United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

CGE HANDS-ON TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION ASSESSMENT

Communication of V&A Analysis in the National Communications

Objectives and expectations

- This presentation (and the related handbook) will provide:

  a) Knowledge of the **relevant provisions under the Convention** on reporting information on vulnerability and adaptation (V&A) from non-Annex I Parties

  b) **Overview of elements** and considerations for communication planning

  c) Basic understanding on **how to effectively present the results** of the V&A assessment

Outline

- Review COP decision on V&A reporting

- **Communication planning**
  - a) **Purpose**
  - b) **Objectives**
  - c) **Audience**
  - d) **Messages**
  - e) **Stakeholder outreach**

- Presenting V&A findings
  - a) Writing
  - b) Formatting
  - c) Presenting information visually

- Show examples from National Communications

UNFCCC Requirements

UNFCCC Decision 17/CP.8 reporting guidelines

- **Para 32**. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on the scope of their vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including identification of vulnerable areas that are most critical

- **Para 33**. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to include a description of approaches, methodologies and tools used, including scenarios for the assessment of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, as well as any uncertainties inherent in these methodologies

- **Para 34**. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on their vulnerability to the impacts of, and their adaptation to, climate change in key vulnerable areas. Information should include key findings, and direct and indirect effects arising from climate change, allowing for an integrated analysis of the country's vulnerability to climate change

- **Para 35**. Non-Annex I Parties are encouraged to provide information on and, to the extent possible, an evaluation of, strategies and measures for adapting to climate change, in key areas, including those which are of the highest priority

UNFCCC Decision 17/CP.8 reporting guidelines (cont.)

- **Para 36**. Where relevant, Parties may report on the use of policy frameworks, such as national adaptation programs, plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures

Communication Planning

Why is communication planning important?

- *Effective* communication planning:

  a) Enables the V&A assessment team to go beyond simply meeting the UNFCCC requirements

  b) Provides a mechanism to integrate communication throughout the V&A assessment process from beginning to end

  c) **Provides a framework for thinking about how communication elements can be used strategically to support your goals**

  d) Guides decision-making for your assessment team

  e) Enables thoughtful stakeholder engagement

Purpose of the V&A section of National Communication

- Support the communication plan for the National Communication as a whole while fulfilling objectives unique to the V&A section

- **Convey the results of V&A assessment**
  a) Understand greatest vulnerabilities
  b) Identify most **urgent** adaptation measures
  c) Enable **effective interpretation** of V&A results

- Present **clear and concise** description and synthesis

- Provide **maximum benefit** to policy makers

- Promote climate **mainstreaming**

Communication objectives

- Identify **high-level objectives**
  a) Raise awareness
  b) Change attitudes
  c) Change behavior

- Identify **specific objectives** relevant to your V&A assessment
  a) Address UNFCCC requirements
  b) Translate scientific information for policy makers
  c) Support in-country agencies with adaptation strategies
  d) Communicate internationally through UNFCCC processes
  e) Share lessons learned with other Non-Annex I Parties
  f) Educate national audiences about climate change

Identify the target audience(s)

- Who are your **key stakeholders**?

  a) National and international audiences

  b) Internal and external

  c) Within and outside UNFCCC process

  d) Who needs to understand climate change consequences?

  e) Who can provide support for adaptation?

  f) Who might act as a barrier to adaptation?

Examples of V&A assessment stakeholders

- Members of the national communications team

- UNFCCC and the COP

- Governments (e.g., chief executive's office; ministries including environment, finance, and sector ministries; subnational bodies, and legislature)

- Non-governmental organizations (e.g., civil society, academia, business and industry, environment organizations, academic and research institutions, general public and communities, and the media)

- Development actors (e.g., donors and NGOs)

Meet the target audience's needs

- What information does the audience need?

- How do you make information **meaningful and useful** to them?

- How do audience needs and perspectives influence:
  a) Content?
  b) Format?
  c) Messages?
  d) Delivery channels?

- How will you serve both **technical and non-technical** audiences?

