



EMERGING LESSONS ON MAINSTREAMING ADAPTATION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

ADAPTATION FORUM 2010

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Context: Asia Pacific countries are vulnerable to climate change because...

- **High poverty levels** – the region is home to two-thirds of world's poor and hungry people, despite significant reductions in the numbers living below \$ 1.25/day
- **Heavy reliance** on climate-sensitive sectors (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, tourism, etc.)
- **Growth is patchy** - poor economic and social infrastructure in many areas (e.g., weak social protection systems)
- **Other global stresses** – financial crisis and food crisis

UNDP and Adaptation in Asia Pacific

- UNDP has one of the largest and fastest growing portfolios of adaptation projects in the Asia Pacific region
- Adaptation portfolio initiated in 2007, growing to \$65m today and projected to double by 2014
- The theme for the Forum is '**mainstreaming adaptation**' – this needs to be experience based.



- Rapidly retreating glaciers
- Growing risk of Glacier Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs)
- Dry season water supply issues
- Response: drainage of Thorthorni lake, early warning system for downstream, disaster risk policies and practices



- Bangladesh has low lying disaster prone areas vulnerable to cyclones, storms and floods
- Frequency and intensity of these events likely to increase
- Response: Innovative coastal plantations combining protection with production measures (mangroves, fruit trees, ditch structures)

What are we learning

- Countries want less reports and studies and more tangible changes in institutional capacity, on the ground action and experienced based learning.
- It is very easy to get lost in the complexity of climate change adaptation which can appear overwhelming. It is important to remain pragmatic and not get lost in conceptual debate.

What are we learning

- While there are many entry points for mainstreaming Adaptation into policy and planning processes, these need to be assessed systematically to identify the best opportunities.
- There are very different levels of understanding of climate change among government departments – the language of vulnerability, resilience and climate risk is a particular barrier to mainstreaming.

What are we learning

- There is a need to focus more on sub-national level support, making the links with decentralisation and local governance reform programmes.
- More integrated approaches very important when working through local government
 - **Policy** alignment
 - **Capacity** assessment and development
 - **Financing** arrangements
 - Local **planning and finance** systems
 - **Targeting** and participation

What are we learning

- Countries are concerned with both the quantity and quality of climate change financing.
- New funding arrangements can undermine those very capacities that need to be developed for an effective climate change response at the country level.
- Partner countries in the Asia Pacific have begun to think through how the Paris Declaration can be applied to climate change finance

Asia Pacific Human Development Report on Climate Change

- Adaptation to climate change has a ‘human face’ with the potential to significantly affect MDG outcomes
- This is one of the central themes of the coming Asia Pacific Regional Human Development Report on Climate Change (2011)