



NExUS Needs Assessments Mon Nov 19 17:35:00 EST 2018

Need	Develop more precise sea-level rise and storm-surge projections for the entire Canadian coast, particularly densely populated areas, and develop a system to regularly update the data and monitor for coastal erosion
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Description	<p>This report offers several policy recommendations regarding improved accuracy of future sea-level rise studies, and the implementation of adaptation measures similar to those quantified in this report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Develop “model” policies that incorporate these strategies, and adopt them at the province and territory level, with protected zones defined by law (e.g. all beaches, dunes, and coastal wetlands, plus a restricted-development area within 30 meters of those zones, as is New Brunswick’s policy), and the ability for local authorities to impose further, but not fewer, restrictions. To prevent a maladaptive rush to develop coastal land prior to implementation, consider a development moratorium in the affected areas while policies are being drafted, and do not allow the adoption process to stretch out for more than one year—even if a choice is made to phase in the strictest measures.</li> <li>• Develop more precise sea-level rise and storm-surge projections for the entire Canadian coast, with a special focus on densely populated areas, and develop a system to regularly update the data and monitor the coastal landscape for erosion and other issues. Greater precision in these estimates will require better elevation data, and a large, well-funded national study to enable far greater local detail in the physical model. Areas at or below sea level should be analyzed more closely, to gauge their exposure to sea-level rise and storm surges and the effectiveness of dikes and other existing barriers.</li> <li>• Strengthen province/territory and local capacity to develop and implement adaptation plans by continuing to fund projects such as the Regional Adaptation Collaboratives; bringing together land-use and environmental experts and enforcers within government (as New Brunswick has done in its Department of Environment); making it easy for local authorities to obtain crucial information and call in experts to assist them; and funding training opportunities.</li> <li>•Educate and engage the public, directly (through the media, websites, etc.) and especially through businesses and professionals likely to interact with homeowners and developers and with a possible stake in mitigating losses—property insurers, banks, real-estate agents, construction companies, architects, landscapers.</li> <li>•Seriously consider the implications of economic and environmental choices beyond coastal zones management: A local-stewardship economy would sharply reduce climate-related losses in the future, but it would require a major shift in priorities. Rapid stabilization of greenhouse gas emissions cannot be achieved by Canada alone, but Canada can choose its role in reducing emissions, and either be a leader, or a straggler. We recommend fostering nationwide debate of these issues.</li> </ul>
Priority	- Unknown
Discipline	- Climate Society Interactions
Sector	- Economic Resources
Source	Costing Climate Impacts and Adaptation: A Canadian Study on Coastal Zones (2010)
Lead Agencies	National Round Table on the Environment and Economy Stockholm Environment Institute