

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for France

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

France adopted a national adaptation strategy in 2006, and a national adaptation plan in place from 2011. The national adaptation plan covered the period to 2015. A new plan is in the process of being finalized and is expected to be adopted in the summer of 2018. Climate issues, mitigation but also adaptation, are generally reflected in a wide variety of policies. However, the assessment process identified a weakness in the coordination between national policy and action at local authority level, an issue which the new plan is expected to address.

Adaptation strategies

The national adaptation strategy adopted in 2006 (see [link](#)) was developed following the stakeholder engagement process on environmental issues, known as Grenelle 1. While detailed adaptation planning applies throughout France through regional and local environmental frameworks, mainstreaming of climate adaptation by local authorities could be improved.

Adaptation action plans

A national adaptation plan (see [link](#)) was adopted in 2011, covering the period 2011-2015. A new plan is in the process of being finalized and is expected to be adopted in the summer of 2018. At sub-national level, a comprehensive system of Climate-Air-Energy Plans, at Regional, Departmental, and large town level, is in place, and includes a requirement for climate adaptation action to be identified. Regional Plan for Sustainable Development and Territorial Equality are also expected to fix objectives in terms of adaptation to climate change. Adaptation elements are also included in river basin and flood risk plans.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

The Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition is responsible for policy on adaptation to climate change, with the National Observatory on the Effects of Global Warming (ONERC) responsible for monitoring progress. Coordination mechanisms are being strengthened for the new NAP, with a dedicated committee of the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) responsible for monitoring. France has a dense framework of regional and local planning mechanisms, including adaptation elements.

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

Stakeholders were closely involved in the development of the 2011 NAP, with employers, unions, NGOs, local authority and consumer interests having a voice. The preparation of the new NAP has involved a wide consultation that took place between June 2016 and July 2017, and the development of recommendations by a wide range of stakeholder and expert committees, leading to the publication of a set of 33 recommendations in 2017. Transboundary cooperation on adaptation issues relies heavily on EU mechanisms, including INTERREG projects and the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

Climate monitoring and monitoring of extreme weather events is carried out by Météo-France (the French national weather service). ONERC's monitoring and reporting on climate issues includes publication of an indicator of population exposure to extreme weather events. There are significant national activity on climate modelling, scenarios and projection, at both a national and global scale. Preparation of the new NAP aims to address gaps identified in the availability of sectoral vulnerability assessments in the current NAP.

4 Knowledge gaps

The 2011 NAP identified a wide range of research needs, with action to address nearly all of them having subsequently been put in place. Both a 2015 evaluation of the NAP, and detailed sectoral recommendations, produced through the consultation exercise referred to above, have identified additional research needs, with the expectation that they will be addressed by the new NAP.

5 Knowledge transfer

A wide range of information activities on climate issues and climate risks is carried out, including through the national education system, and through the implementation agency (ADEME) for energy, environment, and sustainable development. France has a strategy for green jobs and training needs relevant to adaptation have been identified, both in the current NAP and in the stakeholder recommendations for the new one.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The sectoral risk assessment published in 2009 identified priority sectors including health, forestry, water, transport infrastructure, building infrastructure, energy, tourism, natural risks and insurances, biodiversity and territories, for action under the first NAP 2011-2015. This first NAP places significant emphasis on reducing exposure to risks of extreme weather events. France's extensive disaster risk planning includes mechanisms to reflect climate risk, with the national strategy on flood risk placing particular emphasis on climate impacts. Further sectoral risk assessment activity is planned to be carried out under the revised NAP 2018-2022.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

France's use of European Structural and Investment Funds placed significant emphasis on climate resilience and risk management, with €4,866m (mostly from rural development funds in the agriculture sector) allocated to the relevant "thematic objective". In terms of national funding, while the NAP 2011-2015 identified funding needs of €171m, systems

were not put in place to track whether that funding was in fact allocated to the relevant actions.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

France's implementation of the revised Environmental Impact Assessment Directive includes a requirement to consider climate impacts. However, as this has not been further specified, the requirement does not emphasise impacts on adaptation and resilience. Meanwhile, adaptation issues are not only incorporated into mainstream planning mechanisms at local and regional level, but also into specific planning policies on coastal zones, and strategies on heatwaves and flood risks. There has been less progress on mainstreaming of adaptation action into policy in the insurance sector, although it is expected that this will be addressed under the second NAP.

9 Implementing adaptation

The 2015 detailed evaluation of the 2011 NAP identified that some actions had not been taken forward, due to multiple reasons. Coordination mechanisms with local government were identified as a weakness in current systems, and recommendations from stakeholder panels published in 2017 as part of preparation for which the second NAP called for this to be improved. Guidelines for climate impacts of major projects have been published by ADEME.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

The NAP's implementation was, as noted above, monitored by the ONERC and a detailed evaluation was carried out in 2015. This monitoring and evaluation process identified actions on a sectoral basis. Detailed and systematic local and regional monitoring of adaptation action has not been carried out.

11 Evaluation

The NAP covered a four-year period from 2011 to 2015. An evaluation process was established; subsequent work on a new NAP has been thorough, and adoption has therefore been delayed. The evaluation report was produced in 2015. From June 2016 to July 2017, the work of six stakeholder working groups resulted in the publication of recommendations in 2017. These recommendations served as a basis for the second NAP, which (as of June 2018) is expected to be published imminently.