

Development Aid and Adaptation to Climate Change in Developing Countries

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PREFACE

Developed countries have a moral and a legal obligation to assist developing countries that are ‘particularly’ vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to deal with these effects. Financial flows from the Global North for adaptation measures in the Global South are thus on the rise. To what extent do these financial flows reach those most in need, those most vulnerable to climate change and least able to adapt? And, just as importantly, to what extent does the support from the Global North help to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience among recipients?

In this book we focus on the first question: to what extent does adaptation finance reach vulnerable countries? This speaks to the larger question of aid allocation: how do donors distribute their adaptation aid? What factors and criteria do they consider when making allocation decisions? And how does the allocation of aid for adaptation differ from the allocation of development aid in general? We started to become interested in these questions as we observed that climate finance and specifically adaptation finance is increasing globally, but that not all vulnerable countries such as the small island developing states (SIDS) benefit to the same extent from this new form of finance. While we were first interested in explaining variation across SIDS only, we quickly extended our line of research to include all developing countries eligible to receive development assistance.

We started to examine adaptation aid allocation by assessing data from the OECD and presented the first results at the International Studies Association Annual Conference in 2014, and there met with Christina Brian from Palgrave Macmillan. She encouraged us to extend our research

and turn the conference paper into a book-length project. Without this encouragement, we would not have written this book, and so we would like to thank Christina first and foremost. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the entire editing and production team for their support.

While statistical analyses of aid data served as the starting point of our research project, we noted that numbers can only tell us so much. We hence extended our first attempt at understanding how adaptation aid is distributed through in-depth qualitative case studies. These built mainly on semi-structured interviews with practitioners and other stakeholders and observers in the aid sector in Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom, our case study countries. We are very grateful to all our interview partners for taking the time to speak to us and sharing their experiences and perspectives. Funding from the Fritz Thyssen Foundation made it possible for us to travel to Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to conduct interviews face-to-face.

We would also like to thank the many colleagues who helped develop our research and this book. Thanks in particular to Anaïd Flesken for helpful comments on previous versions of the book. Participants at the workshop ‘Climate Finance: Taking Stock, Future Directions for Policy and Research’ held in Lund in April 2015 provided useful comments on parts of the project, as did Katja Michaelowa, Axel Michaelowa, Paula Castro, and participants at the Climate and Environment Workshop held in Zurich in January 2015. Matthew Dornan contributed to our larger research project and provided valuable input on the aggregate analysis of all donors. Tobias Jakobi helped with some technical questions. All errors remain of course our own.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa
CDKN	Climate and Development Knowledge Network
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRI	Climate Risk Index
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DEval	German Institute for Development Evaluation
DfID	Department for International Development
EVI	Environmental Vulnerability Index
G7	Group of Seven (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States)
GDP	Gross domestic product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (German Society for International Cooperation)
GNI	Gross national income
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
KfW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau
LDCF	Least Developed Country Fund
LDCs	Least developed countries
NAPAs	National Adaptation Programmes of Action
ND-GAIN	Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
ODA	Official development assistance

OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Purchasing power parity
SCCF	Special Climate Change Fund
Sida	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIDS	Small island developing states
SOPAC	South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission
SVCCI	Structural Vulnerability to Climate Change Index
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USA	United States of America
WGIS	Worldwide Governance Indicators

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