

How are countries presently reporting on adaptation action under the UNFCCC?

And what does this mean for transparency of adaptation under the Paris Agreement?

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Background to the project assignment:

Under the UNFCCC, countries report on what they are doing to reduce GHG emissions, provide climate finance, and adapt to climate change.

They do this through regularly submitting a series of reports, the main one being the national communication.

Countries do this to:

- To demonstrate that they are meeting their international commitments.
- To enable country-to-country learning and enable the UNFCCC to track progress over time.

However, up until now, the standard of reporting by countries has not exactly been high.



Background to the project assignment:

This is particularly the case with adaptation, where poor quality and uncomprehensive reporting has severely limited:

- Our ability to track global progress in adaptation, and;
- Potential for inter-country learning to occur through these reports.

Countries have recognised that present reporting requirements for adaptation have thus far been insufficient.

And as part of the Paris Agreement, they have agreed to report on adaptation according to a higher standard of reporting requirements from 2024 onwards.



Project assignment

The aim of this assignment is to establish what aspects of their national adaptation process countries are reporting on, and how they are approaching this task.

The challenge will then be to determine what this data suggests about the extent to which countries are ready/likely to meet the new reporting requirements.

Methodology

Our proposed approach to investigate this will be to conduct an extensive coding exercise of adaptation chapters of national communications.



Results and pre-requisites

What a Master's student will gain understandings of:

- How countries are adapting at the national-level.
- International processes that drive climate action under the UNFCCC.
- The varying ability of countries to participate in international processes.

Master's students should have a basic knowledge of:

- Climate change adaptation and associated concepts.
- Global climate governance (i.e. the UNFCCC).

Master's students should have an interest in:

- National adaptation processes.
- Transparency in global governance systems.
- Experience in qualitative coding.

Additional information

This project assignment would be well suited to groups.

As such, if you are interested in undertaking this assignment, it would be worth exploring the possibility of doing it with other students.



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