Collaboration Between Science and Policy in Planning for Urban Resilience: Lessons from Vietnam

Kick-off Workshop on Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaption Planning in Human Settlements Sector

13 – 14 July 2017, Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok

Bach Tan Sinh (Ph.D)
National Institute for Science and Technology
Policy and Strategy Studies

Contents

- Concepts and framework for interaction of boundary partners in planning for resilience
- Case study on planning for resilience in Vietnam
- Lessons learned on planning for resilience

We do not plan for climate change – We plan for resilience so that environmental, social and economic conditions are not at risk when climate changes

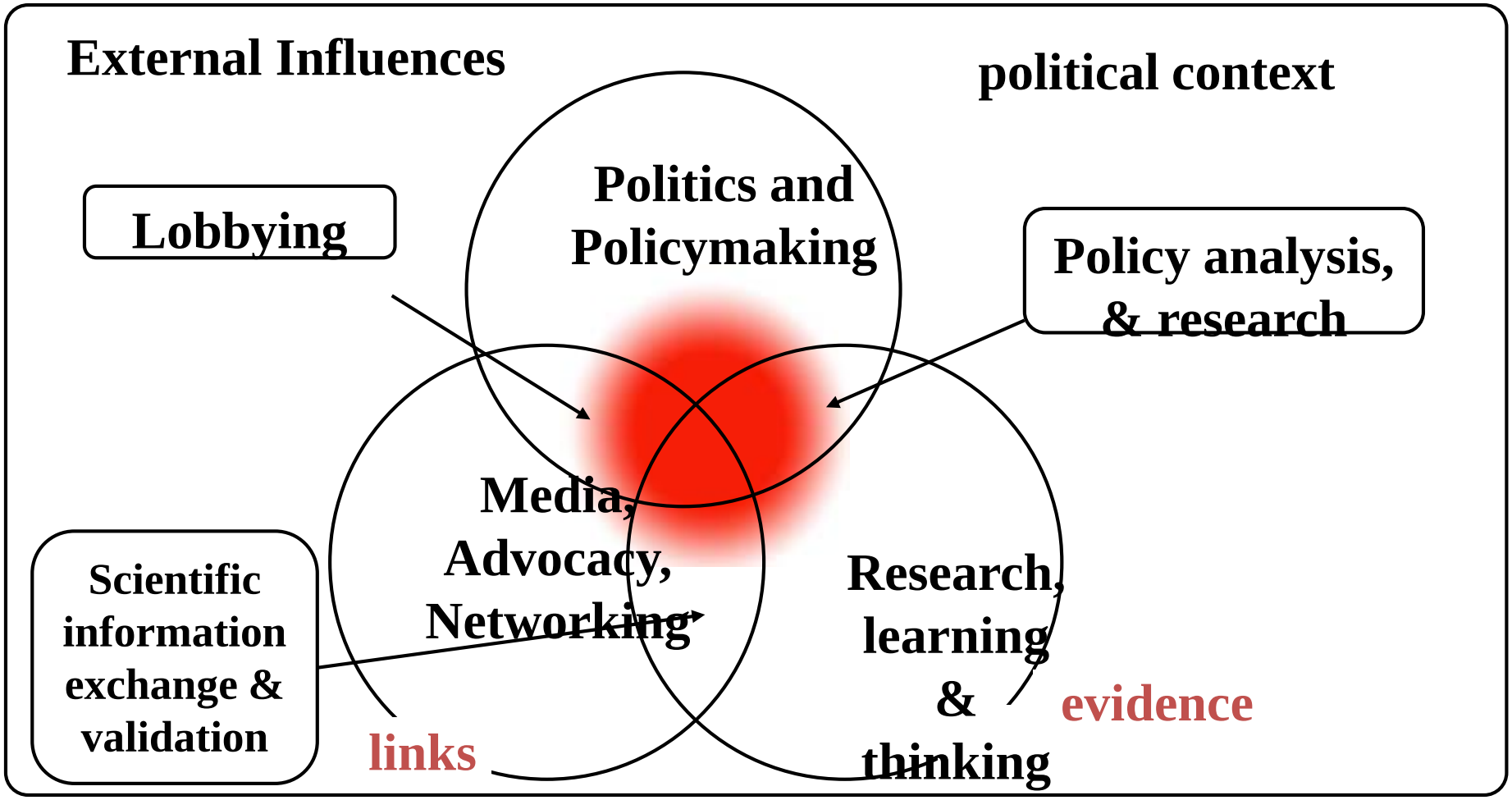
What do we mean by *resilience?*

'the ability of a social or ecological system to absorb disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity of self-organization, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change.'

