

CLIMATE RESILIENCE



Centre for
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EFFECTIVE CLIMATE RESILIENCE BUILDING

- 1 Puts people and their livelihoods at the centre of resilience building efforts.
- 2 Translates knowledge and training into practice.
- 3 Stretches beyond project cycle to ensure long-term sustainability.

Livelihood resilience framework (Speranza et al. 2014)

Buffer capacity – refers to "the ability to cushion change and use emerging opportunities for better livelihood outcomes." It represents people's livelihood assets, or "capitals" (human, natural, social, financial, physical), and access to resources, goods, and services.

Self-organisation – refers to the ability of social actors to determine their own rules that affect them in a collective process of social co-operation. This can be achieved via developing networks, collaboration and increasing self-reliance.

Capacity for learning – refers to the ability of social actors to acquire new knowledge and skills, along with the capacity to act on them. New knowledge should be supported in its transfer to action.

WHAT IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE?

In an era of increasingly unpredictable climate patterns, it is vital for societies, communities, and individuals to anticipate, prepare for, respond to, and recover from adverse climate impacts. This underscores the importance of developing climate resilience.

Climate resilience refers to the ability of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with climate-related events, trends, or disturbances.

While governments and development agencies have invested in enhancing resilience of communities and landscapes, there is no single guideline for achieving this goal. Complexities in understanding the resilience concept, lack of appropriate frameworks and resilience indicators, and limited financial and technical capacities - all hinder practitioners' ability to implement and evaluate resilience building efforts.

LIVELIHOOD RESILIENCE

In the context of development projects, placing people and their livelihoods at the centre of climate resilience efforts is crucial. This approach not only reduces poverty and builds adaptive capacity essential for resilience, but also serves as an important indicator of project success.

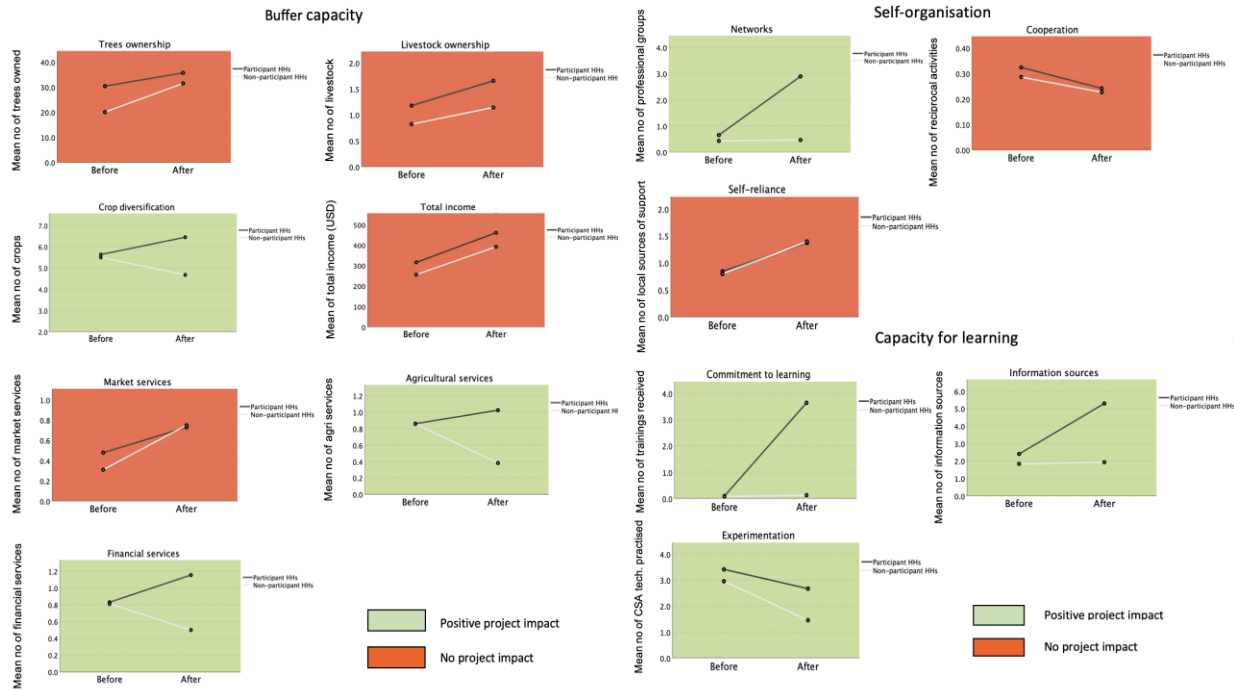
Resilient livelihoods can maintain and enhance their everyday functioning in the face of change, including exposure to various shocks and stresses. They can buffer themselves from disturbances by utilising capacities such as assets and access to essential resources, self-organise through collaborative work and social networks, and learn through experimentation and knowledge of the existing threats and opportunities.

Supporting livelihood resilience is, therefore, paramount for building climate resilient landscapes and communities.

Leeds researchers used the livelihood resilience framework to evaluate the impact of the GCCA+ integrated climate adaptation project, in northeast Tanzania.

INTEGRATED PROGRAMMING FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE: RESEARCH, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

By developing a contextual understanding of key livelihood resilience indicators and assessing changes in these indicators over time (by comparing participating and non-participating HHs), researchers and development practitioners gained insight into the progress of resilience-building efforts in East Usambara Mountains.



The positive impacts on key resilience indicators (highlighted in green) are promising. The capacity for learning was enhanced through the diversification of information sources, the establishment of platforms for agricultural experimentation (CSA), and the promotion of financial and entrepreneurial education. Self-organisation was fostered through group activities and the expansion of social networks (see Briefing note 4). However, primary activities aimed at strengthening household buffering capacities, such as income-generating ventures (e.g. butterfly farming, eco-tourism), dairy livestock management, and exploring new markets, showed limited impact at the end of the project (highlighted in red). Additional efforts are therefore required to ensure that the knowledge and training provided effectively enhance the foundational capacities needed for resilience-building and translate the project's provisions into tangible action.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Focusing on learning and experimentation contributes to building adaptive capacity, but it does not guarantee that knowledge will be translated into practice.
 - Effective transmission of knowledge into practice requires longer project cycles and lasting commitments.
 - Group work supports networks and self-organisation, but more effort is needed to ensure cooperation and evaluate groups functioning.
 - Understanding of key livelihood resilience indicators encourage shared responsibility for climate resilience, but lack of resources could undermine sustainability.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Focus on livelihoods resilience to support climate resilience and poverty reduction goals simultaneously.
- Design interventions based on in depth understanding of local livelihoods & extend project timelines to ensure knowledge is translated into practice.
- Regularly assess group dynamics to ensure effective cooperation and sustainability both during the project and after its completion.

