

Hands-on training workshop on enhancing institutional arrangements and effective implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework

Reporting climate change impacts and adaptation, including loss and damage following the BTR outline

Maldives

22-24 January 2024

Outline...the purpose of the presentation

The purpose of this presentation is to provide audience with:

1. An introduction to the Biennial Transparency Report's adaptation section (A-BTR) and,
2. Its role in adaptation reporting within the UNFCCC



As such, the presentation aims to answer the following questions:

1. What is biennial transparency report and why it is relevant to reporting adaptation?
2. How does the A-BTR fit into the broader picture of adaptation-relevant reporting instruments?
3. What is introduction of A-BTR intended to achieve?
4. What information should A-BTRs include?
5. Are countries ready to fulfil these requirements?
6. What can countries do to streamline their adaptation reporting?



What is the biennial transparency report, and why is it relevant to reporting on adaptation?

The Biennial Transparency Report (BTR) represents a key component of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF)

The ETF was established by Article 13 of the Paris Agreement and it is intended to enable the COP to track progress being towards achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

The BTR will operationalize the transfer of information from country parties to the UNFCCC, specifically about how they are implementing the different aspects of the Paris Agreement.

This would involve reporting on their climate actions across mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and the support they have provided and or received.



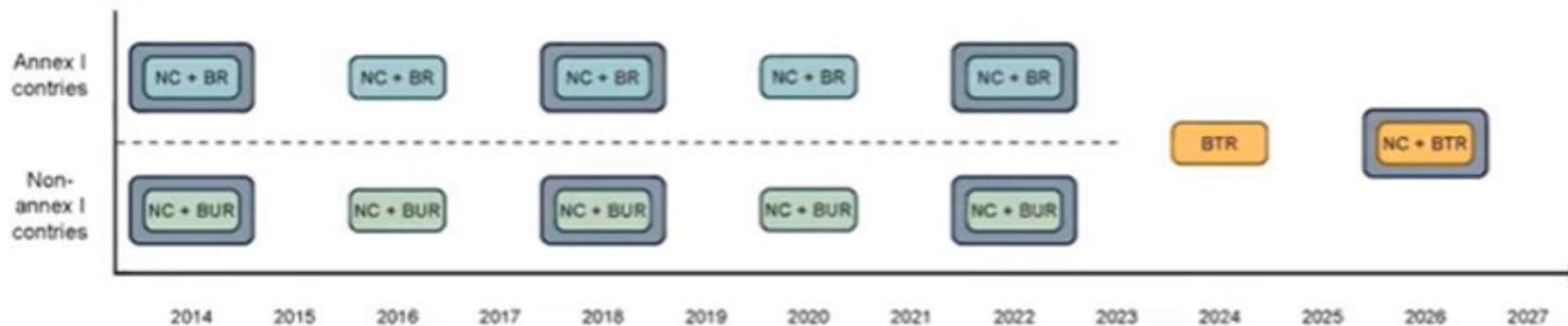
What is the biennial transparency report, and why is it relevant to reporting on adaptation?

The Enhanced Transparency Framework will first come into force on the 31st December 2024.

On this date, the Enhanced Transparency Framework will replace convention's transparency framework the Monitor Review Verification (MRV) system.

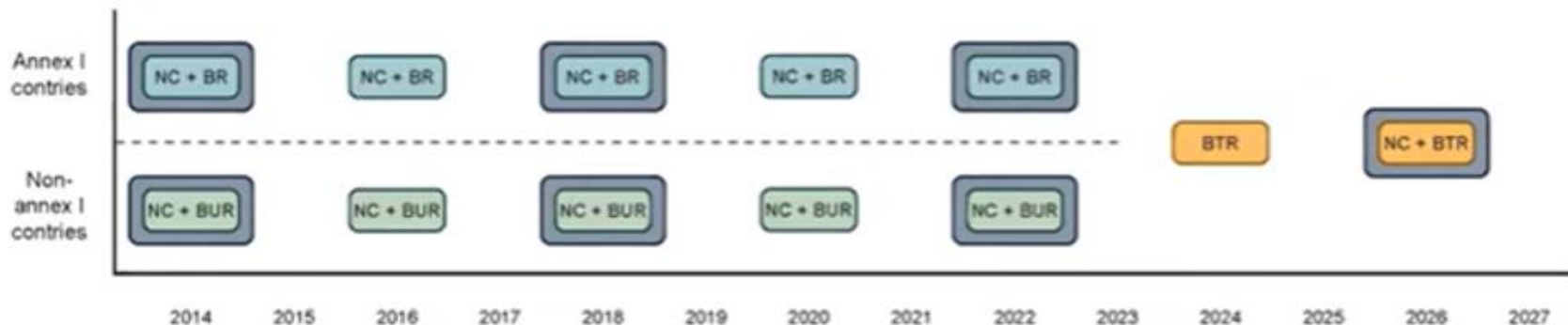
The BTR will replace both: Biennial Reports (BRs) and Biennial Updated Reports (BURs) for both Annex I and Non Annex I parties, meaning that the BTR format will be used by all parties from 2024 onwards.

Not all aspects of the previous arrangement will be replaced, e.g. National Communications (NCs) will remain active alongside BTRs under the ETF.



What is the biennial transparency report, and why is it relevant to reporting on adaptation?

