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At the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) we have a great deal of experience in adaptation planning at the sub-national and national level, as well as within the European Union, through work in the European Topic Centre on Air and Climate Change (ETC-ACC). On the international level we support the Ministry of environment in the International Climate Initiative in the evaluation of climate change adaptation projects as well. We have also been supporting the Ministry of Environment in cooperation with the Ministry of Development in regards to the UNFCCC negotiations.

On the national and sub-national level we are working specifically with cost benefit analyses. Currently we are in fact coordinating several research projects in regards to this. One of these is a Multi-Criteria Analysis considering various adaptation options for the entire country of Germany and assist in deciding on their suitability. Another research project we are currently running regards the prioritisation of different adaptation measures within Germany. The objective of this research is to establish a framework for better informed decision making for the distribution of funding (which measures should be funded first, assuming a limited budget).

Further work we are conducting along these lines is within the frame of the German Adaptation Strategy. Here we are developing a prioritization concept that includes specific criteria which shall guide the conception of appropriate adaptation measures (linked with Multi-Criteria-Analyses) to be used by an inter-ministerial working group in the development of the German adaptation action plan.

UBA is also actively involved in the work of the ETC-ACC. Here we have assisted in the assessment of approaches for appraising adaptation measures. We have in this regard also assessed prioritisation methods, including the ranking of adaptation portfolios, based on the level of certain climate risks and the comparison of their associated costs. Furthermore, we have worked with other European colleagues in conducting reviews of methods and results of analysing adaptation costs and benefits.

On the international level we are also coordinating research involving multi-criteria analyses. Here we are focussing on integrating quantified costs and benefits of maintaining or restoring ecosystems, based on ecosystem services. This research is still in the planning and will be conducted within the next two years. Planned research in the future includes synergies between mitigation and adaptation as a possible further criterion in prioritising measures on a fixed budget.