- IPCC

- Resilience means *change* and response in the face of new threats
- Requires learning from experience: don't make the same mistake again
- Adaptation: predict problems and avoid them. But this won't work if problems highly uncertain

Practical Framework for using research to influence policy



Boundary partners

The boundary partners are those from these three groups:

1. **Knowledge producers**
2. **Knowledge users, policy influencer or advocacy or think tanks**
3. **Policy makers**

Knowledge producers

- individuals or organisations participating in the research projects as project implementers e.g. academic and research institutes

Knowledge users, policy influencer or advocacy or think tanks

- the individuals or organisations that need the knowledge for their work to advocate for policy change or to influence development decisions. These partners include advocacy agencies, NGOs, local communities and their leaders, media, think tanks, and the private sector

Policy makers

- partners or stakeholders who have a mandate to make a decision on relevant policies and development e.g. governmental officials at different levels, and private sector actors deciding on investments.

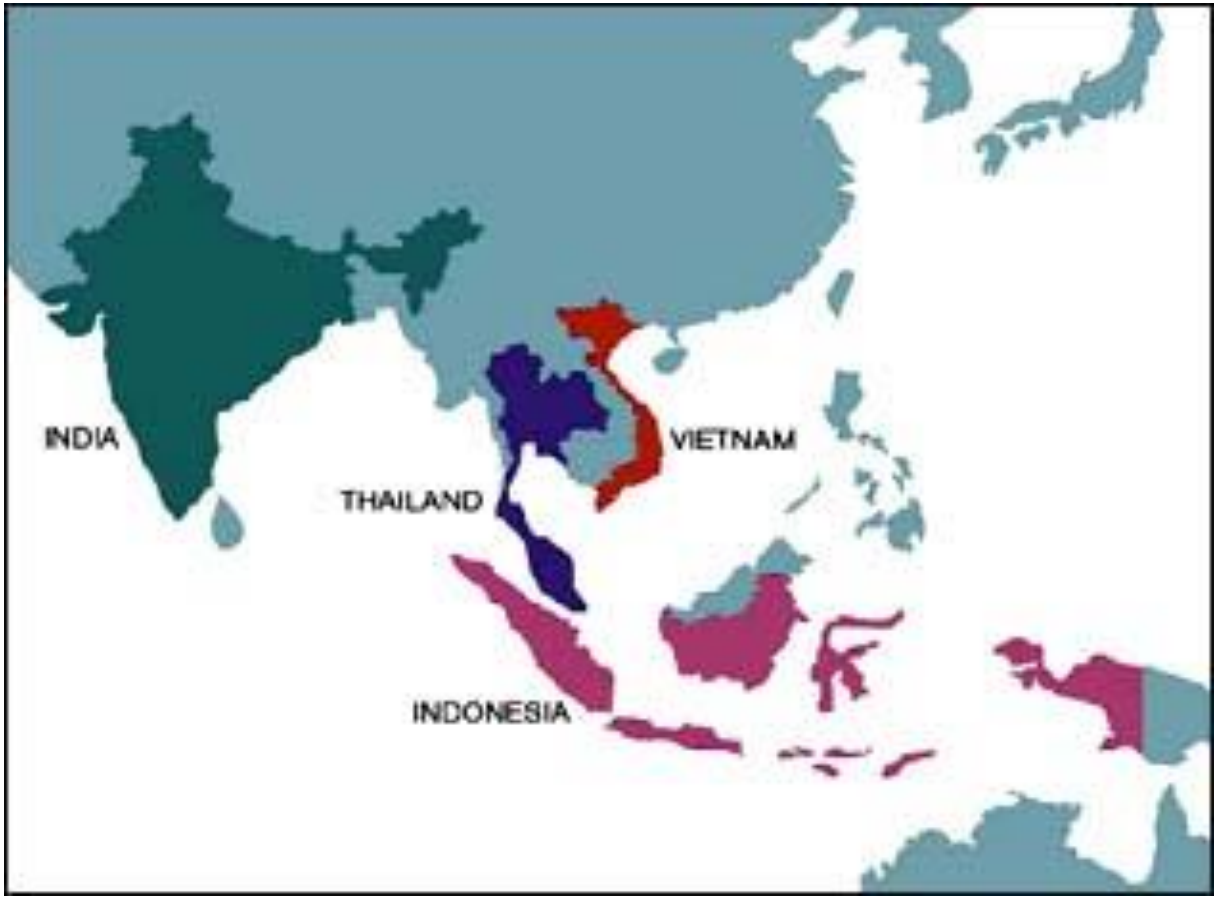
Case study: Vietnam ACCCRN

- Shared learning Dialogue (SLD) as way to engage stakeholders/ boundary partners and build their capacity for urban resilience in Da Nang, Quy Nhon and Can Tho, Vietnam

Objectives of ACCCRN

- Build awareness and capacity on climate vulnerability and resilience
- Provide tangible benefits to city partners including:
  - **Support for development of city adaptation / resilience strategy and action plans**
  - **Support city proposals for external funding**
  - Support for implementation of city adaptation action plans
- Establish regional network and support **shared learning process** (e.g. replication)

Scope



4 Countries

India (3 cities)

