



# British-Irish COUNCIL

## **BIC Environment Ministerial Meeting, Dublin, 22-23 March 2018**

### **RESPONDING TO THE CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION CHALLENGE**

#### **Ministers are invited to discuss and agree that:**

1. Where there are opportunities to work together to tackle common challenges on adaptation, BIC Administrations should do so;
2. BIC Administrations continue to share information and experiences in relation to challenges from climate change, especially around assessing progress and measuring resilience and in addressing the cross cutting and cascading impacts on the private sector and communities, especially where these affect multiple BIC administrations;
3. BIC Administrations should share experiences on working in partnership with the private sector, local government, communities and civil society;
4. BIC Administrations should examine the potential for better collaboration and information sharing on research projects including coordinated and co-funded research.

**BIC Environment Work Sector  
March 2018**

## **INTRODUCTION – THE NEED FOR ADAPTATION**

The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2013) concluded that there is at least a 95% probability that the global warming of the last 50 years is a result of human activities, with the main contribution to this warming coming from the burning of fossil fuels. As a result, levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs) are now 30% higher than at any time during the last 800,000 years. This has increased the natural greenhouse effect and resulted in warming of the planet.

The resulting climate change has both direct and indirect effects. Direct impacts include increasing temperatures, more extreme weather conditions, an increased likelihood of river and coastal flooding, water shortages, changes in types and distributions of species and the possible extinction of vulnerable species. Indirectly, climate change can lead to the disruption of ecosystem services (e.g. flooding of agricultural lands) or human processes (e.g. the breakdown of transport or energy infrastructure).

Many of the impacts of climate change are already “locked-in” to the Earth’s climate and will lead to changes in the climate for decades to come no matter how successful global mitigation measures are. While at the national and regional level there is still uncertainty as to the rate and extent of the impacts of climate change, there is now a clearer understanding about how these impacts can be managed and how risks can be reduced through adaptation actions (IPCC, 2014). A “wait and see approach” is not an option and therefore we must take appropriate adaptation measures to deal with unavoidable climate impacts and their economic, environmental and social costs.

## **PARIS AGREEMENT – STRENGTHENED FOCUS ON ADAPTATION**

The Paris Agreement was adopted by 195 Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2015. This legally binding agreement represents a global milestone in international efforts to address climate change. It aims to restrict global temperature rise to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. It also establishes a long-term adaptation goal aimed at increasing the global ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and to foster climate resilience and low GHG emissions development in a manner that does not threaten sustainable food production.

The Paris Agreement further elaborates that in achieving this long term adaptation goal, adaptation must be undertaken at a national, subnational and regional level. Each country is required to publish a national adaptation plan to support the adaptation goal taking into consideration impacts of climate change both positive and negative and with the aim of increasing resilience in both socioeconomic and ecological systems through diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.

## **EU AND WIDER INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE**

The EU’s climate adaptation response is outlined in the EU Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in April 2013. Its three main objectives are:

1. **Promoting action by member states** by encouraging the adoption of national adaptation strategies and providing funding to help develop countries adaptation capacity and take action.

2. “**Climate-proofing**” of vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and ensuring that Europe’s infrastructure is made more resilient to the impacts of climate change, as well as promoting the use of insurance against natural and man-made disasters.
3. **Better informed decision-making** by addressing gaps in knowledge on adaptation and further developing the European climate adaptation platform (Climate-ADAPT).

The EU Adaptation Strategy is currently being evaluated to assess its actual implementation and performance. This is due to conclude in 2018. Drawing on available evidence, it will look at the experience gained, the lessons learnt, and assess whether what has actually happened matches the earlier expectations. The evaluation will cover the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and EU added value of the Strategy.

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

### ***BACKGROUND***

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was agreed by world leaders at the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and is a historic global agreement to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development. The Goals are the successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but apply both domestically and internationally.

The SDGs cut across a range of pressing environmental challenges of our time and aim to directly combat these, in particular through SDG 13: Climate Action. SDG 13 has the following targets:

- Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.
- Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.
- Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
- Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible.
- Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small-island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.

## MAJOR ADAPTATION CHALLENGES ACROSS THE ADMINISTRATIONS

Observed and projected physical climate changes include:

- Increase in average temperature (surface air temperature, sea surface temperature);
- Changes in precipitation patterns;
- On-going mean sea level rise;
- Changes in the frequency and character of weather extremes such as storms, flooding, sea surges and flash floods.

It is extremely likely given our shared geographic location and climatic influences that the BIC Administrations will be faced with a number of shared climate change impacts, challenges and opportunities in the future. A number of these impacts will be transnational and may require coordination and collaboration at a regional level to ensure a coherent and effective response. Given the nature of these impacts many of them, such as extreme weather events, are likely to hit BIC Administrations simultaneously.

These impacts will bring about challenges as well as opportunities within key sectors of each administration. The sectors amongst the most likely to be impacted are summarised below.

**Critical Infrastructure:** the increased risk of flooding is likely to negatively impact on energy and transport infrastructure especially in coastal areas. Increased temperatures are likely to increase the amount of water required to cool power stations. More severe storms are also likely to cause damage to electricity cables and lead to road closures. In terms of opportunities, fewer frost and snow days are likely to lead to a reduction in winter road accidents.

**Agriculture and Forestry:** challenges include the impact of heat stress on crops and animals due to rising temperatures. However, some crop species will benefit from fewer frost days and rising temperatures which may also lead to a longer grass growing season. In the forestry sector, increased temperatures and higher concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere are likely to lead to a growth in some tree species, but decline in the number of frost days may lead to a decline in the die-back of pests.

**Water Services:** an increase in summer temperatures is likely to place additional pressure on water infrastructure, which will be exacerbated by requirements for irrigation during droughts. Increased precipitation and flooding risks contaminating local water supplies. In terms of opportunities, warmer winters and less ice may reduce the amount of water lost through burst pipes.

