



## The guidelines for the A-BTR

An overview of sections  
A, B and C

Different stages of the national adaptation process (also known as the iterative adaptation process)

Identify vulnerability profile & context

Set adaptation priorities & targets

Decide on adaptation efforts

Monitor imp. & evaluate the results of adaptation

Background information

Forward-looking information

Backward-looking information

Contextual basis for national adaptation processes

Section A

Section B

National circumstances  
institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

Priorities, goals and targets

Section C

Adaptation priorities and barriers

Planned actions

Section D

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

Results of M&E processes

Section E

Section F

Progress on implementation of adaptation

Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes

Adaptation

Loss and damage

Section G

Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

Supporting activities

Section H

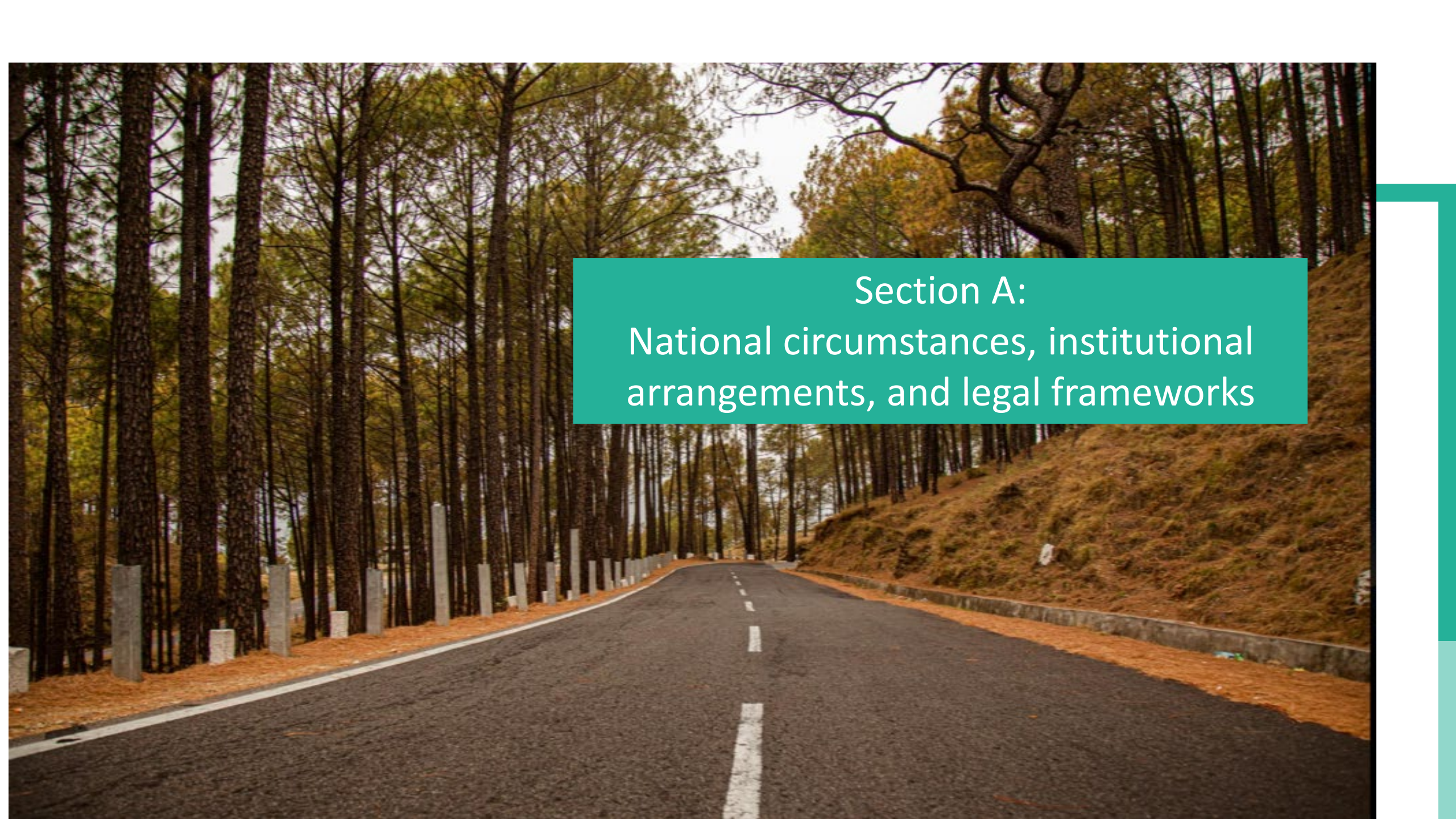
Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned

Miscellaneous

Section I

Any other information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement



A photograph of a paved road with a white dashed center line, curving through a dense forest of tall, thin pine trees. The road is bordered by concrete pillars on the left and a grassy embankment on the right. A teal text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Section A:  
National circumstances, institutional  
arrangements, and legal frameworks



## National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

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

(a) National circumstances relevant to its adaptation actions, *including*:

biogeophysical characteristics, demographics, economy, infrastructure and information on adaptive capacity;

(b) Institutional arrangements and governance, *including*:

for assessing impacts, addressing climate change at the sectoral level, decision-making, planning, coordination, addressing cross-cutting issues, adjusting priorities and activities, consultation, participation, implementation, data governance, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting;

(c) Legal and policy frameworks and regulations.

