



Committee on  
Climate Change

**Independent** advice to government  
on building a low-carbon economy  
and preparing for climate change

**29<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

# Climate change reporting: Assessing outcomes and maximising outputs

Brendan Freeman  
Committee on Climate Change

# The UK Climate Change Act 2008

## Mitigation:

- Legal target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050
- Requires Government to set carbon budgets as a pathway to get to the 2050 target (five so far, up to 2032)

## Adaptation:

- **Requirement for Government to publish a UK climate change risk assessment (CCRA) every five years**
- **And then a National Adaptation Programme (NAP) to address the risks**
- **Establishes Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP)**

The Act sets up the Committee on Climate Change and the Adaptation Committee

- The CCC advises Government on the level of carbon budgets, and scrutinises progress towards meeting the 2050 target
- **The AC advises Government on the Climate Change Risk Assessment, and scrutinises progress in delivering the National Adaptation Programme**

# Climate change adaptation: Sector priorities

- Assessment separated into four overarching themes: **natural environment**, people & built environment, infrastructure, business.

**Table 2.1.** Natural environment chapter adaptation priorities

Natural capital assets including biodiversity	Regulating services	Provisioning services
Terrestrial habitats and species Freshwater habitats and species Marine and coastal habitats and species Farmland habitats and species	Water management	Agricultural productivity Commercial forestry Commercial fisheries and aquaculture

# Assessing outcomes: Linking CC adaptation, (mitigation), risk and impact

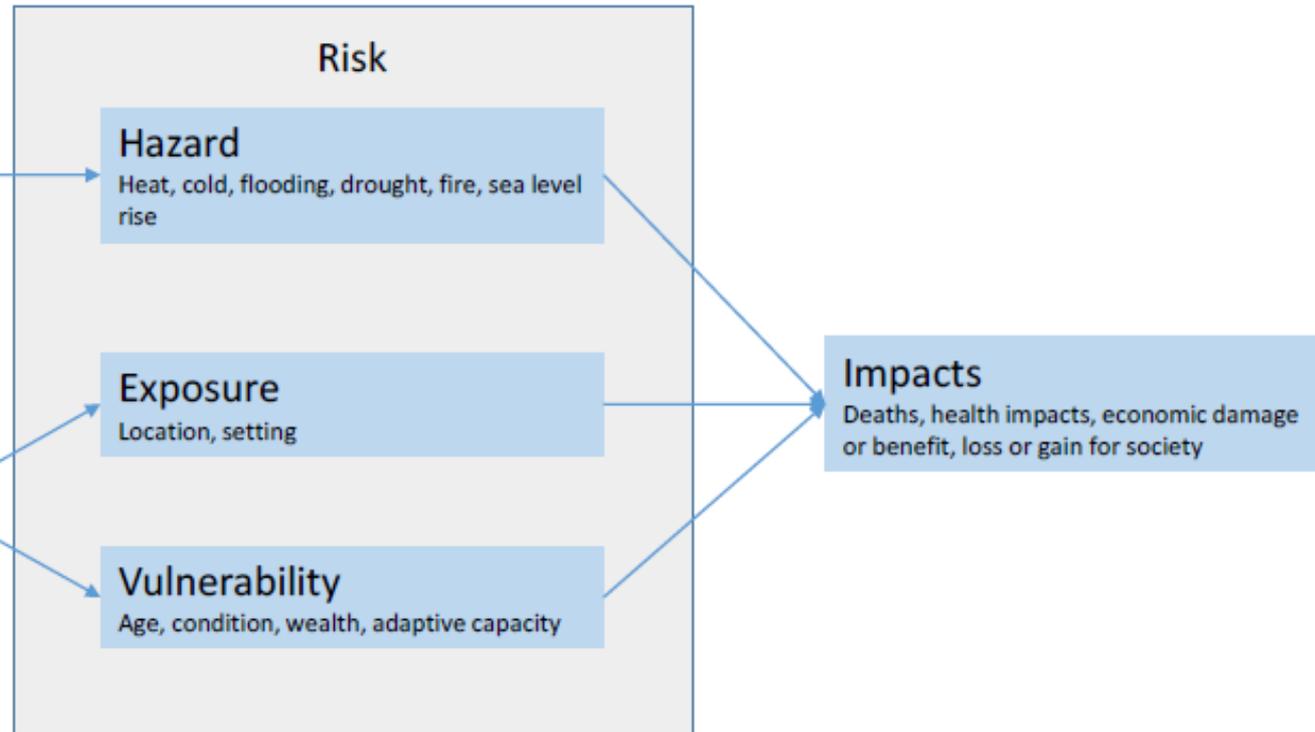
## Mitigation

Reduce greenhouse gases, ultimately affecting scale of climate change (but actions have a time lag of decades/centuries)

## Adaptation

Actions to reduce vulnerability or exposure to hazards, or take advantage of opportunities:

- Low and no regret adaptation, including capacity building
- Decisions with long lead times
- Decisions to avoid lock-in

