

SESSION 7

INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

SESSION SUMMARY.

This session provides an introduction to climate-smart development directives, activities, and guidance underway at the Federal and Agency level. In 2014, President Obama issued an Executive Order that directed all federal agencies to begin factoring climate resilience into international development programs and investments. As such, USAID is now required to incorporate climate resilience considerations into all decision-making by assessing and evaluating climate-related risks to, and vulnerabilities in, agency strategies and programs.

To effectively address climate change and climate-smart development issues, it is critical to define some key terms, including adaptation, resilience, disaster risk reduction, and vulnerability. This session also introduces the environmental procedures related to climate-smart development, such as the Agency requirement that project and activity design teams identify relevant climate risks and then assess them as low, moderate or high. The level of risk assigned to an activity, project, or program will help determine whether risk management measures will be implemented in current or future phases of the program cycle.

To help assess the impacts of climate change on programs, USAID continues to develop country and region-specific climate risk profiles and sector-specific climate change factsheets. Further, in this session, we will introduce a USAID climate risk screening tool, which assists staff in considering potential climate impacts in each of the sectors in which the Agency works. The tool also helps to identify climate risks and then identify and select risk management options.