

**Adaptation Committee Webinar**

Considering approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation

11 May 2021



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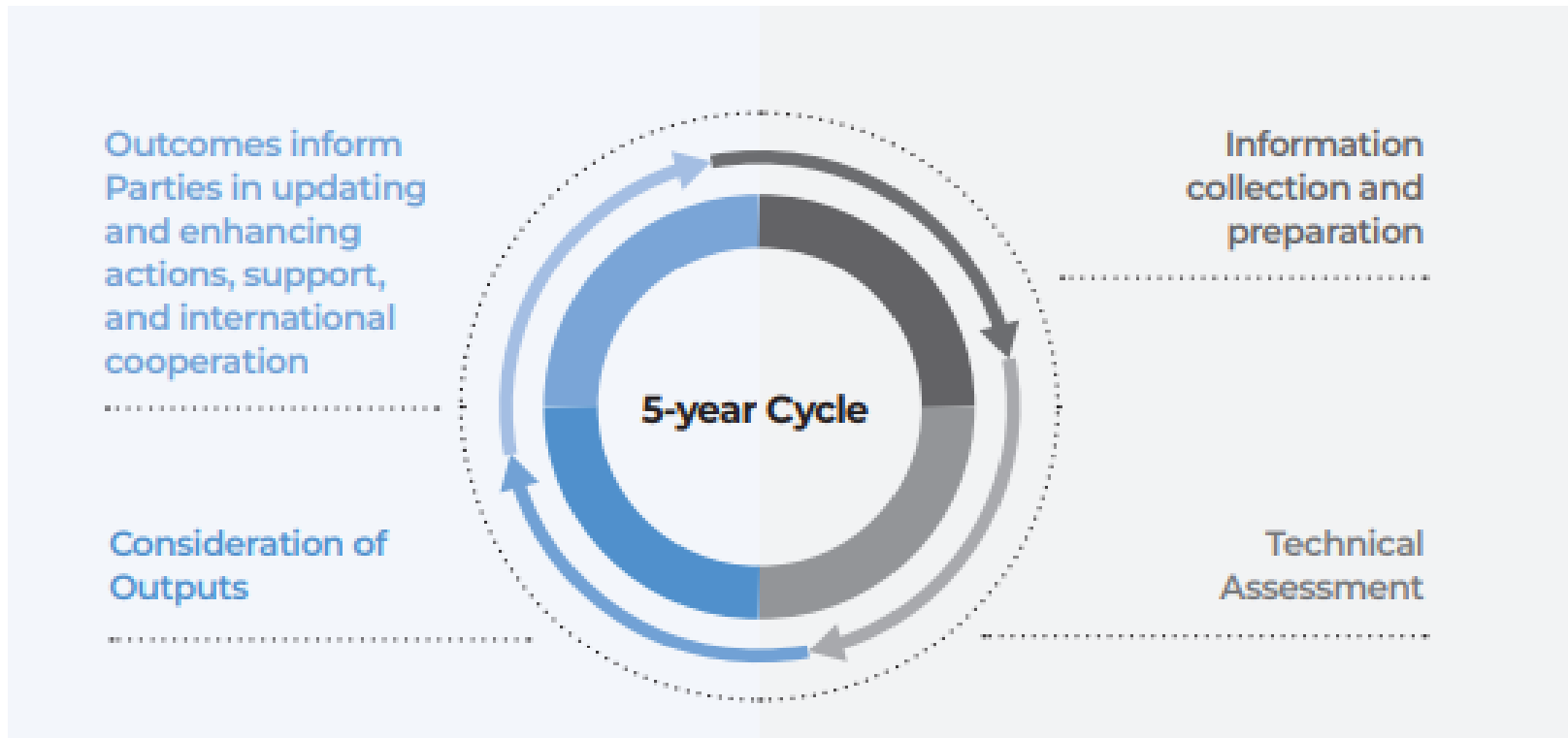
## Introduction and background

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Article 7 of the Paris Agreement established the **global goal on adaptation** of “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate response in the context of the temperature goal” of “[h]olding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.”



# Adaptation in the Global Stocktake



## Mandate

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In 2019, the CMA requested the Adaptation Committee to **consider approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation** and to reflect the outcome of this consideration in its 2021 annual report.



# Literature Review

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Potential benefits of reviewing adaptation progress include:

- Understanding **whether/how vulnerability is changing** over time and across scales/dimensions
- Understanding **what works well in which contexts**, and developing plans and priorities accordingly
- **Raising the profile** of adaptation
- **Improving estimates of the cost** of adaptation
- Helping **better target adaptation finance** to where it is most needed

Finding **appropriate**, **acceptable**, and/or **feasible methods** for undertaking such reviews remains challenging.



