



Proposal for a new coordinated audit “Adaptation to climate change”

7th EUROSAI WGEA meeting
Sofia, Bulgaria, October 2009

Outline of the presentation



- Scientific background
- European challenges and the need of adaptation
- Adaptation policy
- Why a cooperative audit on adaptation to climate change
- The further process



Adaptation to climate change



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Executive Director of the
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29 Sep 2008*

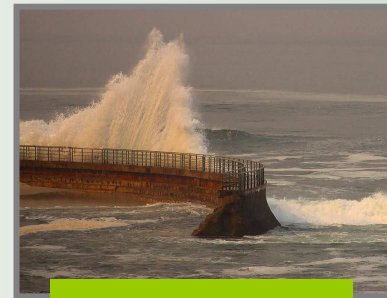
"This report makes strikingly clear that many regions and sectors across Europe are vulnerable to climate change impacts. Implementation of adaptation actions has only just started. We need to intensify such actions and improve information exchange on data, effectiveness and costs."



Draught



Floods



Sea level



Permafrost



Forest fires



Water



Erosion



Biodiversity



Health



Food



Infrastructure



Adaptation to climate change – key message – what we see



- Environmental, social and economical impact
- Vulnerable sectors: energy supply, health, water management, agriculture, tourism and transport
- Occurs mainly at sub-national and local levels – but involves all levels of decision-making
- Adaptation is a cross-sectoral and transboundary issue

Adaptation to climate change – key message – what to do

- **Integration of adaptation into sectoral policies** at European and national levels is key to a long term reduction in the vulnerability to climate change impacts of ecosystems, economic sectors, communities .
- Integrating climate change into all **main policy actions and measures** would benefit from an enhanced **sharing of information on current and planned adaptation activities in Europe.**
- Europe has to adapt and should also **assist developing countries (external)** as they are most vulnerable in terms of communities, economic sectors and ecosystem

Why a cooperative audit on adaptation to climate change?



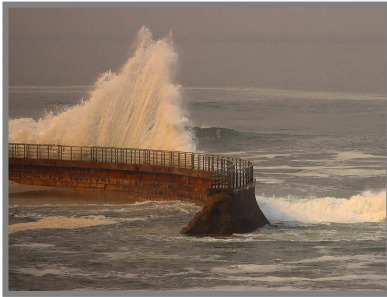
- EUROSAI strategic goals are to initiate and implement audits within the area of climate change and within cooperative/ coordinated audits
- Cross-national cooperation, also within auditing, is essential to effectively solve transboundary environmental problems
- Joint audit reports have larger potential impact on international level than national reports
- International agreements and transboundary policy tools

Adaptation policies



- UNFCCC (1992)
 - All parties [shall] facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change [and] cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change
 - All Parties, including Non-Annex I Parties, shall establish plans for activities aimed at adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change
 - Science and technology/funding
- National adaptation policy
 - Different stages of preparing, developing and implementing adaptation strategies
- EC white paper (2009):
 - Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action

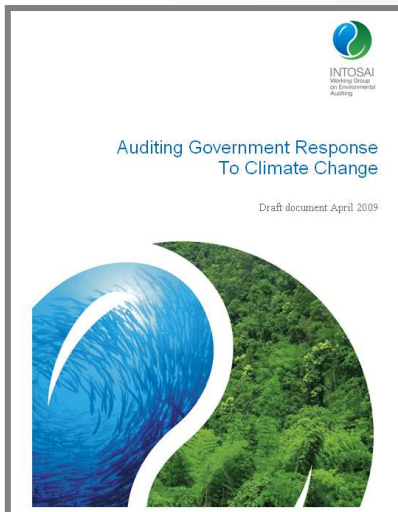
What can a coordinated audit on adaptation provide?



On national and cross-national level:

- Contribute to good governance of adaptation
- Good practice on adaptation measures
- Good practice/ lessons learned on implementation on adaptation in sectors
- Good practice / lessons learned on cross sectoral and transboundary nature of adaptation
- Identification of common barriers to policy implementation
- Early action in Europe (EU)
- External action
- Increase the impact

Why adaptation now?



- Adaptation is highly relevant and the timing is good
- Interest among our members
- Mitigation is currently carried out on national, European and on global level
- INTOSAI WGEA guideline on auditing climate change

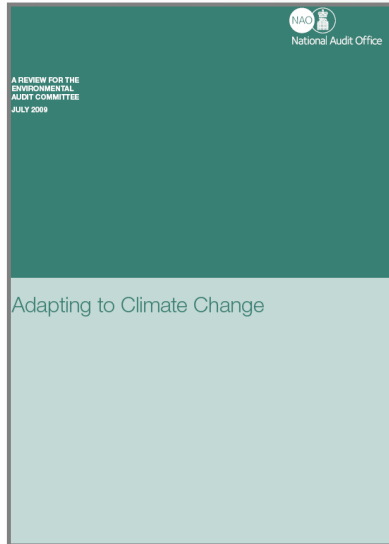
Possible audit questions when auditing the implementation of adaptation policy



- Have the responsible ministries identified the climate change-related threats?
- Does the government have in place an overarching policy, plan or strategy?
- Is the adaptation governance efficient?
- Are policy instruments effective?

Reference: Auditing Government Response To Climate Change
(Draft document April 2009)

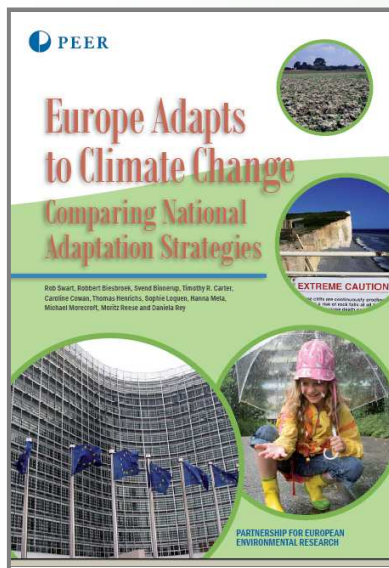
National adaptation reports



- National adaptation reports:
 - UK

- National adaptation strategies:

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/national-adaptation-strategies>



- Evaluation of national adaptation strategies:

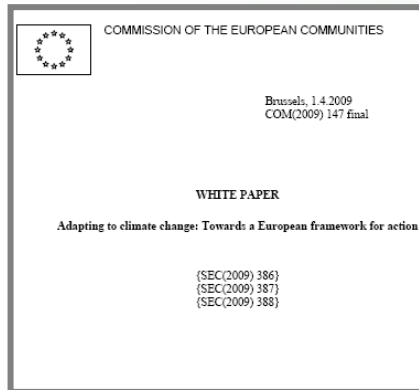
“Comparing climate change adaptation strategies across Europe”

Next steps?



1. Official letter from the chair
2. Interest in participating and to be a project leader
3. Communication and draft a proposal
4. Kick-off meeting
5. Define a design matrix where to choose audit topics and plan the further process and timeline

References



- **European Commission (2009)**, Adapting to climate change: Towards a European framework for action. White paper
- **UNFCCC (1992)**. The Convention, Article 4, paragraphs 1e and 5)
- **EEA (2008)** Impacts of Europe's changing climate— 2008 indicator-based assessment EEA Report No 4/2008
- **Partnership for European Environmental Research Report No.1.**(2009) Comparing climate change adaptation strategies across Europe
- **INTOSAI WGEA** Auditing Government Response To Climate Change (Draft document April 2009)

Thank you for your attention!

