



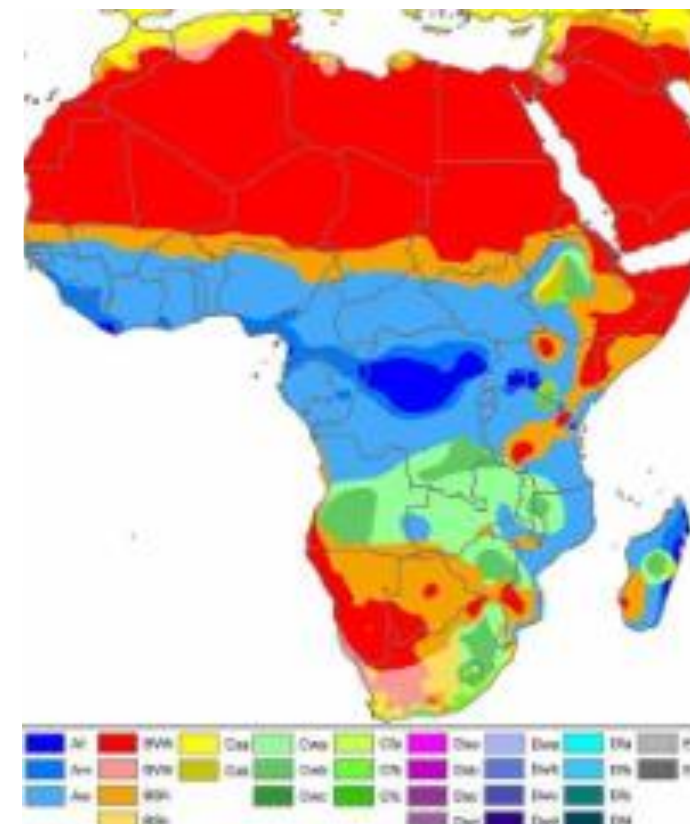
# AU-AIP MULTI-COUNTRY GCF READINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER INVESTMENTS

## Module 11: Developing a Climate Rationale for GCF Concept Notes



## Module 1.6 – Developing a Robust Climate Rationale for a GCF Concept Note

- Why the climate rationale matters
- GCF expectations at Concept Note and at Full Funding Proposal stage
- Defining climate risks: hazards, sensitivities, vulnerabilities, impacts
- Adaptation vs Mitigation focus
- The importance of causal pathways



# GCF Climate Rationale: Why does it matter?



- **Necessity**

- Most effective use of scarce (financial and other) resources
- Climate risk-proofing: how to best invest: select the most appropriate actions and methods to achieve improved outcomes, resilience and sustainability
- Trade-off decision: “what to invest in”

