

Bi-lateral Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Stakeholder Workshop

Report



Banjul, April 10th -11th, 2012

**Venue: Sunswing Hotel Conference Room, Senegambia, THE
GAMBIA**

Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project (USAID/Ba Nafaa)



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Cover Photo : Workshop participants

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Table of Contents

I. Introduction and Objectives	1
II. Opening Ceremony.....	2
III. Presentations and Discussion.....	3
IV. Working Groups	5
V. Recommendations	6
VI. Closing Ceremony.....	7

Annexes

Annex 1. Participants List:.....	8
Annex 2: Workshop Agenda	12
Annex 3: Working Group Summary Tables	15
Annex 4: Press Article	16

I. Introduction and Objectives

The Gambia-Senegal Sustainable Fisheries Project (USAID/BaNafaa) is a five-year regional initiative supported by the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/West Africa Regional Mission. It is implemented through the University of Rhode Island (URI)-USAID Cooperative Agreement on Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS). The World Wide Fund for Nature, West Africa Marine EcoRegion Program (WWF-WAMER) is the regional implementing partner. Project activities are carried out in partnership with The Gambian Department of Fisheries (DoFish) and stakeholders in the fisheries sector in The Gambia and in Senegal. The focus is on sustainable fisheries management including the shared marine and coastal resources between The Gambia and Senegal. In July 2011, USAID added funding to the Project to conduct a Bilateral Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment with the aim of developing recommended adaptation actions to be proposed to USAID for implementation under the Project.

This report summarizes discussions and outcomes of the Bilateral Workshop organized by the USAID/BaNafaa Project as part of the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment of Central Coastal Senegal (Saloum) and The Gambia Marine Coast and Estuary. The Workshop was held in Banjul the 10th -11th April, 2012.

The objective of the Vulnerability Assessment is to assess the vulnerability of central coastal Senegal (Saloum) and The Gambia marine and estuarine ecosystems and fisheries communities to climate change. Local experts contracted by WWF-WAMER under the USAID/BaNafaa Project compiled, reviewed and analyzed the considerable body of work already available on the actual and potential impacts of climate change in the study area. In some cases, limited additional data was collected and analyzed. Review and discussion of these reports and their recommendations among the technical specialists and a broad group of institutions (both government and civil society from Senegal and The Gambia) is the subject of this workshop.

The expected outcome of the assessment and of this workshop is to consider how this body of knowledge, although it is clearly incomplete and rapidly evolving, can be used as a foundation for adaptive action. In particular, actions that can reduce the vulnerability of the study zone's fisheries, fishing communities and coastal ecosystems, which are of significant local, national, bi-lateral (Gambia-Senegal), regional and global importance. Also of particular interest are actions that serve to institutionalize climate change as one of the real and immediate factors to be considered at all levels of planning and decision-making.

More specifically, this workshop aims to identify vulnerability "hotspots" within the study area and priority Climate Change Adaptation measures that might be most appropriately addressed within the scope of the USAID/BaNafaa Project. Thus, this vulnerability assessment initiates a climate change adaptation process to support sustainable fisheries development in these contiguous coastal zones in The Gambia and Senegal.

II. Opening Ceremony

The workshop was officially opened by The Honorable Abdou Colley, Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters after a short prayer from the participants. Minister Colley thanked the participants and applauded USAID for the BaNafaa Project and for commissioning the Vulnerability Study through the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island and WWF-WAMPO.

He further acknowledged the fact that the coastal and marine environment of The Gambia and Senegal are at high risk to climate change in the sense that the socio-economic impacts are considerable and will make livelihood security for the population more vulnerable. Therefore, all parties need to take action in addressing the issue of Climate Change in the region before it is too late. The Minister expressed the need for The Gambian government to be fully aware of the impacts of climate change and appropriate adaptations because the country committed to managing a sustainable fishery sector which contributes to achieving the MDGs and the Gambia VISION 2020. He noted as examples the recently approved Sole and Oyster Co-Management plans and current efforts to obtain eco-labeling for the Gambian Sole fishery.

