

Inception Summary Report

October 2010



ADAPTATION
KNOWLEDGE
PLATFORM



REGIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE
ADAPTATIONKNOWLEDGEPLATFORM for Asia

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The following organizations and individuals collaborated on this report:

- Asian Institute of Technology-United Nations Environment Programme Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT-UNEP RRC.AP): Mahesh Pradhan, Satya Priya, Roopa Rakshit, Lekha Ratnayake, Hiromi Inagaki
- Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI): John Soussan, Lisa Schipper, Kai Kim Chiang, Delia Paul, Muanpong Jontupas, Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, Sabita Thapa
- UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP): Mozaharul Alam, Serena Fortuna, Shirley Kai

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CONTENTS

Abbreviations & Acronyms	I
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	III
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	2
Origins	2
Character and Linkages	3
Goal, Purpose and Components	3
Institutional structure and initial implementing partners	4
Geographic Scope	4
Audiences	4
The Launch of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform	5
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 2 THE CONCEPT	8
What is Adaptation to Climate Change, and Why Do We Need It?	8
The Adaptation Knowledge Platform Focus: National Planning in the Local and Global Contexts	9
Linking Local-Level Responses and National Planning Processes	11
<hr/>	
CHAPTER 3 SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND OUTPUTS FOR 2009	14
Introduction	14
Overview of Activities at the Regional Level	14
Approach to Engagement at the National Level	15
Summary of overall progress on 2009 Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Goal and Purpose	16

ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

CHAPTER 4 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2010-2011	19
Review of overall approach	19
Management External Structure and Approach	21
Geographical Focus	22
Component 1: Regional Knowledge Management and Sharing System Established	22
<i>The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Knowledge Management and Sharing Approach</i>	22
<i>Strategic Directions at Regional Level</i>	23
<i>Strategic Directions at the National Level</i>	23
Component 2: New Knowledge Generated	24
<i>Planning Phase</i>	26
Component 3: Existing and New Knowledge Applied	28
<i>Priority Activities in the Five Pilot Countries</i>	30
<i>Activities in the Eight Remaining Focus Countries</i>	32
<i>Generic Knowledge Products</i>	32
Communications Strategy	33
<i>Context and challenges</i>	33
<i>Communications goal and messages</i>	34
<i>Delivering the strategy</i>	35
<i>Communications in the inception phase 2009</i>	35
<i>Communications in the operational phase 2010-2011</i>	36
<i>Consolidation and closure</i>	37
Implementation Roadmap	38
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND LEGACY	41

ADB	ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK
AIT	ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
AIT-UNEP RRC.AP	ASIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY-UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
ALM	ADAPTATION LEARNING MECHANISM
AP	ADVISORY PANEL
ASEAN	ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
BCAS	BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
BCCSAP	BANGLADESH CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
BMA	BANGKOK METROPOLITAN ADMINISTRATION
CBA-X	COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION EXCHANGE
CCA	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION
CCAI	CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION INITIATIVE
CEGIS	CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
COP	UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN COPENHAGEN
CSR	CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY
DDPM	DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
DFID	DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DRR	DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
DWR	DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
GCCA	GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE
GEF	GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
GOV	GOVERNMENT
GTZ	GERMAN AGENCY FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION
EKH	ENVIRONMENTAL KNOWLEDGE HUB
EU	EUROPEAN UNION
HMS	HYDRO-METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE
ICCCAD	INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEVELOPMENT
ICT	INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES
IGES	INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIES
IIED	INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT
INGO	INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
ISET-N	INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSITIONS-NEPAL
IT	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
IUCN	INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE
IWRM	INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
KP	KYOTO PROTOCOL
LDC	LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

MARD	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MOEF	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST
MMF	MANGROVES FOR THE FUTURE
MOI	MINISTRY OF INTERIOR
MONRE	MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
MOST	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
MPI	MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INVESTMENT
MRC	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 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
NTP	NATIONAL TARGET PROGRAM
NWP	NAIROBI WORK PROGRAMME
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
UK	UNITED KINGDOM
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
USA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WWF	WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia (hereinafter, referred to as the Adaptation Knowledge Platform) has been developed to respond to demand for effective mechanisms for sharing information on climate change adaptation and 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 programme will focus on the mainstreaming of adaptation into poverty reduction and sustainable development policies and strategies, targeting the poorest and most vulnerable segments of society and taking gender equity and environmental sustainability as key principles. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will seek to facilitate climate change adaptation at local, national and regional levels and to strengthen adaptive capacity of countries in the region – while working with existing and emerging networks and initiatives such as the Poverty-Environment Initiative and UNDP’s Adaptation Learning Mechanism.

Whilst many Asian governments are focused on international negotiations over mitigation targets, for the poor, the key issue in the climate change debate is adaptation: how to sustain and improve their livelihoods when faced with even greater uncertainties and vulnerabilities caused by a changing climate and the consequent changes to ecosystems and natural resource availability. The key starting point for any activity 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 one of the key factors in defining environmental sustainability and development possibilities.

Through its work the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working towards building bridges between current knowledge on adaptation to climate change and the governments, agencies and communities (especially the poor and most vulnerable segments of society) that need this knowledge to inform their responses to the challenges that climate change presents to them. This is reflected in the Platform Goal, which is to facilitate climate change adaptation in Asia at local, national and regional levels and strengthen adaptive capacity (see below and Annex 2 for the full programme logical framework).

The specific Purpose of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is to establish a regionally and nationally owned mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic and development policies, processes and plans, strengthens linkages between adaptation and the sustainable development agenda in the region and enhances institutional and research capacity

In order to achieve this purpose, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will bring together policy-makers, adaptation researchers, practitioners, and business leaders and will work through a range of activities to achieve three components:

- a) **Regional knowledge sharing system:** a regionally and nationally owned mechanism to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information and methods within and between countries on climate change adaptation and to link existing and emerging networks and initiatives.
- b) **Generation of new knowledge:** to facilitate the generation of new climate change adaptation knowledge promoting understanding and providing guidance relevant to the development and implementation of national and regional climate change adaptation policy, plans and processes focused on climate change adaptation.
- c) **Application of existing and new knowledge:** synthesis of existing and new climate change adaptation knowledge to facilitate its application in sustainable development practices at the local, national and regional levels.

The immediate beneficiaries are civil servants, researchers and development practitioners working to promote climate change adaptation policies and strategies. Within this broad audience, however, it is possible to identify six generic groups of target stakeholders for whom different types of needs exist and different outcomes from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform programme are predicted in the overall logical framework:

1. **Government policy makers** responsible for national approaches to **climate change adaptation**. The outcomes for this stakeholder group will be reflected in more effective and comprehensive national adaptation policies and in greater support for their implementation at the national level.
2. **Government policy makers** responsible for **development planning and poverty reduction strategies**. The outcome here will be a greater understanding of what they need to do to make adaptation a central part of overall planning, with consequent changes to national poverty reduction and development policy approaches.
3. **Local government development planners**. Their capacities to mainstream adaptation into sub-national development planning will be significantly enhanced and the programme will assist the formulation of new national guidelines and provide indirect learning opportunities for this stakeholder group.
4. **Community-level development workers**: these stakeholders will play a pivotal role if adaptation actions at the local level are to become a reality. Some will be directly involved in local level pilots and capacity development activity, but the main route through which this stakeholder target group will be influenced is through information and models to the organizations for which they work.
5. **Members of international research and development agencies**: strengthening their understanding of how to reduce vulnerability, enhance resilience and formulate viable approaches to adaptation will generate an outcome of improving the practice of adaptation across the whole Asia region.
6. **Poor people vulnerable to climate change impacts**: this is, of course, the ultimate target stakeholder group, for changes to understanding and approaches amongst the other identified target stakeholders will count for little unless they are translated into reduced vulnerability and increased resilience amongst the poor and vulnerable most at risk from adverse climate change impacts. The main outcome of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform at this level will be influencing the policy and regulatory environment that conditions local-level choices and actions and through providing the people and institutions who are engaged directly at this level with new approaches to poverty reduction, environmental management and social and gender development.

In collaboration with a wide range of national and regional partners, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will aim at establishing a regionally and nationally owned information exchange mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic and development policies, processes and plans, strengthening linkages with the development agenda and enhancing research and institutional capacity.

The need for such an initiative is clear: the form it should take, less so. The initial partners in the Adaptation Knowledge Platform (Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), Asian Institute of Technology-United Nations Environment Programme Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific (AIT-UNEP RRC.AP) and UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNEP) consequently agreed that the initial stages of the Platform's development, during 2009, should be an inception phase during which the management and implementation modalities were established, contacts with and the ownership of stakeholders at both national and regional levels were developed, needs for knowledge generation and sharing and capacity building were assessed and plans for the implementation of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in 2010-2011 were prepared.

Overall, the activities implemented in 2009 achieved these aims. 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 are as follows:

- Activities have been initiated in the five pilot countries, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam, 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 are in place, the operational modalities for coordination between the partners have been developed and the structure of the regional knowledge sharing mechanism has been defined.

- Effective communications are initiated, culminating in the high-profile launch of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform on October 3rd 2009.
- Capacity development activities include training for officials and researchers from the region and progress has been made in the inventorying of existing and generation of new knowledge products.
- Sharing of knowledge on climate change adaptation has been initiated, focusing on the impacts of climate change on high altitude ecosystems.
- Linkages and collaboration with other relevant initiatives has been initiated, with the agreement reached with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network and the Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points for delivery of country needs on climate change adaptation in South and South-East Asia.
- The most significant outcome of the inception year is the strategy for the future development of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform presented in this report. This strategy details the activities that will be undertaken for each of the three components identified in the programme framework, along with a number of specific communications activities.
- This has led to the substantial modification of the original programme logical framework, presented in Table 1 and 2.

The three components, along with the main focus of planned activities that have been elaborated in the workplan for 2010-2011, are:

Regional knowledge sharing system: a regionally and nationally owned mechanism to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information and methods within and between countries on climate change adaptation and to link existing and emerging networks and initiatives. This will include the development of a Platform website and communications products to reach stakeholders across the region, an annual Asian Climate Change Adaptation Forum, a number of training and capacity development activities, the synthesis and dissemination of information and global experiences on adaptation actions and the development of national-level knowledge sharing and capacity development activities. This component is primarily led by UNEP.

Generation of new knowledge: to facilitate the generation of new climate change adaptation knowledge promoting understanding and providing guidance relevant to the development and implementation of national and regional climate change adaptation policy, plans and processes focused on climate change adaptation. This will include the development of generic knowledge products, focused on the analysis of resilience and vulnerability, understanding the links between disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation and downscaling of climate change and impact assessment data. It will also include three new pilot studies that address key gaps in knowledge and understanding for the mainstreaming of adaptation into development planning. These three studies are: (i) Understanding Planning; (ii) Comparing Adaptation and Development; and (iv) Assessing the Policy Context for Planning. This component is primarily led by SEI.

Application of existing and new knowledge: synthesis of existing and new climate change adaptation knowledge to facilitate its application in sustainable development and poverty reduction practices at the local, national and regional levels. The focus here is where knowledge is applied: within the countries of the region through mainstreaming adaptation into development planning. Follow-up activities are planned for the five pilot countries listed above and, in addition, in 2010 and 2011 the Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities will be initiated in the remaining eight focal countries: Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, the Philippines, Myanmar, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Malaysia. In all of these countries, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will work through partnerships with local institutions and 30% of the budget for 2010-2011 will be dedicated to these partners. There will also be activities to develop generic knowledge-to-practice products at the regional level. This component is jointly led, with each of the partners taking the lead in individual countries.

Together with the dedicated communications activities, these components will achieve the objectives of this phase of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia. They will also build a base for the long-term development of the Platform as a knowledge-based, demand-driven structure through which planning for and capacities to address climate change adaptation as a core challenge for the future development of Asia. It is anticipated that this legacy will be carried forward through new phases of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform if and when there is demand for the services the Platform provides from the countries of Asia.

Table 1
Phase One – Logical Framework (2009-2011)

	Target Stakeholders	Outcomes		Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
Goal: To facilitate climate change adaptation in Asia at local, national and regional levels and strengthen adaptive capacity	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Climate change adaptation policies and strategies more able to address uncertainties and set a context for reducing the vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of the poor and most vulnerable		Climate change adaptation measures adopted in Asian countries and adaptive capacity strengthened at different stakeholder levels	National development plans and national and sectoral climate change adaptation strategies	Asian countries willing and able to support investments to adopt adaptation measures and strengthen adaptive capacities
	2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Planning and investments for national development and poverty reduction include actions necessary to adapt to climate change		New policies and regulations introduced to create an enabling environment for local-level adaptation activities and to reduce vulnerability or strengthen resilience at the local level	Sub-national, national and regional budgets allocated for climate change adaptation	
	3. Local government development planners	Potential negative impacts of climate change on local level development reduced		Patterns of investment by government agencies and private sector companies include adaptation measures		
	4. Community-level development workers	Local development actions become more effective in reducing vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of the poor and vulnerable				
	5. Poor people vulnerable to climate change impacts	Vulnerabilities to CCA impacts reduced and local adaptation initiatives stimulated and strengthened by external agencies and through a supportive enabling environment				
Purpose: To establish a regionally and nationally owned mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic and development policies, processes and plans, strengthens linkages between adaptation and the sustainable development agenda in the region and enhances institutional and research capacity	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Strengthened national policies, strategies and plans for climate change adaptation		The Adaptation Knowledge Platform established and a strategy for long-term sustainability demonstrated to be feasible.	Reports of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Stakeholders find the existence of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is effective in enhancing the development of adaptation capacities in the Asia region Technological limitations in providing effective access to information
	2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Climate change adaptation 'mainstreamed' into national and sectoral development plans Enabling environment and incentives for local level adaptation strengthened		The different levels of stakeholders are able to use the knowledge and products provided by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to change and improve their planning and decision-making	Sustainability strategy prepared and verified Key stakeholder interviews describing policy changes based on knowledge and products supplied by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform	
	3. Local government development planners	climate change adaptation 'mainstreamed' into local government development plans		Work programmes of community-level organizations work programmes adapted based on information derived from platform	Document review highlighting adaptations to national and sub-national plans	
	4. Community-level development workers	Community development programmes effectively integrate actions to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to climate change				
	5. Poor people vulnerable to climate change impacts	The poor and vulnerable have access to a wider range of and more effective actions they can take to reduce their vulnerability and strengthen their resilience				

