Speakers and useful links

Organised by Climate Chance	Official website: http://www.climate-chance.org/en The Observatory's webpage : https://www.climate-chance.org/en/comprehend/ More information on the Series of Virtual Workshops: https://www.climate-chance.org/en/get-involved/climate-chance-virtual-workshops/ If you have any questions, contact us: association@climate-chance.org
Vanessa Laubin, Managing director and consultant at PROJECTIONS CC	For more information: https://www.linkedin.com/company/projections-cc
Catherine Higham, Regional director for Europe, Middle East and Africa – Cities, States and Regions at CDP	For more information: https://www.cdp.net/en
Dr Maguette KAIRE, Forest expert at the Regional Centre AGRHYMET Focal point for CILSS regional project GCCA+ AO (Global Climate Change Alliance and West Africa)	For more information: https://agrhymet.cilss.int/
Maurine Ambani, Regional coordinator based in Nairobi at the World Food Programme	For more information: https://www.wfp.org/
Handaine Mohamed, Expert at IPACC (Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee)	For more information: https://www.ipacc.org.za/

Key-takeaways

- All panelists shared the observation that data on climate change adaptation in Africa is difficult to access, both due to insufficient data production and inadequate communication to users. All panelists stressed the importance of local knowledge, which must be combined with scientific information to produce applicable and practical knowledge. This recording of local knowledge was also identified by the workshop participants as the number one priority on the issue of climate data in Africa.

- The CDP supports African cities in the production, collection, and analysis of data, and helps them to integrate these data into their adaptation policies. Cities have difficulties accessing and taking into account data, particularly within long-term strategies. In addition, they find that collaboration with the national government, with external actors or with local populations are often very fruitful.

- The CILSS in Niger centralizes and disseminates data transmitted by working groups set up in different regions. It notes difficulties relating to the inadequacy of the data transmitted to the specific contexts of the recipients, and to the dissemination of scientific data for populations that have lower literacy rates.

- The African Adaptation Learning Program, carried out by the World Food Program along with CARE International, has set up information centres in different communities in Ghana, to allow different actors to discuss together the data to which they have access and to translate them concretely in terms of consequences for their territory. Access to data has been improved, especially for women.

- The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee advocates for the recognition of indigenous languages by African countries, to promote data exchange and collect traditional knowledge that can be useful for climate change adaptation.

Amaury Parelle, Coordinator of the Climate Chance Observatory

This workshop is part of Climate Week in New York City, and a series of Climate Chance workshops on climate data access, following up from the work from Climate Chance Summits since 2018. This workshop will be followed by two others: on October 29th ("Access to activity and energy data") and early 2021 ("Emission factors and calculation methods").

3 objectives for these workshops on accessing climate data:

- To identify African initiatives improving access to climate data and their governance
- To explore concrete avenues for collective work and a space for collaboration that can be conducted on these issues.
- To capture key lessons and principles to formulate a common position among non-state actors committed to these issues

Vanessa Laubin (Moderator), Manager/Consultant at Projections CC

⇒ What is at stake regarding access to adaptation data for non-state actors?

1. Accelerating and improving adaptation measures locally. Access to data enables:
   - The reduction of the level of uncertainty regarding the climate and meteorological situation.

- Making information accessible to share knowledge and scale up, no longer just a pilot project.
- Ensuring follow-up and thus entry into a dynamic of continuous improvement.

2. Effective consideration of climate risk in investment decisions. For this challenge, access to data help to:
   - design climate-compatible projects with a 20-30-year horizon
   - comply with funders' increasingly important requirements

3. Information and warning of the coming impacts of climate change

⇒ *How is adaptation data produced, analysed, and used?*

1. Collection: Who? Research institutes & project leaders, but also local actors: local authorities, communities etc. What is the link between state actors of these data producers? How is the qualitative voice of communities recorded?

2. Analysis: Requires technical, financial, and human resources. What can be the role of non-state actors here?

3. Use: For project design, planning for communities and advocacy. How is the data analysed by research institutes transformed into comprehensible and useful information for stakeholders, and how can we limit misuse? Question of accessibility: how can non-state actors, who do not always have the means to buy data, access these data?

Questions to participants (via menti.com, see appendix): "What are your priorities on the issue of data? Analysis of survey responses at the end of the workshop."

Catherine Higham, CDP:

Carbon Disclosure Product (CDP) and the collected data builds understanding on climate action: the challenges, barriers and obstacles, and how urban actors are overcoming them.

CDP works with non-state actors to measure environmental impact and worked with 850 cities last year to help them make the right climate decisions. Key questions to cities on data:
- What are you currently doing to reduce risks? What are your vulnerabilities? What are the probabilities and consequences of the risks?

CDP encourages them to have adaptation goals and to act.

As part of the 2018 report, CDP asked cities: What are the barriers you face in taking adaptation measures? 2 cities identified the availability of data as an enabler, but more of them found the lack of access to data as a barrier.

