Appendix C What our words mean

Below is a list of definitions of some of the terms we use in CEDRA. Different people use different words to describe the same thing, and others use the same words with different meanings! We are including this list of simple definitions, deliberately using non-technical language, to try to make CEDRA as clear and helpful as possible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acid rain</td>
<td>Rain containing dilute solutions of strong mineral acids due to pollution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptation</td>
<td>Adjustments in the system to changes we expect and the capacity to adapt to future changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adaptive resilient development</td>
<td>Ensuring that all projects are designed to ensure development, adaptation to climate and environmental change, and resilience to disasters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afforestation</td>
<td>Planting new forests on land that has not had forests historically</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aquifer</td>
<td>Underground water source</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arid</td>
<td>An area that receives little or no rain, supporting little or no vegetation or agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awareness-raising</td>
<td>Raising knowledge in the general population about risks and how people can act to reduce their vulnerability to them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biodiversity</td>
<td>The variety of animals, plants, fungi and micro-organisms in an area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity</td>
<td>The combination of all the strengths, attributes and resources available within a community, society or organisation to achieve agreed goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carbon dioxide</td>
<td>A naturally occurring gas, also a by-product of burning fossil fuels, such as oil and coal. The main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>The average weather in an area, including temperature, air pressure, humidity, precipitation, sunshine, cloudiness and winds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>A change in the state of the climate that can be identified by changes in the mean and/or the variability, and that persists for an extended period of time. Though the climate is also influenced by natural processes, the term is used here with reference to the post-industrial changes caused by human activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change adaptation (CCA)</td>
<td>Taking action to adjust to climate change</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate forecast/predictions / projections</td>
<td>How scientists project the climate will change in the future</td>
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<tr>
<td>Climate variability</td>
<td>Short-term natural changes in the climate, often varying from season to season, measured by temperature and precipitation, and frequency of events</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal erosion</td>
<td>Waves, tides, currents, dredging or drainage reducing the shoreline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal protection</td>
<td>Measures to prevent coastal erosion, eg mangroves and coral reefs offer the coast natural protection from erosion and flooding</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyclone</td>
<td>see Tropical cyclone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deforestation</td>
<td>The conversion of forest land to non-forest land by humans or natural processes, eg human causes could include logging to sell wood and land clearance, including through burning forest and shrubs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desertification</td>
<td>The persistent degradation of land in dry areas resulting from climatic and human activities. Possible human causes include overgrazing, over-intensive farming and extensive logging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster</td>
<td>When a hazard impacts on a vulnerable community, causing widespread damage to life, property and livelihoods which the community cannot cope with using its own resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster risk reduction (DRR)</td>
<td>Measures taken to curb losses from a disaster, ie reducing exposure to hazards, reducing vulnerability of the community and increasing their capacity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>An extended period of time when a region does not have enough water</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
<td>Definition</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>The whole web of interactions between animals, plants and the environment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecosystem</td>
<td>A system of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Physical and natural surroundings, also meaning human or social environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental degradation</td>
<td>The reduction of the capacity of the natural environment to meet social and ecological requirements and needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental sustainability</td>
<td>Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>An assessment carried out at, or after, the end of a project or programme to show its impact</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flooding</td>
<td>An expanse of water overflows and submerges normally dry land</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fossil fuel</td>
<td>A fuel, such as coal and natural gas, produced by the decomposition of ancient (fossilised) plants and animals. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global warming</td>
<td>The rise in average temperature of the atmosphere due to the greenhouse gas effect (see Greenhouse gas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governance</td>
<td>The process of governing a country, local area, organisation, system or process</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse effect</td>
<td>The insulating layer of gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat and keep the earth warm enough for habitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greenhouse gas</td>
<td>A gas that causes the earth to grow warmer when pollution adds the gas to the earth's atmosphere and helps cause the sun's rays to be trapped in our planet. This greenhouse effect contributes to climate change.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groundwater</td>
<td>Water located or sourced from beneath the ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hazard</td>
<td>A natural or man-made event or situation which could lead to danger, loss or injury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hurricane</td>
<td>See Tropical cyclone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land degradation</td>
<td>The process of land becoming less productive. Possible human causes include deforestation (eg through using fires), overabstraction of minerals, over-intensive farming and grazing causing soil erosion, overuse of chemical fertilisers and growth or movement of populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landslides</td>
<td>The sliding of a mass of earth and/or rock down a slope</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maladaptation</td>
<td>Project designs that unwittingly make people more vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mitigation</td>
<td>Climate change adaptation definition: Measures taken to prevent or reduce a hazard, reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation</td>
<td>Disaster risk reduction (DRR) definition: Measures taken to reduce the potential impact of a hazard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monsoon</td>
<td>A wind from the south-west or south that brings heavy rainfall to southern Asia in the summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking</td>
<td>Obtaining or communicating information through social or professional contacts and links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overabstraction</td>
<td>Taking too much of a resource such as water or a fossil fuel, such that it cannot be renewed through natural processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overgrazing</td>
<td>Livestock grazing that goes on for too long or without sufficient recovery periods, making land less useful and contributing to desertification and erosion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over-intensive farming</td>
<td>Farming that makes land less productive through: farming for too long or without sufficient recovery periods; over-use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides; or removal of too many natural protective barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>The involvement of people in the decisions and processes that affect them</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participatory tools</td>
<td>Group activities which enable people to express and analyse the realities of their daily lives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pollution</td>
<td>Making dirty, or contaminating, an environment or natural resource, eg from industry, sewage, solid waste, farming or chemicals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precipitation</td>
<td>Rain, snow or hail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pressures / stresses</td>
<td>Actions and processes that cause vulnerability</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Prevention
Measures taken to prevent or reduce a hazard, eg reducing greenhouse gas emissions to reduce climate change. In the climate change adaptation field, this is also called mitigation.

