Special Topic. Incorporating GCC Adaptation and Mitigation in Project Design

(1:45)

Objective

Understand the basic concepts of GCC adaptation and GHG mitigation in design of typical sectoral activities; practice identifying needs or opportunities for GCC adaptation and GHG mitigation in such activities.

Format:

Brief presentation and small group exercise

Summary

Global Climate Change is expected to have very significant impacts in Africa, with disproportionate impacts on the most vulnerable. USAID is increasingly designing and implementing projects and programs whose primary objective is GCC-related:

- adaptation programming to help communities and countries build resilience to climate change impacts;
- clean energy programming to support low emission economic growth; and
- sustainable landscapes programming focused on conserving forests and reducing deforestation to reduce emissions)

But beyond programming centered on GCC objectives, robustness to GCC has become a key dimension of environmentally sound design and management for almost all projects and activities.

For example as discussed in session 2 of this workshop: are the crop varieties to be promoted by a project appropriate given likely changes in precipitation? Are structure siting and designs appropriate given likely changes in storm frequency/intensity and flood probabilities?

Assuring that *all* designs are robust to anticipated GCC-driven changes in local environmental conditions is one way in which USAID programming should support the concept of *resilience* and *adaptation* to GCC.

USAID-funded activities rarely have significant effects ON climate change in the sense of being significant contributors to global GHG emissions. However, climate change is driven by the sum of many small actions. So even small-scale projects should, while operating within their development objectives, implement feasible *emissions mitigation*. That is, means and measures to reduce their direct or indirect GHG emissions and/or increase sequestration.