

URAdapt

Managing Water at the Urban-Rural Interface: The key to climate change resilient cities

MINUTES

URAdapt 2nd Consultative Group Meeting.

Thursday, June 8th, 2011



URAdapt 2nd Consultative Group meeting
Thursday, June 9th, 2011
International Water Management Institute, Accra

1. Background

Given the URAdapt project objective “to reduce the vulnerability of cities to climate change, by elaborating strategic actions for more integrated and improved urban water (and wastewater) management in two selected cities of East and West Africa”, the specific objectives are translated as:

1. Develop a shared understanding amongst multiple stakeholders, of climate change and its effects on water management at the urban rural interface, using simplified scenarios for greater comprehension of the consequences.
2. Using scenarios, to generate new knowledge, on the upstream and downstream implications of urban water demand, and of resulting wastewater generation, as well as on water investments needs
3. To prepare, in participation with city stakeholders, and for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups, a strategic action plan, for adapting to climate change based on improved water resource management.

The project is expecting to see a number of strategic recommendations emerging that may be of a planning or policy nature. To some extent it is important to know what these outcomes are likely to be before putting in place the right mechanisms for uptake. On the other hand there is enough clarity in that there is a likelihood of both planning and policy recommendations emerging.

The 2nd Consultative Group meeting was scheduled to help the project team brainstorm on uptake of project recommendations and achieving policy impact. More specifically, the meeting was expected to get suggestions on the strategies needed to get engagement from the next level influence.

The meeting attempted to answer questions around policy formulation; who policy makers are with regards to the URAdapt project; players in the climate arena and other areas related to URAdapt project, strategies to get key stakeholders on board and routes to policy influence.

2. Opening Remarks

In her opening remarks, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally thanked all the members for coming on time and availing themselves for the brainstorming exercise. She explained the objective of the meeting and

the key questions the meeting will be considering and opened the floor for discussions. In terms of uptake some of the key questions to be considered would be:

1. how does policy or policy change get formulated and passed?
2. who would you consider as the policy makers
3. who are the players in the climate arena and other areas related to URAdapt?
4. which ones are important to our project?
5. what strategy to get them on board – eg how to get engagement so the right person attends the meeting?
6. who is best placed to do help us with the invitations.
7. what should be the content presented to the policy round table.
8. what other routes to policy influence?

She also explained that a similar exercise had been conducted with the Addis project team and some key members from the Addis platform. The background note for the 2nd CG meeting is attached in Annexe 1. Annexe 1a describes the reflections that took place in Addis which were also the basis for the above questions.

3. *Brainstorming around the key questions*

3.1 How does policy or policy change get formulated and passed?

Ms. Charlotte Engmann explained that normally within a sector, when there are lot of unresolved issues without direction, the government or development partners begin to reflect on the relevance of a policy thus commencing the process of policy formulation. She added that, when there is a major issue (like climate change) which may affect majority of the population, it can call for policy change.

Dr. Samuel Cudjoe admitted that he does not have much expertise when it comes to policy formulation and change, but with the commencement of the National Policy on Climate Change, he was optimistic that, the Group could get somebody to brief us and also specifically relate policy formulation and change to climate change.

Mr. Delali Nutsukpo tended to agree with the point raised by Ms. Charlotte Engmann. Moreover, he was of the view that when you consider climate change issues in Ghana, it is well taken on board but not well coordinated. He said the Environmental Protection Agency has for the past years hosted the Climate Change Focal Point which is tasked to establish a framework within which all sectors in

the country will operate, but the national coordination still does not exist. The result is that, a number of very relevant sectors that should have been responding to issues of climate change have not been functioning or responding to the issues differently. He used the agricultural and forestry sectors as an example – he said in dealing with issues of climate change, the agricultural sector will be more concerned about adaptation strategies whilst the forestry sector will be concerned with mitigation strategies.

Related to policy formulation, the need for information was raised by, Ms. Charlotte Engmann who queried the group to find out where an individual could get information about climate change in Ghana. Members identified Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, Environmental Protection Agency, Water Resources Commission, the Universities, Research Organizations and other websites as sources for knowledge on climate change. In all, what was brought forth was that, there is no knowledge of a “one-stop-shop” where the public can get climate change information in Ghana. Mr. Nutsukpo hinted that, at the National Climate Change Committee level, it has been agreed to establish one database where all information on climate change will be hosted. Ms. Charlotte Engmann recommended that when the database is set up, the general public should be well informed. She said it is important that the committee have a professional on climate change to act as a focus to relate to all stakeholders involved (development partners, government and the general public).