**Marine and Fisheries:** warmer ocean temperatures are likely to lead to a migration of some commercial fish species. There is also likely to be an increase in ocean acidity due to higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels and lower salinity levels due to increased precipitation which will impact on marine life and fish species. Increased storms pose a risk to those working in fishing and marine transport.

**Biodiversity and Habitats:** increased temperature may lead to changes in the timing in the lifecycle of some species. Increased precipitation may place habitats at greater risk of

flooding with coastal habitats particularly vulnerable. Higher temperatures may also lead to an increased threat of invasive species.

**Health:** Increases in extreme events will have significant impacts on health and wellbeing including risk of physical injuries/death. Flooding is likely to pose a risk to human health both directly and through water borne diseases left behind by receding flood waters.

## **EFFECTIVE ADAPTATION – BUILDING RESILIENCE**

The challenge for policy-makers is to understand these climate change impacts and to develop and implement policies to ensure an optimal level of adaptation response. Effective actions are needed to reduce vulnerabilities to the negative impacts, take advantages of opportunities that may arise and increase social, economic and environmental resilience. Adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is vital in order to respond to those impacts that are already happening, while at the same time preparing for future scenarios.

Many adaptation measures to date have been reactive in nature, taken in response to extreme weather events that have occurred. Given the increased knowledge of climate change impacts, it is now necessary to further develop adaptation planning processes so that we are better placed to deal with future events. This planned approach would be the result of a deliberate policy decision, based on the awareness that conditions have changed or are expected to change, and that some form of action is required to reduce risk or to avail of opportunities. By planning and anticipating climate impacts, it is possible to reduce the cost and maximise the effectiveness of adaptation actions.

Adaptation responses are determined by the vulnerability of the system (physical or social) to climate change impacts and its ability to adapt (adaptive capacity). Adaptation strategies should aim to address climate change impacts and also increase adaptive capacity. A number of building blocks should be in place to aid the development of a comprehensive and coherent national adaptation response:

- 1) **A well developed and robust knowledge base** – a clear understanding of expected climate change exposure and the sensitivity of sectors, areas, ecosystems and populations and the consequential potential impacts (both observed and projected).
- 2) **An assessment of adaptive capacity** - socio-economic and institutional capacity as well as willingness to adapt.
- 3) **A risk/vulnerability assessment** – bringing together the assessments of potential impacts and adaptive capacity, in order to assess vulnerability.
- 4) **Identification of adaptation requirements and the associated options**, together with an estimation of costs and benefits.
- 5) **Action plan** - detailing adaptation actions required and an associated implementation plan.
- 6) **Monitoring and review mechanisms** – to monitor and review the success or otherwise of adaptive actions.

Successful adaptation not only depends on action by all levels of government but also on the active and sustained engagement of all stakeholders, including sectoral interests, the private

sector, communities and individuals. All sectors of society have a role to play in making sure that we are better protected against the impacts of climate change. This is a joint responsibility where “climate proofing” and building “climate resilience” is a joint undertaking for which all of society is responsible.

## **MAJOR ADAPTATION CHALLENGES ACROSS THE ADMINISTRATIONS**

BIC Administrations are at different stages within their adaptation planning cycles. The UK administrations have had a statutory adaptation planning process in place since 2008 while Ireland have had a statutory regime in place since 2015 with a non-statutory regime in place before that from 2012. Similar regimes are in place for Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

Substantial progress has been made in a number of key adaptation relevant areas within BIC Administrations, particularly in developing the adaptation knowledge base, in building adaptive capacities within administrations, in completing national, regional and sectoral level risk assessments of climate impacts and in advancing adaptation actions in particular sectors such as flood risk management.

There has been more limited progress in other areas, particularly in dealing with uncertainty, in identifying and evaluating adaptation actions, in dealing with cross cutting risks, in achieving buy in from the private sector on the need to adapt and also in measuring climate resilience. The following section summarises a number of these challenges.

### **Dealing with uncertainty**

BIC administrations face uncertainties in measuring the rate and extent of impacts of climate change. Some climate variables such as precipitation are inherently difficult to predict. Others, such as temperature rise are more predictable. Other uncertainties relate to the level of ambition and effectiveness of climate change mitigation action to reduce GHG emissions. This will ultimately determine the full extent of climate change impacts and the level of adaptation action required. Rather than viewing these uncertainties as a barrier to action, they may also be viewed as a motivation towards adopting a cautionary approach in relation to adaptation action. More research is required to develop more accurate local climate models to reduce uncertainty and aid decision making in the long run.

### **Effective Governance and dealing with cross cutting impacts**

Appropriate governance structures and oversight structures must be in place at regional, national and local levels that are also aligned with EU and International processes. One of the key challenges in adaptation governance is ensuring that specific climate change risks are managed appropriately especially when responsibilities lie across multiple Government Departments or agencies.

Cross-cutting and cascading impacts are a particular challenge in terms of governance. Examples of these include flooding leading to lack of potable water which could then lead to public health challenges. These are a particular challenge given the potential number of actors who would need to be involved in identifying workable solutions for these impacts. The 2017 UK Climate Risk Assessment has made some progress in dealing with this issue,

particularly in identifying key cascading risks that need to be considered for adaptation responses.

### **Role of the Public**

It is important to note that while governments have a role to play in providing planning and institutional support for adaptation actions, the majority of the costs and benefits of adaptation will be borne by individuals. With this in mind it is vital to involve the public in the adaptation planning process. For example, in Ireland, the National Dialogue on Climate Action has been set up as a means to create awareness, engagement and motivation to act locally, regionally and nationally in relation to the challenges presented by climate change and will inform the implementation of awareness raising policies under Ireland's National Adaptation Framework. The public in Ireland were also given an opportunity to inform adaptation policy through their participation in the Citizens' Assembly and its deliberations on *How the State can make Ireland a leader in tackling climate change*. Tools such as the web resource Climate Ireland<sup>1</sup> will also play an important role in providing members of the public with the support to assess and manage their risk level. By engaging with the public in this manner administrations can develop more effective adaptation policy while also informing the public on adaptation actions which can lower their overall risk.

