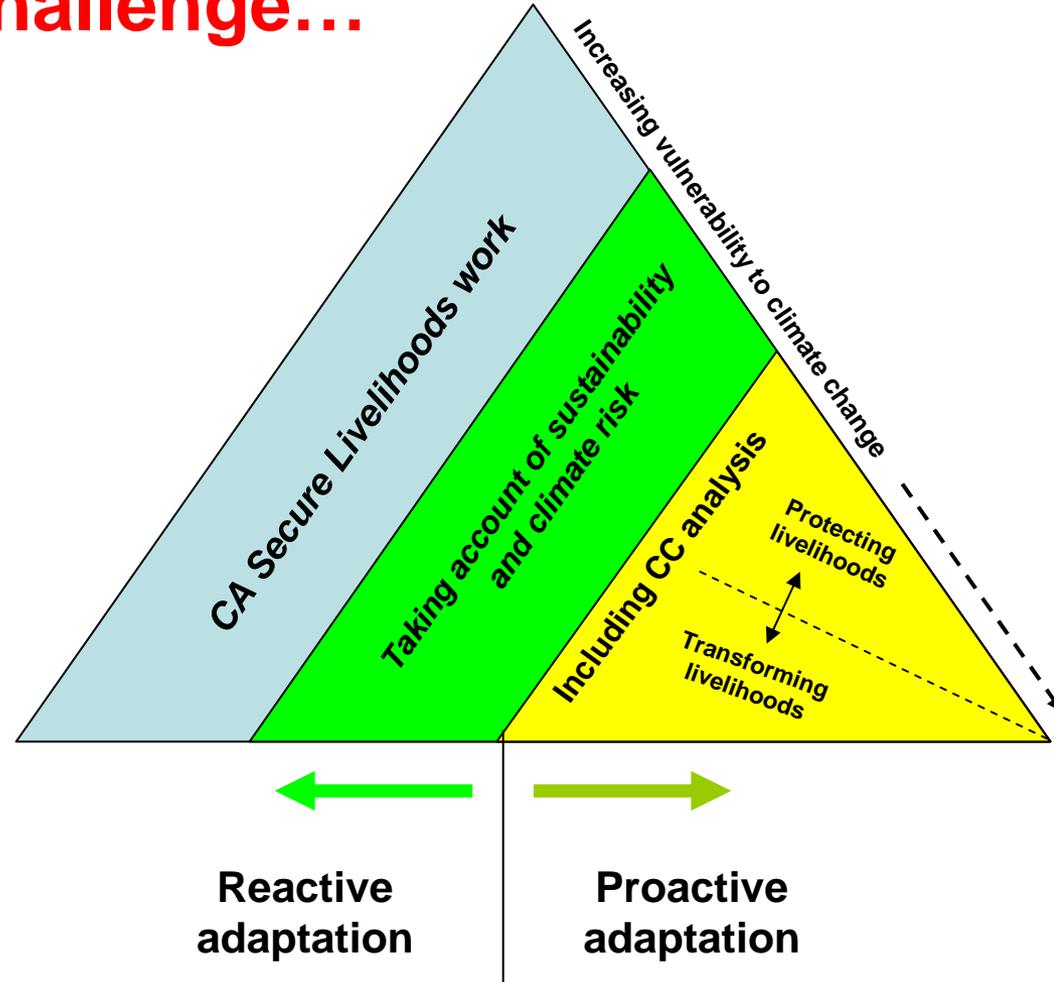


Photo

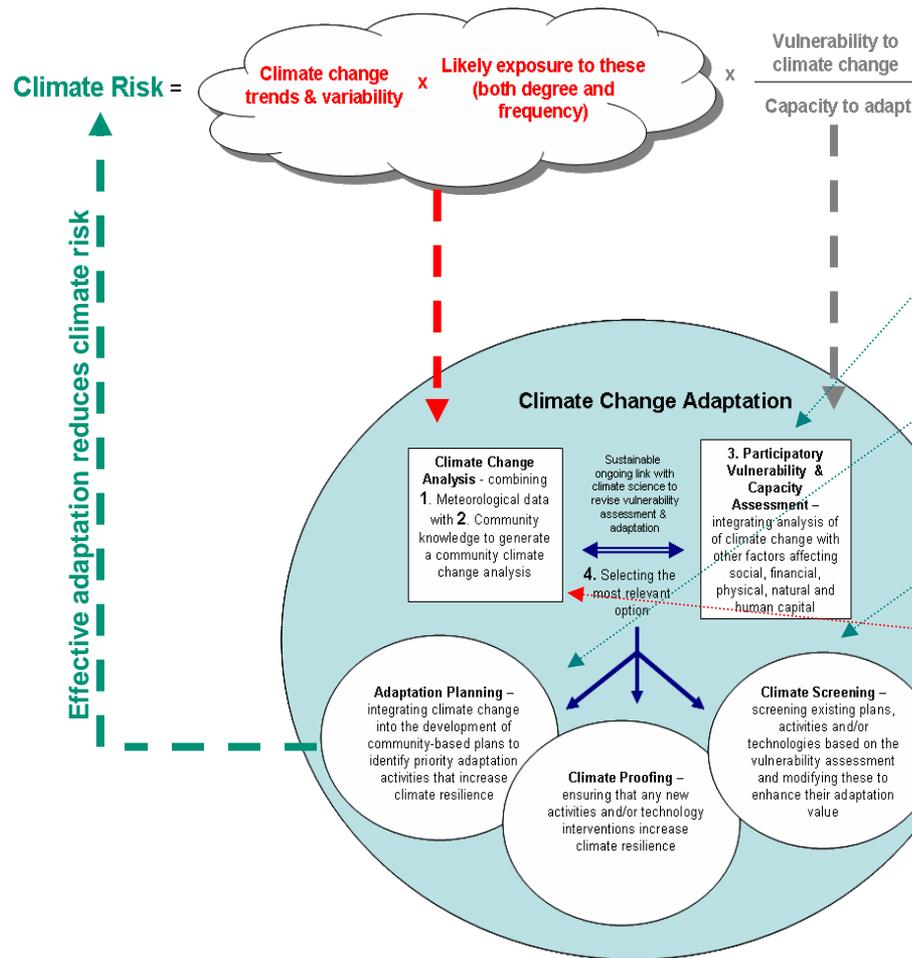
Adaptation in Africa – translating guidance into practice

**Global Conference on Agriculture, Food
Security and Climate Change (2.11.10)**

The basic challenge...



Are we really getting to the heart of what's new about adaptation?



PVCA – well-know existing tool from DRR (Red Cross/Oxfam/CA etc Guidelines) but need more condensed guidance