- The fact that the new reports will be applicable to both annex I and non-annex I Parties represents a significant change from the previous system in which annex I and non-annex I Parties had different reporting responsibilities.
- Another key difference between the reports under the ETF and MRV however, is that BTR allows countries to **include a section on adaptation** and loss and damage (the A-BTR).
- This was present in the BR-BUR format and now means adaptation can be reported on every two years.



How does the A-BTR fit into the broader picture of adaptation-relevant instruments?

From 2024 onwards the BTR will be one of five UNFCCC instruments available to Parties to the Paris Agreement that are “adaptation relevant”,

These instruments can be divided into two broad groups: planning-oriented and reporting-oriented instruments (as shown in the table below),

Together these five instruments form a loose system for communicating and reporting on adaptation ambitions, plans, processes, and needs,

Planning-oriented instruments	Reporting-oriented instruments
Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	National Communications (NCs)
National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) National Adaptation Plans of Actions (NAPAs)*	Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs)
Equivalent national adaptation plans and strategies	Biennial Transparency reports (BTRs)

*NAPAs have been excluded from the list as while they are still active under the convention, with LDCs generally opting to undertake the more long-term oriented NAP process, NAPAs are naturally becoming redundant under the UNFCCC

How does the A-BTR fit into the broader picture of adaptation-relevant instruments?

We call this system *loose* because it is not exactly purpose built,

Under both, the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC, Parties are only obliged to include information relating to vulnerability and/or adaptation in their National Communications,

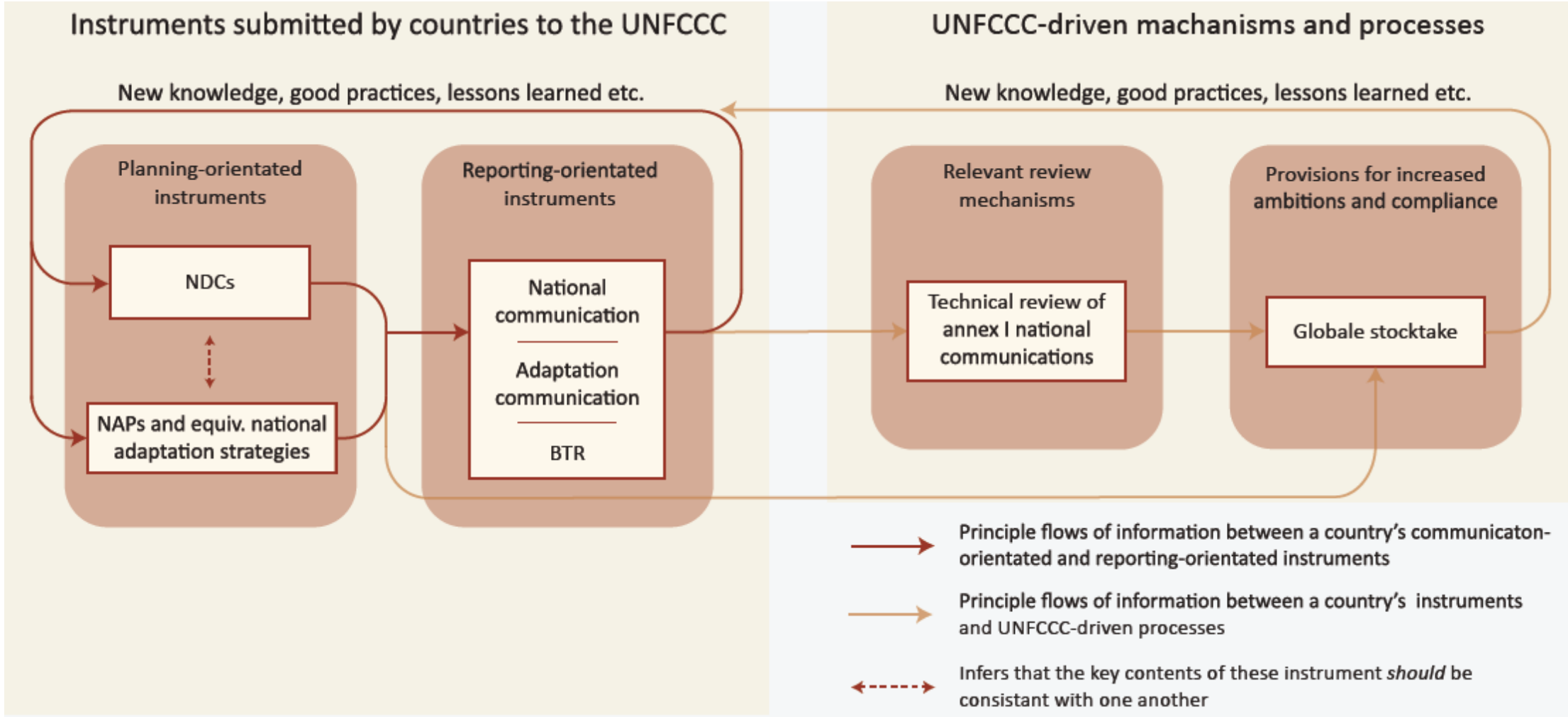
The remaining five instruments are either voluntary, or if the instrument itself is mandatory, including information vulnerability and adaptation is voluntary,

This means that the make-up of the *loose* system is largely country-driven and can take a number of forms.

