

Minutes – Adaptation Committee

Date: 18 October 2024
Held: 1st Floor, 10 South Colonnade, Canary Wharf
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Present:

Baroness Brown (Chair), Richard Betts, Ben Caldecott, Michael Davies, Richard Dawson, Nathalie Seddon, Swenja Surminski.

Apologies:

None

1. Introduction, minutes of the previous meeting and conflicts of interest

The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting. No new conflicts of interests were raised.

The Committee noted the appointment of Swenja Surminski as the Adaptation Committee representative on the Climate Change Committee.

2. Cold chain deep dive – Presentation of interim findings from supplier

The consortium presented key interim findings from the Part one scoping project on cold chains. The Committee provided feedback on some specific aspects, including the spatial granularity of climate projections used, the metrics which might be developed and the adaptation responses that have been identified. The Committee will take a decision on the next steps in the project at the 8 November committee meeting.

3. Preliminary scope of finance workstream

The secretariat presented different options for work to evidence what a well-adapted financial system would look like, which would build on findings from the technical report. The Committee provided feedback on the importance of looking further into adaptation actions relating to access to insurance and the resilience of UK pension funds. The Committee emphasised the importance of having a clear outcome framework and convening a wide range of stakeholders.

4. UKRI MACC hub

A new UKRI-Defra funded 'Maximising Adaptation to Climate Change' (MACC) research programme started in September of this year. In addition to funding academic research projects, the programme has funded a knowledge translation hub. The lead of the hub shared their plans and the Committee provided feedback and discussed opportunities for complementarity.

5. Technical Report: Methodology

The Technical Report consortium presented refined proposals to the committee on aspects of the urgency scoring methodology including the operationalisation of the magnitude scoring for a new top category. The committee endorsed the proposals subject to some suggested modifications.

6. Urban heat deep dive: update

The secretariat introduced members of the project team from Arup, who are the suppliers for the urban heat deep dive project. Arup presented an outline of the scope of the research, the modelling approach and the findings of their evidence review. The Committee pointed the project team towards other existing evidence and highlighted some topics for further research.

7. Water scarcity deep dive: update

The secretariat introduced members of the project team from WSP, who are the suppliers leading a consortium for the water scarcity deep dive project. The secretariat and WSP presented an outline of the scope of and approach to the research. The Committee provided feedback on the scope and approach and made recommendations regarding stakeholders to engage further.

8. AOB

No additional items were raised by the Committee.