Adaptation measurables and group goals

Climate Security National Foresight Group

Report 2

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This report explores adaptation and resilience goals in various contexts, using pre-established frameworks as the basis for discussion surrounding 'good adaptation'. The briefing also outlines desired outcomes of the Climate Security National Foresight Group (CSNFG) using the Resilience Framework as a guideline. It finishes with a series of summary questions for the group.

Reports by this group will provide key insights on topics of importance tasked by this group or key stakeholders. They intend to provide a context and start point for discussions. This specific report is useful for groups interested in understanding the outline of cascade risks and how groups can begin to consider how to map and understand these risks.

Contents

Operationalising Adaptation Goals

Adaptation and resilience are suggested to be difficult to measure due to the need for adaptation measures to be implemented locally and collaboratively across multiple sectors.

Defining and measuring adaptation goals is challenging for several reasons

1. **Methodological difficulties:** due to the nature of climate adaptation (i.e., anticipatory *and* reactionary, based on the threat or impacts of climate events), there is no standardised baseline that can be used for comparison – goals and 'good' adaptation are hard to quantify

2. **Data availability:** a lack of data availability inhibits the ability to assess adaptation outcomes and necessary interventions continually and effectively

3. **Defining adaptation:** there is limited consensus surrounding the definition of adaptation, which often encompasses multiple forms of intervention, from socio-economic intervention to spreading awareness of climate risks

4. **Financial constraints:** some developing countries do not have the financial capacity for adaptation intervention

The Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and Measuring Progress using MELs

The Global Goal on adaptation (GGA) was established in 2015 under the Paris agreement (Article 7).

The global goal of adaptation has three main components, which are based on the need to sustainably develop and quickly and efficiently respond to climate hazards and risks:

1. Enhancing adaptive capacity
2. Strengthening resilience
3. Reducing vulnerability to climate change

It is suggested that the GGA must be informed by risks, solutions, and limits to adaptation in local areas.

The GGA represents the foundation from which a global adaptation monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) framework can be established. An effective MEL system assesses, and tracks progress made against the GGA and offers insights into lessons learned through the implementation of adaptation. Operative measurement of adaptation progress should also utilise key themes and cross-cutting considerations, ensuring that frameworks are informed by science and are reflective of all key elements for 'good' adaptation.

Core elements of an operational MEL under the GGA include:

- **A vision or goal:** identifying a goal allows for the appropriate data to be collected and appropriately analysed, typically centred around a theory of change. In the case of the GGA, three main goals (outlined above) were identified.

- **Theories and/or dimensions of change:** the conceptualisation of the intervention (i.e., the logic behind the intervention) including assumptions, activities needed to be carried out, outputs, outcomes, and impact. There are three levels at which the changes made can be identified. These are through the adaptation policy lifecycle (see figure 1; VRA focuses on vulnerability risk assessment). Progress can also be evidenced by two further levels; these are themes and cross-cutting considerations. These are discussed further below.

- **Information sources:** effective MEL systems require multiple sources of information to triangulate evidence. Sources can include both primary and secondary data, as well as expert opinion. The GGA centres around global progress, and as such is less suited to local, regional and national data sources but instead should rely on the realities of regional, national and sub-national MEL information.

Themes (taken from GGA background information)

Potential theme categorisations for the measurement of progress were suggested from GGA workshops. It should be noted that these are working themes, not yet finalised (the GGA framework is set to be prepared for the COP28 in 2023). The themes suggested are:

- Water
- Food and agriculture
- Cities
- Settlements
- Key infrastructure
- Health
- Poverty and livelihoods
- Terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems
- Oceans and coastal ecosystems
- Cultural heritage
- Mountain Regions
- Biodiversity

Cross-cutting Considerations (taken from GGA background information)

Further, cross-cutting considerations were discussed during GGA workshops. These identified key areas focused on considering:

- *Country-driven approaches:* adaptation goals should be contextualised for specific countries
- *Gender-responsive approaches:* goals should consider climate impacts faced by women
- *Participation and transparency:* goals should be reflective of the outcomes from participation

- *Local knowledge systems:* goals may reflect the eight principles presented by the World Resource Institute
- *Metrics and targets:* goals should be set at local, regional and national levels and may utilise existing frameworks (i.e., the Sendai Framework, SDGs). When setting targets, the aim is to find common ground between national and global goals, whilst also considering indicators at national and sub-national levels
- *Social justice:* social transformation should be reflected at all levels. Can be measured quantitatively, even if qualitative in nature
- *Best available science and science-based indicators:* 'good' adaptation measurement is highlighted in IPCC reports
- *Traditional and indigenous knowledge:* consideration of local adaptation needs is key for 'good' adaptation
- *Vulnerable groups:* the needs of vulnerable groups should be assessed, with the aim of prioritising the protection of these groups
- Human rights
- *Nature-based solutions:* should be prioritised when considering 'good' adaptation
- Socioeconomic policies
- *Intersectional approaches:* adaptation intervention may also align with mitigation goals and as such, intersectional approaches should be prioritised when possible
- *Intergenerational equity:* future generations should also be considered when goal setting; the concept of a better life for all, not just survival
- Communities and ecosystems: indicators of progress should consider local areas
- *Disaster risk reduction:* goal setting may utilise the Sendai Framework
- Community-based adaptation
- Ecosystem-based adaptation

'Good' Adaptation Case Studies (taken from the UNDRR Global Adaptation Report 2023)

Adaptation goals and 'good' adaptation examples may be developed from previous adaptation interventions. The UNDRR GAR 2023 highlights adaptation goals and case studies in which 'good' adaptation has been implemented.

