

RegionsAdapt Brief Report 2019

RegionsAdapt members continue
to #AdaptOurWorld



Introduction

By joining the RegionsAdapt initiative, regional governments commit to annually disclose their data on climate risks and adaptation through CDP's States and Regions questionnaire. Each year, Regions4 publishes a summary of the data to inform about regional governments' ambitious actions to adapt to climate change. The annual disclosure process helps RegionsAdapt members to better understand the risks they face from climate change, measure their progress and learn from each other's adaptation actions.

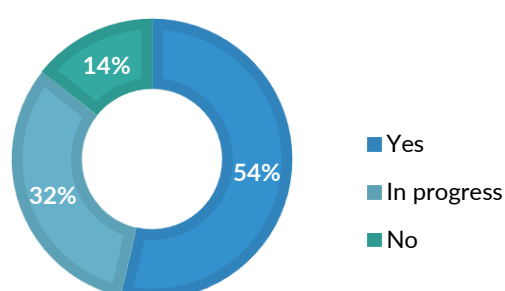
In 2019, 28 RegionsAdapt members from 17 countries in each geographic region of the world disclosed their data, representing almost **200 million people**, and covering more than 5,3 million km² of the world's surface area.

Regions around the world feel the impact of climate change

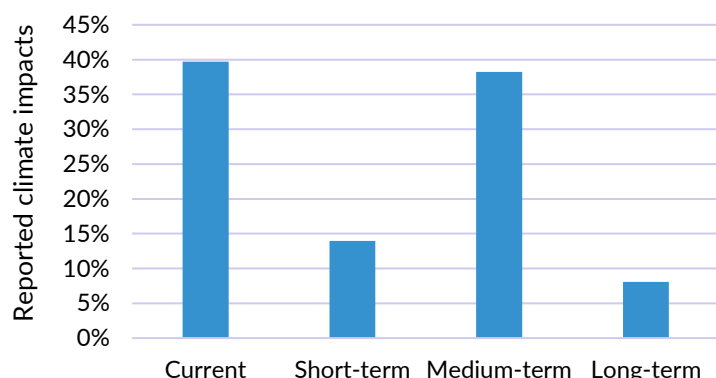
In total, these regions reported more than 130 impacts of climate change they face currently or will face in the future. But before effective adaptation policies and actions to these impacts can be developed, it is necessary to assess the risks from and vulnerabilities to climate change. Consequently, 86% of the regions that disclosed in 2019 stated that climate change risk or vulnerability assessments have been undertaken or are in progress for their region.

This number correlates with the number of regions that reported that current and/or anticipated impacts of climate change present significant physical risks to their region, with more frequent and/or intense rainfall, and more frequent and/or intense droughts being the risks most reported. What is striking is that regions are already facing 40% of the climate change impacts they reported and that more than 50% of the impacts are classified as serious, while only 15% are considered less serious. This indicates that together with addressing the long-term implications arising from climate change, there is a need and focus on short-term adaptation action to reduce overall vulnerability to climate change.

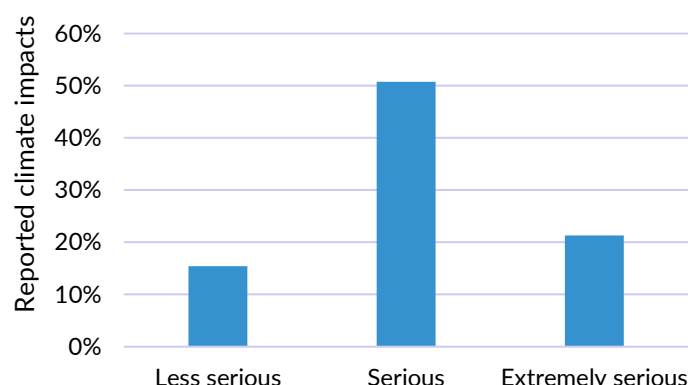
RISK OR VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT UNDERTAKEN



