



The Potential for Adaptation to Offset the Cross-Sectoral Impacts of Climate Change on European Natural Resource Sectors

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ABSTRACT

Climate change is anticipated to pose a multitude of direct and indirect pressures on European natural resources, such as water, food and biodiversity, even without the additional stresses of future socio-economic change. Understanding the potential of adaptation to counter-act these impacts within uncertain futures is an important need for decision-makers. This paper will provide examples of how the CLIMSAVE participatory Integrated Assessment Platform (IAP; Harrison et al. 2012) can explore choices which inform the integration of adaptation actions and policies across a range of sectors (including agriculture, forests, biodiversity, coasts, water resources and urban development). The CLIMSAVE IAP is a user-friendly, interactive web-based tool which enables stakeholders to explore and understand the interactions between climate change impacts and adaptation across different sectors, rather than viewing their own sector in isolation. This helps ensure that unintentional adaptation resulting from actions in one sector does not reduce the effectiveness of purposeful adaptation in another sector. This paper will illustrate such interactions for a range of sectoral and ecosystem service indicators covered by the platform. It will also demonstrate how the platform can be used to identify robust adaptation strategies for reducing climate change vulnerability which are scenario-independent or no regret strategies (i.e. adaptation responses which will be beneficial for all future climate and socio-economic scenarios). The CLIMSAVE IAP will form part of the tools provided by the European Climate Adaptation Platform (CLIMATE-ADAPT) to support adaptation decision-making in Europe.

REFERENCES

Harrison, PA, Holman, IP, Cojocaru, G, Kok, K, Kontogianni, A, Metzger, M & Gramberger, M (2012). Combining qualitative and quantitative understanding for exploring cross-sectoral climate change impacts, adaptation and vulnerability in Europe. *Regional Environmental Change*. DOI 10.1007/s10113-012-0361-y.



The CLIMSAVE project

Climate Change Integrated Assessment Methodology for Cross-Sectoral
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IAP Home

