

Fifth Climate Change Adaptation Scorecard

Report

2025



Executive Summary

This report is the fifth edition of the adaptation scorecard. It reviews activities undertaken during the period March 2024-April 2025. Progress was assessed in the implementation of adaptation policy and increasing resilience with respect to three categories to inform an overall assessment for each sector: (i) governance and resourcing (ii) risk and adaptive management, and (iii) policy implementation and mainstreaming. Assessment of progress of each sector in 2024/25 is provided in Table 1 with the sectors and lead departments ranked in order of overall performance based on the results.

No sector received an overall advanced rating. Four sectors received an overall rating of good, four received an overall rating of moderate, two received an overall rating of limited, and one received an overall rating of no progress / insufficient evidence. This was a slight decline from the 2024 scorecard where four sectors received a rating of good, six received a rating of moderate and one a rating of no progress / insufficient evidence. The Council is concerned with the limited attention being given to adaptation by lead Government departments and agencies and is particularly concerned with the continued lack of committed resources and progress in implementation of the biodiversity sectoral adaptation plan.

The main findings from the 2025 adaptation scorecard are that:

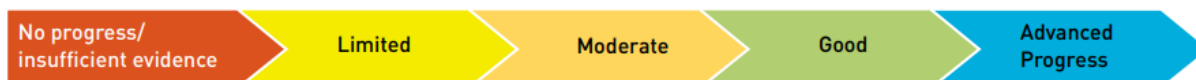
- Lead departments and agencies have strengthened their coordination structures for climate change adaptation, particularly their core and planning teams for the new sectoral adaptation plans. These structures need to be maintained for the long-term to oversee implementation and more robust monitoring and evaluation of the sectoral adaptation plans. The Council remains concerned about how cross-sectoral risks will be addressed and coordinated in the next sectoral adaptation plans.
- The lack of adequate human resources dedicated to climate change adaptation at national and local levels and in semi-state agencies remains a systemic challenge. In-depth human resources needs assessments should be undertaken by each lead Department and agency for the sectoral adaptation plans. The temporary nature of climate action posts within local authorities is a risk to the delivery of the Local Authority Climate Action Plans and threatens to jeopardise the progress made to date. Efforts to make these posts permanent need to be expedited.
- There is a continued need to scale up financing across departments and semi-state agencies to prioritise climate adaptation measures in relevant budget sub-heads, schemes, capital programmes and supports.
- The increased mainstreaming of adaptation in the revised National Planning Framework is welcomed and needs to translate into scaled up financing of adaptation measures through the revised National Development Plan and strengthened consideration of adaptation in regional and local planning.
- The development of the National Climate Change Risk Assessment has improved understanding of the risks and impacts of climate change and highlighted the need for

urgent action across sectors to address these risks. The next set of Sectoral Adaptation Plans should target projects and programmes that deliver tangible outcomes to address priority risks and enhance resilience.

- The review of implementation of the Sectoral Adaptation Plans showed that most did not contain measurable targets, costed actions and associated key performance indicators (KPIs). This created challenges in assessing progress and monitoring and reviewing the implementation of these plans.

Table 1: Summary of 2025 adaptation scorecard results per sector and category.

Rank	Sector	Governance & resourcing	Policy implementation & mainstreaming	Risk & adaptive management	Overall
1 st	Transport (DoT)	Advanced	Good	Good	Good
2 nd	Flood risk management (OPW)	Good	Good	Good	Good
2 nd	Built and archaeological heritage (DHLGH)	Good	Good	Good	Good
4 th	Local Government	Good	Good	Moderate	Good
5 th	National adaptation framework (DCEE)	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate
5 th	Electricity and gas networks (DCEE)	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
5 th	Agriculture, forestry and seafood (DAFM)	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Moderate
5 th	Water quality and services infrastructure (DHLGH)	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
9 th	Communications networks (DCCS)	Moderate	Limited	Limited	Limited
9 th	Health (DoH)	Limited	Moderate	Limited	Limited
11 th	Biodiversity (DHLGH)	No progress/insufficient evidence	No progress / insufficient evidence	No progress/insufficient evidence	No progress/insufficient evidence



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Abbreviations

APSFR	Areas of Potentially Significant Flood Risk
CAROs	Climate Action Regional Offices
CCMA	County and City Management Association
ComReg	Commission for Communications Regulation
CRU	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine
DCCS	Department of Culture, Communications and Sports
DCEE	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DoH	Department of Health
DoT	Department of Transport
DPENDR	Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform
ESBN	Electricity Supply Board Networks
GNI	Gas Networks Ireland
GSI	Geological Survey of Ireland
HSE	Health Service Executive
IBEC	Ireland Business and Employers Confederation
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LA CAPs	Local Authority Climate Action Plans
MPBT	Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce
MERL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning
NAF	National Adaptation Framework
NBS	Nature Based Solutions
NFCS	National Framework for Climate Services
NOAC	National Oversight and Audit Commission
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
OPW	Office of Public Works
PR	Price Review
SAPs	Sectoral Adaptation Plans
SCCAPs	Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Plans

1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Context

Ireland's climate is already changing and has become warmer and wetter over the past thirty years. These changes are reflected in an existing adaptation / resilience deficit. Projections predict overall wetter and warmer weather for Ireland in the years ahead as well as an increase in extreme weather events[1]. Increased sea level rise, heatwaves, droughts, storms and extreme rainfall events as well as flooding all pose considerable risks to Ireland. During the period under review, Ireland was affected by a number of severe extreme weather events, including Storm Éowyn and Storm Darragh, which exposed the vulnerabilities of our critical infrastructure and emergency response frameworks to cascading and compounding extreme weather events.

In Ireland, the Climate Change Advisory Council has previously called for a greater emphasis on adaptation and the urgent need for improved adaptation and resilience measures[2]. With the transition towards a climate resilient economy by no later than 2050 being a key element of the national climate objective, there is a pressing need to identify and implement actions to ensure that Ireland is adapting well, to measure progress on the implementation of adaptation policy and to inform the development of future policies.

This report summarises the fifth edition of the Adaptation Scorecard, which is a tool that has been used annually by the Climate Change Advisory Council since 2021 to measure the progress of sectoral and local adaptation plans and to monitor implementation of the National Adaptation Framework. This edition covers activities undertaken in the period April 2024-March 2025. This marked a period of additional policy developments with a new National Adaptation Framework [3]published in June 2024 and 31 Local Authority Climate Action Plans (LA CAPs) published in March 2024. It also marked the final year in implementation of the 9 Sectoral Adaptation Plans (SAPs) mandated by the 2018 National Adaptation Framework[4].

1.2 Overview of process

The fifth adaptation scorecard was the second assessment undertaken based on alterations made to improve the scorecard questionnaires following a review workshop held in September 2023[5]. The key timelines of the scorecard process are highlighted in Appendix A. Three separate questionnaires were issued to the nine lead departments responsible for the SAPs, local government and Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) on the coordination and implementation of the National Adaptation Framework. Sample questionnaires are provided in Appendix B. Questionnaire responses were submitted by adaptation focal points from the respective lead departments and agencies as well as the County and City Management Association (CCMA) and Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) on behalf of local government. The Council acknowledges and thanks the lead departments, agencies, CCMA and CAROs for their active participation in the scorecard process.

The assessment of the questionnaire responses was carried out by staff members from the secretariat of the Climate Change Advisory Council with support from a subset of members of the Adaptation Committee. The final assessment is based on activities undertaken in the period April 2024 - March 2025 in the implementation of adaptation policy and contributions to increasing resilience with respect to the following three categories:

1. **Governance and Resourcing** – the extent to which systemic coordination of adaptation actions and planning is in place across sectors and scales with relevant Departments, agencies and Local Authorities putting in place the necessary human and financial resources for climate change adaptation.
2. **Risk and Adaptive Management** – the extent to which efforts are being made to understand and address current and future climate risks, knowledge gaps and to proactively overcome barriers to adaptation.
3. **Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming** – whether adaptation is being mainstreamed into policies, plans, strategies, programmes and frameworks and implementation of SAPs and adaptation-related policies are resulting in meaningful impacts for climate resilient development.

These factors are considered key for the successful implementation of adaptation policy and for adaptation preparedness. The third category on policy implementation and mainstreaming sought to also acquire information on the impacts of policy implementation and mainstreaming on different aspects of climate resilience. A scoring system was used to assess responses to the questionnaires. This system was consistent with the approach taken in previous years to measure the level of progress as shown in Figure 1.

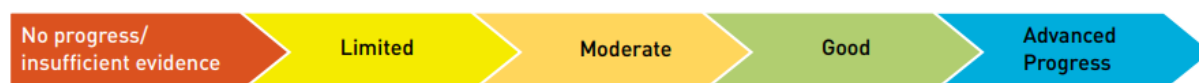


Figure 1: Scoring system used to track adaptation progress in the CCAC 2022 Annual Review.

The assessment was achieved through detailed review and screening of responses against the assessment criteria per category outlined in the following text box:

Governance and Resourcing

- Systematic coordination of sector activities and cross-cutting issues with clear ambition for adaptation and leadership buy-in.
- Appropriate financial resourcing is being applied to achieve policy goals and to deliver measures that enhance resilience of the sector to climate change.
- Appropriate human resourcing is in place to ensure that adaptation is being mainstreamed and the sector and for the effective implementation of adaptation plans.
- Proactive training of staff and stakeholders.

