

Policy-Science Dialogue: Supporting Adaptation Planning at the Regional Level by Connecting Knowledge to Policy Implementation



An exclusive session for the RegionsAdapt Community of Practice and the MAIA project partners to address the knowledge-policy gap and adaptation strategies by analysing the draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 (SNAP3).

Policy-science Dialogue: Supporting Adaptation Planning at the Regional Level by Connecting Knowledge to Policy Implementation

Introduction

In the face of escalating climate change impacts, effective adaptation planning at the regional level is critical. As communities grapple with increasingly frequent and severe climate-related challenges, bridging the gap between knowledge and policy becomes imperative. This event aimed to address this gap by facilitating dialogue and collaboration among policymakers, scientists, and experts to enhance regional adaptation strategies.

Objectives of the dialogue

Bring together decision-makers with practitioners and researchers to discuss and exchange on how to strengthen adaptation plans and strategies by looking at concrete ongoing projects and plans under elaboration such as a draft third Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029 (SNAP3) and other regional strategies.

Topics for Discussion

- Exploring strategies to leverage climate finance for adaptation effectively and engaging with the private sector.
- Aligning policy and scientific perspectives for successful adaptation plans.
- Strengthening monitoring and evaluation practices to ensure effective adaptation.
- Integrating international perspectives into regional adaptation plans.

Organisers

- Regions4 through the RegionsAdapt initiative.
- In partnership with the Scottish Government and the MAIA EU project.

Audience

Regions4 members and RegionsAdapt practitioners, regional government representatives and experts, the MAIA consortium partners, and Scottish partners.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The policy-science dialogue showcased a comprehensive and collaborative approach towards addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change. Key insights emerged from the discussions, highlighting the interconnectedness of adaptation planning with economic development, innovation in financing mechanisms, and the imperative for effective implementation strategies.

Speakers emphasised the moral obligation of governments, such as Scotland, to take proactive steps in mitigating emissions and supporting adaptation efforts.

The importance of public participation in policy formulation and the incorporation of diverse perspectives were highlighted as essential components of effective adaptation planning. Collaboration between governmental entities, private sectors, and civil society was identified as crucial for successful implementation.

Innovative approaches to adaptation finance were discussed, including the establishment of climate funds, support for climate innovation programs, and the development of insurance and risk transfer mechanisms. These initiatives aim to leverage public funds to attract responsible private investment and support adaptation projects across various sectors.

Moving from planning to implementation requires clear governance structures, stakeholder engagement, and transparent monitoring and reporting mechanisms. Examples from regions such as Catalonia, Flanders, and Sao Paulo showcased successful approaches to adaptation planning and implementation, emphasising the importance of cross-sectoral collaboration and community involvement.

The event concluded with reflections on the complexity of adaptation planning, the need for prioritisation, and the urgency of collective action. Overall, the event provided valuable insights into Scotland's adaptation planning efforts and highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and equitable approaches in building resilience to climate change.

Policy-science dialogue output summary

Opening Intervention: draft third Scottish National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029

The Scottish Government is keen to align with the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change as far as possible. In January 2024, the Scottish Government published a draft National Adaptation Plan 2024-2029. Through this session, Scotland will garner feedback from the international community to be considered in the final plan, which will be published later this year.

Jemima Gordon-Duff, Deputy Director for International Climate Change at the Scottish Government, underscored Scotland's moral obligation as a fossil fuel-producing nation to address climate change. Noteworthy progress has been made towards achieving net zero emissions by 2045, with achievements such as deriving 90% of electricity from low-carbon sources and leading in offshore wind energy. She acknowledged impending challenges, including fulfilling commitments to fund loss and damage, and the imperative for adaptation in the face of climate impacts such as floods and increased rainfall in Scotland.

The draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan, designed to bolster resilience across various sectors, was introduced for consultation, emphasising public participation in policy formulation. The intervention concluded by soliciting feedback and suggestions from international partners to enhance the plan.

