

An integrated and inclusive road map towards climate change adaptation

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PAPRIKA POLICY BRIEF

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Climate change adaptation (CCA) must be inclusive of a large array of stakeholders in order to integrate actions from the bottom up and the top down as well as to address both the root causes of people's vulnerability and enhance their intrinsic capacities to face potential changes in climatic patterns (international Panel on Climate Change, 2012).

In practice, however, there is a significant gap between, on the one hand, those immediately concerned and at risk, the insiders (e.g. local communities and governments, faith groups, schools), and, on the other hand, the outsiders (e.g. scientists, national governments, international organisations, non-government organisations) who all seldom collaborate, if only dialogue. Such a gap reflects difficulties in appraising and integrating different forms of knowledge and resources, the dominance of technocratic institutional frameworks, and a scarcity of appropriate tools to foster dialogue amongst all stakeholders (Gaillard and Mercer, 2013). The field of CCA is thus a battlefield of knowledge and actions, which often results in poor outcomes in terms of actual adaptation to climate change for those most vulnerable (Fig. 1).

This policy brief sets out an integrated and inclusive road map towards CCA. This means 1) recognising that different forms of knowledge are valuable in addressing the potential effects of climate change, 2) that actions from the top down, along with initiatives from the bottom up are necessary to foster adaptation in a sustainable manner, and 3) that both previous points require a large array of stakeholders to collaborate.

