CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION ASSESSMENT OF THE ENERGY SECTOR

Handout for Workshop 2: Adaptation to meet the demands of the future
Tirana, April 21 2009

Options for robust decision-making under conditions of high uncertainty

'No regret' options

Measures that *deliver benefits that exceed their costs*, whatever the extent of climate change, e.g:

> Investment in energy demand management

> Funding baseline climate and hydrological monitoring

> More holistic approaches to water cycle management in water-constrained locations.

'Low regret' options

Low cost measures with potentially large benefits under climate change. These are most often available when planning and designing new facilities or when rehabilitating existing facilities, e.g:

> Allowing for heavier rainfall when designing new drainage systems – make drainage pipes wider

'Win-win' options

Measures that contribute to climate adaptation and *also deliver other benefits*, e.g:

> Creation of salt-marsh habitat provides flood protection for coastal areas and also contributes to nature conservation objectives.

'Flexible approaches/'Adaptive management'

Keeping open options that will allow additional climate adaptation to be added easily in the future, when the need for adaptation and performance of different adaptation measures is less uncertain, e.g:

> Flood management: Allow for potential future increases in flood defence height by making foundations fatter, but do not build higher defence immediately.

Avoid 'maladaptive' actions

These are actions that will make it *more difficult to cope* with climate change risks. These actions should be avoided, e.g:

> Inappropriate development in a flood risk area.