FUTURE CLIMATE FOR AFRICA

CO-PRODUCTION FOR DECISION SUPPORT IN FUTURE CLIMATE FOR AFRICA

Co-production, which is an action research approach, was employed by Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) research teams to establish a common understanding of the decision-making contexts, key climate science concepts and scientific understanding of the region's future climate. The following 6 case studies (taken from the WISER / FCFA co-production manual) outline some of these approaches.

PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO CO-PRODUCE CLIMATE INFORMATION TO SUPPORT MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING

RESEARCH TEAM: AMMA-2050

LOCATION: Senegal and Burkina Faso

AUTHORS: E. Visman, D. Kniveton., F. Affholder, F. Gérard, F. Jankowski, L. Tall, F. Tazen., T. Warnaars, A. Barnaud, C. Berthouly.

AMMA-2050 employed a range of participatory approaches (including participatory impact pathways analysis, scenario games, theatre forum, participatory modelling) that have increased decision-makers' appreciation of how climate information can inform long-term investments in West Africa. These approaches also increased partnering researchers' understanding about the vital importance of engaging decision-makers throughout the process, enabling the co-production of information tailored to strengthen the climate-resilience of specific decision-making processes.

CO-PRODUCING STORIES OF THE FUTURE

RESEARCH TEAM: FRACTAL

LOCATION: Southern Africa

AUTHORS: K.L, Waagsaether., A, McClure., A, Steynor., C, Jack.

Climate risk narratives are stories describing a subset of plausible – yet certainly not definitive – futures within the spread of climate projections, intertwined with local context, impacts and vulnerabilities. They were designed to help foster better uptake of climate information into decision-making processes at the city scale. Climate risk narratives were developed for 7 southern African cities.

LEARNING LABS, DIALOGUES AND EMBEDDED RESEARCHERS IN CITIES

RESEARCH TEAM: FRACTAL

LOCATION: Southern Africa

AUTHORS: K.L, Waagsaether., A, McClure.

Researchers were embedded in 8 Southern African cities. The Embedded Researcher works to sensitise academics and practitioners so that neither enter engagements (e.g. Learning Labs or Dialogues) with ignorance, and plays a crucial role in understanding and bringing together the two spaces of academia and practice. The Learning Labs and Dialogues are co-production spaces for stakeholders within cities to gather, get to know each other and share and develop knowledge.

ABOUT FCFA

Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) is a climate research programme, implemented by five international research teams and supported by a coordination unit:

- AMMA-2050 (African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis 2050)
- FRACTAL (Future Resilience for African Cities and Lands)
- IMPALA (Improving Model Processes for African Climate)
- HyCRISTAL (integrating hydro-climate science into policy decisions for climate-resilient infrastructure and livelihoods in East Africa)
- UMFULA (Uncertainty reduction in Models for Understanding Development Applications)
- CCKE (Coordination, Capacity development and Knowledge Exchange unit)

COLLECTIVE IMPACT

By applying co-production approaches, as illustrated through the 6 case studies, FCFA has supported incorporating this climate information into decision-making. To date, FCFA is on track to influence 17 policies and plans including the Uganda climate bill, adaptation plans of Maputo (Mozambique) and Windhoek (Namibia) and National Adaptation Plans of Senegal and Tanzania.

Further Resources

- Carter, S., Steynor, A., Vincent, K., Visman, E., and Waagsaether, K. (2019) 'Co-production of African weather and climate services'. Manual, Cape Town: Future Climate for Africa and Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa

- Kniveton, D., Visman, E., Daron, J., Mead, N., Venton, R. and Leathes, B. (2016) 'A practical guide on how weather and climate information can support livelihood and local government decision-making: An example from the Adaptation Consortium in Kenya'. Working draft, Exeter: Met Office.

- The African Climate Breakdown: Stories of climate change - a Future Climate for Africa podcast series.

What is co-production?

There are many definitions of co-production, reflecting the many purposes for which co-production is used. The co-production process can be viewed as 'bringing together different knowledge sources and experiences to jointly develop new and combined knowledge which is better able to support specific decision-making contexts' (Kniveton et al., 2016).

FONERWA: CLIMATE RISK SCREENING TOOL

RESEARCH TEAM: CCKE

LOCATION: Rwanda

AUTHORS: J, Araujo.

A climate risk screening tool informed by climate-smart agriculture information, was co-produced to support Rwanda's Green Fund (FONERWA) project appraisal process. The tool collates crop and livestock information with climate risks to flag and inform new projects. Co-production engagements with project developers and FONERWA specialists were used to explore the type of information needed to promote uptake of climate impacts.

CO-PRODUCING CLIMATE INFORMATION FOR MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING IN THE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS

RESEARCH TEAM: UMFULA

LOCATION: Malawi

AUTHORS: K, Vincent, and UMFULA Malawi team.

