



Institute of
Development Studies

Climate Change Adaptation and Social Protection

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IDS, November 2009

Introduction: Why is linking climate change and social protection important?

For Climate Change ...

- The poorest and most vulnerable will be impacted hardest
- Currently much of the debate on delivering adaptation assistance within the UNFCCC negotiations has focused on setting up a 'climate insurance mechanism' – including support for pro-poor micro-insurance
- There is now strong evidence that social protection – such as small but regular transfers of cash – has huge benefits for poor people (DFID)
- Calls \$100bn per year for adaptation by 2020 (Brown, CAN etc.)

For Social Protection ...

- Climate change poses risks to graduation and makes targeting more difficult (e.g. PSNP agricultural productivity)
- G20 in response to financial crisis – MDBs providing \$12.9bn over 3 years

Definitions

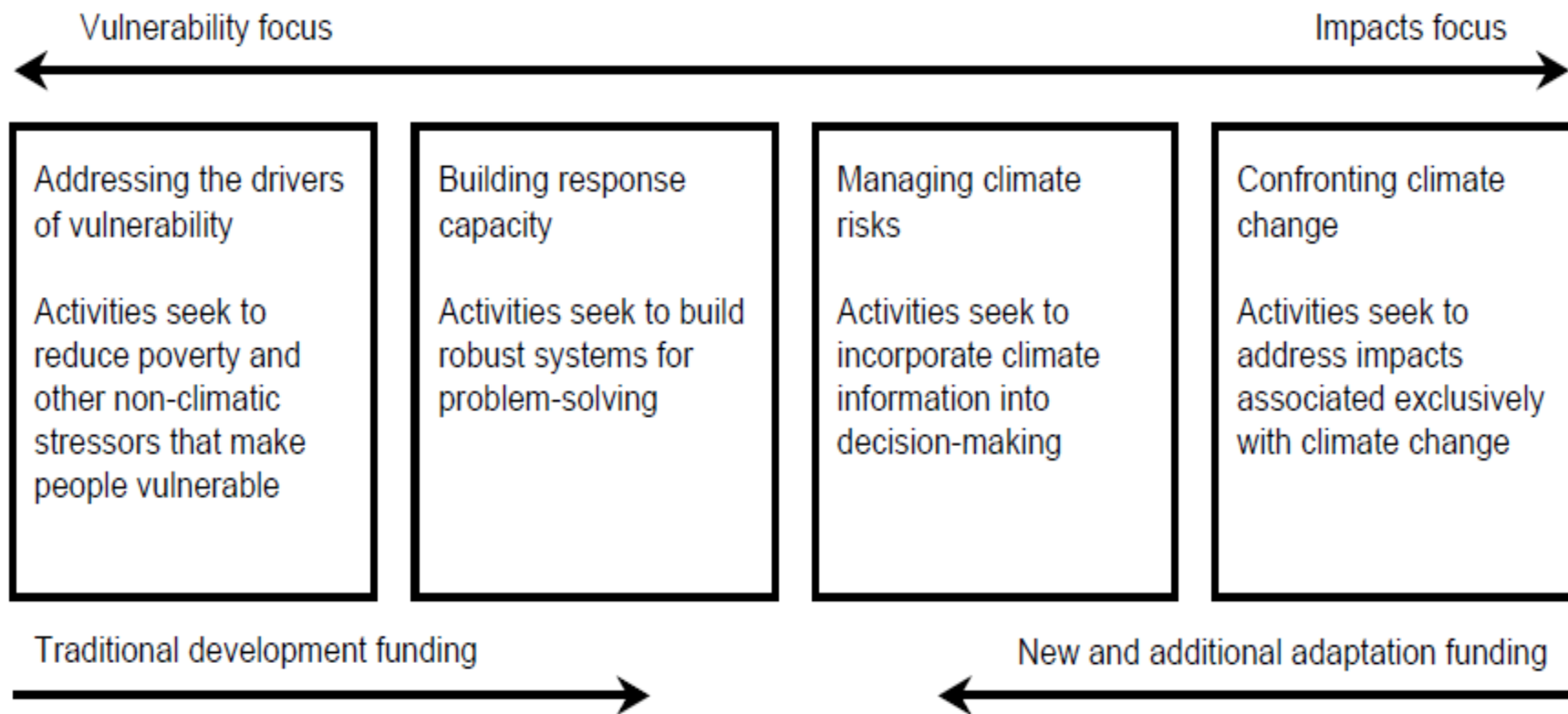
Social Protection describes all public and private initiatives that provide income or consumption transfers to the poor, protect the vulnerable against livelihood risks, and enhance the social status and rights of the marginalised; with the overall objective of reducing the economic and social vulnerability of poor, vulnerable and marginalised groups (Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler 2004).