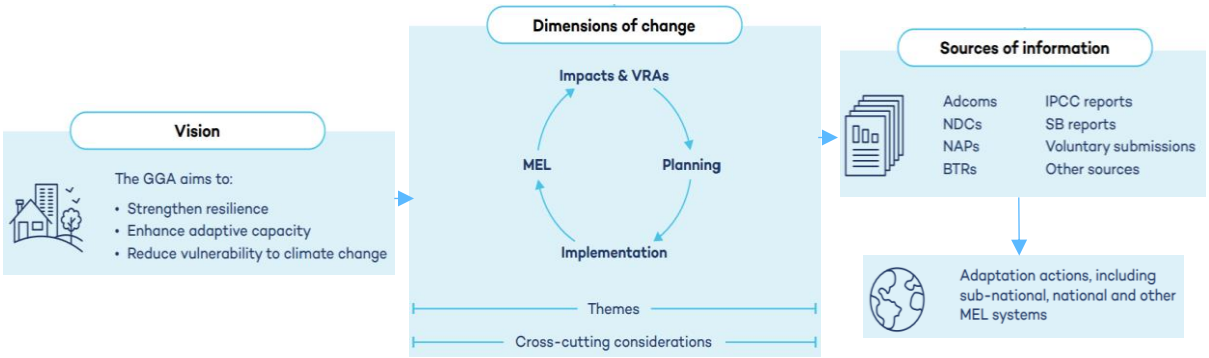

Figure 1: Representation of an operational MEL system. Taken from Beauchamp & Jozefiak (2023)

Examples of resilience deficits and good resilience approaches from UNDRR report

Resilience Deficit 3- Forced displacement and negative education outcomes
"According to the Internally Displace Monitoring Centre, of the 71 million people displaced at the end of 2022, 30 million were under the age of 18"

Goal- No goal mentioned; however, mobility is highlighted as a key resilience building measure

'Good Resilience' Case Study
Fiji's pre-emptive population-relocation programme utilised in-depth assessments and local community-consultative processes, in which decision making requires a 90% agreement among all sectors of the community. Most importantly, relocation of schools is prioritised. Further, the government developed a risk and vulnerability methodology to inform standard operating procedures for relocations, which are continually adapted.

Resilience Deficit 9- Increasing heat and poverty.
"When temperatures rise above 26°C, labour productivity begins to decline. At 34°C, productivity drops by 50 per cent"

Goal- Mitigative measures to protect lower- and middle-income countries from the impact of heat.

'Good Resilience' Case Study
The Maldives' approach centres around the diversification of economy, electricity, and water systems through the development of tourism focused strategy sustainable investment, the decentralisation of water management systems and investment in renewable energy.

Cross over between resilience framework and adaptation goals

CSNFG suggest a need for a specific approach for implementing 'good' adaptation that brings together the NAP3 with the Resilience Framework to anchor actions to current policy frameworks. These include goals for 2025 and 2030 to provide a focus. These tables highlight how the last section of Figure 1 by Beauchamps and Jozefiak on developing adaptation actions at national and sub-national levels is relevant and can be implemented.

By 2025

Themes	Action
Risk	• Clarify roles and responsibilities in the UK Government for each climate associated risk, to drive activity across the risk lifecycle (national)

	• To influence the resilience directorate to add in climate risks to the annual survey of public perceptions of risk, resilience, and preparedness (national and sub-national) • To influence the inclusion of climate risks in the measurement of socio-economic resilience, including how climate risks impact across communities and vulnerable groups to guide and inform decision making on risk and resilience (sub-national)
Skills	• Influence the National Exercising Programme to test plans, structures and skills associated with climate risks (national)

By 2030

Themes	Strategic Deliverable
Partnerships	• Act as a coordination point for the wider private sector to share guidance on resilience to support contingency planning and risk management associated with climate risks (national)
Investment	• Offer guidance to LRFs to support community organisations and individual householders, to help those people to make more informed decisions about investing in their own resilience and preparedness for climate associated risks (sub-national)

Summary questions for consideration

- No single agreed model or system for adaptation measures and the connected and cascade risks (individual and compound)

- Where does the accountability lie across multi agency relevant adaptation? Who's bucket does the return go in to? How does the need to measure and discuss adaptation fit within a national discussion and focus on mitigation?
- How does coordination work when there are many sectors and many agencies responsible for a cross-cutting adaptation?

- Across the different areas of accountability, where these have interdependencies (e.g. resilience framework, NAP 3 and sector statutory obligations), how do these interact positively without knocking or damaging each other?

- Where and how do we agree an accepted set of measures that can be built on and baselined for current and future adaptation work considering geographic, agency, sector focus and attention?

- How does this dock with current HMG focus on Net Zero measurement and reporting?

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