

POLICY GUIDANCE

Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation



Climate change is a serious and long-term threat that can affect every part of the globe. Its negative impacts will hit poor people and poor countries disproportionately, and further compromise the achievement of their development goals.

The objectives of the *OECD Policy Guidance on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation* are to:

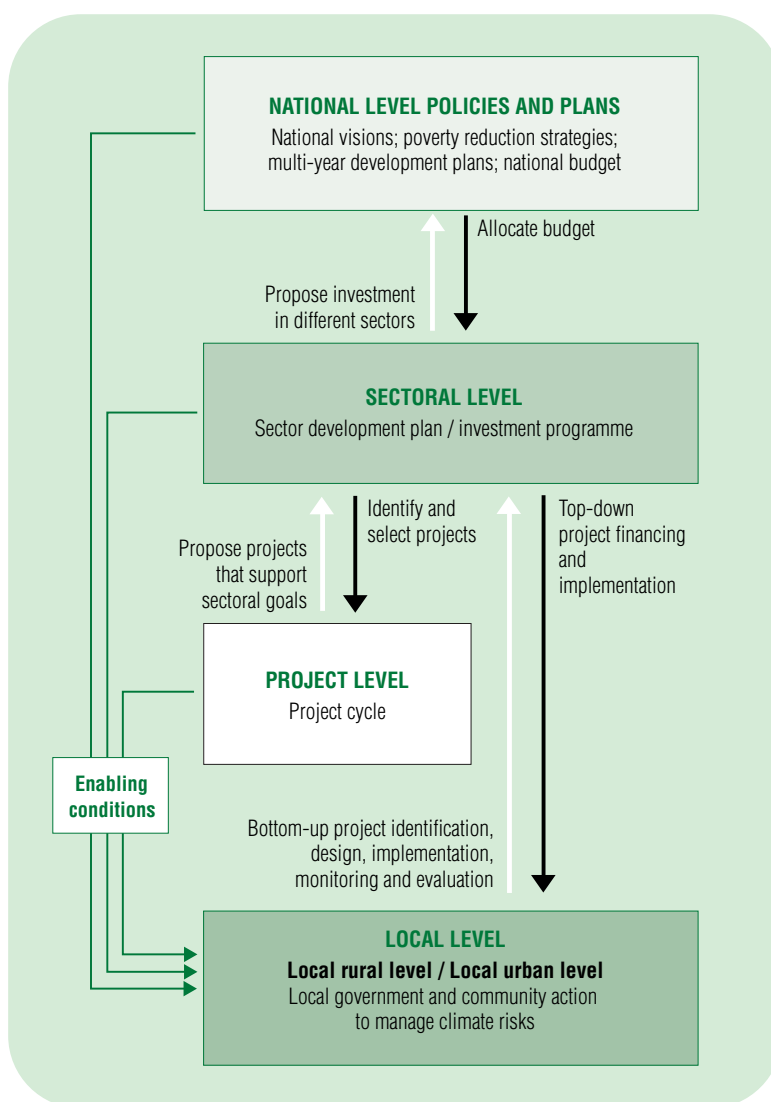
- Assess the implications of climate change on development practice and the need to integrate climate change adaptation in development co-operation activities;
- Identify appropriate approaches for integrating adaptation into development policies at national, sectoral, project, and local levels;
- Identify practical ways for donors to support developing country partners in their efforts to reduce their vulnerability to climate change.

This Policy Guidance is specially tailored for practitioners in development co-operation agencies and their counterparts in developing country governments as well as for non-governmental stakeholders.

Operationalising Adaptation: An Integrated Approach

Many international donors recognise that they should support developing countries in integrating climate change adaptation into their decision making. Yet the question they often ask themselves is: how?

The Policy Guidance takes an integrated or “whole of government” approach to adaptation from a partner country perspective. It discusses in detail how to assess and address climate risks and opportunities within centralised national government processes, at sectoral and project levels, as well as in urban and rural contexts at the local level.

