

# Annual Progress Report 2010

A brief look at the activities and achievements  
of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform  
in the year gone by



ADAPTATION  
KNOWLEDGE  
PLATFORM



REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATIONKNOWLEDGEPLATFORM for Asia

## Acknowledgements

The **Annual Progress Report** recounts activities and achievements during the Implementation Phase of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia, between January – December 2010.

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# ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

<b>ADB</b>	ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
<b>AIT</b>	ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
<b>AIT-UNEP RRC.AP</b>	ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
<b>ALM</b>	ADAPTATION LEARNING MECHANISM
<b>AP</b>	ADVISORY PANEL
<b>ASEAN</b>	ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
<b>BCAS</b>	BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
<b>BCCSAP</b>	BANGLADESH CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
<b>BMA</b>	BANGKOK METROPOLITAN ADMINISTRATION
<b>CBA-X</b>	COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION EXCHANGE
<b>CCA</b>	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
<b>CCAI</b>	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INITIATIVE
<b>CEGIS</b>	CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
<b>COP</b>	UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN
<b>CSR</b>	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
<b>DDPM</b>	DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
<b>DRR</b>	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
<b>DWR</b>	DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
<b>GCCA</b>	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE
<b>GEF</b>	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
<b>EU</b>	EUROPEAN UNION
<b>ICCCAD</b>	INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
<b>ICT</b>	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
<b>IGES</b>	INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES
<b>IIED</b>	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
<b>IWRM</b>	INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
<b>KP</b>	KYOTO PROTOCOL
<b>LDC</b>	LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES
<b>MOEF</b>	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
<b>MMF</b>	MANGROVES FOR THE FUTURE
<b>MOI</b>	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
<b>MONRE</b>	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
<b>MOST</b>	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
<b>MPI</b>	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT
<b>MRC</b>	MEKONG RIVER COMMISSION

**NAPA** NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN OF ACTION

**NCS** NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

**NDWC** NATIONAL DISASTER WARNING CENTRE

**NEA** NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

**NGO** NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

**NISTPASS** NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY AND STRATEGY STUDIES

**NOCCOP** NATIONAL OFFICE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND OZONE PROTECTION

**NSEP** NATIONAL STRATEGY Y FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**NTP** NATIONAL TARGET PROGRAM

**ONEP** OFFICE OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PLANNING

**OVI** OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATOR

**PPCR** PILOT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

**SAARC** SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

**SEA START** SOUTHEAST ASIA SYSTEM FOR ANALYSIS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING

**SEI** STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

**SENSA** SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL SECRETARIAT FOR ASIA

**SIDA** SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

**TAO** TAMBON ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANISATION

**TEI** THAILAND ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

**TOR** TERMS OF REFERENCE

**UKCDS** UK COLLABORATIVE ON DEVELOPMENT SCIENCES

**UN** UNITED NATIONS

**UNDP** UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

**UNEP ROAP** UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE ASIA AND PACIFIC

**UNFCC** UN FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**UNISDR** UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION

**WWF** WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform made big strides in the year 2010, in its mission to mainstream climate change adaptation into development planning in the region, and ensure an effective two-way flow of information from researchers working on ways to cope up with the changing climate to policy-makers, and communities who are actually battling the changes on the ground. Now entering its third year of inception, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform also ensured that adaptation became a real cause of concern for governments in the region, and not just a term restricted to scholarly discussions behind closed doors.

The highlight of the year was the two-day Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum in October that saw one of the world's largest gathering of adaptation experts joining heads to focus on ways and means to integrate adaptation into planning in the region. The 550 specialists and practitioners from myriad fields provided invaluable inputs to the adaptation process in the region, and resolved to purposefully work toward providing implementable solutions to climate change in future. The Forum, which will be an annual event, succeeded in underlining the need for the involvement of private sector and the youth in a field that requires bountiful finances and an early response. It also gave voice to the unsung workers at the grassroots who are innovating with scanty resources to deal with the changing climate. And others who are turning the adverse climactic changes into a blessing.

The event also saw the launch of a web portal that is another milestone in the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's efforts to promote knowledge sharing among all the actors on the stage of adaptation. The portal addresses the major challenges facing the adaptation community, which include identifying examples of 'good adaptation practices' that can be scaled up, and connecting with others who are working on similar projects or in the same area to avoid duplication of effort. The knowledge-based web portal offers services such as climate change adaptation information and knowledge assimilation, generation, management, sharing and exchange. Furthermore, it also plugs into the WeAdapt Google Earth Adaptation Layers for geo-referenced viewing of information available on the website.

In its bid to further boost the flow of information on adaptation, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform also launched e-communiqué, an electronic newsletter that aims at keeping the reader abreast with the latest in

the world of adaptation in the region. It also provides a lowdown on the newly-released books, publications, et al, besides listing the available grants and forthcoming events.

Committed to fostering a community of practice, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has also been hosting a string of bi-monthly learning and sharing seminars and workshops that bring together experts, government representatives, NGOs, and field workers on one platform.


True to its mission of applying existing and new knowledge to the ground, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform successfully conducted scoping missions to Phase 2 countries such as Sri Lanka and the Philippines and also commissioned scoping reports to find out the status of adaptation in these countries and the areas where it needed to contribute.

With the scoping reports for countries like Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Nepal under its belt, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform began to implement its agenda in these countries in right earnest. From strengthening the capacity of the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology in Nepal and joining hands with CCCA on knowledge management and sharing in Cambodia to collaborating with ICCCAD for adaptation knowledge management in Bangladesh, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform religiously followed the 2010 implementation schedule of activities.

New communications' approaches that meld efforts to stimulate media coverage of adaptation issues along with promoting community utilization of platform knowledge were deployed. This resulted in Thai and Lao media reporting extensively on the need for community-led adaptation planning along with the development of training resources for Thai communities to assist them in undertaking adaptation planning on their own. Similar programmes are planned for Viet Nam and Nepal in 2011.

As it steps into its third year, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is determined to aggressively pursue its goals of finding solutions to climate change and putting them in the hands of communities that need them. It will also build on its achievements of the past two years to ensure that adaptation becomes so deeply entrenched into policy making in the region that its knowledge initiatives bear fruit for a long, long time.



A black and white photograph showing a young boy in a patterned shirt pointing towards the horizon. He is standing on a boat or a pier. Other children are visible in the background, and the scene is set against a backdrop of buildings and a body of water.

Though many Asian governments are grappling with international negotiations over mitigation targets, the key issue in the climate change debate is Adaptation.

## INTRODUCTION

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From hosting the landmark Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010 that attracted one of the world's most eclectic gathering of experts to launching the region's finest web portal on the subject, and physically introducing adaptation to policymakers and people alike in various countries of the region, the **Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform Asia** (hereinafter, referred to as the Adaptation Knowledge Platform) became a significant instrument of change through dissemination of knowledge in 2010.

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*Unveiled in October 2009, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform aims to establish a regionally and nationally owned mechanism that facilitates integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic and development activities, processes, plans and policies. It also strengthens adaptive capacity of countries in the region, while working with existing and emerging networks and initiatives.*

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Knowledge management is key to successful adaptation, for adaptation planning and practices require expertise from multiple disciplines to address specific needs at multiple levels and in multiple sectors. Successful adaptation policies and actions are necessarily dependent on effective knowledge management to provide a sound information and knowledge base. Despite the proliferation of knowledge management initiatives and their

associated products (e.g. online platforms and portals etc.), there is lack of collaboration between the producers and users of adaptation. And it is this gap that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has tried to bridge during 2010 by forging partnerships throughout the region, and by making the most of its web portal and ICT services to promote exchange of information, and its proliferation to the vulnerable communities as well as policy-makers.

Though many Asian governments are grappling with international negotiations over mitigation targets, the key issue in the climate change debate is adaptation: how to sustain and improve livelihoods when faced with even greater uncertainties and vulnerabilities caused by a changing climate, and the consequent changes to ecosystems and availability of natural resources.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been developed to respond to demand for effective mechanisms for sharing information on climate change adaptation, and for developing adaptive capacities in Asian countries, many of whom are the most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform supports research and capacity building, policy making and information sharing to help countries in Asia adapt to the challenges of climate change.

In particular, the program focuses on the mainstreaming of adaptation into poverty reduction and sustainable development policies and strategies, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society while taking gender equality and environmental sustainability as key principles.

The key starting point for any activity that aims to build capacities for and strengthen knowledge on

adaptation, is to understand that it is essentially about meeting defined sustainable development and poverty reduction goals when confronted with greater uncertainty about climate and environment.

Through its activities, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working toward building bridges between current knowledge on adaptation to climate change and the governments, agencies and communities (especially the poor and the most vulnerable segments of society) that need this knowledge to inform their responses to the challenges that climate change presents to them.

In order to achieve this purpose, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has joined hands with various other initiatives and organizations to bring together policy-makers, adaptation researchers, practitioners, business leaders as well as the affected communities on one table.

## ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM PARTNERSHIPS

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is supported by the Swedish Environment Secretariat for Asia (SENSA) of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). Initial partners in this initiative are the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Asian Institute of Technology AIT/UNEP-Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT/UNEP RRC.AP), which hosts its Secretariat. These initial partners work in close collaboration with a wide range of national and international organizations and institutes.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been involving UNDP in the discussions on its activities and directions since the very beginning of the initiative, and is currently concretizing the initial collaborations with a number of activities. It joined hands with Adaptation Learning Mechanism (ALM) for the organization of a capacity building event such as practitioner's exchange on climate change adaptation in agriculture. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has also been working closely with UNEP's ongoing initiatives, including Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) which has similar goals and objectives. Similarly, its collaboration with ISDR is already ongoing in the framework of the 4th Asian Ministerial Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction where the Adaptation

Knowledge Platform helped in the delivery of one of the technical sessions of the conference.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has also collaborated with Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB) in the process to understand the current status of climate change adaptation within agriculture and water sectors for formulation of regional strategies against climate change risks by designing adaptation planning tools and implementation. It also has close ties with Institute for Global Environment Strategies (IGES) as Asia Pacific Adaptation Network Regional Hub is co-hosted by the IGES and the AIT-UNEP RRC. AP.

