

Evaluating Climate Change Adaptation Projects (ECCAP)

A five-years initiative of the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP) 2013-2018



International Climate Change Information Programme

Internationales Klimawandel-Informationsprogramm

..... www.ICCIP.net



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BACKGROUND

The fact that climate change is now seen and perceived as being a major challenge to both industrialised and developing countries, means that substantial efforts are now being seen, in order to address the problem and its various ramifications.

Parallel to the international efforts being undertaken in respect of the mitigation of climate change and of its impacts, there is a perceived need for sound climate change adaptation strategies, which may be implemented by means of concrete projects, all of which need to have measurable and tangible goals, so as to yield the expected outputs. **Climate change adaptation projects** are important for two main reasons: firstly, they offer the possibility to cope with the impacts or consequences of climate change in the **short or medium term**, hence alleviating the pressure on people and on ecosystems suffering from it, especially in developing nations. Secondly, climate change adaptation projects – especially if implemented in the context of adaptation strategies at the macro level-, can serve the purpose of mobilizing public and private stakeholders, engaging them in the problem-solving process.

Worldwide, there are in excess of 300 internationally funded climate change adaptation projects being implemented at present, whose combined budget is well in excess of US\$ 1 billion. All of them have specific targets and goals, but a few of them make provisions for external assessments of their effectiveness, cater for proper quality control procedures, or have – apart from periodical reports – systems in place which allow them to fully address current and future problems in a pre-emptive way. This states of affairs illustrates the need for an initiative which directly focuses at the evaluation of the effectiveness and impacts of climate change projects in a dynamic way. In order to address this perceived need, the initiative **Evaluating Climate Change Adaptation Projects (ECCAP)** has been created. ECCAP has been initiated and is coordinated by the International Climate Change Information Programme (ICCIP), which aims to foster education, communication and training on matters related to climate change. Since its inception in 2008, ICCIP has initiated a set of projects on climate change management, and among other things coordinates the book series »Climate Change Management« and the »International Journal of Climate Change Strategies and Management«. Apart from its own team in Hamburg, Germany, ICCIP has a worldwide network of climate change experts, whose experience and know-how will be used in implementing ECCAP.



AIMS OF THE INITIATIVE

The Evaluating Climate Change Adaptation Projects scheme aims to:

a) assist international agencies undertaking and/or financing climate change adaptation projects, in reviewing both the scope and the effectiveness of their projects, benchmarking them against international standards. By means of individual project assessments and an overall evaluation, a quality control will be performed and recommendations for further improvements will be provided. If one considers the fact that around 19% of the climate change adaptation projects currently being undertaken worldwide do not (for many reasons) fully meet their goals, this support will be valuable towards quality assurance, also offering added value to the funds allocated to a given project;

b) support projects in identifying needs and shortcomings, as well as factors that currently hinder – or may in the future endanger – the achievement of a project's targets or from achieving its expected results;

c) provide a basis for addressing the identified problems as well as possible forthcoming ones which, due to the work pressure on project staff from the day-to-day business, cannot be realistically identified or measured.

Thanks to its scope and approach, ECCAP represents much more than a simple evaluation tool. It can be used as part of quality control processes, providing project teams with an opportunity for timely reactions, and for addressing the problems and needs it identified in the framework of the evaluations.

Ultimately, ECCAP will help projects to deliver what they have promised, hence honoring the commitments in respect of funding and staff time, also helping to avoid the risks of non-compliance and non-delivery.



METHODOLOGY

The ECCAP initiative runs from January 2013 to December 2018. Over this five-years time span, the initiative is set to work with international donors, banks, development agencies and scientific research institutions, which have been partly or fully funding climate change adaptation projects, and who feel that an independent and externally-undertaken evaluation and quality control may improve the projects and their chances of full delivery.

Operationally, the work is organized in four main steps:

Step 1 Contacts between interested organizations with the ECCAP team, to define the focus; a scoping exercise to delimitate the work to be done and the items to be examined; and the definition of the timing of the evaluation exercise, as well as questions related to resources and logistics.

Step 2 Undertaking of the evaluation by ECCAP staff, also drawing from the international pool of ICCIP, in close association with the relevant organisations.

Step 3 Production of an ECCAP individual report, outlining the issues defined during the scoping exercise and evaluation. This may also include advice on tools which may help in adaptation planning.

Step 4 Presentation of a tailor-made »ECCAP Report«, with a discussion on the measures that may be implemented, in order to achieve a project's targets.

ECCAP differs from traditional evaluations for the very fact that it is not simply meant to identify whether goals and targets were reached, or not. Instead, it is meant to bring the issues to light which may endanger a project from fully achieving its goals, at the same time that it lists further measures and suggest improvements, which can contribute towards their success. Climate change adaptation projects are often meant to improve the quality of life of people, or help to protect ecosystems. ECCAP can provide useful support in meeting these aims. **A confidentiality agreement will be signed between ECCAP and project partners, to ensure the absolute confidentiality of the work done and results achieved.**



OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

ICCIP is keen to cooperate with international donors, banks, development agencies and scientific research institutions, which have been funding climate change adaptation projects, and who may benefit from the many advantages ECCAP offers. Since the initiative runs from 2013 to 2018, ECCAP may be of benefit to both new projects, as well as on-going ones. Please contact the ICCIP Team in Hamburg to discuss a possible support from ECCAP to your activities. Since ICCIP is a non-commercial scheme, run by a public university and with a genuine scientific interest in the success of climate change adaptation projects, interested parties may expect very reasonable conditions.



FURTHER DETAILS

ECCAP is led by Professor Walter Leal, from the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences in Hamburg, Germany. He is the Chairman of ICCIP, has led over 50 international projects to date, and has extensive field experience from Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean region. He also coordinates the network of Climate Change Transfer Centres in Europe and in Latin America (CELA), with in excess of 300 publications to his credit.



CONTACT

**For further information and to perhaps
discuss your individual requirements,
please contact the ICCIP Team:**

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