

Reports from the PPCR Clinics

I. Report from The World Bank Climate Change Portal

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*“The web portal is very useful because it provides easy access to data.
It is an opportunity to standardize data.”*

Background

A sound risk assessment process is fundamental to ensure that climate change is appropriately taken into account (mainstreamed) into development planning and decision-making processes. However, delivering information to country teams and subsequently to decision makers is often a bottleneck in turning research results into effective adaptation programs.

A key requirement for the synthesis expected from PPCR country teams is that the documents are produced using available data and existing materials. This work needs both sound scientific knowledge and the concerns of the relevant population(s). In particular, useful climate information should define the elements of climate change that are likely to impact the study sites, measure their trends and likelihood in the future and subsequently identify risks that may be inducted or exacerbated by climate change. A proper climate synthesis allows teams to better support the decision-making process when planning the best strategies and actions for adaptation and sustainable development.

The World Bank’s **Climate Change Data Portal** is an online tool that provides access to comprehensive global and country data information related to climate change and development. It supports the integration of climate change adaptation into development activities. The Portal provides a common platform to access, synthesize and analyze information for those working on climate change. Key components of the portal include:

- Foundation datasets, including information on historical trends and projected changes in climate variables, frequency and occurrence of disasters, socioeconomic indicators, and outputs from impact models (crop yields, runoff).
- A knowledge base to access the experiences, projects and document repositories of the World Bank, including projects, research.
- Links to relevant data, tools and knowledge resources from the wider adaptation community.
- Access to the WB Screening Tool *ADAPT* – which guides users through the process of screening projects for potential climate risks.

Session Objectives

Working in close dialogue with the representatives, the purpose of the web portals session was two-fold:

- 1)To guide representatives in conducting a risk screening exercise on their priority areas-*This step will combine guidance and hands-on experience on the use, access and interpretation of baseline data for measuring pre and post implementation challenges relevant to mainstreaming efforts.*
- 2)To provide a set of concrete examples on how this information can guide project decisions and highlight opportunities for learning and knowledge exchange, particularly within the PPCR context.

Learning outcomes

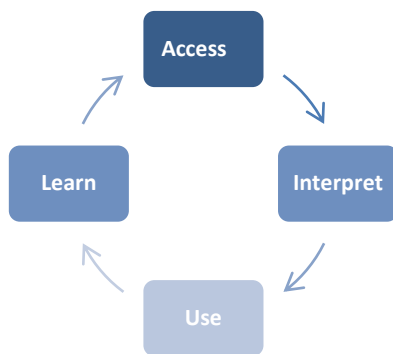
In the session, participants learned how to use the Climate Change Portal to support teams in the assessment and analysis of climate change risks. Specifically, the session focused on three learning outcomes:

- *Awareness of available information and guidance*
- *Discussion and understanding information needs*
- *Building a solid decision base*

Session Overview

The session coupled participatory dialogue with the project representatives and hands-on experience in working with the available tools, all linked through the World Bank Climate Change Portal.

The session began with a 10 minute presentation that explained how the World Bank Climate Change Portal provided solutions to the information needs and critical knowledge gaps in terms of climate and impacts information summarized from issues outlined by country teams during the first day of the PPCR meetings. Broadly, these needs included the ability to access, interpret, use and learn about climate information:



The facilitators then presented a set of concrete examples on how the portal can guide project decision in response to these needs and highlighted opportunities for improving the current information base to support PPCR country needs, paying particular attention to the need for learning and knowledge exchange.

Finally, the participants were asked to engage in a short feedback activity related to the use, applicability, operationalization, and flexibility of the Climate Change Data Portal. This feedback was guided through

the use of an H Diagram, which offered participants the ability to comment and explain their experience during the clinic with respect to four general criteria:

- **Usefulness:** Do you find information in the tool helpful for your work?
- **Applicability:** Can you use the tool to enhance your work?
- **Operationalization:** Can the tool help you integrate adaptation to climate change into development planning?
- **Flexibility:** Would you be interested in providing inputs to improve/complement the tool at your country level?