Sharing his experience, Mr. Farouk Braimah said public policy formulation can be initiated from civil society organisations and also from government agencies. He added that policy formulation is iterative but it’s usually through a parliamentary process. Mr. Delali Nutsukpo added to the point and indicated that policies do not strictly require parliamentary approval (especially when there is no need of legislative support for the implementation of the policy) but on the other hand, it is cabinet approval which is prerequisite. He indicated that the type/category of policy (regulatory, development etc) will demand different requirement and hence it is important to acknowledge it when dealing with the subject of policy change and formulation.

The importance of consultation to the process of policy formulation was discussed by Ms. Esi Esuon Biney where all stakeholders including experts and parliamentary committee, should be consulted.

Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally indicated that, even though the URAdapt project doesn’t envisage to spearhead a process of developing a national climate policy, the intention was to stay within the

boundaries that the project can influence with respect to water management vis-à-vis climate change. The aim of the project is to see that recommendations from the project shapes national policies. The assertion of shaping national policies was agreed by all – Mr. Christian Siawor indicated that a number of the Consultative Group and also the Platform sit on national committee on environment (specifically climate change) that influence decision makers. He believes that if the mindsets of these members are in consonance with the project, it will surely have influence at the national level.

Mr. Sean Doolan informed members about the National Climate Change Policy Framework. He said, the national committee commenced its activities last year on behalf of the Ministry of Environment Science and Technology (MEST) with three objectives (adaptation, low carbon and social interventions) and seven main themes including, Governance and Co-ordination; Capacity Building; Research and Knowledge Management; Finance; International Co-operation; Communication; Monitoring and Reporting. He indicated that the MEST is collaborating with relevant departments and agencies to expand and intensify climate change awareness and education, by focusing on activities at the district and community levels.

Dr. Barnabas Amisigo and Sam. Codjoe wanted to know how the vulnerability and adaptation assessments carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency and also research from other institutions is linked to the work of the Committee. Mr. Doolan indicated the policy framework is structured in a way to see that different climate change project could fit in and EPA is also playing a role in the process. He was quick to add that the fragmentation of projects is an issue which is already contributing to the fallen back in terms of international support to Ghana as compared to other African countries.

3.2 Who would you consider as the policy makers?

Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally started the second topic by asking the group to describe their understanding of “Policy Makers” within the context of the project - would they consider themselves as such?

Mr. Christian Siawor began by defining policy maker as “**all who have a role to play in making a policy**”. He explained that, when you consider a call for a policy, the policy makers will comprise the initiators of the process and depending on the policy it can even involve the President of the country. Mr. Delali Nutsukpo added that “**policy makers are the owners of the policy**” which is usually the leadership of the sector ministry. He said, in Ghana, issues are based on sectors which

are led by respective ministries. Public policies are therefore the responsibility of these sector ministries. He added that, a lot of people (especially the National Development Planning Commission) also contribute along the chain of formulation when it comes to public and national policies.

Mr. Sean Doolan commenting on the topic asserted the need to know the focus of the project thus whether it intend to review existing policy or contribute to the formulation of a new one. Sharing his experience, he said with regards to the URAdapt project just like most climate change projects, it is important to work with the technical staff of the sector ministries. He attributed his suggestion to the rate of changes with regards to leadership of ministries. Notwithstanding that, he said the leadership should be informed with regards to the relevance of the project to their respective ministry. He also mentioned the relevance of key individuals who have influence over different ministries.

Mr. Farouk Braimah pointed out the importance of a policy champion, for success, and wanted to know who the lead agency/champion for the project was. He used the example of development of two different policy frameworks in which he had been involved, to bring forth the relevance of the lead sector or actor. He said the development of the Water Policy succeeded as a result of the role played by the Director of Water (Mr. Mintah Aboagye) of the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing who championed the entire process. The Urban Housing policy situated in the Urban Development Unit of the Ministry of Local Government did not get such a champion as in the Water Policy and hence has affected its development.

From the discussion it was agreed that, **it is important to work with technical staff in the ministries because of their consistency in office**, and a **policy champion** would further the policy objectives of the project.

Since the nature of the URAdapt project is also to shape different national policies, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally queried the Group on who the lead agency could be. The discussion brought forth that, **there is no single sector that could take ownership of the project**. On the other hand, the project requires consultation with multiple organizations or sectors to be able to mainstream recommendations of the project into the development strategies in the sector.

