

Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 19th meeting, will be invited to take note of progress made and consider the outline for the technical paper and the next steps, as appropriate.

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1. Background and mandate

1. The CMA, in its decision 11/CMA.1, requested the AC, in collaboration with the LEG, partner organizations of the 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. The pilot version of the inventory was launched in early July 2020 and remains open for more methodologies and case studies on an ongoing basis. The AKP is currently being upgraded for a better user experience.
3. The CMA further 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. The call for the submissions, including guiding questions, agreed by the AC was launched in November 2020 with a deadline of 28 February 2021.¹
4. The CMA also requested the AC, with the engagement of the IPCC Working Group II, as appropriate, to prepare, drawing on the inventory and the submissions, 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.

2. Scope of this document

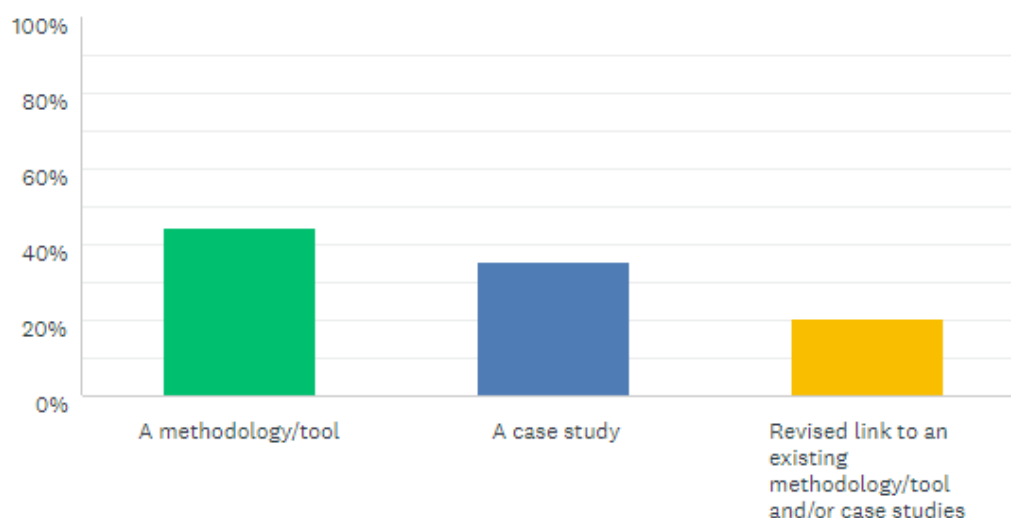
5. This document contains an update on the state of the inventory and the submissions received so far, as well as a draft outline of the technical paper and possible next steps.

3. Update on the state of the inventory of methodologies to assess adaptation needs

3.1. Progress made on the inventory contained on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal

6. The AC has so far (as of 2 March 2022) received a total of 79 methodologies/tools and case studies submitted through a survey template, developed to respond to the AC's mandate, and another 60 inputs that were submitted by one Party in a different format, which have also been included into the inventory. The survey format allowed for an automatic statistical display of the submissions received (see fig. 1 below and the annex).

¹¹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/adaptation-committee-call-for-submissions-methodologies-for-assessing-adaptation-needs>.

