

THE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE: ENABLING EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT

THE DAC NETWORK ON DEVELOPMENT EVALUATION



Evaluating adaptation interventions

Trends and challenges from OECD/DAC EvalNet

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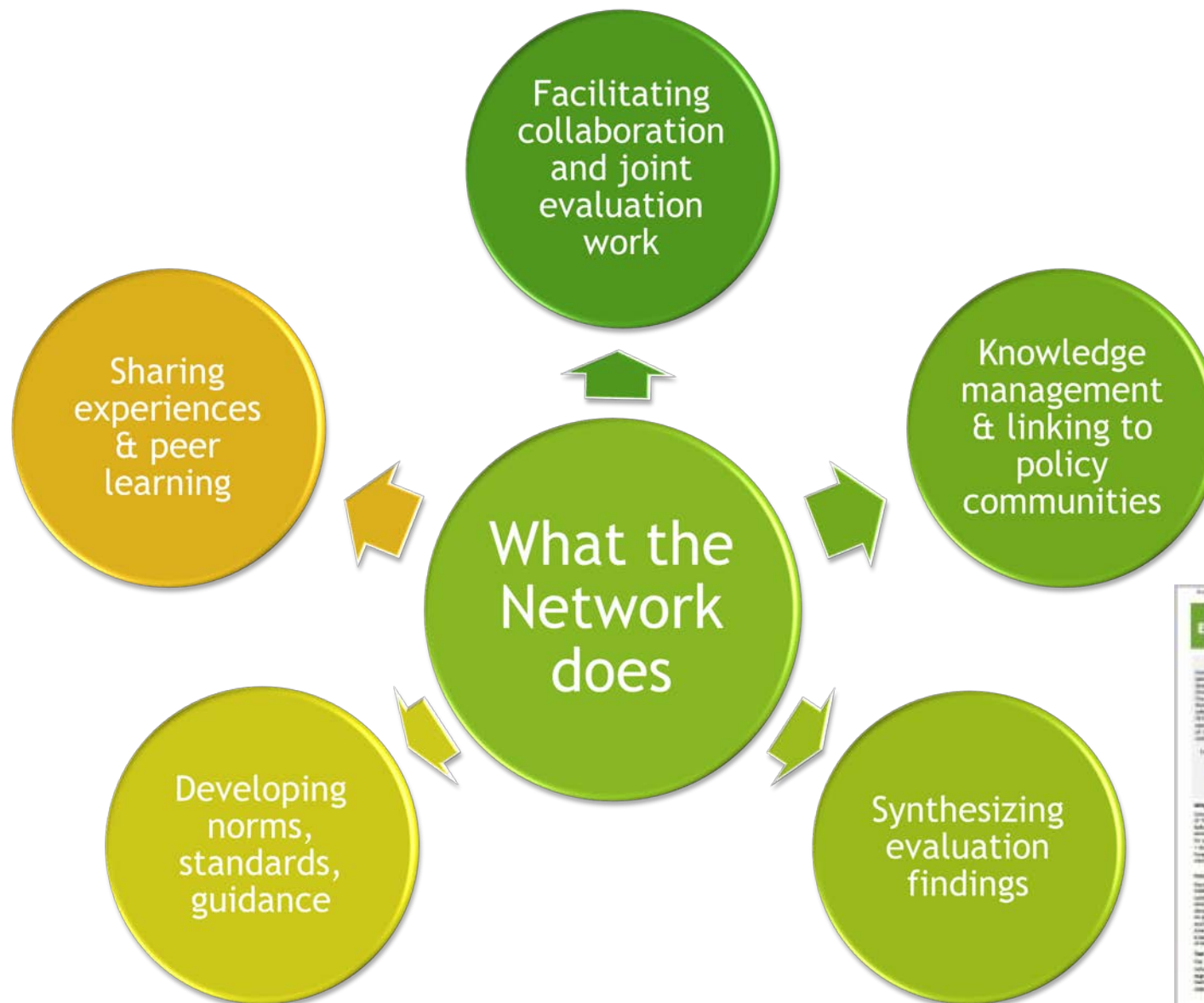
► OECD DAC EvalNet

Who is EvalNet?



- Network in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC)
- Bringing together evaluation heads and managers of 30 OECD Ministries of Foreign Affairs as well as development agencies, five regional development banks, the World Bank, IMF and UNDP
- Providing a forum for dialogue, exchange and knowledge sharing
- Meetings every 9 months, and task team meetings in between
- ▶ The current Chair of the Network is Per Bastøe (Norway). The Chair is supported by two elected vice-chairs.
- ▶ Supported by Secretariat (within the Development Co-operation Directorate) of the OECD.





