
Development of member states' baseline data sets

Systems review and baseline indicator development

The Technical Consortium has been given the mandate to establish catalogues containing baseline datasets for the IGAD member state countries. These catalogues will provide information on a number of factors regarding the data for indicators for which there is general agreement of a cumulative contribution towards “resilience” to drought in the Horn of Africa. These indicators would be used by member states when implementing investments in various sectors that are designed to enhance the resilience of communities etc. to drought. They will facilitate the establishment of a baseline, subsequent monitoring of progress and finally overall impact of the investment towards enhanced resilience.

The development of the baseline indicator data set has entailed the review and collation of spatial datasets for member states, which are relevant to a multi-system assessment of the impacts of investments, and interventions as detailed in the Country Program Papers aimed at building livelihood resilience in drought-prone areas.

The systems forming these baseline data sets have been delineated as social, economic and ecological. Scoping of available data sets and the subsequent analysis of data gaps has been arranged under these system categories.

First draft indicator data catalogue

An extensive review is being carried out for baseline data for member state countries in the Horn of Africa region. Highest available resolution datasets will be sought and described in terms of:

- Importance to the resilience of the relevant system(s)
- Accuracy / success with which the data represents what it sets out to represent

The relevant summary information and the assessment details aforementioned will be used to produce a data catalogue for the region.

In order to build on the data catalogues from a listing form, scoping of spatial data sets is being carried out in tangent as a sub-component of building the member state baseline data sets. The advance overlay functionality of GIS and the resulting spatial outputs form an integral aspect of building capacity and baselines from which to measure the impact of investments.

The approach will be multi-disciplinary to fully capture the concept of system resilience. A simple combination of layers will be adopted to begin with to provide representations of system status. The baseline development will equip member states with the building blocks for modelling non-linear inter-relationships between variables as these become more clearly understood. Historic and recent datasets will provide benchmarks, which may then be tracked through time for the early detection and identification of anomalies or thresholds the crossing of which may precipitate regime shift to a less favourable state. Summary and other datasets will be clipped for each Member State and supplied to augment and integrate with existing regional environmental information systems with the purpose of helping to inform high spatial resolution decisions about land use and resilient development.

The exact format for this delivery is to be chosen in consultation with the IGAD member states as part of the capacity building element, and likely be unique to each member state's existing resources and relevant institutions. All member states will be provided with GIS data layers for desktop mapping, with metadata, and summaries of holdings accompanying the geodatabase. The subsequent deliverable is the supply of baselines to member states that can be developed into a full web mapping delivery system with built-in tools and models. ■

