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3	Chapter 18 - Inter-relationships Between Adaptation and Mitigation	
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20	Contents	
21		
22	Executive Summary	2
23		
24	18.1 Introduction	4
25	18.1.1 Background and rationale	4
26	18.1.2 Structure of the chapter	5
27		
28	18.2 Summary of relevant knowledge in IPCC TAR	7
29		
30	18.3 Response capacity and development pathways	9
31		
32	18.4 Potential costs of and damages avoided by adaptation and mitigation	14
33	18.4.1 Framing the decision problem	14
34	18.4.2 Studies of tradeoffs and synergies in global scale analysis	15
35	18.4.3 Avoided damages	17
36	18.4.4 Mitigation-adaptation linkages at regional and sectoral scales	18
37		
38	18.5 Examples of inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation	22
39	18.5.1 Stakeholder roles and spatial and temporal scales	22
40	18.5.2 Examples of complementarities and differences	24
41		
42	18.6 Elements for effective implementation	25
43	18.6.1 Climate policy and institutions	25
44	18.6.2 Inter-relationships in practice	31
45	18.6.3 Relevance to policy and development	33
46		
47	18.7 Uncertainties, unknowns, and priorities for research	33
48		
49	References	36

1 Executive Summary

2
3 **Both adaptation and mitigation help to reduce the risks of climate change to nature and society**
4 **[very high confidence]**. However, their effects vary over time and place. Mitigation will have global
5 benefits but, owing to the lag times in the climate system, these will hardly be noticeable until 2040
6 [WG-I]. The benefits of adaptation are largely local to regional in scale but they can be immediate,
7 especially if they also address vulnerabilities to current climate conditions [18.1.1, 18.5.2]. Given
8 these differences between adaptation and mitigation, climate policy is not about making a choice
9 between adapting to and mitigating climate change. If key vulnerabilities to climate change are to be
10 addressed, adaptation is necessary because even the most stringent mitigation efforts cannot avoid
11 further climate change in the next few decades. Mitigation is necessary because reliance on
12 adaptation alone could eventually lead to a magnitude of climate change to which effective
13 adaptation is possible only at very high social, environmental and economic costs [18.4, 18.6].
14

15 **Effective climate policy involves a portfolio of adaptation and mitigation actions [very high**
16 **confidence]**. These actions include technological, institutional and behavioural options, the
17 introduction of economic and policy instruments to encourage the use of these options, and research
18 and development to reduce uncertainty and to enhance the options' effectiveness and efficiency
19 [18.4.1, 18.4.2]. Many different actors would be involved in the implementation of these actions,
20 operating on different spatial and institutional scales. Mitigation primarily involves the energy,
21 transportation, forestry and agriculture sectors, whereas actors involved in adaptation represent a
22 large variety of sectoral interests, including agriculture, tourism and recreation, human health, water
23 supply, coastal management, urban planning and nature conservation [18.5, 18.6].
24

25 **Decisions on adaptation and mitigation are taken at a range of different levels [very high**
26 **confidence]**. These levels include individual households and farmers, private firms and national
27 planning agencies. Effective mitigation requires the participation of the bulk of major greenhouse gas
28 emitters globally, whereas most adaptation takes place at local and national levels. The benefits of
29 mitigation are global, whilst its costs and ancillary benefits arise locally. Both the costs and benefits
30 of adaptation accrue locally [18.1.1, 18.4.2]. Consequently, mitigation is primarily driven by
31 international agreements and ensuing national public policies, whereas most adaptation is driven by
32 private actions of affected entities and public arrangements of impacted communities [18.1.1, 18.6.1].
33

34 **Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation exist at each level of decision-making**
35 **[high confidence]**. Adaptation actions can have (often unintended) positive or negative mitigation
36 effects, whilst mitigation actions can have (also often unintended) positive or negative adaptation
37 effects [18.4.2, 18.5.2]. An example of an adaptation action with a negative mitigation effect is the
38 use of air-conditioning (if the required energy is provided by fossil fuels). An example of a
39 mitigation action with a positive adaptation effect could be the afforestation of degraded hill slopes,
40 which would not only sequester carbon but also control soil erosion. Other examples of such
41 synergies between adaptation and mitigation include rural electrification based on renewable energy
42 sources, planting trees in cities to reduce the heat-island effect and the development of agroforestry
43 systems [18.5.2].
44

45 **Analysis of the inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation may reveal ways to**
46 **promote the effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions [medium**
47 **confidence]**. Creating synergies between adaptation and mitigation can increase the cost-
48 effectiveness of actions and make them more attractive to potential funders and other decision-
49 makers. However, synergies provide no guarantee that resources are used in the most efficient
50 manner when seeking to reduce the risks of climate change. Moreover, essential actions without
51 synergetic effects may be overlooked if the creation of synergies becomes a dominant decision

1 criterion [18.6.1]. Opportunities for synergies exist in some sectors (*e.g.*, agriculture, forestry,
2 buildings and urban infrastructure) but they are rather limited in many other climate-relevant sectors
3 [18.5.2]. A lack of both conceptual and empirical information that explicitly considers both
4 adaptation and mitigation makes it difficult to assess the need for and potential of synergies in
5 climate policy [18.7].

6
7 **Decisions on tradeoffs between the immediate localised benefits of adaptation and the longer-**
8 **term global benefits of mitigation would require information on the actions' costs and benefits**
9 **over time [high confidence].** For example, a relevant question would be whether or not investment
10 in adaptation would buy time for mitigation. Global integrated assessment models provide
11 approximate estimates of relative costs and benefits at highly aggregated levels. Intricacies of the
12 inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation become apparent at the more detailed analytical
13 and implementation levels [18.4.2]. These intricacies, including the fact that adaptation and
14 mitigation operate on different spatial, temporal and institutional scales and involve different actors
15 who have different interests and different beliefs and value systems, present a challenge to the
16 practical implementation of tradeoffs beyond the local scale. In particular the notion of an “optimal
17 mix” of adaptation and mitigation is problematic, since it assumes that there is a zero-sum budget for
18 adaptation and mitigation and that it would be possible to capture the individual interests of all who
19 will be affected by climate change, now and in the future, into a global aggregate measure of well-
20 being [18.4.2, 18.6.1].

21
22 **People's capacities to adapt and mitigate are driven by similar sets of factors [high confidence].**
23 These factors represent a generalised response capacity that can be mobilised in the service of either
24 adaptation or mitigation. Response capacity in turn is dependent on the societal development
25 pathway. Enhancing society's response capacity through the pursuit of sustainable development
26 pathways is therefore one way of promoting both adaptation and mitigation [18.3]. This would
27 facilitate the effective implementation of both options, as well as their mainstreaming into sectoral
28 planning and development. If climate policy and sustainable development are to be pursued in an
29 integrated way, then it will be important not simply to evaluate specific policy options that might
30 accomplish both goals but also to explore the determinants of response capacity that underlie those
31 options as they relate to underlying socio-economic and technological development paths [18.3,
32 18.6.3].
33

18.1 Introduction

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) identifies two options to address climate change: mitigation of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing sinks, and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. Most industrialised countries have committed themselves, as signatories to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol, to adopting national policies and taking corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change and to reducing their overall greenhouse gas emissions by an average of 5.2% compared to 1990 levels by the period 2008–2012. An assessment of current efforts aimed at mitigating climate change is presented by Working Group III. It shows that these commitments alone would not lead to a stabilisation of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. In fact, no mitigation effort, no matter how rigorous and relentless, is going to prevent climate change from happening in the next few decades, due to the lag times in the global climate system (see relevant chapters in Working Group I). Chapter 1 in this report shows that the first impacts of climate change are already being observed.

Adaptation is therefore a necessity (Parry *et al.*, 1998). Chapter 17 presents examples of adaptations to climate change that are currently being observed but concludes that there are limits and barriers to effective adaptation. Even if these limits and barriers were to be removed, however, reliance on adaptation alone is likely to lead to a magnitude of climate change in the long run to which effective adaptation is only possible at very high social, economic and environmental costs (as, for example, shown for extreme sea-level rise in Europe by Lonsdale *et al.*, 2005; Poumadère *et al.*, 2005; Olsthoorn *et al.*, 2005). It is therefore no longer a question of whether to mitigate climate change or to adapt to it. Both adaptation and mitigation are now essential in reducing the expected impacts of climate change to humans and their environment.

18.1.1 Background and rationale

The level of climate change impacts, and whether or not this level is dangerous (*cf.* Article 2 of the UNFCCC), is determined by both adaptation and mitigation efforts. Adaptation can be seen as direct damage prevention, whilst mitigation would be indirect damage prevention (Verheyen, 2005). In spite of this link, discussions on adaptation and mitigation have been rather unconnected in both climate research and climate policy, involving largely different communities of scholars and negotiators. Only recently have policymakers expressed an interest in exploring inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation beyond integrated assessment modelling, which has in turn triggered an increased research effort. In particular, the link between the two responses vis-à-vis development is becoming a focus for policy and research.

Traditionally the focus of international climate policy has been on energy policy, with less attention being given to enhancing sinks or to adaptation. As energy supply relies predominantly on fossil fuels (the main source of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions), energy policy has been the logical entry point for mitigation. This policy focus was reflected in the IPCC Second Assessment Report (SAR). Since the publication of the SAR, the international climate policy community has become aware that energy policy alone will not suffice in the quest to control climate change and limit its impacts. Climate policy is being expanded from energy policy to consider a wide range of options aimed at sequestering carbon in vegetation, oceans and geological formations, at reducing the emissions of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions, and at reducing the vulnerability of sectors and communities to the impacts of climate change by means of adaptation. Consequently, the IPCC Third Assessment Report (TAR) provided a more balanced treatment of mitigation and adaptation, illustrating the increased interest in adaptation.

1 Recognising the dual need for adaptation and mitigation, as well as the finitude of funds and the
2 consequent need to explore trade-offs between the two responses, policymakers are faced with an
3 array of questions (GAIM Task Force, 2002). How much adaptation and mitigation would be
4 optimal, when and in which combination? Who would decide, and based on what criteria? Are
5 adaptation and mitigation substitutes or are they complementary to one another? What is the potential
6 for creating synergies between the two responses? How do their costs and effectiveness vary over
7 time? How do the two responses affect, and how are they affected by, development pathways? These
8 are some of the questions that have led the IPCC to include this chapter on inter-relationships
9 between adaptation and mitigation in its Fourth Assessment Report.

10
11 The amount of literature that deals explicitly with inter-relationships between adaptation and
12 mitigation is still small compared to that available to other chapters in this report, although it is
13 growing fast. Yet it is also very diverse: there is no consensus in the literature as to whether or not
14 exploring and exploiting inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation is possible, much less
15 desirable (*cf.* Venema and Cisse, 2004; Klein *et al.*, 2005). The relatively small size of the literature
16 and the lack of consensus pose a challenge to policymakers and academics alike. As a possible first
17 step in addressing this challenge, this chapter not only assesses the available literature on inter-
18 relationships between adaptation and mitigation; it also presents an analytical framework with which
19 such assessment can be done consistently and in line with earlier climate policy analysis.

20 21 22 *18.1.2 Structure of the chapter*

23
24 Box 18.1 summarises the differences, similarities and complementarities between adaptation and
25 mitigation. This chapter then uses this information as the starting point for assessing to what extent
26 adaptation and mitigation are related, and if and how any such inter-relationships could be exploited
27 in climate policy. The chapter is structured as follows. Section 18.2 summarises the knowledge
28 relevant to this chapter that was presented in the IPCC Second and Third Assessment Reports (SAR
29 and TAR). Section 18.3 presents adaptation and mitigation within the context of development
30 pathways, thus providing the background against which policymakers and practitioners operate when
31 acting on climate change. Section 18.4 then frames the challenge of deciding when, how much and
32 how to adapt and mitigate as a decision-theoretical problem, based on which it assesses the existing
33 literature on trade-offs and synergies between adaptation and mitigation (including the potential costs
34 of and damage avoided by adaptation and mitigation). In presenting examples of inter-relationships,
35 Section 18.5 first reviews the respective roles of the stakeholders involved, including the spatial and
36 temporal scales on which they act, and then provides case studies of complementarities and
37 differences as they appear from the literature. Section 18.6 assesses the literature for elements for
38 effective implementation of climate policy that relies on inter-relationships between adaptation and
39 mitigation. Finally, Section 18.7 outlines information needs of climate policy and priorities for
40 research.

41 42 43 ***Box 18.1: Differences, similarities and complementarities between adaptation and mitigation***

44
45 IPCC TAR used the following definitions: mitigation is any “anthropogenic intervention to reduce
46 the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases” (IPCC, 2001a: 379), whereas “[Adaptation to
47 climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected
48 climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities” (IPCC,
49 2001a: 365). It follows that mitigation reduces all impacts (positive and negative) of climate change
50 and thus reduces the adaptation challenge whereby adaptation is selective: can take advantage of
51 positive and reduce negative impacts (Goklany, 2005). The effectiveness of diverse mitigation

1 actions can be measured in carbon equivalents while no such common unit is available for measuring
2 the effectiveness of the multitude of adaptation efforts.

3
4 Although many determinants of mitigative and adaptive capacity are common, there are a number of
5 important differences between mitigation and adaptation. Given the global nature of climate change,
6 effective mitigation actions need to involve several countries (a sufficient number of major
7 greenhouse gas emitters to foreclose leakage), whereas adaptation activities largely take place at
8 local, regional or national levels. Adaptation rarely expands beyond national boundaries, although
9 some adaptation strategies might result in spillovers over national boundaries (*e.g.*, by changing
10 international commodity prices in agricultural or forest product markets). The costs of mitigation
11 arise locally (economic spillovers are possible) while its benefits are dispersed globally (ancillary
12 benefits might be realised at the local/regional level). Both the costs and benefits of adaptation accrue
13 predominantly locally (with the possibility of spillovers to other regions and to other actors, for
14 example in flood protection or coastal zones). The climate-related benefits of mitigation spread over
15 decades to centuries (near-term ancillary benefits like reduced air pollution are possible) while the
16 benefits of most adaptation efforts (*i.e.*, averted damage) can be realised within years and over
17 decades. Correspondingly, there is a long delay between paying for the mitigation costs and realising
18 their benefits from smaller climate change while the time span between outlays and returns of
19 adaptation is much shorter. This divergence is augmented in analyses adopting positive discount
20 rates. These asymmetries imply that mitigation is driven by international agreements and ensuing
21 national public policies (sometimes supplemented by community-based initiatives), whereas the bulk
22 of adaptation actions are driven by the self-interest of affected private actors and communities,
23 possibly assisted by public policies. Mitigation policies require rigorous implementation measures
24 while adaptation is largely fostered by the self-interest of the affected agents, although rigour might
25 be required in adaptation when it creates a public good like flood protection. Finally, near-term
26 mitigation decisions are necessarily based on uncertain and incomplete information available today
27 (although learning and course correction in the future will be possible), whereas most adaptation
28 actions will gradually emerge over the coming decades and can benefit from improving information
29 about climate change and its impacts.

