

EU JRC and DEVCO workshop on “Indicators and data for Climate resilient Development: from data to information and knowledge to policy”

– Summary note

The final objective of this workshop is the identification of a core set of indicators and data sets with a global coverage for the key determinants of climate resilient development (natural hazards related to climate change, vulnerability, adaptive capacity, mitigation, resilience, and development) to guide policy actions in this area. It was an opportunity for knowledge sharing between experts, scientists and practitioners, thereby establishing an open forum on climate resilient development, which will be supported by a web knowledge platform.

March 25, 2015 March 25 -26 , 2015, Bruxelles

Indicators and selection criteria

1. Introduction of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) programme – E. Coyette, DG DEVCO C

The Global Climate Change Alliance (<http://www.gcca.eu/>) has moved into a new funding phase being called GCCA+. The program has by now allocated about 350 Mio in adaptation funding to 51 programs in LDCs, and SIDS. The program is targeting countries most vulnerable to climate change, identifying vulnerability with suitable composite indicator. The program rests on two pillars: policy dialog and technical and financial support. Financial and technical support is directed toward capacity development, mainstreaming of climate change policies in national policies, disaster risk reduction, the realization of adaptation and mitigation synergies as well as climate smart agricultural practices.

2. Climate resilient development: fit for purpose indicators and selection criteria - A. Miola, EU JRC

The JRC research activity on theoretical framework, selection criteria and fit for purpose Indicators and data for climate resilient development is introduced.

Some fit-for-purpose indicators that can be selected to construct an index for climate resilient development are discussed. As a case study two indices using the same components and indicators built for a sample of countries were proposed and discussed identifying the main issues related to the construction of an index for climate resilient development. The main outcome of this case study is that an index in the climate resilient development domain should answer to a specific policy request with a clear objective. This is a first step to build a fit for purpose index.

The presentation concludes proposing a web knowledge platform as an interface between science and policy in the domain of climate change risk, disaster risk management for humanitarian aid and development should provide transparent, objective, reliable, accurate, and open source information on the natural hazards

related to climate change, vulnerability, adaptive capacity, mitigation, and resilience. The aim of such a platform is not just to provide information needed to rank countries and allocate resources, but also to provide supporting tools consistent with many frameworks such as the climate resilient development, low carbon development, green growth and green economy ones.

3. "Analysis of which metrics are 'Fit-for-purpose" – Ian Noble

After some general remarks on the problems of composite indicators the ND-GAIN index, its motivation, structure and elements are introduced. The index is constructed along two dimensions: vulnerability to and readiness for climate change. Those two dimensions are measured over time with a set of indices. Plotting both dimensions over time allows establishing an association between specific events and the readiness and vulnerability development in the respective country. A problem specific to ND GAIN is the inclusion of libertarian free market measures in the readiness component, which could even be argued to obstruct readiness to climate change by reducing quality of governance.

4. " A physical vulnerability index to climate change as a criterion for allocation of adaptation resources" – P.Guillaumont - FERDI

The presentation focuses on the measurement of vulnerability to climate change with the goal of allocating funds for climate change adaptation. The author differentiates between structural vulnerability which is exogenous to the country and can only be changed over the long term (and general vulnerability which also takes into account the contemporary political situation in a given country, thus allowing for improvements in the short and medium term. Two indices are discussed in some detail: the Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) of UNCDP and the Physical Vulnerability to Climate Change Index (PVCCI). The adverse incentives to reducing vulnerability for recipient countries, induced by the use of 'wrong' indices for the allocation process are highlighted. Are different measures needed for the evaluation of funding demand due to high vulnerability and successful use of funds allocated in the past?

II. Data sets on climate-related and weather-driven hazards

5. "Data sets for Droughts and Floods" – P. Salamon; J. Vogt EU JRC

Peter Salomon explains the data and models available for European and global flood hazards assessment. Jürgen Vogt presents different global datasets useful for monitoring droughts and for assessing drought hazard. He discusses the complexity associated with the definition of droughts and the use of the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) to measure meteorological droughts in terms of frequency, duration, severity and intensity. The relatively small number of drought events documented in the EM-DAT database and the difficulty to estimate related impacts is mentioned.

6. "Space or Sustainable Development" – P. P. Mathieu, European Satellite Agency

The presentation introduced ESA's Copernicus and Sentinel Missions and explained the wide range of applications for the use of earth observation data (e.g. ship detection, land use, crop monitoring, arctic ice extent, global sea level rise, urban sprawl, the carbon cycle, climate re-analysis) and the multiple partnerships ESA is building and maintaining to widely disseminated respective data.