In 2019, CDP supported 62% of the monitored cities in developing a vulnerability plan. Cities often feel that they have access to data but lack the expertise to integrate it. Long-term risks are often under-assessed by cities, and those able to do assessments are better equipped to assess long-term risks, but most have only done an assessment of short- and medium-term risks.

Conclusions of the analysis of the cases where this has worked:
- Collaboration with the national government is important and develops a better understanding of adaptation needs.

- Collaboration with external actors is enriching. Ex: in Moroni, people from the municipality self-assessed the risks to which the city is exposed. The stakeholders felt that they did not have enough data to make this assessment. They invited external actors to participate in this assessment, and the collaboration worked very well.
- Participatory approaches work well. Principle: to better understand the experiences in the field and to plan, including the participation of local communities.
- Proxies can be useful. Ex: in Mozambique, the town of Nakala was looking for data to understand climate change trends for the town. They looked at data from the University of Cape Town but there was no data specific to their city. Other data from another city with similar characteristics to Nakala was used and adapted to their context.

All these reports and results are available on the CDP website.

Question: How many African cities are included in your analyses?

⇒ Most of the data shared is from 2018 and 2019. 2018: just under 60 cities. 2019: 48 cities from across the African continent.

Question: So large cities?

A mixture. CDP works with the C40 group, so with large metropolises but also some smaller ones. In 2019, CDP had 3 districts in Yaoundé for example.

Maguette Kaire, AGRHYMET, CILSS:

"Challenges in Producing Climate Information for Climate Change Adaptation in Africa"

Context: Floods in the Sahel. Major problems due to: Forecasting in this region and lack of for warnings. How should information be transmitted?

Africa is at high vulnerability to climate change. Climate data collection mechanisms are week and prevents the continent from responding properly to the challenges of climate change, particularly in agriculture, water, climate disasters, coastal erosion, …

Production and dissemination of data by CILSS:
Multidisciplinary Working Groups (MWGs) were set up to bring together different types of actors to collect, process and analyse data. They then share it with countries, sub-regions, NGOs, international bodies… Regularly, the MWGs send data to AGHRYMET, which combines it with satellite data to produce climate information which is then disseminated.

Different types of challenges for facilitating the appropriation of information by users, some related to the information itself (quality of information, appropriate scales) and others related to the users (communication, difficulties of interpretation).

On the quality of the message:
It is necessary to differentiate the message according to who it is intended for. The data must be complete and comparable. Problem: The data collection network is very sparse, and the number of weather stations has dropped drastically over the last 30 years. Uneven distribution in Africa and a lack of collaboration between research stations.

Appropriate scales:
Information needs to be adapted:

- According to the agro-ecological zones they concern. Each zone has needs that are different from the others, depending on the climate context.
- To the type of farming: rice farmers do not need the same information as peanut farmers, or pastoralists. Ex: in Burkina Faso, some herds travel hundreds of kilometres to find water. These movements are tiring and could be avoided if there were better access to information on water points.
- To the level of instruction of the user (low literacy level in Africa)
- To appropriate time scales. Ex: very short-term information for disaster management, or long-term information for strategic decision-making.

Integrating climate information into development planning can make a real difference and can lead to adaptation strategies. The Regional Climate Centre is trying to set up an automated data collection and dissemination system, and to help integrate data into regional policies and programs.

Question: How do you deal with the issue of uses? How do you work with communities, with farmers' organizations, to define how data should be presented? Considering the low level of literacy.

⇒ Our scientific messages are translated. Ex: GRET in Senegal helped translate scientific messages for a project, using images, maps, to visualize scientific information. Local problem: only a few stations per region.

Maurine Ambani, World Food Programme:

The "African Adaptation Learning Program" in Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, and Niger, is in partnership with CARE International. This work has been going on for 7 years with the aim of deploying adaptive capacities.

Success factors:

- Involving local communities and enabling them to have a better capacity to access data. Initially, there was not enough knowledge on climate change. Even when data was provided, people did not always know how to use it, even in government departments.

- Seasonal livelihood decision-making is key. Communities needed seasonal data to decide on crops to plant. A participatory approach was developed and allowed many actors (NGOs, private actors, public actors...) to gather and understand the weather services in their area, in order to interpret it. They asked how to integrate data, Ex: if there is a 50% chance of rain, how can this be integrated into a decision? A lot of people were able to discuss the weather and climate in a constructive way.

Climate services integrating empirical data from communities:
Communities analyse their own vulnerabilities and capacities and talk to each other about the problems, observations, vulnerabilities and capacities they identified.
To interpret climate and weather data, observations of people in their territory is crucial. They bring a lot of concrete information to better understand the weather data. Ex: 20mm of rain, what does that mean concretely for them? In terms of interpreting, they bring in their own traditional knowledge, which also helps in building trust.

Populations from this program are much better prepared when the rain season arrives. There are community-managed climate information centres. Ex: In Northern Ghana, speakers broadcast the weather forecast. Radio is an important means of broadcasting in Africa, but is often gendered.

How do these results help in decision making?
People have benefited from better access to information and developed connections to ensure that information was accessible to all. This system has especially helped women because they lacked the information for decision-making.

