



Climate Proofing Tool

Strengthening local **adaptation** and
mitigation capacities in community-level
development projects



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II. Introduction

Background

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges mankind has ever faced. Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns threaten past, present and future development efforts across the globe. The poorest inhabitants of our planet are among the most vulnerable, due to their lack of economic, environmental and social capacities to deal with the consequences of climate change. At the same time, development efforts can lead to higher greenhouse gas emissions, and thereby contribute to global warming.

Due to this mutual interdependence, and considering its strategy, HEKS has decided to climate proof its development activities. This includes analysing and improving the impact of projects on both adaptive capacities and greenhouse gas emissions. To facilitate this, HEKS decided to elaborate a simple, easy-to-use climate proofing tool, in collaboration with Bread for All. The present document constitutes a provisional version of such a tool. It is based on initial tests with the CRiSTAL tool (see box 3) in two community-level projects in Honduras, and has been further developed according to the specific requirements of HEKS and its partner organisations. Further practical experiences might lead to further changes.

Box 1: Basic Information on Climate Change

For basic information on the science and politics of climate change, please have a look at the following website provided by the United Nations:

http://unfccc.int/essential_background/feeling_the_heat/items/2918.php

Box 2: Adaptation and Mitigation

Confronting climate change happens on two tracks. First, the negative impacts of climate change can be reduced through adequate measures. This strategy is called adaptation. Adaptive measures are normally more efficient if they are taken preventively rather than as a reaction to certain climatic events. Second, greenhouse gas emissions can be reduced, and sinks can be improved. This track is called mitigation. It includes everything that reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which are the main cause of climate change.

Purpose

This tool aims at helping developers, managers and coordinators of community-level projects to climate-proof their activities. More specifically, it helps users to

- understand how climate risks affect local livelihoods in their project area,
- learn how their beneficiaries deal with current climate hazards,
- evaluate how their projects affect local livelihood resources that are vulnerable to climate risks and/or relevant to cope with those risks,
- identify how their projects affect greenhouse gas emissions and thereby contribute to climate change,
- adjust existing projects or formulate new activities designed to strengthen their beneficiaries' adaptive capacities in dealing with climate risks,
- and consider measures to improve a projects' impact on the global climate.

It is the explicit purpose of this tool to integrate considerations of climate change into all kinds of community-level development activities, not only into specific climate change projects. Therefore, its application is simple and flexible, so even projects developers and managers with little climate change knowledge can use it.

Structure

This tool consists of the following seven modules:

1. The Project and its Context
2. Climate Context
3. Current Coping Strategies
4. Livelihood Resources
5. The Project and Adaptive Capacities
6. The Project and Mitigation
7. Project Revision

The first two modules help you to gather relevant information on the project and its context, as well as on climate hazards and emissions in the project area. Module 3 deals with current coping strategies, i.e. how people deal with climatic risks today. Module 4 looks at the most important resources for the project's beneficiaries, with a view to identifying the livelihood resources that are most affected by climate risks, and those that are most important to the current coping strategies. Module 5 looks at how the project activities affect those livelihood resources, while module 6 takes you through some potential emissions sources and sinks, and analyses how the project activities might affect them. Finally, module 7 allows you to identify project adjustments or develop new activities to improve the impact of your organisation on both adaptive capacities and greenhouse gas emissions.

