

Adaptation Platforms: Science- Policy-Practice Interface

Expectations and challenges

Outline

Supporting decisions: Challenges

The value proposition

Directions for science

Climate Adaptation Platforms: Supporting decisions

Purpose – to address the needs of policy and decision makers – by providing information, data and guidance to support adaptation [and resilience]

Early resources – primary goal of delivering climate and climate change data from observations and modelling experiments – past, present and future climate conditions

Has lead to assessing impacts and climate-related risks for areas or sectors of interest

Climate Adaptation Platforms: Supporting decisions

Addressing decision-making needs led to combining and linking data with risk management frameworks, guidance, tools and adaptation / resilience enablers (case studies, etc.)

Challenges

- Cognitive – expectations about decision-makers' abilities and capacities to use what is available (knowledge and skills; time and financial, human and technical resources)
- Scope of decision-making – changing and evolving perspectives – resilience and adaptation; climate action consistent with SDGs; systemic risks and actions
- Evolving nature and scope of the science and evidence, including increasing data and proliferation of guidance and tools.

Climate Adaptation Platforms: Supporting decisions



Addressing these challenges – changing the nature and scope of adaptation platforms and of their operations

Strategies introduced include:

- In-depth and continuing *engagement and consultation* with the intended users
 - Capacity building and building community and trust
 - Understanding and matching the offer with their needs and capabilities
 - Co-evaluation and updating with links and comparative studies
- Introduction of *adaptation / resilience enablers* (case / learning studies, peer-group collaboration, etc.)
- Enhanced *user-friendliness* – simplicity of navigation, use of accessible and jargon-free language
- *Translation of science* into relevant, usable, legitimate and credible knowledge, evidence and data
- *Innovations* – building on emerging digital technologies

Climate Adaptation Platforms: Setting a direction

Value Proposition

A promise of value and a belief on how that value (benefits) will be delivered, shared, acquired and acknowledged – value as seen from the targeted audiences' perspectives (funders, science-providers and partners, and users)

Need to clearly articulate the purposes of the platform recognising:

- the sciences upon which the platform is built
- the existing and evolving expectations and capacities of the user communities (Note: to what extent is that understood or considered when establishing and updating such a platform)

Need to define the unique [competitive] advantage and/or social and economic benefits the platform offers:

- Unique competitive advantage should be defined from the perspective of the intended users, but also reflect the value (quality, relevance, usability, legitimacy and credibility) of the content – recognise that others that are and can deliver on aspects, but what is it that the platform offers that makes it unique
- Articulation of the unique social and economic benefits resulting from the availability and use of the platform

Perspectives on Scope of the platform

There are different perspectives as to what is in and out of scope – need to establish an agreed understanding prior to moving forward

Scope could be based on (list is neither comprehensive nor are those listed mutually exclusive) a focus on:

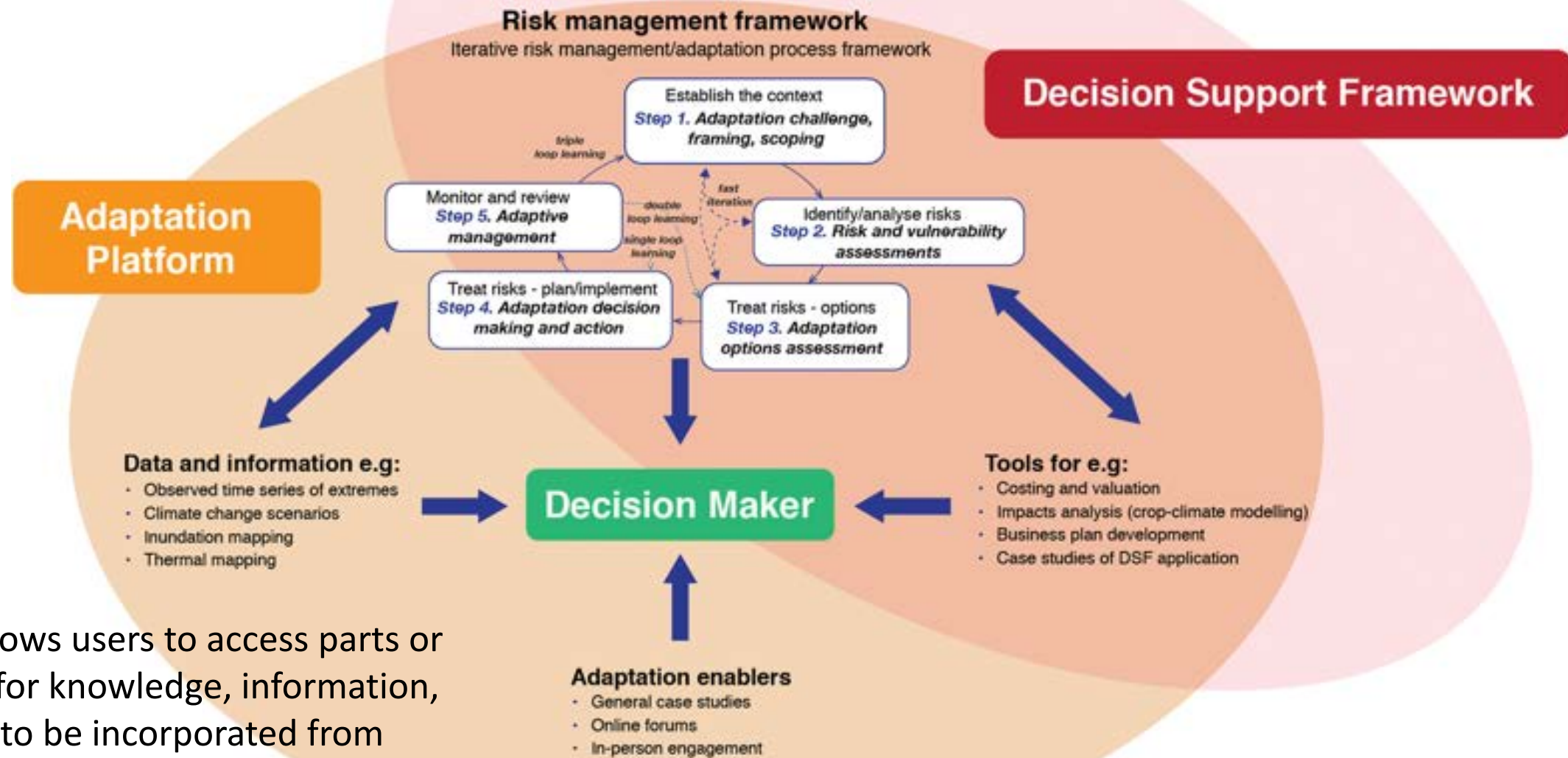
- Understanding and meeting users' decision-making needs;
- Enhancing climate-resilience;
- Building adaptive capacity and adaptation potential; and/or
- Building capability to continue to be resilient and adapting well.

Each vary in the extent to which they are directed at meeting the existing and evolving nature and scope of the decision and policy-making needs and implications for what is offered as comprising the platform

Fundamental change needed in the understanding and management of climate risk and resilience – systemic risks and addressing these needs to go beyond BAU

- Platform's offerings need to be fit-for-purposes and forward-looking (informing and supporting this transition)

Typical structure of an adaptation platform



Open system allows users to access parts or the whole, and for knowledge, information, data, tools, etc. to be incorporated from elsewhere and as they become available

Adaptation Platforms: Challenges

Meeting the needs of the increasingly sophisticated and broadening adaptation practitioner communities – need to involve practitioners at all stages

- *Research and innovation* to inform and influence actions directed at delivering adaptation and building resilience, including climate action in the context of the SDGs
- Fit-for-purpose attention to *navigability, accessibility, legitimacy and relevance* of that offered – need to tailor material to the capabilities and needs of users towards enhancing the pull; and
- *Long-term support* will be required to fulfil the needs of the target audience


Addressing the above two challenges will require *evaluation supporting learning and continued improvement*:

- To inform and influence the research and innovation; and
- To ensure adaptation platforms and decision-support tools make a real and continuing difference to the effectiveness of adaptation action.

Adaptation Platforms: Challenges

Supporting action and those most vulnerable:

- Making the content available more relevant to existing interests, budgets, and plans can actually reproduce vulnerabilities and foreclose transformative adaptation.
 - To what extent can marginalized stakeholders pressure experts to contextualize the offered information, evidence and data in ways that mitigate vulnerabilities.
- Research and innovations should expand user-centred approaches to designing and developing content by:
 - Asking for whom is that content being offered; and
 - Assessing the implications for different populations from the perspective of implications for action



The challenge and opportunities: Supporting
climate resilient and adapting well consistent
with the post-2015 international agenda

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