Adaptation: Potential for learning

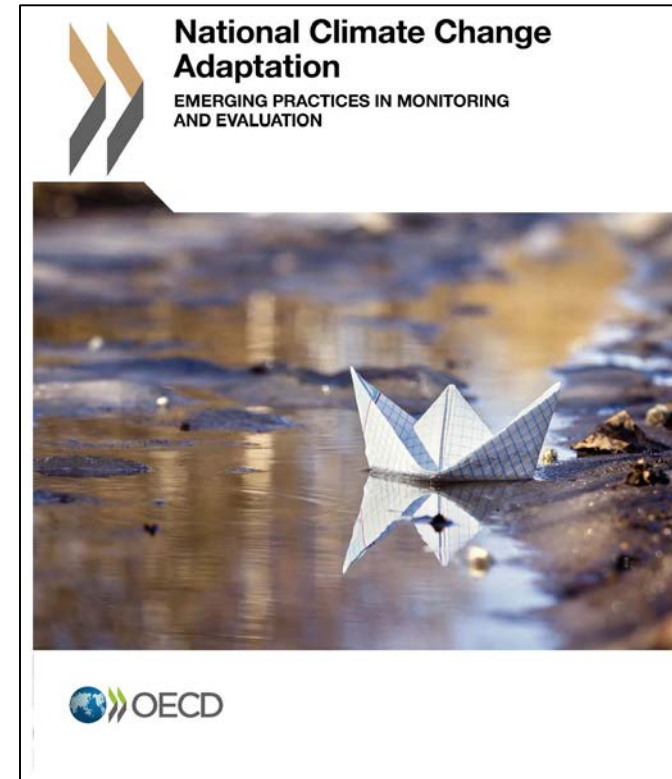


- ▶ Example of the universal nature of learning and accountability needs in the SDG-era. Many developing countries have lots of experience in evaluating adaptation-focused projects and strategies.
- ▶ Development co-operation has more evaluation experience compared to national evaluation in most OECD countries (ex. UK ICF)
- ▶ Drawing lessons from other areas of development evaluation.

Evaluating climate adaptation



- ▶ **Particular challenges:** Difference of degree, not type:
 - ▶ assessing attribution
 - ▶ non-outcomes or “the dog that didn’t bark”
 - ▶ establishing baselines and targets (shifting baselines)
 - ▶ dealing with long time horizons
 - ▶ hard and soft adaptation limits (evaluation conclusions)