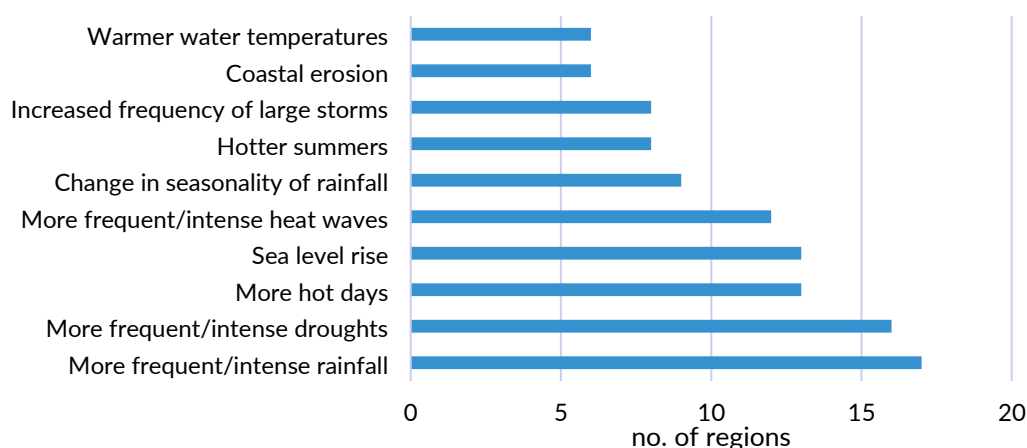
TIMESCALE



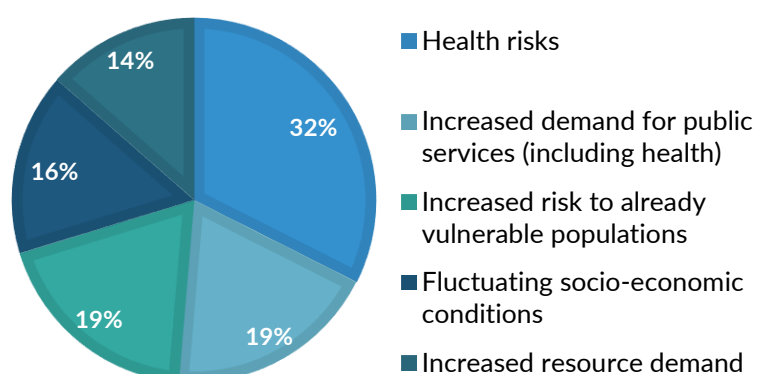
SERIOUSNESS



10 MOST REPORTED IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



TOP 5 SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISKS



In addition to the physical risks that RegionsAdapt members face from climate change, 86% of the disclosing regions stated that they also face socio-economic risks, and 75% reported that impacts of climate change threaten the ability of businesses to operate successfully in their region. Health risks, increased demand for public services (including health), and increased risk to already vulnerable populations are those

socio-economic risks most reported by the regions, underlining that climate change not only is an environmental problem but affects human wellbeing and health drastically.

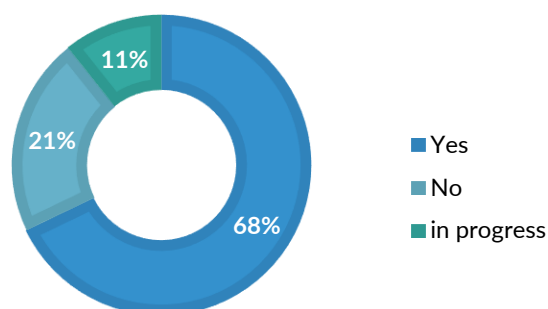
Regional governments keep adapting their territories

Compared to previous years, the number of regions that have an adaptation plan in place or in progress has increased, with 79% of the regions with a complete action plan, or one in progress.

Consequently, from the 28 regional governments that disclosed in 2019, 22 reported concrete actions they are taking to reduce the impact of physical climate risks.

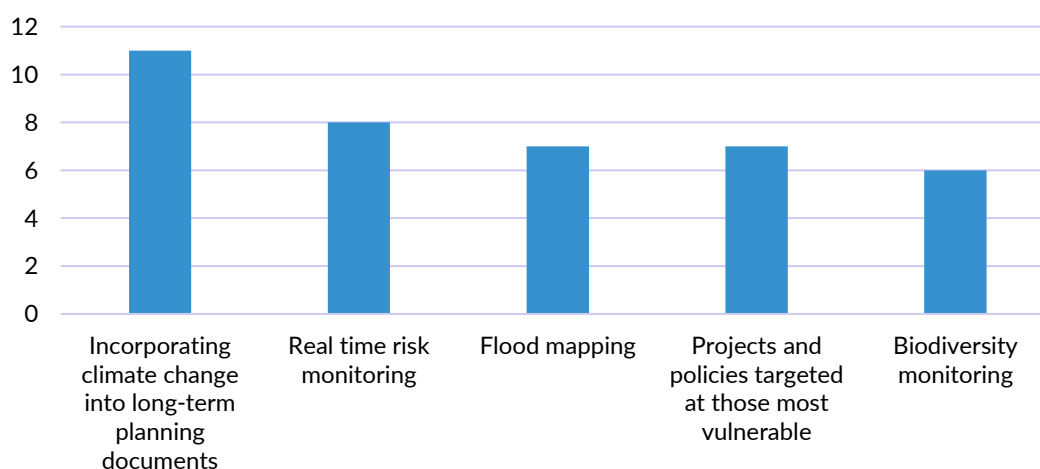
In total, 142 adaptation actions to the physical impacts of climate change have been reported. While a huge part of the reported actions does not fall into one of the predetermined categories, from those that do, incorporating climate change into long-term planning documents is the one most reported, confirming that climate change requires a holistic approach. It is worth noting that the majority of reported actions are in the implementation or operation stage or even further ahead.