Planning-oriented instruments	Relevance	Status	Submission frequency	Reporting - oriented instruments	Relevance	Status	Submission frequency
NDCs	All Parties	Ad.Comp. voluntary	Every 5 years	NCs	All Parties, mandatory	Mandatory	Every 4 years
NAPs (NAPAs)*	Developing countries	Voluntary	Periodic Party driven	ADCOMs	All Parties	Voluntary	Periodic Party driven
Equ. Nat. Ad. plans/ strat.	All Parties	Voluntary, non- UNFCCC	Periodic Party driven	BTRs	All Parties	A-BTR voluntary	Every 2 years



How does the A-BTR fit into the broader picture of adaptation-relevant instruments



What is the A-BTR intended to achieve?

Clues towards what the A-BTR is intended to achieve can be found in the “official” purpose given for the Enhanced Transparency Framework,

This purpose states that the framework is intended to provide a **clear understanding of climate change action**, including:

- **Party’s adaptation actions**, including related **good practices, priorities, needs and gaps**,
- It also states that it is intended **to inform the global stocktake**

Purpose of the ETF

“the purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide a **clear understanding of climate change action** in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in Article 2, including (...) **Parties’ adaptation actions** under Article 7, including **good practices, priorities, needs and gaps**, to **inform the global stocktake** under Article 14”

What is the A-BTR intended to achieve?

This suggests that the A-BTR is intended to have a similar function to the adaptation chapter of the National Communications- to provide a snapshot of a country's national adaptation process.

Something that would typically include information about:

- A country's vulnerability to climate change,
- How it is adapting to this vulnerability, and
- Any adaptation needs or gaps it may have.

Purpose of the ETF

“the purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide a **clear understanding of climate change action** in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in Article 2, including (...)
Parties' adaptation actions under Article 7, including **good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake** under Article 14”

What is the A-BTR intended to achieve?

This purpose also suggests that it is also intended to:

- Contribute to the collective pool of good practice in adaptation,
- Facilitate the recognition of adaptation efforts from developing countries,
- Contribute to the collective understanding of the status of adaptation at the global, and regional levels.

Purpose of the ETF
<p>“the purpose of the framework for transparency of action is to provide a clear understanding of climate change action in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in Article 2, including (...)</p> <p>Parties’ adaptation actions under Article 7, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14”</p>

What does the A-BTR mean for how countries report adaptation?

The A-BTR is intended to facilitate national adaptation reporting that is more comprehensive than is presently submitted.

The A-BTR has a role to play in facilitating the sharing of good practices and lessons learned in relation to adaptation.

Relevant good practice and lessons learned could include:

- Lessons learned about implementing macro-processes ...e.g. plans, strategies, enhancing institutional capacity),
- Good practices established for implementing specific adaptation actions.



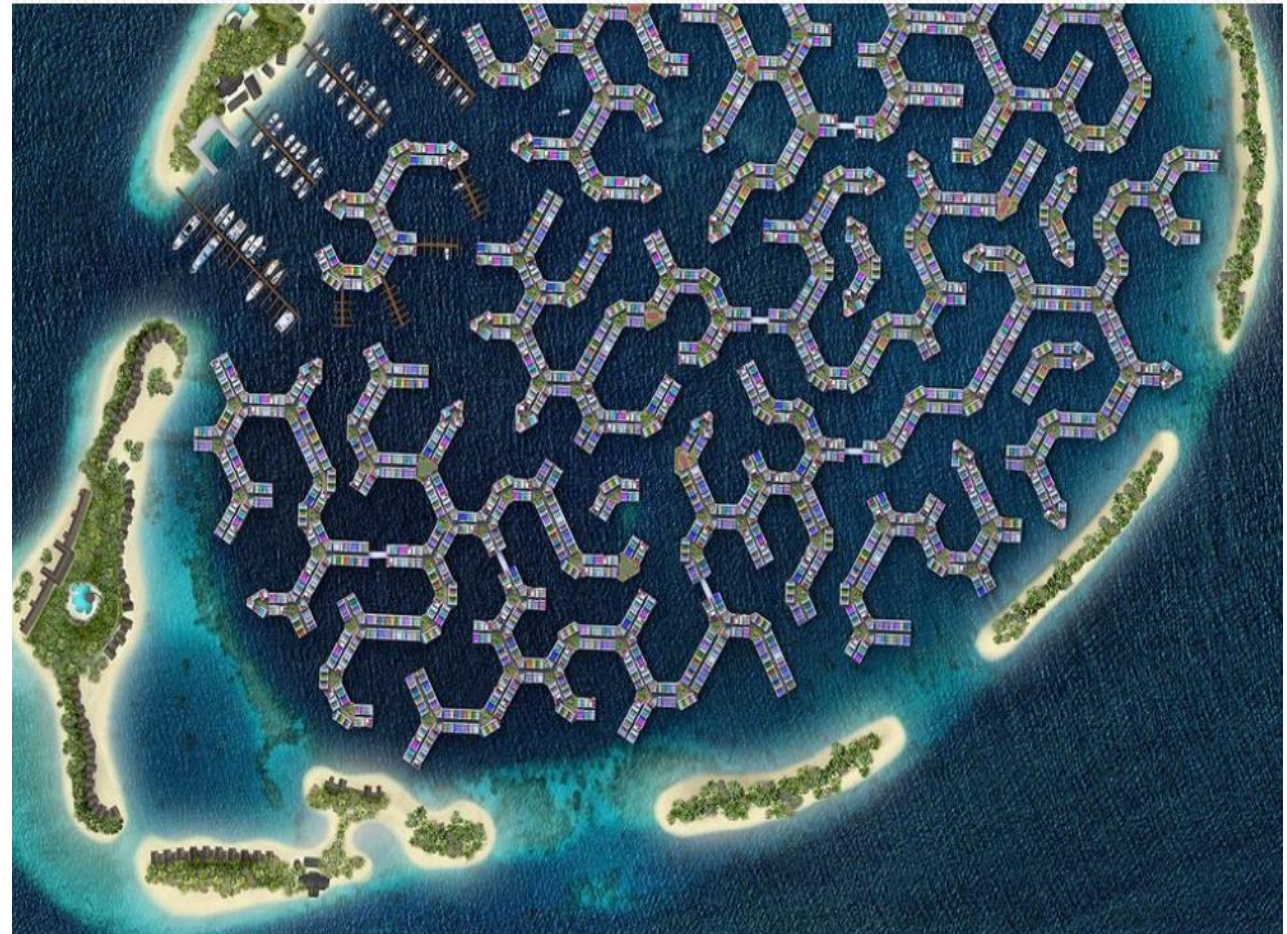
What information should A-BTRs include?

