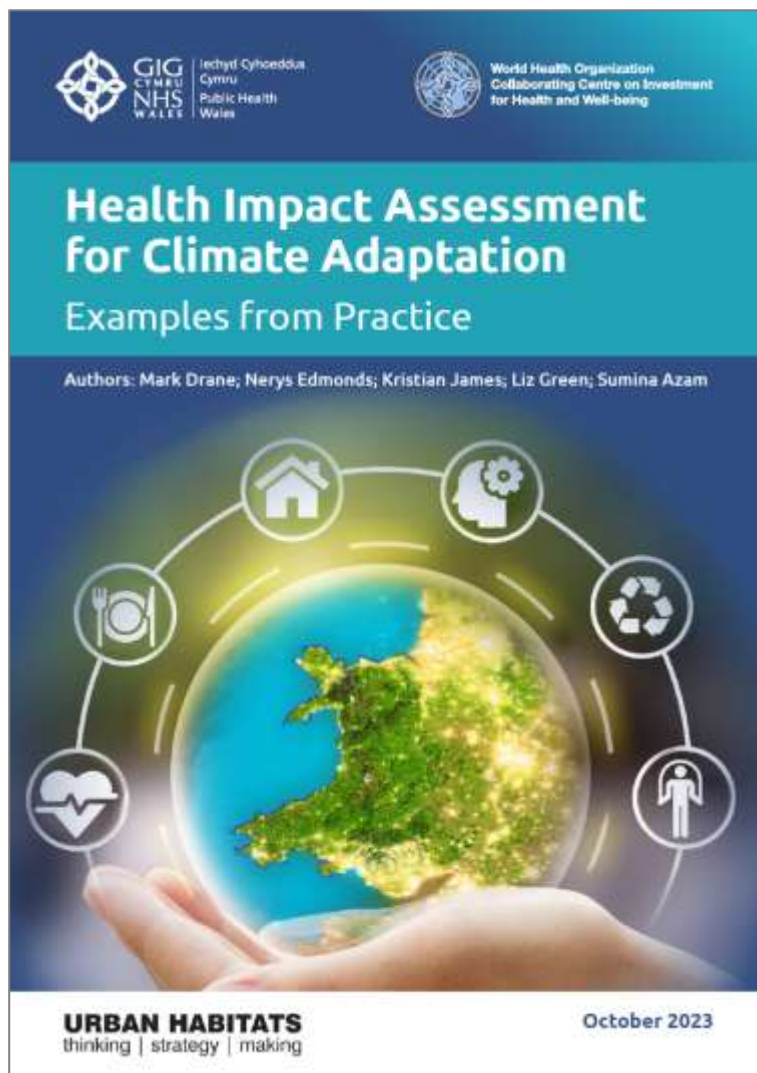
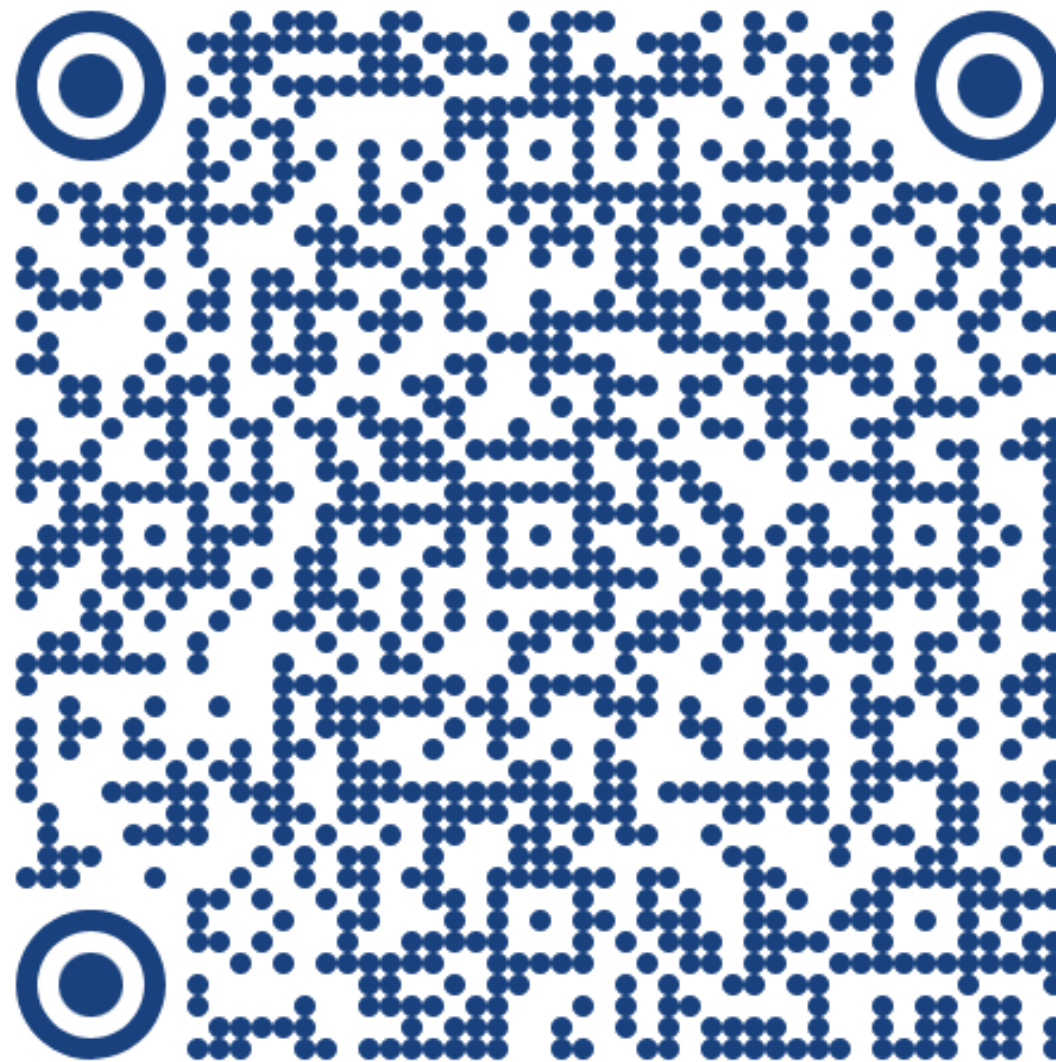




