

Seventeen meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 24 to 27 February 2020

Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 17th meeting, will be invited consider the information regarding progress made on the inventory (section 2), draft guiding questions for the mandated submissions (section 3), possible scope for the technical paper (section 4) and possible next steps (section 5).

1. Introduction and background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), in its decision 11/CMA.1, requested the AC, in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (NWP), users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop by June 2020 and to regularly update an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation, and to make the information available on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP).
2. It invited Parties and observer organizations to submit via the UNFCCC submission portal by February 2021 their views and information on the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support.
3. The CMA also requested the AC, with the engagement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II, as appropriate, to prepare, drawing on the inventory referred to in paragraph 1 above and the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above, a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application, as well as on the related gaps, good practices, lessons learned and guidelines, for consideration and further guidance by the SBSTA at its 57th session (November 2022) in the context of its consideration of the report of the AC.
4. At its 15th meeting, the AC agreed on the following time line to respond to this mandate:
 - a) In the first half of 2019, the AC sent a letter to the IPCC Working Group II with information on the mandate and the time line (which is the same letter as referred to in item 6.b above);
 - b) In the 2nd half of 2019 (AC 16) it considered a concept note¹ for the inventory and will engage with the LEG and the NWP thereafter;
 - c) The AC will finalize the inventory by June 2020, consider a scoping note for the technical paper at AC 17 and in the 2nd half of that year issue the call for submissions with the mandated due date of February 2021;
 - d) It will draft and review the technical paper throughout 2021 and finalize it before November 2022.

¹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/AC.16_needs_assessment_inventory_2019.08.15.pdf

5. At its 16th meeting, the AC requested the secretariat to present options for the inventory and visualizing them in mock-ups.

2. Inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

6. As per the mandate, the inventory will be integrated into the AKP. In terms of the content of the inventory, the secretariat will undertake a three-step approach:

- a) Review the data on tools, online portals and scientific articles that are already on the AKP database, ensure that hyperlinks are working and add respective metadata;
- b) Research new online portals, tools and scientific articles to be added to the database;
- c) Engage the LEG, NWP partner organizations, users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector to submit additional relevant methodologies for inclusion to the inventory.

7. To ensure that users can have easy access to the information compiled in the inventory, there will be two ways to access it.

- a) Option 1: A box will be added on the AKP landing page, leading to a page dedicated to the inventory (see figure 1). The separate page will also be accessible from the AC landing page. It will show general information about the inventory and display the dataset, including the possibilities to do a full text search or filter by geographic region, geographic scale, adaptation sector/theme, adaptation element, climatic hazard, or target group (see figure 2).