30
31 There are a number of linkages between mitigation and adaptation at different levels of decision-
32 making. Mitigation efforts can foster adaptive capacity if they eliminate market failures and
33 distortions as well as perverse subsidies that prevent actors to make decisions on the basis of the true
34 social costs of the available options. At a highly aggregated scale, mitigation expenditures appear
35 diverting social or private resources and reduce the funds available for adaptation, but in reality the
36 related actors and budgets are different. Both actions change relative prices and so consumption and
37 investment patterns slightly, thus changing the development path of the affected economy, but direct
38 trade-offs are rare special cases. Furthermore, the implications of adaptation activities can be both
39 positive and negative for mitigation endeavours. For example, if afforestation is part of a regional
40 adaptation strategy, it also makes a positive contribution to mitigation. In contrast, if adaptation
41 actions imply increased energy use from carbon emitting sources (*e.g.*, indoor heating and cooling,
42 irrigation and alike), this would affect mitigation efforts negatively.

43
44 Mitigation and adaptation are connected in the local, national and international policy portfolios and
45 their relative importance depends on local priorities and preferred approaches in combination with
46 international responsibilities.

18.2 Summary of relevant knowledge in IPCC TAR

Compared to the SAR, two of the Working Groups preparing the IPCC TAR were restructured. The scope assigned to Working Group II was limited to impacts of climate change on sectors and regions and to issues of vulnerability and adaptation, while Working Group III was commissioned to assess the technological, economic, social and political aspects of mitigation. Whereas there were concerted efforts to assess linkages of both mitigation and adaptation to sustainable development (see Chapter 20), there was little room to consider the direct relationships between these two domains. The integration of results and the development of policy-oriented synthesis were therefore difficult (Toth, 2003).

The attempt to establish the foundations of the Synthesis Report (IPCC, 2001a) in the final chapters of Working Groups II and III did not shed light on adaptation-mitigation linkages. Chapter 19 in Working Group II presented “Reasons for concern about projected climate change impacts” in a summary figure that outlines the risks associated with different magnitudes of warming, expressed in terms of the increase in global mean temperature. Largely based on integrated assessment models (IAMs), Chapter 10 in WG III summarised the costs of stabilising CO₂ concentrations at different levels. These two summaries are difficult to compare because the questions as to what radiative forcing and climate sensitivity parameters should be used to bridge the concentration-temperature gap remains unanswered. Moreover, many statements in the two working group reports were themselves distilled from a large number of reviewed studies. Yet the generic assumptions underlying the methods, the specific assumptions of the applications, the selected baseline values for the scenarios, incompatible discount rates, economic growth assumptions and many other postulations implicit in the parameterisation of mitigation and adaptation assessments were largely ignored or remained hidden in the Synthesis Report.

Nonetheless, the TAR presented new concepts for addressing inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation. Local adaptive and mitigative capacities vary significantly across regions and over time. Superficially they appear to be strongly correlated because they share the same list of determinants. However, aggregate representation across nations or social groups of both mitigation and adaptation is misleading because the capacity to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the ability to adapt to it can deviate significantly. As the TAR pointed out: “one country can easily display high adaptive capacity and low mitigative capacity simultaneously (or vice versa)” (IPCC, 2001b: 107; see also Yohe, 2001). In a wealthy nation the damages may fall on a small but influential social group and the costs of adaptation can be distributed across the entire population through the tax system. Yet in the same country, another small group might be hurt by mitigation policies without the possibility to spread this burden. In addition to the conceptual deliberations, the TAR discussed inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation at two levels: at the aggregated, global and national levels and in the context of economic sectors and specific projects.

The WGII report pointed out that “Adaptation is a necessary strategy at all scales to complement climate change mitigation efforts” (IPCC 2001c: 6) but also elaborates the complex relationships between the two domains at various levels. Some relationships are synergistic while others are characterised by trade-offs. The report noted the arguments in the literature about the trade-off between adaptation and mitigation because resources committed to one are not available for the other but notes that this is “debatable in practice because the people who bear emission reduction costs or benefits often are different from those who pay for and benefit from adaptation measures” (IPCC 2001c: 94). From the dynamic perspective, “climatic changes today still are relatively small, thus there is little need for adaptation, although there is considerable need for mitigation to avoid more severe future damages. By this logic, it is more prudent to invest the bulk of the resources for climate policy in mitigation, rather than adaptation” (IPCC 2001c: 94). Yet, as WGIII noted, one should bear

1 in mind the intergenerational trade-offs. The impacts of today’s climate change investments on future
2 generations’ opportunities should also be considered. Investments might enhance the capacity of
3 future generations to adapt to climate change, but at the same time may displace investments that
4 could create other opportunities for future generations (IPCC 2001b: 484).

5
6 WGIII Chapter 10 outlined the iterative process in which nations balance their own mitigation
7 burden against their own adaptation and damage costs. “The need for, extent and costs of adaptation
8 measures in any region will be determined by the magnitude and nature of the regional climate
9 change driven by shifts in global climate. How global climate change unfolds will be determined by
10 the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions that, in turn, reflects nations’ willingness to undertake
11 mitigation measures. Moreover, balancing mitigation and adaptation efforts largely depends on how
12 mitigation costs are related to net damages (primary or gross damage minus damage averted through
13 adaptation plus costs of adaptation). Both mitigation costs and net damages, in turn, depend on some
14 crucial baseline assumptions: “economic development and baseline emissions largely determine
15 emission reduction costs, while development and institutions influence vulnerability and adaptive
16 capacity” (IPCC 2001b: 604).

17
18 Discussions of inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation are sparser at the sector/project
19 level. Some chapters in WGII noted the mitigation linkages when discussing climate change impacts
20 and adaptation in selected sectors, primarily those related to land-use, agriculture and forestry. WGII
21 Chapter 5 noted that “[A]fforestation in agroforestry projects designed to mitigate climate change
22 may provide important initial steps towards adaptation” (IPCC 2001c: 296). Chapter 8 emphasised
23 sustainable forestry, agriculture and wetlands practices that yield benefits in watershed management
24 and flood/mudflow control but involve trade-offs such as wetlands restoration helping to protect
25 against flooding and coastal erosion, but in some cases increasing methane release.

26
27 WGII Chapter 12 observed the complexities in land management in Australia and New Zealand
28 “where control of land degradation through farm and plantation forestry is being considered as a
29 major option, partly for its benefits in controlling salinisation and waterlogging, and possibly as a
30 new economic option with the advent of incentives for carbon storage as a greenhouse mitigation
31 measure (IPCC 2001c: 608). Chapter 15 mentioned soil conservation practices (*e.g.*, no tillage,
32 increased forage production, higher cropping frequency) implemented as mitigation strategies in
33 North America (IPCC 2001c: 756). It observed that the Kyoto Protocol mentions human-induced
34 land-use changes and forestry activities (afforestation, reforestation, deforestation) as sinks of
35 greenhouse gases for which sequestration credits can be claimed and that agricultural sinks may be
36 considered in the future. The market emerging in North America to enhance carbon sequestration
37 leads to land management decisions with diverse effects. The negative consequences of reduced
38 tillage implemented to enhance soil carbon sequestration include the increased use of pesticides for
39 disease, insect and weed management; capturing carbon in labile forms that are vulnerable to rapid
40 oxidation if the system is changed; and reduced yields and cropping management options and
41 increased risk for farmers. The beneficial consequences of reduced tillage (especially no-till) are
42 reduced input costs (*e.g.*, fuel) for farmers; increased soil moisture and hence reductions in crop
43 water stress in dry areas; reduction in soil erosion; and improved soil quality (IPCC 2001c: 758).

44
45 In chapters dealing with other sectors affected by climate change impacts and mitigation, less
46 attention was paid to their linkages. WGII Chapter 8 mentioned energy end-use efficiency in
47 buildings having both mitigation and adaptation benefits, as improved insulation and equipment
48 efficiency can reduce the vulnerability of structures to extreme temperature episodes and emissions.
49 An example of the remote causalities between mitigation and adaptation across space and time was
50 provided by Chapter 17. Small island states are recognised to be vulnerable to climate change and
51 tourism is a major source of income for many of them. While over the long term, milder winters in

1 their current markets could reduce the appeal of these islands as tourist destinations, they could be
2 even more severely harmed by increased airline fares “if greenhouse gas mitigation measures (*e.g.*,
3 levies and emission charges) were to result in higher costs to airlines servicing routes between the
4 main markets and small island states” (IPCC 2001c: 862).

5
6 Finally, WGII Chapter 8 drew attention to a linkage between adaptation and mitigation in the Kyoto
7 Protocol that establishes a surcharge (“set-aside”) on mitigation activities implemented as Clean
8 Development Mechanism projects. “One key issue is the size of the “set-aside” from CDM projects
9 that is dedicated to funding adaptation. If this set-aside is too large, it will make otherwise viable
10 mitigation projects uneconomic and serve as a disincentive to undertake projects. This would be
11 counterproductive to the creation of a viable source of funding for adaptation” (IPCC 2001c: 444).

14 **18.3 Response capacity and development pathways**

15
16 As outlined in the IPCC TAR (Working Group II, Ch.18 and Working Group III, Ch. 1) and discussed
17 at more length in Chapter 17 of this volume and Chapter 12 of the Working Group III report, the
18 ability to implement specific adaptation and mitigation measures is dependent upon the existence and
19 nature of adaptive and mitigative capacity, which makes such measures possible and affects their
20 extent and effectiveness. In that sense, specific adaptation and mitigation measures are rooted in their
21 respective capacities (Adger and Vincent, 2005; Brooks *et al*, 2005; Adger *et al*, 2003; Yohe, 2001).

22
23 Adaptive capacity has been defined in this assessment report (Working Group II, Ch.17.3.1) as “the
24 ability or potential of a system to respond successfully to climate variability and change.” In a
25 parallel way, mitigative capacity has been defined in the 4AR as the “ability to diminish the intensity
26 of the natural (and other) stresses to which it might be exposed,” (Working Group III, Ch. 1.1.1).
27 Since this definition suggests that a group’s capacity to mitigate hinges on the severity of impacts to
28 which it is exposed, Winkler *et al* (2006) have suggested that mitigative capacity be defined instead
29 as “a country’s ability to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gases or enhance natural sinks”. Clearly
30 these two categories are closely related, though in accordance with the differences between
31 adaptation and mitigation measures discussed in section 18.1 above, capacities also differ somewhat.
32 In particular, since adaptation measures tend to be both more geographically dispersed and smaller in
33 scale than mitigation measures (Ruth, 2005; Dang *et al.*, 2003), adaptive capacities refer to a slightly
34 broader and more general set of capabilities than mitigative capacities. Despite these minor
35 differences, however, adaptive and mitigative capacities are driven by similar sets of factors.

36
37 The term response capacity may be used to describe the ability of humans to manage both the
38 generation of greenhouse gases and the associated consequences (Tompkins and Adger, 2003). As
39 such, response capacity represents a broad pool of resources, many of which are related to a group or
40 nation’s level of socio-technical and economic development, which may be translated into either
41 adaptive or mitigative capacity. Socio-cultural dimensions such as belief systems and cultural values,
42 which are often not addressed to the same extent as economic elements (Handmer *et al.*, 1999), can
43 also affect response capacity (See Third Assessment Report & Chapter 12 Working Group III).

44
45 Although the concept of response capacity is new to the IPCC, and has yet to be sufficiently
46 investigated in the literature, efforts have been made to define the nature and determinants of its
47 conceptual components, adaptive and mitigative capacity. With regard to mitigative capacity, Yohe
48 (2001) has suggested the following list of determinants, which play out at the national level:

- 49 • range of viable technological options for reducing emissions;
- 50 • range of viable policy instruments with which the country might effect the adoption of these
- 51 options;

- 1 • structure of critical institutions and the derivative allocation of decision-making authority;
- 2 • availability and distribution of resources required to underwrite their adoption and the
- 3 associated, broadly defined opportunity cost of devoting those resources to mitigation;
- 4 • stock of human capital, including education and personal security;
- 5 • stock of social capital, including the definition of property rights;
- 6 • country access to risk-spreading processes (*e.g.*, insurance, options and futures markets, *etc.*);
- 7 • ability of decision makers to manage information, the processes by which these decision
- 8 makers determine which information is credible and the credibility of decision makers
- 9 themselves.

10
11 In the context of developing countries, many of which possess limited institutional capacity and
12 access to resources, mitigative and adaptive capacity could be fashioned by other determinants. For
13 instance, political will and the intent of decision makers (Burton *et al.*, 2001), and the ability of
14 societies to form networks through collective action that insulate them against the impacts of climate
15 change (Woolcock and Naryan, 2000) may be especially important in developing countries,
16 especially in societies where policy instruments are not fully developed, and where institutional
17 capacity and access to resources are limited.

18
19 Yohe suggests a similar set of determinants for adaptive capacity, but adds the availability of
20 resources and their distribution across the population. Recent research has sought to offer empirical
21 evidence that demonstrates the relative influence of each of these determinants on actual adaptation
22 (Yohe and Tol, 2002). These determinants of both adaptive and mitigative capacity expand on those
23 identified in the Third Assessment Report and agree closely with those offered by Moss *et al.*,
24 (2001) and Adger *et al.*, (2004). The linkages between adaptive and mitigative capacity are
25 demonstrated by the striking similarities between these sets of determinants, which show that both
26 the ability to adapt and the ability to mitigate depend on a mix of social, biophysical and
27 technological constraints (Tompkins and Adger, 2003). Recent research has pointed to the necessity
28 of broadening these lists of determinants to include other important factors such as socio-political
29 aspirations (Haddad, 2005), risk perception and perceived adaptive capacity (Grothmann and Patt,
30 2005) and political will (Winkler *et al.*, forthcoming).