Together with SEI and UNEP, International Center for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has conducted research and policy-based studies including the 'Too Much Too Little Water' project and 'Sacred Himalayas for Water, Livelihoods, and Bio-Cultural Heritage'. Currently the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is planning to conduct some work on adaptation with ICIMOD, including providing technical support to the Eastern Himalayas Climate Summit 2011.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is also collaborating with Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), for the organization and delivery of knowledge-sharing events (e.g. bimonthly seminar on coastal ecosystem based adaptation) and, in the longer term, for capturing relevant lessons learnt and experiences from grassroots implementation of MFF and WWF adaptation-related projects.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has also enabled dissemination of experiences of different methodologies, tools for adaptation planning and vulnerability assessments based on inter alia the weADAPT on-line Adaptation Knowledge Platform developed by SEI and the World Bank's ADAPT tool.

At national level, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform seeks to maximize visibility and stakeholder engagement through a combination of visits from staff of the core Adaptation Knowledge Platform partners and the engagement of a local Implementation Partner of high credibility and good experience, who undertakes specific activities, such as launching of pilot adaptation activities and scoping assessment of existing policies, institutional mechanisms and mandates for adaptation, to prepare the ground for future Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in each of the countries.

## SEI MAIN COMPONENT OF ACTION: GENERATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE, COMMUNICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

As a research institute with a mission of bridging science to policy to induce the change of society toward greater sustainability, SEI sees its role and responsibilities in the knowledge support. SEI coordinates the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's activities related to the generation of new knowledge, including the development of partnerships and networks in this area, as well as leading activities at the national level as specified in the LFA. SEI, jointly with AIT-UNEPRRC.AP, collaborates on all decisions over the strategic direction and detailed planning of Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities. Detailed activities include among others collecting, systemizing and documenting best practices for & barriers to mainstreaming climate change adaptation.

With national or regional partners, SEI has facilitated or conducted the research, focusing on the identification of potential enabling factors and counteracting measures through the engagement of regional research institutes. Regional pilot studies of specific climate change & adaptation scenarios, streamlined methodologies and tools for adaptation

planning & vulnerability assessments and communications with academia/research, business sector, practitioners NGOs are also undertaken through SEI's lead.

## GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has identified 13 focus countries for its operation. They include Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

In 2009 and 2010, the focus for the national-level activities in the nine pilot countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan Cambodia, Lao PDR, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam, was to identify knowledge gaps and prepare capacity development strategies at the national level. This was based on strong stakeholder participation and clear institutional analyses, reflecting the purpose of the 2009 logical framework (LFA): "to deliver on each of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform outputs through the direct engagement of national stakeholders in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam; and more general engagements in the remaining Phase One countries".

## THE THREE COMPONENTS

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform performs its activities by working through three components:

Here is a brief recap of the work undertaken by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in all the three components in 2010.

1. **The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Knowledge Management and Sharing Approach:** From hosting the maiden Asian Climate Change Adaptation Forum, which will now be an annual event, to organizing seminars, workshops and introducing web portals besides bringing out newsletters, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform went an extra mile in 2010 to share knowledge and foster a community of practice. The Platform also developed a number of communications products to reach stakeholders across the region, and disseminated information and global experiences on adaptation actions and the development of national-level knowledge sharing and capacity development activities.

2. **Generation of New Knowledge:** Activities in this component are predominantly led by SEI, especially in relation to the pilot research activities, and SEI is also responsible for coordination of the component as a whole. In 2010, it undertook studies on the following three topics: (i) Understanding Planning; (ii) Comparing Adaptation and Development; and (iii) Assessing the Policy Context for Planning.
3. **Application of Existing and New Knowledge into Action, Practice, Policies and Capacity Building Exercise:** : In 2010 the Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities were initiated in four focal countries: Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Lao PDR. In all of these countries, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working through partnerships with local institutions, and 30% of the budget for 2010 has been dedicated to these partners.

Table\_1 Phase I countries

Phase 1 Countries	Lead Implementer	Ongoing Activities
Viet Nam	SEI	Pilot mainstreaming in Binh Dinh Province SEDP & in PDP VIII; high level awareness; NGO Resource Centre
Thailand	SEI	Pilot mainstreaming in Sapanhin Subdistrict, Chainat Province; high level awareness; community/local government involvement; multi-stakeholders engagement
Nepal	Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Downscale climate data; strengthen capacity of Dept. of Hydrology and Meteorology; supporting ICIMOD and MoE on Nepal’s mountain initiative
Cambodia	Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Autonomous adaptation strategy; connect autonomous and planned adaptation; multi-sector learning of adaptation gaps and needs; Collaborate with CCCA on knowledge management and sharing
Bangladesh	Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Collaborating with ICCCAD for adaptation knowledge management; Synthesis on effectiveness of community based adaptation and its linkages to policy; explore partnership with ARCAB to share experiences
Phase 2 Countries	Lead Implementer	Scoping findings – activities to be planned
Sri Lanka	Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Adaptation policies and plans endorsed but not implemented; Lack of knowledge at provincial/divisional secretariat level; Country scoping study with UNDP; Prototype of Sri Lanka climate change adaptation portal
Philippines	Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Consensus for vulnerability assessment; adaptation planning meeting of Governors/Mayors for Climate Change Commission; support MDG-F: multi-sectoral team at NEDA in fostering ongoing adaptation programme
Bhutan	SEI	Limited capacities, weak policy & planning framework but high enthusiasm: support to Climate Summit; integrating adaptation into local level planning; high level awareness
Lao PDR	SEI	Low level of awareness, limited information & few existing initiatives: focus on building basic understanding and capacities

1. Knowledge management and sharing: The Platform has developed and is in the process of developing systems, processes, tools and practices to share translate and apply the adaptation knowledge currently being generated. This component is led by and is predominantly the responsibility of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, with SEI providing technical support wherever appropriate.
2. Generation of new knowledge: to facilitate new climate change adaptation knowledge promoting understanding and providing guidance relevant to development. This component (i) identifies existing key knowledge gaps in the mainstreaming of adaptation in development planning; (ii) pinpoints groups of stakeholders which need this knowledge; and (iii) finds out how the right information can be made available at the right time, and in a form

that decision-makers are able to interpret and act upon. This component is primarily led by SEI.

3. Application of Existing and New Knowledge into Action, Practice, Policies and Capacity Building Exercise: In 2010 the Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities were initiated in four focal countries: Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Lao PDR. In all of these countries, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working through partnerships with local institutions, and 30% of the budget for 2010 has been dedicated to these partners.

In addition, the scoping assessments and stakeholder consultations undertaken during the inception period (2009-10) led to the identification of activities that are being implemented in Phase 1 countries as outlined in table 1.

## LINKAGES BETWEEN 2009 AND 2010 ACTIVITIES

The experiences of 2009, the inception year, in developing the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, provided great insights into the need and context for the development of an effective regional knowledge sharing mechanism. Overall, the activities implemented in 2009 achieved this aim. All aspects of the inception period were successfully implemented and a firm foundation for the future development of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform was laid. The main outcomes of the 2009 inception period were as follows:

- Activities were initiated in the five pilot countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam, with local partners mobilized, scoping reports prepared, the existing policy and institutional environment appraised and key knowledge and capacity gaps identified.
- The management arrangements for the long-term development of the Platform were put in place, the operational modalities for coordination between the partners were developed and the structure of the regional knowledge sharing mechanism was defined.
- An effective communication system was initiated, culminating in the high-profile launch of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform on October 3 2009.
- Capacity development activities, including training for officials and researchers from the Region, took place. Progress was made in the inventorying of existing and generation of new knowledge products.
- Sharing of knowledge on climate change adaptation was initiated, focusing on the impacts of climate change on high altitude ecosystems.
- Linkages and collaboration with other relevant initiatives were initiated, and an agreement was reached with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network and the Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points.

The most significant outcome of the inception year was the strategy for the future development of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, particularly for 2010 and 2011. This strategy set out activities, parts of which were undertaken in 2010 for each of the three components identified in the LFA, along with a number of specific communications activities. This led to the substantial modification of the original programme LFA, presented in Annex-1. In defining the activities for 2010-2011, a balance had to be struck between ambition and achievability; making sure that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform remained innovative and yet responded to need and built ownership. A key to this, it is believed, is to demonstrate that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform can and does meet perceived needs and can, and will deliver results within a reasonable time frame.

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**Communication Strategy:** *While most of the communications work in 2009 focused on developing and conceptualizing the nature of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and branding of the initiative among users and partners, the work in 2010 focused on corporate communications (e.g., development of web and print materials) and user-targeted media and outreach activities.*

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The Adaptation Forum 2010 approached the theme “Integration of Climate Change Adaptation” through three key parallel sessions: Vertical Integration; horizontal integration; and financing adaptation.

## PROGRESS IN 2010

### COMPONENT I ESTABLISHING REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE SHARING MECHANISM

This component is led by and is predominantly the responsibility of the AIT-UNEP RRC.AP.

#### Highlights of Knowledge Sharing Activities: Building a Community of Practice

##### The Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010

One of the biggest climate adaptation events ever witnessed in the region with a record participation of experts, the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010 was held at the UN headquarters in Bangkok on October 21 and 22 2010 to discuss ways to mainstream adaptation into development planning in Asia and the Pacific.

Organized by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia and the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN), the Adaptation Forum 2010 attracted more than 550 policymakers, scientists, and representatives of Asian and Pacific countries as well as bilateral and multilateral donors. It took to a new level the debate on the way forward for the Asia-Pacific region to cope up with the large-scale effects of climate change.

The deliberations were opened by Dr. Young-Woo Park, Regional Director and Representative for Asia and the Pacific for UNEP, who reminded the audience that responding to climate change – “the

defining issue of our time” – was particularly critical for developing countries and the Asia-Pacific region.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, speaking via video, emphasized on building resilience, scientific knowhow and effective partnerships for moving forward on both adaptation and mitigation.

The Adaptation Forum 2010 approached the theme “Integration of Climate Change Adaptation” through three key parallel sessions: Vertical Integration (multi-level governance by applying different approaches, including science, to policy); horizontal integration (cross-sectoral integration, marrying policies to implementation); and financing adaptation (access to adaptation funds; role of both the public & private sector in development and planning).