The following speakers also gave opening remarks:

- NFamara Dampha - Director, Department of Fisheries, MoFWR-NAM, The Gambia
- Karen Kent - Coastal Resources Center/The University of Rhode Island
- Alagie Manjang - Interim Country Coordinator, WWF-WAMER, The Gambia Office

Key points from these remarks are summarized as follows:

- The importance and relevance of the workshop, which addresses current concerns about climate change and its link to the sustainable management of marine and coastal resources;
- Human and ecosystems vulnerability to climate change;
- The important link between biodiversity conservation, food security of populations and climate variability;
- The importance of community involvement in pro-actively adapting to the impacts of climate change/increasing their own capacity to recognize and adapt to a changing environment.
- State responsibility to assist and support efforts to address climate change
- The relevance of developing a joint action plan between the two states for a concerted sustainable management of fisheries in our coastal areas.
- The importance of building on and complimenting initiatives and efforts already undertaken by the two governments and by the international community.

Eleven Gambian and seven Senegalese government and civil society institutions were represented at the workshop in addition to USAID/BaNafaa Project staff, WWF staff,

consultants and USAID/COMFISH project staff. The Minister of Fisheries Water Resources and National Assembly Matters and the Minister of Forestry and Environment remained after the opening ceremony to participate in the workshop for half of the first day. Journalists from print, radio and television were also well represented, as awareness-raising among the general public about Climate Change is important for the success of on-going vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning processes. Several of the journalists specializing in environmental issues had recently been trained in Climate Change communications by another project. There were a total of 55 participants (see the Participant List in Annex 1).

III. Presentations and Discussion

The presentations and discussion were conducted in both English and French with simultaneous translation through headsets. Group work was conducted in Wolof and reported out in English or French. The consultant presentations were preceded by: 1.) a briefing on the workshop agenda by Arona Soumaré, WWF-WAMPO (see Annex 2), and 2.) a general presentation on current climate trends by Mat Dia, WWF-WAMPO, based on sections of the draft report he prepared prior to the workshop consolidating the information in each of the individual consultant reports.

The five individual consultant reports included:

- An inundation scenarios assessment by Pr. Isabelle Niang, University of Dakar.
- GIS mapping and assessment of exposure of features in the study zone to sea level rise and inundation by Malick Diagne, CSE.
- A socio-economic vulnerability study by Cheikh Tidiane Sall.
- A mangrove vulnerability study by Richard Dacosta, Wetlands International.
- A fish species vulnerability study by Famara Darboe, Assistant Director, Department of Fisheries, The Gambia.

The vulnerability studies presentation was officially opened by Professor Isabelle Niang from the University of Dakar. She presented the inundation scenarios considered in the overall vulnerability studies conducted by the other consultants. As presented in her report and the final Vulnerability Assessment Consolidated Report, inundation estimates using the Hoozemans formula (Hoozemans, et. al., 1993) incorporate the mean high water level, mean sea level rise, storm wave height and sea level rise due to a lowering of the atmospheric pressure. By the year 2100, an estimated minimum sea level rise of 20cm and an estimated maximum sea level rise of 86cm result in the following inundation scenarios that were used for the purpose of this vulnerability assessment: minimum inundation level of 2m and extreme maximum inundation level of 10m.

The vulnerability studies of Gambia and Saloum Estuary and Coastal Zone revealed vulnerability with regards to climate change and particularly to sea level rise. This is because most of the study area (Saloum Delta and the City of Banjul) is below 2 meters above sea level. The results of the studies indicated that human settlements and infrastructure in the Saloum

Delta and Gambia River estuary are more vulnerable than the Atlantic Coast of the Gambia, where most of the rural settlements are not below 10 meters. In addition, the Saloum Delta is highly vulnerable to the effects of reduced precipitation and salinization because of its large area, high evapotranspiration rates and limited freshwater inflow. Discussion of the findings of the consultants' studies and presentations (which are summarized in the Vulnerability Assessment Consolidated Report) focused in general on questions of clarification, on the evolving nature of the science of climate change and of the understanding of its impacts, and on additional observations from the study area based on participants' experience to illustrate the concepts and findings presented.