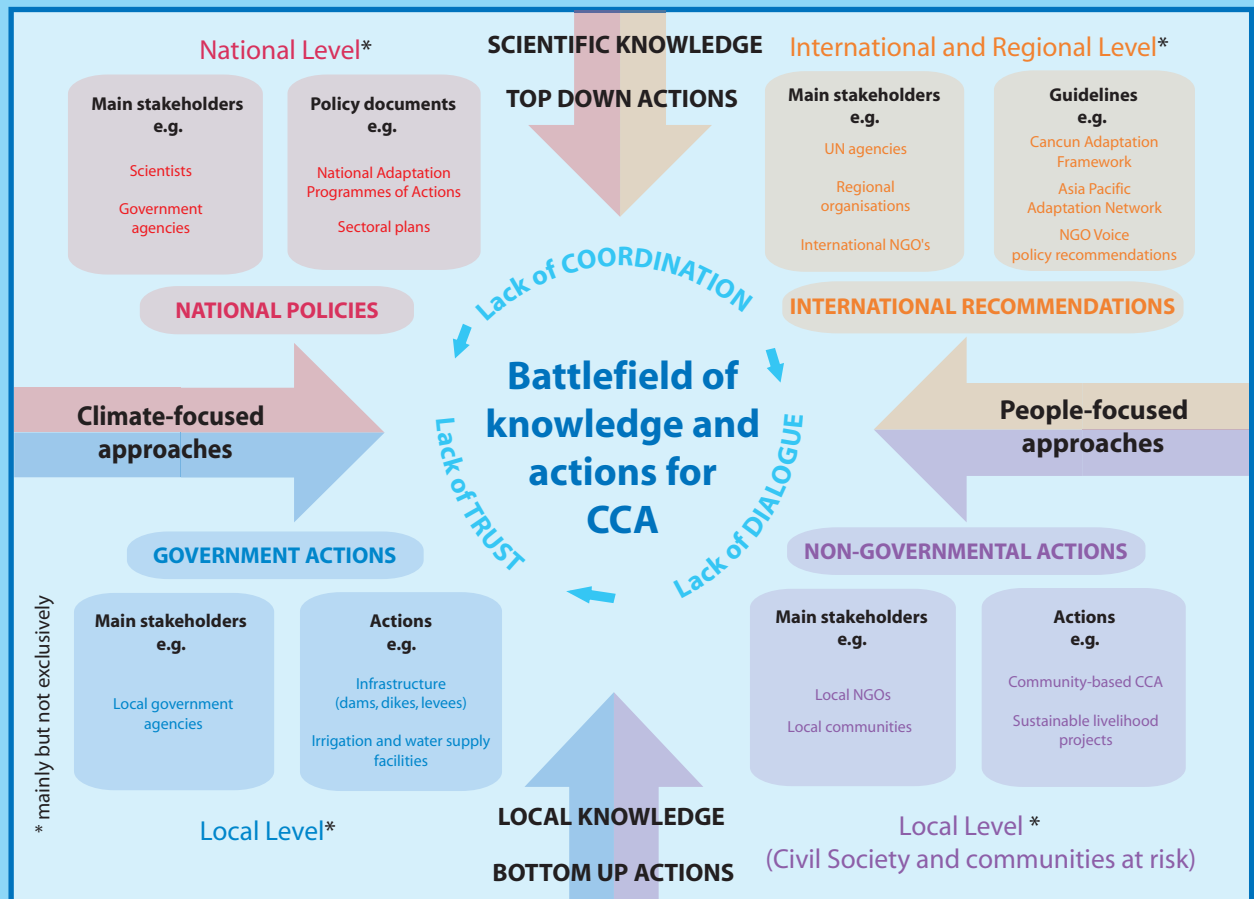


Figure 1 : The battlefield of knowledge and actions for CCA

Figure 1 outlines a road map for integrating knowledge, actions and stakeholders for CCA. This road map emphasises a horizontal process which starts with an integrated assessment of the potential effects of climate change and existing potential for adaptation based on different knowledge forms, goes through a multi-stakeholder dialogue upon issues and potential solutions, to finally lead to actions which combine top-down and bottom-up initiatives.

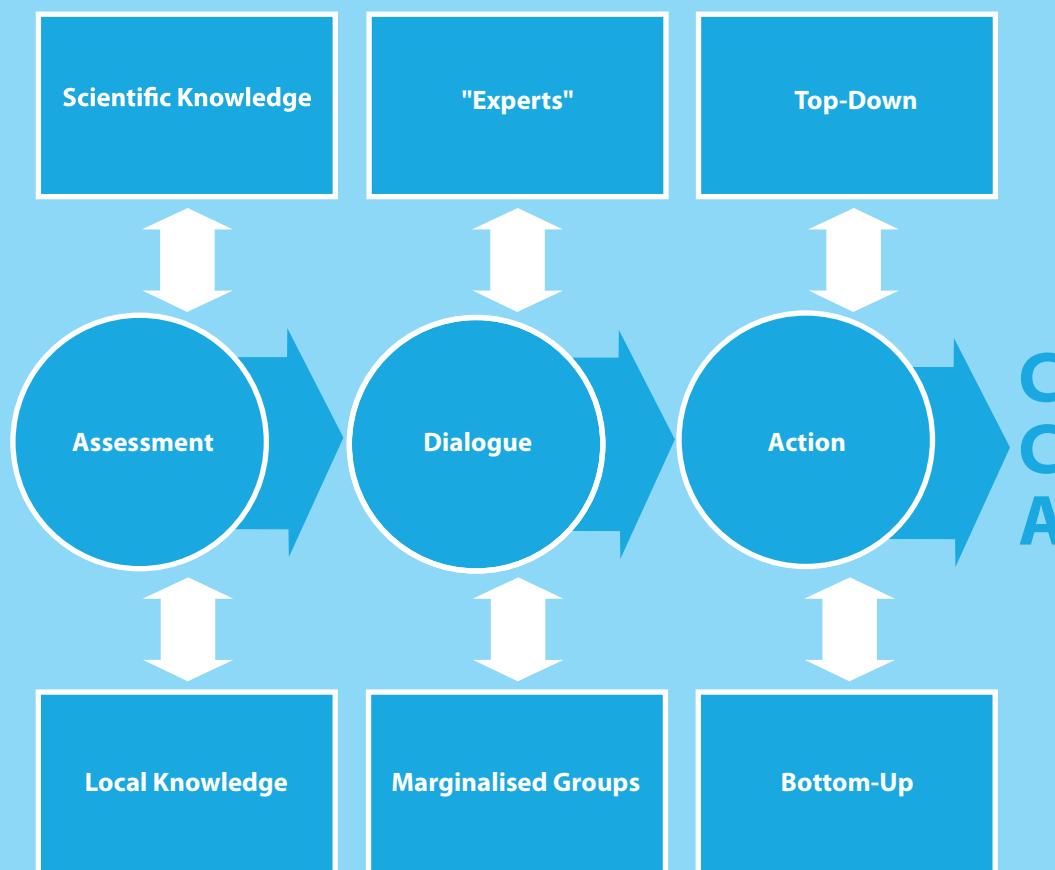


Figure 2: The integrated and inclusive road map towards CCA

Challenges for implementing the integrated and inclusive road map towards CCA

- Uneven power dynamics between those at risk and outsiders (e.g. scientists, government officials)
- Local knowledge is context-specific, often intangible and culturally embedded
- Technocratic institutional frameworks, often disconnected from everyday development policy and practice, which give little room for local initiatives.
- Lack of tools to bring all actors together around the same table of discussion and thus enable a fair dialogue

Opportunities for implementing the integrated and inclusive road map towards CCA

- Many existing tools may be refined or redesigned to provide all actors with opportunity to dialogue on a trusted basis.
- Some practical frameworks towards the integration of bottom up and top down actions and local and scientific knowledge already exist, e.g. Kelman et al.'s (2009)'process framework'.
- The institutionalisation of good practices in terms of reducing risk at the community level and utilising local and scientific knowledge is the only way to achieve large scale results.

References

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