

Submission by SLYCAN Trust as a partner of the Nairobi Work Programme under the UNFCCC on Work Related to Ecosystems, Interrelated Areas such as Water Resources & Adaptation,

Ecosystem-based Adaptation plays a key role in adaptive efforts as it is closer to communities, and has an impact on their daily resources. This could be embedded into national, regional and local policy and practice through integrated, participatory and ecosystem based approaches. Further management of ecosystems, and their resortation can be considered as playing a key role in resilience building, and the reduction of vulnerabilities to impacts of climate change. It is also an effective, accessible way of reducing poverty and climate risk, as well as helping communities make informed choices about their livelihood options. This could be through livelihood enhancement and diversification with prevention of the degradation of natural resources.

SLYCAN Trust's work is listed out under the relevant headings as related to the submission request.

1. Adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems and interrelated areas such as water resources:

SLYCAN Trust in partnership with farmers of the North East of Sri Lanka is working on addressing soil salinity increase in paddy fields of the Morawewa area of Tricomalee. The activity focuses on research on the impacts of salinity, and the ecosystem based adaptation activity that could address to reduce soil salinity which according to the data collected by farmers is assumed to be increased due to lack of water, increased human activity that is not climate friendly.

As **key results** of the activity SLYCAN Trust identified the points such as:

- Data gathered from farmers on impacts of climate change on their paddy land, and the impacts of increased salinity on their crops and agricultural activities.
- Shift from toxin agriculture to climate smart agriculture to address salinity.
- Forming of groups of farmers to work on ecosystem based adaptation practices for adaptation.

Among key **lessons learnt** from this activity are that:

- Ecosystem based adaptation needs to identify strategies that focus on minimising anthropogenic stresses that degrade and exploit the ecosystems.
- Involvement of communities in all levels of ecosystem based action from formulation to implementation, as well as monitoring and evaluation.
- There is need to integrate indigenous knowledge in adaptation actions to ensure sustainability of the action, and increase resilience (such as in this case, the use of indigenous knowledge on reducing salinity, through the use of natural resources available in the ecosystem, and not introducing artificial means of addressing the issue).
- It is important to build capacity of communities, and create knowledge sharing methods for continued actions to address climate change impacts through ecosystem based adaptation actions.

Key **challenges faced** include ensuring the farmers to cultivate in the lands with impacts of salinisation that is felt, without guarantee that the methods tried will have beneficial impacts was difficult. Hence the buy in from farmers to invest time and energy without guaranteed success was one of the main problems in the implementation of the project.

Next steps of the project includes:

- Develop water efficient farming methods
- Identifying saline lands and conducting experimental pilot projects
- Conducting research, resilient activities and capacity building programs within the community in terms of developing solutions to the salinisation issue
- Introducing economic diversification through eco-system based livelihoods such as social enterprises. This focuses on mapping existing livelihoods and understanding the community's dependency on agriculture impacted by climate change; assessing the community's aspirations, and existing livelihood options linked with ecosystem and resources available, and implementing the adaptation strategies. This activity is still at the first stage of its implementation, and will be fully implemented within the year 2017.

Another ecosystem based activity conducted by SLYCAN Trust is Community-based climate smart agriculture project where ecosystem-based adaptation combined with mitigation efforts that generate multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. This includes the shift from toxin based to toxin free agriculture which focuses on using

ecosystem based adaptive measures: using natural fertiliser available, focusing on effective irrigation methods as well as diversifying and adjusting ecosystem management practices, and also enhancing agro-biodiversity.

2. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation

Under monitoring and evaluating of ecosystem based adaptation actions, one of the methods used has been the participatory and community based monitoring and evaluation. The community on which the project focuses will be monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the project so as to ensure that the governance is community centric. The activities of monitoring on the afore mentioned activities are to be performed in the coming months, once the capacity building of farmers is completed, under the continuous monitoring and evaluation.

***For further information please refer to website; slycantrust.org
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