

Tenth Roundtable Discussion on Climate Change Adaptation in the Greater Mekong Subregion

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IUCN

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Background

At the past several Roundtable meetings, partners made progress on jointly developing regional guidelines for watershed / landscape-scale vulnerability and adaptation assessments (VAA). The development of these guidelines is part of a broader Roundtable plan (agreed in previous meetings) to generate tangible knowledge products.

The 8th Roundtable meeting focused on sharing analytical approaches and tools, important processes, and key lessons learned in projects implemented by Roundtable partners in order to distill commonalities and best practices. Partners also committed to jointly producing practical guidelines that could be used by practitioners as well as government planners. Partners agreed to organize the guidelines into three main chapters -- Principles, Process, and Tools -- and to divide the task of writing them. Several partners volunteered to take a lead in writing and editing with the understanding that all partners would contribute.

At the 9th Roundtable meeting, on 2 November 2015, the partners reviewed initial drafts of the three chapters, discussed the target audience and potential use of the guidelines, and spent a bit of time discussing production modes. Partners discussed the importance of making the guidance practical for and accessible to government officials who would be interested in accessing domestic and international climate finance. Rather than a set of high-level guidelines several partners emphasized the need for something like blueprints for different options (approaches and tools) based on context. Since the meeting, chapter leads have worked to revise and re-organize the main chapters to address the points raised in the discussion.

The 10th Roundtable meeting will focus on dissemination of the VAA guidelines. In particular, we will discuss the potential for developing and delivering a series of training modules. In the 9th Roundtable meeting, we identified GMS Ministries of Environment as a priority target for these trainings. There is good potential to deliver trainings to countries through the GMS's Working Group on the Environment (WGE) and ADB can help with this entry point. We need to discuss the design of the training modules (on principles, process, and tools) and timing; ideally, the trainings could start in May or June. We also will discuss potential interest from others (e.g., from USAID) as well as the possibility of a joint Green Climate Fund , which would focus on design and implementation of watershed-scale VAAs, and which would create wider demand for training.

AGENDA

8:30 – 8:45	Registration
8:45 – 9:00	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Robert Mather, Head of Southeast Asia Group, IUCN Geoffrey Blate, Asia Regional Forest Advisor, US Forest Service</p>
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Session 1: Guidelines for Watershed/Landscape Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (VAA): Use and Users Revisited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best to plug into planning processes in the GMS and with which government counterparts - Facilitated by Sumit Pokhrel, ADB-GMS • Possible use by USAID environment officers - Facilitated by Saengroaj Srisawaskraisorn, USAID (TBC) • Linkages to climate finance and country readiness / capacity to absorb funding - Facilitated by ADAPT-Asia (TBC) <p>Moderator: Alex Smajgl, MERFI</p>
10:00 – 10:15	Coffee Break
10:15 – 12:30	<p>Session 2: Guidelines for Watershed/Landscape VAA: Content</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of updated / integrated draft guidelines • Discussion of gaps identified in review and decisions on filling gaps • How can USFS, Pomme, and others best help finalize the guidelines? • Update on Literature review / desk study for guidelines • Other content issues <p>Moderator: Geoff</p>
12:30 -13:30	Lunch
13:30 - 15:00	<p>Session 3: Guidelines for Watershed/Landscape VAA: Facilitating uptake and use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design of training modules (e.g., 1 for each chapter) • Timelines (& funding) to finalize and publish guidelines and design trainings • Preparing, funding and implementing trainings <p>Moderator: Paul Hartman, Mekong-ARCC</p>
15:00 - 15:30	Next steps, wrap up and closing
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee / Tea