

CEDRA Training Feedback – Beni, DRC

18 – 23 January 2010

Day 0

Started on Mon afternoon with introductions, objectives and overview of week etc. Worked quite well because we could start the next day first thing with the Biblical perspective session.

Day 1

To explain climate change use a simple diagram on flip chart. Hand out terms and definitions. When you mention a technical term the person holding that term has to stand up and read out the definition.

Extra sub-session on forest resources given that deforestation is such an issue in DRC. Used the info from Roots 13 to draw 2 diagrams showing: forests and local environment; and forests and climate change.

Link between ED, CC & DRR : none of the participants had even heard of DRR (!) so I did not labour this model too much. We worked on the hazards and impacts images and I explained that we would focus on solutions to CC & ED impacts during the training. Was important to clarify in this context that volcanic eruptions were a natural hazard and not related to CC or ED.

Day 2

Participants found it confusing to see the link between Step 1.2: Identification of information and Step 1.3 : Compile a question list. I think Step 1.2 could be removed. However the list of possible impacts is still useful when you get to Step 2.

Despite having learnt various participatory techniques most participants still prefer to use a simple focus group. I would also question how much extra information can be gained from using the other techniques, ie is it worth the hassle?

Day 3

3 groups went to villages and 1 group went around town collecting info from various offices.

Internet access is not good so we didn't try to have an internet session.

Day 4

Participants were in 3 groups according to zone of work, ie north-east, east, and south-east. It works better to split the larger groups into sub groups according to sectors of work.

Step 4 seemed to be confusing for most participants. They found it hard to grasp the concept of what might be unmanageable. And in reality there are still things that can be done to mitigate most of these risks so the heading is misleading.

Eg community unwillingness to adapt – could be managed with sensitisation

Lack of political will or another stakeholder unwilling to change (eg industry) – do advocacy

Cost to large – search for other donors

Don't have technical expertise – collaborate with other organisations with technical skills

I wonder if we could cut out Step 4 as these ideas and discussions will come up naturally in Step 3.

After finishing all the steps we did a quiz to see who could remember all the Steps and put them in order.

Someone from each group typed up their analysis tables in the evening so that we could put the documents onto CD along with other workshop info for people to keep.

Day 5

We discussed the action plan and dissemination on Day 4 so Day 5 was just wrapping up.

However I did do a session on CCA and the church as there were a number of church denominations present.

They came up with the following needs for church leaders info:

- Biblical basis for Creation care. Church pastors have very little theological training so they are unaware of some aspects of biblical teaching.
- Need to contextualise the information to the realities of Africa. ie video based on African experience. Most of the CC dvds are northern based ie Inconvenient Truth and Day After Tomorrow documentary.
- Could produce Manuals, CDs / Videos, Visual aids
- Learn lessons from HIV/AIDS awareness raising and mobilisation

Feedback from the evaluation forms:

Scoring showed that participants felt they had a clear understanding of the causes of climate change and environmental degradation and they also understand well the links between climate change, environmental degradation and disasters.

Participants understood some steps better than others and this resulted in some participants not being totally confident in carrying out the full CEDRA process. However step 1 scored highly with participants feeling they had a good enough understanding of how to collect information about the climate and the environment to be able to teach this to others.

For Step 2 they have a fairly good idea of how to assess climate and environmental impact risks and to prioritise them.

Although there is a good understanding of what adaptation is there were a number who did not feel so confident about developing adaptation responses and choosing the most appropriate as per step 3.

Some participants felt uncertain about steps 4 and 5, probably because these were only dealt with briefly in the workshop. In fact participants in all the workshops that I have been involved in seem to have found dealing with unmanageable risks in step 4 a bit confusing.

Participants also wanted to know more about how God wants us to respond personally, and as organisations.

The majority of participants gave the course 4 out of 5 saying that their expectations were well fulfilled.

Most useful session:

- Introduction & science of CC
 - it showed us clearly the hazards and the adaptation to these.
 - because we noticed that there were large changes in our environment at all levels
 - because the session was accompanied with audio-visual tools and reflected the practical realities
 - helped us to understand lots of things that we were ignorant about eg deforestation
 - it drew our attention to the changes which are happening.
 - We were ignorant about causes of CO2 and other things which harm the environment
 - Helped me to understand the impact of CC & ED
 - Showed us the scale of the problem
- Link between CCA, ED and natural hazards
 - helped to put our situation into context and have a vision for the future
 - identification of hazards helped to open my eyes and to understand the objectives of the workshop
 - helped to clear my confusion about the different types of hazards because I hadn't studied them before.
- Introduction to CEDRA – helped us to understand the how to carry out the CEDRA process
- Step 1
 - it's the start of understanding so that we can do the other steps
 - Collection of community knowledge – we can put it into practice where we work
 - collection of scientific knowledge enables us to deepen our understanding of the teaching we received during the workshop.
 - Field visit because we saw the reality and heard the problems linked to the environment (x2 comments)
- Step 2
 - Evaluation of the risk to a project. It really helped us.
 - Impacts of CC & ED on our projects – it helped me to understand the evaluation of risks in our project in the event of CC
- Step 3
 - it is appropriate for the project cycle that we are implementing
 - it helped us to look at the ways and means for helping communities who are already victims of CC.

