

# Action Area 5 questionnaire

## Summary of information received from 8 institutions<sup>1</sup>

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In implementing Action Area 5 of its initial two-year workplan, the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism (Executive Committee) invited relevant organizations, through a questionnaire, to describe the systems and/or processes currently in place for conducting and coordinating analyses of climate risk and loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, taking into account extreme and slow onset events.

The questionnaire was sent to organizations that assists/support regional, national and/or sub-national governments to conduct climate risk analyses/management on 28 September 2016. This paper summarizes the responses received from 8 international organizations by 20 December 2016 (*see the annex for the list of respondents*). Where relevant, quantitative information is illustrated with the help of graphs.

The information provided will serve as an input into the work of the Executive Committee, in particular the preparation of a paper, mandated under activity (c), Action Area 5 of its initial two-year workplan, with a view to consolidating experiences and lessons learned and identifying priority areas for increasing capacity and investment.

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<sup>1</sup> UNFCCC secretariat, Loss and Damage team, January 2017.

## 1. Level of engagement or support in conducting risk analysis and assessments

All eight respondents indicate they conduct climate risk analysis or assessments in supporting or assisting **regional institutions as well as national/subnational governments**.

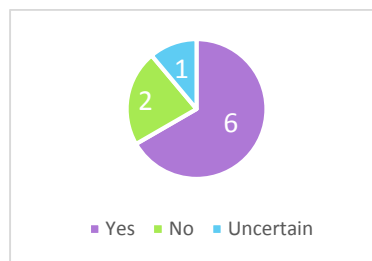
- ⇒ Six respondents undertake climate risk analysis on the national level; of these four on subnational level
- ⇒ UNISDRR provides support globally
- ⇒ CARE International assists at the community level
- ⇒ UNESCAP has a multi-donor trust fund for climate risk analysis

Half of the respondents assist regional institutions, national/subnational governments to conduct **comprehensive climate risk analysis**, and another half assist with **sectoral climate risk analysis**. Almost all respondents mention that the climate risk analysis they help conduct are generally used/integrated in national/subnational adaptation, risk management or development plans.

Seven organizations mention they use the same **climate risk assessment methodology** in all countries they support and at all levels, however, with adjustments to account for national circumstances.

- ⇒ UNISDRR developed a global multi-hazard probabilistic risk assessment that can be used at any geographical level
- ⇒ FAO adapt their risk analysis depending on the requirement and data availability at the country level

The graph on the right indicates the number of respondents who regularly **use observed climate time series and climate change scenarios** in conducting the climate risk analysis.



The majority of respondents indicate that the **scientific information** they utilize is in most cases easily available at various levels.

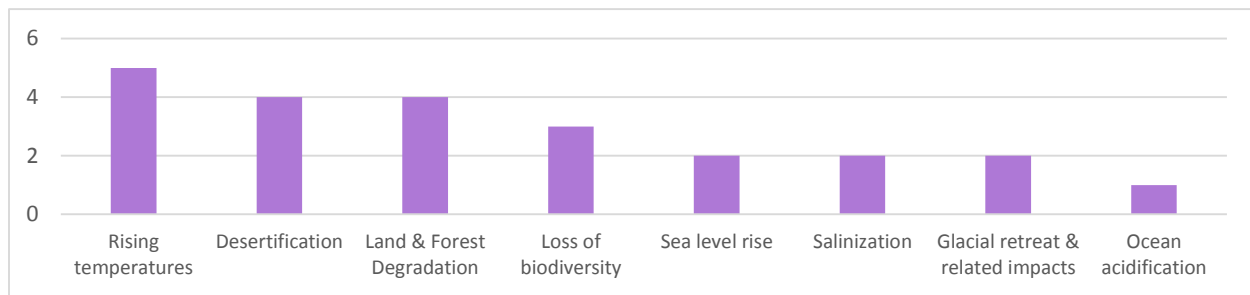
Seven respondents mention they have a policy or role to support national/subnational governments in enhancing their **capacities to access or generate scientific information** required to conduct climate risk assessments.

### 1.1. Analyzing the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change

Seven organizations incorporate the **risk of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change into their risk analyses:

- ⇒ Six respondents take into account extreme weather events
- ⇒ Four respondents take into account slow onset events
- ⇒ Three respondents take into account non-economic losses

The chart below indicated the types of **slow onset events** organizations assist with.



Seven respondents use a **specific methodology** when conducting risk analyses of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events and non-economic losses (e.g. probabilistic risk assessment, CVCA, market/gender assessments, Africa RiskView model).

