

CATALYST

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT FOR HAZARD RISK
REDUCTION AND ADAPTATION

CATALYST VIRTUAL MEETINGS REPORT

Deliverable 4.3 – Version 1.0

October 2013



The project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007-2013) under grant agreement no. 283177 (CATALYST).

Deliverable title: CATALYST Virtual Meetings Report

Deliverable number: D4.3

Editors: Matt Hare (seeconsult), Caroline van Bers (seeconsult)

Contributing authors: Caroline van Bers, Elisa Calliari, Matt Hare, Fons Jaspers, Peter van der Keur, Jochen Luther, Christian Kuhlicke, Jaroslav Mysiak

Current version: Version 1.0 (10 October, 2013)

Status: FINAL

General readership: PU – public document

Correct reference: This document can be quoted or referred to as:

Hare, M. & van Bers, C. (Eds) (2013), Catalyst Deliverable 4.3 – CATALYST Virtual Meeting Report, downloadable at <http://www.catalyst-project.eu>, 10.10.2013.

Individual regional sections can be referred to as:

Luther, J. & Kuhlicke, C. (2013), The East and West Africa Regional Virtual Meetings. In: Hare M. & van Bers, C. (Eds) (2013), see above.

Calliari, E. & Mysiak, J. (2013), The Central America and the Caribbean Region Virtual Meetings. In: Hare M. & van Bers, C. (Eds) (2013), see above.

van der Keur, P., van Bers, C. & Henriksen, H-J. (2013), The European Mediterranean Region Virtual Meetings. In: Hare, M. & van Bers, C. (Eds) (2013), see above.

van der Keur, P. & Jaspers, F. (2013), The South and South-East Asia Region Virtual Meetings. In: Hare M. & van Bers, C. (Eds) (2013), see above.

Delivery date: End of August, 2013

Due date: Month 23

Submission date: 10.10.2013 (Version 1.0)

Prepared under contract from the European Commission
Grant agreement no: 283177
Theme [ENV.2011.1.3.4-1]
[Capacity building in natural hazards risks reduction]
in the 7th EU Framework Programme

Disclaimer: The results contained in this report were produced within the CATALYST project "Capacity Development for Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation" funded under the FP7 by the European Commission. This report is the sole responsibility of the CATALYST Project and does not represent the opinion of the European Community nor is the European community responsible for any use that might be made of the data appearing herein. All Think Tank Members participating in the meetings are participating in a personal capacity, and so nothing should be inferred about the views of the organisations they work for. It should also not be assumed that all participants of the meetings agree to the statements made in the meeting minutes, or that all CATALYST project partners agree with the opinions described in this document. Any errors in the minutes remain the responsibility of the contributing authors and can be indicated to the CATALYST project so that future versions of this report may be altered accordingly.

CATALYST, "CApaciTy deveLopment for hazard riSk reduction and adapTation" is a coordinating action funded within the EU Seventh Framework Programme which aims to bring together existing networks of researchers, policy and decision makers, members of nongovernmental organisations, and small- and medium-sized enterprises to identify and share information about best practices and critical knowledge gaps.

Coordinator: Seeconsult GmbH (Seecon), Germany

Partners: Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM), Italy; Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ, Germany; Academy of Sciences for the Developing World (TWAS), Italy; Stichting Dienst Landbouwkundig onderzoek (Alterra), the Netherlands; National Geologic Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS), Denmark; United Nations University – Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS), Germany

Duration: October 2011 – September 2013

email: info@catalyst-project.eu

website: www.catalyst-project.eu

Regional Workshop Reports

Table of contents

<i>Table of contents</i>	5
<i>List of figures</i>	6
<i>List of acronyms</i>	6
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	8
1 INTRODUCTION.....	9
1.1 The CATALYST Think Tank process, and its Virtual Meetings	9
1.2 The role of the Virtual Meetings.....	10
1.3 The structure of this deliverable.....	10
2 THE 1ST GLOBAL VIRTUAL MEETING	12
3 THE EAST AND WEST AFRICA REGIONAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS.....	18
3.1 1 st EWA Regional Virtual Meeting.....	18
3.2 2 nd EWA Regional Virtual Meeting.....	24
4 THE CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS.....	29
4.1 1 st CAC Regional Virtual Meeting.....	29
4.2 2 nd CAC Regional Virtual Meeting.....	33
5 THE EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN REGIONAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS.....	38
5.1 1 st EUM Regional Virtual Meeting.....	38
5.2 2 nd EUM Regional Virtual Meeting.....	41
6 THE SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST ASIA REGIONAL VIRTUAL MEETINGS	44
6.1 2 nd SSA Regional Virtual Meeting.....	44
6.2 2 nd SSA Regional Virtual Meeting.....	47
7 THE 2ND GLOBAL VIRTUAL MEETING	49
8 LESSONS LEARNED	54
9 REFERENCES.....	56

List of figures

Figure 1: The CATALYST Think Tank process, showing the position of the 10 virtual meetings9

List of acronyms

CAC CATALYST region Central America and Caribbean
CATALYST Capacity Development for Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation
CBA cost-benefit analysis or community-based adaptation
CBO community-based organisation
CCA climate change adaptation
CCRIF Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDM Clean Development Mechanism
CSO civil society organisation
DFID Department for International Development (UK)
DRM disaster risk management
DRR disaster risk reduction
DRR disaster risk reduction
EBRD European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EM-DAT Emergency Events Database
EUM CATALYST region European Mediterranean
EWA CATALYST region East and West Africa
EWS early warning system
FAO Food and Agriculture Organisation
GAR Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction
GCM global climate model
GEC global environmental change
GFDRR Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
GHG greenhouse gas
GIS geographic information system
HFA Hyogo Framework for Action
IADB Inter-American Development Bank
IAM integrated assessment model
ICT information and communication technology
ICZM integrated coastal zone management
IDNDR International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IPCC International Panel on Climate Change
IWRM integrated water resource management
LDC least-developed country
LDRM local disaster risk management
MDGs Millennium Development Goals
MFI micro-finance institution
NAPA National Adaptation Programme of Action
NGO nongovernmental organisation
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RCM regional climate model
REDD reduced carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SIDS small island developing states
SMEs small- and medium-sized enterprises
SRES Special Report on Emissions Scenarios

SSA CATALYST region South and South East Asia

TTM member of CATALYS Think Tank process

UN United Nations

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

WHO World Health Organisation

WMO World Meteorological Organisation

Executive summary

The virtual meetings reported here in this deliverable, in the form of meeting minutes, are activities of the four regional Think Tank processes that comprise the CATALYST Think Tank on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the face of climatic and tectonic hazards. This Think Tank is a recognised added value of the CATALYST project which now includes around 130 experts from the four CATALYST regions. These Think Tank members (TTM) are collaborating with the CATALYST project partners to develop knowledge products that are useful to support their own activities, and those of others, in the CATALYST regions.

The ten virtual meetings minuted in this document are:

- 1st Global Virtual Meeting
- European Mediterranean 1st and 2nd Virtual Meetings;
- East and West Africa 1st and 2nd Virtual Meetings;
- Central America and the Caribbean 1st and 2nd Virtual Meetings;
- South and South-East Asian 1st and 2nd Virtual Meetings;
- 2nd Global Virtual Meeting.

This document's purpose is to present the minutes of the ten CATALYST virtual meetings, involving 69 participants in total, which have been used to exchange information with CATALYST Think Tank Members over the duration of the project. This document can be used by readers who are interested in knowing more about the sources of knowledge used to generate key CATALYST knowledge products mentioned above.

It became apparent during the lifetime of the project that the virtual meetings were playing an indispensable role in the CATALYST Think Tank to keep the exchange of information flowing between TTM and the partners, before and after the main workshops (see Hare and van Bers, 2013), especially when it became apparent that the online discussions were not providing this function, as originally intended. As a result, it was decided to increase the number of virtual meetings from the 5 originally planned to the 10 that are described in this report.

1 Introduction

1.1 The CATALYST Think Tank process, and its Virtual Meetings

The CATALYST project (October 2011 – September 2013) has been set up and funded by the European Commission Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) to strengthen capacity development for stakeholders involved in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), in the context of natural hazards (both hydro-meteorological and geological). The project aims to compile and analyse DRR/CCA knowledge from four regions of the world, in order to develop knowledge products that are useful to practitioners from diverse sectors by including these practitioners in their development. The CATALYST regions of interest are the European Mediterranean (EUM), East and West Africa (EWA), Central America and the Caribbean (CAC), and South and South East Asia (SSA). For further information on the goals and objectives of CATALYST see Jaspers et al. (2012).

The ten virtual meetings workshops reported in this deliverable were activities of the CATALYST Think Tank (see Figure 1). Virtual meetings were either “global” i.e. involving all the regional Think Tank Members, or “regional”, involving only the Think Tank Members from each of the CATALYST regions. As can be seen, global meetings have begun and completed the Think Tank process, whilst regional meetings have sandwiched each of the regional workshops.

For more information on the design and activities of the CATALYST Think Tank see Hare et al. (2013a; 2013b).

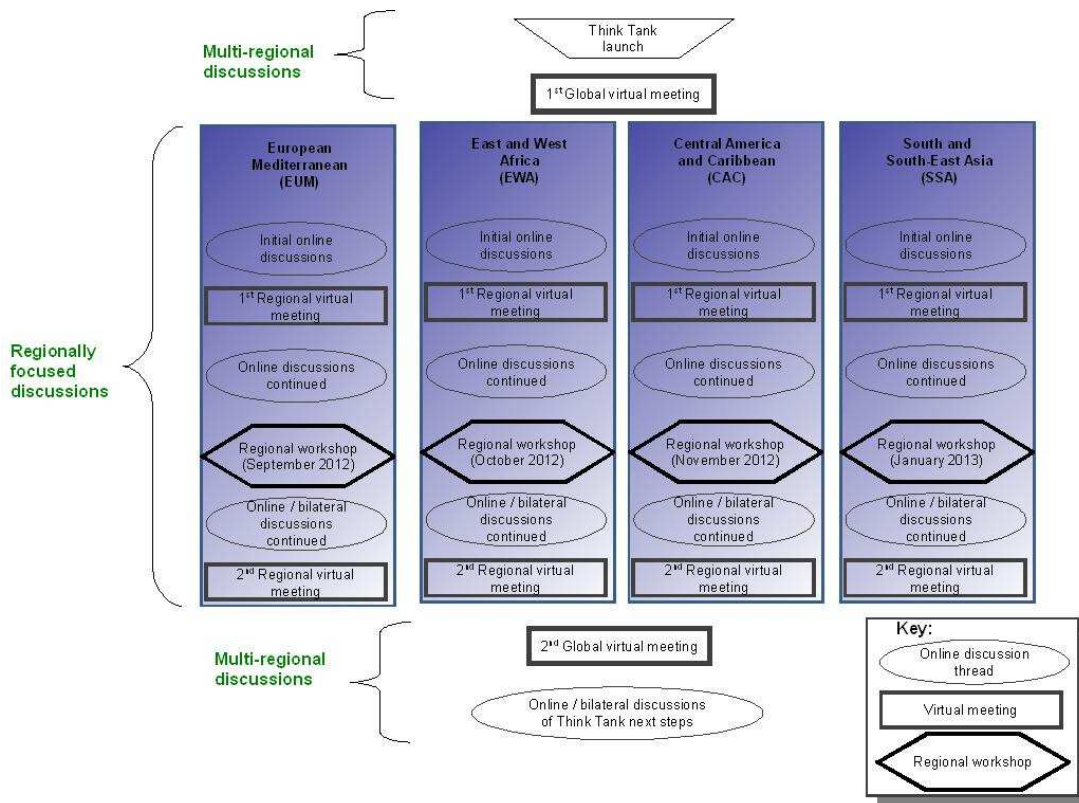


Figure 1: The CATALYST Think Tank process, showing the position of the 10 virtual meetings, 2012-2013

1.2 The role of the Virtual Meetings

Above and beyond the general goal of supporting information exchange in the CATALYST Think Tank and taking over the role of online discussions, each virtual meeting had its own specific purpose.

