CASE STUDIES : ADAM Digital Compendium
Sector-Oriented Lens : Cross-sectoral

Illustration:	**Cross-Sectoral**	**SECTOR-ORIENTED LENS**
Tool:	**ADAM DIGITAL COMPENDIUM**	
Case Study:	**ADAM: Mainstreaming Adaptation Into Regional Land Use Planning In the Guadiana River Basin**	
Description:	***Summary:*** The objective of the Digital Compendium is to contribute to emerging knowledge on adaptation by acting as a portal for the dissemination of the trans-disciplinary results from the ADAM project. The tool provides stakeholders with valuable knowledge that may assist their decision-making. ADAM is cross-sectoral, and can cover more than one sector simultaneously. Lessons learnt from the project are supplied, and cover the following areas: making wise decisions, adaptation networks, why action is hard, organisational/policy/research implications, such as in this study that examines the constraints and opportunities for mainstreaming adaptation to climate change in land use and water management in the Guadiana River Basin, focusing on the conditions that facilitate/limit adaptation according to six dimensions: biophysical, technical, financial, institutional, social, and cognitive (informational aspects). The study suggests, amongst other conclusions, that it is important to balance formal regulatory rules, and informal networks.  **Placemark Link** ***More information:*** The key findings of the study are listed according to each of the six dimensions: (1) *Biodiversity:* preserving and managing diversification of land use has great potential for reducing climate related risks. (2) *Technical:* there is scope for the development and exchange of more sustainable technologies and information systems. Existing technical solutions run into limits and add to undesirable and/or long-term effects. (3) *Financial:* there are opportunities for public-private partnerships in which marketable products obtain additional support in exchange for providing social and environmental services that support adaptation. This could help counter the assumption that adaptation is too costly and uncertain, compared to expected benefits. (4) *Institutional:* divided, changing or unclear responsibilities are key constraints for adaptation actions. Engaging with potential opponents is an important activity in adaptation planning. (5) *Social:* adaptation can fail or be counterproductive because social processes and structures are imperfectly understood. Culture and traditional knowledge – often valid to coping strategies – need to be taken into account when designing new policies and measures. (6) *Cognitive:* diverse perceptions of risks and their causes should be taken into account in adaptation policies, supporting the notion of adaptation as a social learning process, crucial to address the mismatch between scientific adaptation theory and adaptation practice on the ground. Institutional and cognitive aspects were identified as particularly important, though their weight varies over time and according to the location. The study suggests that it is important to balance: • *Formal regulatory rules*, required to include adaptation in longer-term planning, investment and financial support of experimentation and adaptation, • And *informal networks*, crucial for social learning and adaptive capacity, particularly useful in times of crisis.	
Key Contacts:	Adam Project Office, Tyndall Centre for Cimate Change Research, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.	
Further Readings:	Mainstreaming Adaptation in Regional Land Use and Water Management, in Adaptation and Mitigation Opportunities in European Climate Policy, edited by Hulme, M. and H. Neufeldt, CUP, 2009.	