

Adaptation and development: operational synergies vs. policy conflicts

Richard J.T. Klein

Stockholm Environment Institute



Adaptation is a continuum

Vulnerability focus

Impacts focus

Addressing the drivers of vulnerability

Activities seek to reduce poverty and other non-climatic stressors that make people vulnerable

Building response capacity

Activities seek to build robust systems for problem solving

Managing climate risks

Activities seek to incorporate climate information into decision-making

Confronting climate change

Activities seek to address impacts associated exclusively with climate change

The holy grail: mainstreaming?

- Mainstreaming is the integration of policies and measures to address climate change into ongoing sectoral planning and management, so as to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of sectoral and development investments.
- It is seen as making more efficient and effective use of financial and human resources than designing, implementing and managing climate policy separately from sectoral policies.

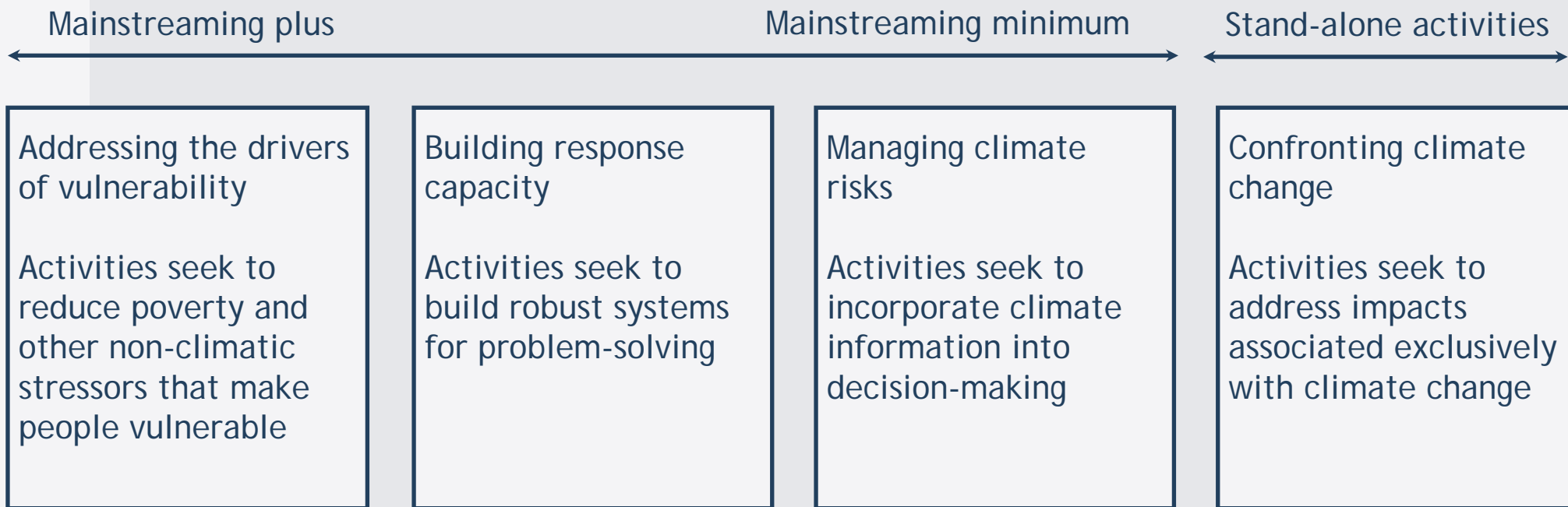
Mainstreaming minimum: climate-proofing

- Traditionally, adaptation is seen as installing a technology based on specific knowledge of future climatic conditions. Mainstreaming under this adaptation paradigm is relatively straightforward.
- However, adaptation technologies may be only partially effective if they do not address non-climate factors, they may be ineffective if they are not suited to local conditions, and they may be maladaptive if they do not consider relevant social and environmental processes.

Mainstreaming plus: addressing vulnerability

- When adaptation is limited to responses specific to climate change, it neglects the fact that vulnerability to climate change does not emerge in isolation.
- In addition to climate-proofing, development efforts are consciously aimed at reducing vulnerability by including priorities that are critical to successful adaptation, such as ensuring water rights to groups exposed to water scarcity during a drought.
- It recognises that an enabling environment may need to be created.

Stakeholder meeting “Towards a comprehensive and ambitious post-2012 climate change agreement”



(Adapted from McGray et al., 2007)

UNFCCC Article 4.4

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Assistance is understood to come in the form of new and additional funding (i.e. beyond what developed countries are already planning to provide as ODA).

