Capacity Building Project training clusters

### French Cluster 1

Rwanda  
Republic of Congo  
Gabon  
Cameroon\*  
Mauritius

### French Cluster 2

Burkina Faso  
Senegal\*  
Morocco  
Tunisia  
Niger

### English Cluster 1

Ethiopia  
Kenya\*  
Tanzania  
Malawi  
Mozambique

### English Cluster 2

Lesotho  
Namibia  
Nigeria  
Ghana\*  
Sao Tome

\* cluster focal point

To serve the 20 AAP countries best the MCB Project is being implemented through a cluster approach: two Francophone and two Anglophone, with Portuguese-speaking countries incorporated geographically. Team Leaders will conduct capacity building activities with the support of a host organisation in a hub country within each cluster. The host organisations are drawn from the larger media community: NGOs, media outlets or media departments in universities.

The aim of the professional development activities undertaken in each cluster is to avoid climate change coverage being isolated to an 'environment' beat by broadening understanding of it as a cross-sectoral issue, one that impinges on all aspects of life, all sectors of economic activity and, ultimately, politics.

After initial workshops in the hub country the Team Leaders will visit other countries in their cluster to conduct training and engagement activities in order to widen the number of journalists and media outlets reached.

**'The aim is to avoid climate change coverage being isolated to an "environment" beat by broadening understanding of it as an issue that impinges on all areas of life.'**

Along with the direct training of journalists, the MCB Project is producing numerous other outputs and resources. These include journalism training materials, a climate change journalism guide, a media resource directory, monitoring coverage of climate change issues in key regional and national media and a Facebook group and Twitter feed for climate change journalists.

The MCB Project is working with the AAP national teams to have them make use of these materials and the MCB Project trainers in their capacity building activities.

To assist its journalism training efforts the MCB Project has formed a partnership with the International Centre for Journalists (ICFJ), a Washington D.C.-based media development NGO. ICFJ and AAP have identified the team leaders of the training and their host organisations and are working together to create the agenda and materials for other capacity building activities.

Jacqueline Frank is the AAP's Regional Project Coordinator for Media Capacity Development. [jacquelinef@unops.org](mailto:jacquelinef@unops.org)

## Training the trainers



The MCB Project convened its Training-of-Trainers Workshop in Nairobi last month, when representatives of the project's four clusters gathered to develop each area's direction. The Team Leaders will now return to their respective countries to lead MCB Project activities in their clusters. Seen here (L to R) are Mamadou Ndiaye from Senegal, Team Leader for cluster two; Mary Ama Kudom-Agyemang from Ghana, Team Leader for cluster four; Joachim Buwembo from Kenya, Team Leader for cluster three; and Emmanuel Wongibe from Cameroon, Team Leader for cluster one.

## The right info in the right hands



John O. Kakonge, former Senior Deputy Director, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, UNDP, speaking at the Media Capacity Building Project launch workshop in Nairobi.

Detailed information on climate change and African countries is available, but help is needed to share it with the public. This was the message from media specialists and government officials at a workshop held by the AAP and UNDP's Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to launch the Media Capacity Building Project in Nairobi in November 2010.

The two-day workshop saw a number of keynote addresses and presentations on climate change and the media. In a presentation on the reporting of climate change science, George Claassen, Professor of Journalism at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, discussed how the large volume of pseudo-science used in public debate on the issue did not meet commonly accepted standards for scientific research and caused confusion for media. Professor Alfred Opubor, Secretary General of the West African Newsmedia and Development Centre, spoke on the role of the media in African development and the limits faced when constitutional guarantees to freedom of expression and information are subverted.

Later in the workshop, participants were divided into three groups to answer the question: What do the media need to report on climate change better? All three groups called for specialised training on climate change and cross-border sharing of experiences. They all acknowledged that governments, the private sector, NGOs and civil society had complementary roles to play in expanding public understanding of climate issues.

In perhaps their most pertinent response, the groups each said there was no shortage of climate data at the national level; rather, the problem is the data is not easily accessible or user-friendly for journalists or communications specialists. In short, it was agreed that scientists did not need to become journalists or vice-versa but that scientists and journalists could work together in complementary ways to ensure accurate climate change reporting was provided to the public.

The workshop was officially closed by the Minister of Information and Communications of Kenya, the Hon. Samuel L. Poghio, who congratulated the participants and reflected that their exchanges had set the project on a trajectory for success.

John O. Kakonge

For a full summary of the discussions at this workshop visit the BCI online edition at [www.undp-aap.org](http://www.undp-aap.org)



Nairobi opens conference on building awareness of climate change:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d10iRtjRABE>



Experts gather to discuss climate change in Africa:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NFL0jpNwls>

## Media project's media coverage

The launch of the MCB Project in Nairobi last November was covered by South-South News, which produced a series of video news stories on the event.

