



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# **Climate Change Adaptation at USAID**

**Hadas Kushnir, AFR/SD**  
**ABCG Adaptation Workshop**  
**July, 2012**



# The Presidential Vision

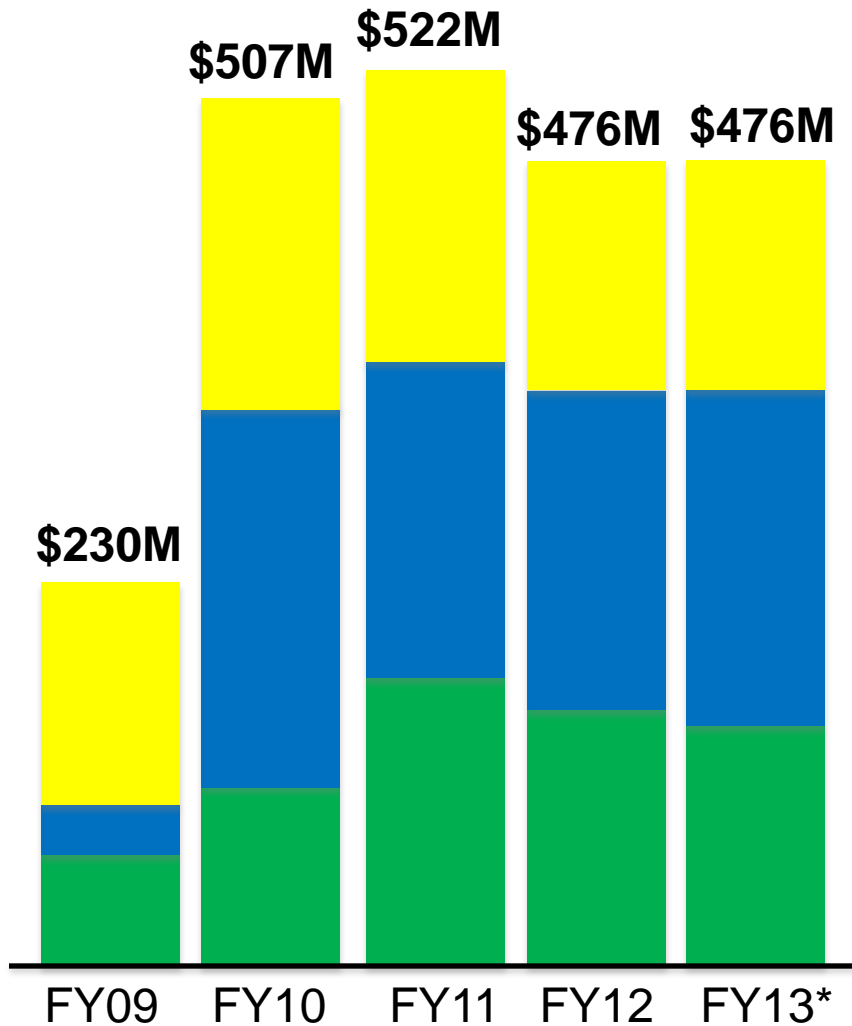
*“Developing nations – especially the poorest and most vulnerable ... are already living with the unfolding effects of a warming planet – famine, drought, disappearing coastal villages, and the conflicts that arise from scarce resources. Their future is no longer a choice between a growing economy and a cleaner planet, because their survival depends on both...”*

*And that is why we have a responsibility to provide the financial and technical assistance needed to help these nations adapt to the impacts of climate change and pursue low carbon-development.”*

-- President Obama, Sept. 22, 2009

# Climate Change is a Presidential initiative

Joint budgets,  
USAID/State  
FY09-FY13



- Clean Energy
- Adaptation
- Sustainable Landscapes

## AFR Budget Breakdown

AFR budget  
\$M

	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13
Energy	23.5	26.0	20.0	13.0
Adaptation	20.7	42.0	42.0	42.0
Sustainable Landscapes	8.0	23.9	21.4	24.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>91.9</b>	<b>83.4</b>	<b>79.4</b>

\* Presidential request to Congress

# USAID's Climate Change & Development Strategy



**Goal: To help countries accelerate their transition to climate-resilient, low emissions development**

**Overarching Principle:** *To strengthen development outcomes through direct climate change program investments and by integrating climate change throughout USAID programming, learning, policy dialogues, and internal operations.*