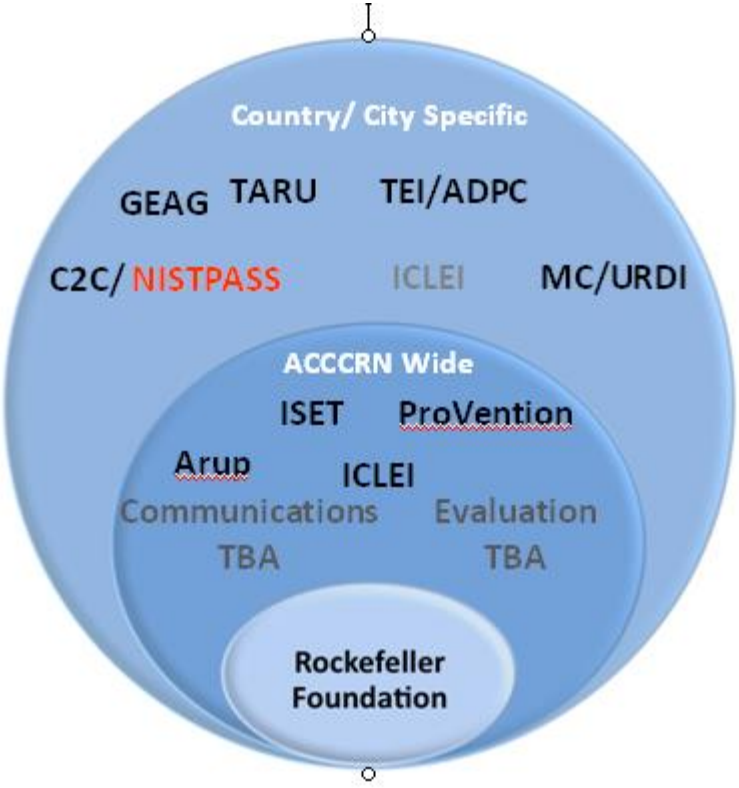
Indonesia (2 cities)

Thailand (2 cities)

Vietnam (3 cities - Can Tho, Da Nang and Quy Nhon)

Project boundary partners

International and national partners



Local partners in Vietnam

Can Tho People Committee

Da Nang People Committee

Binh Dinh People Committee

Role of NISTPASS

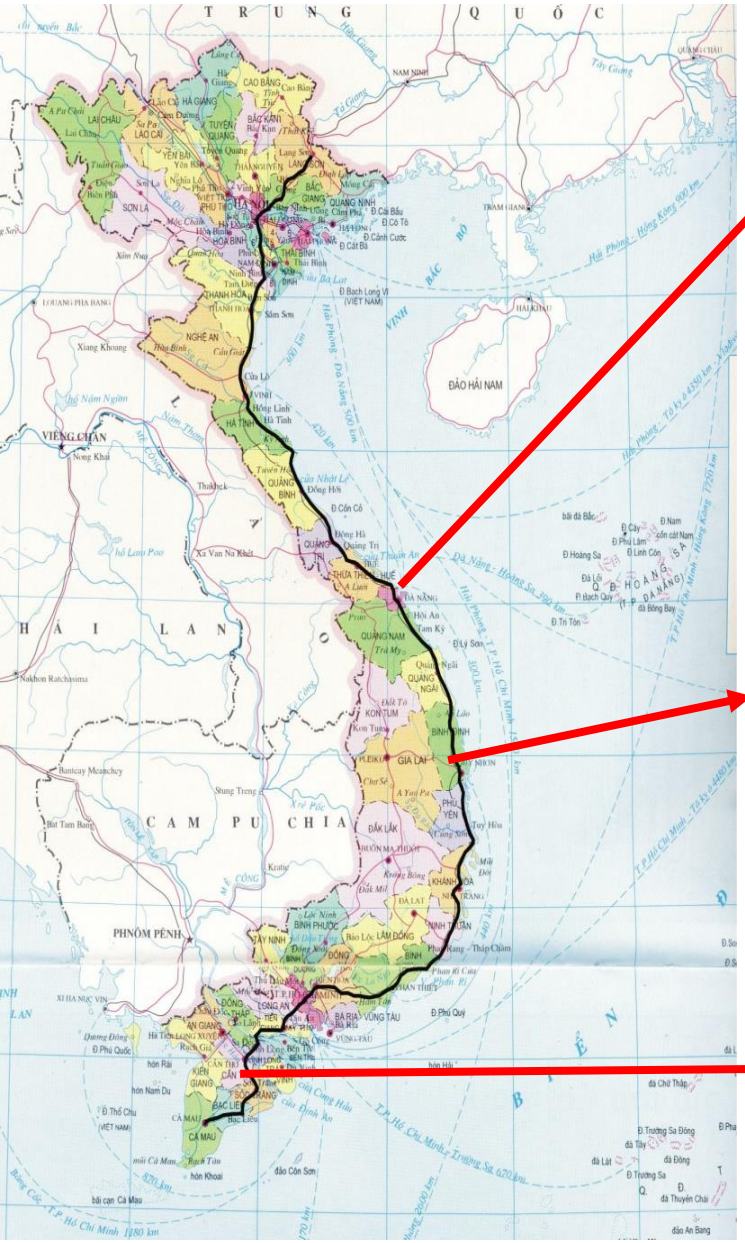
- Research coordinator
- Coordinator of planning activities
- Evaluation and Monitoring the learning process
- Policy implication - making the link between research - practices and policy
- Support replication of project's models
- Advise RF and ISET in all related issues