To view the stories visit the South-South News Youtube channel—[www.youtube.com/user/SouthSouthNews](http://www.youtube.com/user/SouthSouthNews)—and search for the following story titles.



Climate change reporting poses challenges and opportunities:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKkcSPhuXlg>



Improving public awareness of climate change issues in Africa:  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dWU\\_YnKdvs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6dWU_YnKdvs)

# Send us your baobabs!

(or other famously resilient flora and fauna)



Baobab on Mama Ngina Drive, beside entrance to Likoni Ferry, Mombasa, Kenya.  
 Photographed by Geoffrey Omedo, AAP Research Associate.

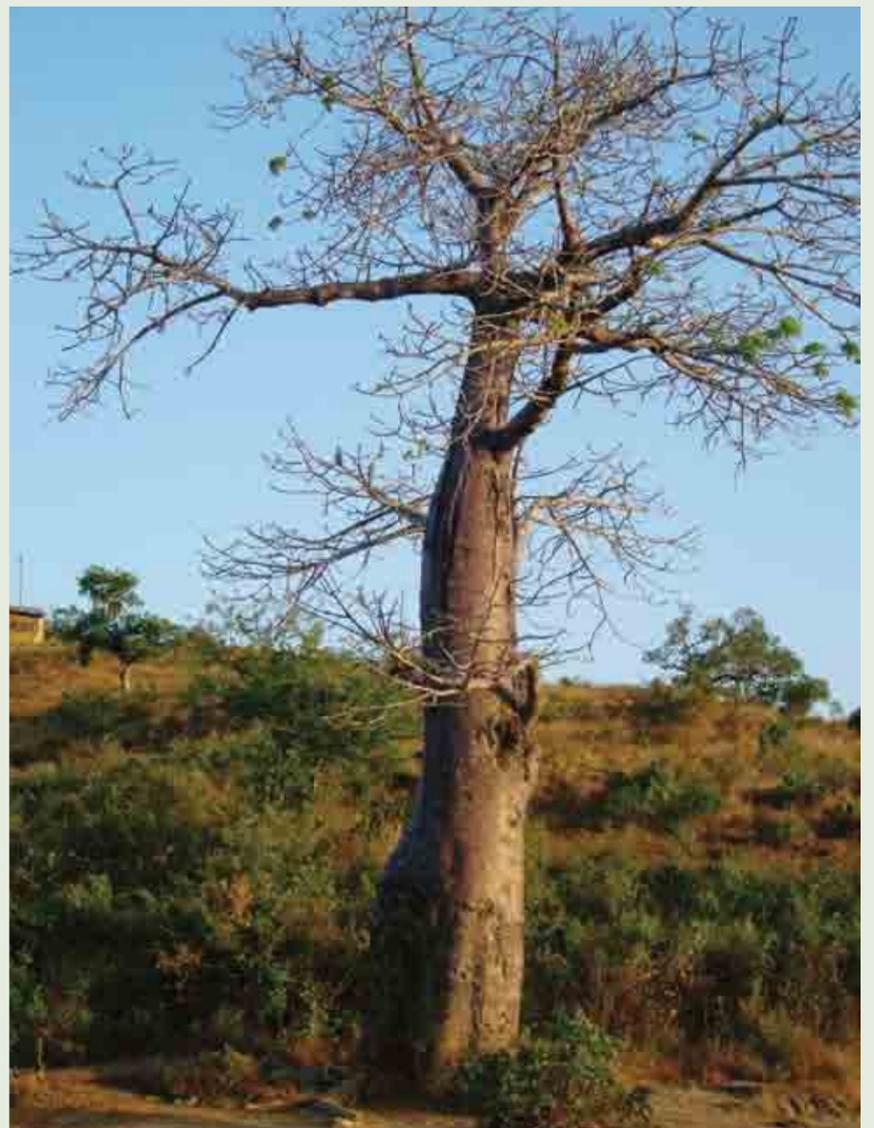
The Baobab Coalition takes as its name and logo the baobab tree—a distinctly African symbol of resilience able to survive and even thrive for centuries in harsh climatic conditions.

These extraordinary and often ancient trees regularly appear unique, their sizes and shapes differ so much, and that's not even counting for the many regional variations.

For a future edition of *The Baobab Coalition Journal* we'd like to produce a centre-spread

showcasing examples of these amazing evolutionary specimens from each of the 20 AAP countries and elsewhere on the continent. But as baobabs are not found everywhere, we're opening the call up to any plant or animal with baobab-like qualities; that is, generously adapted for survival in otherwise trying environments.

Please send photos (original images only) to [aap.bcj@unops.org](mailto:aap.bcj@unops.org) and feel free to open this call up to your colleagues, friends, children, etc.



