COMMUNITY-BASED RISK SCREENING TOOL – ADAPTATION AND LIVELIHOODS

CRiSTAL

"CRiSTAL has not just helped us to identify adaptation measures that really confront climatic risks as communities perceive them, but the participatory process has also allowed us to generate a space for discussion among a wide range of stakeholders. The proposed solutions are not only technically sound but are also in line with the local culture and tradition, which is essential for successful implementation."

—Tatiana Farfán de la Vega, CARE Peru

ABOUT CRiSTAL

CRiSTAL is a project-planning tool that helps users design activities that support climate adaptation at the community level. CRiSTAL stands for 'Community-based Risk Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods'.

OBJECTIVE

CRiSTAL helps users to understand:

- **How current and potential future climate hazards affect or may affect a project area and local livelihoods.**
- **How people respond to the current and potential future impacts of these climate hazards.**
- **Which livelihood resources are most affected by current climate hazards and which ones are most important for the response strategies.**
- **How project activities affect access to, or availability of, these critical livelihood resources.**
- **What project adjustments (revision of existing activities and/or design of new activities) can be made to support climate adaptation and reduce climate risk.**

TARGET USER

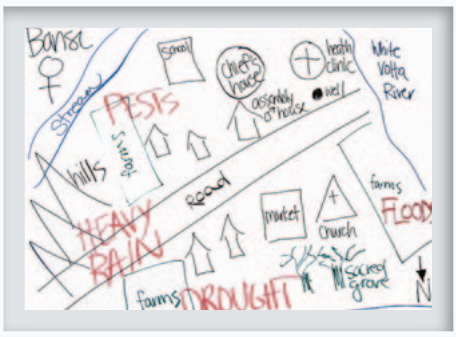
CRiSTAL targets project planners and managers working at the local and community levels. However, a wide range of other actors may also use the tool (including policy-makers and decision-makers).

APPROACH

CRiSTAL relies on information collected through desk-based review, local stakeholder consultations and expert interviews. Community consultations using participatory methods are especially important for gathering information on local livelihoods and coping strategies.

CRiSTAL guides users through a number of analytical steps, which are divided into the following three phases:

PHASE	A Understand the livelihoods and climate context		B Evaluate the implications for your project		C Support monitoring & evaluation
STEPS AND PROCESS	1 Describe livelihoods context	2 Analyze climate risks	3 Revise existing project activities	4 Design new project activities	5 Identify key elements for your monitoring and evaluation framework
OUTPUTS	• List of livelihood resources for men and women that are most affected by climate hazards and most important for responding to climate impacts		• Proposed adjustments to existing projects • Prioritized new activities to support climate adaptation • A list of key opportunities and barriers to revised/new project implementation		• List of desired adaptation outcomes and important influencing factors to be monitored



Courtesy of Angie Dazé (CARE), 2007

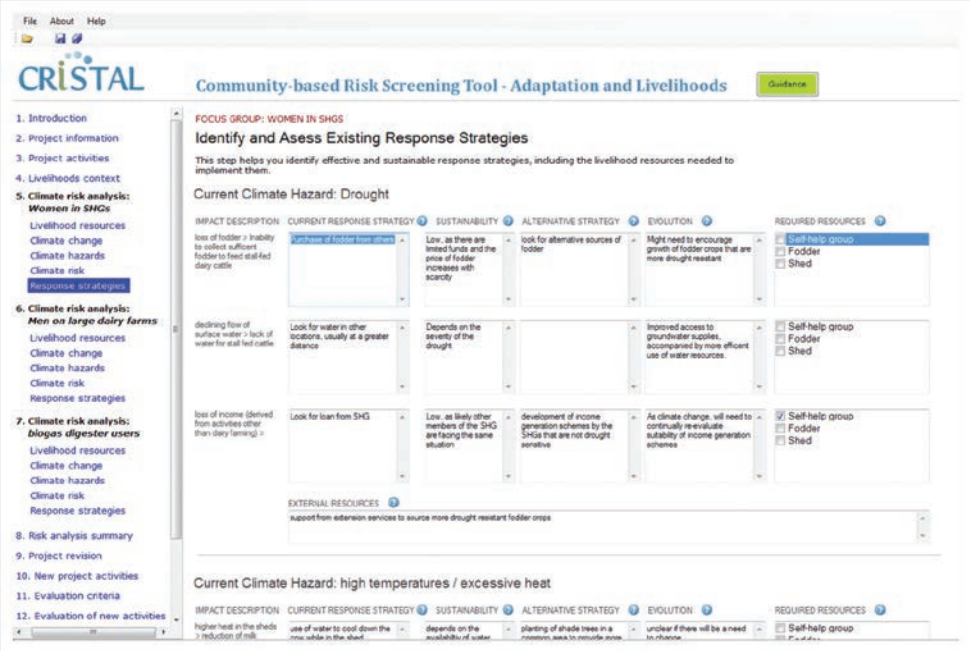
While scientific information is required to characterize the climate context in Step 1, the remaining steps can be completed by collecting information through community consultations and discussions with other project stakeholders. Complementary tools, such as CARE's Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis framework, can help to structure such participatory exchanges.