Risk and Adaptive Management

- Evidence of progress in monitoring and building knowledge of risks.
- All/majority of identified risks being addressed.
- Ability to focus and prioritise addressing more defined vulnerabilities and risks.
- Evidence that adaptive capacity is increasing and knowledge gaps being addressed with an effective interface between research and end user needs.

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

- Integration of adaptation issues into frameworks, policies, plans, programmes, strategies and guidelines.
- Evidence of developing and implementing new coherent policies and planning frameworks for climate change.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of SAP and relevant cross cutting issues and taking remedial measures where needed.
- Evidence long term decisions are accounting for the future climate.
- Pursuit of synergies between adaptation and mitigation.
- Demonstration of impacts of the sector's interventions in terms of infrastructure resilience, livelihood improvements and ecosystem health.
- Evidence of understanding and actions being taken to address emerging and cross-cutting issues relevant to the sector (such as, but not limited to nature-based solutions, maladaptation and just resilience).

Once scores were allocated for each of the three categories, an overall score was determined for each sector based upon these. A summary of the overall results is presented in Section 2, which also includes the main findings and observations across the three categories of the scorecard as they relate to adaptation: (i) governance and resourcing; (ii) risk and adaptive management, and (iii) policy implementation and mainstreaming. It also includes a sub-section on progress in the implementation of the action plans in the SAPs. Section 3 provides a detailed breakdown of the findings for each of the sectors assessed.

2. Summary of Results

2.1 Overall Summary of Results

The summary results of the overall assessment on progress demonstrated during the period April 2024 - March 2025 are that:

- No sector demonstrated advanced progress
- Four sectors demonstrated good overall progress
- Four showed moderate progress
- Two showed limited progress
- One sector showed no progress with insufficient evidence supplied

This was a slight decline compared to the scorecard results in 2024 with the same four sectors receiving an overall rating of good (transport, flood risk management, built and archaeological

heritage and local government); four sectors receiving a rating of moderate (agriculture, forestry and seafood, electricity and gas networks, water quality and water services infrastructure and DCEE for the coordination of the National Adaptation Framework); and two receiving a rating of limited (communications networks and health). Biodiversity (DHLGH) received an overall rating of no progress / insufficient evidence.

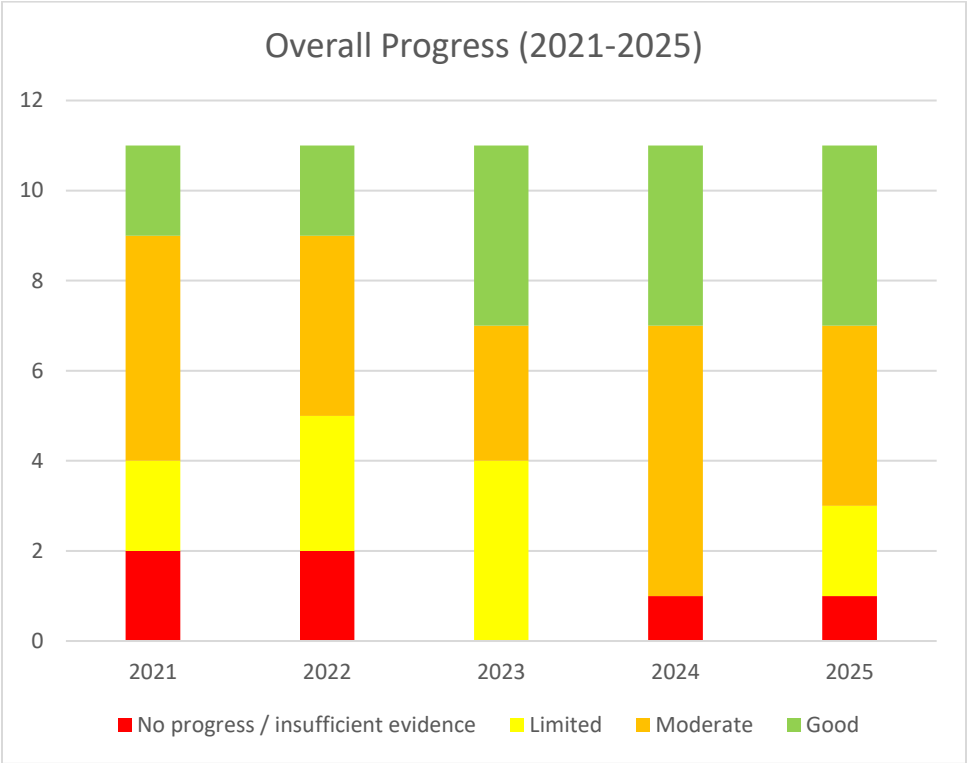


Figure 2: Trends in overall progress across sectors (2021-2025).

2.2 Findings and observations per category

2.2.1 Governance and resourcing

The biggest improvement was evident in the category of governance and resourcing, with one sector receiving an advanced rating, five receiving a good rating, three moderate, one limited and one receiving a rating of no progress. This was mainly due to lead departments and agencies strengthening their governance structures and putting in place expanded core and planning teams for the preparation of their new SAPs due to be delivered in late 2025. Several departments and agencies have active structures integrating national and local action and were proactively monitoring and reviewing the implementation of their SAPs. It is vitally important that the core and planning teams actively oversee the implementation and monitoring of the new SAPs, including actions to address cross-cutting risks.

Considerable challenges remain around financing, human resources and lack of prioritisation of adaptation within broader climate action programmes and activities. Very few lead departments

and agencies have dedicated financial resources for adaptation, know their investment needs over the short and long term or are able to report on adaptation-related expenditure on an annual basis. Local authorities are acutely challenged by a lack of financial resources. Lead departments and agencies and semi-state entities should prioritise the funding of adaptation measures through annual allocations, the National Development Plan review and its multi-annual funding mechanisms. They should also ensure close integration with local authorities. The funding of several key semi-state entities is linked to the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU), and the greater emphasis on funding for resilience measures in the electricity and gas sector's 6th price review mechanism is welcomed.

Several departments expanded their human resources dedicated to adaptation and resilience, although this is from a low base and needs to be further accelerated given the scale of the challenge to enhance Ireland's climate resilience. For example, the DCEE appointed two additional staff members to its adaptation team, which has allowed it to provide greater support to other lead departments and agencies that are developing SAPs. The temporary nature of climate action posts within local authorities is identified as an acute risk to the delivery of the LA CAPs and efforts to make these posts permanent, including those with a focus on adaptation, urgently need to be expedited. In-depth human resources needs assessments should be undertaken by each lead Department and agency for the SAPs and these should be carried out for the broader sector. There was mixed performance in capacity building initiatives with some lead agencies such as Office of Public Works (OPW) actively training internal and external stakeholders on adaptation-related issues. Several departments are not actively building climate change adaptation capacity across their sectors and most capacity building initiatives were focused on mitigation activities and broader aspects of environmental sustainability.

2.2.2 Risk and adaptive management

Under risk and adaptive management, no sector received an advanced rating, five sectors received a rating of good, three moderate, two limited and one received a rating of no progress.

Storm Éowyn has brought increased attention to extreme weather-related risks and Ireland's existing adaptation and resilience deficit. The development of the first National Climate Change Risk Assessment (NCCRA) marked a significant step forward, helping departments to identify relevant risks in the upcoming SAPs. However, only a limited number of sectors have conducted their own risk assessments, despite being called for in the Sectoral Planning Guidelines for Climate Change Adaptation. There is also a clear need to move beyond understanding climate risks to actively addressing them, and for improved identification and understanding of cross-sectoral, cascading and transboundary impacts that can inform the required adaptation measures. Strong collaboration between sectors and local authorities is necessary to ensure that the priority risks identified in the NCCRA are effectively addressed at the local level.

While sectoral departments and agencies have supported research efforts, a research and innovation gap analysis is encouraged to better direct future efforts in adaptation measures. It is

important that sectors respond to the identified research and innovation gaps in the National Adaptation Framework and use findings from research to inform policy development.

Sectors benefited from engaging in cross-sectoral and international networks, workshops supporting the development of the NCCRA, as well as from the use of TRANSLATE data. These have been reported to be valuable resources in helping stakeholders plan for how to handle emerging climate impacts and risks.

2.2.3 Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Under policy implementation and mainstreaming, no sector received an advanced rating, four sectors received a rating of good, five moderate, one limited and one no progress.

Overall, efforts have been made to implement planned actions in SAPs, although the level of progress varies across sectors. Key performance indicators, milestones, and outcomes are lacking and need to be included in the next iteration of the SAPs, with the aim of demonstrating higher levels of ambition, alongside enhanced monitoring and implementation mechanisms.

After the first year of LA CAPs implementation, 78% of overall actions are either in progress or completed, demonstrating a strong commitment by local authorities to delivering climate action. However, the Council is concerned that only 13% of actions are classified exclusively as adaptation actions although it is noted that 49% of actions are classified as addressing both adaptation and mitigation. It is important for lead departments and agencies and local authorities to collect more data and case studies to better assess whether and how LA CAPs and SAPs actions are contributing to climate resilience.

Continued mainstreaming of adaptation into policies and funding initiatives is urgently needed across sectors. Notably, there has been improved consideration of climate adaptation in the revised National Planning Framework. It is hoped that this and the revised National Development Plan will lead to multi-annual funding commitments for climate adaptation capital projects.