**National circumstances relevant to adaptation**

**Institutional, legal and policy frameworks**





# National circumstances relevant to adaptation





# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

Information about national circumstances relevant to adaptation is requested by bullet point (a), which asks countries to provide information about their

*"national circumstances relevant to their adaptation actions"*

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

While not necessarily exhaustive, this list represents a **good starting point for providing this information.**

# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

In this area, countries would want to provide information about their **geographic and environmental context...**

Reporting on this could include providing information about:

- Your **country's climate**
- Ecosystems (e.g. marine, land) and land use
- Resource availability/security (e.g. water, land, food)
- Exposure to natural disasters (incl. extreme weather events)

# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

In this area, countries would want to provide information the **characteristics of the country's population**

Reporting on this area could include providing information about:

- **Population characteristics** (size, age distribution, education, livelihoods, cultures...) and **future trends**
- **Disparities/differences between groups** (e.g. regional, ethnic or cultural), or between genders
- **Poverty, development challenges, and related goals**





# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

Reporting on this area could include providing information about:

- **Characteristics of the national economy** (e.g. size, growth, reliance on certain sectors) and **future trends**
- **Differences between** regions, or rural and urban economies
- **Development goals** relating to the economy

# What are your national circumstances relevant to adaptation?

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

Reporting on this area could include providing information about:

- **Key public infrastructure** (transport, power, water, health etc.)
- The present and continued **ability of infrastructure to contribute to development goals**
- **Future trends** and goals
- **Past losses and damages to infrastructure** related to climate change

# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and [v] information on adaptive capacity"*

Reporting on adaptive capacity is probably a little different to the other four areas mentioned...

While it would make sense to describe "biogeophysical characteristics", "demographics", "economy", and "infrastructure" separately in the report (i.e. in their own sub-sections)... In practice, **information about adaptive capacity could be integrated across the other four areas**, as well as being included in its own standalone section.

# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

**Bullet point (a) provides countries with a 5-part list of areas** that would *ideally* be covered in a national circumstance section. These are:

*"[i] biogeophysical characteristics, [ii] demographics, [iii] economy, [iv] infrastructure and  
[v] information on adaptive capacity"*

Further, **providing information about adaptive capacity may be a bit trickier for countries to provide...**

Reporting on adaptive capacity in a robust way **would require countries to have conducted assessments of adaptive capacity** for the various economic, social and natural systems described in its national circumstances chapter.

**Countries can focus on:** ability of institutions and systems to adjust to impacts, risks and vulnerabilities; opportunities to cope with these and available resources and adaptation options in different sectors

In the absence of formal assessments, **adaptive capacity could be generally inferred through the applying "simple reasoning"** to information provided for the areas of the national circumstances being reported on...

*e.g. widespread poverty in rural areas could be used as grounds to generally infer that adaptive capacity is low.*





# National circumstances relevant to adaptation

The primary purpose of providing information about national circumstances in your reports, is **to provide the audience with a basis for better understanding the underlying reasons** for:

- How the situation on the ground contributes to your country's vulnerability to certain climate hazards, and
- Why your country is prioritising certain areas for adaptation and certain types of adaptation action for implementation.



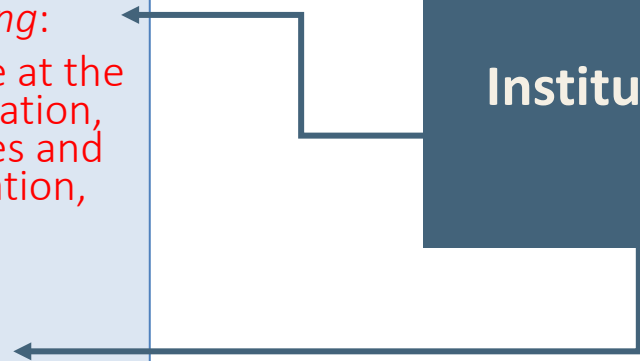
# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks



## National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

- 106. Each Party should provide the following information, as appropriate:
  - (a) National circumstances relevant to its adaptation actions, *including*:
    - biogeophysical characteristics, demographics, economy, infrastructure and information on adaptive capacity;
  - (b) Institutional arrangements and governance, *including*:
    - for assessing impacts, addressing climate change at the sectoral level, decision-making, planning, coordination, addressing cross-cutting issues, adjusting priorities and activities, consultation, participation, implementation, data governance, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting;
  - (c) Legal and policy frameworks and regulations.

## Institutional, legal and policy frameworks





# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

In addition to information about general national circumstances relevant to adaptation, the guidelines are looking for countries to provide information about their existing...

*"(b) **Institutional arrangements** and **governance** and (c) legal and policy frameworks and regulations"*

**Institutional arrangements** – the arrangements that exist between government and non-government actors to facilitate/implement different aspects of the adaptation process...

*e.g. communication channels, cross-ministerial committees, stakeholder consultation forums, data sharing agreements*

**Governance** – how the responsibility for adaptation is allocated between different stakeholders...

*i.e. which levels of government are responsible for planning/implementing adaptation?  
and where do the mandates of government actors start and end?*





# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

In addition to information about general national circumstances relevant to adaptation, the guidelines are looking for countries to provide information about their existing...

*"(b) Institutional arrangements and governance [structures] and (c) **legal and policy frameworks** and **regulations**"*

**Legal and policy frameworks** – the array of legal instruments and policies that are intended to mandate adaptation action, assign responsibilities, clarify governance structures, and establish institutional arrangements

**Regulations** – one type of legal instruments available to countries that form a part of its legal/policy framework. Typically these are used to operationalise primary legislation by translating it into (for example) specific sectoral requirements.

# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

The purpose of including this information in a BTR is to allow the audience to understand:

- The extent to which there is a **robust legal and/or institutional basis for adaptation planning, implementation, and other related processes**
- Where the various **roles and responsibilities** lie in relation to the various adaptation processes being implemented
- If and where there are any **gaps in your country's institutional, legal and policy framework**

- ✓ Institutional arrangements will vary among countries depending on the national circumstances, priorities for action and demands for informing stakeholders involved in the implementation of action and reporting.
- ✓ In some countries, a single organizational structure may be responsible for all themes, objectives and outputs, whereas in other countries these responsibilities may be divided among different independent organizations.
- ✓ Considering this, institutional arrangements can be organized around five separate components:
  1. Organizational mandates
  2. Expertise
  3. Data flows
  4. Coordination, systems and tools
  5. Stakeholder engagement



# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

During the reporting process, **countries will face a decision regarding to what extent they report** on their on their institutional, legal and policy frameworks in their BTRs...

One of the ways in which countries could provide this information is by taking a **"light touch" approach**

This could involve **limiting your reporting** to only the absolute key aspects of their legal and policy frameworks and institutional set-up, e.g. providing only a high-level overview of:

- Any **key acts, laws, or policies** that mandate the government and other actors to engage in adaptation
- **Key adaptation policy instruments** (e.g. national adaptation policies and strategies)
- **Key institutional arrangements** (e.g. coordinating mechanisms for adaptation planning)



# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

The benefits of adopting a "light touch" approach are that it **reduces the burden required to prepare the report** and is a **lighter experience for the reader**...

Furthermore, in cases **where countries have already reported in depth on their institutional, legal, and policy frameworks** in previous reports... Countries could **refer their readers to these descriptions** and focus their attention on providing updates for other parts of the BTR, where there has been progress or change...

*However,* the obvious draw-backs of this "light-touch" approach are that **the audience will only be able to get a basic impression of how adaptation is governed** in your country.



# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

- **Example – UK's Adaptation Communication (2020)**

Quite a good example of how a "light touch" approach can be seen in the UK's Ad. Com.

In this document, the UK identifies and to a limited extent describes:

- How responsibility for adaptation is divided between the four member countries of the UK.
- The legal basis for adaptation
- And, *some* key institutional arrangements (those established by the Climate Change Act only)

## National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

### UK Climate Change Act statutory framework

Through the legally binding UK Climate Change Act (2008), the UK government is legally obliged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions<sup>2</sup> and build capacity to adapt and strengthen resilience to climate risks.

Responsibility for climate change adaptation is split between the four countries of the United Kingdom. National governments in Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland are responsible for respective adaptation programmes. Her Majesty's Government (HMG) is responsible for climate change adaptation in England and for embedding adaptation within policy areas for which it has UK-wide competence such as energy security and foreign affairs<sup>3</sup>.

The UK Climate Change Act (2008) established:

- that a [UK-wide Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) (CCRA) must be undertaken every five years;
- followed by a [National Adaptation Programme](#) (NAP), primarily for England as well as covering UK-wide areas<sup>4</sup>, to address climate change risks following each Climate Change Risk Assessment. Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland develop their own respective adaptation programmes<sup>5</sup>;
- the '[Adaptation Reporting Power](#)' (ARP)<sup>6</sup> gives HMG and the Welsh government the discretionary power to require relevant bodies to report on their climate preparedness;
- that the independent [Climate Change Committee](#) (CCC) advises government and evaluate adaptation progress on a biennial basis.

# Approach to inclusion: *Comprehensive*

- Example – Kenya NAP (2016)

Chapter 2 of the Kenya's NAP (2016) presents the legal/policy basis for adaptation in Kenya (the Climate Change Act, 2016) and the institutional arrangements that this Act mandates for implementing climate action (incl. action specified in the NAP).

The Kenyan NAP does a good job of:

- Clearly describing the significance of the two key policies/legislation that support the establishment of the proposed institutional arrangements
- Visualising/mapping the institutional arrangements for coordinating climate action
- Describing new arrangements to be established (incl. roles of these arrangements and actors involved)
- Proposed roles for different actors in implementing adaptation action specified in the NAP

## 2.3 Relevant Policies

### 2.3.1 National Climate Change Action Plan

The NCCAP analysed the existing climate change institutional structures, and proposed a comprehensive institutional framework with defined roles and responsibilities for climate change response in the context of a devolved government system. Details of this structure can be found in the Enabling Legislative and Institutional Framework Report.<sup>13</sup> Among the report's key recommendations were comprehensive institutional reforms, including the establishment of a National Climate Change Council domiciled in the Office of the President, a Climate Change Directorate under the ministry responsible for climate affairs, and a Technical Advisory Committee within the proposed Directorate. The NCCAP also recommended the establishment of a Kenya climate fund domiciled in the National Treasury.<sup>14</sup> In order to achieve this, enactment of a framework climate change law encapsulating legislative, policy and institutional recommendations was recommended.

### 2.3.2 National Climate Change Framework Policy and Act

The draft National Climate Change Framework Policy updated the recommendations of the NCCAP after further analysis and stakeholder consultations. The draft framework policy specifically underlines the need to ensure internal coherence and proper coordination of functions, "in a manner that is complementary and respects the philosophy that specific sectoral functions should be undertaken by the most suitable sector or level of government<sup>15</sup>", in view of the devolved government system. Two specific recommendations stand out:

- 1) Establish an institutional framework and build capacity to coordinate and enhance mainstreaming at the sector level; and,
- 2) Put in place mechanisms linking climate change data and information with national and county planning processes.

The Climate Change Act (2016)<sup>16</sup> is much more specific in terms of institutional arrangements for climate change coordination, setting out the establishment of the institutions summarised in Figure 5 and described in section 2.4.

**Note:** Kenya's NAP (2016) presents the institutional arrangements proposed by its Climate Change Act (2016).



# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

Countries could also take a more **comprehensive approach to providing this information**.

The purpose of adopting this approach would be to enable the reader to better visualise the purpose, strengths, and modalities of the country's present set up, and better understand how it facilitates adaptation processes.

Achieving this would involve providing more detailed descriptions of their institutional, legal and policy frameworks, and could include:

- Ensuring that **all aspects of your country's institutional, legal and policy framework are identified**.
- Providing more **information on the objectives and modalities of specific institutional arrangements and legal and policy instruments**.
- Identifying the **actors involved** in adaptation planning and implementation and describing their **roles and responsibilities**.
- Reporting on **institutional arrangements and legal and policy instruments that are either planned or under development**.



# Institutional, legal and policy frameworks

In addition to the more comprehensive approach, countries that wish to may also consider reporting on the various **strengths, limitations and gaps** of their institutional, legal, and policy frameworks...

This could include, for example:

- Highlighting **where institutional arrangements are missing and needed**
- Highlighting **where institutions are unable to, or ineffective at, fulfilling their mandate** (e.g. due to insufficient technical capacity, resources, contrasting priorities etc.)

Such information however, would need to come from assessments – e.g. those conducted during the scoping processes for NAPs and NDCs.





## Section B: Impacts, Risks and Vulnerabilities



## Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

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

- (a) Current and projected climate trends and hazards;
- (b) Observed and potential impacts of climate change, including sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities;
- (c) Approaches, methodologies and tools, and associated uncertainties and challenges, in relation to paragraph 107(a) and (b) above.



**Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities**

**Methodologies and tools used in your analyses and assessments**



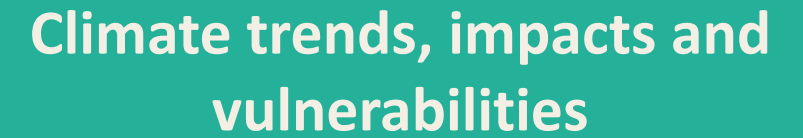
# Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities



## Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

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- (b) Observed and potential impacts of climate change, including sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities;
- (a) Approaches, methodologies and tools, and associated uncertainties and challenges, in relation to paragraph 107(a) and (b) above.



**Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities**



# Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities

Logically, reporting on these guidelines would be done over two steps:

- (1) Describing the past and projected changes in climate that the country has experienced or is facing, and then...



- (2) Describing how the country is vulnerable to, and is being impacted by, changes in climate and how these vulnerabilities and impacts are expected to develop in the future.



# Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities

The first step is covered by bullet point (a), which asks for information about...

*"current and projected climate trends and hazards"*

Information provided in relation to this request is going to come from **assessments of past meteorological data twinned with climate modelling exercises**.

The reference to both "climate trends" and "hazards" implies that countries should, *if possible*, include information about past and projected changes in the frequency and strength of natural disasters related to climate change (e.g. extreme weather events) as well as information about the longer term trends (e.g. increases in mean temperature).

In addition to this, countries could include a description of how the results of the most recent climate modelling exercises vary from the previous attempt (i.e. how has the situation changed? Has the situation become more severe?)



# Climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities

The second step is covered by bullet point (b), which asks countries to provide information about...

*"the observed (i.e. past) and potential (i.e. expected future) impacts of climate change, including sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities"*

The second clause "...**including sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities**" strongly implies that countries should provide disaggregated information about how key dimensions of their country are vulnerable to climate change.

In practice, this is likely to mean **key economic sectors** (e.g. agriculture, water, health...), **human systems** (e.g. cities and regions), and **environmental systems** (e.g. coastal zones, ecosystems).