Knowledge-sharing, capacity development and financing were emphasized as the key elements for successful climate change adaptation efforts. The discussions at the Adaptation Forum 2010 threw up three main learnings. First was the need for practical knowledge. The participants underlined the significance of translating climate science into language and products easily comprehensible to decision makers in the government and civil society. They also emphasized the need for giving practical guidelines on ways to incorporate adaptation into programs, plans and projects. It was felt that downscaled projections of future climate change were required as a basis for vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning. The experts also agreed that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform had an important role to play in gathering and disseminating such knowledge.

Second was the need for collaboration among various stakeholders. It was felt that adaptation to climate



change could be effective only if the workers at the grassroots were given adequate support by national governments and international organizations to develop their capacity. It's also important for all regions to join hands for better preparedness.

Thirdly, everyone was unanimous about the significance of assured and flexible financial support for the adaptation efforts.

Focus events were also held discussing, amongst other things, Initiatives on Urban Adaptation, Child-Based Adaptation, Disaster Preparedness, Community-Based Adaptation, Business and Climate Change Adaptation, Climate-Proofing Coastal Ecosystems and a Roundtable on Local Governance.

The galaxy of distinguished speakers included Dr. Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Vice President, Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, Asian Development Bank (ADB), who dwelt on "Knowledge, Capacity Development and Finance: Three Pillars for Successful Adaptation" and Mr Nicholas Rosellini, UNDP Regional Bureau Director for Asia and the Pacific.

The Forum also underlined the need to engage the private sector in adaptation efforts, given the significance of sound financing, and a more holistic approach. It was in this regard that Dr Schaefer-Preuss stated that policy makers must establish a policy environment that would enable private sector participation in adaptation activities. New and innovative financing and risk sharing approaches and associated institutional arrangements are also needed to promote the integration of adaptation and disaster risk reduction through insurance and other disaster risk finance instruments.

Richard Welford, president of CSR Asia, voiced the concerns of the private sector when he stressed on the need to harness the innovative capacity of the private sector. He said climate change adaptation had to be made strategic for private sector. It needed value addition by linking it to brands, reputation, and trust in private sector.

Representatives from a whole gamut of initiatives and agencies spoke on the occasion. The eclectic roll call of participating organizations included the likes of the National Environment Commission (NEC), Bhutan, Institute of Global Environment Strategies (IGES), Japan, National Council on Climate Change, Indonesia, National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility (NCCARF), Australia,

Earthwise Consulting Ltd., New Zealand, University of Colombo, Sri Lanka, United Nations University, (UNU) Japan, Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), Ecosystems and Development, World Resources Institute (WRI), USA, et al.

### Learning and Sharing Seminars

In its effort to build and empower a physical community of practice, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been holding a series of bi-monthly Knowledge Sharing & Learning seminars and a slew of workshops bringing experts face to face with practitioners, thereby promoting a two-way flow of information.

The first seminar on "Linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation" was held in Bangkok on 31 March 2010.

The seminar provided an informal setting that enabled over 70 adaptation, development and environment practitioners, representatives of national, regional and international organizations from 38 organizations based in Bangkok, to meet, network, share and learn from discussions and debates.

The discussions were facilitated by Dr. Lisa Schipper, Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia Centre, and Dr. Jerry Velasquez, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Bangkok.

Ensuing deliberations with active participation from the floor focused on four guided questions:

*What is the difference between CCA and DRR?  
Adaptation and DRR: two distinct communities?  
What are the arguments for stronger linkages?  
What is the way forward? How do we organize ourselves?*

The second seminar on "EbA: Coastal Ecosystems' Role in Climate Change Adaptation" took place on 3 June, in collaboration with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Mangroves for the Future (MFF), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Thailand and TEAM group of companies.

The event aimed at providing an opportunity for information and knowledge-sharing on coastal climate change adaptation by considering and sharing a selection of coastal EbA tools and practices. The event gathered over 90 climate change adaptation practitioners and coastal managers from national and regional institutes/organization based

in Bangkok as well as Thai policy and decision-makers.

The third seminar in Bangkok on 6 August focused on “Effectiveness of Community-based Adaptation to Climate Change”. The seminar discussed Community-based Adaptation (CBA) planning and practices, selected CBA tools and priorities for future CBA research and partnerships amongst key regional institutions, agencies and NGOs.

Dr. Young Woo Park, Regional Director of United Nations Environment Programme, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP-ROAP), gave the welcome note, while Dr. Saleemul Huq of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED-UK) delivered the plenary talk, giving the historical background of climate change and CBA and the new trends emerging today.

The seminar also saw two presentations, one on, “Essential Elements of Community Based Climate Change Adaptation: Emerged Experiences from Asian Practices” by Atiq Kainan Ahmed of Plan International and the other on “Climate Change: Vulnerability & Adaptive Capacity” by Bruce Raveslout of CARE International.

Two short video presentations were also given by Dr. Anond Snidvongs of Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKM) Thailand followed by a discussion on bridging the gaps on CBA issues coordinated by Mr. Brad Phillips of USAID. The seminar was facilitated by Dr. Peter King of Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

Co-organized by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, CARE International, CCKM Thailand, USAID Thailand and Plan International., the seminar of more than 80 policy and decision makers, CBA practitioners as well as managers of regional and national organizations based in Bangkok working on climate change adaptation, livelihoods and development issues participated in the seminar.

### **Workshops**

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also held a series of workshops to disseminate information about the latest adaptation practices amongst policy-makers and practitioners besides promoting capacity building after ascertaining the needs of the country under focus.

For instance, it coordinated a workshop on “Territorial Approach to Climate Change (TACC)”, a project that aims at reducing carbon footprint to increase resilience to climate change impacts in sub-national territories in developing countries and countries with economies in transition.

*The workshop succeeded in educating participants about the general causes and effects of climate change. They were also told how to access reliable sources of credible scientific information, besides being made aware of the available adaptation options, approaches and methods to foster sustained capacity development at the sub-national and local level, including human resource and skills development.*

In Viet Nam, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform partnered with the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS), and Binh Dinh Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) to jointly organize a half-day workshop on 16 September 2010 to kick off a pilot project to mainstream climate change adaptation into the provincial socio-economic development plan (SEDP). The workshop marked an initial dialogue among local government representatives, NGOs, media groups and relevant stakeholders to share ideas on how adaptation can be integrated and mainstreamed into national policies.

Earlier, Thailand Environment Institute (TEI) with support from the Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia, held a dialogue on “Climate Change Adaptation and Good Environmental Governance” for Mekong CSOs. The objectives of the workshop were to provide a regional forum for the CSOs to share ideas, perspectives and experiences on practical adaptation approaches, to enhance understanding of adaptation, and to build a regional climate change network of CSOs. A total of 50 representatives from CSOs, international organizations and donors in the Mekong sub-region, including Yunnan (China), Lao PDR, Cambodia, Viet Nam and Thailand, participated in the event, and shared their best practices and challenges of climate change adaptation. The participants also visited the

Hill Area and Community Development Foundation, Doi Mae Salong, Chiang Rai, to get a first-hand account of adaptation on ground.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also promoted research and studies for adaptation. In one such instance, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's national partner, Kasetsart University, developed an initial work plan and proposal to achieve integration of adaptation into River Basin Management in Thailand. The proposed activities include carrying out vulnerability assessment of water resources, including flood and scarcity risks, and exploring possible adaptation options through partnership among river basin organizations, local government and non-governmental agencies and community representatives. Knowledge products from these activities will feed into planning at the basin level.

**Strengthening Climate Resilience Initiative:** In July, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform showcased its activities at the Regional Consultation Workshop for Southeast Asia that brought together different 'communities of practice' in South-East Asian countries to discuss, share ideas and explore programming, projects and policies that seek to consider climate dimensions within their DRM and development activities. Strengthening Climate Resilience (SCR) is a new DFID-funded programme that aims to enhance the ability of governments and civil-society organizations in developing countries, to build the resilience of communities to disasters and climate change.

**Adaptation Development Strategy for Bhutan:** As part of Adaptation Knowledge Platform's strategy to facilitate and strengthen adaptive capacity of countries in South and South East Asian countries, a team from UNEP RRCAP and SEI consulted with key stakeholders in Bhutan to share information on Adaptation Knowledge Platform and identify a national implementation partner to conduct various activities as per the need of the country. The mission found that awareness of climate change in Bhutan is generally strong, but there is no overall framework for addressing adaptation at policy or planning levels. In addition, capacity is a concern throughout the system.

There have been several training activities in the country but a systematic appraisal of needs and the development of a strategy for both human resources and institutional changes to strengthen capacities to plan for uncertainty and climate variability are needed.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also made use of the sixth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED) to organize a side event on "Integration of Climate Change Adaptation into Sustainable Development in Central Asia". The event was coordinated by the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies together with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – Regional Resource Center for Asia Pacific (RRC.AP) and the Regional Environment Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) at the ministerial conference hosted by the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan from 27 September to 2 October 2010.

Researchers from five countries in Central Asia and representatives from international organizations such as UNEP and Asian Development Bank (ADB) participated and held enthusiastic discussions on various subjects centering around the state of adaptation in Central Asia.

**Round table on climate adaptation in Thailand:** The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also held a roundtable workshop on climate adaptation entitled "Improving the Links between Knowledge and Action for Adaptation to Climate Change in Thailand". The over 50 participants from Thailand's government agencies, civil society organizations, development agencies and academia agreed that there was a need to work from the bottom-up with practitioners at different levels, sectors and agencies rather than a top-down, "one-size-fits-all" intervention for designing and implementing effective climate adaptation strategies.

The speakers cautioned that Thailand faces many adaptation challenges in the future, ranging from extreme climate events resulting in floods and drought as well as potential shifts in rainfall patterns that could affect water storage systems and irrigation, cropping, fisheries and coastal ecosystems. A changed future climate regime can also influence, and make it more difficult to control, the spread of vector diseases like malaria or dengue fever.

Participants at the roundtable, which was organized by the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia, Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKM) and the Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), emphasized the need for improved knowledge and greater understanding of these challenges. Many agencies have substantial experience in dealing with mitigation issues but have only just begun considering adaptation.

