

## Reflection on the three guiding questions by Julia Olivier, Climate Protection Programme for Developing Countries, GIZ

### 1. Given the diverse set of indicators that currently exist to measure and evaluate adaptation, how can communities, countries and development and adaptation agencies build on a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience?

Or shorter: Given the diverse set of indicators that currently exist to measure and evaluate adaptation, how can we build a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience?

That means: What is meant by success in adaptation and how do we measure it?

The question could generate discussion around the following issues:

- Adaptation, its implementation and results are highly context dependent – therefore it is obvious that no single set of indicators exist. Also success is different in different contexts.
- It might be interesting to get some more clarity during the discussion on the following questions: “What does *common* mean: common at the national level or common at the international level?”, “What exactly do we need a common understanding for?”; “Who are the stakeholders which need a common understanding, and who on the other side does not depend on such a common understanding?”
- In my opinion, a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience will be difficult to obtain if it is not at a fairly general level because adaptation interventions will differ from community to community, from country to country, since there will be different climate impacts, different vulnerabilities and therefore also different adaptation needs.
- On the other hand, there is a need to know and demonstrate results and impacts and when it comes to the allocation of funds also to compare which measure might generate higher impacts than others. Therefore, it will probably be helpful to address the questions “if we need to achieve a common understanding of success in achieving climate resilience” and “when this is helpful and when not” (see also questions above).
- In the same context, it might be a very pragmatic and interesting approach to have a closer look at existing core indicators which are proposed by some institutions and to find out if they measure success in achieving resilience or not and in which way there is overall satisfaction with these indicators or not. We could also discuss the utility of having an index measuring resilience which then would also give answers by its changes on the success of adaptation measures.

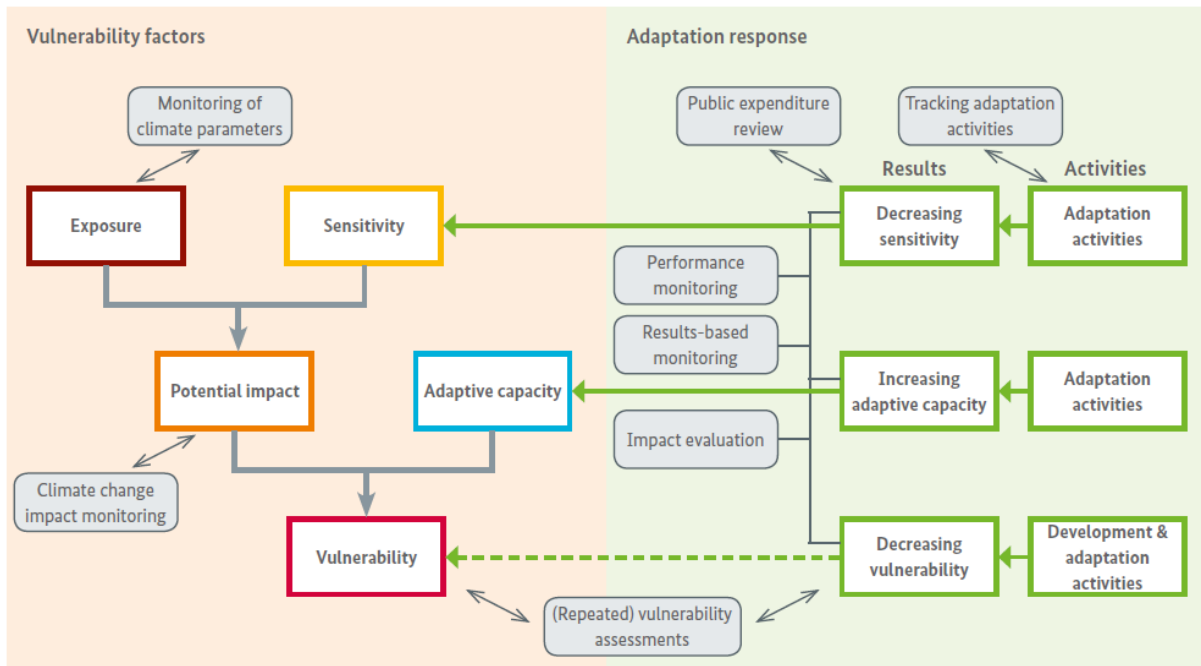
### 2. How can a framework be created that links individual assessments with national level assessments to broaden the focus from the means of achieving outcomes (individual interventions) to the desired end result (countries’ becoming less vulnerable and having more adaptive capacity)?

Or shorter: How can frameworks be created to link local and national level assessments? How can we focus more on results (reduced vulnerability, increased adaptive capacity) and less on the means of achieving outcomes (individual interventions)?

The questions could generate discussion around the following issues:

- How to aggregate information of individual project results to higher level national results?
- I think in this context it would be helpful to look at existing M&E systems for adaptation, but also at other, similar fields. During the workshop, we could try to figure out and to classify how local and national information is linked. E.g. in Germany, the fundament for policy makers to identify adaptation priorities and for strategic adaptation planning is a combination of three pillars: (1) a detailed indicator list with information being collected mostly at the national level (in addition some federal states are setting up their own indicator lists), (2) vulnerability assessments to prioritize risks and derive adaptation needs at the federal level and (3) the assessment of the adaptation action plan.
- In my opinion, both are important: tracking outcomes of planned interventions but of course also knowing if the overall strategy and actions actually contribute to the desired result – reduced vulnerability/ increased resilience. What exactly should be monitored and in which way

will depend on country needs and what is already measured, which data is available etc. The following figure illustrates different options.



- Therefore, I think it would be also an important issue to discuss during the workshop ways and experiences to measure changes in vulnerability/ resilience at different levels.
  - In my opinion, it would be important in this section to pay attention on what is desirable (ideal world) and what is realistic (pragmatic world).
3. **How can results from M&E be reported and disseminated so as to ensure that they are fed back into the respective adaptation process but also to allow for lessons learned and good practices identified to be shared with the wider community of adaptation planners and practitioners?**

Or slightly different: How can results from M&E be reported and disseminated? How can they be fed back into adaptation planning? How can they be made available to other practitioners to promote learning and replication of good practices?

The questions could generate discussion around the following issues:

- M&E generally has three main objectives: supporting learning, accountability and steering. I think it is really important before setting up an M&E system to clarify which of these objectives are the most important ones in the specific context. A system which favours primarily learning e.g. might not provide the information in the way a system would do which focuses on accountability.
- The reporting and dissemination of results has to do a lot with formats and channels. Obviously there are different target groups: policy maker, project implementers, the broader public, etc.. Formats and channels to diffuse information will probably differ. It might be helpful to systematize who needs which information for what purpose and in which format.
- An exchange of existing experiences and eventually good practices would be helpful. I think there is e.g. much to learn from environmental observation.