Information relating impacts and vulnerabilities will need to come from impact, risk, and/or vulnerability assessments. Many of which will be conducted by national governments as part of preparing their national adaptation plans and strategies.





# Methodologies and tools used in your analyses and assessments



# Methodologies and tools used in your analyses and assessments

The request for this information is made by bullet point (c), which asks countries to provide information about the...

*"Approaches, methodologies and tools [used in generating information relating to climate change and its impacts], and associated uncertainties and challenges [with these approaches, methodologies and tools]"*

In other words, the guidelines are **asking countries to be transparent** and clearly describe how and where information about past and projected climate changes, impacts and vulnerabilities comes from, as well as to highlight any uncertainties and challenges that are associated with the approaches, models, tools, and data used.

In cases where information comes from **institutionalized processes** that are conducted periodically –e.g. climate projections or national risk assessments that are conducted every five years- countries could also identify and describe these processes in detail.

## • Example – UK's Ad. Com. (2020)

An approach adopted by the UK's Ad. Com. provides its audience with an overview of **how** it obtains information about climate changes and impacts, risks and vulnerabilities.

This is instead of presenting the *actual* results of the climate change projections, and vulnerability assessments themselves.

Information included in this example includes:

- Identifying the processes
- Identifying the institutions/actors were involved
- Outlining the scope (or limitations) of these processes and how they have recently been enhanced, and...
- Highlighting when these processes were last undertaken and will next be update.

Further, the Ad. Com. does use [hyperlinks](#) (cross-references) to allow readers to find detailed information about the results of their climate change projections and climate risk assessments.

## UK Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

The UK is an island nation in the temperate climatic zone. Due to the UK's geography and topography the nation is exposed to numerous climatic changes. The [second UK Climate Change Risk Assessment \(CCRA\)](#) was laid before Parliament in January 2017. The risk assessment includes 56 priority risks to the UK to be addressed in adaptation planning within six core themes:

1. flooding and coastal change risks to communities, built environment and infrastructure;
2. risks to health and wellbeing and productivity from high temperatures;
3. risk of shortages in the public water supply and for agriculture, energy generation and industry with impacts on freshwater ecology;
4. risks to natural capital including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity;
5. risks to domestic and international food production and trade;
6. new and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals.

The second Climate Change Risk Assessment was underpinned by an [evidence report](#) prepared independently by the Climate Change Committee which was published in July 2016. The evidence report analysed the 56 key present-day climate risks and opportunities and current levels of adaptation. It assessed how climate and socio-economic change may alter those risks and opportunities in the 2020s, 2050s and 2080s, and presented findings by level of urgency. Evidence summaries were produced for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to describe the risks and opportunities specific to each part of the UK.

The UK government and Devolved Administration governments<sup>7</sup> are working closely with the Climate Change Committee on delivering the evidence review for the third Climate Change Risk Assessment. The evidence report will be published in 2021, and the Climate Change Risk Assessment will be published in 2022. The new evidence report will address identified evidence gaps through seven associated research projects. These cover topics such as future flood risk, future water availability, interacting risks in infrastructure, built and natural environments, amongst others. The findings of these projects have been published on the new [UK Climate Risk](#) website, developed by the Climate Change Committee.

### UK Climate Projections

In November 2018, the UK published a new set of [UK Climate Projections 2018 \(UKCP18\)](#) in partnership with the Met Office Hadley Centre Climate Programme. The UKCP18 is the first major update to the UK's national climate change projections for nearly 10 years and include global and regional scenarios. The UKCP18 was updated in 2019 to include local level climate projections, providing high resolution 2.2km projections for the UK. In 2020, the projections were further enhanced to incorporate the future likelihood of certain extreme weather events.

The latest UK Climate Projections show an increased likelihood of warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers in the future with an increase in the frequency and intensity of extremes. For example, heatwaves like that of summer 2018, when temperatures exceeded 35°C in parts of the UK are now [30 times more likely due to human-induced climate change](#), and by the 2050s these could happen as often as every other year.

The UK is using UKCP18 to inform its adaptation and mitigation planning and decision-making. The projections will also help improve businesses and individuals understanding of climate risks, encouraging them to take measures to strengthen their resilience. These climate projections are being translated into datasets, such as the Environment Agency's [climate change flood allowances](#). These allow land-use planners and flood risk management authorities to understand how climate change affects future flood risk.



# Some thoughts on reporting on climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities



# Some thoughts on reporting on climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities

In essence, **the guidelines for reporting on impacts, risks and vulnerabilities under the BTR have not really changed** from those issued for the national communication in decision 17/CP.8.

As such, countries should be well aware of what they are required to report in response to this section...





# Some thoughts on reporting on climate trends, impacts and vulnerabilities

However, reporting on changes in climate, its impacts, and key vulnerabilities **remains one of the most important dimensions of a national communication** for (most) non-annex I parties.

This is something that is likely to continue as countries being to report through BTRs.

It represents an **opportunity to effectively communicate to the international community how climate change is impacting your country**, and is expected to continue impacting your country.