Participants also stressed the need for improved coordination and collaboration among agencies. From grassroots to national-level, organizations and individuals have positive experiences in linking knowledge with practice which could be built upon for addressing adaptation. Participants noted the importance of interdisciplinary sharing as well as two-way communication as the foundations of co-production of knowledge.

### **Knowledge Services**

The Adaptation Knowledge Forum also made the most of ICT services in 2010 to promote sharing of information through the all-pervasive internet.

### **The Web Portal – Climate Change Adaptation in Asia & the Pacific**

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also has to its credit a one-of-a-kind web portal. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform was earlier sharing information through adaptation web portal 'www.weADAPT.org'. This was followed by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform web portal 'www.asiapacificadapt.net' in collaboration with other knowledge sharing mechanisms, including Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network, weADAPT (Collaborating on Climate Adapt) and Adaptation Learning Mechanism, which was launched at the Asia Pacific Adaptation Forum held from 21-22 October 2010.

The interactive gateway for climate change adaptation is a response to demand for effective mechanisms for sharing information and knowledge on climate change adaptation and developing adaptive capacities in Asian and Pacific countries.

One of the major challenges facing the adaptation community is identifying examples of 'good adaptation practice' that can be scaled up and learned from. Finding and connecting with others who are working on similar projects or in the same area can be a major challenge undermining the effectiveness of work on-the-ground and sometimes creating unnecessary duplication. The webportal - Climate Change Adaptation in Asia and the Pacific - was designed and developed to increase access to information, and to promote exchange of adaptation knowledge, experience and tools in the region.

It offers services such as climate change adaptation information & knowledge assimilation, generation, management, sharing and exchange. It also aims to provide concise information on projects; information

resources; and knowledge products on climate change adaptation in Asia and the Pacific region, and share with the climate adaptation community at different scales, from practitioner to decision-maker as well as to donors and the media.

Furthermore, the WeAdapt Google Earth Adaptation Layers is also plugged in for geo-referenced viewing of information available on the website. It also displays a set of 'place marks' – packages of information that relate to a specific location with brief description of the project, organization or data, a contact person and link for more information and the logo of the implementing organization are displayed.

It will also soon make available climate data, project information, videos, innovative research and descriptions of people and organizations doing adaptation. The ALM linkages will provide access to adaptation resources, including project case studies, best practices and other tools, such as the UNDP-developed database of adaptation profiles of individual countries. Technical support was provided through the review of national scoping reports for Nepal, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Bangladesh and Thailand.

The portal is a collaborative effort of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points, we ADAPT and Adaptation Learning Mechanism. The other partnering organizations in the initiative are AIT-UNEP RRC.AP, SEI, UNEP, ADB, World Bank, IGES, UNDP and SENS.A.

### **e-communiqués**

Acutely aware of the need to exchange information, and keep the channels of communication open, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform started a monthly web-based newsletter called "e-communiqué" in 2010. Started in January, the newsletter helps the Platform share its activities, the current climate change adaptation news and initiatives from Asia-Pacific and beyond. Aimed at those working and interested in the field of climate change adaptation, the widely-circulated newsletter also carries announcements about scholarships, fellowships, new publications, et al. It is being rightly called a one-stop hub for information about the events, new developments and announcements in the field of climate adaptation in the region.

## COMPONENT 2 GENERATION OF NEW KNOWLEDGE

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### Introduction and Context

The activities under the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in 2009 indicated that there are several levels of knowledge gaps on adaptation, ranging from basic factual knowledge on what adaptation is to how to use complex tools for planning adaptation. Activities in 2010 confirmed this. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is tasked with addressing two key activities, namely building up a regional knowledge base on adaptation, as well as piloting some key approaches to adaptation planning. The rationale behind this component, on the generation of new knowledge, is to identify (i) what key knowledge gaps exist in the mainstreaming of adaptation in development planning; (ii) which groups of stakeholders need this knowledge; and (iii) how the right information can be made available at the right time and in a form that decision-makers are able to interpret and act upon.

Building up the regional knowledge base on adaptation involves a number of activities. The overall objective of this component is to bring together different actors to both identify and fill knowledge gaps specific to planning adaptation at national and sub-national level. This provides not only an opportunity for networking among research institutes within and across countries, but also for collaboration between research institutes, practitioners, NGOs and government bodies.

The role of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is to facilitate the development of collaborative studies to study and fill knowledge gaps on three key topics: understanding how planning works, relating adaptation and development, and exploring the policy context for planning. Six of the focus countries under the Adaptation Knowledge Platform are involved in the studies, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.

There were originally four study topics envisaged for implementation in 2010-2011, set out in the Adaptation Knowledge Platform inception report. Based on advice provided by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Advisory Group, one of the envisaged topics ('Perceived and actual knowledge

gaps') has been consolidated into the first topic, 'Understanding Planning', as it is now recognised that the analysis of knowledge gaps is a key issue in the assessment of climate change adaptation planning systems. As a consequence, there are now three proposed studies to generate new knowledge.

Since the progress report from 2009, there have been no changes to the scope of the three studies, but there have been a change to the proposed study countries. Notably, Study 3 will now include Bhutan, instead of Cambodia. The following sections describe the projects briefly.

### Study Progress Overview

Two of the three studies began their work in 2010, as can be seen in Table 2. The first study, Understanding Planning, has progressed to the point of data collection. Study 2, Comparing daptation and Development, has begun one of its two components. Study 3 will begin in 2011.

#### Study 1: Understanding Planning

This study examines planning processes for natural resource management and disaster risk reduction in Nepal, the Philippines and Viet Nam in order to provide guidance on how to plan adaptation to climate change. It does so by exploring governance, participation and cross-level interaction in different cases to draw out lessons for adaptation planning. The study also examines differences in perception about access to and gaps in information necessary for planning.

The main question of this study is: *What lessons can natural resource management and disaster risk reduction planning teach us for adaptation planning?* Further questions are elaborated in Table 3. There are three components to the study: literature review, case studies, and analysis (see Table 3). Partners are involved in the case studies and contribute to the analysis. The study has three case studies in different countries, covering three different aspects of planning. In the Philippines, the fieldwork is being carried out by Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), and focuses on coastal planning. In Nepal, the field work is being undertaken by WWF-Nepal, and focuses on community forestry planning. In Viet Nam, the fieldwork is being carried out by National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy (NISTPASS), and focuses on disaster risk reduction planning

Table\_2 New Knowledge Studies

Study No.	Countries	Title and Objective	Focus of Activities	Timing
1	Philippines Nepal Viet Nam	<b>Understanding Planning</b> Learn lessons from related planning processes, including for disaster risk reduction and natural resource management to help guide adaptation planning.	Understanding how similar planning processes work and comparing with the planning process for adaptation. Identifying the lessons that could be learned for adaptation planning Identifying what decision-makers on different levels think is necessary in order to be able to plan for adaptation	July 2010 - August 2011
2	Viet Nam Bangladesh	<b>Comparing Adaptation and Development</b> Examine 'adaptation' projects in each country to see how they differ from 'normal' development projects	Understanding the differences and similarities between adaptation and development planning	September 2011
3	Nepal Thailand Bhutan	<b>Policy Contest for Planning</b> Examine the links between different levels of governance to understand how local responses are linked with national policy contexts Examine the processes of communication and decision making between different levels.	Case studies from rural locations to understand how local responses to climate variability stress and hazards are linked with the enabling environment created by national or sub-national policies and institutions. Understanding how 'autonomous' the responses actually are, and how dependent they are on the greater enabling environment created by external policies and institutions.	February 2011 - October 2011

## Study 2: Comparing Adaptation and Development

Over the last decade, there has been extensive discussion of the actual difference between adaptation and development. Many argue that the activities are not the same, because adaptation has a different timeframe than 'normal' development projects. This study aims to examine all projects in Bangladesh and Viet Nam that are labeled 'adaptation', to examine to what extent these projects actually differ from 'normal' development projects.

To this end, this study seeks to understand how adaptation is defined by governments, donors and others who are implementing the projects, and assess whether they actually are contributing to building adaptive capacity over the medium to long term, or whether they are simply labeled adaptation for convenience to funding sources or due to lack of understanding of what adaptation means.

The importance of this kind of study was also identified by the Adaptation Network members.

This study involves writing a paper on mainstreaming, and collection of data on 'adaptation' projects. For the latter, we will collaborate with the International Centre on Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) in Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) under the framework of the Action Research on Community Based Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) initiative in Bangladesh and the National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS) in Viet Nam as well as the Viet Nam National University in Hanoi.

In both cases, working with higher-level educational institutions will enable the involvement of students in the project work. This study will answer the following questions:

*What are the ‘adaptation’ projects in Viet Nam and Bangladesh?*

*How do these projects define adaptation? How do the definitions compare to the scientifically recognized understanding of adaptation?*

*How would the projects differ if they would not consider climate change?*

*To what extent are ‘adaptation’ projects the same as ‘development’ projects in Bangladesh and Viet Nam?*

*What is a useful analytical framework for determining whether a project will build adaptive capacity over the medium to long term?*

**Study 3: Policy Context for Planning**

This study focuses on several case studies in rural areas of Bhutan, Thailand and Nepal in order to see how responses to climate variability, hazards and stress are linked with externally-driven policies, institutions and other conditions (the ‘enabling environment’). The purpose of this work is to understand whether local responses work without the enabling environment, or whether they would collapse. This study would shed light on the relationship between local responses and national and sub-national conditions, in order to help explain how sustainable local responses are.