The first global virtual meeting was set up as a kick-off meeting to present the project and its objectives to the Think Tank Members; to explain the TTM's roles; to answer their queries about the project and their roles; and to begin the exchange of knowledge between TTM. As can be seen in the minutes of this meeting (see Section 2, below), the main issues arising from the TTM about the CATALYST included: how the Think Tank works; who will benefit from the process; how further stakeholders, especially at the local level, should be included; and what the difference is between CATALYST and other projects.

All regions had their own approach to the virtual meetings, but in general, the first set of regional virtual meetings had the purpose of reviewing the activities of the regional Think Tank process, and to provide an opportunity for the Think Tank Members to provide feedback on two knowledge products: D2.2 – *Report on issues, gaps and opportunities, network coverage*, and D3.1 – *Report on capacity development for disaster risk reduction and adaptation* (in draft form). Identifying themes and issues that would be discussed in the regional workshops and discussing the logistical preparation for the coming regional workshop was then the general topic for the second half of the meetings. It is interesting to note that already in the first CAC regional virtual meeting, discussions were being had as to why the online discussions were not working as expected.

The second set of regional virtual meetings was initiated to confirm the findings of the regional workshop regarding best practices. Usually, in these meetings the workshop summary reports were discussed, providing input into D4.2 – *CATALYST Regional Workshop Reports*, and from this discussion, ideas on best practices were proposed and identified, to be used in D5.1 – *Synthesis Report on Best Practices*, and in D6.4 – the *Best Practice Papers* for the region. Additionally, time was allocated to allow partners to present and hear feedback on plans for other deliverables, such as the *Online Training Module* (D5.4) and the *Special Report on Stakeholder Advice for Policy Makers* (D4.4). Some meetings even discussed how to continue CATALYST after the formal end of the project.

The second global virtual meeting officially closed the CATALYST Think Tank process, providing an opportunity for TTM to listen to and offer feedback on the many different knowledge products of CATALYST project, as well as the outcome of the CATALYST Final Meeting at the EC Commission. Additionally, TTM and partners discussed the proposed follow-up network to CATALYST: CATALYST-Local, and funding opportunities. As can be seen from the minutes (Section 7), the feedback on the project from the TTM was very positive, with members interested in continuing to work with the partners at the local level on capacity development.

It is worth noting that the virtual meeting agendas/discussions items differed by region. Whilst CAC, EWA, and the Global meetings tended to opt for more discussion-based meetings, those in SSA and the second EUM meeting focused on informational presentations, with less discussion. The difference is reflected in the comparative size of the minutes among the respective regions.

1.3 The structure of this deliverable

This document's purpose is to present the minutes of the ten CATALYST virtual meetings, involving 69 participants in total, which have been used to exchange information with CATALYST Think Tank Members over the duration of the project. This document can be used by readers who are interested in knowing more about the sources of knowledge used to generate key CATALYST knowledge products mentioned above.

The following sections provide the minutes of each of the ten virtual meetings held as part of the CATALYST Think Tank process. Section 2 presents the minutes for the 1st Global Virtual Meeting. Sections 3-6 present the Regional Virtual Meetings held in each of the four CATALYST regions. Finally, Section 7 presents the minutes of the 2nd, final, Global Virtual Meeting. The deliverable concludes with

a look at lessons learned from hosting virtual meetings to support stakeholder discussions and exchange in the context of a Think Tank.

2 The 1st Global Virtual Meeting

Caroline van Bers, Matt Hare, Bernita James
(seeconsult GmbH)

Summary

1st CATALYST Global Virtual Meeting

Hosted by UNU-EHS, Blackboard Collaborate

Organised and Chaired by seeconsult

– 20 April 2012

This report provides a summary of the first virtual think tank meeting of the CATALYST project. All slides presented can be downloaded by logging onto the CATALYST think tank reserved area site: www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html

Participants (TTM's) and their regional processes

Animesh Kumar, DRMFS/WFP, (EWA¹), Ana Peña del Valle, PINCC (CAC), Nicola Rebor, CIMA, (CAC), Niels Balzer, UN WFP (EWA), Tereza Cavazos, Redesclim (CAC), Adrien Coly, Univ of St. Louis (EWA), Ebru Gencer, Columbia Univ. (CAC/EUM), Maria Mañez, CSC (EUM), Nandan Mukerjee, C3ER-BRAC (SSA), Radhika Murti, IUCN (CAC), Harikrishnaa Nibanupudi, ICIMOD (SSA), Bhanu Neupane, UNESCO (SSA), Carlos Perez Aleman, UNDP (CAC), Aslam Perwaiz, ADPC (SSA), Priscilla Rowswell, ICLEI, South Africa (EWA), Frank van Weert, IGRAC/Wetlands International (EUM), Richard Teeuw, University of Portsmouth (EUM).

Our sincere regrets to those who could not enter the meeting room because of capacity problems.

Shah Md Anowar Kamal, UST (SSA), Dalia Carbonel Ramos, Redes de Gestión de Riesgos y Adaptación al Cambio Climático (CAC), Barbara Carby, DRRC / UWI (CAC), Shamim Mia, WUR (SSA), Fernando Nardi, IDRAN (EUM), Ian Rector, UNDP (EWA), Gonzalo Roque, Infinita Consulting (CAC), Karen Sudmeier, IUCN (CAC), Gerd Tetzlaff, DKKV (EUM), Salmah Zakaria, United Nations-ESCAP (SSA), Mostafa Zaman, PSTU (SSA)

Catalyst partners who attended

Paola Agostini, DG Research, EU Project officer for CATALYST, Elisa Calliari, FEEM Humaira Daniel, UNU – EHS, Matt Hare, seeconsult (Meeting Chair), Hans Jorgen Henriksen, GEUS, Fons Jaspers, Alterra, Jochen Luther, UFZ, Jaroslav Mysiak, FEEM, Chahira Noura, UNU-EHS, Caroline van Bers, seeconsult, Peter van der Keur, GEUS

Please note that when “**CATALYST note:**” appears in the following set of minutes it refers to comments added to the minutes to help further answer a question, if the latter was not answered fully during the meeting.

¹ The acronyms in brackets refer to the CATALYST region(s) which the TTM has joined, e.g. EWA: East and West Africa – see introduction for meaning of other regional acronyms.

Part I: Introduction to the meeting and its goals (Matt Hare)

Presentation downloadable from: <http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html>

Discussion

Stakeholders of CATALYST?

Frank van Weert: Who are the stakeholders in this project?

Matt Hare responded that our stakeholders include the Core Think Tank Members (i.e. the TTM, many of whom are the participating in this meeting). The TTM are professionals in the NH/DRR from governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as from the private sector, and the scientific community. CATALYST is working with these stakeholders to develop the capacity development products.

CATALYST also aims to target policy makers through the development of knowledge products such as the policy notebook on best practices. Finally, there are the stakeholders in the regions whom CATALYST wants to connect through the capacity development activities and the networks of core think tank members.

Aslam Perwaiz: Who are the beneficiaries of CATALYST?

Matt Hare suggested that the key beneficiaries of the project would be the core think tank members and people from the TTMs' own network for whom they are providing capacity development services.

What is different about CATALYST?

Bhanu Neupane: Can you please provide the distinction that this project will have over and on top of other knowledge management efforts in DRR? What is our added edge?

Matt Hare responded that the key distinction of this project is the think tank and bringing a diverse range of professionals together to help shape the type of capacity development products that the project produces – to support their work in their regions. We have about 50 experts in the TTM from the private to the public sector, from the international level to the university level from around the world.

Paola Agostini (EC DG Research) added that the most important role of the project is to allow communication and knowledge exchange, and it deals with not only Europe but regions all over the world so Europe can gain knowledge from other experiences, and this of course applies the other way around. The role of the DG Research is to support the work of the European Commission, so it works in close cooperation with UN-International Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR) practices, and that was one of the main objectives of our policy to provide tools and guidelines, and to provide support to the development of practices especially for UN-ISDR actions.

How will the CATALYST Think Tank work?

Pricilla Rowswell: Can you identify concretely how there will be development of capacity of the core group: data sharing; methodology, development of training packages; analytical frameworks; technical.

Matt Hare answered that this question will be addressed in the forthcoming presentations during this meeting.

Part II: Think Tank (Matt Hare)

Presentation downloadable from: <http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html>

Part III: Introduction to the regional processes

Presentation: European Think Tank Process (Peter van der Keur, GEUS)

Presentation: African Think Tank Process (Jochen Luther, UFZ)

Presentation: Central America and Caribbean (Elisa Calliari, FEEM)

Presentation: Asian Think Tank Process (Peter van der Keur, GEUS)

All presentations are downloadable from:

<http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html>

Discussion

How the process works

Hari Krishnaa Nibanupudi: How can we use the tools developed in this process to benefit the capacity of stakeholders of the countries in our region (South Asia)?

Matt Hare suggested that this is exactly the type of question that CATALYST has been set up to answer and that CATALYST and the core think tank members will respond to this in the coming months.

Missing/Additional TTM

a) PEDRR

Pricilla Rowswell: To what extent have you considered linking with other networks ins Europe, for example, the Partnership for the Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction in Europe (PEDRR)?

Jochen Luther responded that he had indeed contacted this organisation, but had received no response. (CATALYST Note: In checking his records, Jochen corrected this statement. He contacted another organisation with a similar name.)

Radhika Murti: We (IUCN) are one of the leading partners with PEDRR and we work closely with FEEM. We at IUCN represent PEDRR in this project. We are involved in the CAC group but we can easily contribute to all four regions.

b) TTM needed from Turkey

Aslam Perwaiz suggested that the MAG Foundation could be considered for the EUM region.

<http://www.magvakfi.org.tr/eng/default.asp>

Ebru Gencer offered support to EUM for knowledge related to Turkey.

c) Local level TTM

Jenny Clover and Priscilla Rowswell from ICLEI Africa: It is important to look at regional Centres of Excellence in Africa focused on capacity in West and East Africa. We should expand the membership of our core group to those working on the ground.

Jochen Luther agreed, saying that the W/E Africa regional process will be working, for example, in close cooperation with the CLUVA project (www.cluva.eu) that focuses on the local level and

regional centres of excellence especially through universities and their local networks. Another potential core member is the African Centre for Disaster Studies in South Africa which also does extensive work on the ground.

d) Missing but signed up, TTM

Nandan Mukherjee informed Peter van der Keur that Ainun Nishat from BRAC University had signed up as a TTM but is not on the list of TTM.

Additional themes of interest to the TTMs

a) ICT

Two TTMs (**Bhanu Neupane (SSA)** and **Richard Teeuw (EUM)**) noted that Information and Communication Technologies had not been mentioned by the regions yet.

Bhanu Neupane: How can the project help in the area of the use of ICT for NH/DRR?

Jochen Luther answered that information from some interviews with African TTMs, especially from universities, showed that they are doing a lot of capacity development in the form of training in GIS. UFZ could provide some experience on how one can use tools like remote sensing to assess vulnerability and how this can be put into the regional process.

Richard Teeuw: In response to Bhanu and his comment on ICTs, we have a number of students looking at coastal zones. There is a lot of free (open source) data but the software tends to be expensive. Access to internet (and electricity / computers in general) is an important issue for capacity development.

It was noted by the meeting chair that there was support from some TTMs that the use of ICT was an important area needing capacity development support.

Products of CATALYST

Tereza Cavazos: An important CATALYST product should be the creation of regional databases of data collected.

Matt Hare responded that we will consider doing so. It has to be noted however that the resources of CATALYST are finite – part of the consideration process is to know we have to have resources to do so and know that it is a priority for the TTM as a whole.

What is the thematic focus of CATALYST?

Nandan Mukherjee: Will CATALYST focus on the issues of the TTM members or on capacity development needs/gaps as assessed locally?

Peter van der Keur answered that the focus will be on capacity development in relation to the themes discussed. For example, we will not address climate change adaptation as such, but on capacity development in relation to this.