Our motivation

- Promote ACCCRN as a pilot/experiment of new way of engaging stakeholders in developing urban resilience planning
- Document ACCCRN process as Social/organizational innovation

“Organizational innovation really means creating new kinds of networks of stakeholders that didn’t know each other or communicate before, where they together really redefine the problem”
(Judith Rodin, President of the Rockefeller Foundation)

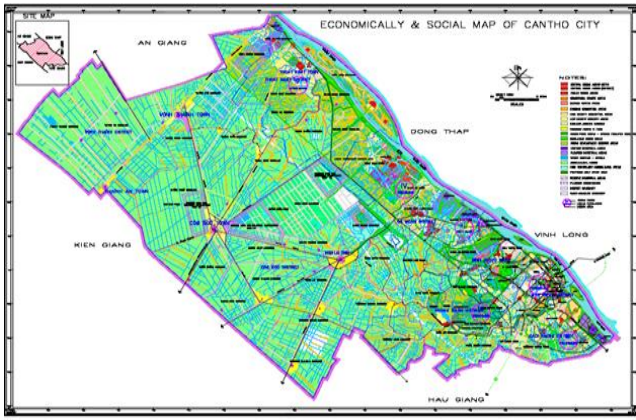
Vietnam



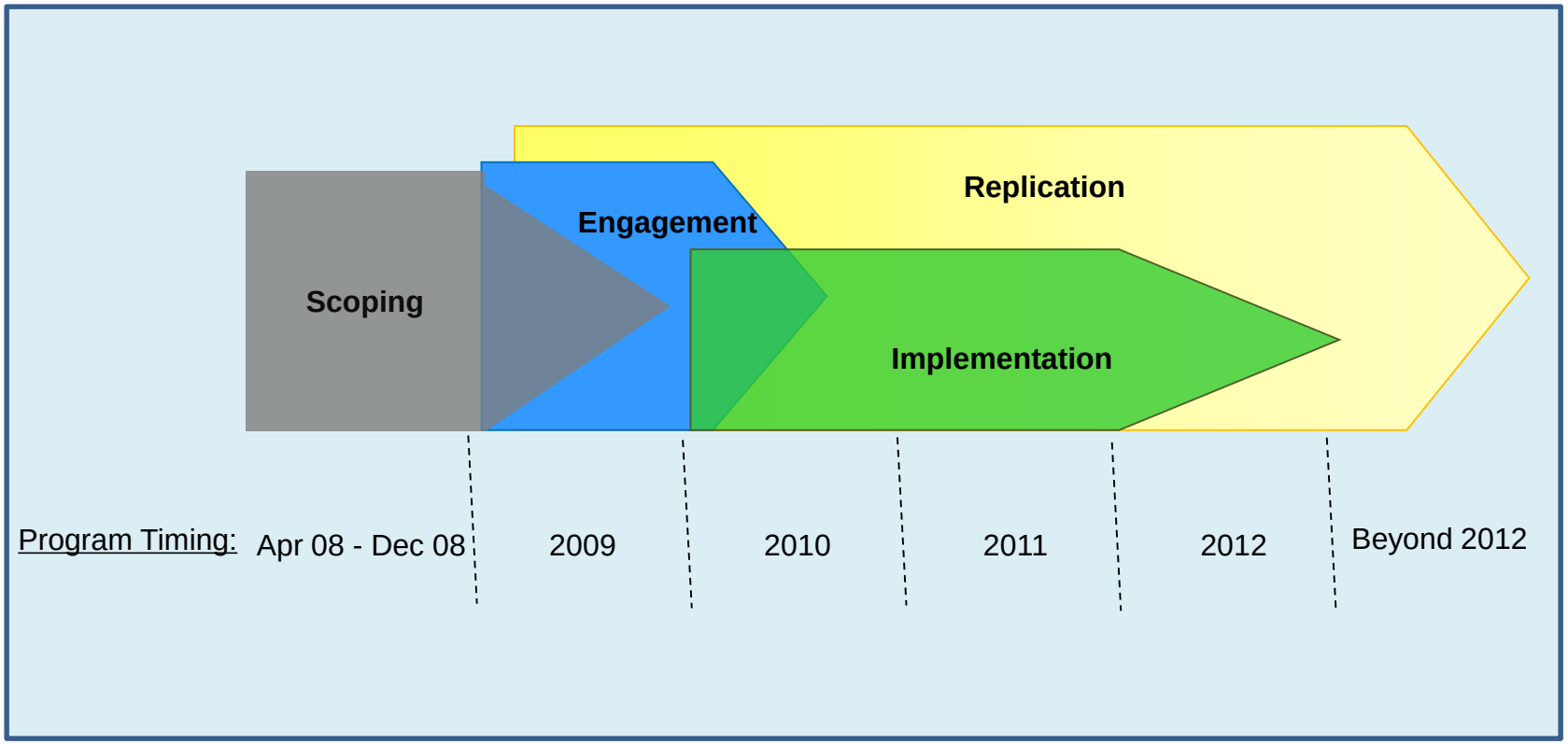
Da Nang city

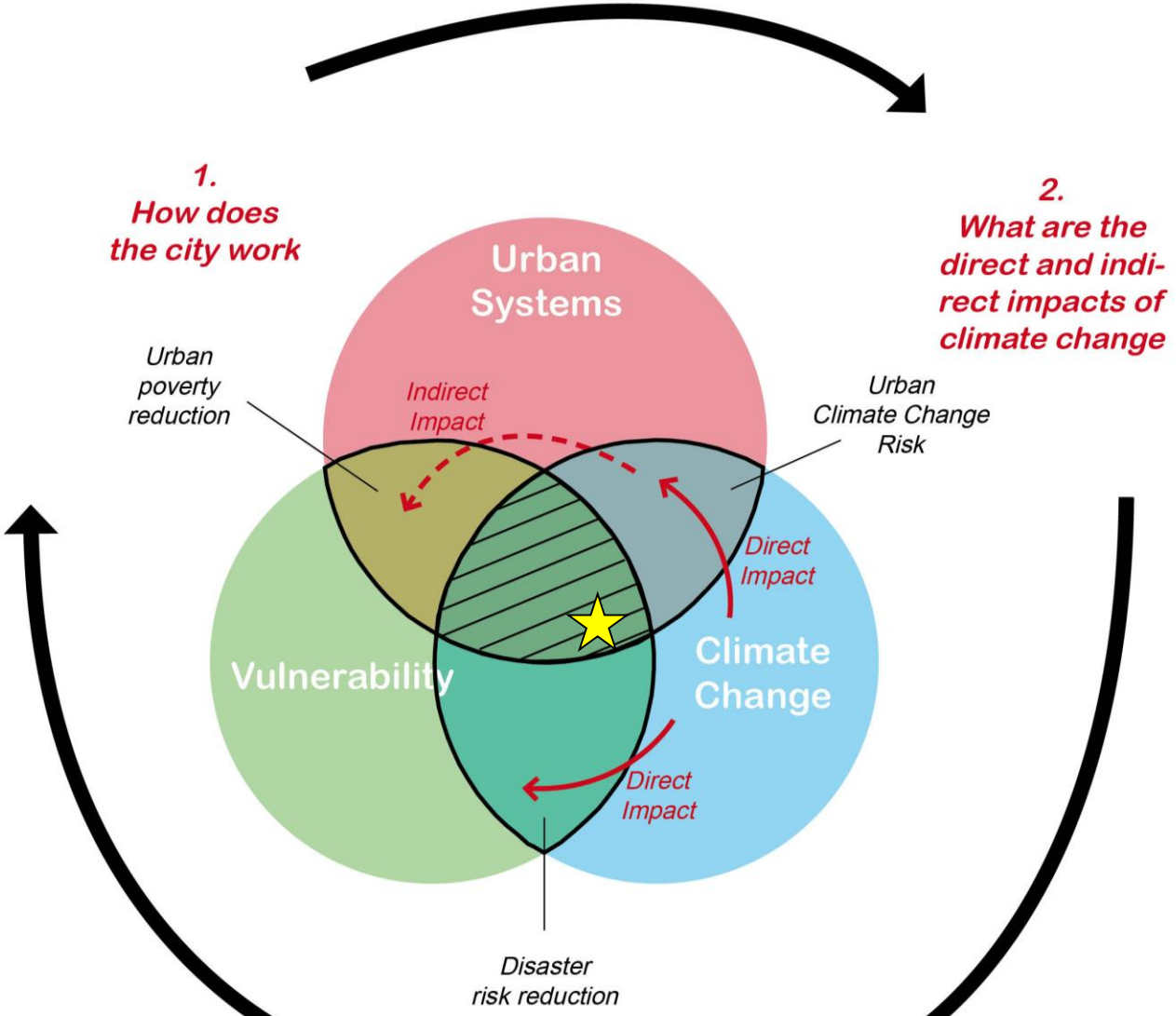
Quy Nhon city

Can Tho city



Timeline


Replication
Engagement
Scoping
Implementation
Program Timing:
Apr 08 - Dec 08
2009
2010
2011
2012
Beyond 2012



Urban poverty reduction

Disaster risk reduction

Urban climate change risk

SLD concept and approach (1)

- an approach to participatory planning and problem solving in complex situations, characterized by non-extractive, mutual learning among participants.