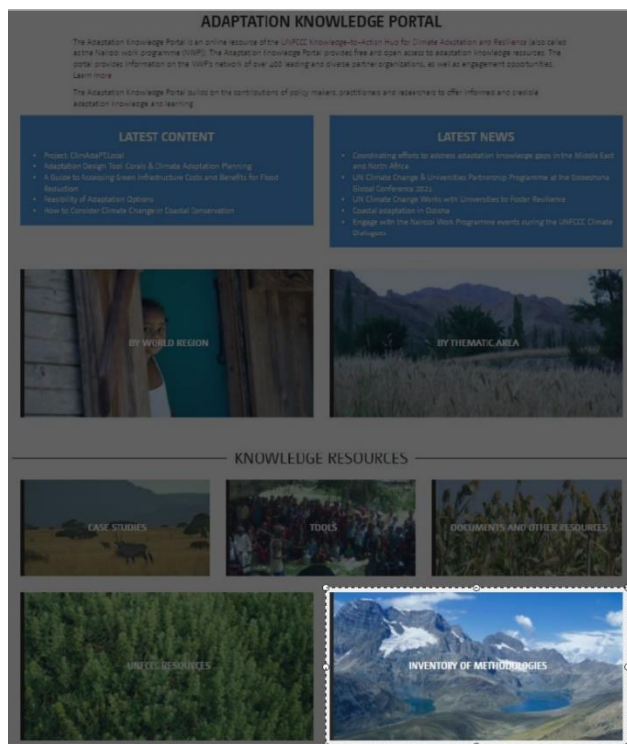
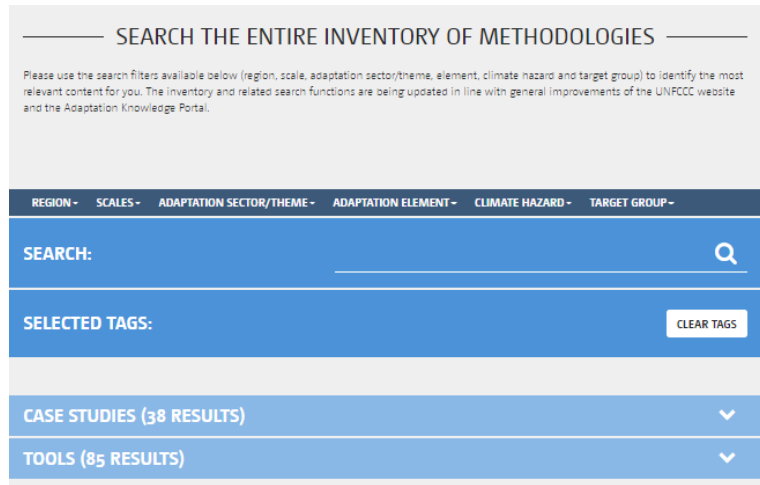
Figure 1. Methodologies/tools and case studies (79) submitted through the AC's survey

7. Out of the 79 submissions received through the survey template, 26 were submitted incomplete and a respective follow-up process, where possible, is taking place. The complete new and revised submissions were included in the inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs on the AKP, alongside the over 600 methodologies/tools and case studies that were already contained in the AKP.

8. A screening of the previously existing methodologies/tools and case studies revealed the need for a more extensive exercise to revise and archive outdated information, which is in progress. As an interim solution until the revision is finalized and older entries have been updated, the inventory on the AKP has been set to display only the latest entries, i.e. those received since 1 January 2020.² With this setting the inventory currently displays a total of 85 methodologies/tools and 38 case studies.

9. The overall content of the AKP, including the methodologies/tools and case studies included in the inventory, will be overhauled in 2021. In addition to the revision exercise, careful thought is being given to improvements in terms of technical and semantic refinements, in order to offer users the best results through better usability and updated targeted search criteria.

² <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/SearchAsses.aspx>.

Figure 2. The revised landing page of the AKP**Figure 3. Screenshot of the search function of the AKP**

4. Update on submissions received so far

10. As of 1 March 2021, eight submissions have been received, namely from Cuba, Nigeria, Paraguay on behalf of the AILAC group of countries, Portugal and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States, the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the World Farmers Organization. The submission deadline was 28 February 2021 but as the technical paper is only due in 2022, more submissions can be accommodated, and the call will be shared again through the NWP network and other channels.

11. **Cuba** outlines the adaptation priorities it has identified through an analysis of current and projected climate change impacts, and through the application of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation- based

approaches. It has carried out a technology need assessment and is engaged in local adaptation projects, although not in the preparation of a NAP. However, a "State Plan for Confronting Climate Change" (Tarea Vida) is in place, which involves more specific planning by governments at a provincial level, under which sectoral and local needs have been identified. The submission notes that the methodologies to assess adaptation needs are manifold and depend on multiple factors including activity, scale, timing and setting.

12. **Nigeria** notes that it uses a bottom up approach to assess adaptation needs, guided by the principles of participation and inclusiveness, adaptability and adoptability, and clarity. The application of the corresponding methodologies is contingent on the availability of appropriate data, capacity building, appropriate IT equipment and effective collaborations.