Table\_3 Study Progress in 2010

Study	Activities in 2010	Plans for 2011
Understanding Planning	Partners identified (March-May) Work plans drafted (July-November) Planning workshop held (November, Bangkok) Field work begun	Data collection Synthesis workshop (May, Can Tho, Viet Nam) Analysis & Report Writing Conclusion of Project (August)
Comparing Adaptation and Development	Partners identified (October) Mainstreaming paper begun	Data collection Completion of mainstreaming paper Analysis & Report Writing Conclusion of Project (September)
Policy Context for Planning		Identify partners Hold planning workshop Data collection Analysis & Report Writing Conclusion of Project (October)

Table\_4 Study I (understanding Planning) Components

Study Components	Key Questions
Literature review of the policy-planning process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How have planning processes for development typically been studied?</li> <li>2. What are the external environments that affect planning?</li> </ol>
Case studies	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What criteria and/or models lead to successful planning?</li> <li>2. What are models, processes or characteristics that hinder successful planning?</li> <li>3. How is information used in the planning process?</li> <li>4. How are different stakeholders involved in the planning process?</li> <li>5. What are the different tools used for planning?</li> <li>6. What lessons could be applied to adaptation planning in the case study country?</li> </ol>
Synthesis analysis	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are examples of successful planning and why have they been successful?</li> <li>2. What are examples of unsuccessful/less successful planning and why have they not been successful?</li> <li>3. How is information used in the planning process?</li> <li>4. How do planning processes cut across different stakeholders and decision-making levels?</li> <li>5. What methodology is effective for studying planning?</li> <li>6. What lessons could be applied to adaptation planning generically?</li> </ol>

This study will answer the following questions:

1. What are the responses to climate variability, stress and hazards in selected rural communities in the case study locations?
2. What are the external conditions, i.e. policies, institutions and other circumstances that influence local responses?
3. To what extent are local responses dependent on external conditions?
4. How appropriate is the applied analytical framework tool for assessing whether local responses are independently sustainable, or depend on externally-driven conditions and how can it be adjusted?

## COMPONENT 3 APPLICATION OF EXISTING AND NEW KNOWLEDGE

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Overall responsibility for this component is shared between SEI and AIT-UNEP RRCAP. Whilst all of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform partners will be involved in each of the countries where national-level activities will take place, it has been agreed that one partner will take the lead and be responsible for funding national partners in each country in 2010, with the agreed division as follows: SEI: Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR and Bhutan. UNEP: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The lead responsibility for the remaining countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, China and Myanmar) will be decided at the beginning of 2011 when the scope and character of the activities in each is clearer.

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*This study will use an analytical approach developed by SEI in 2010 for assessing whether responses identified in one location are circumstance-specific, i.e. whether they only work because of the enabling environment and whether they can be transposed to another, similar location. This would help determine whether adaptation 'best practices' can actually exist, or whether actions have to be reinvented each time depending on local circumstances (and external conditions).*

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The activities undertaken in this component in 2010 can be divided into three inter-related clusters: (i) the implementation of priority activities for the countries (Thailand and Vietnam) visited during the inception period; (ii) the identification and implementation of Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in the two focus countries (Bhutan and Lao PDR); and (iii) the production and dissemination of generic knowledge products for these countries and, potentially, others in the Asia region and beyond.

Whilst there are activities planned at both regional and local scales, the main focus of Component 3 is at the national level or at sub-national administrative levels such as provinces or districts. This reflects the stage of adaptation development in most Asian countries, with an active process of defining the scope, character and institutional modalities of adaptation planning and mainstreaming an on-going reality across much of the region. The expressions of need in all country consultations during initial scoping as well as at regional level events in the inception period were most clearly articulated in relation to the development of the understanding of adaptation and capabilities for adaptation planning at national and sub-national levels.

Whilst there are numerous issues that are shared between countries, few adaptation issues are inherently trans-boundary when it comes to the development of policies, plans and actions to mainstream adaptation into development processes. As such, the decision-making levels in relation to moving from knowledge to practice are primarily national and sub-national. The focus of activities in this component reflects this and given the above challenges, the approach for Component 3 has been tailored to the characteristics of individual countries, reflecting on existing initiatives and avoiding to being over-ambitious. The 'ownership' of national stakeholders is critical and will be contingent on the Adaptation Knowledge Platform demonstrating effectiveness and added value to them.

To achieve this, Adaptation Knowledge Platform has taken an evolutionary approach, starting with clearly-defined and achievable activities at the national level and then reviewing the outputs from these activities with stakeholders to assess their effectiveness and agree the next steps in the national-level institutionalization process.



Table\_5 Study of the Progress in Component 3

Component 3	Main Activities in 2010	Outputs
Existing and New Knowledge Generated	<p><b>Viet Nam (2010 Pilot country):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In country meetings with high level decision-makers on adaptation planning at provincial level held</li> <li>2. Technical and financial support provided to establish NGO Resource Centre (as national level knowledge sharing mechanism)</li> <li>3. Inception workshop organized for piloting mainstreaming of adaptation into provincial socio-economic development plan</li> <li>4. Fieldwork underway (institutional capacity assessment and hydro-meteorology data analysis)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Binh Dmh Province selected as the pilot site</li> <li>2. Establishment of partnership in Binh Dinh with Department of Natural Resources and Environment - DONRE as the lead Government agency in the pilot activity</li> <li>3. In-country pilot process facilitated through strong and evolving partnership with NISfPASS</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Thailand (2010 Pilot country):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meeting with high level decision makers from line ministries and departments to discuss on awareness raising on adaptation</li> <li>2. Collaboration with related government organisations responsible for mainstreaming The climate change adaptation</li> <li>3. Fieldwork is undertaken (awareness raising, vulnerability assessment, hydrology data analysis and analysis of community development plan)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establishment of partnership with <i>Climate Change</i> Knowledge Management Center (CCKM) who acts as a national focal point to support national forum</li> <li>2. Sapanhin Sub-disbict, Nang Mamong District, Chainat Province selected as the pilot site</li> <li>3. Facilitate the implementation of pilot study under collaboration with research institutes, civil society organisations, local government and commmuty</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Bhutan (2010 inception country)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping Ass.essment Conducted</li> <li>2. Concept for national activity finalized and agreed with the national partner</li> <li>3. Fieldwork underway</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping Report</li> <li>2. Key pilot activities identified through agreement with GO/NGO agencies during scoping phase</li> <li>3. Knowledge product developed and disseminated: Policy Brief on Adaptation Planning in Bhutan and Nepal (Annex-3)</li> <li>4. In-counrty pilot process being fadlitated by WWF as the Platform's national pdrtner</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Lao FOR (2010 inception country)</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping Assessment Conducted</li> <li>2. Concept for national activity finalized and agreed with the national partner</li> <li>3. Fieldwork underway</li> <li>4. High level policy maker briefing program on adaptation is being developed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scoping Report</li> <li>2. Key pilot activities identified through agreement willi consultant during scoping phase</li> </ol>

## APPLICATION OF KNOWLEDGE

### Nepal

National partner: **Institute for Social and Environmental Transition-NEPAL**

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in Nepal have build a strong base after consultations with representatives from the Government of Nepal and other key partners mandated to work on the issues of climate change adaptation. Activities during 2010-2011 worked toward (a) strengthening the understanding of adaptation within an overall development planning context and (b) supporting existing efforts to strengthen adaptation capacities and responses at the local level.

At the beginning of 2010, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform attended a brainstorming workshop organized by the Government of Nepal, Ministry of Environment, National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) to Climate Change in Kathmandu to establish a National Climate Change Knowledge Management Platform in Nepal. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform representatives actively participated in the brainstorming workshop on establishing a national climate change knowledge management platform in Nepal. The workshop brought together 90 representatives from government, media, civil society, international organizations, and development partners to conduct a cursory identification of knowledge gaps in adaptation planning and actions, to map the landscape of climate change knowledge generation and applications, and to consult stakeholders on the design of the national climate change knowledge management platform in Nepal and the role of participating institutions.

Other activities included the following:

- Downscaling of climate data.
- Strengthening the capacity of Dept. of Hydrology and Meteorology.
- Supporting ICIMOD and MoE on Nepal's mountain initiative.
- Working with the NGO community to develop packages that provide accessible knowledge to poor mountain people and that integrate actions to strengthen local level resilience into planning mechanisms.
- Explored further opportunities for collaboration with existing World Bank, ADB, DFID and UN programmes to strengthen the knowledge base of adaptation mainstreaming activities.
- Support to the Planning Commission and the new Climate Change Council to strengthen the understanding of adaptation as a process of planning for uncertainty and strengthening resilience amongst vulnerable groups.

### Cambodia

National partner: **Community Based Natural Resource Management Learning Institute**

Two areas were identified from the consultations and analysis undertaken as the focus for support and action. The two focal areas are:

- Research into existing adaptation responses, coping strategies and factors affecting resilience at the community level. This can be undertaken through support to national research institutions to undertake such studies, with support from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in both expertise and resources. These assessments should be based on a wider perspective on changing dynamics of livelihoods and natural resource processes.
- The piloting of adaptation planning, mainstreamed into overall development planning, at the sub-national level, linked to awareness-raising and capacity building amongst planners at this level. This activity should be linked to similar exercises in other focal countries under the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. There is also discussion about the establishment of a national-level climate change knowledge sharing mechanism in Cambodia.

It was in this context that in June Adaptation Knowledge Platform held discussions for potential collaborations with the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) on coastal climate change adaptation and to address Climate Change and Disaster Risks in Cambodia. With this collaboration, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform aims to enhance the capacity of institutions and ministries to prepare and mitigate risks pertaining to Climate Change, and directly help vulnerable communities by enhancing their resilience to Climate Change and other natural hazards. The CCCA is anchored in the government’s National Climate Change Committee (NCCC), and Climate Change Department (CCD) in the Ministry of Environment. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also made a presentation in this Forum highlighting its work on CCA, DRM and development.

The scenario of climate change initiative in Cambodia is very rich in terms of actors and large projects such as the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA, Europe) and the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR, World Bank). The Adaptation Knowledge Platform tried its best to add value to and avoid duplication of effort with these activities.

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## Bangladesh

National Partner: **Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies**

Bangladesh is, amongst the five pilot countries, the most advanced in terms of the approach to and mainstreaming of adaptation into overall development planning. The focus of activities during 2010-2011 was the following:

- Support to existing efforts to strengthen the links between research/knowledge producers and knowledge users in terms of further integrating adaptation into mainstream development planning. This included in particular assistance to ensure that knowledge products are developed that are appropriate for use by development planners.
- Support to existing community-level adaptation activities, especially those of NGOs. The purpose here was to understand the nature of local conditions and external factors that determine the effectiveness of local-level adaptation initiatives.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform also partnered with Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS), UK Collaborative on Development Sciences (IIED/UKCDS), and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) to hold a workshop on “Collaborative Research and Knowledge Sharing for Improved Capacity to Address Climate Change Adaptation in Bangladesh” on 27 July 2010 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The objective of this workshop was to summarize the various initiatives and activities taking place in Bangladesh on climate change and the implementation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP) to ensure coordination and collaboration within the framework. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform representatives participated in this workshop and contributed to the process of mapping climate change knowledge providers in Bangladesh along with climate related datasets and information. They also helped in identifying elements of institutional design for the knowledge management platform, the roles of knowledge providers, intermediaries, and the way forward.

