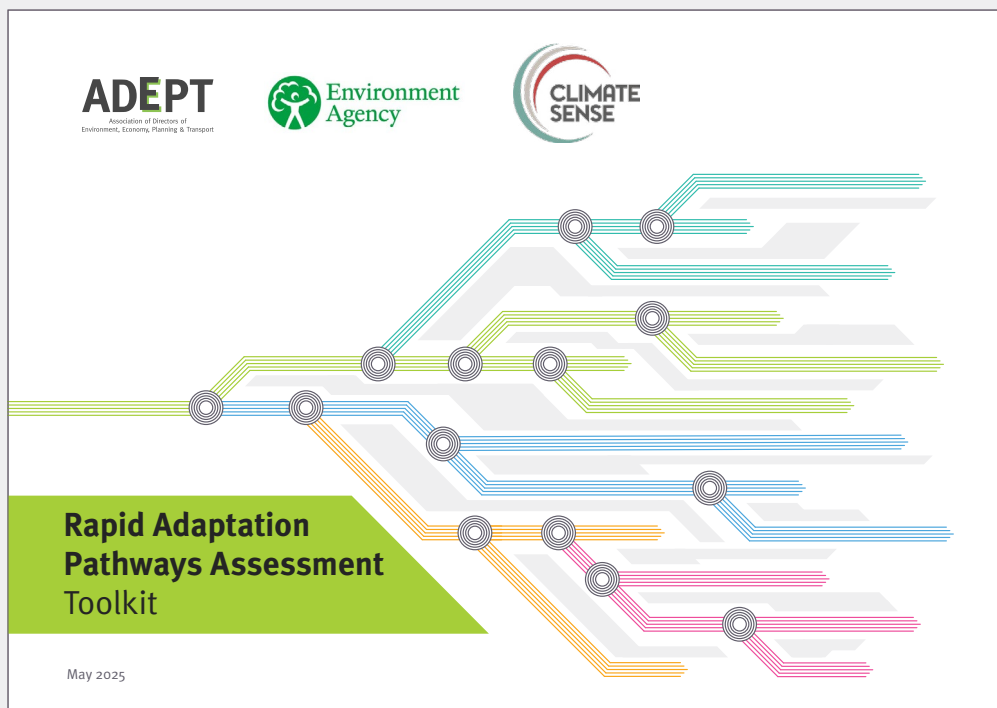


Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment Summary

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) and the Environment Agency have jointly produced a Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment (RAPA) toolkit.

This focuses on flood and coastal erosion risk management (FCERM) and provides the tools to undertake a basic RAPA.



Looking ahead to 2100, we need to help local places better plan and adapt to future flooding and coastal change. This will mean being agile to the latest climate science, growth projections, investment opportunities and other changes to our local environment. We call this ‘adaptation pathways’. Adaptation pathways enable local places to better plan for future flooding and coastal change and adapt to future climate hazards.

As a nation we need to improve the way we integrate adaptation to flooding and coastal change into daily activities and projects, as well as long-term strategic investment plans and strategies for places and catchments. By doing so we can better equip practitioners and policy makers to make the best decisions, taken at the right time to benefit people, infrastructure, the economy and the environment.

What are adaptation pathways?

An adaptation pathway is a decision-making approach, that allows decision-makers to take actions under uncertainty. It enables them to identify what actions can be taken now and in the future.

The adaptation pathways approach allows decision-makers to plan, prioritise and sequence investments in climate adaptation actions. The approach is considered global best practice in adaptation planning because it supports strategic, flexible and structured decision-making.

A nine-step guide is set out in the British Standard BS8631: 'Adaptation to climate change. Using adaptation pathways for decision making'. The RAPA Toolkit focuses on the first four to five steps.

The concept is straightforward and based on two questions:

1. Are there climate change impacts that make current assets or services inefficient, ineffective, or redundant?

For example, the climate change thresholds beyond which things do not work

2. At these thresholds, what are the best adaptation actions?

Watch this video to understand more about the approach.



Click the video above for a spoken introduction

What is a Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment?

RAPAs are ‘high-level’ adaptation pathways, developed in a one-day workshop.

They use the expert judgement of participating stakeholders to quickly identify thresholds and adaptation actions, using maps and existing data. RAPAs are an initial step on a longer adaptation planning journey.

The process helps to:

- explore climate impacts and adaptation opportunities in collaboration with key stakeholders.
- form relationships and build a shared understanding with these stakeholders.
- use expert knowledge and existing data.
- identify and estimate thresholds where action is needed.
- identify actions that could be implemented at these thresholds.
- develop high-level adaptation pathways.

The RAPA Toolkit was developed as part of the Environment Agency’s [Adaptation Pathway Programme](#) and in collaboration with ADEPT.

Find out more about the collaboration with ADEPT [here](#).



ADEPT

Who is the RAPA Toolkit for?

The RAPA Toolkit was initially developed for use by local authorities, but it is relevant to a wide range of users, including resilience strategy planners, long-term and asset management investment planners, as well as Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) and climate adaptation practitioners. It is a practical tool that can support the first steps on your adaptation planning journey.

Who is involved?

RAPAs can be developed within your own organisation or in partnership with others.

What are the outputs?

The key output from the RAPA workshop is a RAPA chart. This sets out the adaptation actions and the climate thresholds at which they are needed. The example below shows actions to mitigate surface water risk as peak rainfall intensity increases.

A RAPA workshop will identify a wide range of physical and non-physical actions. Each of these will have their own assumptions and uncertainties. This provides a basis for more detailed analysis.

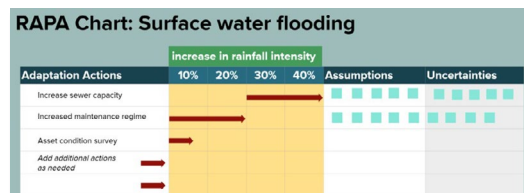


Figure 1: Example of a RAPA chart

Where can I find out more?

[Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment \(RAPA\) Toolkit | ADEPT](#)

[Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment \(RAPA\) toolkit](#)

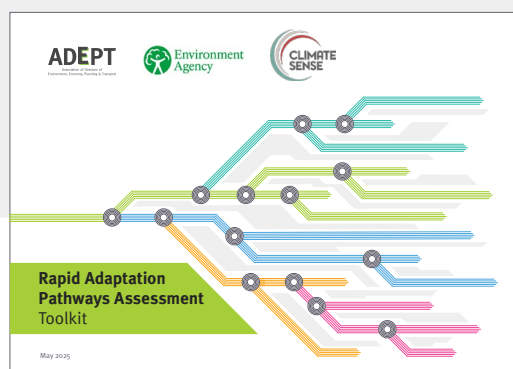
(Risk Management Authorities only)

[Adaptation Pathways video | ADEPT and Environment Agency](#)

[Adaptation Pathways | ADEPT](#)

[Adaptation Pathways Knowledge Hub](#)

(Risk Management Authorities only)



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