

## Session 6 : Bridging the Capacity Gap

### 1. Goal

This session's goal is to enable water managers and practitioners to understand, assess and address adaptive capacity as a key part of successful climate change adaptation strategies.

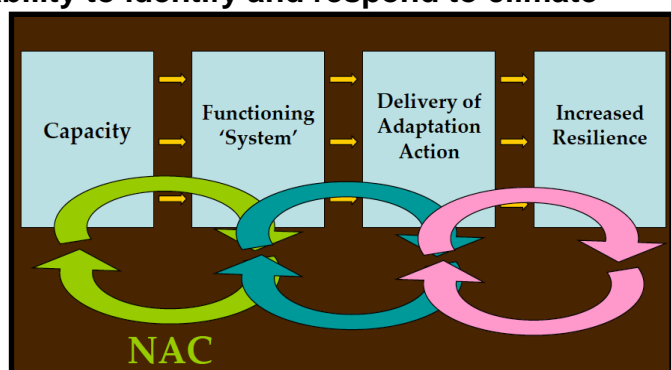
### 2. Learning objectives

- to think strategically about capacity building in adaptation strategies
- to have a solid understanding of the capacities and skills needed for the development and implementation of no-regret measures
- to be able to assess and address adaptive capacity gaps
- to know key sources of references and guidance

### 3. Key Messages

- Rationale for capacity development in water-based adaptation strategies
- A growing number of adaptation recommendations and good practices exist to help countries and organisations face the challenges of climate change locally, but **effective institutions and professionals are now required** at national and local levels to design and implement appropriate adaptation measures.
- Hard asset-based adaptation (investment in infrastructure, etc) must be balanced with **soft institutional measures (capacity building, coordination mechanisms, communication, etc) to increase resilience** in the long run. Enhancing adaptive capacities.
- Climate change and its impacts are **dynamic phenomena** : water managers and practitioners will have **to be flexible and to know how to keep updated** to cope with climate variability and hydrological uncertainties.
- **Adaptive capacity** is defined as **the ability to identify and respond to climate change impacts and uncertainty** by:

- **Predicting, planning and coping** through effective adaptation strategies on the ground
- **Adjusting strategically and effectively** to changing circumstances



- Ultimately, the most important adaptations are at the household and community levels. However, policies and institutions at the national level are very powerful at **enabling** or hindering **community-level adaptation**.

- The NAC Framework, its 5 key adaptive functions and related skills

- The **NAC Framework** (WRI, 2012) is one of many methodological frameworks to **assess and improve adaptive capacities** worldwide. It identifies a set of **5 core adaptive functions** within three broad categories of Planning, Alignment and Risk Management that are crucial for organisations to cope effectively with the challenges of climate change. It is particularly relevant for the **water sector**.

- The 5 key adaptive functions are :

**1. Assessment** : capacity to **gather and examine** available information to **guide decision-making**.

**2. Prioritization** : capacity to **arbitrate** between different adaptation options, areas, sectors or populations.

**3. Coordination** : capacity to **coordinate the activities of disparate water actors** (drinking, sanitation, agriculture, energy...) at **multiple levels** (national, basin, local...).

**4. Information and Knowledge management** : capacity to **collect, interpret and disseminate** water and climate information and good practices in support of water-based adaptation.

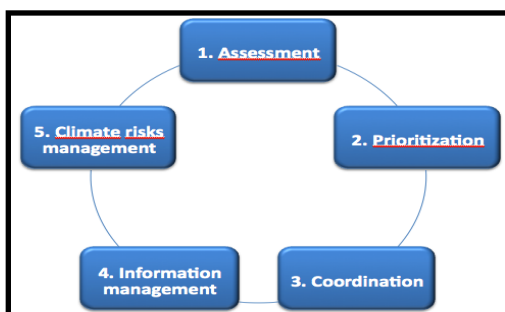
**5. Climate Risks Management** : capacity to **identify specific risks** to a given priority, to evaluate a range of options to address it, and to select and implement risk reduction measures (see Sections 4 & 5).



- **Developing these capacities is a non-regret action**. Indeed, these five functions cover a **range of skills** that contribute to a variety of activities way beyond climate change adaptation.

- **Capacity building initiatives** already exist in this respect in different countries of the **Arab region** (Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, etc – See Annex).

- Assessing capacity gaps and establishing priorities : The NAC Assessment tool



-The **NAC Assessment tool** helps **assess and address capacity development needs** within each country/organisation.

- It is based on a **context and an answer worksheets**, offering both a series of **questions** related to the 5 adaptive capacities

and a **color coded/traffic light rating** of perceived performance.

- The NAC Framework and Assessment Tool can help the Arab region's organisation identify and tackle their regional capacity needs in terms of climate change adaptive capacities.

