

The German Adaptation Strategy: lessons learnt at the science policy interface

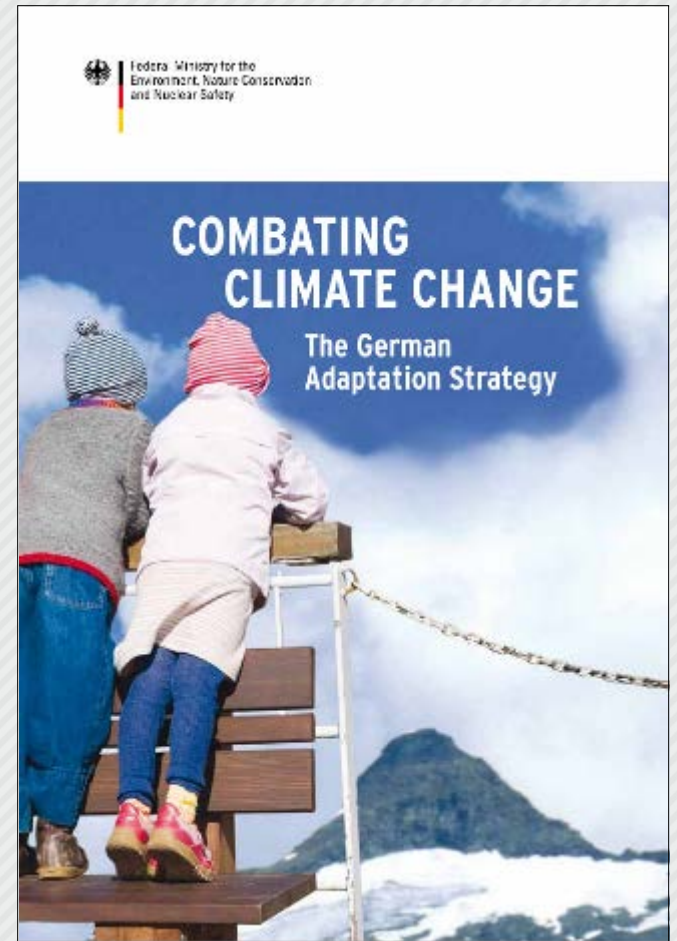
KomPass – Climate Impacts and Adaptation in Germany

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German Adaptation Strategy

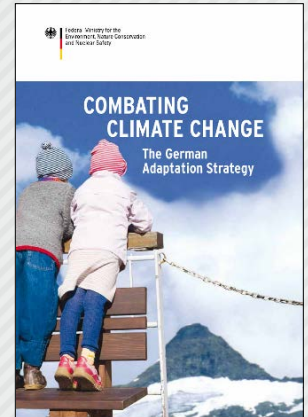
Adopted by Federal Cabinet
in 12/2008

- Framework
- Aims and principles
- 15 fields of action (sectors)
- Observed and projected
 - climate change
 - impacts
- Adaptation options
- Action Plan for Adaptation 2011