Ms. Gordon-Duff emphasised, *"Our approach to international climate change is rooted in climate justice. We need to reduce our own emissions and recognise our moral responsibility to support others to address the impacts of climate change. Scotland is already over halfway to reaching net zero by 2045 and continues to build resilience to the impacts of climate change. The draft third Scottish National Adaptation plan seeks to engage the public and foster a collective understanding of solutions to climate challenges."*

The presentation, led by **Kay White, Senior Policy Adviser in Climate Change Adaptation at the Scottish Government**, began with expressions of gratitude for the attendees, highlighting the significance of their presence in shaping Scotland's adaptation planning efforts. She emphasised the collaborative nature of the discussion, encouraging stakeholders to act as critical friends to provide valuable insights and feedback.

Ms. White presented Scotland's adaptation planning process. She underscored the importance of prioritising efforts, focusing on key areas such as nature connectivity, community empowerment, and infrastructure resilience. Nature was positioned as a central component of adaptation strategies, with initiatives aimed at enhancing connectivity across Scotland's landscapes and leveraging natural carbon stores and sinks to achieve multiple benefits, including adaptation, mitigation, and improved resilience.

The presentation delved into the statutory framework underpinning Scotland's adaptation planning efforts, as established by the Climate Change Scotland Act. This legislation mandates the periodic publication of a national adaptation plan, ensuring ongoing efforts to address climate risks and opportunities. Ms. White emphasised the need to respond effectively to the 61 risks identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, integrating them into the objectives and strategies of the adaptation plan.

Scotland's governance structure for adaptation planning was highlighted, with a focus on the role of a cross-government director-level governance board in overseeing policy development. White outlined the shift towards outcome-focused delivery, emphasising the importance of aligning adaptation efforts with broader government objectives and priorities.



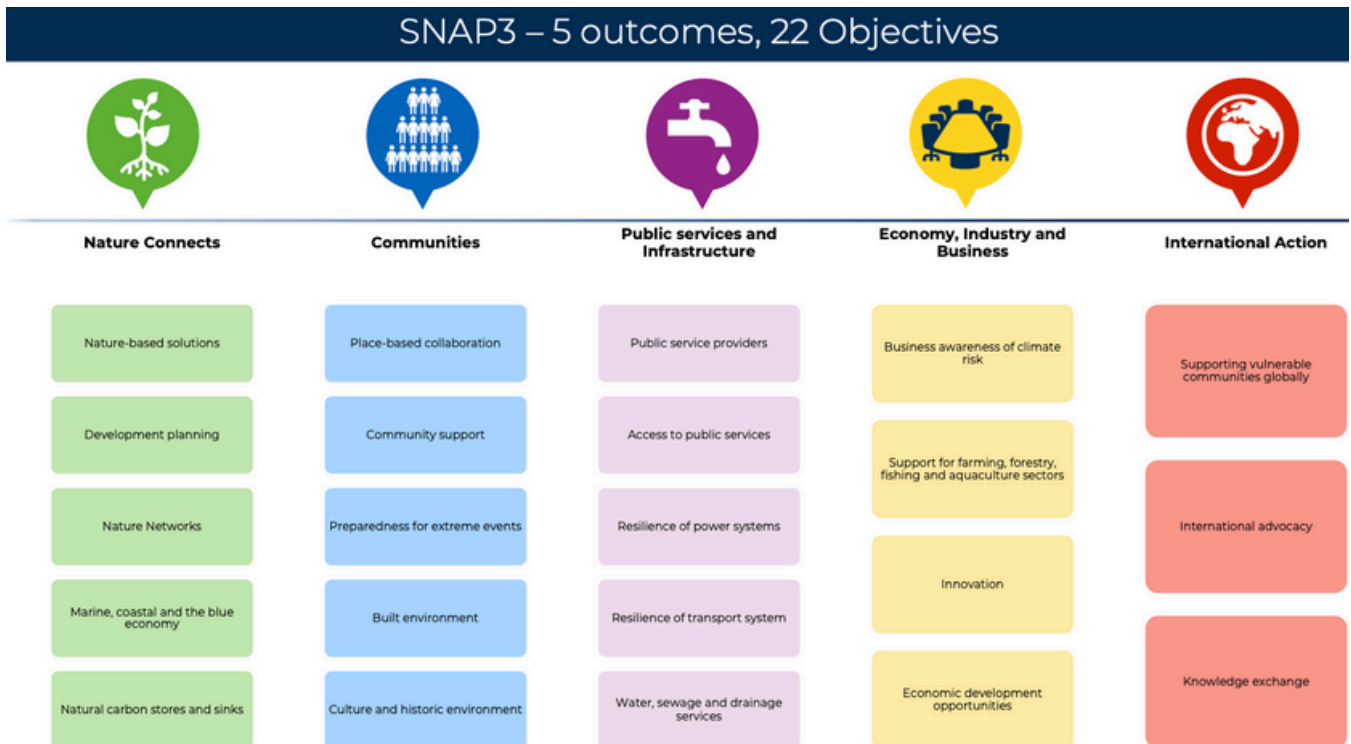
In addition to domestic considerations, Scotland's international role in climate adaptation and justice efforts was underscored. For instance, she highlighted Scotland's candidacy for the presidency role of the Regions4 Steering Committee and its commitment to supporting global initiatives such as the Climate Justice Fund, emphasising the importance of collaboration and solidarity on the international stage.

