

CAPITALIZING ON THE THREE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES HELD IN MOROCCO ON ADAPTATION METRICS

# WORKSHOP

## FOR THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION METRICS

November 22, 2019  
Hôtel Dawliz, Salé, Morocco



# RATIONALE

Human activities to date have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels (IPCC, 2018, p.6). Current national pledges of emission reduction efforts are estimated to lead to **more than 3°C warming by 2100** (Carbon Action Tracker, 2018). António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, warns:

**"Our world as we know it and the future we want are at risk. We must dramatically step up the pace of implementation as we enter a decisive decade for people and the planet. (...) the future is determined by what we do now and the window of opportunity is closing fast."**

Apart from much stronger mitigation efforts it is therefore important to prepare for and respond to the expected impacts of climate change. The IPCC (2014a, p. 1758) defines **adaptation to climate change** as "The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects". Over the recent decade adaptation has seen an **increasing level of political commitment and implementation**. The Paris Agreement has established a **Global Goal on Adaptation** "of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change" (Article 7.1). 75% of countries that submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement have included adaptation alongside mitigation (GIZ, 2018).

Given the imperative to adapt it is important to understand **whether implemented actions have made a difference**, i.e. whether implementation has led to successful adjustments to changing climatic conditions. This is particularly important for the most vulnerable populations who have limited capacity to adapt. Meaningful adaptation can often be defined only in a particular context and with involvement of the people who are directly affected (Dilling et al., 2019). In contrast to mitigation, which can be measured through greenhouse gas emission reductions irrespective of context, there is no single global and universal metric for adaptation (Leiter & Pringle, 2018). Nevertheless, a diversity of indicators for adaptation are being used for different purposes (Leiter et al., 2019). One purpose is for development banks and other investors to **quantify the adaptation benefits of their investments**, both during the project development stage and during its implementation. Multilateral Development Banks are working on a concept for climate resilience metrics and the World Bank has recently started the development of a resilience rating system. The aim is to increase the resilience of the portfolio and to ensure that all investments contribute to resilience-building.







Efforts to assess adaptation progress are in line with the Paris Agreement which emphasises the need for “Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions” (Article 7.9d). Meanwhile, the current practices of international climate funds to measure adaptation results show severe deficits, as found by the recent review of the Green Climate Fund’s Results Management Framework (GCF Independent Evaluation Unit, 2019). It shows that more work is needed to determine adaptation progress via metrics and logical models including in the key sectors of agriculture, water and cities which are of critical importance for sustainable development in Africa.





# HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



**Three international conferences** on adaptation metrics have already been organized and hosted by the Kingdom of Morocco, since its presidency of the 22nd Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC (CoP22, Marrakech, November 2016).

The Moroccan Presidency of COP 22 made a priority of developing finance for adaptation, especially in Africa, and from this perspective it organized the **first international conference on adaptation metrics** on September 27, 2016. The main objectives were assessing and fostering the development of a set of transferable indicators to measure and track the success of adaptation projects. The conference has highlighted the importance of sectoral approaches and the possibilities for developing transversal metrics by sector.

A **second international conference on adaptation metrics**, the first to be sector oriented, was then organized by the Moroccan COP22 Scientific Committee as the last conference to be held before handing over the Presidency to Fiji. This was hosted by the University Mohammed VI Polytechnic (UM6P) on October 6-7, 2017, and it focused on water and agriculture.

The **third conference** took also place at University Mohammed VI Polytechnic, on October 26-27, 2018. A new topic, "resilient cities", was added to the themes of water and agriculture. These three topics were addressed each in a half-day session, following a first half-day devoted to the presentation of the newly released special report on 1.5 °C trajectory of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in the presence of its Chair and several members of the Executive Board.

The series of three conferences accumulated a significant amount of knowledge on the subject and resulted in the creation of a community of practice from all across Africa and internationally with practitioners from government agencies, multilateral development banks and bilateral agencies, and the private sector, with acute knowledge of policy, climate change science, and climate finance with the view of approaching the subject of adaptation metrics in a holistic manner.

First conference,  
Skhirate 2016



Second conference, Ben Guerir 2017



Panel discussion, Ben Guerir 2017



Side event at CoP 23, Bonn 2017

Break-out session, Ben Guerir 2018



Third conference, Ben Guerir 2018



# THE CONCEPTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM \_\_\_\_\_.

In order to sustain the work on adaptation metrics, an **international dedicated platform** is to be created, building on the outcomes and on the experience of these three first international conferences.

The **principal objective** will be to search for, propose and discuss possible metrics to monitor and evaluate progress of development projects addressing the issue of adaptation to climate change, and how these metrics can be applied as part of logical models, results frameworks or theories of change. A special focus will be put on the African continent, its specificities and needs.

The main intention of institutionalizing an international technical platform is to support the promotion of adaptation based on results-orientation and better accounting of the benefits and co-benefits of adaptation actions as well as providing donors with appropriate measurement tools to assess the impacts of projects submitted for funding.

