

# GAP- TRACK

## GLOBAL ADAPTATION PROGRESS TRACKER (GAP-Track)

### Context

The most pressing issue for climate change adaptation decision-makers and practitioners is how to track progress of adaptation across different types of systems. Adaptation activities are occurring on the ground, however there is limited knowledge about their effectiveness towards actual risk and vulnerability reduction, and a lack of assessment tools. This makes planning challenging at all scales. Countries and development actors are increasingly facing constraints to identify priority actions in sustainable strategies and designate funding. Without a shared base line and understanding of adaptation progress, it is difficult to ascertain if risk and vulnerability reduction is happening across different social and environmental systems, and design robust adaptation targets, actions and investment plans.

A political call at COP26 in Glasgow highlights a need to ‘increase an understanding of local to global adaptation needs’. A global scale understanding can provide a proxy against which to assess progress and design tracking instruments including monitoring and evaluation systems at local and national scales. To date, however, there is no universal framework or tool available to track adaptation progress across different systems.

The **Global Adaptation Progress-Tracker (GAP-Track)** led by IDDRI presents a first initiative towards capturing a global assessment of adaptation progress and aims to:

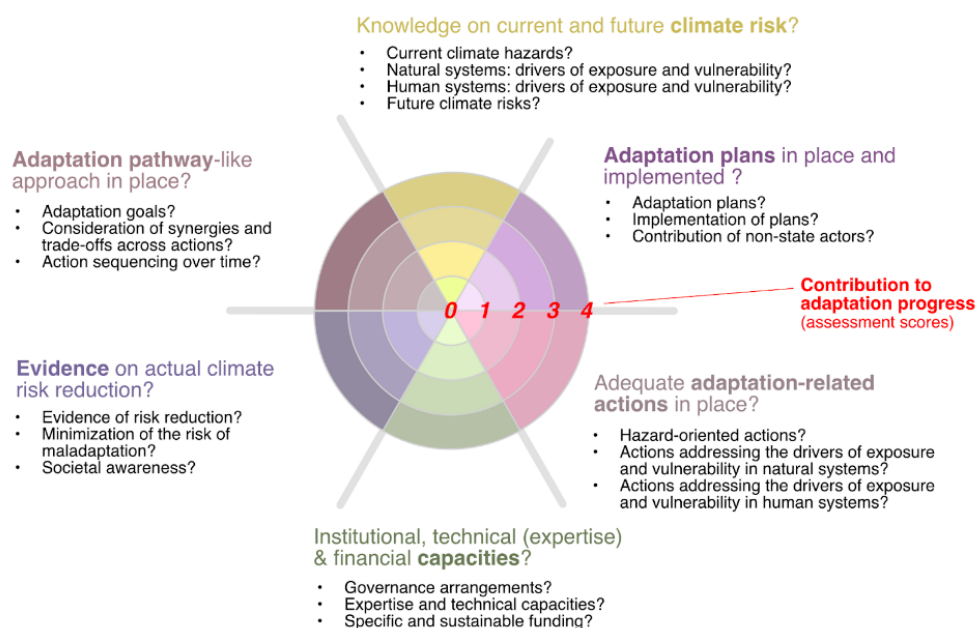
1. **Carry out an assessment of adaptation progress across 10 global systems** and hence provide a first evidence of collective adaptation efforts and needs. These global systems are (see Fig. 2): 5 socio-geographical systems representing major human settlements around the world (coasts, cities, mountains, Arctic regions, rural areas), 1 biodiversity-oriented system (transboundary ecosystems) and 4 sectoral systems acknowledged as having a critical influence on well-being under a changing climate (health, infrastructure and energy systems, food security, peace).
2. **Identify the main adaptation gaps and priorities** in these systems across 6 core components of adaptation: *knowledge on climate risk, planning, action, capacities, evidence on risk reduction, and long-term adaptation strategies*.
3. **Develop a user-friendly database** to collect and share information and evidence on system-level adaptation tracking.

4. **Set up a tool box** to support countries to **design monitoring and evaluation frameworks** (to assess adaptation strategies at multiple scales), and support development actors to improve their **impact performance on adaptation** (especially through climate finance).
5. **Structure an international South-North community of experts** on assessing adaptation progress across global systems.

## The GAP-Track approach

The GAP-Track presents an innovative approach to evaluate global adaptation and is based on the following foundation:

- **The implementation of a system-level approach** by assessing 10 systems referring to critical *Representative Adaptation Challenges*, here defined as proxies for global adaptation priorities.
- **The use of an expert judgment method (supported by a scoring system)** that is framed by six overarching questions (Figure 1.) reflecting the core components of adaptation (knowledge, planning, actions, capacities, evidence and forecasting).
- **A participatory and inclusive approach** based on the recruitment of worldwide experts from both hemispheres, and the use of different sources of information and data at various scales to provide evidence of adaptation progress across key systems.



**Figure 1.** GAP-Track assessment matrix

## From pilot study in 2021 to a full application in 2022

In 2021 IDDRI carried out a first pilot study in two country case studies (see [final report](#)), that proved the interest and applicability of the approach. This project was supported by the French Development Agency and a high-level steering committee with representatives<sup>1</sup> from worldwide organizations working on adaptation.

<sup>1</sup> French development agency, Global Commission on Adaptation, IDDRI, International Platform on Adaptation Metrics, IPCC representatives, OECD, Stockholm Environment institute, UK climate change committee and cabinet office, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Center, UNFCCC Adaptation Committee representative, Willis Towers Watson, World Bank.

The current phase aims to **scale up the assessment in a pilot study on 3 global-scale systems over the next two years** and set the foundation towards a full application of the GAP-Track across 10 systems over the course of four years (2022-2026). Figure 2 illustrates the organization of a full scale application of the GAP-Track.



**Figure 2.** GAP-Track full application

## The assessment: mobilizing worldwide views (experts)

The full project will recruit 120 **experts from the Global South and North**, representing all **major regions across the globe** (Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania and South America). All experts will have an extended background in climate change risks and adaptation **science and practice**. Mobilizing worldwide experts aims to ensure inclusiveness of the project and give a voice to all perspectives and contexts on the climate change adaptation challenge that is addressed in the assessment. This will be organized as follows: **12 experts per system**, which will include 2 experts per region, ensuring an equal South/North representation and gender balance. Among these experts, 2 will serve as **coordinators** (1 representative from the North and 1 representative from the South) and will be in charge of managing the expert assessment and outcomes.

The **2022-2023 pilot phase on assessing 3 systems will mobilize 36 experts**. The general cross-system scientific and technical coordination will be provided by a **Secretariat** hosted by IDDRI, and will be supported by an international **Steering Committee**.

## Expected outcomes of the GAP-Track for the next two years

- A **new method to assess adaptation progress at the global level**, considering multiple components of adaptation (knowledge, planning, actions, capacities, evidence and forecasting). This tool will bring together multiple sources of data and information on adaptation progress across systems, and will be organized in a **user-friendly database**.
- **First evidence** of global-scale collective adaptation progress and needs
- **Design of guidance framework** to assist key stakeholders to enhance their adaptation efforts (including toolbox and database)
- **Publications and media interventions**: 3 Policy Briefs and 3 scientific publications in high-visibility journals; presentations at conferences and policy fora
- Setting-up of a GAP-Track **community of practice** (experts, international organizations and policy communities)

## Timeline

### GAP-Track — Pilot phase (3 global systems)

