

**Input by Petra van R uth, Federal Environment Agency (UBA), Germany****German Adaptation Policy, short state of play**

On 17 December 2008 the Federal Cabinet adopted the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. This creates a framework for adapting to the impacts of climate change in Germany. The strategy lays the foundation for a medium-term, step-by-step process undertaken in cooperation with the federal L nder and other civil groups. The strategy assesses the risks of climate change, identifies the possible need for action, it defines appropriate goals and developing and implementing options for adaptation measures. The strategy highlights possible climate impacts and options for action for 15 sectors. In summer 2011 the German Government adopted the national Action Plan on Adaptation. This Action Plan confirms the objectives and options for action with specific activities to be carried out by the German Federal Government and establishes explicit links to other national strategic processes (including the High-Tech Strategy 2020, the National Strategy on Biological Diversity and the National Forest Strategy). Apart from selected projects undertaken in cooperation with the L nder, the Adaptation Action Plan covers activities in four main fields: 1. Providing knowledge, informing, enabling; 2. Framework-setting by the German Federal Government; 3. Activities for which the Federal Government is directly responsible; 4. International responsibilities.

The German Adaptation Strategy calls for an M&E framework to support the adaptation process on the national level. The framework comprises a vulnerability assessment and an indicator-based monitoring report. Both shall inform on climate change impacts to support decision makers and to set a solid fundament to develop further principles of the adaptation strategy. A core component of the M&E framework is an indicator based monitoring report. The indicators will outline main impacts by analysing past and present climate sensitive developments in Germany as well as adaptation-related measures implemented in the 15 sectors identified in the Adaptation Strategy. The report will be based on an indicator system approved by the federal government.

The indicator system is based on the following criteria:

- it displays to the extent possible climatic impacts and adaptation, considers cause-effect-chains, and is accepted by experts; it established a transparent prioritisation of the indicators given to the complex and comprehensive nature of climate change; all 15 action and cross-sectional fields are represented in the indicator system;
- it can be implemented (*i.e.* it must be possible to calculate the indicators based on data that is currently available and that will be collected in the future); has broad stakeholder engagement to facilitate the identification and application of a wide range of data;
- it reflects current knowledge on the impacts of climate change and the effectiveness of adaptation measures by government departments as well as by non-governmental institutions and organisations;
- it is open for regular review in response to evolving climate change knowledge and emerging political priorities;
- it links up with other indicator systems;
- it facilitates linkages with monitoring and reporting at the EU and the L nder level.

The indicator system is developed by the Federal Environment Agency and the Competence Centre on Climate Impacts and Adaptation (KomPass) in close collaboration with other governmental departments and agencies.

It is foreseen to publish an indicator based monitoring report once per legislation period (every 4 years), to demonstrate climate change impacts in Germany on a regular basis. At a later stage in the process, the monitoring of climate impacts can be used as a fundament to evaluate (the successful) implementation of the goals of the Adaptation Strategy

The goal of the Vulnerability Assessment is to achieve a comprehensive, Germany-wide, cross-sectoral identification of regional and thematic hot spots with high potential climate change impact but low adaptive capacity. The assessment is conducted by the Network Vulnerability", an alliance of nine federal governmental agencies and ministries, supported by a scientific team. The vulnerability assessment includes a semi-quantitative synthesis of existing regional and sectorial studies of climate change impacts and vulnerability assessments. It also encloses the development of a consistent methodology to produce a comprehensive overview of vulnerability in Germany as a basis for the prioritization of climate threats. The assessment is based on climatic and socio-economic projections and climate impacts models as well as on expert knowledge.