[**CATALYST note:** to further answer the question, the focus will be a mix of what the TTM identify as gaps/needs and what the project partners identify through their regional analysis, both of which will be based, as Peter says, on CATALYST key themes mentioned in the opening presentation by Matt Hare]

Part IV: Knowledge sharing and exchange – thematic preparation

Presentation: Extreme events under a changing climate (Jaroslav Mysiak)

Downloadable from: <http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html>

Presentation: Towards the state of the art in NH/DRR capacity development (Fons Jaspers)

Downloadable from: <http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html>

Discussion

Translation

Ana Pena del Valle: Will some of the reports / knowledge products be translated into other languages such as Spanish?

Matt Hare responded affirmatively - there is a budget for translation of CATALYST knowledge products.

Part V: Close of meeting

Matt Hare thanked all participants, moderators and presenters and apologised on behalf of CATALYST for the TTM who were “locked out” of the meeting and were unable to join in. The problem will not be repeated.

Part VI: Next Steps

- CATALYST will send a questionnaire to all the participants on the quality of this meeting.
- The regional processes will begin with online discussions – this will be announced by the regional process leaders shortly.
- The meeting has been recorded for all TTM who wish to hear it again, or for the first time. It, along with the presentations will be uploaded and accessible to all TTM via the Think Tank reserved area of the CATALYST website.

Regional next steps

The regional process leaders also provided the next steps in their regional processes. These steps are listed below for each region.

East and West Africa

- Online discussion, starting today, via the CATALYST website
→ point of departure are the topics identified by you, guiding the way to:
 - The virtual meeting for West and East Africa in late June 2012,
 - The regional workshop (probably in Addis Ababa) in October 2012
- Invitation to read and comment on the foundation document with terminology used by CATALYST and extended regional information that is under preparation (but a first insights report, D2.2, is already available)
- Agree on meeting schedule for online discussion (doodle poll for specific times will be sent out asap)

- Agree on the dates for the regional virtual meeting in June 2012 and the regional workshop in October 2012 (a doodle poll will be sent out asap, can it be linked to a DRR workshop / conference?).

European Mediterranean

- Online discussion, starting today, via the Catalyst web site with point of departure in the topics identified by you, on our way to:
 - The virtual meeting for the European Mediterranean region in June, and further down the line to the regional workshop in September / October
- A foundation document with Catalyst used terminology and extended regional information is under preparation, an earlier report available
- Agree on meeting schedule for online discussion (doodle poll for specific times)
- Agree on date and time for regional virtual meeting in June (doodle poll)
- Agree on date and venue (in Bari) for regional workshop in Sept / Oct

South and Southeast Asia

- Online discussion, starting today, via the Catalyst web site with point of departure in the topics identified by you, on our way to:
- The virtual meeting for the South East Asia region in June, and further down the line to the regional workshop in January 2013
- A Foundation document with Catalyst used terminology and extended regional information is under preparation, an earlier report available
- Agree on meeting schedule for online discussion (doodle poll for specific times)
- Agree on date and time for regional virtual meeting in June (doodle poll)
- Agree on date and venue for regional workshop in January 2013 (can it be linked to a DRR workshop / conference?)

Central America and the Caribbean

- Online discussion
 - Feedback on the thematic priorities, collection of interesting stories, cases, and best practice examples
 - CAC background document (draft to be circulated in short time)
 - Capacity development under the HFA follow-up agreement
- Choice of the venue for the regional workshop
 - Venue (ideally in synergy with a regional DRR event), local partnership, format/agenda
 - Likely date: first week of December 2012
- Preparation of the CAC regional virtual meeting
 - Agenda and date

3 The East and West Africa Regional Virtual Meetings

Jochen Luther (UFZ)
& Christian Kuhlicke (UFZ)

3.1 1st EWA Regional Virtual Meeting

CATALYST 1st Virtual Meeting for the East and West Africa region

29 June 2012 via Blackboard Collaborate

Hosted by United Nations University, Institute for Environment & Human Security (UNU-EHS)

Chaired by Jochen Luther, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ

Minutes

Participants:

- **Think Tank Members (TTMs):** *David Dodman* (International Institute for Environment and Development – IIED, London, United Kingdom), *Haddis Rebbi* (Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development – EiABC, Addis Ababa University – AAU, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), *Ko Takeuchi* (UN-Habitat, Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch, Nairobi, Kenya), *Animesh Kumar* (Ministry of Agriculture, Disaster Risk Management and Flood Security Sector – DRMFSS, Government of Ethiopia & United Nations World Food Programme – WFP, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia), *Dewald von Niekerk* (North-West University – NWU, African Centre for Disaster Studies – ACDS, Potchefstroom, South Africa), *Alexander Matheou* (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – IFRC, East Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya), *Martin Socher* (Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture – SMUL, Dresden, Germany, was not able to participate due to technical reasons but provided slides)
- **CATALYST project partners:** *Jochen Luther* (UFZ – responsible for the Think Tank process in East and West Africa – EWA), *Humaira Daniels* (UNU-EHS – responsible for the project synthesis), *Fons Japsers* (Alterra, Wageningen, The Netherlands – responsible for the D3.1 document), *Caroline van Bers* (seeconsult, Osnabrück, Germany – representing the project coordinator), *Elisa Calliari* (Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei – FEEM, Venice, Italy – responsible for the Think Tank process in Central America and the Caribbean – CAC), *Peter van der Keur* (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland – GEUS, Copenhagen, Denmark – responsible for the Think Tank process in South and Southeast Asia – SSA and in the European Mediterranean – EUM)

1) Welcome, meeting purpose, and recap of the CATALYST project and its goals & timeline for the African regional Think Tank process

For the opening of the meeting Jochen Luther first gave an overview of the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) which is the project partner he and Christian Kuhlicke – the regional process leaders for the East and West Africa region of the CATALYST project – are affiliated to. UFZ is a large public German research institute with 8 Scientific Divisions and 34 Departments. One such division is the Division of Social Sciences, within whose Department of Urban and Environmental Sociology the CATALYST research is being carried out. Urban research at the UFZ is related to the following research topics:

- Urban development: land-use conflicts and options in growing and shrinking regions
- Megatrend Urbanisation: Urban vulnerability and environmental risks
- Sustainability assessment for land-use options on contaminated sites

This was followed by a review of the main features of CATALYST and some more detailed information on the Think Tank. By June 2012, there were ca. 50 members from 28 countries in 4 regions (Central America/Caribbean – CAC, South/Southeast Asia – SSA, Mediterranean Europe – EUM, and East/West Africa – EWA), representing IOs, NGOs, governments, scientists, networks and the private sector (see slide 8 in the PPT/PDF presentation for the 1st African Virtual Meeting). In order to recall the timeline and cornerstones of the Think Tank process, Jochen Luther presented the overall CATALYST Think Tank scheme and how the EWA Regional Process is embedded in it.

Questions / discussion:

During the first round of questions and feedback on the Think Tank process one question was about how the participants of this virtual meeting could participate in CATALYST as a TTM. This could quickly be clarified, as it would be easy by (ideally) signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), and by participating in the online discussions, virtual meetings and the upcoming regional.

David Dodman: It would be helpful to have more information about the objectives of the Think Tank and the project. What is the relationship between knowledge products and capacity development?

Jochen Luther: We are identifying gaps, needs and barriers as a starting point to support capacity development. One of the knowledge products for example will be a training module that will be available online and can be used and adjusted according to the users' requirements. It however will depend on the insights and feedback we will receive.

David Dodman: Could you clarify what gap is this project trying to fill?

Jochen Luther: We can only identify gaps by asking open questions and then raise the awareness of these gaps. We are trying to identify the actors and support them in developing a common vision. We would like to identify and try to fill knowledge and networks gap that the actors perceive as such while providing capacity development.

Caroline van Bers: What is identified as a gap in one region may already be filled in another (CATALYST) region. Hence CATALYST can support the cross-regional transfer of this knowledge.

2) Specific questions CATALYST wants to address and first insights

The information to be collated includes:

- What forms of capacity development are the TTM providers providing/receiving?
- For which themes & measures, and with the help of which tools/methods?
- How are measures/activities including training assessed?
- How are scientific/local knowledge, guidelines and best practice examples taken up by policy and decision makers?
- What are the gaps in and the barriers, needs, and challenges for successful DRR/CCA and capacity development for it?
- Who are the partners, networks and other actors involved?
- Which expectations do the (non-academic) TTM providers have from science and more academic projects such as CATALYST? From their perspective, what is the added value of a project like CATALYST? How can we best serve their needs?

Some identified topics of interest from the TTM providers:

- A better understanding of risk concepts and the complexity and uncertainty of natural hazards (NH) and climate change (CC) issues and related mitigation and adaptation.
- Providing best (and worst) practice examples and evidence of benefits of (early) action
- Trainings for existing tools, but also new methods, plus study tours and staff exchanges
- Support for baseline assessments (e.g. where capacity development is needed)
- Operationalising large-scale initiatives and assessment tools for the local level, tailor guidelines/methods to different user groups and involve them when creating such tools
- Climate data, hazard and event scenarios
- Databases that collect impacts, list the nature and state of measures, etc.

Some barriers for successful DRR and CCA:

- Missing political will, corruption
- Lack of resources
- The complexity and uncertainty of NH / CC
- Sectoralisation of aid (e.g. between rural and urban, short-term and long-term) and fragmentation of responsibilities
- Difficult access to climate data
- Quick turnover of staff
- Language barriers and illiteracy
- Missing communication infrastructure / electricity
- Many processes organised by externals without local knowledge
- Insufficient evidence for what works and what does not

Some challenges of dealing with DRR at the local scale:

- Often communities cannot even deal with the current hazards and climate and cannot sufficiently provide basic infrastructure
- Accumulation of assets creates higher damage potentials

- Informal settlements, poor urban planning (urban planners often not part of DRR)
- Lack of awareness
- Acknowledging the potential within communities, strengthening
- community organisations, handing over decision power (e.g. overfunding) and responsibilities
- Start from every day “disasters” and then work up to the “risk continuum”

Discussion:

David Dodman: I don't see much on underlying barriers such as lack of infrastructure. These issues should be more visible in the project. The SREX report also points to importance of bringing in local and regional knowledge.

Ko Takeuchi: Regarding the outcome of this project, will there be a further project to follow up on gaps and needs identified?

Jochen Luther: The project is still collecting information on gaps. As a European Union-funded project it will end but we are trying to ensure that the network we are building will actively work together in the future (after the project ends).

Caroline van Bers: Furthermore, the project website (<http://www.catalyst-project.eu/index.html>) will be a means of ensuring that the results and some of the activities of the project endure after its official end. It will be placed into the hands of an organisation with the resources to maintain and enhance the website with future developments in the area of capacity development for DRR/CCA.

Alexander Matheou (from chat): I am sure we all know the urban risk agenda is huge, especially in new settlements, or slums, and making them safer is a huge investment – infrastructure, roads, water, power etc. Are we looking for ideas/interventions likely to work in the absence of those infrastructural investments, on the assumption they will not be happening soon?

Jochen Luther: We will most welcome such (refined) ideas. We will also try to link disasters that especially African cities are facing to issues of mortality.

3) Information on the EWA Regional Workshop

During this agenda item Jochen Luther and Animesh Kumar presented the state of preparation for the EWA Regional Workshop. In terms of the thematic focus, for Africa we want to specifically explore the challenges of (1) urban multiple risks, (2) the synergies but also limits of linking DRR and CCA and their integration into urban planning, and (3) of making the link between international / national activities and subnational / local activities (top-down and bottom up). Why focus on risks from natural hazards in East & West African cities? Because it is an outdated perception that (1) natural hazards affect mainly the rural areas in Africa, (2) drought is the biggest problem, and (3) Africa is relying on international aid. The rapid urbanisation creates specific exposures and vulnerabilities, leaving high risks, but possibly also high potential behind.

- There will be a close cooperation with local partners and the project CLUVA (Climate Change and Urban Vulnerability in Africa, <http://www.cluva.eu>)
- Dates and duration: 10-13 October, or 12 & 15-16 October 2012, for 2-3 days
- Venue: Either at the local UN facilities or at the Ethiopian Institute of Architecture, Building Construction and City Development (EiABC) at Addis Ababa University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Finances: Costs for the organisation and for travel and accommodation will be covered by the CATALYST project.