In summary, the consultant reports and their presentations highlighted the following coping approaches among others:

- The planning and management of mangrove ecosystems
- Communication about Climate Change vulnerability and adaptation, including disaster risk reduction communication systems.
- Adaptation of species and communities.
- Development of plans for land use planning and to mainstream climate change not just in terms of flood risk, but also taking into account other phenomena such as the risks associated with access to freshwater.
- Development of aquaculture as wild stocks shift and possibly decline and as agricultural land area is submerged;
- Consideration of mangrove preservation in the determination of protective structures to avoid "mal adaptation".

Presentations on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Planning already undertaken at the national level by the governments of The Gambia and Senegal were also on the workshop agenda. The Gambia National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) developed in 2007 in the context of the UNFCCC was presented by Bernard Gomez of the Department of Water Resources, which is the focal point for Climate Change in The Gambia.

The Gambia NAPA identifies the following 10 Priority Projects:

Agriculture [US\$2.71m]

1–Diversification and intensification of agricultural production, processing and marketing

Coastal zone [US\$2.3m]

2–Restoration/protection of coastal environments

Energy [US\$0.23m]

3–Briquetting and carbonization of groundnut shells

Fisheries [US\$0.3m]

4–Increasing fish production through aquaculture and conservation of post harvest products

Health [US\$1.22m]

5–Reduction of climate change related diseases

Forestry [US\$4.2m]

6–Expansion of community participation, in the management of forests and protected areas

7–Expansion and intensification of agro-forestry and re-forestation activities

Livestock [US\$2.8m]

8–Improved livestock and rangeland management for food security and environmental sustainability

Water resources [US\$1.5m]

9–Rehabilitation of early warning systems on climate-related natural hazards

10–Improvement of freshwater availability

Mr Gomez reported the status of implementation of the NAPA to date is as follows:

One Project under implementation: Strengthening of The Gambia's Climate Change Early Warning Systems (US\$ 1.028m)

Two Projects under formulation:

–Coastal zone (US\$8.9m); PIF stage

–Agriculture (US\$5.0m); Concept note stage

He noted that two of the key challenges of NAPA implementation are:

- Slow implementation of proposed NAPA interventions contradicts the NAPA goal of urgency and the dynamism of climate challenge
- Low ownership of proposed NAPA interventions by stakeholders

Participants noted that the USAID/BaNafaa Project could be complimentary to on-going NAPA efforts in this respect as it has been particularly strong in addressing these challenges in support of sustainable fisheries management objectives.

The NAPA Coastal Zone Project under formulation aims to reduce The Gambia's vulnerability to sea level rise and associated impacts of climate change by improving coastal defenses and enhancing adaptive capacities of communities. This project was noted as the most relevant to potential adaptation measures proposed under the USAID/BaNafaa Project. It was noted that close coordination of any proposed USAID/BaNafaa Climate Change activities with this project will be important. Alignment of proposed USAID/BaNafaa Climate Change Adaptation measures resulting from this vulnerability assessment with the strategic priorities for The Gambia identified in the NAPA was also highlighted as critical. In this regard, the Department of Water Resources is available to support the USAID/BaNafaa adaptation planning process as it evolves and to ensure coordination with other initiatives.

The presenter of the Senegal NAPA was not able to participate in the workshop. Copies of the Senegal NAPA are available to participants. The Senegal point of contact will be briefed on the recommendations of the USAID/BaNafaa Vulnerability Assessment and will be consulted for an update on the implementation status of the Senegal NAPA, as well as for coordination as USAID/BaNafaa Project adaptation planning proceeds.

