

EA5: Implementation of adaptation action plan

The practical details of implementing a proposed climate adaptation action plan should be contained within the plan itself. This brief stage concentrates on monitoring and reviewing the implementation of a plan. Even here any advice can only be rather generalised and limited, because there is very little work to date in Scotland or elsewhere in the UK on which to draw for guidance. For instance, there are no comprehensive suggestions for indicator sets to monitor climate vulnerability and adaptation. At present, most advice on devising monitoring and review procedures is based on the experience of managing flood risk. For instance:

- Numbers of people and properties affected by flood events.
- Frequency of flood events.
- Development in the floodplain.
- Development in areas at risk of flooding.
- Numbers of people and properties affected by coastal flood events.
- Proportion of coastline subject to managed retreat where required.
- Number of properties affected by subsidence.
- Damage to property from storm events.

This can still provide a useful framework for drawing up targets, or indicators that can be tailored to your local situation.

Given that it is likely that many of the proposals in initial action plans will involve building adaptive capacity, in most cases these will have to be monitored by reference to targets for capacity building, such as number of people trained, or the production of policy guidelines, rather than as measured outcomes. There are likely to be very few opportunities for using measurements for monitoring the performance of adaptation measures over the period of the plan, because most actions are likely to be aimed at reducing vulnerability to extreme events which by their nature are uncertain in their occurrence. Nevertheless, it is worth measuring and recording as much relevant information as possible in order to build up a more rigorous Local Climate Impacts Profile (LCLIP), which will be a value in the longer term. In fact, maintaining and enhancing the LCLIP could itself be an important aspect of building adaptive capacity that could be monitored over the course of the plan.

In addition to monitoring the action plan against aims and any performance targets, the plan should include a schedule for revision and updating. For most aspects of an adaptation plan, a 5-year interval is likely to be appropriate, but for areas of specific vulnerabilities, such as flooding, or coastal erosion, a more frequent review may be necessary. Again the Local Climate Impacts Profile should be a valuable source of information for this review and help to provide a basis for setting the frequency for updating different aspects of the plan.