Review of International Experience on Formulation of Adaptation Strategies

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Outline

- Objective of the study
- Analytical framework
- Overview of the strategies studied
- Conclusions on the development process and the content
- Recommendations for the MASAP
Objective of the study

To review international experiences of existing strategies to learn from their process and their implementation, and to derive recommendations for a Mekong Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (MASAP)
Analytical framework I

Review criteria

- Formulation process
  - How was the strategy developed?
  - What parties were involved?
  - How long did the process take?
  - Based on IWRM?
  - Mainstreaming?
  - Integrated approach?
  - Sharing benefits - sharing costs?
Analytical framework II

Enabling environment - National level / Transboundary level

- **Policy framework**: Policy present - Linkages with basin wide planning / Linkages with national and local adaptation planning and strategies – Accountability – Transparency - Participation

- **Legal framework**: Agreements – Flexibility - Formalised communication

- **Institutional framework**: Joint body - Capacity building / Education - Communication
Analytical framework III

- Vulnerability assessment
  - **Information management**: Type of information used – Monitoring - Information and knowledge exchange
  - **Impact assessment**: Scenarios - Models
  - **Vulnerability assessment**: Physical vulnerability - Economic vulnerability - Social vulnerability
Analytical framework IV

- **Measures**
  - Development: Structural or non-structural - Aiming at prevention, improving resilience, preparation, response or recovery - Long-term, medium-term or short-term - How is dealt with uncertainty - Cost-benefit
  - Implementation: Implementation plan - Financial aspects

- **Evaluation**
  - Monitoring
  - Adaptive - Learning by doing

- **Experiences with implementation of the strategy**
ASEAN Adaptation Strategy

Action plan (2012):

- **Adaptation:**
  - Sharing information
  - Develop work programme to address loss and damage

- **Mitigation**
- **Finance and Investment**
- **Technology Transfer**
- **Capacity Building**
NBI Climate Change Strategy (2013)

- Assessment of CC challenges
- Goals and strategic objectives:
  - Information exchange
  - Awareness
  - Mainstreaming
- Coordination and support by NBI
COMESA-EAC-SADC Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for the water sector (2009 – ongoing)

- Aim to unlock resources
- Mainstreaming
  - Climate-smart agriculture
- Capacity development
- Vulnerability assessments
European Adaptation Strategy (2013)

Objectives:
- Promote action by Member States
- Better informed decision-making
- Climate-proofing EU action

Framework for:
- Coordination
- Financing adaptation
- Monitoring, evaluation and review
Danube River (ICPDR)

- Guiding principles
- Recommendations for countries
- Implementation by parties
- Feed into existing process
  - EU-RBMP and FRMP
- Based on vulnerability assessment - Collection of existing studies
Rhine River (ICPR)

- ICPR Climate Workshop (January 2013): the results were presented at the Rhine minister conference (28.10.2013)
- EU Directives coordination (WFD and FD)/ implementation -> balance between top-down and bottom-up; Integration of climate change adaptation measures
Neman River

- Stakeholder meetings
- Vulnerability assessment
- Common information platform
- Strategic framework
- Adoption by governments
Conclusions I

On the development process (I)

- Mandate is needed - can be expanded
- Strategy is supported by underlying documents
- A policy analysis is beneficial to identify joint and/or conflicting interests
- Existing information is used for the vulnerability assessment
- Identify responsible institutions for implementing the strategy
- Stakeholder involvement is important
- Process takes 2-3 years from mandate to agreed strategy
Conclusions II

On the development process (II)

- Include 100 year projections
- Take integrated approach for the strategy
- Include (qualitative) assessment of benefits
- Include description of the production process in the strategy - transparency
- General size of the strategy document: 50 pages
Conclusions III

On the content of the strategy (I)

- Include evaluation of the policy, legal and institutional framework -> strategy has to fit the international agreements and the national legislation
- Include both physical and social vulnerability
- Include disaster risk management and prevention
- Use mix of structural and non-structural measures
- Include ecosystem-based measures
- Cost-benefit analysis as selection mechanism is limited
Conclusions IV

On the content of the strategy (II)

- Adaptation can be an opportunity
- Include an implementation plan
- Provide clarity how institutions can communicate and cooperate in implementing the strategy
- Full dependence on international funding is not sustainable
- Assess barriers and solutions
- Include a monitoring and evaluation system
Recommendations for MASAP

- Include evaluation of the policy, legal and institutional framework in the development of the strategy
- Ensure common understanding and appreciation of the projected impacts and vulnerabilities
- Ensure ownership of the member countries
- Allow ample time for participation
- Account for measures taken at the local level
- Identify joint benefits
- Include ecosystem based adaptation measures
- Include looking for opportunities and innovation
Thank you