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# Multi-country Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Development and Adaptation to climate change in Africa

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# Outline

***Focus of our discussion:*** how to make the best use of a Multi-country support program to enhance access to climate information in 10 vulnerable African LDCs

- Background
- Where are we now on climate information?
- Where do we want to go?
- How to get there?
- Challenges
- Next Steps

# Background



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**Climate change is happening now!** *In recent decades, changes in climate have caused impacts on natural and human systems on all continents and across the oceans. Differences in vulnerability and exposure arise from non-climatic factors and from multidimensional inequalities often produced by uneven development processes (IPCC, 2014)*

**Accurate, comprehensive, timely, and consistently maintained climate data is essential for planning adaptation to climate change -- and a significant contributor to economic growth, human health, and poverty reduction**

Climate information is **necessary to:**

- Identify and analyze current and future climate risks
- Assess climate vulnerabilities
- identify adaptation options in all development sectors
- Provide key information for Early Warning Systems
- Develop and implement longer-term national adaptation plans
- Integrate climate into national, subnational and sectoral planning
- Allow vulnerable communities and stakeholders, including farmers and businesses, to make informed decisions, achieve resilient development, and adapt to climate change

## Data

Climate models, historical observations, trends, downscaling, projections, event frequency, ...



## Information

Measures of vulnerability and risk, threshold exceedence, combinatory impacts, uncertainty and confidence, regional scale variations, ...