Summary of Responses and Session Feedback

The results of the H diagram exercise showed strong support for the use of the portal, including its direct applicability with PPCR Phase I activities. There was strong support to continue dialogue and engagement with the Portal team and the countries. Participants suggested having a longer session, which would allow them more discussion and hands-on experience with the portal functions and tools. One suggested way for moving forward on collaboration noted including a Climate Change Portal session as part of the training and capacity building component of the PPCR.

In addition to the H diagram, participants were asked for comments and suggestions for improving the portal. Results from these are noted below.

➤ *What would you like to see added/changed/improved?*

- Representatives from Tajikistan noted the need to support multiple languages, so that the portal could be made more accessible to their team.
- Bandwidth limitations were noted and a suggestion was made to provide portal information in CD form to participants (in particular those from Samoa and Tajikistan)
- Many participants indicated a desire to have additional information on the portal, including:
 - Indicators of Poverty - Jamaica
 - Land use/land cover, in particular spatial changes at ecosystem level (land degradation, deforestation, erosion) – Tajikistan
 - Downscaled model output – Samoa, Bolivia, Jamaica
 - Access and download of GCM data per country to understand local variability – Bolivia, Jamaica
- Participant noted the need to simplify data display and nomenclature.

2. Report of the private sector clinic at the PPCR country meetings (Tues 27 Oct)

Session overview

The clinic presenters raised a number of initial key issues as a framework for the discussions. The relevance of the private sector to adaptation was discussed. There are disparate views on the role of the private sector; in some discussions the private sector is seen as a marginal player and that adaptation is principally the responsibility of governments, and in other discussions the private sector is seen as a potential source of high volumes of finance for adaptation. The presenters suggested that the reality is probably somewhere between these two extremes. It was pointed out that the 'private sector' encompasses an extremely wide range of types of businesses, from small farmers to multinational corporations, but that these are all potentially affected by climate change.

The clinic went on to discuss the range of climate-related impacts and risks that could affect businesses, ranging from direct risks (e.g. impacts on yields/revenues, impacts on creditworthiness) to indirect risks (e.g. changes in market behaviour). It was highlighted that the relationship between the public and private sectors is critical, and that the public sector has a critical role to play in creating the right business environment to incentivise the private sector to take climate resilience seriously. The private sector also has a potentially important role to play in financing climate resilience. Projected investment needs are huge and state budgets cannot possibly meet them all, so private finance could play a very important role in complementing public investments. The private sector has numerous other potential roles to play in supporting climate resilience, from introducing new technology and techniques to diversifying the range of climate-resilience responses and helping economies to respond more flexibly to changing climatic conditions.

Issues raised by clinic participants

Risks

The clinic groups highlighted a number of points in relation to the risks associated with the role of the private sector in climate resilience. Climate data, including historical climate data, may not be easily available in a form that enables businesses to understand and manage climate risks. It was noted that increased climate risk could deter private investment. An additional climate-related risk (in addition to those mentioned in the presentation) could be security risks - a good example of this was the looting of businesses that followed Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Several of the groups discussed how diversification of business activities (e.g. farmers diversifying out of monocultures) could help to manage risks and boost climate resilience.

Public-private cooperation

All of the clinic groups paid close attention to the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors in promoting climate resilience. Governments have a potentially important role to play in incentivising the private sector to invest in adaptation, and in building win-win partnerships between the public and private sectors. Priority areas for action could include the use of fiscal incentives to stimulate private sector action. Providing reliable and useful climate data was seen as another area in which the public sector could provide a 'public good' that would enable businesses to manage climate risks and make sound business decisions that promote their climate resilience. Research and development is another area in which the public sector can provide a long-term public good that the private sector is likely to be unwilling or unable to do on its own. The development of drought-resistant

or other climate-resistant crop varieties was cited as an example. However, there could be a risk that long-term R&D could fail to keep up with changing climate conditions and that the innovations produced (e.g. new crop varieties) could be poorly suited to evolving climatic conditions, thus resulting in maladaptation. Insurance and microfinance were also identified as areas in which the public sector has a key role in creating a suitable enabling environment for pro-resilience action by the private sector. In the context of the PPCR, it was noted that it may be important to manage competition for PPCR resources between the public and private sectors

Country context

It was also noted that the political context of respective countries may play a part in how the role of the private sector is perceived.