13. **Paraguay on behalf of the AILAC group of countries** contextualizes adaptation needs from the perspective of the Paris Agreement, then provides some overall experiences by the group of countries, which are diverse. Almost all AILAC countries have made use of the general guidance provided in the context of the UNFCCC for the adaptation planning process, without applying specific existing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs. Building on the experience they have gained, some AILAC countries have developed their own specific methodologies and tools for assessing adaptation needs. Following the overall observations, the submission then continues with detailed responses by the countries to the guiding questions.

14. The submission by **Portugal and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its member States** contextualizes adaptation needs and briefly summarizes work on adaptation needs undertaken under the UNFCCC. It touches upon the bigger picture of needs assessment, pointing out how an understanding of available adaptation objectives and their interactions with other policy objectives can help identify priority areas of intervention. The diversity of context- and issue-specific approaches applied in the EU is addressed and linkages to work undertaken beyond the UNFCCC process are pointed out.

15. The **WFP** reports that it relies on three main methodologies that can help inform effective climate adaptation project design, based on analyses and assessments of the needs of the most vulnerable. These methodologies are climate and food security analyses; community consultations; and capacity assessments. Each of these methodologies is reliant on a different scope that can involve one or more analytical methods, ranging from qualitative to quantitative techniques. Specifically, the application of the climate and food security analysis methodology has allowed the organization to identify the three main types of analysis, which it outlines in the submission with their respective strengths, methods and weaknesses: Historical analysis, climate risk analysis, climate change projections, plus a flexible analysis.

16. **IFAD** introduces a toolbox that it has developed in the second phase of its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme. The toolbox is set to improve climate change mainstreaming in its portfolio. This toolbox follows four logical steps: 1. Identification of the climate risks; 2. Risk impact assessment; 3. Adaptation solution screening; and 4. Monitoring of the impacts of the solutions. The submission describes a selection of newly developed and publicly available tools under each of the four steps of a project's life cycle.

17. The submission from the **Commonwealth Secretariat** presents information collected by the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub through its Commonwealth National Climate Finance Advisers by country – Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Tonga; and by project – the CommonSensing Project. A variety of approaches used in the Caribbean and Pacific regions is presented, ranging from the community, subnational, national to the regional level. The submission also provides information on the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub.

18. The World Farmers' Organization sent two submissions: The first one presents methodologies collected by the WFO from some of its members, addressing the guiding questions. The second submission contains information on the WFO's "Climakers" Initiative, which aims to bring together farmers and other relevant stakeholders globally that are engaged in food systems. The objective of the initiative is to hear directly from the farmers about their needs, constraints, expectations and solutions with regard to climate change adaptation.

5. Draft outline for technical paper

19. As mandated by the CMA, the AC, with the engagement of the IPCC Working Group II, as appropriate, will prepare, drawing on the inventory and the submissions, 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*. The technical paper will be developed for consideration and further guidance by the SBSTA at its 57th session (November 2022).³

20. It could comprise the following parts, unless the analysis of the submissions due by the end of February 2021 reveal that the structure would require adjustments:

- a) Background and introduction
 - i) Mandate
 - ii) Target audience
 - iii) Work undertaken by the AC before and in preparation of the paper
- b) Overview of existing methodologies and guidelines for assessing adaptation needs
(This section will reflect on information pertaining to sector, spatial scale and geographic region)
 - i) Assessing adaptation needs related to action
 - ii) Assessing adaptation needs relating to finance
 - iii) Assessing adaptation needs relating to technology
 - iv) Assessing adaptation needs relating to capacity building
 - v) Assessing other adaptation needs
 - vi) Assessing overarching adaptation needs
- c) Application of methodologies and reasons/principles for selection
- 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.)

6. Next steps

21. The AC may wish to request the secretariat to prepare a more comprehensive analysis of the methodologies contained in the inventory for consideration at AC 20.

22. It may also wish to request the secretariat to prepare a first draft of the technical paper for consideration at AC 21, and for engaging with the IPCC WGII, with a view to finalizing it by AC 22 in the second half of 2022.

