

Climate Check

Development of Climate Proofing and Emission Saving in GTZ

Context

German Technical Cooperation implements a broad range of projects in developing countries. According to a study by McKinsey (2007), about 57% of low cost emission reduction potentials for greenhouse gas (GHG) lie in developing countries. Other studies estimated that between 12% and 65% (OECD) or more than a quarter (World Bank) of development projects face significant risks from climate change. Accordingly, several policy documents such as the “EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the Context of Development Cooperation” (2004) and the OECD DAC ministerial “Declaration on Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Co-operation” (2006) have highlighted the need for mainstreaming climate change into development cooperation. Nevertheless in most development cooperation projects, including the German ones, up to now neither climate risks nor additional GHG reduction potentials have so far been systematically considered. It is against this background that GTZ is developing a so-called “Climate Check” to optimise the integration of climate change aspects into its projects.

Climate Check

The GTZ Climate Check aims to ensure that all relevant development cooperation integrate climate risks and emission reduction potentials appropriately.

The Climate Check consists of two tools, “Climate Proofing” and “Emission Saving”. Climate Proofing systematically analyses the effects of climate change risks on development project impacts and identifies adaptation strategies for project readjustments. Emission Saving captures the contribution of projects to mitigate climate change and identifies alternative options and measures to maximise the contribution to emission reductions.

As a first step, a simple screening is applied for all projects to identify those that need to be analysed in more detail.

In a second step, projects exposed to particular climate risks, or offering potential to contribute significantly more to mitigate climate change, are examined in a detailed project assessment.

For the detailed project assessment the following steps are taken:

	Climate Proofing	Emission Saving	
A	Extension and consolidation of knowledge	Development of alternative low-carbon options to achieve project objectives	A
B	Analysis of effects of main climate risks on the project impacts using exposure units (sectors, vulnerable groups / regions)	Comparative analysis of GHG-emission balance of options identified	B
C	Prioritisation of risks and adaptation measures with a set of criteria, and formulation of recommendations	Input-benefit analysis of different optimised project designs and recommendation of mitigation measures	C
D	Integration into project planning, monitoring and evaluation		D

The development of the methodology started in 2007 with first pilot implementations in early 2008. Further pilot projects will follow and the functional methodology is expected to be completed at the end of 2008. It will be supported by capacity development in the form of manuals and training in order to enable development cooperation staff and national partners to apply the tools during Preparatory Missions or Project Progress Appraisals.



Photo: Mirka Bodenbender

Climate Proofing Pilot supports people and ecosystems in Morocco

The effects of climate change such as decreased precipitation and higher temperatures are already clearly perceivable in Morocco. In this context, the GTZ Climate Proofing Tool saw its first application during the planning of a new phase of a GTZ implemented programme. The programme provides technical, administrative and legal support to the Protected Area Network of Morocco and facilitates activities to combat desertification.

During the ongoing phase of the programme (2006-2008) it became increasingly clear that climate change is one of the main challenges to be tackled. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the National Parks is under threat and desertification is dramatically accelerating. Forests are disappearing due to water stress and sinking groundwater level and people lack income and food as natural resources degrade. Climate change was identified as one of the main driving forces for these changes.

The climate proofing tool was meant to identify options for the programme to decrease these risks and vulnerabilities and thus to enhance the sustainability of impacts of the GTZ support. In interviews and a multi-stakeholder workshop, exposure units were identified, analysed and recommendations were derived. Amongst other activities, ecological conservation measures, environmental education and income-generating activities will be consequently geared towards the challenges posed by climate change in one pilot park, based on a vulnerability analysis. The programme will also capacitate the partner institution to spearhead climate-related activities in its field of action and to take part in the process of the formulation of the National Adaptation Strategy.

Imprint

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH

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Three Climate Proofing Pilots in India

In cooperation with the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) a second pilot application of the climate proofing tool was carried out in March 2008 in three ongoing GTZ programmes in India. Although all programmes were based in the natural resource management sector, their approaches differed widely: from socio-economic strengthening of ethnic groups and rural poor to improving public investment schemes and capacity development for decentralised watershed management. All pilots could identify areas and activities threatened by climate change impacts and helped design potential adaptation measures.

Based on requests from programme staff and partners, the climate proofing tool has been complemented by a semi-structured assessment tool. On the one hand it provides structured guidance by describing typical sector-specific impact patterns of climate change stimuli. On the other hand it is open for context specific interpretations and additions by its users.

The pilot testing revealed three important lessons. Climate proofing is a vehicle to raise awareness in GTZ and partner institutions on adaptation to climate change. By applying the tool to the programme, climate risks become tangible. GTZ partners furthermore stated that similar tools are needed for their own institutions. This reconfirms GTZ's approach to also incorporate climate proofing tools into GTZ advisory services to partners. And finally the pilot testing showed that successful adaptation requires the integration of practical local and sector knowledge with the findings of climate science.

Next Steps

- Enhancement of the tools through further pilot projects for both tools
- Development of a manual on how to apply the tools
- Development of a manual on how to make use of climate change information
- Design of training material
- Recommendations for German Development Cooperation on how to integrate climate change into its activities.