

## THE AUSTRIAN STRATEGY FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Part 1 – Context



# What do we mean by adaptation - Austrian Example

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# Aim

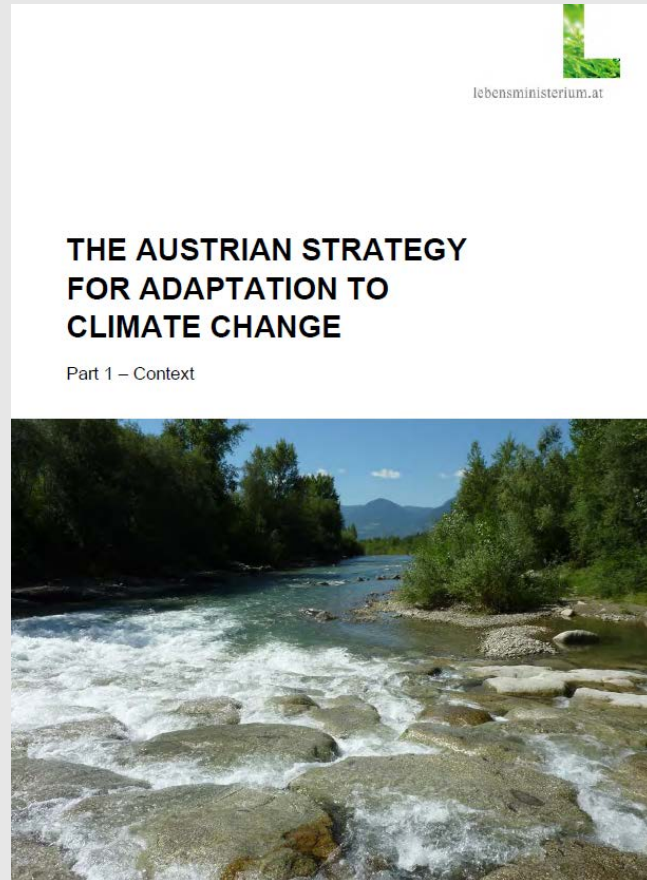
- reduce **negative impacts**
- use **positive effects**
- provide an **overall framework**

## Part I: Kontext/Framework + Part II: Action Plan

- **Broad, comprehensive, and high level of detail**
- Combines **strategic guidance** and **action-oriented** character
- **Science-/evidence-based**, uncertainties and knowledge gaps explicitly addressed
- **Guiding principles**

# Part I: Kontext/Framework

Table of Contents



## Table of Contents

1	Introduction .....	3
2	Political Environment .....	7
3	Objectives .....	15
4	Development of the Austrian Adaptation Strategy .....	19
5	Climate Change in Austria .....	23
5.1	Global Climate Scenarios .....	23
5.2	Regional Climate Scenarios for Austria .....	25
5.3	Anticipated Future Effects of Climate Change Based on Climate Scenarios for Austria .....	32
6	Challenges to Adaptation .....	39
7	Social Aspects of Climate Change .....	43
8	Guiding Principles of Adaptation .....	51
9	Criteria for Prioritizing the Recommendations for Action .....	55
10	The Status Quo of Adaptation in Austria – Federal State Initiatives .....	59
11	Research Environment and Research Needs .....	71
12	Good Practice .....	77
13	Communication and Education .....	95
14	Global Context .....	99
15	Recommendations for Action .....	103
15.1	Overall Principles .....	103
15.2	Tabular Compilation of Recommendations for Action .....	104
16	Resource Requirements in the Course of Adaptation to Climate Change .....	123
17	Outlook and Further Steps .....	127
18	References .....	133

## What do we mean by Adaptation?

- The term adaptation refers to initiatives and measures enacted to “**decrease the sensitivity of natural or human systems to the actual or expected effects of climate change**” (IPPC 2007).