31
32 These discussions of determinants indicate the close connection that exists between response capacities
33 and the underlying socio-economic and technological development paths that give rise to those
34 capacities. In important respects, the determinants listed above are important characteristics of such
35 development paths. Those development paths, in turn, underpin the baseline and stabilisation emission
36 scenarios that will be discussed in Chapter 3 of Working Group III and used to estimate emissions,
37 climate change and associated climate change impacts. As a result, the determinants of response
38 capacity can be expected to vary across the underlying emission scenarios reviewed in this Fourth
39 Assessment Report. The climate change and climate change impact scenarios assessed in the Fourth
40 Assessment Report will be primarily based on the SRES family of emission scenarios, which define a
41 spectrum of different development paths, each with associated socio-economic and technological
42 conditions and driving forces. Each family of emission scenarios will therefore give rise to a different
43 set of response capacities, and thus different likely or even possible levels of adaptation and mitigation.

44
45 This situation is summed up in Figure 18.1, which shows adaptation and mitigation measures as
46 being rooted in adaptive and mitigative capacity. The adaptive and mitigative capacities are in turn
47 contained within, and strongly affected by, the nature of the development path in which they exist.
48 The figure also illustrates that adaptation, mitigation and their respective capacities overlap
49 substantially but are not identical.

50
51 The concept of development paths is discussed at more length in Chapters 12, 2 and 3 of the Working

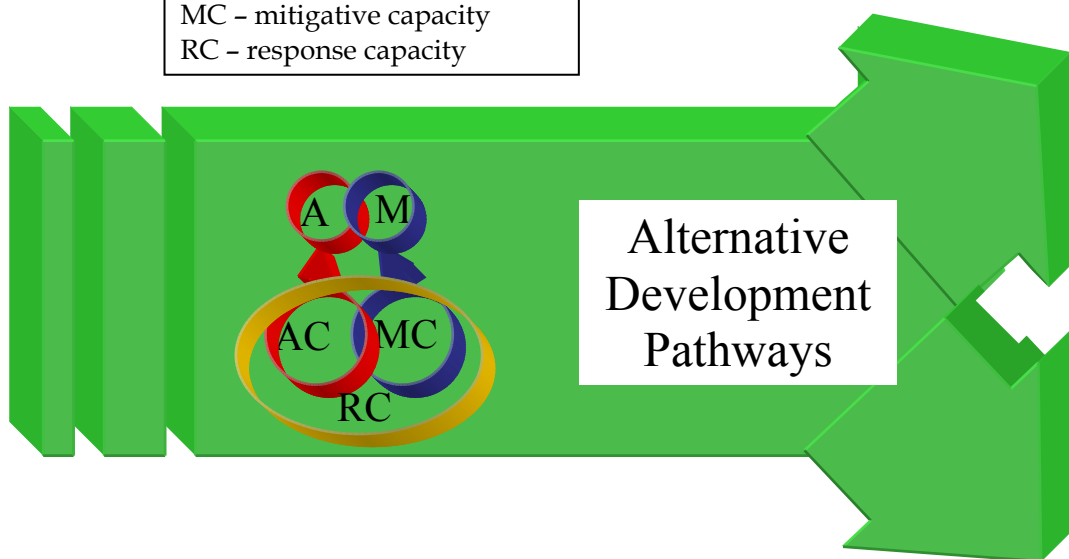
1 Group III report. Here, it is sufficient to think of a development path as a complex array of
 2 technological, economic, social, institutional and cultural characteristics that define an integrated
 3 trajectory of the interaction between human and natural systems over time at a particular scale. Such
 4 technological and socio-economic development pathways find their most common expression in the
 5 form of integrated scenarios (Swart *et al.*, 2003, Grubb *et al.*, 2002, Geels and Smit, 2000), but are
 6 also incorporated into studies of technological diffusion (Rogers, 2003; Berkhout, 2002; Grubler,
 7 2000; Andersen, 1998; Dupuy, 1997; Foray and Grubler, 1996), socio-technical systems (Geels,
 8 2004), and path-dependency and lock-in (Unruh and Carrillo-Hermosilla, 2006; Geels, 2005; Sarkar,
 9 1998; Arthur, 1989). Technological and social pathways co-evolve through a process of learning,
 10 coercion, and negotiation, which transform simple configurations of artefacts into seamless socio-
 11 technical webs (Rip and Kemp, 1998).

12
 13 In the climate change context, the TAR noted that “climate change is thus a potentially critical factor
 14 in the larger process of society’s adaptive response to changing historical conditions through its
 15 choice of developmental paths” (Banuri *et al.*, 2001). Later in the same volume, the following
 16 typology of critical components of development paths is presented (Toth *et al.*, 2001):

- 17 • Technological patterns of natural resource use, production of goods and services and final
 18 consumption;
- 19 • Structural changes in the production system;
- 20 • Spatial distribution patterns of population and economic activities;
- 21 • Behavioural patterns that determine the evolution of lifestyles.

22
 23 The influence of economic trajectories and structures on the adaptability of a nation’s development
 24 path is important in terms of the patterns of carbon-intensive production and consumption that
 25 generate greenhouse gases (Ansutegei and Escapa, 2002; Smil, 2000), the costs of policies that drive
 26 efficiency gains through technological change (Azar and Dowlatabadi, 1999), and the occurrence of
 27 market failures which lead to unsustainable patterns of energy use and technology adoption (Jaffe *et al.*
 28 *al.*, 2005; Jaffe and Stavins, 1994).

29
 30 A - adaptive measures
 31 M - mitigative measures
 32 AC - adaptive capacity
 33 MC - mitigative capacity
 34 RC - response capacity



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 49 **Figure 18.1:** Adaptation and mitigation are made possible through response capacity, which in turn is deeply
 50 rooted in the underlying socio-economic and technological development path which gives rise to these
 51 capacities. Different development paths imply different response capacities.

1 In addition to these components, scholars from widely varying disciplines and backgrounds have noted
2 the importance of institutional structures and trajectories (Adger *et al* 2005; Ruth, 2005; Pierson, 2004;
3 Agrawal, 2001; Olsen and March, 1989) and cultural factors such as values (Baron and Spranca, 1997;
4 Stern and Dietz, 1994), discourses (Adger *et al*, 2001), and social rules (Geels, 2004), as elements of
5 development paths that help determine the ability of a system to respond to change.

6
7 The importance of the connection shown in Figure 18.1 among measures, capacities and
8 development paths is threefold. First, as pointed out in the Third Assessment Report, a full analysis
9 of the potential for adaptation or mitigation policies must also include some consideration of the
10 capacities in which these policies are rooted. This is increasingly being reflected in the literature
11 being assessed in both regional/sectoral and conceptual chapters of this assessment. Second, such an
12 analysis of response capacities should, in turn, encompass the nature and potential variability of
13 underlying development paths that strongly affect the nature and extent of those capacities. This
14 suggests the desirability of an integrated analysis of climate policy options that assesses the linkages
15 among policy options, response capacities and their determinants, and underlying development paths.
16 Although such an integrated assessment was proposed in the Synthesis Report of the IPCC's Third
17 Assessment Report (Watson, 2002), this type of assessment is as yet in its infancy.

18
19 Third, the linkages between climate policy measures and development paths described here suggest a
20 potential disconnection between the degree of adaptation and/or mitigation that is possible and that
21 which may be desired in a given situation. On the one hand, the development path will determine the
22 response capacity of the scenario. On the other, the development path will strongly influence levels
23 of greenhouse gas emissions, associated climate change, the likely degree of climate change impacts
24 and thus the desired mitigation and/or adaptation in that scenario (Nakicenovic, 2000; Metz *et al.*,
25 2002; Swart *et al.*, 2003).

26
27 However, there is no particular reason that the response capacity and desired levels of mitigation
28 and/or adaptation will change in compatible ways. As a result, particular development paths might
29 give rise to levels of desired mitigation and adaptation that are at odds with the degree of adaptive
30 and mitigative capacity available. For example, particular development path scenarios that give rise
31 to very high emissions might also be associated with a slower growth, or even a decline, in the
32 determinants of response capacity. Such might be the case in scenarios with high degrees of military
33 activity or a collapse of international cooperation. In such cases, climate change impacts could
34 increase, even as response capacity declines.

35
36 The linkages among climate policy, response capacities and development paths suggested above help
37 us to understand the nature of the relationship between climate policy and sustainable development.
38 There is a small but growing literature on the nature of this relationship (Cohen *et al.*, 1998;
39 Munasinghe and Swart, 2000; Schneider *et al.*, 2000; Banuri, 2001; Robinson and Herbert, 2001; Smit
40 *et al.*, 2001; Beg *et al.*, 2002; Markandya and Halsneas, 2000; Metz *et al.*, 2002; Najam *et al.*, 2003;
41 Swart *et al.*, 2003; Wilbanks, 2003). Much of this literature emphasises the degree to which climate
42 change policies can have effects, sometimes called ancillary benefits or co-benefits, which will
43 contribute to the sustainable development goals of the jurisdiction in question (Van Asselt *et al*, 2005).
44 This amounts to viewing sustainable development through a climate change lens. It leads to a strong
45 focus on integrating sustainable development goals and consequences into the climate policy
46 framework and on assessing the scope for such ancillary benefits. For instance, reductions in
47 greenhouse gas emissions might reduce the incidence of death and illness due to air pollution and
48 benefit ecosystem integrity – both of which are elements of sustainable development (Cifuentes *et al.*,
49 2001). The challenge then becomes ensuring that actions taken to address environmental problems
50 don't obstruct regional and local development (Beg *et al.*, 2002). A variety of case studies demonstrate
51 that regional and local development can in fact be enhanced by projects that contribute to adaptation

1 and mitigation. Urban food growing in two UK cities, for example, has resulted in reduced crime rates,
2 improved biodiversity and reduced transport-based emissions (Howe and Wheeler, 1999). Similarly,
3 agro-ecological initiatives in Latin America have helped to preserve the natural resource base while
4 empowering rural communities (Altieri, 1999). The concept of networking and clustering used mainly
5 in entrepreneurial development and increasingly seen as a tool for the transfer of skills, knowledge and
6 technology represents an interesting concept for countries that lack the necessary adaptive and
7 mitigative capacities to combat the negative impacts of climate change (Klerk *et al.*, 1999).

8
9 An alternative approach is based on the finding in the Third Assessment Report that it will be
10 extremely difficult and expensive to achieve stabilisation targets below 650 ppm from baseline
11 scenarios that embody high emission development paths. Conversely, low emission baseline
12 scenarios may go a long way toward achieving low stabilisation levels even before climate policy is
13 included in the scenario (Morita *et al.*, 2001). This recognition leads to an approach to the linkages
14 between climate policy and sustainable development - equivalent to viewing climate change through
15 a sustainable development lens - that emphasises the need to study how best to achieve low emission
16 development paths (Metz *et al.*, 2002; Robinson *et al.*, 2003; Swart *et al.*, 2003).

17
18 It has further been argued that sustainable development might decrease the vulnerability of
19 developing countries to climate change impacts (IPCC 2001b), thereby having implications for the
20 necessary amount of both adaptation and mitigation efforts. For instance, economic development and
21 institution building in low-lying, highly populated coastal regions may help to increase preparedness
22 to sea level rise and decrease vulnerability to weather variability (McLean *et al.*, 2001). Similarly,
23 investments in public health training programmes, sanitation systems and disease vector control
24 would both enhance general health and decrease vulnerability to the future effects of climate change
25 (McMichael *et al.*, 2001). Framing the debate as a development problem rather than an
26 environmental one helps to address the special vulnerability of developing nations to climate change
27 while acknowledging that the driving forces for emissions are linked to the underlying development
28 path (Metz *et al.*, 2002). Of course it is important also to acknowledge that climate change policy
29 cannot be considered a substitute for sustainable development policy even though it is determined by
30 similar underlying socio-economic choices (Najam *et al.*, 2003).

31
32 Both approaches to linking climate change to sustainable development suggest the desirability of
33 integrating climate policy measures with the goals and attributes of sustainable development
34 (Robinson *et al.*, 2006; Van Asselt *et al.*, 2005; Adger *et al.*, 2003; Robinson and Herbert, 2001). This
35 suggests an additional reason to focus on the inter-relationships between adaptation, mitigation,
36 response capacity and development paths indicated in Figure 18.2. If climate policy and sustainable
37 development are to be pursued in an integrated way, then it will become important not simply to
38 evaluate specific policy options that might accomplish both goals, but also to explore the
39 determinants of response capacity that underlie those options and their connections to underlying
40 socio-economic and technological development paths (Swart *et al.*, 2003). Such an integrated
41 approach also might be the basis for productive partnerships with the private, public, NGO and
42 research sectors (Robinson *et al.*, 2006).

43
44 There is general agreement that sustainable development involves a comprehensive and integrated
45 approach to economic, social and environmental processes (Munasinghe, 1992; Banuri *et al.*, 1994;
46 Najam *et al.*, 2003). However, early work tended to emphasise the environmental and economic
47 aspects of sustainable development, overlooking the need for analysis of social, political or cultural
48 dimensions (Barnett, 2001; Lehtonen, 2004; Robinson, 2004). More recently, the importance of
49 social, political and cultural factors – for example, poverty, social equity, and governance – has
50 increasingly been recognised (Lehtonen, 2004) to the point that social development, which also
51 includes both political and cultural concerns, is now given equal status as one of the ‘three pillars’ of

1 sustainable development. This is evidenced by the convening of the World Summit on Social
2 Development in 1995 and the fact that the Millennium Summit in 2000 highlighted poverty as
3 fundamental in bringing balance to the overemphasis on the environmental aspects of sustainability.
4 The environment-poverty nexus is now well recognised and the linkage between sustainable
5 development and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (United Nations,
6 2000) has been clearly articulated (Jahan and Umana, 2003). In order to achieve real progress in
7 relation to the MDGs, different countries will settle for different solutions (Dalal-Clayton, 2003), and
8 these development trajectories will have important implications for the mitigation of climate change.

9
10 In attempting to follow more sustainable development paths, many developing nations experience
11 unique challenges, such as famine, war, social, health and governance issues (Koonjul, 2004). As a
12 result, past economic gains in some regions have come at the expense of environmental stability
13 (Kulindwa, 2002), highlighting the lack of exploitation of potential synergies between sustainable
14 development and environmental policies. In the water sector, for instance, response capacity can be
15 improved through co-ordinated management of scarce water resources, especially since reduction in
16 water supply in most of the large rivers of the Sahel can affect vital sectors such as energy and
17 agriculture both of which are dependent on water availability for hydroelectric power generation and
18 agricultural production (Ikeme, 2002). Technology, institutions, economics and socio-psychological
19 factors, which are all elements of both response capacity and development paths, affect the ability of
20 nations to build capacity and implement sustainable development, adaptation and mitigation
21 measures (Nederveen *et al.*, 2003).

