

Climate impact studies in support of adaptation planning and practices:

Perspectives from ADB supported activities

Xianfu Lu

Asian Development Bank (staff consultant)

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Recognizing the wide ranging, and mostly adverse, impacts of projected climate change and sea level rise on the natural environment and human society, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) attaches high level of significance to build a climate resilient Asia and Pacific through integrating climate risk management into its operations and strengthening adaptive capacity of vulnerable sectors, ecosystems and communities in the Region. Central to the growing portfolio of ADB supported adaptation activities is targeted impacts, adaptation and vulnerability (IAV) assessments, aimed at identifying vulnerability “hot spots” and adaptation interventions.

Assessments conducted to date vary widely in scope, scale and underlying methodological framework, reflecting the diverse range of adaptation decision contexts. Some of the assessments were carried out to explore the underlying factors of vulnerabilities of communities and their interplay with projected climate change impacts hence to understand the implications of climate change for already vulnerable populations; others set out to achieve climate resilient design of essential infrastructure in different sectors across the Asia and Pacific region. Although these assessments have been exceptionally valuable in engaging stakeholders and raising awareness, enhancing our knowledge and understanding of the range of potential risks that climate change and sea level rise would pose to the Region, as well as guiding adaptation planning and practices, significant gaps remain and it is imperative to improve the assessments if adaptation efforts to be effective and efficient.

This contribution will provide an overview of the IAV studies supported by ADB focusing on their key characteristics, major gaps with relation to data and information, methodology, uncertainties and communication, as well as opportunities to address these gaps.