



## **Austrian Adaptation policy approach: from development to implementation**

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16th EMS Annual Meeting & 11th ECAC

### **Content of the presentation**

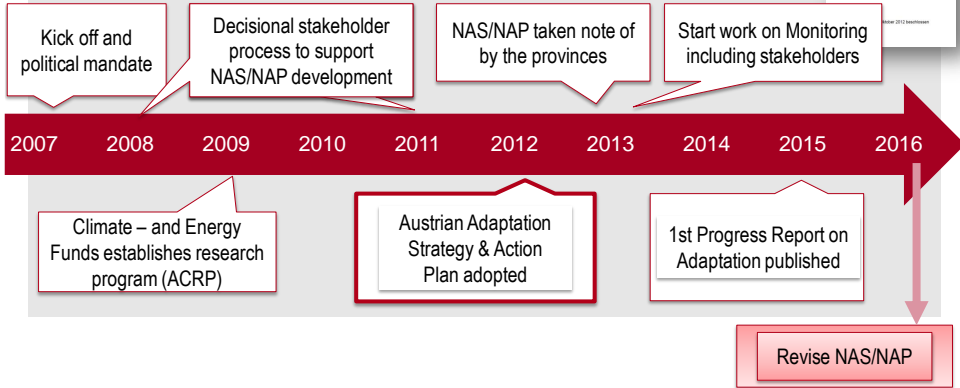
- Participatory development process
- Characteristics of the policy documents
- Selected elements of the implementation process
- Monitoring and Evaluation concept and first progress report
- Concluding reflections on vertical and horizontal implementation challenges

According to last year's EEA report on national adaptation policy processes in Europe, Austria is among 21 European countries that have developed NAS and one of 13 countries that are already implementing adaptation policies.

## Overview: Austrian adaptation policy process

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

**Support unit:** Environment Agency Austria



## Development process of NAS/NAP (2008-2012)



## Decisional Participation process

- Conducted by the **Environment Agency Austria** in close cooperation with responsible Ministry and Kyoto Forum (steering group)
- **16 workshops** from **2009-2011**
- **106 institutions** (>670 persons) actively involved
- **Composition of participants:**
  - 1/3 federal ministries, provincial authorities,
  - 1/3 organized interest groups: social partners, chambers, etc.
  - 1/3 social/environmental NGOs, civil society organizations, private companies (e.g. insurances)



### Objectives:

- ❖ Raise awareness
- ❖ Provide a platform for exchange
- ❖ Improve the NAS/NAP quality
- ❖ Enhance the acceptance
- ❖ Facilitate the implementation

## Political adoption of the Austrian NAS/NAP



- approved by the Austrian Council of Ministers on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012
- taken note of by the provinces („Landeshauptleutekonferenz“) on May 16<sup>th</sup> 2013

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

## Content: National Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan

- Country-wide strategic framework for joint, coordinated, coherent action
- Integrated, comprehensive, broad strategy
- Sectoral approach

Two parts

### Part I: Strategic framework and context

- Including: policy objectives, guiding principles, prioritization criteria, cross-cutting recommendations for implementation, social aspects

### Part II: Action Plan

- 14 activity fields (sectors)
- 132 recommendations for action
- High level of concreteness, specifies many concrete starting points for implementation

## Part II: Action Plan - Structure

Activity fields	Content items elaborated for each activity field
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture</li> <li>• Forestry</li> <li>• Water cycle and water management</li> <li>• Tourism</li> <li>• Energy – focus electricity industry</li> <li>• Construction and housing</li> <li>• Natural hazard management</li> <li>• Disaster management</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Ecosystems and biodiversity</li> <li>• Transport infrastructure and mobility aspects</li> <li>• Spatial planning</li> <li>• Economy / industry / trade</li> <li>• Cities – urban open and green spaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General description of activity field</li> <li>• Summarized vulnerability estimation for activity field</li> <li>• General principles of action for activity field</li> <li>• <b>Recommendations for action:</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Content items elaborated for each recommendation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <i>Goal</i></li> <li>– <i>Relevance</i></li> <li>– <i>Relation to other activity fields</i></li> <li>– <i>Relation to existing instruments</i></li> <li>– <i>Status of implementation</i></li> <li>– <i>Recommended further steps</i></li> <li>– <i>Possible resource needs</i></li> <li>– <i>Conflict potentials</i></li> <li>– <i>Implementing actors</i></li> <li>– <i>Time horizon</i></li> </ul>

## Implementation process: Some highlights

- **Vertical coordination** of NAS implementation between Ministry and provincial states (climate coordination officers) works – but mostly in informal ways
- **Climate coordination officers/units** installed in all prov. Governments and most provinces have adopted (or are currently working on) Regional Adaptation Strategies
- **Mainstreaming efforts** enhanced (e.g. agriculture policies, forest policies, health)
- **Communication and awareness raising** increased – website, newsletter, brochure, videos, workshops in provinces and regions, etc.
- **First APCC report** on climate change, mitigation and adaptation published in 2014
- Various **research projects** to support implementation carried out, such as the study on cost of inactions (COIN), costs of private/public adaptation (PATCHES, PACINAS), adaptation tools to support municipalities (FAMOUS, CC-ACT), etc.



