



Adaptation to Climate Change: Lessons Learned from the AIXG Water Sector and Coastal Zones Studies

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March 19, 2007

Outline

- **What does adaptation mean in practical terms for the analysed sectors?**
- **What actions are needed for adaptation to take place?**
- **How is adaptation in developed and developing countries different?**
- **What motivates and facilitates adaptation?**
- **What are the barriers to adaptation?**

Adaptation in practical terms:

- Recognition that future conditions may be different from present ones
- Policy decisions that reflect this change
- Better forecasts of and planning for extreme events (floods, droughts, storms)
- Coping strategies at local level
- Coastal defense

What is needed for adaptation to take place?

- Information
- Political will
- Forward-looking thinking and planning
- Legal changes
- Stakeholder process
- Redefine and strengthen roles of institutions
- Integrated approach

How adaptation in developing countries is different from that in developed countries?

- **Weak implementation and enforcement of laws**
- **Low institutional capacity**
- **Higher importance of local community actions**
- **Low technological capacity (less options for adaptation)**
- **Complicating social factors: education, poverty, health**

What motivates adaptation:

- Extreme events
- Financial benefits (or avoided losses)
- Understanding of climate change

What facilitates adaptation:

- Proactive national government
- Strong local leadership
- Availability of regional climate forecasts
- Understanding of uncertainties
- Experience with risk management

Barriers to adaptation

- **Lack of approaches for dealing with uncertainty**
- **Lack of understanding of local conditions**
- **Lack of information and adequate guidance**
- **Other immediate priorities**
- **Conflict with short-term economic interests**
- **Financing**
- **Aversion to change and new thinking**

Interesting links

- **Adaptation and sustainable development**
- **Adaptation and integrated/ecosystem based approaches**
- **Pillars of success:**

education
information
governance