IV. Working Groups

Four working groups worked in two separate sessions to:

Session 1: consider the vulnerability findings of the vulnerability assessment in all of its elements and identify, among the most vulnerable sites and socio-economic activities in the study area, the highest priority sites and socio-economic activities to be recommended for support of the USAID/BaNafaa project.

Session 2: reflect on the strategies and adaptation measures highlighted and recommended by the sector specialists in their vulnerability assessment studies and identify the highest priority adaptation measures to be recommended for support of the USAID/BaNafaa Project.

After each session, each of the 4 working groups reported back to the plenary. After questions and answers for each group, the results of the 4 groups were compared and the consensus

recommendations identified. In this case, consensus was not difficult to reach, as the working groups came to similar conclusions. A summary of the findings of each working group is presented in Annex 3.

V. Recommendations

The following sites were identified by participants as climate change vulnerability hotspots of bi-lateral importance, with the top 3 prioritized for USAID/BaNafaa interventions:

Banjul/Tanbi Wetlands (The Gambia)
Dionewar/Djifer (Senegal)
Bettenty (Senegal)
Bijol Island/ Ile Aux Oiseaux (one in each)
Djinack (Senegal, but on the border)

Banjul/Tanbi Wetlands and Dionewar/Djifer were at the top of the priority ranking for all 4 working groups (indicating strong consensus), Bettenty for 2 of the groups, and the last 2 sites for 1 of the groups each. Participants noted that the prioritization of these sites does not indicate that many other sites in the study area are not highly vulnerable. These sites are where the urgency of the exposure to climate change effects and intensity of the potential impacts on human and natural systems are the highest. They are also sites that are not uniquely of local and national importance, but of bi-lateral, and even regional and international importance socio-economically and environmentally. Foundiougne in Senegal was also discussed as a potential priority site, but since it will be targeted by the USAID/COMFISH Project in Senegal, it was not prioritized for USAID/BaNafaa support.

Participants identified the following priority socio-economic activities for mainstreaming of climate change adaptation measures, with the top 3 recommended for USAID/BaNafaa focus:

Fishing/Shellfishing & Processing
Agriculture
Tourism
Forestry
Settlements

These priorities were identified based on their vulnerability and their importance for local populations in the study area. They are also prioritized in the national economic policies/strategies for both countries. In addition, these sectors are within the scope of sustainable fisheries management objectives and activities under the USAID/BaNafaa Project. All 4 working groups ranked the top 3 as priorities, indicating strong consensus.

In the context of the above priorities, the workshop recommended that the USAID/BaNafaa Project address the following priority adaptation measures in identified hotspots and at various levels of governance both nationally and bi-laterally.

1. Coastal Wetland Protection and Restoration
2. Development of Alternative Livelihood Activities for Sustainable Resource Use
3. Targeted Awareness Raising Campaign (crosscutting)

4. Protection of Coastal Zone against Waves and Erosion (the limited resources of the USAID/BaNafaa project are not likely to be at a scale sufficient to address this issue adequately, so it was retained as a secondary area of intervention only where it is appropriate on a small scale within the scope of the project (i.e., dune stabilization at a community level with natural planting) or supporting policy level initiatives).

VI. Closing Ceremony

The Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters closed the workshop with a speech thanking all participants and of course the organizers (USAID, CRC/URI and WWF) for the successful workshop. He expressed his satisfaction with the set of recommendations and the need for their implementation.

