United Nations Development Programme

Designing Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives

A UNDP Toolkit for Practitioners

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AF	Adaptation Fund
APF	Adaptation Policy Framework
ALM	Adaptation Learning Mechanism
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDCF	Least Developed Countries Fund
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NC	National Communication
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD/DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development / Development Assistance Committee
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
RBM	Results Based Management
SEI	Stockholm Environment Institute
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research

OVERVIEW

The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 2007) states unequivocally that the world is warming. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of how climate change is affecting natural and human systems. There is increasing concern about the likely implications of climate change on poverty, economic growth, ecosystem services, livelihood opportunities, as well as overall human development. The poorest populations in developing countries are expected to bear the brunt of the impacts of climate change, with costs in individual sectors (e.g., water or agriculture) expected to exceed billions of dollars in some countries. In this context, the world's attention is shifting toward adapting to the likelihood of a range of climate change-induced effects on ecosystems and economic development.

With the emerging necessity to adapt to climate change, countries and communities are starting to design and implement adaptation initiatives of various types, scales, and coverage. These initiatives seek to manage anticipated climate change risks at the national, sub-national, local/community levels. Some focus on developing system-wide local capacities aimed at analyzing, planning, and implementing a range of priority actions that strengthen the resilience of key stakeholders and institutions against anticipated climate change risks. Very often, this entails:

- Conducting analyses of the likelihood of associated biophysical and socio-economic implications of long-term climate change risks
- Preparing development strategies and plans to include consideration of climate change risks and opportunities
- Reviewing/revising/designing national and sub-national policies (including accompanying legislative adjustments) to take into account climate change risks and opportunities
- Developing partnerships, tools, and practices to incorporate climate resilience into investment decision-making processes
- Testing and demonstrating discrete interventions to manage climate risks

In this context, an emerging challenge is to design initiatives that explicitly address a climate change-driven problem. Questions arise on how to differentiate between a climate change adaptation initiative and a traditional development initiative. What are key elements that must be considered when developing and designing an adaptation initiative? Operational guidance on these questions is still very nascent.

Scope of the Toolkit

This Toolkit aspires to support all those involved in the design of measurable, verifiable, and reportable adaptation initiatives. It provides step-by-step guidance. As such, it seeks to answer the following question: What are the basic steps in planning and designing an adaptation initiative?

Linkages to Other Ongoing Sustainable Development Initiatives

Although adapting to climate change represents a new challenge, linkages exist between business-as-usual development strategies and adaptation. Development oriented results will generate benefits for managing climate change risks. Poverty reduction, improved nutrition, enhanced education, expanded infrastructure, and improved health will reduce vulnerability to climate change. At the same time, much of the adaptation financing that is currently available – Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF), Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF), The Adaptation Fund (AF), etc. – stipulates distinguishing between baseline development needs and the value added contribution – additionality – of the proposed results in the context of the climate change problem. This Toolkit provides guidance on developing adaptation initiatives that are distinct to baseline development.

Audience

The Toolkit is aimed at a wide audience of practitioners who are called on to support the formulation of adaptation initiatives.

- Professionals at the national and sub-national levels such as central, regional, and local government staff
- Community-based organizations and local communities (i.e., direct local beneficiaries) who seek to develop proposals for community-based adaptation initiatives
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and national and local associations
- Development agency staff supporting stakeholders in developing countries and/or other parties interested in the formulation and implementation of adaptation initiatives

Organization of the Toolkit

This Toolkit is organized into four main sections, each reflecting a vital component in the process of formulating and articulating an adaptation initiative.

1. Making the Case
2. Key Steps
3. Building Consensus
4. Tools and Methodologies

Throughout the text, there is advice on key information required, relevant sources, and critical issues to consider, and examples that are relevant to designing a climate change adaptation initiative.

Accompanying Materials

This Toolkit forms the basis for an accompanying training package that consists of PowerPoint training materials. The training package can be tailored for a course that follows the four main sections outlined in this Toolkit.

Main Sources of Information for this Toolkit

The material presented draws from UNDP experiences supporting countries at the national, sub-national, and community levels with the design of adaptation initiatives. It also captures key lessons and findings of other organizations on similar issues. Many of the UNDP projects were funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) as well as bilateral donors, including the Goverment of Japan.

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- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
- World Bank (WB)
- Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)
- German Technical Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit – GTZ)
- International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD)
- International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

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