### **Spatial Planning**

Spatial planning has an important role to play in climate change adaptation. The spatial planning process, with full engagement of local communities and other key stakeholders, provides an established means through which to implement and integrate climate change objectives, including adaptation, at local level. This engagement will help lead to a more climate resilient settlement pattern and built environment which is capable of responding more efficiently to climate impacts such as increased flood risk. The mainstreaming of adaptation into the planning process will help to develop adaptation action at a local, regional and national level.

For example, Ireland recently published *The National Planning Framework - Ireland 2040 – Our Plan*. This is a new strategic planning and development framework setting a high-level strategy for the co-ordination of a range of national, regional and local policies and activities, planning and investment, for delivery through both the public and private sectors. The framework will be hugely influential in directing climate change adaptation actions at national, regional and local levels.

### **Local Government**

Local Government functions and services may be put under increased pressure due to climate change. Therefore local government has a vital role to play in adapting to a changing climate. Because of their close relationship with local communities and familiarity with local geography, local government is better positioned to respond quickly to extreme weather events than central government. This local knowledge is also valuable in adaptation planning because local government is more aware of and understand the specific climate risks facing their area (e.g. there may be water shortages in one area and flood risk in another). Their

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<sup>1</sup> [www.climateireland.ie](http://www.climateireland.ie)

close relationship to local communities also allows them to help mobilise the public providing information and support to facilitate adaptation actions by individuals.

## **Economics of Climate Change Adaptation**

The economic rationale for adaptation action is that the cost of inaction likely exceeds the cost of action. This cost differential rises steeply with time, with early adaptation action helping to mitigate against major future expenditure in 30 or 50 years' time. Therefore early adaptation action is imperative to anticipate potential damage and to plan for and implement measures to minimise threats to the economy, private property, critical infrastructure and ecosystems. In essence, early action reduces the risk and is more cost effective than reactive, unplanned adaptation.

While these costs are difficult to quantify one recognised method of compiling them is to apply a bottom up approach. This involves sectors estimating costs which climate change is likely to impose while also estimating the benefits which adaptation action is likely to yield. In order to generate these estimates it is important that sectors are equipped with a set of economic appraisal techniques to evaluate the impacts of climate change such as cost benefit analysis and multi criteria analysis.

## **Research**

Research on the impacts of climate change is undertaken and informed by Universities, third level institutions and research agencies (such as meteorological offices). Most of their work involves attempting to downscale global or continental climate change models such as those used by the IPCC, to give a more accurate picture of the impacts of climate change on a national and regional scale.

In terms of future research there is a need to generate more data to allow for more accurate predictions at the regional level, for example projections are currently only available for the period 2021-2030 at this level. Work also needs to continue on accessing the vulnerability of key sectors to climate impacts. As part of this process, the UK has already completed its climate change risk assessment (2017). Defra is funding the Met Office to produce new UK climate projections (UKCP 18) by 2018 to update those published in 2009 (UKCP 09) - a key tool for adaptation planning. In Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency is funding a National Climate Change Risk Assessment, which aims to assess the national risks and impacts of current and future patterns of climate change. This research will help government departments, agencies and sectors prioritise adaptation actions and reduce exposure to the negative impacts of climate change.

## **Capacity Building**

There is a recognised need to develop national platforms for sharing information on the likely climate change impacts to inform and coordinate adaptation action at a national, regional and sectoral level (OECD, 2013)<sup>2</sup>. For example, in Ireland Climate Ireland has been developed as a climate information platform to support decision makers such as local authorities in developing adaptation plans.

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<sup>2</sup> Available at: [http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/national-adaptation-planning\\_5k483jpfpsq1-en](http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/national-adaptation-planning_5k483jpfpsq1-en)

## **Measuring Resilience (Monitoring and evaluation)**

Measuring the success of climate adaptation measures is a particular challenge given the long timeframes, uncertainties about impacts, the difficulty of measuring the benefits of non-events as well as difficulties in attributing benefits to specific climate measures<sup>3</sup>. All administrations therefore face the difficult task of identifying or developing indicators to measure resilience and vulnerability to climate change impacts that would allow progress on adaptation measures to be monitored, help prioritise areas for action and help integrate adaptation into the existing policy making process.

## **Role of the private sector**

A changing climate also poses risks to the private sector, including disruptions to operations due to extreme weather events, damage to essential infrastructure and transport routes, and variations in water quality and availability as a result of extreme weather events. Other risks include financial risks. So far, national Governments have taken the lead on climate change adaptation. However, there is scope for greater private sector involvement in adapting to climate change.

One area where the private sector is involved is in providing insurance against extreme weather events such as floods. This serves a vital purpose of sending signals on the risk of living in a particular area through insurance premiums. However, as climate change makes extreme weather events such as flooding more common and claims increase this will place additional pressure on the industry's finances. While these events will pose a challenge to the insurance industry they will also create opportunities to develop cooperation between the public and private sector e.g. sharing information on flooding maps to help set premiums and inform planning.

The increased involvement of the private sector in adaptation measures will be a long term goal for BIC administrations.

In the UK, under the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP) of the Climate Change Act (2008), around 80 infrastructure providers (such as those from energy, water, transport sectors) and public bodies have reported voluntarily to government on their vulnerability to current and future climate change and the actions they are taking to address those vulnerabilities. We are currently developing the third strategy for the ARP for publication alongside the UK National Adaptation Programme in 2018.