Climate change adaptation is the process or outcome of a process that leads to a reduction in harm or risk of harm, or realisation of benefits associated with climate variability and climate change (UNDP 2005).

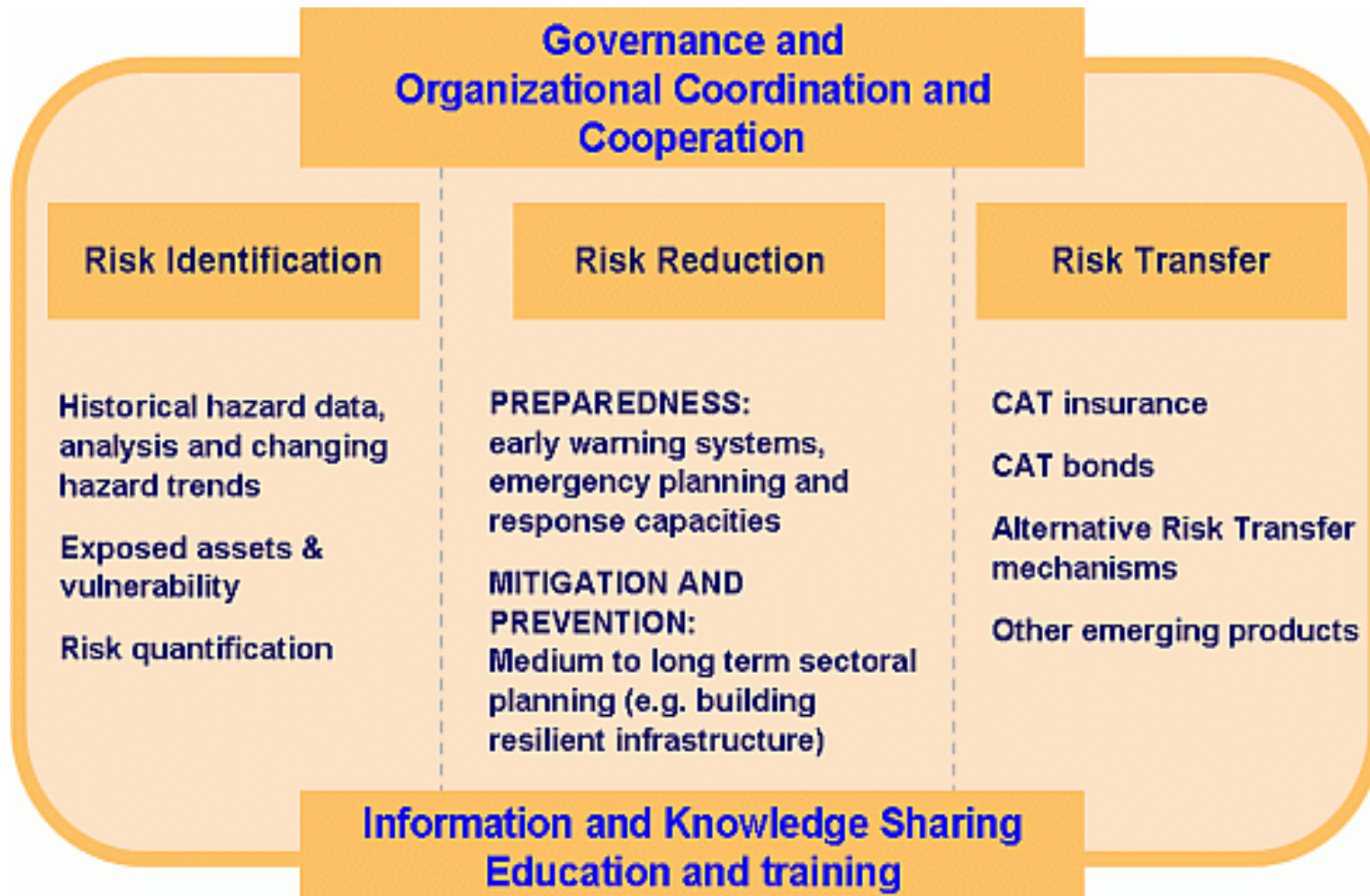
Disaster risk reduction describes the systematic efforts to analyse and manage the causal factors of disasters, including through reduced exposure to hazards, lessened vulnerability of people and property, wise management of land and the environment, and improved preparedness for adverse events (UNISDR 2009).



