

This policy brief ...

The Paris Agreement calls for enhanced transparency of adaptation action and an assessment of collective progress via a Global Stocktake. This policy brief outlines how country-specific monitoring and evaluation (M&E) can provide valuable information on adaptation actions and results and how this supports the implementation of the Paris Agreement. Based on good practice examples from pioneering countries, recommendations are provided how to develop national adaptation M&E systems that can track progress and inform decision making.

Country-specific Monitoring & Evaluation of adaptation provides essential information needed to fulfil the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement calls for enhanced transparency of adaptation action and stipulates a Global Stocktake of collective progress. Yet, information on adaptation actions and effectiveness is often lacking. In light of the increasing risks posed by climate change, it is important to understand the progress in implementing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the results achieved by adaptation policies and actions, including the NAP process. To do so, several countries have started developing or are already operating adaptation monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems.ⁱ Often based on existing data and monitoring mechanisms, they serve to obtain a more comprehensive view of adaptation progress. The resulting information informs planning and policy making and can assist in meeting provisions of the Paris Agreement regarding transparency, including on adaptation, and regarding the Global Stocktake.

The Paris Agreement requires information on adaptation progress

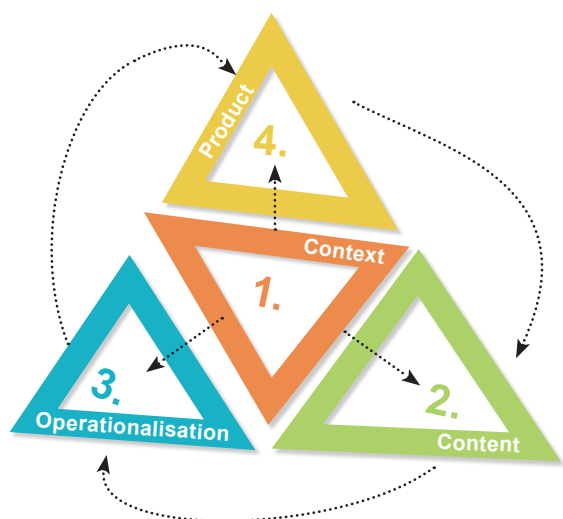
The Paris Agreement requests countries to provide information necessary to track progress made in achieving Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and also information related to climate change impacts and adaptation (Article 13). In addition, Article 7 commits countries to submit Adaptation Communications which may include information on adaptation plans and actions. Such information could serve as input to the Global Stocktake which assesses the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the Paris Agreement (Article 14).

The Global Stocktake shall, inter alia, review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided, and the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group have been mandated to develop methodologies for this purpose.

Further action is needed to fulfil transparency provisions of the Paris Agreement

To date, the information needs stipulated by the Paris Agreement, particularly on adaptation actions and effectiveness, are rarely met.ⁱⁱ Whilst almost half of all (I)NDCs with adaptation component make reference to

Building blocks for the development of an adaptation M&E system



Source: GIZ & IISD (2015): *Developing national adaptation M&E systems: A guidebook*.

In response to demand from partner countries, GIZ in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and IISD developed an M&E guidebook which outlines key considerations for the development of country-specific adaptation M&E systems.^{vii} It is structured along four building blocks:

- **Context:** what is the policy context and what is the purpose of undertaking M&E?
- **Content:** what information is required to address the purpose?
- **Operationalization:** how will the information be gathered and what are the institutional arrangements?
- **Communication:** how is the generated information used and disseminated?

The guidebook is non prescriptive since there is no one-size-fits all approach to M&E. It puts particular emphasis on clarifying the **purpose and usefulness of M&E** (further information on M&E purposes is available in the [Adaptation M&E Navigator](#)^{viii}). Explicit reference is made to the process of National Adaptation Planning (NAP). The M&E guidebook is available in English, French and Spanish.

Monitoring & Evaluation of adaptation, most of them only state its importance without giving further details. Less than 20 (I)NDCs elaborate on how to track the implementation of their NDC adaptation components. Only 15% include some form of quantitative adaptation goals.ⁱⁱⁱ

Adaptation M&E needs to be country-specific

Since adaptation is context specific, there is no single and universal indicator to assess adaptation.^{iv} This was reaffirmed by the Adaptation Metrics

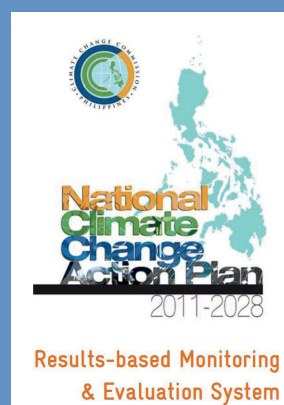
Conference which took place ahead of COP22.^v Accordingly, adaptation M&E systems need to be tailored to the national context and the respective monitoring purpose. There is no one-size-fits all approach to adaptation M&E.

Countries can learn from good practices of early movers

Over 20 countries have already engaged in the development of adaptation M&E systems including Cambodia, Columbia, France, Germany, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, the Philippines, South Africa and the United Kingdom.^{vi}

The Philippines, for instance, are putting in practice a results-based M&E system to measure the implementation of their national climate change action plan and the achievement of intended outcomes (see box below). Brazil and Togo, amongst others, are developing M&E systems as part of their National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process (see box on Togo, page 3, left). The experiences gained by early movers provide orientation for other countries. Guidance for the development of context-specific adaptation M&E systems is also available (see box above).

The Philippines' Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation System^{ix}



The Philippines' National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) centres around seven strategic priorities including food security and water sufficiency. To monitor its implementation and results, the Climate Change Commission, supported by GIZ on behalf of the Federal Ministry for the Environment (BMUB), developed a results-based M&E system. Outputs and outcomes along with indicators were defined for every strategic priority. The prioritization of indicators considered a number of criteria including data availability and coherence with sectoral performance indicators in order to build on, rather than duplicate, existing M&E systems. The implementation occurs in a phased approach initially starting with key output indicators and moving to outcome indicators as adaptation actions unfold. The M&E system is complemented by the introduction of Climate Change Expenditure Tagging. This combination allows the Philippines to monitor its spending on climate change and the achieved results.

Lessons to be considered for country-specific adaptation M&E systems

Based on the experiences gained so far the following recommendations should be considered by countries which are seeking to monitor their adaptation progress:

1. **Tailor the M&E system to the national context.** The policy landscape and climate risk profile differ substantially between countries. Therefore, adaptation M&E systems need to be tailored to a country's unique context. In fact, a review of ten national adaptation M&E systems showed that each used a distinctly different approach to best fit their national needs.ⁱ
2. **Don't start with indicators; start with identifying the information needed and how it can reach the target audience.** For M&E to make a difference it's important that the generated information is linked to planning and decision making and reaches the intended audiences. In the United Kingdom, for example, the Adaptation Sub-Committee is

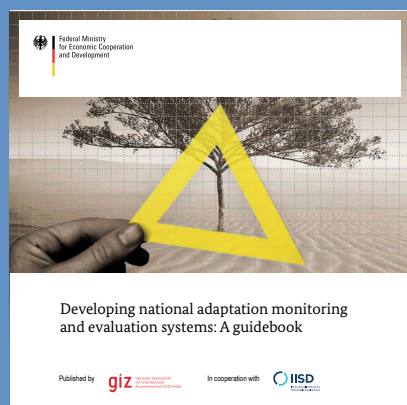
providing policy recommendations based on the analysis of adaptation progress. In the Philippines, the release of the climate change evaluation reports will be synchronized with the consultation phase of the National Development Plan.

3. **Utilize existing data sources and monitoring systems.** Relevant data is often already available from government agencies and academia. The Philippines and Germany started their M&E development with an inventory of existing data sources and prioritized possible indicators based on data availability. This helps to reduce resource requirements and enhances the sustainability of M&E.
4. **Address M&E as part of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process** which aims to integrate adaptation into development planning and reduce vulnerability. 54 countries mention the NAP process in their (I)NDC.^{xii} Reporting, monitoring and review are an integral part of the NAP process. Togo, for example, used the M&E guidebook by GIZ

& IISD (2015; see box page 2) to develop an M&E strategy as part of the NAP process (see box below).