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- **Global Commitment**

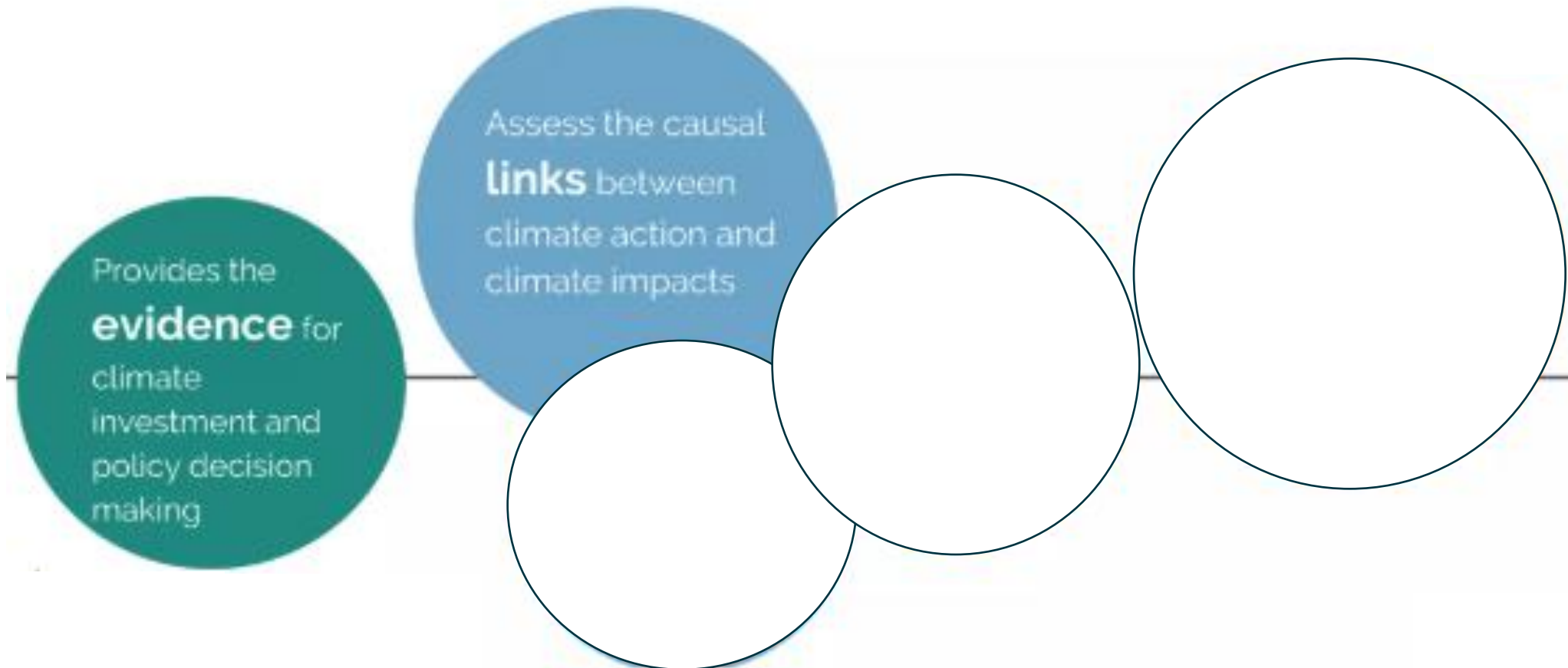
Paris Agreement: Article 7: Strengthening scientific knowledge that supports decision making

- **GCF Policy**

Major building block for GCF policy framework

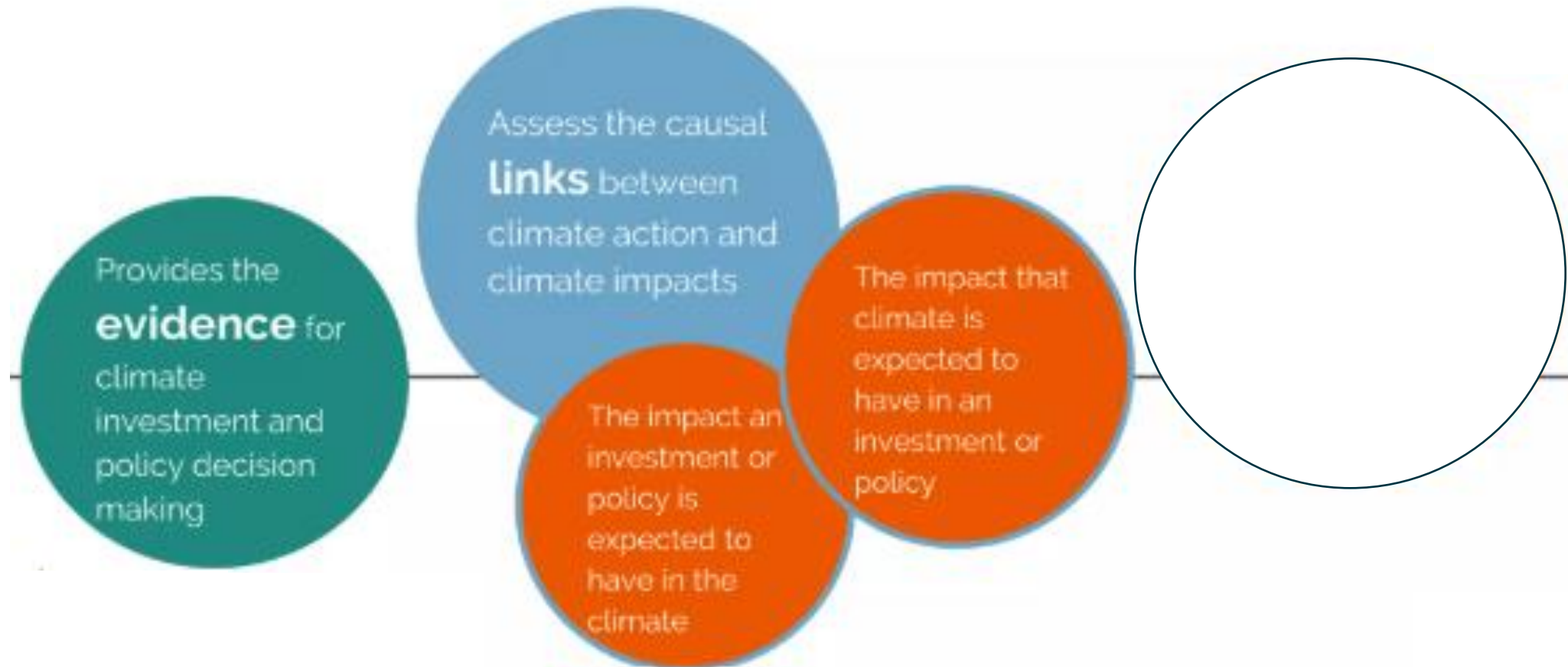
# GCF Climate Rationale: Why does it matter?

