



KASA INITIATIVE GHANA

OUTPUT REPORT ON THE PROJECT: Enhancing Adaptive Strategies to Cope with Climate-induced Coastal Erosion in Ghana

Implemented in 2022 With support from ARA Microgrant programme

Background on Organisation and Summary approach

Kasa Initiative Ghana is a located Civil society in Ghana working in the climate change and Natural Resources sector. One of the key activities of Kasa includes empowering local communities and groups on environmental and climate change sustainability and resilience building approaches. Kasa received support from the ARA small grants programme in 2022 to undertake community research in Coastal communities of Ghana experiencing coastal erosion due to Sea level rise as result of climate change. The research project as titled above was undertaken in three coastal regions of Ghana in which different stakeholder groups were engaged to assess the effectiveness of local adaptation strategies in response to sea level rise and coastal erosion.

The key outputs from the project were summarised and used to respond accordingly to the questions posed by ARA to receive feedback in the following points

KEY OUT QUESTIONS

*1) What are the emergent discoveries on your burning issue? (provide a short description of the process and key insights) **

The process involved conducting three stakeholder consultation meetings on coastal erosion and its impacts (burning issues), with each consultation focusing on an aspect of adaptation – adaptation strategies, data for adaptation, capacity needs assessment – and targeting a particular stakeholder group. Consultations were held at three different geographic locations along the coast of Ghana – Anloga, Accra and Cape Coast. Key emergent discoveries are:

- Current adaptation strategies adopted by the government – hard engineering (e.g. defence walls) - only provide temporary solution to the problem of coastal erosion but tends to be ineffective and worsens the problem in the long run.
- Nature-based and other soft solutions (e.g. beach nourishment) are viable replacement or complement to current hard engineering solutions
- Lack of a dedicated coastal management policy hampers effective coordination of activities and interventions on coastal development and management
- There are significant gaps in the data required for effective coastal adaptation planning, and poor collaboration between public institutions mandated to produce data and also with the private sector
- Lack of trust between community members and political/security agencies responsible for managing coastal resources
- Community members have become aware of their role in aggravating the impacts coastal erosion.

*2) What opportunities for impact do you foresee in the future? Please explain how you would go about pursuing those" **

- Opportunity to influence the development of a coastal management policy and ensure the active engagement of community members in the development process.
- Opportunity to integrate some of the key discoveries in Ghana's ongoing NAP (National Adaptation Plan) processes
- Opportunity to collaborate with other ARA micro-grantees having complementary results to develop a joint proposal and source for funding for a bigger impact project
- Opportunity to increase education on nature-based solution and conservation of coastal resources such as mangroves
- Opportunity to raise some of the emerging discoveries at COP 27 in the context of Loss and damage which is gaining momentum among stakeholders eg CSOs at the African regional level.

3) *What do you consider are some of the biggest successes you achieved? What are the factors that you think contributed to these successes (e.g. issues of timing, contextual factors, people involved, etc.)? **

The biggest success achieved was the range of stakeholders we were able to reach, the passion with which issues were discussed and how different interests were managed. Stakeholders reached included government ministries, departments and agencies, local authorities, private sector players, civil society and community-based organizations, NGOs, religious authorities, research and academia, traditional authorities, community members, farmers, fishermen, fishmongers, etc.

Other successes include:

- The consultations enabled the voice/opinions of minority or often-neglected stakeholders in coastal development and management, e.g. fishermen and fishmongers, to be heard
- Increased awareness of local communities of their role in aggravating the impacts of coastal erosion and their willingness to engage and change course.

4) *Which strategies and approaches do you think have worked to enhance / support the co-creation process with your stakeholders? **

- Tailoring each of the three stakeholder consultations predominantly to a stakeholder group. For example the consultations on effective adaptation strategies predominantly involved communities members, traditional authorities, fishermen/fishmongers, etc. This enabled them to make significant contributions as they could directly relate to that. On the other hand, consultations on data for effective adaptation planning predominantly involved public and private sector data producers/providers.
- The use of local languages (in addition to English) increased participation of the less educated and often marginalized stakeholders, some of whom provided extremely useful insights on potential solutions to reducing the impact of coastal erosion.

5) *What has not worked so well, and why?/ what would you do differently? **

- Some stakeholders who were identified and invited could not attend because they had engagements that conflicted with ours. This was probably due to the period of notification, which was not always very long due to the limited time we had to work within. In the future, we would endeavor to give longer notification periods to enable all stakeholders honor our invitation.

6) *What do you think are key elements of a successful micro-granting process? **

- The call for proposals should specify broad research themes from which applicants and choose. This can facilitate scaling-up efforts because results from all projects within a particular theme can form the basis of subsequent “large scale” interventions.
- At least one learning workshop should be organized during the project implementation. I think this was originally planned but couldn’t be realized. Cross-learnings at this stage could really help the grantees correct mistakes and improve on the co-creation process
- Timing should be extended to at least three months. In addition, opportunities should be given for cost-neutral extensions if grantees so desire.
- Request for grantees to pre-finance activities should be prevented as much as possible. Projects may fail if grantee organizations don’t have the funds to make advance payments.

7) What key lessons could you share about undertaking a successful co-production process? *

- It is important to ensure that all possible stakeholders/actors have been identified and consulted. At the first meeting, share the list of stakeholders with those present and ask them to indicate stakeholders who are missing, and endeavor to bring them in
- Stakeholders have different interests, expertise and influence/power. To accommodate all these and ensure successful co-production, endeavor to design activities that takes into consideration these differences. For example a University professor and local community member may have different interests and understanding on certain issues. Activities must ensure that all participants are brought to the same level and no stakeholder has an undue advantage over the other(s).
- Make use of local language and ensure that traditions and customs of local communities are respected and adhered to.
- Use local expertise to deliver on community actions for greater buy-in by the community and for the sustainability of the project.

8) How could the ARA further support the next steps for this work now or in the future? *

- ARA can support advocacy for the development of a dedicated coastal management policy, and active involvement of local communities and marginalized groups in the policy making process.
- Support community-level education on nature-based solutions and conservation of coastal vegetation including mangroves
- Use of current findings to expand scope of work and deliberate steps to actionise prioritised key findings or recommendations as a pilot project. E.g. to demonstrate to communities to put to practice the nature based solutions such as planting coastal vegetation that delivers multiple benefits, e.g. coconut, mangroves, acacia, etc.