

## Recommendation Paper on Mainstreaming

### Rationale

The idea of mainstreaming adaptation is to systematically consider climate risk and adaptation in decision-making and planning processes instead of merely implementing 'stand-alone' adaptation measures. This can take place at different levels (international, national, sub-national level; sectorial and project level) and in different areas of decision-making (policy-making, planning, budgeting, implementation and monitoring).

### Key recommendations

1. **Mainstreaming vs. Stand-alone:** Mainstreaming and 'stand-alone' adaptation measures are not mutually exclusive. Even if ambitious adaptation programmes and activities are implemented, the CC vulnerabilities of sector policies and measures should be reduced within a mainstreaming approach.

The focus on co-benefits for the sector policies and on cost-benefit calculations (preventive adaptation measures are cheaper than damages from climate change) can support coherence of the plans and acceptance by sector agencies. The reflection of CC into overarching plans such as the National Development Plan can trigger mainstreaming on a broader basis. Also a 'mainstreaming overkill' (CCA, gender, poverty, environment, sustainability...) could be avoided through highlighting how adaptation helps also to achieve goals of sector policies.

2. **Planning framework for mainstreaming:** CC Adaptation Strategies or Plans are supportive for cross-sectorial adaptation mainstreaming. However, even in countries without an Adaptation Strategy mainstreaming is necessary and possible. Adaptation Strategies / Plans should include M&E and be linked to performance indicators to support accountability for the mainstreaming process.
3. **Leadership commitment:** For all mainstreaming approaches, it seems to be crucial that the top level decision-makers (president, sector heads, etc.) are in favor of or even demand CC mainstreaming. Highest priority should be given to solicit this political support. A focus on co-benefits and the communication of success stories of adaptation can support leaders to set CCA high on the policy agenda.

A challenge may be the long-term continuation of CCA commitment beyond the legislative periods / elections. A legal framework as well as accountability through transparency and public involvement can support sustainability of the CCA focus.

4. **Supportive institutional / organizational framework:** Certain requirements for mainstreaming (e.g. a mandatory Climate Proofing for certain plans, Climate Check for certain projects) and an organizational framework (e.g. climate change commission, the inclusion of adaptation experts in planning bodies) can strongly promote mainstreaming across sectors.

Mainstreaming should be further supported by operationalising it through implementation plans, reflection in job descriptions, nomination of focal points and the like.

5. **Support services for mainstreaming:** Quite often, sectors are reluctant against CC mainstreaming. This is understandable with a view to a potential overload of cross-

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cutting issues and therefore a mainstreaming fatigue. And CC mainstreaming is especially challenging due to the complexity of themes and uncertainty of future CC scenarios. Therefore, support mechanisms such as help desks or special funds to buy-in support can help sectors to overcome these problems.

Funding mechanisms are a crucial element for supporting mainstreaming. This refers to specific Adaptation Trust Funds such as established in first countries as well as the reflection of adaptation in large existing funds. In general, the Ministry of Finance has a crucial role for support mechanisms.

6. **Capacity development:** Experts but also decision-makers in the sectors benefit from trainings on how to mainstream adaptation in their respective sector fields. However, trainings should be linked to other support processes such as help-desks in line with the needs of support on demand (see point 5).

It is most important to link training to the real-work challenges of the trainees. Therefore, the focus should be on practice oriented knowledge and real case reflections. Also awareness building for the broader public is supportive to mainstreaming.

7. **KISS – Keep it straight and simple:** Mainstreaming requirements and tools should not be made to complex / difficult. Quite often, also comparably simple tools such as Climate Proofing can improve mainstreaming significantly.

Adaptation tools and argumentations should not be too scientific but be made 'understandable' for sector practitioners. Further development of streamlined tools is needed.

8. **Involvement and participatory processes:** Mainstreaming usually requires the interaction of different responsible institutions and stakeholders. Participatory processes should ensure that everybody gets involved and has the chance to develop ownership for adaptation processes. Broad stakeholder involvement will enhance also commitment at political level.

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### Background

This paper was developed as part of the project '*Inventory of Methods for Adaptation to Climate Change*' (IMACC) implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