# Climate Change & Development Strategy: Results Framework

**Goal: Climate-resilient low emissions development**

**SO 1 Accelerate transition to low emissions development**

**SO 2 Increase resilience of people, places and livelihoods**

**SO 3 Strengthen development outcomes by integrating climate change in Agency programming, learning, policy dialogues, and operations**

**IR 1.1 Establish foundation for low carbon energy systems**

**IR 1.2 Invest in land use practices that stop, slow, and reverse emissions from deforestation and degradation of forest and other landscapes**

**IR 2.1 Improve access to science and analysis for decision-making**

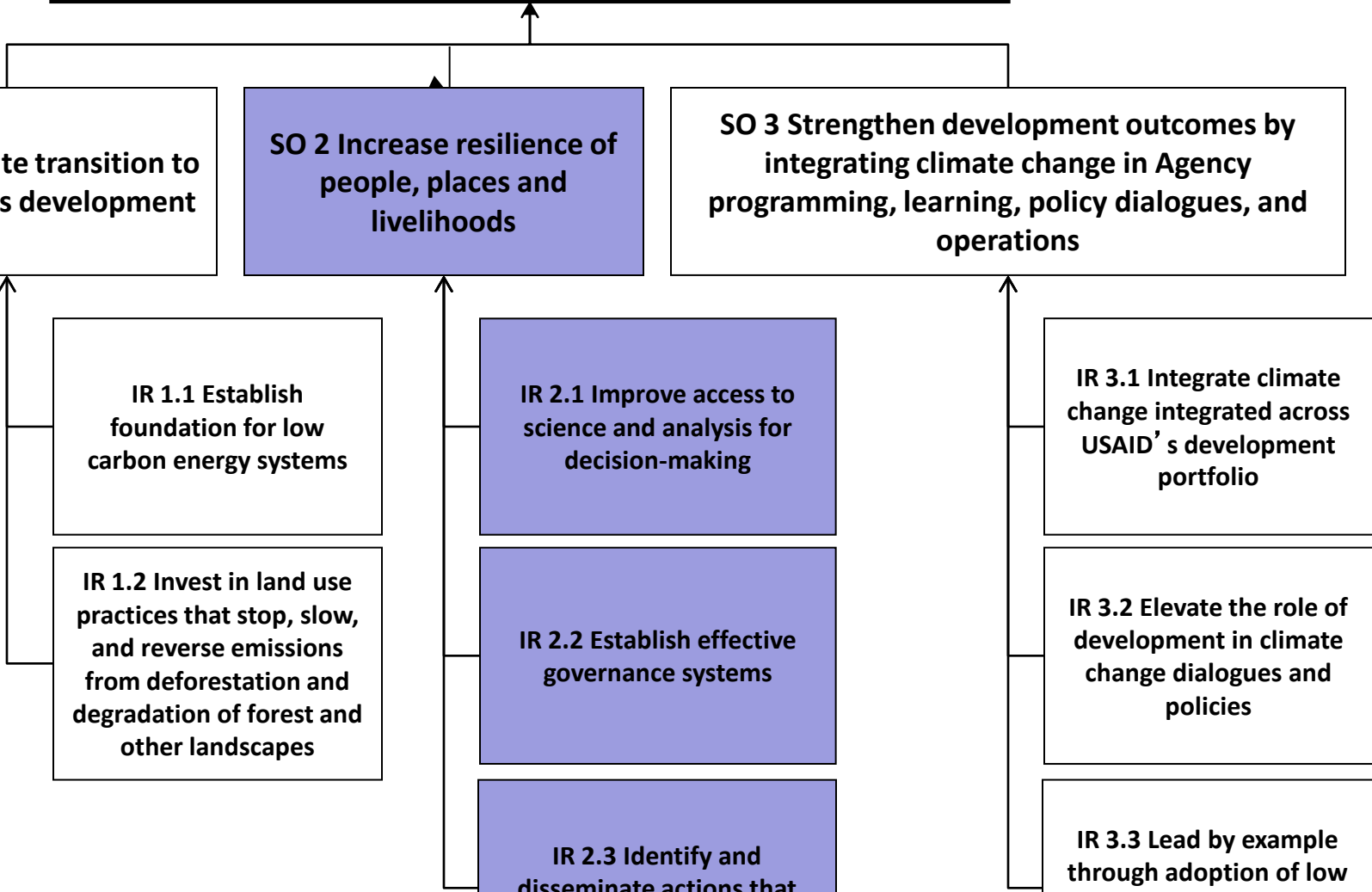
**IR 2.2 Establish effective governance systems**