Table 2

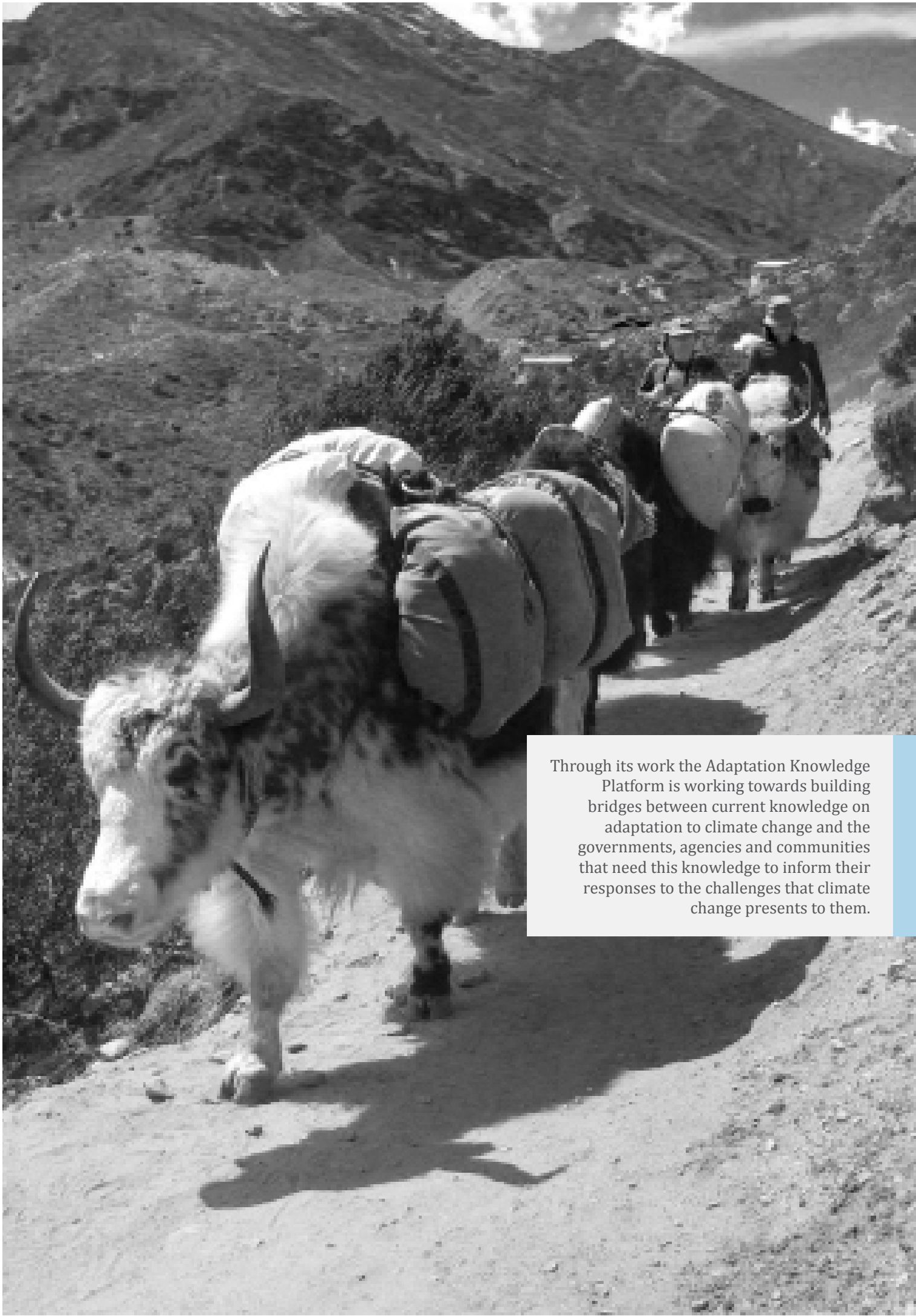
Components	Activities	Partner Responsibilities	Target Stakeholders	Outcomes	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
1. Regional knowledge sharing system established	1.1 Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum-Asian Climate Change Adaptation Forum	<p>UNEP: lead responsibility to organize & implement the Forum</p> <p>SEI: support role through technical advice</p>	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Sensitize policy makers, planners about mainstreaming adaptation in broader development frameworks at regional and national scale	Increased knowledge in the integration of adaptation issues at national and regional level	Proceedings of annual climate change Forum; Forum feedback forms	
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes in key development and poverty reduction sectors	Increased knowledge in the integration of adaptation issues at sub-national level	Forum feedback forms	
			3. Local government development planners	Strengthened knowledge and awareness of both vertical and horizontal integrations at sub-national level	Increased knowledge in the integration of adaptation issues at local level	Forum feedback forms	
			4. Community-level development workers	Strengthened knowledge of both vertical and horizontal integrations at community level	Increased knowledge for integrating adaptation into development planning and implementation	Forum feedback forms	
			5. Members of international research and development agencies	Strengthened awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes at large	Increased knowledge for integrating adaptation into projects and programs	Forum feedback forms	
	1.2 Workshops, Seminars and Trainings:	<p>UNEP: lead responsibility to organize & implement</p> <p>SEI: support role through technical advice</p>	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Strengthened capacity and increased awareness of stakeholders for specific skills relating to adaptation	Amendments to strategies and adjustments to programme implementation	Workshop/ seminar feedback forms	
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Strengthened capacity of stakeholders for specific skills relating to adaptation mainstreaming	Amendments to strategies and adjustments to programme design and implementation	Workshop/ seminar feedback forms Interviews	
			3. Local government development planners	Strengthened capacity of stakeholders for specific skills relating to adaptation	Amendments to strategies and adjustments to programme implementation	Workshop/ seminar feedback forms Interviews	
			4. Community-level development workers	Increased awareness of communities and development workers on adaptation planning	Increased participation in developmental planning and designing projects	Interviews	
			5. Members of international research and development agencies	Strengthened capacity of stakeholders for specific skills relating to adaptation	Amendments to strategies and adjustments to programme implementation	Workshop/ seminar feedback forms Interviews	
	1.3 On-line Knowledge Sharing Mechanism	<p>UNEP: Lead responsibility to develop and manage the website</p> <p>SEI: Support role through technical advice & provision of materials and expertise for system design</p>	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Institutionalisation of regional platform Portal as climate change knowledge sharing mechanism	Regional Platform Portal is functional	Adaptation Knowledge Platform website and materials	IT capacity of organizations is sufficient to access and utilize resources
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Establishment of a mechanism to ensure adaptation knowledge sharing and learning at national level	A suitable national level institution hosts a functioning adaptation knowledge portal	On-line survey of portal usage as well as survey of key stakeholders	IT capacity of organizations is sufficient to access and utilize resources
			3. Local government development planners	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange mechanism for use at local level	Increased knowledge through participation in on-line discussions	No. of online moderated discussions; On-line survey of portal usage	IT accessibility and affordability at local level
			4. Community-level development workers	Increased awareness of communities on climate change issues and happenings	Increased participation in on-line discussions	On-line survey of portal usage	IT accessibility and affordability at local level
			5. Members of international research and development agencies	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange mechanism for use at local level	Increased trends of exchange of information, knowledge through use of national and regional portals	On-line survey of portal usage ; Review of on-line feedback	

Components	Activities	Partner Responsibilities	Target Stakeholders	Outcomes	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
2. New knowledge generated	2.1 Regional Knowledge Base for Climate Change Adaptation	UNEP: Lead responsibility to develop and manage the regional knowledge base SEI : Actively involved through the provision of technical expertise and advice	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange through a network of climate change practitioners	Increased trend of exchange of information, knowledge at the national level	On-line focus group survey	IT accessibility and affordability by target stakeholders
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange through a network of climate change practitioners	Increased trend of exchange of information, knowledge at the national level	On-line focus group survey	
			3. Local government development planners	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange through a network of climate change focal points internet moderated discussion	Increased trend of E-newsletter accessed and used by community partners	On-line focus group survey; E-Newsletter readers survey	
			4. Community-level development workers	Development workers are up-dated regularly on current-affairs Climate Change news	Increased trend of E-newsletter accessed and used by community partners	On-line focus group survey; E-Newsletter readers survey	
			5. Members of international research and development agencies	Establishment of a regular and dynamic information exchange through a network of climate change focal points internet moderated discussion.	Increased trend of sharing and exchanging knowledge	On-line survey of portal usage and E-Newsletter readers	
	2.2 Identification and Initiation of Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures	SEI : Lead responsibility to develop and manage the pilot studies and research programme UNEP: Actively involved through the provision of coordination support at national and regional levels	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Strengthened support for national adaptation policies s by evidence of success from pilots	Capacity increment demonstrated through increased actions in climate change adaptation	Platform reports and Briefing Notes for pilot studies ; Key persons interview at national level	
	2.2.1 Understanding Planning		2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Understanding of effective adaptation actions and process for mainstreaming adaptation into planning strengthened by demonstration effect of successful interventions	Increased integration and mainstreaming of adaptation into planning at national level	Changes in attitude, understanding and communication on adaptation assessed by end of project interviews and/or questionnaires	
	2.2.2 Comparing Adaptation and Development		3. Local government development planners	Understanding of effective adaptation actions and process for mainstreaming adaptation into planning strengthened by demonstration effect of successful interventions	Increased integration and mainstreaming of adaptation into planning at local level	Changes in attitude, understanding and communication on adaptation assessed by end of project interviews and/or questionnaires	
	2.2.3 Policy Context for Planning		4. Community-level development workers	Understanding of effective adaptation actions and process for mainstreaming adaptation into planning strengthened by demonstration effect of successful interventions	Increased participation of communities in adaptation action planning	Changes in attitude, understanding and communication on adaptation assessed by end of project interviews and/or questionnaires	

Components	Activities	Partner Responsibilities	Target Stakeholders	Outcomes	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Risks and Assumptions
3. Existing and new knowledge applied	3.1 Institution-alisation of Knowledge Systems	<p>Joint responsibility to plan and supervise this component. Individual partners leading in individual pilot countries:</p> <p>UNEP: Lead (organize, fund, ensure implementation and report) in Bangladesh, Nepal, Cambodia, The Philippines and Sri Lanka</p> <p>SEI: Lead (organize, fund, ensure implementation and report) in Vietnam, Thailand, Bhutan, Lao PDR and China</p> <p>Leadership of the remaining three target countries to be agreed at a later date as activities start</p>	1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Support for national adaptation policies strengthened by access to evidence from national and international experiences and through better national-level coordination on knowledge management	Key stakeholder interviews describing changes in institutional arrangements	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Institutional coordination and cross-sectoral evidence base to support adaptation mainstreaming strengthened	Key stakeholder interviews describing changes in institutional arrangements.	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			3. Local government development planners	Improved awareness of and access to knowledge on the scope and potential of adaptation planning and intervention options	Improved adaptation plans	Log of website platform visitors; Changes to local adaptation plans	
			4. Community-level development workers	Improved awareness of and access to knowledge on the scope and potential of adaptation planning and intervention options	Improved adaptation plans	Log of website platform visitors	
	3.2 Translation of Knowledge to Practice		1. Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation	Strengthened national adaptation policy and planning systems and enhanced political and institutional support to climate change adaptation actions	Key stakeholder interviews outlining value and form of changes	Project reports/ interview documentation Budgetary changes	
			2. Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies	Awareness and understanding of the nature and potential of adaptation actions and the mainstreaming of adaptation into development planning and poverty reduction increased	Key stakeholder interviews outlining value and form of changes	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			3. Local government development planners	Awareness and understanding of the character of adaptation actions and the mainstreaming of adaptation into local level planning increased	Key stakeholder interviews outlining value and form of changes	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			4. Community-level development workers	Awareness and understanding of the nature and potential of adaptation actions to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience amongst poor communities increased	Key stakeholder interviews outlining value and form of changes	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			5. Members of international research and development agencies	Improved knowledge and awareness on the character and effectiveness of adaptation planning and actions at national, sub-national and local levels	Key stakeholder interviews outlining value and form of changes	Project reports/ interview documentation	
			6. Poor people vulnerable to climate change impacts	The scope and effectiveness of local-level adaptation actions enhanced by a more supportive policy, planning and regulatory environment	New/adapted adaptation programmes	Adaptation programme documentation	

Adaptation Knowledge Platform Logical Framework: Intervention Logic for Different Components and Activities

1. **Regional knowledge sharing system established:** A regionally and nationally owned mechanism to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information and methods within and between countries on climate change adaptation and to link existing and emerging networks and initiatives.
 - 1.1 Annual Forum: An annual multi-stake holder gathering for people working on or interested in adaptation issues in the region supported by countries and development partners in the region
 - 1.2 Workshops and Trainings: Targeted and context specific events to brainstorm on specific theme/ sectors linkages with climate change, share available information and knowledge among countries in the region, propose solutions to current adaptation issues and processes constraints, etc. Specific themes will be identified yearly basing on national and regional needs. Different types of courses will also be offered, ranging from on-line forums to in site trainings; subjects and structures of the trainings will be decided in consultations with the countries.
 - 1.3 On-line Knowledge Sharing Mechanism: A web-based resource where existing information on adaptation issues in Asia can be exchanged on a regular basis to facilitate and enhance dissemination of knowledge on adaptation with links to EKH, weAdapt, ALM, ELDIS, CBA-X, Climate Witness.
2. **New knowledge generated:** A regionally and nationally owned mechanism to facilitate the generation of new climate change adaptation knowledge to promote understanding and provide guidance relevant to the development and implementation of national and regional climate change policy, plans and processes focused on climate change adaptation
 - 2.1 Regional Knowledge Base for Climate Change Adaptation: Network of existing and emerging research institutes and other knowledge based stakeholders in the region mobilised to identify and implement key strategic knowledge gaps on national and regional climate change adaptation policies and practice based on consultations with national and regional stakeholders
 - 2.2 Identification and Initiation of Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures: that respond to demand and that are also of more generic significance to illustrate climate change adaptation practice in the Asia region
3. **Existing and new knowledge applied:** Synthesis of existing and new climate change adaptation knowledge to facilitate its application in sustainable development practices at the local, national and regional levels
 - 3.1 Institutionalisation of Knowledge Systems: Building on existing initiatives where available, assist the development of local, national and regional-level processes to apply existing and new knowledge on climate change adaptation in the 13 Phase 1 countries
 - 3.2 Translation of Knowledge to Practice: Compilation, synthesis and documentation of existing and new knowledge on climate change adaptation



Through its work the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working towards building bridges between current knowledge on adaptation to climate change and the governments, agencies and communities that need this knowledge to inform their responses to the challenges that climate change presents to them.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

ORIGINS

The issue of climate change is transforming international discussions on sustainable development. Many contend that it is already affecting the lives and livelihoods of millions of poor and vulnerable people. International attention, and negotiations, has been largely focused on the issue of mitigation: reducing future risks by lowering present greenhouse gas emissions. This is undoubtedly an important issue, but it will do little for the poor and vulnerable people who are already, or soon will be, affected by the increased uncertainties that climate change brings to ecological and economic systems. For the poor, the key issue in the climate change debate is adaptation: how to sustain and improve their livelihoods when faced with even greater uncertainties and vulnerabilities caused by a changing climate and the consequent changes to ecosystems and natural resource availability. The nature of climate change adaptation, as a process of reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience, is discussed in more detail below. But the key starting point for any activity 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 one of the key factors in defining environmental sustainability and development possibilities.

