

## Climate Change Adaptation : What are we doing about it?

**Olhoff, Anne**

*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

## DTU Library

Technical Information Center of Denmark

---

### General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the public portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

- Users may download and print one copy of any publication from the public portal for the purpose of private study or research.
- You may not further distribute the material or use it for any profit-making activity or commercial gain
- You may freely distribute the URL identifying the publication in the public portal

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact us providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.

# Climate Change Adaptation

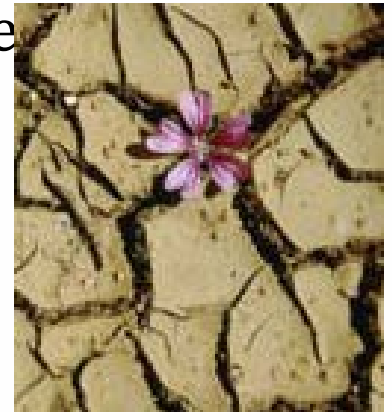
## What are we doing about it?

Anne Olhoff, UNEP Risø Centre



## 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

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

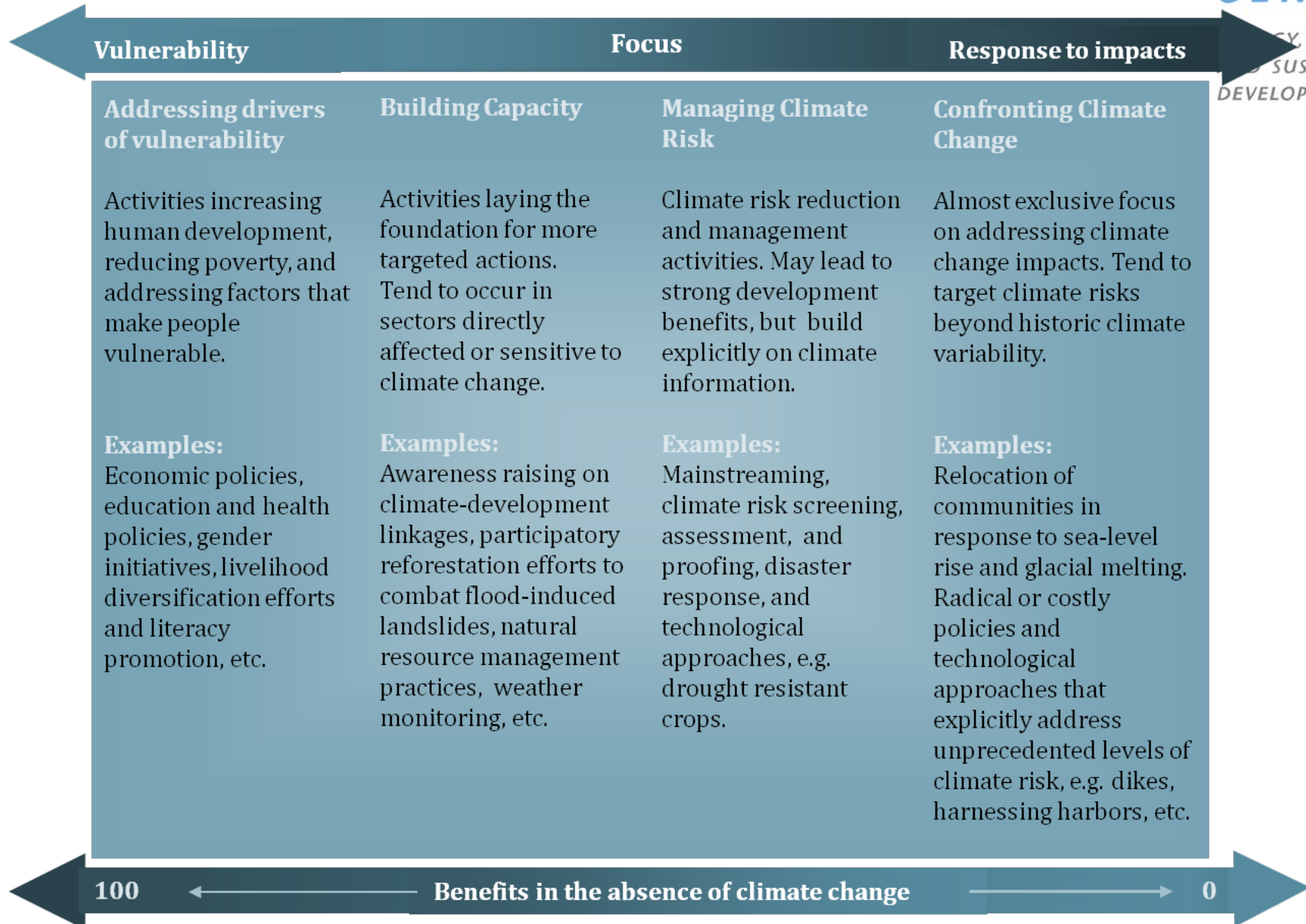
Role for donors

Role for donors

## Trends: Increased focus on integrating adaptation in development

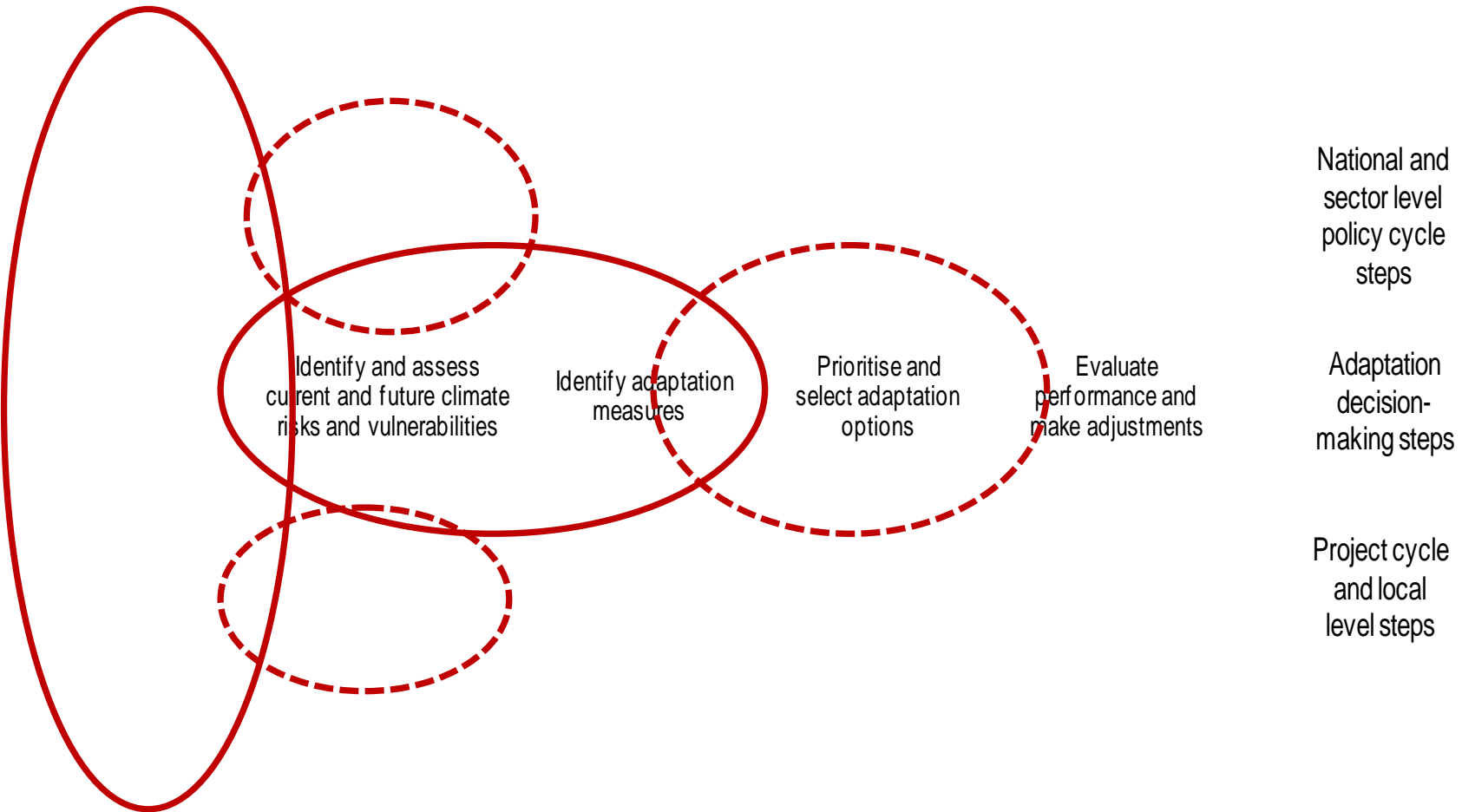
### Motivation:

- 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



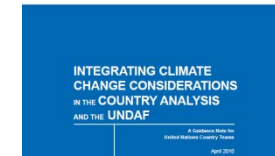


# Integrating development and adaptation – Efforts so far, I



## Integrating development and adaptation – Efforts so far, II

- 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



## **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

## 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



## 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!