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## Viet Nam

National Partner: **NISTPASS (National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy)**

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in Viet Nam builds on two features: (i) the high level of determination by all parties, including the government, to mainstream climate adaptation into development planning; and (ii) expressed needs for a greater understanding of the nature of and more consistent approaches to the planning of adaptation activities at all levels. The following activities were proposed for Viet Nam during 2010-2011:

1. Strengthen awareness of the nature of adaptation and the scope for integration adaptation into mainstream planning amongst senior decision-makers, including officials from key ministries, ministers and vice-ministers and members of the national assembly. This will be through a combination of knowledge products (e.g. policy briefs) in Vietnamese, in-country meetings and support for decision-makers attending regional Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities.

Current progress marker: 40% achievement based on qualitative assessment; 60% to be completed in 2011

- Adaptation Knowledge Platform facilitated and provided financial and logistics support five (5) individuals representing Government, non-government and research institutes to attend Adaptation Forum (21-22 October in Bangkok, Thailand) and International Conference on Climate Change and People (15-19 November 2010 in Kathmandu. During these times the partners had the opportunity to gain knowledge and network with other researchers and networks working in the field of climate adaptation.
- An awareness module (consisting of an interactive presentation) is under preparation

2. Provision of support to the NGO Resource Centre to strengthen their knowledge sharing system and develop links to the knowledge products of the regional Adaptation Knowledge Platform The Resource Centre will in effect become a national-level 'hub' for Adaptation Knowledge Platform knowledge sharing activities and products.

Current progress marker: 50% achievement based on qualitative assessment; 50% to be completed in 2011

- SEI has been providing financial support to the establishment of knowledge sharing mechanism since mid-2010. The national partner is now awaiting training program to be organized by AIT-RRC.AP in February 2011. During this training, the participants are expected to learn from other Platform countries about the modality of establishing a knowledge hub at national level.

3. The development of training packages on adaptation planning for (i) provincial level officials responsible for the preparation of provincial development plans; and (ii) NGO staff, supporting the existing program of NGO training on climate change mainstreaming.

Current progress marker: 40% achievement based on qualitative assessment; 60% to be completed in 2011

- A representative from the national partner, NISTPASS, participated in a regional training on sub-national level adaptation planning organized in Bangkok.
- As immediate forthcoming activity, two trainings on capacity building and awareness raising for local stakeholders as well as for vulnerability assessment has been planned to be conducted in January 2011. The first training designed for local officials will focus on climate change adaptation planning and introduction of CCE tool. The second one will be targeted to local communities. The vulnerability assessment will be conducted in two communes of the Province.

4. A pilot in one province (to be selected with the national partners) of mainstreaming into provincial development planning. This is to be undertaken by the national implementation partner jointly with Government of Vietnam (GoV) officials with support from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform team in Bangkok.

Current progress marker: 70% achievement based on qualitative assessment; 30% to be completed in 2011

- Pilot site has been selected and agreed by the Provincial Government partner agencies (Annex-4).

- The Inception workshop was organized in Binh Dinh province on September 16, 2010. The workshop participants come from different relevant local departments and agencies such as Department of Natural Resources and Environment - DONRE (as local contact agency), Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Provincial Committee for flood and storm control, Department of Planning and Investment, Department of Construction, of Transportation, of Tourism, Red Cross, etc. The key contents of the workshop includes: Presentation on the whole CCA Platform Project (by SEI); presentation on climate change related activities which has been implemented in Binh Dinh province (by DONRE) and presentation on the draft work plan of the project in Binh Dinh (by NISTPASS). At the end of the workshop, a final work plan and scope of activities were agreed among participants.
- Data collection process has been carried by the Binh Dinh team with the support form NISTPASS. The collected list data includes: hydro-meteorology over the last decades, climate change and sea level rise scenarios, socio-economic data, provincial development plans (sector and socio-economic development plans), important development projects/programs, existing researches on climate change related issues, records on historical natural disasters.
- An institutional assessment related to climate change issues has been also carrying out by both Binh Dinh and NISTPASS team. This study is looking at local institutional arrangements both in term of policy/orientation and organizational aspects to respond to climate change.

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## Thailand

National Partner: **The Climate Change Knowledge Management Center (CCKM)**

Thailand is one of the first-year program countries, which the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has done some activities in the countries since 2009. As SEI Asia office has worked extensive on climate change adaptation in the countries, the scoping assessment undertaken in 2009 recommended that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in 2010 in Thailand should evolve from SEI work.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in Thailand focus in 3 areas: (i) capacity building for line ministries and departments and development partners; (ii) development of national forum; and (iii) pilot study in local community.

1. Regarding capacity building: the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been continued to build capacity on mainstreaming of climate change adaptation for related agencies since the establishment of the platform in the country.
  - Support individuals in attending Forum, workshop and seminar: In 2010, Adaptation Knowledge Platform invited many representatives from government, non-government and research institutes to join three Bi-monthly Knowledge Sharing & Learning Seminar held in Bangkok continuously. During October 21-22, thirty individuals representing government, non-government and research institutes to attend Adaptation Forum. In this regard, their obtained knowledge specifically on integration of climate change adaptation could be useful for their current work. Key partners will be invited to attend the Community-based Adaptation training in March 2011.
  - An awareness module (consisting of an interactive presentation) is under preparation
2. Development of national forum: The Adaptation Knowledge Platform support the development of national forum on climate change, which will bring together experts, practitioners and policy makers to share views and experiences on the role of mainstreaming climate change adaptation in national, sub-national and local level development policies. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will organise the nation forum on climate Change Adaptation in 2011 under collaboration with the Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre and other organizations.

3. Pilot study in local community: The Adaptation Knowledge Platform team has chosen to undertake a pilot study of Tha Chine river basin to link with SEI work on capacity building for provincial bodies in this basin. The pilot study aims to mainstream climate change adaptation into Sapanhin Sub-district Administration Organization (TAO) Development Plan and has three objectives:
- Raise people’s awareness of climate change impacts and understanding of changing climate and other stressors: socio-economic, environmental and livelihoods-related;
  - Engage stakeholders in participatory process of adaptation planning; and
  - Assist local community and decision makers in mainstreaming CCA into their local development plan to cope with climate risk. Since this pilot study is implemented in the Tha Chine River Basin, which has many stakeholders involved and interested, the study is now well recognized and enjoys the participation by the following actors:
    - Sapanhin Sub-district Administration Organisation (Nongmamong District, Chainat Province) and local communities
    - Regional Civil Society Development Institute
    - We Love Thachin River Club
    - Regional Environmental Office
    - Department of Water Resources
    - Department of Environmental Quality Control (DEQP)

The community vulnerability assessment has been conducted. This pilot study will facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation into their development plans.

## Bhutan

National Partner: **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)**

Bhutan is one of the 2nd phase pilot countries of Adaptation Knowledge Platform in which scoping missions were conducted in 2010.

Current progress marker: 100% achievement based on qualitative assessment

Bhutan has a strong background of environmental conservation and it has a well developed set of environmental policies and programs that drive the country’s developmental philosophy of “Gross National Happiness”. It has, however, responded relatively slow to the needs to adapt to climate change. Although an early mover in South Asia in mainstreaming environment into its development strategies, Bhutan has hardly taken any adaptation measures that are directly linked to the overall national developmental strategies. While other countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh have stepped up rapidly in addressing climate change impacts, Bhutan has taken only a few voluntary initiatives, mostly biophysical adaptation measures. The country’s slow reaction towards climate adaptation can be attributed to low level of awareness, knowledge and capacity at various levels of governance.

In June 2010, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform conducted a scoping of climate adaptation issues in Bhutan (Annex-5: Bhutan Scoping Mission Report) during which various stakeholders (from Government, NGOs and Academic Sectors) showed great interest and eagerness in having their capacity built, in respective sectors and levels, to specifically integrate adaptation into developmental planning and programming. Some major issues raised during the consultation were:

1. Awareness of climate change as an issue is generally strong, but there is no overall framework for addressing adaptation at policy or planning levels.
2. There is a need to highlight integration of both short- and long-term climate risks into planning and policymaking processes, in relation to:

- Sector-specific responses measure to both climate variability and extreme events floods;
  - Planning and implementation approaches that reflect and can cope with uncertainty.
3. Capacity is a concern throughout the system: despite several training activities, a systematic appraisal of needs and the development of a strategy for both human resources and institutional changes to strengthen capacities to plan for uncertainty and climate variability are needed before the preparation of 11th plan.

Against the above background, in 2011 the Adaptation Knowledge Platform aims to support Bhutan to build capacity of relevant stakeholders to understand and integrate climate adaptation at local level. This will include providing both financial and technical support during pilot implementation phase of 2011.

In Bhutan, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will support two key activities:

- a. Technical support to the Climate Summit Process; and
- b. Scenario analysis of climate change impacts on natural resource management and livelihoods.

**Technical Support to Climate Summit Process:**

The Government of Bhutan has initiated an initiative on “Bhutan 2011 Climate Summit - Towards Ensuring a Living Himalayas” which aims to bring together leaders from four Governments (Bhutan, Nepal, India and Bangladesh), civil societies and academia to:

- develop and agree on a road map for mitigating and adapting to climate change in the Himalayas, particularly across the southern face of the Eastern Himalayas;
- highlight the issue of climate change and its impacts on the Himalayas;
- foster partnership and networking to facilitate sharing of information and experience; and
- lobby for brining attention to the impact of climate change on the world’s mountains.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan will preside over the Summit. The Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environment (UWICE) is the key host for convening the Summit. The Secretariat is located at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests. There are a number of preparatory activities on-going currently of which various national and regional technical meetings are key to the process of Summit delivery. For Adaptation Knowledge Platform, SEI will lead in supporting these on-going processes both at the national and sub-regional levels.

