Adaptación en Colombia: Discusión sobre dirección y roles Adaptation journey: Viewpoints, milestones and guidebooks?

Thomas E. Downing Global Climate Adaptation Partnership



We will be building the adaptation landscape for years to come...



Use cases

Decision makers come in many sizes, shapes and flavors. All need:

- Data suitable to their situation
- Advice on how data informs their choices
- Methods for weighing up options
- Support in the future too!

Roundtable steps:

- 1. Choose one of the cases
- 2. Who is the actor, making what decision, about what climate risk
- 3. Tell the story of the case, make it realistic.
- 4. How common is this case in Colombia?
- 5. Describe the decision in more detail—awareness, plan, investment, plan? How is the decision made?
- 6. What drives the decision? How urgent is the action?
- 7. Who would be involved in the supporting the lead actor in making the decision?
- 8. What would be a successful outcome? A failure?
- 9. How could we support to the decision?

Actor maps

Actors are linked together in many ways. Draw a simple map—those actors that are closely tied to the decision would be closer. What connects the actors to the decision: Data? General guidance? Specific analysis? Staff? Finance?



An example

- 1. Coastal management in St Lucia with fishing communities
- 2. Lucien coordinates a local organization that represents the fishing community. He needs to define the work plan for a proposal to a regional climate adaptation fund.
- 3. Lucien comes from a fishing family, although he attended university and several workshops on climate change. The fishing community is poor and doesn't own the land they live on—they know they are vulnerable.
- 4. There are many such communities trying to find a future that is less vulnerable in many ways.
- 5. Lucien needs to get the community to agree on the work plan. The funding in the project might be \$100,000, a considerable amount. A consensus has to be achieved.
- 6. The proposal is due in one month's time! The coordinator is in the capital—this is only one component.
- Lucien has asked several research institutes in the region to get involved. They have sent data but can't provide personal support. The national climate coordinator is available for workshops with the community.
- 8. Lucien hopes for a work plan that builds capacity for a very different future for his community. His vision is for safe homes and fishing grounds protected from large scale commercial fishing. He is well aware of the prospects for failure—a proposal that 'raises awareness' in a national context but doesn't 'walk the talk'.
- 9. A very good question...

Roundtable steps:

- 1. Choose one of the cases
- 2. Who is the actor?
- 3. Tell the story of the case, make it realistic.
- 4. How common is this case?
- 5. Describe the decision in more detail.?
- 6. What drives the decision? How urgent is the action?
- 7. Who would be involved in the supporting the lead actor in making the decision?
- 8. What would be a successful outcome? A failure?
- 9. How could we support to the decision?

To restore sand-dunes in a low density coastal area within a medium size city that is growing very fast

- Actor: Head of environmental planning for the city
- Bellavista is a coastal city, located in sand bars, mangrove forests and there are as well some coral reefs and sea grasses. Bellavista is a medium size city with two main economic activities: tourism and a port.
- Development is occurring very fast, along the shoreline. Most of the shoreline is undergoing coastal erosion.
- One of the resident areas, not overpopulated (medium-high income), is facing the sea and is undergoing erosion and constantly floods during storm surges.
- The decision makers need to think about rebuilding the dunes that existed before the neighbourhood was constructed aiming to protect the shoreline and ensure the constant provision of sediments.

National and regional government is deciding whether to reengineer a road that joins two important cities and floods regularly.

- Actor: National transport planner
- There are major communication issues during the wet season between these two cities. As a consequence many businesses are losing market opportunities in both cities and communications with other major cities. Although there are other roads, the delay using those roads can be of more than 2 hours and such secondary roads are affected by landslides and floods as well.
- The road is not managed by the public authorities but is a concession; a private company manages the road. This road generates high revenue because of the amount of cars, trucks, and buses that use it. The concession also generates a lot of money to the country.
- The company that built the road comply with all the requirements asked by the government.

Procedure to screening development plans for compliance with adaptation

- Actor: Regional technical expert
- A regional planning entity, with jurisdiction over mountains, forests, cities, shorelines a protected area and a main river delta, has been asked to screen development plans to compliance with adaptation.
- Which plans would be a priority for screening?
- What procedures would be effective? Practical?

How to prepare an application to national adaptation funds or other finance for climate risk management

- Actor: local association leader
- An association of small farmers in the Andean region has realised that they need to ensure water availability for the future. During the past 5 years droughts have affected their crops and water is not reaching the lower areas of their microbasin because in the upper area users are using too much.
- They have decided that improving their aqueduct (constructed by them 10 years ago) and making water use more efficient at the household level will be good strategies to cope with future climate variability.