health in climate adaptation: global case studies and lessons for practice



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methods

Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

A process which systematically considers the impact of a policy, plan, or proposal on a population, through the lens of the determinants of health and well-being.

Research aim: identify and evaluate existing practice and identify lessons for translation of HIA methods into climate adaptation practice.

Method: cross-sectional / comparative case study.

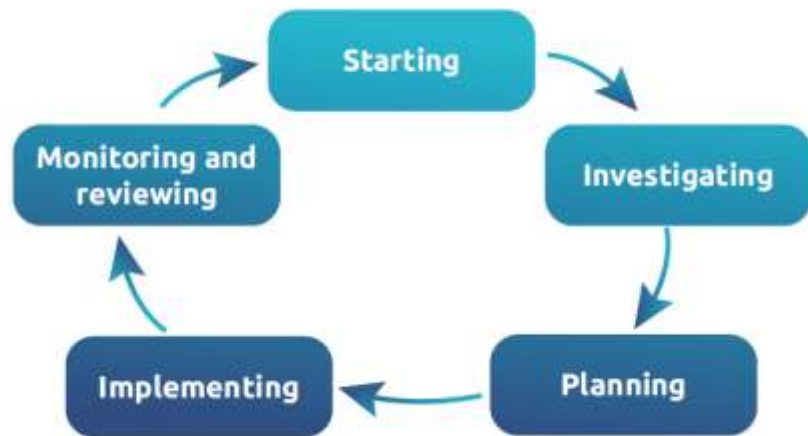
Data sources: were all desktop / publicly available sources.



findings | integration

Approaches:

- **By sector:** e.g. organisational scope
- **By place:** e.g. Public Services Board
- **By ecosystem / natural system:** e.g. water catchments
- **By stage of adaptation planning cycle**



The Five Ways of Working

Long-term
Integration
Involvement
Collaboration
Prevention

HIA Values

Open
Transparent
Equitable
Robust
Participatory
Sustainable
Democratic

Adaptive management
Scale
Collaboration + engagement
Public participation
Evidence
Multiple benefits
Long term
Preventative action
Building resilience

