

KE4CAP VKE5: The role of CAPs in supporting monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of progress in adaptation

23 March 2021

Event report

Summary

Monitoring, reporting and evaluation (MRE) encompasses a wide range of activities and resources being offered by climate adaptation (knowledge) platforms (CAPs). In addition, for many CAPs, their contributions to MRE are emerging and are seen as likely to become more important in the future. This perspective recognises that the history and context of a CAP to a large extent determines the primacy of its functions. For most, their primary functions are related to providing data, knowledge and supportive resources and tools that can enhance awareness and inform and inspire climate adaptation. In terms of the spectrum of MRE activities, these functions tend to lead to CAPs reporting and/or monitoring action by providing access to adaptation strategies and plans, national reports, case studies and users' journeys. These early-stage functions also include providing guidance to support MRE of specific projects and programmes.

The move to evaluation of adaptation action – a continuous learning and improvement process – is seen as a considerably more challenging and dubious role for CAPs. This perspective arises from the many associated challenges (resources, capabilities, metrics for measuring success) and concerns related to the implications and legitimacy of undertaking on such a role. As a result, evaluation is seen either as a later-stage or a separate but linked function.

However, CAPs do have a role to play in developing and delivering an MRE capability. They contain data and information that are essential to understanding current status and trends in adaptation, and they have convening powers including structured processes for engaging, advising and brokering. Recognition of these contributions is seen as being beneficial and requires a better understanding as to their nature and scope towards enhancing those benefits.

The need for increased understanding and clarity on the status and progress on adaptation (and climate action more broadly) associated with national and international reporting is fuelling the current interest in MRE. During this VKE5 we skimmed across the surface of MRE functions by CAPs; exploring practices and sharing views and insights. The following highlights are provided to stimulate further thinking and to inform discussions both within CAPs teams and externally with partners and funders. They also suggest that there is interest and therefore a need to delve deeper into aspects of the roles of CAPs and options for delivering MRE functions.

Introduction

This event focussed on the (potential) role of platforms in supporting national (e.g., NAS and NAP), transnational, and international (e.g., NDC and global stocktake) MRE of adaptation actions. While aspects of reporting and monitoring are seen as within the remit of many CAPs, broader aspects of these roles and evaluation are of emerging interest. The perceived legitimacy of such roles was discussed together with the different approaches being used, the benefits of undertaking such roles, and the challenges involved.

We are grateful to the following platforms for sharing their experience via short pre-recorded presentations (available [here](#)):

- An introductory presentation on MRE of adaptation action from the KE4CAP project
- Climate-ADAPT. “*Supporting MRE on adaptation*” explores how the European climate adaptation platform, Climate-ADAPT, is supporting MRE.
- NIES, Japan. “Recent discussion and activities related to monitoring, reporting, and evaluation of adaptation in Japan”. (slides)
- Adaptation Scotland. “*The Benchmarking Tool – Supporting and Assessing Progress against the Adaptation Capability Framework*” describes how the online tool was developed and is used.
- Swedish National Knowledge Centre for Adaptation. “*Creating KLIRA – a system for monitoring Adaptation*” describes the motivation for a separate web-based tool for adaptation reporting.
- CAS, Netherlands. “*The Dutch platform and its (aspired) role with regard to monitoring and evaluation*” looks at how the dynamics on and around the Dutch platform help support MRE.
- SEI. “*The Global Stocktake: Overview and Opportunities*” identifies opportunities for CAPs to engage with and contribute to the global stocktake process within the Paris Agreement.

The introductory presentation includes highlights from responses to the [2020 KE4CAP survey](#) which provide a snapshot of current MRE approaches being taken, innovations being implemented, and challenges experienced. This information informed and supplements the VKE5 discussions.

The agenda is in [Appendix 1](#).

Participants

The event involved 40 participants who are working on, developing and delivering CAPs in 18 countries and regions (Australia, Austria, Canada, Europe, Finland, Germany, Greece, India, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Philippines, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, UK). A list is provided in [Appendix 2](#).

Panel Session 1. Current MRE practices (with Ireland as moderator; panel members from Climate-ADAPT, Sweden and The Netherlands)

The idea of platforms being used to support MRE is relatively recent and there continues to be discussions around the scope and appropriateness of CAPs undertaking such a role. This first session looked to better understand the various formal and informal roles that platforms are currently playing with respect to MRE, and how these complement and enhance other platform activities.