22 23 24 **18.4 Potential costs of and damages avoided by adaptation and mitigation**

25 26 ***18.4.1 Framing the decision problem***

27
28 A portfolio of actions is available for reducing the risks of climate change within which each option
29 requires evaluation of its individual and collective merits. Policymakers need to decide what
30 constitutes the “right” mix of near-term actions in the face of the many long-term uncertainties. The
31 actions can be grouped into two categories: First, investments in *mitigation* are actions that eliminate
32 or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere, as well as
33 research to facilitate future mitigation. Second, investments in *adaptation* are actions that help human
34 and natural systems to adjust to climate change should it occur, as well as research to facilitate future
35 adaptation.

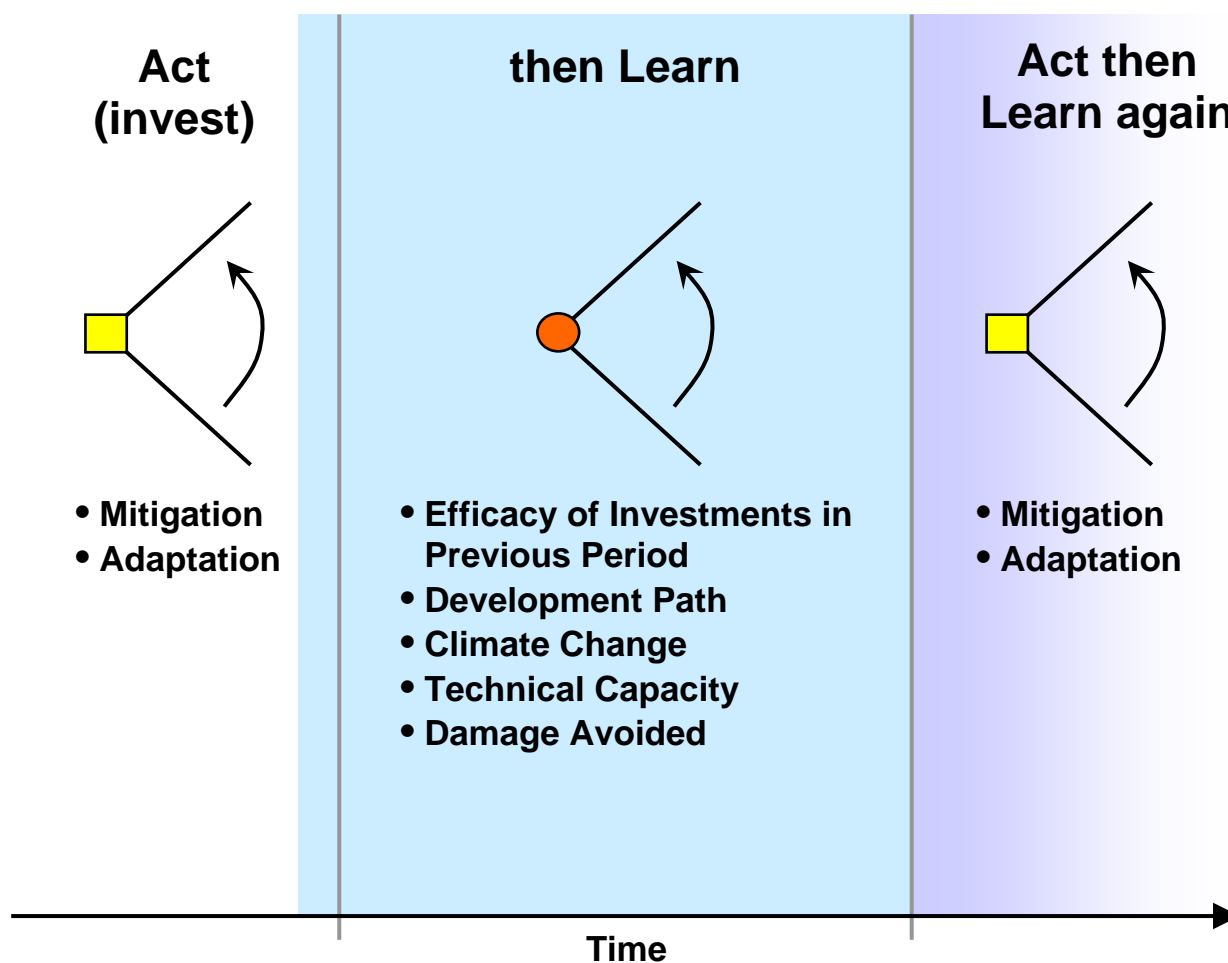
36
37 At the highest level of abstraction, five interactions between adaptation and mitigation can be identified:

- 38 1. Adaptation and mitigation are policy substitutes; the more is done of the one, the less need to
39 be done of the other.
- 40 2. Adaptation and mitigation compete for finite resources; the more is done of the one, the less
41 can be done of the other.
- 42 3. Adaptation to climate change can and will affect emissions (e.g., air conditioning).
- 43 4. Mitigation of emissions will change vulnerability to climate change (e.g., wind power).
- 44 5. Both adaptation and mitigation are influenced by, and influence development.

45
46 Climate change engages a multitude of decision-makers, both spatially and temporally. The
47 UNFCCC and its subsidiary bodies have largely focused on mitigation, and it is also discussed
48 independently by member Parties. More recently, an increasing interest at the grassroots level has
49 yielded more local mitigation activities. Adaptation decisions embrace both the public and private
50 sector as some decisions involve large construction projects in the hands of public sector decision-
51 makers while other decisions are localised, involving many private sector agents.

1 It is difficult and perhaps counterproductive to explore the payoffs from various types of investments
 2 without a conceptual framework for thinking about their interactions. Decision analysis provides one
 3 such framework (Raiffa 1968, Keeney and Raiffa 1976) that allows for the systematic evaluation of
 4 near-term options in light of the careful consideration of the potential consequences. The next several
 5 decades will require a series of decisions on how best to reduce the risks from climate change. [There
 6 will no doubt be opportunities for learning and midcourse corrections.] The immediate challenge
 7 facing policy makers is what actions are currently appropriate and are likely to be robust in the face
 8 of the many long-term uncertainties.

9
 10 Figure 18.2 provides a caricature of the climate policy “decision tree”. In the language of decision
 11 analysis, the squares represent points at which decisions are made, the circles represent the reduction
 12 of uncertainty in the outcomes (if any), and the arrows indicate the wide range of possible decisions
 13 and outcomes. The first decision node summarises some of today’s investment options. How much
 14 should we invest in mitigation, how much in adaptation? How much should be invested in research?
 15 Once we act, we have an opportunity to learn and make mid-course corrections. The outcome nodes
 16 represent some of the types of learning that will occur between now and the next set of decisions.
 17 The outcomes are uncertain; the uncertainty may not be resolved but there will be new information
 18 which may influence future actions. [Hence, the expression “act, then learn, and then act again”
 19 (Manne and Richels, 1992).]



48 **Figure 18.2:** The dynamic nature of the climate policy process. The squares are decision nodes, with
 49 arrows indicating the wide range of actions. The circles are outcome nodes, with wide range of
 50 potential consequences.

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18.4.2 Studies of trade-offs and synergies in global scale analysis

Initial studies tended to focus on the relationship between mitigation and damages avoided. More recently, the literature has begun to focus on the relationship between adaptation and damages avoided. Ultimately, better knowledge about the interaction between mitigation and adaptation actions in terms of damages avoided would be useful. However, such research is at a very rudimentary stage.

Analysts working on global-scale climate analyses remain apart in their formulation of the adaptation-mitigation linkages. Some consider them as substitutes and seek the optimal policy mix, while others emphasise the diversity of impacts (with little scope for adaptation in some sectors) and the asymmetry of social actors who need to mitigate versus those who need to adapt (Tol, 2005a). Note these positions are not contradictory.

Cost-benefit analyses are phrased as the trade-off between mitigation costs on the hand and adaptation costs and residual damages on the other. As a recent example, Nordhaus (2001) estimates the economic impact of the Kyoto-Bonn Accord with the RICE-2001 model. Without the participation of the USA, the resulting emission path remains below the efficient reduction policy (that balances estimated costs and benefits of emission reductions) whereas the original Kyoto Protocol implied higher than efficient abatement. This is a common finding in the cost-benefit literature, driven primarily by the relatively low estimates of the marginal damage costs (Tol, 2005b). Cost-benefit models are recognised by many as sources of guidance on the magnitude and rate of optimal climate policy, while others criticise them for ignoring the sectoral (economic and social), spatial and temporal distances between those who need to mitigate versus those who need to adapt to climate change.

The Tolerable Windows Approach (TWA) adapts a different approach to integrating mitigation and impact/adaptation concerns. The ICLIPS (Integrated Assessment of Climate Protection Strategies) model identifies fields of long-term greenhouse gas emission paths that prevent rates and magnitudes of climate change leading to “unacceptable” regional or sectoral impacts without imposing “intolerable” mitigation costs on societies. This “relaxed” cost-benefit framework can be used to explore trade-offs between climate change or impact constraints on one hand, and mitigation cost limits in terms of the existence and size of long-term emission fields on the other hand. For any given impact constraint, increasing the acceptable consumption loss due to emission abatement expenditures increases the emission field and allows higher near-term emissions but involves higher mitigation rates and costs in later decades. Conversely, for any given mitigation cost limit, increasing the tolerated level of climate impact also enlarges the emission field and allows higher near-term emissions (Toth *et al.*, 2002; 2003a,b). This formulation allows the exploration of side-payments for enhancing adaptation in order to tolerate impacts from larger climate change. The TWA is helpful in exploring the feasibility and implications of crucial social decisions (acceptable impacts and mitigation costs) but, unlike CBA, it cannot provide an optimal policy.

Cost-effectiveness analyses (CEAs) depict a rather remote relationship between mitigation and adaptation. They implicitly assume that some sort of a global climate change target can be agreed upon that would keep all climate change impacts at the level that can be managed via adaptation or taken as “acceptable losses”. Global CEAs have proliferated since the publication of the TAR. In addition to exploring least-cost strategies to stabilise CO₂ concentrations, CEAs are also adopted to stabilising radiative forcing and global mean temperature. While most analyses are deterministic in the sense that they assume that we know the true state of the world, there is also a body of literature that models the “act, then learn, then act again” nature of the decision problem.

1 The competition of adaptation and mitigation measures for a finite budget has not been studied in
2 much detail. Schelling (1995) questions whether the money that developed countries' governments
3 plan to spend on greenhouse gas emission reduction, ostensibly to the benefit of the children and
4 grandchildren of the people in developing countries, cannot be spent to greater benefit. As a partial
5 answer to that question, Tol (2005c) shows that development aid is a better mechanism to reduce
6 climate change impacts on infectious disease (e.g., malaria) than is emission abatement; the same
7 study also shows that this result does not carry over to other impacts.

8
9 Some studies estimate the change in greenhouse gas emissions due to the impacts of climate change
10 (Berrittella *et al.*, forthcoming, for tourism; Bosello *et al.*, forthcoming, for health). They find that
11 emissions increase in some places and some sectors, and decrease elsewhere. The disaggregated
12 effects are small compared to the projected growth in emissions, while the net effect is negligible.
13 Similarly, Fankhauser and Tol (2005) show that the impact of climate change on the growth of the
14 economy and greenhouse gas emission is small compared to the uncertainty in the projections. Fisher
15 *et al* (forthcoming) reach a similar conclusion for population projections. As there are so few studies,
16 focusing on a few sectors only, these conclusions are preliminary.

17
18 Other studies estimate the change in vulnerability to climate change due to emission abatement; for
19 instance, a shift to wind and water power or biofuels would reduce carbon dioxide emissions, but
20 increase exposure to the weather and climate (e.g., Dang *et al.*, 2003).

21
22 Emission reduction is likely to slow economic growth, but this effect is probably small if smart
23 abatement policies are used (Weyant, 2004). However, small economic losses in the OECD may be
24 amplified in poor exporters of primary products (i.e., many African countries). Tol and Dowlatabadi
25 (2001) use this mechanism to demonstrate an interesting trade-off between mitigation and adaptation.
26 Taking malaria as a climate-related disease, the authors observe that people with an annual income of
27 \$3,000 or more do not die of malaria and that all world regions surpass this threshold by 2085 in most
28 IPCC IS92 scenarios. Progressively more ambitious emissions reductions in OECD countries
29 gradually decrease the cumulative malaria mortality if one considers only the impact side, i.e., the
30 biophysical effects of climate change mitigation on malaria prevalence. However, if the economic
31 effects of mitigation efforts (the slower rate of economic growth) are also taken into account then,
32 according to the FUND model, the malaria-mortality improvements due to slower global warming will
33 be gradually eliminated and eventually surpassed by the losses due to the reduced rate of income
34 growth. More generally, the capacity to adapt to climate change depends on development (Tompkins
35 and Adger, 2005; Yohe and Tol, 2002). Emission reduction policies that hamper development would
36 increase vulnerability and could increase impacts (Tol and Yohe, 2006).

37 38 39 **18.4.3 Avoided damages**

40
41 Cost-benefit analyses of greenhouse gas emission reduction (e.g., Nordhaus, 2001) necessarily estimate
42 the avoided damages of climate change, but rarely report these. Some information can be found, however,
43 in the Pigou tax or marginal damage costs; these values typically are reported. Tol (2005b) reviews this
44 literature. He finds that most studies point to a marginal damage cost of less than \$50/tC. He also finds a
45 systematic, upward bias in the grey literature. For a 5% discount rate, a value used by many governments,
46 the median estimate is only \$7/tC. The marginal damage cost only gives the value of the last damage
47 avoided, not the total avoided damage, which is seldom estimated (Corfee-Morlot and Agrawala, 2005).
48 Nonetheless, as a first approximation of the avoided damages, one should multiple the tonnes of carbon
49 emissions reduced with the marginal damage cost. For instance, the European Union aims to reduce 2010
50 emissions of carbon dioxide by some 100 million tonnes of carbon; the net present value of the avoided
51 damage would amount to \$700 million dollar, or about €1.50 per person in the EU-15.

1 Warren (2006) estimates total avoided impacts by piecing together impact estimates for different
2 levels of climate change. As the impact estimates are taken from different studies, with different
3 models and different scenarios, this method is not very reliable. Warren's (2006) study is often
4 qualitative, while it is unclear how representative the studies she quotes are, or whether adaptation is
5 included. Hare (2006) also offers impact estimates for various warming scenarios, but his study
6 suffers from the same limitations as Warren's. Arnell *et al.* (2002) and Parry *et al.* (2001) use
7 internally consistent models and scenarios, and report numbers for avoided damages, measured in
8 millions of people at risk. Water resources and malaria dominate their results, but the underlying
9 models do not account for adaptation and keep development at 1990 levels. In all four studies, the
10 impact of mitigation on impacts and adaptation is ignored (see above).