The presentation detailed the consultation process, which included expert-led technical tracks, place-based engagements, and written responses. White noted the significant public participation in the consultation and highlighted the ongoing analysis of responses to inform policy refinement.

Ms. White also emphasised key principles guiding Scotland's adaptation planning efforts, including the belief in nature as the best tool for adaptation, the importance of community involvement, and the recognition of climate change as a growing concern. The inclusion of 22 objectives and solutions, such as carbon sinks and extreme events management, highlighted the comprehensive nature of the plan's approach.

Looking ahead, she outlined the timeline for finalising and implementing the adaptation plan. The post-consultation phase will involve analysing responses, refining policies, and developing a final package for publication in September. Subsequent efforts will focus on implementing the plan across different sectors, with a particular emphasis on monitoring and evaluation to track progress and adjust strategies as needed.

Overall, the presentation provided stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of Scotland's adaptation planning efforts, emphasising the importance of collaboration, public participation, and ongoing evaluation in addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change.



Draft Scottish National Adaptation Plan (2024-2029): summary on its 5 outcomes and 22 objectives.

1st Panel discussion on shaping robust adaptation plans

In the inaugural panel discussion on "Shaping Robust Adaptation Plans," the panel delved into critical questions surrounding adaptation strategies in the face of a dynamic economy and global challenges. The discourse was aimed at navigating the intricate landscape of adaptation planning, financing, and implementation.

Here is a summary of the key issues raised:

1. How should we consider planning to adapt in the context of a changing economy at the regional level? How are economic opportunities being captured and realised?

Leo Bejarano, Head of the Catalan Climate Change Office, emphasised the necessity of a comprehensive approach to regional climate adaptation. He highlighted the integration of economic planning, local development strategies, and robust risk assessments as fundamental pillars. He stressed the importance of extending adaptation considerations beyond traditional sectors, urging for prioritisation of actions to protect critical infrastructure and communities. He also emphasised investment in resilient infrastructure and the restoration of vulnerable ecosystems as key strategies for economic diversification and growth. Mr. Bejarano also underscored the role of innovation and technology in developing climate-resilient solutions, alongside community engagement and capacity building. Lastly, he emphasised the significance of providing financial incentives and support mechanisms to foster both public and private investment in climate adaptation efforts.

"Adapting to climate change demands economic planning. In Catalonia, we've delved into thorough climate assessments across sectors initially disconnected from climate concerns. As understanding of the risks deepens, so does the sense of ownership, leading to a stronger desire to invest in resilient actions."