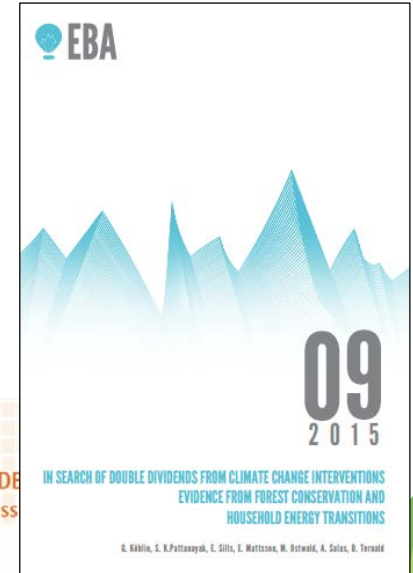
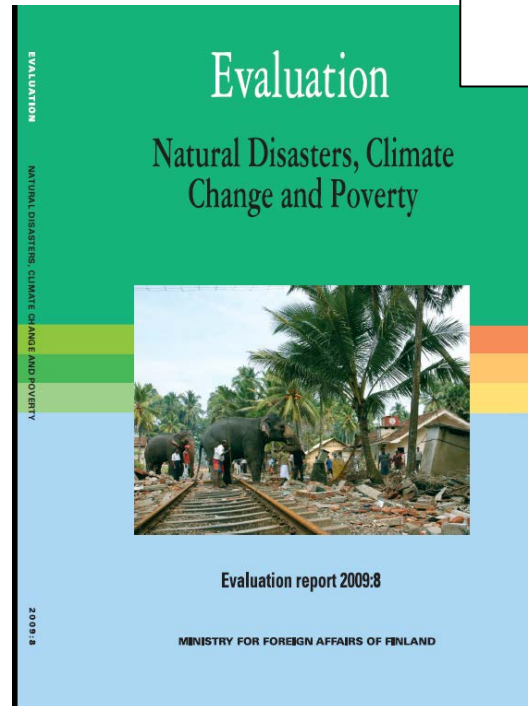
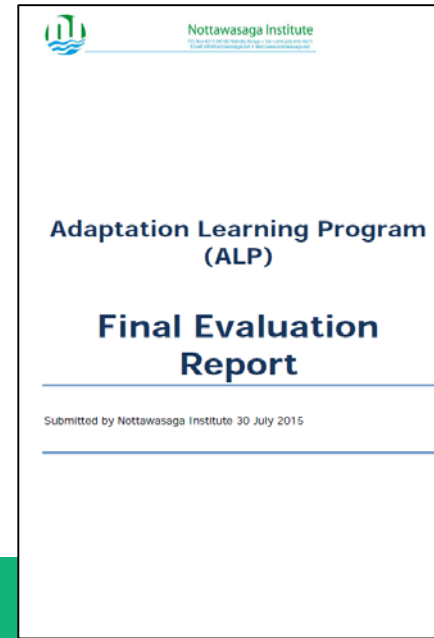
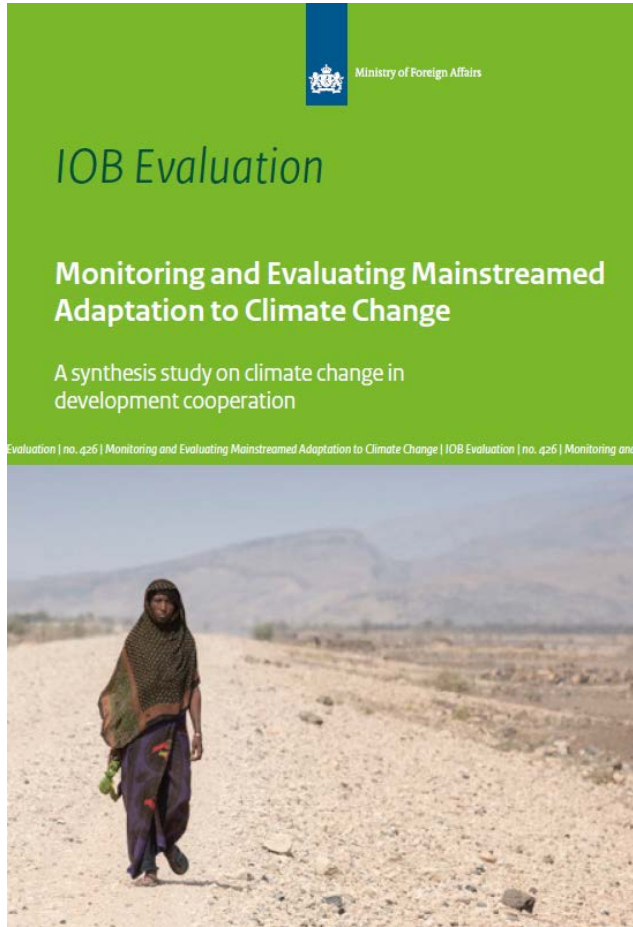
Trends among DAC EvalNet members



Quick overview of evaluations on DEReC (www.oecd.org/derec)

- ▶ 22 evaluations of different types
 - ▶ 7 evaluations covered climate resilience, adaptation, and other related topics together with other interventions
 - ▶ 7 funds/funding portfolio
 - ▶ 4 evaluations of specific adaptation projects/programs
 - ▶ 3 syntheses (e.g. one organization over many years)
- ▶ Overall quite limited in terms of number of evaluations and depth of analysis (specifically on adaptation)

