

Australian Council for International Development

Climate Action Framework for the Australian International Development Sector

SUMMARY



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FOR
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From the CEO

The World Bank's 'Turn Down the Heat'¹ reports, warn that without action, temperatures are on pace to rise to 4°C above pre-industrial times by the end of this century. A massive reversal in human development will be the result if this occurs.

Cover photo: At his family's land, Amit has planted more than ten tree saplings. He had acquired this knowledge from the environment classes at his children club that meets once a week.

Through the activity book children learn about different names of plants and trees. They are encouraged to go outdoors and find trees and plants they are unaware of and get help from elders in identifying them. They are encouraged to collect leaves or fruits of plants and trees native of the place and list their economic and medicinal values.

World Vision India is working with children like Amit to raise awareness on climate change and encourage them to act. Here children learn to dream. Photo: Jim Kasom / World Vision.

Two expected outcomes in our current Strategic Plan are "that ACFID and its members act with clarity, consistency and urgency in responding effectively to climate change" and that "responding to climate change becomes a fundamental pillar of Australian inclusive and sustainable development and humanitarian policy and practice". Through ACFID's work, we are helping international development Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to understand the role that they can play and how they can be most effective in their pursuit of climate action.

Using our convening power with members and other stakeholders, we are drawing upon the experience of those who have a record of accomplishment in climate action and sharing with those who are still developing their programs in this area. For many of our member agencies this is not new work and the imperative for climate action has been clear for some time. Other organisations are keen to expand their work on climate action and are looking for guidance and collaboration.

As ACFID moves forward with our work over the life of this Strategic Plan and beyond, we will be building a more comprehensive picture of the impact our members are having across the types of climate action and levels of response.

ACFID and international NGOs will deliver across a wide area of work on climate action. This Framework is intended to support ACFID's members to fully realise our collective strength, and to categorise in a simple and easy-to-follow format good examples of impact, how we can collaborate and where we are not having effective impact.

Thank you to Evan Davies and Ben Korff for their work listening to members and designing this framework. Thank you also to ACFID's Development Practice Committee for their contributions and input to member engagement and comments on the Framework. To our members of ACFID's Cross Functional Team on Climate Change, and to Kate Angus, ACFID's Learning and Innovation Advisor, we thank you for your stewardship of this work with members and within ACFID.



Marc Purcell (CEO, ACFID)

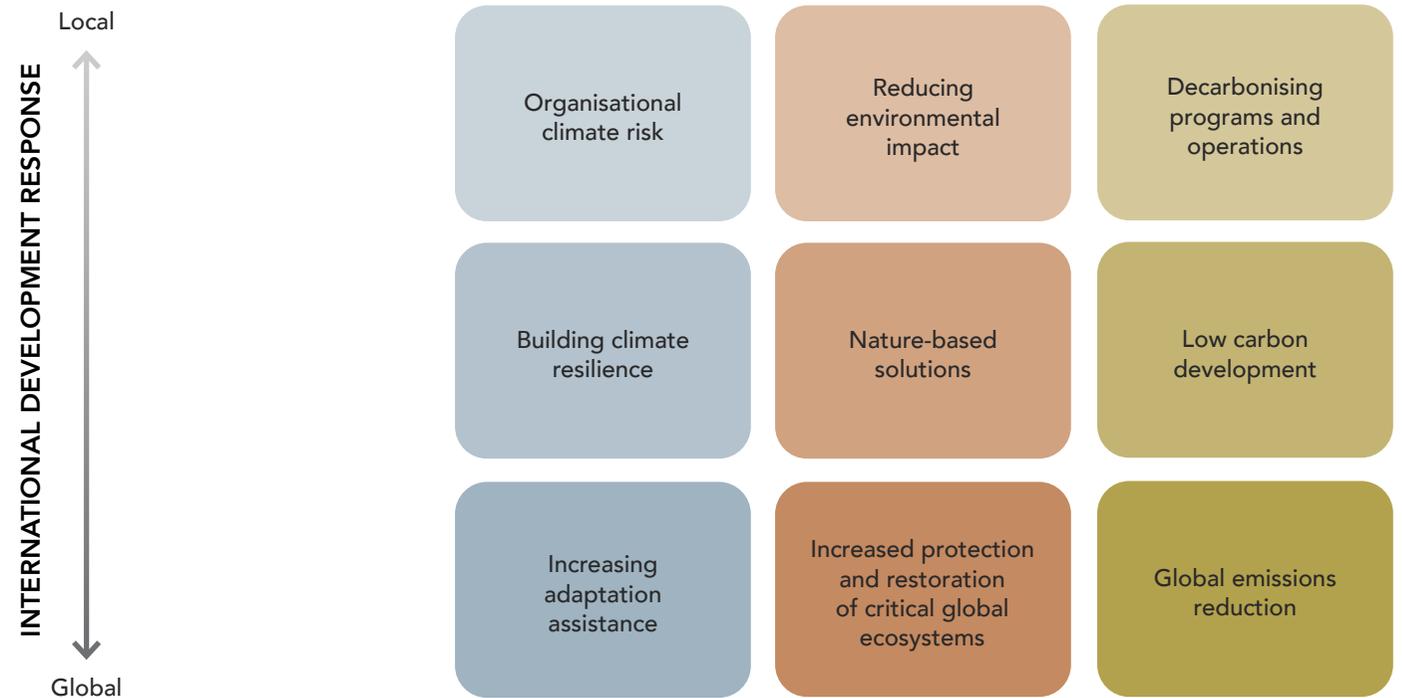
The Climate Action Framework

TYPES OF CLIMATE ACTION

Responding to impacts ← → Addressing the cause

The Climate Action Framework links the three main types of climate action: **Adaptation**, **Environmental Restoration** and **Mitigation** to the different levels of response that International Development organisations can undertake: Operational, Programmatic, and Policy and Advocacy. This provides a matrix of action areas that cover the cause and impact spectrum of climate change across each of the response levels. Hover over the boxes for more detail.

For the full detailed Climate Action Framework document, including more detail on what can be done in each action area, and more ACFID resources, go to ACFID's Website www.acfid.asn.au



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESPONSE

Focus on minimising an organisation's own environmental impact and operational and strategic risks. This should be considered a minimum requirement for all international development organisations, even if they have no programmatic focus on climate change.

Will vary depending on an organisation's strategic priorities and objectives. It is expected that there will be a greater weight of activities on climate resilience compared to nature-based solutions or low carbon development, due to the traditional strategic objectives of Australian NGOs. However, for organisations seeking to step up their climate change focused programming, nature-based solutions and low carbon development present good opportunities to help address the cause as well as the impact of climate change.

Given that climate change is a global issue, it ultimately requires coordinated and concerted global action. Policy and advocacy responses are therefore needed to drive transformational change to the systems and power structures that continue to incentivise emissions-intensive activities and environmental destruction, while failing to provide at-risk countries and communities with the support they require to adapt to climate change.

TYPES OF CLIMATE ACTION

Both mitigation and adaptation responses work to reduce climate change impacts but each focuses on different levels and timeframes of action.

Actions focus on addressing localised impacts of climate change, usually in the short-term, and is where much of ACFID members' work has occurred. Supporting communities to build resilience and adapt to climate change is a matter of justice, as poor communities are disproportionately vulnerable to climate risks, despite being the least responsible for it.

Addresses the global issue of increased atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentrations. However, the atmospheric carbon lifecycle means the impact of mitigation actions on the climate will only be fully realised decades later.

For international development actors and their partners environmental restoration provides significant opportunities to support both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Nature-based solutions bring together ecosystem-based approaches social and economic dimensions.