Asia is the home of the overwhelming majority of people most at risk from climate change impacts. The majority of the most vulnerable are poor and a disproportionate amount of them are women, for whom changes to environmental conditions and increased uncertainties in key parameters of their livelihoods can define whether they

are able to escape poverty and take control of their destinies. The opportunity to develop is a fundamental right: anything that diminishes these opportunities entrenches poverty and heightens their disadvantages in the societies in which they live. Climate change is a reality for everyone, but its effects are and will continue to be felt first and hardest by the poor. For these people, the key issue is how to adapt to the changes that are inevitably going to happen, whatever future emission patterns are like. The issue of adaptation is not separate from development: the adaptation challenge is to understand how and where existing planning and development decisions need to change to strengthen resilience and reduce risks from the potential effects of climate change. This understanding depends on knowledge: a commodity all too often in short supply in this new and challenging arena of human action.

It is these challenges that the programme and process set out in this document are designed to address. The ability to adapt is defined and bounded by knowledge and capacities. It could be argued that this is true for all aspects of development, but adaptation often requires fundamental changes to the way planning is made and institutions operate. Such changes are always challenges, but getting them right is contingent upon understanding who needs to, and is able to, do what when: it is about knowledge and capacities. The concept of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform originates from discussions during the 2008 SENSE Retreat (Siem Riep, Cambodia, 10-12 February 2008). The concept note outlined key underlying issues with regards to climate change adaptation in Asia. This concept note was developed into a full programme proposal by a partnership of Swedish Environmental Secretariat for Asia (SENSEA), SEI, UNEP and AIT-UNEP/RRCAAP and was subsequently funded by Sida for an initial three year period of 2009-2011.

CHARACTER AND LINKAGES

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform supports research and capacity building on climate change adaptation, policy making and information sharing to help countries in Asia adapt to the challenges of climate change. There is a focus on mainstreaming adaptation into development planning at all levels, from local to regional. This includes working with and providing knowledge and tools for planners to target the reduction of vulnerability and measures to strengthen the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable in society and to enhance ecosystems management to reduce the effects of climate change on the integrity of ecological processes and the availability of ecosystems services. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will seek to facilitate climate change adaptation at local, national and regional levels and to strengthen adaptive capacity of countries in the region – while working with existing and emerging networks and initiatives.

While the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia is working together with adaptation researchers, practitioners, policy makers and private sectors to bridge the existing network institutions for joint learning, sharing of experiences, engagement at national consultations and dialogue to enhance climate change adaptation options for its effective implementation. Extended collaboration for better understanding and developing linkages to the committed players with similar goals and objectives at global, regional, national and sub-national are of utmost importance for a) advancing knowledge of adaptation, b) strengthening climate change adaptation processes, and c) to enhance and deepen access to information, tools, methods and knowledge in mainstreaming adaptation at various levels. Category of linkages ranges from Global and Regional to National mechanisms in the form of several collaborations. The Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform has already initiated discussion and will continue its efforts to enhance understand and build linkages with on-going initiatives. Based on present knowledge and understanding of works with similar goals and objectives, it will build linkages with the following key organizations and initiatives:

A number of international initiatives have been launched to help countries build their national capacity to respond to the changing climate, but many of these initiatives are being undertaken independently one from each other, leaving

an unsolved need for enhanced sharing of information, knowledge and lessons learned within and across borders. A key function of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is to meet this need. This is a character of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform: it will work with existing initiatives to strengthen their effectiveness rather than launching new initiatives that are likely to be marginal in their effectiveness.

GOAL, PURPOSE AND COMPONENTS

Through its work the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is working towards building bridges between current knowledge on adaptation to climate change and the governments, agencies and communities that need this knowledge to inform their responses to the challenges that climate change presents to them in working to reduce poverty and sustain the environment. This is reflected in the Platform Goal, which is to facilitate climate change adaptation in Asia at local, national and regional levels and strengthen adaptive capacity.

The specific Purpose of the Platform reflects this goal and provides the basis for identifying a defined and achievable set of activities for the programme period. It is: to establish a regionally and nationally owned mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic development and poverty reduction policies, processes and plans, strengthens linkages between adaptation and the sustainable development agenda in the region and enhances institutional and research capacities that support efforts to reduce poverty and strengthen environmental sustainability.

In order to achieve this purpose, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will bring together policy-makers, adaptation researchers, practitioners and business leaders and will work through a range of activities to achieve three components:

- a) **Regional knowledge sharing system:** A regionally and nationally owned mechanism to promote dialogue and improve the exchange of knowledge, information and methods within and between countries on climate change adaptation and to link existing and emerging networks and initiatives. This includes specific initiatives in the field of climate change adaptation as well as wider initiatives aimed at reducing poverty and enhancing environmental sustainability.

- b) **Generation of new knowledge:** To facilitate the generation of new climate change adaptation knowledge promoting understanding and providing guidance relevant to the development and implementation of national and regional climate change adaptation policy, plans and processes focused on reducing the vulnerability and strengthening the resilience of the poor and women: the most vulnerable segments of society in most Asian countries.
- c) **Application of existing and new knowledge:** Synthesis of existing and new climate change adaptation knowledge to facilitate its application in sustainable development and poverty reduction practices at the local, national and regional levels.

In collaboration with a wide range of national and regional partners, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will aim at establishing a regionally and nationally owned information exchange mechanism that facilitates the integration of climate change adaptation into national and regional economic and development policies, processes and plans, strengthening linkages with the development agenda and enhancing research and institutional capacity.

INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND INITIAL IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

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.

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

In its first phase (2009-2012), the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will cover the East and South-East Asia (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam) and South Asia (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka). In addition to these target countries, policy-makers, researchers and practitioners from

other countries in Asia and further afield will participate in activities at the regional level such as the Annual Forum, whilst staff from numerous international organizations whose coverage is similarly wider are involved with many aspects of the platform, including through the range of linkages with other initiatives discussed above.

AUDIENCES

The immediate beneficiaries are civil servants, researchers and development workers who will be equipped with the knowledge, tools and opportunities to promote climate change adaptation strategies in their work, as well as a limited number of local communities with whom research and pilot activities are undertaken. Eventually, the beneficiary pool will be very wide as climate change adaptation knowledge is applied and capacities to integrate adaptation into development planning are enhanced for the public good in diverse areas of work. This is a broad audience and many of the effects of the platform will be indirect and hard to measure: the more so given the huge diversity of cultural, institutional and development characteristics of the countries in Asia with which the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will engage. Within this broad audience, however, it is possible to identify six generic groups of target stakeholders for whom different types of needs exist and different outcomes from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform programme are predicted in the overall logical framework. These six generic groups of target stakeholders are:

1. **Government policy makers responsible for national approaches to climate change adaptation:** A focal stakeholder group who will be directly involved in Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in all of the countries where work is undertaken. The outcomes for this stakeholder group will be reflected in more effective and comprehensive national adaptation policies and in greater support for their implementation at the national level.
2. **Government policy makers responsible for development planning and poverty reduction strategies:** In many ways the most important group in terms of making adaptation a reality that is 'mainstreamed' in national development and poverty reduction. The outcome here will be a greater understanding of what they need to do to make adaptation a central part of overall planning, with consequent changes to national policy approaches that will

strengthen the resilience of vulnerable people and reduce the risks from climate change impacts that they face.

3. **Local government development planners:** Identified in the inception phase as a key target stakeholder group where there is little understanding of what needs to change in sub-national development planning in order to make adaptation a reality at the local level. There will be two types of outcome here: (i) a limited number of local government planners will be directly engaged in Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities, either in pilots to develop models for mainstreaming adaptation at the sub-national level or through involvement in capacity-building activities. Their capacities to mainstream adaptation will be significantly and directly enhanced; and (ii) a much larger group who will not be directly involved but who will learn from and be influenced by the approaches and models for integrating adaptation into sub-national development planning. The outcome for this larger stakeholder group will be improved adaptive capacity through the influence of new national guidelines and indirect learning.
4. **Community-level development workers:** These stakeholders will play a pivotal role if adaptation actions at the local level are to become a reality. Some will be directly involved in Adaptation Knowledge Platform local level pilots and capacity development activity, but the main route through which this stakeholder target group will be influenced is through the Adaptation Knowledge Platform providing information and models to the organizations for which they work that can be internalized ('mainstreaming' adaptation into these organizations) and then translated into changes in the way that they work at the community level. The outcome in this case will be more effective and widespread approaches to integrating adaptation into local-level development and poverty reduction activities.
5. **Members of international research and development agencies:** The character of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, as a knowledge-based process, means that it will seek to engage with, influence and build the capacities of researchers and officials within international development agencies. These two stakeholder groups are of central importance in

defining the understanding of the nature of and viable approaches to adaptation in the countries of Asia. Strengthening their understanding of how to reduce vulnerability, enhance resilience and formulate viable approaches to adaptation will generate an outcome of improving the practice of adaptation across the whole Asia region, though of course attributing such improvements exclusively to the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is not possible.

6. **Poor people vulnerable to climate change impacts:** This is, of course, the ultimate target stakeholder group, for changes to understanding and approaches amongst the other identified target stakeholders will count for little unless they are translated into reduced vulnerability and increased resilience amongst the poor and vulnerable most at risk from adverse climate change impacts. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will only work directly with a very limited number of the poor and vulnerable at the level, through the action-oriented approach to research and pilots. The main outcome of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform at this level will be indirect, by influencing the policy and regulatory environment that conditions local-level choices and actions and through providing the people and institutions who are engaged directly at this level with new thinking and approaches to poverty reduction, environmental management and social and gender development that sees adaptation actions as an integral part of these approaches.


THE LAUNCH OF THE ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM

The Prime Minister of Thailand, H.E. Mr Abhisit Vijejiva, launched the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Knowledge Platform for Asia and the Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network on 3 October 2009. Prime Minister Vijejiva welcomed the initiatives and acknowledged that these regional initiatives are critical to support Thailand, as well as the rest of the countries in Asia and the Pacific, in enhancing their capacities to adapt to the climate changes impacts.

Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP recognized in his video message that "adaptation is a knowledge intensive undertaking". The launch event reflected high level support from countries.

Mr. Kazuhiko Takemoto, the former Vice-Minister of the Environment of Japan noted the importance of adaptation as a critical element of the global climate change negotiations; he welcomed the launch of this regional network and hoped that the Global Climate Change Adaptation Network can be one of main adaptation activities in the future.

Mr Lennart Linnér, Ambassador of Sweden to the Kingdom of Thailand spoke about Swedish support to develop the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and its roles as generation of new knowledge on climate change adaptation, translation of science to policy relevant knowledge and working towards an effective knowledge sharing system, at regional and national levels.



The focus of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is on national planning in the context of local (sub-national) and global processes.

CHAPTER 2 THE CONCEPT

WHAT IS ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND WHY DO WE NEED IT?

The science is clear: climate change is here and will be challenging us for the coming decades. Even if we take substantial measures now to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from energy use, industry and other activities, emissions from previous years continue to affect the climate system. Unfortunately, scientists have also made it clear that the consequences of even one degree of average global temperature increase are serious. Human activities have already caused some irreversible changes to ecosystems and further damage is likely. While uncertainty about exactly what sort of changes can be expected, predictions suggest that many parts of the world will be exposed to higher temperatures, sea-level rise, more frequent and intense natural hazards and changed rainfall patterns. These changes will affect everyone, but the intensity of the impact will be greater for the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society, with in many case women particularly vulnerable even within poor communities. Therefore, it is necessary to think how we will adjust not only to these specific changes, but to the new uncertainty about our future climate.

The focus of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is on national planning in the context of local (sub-national) and global processes. The emphasis is squarely on helping build adaptive capacity in governments, in local communities and amongst civil society and private sector organizations that work in and with local communities, but recognizes that this cannot be done without a cross-scalar approach that also involves sub-national governments. All must be done in the context of the Asian regional, as well as global, climate change policy discussions and processes. The activities will help build awareness of the importance of giving voice to all actors (and

especially the poor and women, whose voices are too rarely heard) in order to ensure sustainable adaptation in the medium and long term.

Achieving these ambitions requires a good understanding of the implications of strengthening adaptive capacity in planning, in terms of enhancing the capability of the responsible institutions to cope with greater uncertainty and respond to more rapid and wide-ranging change. It sees adaptation as essentially strengthening and changing the character of planning mechanisms aimed at poverty reduction, sustainable development and environmental management: so as to ensure that these development processes are able to cope with the changes and greater uncertainties that climate change will bring. Adaptation should be seen as a process where existing planning and decision-making systems, at all levels, understand and work towards reducing vulnerability and strengthening resilience in local livelihoods and economic and environmental management systems. Particular emphasis should be placed on targeting the needs and capabilities of the most vulnerable sections of society: the poor, women and communities living where the impact of climate change is likely to be the greatest. These concepts are fundamental to the development of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and are elaborated on in this section of the inception report.

As a result of near-consensus globally that climate change is a high political priority, adapting to the changes no longer needs justification, but it still requires explanation. Many countries grapple with the question of how to adapt, because they are unsure exactly what adaptation will imply. Does it mean building sea-walls as defense from sea-level rise and storm surges? Does it mean relocating entire communities living along riverbanks, in coastal zones or on hill slopes or mountains? Does it mean restructuring national institutions, policies and regulations on disaster risk reduction? Each of these

approaches has financial, social, environmental and political implications. Making the decision on which of these strategies to select is one major question, how to actually design and implement them becomes the second major challenge.

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to new conditions, stresses and natural hazards that result from climate change. Adaptation to climate change takes place in response to experienced impacts as well as in anticipation of expected impacts. In this sense, adaptation is a spontaneous, autonomous process that takes place depending on existing capacity (so-called 'adaptive capacity'), and can also be planned. Both autonomous and planned adaptation may require additional outside support. For this reason, we now talk about adaptation policies, plans and projects, which are supposed to facilitate the move towards adaptation on all levels – from local to regional.

The objective of the adaptation process itself is to enhance people's resilience to climate change. Resilience is the characteristic of people able to absorb shocks and return to a state of well-being quickly after a disturbance. These are general characteristics of adaptation that would apply everywhere. Within the context of this initiative, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, we are particularly concerned with adaptation processes that reflect the main challenges in Asia: the ability of the poor and vulnerable, and to the institutional and economic systems in which they operate, to adapt to the changes to their livelihood conditions and physical security that climate change will bring.

It would be easier to understand how to answer questions about what sort of strategies to invest in with absolute clarity about what adaptation actually is. For the last fifteen years, scientists have been defining and redefining adaptation, but it has been slow to infiltrate policy-relevant discussions mainly because moving from theory to practice on adaptation has proved challenging. Despite theoretical definitions, with few practical examples to draw on, scientists, practitioners and decision makers have come to a near standstill in understanding how to implement adaptation to a climate that is changing in uncertain ways.