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR)

findings | case studies

Location	Title	Author	Date	Focus	HIA Type	Population
North America	South Central Minnesota, Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment & Adaptation Plan: HIA	Region Nine Development Commission	2016	Regional level	Rapid	0.23 million
Wales	Climate Change in Wales: HIA	Public Health Wales	2023	Country level	Comprehensive	3.2 million
Wales	Drought / water scarcity in Wales: HIA	Public Health Wales	2019	Country level / specific determinant	Comprehensive	3.2 million
North America	Climate change health assessment with Indigenous population groups. Comprehensive community assessment of climate change impacts.	Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC)	2010-present	Programme of community assessments	Comprehensive & community participatory	10+ communities; 70-800 people; Indigenous peoples
Wales	Ways of working to integrate HIA into workflows / project assessment and planning of a public body in Wales.	Natural Resources Wales	2019-present	Country level adaptation programme delivery	Integration of HIA in delivery programme; capacity building	Varies per project

findings | case studies

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1. Adaptation Plan HIA						
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Programme delivery						

findings | case study | South Central Minnesota assessment & adaptation plan

Drivers & context:

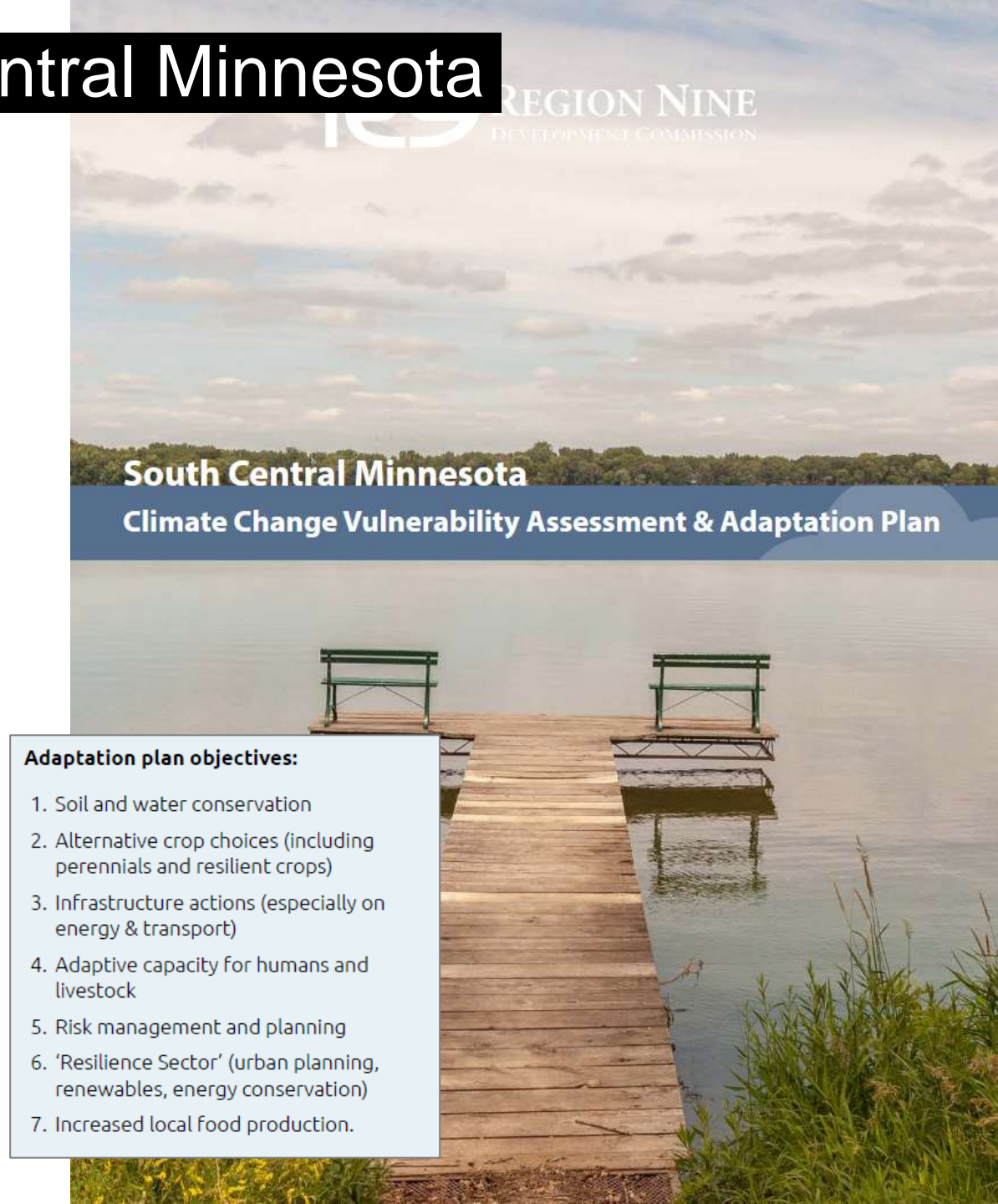
- Regional priorities identified
- \$1.9bn projected flood risk to critical facilities
- 12 disaster declarations in 20 years from flooding
- Ensuring adaptation planning support human health