Griet Verstraeten, Policy Officer for Climate Adaptation at the Department of Environment and Spatial Development of Flanders, highlighted the integration of economic considerations into adaptation planning in Belgium, particularly within the Flemish region. She emphasised the importance of involving the private sector in implementing adaptation actions, recognising the impact of climate change on various sectors, including the economy. She underscored the significance of adaptation for the economy, especially in light of challenges such as floods. She also noted the potential for adaptation planning to stimulate economic development. Ms. Verstraeten expressed a preference for nature-based solutions, akin to those presented by Scottish counterparts, while acknowledging the need for technological innovations in certain contexts. She highlighted a recent study conducted by the University of Antwerp, which outlined the human capital requirements for implementing the Flemish adaptation plan, showcasing the necessary skills and workforce needed for its execution.

Kit England, Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist at Paul Watkiss Associates and partner of the Pathways2Resilience Project, delved into the nuanced aspects of adaptation planning. Building upon earlier discussions, he emphasised the paramount importance of how adaptation initiatives are framed. He highlighted that while traditionally seen as an environmental concern, adaptation must be recognised for its profound economic implications.

He urged a reevaluation of resource allocation, drawing attention to the discrepancy between investments in economic growth and those in climate resilience. He stressed the necessity of conducting high-level studies to assess the economic impacts of climate change on GDP, illustrating the substantial costs incurred by regions such as Scotland. These assessments, he argued, provide crucial insights into the urgency of prioritising adaptation efforts.

Furthering the conversation, Mr. England introduced the concept of the "triple dividend," emphasising the multifaceted benefits of climate action. He elucidated how climate change complicates the achievement of broader policy goals, such as the transition to net-zero emissions and improving health outcomes. Extreme weather events, he noted, can hinder the performance of low-carbon energy systems and impact productivity through reduced air quality during heat waves.

In addition to highlighting the challenges posed by climate change, Mr. England underscored the emergence of new job opportunities within the climate tech sector. He cited recent findings indicating that companies specialising in adaptation solutions outperform standard returns, signalling a promising avenue for economic growth. Turning to the practicalities of adaptation planning, England emphasised the importance of prioritisation. He acknowledged that adaptation initiatives entail significant costs but stressed that these costs vary based on the timing of risks and decisions. England commended Scotland's approach, citing commitments to mainstreaming adaptation into infrastructure decisions and building an evidence base through projects like the Dynamic Coast in Scotland.

In closing, Mr. England emphasised that effective prioritisation requires consideration of various factors, including fiscal constraints, political priorities, and economic value for money. He underscored the importance of translating high-level adaptation goals into actionable projects to attract investment from both the public and private sectors, thereby fostering resilience in communities and economies alike.

2. The current global adaptation finance gap is undeniable. Are there any examples from your region or in your experience of creative approaches to adaptation finance and using public money to leverage responsible private investment?

Leo Bejarano, Head of the Catalan Climate Change Office, highlights Catalonia's multifaceted approach to financing climate adaptation. The first initiative discussed is the establishment of a climate fund, funded through carbon taxes targeting cars, ships, and industries. This fund, currently at €300 million, provides grants, loans, and technical assistance for adaptation projects, leveraging public funds to attract private investment and support projects in various sectors including private companies, research centres, and NGOs.

The second initiative focuses on the Climate Innovation Funds Program, known as CO-Green, which supports the development of innovative climate adaptation technologies and solutions. This program offers grants and prize money to companies, research centres, and start-ups working on cutting-edge solutions for climate challenges. By incentivising innovation, Catalonia aims to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.

The third initiative addresses the need for insurance and risk transfer mechanisms to manage financial risks associated with climate change impacts, such as droughts. Catalonia is working on developing insurance and risk transfer mechanisms for the primary sector in collaboration with private insurers, government agencies, and finance banks, including the Catalan Institute of Finance. This initiative aims to provide financial protection and support to sectors vulnerable to climate-related risks.

