

D E C C M A



Workshop Report

Report of the India first stakeholders workshop, 29th November 2014



DECCMA India team



CARIIAA
*Collaborative Adaptation Research
Initiative in Africa and Asia*



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About DECCMA Working Papers

This series is based on the work of the Deltas, Vulnerability and Climate Change: Migration and Adaptation (DECCMA) project, funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) through the **Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA)**. CARIAA aims to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and their livelihoods in three climate change hot spots in Africa and Asia. The program supports collaborative research to inform adaptation policy and practice.

Titles in this series are intended to share initial findings and lessons from research studies commissioned by the program. Papers are intended to foster exchange and dialogue within science and policy circles concerned with climate change adaptation in vulnerability hotspots. As an interim output of the DECCMA project, they have not undergone an external review process. Opinions stated are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of IDRC, DFID, or partners. Feedback is welcomed as a means to strengthen these works: some may later be revised for peer-reviewed publication.

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**Minutes of the 1st Stakeholder Workshop DECCMA-India, Kolkata at Hotel Park Prime,
Kolkata, India On November 29th, 2014; IST 9:30 am – 4:30 pm**

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Attendees

Northern Team, UK Dr. Andrew Allan, University of Dundee, UK Dr. Craig Hutton, University of Southampton, UK

Jadavpur University (JU), Country Lead DECCMA – India Prof. Sugata Hazra, Director, School of Oceanographic Studies, JU Dr. Tuhin Ghosh, Assistant Professor, School of Oceanographic Studies, JU, Country PI, DECCMA India Dr. Somnath Hazra, Post-Doctoral Fellow Mr. Shouvik Das, Junior Research Fellow Ms. Sumana Banerjee, Project Coordinator, DECCMA – India

Centre for Environment & Development (CED) Partner Organisation with JU DECCMA - India Ms. Clare Lizamit Samling, Junior Research Fellow Ms. Sunita Dey, Junior Research Fellow

STAKEHOLDERS Indian Sundarban Delta (ISD), West Bengal Government of West Bengal Dr. Debal Ray Mr. Amit Chaudhuri, Additional Secretary, Department of Planning

Sundarbans Affairs Department Mr. Subhash Chandra Acharya Ms. Sushmita Mukherjee
Resource Person: Gender Issues Ms. Malika Basu Ms. Anchita Ghatak

NGO WWF-I Dr. A Danda, Climate Change Adaptation Head, India Mrs. Soma Saha Mr. Ratul Saha Mr. Subhro Sen Mr. Chiranjib Chakraborty Ms. Titash Choudhury

Tagore Society for Rural Development (TSRD) Mr. Kanai Lal Sarkar Mr. Nitaihari Mondal Joygopalpur Youth Development Centre (JYDC) Mr. Dinabandhu Das

Sundarban Social Development Centre (SSDC) Mr. Gopal Pramanik

Caritas, India Mr. Pallab De

Academic Institution Dr. Ashis Kumar Paul, Dept. of Geography, Vidyasagar University
Media Mr Jayanta Basu, The Telegraph Ms. Sahana Ghosh, Indo-Asian News Services

STAKEHOLDERS Mahanadi Delta, Odisha Government of Odisha Shri Kamal Lochan Mishra, Chief General Manager, OSDMA Mr. Jugal Kishore Tripathy, Department of Water Resources Mr. K K Swain, DFO Rajnagar

Chilika Development Authority (CDA) Partner Organisation with JU DECCMA – India Dr. A K Pattanaik, Chief Executive Dr. R N Samal, Scientific Officer

NGO Pallishree Mr. D.P. Dash

GSP/ Net Coast Mr. Saswat Kumar Mohapatra

APOWA Mr. Rashmi Ranjan Kabi

Suggested workshop agenda by Dr Andrew Allan

- Describe project and its objectives - Ask Stakeholders: - What they would want from the project that would be relevant to the issues / problems in the case areas - What are the problems / issues / challenges that prevent issues being effectively addressed? - What their priorities are that are relevant to the project - What the best method of engagement would be between them and the project - Are there any stakeholders who are not present but are relevant - Get preliminary ideas about governance issues / barriers to policy and legal implementation ((WT 1.2 and 1.3) - Identification of / discussion of national adaptation options (including identification of key pieces of literature that shape policy makers

choices/decision making) and introduce idea of doing this at different time horizons (WT6.1.2) - Scope adaptation finance initiatives (WT6.6.1) - Preliminary thoughts on conceptualisation of relationship between biophysical and socio- economic drivers of migration (5.1) - Start to engage stakeholders to buy into the project and to think about the end point i.e. the development of adaptation fund proposals.

