



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
agus Trádála  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

# Ireland's National Adaptation Framework

Case Study



# Case Study Parameters

- Initiate the process
- Establish effective mandate for the process
- Develop roadmap for the process
- Integrate adaptation into development planned
- Establish effective institutional arrangements
- Effectively engage stakeholders
- Assess and manage climate risk and vulnerability
- Address capacity gaps and needs



# Initiate the process

- 2012 National Climate Change Action Framework
- National Adaptation Steering Committee 2014
- Early areas of good progress, eg mapping flood defences, assessments of agriculture sector, Met Éireann observations.
- Early draft of NAF peer-reviewed by Austria and UK

# Establish Mandate

- Vision 2050: Ireland will be a competitive, low Carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.
- Policy coherence across Paris, Sendai and SDGs.
- Statutory authority established: Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act (2015)
- Lead Ministry establishment: Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Act compels action across sectors and local government, coordinated and supported by DCCA

# Develop a roadmap

- Principles identified: subsidiarity, minimise costs/ maximise opportunities, risk-based, consideration of wider sectors and levels of governance
- Appropriate balance between DRR and implementing a long term vision of development
- Considerations in identifying priorities; a) exposure of specific sectors/ geographical areas, b) economy structure, c) potential uncosted impacts, and c) socioeconomic change.

# Develop a roadmap (2)

- Design to be scaleable and iterative, 5 year review process
- An enabling environment approach: focus on spatial planning, capital spending, empower and support local government, sectoral guidelines and support mechanisms, engage with CSOs/PS, build research capacity
- Role of EU (common action, benchmarking, info/data Climate-ADAPT as adaptation platform)

# Roadmap (3): taking a thematic approach

| Theme                                    | Sector level                      | Lead Department  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Natural and Cultural Capital             | Seafood                           | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine                   |
|  | Agriculture                       |  |
|  | Forestry                          |  |
|  | Biodiversity                      | Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht                |
|  | Built and Archaeological Heritage |  |
| Critical Infrastructure                  | Transport Infrastructure          | Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport                       |
|  | Electricity and Gas Networks      | Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment |
|  | Communications Networks           |  |
| Water Resource and Flood Risk Management | Flood Risk Management             | Office of Public Works   |
|  | Water Quality/ Infrastructure     | Dept of Housing, Planning & Local Govt                           |
| Public Health                            | Health                            | Department of Health   |

# Integrate into development planning

- 10-year Capital Plan must now reflect adaptation needs, cross-referenced against sector capital investment planning and regional planning. Overseen by Senior Officials Group across departments.
- Highlight is the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment Programme- €430m. 90% of at risk properties can be protected, 12,000 properties already under way- 10 flood defence schemes under construction, 25 more in pipeline
- Evaluation of public expenditure, review of public spending code (assessing climate impacts in Cost Benefit Appraisal).
- CC now incorporated into EIA process, for built environment, special provision for historic buildings.



# Establish Institutional Arrangements

- Sectoral planning and support, combined with local planning and support

Since 2012, 4 sectoral plans have been developed:

- Flood Risk Management (OPW, 2015)- Interdepartmental group for implementation of CFRAM Programme.
- Adaptation Planning: developing resilience in the Irish Agriculture and Forest Sector (2017)
- Developing Resilience in the Transport Sector (2017)
- Adaptation Plan for Electricity and Gas Networks Sector (2017)

# Establish Institutional arrangements (2)

- Local government key. Covenant of Mayors have embraced the *Mayors Adapt* programme. Seven local authorities have made firm commitments on adaptation.
- Support to local authority adaptation strategy development efforts, including training and capacity building.
- Local strategies feeding into, and being informed by Regional Centres of Excellence (centred around regional universities).

# Establish Institutional Arrangements (3)

- National Adaptation Steering Committee (includes representatives across sectors, Environmental Protection Agency coordinating research, Climate Change Advisory Council secretariat, County and City Management Association).
- CC Advisory Council, independent watchdog, Adaptation Committee. Periodically reports against the Act.
- Sector and cross-sectoral (thematic) coordination committees

# Engage Stakeholders

National Dialogue: to run for 2 years, informed by an advisory group (and overseen by Environment Protection Agency).

- Green Schools National CC Action and Awareness Programme- feeding in. Developing a Climate Ambassadors Programme- school and local community level.

Citizen's Assembly: 99 citizens met in 2017 and were presented with independent evidence. Government legally obliged to consider and act on key findings of the Assembly (e.g. critical assessment of vulnerable public infrastructure)

# Engage Stakeholders (2)

## Private Sector

Forfás (policy advisory board on enterprise) produced *Adaptation to Climate Change: Issues for Business- risks and opportunities for the private sector*. Each line agency obliged to reach out to the PS on adaptation issues.

