

Linking adaptation planning and implementation from community level to national level

Rachel Berger

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Summary



- Who we are and why we are here
- Implementing adaptation at community level
- Linking communities with local government
- National governance of adaptation – challenges and opportunities

Who are we?

- International NGO focusing on reducing poverty through the use of appropriate technologies
- Working in South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America
- Programmes on rural livelihoods, access to energy and water, urban livelihoods
- We have been engaged with the NWP for 2 years

Community-based adaptation – in practice

- **Increase understanding** of the climate changes people perceive
- **Build on local knowledge** and coping strategies for environmental change and weather-related disasters
- **Reduce vulnerability** to climate hazards
- **Strengthen resilience** to shocks, and underlying social and economic hazards
- **Build adaptive capacity** – enabling communities to take control of their future: diversify livelihoods, facilitate participation in decision making processes, linking people with external knowledge

Peru – adaptation activities



Improved pasture



Animal health training and shelters for livestock



Conserving potato diversity

Example: Peru

- Improved grassland management and diversity of potato varieties **increase resilience** to drought and severe frost
- Improved animal health care **reduces vulnerability** of livestock to extreme weather
- Increased ability of farmers to make management decisions and link with local government to access advice and resources builds **adaptive capacity**

Practical Action's approach to Scaling up

- Bottom-up approach.
- Links communities with local government and other stakeholders
 - to improve access to information and resources
 - to ensure continuity of support after projects end.
- Raising awareness on climate change and its local impacts amongst local officials and politicians
- If we provide information and guidance that is relevant to people's regular work, then it will be taken on board

Replication of what works

This can be achieved in several ways:

- In other similar localities,
- By other institutions and organisations

The challenge for community- based adaptation: must be location specific

- Need to relate approaches that are worthy of replication, with context specific activities
- These must be defined by the communities as stakeholders
- Hence the crucial importance of participatory approaches.

Replication through mainstreaming

'Mainstreaming':

- Meaning adoption of good practices
- Dissemination of relevant knowledge and technologies
- Building of capacity amongst a variety of stakeholders:
 - local NGOs
 - community leaders
 - local/district government
 - Local private sector

Gaps: 1 ecosystem management

Need to incorporate sound ecosystem management into adaptation planning at all levels

- Climate change directly affects natural ecosystems and the services they provide
- Not just visible ecosystems (forests, coral reefs) but less visible – e.g. soils
- Loss of ecosystem services will affect global food production and water availability

Filling the gap of knowledge on ecosystems

- Need to increase understanding of the independency of economic and social development and healthy ecosystems
- Incorporate measures for sound management and restoration
- Technical panels supporting adaptation planning would need to include expertise on this issue

Gaps: 2 Conflict resolution

- Water in particular will become a scarcer resource
- Conflict over access to water is certain to increase
 - at regional level (Himalayas, Andes, many parts of Africa)
 - at local level, where upstream and downstream communities will fight over scarce water resources
- Adaptation requires improved water resource management and peaceful conflict resolution
- Need for wider recognition of the importance and value of conflict resolution in the process of adaptation planning

Challenges to scaling up

1 Approaches that reflect local needs

- Scaling up community level approaches must involve all tiers of government and other institutions
- A major challenge: government approaches to service delivery that support the most vulnerable communities
- Example: community-based extension
- Improved livestock health is crucial in strengthening resilience

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- Most governments favour top-down approach which fails to deliver to communities in remote areas

Challenges to scaling up

2 Listening to local voices

- commitment of local government to
 - listen to the voices of small farmer producers' groups
 - facilitate implementation of plans developed by local communities which meet their priorities
- Local NGOs and CBOs working in partnership with local government
- target beneficiaries involved in decision making processes, project design and implementation.

Challenges to scaling up

3 Changing practice

- Changing policy at national level is one challenge
- Changing practice is another
- National Research Institutes must take up the research needs of smallholders
 - climate change is ongoing and will require ongoing review of appropriate technologies for adaptation strategies

Barriers and constraints to creating an enabling policy environment

Assumptions:

- Adaptation is policy neutral
- Demonstrating successful adaptation, and widely disseminating the findings, building national capacity, will lead to scaling up and integration into government programmes
- This is unlikely to be sufficient: example of agriculture

Agriculture and adaptation: policy conflicts

- Small-scale farming is crucial livelihood option for a majority of the world's poorest people
- Recent IAASTD report concluded that small-scale farming and agricultural biodiversity are crucial to future global food security as climate changes

YET

- **Firstly** government and international institutions (WTO) support privatisation of plant genetic resources
- Impacts at local level: farmer seed saving community level plant breeding is illegal
- **Secondly** corporations pressurise governments to favour genetically modified food crop development
- Impacts: agricultural biodiversity threatened through contamination by pollen from trial crops

