

Framing the key adaptation questions: How much adaptation is needed, when and where?

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Three key questions frame the current adaptation challenge: 1) How much damage, unavoided by emissions reductions, will ideally need to be avoided by adaptation? 2) At what points or periods of time will such actions in adaptation be most needed? And 3) what places, activities and communities will have the greatest need for adaptation? The solutions are unlikely to be straightforward but they will be helped considerably by being clear about: Our objectives in adaptation (eg minimising damage vs being most cost efficient), developing measurable indicators of progress toward successful adaptation, and being realistic about what damages can and cannot be avoided. A start on the framing of key adaptation questions, and testing has been made by UNEP's new Programme for Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA).