

CLIMATE CHANGE HOW-TO GUIDE

Incorporating Global Climate Change in the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS)

This guide is designed to help program and technical officers developing a CDCS to incorporate climate change considerations, whether or not the operating unit receives direct climate change funds. It supplements USAID ADS Chapter 201.



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A series of **CLIMATE CHANGE HOW-TO GUIDES** will be published in 2014

- 1. Incorporating Global Climate Change in the Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS)**
2. Climate Change Adaptation in Project Design
3. Climate Change Mitigation in Project Design: Sustainable Landscapes, Clean Energy and Low Emissions Development Strategies
4. Integrating Global Climate Change into Development
5. Performance Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Benefits

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CDCS

A CDCS or Regional Development Cooperation Strategy (RDCS) is the means by which USAID uses strategic planning to define development objectives and maximize the impact of development cooperation. For guidance on what a CDCS/RDCS is and how it should be developed, please see [ADS 201](#). It states that **“All Missions are required to fully consider climate change during the country-level strategic planning process. Therefore, this applies to all Missions, regardless of whether they are projected to receive funds or not.”** This How-To Guide complements the ADS and the [CDCS Supplemental Guidance for Integrating Global Climate Change](#), which is a mandatory reference attached to the ADS. The How-To Guide provides practical advice on climate-specific considerations when developing a CDCS/RDCS.

Climate variability and change is not a sector unto itself; rather it is a set of global, national, and local challenges that can undermine development progress and increase vulnerability and insecurity throughout developing countries. The impacts of climate change can also compound pre-existing and overlapping social, political, and economic stresses, such as poverty, hunger, migration, water scarcity, the spread of disease, and conflict. At the same time, climate change challenges offer important opportunities and incentives to make economic growth and social well-being improvements that are sustainable and beneficial to host country governments and citizens. Therefore, it is incumbent upon USAID when designing strategies and programs to carefully consider the impacts of climate variability and change on our development goals and objectives, on each country’s national and local development plans, and on public and private investments. It is also essential for Missions to consider opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout their operations and programming.

Note that while the CDCS/RDCS is a five-year strategy, “the CDCS may also outline the longer-term vision of the program, the developmental trajectory anticipated over a longer timeframe (10-15 years, or longer), if this provides important context in understanding choices made, emphases

given, and approaches undertaken during the five years of the CDCS” (ADS 201.3.3.3a). As a CDCS/RDCS is part of a longer-term developmental trajectory, the current and projected challenges presented by climate change, are particularly relevant to factor into a CDCS/RDCS.

PHASE I: INITIAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND THE MISSION

This phase is an opportunity for the Mission to explore what it needs to know in order to invest its time wisely to prepare the CDCS/RDCS. As a first step, all Missions should read the [CDCS Supplemental Guidance for Integrating Global Climate Change](#) (Supplemental Guidance) and refer to it throughout the development of the CDCS/RDCS. The Supplemental Guidance is a mandatory reference attached to ADS 201.

In preparation for the digital video conference (DVC) held by the Mission and Washington, *all* operating units, regardless of whether they receive GCC funds, must consider the questions articulated in Section I of the [Supplemental Guidance](#).

In addition to the questions in the Supplemental Guidance that Missions are required to consider, Missions may also want to consider the following questions to ensure sustainability considerations have been factored in as well:

- What climate impacts are expected over the next 5-30 years?
- What sectors are contributing to emissions? How are emissions expected to change in the next 5-30 years?

Please see [Appendix I](#) for potential sources of information that can help you answer these questions.

For Missions receiving GCC funds, there are additional requirements that are relevant during Phase I. Such operating units must address the questions in Section II of the [Supplemental Guidance](#) in their CDCS/RDCS (and subsequent programs).

USAID's Global Climate Change Coordinator, the Office of Global Climate Change in the E3 Bureau, the Climate Change Advisors in the Regional Bureaus and PPL will be available during the CDCS/RDCS Consultation Phase, and can provide additional climate-specific assistance during CDCS/RDCS development and approval. They can also help the Mission to think through which kinds of information and analyses may be needed to inform the CDCS/RDCS.

