

DIALOGUE ON COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE STRATEGIES

Adaptation or Maladaptation: Unpacking Coastal Climate Change Response Strategies for Kwale County

Kaskazi Beach Hotel, 5th December 2017

Background

Coastal zones are highly vulnerable to climate change and climate-driven impacts. According to the 5th Assessment Report produced by the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the impacts of climate change are already being felt in coastal areas in very many unique ways. Apart from sea level rise which poses a threat to infrastructure, extreme events such as cyclones and storm surges lead not only to significant damages to property, but to salinisation of groundwater and severe soil erosion. There are also many negative consequences to the natural environment and biodiversity, which include damages to coral reefs and other sensitive habitats.

In many countries, coastlines are contested zones for planning for climate change, and also locations where development and conservation conflicts play out. As a “test bed” for climate actions, innovative approaches towards coastal zone management are urgently needed. The problem, however, is that not enough is currently understood about what sort of climate response strategies enhance resilience of coastal areas on the long run, and which ones have little or no impact. Even worse, some climate response strategies have turned out to be ineffective and harmful. Although these efforts can potentially foster adaptation in the short term, there is a risk that they undermine long-term capacity and opportunities to cope with and manage the impacts of climate change.

Kenya’s coastal region is characterized by maladaptive responses to coastal flooding, erosion and storm risks; erratic rainfall; and extended droughts. The resulting impacts of maladaptive responses on human well-being and property are likely to be significant, but remain a neglected area in national and county climate adaptation policy. In many parts of the coasts, including Kwale County, existing hard coastal defences and rural water

facilities have been damaged and rendered dysfunctional by sea level rise and storms. Against this backdrop, ILEG and Kwale Natural Resource Network are organizing a vertical dialogue themed “**Adaptation or Maladaptation: Unpacking Coastal Climate Change Response Strategies**”. This workshop will enhance better understanding how climate change affects coastal areas and local communities. It will also identify and discuss processes and tools which may help in coastal zone management.

Activity and Outcomes

This workshop will bring together participants from national and county governments, research institutions, CSOs, private sector and communities to discuss how to avoid maladaptation in coastal climate change response strategies. In particular, the discussions will seek to identify the damages and threats posed by climate change to coastlines, estuaries and local communities. It will also discuss how adaptation strategies can be designed and implemented in a way that would reduce vulnerability. The event will also serve to showcase experiences from climate resilient projects and best practices on coastal zone management in vulnerable areas and communities. Specifically, the workshop seeks:

- i. To identify the damages and threats posed by climate change to coastlines, estuaries and coastal communities;
- ii. To identify and interrogate approaches, initiatives and projects on coastal climate resilience;
- iii. To showcase experiences from climate action projects and best practices on coastal zone management in vulnerable areas and communities;
- iv. To network the participants, disseminate examples of best practices and foster collaboration.

Expected Outputs

The workshop will strengthen planning and coordinating capacities of national and county government officials who are in charge of local climate action planning.

Outcomes

The forum will create and enhance a better understanding of relevant issues and processes in the coastal adaptation. Participants will be motivated to take up action that will avoid maladaptation and strengthen resilience of coastal and marine resources and vulnerable communities.

Organization

The dialogue event will bring together approximately 20 participants. These will be drawn from National and County government, CSOs, private sector, local communities and other relevant stakeholders. The event will be facilitated by ILEG and Kwale County Natural Resource Network. The facilitation will be guided by a programme structured logically around climate change adaptation and coastal zone management.

Reporting and dissemination

ILEG will develop a report that will be disseminated after three weeks of the event alongside any presentations made. The report will highlight the recommendations on innovative coastal climate response strategies. This will feed directly into the ongoing dialogue to formulate a new County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) for Kwale.

PROGRAMME

Dialogue on Coastal Climate Change Response Strategies

Adaptation or Maladaptation: Unpacking Coastal Climate Change Response Strategies for Kwale County

Date: 5th December 2017

Venue: Kaskazi Beach Hotel

TIME	ACTIVITY	FOCUS
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration	
Session I: Introductions and Official Opening Chair: Francis Oremo, Programme Officer, ILEG		
09:00 – 09:30	Welcoming Remarks and Introductions – <i>Benson Ochieng, Executive Director, ILEG</i> Official Opening: <i>Dr. Mohamed Pakia, Chief Officer, Environment and Natural Resources, Kwale County Government</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda setting • Introductions • Official opening • Matters arising
Session II: Status Review and Updates Chair: Mohamed Ali Salim		
09:30 – 10:30	Coastal zone management initiatives National Government Initiatives County Government Initiatives Private sector Initiatives	Short presentations on current programmes and initiatives
10.30-11.15	Discussions	
11.15-11.45	HEALTH BREAK	
Session III: Governance and Coordination Chair: Nathaniel Mwangeka		
11.45 – 12.00	Governance framework for coastal zone management - <i>Benson/Francis, ILEG</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy and legislation • Institutional mandates • Planning processes
12.00 – 12.15	Discussion	

12.15 – 13.00	Stimulating Cooperative Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities • Connections • Challenges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships • Resources
13.00	Closing	
LUNCH HEALTH BREAK, NETWORKING AND DEPARTURE		