Discussion:

Animesh Kumar: I suggest a 3 days conference on urban disasters. They are not really represented. We have some funding from UNISDR (Geneva) and we are interested in collaborating with other organisations and initiatives to prepare a conference on Urban Disaster Risk Management.

Jochen Luther: This is a very good idea. We want to design the workshop so that you can use this in your regions. Haddis Rebbi from EiABC who is not with us today said that at EiABC they are aware of the workshop and they will bring in their own experiences from their case studies in Addis Ababa.

David Dodman: Looking at the invitation document makes a good case for the workshop. What would be useful for the TTMs is to consider how to be more strategic about where the ideas and outcomes from the workshop will be used, and for which cities this would be most useful.

Jochen Luther: It is difficult to get an overview of the different organisations and their potential roles, esp. the larger organisations. So we are open for suggestions on who and which organisations to invite and involve.

Ko Takeuchi will send more information on the UNEP-UNHABITAT project focussing on transport planning in 3 cities in Africa.

Jochen Luther: It would it be logical to also include in the workshop discussion the need for more detailed local level analyses of the role of multiple interacting factors including development activities and DRR in the African context.

Ko Takeuchi: A significant issue is that sectors do not consider how their own sectors affect other sectors. In DRR we use very specific indicators (e.g. losses prevented) but this does not take into account long-term resilience. We are trying to develop indicators of resilience in urban settings that link to long-term recovery.

Peter McGrath: He stressed that in the CATALYST project we want to improve capacity development in or for DRR and CCA and the way we can tap into and disseminate the existing pool of knowledge (i.e. to enhance capacity between and among sectors and regions). Hence we also welcome ideas on how capacity development that is effective in one region can be applied to another region.

4) Slides provided by Prof Martin Socher (SMUL) and presented by Jochen Luther

These slides (see the PPT/PDF of the presentation, slides 19-25) on the Source Pathway Receptor conceptual model were provided by Prof Martin Socher from the Saxon State Ministry of the Environment and Agriculture (SMUL) in Dresden, Germany, who has many years of experience in innovative flood risk management in Central Europe. However, he also lived in Addis Ababa for several years and has a strong interest in DRR/CCA issues in Ethiopia. The title of this input was "Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation – a Strategic Approach".

5) Next steps – Jochen Luther (UFZ)

- Events and networks of interest:
 - The Understanding Risk Forum 2-5 July in Cape Town: <http://www.understandrisk.org/ur/>
 - 1st Biennial Conference, Southern African Society for Disaster Reduction, Potchefstroom, North-West Province, South Africa, 10-12 October 2012: <http://acds.co.za> (Our main contact for this event is Prof Dewald van Niekerk, a CATALYST Think Tank member)

- UNISDR's Making cities resilient campaign: <http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities> (Partners in this initiative include: Local Governments for Sustainability – ICLEI, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction – GNDR, Arab Towns Association. UN-Habitat, International Labour Organisation – ILO, and many more)
- Global Network for Civil Society Organisations in DRR has many partners in East and West Africa (<http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org/home.html>).
- Online discussion forum on the CATALYST website: A place to discuss topics on capacity development in DRR and CCA.
- Finalising the reference document D3.1 on the state-of-the-art capacity development from desktop studies and the discussions in the Think Tank (i.e. in collaboration with you) by the end of July. We seek your assistance by reviewing this document.
- Maintaining and expanding the (online) discussions and preparing / fine-tuning the regional workshop: TTMs are asked to use the online forum to provide further input for the African regional process, or to send comments directly to Jochen Luther (jochen.luther@ufz.de).

The CATALYST Think Tank process offers an opportunity for selected and interested actors (TTMs) to set the agenda for shaping and adding value to capacity development activities in the CATALYST region(s) with input from African but also global TTMs as well as the CATALYST partners with different backgrounds (governments, NGOs, research, private sector, civil society, etc.), views, and foci. A main question for us is how we as CATALYST project partners can best serve your needs, by:

- 1 summarising your responses from questionnaires and interviews,
- 2 providing an overview of actors, initiatives, approaches / methods and practice examples,
- 3 coming up with a training module,
- 4 enabling knowledge exchange, etc.

Acknowledgements: Thank you to the CATALYST TTMs who contributed with their insights also via questionnaires and interviews to this important first event of the project's East and West Africa region!

3.2 2nd EWA Regional Virtual Meeting

CATALYST 2nd Virtual Meeting for the East and West Africa region

7 March 2013 via Adobe Connect

Chaired by Jochen Luther, Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ

Moderated by Caroline van Bers, seeconsult GmbH

Minutes

Participants:

- **TTMs:** *Faith Chihumbiri (ICLEI Africa), Ephrem Gebremariam (EiABC), Marème Ndour (U Gaston Berger), Ko Takeuchi (UN-Habitat), Animesh Kumar (UNISDR Africa), Dewald von Niekerk (NWU ACDS)*
- **CATALYST project partners:** *Jochen Luther (UFZ), Humaira Daniel (UNU-EHS), Fons Jaspers (Alterra), Cristina Serra (TWAS), Caroline van Bers (seeconsult), Matt Hare (seeconsult)*

1) Status of the East & West Africa (EWA)² Think Tank process

In order to recall the timeline and cornerstones of the Think Tank process, Jochen Luther presented the overall CATALYST Think Tank scheme and how the East & West Africa (EWA) Regional Process is embedded in it (see the PowerPoint presentation slide 3). This 2nd Regional Virtual Meeting was additionally held (in the original plan only one regional virtual meeting was planned) in order to discuss the Regional Workshop summary report³ and inform those Think Tank Members (TTMs) that were not able to attend the workshop. He also highlighted again the final outputs of the project, being (good/best/transformational) practice papers, a policy notebook, a resource website, and hopefully a cross-regional and enduring DRR/CCA network.

2) Presentation and discussion of the EWA Regional Workshop Summary Report

The next and main agenda point was presenting and discussing the summary and the outcomes of the EWA Regional Workshop Summary Report which will form one of the four regional chapters of the next project deliverable (called D4.2 – Regional Workshop Reports, see presentation pages 6-9).

The overall aim of the workshop was to develop a shared vision on how disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) should be (better) integrated into urban settings in Africa – and how urban planning could contribute (more) to DRR and CCA. In 4 group sessions (good practices, gaps & barriers, capacity development offers, and recommendations), the workshop focused on assessments of risks and measures, examples for specific measures, the use of local and scientific knowledge and capacity development/training activities. The 27 participants

² We hold on to the original name of the CATALYST region (“East & West Africa - EWA”) for now, although a number of TTMs from Southern Africa have contributed with important inputs.

³ See http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/rm_afr.html

came from UN bodies, national government (Ethiopia), NGOs, Universities, the EU, and the CATALYST project consortium.

To stimulate the discussion, Jochen Luther presented some observations and possible patterns in DRR (and to a lesser extent in CCA) and the capacity development that supports DRR and that DRR and CCA activities entail. For example, the way of aid is delivered has changed from a focus on relief and “classical” technical assistance towards more non-technical help, such as institutional building, “capacity building”⁴, urban planning (also due to the fact, that Africa is experiencing a significant urbanisation now). He began with controversial topics and rhetorical questions such as “Who determines the need for help/capacity development? The donors or the social groups identified as “vulnerable” themselves?” and stating examples for practices (e.g. structural measures like a dike, but also methods and tools). However, no real discussion started on this point at this moment.

3) Evaluation of the EWA Regional Workshop & overall process so far

Based on the evaluation sheets that were filled out by the participating TTMs after the Regional Workshop, Caroline van Bers presented the impressions the participants had of the workshop. In general, feedback was very positive. The detailed evaluation forms can be found in the annex of the EWA Regional Workshop Summary Report (and D4.2, respectively).

4) Discussion of inputs for the "Best Practice Paper"

As a basis for the discussion, Jochen Luther presented some initial thoughts and identified challenges for the project outputs related to “best” practices (see presentation pages 12-15). These outputs will be synthesis reports on “best practices” (D5.1), networks and research gaps (D5.2), and on recommendations for fostering capacity development and strengthening networks in DRR and CCA (D5.3) as well as a module on capacity development in natural hazard management (D5.4). More concisely and specifically targeted at practitioners and policy makers are the best practice papers for the four CATALYST regions (D6.4) and best practice policy notebook (D6.5). All will be available on the project website and will be actively disseminated through various channels.

Discussion:

- Ko Takeuchi furthermore referred (more or less in agreement) via email to the 4th point of slide 9 in the presentation (“There is limited evidence across East & West Africa that CCA is truly mainstreamed into DRR, and that both CCA and DRR are truly mainstreamed into urban planning”). He mentioned that this is not just about DRR/CCA issues. In general, compared to other regions in the world, cities in Africa generally lack urban planning and urban master plans OR they are outdated. In addition, there is no specific unit or department assigned for urban planning in the municipalities OR even if they have such a unit or department, capacity in terms of manpower, equipment, data, technology etc. is lacking to develop urban plans and policies, let alone integrating DRR components in them.
- Ko Takeuchi added that he was not too convinced with the diagram on slide 15 in the presentation (with the check marks). The categorisation on the left is fine, but the categorisation on the bottom doesn't seem to match with the left. For example, "setting up organisations..." will definitely have a relationship with "institutional/governance" and is

⁴ Note that it is nowadays common to speak of “capacity development”, and that the concept is very critically discussed at the moment, as all development activities are about capacities.

unlikely to have a relationship with "technical/physical". Jochen Luther mentioned that this was "work in progress" and these ideas need to be rethought and also need to mature a bit.

- Another comment from Ko Takeuchi was that as far as he knows from working with UNISDR at the global level, the post-Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) framework is likely to focus more on cities and municipalities.
- Marème Ndour: The observation that we made in the context of our research in Saint Louis, Senegal, found that in general, good practices that are commonly valued are a bit far from the sphere of households experiencing vulnerability. In addition, methodologies and adaptation approaches that are proposed on a global scale cannot be applied properly and sustainably by households (and the local scale). In the context of the city of Saint Louis, we decided to intervene at the finest scale possible and to work directly with households. We decided to adopt an original approach, that we call "political dialogue". This methodology is applied with the Ward Council which is an institution that involves all community-based organisations (CBO/OCB?) in a Ward. The activities of these DW (Ward Councils?) are considered "best practices" and are currently being replicated in other cities in Senegal, such as Louga and Mbour. These DW develop an economic model to support adaptation to climate-induced disasters such as flooding and coastal erosion (exacerbated by sea level rise). This is an example of an innovative financial system to support local adaptation costs.

Concerning vulnerability assessment, we realised within the CLUVA project in Saint Louis, that fragmented surveys which are an accurate method to locate vulnerable communities and households and to determine levels of vulnerabilities and the forms of adaptation to be developed. As for social vulnerability, we also favour the study through a humanitarian approach that tracks the trajectories of vulnerable households.

In effect all these approaches can address the problem of data availability for DRR.

Currently, we are trying to organise all of these approaches and methodologies around a data platform named SIGNAR (Integrated Management System and Risk Assistance). A decisional and organisational model will be proposed and will allow for the involvement of households and communities in the decision-making processes related to DRR and CCA.

- Ephrem Gebremariam wanted to share their experience from Addis Ababa which is one of the case study cities in the CLUVA project. Here, a national workshop was held in parallel to a revision project of the Addis Ababa urban master plan. Unfortunately, connection and sound quality were very poor, so the information was lost. Information on CLUVA can also be found on the website: <http://www.cluva.eu>.

5) Discussion of inputs for the "Special Report on Stakeholder Advice"

One of the "interim" project deliverable will be the "Special Report on Stakeholder Advice" (D4.4). Matt Hare presented the main contents of this document, being recommendations from different sectors. A main question in this context was how to shape reports to policy-makers to make them effective.

Discussion:

- An important point raised by Faith Chihumbiri was that it is a very timely intervention that we are preparing for policy makers. But it would be interesting and important to also capture local authorities in a special section. Ko Takeuchi agreed regarding an additional section on (advice from) local authorities/governments/communities.
- Animesh Kumar mentioned that he thinks NGOs can bring up these community voices. And with agreement of Ko Takeuchi, he added that it is important to treat UN bodies as a separate sector.
- Dewald van Niekerk also stressed the importance of communities and suggested to consider the GNDR (<http://www.globalnetwork-dr.org>) and views from the frontline data that is available for community voices.