Three Framings: Adaptation Activities

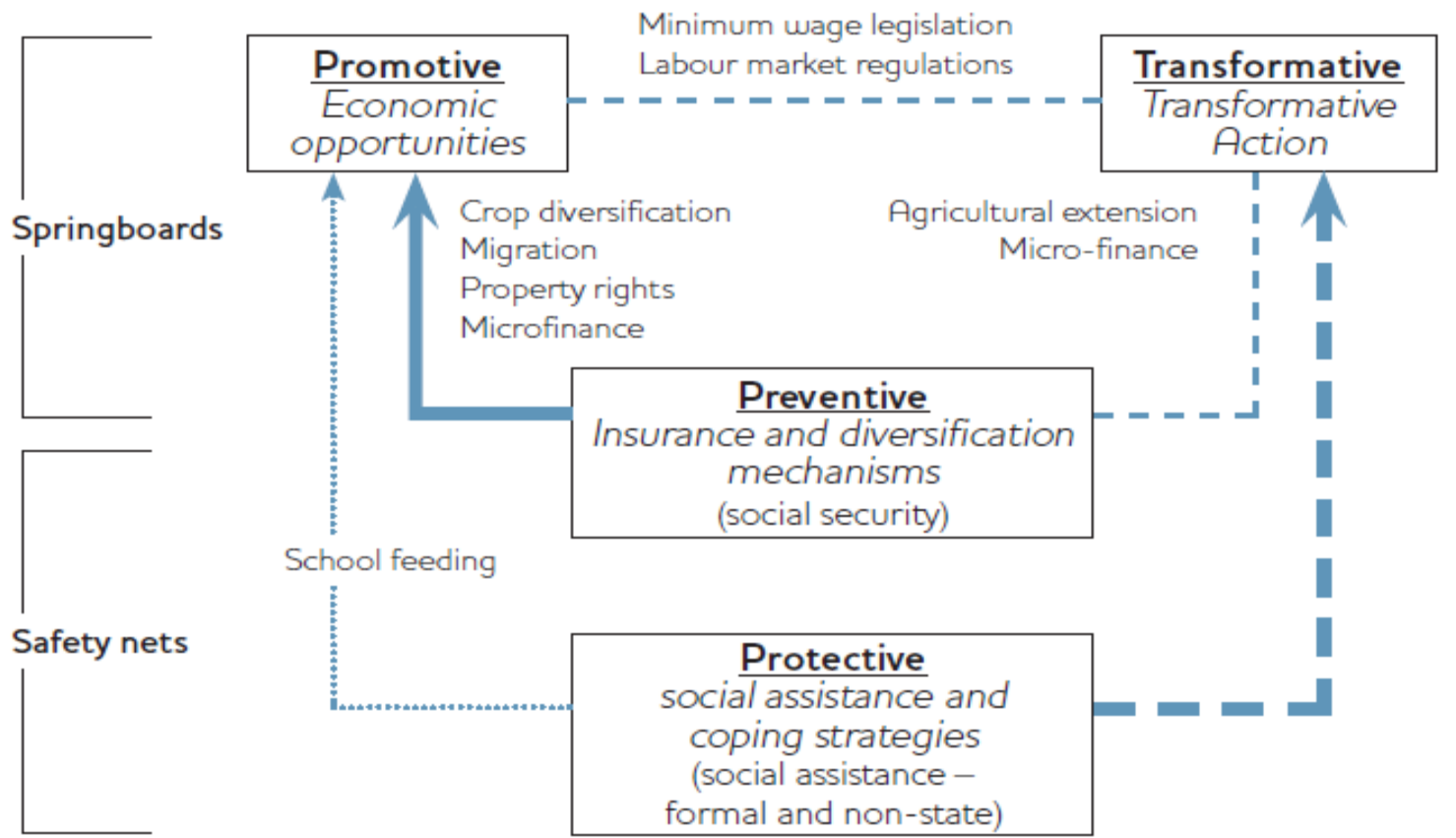


Three Framings: Disaster Risk Management Activities



Source:
WMO

Three Framings: Social Protection Activities



- Indicates an obvious and direct relationship
- - - - -** Indicates a less obvious relationship
-** Indicates a weak relationship