Furthermore, Mr. Bejarano emphasised the importance of public-private partnerships in financing and implementing adaptation projects. By fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors, Catalonia aims to mobilise additional resources and expertise for climate adaptation efforts. He concluded with a mention of future initiatives, such as the exploration of green bonds, to further enhance financing mechanisms for climate adaptation in Catalonia.

Griet Verstraeten, Policy Officer for Climate Adaptation at the Department of Environment and Spatial Development of Flanders, discussed the pressing need for proactive measures in climate adaptation. She emphasised the importance of innovative financing mechanisms to address the challenges posed by climate change.

She also highlighted Flanders' involvement in the [ProWater project](#), funded by the European Union, which focuses on enhancing landscape resilience against droughts and water scarcity. This project aims to provide guidance on rewarding schemes for nature-based solutions, offering policy recommendations for payments for ecosystem services. By incentivising measures to improve water infiltration and retention, she stressed the importance of societal and private sector collaboration in funding adaptation efforts.

Furthermore, she introduced the Climate Fit project, another EU-funded initiative, which seeks to develop innovative financing strategies for climate adaptation. This project engages experts, public authorities, and financing entities to create scalable investment plans and transformational investment cases. Ms. Verstraeten anticipated significant outcomes from this project, expecting it to provide valuable insights into addressing the financing challenges associated with climate adaptation.

Overall, she stressed Flanders' commitment to addressing climate change through proactive adaptation measures and emphasised the crucial role of innovative financing mechanisms in achieving resilience against its impacts.

Kit England, Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist at Paul Watkiss Associates and partner of the Pathways2Resilience Project, acknowledged the proliferation of innovative financing instruments across different regions, noting their importance in addressing specific adaptation needs. However, England cautioned against the risk of solely focusing on individual pilot projects, highlighting the necessity of a more systematic approach to cover all adaptation requirements.

In the EU Mission Adaptation supported Pathways2Resilience project, England and the consortium are building a structured investment planning process for regions. This process aims to help regions and countries translate their adaptation visions into a pipeline of bankable projects. By considering the roles of both public and private finance, this approach ensures a comprehensive strategy for addressing adaptation needs.

Mr. England cited the Glasgow Climate Ready Clyde project as a pilot program for resource mobilisation planning, where they carefully considered various funding sources, such as grant funding and user charges from water companies, to support nature-based solutions.

Furthermore, he provided a range of examples from different regions to illustrate the diverse array of financing mechanisms being employed. These examples included cool roof subsidies in LA, green roof subsidies in Hamburg, and temperature-linked insurance products for dairy farmers in Scotland. He emphasised that while innovation in financing is crucial, there must also be a concerted effort to mobilise funds at scale to effectively address adaptation challenges in the future.

Overall, he underscored the importance of balancing innovation with the strategic mobilisation of funds to ensure comprehensive adaptation financing strategies.

3. How do we move from planning to implementation of adaptation plans? Which delivery mechanisms are most effective, and do you have examples of where adaptation delivery has worked particularly well?

Leo Bejarano, Head of the Catalan Climate Change Office, outlines the necessity of clear governance structures for transitioning from adaptation planning to implementation. He stresses the importance of not only internal governmental structures but also collaboration with scientists and society. He highlighted the success of Catalonia's adaptation strategy, where a clear governance framework facilitated the approval and rapid implementation of actions. With 312 measures in the strategy, significant progress has already been made, with 45 measures completed within a year. He recommended prioritising the establishment of clear governance structures in future adaptation strategies to effectively spread goals and measures for implementation.

Griet Verstraeten, Policy Officer for Climate Adaptation at the Department of Environment and Spatial Development of Flanders, highlighted the effective governance structure in Flanders for climate adaptation. She emphasised the role of the Flemish Task Force on Adaptation, which coordinates representatives from different policy areas under the Flemish Government. Each entity is responsible for specific measures, but they collaborate closely within the task force. She stressed the importance of involving various governmental levels, including local governments, as well as the private sector and civil society in implementation. She emphasised the significance of giving stakeholders co-ownership of adaptation actions to enhance their engagement and effectiveness.