Climate-ADAPT, Sweden and The Netherlands highlighted how their platforms and associate resources are supporting different aspects of MRE (details in [Appendix 3](#) and in [presentations](#)).

Discussions (see [Appendix 3](#)) further considered current roles being offered by platforms including:

- giving access to information and guidance to help inform external monitoring and reporting,
- providing a home for monitoring and reporting tools and instruments,
- platform operators playing a role in advising and brokering on MRE efforts given their strategic and knowledge-based experience,
- tracking adaptation actions at local, regional, national and/or transnational levels ,
- being used as a source of informal, qualitative knowledge on MRE via platform dynamics.

Examples of current support offered by platform were also discussed in the Breakout session.

Panel Session 2. Legitimacy and scope of MRE within CAPs (with The Netherlands as moderator; panel members from Scotland, Japan and SEI)

Looking forward, this session considered potential future roles for CAPs in support MRE and provided views and insights into the perceived appropriateness of those roles. Scotland, Japan and SEI shared their experiences and knowledge (details in [Appendix 3](#) and in [presentations](#)). The discussion then focussed on four main questions:

- 1. To what extent should/could MRE be part of CAPs offerings?*
The conclusion was that there is existing value in platforms reporting on actions being taken (e.g., case studies and users' journey) which are aspects of reporting and monitoring and, although primarily seen as informing and inspiring action, there is potential value to be gained by using platforms to inform and support broader MRE activities.
- 2. To what extent can the lessons and experiences of CAPs be used to support and inform the process of MRE on adaptation actions?*
This is important and will be valuable, but at present work by CAPs tends to be at an early stage and is both diverse and diffuse, reflecting their different remits, histories and positions within the policy and practice space. Some MRE initiatives are focussing at the global (Global stocktake and NDCs) or transnational level (EU adaptation strategy). There is experience, particularly with reporting and to some degree monitoring at the national level; and others are working by sector or at the local level. It was clear that due to the varying nature of existing and emerging roles it is important to continue to share experiences and build a collective knowledge base.
- 3. What are the range of evaluation metrics being used as a means of measuring success?*
Not yet touched on in depth, especially in the context of 'successful adaptation' metrics but this is an area where there may be a defined role for CAPs (as they have data and information and the convening power). Further discussion and elaboration is needed. Japan and other countries are working on the use of indicators and there was expressed interest in the evaluation roles and associated metrics being used by Sweden and Taiwan.
- 4. What are the challenges being experienced and foreseen?*
There are many challenges in evolving and setting up an MRE process which can vary depending on the approach adopted. The spectrum of approaches ranges from setting up a new independent MRE resource or tool (potentially high initial burdens) through a modular approach to a more evolutionary approach (insufficient budget as never a priority).

Breakout Session: Recognising and valuing the role of CAPs in MRE

This session focussed on two questions:

1. Are these MRE roles recognised internally and externally, and to what extent can and should platforms be making more of their associated contributions?
2. Could playing and demonstrating these capabilities be seen as enhancing the value of the platform and (potentially) be used to attract greater support and resources?

These discussions further reaffirmed that CAPs are playing a wide range of roles in terms of supporting and contributing to MRE - from giving access to relevant information through to quantitatively assessing action against indicators. Within the breakout groups, examples of roles being played were grouped under four headings (details in [Appendix 4](#)):

- providing access to reporting (e.g. national reports on adaptation progress),
- online monitoring of use (e.g. platforms activity, uptake of certain resources),
- advising and brokering (e.g. working with stakeholders to advise and inform reporting),

- access to information and guidance (e.g. tools to support MRE activities).

It was noted that the potential for supporting MRE depends strongly on the history of the CAP involved. Newer platforms see a role in supporting MRE, but for most this is considered as a task to be developed in the future (i.e. not an immediate priority). More mature platforms often do not have a comprehensive role across all aspects of MRE within their mandate, so are now considering how to adapt and re-orient accordingly.

It was also recognised that MRE has different purposes and requirements at different stages of the adaptation cycle e.g., case studies are useful at the start and when identifying adaptation options and to demonstrate good practice, learn from peers, inspire action, etc. It is also evident that many CAPs are doing some work towards supporting M&R of adaptation actions but not many are attempting or see a clear role on evaluation. Doing so was highlighted as being challenging from two perspectives. The first related to the perceived appropriateness and legitimacy of such a role including as it could conflict with their primary remit of knowledge sharing. The second was in identifying suitable metrics – and agreeing what is successful adaptation. It was recognised that such metrics are context specific and necessarily depend on the stage of the adaptation cycle a user is at, and therefore the support a CAP can or should provide.