Agenda of the meeting

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Welcome and individual introduction

09:45 – 10:00 Presentation of the project by Prof. Sugata Hazra

10:00 –10:15 Presentation by Dr. Andrew Allan and Dr. Craig Hutton on objectives for the day

10:15 – 10:45 Presentations on:

- Odisha adaptation plan
- West Bengal adaptation plan

10:45 – 11:15 Presentations from the gender experts

11:15 – 11:45 Tea Break

11:45 – 13:00 Split into groups to address following preliminary

- reasons for migration in Indian GBM delta and in Mahanadi
- Identify national / state adaptation options and the factors influencing the choice of these
- What are the problems / issues / challenges that prevent issues being effectively addressed, or policy choices being implemented?
- Are there problems with governance (legal, institutional, policy) framework that promote or inhibit certain kinds of adaptation by people in the case areas?

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 14:40 Presentation of preliminary group findings

14:40 – 15:30 Discussion and Feedback Session—

- Are there particular things that participants believe the project could provide that would be relevant to the issues / problems in the case areas?
- How much awareness do participants have about available adaptation finance initiatives and their appropriateness?
- What the best method of engagement would be between them and the project
- Are there any stakeholders who are not present but are relevant

15:30 – 16:30 Sum-up discussion

16:30 – 17.00 Tea Break

ACTIVITY 1

1. Opening Session: Welcome Address by Dr. Tuhin Ghosh, Country PI, DECCMA India
2. Self-Introduction of all the participants present during the meet

3. Power Point Presentation delivered by Prof. Sugata Hazra, on the DECCMA Project (Introduction, Objectives, Work Packages, Areas of focus-Adaptation, Migration & Gender specific issues, & expected Outcomes etc.) to the invited Stakeholders. He laid stress on gender-sensitivity, importance of stakeholder participation, proposed the idea of funding to support adaptation options, requirement of changes in the existing policies, patterns of governance etc. He welcomed stakeholder participation from all levels.

4. The Work Package Lead of WP1, Dr. Andrew Allan then welcomed everyone and brought forth the issue of Ethical Approval . He presented a Sign-in Sheet for Attendees which was circulated around among the participants.

ACTIVITY 2

4. Oral Presentation on Adaptation Plan in Odisha by Mr. Kamal Mishra, Chief General Manager, OSDMA, Government of Odisha. He mentioned that Odisha was one of the first states in India to endorse Climate Change Action Plan. He identified the 11 major sectors for action as mentioned in the Odisha Climate Change Action Plan viz. Agriculture, Coasts and Disasters, Energy, Fisheries and Animal Resources, Forestry, Health, Industry, Mining, Transport, Urban Planning and Water. . Our project would primarily deal with the sector of Coasts and Disasters and he discussed the adaptation options under this sector. He mentioned the construction of multipurpose Cyclone and Flood Shelters where sustainable mechanisms are embedded into Disaster Management. He pointed out that these shelters cater to gender sensitivity, including care for people with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant women. He suggested community participation and building resilience into disaster management. He pointed out that although Climate Change works at a macro-level, implementation of steps to counter the effects of climate change requires research at the micro-level. He concluded by saying that any research project offers measurable identifiers but he hopes that the findings from DECCMA would also produce implementable parameters.

5. Dr A.K Pattnaik added that a draft report of IDRC funded project Partners for Resilience would aid in the proceedings of DECCMA.

6. Power Point Presentation on West Bengal State Climate Change Action Plan (SAPCC, 2012) by Debal Ray, Department of Forests, Government of West Bengal, titled Climate Change Adaptation in Sundarbans: What we Did and What we didn't . He discussed all that has been planned in SAPCC with respect to Disaster Preparedness, Biodiversity Conservation, Agriculture, Fishery, Drinking Water and Health. He also mentioned about initiating Mock Drill and functioning of the cyclone shelters. He pointed out that Planned Population Relocation is not present in SAPCC. He cited that apart from Planned Population Relocation, Ecotourism is another gap in the policy. The gaps in planning include - CRZ Management Plan, Climatically appropriate agriculture, Livelihood diversification plan and climatically appropriate housing. He also discussed the gaps in implementation and data gaps where awareness of globally adopted adaptation measures and documentation of autonomous adaptation measures are needed.

7. Power Point Presentation by Ms. Anchita Ghatak on Gender Sensitisation highlighted what gender comprises of and the axes of inequality. She suggested that to understand migration in the Sundarban data collection, meeting with stakeholders and gender analysis of selected policies have to be taken up with a gender sensitive perspective. Prof. Sugata Hazra pointed out that till date data collection that have generally been undertaken are biased as the only the viewpoints of the male members are recorded and hopes that DECCMA brings about a change in this by including a gender-sensitive approach.

8. Oral Presentation by Ms. Malika Basu on Gender Issues & Experiences highlighted that climate is not biased towards gender but it is our outlook that creates the biasness. She also

emphasized on the documentation of the anecdotes during interviewing the communities, which helps understand the types of issues. She said that the research should not be done at the hypothetical level but integration is required.