**Experiences in integrating climate risk analysis of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate, including slow onset events, in respondents' comprehensive disaster risk management plans/schemes (including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery):

- ⇒ At national level, IASSA have been supporting the development of national DRR planning, including the development of risk financing measures. At local level, IASSA are supporting communities with their Vulnerability Capacity Assessments and integrating risk and decision-relevant information in order to support better decision-making on climate-related risks.
- ⇒ IOM works with states on their climate and DRR policies to integrate human mobility related elements, in particular solutions to prevent forced forms of migration/displacement.
- ⇒ UNESCAP supports RIMES to integrate time scale data on weather, seasonal climate and climate change to conduct climate risk analysis.
- ⇒ As part of ARC's core insurance work, a country interested in purchasing insurance is only permitted to do so once it has developed a thorough contingency plan detailing how a potential insurance payout would be used and the plan is approved by ARC. The plan is drawn from existing risk management plans. Additionally, the Extreme Climate Facility (XCF) will indicate areas where extreme climate shifts are occurring and trigger financing for the affected countries. Based on the outcome of the index, these countries can see what type of hazard is becoming more frequent and/or severe and use the financing that was triggered by the XCF to pay for adaptation plans targeted at those hazards (e.g. flood barriers if flooding is worsening). These adaptation plans would be drawn from national disaster risk management plans/schemes.

## 1.2. Anticipatory actions

Five of the respondents indicate they have **capacity to implement anticipatory actions** to reduce the risk of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events, through:

- ⇒ Advocacy, coordination, normative guidance, partnership building, capacity development and monitoring
- ⇒ DRR and adaptation, mostly related to extreme events, but also slow onset events (esp. drought)
- ⇒ Early warning systems related to food security and nutrition
- ⇒ Solutions allowing people to remain in situ in areas submitted to adverse climate change impacts; or on solutions that assist and protect people on the move, facilitating their mobility in an orderly and dignified way, provide early warning systems related to food security and nutrition

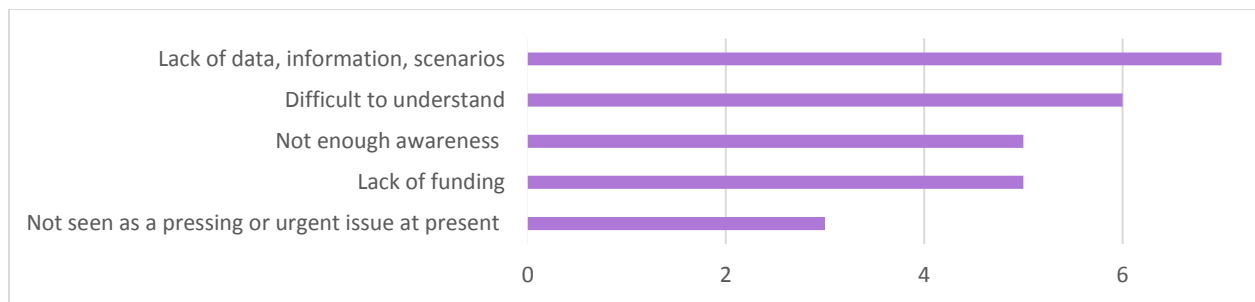
Respondents provide **support to regional institutions and national/subnational governments in implementing anticipatory actions** to reduce the risk of loss and damage by:

- ⇒ Capacity building (IOM, ARC)
- ⇒ Strengthening countries' sectoral systems (e.g. health (FAO))

⇒ Early warning (e.g. ARC's the drought model updates with the latest rainfall data as the growing season occurs and can project at any point in the season, a range of estimates for how many people might be affected by drought by the end of the season. Countries can use the model to monitor the season's progress and take early action if it is shown to be a bad season start).

## 2. Challenges in undertaking climate risk analyses

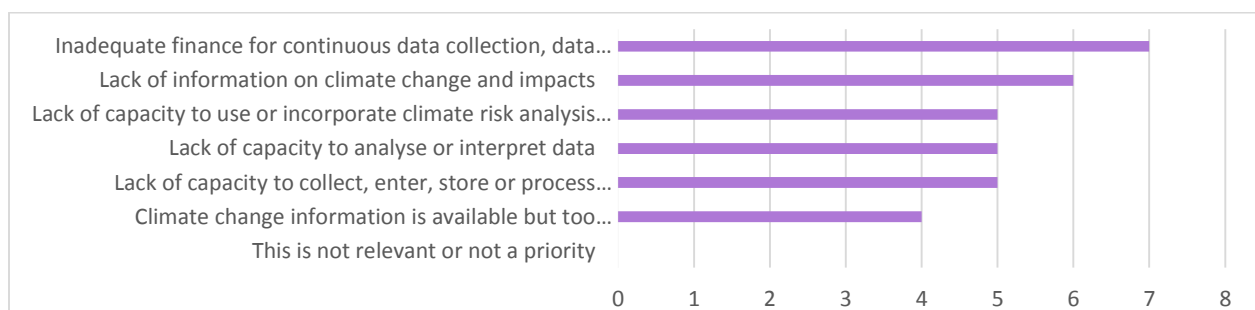
The graph below indicates some of the challenges respondents face in assisting/supporting countries with conducting climate risk analyses.



