



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 25.01.2024

Start time: 09:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Jillian Mahon; John Spink (alternate Teagasc); Dr. Ina Kelly (up to 11.00); Keith Lambkin; Dr. Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA); Prof. Conor Murphy; Prof. Robert Devoy; David Joyce; Dr. Julie Clarke; Liam Conneally; Roger Street (from 11.00); Mark Adamson (up to 10.45).

Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr. Stephen Flood; Bryn Canniffe; Ciara Hilliard; Claire Camilleri.

Agenda Item 4: Kelly de Bruin and Clement Kweku-Kyei (both ESRI)

Agenda Item 5: Patrick Moran, Josh Lernihan, Rinku Phulphagar (DPENDR)

Agenda Item 6: Aoife Molloy and Yvonne Buckley (both TCD)

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 14th December 2023 were approved.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

c. Disclosures of Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Council Update (09:33)

There was no update from the Council as no meeting of the Council took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting.

3. Secretariat Update (09:35)

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main events that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting.

Dublin ports engagement

The Secretariat reported that it had been part of an engagement with the management of the Dublin Port Authority that was facilitated by the NTMA on the risk of sea level rise to the port. It was noted that a similar engagement was being arranged with the Port of Cork. The Committee noted the need for more coordination between ports in terms of response to this issue and expressed concern that the ports are able to choose their own level of risk to plan for rather than there being a regulated or set level of risk. It was suggested to consider making the resilience of ports a topic for further discussion during one of the in-person Committee meetings.

Adaptation Scorecard

The Secretariat reported that comments were received from the Committee on the scorecard questionnaire and guidance document and that the documents were revised accordingly and shared with the departments and CAROs for their feedback. The proposed timelines for the scorecard process were also presented. In terms of the participation of the Adaptation Committee members in the assessment, the Secretariat was tasked to approach the volunteers that participated in 2023 and to source an additional member to replace Sinead O' Brien.

Workshop on nature-based solutions

The Secretariat reported that it participated in a workshop that took place on 17th January on the development of a National Implementation Strategy for urban nature-based solutions. The development of the strategy is one of the actions from NCAP 2023 and is planned to be completed in 2025.

EEAC Conference

The Secretariat reported that the EEAC Conference on adaptation and resilience was taking place from the 22-23 April in Brussels. It was noted that the Secretariat and Chairperson were planning to participate in the Conference and would travel to the event via sail and rail.

National Adaptation Framework

The Secretariat reminded the Committee that the NAF is currently out for public consultation and that the deadline for the submission of comments was 19th February. It requested comments from the Committee by 12th February so that one consolidated submission could be made by the Secretariat to DECC on behalf of the Committee.

Adaptation Workshop

The Secretariat provided an update on the preparations for the workshop on adaptation metrics and indicators that is to take place on the 12th March at the Ashling Hotel in Dublin. It was recommended to invite a representative from the IPCC working group to present on a thematic paper being prepared on climate adaptation indicators.

4. Economic Impacts of Climate Change (10.00)

Clement Kweku-Kyei and Kelly de Bruin presented the draft report of the CCAC / ESRI fellowship on the economic assessment of climate change impacts and adaptation options in Ireland. The Committee thanked the ESRI team for the report and provided detailed comments on it during the meeting. The Committee were requested to submit any further comments in writing on the report by 1st February.

5. Climate Budget Tagging (11.00)

A team from DPENDR presented work it is doing to tag climate and environmental estimates in annual government budgetary allocations. It was noted that an improved approach was developed and followed in 2023 and resulted in the publication on a standalone report in December 2023, which included information on favourable and unfavourable expenditure for adaptation, mitigation and other environmental aspects. The Committee welcomed the work and the evolution of the approach being taken by DPENDR and indicated its availability to provide any assistance to this ongoing process via the Secretariat.

6. Nature Based Solutions Study (11.40)

Aoife Molloy and Yvonne Buckley presented the final draft report on the identification of best practice nature-based solutions in Ireland that was commissioned by the Committee. The report was approved by the Committee and it agreed to recommend it for approval by the Council and subsequent publication on the Council's website.

7. Flood preparedness thematic session (12.10)

The Secretariat outlined the proposed elements of the thematic session on flood preparedness that will take place as part of the next Adaptation Committee meeting. The Committee agreed that it was a good basis for overall discussion of the issues and it was suggested to invite additional stakeholders to the discussion. The Secretariat was also requested to consider a more panel discussion type approach to the session to allow time for the additional stakeholders.

8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting (12.25)

a) Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 7th March 2024 and would be held virtually on MS Teams.

It was noted that the June and September meetings would be held in-person and that the themes of these meetings should be linked with case studies from the local area where the meetings would be held.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the initials 'P.W.' followed by a stylized, scribbled flourish.

signed electronically on 07.03.2024