What happened:

- HIA followed established stages
- HIA advisory committee ↔ Adaptation Taskforce
- Pathway mapping of health impacts
- HIA focused on Objective 1

Reflective learning:

- HIA objectives partially realised (Objective 1).
- Increased understanding of issues
- Increased network of actors & practitioners
- Learning on: resourcing, sequencing, & timescales.



Adaptation plan objectives:

1. Soil and water conservation
2. Alternative crop choices (including perennials and resilient crops)
3. Infrastructure actions (especially on energy & transport)
4. Adaptive capacity for humans and livestock
5. Risk management and planning
6. 'Resilience Sector' (urban planning, renewables, energy conservation)
7. Increased local food production.

findings | case study | Alaska Native Tribal Health

Drivers & context:

- Lack of local scale climate data
- Need to identify climate vulnerability
- Need for community involvement: before, during, after

What happened:

- HIA method: specialised approach developed integrating community knowledge (e.g. seasons)
- Tools: developed to support each stage: scoping, surveying, analysis, planning
- Point Hope, 2009, rapid permafrost thaw, coastal erosion, storm surge, flooding
- 10 communities assessed over 10 years

Reflective learning:

- Governance, community agreement & permission
- People live in dynamic landscapes

If we take 10,000 years of our Indigenous knowledge and interface it with 150 years of modern science we have the ability to create solutions that can ripple across the globe.

(Alaska on the Climate Frontlines., 2021)



Image credit: John Oscar, Raven Finds Light, used with permission

findings | case study | HIA framework pilot at Natural Resources Wales

Drivers & context:

- Good practice
- Regulatory duties
- How to integrate 'health thinking' with programme management & delivery

What happened:

- Build internal capacity: training
- Developing a triage system: scale, type, risk level – right fitting HIA to these
- Integrating / aligning HIA with systems and processes: e.g. gateway reviews & business case
- Pilot application (see opposite)

Reflective learning:

- Invest time & resource in 'fitting' HIA to existing processes
- Acknowledge gaps: impacts on wellbeing not well understood
- Be proportionate: developing a "level of significance" matrix helped
- Recognise the people side as well as process side



Image credit: Arup / Natural Resources Wales

Existing flood defences nearly a mile long that require enhancement in response to climate change and rising sea levels.

What happened: a HIA screening was conducted on the project to ascertain the potential effects of the project. The initial focus was on understanding potentially affected populations as part screening and scoping.

Specific recommendations from this were:

- Identifying the importance of stakeholder engagement when attempting to identify health impacts.

- The need for a 'dual approach' to infrastructure projects with physical interventions accompanied by social changes, such as through engagement activities.
- Community participation should be conducted in the design and implementation phases and factored into long-term maintenance considerations.
- Importance of communicating both activities and outcomes to affected communities, before, during, and after.

Benefits for the organisation:

- Project governance: being better informed with a clear approach to monitor impacts on wellbeing.
- Meeting responsibilities under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- Plan for upcoming duty under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017.
- Compatible with purpose to pursue the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Working to create a more equal and equitable society.

Pilot of HIA Framework: Stephenson Street Flood Risk Management scheme.

findings | lessons for practice

Key learning / recommendations:

- Time and resource for HIA to be undertake
- Scoping for a holistic view of all health outcomes and all adaptation pathways
- Application as early as possible in planning adaptation
- Combine regional data with community level knowledge

***"community consent... participatory...
social license"***

• Quality Assurance for HIA



Protecting health and wellbeing in the climate crisis

Public Health Network Cymru

21 NOV



About this event

Are you involved with planning a local climate risk assessment? Would you like to learn more about how people and communities in Wales are vulnerable to climate change? Then join us for our next online conference.

This conference will support people who work with Public Service Boards (PSBs) or Public Bodies who are planning or starting their local climate risk assessments. The conference will include an introduction to the guidance on local climate

Date + Time

21st November 2023

9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

[Register](#)

Type