- Indicates that many protective measures can have the unfortunate effect of reinforcing established power hierarchies and patterns of exclusion

Devereux and Sabates-Wheeler 2006



Matching Continuums

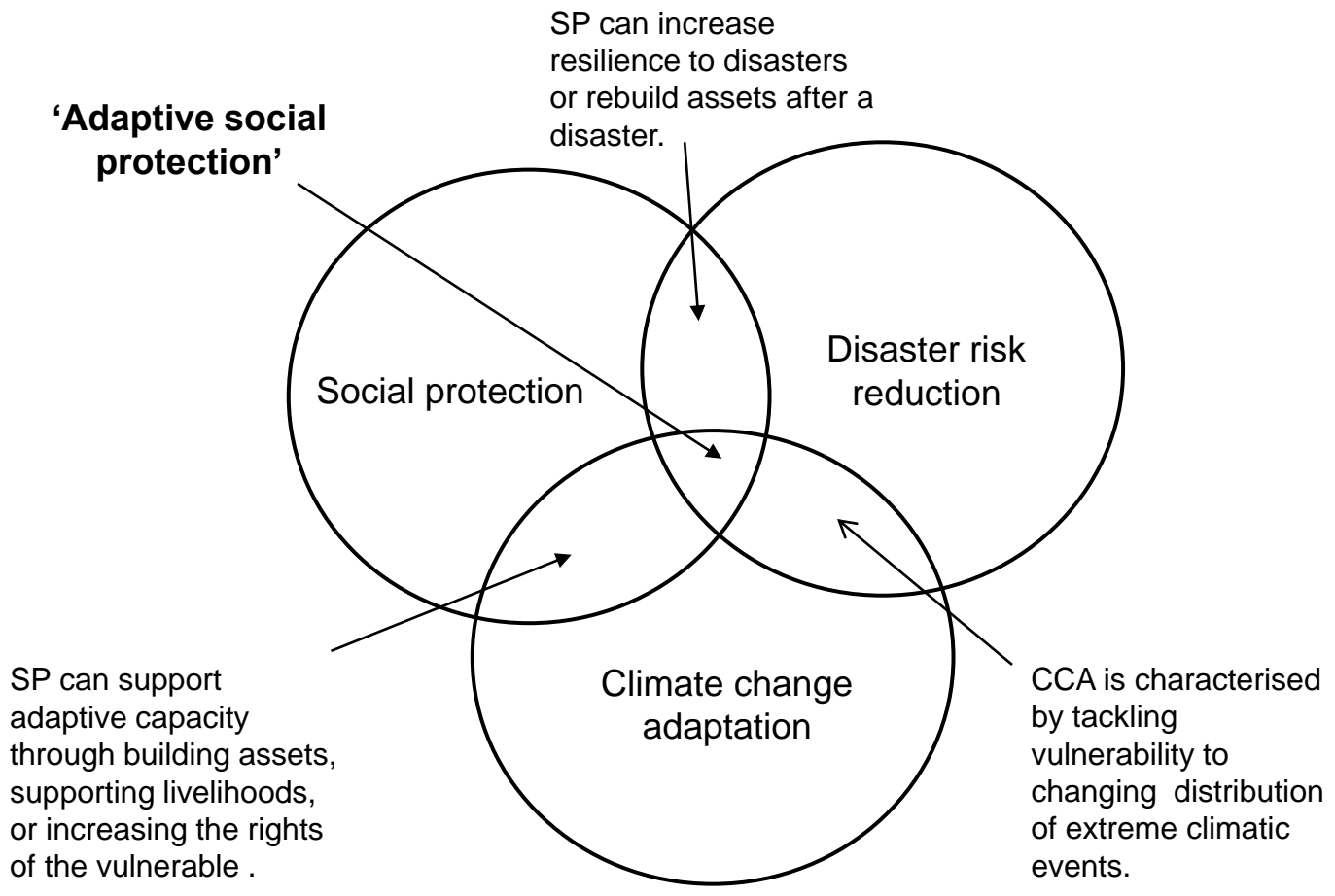
- All address vulnerability
- All attempt to reduce risks to development pathways and poverty reduction
- All have activities that are spread across a continuum of action