## Climate rationale - what is it?



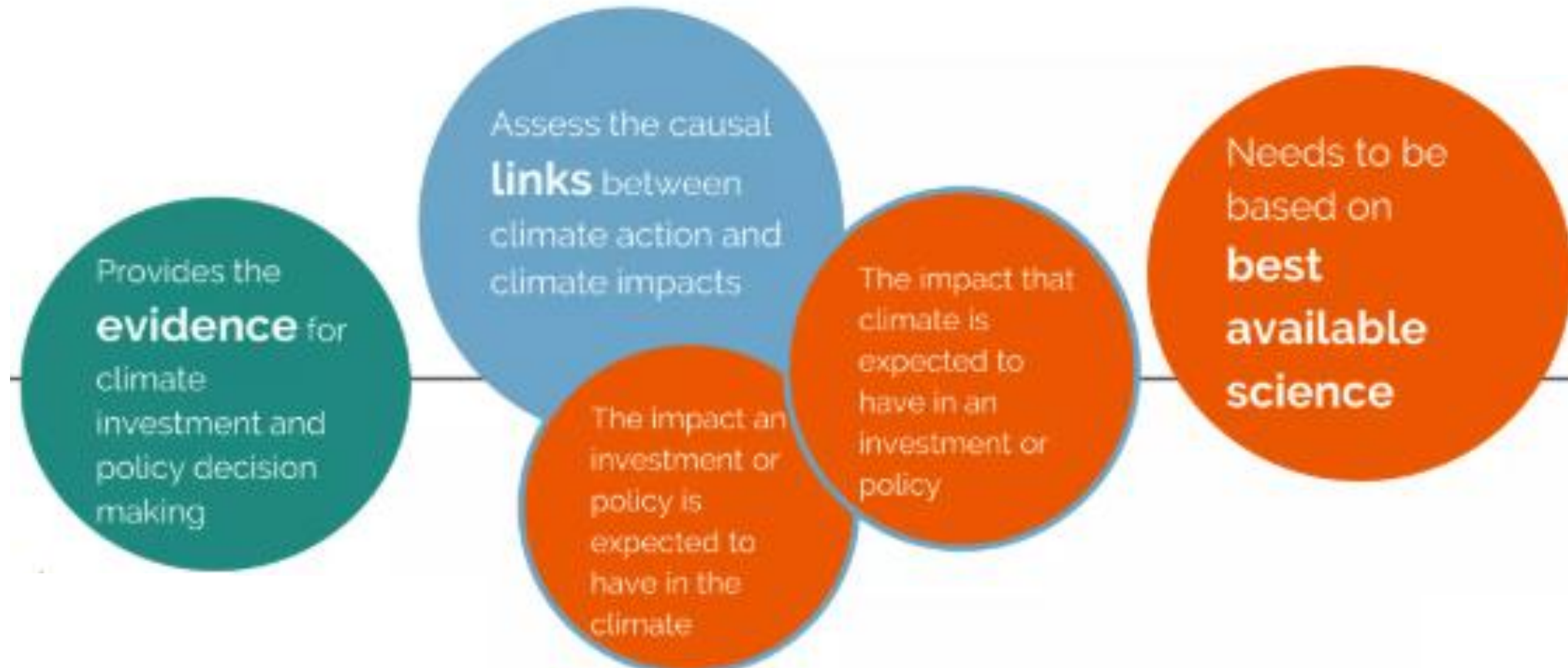
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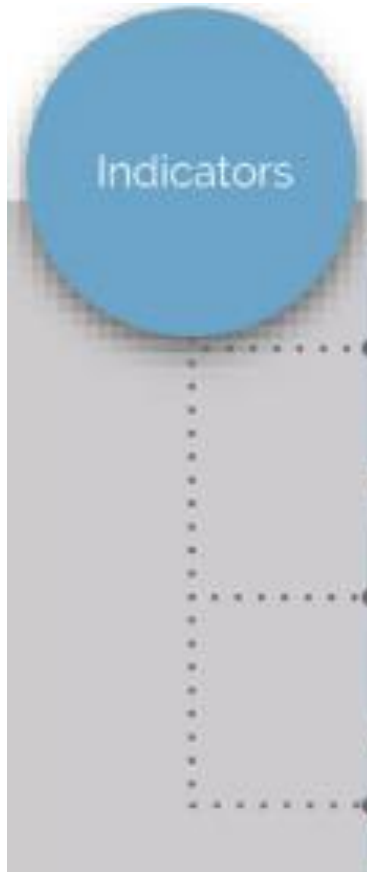
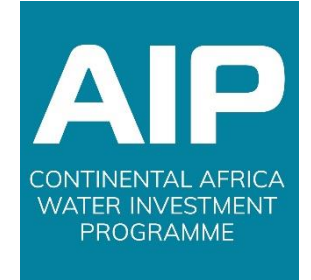
# GCF Climate Rationale: How does it differ from other funding?