6) Discussion of inputs for an online training module on DRR & CCA

Fons Jaspers presented general ideas for an online module which will be a formal deliverable of the CATALYST project (D5.4, see presentation slides 21-31).

Discussion:

- Ko Takeuchi mentioned a website which provides various tools on humanitarian responses as well as excellent information on DRR: <http://www.urban-response.org>. He would need to give the whole issues more thought.
- Fons Jaspers: The focus of the CATALYST online training module is however on practitioners from/on the intermediate level (i.e. people linking global and local level activities).
- Dewald van Niekerk provided a perspective from South Africa. For example, at his university and the African Centre for Disaster Studies (<http://www.acds.co.za>) there is a plethora of open-access knowledge material (e.g. 6 training modules, e.g. to make everyone speak the same language) that might be used to build courses for university students and other target groups (so it is not a course in itself but more the ingredients for such a course). Also for information on CCA peer-reviewed publications such as “Jàmbá : Journal of Disaster Risk Studies” can be downloaded via the webpage.
- Caroline can Bers asked whether he could imagine that they are useful to practitioners/that they are adaptable for them. => answer: Yes, it is the main idea to adapt these tools.

7) Next steps

The next steps of the project (see presentation slides 33-42) will be the review of the full draft report on best practices (D5.1) as well as D5.2 and D5.3. This means we will now move back to multi-regional discussions, if requested also through global virtual meetings. In June/July more drafts and PowerPoint presentations will be available, namely the “Special Report on Stakeholder Advice to Policy-Makers () and the draft teaching module on DRR/CCA.

8) Any other business and questions

- The meeting was recorded, without objection by the TTMs. The recording will be available in the Think Tank reserved area of the website (<http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt->

[reserved/rm_afr.html](#)), especially for those who could not attend this 2nd virtual EWA meeting. Here, all other documents related to the African Think Tank process can still be accessed. (notes from Marius?)

- Jochen Luther would like to speak to some TTMs bilaterally via Skype. He is also attending the Resilient Cities Conference in Bonn, Germany, in May 2013 (<http://resilient-cities.iclei.org>), presenting insights from the regional Think Tank process and trying to meet some of the TTMs. He has also applied to attend the UNISDR Global Platform on DRR in Geneva in May 2013.
- The upcoming UNISDR Global Platform for DRR in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2013 (<http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013>) will be attended from the following CATALYST project team members: Jaroslav Mysiak (FEEM), Caroline van Bers (seeconsult), and Jochen Luther (UFZ, pending). From UN-Habitat, the whole crew will be going, including the Executive Director Dr. Joan Clos and Ko Takeuchi.

4 The Central America and Caribbean Regional Virtual Meetings

Elisa Callieri (FEEM)
& Jaroslav Mysiak (FEEM)

4.1 1st CAC Regional Virtual Meeting

Summary

1st CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting

Central America and Caribbean

Online via Blackboard Collaborate

Hosted by United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security

Chaired by Elisa Callieri and Jaroslav Mysiak

2nd July 2012

This report provides a summary of the regional virtual think tank meeting for Central America and Caribbean of the CATALYST project.

All the slides presented can be downloaded by logging onto the CATALYST think tank reserved area site: www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/index.html

Participants:

- **Think Tank Members**

Carlos Perez Aleman (UNDP Nicaragua); *Ebru Gencer* (Columbia University); *Nicola Rebor*a (CIMA Research Foundation)

- **Catalyst Partners**

Elisa Callieri (FEEM); *Humaira Daniel* (UNU – EHS); *Fons Jaspers* (Alterra); *Jochen Luther*, UFZ; *Jaroslav Mysiak* (FEEM); *Chahira Nouira* (UNU-EHS), *Caroline van Bers*, (seeconsult) ; *Peter van der Keur* (GEUS)

1) Review

The first part of the meeting was devoted to a brief review of the activities undertaken within the Regional Process for Central America and Caribbean in the last months (March – July).

Attention was firstly drawn on the main results arising from the on-line discussions. An overview of their main findings was given, together with an explanation on how they will shape Deliverable 3.1 (*Report on Capacity Development on Disaster Risk Reduction*). The deliverable is meant to be a combination between desk research and the insights provided by the Think Tank members and it will serve as a basis for the development of CATALYST's knowledge products. It was stressed that the more the Think Tank members manage to participate in its elaboration through the online discussions, the more they will be able to shape the above-mentioned knowledge products around their interests and needs.

Discussion

Some questions were then addressed to the participants of the virtual meeting in order to better understand why participation in the online discussions was not as ample as expected. Elisa noted that the online discussions represent an important tool to promote knowledge sharing and networking among the various institutions involved in CATALYST and advised for a full and fruitful use of such a tool.

Ebru Gencer agreed that the online discussions can be very useful for sharing information and get to know more about one another's projects. In her opinion, it would be a good idea to upload TT members' presentations or papers on the Forum, in order to learn more from each other's work.

She also asked, referring to the Regional workshop to be held by the end of the year, if participants will be expected to make some presentations on what they do or their topic of interests are.

Jaroslav replied affirmatively, stressing also the idea that the workshop should be designed together with the Think Tank members.

Humaira Daniel added that the workshop will also be a good opportunity for sharing and including other topics that was not possible to touch during the online discussions, as well as an occasion for summarizing and verifying the outcomes of the regional process.

Elisa asked the participant what they think was the major factor in inhibiting the online discussions and Ebru Gencer replied that the questions were maybe too general and therefore hard to be answered.

Elisa answered that the ambition was to cover many broad topics and participants are not requested to answer to all the questions but only to those that are more consistent with their field of expertise. She explained that the online discussions will continue until the end of July. Then all the insights from the stakeholders will be collected and incorporated in Deliverable 3.1. After that, the online discussions will be used to deepen specific topics that might be more consistent with the challenges faced by the Central America and Caribbean region.

Humaira Daniel added that the point raised by Ebru was also showed by other participants but the problem can be overcome by selecting to answer only to the questions felt to be more relevant.

2) Looking to the future

The second part of the meeting was chaired by Jaroslav Mysiak that presented the main topics and themes that will be deepened in the preparation and in the occasion of the Regional workshop. These will be:

- *Ecosystem services for disaster risk reduction and risk mitigation, their economic value*
- *Regional consultation about the capacity building needs in the context of the post Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA),*
- *Specific vulnerabilities of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*

He stressed that this does not mean introducing new topics for discussions. Instead, it entails conducting a more specific analysis in the same areas deepened so far during the online consultations, taking into account some specific themes of interest for the region. For example, attention will be drawn on existing assessment methodologies available for the three above-mentioned topic or on the experiences collected by the Think Tank members in those fields.

Jaroslav then proceeded in presenting the 2 options on the table for the organization of the Regional workshop:

- organization in the context of a major DRR conference such as the *7th annual Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management* (by CDEMA)
- organization in collaboration with a major institute such as the Disaster Risk Reduction Centre at the University of West Indies (stand-alone event).

Discussion

After providing an overview of the pros and cons of the 2 options, some comments on the choice of workshop format were requested to the participants: Nicola Reborá expressed his preference for the first option asking for more details on the possible venue.

The participants were also asked to provide suggestions on other thematic priorities to be included in the workshop agenda. Carlos Pérez Aleman welcomed the three proposed issues for the workshop, showing particular interest in knowing more about the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). He also proposed to incorporate the theme of financial mechanisms for recovering from extreme events, focusing especially on the role of insurances. He noted that, generally speaking, in Central American and Caribbean the percentage of people with insurance is very low. What is needed is understanding why this happens and what can be done to increase the number of people and properties /assets that are insured.

Fons Jaspers noted that in the report on CAC made recently circulating, there is quite an attention to urban areas especially to poor areas. How does it fit with the thematic priorities identified?

Jaroslav explained that the CAC process also aims at collecting knowledge in order to allow for regional comparison: a theme such as urban vulnerability can be useful for making a comparison with the African reality, for example. It's important to keep in mind that a value added of the project is the possibility of confronting and making knowledge transfer possible among the

different regions involved in CATALYST: Europe Mediterranean, Eastern and Western Africa, South and South-East Asia and Central America and Caribbean.

Next steps

July:

- Maintaining and expanding (online) discussions: Think tank members are asked to use the online forum to provide further input for the CAC regional process, or to send comments directly to Elisa.
- By the end of the month a draft of Deliverable 3.1 will be sent out to get feedbacks and comments

From August on:

- online discussions focusing on the thematic priorities identified.

September:

- By the end of the month the Agenda for the Regional workshop will be sent, specifying the possible contributions requested to the participants

October:

- At the beginning of the month, it will be possible to register for the Workshop.

Workshop organization: information will be sent by Elisa as soon as available.

4.2 2nd CAC Regional Virtual Meeting

Summary

2nd CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting

Central America and Caribbean

Online via GoToMeeting

Chaired by Elisa Calliari and Jaroslav Mysiak

1st March 2013

This report provides a summary of the Virtual Think Tank meeting for Central America and the Caribbean of the CATALYST project. The slides presented, as well as the meeting recording, can be downloaded by logging onto the CATALYST think tank reserved area site:

http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/rm_cac.html

Participants:

- **Think Tank Members**

Camille Buyck (IUCN) – representing *Radhika Murti*; *Tereza Cavazos* (Network on hydrometeorological and climatic disasters); *Ana Peña del Valle* (PINCC); *Ebru Gencer* (Columbia University); *Sharon Lindo* (CCCCC); *Fabrice Renaud* (UNU-EHS); *Gonzalo Roque* (Infinita Consulting); *Francisco Cajas Toledo* (Networks for the management of risk and adaptation to climate change); *Marta Vicarelli* (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies)

- **Catalyst Partners**

Elisa Calliari (FEEM); *Fons Jaspers* (Alterra); *Jaroslav Mysiak* (FEEM); *Matt Hare*, (Seeconsult)

1) Summary of the Workshop results and Workshop evaluation (Elisa Calliari)

The presentation was intended to provide those Think Tank members who did not take part in the Regional Workshop (RW) with a brief summary of the event and its main results. Information about the RW, including the Workshop proceedings, Agenda, list of Attendees, presentations and pictures, is available in the reserved area of the CATALYST web site: http://www.catalyst-project.eu/tt-reserved/rm_cac.html

The Think Tank members who presented during the RW were invited to check the accuracy of the information reported in the proceedings and to communicate possible changes and corrections at their earliest convenience.

As for the workshop evaluation, forms collected were 14 out of 21 participants. The results were very positive and gratifying for the organizers. Participants reported that their expectations for the event were met, mainly in terms of:

- Opportunities for Networking and Sharing of knowledge/experiences
- Better understanding of the CATALYST project

Main strengths of the Workshop were identified in:

- Optimal selection of participants
- Good discussions
- Effective and enthusiastic participation
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Focus on ecosystem services for DRR
- Very good organization

Some recommendations for improvement were also provided, mainly in terms of time management. In particular, difficulties in sticking to the very tight workshop agenda resulted in less time dedicated to group discussions. Also, the choice of linking the CATALYST workshop to the CDEMA Conference was not judged optimal by all participants: some of them thought it would have been better to concentrate on the project instead of taking part in the conference. However, Elisa stressed that CDEMA's event provided a good opportunity to present the CATALYST project to a wider public, and to network with institutions, organizations and practitioners in the field of DRR/CCA.

2) Presentation of the Best Practices Draft Report (Elisa Calliari)

Given the impossibility of Humaira Daniel (UNU-EHS) to take part in the meeting, Elisa briefly outlined the main features of the Best Practices Report (D 5.1), due by April 2013.

The Report builds on two previous documents: the *Regional Workshop Proceedings* and the *Regional Workshop Reports (D4.2)*. Both the documents collect and systematize information emerging from the 4 Regional Workshops, held between September 2012 and January 2013 in Bari (EUM), Addis Ababa (EWA), Jamaica (CAC) and Bangkok (SEA).