PHASE II: DEVELOPING THE RESULTS FRAMEWORK

Conducting Needed Analyses – [ADS 201](#) provides guidance on conducting analysis for a CDCS/RDCS. Missions may consider undertaking a climate change analysis, the results of which should contribute to an overall picture at both the country and sector levels of specific climate change development constraints and opportunities. This frequently is done largely by reviewing existing documents and analyses. For example, Missions may wish to refer to existing vulnerability assessments or, if needed, conduct their own. Missions may also check to see if a greenhouse gas inventory or other related mitigation assessments exist, especially if they receive Mitigation funds. These analyses can lay the groundwork for the deeper analysis that may be needed for project design. For the CDCS/RDCS, a basic understanding often will do, though the desired depth of analysis will vary depending on your country context and development objectives.

In general, the climate change analyses you do to inform the CDCS/RDCS should 1) ensure that your overall strategy has considered climate impacts so that expected results can be achieved and are sustainable, 2) ensure that your portfolio does not contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and mitigates climate change where possible, and 3) lay the groundwork for more detailed analyses that can be undertaken during project design.

Consult with Potential Partners and Stakeholders – As Missions consult with potential partners and stakeholders, they should identify and link to host country national climate change strategies. They should also ensure that partners and stakeholders relevant to climate change issues are included in the process. One potentially

important contact on climate change is the “National Focal Point.”¹ Some additional illustrative examples are provided for each of the GCC pillars in [Appendix II](#).

Results Framework (RF) Development – All Missions, whether or not they receive GCC funds, should carefully consider the impacts of climate variability and change on its CDCS/RDCS Goal and Development Objectives, as well as opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In particular, if you plan to work in climate-sensitive sectors (e.g. food security, infrastructure, or tourism) you should consider including language on climate adaptation or resilience in the CDCS/RDCS Results Framework, whether it be in a DO, IR or sub-IR. Including a climate mitigation DO, IR or sub-IR may be less practical for Missions that do not have clean energy (CE) or sustainable landscapes (SL) funds. However, a Mission should still consider ways to reduce emissions in the Mission CDCS/RDCS (see Phase III). A Mission might do so, for example by incorporating attention to energy efficiency and renewable energy potential, linking with economic growth and investment, or by considering work in forests, agriculture or other landscapes with the potential to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

Regardless of the presence of GCC funds, the Mission may wish to include staff with GCC expertise during the construction of the Mission RF and development hypotheses. This could include Mission-based environment staff, GCC expertise available in the regional platform missions, and/or USAID/Washington-based GCC staff. Washington support after the Phase II DVC can be particularly helpful for the development of the narrative, potential risks, assumptions, and indicators.

Please contact climatechange@usaid.gov if you would like help at any point in the process.

¹ Each country that is a Party to the UNFCCC is required to have a National Focal Point for their interactions with the Convention. The National Focal Point is usually a person sitting in a relevant national office or ministry (Environment, Meteorology, etc.). To find a country's National Focal Point, see: <http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/nfp.pl#beg>.