3.3 Who are the players in the climate arena and other areas related to URAdapt?

The Group listed the following as the key sectors which play a critical role in climate change in respect of the URAdapt project - Agriculture, Water and Urban sector, Local Government, Environment and also the National Development Planning Commission. The organizations in these sectors include – **Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Accra Metropolitan Assembly and the National Development Planning Commission.**

3.4 Strategizing for the Policy Round Table Meeting

In strategizing for the Policy Round Table Meeting, Mr. Christian Siawor proposed the consideration of key challenges of the identified organizations in order to develop a message to address the respective challenges. In the respective organizations, it was recognized that, the ministers are usually busy and hence key technical staff should be approached. Even though it may differ from organization to organization, the “right persons” may include the Technical Directors, Sectional and Technical Heads.

Mr. Sean Doolan noted that, the project could influence the National Climate Change Policy Framework. He suggested that, even though the project is focused on Accra, he was optimistic that there are lessons which could be useful to urban areas more generally.

The Group also recognized the need for regular briefing to the Directors of the agencies of members who are represented on the platform to update them on the progress of the project.

Another level of consultation discussed was the inclusion of the Sector Minister and their respective Chief Directors. It was advised that, the objectives and recommendations of such a meeting should be very precise. It was also noted that, to get a good representation at the policy round table, it is vital to visit the invited minister on a one-to-one basis to discuss the relevance of the meeting.

In terms of content for the meeting, it was agreed that, it should highlight the respective mandates of the sector ministries and also how the project relates to the specific ministries.

Meeting Participants

#	NAME	ORGANISATION
1	Delali Nutsukpo	MOFA
2	Christian Siawor	GWCL
3	Samuel N.A. Codjoe	RIPS
4	Farouk Braimah	People's Dialogue
5	Charlotte Engmann	CWSA
6	Esi Esuon Biney	WRC
7	Barnabas Amisigo	WRI
8	Quartey Domick	EPA
9	Sean Doolan	DFID
10	Edmund Akoto-Danso	IWMI
11	Philip Amoah	IWMI
12	Claudious Chikozho	IWMI
13	Liqa Raschid-Sally	IWMI

Annexe 1:

NOTE for 2nd ACCRA CG MEETING held at IWMI on 9 June 2011

OBJECTIVE : to help project team brainstorm on uptake of project recommendations and achieving policy impact.

More specifically, to get suggestions on the strategies needed to get engagement from the next level influence. This may include individual meetings with key actors, or organising a more general policy round table meeting.

Background: Given the URAdapt project OBJECTIVE

To reduce the vulnerability of cities to climate change, by elaborating strategic actions for more integrated and improved urban water (and wastewater) management in two selected cities of East and West Africa.

Which translates into the SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

4. Develop a shared understanding amongst multiple stakeholders, of climate change and its effects on water management at the urban rural interface, using simplified scenarios for greater comprehension of the consequences.
5. Using scenarios, to generate new knowledge, on the upstream and downstream implications of urban water demand, and of resulting wastewater generation, as well as on water investments needs
6. To prepare, in participation with city stakeholders, and for the benefit of the most vulnerable groups, a strategic action plan, for adapting to climate change based on improved water resource management

we are expecting to see a number of strategic recommendations emerging that may be of a planning or policy nature. To some extent it is important to know what these outcomes are likely to be before putting in place the right mechanisms for uptake. On the other hand there is enough clarity in that there is a likelihood of both planning and policy recommendations emerging.

In terms of uptake some of the key questions we have to answer are

9. how does policy or policy change get formulated and passed?
10. who would you consider as the policy makers
11. who are the players in the climate arena and other areas related to URAdapt?
12. which ones are important to our project?
13. what strategy to get them on board – eg how to get engagement so the right person attends the meeting?
14. who is best placed to do help us with the invitations.
15. what should be the content presented to the policy round table.
16. what other routes to policy influence?

Annexe 1a:

Engaging policy makers : reflections from Addis

In Addis we undertook a similar reflection. Addis is the capital of Ethiopia (capital of the Federal state), and is a city state with the same level of power and influence as other states of Ethiopia (Federal Parliamentary Republic) What emerged was the following:

Influencing policy change

In order to influence policy change, usually high ranking individuals are contacted and issues discussed with them first. The identified groups are brought together for general discussions on the issue after which proper reflection is done with the interested sector ministry for onward discussion at the parliamentary level. Our source admitted that this process could take a very long period (personal communication from Dr Alebel Beyrau, researcher at the Ethiopian Development Research Institute, a policy development arm of the government).

