



# Conservation and/or Adaptation? Cognitive Frames Clashing in Adaptation Policy at the EU

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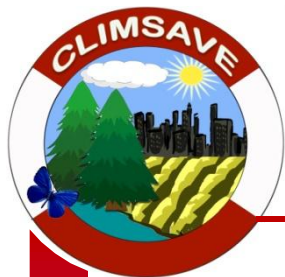
**2nd Nordic Climate Change Adaptation Conference, August 30 2012, Helsinki**



# Presentation Outline

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resilience  
science  
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society

- The CLIMSAVE project
- Research Objectives
- Qualitative Methods Applied
- Contradictions, Paradoxes, and Omissions
- Clashing Frames of Adaptation



# CLIMSAVE

environment  
research  
essrg  
science society

- FP7 European research project to assess **climate change impacts and adaptation strategies across six key sectors** in Europe: agriculture, forestry, biodiversity, urban, water and coasts
- Linkages between these sectors are being represented within a series of integrated models within a user-friendly web-based **Integrated Assessment Platform (IAP)**
- IAP is being designed so that **stakeholders** can use it themselves **to explore and understand** the interactions between climate change impacts in different sectors, **building their capacity to identify** cross-sectoral vulnerability to climate change and **determine** how it might be reduced by various cost-effective adaptation options



# Research Objectives

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- Assess the policy and governance context for adaptation through an analysis of selected global, EU, national, and local adaptation strategies

**multi-level governance (MLG) approach**

- Evaluate existing sectoral and cross-sectoral policy mechanisms for adaptation

**climate policy integration (CPI) perspective**



# Qualitative Methods

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- **Qualitative content analysis of selected policy documents:**

CC adaptation, agriculture and biodiversity policy documents

- **Key informant interviewing:**

7 official experts at Directorates-General (DGs) of EU administration and 7 with Scottish experts



# Adaptation Policy in the EU

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society

- Mitigation first, adaptation next
- Added value of EU level: coordination, knowledge base, dissemination, financing
- EU Adaptation Policy Framework as re-focusing and amending sectoral policies – no frame-breaking change advocated



# Cognitive Contradictions

- Exclusive emphasis on reliable data, prediction, indicators, and control – no mention of uncertainties, surprises, ignorance, limits to knowledge and control
- Strong emphasis on economics (cost-effectiveness, market-based instruments) – little mention of social, political, cultural aspects
- Positive rhetoric: co-benefits, win-win solutions – little mention of trade-offs and conflicts



# Institutional Contradictions

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- DG Clima born out of DG Env: functional separation

How to do CPI in a functionally divided organisational setting?

- „adaptation is eventually a local issue”

Why there are no institutionalised mechanisms to channel information and knowledge flow from the bottom-up?





# Conservation and/or Adaptation

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Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) frame:

**„working with nature”**

Triple-win:

**conservation + mitigation + cost-effectiveness**

An effective frame for climate adaptation

**OR**

nature conservation re-packaged?



# Contact

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