Key messages

- Highlight important V&A assessment findings

- Create consistent messages

- Tailor messages to audience segments, as appropriate

- Cultivate credibility
  a) Transparently describe data, tools, and methods
  b) Clearly articulate evidence and conclusions
  c) Openly discuss uncertainty, limitations, and caveats

Stakeholder engagement

- Two types of stakeholder engagement
  a) Collect stakeholder feedback throughout the entire V&A assessment process
  b) Conduct stakeholder outreach

- Provides many benefits
  a) Improves the quality of the assessment results
  b) Builds trust, acceptance, and ownership of assessment within audiences
  c) Ensures all sectors and stakeholder groups are represented
  d) Gives stakeholders incentive to act on the assessment results
  e) Builds national capacity and enhances coordination among sectors and agencies
  f) Educates audiences about climate concerns and impacts
  g) Develops better, more cost-effective solutions

Steps of the stakeholder engagement process

Plan and prepare	Implement	Review
• Determine engagement objective and goal • Identify stakeholders • Identify stakeholders' existing platforms and networks • Define type of engagement (e.g., information sharing, consultation, joint decision-making, empowerment) • Determine engagement method (e.g., personal contact, communication products) • Develop guidelines, processes, and timelines for engagement process • Determine necessary human and financial resources • Establish mechanisms for conflict resolution • Include stakeholders in engagement planning	• Discuss implementation process with stakeholders and adjust as appropriate • Undertake planned activities • Provide stakeholders with opportunity to comment on draft documents • Disseminate decisions, reports, and findings to stakeholders	• Assess stakeholder engagement process performance • Adjust ongoing and/or new processes based on outcomes

Source: UNDP, 2011

Presentation of Findings

Writing

- Write to enhance and facilitate reporting assessment results

- Use **simple, clear** language and descriptions

- Be **consistent and transparent** with terminology

- Simplify unit comparisons to the extent possible

- Be thoughtful about the level of detail: write for non-technical audiences and place technical information in appendices

- Consider preparing supporting material that can be accessed outside of the National Communication (e.g., websites)

Formatting

- Make the V&A section **concise, accessible, and easy-to-read**

- Enable readers to easily digest the presented information

- Use formatting to highlight important findings, emphasize messages, and establish priorities

- Clearly delineate topic areas

- Help the reader navigate the document efficiently

- Use summary boxes

Presenting information visually

- Use graphics where they will increase readers' comprehension

- Consider organization, clarity, and simplicity

- Select the type of graphic that will best support your findings; not every visual element will work in every context
  a) Photographs: visually demonstrate impacts
  b) Summary tables: present V&A results or facilitate evaluation
  c) Maps: geographical comparisons or identify hotspots
  d) Charts: illustrate comparisons, trends, or data aggregations
  e) Infographics: Display visual narrative or synthesis

Presenting information visually (cont.)

- V&A approaches, methods, and tools
  a) Limited amount of visual presentations
  b) Consider use of tables and lists to present and assess approaches, methods, and tools

- Vulnerability results
  a) Supplement text with tables, maps, and diagrams
  b) Photographs can visually demonstrate climate change impacts

- Adaptation results
  a) Tables and bullet point lists enable reader to quickly understand proposed adaptation options and strategies
  b) Infographics can illustrate adaptation options and strategies

Examples

23

Example: Incorporate scale in photographs

Plate 7.2: Characteristic open channel irrigation in Nigeria

Source: Nigeria, Second National Communication

Example: Before and after photographs

Bird's-eye view of the SSTEC in 2008. The original site comprised non-arable saline land and polluted water bodies.

Bird's-eye view of the SSTEC in 2014. The site has since been transformed into a green city with tree-lined roads and lushly landscaped housing estates.

Source: Singapore, Third National Communication

Example: Comparison photographs

Photo. Urban settlements in Dushanbe

Photo. Typical rural settlement in mountainous area

Source: Singapore, Third National Communication

Example: Show vulnerabilities clearly in photographs

Note: Use caution with images that show human devastation

Photo. Consequences of mudflow in the Khoroson area, Khatlon region.