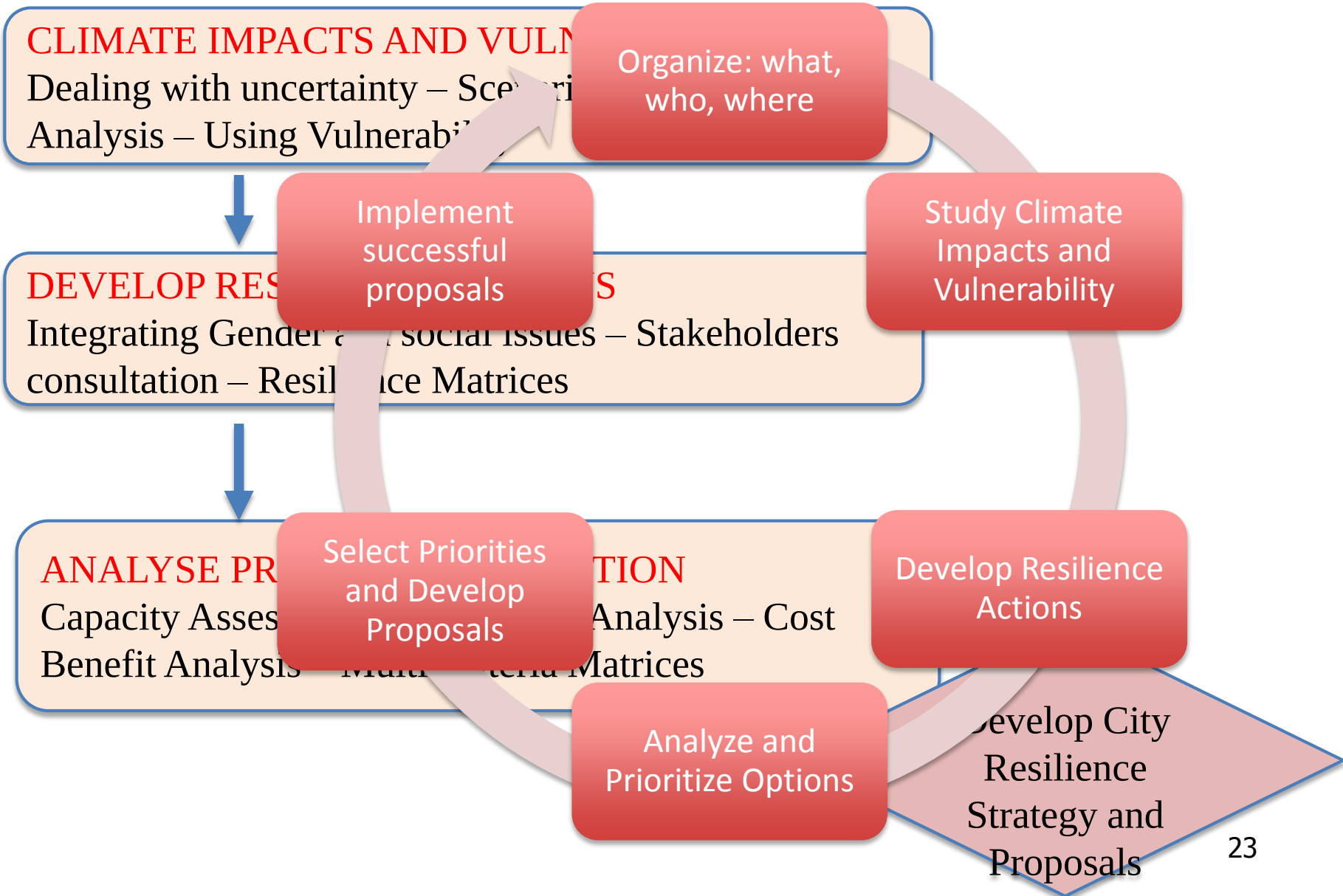
SLD concept and approach (2)

- a stakeholder engagement process to involve stakeholders in preparing and implementing the climate change resilience strategy and action plan of cities in the framework of ACCCRN since 2009.

SLD concept and approach (3)

- Process of iterative deliberation, sharing of sector- or group-specific knowledge and knowledge from both local practitioners and external experts to improve the quality and effectiveness of resilience planning.

Resilience Planning



Stakeholders engagement in resilience planning process (1)

- **Key stakeholders** (stakeholder mapping)
  - local communities
  - mass organisations (women union, farmer association...)
  - local governments (donre, doc, dpi...)
  - policy markers, planners
  - others: media, research partners...

Stakeholders engagement in resilience planning process (2)

Organisational structure at city level

Steering Committee – play central role for stakeholders engagement

Lead by Vice Chair man of City PC

01 coordination department:

Member: leaders of relevant local agencies and departments

City Climate Working Groups:

Lead by coordination department

Member: city officers (city and district level), mass organisations

Coordinate all related activities of the projects

Play the connection role between projects partners and different local stakeholders – communities, mass organisations...