Figure 1. Mock-up of the revised landing page of the AKP

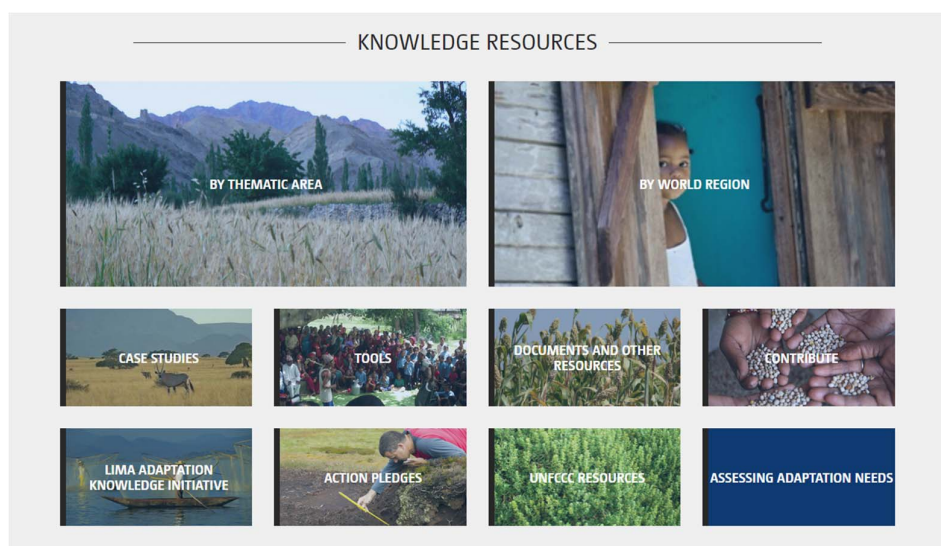
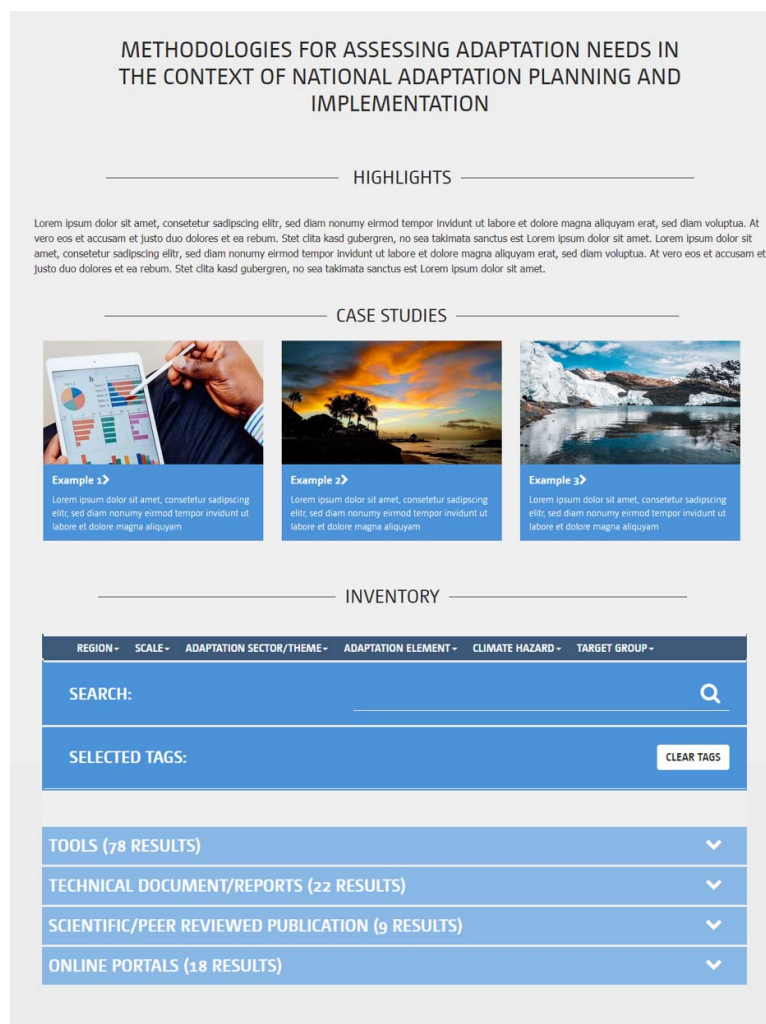
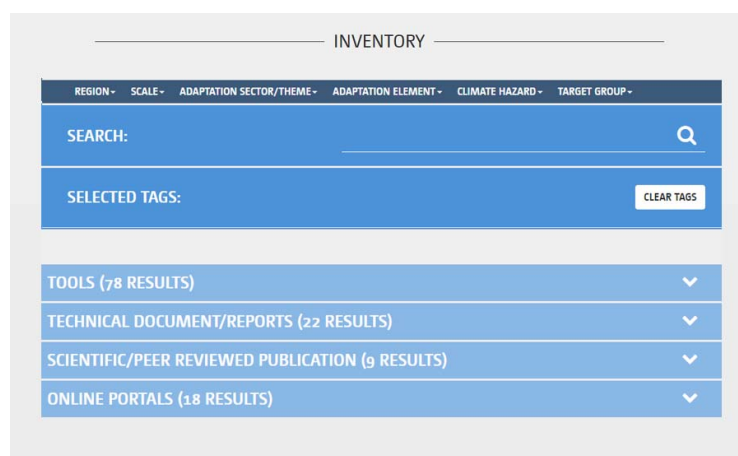


Figure 2. Mock-up of the revised landing page of the AKP

- b) Option 2: The dataset will also be accessible via the “search database” tab in the main AKP database (see figure 3).