National level adaptation

- The poor and marginalised tend not to receive benefit from government services : they belong to groups that government actions normally fail to reach.
- Frequently, they face challenges that demand locally relevant technologies.
- For these reasons, sector based, nationally-applied adaptation programmes are **unlikely to meet the needs of a country's most vulnerable people.**

Funding for Adaptation

- Adaptation funding will be delivered via national governments
- Without specific focus on the most vulnerable, adaptation funding will fail to support the poorest.
- To meet this challenge, participatory governance principles will need to be embedded in institutions that prioritise and distribute adaptation finance

Avoiding the pitfalls: Governance principles to support CBA

- (i) Prioritise the adaptation needs of the **most vulnerable** through enhancing adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability.
- (ii) Recognise that responses will have to be based on **local** assessment of risks, needs and circumstances and be relevant to local people and communities.

Governance principles (2)

- (iii) **Localise** adaptation planning and implementation and disbursement of adaptation finance to enable participatory planning and implementation.
- (iv) **Transparent** planning and implementing of adaptation actions
- (v) **Representation** of key stakeholders at all stages of adaptation - planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting.

Linking community planning with district government: Nepal

- Practical Action has provided training for village Development Committees to undertake vulnerability and capacity assessments
- Facilitated consensus building between groups of villages to establish core problems and strategies
- Village level needs were incorporated into district government plans

Enabling communities to access decentralised funding (Peru)

- The national decentralised planning and participatory budget system facilitates local planning
- Practical Action has worked to support local community organisations to establish priorities for funding
- Local and international NGOs supporting indigenous and other marginalised groups has led to development of detailed, municipality-specific plans across the country

Building capacity of provincial level government (Zimbabwe)

- Practical Action ran workshops and trainings for provincial government in techniques of participatory planning
- This led to training of government staff at district level to facilitate community based planning
- Teams from district government went out to villages to facilitate community based planning