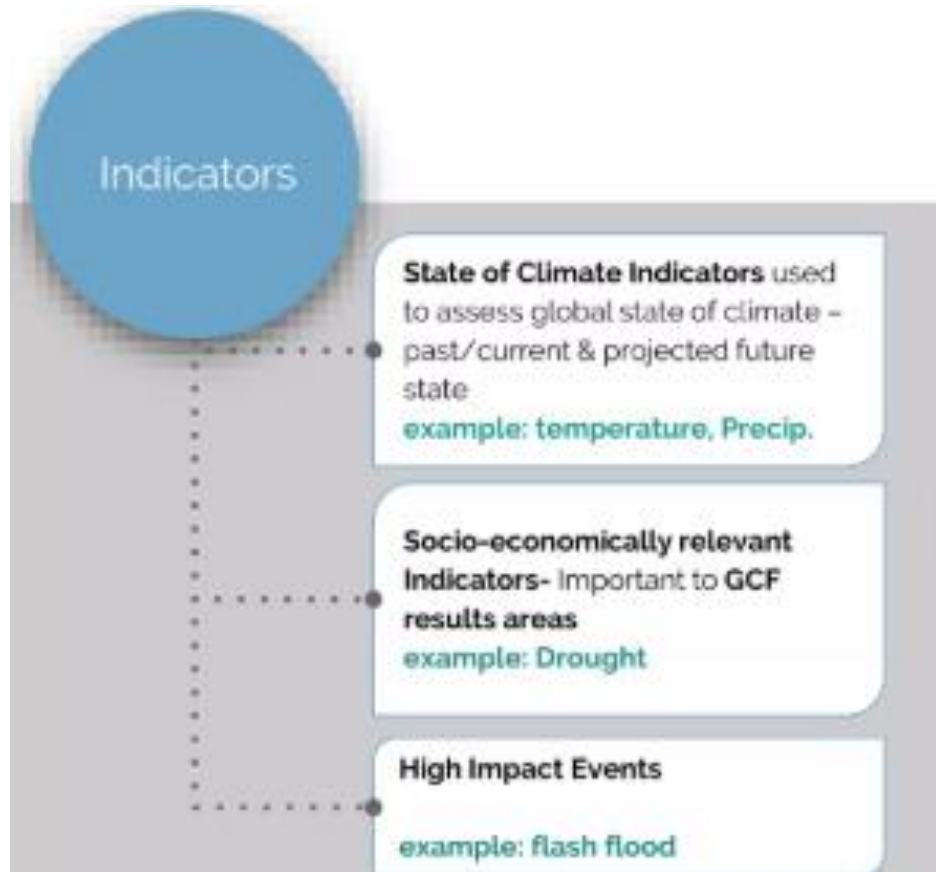
- The GCF funds **climate** action, not development as usual.
- Proposals must clearly identify **climate drivers**.
- The rationale must **distinguish** climate change impacts from development issues.