11
12 Bakkenes *et al.* (2006) study the implications of different stabilisation scenarios on European plant
13 diversity. Again, mitigation is ignored, even though biofuels and carbon plantations would
14 substantially affect vegetation. Under the A1B scenario, in 2100, plants would lose on average 29%
15 of their current habitat, with a range between species from 10% to 53%. Stabilisation at 650 ppm
16 would limit this to 22% (6%-42%); at 550 ppm, 18% (5%-37%). The paper does not report the area
17 of new habitat, but these numbers must be substantial too; the vegetation in only 1% of the area in
18 Europe would not change. With unmitigated climate change, 9 plant species would disappear from
19 Europe, but 8 new ones would appear. In most countries, however, the balance would be positive,
20 with up to 145 new species in Norway and Sweden in 2100. Only in France, Greece and Italy, the
21 number of species would fall, by up to 87 species in Greece in 2100. Stabilisation would limit the
22 number of plant disappearances from 9 to 8 species. Jones reach a similar conclusion for the Great
23 Barrier Reef. Unmitigated climate change would substantially damage 95% of the Reef; very
24 stringent emission reduction would limit this to 80%.

25
26 Nicholls and Lowe (2004) estimate the avoided impact of sea level rise due to mitigation. Because
27 sea level responds so slowly to global warming, avoided impacts are small. Nicholls and Lowe
28 (2004) ignore the costs of emission reduction; Tol (forthcoming) shows that the bias is negligible for
29 coastal zone impacts.

30
31 Tol and Yohe (2006), using the comprehensive impact model FUND, show that the most serious
32 impacts of climate change can be avoided at relatively lenient stabilisation targets for greenhouse gas
33 concentrations (e.g., 850 ppm CO₂ equivalent), and that incrementally avoided damages get smaller
34 and smaller as one moves to more stringent stabilisation targets. For a very stringent target (e.g., 450
35 ppm CO₂ equivalent), climate change impacts may actually increase as the reduction of sulphur
36 emissions may lead to warming and as abatement costs slow growth and increase vulnerability .

37
38 Overall, there are only a few studies that estimate the avoided impacts of climate change by emission
39 reduction. Some of these studies ignore adaptation (a major bias) and mitigation costs (perhaps a
40 major bias for some impacts) . The paucity of evidence is disappointing, as avoiding impacts is
41 presumably a major aim of climate policy. Cost-benefit analyses of climate change implicitly
42 estimated avoided damages, and show that these do not warrant very stringent emission reduction.
43 Similarly, although ecosystem impacts may be large, avoidable impacts are much smaller. With few
44 high quality studies, confidence in these findings is low. This is a clear research priority.

45

46

47 ***18.4.4 Mitigation-adaptation linkages at regional and sectoral scales***

48

49 Considering the details of specific adaptation and mitigation activities at the level of regions and
50 sectors reveals diverse linkages. In principle, four types of linkages can be distinguished: mitigation
51 actions fostering or hindering adaptation (i.e., enhancing/undermining capacity or

1 providing/foreclosing opportunity to cope with changing climate) and adaptation actions fostering or
2 hindering mitigation (*i.e.*, reducing/increasing greenhouse gas emissions). In reality, the nature of the
3 linkage (positive or negative) often depends on local conditions. Moreover, some linkages are direct,
4 involving the same resource base (e.g., land) or stakeholders, while other linkages are indirect (e.g.,
5 effects through public budget allocations) or outright remote (e.g., shifts in global trade flows and
6 currency exchange rates). This section focuses on direct linkages. Broader relationships between
7 mitigation and adaptation are discussed in other parts of this chapter and in Chapter 20 related to
8 sustainable development.

9 10 *Mitigation affecting adaptation*

11 Land use and land cover changes involve diverse and complex relationships between mitigation and
12 adaptation. Deforestation and land conversion have been significant sources of GHG emissions for
13 decades while often resulting in unsustainable agricultural production patterns. Abating and halting
14 this process by incentives for forest conservation would not only avoid GHG emissions, but would
15 also result in benefits for local climate, water resources and biodiversity.

16
17 Carbon sequestration in agricultural soils offers another obvious positive link from mitigation to
18 adaptation. It creates an economic commodity for farmers (sequestered carbon) and makes the land
19 more valuable by improving soil and water conservation thus enhancing both the economic and
20 environmental components of adaptive capacity (Boehm *et al.*, 2004; Butt and McCarl, 2004;
21 Dumanski, 2004).

22
23 Afforestation and reforestation have been advocated for decades as essential mitigation options.
24 Recent studies reveal a more differentiated picture. Competition for land by mitigation projects
25 would increase land rents and thus commodity prices, thereby improving the economic position of
26 landowners and enhancing their adaptive capacity. However, the implications of afforestation
27 projects for water resources heavily depend on the geographic and climatic characteristics of the
28 region where they are implemented. In regions with ample water resources even under a changing
29 climate, afforestation has many positive effects, like soil conservation and flood control. However, in
30 arid and semi-arid regions afforestation massively reduces water yields (UK FRP, 2005). This has
31 direct and wide-ranging negative implications for adaptation options in several sectors like
32 agriculture (irrigation), power generation (cooling towers), and ecosystem protection (minimum flow
33 to sustain ecosystems in rivers, wetlands and on the river banks).

34
35 Bioenergy crops receive increasing attention as a mitigation option. Most studies, however, focus on
36 technology options, costs, and competitiveness in energy markets and do not consider the
37 implications for adaptation. For example, McDonald *et al.* (2006) use a global computed general
38 equilibrium model and find that substituting switchgrass for crude oil in the USA reduces the GDP
39 and increases the world price of cereals but they do not investigate how this might affect the
40 prospects for adaptation in the USA and world agriculture. This limitation in scope characterizes
41 virtually all bioenergy studies.

42
43 Another possible conflict between mitigation and adaptation might arise over water resources. One
44 obvious mitigation option is to shift to energy sources with low GHG emissions like hydropower. In
45 regions where hydropower potentials are still available, and also depending on the current and future
46 water balance, this would increase the competition for water, especially if irrigation might be a
47 feasible strategy to cope with climate change impacts in agriculture and demand for cooling water by
48 the power sector is also significant. This reconfirms the importance of integrated land and water
49 management strategies to ensure the optimal allocation of scarce natural resources (land, water) and
50 economic investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation and fostering sustainable
51 development.

1
2 Hydropower leads us to the key area of mitigation: energy sources and supply, and energy use in
3 various economic sectors beyond land use, agriculture, and forestry. Direct implications of mitigation
4 efforts on adaptation in the energy, transport, residential/commercial, and industrial sectors have
5 been largely ignored so far. Yet, to varying degrees, energy is an important factor in producing goods
6 and providing services in many sectors of the economy, as outlined in the discussion about the
7 importance of energy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Chapter 2 of the WG III
8 report. Thus reducing the availability or increasing the price of energy has inevitable negative effects
9 on economic development and thus on the economic components of adaptive capacity. The
10 magnitude of this effect is uncertain. Peters *et al* (2001) find that high-level carbon charges (US\$200
11 per metric ton of carbon in 2010) affect the US agriculture modestly if they are measured in terms of
12 consumer and producer surpluses (reductions by less than half a percent relative to baseline values)
13 but the decline of net cash returns are more significant (4.1%) whereas the effects are rather uneven
14 across field crops and regions. The implications of such changes for adaptation (capacity and
15 options) remain unexplored in the literature.

16
17 The most important indirect link from mitigation to adaptation is through biodiversity, an important
18 factor influencing human well-being in general and the coping options in particular (see MEA 2005).
19 After assessing a large number of studies, the IPCC (2002) concluded that the implications for
20 biodiversity of mitigation activities depend on their context, design, and implementation, especially
21 site selection and management practices. Avoiding forest degradation implies in most cases both
22 biodiversity (preservation) and climate (non-emission) benefits. However, afforestation and
23 reforestation may have positive, neutral, or negative impacts depending on the level of biodiversity
24 of the ecosystems that will be replaced. By using an optimal control model, Caparros and
25 Jacquemont (2003) find that putting an economic value on carbon sequestered by forest management
26 does not induce much negative influence on biodiversity but incentives to sequester carbon by
27 afforestation and reforestation might harm biodiversity due to the over-plantation of fast-growing
28 alien species.

29
30 These studies demonstrate the intricate linkages from climate change mitigation to adaptation, and
31 also the relationships with other environmental concerns, like water resources and biodiversity,
32 with profound policy implications. The land-use and forestry mitigation options in the Marrakech
33 Accords may provide new markets for countries with abundant land areas but may alter land
34 allocation to the detriment of the landless poor in regions where land is scarce. They present an
35 opportunity for soil and biodiversity protection in regions with ample water resources but may
36 reduce water yields and distort water allocation in water-stressed regions. Accordingly, depending
37 on the regional conditions and the ways of implementation, these implications can increase or
38 reduce the scope for adaptation to climate change by promoting or excluding effective but more
39 expensive options due to increased land rents, by supporting or precluding forms and magnitudes of
40 irrigation due to higher water prices, etc.

41 *Adaptation affecting mitigation*

42 Many adaptation options in different impact sectors are known to involve increased energy use and
43 hence interfere with mitigation efforts if the energy is supplied from carbon-emitting sources. Two
44 main types of adaptation-related energy use can be distinguished: one-time energy input for building
45 large infrastructure (material and construction) and incremental energy input needed continuously to
46 counterbalance climate impacts in providing goods and services.

47
48
49 The largest amount of construction work to countervail climate change impacts will be in water
50 management and in coastal zones. The former involves hard measures in flood protection (dikes,
51 dams, flood control reservoirs) and in coping with seasonal variations (storage reservoirs and inter-

1 basin diversions), while the latter comprises coastal defence systems (embankment, dams, storm
2 surge barriers). Even if these construction projects reach massive scales, the embodied energy, and
3 thus the associated GHG emissions, are likely to be merely a small portion of the total construction-
4 related energy and emissions figures in most countries.

5
6 The magnitude and relative share of sustained adaptation-related energy input in the total energy
7 balance depends on the impact sector. In agriculture, the input-related (CO₂ in manufacturing) and
8 the application-related (N₂O from fields) GHG emissions might be significant if the increased
9 application of nitrogen fertilizers offer a convenient and profitable solution to avoid yield losses.
10 Operating irrigation works and pumping irrigation water could considerably increase the direct
11 energy input, although, where available, utilization of renewable energy sources on-site (wind,
12 solar) can help avoid increasing GHG emissions.

13
14 Adaptation to changing hydrologic regimes and water availability will also require continuous
15 additional energy input. In water-scarce regions, the increasing reuse of wastewater and the
16 associated treatment, deep-well pumping, and especially large-scale desalination would increase
17 energy use in the water sector (Boutkan and Stikker, 2004). Yet again, if provided from carbon-free
18 sources like nuclear desalination (Misra, 2003; Ayub and Butt, 2005), even energy-intensive
19 adaptation measures need not run against mitigation efforts.

20
21 Ever since the early climate impact studies, shifts in space heating and cooling in a warming world
22 have been prominent items on the list of adaptation options, see Smith and Tirpak (1989). The
23 associated energy requirements could be significant but the actual implications for GHG emissions
24 depend on the carbon content of the energy sources used to provide the heating and cooling services.
25 In most cases, it is not straightforward to separate the adaptation effects from those of other drivers in
26 regional or national energy demand projections. For example, for the USA state of Maryland, Ruth
27 and Lin (forthcoming) find that at least in the medium term up to 2025, climate change contributes
28 relatively little to changes in the energy demand. Nonetheless, the climate share varies with
29 geographical conditions (changes in heating and cooling degree days), economic (income) and
30 resource endowments (relative costs of fossil and other energy sources), technologies, institutions
31 and other factors. Such emissions from adaptation activities are likely to be small relative to baseline
32 emissions in most countries and regions but more in-depth studies are needed to estimate their
33 magnitude over the long term.

34
35 Adaptation affects not only energy use but energy supply as well. Hydropower contributed 16.3% of
36 the global electricity balance in 2003 (IEA, 2005) with virtually zero GHG emissions. Climate
37 change impacts and adaptation efforts in various sectors might reduce the contribution of this carbon-
38 free energy source in many regions as conflicts among different uses of water emerge. Hayhoe *et al.*
39 (2004) show that emissions even in the lowest IPCC scenario (B1) will trigger significant shifts in
40 the hydrologic regime in the Sacramento River system (California) by the second half of this century
41 and create critical choices between flood protection in the high-water period and water storage for
42 the low-flow season. Hydropower is not explicitly addressed but will likely be affected as well.
43 Payne *et al.* (2004) project conflicts between hydropower and stream flow targets for the Columbia
44 River. Several studies confirm the unavoidable clashes between water supply, flood control,
45 hydropower, and minimum streamflow (required for ecological and water quality purposes) under
46 changing climatic and hydrologic conditions (Christensen *et al.*, 1994; Vanrheenen *et al.*, 2004).

47
48 Possibly the largest factor affecting water resources in adaptation is irrigation in agriculture. Yet
49 studies in this domain tend to ignore the repercussions for mitigation as well. For example, Döll
50 (2002) estimates significant increases in irrigation needs in two-thirds of the agricultural land that
51 was equipped for irrigation in 1995 but she does not assess the implications for other water uses like

1 hydropower and thus for climate change mitigation.

2
3 In general, adaptation implies that people do something *in addition* to or something *different* from
4 what they would be doing in the absence of climate change impacts. In most cases, *additional*
5 *activities* involve additional inputs: investments (protective and other infrastructure), material
6 (fertilizers, pesticides) or energy (irrigation pumps, air conditioning) and thus may run counter to
7 mitigation if the energy originates from GHG emitting sources. *Changing practices* in response to
8 climate change offer more opportunities to account for both mitigation and adaptation needs. Besides
9 the opportunities in land-related sectors discussed above, new design principles for commercial and
10 residential buildings could simultaneously reduce vulnerability to extreme weather events and energy
11 needs for heating and/or cooling.