Least useful session:

- Church and CCA – during past projects we have already explained to church leaders their responsibility in holistic development.
- Non manageable risks
 - if a project is impossible it is hard to see why it is worth considering
 - because it is more than we can manage
- Background sessions on biblical perspective, intro & science of CC etc These were too general.

What should we have spent more time on?

- Links between CC, ED & natural hazards
- The Steps of CEDRA (x4 comments)
- Identification of zones,
- scientific info and how to collect it & analyse it
- The field visit because there was a lot of information that respondents provided us with. (x2 comments)
- The identification of climatic and environmental hazards from scientific and community sources / Identification of environmental hazards (x2 comments)
- Step 2 Evaluating the risk to a project
- Step 3 The choice of appropriate adaptation solutions (x6 comments)
- Step 4 Non manageable risk (x4 comments)
- The format of the CEDRA report

Suggestions for improvement:

- Increase the amount of time in the field to really get an idea of the realities in the communities
- Support the topics with more photos and more typical images, and suggested solutions (videos, photos). Group work could be improved.
- Have films in french
- Do less presentations and more work in groups and individually.
- Reinforce how to carry out scientific research and how to analyse it.
- Give each participant a book (x3 comments)
- Connect the people at the workshop so that we can exchange ideas.
- Have several facilitators
- Invite church leaders to the workshop (x2 comments)

Is CEDRA useful for your organisation?:

- Yes, it reinforces our knowledge and guides us towards solutions to different environmental hazards, which are a concern also for my organisation.
(*Pascal Lufungula, PPSSP*)
- Yes it helps us to correct our process of project design taking into account environmental risks, but also to contribute to the protection of the environment in our existing projects. (*K Muliro Matata, PEAC*)
- Yes because it responds to the current concerns of our population
(*Deogratias Kukule Kamabu, PEAC*)
- Yes to help the organisation to resolve precise problems in the community.
(*Amba Kanyere Okabo, PPSSP*)
- Yes because we have learnt a lot and what we have learnt will help us in our organisations to understand the realities of our projects, to create new projects and

to make good revisions of current projects. (*Esperance Letia, BDC Diocese d'Aru*)

- It is a useful tool for the collection of information and the analysis of adaptation (?)
- Yes because CC & ED are felt in minute detail with the advancement of the Sahara desert towards our diocese and exploitation of the environment by the tobacco companies by the use of chemical fertiliser. (*Albert Atama, BDC Diocese d'Aru*)
- Yes because it contributes to understanding how to maintain the environment for our good health. (*Matabaro Kuba, Diocese of Boga*)
- CEDRA will be useful to our organisation because it is an essential way of discovering the impact of CC & ED on our projects. (*Georges Dubatso, CRC Beni*)
- It taught me about climate change and I will also share this with others a Nyankunde (*Gotabo Gili, CDL CME Nyankunde*)
- CEDRA will be useful because we will share the information received and put it into practice in our communities. (*Dhema Bassara, HEAL Africa*)
- It will help me to identify, choose, prioritise and address hazards, create new projects and carry out revisions of current projects. (*Fabien Pili-Pili Hangy, BDC Diocese du Nord Kivu*)
- It will help us because our beneficiaries are still ignorant of the process. (*Vira Marthe Mamboyabu, PEAC*)
- CEDRA helps us to understand climate change and ED which are a time bomb. (?)
- It will help me to orientate my activities towards the activities to carry out in order to tackle climatic disruptions. (*Omele Kule Mbatanguli, BDC-CECA 20*)
- It's a useful tool for reference and sensitisation (*Alain Bomabana Wmande, DOD/ECC Nord Kivu*)
- Our projects will be conceived and based on this new approach. (?)
- CEDRA will help us to reduce the degradation of the environment. We will also train community and religious leaders on the subject of reforestation, management of waste etc (*Baliesima Albert, PEAC*)
- CEDRA will definitely be helpful because there is already an environmental project in our organisation (*Mushamuke Hamisi Fidele, BDC / PEAC*)
- CEDRA is very important because it will help my organisation to include the question of risk of CC in the management of projects. (*Tshitshi Kalala, HEAL Africa*)
- We train a large number of students in our organisation who need this sort of information. (?)
- As an organisation which trains and mobilises communities and churches it would be incomplete to carry out development activities without CEDRA.
- It helps us to take into account CC in our projects.