Key areas of impact: market demand overall, logistics, premises, finance, productivity

Threats as well as opportunities part of the engagement

# Assess and manage risk

Key impacts identified:

Temperature increase, increased growing season, lower precipitation but more heavy rainfall events, more intense storms, intensified hydrological cycle, sea-level rise (including regional).

Key sectors affected: agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, coastal areas, critical infrastructure, marine and fisheries, water management, human health

# Assess and manage risk (2)



- Resources/ decision support tools: Climate Ireland, Sectoral Planning Guidelines for CC Adaptation, Local authority climate adaptation strategy development guidelines
- Bodies undertaking research: ESRI, Teagasc, SEAI, Met Éireann. Horizon 2020 funding (EU) as well as participation in wider EU initiatives such as ERA NET for climate services.
- EPA has clear research priorities, National Climate Research Coordination Group

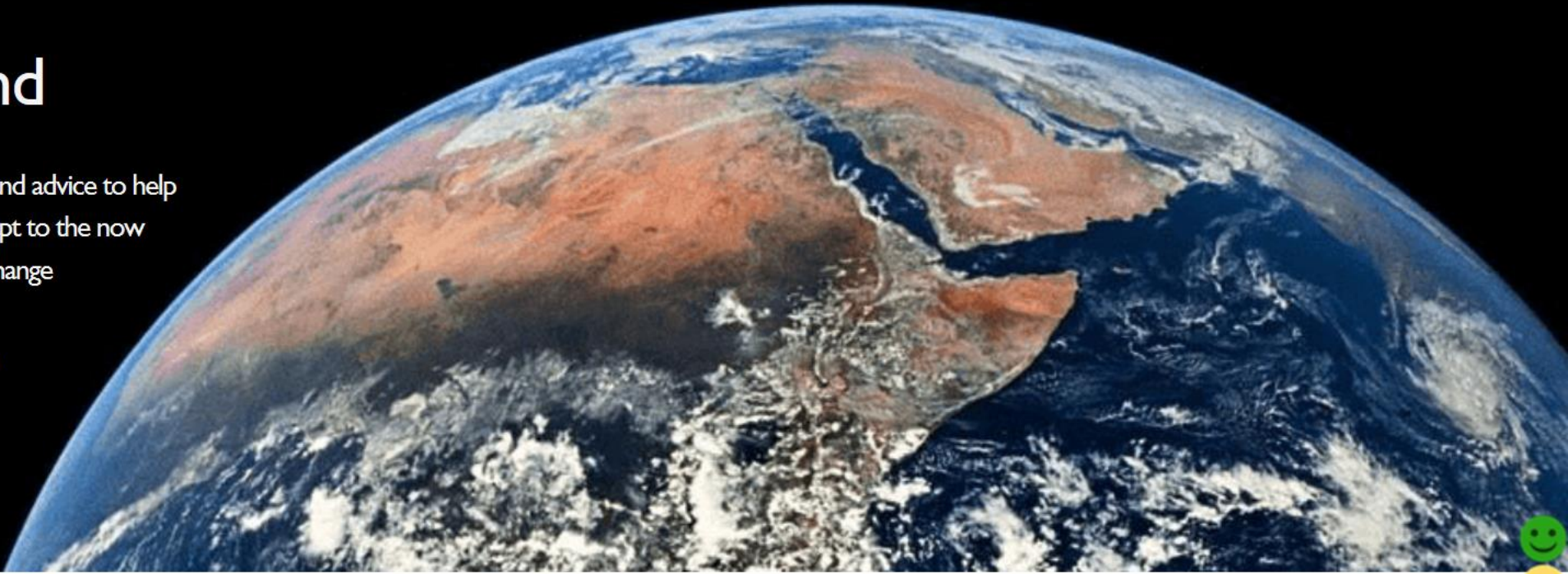


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# Climate Ireland

Climate Ireland provides informational support and advice to help organisations, sectors and government to adapt to the now inevitable consequences of climate change

-  Information for Local Authorities
-  Information for Sectors



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Information to Help You Adapt )





# Address Capacity Gaps

National Adaptive Capacity Assessment (2012, assessed 2016).  
Positives: (research gaps, laying the foundations for vulnerability assessments, land use policies reflecting adaptation), and Negatives: (identification of options, M&E, stakeholder involvement, sectoral action, systems for monitoring action including expenditure)

Other gaps: gender and vulnerable groups; public outreach focusing on behaviour change