ACTIVITY 3

9. Documentary showed by Jadavpur University titled Delta in Distress (running time-4 mins)

Comment added by Mr. Amit Chaudhuri, Additional Secretary, Department of Planning, Government of West Bengal, whether, there will be an expected change of mindset among the Policy/Planning Members towards focusing & adopting Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) or towards Relief Management during Post Disaster situation in their method of approach.

ACTIVITY 4

10. Participants were divided into 5 groups to discuss on the given 4 issues (sp focus: Gender

Issues/Biasness) follows as under:

- Reasons for Migration in Indian GBM delta and in Mahanadi delta
- Identify National/State Adaptation options and the factors influencing the choice of these
- What are the problems/issues/challenges/ that prevent issues being effectively addressed or Policy Choices being implemented?
- Are the problems with Governance (legal, institutional, policy) framework that promote or inhibit certain kinds of adaptation by people in the case areas?

11. Presentation on the Group Findings: The following points could be noted from the discussions,

Group 1

- Identification of various forms of Migration (Permanent/Seasonal/Group/Individual/Autonomous/ Forced)
- Focused more on Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction functionality of both the states involved
- Lack of Micro level data base of Migration pattern/ Migrants by profession
- Preference of the Construction Industry as a more lucrative livelihood option than agriculture

Suggestions:

- DECCMA platform can initiate Pilot Survey/Study on Delta Migration at micro level
- Available Sustainable Livelihood with the support from SHG in the Delta areas, are to be linked with larger market (whether in near urban or other rural areas) to maintain the consistency of the demand of the product or the service
- Emphasis to be laid on Community Empowerment in the Delta areas
- Increase in-situ capacity building in the existing Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR) System
- Emphasis on in-situ Skill development and need for more livelihood support schemes
- Emphasis should be laid on the development of the Traditional Knowledge Base Management System in the area

Group 2

- Reasons for Migration ISD: Erosion & Land subsidence, Flooding, Soil Salinisation, Repeated Cyclone Outbreaks & Storm Surges, Loss of livelihood, Breaching of Embankment and Salt water intrusion
- Reasons for Migration MD: Cyclone Outbreaks and High Tides, Water Logging/Stagnation along with the issues stated under ISD
- Identification of the existing National/State Policies addressing Climate Change Adaptation options in India: (NAPCC, CRZ, National Disaster Management Plan/SAPCC, ICZMP, DMP, West Bengal/OCCAP, DMP, ICZMP, Odisha)
- Gaps in the existing Policies (Both ISD & MD): 1. No policy on Migration, Rehabilitation & Resettlement 2. Lack of Inter departmental coordination of the State Government 3. Lack of local/public consultation in the decision making/planning process of development 4. Survival rate of the species of Mangroves with respect to the salinity level are not examined before planting 5. There is no plan/policy, responding to the repairing & maintenance of the embankments at a regular interval or repairing of the damages caused by any unexpected cyclone/storm surge events
- Problems with the Governance Framework ISD: 1. Land – lack of Land ownership data with Land Revenue Officer (LRO) 2. Livelihood – No control on adoption of brackish water aquaculture, which could have adverse impact leading to Salinisation into the adjacent paddy land 3. Water – Lack of alternative source of drinking water in the Arsenic affected area 4. Sanitation – Yet to be covered: Basanti Block 30%, Gosaba Block 5-10%, Sagar 10% areas 5. Health & Medical System – Lack of adequate Primary Health Centre, Medical Personnel, Paramedics and field level workers during ANC/INC/PNC
- Problems with the Governance Framework MD: same as ISD in addition 1. Fund Allocation/Release – Due 399.08 Cr from the Central Government as a Relief Fund for Cyclone Phailin in October, 2013 but has not yet released. (Source: TOI, Bhubneswar November 20, 2014)

Suggestions:

- Formulating Policy on Migration & Rehabilitation & Resettlement
- Need for Community Involvement in the Planning/Development process
- Timely Fund Mobilisation/Release either by the Central Government/ Donor Organisation
- 50 cm Contour Mapping of the deltas for Vulnerability Hotspot Mapping

Group 3

- Identification of similar issues with respect to the four given points of discussions – Social consequences of migration that were observed include cases of HIV being reported at the Sundarbans after the migrants return to their homeland.
- Problems with the Governance Framework at both National/State Level 1. Island & Coastal areas neglected – Policies for mainland and islands should be separate as the situations faced by them are different from each other. 2. Lack of Policy on Migration, Rehabilitation & Resettlement 3. Voices are not being heard; thereby further marginalising the already marginalised.
- 4. Models are present but have not been implemented owing to an ad-hoc approach and lack of funds.