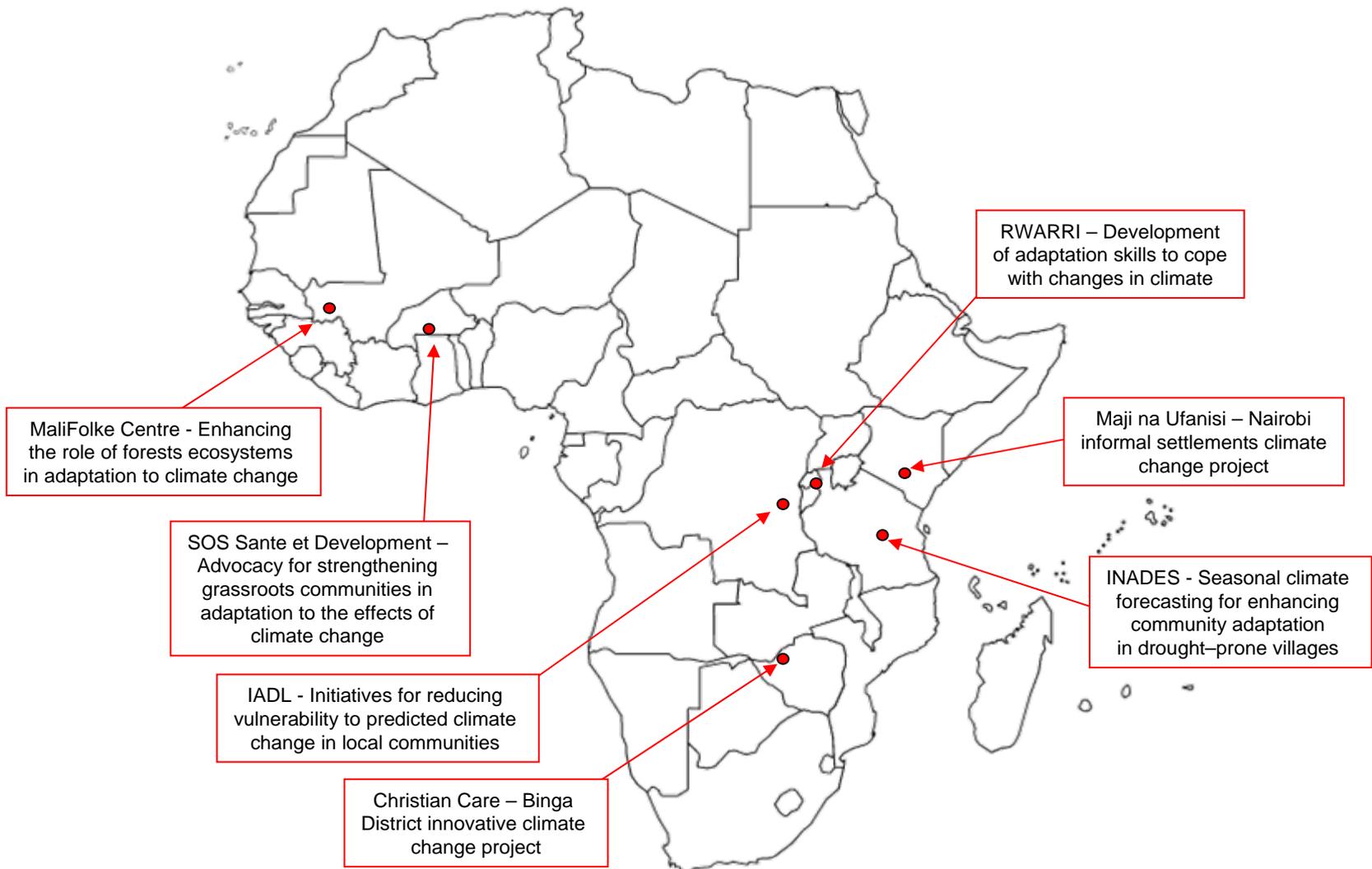
Community-based planning – likewise extensive experience in SL work (esp. VDP, PLUP)

Mainstreaming – experience from HIV, gender, etc

But climate science is more problematic...

The Climate Change Innovation Fund

- Round 1 – 17 projects mainly awareness raising but some practical work e.g. sand dams in Kenya, a bit too broad so...
- Round 2 was much more focused on 7 adaptation projects and the use of climate science to increase community capacity to adapt... ***“Activities to enhance the community-based adaptation of livelihoods to predicted climate change”***



Seasonal forecasting with FFSs in drought-prone villages in central Tanzania

- To collect, analyse and assess previous meteorological information, data and trends on climate forecast relevant to the project target villages
- To conduct an inventory and participatory assessment of local knowledge in climate and weather forecasting
- To conduct participatory climate risk assessment with communities of the likely impacts of climate change with emphasis on the agriculture sector
- To plan and implement viable community-based adaptation strategies for responding to the impacts of CC&V
- To strengthen the capacity of communities and supporting institutions to prepare and respond effectively to future climate changes

Specific activities...

