

**Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES**

**Date:** 26.01.2023

**Start time:** 09:30

**Venue:** MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Keith Lambkin; Roger Street; Jillian Mahon; David Joyce; Prof. Robert Devoy; Sinéad O'Brien; Mark Adamson; Dr. Ina Kelly; John Spink (from Item 3) (alternate, Teagasc)

Apologies: Julie Clarke, Mary Frances Rochford (alternate, EPA), Prof. Conor Murphy

Agenda Item 5: Prof. Iris Moeller, Trinity College Dublin

Agenda Item 6: Kevin McCormick and Seosamh O'Laoi, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Secretariat: George Hussey; Stephen Flood; Claire Camilleri; Jodie Colgan; Bryn Canniffe; Ciara Hilliard; Phillip O'Brien; Simon Ngorok

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. Intern Simon Ngorok was introduced and welcomed to the Secretariat.

It was noted that Paddy Mahon has not yet been replaced on the Adaptation Committee but the CCMA have advised that there will be a new member for the March 2023 meeting.

**a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2022 were agreed.

**b. Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**c. Disclosures of interest**

There were no disclosures of interest.

## 2. Council Update

The Secretariat briefed the Committee on the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

## 3. Secretariat Update

The Secretariat gave verbal updates on the following:

- **Update on small-scale study: International Adaptation Lessons for Ireland**

Pius Yanda has returned a third draft of the report. An internal review is being undertaken on the third draft.

- **Update on small-scale study: Adaptation Horizon Scan**

This study is progressing well and should be completed by end of Q1. Committee will be updated at an upcoming meeting.

- **Update on small-scale study: Farm Level Engagement on Adaptation**

This study is progressing well and should be completed by end of Q1. Committee will be updated at an upcoming meeting.

It was noted that Committee members would have the opportunity to review these studies before finalisation.

- **Verbal update on ECCA 2023 Engagement**

The Committee noted that the Secretariat have been in communication with the EPA and lead organisers. A call for papers and abstracts will be issued by the end of January.

The Secretariat proposed various options for engaging with the conference. It was agreed that the Secretariat would give consideration to the options and determine the which would be most suitable.

Roger Street updated the Committee on the current work of the organising committee.

It was noted that the Conference has six themes as follows:

- Climate Action: Support Through Climate Platforms and Services
- Adaptation Responses to Sea Level Rise and Coastal Change

- Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation
- Preparing for More Frequent and Severe Climate Extremes
- Reframing Societal Transformation, by Challenging Underlying Assumptions
- Climate and Social Resilience of Future Energy Infrastructure and Systems

- **Terms of Reference amendment**

An amendment to the 'Membership' section of the Adaptation Committee Terms of Reference was proposed in order to increase the minimum number of Committee members from four to eight. The Committee adopted the change as recommended. It was noted that the amendment would also be proposed to Council for adoption at the February 2023 meeting.

- **Workshop update**

The Secretariat updated the Committee on current plans for the May adaptation workshop and noted that a further meeting of the workshop subgroup would take place following the meeting.

- **EPA research project update**

The Committee considered the list of upcoming research being funded by the EPA and noted that the list is also being used to inform the Adaptation Horizon Scan small scale study.

#### **4. International Engagement**

- The Secretariat gave a summary of recent engagements that were held with the New Zealand Climate Change Commission, including roundtable events on nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation indicators and a field visit to the Maharees in Kerry on coastal adaptation. It was also stated that there would be upcoming Secretariat in-person engagements in New Zealand in February 2023.
- It was noted that reports were finalized with regard to the roundtables on nature-based solutions and climate change adaptation indicators and that policy notes were still to be developed on these issues.

- **COP27 side event round up**

The Secretariat outlined the meetings that they engaged with at COP27. They also briefed the Committee on the side events that they attended, in particular:

- ICCN side event at the Canadian Pavilion called 'From targets to Implementation and Accountability: The role of Climate Councils'
- An event hosted by Irish Aid called 'Climate Justice in Action: Solutions for enhancing adaptation and responding to loss & damage'.

It was noted that the ICCN sent a letter to the COP on the importance of the role of independent Councils.

Keith Lambkin also briefed the Committee on a particular side event of relevance hosted by the World Meteorological Organisation on the Systematic Observations Financing Facility at which Government Ministers, including from Ireland, pledged their funding.

- **International Climate Councils Network update**

The Secretariat attended the ICCN adaptation sub-group on adaptation. This group facilitates joint discussion through an informal knowledge sharing platform. A further meeting is upcoming in February at which a chairperson will be appointed and future topics of work that may be of interest will be outlined.

## **5. Research Presentation**

Prof. Iris Moeller, Trinity College Dublin, presented her ongoing research on nature-based solutions and climate action. The Committee thanked Prof. Moeller for her presentation.

## **6. Adaptation in NCAP**

Kevin McCormick and Seosamh O'Laoi, Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, presented the key issues on the adaptation elements of NCAP 2023. Kevin noted that communication was made across all sectors to ensure adaptation was considered across sectors. The Committee welcomed the further integration of adaptation actions across sectors within the NCAP 2023.

## 7. Annual Review 2023 Planning

- Adaptation Scorecard development

The Secretariat discussed the timeline for the dissemination and assessment of the sectoral scorecard and advised that the National Adaptation Steering Committee would also see the plans for same. It was noted that the scorecard questionnaires would be sent out the week after the meeting, providing a two-month response period. Assessment of questionnaires would take place in April and results would be presented to the Adaptation Committee in May. It was also noted that a workshop on the completion of the questionnaire was being considered.

Committee members discussed their role and involvement in the scorecard assessment process and the Secretariat would revert with a more detailed structure for the assessment. It was agreed that there should be a focus on improvements over the past year to allow for assessment of cumulative progress.

- Annual Review process

It was noted that engagement on the adaptation chapters of the Annual Review 2023 could be expected at the March and May meetings with a view to presenting final text for the June Committee meeting.

## 8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting

### a) Indicative Plan for 2023 meetings

The Secretariat presented an indicative outline of agenda items for each of the meetings scheduled for 2023.

It was noted that the June 2023 meeting had been rescheduled to an in-person meeting to coincide with Committee members' presence in Dublin for the ECCA conference. It was agreed that the meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> of September should be moved to the 7<sup>th</sup> of September and would be held virtually. The December meeting would be an in-person meeting. The indicative plan would be circulated to Committee members with a two-week response timeframe and changes would be agreed by silence procedure.

### b) Next meeting

The next Committee meeting would be held virtually on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2023.

P.W. 

Signed electronically 30.03.2023