

# Accelerating Adaptation



Implemented by  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

SAPCCs AS  
DRIVER OF  
MAINSTREAMING  
CLIMATE  
CHANGE INTO  
DEVELOPMENT  
PLANNING



The formulation of State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) has been an important milestone in developing domestic policies around climate change in India. SAPCCs are fundamental to decentralising adaptation and leveraging climate change actions at the sub-national level. However, the implementation of SAPCCs has been a challenge due to lack of dedicated funding and the challenge of adapting existent investments and efforts to climate change impacts. Notwithstanding, several pilots and demonstration projects which are in line with SAPCC priorities have been implemented, with funds from designated agencies and the central government under the National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change. In 2019, the Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change developed guidelines for the revision of SAPCCs for all Indian states, in light of new climate science and projections, and in alignment with commitments under the NDC. The guidelines highlight the importance of mainstreaming adaptation and utilising existing budgetary allocations of state governments through a participatory process between sectors in order to outlast the impacts of climate change.

## Need for mainstreaming

Governments invest large sums of money in developing agriculture, through water and infrastructure projects, such as irrigation systems to boost crop yields, watershed-management initiatives, soil maintenance and water conservation. However, most of these systems are designed based on traditional knowledge, and have not factored future climate risks. This gap in the system widens as climate change impacts worsen and extreme weather events become more frequent. It is important to integrate climate change adaptation objectives into sectoral development plans and policies such as rural employment guarantee scheme (Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Act), crop irrigation scheme (Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana), watershed management programmes, and health programmes. This process is called mainstreaming. Mainstreaming has the potential to improve the resilience of development strategies, decrease community vulnerability to climate change impacts, and safeguard investments in poverty alleviation, infrastructure and development programmes.

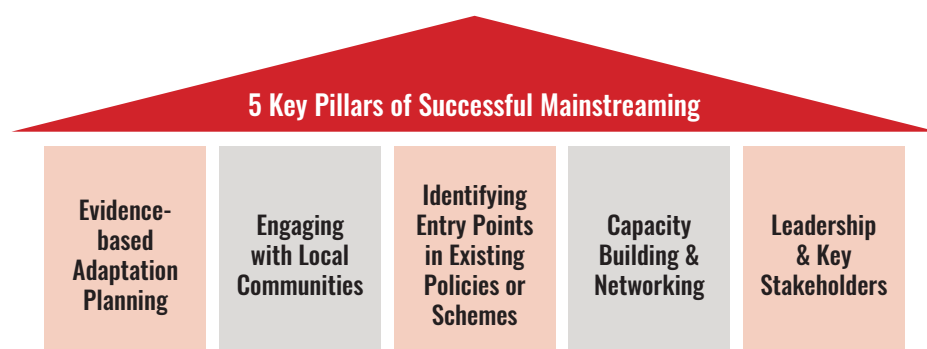
SAPCCs are the primary vehicles of adaptation at the state level. The revised documents focus on mainstreaming climate change into sectoral development plans and policies. This approach leverages existing budgetary provisions by making development investments more climate proof. It includes the following:

- Review existing developmental policies, programmes and schemes from a climate adaptation perspective
- Recommendations for additional incremental activities (with or without additional funds) for climate proofing existing schemes and programmes based on identified vulnerabilities
- Follow an integrative approach where climate change adaptation and sustainable development are hand-in-hand

## Approaches

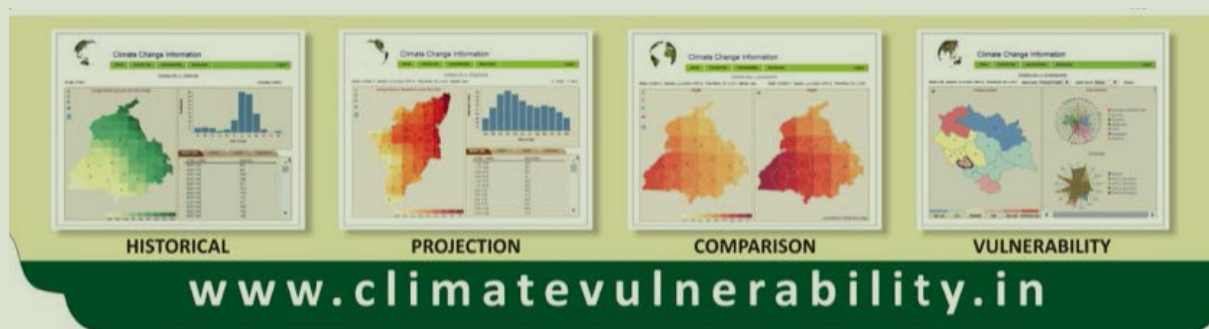
Mainstreaming can have multiple approaches and entry points. Apart from access to climate information and services, mainstreaming on the ground requires coordination among multiple stakeholders and processes, including government and private institutions. Identifying the right approach

is essential for leveraging finances towards climate adaptation and meeting sustainable development goals. As part of the Indo-German Technical Cooperation Project “Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India (CCA-RAI), GIZ and its partner organisation have demonstrated mainstreaming approaches at the local level to support SAPCC implementation.