Developing-country concerns of mainstreaming

- Adaptation funding will not be new and additional but in effect will be absorbed into ODA budgets of a fixed size.
- Mainstreaming could divert any new and additional funds for adaptation into more general development activities.
- The desire for mainstreaming could lead to the imposing of conditionalities on the use of adaptation funds.

	Stand-alone adaptation	Mainstreamed adaptation
Pros	Easy to calculate new and additional funding needs Greater country ownership	More efficient in implementation More effective, more sustainable impact
Cons	High administrative costs when scaled up Synergies with development may be missed	Difficult funding situation, possibly diverting ODA Seen as imposing conditionalities

Two key questions

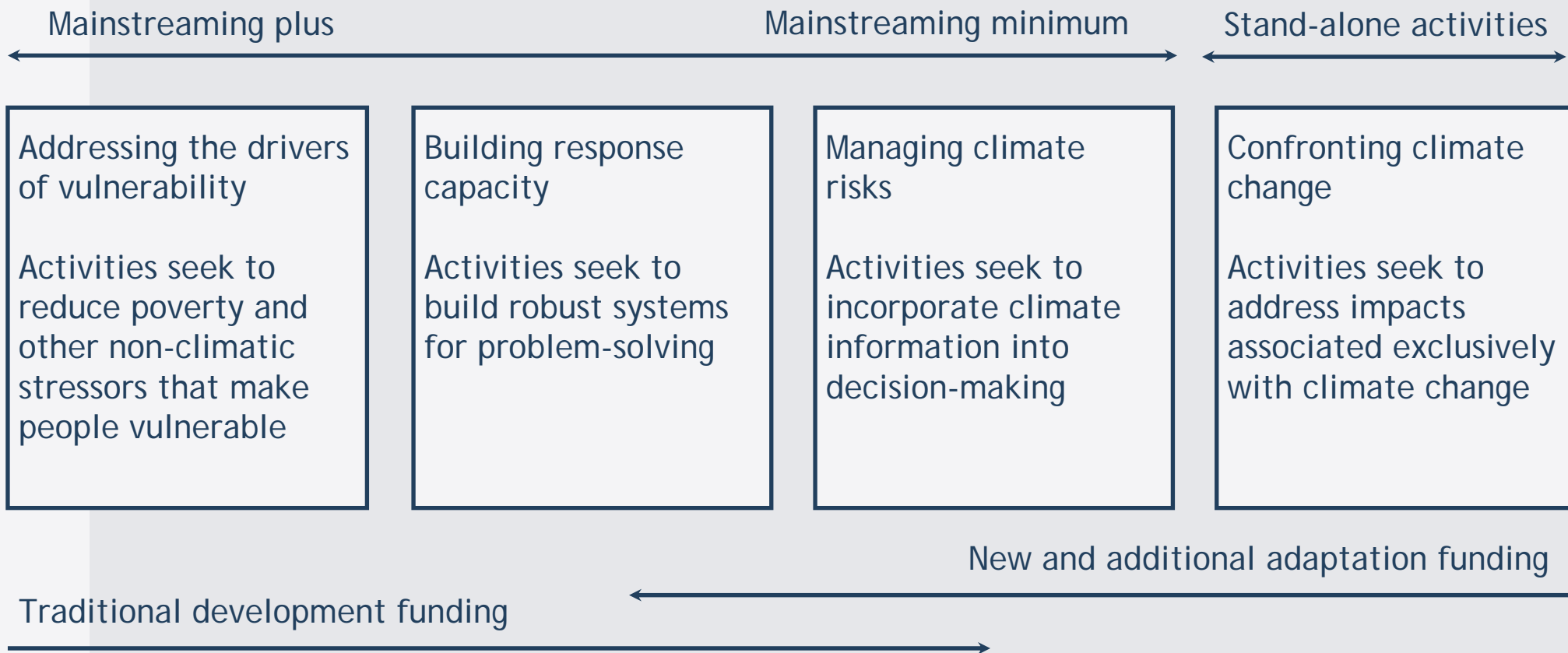
- Should adaptation be designed as stand-alone activities or should it be mainstreamed into development projects and programmes?
- Should the provision of support for adaptation follow the polluter-pays principle or is it an additional focus of ODA?

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The answers depend on the type of adaptation being considered and on what it is trying to achieve.

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Key messages

- Adaptation assistance must be provided by new and additional funds, irrespective of initiatives to mainstream adaptation into ODA.
- Clarity must be created on how ODA and new and additional funds can best complement one another.
- The choice for either stand-alone or mainstreamed adaptation should be an outcome of a country-driven national planning process.
- Mainstreaming is not an end in itself, but can be a means to increase the effectiveness of adaptation and development.

Thank you very much for your attention.

richard.klein@sei.se