All elements of the guidelines are voluntary.

The process of compiling an A-BTR is entirely “country-driven” exercise.

Most requests made by guidance use the prefix “Parties should”- meaning that Parties are suggested to fulfil the request, but **not obliged** to do it.

Requests that do not use the prefix “Parties **should**” use the prefix “Parties **may**”, which is less stringent and essentially that the **request is optional**, but not suggested.

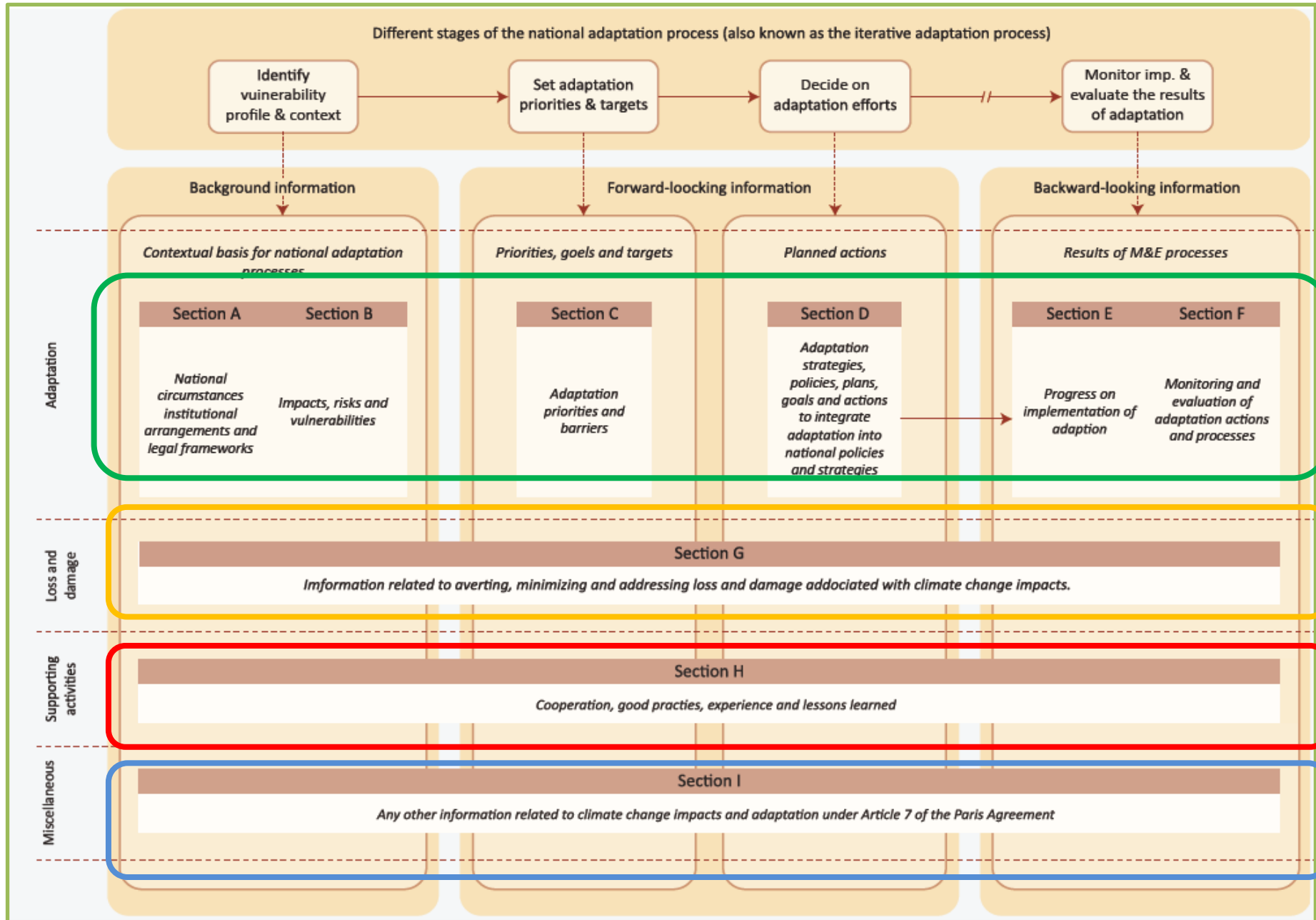


What information should A-BTRs include?

The titles of guidance's nine sections provide a good indication of what information **should** be included.

Sections on this guidance do **not equate** to a structure for the actual report.

