

# A Pro-poor and People-centered Response to Climate Change

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## **CGIAR Collective Action and Property Rights Program**

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**Work relates to** Adaptation X Mitigation X

### **1. What is your organization doing to advance pro-poor and people-centered climate change?**

Both collective action (CA) and property rights (PR) issues are critical when trying to find sustainable and equitable solutions to climate change. In particular, CA and PR institutions are critical in determining how climate change mitigation and adaptation measures affect poor people. On the adaptation side, people without recognized land titles are likely to be bypassed by many of the compensation mechanisms, and it will take strong collective action institutions to allow smallholders to overcome transaction costs to enter into ecosystem services contracts. On the mitigation side, many of the technological options require some form of collective action and/or tenure security considerations to be adoptable by smallholders.

The “CAPRi box,” which indicates the relevance of collective action and property rights to adoption of technologies and natural resource management practices can therefore be useful for climate change adaptation, as well.

Climate change is a topic that allows CAPRi to play one of our strengths: to bring social science and biophysical researchers together and highlight the importance of local institutions for the success of technology adoption.

We aim for the major players in the climate change negotiations (donors, technical agencies, conservation NGOs) to recognize the importance of local institutions (especially CA and PR) for the success of climate change solutions and offer concrete advice on activities that can be implemented to strengthen those institutions.

Concretely we are planning the following activities in 2008:

- Organize a consultation with Washington, DC based partners and beyond.
- Summarize our experiences and lessons on CA and PR in view of a climate change agenda. This will include lessons on ways to measure local capacity to effectively organize (based on our work on rangelands, marketing and gender and CA), to recognize threats and find ways to secure rights to resources (work on land and water rights), and to work towards a better integration between governance institutions at different levels (our devolution work).
- Support RRI in the organization of a conference on Rights, Livelihoods and Climate Change in October 2008.
- Organize a side event at the UNFCCC COP in Poznan with ASB, ICRAF and other partners in December 2008.

### **2. What is, in your view, the most critical gap or unaddressed issue in the international negotiations towards a pro-poor climate regime?**

- Lack of recognition of the importance of local institutions for the success of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, especially their impact on the poor.

- Concrete recommendation to strengthen CA institutions and help local groups to more effectively organize as well as secure local rights against increasing pressures partly exacerbated by climate change measures (e.g. agrofuels, REDD).

### **3. Do you plan to address this issue? If yes, how?**

- We are planning a summary paper that will put CAPRI's expertise into the context of climate change and makes the lessons and recommendations accessible to those with little of no background and knowledge in the functioning of local institution such as other researchers (e.g. biophysical), policy makers, NGOs and international agencies.
- Depending on evaluation of knowledge gaps and funding we will issues a Request for Research Proposals to deepen our understanding.

### **4. What are the challenges you see in addressing this gap?**

- There is a lot of pressure to move quickly (or be seen to move quickly) on climate change issues. This pressure, and the rapid increase in funding related to climate change, may mitigate against paying attention to institutional issues, which usually takes longer. How can we get these issues taken seriously?
- Another challenge will be to form a strong community of organizations that will confront this challenge together. This will require complementary objectives and skills. While CAPRI has expertise in dealing with CA and PR institutions and understanding what makes them work, we lack knowledge on the technical and biophysical side of climate change.