

Adaptation to Climate Change - GEF's evolving approach

Espoo, Finland, 3 - 4 July 2003

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About this presentation

- This presentation is entirely based on and quotes from the GEF paper 'A Proposed GEF Approach to Adaptation to Climate Change' (GEF/C.21/Inf.10, April 29, 2003) presented to the GEF Council for information at its meeting in May, 2003.

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COP Guidance and GEF activities

- GEF functions are responsive to UNFCCC guidance and in that sense constrained by it
- Only recently has there been some move in the FCCC beyond Stage 1 and Stage 2 (decision 11 CP.1)
- This presentation focuses on substantive issues of adaptation, not legal ones related to COP guidance or the new CC funds

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Adaptation to Climate Change

- **Definition:** Any actions and policy measures undertaken to adjust to or ease the adverse impacts of climate change.
- **Types:**
 - anticipatory (proactive) versus reactive
 - private versus public
 - autonomous versus planned
- **Examples:**
 - **Private anticipatory:** purchase of insurance
 - **Private reactive:** changes in insurance premiums
 - **Public anticipatory:** early warning systems, new building codes, relocation incentives to residents
 - **Public reactive:** compensatory payments or subsidies to affected populations.

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Adaptation 'stages' (Decision 11/CP.1)

Stage I: Planning, which includes studies of possible impacts of climate change, to identify particularly vulnerable countries or regions and policy options for adaptation and appropriate capacity-building;

- Identify impacts, particularly vulnerable countries/regions and policy options.

Stage II: Measures, including further capacity-building, which may be taken to prepare for adaptation, as envisaged by Article 4.1(e);

- For particularly vulnerable countries/regions, identify measures, including capacity-building, to prepare for adaptation.

Stage III: Measures to facilitate adequate adaptation, including insurance, and other adaptation measures as envisaged by Article 4.1(b) and 4.4;

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Adaptation response measures

- Adaptation strategies can include policies to **increase robustness of infrastructure and investments** (e.g. buffer zones against sea level rise), **discourage investments that would increase vulnerability in sensitive areas**, increase the **flexibility of managed systems to adapt to CC**, enhance the **adaptability of natural systems**, and **reverse maladaptive trends** in development and resource management
- These measures can produce a number of **secondary benefits** (e.g. **reduction of pollution, land degradation, improved water management**)

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Adaptation is cross-sectoral

- Adaptation, sustainable development and global environmental goals can be jointly advanced through integrated cross-sectoral policies and programs. Obvious examples are early warning systems, drought preparedness and management to combat desertification
- Adaptation methods and technologies are already available in many sectors such as human health, urban planning and resource management and are applied to adapt to climate variability
- The GEF has addressed adaptation indirectly through a large number of projects in other focal areas

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GEF action to support adaptation

- Strengthening the enabling environment
- Operationalizing the linkage between GEF focal areas

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GEF action to support adaptation (2)

1. Strengthening the enabling environment

- Support for Stage I planning, within enabling activities for the preparation of initial national communications, and 2 regional Stage I projects: CPACC and PICCAP
- Stage 2 funding to be provided under second national communications. Some Stage 2 projects have been supported in anticipation
- Preparation of NAPAs (LDCs only, from the LDC fund)

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GEF action to support adaptation (3)

1. **Strengthening the enabling environment (cont'd)**

Some Stage II funding by GEF

- **Approved:**
 - Global project on Assessment of Vulnerability and Adaptation (UNEP) - \$ 7.5 m
 - Capacity Building for Stage II Adaptation in Central America (UNDP) - \$ 3 m
 - Mainstreaming Adaptation to Climate Change in the Caribbean - MACC (WB) - \$ 5 m
 - Capacity Building for Global Observation Systems for Climate Change (UNDP) - \$1.2 m
 - Climate change impacts on and adaptation in Agro-Ecological Systems in Africa (WB) - \$700,000

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GEF action to support adaptation (4)

2. Projects with adaptation components

- GEF's non-CC Operational Programs almost all allow projects which indirectly assist adaptation to climate change. Typically, monitoring of CC impacts on natural resources (e.g. coral reefs, fish stocks, coastal zones, groundwater), institutional capacity building for ecosystem management, or assistance with regulations and legislation will be built into projects)
- OP 1- Arid and semi arid ecosystem
- OP 2- Coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems
- OP 3 - Forest ecosystems
- OP 4 - Mountain ecosystems
- OP 8 - Waterbody-based OP
- OP 9 - Integrated land and water multiple area OP
- OP 12 - Integrated ecosystem management – IN PARTICULAR
- OP 13 - Agrobiodiversity
- OP 15 - Sustainable land management

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GEF action to support adaptation (5)

2. Projects with adaptation components (cont'd)

- The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (OP 2): Objectives are to enhance protection of the unique and vulnerable marine ecosystem comprising the MBRS, including monitoring and EIS of coral bleaching and other climate change impacts, and developing capacity for environmental management.
- Integrated management of the Beguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (OP 8): Overall objective is to create mechanisms for the sustainable management of the BCLME; assess climate variability and ecosystem impacts; improve predictability through research and monitoring.
- Opportunities for using groundwater in drought prone areas of the SADC region (OP 9)
- Integrated management of critical ecosystems in Rwanda (OP 12)

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GEF action to support adaptation (6)

- Even so, adaptation has not yet been the main inspiration in GEF projects, with the emphasis remaining on activities related to the focal area or OP under which each project was formulated. FCCC focal points have not normally been engaged.
- This emphasis can be reversed in the future, as the FCCC takes more emphatic decisions on adaptation. Even if there is no separate OP on adaptation, other OPs allow adaptation to be addressed in numerous ways and at various levels
- In fact, it is difficult to envisage free-standing adaptation projects. They will almost always be cross-sectoral and multifocal.

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