

Background

- When developing adaptation strategies, a key challenge is to select and prioritize measures in a transparent way, based on clear criteria.
- In the project *Policy Mix for an updated Adaptation Action Plan in Germany*, commissioned by the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA), a tool was developed to assess and select adaptation measures and related policy instruments to support the elaboration of the second national Adaptation Action Plan.
- The first Adaptation Action Plan was released in 2011. The updated Adaptation Action Plan is being developed as part of the 2014/2015 review of the German Adaptation Strategy. It will focus on policy instruments at the national level.

Main steps of work in the project

Development of a set of adaptation measures and instruments

- Initial set of adaptation measures based on literature review (research projects, national/adaptation strategies)
- Matching of adaptation measures with policy instruments (either found in literature or newly added)
- Expert review process
- Final set of measures and instruments to be assessed

Development of a set of criteria for the prioritisation of adaptation activities

- Literature review of existing sets of criteria for adaptation measures
- Refinement of certain criteria:
 - Cost criterion: detailed methodology for the assessment of implementation costs at 'policy instruments' level
 - Other criteria fleshed out with sub-criteria, e.g. systemic relevance, feasibility, acceptance
 - Where appropriate, criteria defined differently at 'measures' and 'instruments' level

Setup and application of assessment tool

- Setup of assessment tool in Excel format
- Assessment possible for:
 - a) measures and
 - b) instruments with regard to specific measures
- Weighting of criteria to be determined by user (default: all criteria weighted equally)

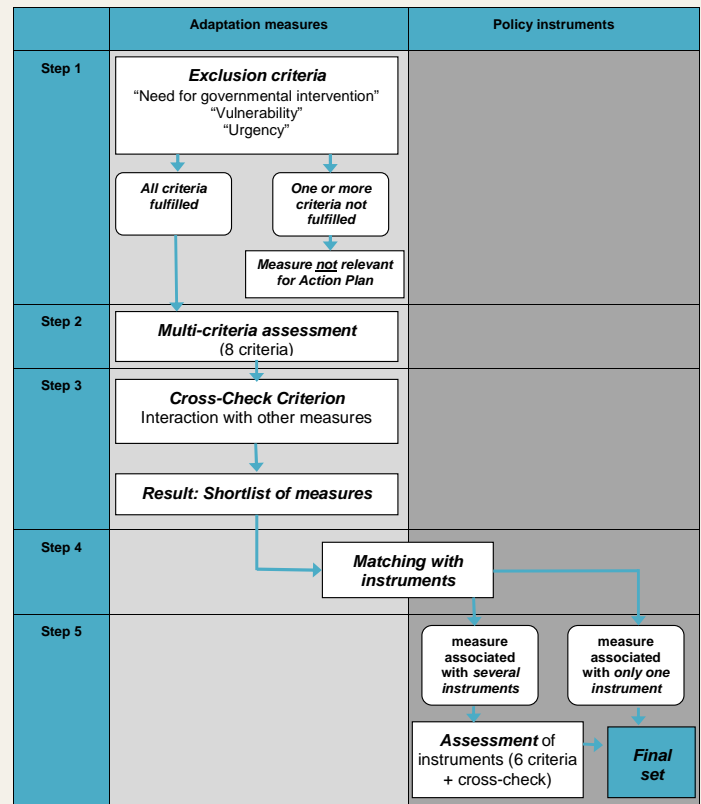
Set of criteria for the prioritisation of adaptation measures/policy instruments

Exclusion criteria	
A	Need for governmental intervention
B	Vulnerability
C	Urgency
Assessment criteria	
1	Systemic relevance (for human health, biodiversity and/or critical infrastructure) – only assessed at 'measures' level
2	Effectiveness
3	Implementation costs
4	Cost efficiency (based on criteria 2 and 3)
5	Feasibility
6	Acceptance
7	Flexibility regarding different climate scenarios – only assessed at 'measures' level
8	Synergies and conflicts with other policy fields
Cross-check criterion	
	Interaction with other adaptation measures/instruments

Understanding of 'measures' and 'instruments' in the project

- **Adaptation measure:** An action to reduce negative impacts of climate change or make use of opportunities associated with climate change – e.g.
 - green roofs to retain humidity and avoid overheating when summers get hotter;
 - solar energy-based air conditioning to keep buildings cool in summer in a climate-friendly way
- **Adaptation instrument:** Governmental action to initiate, support or prescribe adaptation measures – e.g. technical standards, exchange of information and good practice, financial incentive schemes

Structure of PrioSet Tool



Challenges

Main purpose: Creating a methodology that allows assessment *across* sectors and/or policy fields

Advantage: Provides a basis for discussion between different ministries, stakeholders etc. where different valuations and weightings of criteria can be made transparent

Tradeoffs/ challenges:

- Information contained in the tool runs the risk of being complex but still not specific enough to allow for a meaningful assessment
- Political agendas as well as expert opinion and discussions have a prominent role in shaping decisions but can hardly be integrated in an assessment tool in a satisfactory way
- Assessment methodology needs to fit a high variety of adaptation measures/instruments without producing a bias towards any type of measure or instrument
 - Overlap of criteria difficult to avoid (problem of double counting); equal weighting of criteria also is a specific form of weighting, but other weighting methods tend to be even more contentious
- Initial selection of measures/ instruments for assessment needs to be made *outside* the assessment process itself – on which basis?

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