

Identifying climate change vulnerabilities

From the photostories the community's main vulnerabilities can be determined. The photostories from **Namibia** emphasise changes, such as increased flooding and shifts in the rainy seasons, that negatively affected the community's dependency on maize production. Human-wildlife conflict, including elephant crop raids, are noted as major barriers to building adaptive capacity and thereby contributing to the climate change vulnerability of the community. Although community conservancies are realised as a good means of facilitating an alternative income and thereby enhancing the communities' adaptive capacity, in many cases the community managed conservancies fail to effectively achieve their objectives.

In **Tanzania** the photostories identify increased intensity and frequency of droughts in the region as a major vulnerability that severely affect the communities' livelihoods. The insecurity of land tenures and rights act as major barriers to building resilience to climate change. The Tanzanian photostories also emphasise the existing local strategies to climate change and introduce examples on how the use of land management plans can secure land tenures and help the communities adapt to the changes in the climate. The Terrat Conservation Easement is noted as a progressive strategy for land management with the dual goal of preserving pastures for the dry seasons and acting as an additional income from tourism.

In line with more intense and frequent droughts over the last few years in **Kenya** the photostories highlight the recent inter-tribal tensions, overuse of natural resources, resource scarcity, and insecure land rights as the communities' main vulnerabilities. Adaptation strategies aimed at preserving the natural environment, allowing for forest regeneration and pasture conservation are noted, as are income diversification options, including keeping beehives, community tourism activities and proactive livestock management.

Photostories for climate change communication interventions

The photostories from each country were instrumental in the development on RAUK's community-based climate change communication interventions. The main livelihood vulnerabilities identified in stories were incorporated in the theatre and/or film productions.

In Namibia RAUK trained the Caprivi Community Theatre Group for the **Living Together** performance. The theatre script was developed in a participatory manner and highlights the local climate change vulnerabilities and experiences shown by the community photostories. The main message of the performance is about foresight, how to plan for the future. Although the Caprivi region is Namibia's lush garden of diversity, with three rivers, a number of

national parks and wild animals in abundance, it is already starting to experience some climatic changes. The rains seems to be starting later in the year and may be falling harder, and with more rainfall in Angola and western Zambia the rivers have reached extremely high flood levels in the last few years.

A good way of planning for unpredictable climate patterns in Caprivi, Namibia, is to encourage the establishment of conservancies. Conservancies are community-managed areas of land, officially endorsed by the state that gives the community a legal right to negotiate resource use with the state. The wildlife on the land is owned by the community, who benefit directly from trophy hunting and tourism ventures. The income gained by conservancies goes towards game rangers, crop damage and cattle loss insurance schemes and to support schools and clinics. The performance shows that by diversifying income and creating employment associated with conservancies communities can more easily deal with an unpredictable future.

In Tanzania RAUK produced an educational docu-drama film titled **The world has malaria**. The film highlights the severity of the recent drought and associated hardship. The Maasai from Kenya were forced to migrate to Tanzania in search of pastures after experiencing 4 to 5 years of drought,

The rat in the kitchen Theatre



The world has malaria Film drama

only to have most of their cows die on the way. The film aims to explain the causes of climate change, showing how the greenhouse gas layer is thickening due to pollution caused by humans, and how this affects the global climate. Establishing a community-run Conservation Easement area as was done in Terrat, Simanjiro, with an associated land use plan that aims to conserve pastures for the dry season and maximise the tourism value of the land, is identified as a functioning climate change adaptation strategy for the Maasai. By diversifying income and establishing land use plans communities can more easily deal with extended droughts and at the same time secure their ownership rights to the land, which will become more crucial in the face of worsening climatic conditions coupled with increased pressure on the land.

In Kenya a theatre performance called the **Rat in the Kitchen** was produced based on the community photostories and climate change knowledge. The performance aims to deal with the conflict experienced by different tribes in the region. It explains the root causes of environmental degradation, including climate change, and highlights how inter-tribal collaboration coupled with good land governance and legal land ownership can lead to a stable future for the region. This is particularly important for the Kenyan context where violent inter-tribal disputes became rampant in the drought years of 2007 till 2010.



Living together Theatre

Conclusion

We have realised that photostories are a very powerful, inclusive and fair method of detecting community vulnerabilities, knowledge and existing strategies. Photostories are participatory and ensure community-ownership of the information supplied and shared. Photostories also proved to be very useful in supporting the theatre/film script development. RAUK provided technical training on climate change, natural resource use issues and adaptive strategies to the team they were working with, which was incorporated into the participatory script development process.

These community photostories have been developed with the specific aim of bridging the information and network support gaps identified by RAUK. By engaging the communities in sharing and expressing their livelihood needs, vulnerabilities and opportunities through photographs RAUK aims to give communities on the ground a voice that can be heard and taken up for discussion at the national and international levels. The photostories are also shared between communities with the help of RAUK's partner organisations to provoke discussions on local adaptation strategies.

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