

Introduction to Technical Paper

Integrating practices, tools and systems for climate risk assessment and management and disaster risk reduction strategies into national policies and programmes

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Introduction

- Climate-related disasters have repeatedly set back development
- Climate change threatens to exacerbate these impacts in two ways:
 - Through changes in weather and climate **hazards**
 - Through increases in **vulnerability** as a result of ecosystem degradation, reductions in water and food availability and changes to livelihoods
- Increased risk results in loss of life, damage to infrastructure, and the poor (and poorest countries) are hit hardest



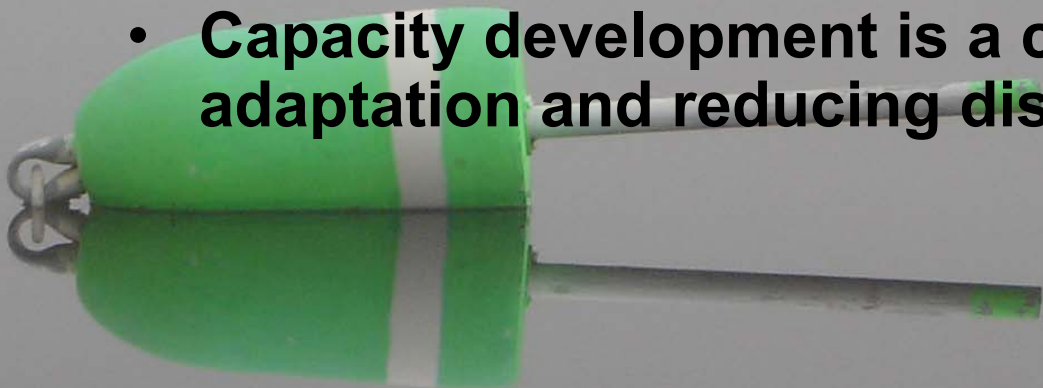
Where do we begin?

- Strong correlation between climate change and disasters
- Thus the convergence of DRR and adaptation, focused on a shared aim for sustainable development, is a sound strategy for managing climate risk
 - “Disaster risk reduction is the first line of defence against climate change impacts”
- Adaptation that is linked with DRR begins by addressing **existing** vulnerabilities to **current** climate events - a “no regrets” approach
- Good progress has been made, but more is needed to tackle vulnerability and its causes



Factors to be aware of

- **States have the primary responsibility for adaptation and DRR**
 - Developing complex systems; Linking top-down and bottom-up approaches
- **Adaptation and DRR should be integrated into development activities**
 - Towards sustainable development; Based on existing knowledge; Taking a pragmatic approach
- **A multi-hazard approach can improve effectiveness**
- **Capacity development is a central strategy for adaptation and reducing disaster risk**



Factors to be aware of

- **Decentralizing responsibility and budgets for adaptation and DRR**
 - Hazards and vulnerability are context specific
- **Effective adaptation and DRR requires community participation**
 - National strategies intended to manage risk are highly dependent upon the **engagement of local stakeholders** based upon vulnerability assessment
- **Gender is a key factor in adaptive capacity and disaster risk and in the implementation of adaptation and DRR**



Factors to be aware of

- **Public–private partnerships are an important tool for adaptation and DRR**
- **Adaptation and DRR should be customized to particular settings**
 - Measures that succeed in reducing risk and developing adaptive capacity in one setting may not work in others



Challenges

- **Budgetary support**
 - Lack of resources; Nature of available funds
- **Institutional support**
 - National systems may not have local impact; Compartmentalisation; Lack of coordination; Low capacity; High staff turnover; Inappropriate propensity to rely on science and technology for the answers
- **Political support**
 - Limited involvement of all stakeholders (including most ‘at risk’ groups) within framework of good governance; Sustained support over the long term; Moving from integration in national policy and programmes to action on the ground;



Good Practice

- Efforts at varying levels to address climate related vulnerabilities
- Pragmatic approach
- Sub-regional frameworks established promoting integration of DRR, CCA and sustainable development



Good Practice (cont)

- DRR and CCA integration emerging at sector level
- Significant pioneering work in agriculture linking traditional coping capacity to loss reduction policy and programmes
- Embryonic work making inventories of good DRR/CCA practices in tourism
- Shared understanding that CRA and DRR are critical to risk sensitive development planning



Special Support for LDCs and SIDS

- CC will exacerbate vulnerabilities and other challenges of LDCs and SIDS
- Emerging consensus on need to support national planning for adaptation, streamlining and scaling up financial and technological support, enhanced knowledge sharing
- Better knowledge of existing funding mechanism and access protocols
- Engage private sector in programme design and financing
- Promote Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries' (TCDC) CCA/DRR facilities



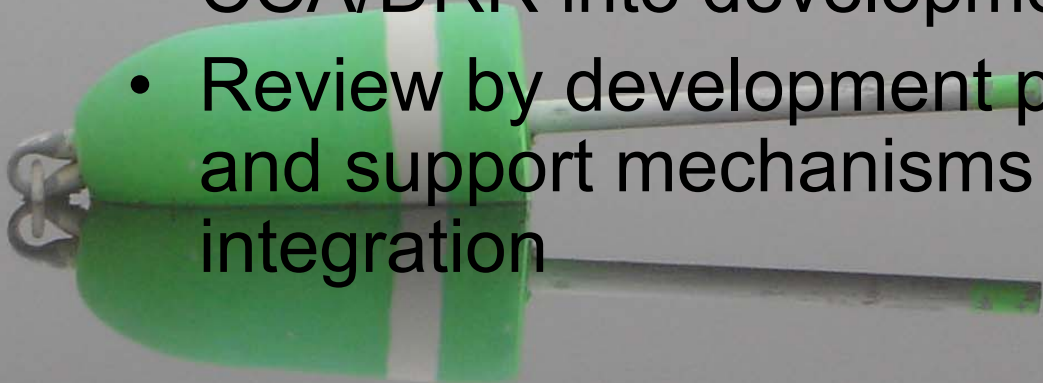
Special Support for LDCs and SIDS

- Create database of existing funding facilities for CCA and DRR
- Strengthen training in proposal writing and simplify access to funds
- Establish/refine risk transfer mechanisms
- Harmonize and link donor support to NAPAs and National Communications
- Establish regional centres of excellence



Special Support for LDCs and SIDS

- Improve baseline data on effects of CC as part of the platform for integration
- Encourage and promote trans-boundary mechanisms for info sharing and exchange
- Integrated CCA/DRR awareness campaigns
- Formulate model processes for integrating CCA/DRR into development planning
- Review by development partners of delivery and support mechanisms for CCA/DRR integration



Final Remarks

- Streamlined funding required to build on DRR successes
- Invest more in understanding social context of vulnerability
- Embrace “no regret approach” as part of the platform for CCA/DRR integration
- Deepen understanding of indigenous knowledge and its use
- Strengthened programme cooperation between ISDR/HFA and UNFCCC/NWP

