

WELCOME TO
KARAS REGION
 Road to Adaptation

Climate change

Climate change is the change in the Earth's "average weather" over a period of time. This is usually a slow, natural process, but today's climate change is too rapid due to our fossil fuel lifestyles. When fossil fuels are burned they release carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere, increasing the Earth's surface temperature.



The main impact of climate change is unpredictable and erratic weather patterns with overall decreased rainfall and increased temperatures. This will negatively affect livestock farming.

Climate change adaptations

"To live through periods of drought, we must never stop adapting" - a Karas farmer

Climate change will alter the way farming is done today. The impacts will be different for each area and farmer, so a variety of adaptations will be necessary. A key step is reacting appropriately to knowledge gathered from own experiences, neighbours and through good monitoring.



Adapting management practices

Livestock management practices that are flexible and based on environmental conditions will give farmers the ability to react more quickly to climate change impacts. These can include increasing natural plant cover and breeding livestock for climate-adaptability.



Adapting with improved policies and cooperation

Numerous government policies have measures in place to deal with climate change related impacts; however, climate change has not yet been streamlined into national development planning.

Improved legislation can facilitate public and private partnerships to benefit biodiversity and rural livelihoods.

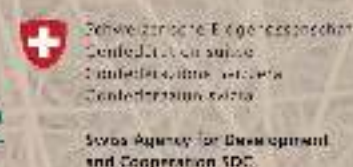


Adapting by diversifying

Diversification of land use can be realised through the sustainable utilisation of biodiversity. These include for example photographic tourism, trophy hunting, live game and venison meat sales and the cultivation of native plants such as hoodia. These forms of land use are more resilient to climatic changes.



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