Stakeholders engagement in resilience planning process (3)

Local engagement in resilience planning

- Shared Learning Dialogue as a key tool for stakeholder consultations

- Active participation of different local stakeholders (city officers, local communities, mass organisations...) in project activities VA, HCVA, Climate change, Hydrological scenarios development, pilot projects, sector studies...

Stakeholders engagement in resilience planning process (4)

- **Local engagement in resilience planning**
  - lead by CCWG (members come from different local agencies, organisations)
  - monthly meeting or 2 meetings/month
  - apply consultation process (especially the most vulnerable groups)

Stakeholders engagement in resilience planning process (5)

- **National engagement - policy implication**
  - NISTPASS plays the key role for policy implication and linking of existing available knowledge and practices
  - Engage relevant national stakeholder in the process (Monre, MOC, MPI...) through workshops, research collaboration
  - Engage relevant research institutions in the field of CCA
  - First National Workshop in preparing for COP15.
  - Second National Workshop to provided feedback of lessons from pilot cities to concerned national agencies for institutionalization and up-scaling

How the SLDs have been Structured?

Background works

- identification key local stakeholders

- identification of key national and research stakeholders

- identification of potential sources of data and information

- logistic arrangements

- informal preparation meeting

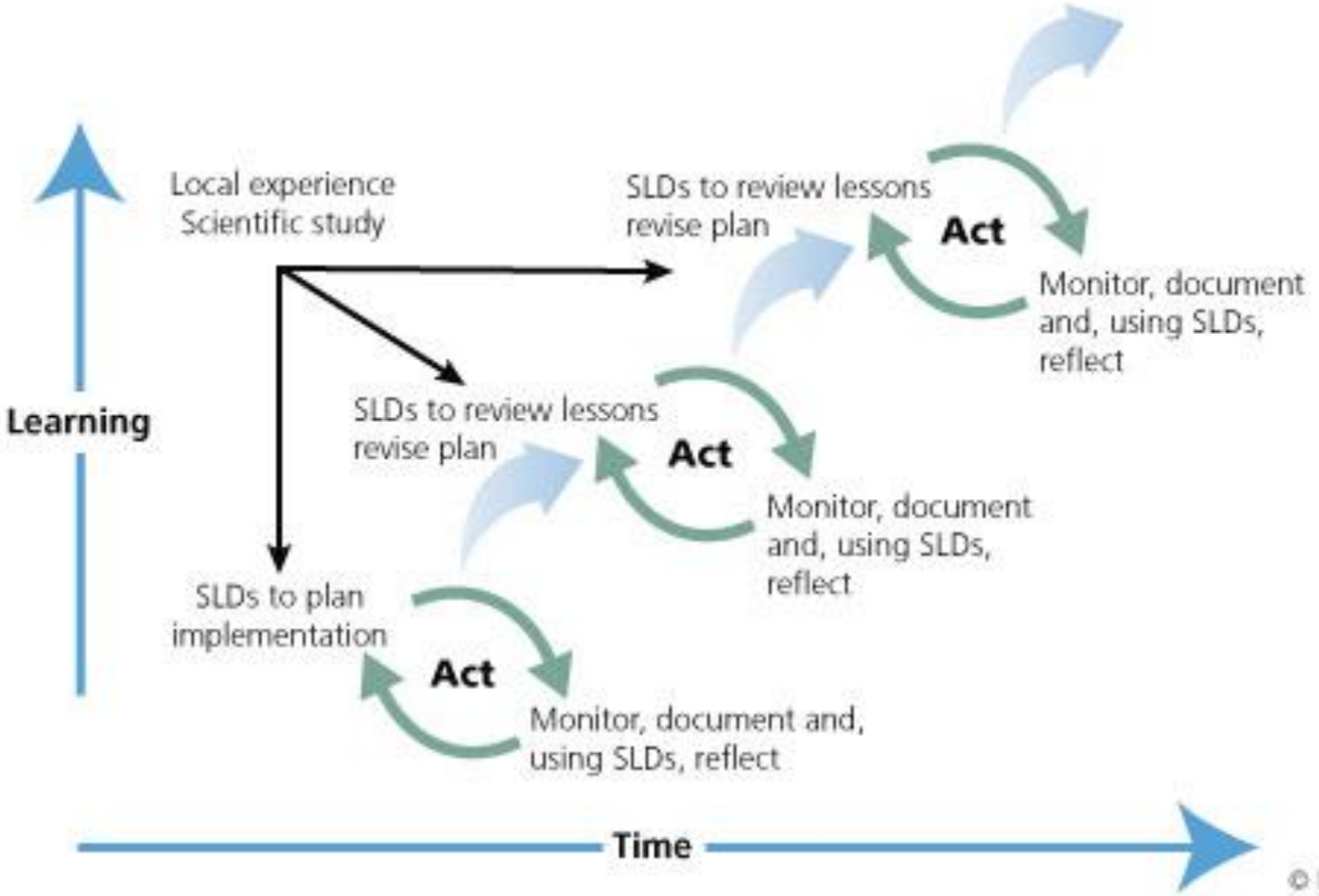
How the SLDs have been Structured?

