



Climate & Development  
Knowledge Network

# Exploring Climate Compatible Development: concepts, use, evidence

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# What is Climate Compatible Development?

- **Climate Compatible Development (CCD) is development that “minimises the harm caused by climate impacts, while maximising the many human development opportunities presented by a low emissions, more resilient, future”**

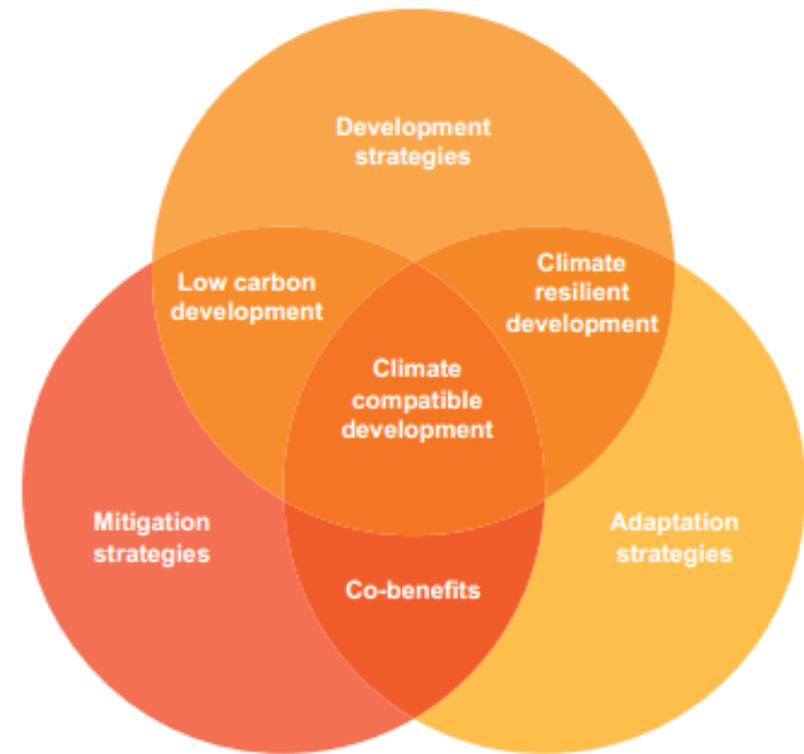
(Mitchell and Maxwell 2010)

- **Climate change, and responses to it, are changing patterns of innovation, trade, production, population distribution and risk in complex ways**
- **This creates a complex development landscape for policy makers**



# What is Climate Compatible Development?

- **Ultimate aim of achieving sustained economic growth and social development in the face of multiple threats and uncertainties of CC, while also cutting emissions or keeping them low**
  
- **Working towards ‘Triple-Wins’**



# What does CCD offer?

- **A conceptual framing. An umbrella concept**
  - Promotes integration across traditional silos and (often) competing agendas
  - A framework that is practical and resonates with policy makers (a simplification of a complex system)
- **An inclusive approach that recognises the complex interplay between climate and development**
  - Recognition that adaptation actions will have implications for mitigation and development; mitigation actions for adaptation and development, etc.
  - Promotes consideration of potential opportunities, barriers and trade-offs of integration



# What does CCD offer?

- **The promotion of cross-sectoral, multi-scalar linkages and solutions**
  - Recognition that local actions often influenced by decisions and policies from various sectors taken at different levels of governance
- **Opportunities to frame CCD in accordance with desired political narratives**
  - A number of developing countries are keen to recognise and show willingness to engage on mitigation, without compromising a focus on development and adaptation
  - Reflection that CCD may be more useful in reflecting equity and development dimensions than other concepts (such as 'Green Growth')

# What CCD doesn't offer

- **Not a paradigm shift in conceptual thinking; it encapsulates and builds on lessons learned from past concepts and approaches**

- Similarities and overlaps with related terms (resilience, sus. development etc.)
- Building on concepts and principles that the development community is familiar with (but rarely put into practice)

