

# Best Practices in Mainstreaming Climate Change Climate Proofing for Development

## The approach

Climate Proofing for Development was developed by GIZ on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The approach is aimed at incorporating climate change issues into development planning. It builds on the principles set out in the OECD Policy Guidance ‘Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Cooperation’, published in 2009:

- (1) identification of the appropriate level,
- (2) identification of entry points, and
- (3) applying a climate lens.

Climate Proofing for Development can be applied at national, sectoral, local and project level, with the aim of making development measures and investments on these levels more efficient and resilient.

The two main elements of Climate Proofing for Development are:

- Systematic analysis of climate-related risks and opportunities that could affect policies, projects or strategies;
- Identification and prioritisation of adaptation measures.

The approach can be applied in the planning phase or when revising plans and priorities. Properly implemented, it makes a given plan or investment more ‘climate-proof’.

In order to integrate climate change adaptation, institutions need to adjust their planning procedures. Climate Proofing for Development facilitates this process.

The approach values the different interests, needs and positions of stakeholders. It is based on the ‘form follows function’ principle and can thus adapt to a specific context – socio-economic and political conditions, available funds and data, prior experience with environmental tools, level of climate change awareness or expertise. Climate Proofing for Development employs a mix of perspectives to enrich the outcome.

Technical know-how, methodological expertise and expertise in process management all play a part. Knowledge of the conditions on the ground as well as target group perspectives are brought together with climate change science and policy-making expertise with a view to implementation.

## The Climate Proofing methodology

Climate Proofing for Development follows a four-step approach, as illustrated in figure 1.

In a first step, information on climate trends is gathered, which serves as a basis for defining ‘exposure units’ in cooperation with stakeholders. These can be groups within society, sectors (e.g. agriculture), geographic areas (e.g. coastal zones or drylands) or types of activities that are especially exposed or vulnerable to climate change.

Second, meetings and workshops are held that focus on identifying biophysical and socioeconomic impacts of climate change on these units, and their relevance from a planning point of view.

Third, experts and stakeholders develop possible measures. This step provides an overview of typical adaptation options for specific sectors and applies tools for setting priorities (e.g. Multi-Criteria Analysis).

The identified adaptation options then need to be translated into concrete measures and integrated into planning documents.

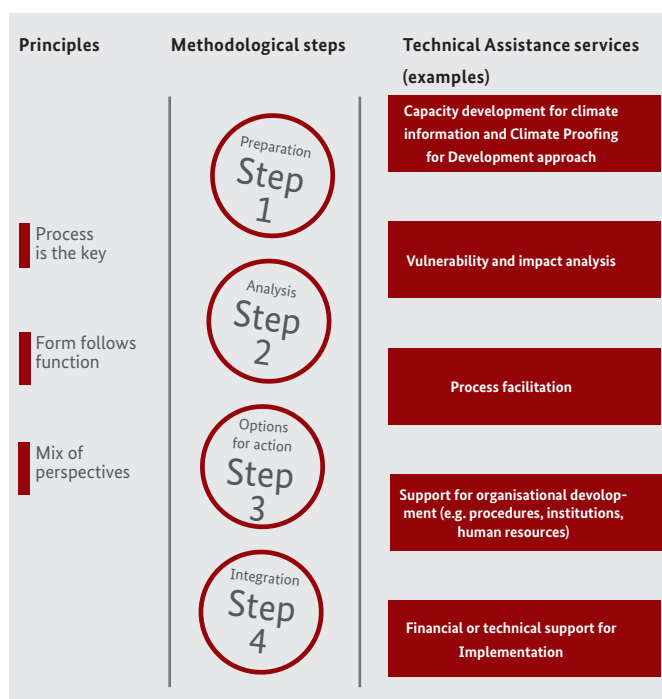


Figure 1: Methodology of Climate Proofing for Development



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## Lessons learned

A relatively simple, well structured mainstreaming approach propagated within a (donor) organisation can support broader application within the organisation's portfolio and therefore promote mainstreaming throughout all sectors.

Integration of Climate Proofing into planning cycles, especially at a local level, requires careful assessment of available capacities and resources, and further adjustment of the approach.

A practice-oriented training course on "Integrating Climate Change Adaptation into Development Planning", developed by GIZ on behalf of BMZ and further elaborated with support from BMU, makes adaptation tangible for practitioners.

## Example: Climate proofed Communal Planning in Viet Nam

### Background

The Mekong Delta, located in southern Viet Nam, will be among the areas first and most severely affected by rising sea levels and increasing number of extreme weather events, including flooding after heavy rains. In order to take into account the impact of climate change in local planning, GIZ (then GTZ) was assigned to initiate a pilot measure in the Tra Vinh Province located in the Mekong Delta. The aim of this measure was to increase adaptive capacity in the province by integrating climate change issues into community development planning.

### Applying the climate lens

In a first step, a small group of development planners and GIZ experts used the 'form follows function' principle and adapted the Climate Proofing for Development approach to southern Vietnamese circumstances. Given that the local planners of the market-oriented socio-economic development plans in the Tra Vinh province (the main user of the approach) have more practical than theoretical know-how regarding climate change, the approach needed to be clear-cut, and it was necessary to explain the application of Climate Proofing for Development in a step-by-step manner. The GIZ team therefore elaborated a locally adapted manual, based on the Climate Proofing for Development logic.

### Results achieved and outlook

The Climate Proofing for Development approach was first applied as a pilot in five communities. As a result, options for action have been selected, such as adapted cultivation technologies. Once such adapted technologies are fully implemented, the farmers will plant more drought-resistant seeds in order to safeguard or even increase the yield. This helps generate higher incomes. Furthermore, a group of Vietnamese development planners in the Tra Vinh Province have been trained to independently climate proof the communal plans regarding climatic trends. Resource persons from governmental departments and a research institute located in the Mekong Delta now have the capacity to conduct climate proofing training sessions. People's awareness of climate change has been raised in Tra Vinh. Climate change issues have started playing a prominent role in the policy dialogue. The Vietnamese partners intend to use Climate Proofing for Development as an integrated component of socio-economic development planning for the whole province.

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