Rural communities in East Nusa Tenggara Province (NTT Province) are highly dependent on the climate for their subsistence agricultural production and water resources. Ensuring food and water security is already a major challenge. The climate induced problems resulting from the ongoing and projected changes in climate will very likely exceed the coping capacity of many rural communities. This will result in decreasing livelihood, food and water security which will affect rural development in NTT.

"Having 2,940 VILLAGES and an average of USD 100.6 MILLION ANNUAL BUDGET, East Nusa Tenggara Province only has fiscal capacity of USD 34,117 for the development of each village annually. Prioritizing budget for villages which are the most vulnerable and exposed to climate risks is a necessity. Climate Risk Map helps the government to do so."

SPARC Project assisted the NTT provincial government in conducting climate risk mapping at village level, taking into account socio-economic vulnerability indicators and projecting extreme rainfall from 2011 to 2040. The results showed that flood and drought will be more severe and frequent in the future and villages will be susceptible to the risks at different levels. The climate risk map serves as a planning tool to ensure a more climate adaptive development by helping the local government to prioritize target villages, implement appropriate adaptation programs and allocate budget.
Targeting the Most Vulnerable Gives Higher Impact

“COMMUNITIES are facing longer dry spell. SPARC adaptation actions INCREASE WATER availability and access, make FARMING IN DRY SEASON POSSIBLE and develop alternative income generating options. The Project is expected to increase community’s resilience in the changing climate.”

SPARC project in NTT Province is piloted in 21 climate-vulnerable villages in three districts, namely, Manggarai, East Sumba and Sabu Raijua districts and benefits more than 1000 households. The project interventions are intended to strengthen community’s security in water, food and livelihoods. For the latter, it is undertaken particularly through the diversification of income generating activities. Based on predicted climate risks and followed by participatory process with village communities, appropriate and accepted adaptation actions were identified in each vulnerable target village. The communities formed groups “Kemas ProKlim” or Community Group Pro-Climate” in each village to implement the selected actions with funding support from SPARC project. Each village received an average of USD50,000 for the implementation of selected adaptation actions.

Prior to SPARC interventions, the communities in NTT province had been experiencing difficulties particularly in dry season (April - October) due to water shortage for daily needs or for farming purposes. The communities in East Sumba and Sabu Raijua needed to walk 10 km or 2 hours daily to collect water from the nearest source; no farming activities were possible in dry season; and there were very limited income generating options. Furthermore, the climate projection showed that the province will experience longer dry spell in the near future - which will affect the life of the rural communities.

SOME ADAPTATION ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED IN PILOT SITE FOR INCREASING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AMONG OTHERS:

- Community groups are planting and selling vegetables in dry season using appropriate seeds and drip irrigation in Napu Village, East Sumba District.
- Water is pumped up from a depth of 130m using solar photovoltaic to increase clean water access of communities in Ledekepaka Village, Sabu Raijua District.
- Women group is now able to make and sell cotton mattress for USD100 as alternative income in Gapong Village, Manggarai District.
In order to ensure inclusiveness and quality of implementation of adaptation actions at the village level, SPARC project works with the local government (development planning and technical agencies) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in the targeted villages. The roles of government agencies and NGOs are primarily to facilitate communities in: 1. identifying and prioritizing climate adaptation actions - taking into account the climate risk map; 2. verifying selected adaptation actions; 3. forming community groups and the legal basis; 4. providing technical assistance during implementation and 5. advocating village level policies to mainstream climate change adaptation.

Indonesia implements an integrated and participatory development planning process from the village level up to the district and provincial levels. However, since there are many proposals coming from the communities, it is very common that the voice of vulnerable groups is lost at the higher level of the planning process. Thus, the involvement of the government and NGOs in SPARC project has created a room for intensive interaction between communities and government officers. Furthermore, the communities are facilitated by the NGOs in prioritizing and formulating adaptation activities. As a result, they have ownership of the actions and are confident that there are people who will help them when they face difficulties.

“Involvement of local institution is expected to enhance community capacity in formulating adaptation activities as well as increase synergy and sustainability of adaptation actions beyond the project.”
Community Grant Channeling through Local Development
Bank Increases Transparency and Flexibility

SPARC Project collaborates with Bank NTT, a Provincial Development Bank of NTT Province, to channel grants to communities in targeted villages. Each target village will have one village account, which will receive grants to implement selected adaptation actions by community groups.

"In the first quarter of 2015, grants in the amount of USD 750,000 were accessed by 9 VILLAGES to support the implementation of adaptation actions conducted by 64 community groups to improve water, food and livelihood security."

This fund channeling mechanism was selected to: 1. provide flexibility for community in accessing fund that fits the implementation schedule; 2. increase transparency of fund utilization as it can only be accessed by at least 3 signatories; 3. familiarize communities with modern banking system; 4. further engage the bank in providing business development training for communities; 5. enable the bank to provide microfinancing schemes for potential small community businesses as part of adaptation actions.

The grant channeling through Bank NTT has been implemented successfully. In the first quarter of 2015, grants in the amount of USD 750,000 were accessed by 9 villages to support implementation of adaptation actions conducted by 64 community groups to improve water, food and livelihood security. Furthermore, through this engagement, Bank NTT has expressed interest to allocate its Corporate Social Responsibility Fund to add to the grant for communities. It is expected that beyond the SPARC project, the local government and the development bank will continue to apply the grant channeling scheme and leverage financing for vulnerable communities.

ABOUT SPARC:

"SPARC is a climate adaptation project (2013-2016) implemented by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment & Forestry and East Nusa Tenggara Government with financing support from Special Climate Change Fund of Global Environment Facility (GEF) through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). SPARC Project is expected to contribute to: 1) the building of institutional capacity at provincial and district levels to integrate climate resilience in sustainable development and 2) the strengthening of livelihoods, water and food security of vulnerable rural communities in a changing climate."

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SPARC VIDEO LINKS:

Voices of East Sumba
https://youtu.be/PlBwyzLuGQE

Voices of Manggarai
https://youtu.be/-5Jm6pkWReE

Voices of Sabu Raijua
https://youtu.be/96dnR9_9Q

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