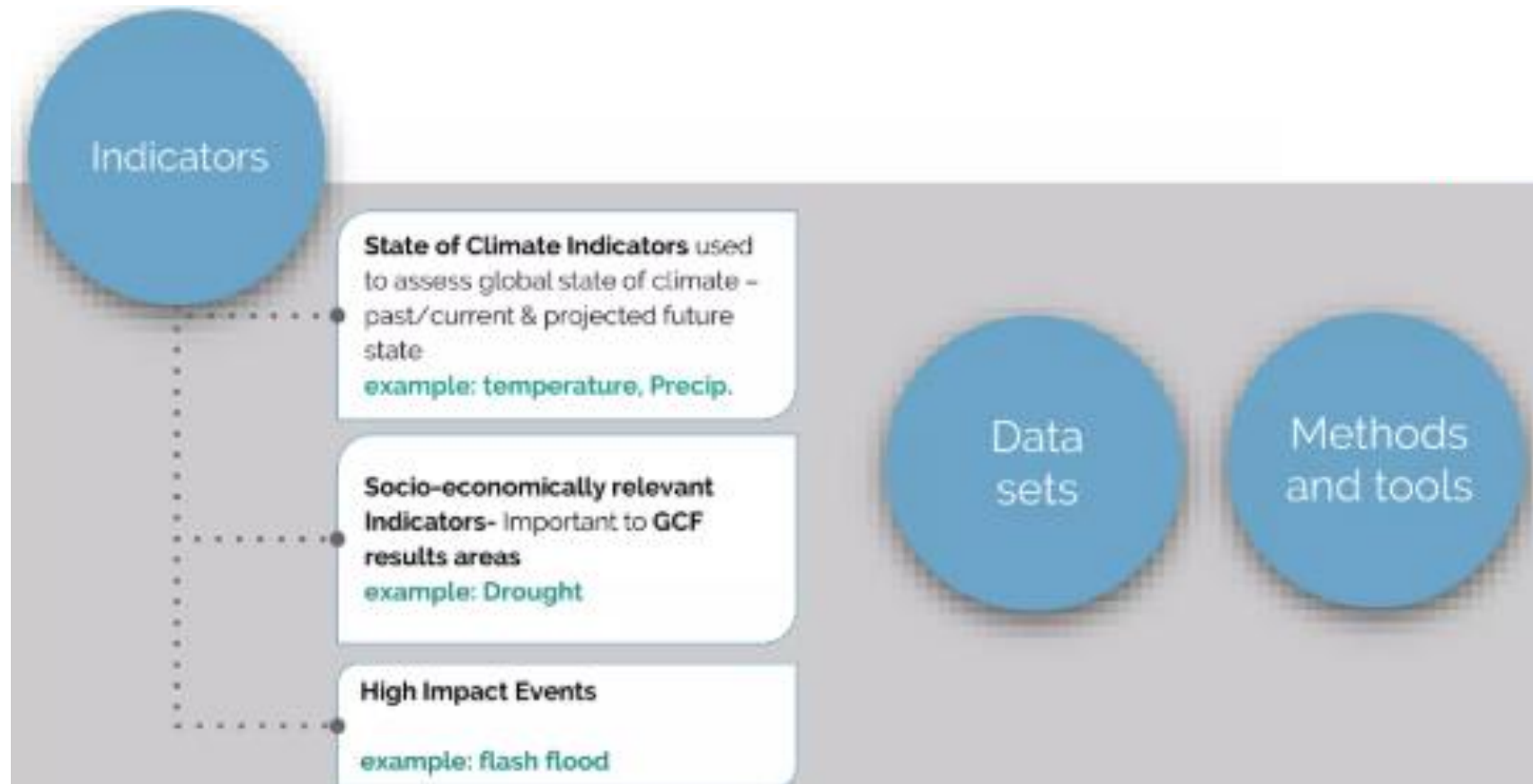
# GCF Climate Rationale expectations at Concept Note stage: the evidence-base