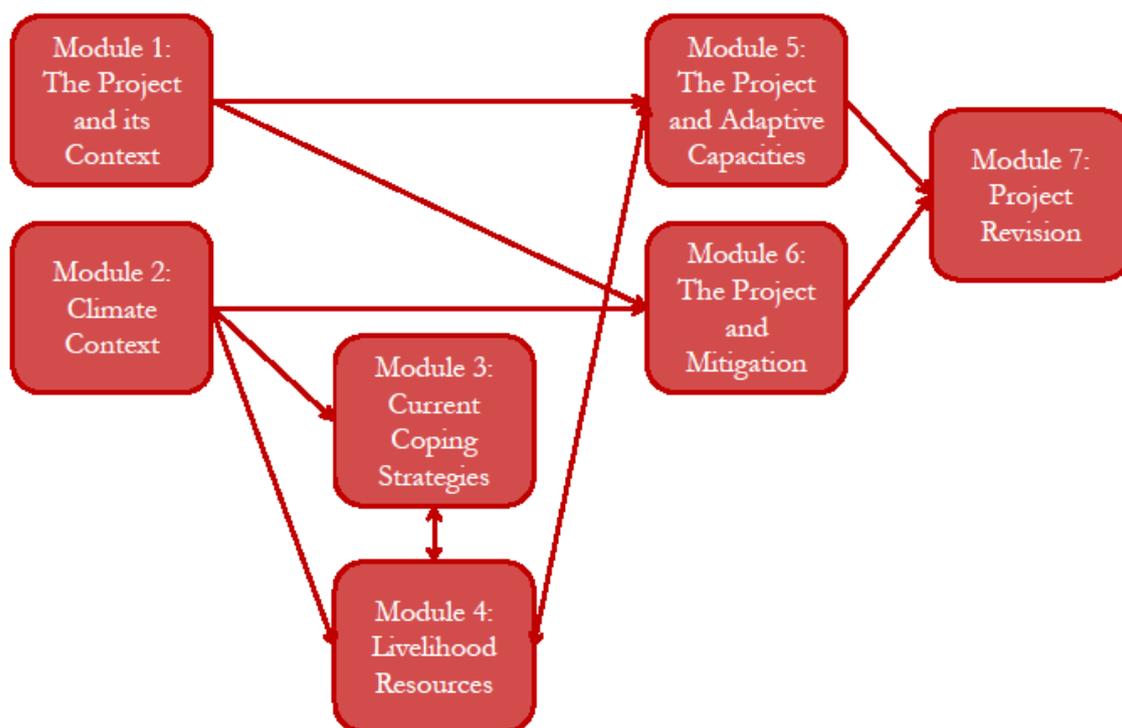


Figure 1: The 7 Modules and their Relationship

Box 3: CRiSTAL

The present tool is based on CRiSTAL, a climate change adaptation tool. CRiSTAL stands for Community-based Risk-Screening Tool – Adaptation and Livelihoods, and has been elaborated by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (iisd), Intercooperation, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI).

In comparison to CRiSTAL, the present tool is meant to be simpler in its use (One printable document rather than running on Microsoft Excel), and it includes a mitigation part, whereas CRiSTAL only refers to climate change adaptation.

Interested users are strongly encouraged to have a look at the CRiSTAL tool. Further information and downloads are available on: <http://www.cristaltool.org/>

Use

The tables provided in the annex of this document can help you to collect and record the information required for each module. However, you are still required to interpret the results of your analysis to make the most out of it.

1. The Project and its Context

This module helps you to compile basic information on the analysed project and its context:

- Name / title of the project
- Geographical location of the project (i.e. village, municipality, region, country, etc.)
- Involved agencies (i.e. donors, implementing organisations)
- Description of the project activities (e.g. type of project, duration, goals, budget, finance, beneficiaries)
- Description of the socio-economic context of your project (e.g. additional geographical information (climate zone, ecological zone), political, cultural, social and economic trends, information about other (present or previous) projects in the area, etc.)

2. Climate Context

The second module looks at the climate context of your project area. More specifically, this section seeks to find answers to the following questions:

- What are the most important climate hazards in your geographic region, today and in the future?
- What are the most important climate hazards in your project area, today and in the future?
- What are today and in the future the most important impacts of climate change on people's lives?
- What are the most important sources of greenhouse gas emissions in your country or project area?

Whereas the first three questions relate to the local impacts of climate change, the last one relates to the impact of your geographic area on the global climate.

Answering these questions should involve both a review of relevant reports and stakeholder consultations.

2.1. Literature Review

To gather information on the climate hazards and their impacts on the country- or regional level, and to learn about the most important greenhouse gas emission sources and sinks requires you to review a few reports or internet resources.

The following information sources are recommended:

- Regional reports from the UN’s climate panel. They can be found on <http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/ar4-wg2.htm>
- “National Communications” of the respective country: All parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have to submit so called National Communications which deal with both the impacts of climate change and the emissions of greenhouse gases within their borders. Reports can be found on: http://unfccc.int/national_reports/annex_i_natcom/submitted_natcom/items/3625.php
- National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs). NAPAs are issued by all Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that are members to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Reports are available on: http://unfccc.int/cooperation_support/least_developed_countries_portal/submitted_napas/items/4585.php
- Reports from the national environmental agency and from UNDP, which often issues easy-to-understand reports on climate change in the national context.

