

Chapter 6

National, Sectoral and Project Levels: Introduction

This chapter introduces Part II of this policy guidance which focuses on integrating adaptation within development activities at the national, sectoral and project levels. The chapter defines the scope of the national, sectoral and project levels and outlines the approach that will be taken in subsequent chapters to integrate adaptation at each of these levels.

In line with the trend for development co-operation to be provided through partner countries' own institutions and systems, Part II of this policy guidance takes the perspective of a partner government at various levels to identify critical points of *intervention* to enable the consideration of climate change risks and the integration of adaptation to climate change within development activities at the national, sectoral and project levels. Part III addresses the integration of adaptation at the local level – both in urban and in rural contexts.

The national, sectoral and project levels that are examined here are defined as follows:

- **National level:** It concerns agencies at the national level with a cross-sectoral reach. It includes bodies with policy and planning authority and functions at the scale of an entire country and cutting across sectoral boundaries. Policy decisions taken at this level potentially affect all sectors and all parts of a country. Examples include Finance, Planning and Trade Ministries, Office of the Prime Minister, parliaments, scientific research institutions, etc. as well as co-ordinating bodies across various government agencies, for instance on disaster risk management. Policies and legislation with a national reach include, among others, tax policies, fiscal policies, trade policies and regulations governing private-sector investment, protection and use of natural resources and large-scale spatial planning. Cross-sectoral policy co-ordination mechanisms are “central”-level mechanisms.
- **Sectoral level:** Includes bodies with policy and planning authority and functions within a given sector at the level of an entire nation (or, in a decentralised system, within a given sector at the level of an entire state or province). Policy decisions taken at this level directly affect activities within this sector, and potentially other sectors indirectly. Examples include Transport, Agriculture, Energy, Public Works, Health and Education Ministries. Policies with a sector-wide reach include, for example, building and design codes for infrastructure, regulations covering prices of crops and use of various agricultural technologies, and school curricula.
- **Project level:** Project-level authorities are those charged with the execution of a particular activity or set of activities, whose basic objectives and parameters (as well as budget allocations) have already been set at the level above (typically a sectoral programme). Project-level authorities oversee the detailed parameters of a project, within the boundaries set by sectoral policies and guidelines. They may be under the supervision of deconcentrated or decentralised sectoral authorities, or under the responsibility of municipal authorities.

This part of the policy guidance is structured around the three levels mentioned above. For two of these levels, the governance structure and steps within the policy cycle are described and a diagram illustrating these is provided. Each step corresponds to a generic function ranging from policy making to resource allocation and implementation of projects or activities on the ground. While different institutions may be organised in different ways, these steps and functions are generic enough to cover a wide range of possible arrangements. The objective is to identify particular points along the cycle where consideration of climate change adaptation could be incorporated.

Interventions will occur at different stages of the policy cycle and will generally take a very different form at different points in the cycle, since they apply to very different

processes, and at different authority/jurisdiction levels. Enhancing the climate resilience of a long-term policy (sometimes also referred to as “climate proofing”) will be very different from enhancing the climate resilience of a set of discrete project proposals for which many key parameters (*e.g.* geographical location, scale, technology choice, etc.) are known. Each intervention will therefore be detailed to identify and elaborate what will be needed to integrate adaptation to climate change at each stage.

The following chapters correspond to the national, sectoral and project levels. Each chapter provides, first, an introduction to the level and its relevance to climate change adaptation; secondly, the governance architecture of the level is described and the interventions identified, with, where possible, a summary diagram giving an overview of the governance structure and interventions; thirdly, the role of donors in this integration process is discussed (for the project level the whole section is equally relevant to both partner countries and donors); and finally, a conclusion discusses some existing moves towards integration of adaptation to climate change within policies and/or plans and potential challenges to this integration.