

Design of guidelines for the elaboration of Regional Climate Change Adaptations Strategies

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Objectives of the workshop

- **Present (briefly) the White Paper approach**
- **Review the process for the elaboration of regional adaptation strategies (RAS)**
 - Identify the elements that should be subject to a specific attention
 - Explore the support tools available at EU level.
- **Start building a relationship with adaptation practitioners at regional and local levels**

Adaptation: a new agenda for public policy

■ Vulnerability

- Build pro-active adaptation policies not restricted to the analysis of the **potential impacts**, but also assessing the uneven **adaptive capacity** of sectors, regions or social groups.

■ Uncertainty

- Need to build **robust** adaptation policy by considering a wide range of **scenarios**.

■ Integrated assessment

- Need to go beyond the direct impacts and economic repercussions of climate change, and take on board the role of **ecosystem services** and the **social dimension** of climate change.

Need for taking action at EU level

- **Many climate change impacts AND adaptation measures have a cross-border dimension**
 - E.g. forest fires, effects on migratory species, infectious diseases, floods, etc.
 - Need to identify “upstream” adaptation measures
- **Climate impacts and adaptation will affect single market and common policies.**
 - Transport, energy networks, forestry, agriculture, water, biodiversity, fisheries, etc.
- **Climate change vulnerabilities and adaptation trigger a new paradigm for solidarity**
 - Impact on future cohesion policy, social agenda, etc.
- **EU spending programmes could complement the resources spent by the Member States for adaptation.**
- **Potential economies of scale for capacity building, research, information and data gathering, knowledge transfer, etc.**

Objectives of the White Paper

- **Improving the knowledge base on CC vulnerability (impacts and adaptive capacity) and on the costs and benefits of adaptation options;**
- **Ensuring early implementation of no-regret and win-win measures and avoid mal-adaptation, by mainstreaming adaptation into EU policies;**
- **Putting in place a process to better co-ordinate adaptation policies and assess next steps, including launching a debate on future funding.**

EU Adaptation Framework (Phase I 2009-2012)

Policy co-ordination
Review funding & other policy instruments

Mainstream climate Adaptation into key policy areas

Sectors:
Agriculture
Forestry
Fisheries
Energy
Industry & Services
Infrastructures and buildings
Health