³ Following a decision by the Bureau of the COP/CMA/CMP of 25 August 2020 to “maintain the original timelines for mandates and submission deadlines to the extent possible”, the secretariat is working with the originally scheduled time line for this mandate, rather than with the session number. See message to Parties, observer states and observer organizations at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/message_to_parties_and_observers_outcomes_of_cop_bureau%20meeting.pdf.

Annex: Overview of methodologies received through the survey template

This annex provides an overview of the 79 methodologies/tools and case studies received through the survey template. While this only represents just over half of the new methodologies, case studies and tools received, it could still serve as an indicative glimpse of what methodologies are currently available.

Figure 1. Cross-cutting elements in the adaptation policy cycle

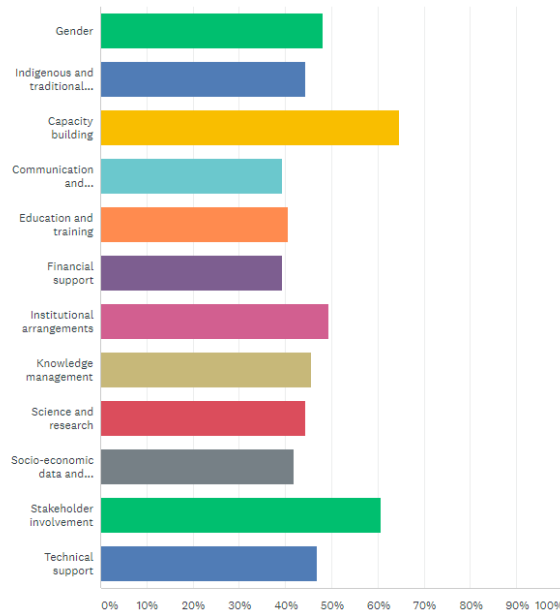


Figure 2. Spatial geographical scale

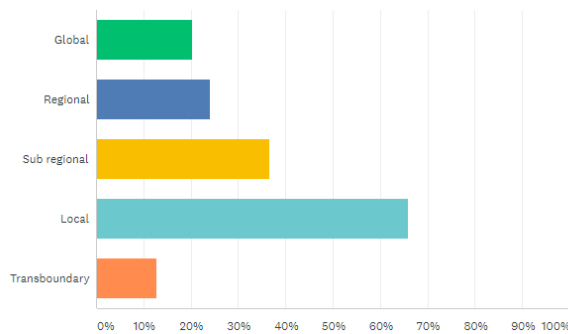


Figure 3. Stage in the adaptation policy cycle

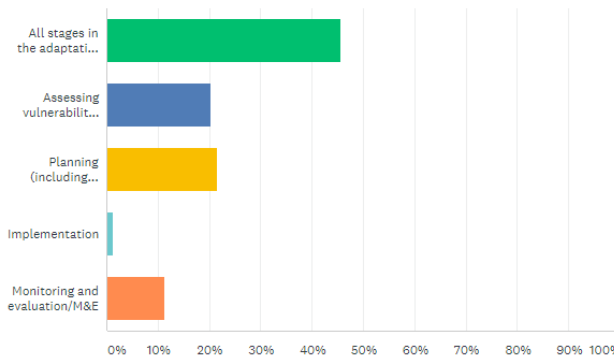
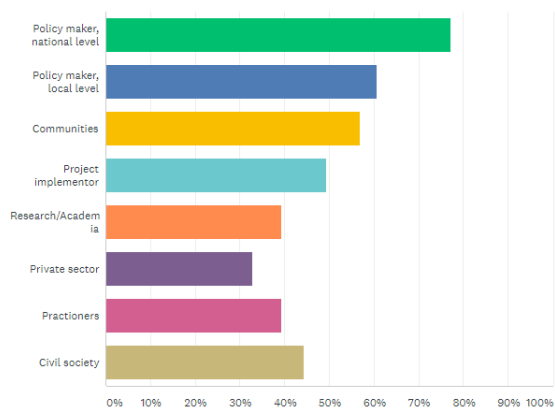


Figure 4. Target group

Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	2 March 2021	AC 19 The AC will be invited to take note of progress made and discuss next steps.

Keywords: adaptation to climate change, Resilience, implementation, Developing country Parties.
