



United Nations Development Programme

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY



**SCREENING TOOLS AND GUIDELINES TO
SUPPORT THE MAINSTREAMING OF CLIMATE
CHANGE ADAPTATION INTO DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE – A STOCKTAKING REPORT**



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Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. It will affect the poor and vulnerable first and foremost. The world's response to climate change today will bear directly on the development prospects of a large part of the world's population, particularly those who contributed least to the cause of climate change.

Integrating climate change considerations in national and sectoral decision-making processes and in development assistance programmes is critical to meeting this challenge. Mainstreaming climate change, by integrating the risks and opportunities it poses, can help ensure that our efforts today continue to advance development even in the face of climate change.

The donor community has elaborated myriad climate risk screening tools and mainstreaming guidelines in the past decade to meet this goal. The result of this effort is a wide array of methodologies with different approaches, geared to audiences covering different levels of activity and showcasing a variety of practical applications. This proliferation of available tools and guidelines calls for an assessment of their respective strengths and identification of any overarching gaps.

It is within this context that the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Energy & Environment Group called for a study to take stock of the climate risk screening tools, mainstreaming guidelines, and portfolio screening experience from the donor community. Under the umbrella of the project "Integrating climate change risks into UN country programming and national development processes", which received funds from the Government of Spain, UNDP commissioned the UNEP-Risø Centre to prepare this report. This publication is therefore a welcome example of collaborative inter-agency work which builds on each others' comparative strengths and complementary mandates.

I am pleased to note that the report is already demonstrating its relevance and usefulness within the UN system. In particular, the UN Development Group Task Team on Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability is drawing on this early work in preparing its upcoming Guidance Note on Including Climate Change Considerations in the Country Analysis and the UN Development Assistance Framework, which will be used by UN Country Teams.

We hope that this assessment of tools and guidance that support mainstreaming will be widely used by development practitioners within and beyond UNDP.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vandeweerd", is written over a horizontal line.

Veerle Vandeweerd
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1. INTRODUCTION



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The linkages between development and climate are by now commonly recognized. Hand in hand with this recognition, the need to integrate or ‘mainstream’ climate change adaptation into development planning and decision-making processes has gradually emerged. In this report, we adopt the USAID (2009, p.47) definition of mainstreaming as “the integration of climate concerns and adaptation responses into relevant policies, plans, programs, and projects at the national, sub-national, and local scales.”

A range of climate change adaptation activities and related climate change adaptation mainstreaming efforts have been undertaken over the past 5-10 years, presenting a wealth of information and insights on the subjects. At one end of the spectrum, we find the generic mainstreaming guidance documents attempting to conceptualize a framework for mainstreaming at the various levels (national, sectoral, local, programme and project) rather than providing detailed, operational instructions on how to implement mainstreaming in practice. Efforts in this category include the recently published report: *Policy Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation*, by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD 2009). The report not only outlines a conceptual framework for addressing mainstreaming at all levels, but also presents a rare example of a coordinated effort on mainstreaming and climate change adaptation led by the Joint OECD Environment-Development Task Team with inputs from a total of 29 countries and institutions.



At the other end of the spectrum, we find tools and methodologies developed to support specific components of mainstreaming. Though these, again, are at different levels of mainstreaming and exhibit significant variation – say in terms of breadth of detail or the extent to which they are readily operational in practice. Climate risk approaches, exercises and screening tools figure prominently at this end of the spectrum.

Apart from the OECD Policy Guidance, the above-mentioned efforts have to a large extent been undertaken independently by various national and international NGOs, donors, and institutions. They have different rationales and objectives and follow numerous approaches. In addition, in the absence of a common terminology for key climate change adaptation and mainstreaming terms, the same terms are frequently used differently in the variety of mainstreaming guidance documents, tools and methodologies used to support specific components of mainstreaming.

It is subsequently not straightforward even for experts within the field of climate change adaptation and development – and much less so for development policy and project planners in developing countries – to establish a clear picture of what mainstreaming is, let alone how it can be made operational, supported, and strengthened at the various national and sub-national levels. It is equally challenging to assemble an overview of available tools and resources to support various components of mainstreaming, their differences and similarities, and their comparative strengths and limitations. The purpose of this stocktaking report is to shed light on these issues.

There are several examples of efforts that have addressed some of the issues above, but they have primarily either targeted a specific level of mainstreaming or a sub-set of climate risk screening exercises. For example, Klein et al. (2007) provides a detailed assessment of the portfolio screening exercises conducted by different bilateral and multilateral donor agencies and identifies opportunities for donor agencies to expand their focus on the links between development and climate. On at least two occasions, workshops have furthermore been held to bring together key stakeholders (researchers and practitioners) to discuss and exchange climate change adaptation tools, approaches and experiences (IISD¹ 2007 and GTZ² 2009). Both workshops provided summaries of available tools and guidance, but a comparative overview and analysis of climate risk screening efforts has so far not been undertaken, with the mainstreaming context of tools and guidance left underexplored.

This report is structured in the following way: Section 2 explores the rationale for mainstreaming, outlines the main components necessary to operationalize mainstreaming, and indicates the various relevant levels and associated entry points to consider in the mainstreaming process. After this, Section 3 discusses and illustrates how key climate change adaptation and mainstreaming concepts are defined and used – both in relevant literature and in practice – as well as how they relate to development. Whereas Section 2 and 3 take the concept of mainstreaming as the point of departure, Sections 4 and 5 focus on climate risk screening methods tools and guidance. Section 4 explores how climate risk screening efforts can be categorized in relation to mainstreaming, plus the components of mainstreaming that are addressed in the variety of climate risk screening tools and guidance. A comparative overview and analysis of climate risk screening tools and guidance is provided in Section 5, followed by brief conclusions in Section 6.

¹ International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

² Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). English translation: German society for technical co-operation



2. MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION



Sophia Paris/UNDP (Haiti)

2.1. The Rationale for Climate Change Adaptation Mainstreaming

Climate change generates both risks and opportunities³. These are, however, unevenly distributed across regions, countries, population groups and individuals. Furthermore, the capacity of individuals and societies – to plan for and adapt to climate change, to take advantage of potential opportunities, and to deal with potential risks – varies significantly worldwide. The available research and case studies uniformly confirm that developing countries face the largest impacts and risks associated with climate variability and change and simultaneously have the highest vulnerability and lowest capacity to deal with such impacts and risks. There is also a growing body of evidence that the additional burden of climate variability and change falls disproportionately on the poorest and most

vulnerable population segments and countries within the group of developing countries⁴.

The need to integrate or mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning and in decision-making processes has become increasingly apparent with the general recognition of the linkages between development and climate change adaptation⁵, plus their significance as reflected in:

- 1) The scientific evidence on climate variability and change;
- 2) The observed current and projected future impacts of climate variability and change on natural as well as socio-economic systems⁶;
- 3) The increasing knowledge and wealth of studies on how such impacts may jeopardize the results and impacts of many development efforts and further compromise the achievement of key development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- 4) The concern that development activities may lead to ‘maladaptation’ – an increase in exposure and/or vulnerability to climate change – either by overlooking climate change impacts, or by undertaking climate change adaptation actions that fail to adequately address the impacts of climate change⁷; and

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