2.3 Implementation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans

With the first iteration of the SAPs coming to an end in 2025, lead departments and agencies were requested to provide reports on the implementation of actions outlined in their SAPs during the period 2019-2025. Lead departments and agencies were further invited to provide an assessment of progress against each action and whether each action was complete, ongoing or incomplete / delayed. A total of 229 actions were set out in the first iteration of SAPs and the assessment found that only 28% were completed, 55% were considered to be ongoing and 17% delayed or incomplete. The breakdown per lead department / agency is included in figure 3.

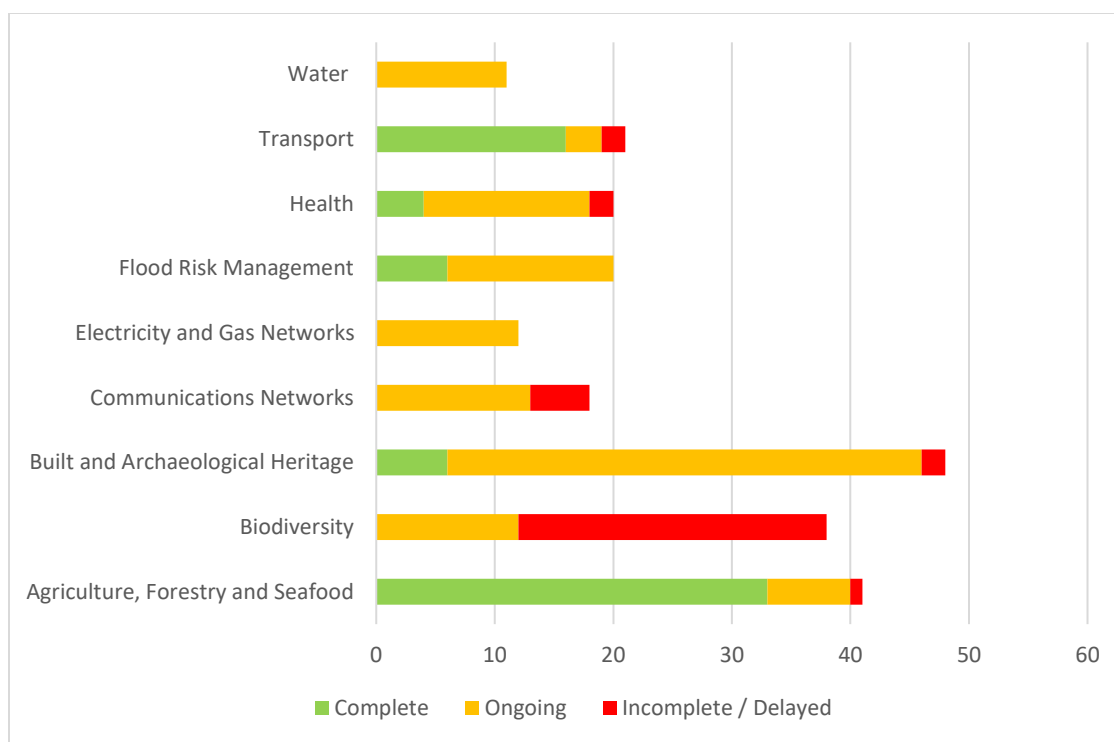


Figure 3: Progress in implementation of SAP actions (2019-2025).

The lack of specificity and general nature of most actions in the SAPs makes it difficult to assess progress and monitor and review implementation of these plans. The actions in the SAPs also had a strong focus on actions to understand the risks, vulnerabilities and impacts of climate change and the Council expects that the next iteration of SAPs will focus much more on the implementation of tangible measures, practices and technologies that enhance the resilience of infrastructure, communities and ecosystems.

3. Breakdown of Findings per Sector

The breakdown of findings in this section is provided first for the 2024 National Adaptation Framework and LA CAPs given their overarching nature, followed by the sectors according to the thematic areas identified in the 2024 National Adaptation Framework. This includes natural environment, built environment and infrastructure, human and economy.

3.1. National Adaptation Framework and Local Government

The scorecard assessed the performance of DCEE in coordinating the 2024 NAF as well as local government at an aggregate level in the implementation of adaptation actions in the LA CAPs. Table 2 presents their overall scorecard results for the period 2021-2025. DCEE has consistently received a rating of moderate for coordinating the implementation of the National Adaptation Framework and driving the policy agenda on adaptation. The performance of local government was rated good over the past four years although it is recognised that their effectiveness in

implementing adaptation actions is hampered by a number of systemic challenges that are elaborated further in section 3.1.2.

Table 2: Summary of overall results for the implementation of the National Adaptation Framework and Local Government (2021-2025)

<div> ■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced </div>					
Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
National Adaptation Framework	■ Moderate	■ Moderate	■ Moderate	■ Moderate	■ Moderate
Local Government	■ Moderate	■ Good	■ Good	■ Good	■ Good

3.1.1 National Adaptation Framework

DCEE was rated as moderate overall in coordinating the implementation of the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) as per Table 3.

Table 3: Breakdown of 2025 results for the implementation of the National Adaptation Framework.

<div> ■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced </div>	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	■ Moderate
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	■ Moderate
Risk and adaptive management	■ Good
Overall	■ Moderate

Governance and resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The DCEE chairs the National Adaptation Steering Committee (NASC) and is responsible for driving the national adaptation policy agenda forward in collaboration with stakeholders. The NASC is a useful platform to share information and bring technical officials from across Government agencies to discuss issues and challenges relating to adaptation. The Council has previously called for the NASC to have a stronger role in ensuring cross-sectoral issues are given systematic consideration in relation to adaptation action and are integrated across policies and plans as appropriate [6]. The Council therefore welcomes the work of the Senior Officials Sub-Group to examine the delivery of adaptation measures and whether existing governance structures for identifying risks, allocating responsibility, delivering actions and ensuring oversight are in place and working effectively. It is hoped that this report will result in strengthened inter-departmental governance structures for adaptation and that regular scrutiny and monitoring of adaptation actions is included at the highest level of Government. It is further noted that

governance structures for adaptation are under review and that new governance structures will be put in place to provide for enhanced accountability for and ownership of sectoral risks, to address cross-cutting risks and to improve monitoring and evaluating the cumulative impact of SAP implementation.

The Council welcomes the addition of two new staff to DCEE's adaptation team and the strengthened coordination support that this has allowed towards the development of the SAPs and the DCEE representation on relevant SAP planning teams. Given the importance of climate resilience as part of the national climate objective and the need to systematically address the risks outlined in the NCCRA, DCEE's adaptation team should be further expanded.

Broader DCEE support to local authority climate action staff has been very important with 62 climate action coordinator and climate action officer posts supported as well as community climate action officers and the CAROs. The current lack of permanency of these roles is considered a critical risk to the successful implementation of the LA CAPs and the undertaking of adaptation actions at community level. It is welcomed that the permanency of these roles is being addressed and it is recommended to urgently finalise the business case for making each of these roles permanent. The Council also notes that the annual budget for the CAROs has remained the same since their establishment in 2019. The Council also recommends for the annual budget to the CAROs during the period 2023-2029 to be increased given the important and increasing role of the CAROs in supporting the delivery of the LA CAPs and urgency of adaptation needs.

With Ireland being increasingly affected by compounding and cascading impacts from extreme weather events, increased ownership and efforts to address cross-cutting issues and transboundary risks are needed.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress on risk and adaptive management was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Ireland's first NCCRA was developed during the period under review and was subsequently published on 3rd June 2025 [7]. It sets out priority climate risks and establishes a strong, common basis for national and sectoral climate change risk assessment in Ireland. Good overall engagement with sectors in the development was observed and efforts were made to circulate the draft risk register and list of risk interdependencies with sectors to inform the development of their SAPs. DCEE should continue to work with the EPA in ensuring that the critical identified risks are addressed through the different SAPs, implementation of measures to reduce exposure and vulnerability to the risks are monitored, and to see to it that the risks in the NCCRA are regularly reviewed and updated. A next iteration of the NCCRA should be carried out in advance of the next LA CAPs and SAPs.

DCEE has played a limited role in monitoring and evaluating the cumulative impact of SAP implementation and it is hoped that new governance structures will allow it to play a more active role in this area. Further focus is also needed to ensure that the EPA programme of research comprehensively addresses adaptation research and knowledge gaps identified in the National Adaptation Framework and Irish Climate Change Assessment. The EU Adaptation Strategy also emphasises the need for a smarter and more systemic adaptation through innovation, improved knowledge, data, and decision-support tools[8]. The interpretation and application of data relating to climate change modelling, projections and impacts remains a challenge and DCEE should continue collaborating closely with EPA, Met Éireann, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), OPW and other data providers to ensure that climate projections, risk data, flood data and other adaptation research provides a solid evidential underpinning to the adaptation actions undertaken by all stakeholders.

Limited awareness among the general public of climate change adaptation continues to be a challenge. Initiatives such as the National Dialogue on Climate Action, Climate Action Works and Climate Conversations should have a stronger adaptation focus to develop a greater appreciation of climate adaptation challenges, policies and actions in the public.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress on policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The review and finalisation of the National Adaptation Framework in June 2024 was a significant development to guide Ireland's agenda on adaptation over the next five years. A report on the implementation of actions during the first year of the NAF was also provided. A high volume of process actions was reported as completed but greater reflection is needed on the impacts of these actions and whether the expected outcomes are being achieved in areas such as research, information and data support to sectors and the delivery of the LA CAPs.