Funding and Adaptation - Synergies

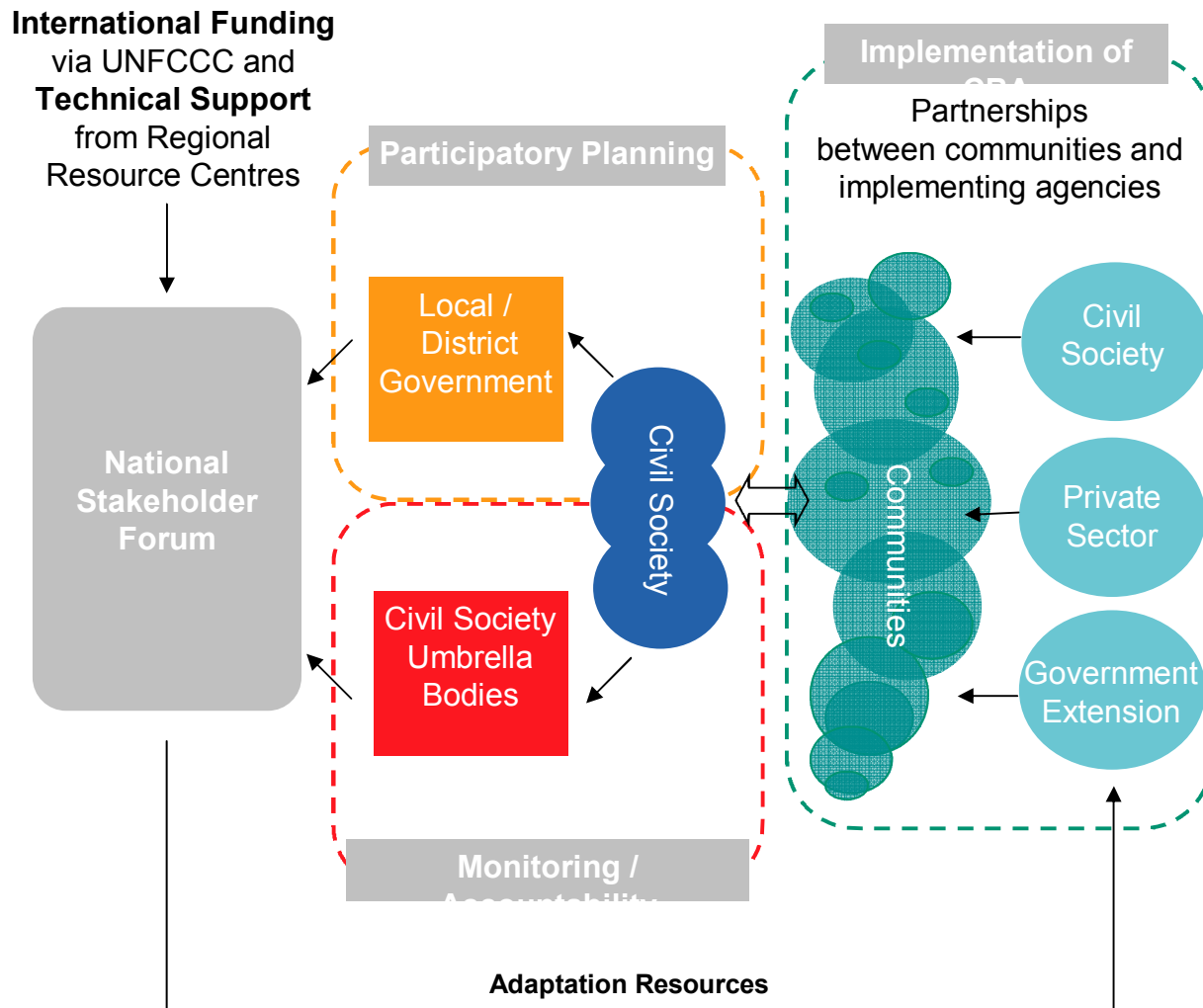
Funding adaptation

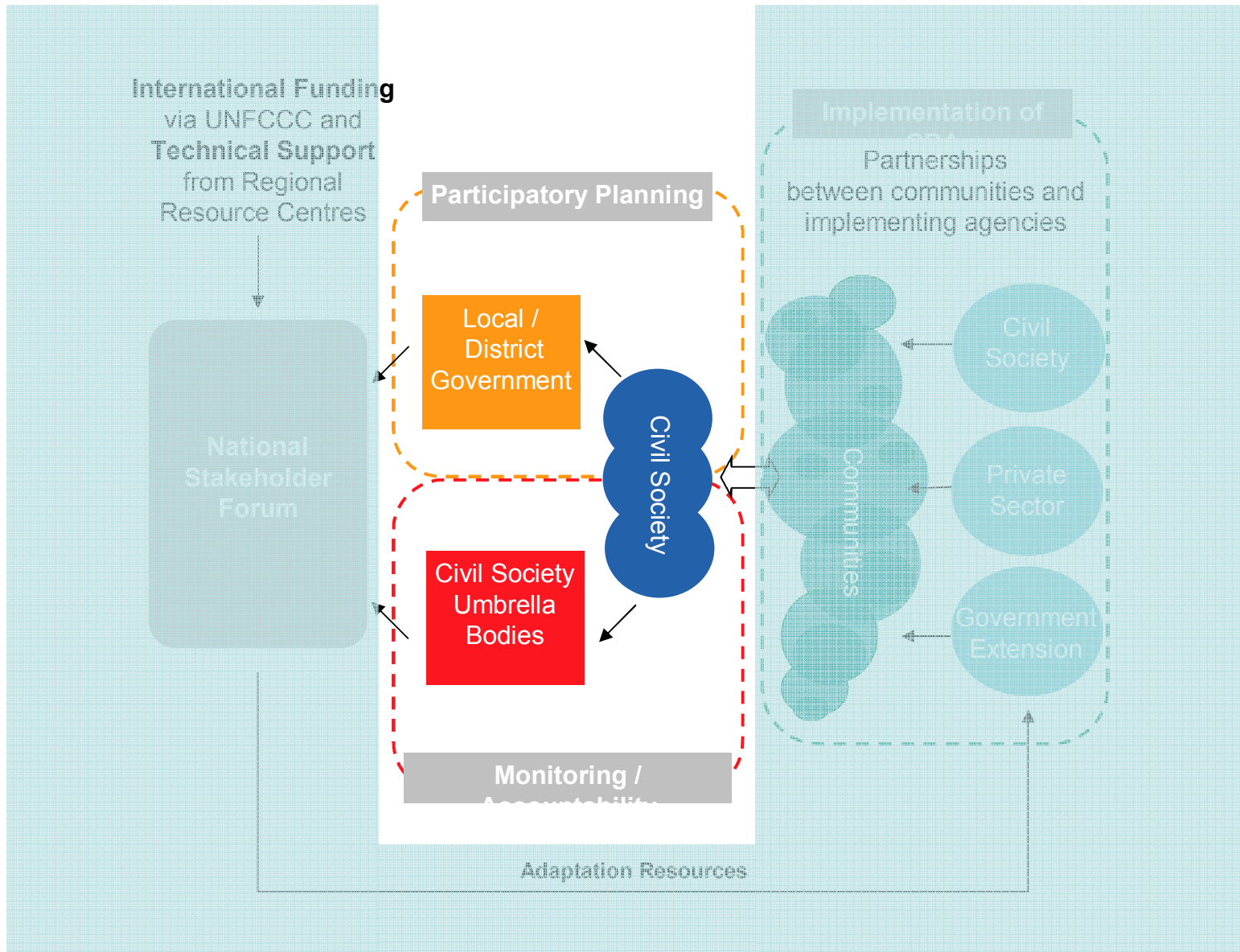
- Prioritisation and monitoring of resources