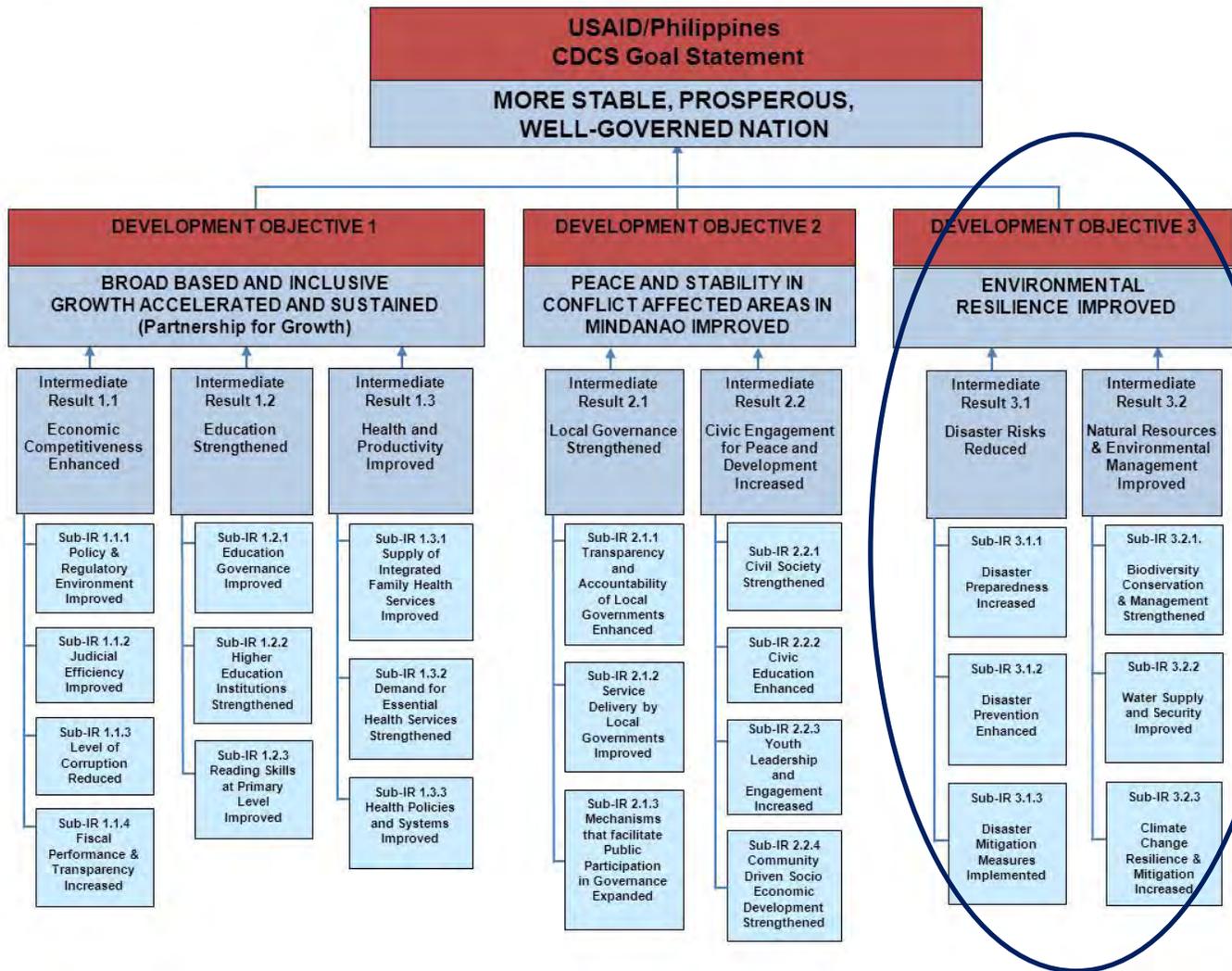
The narrative accompanying the Results Framework provides a further opportunity to address climate change, whether or not it is explicitly mentioned in the Results Framework. Of course the best approach will depend on the DOs, IRs and sub-IRs chosen. Remember that “the CDCS must explain relevant critical assumptions and ‘game changing’ scenarios and assess risks associated with its successful achievement. A risk factor or critical assumption lies beyond USAID’s control” (ADS 201.3.3.3). Climate change may often present these types of “game changing” scenarios and risk factors and, thus, should be carefully considered.

The questions raised in the [Supplemental Guidance](#) may be especially helpful to ensure you are asking the appropriate (and mandatory questions) when developing the RF. The Mission may also wish to refer to the [GCC Pillar Results Frameworks](#) and consider how language from those results frameworks might be adapted for use in their partner country context. The GCC Pillar RFs provide causal linkages and rationale as well as ideas for DO, IR, and sub-IR language for different sectors. The illustrative examples found in the tables “[How GCC Intersects with Your Sector](#)” can also help you think through how GCC might be addressed in your Results Framework or its accompanying narrative.

Here are a few examples of how climate change has been included in DOs and IRs (please see [ProgramNet](#) to view the full CDCS/RDCSs or Results Frameworks):

Country	DO	IR
Bangladesh	DO4: Responsiveness to Climate Change Improved	IR4.1: Improved management of natural resources IR4.2: Enhanced adaptation capacity and resilience to shocks IR4.3: Strengthened capacity to reduce emissions
Ethiopia	DO1: Increased Economic Growth with Resiliency in Rural Ethiopia	IR1.1: Improved performance of the agriculture sector (focus on productive areas) IR1.2: Increased livelihood transition opportunities (focus on vulnerable areas) IR1.3: Improved private sector competitiveness IR1.4: Increased resiliency to and protection from shocks and disasters IR1.5: Improved nutritional status of women and young children
Southern Africa Regional	DO1: Increased sustainable economic growth in targeted areas	IR1.1: Improved agricultural productivity IR1.2: Increased trade with an emphasis on agriculture IR1.3: Integration of climate change into policy and decision making IR1.4: Improved management of transboundary natural resources
Zambia	DO2: Rural poverty reduced in targeted areas	IR2.1: Smallholder agricultural productivity increased IR2.2: Markets and trade expanded IR2.3: Natural resource management improved IR2.4: Resilience of vulnerable households improved
Dominican Republic	DO2: Increased resilience of people to the impact of climate change	IR2.1: Land use planning reduces negative impact from climate change IR2.2: Climate-resilient risk reduction measures implemented
Malawi	DO2: Sustainable livelihoods increased	IR2.1: Resiliency to climate change strengthened IR2.2: Production of targeted commodities increased IR2.3: Nutrition for targeted communities improved IR2.4: Agricultural trade expanded

