

Evaluating Climate Change Programmes

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- Two channels of intervention
 - Climate change mitigation (CCM) policies and programmes seek to reduce the rate or extent of climate change itself, usually through controlling greenhouse gas emissions and preserving forests and other ‘carbon sinks.’
 - Climate change adaptation (CCA) refers to how individuals, communities, and countries manage the adverse effects of climate change so that people are more resilient.
- These two areas are not entirely separate. For example, farmers’ livelihoods depend on a healthy environment and sound natural resource management – including forests.

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- Climate change mitigation is relatively easy to monitor and evaluate because there is a clear, objective, and transparent measure: reduction of greenhouse gas.
 - How to accurately measure this reduction may be challenging, but the measure itself is straightforward.
- Climate change adaptation has no universal measure or indicator. M&E of CCA also poses a distinct bundle of methodological challenges, including:
 - Adaptation is not an outcome, but an ongoing process
 - Long time horizons
 - CCA spans sectors and scales
 - Measuring avoided impacts
 - Shifting baseline
 - Et cetera

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- Green energy policies and programmes usually seek to mitigate climate change *and* contribute to other aims – for example, poverty reduction.
- Social benefits may be tricky to monitor and evaluate. Considerations include:
 - Contribution versus attribution
 - It is often better to demonstrate how an intervention *contributes* to wider aims, rather than attribute changes to your intervention alone.
 - Targeted technical projects versus larger drivers of vulnerability and resilience
 - While there is considerable overlap between sustainable development and climate change policies and programmes, they are not interchangeable and there may be tensions between competing aims.