

## Potential activities on impact, vulnerability and risk assessment

### Concept note

#### Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 27th meeting, will be invited to take note of this concept note and provide further guidance to the secretariat.

## 1. Background

1. At its 26th meeting, the Adaptation Committee (AC) initiated discussions on potential activities in the thematic area of impact, vulnerability and risk assessment, as part of its ongoing efforts to provide technical support and guidance to Parties under Workstream 1 of its Flexible Workplan for 2025–2027. This activity responds to a mandate established at AC 26 and is aligned with the expectations for AC 27 to continue consideration of draft proposals on this topic.
2. This work is consistent with paragraph 10(a) of decision 2/CMA.5, which encourages the AC and other constituted bodies under the UNFCCC to enhance technical support to developing country Parties on adaptation planning and implementation, including through the assessment of impacts, vulnerabilities and risks related to climate change. The activity also aligns with priorities of the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation and contributes to tracking collective progress under the Paris Agreement.

## 2. Purpose of this note

3. This concept note aims to support and guide further discussions at AC 27 on potential activities under the thematic area of impact, vulnerability and risk assessment. Specifically, it is intended to:
  - a) Provide context and rationale for AC activities in this area;
  - b) Present relevant mandates and ongoing related work under the UNFCCC;
  - c) Outline options for activities and implementation modalities;
  - d) Propose possible next steps for agreement by the AC at this meeting.

## 3. Context

4. Impact, vulnerability and risk assessments are foundational for effective adaptation planning and implementation. These assessments support Parties in identifying current and projected climate risks, understanding vulnerable sectors and populations, and prioritizing adaptation responses.
5. However, developing country Parties often face challenges in conducting such assessments, including limited institutional capacity, lack of access to high-quality data, and inadequate integration of assessment findings into policymaking.
6. Relevant UNFCCC and IPCC Resources:
  - a) **IPCC Sixth Assessment Report (AR6):**
    - i) Working Group II Report – Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (2022): Provides the latest global scientific assessment of observed and projected climate impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation options.
  - b) **UNFCCC NAP Technical Guidelines:**

- i) Technical Guidelines for the National Adaptation Plan Process (LEG): Offers step-by-step guidance on conducting risk and vulnerability assessments as part of NAP formulation.
- c) WIM ExCom Technical Work:**
  - i) Technical guides on assessing climate risks related to loss and damage.

## **4. Options for consideration by the AC**

7. Based on the guidance from AC 26 and the April 2025 mid-term call, the following options are proposed for AC consideration:

### **4.1. Technical scope of work**

- 8. Ensure comprehensive geographic coverage, addressing needs across all regions and governance levels (national to local).
- 9. Focus on institutional capacity building, particularly in LDCs, SIDS, and African countries.

### **4.2. Priority activity**

- 10. Develop Capacity-building and institutional strengthening to conduct and interpret impact, vulnerability and risk assessments.
- 11. Review and synthesis of methodologies used by countries, including adaptation communications, NAPs, and NDCs.
- 12. Data availability and accessibility including identifying data gaps and good practices for data sharing and management.
- 13. Integration into decision-making: through documenting how assessment results are informing adaptation planning and action, including producing a concise technical paper or guidance note clarifying the concept, role, and application of adaptive capacity assessments, including illustrative indicators and use cases.

### **4.3. Modalities for implementation**

- 14. Case Studies: Identify and document effective practices, tools, and challenges through country case studies (including in NAPs and adaptation communications).
- 15. Technical Paper: Synthesize methodologies and tools used across regions; assess their relevance, limitations, and opportunities for harmonization.
- 16. Expert Meetings: Convene thematic expert groups (virtually or in-person) to support technical work.
- 17. Virtual Consultations: Engage stakeholders from national and subnational levels.
- 18. Capacity-building workshop: Present findings and provide a forum for peer learning and exchange.

### **4.4. Synergies and complementarity**

- 19. Collaborate with WIM ExCom and LEG to ensure coherence and complementarity of efforts.
- 20. Coordinate with ongoing work under the GGA framework, including the development of indicators and metrics.

## 5. Possible next steps

21. The following next steps are proposed for AC 27 consideration:

Step	Description	Timeline
<b>1. Agreement on overall objective</b>	AC members to agree on the overarching goal and expected results of the work on impact, vulnerability, and risk assessment.	AC 27
<b>2. Prioritization of activities</b>	AC to select initial activities based on feasibility, impact, and available resources (e.g. case studies, technical paper, expert meetings).	AC 27
<b>3. Tasking a Drafting Group</b>	Form a small group of AC members and experts to refine the scope and develop detailed activity proposals	Immediately following AC27 (Q2–Q3 2025)
<b>4. Identification of Case Studies</b>	Secretariat to compile a preliminary list of country examples, including from NAPs, adaptation communications, and NDCs.	By AC 28
<b>5. Resource and Time Assessment</b>	Secretariat to estimate resource requirements and assess implementation timelines and potential partners.	Intersessionally ahead of AC 28
<b>6. Preparation of Technical Paper Outline</b>	Draft outline and scope for a technical paper on assessment methodologies and practices, subject to AC approval.	By AC 28
<b>7. Organization of Expert Meeting</b>	Plan and convene an expert meeting (virtual or in-person) to gather inputs for technical work and case study synthesis.	Q1 2026, ahead of AC29
<b>8. Planning Capacity-building Workshop</b>	Explore options to present outcomes and support peer learning through a dedicated workshop.	Mid to Late 2026

### Documentation information

Version	Date	Description
01.0	23 April 2025	AC27 This concept note including its next steps is for consideration by the AC.

Keywords: Impact, Vulnerability, Risk assessment, Adaptation, Resilience.