CDS Case Study: Climate – Health and Emerging Infectious Diseases in the Sub-Sahara

Led by CDS practitioner Keith Jones, the Innovation Expedition in 2008 facilitated a global dialogue on *Linking Climate and Health Research to Reduce Africa's Infectious Disease Burden.* The Dialogue was sponsored by the International Livestock Research Institute (Nairobi) and Google.org. Five discipline areas were involved in the conversation – animal health, human health, ecosystem health, disease vectors and climate. Other areas of expertise also contributed including economics, conservation, genetics, water resources, information and communication technologies.

It was recognized by the participants that links among climate and human and animal health are significant and a changing and more variable climate poses increasing risks to human health and well-being, particularly risks related to infectious diseases. It was agreed that Climate and health specialists across Africa can improve their effectiveness through better collaboration. Collaboration across these communities can improve Africa's capacity to predict, prevent and mitigate the impacts of climate-sensitive infectious diseases largely by dramatically improving early warning systems and response times. A number of actions and recommendations arose from the dialogue. Several of them were acted on immediately.

> *The challenges we are attempting to address, like enhancing the health of people, animals and environments all the at the same time – these challenges are so grand that no one community dares take responsibility for them*

–John McDermott, Deputy-Director of International Livestock Research Institute

The following table summarizes the steps and products of this Challenge Dialogue.

Step	Description	Products
1	*Identify the need for a Dialogue*	**Agreement** by ILRI, *icipe* and Google.org to proceed with a dialogue approach culminating in a workshop in Nairobi.
2	*Plan the Dialogue*	**Process Planning Memo** prepared by the *Organizing Committee.* Following the Innovation Expedition's Challenge Dialogue System™ process, 5 collaborating institutions were engaged in defining and championing the challenge, process, roles and responsibilities, participants and schedule. **Prospectus, Invitation Letter and introductory Video** prepared.
3	*Engage the Participants*	**Prospectus, Invitation Letter and introductory Video** sent. **Innovation Works Website** serves as a notice board and repository for the Dialogue documents www.ilri.org/InnovationWorks. [no longer active]

4	*Seek Participant Input*	**Challenge Paper** prepared and distributed to participants. It included a key challenge, expected outcomes, background, working proposition, assumptions, concept, critical questions, potential action options, and next steps with a separate feedback form.
5	*Report on Progress*	**Consolidated Feedback** document was prepared and made available on the Innovation Works website. There were over 55 respondents, most with considerable detail.
		Progress Report 1 synthesized the feedback resulting in revised statements for the key challenge, working proposition, expected outcomes; and a number of suggested action options.
		Dialogue Support Documents were prepared including:
		Climate Sensitive Infectious Diseases – a detailed table listing and defining a number of diseases and the way in which they are influenced by climate change.
		Impact of Climate Related Diseases – a detailed table listing the different diseases, the estimate of their impact and the source of information.
		Annotated Bibliography – A literature review was undertaken and 39 key papers abstracted in an annotated bibliography and made available to participants on a CD.
		Africa Based Stakeholders of Climate-Related Diseases – a list of institutions and where they are based, the type of institution or initiative and areas of work (see Appendix 1).
6	*Come Together For Face-to-Face Dialogue*	**A Workshop Workbook** was prepared which reflected and supported the workshop design and informed and guided the workshop process. The Workbook provided the agenda and resource materials for 26 sessions over two and a half days.
		Workshop was held in Nairobi September 9-11, 2008 attended by over 60 people.
		Workshop Participant Profiles which provides contact information and background information for most participants in the dialogue.
		Strategic Communications were established in conjunction with the Workshop and involved coordinated activities with reporters, including the Economist, the Nation and Wall Street Journal, and the preparation of other **Press Releases** and development and updating of a **Dialogue Blogsite** http://climatehealthdialogue.blogspot.com/. [no longer active]
7	*Synthesize and Integrate Results*	A **Resource Kit of Products from the Dialogue** describes 5 products that have been or will be produced: **Overview Summary**, **Dialogue Synopsis** including a single page Logic Model – **The Case (Logic Model) for a One-Health Approach for Improving Response to Infectious Disease in Africa**, **The Nature of the Workshop**, individual **Knowledge Products**, and **Web-based Materials** on www.ilri.org/InnovationWorks and http://climatehealthdialogue.blogspot.com/ [no longer active].
8	*Reflect and Act on Results*	**Action-Recommendations** as they evolved over the course of the dialogue, including noting of various allied initiatives, expressed as Action-Recommendations in the Synopsis and as 'activities' in the Logic Model.