Examples



Common findings from evaluation reports

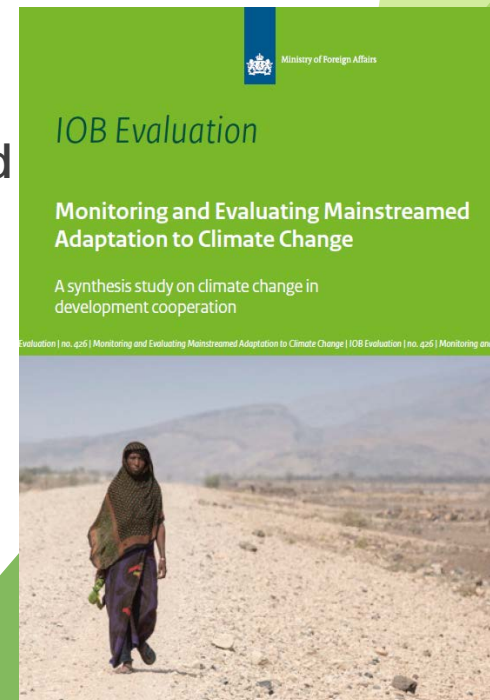


- ▶ Several evaluations found **adaptation performing better** compared to mitigation, overall:
 - ▶ *"For adaptation, the overall picture is stronger, with around one third of the projects showing very strong effectiveness and the majority showing moderate to strong effectiveness."* SDC effectiveness report 2014
- ▶ **Synergies underexploited:** Climate adaptation and climate mitigation synergies should be harnessed as they are often interlinked to achieve multi-faceted results. Ex. REDD+
- ▶ **Low ownership:** Low local partner involvement in intervention design
 - ▶ *Canada Climate Change Development Fund evaluation, "A major shortcoming of the CCCDF was the lack of participation of developing country partners. Owing to the time constraints and the imperative to meet Government of Canada objectives, there was little consultation with developing countries in setting up the Fund or in project selection. In some instances partnerships were not solidified before projects were approved."*
- ▶ **Insufficient action, shallow treatment:** Very general interventions, correspondingly evaluation. Inclusion of climate change as crosscutting issue but still regarded as *insufficient*. Frequent recommendations of scaling up of efforts
- ▶ **Uneven coverage:** Some sectors, such as clean energy, resilient agriculture receiving more attention than others (as a consequence evaluation pool is also uneven)

Key messages from synthesis of adaptation mainstreaming



- ▶ Provides an overview of the key concepts in adaptation; lays out the challenges of the M&E of adaptation, and some of the methods and techniques; types of indicators used to measure progress for adaptation interventions; and into the types of evaluations available
- ▶ Mainstreaming adaptation enables systemic and dynamic climate resilient development
- ▶ M&E can help ensure good adaptation mainstreaming
- ▶ Adaptation-specific indicators in mainstreamed adaptation focus on climate and capacity
- ▶ Indicators alone cannot provide insight into adaptation success
- ▶ M&E needs to be fit-for-purpose (it is possible!)
- ▶ Understanding *why* interventions work is as important as understanding what works:



Evaluation issues



- ▶ Syntheses identify weak and disparate evidence base (project-level evaluations), barrier to more strategic learning.
- ▶ More focus on the input side of the process, less analysis down the results chain. Also lots of monitoring and over-focus on metrics, less on explanation and causality.
- ▶ Lack of suitable climate change related baseline data, weak monitoring, not allowing detailed evaluation of effectiveness, efficiency and impact
- ▶ Lack of internationally agreed standards for measuring adaptation, and qualitative nature of implicit results (or not defined) and visibility only in the long-term
- ▶ Need for more comprehensive indicators to capture wider effects (geographic / temporal) of climate change related interventions
- ▶ Insufficient coverage of trade-offs though some evaluations (and policies) are becoming more explicit on interrelated nature of climate change topics in defining the scope of evaluations

Evaluation plan inventory



www.oecd.org/dac/evaluation/evaluation-plan-inventory

Sector

- Communication
- Cross-cutting issues
- Governance
- Humanitarian aid and c...
- Multi-sector
- Other
- Production / Economy
- Social services
- Null
- Economy
- Production / Economy, ...

Topic

(All)

Geographical Areas

(All)

Partner country/territory

(All)

Agency

(All)

Nb of projects: 507

Joint

Evaluation gaps?

- Only 5% of planned or ongoing evaluations focus on climate change and environment (27 of 507 total evaluations planned will look at adaptation)
- Of these only 5 are specifically on climate change resilience and adaptation



Thank you!

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Resources



- ▶ *National Climate Change Adaptation - Emerging Practice in Monitoring and Evaluation*
- ▶ *Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Change Adaptation: Methodological Approaches* (2014) explores methodological approaches that can be used to monitor and evaluate climate adaptation initiatives at the project and programme level. It focuses on three challenges and the lessons that can be learned from other areas of development practice.
- ▶ *Exploring Climate Finance Effectiveness* (2013) explores how different communities view climate finance effectiveness; the policies or institutional pre-conditions that facilitate effectiveness; and how effectiveness is currently monitored and evaluated.