12
13 We conclude that many effects of adaptation on GHG emissions and their mitigation (energy use,
14 land conversion, agronomic techniques like increased use of fertilisers and pesticides, water storage
15 and diversion, coastal protection) have been known for a long time. The implications of some
16 mitigation strategies for adaptation and other development and environment concerns have been
17 recognised recently. As yet, however, both effects remain largely unexplored. The information about
18 mitigation-adaptation linkages at regional and sectoral level is rather scarce. Almost all mitigation
19 studies stop at identifying the options and costs of direct emissions reductions. Some of them
20 consider indirect effects of the implementation measures and costs on other sectors or the economy at
21 large but do not deal with the implications for adaptation options of sectors affected by climate
22 change. Similarly, in most cases climate impact and adaptation assessments do not go beyond taking
23 stock of the adaptation options and estimating their costs and thus ignore possible repercussions for
24 emissions. One understandable reason is that mitigation and adaptation studies are complex enough
25 and expanding their scope would increase their complexity even further. The other and main reason
26 may well be that, as indicated by the few available studies that looked at these linkages, the
27 repercussions from mitigation for adaptation and *vice versa* are mostly marginal. Except the domains
28 of land and water, adaptation implications of any mitigation project is small and, *vice versa*, the
29 emissions generated by most adaptation activities are only small fractions of total emissions, even if
30 emissions will decline in the future as a result of climate protection policies.

31 32 33 **18.5 Examples of interrelationships between adaptation and mitigation**

34 **18.5.1 Stakeholder roles and spatial and temporal scales**

35
36
37 The roles of various stakeholders cover different aspects of mitigation-adaptation linkages.
38 Stakeholders may be characterised according to their organisational structure (e.g., public or private),
39 level of decision-making (e.g., policy, strategic planning or operational implementation), geographic
40 scale (e.g., local, national or international), time frame of concern (e.g., near term to long term), and
41 function within a network (e.g., single actor, stakeholder regime or multi-level institution). Decisions
42 might cover adaptation only, mitigation only, or link mitigation and adaptation. Relatively few
43 public or corporate decision-makers have direct responsibility for both adaptation and mitigation. For
44 example, adaptation might reside in a ministry of environment while mitigation policy is led by a
45 trade, energy or economic ministry.

46
47 Stakeholders are exposed to a variety of risks, including financial, regulatory, strategic, operational,
48 or to their reputations, physical assets, life and livelihoods (e.g., Institute for Risk Management,
49 2002). Decision-making may be motivated by climatic risks or climate change (e.g., climate-driven,
50 climate-sensitive, climate-related). Risk is commonly defined as the probability of a consequence,
51 while uncertainty is often taken to represent structural and behavioural factors that are not readily

1 captured in probability distributions (*e.g.*, Stainforth *et al.*, 2005, Tol, 2003). Although this
2 dichotomy is simplistic (see Dowie 1999), stakeholder decision making takes account of many
3 factors (Bulkeley 2001, Clark *et al.*, 2001, Gough and Shackley 2001, Kasperson and Kasperson,
4 2005, Newell 2000, Pidgeon *et al.* 2003, Rayner and Malone 2001): values, preferences and
5 motivations; awareness and perception of climate change issues; negotiation, bargaining and social
6 norms; analytical frameworks, information and monitoring systems; and relationships of power and
7 politics.

8
9 Faced with the deep uncertainty of climate change, stakeholders may adopt a precautionary approach
10 with the intention of stimulating technological (if not social) change. For instance, estimates of the
11 social cost of carbon, one measure of the benefits of mitigation, are sensitive to the choice of decision
12 framework (including equity weighting, risk aversion, sustainability considerations, and discount
13 rates for future damages) (Downing *et al.*, 2005; Guo *et al.*, 2006; Tol, 2005b) (see WGIII chapter 3).

14
15 Criteria relating to either mitigation or adaptation, or both, are increasingly common in decision-
16 making. For example, local development plans might screen housing developments according to
17 energy use, water requirements and preservation of green belt (*e.g.*, CAG Consultants and Oxford
18 Brookes University 2004). Development agencies have begun to screen their projects for relevance to
19 mitigation and adaptation (*e.g.*, Burton and Van Aalst, 1999; Klein, 2001; Eriksen and Næss, 2003).

20
21 Many stakeholders link climate, development and environmental policies, by, for example, linking
22 energy efficiency (related to mitigation) to sustainable communities or poverty reduction (related to
23 adaptation). For example, the World Bank's BioCarbon Fund and Community Development Carbon
24 Fund include provision for buyers to ensure that carbon offsets also achieve development objectives
25 (World Bank, 2003). The Gold Standard for CDM projects also ensures that projects support
26 sustainable development (Carbon International). Preliminary work suggests that there may be a
27 modest trade off between cost-effective emission reductions and the achievement of other sustainable
28 development objectives, that is more expensive projects per emission reduction unit tend to
29 contribute more to sustainable development than cheaper projects (Nagai and Hepburn, 2005).

30
31 Decisions are taken at different temporal, spatial and social scales. Climate change decision-making
32 is a process of acting and learning that is likely to take place over decades if not centuries.
33 Furthermore, it does not occur at discrete intervals but is driven by the pace of social, economic,
34 scientific and political processes, and in response to observed and predicted climate change.
35 The nature of adaptation and mitigation decisions changes over time. For example, mitigation
36 choices may initially begin with easy measures such as adoption of low-cost supply and demand-side
37 options in the energy sector. Through successful investment in research and development, a host of
38 low-cost alternatives should become available in the energy sector allowing for a transition to low-
39 carbon-venting pathways. Given the current composition of the energy sector, this is unlikely to
40 happen overnight but rather through a series of decisions over time. Initially, adaptation decisions are
41 likely to address current climatic risks (*e.g.*, drought early-warning systems) and be anticipatory or
42 proactive (*e.g.*, land-use regulations). With increasing climate change, autonomous or reactive
43 actions (*e.g.*, purchasing air conditioning during or after a heat wave) are likely to increase.
44 Decisions might also break trends, accelerate transitions and mark substantive jumps from one
45 development or technological pathway to another (*e.g.*, Martens and Rotmans 2002, Raskin *et al.*
46 2002).

47
48 Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation also vary according to spatial and social scales
49 of decision making (see Figure 18.2). Mitigation and adaptation may be seen as substitutes in a
50 policy framework at a highly aggregated, international scale: the more mitigation is undertaken, the
51 less adaptation is necessary and vice versa. Resources devoted to mitigation might impede socio-

1 economic development and reduce investments in adaptive capacity and adaptation projects (e.g.,
2 Kane and Shogren, 2000). This scale is inherent in the analysis of global targets (see the section on
3 trade-offs and synergies, 18.4.2).

4
5 National and sub-national decision-making is often a mixture of policy and strategic planning. The
6 mitigation-adaptation trade-off is problematic at this scale because the effectiveness of mitigation
7 outlays in terms of averted climate change depends on the mitigation efforts of other major
8 greenhouse gas emitters. However, adaptation criteria can be applied to mitigation projects or vice
9 versa (Dang *et al.* 2003). A national policy example of synergies might be a new water law that
10 requires metered use, enabling water companies to adjust their charges in anticipation of scarcity and
11 conserve energy through demand-side measures. This policy would then be implemented in strategic
12 plans by water companies and environment agencies at a sub-national level.

13 At the operational scale of specific projects, there may be trade-offs or synergies between adaptation
14 and mitigation. However, the majority of projects are unlikely to have strong inter-linkages, although
15 this remains as a key uncertainty. Certainly there are many adaptive actions that have consequences
16 for mitigation, and mitigation actions with consequences for adaptation.

17
18 The linkages between adaptation and mitigation also link across scales (Cash and Moser, 2000;
19 Rosenberg and Scott, 1996, Young, 2002). A policy framework is often seen as essential in driving
20 strategic investment and operational projects (e.g., Grubb, 2003, Grubb *et al.*, 2002 for technological
21 innovation). Or, operational experience is seen as a precursor to developing sound strategies and
22 policies (one of the motivations for early corporate experiments in carbon trading). In many cases the
23 results of action at one scale have implications at another scale (e.g., local adaptation decisions that
24 increase greenhouse gas emissions, or national carbon taxes that change local resource use).

25 26 27 **18.5.2 Examples of complementarities and differences**

28
29 The act-then-learn perspective is extended to consider four entry points for decisions affecting
30 adaptation and mitigation (Figure 18.3). Most linkages originate in either adaptation or mitigation,
31 with consequences for the other. For example, a common adaptation to heat waves is to install air
32 conditioning, which increases electricity demand with consequences for mitigation. This linkage is
33 labelled $A \rightarrow M$, or adaptation leading to effects on mitigation. Similarly, a mitigation action to
34 sequester carbon may affect rural livelihoods by placing a value on their management of natural
35 resources ($M \rightarrow A$). Some actions result from the simultaneous consideration of adaptation and
36 mitigation. These concerns may be raised within the same decision framework but without
37 explicitly considering their trade-offs or synergies (labelled adaptation and mitigation, $A \cap M$). For
38 example, national capacity building on climate change often includes both adaptation and
39 mitigation in the same office. At least some analysts are concerned with the explicit trade-offs
40 between adaptation and mitigation (labelled adaptation or mitigation, $\int(A,M)$). At the global level,
41 for example, the costs and benefits of different mixes of climate policy and stabilisation targets
42 might be compared.

43
44 Inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation have been identified through examples in the
45 published literature. Examples of these linkages and an analysis of the type of linkage can be found
46 collated in a single source (Vulnerability Net, 2006), where the many examples have been clustered
47 according to the type of linkage. Figure 18.3 shows a sample of the linkages documented in the
48 literature, ordered according to the entry point and scale of decision making. Table 18.1 lists all of
49 the types of linkages documented. The categories are illustrative, some cases occur in more than
50 one category, or could shift over time or in different situations. For example, watershed planning is
51 often related to managing climatic risks in using water. But if hydroelectricity is an option, then the

entry point may be mitigation, and both adaptation and mitigation might be evaluated at the same time or even with explicit trade-offs.

A wide range of linkages have been documented in the literature. Many of the examples are motivated by either mitigation or adaptation, with largely unintended consequences for the other (e.g., Tol and Dowlatabadi, 2001). Most of the examples do not concern explicit trade-offs between the costs of mitigation and investment in adaptation. It appears that public decision making is taking a precautionary view of risk and accepting responsibilities for reducing emissions based on some consideration of equity.

18.6 Elements for effective implementation

This section considers the literature assessment of the previous sections with respect to its implications for policy and decision-making. It reviews the policy and institutional contexts within which adaptation and mitigation can be implemented, it discusses inter-relationships in practice, including issues of funding, and it assesses the relevance to policy and development.

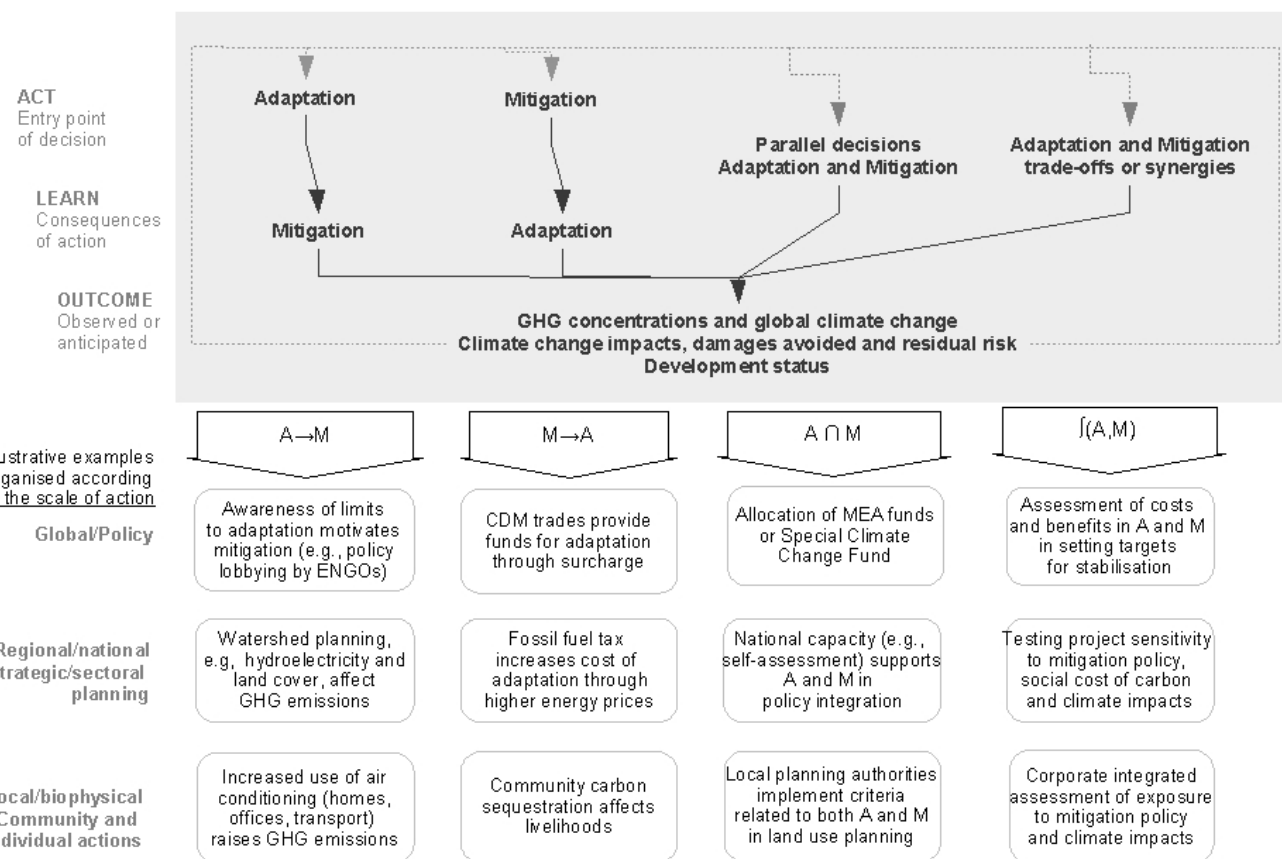


Figure 18.3: Typology of inter-relationships between climate change adaptation and mitigation.

18.6.1 Climate policy and institutions

As explained and illustrated in the previous sections of this chapter, effective climate policy would involve a portfolio of adaptation and mitigation actions. These actions include technological, institutional and behavioural options, the introduction of economic and policy instruments to encourage the use of these options, and research and development to reduce uncertainty and to

1 enhance the options' effectiveness and efficiency. However, the actors involved in the
2 implementation of these actions operate on a range of different spatial and institutional scales,
3 representing different sectoral interests. Policies and measures to promote the implementation of
4 adaptation and mitigation actions have therefore been targeted primarily on either adaptation or
5 mitigation; rarely have they been given similar priority and considered in conjunction (see Section
6 18.5 for more detail).

7
8 On the *global scale*, the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol are the principal institutional frameworks
9 by which climate policy is developed. The ultimate objective of the UNFCCC, as stated in Article 2,
10 is:

11 “to achieve ... stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level
12 that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system ...
13 within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change,
14 to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to
15 proceed in a sustainable manner.”

