

Report – Key Highlights for CBA 12 in Lilongwe, Malawi – 11-12th June 2018; by Dr. Joshua Zake (PhD), Executive Director, Environmental Alert. Email: ed@envalert.org or joszake@gmail.com.

1.0 Introduction

This is a **briefing report** with key highlights for the International Conference on Community Based Adaptation (CBA) 12 held in Malawi during the period 11-14th June 2018 (see **Table 1**). The event is the 12th International Conference on CBA, which was hosted by the Government of Malawi and organized by the International Institute of Environment and Development. It brought together over 240 participants including: *professionals, climate change negotiators and experts working on CBA (including both state and non-state actors)* across over 45 countries to share experiences, lessons and emerging issues regarding stepping up community adaptation in their respective countries. The aim is also about how financing for climate adaptation action can reach the community level with the required technologies in place. Furthermore, to spur collaboration among partners to better influence policy formulation and implementation for building community adaptation and resilience.

I was able to attend the event with other Ugandans¹ through the facilitated support by Care International in Uganda. This facilitation from Care International in Uganda is greatly appreciated.

Table 1. Key highlights from CBA 12 held in Lilongwe, Malawi, 11-12th June 2018.

Days	What was done	Outstanding issues
Day 1	The main thrust for day one at the CBA 12 after the official opening and the introductory sessions was the 'CBA Market place.' This segment, participants visited exhibition stands to for ten-minute discussions about projects, case-studies and tools. Participants had the opportunity to present good-practice narratives based on their own experiences and discuss them with colleagues. Thus it provided a great opportunity for learning through interaction and information exchange. Further details about the CBA 12 proceedings for day 1 are available at: https://www.iied.org/cba12-daily-updates	The market place as a methodology for interaction and sharing among participants. This is a good method and tool as its effective in terms of time management and yet it allows maximum sharing and interaction between workshop participants. It involves preparation for a market setting at the back of the workshop/conference room where interested participants share with fellow participants about a specific topic within which they share key achievements, lessons and experiences. These helps in sharing about a particular topic/case and thus, sets the foundation for further discussion and interaction among participants. Besides, they access information (IECs) and contacts for further interactions their after which they could develop into future partnerships and collaboration based on common goals broker potential collaboration.
Day 2	On Day 2, CBA 12 participants were actively engaged on	The work stream is a good approach and tool which allows maximum participation of

¹ The list of Ugandans who participated through financial support by Care International in Uganda is attached in annex 1.

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	<p>specific topical discussion handled through work streams including: Work stream 1: Transforming 'lived experience' and local knowledge into evidence that drives better policies and investments; Work stream 2: Building a shared understanding of effective devolved climate finance; and Work stream 3: Innovation in applying adaptation technologies.</p>	<p>all participants through sharing information, learning and experiences in respect to a particular topic. It also has a good focus in the sense that after all the sharing and learning, their clear take home messages, which each work stream generates. These they report as feedback in the plenary. Some excerpts of the key messages per work stream are presented as follows:</p> <p>Work stream 1: <i>'Achieving gender responsive adaptation needs more attention and greater emphasis than it is currently getting – and as we're hearing at CBA, climate adaptation can be an entry point to address gender inequalities.'</i></p> <p>Work stream 2: <i>'The structures behind Decentralized Climate Finance are key: strengthening government institutions so mechanisms are in place to get the funding to flow in a way that is transparent and accountable, and investing in structures that empower communities so they have a leading voice in how climate finance is allocated. We recognize that the role of national government may differ from country to country.'</i></p> <p>Work stream 3: <i>'Adaptation technologies can be divided into three broad categories – those building 'infrastructural assets' (dams, reservoirs, solar powered irrigation); some building 'physical assets' (crop varieties or animal breeds that perform or cope better with the changing environment or improved cook stoves that help reduce demand for charcoal or fuel wood). In many cases the 'asset' being created by the adaptation technology is improved decision-making, strengthening land, water, or forest management.'</i></p>
<p>Day 3</p>	<p>On day 3, further discussions continued within the respective work streams. Further details about the highlights for Day 3 are available at: https://www.iied.org/cba12-daily-updates</p>	<p>Gender mainstreaming in community climate change adaptation is very important. However, the focus on women is good because they are vulnerable based on the existing inequalities which are cultural and socially constructed. Besides, given the role of women at the household level - their empowerment can create impacts at household, community, local and national levels.</p>

		<p>But a focus on women without pro-active focus and engagement with the key power and decision making centers (men, religious, cultural & education institutions) at the household and community level as part of the mainstreaming makes it difficult to sustain the desired impact & this has a risk for conflicts at HH level but also overburdening the women, especially if men are not actively involved to change their roles to make them more gender responsive to support gender transformation!</p>
<p>Day 4</p>	<p>National Adaptation Plan (NAP) expo The meeting deliberated on the processes for the development of the NAPs based on the UNFCCC guidelines, but also existing opportunities for supporting advancement of the NAP development processes in the respective countries.</p> <p>The NAPs aim at reducing vulnerability at all scales i.e. village, community, local and national. They also help in facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation in national policy planning processes across sectors (i.e. agriculture, health, energy, environment, wildlife).</p> <p>From the interaction it was very clear the few countries had completed their NAPs – with several other countries (including Uganda, Malawi...) facing various challenges as they develop their NAP processes.</p> <p>There were break out session that teased out specific issues and details about the NAP process and through this experiences and lessons across countries were shared among participants.</p> <p>Further details about the highlights for Day 4 are available are available at: https://www.iied.org/cba12-daily-updates</p>	<p>The African countries are at different levels in the formulation of their NAPs, each facing similar and different problems/challenges. For instance, Malawi and Uganda have not yet finalized their NAP – yet Kenya finalized NAP. However, their needs to develop a mechanism either within in the CBA framework for countries to share experiences and lessons along the process for the formulation of NAPs. In this context, Uganda and Malawi should learn that Kenya was able to fast track its NAP process because they mobilized resources from other in-country development partners to finance the process as they pursue finding from the UNFCCC like the Green Climate Funds.</p>

1.2 Other key observations and suggestions

a) The CBA brings together experts and practitioners of community based adaptation from various countries. The host country should therefore benefit from this if the rich lessons and experiences could be used through sharing to further enhance learning with the host countries and or provide alternative actions to re-invigorate and advance ongoing policy process on climate change adaptation. Such policy process could include: development of climate change policies, development of NAPs. Besides, the key stakeholders in the host country i.e. both state and non-state actors should be supported to participate actively in the engagement. For instance, a case in point is that there were few Malawi government technocrats that participated in the event. Hence, a large proportion of participants was from the civil society and private sector!

b) The continuous engagement and interaction between CBA practitioners within and across countries is weak and non-structured thereby leaving out the several opportunities there is which could be tapped and or harnessed. Hence, the sharing seems to be happening within countries and across countries once every year when the experts/practitioners meet during the CBA international meetings. Interested practitioners within and across countries need to be pro-active in developing mechanisms to continue engaging on emerging issues of common interest (e.g. decentralized financing for community based adaptation, which they can address together each bringing on board their expertise and experiences.