



Climate Action in Financial Institutions

PRINCIPLES FOR MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE ACTION

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Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Develops a Tool to Improve the Design and Implementation of Climate Change-Related Projects

Principle

Related Work Stream(s)



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Date Policy/ Tool Established	How Established?	How Implemented	Additional Capacity Required (e.g., staff, resources, other)
June 2011	In an effort to mainstream climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in development projects, the Office for Climate Change perceived the necessity of a guidance tool and decided to develop one to serve as an internal resource for staff.	The tool was developed with support from an external consultant. The Office for Climate Change disseminates it to operations staff and offers guidance on its use. The take-up of the tool has been progressing over time.	Support from consulting firm was needed to establish this tool.

Key Lessons

- A practical reference is helpful to promote mainstreaming climate change considerations within an institution.

Introduction

In June 2011, JICA published the “JICA Climate Finance Impact Tool” (JICA Climate-FIT), an internal reference document that facilitates the design and implementation of climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. The tool draws on lessons learnt by JICA as well as other institutions like the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. It presents methodologies to help JICA staff formulate and implement climate change-related projects.

JICA Climate-FIT consists of two volumes (see

Figure 5):

- Mitigation: methodologies for quantitative estimation of emission reduction or sequestration of greenhouse gases (GHG) by implementation of projects.¹
- Adaptation: concepts and guidelines for planning climate adaptation focused projects as well as mainstreaming adaptation considerations into development projects that contribute to reduction of vulnerability to climate variability and change, and increasing adaptive capacity and resilience.²

Development and Design

This initiative arose from practical needs for a guidance tool to help staff—particularly those in operations departments with few climate specialists—integrate considerations of climate change mitigation and adaptation into the standard project-planning process. Consequently, the Office for Climate Change in the Global Environmental Department commissioned a consultant to conduct a study on mainstreaming climate change considerations into JICA operations and that resulted in the development of JICA Climate-FIT.

Implementation

This tool is mainly utilized internally during the project planning process. The internal reference document was published in June 2011 and made available to all JICA staff through the internal network. The Office for Climate Change also organizes internal seminars to demonstrate to JICA staff how to use this tool in their operations.

When a project related to climate change mitigation or adaptation is proposed, the Office for Climate

Change in the Global Environmental Department advises the project operation departments to use this tool. In addition, when JICA entrusts a study for project formulation to a private consultant company, JICA may require the consultant company to refer to this tool so that the consultant company will be able to use appropriate methodologies for analysis.

Experience and Impact

A practical reference tool like JICA's Climate-FIT can be helpful to promote mainstreaming climate change considerations within an institution. JICA's main challenge to date is that it cannot gauge if and how the tool is being used because the use of the tool is voluntary and there is no system in place for monitoring the application and impact of the tool; however, JICA is focusing on ensuring that the tool is well-disseminated internally.

1 (Download) http://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/climate_change/mitigation.html.

2 (Download) http://www.jica.go.jp/english/our_work/climate_change/adaptation.html.

FIGURE 1 JICA Climate-FIT Reports