This photograph shows flooding

Source: Tajikistan, Third National Communication

This photograph shows potential for flooding

Source: Philippines, Second National Communication

Example: Use tables to present methods

Table 4.7: Likelihood scale used to assess future climate projections

Qualitative measure	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Extremely likely
Description	Event not expected to occur, but possible (<5% probability of occurrence per year in 2050s)	Event unlikely to occur, but not negligible (5-33% probability of occurrence per year in 2050s)	Event less likely than not, but still appreciable chance of occurring (33-66% probability of occurrence per year in 2050s)	Event more likely to occur than not (66-95% probability of occurrence per year in 2050s)	Event highly likely to occur (>95% probability of occurrence per year in 2050s)

Table 4.8: Geographical magnitude scale used to assess future climate projections

Qualitative measure	Negligible	Limited	Significant	Very significant	Widespread
Description	<5% of the area is concerned	5-33% of the area is concerned	33-66% of the area is concerned	66-95% of the area is concerned	>95% Of the area is concerned

Table 4.9: Confidence scale used to assess future climate projections

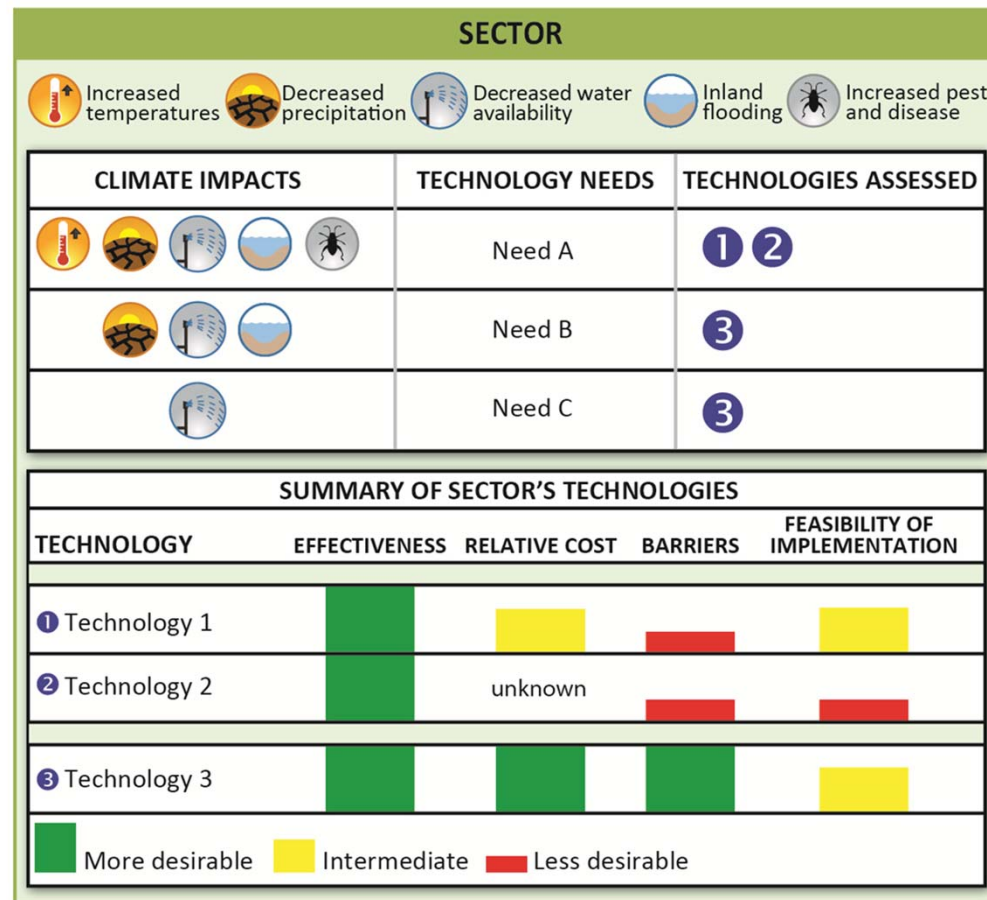| Qualitative measure	Description
Very high confidence	> 9 out of 10 chance
High confidence	8 out of 10 chance
Medium confidence	5 out of 10 chance
Low confidence	2 out of 10 chance
Very low confidence	< 1 out of 10 chance

