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URAdapt is a 30-month project that will run between 2009 and 2012.

URAdapt builds on multi-stakeholder participation, and welcomes partnerships with other institutions.

Further information

International Water Management Institute

Postal address: PMB CT 112
Cantonments
Accra
Ghana

Office address: Martin Odei Block
CSIR Campus
Airport Residential Area
Accra
Ghana

Tel: + 233 (0)302 784753/4

E-mail: L.Raschid@cgiar.org (Project leader)
M.Hirvonen@cgiar.org (Project officer)

Website: <http://uradapt.iwmi.org>

URAdapt

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

Project goal

URAdapt aims to reduce the vulnerabilities of Accra (Ghana) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to climate change through improved and integrated water management that addresses urban issues within the context of urban-rural connectivity. This project brings together climate change and water management experts, decision-makers and representatives of vulnerable communities to collectively design adaptation strategies for urban water and sanitation services, and food supply.

Project context

Urban areas in Africa face a series of structural constraints: high population density and growth; pockets of acute poverty; poor planning; and inadequate infrastructure for public services, including water and sanitation. These existing challenges constrain a city's capacity to address water needs, and this situation is expected to be compounded by climate change.

Water is central to the socio-economic life of cities. Possible manifestations of climate change include drier rainy seasons or increasingly recurrent and intensive rainfall events. Such scenarios may adversely impact water availability in upper catchment areas, or cause flooding in urban areas, thereby further straining already flood-prone areas and affecting vulnerable groups.

Project approach

URAdapt recognises the interconnected nature of water systems – across both upstream and downstream areas, as well as multiple water-use sectors. As a result, the project bridges the urban-rural divide and positions itself at the water-sanitation-agriculture nexus.

URAdapt will facilitate learning between diverse knowledge communities. A multi-stakeholder platform will not only prioritize the issues that a team of climate change and water management experts will research; the platform will also deliberate research outcomes and their implications for building climate change resilience in urban areas.

Project facilitators

