



Climate Change Adaptation Reporting Guidance for Public Bodies

Annex E: Summary of External Adaptation Reporting Standards (ISO and BS)



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Summary of External Adaptation Reporting Standards (ISO and BS)

Introduction

This annex provides brief summaries of International Organisation of Standardisation (ISO) and British Standards (BS) in regard to adaptation reporting¹. These summaries are provided for information purposes only and as examples of potential good practice. Therefore, a reporting organisation may find such standards useful in their consideration of adaptation impact assessments, actions and management. However, full detail access to the standards does require payment to the relevant standard websites.

This annex provides information and guidance for the following standards:

- [ISO 14090:2019](#) *Adaptation to climate change - Principles, requirements and guidelines*. It provides organisations with a practical, structured approach for addressing and adapting to the effects of climate change, over the short, medium, and long term.
- [ISO 14091:2021](#) *Adaptation to climate change - Guidelines on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessment*. It provides guidelines for assessing the risks related to the potential impacts of climate change.
- [ISO 14092:2026](#) *Climate change adaptation - Requirements and guidance on adaptation planning for local governments and communities*. This standard was published on 9 February 2026 and replaces ISO/TS 14092:2020. It strengthens alignment with related climate standards, including ISO 14090 and ISO 14091, and provides practical guidance for planning climate change adaptation at the local scale, where climate impacts are directly experienced. Public bodies that have used ISO/TS 14092:2020 for preparations ahead of the March 2026

¹ The detail in this annex has been sourced by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs from officials within the UK government's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

reporting deadline may continue to do so for this reporting cycle, noting that ISO 14092:2026 is now the current version for future use.

- [BS8631](#) *Adaptation to climate change - Using adaptation pathways for decision making. Guide*. Currently a British only standard, which outlines how organisations can use adaptation pathways for a decision-making guide.

ISO 14090:2019 - Adaptation principles, requirements and guidelines

ISO 14090 provides organisations with a practical, structured approach for addressing and adapting to the effects of climate change, over the short, medium, and long term. Sections 1 to 4 outline the scope, definitions, and principles of the standard. These should be understood before progressing forward. Section 5 onwards outline the steps to follow to incorporate adaptation.

Section 5 – Pre-planning

Assess the business area, project or specific asset management's ability to carry out steps 6 to 10 by undertaking activities such as identifying roles and responsibilities, setting governance, or identifying additional resource. Then create a work programme to address gaps and commit to human and financial resources. Identify stakeholders with the right knowledge to be involved.

Section 6 – Assessing climate change impacts, including opportunities

Assess how the business area, project or asset's activities, products and services might be impacted by climate change, including slow onset impacts and sudden impacts due to extreme events. This must cover cross-cutting issues, and both direct and indirect impacts. Use climate information to assess past and future trends, such as temperature and precipitation.

Section 7 – Adaptation planning

Produce an adaptation plan, using different sources of knowledge, information, and data. Identify climate change adaptation priorities and actions within, and incorporate into policies, strategies, and plans.

Section 8 – Implementation

Senior managers will commit, take accountability for, and implement the adaptation plan and actions within. Focus on transforming the adaptation plan into activities, by producing an implementation plan.

Section 9 – Monitoring and evaluation

Prepare a monitoring and evaluation plan that assesses progress against the implementation plan. It should assess actions, inputs, outputs, resources, roles and responsibilities, processes, and capacities. This is aimed at an organisation wide level, so not all requirements may be relevant.

Section 10 – Reporting and communication

Communicate climate change adaptation work to both internal and external stakeholders. If communicating externally, messages should be supported by an adaptation report that is accessible to any interested parties.

ISO 14091:2021 - Adaptation guidelines on vulnerability, impacts & risk assessment

ISO 14091 provides guidelines to assess climate change related risks, covering vulnerability, impacts and risk assessments. This ISO builds on 14090, therefore they can be used together. Sections 1 to 4 outline the scope, definitions, and introduce climate change risk assessments. These should be understood before progressing forward. Section 5 onwards outline the steps to follow to incorporate adaptation.

Section 5 – Preparing a climate change risk assessment

Each risk assessment is unique so it's important to establish the context, identify objectives and expected outcomes, establish a project team, determine the methodology, set a time frame and prepare an implementation plan.

Section 6 – Implementing climate change risk assessment

To carry out a risk assessment, hazards and potential impacts need to be understood. Impact chains should be developed. Participatory workshops should be considered to ensure understanding of the system at risk. Indicators will then need to be identified, and data evaluated. Adaptive capacity should also be taken into consideration when assessing risk. Analyses of cross-cutting interdependencies can deliver relevant additional information.

Section 7 – Reporting and communication risk assessment

A report can be used to present the climate change risk assessment results. The results of the report can be communicated in a range of ways and should be tailored for the target audience. Senior managers will commit, take accountability for, and implement the adaptation plan and the actions within it. Focus on transforming the adaptation plan into activities, by producing an implementation plan.

