

# The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) Newsletter - July 2010

## Welcome

Welcome to issue 1 of the CCRA Newsletter. We hope these letters will keep you updated on our progress and events, but if you'd like to know more email the team at [CCRA@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CCRA@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

If you're on our mailing list, you probably already know that the CCRA is a major new assessment to inform government about the risks posed by climate change, so we can prioritise action to tackle them.

More background to the project can be found at:

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adaptation/ccra/index.htm>

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## 1. Sector impacts

Thanks to people sharing their expertise and experience with us, we have identified over 600 climate change impacts for the UK in the following sectors:

- Agriculture
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Built environment (incl. cultural heritage)
- Business/industry/services
- Energy
- Fisheries and marine
- Flooding and coastal erosion
- Forestry
- Health
- Transport
- Water (resources, demand and quality)

In addition to these, we have also identified many cross-sectoral impacts including those related to: critical infrastructure; telecommunications; emergency and rescue services; finance and insurance; security; small and medium enterprises; spatial planning; land use management; and vulnerable groups.

During May, over 150 stakeholders participated in nine workshops; thinking about these impacts and helping us identify ways to measure them. Further meetings and a series of telephone interviews are underway to follow up where more detailed discussions are still needed. We are also setting up a

webpage where you can download the outputs from these events and you can provide additional feedback online. Further details will be issued when the web pages go live.

The CCRA is building on existing evidence such as sector impact assessments and regional risk assessments, but it also takes this evidence a step further; for the first time we are attempting to measure (as far as possible) the key risks posed to the UK as a whole. It would be impractical to attempt to measure all 600+ impacts as part of this first assessment. Therefore, we are aiming to undertake a more detailed assessment of approximately 100 UK-wide impacts, with each impact being measured either qualitatively or quantitatively where possible. This important first step is due to be completed by the end of Autumn 2010.

## 2. Innovation in the Water Sector

Using the water sector as our test case, we have been trialling a method looking at risk from the point of view of an organisation's state of readiness to react to climate change. We are using interviews, case studies and an online questionnaire to build on information that already exists regarding this. This will give us a better understanding of the adaptive capacity of the water sector as a whole to climate change.

## 3. Assessments for the Devolved Administrations

As well as the UK-wide sector-based assessment, we will be undertaking assessments for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This will get underway later in the year, but in March of this year the CCRA team started the process by meeting stakeholders in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These meetings highlighted work undertaken to date, key issues related to the practicalities of engaging stakeholders and some of the headline impacts and challenges posed by climate change.

In September 2010, we will be holding a workshop in each Devolved Administration (see [Upcoming events](#)) to give stakeholders a more focussed opportunity to discuss which impacts are important for their country and hence which risks they would like to see reflected in the CCRA. As part of this, we will be looking at differences in climate projections for each Devolved Administration and differences in likely consequences due to other factors, such as population distribution. We will then take the outputs from the UK-wide sector-based assessment as a starting point and supplement this with additional analysis to produce a more tailored assessment for each Devolved Administration.

## 4. Assessments within England

Following on from the UK-wide sector-based assessment, we are now working to tailor the assessment at a sub-national level in England. The UK Climate Projections 2009 areas will be used to define the geographical extent of each assessment.<sup>1</sup> We are working to develop the method of engagement with colleagues in these areas.

## 5. Upcoming events

21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 - Welsh Stakeholders Workshop  
23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 - Scottish Stakeholders Workshop  
29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 - Northern Irish Stakeholders Workshop

Dates for the workshops in England will be confirmed, but will take place during September and October 2010.

## 6. Where to find out more

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found on the CCRA pages of the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adaptation/ccra/index.htm> if you have any further questions, you can email the team at [CCRA@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:CCRA@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> The UKCP09 areas are described here: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/content/view/524/690/>