



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence (MOD)

Departmental Adaptation Plan Update

May 2011

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Update on Adaptation Plan – May 2011

In March 2010 each Central Government Department published an adaptation plan explaining its proposed actions to meet the challenge of a changing climate. In order to assess progress on those actions, and to set out new priorities, a series of updates have been produced. This update is for the Ministry of Defence. All updates are available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/government/departmental-adaptation-plans/>

Why it is important for the Ministry of Defence to act on climate change

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) must be resilient to current and future environmental threats in order to deliver security for the UK and its overseas territories by defending them and to act as a force for good by strengthening international peace and stability.

The effects of climate change, such as water scarcity and energy and resource security have the potential to impact on international peace and stability exacerbating existing tensions around the world. This could mean a change in the size, type and location of the operations we expect to support in the future. There is therefore a need to ensure that our policy planning and military equipment capability and personnel can evolve to meet the impacts of climate change.

In addition there is a need to ensure the MOD estate is resilient to the direct and indirect impacts of current and future climates and to extreme weather events (e.g. coastal and fluvial flooding, overheating of buildings etc.), ensuring effective business continuity procedures are in place both in the UK and overseas.

Ministry of Defence: Update on actions since March 2010 Adaptation Plan

- In March 2010 MOD published a suite of three documents setting out its approach (collectively referred to as the MOD Climate Change Strategy):
 - Defence in a changing climate: sets the context for defence as a result of climate change;
 - MOD Climate Change Strategy: sets the highest level targets for medium-term planning;
 - MOD Climate Change Delivery Plan: provides details on the actions needed to deliver the targets and covers short-term planning (1-3 years).
- Co-funded, with FCO and DECC, the post of Climate and Energy Security Envoy, to develop a greater understanding of how and where climate change is likely to have an impact upon security and what capabilities are required to respond to this threat.
- Worked further with other Government Departments and external experts on its climate security analysis. Produced a new “Global Strategic Trends – Out to 2040” (4th Edition which considers climate change with other issues and their likely impact).
- Developed a process to take climate change into account during the capability planning and procurement process.
- Developed a Climate Impact Risk Assessment Methodology (CIRAM) which identifies the risks to defence estates from current and future climates and extreme weather events. It allows actions to be identified to achieve estate resilience and business continuity to maintain and optimise defence estates.

Future adaptation priorities for the Ministry of Defence

- Finalise and publish a new Sustainable Development (SD) Strategy for Defence (including climate change) taking account of the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010.

- Continue to work with other Government departments to identify and understand the global impact of climate change and its impact on the UK.
- Continue to take forward the work to understand the likely effects of climate change at home and overseas and how this may affect the types, frequency and location of the operations that MOD is required to conduct.
- Improve the resilience of defence capability to the effects of climate change by ensuring that climate change is factored into our plans, activities and decision making processes.
- Continue to roll out the CIRAM programme across the critical operational sites, using this to inform the development of the Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment.
- Continue to ensure new infrastructure projects are resilient to current and future climates.

Update on actions from March 2010 DAP

Priority or action in DAP	Progress	Deadline
Through the International Climate Change Programme Board participate in the processes of identifying and subsequent reporting the risks that issues such as climate change, resource availability and energy security pose to the UK and its overseas interests.	Cross-Government security issues including climate security were considered as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review 2010.	Ongoing National Security Strategy will also consider these issues on an ongoing basis.

Capability planning and procurement processes ensure that impacts from climate change and resource availability are assessed and managed.	Processes (including policy and guidance) being developed following outcome of Strategic Defence and Security Review.	March 2012
Complete an overarching climate change strategic risk assessment for the MOD estate.	A Climate Resilience Working Group has been established to co-ordinate the CIRAM programme and develop a strategic approach to delivering a climate resilient estate.	By end 2013
Complete risk assessments, and develop, implement, monitor and review establishment action plans to improve the MOD estate's preparedness to the impacts of climate change.	Good progress has been made with delivering the programme of CIRAM assessments across MOD's most critical sites.	Defence critical sites by March 2013. Other key operational sites by 2015.

Further information on the Adapting to Climate Change programme can be found here:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/adapting/>