**IR 2.3 Identify and disseminate actions that increase climate resilience**

**IR 3.1 Integrate climate change integrated across USAID's development portfolio**

**IR 3.2 Elevate the role of development in climate change dialogues and policies**

**IR 3.3 Lead by example through adoption of low emissions and energy-saving operations**



# What the Three Adaptation IRs Involve

## IR 2.1: Improve access to science and analysis for decision-making

- Developing tools for information dissemination or building capacity among information providers in order to deliver climate information and services that meet the needs of user groups and decision-makers in sectors like agriculture, health, water resources, coastal and disaster management
- Providing support for modeling, mapping, and research to better understand climate impacts in specific regions or sectors

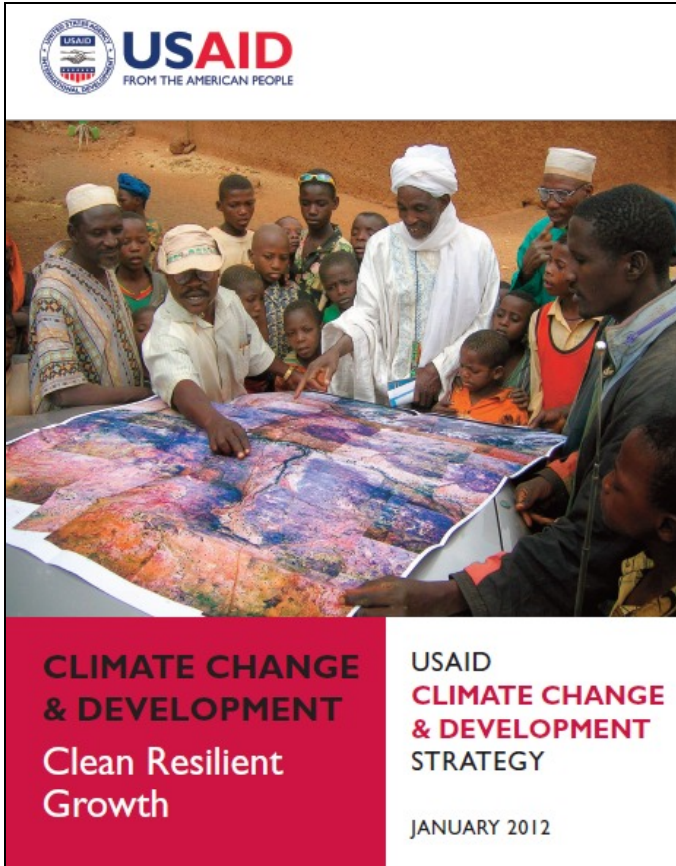
## IR 2.2: Establish effective governance systems for climate resilience

- Strengthening government and local community response and communications capacity for climate change-related disasters, such as floods
- Building capacity among decision-makers to use hydro-meteorological data to inform climate-resilient planning
- Building capacity of public health systems to respond to climate risks
- Developing public communication strategies and education programs

## IR 2.3: Identify and disseminate actions that increase climate resilience

- Increasing water storage and water use efficiency to deal with increased variability in water supply
- Introducing and enforcing flood management plans and zoning and building codes to reduce vulnerability to rising sea levels and storm surges
- Developing affordable micro-insurance products that cover vulnerable populations against drought risks
- Risk reduction through activities such as flood and famine early warning systems or negotiation of trans-boundary water issues

# The Need for Better Analytics on Adaptation



## Expert workshops on adaptation:

- Vulnerability assessments
  - Index measures of climate vulnerability
  - Tools for assessing the economic impacts of climate change and climate change programs
- We need to understand best practices in the field and push the agenda further

## Emphasis on evidence-based decisions:

- Expect analysis to guide adaptation investments
  - Test development hypotheses
  - Actively integrate M&E
- As an agency, we need to take risks – but we also need to learn from those experiences



# Experts Workshop on Vulnerability Assessments

*Small workshop was attended by adaptation advisors from five USAID bureaus, as well as DFID, GTZ, World Bank, UNDP consultants, and technical experts from around the world.*