The information gathered from these sources can be entered into the respective sections of table 2 in the annex.

2.2. Stakeholder Consultations

Unfortunately, there is little information available on the local impacts of climate change in developing countries. As a result, it is recommended to use stakeholder consultations to learn what climate risks the population your project area faces. Consultations can be made through interviews or workshops, for example, and should involve different social groups, such as women and men, elders and young people, etc. Consultations should help to identify:

- The three climate hazards most important (i.e. dangerous) to locals.
- The three most important impacts of each one of those hazards.

Examples for climate hazards and their impact include droughts or storms as hazards, and crop damages and destroyed dwellings as the impacts of those hazards.

The combination of information from secondary, scientific sources as mentioned above with primary information gathered from locals helps getting a clearer picture of the relationship between global climate change and its local impacts over time. It is important to note that the hazards identified by the local population do not necessarily have to be caused by climate change. This is particularly important when arguing that certain damages are caused by climate change. However, it is still recommended to record hazards and impacts as they are identified by the local population, since these are what people really care about.

The information gathered in stakeholder consultations can be entered into the respective sections of table 3 in the annex.

3. Current Coping Strategies

The next step is to identify coping strategies currently used by the local population to deal with the local impacts of the climate hazard identified in module 2. It is recommended to gather this information from the local population through the same consultations mentioned in the previous module.

You should find one or two coping strategies for each one of the impacts identified above. It is also recommended to consider whether the coping strategies are sustainable and efficient, that is whether they can be sustained autonomously by the local population, and to what extent they actually help to reduce the negative impact of a given climate hazard.

Table 4 in the annex allows you to jot down the information gathered in this module.

4. Livelihood Resources

All the information required in this module can be gathered through consultations, either through interviews or workshops with beneficiaries, or meetings with project planners and managers.

4.1. Identifying Livelihood Resources

In a first step, the livelihood resources of the local population area identified. You are encouraged to categorise the resource according to the following classification:

- Natural resources: the natural resource stock on which people rely for income, food, medicine, protection, etc. Examples include forests, water, clean air, etc.
- Physical resources: the basic infrastructure and productive capital for transport, buildings, water management, energy and communications, etc. Examples include roads, dwellings, water tanks, etc.
- Financial resources: The stocks and flows of money people rely on. Examples include incomes from sales of agricultural products, remittances, etc.
- Human resources: The skills, knowledge, capacity and good health important to the pursuit of livelihoods. Examples include: Technical knowledge in agriculture, leadership skills, etc.
- Social resources: The formal and informal social relationships and institutions important to pursuing objectives worthwhile for the community. Examples include local councils, churches, etc.

Ideally, at least three resources of each type will be identified in consultations or a a workshop. You can use table 5 in the annex to record your results.

4.2. Impacts of Climate Risks on Livelihood Resources

This section links up climate change impacts with livelihood resources. The effects of each of the three climate hazards identified in the second module on each of the livelihood resources discussed above are being evaluated.

The extent to which each climate hazard influences each of the livelihood resources should be estimated by selecting a value between 0 and 5 for each relationship. 0 stand for no effect, where as 5 stands for a very strong influence. You can use table 6 in the annex to note all the values.

4.3. Importance of Livelihood Resources for Coping Strategies

In this step, you'll identify the importance of the livelihood resources identified above for each of the coping strategies identified in module 3.

Similar to the previous section, a scale from 0 to 5 should be used to denote the importance of each resource for each coping strategy, where 0 means no

importance, and 5 refers to a very high importance. You can use table 7 in the annex to note all the values.

5. The Project and Adaptive Capacities

In this module, the impact of the screened project on the local population's vulnerability to climate hazards and on their adaptive capacities will be analysed. You will measure the direction of the impact of each project activity to those livelihood resources identified as either significantly influenced by climate hazards or to be important for one or more coping strategies (as analysed in the previous module).

It is up to you to decide which threshold should be applied for a resource to be considered significantly influenced by climate hazards or to be important for coping strategies. As a rule, it is suggested to consider all resources with at least one value of at least 4 in either table as significant in the climate context, and therefore relevant for the subsequent analysis.

