



At a Glance

Title:	Health, environmental change and adaptive capacity
Programme:	FP7 Cooperation, Environment (including Climate Change)
Total budget:	€4,194,963
EC contribution:	€3,377,998
Duration:	January 2011 – December 2014
Consortium:	15 partners of which 8 based in Africa, 7 in Europe
Coordinator:	Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Web:	www.healthyfutures.eu

The Challenge

Environmental change, such as climate change, will affect and impact human health, which is a major concern for the global community. The effects will however be felt most acutely among the poorest members of society. Much concern has focused on the future distribution and spread of infectious diseases, and in particular the negative health impacts of changes in transmission and outbreaks of vector-borne diseases (or VBDs) as a result of climate change. The impacts may be direct, in terms of outbreaks of disease among human populations, or indirect, in the form of outbreaks of diseases that affect domesticated animals or plants, and therefore jeopardise food security, agriculture-based economic activities and trade.

Project Objectives

The project focuses on three water-related, high-impact VBDs (malaria, Rift Valley fever and schistosomiasis) in eastern Africa (comprising the countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania). It will take into account environmental/climatic trends and changes in socio-economic conditions to predict future risk. HEALTHY FUTURES aims to;

1. Build partnerships between African and European researchers and organisations in the fields of environmental change, and animal and public health;
2. Gain a comprehensive overview and knowledge of the historical, socio-economic and environmental factors of the 3 target VBD's;
3. Devise and construct a future disease and risk vulnerability mapping system, and accompanying Decision Support tools to anticipate and respond to early warnings of future outbreaks, and;
4. Connect and transfer knowledge to key stakeholders, and the wider scientific and policy-related communities.



Methodology

Concentrating on eastern Africa as a study area, HEALTHY FUTURES comprises a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary consortium of health, environment, socio-economic, disease modelling and climate experts in addition to governmental health departments. To achieve its aims, HEALTHY FUTURES will deploy a bottom-up, end user/stakeholder-focused approach combining field-, laboratory- and library-based research. HEALTHY FUTURES will also help the training of young African scientists in the trans-disciplinary fields of environmental change and animal and human health by funding three PhD scholarships and one MSc (research) scholarship. An External Review Panel will provide scientific oversight, review project methodology and comment on draft outputs.

Results

HEALTHY FUTURES has the expected results of:

- An evaluation of and development of statistical & dynamical disease models.
- High resolution regional climate projections for the eastern African study region and future disease risk and vulnerability maps.
- An online information board, workshops and international conferences.
- Peer-reviewed publications in high impact journals.
- Two-way dialogue between researchers and key stakeholders within the consortium.

These will ensure that the findings of the research are widely disseminated among stakeholders, policy-makers and the global scientific community and that the results, including the Decision Support tools, are made available to interested parties in areas of disease outbreaks in other parts of Africa (i.e. beyond the boundaries of the study area) and, if relevant, form part of an early warning system for Europe.

Project Partners



Trinity College Dublin (Coordinator)
Ireland



Earth Systems Physics, The Abdus Salam
International, Centre for Theoretical Physics



Paris-Lodron Universität Salzburg
Austria



Sveriges Meteorologiska och Hydrologiska Institut
Sweden



University of Nairobi
Kenya



AquaTT
Ireland



International Livestock Research Institute
Kenya



National University of Rwanda
Rwanda



Stockholm Environment Institut
Tanzania/United Kingdom



Ministry of Health
Uganda



Kenya Medical Research Institute
Kenya



Rwanda Biomedical Centre
Rwanda



University of Cape Town
South Africa



University of Durham
United Kingdom



University of Liverpool
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