Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development policy: the case of UK Department for International Development (DFID)

A perspective from a DFID Senior Research Fellow

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Initial idea: two work streams align over time – but no convergence. Challenge: how to balance the needs of building adaptive capacity at the local level and supporting the international negotiations.
What worked well

Awareness raising

1) In-house capacity building / training: generic and specialist
2) Gathering evidence: CCAA and economics of adaptation
3) Tools, e.g. ORCHID tool to screen development projects to ‘climate-proof’ projects, OECD guidance

Agents of change / association

1) Creation of a ‘climate and environment’ professional group
2) Targeted recruitment: 12 in-country climate change advisors (PFA)
3) Climate champions network
4) Senior Research Fellows
What didn’t work / gaps?

Clarity of vision

1) No clear objective for adaptation
2) No clear understanding of adaptation, resilience, climate resilient growth
3) No clarity on how to influence adaptation (spontaneous or planned)?
4) Accidental focus on current climate variability, by default – e.g. CCAA

Agency

1) Technical capacity initially limited to design climate change and development policy
Challenges for DFID

i) *Clarify aim*: What exactly is climate resilient development?

ii) *Adaptive learning*: How to evaluate the success of adaptation and redirect interventions?

iii) *Managing operations*: Does development have to be ‘done differently’? Is it transformation vs incrementalism?

iv) *Value for money*: not to be confused with success

v) *Leadership*: loss of momentum w.o. strong mandate
THANK YOU