

C. Panel 8 on Must Africa be hostage to climate shocks?

1. Key points on the presentation on *Constructing Risk; Social Adaptive Capacity and Water Scarcity in Southern Africa*: Anthony Turton, Director, African Water Issues Research Unit
 - we need to recognize that drought is a normal feature of our climate
 - the definition of drought and drought risk is a value judgment that depends on the social construct of the target society
 - social systems engender incentives for technical systems to help manage effects of natural systems
 - the major water problem in Africa is high runoff and low conversion of supply to availability
 - water risks are issues of human security and have multi-dimensional aspects (physical, social, economic, political, cultural)
 - water is best described not as a stock of natural resource (based on first-order focus) but as a renewable resource (based on second-order considerations)
 - the ability of a society to generate that renewable resource depends on the social ingenuity of target groups, which is an independent variable
 - we need to move from land-based measures to water-based valuation, including considerations based on comparative advantage in water resource management
 - ground water resource considerations need to be integrated in assessment of drought risks (traditionally limited to rainfall-based considerations)
 - comprehensive re-valuing water policies should be based on the concept of virtual water within the context of international trade, not as a concept of aid (water-embedded product transfers as aid). Note that Africa is a net exporter of virtual water due to the unfair international trading regime!
 - adequately addressing water risk in Africa requires attention to Water resource development, Empowerment through education, Access to resources and services, Land management, Technology, Health of humans, societal relations and ecosystems (the WEALTH acronym).

2. Key points on the presentation on *Coalition Building for Influencing Policy on Drought Risk and Food Security*: Sam Nyambi, Director, UNDP Regional Service Centre, Jo'Burg
 - the real challenge at the physical level is not just moisture deficiency, but drought induced desertification, desiccation and dryland ecosystem dilemmas
 - we need to move beyond preparedness and response in action planning for drought risk reduction by adopting the three Fs: foresee, foretell and forestall drought risks. This requires increased assessment of drought risks
 - we need to regard drought as a constant (natural part of our environment) and rainfall as a variable through a paradigm shift that addresses drought as apart of national strategies for development based on the MDGs, PRSPs, etc
 - the example of the development of the Coalition for Food Security in Ethiopia confirms the importance of a paradigm shift in engendering purposeful policy,

institutional and resource actions to reduce drought-related risks. The paradigm shift by the Ethiopian government resulted in a new action agenda with a vision of transformation (where drought is no longer equated with famine) that sent a strong message to development partners

- the key elements of change are: (a) new conceptualization, (b) decisive political leadership at all levels, (c) movement from policy statements to programming of critical actions (the 20% critical actions that make a difference)
- elements of success in the Ethiopian situation:
 - ✓ addressing moisture deficiencies through investments in developing supplies
 - ✓ new role of food aid as an instrument of coalition-building
 - ✓ increasing productivity (through improved markets, pricing, etc)
 - ✓ strengthening and diversifying livelihoods
 - ✓ safety nets for the vulnerable and disadvantaged
 - ✓ planning an effective development policy mix
- challenges to coalition building include: (a) keeping the coalition together through action such as reconciling differences in perceptions of stakeholders, (b) institutional re-engineering to develop the institutional base for the new policy strategy, (c) integrated policy making, (d) resource mobilization, (e) linkage conditions, such as governance and participation

3. Key points on the presentation on *New Directions in International Development; Integrating the Drylands Agenda*: Phillip Dobie, Director, UNDP-DDC

- there are good practices in development that help reduce drought risks
- but there are also lost opportunities in moving the development agenda forward (particularly achievement of the MDGs) due to factors such as capacity gaps, financier tyranny and long-term dependency
- there is the need to integrate approaches in national strategies for sustainable development
- there is the need for political space to integrate policy
- at the international level, strategic space has been provided via the MGDs
- a key challenge of achieving the MDGs is the need to consider the full cost of development interventions in development programming
- PRSPs are now moving upstream by addressing higher-level goals: there is the need to operationalize these goals in terms of actual drought-risk reduction measures on the ground.

4. Links among the three presentations: How we think about risk affect how we deal with drought: drought risk from water scarcity is a social construct that is best addressed through development of social adaptive capacity. If drought management is a social function, then it requires coalition building at all levels (local, national, sub-regional, international). This strategic management of drought risks through effective coalition of interests needs to take account of lessons learned from good practices and must take advantage of opportunities in the current environment for international development assistance.

Comments:

5. The flow of received societal knowledge from generations constitutes social capital and capacity.
6. If social adaptive capacity is a social or cultural phenomenon, how can social ingenuity be an independent variable?
7. Instead of looking at comparative advantage (which is a static concept), we should be considering the notion of competitive efficiency of water systems.
8. Achieving the MDGs requires meeting the full costs of development but the GEF supports only the incremental costs of adaptation projects by developing countries under the UNFCCC.
9. The success in developing the Ethiopian coalition depended on several factors (lessons learned):
 - ✓ political will matched by public resource commitment
 - ✓ self-recognition and admission of weaknesses by the country
 - ✓ transparency of the government that did not hold any entrenched positions
 - ✓ movement from ‘sustainable relief’ to beginning to addressing long-term problems in an emergency mode
 - ✓ upscaling of best practices
 - ✓ asset protection and development
 - ✓ participatory development through social mobilization
 - ✓ capacity building
 - ✓ targeting of interventions
 - ✓ focus on the environment in policy and strategies
 - ✓ developing an appropriate mix of interventions
 - ✓ focus on marginal groups
 - ✓ coordination and harmonization of donor actions
10. Successful drought risk management depends on effective partnerships and coalitions at the sub-regional level (as shown by the example of West Africa)
11. Lessons from the West Africa/Sahel experience show the need for:
 - ✓ institutions (such as dedicated regional organization for drought, technical and research institutions),
 - ✓ thematic programmes in drought management
 - ✓ sub-regional programming of drought management interventions
 - ✓ economic diversification and flexibility
 - ✓ transformation of food aid strategy from free food to social pricing of food and the Food Charter compact with development partners
 - ✓ extensive monitoring, early warningsubstantial external assistance.