



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Standard Indicator Guidance Notes

Biodiversity Challenge Funds

Number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change as a result of BCFs

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)

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1. Summary information

Indicator	Number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change as a result of BCFs
Units	Number of people
Type	Output
Headline data reported	The number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change as a result of BCFs projects, both directly and indirectly
Disaggregation	Sex; age; disability; geography
Links	International Climate Finance KPI 1 Methodology Note
Related Indicators	ICF KPI 1
Revision History	N/A – this method was first published 11/2025

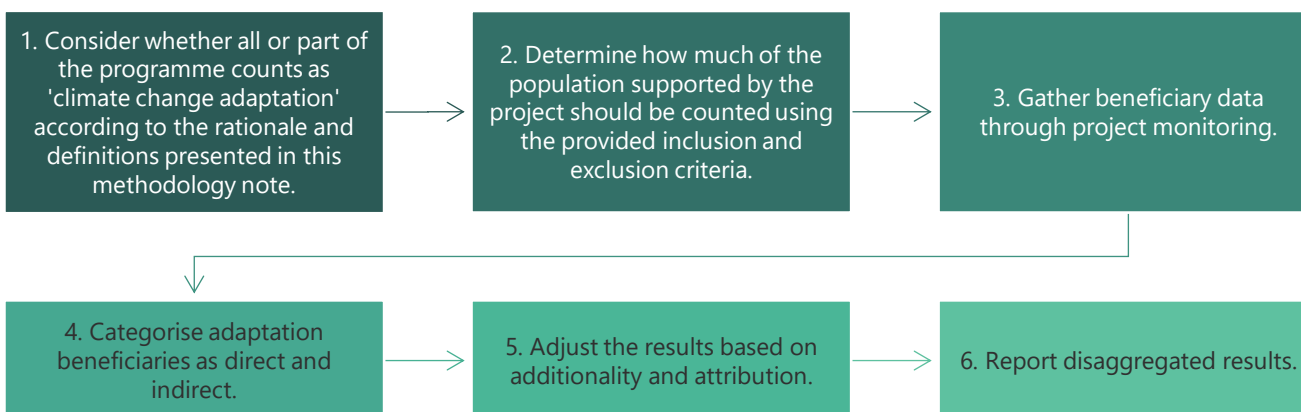
2. Definition

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate change adaptation as: *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*¹. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory and reactive adaptation, private and public adaptation, and autonomous and planned adaptation.

Adaptation activities give people resources, tools or skills to better cope with changing, unpredictable and extreme weather. Examples include supporting farmers to grow crops that can adapt to changing weather conditions; improving irrigation systems and preserving water catchments in areas facing increased drought risk; strengthening defences against floods and storms; productive restoration of landscapes to enhance agricultural and non-timber forest product yields; and ensuring that social protection mechanisms are in place to enable people to quickly recover from weather-related shocks.

3. Approach

BCFs projects should report the number of people supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change, according to the following steps, which are described in more detail in the next section:



¹ IPCC 2014: Annex II: Glossary [Mach, K.J., S. Planton and C. von Stechow (eds.)]. In: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Core Writing Team, R.K. Pachauri and L.A. Meyer (eds.)]. IPCC, Geneva, Switzerland, p118

4. Stepwise guidance

4.1 Step 1: Consider whether all or part of the programme counts as 'climate change adaptation'

A project or activity can count as 'climate change adaptation' if its scope meets the IPCC definition provided in Section 2 and its activities are expected to reduce people's vulnerability to the effects of climate change.

Examples within the BCFs portfolio might include:

- Supporting climate resilient farming practices to better withstand the effects of severe weather and provide alternative income opportunities;
- Restoring natural systems which provide important ecosystem services, such as rangelands for enhanced water management or mangroves to provide coastal protection; and
- Community based initiatives to develop understanding of climate adaptation and the financial resources (such as village savings and loans funds) to better respond to the impacts of increased climate variability and change.

4.2 Step 2: Determine how much of the population supported by the project should be counted using the provided inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion Criteria	<p>All individuals supported to better adapt to the effects of climate change from project activities which meet the IPCC adaptation definition should be included.</p> <p>Where climate change adaptation is integrated as one part of a broader initiative, use professional judgement to limit reported results to better reflect the relative importance of climate change adaptation aims and other development benefits.</p> <p>For example, a forest restoration project which includes training for local livestock farmers on silvopastoral practices (integrated livestock and agroforestry approaches) as one of four activities might only count the livestock farmers themselves and not the wider community supported by the project.</p>
Exclusion Criteria	<p>Beneficiaries of the project who are not receiving adaptation benefits should not be counted. In the silvopastoral example above, livestock farmers should be counted but individuals benefitting through increased livelihoods related to the sale of non-timber forest products should not.</p> <p>Beneficiaries who are considered "not targeted" and "low intensity", as per Step 4 below, should not be counted.</p> <p>Individuals should only be counted once, even if receiving benefits under multiple project activities. Individuals receiving direct and indirect benefits should only be counted as direct beneficiaries. Individuals receiving benefits over a multi-year project should only be counted in the first year which they receive benefits from the project.</p>

4.3 Step 3: Gather beneficiary data through project monitoring

Data on beneficiaries will come from ongoing project monitoring and related data collection tools. This is expected to include beneficiary surveys, attendance lists for training events, household demographic surveys, population surveys, etc. Data collection should seek to include disaggregation characteristics wherever possible.