Source: Jordan, Third National Communication

Example: Use tables to compile adaptation-related information

Table 3.3. Technologies that have been adopted to cope with the impact of climate change

Technology	Description
Palay Check	Integrated rice crop management system which helps farmers to manage rice crops according to targets (right timing, synchronous planting, etc.) to avoid overlapping of insects and disease
Leaf Color Chart (LCC)	A tool to help farmers manage nitrogen fertilizer input
Palayamanan	A system which allows farmers to venture into vegetables, fish and livestock production to complement income from rice
Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)	Controlled irrigation depending on the water needs of the crop during its different stages
Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM)	Management tool that allows farmer to "feed" rice with nutrients as and when needed
Farmers' Field School (FFS)	An extension service to provide farmers information/advice on the various technologies and how to use climate forecasts in farm management
Aerobic Rice	Technology which: uses inbred and early maturing rice line, direct or furrow-seeded on unflooded field; requires less labor, less water and less farm inputs (less production costs); is more tolerant to weeds and pests; and allows for two rice crops per year with as much as 7t/ha yield
GIS Mapping Technology	A tool to identify drought-prone areas for determining crops that can be planted in these areas to optimize land use
Low-Intensity Farm Mechanization	Use of a drum seeder (low seeding rate) using only 51 kgs of seeds to plant a hectare
Nutrient Farming Approach	An integrated farming system that allows for no chemical fertilizers and pesticides with two cropping seasons for upland rice with 3.25 t/ha yield
Controlled Irrigation Technology	Technology which gives a 16-35% reduction in water use without reducing yields

