

3. Integrating Climate Change into Development Sector Plans and Programs

Australian Government
AusAID

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INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO DEVELOPMENT SECTOR PLANS AND PROGRAMS

Claire Ireland
Environment Adviser, AusAID
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1. What is climate change integration?

Two broad responses to climate change:

1. **Mitigation** – actions to avoid/limit climate change itself
2. **Adaptation** – actions to reduce adverse consequences & harness opportunities

So where does **integration** fit in?

- Will always be a need for stand alone investments to address specific issues such as improving climate forecasting;
- **BUT** we need to make sure that investments in all sectors are also '**climate change aware**' = integration

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Overview

1. What is climate change integration?
2. Australia's experience in climate change integration
 - a) National process
 - b) Within the aid program
3. Emerging lessons
4. Priorities for action

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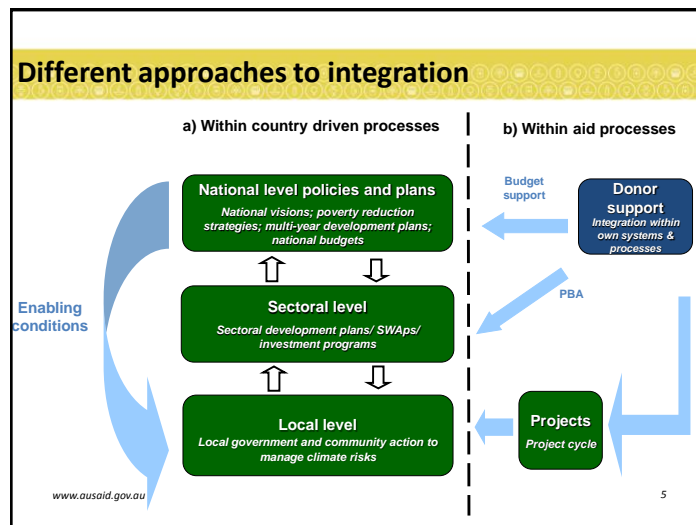
Climate change integration – a definition

The informed inclusion of climate change concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive national, local and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investments and actions

- > Consideration of climate change issues as early as possible in decision-making processes
- > To ensure investments in any sector:
 1. Do not **exasperate** climate change itself → informed by national policy
 2. Are '**climate proof**' → analysing risks posed by climate change to the success of projects/programs and then adjusting design/implementation
 3. Maximise **adaptation** response → ensuring investments increase adaptive capacity and resilience of target populations

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Module 6/Session 6.1 – Institutionalising integration/Slide 2

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- > **State**
 - **Assessing impacts** on critical infrastructure e.g. Victoria assessing susceptibility of ports/bridges/road transport
 - Putting in place **measures** that overtime will ensure economy is not adversely affected by impacts
 - Siting of major infrastructure like power stations informed by **consideration of climatic pressures** (eg availability of cooling water in drought and heat waves)
 - **Analysing sustainable yields** of extraction from catchment-wide basins such as the Murray Darling Basin and adjusting water allocation mechanisms
 - > **Federal**
 - Endorsed a **national adaptation framework**
 - Increasing awareness of climate change impacts for decision makers at **all levels** of government in **all sectors**
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- #### 2a. Australia's experience in climate change integration – national
- > National policy to integrate climate change into all levels of government planning in Australia. Has resulted in:
 - > **Local**
 - \$ given to local governments to **assess vulnerability** to CC and prioritise actions
 - Estimate **costs and impacts** of CC on communities (e.g. some councils are redesigning storm water and flood control systems and changing land use zones to reduce risks)
 - Ensuring every local government **understands implications** of CC on their local economy and development prospects (takes time though < 120)
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- > Guiding questions for CC integration in Australia and elsewhere:
 - **What** will be affected by CC and how?
 - **When** will it be affected?
 - What are the **costs and options** of responding to effects?
 - Given limited resources assessing what actions to **prioritise**
 - > Driven by the need:
 1. To avoid **maladaptation** – inadvertently increasing exposure/vulnerability by overlooking CC risks or investing in the wrong responses
 2. Overcome **adaptation deficit** i.e. existing lack of adaptive capacity, tackling any adaptation deficit before embarking on new adaptation activities (meeting basic needs – water, sanitation, housing, health)
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2b. Australia's experience in climate change integration – within the aid program

- > Developing a new Environment and Climate Change Strategy to frame aid program investments
 - *building resilience, greening growth, sustaining livelihoods, integration*
- > Integration of environment and climate change considerations across the aid program:
 - within AusAID itself - developing new environment and climate change **screening** processes for scaled up aid program
 - through major climate change initiatives - supporting **partner governments** to integrate climate change issues into national planning processes
 - Through **sector support** programs within countries i.e. supporting govt to understand implications of CC to energy sector in Indonesia
- > Engagement in international policy agenda

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- > It takes many years to effectively sensitise decision making processes
- > There is a need not to rush into adaptation investments but to really understand what the priorities are before committing \$
- > National policy frameworks need to consider future carbon constraints and potential liabilities – investment incentives, energy policy need to add up

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3. Emerging lessons

- > People understand CC is a threat **BUT** still widespread lack of understanding on CC impacts by decision makers at all levels and within all sectors (micro-meso)
- > Integrating CC into decision making processes is essential for ensuring sustainable investments and economic development
 - *stand alone interventions will not always produce effective results*
- > Whilst there is an increasing amount of \$ for investing in adaptation, there is a lack of appropriate and well defined adaption activities to support

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4. Priorities for action

1. Risk profiling at local, meso and national levels
 - > What are the real threats and priority sectors for action?
 - > How will peoples livelihoods be affected?
2. Adaptation needs to be integrated
 - > CC integration is core due diligence for ensuring sustainable development
 - > Danger of maladaptation if not affectively integrated
3. Establish what the critical issues for investment are with the limited resources available
 - > Don't rush into large scale adaptation programs until you know what the reality is

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4. Ensure focus remains on people's livelihoods

- > Protection/resilience
- > Understanding people's vulnerabilities and the responses needed

5. Understanding growth implications of future carbon constraints

- > thinking now about how to achieve a low carbon economy, understanding investment incentives, building consumer understanding of energy consumption

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