Photos of locally produced rain gauge and on-farm trials of drought-resilient maize varieties

Access to drought resistant crop varieties

Better climate advisory services

Understanding tillage, access to implements

Greater knowledge and use of rainwater harvesting

Use of manure

Understanding climate change and knowing how to respond

Better planning, integrating climate change at community level

Better planning at household level

Combining local and scientific methods, esp. rain gauge and other methods

Increased capacity to adopt new technology and practices, exchanging with other FFSS

1

Raising understanding and community-based planning in Burkina Faso

- The level of knowledge of the causes and effects of climate change of communities, farmers' representatives and opinion leaders is improved.
- The target communities have improved their perceptions of the likely impacts of climate change on their living conditions and are able to respond through adaptation plans.
- Community adaptation plans are known and taken into account by the communal authorities and actors in development programmes implementation.
- The selection of areas will reinforce the effectiveness of the Post Flood Support Food Security Project (PPASA) thematic.

(Photo of flood-affected houses)

Specific activities...

(photos of community planning and minimum tillage/
bocage Agriculture)

Use of short-season rice and maize, and increased rice cultivation in flood-prone areas

1

Increased understanding of the causes and effects of climate change

2

Development of community maps to increase understanding of likely vulnerability

6

Increased understanding of flood danger zones, the need for strong house foundations and not building near wetter areas

3

Reduced tree cutting and bush fires, including planting trees to reduce impacts of climate change

5

Increased use of water management techniques for market gardening

4

Resilient livelihoods in Malawi...

(Photos of gravity-fed irrigation and crop storage facilities)

and flood early warning systems...

(Photos of community-managed rain gauge and flood risk assessment mapping)

Challenges to community-based adaptation...

- Getting hold of high quality, relevant, decision-enabling climate science
- The uncertainty gap in climate science
- Understanding risk within the planning process
- Understanding the links between short and long-term climate risks and between climate and other risks
- Showing adaptation impact (damage avoided)
- Funding – the place for CBA amongst insurance, infrastructure and increasing met science capacity

Some conclusions...

