



Scope of Initiative Adaptation to Climate Change

As announced in the 2008-09 Budget, the Australian Government will commence a significant new package of initiatives to lay the foundation for implementing its long-term commitment to increase Australia's international development assistance to 0.5 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) by 2015-16.

The *Adaptation to Climate Change* initiative aims to meet high priority climate adaptation needs in vulnerable partner developing countries.

The *Adaptation to Climate Change* initiative will invest \$150 million over three years. This will include \$35 million in 2008-09, \$50 million in 2009-10, and \$65 million in 2010-11. The primary geographic focus of the initiative will be on Australia's neighbouring island countries but targeted policy and technical assistance will also be available for other vulnerable countries.

Through this initiative, the Australian Government will undertake a range of activities to address priorities identified in key partner countries. Support will also be provided to multilateral adaptation funding mechanisms. Activities under the initiative include:

Improved scientific information on, and understanding of, climate change impacts

- Improve collection, storage, access to and analysis of climate data, and monitoring information to identify the effects of climate change;
- Provide partner countries with improved climate projections (including improved projections of the numbers and intensities of cyclones, droughts, floods, and storms);
- Increase understanding of climate drivers and processes in the region, including through research on the impacts of large scale processes such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon; and
- Improve partner country understanding of critical climate change thresholds and the degree of resilience of key human and natural systems.

Strategic planning and vulnerability assessment

- Assess vulnerability to climate change at the local, national and regional levels (especially the implications for critical infrastructure, natural resources and coastal zones);
- Assist with the development and prioritisation of national adaptation plans and strategies; and



**Implementing,
financing and
coordinating
adaptation
measures**

- Provide training and other technical support to help local decision-makers manage the impacts of climate change on coastal zones, fisheries, agriculture, forests, tourism, water resources, coral reefs and marine ecosystems, and human health.
- Help partner countries access and utilise international financing for priority adaptation projects;
- Provide targeted financial support for high-priority adaptation projects, either bilaterally or in conjunction with other donors and multilateral agencies; and
- Facilitate access to Australian skills and expertise.

**Contributions to
major multilateral
adaptation funds**

- Increase significantly Australia's contribution to multilateral financial mechanisms for climate change adaptation.