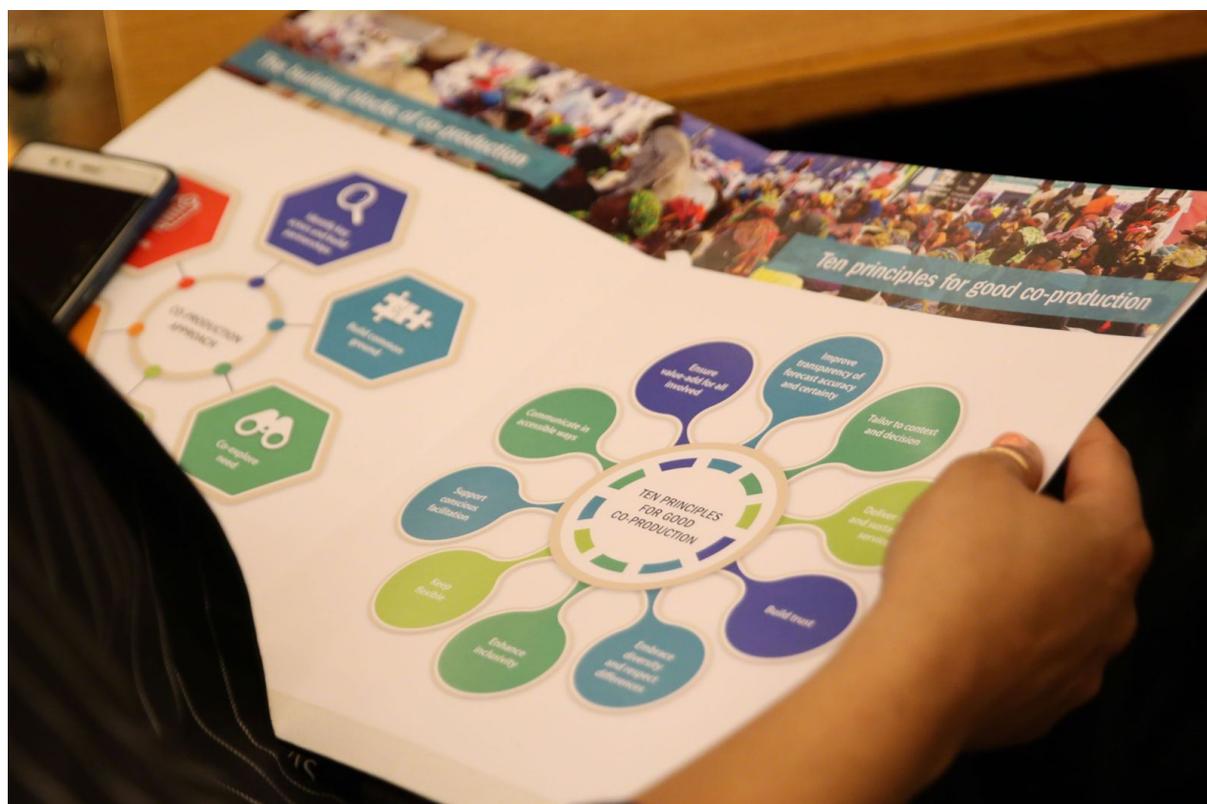


Putting principles into practice in the co-production of weather and climate services

Tuesday 8 October 2019, 11:00 – 13:00

SS07 workshop

African Climate Risks Conference



Welcome

Suzanne Carter, SouthSouthNorth, welcomed all participants (roughly 45), highlighting the newly launched [co-production manual](#) and copies of the co-production poster were handed out.

Icebreaker

The icebreaker exercise was run by Fiona Percy, CARE/NIRAS, to get a sense of who was in the room. All participants were asked to identify themselves as either a researcher, intermediary or user each of which was assigned a colour. Participants collected a sticker according to the colour of their chosen identity. The exercise aimed to demonstrate that roles are important in co-production and that people may identify with more than one. Wearing colours also allowed participants to easily understand the range of participant frames of reference during the group work.

Framing presentation

The 10 principles identified in the manual on 'Co-production of African weather and climate services' were shared with the participants using a storytelling approach. Anna Steynor,

Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG), talked about all 10 principles using a story that explored the co-production approach from the perspective of a researcher. This was used to guide the conversation with participants and help them to identify which principles were most important at different points in the story. Some of the principles were further elaborated on through informal interventions from the project team as to how the principle had been applied in practice. Practical examples of application were also elicited from the audience. The approach showed that most principles are important in every phase of a project process, however, some principles attract a more ready focus in specific phases. A number of principles, including conscious facilitation and ensuring benefit for all, have been increasingly recognised as vital to supporting effective co-production.



Working group discussions

Eight groups were formed to discuss each of the principles in more depth. The session was structured using the carousel method, which allows participants to choose a group to discuss question 1 and then move groups to contribute on question 2. The facilitator let the new groups know what was discussed by the previous group so that they could build on their ideas.

The questions posed for the two rounds were:

Sharing successes and challenges: Have you successfully put this/these principles into practice? Participants were requested to share examples of what successful operationalisation of the principle under focus.

Any problems you see in implementing the principles?

Going forward: What changes need to happen in our climate services?

