

February 2, 2016

Sadya Ndoko
Program Officer
Adaptation Committee Unit
Adaptation Committee
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

CC: Ronald de la Cruz, Ina Lambert, Annett Möhner

Delivered via email and the United Nations portal:
http://unfccc.int/adaptation/groups_committees/adaptation_committee/items/6053.php

Dear Ms. Ndoko,

It is our pleasure to offer assets in response to the Paris Decision and Agreement's invitation to submit information on concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions.

The ND Global Adaptation Index (GAIN) is free, open source and university lead and is available to the Adaptation Committee and the UNFCCC to respond to numerous mandates explained in the Agreement and the Decision, particularly "**the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.**" (**Article 7 section 1**) We are eager to be of service to you.

The following description is prepared for the opportunity to submit information by **3 February 2016** noted in Paragraph 133 of the Decision. It starts with general information and then details specific elements of the Decision and Agreement that GAIN's assets could support.

The GAIN country index, index.gain.org, aims to inform climate change adaptation, and help both public sector and corporations prioritize adaptation efforts and investments to reduce vulnerabilities in the face of global shifts due to climate change. The GAIN index summarizes a country's vulnerability¹ to climate change and other global challenges in combination with its readiness to absorb adaptation investments and initiatives. GAIN is comprised of thirty-six indicators for calculating a *Vulnerability* measure and nine indicators for calculating a *Readiness* measure.¹

Using 20 years of data, the Index measures vulnerability using a range of indicators that reflect medium or long-term climate change impacts in six life-supporting vulnerability sectors – water, food, health, ecosystems, human habitats and infrastructure-, as well as the "readiness" of governance, economic stability and social structures. Vulnerability

¹ Please refer to the Index Technical Document by visiting <http://index.ndgain.org>

indicators include components of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity. Readiness indicators suggest a country's ability to mobilize and absorb adaptation investment. The calculation of the ND-GAIN score of a nation can be illustrated by:

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Readiness} \\ \text{Indicators} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} \text{Vulnerability} \\ \text{Indicators} \end{array} + 1 \right) \times 50 = \text{GAIN}^{\text{Index}}$$

0 - 1 Higher is Better 0 - 1 Lower is Better 0 - 100 Higher is Better

Data for all United Nations countries, except for South Sudan, are included in the Index. Data for each indicator come from a reliable public data source such as the World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization, and the United Nations. The selection of the indicators is based on literature survey and consultation with scholars, adaptation practitioners, and global development experts. The chosen indicators are i) actionable through adaptation, ii) consistent with current knowledge and best practices, iii) potentially downscalable from national to regional or urban, iv) directly representative of the phenomena they measure, and v) must not include broad socio-economic measures such as GDP per capita or Human Development Index. Moreover, the indicators need to be quantified at the country-level with data that: i) provide global coverage, ii) provide time-series coverage, iii) are transparent and conceptually clear, iv) are freely accessible, and v) are provided by reliable sources that carry out quality checks on such data.

The GAIN Index is flexible and can be tailored to specific user needs.

ND-GAIN is used by development and corporate stakeholders around the globe. Some use-cases include:

- Green Climate Fund [Analysis of the Expected Role and Impact of the Green Climate Fund](#).
- Climate Investment Fund sub-committee responsible for overseeing the [Pilot Program for Climate Resilience](#).
- Overseas Development Institute [Scaling up international support for adaptation: Productive safety nets and reimbursable debt service](#).
- Standard and Poors [Climate Change is a Global Mega-Trend for Sovereign Risk](#).
- ND-GAIN was invited to observe UNFCCC's Technology Needs Assessment, [TNA Report](#)

Other related work includes:

- World Economic Forum: [Climate Adaptation, Seizing the Challenge](#).
- UN Habitat's United Nations Human Settlements Program Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience tool provider
- UN Global Compact's [The Business Case for Climate Adaptation](#) (edited) released at a COP side event. Momentum For Change's lighthouse activities
- UN Environment Program's Adaptation Gap Report: Dr. Ian Noble, ND-GAIN Scientific Advisor, wrote the chapter A Framework for Identifying and Measuring Adaptation Gaps

For all parties to the agreement, the ND-GAIN Country Index can help the Adaptation Committee carry out elements of the agreement by:

1. Providing **“quantifiable information on the reference point (including, as appropriate, a base year) for vulnerability information at the country scale for all parties to the agreement;”** (paragraph 27)
2. Providing user-friendly, publicly available data on adaptation to **“facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding;”** (paragraph 28)
3. Providing the Adaptation Committee with a ready-made methodology : **“(b) To consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries, without placing an undue burden on them;”** (paragraph 43)
4. Providing a platform for the **“Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement;”** (paragraph 45)
5. Providing a ready-made opportunity for **“Promoting the development and dissemination of tools and methodologies for the implementation of capacity-building;”** (paragraph 74c)
6. Providing the Ad Hoc Working Group with a means to carry out the: **“(a) The importance of facilitating improved reporting and transparency over time;”** (paragraph 93)
7. Providing a framework for **“a technical examination process on adaptation;”** (paragraph 125)
8. *Providing an adaptation assessment in support of “the technical examination process on adaptation referred to in paragraph 125 above will endeavor to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions;” (paragraph 126)*
9. Providing a means to help countries prioritize, thereby **“Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience;”** (Article 2 section 1b & c)
10. Defining which parties **“are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change”** (Article 6 section 6, Article 7 section 2, Article 9 section 12) **and “have significant capacity constraints;”** (Article 9 section 12)

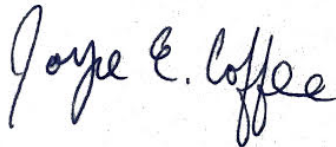
11. Including measures of adaptive capacity, resilience and vulnerability to inform **“the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change;”** (Article 7 section 1)
12. Providing data to for **“Assisting developing country Parties in identifying effective adaptation practices, adaptation needs, priorities, support provided and received for adaptation actions and efforts, and challenges and gaps, in a manner consistent with encouraging good practices;”** (Article 7 section 7)
13. Providing annual data to assist with **“Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions;”** (Article 7 section 9c)
14. Providing a global adaptation quantifiable score in support of the **“(c) Review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation; and (d) Review the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article;”** (Article 7 section 14 c) & d))
15. Providing user friendly publicly available data to assist with **“public awareness, public participation and public access to information; ”** (Article 12)
16. Providing a free, open source transparent means of **“tracking of progress towards achieving Parties’ individual nationally determined contributions under Article 4, and Parties’ adaptation actions under Article 7, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14.”** (Article 13 section 5)

We hope the Adaptation Committee will consider GAIN as an asset both through <http://index.gain.org/> and by contacting us directly:

- Joyce Coffee, Managing Director, jcoffee@nd.edu
- Dr. Jessica Hellmann, GAIN Scientific Advisor, hellmann@umn.edu
- Dr. Anand Patwardhan, GAIN Advisory Board Member, apat@umd.edu
- Dr. Ian Noble, GAIN Scientific Advisor, noble.adapt@gmail.com

Our best regards to you in your important work.

Sincerely,



Joyce Coffee
