

Keywords:

Adaptation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), climate finance

OVERVIEW

IIED Climate Change Group

Project name:

Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD)

Project leader:

Simon Anderson

Time frame:

April 2012 – September 2014

Objective:

A framework to help developing countries understand how well adaptation interventions contribute to development and strengthen the climate resilience of societies and economies.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Climate change is unpredictable and non-linear. This makes the effectiveness of climate adaptation difficult to assess. While early evaluative tools examined the merits of individual projects, countries increasingly recognise the need for tools that can assess and compare how well impact is achieved through alternative approaches. TAMD is a framework with a dual approach: it helps assess how effectively climate adaptation interventions lead to development, and also how well countries and their institutions manage climate risks. Participating countries are tailoring the framework to meet their own needs, sharing experiences with each other and helping fine tune the framework for scaling-up.

CHANGE IN ACTION

This initiative has developed a framework that countries can adopt and adapt to assess, measure and evaluate the impact of climate adaptation interventions on both local climate resilience and economic development in ways that suit their needs. Increased availability of funding for climate adaptation is creating opportunities to compare the merits of new investments for their impact on both adaptation and poverty reduction. Consequently, developing countries need evaluative frameworks both to judge the relative merits of their next adaptation

Tracking adaptation and measuring development

A comprehensive framework broadens the way that decision makers evaluate the impact of climate adaptation interventions on development

The unpredictable and non-linear nature of climate change makes it difficult to measure and evaluate the impact of adaptation interventions. Conventional approaches focus on tracking the results of individual projects rather than on comparing them. With rising levels of investments in adaptation, countries have recognised the need for new frameworks that produce more comprehensive results.

In response to this expressed need, IIED, Garama 3C Ltd, Adaptify and other partners developed a conceptual framework known now as Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD). The partners began working with policymakers and researchers in Kenya, Mozambique, Ghana, Nepal and Pakistan to develop and apply robust, cost-effective and tailor-made evaluation frameworks. Through this process, developing countries are assessing which adaptation interventions are achieving the best developmental results.

TAMD is broadening the ways that national-level decision makers are evaluating climate adaptation. With researchers and other partners, the tool is being taken to sub-national levels and expanding to new countries. Apart from its role as a stand-alone framework, TAMD is adding value to other more conventional approaches that focus on reporting on inputs and outputs.

Eventually, it may also help gauge the development effectiveness of emerging areas such as the green economy.

Harnessing partnerships

The concerns of developing country governments were the driving force behind TAMD, but the project has not taken government buy-in for granted. To identify entry points into national policy processes, IIED harnessed existing partnerships with national governments, as well as with researchers (who themselves were influential policy gatekeepers). In this way, the project identified specific needs in the participating countries, and tailor-made strategies to address them.

In Nepal, for example, the primary partnership for developing TAMD is with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MoSTE), but TAMD has also engaged with finance and planning ministries not traditionally associated with climate change. The project has carried out scoping and selected interventions in districts where TAMD will be tested with MoSTE. The ministry heads a new TAMD Coordination Committee that has taken ownership of the scoping work and guided the research/technical team.

In Kenya, in light of the country's devolution process, the project has strengthened engagement at the national, county and ward levels. In Pakistan, where the Cabinet Office

investments, as well as to bargain harder for climate finance.

TAMD helps countries identify which interventions are achieving the best results, and to reflect on links across projects with different aims on a national scale. In addition to its role as a stand-alone instrument, TAMD has added value to other frameworks that focus on reporting inputs against outputs. It has attracted the interest of policymakers and development banks. And the TAMD approach could be used to explore the effectiveness of green economy interventions on development and climate adaptive capacity.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT & INNOVATIONS

- TAMD addresses a gap in the instruments available to assess climate adaptation. It enables comparative assessments of approaches and projects in ways that build upon the capacity of national systems.
- Developing-country governments will only prioritise climate adaptation sufficiently when they know these investments will also enhance development performance.
- Evaluative frameworks should provide the evidence that facilitates lesson learning and better investment decisions.

PARTNERS' VIEW

The Kenyan MRV (measuring, reporting and verification) framework was designed with TAMD in mind. We will have a clear linkage between the national level and county level. The collection of information against indicators that measure vulnerability and development at a grassroots level feeds into high levels and ultimately is reported in a national framework of measuring adaptation and development.

Irene Karani
Director, LTS Africa, Kenya

oversees climate change responses, a programme to assess the large-scale adaptation-related interventions using TAMD has been initiated.

Beyond inputs and outputs

Building upon and convening the capacity of countries to use the framework as they see fit, alongside the participatory nature of the process, has supported buy-in. While climate change is only one of many pressing issues in Pakistan, the government is not only designing how it wants to use TAMD, but also working with research partners to collect baseline data. At a workshop in September 2013, national, county and ward-level participants in Kenya identified priorities for the feasibility testing, collaborating to measure 'success' in adaptation that went beyond output-based approaches.

In addition to its work in the initial partner countries, the project has also responded to interest in Ethiopia, Cambodia and Tanzania (the First Vice President's Office in Zanzibar) to join the process. Since all those involved have different capacities, countries can learn from each other. A delegation from Zanzibar, for example, visited Kenya where both exchanged insights into adaptation challenges.

Designed as a comprehensive framework, TAMD is also working alongside and adding value to existing climate adaptation programmes that are organised primarily around outputs and results (rather than developmental outcomes). TAMD collaborates with the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience in helping governments take a more holistic and transformational perspective on climate adaptation. TAMD's flexibility also gives it potential value for evaluating the developmental impact of emerging climate-related intervention areas such as green economy.

Integrating TAMD into policy

At the policy level, the UK Department for International Development has not only helped design and fund TAMD, but also integrated elements of the framework into the UK's national climate finance policy and approach to monitoring and evaluation. In Nepal, MoSTE has begun integrating TAMD into national systems: the ministry is using the framework to help evaluate interventions connected to Local Adaptation Plans of Action.

IIED was also invited to present TAMD to the monitoring and evaluation technical workshop of the Adaptation Committee of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in September 2013. This allowed IIED to make adaptation practitioners aware of TAMD's development, as well as how the framework might inform future National Adaptation Plans. TAMD is also one of the frameworks helping to shape the design of the Green Climate Fund.

The full impact of TAMD on policy is yet to come. Following the end of the current design and testing phase there will be a multi-country workshop in March 2014 for participants to review findings. An economic assessment of costs and benefits related to using TAMD will take place in the first half of 2014. Armed with this evidence, IIED and its partners will advocate TAMD to those investing in national scale climate adaptation, and we will work to influence the Green Climate Fund process. Concurrently, developing country partners will fine tune the framework and respond to other countries' requests to get involved in a scaled-up process.



Knowledge Products

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