Example: Use tables to evaluate adaptation strategies

Source: Asian Development Bank, 2014

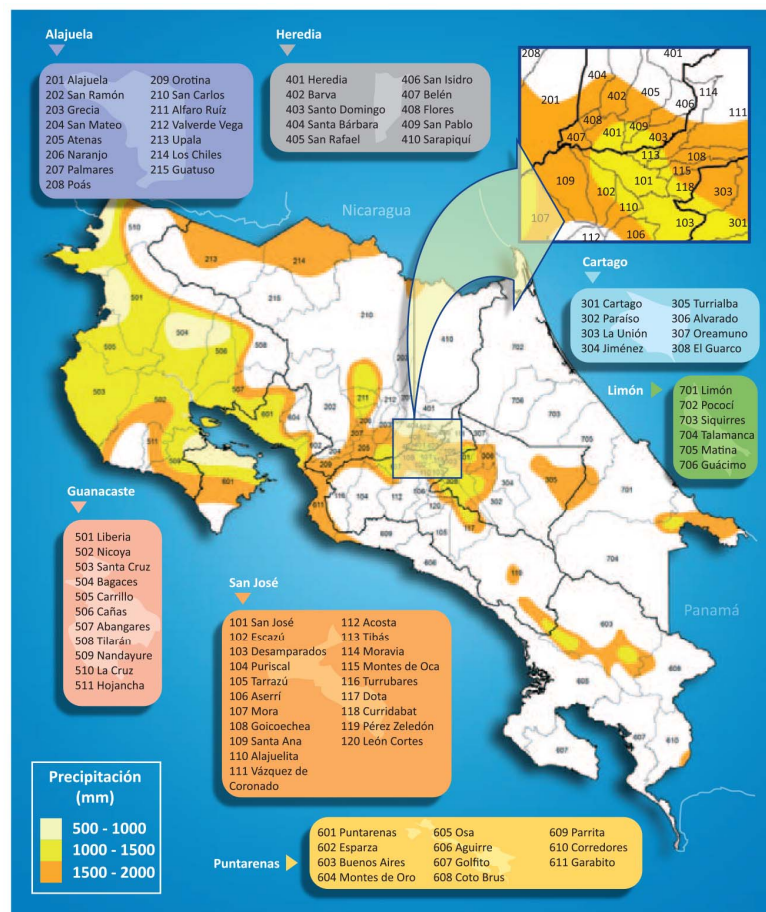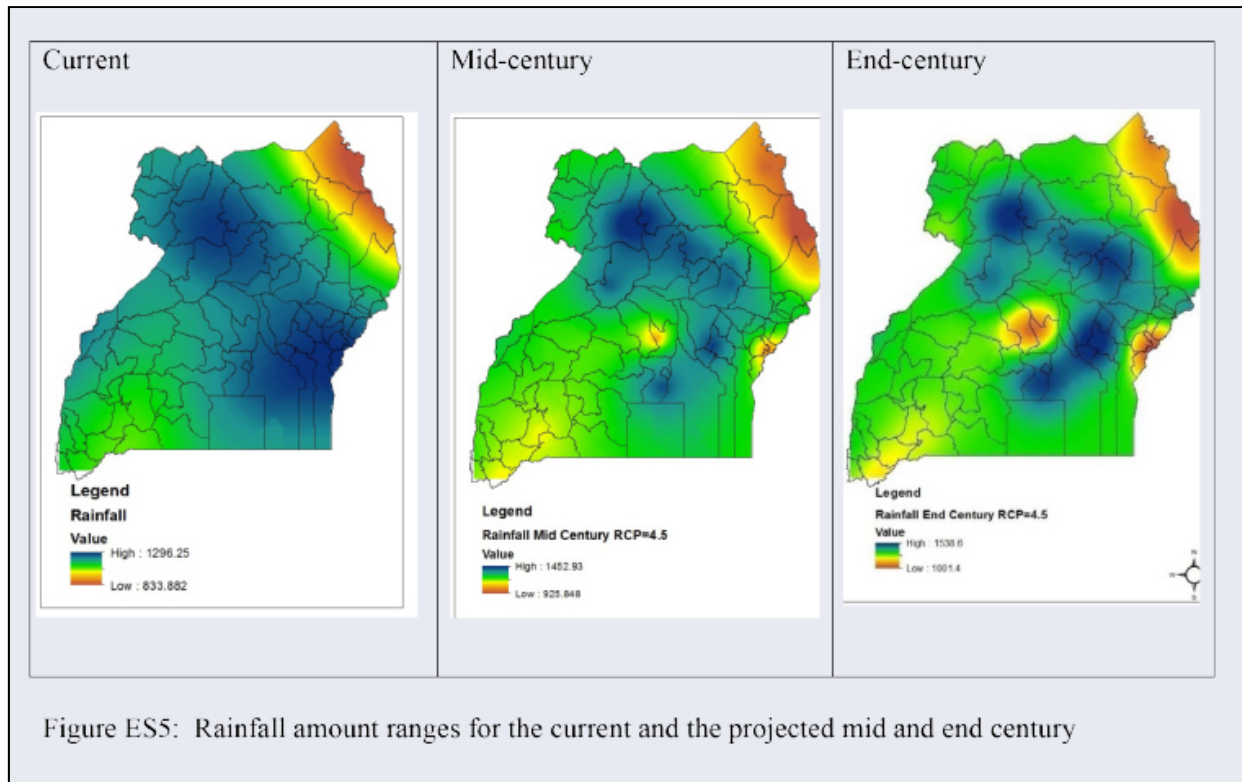# Example: Use maps to convey spatially-oriented information

FIGURA 5.3. Índice de amenaza climática (eventos secos).

Source: Costa Rica, Third National Communication

Example: Use maps to demonstrate change over time

Figure ES5: Rainfall amount ranges for the current and the projected mid and end century