It does not help that the original scientific and political thinking around adaptation assumed that any planned adaptation would be built on pre-existing, autonomous adaptive capacity. But measuring this natural adaptive capacity proved far more difficult

than was hoped. So stakeholders could not answer the questions 'How much adaptation needs to be planned?' and 'How much can people adapt on their own?'. The main objective for asking these questions was – and still is – to understand how much additional financing would be necessary to bolster the natural capacity to adapt. The other objective is to identify what sort of inherent adaptation people are capable of, and where our limits lie.

Based on the physical impacts research, we now know that people will not all be affected by climate change at the same rate, frequency or magnitude. Some parts of the world are more likely to be affected. Broadly speaking, this includes areas close to the equator, mountain environments, coastal zones and small islands. This means that not everyone is equally exposed as a consequence of their geographical location. Based on social science research, we also know that people are not equally sensitive to the impacts of climate change. A wealthy factory owner living in a coastal zone is not as likely to experience adverse effects of climate change as a farmer living in the same area. Therefore, people are not equally vulnerable to climate change, and consequently, their adaptive capacity is not equal. This means applying blanket policies to help people adapt may assist some but ignore others. This adds another dimension of complexity to planning adaptation.

THE ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM FOCUS: NATIONAL PLANNING IN THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONTEXTS

Addressing the impacts and consequences of climate change is like laying an enormous puzzle. It must be done step-by-step, one piece at a time. Each piece moves closer towards the complete puzzle, but cannot fill the entire puzzle. At the same time, each piece is related to the other, and cannot be placed anywhere, but has an allocated spot. This means that local, national and transboundary adaptation are several pieces of the same puzzle. They cannot be the entirety of adaptation, each on its own does not ensure adaptation, but they cannot be done without coordination. There must also be a shared clarity over what is trying to be achieved through adaptation and how this relates to the attainment of overall development goals and strategies relating to poverty reduction, environmental sustainability and social equity. This is of central importance –

adaptation is not a separate process with its distinct aims and objectives: it is an aspect of effective poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies that reflects the changes to the context of these processes that climate change has or will bring.

People, especially poor people, are not passive victims without the impetus to improve their lives and take action to reduce their exposure and sensitivity to natural hazards, such as floods and droughts or to adverse economic phenomena such as unfavorable market conditions or declining land productivity. When we talk about autonomous adaptation, we often have village-level adaptation in mind, where the complex reality of poor people's livelihoods is played out. When faced with increasingly adverse climate conditions, many rural people's livelihoods are directly threatened, because many rural dwellers depend on agriculture and access to the natural resource base for their immediate survival. Although many creative responses to climate variability and change have been documented around the world, these responses are rarely designed to have continued positive impacts over the longer term. Local-level people can be highly sensitive to other changes around them over which they have little or no power, including policies around land tenure, resource access and markets. Responses to climate variability, change and stress are often dependent on external opportunities, conditions or institutions that may themselves be highly sensitive or temporary.

Moving from risk-averse livelihood strategies to adaptation requires the right enabling conditions to allow responses to take root and develop sustainably. This is particularly true for the poor who often have less control over key aspects of their environment (social, economic as well as ecological) than better off sections of society: indeed marginalization and disenfranchisement are often defining characteristics of poverty. National policies and institutions may have an important impact on local level livelihood choices, depending on how these get translated down to the local level. At the same time, if local needs and concerns are communicated up, they can inform higher levels of agenda setting, which can in turn ensure that local priorities are reflected in broader decision making.

If local concerns are ignored, or if no channel is available to enable dissemination to different levels, these can be inconsistent with local needs, and at times be major drivers of vulnerability to climate variability. National policies often do not take into account or build on existing capacity to respond.

Thus, even if responses are taken at a local level, they may not be able to influence the real cause of vulnerability, consequently leaving people in a vicious cycle of coping without moving them onto the pathway towards adaptation.

The autonomous adaptation process is therefore not entirely unplanned, and certainly not unconscious. People take explicit decisions about what to prioritize, and this reflects that climate change is not the most important factor dictating well-being for everyone. It also means that development processes unrelated to climate change lie at the heart of both spontaneous and planned adaptation.

Planned adaptation, although in many ways related to autonomous adaptation, is now seen as more explicitly focused on the development process. Planned adaptation is often associated with national-level policy making. Specifically, planned adaptation is about reducing or avoiding the impacts of climate change, either as a reaction to what is being experienced, or in anticipation of what is expected to come. But planned adaptation cannot stand apart from other policies, plans, programmes and institutions that deal with climate-relevant issues such as agriculture, human security or environmental protection. If such initiatives are not aligned with climate change adaptation objectives, they instead risk increasing exposure and sensitivity to climate change. For example, prioritizing intensive agriculture with heavy reliance on irrigation may provide high returns in the short term, even in countries where water resources will be threatened by climate change. But in the medium to long term, when water resources become scarce and unreliable, this choice will be wasted investments that will leave people demanding new alternatives, unable to rely on previous arrangements and lacking the skills or means to adopt new ways.

Because sectoral policies can influence both vulnerability and vulnerability reduction, it is important to see a country's entire development model from a larger perspective – identifying the aspects that are likely to make people, and especially the poor, more vulnerable and the options with the greatest potential to enhance resilience to climate change while not compromising on the development objectives of improved well-being, education, health and security. Many people are not well-adjusted to current climate variability, so the adaptation process must not only enable people to absorb shocks (become resilient) but also facilitate moving beyond existing states of underdevelopment. The

most effective way to ensure that development objectives are met while neither increasing people's vulnerability nor compromising on well-being is when climate change policies – both for adaptation and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions – are integrated into core national development plans. This is known as mainstreaming.

But focusing on planned adaptation at the national level is insufficient to ensure that people at community-level move towards adaptation. National-level approaches to formalizing adaptation policy frequently do not integrate parallel local processes for addressing risk and development sufficiently. A community focus can help make the direct connection between addressing development needs and enhancing adaptive capacity. For this reason, the local level is considered to be the most important entry points for adaptation. Nevertheless, these two cannot be undertaken separately as they are inherently connected.

LINKING LOCAL-LEVEL RESPONSES AND NATIONAL PLANNING PROCESSES

So far, community-based adaptation has been an important platform for explaining the strong linkages between adaptation and development. But successful 'community-based' adaptation may not function without the internal dynamics and external enabling conditions that are unique for every community. Documentation of community-level responses to climate variability has shown that although responses take place within a community, they are not happening in isolation from the larger policy and market environment in which the community functions. This means that imposing top-down designed adaptation plans on the local level runs a high risk of excluding some or all of the members of a community, providing little benefit, or, in the worst case, engendering conditions that increase vulnerability to climate change. Factors that can enable adaptation in one village could be the source of the neighboring village's vulnerability. Consequently, national adaptation planners must be aware of local dynamics in order to help align the enabling environment around the capacity that is already available in the communities.

Any discussion on national-level adaptation must highlight the 1994 UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the global guiding policy document to which nearly every country in the world has committed itself. It is through the UNFCCC, its 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and related activities that climate change has risen to the top of political agendas worldwide. National-level adaptation is more complicated to understand than local-level adaptation, simply because the national level deals with many more interest groups. It includes communities, local-level government, business and industry, and extends into transboundary interests and relationships. Consequently, it is inherently linked with the entire 'chain' of adaptation, from local to global.

National-level adaptation focuses on mainstreaming adaptation into all forms of legislation, institutions and future development plans. Although national-level adaptation means that a country becomes more resilient to climate change, in reality the actual process of adaptation happens on a local and/or individual level. Therefore, national-level adaptation isn't really adaptation, but rather the set of activities that are the 'preparatory work' to lay out the landscape, the 'enabling environment', for adaptation to take place on a smaller scale.

National-level adaptation therefore includes assessing the climate change impacts that can be expected for the entire country, as well as understanding who is the most likely to be adversely affected, how and when. No one should be excluded from such assessments, especially minority or otherwise marginalized groups who tend to be the most vulnerable to climate change because they typically have the least rights or control over the conditions of their livelihoods and interactions with the wider world.

Other important activities include institutional trust-building, for instance between different government agencies who will be required to collaborate closely in order to address the consequences of climate change and reduce vulnerability to it. Other actors who may need to build closer ties are the government and the private sector, to ensure that changes in governance and policy do not adversely affect business and industry.

National-level adaptation also requires a careful rethink of the country's development trajectory. It will require countries to ask difficult questions about the financial pillars of their economy. For instance, will the main economic, income-generating activities be viable and reliable over the coming decades, given

the expected changes in climate? Do these activities contribute to making anyone in the country or outside it more vulnerable to climate change? Do the options for making these activities more climate-resilient have adverse consequences on wealth, health, education or security of anyone?

This chapter has discussed the core ideas in the emerging field of climate change adaptation. These

ideas will guide the development of the activities implemented during the remaining years of the platform, ensuring that the development of adaptive capacities in Asia are based on strong, clear and shared concepts.

All of the countries in the region have recently recognized climate change adaptation as a key issue for the future and have declared their intention to mainstream it into future development planning.



CHAPTER 3

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS AND OUTPUTS FOR 2009

INTRODUCTION

The first year of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, 2009, was agreed to be an inception period during which the foundations for the sustainable creation of the Platform were created, the first steps in building an understanding and ownership of the Platform amongst regional stakeholders were taken and a range of methodological and institutional issues were resolved. In order to ensure the results based management of the Inception Year, a 2009 Adaptation Knowledge Platform logframe was developed. This set out the 2009 goal and purpose of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform along with objective verifiable indicators, means of verification and assumptions. In addition, a 2009 Inception Year Work Plan was also developed specifying the 2009 countries of engagement, categories of Adaptation Knowledge Platform Working Structure and the mode of implementation. This chapter summarizes the progress and outputs for 2009 based on the aforementioned documents.

The 2009 Inception Year was divided into the three overall Adaptation Knowledge Platform Phase One components with corresponding sub-components and activities. The three components are:

1. Development, Management and Institutionalization of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.
2. Regional knowledge sharing system.
3. Existing and new knowledge applied.

The summary of the progress of and activities undertaken under each sub-component is presented below. This summary is separated into two parts: (i) an overall appraisal of the effectiveness of activities at the regional level and in the creation of the institutional basis for the framework; and (ii) an overview of the approach to and effectiveness of activities undertaken in the five pilot countries for 2009.

OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL

In this inception year of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform the actual work started by designing a system that can bring multi-stakeholder working in the area of adaptation such as researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and business leaders through knowledge sharing mechanism, currently being developed. Through various sharing mechanisms and approaches, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will engage the network in joint learning and cooperation sharing experiences, regional dialogue and generating new knowledge on matters relating to climate change adaptation.

Summary of activities as against the component Development, Management and Institutionalization of Phase I at regional level entailed facilitation of joint development of the Platform; Linkages between the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, Global Climate Change Adaptation Network, Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points and Mangroves for the Future initiative; Establishment of internal on-line information mechanism; Initiation of Platform communication plan, Design and development plan for an effective on-line mechanism to publish data, information and knowledge; and strengthened technical capacities of the Platform secretariat.

Work has begun under the Regional Knowledge Sharing component by establishing initial membership and partner base through a national level scoping to anchor the Adaptation Knowledge Platform among key mandated ministries for climate adaptation policies and strategies. To strengthen this further, linkages between national and regional stakeholders are currently being established. Along with the launch of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform few other regional and national activities in the form of Brainstorming Meeting, Regional

Training Programs and a focused steering group meeting were conducted. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform, being the first of its kind, is expected to gather recognition and feedback through our first set of deliverables in the form of knowledge products at the climate summit.

At the regional scale, the Platform is also working to assess the vulnerability and adaptation of key ASEAN countries through a desktop study and creation of adaptation related inventory of local, national and regional scales. This work represents the first collaboration with the Southeast Asia Network of Climate Change Focal Points and will put the basis for future collaboration, also including in the web-based platform. A Google Adaptation Layer is used to link all the adaptations studies and experiences with the weADAPT – Adaptation Knowledge Platform Capacity to enhance its strength and provide an ease to end users in extracting information from the Adaptation Knowledge Platform website.

As far as existing and new knowledge component of the Platform goes, as a first attempt, a training workshop was held for 14 persons on 'Adaptation Principles and Planning' in October 2009. This training was designed to collect response in building capacity in the region on adaptation through climate envelopes in communicating risks through a blend of scientific tools and Delphi modeling approach. This indeed is a first step towards building capacity and collect feedback in the form of need and priorities of adaptation in the region. During a week-long training it was found that there is a need to enhance the coverage of downscaled climate data for the region and the Adaptation Knowledge Platform plans to cater this need to the countries in the region in the year 2010.

APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

It was realized that in order to ensure that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is recognized and owned within the region, national stakeholders would need to be engaged in order to establish the needs of the countries in terms of knowledge sharing, generation and application. This would allow the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to identify the 'added value' which it can provide to users in the thirteen Phase One countries and the rest of Asia. The development of in-country Platform processes were initiated for the five pilot countries (Bangladesh,

Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam) to introduce the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to key national government and research institutes, amongst other key national and regional stakeholders. The approach was to maximize visibility and stakeholder engagement through a combination of visits from staff of the core Platform partners and the engagement on a local Implementation Partner of high credibility and good experience who would undertake specific activities, listed below, to prepare the ground for future Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in each of the countries.

The focus for the national level activities in the five pilot countries in 2009 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 in the 2009 logframe: "to deliver on each of the Platform outputs through the direct engagement of national stakeholders in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam; and more general engagements in the remaining Phase One countries".

This was translated into a set of 'launching' activities in the five pilot countries based on the commissioning of national implementation partners and supported by country missions where appropriate. The national partners were commissioned to prepare reports on four issues, as follows,

1. An **assessment** of (a) existing policies, institutional mechanisms and mandates and specific programmes for adaptation, national development and key sectors (and need to define which sectors are key and why); and (b) the existing state of knowledge and existing initiatives related to adaptation and obvious sectors such as disaster management.
2. An **institutional mechanism** that will be the basis for the operationalisation of the platform in subsequent years. This mechanism must be (a) based on widespread stakeholder consultation, including people and institutions beyond the 'climate crowd' (reflecting the mainstreaming purpose of the platform) (b) build on existing capacities and processes, both adaptation-specific ones where they exist and wider overall and key sector development planning systems. A key issue for the national level mechanism will be the ability to engage with non-climate, non-environment institutions within the "mainstreaming" context of the platform. This is particularly an issue with relation to (a)

government agencies such as ministries of finance and planning and local government administrations; and (b) local communities and the private sector.

3. **Research priorities identification**, based on stakeholder consultation, which reflects both key knowledge gaps and key development needs and priorities. The onus is on 'knowledge for action' – i.e. on a clear understanding that research priorities should be directly related to strengthening adaptation and adaptive capacity development, not 'science for its own sake'.
4. An **adaptive capacity development strategy**, based on a needs assessment, which gives prioritization of who should receive capacity development, what types of capacities need developing and what approaches to capacity development are needed at both national and sub-national levels.