Additional constraints respondents indicate are:

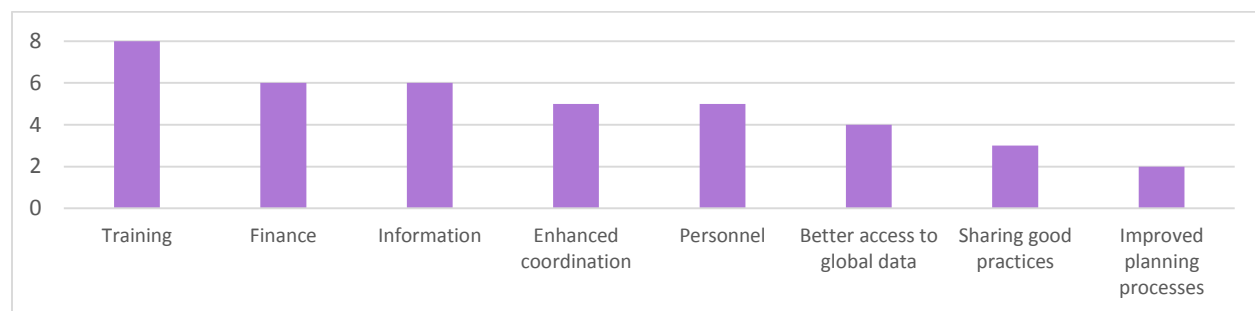
- Lack/insufficient knowledge, information and understanding of risks of loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change (seven respondents)
- Difficulties in analyzing the risks of slow onset events vis-à-vis the risks of extreme weather events
- Lack of continuity due to changes of personnel in country, retaining trained staff
- Technical capacity development and availability of climate data and information
- Uncertainties and political instability

The graph below shows the most frequent reasons **why regional institutions and national/subnational governments do not conduct climate risk analyses**, as perceived by respondents.



Additionally, respondents mention it is not completely understood why risk assessments should be conducted, how results can be used and how they can be useful to make more informed decisions.

The graph below indicates the **most frequent needs** in order to be able to initiate climate risk analysis.



### 3. Disaster risk management

Seven organizations indicate that their climate risk analyses are generally used for national/subnational adaptation, risk management and development plans. Six respondents mention that their organization assists specifically with the implementation of comprehensive disaster risk management plans/processes.

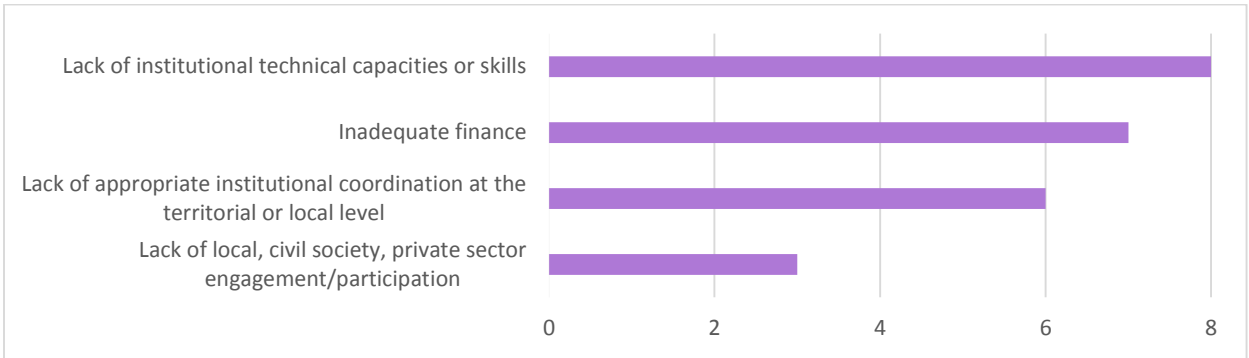
Some of the **experiences and lessons learned** by respondents in assisting regional institutions and national/subnational governments with comprehensive disaster risk management schemes/ processes include:

- There is need for capacity development
- Planning processes should be bottom-up
- Wide consultation and participation is key
- There is needs for development of accurate national and regional assessments analyzing the linkages between migration, environment, climate change and DRR
- There is needs for establishment of a regional institution managed by member states with the contribution from participating countries to sustain core services with only catalytic funding support from development partners
- Conducting thorough climate risk analysis to ascertain the country's true risk profile; national disaster risk management plans and actions should then be adjusted to detail how events of differing severity/ frequency levels will be dealt with including means of financing and the various ministries involved in implementation of the plan; governmental budgets need to incorporate the planned financing tools annually.

Some suggestions by respondents **how climate risk management related to loss and damage can be specifically addressed for the poorest people** include:

- Vulnerability and risk assessment should focus on poorest, food insecure rural populations and exposure of their livelihood assets to climate risks
- Ensure the meaningful involvement of local stakeholders and affected communities
- Promote the inclusion of existing indigenous knowledge
- Community based risk assessments should target vulnerable communities.

The graph below indicates the **challenges** for regional institutions and national/subnational governments in implementing disaster risk management plans.



Some additional challenges respondents indicate are:

- Non-availability of data and technical capacity
- Sustainability of developed expertise at the national level
- Ad-hoc approaches

The graph below indicates the constraints regional institutions and national/subnational governments face in **integrating the risk of loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events, in national disaster risk management planning.



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## Annex

### Institutions that responded to the questionnaire

1. African Risk Capacity (ARC)
2. CARE International
3. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
4. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
5. International Organization for Migration (IOM)
6. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
7. United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
8. World Health Organization (WHO)