



CCDA-V

Africa, sustainable development and climate change
Prospects of Paris and beyond

ClimDev-Africa



Mainstreaming Indigenous Knowledge to Enhance Climate Change Adaptation Among the Local Communities in West of Kenya

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Problem statement 1/2



- climate change pose a danger to socio-economic stability of many societies in Africa
- IK is organization of knowledge for a particular people that has survived for longtime
- The knowledge was used to adapt and cope with changing climate to some of degree
- Adaptation depended on the needs of the community

Problem statement 2/2

- Major barriers to climate adaptation in lack of reliable information.
- Low adaptative capacity of local community
- Environmental change and disappearance of IK climate indicators is a major challenge
- Can IK information be relevant in the modern society?

Methods

- Qualitative research
 - The data used were daily rainfall datasets gathered through desktop review
 - interviewing of respondents and local farmers through questionnaires
 - expert judgment opinion analyzed over thirty years

Key Findings

- To avoid climate related risks
 - Increased temperature
 - Decreased or Increased rainfall
 - Change in rainfall onset



To forge better adaptation options

Change crops

Keep livestock as buffer to crop failure

Enhances the communities'

food production,

reduce loss lives

destruction of property

Key Findings

- IK key Climatic Indicators
 - Migratory birds – onset of rains
 - Strong winds from south- onset of rains
 - Croaking of frogs- onset of rains
 - Strong East – west winds- indicate dry season
 - Sudden appearance of Safari ants- indicate floods
 - Absence of croaking – drought
- IK Validated against the observed datasets showed a deviation of ± 1 day of occurrences
- IK experts inability to forecasts occurrences of disturbances such as Enso (El Nino)

Conclusions/Recommendations

- Local people's perception of climate change is not consistent
- Needs to blend IK with modern scientific method
- IK needs to be documented in media to make information