In terms of the whether playing and demonstrating these capabilities could be seen as enhancing the value of the platform, shared experiences suggested that there is a strong potential, particularly by establishing and sustaining communications with ministries that have responsibility for MRE of adaptation action nationally and internationally.

Future KE4CAP activities

EU/Canada event, 4 sessions during 10-20 May, 2021. To delve deeper into topics already touched on during KE4CAP discussions:

1. Advancing the development of product and services
2. Better connecting and linking platforms to share offerings
3. Encouraging the diversity of perspectives when sharing knowledge needed for effective adaptation solutions
4. Considering best practices in supporting the development of adaptation strategies

Registration packages will be sent out in April and all are encouraged to participate.

EU/Japan event: 28-30 June, 2021. More information to be circulated shortly.

KE4CAP Synthesis Workshop, 8-10 September 2021. This virtual event is being organised with Climate-ADAPT. The aim is to look across the 12 topics currently being considered within the KE4CAP community to highlight and discuss cross-cutting issues. The KE4CAP community is encouraged to provide their thoughts and ideas as to what they would like to see included in this workshop, including by responding to the [KE4CAP evaluation survey](#).

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Appendix 1. Agenda

Chair: Roger Street, University of Oxford

12.00	Welcome and introduction
12.05	Panel discussion 1: Current MRE practices (with Climate-ADAPT, Sweden and CAS) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Understanding the different (potential) roles of platforms:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Providing access and reporting on and tracking actions,○ Providing a home for monitoring and reporting instrument,○ Giving access to information and guidance to help inform external monitoring and reporting,○ Platform operators playing a role (advising/brokering) in monitoring, reporting and evaluation efforts given their strategic and knowledge-based positioning,○ Others?2. Lessons learnt from platforms with mandates for different roles.
12.45	Panel discussion 2: Legitimacy and scope of MRE within CAPs (with Scotland, Japan and SEI) <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To what extent should/could monitoring, reporting and evaluation of progress on adaptation be part of climate adaptation platforms offerings?2. To what extent can the lessons and experiences of CAPs be used to support and inform the process of MRE on adaptation actions?3. What are the range of evaluation metrics being used – means of measuring success?4. What are the challenges being experienced and foreseen?
13:25	Break – opportunity to share your platform’s news via the chat
13.35	Parallel Breakout Group: Recognising and valuing the role of CAPs in MRE. Lessons and experiences so far. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Are these roles recognised internally and externally and to what extent can and should platforms be making more of their contributions?2. Could playing and demonstrating these capabilities be seen as enhancing the value of the platform and (potentially) be used to attract greater support and resources?
14.15	Feedback from breakout groups
14.25	Next Steps: Forthcoming events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ KE4CAP/Canada event: 10-21 May 2021○ KE4CAP Synthesis Workshop: 8-10 September 2021
14.30	Close

Appendix 2. Participants

Julia	Barrott	KE4CAP/WeADAPT	https://www.weadapt.org/
Sukaina	Bharwani	SEI/WeADAPT	https://www.weadapt.org/
Anna	Beswick	Scotland	https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/
Birgit	Börner	Germany	https://www.klivoportal.de/EN/Home/
Sarah	Boulter	Australia	www.coastadapt.com.au
Samantha	Burgess	Copernicus	https://climate.copernicus.eu/
Joyce	Chang	Taiwan	https://tccip.ncdr.nat.gov.tw/index_eng.aspx
Kayleigh	Chaston-Vickers	Canada	https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/climate-change/canadian-centre-climate-services.html , https://climatedata.ca
Lo	Cheng	Canada	
Valerie	Coté	Canada	
Anindya	Das	India	https://climatefinanceknowledge.nabard.org/
Vivien	Forssman	Canada	See above
Jeremy	Gault	Ireland	http://www.climateireland.ie
Valentina	Giannini	Europe	https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/
Patrick	Guerdat	IISD	National Adaptation Planning Global Network
Vicky	Hayman	KE4CAP	
Marit	Heinen	Netherlands	https://ruimtelijkeadaptatie.nl/
Robin	Hocquet	SEI/WeADAPT	https://www.weadapt.org/
Eleni	Karali	Greece	https://www.adaptivegreece.gr/en-us/
Patricia	Klett	Spain	https://www.adaptecca.es/
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Marcus	Leitner	Austria	https://www.klimawandelanpassung.at
Cheng-Ting	Lin	Taiwan	https://tccip.ncdr.nat.gov.tw
Vincent	Loiselle	Canada	See above
Kate	Lonsdale	UK	www.ukclimateresilience.org
Sanna	Luhta	Finland	https://ilmasto-opas.fi/en/
Tsepang	Makholela	South Africa	https://ccis.environment.gov.za/
Yoshifumi	Masago	Japan	National, https://adaptation-platform.nies.go.jp/
Yuji	Masutomi	Japan	Asia-Pacific, https://ap-plat.nies.go.jp/
Kati	Mattern	Climate-ADAPT	https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/
Lindsay	Matthews	Canada	See above
Tsheamo	Mogale	South Africa	https://ccis.environment.gov.za/
Ellie	Murtagh	Scotland	https://www.adaptationscotland.org.uk/
Barry	O'Dwyer	Ireland	http://www.climateireland.ie
Kim	Olsen	Canada	See above
Hanna	Platte	Germany	https://www.klivoportal.de/EN/Home/
Darell	Sison	Philippines	https://ccplanningtool.omlopezcenter.org/create-
Åsa	Sjöström	Sweden	http://www.klimatanpassning.se/en
Roger	Street	KE4CAP	
Kim	van Nieuwaal	Netherlands	https://ruimtelijkeadaptatie.nl/
Petra	van Rùth	Germany	https://www.klivoportal.de/EN/Home/