7 "Improving climate research societal benefit: JPI Climate strategy towards Open Climate Knowledge"- A. Sancho-Reinoso , BOKU University

The presentation introduces JPI Climate (<http://www.jpi-climate.eu>), a cooperation of 14 EU-member states with the goal to align, integrate and disseminate climate change research. Transparency and open access to research results and data are the core principals. In the second half of 2015 JPI Climate will host a Symposium on Open Climate Knowledge in Brussels.

Experiences from the practitioners

8. "M&E indicators for measuring Adaptation" – J. Olivier, GIZ, GmbH

The presentation focused on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation progress and outcomes at the national and subnational level. To this end the GIZ project M&E Adapt, implemented on behalf of BMZ together with partner countries is constructing context and demand driven nation specific M&E systems for adaptation. To this end GIZ developed tools and methods; e.g. a repository of available adaptation indicators, a robust method for assessing vulnerability as well as an approach to measure climate resilience. The approach was illustrated with an example of the adaptation M&E system implemented in Morocco. All information is available from adaptationcommunity.net.

9 "Climate resilient development - safeguarding or mainstreaming?" – J. Carstensen - UK DFID

The presentation details smart rules for the Climate and Environment Assurance (CEA) regime the British Department for International Development (DfID) has recently adopted to mainstream environmental and climate change risks and opportunities in their development projects. Strictly adhering to the poverty first principal, operating standards demand that programs ensure sustainability and resilience and avoid doing harm.

ì

10 "Climate Resilience through the project cycle - EIB's experience to date" – S. Lindenberg, European Investment Bank

The presentation elaborates on how Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) in general and in particular the European Investment Bank evaluate their project financing with respect to implied climate risks and potentials for the enhancement of adaptive capacity.

The workshop ends with a joint elaboration of all members on how the specific institutions can contribute the planned web-platform for composite indicators on climate resilient development. Participants generally welcome the universal shift in

the perception of the need to account for risks and opportunities of climate and environmental issues.

March 26, 2015

In the morning of Thursday 26/03/2015 a subset of the participants from the workshop convene for a roundtable.

The meeting was an open floor without a given agenda. The roundtable was opened with a welcome note and a short summary of the workshop from A. Miola. The participants of the roundtable then started to share and discuss their perception of the relation of development, environmental preservation and climate change. Ecosystem services and variations of the environmental Kuznets curve and their applicability are discussed. Etienne Coyette explained how the GCCA is currently fine-tuned and which open questions arise in the context of doing so. Open issues relevant to the round table are if and how ecosystem based adaptation can be integrated in the vulnerability assessment and which indices are sensible for evaluation and measurement. Jan Willem from IUCN NL inquires upon the role external actors can have in the new GCCA+. The GCCA so far mainly works with national governments of recipient states. However, since adaptation is implemented at the local level, it is an important question how trickle down can be assured, the local level be engaged and local involvement be scaled up. From there the discussion goes to the involvement of the civil society in EU level projects and the mutual influence the development community and the environmental protection community could and should have upon each other and the policy process.

Examples arise where external cooperation partners have been funded by the EU but then kept the data acquired on basis of that funding to themselves. This naturally brings the focus on open data. It is generally agreed that the increasing availability of open data is a good thing. However, there is the caveat that large and increasing number of web-platforms, missing standardization and insufficient documentation of some data sources poses the threat of fragmentation and creation of wasteful redundancies. To prevent such problems Apollonia Miola invites all partners to join in the development process of the Resilience Indicators Web-platform, to specify the demand and select appropriate indicators to allow local, national and international stakeholders to build and compare the appropriate indicator for climate change resilient development.

List of participants

Name	Organization
Julia Olivier	GIZ
Max Linsen	DG CLIMA
Sami Zeidan	DG CLIMA
Marta Testa	DG DEVCO
Alexandru Ghiurca	DG DEVCO
Catherine Simonet	ODI
Patrick Guillaumont	FERDI
Ian Noble	ND-GAIN
Stephanie Lindenberg	EIB
Michel Jambou	DG DEVCO
Pierre Phillippe Mathieu	ESA
Paolo Bufalini	DG DEVCO
Jan Willem den Besten	IUCN-NL
John Carstensen	DFID-UK
Alexis Sancho-Reinoso	Jpi Climate
Pedro Oliveira	DG DEVCO
Chris Addison	CTA
Peter Maxson	World Bank GFDRR
Etienne Coyette	DG DEVCO
Apollonia Miola	JRC
Eleni Papadimitriou	JRC
Frank Neher	JRC