The speed of progress and effectiveness of the process has varied somewhat between countries, but the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been successfully launched in all five pilot countries, the Implementation Partners are contracted in all, the scope and nature of existing adaptation policies and activities is understood and specific activities to implement in each of the countries have been identified (outlined in Chapter 4).

There are some common threads running through all countries, despite the great differences that also exist. All of the countries have recently recognized climate change adaptation as a key issue for the future and have declared their intention to mainstream it into future development planning. This political momentum is yet to be translated into substantive action in most of the countries, however, with perhaps Bangladesh being the principal exception here. Institutional inertia and fragmentation were universal and were seen as major impediments to the effective integration of adaptation (so often cross-sectoral and multi-scale in character) into development planning.

The lack of understanding of and easily-accessible information on adaptation was similarly a common thread, with this cited as being particular a challenge just where it mattered: amongst the most senior levels of policy makers and politicians and, in contrast, on the ground where adaptation takes place and amongst local government officials where increasingly local-level development planning happens.

In terms of knowledge-creation and sharing, all countries are taking some first steps in improving what is a very weak starting point, but these first steps are again universally seen as needing substantial and sustained support. They include in more than one case attempts to create knowledge-sharing mechanisms that provide a sound foundation that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform can build upon.

Finally, but perhaps most significantly for the long-term development of climate change adaptation measures across the region, some measures of spontaneous local-level adaptation actions were cited as an increasingly common phenomenon in all countries. These spontaneous responses to change and stresses have not been systematically assessed in any of the pilot countries and their extent and significance is at this stage hard to gauge, but their existence is of great import. That they are happening demonstrates that the potential for effective adaptation is great: what is needed is an understanding of the types of policies and actions through which governments and others can support and improve the willing actions of local communities to respond and adapt to the increasing uncertainties and changing conditions that people face.

SUMMARY OF OVERALL PROGRESS ON 2009 ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM'S GOAL AND PURPOSE

The goal of the inception year of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in 2009 was to establish the Adaptation Knowledge Platform amongst key regional stakeholders and in five of the 13 Phase One countries under the assumption that the stakeholders participate in the Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities and find that the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is effective for enhancing adaptation capacities in Asia. A table of the objectively verifiable indicators, means for verification and comments on achievement of the goal is provided in Table 3.

Using the same assumption of the 2009 Adaptation Knowledge Platform goal, the specific purpose of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in 2009 was to deliver on each of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform outputs through the direct engagement of national stakeholders in Bangladesh, Cambodia,

Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam; and more general engagements in the remaining Phase One countries. A table of the objectively verifiable indicators, means for verification and comments on achievement of the 2009 Adaptation Knowledge Platform is provided in Table 4.

Table 3

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Status of Achievement
Adaptation Knowledge Platform jointly established by SEI, SENSEA, UNEP ROAP and AIT-UNEP RRC.AP	Adaptation Knowledge Platform Phase One Logframe	Completed
Stakeholders, regional networks etc identified Adaptation Knowledge Platform partnership structure established, firmly founded and recognized by key stakeholders in the region in five of the 13 Phase One countries. Adaptation Knowledge Platform promoted and introduced to global, regional and national audiences	Adaptation Knowledge Platform Inception Report	Completed upon submission of this document to Sida containing a list of stakeholders that have and regional networks been consulted in 2009 and their responses of to the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, text in this document outlining the Adaptation Knowledge Platform Partnership Structure and modality of the partnership (partnership guidelines), and list of events at which Adaptation Knowledge Platform has been promoted.
Adaptation Knowledge Platform effectively linked to key existing and emerging networks etc	Reports of other networks and stakeholders on the Adaptation Knowledge Platform	Joint launch of Asia Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Network and Adaptation Knowledge Platform
Internal & external website established	Website content contributions by key partners of engagement	Internal website completed External website under completion. Raks Thai Foundation assisted in the collection of community based adaptation projects in Thailand

Table 4

Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Means of Verification	Status of Achievement
Adaptive capacity needs of 2009 countries of engagement, initial steps of process of engagement at national level and follow-up actions identified	Mission reports to the 5 countries	Reports of national level activity reports and country missions summaries in this section. However, details of adaptive capacity needs and steps of process of engagement and follow-up actions to be laid out more fully into documents being commissioned for each of the countries in 1st Q 2010.
Emerging issues to be addressed by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform identified	Adaptation Knowledge Platform Inception Report	Completed upon submission of this document to Sida outlining the strategy of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in 2010-2011.
<i>Workshops and specific and targeted training sessions held</i>	Policy briefs and workshop and training reports	Completed upon submission of this document to Sida. See sections above.

CHAPTER 4 PLANS FOR THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2010-2011

REVIEW OF OVERALL APPROACH

Adaptation Knowledge Platform experience in 2009 has provided a solid basis for the Platform's development and it is now clear that a country-based, demand-driven model has proven to be the key to maintain and increase the effectiveness and relevance of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. It is consequently proposed that the 2010-2011 Strategic Plan should adopt an approach that: a) seeks to support sustainable development programmes within countries' overall poverty reduction and development strategies that have multiple benefits: economic, social, and environmental, local, national and regional; as well as facilitate access to new climate-related market and business opportunities; b) focuses on a "portfolio" of sub-national, national, regional, and global products that help integrate climate adaptation considerations into development planning; and c) works through and establishes strong links with existing initiatives and networks at all levels, local to global, wherever this is possible.

Figure 1 illustrates how these considerations can help shape the engagement processes that applied in relation to climate adaptation. In particular our efforts in 2009 highlighted the need for an approach based on these principles as a key to success in 2010 and beyond. These principles are:


Context: Adaptation Knowledge Platform national consultations should frame the issue so that it is relevant to the participants and contributes to achieving national poverty reduction goals and targets. Presenting stakeholders with a practical and locally-relevant problem and solution analysis will draw more attention and foster a greater sense of involvement than asking them to consider a general topic. If such information incorporates projections of local impacts of climate change or the analyses of

existing patterns of vulnerability and resilience at the local level then it can help promote the context within which adaptation takes place that is necessary to motivate behavioural change.

Achieving good development: It is stressed, yet again, that adaptation is fundamentally about promoting good development planning and practice, and in particular about ensuring that the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society have their risks reduced and their resilience strengthened. Any assessment of adaptation approaches and actions should have sustainable development principles at its core, which means a focus on pro-poor growth, on social equity (with gender a key issues in any adaptation approach) and on environmental sustainability.

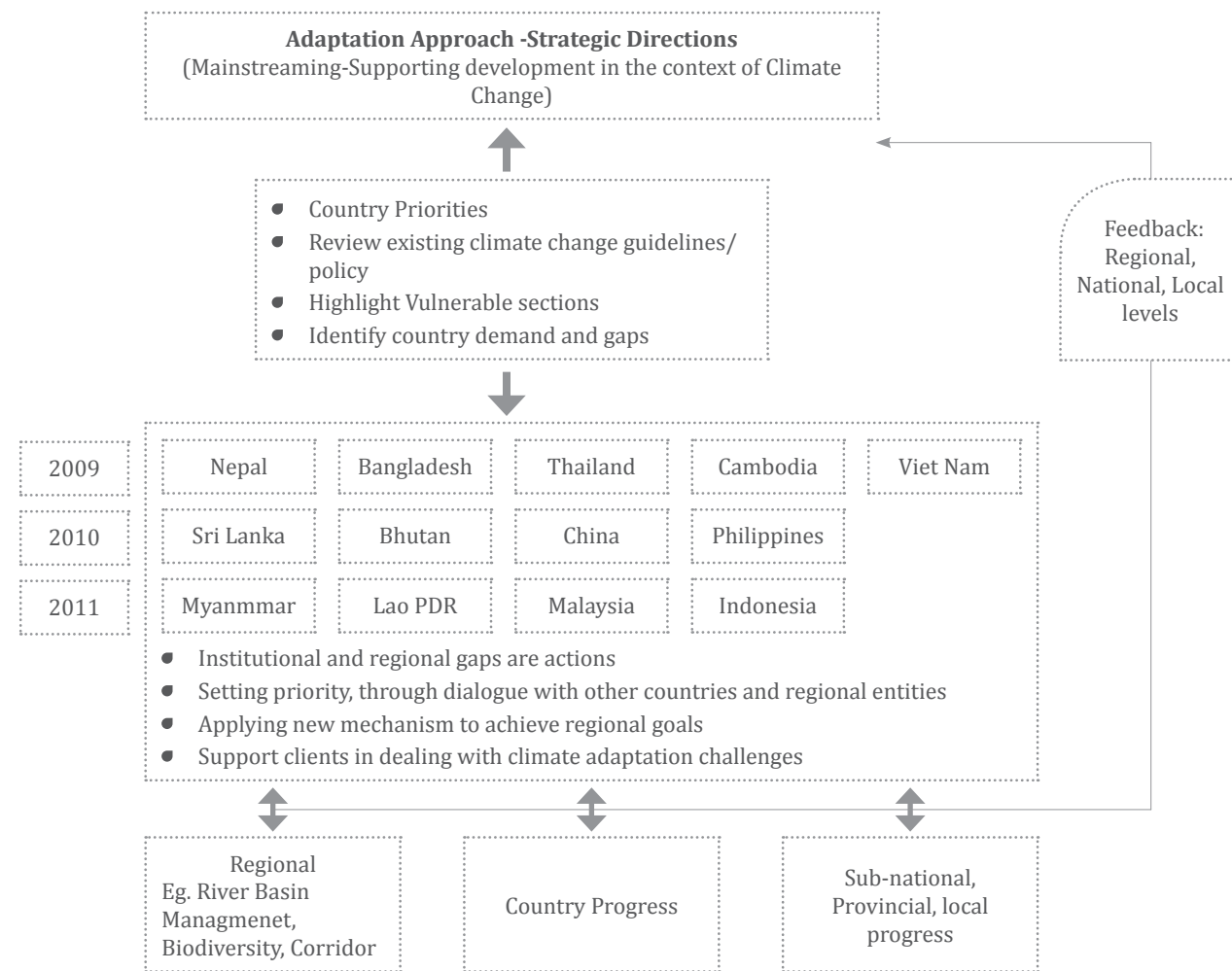
Knowledge gaps: Recognize that a lack of understanding and misconceptions about climate change are not uncommon, and that some engagement will simply involve conveying information and engendering understanding. It is also important to recognize that information alone does not provide sufficient impetus to change behavior: this information needs to be framed in a way that leads to the identification of effective adaptation actions. In particular there is a need to foster an understanding that adaptation is not fundamentally a climate issue but is about improving the effectiveness of poverty reduction and development planning.

Dealing with uncertainty: Uncertainty involved in climate prediction is significant, yet simplifying this by identifying common climate scenarios and projections, and by drawing comparisons to uncertainties in other areas, can be beneficial in stimulating action. It can be useful to present action in response to climate change as a risk management issue, rather than implying that climate change is "proven". In fact today's worries in the areas of climate change are "climate variability" and hence



The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will increasingly depend on access to high quality scientific, socio-economic and technical knowledge to support generation of knowledge, regional knowledge sharing, and policy formulation based on existing knowledge and the delivery of its program activities.

Figure 1: Adaptation Knowledge Platform engagement for strategic directions



this leaves a space for scientists not only to deal with it but also to find some smarter ways to quantify range of uncertainties and build steps towards certainties. Whether information and analysis can reduce uncertainties or not, climate change adaptation is fundamentally about planning for and coping with future uncertainties. This concept is at the centre of the approach that will be developed to understanding and addressing adaptation.

Addressing skepticism: Engage intensively with influential members of the community to combat skepticism regarding climate change. Recognize there is little probability that entrenched skepticism can be reversed, however it is important to provide messages that directly address the claims and arguments of skeptical individuals. It is also essential to build constituencies of the less skeptical; to work towards a consensus on what is possible and which actions are beneficial in the immediate term as well as necessary for addressing long-term change and

increasing uncertainty. Adaptation is as much about a “can do” message as about scientific exactness in analysis. It is about good sustainable development practice that is relevant regardless of whether specific climate change impacts can be demonstrated or not.

Promoting subsidiarity: a concept based on the devolution of responsibilities to the lowest appropriate level. Adaptation needs to work at multiple scales: with local communities, at the national and international levels and at different levels between these. The nature of links between these levels and extent of understanding of the policy and regulatory framework that conditions local choices is fundamental to the effective promotion of adaptation actions.

These concepts and principles reflect the consultations and analysis undertaken during the inception period. They are woven into all aspects of

the Adaptation Knowledge Platform implementation strategy that is presented in the following pages of this report, and they guide the processes of engagement with stakeholders in the focal countries that is at the heart of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform’s work. This is reflected in Figure 1, which presents diagrammatically the multi-level and multi-issue approach to the implementation strategy that has been developed during the inception period. Part of this is the recognition of the need to review and build on success in implementation, and to respond to the articulated demands of the stakeholders who drive the Adaptation Knowledge Platform’s development. As such, the strategy outlined here is not prescriptive and requires a level of flexibility, to respond to demand and to reflect internal learning. It is an informed and adaptable approach to the development of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

MANAGEMENT EXTERNAL STRUCTURE AND APPROACH

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will increasingly focus on generating access for different types of stakeholders to high quality scientific, socio-economic and technical knowledge to support generation of knowledge, regional knowledge sharing, and policy formulation based on existing knowledge and the delivery of its programme activities.

In addition to internal advice from policy makers and scientists, technical advisors and academics, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will depend on experts, external science, technical, communications, private sector, financial sector’s advice. Further, guidance will be sought on a variety of implementing activities from a scientific and technical perspective. The approach to the External Adaptation Knowledge Platform Structure proposed is that it is supported by an Advisory Panel, Technical Partner Institutions, and National Partners.

Advisory Panel

An Advisor Panel will be constituted to oversee the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. Members of the Advisory Panel will be eminent persons from the region who can assist in accessing funds and in providing guidance. The Advisory Panel also provides advice on a variety of activities from a scientific and technical perspective. The Panel is tasked by, and provides external science, technology and management advice to, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

Members of the Advisory Panel

The Panel will consist of a Chair and up to 10 members. The members of the Panel are individuals who have scientific and technical knowledge, experience and expertise relevant to adaptation in Asia. Whilst they may be members of specific organizations, they will be invited in their individual capacities, not to represent their host organization. The Panel is proposed to meet twice a year, once during the Adaptation Forum and the other time at the beginning of the year

The linkages and collaboration with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network will also be ensured by including in the advisory panel the chair of the Network’s steering committee as well as the government representatives from South and Southeast Asia, who are already members of the Network’s Steering Committee.