UMFULA worked across the boundary with users, to provide more useful and usable information that more closely meets demands to inform medium-term planning processes relating to water, energy and agriculture. For example, a Water Evaluation and Planning (WEAP) system model to project Malawi's future water availability was co-developed through collaborative discussions with stakeholders.
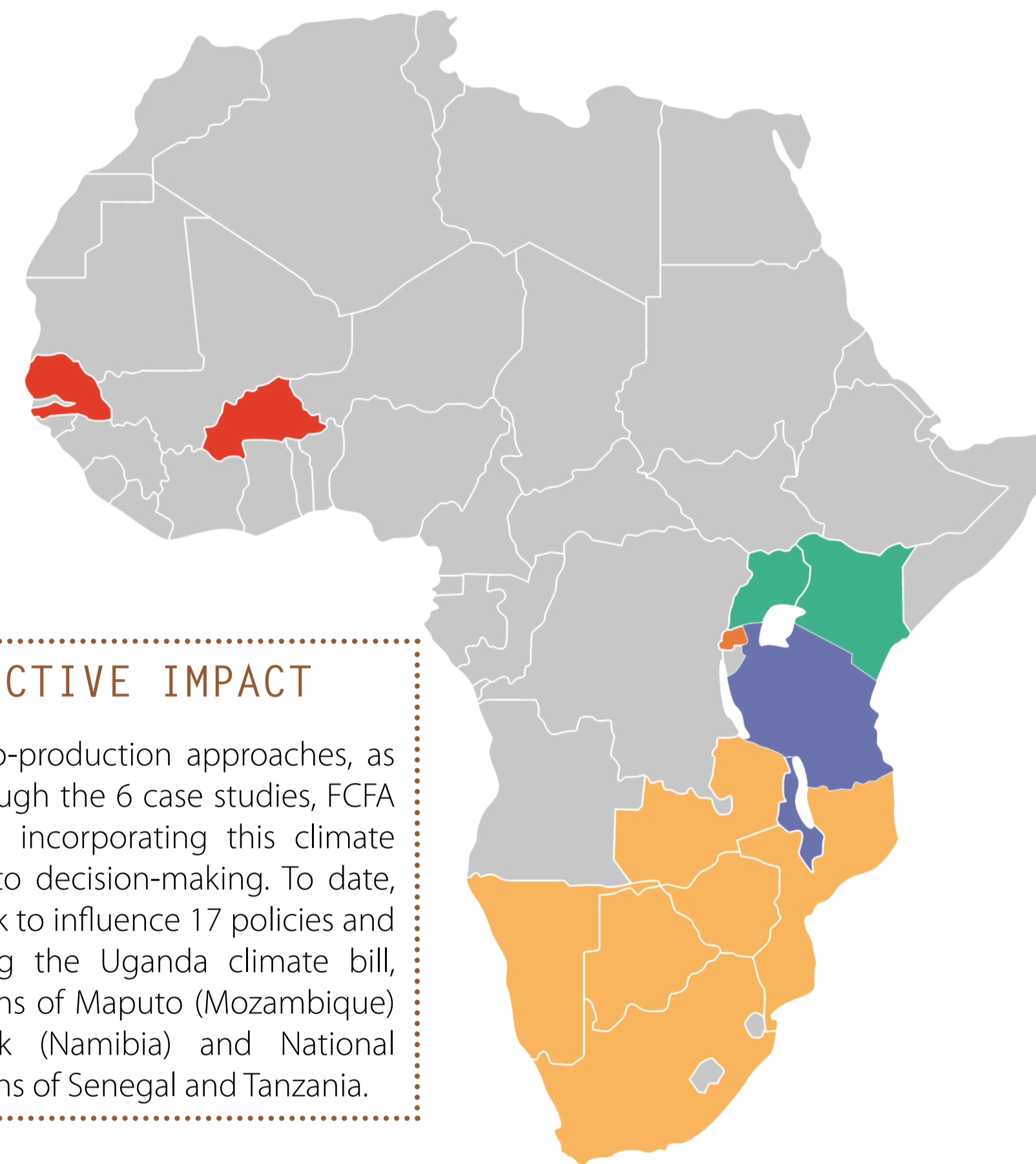
USING VIDEO TO INITIATE FARMER DIALOGUE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESEARCH TEAM: HyCRISTAL

LOCATION: Uganda

AUTHORS: G, Walker., M, Talwisa., C, Saabwe.

The aim was to engage influential members of the farming community in a knowledge exchange process with local government leaders in Mukono, Uganda and to create shareable visual resources from which other farmers could learn adaptation strategies. By initiating a dialogue around the impacts of climate change on agriculture with local government officials, the farmers were able to secure increased agriculture extension funding for that financial year.

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