Appendix 3. Details of discussions

Panel session 1: Current MRE practices

1. Understanding the different (potential) roles of platforms.
2. Lessons learnt from platforms with mandates for different roles.

Climate-ADAPT: MRE is not a new role for Climate-ADAPT; it was integrated into the work programme from the beginning and will continue to be developed under the new EU Adaptation Strategy. Activities supporting MRE include:

- presenting reported information in a user-friendly way. There is a section on country profiles which includes nationally reported information on adaptation action. Information is provided by member states on a voluntary basis; Climate-ADAPT encourages regular updates (currently within the 2-year European policy reporting cycle).
- including various sections where reporting and evaluation of adaptation is being supported. For example, searchable information on EU-level indicators (including from the Copernicus programme).
- presenting knowledge on how to do MRE through the adaptation support tool - for all governance levels in Europe. This includes guidance on developing and operationalising MRE frameworks.

Sweden: The KLIRA web tool has been developed over the last 18 months and links with the Swedish adaptation portal via oversight by the Adaptation Network which involves the 28 national authorities and 21 regional authorities. Adaptation reporting by regional authorities is required by policy, but reporting by the 290 local municipalities is voluntary – so needed to provide a tool that is useful at the local level and relatively simple to use. The first round of reporting in 2019 was successful (225 municipalities responded) but did highlight the need to continually update and improve the tool.

To encourage reporting on a voluntary basis, the team has worked over many years to build trust and to enhance the understanding of climate change and the impacts at a local level. The sector as a whole appreciates the need for adaptation and recognizes the value of MRE as a means of collectively informing national policy (and the need for on-going resources) and also raising the profile of adaptation action. It is hoped the tool will also be used by local authorities as a prompt to feed into revisions of their own adaptation plans and activities.

Netherlands: Recognize the need for MRE especially at the national level and are currently working with the Dutch government on developing such a system. But also recognize that there is valuable qualitative information available within the history of the platform which can inform monitoring activities e.g. changes in demand have driven changes in content and engagement, changing levels of interest disaggregated by sector, etc. Trends can then be extrapolated and used to guide future developments, including those supporting MRE. Such informal and/or unintended use of data dynamics within platforms provides another source of information to support MRE.

Discussion

How to keep track of adaptation activities in the private sector?

- Currently a challenge to even involve the private sector in activities, so it is difficult to consider how to keep track of actions by the private sector. There is an opportunity to involve them in platform and tool development to help drive collaboration.
- In Sweden, reporting is focused at the sectoral level so this should include information on private sector actions (although difficult when businesses are cross-sectoral).

- Climate-ADAPT has not yet developed a formal process to work with the private sector but is working on partnerships with business representatives and hoping to expand this approach.
- Information is becoming available from aspects of the private sector e.g. the financial sector via the TCFD (which is being broadened to include adaptation). In broader terms, such external, private sector reporting mechanisms are becoming increasingly important as a means to better understanding economy-wide adaptation risks and action.
- In Scotland, the Climate Ready Clyde initiative for the Glasgow urban area is tasked with driving forward transformative adaptation. The team has developed an approach which recognizes the need for a change process and which includes the roles of the different actors (including the private and third sector) needed to achieve such a transformative approach.
- For the future, it is essential to include the private sector within reporting mechanisms e.g. via the global stocktake, if we want to have a complete picture of adaptation capability. Countries will need to move in that direction.