- **Not a quick recipe for programming and implementation**

- Conceptualisations of CCD outline key questions and considerations needed to achieve it, not (yet) the solutions on the ground

- **Not a 'one stop shop' for the achieving goals of CCD**

- Solutions won't be the same for all
- Practicalities of how CCD is applied are necessarily context specific

# Is there evidence of CCD in practice?

- **Part of CDKN's research is to challenge, examine and identify examples of CCD in practice**
  - Results of CDKN's research are ongoing (currently in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year)
  - A clearer picture is likely to emerge in the next few years (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>) as results are evaluated and documented
- **Insights starting to emerge of the use, and practical application of CCD in other fields:**
  - REDD+ (Graham 2011; Peskett 2010; Locatelli et al 2011)
  - Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (Cameron 2011)
  - Infrastructure and planning (Ryan-Collins et al 2011)



# Is there evidence in support of CCD?

Searching for examples of CCD (CDKN Inside Stories):

## *CCD at the Project Level:*

- Small Power Projects (SPP) renewable energy in Tanzania
- Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration in Niger

## *CCD at the District level*

- Yucatan Peninsula Accord in Mexico

## *CCD at the National level*

- Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) in Bangladesh
- The Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission in India
- National REDDiness strategy in Tanzania

# CCD at the national Level: Rwanda's National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development

- **Strategy seeks to achieve prosperity, while recognising mitigation and adaptation needs**
  - Feed climate change and low carbon strategy considerations into the national economic and development plans of Rwanda.
  - Provide basis for a revised Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS)
  - Explore opportunities and challenges presented by climate change in governments overall strategy document, Vision 2020.
- **Shift from policy focus purely on adaptation, to integrating resilience and low carbon development agendas (moving past NAPAs)**



Republic of Rwanda

Green Growth and Climate Resilience  
National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon  
Development

Kigali  
October 2011



# CCD at the sub-national level: Yucatan Peninsula Accord

- Signed in December 2010 between Mexican states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan
  - Regional Climate Fund
  - REDD+ initiative
  - Adaptation Strategy
- Joint action in ensuring coordination between sub-national and national activities
  - Integrated approach allowed greater access to national and international funding
  - Required significant investment in technical capacity and informing of policy makers and civil servants (early)



#### Key messages

- The Yucatan Peninsula Accord is the first regional climate accord at the sub-national level in Mexico.
- It shows the need for sub-national governments to pool their resources to attract funding and support from national and international sources.
- Regional cooperation between sub-national governments can also generate valuable early lessons that can support policy-making and implementation efforts at the national level.
- Accords between sub-national governments are easier to negotiate and conclude when they are based on a shared assessment of common vulnerabilities and opportunities, and benefit from high-level political support.
- Strengthening the legal capacity and expertise of relevant officials can assist in the effective and expeditious negotiation of accords between sub-national governments.

#### Climate compatible development at the regional level in Mexico: The Yucatan Peninsula Accord

In December 2010, the Mexican states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan signed the Yucatan Peninsula Accord, Mexico's first climate accord at the sub-national level. The Accord addresses economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities to climate change in a coastal region where rural communities are highly susceptible to these effects. It involves three main lines of action: i) a regional adaptation strategy, ii) a REDD+ programme and iii) a climate fund. Mexico's experience with the Yucatan Peninsula Accord demonstrates that joint action at the sub-national level can serve as a catalyst for climate compatible development by generating international support, addressing common threats and opportunities, and ensuring complementarity between sub-national and national climate responses.