16
17 Initially, this objective was often interpreted as having relevance only or primarily to mitigation:
18 reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing sinks such that atmospheric concentrations are
19 stabilised at a non-dangerous level. However, whether anthropogenic interference with the climate
20 system will be dangerous or not does not only depend on the stabilisation level; it also depends on
21 the degree to which adaptation can be expected to be effective in addressing the consequences of this
22 interference. In other words, the greater the capacity of ecosystems and society to adapt to the
23 potential impacts of climate change, the higher the level at which atmospheric greenhouse gas
24 concentrations may be stabilised before climate change becomes dangerous (see also Chapter 19).
25 Adaptation can thus complement or, in theory, substitute mitigation in meeting the ultimate objective
26 of the UNFCCC.

27
28 The possibility of considering adaptation and mitigation as substitutes on a global scale does not
29 feature explicitly in the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol or any decisions made by the Conference of
30 the Parties. This is so because any global agreement on substitution would, in practice, be unable to
31 account for the diverse and at times conflicting interests of all actors involved in adaptation and
32 mitigation (see Section 18.4.1) and for the differences in temporal and spatial scales between the two
33 alternatives (see Section 18.5.1). Mitigation is primarily driven by international agreements and
34 ensuing national public policies, but most adaptation is motivated by private interests of affected
35 individuals, households and firms, and by public arrangements of impacted communities and sectors.
36 The fact that decisions on adaptation are often made at sub-national and local levels also presents a
37 challenge to the organisation of funding for adaptation in developing countries under the UNFCCC
38 and the Kyoto Protocol (see Section 18.6.2).

39
40 Yet there is one way in which adaptation and mitigation are connected at the global policy level,
41 namely in their reliance on social and economic development to provide the capacity to adapt and
42 mitigate. Section 18.3 introduced the concept of response capacity, which can be instantiated as
43 adaptive capacity and mitigative capacity. Response capacity is often limited by a lack of resources,
44 poor institutions and inadequate infrastructure, amongst other factors that are typically the focus of
45 development assistance. People's vulnerability to climate change can therefore be reduced not only
46 by mitigating greenhouse gas emissions or by adapting to the impacts of climate change, but also by
47 development aimed at improving the living conditions and access to resources of those experiencing
48 the impacts, as this will enhance their response capacity.

49
50 The incorporation of development concerns into climate policy demonstrates that climate policy
51 involves more than decision-making on adaptation and mitigation. Accordingly, Klein *et al.* (2005)

1 identified three roles of climate policy under the UNFCCC: (i) to control the atmospheric
 2 concentrations of greenhouse gases, (ii) to prepare for and reduce the adverse impacts of climate
 3 change and take advantage of opportunities, and (iii) to address development and equity issues.

4
 5
 6 **Table 18.1:** *Types of inter-relationships between climate change adaptation and mitigation.*

$A \rightarrow M$	$M \rightarrow A$	$A \cap M$	$\int(A,M)$
Individual responses to climatic hazards that increase or decrease GHG emissions	More efficient energy use and renewable sources that promote local development	Perception of impacts (and limits to A) motivates M ; perception of limits to M motivates A	Public sector funding and budgetary processes that allocate funding to both A and M
More efficient community use of water, land, forests	CDM projects on land use or energy use that support local economies and livelihoods	Watershed planning: allocation of water between hydroelectricity and consumption	Strategic planning related to development pathways (scenarios) to mainstream climate responses
Natural resources are managed to sustain livelihoods	Urban planning, building design and recycling with benefits for both A and M	Cultural values that promote both A and M , such as sacred forests (e.g. Satoyama in Japan)	Allocation of funding and setting the agenda for UNFCCC negotiations and funds
Tourism use of energy and water, with outcomes for incomes and emissions	Health benefits of mitigation through reduced environmental stresses	Management of socio-ecological systems to promote resilience	Stabilisation targets that include limits to adaptation (e.g., tolerable windows)
Resources used in adaptation, such as large scale infrastructure, increases emissions	Afforestation, leading to depleted water resources and other ecosystem effects, with consequences for livelihoods	Ecological impacts, with some human element, drive further releases of GHGs	Analysis of global costs and benefits of M to inform targets
	M schemes that transfer finance to developing countries (such as a per capita allocation) stimulate investment that may benefit A	Legal implications of liability for climate impacts motivates M	Large scale M (e.g., geo-engineering) with effects on impacts and A
	Effect of mitigation, e.g., through carbon taxes and energy prices, on resource use	National capacity building increases ability to respond to both A and M	
		Insurance spreads risk and assists with A ; managing insurance funds has implications for M	
		Trade liberalisation with economic benefits (A) increases transport costs (M)	
		Monitoring systems and reporting requirements that cover indicators of both A and M	
		Management of Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements benefits both A and M	

7
 8
 9 Although climate change is not the primary reason for poverty and inequality in the world,
 10 addressing these issues is seen as a prerequisite for successful adaptation and mitigation in many
 11 developing countries. In a paper produced by a range of development agencies and international
 12 organisations, Sperling (2003) made the case for linking climate policy and development assistance,

1 which would promote opportunities for mainstreaming considerations of climate change into
2 development on the national, sub-national and local scales (see below).

3
4 With the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol ending in 2012, a range of proposals have
5 been prepared that lay out a post-2012 international climate policy regime. The majority of these
6 proposals focus only or predominantly on mitigation; some proposals consider adaptation and
7 mitigation in concert. However, few proposals have been published in the peer-reviewed literature,
8 fewer still have been appraised in terms of, for example, their effectiveness, efficiency and equity.

9
10 On the *regional scale*, climate policies and institutions do not tend to consider inter-relationships
11 between adaptation and mitigation. In the European Union, for example, mitigation policy is
12 conducted separately from adaptation strategies that are being developed or studied for water
13 management, coastal management, agriculture and public health. The Alliance of Small Island States
14 is concerned primarily with adaptation and its links with development. The Asia-Pacific Partnership
15 on Clean Development and Climate only refers to mitigation.

16
17 The *national, sub-national and local scales* are where most adaptation and mitigation actions are
18 implemented and where most inter-relationships may be expected. However, there is little academic
19 literature that describes or analyses policy and institutions at these levels with respect to inter-
20 relationships of adaptation and mitigation. The literature does provide a growing number of examples
21 and case studies (see Section 18.5.2) but, unlike the emerging literature on global policy and
22 institutions, it does not yet discuss policies and institutions at these levels in the light of adaptation-
23 mitigation inter-relationships, nor does it discuss implications of potential inter-relationships on
24 policy and institutions, or vice versa. This is an emerging research field that builds on studies that
25 have been done for adaptation or for mitigation. For example, the AMICA project (Adaptation and
26 Mitigation: an Integrated Climate Policy Approach) aims at identifying synergies between adaptation
27 and mitigation for selected cities in Europe.

28
29 More common and also relevant to climate policy and institutions on national, sub-national and local
30 scales are studies that investigate the potential of mainstreaming adaptation and mitigation actions
31 into development planning and ongoing sectoral decision-making. Mainstreaming aims at ensuring
32 the long-term sustainability of investments, as well as at reducing the sensitivity of development
33 activities to both today's and tomorrow's climate (Huq *et al.*, 2003; Agrawala *et al.*, 2005).

34 Mainstreaming is seen as making more efficient and effective use of financial and human resources
35 than designing, implementing and managing climate policy separately from ongoing activities. By its
36 very nature, energy-based mitigation (*e.g.*, fuel switch and energy conservation) can be effective only
37 when mainstreamed into energy policy. For adaptation, however, this link has not appeared as self-
38 evident until recently (see Chapter 17). Mainstreaming is based on the premise that human
39 vulnerability to climate change is reduced not only when climate change is mitigated or when
40 successful adaptation to the impacts takes place, but also when the living conditions for those
41 experiencing the impacts are improved (Huq and Reid, 2004).

42
43 Although mainstreaming is most often discussed with reference to developing countries, it is just as
44 relevant to industrialised countries. In both cases it requires the close linking, if not integration, of
45 climate policy and sectoral and development policies. The institutional means by which such linking
46 and integration is attempted or achieved vary from location to location, from sector to sector, as well
47 as across spatial scales. For developing countries, the UNFCCC could play a part in facilitating the
48 successful integration and implementation of adaptation and mitigation in sectoral and development
49 policies. Klein *et al.* (2005) see this as a possible fourth role of climate policy, in addition to the three
50 presented earlier in this section. To facilitate mainstreaming would require increasing awareness and
51 understanding amongst decision-makers and managers, and creating mechanisms and incentives for

1 mainstreaming. It would not require developing synergies between mitigation and adaptation *per se*,
2 but rather between building adaptive and mitigative capacity, and thus with development (see Section
3 18.3.4). This new role of climate policy highlights the importance of involving a greater range of
4 actors in the planning and implementation of adaptation and mitigation, including sectoral, sub-
5 national and local actors (see Section 18.5.1). This is reflected in the respective roles of institutions at
6 these levels.

7
8 According to Keohane (Keohane 1988) institutions are “not only discrete organisations (e.g.,
9 government agencies), but also more generally, set of rules, processes or practices that prescribe
10 behavioural role for actors, constrain activity, and shape expectations”. Successful implementation of
11 climate policy is inextricably linked to institutional capacity. (OECD, 2003). Institutional capacity
12 can meet both sustainable development priorities as well as climate policy actions (Michel, 2004).
13 Outside the UNFCCC context, bilateral, regional and multilateral institutions dealing with climate
14 change issues can help mainstream climate change in development agenda more and more
15 specifically enhance technology transfer and flow of resources to developing countries. (OECD,
16 2003) Climate policy has largely evolved in a separate cluster with little interactions between the
17 scientific and development world but there more and more interactions refer to the various steps of
18 the various IPCC reports. In developed countries, bridging the divide means linking climate to issues
19 such as energy security, urban air pollution or national security issues.

20
21 In developing countries, the link can be made through “mainstreaming” climate into development
22 priorities such as poverty reduction, health priorities, and provision of critical services such as
23 energy. (Beg *et al.*, 2002). For developing countries, institutional capacity and governance are
24 critical in order to support climate policy actions (OECD, 2003). It is becoming increasingly clear
25 that the wide array of decisions may not be reached under the UNFCCC umbrella alone and
26 international, regional and national choices of climate prevention are possible options through which
27 effective decision making can be channelled. Various initiatives which emerged from the Rio process
28 and related outcomes such as Agenda 21, World Summit on Sustainable Development, the
29 Millennium Development Goals and so on offer tremendous opportunities along with bilateral and
30 multilateral development institutions to coherently formulate climate policies and build synergies.

31
32 Organisations such as the World Trade Organisation and the European Union can, through specific
33 mechanisms, integrate environmental policy into their economic rationales. The agricultural sector,
34 particularly industrial agriculture and the use of strong fertiliser accounts for the production of
35 emissions such as methane and nitrous oxide. However, whilst many governments under the
36 UNFCCC are advocating a less-fossil fuel dependent pathway, they are also taking on agricultural
37 trade policies that would amount to vast increases in energy demands of both agricultural production
38 and distributions systems.

39
40 Alongside the need to use existing mechanisms within the WTO to integrate climate and economic
41 considerations, there is also a considerable need to address contradictions between policies relevant
42 to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and agricultural trade policies. Energy remains a
43 quintessential input in agro-processing, transportation and packaging, and the combined effect of
44 increases in energy consumption in the agricultural sector and impacts of agricultural trade policies
45 are not thought through within the broad parameters of climate change. Other sectors such as
46 forestry can be climate proofed and thus looked at within specific mechanisms of the EU from an
47 environmental/climate perspective. The main legislative mechanism that deals with forests tends to
48 be linked to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Policies within the CAP offer some support for
49 agricultural and silvicultural activities that help increase carbon sequestration A recent addition to the
50 EU’s effort is the establishment of a Working Group on Forest Sinks within the European Climate
51 Change Programme (ECCP).

1
2 In Africa, countries belonging to the same regional economic groupings can identify projects that
3 have net adaptation and mitigative benefits. In the water sector, river basin institutions such as the
4 Senegal River Basin Authority (Organisation pour la Mise en Valeur du Fleuve Senegal, OMVS, the
5 Nile Basin Initiative). Projections under SRES scenarios note that by 2025 roughly 370 million
6 people in Africa will experience water-stress while likely increases in precipitation will mean that
7 100 million people will see a decrease in water stress by 2055 (Arnell, 2004). Scenarios used by
8 Greco and al show that over the next 30-60 years there would be a significant reduction of water in
9 most of the large rivers in the Sahelian region (<http://www.grida.no/climate/ipcc/regional/019.htm>).
10 Regional adaptation plans to curtail climate change and variability have received little attention.
11 Studies have predicted reduction in water supply in most of the large rivers of the Sahel thus
12 affecting vital sectors such as energy and agriculture both of which are dependent on water
13 availability for hydroelectric power generation and agricultural production. It is worth noting that 17
14 countries in West Africa share 25 trans-boundary rivers and a high proportion of countries within the
15 region tend to have a water dependency ratio of 90%. (Denton *et al*, 2002) Water resources and
16 watershed management in trans-boundary ecosystems are all possible ways in which countries in
17 West Africa can co-operate on a regional basis to build institutional capacity, strengthen regional
18 networks and institutions to encourage co-operation, flow of information and transfer of technology.
19 The construction of the Manantali dam in Mali as part of the Senegal River Basin Initiative is able to
20 produce hydropower electricity and enable riparian communities to practice irrigation agriculture
21 especially since Senegal and Mauritania remain highly dependent on agriculture and suffer deficits in
22 staple cereal crops. These initiatives have global sustainable development benefits since they are
23 able to offer both adaptation and mitigative benefits as well as accelerate economic development of
24 countries sharing the river (namely Senegal, Mali and Mauritania) (Venema, *et al*, 1997)

25
26 Regional co-operation could create “win-win” opportunities in both economic integration and
27 addressing the adverse effects of climate change (Denton *et al*, 2002). Organisations such as New
28 the Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) and the African Ministerial Conference on the
29 Environment (AMCEN) conducted a number of consultative process in order to prepare an
30 Environmental Action Plan for the Implementation of the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. One of
31 the proposed developing projects is to evaluate synergistic effects of adaptation and mitigation
32 activities (UNEP, 2003). Projects such as on farm and catchments management of carbon
33 management with sustainable livelihood benefits are envisaged. Organisations such as the West
34 African Monetary Union (UEMOA -WAEMU) are actively engaged in energy development to
35 address the perennial problem of energy poverty in the continent tend to focus on how to exploit
36 mechanisms such as the Clean Development Mechanisms in order to mitigate against present and
37 future emissions, especially with the use of renewables. UEMOA countries are vulnerable to drought
38 and desertification and while mitigation may not be their main concern it does offer opportunities to
39 reduce negative impacts that are pervasive in deforestation and land use change. Equally, linkages
40 between the UNFCCC and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) offer
41 opportunities to exploit both adaptation and mitigation synergies within the context of increasing
42 sustainable livelihoods option and environmental management. This is perhaps even more relevant
43 to current sub-regional institutional set-up with specific action plans to address desertification.¹
44 Institutional arrangements are a viable option for mainstreaming climate change into development
45 and regional objectives and thus build synergy through the formulation of coherent policies.

