



Covenant of Mayors
in Sub-Saharan Africa

CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox

4.4: Phase 2.1: What to include in a Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

This chapter is one component of the SEACAP Toolbox for the full Toolbox, please visit: <https://comssa.org/>

What you will learn in this chapter:

- What is a R&VA
- Key aspects to include in an R&VA

This chapter has been designed for facilitators and trainers as well as local government officials and partners completing a SEACAP]

Adaptation



For an introduction to the Adaptation pillar, please have a look at the chapter **“4.2: Introduction to the SEACAP Development Process: Adaptation Pillar”** of the CoMSSA SEACAP Toolbox



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Initial steps before the development of a R&VA

1. Identifying Stakeholders
2. Desktop research



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Identifying Stakeholders

- 1) Prior to commencing with the development of your R&VA, it is important to identify several key stakeholders who will support the development process. These should include:
 - A R&VA development lead;
 - Representatives of each sector within the local government (e.g. water, energy, transport etc.);
 - Representatives of populations groups such as women, children and the elderly
- 2) The stakeholders will collectively be responsible for gathering the data and co-development of the R&VA

Desktop Research

- 1) Once stakeholders have been established it is important to gather as much information as possible prior to commencing with the R&VA.
- 2) Key information to gather initially could include:
 - Detail on historical climate; and
 - What work or plans have been undertaken to date (is there existing work that you could build on?)

Key aspects to include in a R&VA

1. Local government context
2. Historical climate information
3. Projected climate data
4. Current climate hazards experienced
5. Key sectors, services and population groups impacted by current climate hazards
6. Anticipated future climate hazards
7. Anticipated sectors, services and population groups impacted by future climate hazards
8. Factors that support or challenge adaptive capacity



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Local Government Context

- 1) Description of the local government as well as information on its location, geography, official boundary and land area (this should ideally be accompanied by a map).
- 2) Information on the state of the built environment (roads, infrastructure, housing etc.).
- 3) Information on the current and projected population for the next five, 10 and 20 years
- 4) Information about the Mayor or equivalent legal representative authority including their term length and start and end month and year.
- 5) Overview of the area's key economic sectors and socio-economic status.

Historical Climate Information

- 1) Overview of the historical climate experienced in the geographical boundary outlines of the local government context section. This should include a comprehensive overview of the seasons as well as rainfall patterns.
- 2) If available, detail on the average rainfall per month should be included along with the average temperature per month and the wettest, hottest and coldest days on record.

This information will serve as a baseline for how much the climate is predicted to change.

Projected climate data

- 1) The R&VA should include an overview of the anticipated climate change for the local government region.
- 2) This should incorporate information on:
 - Projected changes in temperature;
 - Projected changes in rainfall patterns; and
 - The amount of sea level rise anticipated in the case of coastal local governments.

Current climate hazards experienced

- 1) The R&VA should highlight the most significant climate hazards faced in the local government's jurisdiction.
- 2) It should also include an overview of the current risk level (both probability and consequence) associated with each hazard as well as its social consequences.

Key sectors, services and population groups impacted by current climate hazards

- 1) The R&VA should indicate all relevant sectors, assets or services most impacted by current climate hazards affecting the local government.
- 2) It should also indicate the magnitude of impact of each hazard on each sector. This will highlight the sectors currently most at risk to climate impacts currently being experienced.

Anticipated future climate hazards

- 1) Once the current hazards and their impacts on various sectors and vulnerable groups has been established, the R&VA should provide detail on how climate change will likely affect the intensity, frequency and timescale of each hazard (as a result of climate change).
- 2) The expected change in frequency and intensity is typically measured on a scale of 'Increase', 'Decrease', 'No Change' and 'Not Known'.
- 3) The timescale for the expected changes is typically measured as 'Immediately', 'Short-term' (by 2025), 'Medium-term' (2026-2050), 'Long-term' (after 2050) and 'Not Known'.

Anticipated sectors, services and population groups impacted by future climate hazards

- 1) The R&VA should indicate the sectors, assets or services as well as the vulnerable populations that are expected to be impacted by future climate hazards.
- 2) It should indicate the anticipated magnitude of expected future impacts.
- 3) It should also provide a description of climate hazards experienced so far and how the hazard is expected to impact in the future.

Factors that support or challenge adaptive capacity

- 1) The final consideration that should be included in the R&VA are factors that support and / or or challenge a local government's adaptive capacity.
- 2) The R&VA should also include a description on how each factor supports and/ or challenges a local government's adaptive capacity.

A note on methodology to develop a R&VA

- The most common method for obtaining the information required in a R&VA is through participatory workshops
- However for the sections relating to data on historical climate and predicted future climate, the services of a climate/ meteorological expert should be engaged for localised information

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The next chapter is 4.5: Phase 2.2
Setting an Adaption/ Climate
Resilient Goal



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