Baobab by Tudor Creek, outside Mikindani, north of Mombasa, Kenya.  
 Photographed by James Momanyi, AAP Project Finance and Procurement Associate.

## Professional development for development professionals

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countries, the workshop examined problem-solving tactics that were pertinent to their work.

'Learning about a structured approach to define a problem, to look for the root cause and to initiate behavioural changes will prove to be very useful in both our professional and personal lives,' said Madookur.

'The lessons learned through

the feedback from other countries regarding the problems they encountered and their initiatives were of great help. Integrating this new approach as a tool for problem identification and solving in my relationships with others, and sharing this knowledge with my AAP colleagues, will contribute to a better team spirit and positive outlook.'

### The need for the PDP

AAP staff will participate in a series of future workshops that will advance and eventually complete the process initiated at Morocco and Zanzibar.

'Growth is impossible without change, and good leadership is essential for change to take place,' says AAP capacity development

expert Cundale.

'Therefore, we are challenging the leaders of AAP to look in the mirror and ask themselves: "How can I grow and develop and really make a difference?" Moreover, I appreciate that the reality in which the AAP projects have to operate is not simple.'

Victoria Donaldson, who is managing the delivery of this programme, elaborated on this final point.

'The AAP Professional Development Programme recognizes that the projects are being implemented within a complex environment. We understand that the AAP teams need to be able to manage the strategic issues, the political processes that exist within the country, as well as the mechanics of project management itself. Over the life of this programme we are going to empower the participants to optimise their performance in dealing with all these different aspects.'

Keith Cundale is the AAP regional expert for Institutions, Leadership and Capacity development and can be contacted at [KeithC@unops.org](mailto:KeithC@unops.org)

Victoria Donaldson is Advisor for Individual and Professional Development for AAP. She can be contacted at [VictoriaD@unops.org](mailto:VictoriaD@unops.org)



(L to R) Gousmane Moussa, AAP Niger Project Coordinator; Henri Agathe, UNDP Mauritius; Madookur Desha, National Coordinator Climate Change UNDP Mauritius; Michel Enyegue Ateba, AAP Cameroon Project Manager; Amadou Souley Massaoudou, AAP Niger Government Focal Point and CNEDD General Secretary; Rohan Guyot Sutherland, AAP UNDP Focal Point; and Haman Unusa, AAP Cameroon Government Focal Point working on a problem solving exercise at AAP's PDP workshop in Morocco.

### Commentary

## Global climate focus turns to Africa

### International events draw attention to continent's adaptation needs



Alex Abutu

Africa has again become the international focal point of climate change following the decision to host the next UN global climate change conference, the Seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP 17), in Durban, South Africa beginning late in November.

This will be the second time in six years the continent plays host to the annual climate change forum and negotiations.

#### Highlighting Africa's plight

In 2006 Kenya hosted the Twelfth Conference of the Parties. This event prompted increased government and civil society action on climate change across Africa and drew attention to the growing risks Africans face as a result of climate change.

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, published in 2007, discusses how Africa is the continent most vulnerable to the

impacts of climate change as a result of its geography and the prevailing poverty of its inhabitants.

The report predicted numerous environmental conditions that already cause extreme hardship in Africa would worsen due to climate change. Many believe these outcomes are already occurring, with declining rainfall, water scarcity, drought and crop failures visiting many parts of Africa—with devastating consequences at the moment in east Africa—and excessive rainfall, flooding and the spread of disease becoming increasingly common elsewhere.

These situations will worsen as increasing global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions make a more-than 2 degrees Celsius increase in average temperatures likely.

#### Coordination as key

Much attention has been drawn to African countries' vulnerability to climatic changes and their inability to cope with them as a result of weak capacity and a lack of institutional frameworks and resources.

A multitude of projects and programmes aimed at assisting

African countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change are now underway. But how these countries will incorporate these initiatives with their national development plans remains unclear.

Initiatives agreed to at the most recent UN global conference on climate change in Cancun, Mexico along with other interventions are offering Africa strategies to prepare for climate change.

The Cancun Agreement has a wide range of implications for Africa. While it is predominantly a platform to potentially hold countries accountable for their emissions, the provision of international financial assistance could make widespread adaptation to climate change in Africa a realistic possibility.

Governments at the conference backed a new global 'green fund', for which innovative sources of finance now need to be identified. A model for such a fund had been designed by a group of African countries prior to the conference in the hope of creating a transparent and accountable pool of financial support for responses to climate-related issues.

#### Timely assistance

Talks for COP 17 are already underway, but the agenda is not promising for Africa. Against this backdrop, initiatives such as UNDP's Africa Adaptation Programme will play a vital role in supporting African

efforts to prepare for climate change.

The AAP, which supports countries' efforts to develop their capabilities to identify, design and implement all-inclusive adaptation programmes aligned with national development objectives, is coming at the right time.