DCEE officials have been actively engaging with sectors to ensure that the revised Sectoral Adaptation Plan guidelines, published in 2024[9], are followed by each of the sectors that are in the process of developing their SAPs. This has included advice on approaches to public consultations, the Appropriate Assessment / Strategic Environmental Assessment process and on finance for adaptation actions through Department exchequer bids, using the EU Taxonomy and the NDP process. The DCEE workshops, held in September 2024 and March 2025, supported sectors on the implementation of sectoral guidelines and on crosscutting issues. Continued close coordination and oversight is needed from DCEE to ensure that the SAPs contain ambitious and measurable targets and indicators, improved budgeting and clear ownership of actions to ensure critical cross-sectoral risks are addressed.

The positive efforts to mainstream issues of adaptation and resilience into the revised National Planning Framework [10] are noted. It is hoped that this will lead to multi-annual funding

commitments for climate adaptation capital projects in a range of areas beyond flood relief schemes and to ensure that existing and future infrastructure is climate resilient.

3.1.2 Local Government

The local government sector was rated as good overall for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per the breakdown in Table 4. The scorecard submission demonstrated considerable achievements, innovation and commitment at local authority level in implementing adaptation actions. Local authorities are affected by underlying systemic challenges that are unsustainable and highly likely to negatively impact the delivery of LA CAPs. These include lack of funding for climate action capital projects, temporary nature of climate staff contracts and insufficient numbers of staff for climate action overall. Without concerted efforts and strengthened cooperation from central government to address these challenges, the Council is concerned that the actions in the LA CAPs will not be delivered. Stronger cooperation mechanisms are needed between central and local government to fund and implement specific adaptation actions at local level to increase climate resilience and enhance biodiversity across a range of areas.

Table 4: Breakdown of 2025 results for the local government sector.

<div><div>No progress / insufficient evidence</div><div>Limited</div><div>Moderate</div><div>Good</div><div>Advanced</div></div>	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

Governance and resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Strong governance structures are in place at local level for the implementation of the LA CAPs. Increased evidence of cross-directorate collaboration and leadership was evident although there is considerable variation among local authorities. All climate action governance structures at local authority level need to prioritise issues of adaptation and resilience.

The scorecard submission showed efforts being made by local authorities to access national and EU funding streams. However, access to funding for climate action capital projects and even smaller activities linked to climate awareness and outreach activities is a critical challenge for local authorities. Strengthened cooperation between central and local government is needed to fund and deliver specific local adaptation actions that build climate resilience and support

biodiversity. The avenues for local authorities to attract funding for climate adaptation through public private partnerships are limited. Moreover, the submission noted significant risks to the Community Climate Action Fund at the time when it is most needed to be upscaled due to the high level of turnover in Community Climate Action Officer posts. There is a risk that the competitive nature of funding for the Community Climate Action Fund will omit the most vulnerable disadvantaged communities and the Council recommends that these communities are more carefully considered and targeted in future funding calls.

The support from DCEE for climate action posts at local authority and CARO level has been a critical resource for climate action in local authorities. The Council considers the lack of permanency of these roles a critical risk to the successful implementation of the LA CAPs and the undertaking of adaptation actions at community level. It is recommended to urgently finalise the business case for making these roles permanent. The Council also recommends for the annual budget to the CAROs during the period 2023-2029 to be increased given the important and increasing role of the CAROs in support the delivery of the LA CAPs and given the increased scope of the LA CAPs having incorporated climate mitigation actions. Local authorities need to strengthen outreach, communications and awareness activities with local communities.

The development of the new Local Authority Climate Action Training Plan for 2024-2027 is welcomed. It was noted that five training courses were delivered to 3,869 people in areas of championing leadership, delivering action (outdoor), delivering action in emergency management, raising awareness and actioning policy. Adaptation and climate resilience need to be incorporated as fundamental elements in these training modules.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It was noted that all local authorities undertook a qualitative assessment of risks as part of the LA CAP development process. All local authorities should integrate climate risks into their risk registers and report regularly to Councils on the measures being undertaken to address these risks as well as any gaps. Close cooperation between sectors and local authorities is needed to ensure that the key risks identified in the NCCRA are being satisfactorily addressed at local authority level.

Local authorities have an important role to play in ensuring better preparedness for and response to extreme weather events and are a designated lead agency for such under the National Emergency Framework. In 2024 this coordination role was activated for the many significant weather events, including notably severe storms such as Storms Bert, Éowyn and Darragh. The CAROs should work on expanding promising approaches to all local authorities such as the WIRE App for monitoring costs and impacts from extreme weather events and other approaches such

as the Severe Weather Event Management System in early warning and managing the response to extreme events at local scale and in real-time to support affected communities.

Mixed progress was observed across local authorities in the implementation of activities in decarbonising zones. The lack of specific funding mechanisms for decarbonising zones is a common challenge and will result in inconsistent application of activities in decarbonising zones. The Council considers decarbonising zones to be of vital importance in showcasing sustainable living and best practices in adaptation, mitigation and nature-based solutions among local authorities and therefore calls for the establishment of a dedicated funding mechanism for these zones.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The reporting period of the scorecard coincided with the first year of implementation of the LA CAPs. The 31 LA CAPs contain a total of 3,935 actions with 13% of these actions classified as climate adaptation and 49% classified as a combination of adaptation and mitigation[11]. The Council is concerned about the low share of specific adaptation actions in the LA CAPs and decarbonising zones. Approximately 78% of overall actions are in progress or completed, showing a high level of commitment of local authorities to implementing activities. The Council is concerned that the future delivery of LA CAPs will be compromised by external factors linked to staffing and financial resources unless these factors are urgently addressed.

Several local authorities have taken positive steps to bring climate change considerations into plans and operational procedures including strategic policy committees, corporate plans, development plans and local economic and community plans. This should be systematically tracked across local authorities as well as its impact in improving climate action.

Local authorities were able to demonstrate positive examples of impactful and innovative projects being implemented in the areas of climate adaptation and resilience and with co-benefits for health and biodiversity. Further links and information on these case studies could have been provided and should also be shared with other local authorities to facilitate peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange.

Institutions with a role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of climate actions (National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC), CCMA and DCEE) should ensure that streamlined reporting and an outcomes-focused approach for common key performance indicators (KPIs). This should reduce the reporting burden on climate action teams within local authorities and allow for a better monitoring of progress in the achievement of outcomes across the areas of governance, natural environment and green infrastructure, built environment and infrastructure, community resilience and transition.

3.2. Natural Environment

The thematic area of natural environment covers the sectoral adaptation plan on biodiversity¹. A late submission was received with limited information from the National Parks and Wildlife Service for biodiversity. It was therefore rated as no progress / insufficient evidence. This is of considerable concern given that Ireland is in a climate and biodiversity emergency and the need for more ambitious action in relation to both climate and biodiversity. The need to deliver a National Restoration Plan by late 2026 and that the impacts of adaptation and resilience measures are mandated to be accounted for in that exercise raise further concern.

3.3. Built Environment and Infrastructure

The thematic area of built environment and infrastructure outlined in the 2024 NAF includes the SAPs for (i) communications networks (ii) electricity and gas networks (iii) flood risk management (iv) transport and (v) water services infrastructure². Table 5 presents the overall scorecard results for these sectors during the period 2021-2025. Flood risk management has consistently received a rating of good. The transport sector demonstrated the strongest progress in this thematic area and the sector has received a good rating since 2023, improved from moderate in both 2021 and 2022. The electricity and gas networks sector received an overall rating of moderate, which was a slight improvement on previous ratings. The communications networks sector received a limited rating in 2025 compared to a moderate rating in 2024, and an improvement on the limited rating received in 2023 and 2022 and the no progress / insufficient evidence rating in 2021.

¹ Water quality is also included under the theme of natural environment. However, its sectoral adaptation plan covers both water quality and water services infrastructure and this is considered under the thematic area of built environment and infrastructure.

² Built environment and planning is also included under this thematic area in the 2024 NAF. However, these sectors have not been considered in the 2025 scorecard as there is no sectoral adaptation plan in place.

Table 5: Summary of overall results for the built environment and infrastructure thematic area (2021-2025).

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced

Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Transport	Moderate	Moderate	Good	Good	Good
Flood risk management	Good	Good	Good	Good	Good
Water quality and water services infrastructure	Good	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
Communications Networks	No progress / insufficient evidence	Limited	Limited	Moderate	Limited
Electricity and Gas Networks	Limited	No progress / insufficient evidence	Limited	Moderate	Moderate

3.2.1 Transport

The transport sector was rated as good overall for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per Table 6.

Table 6: Breakdown of 2025 adaptation scorecard results for the transport sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced

Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	Advanced
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	Good
Risk and adaptive management	Good
Overall	Good

Governance and Resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as advanced for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The Department of Transport has a robust governance structure in place for adaptation. This includes the Climate Adaptation, Research and Energy Division, the Core Transport Adaptation Team and the T-SAP II Steering Group. It is noted that a large volume of relevant stakeholders are represented in the planning team and key divisions of DoT are represented. Positive progress is shown through the annual review of the membership of these groups, conducted using their Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning (MREL) Framework. The Department also engages at an international level, and in cross-sectoral working groups.

The Department has allocated significant financial resources to adaptation. However, funding continues to be one of the highest ranked challenges for stakeholders. Detailed information is provided on financial resources for national roads and greenways, but it is noted that adaptation-related expenditure for regional and local roads has not increased over the past 5 years[12]. Ongoing tracking of adaptation-related budget allocations across sub-sectors is still needed to monitor trends in investment and financial needs.

