

# Backgrounder

## Climate change

### Keywords:

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



Adaptify



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## Tracking adaptation and measuring development

### *Enabling evaluation of the effectiveness of climate change adaptation*

Decision makers in countries having to adapt to the effects of climate change must be able to understand how effective the interventions they have put in place are, both in terms of contribution to reducing poverty and to making communities more resilient to current and future climatic variability and change. Conventional tools focus on tracking whether individual projects have met their planned objectives rather than comparing a range of different approaches, or assessing climate resilience in a broader sense.

Now that more climate financing is becoming available, government staff in these countries are saying that tools are needed that enable better, more comprehensive evaluations to be made. Armed with this information, they can make better climate adaptation investment decisions, supporting

communities in building climate resilience as well as strengthening their capability to draw down climate finance.

In response, IIED with Garama 3C Ltd and Adaptify have developed a framework known as Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD), which evaluates adaptation success by assessing both how widely and well countries and institutions are managing climate risks, and how successful adaptation interventions are in reducing climate vulnerability and in keeping development on course.

Most climate adaptation evaluation frameworks assume that adaptation neutralises the effects of climate change, allowing development to proceed as usual. TAMD does not assume this and enables users to measure the relative success of

## ASSESSMENT APPROACHES

**Results-based frameworks:** largely project-level assessments of how well interventions achieve efficient use of inputs for generating outputs.

**Logical frameworks:** similar to the above and used in mid-term reviews, out to purpose reviews and ex-post impact evaluations.

**Theories of change:** used to establish causal links between activities, results, outcomes and impacts. Can be used to complement logframe-based approaches to establish and monitor main assumptions and risks.

## KEY TERMS

**Climate adaptation:** adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.

**Climate-related hazard:** a physical manifestation of climate change or variability. Climate change may also result in the emergence of new hazards.

**Vulnerability:** results from a set of diverse factors that determine the extent to which an individual or system will be adversely affected by the manifestations of climate change and variability.

**Risk:** results from the interaction of hazards and vulnerability.

**Resilience:** the ability of individuals, communities, institutions or ecosystems to respond to a shock or the effects of climate change and return to their prior state of wellbeing.

## VITAL STATISTICS

- The UNFCCC projects costs in the range of **US\$28–67 billion** per

interventions against the moving (escalating) climate challenge baseline. It is a far-sighted, context-specific approach that addresses changing risks and accommodates flexible responses, both to uncertainty over climate change effects and to unintended consequences of development interventions.

### Useable at all levels

TAMD can track adaptation at all levels, from initiatives involving several countries, through interventions in a single country, to projects at the local level. It is a challenge to understand the contribution of a specific intervention to development outcomes and therefore be able to use that knowledge to influence future policy. But by assessing changes in wellbeing, livelihoods, poverty, vulnerability and local economies, with or without, and before, during and after interventions, TAMD is starting to address this. This valuable capability has led to it now being developed to assess the effects of green economy measures on local and national populations. Ultimately it is enabling whoever applies it to assess whether climate change adaptation contributes to effective development and how development interventions can boost people's capacity to adapt.

Developing countries' concerns have been 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 has made the most of existing partnerships with national governments as well as with researchers. TAMD encourages a participatory process and in this way we have been able to list the specific needs of any country and support the creation of tailor-made strategies to address them. In Kenya, for example, national, county- and ward-level participants identified priorities for feasibility testing, collaborating to measure 'success' in adaptation that went beyond just considering outputs.

### Tested in practice

In fact, beyond Kenya, the framework's usefulness is being tested at the national level with the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia and at other levels in Nepal, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Mozambique. In Pakistan, for instance, TAMD is being used to do a retrospective assessment of the contribution that rainwater harvesting and sustainable land management programmes have made to climate resilience at provincial and local levels. In Mozambique it is supporting the ministries of environment and national planning working at district and

village level to build bottom-up indicators of adaptation effectiveness, which will be used in the national climate monitoring and evaluation system.

### Integrating TAMD into policy

The UK Department for International Development has not only helped to design and fund TAMD but has also integrated elements of the framework into the UK's national climate finance policy and approach to monitoring and evaluation. In Nepal, the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment is doing the same, including TAMD in national systems and using it to evaluate interventions connected to official local adaptation plans of action (known as LAPAs). IIED had the opportunity to present the framework to the monitoring and evaluation technical workshop of the Adaptation Committee of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in September 2013.

In other words, the profile of TAMD is growing and it has the potential to inform future National Adaptation Plans in many more countries.

### Looking ahead

The full impact of TAMD on policy is yet to be seen. Following the end of the current design and testing phase there will be a multi-country workshop in March to review findings. A cost and values analysis of TAMD will take place by June 2014. Equipped with this data, IIED and its partners will provide support to any country investing in national-scale climate adaptation initiatives to integrate elements of TAMD into their evaluative framework. We are working to influence the Green Climate Fund design and implementation processes, and at the same time, our developing country partners will refine their framework and encourage more countries to become involved in the TAMD process.



### Knowledge Products

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) promotes sustainable development, linking local priorities to global challenges. We support some of the world's most vulnerable people to strengthen their voice in decision making.

year for adaptation in developing countries by 2030.

- **48** least developed countries have completed national adaptation programmes of action.
- The Green Climate Fund is expected to allocate nearly **50 percent** of its annual disbursement to climate adaptation.

### WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

Climate change is happening in unpredictable ways. This makes it hard to assess the relative effectiveness of adaptation initiatives. But countries need this information to make better decisions about their investments, and the likely returns, relevance and usefulness of adaptation support from bilateral and multilateral sources. The tracking adaptation and measuring development (TAMD) framework seeks to fill this evaluation gap. With more financing becoming available for climate adaptation — via the Green Climate Fund, for example — it is important that countries can show that initiatives are having a positive impact on development, not only strengthening their draw-down capabilities from funding sources, but also enabling them to make better investments decisions.

### KEY SPACES

- Climate-mandated parts of developing country governments at national and sub-national levels.
- Climate finance management organisations including multilateral development banks.
- Private sector investors and provider of climate adaptation services and technologies.

### SOUTHERN VOICES

*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

### FIND OUT MORE

Our work on the effectiveness of climate adaptation is being undertaken as part of the Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD) project, run by IIED's Climate Change group, Garama 3c Ltd and Adaptify. Find out more about our work on TAMD at [www.iied.org/tracking-adaptation-measuring-development](http://www.iied.org/tracking-adaptation-measuring-development)