## **POTENTIAL AREAS FOR COLLABORATION**

The BIC Administrations have a unique opportunity to improve collaboration between Council members on a number of areas of common concern in relation to climate change adaptation. The following areas have initially been identified as offering the greatest potential for collaboration between Council members:

- **Supporting the sharing of best practice** on climate change adaptation, for example on measuring progress in building climate resilience, and greater collaboration through the establishment of a regular update on climate change adaptation issues between BIC member administrations;

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/wp-content/PDFs/SEA-change-UKCIP-MandE-review.pdf>

- Examining the potential for **better collaboration and information sharing on research projects**. The BIC administrations are keen to explore possibilities for better coordinated and co-funded research. For example the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) of the Committee on Climate Change in the UK has identified gaps in the last UK Climate Change Risk Assessment Evidence Report (CCRA) which the UK Administrations are working to address and utilising the new climate projections (UKCP18) in order to inform future assessments. The UK Administrations continue to work together with the ASC to find opportunities for funding and co-ordinating this research. The Irish National Adaptation Framework notes that with the move further into the implementation of climate change adaptation, there will be an increased need for interdisciplinary research and the Framework sets a number of research priorities in this regard, while also emphasising the role of collaboration and coordination and the importance of availing of opportunities to collaborate with other jurisdictions to tackle common challenges on adaptation and resilience;
- **Sharing experiences on how BIC administrations can work in partnership with the private sector, local government, communities and civil society. For example encouraging private sector involvement** in climate change adaptation ranging from multi-nationals (for example through initiatives such as the Aldersgate Group or insurance companies working together such as Climatewise) to SMEs.<sup>4</sup> The use of a mandatory or voluntary adaptation reporting power is another potential route for doing this.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO BIC MINISTERS

The Environment Ministers of the BIC are invited to agree that:

1. Where there are opportunities to work together to tackle common challenges on adaptation, BIC Administrations should do so;
2. BIC Administrations continue to share information and experiences in relation to challenges from climate change, especially around assessing progress and measuring resilience and in addressing the cross cutting and cascading impacts on businesses and communities, especially where these affect multiple BIC administrations;
3. BIC Administrations should share experiences on working in partnership with the private sector, local government, communities and civil society.
4. BIC Administrations should examine the potential for better collaboration and information sharing on research projects including coordinated and co-funded research.

BIC Members concluded that:

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.aldersgategroup.org.uk/>

<https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/business-action/sustainable-finance/climatewise>

1. Addressing immediate and long term climate risks and related impacts is an ongoing priority for all BIC Administrations as reflected in our continued commitment to the Paris agreement and to the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
2. The impacts of climate change will be different in each administration and therefore require an individual approach, but there are important opportunities and benefits that can be realised from sharing information and experience between the BIC Administrations;
3. All administrations are committed to continue to cooperate and share information, experience and best practice on adapting to climate change and to take the steps necessary to explore the opportunities for further cooperation on the priority areas agreed at this meeting;
4. That the private sector, local government, communities and civil society all have a key role to play and all administrations are committed to sharing their experiences on supporting and engaging these sectors.

**BIC Environment Work Sector  
March 2018**

## **Annex A: Summary of key adaptation policies and actions across the BIC Administrations**

UK/England

The UK government is committed to addressing the risks of climate change. The Climate Change Act 2008<sup>5</sup> sets out the UK's framework for assessing climate change risks, establishing a programme to address those risks and an independent process for evaluating the progress made. Responsibility is shared across government where consideration of climate risks is integral to policy development across a broad range of government programmes and activities. Our approach is to integrate adaptation within all policies and programmes and activities at all levels and build the UK's resilience to climate change.

Our National Adaptation Programme (NAP) has been essential in ensuring meaningful engagement from across the key sectors of our society that need to take action to protect and prepare themselves. It has been important in raising awareness of the issues and stimulating thinking and action to address the climate change risks and opportunities that we face. This approach has motivated action by partners outside the UK government including local government, communities, businesses, councils, civil society and academia.

The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the assessment every five years of the risks posed to the UK by climate change. We published our second Climate Change Risk Assessment in January last year (2017) and we are now developing our second National Adaptation Programme which will set out the actions we are taking to address the priority risks identified.

The risks we face are considered against projections of how our climate will change first published by Government in 2009. We will publish updated projections later this year (2018), which will utilise the latest advances in climate science to deliver refined climate projections for the UK.

The Climate Change Act 2008 also introduced the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP) allowing the government to direct public service organisations and statutory undertakers (e.g. energy and water companies) to report on how they are assessing and acting on the risks and opportunities of a changing climate. A strategy setting out how the ARP is to be used must be laid in Parliament, no later than the National Adaptation Programme (NAP), hence every 5 years. The strategy for the third round of reporting will be published alongside the second NAP in 2018.

The Climate Change Act 2008 established the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) of the Committee on Climate Change. The ASC has a statutory role to advise government on climate adaptation, assess progress on the NAP and provide advice on the delivery of the CCRA. The recommendations made by the ASC in their progress reports on the first NAP will influence the development of the second NAP.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

## Guernsey

Guernsey's Environment Policy Plan, published in 2013 as part of the States Strategic Plan, set out the Island's commitment to address the risks of climate change. The Environmental Policy Plan stated the importance of Guernsey reducing its contribution to global warming by reducing the release of greenhouse gases and Guernsey's commitment to improve its resilience to the potential impacts of climate change. This commitment has since been reflected in the development of several policy positions and programmes over the subsequent three years covering transport, coastal defence, waste and development and land use.

In 2017 The States of Guernsey adopted a new 20 year vision for the Island - "Future Guernsey" - within which were strategies the Committee for the Environment & Infrastructure to deliver the Island's most important environmental and infrastructure needs. The basic policy position in respect of climate change was described thus:

"Climate change and its effects is one of the most certain threats we face. The impacts of extreme weather events, increased intensity of rainfall and sea level rise as a result of climate change can have a devastating negative effect on vital infrastructure, businesses and homes resulting in a significant threat to the Island's economy and way of life.

Of direct relevance is the ... objective to prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change on our environment and reduce our contribution to global climate change."

The Committee will now deliver its key policy priorities, many of which are interlinked, and which are; energy (decarbonisation of supply and renewables); sustainable and integrated transport (supporting EV use); waste management and minimisation; sea defences and flood mitigation.

