



Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat

Agenda item 5: Water and Adaptation to Climate Change

Jos G. Timmerman

RWS Centre for Water
Management

8 July 2009



Outline:

- Climate change adaptation and water – the need for stronger cooperation in Europe - Brussels, 12 and 13 March 2009
 - Recommendations
- Draft Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation
 - Process
 - Outcomes of the Task Force meeting (24 April 2009)
- Main messages



CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND WATER – THE NEED FOR STRONGER COOPERATION IN EUROPE

Brussels, 12 and 13 March 2009

Participants from 27 countries of the European Region

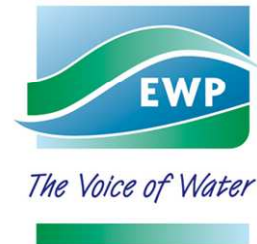
- Governments
- NGO's
- International organizations
- Private sector
- Research institutes



United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



Ministry of Transport, Public
Works and Water Management
of the Netherlands



European Water Partnership



Cooperative Programme on
Water and Climate



Recommendations (I)

- Adaptation should be started **now**
 - twin track approach: take low regrets measures based on existing knowledge and tools while developing the knowledge base through further research and sharing information
 - Recognize that ability to forecast climate change and its impacts on water are limited
 - Costs of inaction outweigh the costs of action (water efficiency practices, demand management and “low regret” measures)



Recommendations (II)

- Awareness raising, stakeholder involvement and mobilization on all levels
 - Incorporate climate change in policies, programs, investments and actions, including in agriculture, spatial planning, energy and forests
 - Make dedicated financial commitments
 - Need to continue with an inter-stakeholder dialogue
 - Build stronger cooperation, exchange ideas and practical experience at the European level
 - Europe important role in policy guidance, joint research, coping actions, capacity development and financing approaches.
 - Water related adaptation to climate change should be given due attention in the UNFCCC COP15 process at the political and thematic level.



Recommendations (III)

- Capacity development
 - EC, UNECE, other international organizations and stakeholders including the private sector and NGOs should provide enhanced support to countries on developing sustainable adaptation strategies at the basin level
 - Support should specifically aim at developing the knowledge base (further research, data collection and sharing information) on:
 - climate and hydrology including forecasting and the use of long term scenarios,
 - the understanding and quantification of economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change in water related sectors
 - adaptation strategies
 - Identify “hot spots” through vulnerability assessments
 - Need for guidance and pilot implementation
 - Make the results of this conference known to the WWF-5 and UNFCCC-COP-15.





Ministerie van Verkeer en Waterstaat



Guidance on Water and Climate Adaptation

Joost J. Buntsma

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management of the Netherlands

8 July 2009



Mandate to develop the Guidance

- Prepare Guidance on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change as a tool to support cooperation and decision making in transboundary basins
- The Guidance is to be adopted by Parties at their fifth meeting (November, 2009)



Aim of the Guidance

- Develop general roadmap for climate proofing of water management
- Provide step-wise approach on:
 - assessing impacts of climate change
 - developing policy, strategic and operational responses
- Transboundary context
- Floods, droughts and quality aspects, including health



The process towards the Guidance (I)

- Mandate Meeting of the Parties 2006 - Task Force on Water and Climate installed
- First meeting Task Force (Bonn, 20-22 November 2006) - Drafting Group entrusted with preparations
- Survey of adaptation measures in SEE and EECCA (February – April 2008)
- Workshop “Water and Adaptation to Climate Change: Joining Efforts to adapt” (Amsterdam, 1-2 July 2008)
- Three meetings of the Drafting Group (February and April 2008, January 2009)



The process towards the Guidance (II)

- Document circulated for comments:
 - First meeting Task Force on Extreme Weather Events (Rome, 23-34 April 2008)
 - Third meeting Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (Rome, 22-24 October 2008).
 - Second meeting Task Force (Geneva, 24 April 2009)
- Review by 20 experts (see list of experts in the acknowledgements)
 - Comments discussed by the Task Force on 24 April 2009
- Guidance will be submitted for adoption to the fifth meeting of the Parties to the Water Convention (Geneva, 10-12 November 2009)



Outcomes of the Expert review

- General remarks:
 - Many supportive remarks
 - Not enough stress on transboundary aspects
 - Stress the role of civil society and transparency aspects
- Detailed remarks:
 - List of 144 comments and the proposed reaction to the comments
 - Editorial comments
- Outcomes discussed at the Task Force meeting



Outcomes of the Task Force meeting (24 April 2009)

- Length of the Guidance is justified by need for detailed explanations
- Elaborate more on the transboundary level
- Most of the proposed reactions to the comments by expert reviewers approved, except:
 - Role of all sectors should be stressed
 - Not only top-down framework, also bottom-up
- Additionally several changes proposed (see TFWC/2009/6)
- Executive summary should be developed with focus on main messages
 - To be translated into national languages by Parties as much as possible
- Editorial group (lead authors of all chapters) entrusted to incorporate the comments