Annex 1. Participants List:

USAID/BaNafaa Bilateral Workshop on Gambia and Senegal Estuary and Coastal Zone

Banjul, 10th -11th April, 2012

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Annex 2: Workshop Agenda

Bilateral Workshop on Gambia and Saloum Estuary and Coastal zone : Vulnerability to CC.		
Banjul 10th and 11th April 2012		
Day 1 Tuesday April 10th		
Session 1:		
Chair Alagie Manjang/Ousman Drammeh		
10H00-10H30	Opening ceremony	
	NFamara Dampha- Director of Fisheries	
	Arona Soumare-WWF-WAMPO	
	Karen Kent-CRC/URI	
	H.E. Pamela White-US Ambassador	
	Hon Abdou Kolley-Minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matter	
10H30-11H00	Coffee break	
11H00-11H20	Briefing on the workshop agenda and procedures	Arona
11h20-11H40	General presentation on current climatic trends	Mat Dia
11H40-11H55	Q&A	
11H55-12H15	Presentation on Climate change and sea level rise scenario and Inundation scenarios	Pr. Isabelle Niang
12H15-12H30	Q&A	
12H30-12H50	Inundation scenario and Asset exposure	Malick Diagne, CSE
12H50-13H05	Questions and Discussions	
13H00-14H15	Lunch Break	
Session 2:		
Chair: Famara Drammeh		
14H15-14H35	Mangrove vulnerability	Richard Dacosta
14H35-14H50	Q&A	

14H50-15H10	Fish species vulnerability to CC	Famara Darboe
15H10-15H25	Q&A	
14H25-15H45	Socio-economic study	Cheikh T. Sall
15H45-16H00	Question discussions	
16H0-16H15	Coffee break	
16H15-17H00	Group Session 1: 4 Work Groups on vulnerability	
	End of the first day	
Day 2 Wednesday 11th April 2012		
Session 3: Chair: Ousmane Kane		
9H00-9H30	Presentation of Group session's Results	
9H30-10H00	Questions and Discussions	
10H00-10H15	Coffee break	
10H20-10H40	Presentation of Gambia NAPA	
10H40-11H	Presentation of Senegal NAPA	
11H-11H20	Q&A	
11H30-12H30	Group Session 2: 4 Working Groups on priority adaptation measures	
12H30-14H00	Lunch break	
Session 4: Chair: Amadou Saine		
14H00-15H00	Presentation of group results and Q&A	
15H00-15H45	General Discussion on adaptation measures and ranking of recommendations in order of priority.	(Alagie, Mat and Famara)
15H45-16H30	Presentation of Workshop Recommendations, Amendment and Validation Next Steps: Actions, Actors and Timeline	Alagie Arona
16H30-17H00	Closing Ceremony	Amadou Saine

Terms of Reference of the Workshop

Assess Gambia and Saloum Estuaries and Coastal zones vulnerability to Climate Change using USAID approach.

Provide recommendations for adaptation measures

Consultants will make presentations of their studies and in working groups participants will explore documents to fill gaps and make recommendations.

2 Work Group sessions will be organized

Recommendations will be prioritized

Next Steps will be identified and assignment of Roles and Responsibilities and timeline will be specified.

Working Group Instructions:

Session 1: Objective 1: Identify most vulnerable sites and socio-economic activities

Task 1: (45 minutes) Taking into account exposure, sensitivity, potential impacts and adaptive capacity, rank the five most vulnerable sites and socio-economic activities

Session 2: Objective 2: Recommend Priority Adaptation Measures

Task 2: (60 Minutes) Consider the adaptation measures recommended in the reports for the sites and socio-economic activities prioritized in plenary. Accept, modify or develop new measures that fit into the scope of the USAID/Ba Nafaa project. Then propose and rank your group's top three recommendations on adaptation measures. Focus on measures with practical impact rather than further research.

