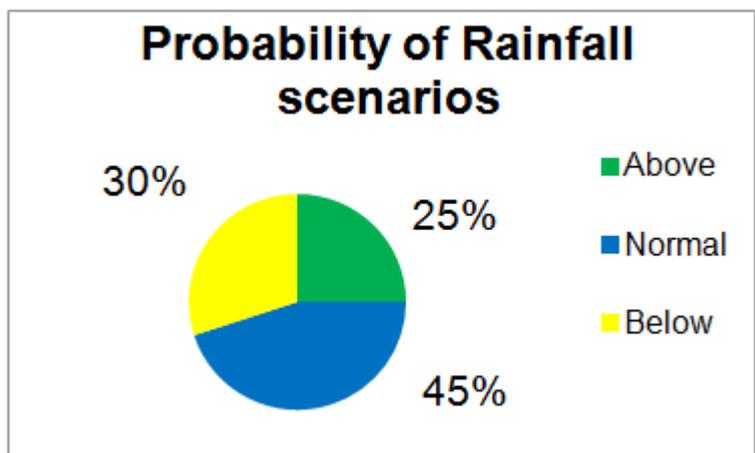


Report

Engaging with the County Integrated Development Plan Process – WISER Western



Introduction

The purpose of the ‘decentralised Climate Information Services for decision-making in Western Kenya’ (WISER Western) project was to develop and deliver demand-led and decentralised services of the Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) in the counties of Kakamega, Siaya, Kisumu and Trans Nzoia. The aim of the project was to streamline KMD’s forecasting to improve existing products and services and facilitate the delivery of new ones in response to demand from users in the counties.

During the first phase of the WISER Western project, work was undertaken to explore how climate information could be more readily mainstreamed into the planning process at the county level. Up until this point the availability and use of climate information at the county administrative level to inform the climate proofing of planning decisions had been limited and inconsistent. Since 2012 each of Kenya’s 47 counties had been tasked with preparing five-yearly County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), establishing strategic targets and their implementation. However, without acknowledging the risks that climate impacts can have on the successful delivery of these plans, there is a very real threat that the development goals which these plans purport to support will be severely undermined. Improving the incorporation of climate information within the plans has become imperative, ensuring that climate-smart investments can be delivered over the short to medium term. As the next generation of CIDPs is due for renewal in 2017 this project undertook some work to explore the means by which climate information can better inform this latest iteration of the plans. The activities during this phase were primarily focussed on two principal themes:

1. Understanding the processes and responsible bodies which will lead the production of the CIDPs.
2. Exploring and advocating for the anchoring of the County Climate Information Services Plans (CCISP) in the CIDPs.

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Influencing the process

Project partners sought direct engagement with the mandated bodies responsible for overseeing the generation of the CIDPs to understand where the project could add the greatest value in terms of supporting the mainstreaming of climate information into planning processes. This was informed by a baseline assessment of the CIDP for the county of Trans Nzoia, which noted recognition of climate risks but with little information regarding plans for mitigation and adaptation. The WISER Western project team collaborated with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MODP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in running a climate change awareness workshop for county planners. This provided an opportunity to work with the principal organisations involved in the CIDP process and to reach a large number of stakeholders from a variety of different sectors. Additionally, the project helped to inform the design of a curriculum for the Kenyan School of Government (KSG). This curriculum was produced to train elected officials in the forthcoming elections. Its focus covers the key concepts which underpin weather and climate, why it is important in the planning process, and where the necessary weather and climate information can be accessed.

Embedding CIS Plans in the next generation of CIDPs

The production of a County Climate Information Services (CIS) Plan (CCISP) is a process by which County Directors of Meteorology (CDMs) are mandated to develop a plan to establish which climate information can best support the people of that county in addressing the socio-economic challenges they face. As such, the assessment, gathering, and production of this information has significant potential in terms of informing the climate information needs of CIDPs.

The potential for County CIS Plans to play a key role in the generation of the next round of CIDPs was almost universally articulated by the county and national administrations consulted. Particular examples of this include the Chief Economist at the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MODP) expressing the view that the CIS Plans developed by WISER Western could significantly address the gap on how to

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include climate change effects within the CIDPs. The Council of Governors also stated that they were happy to provide leadership in incorporating the CIS Plans into the CIDPs and would strongly promote buy-in from the counties.

Monitoring progress

Evidence to measure the progress of this part of the WISER Western project was generated by a number of means. Interviews were carried out with those directly involved in the CIDP production, and there was widespread acknowledgment across national and county Governments, including the MODP and the Council of Governors, of the need to ensure that the CIDPs adequately establish measures to tackle climate risks. This also recognised the need for the County CIS Plans to be anchored directly in the next generation of CIDPs and training was requested on these for the County Executive Directors of planning, energy, water, environment and natural resources.

Conclusion

This part of the WISER Western project certainly saw some level of success, but the next generation of CIDPs have not yet been produced. There is some concern over ensuring the reliability of the climate information over the 4-5 year timescales for which the CIDPs are being created, which will need to be addressed.

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