APPLYING CRISTAL

Once users collect the necessary information, they must enter it into the tool following a series of analytical steps that build on each other. At the end, users are provided with a systematic organization and presentation of:

- **Livelihood resources that are most affected by climate hazards and most important for responding to climate impacts from the perspective of men, women and different social groups.**
- **Proposed adjustments to existing projects and new activities to support climate adaptation.**
- **Desired adaptation outcomes and important influencing factors to be monitored.**

Using this information, users can design and implement projects that safeguard and improve livelihoods in the face of climate risk.



FORMAT

CRiSTAL is a desktop application compatible with Microsoft Windows 7 operating systems and newer versions. It is currently available in English and Spanish. Translations of the tool in other languages will be released in the future.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY IISD AND CRiSTAL PARTNERS

CRiSTAL Training: Training is provided to different types of decision-makers, tailored to their specific capacities and needs when it comes to local-level adaptation planning. Training programs can range from one- to four-day workshops. A four-day workshop includes consultations with communities, entering gathered information into the tool and a preliminary analysis of results. Training can be provided to groups of varying sizes and is available in English, French and Spanish.

Training in community consultation and adaptation planning: Specific training on the use of CRiSTAL can be complemented by training on community consultation techniques and introductory sessions on climate adaptation planning.

Participatory climate risk assessments: CRiSTAL partners work with public and private sector stakeholders to conduct climate risk assessments that lead to the identification of adaptation options for selected communities, sectors, and/or ecosystems. This can include: reviewing the latest information on climate risk; conducting community consultations; facilitating scenario exercises to devise adaptation strategies; and prioritizing and selecting adaptation options based on stakeholder-defined criteria. Results are validated and, where appropriate, fed into planning processes.

Knowledge sharing and learning: Since 2007 CRiSTAL has been applied in over 30 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America, leading to different experiences and results. This growing community of practice around CRiSTAL is an important learning resource on local adaptation planning that can help to advance broader research and policy agendas on climate adaptation.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION OF CRiSTAL

In 2014 CRiSTAL was recognized by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as a decision-support tool that can help with adaptation risk management. It has been included in various toolkits, guidance documents and resources available online that support adaptation decision-making, such as:

- **CARE's *Toolkit for Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Projects***
- ***Climate Compatible Development Tools: A Guide for National Planning***
- **The United Nations Environment Programme's PROVIA *Guidance on Assessing Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change***
- **The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's *Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change***
- **World Bank's *Climate Smart Planning Platform***

SPECIALIZED VERSIONS OF CRiSTAL

CRiSTAL food security

CRiSTAL Food Security helps integrate and monitor the climate resilience of a community's food system.

CRiSTAL forests

CRiSTAL Forests helps integrate climate adaptation into projects focused on forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities.

CRiSTAL Parks

CRiSTAL Parks helps integrate climate adaptation and risk reduction into Protected Areas management.

Photo Credits: Alec Crawford

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.iisd.org/cristal

- Download the different versions of CRiSTAL and their user manuals
- Access a robust database of reports that share experiences in applying CRiSTAL around the world
- View the events calendar showing upcoming training sessions and other activities

CONTACTS

For more information about CRiSTAL and associated training opportunities please, contact:

Daniella Echeverría
International Institute for Sustainable Development
cristal@iisd.ca

Nicole Clot
HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
nicole.clot@helvetas.org

iisd International Institute for Sustainable Development / Institut international du développement durable

IUCN

HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation

SEI Stockholm Environment Institute