



FIVE-YEAR PLAN SUMMARY 2020-2025

This five-year plan covering the 2020-2025 period describes Ouranos's role in helping to ramp up climate change adaptation through its scientific program, both in terms of the topics addressed and how they are studied. The plan will guide the organization's actions to generate research results that are relevant, credible, accessible, rigorously developed and efficiently delivered.

The current context is very different compared to when the consortium was first established. It is now recognized that climate change adaptation is essential to ensure Québec remains prosperous and resilient. Research and innovation developed through integrated approaches make up the foundations of adaptation to climate change in to properly support decision-making and implementation. The increase in observed climate change impacts also drives a growing demand for adaptation-related information and services. It has therefore become imperative for Ouranos to play a stronger role to develop and consolidate climate change expertise, promote integration to provide more comprehensive and more robust answers in addition to mobilizing knowledge for the benefit of society.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Implementation of this plan is based on five guiding principles:

1. Accelerate climate change adaptation through a solutions-oriented program
2. Reinforce the integrated approach
3. Pay particular attention to the specific characteristics of different environments and groups
4. Collaborate with global leaders in their fields to mobilize knowledge and share experiences
5. Promote innovation through existing frameworks

IMPLEMENTATION

As for the implementation of this plan, improvements are proposed for the sound use of available resources and know-how.

- ▶ An optimized internal structure conducive to multidisciplinary and collaboration between teams
- ▶ A consolidated network approach and dynamic, collaborative governance
- ▶ A more strategic definition of projects and enhanced dissemination of research findings
- ▶ A culture of collaboration, innovation and reinforced adaptability
- ▶ An updated, sustainable, and evolving communication strategy

SERVICES OFFERED

Climate change
expertise and advice

Technical and financial support
for research and development

Stakeholder and
knowledge mobilization

Integration of issues,
knowledge and stakeholders

Enhanced dissemination
and transfer of R&D results

Support for climate change
adaptation actors

ADAPTATION PRIORITIES

Programming will revolve around eight highly inter-related adaptation priorities while considering social, environmental, economic and built environment dimensions.

Support an economy in line with climate reality

Develop knowledge and tools to consolidate the resilience of economic players by accounting for climate change risks and opportunities in their planning, risk management and operation processes

Help maintain energy security in a changing climate

Support the analysis and implementation of adaptation solutions focusing on the components of the energy system (energy sources, production methods, transmission, distribution and demand) in order to ensure security and durability in the context of a changing climate

Lower risks related to water availability

Help reinforce Quebec's capacity to supply its population with drinking water and ensure that ecosystems and economic sectors are not lastingly impacted in the event of a severe water shortage

Reinforce the resilience of food systems

Mobilize and develop the knowledge needed by concerned stakeholders to reinforce food security for the entire Quebec population in a context of climate change in the province and throughout the world

Minimize the scale of social and health challenges

Help mitigate the psychological, social and health impacts of climate change throughout the Quebec population, especially in high-risk groups, by developing and mobilizing knowledge to better understand, prevent and manage such impacts

Reduce the risks of extreme events

Enhance understanding and improve knowledge mobilization with regard to the evolution of the risks of extreme events likely to be driven by climate change, as well as the different options for adaptation to support prevention efforts

Facilitate adaptation of living environments

Support and stimulate the development of scientific and empirical knowledge in order to help implement and reinforce the adaptation of living environments, whether the context is urban, rural, natural, coastal, forest, northern or other

Rally actors around a climate governance that accelerates adaptation

Develop knowledge on the roles and responsibilities of the various actors within a given system, at the inter-institutional, inter-sectoral and territorial levels, in order to support the adoption of climate governance conducive to the implementation of adaptation solutions that are viable for society

+ CLIMATE SCIENCE AND CLIMATE SERVICES

A strategy in the development of scientific knowledge and tools that supports decision-making processes in various fields (land management, public health, water management, etc.) through relevant climate-related information that favours the optimal management of risks and opportunities

+ KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Support the different players throughout the adaptation cycle – from understanding the issues to implementing and following up on solutions – through efficient knowledge sharing and dissemination

✓ ANTICIPATED RESULTS

- ▶ Dynamic network of researchers, experts, practitioners, managers and decision-makers driving adaptation research and making maximum use of the results
- ▶ New knowledge and tools to help implement potential adaptation solutions
- ▶ Easier access to relevant research results and support services
- ▶ Sustained capacity building in several key sectors, organizations and fields of expertise

+ ANTICIPATED BENEFITS

- ▶ Stimulated innovation
- ▶ Increased mobilization of different stakeholders
- ▶ Reinforced institutional and technical capacities for climate change adaptation
- ▶ Better-informed decision-making