| Social Protection | Transformative | Promotive | Preventative | Protective |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Disaster Risk Management | Managing uncertainty to build disaster resilience | Reducing Risk | Sharing/ Transferring disaster risk | Managing disaster impacts |
| Adaptation | Reducing underlying vulnerability | Managing climate risks | | Managing climate impacts |



The concept: “Adaptive Social Protection” (ASP)







What is Adaptive Social Protection?

ASP describe the benefits social protection can bring for building adaptive capacity to climate change among poor and vulnerable groups and for developing climate change-resilient social protection programmes.

Founded on simple hypothesis that combining social protection, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation approaches will reduce poverty and build the resilience of lives and livelihoods to shocks and stresses.

Characteristics of Adaptive Social Protection?

ASP brings:

- **Transformation and Promotion:** An emphasis on transforming and promoting livelihoods as well as protecting them, to build long-term resilience to climate change and disasters
- **Improved Targeting:** A grounding in the root causes of poverty, recognising the poverty is differentiated, allowing more tailored assistance to those vulnerable to climate, disaster and economic shocks.
- **Equity and Rights:** An incorporation of a rights-based rationale for action – that stresses equity and justice dimensions of chronic poverty and climate change and calls for ‘compensatory assistance’ to those who need it most.
- **Longer-Term:** A longer-term perspective for social protection and DRR programming brought by combining climate change dimension
- **Joining Expertise:** An enhanced role for natural and social sciences to work together in designing adaptation, DRR and social protection interventions
- **Evaluation:** SP (and idea of protecting, preventing, promoting, transforming livelihoods/risks) brings a metric for evaluating the ‘resilience-building’ component of programming approaches that combine the 2 or more of the 3 elements.