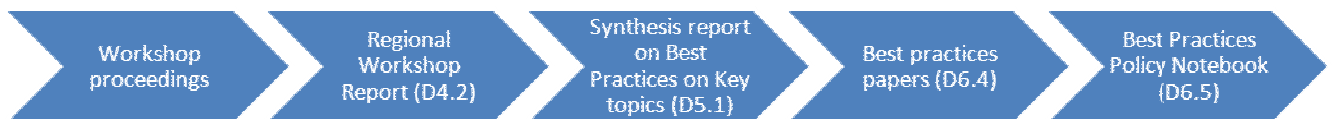
In particular, D4.2 organizes the information gathered in the Workshops according to 4 headings:

- State of the art of DRR and CCA activities including good practices
- Moving towards best practices
- Gaps and barriers in research and networks
- Recommendations for fostering capacity development

This information is now being employed for the development of the *Best Practices Report*, aimed at outlining knowledge on best/good practices in capacity development for DRR and CCA. It is meant to synthesize the most important existing knowledge and skills arising from each region and that it would be worth transferring to the others.

The Best Practices report will serve as a basis for future dissemination products such as the *Best Practices paper* and the *Best Practice Notebook*. The former will outline the main discussion points and recommendations made in each workshop and will be disseminated to policy makers, the public and the media, while the latter will put together the knowledge generated in the whole project and will be specifically targeted to policy makers.

Fig 1: The Development of CATALYST's knowledge products



3) Collecting recommendation for the CATALYST on-line teaching module (Fons Jaspers)

The presentation provided an overview on how the CATALYST on-line teaching module should look like and the contents it should cover. Fons explained that the module is intended as training and guidance material for practitioners in the field of DRR/CCA at the intermediate level (not politicians nor communities, but people in between), and will focus on ways and tools to improve capacity development. Therefore, it will not focus on DRM issues, but on connecting technical capacities for the tasks practitioners have to implement, including capacities for cross cutting issues.

The results of the Regional Workshop help in outlining the features of the module, providing information on the needs of the region –what is not working and why-, on those subjects who are more in need of training and on the contents it would be worth covering in the module. For example, topics like ecosystem services for DRR or the Cuban experience in coping with disasters were pointed out during the workshop as valuable to share and will be taken into account in the design of the module.

As for its format, the NeWater on-line curriculum will be taken as an example, being the CATALYST consortium partners already familiar with it. More information on the NeWater module is available at: <http://www.newatereducation.nl/>

The CATALYST on-line module will be operational in the UNU system, so that to assure its functionality over time, and will be available for the CAC region both in English and Spanish.

Discussion

Fabrice Renaud ventilated the possibility of using some material on ecosystem services for DRR already available for a Master in Cologne, in which he and Dr. Murti (IUCN) are involved in.

Francisco Cajas Toledo stressed the importance of including topics like geologic risk and, more in general, trying to focus on tools for empowering local communities and authorities.

Tereza Cavazos asked whether the module will be open to the general public and Fons replied affirmatively. Matt added that the idea is to adopt an open source copyright free approach, where people can download and reengineer the material for their particular purposes. He also recommended to include in the module a section where people can download useful examples and documents (for example, the model legislation elaborated by CDEMA for its member states).

4) recommendations for the sustainability of the CATALYST Think Tank

Jaroslav asked the TTMs whether they see any practical benefits in keeping the Think Tank running after the project conclusion. As there are different existing networks and well established collaborations already in place (Ecosystems and Livelihoods Adaptation Network - ELAN, for example), it would be important to understand whether the CATALYST group can provide an added value.

From the CATALYST consortium's point of view, the Think Tank is a good network that could be used to create consortia for collaborating on specific projects or to act as a critical mass for conveying messages on key topics. One of its main strengths is the good mix of experience and expertise represented in the group.

This idea was confirmed by the TTMs participating in the Virtual Meeting.

Jaroslav also asked the participants whether some of them are going to take part in the 2013 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva, as it could represent a good opportunity to meet and think about the possibility of future collaborations. Fabrice, Ebru and Camille answered affirmatively, while Gonzalo and Sharon said that they are still not sure to manage to be there. Jaroslav invited all those present to the Global Platform to join the CATALYST team at the IGNITE stage, where he will have a time slot to present the research carried by FEEM on SIDS and the messages collected in the CATALYST project. Jaroslav also expressed the availability of FEEM in organizing future Virtual Meetings for the CAC region, with specific thematic foci, in order to further foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among the Think Tank members.

Discussion

With regards to the tool that could be employed to assure the sustainability of the Think Tank, Ebru noted that the CATALYST website does not seem to be the best option. She finds it difficult to use and does not access it often. She was advised that existing social networks, such as LinkedIn, could provide a better alternative. One possibility would be to have a reserved LinkedIn group for the CATALYST project, so that people could stay in contact through a tool they already use and are familiar with. Moreover, Francisco suggested to employ Dropbox to share folders and documents, instead of the website.

- **Next Steps**

In the months to come the project will adopt a “multi-regional” approach. We started the CATALYST project with a first multi-regional kick off Virtual Meeting and then moved to the regional processes. From April onward, we will complement these regional processes by promoting multi-regional discussions and knowledge sharing across regions.

In **April**, all TTMs will be invited to a multi-regional VM to review 3 draft knowledge products:

- The Best Practices papers;
- The Report on Fostering Capacity Development;
- The Report on network and research gaps.

If requested, multiregional VM will be also organized to allow discussion on topics of interest across different regions.

In **July**, TTMs will be asked to review the Special Report on Stakeholders advice to policy makers and to provide feedbacks on the draft teaching module.

In **September** the final version of the Best Practices notebook, which will collect and present the main results of the project, will be circulated for feedbacks among the TTMs. Finally, discussions on how to continue the TT through will be also held.

As for the *Special Report on Stakeholders advice to policy makers (D4.4)*, it will include the TTMs’ views on how policy should support the sectors they are working in. The TTMs’ sectoral perspective will be collected between April and July, on an individual or group basis. The CATALYST partners will compile the information provided into sectoral chapters (eg. Advice from the Research community, Advice from NGOs...) and then publish the report as a UNU policy brief.

Finally, Matt asked the TTMs to provide their feedback on the project filling the evaluation form available at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/57BDSRY>

Discussion

Ebru asked if the insights for the Special Report on Stakeholders advice to policy makers (D4.4) should be provided on an individual or group basis. Matt replied that the choice is up to the TTMs. In principle is thought to be individual, but if the members are willing to elaborate the inputs in groups they can feel free to do so.

5 The European Mediterranean Regional Virtual Meetings

Peter van der Keur (GEUS)
Caroline van Bers (seeconsult)
& Hans-Jorgen Henriksen (GEUS)

5.1 1st EUM Regional Virtual Meeting

Minutes

1st CATALYST Virtual Meeting European Mediterranean

Online via Blackboard Collaborate

Chaired by Peter van der Keur, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)

18 June 2012

Welcome

Welcome to the CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting for the European Mediterranean region moderated by GEUS.

All presentations are downloadable from the CATALYST website.

Participants

Elena Lopez-Gunn, UCM, Ebru Gencer, Columbia University, Frank van Weert, IGRAC/Wetlands International, Richard Teeuw, Univ. of Portsmouth.

Apologies ...

Maria Mañez, CSC

Partners:

Elisa Calliari, FEEM, Fons Jaspers, Alterra, Peter van der Keur, GEUS (Meeting chair), Caroline van Bers, seeconsult (Rapporteur), Matt Hare, seeconsult

1) TTM Presentation: Drought in DRR, Elena Lopez-Gunn, UCM

Discussion

Fons: the link concerning drought resistance and groundwater volumes: does this refer to GW as storage?

Elena: Irrigation does not take a holistic approach. Savings at farm level means less recharge. The cheapest way is to use aquifers. Examples can be found in Catalonia and SE Spain. However there are downstream effects. Water savings by farmers were put to other uses in the area.

Elisa: RBA are using drought wells to provide extra water. They have controls to ensure that abstractions are sustainable.

Peter: Using large volume of scientific information for capacity development is relevant here.

Elena: Drought plans– focus is often on surface water, which results in more abstractions from groundwater, and it should be the other way around.

2) TTM Presentation: Challenges to communication and capacity development in the European Mediterranean Region, Maria Mañez, presented by Matt Hare

Discussion

Fons: Language issues: at national level and above DRR language is established. We need a mechanism between national and regional levels.

Fons: Framing: we tried to be science based but people don't always experience it this way.

Elena: the technical language should not just be scientific papers, we should produce more factsheets and other more visual materials.

UK was responding with considering transport of water from one region and another. The different approaches between countries and the learning process is interesting.

Peter: suggests that we refer to this discussion thread on the online forum. A lot of information is available but how do we use and translate scientific results and use it especially at the local level.

Frank: use of role playing to raise awareness. We have developed a role play on GW resources use. The most determining factor is not if it is accepted as a technique. What is most important is that the group is open for learning. Have experienced that policymakers and engineers are not in a learning mode – they were sceptical towards role playing where they have to address people. Need to create an atmosphere to bring people that is role playing into this learning mode. Role playing should be in a language that everybody understands. Should try to translate risks into costs so participants can relate to it.

Elisa: In Spain, the emphasis is on the restoration to restore status to former. It is therefore important to agree on definitions.

3) TTM Presentation: Scientific Research and Capacity Development for DRR (SPIDER), Richard Teeuw, Univ. of Portsmouth

Discussion

Village meetings so that all communities are involved in DRR including involvement in monitoring and mapping.

Peter: Looking at the capacity development activities in one region, are they applicable to other regions. Can some of these activities and initiatives be transferred to the Southern European region?

Richard: yes, basic principles and approaches are transferrable. In some coastal communities, the response to hurricanes is very much a local response system, since the communities are often cut off. UK has started to organize local resilience forums at the local level, focused more on floods but also increasingly in response to water shortage and drought. We can take on approaches that can be applied in Europe.

Ebru: social sciences and the natural sciences.

Fons: CC adaptation. Talking about future CC, has two advantages: you are considering future generations and these discussions at the community should also focus on future generations.

Community coping capacity: it is important to focus on local resilience. One of the questions in DRR is where you focus your resilience.

Richard: yes, CC is seen as an issue but also population pressure and getting the balance right between these two is an issues. The opportunities. IWRM shows that there are improved opportunities. Conserving your water, improved water usage, you can move to crops that are more water efficient, and you can extend the growing season. When farmers see these opportunities then communities will be more open to accepting integrated management of water resources.

Peter: cross regional collaboration. Some of these techniques are applicable across regions. Asia, West Africa, EU and the Central American & Caribbean. After regional processes we will continue at the global level including all the regions. Therefore it is very important to discuss how we can use this information across all the regions.

Ebru: Thank you Richard for the interesting presentation. It was most interesting for me to hear about the differences between the physical and social sciences. We have the same problem in the US. It is a global problem.

Richard: The international decade for DRR was focused on dealing the hazards directly. After Hyogo there were more community based studies. Mapping of physical socio economic vulnerability helps to focus on the community level and it links the physical and social aspects and it makes the communities better at coping with a given disaster. Disasters appear when you have a vulnerable population. This link between the physical and the social is a step in the right direction.

4) Use of online discussion forum and how to continue it

Peter: we think the process could be supported by the virtual meetings, but we can also meet by skype and discuss because this may be more effective. Your thoughts about this is very useful.

Elena: the online forum is hard because of time pressures. Some threads that are structured to fit into the deliverables may be more useful. Then TT members have a better sense of where they are contributing.

Matt: In other words structure them more in the direction of best practices etc.

Peter: The best practice papers will be structured by the discussions, but we could start to turn this around now. We had a brief discussion a couple of months ago on structuring the online discussion. It has been made more easily digestible. TT members are asked to think about how to structure the discussion forum.

Elena: maybe a way that it also links up to our email? e.g. a google groups project that we can respond to, a blog that flashes up in our email inbox so that we know there has been activity on it.

Matt: It is possible on the online forum to request, box at bottom left of each thread to follow new discussion items.

