

Too Much Too Little, The Role of Water in Adaptation to Climate Change



Convened by the Governments of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Portugal
Organisation: Portuguese Environment Agency (APA); EEA and Norway Grants
Financial Mechanism Office (FMO); Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection
(DSB); University of Lisbon - Centre for Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation
and Modelling (CC-IAM)

Hotel Myriad, Lisbon, Portugal, 7-9 October 2013

Around three hundred participants from more than 20 countries attended the EEA Grants Conference “Too Much, Too Little, the role of Water in Adaptation to Climate Change”.

The conference focused on climate change and its potential consequences on the water availability, distribution and cycles as well as weather patterns across Europe. It served as a meeting point for national and international experts, researchers, policy-makers, practitioners and leaders of environmental NGOs in search of strategic and practical adaptation answers to this challenge at the European, national and local levels.

High-level interventions from the Portuguese Environmental Agency, EEA and Norway Grants Financial Mechanism Office (FMO), Mr Audun Garberg, Political Adviser to the Norwegian Ministry of Environment, and from Mr Jorge Moreira da Silva, the Portuguese Minister of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Energy, preceded the signature of the Programme and Implementation Agreements for the AdaPT Programme, co-financed by the EEA Grants (85%) and the Portuguese Carbon Fund (15%).

Expert perspectives on droughts and water scarcity, floods and landslides, coastal erosion and infrastructures, cities and the urban water cycle, changes in agriculture practices, food security, trans-boundary water management and other geopolitical implications of climate change, provided the background to three fruitful days of discussions. In a video address to the conference, Mr Rajendra Pachauri (Chair of IPCC) highlighted key conclusions of the Fifth IPCC Assessment Report (AR5). The closing address was provided by Mr Paulo Lemos, the Portuguese Secretary of State of Environment.

Conference participants highlighted that too much water (floods, landslides) and too little water (droughts, water scarcity) is an increasing challenge in Europe and will have far-reaching consequences for ecosystems, people and infrastructures. The participants were able to share, learn and get inspired by the on-going climate adaptation efforts across countries and regions as they called for the practical implementation of adaptation measures in Europe, in order to protect ecosystems and the services they provide, people and their livelihoods, infrastructures and businesses.

This conference pointed out the importance of the active cooperation across governments and institutions and the need for more inter-organizational coordination and communication to develop long-term climate change adaptation policies responding to expected impacts for the second half of this century.

Some prior policy responses were identified such as promotion of adaptation at local level, of easy access to climate change information, of climate change education and support case studies and pilot adaptation measures in environmental priority sectors.

The event was financed by the EEA Grants and supported by ongoing EU FP7 projects CIRCLE-2 and BASE. The emissions associated with this event were calculated by Ecoprogresso and offset by the Portuguese Carbon Fund. The participation of Refood volunteers ensured that all excess food from the conference catering was channeled to those who need it.

- ✓ High-level segment
- ✓ 6 Plenary Sessions
- ✓ 3 Field Trips
- ✓ 6 Parallel group discussion sessions
- ✓ 1 Civil society panel discussion
- ✓ 35 Oral presentations
- ✓ Multiple artistic performances inspired on water & climate adaptation