Learning from a capacity-based approach to adaptation monitoring and evaluation

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Assessing adaptation is tricky

- Long temporal horizon
- Shifting baselines
- Uncertainty
- Measuring risks avoided
- Universal indicators inappropriate
- Contribution ≠ Attribution
- Lack of universal definitions
Adaptation Monitoring & Evaluation

- Tracking progress
- Assessing effectiveness, success
Approaches to Adaptation M&E

- Outcome-based
- Process-based
  - Vulnerability-based
  - Capacity-based
Approaches to Adaptation M&E

Outcome-based
Were adaptation outcomes accomplished? 
Risks avoided?

Process-based
Were the processes for adaptation equitable, effective, efficient, legitimate, etc.?

Vulnerability-based
How is vulnerability changing?

Capacity-based
Were conditions that can enable adaptation strengthened?
## Capacity for Adaptation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Adaptive capacity</strong></th>
<th><strong>Pre-conditions</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hypothetical</td>
<td>• Enabling factors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Indicates potential</td>
<td>• Evidence-based</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Complex relationship to implementation/action</td>
<td>• Learned</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>• Aim to tackle adaptation barriers</td>
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Can’t speak to effectiveness but gauge enabling environment - Readiness
Readiness Framework
Measures of Readiness

- Local/regional climate data & vintage
- Regionally relevant climate research
- Organizational planning knowledge
- TEK
- Systems information
• Public, free data sets
• Accessible language data
• Knowledge clearing houses
• Consulting expertise
• Training/certification for professionals
Measures of Readiness

- Regional boundary organization
- Co-produced knowledge
- Multi-/interdisciplinary staff
- Adaptation trained staff
- Connected data sets
- Awareness of others’ knowledge
Measures of Readiness

- Ability to act/decide without additional permissions
- Appropriate jurisdiction
Measures of Readiness

- Written commitment (Ministry mandate letters, Ministry service plans)
- Throne speech
- Public statements
Measures of Readiness:

- Public opinion surveys
- Media coverage of adaptation/climate impacts
- Tracked public engagement
- Social media presence
- Recent experience with climate hazard
Measures of Readiness

- Coordinating team/lead department
- Champion/lead
- Staff for adaptation
- Ability of org. system to take risk into account
- Involvement in collaborative committees
Measures of Readiness

- Dedicated funding for implementation
- Multi-year funding
- Ability to use funding; respond to funding calls (shovel-ready projects)
Measures of Readiness

- Adaptation requirement met in project/asset management plans
- Projects implemented that consider adaptation
- Adaptation plans completed
- Adaptation considered in capital planning, demographic planning
Measures of Readiness

- Adaptation in KPIs
- Ongoing risk/capacity/vulnerability assessment process
- Monitoring for whole system impacts
- Iteration built in
Measures of Readiness

- Commitment to reporting on adaptation
- Adaptation included in other reporting
- Adaptation included in planning progress reports
- Public disclosure of implications
Measures of Readiness

- Planning iteration required or a commitment
- Existence of mandated/committed regular reviews
Application of the framework

**Trial**
- Carbon Neutral Action Reports (public sector organizations)
- Climate Action Revenue Incentive Program (local governments)

**Objective**
- to assess which pre-conditions are addressed (ranking 1-2-3, Y/N)
Preliminary results from trial

Three point scale – Early (1) – Underway (2) – Advanced (3)
n/d – no/limited data

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CNAR (public sector organizations)</th>
<th>CARIP (municipalities)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Early (1)</td>
<td>Early (1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>Early (1)</td>
<td>Underway (2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>n/d</td>
<td>n/d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Sector Organizations based on CNAR
Municipalities based on CARIP
Learnings

About our context
• Significant data gaps
• Limitations of existing reporting tools
• Customizing measures

About readiness
• Ability to reflect on barriers directly
• Aggregates hide nuances
• No statements about effectiveness
Insights into Readiness

- Knowledge not a barrier – knowledge translation is possible
- Organizational capacity limited
- Reporting and review largely absent
Next steps

• Address data gaps
• More nuanced, qualitative assessment
• Include three provincial ministries
• Consider small set of outcome-based measures
References


Thank you!
Questions or comments?

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