The AU has stressed the need for African countries to mainstream climate change adaptation into their development programmes. In its 20 participating countries, the AAP will seek to achieve just this by providing technical support and momentum to enable successful integration.

The programme will facilitate access to the best available data and information on climate variability and impacts. It will also play a crucial role in supporting institutional and leadership development through structured interventions tailored to the unique circumstances and needs of each country.

As Africa looks towards Durban and beyond, it is crucial for us to partner with programmes such as the AAP for assistance with best practices, experiences and technologies for the implementation of climate resilient policies.

Alex Abutu is a Nigerian journalist specialising in science and climate change. He is a media fellow with the UNFCCC and recipient of Canada's International Development Research Centre's Science Journalism Fellowship.

# Consulting for a resilient future

## Toolkits, research and 100 'ambassadors' help secure Namibia's development

Servaas van den Bosch



The Africa Adaptation Project team in Namibia is committed to helping the country adapt to the negative effects of climate change.

As elsewhere, the focus of the AAP in Namibia is predominantly to help Namibians formulate and plan adaptation.

'The AAP is about helping countries build their capacity to plan and implement climate change-resilient development policies,' says the project's Namibia Communication Expert Lesley-Anne van Wyk. 'We assist with integrating climate change responses into existing development plans.'

AAP Namibia aims to build the foundations for a national approach to climate change adaptation. Through strategic hiring and training of local specialists, research on risk management and programmes engaging youth, at-risk communities and farmers, the AAP seeks to provide the knowledge and conditions to enable the creation of holistic development strategies that incorporate resilience to climate change.

### Diverse approaches to protecting development

In its core project, the programme

last year awarded 12 consultancy positions to prominent Namibian environmental professionals.

'These consultancies constitute 80 per cent of what the project is trying to achieve,' says Lesley-Anne.

'We coordinate, support and supervise the consultancies, but we also have a focus on knowledge management and awareness raising activities as well as evaluating

**'Growing seasons have changed, flooding is getting heavier and rains are becoming more unpredictable. Many people, even those on the highlands, said they will again have a very poor harvest this year.'**

Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi, AAP Namibia Technical Advisor

overall progress towards climate resilience.'

The work of the consultants is focused on strengthening national policies and strategies and building long-term capacity to adapt to climate change, rather than establishing new pilot projects. Their areas of specialisation range from planning climate change risk management to producing information toolkits, gathering data and analysing climate change impacts and adaptation policies.

Under AAP Namibia, work has begun on an assessment of

the country's overall climate risk management. This research focuses especially on the floods that are currently affecting the region and that are becoming a more frequent occurrence. Such cross-sector analyses are vital to the later formulation of informed national policies.

To raise awareness of the need for adaptation strategies and to train key people in them, 100 'Climate Change Adaptation Ambassadors' have been nominated. Throughout April and May this group, comprised of high-level decision makers and other stakeholders in the adaptation field, undertook a series of learning

regions of Namibia.

'We have had interesting interactions during workshops in all 13 regions,' says Lesley-Anne. 'All regions demonstrated their commitment to institutional reform through the inclusion of regional climate change committees.'

Another very special part of AAP Namibia is the Youth Action Programme, which aims to ensure participation from children and young adults. Along with raising awareness through engagement with high schools and competitions, special youth concerts will be organised to sensitise youngsters to adaptation issues.

### Gathering and sharing on-the-ground knowledge

In another project designed to foster general adaptation awareness, teams

of AAP consultants travelled to vulnerable areas in the north of Namibia in March to gather input for information toolkits that will help residents of rural communities integrate adaptation into their daily lives.

After COP15 in Copenhagen in December 2009, Namibia's Cabinet decided the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), the body that has coordinated climate change activities in Namibia for the past 10 years, should be reviewed and strengthened. This process is being undertaken by AAP Namibia.

Also on the national team's table is a plan to establish local climate change committees in all 13

activities to foster the inclusion of responses to climate change in their work as managers of the country's key institutions.

The consultants identified climate-related challenges for the region, current coping mechanisms, vulnerable groups and other important stakeholders as well as potential future adaptation measures,' says Lesley-Anne.

Also in March, funding was offered under AAP Namibia's Small Grants Programme for community-based adaptation activities and planning.

Technical Advisor Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi recently returned from conducting a consultative workshop in the Caprivi region in north-east Namibia. The area is increasingly feeling the effects of climate change with flooding of the mighty Zambezi River now occurring annually and becoming heavier and more prolonged each year.

'The workshop was held to gather input for the information toolkits that will be distributed across all regions,' says Fidelis.

'It went very well. The people are happy that authorities are engaging with the communities and taking them seriously. They feel that the climate is changing and they are very worried. The floods that once occurred every decade or so are now a yearly phenomenon and they are getting worse in intensity. The flooding affects agricultural activities and the education of children. Growing seasons have changed, flooding is getting heavier and rains are becoming more unpredictable.