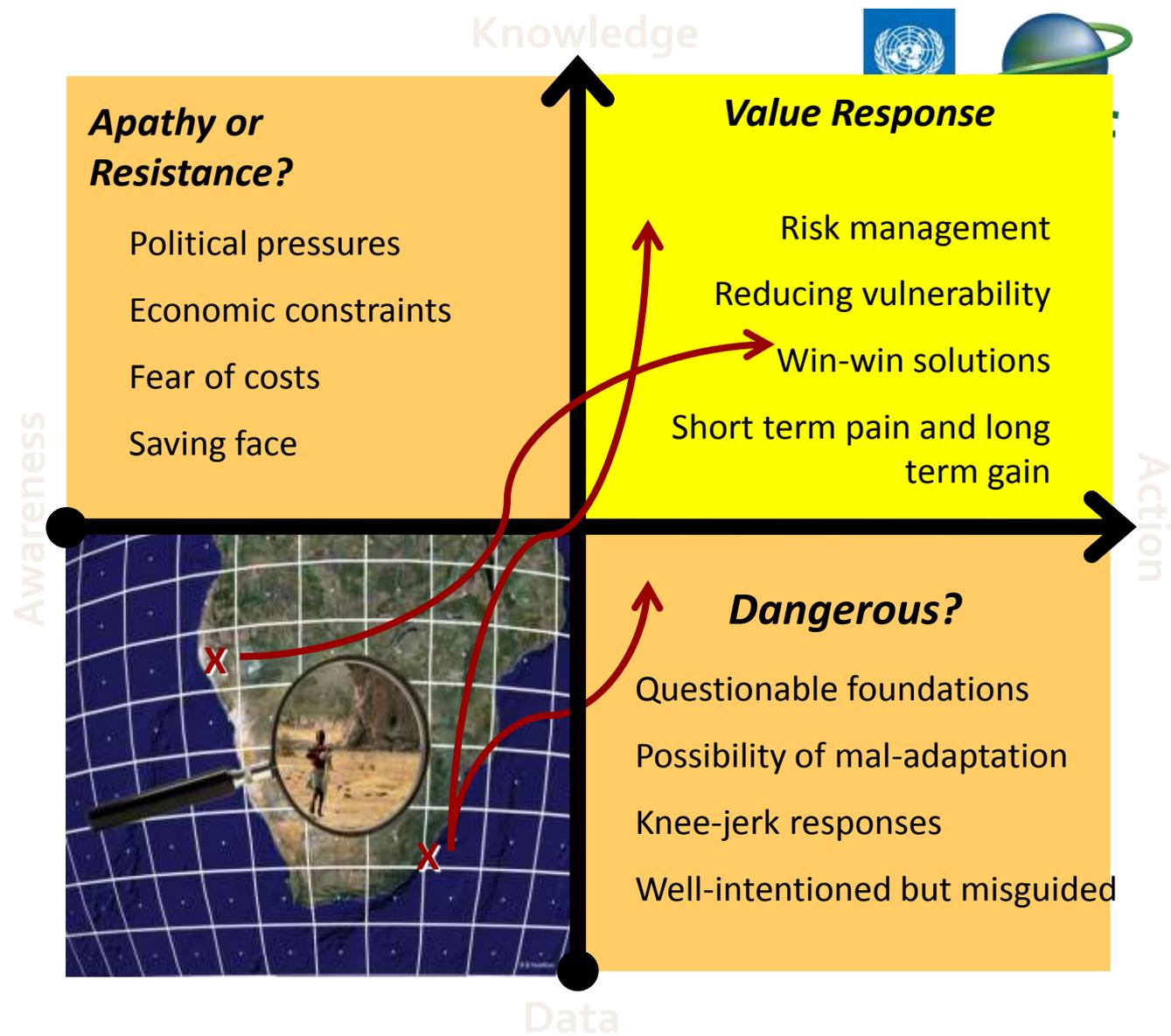
## Knowledge

Assessing options, understanding consequences, evaluating responses, informing decision making, ...



## Adviseable action

Policy development to balance competing priorities, strategic investments in adaptation and mitigation, new research avenues, coordination of response frameworks, ...



From Hewitson, 2011  
Adapted from Zermoglio & Downing

# Where are we now?



- Climate information is needed to address current and future risks from climate change -- a conclusion emphasized in the NAPAs, NAPs discussions, and the LDCF/UNDP adaptation portfolio
- Lack of climate data is a major underlying factor in low adaptive capacity in Africa
- In African LDCs, technologies are often not fully functional, data is often not digitized, and climate information is not provided in a timely and user-friendly form suitable for adaptation and DRR purposes
- New technologies now available and commercially used mainly in developed countries can provide high quality climate information at much lower initial cost, are easily maintained, can be linked to automated, cellular communication
- Over \$40 M in grants from the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) managed by UNDP, is now available for climate information at the national and regional levels for activities in collaboration with the private sector and other key stakeholders

# Where do we want to go?



- Meet the need to generate, process and disseminate high quality and timely weather and climate data that is comprehensive, reliable, accessible and in a form that end users can understand
- Enable vulnerable communities, farmers and policymakers in Africa to access and use climate data to make informed decisions on how to survive in a changing climate. For example:
  - help communities build shelters and make evacuation plans (EWS),
  - farmers to make more informed planting and harvesting decisions, and
  - policymakers to develop long-term National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).
- Bring innovative, reliable, low cost, easily maintained technologies with national coverage and cellular links to hydromet agencies
- Impact human lives, food and global security

# How?



- First, by recognizing the complexity of this process, identifying the many pieces of the puzzle and multiple steps to be taken -- from the generation of data to its utilization by the end-users
- Second, through enhanced regional and multi-country cooperation and support, as climate information should not be limited by national boundaries
- Third, by promoting the involvement of key stakeholders while governments must lead, they cannot do it alone
  - The private sector has technologies, expertise, and resources, and also must help identify and respond to climate risks – PPPs can help tailor information and also generate revenue to make climate systems more sustainable
  - Civil society works at a community level and is key to adaptation
- Fourth, by exploring opportunities created by innovative technologies (soft and hard) and new means of communication (cell phones)
- Fifth-Tenth: by embracing your vision and listening to your requests!

# Challenges and Opportunities

- The risk of focusing only on hardware and technologies
- Growing need for Capacity Building and specialized training
- Recognizing both common issues (help on procurement and training) combined with specific national and local circumstances (on how to gather, process and disseminate the data)
- Identifying the complementary roles of governments, the private sector and civil society
- Accessing conventional and innovative technologies, know-how and software, which are improving and creating new tools and services as we speak

# Next Steps



- Summarize inputs from participant countries and integrate them into the programme roadmap
- Exposing African LDCs to a wide range of technologies and software – starting with Expo in Addis and Training in Dar Es Salaam
- With your input, fine-tune a work plan and timeline
- Join us in this exciting journey!



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# Thank you!

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