

**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**CLIMATE  
SECURITY  
MECHANISM**

**TOOLBOX**

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**CHECKLIST**



# CLIMATE RISK CHECKLIST FOR POLITICAL ANALYSIS

In conjunction with the other items in the UN Climate Security Toolbox, this checklist provides a set of key questions to help make political analyses climate-informed. To answer the below questions, the associated note on data sources, already available climate policies and strategies (including National Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans), and existing climate risk assessments provide useful resources. This checklist does not replace an in-depth climate change vulnerability assessment, which requires the expertise and resources of specialized entities.

## 1. What, if any, climate pressures and shocks are prevalent in the area/region?

For example:

- Slow onset events – temperature increase, changes in precipitation, desertification, land and forest degradation, sea level rise, salinization, ocean acidification, glacial retreat, loss of biodiversity, and ecosystem services.
- Rapid onset events – tropical cyclones, storm surge, heatwaves, floods, and droughts.

## 2. Are there specific regions, communities, economic or cultural assets that are particularly exposed to these pressures and shocks?

For example:

- Highlands vs. coastal areas;
- Rural communities vs. urban areas;
- Areas/installations with large numbers of employment opportunities;
- Indigenous peoples and local communities reliant on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Energy plants, highways, other infrastructure;
- Cultural heritage or religious sites.

## 3. Do climate pressures and shocks exacerbate existing vulnerabilities?

For example:

- Natural resources availability, including water security and land management;
- Food insecurity and sustainability of livelihoods;
- Uncoordinated or involuntary migratory movements;
- Public health crises, including emergence of zoonotic diseases;
- Lack of government capacity and/or legitimacy;
- Enjoyment of human rights, wellbeing and security;
- Gender-based violence and gender inequality;
- Cumulative impacts from successive shocks.

**4. Is there sufficient capacity at the local, national or regional levels to absorb the impacts of climate change, especially among the most affected groups?**

For example:

- Local or national government possess the capacity and legitimacy to act decisively;
- National climate change adaptation policies and plans include an analysis of vulnerabilities;
- Climate-resilient and/or alternative livelihood options;
- High levels of social cohesion and effective conflict resolution mechanisms at local, national and regional levels;
- Inclusive decision-making mechanisms and strong civil society;
- Understanding, recognition and investment in nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and risk reduction;
- Biodiversity and climate finance as part of fiscal planning and reviews;
- Redirecting fiscal incentives towards activities to reduce climate-related risks.

**5. Do these different exposure and vulnerability factors (or perceptions thereof) impact conflict dynamics within and between communities and/or across borders in the area/region? If so, how?**

For example:

- Economic impacts: livelihood options made unviable, instability or shocks in local or regional markets;
- Social impacts: changed migration patterns, including across borders;
- Resource competition: tensions over access to water, fertile and grazing land; access to resource-rich communities;
- Institutional impacts: strains on governmental capacity to respond to changes or meet increased needs.

**6. Will the impact of climate pressures and shocks affect the sustainability of existing agreements at local, national or regional levels?**

For example:

- Changing growing/grazing seasons threaten the viability of local transhumance arrangements;
- Increasing water scarcity puts pressure on transboundary water sharing agreements;
- Receding coast lines challenge State boundaries on land and in oceans;
- Migrating fish stocks put pressure on national economic exclusive zones;
- Low agricultural productivity caused by ecosystem services losses affects contribution of States to national public food schemes.

**7. How will the combined impact of climate change and mitigation/adaptation policies affect the political economy in the area/region?**

For example:

- The shift from fossil fuels towards renewable energy sources challenges the viability of certain sectors of economy and establishes new power brokers;
- Unintended side effects of transition policies contribute to instability or are perceived to slow down economic growth;
- Changing migratory patterns of fish stock undermine the livelihoods of coastal communities and reduce government income through loss of licensing fees;
- Dams built in upstream countries compound water scarcity downstream;
- Fluctuation of food prices, for instance as a result of droughts and floods;
- Loss of human capital and productivity as a result of human migration.

**8. Are there synergies between initiatives to address the impact of climate change and peacebuilding objectives? If not, are there opportunities to create such synergies?**

For example:

- Inter-communal/state discussions over shared resources (e.g. water or fish stock) help to build bridges between communities or between States;
- Livelihood diversification and protection programmes or investments in sustainable resource management create new economic opportunities;
- Community-driven risk assessments and response formulation advance inclusion and strengthen the voice of previously marginalized groups;
- Preparedness for extreme weather events, introduction of improved agricultural techniques or common resource pools (e.g. seed banks) have established pragmatic cooperation between hostile parties.