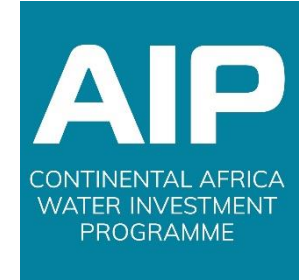
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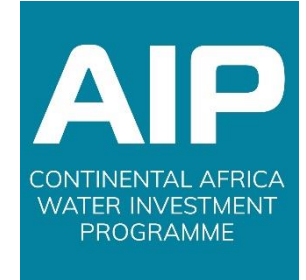
# GCF Climate Rationale expectations at Concept Note stage: GCF expectations



- Climate rationale must **demonstrate** that **climate change is the primary driver** of the identified problem (the “main problem driver”) .
- Refer to **Observed & Projected Climate Data (evidence)**;
- Consider **Extreme events** (provide records/references) and reflect on climate **variability**.
- Reflect on the climate **impacts**: Link trends to local vulnerabilities and justify why GCF support is needed.



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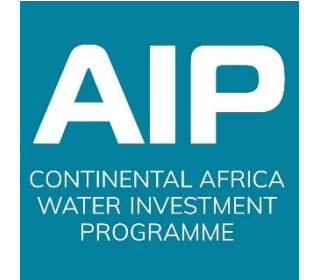
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- Link Climate Science to **Local Vulnerabilities and justify WHY GCF** support is needed:
  - Connect climate risks (e.g., droughts, floods, variability) to **sectoral impacts** and **community vulnerability**.
  - Use real examples: declining river flows, crop failure, or increased water demand.
- **Strengthen** the Narrative
  - Structure your rationale like a **story**: What’s changing? Who’s affected? Why GCF is needed?
  - Make the case for **climate adaptation and/or mitigation investment—not just development support**
  - Where historical studies are available, reference and state why this one is augmenting/adding/different

# GCF Climate Rationale expectations at Full Funding Proposal (FFP) stage



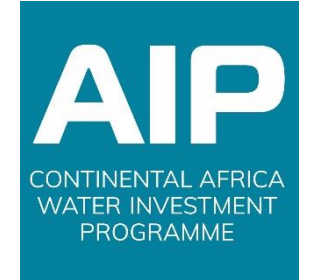
- Climate Narrative National/regional **overview**; then “drill down” to a Project-area **focus**: GIS maps
- **Observed** climate Nationally and for the focus area, with historical observations reference
- **Projected** climate Nationally and for the focus area, with specific reference to data e.g. RCP vs SSP;
- CMIP6 climate projections: temperature and precipitation variables under e.g. SSP2-4.5, and SSP5-8.5
- **Extreme events** with real dates and impacts over the past decade, as well as costs where available
- Climate **impacts** extending to **infrastructure, ecosystems and agriculture (food security; health), socio-economic**.
- Climate information availability in the country and the focus region (current climate and information gaps re: meteorological services, hydromet services, data, early warning systems, data deficiencies and key areas, evapotranspiration and localised rainfall patterns, etc.), assessments and recommendations
- **Vulnerability Assessments**: consider limited capacity to adapt to climate change or to mitigate climate change impacts (rural and/or urban; population vulnerability, environmental vulnerability), key socio-economic factors
- **Exposure**: community-level challenges, governance limitations at national and local levels, and barriers to local operation and maintenance of interventions proposed
- **GEDSI** considerations and drivers of increased vulnerability associated with GEDSI as well as GEDSI-responsive interventions
- **Baseline conditions** associated with existing policies, coordination and challenges therewith, practices and current investments; applicable national policies and strategies: gaps and barriers
- Key water resource and related infrastructure challenges
- Institutional **capacity** and coordination especially related to the focus area