Nevertheless, the expected outcomes and understanding of having a metric for adaptation can differ according to the needs of various sectors of activity addressing adaptation to climate changes (financial sector, development projects and initiatives, research sector, think tanks, civil society...).

In this regard, a workshop will be organized to **gather various actors from a large panel of international institutions**, based on the contributors to the three past conferences, yet open to more participants addressing the issue of adaptation metrics. The institutions to be part of the platform will represent different sectors such as:

- Think tanks dedicated to the adaptation tracking
- Climate finance experts to ensure integration of finance in the reflection work and formulation of financing strategies
- Research institutes in the field of adaptation
- The academic world (Universities of mainly Morocco, Africa and Europe)
- The civil society
- Bilateral and multilateral donors
- Dedicated funds for adaptation to climate changes
- Representatives of UNFCCC and agencies of the UN system

## OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP \_\_\_\_\_.

The workshop to be organized has three main targets:

- 1) **To present a rough assessment of the findings, the concepts and the definitions of adaptation metrics used across the world, including a short review of the outcomes of the three first conferences.** This review could be a keynote presentation or, depending on duration of the event, be shortly discussed in a dedicated panel. It should provide the basis for identifying the research orientation and needs of the platform.
- 2) **To set clear objectives to the platform in terms of research frame, targeted outcomes and above all, purpose of the metrics to be identified and developed.** A list of different scenarios will be prepared for discussion in two to three hours debate, to end up with a clear **mission statement**. A preliminary concept for the fourth edition of the international conference on adaptation metrics, to be possibly held in 2020 could also be designed.
- 3) **To set up both an international steering committee for the organization of the annual meeting and a scientific advisory board to provide technical oversight.** The workshop will end up with the proposal of a steering committee and the opening of a list to gather of applications to be part of the scientific advisory board.

# PROGRAM OF THE WORKSHOP

08:30-09:00 Welcome coffee and registration

09:00-09:35 **Opening session: Objectives of the workshop and introduction of participants**

Presentation of the objectives of the workshop and floor given to all the present institutions and participants, as well as to the participants on-line

*Moderator: Zitouni Ould Dada, Deputy Director, Climate and Environment Direction, FAO*

09:35-09:40 *A brief recall of the three first conferences (Karim Anegay, GiZ 4C/IKI)*

09:40-10:30 **Keynote: Current state of adaptation metrics: evolving practices and future perspectives**

*(Timo Leiter, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics)*

Questions and answers

10:30-10:50 Coffee break

10:50-12:00 **Objectives of the workshop: Expectations and ideas**, *Moderator: Zitouni Ould Dada*

Open plenary discussion. The following guiding questions will be discussed, and the main findings documented. Online participants will be given the first opportunity to share their views.

## **Round 1: Potential of adaptation metrics**

- *What are adaptation metrics intended to be used for?*
- *Which types of metrics do we need for different purposes?*
- *What experiences do you / does your organization have with adaptation metrics so far and what potential do you see for adaptation metrics in your field of work?*
- *How could metrics be operationalized and better used to realize their potential?*

Wrap up of the key findings *(Asmerom Gilau, CEO, Epsilon Innovation Group)*

12:00-12:20 **Round 2: Presentation of four examples of existing international exchange platforms:**

- *Global Resilience Partnership insights on resilience and its measurement (David Howlett, GRP)*
- *International Climate Change Centers of Excellence and Think Tanks for Capacity Building, INCCETT 4 CB (Mohammed Boussaid, 4C/IKI)*
- *The "Friends of EbA" International community of practice on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) (Giacomo Fedele, Conservation International)*
- *The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Network (Patrick Guerdat, IISD)*

12:20-13:15 **Round 2: Ideas for the international platform**, *Moderator: Zitouni Ould Dada*

- *How could an international platform address the potential of adaptation metrics? What exactly could it do and what might be its limits? How could the platform operate? How can membership be supported?*

Wrap up of the key findings *(Marta Olazabal, BC3/INCCETT)*

13:15-14:45 Lunch break

14:45-16:20 **Round 3: Structuring the platform and mission statement**, *Moderator: Zitouni Ould Dada*

The moderator will propose a concept for structuring the platform and open the floor to:

- *Comment on the suggested structure*
- *Discuss the draft mission statement and objectives / Propose suggestions for amendments*
- *Discuss how African institutions can be supported to participate*
- *Elaborate on links to existing organizations and initiatives on adaptation metrics*

Wrap up of the key findings *(David Howlett, Global Resilience Partnership)*

- *Comments of on-line participants to the proposed mission statement*

16:20-16:40 Coffee Break

16:40-18:00 **Closing session: The way forward**, *Moderator: Zitouni Ould Dada*

- *Reading of the mission statement and proposal for a platform structure.*
- *Explaining the role of the Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee and discussing alternatives*
- *Closing word (2 minutes) for each institution, including the ones on-line*

19:30-21:30 Closing Dinner in a Riad in the medina (old town) of Rabat



