



Monitoring and Evaluation of Climate Adaptation Activities: Identifying Challenges to Find Appropriate Solutions

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Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is an important element of the adaptation process; it enables progress to be measured, provides a means of assessing the effectiveness of policies and actions and can generate a cycle of reflection, learning and improvement. Yet as we are learning, the process of monitoring and evaluation in the context of climate change adaptation brings its own distinct challenges and solutions. As an increasing number of organisations consider the progress they are making in fostering adaptation, or seek to identify measures to assess current and future performance, it appears an apt time to reflect on some of the challenges faced.

UKCIP's recent work in this field has sought to share knowledge and bring together expertise from the fields of climate adaptation and monitoring and evaluation in order to explore the challenges faced in understanding whether we 'are we doing things right?' and 'are we doing the right things?'. Our research suggests that while numerous monitoring and evaluation frameworks exist, there appears to be a gap in terms of practical guidance which overtly acknowledges that there is no 'one-size fits all' M&E framework which can be applied to adaptation. Furthermore, this guidance must reflect the fact that practitioners will approach the adaptation from different intellectual and disciplinary angles and thus will make different assumptions in assessing progress. Discussions with stakeholders led us to conclude that issue-based guidance which reflects upon the factors which can make it inherently difficult to understand the efficacy of our adaptation efforts may be an effective way forward. Drawing upon academic literature and a workshop attended by practitioners and policymakers, we have identified a series of 'Tricky Issues' which can make effective, decision-relevant Monitoring and Evaluation of adaptation problematic. These have formed the basis of UKCIP's online guidance which will be published in early summer 2011.

This poster/presentation reflects upon the process of developing guidance and responding to the needs of a diverse range of potential users. We will highlight the importance of bringing together practitioners from different disciplines to respond to a shared challenge and why guidance needs to be both accessible and practical. We will also illustrate why aiming for the weaknesses in current M&E approaches to adaptation may represent a useful starting point for developing guidance and reflect on the potential of sharing approaches to monitoring and evaluation more effectively across Europe.