

**Contribution to the NWP synthesis publication, September 2009
Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

1. ADB Pledge:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has pledged, under the NWP to further engage in adaptation to climate change and has focussed its pledge on those activities which strengthen adaptation planning by increasing the capacities of line Ministries, Finance Ministries and Economic Planning Ministries to understand and prioritize adaptation measures as part of the development process.

Some of the results sought through its work include:

Result 1: Increased engagement of central Ministries in climate change adaptation;

Result 2: Increased capacity for adaptation planning in countries and further the efforts underway in integrate climate change into development; and,

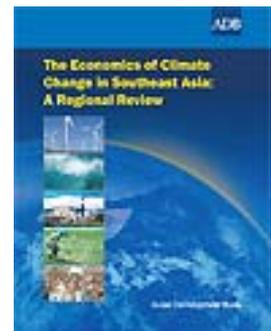
Result 3: A number of knowledge products will be developed and disseminated which will contribute to the body of work on development and adaptation planning.

2. ADB progress towards achieving ADB pledge

ADB is at the early stages of working towards its pledge but a number of activities have been initiated aimed at achieving the above listed results. Below is a list of some of these.

Addressing Vulnerability Risks in National Development Strategies and Actions:

- Strengthening Capacity for Managing Climate Change and the Environment (Nepal)
- Regional Partnerships for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Preparedness (Regional)
- A Regional Review of the Economics of Climate Change in Southeast Asia (Regional)



Increasing Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Sectors:

- Strengthening the Resilience of the Water Sector in Khulna to Climate Change (Bangladesh)
- Central Asian Countries Initiative for Land Management (Central Asia)
- Capacity Building for Land Degradation Management (PRC)
- Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Sustainable Coastal Protection (India)
- Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Regional)

- Managing Water in Asia's River Basins: Charting Progress and Facilitating Investment (Regional)

Climate Proofing Projects

- Infrastructure Development Project - Aviatu Port (Cook Islands)
- Integrated Citarum Water Resources Management (Indonesia)

Addressing Social Dimensions

- Addressing Climate Change in the Asia and Pacific Region

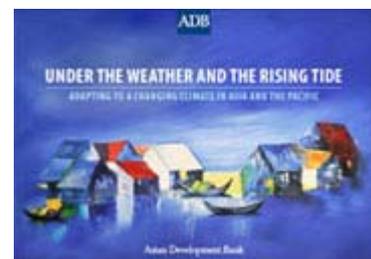
Projects with Cross-cutting Adaptation Objectives

- Promoting Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific (Regional)
- Climate Impact and Adaptation Sectoral Strategy for Rural Infrastructure in Lao PDR
- Enabling ADB's Climate Change Interventions (Central and West Asia)
- Climate Risk Management Assessment for Agriculture (Thailand and Vietnam)
- Study on Climate Impact Adaptation and Mitigation in Asian Coastal Mega Cities, Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam)
- Glacial Melt and Downstream Impacts on Indus-Dependent Water Resources and Energy (Afghanistan/India)
- Strengthening Climate Change Resilience in the Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Sector Development Program (Philippines)
- Protecting Island Biodiversity & Traditional Culture in Pacific Island Communities Through Community-based Climate Risk Assessment and Management (Cook Islands)

Knowledge and Communication Products

Also, a number of knowledge and communication products have recently been developed:

"Under the Weather and the Rising Tide"



Mainstreaming Tools

Under development as well are methodologies and guidance on integrating climate change adaptation strategies into project designs.

3. Preliminary thoughts on Opportunities and Challenges

Our support for ground-level adaptation interventions is recent, and therefore lessons are preliminary. However, we are quickly developing experience in the following topics:

- Choosing the right entry points in a project cycle or policy process to undertake detailed adaptation assessments.
- Applying the most appropriate tools for decision making and planning depending on different sectoral or geo-climatic themes. These include scientific assessments, economic assessments, multi-criteria analysis and criteria for prioritization, the use and interpretation of impact modelling.
- Developing success stories for leveraging innovative or non-traditional sources of financing from various sources towards the objectives of adaptation. This includes working with various Ministries and local stakeholders and identifying the right institutional structures for implementing and financing complex and multi-sectoral adaptation strategies.
- Identifying options for adaptation which are within the risk thresholds of decision makers. Also, in cases where the nature of climate change is highly uncertain, identifying low risk investment solutions. This involves developing convincing and appropriate justifications for adaptation interventions, including both costs and benefits.
- Measuring progress and results in achieving vulnerability reductions, with a view towards up-scaling successful measures.
- Learning to "speak the same language" as decision makers and other experts. Designing and implementing adaptation options requires cooperation between various types of experts. Understanding the questions posed by decision makers prepares adaptation experts to answer the right questions.