## Evidence-based planning

Measures must be based on reliable and scientifically sound evidence on climate change impact in a particular region. It is important to look at climate in smaller regions and not just annual averages, and seasonal variations in rainfall, number of rainy days and number of dry days. Analyse data in smaller administrative areas, like at the *Panchayat* level, before scaling it up to the district level. Decentralised planning and participation of local communities, including traditional knowledge and perceptions, are crucial to improve adaptation interventions and curb climate impacts. Portals such as [www.climatevulnerability.in](http://www.climatevulnerability.in) provide easy-to-understand information about future climate scenarios and associated risks, which can be used by a wide range of stakeholders. (visual from portal).





## Identifying entry points in existing policies or schemes

For mainstreaming to work, climate change interventions need an entry point: an existing development policy or scheme in a relevant thematic area/sector where they can be incorporated. To start with, it would be helpful to tag a prioritised adaptation intervention to a specific sector such as agriculture, water, or rural infrastructure. Such mapping provides a strategic direction and umbrella for ground-level activities, as well as helps leverage funding for adaptation interventions.



### Engaging local communities

To maximise the benefits of mainstreaming, local communities, women and marginalised groups need to be engaged. Unfortunately, access to useful climate information and the capacity to understand climate data is often limited. Non-governmental and community-based organizations play a crucial role in bringing the right information to the local government bodies and communities. They also play an important role in assessing climate vulnerability and local impacts through a bottom-up approach. Engaging with the gram sabha or village council members helps in identifying and prioritising adaptation interventions and planning at the local level. [photo of villagers engaged in planning].

## Capacity building and Knowledge Networking

SAPCCs provide a combined view of sustainable development and climate change, merging science, public finance and governance. Capacity building is essential for an effective mainstreaming process. It must include identifying climate risks, implementing adaptation measures, monitoring and evaluation. Capacity building needs to cover all aspects of the administration horizontally, and all levels of the governance machinery vertically. Stakeholders include policymakers, state officials, district officers, panchayat and village council members, non-government organizations, and vulnerable groups. Creating a cross-sectoral network of agencies and stakeholders can optimise resource allocation, and streamline scientific expertise and local knowledge towards achieving both SAPCC and Sustainable Development Goals.



## Leadership and key stakeholders

In this process it is also important to identify and define the key stakeholders and develop champions/leaders amongst government, civil society, academia or politics. They play a key role in influencing policy decision, find solutions to problems. Their involvement and the use of their expertise tied in with the SAPCCs will create the network necessary for mainstreaming of adaptation efforts. Ideally, “champions” are members of the state steering committee, or they support it with advice and information.

Every state in India has a State level committee on climate change, headed by the Chief Minister or the Chief Secretary. Members are specially designated senior officials who facilitate mainstreaming and integrate climate change concerns into development planning in their respective departments. This committee is responsible for coordinating and guiding climate-change actions in the state, and steering the mainstreaming process across government departments.

### Benefits of mainstreaming approach at the local level



Supports  
decentralised  
planning



Supports translation  
of SAPCC priorities  
into action



Supports monitoring,  
evaluation &  
improvement of  
existent systems



Provides ease of  
convergence of funds  
and schemes



Potential to scale up  
pilot projects



Most adaptation  
options require local  
implementation



Aligns development  
goals with mitigation

Responsible:  
Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi, PhD  
Director

Environment, Climate Change,  
Natural Resource Management

Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

3rd Floor, A2/18 Safdarjung Enclave  
New Delhi 110029, INDIA  
E: [ashish.chaturvedi@giz.de](mailto:ashish.chaturvedi@giz.de)  
T: +91 11 4949 5353  
F: +91 11 4949 5391  
W: [www.giz.de/india](http://www.giz.de/india)

Authors  
Mr Kirtiman Awasthi  
Ms Somya Bhatt  
Ms Nidhi Madan

Registered GIZ offices in Bonn and  
Eschborn:

Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36 + 40  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
T: +49 228 44 60-0  
F: +49 228 4460-17 66

Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5  
65760 Eschborn

T: +49 6196 79-0  
F: +49 6196 79-11 15  
E: [info@giz.de](mailto:info@giz.de)  
I: [www.giz.de](http://www.giz.de)