

Technical Assistance Plan monitoring and evaluation strategy: Briefing note for Parties



The **Technical Assistance Plan (TAP)** outlines the technical assistance principles and processes for **strengthening the human, institutional, legal and technological capacities of Parties** (particularly developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition) **to implement the BRS conventions**. The TAP can be used to inform and prioritise assistance provided through various channels, including bilaterally (e.g. from a Party to another Party); by multilateral Implementing Agencies (e.g. UNIDO, UN Environment, WHO); and by the BRS Secretariat, the Basel and Stockholm Regional Centres, and related work with FAO. Technical assistance can include workshops, technology transfer, dissemination of best practices, testing of technical guidelines, and facilitation of regional cooperation.

What is the TAP monitoring and evaluation strategy?

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy outlines how the **effectiveness and impact** of the TAP and its associated activities should be **measured, analysed and reported** on. The strategy defines the **results** (outcomes and outputs) and **indicators** that should be measured, and identifies the **objectives, roles, processes and tools** for TAP M&E.

Why is the strategy needed?

By helping to **improve understanding** of TAP performance, the strategy aims to support **decision-making** around **TAP priorities and work-planning**, and will help to identify national, regional and global **technical capacity needs and gaps**. The strategy was developed to provide a **more systematic approach** to TAP M&E, and to shift the focus from measuring the **quantity** of assistance (e.g. no. of workshops) towards measuring the **qualitative differences** that assistance contributes to (e.g. changes in national capacity). The strategy also **broadens the scope** of TAP M&E: before only activities implemented by the BRS Secretariat were monitored, but the strategy now supports measurement of TA provided to Parties through other channels, including from bilateral donors and multilateral Implementing Agencies.

How is the strategy implemented?

A **common monitoring approach** is applied across all three conventions, with the same convention-neutral processes, tools and indicators used to measure technical assistance. This allows for a more efficient and consistent approach.

At the core of the monitoring process is the measurement of **five capacity outcomes** that describe the five generic ways in which the TAP aims to develop implementation capacities. These outcomes are intended to cover **all** forms of capacity support delivered through the TAP, **regardless of convention**:



Greater access to and application of scientific understanding



Strengthened national coordination and collaboration



Strengthened national policy and legislative frameworks



Increased understanding of and influence on convention processes

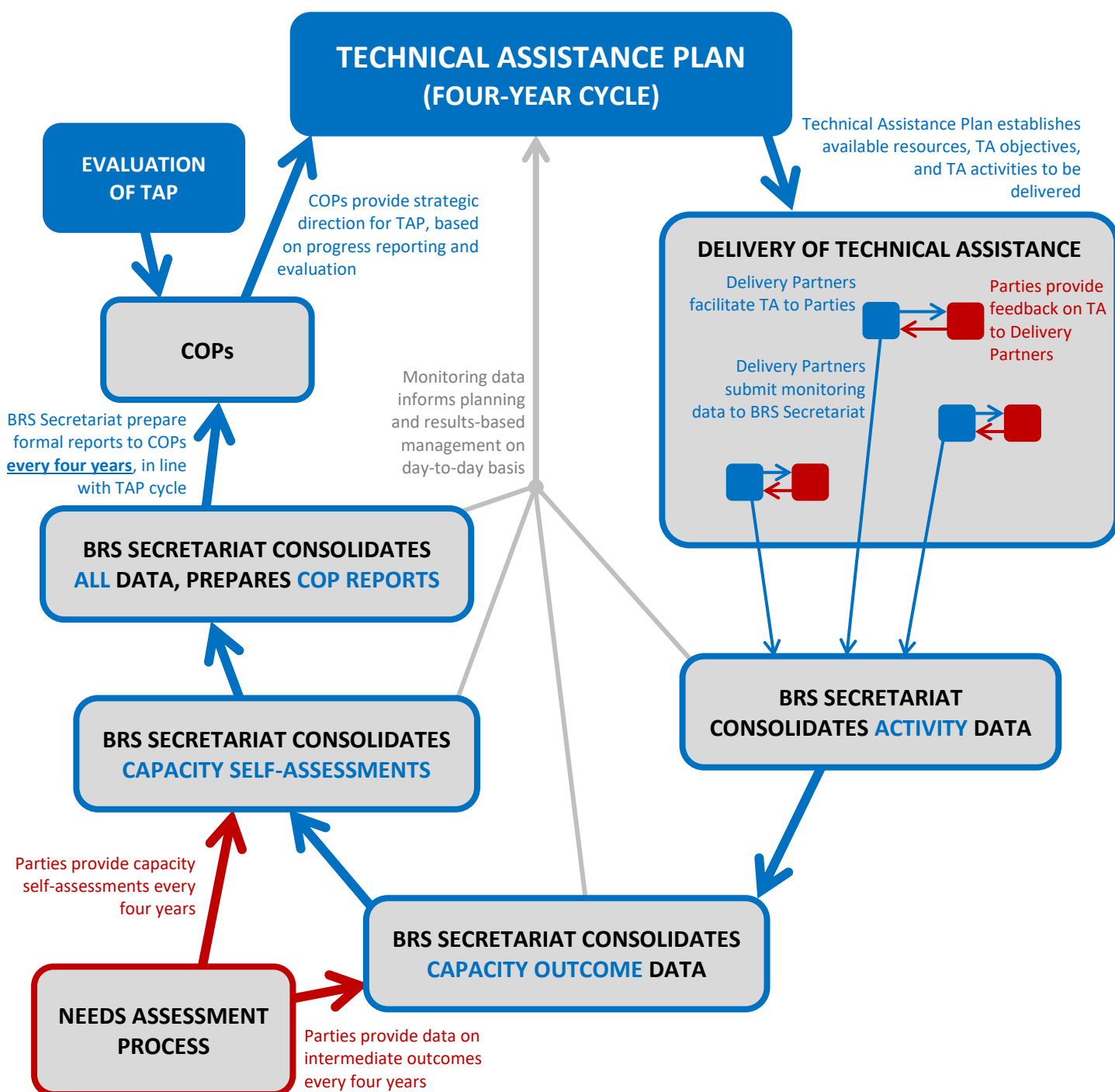


Increased capacity to access and implement technological and financial resources

What is the process?

M&E of the TAP is undertaken on a **four-year reporting cycle**, aligned to each TAP implementation period.

- The **BRS Secretariat** leads the process, coordinating monitoring inputs, managing evaluations, and submitting reports to the COPs.
- **Technical assistance providers** are asked to provide the BRS Secretariat with activity-level monitoring data relating to the technical assistance that they facilitate.
- **Parties that access technical assistance** will be asked to provide feedback on all assistance they access and – every four years **as part of the needs assessment process** – Parties will undertake **self-assessments** of their national capacities to implement the BRS conventions.
- In advance of each new TAP implementation period, **Parties and the COPs** will then use the data gathered throughout the process to inform their decisions around the development and priorities of the next TAP.
- The overall process also supports (without duplicating) the work of BRS subsidiary bodies that promote the implementation – or evaluate the effectiveness – of the conventions.

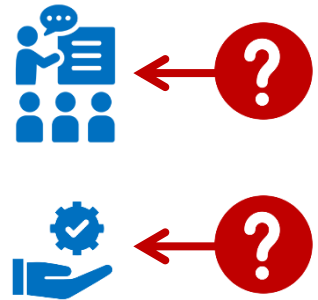


Role of Parties

Parties will be asked to contribute information and feedback through **three** main processes:

Activity-specific feedback

Following any given activity, the technical assistance providers (e.g. BRS Secretariat, multilateral Implementing Agencies, bilateral donors) may approach Parties for direct feedback. The nature of feedback sought from Parties will depend on the nature of the activity. For example, following delivery of training, participants may be asked to complete a post-workshop survey; if support is provided through secondment of technical experts, Parties may be asked to participate in brief case studies or assessments of the technical advice received.



Capacity self-assessments

Every four years, as part of the **needs assessment process**, every Party that accesses technical assistance will undertake **self-assessments of their national capacity to implement each of the three conventions**. Parties will complete three **assessment sheets** that – for each convention – allow Parties to assess their national capacity against a series of elements that define the systems, institutions, processes and capabilities that typically need to be in place in order to implement each convention. The process will help Parties and technical assistance providers to identify national and global capacity gaps, and to understand the overall performance of the TAP and its related activities.



Outcome assessments

Also as part of the four-yearly needs assessment process, Parties will be asked – through a **brief survey** – to assess the **quality of technical assistance** that they accessed against the TAP's **five capacity outcomes**.



Further information

The full M&E strategy is detailed within the Technical Assistance Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Manual, available on request from the BRS Secretariat. The manual describes the strategy's **objectives and principles**, presents the TAP **theory of change** and **results framework** (including outcomes, outputs and indicators) and provides **indicator-by-indicator measurement guidance**, including detailed guidance on completing the Party **capacity self-assessments**.

Further detail on the BRS Secretariat's approach to M&E can also be accessed at the following site:

<http://www.brsmeas.org/tabid/7652/default.aspx>



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