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Publication date: 2011

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Link back to DTU Orbit

Citation (APA):

Olhoff, A. (2011). Climate Change Adaptation: What are we doing about it? [Sound/Visual production (digital)]. Danida Environment and Climate Change Seminar, Roskilde (DK), 12-14 Oct, 01/01/2011

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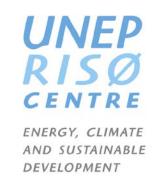
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Climate Change Adaptation What are we doing about it?

Anne Olhoff, UNEP Risø Centre







DEVELOPMENT

Topics

- Adaptation A very brief intro
- Trends: UNFCCC negotiations and work on the ground
- Integrating adaptation in development
- Efforts so far
- Challenges and opportunities: Candidate priority areas of action





Adaptation: Managing the unavoidable

ENERGY, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Global warming will continue to affect the natural systems of the earth for several hundred years, even if greenhouse gas emissions were substantially reduced or ceased altogether today

World Bank (2008) estimate: Global warming of around 2°C is likely unavoidable by now

The corresponding best estimate from the IPCC (2007) is 1.8°C

Scientific evidence on climate variability and change and observed and projected future impacts

It is paramount to avoid the unmanageable, through mitigation, but equally necessary to manage the unavoidable, through adaptation





Trends: Adaptation within the UNFCCC, I

"Adaptation must be addressed with the same priority as mitigation" (UNFCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1)

- The Cancun Adaptation Framework identifies a broad set of priority areas for action on adaptation, including:
 - The development of plans, projects and programs
 - Strengthening institutions
 - Improving research, observation and information management systems
 - Impact, vulnerability and financial needs assessments
 - Adaptation technology





Trends: Adaptation within the UNFCCC, II

Innovations in the Adaptation Framework:

- Attention to disaster risk reduction
- Focus on institutional strengthening

Role for donors

- Attention to migration
- The Technology Mechanism created in Cancun further emphasises technologies for adaptation as a priority area for action

Role for donors



adaptation in development



ENERGY, CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Motivation:

- Climate change may jeopardize development efforts and investments and the achievement of key development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals
- Development activities may lead to 'mal-adaptation' an increase in exposure and vulnerability to climate change – by overlooking climate change impacts, or by undertaking climate change adaptation actions that fail to adequately address the impacts of climate change
- Development activities targeting drivers of vulnerability have positive implications for adaptation and adaptive capacity – even in cases where climate change has not been explicitly considered. By integrating climate change, synergies can be further exploited



UNEP The Development-Adaptation Continuum



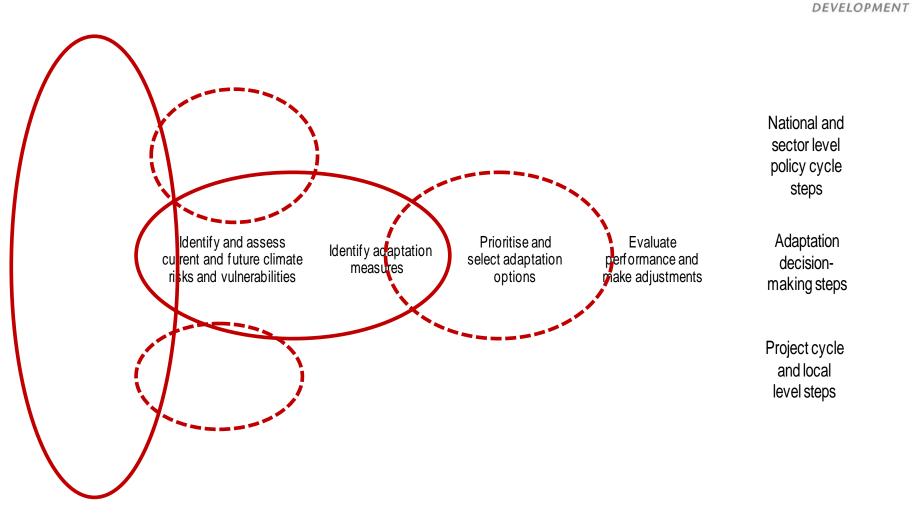
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Vulnerability		Focus		Response to impacts
	Addressing drivers of vulnerability	Building Capacity	Managing Climate Risk	Confronting Climate Change
	Activities increasing human development, reducing poverty, and addressing factors that make people vulnerable.	Activities laying the foundation for more targeted actions. Tend to occur in sectors directly affected or sensitive to climate change.	Climate risk reduction and management activities. May lead to strong development benefits, but build explicitly on climate information.	Almost exclusive focus on addressing climate change impacts. Tend to target climate risks beyond historic climate variability.
	Examples: Economic policies, education and health policies, gender initiatives, livelihood diversification efforts and literacy promotion, etc.	Awareness raising on climate-development linkages, participatory reforestation efforts to combat flood-induced landslides, natural resource management practices, weather monitoring, etc.	Mainstreaming, climate risk screening, assessment, and proofing, disaster response, and technological approaches, e.g. drought resistant crops.	Relocation of communities in response to sea-level rise and glacial melting. Radical or costly policies and technological approaches that explicitly address unprecedented levels of climate risk, e.g. dikes, harnessing harbors, etc.



Integrating development and adaptation – Efforts so far, I







Integrating development and adaptation – Efforts so far, II

CENTRE

ENERGY, CLIMATE
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVIS OPMENT

- Considerable knowledge on:
 - Key climate change risks and vulnerabilities
 - Potential adaptation measures
- But: Lack of interdisciplinary efforts by natural and social scientists
- Plethora of mainstreaming guidance, climate risk screening and assessment tools available
 - Mainly developed and implemented by donors and international NGOs
 - Primarily conducted as separate efforts
 - Strongest on identification and assessment of risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation options



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Integrating development and adaptation – Efforts so far, III

- Increased awareness on climate-development linkages and the need for adaptation
- Numerous capacity building efforts undertaken

BUT: Slow progress on moving from assessments to implementation

Need for financing; need for quantitative assessment of costs and benefits of adaptation; institutional and technical support issues need to be addressed





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Vision

Challenges and Opportunities, I

Keep addressing knowledge gaps:

- Expand capacity to model climate change impacts at local and regional scales
- Provide information and guidance in a form appropriate for decision-makers
- Improve geographical coverage of risk, vulnerability and adaptation analysis
- Induce interdisciplinary efforts by scientists, environmental analysts and economists and engage policy makers, planners and citizens
- Establish improved knowledge on damage costs and on adaptation costs and benefits – Also to catch the attention central decision makers





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Challenges and Opportunities, II

Support emerging priority action areas:



- Institutional aspects/strengthening :
 - Support National Implementing Entities in project development and securing funding from the Adaptation Fund
 - Establish functional linking between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation
 - Contribute to improved overview of adaptation and climate change efforts at country level and systematic assessments
- Capacity building and technical guidance
 - Support progress towards implementation of adaptation activities and their integration in development planning and decision-making
 - Assist countries in addressing technology aspects of adaptation





Thank you!