Kit England, Senior Climate Adaptation Specialist at Paul Watkiss Associates and partner of the Pathways2Resilience Project, addressed the importance of concessionary finance and the role of development banks in climate adaptation. He mentioned the example of the UK Infrastructure Bank and emphasised the bank's requirement to assess projects for climate risk and consider the impacts of climate change. He highlighted the positive outcomes of such financing, including job creation and support for the local economy during project delivery.

2nd Panel discussion on innovative approaches for adaptation and principles of success

The second-panel discussion focused on exploring innovative approaches for adaptation and identifying the principles of success in enhancing resilience. Among the key topics discussed were monitoring progress and setting targets, particularly in light of shared challenges faced by many countries and regions.

1. A shared challenge for many countries and regions is monitoring progress and setting targets for increased resilience. What are the key criteria for success? The draft Scottish Adaptation Plan sets out a monitoring approach – how could this be improved?

María José Sanz, Scientific Director at the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) and lead partner in the MAIA Project, emphasised several key points highlighted by previous speakers, focusing on the importance of clear iteration and the incorporation of mitigation actions alongside adaptation efforts.

She reiterated the significance of integrating mitigation and adaptation actions, emphasising that failure to do so could increase vulnerability. She highlighted the necessity of harmonising these efforts to mitigate risks effectively.

She also delved into the complexities of monitoring adaptation, stressing the iterative nature of the process. She highlighted the challenges in developing metrics, considering the diverse and dynamic nature of climate impacts and responses. Furthermore, she emphasised the need for long-term assessment, recognising that adaptation results may only manifest over extended periods.

Beyond acknowledging challenges such as limited institutional capacity and data scarcity, she proposed solutions. She advocated for mainstreaming data collection, endorsing enhanced integration and interoperability. Sanz championed public-private partnerships, particularly with the insurance sector, to facilitate data sharing and alleviate the burden on municipalities.

She expanded on the interconnectedness of mitigation and adaptation, cautioning against maladaptation. She stressed the need for a dynamic monitoring framework that encompasses planning, governance, and comparison of metrics between action and inaction. Moreover, she addressed the challenge of adapting to long-term changes, highlighting the strain on institutional capacities. She called for robust indicators and assessment methods to address the scarcity of data on adaptation effectiveness. Sanz's comprehensive speech underscored the multifaceted nature of climate change adaptation and the necessity of collaborative, forward-thinking approaches.

Marina Balestero, Coordinator on Environmental Planning at the Sao Paulo State Government Department for Environment, Infrastructure, and Logistics, outlined the state's approach to climate change adaptation and resilience planning. She provided an overview of the state of Sao Paulo, highlighting its population size, economic significance, and environmental characteristics. She emphasised the state's commitment to addressing climate change through policies and initiatives.

She also discussed Sao Paulo's climate change policy, established in 2009, and highlighted the Climate Action Plan by 2050, which focuses on mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. She also mentioned the ongoing development of a Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, in partnership with the German Agency of International Cooperation (GIZ).

She outlined the thematic axes of the adaptation plan, which include water security, food security, health, biodiversity, coastal zone management, and infrastructure development. These axes align with global agendas and aim to address key challenges related to climate change.

She also emphasised the importance of involving society, especially vulnerable populations, in the formulation and implementation of the adaptation plan. She highlighted the need for transparency and engagement to ensure the plan's success.

Furthermore, she discussed the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a basis for planning and managing the state's territory. She mentioned the use of indicators related to climate resilience, biodiversity, and water security in this process.

She proposed improvements for monitoring and reporting mechanisms, suggesting the adoption of open meetings involving relevant stakeholders. She recommended the creation of regular reports to track progress and keep stakeholders informed.

Overall, Ms. Balestero underscored Sao Paulo's commitment to climate change adaptation and resilience planning, emphasising the importance of societal involvement, data-driven decision-making, and continuous monitoring and reporting.