**Scenario analysis of climate change impacts on Natural Resource Management and livelihoods:**

The support will primary go towards undertaking a scenario-building and analysis exercise with a view to strengthening community-level resilience in livelihoods and natural resource management, and to build their capacity to plan under situations of increasing change and uncertainty.



**Lao PDR**

National Partner: **ECOLAO**

The work of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has just started in Lao PDR in 2010. The scoping mission has visited the country from 30 August to 3 September 2010 (Annex 6: Lao PDR Scoping Report). The mission paid visits to related agencies including Climate Change Office (CCO), National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), UNDP, The World Bank, Mekong River Commission (MRC), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical) CIAT and Challenge Program.

Lao PDR concern is relatively low since they will not be impacted by sea level rise, saline intrusion and severe storms think they are not close to the sea and not worried much about climate change. The government might worry about flooding along the Mekong River areas, but they’re positive that the dams can control over flooding.


Nonetheless, Lao PDR as a Least Developed Country (LDC) will be more vulnerable to global climate change impacts. Regarding the projected climate change in rainfall pattern and water surface, Lao PDR government emphasizes its climate change measures greatly on agricultural sector. Climate change is an emerging issue, which recently Lao PDR government gives importance put the emphasis on. Lao PDR had worked on NAPA report and it was produced in 2009 addressing four key climate change adaptation areas to be tackled including agriculture, forestry, water resources and public health.

In 2010, the Climate Change Office (CCO) has started to work on national strategy on climate change based on the NAPA (National Adaptation Programs of Action) but it is focusing on more cross-cutting issue in macro level.

ECOLAO, which is the experienced consulting firm in the area of environment and climate change, was chosen as our implementing partner and now compiled further information about institutional mechanism and knowledge gap regarding climate change adaptation in the countries. SEI has commissioned the ECOLAO to organize workshop(s) with stakeholders in the countries to share their knowledge and experience on adaptation. The activities are still under progress.

On 21-22 October 2010, two CCO staff attended the Adaptation Forum to learn and share the knowledge and experience on climate change adaptation from other countries and take this opportunity to develop their partnership with other organizations. Key partners from Lao PDR will be invited to attend the Community-based Adaptation training in March 2011.





The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is a 'knowledge generating' and a 'knowledge sharing' program

## COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

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The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is a 'knowledge generating' and a 'knowledge sharing' program. This implies a major communications role in conveying that knowledge. A communications strategy for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform must consider the make-up of its key stakeholders and target audiences, as well as its operating environment. It must ensure that communications that are in forms appropriate to the diverse range of target stakeholders discussed above are generated so as to ensure that anticipated outcomes are realized. This will be a complex and iterative process given that the operating environment for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is extremely diverse, involving 13 countries including some of the most populous, and poorest, countries in the world, as well as some of the Asian 'tiger' economies.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is being established in an environment where there are multiple, diverse initiatives being undertaken regarding adaptation to climate change. It is important to avoid duplication of efforts, and to develop and emphasize those aspects of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform that can offer opportunities that are both valuable and unique. One unique attribute is that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is targeting Asian countries, working at a regional level but also with a strong national focus, designed to respond to national needs and priorities for knowledge and capacity development. It is also located in Asia, as the partners are based in Bangkok. A third attribute is strong contrasts and diversity among the target countries, allowing for many interesting comparisons to be made with regard to impacts of climate change and adaptation responses.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is intended for domestic users as well as international ones, and a major communications challenge will be to demonstrate its practical value to a wide and diverse audience. Potential users are governments in Asia (national and provincial level), international think tanks and academics, United Nations agencies and other multi-lateral institutions, the mass media (international and domestic), and NGOs.

### COMMUNICATIONS GOAL AND MESSAGES

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*An overall communications goal for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been framed with a view toward government, academia and the non-profit sector being the main users of, and contributors to, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. The main aim of the communications strategy was to ensure that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is well known and used in the target countries and among agencies working at a regional level.*

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Four defining propositions for Adaptation Knowledge Platform messaging have been conceived. Expertise in the field of adaptation is not widely available in the target countries or indeed elsewhere, as this is an emerging field. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform seeks and identifies individuals within the countries

as well as visiting experts who have some expertise and background this in area. A roster of 'Adaptation Advocates' could be developed in each country, including profiles (with permission) of the relevant individuals. Positioning the Adaptation Knowledge Platform with the media includes interviews with such advocates, along with their personal stories where appropriate.

The regional and national presence of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has the potential to distinguish the Adaptation Knowledge Platform from other players. Access to new tools and technology is widely desired in the target countries and is borne out by a small user survey of AIT-UNEP RRC.AP's mailing list, conducted in 2009. 'How to' guides, curricula and educational material, as well as methodologies for vulnerability assessments are in demand, and is promoted through the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

## COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

### a. General communications

- Print, video and web materials have been produced that communicate the functions of the Adaptation Knowledge platform as well as the need for more urgent action on adaptation generally. These products are critical as adaptation remains a somewhat obscure topic to many, even those familiar with climate change. The Adaptation Knowledge platform itself is an even more amorphous concept, requiring clear articulation to achieve its full networking and knowledge-building potential.
- A Adaptation Knowledge platform website became operational in 2010. Further web maintenance in 2011 will be carried out as needed. Email bulletins to an expanding mailing list continue from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform secretariat at RRC.AP. Web dialogues are utilized as follow-ups to partner meetings to extend opportunities for participation to a wider group of people, as well as to deepen the engagement and interaction among participants.

### b. Targeting Communities

While websites and internet-based communications have become commonplace

tools for many, they are not that valuable for communication to those at the community level, including policymakers and government officials in the region. Resource and technical limitations combined with the more technical nature of the content limits the portals value the further one gets from seats of government and research entities. Therefore, more mainstream communications tools are required to service these populations. These include:

- Undertake pilot community-level foresight planning exercises to serve as foundation for the development of training materials unique to the specific country.
- Ensure media participation in, and coverage of, these pilot exercises to ensure the media both understands the critical importance of such community-level planning in this new era of climate change.
- Develop print and video documentation of these meetings from which manuals will be developed, then made deployable to other communities wishing to undertake the same exercises.

#### 1. Key Partners

Given the critical role foresight planning must play in addressing climate change adaptation, the limited understanding of such tools at community levels and the skills necessary to actually lead and carry out successful foresight exercise in local languages, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform also held a couple of media workshops in partnership with local organizations such as South East Asia System for Analysis, Research and Training (SEA START), TBWA, Chiang Khan Municipality and Sumernet.

#### 2. The Pilot Venues

Given the novel nature of this exercise it was decided to first begin in Thailand as it is most familiar to the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, thus reducing the barriers to the successful completion of the first training. Next up would be Viet Nam, Nepal and Bangladesh. To guarantee media participation, locations are chosen that would peak their interest independently of climate change adaptation concerns. This has generally meant some emerging tourist destination whose natural and cultural attractions and communities are on the frontlines when it comes to climate change impacts.

These included:

- Thailand: Chiang Khan, which sits along the banks of the Mekong whose flows are being affected by changing rainfall patterns, as are fish catches, flooding patterns and crop production.
- Viet Nam: A coastal community that is facing increasing impacts from storm surges, and concerns over sea-level rise
- Nepal: TBC
- Bangladesh: TBC

### 3. The Chiang Khan Workshop

The workshop was designed to enable this emerging tourist community to learn and complete a scenario-based planning exercise that addressed climate change adaptation as a key change variable to incorporate into long-term economic development planning and livelihood preservation. The Chiang Khan Municipality served as the local host and invited local officials, business leaders, farmers, fisherman, educators and local NGOs to participate.

Twenty members from major media outlets from Thailand and Laos also participated as active layers in the workshop process. The three-day training involved field trips and presentations, but mostly involved brainstorming breakout sessions and results collation. None of the participants, including the media, had ever engaged in such a program, and approached every exercise with vigor and creativity. The questioning and insight from the journalists was found to be particularly valuable to the local participants as it forced them to examine their ideas and beliefs from a wider perspective provided by these otherwise neutral observers/participants. Moreover, as active participants, the journalist themselves obtained a clear picture of both the need for such exercises and the challenges communities must overcome to undertake and complete them if they wish to effectively address their growing climate change adaptation needs. The workshop concluded with a set of scenarios that will help form the framework for undertaking a new Chiang Khan City Plan, and associated community participation program, now under development.

### 4. Video and Training Manual

Chiang Khan's struggles and larger issues related to climate change adaptation and adaptation planning received widespread media coverage led by those journalists in attendance. This attention stimulated calls from other municipalities for assistance.

A 45-minute video encapsulating the need for, methodology behind and implementation and outputs from the Chiang Khan workshop has been completed. This is meant to illustrate to community leaders the role such planning must now take and how they too may be able to engage their communities in such exercises. Supplemental materials are being organized in a written manual to help further aid them should they wish to undertake such an exercise on their own.

## DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

The value of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform depends ultimately on what users bring to it, so marketing what the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has to offer will be crucial. Good corporate communications therefore will be important and this process has already begun with the development of a logo, tagline and name for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.



Support to and integration of knowledge on adaptation into existing national coordination mechanism on climate change adaptation is the twin keys to the overall success of Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

## LESSONS LEARNED

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The experiences of 2009 and 2010 have provided great insights into the context for the development of an effective regional knowledge sharing mechanism. These insights have guided the implementation of activities for 2010 that are presented in this report. The emphasis of the work has been to ensure that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform remains innovative and yet responds to need and builds ownership.

The implementation activities also shed light on some shortcomings. One of the most glaring was the lack of professional capacity to manage, coordinate and integrate CC Adaptation activities into sustainable development plans and programs that require inter-agency collaboration for development of information sciences instead of the prevailing “silo” approach for operations and management.

For instance, in case of the Philippines, the overall programs on climate change adaptation and development focus almost exclusively on future risk of extreme events being viewed through a disaster risk reduction window. In the process, what is missing is the concept of resilience to ensure that adaptation and sustainable development are not two different entities but the same.

