



Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change

Sector Policy Brief: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Environmental issues cut across all sectors of society: from agriculture and industry, through human health and animal well-being, to urban life and rural livelihoods. This interconnectivity will redouble the impact of climate change on each and all of these areas. The response of the Madhya Pradesh State Government must therefore also be cross-cutting to integrate climate change into the respective policies and programmes of the state departments.

Introducing mitigation and adaptation strategies, making the most of new technologies, and empowering women and socially excluded groups are just some of the ways the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) aims to make a real difference. But it also relies on people working across different disciplines and departments and with the users of natural resources to review existing plans from a climate-change perspective, initiate pilot projects, build capacity and better coordinate action.

Strengthening the knowledge base

The Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO) has already completed a number of technical and scientific studies related to climate change in Madhya Pradesh. Together with the extensive consultations held, these studies were used to prepare the SAPCC. However, this is not a one-off exercise; it is just a starting point – more comprehensive research is required.

In fact, detailed research questions have already been identified for each sector to elicit further evidence on the projected impacts of climate change across the State, along with the most effective options for adaptation. Similarly, decision-making on the more efficient use of natural resources will require accurate and regular inventories of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Madhya Pradesh and these have been factored into plans to implement the SAPCC.

Communicating this evidence and information is a secondary but equally vital task. Knowledge management systems are therefore required to ensure that climate change information relevant to the State is accessible to all those who need it.

Promoting new technologies

The advancement of new technologies which are cost-effective and efficient will support mitigation and adaptation activities across the sectors.

The SAPCC identifies a significant opportunity to introduce advanced energy-efficient technologies and infrastructure so that Madhya Pradesh has a sustainable source of power into the future, for example. The majority of the State's population accesses energy only for domestic and small-scale business use, so has little or no contact with the commercial energy sector. This means that

the initiative to provide greener sources of energy lies with the State and Central Governments. The introduction of cost-effective and energy-efficient technology would also support the growing industrial sector of Madhya Pradesh, helping it to become more globally competitive.

Adapting to the impacts of climate change will also be facilitated by other new technologies, such as water-efficient irrigation mechanisms and communication systems for weather forecasting.



Madhya Pradesh was a pioneer in India when it introduced Gender Budget Statements in 2007–2008, covering 13 of the 52 state departments. In 2011 this had increased to 24 departments.

Gender budgeting is not a separate budget for women but a dissection of the government budget to identify its gender-differential impacts. In short, the process translates policy commitments on gender into budgetary commitments. Studies are being carried out by the Institute for Alternative Futures in America and the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability in India to look at the potential of gender budgeting in Madhya Pradesh as an added means of tackling climate change.

Source: http://www.cbgaindia.org/files/policy_briefs/Madhya%20Pradesh.pdf

Empowering the citizens of Madhya Pradesh

Empowering women and socially excluded groups by getting them involved in governance and addressing their material constraints is a priority of the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Women and men are impacted by climate change differently. They also differ in their literacy levels, ownership of physical assets, division of labour and levels of responsibility in different occupations like farming and fishing, as well as in their access to extension services, credit and marketing resources. The participation of women and men in decision-making structures also varies substantially, which means that their coping mechanisms and capacity for adaptation are, again, vastly different.

The gender dimension of climate change therefore needs to be factored into the strategies and actions of all sectors. Specific cross-sector strategies, such as gender-based budgeting, need to be explored; while introducing gender-disaggregated data into future studies and vulnerability assessments will help shape policies and programmes that address gender barriers.

Institutional capacity building

The Government of Madhya Pradesh has shown its commitment and leadership in addressing climate change issues. A dedicated Climate Change Cell has been established within the Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO), which is under the Department of Housing and Environment. EPCO has also been declared the State Designated Agency for Climate Change Issues and the State Nodal Agency for Climate Change Knowledge Management. The Climate Change Cell has taken the lead in preparing a number of climate change studies and the SAPCC.

The challenge now is to implement the SAPCC. This requires more detailed planning and analysis, as well as strong commitment from the state departments and other institutions, equipped to manage the delivery and coordination of activities. A preliminary assessment of the State's planning capacity has already taken place at institutional level, but a more detailed analysis is required. As a first step, a Knowledge Management Centre in Climate Change has been established at EPCO to handle the challenge of strengthening the knowledge base of the State when it comes to climate change issues.



Cross-Cutting strategies set out in the SAPCC

Effective implementation of the SAPCC requires action that cuts across all sectors. Some of the key strategies to achieve this are:

- ▶ Establish and make functional a Knowledge Management Centre in Climate Change at the EPCO.
- ▶ Conduct state-of-the-art research to provide policymakers with tools to evaluate and respond to the threat of climate change. This would help officials within the state departments to understand climate change at policy level and aid decision-making. An inventory of GHG emissions and the creation of Marginal Abatement Cost Curves (MACC) is proposed to be repeated every five years for each sector to take account of the State's changing climatic parameters.
- ▶ Strengthen monitoring tools by upgrading management information systems and exploiting satellite technology such as remote sensing.
- ▶ Raise awareness of climate change among the public for better implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures.
- ▶ Build the capacity of non-governmental organisations, the state departments and the media on climate change issues by getting subject specialists to promote best practice.
- ▶ Integrate gender issues into adaptation planning. Further research is needed to understand the impacts of climate change on women and children. The findings then need to be integrated into existing programmes through participatory planning sessions.
- ▶ Monitor the urban landscape regularly and document changes in land-use, population growth and settlements (especially slums) to ensure the development of sustainable habitats.
- ▶ Mainstream climate change concerns by facilitating workshops and other interactive sessions at district level; create a *Climate Change Resource Book* on each agro-climatic zone to sensitise the District Planning Committees to climate change issues and vulnerabilities so these can be integrated and addressed in planning activities.
- ▶ Commission baseline studies from which to develop sectoral criteria/indicators to monitor and evaluate the SAPCC in association with the relevant state department/s.

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The Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) has been prepared by the Climate Change Cell, Environmental Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO), Housing & Environment Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. The Plan outlines the strategies required to strengthen development planning and build a more climate-resilient State. It aims to promote the integration of appropriate adaptation/mitigation strategies into the State's development policies and programmes. It is based on secondary data and promotes 'no regret' measures.

In order to share the results of the Madhya Pradesh SAPCC and begin to address climate change concerns through development policies and programmes, the Climate Change Cell of EPCO commissioned a series of policy briefs. CDKN was tasked with producing these, based on the Madhya Pradesh SAPCC, as a Communications Project. This brief is one of a series of ten sector policy briefs, designed to inform stakeholders about the strategies and commitments established in the SAPCC that are of relevance to their sector. Further information can be found in the full SAPCC, available at http://www.epco.in/pdf/Draft_MP_SAPCC.pdf



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