CATALYST welcomes feedback on draft European Mediterranean region just sent. Contact Peter directly.

Thank you to all the participants for your contribution to this meeting.

Bari: Logistics details on this very soon.

5.2 2nd EUM Regional Virtual Meeting

Minutes

2nd CATALYST Virtual Meeting

European Mediterranean

Online via Skype and Googledocs

Chaired by Peter van der Keur, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)

27 February 2013

Welcome

Welcome to the CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting for the European Mediterranean region moderated by GEUS.

Participants

Maria Mañez, CSC, Raffaele Giordano, CNR, Ivan Portoghese, CNR, Ebru Gencer, Columbia University, Frank van Weert, IGRAC/ Wetlands International, Luis Sá, ANPC, Umberto Fratino, European Innovation Partnership for Water.

Partners:

Elisa Calliari, FEEM, Jochen Luther, UFZ, Cristina Serra, TWAS, Peter van der Keur, GEUS (Meeting chair), Caroline van Bers (Rapporteur)

1) Status of EUM and Think Tank Process

Peter van der Keur, GEUS

Two presentations downloadable from CATALYST website Think Tank area

2) EUM Regional Workshop Summary Report

Discussion on improvements to report (for D4.2) (moderated by Peter van der Keur, GEUS)

Report overall:

- identify where more detail/explanation is needed.
- Stronger language needed!
- English edit needed

Drought Hazards: Raffaele will add something

Communication: *Modify.* Politicians /decision makers also need to be trained in communication (*Cristina*)

Monitoring and forecasting: We have requested a contribution from Richard and Elena who cannot be here today. Raffaele offered to add a few more details about the design of the current monitoring system.

Add to gaps: Ability to predict droughts within the next couple of months depends on the available infrastructure and the water supply system (Ivan). However it is not so easy to apply forecasting to droughts in areas relying on groundwater (Maria).

Ivan will send some links on predicting the effects of drought and water resources management in drought prone regions.

The main message should be that action needs to be taken now to improve strategic forecasting in light of climate change. We need an extra layer of forecasting so that policies can be adapted and it should be aimed at those managing water resources. There needs to be a distinction between operational resource management and strategic resource management.(Frank)

Droughts should be considered as part of the hydrological cycle (Peter).

We need some additional information on flash floods. Raffaele will add this.

Paragraph on water availability for crops /floods needs to be moved to drought section.

Flash floods monitoring section (section 2.3.3.2)

Examples/inspiration from northern countries are important.

Should be 'monitoring and forecasting' of floods (section 2.3.3.2)

Include something on weather forecasting as a consolidated technique and the monitoring to update forecasting methods.

Although the focus is on EUM, it is useful take examples from northern Europe or other parts of the world.

Moving towards BP

Try to distinguish SoA and BP.

Maria will add text based on the experience of her region of Spain.

Drought directive: raise awareness of the need and justify it.

Stronger formulation/wording needed. It is the mandate of a country to protect its citizens

Monitoring and communication is very short. Cristina will consider what can be added here. Use of cell phones was mentioned only in the context of earthquakes not drought.

Raffaele will go though it to make this more understandable. Ebru will add text on legislation for earthquakes . Last sentences needs elaboration re. Harmonisation of legislation.

Financing – short and isolated section – could be expanded.

Second sentence is very long and dense. Tease out/separate ideas. Stronger language is needed (e.g. tax activities that are CCA friendly is too gentle)

Financial incentives: Frank will try to expand this.

Institutional aspects – Information from Luis has been added here

Hydrological tax- should be moved up to Financial

The remainder of the discussion focused on the changes such as those above, and the European team used this to edit the Workshop report.

3) D6.4 Best Practice papers presentation

Here, CATALYST suggestions for the planned Best Practice Papers were made, based on the results of the workshop.

4) D4.4 Special Report on Stakeholder Advice presentation

Here, CATALYST plans for the Special Report were presented.

5) D5.4 The Training Module presentation

Here, CATALYST plans for the Training Module were presented.

All presentations are downloadable from the CATALYST website.

6 The South and South East Asia Regional Virtual Meetings

Peter van der Keur (GEUS)

Fons Jaspers (Alterra)

6.1 2nd SSA Regional Virtual Meeting

Summary of

1st CATALYST Virtual Meeting for South and Southeast Asia

Online via Blackboard Collaborate

Hosted by United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security

Chaired by Peter van der Keur, Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)

11 June 2012

Welcome

Welcome to the CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting for region of South Asia and Southeast Asia, hosted by the United Nations University-Institute of Environment and Human Security and moderated by GEUS and Seeconsult.

Participants

Shah Md Anowar Kamal, UST (Bangladesh), *Hans Jakob Hausmann*, Red Cross/Red Crescent, (Indonesia), *Bhanu Neupane*, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Groundwater for Emergency Situations, (UNESCO/ICHARM, Paris, France), *Aslam Perwaiz*, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC, Thailand), *Salmah Zakaria*, United Nations-ESCAP Water Security Section (Thailand), *Denis Chang-Seng*, United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS, Germany)

Partners

Caroline van Bers, seeconsult GmbH (Moderator), *Peter van der Keur*, GEUS (Meeting chair), *Chahira Noura*, UNU-EHS (Moderator), *Humaira Daniel*, UNH – EHS

1) Three information presentations

- South and South East Asia Region Think Tank – Goals and Activities (**Peter van der Keur, GEUS**)
- Capacity Development in DRR/CCA: Policy and Practice: What are the realities on the Ground: The case of Pakistan (Humaira Daniel, UNH - EHS)

- Some thoughts – why we always have to reinvent the wheel. (Bhanu Neupane, UNESCO/ICHARM)

Discussion

Hyogo Framework

The **Hyogo Framework** has turned out to be a checklist. (Denis) The framework ends in 2015. We should not reinvent the wheel but Hyogo needs to be reinvented. Climate change adaptation is being emphasized. An overarching framework of sustainable development is needed. However, we should not wait for the new framework. If we see that something is not working it should be adapted if possible, and this should have started when the declaration was signed.

Improving capacity development at the local level

How are communities responding at the local level? (Shah) How is knowledge (especially policy-related) reaching the local level? Humaira acknowledged that there is a huge gap between the different levels - between policymakers and the micro level (refers to the fifth slide in her presentation). Some proposals for addressing needs at the community level and filling the gap:

- An improvement of risk perception can be implemented through a risk-knowledge educational program.
- A strengthening of ICT at the local level.
- Language needs to be adjusted according to the group that is being addressed (grassroots, policymakers, high school, etc. One cannot expect communities to understand everything. Everything that is produced by the DRR community should be explained for the different levels. (See communications below).
- A means needs to be identified for making the local approach more relevant (i.e. policies such as Hyogo need to be made more relevant at the local level).

Communications

The closing of the communication gap depends on the governance system (centralized versus decentralized is an important factor). As mentioned in the previous section (and in order regional processes in the project), language needs to be adjusted to the level at which communication is taking place. It would be very useful in this project to identify the best practices for this.

The terminology used in CATALYST is also an issue: should we keep it diverse for the various audiences or not? A challenge for the project is how to share the huge amount of knowledge /information that already exists. The suggestion is to invite the various communities concerned to discuss together and agree on the terminology.

Tools and approaches

In order to begin to bridge the disconnect between what we say we want to do (e.g. introducing new policies) and what we actually do, between the normative and the strategic operational, a number of suggestions were made.

A means of improving and implementing **an early warning systems for climate change** is needed. Scaling predictions (dynamic and static) down to the 10km level is recommended in IPCC report no. 4.

A water resource management toolbox is recommended (e.g. <http://www.gwptoolbox.org/>).

Repository or solutions: We need a “repository or solutions”. In the project, we should consider where this should be placed: the regional or global level, and within what institutions (since it would need to be maintained). There could be thematic solutions at the regional level based on regional priorities. A mixed approach is needed. The international strategy for DRR should use existing regional centres to become repositories of solutions.

There also needs to be a better system of self-reflection. CATALYST provides an opportunity to examine and redefine the **indicators of success** and the types of solutions that are needed.

Data: We need a real-time transfer of data. As a result of the system of funding there is no sharing of data.

Thank you to all the participants for your contribution to this meeting.

6.2 2nd SSA Regional Virtual Meeting

**Summary of
2nd CATALYST Virtual Meeting
for South and Southeast Asia
06 March 2013
Online via Skype**

Peter van der Keur & Hans-Jørgen Henriksen
Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS)
Regional Process Coordinators

supported by

Fons Jaspers & Catherien Terwisscha van Scheltinga
Alterra

Matt Hare & Caroline van Bers
seeconsult

Welcome

Welcome to the second CATALYST Regional Virtual Meeting for region South and Southeast Asia, moderated by seeconsult and Alterra. The meeting has been organized by the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS).

All presentations downloadable from Catalyst website think tank area.

Participants

Yulia Rina Wijaya, SHEEP Indonesia, Hari Krishna Nibanupud, ICIMOD, Munish Kaushik, CORDAID Nandan Mukerjee, BRAC Uni, Andreas Subinyono, SHEEP Indonesia.

Partners

Cristina Serra, TWAS, Jochen Luther, UFZ, Fons Jaspers, Alterra (moderator), Caroline van Bers, seeconsult GmbH (moderator)

1) Presentation and discussion of the SSA Regional Workshop Summary Report

Presented by Fons Jaspers

The workshop summary report (D4.2 – draft) was presented and comments collected.

- in general check the use of terms and expressions, find a balance between scientific and understandable language, suggestion: add the glossary in annex each document
- spelling: SHEEP Indonesia (not Sheepindonesia) and a few small spelling mistakes
- reconciling the issue of the use of the term “best practices” versus “good practices”. There is a preference for the latter. (editors’ note: The issue has been partially dealt with in the 4.2 deliverable which has a section for good practices and for one for recommendations for moving towards BP. Furthermore by focusing on “transformative practices, we are not forced to judge).
- Check group participants to ensure all members are included

2) Del. 4.4 Special Report on Stakeholder Advice & Del. 6.4 Best Practice Papers

Presented by Caroline van Bers

This part of the meeting focused on describing CATALYST plans for the D4.4. Special report and D6.4 Best Practice Papers.

3) The online training module on DRR & CCA

Presented by Fons Jaspers

As an introduction to the online discussion that is planned for the online training module the target group (practitioners at intermediate level), the current status for this curriculum was presented, including the focus and the themes that are considered as relevant for capacity development. The NeWater online curriculum (on adaptive water management) was presented briefly as an example how such a module could look, and a preliminary outline for the Catalyst curriculum was proposed. A list of issues mentioned at other regional workshops served as an introduction for the input to this module which the SSA TTM’s are being asked to contribute to. The output from the regional workshop will serve as the starting point for the discussion round on facebook/ CATALYST discussion forum for fleshing out the module.

There are project funds available to **translate** the curriculum or parts of it into two or three other languages. Spanish will certainly be one of those languages. A TTM has asked if it could also be translated into Indonesian.

4) Next Steps and the CATALYST Process to the Project End

Presented by Caroline van Bers. This presented information on what was going to happen next in the project, i.e. the finalisation of deliverables and the role the TTM will play.

7 The 2nd Global Virtual Meeting

Matt Hare
(seeconsult GmbH)

2nd CATALYST Global Virtual Meeting

26 September 2013

Hosted by FEEM, using GoToMeeting,

Organised and chaired by seeconsult

Summary

This report provides a summary of the second global virtual think tank meeting of the CATALYST project⁵.

Participants (TTM's) and their regional processes

Animesh Kumar, DRMFSS/WFP, (EWA), Ana Peña del Valle, PINCC (CAC), Radhika Murti, IUCN (CAC), Elena Lopéz Gunn, UCM (EUM), Jeroen Warner, Wageningen Uni (EUM), Ephrem Gebremariam, Addis Ababa Uni (EWA), Michelle Mycoo, University of the West Indies (CAC).

Apologies from ...

Caroline van Bers (seeconsult), Tereza Cavazos (RedesClim), Frank van Weert, IGRAC/Wetlands International (EUM), Ebru Gencer, CMCC (EUM), David Dodman, IIED (EWA)

Catalyst partners who attended

Matt Hare, seeconsult (Meeting Chair), Elisa Calliari, FEEM, Fons Jaspers, Alterra, Jochen Luther, UFZ.

