

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Newsletter - February 2011

Welcome

Welcome to issue 3 of the CCRA Newsletter. A lot of progress has been made since our last newsletter in October 2010. This newsletter provides an update on what has been happening and how we propose to deliver the CCRA by January 2012.

In this Newsletter:

1. [Final Reporting](#)
2. [Sector Analysis](#)
3. [Adaptive Capacity](#)
4. [Devolved Administrations](#)
5. [English Areas](#)
6. [CCRA Forum](#)
7. [Future Stakeholder Engagement](#)
8. [Where to find out more](#)

1. Final Reporting

After careful consideration of the options available to us for structuring the final reports, it has been agreed with the project funders that the principle outputs from the project contractors will be a Synthesis Report, which will be supported by the Sector Reports and the Devolved Administration (DA) and English Areas Report. These reports will form the evidence base of the UK CCRA. There will also be a UK Government and DA authored CCRA Act Report, which will be laid before Parliament by 26th January 2012.

2. Sector Analysis

The draft Sector Reports were completed in October/November 2010 and circulated to academic and expert peer-reviewers and across Government Departments and DAs. Their feedback has enabled us to update the Sector Reports and improve the existing analysis. These revised reports are now being reviewed for a second time by Government Departments and DAs. This process is important to ensure the robustness of the evidence base for the Synthesis Report and DA and English Area Report, both of which are currently being drafted.

3. Adaptive Capacity

We have undertaken substantial analysis on adaptive capacity to contribute to the evidence base for the CCRA, which is currently being finalised. This follows an initial successful piloting of the in-depth assessment technique in the water sector in mid 2010. Other sectors prioritised for this in-depth assessment are: Transport (focusing on road and rail infrastructure), Built Environment (focusing on housing), Business and Services (focusing on banking and insurance), Health and Biodiversity. Adaptive capacity in other sectors has also been considered, but not in the same in-depth way. In this project we have defined adaptive capacity as the capacity to take appropriate actions in response to information about future (or current) climate change, which we have related both to identifying opportunities to adapt and the extent to which organisations have the competencies to act on these opportunities. Adaptive capacity forms one of the links between the CCRA and the Adaptation Economic Assessment, which will be looking at options for adaptation. If adaptive capacity is high, there is a good prospect that risks will be reduced through actions taken by individual organisations or sectors as a whole. If, however, adaptive capacity is low, then risks are less likely to be reduced and, in the worst case, risks could be increased by maladaptation.

4. Devolved Administrations

Towards the end of last year we produced lists of the most important impacts for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, using the feedback from the workshops in late September 2010 and the online feedback collected during September/October 2010. We circulated these lists to stakeholders for comment in December 2010 and have now revised them to take account of this latest feedback. These lists form the basis of the chapters drafted for each DA and draw on the evidence from the sector analysis. We issued draft chapters to the DAs for review in February 2011.

5. English Areas

Nine workshops were held across England between November 2010 and January 2011. We would not have been able to achieve this without the large amount of help that we received from the Regional Climate Change Partnerships. We are extremely grateful to everyone who organised these events and facilitated them so well and, of course, everyone who found time in their busy schedules to attend. These events gave valuable insight into the specific issues facing different English areas. The examples collected on specific locations with significant vulnerability to climate change will really help to bring to life the broader UK-wide analysis work undertaken to date. This information, supported by the evidence from the sector analysis, will form the basis of the English Area chapter of the DA and English Area Report, which will be reviewed by Defra in early March 2011.

6. CCRA Forum

Our third CCRA Forum took place at the Institute of Physics in London on Wednesday 26th January 2011. It had been a long time since the previous workshop in May and there was a lot to catch up on regarding the technical work, stakeholder engagement activities (including 21 workshops and 2 online feedback opportunities) and our plans for final reporting. The feedback we received suggested that forum members were pleased to see how much progress there had been in the intervening eight months. The workshop was also very valuable for the project team. After a presentation from the team about different ways of presenting the results from the CCRA analysis, there was a breakout session for small groups to discuss these options, followed by a very honest and meaningful discussion about how the information will be used. This will help to shape both the Synthesis Report and Act Report. The workshop record is currently being written up and will be available shortly.

7. Future Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement has been extremely valuable to this project and we are very grateful for everyone's involvement. As the project has progressed we have made a few changes to the programme, for example enhancing the level of academic peer review. This has meant that the timing of release of some of the draft project outputs has had to be put back or the extent of their circulation limited. We are very aware that stakeholders would like to see the outputs from the CCRA analysis work, so that (a) you can see where your feedback has been taken into consideration and (b) you can use the results of the analysis in your own work. Defra is currently considering the timetable for wider publication of the CCRA analysis. We will soon be starting the Adaptation Economic Analysis in earnest and we are currently identifying the steps in the process that would benefit most from stakeholder engagement. We hope to be able to provide further details about this, the Adaptation Economic Analysis stakeholder engagement process and timetable for release of the Sector Reports in our next newsletter.

8. Where to find out more

Frequently Asked Questions can be found at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/documents/interim2/ccra-faq.pdf>.

If you have any further questions or would like to know more, you can email the team at CCRA@defra.gsi.gov.uk.