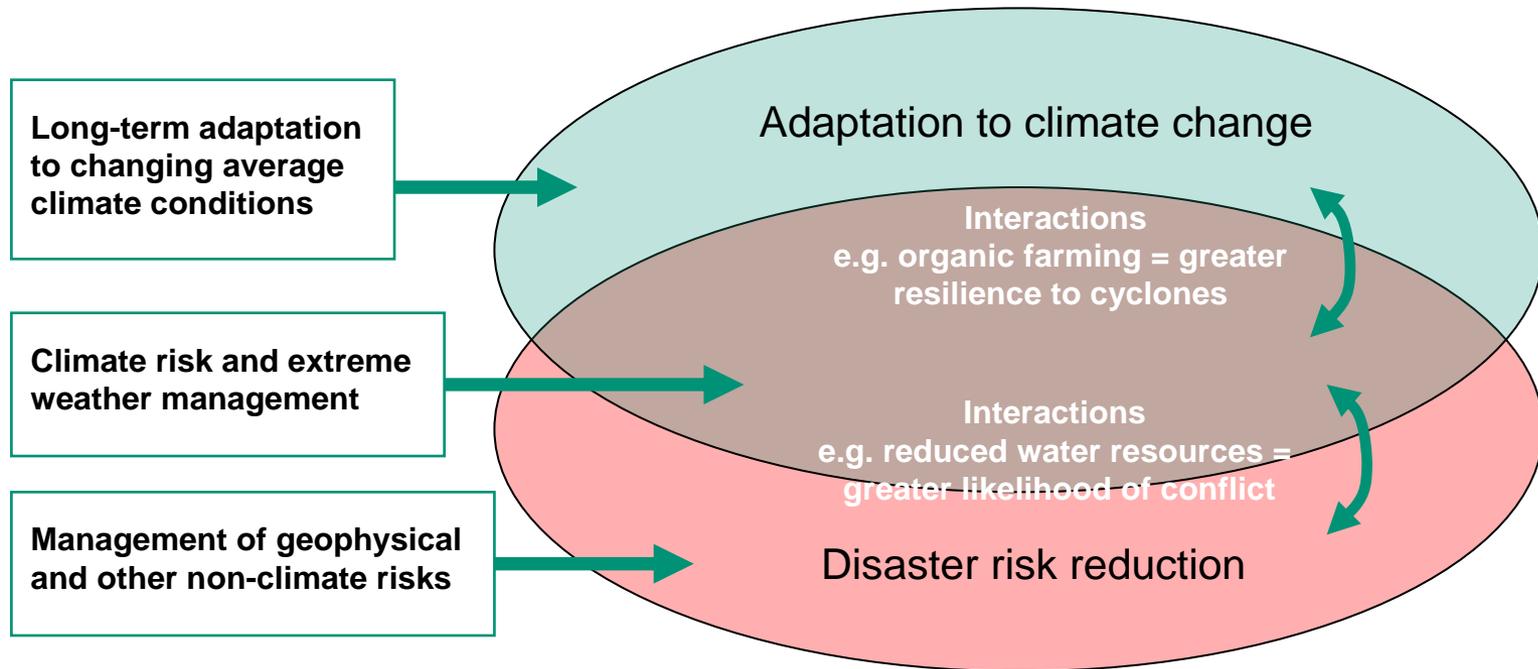
- Go beyond “awareness raising”
- Develop links with meteorology and climate science expertise, especially around practical application of EWSs and seasonal forecasts
- There aren't enough climate scientists to go round, so train intermediaries (NGO, agric extension)
- Develop sustainable communications linkages
- Initially ICTs are no substitute for direct interaction
- Understanding uncertainty and applying probabilistic information to decision-making is a central part of understanding future climate and adaptation to it

and picking the right entry point is important...