Picture of Mika Baumeister in Unsplash

Key takeaways from the Q&A with the audience

María José Sanz, Scientific Director of the Basque Centre for Climate Change (BC3) and lead partner in the MAIA project, addressed the question regarding managing competing land-based interests to achieve effective adaptation to climate change.

She emphasised the complexity of land systems and the multitude of purposes they serve, particularly in the context of climate change adaptation and mitigation. She stressed the importance of integrating social, cultural, and economic aspects into land use planning to ensure the successful implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures.

She highlighted the need for a collective vision, emphasising the importance of engaging stakeholders at all levels of planning and implementation. She underscored the necessity of coherence and synergy between local, regional, and national planning efforts to avoid potential barriers.

In summary, Ms. Sanz underscored the significance of comprehensive land planning as the foundation for developing effective adaptation and mitigation strategies, emphasising the need for stakeholder engagement and coordination across different scales of governance.

Marina Balestero, Coordinator on Environmental Planning at the Sao Paulo State Government Department for Environment, Infrastructure, and Logistics addressed the question of how regions can promote innovation to tackle climate adaptation challenges.

She emphasised the importance of acknowledging the urgency and equity recommended by the IPCC 5th assessment. She highlighted the need to expose evidence of losses across various sectors, including the economy, to foster a common understanding for the development and implementation of adaptation plans.

Using recent examples from Sao Paulo, Ms. Balestero illustrated the devastating impacts of climate events, such as heavy rainfall, on lives and infrastructure. She emphasised the necessity of participatory approaches in identifying climate threats and proposing adaptation measures to ensure they are incorporated by all sectors of society.

She discussed initiatives in Sao Paulo, such as seminars on climate justice and environmental public polls, aimed at incorporating diverse perspectives into adaptation planning. She also highlighted the importance of recognising and leveraging the adaptation measures already being adopted by communities, particularly in informal settlements.

In summary, Ms. Balestero emphasised the importance of innovation in promoting climate adaptation, stressing the need for participatory approaches and the incorporation of diverse perspectives to address the complex challenges posed by climate change.

Regarding the factors contributing to the successful collaboration between different policy areas in Flanders, particularly in overcoming the silo thinking barrier, **Griet Verstraeten, Policy Officer for Climate Adaptation at the Department of Environment and Spatial Development of Flanders**, argued that despite encountering challenges like the silo effect, where policies are compartmentalised, Flanders has made progress by fostering a sense of urgency around climate change. The Flemish adaptation plan is seen as transversal across all policy areas, encouraging cooperation and knowledge sharing. While there are political challenges, such as conflicts between environmental and agricultural policies, administrative collaboration remains strong, facilitated by the Flemish Task Force on Adaptation. Overall, cooperation at the administrative level is deemed crucial for effective policy implementation.

To the end of the Q&A session, Sergio Dominguez from the Guanajuato State Government in Mexico directed a question to Kit England regarding the concept of responsibility for adaptation planning. England explained that a guide for investment planning for regions will be provided later in the year through the Pathways2Resilience project. He highlighted the importance of considering who benefits from adaptation measures versus who pays for them, citing examples such as businesses contributing to flood defenses in the UK. This approach varies case by case but emphasises the need to evaluate who bears the costs and who reaps the benefits of adaptation efforts.

Conclusion and closing remarks

Ian Freeman, Head of Adaptation Policy at the Scottish Government, reflected on the richness and diversity of topics covered during the event, emphasising the multifaceted nature of adaptation efforts. He noted the complexity of adaptation planning, which requires considering economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Freeman underscored the necessity for collective action, highlighting the shared responsibility in addressing climate change impacts.

Drawing from the discussions, he highlighted the importance of prioritisation in adaptation planning, particularly in light of the varying pace and severity of climate impacts across different regions. He stressed the need to learn from global experiences and best practices to inform Scotland's adaptation strategies effectively.