The USAID/Philippines Results Framework from its CDCS 2012-2016, below provides one example of how GCC can be integrated into a CDCS/RDCS Results Framework when the Mission has GCC funding. The accompanying narrative can be found in the CDCS [here](#).



Philippines has integrated climate change considerations in DO 3. This is just one example of how a Results Framework has incorporated climate change. There are many options, so find a way that works for your Mission.

PHASE III: FULL CDCS PREPARATION, REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Below are suggestions on what to consider and incorporate in some of the key sections of a CDCS/RDCS:

Development Context, Challenges and Opportunities – The Mission should incorporate a

discussion of how weather and climate historically have affected key development objectives and sectors (adaptation) or the key trends in greenhouse gas emissions or land-use and land-cover changes (mitigation). Missions can refer to the [Supplemental Guidance](#) for questions that should be answered in the CDCS/RDCS document text.

Development Hypothesis and Results Framework

– The [GCC Pillar Results Frameworks](#) may be helpful to Missions that identify a GCC-related DO, IR or Sub-IR as they add substance to their RF and identify performance indicators and illustrative activities. If you have not already done so in Phase II, make sure to provide evidence (e.g. through assessments and stakeholder consultations) to support the causal linkages.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning – All Missions should consider opportunities to incorporate GCC into the evaluation questions and indicators developed for the CDCS/RDCS, particularly for interventions closely linked to climate change. Information on monitoring and evaluation of GCC programs can be found in the forthcoming GCC Monitoring and Evaluation How-To Guide. In general, given the newness of USAID GCC programs and activities, Missions are

encouraged to take every opportunity to generate evidence about what works and what does not.

EXAMPLE CDCSs and RDCSs

All Missions are encouraged to talk with Missions with already completed CDCS/RDCSs for both their approaches to GCC and lessons learned. For specific examples of approved CDCS/RDCSs, please visit [ProgramNet](#). Georgia CDCS 2013-2017, Philippines CDCS 2012-2016, Guatemala CDCS 2012-2016, Bangladesh CDCS 2011-2016, South Africa CDCS FY13-FY17, Southern Africa RDCS 2011-2016 and Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) RDCS 2012-2020 are good examples of RDCSs/CDCSs that integrated climate change.

The CDCS/RDCS GCC Integration Rubric provides benchmarks on how Global Climate Change can be “minimally,” “moderately” and “extensively” integrated into different sections of the CDCS/RDCS:

	GCC is Minimally Integrated	GCC is Moderately Integrated	GCC is Extensively Integrated
Development Context	<p>Adaptation: Describes how climate events have affected/are affecting citizens or host country governments</p> <p>Mitigation: Mentions green growth or long term sustainable development</p>	<p>Adaptation: Describes how climate events have affected/are affecting/are expected to affect citizens or host country governments and specifies sectors</p> <p>Mitigation: Specifies key mitigation challenges, e.g., deforestation, fossil fuel use, lack of access to electricity, etc.</p>	<p>Adaptation: Describes how climate events have affected/are affecting/are expected to affect citizens or host country governments and specifies sectors, regions and populations at risk</p> <p>Mitigation: Specifies key mitigation challenges and links them to long-term greenhouse gas emissions trends</p>
Development Hypothesis	Describes GCC related challenges or opportunities in descriptive text	Describes GCC related challenges or opportunities and links these with either key development objectives, intermediate results, or sub-intermediate results	Describes GCC related challenges or opportunities and how GCC links with either key development objectives, intermediate results (IRs), or sub-IRs and includes potential work to address these issues
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	GCC-related data can be interpreted from other sector evaluation questions or indicators	Opportunities to evaluate GCC are explicitly considered within evaluation questions or indicators for other sectors	Explicit GCC-focused evaluation questions and indicators included

