

Adaptation Planning and Practices

National Level

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Challenges and Opportunities

Focus on adaptation pathways informed by understanding of spatial and temporal nature of impacts, risks and opportunities – including impacts and vulnerabilities today

Focus on both building adaptive capacity and delivering adaptation actions

Goal – adapting well rather than well adapted

- Define using objectives, targets and indicators – need for an overarching vision from which could follow effective measures of success (process and outcome)
- Draw on broad evidence and knowledge base – participatory and inclusive approach
- Commitment to continuing process of monitoring, evaluation and revise



Challenges and Opportunities

Package of different adaptation options

- Specific mixture case specific - limited potential for one-size fits all
- Allow for exploitation of opportunities
- Consideration of trade-offs (different objectives and capacity for change)
- Focusing on no-regrets, low-regrets and win-win options – may be ineffective and too limiting if not part of a package consistent with a long-term strategy

Implications associated with implementation

- Potential for adaptation disadvantaged (ghettos) and advantaged
- Will be immediate benefits but need to be part of a long-term adaptation strategy – adaptation pathways and sustainable development

Roles, responsibilities and expectations – government, private sector, professional organisations, others



Facilitating Cooperation

Government departments/agencies working together with respective constituencies towards defining, implementing and evaluating adaptation plans

Integrated into the wider policy-making and change management processes

- Weighed alongside other policy objectives and priorities
- Builds on existing policy assessment processes

Adaptation planning through legislation, policy and regulations, and spending review – managing risks

- Climate Change Bill and Adaptation Policy Framework
- Spatial Planning Policy
- Directing resources to support adaptation in priority areas



Facilitating Cooperation

Cooperation across political parties

- All Party Parliamentary Climate Change Group

Demonstrating leadership – walking the talk

Working with other levels of government and private sector

- National government providing policy/legislative lead that is then reflected in sub-national spatial and economic strategies and plans, and clear signals

Value of intermediary institutions (boundary organisations) – interacting with others towards reconciling the capabilities and aspirations among knowledge producers and users (policy makers and decision makers)

- Striving for credibility, saliency and legitimacy of knowledge used to generate policy
- Well-ordered policy



Adaptation Policy Framework (APF)

A strategic approach to adaptation planning within the UK

- **Initial phase focused on developing an understanding of adaptation taking place in the UK (bottom-up perspective) – call for government leadership on adaptation**
- **Current phase focus on delivering a cross-government framework (top-down leadership)**
 - Focus on national-level priorities (themes) – those requiring cross-government attention and for which government influence and responsibility is key to progress
- **Subsequent efforts**
 - Taking results forward
 - Potential link to Climate Change Bill and objectives, targets and indicators
 - Broadening the focus from UK to concerns beyond national borders



Barriers to Adaptation

- **Limited understanding of nature and extent of risks and vulnerabilities – current and projected;**
- **Lack of knowledge of adaptation options (effective implementation)**
- **Lack of supportive policies, standards, regulations, and design guidance – deficiencies, encouraging status quo and/or presenting impediments;**
- **Existing legal or regulatory restrictions;**
- **Lack of availability or restricted access to appropriate technologies – including prohibitive costs;**
- **Differences in willingness to accept uncertainties – policy and decision making**



Barriers to Adaptation Planning and Practice

- **Lack of availability of human capital (e.g., availability of in-house expertise) – conflicting priorities impeding access;**
- **Lack of supportive social structures (e.g., organisational and social cohesion)**
- **Social/cultural/financial rigidity and conflicts (existing or perceived);**
- **Short-term nature of decision-making and planning horizons – necessity and expectation of realising return on investment; and**
- **Perceptions of uncertainty limiting the acceptance of the need to adapt**

Building adaptive capacity – effective strategy for eliminating barriers



Integrated versus Sector-Specific

Considering the nature of the drivers and possible responses, adaptation requires a broad-based approach – part of sustainable development strategy

Sectoral responses - can be ineffective or even counterproductive

- Synergies, trade-offs, and the possibility of increasing vulnerabilities in other sectors – interconnectivity of sectors
- Often represent band-aid solutions as source of vulnerability within another sector
- Impacted by counterproductive responses developed independently to address impacts in other sectors



International Action to Promote National

Catalytic role for UNFCCC under NWP

Building adaptive capacity

- Bridging the gap between science and practical implementation
- Sharing experiences, methodologies, tools and guidance – learning through working with others

Promoting UN agencies in effectively 'playing their part':

- Engaging UN agencies – using existing capacity and interests
 - Addressing priority adaptation needs identified in NAPAs
- Demonstrating what can be achieved by working with relevant agencies – learning by doing and vehicle for developing and sharing knowledge