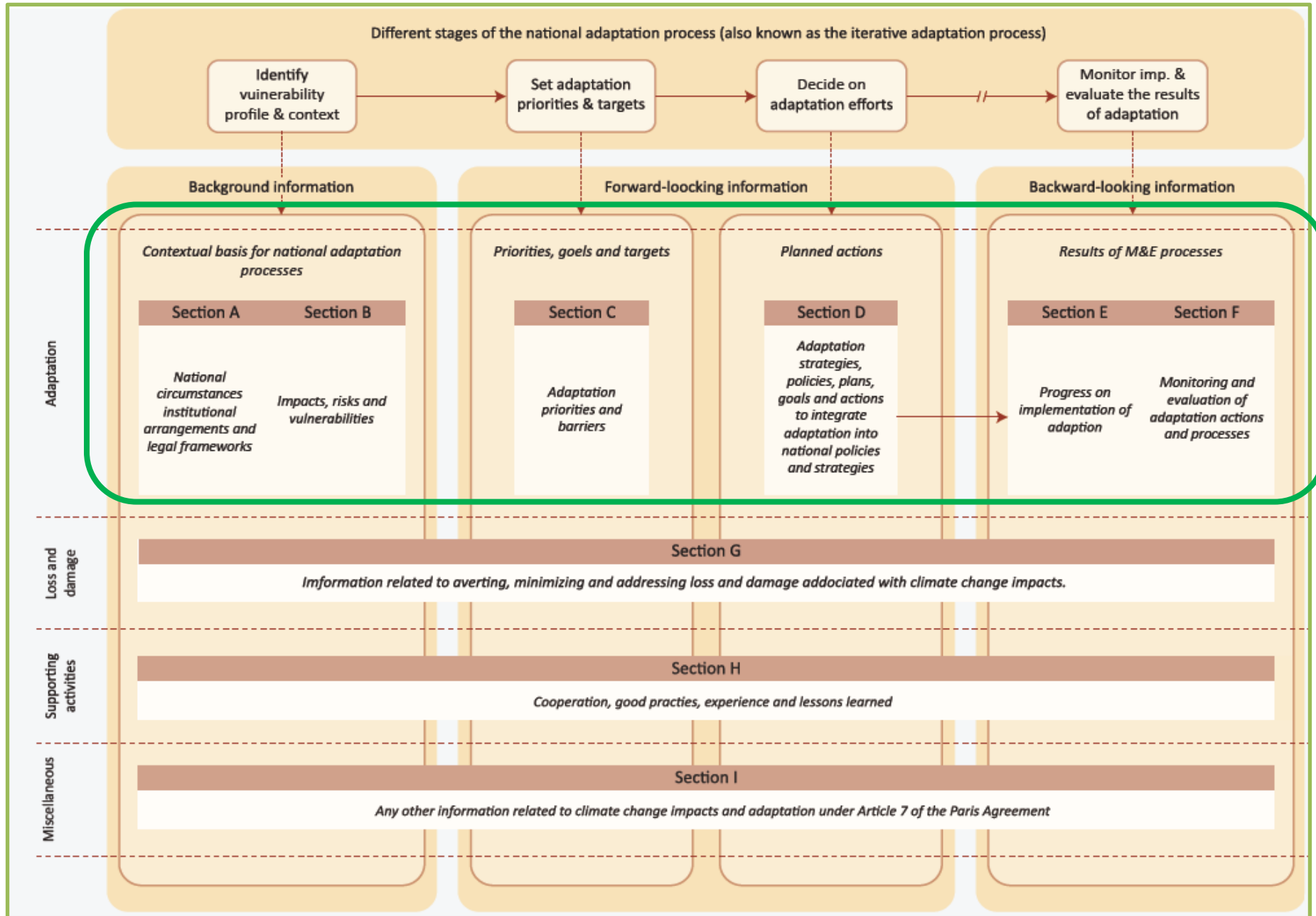
Can see that the majority of guidelines are aimed at how to report on the adaptation process.



What information should A-BTRs include?

The increased level of details and stringency, reinforces the notion that adaptation reporting through the A-BTR is intended to be more comprehensive.