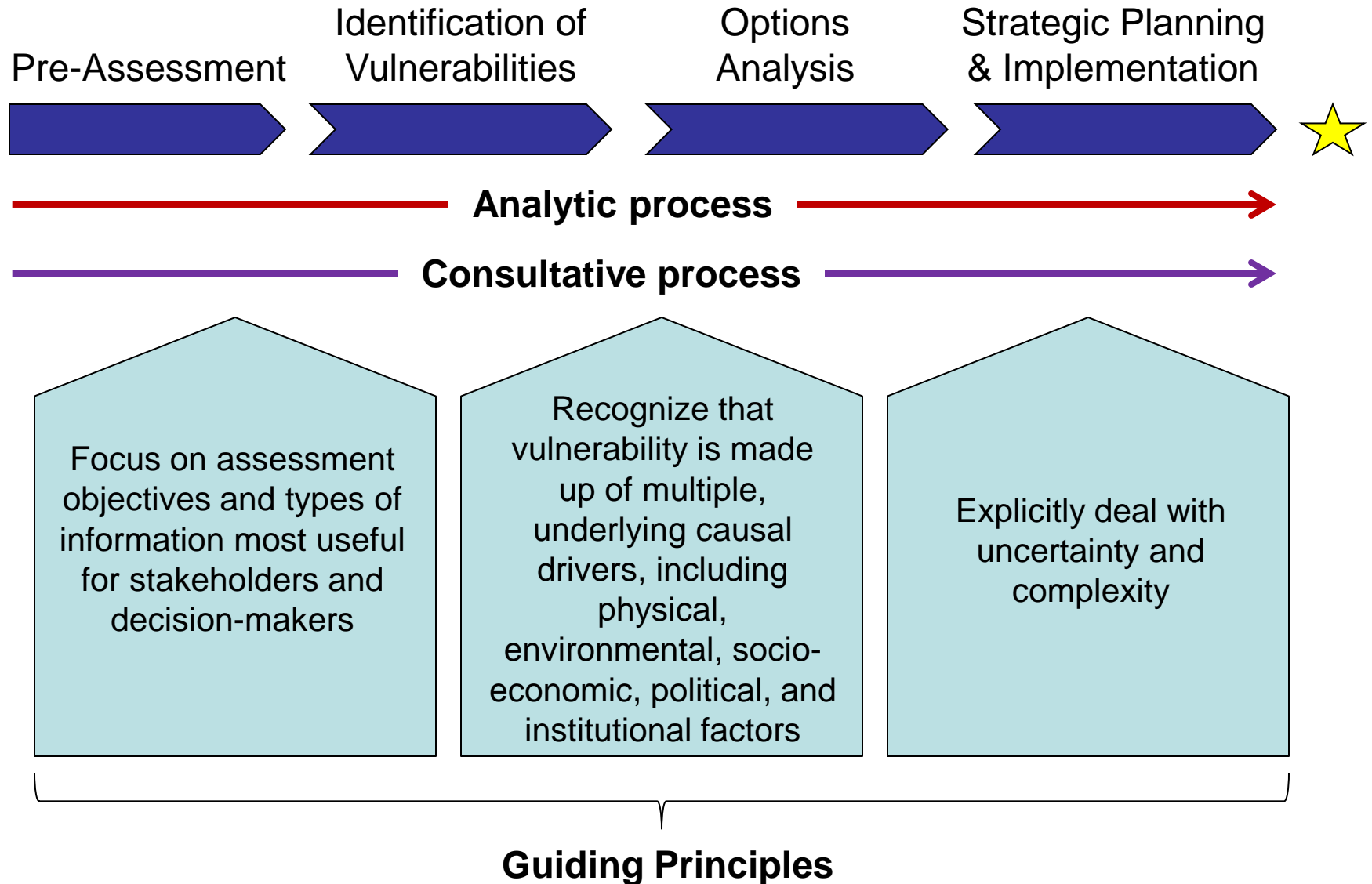
## Key takeaways for USAID:

- We must think differently about:
  - Climate change vulnerabilities in current development priorities, and
  - Game-changing issues that could significantly alter development pathways
- Current vulnerability assessments lack coherence or consistency. We must balance consistency with the need to respond flexibly to specific decision points.
- We need to draw from both quantitative and qualitative assessment methodologies, as well as develop better approaches for bringing them together. We also need to move from *subjective* to *objective* criteria.
- When making decisions, practitioners should be explicit about what constitutes a *true evidence base* versus what is *perception*. We must be more critical about what “evidence” decisions are based upon.