'Many people, even those on the highlands, said they will again

## The AAP Namibia team



**Teofilus Ngitila** is the Director of Environmental Affairs at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and also serves as the AAP Namibia National Project

Director. He has a long and distinguished career in the field of environment and adaptation and often heads teams of Namibian negotiators at international climate change talks.



**Johnson Ndokosho** is the other technical adviser at AAP Namibia. His background is in Integrated Water Resource Management in which he obtained

an MSc. He has vast experience, having worked in the water, nature conservation and community-based climate change adaptation sectors for more than 13 years.



**Naomi Shaninga** is the project administrator. She ensures all financial and logistical details are in order to facilitate the smooth running of the programme.



**Ernst Mbangula**,\* the AAP Namibia Project Manager, runs the project on a daily basis and is responsible for all its outputs. He studied

Water Resource and Environmental Management at the University of Twente in The Netherlands.

View a video interview with Ernst in the Resources section of the AAP website: [www.undp-aap.org](http://www.undp-aap.org)



**Martha Wilhelm** assists the project on a part-time basis with accounting and the operation of financial systems. She is delegated to AAP Namibia by the

Namibia Ministry of Finance.



**Esra Kharigub** is the AAP Namibia driver and administrative assistant. Because of the vast distances in Namibia, a

dedicated staff member is needed to deliver materials to the different areas of the country and liaise with stakeholders.



**Fidelis Nyambe Mwazi** is one of the two technical advisors to the project. He has an MSc. in Geo-information Science and Earth

Observation (Sustainable Agriculture) from the University of Twente in The Netherlands. Prior to joining the programme, Mwazi was an agricultural scientist at the Polytechnic of Namibia and leader of research teams at the University of Namibia.



**Lesley-Anne van Wyk** is the project's Communications Expert, liaising with stakeholders and the media to ensure that the project remains visible and all

outcomes are communicated. She has a Bachelors Degree in Journalism from the University of Pretoria and has worked for the UNAIDS and Global Fund proposal development processes.



**Padelia Ndjaleka** is the latest addition to the team, having joined AAP Namibia in March as an intern for the UNDP Young Professional's Programme. She is an

administrative assistant who just finished her Bachelor of Agricultural Management at the Polytechnic of Namibia.

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# Adaptation ambassadors at gala dinner

Network of technical experts commits to helping Namibia adapt to climate change

Lesley-Anne van Wyk



Julia Mushimba from the Namibia Ministry of Justice receives her award from Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Environment and Tourism, at the Hilton Namibia in recognition of her completion of the Climate Change Adaptation Ambassadors Programme.

**AAP** Namibia's Climate Change Adaptation Ambassadors were the stars of a gala dinner at the Windhoek Hilton on June 16 where they were encouraged to follow through on their training in climate change adaptation.

Flanked by the permanent secretaries, directors and managing directors of the ministries, departments and organisations they work for, the ambassadors received certificates recognising their efforts and their commitment to securing Namibia's future.

They had each undertaken training sessions as part of AAP Namibia's

Climate Change Adaptation Ambassadors Programme, which aims to raise awareness among technical experts and decision-makers from various sectors on the impacts, risks and opportunities of climate change.

'I am extremely pleased with this initiative,' said Dr Kalumbi Shangula, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, in his keynote address.

'One of our main challenges in addressing climate change is that we lack adequate human capacity to deal with it. Now we have taken 81 key professionals in our ministries, civil society organisations, private sector companies and academia through a learning programme, which has familiarised them with various climate change adaptation themes.

The Ambassadors Programme serves to update and inform participants on climate change matters both in Namibia and within an international context. It is part of AAP Namibia's broader Namibia Climate Risk Management

## Climate change in Namibia

Namibia is by any standard extremely vulnerable to climate change and its impacts.

Climate change is expected to have profound consequences for the country's national development objectives and the way in which it can achieve them. Foreseen impacts include temperature rises in what is already southern Africa's most arid country, shifting rain seasons and unpredictable rainfall patterns, which will lead to reduced livelihoods for the 70 per cent of the population who are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Tourism, which is currently the largest national industry after mining, is at risk of decline if wildlife habitat is damaged.

Overall, the cost of climate change to Namibia is estimated to amount to up to 6 per cent of GDP by 2030, larger than the current GDP contribution of the entire agricultural sector.

plan, which, through advocacy and leadership, seeks to build Namibia's capacity to develop the foundations for a national approach to climate change adaptation.

Participants in the programme include staff from government ministries as well as prominent NGOs, institutions and businesses; people who, in their daily work, inform high-level policy- and decision-makers. In this context, the ambassadors will be the drivers of national action on climate change in Namibia.