Cross-cutting Issues:
Ecosystems Biodiversity
Soils
Water

Areas:
Regions
Marine
Coasts
International

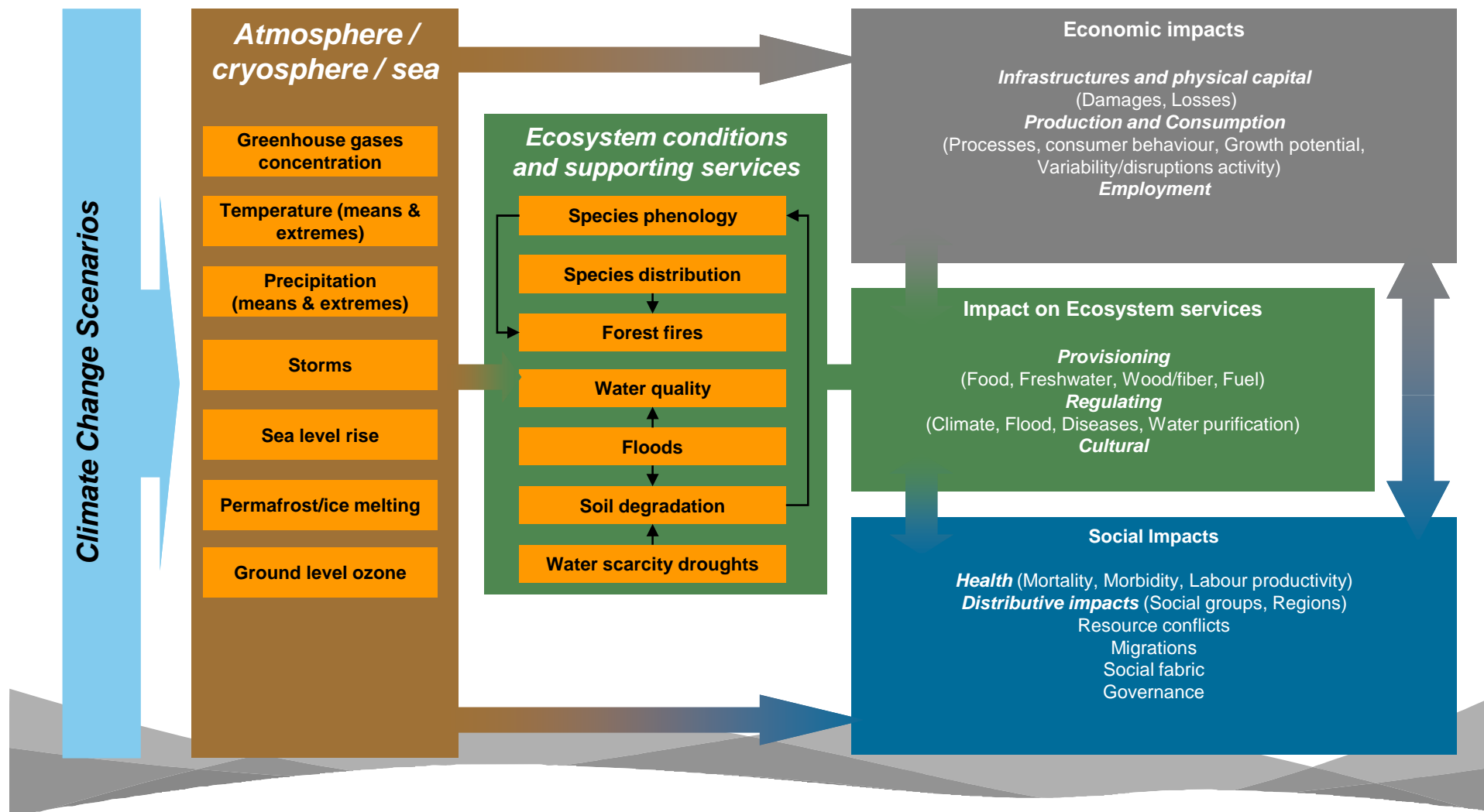
Provide guidelines, methodologies
Identify and promote no-regret adaptation options

Strengthen the knowledge base:
Methods, models, data sets, indicators
Assess CC Vulnerability, Adaptation options
European Clearing House Mechanism (CHM)

Broad (complementary) adaptation approaches

- **“Grey” infrastructure approaches**
 - Protective infrastructure and Contingency Plans/Measures – In the light of uncertainties, cost and effectiveness becomes issues
- **“Green” structural approaches**
 - Strengthen resilience against climate change impacts by improving natural water retention and strengthening biodiversity. “Green infrastructure” (e.g. floodplains, land use changes to improve soil water retention, salt marshes, establishment of ecosystem connectivity, infiltration of surface runoff etc.)
 - Advantage of complementary approach: improved potential for ecosystem services (fresh water, food, health), potential to improve cost-effectiveness, reduce costs for future generations and synergies with mitigation (ecosystem absorption of CO₂) – possible “no regrets” measures
- **“Soft” non-structural approaches**
 - Awareness raising, Institutional framework, Economic instruments, etc.

Potential Impacts of Climate Change



Objectives for today

- **Share experiences/expectations on regional/local adaptation strategies**
 - ➔ Do all EU regions need adaptation strategies?
 - ➔ What is the relation with National Strategies?
 - ➔ What should be the link with CC Mitigation, Water, Sustainable Development strategic documents?
- **Discuss the potential role for the EU in relation with regional adaptation strategies?**
 - ➔ Would EU guidelines be useful?
 - ➔ In which ways can the EU support the development of adaptation strategies?

Thank you!

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