1) CATALYST results: knowledge products

The CATALYST knowledge products available for download were outlined. Keynote deliverables include the Best Practice Papers (D6.4) for each of the four regions. The TTM were asked if they had downloaded and read them: 4 out of six TTM said they had. Of those who had read one or more, the general feeling was that they were a good reflection of what is going on in the region the TTM was concerned with.

No-one had yet read "Superdeliverable 5", the integrated 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 deliverables, describing in more breadth the best practices, gaps and recommendations for capacity development in the regions.

There was then a review of the final 3 future products – Best Practice Policy Notebook (D6.5), Virtual Meetings Report (D4.3), and the Special Report on Stakeholder Advice to Policy Makers (D4.4).

⁵ Due to the proximity of the date of the meeting to the deadline for delivery of this knowledge product, the meeting minutes have not yet been formally agreed by all the participants.

2) Report on the final project meeting at the EU commission 10-12 September 2013

It was reported that the project has good feedback from EC representatives as well as TTM who travelled there. It was discussed that the added value of the work being done has been the integration of the different views of the TTM. UNISDR agreed that the CATALYST work is complementary to their work on best practices – it is not a formal process like theirs with country representatives, but instead working with practitioners at sometimes a much lower level. A discussion point at the final meeting was also on how representative the TTM group are. The EC was told that the TTM group is self-selecting, since it is based on voluntary participation in a personal capacity. What CATALYST has had the benefit of are knowledgeable practitioners to support it. The EC/UNISDR representatives accepted this as being valuable. CATALYST therefore got affirmation of the value of the knowledge the TTM had provided the project.

Another issue raised by the EC was how the Best Practices were chosen and under what analytical framework. The project responded that since it is a stakeholder-driven process, using stakeholder knowledge, not a research project, CATALYST neither had the mandate nor resources to do so. **Again, CATALYST has to be seen as being complimentary to more formal analyses done by ISDR, for example.**

Finally, an EC representative suggested that there was nothing new in the knowledge products produced. Although TTM present disagreed with the representative, it must also be mentioned that the SREX report says that there is sufficient knowledge already out there, and that all we need to do at the moment is compile and disseminate it better. This is what CATALYST was designed for. Our role is get the knowledge to policy makers who do not yet know everything (maybe those with new mandates due to mainstreaming activities).

Discussion

TTM – what was mentioned about following up CATALYST-Local?

CATALYST: What is clear is that there is no money from EC to follow up the project. It is not an issue of CATALYST, it is just that they are not interested in funding follow-up projects on principle. Also Horizon 2020 (the replacement for FP7) is not based on DRR, but on economic growth.

TTM: the potential for training using Massive Online Courses (MOCs), came out for Bari – would this be something that we could pursue, to make sure that the BPs get disseminated?

CATALYST: Before I answer that – let me remind you that we have the first online teaching submodule on DRR/CCA available for training purposes, and other submodules will follow shortly: participation, ecosystems services, urban DRR, etc. It will be uploaded on UNU online learning platform soon /November. The slides come with teaching notes, exercises, group discussion questions, etc.. To answer the question: It would be good to know more about MOCs – if you could let us know more about that, it would be a very good to check out. We are also very interested in our TTM disseminating the CATALYST knowledge through their own training/cap dev activities.

TTM: when will we be notified when the training has been uploaded? Please keep us informed.

CATALYST: Even though CATALYST ends at the end of the month, we will keep you notified when the key deliverables are uploaded. Please let us know how it helps you, and if you have any recommendations for improvement.

3) Feedback round evaluating the Think Tank process

TTM: process was interesting. Two networks coming together – DRR and CCA. We had a good experience. But we should have been more proactive and given more feedback than we did. The entire knowledge collation effort of CATALYST has been good. In Mexico, we have been hit by two hurricanes at the same time, with disastrous impacts – and we realise the importance of having this knowledge at hand – even if it may not be all new. In any case, government staff in Mexico are continuously changing, therefore we need knowledge available for their replacements.

TTM: I was involved since the project was being conceived. I think the stakeholder-based regional approach was a nice idea. One thing that I have been bringing up again and again is to connect from individual TTM to organisations – it prevents having institutional commitments to what we discuss and agree upon in CATALYST. Many of our TTM inputs were not as high as they should have been, especially the online discussions. UNISDR has provided positive feedback on some of the deliverables, and is interested in supporting follow-ups, such as CATALYST-Local in some way. Also talked to the UNISDR resource centre in South Korea – very interested in knowing how CATALYST will go forward. For us CATALYST is the right connect between science and policy, an issue of importance for UNISDR. Some of the drawbacks mentioned can be dealt with in the CATALYST-Local project.

CATALYST: we sought a conscious decision to link to individuals in their personal capacity in order to allow people to talk freely, and to make sure we could get a lot of members. Maybe CATALYST local project can find the right balance. We would also, if repeating the project, have organised two workshops per region. Online discussions did not work – not just because of the TTM, but also because of us – they need a lot of monitoring and moderation to keep them going. We have been happy with the VM; they are a good “oil” for the process before and after the workshops. We realised that we needed to increase the number of face-to-face meetings, so we organised side events and bilateral chats too.

TTM: In India, they ran an online discussion which worked, why did it work there and not here? Perhaps because the CATALYST website was not very popular (the only route to the online discussions), and we did not take the initiative to open it, but in the Indian case, the discussions went direct to their mailboxes. Perhaps that is a solution. Also, to make more use of social media – this is more immediate and responsive.

TTM: I joined after attending the workshop, and have read the CAC reports. I have valued the Think Tank because the deliverables will be useful to me as a researcher and a trainer. I am very keen to test the materials out on my students. The TT also brought me into contact with people I did not know were doing DRR/CCA in my own region. The deliverables will enable us to have an impact on policy level in our region.

TTM: Very useful platform to share experiences. Not common to see flooding in urban centres, but now increasing. We are getting hit by changing rainfall intensities, exacerbated by illegal

settlements. To know what other countries are experiencing has been very useful, because we need to learn from others about a new situation we find ourselves in.

TTM: I have been very marginally involved in CATALYST. My role is in a global capacity, not so much regional – I got a lot out of the workshop and working with Caroline van Bers (seeconsult) on the training modules. It has been good to work as individuals in a personal capacity, since in other platforms working as organisation reps, has caused problems. The more free discussions with a wide range of TTM, in CATALYST, have helped to get validation for our thinking and work. We want to keep our relation up with you, for example we will need to develop training modules for the German govt, and we would like to enrich what CATALYST has done rather than start again.

CATALYST: That is a great affirmation of the CATALYST products – especially as we have in turn made use of PEDRR products.

Generally speaking, the range of participation has been at all levels from consultation to co-authoring of documents. It has been a very collaborative project.

4) CATALYST-Local Community of Practice (CoP)

It was explained that the CATALYST project is trying to respond to needs from TTM to work more at the local level next time, by creating a CoP, focusing around CATALYST -Local implementation products, and the exchange of knowledge about local implementation of CATALYST knowledge. CATALYST is looking for 15-20 projects from around the world, to provide a basis for the CoP. Projects would focus on analysis of local needs, tailoring capacity development products and then doing training.

Potential projects include: Italy, Indonesia, Guatemala, India, Thailand, Mexico.

CATALYST will take a bottom-up approach to funding. It will support local partners/TTMs to get funding for projects from regional/local level, using part of these funds to maintain the central network. CATALYST is looking for TTMs interested in working with us. CATALYST cannot continue without TTM involvement. The EC likes the idea, but cannot fund it, as mentioned earlier.

Discussion

TTM: I think it is a good idea. Makes a lot of sense to ground the project on specific locations. In Europe, an opportunity would be the flood planning **directive and Water framework directive, which are requiring adaptation plans now. Innovative funding is essential.**

CATALYST: we will contact you about how to develop a project around the WFD.

TTM: The UNDP-small grants project fund (GEF-SGP) funds small communities for capacity development in eco-based CCA. **I could enquire about how to seek funds to support small communities to work on this.** And we could submit something together, based on CATALYST-local

CATALYST: thank you, we will be in touch.

TTM: not all Think tanks need to go on forever. Do we need to keep on working at the regional level? Or do we work as individuals together to move CATALYST legacy on?

CATALYST: I hope that CATALYST-local meets the best of both worlds – individual/local approach with regional exchange of lessons learned.

TTM: Starting at regional level was good, by starting bottom-up would have limited the network, but now we can go downwards. Bit concerned about local funding. I suppose that is why you still do not have any African countries involved yet. The millennium city campaign could be made use of for partnerships at the local level.

TTM: you could try a PPP approach to funding – a local approach will be quite close to these sorts of actors.

CATALYST final words

Thanks to all the TTM - as the cliché goes, this is not the end, this is just the beginning!

8 Lessons learned

Despite not producing as much knowledge as regional workshops, it became apparent during the lifetime of the project that the virtual meetings have played an indispensable role in the CATALYST Think Tank to keep the exchange of information flowing between TTM and the partners, before and after the main workshops (see Hare and van Bers, 2013), especially when it became apparent that the online discussions were not providing this function, as originally intended. As a result, it was decided to increase the number of virtual meetings from the 5 originally planned to the 10 that are described in this report.

Participation

Whilst the 4 regional workshops attracted over 100 participants, the ten virtual meetings attracted 69 participants, with a number of potential participants apologising for not coming at the last minute, or simply not turning up. It will always be the case, that when a meeting is virtual, the ease with which it can be surpassed in importance by day-to-day work pressures and/or emergencies in the office cannot be overestimated. In contrast to the virtual meeting, the face-to-face regional workshop has the advantage that the participants are out of their offices and unable to be (greatly) disturbed for a period of days.

Technology

During the project, the regions tried a number of different virtual meeting tools available on the market: e.g. Adobe Connect; GoToMeeting; Blackboard Collaborate, Skype. Irrespective of the tool, and despite instructions being sent out to participants, some stakeholders always ended up having problems in “entering” the meeting room or staying in it, either for technical reasons due to incompatibility of their computers or firewall, or due to limited room capacity. We learned that it was always important to have technical support available to counsel participants, via email, on how to overcome their problems to enter the room. Once the participants managed to enter the room, the next most common problem was that of sound. Too often at least one or two participants were not able to be heard, due to incorrect microphone set up or technical problems. When dealing with a diverse international group of participants with different types and quality of computer setup, and different bandwidths, problems such as these are bound to happen, despite the best of preparations.

Timing and timezones

With respect to the diversity of participants, one thing became very clear, quite quickly: it is very difficult to find a common (daylight) time for participants to meet together in a virtual meeting room when they come from the four different CATALYST regions. About the best time was about 14.00 CET, but this meant that the central Americans would have to wake up at 07.00 and the Asians would need to stay at work till 19.00 or later depending on their location. This was another reason why global virtual meetings were replaced by more regional ones.

9 References

- Hare, M., van Bers, C., van der Keur, P., Henriksen, H. J., Luther, J., Kuhlicke, C., Jaspers, F., Terwisscha van Scheltinga, C., Mysiak, J., Calliari, E., Warner, K., Daniel, H., Coppola, J., & McGrath, P. F. (2013) Brief Communication: CATALYST – a multi-stakeholder Think Tank for fostering capacity development in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. *Nat. Hazards Earth Syst. Sci. Discuss.* 1, 3919-3934.
- Hare, M., Van Bers, C., & Mysiak, J. (Eds) (2013) Best Practice Policy Notebook. CATALYST Deliverable 6.5. Available at www.catalyst-project.eu.
- Jaspers, F., Hare, M., van Bers, C., van der Keur, P., Luther, J., Calliari, E., & Daniels H. (2012) Report on capacity development for disaster risk reduction and adaptation. CATALYST Deliverable 3.1. Available at www.catalyst-project.eu.
- Hare, M., & Van Bers, C. (2013) CATALYST Regional Workshop Reports. CATALYST Deliverable 4.2. Available at www.catalyst-project.eu.