Annex 3: Working Group Summary Tables

Session 1: Priority Sites

GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4
Tanbi wetland area	Niodior dionwar falia	Banjul/Tanbi Wetland	Bettenty
Dionewar - Djifer	Djirnda moundé	Saloum Delta National Park	Dionewar
Niodior	Betenty et environ	Djifer	Banjul
Djinack	Banjul	Bijol Island	Djifer
Foundiougne	Kunta Kinte Island	Niumi National Park	Tanbi

Session 1: Priority Socio-Economic Activities

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Exploitation des mollusques, Pêche	Habitat,	Fish/Oyster Harvest	Agriculture
Transformation des produits halieutiques	Pêche,	Tourism	Fishing / export fishing
Exploitation Foresterie	Cueillette,	Agriculture/ Livestock	Tourism
Riziculture	Agriculture	Trade/Commerce	River transport/Commerce
Pêche	Eco tourisme	Mining (sand/minerals)	Firewood collection

Session 2: Priority Adaptation Measures

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Protection and Rehabilitation of Coastal Wetlands and critical habitats	Coastal Zone protection against coastal erosion and waves	Targeted Awareness Campaign	Erosion and Sea Waves Impacts Control
Rational management of Fisheries	Rehabilitate and conserve critical habitats	Develop a coastal Management plan	Coastal Wetlands Protection
Coordinated Management of the Forest Product Use	Development of relevant agricultural methods and alternative activities	Develop alternatives activities for sustainable resource use	Marine Conservation Agreements
			Cross-cutting Communication Plan

Annex 4: Press Article

Today
Friday
13 April 2012
Page 3

national news

Banjul may sink if sea levels rise – Minister Kolley

MAM NDEGENE SECKA

The minister of Fisheries, Water Resources and National Assembly Matters, Hon. Abdou Kolley has said that global warming and a sea level rise by one metre will result in the loss of the capital city of Banjul and the Tanbi Wetlands Complex including Jeshwang. He said this on Tuesday while officially opening the bilateral forum on climate change vulnerability assessment for The Gambia River Estuary and Saloum Delta, held at the Sunwing Hotel.

The forum was organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in collaboration with the Ba-Nafaa Project and the USAID.

Hon. Kolley said if no remedial and corrective steps are taken, it could lead to loss of the fishing communities and fisheries resources, infrastructure including hotels, residences and businesses, not to mention the displacements of human populations and the accompanying economic and social crisis.

According to him, the forum is important because of the frightening reality that climate change is happening and the coastal and marine areas are at high risk. He said evidence have shown that coastal and marine ecosystems are already affected by multiple stressors with climate change becoming a more serious threat compounded by anthropogenic activities and their negative impacts on the natural environment.



The Fisheries minister said it is time to act by examining current vulnerabilities and a range of strategies in order to address the negative environmental changes affecting the two countries' coastal and marine areas and not to wait for specific climate scenarios.

Hon. Kolley went on to note that the USAID/Ba-Nafaa Project has been making note worthy contributions to Government efforts to sustainably manage and develop the fisheries sector, while noting that significant achievements have been realised in the areas of cockle and oyster fishery and sole-fishery with increased economic and social benefits for the hard working women, who according to him are dependent on fisheries for their livelihood security.

Also speaking at the forum, the director of Fisheries, Mr Nfamaara Dumphra noted that the fisheries sector plays a vital role in Government efforts to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition as well as generating foreign exchange.

He said experts in the country and Senegal were committed to undertake the assessment of the vulnerability of the country's estuary and that of the Saloum Delta and to recommend possible adaptation measures. He added that the results of the vulnerability assessment are essential for the formulation and implementation of policy at the level of the two countries in order to achieve long-term sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas.

Alhaji Manjang, the WWF country representative noted that his institution has been active in the country since 2005 and has been working with Government towards development. He commended the Forestry Ministry for their collaboration with them and providing an office space for them.

Manjang expressed his institution's continued commitment towards engaging local partners in promoting sustainable fisheries management in the country.

Karen Kent, representative of the University of Rhode Islands, coastal resource centre said both The Gambia and Senegal are working to mainstream the programmes of action of climate change in their national policies and implementation plans and actively engaging with international bodies that support the efforts.

Alhaji Manjang, the WWF country