United Nations Development Programme

PROJECT LESSONS-LEARNED REPORT

Total length of report: 2-3 pages.
Please refer to the Deliverable Description for more information on the purpose and use of this report

Project Title:	Strengthening Thailand's Capacity to Link Climate Policy and Public Finance
Country:	Thailand
Related CPAP Outcome	Thailand is better prepared to coherently address climate change and environmental security issues
Project Description and Key Lessons-Learned	
Brief description of context	*Please give a brief description of the country context.* o *What were the main challenges being faced at the start of the project?* - The project started at the beginning of the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) which set a vision in moving Thailand towards a low carbon and climate resilient society. This was the first time that climate change issues had been explicitly addressed in the national development agenda and thus both knowledge and understanding of relevant government agencies on how to achieve this goal was quite limited. Most government agencies still viewed that climate change was just one of environment issues and they were lacking capacities to align their key sectoral policies and plans with the climate objectives, as well as aligning public financing to those policies.
Brief description of project	*A short description of the project should be provided here.* o *What were the issues the project tried to address?* - The project was aimed at supporting Thailand in strengthening its institutional capacity to link a coordinated and coherent green growth and climate change policy with its budgetary allocations and to report and measure over time the effectiveness of those policies and expenditures. Further, it would promote sharing of knowledge across countries to help identify and support innovation at the regional level in linking climate policy and public finance and accessing international climate finance. o *What solutions the project tried to offer? What were its major outputs?* - Firstly, the project had built a coordinated platform where key relevant government agencies can learn and share experience on how they integrate climate change issues into their respective planning, programming, and project development process. - Secondly, a Climate Change Benefit Analysis Guidelines was developed to help government agencies identify climate change co-benefits of their respective programmes/projects being formulated in an economic/financial term so as to justify budget requests to the Bureau of Budget - Thirdly, the project also proposed an institutional body to screen and approve budget related to climate change submitted by line agencies. - Fourthly, the project successfully contributed a linkage between climate change and public finance to the drafting of Climate Change Law whereby one requirement for budget allocation to all government agencies is that the budget requests submitted need to go through climate change risk analysis prior to budget consideration.

Key project successes	*Please describe what has worked well.*
	o *What have been the key successes of this project?*
	- First was the coordinated platform composing of various government agencies including Bureau of Budget which could share and discuss ideas on how to address climate change issues (with secured financial support) based on their functional roles and responsibilities.
	- Second was the Climate Change Benefit Analysis Guidelines and its training modules which have been used by government agencies to formulate project related to climate change and be able to identify climate change co-benefits concretely.
	o *What factors supported this success?*
	- Support from the implementation partner – Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
	- Good project management team
	- Technical support from UNDP regional team
Project shortcomings and solutions	*Please describe what have been the main challenges of this project?*
	o *What have been the main challenges/ shortcomings/ unforeseen circumstances of this project*
	- The main challenges were awareness and knowledge of government agencies related to climate change as well as technical capacities to formulate projects/programmes related to climate change
	- Law and regulation related to budget allocation which made it difficult for the Budget agency to take climate change as a priority issue for budget allocation
	o *How were they overcome (if they were)*
	- A series of capacity building workshops were provided to government agencies to enhance their knowledge and understanding.
	- The new coming draft of Climate Change Law requires any budget request submitted to undergo through climate change risk analysis prior to budget consideration.
	o *Were the project results attained? If not, what changes need to be made to achieve these results in the future?*
	- Yes
Lessons learned	*Please think about and describe the key lesson(s) learned from this project.*
	o *What could have been done differently/ better?*
	- Engage a higher level of policy making body to better support the work done.
	o *What would you recommend to improve future programming or for other similar projects elsewhere*
	- Capacity building to strengthen basic knowledge and understanding government agencies should be undertaken first during project inception phase.
	o *What mistakes should be avoided if the initiative were to be replicated?*
	- A good review and thorough analysis of key barriers to project objectives so as to set a realistic goals and outputs.
	o *How easy would it be to replicate the successes in a different context/ country?*
	- The process of building up the platform and developing Climate Change Benefit Guidelines could be replicated in a stepwise manner.

Project Information	
Award ID:	Project ID: 00072680 / Output ID: 00085748
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Project resources:	https://www.climatefinance-developmenteffectiveness.org/countries/thailand
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