

Adaptation preparedness scoreboard:

Summary for Cyprus

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

The first NAS of Cyprus, which was a combined strategy and plan, was developed in 2014, and then updated and finalised in 2017. As yet there is no evidence on its implementation status. Overall progress on adaptation is slow, and many steps need to be completed before the NAP of Cyprus is fully implemented. However, good quality vulnerability assessments in key policy sectors are conducted, and thus valuable material exists to be used for future adaptation action.

Adaptation strategies

Cyprus developed a combined NAS/NAP with the support of the CYPADAPT project, which was co-financed by the EU through LIFE+, in 2014. The coordinator was the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, the authority responsible for climate change in Cyprus. The combined NAS/NAP was updated and an updated NAS¹ was formally endorsed in 2017. Adaptation strategies at sub-national levels are not yet documented.

Adaptation action plans

In 2017, an updated NAP² was also endorsed. It lists adaptation measures for each vulnerable policy sector in Cyprus, as identified using the CYPADAPT software tool. Although local adaptation actions have taken place, they were not part of the NAP or of any sub-national adaptation plans. Sectoral adaptation plans are included in the updated NAP for each of the 11 selected sectors.

Step A: Preparing the ground for adaptation

1 Coordination structure

¹ ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑΣ, ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, ΤΜΗΜΑ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, Απρίλιος 2017, ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΑΡΜΟΓΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΚΛΙΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΑΛΛΑΓΗ, URL: [Cyprus National Adaptation Strategy 2017](#)

² ΥΠΟΥΡΓΕΙΟ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΑΣ, ΑΓΡΟΤΙΚΗΣ ΑΝΑΠΤΥΞΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, ΤΜΗΜΑ ΠΕΡΙΒΑΛΛΟΝΤΟΣ, ΠΑΡΑΡΤΗΜΑ ΙΙ, 2017, ΣΧΕΔΙΟ ΔΡΑΣΗΣ ΠΡΟΣΑΡΜΟΓΗΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΚΛΙΜΑΤΙΚΗ ΑΛΛΑΓΗ, URL: [Cyprus National Adaptation Plan 2017](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment is the central coordinating body; its Department of Environment is the competent authority for checking progress on implementation of the adaptation measures included in the Action Plan together with stakeholders. Responsibility for implementation of specific sectoral actions lies with the responsible authorities for each specific action (e.g. Department of Agriculture for agricultural issues).

2 Stakeholders' involvement in policy development

The active engagement of stakeholders (relevant ministerial departments, associations, non-governmental organizations, universities, research institutes, etc.) took place during several phases in the development of the strategy and plan, such as the vulnerability assessment, and identification of adaptation measures, etc. Transboundary cooperation has not formally taken place in either sub-national or sectoral level but the NAS states that Cyprus will be pursuing cooperation with neighbouring countries.

Step B: Assessing risks and vulnerabilities to climate change

3 Current and projected climate change

The Meteorological Service of Cyprus, the Cyprus Oceanographic Centre, the Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, the Agricultural Research Institute and the State General Laboratory contribute to the monitoring of climate change and extreme climate events. The PRECIS model was acquired to establish forecasts and projected climate changes for the near and far future. The first vulnerability assessment was made on the most important economic sectors within the CYPADAPT project. Then, the Cyprus's first detailed Climate Change Risk Assessment was published in 2016. Specific transboundary risks have not been assessed.

4 Knowledge gaps

Cyprus is still in the progress of identifying the knowledge gaps and is trying to identify funding to conduct research on addressing them. Within the NAS, there are references to some knowledge gaps in sectors; in general, significant research is needed to inform the adaptation policy.

5 Knowledge transfer

During development of the NAS, the CYPADAPT portal was created to provide information on climate change adaptation; but it has not been updated since 2014. Potential users are government, local authorities, research institutions, NGOs, other stakeholders and citizens. They could find information concerning adaptation options, climate impacts, vulnerability, research, legislation, financing opportunities and useful links. Education materials or training activities on adaptation capacity are not yet available, but the NAP mentions certain actions that support capacity building.

Step C: Identifying adaptation options

6 Adaptation options' identification

The following priority sectors have been identified: Water resources, Agriculture, Coastal zones, Tourism, Biodiversity, Energy, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Soils, Forests, Public Health and Infrastructure. To prioritise the adaptation options, a Multi-Criteria Analysis tool was developed. Risk assessments collected information from literature reviews, expert elicitation, opinion surveys and feedback from stakeholders to prioritise and select adaptation options. DRR involvement in adaptation planning is at an early stage.

7 Funding resources identified and allocated

According to the After-LIFE Communication Plan which complemented the NAS, the identified adaptation measures have been included under the funding priorities foreseen in the Partnership Agreement (PA) 2014-2020 of the Republic of Cyprus, which sets out how European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) are planned to be used. No specific national funding mechanisms have been identified.

Step D: Implementing adaptation action

8 Mainstreaming adaptation in planning processes

Mainstreaming adaptation in the national planning process is not yet fully happening in Cyprus. A national law according to the revised EIA Directive was just drafted and is now under discussion in the House of Representatives. The updated NAS does not refer to how adaptation can be incorporated in specific disaster preparedness plans. Moreover, there is no evidence of mainstreaming adaptation in land use or spatial or urban or maritime planning or insurance policies. Some specific national priority sectors, such as forests or river basin management, include adaptation to climate change in their plans.

9 Implementing adaptation

Comprehensive information on implementation progress is not available, although some actions have taken place at sectoral level. Cooperation mechanisms are still under development. There are no specific guidelines on the assessment of potential climate impacts on major projects. Stakeholders are engaged by being asked to implement adaptation measures and actions which are relevant to them. Different stakeholder groups involved include research institutes, NGOs, sectoral unions and associations and, and civil society organizations.

Step E: Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation activities

10 Monitoring and reporting

Despite the monitoring process documented in the Monitoring Strategy of the NAS, Cyprus has not yet published their first NAS/NAP monitoring report. Preparation of the 2018 update has apparently now started, however. Sectoral and regional/sub-national/local monitoring reports have also not been published yet; however, the NAS and NAP do not refer to any requirement for these types of reports. Since the NAP covers actions in priority sectors, reporting under it should provide detailed information on sectoral progress.

11 Evaluation

It is clearly set out in the NAS that it will be reviewed annually and the current deadline for submitting the first review is on the 15th of May 2018. An evaluation and review of the NAS/NAP by stakeholders is required, according to the Council of Ministers' decision which adopted the NAS and NAP in 2017.