So in terms of the policy influencing strategy of URAdapt in Ethiopia, we retained that individual meetings with the identified persons was necessary before bringing them all together. But to identify key stakeholders or players, a hydro-climatic institutional map was necessary. It was agreed to first map the climate related institutions (policies, legislation etc if there are), the projects and activities in the area, the organisations involved, key strategies adopted, in order to identify the types of integration and coordination needed. Since this project straddles the urban rural divide, policies in related areas like agriculture or rural water supply could have significant impact on how the project influences uptake. So an integrated view of policy and programmes in the related sectors is needed.

Working definition for a Policy Round Table

A Policy Round Table (PRT) Meeting will be defined as a meeting to influence stakeholders (Policy advisor and implementers and policy makers) about policies and changes needed pertaining to climate change impact on the urban water sub-sector. These impacts on the subsector relate to floods, water availability, wastewater disposal etc

Objective of the PRT Meeting

1. To have access to the relevant stakeholders from the levels described below, in order to create awareness based on evidence and concrete findings.
2. To create/initiate a high level policy dialogue forum for mainstreaming climate change adaptation responses pertaining to impact on the urban water cycle, into policies, programmes and plans.

Who should be in the Forum? Top level policy implementers, advisors and the ministerial level.

One option of course is to separate these but in reality the different levels do interact (am I right?) and therefore it might be more realistic to get them all together?

We agreed that in terms of the institutional map of actors (to be confirmed by the policy and institutional analysis), we are talking of 2 regions that have to interact with each other and the federal level. Accordingly the following actors were identified:

1. Manager of Addis Ababa City Council (he is also a member of the platform)
2. Head of Oromia Council Office
3. Head of Water Oromia Water Bureau
4. Head of EPA, Oromia
5. Members of the Joint (Regional) Steering Committee (find out members of the committee for Addis and Oromia)
6. Advocacy group on Climate Change (Gebru)

At the Federal level, we need the

7. State Minister for Water and Energy
8. State Minister for Urban Works and Infrastructure
9. Deputy Director of EPA

The criteria for selecting specific positions/individuals is because either

- a) The position is important and critical for project impact
- b) The person is influential even though he may not be obviously a key player for the project from the content side.

Strategy for organizing the meeting

We could not decide whether the meeting should be organised solely by IWMI or whether there would be an advantage to co-organising with another influential organisation for better impact (provided the workshop does not get hijacked!) Potential candidates NCCF (Gebru's network) or with EDRI (Alebel).

The need for and choice of a facilitator was also discussed. Semu will reflect on this and see who could be strong enough to collaborate with IWMI for the meeting.

Content of the PRT Meeting

1. What do we mean by mainstreaming Climate Change issues?; What does demand research means (linking the concept and uniqueness of the project)? How the project resolve issues of mainstreaming. [Liqa with assistance from Semu to present this] knowledge impt for decision making
2. How URAdapt contributes to mainstreaming.
3. Discussions.

Annexe 1b

Current composition of CG

- Delali B. Dovie from the Water Resources Commission (to capture the water resources management angle, particularly on the level of national policy)
- Delali Nutsukpo from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (to represent a major water use sector that spans rural and urban spaces)
- Charlotte Engmann from the Community Water and Sanitation Agency (to reflect water use and sanitation mainly in rural, but also partly in urban, areas)
- Farouk Braimah from the People's Dialogue (to contribute insights on social inclusion and vulnerable groups)
- K. Ohene Sarfoh from the Institute for Local Government Studies (to provide a critical analysis of local governance issues)
- Christian Siawor from the Ghana Water Company Limited (to reflect the urban water policy and management angle)
- William Agyemang-Bonsu from the Environmental Protection Agency (to provide a national-level climate change adaptation and risk mitigation perspective)
- J. Wellens-Mensah from the Hydrological Services Department (to provide insights into the design and construction of drainage and sewerage, coastal protection and operational hydrology)
- Samuel Codjoe from the Regional Institute for Population Studies (leader of climate change and health project in Accra)

Resource persons invited:

Mr Minta Aboagye : ex-Director, Water Directorate, MWRW&H

Mr Sean Doolan : Adviser, Climate change & environmental governance, DFID Ghana, British High Commission