Project cycle management
The process of planning and managing projects, programmes and organisations. This process can be drawn as a cycle, and each phase of the project (identification, design, implementation and evaluation) leads to the next.

Reforestation
Planting forests on land that previously contained forests

Resilience
Capacity to face change or shocks and continue to function

Risk
The chance of something bad happening

Run-off
See Surface run-off

Salinisation
Increasing concentration of salt (in soil or water)

Saltwater intrusion
Increase of salinity (salt concentration) in soil or groundwater located close to the coast. This can be caused by excessive withdrawal of water from the freshwater source or by sea-level rise or coastal erosion

Sea-level rise
An increase in the average level of the sea or ocean

Semi-arid
(Also called steppe). When a region experiences low annual rainfall resulting in the reduction in natural vegetation

Smog
Air pollution consisting of smoke and fog

Soil degradation
Human activities or natural processes causing soil to become less productive

Soil erosion
The loss of soil through rainfall, run-off or wind

Stakeholder
A person or group with an interest in, or concern for, a project or activity that an organisation carries out

Steppe
See Semi-arid

Storm surge / tidal surge
An offshore rise of water, usually associated with a tropical cyclone

Stresses
See Pressures

Subtropics
Regions of the earth found north and south of the Tropics. Subtropical weather conditions are usually hot in summer and warm in winter – rarely seeing snow or ice

Surface run-off
The flow of water from rain, snowmelt or other sources over the surface of land when soil is soaked to its full capacity

Sustainability
When the benefits of a project continue without external intervention

Tidal surge
See Storm surge

Tropical cyclone
A violent, rotating storm with heavy wind and rain. Also called a hurricane or typhoon

Tropics
A region of the earth centred on the equator. Conditions usually referred to as tropical are wet and hot, with lush vegetation

Tundra
Mountain area, above the tree line

Typhoon
See Tropical cyclone

Uncertainty
An expression of the extent to which the future of the climate is unknown

Vector-borne disease
A disease transmitted by an insect or other organism (the vector), eg malaria and dengue carried by mosquitoes

Vulnerability
The level of exposure to and ability to cope, recover or adapt to a stress

Water run-off
See Surface run-off

Water table
The level of the surface of the groundwater relative to ground level