



BSI Standards Publication

**Adaptation to climate change — Requirements  
and guidance on adaptation planning for  
local governments and communities**

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## National foreword

This Published Document is the UK implementation of ISO/TS 14092:2020.

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A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

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**Adaptation to climate change —  
Requirements and guidance on  
adaptation planning for local  
governments and communities**

*Adaptation au changement climatique — Exigences et  
recommandations relatives à la planification de l'adaptation pour les  
autorités locales et les communautés*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 207, *Environmental management*, Subcommittee SC 7, *Greenhouse gas management and related activities*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

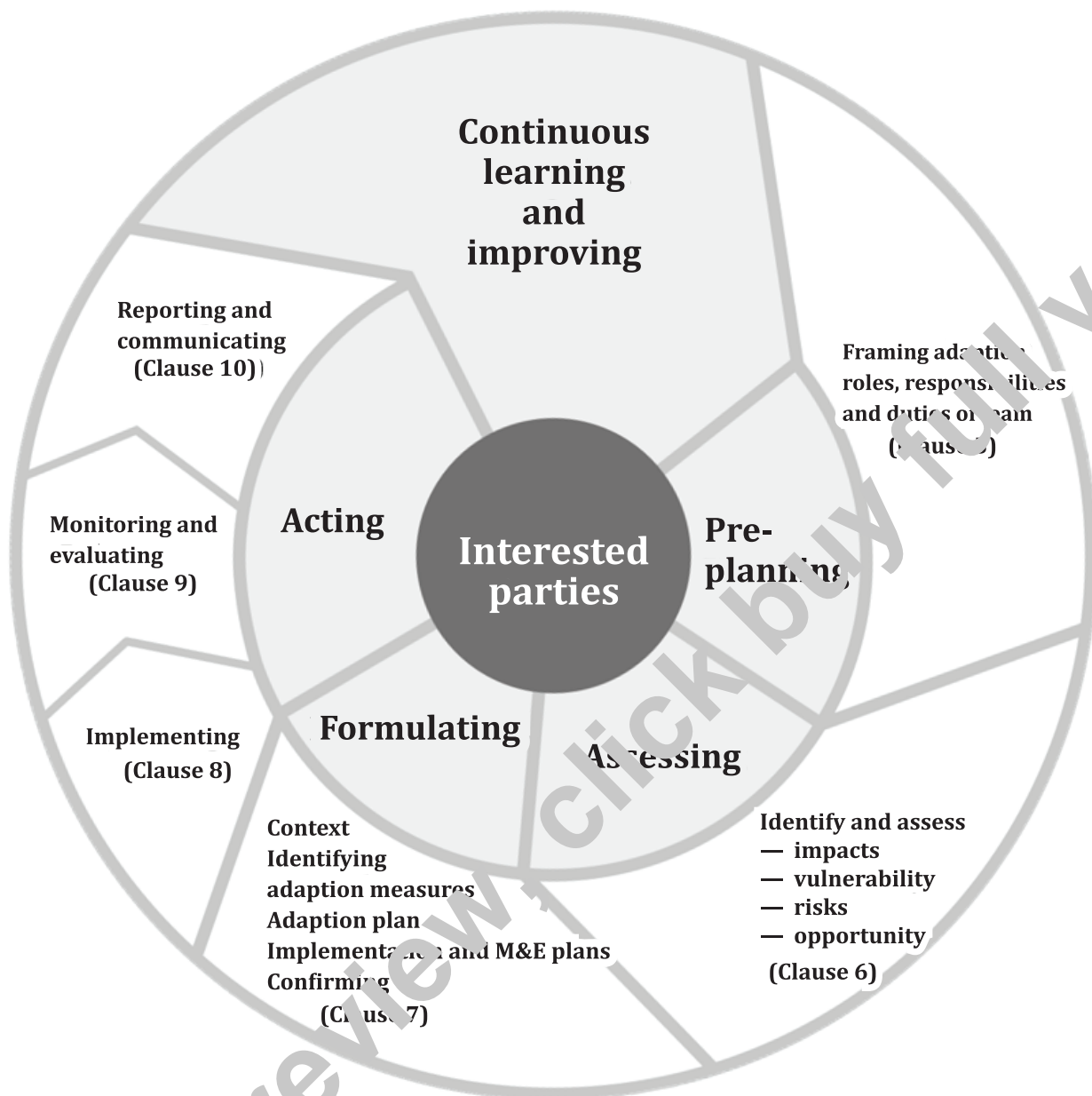
## Introduction

Preparing for risks posed by climate change and planning for adaptation at local government and community levels is essential for the safety and security of society, as well as for its economic, environmental and social well-being. Changes in the climate are often reflected by floods, heatwaves, droughts, coastal erosion and other impacts that have been identified across the globe, which pose threats to life, property, economic well-being and to ecosystems. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has projected that global warming from past anthropogenic emissions will persist for centuries to millennia and will continue to cause further long-term changes in the climate system such as sea level rise, with associated impacts.

This document presents guidance for local governments and communities on how to prepare for such threats and the associated risks. The document recognizes that the impacts posed by climate change vary widely from region to region, and directly affect communities' well-being and local governments including the public services they offer, as well as the safety and security of individuals within their jurisdiction. It is the responsibility of local governments and communities to provide leadership in planning and preparing to manage these risks.

This document also describes how to develop an adaptation plan at the local government and community levels. The planning process details why and how to establish an appropriate (well-structured and collaborative) governance structure and the elements of the adaptation planning and implementation processes. These details include establishing a facilitation team, assessing risks and developing an effective plan, monitoring the progress of adaptation implementation and evaluating its achievement with the aim of improving the plan. The step-by-step process presented enables tailoring of the local adaptation plan to suit the climate, environmental and societal conditions in each case. Following this document will lead to developing a robust, effective adaptation plan that can be implemented, promoting appropriate climate action today and in the future.

It is important to note that the climate is changing, and planning and implementing adaptation is a continual learning and improvement process that requires sustained attention and action. This document will help local governments and communities in taking initial action to create a safe, socially and economically secure and sustainable society that is resilient to current and future impacts of climate change.



NOTE The graph is designed to be interpreted clockwise.

Figure 1 — Logical framework of this document

# Adaptation to climate change — Requirements and guidance on adaptation planning for local governments and communities

## 1 Scope

This document specifies requirements and guidance on adaptation planning for local governments and communities.

This document supports local governments and communities in adapting to climate change based on vulnerability, impacts and risk assessments. In working with relevant interested parties, it also supports the setting of priorities, and the development and subsequent updating of an adaptation plan.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <http://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **adaptation to climate change** **climate change adaptation**

process of adjustment to actual or expected *climate* (3.3) and its effects

Note 1 to entry: In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Note 2 to entry: In some natural systems, human intervention can facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.

[SOURCE: ISO 14090:2019, 3.1]

### 3.2

#### **adaptive capacity**

ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences

Note 1 to entry: Coping capacity is defined as the ability of people, *organizations* (3.17), and systems, using available skills, resources, and opportunities, to address, manage, and overcome adverse conditions.

[SOURCE: ISO 14090:2019, 3.2, modified — Note 1 to entry has been added.]