5. **Explore linkages between levels of government.** National level action is important to facilitate adaptation actions on the ground. This vertical integration is also key for the NAP process.^x There are multiple ways to integrate subnational adaptation information into countries' national M&E systems.^{xi} For example, the UK and the Philippines are using data from local government monitoring systems.
6. **Don't hesitate to start with a simple M&E system and expand it over time.** Morocco, for example, has started its adaptation M&E by focusing on a limited number of priority sectors (water, agriculture and biodiversity) in two regions. After the successful piloting Morocco is now expanding it to additional regions. The Philippines are rolling out their results-based M&E system in a phased manner moving from process to outcome monitoring.

An M&E system for the NAP process in Togo



Togo has launched its NAP process in 2014. The M&E guidebook^{vii} was used to provide inputs during the elaboration of the NAP document and especially the M&E strategy. The general approach is to start simple and enhance the M&E system over time. The purpose of the M&E system is to monitor different 'dimensions' of the NAP process through a set of indicators including, for example, 'Number of sector strategies integrating climate change adaptation between 2017 and 2021' or 'Increase in the number of planned and financed adaptation measures'. The development of outcome indicators in close coordination with sector ministries is considered for the future. GIZ is supporting the NAP process in Togo on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Considering these lessons helps countries to develop and operate useful M&E systems that inform adaptation planning and implementation. Indeed, understanding results of adaptation actions is crucial to track progress towards adaptation goals including those stated in NDCs. As such, country-specific adaptation M&E systems are important tools to help fulfil the information requirements of the Paris Agreement.

Endnotes

- i. GIZ & IISD (2014). [Monitoring and Evaluating Adaptation at Aggregated Levels: A Comparative Analysis of Ten Systems](#).
- ii. OECD (2016). Communicating Progress in National and Global Adaptation to Climate Change.
- iii. GIZ (2016). [Climate Change Policy Brief: \(I\)NDC adaptation components and NAP](#).
- iv. Leiter, T. & Pringle, P. (2017). Pitfalls and potentials of measuring climate change adaptation through adaptation metrics. Adaptation Perspective Series, UNEP DTU.
- v. Kingdom of Morocco (2016): Submission to the [Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement at COP22](#) contained in FCCC/ APA/2016/INF.2/Add.1.
- vi. Detailed factsheets of national adaptation M&E systems are available at www.AdaptationCommunity.net under [national-level M&E](#).
- vii. GIZ & IISD (2015). [Developing national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems: A guidebook](#).
- viii. GIZ (2016). [The Adaptation M&E Navigator](#). Also as chapter in: [Evaluating Climate Change Action for Sustainable Development](#).
- ix. Climate Change Commission of the Philippines (2016): Results-based Monitoring & Evaluation System of the National Climate Change Action Plan.
- x. NAP Global Network (2016). [Vertical Integration in National Adaptation Plan \(NAP\) Processes: A guidance note for linking national and sub-national adaptation](#).
- xi. Leiter, T. (2015). [Linking monitoring and evaluation of adaptation to climate change across scales: Avenues and practical approaches](#). New Directions for Evaluation, 147.
- xii. GIZ (2016). Adaptation M&E Toolbox. Available at www.AdaptationCommunity.net under Monitoring & Evaluation.

About the GIZ Project ‘Effective Adaptation Finance – M&E Adapt’

The GIZ project ‘Effective Adaptation Finance – M&E Adapt’ has developed the [Adaptation M&E Toolbox](#)^{xii} which includes innovative methods and approaches for the assessment of adaptation actions at national and local level. On behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the project supports developing countries in the design and operationalization of national adaptation M&E systems. It also facilitates learning through international exchange and capacity building.

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