Mohamed Handaine, Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee:

First barrier in access to information in Africa: language. Over 2000 indigenous languages in Africa but most countries do not recognize them as official. IPACC raises awareness to the African community on the importance of African indigenous languages. UNESCO has proclaimed the International Year of Indigenous Languages, an opportunity to improve access to information.

This raises the question of the relationship between water and humans, and traditional knowledge. In Africa, 322 million people lacked access to water that met hygiene standards. Responsible for 10 to 15% of diseases on the continent. It is the main cause of infant mortality in rural areas.

The regional council of Souss-Massa-Tata adopted a local plan to combat global warming, where the issue of water was central. They were able to enhance traditional knowledge related to water management. Ex: the Tanast system: a copper plate pierced at the bottom, which helps to gather water in 9 to 15 minutes.

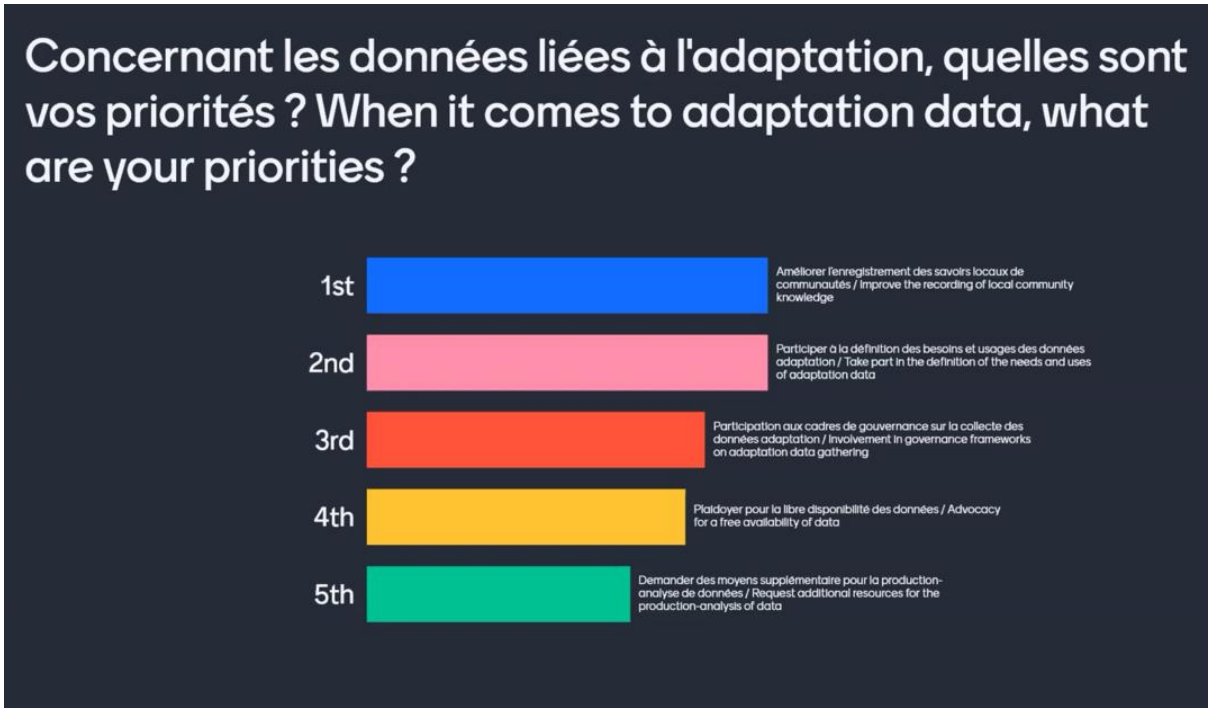
Survey results

Participants' priorities regarding access to the data are:

1) Improving the recording of local knowledge of communities
2) Participating in defining needs and uses of adaptation data
3) Participating in governance frameworks on adaptation data collection
4) Free access to data
5) Additional means for data production/dissemination

Panellists' responses to the survey results:
Catherine Higham: Many cities followed by CDP had great success in their participatory campaigns to develop ways to assess risks.
Maurine Ambani: Interesting. It is now critical to combine all information.
Maguette Kaire: With access to satellite data, difficulties of accessing data decreases. It is important to make the link between scientists and local communities.

Appendix:


Concernant les données liées à l'adaptation, quelles sont vos priorités ? When it comes to adaptation data, what are your priorities ?
1st
Améliorer l'enregistrement des savoirs locaux de communautés / Improve the recording of local community knowledge
2nd
Participer à la définition des besoins et usages des données adaptation / Take part in the definition of the needs and uses of adaptation data
3rd
Participation aux cadres de gouvernance sur la collecte des données adaptation / Involvement in governance frameworks on adaptation data gathering
4th
Plaidoyer pour la libre disponibilité des données / Advocacy for a free availability of data
5th
Demander des moyens supplémentaire pour la production-analyse de données / Request additional resources for the production-analysis of data