## Literature Review: Challenges

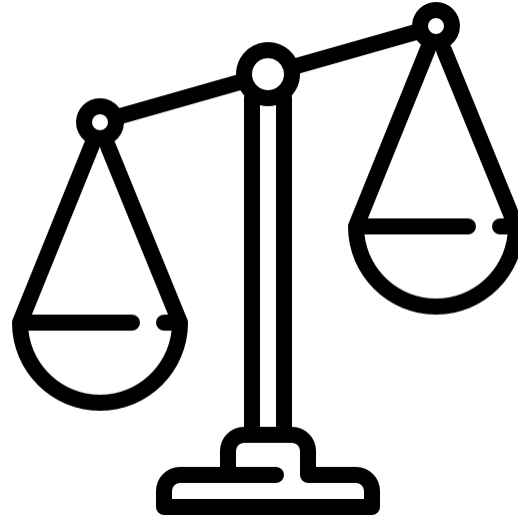
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- **Methodological** challenges (e.g. the difficulty of attributing results to interventions, the shifting baselines and uncertainties of climate hazards, and designing a system that can aggregate results across scales and contexts)
- **Empirical** challenges (e.g. the rarity of adaptation databases)
- **Conceptual** challenges (e.g. a lack of agreement on what counts as adaptation)
- **Political** challenges (e.g. navigating divergent views and political sensitives surrounding measurement under the UNFCCC regime)



## Literature Review: Balancing Trade-offs

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- **Aggregability** vs. **sensitivity** to national context
- **Aggregability** vs. **coherence**
- **Aggregability** or **feasibility** vs. **longitudinal** assessment

## Literature Review: Proposed Approaches

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- **General approaches for collecting and linking adaptation-related information** across scales (e.g. standardized metrics, context-specific metrics related to common themes, informal linkages)
- **Specific frameworks of metrics** (e.g. a combination of metrics that assess risks, global readiness to address risks, and support required and available for adaptation)
- **Proximity-to-target approaches** (assessing progress using a government's own targets and goals, or an ideal model, as benchmarks)
- **Specific proxies** for adaptation progress (e.g. Saved Wealth & Saved Health; human security)
- **Sectoral approaches** (e.g. health or agriculture specific indicator sets)
- **Proposals to first seek consensus** on what to track, how to track it, and how to address challenge related to data and other areas





## Literature Review: Other multilateral review mechanisms

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- Related multilateral frameworks offer a set of indicators already tailored to the global level that can potentially be applied to review progress towards the global goal on adaptation by either **borrowing**, **expanding**, or **tweaking** these existing monitoring efforts
- Given the **idiosyncrasies of the Paris Agreement and global stocktake**, borrowing elements of other regimes can pose challenges and should be **approached with caution**



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

## Existing systems for reviewing adaptation progress

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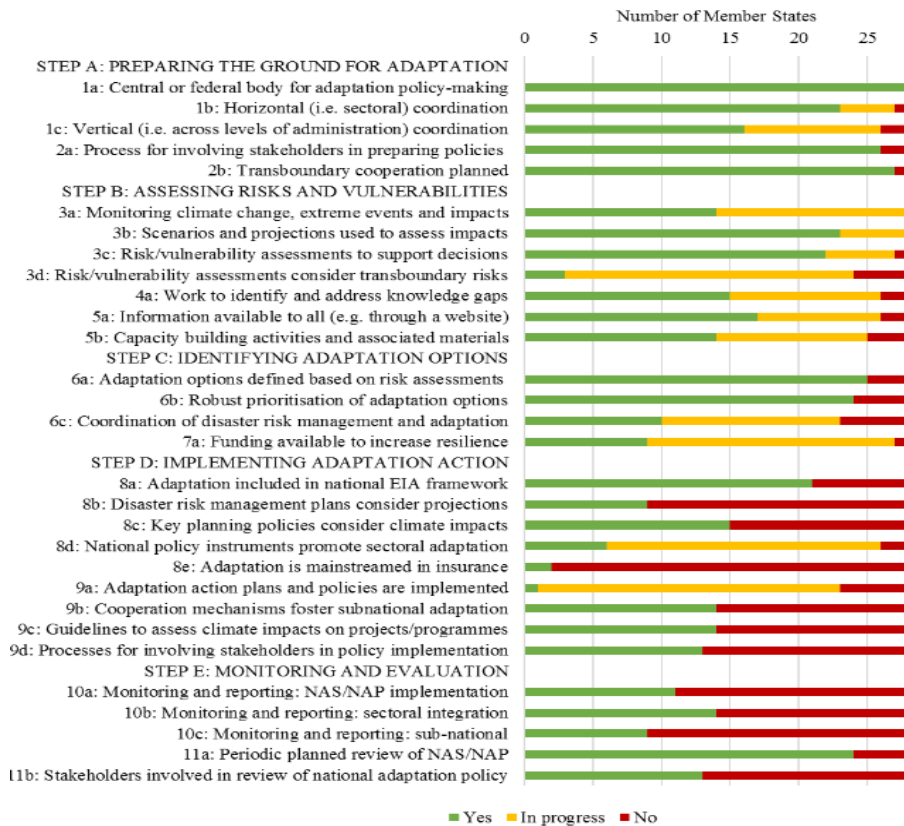
- 11 national-level systems from different regions with varying approaches:
  - assessing progress towards **desired adaptation outcomes**
  - deploying **indicator-based frameworks** with complementary analyses
  - **Informal knowledge-exchange**
  - **Questionnaires** and **information collection cards**