Furthermore, in the reporting context this information is vital for adequately framing:

- **Why certain areas have been identified as priorities for adaptation** (i.e. priority areas), and **why the adaptation actions being pursued by your country have been selected**
- The scale and magnitude of **your country's adaptation needs**

To do this effectively, countries need to ensure that information provided in these reports is clear, is comprehensive enough to portray this message, and is easy to read...



- **Example – Bangladesh 3<sup>rd</sup> Nat. Com. (2018)**

Bangladesh's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nat. Com provides readers with a comprehensive, long (76 pages), and a very well written and structured chapter that is very effective in presenting:

- How key climate variables have changed over the past 5–6 decades
- And how key sectors and geographic areas are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change

In particular, vulnerability assessments in this Nat. Com. are extremely well written and provide the reader with a clear idea of the many different ways in which the sector or region in question is being, and is expected to continue to be, impacted by certain climate hazards.

These sectoral and geographic assessments do a really good job of communicating the magnitude of impact/risk through the use of statistics and informative visualisations (*see right*) that demonstrates:

- The scale of past and future climate hazards
- The size of the areas at risk, and
- Past and anticipated losses and damages due to climate impacts

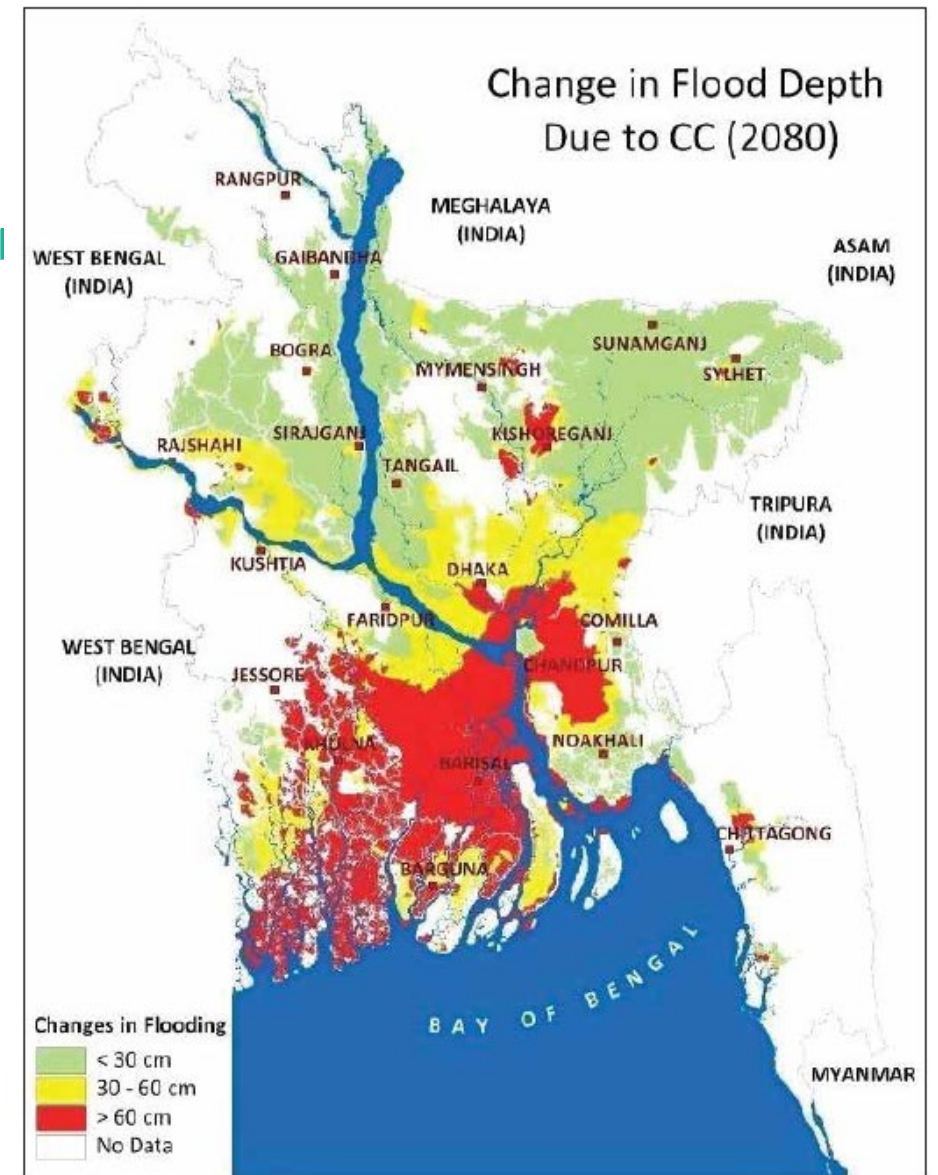
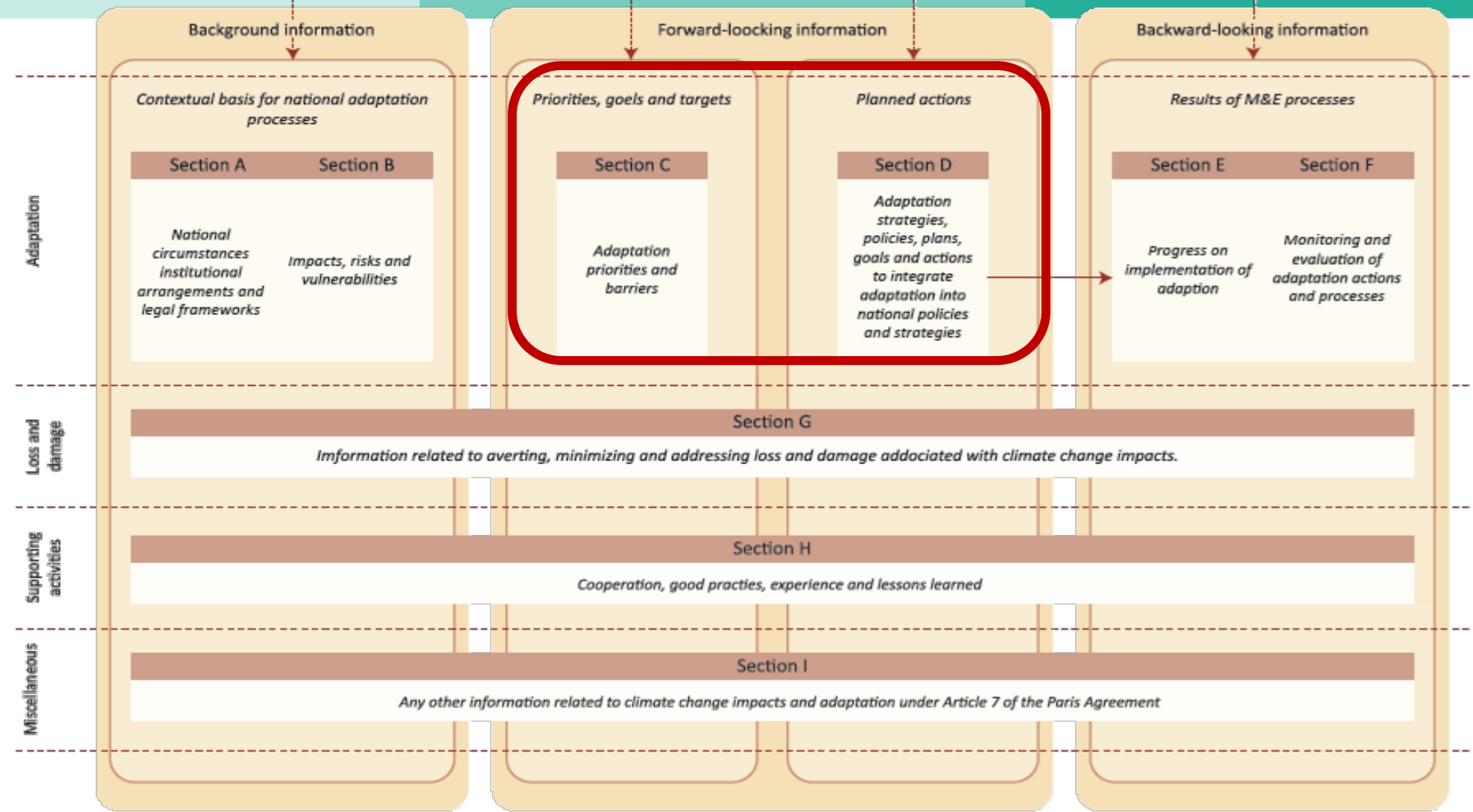