Again, you can complete the evaluation through consultations or workshops with locals or with project proponents and managers.

First, consider the main project activities identified in module 1. You are encouraged to include a brief description of each activity. Then, the direction of impact of each activity on each livelihood resource identified as relevant in the climate context will be evaluated. For each relationship between an activity and a resource, it should be indicated whether the activity's impact is positive, negative or neutral for the respective resource. It is also recommended to include interpretations and comments for each relationship, in order to increase the understanding on how the project impacts relevant livelihood resources.

Tables 8 to 10 in the annex can help you to record your results.

Revision of project activities or designing new projects based on this evaluation will follow in module 7.

6. The Project and Mitigation

The objective of this module is to identify the main impacts of community-level projects on climate change. The analysis is straightforward, and will help project proponents and managers to become more conscious of their project's positive and negative impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, which in turn can facilitate improvements in the project which reduce emissions or enhance carbon removal.

The analysis follows a list of potential emissions sources or sinks. It allows the user to get a sense of the direction of the project's impact on specific sources or sinks. However, this does not replace any exact measurements of greenhouse gas emissions. Also, it might be necessary to gather further information on specific sources or sinks, such as forests or agriculture.

For each potential source or sink listed below, it should be briefly noted how the project affects them, and whether accordingly the project's impact on emissions is positive (i.e. reducing emissions or improving sinks), negative (increasing emissions or reducing sinks), or neutral. The same activity can affect emissions in various ways, including opposed effects. The net impact always depends on the local circumstances.

The analysis in this section should be conducted in meetings with project planners and managers.

6.1. Use of Energy

The combustion of fossil fuels leads to emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is globally the most important greenhouse gas. A project can affect those emissions sources in the following ways:

- Use of *vehicles*: Emissions depend on how much vehicles are used, and how fuel efficient they are.
- Use of *electricity*: Emissions depend on how much electricity is used, and where it comes from, that is whether it comes from renewable energy sources such as hydro, wind, or solar power, or from sources producing greenhouse gas emissions such as thermal plants.
- Use of *energy in buildings*: Potential sources include heating and cooking stoves. Emissions depend on how much energy is used in buildings and whether combustibles are renewable or not. Biomass is also contributing to climate change if it comes from non-renewable areas.

6.2. Agriculture

Agriculture can affect climate change through a number of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide and methane. The following potentials emission sources or sinks should be considered:

- Use of *soils*: Soils perform an important function as carbon sinks, whereby degraded soils can capture less carbon. Activities contributing to soil erosion, drainage, salinisation, acidification, the destruction of organic matter and excessive cultivation tend to have negative effects on climate change, whereas those contributing to re-vegetation, use of organic fertilizers, leaving crop residues on the fields, increasing soil covers and irrigation systems can be expected to improve carbon capture of soils.
- Use of *biomass*: Burning biomass on fields contributes to climate change, whereas if it is used as a source of energy replacing fossil fuels, it can have positive effects.
- Use of *fertilizers*: Synthetic fertilizers lead to emissions of certain greenhouse gases during their production process and when applied in large quantities to soils. Replacing them with organic fertilizers tends to reduce emissions.
- *Deepwater cultivation*, for instance with rice, can lead to significant greenhouse gas emissions, particularly of methane.

6.3. Livestock

Holding livestock can result in important emissions of methane and nitrous oxide:

- *Livestock itself* generates important methane emissions due to enteric fermentation from ruminants. The total amount of emissions depends on the species and number of animals as well as on nutrition practices.
- Use of *manure*: Livestock manure produces greenhouse gas emissions, mainly nitrous oxide. If it is used as a replacement for synthetic fertilizers, it can reduce total greenhouse gas emissions.
- *Land use*, considering damages the livestock can cause to soils, and the deforestation it can cause if forests are slashed for use as pastures.

6.4. Forests

Similar to soils, forests capture carbon dioxide. The flipside is that their destruction increases greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Projects can influence the climate change impact of forests in the following ways:

- *Area* of the forest and *size of trees*, which can be influenced through deforestation, reforestation and afforestation, which are in turn influenced by the use of land, firewood etc.
- Practices of *agroforestry* can allow agricultural use of lands without deforesting an entire area.