Source: Uganda, Second National Communication

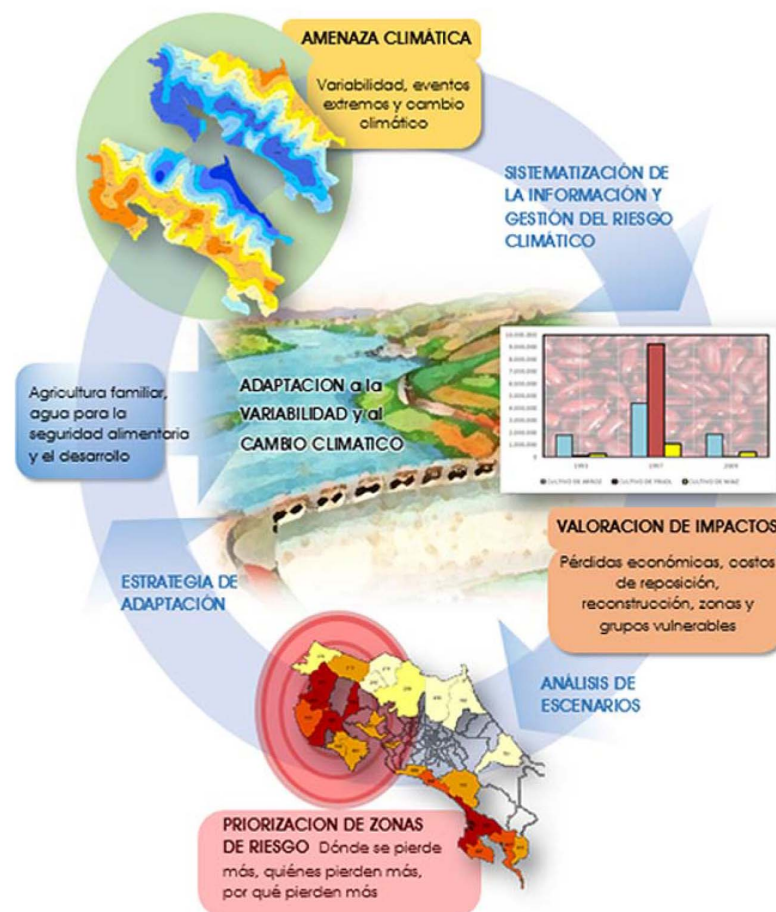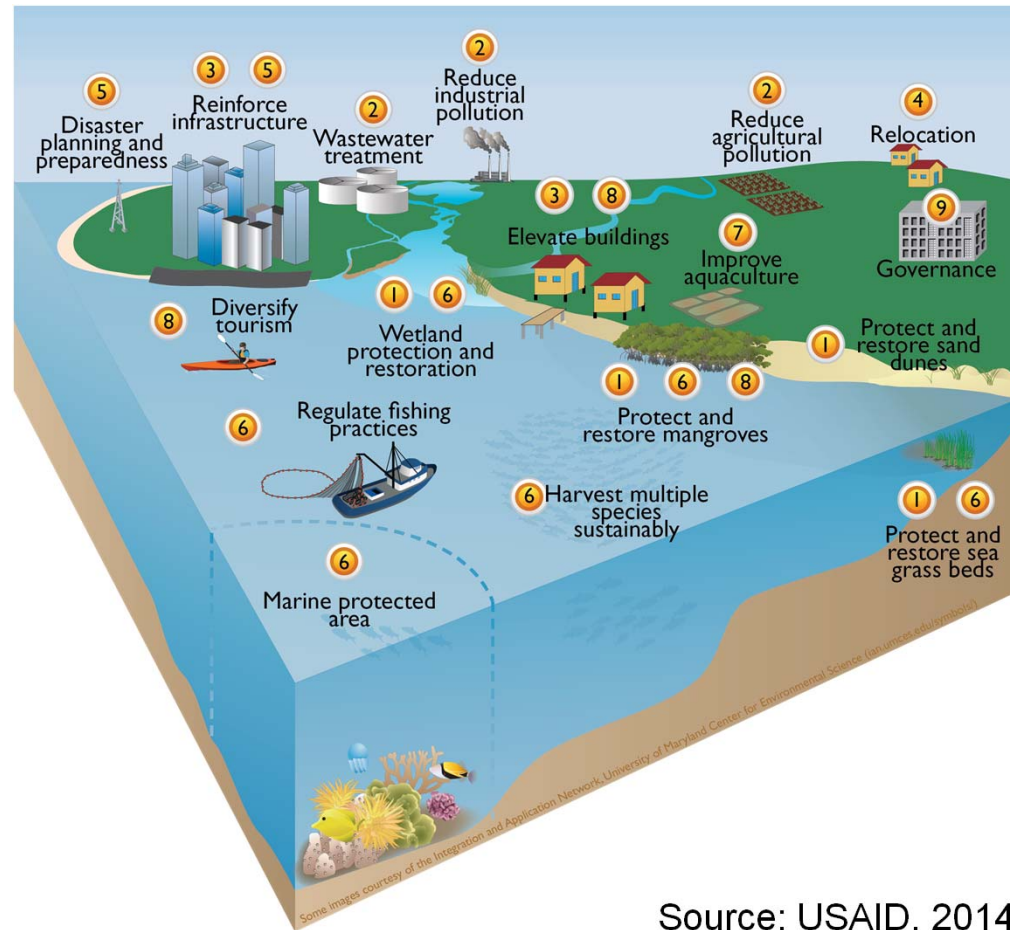# Example: Use infographic to illustrate concepts