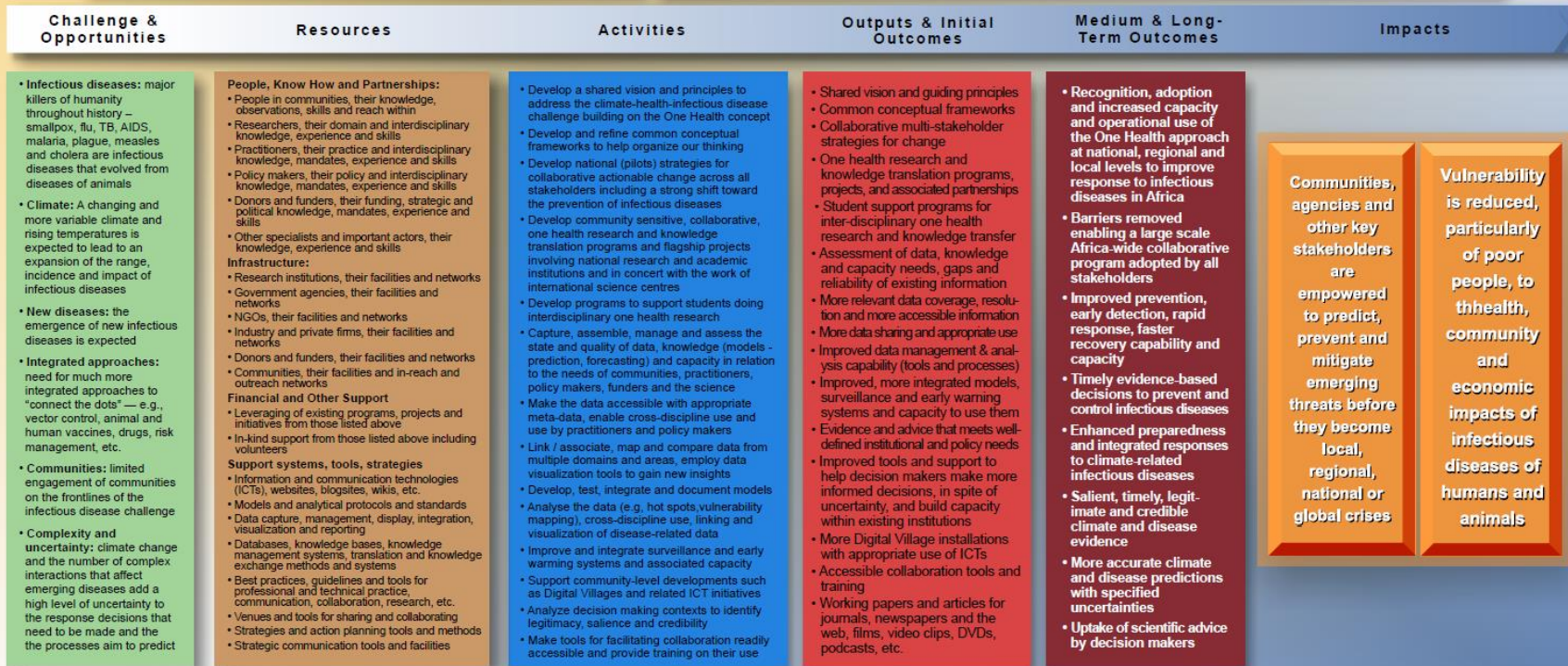**The case (logic model) for a One Health approach for improving response to infectious disease in Africa**

A detailed portfolio of documents for this Challenge Dialogue is on Hightail here: https://spaces.hightail.com/space/B0M1ephgHy