

# Austrian Adaptation Approach and Experience

Markus Leitner, Tirana, 25 November 2014

# Austrian Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

**Start:** 2007

**Political mandate:** Development of NAS is included in the federal government program 2008-2013

**Main responsibility:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management

**Coordination:** Support from Kyoto-Forum (= cooperation btw. all federal ministries and representatives from all nine provinces)

**Adopted:** Council of Ministers in October 2012  
Approved by the “governors of the provinces” in June 2013

THE AUSTRIAN STRATEGY  
FOR ADAPTATION TO  
CLIMATE CHANGE

Part 1 – Context



Die österreichische Strategie  
zur Anpassung an den Klima-  
wandel

Teil 2 – AKTIONSPLAN  
Handlungsempfehlungen für die Umsetzung

Vorlage zur Annahme im Ministerrat



# Aim and Development

## Overall aim

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

## Characteristics of the development process

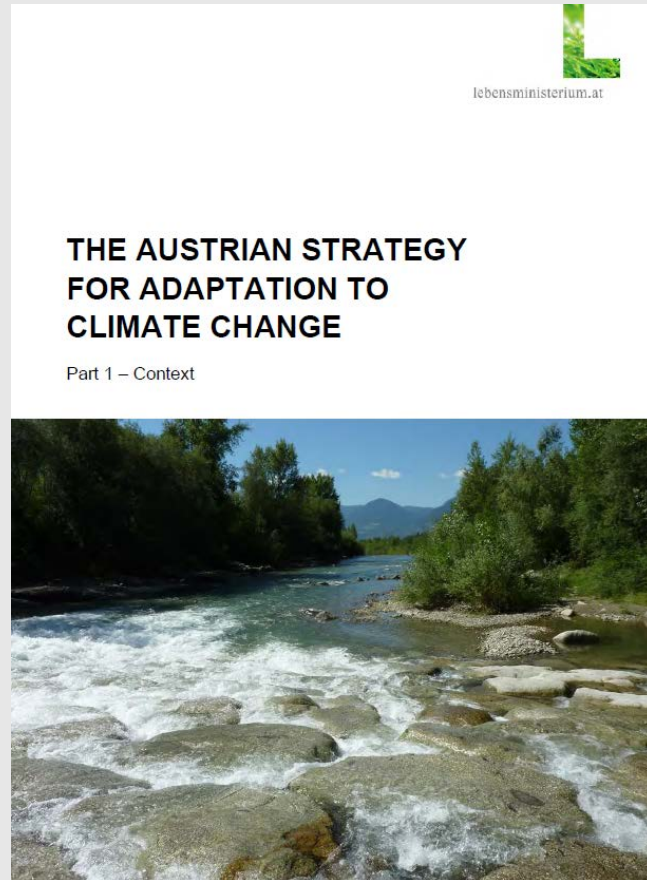
- **sectoral** and **iterative** approach
- NAS + NAP **jointly developed**
- collaboration with **science**
- broad **stakeholder engagement**

## 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

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## Part II: Action Plan



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### **Die österreichische Strategie zur Anpassung an den Klima- wandel**

**Teil 2 – AKTIONSPLAN**  
Handlungsempfehlungen für die Umsetzung

Vorlage zur Annahme im Ministerrat

## Part II: Action Plan

For each sector:

1. Relevance of the sector
2. Sectoral vulnerability
3. Recommended actions

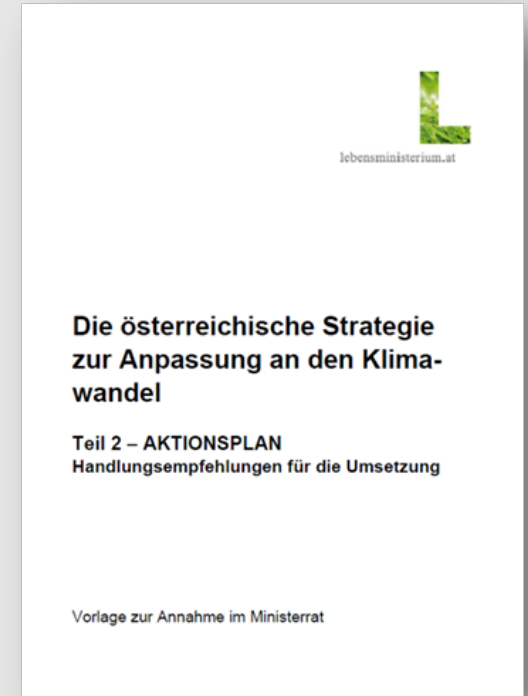
Annex:

Cross-sectoral interrelations

For each of the  
132 adaptation options,  
information on responsible  
actors, time frame,  
mainstreaming possibility,  
resources needed, etc. is  
presented

14 sectors covered:

Agriculture, forestry, water, tourism, energy, natural hazards, housing and construction, civil protection, health, ecosystems and biodiversity, transport infrastructure, spatial planning, economy, and urban green spaces



# NAS Development Process (2007-2012)



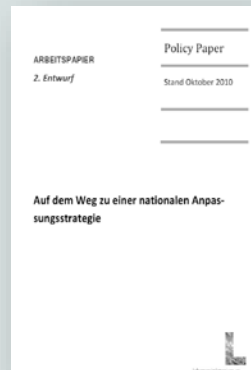
Scientific and expert studies  
(vulnerability assessments,  
proposals for adaptation options)  
*agriculture, forestry, water, tourism, energy,  
biodiversity,.....*



3 written consultation  
rounds



Policy Paper



Informal workshop series

Participation process

Online consultation of  
broad public

Results

Part 1: Context  
Part 2: Action  
Plan





# Participation process

- **EAA** carried out the participation process
- **106 institutions** were actively involved

