



Climate Change Vulnerability Indicators: Summary and next steps

Summary

Context

- Preliminary assessment of possible approaches for elaborating vulnerability indicators – policy objectives

Challenges

- Conceptual
- Methodological
- Practical

Development

- Different objectives lead to different approaches
- Data suitability and availability

Conclusions so far

Starting point must be the problem that needs to be solved (i.e., reason or objective)

Vulnerability indicators are one tool among several which can be used to support decision-making in adaptation

In most cases, there are issue specific dimensions to vulnerability which are crucial

Spatial and temporal distinctions are also critical in assessments of vulnerability

Future development of vulnerability indicators should be targeted to those areas where climate hazards are not currently being managed?

Raise awareness

‘High-level’ VI could be developed for specific audiences at specific scales. This would be deliberately broad-brush and would not need the level of detail or reliability required for focused policy or project decisions

Focus on generic components of adaptive capacity coupled with exposure term based on climate change scenarios

Possible examples and uses:

- indication to EU adaptation decision makers of regions or areas where more detailed attention required,
- Used by sectoral or functional decision-makers to highlight areas where project-specific interventions might be appropriate (e.g. reason to carry out more detailed impact assessment),
- It could be an additional piece of evidence to support improvements in particular components of adaptive capacity (e.g. cc vulnerability becomes another reason for EU to continue to push for social reforms in parts of Europe)

Determine funding allocations

Potential - but need to be able to provide issue specific (sectoral or functional) information to fit current funding regimes

- Solidarity
- Cohesion
- Structural

Need for clear framework (principles and methods) that can be applied for similar purpose across different sectors

- standardisation

'New' adaptation fund would have different requirements – comparative measure of vulnerability or ranking exercise?

- Issue of innovation?

Effectiveness of policy / measures

- **Ex ante evaluation of adaptation measures** - policy appraisal prior to implementation. Policy specific – guidelines and / or framework?

- **Ex post evaluation of adaptation measures** - future activity

- **Possible examples and uses:**
 - to assess cross-compare between different options or policy packages,
 - to measure possible gains against those from other "non adaptation" initiatives

- **To consider**
 - Challenges of measuring change or potential change in problem
 - Are other metrics / approaches more suitable?
 - Uncertainty of what is effective or successful adaptation looks like – particularly for 'soft' measures. Challenging to link building capacity with action.

Options to proceed

Raising awareness

- Issue specific
- Focus on regions recognised with high vulnerability
- Handful of issues (which?), handful of components to generate index of risk
- Draw on existing datasets (impacts, risk & vulnerability, socio-economic)
- Q: Is adaptive capacity component possible or helpful?

Decision support for allocation of funding

- Integration of climate risk criterion within existing appraisal
- Issue and question specific
- Framework of principles for developing criteria
- Implement for particular choice of funding question

Next Steps

- **EEA workshops**
 - Vulnerability mapping and adaptation indicators

- **Develop option**
 - Preliminary output based on existing data

- **Roadmap for future development**
 - Link with existing and planned work
 - White Paper phased approach
 - 2009 to 2012
 - 2012 beyond – implementation