- YOU are part of the solution for successful CCA

- **Adaptive capacities are as crucial as adaptation planning and infrastructures** to cope with climate change's impacts on water and its uncertainties on the ground

- The 5 key adaptive functions are: **assessment, prioritization, coordination, information management and climate risks management**

- Developing these adaptive capacities is a **no-regret action** as they overlap significantly with major sustainable development skills and can help avoid maladaptation

- Each Arab water sector organisation can use tools such as the NAC Framework to **assess its adaptive capacities and take action to tackle the gaps identified**

#### 4. Resources

- AFED. 2009. *Impact of climate change on Arab countries*. <http://www.afedonline.org/afedreport09/>
- BMZ-GIZ International Conference. 2011. *Water and climate change in the MENA region: adaptation, mitigation and best practice*. Berlin. <http://www.menawater-2011-berlin.de/>
- ECE. 2009. *Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change* [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp\\_wat/ECE\\_MP.WAT\\_30\\_E.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2009/Wat/mp_wat/ECE_MP.WAT_30_E.pdf)
- GWP, WWC, CPWC, IUCN and IWA. 2009. *Better water resources management – Greater resilience today, more effective adaptation tomorrow*. [http://www.gwptoolbox.org/images/stories/Docs/planning\\_better\\_wrm.pdf](http://www.gwptoolbox.org/images/stories/Docs/planning_better_wrm.pdf)
- GWP World Bank. 2012. *Adaptation to a changing climate in the Arab countries*. <http://rfflibrary.wordpress.com/2011/04/21/adaptation-to-a-changing-climate-in-the-arab-countries/>
- UNDP Arab HDR. 2009. *Challenges to human security in the Arab countries*. <http://www.arab-hdr.org/contents/index.aspx?rid=5>
- World Resources Institute. 2012. *Ready or Not: Assessing institutional aspects of national capacity for climate change adaptation*. Washington DC. <http://www.wri.org/publication/ready-or-not>

**Annex : Summary table of the 5 Key adaptive functions, related skills and regional examples**

Category	Key Adaptive Function	Related Skills	Regional Examples
<b>Planning</b>	<b>1. Assessment</b>	<b>Analytical skills</b> (research, inventory, analysis, synthesis)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>UN-ESCWA's</b> regional capacity building initiative and Climate Change Integrated Assessment Framework (Egypt, ACSAD, LAS)</li> <li>- <b>SEI's WEAP</b> Water and CC scenario planning tool (Jordan)</li> <li>- <b>National Adaptation Strategy for Agriculture and Ecosystems</b> (Tunisia)</li> <li>- Stakeholder-based «<b>Towards resilient oasis</b>» (Morocco)</li> <li>- <b>MDGF</b> prioritization of basin adaptation measures (Jordan)</li> <li>- <b>Water and Climate Change intersectoral coordination – CSEC, CIE, CPPE</b> (Morocco)</li> <li>- <b>CAP-Net's training manual</b> « IWRM as a tool for adaptation to Climate Change »</li> <li>- <b>Arab Climate Resilience Initiative</b> for practical, integrated and cooperative adaptation (UNDP-RBAS)</li> <li>- <b>Climate Change Knowledge portal</b> online (The World Bank)</li> <li>- <b>Climate Change Data Center for the Arab Region</b>, searchable database for 20 Arab countries (UNDP)</li> <li>- Istanbul Technical University's <b>climate change information portal</b> (Turkey)</li> <li>- <b>Climate Change Risks Management Programme</b>, a national cross-cutting programme targeting both <b>adaptation and mitigation</b> (Egypt)</li> <li>- <b>El Mouddaa Community-Based Adaptation Initiative</b> for <b>climate risk management</b>, including violent and erratic rainstorms and droughts (Morocco)</li> </ul>
		<b>Methodological skills</b> (methods, models, options appraisal)	
	<b>2. Prioritization</b>	<b>Political skills</b> (legitimacy, vision, power arrangements)	
		<b>Negotiation skills</b> (listening, influencing, brokerage)	
<b>Alignment</b>	<b>3. Coordination</b>	<b>Institutional cooperation skills</b> (inclusiveness, conflict resolution)	
		<b>Result-based management skills</b> (quality focus, budget keeping, outcome)	
	<b>4. Information &amp; Knowledge Management</b>	<b>Knowledge management skills</b> (data monitoring, collection, modelling)	
		<b>Outreach and advisory sk.</b> (pol. and tech. advice, sharing, communication)	
<b>Risk Management</b>	<b>5. Climate Risks Management</b>	<b>Risks reduction skills</b> (identification, resilience, early warning system)	
		<b>Disaster response skills</b> (emergency planning, safety response, recovery)	