Support to and integration of knowledge on adaptation into existing national coordination mechanism on climate change adaptation is the twin keys to the overall success of Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will not be effective unless there is a willingness to overcome these challenges amongst the key actors, at all levels, responsible for deciding whether and how climate change adaptation should be integrated into decisions on the future directions of development in the region. The extensive consultations with national-level stakeholders and pilot activities signal that there is the need for better knowledge and greater adaptive capacities in Asia.

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*The demand is so overwhelming that it could swamp the realistic capacity of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to implement activities that reflect the time and resources available. This means that strategic choices have to be made and will continue to be made over what to do where and when. A key factor in guiding these choices is the potential for success and replication. Capacities will be built where these capacities have a realistic chance of being directly used to strengthen adaptation planning and actions.*

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Knowledge will be generated in forms and disseminated through media accessible to the targeted users of this knowledge. The focus of knowledge generation activities of Adaptation Platform is to strengthen the understanding of what actions different stakeholders need to take to reduce risks for and strengthen the resilience of the poor and vulnerable within society. Initial pilot activities undertaken in 2010 have provided insights and understanding that will be of direct and immediate use for the mainstreaming of adaptation into development planning and poverty reduction efforts. Tools, methods and knowledge products were also generated in 2010 that reflects real needs and real capacities to use these products. People from different sectors and related ones such as the disaster risk reduction community, have been brought together in meetings such as in Adaptation Forum, where they got experiences to share, insights to inform and needs to meet for greater understanding and improved capacities.

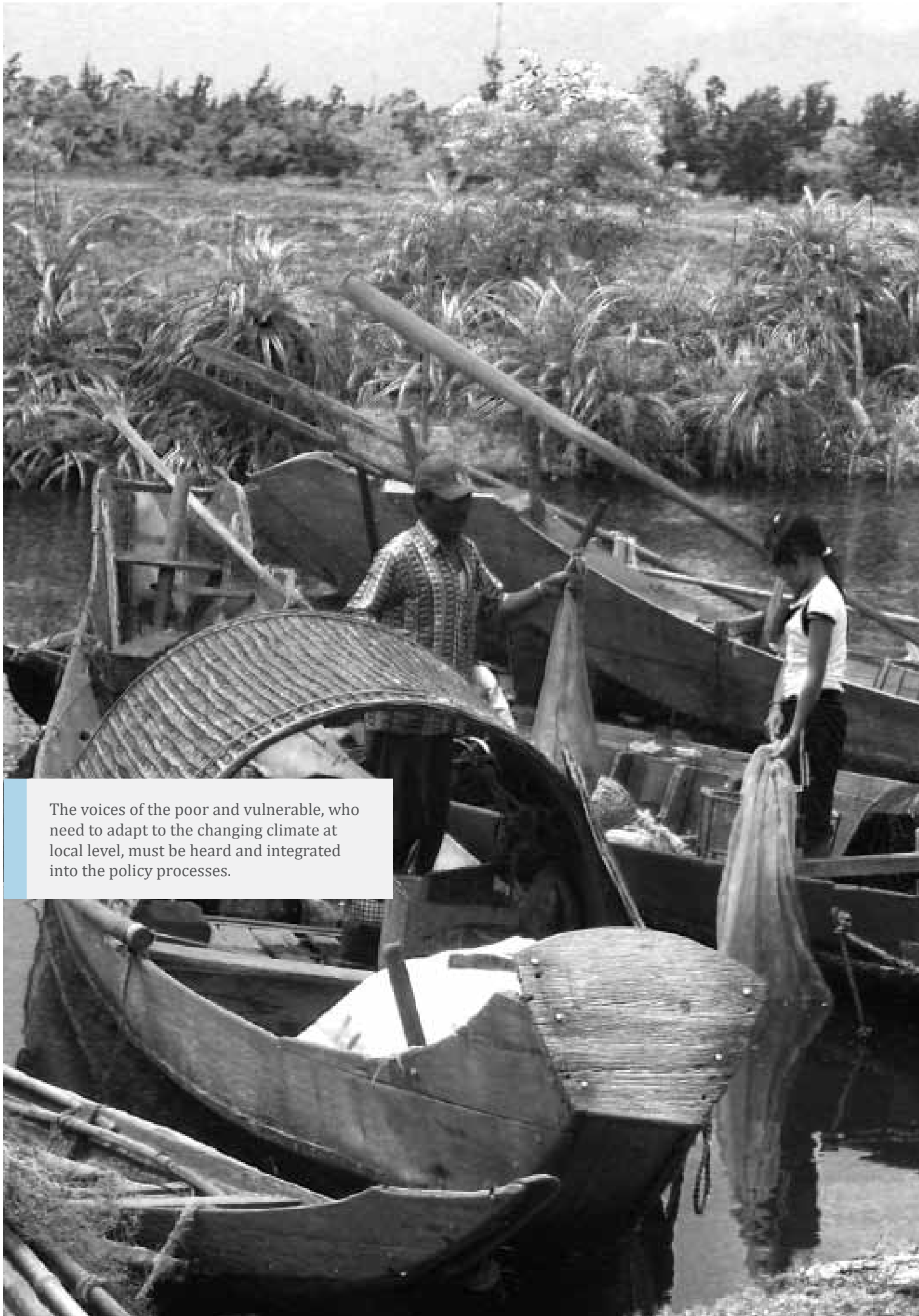
However successful the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is, it will only scratch the surface of such vast challenges in a three year period and with the resources available. It is intended to actively seek to expand the core partnership group and funding base for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, both at national and regional levels. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is seen as a long-term venture to meet long-term needs. If it is successful, then the existing core partners are confident that this long-term future will be easily secured. The issue of climate change adaptation will remain of central strategic importance at national, regional and global levels for many years to come.

The experiences of 2009 and 2010, suggest that a strong foundation has been laid. The strategy for 2011, described in the next section, will try to build a solid structure on this foundation that is relevant, effective and innovative in the strengthening of adaptive capacities and knowledge in Asia.

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*The issue of climate change adaptation will remain of central strategic importance at national, regional and global levels for many years to come.*

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The voices of the poor and vulnerable, who need to adapt to the changing climate at local level, must be heard and integrated into the policy processes.



## STRATEGY FOR 2011

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The activities implemented in 2009 and 2010 through collaboration and partnerships, successfully reached the overarching purpose of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, which is to establish a regionally and nationally owned mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional development policies, processes and plans, strengthens linkages between adaptation and the sustainable development agenda in the region and enhances institutional and research capacity.

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*The two-year experience of Adaptation Knowledge Platform in the Asia region has made it clear that climate change adaptation cannot be dealt with in the domain of environment alone; it should be integrated into development and can build on experiences from disaster risk reduction.*

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The voices of the poor and vulnerable, who need to adapt to the changing climate at local level, must be heard and integrated into the policy processes.

**Capacity Building:** Knowledge sharing modalities on various topics, including mainstreaming adaptation, use of climate information for sectoral planning, adaptation decision tools and information sharing mechanism will continue to be implemented through the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, leading to some improvements in understanding and implementation by partners.


**Enhance national activities:** The Adaptation Knowledge Platform has gradually gained insights into the development and adaptation context of each country which could enhance its activities to support national mainstreaming of adaptation. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform should consult with stakeholders on how to build on the on-going activities with more involvement from government, non-government and research institutes to sustain the initiative.

Development partnerships and linkage with other initiatives: Since the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has already initiated discussions to build linkages with on-going initiatives in the region, it should continue to further develop partnerships and linkages with other initiatives such as with the Mekong River Commission's Climate Change Initiative (MRC CCAI).

Improvement of on-line knowledge sharing mechanism: Since the [Asiapaificadapt.net](http://Asiapaificadapt.net) web portal has been launched, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform should seek feedback from the users in the Asia-Pacific region to improve its features and functionalities to serve them better.

**Effective communications:** The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities should be well Communicated to policy makers, researchers, practitioners and media to make them learn from and support each other.

**Sustainability:** In terms of the project period, this 3-year project will be completed by 2011. However, the demands for knowledge and knowledge sharing for climate change adaptation in the region are still there. How to continue such knowledge support beyond the project period is a challenge to all the partners of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.



The focus of...activities will be to strengthen the understanding of what actions different stakeholders need to take to reduce risks for and strengthen the resilience of the poor and vulnerable within society.

## CONCLUSION

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In its first year of implementation phase, 2010, Adaptation Knowledge Platform focused on remaining innovative yet responding to need and building stakeholder ownership at national and regional level. A key to this was to demonstrate that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform can and does meet perceived needs and can and will deliver results within a reasonable time frame. Considering this key strategy, a balance had to be struck between ambition, achievability and well-coordination of activities with AIT-UNEP RRC.AP. To a great extent, Adaptation Knowledge Platform was able to achieve what it aimed for 2010.

The challenge now in 2011 is to strategise how to meet the overwhelming demand coming from both national and regional-level stakeholders to implement activities that require more time and resources. This means in 2011, we may have to make strategic choices that will have potential for success and sustainability. Adaptation Knowledge Platform will continue to focus on building capacities that have a realistic chance of being directly used to strengthen adaptation planning and actions. Knowledge will be generated in forms and disseminated through media accessible to the targeted users of this knowledge.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will avoid research for its own sake, or research that is too technical to be realistically used given the context within which the Platform works. The focus of Component 2 (knowledge generation) activities will be to strengthen the understanding of what actions different stakeholders need to take to reduce risks for and strengthen the resilience of the poor and vulnerable within society. Pilot activities will be undertaken as and where these will provide insights and understanding that will be of direct and

immediate use for the mainstreaming of adaptation into development planning and poverty reduction efforts.

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*Tools, methods and knowledge products will be generated that reflect real needs and real capacities to use these products. People from different sectors, including the private one, and related ones such as the disaster risk reduction community, will be brought together, at all levels from the local to the regional, to share their experiences and insights to underline the need for greater understanding and improved capacities.*

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In these areas and in all its work, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will be rooted in the realities of climate change adaptation in Asia and will work to generate solutions, not to deepen the analysis of problems. Importantly, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will also actively seek to expand the core partnership group and funding base for the platform, both at national and regional levels.

Indeed, steps have already been taken in this direction: for example through the already agreed partnership and coordination with the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network. These and other avenues for expanding the Adaptation Knowledge Platform partnership and resource base will be aggressively pursued during 2011.



Secretariat

## Adaptation Knowledge Platform

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