

Adapting to Impacts of Climate Change

Summary of Table Group Discussion

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Question 1:

How can we ensure linkages between regional, national and local adaptation planning?

Question 2:

Given that adaptation takes place at local level, how can regional level knowledge and planning connect with the appropriate local level public participation?

Question 3:

Recognizing that climate change predictions are uncertain, how do we plan and design adaptation measures that are sufficient, but at the same time cost-effective?

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Question 1:

How can we ensure linkages between regional, national and local adaptation planning?

- ✓ **Sharing information, experiences and lessons learned (recurrent key words: “*feedback*” and “*two-way communication*”);**
- ✓ **Do not create new network, use existing ones (MRC-NMCs, GMS, ASEAN, etc...);**
- ✓ **The *national framework for adaptation* is already in place in each of the member countries, the need is to bring regional level and local level to this existing framework;**
- ✓ **Stakeholder involvement must be at all levels;**
- ✓ **Adaptation to climate change must not be a *stand-alone activity*, but should be integrated and mainstreamed to all development programmes and projects in general... (like for gender issue);**

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Question 1:

How can we ensure linkages between regional, national and local adaptation planning? continue...

- ✓ **Main focus and starting point must be the sharing of practical adaptation experiences from local level (especially from pilot sites);**
- ✓ **Exchange national and local adaptation planning approaches (share those experiences and lessons to improve the national level adaptation planning and policies);**
- ✓ **The MRC and other regional organizations/partners role should be to help “*fill the gaps*” in national planning, strategies and policies... bring regional consideration into the process;**
- ✓ **MRC as a regional organization needed to keep updated information from all levels... and provide feedbacks to the people or organizations providing those information.**

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Question 2:

Given that adaptation takes place at local level, how can regional level knowledge and planning connect with the appropriate local level public participation?

- ✓ The key is to include the communities in the planning process, building their ownership and *reinforce their commitment* (so that they recognize themselves into the national/regional planning);
- ✓ Keep the momentum when people already get engaged, continue to encourage them, don't let them lose interest and engagement;
- ✓ You need to know the people if you want to engage them (talking in the same language as the target group will ensure rising awareness... and the appropriate change of behaviour);
- ✓ Be clear and keep it simple!
- ✓ Translate and disseminate information in local languages (e.g. schools could use material in their curricula);

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Question 2:

Given that adaptation takes place at local level, how can regional level knowledge and planning connect with the appropriate local level public participation? continue...

- ✓ **Need to use a system approach to go across sectors (avoid the “sectorial” approach and thinking);**
- ✓ **Create opportunities for dialogues;**
- ✓ **Use the forum of regional stakeholders/organizations (which is already there)... but make sure that roles are clear to avoid overlapping that could lead to confusion;**
- ✓ **Share information and monitoring systems for Climate change.**

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Question 3:

Recognizing that climate change predictions are uncertain, how do we plan and design adaptation measures that are sufficient, but at the same time cost-effective?

- ✓ Traditional culture and knowledge of riparian communities should be considered and used (indigenous or local and natural simplified technologies such as, e.g. water harvesting);
- ✓ Look at previous adaptation /experiences and lessons associated to previous disasters, such as from extreme floods and droughts;
- ✓ Use *multiple benefits* measures, but... keep it simple !
- ✓ Scenarios planning is central... need to involve a range of different stakeholders to identify the importance of the measures;
- ✓ The process must be dynamic, adaptive, constantly updating, improved as we learn from the lessons and practices;
- ✓ Uncertainty should not be a reason for inaction... and investment in knowledge on climate change is needed.