Los pasos del ejercicio

- 1. Los participantes se reúnen alrededor de las mesas y escogen uno de los casos explicados
- 2. Identificar el caso: ¿Quién es el actor que toma la decisión sobre el riesgo climático?
- 3. Describir ampliamente el caso
- 4. ¿Qué tan común podría ser este caso en Colombia?
 ¿Cuantos tomadores de decisión como Julio hay? O
 ¿algunos que enfrenten decisiones similares?
- 5. Describa la decisión con más detalle. Típicamente podría ser una inversión (ej. Construir una carretera o comprar una propiedad) o un plan (actualizar los mapas del plan de inundaciones).
- 6. ¿Qué jalona esta decisión? ¿Una fecha límite de cumplimiento? ¿Es una acción urgente? ¿Quién esta jalonando la decisión el público, el gobierno nacional, el sector privado?
- ¿Quién más podría estar involucrado apoyando al actor que lidera, en la toma de decisiones?
- 8. ¿Cómo podríamos nosotros (como asesores del Gobierno y expertos) proporcionar apoyo en la decisión?

Reflection

What comes through the roundtables?

Synthesis of discussion

- Need to act together
- What kinds of decisions are urgent? Why?
- What is the range of options available? How do they fit into the decision processes?
- What is the role of economics? Costs and benefits of options?

There are lots of plans!

What have we learned?

I was lead author for vulnerability on the first adaptation protocol, UNDPs Adaptation Policy Framework, 2003. There are probably over 100 such documents now.

The Adaptation Policy Framework

Climate prospects

The climate is changing! The challenge is to be prepared for a wide range of futures, to deal with the uncertainty of the future, today.



Observed temperatures

since 1960 have increased, which is closely modelled by GCMs with GHG emissions included. A further increase from 2000 of at least 1° C and possibly 2.5° C is projected. Historical precipitation is quite variable, and doesn't show a trend. And climate model simulations with and without GHG emissions are much the same. That variability is expected to continue through 2050 there is no trend in the green envelope.

Not all decisions are the same



Agenda setting

We have a large toolbox! Several topics were posed in the poll last week...see below.

What would be helpful for you?



Options for Wednesday

- Tom & Fernanda: a synthesis of our viewpoints and 'milestones' for adaptation in Colombia
- Example of screening development projects
- Potential initiatives?
- Typology of strategies and options prioritization
- Setting institutional targets—approaches and initial working example (PACT+)

What is your view...of the landscape of adaptation?



Photos courtesy of IDEAM

Understanding the context

- No one size fits all...people, places and business models
- Start with:
 - Who acts? In what decision space?
 - What are the priority exposures? How are they changing?

Act within real decision spaces

- On the ground reality is where we start in finding solutions, yet climate change is a 'wicked' problem with many stakeholders and multiple viewpoints (a.k.a. Theories of Change)
- Translate the adaptation community of practice into the decision frameworks of our clients and their stakeholders
 - Focus on their working definitions, a relational ontology (Adaptation Use Cases)
 - Invest in learning together and partnership rather than just delivering reports and off-the-shelf solutions (Adaptation Academy)
 - Build robust evidence for their decision processes--uncertainty is the reason for action (Climate Adaptation Screening Service)

Act-Learn-Then act again

- Adaptive management, resilience in socioecological systems, iterative risk management, bounded rationality, clumsy solutions, learning cycles...all begin with ACTION.
- Designing assessments, projects and M&E as decision processes:
 - Multiple lines of evidence
 - Good Enough-Fit for purpose
 - Grounded reality

Keep an eye on the knowledge frontiers

- Every situation brings new learning, for us and our clients, particularly as 'data' continues to expand exponentially.
- What are 'we' learning in the sequence from data to information, knowledge and wisdom?
 - We can design adaptation processes that anticipate and contribute to new knowledge
 - A FOMINable toolkit would have wide ranging effect in bringing private sector experience forward

My ideal project?

- Framing through partnership
 - Context and decision space
 - Learning processes
 - Nature of evidence for making decisions
- Baseline or current vulnerability
 - Level of effort depends on framing and decision needs (value of information approach)
- Mapping adaptation pathways
 - Critical junctures where successful adaptation requires a transformation of current actor-networks
- Filter strategies and options to design effective projects
 - Use scenarios to test robustness, not as predictions or truth machines
 - Participatory appraisal, with expert judgment across multiple attributes
- Set in motion a capacity to learn, to act-again
 - Look for opportunities where an initial engagement could lead to innovation
 - Design processes for sustainability (personal, institutional, financial)
 - Feed back what we have learned to the extended community of practice

Top list for action?

- Learning cycles, staffing and training: notebook analogy
- Expand early examples of shared data: holy grail of linked data
- Develop adaptation business case for organisations and institutions
- Pilot test screening of projects and investment decisions

My view of the landscape

- I. Actors act: no cost, a decision of the actor
- II. Institutions act in networks: low cost, no regrets, cost effective
- III. Structural reconfiguration of institutions: transformations, innovation
- IV. Crisis beyond adaptation



Actions are scaled:

- Xi = {actions available to an actor, s}
- As = {strategies available to an actor}
- D = {domain of new technologies, strategies, actions}