

# How to adapt to Climate Change with regard to water issues and EU water legislation

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# Objectives of Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water

under the Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy (WFD CIS)

- Identify best uses of current and existing EU water legislation, what can and should be done in the different upcoming River Basin Management Planning cycle
- Identify adaptation measures and best practices at different levels
- Strengthen the Science-Policy link on Climate Change and Water

# Activities of Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water

- **Workshop in November 2007: ‘Relationship between River Basin Management Planning under the WFD and climate change impacts**
- **Policy Paper on climate change and water endorsed by Water Directors in June 2008**
- **Progress report on incorporating climate change in 1st river basin management plans in November 2008**
- **Preparations of comprehensive guidance on ‘How to adapt to climate change with regard to water issues and EU water legislation’**

# Policy Paper on climate change and water

## The role of adaptation in the 2nd and 3rd WFD cycle

**33. In the subsequent cycles, the Programme of Measures needs to be made climate resilient as a default and firmly based on scientific evidence, notwithstanding the fact that knowledge and new data are constantly evolving**

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**35. For these RBMPs, incorporating climate change could include:**

- Improving the information basis,
- Iterative climate check of measures,
- Considering broader water management issues related to climate change (e.g. related to land use, or water demand/supply management),
- Improving of monitoring to detect climate change impacts,
- Exploring potential needs for adjustment of reference conditions/type changes of water bodies

# Aim and scope of the guidance on Climate Change and Water

- Based on agreed Policy Paper of Water Directors (2008)
- Target group: river basin managers
- Practical guidance on how to deal with climate change in EU water legislation
- Focus on coming two River Basin Management Plans (not 2100)
- Providing first tools, but further work needed after 2009
- Both water quality and quantity, both extreme events and gradual climate change

# Table of content guidance

1. Foreword
2. Executive summary
3. Introduction
4. Water and Climate Change – Policy framework
5. Climate modelling, scenarios and predictions
6. Building adaptive capacity
7. **Analysis under Water Framework Directive (coord: UK and FR)**
8. **Measures for adaptation (c: EEA)**
9. **Flood risk management and adaptation (c: WG F on floods)**
10. **Drought management and water scarcity and adaptation (c: ES)**
11. Data and information needs

# Examples of guiding principles

## WFD activity

## Guiding principle

**Delineating water body typologies**

**Anticipate changes to water bodies that are close to the boundaries of their type change**

**Identifying reference conditions**

**Understand the extent and causes of variability and change at reference sites**

**Assessing pressures and impacts**

**Assess direct and indirect influences on pressures due to climate change**

**Monitoring**

**Identify and closely monitor climate change 'hot spots'**

# Timetable of the drafting process

- **Filling the missing chapters and editing the existing chapters into one main document during summer 2009**
- **Coordination with other CIS groups (WS&D EN, Ecostat, WG Floods) in September 2009**
- **Final draft of the document: October 2009**
- **Endorsement of the guidance by Water Directors in November 2009**