What are the benefits of supporting MRE under CAPs?

- Possible efficiencies - making use of existing information, resources and infrastructures.
- Increased transparency - MRE can be a 'black box' so linking with knowledge and information platforms can contribute to transparency via public-facing interfaces.
- Being able to provide reporting information e.g. indicators, in the language of the country will help adaptation (but represents a challenge for transnational and multi-language countries).
- Promoting adaptation - any indicators and assessments being provided for MRE via a platform can also be used to inform and promote other adaptation action, put countries in a European context, etc.
- Driving policy - MRE is an important component of the adaptation cycle, and reporting progress is a powerful mechanism for informing the next policy round.
- indirect benefits from feedback on the MRE process which can be used to inform the design and development of the platform itself to enhance use (and possibly resources).

Panel session 2: Legitimacy and scope of MRE within CAPs

1. To what extent should/could MRE be part of climate adaptation platforms offerings?
2. How can the lessons and experiences of CAPs be used to support and inform MRE?
3. What are the range of evaluation metrics being used – means of measuring success?
4. What are the challenges being experienced and foreseen?

Scotland: The Adaptation Capability Framework tool was launched in 2019 and supports major organisations to adapt to climate change. It is based on understanding the capabilities needed to advance through maturity levels in the adaptation cycle. Although co-developed with end-user organisations, there was a need to evaluate the use of the tool to ensure it drives progress – hence the benchmarking tool. This is used in parallel with the Framework – and the results can be used by organisations to baseline their current capabilities and to track how those capabilities develop over time ([theory of change](#)).

The benchmarking tool is important as it:

- gives the platform confidence that approaches they are recommending are useful,
- is useful within organisations as a planning tool,

- give insights into the barriers and enablers within organisations and how can the support being offered by CAPs can be further tailored.

There is interest in how a similar approach could be used as part of the criteria for funding of adaptation being developed around different funding instruments. Adaptation Scotland's Climate Finance Working Group is developing a Climate Finance Toolkit that seeks to identify "hallmarks" or capabilities that support accessing and implementing adaptation finance.

Japan: Currently looking at how APLAT can be used to support MRE at the national and regional level. Nationally, the Government is looking to track progress in Japan as part of the forthcoming National Adaptation Plan which will include indicators to monitor progress on action. Reporting will take place annually, within the five-year NAP cycle; but evaluation is more difficult. At the regional level, there is no systematic MRE process; A-PLAT continues to provide information, tools, knowledge and examples to inform such processes. The team have also just launched 'A-PLAT Lab' – a closed, online platform for local government/centres which allows them to share information with colleagues at a regional level and learn collectively. The Lab is deliberately closed to help promote trust and encourage the sharing of local plans etc. as they are being developed etc.