Where sufficient data for indirect beneficiaries cannot be collected, projects should estimate this figure based on population sizes within the intervention area. These estimates should be based on the best available data and be supported by appropriate assumptions outlining how the estimates were reached.

4.4 Step 4: Categorise adaptation beneficiaries as direct and indirect

Beneficiaries should be categorised according to whether they are directly targeted by a project activity or not, and the level of intensity of support represented by that activity. Table X below provides a conversion using these categorisations to define direct and indirect beneficiaries for disaggregation in reporting.

	Targeted	Not targeted
High intensity	Direct beneficiary	Indirect beneficiary
Medium intensity	Indirect beneficiary	Indirect beneficiary
Low intensity	Indirect beneficiary	Not reported

4.4.1 Targeted beneficiaries

The definitions of targeted versus not targeted beneficiaries are provided in Table X below.

Targeted beneficiaries	Not targeted beneficiaries
Receiving direct support from the project (i.e. receiving training or funding directly) Can be counted individually or at a household level (i.e. not an organisation, must be a named individual/household) Aware that they are receiving support (i.e. can identify the project or activity which they are supported by)	Benefitting indirectly from project activities (i.e. inter-community knowledge sharing, user of shared resources, etc.) Cannot be individually named or counted (i.e. an organisation instead of its individual members) Not aware that they are being supported (i.e. users of a shared resource such as restored mangrove forests who are not aware of the project activities)

4.4.2 Intensity of support

Intensity of support describes the level of effort provided per beneficiary. Use professional judgement to determine which intensity category is appropriate based on the examples below:

Low intensity includes people falling within the administrative area of a local authority receiving climate adaptation capacity building support, or people within a catchment area of a river basin subject to a water resources management plan.

Medium intensity includes people receiving information services such as extreme weather forecasts by text, or people within a catchment area with structural flood defences.

High intensity includes adaptive housing raised on plinths, cash transfers, trainees (not 'demonstration') supported by agricultural extension services, or community members trained to develop climate risk management plans.

4.5 Step 5: Adjust the results based on additionality and attribution

4.5.1 Attribution

The UK Government recognises it is not the only donor supporting adaptation benefits in the BCFs countries. As such, results should be adjusted to account for the attribution which can be claimed based on the level of support provided.

If the UK government is the sole financial supporter of a project, the full amount of results is attributed to the UK.

If the UK government is one donor among a number of development partners providing funding for a project, results should be adjusted in proportion to the UK donor share of the public funding. In instances where a BCFs project leverages public or private finance that helps to deliver results (e.g. local government grants for mangrove protection systems), the share of results associated with any leveraged finance should be attributed to the UK Government.

4.5.2 Additionality

Results are additional if they are beyond the results that would have occurred in the absence of the BCFs project, or the “business-as-usual” counterfactual. Projects should estimate the counterfactual based on their understanding of the context and other local initiatives. For example:

In a project whereby training is delivered to livestock farmers who otherwise would be expected to continue normal practice, and where there are no other known interventions supporting local livestock systems, the counterfactual might be 0 when measuring farmers adapting to climate change and the results could be considered 100% additional;

However, if there is an existing government scheme that is providing support to the same or neighbouring beneficiaries, the additionality will be lower as there is a good chance those beneficiaries would have adopted new livestock practices without the BCFs project. The BCFs project could then estimate 50% additionality to reflect the other intervention and the likely acceleration of results supported by the BCFs activities.

Both the counterfactual and the additionality adjustment are expected to be estimates and should be based on the project’s own knowledge and understanding about the intervention context. Additionality is expected to be higher in less developed countries and in more rural areas. A justification for the additionality factor applied should be provided in reporting.

4.6 Step 6: Report disaggregated results

Results under this indicator should be reported as direct and indirect beneficiaries disaggregated by the following four dimensions:

Sex: Disaggregate direct beneficiary counts by sex using two categories: male and female. Due to safeguarding with regard to gender minorities, further disaggregation according to sex is not advised. Where a beneficiary’s transgender, intersex or non-binary status is known, classify according to their gender identity where a ‘male’ or ‘female’ designation fits with this. Otherwise leave blank.

Age: Disaggregate direct beneficiary counts by age using 4 categories: children (age 0- 14); youth (age 15-24); adults (age 25-64); and elders (age 65+).

Disability: Projects should incorporate the Washington Group ‘short set’ of six disability questions to their beneficiary monitoring surveys². Anyone who answers ‘a lot of difficulty’ or ‘cannot do at all’ to one or more of the six questions counts as disabled.