The Department has organised various workshops to support the development of the next SAP, which were attended by a range of stakeholders. However, the number of training events has decreased compared to previous years, and there is still a need for a targeted programme to address adaptation skills and capacity gaps in the broader sector.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The Department is commended for conducting a detailed climate change risk assessment for the transport sector. The assessment covered all transport modes in detail, followed the SAP Guidelines and the NCCRA Technical Guidance [13] and included stakeholder consultation. Additionally, it is noted that Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) has published their Climate Change Risk Assessment Methodology [14]. The Department also reported on its active engagement process with NCCRA. Targeted adaptation measures to reduce vulnerability and exposure to these risks are expected to be included in the 2025 SAP.

It is noted that the sector is engaged in different research projects. TII has contributed to two significant research efforts: Implementation of Climate Adaptation Indicators: Lessons Learned from the Transport Sector [15] and Impact of Climate Change on TII's drainage system (not yet published). Future submissions would benefit from an analysis of critical research gaps that need to be addressed.

The Department has made effective use of available support services in developing the new SAP. The sector's suggestions to develop guidance on data application for stakeholders and to create an open-source platform with useful resources for both the public and practitioners are also well noted.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It is noted that most of the actions in the SAP are general, but that a substantial body of work has been implemented, 16 out of 21 actions are completed. The adoption of robust key performance indicators and milestones across road, rail, port, and airport infrastructure would enable a more

precise assessment of progress. This, along with a more ambitious action plan, is expected to be included in the 2025 SAP. The MREL work represents a very positive and proactive approach, demonstrating a focus on evaluation and learning rather than just monitoring.

There have also been strong efforts to mainstream adaptation into policies and plans. The publication of the Transport Appraisal Framework [16], the inclusion of climate adaptation in the Issues Paper for the National Ports Policy Review consultation [17], and the provision of technical guidance to manage climate adaptation are signs of positive progress. Future scorecard submissions should provide more detailed information on wider benefits and positive impacts of case studies.

3.2.2 Flood Risk Management

The flood risk management sector was rated good overall for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per the breakdown in Table 7.

Table 7: Breakdown of 2025 results for the flood risk management sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

Governance and resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The OPW has a clear governance structure in place to plan and implement their actions. This includes the Climate Action Coordination Group, the Core Team for the development of the new SAP, and the Planning Team with key stakeholders and partners. Active engagement with sectors remains an important consideration. The OPW engages actively on pluvial flooding and drainage issues through the National Floods Directive Coordination Group and with the Water Framework Directive authorities on initiatives to achieve water quality improvement, flood risk reduction and other co-benefits.

The OPW has allocated significant financial resources for adaptation activities. It is noted that a substantial portion of adaptation funding will go towards the development of Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Plans (SCCAPs) for existing and planned flood relief schemes. Additionally, the OPW has provided funding for research and pilot projects related to climate adaptation. Within

the OPW, a significant number of staff are engaged in activities related to adaptation, particularly through the Flood Risk Management and Climate Adaptation Division and the Climate Adaptation and Strategic Assessment Section. While the filling of staff quotas within OPW is challenging, it is actively addressing skills gaps through its Engineers Ireland-accredited CPD programme and has commenced a graduate Engineer Programme and recruitment of undergraduate students on short-duration contracts.

It is noted and commendable that a range of training events took place during the reporting year. There has been training for local authorities and stakeholder groups, such as engineers and the Land Development Agency, on scheme adaptation plans and flood risk management resources.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The flood risk management sector is actively addressing climate risks through prevention, protection, and preparedness measures. It is noted that in addition to developing SCCAPs for their existing schemes, the OPW are developing SCCAPs for future flood relief schemes being delivered under the National Development Plan. Procedures have been established to derive future scenarios and to inform assessments of flood risk, including the identification of Areas at Potentially Significant Flood Risk (APSFR). It was noted that these are subject to public consultation from March-April 2025. The OPW liaises with DFI Rivers in Northern Ireland on the identification and management of cross-border flood risks.

It is noted that the OPW is involved in various research initiatives supporting climate adaptation, including support to The Irish Hydrometric Reference Network (IHRN), a project on future short duration high intensity rainfall events for Ireland, the SLOWATERS project on nature-based solutions and collaboration on a research paper with the Central Bank to estimate flood damages for business borrowers.

The sector also reported that it has received support services through the NASC, the Climate Ireland Adaptation Network, workshops supporting the development of the NCCRA and identification of cascading risks, and the 5-nations Climate Change Group. The suggestion by the sector to enhance collaboration through workshops or greater alignment in planning between local government and the wider government sector is also well noted.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 - March 2025.

Updates on the progress of all Sectoral Adaptation Plan actions demonstrate a significant volume of activity. The adoption of robust key performance indicators and milestones would enable a

more precise assessment of progress, and this is expected to be included into the 2025 SAP. It is also vital that the new SAP includes adaptation indicators focused on outcomes and outputs to track progress and demonstrate resilience building in a targeted manner.

There is positive evidence of progress in developing plans and participating in programmes that integrate and mainstream climate adaptation activities. SCCAPs are the main instrument for mainstreaming climate change adaptation into flood risk management. It is welcome to note that SCCAPs are to be included in all new Flood Relief Schemes and are being brought into all existing schemes. This needs to be done in a robust and targeted manner. Positive progress is reflected on the development of the new technical appendix to the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. The appendix will provide practical advice on how to consider climate change in the context of planning and development management, in line with the principles set out in the Guidelines.

Reference was made to the Carrick-on-Shannon Flood Relief Scheme (FRS). It is noted that currently it is at Stage I, Scheme Development and Preliminary Design, and will shortly move to Stage II, Planning/Development Consent. Future scorecard updates should provide more information on minor flood mitigation works, tidal barriers and flood relief schemes that showcase positive interventions and impacts.

3.2.3 Electricity and Gas Networks

The electricity and gas networks sector was rated as moderate overall for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per table 8.

Table 8: Breakdown of 2025 adaptation scorecard results for the electricity and gas networks sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence

■ Limited

■ Moderate

■ Good

■ Advanced

Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

Governance and resourcing

Progress in governance and resourcing was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Since the previous scorecard submission, the Electricity and Gas Networks sector has made good progress in establishing governance structures. This includes the creation of a new SAP planning

team and core team. In 2025, DCEE has also assigned responsibility for SAP implementation and monitoring to a new established Technical Advisory Unit.

DCEE is regularly engaging with Eirgrid, Electricity Supply Board Networks (ESBN) and Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU). It is noted that Eirgrid has established an engineering and asset management team to assess climate related impacts to the Irish transmission system. In addition, ESBN has created a Resilient Network Section, and GNI has formed a Climate Action Steering committee to ensure an appropriate response to the national climate emergency. The DCEE and these entities should continue to strengthen governance structures for coordination of climate adaptation and resilience measures. The DCEE has also committed to conducting a skills gap analysis to identify and address training needs as part of its second sectoral adaptation plan.

The CRU is currently reviewing the Price Review 6 (PR6) business plan submissions from ESB Networks and EirGrid for 2026-2030 and it is planned to finalise the draft PR 6 Strategy[18] later in 2025. More detailed information on specific resources allocated for adaptation in DCEE is needed as well as a more detailed explanation of funded adaptation projects by the gas and electricity entities. Limited reflection or analysis of PR5 funding and its impact on adaptation efforts was provided and would be useful to track financing activities and trends.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress on risk and adaptive management was rated as moderate for demonstrated contribution during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Given that energy distribution and transmission assets are owned, operated, and maintained by the relevant energy network companies, risk identification and management are primarily the responsibility of these organisations, with CRU having an oversight role. It is welcomed that DCEE is playing a coordination role and hosting workshops with energy network stakeholders to inform climate impact screening and prioritisation activities and that cascading and transboundary risks are being considered. It is noted that EirGrid has conducted studies to identify the most significant risks to the Transmission System and has evaluated options to mitigate their impacts. ESB Networks has also taken steps to address certain risks, including the introduction of a new Timber and Vegetation Management procurement framework and the implementation of storm risk mitigation strategies. GNI has made notable efforts, including the creation of their Envirokit tool to assess climate risks as well as conducting climate change scenario modelling.

The SAP Planning team will participate in the steering committees of two EPA-funded research projects: “Enhance Climate Adaptation and Extreme Weather Resilience of Highly Renewable Penetrated Irish Electricity Network (CRIE)” and “RESCUE - Resilience Enhancement and Supportive Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit for Local Authorities”. It is also noted that ESB Networks maintains ongoing engagement with Irish universities to explore areas of climate adaptation, and that EirGrid is seeking to conduct further research on the transmission system.

Information on GNI research related to climate adaptation should be included in future submissions.

Stakeholders from the electricity and gas sector played a significant role in the development of the NCCRA and have participated actively in the Climate Ireland Adaptation Network (CIAN) and NASC networks. EirGrid, ESBN, and GNI have also been involved in various working groups and workshops. Key challenges identified include the NFCS's need to differentiate general support on climate projections, aligning climate adaptation approaches across sectors and addressing sector-specific needs, such as regulatory or design standards.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

A high-level report was provided on the implementation of actions identified in the Sectoral Adaptation Plan. The report provided a narrative update of progress against actions but the lack of clear indicators and deliverables in the plan makes it difficult to assess the degree of progress being made. It is recommended for the 2025 sectoral adaptation plan include clear milestones, deliverables and indicators that will make it easier to monitor and evaluate progress.