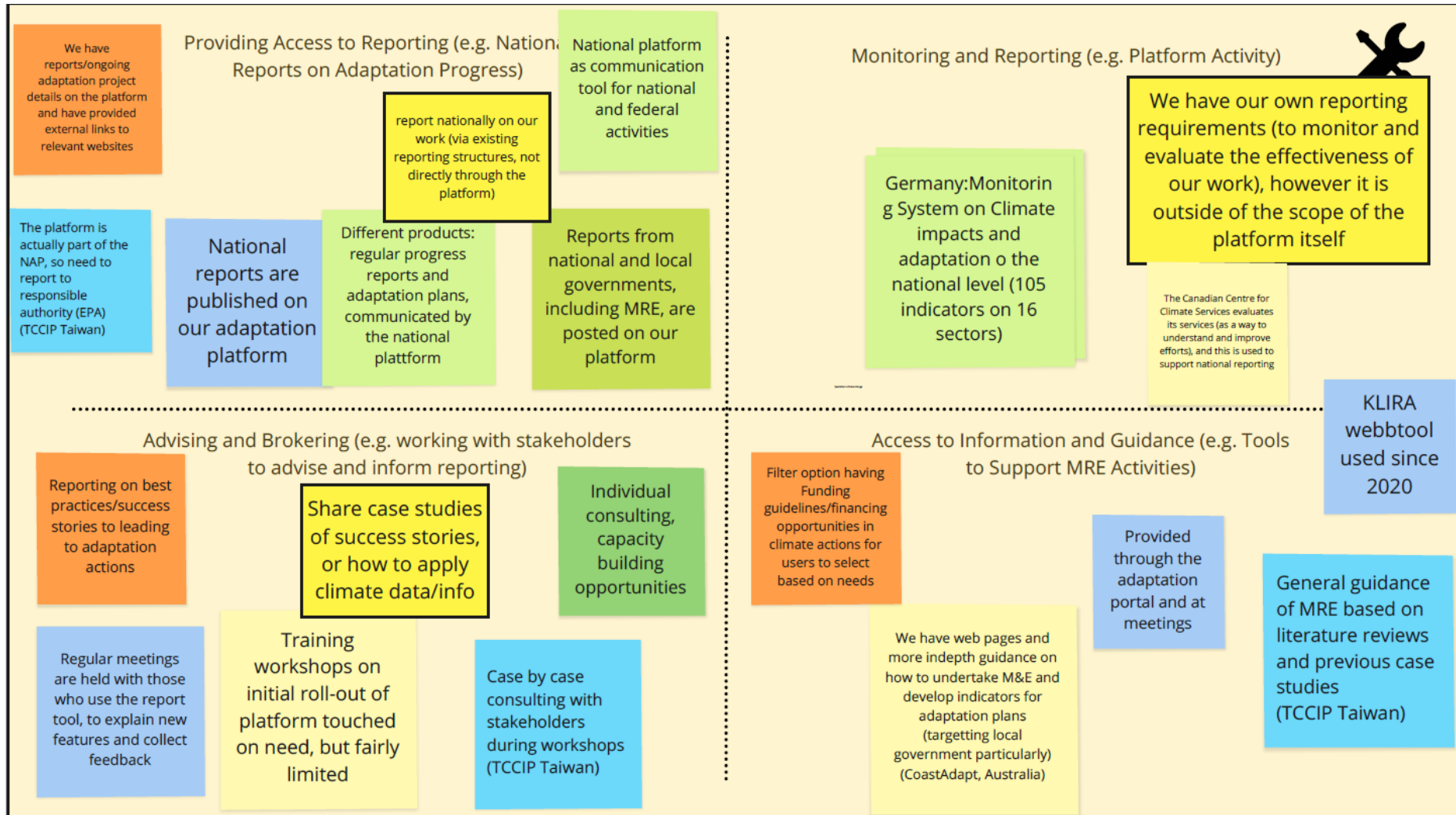
SEI/WeADAPT: The Global Stocktake (GST) will take place in 2023 and every 5 years thereafter. The hope is that this will catalyse greater adaptation ambition. CAPs could play 2 main roles within the GST:

1. In the early stages, CAPs could inform the GST by providing centralized and relevant information and data, helping to disseminate guidance and examples of good practice, and advising on how to inform the effectiveness of adaptation action e.g. by supporting MRE at different levels.
2. Further on, platforms could help disseminate and repackage outputs from the GST to make them more relevant to specific users in the different countries and regions.

There is also the possibility of informing the Independent Global Stocktake – launched in 2018 - a consortium of civil society actors working together to support a robust GST that empowers countries to take greater climate action.

Would be interesting to better understand if/how platforms are working to support input to the GST.

Appendix 4





Providing Access to Reporting (e.g. National Reports on Adaptation Progress)

CI
Adaptation
Strategy
Explorer

Climate Change (Scotland)
Act mandates Public Bodies
Climate Change Reporting
Duties - annual reports are
available on the
Sustainable Scotland
Network website

Monitoring and Reporting (e.g. Platform Activity)

Google
analytics of
platform
traffic

Platform Staff
supporting
National
reporting on
adaptation

Advising and Brokering (e.g. working with stakeholders to advise and inform reporting)

Adaptation Scotland
Benchmarking Working Group
recruits 15 organisations every
year to work with them closely to
support them in benchmarking
and reporting. (Current on 2nd
cohort but plan to revise offering
going forward for more holistic
package)

Sectoral
Adaptation
Strategy
Develop. Tool,
CI

LA
Adaptation
Strategy
Wizard

Access to Information and Guidance (e.g. Tools to Support MRE Activities)

We (AS) have a KHub and
MS Teams for our
members to add resources
that they come across AND
highlight where there are
resource gaps that we need
to address collectively

AS Capability
and Maturity
Model

Climate
Impact
Atlas (NL)

Sectoral
climate
schemes
(NL)