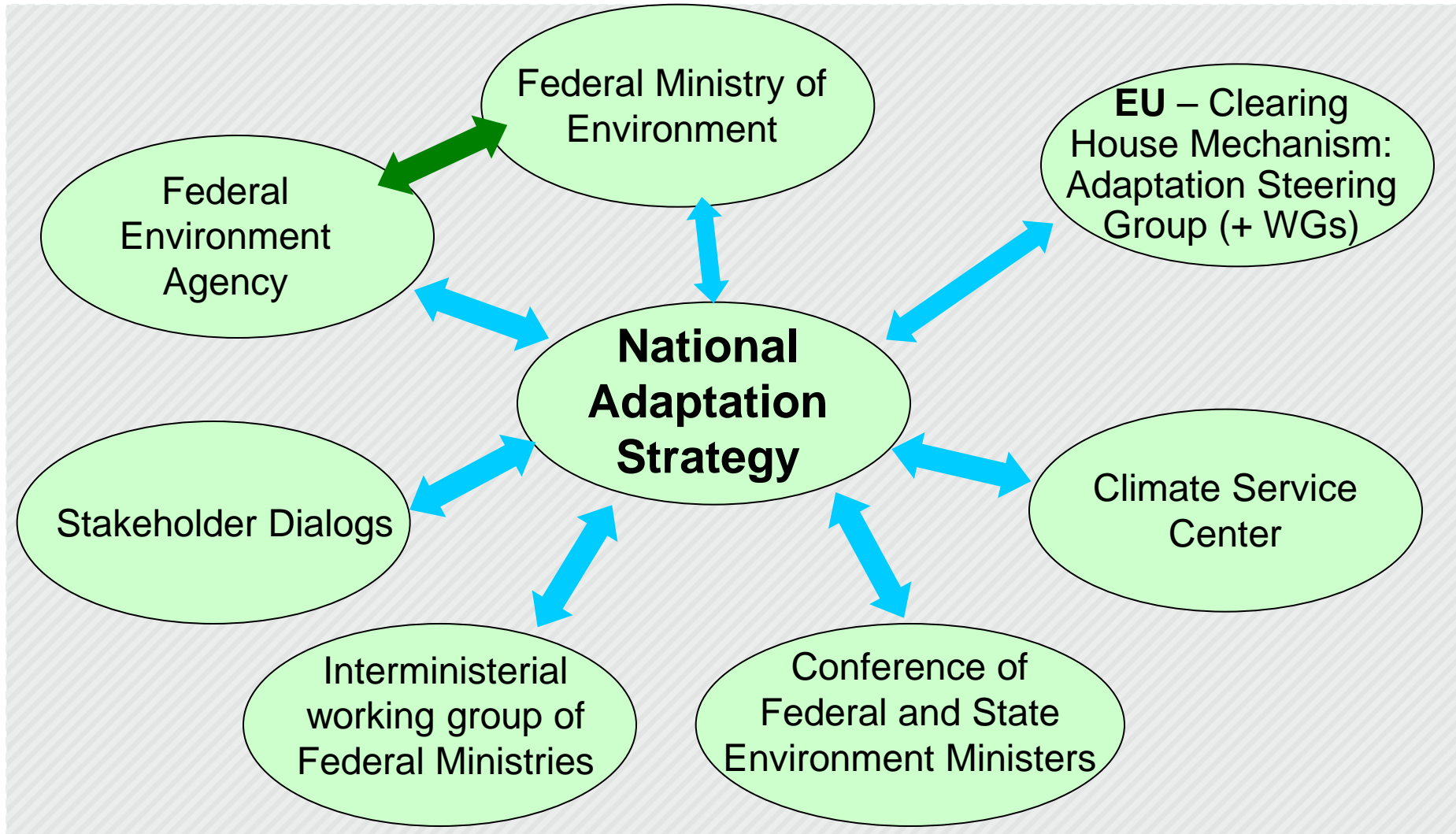


German Adaptation Strategy – Sectors and areas adressed

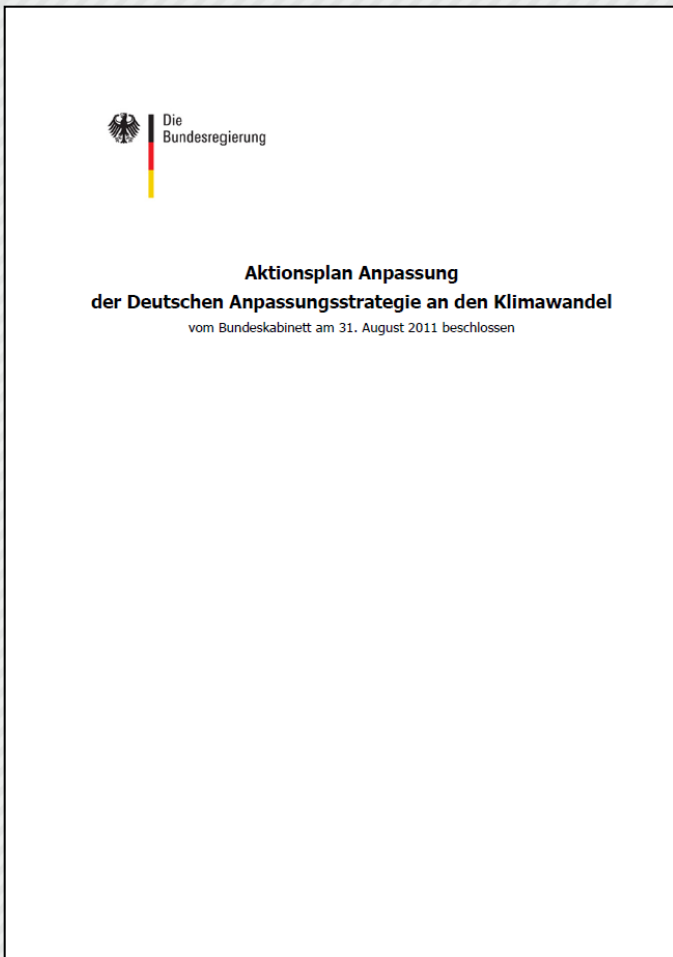
1. Human health
2. Building sector
3. Water regime, water management, coastal and marine protection
4. Soil
5. Biological diversity
6. Agriculture
7. Forestry and forest management
8. Fisheries
9. Energy industry (conversion, transport and supply)
10. Financial services industry
11. Transport, transport infrastructure
12. Trade and industry
13. Tourism industry
14. Cross-sectional: Spatial, regional and physical development planning and
15. Civil protection



Governance structure of German adaptation process



Action Plan for Adaptation (APA)



Adopted by Federal Cabinet
at the 31th August 2011

- Measures at the federal level:
 1. Knowledge and Enhancing Capabilities
 2. National Framework and Incentives
 3. Activities of Federal Government
 4. International Responsibility
- Common measures of the **federal and the state level**
- Links to other federal strategies (biodiversity, high-technology, etc.)
- Next step: Progress Report 2014

Next Step: Progress Report 2014

- **Updated Action Plan** with future federal activities including a time and finance plan,
- **Vulnerability assessment** to prioritize risks and derive adaptation needs at the federal level,
- **Indicator based evaluation** of the effects and implementation status of the Adaptation Strategy,
- Concrete further development of the Adaptation Strategy including a **regular evaluation** of the adaptation process.

Main results up to now

Output-related

- Establishment of cross-sectoral decision making bodies and wide participation process
- Adoption of policy papers at federal (state, regional) levels
- Naming of adaptation measures and identification of potential adaptation activities

Process-related

