

Draft strategy for GCOS to support observations for adaptation

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Minor revision 11 October 2019

Background:

- GCOS SC 25 appointed a task team to develop a position paper on how GCOS could contribute to the UNFCCC Stocktake for adaptation and mitigation. The report was presented during GCOS SC 26 in Finland.
- As a next step GCOS SC 26 called for the development of an adaptation strategy document. A slightly revised task team membership was identified to develop that.

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Below is a Draft Strategy (multi-year project) for a GCOS adaptation strategy with short, medium and longer term actions (4.b,c,d).

Note: All steps would require substantial/extensive engagement with adaptation and observation academics and practitioners, etc. outside of current GCOS SC. Development of collaborations with other UN bodies (e.g., GFCS, WCRP, GEO, UNFCCC Secretariat, IPCC esp. WG2) with interest in and activities around adaptation would also be important to avoid duplication of effort, to enhance use, and support synergies. Identified steps for GCOS activity include:

1. Identify opportunities and user needs through consultations/workshops:
 - a. Review existing NAPS for major sectors and concerns
 - b. Utilize information from GCOS adaptation scoping and user needs workshops, including the TOPC February 2019 meeting.
2. Develop broader partnerships with adaptation experts (academic and practitioner), reanalysis centers, finance sector, etc. to define adaptation specifications for the ECVs
3. Define initial set of major sectors (e.g., agriculture, health, urban and communities, water resources, renewable energy, industry, forests, oceans and coasts, environment) based on 1.
4. Associate into sectors, ECVs that would support user identified needs (an ECV will likely show up in multiple sectors)
 - a. consider observation needs (incl. minimum and ideal temporal and spatial scales) in sectors identified in 2. for:

- i. assessing vulnerability (developing NAPs),
 - ii. tracking effectiveness of NAPs,
 - iii. modifying/updating NAPs
 - b. initial objective: start with existing GCOS ECVs, and evaluate which existing ECVs in their current specifications could inform adaptation 4.a. i. – iii).
 - c. medium-term objective: evaluate where there are current observation capabilities (e.g., temporal and spatial scales) for an ECV parameter that go beyond what is specified in existing ECV suite, that could move the parameter from “not useful in specification” to minimum or ideal level for adaptation
 - d. long-term objective: consider new ECVs (parameters not in current GCOS suite), and need for promoting additional observation capabilities for adaptation that likely will be needed and that future global observations could support
5. Document the results from the above steps in published reports after review.