

Approaches to vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning

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Outline

- ❑ Planned adaptation: What, Why and How?
- ❑ The review
- ❑ Key findings
- ❑ Information gaps
- ❑ Best choice for MRC countries

Planned adaptation: What, Why and How?

□ What?

- 'Spontaneous' vs. planned adaptation

□ Why?

- Existing capacity to respond to climate change exceeded in most places

□ How?

- Understand baseline vulnerability & future scenarios
- Understand impacts of climate change
- Understand the baseline capacity for adaptation & how it can be improved

Review of methods and tools

- CCAI
- Purpose:
 - identify methods and tools for adaptation planning
 - assess their appropriateness for the lower Mekong River Basin countries
- Report, out soon

Methodology

- ❑ Literature review: what are the trends in thinking?
- ❑ Stocktaking of projects, actions, initiatives
- ❑ Review of approaches, tools and methods
- ❑ Analysis of findings for suitability in LMB countries

Information abounds!

- ❑ Access and availability of methods and tools for adaptation not a limitation
- ❑ Why do we have so many guidelines and handbooks: inadequate?
- ❑ Not all have been tested
 - Developed from projects
 - Developed as part of projects

Not Plug-and-Play

- ❑ The majority of methods and tools require training, availability of skilful facilitators, significant data collection, and/or large data processing capacities, even if they are free
- ❑ Making a choice about which one to use is a challenge

One is not enough

- ❑ No one single approach is sufficient to successfully support adaptation planning
- ❑ Need a combination, many steps in adaptation planning:
 - Building knowledge on/awareness of adaptation
 - Assessing impacts of climate change
 - Assessing vulnerability/ adaptive capacity
 - Identifying adaptation options/ designing adaptation measures
 - Implementing measures
 - Monitoring and evaluating effectiveness

Expert judgment necessary

- ❑ Expert judgment still one of the most important ingredients for success
- ❑ Cannot be replaced by any of the available methods and tools.

Information gaps

- ❑ Very little information available critically evaluating experiences with each approach
- ❑ Compendia, guidebooks, etc should be assessed for quality, ease of use, resources needed...
- ❑ Some tools may only be appropriate in developed countries

What is best for MRC countries?

- ❑ There could be many options, depending on level at which planning is taking place
- ❑ Choice depends on many factors
- ❑ Review team and MRC Secretariat came up with criteria matrix

Components	Criteria
Methods and tools for impact & vulnerability assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the usability: is it simple to use or require training or other inputs? - whether there is evidence of application; - whether they are considered 'state of the art'.
Methods and tools for adaptation planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how relevant it is to the needs and concerns in the Mekong countries; - whether it is holistic is considering all sectors, even if the main focus is on one sector; - whether it acknowledges an integrated water resources management approach; - the usability: is it user-friendly or does it require substantial training and capacity building, or other types of resources in order to be applied? - whether it is accessible
Identifying and evaluating adaptation options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether it promotes integration with development planning and management - whether it considers relevant social, environmental and economic issues and impact analysis; - whether it considers issues related to gender and minority groups; - whether it considers cost-benefits and cost-efficiency.
Institutional issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - whether it is transparent; - whether it involves stakeholder participation; - whether it is politically feasible in the Mekong region;

Conclusions

- ❑ Review indicates a lot of options, many initiatives to support adaptation planning
- ❑ Not clear how much experience there is with many of these approaches
- ❑ Little guidance still on how to make selection of tools