

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Germany

Disclaimer

Based on the scoreboard in Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2018)460 accompanying the evaluation of the EU's strategy for adaptation to climate change. For referencing this Commission analysis from June 2018, please use the full version in the SWD.

SUMMARY

Overall progress

Germany's adaptation strategy (DAS) was adopted in 2008 and an action plan (APA) in 2011. The progress and monitoring reports of 2015 included an update of the APA (APA II) and reported on important advances in the implementation of adaptation actions. The German government is currently drafting the second evaluation of the DAS. Approaching 10 years since the inception of the DAS, Germany is performing well on almost all adaptation preparedness indicators. Vertical coordination mechanisms between the federal government and the Bundesländer and mainstreaming of adaptation into DRM policies could still be improved.

Adaptation strategies

Germany adopted its National Adaptation Strategy (DAS)¹ on December 17, 2008. The DAS has been created in a manner that allows for continuous refinement. In light of this, the federal government adopted a progress report² at the end of 2015 with concrete steps to develop and implement the DAS. Further, all 16 Bundesländer have developed adaptation strategies and have developed measures, some as part of an integral climate change strategy or programme. Therefore, 100% of the German territory is covered by regional adaptation strategies.

Adaptation action plans

The German Action Plan (APA), which operationalises the actions identified in the DAS, was adopted on August 31st, 2011. An updated version of the APA (the APA II) can be found in the Annex of the progress report³. Further, the Länder of Hamburg (2013) and Hessen (2017) have both published adaptation action plans to their respective adaptation strategies (10.29 % of total German population covered). No sectoral adaptation action plans could be identified at this point.

¹ German Federal Government (2008). German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change. Available at: http://www.bmub.bund.de/fileadmin/bmu-import/files/english/pdf/application/pdf/das_gesamt_en_bf.pdf

² German Federal Government (2015). Adaptation to Climate Change: Initial Progress Report by the Federal Government on Germany's Adaptation Strategy. Available at: https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Pool/Broschueren/fortschrittsbericht_anpassung_klimawandel_en_bf.pdf

³ German Federal Government (2015). Adaptation to Climate Change: Initial Progress Report by the Federal Government on Germany's Adaptation Strategy. Available at: https://www.bmu.de/fileadmin/Daten_BMU/Pool/Broschueren/fortschrittsbericht_anpassung_klimawandel_en_bf.pdf

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) is the central administration body. Executive power for policy-making lies with an inter-institutional working group – the IMA Anpassung. For implementation of adaptation measures, horizontal coordination mechanisms tend to have an ad-hoc nature, fitting the specific ministerial expertise required for projects. The permanent committee on adaptation (StA AFK) is the main vertical coordination mechanism, enabling exchange between Länder representatives and the central government.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

The preparation of the DAS, the APA, and the progress report (inclusive of the APA II) were accompanied by cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder discussions. The DAS preparation included information sourcing from administrative bodies, the private sector, interest groups, scientists and the general public. There is little evidence that stakeholders from priority sectors played a big part in these activities, however. Germany furthermore engages in a wide range of transboundary cooperation agreements concerning adaptation.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The German government carries out continuous long-term monitoring of variables affecting the atmosphere, the oceans, and the land (via the German National Meteorological Service – DWD). Both statistical and model-based approaches are used to determine the consequences of climate change, depending on the sector. The most recent vulnerability assessment can be found in the progress report, assessing the 14 priority sectors via a meta-analysis of over 155 climate-related German studies. It assesses transboundary risks qualitatively, especially for the industry, transportation, infrastructure, fishing and finance sectors.

4 Knowledge gaps

R&D activities regarding climate change are supported and carried out by the national centre of competence for consequences of climate change and adaptation (KomPass). Its core tasks are policy advice and environmental research to identify and fill knowledge gaps. An example of a regional effort to enhance knowledge is KlimZug, which integrates expected changes to the climate into regional planning.

5 Knowledge transfer

KomPass treats its website as a national information, communication and cooperation platform on adaptation. It is intended to provide information on adaptation activities and policy in an interactive manner to both public and private actors. Science-policy interface workshops and conferences are held to offer capacity training and foster information exchange. A number of tools, guidelines and handbooks have also been developed by the federal government.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The APA II identifies adaptation options for all priority clusters of sectors. Actions can be cross-cutting and be specific to several priority sectors under one cluster. All priority sectors are mentioned in the adaptation action list of the APA II. Prioritisation of options is based on the vulnerability assessment, taking into account impact, urgency, and time of implementation. Since 2007, there is a 'Strategic Governmental Alliance on Climate Adaptation' between, among others, the DWD and BBK.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

For all measures described in the APA II, the amount and source of available funding is described both for vulnerable sectors as well as for cross-cutting adaptation action. The government provides funding for developing the German climate projections, the national climate change risk assessment, the Adaptation Subcommittee, and the climate services websites. It also funds other research and cross-cutting actions needed to implement the coordinate action nationally.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

Germany has recently integrated the consideration of climate change (adaptation) in its EIA and SEA legal frameworks. It is now one of 7 'subjects of protection'. There is no evidence that national disaster risk management plans take into account future climate projections. Spatial plans of the Länder are gradually (via revision) supplemented with adaptation-relevant considerations. The National Strategy for an Integrated Management of Coastal Zones takes account of climate change. The building and water sectors have climate change mainstreamed into core policy documents. The insurance sector in Germany is well aware of the risks of climate change and climate change is considered within risk management.

9 Implementing adaptation

The progress report states that of the 150 measures identified in the APA, 43 have been implemented, 78 are in the process of being implemented, 10 are in preparation and 13 not implemented. In order to support activities at local and regional levels, the federal government initiates adaptation projects via facilitated dialogues, grants and workshops. A study providing approaches to the design of climate-resilient infrastructure is currently under development, although there are no guidelines yet on major projects. Stakeholder involvement is generally well-developed.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

The monitoring report (last published in 2015) published by the BMU assesses progress on adaptation actions quantitatively and qualitatively for different sectors. The progress report is structured per vulnerable sector, and as such can be seen as a sector-specific monitoring structure in place. On a regional level, the Bundesland of Baden-Württemberg, for example, recently published its first monitoring report for its Climate Protection Law (2017).

11 Evaluation

A periodic review of the DAS and APA (II) is undertaken via the monitoring report and the progress report. These reports serve as evaluation instruments for the revision process. The indicators for monitoring were developed during a 5-year process with both public and

private stakeholders. However, the evaluation itself was carried out exclusively by the government entity in charge of drafting the report.