Geography. Disaggregate direct and indirect beneficiary counts by geography wherever possible, using two categories: urban and rural. In the absence of internationally agreed definitions of urban and rural, use the definition set by the national statistical office in the country where the project is operating.

² <https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/question-sets/wg-short-set-on-functioning-wg-ss/>

Annex 1 Worked Example

Project summary

A BCFs project in Kenya is seeking to improve rangeland habitat conservation. It is aiming to do so by: 1) working with pastoralists to integrate climate smart activities in their ranching practices; 2) restore degraded lands through the conservation of native plants and the removal of invasive species; and 3) provide training to local communities on improved land use to protect, monitor and better conserve rangeland habitats, including the provision of knowledge materials for wider community dissemination. The project's central objective is to ensure increased drought resilience through the restoration of rangeland and prevention of further degradation to improve livelihoods of the local population. The project is majority funded through the BCFs (80%) but receives a 20% contribution from Dutch donor financing as part of a larger initiative supported in the country.

Step 1: Consider whether all or part of the programme counts as 'climate change adaptation'

The project is primarily focused on improved land use which can be considered a means of supporting climate change adaptation. Given the objective of the project to improve drought resistance, it can be said to meet the definition of adaptation as provided in this methodology note.

Step 2: Determine how much of the population supported by the project should be counted using the provided inclusion and exclusion criteria

The benefits of the programme are largely climate-related in terms of increased drought resilience, improved climate adaptation knowledge, and access to enhanced ecosystem services through better land use. As such, based on the information provided all beneficiaries can be included.

Step 3: Gather beneficiary data through project monitoring

Based on project monitoring, the following results have been collected:

Indicator	Unit	Data source	Result
Number of pastoral farmers who have received training on new practices	Number of people	Training attendance records	48
Number of community members who have attended knowledge and awareness raising activities	Number of people	Training attendance records	185
Total community population in project area	Number of households	Household survey	168 (estimated 714 individuals based on local household size averages)
Total population in rangeland area	Number of households	Subnational population survey	4,600 (estimated 19,550 individuals based on local household size averages)

Step 4: Categorise adaptation beneficiaries as direct and indirect

Using the provided criteria, whether the beneficiaries are targeted is assessed in Table X below:

Beneficiary group	Receiving direct support	Can be counted individually	Aware of the support	Categorisation
Pastoral farmers who have received training on new practices	Yes	Yes	Yes	Targeted
Community members who have attended knowledge and awareness raising activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Targeted
Total community population in project area	No	Yes	Yes	Not targeted
Total population in rangeland area	No	No	No	Not targeted

The intensity of support received by each beneficiary group is provided in Table X below:

Beneficiary group	Intensity of support	Justification
Pastoral farmers who have received training on new practices	High	As direct recipients of training on agricultural practices, pastoral farmers receive high intensity support
Community members who have attended knowledge and awareness raising activities	High	As direct recipients of training on improved land use management, community members attending training receive high intensity support
Total community population in project area	Medium	As recipients of knowledge materials on climate adaptation and land use management, the wider community is supported at medium intensity
Total population in rangeland area	Low	While the population of the wider area will likely benefit from the expected increased drought resilience, they are not receiving support directly and are considered low intensity

Bringing these tables together, the following categorises beneficiaries as direct or indirect for the purposes of reporting:

Beneficiary group	Targeted	Intensity	Direct or indirect
Pastoral farmers who have received training on new practices	Yes	High	Direct
Community members who have attended knowledge and awareness raising activities	Yes	High	Direct
Total community population in project area	No	Medium	Indirect
Total population in rangeland area	No	Low	Not counted

Step 5: Adjust the results based on additionality and attribution

The project is partly funded by another donor. As such, the results should have an 80% attribution factor applied.

The 20% funding from the Dutch donor is part of a wider initiative to support sustainable agriculture practices in country. However, the Dutch programme's involvement in the BCFs project area is only through its funding of the BCFs project – there are no additional interventions funded under the Dutch initiative in this region. As such, the business-as-usual counterfactual is that without the BCFs project the adaptation results would not be achieved. The project is therefore considered 100% additional. In the event that the Dutch funder commissions further technical assistance to support the farmers benefiting from the BCFs project in the region, additionality may need to be adjusted.

The adjusted results are therefore:

Indicator	Gross result	Additionality factor	Attribution factor	Adjusted result
Number of pastoral farmers who have received training on new practices	48	100%	80%	38
Number of community members who have attended knowledge and awareness raising activities	185	100%	80%	148
Total community population in project area	714	100%	80%	571
Total population in rangeland area	Not reported	N/A	N/A	Not reported

Step 6: Report disaggregated results

The final results can be reported per the below:

	Sex	Age	Disability	Geography
Direct beneficiaries	M: 112, F: 74	Children: 24; Youth: 42; Adults: 64; Elders: 18	Disabled: 26; Not disabled: 122	Kenya: 148
Indirect beneficiaries	M: 343; F: 228	Children: 98; Youth: 174; Adults: 262; Elders: 37	Disabled: 61; Not disabled: 510	Kenya: 571