



From Adaptation to Transformation: Initial Experience from ADB

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Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, 1 to 3 October 2014



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Outline

- Our understanding of transformation
- Two cases that may have potential for transformational potential
- Challenges to understanding of transformational adaptation



What We understand as Transformation

- Shift with long-lasting impact
 - An example: switching from cash to debit and credit card
- IPCC Definition
 - Transformational adaptation is adaptation that changes the fundamental attributes of a system in response to climate and its effects
- Triggered by a forcing factor or induced by a recognized need

National Transformation: Tajikistan

- Triggering factor: high level of vulnerability
- Initial \$48 million allocation from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (CIFs): where to start?
 - Starting a conversation with stakeholders
 - Developing knowledge and evidence-base
 - Consultative process for identifying priorities
- Outcome:
 - 18 month planning phase, over \$130 million investments, 5 priorities (Water resources management, land-use management, hydropower, hydrometeorological services and capacity building)
 - 3 MDBs (ADB, EBRD, WB), 10 government agencies, over 1000 stakeholders from NGOs and communities
 - New institutional mechanism for coordination



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One of the projects: The Pyanj River Basin

- \$22 million multi-sector project:
 - 22 subprojects in the Pyanj river basin, from the lowlands of Khatlon to the mountains of GBAO
- Infrastructure resilient to current climate variability and future climate change
 - 1,800 ha of arable land protected from floods
 - 1,450 ha of arable land serviced by irrigation
 - 4,1250 households serviced by water supply
- Provision of knowledge, finance and technology for innovation
 - 1,000 people serviced by microfinance - affordable credits for climate resilient water and farming practices, and economic diversification



Is the Tajikistan Case Transformational?

- Yes in principle

- Shift from ad-hoc interventions to programmatic approach to climate resilience and sustainable development, integrating knowledge, technology and finance
- Supported by capacity building, national adaptation plan, and creation of a National Implementing Entity

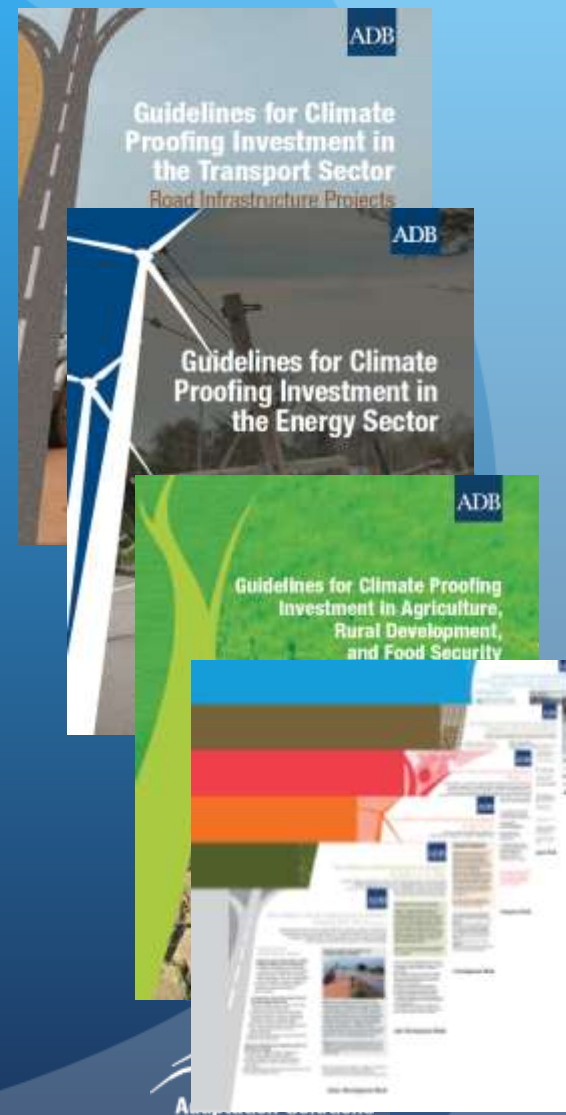


- But will it lead to transformational adaptation?

- Is it big enough?
- Still early stage of implementation

Institutional Transformation: The ADB Case

- Triggering factor
 - it is irresponsible to fund development projects without taking into account climate change risks
- ADB Climate Risk Management
 - All projects are screened for climate change risk
 - Climate risks are assessed and adaptation measures evaluated and incorporated in projects at-risk
 - Technical helpdesk, tools and guidance available to all project teams
 - Financial resources available to support climate risk assessment



Is ADB's Climate Risk Management Framework a transformation?

- Yes in principle
 - Challenges some of the assumptions that underlie business-as-usual approaches
 - Brings innovation in investments that contribute to systemic changes
 - Stimulates alternative options and new behaviors
- But
 - Will it make ADB into an agent for transformational adaptation in Asia-Pacific?



*Rebuilding an embankment in Garbura
(Photo by Ian Williams. December 07, 2009)*

Challenges to Transformation

- When do we really need transformation?
 - What are the tipping points to shift from incremental to transformational adaptation?
- Understanding of the scale
 - How big does an adaptation measure need to be?
 - Should scale focus on financial resources, geographical scale or the number of people?
- Understanding of time
 - How long is long enough for an intervention to qualify as transformational?
- How do we know an intervention is truly transformational?
 - How do we measure transformation?
 - Where does it start and where does it end?