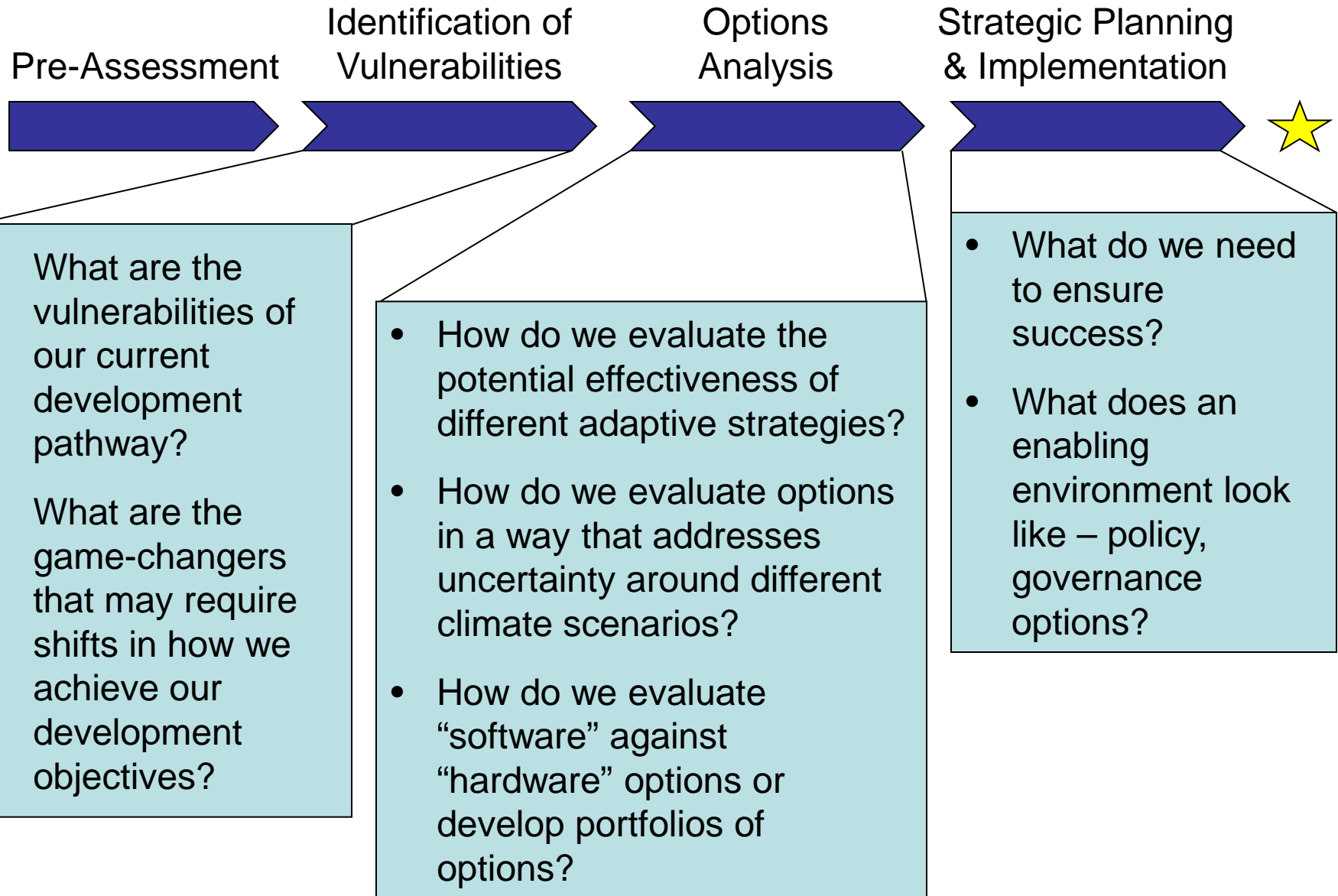




# Africa Bureau's Vulnerability Assessment Approach



# Africa Bureau's Vulnerability Assessment Approach



# Adaptation Focus Countries in Africa

- East Africa Regional (improved access to science and analysis, regional policy)
- Ethiopia (agriculture)
- Kenya
- Rwanda (water)
- Tanzania (river and coastal management)
- Uganda (agriculture)
- Southern Africa Regional (transboundary river management)
- Malawi
- Mozambique (coastal urban planning)
- West Africa Regional
- Mali
- Senegal

## Why These Countries?

- High exposure to climate change impacts
- Limited coping capacity
- Political will, enabling environment

**THANK YOU!**