Figure 5.22: Changes in floods due to climate change by 2080 (Source: Kausher, 2010)



Different stages of the national adaptation process (also known as the iterative adaptation process)





Section C:  
Adaptation priorities and barriers



## Adaptation priorities and barriers

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

- (a) Domestic priorities and progress towards those priorities;
- (b) Adaptation challenges and gaps, and barriers to adaptation.



**Priority areas for adaptation**

**Barriers to adaptation**



# Priority areas for adaptation



# Priority areas for adaptation

This information is requested by bullet point (a), which asks countries to provide information about their...

*"domestic [adaptation] priorities"*

The term "priorities" or "priority areas" can be understood as the **broadly definable areas that have been identified in adaptation planning processes as areas for which adaptation action is being prioritised** due to:

- Their **high vulnerability** to climate change
- Their relative **strategic importance** to the country as a whole
- A mixture of the two above, or...
- Their **strategic importance in enabling adaptation**



# Priority areas for adaptation

As what is defined as a "priority area" is a country-led decision, they can take a variety of shapes and forms...

Probably **the most recognisable form of priority area are sector-based**. These could include, amongst other things:

- **Economic sectors** – i.e. sectors and industries
- **Policy areas** – e.g. Disaster Risk Reduction, poverty alleviation
- **Regions** – specific regions (e.g. specific areas or cities) or types of region (e.g. rural/urban, coastal, and highlands zones)
- **Ecosystems** – e.g. rainforests, wetlands, coral reefs, etc.

# Priority areas for adaptation

However, **priority areas can also be cross-cutting in nature**, i.e. they can relate to areas that are key in enhancing the enabling environment for adaptation planning and implementation.