In respect of the last of these policy key areas, the lower lying north of the Island with densely populated areas at, and in some cases below, the current sea level is particularly at risk from sea level rise and the weather and tidal effects associated with climate change. Guernsey's Coastal Defence Strategy, approved in 2013 and based on detailed flood risk assessments, provided a high level policy direction for the Island's approach to the improvement coastal flood defences to combat the risks climate change presents. A programme of maintenance of existing coastal defences is progressing and work is in hand to develop the highest priority flood defence projects to a practical and achievable conclusion within the next few years.

A major work stream starting in 2018 is to review the States current Energy Resource Plan which will include measures to assist with Climate Adaptation.

## Isle of Man

The Isle of Man is committed to upholding its responsibilities in relation to climate action both domestically and internationally. In 2016, the Island became the first entire jurisdiction to be awarded Biosphere Reserve status from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and

Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), reflecting our successful balance of people and nature. In addition, the first policy objective for the Isle of Man Government's International Development is to ensure that funding is targeted to support charities and projects that meet the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG13: Climate Action.

The Isle of Man introduced a National Strategy for Sea Defences, Flooding and Coastal Erosion in the summer of 2016 and its objectives are to raise awareness of the potential for damage and to promote engagement of the Islands community in the implementation of effective and appropriate adaptations to manage and reduce the impacts of weather and climate related events.

The strategy introduces a single national framework to ensure a consistent and proportionate approach to all flood and coastal damage risks, which is underpinned by a robust impact value assessment model for the sites and properties at risk. The strategy is based on the prediction of timescales to future impacts and it aims to balance the urgency of required actions against the scale of likely future damage in order to facilitate responses through a programme of prioritised investments.

The Isle of Man Government and the Manx Utilities Authority have already established a relevant investment programme worth over £50m, however. This strategy will enable property owners, Government Departments and local communities to work together to accommodate the implications of this consistent approach.

The Programme for Government, which was introduced as the delivery plan of the Government formed after the general election in September 2016, underlines the importance of the National Strategy by specifying the objective that work to deliver responses to climate-related issues for the 24 highest priority locations will commence under this administration.

## Ireland

Ireland's policy on adaptation was first stated in the non-statutory National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) in 2012. The policy on adaptation was subsequently restated in Ireland's National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development in 2014. The policy position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to pursue the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. Following the enactment of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, Ireland's adaptation planning process was put on a statutory footing. Ireland published its first statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF) on 19 January 2018. The NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local government in its administrative area for the purpose of reducing the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change. While outlining a whole of Government and Society response to climate change adaptation, NAF also identifies 12 priority sectors under the remit of 7 Government Ministers where statutory sectoral adaptation plans will be prepared in line with climate legislation and NAF. The plans will specify the adaptation policy measures the relevant Ministers proposes to adopt in those sectors. Work on these plans will begin in 2018. The sectors identified in the NAF are:

- Agriculture
- Forestry

- Seafood
- Cultural and Archaeological Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Transport Infrastructure
- Electricity and Gas Networks
- Communications Networks
- Water Quality
- Water Services Infrastructure
- Flood Risk Management
- Public Health

## Jersey

Jersey's Department of the Environment issued a report in September 2016 which identified that from 2016 - 2020 Government should develop an Island wide strategic response to adapt to the local impacts of global climate change and develop a costed Climate Adaptation Plan:

This plan is now being developed to:

- Agree baseline evidence to develop an agreed resilience factor for Jersey;
- Undertake a risk assessment to identify priorities for strategic planning including the Island Vision, the Island Plan review, infrastructure planning and ensure climate resilience and response is integrated into emergency risk registers and response plans;
- Carry out an economic assessment of risks of climate change impacts versus the investment needed in climate resilience;
- Ensure a coordinated process to develop a climate resilience and adaptation framework that includes all stakeholders in a framework of corporate governance;
- Continue to monitor local weather, atmospheric trends and input to UK based climate models and work with experts to establish and report accurate data on sea level rise.

Local threats are recognised as very real as much of the Island's coastline is low lying. Recent studies have been undertaken with the National Oceanographic Centre (NOC) which show that in line with global averages, the sea level around Jersey is currently increasing by 3mm/year. Future rates of increase are dependent on a range of parameters including global carbon emissions and based on a scenario in line with the targets agreed in the 2016 Paris Agreement, the likely increase in mean sea-level by 2100 is 0.48m.

In addition to this we know that the frequency of extreme coastal events are likely to increase so based on a specific study of the St Aubin's Bay area on the island's south coast, in certain areas there will be a significant increase in sea water overtopping existing sea defences in that area. Jersey's government has committed to continue to monitor sea level rise and expand on the work already undertaken with NOC and extend modelling assessing the impact of greater volumes of water discharging over all of Jersey's sea defences.

Increased collaboration between government departments and agencies is also agreed and this will be coordinated by a steering group to encourage continued cross departmental working on climate resilience. Jersey is drawing up options and associated costs for improving coastal monitoring. These will exploring opportunities to expand Jersey's existing marine observational monitoring.

The island is very much looking to the future recognising that adaptation is necessary and it is considered that these improvements in respect of climate adaptation will compliment an existing programme of works designed to protect the island and its inhabitants. These include a climate risk modelling project over the next 2 years to develop a Shoreline Management Plan for the Island. The outcomes of this project will directly feed into multiple policy development areas such as the Island Plan review. To ensure the ongoing practical delivery of coastal protection, in 2016 a Sea Defence Strategy was developed and agreed by Government which outlines a prioritised maintenance and repair programme for the Island's sea defences.

The Department of Environment's "Future St Helier" strategy is designed to regenerate St. Helier into an environmentally aware place to live and work. This includes climate resilience elements, not least because significant commercial interest is located close to sea walls and some of the town lies on low lying land. The town is immediately adjacent to the island's main port so departments are working closely with Ports of Jersey, our Harbour Authority, to deliver a Ports of Jersey Harbour Masterplan incorporating climate resilience elements.

## Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland's commitment to address the impact of climate change is set out in the UK Climate Change Act 2008. This requires Northern Ireland departments to develop a climate change adaptation programme to address the findings identified in the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) (statutory requirement of the UK Climate Change Act 2008, published every 5 years).

The first Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme ("the Adaptation Programme") was published in January 2014. It contains the Northern Ireland Executive's response to the risks and opportunities identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment ("CCRA") for Northern Ireland, which was published in January 2012, as part of the overall UK CCRA.

The Adaptation Programme provides the strategic objectives in relation to adaptation to climate change, the proposals and policies by which each government department will meet these objectives, and the timescales associated with the proposals and policies identified in the period up to 2019. Following the publication of the second UK CCRA, a second NICCAP is being developed will be laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly in early 2019.

The Adaptation Programme is the start of an ongoing climate change adaptation process. It seeks to bring about a more joined up response to climate change adaptation, highlighting what Government departments are doing to ensure the Northern Ireland is better prepared for the challenges that future changes in our climate will bring. It also builds climate change considerations into Government policy decisions and puts in place a range of activities which will not only counteract climate change risks but will also seek to take advantage of the potential opportunities that might arise. Therefore many of the activities set out in the Adaptation Programme will bring tangible benefits while helping NI to cope with the changing weather patterns. The Adaptation Programme also aims to provide the leadership needed to inform and empower the wider public sector, the private sector, communities and individuals to take action.

## Scotland

Average temperatures in Scotland have increased in line with global trends: around 0.7°C higher than a century ago. Annual rainfall has increased since the 1970s to 13% above the early 20th century - all seasons contribute to this increase. There are decreases in frost and snow.

Scotland faces growing climate risks: further temperature increases; increasingly unpredictable and extreme weather; more and heavier rain days particularly in winter; increasing flooding risks to homes, businesses and infrastructure; challenges to the natural environment – biodiversity, soils and food production – from changing climate patterns and pests, diseases and invasive species; accelerating sea level rise and coastal change; risks to human health and wellbeing; tightening water supply in some areas; but fewer cold winters.

Nearly 10% of Scotland's native pinewoods (2013) are at risk from disease that thrives in warmer and wetter conditions. Scotland's breeding seabird population has declined 46% between 1986 and 2012. Liver fluke, is spreading across Scotland as the climate gets warmer and wetter, affecting over 15% of all sheep and cattle in 2013. Recent coastal erosion rates, if continued, could by 2050 affect significant areas of airport runways, cultural and natural heritage sites, and increasingly stretches of roads, railway and clean water network and some buildings. Up to half the prime agricultural land may be defined as of moderate or severe risk of drought in 2050.

Following the publication in 2009 of Scotland's [Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#), Scotland's first statutory [Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme](#) was published in May 2014. The Programme was informed by a three-month [public consultation](#), scrutiny by Scottish Parliament Committee and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Scottish Ministers report annually on progress on adaptation - the [third annual report](#) and [detailed tables](#) were published in May 2017. The second statutory Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme will be published before May 2019.

The second Programme must address the risks for Scotland set out in the [UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017](#) and its [Evidence Report Summary for Scotland](#). It must set out progress on the previous Programme, Scottish Ministers' objectives on adaptation, proposals and policies and their timescales, and arrangements for wider engagement.

Key recent developments in climate change adaptation in Scotland include: new climate adaptation indicators, new public bodies reporting duties, a new National Centre for Resilience, Scotland's Flood Risk Management Plan and our Mapping Flood Disadvantage report, our National Coastal Change Assessment, and appointment of two Adaptation Research Fellows by ClimateXChange.

We want to build on the good progress made on Scotland's first Adaptation Programme. Scotland has made significant investment in flood protection, the water industry, and improving the energy performance of our housing stock, restored large areas of peatland, and are increasing forest diversity and deer management. Public bodies, city and regional partnerships, and increasingly businesses and individuals are assessing risks, developing adaptation plans, and beginning to embed adaptation in investment plans. Continuing fuel poverty and loss of urban green space however add to the challenge.

Wales

Wales has strengthened its legislative requirements to build resilience in Wales to the impacts of climate change through the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Environment Act. We are now developing a new Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wales, to be delivered in 2018. In the meantime, we are continuing our work in key areas, such as Flood and Coastal Risk Management and delivering on the priorities identified in our National Natural Resources Policy.

*New legislative requirements around climate risk*

We have strengthened our legislative requirements to build resilience in Wales to the impacts of climate change (such as extreme weather events) through the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and Environment Act.

Climate change is integral to all of the Well-being Goals and there is specific reference to a resilient Wales, which includes resilience to the effects of climate change.

Climate change is also a key element of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' role and the Future Trends Report and Public Service Board Assessments will need to take into account the latest Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA).

*National Adaptation Plan for Wales*

In the Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017 Government document published in January the Welsh Government committed to producing a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Wales in 2018.

The most important risks to Wales can be summarised as follows:

Risks to infrastructure (from all sources of flooding)	More action needed
Risk to public water supplies from drought and low flows	
Risks from some land management practices exacerbating flood risk	
Risks to ecosystems and agriculture businesses from changes in climatic conditions	Research priority
Risks to communities from all sources of flooding and sea-level rise	
Risks to infrastructure, business and buildings from high river flows, erosion and extreme weather	
Risks and opportunities from changes to agriculture and forestry productivity	
Risks to people's health and well-being and associated service delivery from high temperatures, flooding and extreme weather	

We anticipate the Plan will focus on:

- Tackling the key risks identified in the Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017.
- Supporting disadvantaged groups and vulnerable communities to build resilience to climate change impacts.
- Establishing mechanisms and timescales for addressing research priorities.
- Clearly define the actions to be taken at an all Wales level, and those for which local delivery partners (such as Public Service Boards) are responsible.

We recognise that the latest CCRA evidence findings have implications across all sectors of Welsh Government including Health, Communities, Transport, Housing, Economy, Agriculture, Food and Environment. These implications are important considerations for our key decisions and major projects.

