

Principles and Features of a Good Adaptation Strategy

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A good adaptation strategy will

Principle 1: Incorporate and promote 'good adaptation' practice that is:

- Based on strategic thinking and evidence
- Flexible and evolving
- Sustainable
- Proportionate and integrated
- Efficient and equitable
- Collaborative
- Monitored, evaluated and reviewed
- Cross-referenced to mitigation policy
- Responsive to international climate change impacts
- Appropriate to the local context

Principle 2: Address governance and institutional issues

- Define adaptation and justify the need for adaptation and for adaptation policy
- Take a partnership approach
- Set out the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, including government

ClimateXChange is Scotland's Centre of Expertise on Climate Change, supporting the Scottish Government's policy development on climate change mitigation, adaptation and the transition to a low carbon economy. The centre delivers objective, independent, integrated and authoritative evidence in response to clearly specified policy questions.

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- Explain that conflicts of interest and synergies exist between stakeholders
- Stimulate (even establish the mechanisms for): vertical coordination and cross-sectoral coordination
- Establish the principle of 'mainstreaming'
- Build resilience and adaptive capacity, particularly at community level
- Integrate individual measures to enhance their synergies

Principle 3: Identify and prioritise the key risks and opportunities

- Explain the process used to prioritise them
- Highlight the range of adaptation responses which should be considered for each risk and opportunity – including tolerating or spreading losses
- Set out an approach to assess the impacts and trade-offs within and between options
- Recognise the value of and, if possible, identify win/win and low/no regrets options
- Strengthen adaptation policy in priority areas, especially to enable the uptake of no/low-regret actions and to prevent mal-adaptation

Principle 4: Resonate with stakeholders and catalyse action

- Demonstrate political commitment and leadership
- Communicate clearly and align with stakeholders' needs
- Provide flexibility to meet local needs
- Address the implementation needs of practitioners

Principle 5: Promote learning

- Summarise and set out an approach to developing the evidence base
- Set out mechanisms for knowledge exchange and capacity building
- Explain how implementation of the strategy will be monitored and evaluated, involving stakeholders
- Set a timescale for regular reviews of the strategy

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- Commit to capturing the legacy of learning from strategy development

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