Speaking on behalf of the ambassadors, Petrus Shuuya, a development planner from the Ministry of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, expressed his willingness to examine climate change-related concerns at work.

'Our ministry can, for example, investigate adaptation measures or coping strategies for rural communities that depend on natural resources,' he said.

Lesley-Anne van Wyk is the Communications Officer for AAP Namibia. [lvnwyk@met.na](mailto:lvnwyk@met.na)

## Consulting for a resilient future

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have a very poor harvest this year.'

Fidelis, his colleague Johnson Ndokosho and Project Manager Ernst Mbangula have been travelling the country running workshops on agriculture and adaptation with agricultural extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, farmers, regional councillors and media practitioners.

'If we are to inform the people about adaptation issues their input is absolutely vital. It is needed to ensure communities buy in to these toolkits.'

*Servaas van den Bosch is a freelance journalist with extensive experience in reporting on climate change and the environment. He has written on climate change for Insight Namibia, Thomson Reuters, Inter Press Service, Panos and many other publications and agencies worldwide and was twice awarded the Climate Change Media Partnership*

## On the road to Durban with the Youth Climate Caravan

**A**n African youth pilgrimage to the climate negotiations in Durban will set off from Kenya in November in a convoy of buses that will travel through two other AAP countries along the way.

Under the banner 'Driving a Climate Revolution through Africa', the Youth Climate Caravan will participate in outreach activities including concerts en route that will showcase climate adaptation efforts already underway across Africa and deliver a message of faith in humanity's ability to resolve the climate change challenge.

Caravan organisers Winnie Asiti Khaemba, Waithaka Kamau and David Wainaina met with AAP's communications specialist Charles Dickson in Nairobi in late July to explore the possibility of collaboration between the Youth Climate Caravan and the AAP's Baobab Coalition.

'This is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the progress the 20 AAP countries are making,' says Dickson. 'By strengthening their capacities to drive their development agenda more effectively, they will move much faster towards the MDGs and the reduction of the poverty that is the source of their vulnerability to threats such as

climate change, among others,' he said.

'The engagement of all segments of society is crucial to this work, and collaboration is at the heart of the Baobab Coalition, so we're keen to jump on board with this initiative to spread the word across the continent.'

Look for an update on how these plans are developing in the next edition of *The Baobab Coalition Journal*.



Valentine Sims and Philip Koimet from the Kenya Youth Climate Network, one of the main organisers behind the Youth Climate Caravan.

# Climate knowledge is adaptation power

**AAP's data team enables access to the best climate impact information**

**Dale Wilson**

Access to climate scenarios, historical climate data and information on climate change impacts is fundamental to adaptation decision-making processes. It is crucial to developing the understanding of climate risks and vulnerabilities needed in the development of adaptation strategies that can be integrated into national development plans. Yet in many African countries and sub-regions climate data and information can be inconsistent, unreliable or inaccessible, particularly where historical data is concerned. In addition, there is a lack of knowledge and expertise in how to apply information to planning and decision making.

A key activity of the AAP is to help countries gain access to the best available data and information on climate variability and its impacts and use this to support dynamic, long-term national planning and decision-making mechanisms. The provision of good data and converting this into deployable information can help build understanding at multiple levels: research, practice and decision- and policy-making.

The AAP Data and Information Component (DIMC) is helping countries develop this capacity by providing technical assistance to establish the relevant mechanisms and infrastructure for acquiring and analysing high quality data on climate change and its impacts, as well as by using decision support tools for adaptation planning in the context of low carbon growth and national development. It provides strategic direction to participating countries on climate change impacts and data collection, analysis and application.

## Partners and networks

Meanwhile, the DIMC is also forming partnerships with universities, research institutes and scientific organisations to improve the availability of historical, current and future climate data. Building these partnerships is helping to share knowledge on climate science, climate change impacts and the potential for adaptation. To expand availability of data to all participating countries, the AAP has established collaborations with a number of key institutions, for example: the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development; IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centres; The Southern African Development Community Drought Monitoring Centre; Agriculture, Hydrology, Meteorology Regional Centre; World Meteorological

Organisation; The International Research Institute for Climate and Society; and Met Office (UK).

In recent years, many initiatives have been undertaken to increase the availability of climate information in Africa. The AAP is coordinating with a number of these efforts, including, regional climate outlook forums; the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment, an initiative by the World Climate Research Programme; and the Global Climate Observing System hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association.

