What is a Climate Proofing Approach?
(And how is it changing?)

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What is “climate proofing”

- “... modifying existing activities to make them more resilient to current, as well as future, climate change risks.”

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- An important step in the first element of the NAP process is to identify aspects of current development efforts that are most at risk from climate change and to climate-proof these aspects.

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What is “climate proofing”

*We can never climate proof*

- Enhance? Improve?

*But the term is in common use; and readily grasped by non-experts in climate change.*
• "When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."
“Climate Proofing”

• Focusing during the risk assessment phase,
• on developing risk management and response plans
• to improve the resilience of the target population / infrastructure / program
• to climate risk events
Climate proofing depends on ...

Understanding the

- Which partners can assist
- Planning processes
- Institutions and stakeholders that need to be engaged
- National decision making and budgetary processes
- Wider political factors affecting the decisions
WEATHERING THE STORM
Options for Framing Adaptation and Development
The adaptation to development continuum

- **3. Discrete Adaptation**: Activities undertaken specifically to achieve climate adaptation objectives.
- **2. Climate-Proofing** of Ongoing Development Efforts: Activities added to an ongoing development initiative to ensure its success under a changing climate.
- **1. “Serendipitous” Adaptation**: Activities undertaken to achieve development objectives incidentally achieve adaptation objectives.
The adaptation to development continuum

• 3. **Discrete Adaptation**: Activities undertaken specifically to achieve climate adaptation objectives.

• 2. **Climate-Proofing** of Ongoing Development Efforts: Activities added to an ongoing development initiative to ensure its success under a changing climate.

• 1. **“Integrated” Adaptation**: Activities undertaken to achieve development objectives incorporating adaptation objectives.
Timeframes

The strategy set out to:

• Identify and define possible **long-term** climate impacts for Germany and its regions;
• Identify and communicate dangers and risks, by quantifying and making transparent their probability, damage potential, uncertainty factors, and **time components**;
• Create and raise awareness among stakeholders;
• Provide a basis for decision-making that enables the various stakeholders to take precautions and to gradually incorporate the impacts of climate change into their private, business and public planning and activities;
• Indicate options for action, coordinate and define responsibilities, and draw up and implement measures.
WARNING!
Climate proofing
Risk aversion &
Project scale

- Boat shed and launch ramp

Long term
- Sea level rise – c. 0.5 m

Medium term
- Storm surge – c. 10 to 20%
- Storm tracks – possibly many metres
House – rain water capture
House life time – 20 to 50 years
Plastic Tank life time -- <10 years

But greater rainfall variability

Greater household demand thus more tanks needed

How much space for tanks?

FIG. 8.2. Typical components of a whole-house rainwater harvesting system.
Rethink the problem – based on a longer time frame and as part of house replacements

Can also incorporate passive cooling
Full redesign and upgrade of waste and storm water drainage systems taking projections of climate change over planned lifetime into account

But do we have the fine scale data?
Beyond climate proofing

• ‘Incremental adaptation’ -- actions where the central aim is to maintain the essence and integrity of the existing technological, institutional, governance and value systems.

• E.g. through adjustments to cropping systems via new varieties or more efficient irrigation.
Beyond climate proofing

• ‘Transformational adaptation’ -- seeks to change the fundamental attributes of systems in response to actual or expected climate and its effects.

• Involves substantial changes in activities

• E.g. changing livelihoods from cropping to livestock or, by migrating to take up cropping elsewhere

• ‘Transformational adaptation’ -- also involves changes in our perception and paradigms about the nature of climate change, adaptation and their relationship to other natural and human systems

• ‘Transformational adaptation’ – does not mean big $$$ projects
Ultimately ingenuity wins