Areas that are cross-cutting could include, amongst other things:

- Institutional capacity building
- Strengthening climate information services
- Resource mobilization
- Strengthening awareness and knowledge of climate change impacts





# Priority areas for adaptation

As the key step in developing an adaptation strategy or plan, one would expect priority areas to be identified within key planning instruments. For developing countries, this is likely to mean:

- **National Determined Contributions** (NDCs)
- **National Adaptation Plans** (NAPs)
- **Flagship development plans**

While one would generally expect this to be the case, depending on specific country, this information may also be identified in other planning-orientated instruments – e.g. laws, strategies, policies, white papers.



# Priority areas for adaptation

As with all the information requested by the BTRs guidelines, **countries will need to decide on how they are going to report on their domestic adaptation priorities** in their BTRs.

**There are two broad ways in which this can be approached.**

# Priority areas for adaptation

A **light approach** to reporting on adaptation priorities would be to simply identify within the BTR, the key areas that your country considers to be a priority for adaptation.

Since any priority areas are likely to have been established by planning and/or policy instruments, if possible, BTRs should identify which planning or policy instruments establish these areas as "priorities".

- **Example – Bangladesh's Nat. Com. (2018)**

An example of how this approach would look in practice can be seen Bangladesh's 3<sup>rd</sup> Nat. Com. (see right).

In this example, Bangladesh simply list 14 adaptation priorities in a table format that have been identified as priorities by its first NDC and its most recent flagship development plan.

## Priority Areas for Climate Change Adaptation

The Government of Bangladesh has identified the following areas of intervention to address the adverse impacts of climate change.

Key areas of intervention to address adverse impacts of climate change	
1	Food security, livelihood and health protection (including water security)
2	Comprehensive disaster management
3	Coastal zone management including salinity intrusion control
4	Flood control and erosion protection
5	Building climate resilient infrastructure
6	Increased rural electricity
7	Enhanced urban resilience
8	Increasing resilience of vulnerable groups
9	Development of climate resilient cropping systems
10	Development of surveillance systems for existing and new disease risks
11	Ecosystem based adaptation (including forestry co-management)
12	Community based conservation of wetlands and coastal areas
13	Implementing drinking water and sanitation programmes in areas (e.g., coastal areas, flood- and drought-prone areas) move at risk from climate change
14	Policy and institutional capacity building

Based on the above-mentioned areas, the following adaptation actions are priorities for Bangladesh.

Adaptation priorities for Bangladesh	
1	Improved early warning systems for tropical cyclones, floods, flash floods and drought
2	Disaster preparedness and construction of flood and cyclone shelters
3	Protection against tropical cyclones and storm surge
4	Inland monsoon flood-proofing and protection
5	Climate resilient infrastructure and communication
6	Climate resilient housing
7	Repair and rehabilitate existing infrastructure (including coastal embankments, river embankments and drainage systems, urban drainage systems)
8	Plan, design and construction of urgently needed new infrastructure (various types of shelters, low cost disaster resilient housing, protection schemes, water management structures, etc.)
9	Improvement of urban resilience through improvement of drainage systems to address urban flooding



# Priority areas for adaptation

When reporting on specific adaptation priorities, countries should :

- Describe the **priority**, including **when and where it was set** (i.e. identify statement, plan, piece of legislation, etc. where the area was originally designed as a priority).
- Elaborate on **why it should be prioritised** for adaptation (if not immediately clear),
- Describe any **high level goals or targets** associated with the adaptation priority, and
- **Progress towards achieving these goals.**



# Barriers to adaptation



# Barriers to adaptation

In addition to information about adaptation priorities...

Section C also asks countries to provide information about **barriers, challenges, and gaps** that it has identified that may inhibit adaptation processes.

While this term is often used to refer to capacity-related barriers, challenges, or gaps (e.g. barriers relating to insufficient technical capacities or finances), countries could **also report on adaptation limits** (e.g. soft or hard limits due to environmental or socio-economic circumstances) if such information is relevant and available.

## Barriers to adaptation

Information about barriers, challenges and gaps included in the BTR would *ideally* result from structured processes commonly known as a **barrier analysis**. In which, barriers to both adaptation planning and implementation are systematically analysed through engaging with experts and stakeholders.

Where countries have access to such assessments, descriptions of barriers provided in the BTR should **reflect the results of these analyses**.

When appropriate barrier analyses are available, it is likely that they will have conducted during the preparation key planning instruments – e.g. NDCs, NAPs and adaptation strategies.

As such, countries seeking information about identified barriers could expect to find this information in these documents (or supporting documents).



A scenic landscape photograph of a forested area with a calm lake. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, and the trees and water are reflected in the still surface of the lake.

Thank you!

## Some questions...

1. Whether your country has clearly articulated adaptation priorities or national adaptation goals (i.e. Targets)?

Yes/No

1. What will be the main source of information/current document for reporting your country's impacts, risks and vulnerabilities within the BTR?
  - a) National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
  - b) National Communications,
  - c) Nationally Determined Contributions,
  - d) Adaptation Communications?
2. What would be the main barriers, gaps or challenges in that inhibit adaptation in your country?
3. a) technical capacities,
4. b) lack of funding,
5. c) lack of political will?,
6. d) other (please state)