

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Update for Stakeholders

For the CCRA Forum and sector stakeholders who have already been involved in or have some familiarity with the project.

Workshops

The CCRA project is currently carrying out a UK-wide sector-based risk assessment, which is due for completion in draft by Autumn 2010. Sector stakeholders have contributed to this assessment through 9 sector workshops, which took place in May 2010. These stakeholders included representatives from public, private, academic and voluntary organisations, with both UK-wide and national/regional interests. Over 150 people attended these events; including 6 from Northern Ireland, 16 from Scotland and 10 from Wales. The purpose of these workshops was to check the project had covered important impacts; to discuss which impacts should be assessed as part of our more detailed 'Tier 2' assessment (see *Next steps for the Sector-based assessment*); and to discuss how these impacts can be best measured. Based on feedback from these workshops, some follow-up meetings and workshops are taking place during June and July.

The Forestry and Business, Industry & Services sector workshops were unable to take place due to diary unavailability of participants, so input is instead being obtained by a series of focused telephone interviews.

Workshops were also held for the CCRA Steering Group and CCRA Forum in April and May, respectively, looking at cross-sectoral issues. The results are feeding into the systematic mapping work currently underway. This work aims to identify the interactions between impacts and consequences both within and between sectors, so that important cross-sectoral impacts can also be identified for inclusion in the Tier 2 assessment.

Reports

At the start of the year, our Sector Champions produced scoping reports of the known impacts in their sector, based on literature reviews and consultation with other experts and stakeholders. These reports were circulated to members of Defra's In-House Experts Group (a technical advisory group for the project), the CCRA Steering Group and participants in the sector workshops. We have received substantial feedback on these reports and this will be fed into the sector-based risk assessment. We are not currently planning on publishing stand-alone final versions of these scoping reports. Instead, this work will be incorporated into the reports that will be produced at the end of the sector-based risk assessment. These reports will form the basis of the High Level Risk Assessment due at the end of October, and a peer review process is planned for this.

The sector workshop reports are currently being drafted and will be circulated for comment to participants and those who expressed an interest in being involved but were unable to attend. If you fall into this category, but have not already received a draft workshop report for your sector, you should receive this shortly. The CCRA Forum workshop report was sent mid-June to participants for comment.

We are also exploring the possibilities for making the sector scoping and workshop reports available on the Defra website, with a facility to provide feedback online. We will send out details as soon as this is available. We believe that this will be the most efficient way to include people who are interested in being involved, but are unable to participate via the face to face events. Therefore, we will also be including future reports as and when appropriate.

Next steps for the Sector-based assessment

To date, the sector-based assessment has identified over 600 ways that climate change poses threats and opportunities for each of the 11 sectors (this formed the 'Tier 1' qualitative assessment). The next step is to undertake a more detailed assessment of approximately 100 UK-wide risks forming the next level of analysis - 'Tier 2', which is due to be completed in the Autumn.

Following on from this, we will hold a further set of sector meetings before the end of 2010. These will provide an opportunity for sector stakeholders to review the sector-based risk assessments and provide input into the adaptation option development, which will form part of the Adaptation Economic Assessment (AEA).

Next steps for the Devolved Administration assessments

We are in the process of defining a method specifically designed to assess risks for each of the Devolved Administrations, based on the method used for the UK-wide sector assessment.

This will determine the best approach for identifying:

- a) Which specific climate change impacts are of most relevance to each Devolved Administration; and
- b) Where there are omissions in the UK-wide sector-based assessment that need to be included when looking in more detail at each Devolved Administration.

Information and views gathered during workshops and meetings in March with each Devolved Administration serve as a starting point. We have also received valuable feedback via the sector workshops, through the CCRA Forum and the Steering Group.

In September 2010 we will be holding a further workshop in each Devolved Administration to give stakeholders a more focussed opportunity to discuss which sectors are important for their country and hence which risks they would like to see reflected in the CCRA. This will include obtaining up to date information regarding assessments and related work that has been undertaken to date, is ongoing, or is planned.

In preparation for these workshops, reference material will be sent out in early August to both the participants and those wishing to be involved in the process, but unable to attend. This will include the Tier 2 impacts for the UK-wide assessment. We will be requesting that participants review this list within the context of each Devolved Administration in advance of the workshops.

We will be working closely with each Devolved Administration over the coming weeks, setting dates and venues and sending out invitations.

Next steps for the assessment of geographical regions in England

We are also in the process of defining the method for assessing risks for the geographical regions of England, based on the method used for the UK-wide sector assessment. The UKCP09 regions will be used to define the geographical extent of each area.

At the start of the year, we produced a report 'Initial Review of the Vulnerability of the English Regions', which outlined the findings of previous regional studies. . This was circulated to the Government Offices and Regional Development Agencies (as were) for comment.

As we are currently in a transitional period for the structure of regions in England, we will be working with the Government Offices and Defra to identify the most effective way of engaging the wealth of knowledge and experience within the regions, including identifying appropriate participants with roles in local decision-making. Our current plan is to hold three workshops in early Autumn, each involving three neighbouring regions. One possible way of organising these events is to group the regions as follows:

1. North West, North East, Yorkshire and the Humber
2. East Midlands, West Midlands, South West
3. East of England, London, South East

We hope to be able to set dates, venues and send out invitations during the Summer.