



GLOSSARY OF TERMS USED THROUGHOUT C-RISK OUTPUT DOCUMENTS

RISK Terms

- i. **Exposure** represents the presence of the elements at risk (e.g. buildings, infrastructures, environments, people, livelihoods, species) that could be adversely affected
- ii. **Hazard** refers to the physical phenomenon that has the potential to cause damages and losses to human and natural systems
- iii. **Risk analysis** is concerned with developing an understanding of each risk, its consequences, and the likelihood of those consequences expressed as qualitative, semi-quantitative, or quantitative data.
- iv. **Risk evaluation**, involves making a decision about the level of risk and the priority for attention
- v. **Risk identification** is a systematic process to understand what could happen, how, when, and why
- vi. **Risk** is the potential for consequences where something of value is at stake and where the outcome is uncertain. Risk results from the interaction of hazard, exposure, and vulnerability
- vii. **Sensitivity** is the degree to which a system is affected, either adversely or beneficially, by climate change. The effect may be direct (e.g., a change in crop yield in response to a change in the mean, range, or variability of temperature) or indirect (e.g., damages caused by an increase in the frequency of coastal flooding due to sea level rise)
- viii. **Uncertainty** is the degree to which a value or relationship is unknown. Uncertainty can result from lack of information or from disagreement about what is known or even knowable. Uncertainty may originate from many sources, such as quantifiable errors in data, ambiguously defined concepts or terminology, or uncertain projections of human behavior
- ix. **Vulnerability** is characterised by the different elements at risk towards a given hazard intensity. Vulnerability includes economic, social, geographic, demographic, cultural, institutional, governance, and environmental factors. Vulnerability encompasses concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt



CHANGE Terms

- x. **Adaptation** is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects
- xi. **Loss and damage** is the negative or residual impacts of climate change that occur in spite of adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk reduction efforts and other measures taken to prevent or reduce expected effects
- xii. **Resilience** is the capacity of social, economic, and environmental systems to cope with a hazardous event or trend or disturbance, responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain their essential function, identity, and structure, while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning, and transformation
- xiii. **Transformation** is a change in the fundamental attributes of natural and human systems. Transformation could reflect strengthened, altered, or aligned paradigms, goals, or values towards promoting adaptation for sustainable development

DATA and MAPPING Terms

- xx. **Attribute** is a characteristic of a geographic feature, typically stored in tabular format and linked to the feature in a relational database. The attributes of a well-represented point might include an identification number, address, and type
- xiv. **Data sources** are agencies, organisations, researchers, and arrangements through which relevant data might be obtained
- xv. **Indicator** provides an overall assessment of changes of the subject in focus (be it economic, environmental or social conditions), which can be easily interpreted and communicated well to an intended target audience (*index, indicator, and composite indicator* are often used interchangeably)
- xxi. **Layer** is a logical set of thematic data. These act as digital transparencies that can be laid on top of each other for viewing or analysis purposes
- xvi. **Limitations** are descriptions of what a specific indicator cannot provide, weaknesses, and assumptions
- xxii. **Metadata** are information about a data set. Metadata may include the source of the data; creation date and format; projection, scale, resolution, and accuracy; and reliability with regard to some standard
- xvii. **Parameter** is information about observed climatic conditions – e.g. temperature, rainfall, extreme events – that help track the climatic context within which adaptation strategies are being implemented (ESA)



- xxiii. **Raster** a spatial data model made of rows and columns of cells. Each cell contains an attribute value and location coordinates. Groups of cells that share the value represent geographical features
- xxiv. **Resolution** is the area represented by each pixel in an image
- xxv. **Scale** is the ratio or relationship between a distance or area on a map and the corresponding distance or area on the ground
- xxviii. **Spatial scale** is the geographic scale most relevant to the application of an indicator – e.g. national, sub-national, regional, local
- xix. **Variable** is a physical, chemical or biological measurement or a group of linked measurements that critically contributes to the characterization of Earth's climate
- xxvi. **Vector** a data structure used to represent linear geographical features. Features are made of ordered lists of x, y coordinates and represented by points, lines or polygons.
- xxvii. **Weights** are a number that tells how important a variable is for a particular calculation. The larger the weight assigned, the more that variable will influence the outcome of an analysis

Sources: [IPCC](#), [EC](#), JRC Science and Policy reports, World Meteorological Organization, [ESRI Press](#), [EEA](#), [Resilience Alliance](#)