



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



# Assessing the sustainable development and mitigation outcomes of diverse, bottom-up climate actions under the Paris Agreement

## Proposed joint capacity building support through the Climate Action Impact Tool & the Mitigation Action Assessment Protocol (MAAP) Online Interface

### Background Note

#### 1. The big picture:

Countries around the world have demonstrated their commitment to implement climate-smart and sustainable policies and actions with the introduction of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The Paris Agreement has signaled a paradigm shift towards a hybrid between a top-down, rules-based system and a bottom-up system of pledge and review. While actions pledged under Paris are driven by national priorities, countries are expected to measure and report progress made on their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and ratchet up their climate ambition following the 5-year review cycle from 2020 onward. Furthermore, specific principles have been put in place to ensure that climate actions pledged under Paris would ultimately lead to sustainable development, thereby aligning global climate goals with the SDG 2030 Agenda.

Against this backdrop, a community of initiatives and assessment frameworks have emerged to enhance transparency and support capacity building to ensure the accountability of countries' NDC and SDG implementation. Nonetheless, moving forward, it would be important to enhance collaboration among this community of expert groups, and coordinate outreach efforts to ensure that users can make informed decisions on which tool(s) are suitable for their assessment needs and have a clear understanding of how different tools relate to each other.

In this context, this session aims to introduce WBG and UNDP's joint capacity building for two new climate actions assessment tools, the [Climate Action Impact Tool](#) and the [Mitigation Action Assessment Protocol \(MAAP\) Online Interface](#). The purpose of doing so is to receive feedback and input on the tools' methodology and components, clarify key differences and synergies between the two tools, and discuss how the two tools can be used to best serve decision makers' interest.

#### 2. The Climate Action Impact Tool

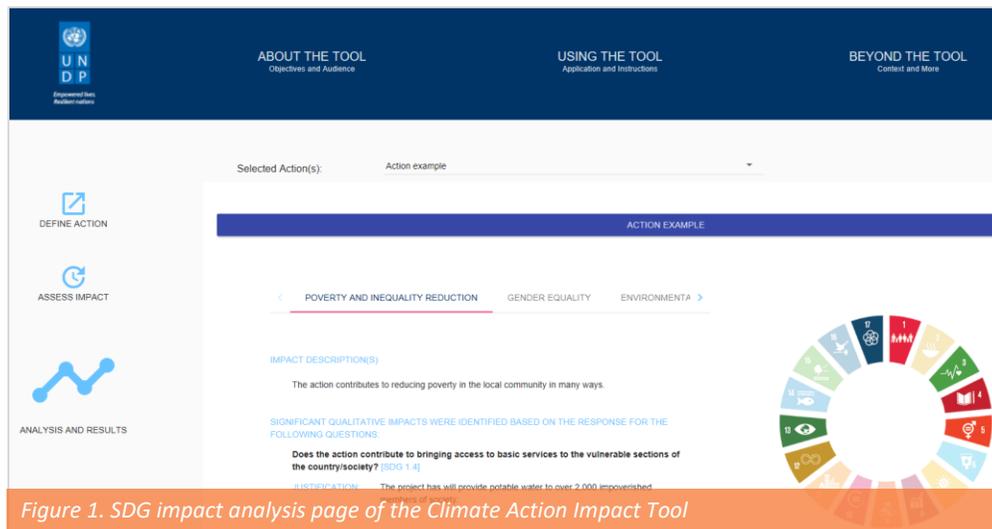


Figure 1. SDG impact analysis page of the Climate Action Impact Tool

## 2.1 What are the objectives of the tool?

The Climate Action Impact Tool is developed by the UNDP to help a broad range of stakeholders to track impacts of climate mitigation and/or adaptation actions. The tool will enable stakeholders to identify significant SDG-related impacts, define indicators, quantify impacts, and set targets, track the progress of climate mitigation and adaptation actions aligned with the SDGs. This is a bottom-up tool that can be applied to track 'significant, direct impacts' of climate actions. The outputs of the tool can be broadly categorized into 3 categories. (i) descriptive elements of the tool can be collated into a single summary report that provides an overview of the planned actions, (ii) qualitative elements of the tool provide a graphic visualization and allow investors to compare various impact categories of different projects and (iii) a quantitative assessment that will directly feed into the MRV section of the tool and track progress of the project over time.

