Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into an Asian Development Bank-funded Infrastructure Project in Cambodia

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Introduction

- Scholars have focused on climate change vulnerability and looked in some details at measures to reduce it.
- Investment projects funded by multilateral development banks are largely in climate-sensitive sectors and climate-vulnerable locations (Boakye-Agyei, 2011).
- Little research is on the act of mainstreaming climate change adaptation into Asian Development Bank (ADB) investment projects (Sietz, Boschütz, Klein, & Lotsch, 2008).

Aim and Methodology

To explore “how adaptation is mainstreamed and managed in the decision-making process of an ADB-financed road infrastructure project” under the Cambodia Strategic Program for Climate Resilience fund.

Qualitative Case Study (Yin, 2009 & Creswell, 1998) thru 4 phases.

Results

1. How ADB environmental safeguards and climate resilience fund address adaptation?
   - Vague climate change statement—no clear guidelines.
   - Mixed and debatable answer for a separate adaptation tool.
2. How does ADB support the government to address adaptation?
   - Institutional Change (Tang, 2011)—ADB finances the adaptation cost.
   - Power Relation and Technology—adaptation is part of risks management. Adaptation and EIA are separate.
3. What are the institutional challenges?
   - Institutional Change—pay incremental cost (e.g. 15%-30%) Power Relation and Technology—pressure of time and results vs. cost/benefit. Different engineering standards and practice.
4. What are the implications resulting from mainstreaming adaptation into the project decision-making?
   - Institutional Change—value-added to grassroots and all others.
   - Power Relation—donors will not support government that does not follow environmental safeguards. Adaptation too?

Conclusion

Mainstreaming climate change adaptation is not simply a result or outcome, but rather an ongoing process that enables the achievement of climate-resilient development practice.

References

Yin, R. K. (2009). Case study research : design and methods: Los Angeles [u.a.]

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1. Why Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation?

- Donor investment projects are often in climate-sensitive sector and climate-vulnerable location.

- Little research on the act of mainstreaming climate change adaptation into ADB investment projects (Sietz, Boschütz, Klein, & Lotsch, 2008, p. 493).

Source: Vutha Cambodian Post Timelines, 2014
2. Research Aim and Framework

Asian Development Bank

Government Partner/Implementing Agencies

Environmental Assessment Safeguards & Strategic Program for Climate Resilience

Climate Change Adaptation

Appraisal

Identification

Design

E.g. Infrastructure Project

Monitoring

Implementation

Drivers of institutional change

Climate-Resilient Development Practice

Source: Own
3. Results

- Vague climate change statement.

- Institutional Driver — ADB finances the adaptation cost.

- Power Relation & Technology — adaptation is part of risks management. Adaptation and EIA are separate.

Source: Own, 2012
Mainstreaming adaptation is not simply a result or outcome, but rather an ongoing process that enables the achievement of climate resilient-development.
5. Thank You

- Welcome your comments and questions

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