

Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)

Inputs for Workshop 6 on “Zooming in: Target-setting, metrics, methodologies and indicators for the GGA as well as steps of an iterative adaptation cycle and means of implementation, taking account of the systems and sectors set out by the IPCC, and of options for enhancing efforts to mainstream adaptation in national priority areas or sectors.”

Submission by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is pleased to make this submission as an input for the proposed sixth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GlaSS) on “Zooming in: Target-setting, metrics, methodologies and indicators for the GGA as well as steps of an iterative adaptation cycle and means of implementation, taking account of the systems and sectors set out by the IPCC, and of options for enhancing efforts to mainstream adaptation in national priority areas or sectors”, in accordance with paragraph 20 (a)(b)(c)(d) of decision 3/CMA.4 and the subsequent Information Note on the work programme presented by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies on 8 February 2023.

We welcome the guidance in the Information Note that “In designing the workshop, it is important to build on and explore further relevant work under the GGA work programme, including the compilation and synthesis of indicators, approaches, targets and metrics for reviewing overall progress in achieving the global goal on adaptation, which built on the 2021 technical report by the Adaptation Committee, as well as relevant deliberations of the 2022 workshops.”

We would also like to draw attention to paragraph 10 of decision 3/CMA.4, which outlines some of the dimensions, themes, cross-cutting considerations, and sources of information that Parties agreed to take into consideration in Sharm el-Sheikh while developing the framework for the GGA, through a structured approach, in 2023.

In our view, target-setting, planning and monitoring of the GGA should fully take into account the findings of [the IPCC Sixth Assessment report](#) that notes that the feasibility and effectiveness of adaptation options increase with integrated, multi-sectoral solutions that address social inequities, differentiate responses based on climate risk and cut across systems. As adaptation options often have long implementation time horizons, long-term planning and monitoring increases their efficiency. Actions that focus on sectors and risks in isolation and on short-term gains often lead to maladaptation over the long-term, creating lock-ins of vulnerability, exposure and risks that are difficult to change. Maladaptation can be avoided through flexible, multisectoral, inclusive, long-term planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions, with co-benefits across many sectors and systems.

The IPCC also identifies that the system transitions make possible the transformational adaptation required for high levels of human health and well-being, economic and social resilience, and ecosystem and planetary health. Among others, systems to be transformed for the most impactful adaptation outcomes include: energy systems; urban infrastructure; land systems; ocean ecosystem; society, livelihoods and economies; and industry.

The summary of the fifth workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation noted that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and Community-based Adaptation (CBA) were highlighted as potential measures to pursue transformational adaptation.

In this regard, metrics and indicators for transformational adaptation based on NbS and CBA can build on a range of existing efforts to develop monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems for these interventions. Examples outlined in the [Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(FEBA\) issue brief](#) on Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) prepared for COP27 include the following: (i) [FEBA's M&E Guidebook for Ecosystem-based Adaptation \(EbA\)](#), (ii) Conservation International's [Guidelines for Designing, Implementing & Monitoring NbS for Adaptation](#), (iii) International Climate Initiative's (IKI) [Guidelines on Project Planning and Monitoring](#), and (iv) the [Guidebook for Monitoring and Evaluating Ecosystem-based Adaptation](#) developed by GIZ.

Accelerating climate change must be addressed through an integrated approach, not only across sectors, but also between mitigation and adaptation efforts. For this reason, the proven potential of Nature-based Solutions to contribute to adaptation outcomes with mitigation and biodiversity benefits should make it a key priority mechanism in setting the targets of the GGA. To maximize the potential of NbS to address climate change impacts, the targets, metrics, methodologies, and indicators for tracking the GGA should correspond with the following high-level considerations:

1. Align with the principles of locally-led adaptation: adaptation metrics should be robust enough to include the particularities of local conditions as well as local priorities, taking into account local vulnerabilities and hazard exposure, and be measurable in a straightforward manner that does not add onerous reporting burdens but rather links into existing reporting and enables incremental learning. They should embrace the combined vulnerability and resilience of local communities and the ecosystems which they depend on, and allow processes of monitoring and evaluation to be done in partnership with affected communities.
2. Account for the qualitative, difficult to measure, and linked benefits of social and ecological adaptation: metrics and indicators need to be flexible and adaptive to aggregate both quantitative and qualitative information on adaptation, and to bridge data across different levels. These should be developed to facilitate monitoring of things such as: the resilience of biodiverse ecosystems, reduction of non-economic losses such as natural and cultural heritage and other cultural attachments to place, distribution of risks across socioeconomic groups, protection of community lifelines and strategic assets, persistence of vulnerable ecosystems, diversity of habitats, maintenance of economic drivers, and support to traditional fishing and farming communities, among others.
3. Recognize the transboundary and multi-temporal impact of climate change: monitoring progress on the GGA might integrate a landscape approach to accommodate the fact that climate change impacts are not restricted by national boundaries, and effective adaptation actions often work best at the ecosystem level. Further, the impacts of climate change are multi-temporal, especially in relation to ecosystems, and monitoring should go beyond a project model to capture progress systemically in a way that embraces complexity. Adaptation actions should, furthermore, not shift vulnerability and hazard exposure onto others while at the same time enhancing climate mitigation wherever possible.