ADAPTATION PLAN IN PLACE

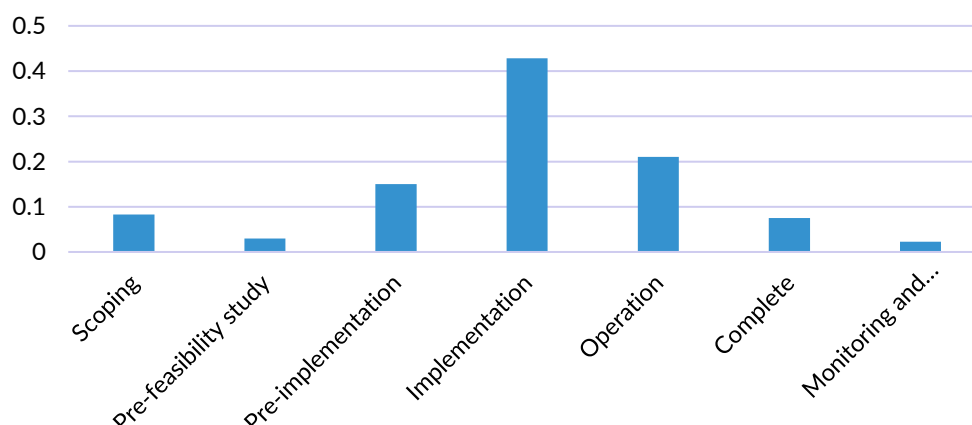


However, not all climate change impacts reported are addressed by regions taking adaptation actions. In fact, only 2/3 of them are, with the three impacts most addressed being more hot days, more intense rainfall, and sea level rise.

TOP 5 MOST REPORTED ADAPTATION ACTIONS



STATUS OF ADAPTATION ACTION



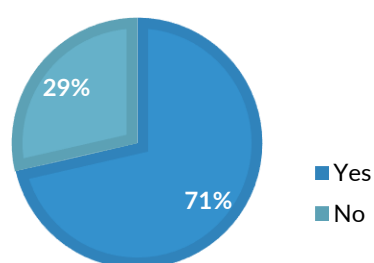
Nevertheless, the 2019 disclosure process once again confirms that regional governments are well aware of the impacts of climate change and what they mean for their territories and citizens. Subsequently, they are taking great efforts to adapt to climate change. In this sense, the RegionsAdapt initiative offers a platform for regional governments to advance these efforts by facilitating opportunities for cooperation and knowledge sharing among its members.

Multilevel governance in climate change adaptation

The impacts of climate change are felt globally, so regional government action is required. To deliver change at the pace needed, all levels of government must work together to ensure their territories adapt to climate change at pace. This multi-level approach has been adopted by almost all regional governments that disclosed their data this year, who are at least working with their city and local authorities to develop and/or implement their regional adaptation strategies. However, when asked about their involvement in the national adaptation planning process,

almost one third of the regions reported that they were not involved.

INVOLVEMENT IN NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING



Many of the policies involved in planning or implementing climate adaptation, such as land planning, biodiversity protection, transport, research and development, education, water management or agriculture, are decided at regional level, and national governments can benefit greatly from the knowledge and experiences of their

regional counterparts. On the other hand, national institutions can support adaptation processes by providing resources, building capacities, promoting interinstitutional coordination or sharing information and knowledge.

In this regard, Regions4 is developing a report that will deliver in-depths insights on best practices and successful experiences concerning this topic. It will reveal common challenges for multi-level governance in adaptation and identify success stories and experiences from regional governments. The report will be launched on 9 December 2019 at 15:00h, Room5, COP25 venue to provide important input to the international climate change agenda and COP 25.

We thank very much all RegionsAdapt members who disclosed their data this year and congratulate them to their inspiring and ambitious efforts to adapt to climate change:

Australian Capital Territory (Australia), Basque Country (Spain), British Columbia (Canada), Brittany (France), California (USA), Catalonia (Spain), Centre Nord (Burkina Faso), Cross River State (Nigeria), Gossas (Senegal), Jalisco (Mexico), KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), La Reunion (France), Lombardy (Italy), Misiones (Argentina), Prince Edward Island (Canada), Quebec (Canada), Rio de Janeiro State (Brazil), Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), Rivera (Uruguay), Saint Louis (Senegal), Santa Elena (Ecuador), Sao Paulo (Ecuador), Scotland (UK), South Australia (Australia), Tocantins (Brazil), Tucuman (Argentina), Wales (UK), Western Province (Sri Lanka).

About



Regions4 (formerly known as the nrg4SD) is a global network that solely represents regional governments (states, regions and provinces) before UN processes, European Union initiatives and global discussions in the fields of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable development. Regions4 was established in 2002 at the World Summit in Johannesburg and currently represents 42 members from 20 countries in 4 continents. Through advocacy, cooperation and capacity building, Regions4 empowers regional governments to accelerate global action.

For more information, visit: www.regions4.org

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CDP is an international non-profit that drives companies and governments to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, safeguard water resources and protect forests. Voted number one climate research provider by investors and working with institutional investors with assets of US\$96 trillion, we leverage investor and buyer power to motivate companies to disclose and manage their environmental impacts. Over 8,400 companies with over 50% of global market capitalization disclosed environmental data through CDP in 2019. This is in addition to the over 920 cities, states and regions who disclosed, making CDP's platform one of the richest sources of information globally on how companies and governments are driving environmental change. CDP, formerly Carbon Disclosure Project, is a founding member of the We Mean Business Coalition.

Visit <https://www.cdp.net/en/cities/states-and-regions> or follow us @CDP to find out more.