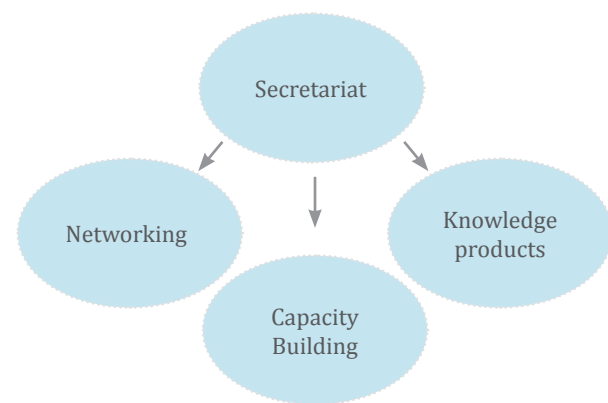
Technical Partners

The technical partners are other partners working in climate change adaptation related issues in the region. Technical partners can be divided into three categories; knowledge generation, knowledge sharing and knowledge application. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will develop a database of technical partners in the region. Academic and research institutions, regional and institutional organizations and the UN can be engaged with the Adaptation Knowledge Platform as technical partners. Technical partners will be engaged in Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities. In particular, identification of technical partners and the delivery of selected technical activities for South and Southeast Asia as well as the development and operation of the regional knowledge sharing mechanism will be undertaken in close collaboration with the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network.

The platform also aims at establishing regional cooperation and a space for discussion among different partners and therefore, the choice of the activities to be undertaken together will be more participatory. Technical partners might indicate their interest in participating to the delivery of some of the Platform activities. The countries and the region would benefit from different partners joining forces with us.

Approaches at the National Level

Adaptation Knowledge Platform engagement and operation at the national level in the countries identified as focal countries is explicitly referenced



with an overall project agreement and in the 2009 logframe.

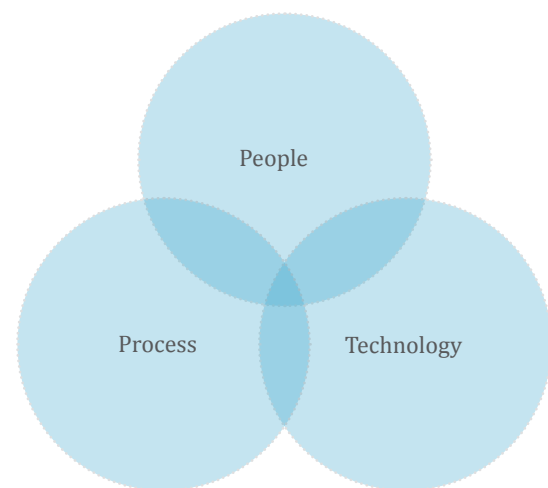
The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's approach thus far has been to find and set out priority adaptation measures and the institutional arrangements; strategies for the activities of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in the 2009 five select pilot countries are currently being defined and verified by national stakeholders to prepare a response for climate change strategies and priorities.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS

Thirteen countries are identified as focal countries for the Adaptation Platform's first three years of operation (Cambodia, China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, the Philippines & Sri Lanka). Of these, five (South Asia: Bangladesh, Nepal; Southeast Asia: Cambodia, Thailand, Viet Nam) are identified as pilot countries target in 2009. Details on the progress and outputs for these five countries in 2009 are given in chapter 3.

In 2010 – Adaptation Platform will focus on additional four countries (Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Lao PDR and the Philippines) that will be inducted; however, this will be in addition to the 2009 five target countries where the pilot activities identified below will be implemented. Some pilot studies are expected to be launched to fill in the gaps and build capacity as identified and reported through the mission and facts finding for respective select countries.

1. Anticipated Development Impact of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform Engagement Process: Will have a bearing on target audience, study area, pilot sites with a range of stakeholders (both existing and new ones), however, attention will be given in identifying



or selecting the partners or participants who are influential.

2. Training and group discussions: will involve high quality conversation, series of presentations, exchange of information and to manage expectations in delivering the goods they want and can make a difference

COMPONENT 1: REGIONAL KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND SHARING SYSTEM ESTABLISHED

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Knowledge Management and Sharing Approach

Knowledge management for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is all management activities necessary for effective creation, capturing, sharing, and managing knowledge. The AIT-UNEP RRC.AP, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Secretariat, will develop systems, processes, tools and practices to share, translate and apply the adaptation knowledge generated. This component is led by and predominantly the responsibility of AIT-UNEP RRC.AP, with SEI providing technical support where appropriate.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's approach towards enhancing and sustaining knowledge management for climate change adaptation at Regional and National levels will be based on the understanding to blend and bring a synergy between people, processes and technology:

- People: who create, share, and use knowledge, and who collectively comprise the culture that nurtures and stimulates knowledge sharing.

- Processes: the methods to acquire, create, organize, share and transfer knowledge.
- Technology: the mechanisms that store and provide access to data, information, and knowledge created by people in various locations.

For the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, knowledge management and sharing will aim to bridge the knowledge gaps in climate change adaptation among various stakeholders, between and within countries in Asia.

Challenges are many. There is diversity among countries with regards to priorities in the production, dissemination and utilization of climate change adaptation knowledge. This includes weak or non-existent information and knowledge management procedures, inadequate information and communication technology infrastructure, insufficient networking activities, lack of financial resources to support knowledge management activities, lack of standards and tools for knowledge management, weak knowledge translation activities and low utilization of knowledge for policy making. Differences in availability of human resources, systems, tools and information and communication technology infrastructure contribute to this diversity.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform's knowledge management will focus on activities supporting three pillars: networking, developing & sharing knowledge products and capacity development, necessary to work collaboratively with access to shared knowledge at local, national and regional levels and contributing to a lasting climate adaptation knowledge legacy. The report presents strategic directions for knowledge management at two levels - regional and national.

Strategic Directions at Regional Level

The Secretariat's regional strategy will aim to increase awareness and understanding by providing opportunities to undertake adaptation knowledge mapping; develop online knowledge management portals and tools; communicate good adaptive practices; share information and knowledge on adaptation while supporting the three pillars networking, developing knowledge products and capacity development.

The Secretariat will develop a network of Climate Change Adaptation practitioners as a strategic solution to cater the identified three pillars primarily through a knowledge sharing mechanism in the Region.

Knowledge sharing mechanisms will also leverage e-bulletins, the use of ICT in adaptation, facilitate enhance ICT infrastructure, build capacity on need assessment, planning and evaluation; strengthen national programmes for knowledge management in adaptation and facilitate development of knowledge hubs at the national level.

It is important to note that all the 13 Adaptation Knowledge Platform countries will be included in this component – and not only the five target countries of 2009 and the additional 2010 target countries.

Main Activities Proposed at Regional Level

Network

- Asian Climate Change Adaptation Forum
- Bi-monthly Sharing & Learning Seminars
- Facilitate strengthening of linkages amongst adaptation professionals & institutions

Products

- Develop knowledge sharing portal
- Develop climate change adaptation knowledge products
- Develop climate change knowledge sharing tool, system among partners

Capacity development

- Establish a Regional climate change adaptation knowledge sharing system (Process, flow, protocol)
- Facilitate national level climate change adaptation knowledge networks (Process, flow, protocol)
- Facilitate strengthening institutional climate change adaptation knowledge capacity
- Facilitate face-to-face climate change adaptation knowledge sharing and learning sessions including formal trainings to various stakeholders, including private sector
- Providing training on the use of Google adaptation layer
- Providing Technical Assistance to partners and others in using Adaptation Knowledge Platform's Knowledge Management Practices

Strategic Directions at the National Level

At a national level, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform must integrate and support on-going or emerging in-country information and knowledge management initiatives for sustainable information/knowledge exchange mechanisms; without reinventing the wheel. Recognizing relevant differences in CCA knowledge, capacity and needs

of the various Adaptation Knowledge Platform countries, the initiative will not prepare a “one size fits all” approach, but will act in follow country tailored approach.

At the National level, strategic directions for collaborative activities by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and countries of engagement are aligned with regional action in order to synergize efforts. The focus of activities will be influenced by the state of development of a country in terms of education, access to ICT resources, scenario and status of progress in adaptive capacities. It is important that each country should develop a national knowledge management strategy according to its own needs and based on its own situation.

The key defining criteria for knowledge products and services is the needs of the end-user and the stakeholder. Some basic issues and principles for developing knowledge products will look at the end-user as a partner in the sharing and learning process, and not just a passive receiver. This is done by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform providing opportunity for feedback; opportunities for the user to network and find new people, organizations and institutions, and resources; opportunities to also contribute to the contents of the learning products, etc.

Knowledge Mapping is an important pre-requisite for the development of a good knowledge sharing system.

Main Activities Proposed at National Level

Network

- Provide space for sharing good/best adaptation practices, lessons learned and new knowledge (Forum, Seminar)
- Facilitate strengthening of linkages amongst adaptation professionals & institutions

To develop the web-based Knowledge sharing portal, the Adaptation Platform used the following process:

- Desk review of existing and related web-Based Adaptation knowledge sharing portals
- Adaptation Platform survey results
- Comparison of open source content management systems best suited to balance between the core service lines, the ICT tools/simplicity/user-friendly, the system flexibility to integrate new service/application as the demand/KS practice evolves in the Future.
- WeAdapt-the back end of the portal

Products

- Enhance, strengthen knowledge products
- Enhance, strengthen knowledge sharing tool, system among partners

Capacity development

- CCA Knowledge Mapping
- Establish/Strengthen National CCA knowledge sharing system (Process, flow, protocol)
- Establish/Facilitate/Strengthen national level CCA knowledge networks (Process, flow, protocol)
- Facilitate strengthening institutional CCA knowledge capacity
- Facilitating face-to-face knowledge sharing and learning sessions including formal trainings for various stakeholders including private sector
- Training on the use Google Adaptation Layer and features
- Technical Assistance to partners and others in using Adaptation Knowledge Platform’s Knowledge Management Practices

COMPONENT 2: NEW KNOWLEDGE GENERATED

This section describes the proposed activities under Component 2: New Knowledge Generated, during 2010-2011. Activities in this component are predominantly led by SEI, especially in relation to the pilot research activities, and SEI also have responsibility for the coordination of the component as a whole. UNEP will lead on the development of the regional knowledge base for climate change adaptation. 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. The Platform is tasked with addressing two key activities, namely building up a regional knowledge base on adaptation, as well as

Table 5: Scope of Activities on New Knowledge Generated

Overarching Objective of Component: A regionally and nationally owned mechanism to facilitate the generation of new climate change adaptation knowledge to promote understanding and provide guidance relevant to the development and implementation of national and regional climate change policy, plans and processes focused on climate change adaptation.

Sub-Component	Description	Scope of the Work 2010-2011
Regional Knowledge Base for Climate Change Adaptation	Network of existing and emerging initiatives, research institutes and other stakeholders working on climate change adaptation in the region mobilised to identify and fill key strategic knowledge gaps on national and regional climate change adaptation policies and practice based on consultations with national and regional stakeholders	Bringing together different actors to identify and fill key knowledge gaps. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Initial focus on identifying knowledge gaps ● Opportunity for networking among research institutes, between initiatives and research institutes, practitioners (including the private sector) and government actors (including where possible links to existing research networks as a priority) ● Capacity building ● Generation of new knowledge
Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures	Identification and initiation of pilot climate change adaptation measures that respond to demand and that are also of more generic significance to illustrate climate change adaptation practice in the Asia region	Implementation of action research projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus on filling knowledge gaps through pilot activities ● A particular focus on different levels of adaptation: local, national, regional, and on different areas/sectors for action ● Focus on piloting the mainstreaming of adaptation into national plans

piloting some key approaches to adaptation planning (see Table 5). 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 projects to study and fill knowledge gaps. This would involve literature reviews (academic and grey), as well as interviews with key scientists, policy makers and development practitioners in each focus country. Fieldwork will also be carried out for rural case studies to support some of the studies. Initially, the work will be focused on Bangladesh, Cambodia,

Nepal, Thailand and Vietnam, where work have been initiated in 2009, but one additional country, the Philippines will also be included.

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 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, as set out in Table 6.

The main emphasis of the studies in this component will be to generate knowledge on the linkages between autonomous and planned adaptation. In other words, trying to understand what the gaps are in adaptive capacity that need to be filled and how capacities can be developed to plug these gaps. There are several aspects to this, including understanding how local-level responses to climate variability, hazards and stress take shape and how this relates to the national or sub-national planning processes. The studies will focus on both actual knowledge gaps as well as perceived knowledge gaps, because these are equally important in adaptation. Even if information

Table 6: Proposed 2-year studies to generate new knowledge

Study no.	Country of study	Objective	Focus of activities	Timing
1	Philippines Nepal Vietnam	Understanding Planning 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	June 2010-August 2011
2	Vietnam Bangladesh	Comparing Adaptation and Development 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 2010-October 2011
3	Nepal Thailand Cambodia	Policy Context for Planning 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.	July 2010-November 2011

exists, it is not useful if it cannot be accessed. The studies will attempt to understand what conditions are enabling and disabling for strengthening the resilience of local communities and stimulating actions to adapt to existing and likely climate-induced change.

The focus of these analyses will be on (i) understanding the nature of and stimuli behind existing adaptive measures at the local level, where people have responded to increased uncertainties and changing conditions, whether climate-induced or not (and indeed it is difficult if not impossible to separate these); and (ii) the nature and drivers of the links between local communities and external institutions and markets that set the conditions within which local level responses take place. This will include the identification of the types of policies, planning processes and institutional dynamics that support or retard local-level adaptive responses and enhanced resilience.

Study Modalities

The studies will be carried out in a collaborative way that allows for both network and capacity building. The aim will be to build small teams that will represent different types of actors, and interact with as wide a range of stakeholders as possible. This may also involve cross-country interactions and study tours. While the projects will be carried out in collaboration with teams at the national level, the overall coordination of the work, including carrying out some of the fieldwork and analysis, will be done by the Adaptation Knowledge Platform partners. Each of the studies will involve collaboration with national partners in the study countries.

Planning Phase

The detailed planning phase for the proposed studies will be during the first six months of 2010. It is during this time that the teams will be built, and the work plans will be elaborated.

Study Descriptions

This section describes the studies that are summarised in Table 6.

Study 1: Understanding Planning

Adaptation takes place primarily at a local level, but is often influenced by national policies and institutions, whilst these instruments of planning, in turn, need to understand the processes through which adaptation happens at the local level. This gives rise to two key questions that form the basis for this study: (1) how are local needs, capacities, interests and concerns taken into account at different levels of decision-making; and (2) how do national-level policies and institutions play out at sub-national level? This project aims to examine planning processes for natural resource management and disaster risk management in the Philippines, Nepal and Vietnam. The overarching purpose is to understand what works well in planning processes that are similar to those that will be necessary for effective planning for adaptation. This will shed light on what exactly 'adaptation planning' is, and also how it relates to other very similar policies and institutions. It will look from the local to the regional level, in order to see what lessons can be learned and how these can be generalised or applied across countries. This study will provide an opportunity for collaboration with key natural resource management and disaster risk reduction partners, including IUCN, ISDR and national and regional actors.

