Transboundary adaptation: Challenges and Recommendations

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• United States Agency for International Development (USAID) support for national and regional adaptation planning

• Challenges to transboundary adaptation

• Recommendations for assessing and strengthening readiness to engage in transboundary adaptation planning

- Technical support for adaptation planning and development of NAPs
  - Capacity building for adaptation financing in Senegal’s fisheries and agriculture sectors
  - Adaptation measure development and financing planning for Peru’s priority sectors
  - Development of public-private partnerships (PPPs) for disaster risk reduction in Indian cities
USAID C5+1 Adaptation (2017-2019)

- Regional dialogue between Central Asia Republics and U.S.
- Technical assistance for national and regional adaptation planning in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Multiple national-level trainings and training-of-trainer events in each country
- 3 regional peer-learning events

C5+1 Adaptation Training workshop. Kazakhstan, May 2019
USAID C5+1 Adaptation (2017-2019)

• C5+1 Adaptation training topics include
  • Assessing climate vulnerabilities
  • Setting adaptation goals
  • Developing and evaluating adaptation measures in priority sectors
  • Identifying and assessing financing sources early in adaptation planning process
  • Assessing readiness to access adaptation financing
  • Applying climate-resilient development approaches and mainstreaming adaptation
Challenges to transboundary adaptation planning

- Transboundary planning is complex and faces many challenges
- Today we discuss four important obstacles
  - Incompatibility of data and information
  - Lack of regular and formal knowledge exchange and coordination among parallel agencies
  - Conflicting adaptation goals
  - Financing transboundary adaptation actions
Data and information

• Incompatibility of data and information
  • Types of data
  • Methodologies for data collection
  • Data formats
  • Metrics
  • Equipment
  • File types
• Concerns about data sharing
  • Development of systems to create access to data
  • Privacy and security
    • Critical infrastructure
  • Proprietary issues and ownership
Reflection

- Consider one or more of the sectors below.
- What is one data and information challenge your country needs to address to effectively engage in transboundary adaptation planning?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data and information needs</th>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Forests</th>
<th>Disaster risk management</th>
<th>Health</th>
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Knowledge exchange and coordination

• Lack of regular and formal knowledge exchange and coordination among parallel agencies
  • Different planning, budgeting, reporting timelines
• Implications for transboundary resource and infrastructure management
  • Water resources management infrastructure
    • Example: coordination among dam operators
  • Transportation infrastructure
    • Example: managing climate impacts on transboundary roads and railways
Reflection

• Consider one or more of the sectors below.
• What is one action your country could take to improve knowledge exchange and coordination for transboundary adaptation planning?

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Knowledge exchange and coordination
Adaptation goals

- Conflicting strategic visions and goals for adaptation
  - Different goals and priorities among ministries and subnational governments must be prioritized in national adaptation planning
- Countries need to determine how to integrate transboundary issues into adaptation goal setting and prioritization processes
# Reflection

- Consider one or more of the sectors below.
- What is one action your country could take to help build consensus among partners on priority adaptation goals?

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Financing adaptation

• Financing adaptation is one of the most important challenges in adaptation planning
• USAID emphasizes early financing planning and engagement of potential funders
  • Supports prioritization of adaptation actions
  • Builds awareness about potential funders and their priorities
  • Increases readiness to act when financing opportunities arise
Financing adaptation

• Most adaptation financing available aimed at national or subnational levels
• Financing transboundary adaptation actions will require new strategies and close coordination with partners
  • Transboundary adaptation measures most effective if all partners have resources to implement measures in coordination
• Early financing planning is critical
Financing adaptation

Reflection
• Consider one or more of the sectors below.
• What is one action your country could take to increase readiness to access financing for transboundary adaptation?

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Assessing readiness to engage in transboundary adaptation planning

- USAID has developed an approach for assessing institutional readiness to access adaptation financing
- Financing building blocks
  - Enabling environment
  - Capacity and information
  - Financing instruments and markets
- Building blocks also a tool for assessing strengths of and limitations to current ability to carry out transboundary adaptation planning
  - Facilitates identification of feasible actions to improve readiness
Assessing readiness to engage in transboundary adaptation planning

- Create an enabling environment that incentivizes and facilitates transboundary adaptation
- Strengthen capacity and information for transboundary adaptation
- Improve access to information
- Create or strengthen financing mechanisms
- Facilitate access to financial instruments
Assessing enabling environment

- How many and which ministries/departments are involved in national and transboundary adaptation planning?
- How easy is it to enter into international agreements, with other governments and/or non-governmental groups?
- To what extent do private sector groups communicate and collaborate on adaptation in the region?
- To what extent does the public sector incentivize private sector investment in adaptation?
- Are there policy or legal barriers to entering into transboundary agreements or contracts?
Assessing capacity and information

- Do public and private sector groups have sufficient information about transboundary climate vulnerabilities?
- Do ministries have staff responsible for seeking out transboundary collaborations and adaptation project opportunities?
- To what extent do ministry staff engage with and share information with parallel ministries in other countries?
- Do public and private financing institutions have sufficient information about risks and benefits of transboundary adaptation investments?
- Do staff in public institutions have skills and experience necessary to develop detailed and complex technical proposals for adaptation financing?
Assessing financing instruments and markets

- How much experience do public and private sector institutions have with managing diverse financing instruments, such as grants, loans, bonds, aggregation models, and others?
- How familiar are local financial institutions and potential private sector partners with approaches to assessing and managing risks associated with transboundary adaptation investments?
- How easy or difficult is it for individuals (for example, farmers) or small businesses to access lines of credit necessary to invest in adaptive technologies?
### Assessing building blocks of transboundary adaptation

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