

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO POVERTY-FOCUSED DEVELOPMENT PLANNING: PATHWAYS TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE...

1. Abstract

This project will explore:

- How Climate Change (CC) is impacting on the environment, poverty eradication efforts and sustainable development in Developing Countries?
- How developing countries are responding to such impacts through development planning?
- Innovative ways to address CC impacts especially on the poor particularly through adaptation and mitigation responses in development planning

2. Introduction

- CC is a serious risk to poverty reduction and threatens to undo decades of development efforts.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development notes that, the adverse effects of CC are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating leaving developing countries more vulnerable.
- While CC is a global phenomenon, its negative impacts are more severely felt by poor people and poor countries. They are more vulnerable because of their high dependence on natural resources, and their limited capacity to cope with climate variability and extremes.
- The above issues raise the following questions:
 - What is the relationship between CC and poverty?
 - How do CC and the increasing carbonised economies challenge the achievement of the MDGs
 - Do developing countries have National Adaptation and Mitigation Programmes of Action (NAMPAs)?
 - Do developing countries have adequate provisions for CC adaptation and mitigation in their national poverty eradication strategies?
 - When is adaptation or mitigation desirable in delivering sustainable development

3. Methods

- A case study of 5 developing countries is being used. The project will compare development planning in these 5 countries and draw lessons from experience combined with critical thinking and analysis for delivering sustainable development.
- Ministries and institutions responsible for national and regional/local level planning will be interviewed for empirical data to validate this study findings.
- There is also a conceptualization of poverty targeting and, CC mitigation and adaptation in developing countries to provide a framework for the analysis.
- Descriptive and explanatory analysis will be made based on objective criteria of 15 predefined variables

4. Results

It is expected that this project upon completion, will :

- Indicate the history of development planning as well as the science of CC in developing countries
- Indicate the levels of vulnerability to CC of the 5 identified developing countries
- Explain the extent to which CC hinders the attainment of the MDGs;
- Identify and recommend best practices in CC adaptation and mitigation for delivering effective and sustainable development in developing countries

5. Discussions

- The results of this project will provide a framework for public policy making and change management in environmental governance in the following ways:
 - It will suggest new ways to improve the capacity of and collaboration between government institutions, private sector entities and civil society groups to reform CC governance that support people to better cope with increasing carbonised economies.
 - It will recommend improvements that are particularly fundamental to achieve the Millennium Development Goals intended to serve as stop - gap measure towards reversing the trend of poverty and underdevelopment by 2015 and sustaining progress beyond.
 - The study will also contribute to the ongoing discourse on CC governance, the green economy and poverty targeting.