In order to build capacity and knowledge necessary for adapting to climate change, it is also necessary for national and sub-national actors to feel ownership in the process of knowledge and capacity generation. This will be dependent on their perception of what the gaps are. However, in some cases the knowledge gaps may be a consequence of poor accessibility of information. This can be both physical and conceptual: information can exist but not be circulated, or can exist in a format that cannot be comprehended by the user. For example, policy makers will need a certain kind of information that is different from that which scientists might prioritise in order to advance scientific knowledge. This study consequently seeks to identify whether there are any differences in perceptions about knowledge and capacity gaps among different actors. It will also take a step further and undertake an analysis of whether the perceived gaps are also actual gaps – this will involve analysing why certain actors perceive gaps when others may not. This study will seek to answer the following questions:

Governance

1. At what level do the planning processes for natural resource management and/or disaster risk reduction take place?
2. To what extent are national policies and institutions implemented at a local level?
3. How can knowledge and communication gaps be closed when there are different perceptions about them?

Participation and Perceptions

1. To what extent are communities involved in decision making at the national level on resources/areas that affect them?
2. To what extent are communities involved in decisions about how national policies are implemented at local level?
3. How do different actors perceive knowledge and capacity gaps for adaptation?

Cross-level interaction

1. To what extent is national planning reflective of sub-national realities?
2. What are the mechanisms for communicating across levels (before and after planning)?
3. Why do some perceive knowledge gaps when others do not?

Lessons for Adaptation Planning

1. What can be learned from natural resource management and/or disaster risk reduction for adaptation planning?
2. How country-specific are the lessons?

Study 2: Comparing Adaptation and Development

Over the last decade, there has been extensive discussion on 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 Vietnam 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 or providing viable solutions to adaptation challenges 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 and a collaboration in this sense will be better defined in the course of the first few months of 2010.

For this project, 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 Vietnam as well as the Vietnam 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:

1. What are the 'adaptation' projects in Vietnam and Bangladesh?
2. How do these projects define adaptation? How do the definitions compare to the recognised understanding of adaptation?
3. How would the projects differ if they would not consider climate change?
4. To what extent are 'adaptation' projects the same as 'development' projects in Bangladesh and Vietnam?
5. 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 Cambodia, 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. This study will use an analytical tool 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).

For this project, we will work with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), building on their project 'Too Much, Too Little Water', and Tribhuvan University. In Cambodia, we will work with a Cambodian partner and the Royal University of Agriculture, and in Thailand with an NGO as well as an academic partner.

This study will answer the following questions:

1. What are the responses to climate variability, stress and hazards in selected rural communities in Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam?
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: EXISTING AND NEW KNOWLEDGE APPLIED

Introduction & Scope of the Component

The effectiveness of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in the long term will largely be contingent upon the extent to which the knowledge it generates and makes available is applied into the planning and implementation of adaptation actions at regional, national and, in particular, local levels. In particular, given the nature of adaptation and the specific ambitions of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, a key issue is the extent to which the knowledge is mainstreamed into wider sustainable development and poverty reduction policies, plans and practices. Achieving this ambition presents considerable challenges: the coverage of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is 13 Asian countries, each with their own systems and traditions, and a considerable proportion of the world's population that will be most affected by climate change. Three basic principles can be identified to guide the formulation of activities under this component:

- **Mainstreaming:** the target is not separate adaptation policies or plans, but is rather the integration of adaptation within wider poverty reduction, environmental management and sustainable development processes.

- **Evidence-based:** the central role of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in moving from knowledge to action is to provide decision-makers with the information on which to base their decisions.
- **Adaptable:** the Adaptation Knowledge Platform must be able to adapt activities to the specific challenges and social and institutional context of the places where activities will be implemented.

The move from knowledge to action takes time and may not be discernable in the lifetime of this phase of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. Attributing change to the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will be difficult given the nature of adaptation, which often entails the modification of actions that will in any case take place, and the many other factors influencing mainstream development planning. Finally, the resources available to the Adaptation Knowledge Platform mean that planning this component needs to be realistic in its scope and strategic in its choices.

These issues have been addressed during the Adaptation Knowledge Platform inception period and the plans set out here reflect the analysis of opportunities and strategic choices made during the consultations with stakeholders and assessment of existing activities, institutional capacities and plans. The first choice made is to differentiate between the nature and intensity of Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities under this component between the 13 focal countries. Opportunities for mainstreaming, and the potential of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to contribute to this process, are better in some countries than others, whilst the key stakeholders in some of the first group of countries where consultations have taken place clearly expressed their needs for Adaptation Knowledge Platform support of some form in the immediate future. This combination of opportunity and demand has guided the strategic choices made in the planning of this component for 2010-2011.

Overall responsibility for this component is shared between SEI and UNEP. 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, with the agreed division as follows: SEI: Thailand, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Bhutan and China. UNEP: Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Philippines. The lead responsibility for the remaining countries (Indonesia, Malaysia and

Myanmar) will be decided at a later date when the scope and character of the activities in each is clearer. The second strategic issue is the geographical scale of the component activities. Whilst there are activities planned at both regional and local scales, the main focus 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 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.

The scope of this component can be derived from the defined outputs and intervention areas in the overall Adaptation Knowledge Platform logical framework for 2009-2011:

Output: Existing and New Knowledge Applied: Synthesis of existing and new climate change adaptation knowledge to facilitate its application in sustainable development practices at the local, national and regional levels.

- **Institutionalization of Knowledge Systems on Climate Change Adaptation:** Building on existing initiatives where available, assist the development of local, national and regional-level processes to apply existing and new knowledge on climate change adaptation in the 13 Phase 1 countries. The outcomes of this set of activities are defined for each specific category of stakeholders in the logical framework, with the general character of these outcomes intended to strengthen the awareness and knowledge base of different types of stakeholder so that they are better able to integrate adaptation into mainstream poverty reduction and sustainable development policies, planning and interventions.

- Translation of Knowledge to Practice: Compilation, synthesis and documentation of existing and new knowledge on climate change adaptation. Again, specific outcomes for each category of target stakeholders are defined, with the emphasis here being a deepened understanding at all levels of the changes that need to be made to poverty reduction and development processes to promote actions to reduce risks for and strengthen the resilience of the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society.
- High level awareness of the nature of adaptation and possibilities for adaptation actions.
- Training/capacity building at the sub-national level, especially amongst local government officials with responsibilities for mainstreaming adaptation into overall development plans.
- Pilots on mainstreaming adaptation into strategic planning at a sub-national level.
- Support to/integration of existing national coordination mechanism on climate change adaptation into the overall Adaptation Knowledge Platform system.

The tasks associated with developing a suitable institutionalization process in the 13 target countries represent the most significant individual challenge the Adaptation Knowledge Platform faces. The approach must be tailored to the characteristics of individual countries, must reflect existing initiatives and must avoid 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, the 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.

The activities to be undertaken in this component during 2010-2011 are divided into three inter-related clusters: (i) the implementation of priority activities for the five countries visited during the inception period; (ii) the identification and implementation of Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in the eight remaining focus countries; and (iii) the production and dissemination of generic knowledge products for all countries and, potentially, others in the Asia region and beyond.

Priority Activities in the Five Pilot Countries

The five pilot countries for the inception phase were Bangladesh, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam. The scoping assessments and stakeholder consultations undertaken during the inception period have led to the identification of activities to be implemented in each of the countries. Where possible, similar types of activities have been identified so that generic approaches and knowledge packages can be developed that can subsequently be adapted to the specific requirements of individual countries. These reflect issues that were common themes across most or all countries:

The five countries will also be the focus of most of the field-based activities defined in the three studies in Component 2, on different aspects of the generation of new knowledge. Based on this, the proposed activities for each of the five pilot countries, in addition to the studies outlined above, are as follows:

Viet Nam (SEI lead):

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in Viet Nam will build on two features of the current situation: (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 are proposed for Viet Nam during 2010-2011:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 programme of NGO training on climate change mainstreaming.

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

Thailand (SEI lead):

The activities in Thailand during 2010-2011 will reflect the existing progress towards strengthening the understanding of adaptation within the planning of different sectors and levels of society. Thai institutions are currently pro-active in the initiation of research and new planning approaches but there is at present a lot of fragmentation and uncertainties over mandates and responsibilities in this field. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will address these issues through the following activities:

- The development of an institutional mechanism for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform in Thailand through collaboration and contribution to the newly formed National Climate Change Knowledge Management Centre under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST). This new centre has strong leadership and effective capacity and links to other knowledge institutions on climate change in Thailand.
- The development of a modular training package for local government authorities at municipality or Tambon Administrative Organisation (TAO) level. These should focus on the mainstreaming of adaptation into existing strategic planning processes. For TAOs training activities might be run at the provincial level and so become part of the normal capacity building activities within the Ministry of Interior (MOI). This training package should be developed through a pilot mainstreaming activity in one province, to be selected jointly with Thai authorities.
- The development of a modular training package through demonstration and implementation with 2 or 3 river basin organizations in Thailand. This should focus on assessing vulnerability of water resources and adaptation options and should build on existing experience with the Taichin RBO. Training should be coordinated with and tailored to be relevant to normal planning activities.

Nepal (UNEP lead):

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities in Nepal has build a strong basis 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 will build on this to (a) strengthen the understanding of adaptation within an overall development planning context and (b) support existing efforts to strengthen adaptation capacities and responses at the local level. The full details of the activities to be undertaken will be established through further consultations, but, among other things, they will include:

- 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.
- Explore further where there are 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 (UNEP lead):

For the Adaptation Knowledge Platform during 2010-2011, two areas have been identified from the consultations and analysis undertaken to date as the focus for support and action. These will be further elaborated during the next stage of consultations, with their exact location and character defined through agreement with key national stakeholders. 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 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.

In addition to these two areas, one proposal was for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to support the analysis of climate data available from Japan. Further discussions will take place to see whether offering such support would fit within the framework of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform. There is also discussion about the establishment of a national-level climate change knowledge sharing mechanism in Cambodia. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will support this effort if it transpires and has a focus on adaptation.

It is important to notice that 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 will work, as much as possible, to add value to and avoid duplication of effort with these activities.

Bangladesh (UNEP lead):

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 will reflect this, with efforts to both strengthen existing processes and to learn lessons from the Bangladesh experience that are of generic significance. This includes:

- 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 will include 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 will be to understand the nature of local conditions and external factors that determine the effectiveness of local-level adaptation initiatives.

Activities in the Eight Remaining Focus Countries

In addition to the five countries piloted in 2009, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform has identified eight further focus countries: China PR, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. It is proposed that all of these countries should be involved in regional-level activities during both 2010-2011 and, in addition, four countries will

be visited during the first part of 2010 with the aim of catalyzing national-level activities similar to those that have been developed in the existing five pilot countries. It is proposed that the four countries in the next 'batch' are: (SEI lead) Bhutan and Lao PDR and (UNEP lead) the Philippines and Sri Lanka, providing a balance between South and South-East Asian countries.

The approach to these four countries will build on existing contacts and initiatives. This will include the Poverty Environment Initiative in Bhutan and the Philippines, as these are focal countries in Asia for the Initiative. For all four countries in the 2010 group, initial missions will be undertaken and scoping assessments and consultations made during the first half of 2010 with the view to start any possible activities during the second half of the year.

In addition, SEI will lead exploratory work in China to define the scope and character of activities there. The approach in China will build on existing work and contacts, including those with the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development as well as those established with the '50 Economists' group of senior decision-makers. The Chinese government has recently issued a decree requiring the mainstreaming of climate adaptation into all development plans, creating an opportune time for the start of Adaptation Knowledge Platform activities.

Institutional contacts will be made with appropriate agencies in the remaining three countries, Myanmar, Indonesia and Malaysia, during 2010 and decisions on the specific form of engagement in these countries will be made dependent on resources and progress in the initial nine countries where activities are planned to be implemented during 2010.

Generic Knowledge Products

One process through which the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will catalyze the move from knowledge to action is through the provision within the Adaptation Knowledge Platform knowledge sharing mechanism of a range of knowledge products that will inform and assist the users of adaptation knowledge to better apply it within their work. The overall approach to these knowledge products will be to generate ones that are practical and usable, rather than products that are more conceptual and aimed at research audiences. UNEP will be primarily responsible for these activities, with SEI providing technical advice and access to appropriate information where needed.

The intention is to strengthen regional, national and local level institutions to address climate change issues in the region. Although there have been varied level of experiences as well as significant achievements through National Communications (NCs) and/or National Adaptation Plan of Action to Climate Change (NAPAs), further work is needed to continue working towards adaptation. As a next step, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform would carry out the work on vulnerability assessment and find out the scientific and technical assistance priorities required to understand these impacts in order to develop planned adaptation.

Enhancement of climate trends and projected impacts is crucial for adaptation. While, this remains a technical challenge for the scientific community, to date few efforts have been made on downscaling national and sub-national climate trends and projected impacts. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform aims to play a catalytic role in application of downscaling tools and methods as part of new knowledge component of the work. It is expected that this exercise will also lead to a capability and capacity building exercise between the national Meteorological Research Bureau or other Institutions and Adaptation Knowledge Platform to impart scientific and technical knowledge. However, downscaling climate models and data by itself may not suffice but to test and validate downscaled model results, local and sub-national data would be needed to improvise the understanding and illustrate the impacts of climate change at local level.

Mainstreaming regional and national policies are essential to ensure sustainable climate adaptation initiatives. Successful adaptation requires a supportive set of policies, regulations, incentives and their enforcement. While ad hoc work in the form of pilots has begun and made some progress worldwide, yet, in the adoption of sustainable resource management policies, much remains to be done. Adaptation Knowledge Platform is committed to fill some of these gaps by working in the designated select countries such as disaster risk reduction (DRR) measures applied today and future climate change adaptation measures naturally form a continuum and should be linked in forming a national and regional polices.

Climate change will have heterogeneous and spatially variable impacts. A first step in building adaptation policy is to identify vulnerabilities and risks to determine priorities for investment and policy. The Adaptation Knowledge Platform aims to

identify all such priorities and deliver the same for select countries at the end of the respective years.

Finally, policies to build adaptive capacity and resilience (beyond autonomous adaptation) to climate risks pose a challenge to this platform to deliver goods. As we progress from the 2009-11 work plan, strategies to build climate resilience and ignite growth need to take account of a region's comparative advantage, resource constraints, and the impending changes brought about by climate. Although the Platform envisaged that the exact policies and interventions will differ by location and circumstance, however, emphasis will be given to four overarching principles that being the prime mover of the region and economies and they are:

- The over-arching need to ensure that adaptation approaches focus on the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society, with explicit poverty reduction goals and targets, gender-sensitive approaches and an awareness of the implications of adaptation approaches for environmental sustainability.
- The need for policy and investment decisions to be based on sound scientific knowledge of risks and the use of diagnostic risk assessment tools to generate policy-relevant information.
- Innovations and reforms in agriculture and water management that promote more climate resilient cropping systems – these being the pioneer sectors for most of the selected Asian countries of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.
- Cost-effective and efficient management of climate risks to promote livelihoods and income diversification through economic instruments.

