



RAIL ADAPT

Summary for executives

THE RAIL ADAPT VISION IS FOR

“a transport system in which the **world’s railways** have acquired the flexibility to intelligently adjust to climate change, thereby providing their economies and societies with reliable and cost-efficient transportation services”.

The full report is available at
<https://uic.org/railadapt-report>



CLIMATE CHANGE



is a long term, slow acting but very high impact risk;



affects all parts of railways in all parts of the world but in many different ways;



can have beneficial effects but effects can also be catastrophic;



requires leadership to plan and change but there is knowledge and the tools to do it.



INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF RAILWAYS

RAIL ADAPT

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The climate is changing.

Globally, weather records are broken almost every year. Locally, the effects of floods, drought and other extreme weather events are disrupting railway operations more frequently, with an associated loss of revenue and a potential loss of business to other modes of transport.

Adaptation is the process of making changes to how services are delivered to be resilient to disruption now and in the future. These might be physical changes to infrastructure but also include organisational changes to enable intelligent adjustments to how services are provided, foresight of problems and learning from experience.

The RailAdapt framework sets out the context of climate change, the issues at stake, strategies and toolkits for dealing with them. It offers case studies to show how railways in different parts of the world are dealing with them today. It provides techniques and tools, adapted from other areas of risk management and from the varied experiences of engineers, operators and planners in different regions of the world, facing different challenges.

Challenges that you will face tomorrow are being managed somewhere in the world today, by asset managers, railway operators, rolling stock engineers, scenario planners and many others, and this framework and guidance document is designed to support both Boards and departmental managers in anticipating and facing up to those challenges.

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Where does Climate Change feature in your risk register?

How well prepared is your organisation to manage the risks?

Are you asking the right questions about your assets' future and your investment criteria?

Do you have Climate Change adaptation embedded in all departments?

Are you communicating with stakeholders so that everyone has a shared understanding?

These are some of the questions that Board's should be asking and answering to ensure the long-term health and sustainability of the organisations they lead, and of the railway sector generally.

An adaptive railway organisation is one that adjusts intelligently to the changing climate, delivering service sustainably with value for money.