

# **EUROPEAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION POLICY CONTEXT**

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# Adaptation: An Evolving Challenge

- The **impacts** of global climate change are and will be felt across **economies** and **societies**.
- **Models** are improving in assessing the impacts at any given level of climate change.
- **Adaptation – Uncertainties**
  - Full range of consequences / probabilities
  - Tails also important – high impact events

# EU climate adaptation policy:

- **Europe 2020 strategy** for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth: *'strengthen our economies' resilience to climate risks'*
- **Climate change adaptation** – *Green Paper, White Paper* (2009), Mainstreaming in EU policies, *Clearinghouse on adaptation* by early 2012, *EU strategy* by 2013.
- **Water** Framework Directive and **Floods** Directive
- **Nature protection** directives and policies to halt **biodiversity** loss
- **Marine** Strategy Framework Directive; Integrated **Coastal** Zone Management (ICZM)
- **Other (e.g. sectoral, cross-cutting)**: maritime, agriculture; forestry; human health; disaster risk reduction; infrastructure e.g. energy, transport (regional policies); urban areas

# New features of IPCC AR5

- Not individual sectors, but systems people can relate to.

e.g. food production and food security; settlements and infrastructure; urban and rural planning, human health, wellbeing and security.

- **Improved risk-management approach**

- More attention to regional matters in all WGs,
  - 1) WGI Chapter 14: *Climate Phenomena and their Relevance for Future Regional Climate Change*
  - 2) WGII (2<sup>nd</sup> volume) *PART B: REGIONAL ASPECTS*

- **Cross cutting themes**

e.g. costing and economic analysis, carbon cycle, earth system changes

- ***Guidance Notes for Lead Authors of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report on Consistent Treatment of Uncertainties***

- **Move from climate change box to true integration**