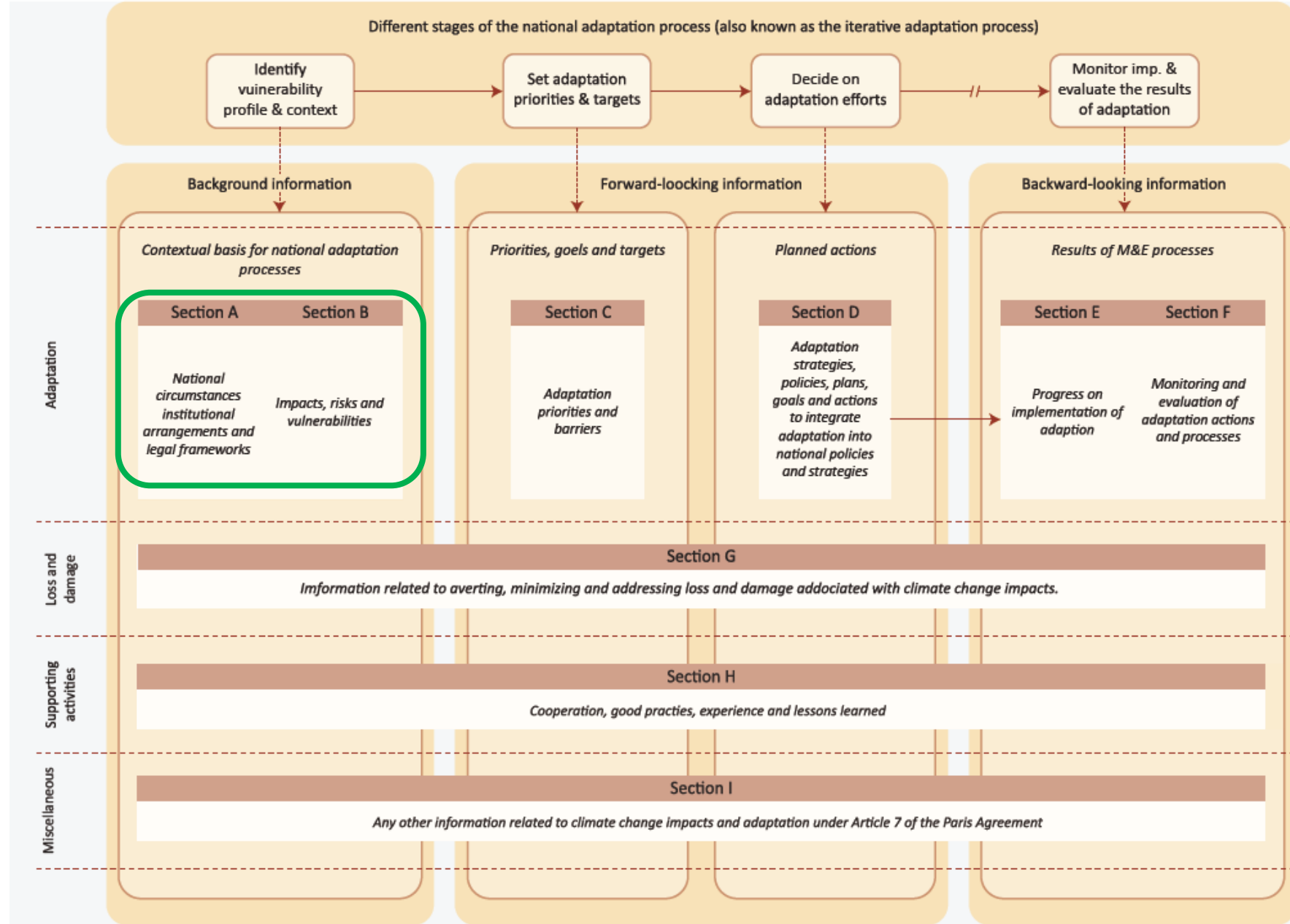
Furthermore, the guidelines are more clearly aligned with NAPs.



Background information requested here **remains largely consistent** with the information already included in **NAPs**.

Guidelines for including information on “**national circumstances, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks**” means that these still represents an **enhancement on the guidelines for National Communications**.

What information should A-BTRs include?