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

Context and challenges

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform is a 'knowledge generating' and a 'knowledge sharing' programme. 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. Examples include the GEF/UNDP Adaptation Learning Mechanism, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology's Climate Change Adaptation programme, and the Eldis Climate Change Adaptation dossier. It is important therefore 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 and 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

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

Four defining propositions for Adaptation Knowledge Platform messaging have been conceived, based on the reasoning given below.

- 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 could seek to identify individuals within the countries as well as visiting experts who have some expertise and background in this 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 could include interviews with such advocates, along with their personal stories where appropriate.
- The regional and national presence of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, and in the target countries, has the potential to distinguish the Adaptation Knowledge Platform from other players. The institutes that are carrying out national consultations and scoping studies should be promoted through the communications strategy and their contact details listed. Where possible the partner institutes should be supported to develop as knowledge hubs in their own right in their own countries. There is also potential to promote stories of adaptation that are common to countries with shared or similar biophysical regions such as mountain areas or mangroves.
- Access to new tools and technology is thought to be 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 should be promoted through the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.
- Good development practice is needed since poverty alleviation takes a high priority in all of the target countries. Adaptation Knowledge Platform messaging therefore should focus on practical solutions and anti-poverty impacts of adaptation practice. Partnerships with development agencies, for example, those working in agriculture and rural development, should be highlighted wherever possible, and corporate communications materials should specifically target the interests of such agencies.

Delivering the strategy

The value of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform depends ultimately 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.

Communications in the inception phase, and probably in the early part of the operational phase, will emanate from the secretariat as a basis for a single-hub system of communications. Matters of web maintenance, routine updates and the logistics of organization are handled out of the secretariat. SEI meanwhile has supported the development of a corporate identity and packaging of messages for the regional launch in October 2009.

Once a strong basis of delivery has been established, it may be possible to develop multi-hub systems, building on the basis of cooperation with partner institutes in the target countries depending on interest. This means an emphasis in the initial phase on website development and the production of a few corporate products to support the growth of an online community, managed out of the secretariat and supported by SEI. It also means that the main language of operation will be English, until national partners begin to generate their own material in local languages.

Given the wide area of coverage that is expected, it will be important for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform to leverage off existing domestic networks and systems of communication. Trainers, advisors and the mass media, who have the potential to influence a very wide range of audiences, will be important in this. At the same time, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will support governments through face-to-face interaction and organization of key events such as seminars, training workshops and a flagship regional forum that will bring together people working in the field of adaptation from the target countries.

Crafting appropriate messages

Appropriate messaging will centre round the defining propositions that were earlier described. Crafting of messages could focus on aspects of adaptation such as the anticipated costs of adaptation, as well as the potential costs of not adapting, comparisons of practice and policies between countries, new

approaches to policy and practice, anti-poverty impacts of adaptation and assessments of progress. Such messaging could be supported through the use of statistics which convey 'the big picture' while enabling users to relate abstract concepts to a human scale. Messages that convey a call to action, or that provide an assessment of progress in a given area, are also likely to gain public attention and therefore have better chances of reaching their intended targets.

Products and pathways

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will develop a small number of key 'knowledge products': training courses, research reports and email updates, targeted at the main audiences of national and local government agencies, development NGOs, international think tanks and research institutes, and the mass media.

While the secretariat at AIT-UNEP RRC.AP is the centre for information management, SEI will support secretariat communications by:

- a. Developing a workshop package specifically for domestic media, to provide an introduction to climate adaptation and to encourage reporting on issues regarding adaptation.
- b. Using information technology to support many-to-many communication through a series of web forums, organized in conjunction with the annual regional forum for national partners.
- c. Supporting development of the website.

Communications in the inception phase 2009

Communications work in this phase has focused on developing and conceptualizing the nature of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform and following on from this, a discussion around the intended audiences and users of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform.

Parallel to this discussion, work has been undertaken to develop a visual identity for the Adaptation Knowledge Platform that will be applied to corporate products in the form of (for example) templates for email bulletins, meeting folders, contact cards, and other items. This is so as to avoid the design challenge of multiple organization logos being pasted on to products, and to adopt a common 'brand' across the various partners and potential partner agencies when undertaking Adaptation Knowledge Platform work, promoting recognition.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform was launched to an international audience at a pre-COP15 negotiating meeting in Bangkok, attended by over 200 guests, many of them climate change negotiators.

Communications in the operational phase 2010-2011

Once the Adaptation Knowledge Platform is in full operation, national contact points, experts and expert institutes will have been identified in each target country. A major aim of the communications strategy will be to work closely with this group of people to highlight and promote projects, tools and resources through the production of a web catalogue, email updates to a mailing list of interested individuals and organizations, and through partnerships with development agencies working for poverty alleviation.

Corporate communications

Print and web materials will be produced that communicates the functions of the platform. The yearly budget will cover reprints of the brochure created in 2009 as well as professional copywriting for the website as needed.

Website maintenance will be carried out in the third and fourth quarters of 2010 after the initial round of web development (budgeted as part of the knowledge sharing component) has been completed early in the year. Further web maintenance in 2011 will be carried out as needed. Email bulletins to an expanding mailing list will continue from the platform Secretariat. The use of email marketing software, available at low cost, will ensure maximum deliverability and the ability to track email, modeling industry best practice in Asia as well as compliance with anti-spam laws in the US and the EU. At least two web dialogues will be organized, following up from the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010 to extend opportunities for participation to a wider group of people, as well as to deepen the engagement and interaction between participants of the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010.

A web catalogue of adaptation knowledge sources will be developed and promoted through the website. This work is to be undertaken as early as possible in 2010, in tandem with the development of the website, so that it can be launched together with the website as one of the key products of the platform. This catalogue complements the cataloguing of adaptation projects that will be part of the Google earth layer on the website. An update

to the catalogue will be produced a year later in 2011. If budget permits, Google Earth 'tours' may be produced on specific themes such as mountain or mangrove ecosystems.

Media

A series of workshops with domestic media in four to six Mekong countries will be undertaken in 2010, on a co-funding basis with partners (who are to be determined). Further workshops will follow in 2011 in other partner countries. The workshops will promote awareness and understanding of the need for adaptation. These workshops will be run by SEI and AIT-UNEP RRC.AP in cooperation with a local media training organization for 20 to 25 participants in each country. Curricula for these workshops will build on initial curriculum development by SEI's York centre and will be translated into local languages. It is envisaged that the workshops will run in English with parallel translation. Media stories about adaptation will be generated from the workshop, with the potential to be uploaded or linked to the platform website where possible.

This initiative will rapidly generate a body of material in local languages about adaptation and will greatly increase the reach of knowledge that is being generated and shared through the platform. Funds will need to be raised from partners as well as allocated from other platform components (such as knowledge sharing) in order to ensure an adequate level of resourcing. The current budget only allows for two workshops a year, or four workshops based on a 50 per cent co-funding arrangement with an external partner.

Development partners

Following up from consultation in five countries in 2009, the 2010 activities will focus on building collaboration with agencies involved in poverty reduction to support their work, with further implementation to follow in 2011.

Work will focus on two types of activities:

- **Outreach**, in the form of consultation and roundtable meetings in each country. The aim of the meetings will be to identify or create pilot adaptation projects in each country and to support a process of joint proposal development for funding and scaling up the projects. These meetings will build on initial scoping studies that began to be undertaken through in-country partners in 2009.

- **Community events** based on young people's participation will be undertaken in collaboration with one or more development agencies involved in poverty-reduction work. A community theatre model is proposed, on the theme of 'One Day in My Future'. The concept should be further developed with the chosen partner agencies, on the basis of supporting and strengthening the participation of young people in public discussion of adaptation to climate change as well as raising general public awareness of climate change as a pressing issue for developing countries. Depending on the scale of these events, there is potential for such events to also be co-funded by development partners.

In terms of sequencing, the consultation roundtables will follow the scoping studies done by partner agencies in each country. The community events will follow the roundtables which are expected to set the stage for further collaborative work in both research and community outreach.

Consolidation and closure

The communications legacy of the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will be increased capacity to plan for climate adaptation in the countries, a strong foundation of partnerships within and across the countries, and tangible outputs such as inventories of adaptation resources as well as published articles in English and local languages and a well-populated

website and recognised website. The website could be hosted by a regional institution in the future and this potential will be explored during the course of the project. Legacy considerations for the platform need to be considered at the outset. In 2011 especially this issue will come into sharper focus as arrangements will be made for handover of key aspects of the platform.

At a minimum, arrangements will be made for post-2011

- website hosting
- website management
- mailing list maintenance
- production of email bulletins

This will be done through discussion with potential partners from the beginning of 2011. Arrangements for handover of these communications functions will be made from in the last quarter of that year, to be completed by the end of the calendar year. Potential partners include the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta, and other regional multilateral groupings which could be either government- or civil society-led.

The platform's wider legacy will be seen in the range and extent of partnerships among government agencies and development partners in the target countries in the region for adaptation to climate change, and in the body of research knowledge and media stories generated through the platform.

IMPLEMENTATION ROADMAP

Adaptation Knowledge Platform Roadmap 2009-2011

Outputs	Main Activities	Achievements 2009	Activities 2010-2011	Milestones
Component 1 Regional Knowledge Sharing System Established	Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum-Asian Climate change Adaptation Forum	Character of Forum agreed, stakeholder lists prepared	Asian Climate Change Adaptation Forum held	Autumn 2010 & 2011
	Workshops, Seminars & Training	Training in Bangkok and in Cape Town	Bi-monthly sharing & learning seminars Sharing & Learning Seminars at the national level in the focus countries Regional training for target groups: e.g. local government officials	Start March 2010 Start Autumn 2010
	On-Line Knowledge Sharing Mechanism	Website prepared, inventory of existing knowledge underway	Knowledge sharing portal developed Knowledge products assimilated, developed shared & uploaded to website	Dummy site February 2010 June 2010 Start April 2010
Component 2 New Knowledge Generated	Regional Knowledge Base for Climate Change Adaptation	Contributions to the Google Adaptation Layer prepared Links to weADAPT established	Generic knowledge products on vulnerability & resilience assessment developed Links to research institutions in 13 countries and to regional research networks established	Start June 2010, complete July 2011 Completed December 2010
	Pilot Climate Change Adaptation Measures	Assessment of key knowledge gaps completed	Strategic Studies Implemented 1. Understanding Planning: Bangladesh, Thailand, Viet Nam 2. Perceived & Actual Knowledge Gaps: Cambodia, Nepal 3. Comparing Adaptation & Development: Viet Nam, Bangladesh 4. How 'Autonomous' are Autonomous Responses? Nepal, Thailand, Viet Nam	Start June 2010 Completed March 2011 Completed June 2011 Completed September 2011 Completed October 2011
Component 3 Existing and New Knowledge Applied	Institutionalization of Knowledge Systems	Approach developed and initiated in 5 Pilot Countries: Viet Nam, Thailand, Nepal, Cambodia and Bangladesh	Knowledge sharing mechanisms established in 5 Pilot countries Training/capacity building packages for (i) local government officials; (ii) other target groups (to be defined with stakeholders) Awareness programme for senior policy makers	October 2010 December 2010 March 2011
	Translation of Knowledge to Practice	Scoping Assessments in 5 Pilot Countries	Scoping Assessments initiated in 8 countries: Additional: Bhutan, Sri Lanka, China, the Philippines Remaining: Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Indonesia 'Mainstreaming' Pilots in Viet Nam, Thailand, Cambodia	5 Pilot Countries complete March 2010 4 Additional Countries complete October 2010 4 Remaining Countries complete March 2011 Start June 2010, complete 2011
Effective Communications Established	Communications Strategy Developed & Implemented	Communications Strategy Prepared	Media workshops in Viet Nam, Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia	December 2010
		Platform Launch	Media workshops in 4 additional focal countries (to reflect demand)	October 2011
Platform Management System Established	Secretariat & Modalities for Partner Coordination Established	Secretariat Established & agreement on the roles of the partners reached	Advisory Panel Established	March 2010
		Internal website completed	Partnership Database completed	June 2010

CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSIONS AND LEGACY

The experiences of 2009, the inception year, in developing the Adaptation Knowledge Platform, have provided great insights into the need and context for the development of an effective regional knowledge sharing mechanism. These insights have guided the formulation of the strategy and activities for 2010-2011 that are presented in this report. In defining these, 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.

Concerns over climate change are new; over adaptation even newer, for most countries in Asia. The depth of understanding of these complex issues often leaves much to be desired, as does the level of institutional engagement and coordination. The links between these issues and overall goals for poverty reduction, social and gender equity and environmental sustainability are even less clearly understood. These characteristics of the situation present challenges, but they also define the basic rationale for the Platform's existence. If good understanding and effective policies and institutional capabilities for adaptation existed then the Adaptation Knowledge Platform would not be needed.

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform will not be effective unless there was 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 that have taken place during the inception year demonstrate that this willingness exists: indeed, in all of the

countries visited and at all levels people tell us that the need for better knowledge and greater adaptive capacities is a matter of urgency for them.

The demand is overwhelming; 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 been 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. 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 knowledge generation activities is to focus on strengthening 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.

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, where they have experiences to share, insights to inform and needs to meet for greater understanding and improved capacities. In these areas and in all its work, the Adaptation Knowledge Platform will be

The Adaptation Knowledge Platform could not be effective unless there was a willingness to overcome these challenges amongst the key actors, at all levels.

rooted in the realities of climate change adaptation in Asia and will work to generate solutions, not to deepen the analysis of problems.

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 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, on-going discussions with UNDP in Cambodia and ADB at the regional level. These and other avenues for expanding the Adaptation Knowledge Platform partnership and resource base will be aggressively pursued during the next two years.

This will be essential for the future, and the strategy presented here assumed that the challenges will only begin to be met by the end of 2011. 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 Adaptation Knowledge Platform will continue if it needs to continue, which will depend on whether the key stakeholders in Asia find it useful and worth investing in. If they do not then it should wither and die, but the core partners are confident that this will not be the case and determined to continue to implement the Adaptation Knowledge Platform's activities so as to ensure that this does not happen. The experiences of 2009, outlined above, suggest that a strong foundation has been laid. The strategy for 2010-2011, in chapter 4, will build a solid structure on this foundation that is relevant, effective and innovative in the strengthening of adaptive capacities and knowledge in Asia.



Secretariat

Adaptation Knowledge Platform

AIT-UNEP Regional Resource Centre for Asia and the Pacific
Outreach Building, P.O. Box 4, Klong Luang
Pathumthani 12120, Thailand
Tel: +662 524 5386/5384; Email: info@climateadapt.asia
Website: <http://www.climateadapt.asia>



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