

Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region

Toward mainstreaming of climate change adaptation

1-2 February 2017, Manila, the Philippines

Introduction

The “Workshop for Capacity Building on Climate Change Impact Assessments and Adaptation Planning in the Asia-Pacific Region: Toward mainstreaming of climate change adaptation” was held on 1-2 February 2017, in Manila, the Philippines. This workshop followed on the previous workshops in 2015 and 2016 focusing on “Needs and Challenges for Designing and Implementing Climate Actions” in Bangkok, Thailand, and “Technical Review of Background Assessment for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)” in Manila, the Philippines. The workshop aimed to understand and identify key aspects for mainstreaming CCA and the necessary CCA background assessments into existing national and subnational planning processes. Participants included governmental representatives engaged in the field of CCA from 12 countries¹ in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the representatives of international organizations and researchers. The participants had the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences, and capacity-building opportunities for mainstreaming of CCA.



Workshop outline

In this workshop, the government representatives presented the current status of countries' efforts to mainstream and integrate CCA efforts (i.e., policy, planning and practice) into national-level policy, strategies and actions, as well as across various sectors and development efforts. Three distinct areas of the national mainstreaming and integration mechanisms on CCA were discussed:

- 1) Policy integration approaches of CCA into different national plans and agendas (e.g., development plan);
- 2) Coordination mechanism on CCA across ministries; and
- 3) Budgetary alignment mechanism on CCA

In Sessions I and II of the workshop, participants explored the current status of national-level mainstreaming and integration of CCA in their respective countries. They also considered opportunities on how to further improve existing CCA efforts. Representatives from Cambodia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam presented their governments' initiatives and experiences, including the Cambodia's Climate Change Strategic Plan; Indonesia's monitoring and evaluation and reporting platform for adaptation plan; and Sri Lanka's and Vietnam's existing national adaptation planning processes and institutional mechanisms. For the second session, the participants shared their strengths – such as existing policies and guidelines on adaptation planning – and weaknesses, including lack of available data and financing to ensure sustainability of CCA actions (Table 1).

Session III featured an Expert Panel who shared best practices, expert approaches, and experiences in strengthening the mainstreaming and integration of CCA in policy, planning, and practice. The highlighted initiatives included: UNDP's assistance to governments in the design and implementation of projects promoting livelihoods, planning and budgeting, and risk-informed development; the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Programme to support public-private partnerships to implement climate mitigation and adaptation; UN-Habitat's Cities Climate Change Initiative (CCCI); National Research Council of Thailand's strategy on climate change research; and JICA's use of the Disaster Risk Graph.

¹ Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam

Table 1. Key strengths and gaps & needs on mainstreaming of CCA

	Current Strengths	Current Gaps & Needs
Policy integration approaches of CCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing CCA Planning Process provide basis for mainstreaming and establishes benchmark SDG processes promoting further mainstreaming Most countries are already taking efforts to integrate Climate Change into national planning and agenda setting Baseline data is useful for planning and agenda setting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of technical & institutional capacities for mainstreaming CCA into wider policies and plans Limited access and availability of relevant information/data for supporting decision-making Lack of proper translating and interpretation of available CC data for use in decision-making There are opportunities for strengthening through better alignment of CCA and DRR Structured guidance on integrating CCA into planning at different levels and the appropriate ordering
Coordination mechanism on CCA across ministries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most countries have existing coordination bodies, some specialising on climate change Most countries have established coordination mechanisms for vertical integration from national-to-local Some countries are taking efforts to interlink and coordinate across different plans and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While coordination bodies exist, their actual achievements are often limited to knowledge sharing Lack of alignment between coordination and budgeting makes them less effective Technical capacity building is needed for effective cross-agency and cross-sectoral coordination Coordination between sectors is challenging under current institutions More high-level involvement of politicians is needed in CC coordination
Budgetary alignment mechanism on CCA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some countries demonstrating good practice in CCA Budget Tagging and integration into National Budgetary systems Availability of adaptation funds (at the international & national levels) Some countries are developing frameworks/criteria for prioritizing funding for different types of CCA actions and responses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budgetary alignment is currently not seen as an inclusive part of the NAP process Ability to link CCA budget alignment to effective risk management is limited Understanding budget requirements for integrating “Climate Proofing” into development investments Lack of identification criteria for CC budgeting Lack of eligibility criteria for CC project funding

Sessions VI provided a knowledge exchange on the current good practices from local-level and real-world experiences in implementing adaptation planning and the CCA background assessments. The good practices in the local level included: the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)’s development of a climate information package and the Climate Information Risk Analysis Matrix (CLIRAM); the City Government in the Philippines of Santa Rosa’s conduct of climate risk assessments through land use maps and flood modelling; and ICLEI Southeast Asia Secretariat’s implementation of the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) Project. Furthermore, Sessions VII highlighted current efforts to strengthen vertical integration of CCA at the national level to support local implementation of CCA efforts, and representatives from Malaysia, Philippines and Samoa presented their relevant national policies and adaptation frameworks.

Example: Local implementation of CCA in the Philippines through the ACCCRN Small Grants

The City Government of Santa Rosa implemented the Building Capacity for Urban Agriculture in Climate Change Adaptation project in partnership with University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) through the ACCCRN Engagement Building Small Grants Fund. The project aimed to integrate urban agriculture into local plans, programs, and policies. Major outputs of the project included: 1) pilot site establishment of an urban garden park in Barangay Sinalhan; 2) conduct of a capacity building training on urban agriculture for the LGU; 3) draft ordinance institutionalizing, promoting and developing urban agriculture and also institutionalizing tax incentives for urban agriculture in the City; and 4) development of a policy guidebook mainstreaming urban agriculture as a CCA strategy in LGUs. These outputs provided comprehensive technical and policy guidelines for the local government, communities and other relevant stakeholders.



(Photo: Urban garden pilot site established at Barangay Sinalhan, Santa Rosa City)

For the details of this workshop, please access:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia-1>

For the details of the previous workshops in 2015-2016, please access:

Manila Workshop:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia-0>

Bangkok Workshop:

<http://www.asiapacificadapt.net/events/workshop-capacity-building-climate-change-impact-assessments-and-adaptation-planning-asia>

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Contact Information

Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
Tel: +81-46-855-3880 E-mail: nre-info@iges.or.jp