



Implementation Challenges in Adaptation and Climate Finance



Mozaharul Alam
Regional Climate Change Coordinator
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Economic challenges

- Economic cost of implementation is often high (human-assisted adaptation e.g. ecosystem migration);
- Failure to estimate actual economic costs and/or costs is poorly known (e.g. health);
- Costs of adaptation options such as EbA, retreat and accommodation are unknown;
- Economic constraints at the individual, institutional and government levels, as well as fragmented economic incentives;
- Increasing economic and environmental costs may make preferred management options less effective – e.g. food production; and
- Adaptation costs are immediate and benefits are long – term the possible delay

Social and cultural challenges

- Settlement of poor people, migration and loss of local knowledge;
- Failure to act to assist ecosystem adaptation may leads to ecological, social and economic damage;
- Lack of will to accept options and distinct preferences (e.g. coastal protection than retreat), lack of awareness of sea level rise risks and spiritual beliefs;
- Lack of cultural acceptability of adaptation options;
- Undervaluing role of community resources and social capital;
- Disagreement about the seriousness of climate change risk and the costs-benefit of adaptation measures between farmers and policymakers;

Human capacity

- Lack of technical capacity and human capital;
- Lack of capacity for quantitative predictions of future change;
- Dealing with uncertainty;

Governance (Inst. & Political) challenges

- Complexity of legislation and regulations, management policies and procedures, institutional management;
- Sectoral fragmentation, non-consideration of complex inter-linkages between public and private decisions at multiple levels of decision making;
- Lack of coordination between agencies, tensions between national, regional and local scales (e.g. promotion of some mitigation increase risk for freshwater);
- Lack of horizontal and vertical integration of organizations and policies, interactions across policy domains, continued development in high risk areas;
- Limited stakeholder engagement, failure to involve communities, business and industry;
- Social and institutional structures

Financial challenges

- Lack of financial resources and financial capital;
- Lack of sustainable finance and insufficient budget;
- Financial capacity to adapt strongly vary by developed and developing countries;
- Access to capital, and functioning markets, lack of investment to develop new varieties of crops or breeds of livestock

Climate info, awareness, and tech challenges

- Multi-dimensional uncertainty in the projected future and insufficiently robust or reliable model results, lack of access to information, technology in developing countries;
- Insufficient information on assessment of adaptation options, risks and benefits of option at the scale of the resource
- Lack of extension and communication management
- Lack of tools and information for adaptation planning, lack of technical options e.g. new varieties of crops or breeds of livestock

Physical challenges

- Prevailing design of long-lived infrastructure and large infrastructure;
- Lack of suitable habitat and dispersal pathways for species, inability to reduce or remove of other stressors, societal resistance, physical or topographic barriers (e.g., valleys, mountain ranges and water bodies), human-created (fences, roads, croplands or settled areas), increasing habitat fragmentation of ecosystem
- Erosion of beaches and dunes, reduction in groundwater quality, increased salinization

Biological challenges

- Quality and quantity of freshwater resources;
- Lack of clarity about physiological sustainability of measures, uncertainty of reintroduction of species;
- The range shifts of species in response to ocean warming, changes in biodiversity, mass coral bleaching and mortality



THANK YOU !

For more information:

Mozaharul Alam

Regional Climate Change Coordinator

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Email: mozaharul.alam@unep.org

Web: www.unep.org/climatechange