ASP in practice

| SP measure | SP instruments | Adaptation and DRR benefits |
|---|--|---|
| Protection (coping strategies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – social service protection – basic social transfers (food/cash) – pension schemes – public works programmes | – protection of those most vulnerable to climate risks, with low levels of adaptive capacity |
| Preventive (coping strategies) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – social transfers – livelihood diversification – weather-indexed crop insurance | – prevents damaging coping strategies as a result of risks to weather-dependent livelihoods |
| Promotive (building adaptive capacity) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – social transfers – access to credit – asset transfers/protection – starter packs (drought/floodresistant) – access to common property resources – public works programmes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – promotes resilience through livelihood diversification and security to withstand climate related shocks – promotes opportunities arising from climate change |
| Transformative (building adaptive capacity) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – promotion of minority rights – anti-discrimination campaigns – social funds | – transforms social relations to combat discrimination underlying social and political vulnerability |

What others are saying on adaptation, DRR and SP

The **Global Assessment Report** for Disaster Reduction (2008) 20 point plan for Reducing Disaster risk lists:

Number 6: Invest in natural resource management, infrastructure development, livelihood generation and social protection to reduce vulnerability and strengthen the resilience of rural livelihoods.

Number 8: Shift the emphasis of social protection from an exclusive focus on response to include pre-disaster mechanisms and more effective targeting of the most vulnerable groups.

The **Bellagio Framework** for Adaptation Assessment describes ‘social protection’ as one of three adaptation service delivery pillars – the others being natural resource management and infrastructure planning (WRI 2009)

“Social protection – particularly the direct and predictable transfer of resources to the poor – must become a standard feature when building the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable households and individuals” (**Swedish Commission** on Climate Change and Development, summary for policy makers, 2008)

Key Message for Copenhagen: Governments must be assisted in enhancing food production and access, scaling up social protection systems and improving their ability to prepare for and respond to disasters (statement by **Caritas, WHO, WFP, FAO, Save the Children, Oxfam, IFRC, World Vision** – 4th November 2009)

ASP on the Ground?



Existing CBA and DRR initiatives

Existing social protection initiatives





Developing the ASP idea

Phase 1

- Examining the conceptual linkages
- Making the case

Phase 2

- Expanding the evidence base
- Identifying opportunities for policy options and programmatic gaps

Phase 3

- Lasting partnership and advocacy
- Securing role for social protection

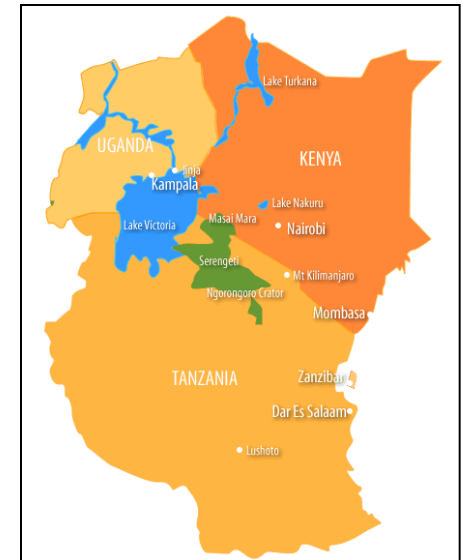
ASP: mapping the evidence

Map evidence of projects and programmes, and policies and institutions that seek to increase the resilience of rural livelihoods with the aim of outlining what we learn in terms of:

- The extent to which SP, DRR and CCA are being integrated in practice;
- Where there is integration of disciplines, the common characteristics, as well as differences, in such projects and programmes; and
- Whether there are particular institutional opportunities or challenges that emerge as a result.

Two regional case studies

- Projects and programmes designed to build resilient rural livelihoods in agriculture sector in South Asia and East Africa.
- Examination of standard literature, programme evaluations, and policy documents. Interviews conducted with key stakeholders.
- South Asia:
 - 124 projects and programmes based in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan
 - 46 stakeholder interviews.
- East Africa:
 - Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Uganda and Tanzania.





Implications for ASP

- Projects and programmes promoting climate-resilient livelihoods should aim to integrate SP-DRR-CCA disciplines.
- Build on existing SP and SP-DRR projects.
- Vulnerability reduction needs to be the primary target of adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities and policies.
- Innovative approaches to promoting climate resilient livelihoods: multi-disciplinary and rights-based.
- Barriers to greater integration of SP, CCA and DRR vary from country to country but generally concern lack of capacity.