

Methodology for developing the “State of Adaptation Action by Parties” (SoA) country profiles

1. Scope

The SoA country profiles include information on the adaptation actions taken by each country that is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and/or the Paris Agreement. They are unique in that they provide detailed and comprehensive information by country, including developed and developing, along the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle. They include information on adaptation action undertaken, in progress or planned as reported in adaptation-relevant national reports and communications submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat.

2. Elements of the country profile template

The elements of the country profile template reflect the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle: climate risk and impact assessments; adaptation planning; adaptation implementation; and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the template contains an element on means of implementation, including information on adaptation finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building, and an element with information on cross-cutting aspects. The information entries within the different elements reflect the principles for adaptation as well as the recommended elements of adaptation action and reporting as contained in relevant decisions and guidelines such as decisions 1/CP.16, paragraphs 14; 5/CP.17, paragraphs 2, 3 and annex; 6/CP.25, paragraphs 46, 47, 48; 17/CP.8, paragraphs 3, 5, 28- 35, 44, 47, 53; 18/CMA.1, paragraphs 106-114, 116-117; 9/CMA.1; 3/CMA.4, paragraph 10 and the technical guidelines for the NAP process.³

3. Sources of information

The SoA country profiles draw information exclusively from national reports and communications submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. These include national communications, nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications, national adaptation plans, and biennial transparency reports.

4. Approach to the collection of information for specific entries of the country profile template

- a. World region: for consistency purposes, the classification of countries into the six world regions replicates the classification applied by the [NDC registry](#).
- b. Special climate-relevant geographic characteristics: the listed geographical characteristics are those commonly mentioned as making a country particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The sources in the following table have been used to determine the classification of a country into any of the categories:

Category	Source
Small island developing state	List of SIDS by the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States
Low-lying coast	Magnan, A.K. et al. (2022) Sea level rise risks and societal adaptation benefits in low-lying coastal areas. In: Nature. Scientific reports. 12:10677. Available at https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-14303-w
High mountains	Hock, R., G. Rasul, C. Adler, B. Cáceres, S. Gruber, Y. Hirabayashi, M. Jackson, A. Käb, S. Kang, S. Kutuzov, Al. Milner, U. Molau, S. Morin, B. Orlove, and H. Steltzer, 2019: High Mountain Areas. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate

	<p>[H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 131–202. Available at https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/3/2022/03/04_SROC_C_Ch02_FINAL.pdf</p> <p>Particularly figures 2.1 and 2.3</p>
Arid/semi-arid areas	<p>Mirzabaev, A., L.C. Stringer, T.A. Benjaminsen, P. Gonzalez, R. Harris, M. Jafari, N. Stevens, C.M. Tirado, and S. Zakieldein, 2022: Cross-Chapter Paper 3: Deserts, Semiarid Areas and Desertification. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Löschke, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 2195–2231. Available at https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGII_CCP3.pdf.</p>

c. Key climate hazards: The list of key climate hazards is based on the [IPCC 6th Assessment Report](#).

d. Means of implementation: The information contained in this section speaks to the actions taken by a country, or the support received, to develop strategies, plans and other enabling factors suitable for attracting adaptation finance and technology. It also provides information on sample cases of technology transfer and capacity-building activities undertaken in a country. It does not provide quantitative information on adaptation finance flows since the way information on this is provided in national reports differs significantly in scope and quality.

5. Classification of adaptation action according to the degree of availability/ implementation

For many of the information entries, the country profiles classify an adaptation activity or a product/service as either being “available”, “in progress” or “planned” in the respective country. The following definitions have been applied for each category:

- “Available” = Activities/ services that have been implemented/completed; plans/strategies that are publicly available in the form of official documents
- “In progress” = Activities/plans that are under advanced development/implementation, but have not yet been completed
- “Planned” = Activities towards which significant planning and preparatory work has been completed, but which have not yet started. Activities which are classified as “needed” or “desired” by a country, but towards which no planning action has been started are not included in this category.

6. Special case: Member states of the European Union

The Member States of the European Union represent a special case in that they not only submit national reports as individual Parties to the UNFCCC but also joint reports as the European Union. Therefore, the interactive portal contains country profiles for each individual EU Member State as well as a profile for the European Union. Cross-references are included where information overlaps or in cases in which a country takes on duties as part of an overarching EU effort, such as the EU adaptation strategy and related monitoring and reporting processes.

7. Validation of the country profile information

Each country has been provided with the opportunity to validate the information contained in its country profile before it has been uploaded to the online portal for the first time. The completed profiles have been shared with the respective UNFCCC national focal point(s) and adaptation contact point(s), along with a deadline for validating the accuracy of the information contained therein. The profiles have been published on the interactive portal only after feedback from the country has been received or the validation deadline has passed. In the future, national focal points and adaptation contact points will be notified any time the information of their respective profile will be updated (see section 8.). Any further concerns or requests related to the country profiles can be submitted to the Adaptation Committee at any time via the following email: ac@unfccc.int.

8. Updating of the country profile information

The information contained in the country profiles will be updated on a rolling basis each time a Party submits a new national report or communication to the UNFCCC secretariat. The respective national focal point(s) and adaptation contact point(s) will be informed about the update and have the opportunity to share any feedback via ac@unfccc.int.