

Addressing Climate Change Through Integrated Responses: Linking adaptation and mitigation

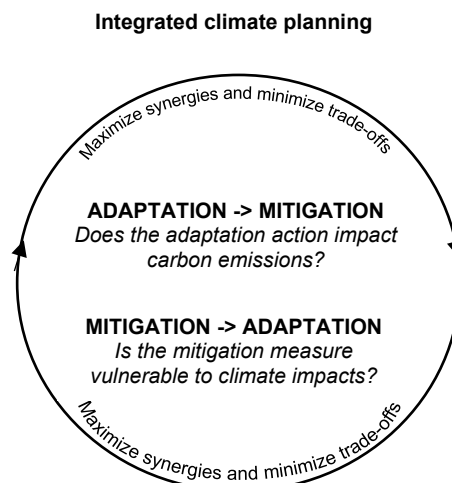
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Session 3: Move to Action

Key Messages

Panel discussion 1: Why and how do we assess the synergies and trade-offs of mitigation and adaptation actions to prioritize the most effective ones?

- Data from the Green Climate Fund and accredited agencies studying adaptation and mitigation benefits in investments have shown that **cross-cutting projects** perform better in **impact potential, efficiency, and effectiveness**.
- Assessing **synergies and trade-offs** requires **understanding the relationship between mitigation and adaptation** and ensuring measures do not undermine efforts to build resilience or mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Both need to be viewed together in the context of sustainable development. This can be achieved by using a **design-thinking process** that allows teams to bring interests and priorities to the table and **jointly identify common objectives and goals** while looking for **solutions** that will provide opportunities for synergies and avoid or manage trade-offs. **Existing analytic tools** (e.g., flood mapping and GHG emissions models) can be applied to determine the GHG and vulnerability/resilience impacts of various climate actions.
- Both the mitigation and adaptation planning cycle offer **entry points to assess if an adaptation project contributes to GHG emissions and vice versa—that is, if a mitigation project is vulnerable to current or projected climate impacts** to maximize adaptation and mitigation benefits.
- Progress of measures toward objectives should ideally be made in a joined dashboard that identifies indicators that measure actions in the context of mitigation and adaptation. Having a dashboard to measure all of these indicators (not just for niche experts but for all) would allow better identification of collaboration opportunities.



Panel discussion 2: How can adaptation considerations be integrated into long-term strategies to jointly build resilience?

- In many countries, **actions are best realized through an integrated approach**, which simultaneously strengthens resilience and puts countries on a pathway that is less carbon intensive.
- **An integrated narrative that goes beyond net-zero** in 2050 is necessary to mobilize stakeholders on integrated approaches. This entails aligning nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) with long-term development pathways and strategies.
- An integrated climate **narrative might be more compelling when supported by an economic perspective**. This can help attract attention from non-environmental stakeholders to enable a political shift by showcasing the potential financial losses and gains. For example, economic modelling allows partners to understand how different sectors will be affected by climate change. It can identify the most effective actions that come with the lowest financial burden and inform the decision-making process.
- **Cross-cutting themes can build bridges for integration**. For instance, gender equality and education do not require separate sections under adaptation and mitigation but should be overarching measures for climate change strategies.
- Focusing on **priority sectors and supporting leadership** can help inspire, motivate, and engage stakeholders while enabling sectoral transformations necessary for building resilience and reducing emissions.
- The **alignment and integration of policy priorities help to streamline financial flows**. Many countries have submitted their NDC updates but are still missing a long-term perspective through a long-term strategy. However, countries need to prioritize actions they want to invest in, and so **there is a need to align national strategies and commitments like NDCs with long-term strategies**.