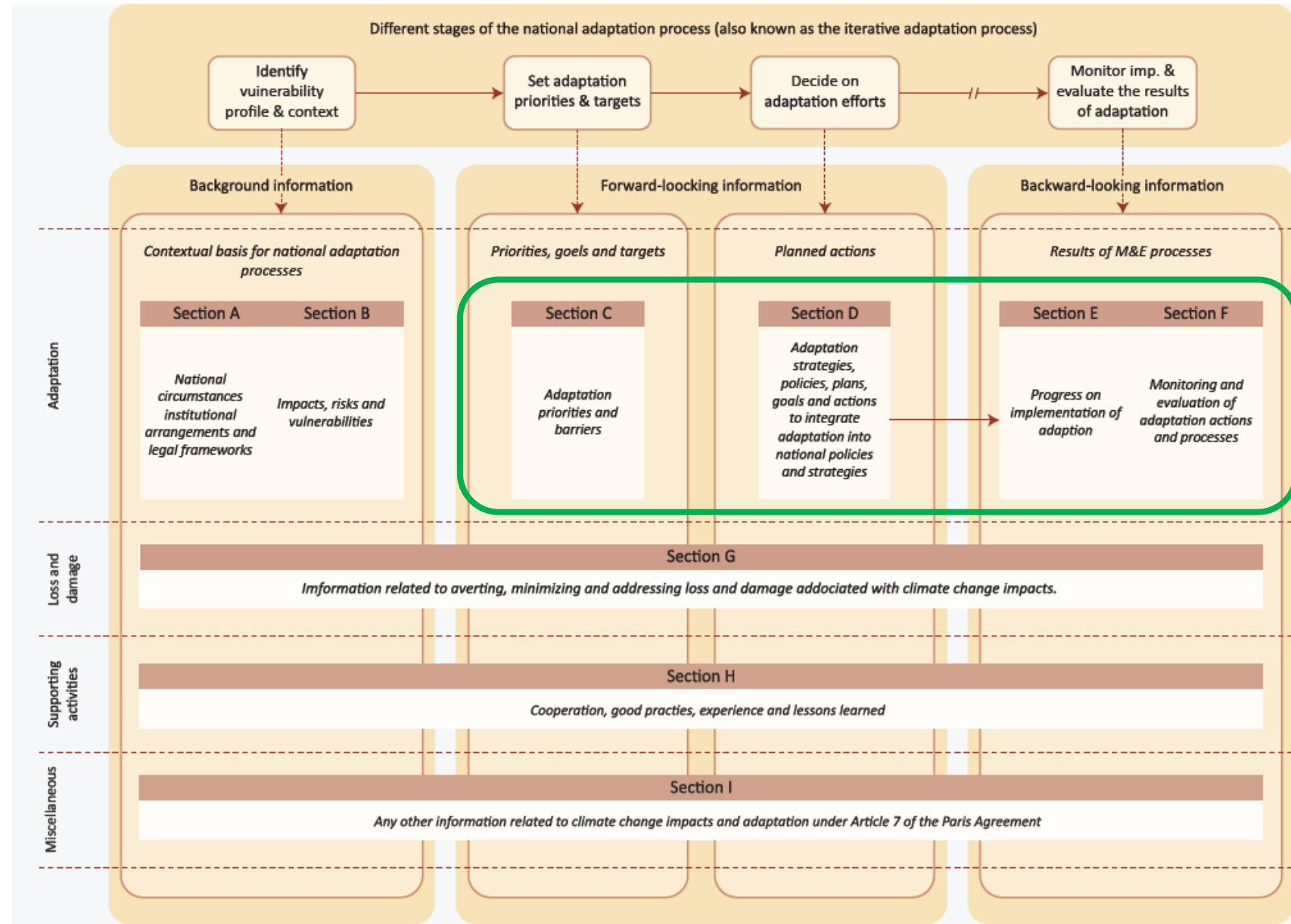


What information should A-BTRs include?

These four sections provide guidelines for reporting on adaptation action.

Forward-looking information requested in sections C-D is likely to come from previous NDCs, NAPs, and other plans and strategies (e.g. sector-specific plans).

Backward-looking information requested by sections E-F will likely come from the reporting country's domestic M&E system.



What information should A-BTRs include?

In addition to the core information requested across sections C-F, the guidelines also make a number of requests and range of **supplementary information** that provides further understanding and context to the core information that is requested in the same section.



What information should A-BTRs include?

For example, section D asks countries to include information about how adaptation planning process take into account:

- Best available science,
- Gender perspectives,
- Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge,
- Stakeholders,
- Domestic development priorities.

Section D: Adaptation strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions to integrate adaptation into national policies and strategies

109. Each Party should provide the following information, as appropriate:

(a) Implementation of adaptation actions in accordance with the global goal on adaptation as set out in Article 7, paragraph 1, of the Paris Agreement;

(b) Adaptation:

[i] goals, [ii] actions, [iii] objectives, [iv] undertakings, [v] efforts, [vi] plans (e.g. national adaptation plans and subnational plans), [vii] strategies, [viii] policies, [ix] priorities (e.g. priority sectors, priority regions or integrated plans for coastal management, water and agriculture), [x] programmes and [xi] efforts to build resilience;

(c) How best available science, gender perspectives and indigenous, traditional and local knowledge are integrated into adaptation;

(d) Development priorities related to climate change adaptation and impacts;

(e) Any adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans leading to mitigation co-benefits;

(f) Efforts to integrate climate change into development efforts, plans, policies and programming, including related capacity-building activities;

(g) Nature-based solutions to climate change adaptation;

(h) Stakeholder involvement, including subnational, community-level and private sector plans, priorities, actions and programmes

What information should A-BTRs include?

Likewise, section F asks for information on how adaptation is monitored and evaluated, including:

- Descriptions of any domestic system for M&E adaptation,
- Descriptions of work being done to develop/expand domestic M&E system,
- Descriptions of indicators and assessment methodologies used for M&E key adaptation concepts.

Section F: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes

112. In order to enhance their adaptation actions and to facilitate reporting, as appropriate, each Party should report on the establishment or use of domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions. Parties should report on approaches and systems for monitoring and evaluation, including those in place or under development.

113. Each Party should provide the following information, as appropriate, related to monitoring and evaluation:

- (a) Achievements, impacts, resilience, review, effectiveness and results;
- (b) Approaches and systems used, and their outputs;
- (c) Assessment of and indicators for:
 - (i) How adaptation increased resilience and reduced impacts;
 - (ii) When adaptation is not sufficient to avert impacts;
 - (iii) How effective implemented adaptation measures are;
- (d) Implementation, in particular on:
 - (i) Transparency of planning and implementation;
 - (ii) How support programmes meet specific vulnerabilities and adaptation needs;
 - (iii) How adaptation actions influence other development goals;
 - (iv) Good practices, experience and lessons learned from policy and regulatory changes, actions and coordination mechanisms.

114. Each Party should provide information related to the effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation actions, as appropriate, including on:

- (a) Ownership, stakeholder engagement, alignment of adaptation actions with national and subnational policies, and replicability;
- (b) The results of adaptation actions and the sustainability of those results.

L&D: What information should A-BTRs include?

The loss and damage refer to the impacts of climate change, including those related to extreme weather events and slow-onset events:

- Loss refers to adverse impacts that are permanent (i.e. are unrepairable/lost)
- Damage refers to adverse impacts that are not necessarily permanent (i.e. are repairable/recoverable).

Section G: Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts

115. Each interested Party may provide, as appropriate, information related to enhancing understanding, action and support, on a cooperative and facilitative basis, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, taking into account projected changes in climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and exposure, including, as appropriate, on:

- (a) Observed and potential climate change impacts, including those related to extreme weather events and slow onset events, drawing upon the best available science;
- (b) Activities related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change;
- (c) Institutional arrangements to facilitate the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 115(b) above.

Loss and damage is a relatively new addition to the UNFCCC landscape - its reporting is considered 'more voluntary', using the prefix 'may'.

