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

1. brief recap of project
2. project evolution
3. highlights of project to date

IWMI - Accra, 20 July 2010
CC and the city within the basin

Two central questions:

• What consequences will climate change have on water resource availability?
• What consequences will it have on wastewater disposal

Existing constraint: inability to meet even current water demands and wastewater management needs
Describing the Rural-Urban Interface of water and food for cities

Context
– The water system is anchored beyond the urban area often in the rural. Basin boundaries go beyond administrative
– The food inputs extend beyond the city boundaries into the peri-urban and rural areas often depending on the same water resource (or wastewater)
– Migration from rural areas to urban may be aggravated by severe climate variability and change

Issue:
– Due to the treatment of rural and urban as two distinct phenomena, peculiar vulnerabilities arising from these rural-urban linkages are often not sufficiently addressed
– The solution to the problem/adaptation measure may need to originate in the rural area
– Coordinating mechanisms need to factor in the links
Project description

Project goal
Reduce the vulnerabilities of cities to climate change through improved and integrated urban water management

Project sites
The cities of Accra, Ghana and Addis Abeba, Ethiopia.

Project structure:
Stakeholder Platform
Empirical Research

Project approach
IUWM
Nexus thinking
Urban-rural interface
Cross-disciplinary team
Research-policy dialogue
Project Objectives

- shared understanding of climate change and urban water amongst multiple SH
- generate new knowledge using scenarios
- A city level strategic action plan for adapting to climate change
Scenario modelling

• CC impact scenarios: examples
  – CC Scenario 1: Rainfall events becoming more intense and frequent (city level)
  – CC Scenario 2: Dry periods becoming more severe (drier) and recurring more often (catchment level)

• Urban development scenarios (growth, water use, sanitation etc)

• Investment scenarios
Project metamorphosis

URAdapt

Empirical research -> Stakeholder engagement

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Targeted policy engagement to develop timely recommendations that meet the needs of city-, regional-, and national-level authorities.

Additional sector MDAs in order to place issues on national agenda.

Conceptual thinking around ‘big’ questions of relevance to the project.

Policy communities

Research-Strategic Action Platform (Re-SAP)

Consultative Group
Project updates - highlights

• Re-SAP meeting in Addis Ababa
• Setting up of climate change downscaling and hydrological modelling
• Policy input – National Urban Development Policy & National Climate Change Policy Framework
• Strengthened engagement with the AMA
• Visit of the Advisory Board of CCAA (IDRC-DFID)
• IDRC project officer’s visit
Keep up-to-date through our website:

http://uradapta.iwmi.org

Thank you