Keep flexible Host: Richard Graham, Met Office, UK		
Success	Challenges	Way forward

Government users scope too small – had to expand to include project stakeholders	Too many diverse user needs or increasing number of users	Risk identification
City funding: community leaders after election – had more time to explain processes again	Justifying funding to donors	Project MEL updates
One focal point with continuity	Stringent government timelines	Flexible funding and timelines
Donor flexibility	Project trade-offs	Frequent communication with donors
Flexible funding	Time pressures on research	Good processes
Changing forecasts to suit user needs		

Ensure value for all/ inclusivity		
Host: Emma Visman, VNG Consulting, CEH, Kings College London		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Hearing and acting on people's needs	Commitment and institutional buy-in	Integrating climate-related indicators into plans
	Realising the value of information	Explicit and respectful goals
	Integrating climate information into economic forecasts for various sectors, including agriculture	Building common knowledge
	Difficult to measure resilience	Need to get better at measuring resilience
		Understanding how information flows to different users

Communicating in accessible ways		
Host: Kinfe Hailemariam, National Meteorological Department, Ethiopia		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Simplified products	Use of complex, scientific terminologies	Impact-based forecast for common communication language and terms
Translations into local languages	Multiple languages	Communicating normal for different areas and seasons
Most appropriate communication channels used	Difficulty in finding common words during translations	Have common technical terms defined and translated (glossary)
Appropriate timing of communication to the target audience	Cost and time of translations	Sustainable investment for climate communication

Demand-driven, two-way communication	Balancing a diversity of delivery channels	Capitalising on the digital world
Build trust	Cultural rigidity in communication e.g. gender	
Multidisciplinary	Different cultural values and norms	

Deliver timely and sustainable services, and tailor to context and decision-making Host: Emmah Mwangi, Kenya Red Cross Society		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Actionable products	Mechanisms for scaling up to national and regional levels	Sustainability to be included in the project design
Products in line with decision making contexts	Sustainability – including funding, human resources, improvement of products, application, SOP, raw model data access	Pathway to sustainability to be mapped and implemented throughout work with mandated institutions and communities for ownership
Products delivered when needed		Formulate demand-driven service
Mapping the pathways to narrow the focus for specificity of information		Improve linkages between providers and users
Institutionalisation of the product		Lobbying and advocacy to increase funding
Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)		Innovation in product development

Build trust Host: Robina Abuya, Kenya Markets Trust		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Using champions	Different levels of understanding	Users and producers understanding each other's information
Continuous engagement	Different interests	Have different channels of information dissemination from trusted sources
Buy-in strategies	Merging different types of knowledge e.g. Traditional vs. scientific	Use gate-keepers, especially for communities
Two-way communication	Caution due to reputational risk	Improve accuracy of climate information
Customising information	Climate uncertainty	Constant and continuous engagement
	Conflicting immediate needs	Scenario planning
	Personal relationships	

Supporting conscious facilitation Host: Anna Steynor, CSAG, South Africa		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Resource kits	Being aware who is included and who is excluded	Project managers need to skill up in this area
Learning from gender colleagues	Provide a platform to systematically include actors (also beyond the project)	Knowing how to deal in trauma of vulnerability and emotion
Learning from other fields (including adult education)	Pool of conscious facilitators is limited	Outcome-specific and context-specific
Recognition that no one has all the answers	Lack of permanence/ short term	Creating in-country capacity for facilitation
Beginning to learn how to navigate the technical/ emotional factors in these spaces	Funding/expensive	Build expertise in facilitating for different audiences
Recognition that facilitation skills are viewed as important/valued	Recognising biases that facilitators bring	
	Language/translation	
	Online still difficult	
	Process fatigue	

Improve transparency of forecast accuracy and certainty Host: Zachary Atheru, ICPAC		
Success	Challenges	Way forward
Energy sector - Interpretation of forecast - Developing scenarios	Understanding by end-users	Provide forecast skills to users of forecasts
Agricultural sector - When to plant from seasonal forecasts - When to weed from updates	Interpretation of uncertainties and probabilities	Common language of understanding
	Presentation of flexible forecasts	Capacity building of all actors
	Application of forecasts	Bridge between forecast and application
	Impacts are sector-dependent	Tailored forecasts Strategic communications

Embrace diversity and respect differences Host: Rose Ochieng, NIRAS		
Success	Challenges	Way forward

Using video to communicate between farmers and scientists	Ensuring that you proactively engage with diverse groups	Media coverage of the successes
Identifying values	Assuming all values are equal	Identify older women to contribute in order to encourage younger women to speak up
	Overcoming cultural contexts	Understanding cultural contexts/values before working with communities
	Time	Use radios to address issues due their anonymity - stories and issues cannot be traced to individuals
		Working with the traditional forecasters
	Balancing different opinions of the representatives at workshops such as crop farmers and livestock keepers	Appreciate that behaviour change takes time Get buy in from the right people from the onset

Panel discussion

Reflecting on session discussion, three panellists were invited to provide brief perspectives from the point of view of a meteorologist/climate scientist, a user/intermediary and a donor on what they will do differently in relation to co-producing weather and climate services:

Climate scientist/meteorologist: Filipe Lucio, Director of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), noted the GFCS User Interface Platform (UIP), being realised through national frameworks for climate services, offered inclusive platforms for the many actors involved in co-producing weather and climate services.

(User/intermediary): Benjamin Waburoko, Network of Climate Journalists of the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA) highlighted the importance of employing communication channels that reach all users and enable feedback. He also raised the importance of conveying the probabilistic nature of climate information, and that NECJOGHA's 'climate cafes' had provided a useful space for strengthening user engagement.

Donor: Simon Howe, Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) welcomed learning from the guide and session discussion. He emphasised the need to demonstrate the tangible benefits of investments in climate services for strengthening resilience to climate-related risks.

Annex 1: Feedback sheets