# Adaptation vs Mitigation



- Adaptation = managing climate impacts; Mitigation = reducing emissions.
- Water-sector projects usually focus on adaptation.
- Clearly state the rationale type and provide evidence.

# The importance of causal pathways



- Use clear logic: climate drivers → impacts → vulnerabilities → solutions.
- Helps reviewers follow reasoning and financing justification.
- **Each intervention must tie to a climate driver.**



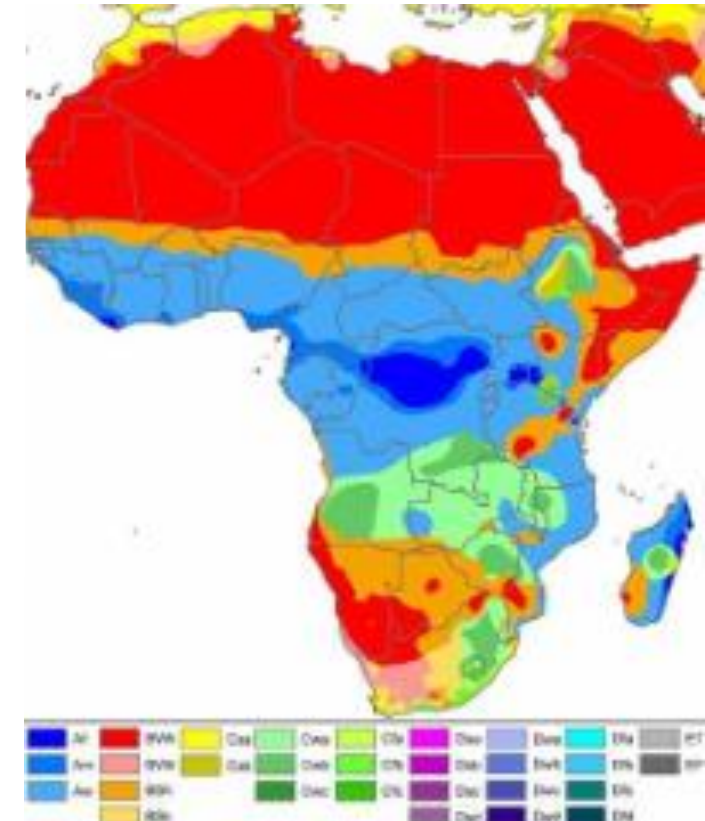
# Pan-African Transboundary Water Dialogue and Training on National Climate Resilient Water Investment Programming and Project Preparation



GCF Readiness Workshop 1 2025  
Module 1.7

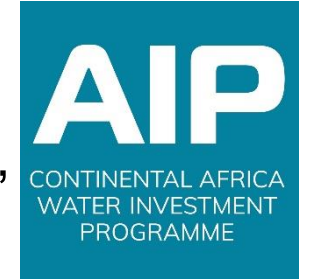
# Module 1.7 – Developing a Robust Climate Rationale: taking Theory into Practice

- Framing the climate history, predictions/future, impacts, drawing on evidence of extreme events
- Importance of evidence-based/data driven narrative
- RCP vs SSP data
- Scale
- Applicability of data sources/references





# Framing the Climate: Observations and Projections



- Show **trends over time** (spatial and graphs) for the last 20+ years: temperatures, rainfall, extremes, variance.
- Hazards **Severity, Magnitude, Frequency and Intensity**: feeds into the Theory of Change, Logframe and Indicators, and Financial model and budget).
- Reference **national data** (NDCs, NatComs, BURs (UNFCCC Biennial Update Reports submitted by Non-Annex 1 parties)), **IPCC data/reports**, and **downscaled climate models** (best available e.g., precipitation shifts, temperature rise, extreme event records), Research, National & Local reports: “zoom in” gradually.
- Remote Sensing/Earth Observation data and hydro-meteorological insights.
- Example: use **SSP2 and SSP5** with selected visuals: [Home | Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#)