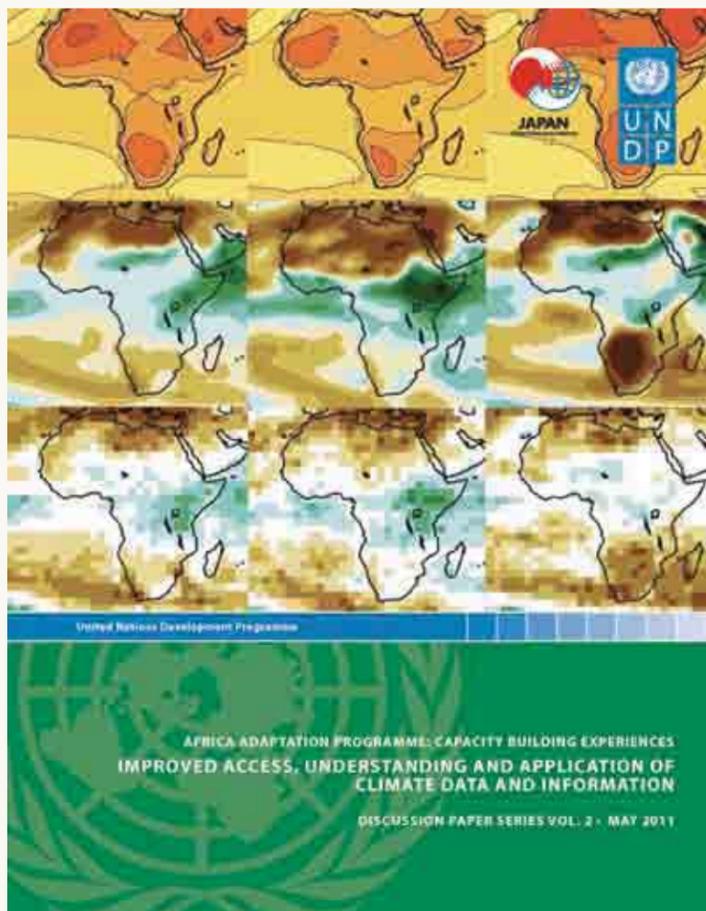
The AAP is providing countries with cutting-edge tools and data for adaptation decision-making, despite the uncertainties in climate predictions. We are partnering with the Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), which maintains a range of global circulation models (GCMs), regional circulation models (RCMs) and climate datasets. The ICTP coordinates the Regional Climate Research Network and maintains a regional climate model, which is being adopted in many African countries.

## Forecasting the long-term future

GCMs and RCMs can predict climate information on a much longer time scale than normal numerical weather prediction models, which are only used to forecast the short-term future. These models are used for simulating the Earth's climate system. A variety of climate variables, such as albedo, greenhouse gas emissions, volcanic activity, aerosols, the carbon balance, the water balance and solar insolation, can be entered into climate models to determine the response of the climate system to changes in these variables, such as their impact upon the Earth's surface temperature and other aspects of the Earth's system. For example, different greenhouse gas emission scenarios can be applied to a model to create temperature projections, which can then be applied to test the sensitivity of sea level rise or agricultural production to these temperature increases.

The AAP countries are establishing climate change units, creating data collection systems and training experts on how to access and process data to develop capacity to assess vulnerability and risk and develop adaptation strategies and policies. This process can be seen as part of the larger scheme of building adaptive capacity. Through the AAP's work to build knowledge, platforms and access to the best available data, it is intended that policy makers become better informed on the magnitude of the challenge they are facing and the consequences of inaction. They are both encouraged and enabled to carry out effective adaptation programmes.

*Dale Wilson serves as Climate Change Adaptation Advisor to the DIMC. He can be contacted at [dalew@unops.org](mailto:dalew@unops.org)*



## Building a knowledge base

*The AAP will soon publish a paper on its experience of acquiring and sharing climate data. The report, the second in the AAP's Discussion Paper Series, emphasizes the importance of climate data, projections and studies to the development of effective adaptation policies. Visit the AAP website for news of its release.*

## PAST EVENT

# A new, climate-resilient development

**The AAP's first peer review meeting advanced its vision for a strategic approach to adaptation**

**Charles Dickson**

When the first peer review meeting of all 20 AAP member countries wrapped up on 25 November last year, it was with a clearer understanding among all participants of the ambitious intent of the programme.

'The purpose of the AAP is not to do adaptation project after project, but to change the development paradigm', said Veerle Vandeweerd, Director of UNDP's Environment and Energy Group.

'I think everyone's coming to the realisation that the real climate challenge confronting governments in Africa is not just how to manage

some adaptation projects in a few sectors but how to transform entire societies from climate vulnerability to climate resilience', said Ian Rector, Programme Manager of the AAP.

'There are far too many ad hoc, unrelated adaptation projects. Unless something is done to deepen the capacity of governments to provide strategic oversight and coherence in managing climate change within the framework of national development priorities, it will be difficult to address climate impacts regardless as to the amount of

money being pledged', said Rector.

