

Adaptation Fund Board secretariat note: These CSO comments to the captioned project proposal were received by the secretariat on September 19, 2013. They were submitted by Ms. Emma Bowa, ALP Country Project and Advocacy Manager, CARE Kenya, on behalf of the Adaptation Learning Programme in Kenya.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMME TO BUILD RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTIVE CAPACITY OF VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN KENYA

The proposal addresses key issues related to building resilience, and strengthening the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in Kenya. The vulnerable communities include ASALs, which bear the brunt of climate change impacts in Kenya.

Although there is some mention of it in the proposal, it will be important during implementation, that NEMA and the 11 finalists ensure that the activities/ initiatives in the proposal

- Are done in a participatory and inclusive manner, which builds on and complements the community knowledge and systems and is gender sensitive.
- Are informed by climate information, including seasonal forecasts, sub seasonal updates and longer term climate projections- this will ensure that adaptation is done as a process, that it is continuous and allows for flexible and forward looking decisions making- this includes climate risk analysis and vulnerability assessments
- Are undertaken in a manner that allows for cross learning among the 11 finalist institutions/ organisations as well as learning from other adaptation initiatives to enrich the support to the communities
- Are not just hardware, but include resources for 'software' (climate risk analysis, vulnerability and capacity assessments, capacity building, strengthening of institutions and systems, climate information services and support to/ collaboration with meteorological departments, empowerment, access, understanding, use and benefit from knowledge and information, factor in sustainability issues, gender)
- Include risk reduction and risk management strategies (eg in form of early warning systems, diversification, insurance schemes, environmental protection etc) informed by climate information, and linked to a range of options for resilient livelihoods to be determined by beneficiaries/end users.

Although the five points above may or may not lead to changes/ revisions in the current proposal, NEMA and the 11 finalists need to take them into account during planning and implementation, and therefore ensure the final programme document provides for flexibility to respond to local priorities and decisions.

We have had several discussions with NEMA and the finalist institutions/ organisations, including a capacity building workshop on community based adaptation and participatory scenario planning; as well as a policymakers learning route to ASAL communities to learn about innovative adaptation initiatives that are led by the communities themselves.

NEMA and the finalists have been open to discussions on ways of improving on the proposal and its implementation so far.