

ADAPTATION PARTNERSHIP

USAID SUPPORTS CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION THROUGH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE, COLLABORATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION



Photo by: Francesco Fiondella/IRI

USAID was a key supporter of the Adaptation Partnership, a global coalition founded in 2010 in response to a recognized need for development practitioners to share information and lessons learned about climate change adaptation. Chaired by the governments of the U.S., Costa Rica and Spain, the Partnership engaged governments, institutions, practitioners, and planners from more than 50 developed and developing countries, and served as a catalyst for increasing resilience to climate change throughout the world (www.adaptationpartnership.org).

The Partnership was created with the view that it would fill a gap until negotiations about adaptation institutions under the UNFCCC were finalized. With the Adaptation Committee in place, the Partnership formally came to an end in late 2012. USAID continues to support the communities of practice that emerged from the Partnership. In addition, the results and lessons from the Partnership are being shared with the Adaptation Committee and projects being implemented under the UNFCCC, such as the Nairobi Work Program.

In collaboration with other U.S. government agencies (e.g., the Department of State and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), regional and national institutions, and non-profit organizations, USAID supported more than 10 regional capacity-building workshops in Africa, Asia, and Latin America focused on climate change vulnerability and adaptation issues related to food security, climate services, urban climate resilience, coastal and marine protected areas, and high mountain glacial regions. These multi-stakeholder workshops served as a platform for knowledge sharing, identifying opportunities for continued collaboration, and implementing new climate-resilient initiatives around the world. Workshop outcomes include the creation of communities of practice (CoP), performance of scientific research and technical analyses, and development of small grant programs.

Creating New Communities of Practice (CoP)

CoPs are forums that facilitate knowledge exchange among practitioners and planners. The Climate Services Partnership (CSP) was formed shortly after the 2011 International Climate Services workshop, held in New York City. The CSP is an interdisciplinary network of climate information users, researchers, and donors who work together to improve

RESULTS AT A GLANCE

USAID worked with other members of the Adaptation Partnership to cultivate the following effective climate change adaptation activities:

- Communities of Practice (CoPs) were established to facilitate continuing communication and collaboration on climate services, glacial retreat, and climate resilient agriculture.
- Innovative scientific research and economic analyses are underway to learn more about important climate change issues, including glacial lake formation and the economic value of climate services.
- Three small grant programs stimulated adaptation field research, training, planning, and information-sharing. Grant awards ranged from \$25,000 to \$550,000.



Photo by: Caribbean Partners for Educational Progress

USAID-SUPPORTED ADAPTATION PARTNERSHIP WORKSHOPS

(<http://www.adaptationpartnership.org/blog/activities>)

West Africa Climate Services
(June-July 2011/Dakar, Senegal)

International Conference on Climate Services
(October 2011/New York)
(September 2012/Belgium)

Andean-Asian Imja Glacial Lake Expedition and Global Knowledge Exchange on Glaciers, Glacial Lakes, Water and Hazard Management and Writers Workshop (September 2011/Nepal)

Western Indian Ocean Climate Change Workshop for Coastal and Marine Protected (MPA) Areas (February 2012/South Africa)

Climate Change Capacity Building and Training for MPA Managers
(November 2013/South Africa)

Assessing Climate Change Vulnerability and Building Resilience in the Agricultural Sector to Promote Economic Development and Food Security in Central America
(March 2012/Costa Rica)

Building Urban Climate Resilience in Asia
(July-August 2012/Thailand)

Climate Change Adaptation and Peacebuilding in Africa
(November 2012/Washington, DC)

Climate Change Adaptation and Security
(October 2013/Ethiopia)



the development and provision of climate services across the globe (www.climate-services.org). Similarly, following the 2012 *Building Urban Climate Resilience in Asia* workshop in Bangkok, participants committed to strengthening existing urban- focused CoPs, promoting city-to-city exchanges, and improving the co-production and exchange of knowledge for urban climate resilience planning. The High Mountains Adaptation Partnership (HiMAP)¹ (www.highmountains.org) grew out of the USAID-sponsored workshop, *Andean-Asian Mountains Global Knowledge Exchange on Glaciers, Glacial lakes, Water and Hazard Management*, which was held in Nepal in 2011.

Conducting Scientific and Economic Research

USAID has sponsored numerous adaptation-related research activities and assessments identified by Partnership workshop participants and partners. Research stemming from the workshop on high mountain glacial areas includes the collection and analysis of glacial lake data to help evaluate the risk of outburst floods and manage Nepal's glacial lakes. The climate services workshop spawned an initiative to value climate services across economic and public sectors. The same workshop led to an assessment of an innovative climate services program run by the Mali Meteorological Office. This study is investigating how to effectively apply the program in other West African countries. USAID also supported the development of an extensive inventory of adaptation activities in developing countries (<http://adaptationpartnership.org/blog/activities>); with 12 regional and 114 country profiles, it provides a useful "big picture" of who is doing what on adaptation – and where there might be gaps and opportunities for further action.

Initiating Small Grants Programs

Another outcome from the Partnership is the creation of small grants programs to fund climate change adaptation research and action on challenges identified at the workshops. In Central America, the Partnership sponsored grants for work to increase climate resilience in the production of beans, maize, and cattle by identifying and disseminating good practices and building farmers' capacity through training and exchanges. The HiMAP Climber-Scientist Small Grants Program awarded individual and institutional grants to support field research, adaptation planning, and capacity building in Peru, Nepal, Pakistan, and India. The CSP is supporting the development of climate and weather information tools to inform farmers' decision-making in the context of a changing climate. Following the *Building Urban Resilience in Asia* workshop, a new USAID program, Climate Resilient Infrastructure Services (CRIS) was developed, which includes a small grant program that is helping to assess climate vulnerability and mainstream climate resilience into city-level policies in countries like Thailand, India, and Indonesia.

¹ The High Mountains Adaptation Partnership (HiMAP) was initially called the High Mountain Glacial Watershed Program.