

# URAdapt

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

## Process Study

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# Process Study Motivation

**To understand how participatory projects like URAdapt develop and influence change in the environment in which they are situated**

- Project used Participatory Action Research Approach (PAR)
- Collate experiences into an account of what happened and why from the perspectives of the platform and project team

- Develop a project history
- Obtain initial, qualitative measure of contribution that URAdapt is making towards climate change preparedness.
- The features in its operational design and strategy that allowed URAdapt to make such contributions.

## Key assumptions

- Developing an institutional history : narrative of how ways of working evolve over time – helps in understanding innovation and barriers
  - Quantitative vs Qualitative methods

## Qualitative

- Document how the project purpose has been understood and how the project has learned to pursue it
- Captures the unexpected because -
- No predefined indicators
- Develops descriptions of the contributions to change

## Study methods

Documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews

- Sources – reports, internal communications, process documents
- 13 interviews with selected persons and volunteers
- Limitation : long gap in project communication

## Analytical questions

- Interpretation of various aspects of project
- The strategies and tactics that have been deployed eg platforms
- The reasons for choosing them
- The organising principles of the project concept
- The lessons that these experiences have generated
- The roles that the project has played in the wider research and development landscapes

## Highlights on platform

- Most feel that project subject matter has been novel and relevant
- Bringing together individuals from policy communities and research communities. That a critical mass of people has been exposed to issues
- However, some disappointment that particularly government agencies, not consulted in its design phase, or enrolled in research, 'simply listening, observing and participating is not sufficient for capacity building, and the usability and uptake of research results
- Significant capacity building through MScs
- Knowledge and skills transfer through the incorporation of project knowledge into higher education curricula through AAU

- Early, successful enrolment of critical individuals (former City Manager and AAWSA Deputy Manager)
- But departure required significant effort to reconnect the project activities.
- Multi-stakeholder approach, seen as valuable, though not novel. BUT focus and diversity markedly different.
- Platforms have provided opportunities for networking, the formation of new collaborative relationships and information exchange on 'who is doing what on which issues'

## Discussion points

- How are projects usually set up in Ethiopia – what kinds of involvement?
- How do you see usefulness of projects like URAdapt – only as diagnostic exercises or more?
- If it's more, then what else should we have done?
- How could we have positioned ourselves better for uptake – suggestions from platform members.
- How has the project influenced you and your organization?