GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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| **Adaptation to climate change** | A process of adjustment involving the adoption of measures (including changes in procedures, practices and structures) to protect natural and human systems against the actual and anticipated harmful effects of climate change, to exploit any opportunities it may generate, and to ensure the sustainability of investment and development interventions in spite of current climate risks and potentially increasingly difficult climatic conditions; adaptation aims to reduce sensitivity and vulnerability to the effects of climate change. |
| **Adaptive capacity** | The extent to which a system, individual or group has the capabilities, and/or has access to the information, resources and institutions, required to cope with existing or anticipated external stresses – and in this specific context, to adapt to climate change, notably through the adoption of risk prevention and mitigation measures ; also: ‘the property of a system to adjust its characteristics or behaviour, in order to expand its coping range under existing climate variability, or future climate conditions’ |
| **Biodiversity** | The variety of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms in an area. |
| **Climate** | The average characteristics of meteorological conditions, calculated over a long period (typically 30 years or more). |
| **Climate change** | A shift in average climate parameters and/or in the magnitude of climate variability observed and persisting over long periods (typically decades or longer). |
| **Climate variability** | The range of variation in climate parameters, characterised by the difference between observed values and average values calculated at various temporal scales; climate variability is an inherent feature of the climate system but tends to be exacerbated by climate change; ‘current climate variability’ typically refers to variability observed over periods shorter than 10 years (EC 2009b, ENDA n.d.). |
| **Ecological** | Footprint A measure of how much biologically productive land and water  an individual, population or activity requires to produce all the  resources it consumes, and to absorb the waste it generates,  using prevailing technology and resource management practices.  The Ecological Footprint is usually measured in global hectares.  Because trade is global, an individual or country’s Footprint  includes land or sea from all over the world. Also referred to in  short as Footprint (Global Footprint Network, 2012). |
| **Ecosystem** | A system of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. |
| **Ecosystem services** | Humankind benefits from a multitude of resources and processes that are supplied by ecosystems. Collectively, these benefits are known as ecosystem services and include products like clean drinking water and processes such as the decomposition of wastes. |
| **Environment** | Physical and natural surroundings, also meaning human or social environment. |
| **Environmental sustainability** | Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future |
| **Exposure** | The extent to which one is exposed to the physical manifestations of climate change, considering that their character, magnitude and likelihood and the rate of variation of climate will vary in nature and intensity across regions of the world (Brooks 2003, EC 2009b, IPCC 2007a). |
| **Externality** | A cost (or benefit) that affects a party who did not choose  to incur it, not accounted |
| **Green growth** | A process of reconfiguring businesses and infrastructure to deliver better returns on natural, human, & economic capital investments while at the same time reducing green house gas emissions, extracting and using less natural resources, creating less waste and reducing social disparities - OECD |
| Human Development  Index (HDI) | Generated by UNDP, the HDI ranks countries’ human  development using a score based on levels of education, income  and life expectancy. |
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| **Low regret measures** | Measures that are expected to have a cost for society in the absence of climate change, but an acceptable one in view of the benefits they would bring if climate change turns out to produce significant effects (Olhoff & Schaer 2010); with regard to mitigation, measures that are expected to have a low net cost for society at zero or low carbon prices – and may thus provide net benefits if carbon prices reach a certain threshold and carbon finance revenues can be obtained. |
| **Mainstreaming** | The informed integration of a relevant value, theme or concern into the decisions of institutions that drive national, local and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investment and action; a long-term, iterative process aimed at transforming ideas and, even more importantly, transforming policies and practices, in order to ensure sustainable actions. |
| **Natural capital** | The stock of natural assets (land, water, biodiversity) that  supports the provision of ecosystem services. |
| **Pollution** | Making dirty, or contaminating, an environment or natural resource, eg. from industry, sewage, solid waste, farming or chemicals. |
| **Resilience** | The ability of a system, individual or group to withstand disturbances, adapt and recover from a critical situation, and generally adapt to stress and change; the concept may apply to natural systems (*ecological resilience*) as well as social systems (*social resilience*) |
| **Sensitivity** | How severely an individual or system is actually affected when exposed to climate variability or change, considering its specific susceptibility to disturbances and stress |
| **Vulnerability** | The extent to which a system, individual or group of people is susceptible to, and unable to cope with, the adverse effects of climate variability and change; vulnerability to climate change depends on *exposure* to climate variability and change, *sensitivity* to its effects and *adaptive capacity* |
| **Weather** | The meteorological conditions (air temperature and pressure, humidity, wind speed, precipitation, ...) that prevail in a given place at a given time. |