46

¹ These organisations are mainly the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) in Northern Africa, the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the South, the Economic Community of Western African Countries (CEDEAO) and Inter-Permanent Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) for the West, and the Economic Community of Central African Countries (CEMAC) in central Africa

1 From a national perspective, effective implementation of climate change adaptation and mitigation is
2 dependent on support from local NGOs, private sector i.e. industries, civic groups, the public and
3 local government authorities. Market based policy instruments which provide incentives such as
4 pollution taxes and different types of tradeable pollution permits have been successfully implemented
5 in developed countries. In the Niayes region (central Senegal), the government has sought to
6 promote irrigation practices and reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture with the planting of dense
7 hedges to act as windbreaks. These have enhanced agricultural productivity. Windbreaks have been
8 effective in combating soil erosion and desiccation and have also provided much needed fuelwood
9 for cooking, thus reducing the drudgery that women and young girls face by travelling long distances
10 in a rapidly urbanising area in the search of wood. The windbreaks have carbon sequestration
11 benefits but, most of all, they have helped to intensify agricultural production especially with
12 commercial products, thus boosting the economic livelihoods of poor communities. Thus, what
13 started off as an adaptation strategy has had huge integrated development benefits by easing
14 deforestation and reducing carbon emission as well as addressing gender and livelihood aspirations.
15 (Seck, *et al* 2005).

16
17 The use of market based incentives such as taxes, subsidies and in the case of India tax credits and
18 financial assistance has opened up the electricity and allowed the private sector to come in thus
19 resulting in a “wind energy boom” (Sawin, *J et al* 2004) . Renewable energy sources such as biogas
20 and wind on a large scale in India have tremendous mitigation and adaptation net benefits as well as
21 addressing sustainable development priorities of communities. Equally, deliberate policies that create
22 incentives for the uptake of biofuels and energy efficiency programmes in Brazil have considerably
23 reduced carbon emissions (Pew Center 2002). Although a number of these programmes are not
24 designed to serve the synergistic twin effect of adaptation and mitigation it is clear that they do
25 present some net adaptation and mitigation benefits. In addition, the private sector is also
26 increasingly becoming involved in environmental governance. Transnational corporations are also
27 increasingly drawn into partnerships and networks as a way of managing the global environment.
28

29

30 ***18.6.2 Inter-relationships in practice***

31
32 In practice, mitigation and adaptation can be included in climate change strategies, policies and
33 measures at different levels, involving different stakeholders. For example at the multi-country,
34 regional level, the European Union previously emphasised policies to focus on reducing GHG
35 emissions in line with Kyoto targets. But, they are increasingly acknowledging the need to deal with
36 the consequences of climate change. In 2005, the European Commission launched the 2nd Phase of the
37 European Climate Change Programme (ECCP), which for the first time addresses impacts and
38 adaptation as one of its working groups (EEA 2005). They recognise the value of ‘win-win’ strategies
39 which address climate change impacts but also contribute to mitigation objectives (EEA, 2005)
40

41 At the national level there are also examples, including the United Kingdom, which is tackling
42 climate change through its UK Climate Change Programme (DETR, 2000), including adaptation and
43 mitigation policy issues. Further, the UK is tackling adaptation through the Adaptation Policy
44 Framework (APF, 2005), the UK Climate Impacts Programme (UKCIP) and a Cross Regional
45 Research Programme, a cross-governmental initiative being led by DEFRA. Malta identified in its 1st
46 National Communication to the UNFCCC a range of ‘win-win’ adaptation options, including
47 efficiency in energy production, improving farming, afforestation (Ministry for Rural Affairs and the
48 Environment Malta 2004). The Czech Republic has agreed to give priority to ‘win-win’ measures,
49 due to financial constraints (EEA, 2005).
50

51 At the sub-national, regional or city level activities are taking place including efforts in the UK’s

1 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister which released planning policy and advice to be taken into
2 account by regional planning bodies. The purpose of the policy is to guide the preparation of regional
3 spatial strategies by the Mayor of London in relation to the spatial development strategy of London,
4 and by local planning authorities in the preparation of local development documents (ODPM 2005). It
5 includes advice to planners on how to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation into their
6 policy planning decisions. Other examples of projects which incorporate ‘climate proofing’ include the
7 Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) Campaign, a worldwide movement of local governments working
8 together under the initiation of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
9 to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, and enhance urban sustainability. Local
10 governments following this programme develop a baseline of their emissions, set targets and agree on
11 an action plan to reach the targets through a sustainable development approach focusing on local
12 quality of life, energy use and air quality (ICLEI 2006). For example, the Southampton City Council
13 developed a climate change strategy in conjunction with its air quality strategy and action plan, seeing
14 close links between the two. The strategy includes measures for the council and partners to reduce net
15 emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutants through integrated energy systems and continued
16 air quality monitoring. The mitigating measures are supported by improved management of the likely
17 impacts of future climate change and the impacts on air quality through better planning and adaptation,
18 such as coastal defence, transport infrastructure, planning and design, and flood risk mapping.
19 (Southampton City Council 2004).

20
21 At the sectoral level examples include the built environment through encouraging energy efficiency.
22 The UK Government encourages an integrated approach to ensure that adaptation initiatives do not
23 increase energy demands and therefore conflict with greenhouse gas mitigation measures. Adaptation
24 measures would include decisions about siting new settlements, and not creating an unsustainable
25 demand for water resources by taking into account possible changes in seasonal precipitation (ODPM,
26 2004).

27
28 At the project level, a number of examples illustrate both mitigation as well as adaptation co-benefits.
29 As part of decentralised energy systems in India, small biomass gasifier based power plants will be
30 linked to energy services and micro industries, all owned by village cooperatives. A biogas project in
31 Nepal aims to develop biogas use as a commercially viable, market-oriented industry in Nepal by
32 bringing fuel for cooking and lighting to rural households. Other examples are a compact fluorescent
33 light bulbs project for low-income households in South Africa and a Soil Conservation Project in
34 Moldova (Development Alternatives Group, 2006).

35
36 The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has acknowledged the potential win-wins between
37 biodiversity management, and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

38
39 There is particular scope for this in large-scale regional biodiversity programmes such as the
40 Mesoamerican Biological Corridor Project which due to its size, reforestation and avoided
41 deforestation aims can help to mitigate climate change through the creation of carbon sinks,
42 livelihood benefits for local communities can help to increase their resilience to adapt to the impacts
43 of climate change. In addition, the creation of large biological corridors will help ecological
44 communities migrate and adapt to changing environmental conditions (CBD 2003).

45
46 A special role can be played by international funding agencies and climate change funds. Thus, for
47 example, the World Bank’s BioCarbon Fund and Community Development Carbon Fund provide
48 financing for projects, such as reforestation to conserve and protect forest ecosystems, community
49 afforestation activities, mini and micro-hydro and biomass fuel projects (World Bank). These types
50 of project are focused specifically at extending carbon finance to poorer countries and contribute not
51 only to the mitigation of climate change but also to reducing rural poverty and improving sustainable

1 management of local ecosystems, thereby enhancing adaptive capacity. Similarly, the Global
2 Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been
3 funding both mitigation as well as adaptation activities over the years.
4
5

6 ***18.6.3 Relevance to policy and development***

7

8 As climate change policies and measures begin to be implemented at different scales, the need to
9 include an assessment of both mitigation as well as adaptation as appropriate response options, while
10 looking for synergies, has begun at various levels by different actors and stakeholders. Incorporating
11 both mitigation as well as adaptation as part of climate change response options is particularly
12 relevant for development policy which requires climate change responses to be included in larger
13 economic and social policy contexts.
14
15

16 **18.7 Uncertainties, unknowns, and priorities for research**

17

18 Many of the inter-relationships between adaptation and mitigation have been described in previous
19 assessments of climate policy, and the literature is rapidly expanding. Still, well-documented studies
20 at the regional and sectoral level are lacking. Mitigation and adaptation studies tend to focus only on
21 their primary domains, and few studies analyse the secondary consequences (e.g., of mitigation on
22 impacts and adaptation options or of adaptation actions on greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation
23 options). Experiences with climate change adaptation is relatively recent and large-scale and global
24 actions, such as insurance, an adaptation protocol or liability and compensation, have not been tested.
25

26 Learning from the expanding case experience of linkages is a priority. Reviews, syntheses and meta-
27 analyses should become more common in the next few years. An analytical and institutional
28 framework for monitoring the inter-relationships and organising periodic assessments should be
29 developed. At present, no organisation appears to have a lead role in this area. Protocols for action
30 should be compared. The experience of the land use/land cover programme would be insightful (e.g.,
31 Geist and Lambin 2002). Effective institutional development, use of financial instruments,
32 participatory planning and risk management strategies are areas for learning from the emerging
33 experience (Klein *et al.*, 2005).
34

35 A key research need is to document which stakeholders link adaptation and mitigation. Decisions
36 oriented toward either adaptation or mitigation might be extended to evaluate unintended
37 consequences, to take advantage of synergies or explicitly evaluate trade-offs. Yet, the constraints of
38 organisational mandates and administrative capacity, finance, and linking across scales and sectors
39 (e.g., Cash and Moser, 2000) may outweigh the benefits of integrated decision making. Formulation
40 of policies that support renewable energy in developing countries, an example of a major link
41 between adaptation and mitigation, is likely to meet fiscal, market, legal, knowledge and
42 infrastructural barriers that limit uptake.
43

44 The effects on specific social and economic groups should be further documented. For example,
45 development of hydro-electricity may reduce water availability for fish farming and irrigation of
46 home gardens, potentially adversely affecting the food security of women and children (Andah *et al.*
47 2004; Hirsch and Wyatt, 2004). Or, linking carbon sequestration and community development could
48 generate new opportunities for women and marginal socio-economic groups, but this will depend on
49 many local factors and needs to be evaluated with empirical research.
50

51 The links between a broad climate change response capacity, specific capacities to link adaptation

1 and mitigation, and actual actions are poorly documented. Testing and quantification of the
2 relationship between capacities to act and actual action is needed, taking into account sectoral
3 planning and implementation, the degree of vulnerability, the range of technological options, policy
4 instruments, and information including experience of climate change.

5
6 A clear, comprehensive analytical framework for evaluating the links between adaptation and
7 mitigation is lacking. Decision frameworks relating adaptation and mitigation (separately or
8 conjointly) should be tested against the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at all levels of action.
9 Global optimising models may influence some decisions, while experience at the project level is
10 important to others. The suitability of integrated assessment models should be evaluated for exploring
11 multiple metrics, discontinuities and probabilistic forecasts (Mastrandrea and Schneider, 2001, 2004;
12 Schneider 2003). Hybrid approaches to integrated assessments across scales (top down and bottom up)
13 should be further developed (Wilbanks and Kates, 2003). Representations of risk and uncertainties
14 need to be related to decision frameworks and processes (Dessai *et al.*, 2004; Kasperson and
15 Kasperson, 2005; Lorenzoni *et al.*, 2005). Climate risk, current and future, is only one aspect of
16 adaptation-mitigation decision-making; the relative importance and effect of other drivers needs to be
17 understood.

18
19 The magnitude of unintended consequences is uncertain. The few existing studies (e.g., Dang *et al.*
20 2003) indicate that the repercussions from mitigation for adaptation and vice versa are mostly
21 marginal. The effects on demand or total emissions are likely to be a small fraction of the global
22 baseline. However, in some domains, such as water and land markets, and in some locales, the
23 linkages might affect local economies. Quantitative evaluation of direct trade-offs is missing: the
24 metrics and methods for valuation, existence of thresholds in local feedbacks, behavioural responses
25 to opportunities, risks and adverse impacts, documentation of the baseline and project scenarios, and
26 scaling up from isolated, local examples to systemic changes are part of the required knowledge base.

27
28 At a global or international level, defining a socially, economically and environmentally justifiable
29 mix of mitigation, adaptation and development remains a research need. The extent to which targets
30 that are set globally are consistent with national or local mixes of strategies requires a concerted
31 effort. The distributional effects would be an important factor in evaluating tolerable windows and
32 trade-offs between adaptation and mitigation. The lack of high quality studies of the benefits of
33 mitigation, the social cost of carbon, limits confidence in setting targets for stabilisation. A
34 systematic assessment with a formal risk framework that guides expert judgement and grounded case
35 studies, and interprets the sample of published estimates, is required if policy makers wish to identify
36 the benefits of climate policy (e.g., Downing *et al.* 2005). While global integrated assessment models
37 are relatively well-developed, they can only provide approximate estimates of quantitative linkages at
38 a highly aggregated scale.

39
40 The relationship between development paths and adaptation-mitigation inter-relationships requires
41 further research. Unintended consequences, synergies and trade-offs might be unique to some
42 development paths; equally, they might be possible in many different paths. Existing scenarios of
43 development paths, such as the SRES, are particularly inadequate in framing some of the major
44 determinants of vulnerability and adaptation (Downing, *et al.*, 2003). For example, global scenarios
45 of food security are lacking in recent years (Downing and Ziervogel, 2005). Few if any reference
46 scenarios explicitly frame issues related to adaptation-mitigation linkages (e.g., from the extent to
47 which a global decision maker makes optimising judgements to the institutional setting for local
48 projects to exploit synergies). While the direct energy input in large infrastructure projects may be
49 small, including a shadow price for climate change externalities, may shift adaptation portfolios. An
50 assessment of actual shifts in energy demand and ways to reduce emissions is desirable. Most
51 integrated assessments are at the large scale of regions to world-views, although local dialogues are

1 beginning to explore synergies (Munasinghe and Swart, 2005).
2
3 The feasibility and outcome of many of the inter-relationships depend on local conditions and
4 management options. A systematic assessment and guidance for mitigating potentially adverse
5 effects would be helpful. The nature of links between public policy and private action at different
6 scales and prospects for mainstreaming integrated policy are worth evaluating. Many of the
7 consequences depend on environmental processes that may not be well understood, for example,
8 resilience of systems to increased inter-annual climate variability and long-term carbon sequestration
9 in agro-forestry systems.

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