The meeting showcased some of the key initiatives available to participating countries, such as the T21 visual mapping tool Kenya was already piloting, as well as other focus areas including leadership transformation, organisational effectiveness and the integrated planning approach, which works to combine all UNDP climate projects within a holistic management framework and thereby reduces the impact of project fatigue.

'Developing this kind of capacity may seem a bit intangible at this

point, but not too far down the road the outcomes have the potential to generate more tangible results that could make the difference between the success or failure of agriculture, the presence or absence of food, the health or illness of millions of people, and the prosperity or poverty of a continent', said Rector.

'And I want to congratulate the Government of Japan for having the insight to recognise that the less tangible aspects of institutional strengthening and leadership development are essential platforms for meeting the complex and long-term challenges associated with climate change', he said.

For a full summary of this meeting view Anthony Mill's report in *The BCJ* online edition at [www.undp-aap.org](http://www.undp-aap.org)

# Farewell to a passionate, committed and inspiring colleague.

In early April 2011, UNDP lost one of its most strategic and insightful staff members, and we at AAP lost a champion and a dear friend.

Bo Lim will be known to many of our readers, either directly or through the stories of others. For the past two years she fought a long and determined battle with cancer. Despite her constant treatment and medications, which at times would have been enough to fall an elephant, Bo remained, to the end, focused on her work and was always looking for ways to pioneer new initiatives within UNDP broadly and The Bureau for Development Policy specifically. Her bull terrier approach to pursuing transformational change did not always please everyone. But I doubt I could find anyone as passionate as she was, or as brave, and her departure will leave a significant gap within UNDP.

I first met Bo in Nepal in 2007 and was immediately inspired by her passion and impressed by her knowledge. We became good friends over the years and when she told me in February of this year that her time was running out I tried to encourage her to 'give the office a miss' and focus on herself. Of course she listened to me as she always did, so no matter how much I tried to convince her otherwise she continued to come in to the office or work from home. Even in those final days all it seemed she could think of was making sure the work issues were in order.

Bo was one in a million and I would expect that her legacy will live on through the efforts of everyone she touched and inspired. Fare thee well, Bo Lim, and cheers, my friend.

**Ian Rector**, Programme Manager, Africa Adaptation Programme

*'As both her friend and her boss, I miss her daily.'*

**Veerle Vandeweerd**, Director, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP



*Bo Lim, climate change adaptation expert:  
16 January 1958 – 1 April 2011*

*'For her, it was all about development to improve people's lives.'*

**Susanne Schmidt**, Water Governance Advisor, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP

*'...constantly striving to make a difference in people's lives.'*

**Jennifer Baumwoll**, Research Analyst on Climate Change Policy, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP

*'Bo continued to mindfully process the essentials of science serving a human purpose.'*

**Linda Ghanime**, environment and development consultant

*'Bo was a fiery spirit in a compact package...her most sterling quality was her forward thinking.'*

**Frank Pinto**, Senior Expert on Climate Change and Development, Energy and Environment Practice, UNDP

*'She held everyone—including herself—to the same exacting standards of excellence and constantly drove her team to dig deeper, think smarter and work harder.'*

**Rebecca Carman**, Climate Policy Specialist, Environment and Energy Group, UNDP

*'I originally hired Bo to manage the National Communication Support Program. It was the best hiring decision I made during my decade with UNDP.'*

**Richard Hosier, Sr.** Environmental Specialist, Global Environmental Coordination Unit, World Bank

*'...contagious laugh, inexhaustible energy and immense "joie de vivre".'*

**Olav Kjørven**, Director, Bureau of Development Policy, UNDP

An extended memorial to Bo with the full text of the memories shared by her colleagues and friends along with her professional biography will be published on the AAP website: [www.undp-aap.org](http://www.undp-aap.org)

## Calendar of recent and upcoming AAP events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
12 – 14 September	Media Capacity Building workshops on climate change reporting	Ghana and Cameroon	JacquelineF@unops.org
12 – 16 September	Leadership for Results Programme: Ghana Workshop 2	Ghana	ElizabethS@unops.org
19 – 21 September	Media Capacity Building workshops on climate change reporting	Senegal and Kenya	JacquelineF@unops.org
19 – 23 September	Leadership for Results Programme: Ethiopia Workshop 1	Ethiopia	ElizabethS@unops.org
17 – 19 October	Media Capacity Building workshops on climate change reporting	Nigeria	JacquelineF@unops.org
24 – 26 October	Media Capacity Building workshops on climate change reporting	Cameroon and Tanzania	JacquelineF@unops.org
31 October – 2 November	Media Capacity Building workshops on climate change reporting	Rwanda and Namibia	JacquelineF@unops.org
November (date TBC)	Leadership for Results Programme: Ghana Workshop 3 and Ethiopia Workshop 2	Ghana and Ethiopia	ElizabethS@unops.org
21 November	AAP board meeting	New York City	RyanL@unops.org