FUTURE CLIMATE FOR AFRICA

HyCRISTAL

UGANDA - SYNTHESISING EVIDENCE FOR TARGETED NATIONAL RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Photo by: Grady Walker

Executive Summary

The rapidly changing climate conditions in Uganda are likely to cause increase of extreme weather events such as erratic rainfall pattern, floods, landslides, hailstorms, ice melting, heat and drought that may lead to a multitude of livelihoods disruptions. The Integrated Database for African Policymakers, (IDAPS), will integrate climate, crops, fisheries and hydrology information with livelihoods data so policy makers can examine the synthesised evidence and develop more appropriate national responses to climate change impacts, particularly among the most vulnerable populations in rural parts of Uganda.

Practical ACTION

CAN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK Uganda

Walker INSTITUTE

UKaid from the British people

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Introduction

Climate change issues impact every sector of the Ugandan economy, particularly with regards to poverty reduction and socio-economic transformation. The impacts of climate change and variability threaten to derail ongoing development efforts towards achieving the aim of the National Development Plan (NDPII) to “Strengthen Uganda’s Competitiveness for Sustainable Wealth Creation, Employment and Inclusive Growth”. A multi-sectorial approach is vital for addressing Uganda’s pressing development challenges.

Available studies indicate Uganda is already experiencing the negative impacts of climate variability. The drought conditions of 2008 caused losses of 3 percent of the total value of food and cash crops that year. In 2010, the country suffered economic losses of approximately United States Dollars (US$) 470 million of food and cash crops and livestock, an equivalent of 16 percent of the total annual value of crops and livestock. In 2016/17, although the impact is yet to be quantified, the country suffered from dry spells and prolonged drought yet again. Other significant losses, still to be quantified, occurred at subnational level (district, sub county, parish, village and households), due to floods, landslides, crop pests and diseases and hailstorms.

National level studies further suggest that, if no adaptive action is taken, annual costs of climate change could range from US$ 3.2-5.9 billion over the next decade, with the highest impacts forecasted to be on water, energy, agriculture and infrastructural facilities.

National Policy and Institutional Framework

The national climate policy a blue print aimed at guiding national response to climate change provides the overarching framework for action for different stakeholders in various sectors of the economy. It prioritises a number of sectors under adaptation and mitigation as well as areas of gender, attribution and predictions.

The Government of Uganda (GoU), has passed the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), under the Paris Agreement that prioritizes key sectors essential in our pursuit to the low carbon and climate resilient economy. These sectors include agriculture, clean energy, transport and waste management among others.
Furthermore, the National Vision 2040 and NDPII have made provisions for climate change mitigation and adaptation actions. However most of these policy informed actions lack investment capital and mechanisms for effective implementation and monitoring of activities.

Other key constraints to national response on the impact of climate change including the absence of an enabling law to define and enforce the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders working on issues of climate change. This is being addressed through the draft National Climate Change bill.

Recommendations and Way Ahead

Despite the establishment of a national response policy framework and institutions like the National Early Warning Co-ordination Center (NECOC) in the Office of the Prime Minister, the methods, tools and techniques used to track the overall impact of climate change particularly at subnational level (districts, sub counties, parishes, villages and household level) are limited.

Methods to address this problem do exist, for example through an established operational approach to vulnerability assessment (the ‘Household Economy Approach’, HEA), which is widely used by national governments in other parts of Africa for the year to year assessment of household vulnerability to poverty, food insecurity and climate change. The HEA approach uses a model based on entitlement theory and detailed social and economic data to simulate the impact of various changes at household level including climate induced changes like low production, increase in prices and other shocks on household income and food access.

There is need for the establishment of an appropriate legal framework to support the national response to climate change. A priority intervention to scale up national response, is a national climate change vulnerability and capacity assessment for Uganda. The findings of this assessment will guide climate change mitigation and adaptation in various parts of the country. The IDAPS platform enables the (http://www.walker.ac.uk/news-events/connecting-policymakers-with-rural-communities-to-support-long-term-decision-making/) multi-sectoral integration of information, including livelihoods through the Household Economy Approach (HEA), that can contribute to a deeper understanding of the likely impact of climatic change on people's livelihoods in particular districts throughout Uganda. It can therefore be used to deliver timely national responses that are tailored for appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

About Future Climate for Africa

Acknowledgements

The Policy Brief was funded under the "IDAPS" project (http://www.walker.ac.uk/news-events/connecting-policymakers-with-rural-communities-to-support-long-term-decision-making/) and the Future Climate for Africa programme in support of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology. To cite this Briefing Note: Acidri, J., Petty, C., Cornforth, R. J., Clegg, D. (2018) 'UGANDA - Synthesising Evidence for Targeted National Responses to Climate Change', Briefing Note WIBN0218/01. Zenodo. http://www.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3366368.Walker Institute, University of Reading, February 2018.

© Walker Institute, University of Reading, October 2019. This publication is copyright but the text may be used free of charge for the purposes of advocacy, campaigning, education, and research, provided that the source is acknowledged in full and copies are not being sold commercially. The copyright holder requests that all such uses be registered with them for impact assessment purposes. For online use, we ask readers to link to the original resource or the Walker website (www.walker.ac.uk). For copying in any other circumstances, or for re-use in other publications, or for translation or adaptation, permission must be secured. Email info@walker.ac.uk.This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NonDerivative 4.0 International License.

Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) aims to generate fundamentally new climate science focused on Africa, and to ensure that this science has an impact on human development across the continent. This brief was written by members of the HyCRISTAL research team: James Acidri, Celia Petty, Rosalind Cornforth and Dai Clegg. You can find out more about their work on http://www.walker.ac.uk/research/projects/hycristal-integrating-hydro-climate-science-into-policy-decisions-for-climate-resilient-infrastructure-and-livelihoods/ under 'HyCRISTAL' or under www.futureclimateafrica.org. This document is an output from a project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) for the benefit of developing countries and the advance of scientific research. However, the views expressed and information contained in it are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by DFID or NERC, which can accept no responsibility for such views or information or for any reliance placed on them.

This publication has been prepared for general guidance on matters of interest only, and does not constitute professional advice. You should not act upon the information contained in this publication without obtaining specific professional advice. No representation or warranty (express or implied) is given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information contained in this publication, and, to the extent permitted by law, the Walker Institute, Evidence for Development, the UK Department for International Development ('DFID'), the Natural Environment Research Council ('NERC'), their advisors and the authors and distributors of this publication do not accept or assume any liability, responsibility or duty of care for any consequences of you or anyone else acting, or refraining to act, in reliance on the information contained in this publication or for any decision based on it.

Practical ACTION

CAN CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK Uganda

Walker INSTITUTE

UKaid from the British people

NERC SCIENCE OF THE ENVIRONMENT