



CCDA-V

Africa, sustainable development and climate change
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Gender and the deployment of social resources in adaptation to climate variability and change in the Sahel zone of Nigeria

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Problem statement

- People are affected by and respond to climate change impacts differently
- Current discourses have focused on men and women's differential vulnerability, > reinforcing women as helpless victims
- The voices calling for gender justice in the climate change policy debates is largely based on the reasoning that women are more vulnerable
- The dearth of gender perspective in defining, designing and facilitating programmes for adaptation

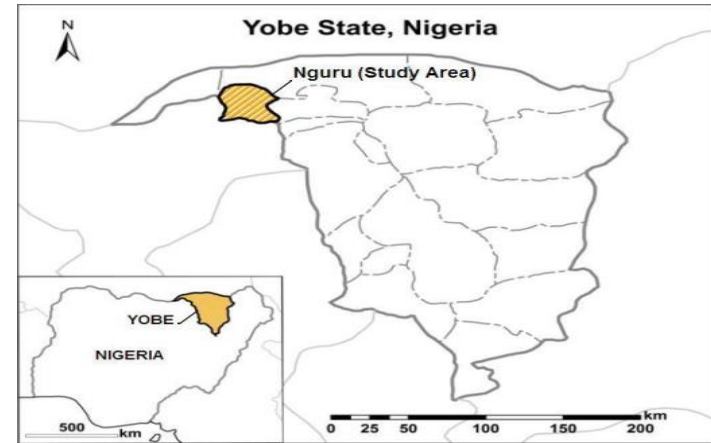
Problem statement

- Women are seizing the opportunity and actively strengthening coping and adaptation measures
- International agreements frame to profile women's role in adaptation
- The role of SC within local communities in 8 villages in Nguru LGA, Nigeria, and how individuals within them are connected through different social links.



Methods

- Primary and Secondary Data
 - Household Survey
 - Focus Group Discussion
 - Literature Review



| District | Study villages | Sample size | Male HH | Female HH | Total no. of HH |
|--------------|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| Bilelam | Merwa Kura | 20 | 11 | 9 | 305 |
| Bilelam | Merwa Gana | 31 | 16 | 15 | 462 |
| Bilelam | Marga | 33 | 15 | 18 | 503 |
| Bilelam | Bilelam | 50 | 27 | 23 | 776 |
| Musari | Konkon | 25 | 13 | 12 | 392 |
| Musari | Musari | 42 | 20 | 22 | 651 |
| Musari | Balewa | 23 | 12 | 11 | 358 |
| Musari | Dudiri | 26 | 14 | 12 | 406 |
| Total | 8 | 250 | 128 | 122 | 3,853 |

Source: Questionnaire Survey, Feb 2011



Key Findings

- The network of inter-household links incorporates the dimension of local community and SC of women and men
- HHs and the individual men and women within them are connected through different social links.
- These links are shaped by the various social and economic forces that influence men and women's adaptation process and success
- Different forms or patterns of social capital were manifested through the understanding of mutual support and co-op, kinship, bond-friendship and reciprocal social obligations.

Key Findings

Table 2: Form of social capital practiced among men and women

| Forms of SC | <i>Bond Friendship</i> | <i>Savings or asusu groups</i> | <i>Religious affiliation</i> |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| No. Men | 4 | - | Highly practiced with high adaptation benefits |
| No. Women | 98 | 112 | Highly practiced with low end adaptation benefits |
| Total | 102 | 112 | |

Women's SC assets and social skills were seen to affect their adaptation behavior and capacity



Conclusions / Recommendations

- Adaptive capacity can be built and improved by identifying and being involved in “the informal system made up of personal relationships and held together by cultural norms
- Women have sought out and are investing more in social resources that offer them either the social support needed to fall back on to improve their adaptive capacity
- CC negotiation and national adaptation planning should recognize and capacitate women’s role in adaptation process