

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



European
Investment Bank

WHAT IS CLIMATE ADAPTATION?

Climate change is a pressing issue with significant consequences. We are expecting an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events like wildfires or severe floods. Climate adaptation refers to proactive measures we can take to manage these anticipated impacts. In contrast, climate mitigation focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions that lead to climate change in the first place. Examples of mitigation strategies include investments in renewable energy sources.

Adaptation allows us to build resilience for our communities and infrastructure in the face of a changing climate. This can:



Strengthen our power grids by burying power lines to minimise damage from extreme weather.



Improve road drainage systems to help manage heavier rainfall and prevent flooding.



Incorporate better ventilation and shading in buildings to improve indoor comfort during heatwaves.



Conduct research and development for drought-resistant crops to ensure stable food production even with increased drought risks.



Develop research and communication technologies for early warning systems that allow communities to prepare effectively for floods, wildfires and droughts.

WHY DOES CLIMATE ADAPTATION MATTER?

The recent surge in devastating floods, wildfires, and extreme heatwaves around the globe serves as a stark reminder that climate change poses a significant threat to people, economies and the environment. To mitigate these impacts, urgent action on adaptation is crucial. This need for adaptation is enshrined in the 2015 Paris Agreement, a global pact that emphasises “enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change.”

The European Investment Bank (EIB) recognises this urgency, as laid out in the [EIB Adaptation Plan](#), and is committed to playing a leading role in supporting adaptation efforts within and beyond the European Union, through finance and technical assistance.

THE BENEFITS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Investing in adaptation offers a multitude of advantages: it prevents future losses, brings economic gains thanks to innovations such as drought-resistant crops, and enhances social and environmental benefits such as health and biodiversity.





WHAT IS CLIMATE ADAPTATION FINANCE?

Climate adaptation finance refers to targeted investments that help ecosystems, support economies and empower societies to adjust to climate change and its consequences. **These investments build resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, and enhance a community's ability to cope with anticipated climate impacts.** The scope of adaptation finance extends beyond just infrastructure. It encompasses various sectors, including education, healthcare, financial services, social services, and research and innovation, as long as these investments aim to build resilience against global warming.

For example, investing in upgrading drainage systems to handle heavier rainfall and prevent flooding is an **adaptation measure**. Upgrading a city's water supply to accommodate population growth and droughts achieves both development and adaptation goals. Investing in research for drought-resistant crops, restoring natural coastline defences or installing early warning systems can significantly **improve a community's ability to adapt and endure climate impacts**. Investments in adapting existing infrastructure, enhancing a system's ability to adapt or **reducing climate vulnerabilities** are all examples of climate adaptation finance.

KEY INVESTMENT AREAS



Build resilient cities and regions



Protect energy and communication infrastructure



Address water scarcity and flood risks



Strengthen the climate resilience of food systems, forests and ecosystems



Boost innovation in climate resilience



Support education and research for climate observation and analysis



Respond to the health impacts of climate change



Promote gender-responsive adaptation financing

THE EIB'S ROLE IN ADAPTATION

The EIB recognises the importance of assessing a client's vulnerability to climate risks. We offer **technical assistance** throughout the project cycle, from identifying and planning adaptation projects to their development and implementation.

In the European Union, the Climate Adaptation Investment Advisory Platform (**ADAPT**) provides support to the public and private sector in planning for and investing in climate adaptation and resilience. Additionally, we provide **finance** for adaptation investments, with more flexible terms for Small Island Developing States, Low-Income Countries, and fragile and conflict-affected states. Public resources for climate adaptation are limited.

The EIB strategically **blends** available concessional capital (from public and donor sources) with the EIB's own lending capacity. This approach aims to mobilise significantly larger investments in climate adaptation projects.



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More information

European Investment Bank
98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer
L-2950 Luxembourg
info@eib.org — www.eib.org