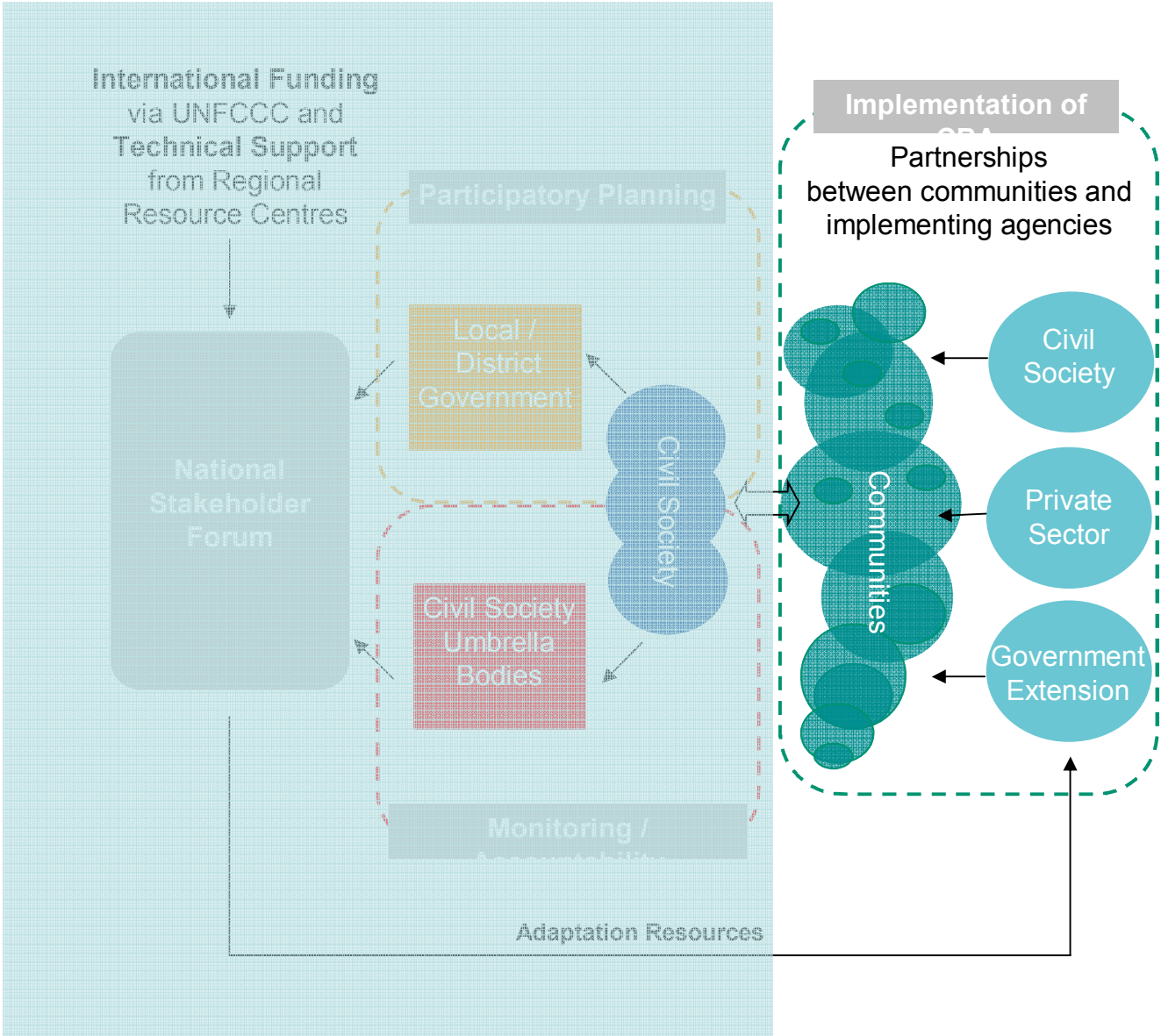
Community based adaptation (adaptive capacity, resilience and vulnerability)

- Adaptive capacity: the tools to respond to emerging climate change

Processes that enable community participation in decision making







Conclusions

- Funding for adaptation (when it comes) is for governments to spend for the benefit of their people
- The poorest and most vulnerable people will be worst affected, so they should receive the benefits of funding
- For adaptation to be relevant to their needs, they must be involved in decision making and resource allocation
- There is plenty of experience from NGOs and some governments and existing international funding processes to show that civil society is capable of engaging in this process