

**Module 1a:  
Climate and  
weather  
information  
sources  
Exercise**

April 2019



Exercises

**Title** Secondary information sources

**Introduction and background for facilitators:**

For a National Society to engage in climate-smart programming, or prior to conducting community assessments in the field (e.g. Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments: EVCA), conducting a national climate risk assessment will be a useful first step. For these climate risk assessments, a review of secondary sources helps getting a broad perspective of the issues facing vulnerable people.

This includes reviewing existing information available on past *climate trends* and future *climate projections* as well.

Where do we seek relevant information for this purpose?

**Aim/learning objective:**

At the completion of this exercise participants will know how to identify and access secondary sources of information on weather and climate, and have practical experience in finding information on key websites.

**Materials and preparation:**

- Part 1:
1. Flipchart or whiteboard
  2. Permanent/whiteboard markers
- Part 2:
3. Computers – one for each group, if you split the audience
  4. Good internet connections (wifi) for all computers

**Duration:** Flexible – Part 1 in 20 minutes, but allow 60 minutes if you include Part 2

**Participant numbers and/or arrangements:**

Part 1 – as a whole group  
Part 2 – in smaller groups, each gathered around a computer

**The exercise  
step by step:****Part 1:**

1. Ask participants: “For a risk assessment, the first step is ‘review of secondary sources’. Where would you seek secondary information on past *climate trends and future climate change projections*?”
2. Note their replies on the whiteboard.
3. Coach for, and add, sources that the participants don’t mention (you may like to prepare your own background list for the specific setting, e.g. country or region), but some standard sources would include:
  - National weather agency (Met Office)
  - National Communications to the UNFCCC
  - In-country research agencies (Universities etc.)
  - The national ‘climate change focal point’ – usually at the Ministry of Environment
  - UN agencies and NGOs active in the country.

**Part 2:**

1. Let participants organize themselves in small groups, each with a computer (with internet access).
2. If several nationalities are present at the training, let each group choose a country they will work on during the exercise. Otherwise, let them all work on the country you are in.
3. Request each group to locate the website of the national weather agency (Meteorological Department, or similar) and ask them to locate reports or data on **weather trends** for the past decades/century – and reports on expected climate change projections for the country.
4. As time allows, also let participants briefly play around on some of the following. global/regional websites (let participants Google their way to the complex links, or provide them in a mail to them):
  - a) [National Communications to the UNFCCC](#)
  - b) [World Bank Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#)
  - c) *UNDP or UNE country pages on climate change adaptation*
  - d) [Climate Wizard](#)
  - e) [Pacific Climate Change Data Portal](#) (Pacific only)
  - f) [IFRC/IRI MapRoom](#)
  - g) [IPCC \(2014\) regional analyses chapters](#)
  - h) UNFCCC [National Adaptation Plans](#).

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**Debriefing/  
discussion:**

Wrap Part 2 up by letting each group provide one tip for the other groups: the best feature or source they found in their web search.

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**Tips:**

Prior to exercise, facilitator will need to familiarize herself with key websites in order to assist trainees.

For Part 2, facilitator may display website addresses on screen – and possibly demonstrate some navigation and features on the key websites to support the groups work.