## From Monitoring concept to a 1<sup>st</sup> Progress Report

### Goals and purpose

- To provide an overview on the **implementation progress** of adaptation based on the Austrian NAS and NAP
- To identify **adaptation gaps and further adaptation needs**
- To provide information on **key trends** of impacts/vulnerabilities
- To create a **basis** for **revision** of the **strategy**
- To create **added value** for all concerned stakeholders

Kick-off  
Jan. 2013

Stakeholder  
Workshop  
Sept. 2013

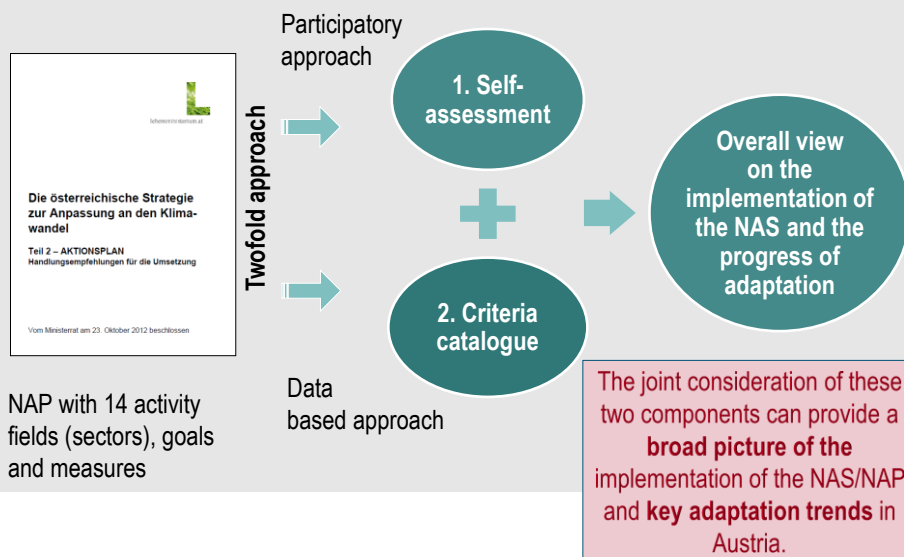
Expert  
survey &  
workshop

M framework  
March 2014

Data  
gathering and  
analysis

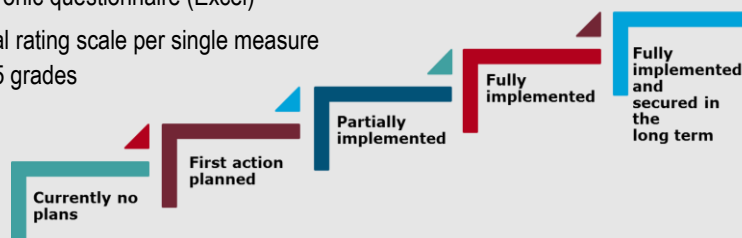
Final Progress  
Report  
October 2015

## Overall monitoring approach



## Ad 1.) Self-Assessment

- **What to monitor?** – (Policy) implementation process; stage of implementation of the actions (132) of the NAP
- **Who monitors?** – relevant stakeholders from all 14 sectors (ministries, provinces, organized interest groups)
- **How to monitor?**
  - Electronic questionnaire (Excel)
  - Verbal rating scale per single measure with 5 grades



## Ad 2.) Criteria catalogue

- **What to monitor?** – **Responses** (implementation of actions/measures); **climate impacts** (where data or knowledge about effects of climate change are missing)
- **How to monitor?**
  - Set of criteria: 3-5 key criteria for each activity field (sector)= 45 criteria in total
  - Mix of quantitative and qualitative criteria, incl. cross-cutting criteria
  - Responding to adaptation goals of the activity fields
  - Requirements (selection):
    - clearly relevant for adaptation, able to show adaptation trends
    - based on existing data sources (or collectable with little effort)
    - measurable on national level
    - data collection repeated on an appropriate timeframe
    - robust, statistically validated data
    - selected in agreement with experts

## 1<sup>st</sup> Progress report on Adaptation for Austria concludes...

... **many measures** recommended in the NAP **have been** or **are being implemented** in all activity fields

... partly strong **differences** in progress **between sectors**

... **positive examples** of sectors (e.g.):

- Forest management
- Water management
- Natural hazard management
- Agriculture

→ **Substantial adaptation gaps** still persist...

## Next steps

### **NAS 2.0 - Update and advancement of the NAS** (1<sup>st</sup> draft out for consultation)

- Integration of new research results (incl. COIN, AAR2014, etc.)
- Integration of evaluation results from 1<sup>st</sup> progress report

### **Implementation plan between Federal Environmental Ministry and Provinces**

- Working group on increased private initiative in case of extreme weather events
- Regional workshops across Austria and brochure with best-practice

### **New regional adaptation programme (Austria Climate- and Energy fund)**

- Communities can apply for funds covering human resources to work on adaptation
- Start planned for autumn 2016

# THANK YOU!

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