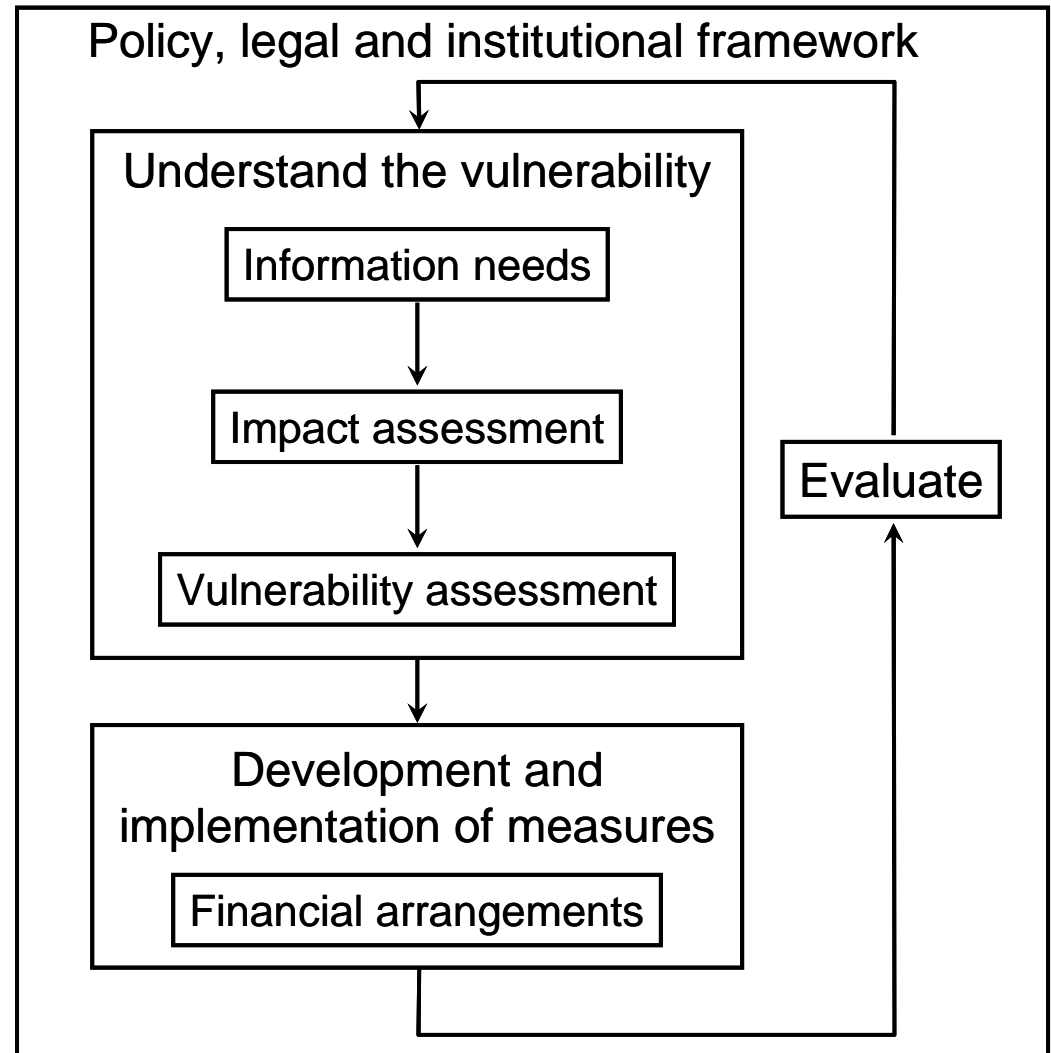


Drafting Group

- Netherlands
- Germany
- Italy
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Finland
- Hungary
- Spain
- Switzerland
- UNECE
- WMO
- WHO
- UNESCO
- CPWC



Structure of the Guidance





Contents of the Guidance

- Introduction
- I. Core principles and approaches
- II. International commitments
- III. Policy, legislation and institutional frameworks
- IV. Information and monitoring needs for adaptation strategies design and implementation
- V. Scenarios and models for impact assessment and water resources management
- VI. Vulnerability assessment for water management
- VII. Adaptation strategies and measures
- VIII. Financial matters
- IX. Evaluation



Link with other activities

- Cooperation with Task Force on Extreme Weather Events under the Protocol on Water and Health
 - Active support to the Amsterdam workshop (2008) and the development of the draft Guidance
 - Support to development of Guidelines on Safe Water Supply and Sanitation in Extreme Weather Events
- Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water
 - Exchange of ideas and mutual use of drafts





Main messages (I)

- Adaptation to climate change in water management is needed now
- Uncertainty should never be a reason not to act
- Adaptation measures should allow for maximum flexibility
- Adaptation can be an opportunity for innovation and new technologies
- Water management is a key-factor in adaptation to climate change as many sectors directly depend from water resources availability
- Consider climate change in the context of other pressures on water resources (population growth, migration, globalization, changing consumption patterns and agricultural and industrial developments)
- Stakeholders participation is crucial for all steps of the development and implementation of adaptation strategies and measures



Main messages (II)

- Transboundary cooperation is both necessary and beneficial - focus on preventing transboundary impacts, sharing benefits and risks in an equitable and reasonable manner and cooperating on the basis of equality and reciprocity
- Implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) supports climate change adaptation
- Barriers to adaptation in the legal, institutional and policy frameworks should be removed
- Implementation of national legislation and international commitments supports climate change adaptation
- Education, capacity-building and communication are imperative for effective climate change adaptation
- Exchange of knowledge and experiences to enhance the capacity of countries to adapt and to cope with climate change



Main messages (III)

- Sharing of information between countries and sectors, including early-warning systems, is essential
- Effective adaptation strategies are a mix of
 - structural and non-structural
 - regulatory and economic instruments
 - education and awareness-raising measures
- Adaptation measures should be cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, culturally compatible and socially acceptable
- It is cost-effective to start adaptation now since costs will be much higher once climate change effects are irreversible
- The process of developing and implementing adaptation measures should build on learning-by-doing