

Integrating Climate and Development in Thailand

Country/region:	Thailand
Project name:	Integrating Climate and Development
Partners:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (Thailand)
Funding agency:	Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) through SEI Institutional Programme Support
Duration:	March 2008–December 2009

Background

its 2007 Bali Action Plan, sets out an ambitious negotiation agenda to address climate change. Developing countries envisage such policy action to take place in the context of sustainable development and be supported by developed country actions on finance and technology that can be measured, monitored and verified. This follows from the recognition that developing countries' emissions are steadily growing from their current level of approximately half of global emissions. The goal of maintaining development momentum while reducing emissions by 80 to 90 per cent over the next 40 years cannot be achieved without a significant transformation of the relationship between development and emissions.

There is international consensus that sustainable development and economic growth are among the highest priorities in recently developed and developing countries. The consensus over the development aspirations of developing countries including the UNFCCC, the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, and most recently, the Bali Action Plan.

However, there is little concrete analysis to guide countries on how to integrate climate policies into their development plans. The proposed programme will attempt to fill this gap by combining international comparative synthesis with selected national studies.

Objectives

The project includes national and regional analysis to help countries to integrate climate and development action. The project identifies climate strategies and policies that are consistent with sustainable development. By providing information and analysis on potential areas of disagreement between countries and regions, the project team will help to reduce the differences between them. The project forms part of a global initiative that includes Bangladesh, Chile, Kenya, Pakistan, Senegal and Vietnam.





Photo: Roengchai Kongmuang

National study and regional synthesis study

Perhaps the most significant gap in policy analysis is in the area of integrated national climate and development policies. Until such policies are developed effectively at national and regional levels, so that they demonstrably safeguard development goals while advancing climate action, it will be difficult to judge the value of particular global instruments or even the potential for international compromise and action. This is a major argument for the urgent task of preparing detailed national and regional studies that adopt an integrated approach to climate and development in concrete national and regional contexts. Although much media attention is focused on the so-called major emitters, equally important are the next group of countries (emerging Asia, the N-11, sub-Saharan Africa). The national studies and the regional synthesis study will be prepared by national expert teams and a regional team, supported as needed from the international expert group convened under this initiative.

Each national study and its process of development will be overseen by a high-level multi-stakeholder steering committee chaired by the minister in charge of planning, environment, or climate change. The steering committee will comprise 12 to 20 members with roughly equal representation from government (e.g. ministries of planning, energy, transportation, forests, agriculture, and health), parliament, civil society, business

and academia. The committee will meet three to four times over the course of the year to provide overall direction, set operational guidelines, and review background papers or draft chapters and studies.

National processes

National consultation workshops in each country will be determined the specific national processes. An expert group in each country, housed in an independent technical institution, will coordinate and take the lead in the preparation of the national study. The expert group will seek to obtain inputs from a wide range of expertise in the country on all technical matters or matters where differences of opinion are likely to be high. It is envisaged that the project will use the IPCC format (Convening Lead Authors, Lead Authors, Contributing Authors, and Review Editors).

Global process and structure

The global programme will be overseen by a high-level global steering committee composed of up to 12 prominent individuals with experience in climate and development issues, supported by an international expert group. The international expert group will respond to specific requests for input, develop briefing materials and provide advice and material on:

- climate and development issues
- ethics and burden sharing
- financing
- policy options
- climate and development goals
- integrated climate and development models
- economic analysis
- climate change adaptation and sustainable technology options
- institutions and governance

Outcome

The final outcome will be a set of national studies and regional synthesis studies that set out the strategic options for the countries and the region.

Project staff

John Soussan (Project Leader), Kai Kim Chiang, Muanpong Juntopas, Chayanis Krittasudthacheewa, Wenman Liu and Lisa Schipper.

Published by:
Stockholm Environment Institute, Asia
15th Floor, Witthyakit Building
Chulalongkorn Soi 64, Phyathai Road,
Bangkok 10330, Thailand
+(66) 2 251 4415-8

www.sei.se

2008

Author: Kai Kim Chiang,
kaikim.chiang@sei.se
Further information:
Robert Watt
robert.watt@sei.se
+46 709 675808