1. Jointly organized by PPC/ISET/CtC (with support from NISTPASS)
2. Participation of various stakeholders
3. One facilitator/secretaries for each SLD
4. Each section started by presentations and followed by Group discussion

How the SLDs have been Structured?

5. Group discussion:
   - 3 mix groups
   - prepared questionnaire
   - one facilitator, secretary/group
   - presentation of the results by a local stakeholder
6. End by a Summary and conclusion of the whole discussion
7. Meeting with PMB for direction of next activities
8. Meeting with Technical group for next activities
9. Documentation – SLD report prepared and sent to participants

The Shared Learning Dialogue Process



Inputs and outputs of SLD1

Inputs

- Information about recent natural disasters, local responses (planning, current practices), past trends of local climate
- Available scientific data and related studies, reports
- Key climate related policy at national level

Outputs

- common understanding of the problems and the key concepts and questions
- Collected existing data, information…
- key climate related issues for local government and community organizations, local community
- most affected areas, sectors and groups by natural disaster
- Formulation of PMB and technical support group

How did the SLD1's output inform the next steps?

- Outputs
  - common understanding of the problems and the key concepts and questions
  - *Enhance the effectiveness of local participation in VA, HCVA and Climate Assessment works*
  - Collected existing data, information…
  - *Input for VA, HCVA and Climate Assessment works*
  - key climate related issues for local government and community organizations, local community
  - Help *VA, HCVA and Climate Assessment works to focus more on key issues, most affected sectors, areas*
  - most affected areas, sectors and groups by natural disaster (selection of study sites for HCVA)
  - *Help to identification and selection of study sites for HCVA works*

How did VAs, Climate Assessment inform SLD2?

1. Future Climate narratives
2. Future climate scenarios (rainfall, T…)
3. Future Sea level rise scenarios
4. Hydrological modeling, flood mapping
5. Current and future vulnerability
6. Most affected areas, sectors, social groups (qualitative and quantitative)
7. Current responses (local, national, planning, policy, action plan..)
8. Suggested pilots projects, additional studies

How did the SLD2 inform the next steps?

1. Help to identify and select pilots projects
2. Help to identify additional studies
3. Help to finalize the city report (based on discussion and contribution during SLD2)
4. Help to prepare for planning activities
5. Help to identify any gaps, issues and implement of necessary adjustment

SLD3

Inputs

- 1st draft of City Resilience Strategy
- Draft of concept proposals for funding

Outputs

- Feedbacks and comments for improvement of City Strategy and Concept proposals

Contents

- Concepts and framework for interaction of boundary partners in planning for resilience
- Case study on planning for resilience in Vietnam
- Lessons learned on planning for resilience

Lessons learned (1)

- Uncertainty of climate data
  - Future climate data is generated by models that have many sources of uncertainty
  - Science is changing as new knowledge available
  - Models will generate statistical results which are useful as a *general* guideline, based on specific assumptions, but cannot predict accurately
  - Models are least reliable when it comes to extreme events, because these are rare and so there is not good historical data to calibrate the models

Lessons learned (2)

- Challenges in planning for urban resilience
  - Technical knowledge of climate change is necessary, but not sufficient to guide actions
  - Climate experts cannot provide solutions: every department must take actions in their area of responsibility
  - Solutions are NOT easily transferred from one location to another – each context is different
  - Both climate knowledge and local knowledge are essential to practical actions

Key messages (1)

- Climate change is accelerating everywhere
- Extreme events are increasing, but so is uncertainty
- Social capital – most important for a successful engagement of stakeholders but most difficult to generate compared to others.
- Social innovation needs TRUST in the first place before investing in other including technical capacity. Institutions matter
- SLDs as interactive deliberate process requiring timing

Photo by Nguyen Huu Ninh

Key messages (2)

- Decisions based on historical conditions will create huge costs to private sector and to local government – threat to investment
- Prepare for Low probability / high consequence events
- Build resilience through *robust decisions*: be prepared for low probability / high consequence

Bangkok flood 2011 - $46 billion

Super Storm Sandy in NY 2012 - $50 billion

Take home message

We do not plan for climate change

BUT

We plan for resilience so that environmental, social and economic conditions are not at risk when climate changes

Photo by Huynh Cao Van CCCO Binh Dinh

References

- Chowdhury, N and Luttrell, C. 2006. Civil Society Organization and Policy Entrepreneurship. ODI.
- Tyler, S. 2015. Planning for Climate Change: Why we need a new Approach. Presentation at the workshop on Metrological and CC Information in socio-economic development plan. Quy Nhon, 08 April.2015.

Thank you for your attention!

Email: sinhbt@gmail.com