Figure 3. Screenshot of the search function of the AKP

8. Considering the feedback from the NWP survey, the secretariat would work with the following stakeholders to ensure the usefulness of the inventory:
- a) National and sub-national adaptation planners and policy makers, non-governmental organizations;
 - b) Users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector;
 - c) Constituted bodies under the UNFCCC, including the LEG, SCF, TEC, PCCB, Excom and CGE.
9. Cost implications for the above are low and can be absorbed by current resources. A pilot inventory can be prepared for display at SB 52 in June 2020.

3. Guiding questions for the call for submissions

10. To maximize the usefulness of the submissions, the AC may wish to agree on targeted questions that will provide the material needed for the technical paper. Examples of guiding questions could include:
- a) **Existing methodologies:** What concrete methodologies, guidelines and tools does your country/organization use to assess adaptation needs? For each, please specify, as applicable:
 - i) Is it open source or proprietary?
 - ii) How and where can it be accessed? What is needed to apply it (e.g. IT equipment, data, human resources, time investment)?
 - iii) What is it used for (e.g. stage of the project and geographical scale, sector)?
 - iv) What are the strengths and weaknesses?
 - b) **Selection/application:** How does your country/organization select and apply the most suitable methodology for its needs? Which of these guiding principles² and possibly others for the application of methodologies do you consider useful?
 - c) **Gaps, good practices and lessons learned:** In your country's/organizations' experience, what gaps, good practices and lessons learned exist in terms of developing, selecting and applying methodologies for assessing adaptation needs?
 - d) **Case studies:** Please provide one or two case studies that could be useful to other countries and that could be replicated.

² Guiding principles for methodologies for assessing adaptation needs previously identified by the AC:

- a) Relevance – Methodologies should be capable of facilitating assessments leading to information that is meaningful to decision makers and practitioners, including at the appropriate spatial scale and for the relevant time horizon;
- b) Flexibility – Methodologies should accommodate a wide range of data availability, technical and institutional capacities in developing country Parties;
- c) Practicality – Methodologies should focus on indicators/metrics that are relatively easy to measure, and ideally could be aggregated and compared across scales;
- d) Applicability and cost – Methodologies should be applicable with limited financial, technical and institutional capacity to not place an undue burden on developing country Parties;
- e) Adaptability and adoptability – Methodologies should be adapted and adopted easily to suit national and local circumstances;
- f) Being facilitative of the next step – Methodologies are not an end in themselves but should be useful towards taking further action;
- g) Participation and inclusiveness – Methodologies should ensure consideration of all relevant stakeholders;
- h) Clarity – The purpose for performing a needs assessment should be clear.

4. Possible scope of the technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

11. The technical paper could have the following parts:
 - a) Background and introduction;
 - b) Overview of existing methodologies and guidelines for assessing adaptation needs, including for assessing overarching, action, finance, technology and capacity-building needs. This could be organized by sector or process;
 - c) Application of methodologies, including principles for selecting the most appropriate ones for different circumstances and purposes;
 - d) Gaps, good practices and lessons learned;
 - e) Conclusion and issues for consideration by SBSTA.
 - f) Annex (table summarizing the methodologies reviewed according to key characteristics, such as strengths/weaknesses/geographical and time scale applicability, etc.)

5. Next steps

12. The AC may wish to consider and agree on:
 - a) The concept for the inventory, including collaboration with the LEG and NWP partner organizations who could contribute methodologies and tools and suggestions for additional pre-selected filters;
 - b) Request the secretariat to prepare a pilot inventory by June 2020 accordingly;
 - c) Guiding questions for the submissions and to request the secretariat to issue the call accordingly;
 - d) Scope and structure for the technical paper and to request the secretariat to develop an annotated outline, including a plan for engaging the IPCC and other stakeholders such as the LEG, PCCB, NWP as well as the WMO by AC 18.
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