6.5. Waste

Waste can lead to emissions through the production processes of packaging and other unconsumed parts, their combustion, as well as processes of decomposition. Projects can influence emissions from waste in the following ways:

- *Quantity* of waste, considering recycling and the amount of consumption of products with a lot of packaging.
- *Use* of waste, considering the beneficial use of some waste products as a fertilizer, and considering negative effects from burning waste.

Comparing the results of this module with the general structure of emission sources and sinks noted in module 2 can increase your understanding on how your project area's impact on climate change, as well as how your project contributes or not to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the national context.

Table 11 in the annex can help you to conduct your analysis on your project's impact on potential greenhouse gas sources and sinks.

7. Project Revision

Based on modules 5 and 6, this final part of the Climate Proofing Tool will allow you to devise revisions or new activities within your project portfolio, which are designed to strengthen adaptive capacities of your beneficiaries and/or improve your activities impact on greenhouse gas sources and sinks.

You are encouraged to revise project activities and/or devise new projects using the revision cycle depicted on the next page. First, you'll identify the most areas with the greatest need for action, based on the analysis in modules 5 and 6. Second, you'll suggest revised or new activities based on these areas. Then, you'll take the revised or new activities through an analysis of their impacts on adaptive capacities and emissions sources and sinks: Steps 3 and 4 essentially coincide with modules 5 and 6 of this tool. Then, you'll also consider the revised or new activities vulnerability to the climate risks identified in module 2, and in the last step you'll

consider their coherence, feasibility and sustainability. The results of steps 3-6 will give you more hints for a renewed revision of your project activities. You can go through the project revisions cycle as many times as you deem necessary. In the remainder of this module, the 6 steps are explained in detail.

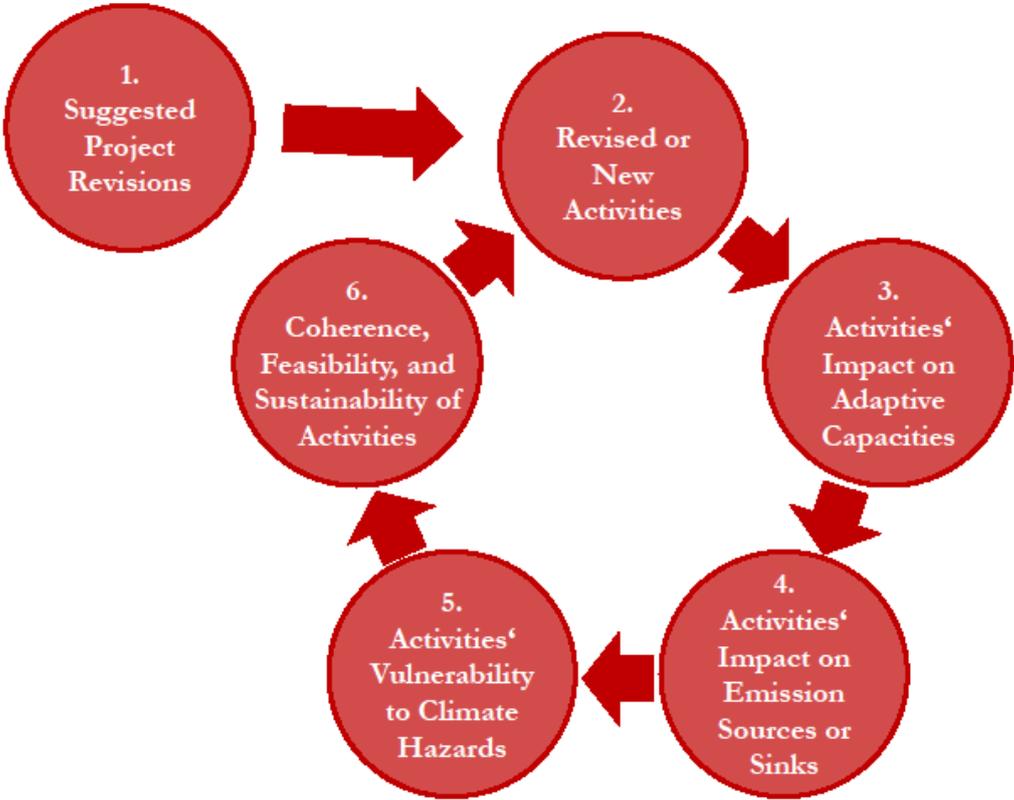


Figure 2: The Project Revision Cycle

7.1. Suggesting Project Revisions

In this first step, you'll identify areas where there is a need for action regarding adaptive capacities, or regarding the project's impact on greenhouse gas emissions, based on the results of your analysis in modules 5 and 6. The idea is to come up with a list of items requiring revised or new activities.