Efforts to mainstream climate resilience into policies and plans were noted including the greater integration of resilience issues into the PR6 process. The development of climate adaptation plans by both EirGrid and GNI is encouraging, but these are not yet completed. There is limited demonstration of infrastructure resilience measures and the Council remains concerned around the pace of implementation of these measures, especially given the cascading risk from power outages to other sectors. The degree to which issues of climate adaptation and resilience are integrated into other relevant policies and programmes (such as for offshore renewable energy and biomethane) requires careful assessment.

3.2.4 Water Quality and Water Services Infrastructure

The water quality and water services infrastructure sector received an overall rating of moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per Table 9.

Table 9: Breakdown of 2025 results for the water quality and water services sector.

<div> <div>No progress / insufficient evidence</div> <div>Limited</div> <div>Moderate</div> <div>Good</div> <div>Advanced</div> </div>	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

Governance and resourcing

Progress in governance and resourcing was rated as good for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) established new core and scoping teams to oversee the development and implementation of the next SAP. The scoping team includes a broad range of stakeholders including experts from DHLGH, EPA, CAROs, Uisce Éireann, Met Éireann, OPW, DAFM and NPWS. The DHLGH should ensure that the scoping team serves as the SAP oversight committee to robustly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SAP. Close cooperation is needed between the new SAP governance structure and those developing and managing other relevant policies, especially the Programme Delivery Office for the Water Action Plan [19] and the steering committee for the National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions [20].

DHLGH does not have a tracking mechanism for adaptation finance within the sub head of water as it is considered too complex to separate and apportion funding used for climate adaptation only. However, efforts could be made to provide reasonable annual estimates of financial expenditures related to climate change adaptation, through green budget tagging or similar approaches. Information was provided on a range of different funding streams containing adaptation elements. An overview of funding was also provided for Barriers Mitigation programme, Urban Nature-based solutions programme and Farming for Water Project, and this increased from €3m in 2024 to €7.8m in 2025. Greater support is needed to support the roll out of nature-based solutions in new public realm projects and to retrofit the use of nature-based solutions across all local authorities. The DHLGH needs to develop baselines of annual funding for resilience measures and track financing of relevant measures under different headings.

Limited information on staffing capacity or needs within the Department to coordinate adaptation actions within the sector was provided. The appointment of sustainable technical managers within Uisce Éireann and the establishment of a climate resilience community of practice by Uisce Éireann are notable developments. Good evidence was provided for training staff in different sectors and disciplines on nature-based solutions but there was no other evidence of training and

capacity initiatives relating to climate change adaptation. As part of developing its new SAP, the DHLGH should undertake an analysis of resource and skill gaps to identify and prioritise climate adaptation skills, training and re-training needs to address any identified skills gaps within the Department and wider sector.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Water security and supply is identified as a key risk area in the NCCRA. It was noted that Uisce Éireann undertook a project to assess the risk and resilience of fifty priority water and wastewater assets and eleven wastewater networks to climate change across multiple global temperature scenarios and different timelines out to 2100. Uisce Éireann should ensure that this project results in investment measures through its capital funding programme for 2025-2029^[21] to ensure improved adaptation and resilience at these sites.

Given the significant cascading risks to the economy, human health, biodiversity and agriculture from water scarcity and impaired water quality, the DHLGH is encouraged to develop a dedicated research programme to address knowledge gaps relating to climate change in the sector.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as moderate for demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

A high-level report was provided on the implementation of the SAP with all planned actions reported as ongoing. The SAP lacks specific and measurable targets, indicators and timelines to adequately measure progress in implementation. This aspect needs to be improved in the next SAP to allow for a more robust evaluation of progress and outcomes. It is also vital that the next SAP includes adaptation indicators focused on outcomes and outputs to track progress and demonstrate resilience building in a targeted manner.

The main policies and plans developed during the review period were the Water Action Plan and National Implementation Strategy for Nature-Based Solutions, both of which contain actions linked to climate change adaptation. Uisce Éireann has also developed a Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Strategy, which also focuses on ensuring that water and wastewater infrastructure is designed, built, operated, and maintained for climate resilience. Further work is required to ensure integration of adaptation into the 46 catchment plans that are under development, adequate and integrated preparedness for drought events, water conservation, retrofit and enhancement of urban drainage schemes to cope with extreme events and funding supports for the uptake of nature-based solutions.

3.2.5 Communications Networks

The communications networks sector was rated as limited overall based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per Table 10. Governance and resourcing structures have been strengthened to develop the new Sectoral Adaptation Plan, including improved engagement of private sector stakeholders. Efforts have also increased to enhance the resilience of communications infrastructure post Storm Éowyn, including through an increased focus of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce on issues of climate resilience and possible development of a plan of action for resilience and recovery by the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC). Greater focus on climate adaptation as part of the broader sustainability programmes of the Department³ and ComReg on research, training and initiatives is encouraged.

Table 10: Breakdown of 2025 adaptation scorecard results for the communications network sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

Governance and resourcing

Progress in governance and resourcing was rated as moderate based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Information was provided on governance structures that are in place and efforts that have been made to strengthen the core and planning teams for the development of the SAP. The engagement of external stakeholders including the regulator and some private operators in the planning team is welcomed and it is hoped that the strengthened structures will result in a more robust 2025 sectoral adaptation plan. It is noted that ComReg is represented in the National Emergency Coordination Group and that ComReg receives reports from operators following named storm events.

As part of developing its new SAP, the Department should undertake an analysis of resource and skill gaps to identify and prioritise climate adaptation skills, training and re-training needs to

³ Communications Networks has been transferred to the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport (DCCS), and is no longer under the remit of the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE).

address any identified skills gaps within the Department and wider sector. The think tank event, which linked private telecommunications companies and climate information providers such as GSI, OPW, EPA and Met Éireann, is welcomed and further such engagements should be developed.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as limited based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It is acknowledged that a vulnerability assessment was carried as part of the Climate Change and its Effect on Network Resilience report of 2022. A good understanding of the climate change risks facing the communications networks sector is available from this report and it also identified the broad resilience measures being implemented by operators. The impacts from Storm Éwoyn showed that mobile infrastructure was highly resilient to the physical impacts of the storm, and the majority of outages on the mobile network were the result of prolonged power outages on the electricity transmission network. The fixed communications networks infrastructure was more susceptible to physical impacts to its infrastructure from the storm. DCCS has noted the need for good battery back-up at certain sites and practical constraints around cost and size.

ComReg has been an active member of the Expert Group on the NCCRA Project and has provided valuable input to build the risk register for the communications sector. Positive developments were observed on research with ComReg and DCCS funding a climate and sustainability research programme that is being undertaken by ESRI. Greater integration of climate adaptation and resilience topics into this research programme is recommended to support innovation and new technologies for achieving sustainability and resilience outcomes.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as limited based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

A high-level report was provided on the implementation of actions identified in the Sectoral Adaptation Plan. The report provided a narrative update of progress against actions but the lack of clear indicators and deliverables in the plan makes it difficult to assess the degree of progress being made. It was also noted that the Department would be undertaking an end-of-term review of the implementation of the previous sectoral adaptation plan.

Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into general communications policy, and strategic objectives to 2050 was one of the key actions identified in the sectoral adaptation plan. This has occurred to a limited extent, with some positive developments post Storm Éowyn. The Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce is renewing its focus on adaptation, and resilience and the potential development of a plan of action for resilience and recovery by IBEC are referenced.

The Resilience of Critical Entities Regulations (transposed in October 2024)[22] was referenced as an important policy development and climate adaptation measures should be strongly promoted in the strategy for the resilience of critical entities that is to be developed by Department of Defence by Q1 of 2026. The Resilience of Critical Entities Regulations identifies ComReg as the competent authority for digital infrastructure. The resilience of digital infrastructure entities is also to be supervised as part of the supervision of cybersecurity risk-management measures under the legislation transposing the EU Directive on measures for high common level of cybersecurity across the EU[23]. The Directive provides detailed guidance for in-scope entities on risk management and incident reporting measures for all hazards.

3.3 Human

The human thematic area outlined in the 2024 NAF includes the SAPs for (i) built and archaeological heritage and (ii) health. Table 11 presents the overall scorecard results for these sectors during the period 2021-2025. The built and archaeological heritage sector has shown the most progress in this thematic area and the sector received a good rating each year since 2023, improved from moderate in both 2021 and 2022. Health received a limited rating in 2025 compared to a moderate rating in 2024 and limited in the previous two years.

Table 11: Summary of overall results for the human thematic area (2021-2025).

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced					
Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Built and Archaeological Heritage	■ Moderate	■ Moderate	■ Good	■ Good	■ Good
Health	■ No progress / insufficient evidence	■ Limited	■ Limited	■ Moderate	■ Limited

3.3.1 Built and Archaeological Heritage

The built and archaeological heritage sector was rated as good overall based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per the breakdown in Table 12.

Table 12: Breakdown of 2025 adaptation scorecard results for the built and archaeological heritage sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced	
Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	■ Good
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	■ Good
Risk and adaptive management	■ Good
Overall	■ Good

Governance and Resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as good based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Strong governance structures have been established for adaptation and were actively engaged during the reporting period, including the Climate Change Core Team. The Department organised plenary meetings, six working groups, and various workshops to support planning and monitoring the implementation of the SAP. An external partner, Carrig Conservation International, supports sectoral coordination and tracks progress toward the objectives of the SAP. While this approach has been effective, internal human resources dedicated to adaptation need to be continuously strengthened to help build internal adaptive capacity. The Department has also reflected on the effectiveness of its governance structures and has indicated an intention to enhance cross-sectoral engagement in the next SAP.