The Yucatan Peninsula is home to one of the largest indigenous populations in Mexico and comprises the south-eastern states of Campeche, Quintana Roo and Yucatan. Despite the presence of one of the most important rainforests in Central America – the natural corridor of Sian Kaan-Calakmul – the Yucatan Peninsula is mainly composed of limestone, rendering its soil unsuitable for agriculture. Instead, the Peninsula's economy relies on coast-dependent sectors such as tourism in Quintana Roo, and the development of oil and gas reservoirs in the waters of Campeche.

gravely affect infrastructure, tourism and the safety of local coastal communities. Conversely, the conservation of the rainforest in Sian Kaan-Calakmul creates an opportunity to contribute to the livelihood of local and indigenous communities through REDD+ programmes.

#### Overview of the Yucatan Peninsula Accord

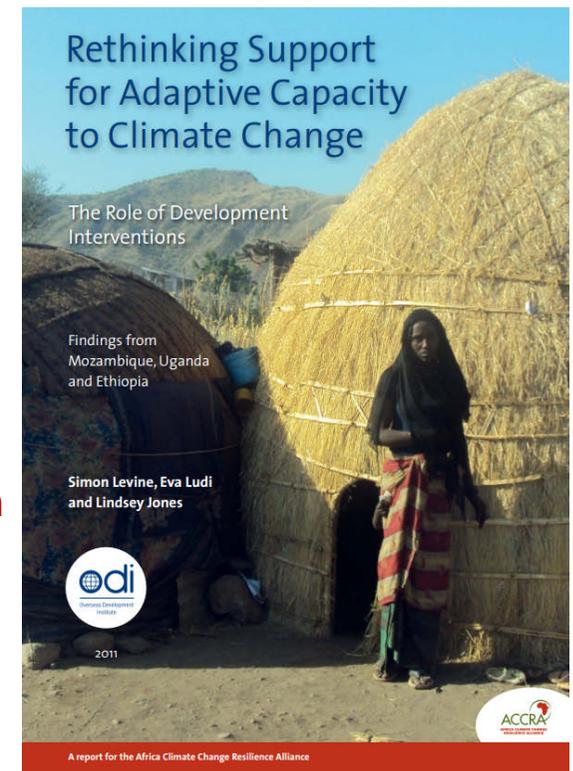
The purpose of the Accord is to reduce vulnerabilities of local and indigenous populations in the region through a joint low-carbon socioeconomic development scheme. The states have pledged to create a climate fund for the Peninsula, and to develop a regional adaptation strategy and a REDD+ programme in the Sian Kaan-Calakmul.

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# CCD at the project level: Africa Climate Change Resilience Alliance

- Assessing the impact of development interventions on adaptive capacity across Africa (Local Adaptive Capacity framework)
- Programmatic operations typically short sighted and ill-prepared for future change
- Lack of integration across adaptation and development
  - Outlook of development initiatives rarely considers climate change
  - Outlook within adaptation initiatives often limited to climate change
  - Recommendations for emphasis on flexible forward-looking decision making that recognises uncertain future and complex interactions between climate and development

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# What does the concept of CCD still have to account for?

## ○ **Conceptual clarity**

- What does CCD look like in practice?
- Are CCD strategies really different from 'sustainable development' and other related terms. Do they exist in isolation either conceptually or in practice?

## ○ **Most examples of documented CCD are from *existing* initiatives and activities (or identifying the need for it)**

- Challenge over next few years will be to see whether the concept of CCD is useful in instigating a fresh perspective, particularly at the project level

## ○ **'Triple wins' are rare, and in many cases may not be the most effective solution**

- What happens when there are clear trade-offs (i.e. growth/development)?
- How to prioritised without jeopardising other elements of CCD?

# Routes Forward:

## Debate and clarification:

- Defining CCD in practice, critique of its value-added (is CCD useful/needed? For whom/where/why?)
- Preventing confusion in terminology and interpretation

## Greater evidence:

- Documenting case studies, sharing experiences
- Understanding how CCD is best applied in practice

## Demonstrating flexibility:

- CCD is not a static concept. Requires re-iteration and reflection
- CDKN has clear opportunity to play to bring together, and respond to the needs of, both academics and policy makers



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