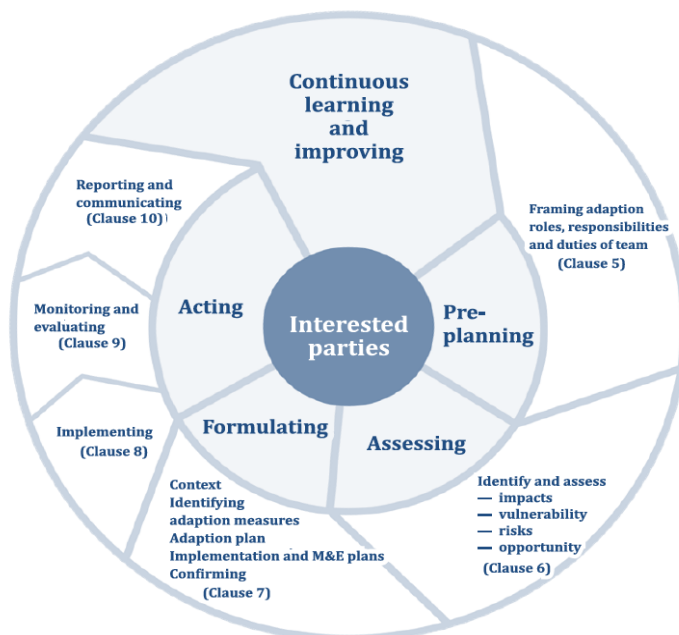
ISO 14092:2026 - Requirements and guidance on adaptation planning for local governments and communities

ISO 14092:2026, provides guidelines for how local government and communities can develop adaptation plans, considering regional variations of climate impacts. It focuses on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessments. It provides an internationally recognised framework to help local governments and communities plan for climate change adaptation. It outlines a step-by-step approach for establishing governance, engaging stakeholders, assessing and prioritising climate risks, and designing effective adaptation measures. The standard supports coordinated cross-sector

action and encourages continuous improvement through ongoing monitoring and review. While designed for local authorities and community-level planning, its structured methodology is relevant to any organisation managing location-based climate risks.

Figure 1 below summarises the sections that need to be followed by local governments and communities. The aim of them undertaking an adaptation planning process is to protect people’s life, property, the environment and wider societal and economic activity from the adverse impacts of climate change, both current and in the future, while taking advantage of any opportunities, including those arising from adaptation measures introduced.

Figure 1: Logical framework of document (BSI Standards publication, 2021)



NOTE The graph is designed to be interpreted clockwise.

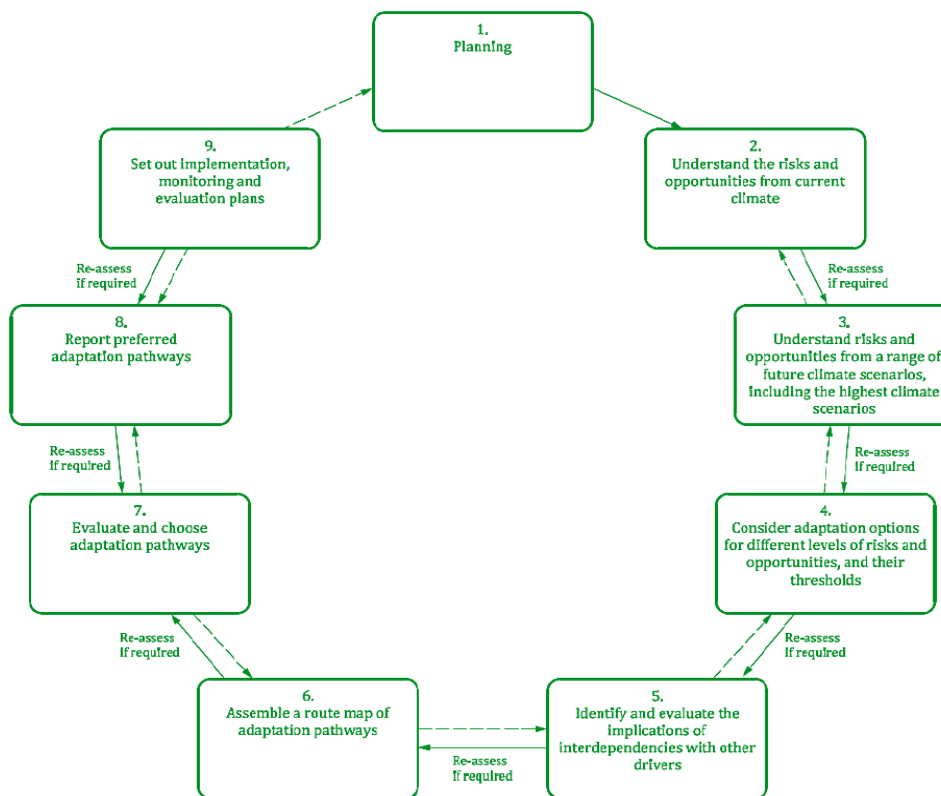
The adaptation cycle consists of five iterative stages: pre-planning, assessing, formulating, acting, and continuous learning and improvement. Each stage corresponds to clauses in the ISO adaptation standard and outlines roles, responsibilities, and associated activities.

BS 8631 - Using adaptation pathways for decision making

BS 8631 provides guidance to support the business area, project, or asset managers to implement adaptation pathways (APs). APs can be used within a broader planning process or as a stand-alone adaptation planning tool.

Figure 2 below summarises the nine iterative sections to be followed to develop APs. The business area, project or asset managers needs to continually review, respond and adapt to new conditions, information, methods and solutions as they emerge.

Figure 2: Sections to develop climate change adaptation pathways (BSI Standards Limited, 2021)



The nine iterative steps include: planning; understanding current climate risks; assessing future scenarios; considering options; evaluating interdependencies; assembling pathways; evaluating pathways; reporting preferred pathways; and setting out monitoring and implementation plans.

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