## 2.2 How to use the tool?

The tool is separated into various impact categories that are linked to the relevant SDGs ultimately allowing policy makers to track the impact of climate actions towards the SDGs. Each category has a set of identified significant indicators with the provision of including descriptive, qualitative and quantitative information. All information requested is voluntary with the users defining the level of significance. The user is expected to at the minimum complete the qualitative sections to receive the visualization of ex-ante impacts. It is further recommended that indicators considered significant should include quantitative information with indicative targets set for a five-year period that is aligned with the NDC review cycles, namely 2020, 2025 and 2030. This will build the basis for an MRV System that allows stakeholders to track progress made against these ex-ante targets and periodic reviews will allow appropriate adjustments to be made to the actions with the aim of aligning the national efforts towards the SDGs.

## 3. The MAAP Online Interface



Figure 2. Assessment and comparison functions of the MAAP Online Interface

## 3.1 What are the objectives of the tool?

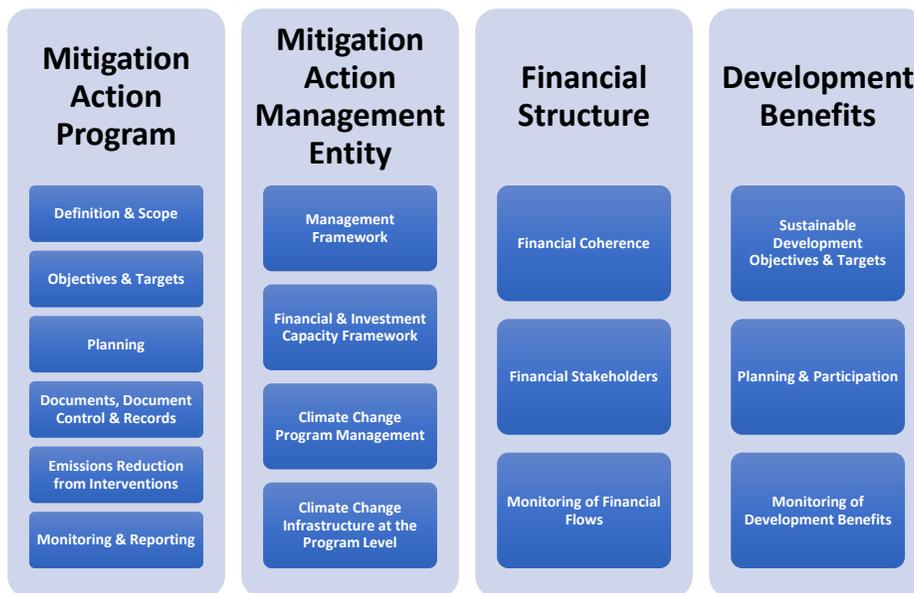
Recognizing that current levels of effort are far from sufficient to meet the global 2°C target, many countries have called for the use of pricing and market instruments as a cost-effective mean to implement NDCs and increase climate ambition. Correspondingly, Article 6 of the Agreement allows Parties to transfer mitigation outcomes without specifying what mechanism, measure or protocol these outcomes should be generated from. A key assumption is that linking and trade will not occur if Governments and market participants lack information about the accountability of domestic institutions and the carbon assets that are being transferred. In this regard, the WBG developed the MAAP to provide a user-friendly and secure platform that enables stakeholders to assess, compare and benchmark the relative mitigation and sustainable development outcomes of a wide range of bottom-up climate actions, including white/green certificate schemes, low carbon city programs, NAMAs, among others. It aims to help decision makers develop and select more robust mitigation actions; track progress towards NDC

goals; and ultimately, provide useful information that could facilitate the transfer of mitigation outcomes in a network of liquid, scalable climate markets.