FIGURA 5.7. Esquema de la gestión de riesgo climático para medidas de adaptación.

Source: Costa Rica, Third National Communication

Example: Use infographic to synthesize information

Source: USAID, 2014

Checklist: Communication planning

Communication topic	Key questions
Purpose and contents	Does the V&A section clearly address all UNFCCC content requirements?
Communication objective	Have you defined one or more communication objectives?
	Is your definition of your target audience, messaging, and outreach consistent with your communication objectives?
Target audience	Have you identified all key stakeholders?
	Do audiences include national- and international-level groups?
	Do audiences include technical and non-technical groups?
Message	Are key messages targeted to your audience groups?
	Are limitations, uncertainties and caveats clearly outlined?
	Are assumptions and context-specific interpretations transparent?
Stakeholder outreach	Have you included stakeholders in multiple levels and sectors?
	Have you considered how to involve stakeholders in the national communication process?
	Do you plan to conduct outreach about the your V&A results?

Checklist: Presentation of findings

Communication topic	Key questions
Writing	Is the V&A assessment written clearly and simply?
	Is terminology consistent and transparent?
	Did you proofread and edit the document?
Formatting	Is the format consistent with the overall national communication?
	Is the formatting simple and effective?
Visual presentation	Do you use graphical elements that are appropriate for the type of information presented?
	Did you review all final graphics?

Helpful resources: Communication planning

Resource	Source	Description
Clime-ADAPT: European Climate Adaptation Platform, How to Communication Uncertainty? EM1	Clime-ADAPT	Addresses communication uncertainty in climate adaptation decision making
Communications Planning Getting the Right Messages Across in the Right Way	Mind Tools	Provides a step-by-step worksheet for creating a communication plan
Community Toolbox: Section 1. Developing a Plan for Communication	University of Kansas	Describes the key steps involved in writing a communication plan
A Draft Framework for Sharing Approaches for Better Multi-Stakeholder Participation Practices	UN-REDD Programme	Describes lessons learned on stakeholder participation practices

Slide 37

EM1   Are these supposed to be hyperlinked title? Not sure if they are supposed to be underlined and blue.
                   Erin Miles, 28/05/2015

Helpful resources: Communication planning

Resource	Source	Description
Template for Strategic Communications Plan	W.K. Kellogg Foundation	Provides access to a template to help create a strategic communication plan
Toolkit for Non-Annex I Parties on Establishing and Maintaining Institutional Arrangements for Preparing National Communications and Biennial Update Reports	UNFCCC	Provides information to help non-Annex I Parties establish and maintain national institutional arrangements to meet the reporting requirements for their national communications
Uncertainty Communication: Issues and good practice	Copernicus Institute	Background information on uncertainty communication, with suggestions and guidance on how to communicate uncertainties in environmental assessment reports
Writing a Communication Strategy	Government Communication Service (U.K.)	Summary of how to write a communication strategy, including ten key considerations for your communication plan

Helpful resources: Presenting V&A and scientific findings

Resource	Source	Description
The UNFCCC Resource Guide Module on Vulnerability and Adaptation	UNFCCC	This document and its companion modules supplement the User Manual for the Guidelines on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties. It contains a section specifically addressing communication.
A European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology Website	EuroScience	Communicating science to non-experts. Includes tip sheets on consistency in design, reaching out to your community and using web 2.0 and Twitter.
The Vulnerability Sourcebook: Concept and Guidelines for Standardised Vulnerability Assessments	German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development	Contains a module on presenting the outcomes of a vulnerability assessment.

Thank you