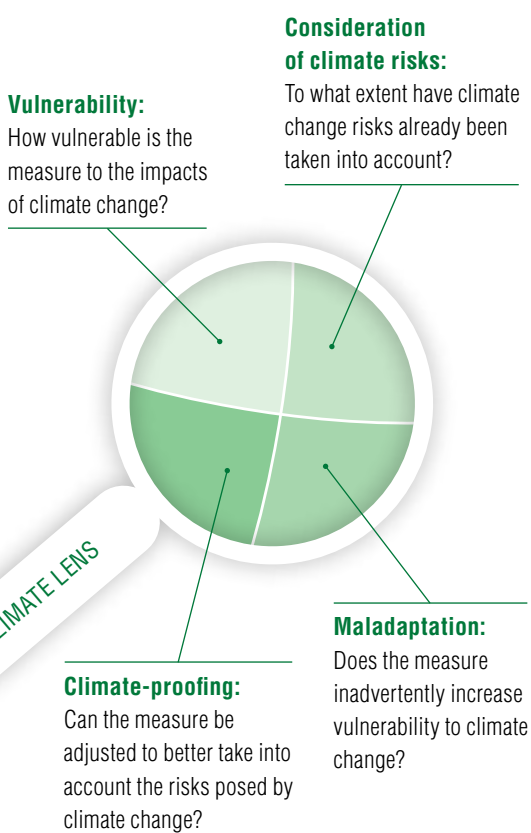


For each of these decision levels, the Policy Guidance first outlines their relevance for adaptation purposes. Next, key actors and core decision-processes are identified. This is followed by the identification of entry points and specific interventions to better incorporate adaptation. Finally, the Policy Guidance outlines donor processes that can support the integration of adaptation at each of these levels, in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

Climate lens: an all-round policy tool

To help decision makers analyse the needs and options for climate change adaptation in the policy choices they make, the Policy Guidance has developed a practical tool known as the “climate lens”.

In essence, the climate lens implies asking four questions about any proposed or existing measure, such as a policy, plan, regulation or project:



For example, planned development of certain geographical zones (such as coastal areas vulnerable to sea-level rise and storm surges) or sectors (such as agriculture) may be viewed in a different light when the medium- to long-term risks posed by climate change are taken into consideration.

Contacts and Further Information

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Web links:

www.oecd.org/env/cc/adaptation/guidance

www.oecd.org/dac/environment/climatechange

Five priority actions for implementing adaptation

1 INFORM In order to better incorporate adaptation considerations into decision making, it is critical to have information on climate change and the associated risks that is relevant for specific decision contexts. Efforts to gather such information should not rest solely on meteorological agencies. Other actors, including civil society and the private sector, can also contribute to information on climate-related risks in their respective levels, locations or sectors.

2 ENGAGE Climate change has implications for virtually all sectors and all levels of decision-making. It is crucial that decisions related to adaptation involve consultation with all relevant stakeholders: national ministries, regional and local governments, the private sector, civil society and development co-operation agencies.

3 PRIORITISE Although climate-related information is indispensable, there will always be a certain degree of uncertainty. Clear priorities for action, however, can be established based upon the certainty and urgency of various impacts, and the socio-economic significance of the activities concerned. It is also important to implement measures that will benefit development as well as enhance resilience to climate change. Examples include water conservation and enhanced public health systems, among others. There is no reason not to take these no- or low-regret options.

4 FINANCE Adaptation will require significant financial commitment not only at the international level, but also at national, sub-national and local levels as well. At the national level, for example, a horizontal fund for adaptation could be established to provide the additional resources necessary for sectoral ministries to meet the costs of incorporating adaptation in their activities.

5 INCENTIVISE A majority of adaptation actions will be undertaken by private actors. It is important that suitable incentives are in place for such actors to take the implications of climate change into account in their decisions. These incentives could be promoted through market based mechanisms such as insurance schemes and pricing of climate sensitive natural resources, as well as via regulations such as zoning and building codes that reflect the risks posed by climate change.