- Ensuring commitment and responsibilities
- Rising awareness, share knowledge, enable actors and increase cooperation: **Mainstreaming**

Institutional and other **barriers**

- **Awareness** and knowledge
- Long term adaptation **visions** are missing
- Sectoral **interests**
- Institutional **inertness**
- **Financial** limitations (no cross-sectoral funds)
- Other more pressing **drivers** than climate change
- Institutional **capacities** vs. responsibilities

Success factors (Action Plan)

Pragmatic approach: start with

- no-regret measures and co-benefit measures
- Feasible (available) measures already on the political agenda
- Measures with secured funding

Sectoral approach:

- Sectoral funds lead to sectoral prioritisation
- Measures decreasing sectoral (short term) risks

Lessons learnt by implementing an adaptation strategy

Adaptation needs **time, money, engagement** and a lot of **meetings** to

- Increase awareness and mainstream adaptation,
- Identify potential adaptation activities and select (prioritise) measures,
- Keep the process alive to be able to overcome sectoral interests and institutional inertness.

Recommendations

- Construct an adaptation process as **stepwise** and **iterative**
- Secure governmental **commitment** and determine explicit **responsibilities** → highly relevant for long term process
- Allocate resources and **funding** for adaptation
- Strengthen **horizontal and vertical integration** of adaptation, combine top-down and bottom-up processes
- Expand stakeholder participation on **non-governmental actors** (esp. enterprises, organizations, NGOs)
- Support stakeholders by providing **knowledge and tools**
- Mainstream adaptation: plant it in the heads of the people as a part of **daily work**
- **How should the world, we want to live in, look like?**