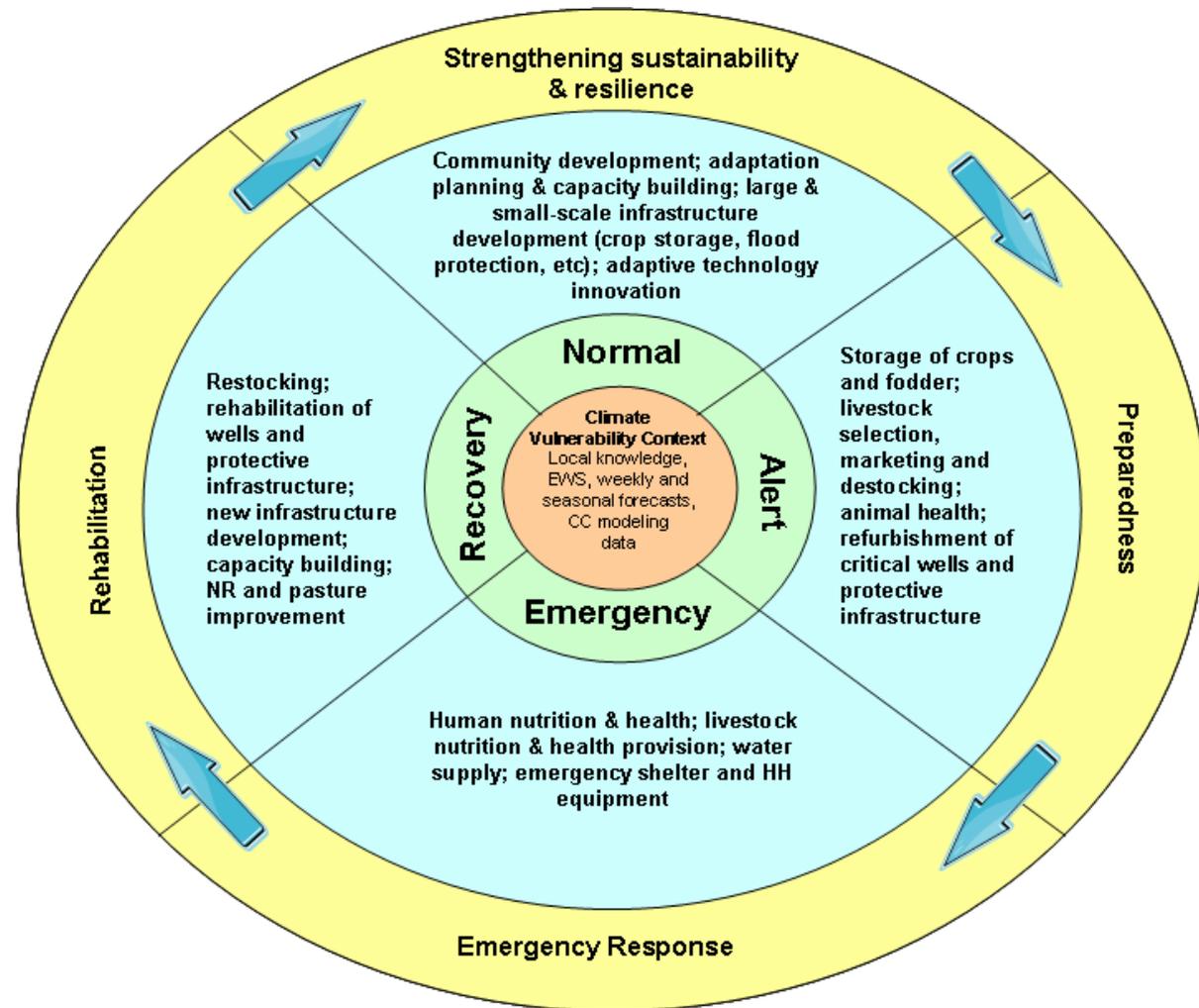
- If drought, then increasing access to and capacity to use seasonal forecasts (much of sub-Saharan Africa)
 - If cyclones or flooding, early warning systems (Central America, Caribbean, Philippines)
 - If water availability, then hydrology and the impact of increased temperatures (Middle East)
 - Mountain areas are inherently complex (Central Asia)
- but this must be a community expressed priority. This can then lead into other climate issues and risks that need to be addressed, especially LT climate change, moving from:

Single-risk hazard mitigation → **Multi-risk adaptation**

So integrating humanitarian support, DRR and livelihoods development is critical...



Building in a risk cycle management approach...



If all else fails, we can use some very old traditional knowledge...



Policy implications

- Community-based adaptation will need intensive support from the climate science community and therefore existing meteorology capacity as well as new initiatives, such as the WMO Global Framework for Climate Services, need to ensure that the poorest in the most vulnerable sector – small-scale farmers and herders in Africa, Asia and Latin America – are their **priority client**.
- Priority areas of climate information provision will include supporting early warning systems for flood/cyclone prone areas, seasonal forecasts and more location-specific longer-term climate change information to support community-based planning. A key issue is to enhance the capacity of both intermediaries (e.g. agricultural extension agents) to deliver this service and of farmers in the use of probabilistic information in their decision-making.

Cont...

- Small-scale farmers are not passive recipients of the outputs of formal research, much of which has successfully avoided or failed to work on issues relevant to them. The agricultural research agenda needs to be fundamentally reoriented to facilitate the formation of farmer-led community-based organisations and support participatory on-farm research that is relevant to and managed by small-scale farmers.
- Climate-resilient agriculture and environmental sustainability are inseparable – we have an increasing body of evidence which shows ecological approaches that combine, for example, conservation agriculture/minimum tillage, agroforestry and soil conservation measures not only result in higher productivity and profitability but are also more resilient to and recover faster from climatic adversity.