

EQUITY IN ADAPTATION: AN LDC PERSPECTIVE

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Main elements presentation

- Setting the scene
 - Why equity in adaptation?

- The UNFCCC status quo
 - Current adaptation architecture
 - Current status of adaptation funding

- The way forward
 - 5 key elements for addressing equity concerns of adaptation under the new agreement
 - Low carbon resilient development

- Conclusions

‘Humankind’s current approach to climate change is similar to driving in a vehicle with bad breaks in a fog and heading for a cliff. We know for sure now that the cliff is out there, we just don’t know exactly where it is. Prudence would suggest that we should start putting on the brakes now’

John Holdren, US President Obama’s Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Why equity in adaptation?

- The response to climate change mitigation so far has been inefficient and severely inadequate, removing any rationale for 'dealing with adaptation later'
 - Current impacts and responsibility on climate change unfairly burdens the developing countries
 - The historical and current low contributions to the climate change problem by developing countries, their lack of resources and capacities necessitates interventions that redress inequality.
- CO₂ emissions have risen 145 fold since 1850 (UNEP)
 - Projected to rise by an additional 54% by 2030 (UNEP)
 - At the present rate, global mean temperature will increase above 4°C relative to pre-industrial level by 2100 (IPCC 2013)

Why equity in adaptation? LDC climate related disaster data

- From 1980 to 2013, roughly 1.28 million people lost their lives in the LDCs due to climate-related disasters.
 - This was over half of the global percentage.
- Between 2010 and 2013, a staggering 67 per cent of deaths from climate related disasters, a total of nearly 24,000 people, took place in LDCs.
 - This is seven times the per capita death rate due to climate-related disasters worldwide.
- In 2011, East Africa experienced its worst drought in 60 years, claiming the lives of an estimated 50 to 150 thousand people.
- People in the LDCs were a staggering *five times* more likely to die from climate related disasters than people living anywhere else on earth.

Adaptation under
the UNFCCC:
current
architecture

Approaches, tools, institutions:

Cancun Adaptation Framework (NAP, AC,
L&D work programme)

Nairobi Work Programme, NAPAs, LEG.

Financial architecture: AF, LDCF, SCCF,
GCF

Inequality in funding

- UNFCCC estimates: adaptation to climate change will cost US\$49–171 billion per annum globally by 2030
 - US\$28–67 billion, would be needed by 2030 in developing countries (recent estimates are higher)

- The disproportionate attention paid to adaptation is mirrored in the low levels of financing.

- Less than 20 per cent of fast start finance for 2010-2012 went for adaptation.

The current status of the LDCF (established more than a decade ago to address urgent and immediate adaptation priorities)	
	US\$ million
Total cost of funding NAPAs (including additional support or co-financing from LDCs)*	5,000
Total contribution needed to implement initial set of NAPA projects (excluding co-financing from LDCs)*	3,000
Amount pledged to LDCF**	779.50
Finance gap for implementing NAPA projects	4,220.50
Amount disbursed (as of October 2013)**	628.15

Going forward: Mitigation and adaptation should not be either or choice

- Adaptation
 - Should not be seen as a **distraction to mitigation** discussions.
 - Discussions on adaptation **will not derail country commitments** to mitigation
 - **Should not be viewed as a long-term need** that should be dealt with once all mitigation options had been pursued.

5 key elements for addressing equity concerns of adaptation under the new agreement

1. Address the scale and size of resources for adaptation

- The principle of equity requires resources to be invested in funding in adaptation in a way that is sufficient to deal with need.
 - **Introduce a system or formula to recognise how much funding is required for adaptation, and how it should be scaled up based on likely emission scenarios.**
 - **Strong compliance regime is needed** to ensure commitments to adaptation are delivered in a timely manner.
 - **A review mechanism** to conduct regular reviews of whether commitments to tackling adaptation are adequate, leading towards new commitments when existing commitments are insufficient.

2. Access to resources

- A 'one-size-fits-all' approach has not worked in the past and will unlikely work in the future.
- The access component of equity can be secured by:
 - Ensuring that conditions for receiving funding for adaptation measures are reasonable, and
 - Do not place burdensome obligations on already stretched national governments.
- Lessons learnt from the LDCF and the Adaptation Fund must be taken in to account.

3. Communities and stakeholder consensus

- Local empowerment in decision making is a key part of equity.
- Stakeholder consultations should not consist of one or a series of workshops, but with continued and genuine dialogue with communities.
- Communities must be given better access to finance for adaptation

4. Sustainability of outcomes and enhancing adaptive capacity

- Provisions on technology transfer and technical assistance and capacity building which are more robust than at present needed to ensure enhanced adaptive capacity and sustainability of outcomes.
- This will assure that adaptation measures are no longer viewed as just projects but as tangible commitments to communities and their livelihoods.

5. Addressing synergies in environmental and sustainable development objectives

- Significant progress has been made under the UNFCCC to ensure that climate change is effectively mainstreamed into national policies and plans.
- Further synergies must be drawn in linking climate change adaptation actions with broader development, health, disaster risk-reduction and resilience strategies to ensure that the full needs spectrum is targeted in an efficient manner.

Support for low carbon resilient development

- Climate change and development plans that bring together low carbon development (mitigation) and resilience to climate change (adaptation)
- Examples: So far 09 LDCs, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Lao, Mozambique, Nepal, Rwanda and the Gambia, have started developing low-carbon resilient development programmes.

- One single policy or overarching policy objectives within which different policies help the country to become more low carbon resilient.
- Most of these plans are being mainstreamed into the main national development plans and policies.
- Comprehensive financial mechanisms (Bangladesh, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Nepal)

Key Features:

- Address **poverty reduction and climate resilience** together
- **Green growth** is seen as an attractive policy approach and generating **green jobs** seen as a key motivator
- Plan to increase the opportunities for **green technologies and innovation, safe resources and ecological sustainability.**
- Focus on access to **renewable energy; increasing energy efficiency; developing low-carbon agricultural practices; reducing deforestation and forest degradation.**
- Aim to establish **favourable investment climate for low-carbon development actions, and send signal to potential investors, priority sectors, and the interventions** – such as regulatory frameworks or policies.
- Aim to avoid **unsustainable use of natural resources and destructive development pathways.**

An early discussion on how low carbon development plans/ and strategies can be supported is needed

Concluding remarks

- The historical low contributions to the climate change problem by developing countries, their lack of resources and capacities to respond to climate change necessitates interventions that redress inequality
- Mitigation and adaptation should not be either or choice
- Current UNFCCC provisions to ensure equity in adaptation is not sufficient
- Lack of funding for adaptation is a major equity concern
- Low carbon resilient development could be a major innovative feature in the new Agreement

Provisions to address loss and damage in developing countries must go beyond adaptation provisions



- Questions and comments