



International
Platform on
Adaptation
Metrics

WEBINAR SERIES 2026-2027

Advancing the Global Adaptation Metrics Agenda

■ SESSION 2

Operationalizing Adaptation Indicators

Where Do We Stand and What Comes Next?

The International Platform on Adaptation Metrics (IPAM) proposes this webinar as part of its 2026–2027 series. The session presents Chapter 5 of *Tracking Global Adaptation Efforts – The need for Better Metrics in Climate Policy*, titled “Toward Effective Global Adaptation Metrics: A Functional Architecture for Multi-Scale Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.” It brings the chapter’s methodological discussion together with recent developments in the operationalization of adaptation indicators.

Why this Matters

Adaptation action is expanding, but measuring whether it reduces vulnerability and climate risk remains difficult. Plans, projects and expenditure can demonstrate effort without showing how well adaptation works. Decision makers need indicators that connect action to results, support accountability and guide learning while reflecting local priorities and changing climate conditions.

The adoption of the 59 Belém Adaptation Indicators creates an opportunity to examine these challenges in practice. Can the indicators be measured consistently? Can observed outcomes be linked to adaptation actions? What is needed to make them operational, and should the set evolve as implementation experience grows?

Key Findings and Issues

- Existing adaptation indicators often emphasize processes and outputs, with limited insight into effectiveness, outcomes and impacts.
- Useful metrics require a clear purpose, credible methods and data, and relevance to the context and decisions they support.
- Functional analysis can clarify the roles of inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes and impacts. Linking these through a theory of change and MEL can strengthen interpretation and learning.
- Operational readiness varies across the Belém indicators. Measurability, attribution, aggregation and institutional capacity require further attention.
- Implementation experience can inform technical refinement and a discussion of whether revisions or additional indicators are needed. Future refinements can be informed by implementation experience and dialogue among Parties.

5 Thursday
November
2026

2:00 - 3:30 PM UTC

Online
(Zoom)

About the Session

The session examines why adaptation metrics matter, what makes an ideal metric, and the gaps and limitations of existing approaches. It explores functional analysis and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) as tools for defining and interpreting indicators. Using the GGA indicators as a case study, it assesses measurability, attribution and overall readiness, identifies steps needed for operationalization, and considers whether the indicator set should evolve.

Agenda

Topic and talking points	Presenter
Why Metrics Selection Matters: From principles to practice	Karl Schultz
Current Adaptation Metrics: Gaps and Limitations	Marco Billi
Functional Analysis and MEL as the Way Forward	Samraj Sahay
Operationalizing the GGA Indicators	Ousmane Seidou
Audience Q&A and closing discussion	All presenters

Speakers



Karl
SCHULTZ

The Higher Ground
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Marco
BILLI

Universidad de Chile,
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Samraj
SAHAY

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Ousmane
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Professor at University
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