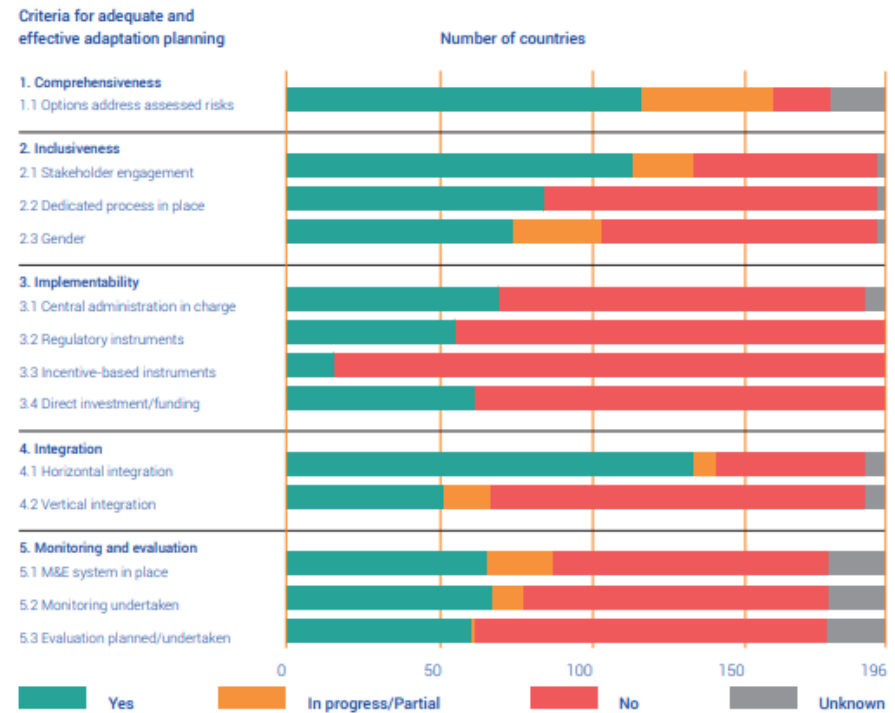
# Existing systems for reviewing adaptation progress

## Aggregated scoreboards across countries:

### European Union



### UNEP Adaptation Gap Report



## Recurring themes and overarching considerations

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It is important to keep in mind:

- The **resources** and **capacity** necessary to pursue each approach, and the corresponding burden that will be placed on countries with lower capacity.
- The need to **maintain flexibility** and **adjust approaches** over time.
- The **value of combining various approaches** in order to generate a more holistic picture of adaptation progress (e.g. qualitative case studies and quantitative indicators, descriptive and evaluative assessments, standard and optional indicators)

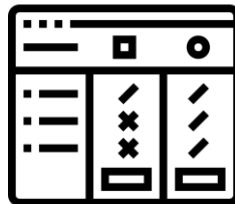


## Reflections on potential methodologies

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- Using a **voluntary questionnaire** or **self-scoring exercise** to generate an aggregate scoreboard



- Looking ahead, comparing **adaptation communications** and **biennial transparency** reports to follow a proximity-to-target approach



- Establishing a **baseline of climate change-related risks** and assessing changes against this baseline over time

## Conclusion

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- The paper makes clear both **the importance and value of reviewing progress** towards the global goal on adaptation and the **enduring challenges and trade-offs** that complicate this task
- Many countries, organizations, researchers, and others are proposing and piloting related systems and approaches for reviewing adaptation progress at different scales, which **can offer insights into possible ways forward**
- The technical paper **does not point towards a single path forward**, but rather attempts to spark a discussion and well-informed consideration of this topic

Thank you for your attention!