### 3.2 How to use the tool?

The MAAP is structured into four modules that cover various assessment areas, and each assessment area includes a set of key indicators. The four modules included in the MAAP, as shown in Figure 3 below, aim to assess critical aspects of a robust climate action. Each module’s assessment is independent from each other, thereby enabling users to add or remove modules based on their own interest and needs. The module’s final score is based on the weights and scores that the users assign to the relevant assessment areas and key indicators. Users are then asked to attach documents (e.g. official policy documents) as evidence, and provide justifications for the weights/scores assigned. There are two versions of the MAAP – “MAAP Design” to support actions at the design stage and “MAAP Implementation” to support actions that are more advanced at the implementation stage.

Figure 3: The MAAP’s modules and assessment areas



### 4. Key differences and overlaps between the tools:

Figure 4: Key differences and overlaps between the tools

	The Climate Action Impact Tool	The MAAP Online Interface
<b>Key differences</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on the SDG impacts of climate actions.</li> <li>• Covers both mitigation and adaptation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focuses on the carbon integrity of climate actions, including design, management and financial structure.</li> <li>• Only covers mitigation at the moment.</li> </ul>
<b>Overlaps</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Climate Action Impact Tool also looks at climate change risks, but it is less granular than the MAAP.</li> <li>• The MAAP also looks at sustainable development, however, it is less comprehensive than the Climate Action Impact Tool and it takes a more general perspective rather than focus specifically on SDG.</li> </ul>	



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



## 5. Rationale for this collaboration:

Given the synergies between both tools, there are many reasons to conduct a joint-capacity building event, including:

- Both tools share common objectives and targeted audience, hence it could be time and cost-efficient and effective to collaborate;
- Each tool has its own focus and features, by presenting them together, we could offer users more options and flexibility to tailor the assessments based on their needs and interests;
- When using these tools together, users can obtain a more comprehensive evaluation of a climate action, its mitigation and SDG impacts, how well it is doing comparing to itself (e.g. tracking progress towards NDC implementation), or to others (e.g. screening and prioritizing projects/programs to invest in);
- Through joint outreach events, participants could share and compare their experience with using these two tools, and provide feedback on how we can refine and improve the frameworks moving forward

## 6. Expected outcome of the collaboration:

Through joint capacity building, we would like to achieve these outcomes:

- To inform the audience about different tools and frameworks they could use to support the development of climate actions to achieve NDC and SDG goals;
- Receive feedbacks on the methodology and functionality of both tools;
- Collect feedback from the speakers and the potentially the audience on how the community of assessment frameworks can work together in a more coordinated manner, and how we can improve our engagement with each other.



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.



### Annex: Different hypothetical scenarios where users may want to use only one tool/ both tools

As mentioned earlier, while these tools have overlaps, they differ in terms of their approach and scope. Therefore, users can choose to use either tool based on their priorities and interests, or apply both tools to obtain a more holistic evaluation on the design, implementation and impacts of a climate action.

Given the flexibility of both tools in terms of customizing modules, indicators etc., there are many ways users could tailor the assessment process. We have tried to provide several possible scenarios below, however the list is by no means exhaustive:

#### Scenario where the Climate Action Assessment Tool is used only:

If an *owner* of a clean cookstove project would like to conduct ex-ante and ex-post assessments to find out about the SDG impacts (health, climate change etc.) of each cookstove used in order to attract climate/green finance, he/she could obtain a detailed summary report by using the Climate Action Assessment Tool.

#### Scenario where the MAAP is used only:

If a *government agency* developing a mitigation program would like to quantify the risk level of the program (e.g. design, implementation, emission reduction and financial risks), they could use the MAAP assessment scores detailed to each module/assessment area/key indicator to inform, minimize and prepare for these risks, which in turn could boost the confidence among private investors and attract private capitals to the program.

#### Scenario where both tools are used:

If an *acquiring/transferring country* would like to "transfer mitigation outcomes" under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement or enhance access to climate finance, they can consider piloting MAAP and Climate Action Impact Tool as potential bottom-up methodologies for measuring, generating and/or issuing mitigation outcomes or measuring contribution towards SDGs