

Mandates of the Adaptation Committee and Least Developed Countries Expert Group

Submission by Climate-KIC

Climate-KIC is the EU's largest public private partnership addressing climate change through innovation to build a zero carbon economy. We are an NGOs that have been admitted by the Conference of the Parties as observers to the UNFCCC in 2015.

What is the range and scope of adaptation efforts? How do you define and document adaptation efforts? Do you encounter any difficulties in terms of data sourcing or completeness?

In developing countries, the inter-annual climatic variations explain to a great extend the inter-annual variations of the GDP. All measures that make these countries less vulnerable to climatic conditions (and especially extreme ones) is adaptation.

Agriculture is often the primary reason on vulnerability given its importance in developing economies. Increasing resilience of agriculture is often a major step for the adaptation of these countries.

Definition of adaptation effort: any solution or combination of solutions that reduces the value at risk due to climatic changes or any cascading effect resulting from it

Could you provide examples or possible modalities of how adaptation efforts of developing countries could be recognized under the Convention?

Examples:

- Water storage to increase resilience in rain-fed agriculture
- Selection of traditional drought resultant crop varieties
- Micro-insurance schemes
- Seasonal meteorological forecasts

Contract persons:

Andrea Karpati Head of Policy

andrea.karpati@climate-kic.org

Daniel Zimmer Director of Sustainable Land Use

daniel.zimmer@climate-kic.org

Date: 30 September 2016

Do you foresee any challenges or barriers in recognizing adaptation efforts of developing countries?

YES. Adaptation should go beyond traditional risk management approaches. Ensuring climate change related threats are well understood/analysed is key. It is important to focus on the real hotspots i.e. on productions/situations already at risk that will see their exposure event increase due to climate change.

There is probably a need for certification of resilience approaches/methods.

What experiences, including lessons learned and good practices, do you consider valuable in facilitating the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries?

It seems important to be able to assess both costs of action and cost of inaction and to compare them in order to provide decision makers with appropriate decision tools

Which steps would be necessary to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement?

- Identify hotspots
- Use insurance/micro-insurance schemes as a first step if possible (insurance is the first step in adaptation)
- Mobilise local communities and identify values at risk from this exercise (if possible)
- Develop a database of applicable solutions with design tools, costs, support mechanisms
- Connect this database with communities of practice
- Put in place an application process for communities (using solution platform)
- Implement projects and try to apply impact based financial mechanisms

What methodologies can be used to take the above necessary steps?

Use Climate-KIC innovation tools, including open innovation platforms and innovation pipeline management approach

What information/data or metrics are needed for the review of adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation?

Metrics already needed to select the best projects and solutions. Ideally this metrics should provide estimates of value at risk, costs/consequences of inaction, cost/consequences of proposed action

A good solution:

- addresses the climate issue in a demonstrated way
- finds its own sustainability mechanism
- is scalable or replicable
- these three aspects need to be assessed and used as guiding principles during implementation

Which lessons learned, good practices, challenges and barriers have been encountered in such reviews?

There are still very few smart & comprehensive approaches to proceed (except probably for large scale infrastructure). Difficulties come from:

- preference for the present and difficult to prioritize the future; the perception is often that climate change is for the future; a good understanding of the changes that have already started would help assess the relevance of the proposed measures
- lack of understanding of the cascading effects of climate change (future unknown and specific consequences even more unknown); a similar change of climate may affect the various economic sectors or even various agricultural productions differently
- moreover the systemic effects of climate change are not understood at all which prevents the understanding of the issues to deal with. For instance, the wheat yields have been stagnating for 30 years in France and 50% of this stagnation has been shown to be the result of climate change. However, there is no unique explanation for this; a myriad of little changes in ecosystems, local climate conditions, adaptation of crop varieties, farmer adaptation to recurring unknown conditions explain probably the result, but it would take time to understand these precisely.

What methods can be used to review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support for adaptation?

First of all it important to remember that to adapt, there three types of measures:

- increase economic resilience through insurance/solidarity measures is a first step
- become more robust: this is needed to adapt to extreme events in particular; the increase in buffer functions to accommodate for abrupt changes is probably an interesting criterion to assess a solution
- become more flexible: increase diversity, in the systems is key for this

Any method needs to assess the threats and needs and then look for solutions combining these approaches.