Detailed information was provided on budget allocations for a wide range of initiatives and projects. There is a dedicated budget sub-head for heritage climate action with an allocation of €200,000 for 2025 focused on research and consultancy services. In 2024, €16.4 million was spent on circa 800 projects aimed at improving the resilience of heritage assets to extreme weather impacts. Significant funding is also being directed toward targeted research. Further information on how these projects are prioritised to address climate risks and vulnerability and explanation of how financial resources are mobilised across the sector would be beneficial.

The Department participated in multiple climate-related training events. Although not all of these were focused on adaptation, it was considered that sectoral staff participation in climate action training and information sharing events contribute to an increase in climate awareness, knowledge of climate risks and to the development of skills and capacity. It is recommended to identify existing skill gaps within the department and broader sector and to develop targeted programmes to address these needs.

Risk and Adaptive Management

Progress under risk and adaptive management was rated as good based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It is noted that a semi-quantitative analysis has been conducted on all heritage assets within national datasets. This approach established a baseline risk assessment score for 195,593 individual heritage assets, using the NCCRA methodology and data from relevant government agencies. While this represents a significant step forward, future submissions should clarify how this data is being used to inform adaptation actions and provide more detail on cascading risks. Climate vulnerability assessments were developed for Sceilig Mhichíl and the Rock of Cashel. A full national GIS risk assessment of all sites in the Record of Monuments and Places and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage was undertaken.

There has also been strong investment in research, demonstrated by the commissioning of a Research Gaps Analysis Report. This report identified current knowledge gaps, proposed key research topics, and outlined potential funding streams. The Department implements a co-funding agreement with the EPA and participates in the Resilient Cultural Heritage EU Research Partnership. It is noted that the available support services are considered adequate. The Department also benefits from engagement with relevant departments and international partners, as well as from the use of TRANSLATE data. Suggestions for the continued development of coordination structures across government, and for merging relevant data into a single platform shared with other sectors, are well noted.

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

Progress under policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as good based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

There has been good progress in implementing the Sectoral Adaptation Plan: 73% of planned actions met their original objectives and 25% were partially achieved. The submitted Heritage Final Implementation Report adds valuable context to the monitoring of these actions. It is important that the new SAP includes adaptation indicators and milestones focused on outcomes to support more targeted progress tracking.

There is positive evidence of mainstreaming adaptation into various plans and programmes, including the Heritage Council's Strategic Plan for 2023-2028 [24], National Heritage Plan (Heritage Ireland 2030 – A Framework for Heritage)[25], the National Strategy for the Future Protection and Management of Ireland's Underwater Cultural Heritage (to be published), National Vernacular Strategy 'A Living Tradition' [26], National Policy on Architectural Places for People and the World Heritage Strategy for Ireland 2025–2035 (to be published). The DHLGH should review the impacts of these mainstreaming efforts. The work funded through various schemes for the historic built environment links both climate mitigation and adaptation, however it is further encouraged to integrate nature-based solutions into broader measures to protect and make heritage assets and sites more resilient.

Case studies were provided on training and capacity building, grant investments, and public awareness. Future submissions should include detailed information on the positive impacts and outcomes of these initiatives.

3.3.2 Health

The health sector was rated as limited overall based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per the breakdown in Table 13.

Table 13: Breakdown of 2025 results for the health sector.

■ No progress / insufficient evidence ■ Limited ■ Moderate ■ Good ■ Advanced

Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	Limited
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	Moderate
Risk and adaptive management	Limited
Overall	Limited

Governance and resourcing

Progress in governance and resourcing was rated as limited based on demonstrated contribution during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It was noted that new teams and structures were created to oversee the development of the new SAP. The Climate Change Team in the Department of Health sits within the Chief Medical Officer Division of the Department of Health, reporting directly to the Principal Office of the Health and Wellbeing Unit. Consultation and engagement with all key stakeholders in the development and implementation of the new SAP will be vital. The provision of more information on the main activities of governance structure, key stakeholders, and their engagement, will be expected in future scorecard submissions.

General information was provided on initiatives to ensure that sufficient financial resources are allocated for adaptation activities. Key focus areas in terms of adaptation are One Health, Antimicrobial Resistance, planning and guidance for heatwaves, skin cancer prevention, emergency preparedness and humanitarian support. It is noted that prioritising climate adaptation action against broader health sector expenditure remains a challenge for the Department of Health.

It was reported that the Climate Change Unit has engaged with the Department's Capital Infrastructure to prioritise climate adaptation expenditure proposals and this should be accelerated in the sector's financing activities. More detailed information on annual or multi-annual budget expenditures relating to climate resilience is needed in future scorecard submissions.

More detailed information on human resources available relating to adaptation within the department and agencies is needed and a skills gaps analysis within the broader sector should be conducted. It was noted that senior officials in Health Dept and HSE attended "Capacity building in respect of climate adaptation and mitigation issues" training. The Department should actively develop a programme of resilience and adaptation training and workshops to address identified training needs and skill gaps.

Risk and adaptive management

Progress in risk and adaptive management was rated as limited based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

It is noted that climate risks have been elevated on the Department of Health Risk Register to the most serious status. Positive progress is reflected on implementation of recommendations from the Emerging Health Threats Steering Group Report 2024. A more detailed explanation of actions taken, and data sources used to address the most significant climate risks would have been useful. The Department also needs a deeper analysis and identification of cross-cutting, cascading and transboundary risks facing the sector. It is noted that the Department has been highly engaged in the NCCRA process and that health risks are included in the draft national climate change risk register. Concrete actions to address these risks should be prioritised in the new SAP.

The Department continues to engage with the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning in respect of extreme weather events and continues to implement measures under the National Skin Cancer Prevention Programme [27]. There are considerable research gaps in this sector around issues such as mental health impacts of extreme weather events, identification of vulnerable groups, early warning and surveillance systems for diseases. The Department of Health should increase its funding and support for climate-related research and capitalise further on the potential for collaboration and engagement in relevant research initiatives with other sectors and research institutions.

Policy implementation and mainstreaming

Progress in policy implementation and mainstreaming was rated as moderate based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Update on the progress of all Sectoral Adaptation Plan actions shows that efforts have been undertaken to implement planned actions. However, the adoption of more robust indicators and milestones would enable a more precise assessment of progress and is commended for the new SAP. It is also vital that the new SAP includes adaptation indicators focused on outcomes and outputs to track progress and demonstrate resilience building in a targeted manner.

There is some positive evidence of progress in developing plans and participating in programmes that integrate and mainstream climate adaptation. This includes Ireland chairing the international EHP Partnership for Health Sector Climate Action and attending “From Risk to Resilience: Effective Engagement on Climate Adaptation for Health at Sub-National Levels” session. In addition, it is noted that the Department is developing a successor to the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance [28] that will integrate climate adaptation considerations. Further work and collaboration is required to ensure that other SAPs integrate health considerations and promote activities that deliver co-benefits for people’s health.

The Department should carry out a more detailed assessment on the adequacy of how climate adaptation has been mainstreamed in all relevant health policies and to inform priority policy actions in the 2025 SAP. It is further recommended to continue analysing and identifying case studies within the health sector that showcase positive interventions for climate change adaptation.

3.4 Economic

The economic thematic area outlined in the 2024 NAF includes the SAPs for (i) agriculture, forestry and seafood and (ii) tourism⁴. The sector of agriculture, forestry and seafood received a moderate rating overall based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as it has done since 2023.

Table 14: Summary of overall results for the human thematic area (2021-2025).

No progress / insufficient evidence
Limited
Moderate
Good
Advanced

Sector	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

3.4.1 Agriculture, Forestry and Seafood

Progress in the agriculture, forestry and seafood sector was rated as moderate overall based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025 as per the breakdown in Table 15.

Table 15: Breakdown of 2025 adaptation scorecard results for the sector of agriculture, forestry and seafood.

No progress / insufficient evidence
Limited
Moderate
Good
Advanced

Category	Rating
Governance and resourcing	<div></div>
Policy implementation and mainstreaming	<div></div>
Risk and adaptive management	<div></div>
Overall	<div></div>

⁴ Tourism was not included in this scorecard report as it does not yet have a sectoral adaptation plan in place.

Governance and Resourcing

Progress under governance and resourcing was rated as moderate based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The Climate Change and Bioenergy Policy Division Adaptation Group and the Internal Adaptation Stakeholders Group (IASG) are the main governance structures for overseeing and coordinating adaptation measures. The IASG expanded its membership during the review period and includes relevant external agencies. A number of climate action groups are also operational within DAFM including the Climate Action Management Board (CAMB), chaired by the Secretary General. It is encouraged for adaptation actions from the sector to be more strongly incorporated in Climate Action Plans. The establishment of a seafood climate action unit is also welcomed, and it is encouraged for it to give necessary attention to advancing adaptation measures.

Regarding financing, several climate-related schemes have been implemented across sectors, including the Organic Farming Scheme [29], the Forestry Programme 2023–2027 [30], and the 2025 Local Authority Marine Infrastructure Scheme [31]. It is also noted that Teagasc has submitted a proposal for a Research Ireland Centre to enhance resourcing for climate adaptation across the agricultural land-use sector. Since the last scorecard submission, consideration has been given to tracking adaptation-specific finance, though this remains challenging and there was limited evidence provided. The Department should provide an annual breakdown of adaptation expenditure, along with indicators to assess the impact of financing in future submissions.