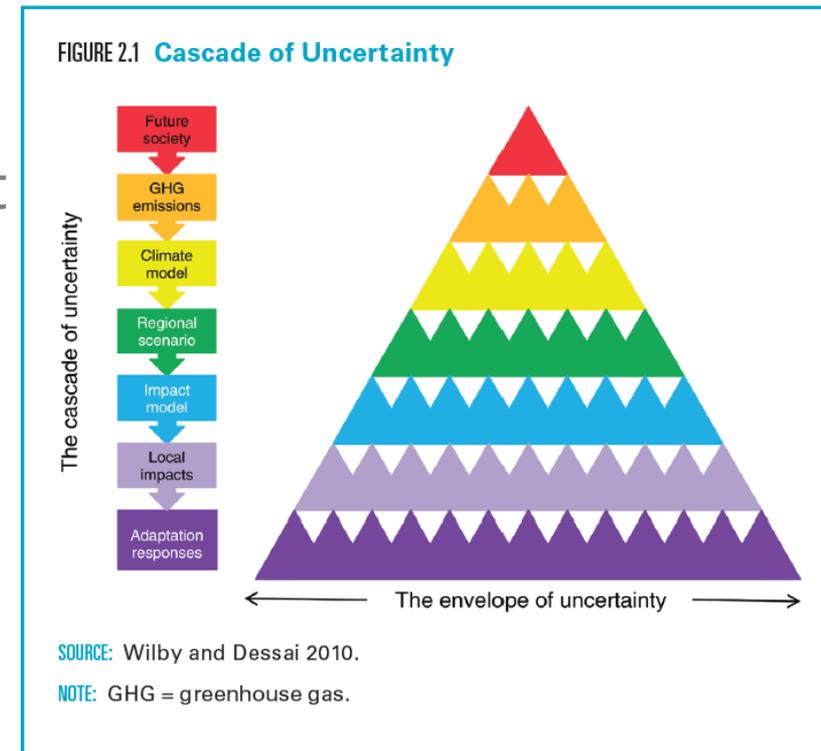


Source: CCC, Progress in preparing for climate change, 2019

**Indicator framework:** enables the Committee to assess trends in risk factors: hazard, vulnerability and exposure - we also collect indicators to assess trends in adaptation action, and impacts

# Challenges for M&E in climate change adaptation

- Attribution and complexity of determinants
- Variable time horizons
- Adaptation is a moving target
- Conceptual agreement on definitions
- Shifting baselines
- Uncertainty



CCC to publish an adaptation indicator principles paper early 2020.

# Maximising outputs: 2019 Adaptation progress report



**Published:**  
10 July 2019

## Progress in preparing for climate change – 2019 Progress Report to Parliament

 [Download this report](#)  
4.32MB

### Contents:

1. Outline
2. Key findings
3. Appendices and data
4. Supporting research
5. Infographic

### 1. Outline

This report sets out the Adaptation Committee's latest assessment of progress in preparing for climate change in England, and provides a first evaluation of the Government's second National Adaptation Programme.

## Communications objectives

- Being part of the conversation (climate crisis, heatwaves) – by filling the evidence gap
- Ensure the report reaches a wide cross-section of target stakeholder groups and lands positively amongst those groups
- To raise general awareness of climate change risks

# Communication strategy

- Launch event – **140+ attended**
  - 20+ supportive quotes
- Targeting national media, with regional outlets – **314 articles**
- Broadcast interviews (TV, online)
- Providing solid news hooks (link to net zero, climate impacts).
- Twitter
  - Infographics
  - Threads linked to key messages



- Despite the challenge in ensuring adaptation messages cut through, there was high quality coverage secured in a number of top tier publications which delivered and remained on message.

## UK's lack of plans to protect people from climate crisis 'shocking', say advisers

**Government's official climate advisers say there is no proper preparation to cope with heatwaves and flash floods**



▲ Flooding in York. Photograph: Anna Gowthorpe/PA

The government's own advisers have declared themselves shocked that the UK has no proper plans for protecting people from heatwaves, flash flooding and other impacts of the climate crisis.

## Government has 'Dad's Army' approach to coping with climate impacts: experts

By [PRESS ASSOCIATION](#)

PUBLISHED: 00:55, 10 July 2019 | UPDATED: 00:55, 10 July 2019



The Government has a "ramshackle, Dad's Army" approach to making sure England can cope with the impacts of rising temperatures, its climate advisers warn.

And UK action to slash the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change is lagging far behind what is needed, even before the Government set a tougher new target to cut pollution to zero overall by 2050.

In its annual progress report to Parliament, the advisory Committee on Climate Change (CCC) said the Government had to show it was serious about tackling the problem in the next 12 to 18 months.

And it warned that action to prepare homes, businesses and the countryside in England for a hotter world is "less ambitious" than it was a decade ago.

## UK is not prepared for rising temperatures, damning report warns

The committee on climate change (CCC) said the UK is not prepared for a 2C temperature rise, and even less prepared for a 4C rise.

By [Helen-Ann Smith](#), news reporter

- The report has led to a **raised awareness** particularly in the BBC about adaptation. Following the progress report, we have been approached on numerous occasions about adaptation from wider news broadcast and online media outlets.
- **Simplifying the messaging proved valuable** in being picked up in the media. **Punchy, evocative messages** provided an interesting hook for the media which led to a heightened interest in the story, particularly on social.
- Providing a **tangible, relatable point** to the key message works well. Mitigation can immediately talk about a target. Whereas for adaptation it will require the CCC to talk more about the impacts and relate this to the public. The difficulty will be how we can continue to better relate adaptation to the public in an accurate and succinct way.



# Contact us

[www.theccc.org.uk](http://www.theccc.org.uk) |  @theCCCuK  
[communications@theccc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:communications@theccc.gsi.gov.uk)