APPENDIX I: SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Many potential sources of information may be available within your host country. These include:

- **National climate change policies and plans.** Many countries have national level policies and plans for addressing climate change adaptation, mitigation or both. The [Adaptation Partnership review](#) is a good source for finding some of these.
- **A Low Emissions Development Strategy (LEDS)** is a planning and implementation framework developed by the country itself to achieve its economic and social development objectives while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A “LEDS” may be a single strategy or a collection of strategies, policies and plans that, taken together, form an integrated plan for development while lowering GHG emissions rates. Countries may not call these “LEDS” per se, but USAID engagement in a country should be consistent with its LEDS if it exists, regardless of what it is called. If USAID is working with a country on the development of its LEDS, the CDCS should reflect that.²
- **National Communications** are submitted by countries to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and include information on country context, broad priority development and climate objectives, overviews of key sectors, historic climate conditions, national GHG inventories, projected changes in the climate and impacts on key sectors, potential priority adaptation measures, limitations, challenges and needs.
- **Biennial Update Reports** will be available for developing countries starting in December 2014 (note that least developing countries and small island developing States develop biennial update reports at their discretion). These reports will be available every two years and include national GHG inventories and information on mitigation actions and finance, technology and capacity needs.
- **National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs)**, developed by Least Developed Countries, identify urgent and immediate adaptation needs, and propose priority adaptation projects. These documents vary in age and quality, so they should be reviewed critically, but USAID should aim to respond to the priorities identified within them if they are relevant to our CDCS/RDCSs. Developing countries are also in the process of developing longer-term National Adaptations Plans (NAPs).
- **Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs)**. The UNFCCC’s Bali Action Plan calls for “nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties in the context of sustainable development, supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity building, in a measurable, reportable and verifiable manner.” The [UNFCCC NAMA registry](#) includes information on both developing country actions and international. Another resource is the Ecofys [NAMA database](#), which includes proposed actions, whether or not they have been officially submitted to the UNFCCC.
- Existing and planned country- and region-specific **assessments of expected climate impacts and adaptation needs**. See the Climate Adaptation How-To Guide for more information about potential sources of information, such as the [World Bank’s Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#), the [Adaptation Partnership’s Review of Current and Planned Adaptation Action](#), the [Adaptation Learning Mechanism](#) and the [Global Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction Country Adaptation Profiles](#).
- **Engagement in multilateral climate initiatives.** A number of multilateral Sustainable Landscapes initiatives exist, such as the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and Forest Investment Program (FIP) and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). See the Climate Change Mitigation How-To Guide for more information on the initiatives your country might be involved in.

² [CDCS Supplemental Guidance for Integrating Global Climate Change](#)

APPENDIX II: POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

Illustrative examples of potential partners and stakeholders you may want to consult with are provided below for each of the GCC pillars:

Clean Energy: Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry focused on rural development, local government agencies, utilities, Independent Power Producers (IPPs), independent transmission owners, energy suppliers, regulator, financial institutions, Independent System Operators (ISO), regional transmission organizations, environmental and consumer organizations, universities, community groups, local businesses, and/or the public. These stakeholders can help you consider how new clean energy activities may impact employment and wages, cost of energy, quality of energy, energy access, asset ownership, and/or fiscal flows.

Sustainable Landscapes: host country government agencies responsible for the development of overall climate change strategies and policies, as well as the ministries and agencies responsible for forest management, land use administration, and planning. Major development partners involved in supporting Sustainable Landscapes activities globally include the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, FAO, Norway, Australia, Japan, Germany and the UK, among others. A number of international non-profit organizations, especially NGOs working on biodiversity conservation (e.g., WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International) and social well-being (e.g., CARE, World Vision) have embarked on significant work in Sustainable Landscapes.

Adaptation: the relevant sectoral Ministry (e.g. the Ministry of Agriculture, or the Ministry of Economic Development, and ministries or agencies in charge of infrastructure, public works and civil defense), the Ministry of Planning, the meteorological department, or the Office of the President. NGOs and the private sector can also be strategic partners. It is important to identify and engage the decision-makers who will need to be able to access and use climate and weather information in order to plan for adaptation; these could include people in water utilities, the health sector, or government officials at the local, regional, or national levels.