## What do we mean by Adaptation?

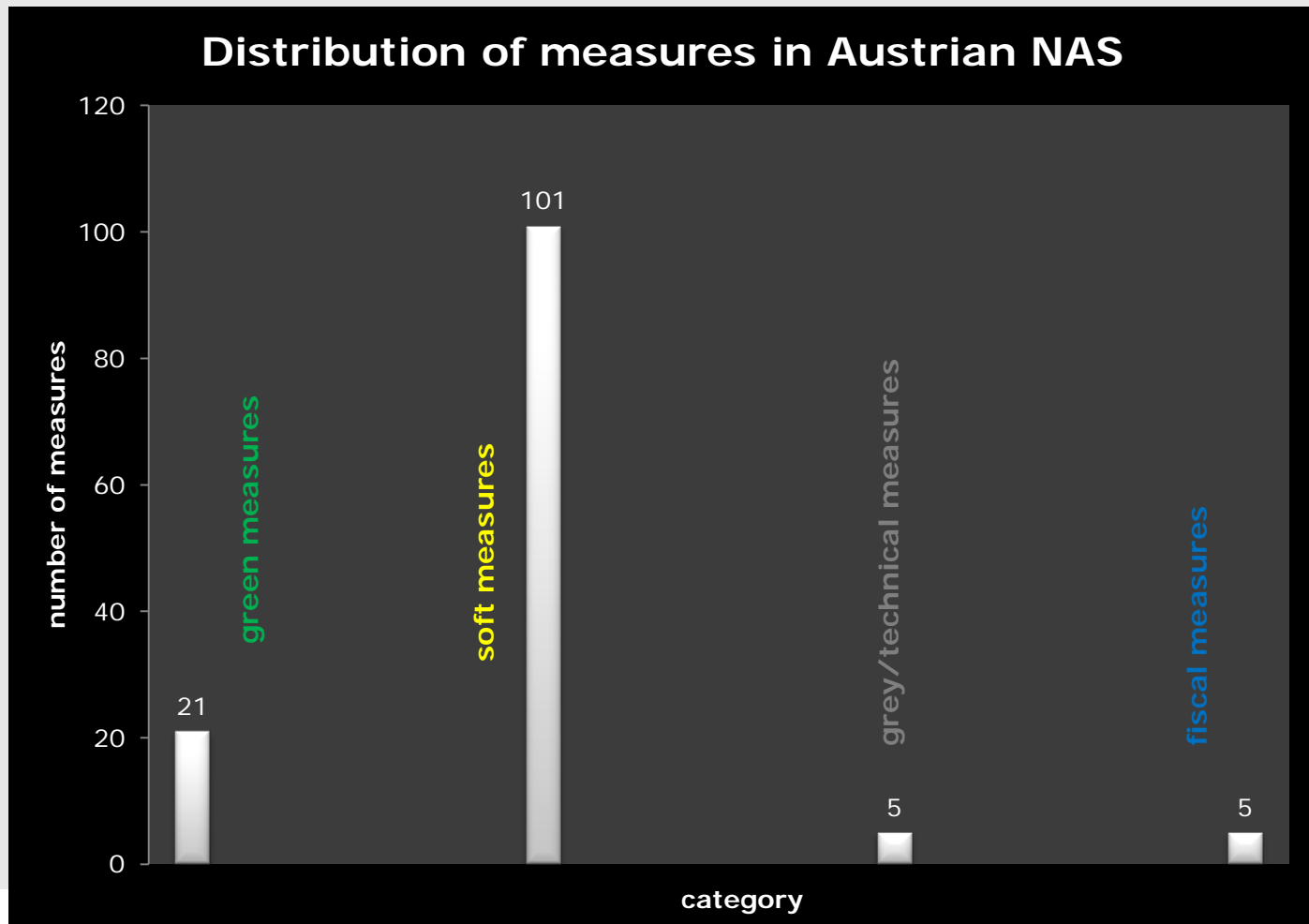
- Adaptation activities seek to:
  - reduce vulnerability to climate change,
  - increase resilience, and
  - take advantage of potential opportunities presented by changing climatic conditions.
  
- Adaptation can be brought about in many ways and at various levels of action:
  - forward-looking (proactive) or
  - in response to specific climatic effects (reactive), on the public or private level, autonomously or planned.



## What do we mean by Adaptation?

- Wide range of adaptation options are available:
  - **Grey** adaptation: invasive and/or energy intensive technical and construction measures aiming mainly at the protection of infrastructures or people
  - **Green** adaptation: measures aiming at raising the resilience of ecosystems and their services
  - **Soft** adaptation: non-invasive spatial planning measures and measures to enhance knowledge transfer/raising adaptive capacity
  - **Fiscal** adaptation: Measures aiming at saving critical resources/protect values by adaptation (e.g. water or public/private infrastructures) by introducing measures like payment for ecosystem services (PES) or risk transfer mechanisms (e.g. insurances)

# What do we mean by Adaptation?





## Adaptation – distinction to other activities?

- For example, measures aimed at the sustainable use of land and water are useful and necessary even without explicit consideration of the effects of climate change.
- However, climate change will increase the pressure on natural resources, such that these types of measures will also contribute to adaptation to climate change.
- Therefore, it is not always possible, nor is it expedient, to differentiate adaptation to climate change from measures that serve to protect the climate, the environment, or sustainable development.

## Adaptation – definition for your country?

- EU-Definition:

- Adaptation means anticipating the adverse effects of climate change and taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the damage they can cause, or taking advantage of opportunities that may arise. It has been shown that well planned, early adaptation action saves money and lives later.

- Beneficiaries Definition:

- ....
- ...

# Contact & Information

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