Response to call for inputs on the application of impact, vulnerability and risk assessments

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Since its inception in 2014, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network has supposed governments in the Global South in developing and implementing IVRAs at the national, sectoral and subnational levels to inform their NAP processes.

The Network has provided technical assistance on IVRAs, directly to the governments of 20 countries: Angola, Argentina, Belize, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Kiribati, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, Saint Lucia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. Two case examples are presented below.

Case study #1: Kiribati's national, standardized approach to assessing community vulnerability to climate change

Context: Kiribati comprises 21 inhabited islands scattered across the Pacific. In 2012, the Government of Kiribati requested support from regional organizations to strengthen its approach to IVRA, with the goal of improving coherence, replicability, and comparability. This led to the 2016 release of the Pacific Islands Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) Framework, first piloted in Kiribati, to help Pacific Island countries develop standardized approaches to assessing community vulnerability to climate change and disaster risk. Countries in the region have since adapted and rolled out the framework according to their own needs. With support from development partners, including the NAP Global Network, Kiribati extended the approach across all its outer islands between 2012 and 2025. Coordinated by the government agency responsible for climate change, it involves community-level field data collected by trained surveyors using mobile phones and tablets, uploaded to a national online database, and analyzed with government and non-government actors across sectors.

Purpose and use of findings: The overall aim is to ensure that vulnerability assessments are standardized and comparable across islands, informing decision-making at both national and subnational levels. The approach marked a shift away from traditional assessments, which often focused on a single sector or geography, toward more comprehensive assessments covering key sectors, ecosystems, and communities at the

island level. Its broader objectives are to increase methodological coherence, enable comparison of results across geographies and time, and make information available to decision-makers.

Factors influencing application: The rollout was government-led and received high-level political support. Under the 2019 Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Act, Kiribati National Expert Group on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, which includes representatives from government, CSOs, NGOs, and the private sector, is required to undertake regular IVA. Kiribati's NAP document, the Joint Implementation Plan for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (KJIP) 2019–2028, prioritizes "building technical capacities at national and sub-national levels to undertake broad based vulnerability assessment, including establish and strengthen programme of vulnerability assessment using the IVA". The application also benefited from regular reviews and revisions.

Key lessons and existing guidance: Sustaining and scaling up the approach requires greater investment in capacity building and peer exchange for learning. Digital technologies play a key role in facilitating data and information management, but resources like the national online database can be difficult to maintain over the long term due to staff turnover, licensing costs, and the technical IT expertise required.

Guidance: The Government of Kiribati is currently updating its IVA framework to incorporate lessons from more than a decade of application, alongside the latest thinking in IVRA.

Case Study #2: Tuvalu

1. Practical example and context: The Integrated Vulnerability Assessment (IVA) conducted in the Funafuti community and the Amatuku Islet, in May 2020, two of 14 locations covered nationally, carried out jointly by Tuvalu's Department of Climate Change and Disaster and the NAP Global Network under the US In Country NAP Support Program (IISD). It covered a densely populated urban atoll community of around 1,544 people across seven sectors and five livelihood assets (35 subsectors, roughly 650 possible vulnerability issues).

2. Purpose and use of findings: The IVA feeds Tuvalu's NAP process, specifically the options identification and appraisal phase. Priority issues, water storage, coastal erosion,

income insecurity, evacuation centres, marine conservation financing, were compiled into a report, reviewed by a Technical Working Group, then validated with the community, producing a harmonised "lived" and "learned" evidence base to guide national and subnational planning and donor engagement, not to select adaptation options itself.

3. Enabling factors and challenges: Enablers included a structured multi criteria analysis linking local and national data, digital dashboards, and a two- stage technical plus community validation process that built legitimacy. Challenges included gaps in TWG expert coverage, disagreements between technical and community views (notably on evacuation centres), and information overload, with communities requesting more training and more than five priority issues.

4. Key lessons and existing guidance: Combining bottom up and top down perspectives through MCA is a replicable prioritisation model, with local priorities often proving nationally significant. The core reference is How Integrated Vulnerability Assessments Support NAP Processes in the Pacific Region, NAP Global Network.

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References and further reading

Dekens, J. (2023). *Using climate risk assessment to measure adaptation success at the national level: Preliminary lessons from 12 countries* (NAP Global Network report). International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/napgn-en-2023-climate-risk-assessment-measure-adaptation-success.pdf

Dumaru, P. (2019). *How integrated vulnerability assessments support NAP processes in the Pacific region* (NAP Global Network briefing note). International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/napgn-en-2019-how-ivas-support-nap-processes-in-the-pacific-region.pdf

Beauchamp, E., Leiter, T., Pringle, P., Brooks, N., Masud, S., & Guerdat, P. (2024). *Toolkit for monitoring, evaluation, and learning for national adaptation plan processes* (NAP Global Network & Adaptation Committee toolkit). International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/napgn-en-2024-mel-toolkit-nap-processes.pdf [Note: includes guidance on MEL consideration during IVRAs for the NAP process]

Selected country examples of IVRAs in NAP processes supported by the NAP Global Network

Six district-level Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments (CCVAs) for Ghana, representing Ghana's six agro-ecological zones. The six districts are: Kassena Nankana, New Juaben South, Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai, Kintampo, Cape Coast, and Bekwai.

Zoungrana, B. J. & Ouedraogo, K. (2023). *Regional approach to adaptation to climate change in Burkina Faso: Study of the Central Plateau region* (NAP Global Network sNAPshot country brief). International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/napgn-en-reginal-approach-climate-change-adaptation-burkina-faso.pdf

Government of Tuvalu. (2020). *Tuvalu integrated vulnerability assessment report: Amatuku Islet, Funafuti*. Government of Tuvalu & NAP Global Network/International Institute for Sustainable Development. https://napglobalnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/napgn-en-2020-Tuvalu-IVA-report-Amatuku-Islet.pdf

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