



Climate Change Vulnerability Indicators

Options for VI – Measuring effectiveness of adaptation interventions

Overview

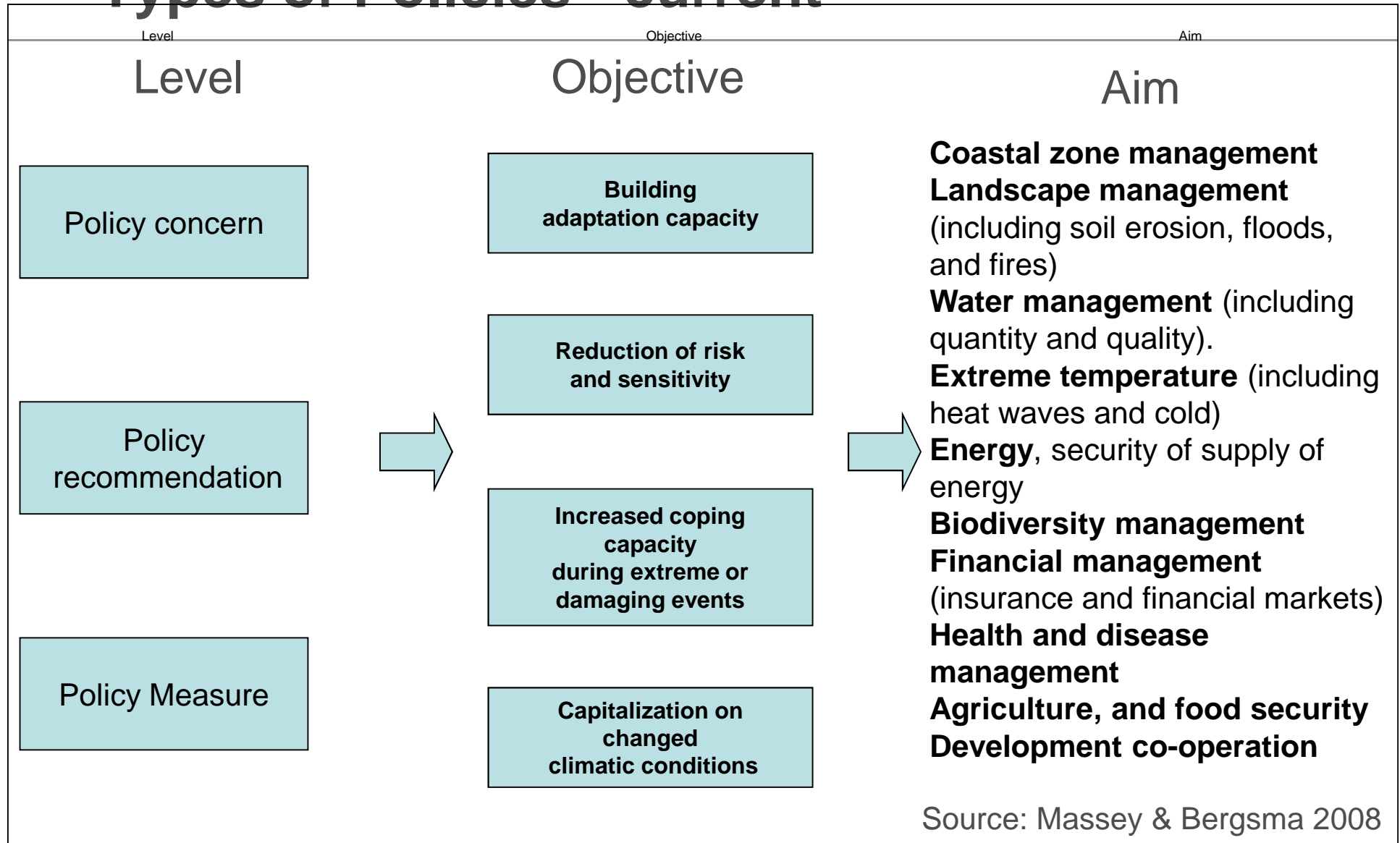
Purpose of Indicator: To measure the effectiveness of adaptation interventions in fulfilling their purpose

Points to consider:

- Would this focus on evaluating the effectiveness of interventions solely within the EU level role, or the effectiveness of all adaptation everywhere in Europe?
- Complexity in quantifying the effectiveness of a policy or quantifying adaptive capacity.
- Ex ante evaluation
- Ex post evaluation

- Links to EEA work – outcome based. “The development of appropriate indicators should (logically and ideally) follow agreement of long-term goals and definition of medium and short-term objectives and targets.”
 - capacity

Types of Policies - current



Example: Heatwave action plans

Outline of Example

- The objective of Heatwave action plans is to enhance the population's resilience in the event of a heatwave
- For example, the UK has a National Heatwave Plan which provides best practice guidance for those responsible for caring for the vulnerable
- The Heatwave Plan identifies a number of factors that increase an individual's risk during a heatwave

What kind of information is useful in evaluating heatwave actions plans?

Ex ante decision driven by various factors e.g. driven by recent experiences

Evaluation of heatwave plans

Considerations (ex post):

- Many adaptation strategies could be said to improve adaptive capacity by increasing awareness so decision-makers can mainstream concerns about climate change into their everyday decisions. How would this effect be measured? Link evaluation to targets and objectives
- Selecting variables is challenging – need a very specific context, e.g. Heatwave Plans. Deductive approach with normative aspect – perhaps in the form of expert opinion.
- There is a danger though in designing indicators to directly assess the variables that strategies (and policies and measures) are designed to influence. For example, if an indicator is designed to assess existence of a heatwave action plan, it will only measure the implementation of the heatwave policy, not any actual reduction in vulnerability.

Lessons

Ex ante

- At the level of policy intervention, specificity and context is again crucial
- Other metrics possible to use in evaluating effectiveness, e.g. risk assessment, cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness analysis, multicriteria appraisal
- How does vulnerability contribute to ex ante policy appraisal?

Ex post

- For future consideration

Questions to consider

In each context, how does information about vulnerability help?

What is the additional value of developing vulnerability indicators?

What audience / level of governance should this information be targeted to?

Questions to consider

How does information about vulnerability help raising awareness?

What is the additional value of developing vulnerability indicators?

What audience / level of governance should this information be targeted to?