Examples regarding adaptive capacities: need to reduce vulnerability of roads to floods; need for further diversification of financial income sources, etc.

Examples regarding greenhouse gas emissions: Reduce negative impact of livestock on soils; increase forest cover in the project area, etc.

Regarding the impacts on climate change, it has to be noted that some negative effects might be related to activities that are indispensable for local development.

As a result, one always has to balance social, economic and environmental considerations.

Use table 12 in the annex to note your suggestions.

7.2. Revised or New Activities

In this part, you'll devise revised or new activities. In the first round of the project revision cycle, the analysis is based on the suggestions made in the previous step. In subsequent rounds, the revision of existing activities and the design of new projects will be based on the analysis from steps 3-6 of the project revision cycle.

For each revised or new activity, fill out a box as table 13 provided in the annex. Describe the essential features of the activity on a few lines. Explain in particular how the activity will improve adaptive capacities or improve the impact on greenhouse gas sources or sinks.

7.3. Impact on Adaptive Capacities

In this step, revised or new activities as elaborated in the previous step will be analysed according to their impact on relevant livelihood resources, in order to make sure the project contributes to the enhancement of adaptive capacities. This evaluation corresponds to module 5 of this tool. It is important to perform this step, as intended improvements of certain adaptive capacities or on greenhouse gas sources or sinks might negatively affect other livelihood resources important for adaptation.

You are encouraged to fill out tables 8 to 10 in the annex for each revised or new activity.

7.4. Impact on Emission Sources or Sinks

The fourth step of the project revision cycle consists of evaluating the revised or new activities' impact on potential greenhouse gas sources or sinks, and corresponds to the analysis conducted in module 6 of this tool. It is important to subject revisions or new activities to this evaluation, in order to identify and possibly avoid unintended negative impacts on the global climate.

You are encouraged to fill out table 11 in the annex for the revised and new activities.

7.5. Vulnerability to Climate Hazards

In this step, proposed revisions or new activities should be evaluated with a view to their vulnerability to the current and future climate risks identified in module 2 (both by literature review and through stakeholder consultations). This is done to make sure the new activities are not themselves severely threatened by these hazards.

Please fill out table 14 in the annex for the revised and new activities.

7.6. Coherence, Feasibility and Sustainability

This last section of the project revisions cycle looks at the coherence, feasibility and sustainability of the proposed changes. In particular, the following questions should be addressed:

- Are the revised or new activities consistent with local priorities?
- Is there local capacity to plan, implement, monitor and essentially take ownership to help ensure the sustainability of the proposed project adjustments?
- Are there sufficient financial resources to implement the proposed project adjustment?
- Is there political awareness and support – at all levels – of the proposed project adjustments?
- Are there local / regional / national institutions (Community-based organizations; NGOs, schools/universities, government departments, etc.) that could provide technical and social support in implementing the proposed adjustments?

Table 15 in the annex helps you to conduct this last part of the project cycle. It is up to you how you find answers to those questions. Stakeholder consultations might be required.

Based on the evaluation of revised and new activities conducted in steps 3 to 6, you can now adjust them by going back to step 2. From there, you are encouraged to go through the project revision cycle as many times as you deem necessary. Once you are done going through the different steps of the cycle, you will have a number of suggestions for revised or new project activities on hand, that will strengthen local adaptive capacities and/or improve your project's contribution to protecting the global climate.