Financed by	Duration	Sectors discussed
Climate- and Energy Fund Austria	1.phase: - January 2009 – September 2010  2.phase: - October 2010 – July 2011	Agriculture, Forestry, Water, Tourism, Energy  Biodiv, Natural hazards, Buildings, Health, Transport infrastructure



# Political adoption of the Austrian NAS



- Approved by the Austrian Council of Ministers on 23 October 2012
- Taken note of by the provinces („governors of the provinces“) on 16 May 2013

Download: <http://klimaanpassung.lebensministerium.at>

# Austrian Adaptation Platform: Content overview

## Main content on HOME

Climate change in Austria

Adaptation to climate change

Austrian adaptation strategy

Research on CCA

Database: adaptation measures

Links/Glossary/Newsletter



[www.klimawandelanpassung.at](http://www.klimawandelanpassung.at)

# Austrian Adaptation Platform – now in english

Klima | Wandel | Anpassung

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Climate Change in Austria

Austrian Strategy for Adaptation

Research Landscape for Adaptation

Austrian Database on Climate Change Adaptation

> Climate Change Adaptation in Austria

Climate Change Adaptation in Austria

The scientific community leaves no doubt about the existence of anthropogenic climate change. Current studies show that even with a complete halt of greenhouse gas emissions, further temperature increase is unavoidable. Necessary steps for adaptation to the unavoidable consequences of climate change are thus discussed in recent years. The central question is how we can protect various areas of concern to remain viable for the future also under changing climate conditions.

However, adaptation activities cannot replace climate change mitigation efforts! For a sustainable development of our society, both climate change mitigation and adaptation measures are necessary.

This website of the Environment Agency Austria (umweltbundesamt) focuses on adaptation and offers a wealth of information on the subject of climate change and the management of its consequences.

see also

[The Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change online version](#)

[The Austrian Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change for prints](#)

nach oben

umweltbundesamt<sup>u</sup>

MINISTERIUM FÜR UMWELT, KLIMA UND ENERGIE

ÖSTERREICH

klima+

energie

fonds



# Austrian Adaptation Platform: Newsletter

## Newsletter overview:

- Target group: Policy makers, decision makers, interested public
- Issued since 2011
- 2015: 4 newsletters are planned
- Next Newsletter in December 2014

Klima | Wandel | Anpassung

Home | Kontakt | Impressum

Klimawandel in Österreich  
Anpassung an den Klimawandel  
Österreichische Anpassungsstrategie  
Forschungslandschaft  
Datenbank  
Links  
Glossar  
**Newsletter Registrierung**  
**Newsletterarchiv**

Home > Newsletter Registrierung > Newsletterarchiv

### Newsletterarchiv

- Newsletter 7 | Klimawandelanpassung | Juli 2013
- Newsletter 6 | Klimawandelanpassung | Dezember 2012
- Newsletter 5 | Klimawandelanpassung | Oktober 2012
- Newsletter 4 | Klimawandelanpassung | Mai 2012
- Newsletter 3 | Klimawandelanpassung | Dezember 2011
- Newsletter 2 | Klimawandelanpassung | Juni 2011
- Newsletter 1 | Klimawandelanpassung | Februar 2011

Letzte Änderung: 23.07.2013 [nach oben](#)

umwelt**bundesamt**<sup>u</sup>    
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# Summarizing recommendations -1

- Plan adaptation as (cyclical) **process** along the policy cycle and make use of **EU/UN guidance**
- Take care to **integrate** the adaptation process
  - **vertically** (policy scales from local to supranational),
  - **horizontally** (across partaking/impacted) sectors and
  - **transdisciplinary** (policy makers, practitioners, companies, affected people and multi-disciplinar research teams)
- Consider regional (meaning sub-national as well as cross-border) **partnerships** in which to integrate **CSOs/NGOs** as potential leaders as well as governance at all policy scales

## Summarizing recommendations -2

- Urge your government as well as other funders (private funding organisations, donators,...) to accompany the adaptation process with an applied (transdisciplinary) **research** programme as well as with fundamental research (e.g. for climate and economic modelling)
- Once the adaptation process gets started, seek for 'windows of opportunity' to **mainstream** adaptation in other policy domains, look for **synergies** and **make sure adaptation process does not become a singular/stand-alone/one-shot exercise**
- Aim at an **integrative process** and involve all relevant institutions and players (note that this complicates the process and might lead to some compromises, but is essential for **political commitment for the NAS**)

## Summarizing recommendations -3

- **Link up with international processes** and showcase your national adaptation process and efforts
- Take care for **awareness raising** in your country, collaborate closely with the media and aim at roadshows and public consultations
- **Disseminate** results **adequately** to different target groups/social milieus. Note for example that heat-stressed elderly people might not use the internet and that dissemination material should be tailor-made to at least the most important social milieus in your country
- Try to get an overview of the **damages/costs** of weather events in your country, project costs by applying climate damage triggers projection to cost-relevant impact chains (climate scenarios) and socio-economic scenarios. Note: **This helps to get high-level political commitment**



## What are the next steps?

- 1) **Workshops** with policy makers in provinces
- 2) **Brochure** to introduce adaptation to the broad public (published)
- 3) **Translation** of NAS and parts of website into English (performed)
- 4) **Research study** dealing with the question of cost of inaction, public and private adaptation costs (ongoing)
- 5) **Monitoring and evaluation** approach (ongoing, first report on progress by early 2015)
- 6) ...



Graphik: Linux Solutions.Austria

# Contact & Information

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