L&D: What information should A-BTRs include?

What losses and damages have been, or are anticipated to be, incurred by your country as a result of climate change?



As section B has already asked information about overall climate trends and their impacts, information relevant to this request, that is not covered by the section B, could include descriptions of:

- **past losses and damages** incurred as a result of climate change, and
- descriptions of the **losses and damages that are expected to be incurred in the future.**

Information would ideally be based upon the **results of assessments** (e.g. post-disaster needs assessments) and the results of modelling exercises, respectively

Practical difficulties in reporting on loss and damage:

- Economic and non-economic costs
- Lack of data and inherent uncertainties

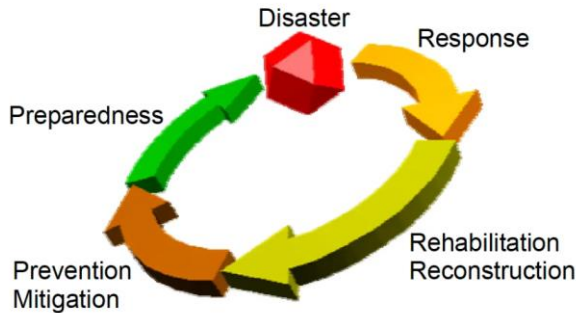
L&D: What information should A-BTRs include?

What is your country doing to manage present and future losses and damages?

Information on actions that avert or avoid, minimize, and address/deal with loss and damage related to climate change (information will have similar format to that used to describe and report on adaptation actions)

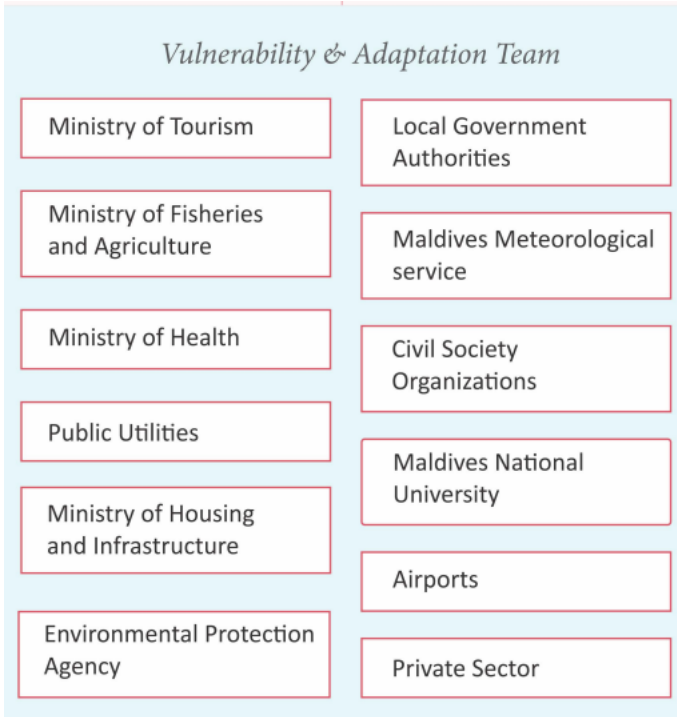
Information on activities constitute managing of loss and damage:

- Measures for managing the economic aspects of loss and damage incurred due to **extreme weather events** risk reduction-, risk retention-, or risk transfer-orientated,
- Measures for managing **slow-onset events** are harder to identify as their long time horizons mean that their links to climate stressors are relatively weak. Can consider two broad categories: **‘institutional arrangements’** aimed at aligning cooperation stakeholders in assessing climate stressors, to formulating policy and enacting legislation. The second category is considering **designing ‘governance schemes’** to manage anticipated gradual changes in resources (i.e.land, water) and/or deal with the socio-economic consequences of these changes (i.e. migration).



What intuitional arrangements exist to facilitate the management of loss and damage?

For countries with existing institutional arrangements which are relevant to loss and damage, authors could present these arrangements in a **similar manner to how they present institutional arrangements related to adaptation** (requested in section A).



Are countries ready to fulfil these requirements?

- The ability of countries to report on adaptation is likely to vary significantly, with many countries with the lowest capacities unlikely to report every two years.
- Most countries conducting national adaptation processes (NAPs) should be able to meet requests for information about their vulnerability, adaptation priorities, needs, and planned actions.
- Regularly providing backward-facing information however, requires countries to have domestic system in place to monitor, evaluate, and report the adaptation actions being implemented.
- While many countries are in process of developing such system, the number that are operational in any capacity is limited.
- It is expected that adaptation reporting will generally improve over time , although some countries are unlikely to reach the highest level of reporting outlined by the requirements.

What can countries do to streamline their adaptation reporting?

For many countries, fulfilling the guidance provided for the A-BTR in full will constitute a significant burden.

Countries have to do **as much as they can**, in accordance to **their resources and capacities**.

In preparations countries can:

- Begin to think about A-BTRs reporting requirements when developing domestic system for documenting, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting adaptation.

During the actual process of compiling of Biennial Transparency Report, countries can:

- **Merge** the report with other UNFCCC commitments, and
- **Cross-reference** previous UNFCCC and non-UNFCCC reports.

For further reading:

- [Reporting-adaptation-through-the-biennial-transparency-report an-explanation-of-the-guidance ICAT UNEP-DTU](#)
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- [CGE Training Material on Reporting Information Related to Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation](#)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

**Questions?
Reflections?**