### *Flood and Coastal Risk Management*

We acknowledge that climate change will increase the risk of flooding, not only through sea level rise but also from all sources of flooding, particularly due to more frequent and intense storms. Flood and coastal risk management remains a priority for the Welsh Government. During 2017/18 we will be investing over £54 million across Wales. The 4 year capital funding allocation for flood risk management will allow us to plan more effectively, providing certainty of funding from one year to the next.

We are planning for future coastal risk by working alongside local authorities to develop a programme of capital investment in coastal risk management commencing in 2018/19. The Coastal Risk Management Programme provides the opportunity for local authorities to invest up to £150 million in the coastal infrastructure protecting our coastal communities, adapting to the challenge of climate change and sea level rise and achieving wider benefits. We are working across other government departments including regeneration and tourism to achieve wider wellbeing goals through the schemes. £5 million funding has been allocated to continue the preparatory work this financial year.

A number of our recent flood schemes such as Lower Swansea Vale, Colwyn Bay, Rhydyfelin and Borth have provided multiple benefits alongside flood risk management, such as tourism, regeneration, amenity and biodiversity benefits.

We are currently reviewing our National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Risk Management with an update planned for 2017/18. This provides an opportunity to set out this Government's longer-term objectives and underline our approach to managing risk. In carrying out this review we will be working alongside risk management authorities as well as other government departments.

A new Development Advice Map, aligned with the NRW Flood Map was launched in spring 2017 providing a single site for all flood risk mapping advice to public, developers and local authorities alike.

The Welsh Government publishes climate change adaption guidance for use by Risk Management Authorities when developing Flood Risk Management Schemes and Strategies. The current guidance note will be refreshed this summer to ensure that it aligns with corresponding Planning guidance and reflects the most up to date assessment of UKCP09 data.

### *Natural Resources Policy*

The Natural Resources Policy was published on 21 August 2017. Its publication marked the second major milestone in the implementation of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The Natural Resources Policy sets out the national priorities we will take forward to address the challenges our natural resources face and realise the significant opportunities that they provide for our well-being and prosperity. The Natural Resources Policy will drive delivery

across all of the Well-being Goals, delivering win-wins for our communities and our economy whilst also improving our environment.

There are three national priorities which were welcomed by stakeholders on which we need to take action, namely:

- The delivery of nature-based solutions
- Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency, and
- Taking a place-based approach.

The Natural Resources Policy will drive action across the whole of the Welsh Government and will require partnership working with stakeholders across sectors.

Natural Resources Wales will now develop Area Statements to support delivery of the Natural Resources Policy in a local context, for example by providing evidence for Local Development Plans, Well-being Assessments and by encouraging local, collaborative action.

## **ANNEX B – OUTLINE OF APPROACHES TO UN SDG IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS THE BIC ADMINISTRATIONS**

### **IRISH GOVERNMENT**

The Irish Government has chosen to take a ‘whole-of-government’ approach to SDG implementation at the National level, using existing interdepartmental coordination structures.

The Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, has lead responsibility for the promotion and oversight of national implementation of the SDGs as a whole across government, and will be responsible for preparing and delivering Ireland's Voluntary National Review to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2018.

Each relevant Minister is overseeing the implementation of those Goals most relevant to their policy area. This will allow for a joined-up approach to implementation while ensuring that the relevant Department's across Government take ownership of the relevant Goals.

To achieve the SDG 13, Ireland is:

- implementing a statutory National Mitigation Plan, published in July 2017, which provides a framework for the progressive integration of climate mitigation objectives into national policy-making and expenditure prioritisation, sets out measures to reduce emissions across the electricity, built environment, transport and agriculture and land-use sectors, and which will be subject to annual progress reporting and updates;
- committed to maintaining spending at least €175m between 2016 and 2020 in support of the goal developed-country parties to the UNFCCC to collectively mobilise \$100 billion annually by 2020;
- progressing the work of a National Dialogue on Climate Action, to provide for an inclusive process of engagement and consensus building across society towards enabling the transformation to a low carbon and climate-resilient future;
- implementing Ireland's first statutory National Adaptation Framework (NAF). The NAF sets the policy context to ensure that local authorities, regions and key sectors can set about assessing the key risks and vulnerabilities of climate change, agree climate resilience actions and ensure that climate adaptation considerations are mainstreamed into all local, regional and national policy making;
- continuing the process of enhancing adaptive capacity by building on existing resources such as adaptation planning guidelines for key sectors and local authorities and establishing on a permanent, long term basis the climate information platform [www.climateireland.ie](http://www.climateireland.ie).

## **UK GOVERNMENT**

The UK Government is firmly committed to delivering the SDGs both at home and around the world. The underlying aims of the Goals are reflected in the UK Government's programme of work, and as such they are being embedded in Single Departmental Plans (SDPs). Similar to Ireland's approach the UK's domestic implementation involves mainstreaming the SDGs across all of the UK Government's work. The Department for International Development (DFID) has policy oversight for implementation of the Agenda 2030 working in close coordination with the Cabinet Office. Other Government Departments are responsible for their respective policy areas and the delivery of their commitments related to the goals, which is reflected in Single Departmental Plans. The Government released a report (28 March 2017) which outlines the UK's approach to delivering the goals via commitments contained within SDPs.

The UK Government is working at home and around the world to adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (SDG 13).

To achieve SDG 13, the UK is:

- committed to spend £5.8bn between 2016-2021 through the UK International Climate Fund (ICF);
- building resilience and responding to crises in fragile and conflict affected states that are particularly vulnerable to climate change;
- investing in low-carbon energy sources, improving fuel standards in cars and increasing energy efficiency wherever possible;
- committed to meeting the mitigation target set out by the Climate Change Act (2008). The Act introduced a target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, on a 1990 base year and covers emissions across the economy. The Act also established a framework for identifying and tackling the risks posed by climate change. Every five years the UK Government prepares an assessment of the risks and opportunities of climate change for the UK;
- providing world leading weather forecasting and climate modelling through the Met Office Hadley Centre and shares this expertise with countries around the world by contributing to international initiatives including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- providing cutting edge science to understand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification through the Government's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science's (Cefas) Marine Climate Change Centre.