Group 4

- Identification of similar issues with respect to the four given points of discussions
- Focused on existing DRR implementation lacunae
- Lack of proper research/survey and interdepartmental coordination in the Government
- Long term planning absent

Suggestions:

- Migration Policy needed where gender issues should be addressed

Group 5

- Identification of similar issues with respect to the four given points of discussions
- Apart from the similar causes of migration, this group pointed out the influence of media & communication that is creating hopes for luxury by stepping out into the world.

Suggestions:

- Need for Community participation in planning/development process
- Allocation of resources required
- Emphasis on in-situ Skill development
- Advocacy with the small scale industries to introduce alternative livelihood options in ISD

ACTIVITY 5

12. Feedback Session: Suggestions from the different Stakeholders invited

- Mr. Pallav Dey, Caritas, India -Need for Developing Knowledge Portal in the public domain -More involvement of the local NGOs and community participation from the target area
- Mr. Jayanta Basu, The Telegraph (Media Person) - Issues of Climate Change impact in Indian Sundarban is to be given due importance, through the DECCMA Platform, unlike other most Climate Change vulnerable hotspots identified - Suggestion for Panchayat level involvement in the Stakeholder Meet - Emphasis should be made to encourage the active participation of the Government Department from Sundarbans apart from NGOs.
- Mr. S C Acharyya, Sundarban Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal -The project should aim at emphasizing on the Capacity building of the community -Vulnerability Mapping of the area and sharing on a common platform for the public -Emphasis should be given on creation of Women Employment and their economic security -Call for a legal base for the Climate Change driven issues viz. Migration. -The Stakeholder Meet must ensure the participation of the Member of Parliament (MP) -Cases of HIV/Aids should be recorded as the part of the project findings.
- Mr. Gopal Pramanik, Sundarban Social Development Centre (SSDC) -The project must take an initiative to bridge the gap between the local population and the Government. Mobilising people at the grass root level is necessary to enrich the research which would in turn feed into Policy making.
- Ms. Sushmita Mukherjee, Sundarban Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal - Suggestion for initiating the advocacy of CSR activities in ISD to support better livelihood of the locals -Tourism Industry needs to be supported as a means of livelihood of the community of ISD

- Mr. Chiranjib Chakraborty, WWF-I -There should an attempt of generalised Adaptation Policy in all the four deltas considered in DECCMA Project - Emphasis should be made through the project towards initiating legal entity of the Migrating Population
- Mr. Shubro Sen, WWF-I -Review of the existing Policies relating to the Climate Change and other sectors
- **Sri. Kamal Lochan Mishra, Chief General Manager, OSDMA, Govt. of Odisha -The project should emphasize on inviting Ministries from the Central -The Migration study should equally emphasize on both the Rural and the Urban areas of the Delta - Comments added by Dr. Tuhin Ghosh: Introduction of the Community Workshop within the Deltas has been already considered by the Team DECCMA-India**
- Mr. D.P. Dash, Pallishree, NGO, Odisha -Emphasis on the Women SHG in the target areas can work as a very important adaptation tool- Eco tourism in Chilika and Bhitarkanika has decreased instances of migration -Watershed development programme by Chilika Development Authority has also decreased migration.
- Mr. Saswat Kumar Mohapatra, Pallishree, Odisha -Emphasis should be given more on the awareness development of Early Warning System (EWS)
- Ms. Titas Choudhury, WWF-I -Adoption of adaptation instances initiated in other places/deltas in the world
- Ms. Anchita Ghatak, Resource Person: Gender Issues -The study should emphasize more on the review of Gender specified Migration documents/real life instances
- Comments made by Dr. Craig Hutton -The present focus of DECCMA at this juncture is to review the current existing information available of the target areas (Physical, Social etc.) - Understanding the Baseline of the issues, policies regarding Adaptation & Migration, is the priority at the moment of the DECCMA Platform

13. Sum-up Discussion by Dr. Andrew Allan

- The focus of the Stakeholder Meet, at this juncture, is not to differentiate between Good or Bad instances of Migration.
- More or less similar issues has been raised by the all the five groups presentation
- The Lack of Policy Coordination among the existing Policies has been repeatedly identified
- Rehabilitation & Resettlement is not emphasized in any of the existing Policies
- More emphasis to be given at the Community Level
- It was pointed that, DRR as the only Adaptation option is not effective
- Development of the Knowledge Portal (sharing the findings and links) – on the DECCMA website, is in the process of formulation
- Thanks and regards extended to the house for making the meet successful on a Saturday

14. Comments Added:

Dr. Tuhin Ghosh, pointed out that, Stakeholder Meet at Community Level for DECCMA-India will be conducted on a rotational basis. Prof. Sugata Hazra, pointed out that, efforts are being made through DECCMA research, to identify the quantum of Migration at the two Deltas at the district level (within 5 mts contour interval) for Hotspot identification

The meeting was ended with a vote of thanks, delivered by Prof. Sugata Hazra.