III. Annex: Tables

Table 1: The Project and its Context (Module 1)

Name/title of the project:
Geographic location:
Involved organisations:
Description of the project:
Description of the project context:

Table 2: Climate Context (Module 2)

Current and future impacts of climate change in your country/region:
Current and future impacts of climate change in your project area:
Most important sources and sinks of greenhouse gas emissions in your country/region:

Table 3: Climate Context (Module 2)

Climate risks		Impacts of those risks in the project area:	
1		1	
		2	
		3	
2		4	
		5	
		6	
3		7	
		8	
		9	

Table 4: Coping Strategies (Module 3)

Impacts (copy from module 2)		Coping strategies		Notes on sustainability and efficiency of those strategies
1		1		
2		2		
3		3		
4		4		
5		5		
6		6		
7		7		
8		8		
9		9		

Table 5: Livelihood Resources (Module 4)

Natural resources:	
A	
B	
C	
Physical resources:	
D	
E	
F	
Financial resources:	
G	
H	
I	
Human resources:	
J	
K	
L	
Social resources:	
M	
N	
O	

Table 6: Impacts of Climate Risks on Livelihood Resources (Module 4)

Indicate the impacts of the 3 climate risks on the livelihood resources: 0 means no impact, 5 means a very strong impact.

Copy resources and climate risks from tables 5 and 3, respectively.

Livelihood resources		Impact (intensity 0-5)		
		Climate risk 1:	Climate risk 2:	Climate risk 3:
	Natural resources:			
A				
B				
C				
	Physical resources:			
D				
E				
F				
	Financial resources:			
G				
H				
I				
	Human resources:			
J				
K				
L				
	Social resources:			
M				
N				
O				

Table 7: Importance of livelihood resources for coping strategies (Module 4)

Indicate the importance of the different livelihood resources (as identified above) for the coping strategies (identified in module 3): 0 means no importance, 5 means a very high importance.

Copy resources and coping strategies from tables 5 and 4, respectively.

Livelihood resources		Coping strat. 1:	Coping strat. 2:	Coping strat. 3:	Coping strat. 4:	Coping strat. 5:	Coping strat. 6:	Coping strat. 7:	Coping strat. 8:	Coping strat. 9:
	Natural									
A										
B										
C										
	Physical									
D										
E										
F										
	Financial									
G										
H										
I										
	Human									
J										
K										
L										
	Social									
M										
N										
O										

Tables 8 to 10: The Project and Adaptive Capacities (Module 5)

Table 8: Please complete the table separately for each project activity:

Project activity:
Description of the activity:

Table 9: Copy the most affected resources from modules 6 and 7:

Resources most affected by climate risks, or important for coping strategies:	Impact of the project activity		
	Positive	Negative	Neutral

Table 10: You may add interpretations and additional comments to the results of the table above.

Interpretations of activity's impact on livelihood resources relevant in the climate context:

Table 11: The Project and Mitigation (Module 6)

Activity	Describe your project's impact	Direction of impact		
		+	-	neutral
Energy				
- Vehicles				
- Electricity				
- Buildings				
Agriculture				
- Soils				
- Biomass				
- Fertilizers				
- Deepwater agriculture				
Livestock				
- Animals				
- Manure				
- Land use				
Forests				
- Size				
- Agroforestry				
Waste				
- Quantity				
- Use				

Table 12: Suggesting Project Revisions (Module 7)

Areas requiring revision to strengthen adaptive capacities:	Livelihood resources concerned:
Areas requiring revisions to improve impact on greenhouse gas sources or sinks:	Emission source or sink concerned:

Table 13: Revised or New Activities (Module 7)

Fill out table 13 separately for each revised or new activity:

Revised or new project activity
Description of revised or new project activity

Table 14: Vulnerability to Climate Hazards

Add the titles of revised or new activities in the column on the left. Transfer climate risks from table 3, and add further local climate risks identified in the literature review as noted in table 2. Indicate in the 6 middle columns whether a climate risk severely impacts an activity, and explain how in the remarks column.

Revised or new project activities:	Climate risks (from table 3):			Other climate risks (from table 2)			Remarks:
	Risk 1:	Risk 2:	Risk 3:				

Table 15: Coherence, Feasibility and Sustainability

Fill out table 15 for each revised or new activity.

Are the revised or new activities consistent with local priorities?
Is there local capacity to plan, implement, monitor and essentially take ownership to help ensure the sustainability of the proposed project adjustments?
Are there sufficient financial resources to implement the proposed project adjustment?
Is there political awareness and support of the proposed project adjustments?
Are there local / regional / national institutions that could provide technical and social support in implementing the proposed adjustments?