## **SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT**

In July 2015, the First Minister announced Scotland's intention to sign up for the goals as well as the Scottish Government's plans for implementation domestically in Scotland – through the National Performance Framework and the Scottish National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP Plan). In committing to the Global Goals, the First Minister declared that they offered a vision of the world that Scotland shares:

- Ending poverty & hunger;
- Securing education and health services;
- Combatting inequality and achieving gender equality.

To achieve SDG 13, the Scottish Government is:

- Delivering deep emissions cuts: Scotland is well on track to its 42% emissions cut target for 2020 (compared to 1990);
- Proposing a new Climate Change Bill with more ambitious long term targets in direct response to the Paris Agreement;
- Delivering a new Climate Change Plan and Energy Strategy;
- Introducing substantial new spend in support of our Programme for Government commitments including investments in walking and cycling and supporting our target to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032, as well as our commitment to invest more than £500 million in energy efficiency over four years;
- A second statutory five-year Adaptation Programme will be published by May 2019;

- Supporting some of the most vulnerable communities in Africa with £21 million through our Climate Justice Fund between 2012 and 2021;
- Supporting women climate leaders through the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan and WEDO (Women’s Environment and Development Organisation).

## **WELSH GOVERNMENT**

Sustainable development is the central organising principle of the Welsh Government. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 puts in place a statutory framework to ensure public bodies work to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.

***“What Wales is doing today the world will do tomorrow”*** – United Nations

The key purposes of the Act are to:

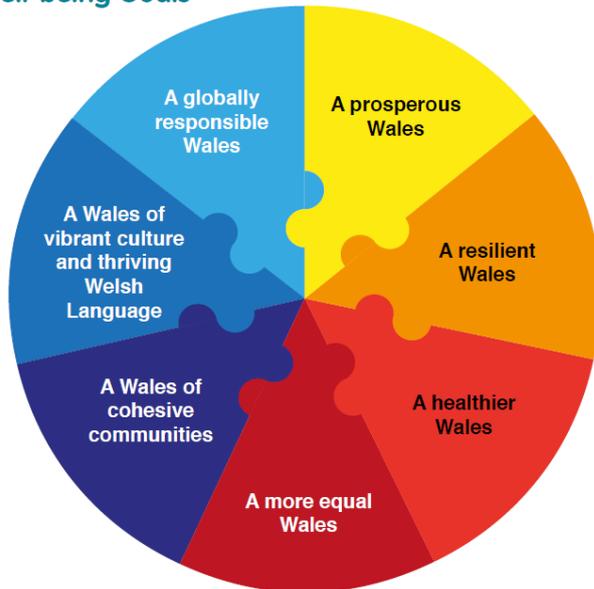
- set a framework within which specified Welsh public authorities will seek to ensure the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (the sustainable development principle),
- put into place well-being goals which those authorities are to seek to achieve in order to improve wellbeing both now and in the future,
- set out how those authorities are to show they are working towards the well-being goals,
- put Public Services Boards<sup>6</sup> and local well-being plans on a statutory basis and, in doing so, simplify current requirements as regards integrated community planning, and
- establish a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to be an advocate for future generations who will advise and support Welsh public authorities in carrying out their duties under the Bill.

In order to understand the challenges that we will be facing, and have a clear picture of where we are heading, Welsh Ministers must publish a ‘Future Trends Report’ within twelve months of each National Assembly election. The report must include predictions of likely future trends in social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, and contain any related analytical data and information that the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate. In preparing the report, Ministers must take account of the United Nations’ sustainable development goals and the impact of climate change on Wales.

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<sup>6</sup> Public Service Boards replace the voluntary Local Service Boards. Statutory members are the Local Authority, the Local Health Board, the Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales. Each board will assess the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in its area and set objectives that are designed to maximise the PSBs contribution to the well-being goals.

## Well-being Goals



### A Prosperous Wales:

An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.

### A resilient Wales:

A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

## NORTHERN IRELAND GOVERNMENT

The concept of Sustainable Development is written into Northern Ireland (NI) legislation (NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006). Northern Ireland government departments and district councils have a statutory duty to carry out their functions in a way which contributes to sustainable development.

On transfer of overall responsibility for sustainable development to DAERA, OFMdfM concluded that the Programme for Government incorporated sustainable development directly into the management and delivery of the PFG programme. OFMdfM also assessed that future Programmes for Government are expected to increase and deepen this trend towards sustainable development integration into government policy making and implementation.

A Northern Ireland draft Programme for Government (PfG) framework has been constructed using economic, social and environmental outcomes to integrate sustainable development principles into the work of Government. The PfG has a strong correlation with the UN DSGs and the delivery of SDGs were considered when finalising PfG Delivery Plans. It is a cross Government sector approach with key delivery partners, and the particular roles in respect of the issues. An initial scoping exercise has been carried out to map the PfG outcomes and indicators to the SDGs. The mapping exercise showed that the PfG is directly working towards progressing 16 out of the 17 SDGs along with existing legislation and/or policy including SDG 13. The Northern Ireland Assembly has no remit in Foreign Affairs so therefore the progression towards the 17th SDG – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development is being led by the UK Department of International Development.

PFG will be the mechanism used to measure Northern Ireland's progression towards the SDGs including SDGs 13 in which Greenhouse gas emissions for Northern Ireland is a primary indicator for Outcome 2 of PFG: 'We live and work sustainably – protecting the environment'.

To achieve SDG 13, Northern Ireland Government is currently implementing a number of initiatives including:

- Promoting land use and forestry as sinks for GHG emissions;
- providing support for sustainable transport and the use of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Reducing waste to landfill and increasing recycling rates;
- Increasing total electricity consumption generated from local renewable resources;
- Managing flood risk and drainage through the Sustainable Water – A Long Term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040); and
- Increasing the use of sustainable drainage systems through the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Act 2016.