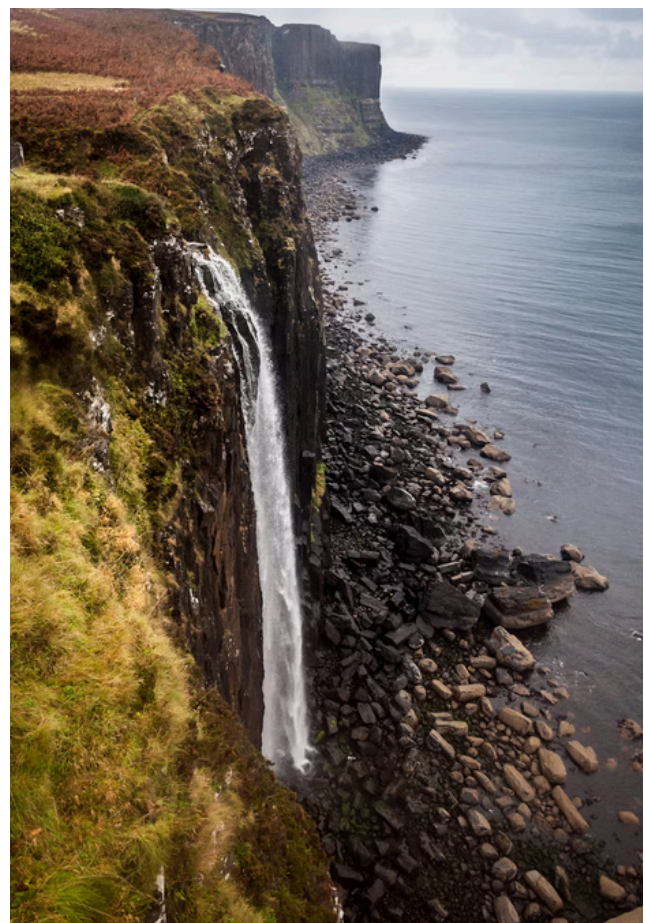
He also highlighted the importance of delivering adaptation measures over time and ensuring their alignment with long-term goals. He discussed the challenges of articulating the costs of non-adaptation versus adaptation and the role of decision-makers in influencing policy outcomes.

Furthermore, Mr. Freeman addressed the complexities of data interoperability and the need for consistent planning and delivery across different levels of government. He emphasised the urgency of climate action, recognising the proactive efforts already undertaken by communities.

In conclusion, he thanked for the meaningful engagement and contributions from participants, expressing eagerness to continue the dialogue and collaboration in addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change.

Jordan Harris, Executive Director of Regions4, echoed Ian's remarks, emphasising the critical nature of adaptation in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, particularly at the local level. He underscored the dynamic nature of adaptation, describing it as a continuous process rather than a fixed endpoint.

He also highlighted the Scottish Government's commitment to climate justice as a guiding principle in shaping both domestic and international policies, and the focus on equity and fairness which serves as a cornerstone for their approach to tackling climate change.



References and useful links

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- EU Projects mentioned:
<https://www.pathways2resilience.eu/>
<https://climatefit-heu.eu/>
<https://www.pro-water.eu/>
- Organisers information:
Check out the MAIA project: <https://maia-project.eu/>
Check out the Scottish Government initiatives: <https://www.gov.scot/>

ABOUT THIS BRIEF FOR ACTION

This brief for action is part of a series aiming to inform Regions4 members on key results and recommendations based on Regions4 research and Community of Practice sessions.

RegionsAdapt is a Regions4 climate initiative gathering more than 75 regional governments. It mobilises ambition and action on climate adaptation by facilitating access to the latest innovations, tools, and best practices at the regional level.

RegionsAdapt Community of Practice offers a space for regional governments to present their expertise and to learn from each other, discuss and engage, in a series of learning sessions on focused topics on adaptation, so as to help them gain capacity and improve their own policies and activities on adaptation.

Check out the RegionsAdapt relaunched website: explore the Assess and Plan tabs to discover more key planning documents from RegionsAdapt members: <https://regions4.org/regionsadapt-regional-adaptation-progress>

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