Overall, building capacity and increasing both human and financial resources for adaptation is necessary within the Department and among external agencies. Teagasc has reported that there are not sufficient human or research resources required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation. Efforts should be directed toward addressing these gaps and a skills analysis is required to identify capacity and training needs in the sector.

Risk and Adaptive Management

Progress under risk and adaptive management was rated as good based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

Following Storm Éowyn in January 2025, DAFM has leveraged its Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS 3) to support farmers in addressing damages from the storm. Additionally, a Forest Windblow Taskforce was established by the Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry, Horticulture, and Farm Safety. These were notable efforts in responding to storm damage, however an increased focus is needed in funding schemes to support proactive measures to reduce risks from and exposure to extreme events. Limited information was also provided on efforts to mitigate the risks from uncontrolled fires, which was one of the priority impacts in the Sectoral Adaptation Plan.

All subsectors are actively engaged in research, including projects such as AdaptForRes coordinated by Teagasc, PeatFor funded by DAFM, BIM's initiative on the early detection of harmful phyto and zooplankton in bays using eDNA, and the Marine Institute's involvement in the OceanICU Horizon Europe project and work to develop ocean climate projections covering the Irish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the coastal shelf. While these research efforts are promising, they remain in the early stages. As part of the development of the next SAP, an analysis of key research gaps should be undertaken to better direct future efforts in adaptation measures.

It is noted that Teagasc has expressed concern that adaptation is still not prioritised as most efforts remain focused on mitigation. The next Sectoral Adaptation Plan is expected to include more targeted actions that strengthen the Department's focus on adaptation.

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

Progress under policy and mainstreaming was rated as moderate based on demonstrated contributions during the period April 2024 – March 2025.

The IASG has been active in monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the SAP. Good progress was made in implementing the actions from the SAP. It was noted that many of the actions were process-based and were achieved early in the plan. The next iteration of the SAP should include more targeted and ambitious actions, along with defined milestones and indicators to better track progress and impact.

There has been moderate progress in mainstreaming adaptation into new policies, planning and financing frameworks that were published during the reporting period under review. The commitment to develop a policy framework to improve farmer viability and resilience under the DAFM new Statement of Strategy for 2025-2028 is welcome.

Other ongoing initiatives that have been continued during the reporting period included the National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development, National Strategy for Horticulture (2023-2027) and Ireland's Forestry Strategy (2023-2030). Although these strategies have potential for adaptation co-benefits, more data and case studies are needed to track if and how these plans are contributing to the climate resilience of the farming, forestry and seafood sector. It is also of concern that climate change risks are not factored into the Teagasc Marginal Abatement Cost Curve and that forestry schemes do not adequately take into account future climate projections. Greater support for adaptation measures to increase resilience to climate risks should be explored as part of the forestry programme mid-term review. Overall, there is a clear need to significantly scale up adaptation actions, programmes and support within the sector.

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Appendix A: Key timelines for the 2025 Adaptation Scorecard

- **10th February:** Questionnaire and guidance document to be issued to lead Departments / agencies, CCMA / CAROs and DCEE
- **February – 11th April:** Lead departments / agencies, CCMA / CAROs and DCEE complete the questionnaire⁵.
- **11th April:** Deadline for response to questionnaire to be submitted to the Council Secretariat.
- **26th May:** Provisional feedback to lead departments / agencies, CCMA/CAROs and DCEE,
- **June - July:** Write up and conclusion of scorecard report
- **September:** Publication of report with the Annual Review on Adaptation 2025.

⁵ CCAC secretariat is available to be engaged over this period if there are any clarifications needed.

Appendix B: Sample Questionnaires

Questionnaire - Sectoral Adaptation Plans

Governance and Resourcing

1. Outline the **structure and membership** (in terms of institution and position or role) of your **core, planning and implementation teams** and whether any changes have been made to the equivalent teams from the first SAP? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).
2. What initiatives did your department / agency take to ensure that there are sufficient **financial resources for adaptation** activities? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).
3. What has your Department / Agency done to ensure that there are sufficient internal **human resources** for climate change adaptation in your sector? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).
4. What training (informal and formal) was provided to personnel within the broader sector to **increase skills and capacity within climate adaptation**?
Suggested table for response below (add additional rows as required).

Date	Stakeholders	Event	Organised by	Purpose/Objective	No. of Attendees

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

5. Please provide an update on the **progress of all Sectoral Adaptation Plan** actions (i.e. each of the actions set out against each of your objectives). Please complete the **appended Excel Sheet** with all of the Sectoral Adaptation Plan actions. Please do add rows to report on any other significant progress made on issues relating to adaptation and resilience not covered by the Sectoral Adaptation Plan.
6. Did you develop any significant **policies, plans, programmes or regulations that integrated adaptation** over the last year and comment how adaptation was integrated into these documents? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).
7. Comment on the **adequacy of support services** you have received in planning for climate change impacts, including cross-cutting, cascading and compound impacts? Do you have any suggestions for improvement and supports on climate adaptation? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).

Risk and Adaptive Management

8. What **actions** have you undertaken in the past year **to address the most significant risks** posed by climate change? (*Suggested word count: 300-600 words*).
9. Indicate any **research** your Department / Agency has initiated or been involved in to overcome identified gaps in knowledge relating to climate change adaptation. (*Suggested word count: 300-600 words*).
10. Provide information on **any case studies** within your sector that showcase positive interventions for climate change adaptation (hyperlinks, media releases or detailed information).

Questionnaire - Local Government

Governance and Resourcing

1. Provide an assessment of the adequacy of **governance structures** for climate change adaptation within Local Authorities. Have the Local Authority Climate Action Plans led to any changes in governance structures and allocation of climate action staff within Local Authorities (*Suggested word count: 300-600 words*)?
2. *Are there specific **financial and human resources** issues affecting the performance of Local Authorities in implementing their Local Authority Climate Action Plans? What steps have been taken to address these?*
3. *Provide examples of any **initiatives taken by Local Authorities to ensure that there are sufficient financial resources** for adaptation activities at Local Authority level? (*Suggested minimum word count: 300-600 words*).*
4. Please provide details on the Local Authority Climate Action Training Programme. How were training needs identified and what **training** (informal and formal) which has been provided to local authority staff linked to build adaptive capacity. Please also provide details on the training provided to elected members.
Suggested table for response below (add additional rows as required).

Date	Stakeholders	Event	Organised by	Purpose/Objective	No. of Attendees

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

5. Provide an assessment of how actions for **adaptation, resilience and nature-based solutions** are covered in the Local Authority Climate Action Plans (including actions with co-benefits for adaptation and mitigation as appropriate) *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.
6. Provide an update on the **monitoring and evaluating progress** in implementing actions (including outcomes) relevant to adaptation and resilience across the Local Authority Climate Action Plans (2024-2029). *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.
7. Provide examples where adaptation has been **integrated or mainstreamed into** Corporate Plans, Local Authority Development Plans, Local Economic and Community Plans (LECP), Emergency Planning / Responses or any other local authority procedures, policies, and regulations. *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.
8. Provide examples of any other positive impacts or co-benefits generated by the implementation of Local Authority Climate Action Plans that were not covered above. *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.

Risk and Adaptive Management

9. How have climate risks been assessed, documented and responsibility for management assigned within Local Authorities (e.g. in a separate climate risk register or as risk items included in corporate risk registers)? How have climate risk registers informed the adaptation work of Local Authorities? *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.
10. What are the **most pressing challenges** being experienced in implementing Local Authority Climate Action Plans (apart from human and financial resources) in terms of climate change adaptation and resilience measures. Have any enabling conditions been put in place or are planned to address these challenges *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*?
11. Provide information on the progress made in terms of establishing and implementing adaptation and nature-based solutions measures in **Decarbonising Zones**? Include information on any challenges being experienced *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.

Questionnaire - National Adaptation Framework

Governance and Resourcing

1. What **governance structure(s)** does your Department currently have in place for climate change adaptation and what main activities were carried out to coordinate adaptation actions in the reporting period? *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*.
2. What initiatives did your department take to ensure that there are sufficient **financial resources for adaptation** activities relating to the implementation of the National Adaptation

Framework and Local Authority Climate Action Plans? *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*

3. What has your department done to ensure that there are sufficient **human resources** for climate change adaptation actions relating to the National Adaptation Framework and its coordination? *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*
4. *Outline the initiatives undertaken to ensure that cross-cutting issues and risks are planned for and managed effectively? (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*

Policy Implementation and Mainstreaming

5. Please provide an **update of progress on the key actions and identified supporting objectives** under the 2024 National Adaptation Framework. Please complete the **appended Excel sheet**. Please do add rows to report on any other significant progress made on issues relating to adaptation and resilience not covered by the National Adaptation Framework.
6. Outline the actions undertaken to **integrate adaptation** into other government policy such as the revised National Planning Framework *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*
7. Indicate how **communication and consultation** on adaptation and resilience has been undertaken across government at the national, regional, and local scales. *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words)*

Risk and Adaptive Management

8. Outline the role you see the National Climate Change Risk Assessment will play in addressing exposure and vulnerability to climate hazards in the short and long term? *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*
9. Outline actions taken in the last year to actively **monitor and evaluate the implementation progress** of the National Adaptation Framework, Sectoral Adaptation Plans and Local Authority Climate Action Plans. *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*
10. Identify and explain the **main challenges and enablers to climate adaptation and resilience** encountered over the reporting period. *(Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*
11. *Provide examples of **research** and other **innovations** that have been introduced (over the last year) that have **facilitated integration of adaptation into practices and policies**. (Suggested word count: 300-600 words).*