

Step 8: Define and justify trigger threshold and forecast variable

After having analysed the link between impact and hazard magnitude you should be able to determine and justify the level of impact and the corresponding hazard magnitude at which you want to trigger your (s)EAP. Hence, the output of this step should be a threshold of a given forecast variable and its justification. Two more aspects are specifically mentioned in the full EAP criteria:

- Frequency of the threshold being reached: Please show in which years (if the data allows) you would have reached the trigger and what is the frequency of the trigger being reached
- Return period of the event and how the return period was calculated: As mentioned above the return period of five years just serves as a rule of thumb. Still, you are asked to provide the return period of your trigger to avoid that you are triggering your s(EAP) on an annual basis.



Dynamic or flexible triggers

Triggers are very useful when pre-agreed. Moreover, most of the triggers in EAPs are static which means the threshold is set on one specific value, e.g. windspeed of 120km/h. However, what if the reality doesn't follow your plan, e.g. the very same region is hit by a cyclone again, we have consecutive drought years or communities are more vulnerable because of conflict outbreaks and even a small flood will have huge impacts? This could be addressed by more flexible or dynamic triggers that take into account changing vulnerabilities and contexts.



Impact-based forecasting

The idea of impact-based forecasting (IBF) is to predict what the weather will do and not what the weather will be. However, IBF requires substantially more data than only weather forecasts, e.g. meteorological data in combination with risk information.

Please find a guide to impact-based forecasting in the [toolbox](#).