*Self-reading:*

[What's the difference between "Representative Concentration Pathways" and "Shared Socioeconomic Pathways"?](#)

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- Example: use **SSP2 and SSP5** with selected visuals: [Home | Climate Change Knowledge Portal](#)
- **Communicate Climate Impact**: use Graphs & Vulnerability maps (which also feed into the GEDSI action plan, ESS, noting refinement/validation via Stakeholder engagements).

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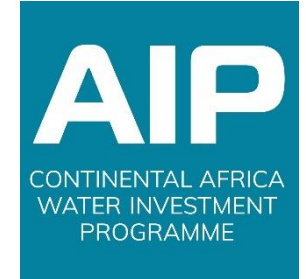
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## Vulnerability

- Limited capacity to adapt or mitigate
  - Vulnerable populations: # persons/households/area
  - Socio-economic factors: evidence based
  - Exposure
  - Infrastructure, governance, and institutional capacity
  - Historical response
  - Community resilience indicators
- Quantify population, infrastructure and livelihoods at risk.
  - Show who is most vulnerable and why (adaptive capacity gaps).
  - Highlight governance and policy weaknesses.

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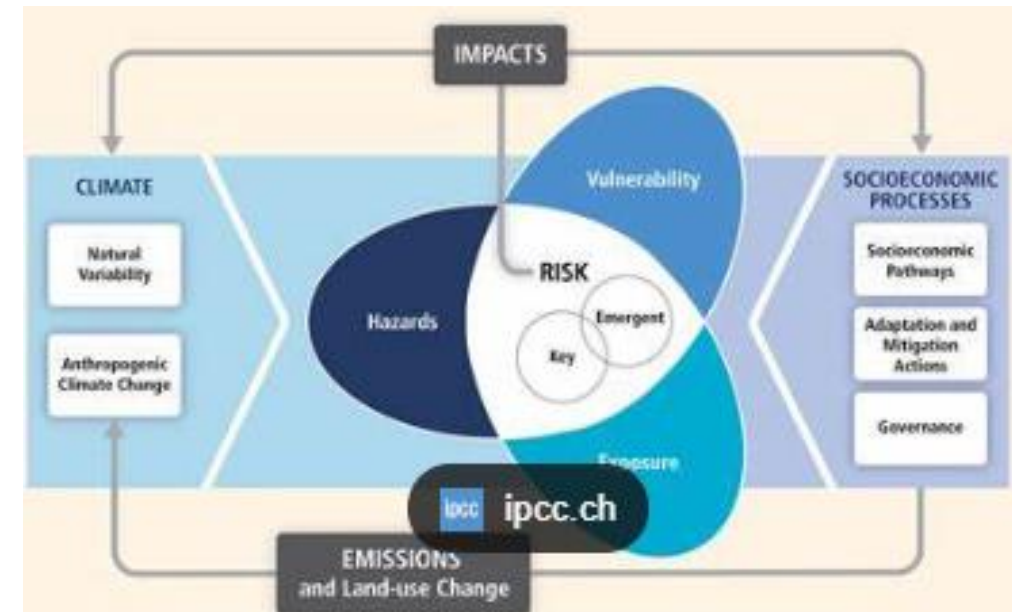
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- Historical response
- Community resilience indicators

## Climate Impact: Problem Statement

- What is the impact: following the IPCC framework



# The importance of evidence-based data driven narrative; RCP vs SSP, data, scale and applicability of data sources/references



- Use high-quality, referenced data (Noting the RCP to SSP shift, but both having a valid consideration).
- Match data scale to project geography.
- Reference platforms: CCKP, CHIRPS, ICPAC, AGRHYMET.



# AIP

CONTINENTAL AFRICA  
WATER INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME

## THE END

