



ADAPTATION: LESSONS FROM OECD COUNTRIES



Overview

- National adaptation planning
- Private sector engagement
- Measuring success
- Conclusions



NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANNING



Almost half of OECD countries have adopted national strategies

- Template set by Finland's national strategy in 2005
- Currently:
 - 15 OECD countries have adopted strategies
 - 10 have strategies in development
- Range from high-level policy documents (e.g. UK APF) to specific action plans (e.g. France's *Plan national d'adaptation*)



Key themes

- Structure not always correlated with action
 - Location of coordination unit not decisive
 - Some questioned need for nat. strategy
- Driven by a variety of factors
 - Public awareness following extreme events
 - Learning from other countries
 - Leadership by municipalities / states



Challenges and opportunities

- Long-time horizons often a greater barrier than uncertainty (c.f. pensions)
 - Reluctance to discuss financing upfront
 - Focus on reforms with immediate co-benefits / low costs
- Adaptive capacity
 - Concern about mainstreaming overload
 - Questions about effectiveness of tools / guidance



PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT



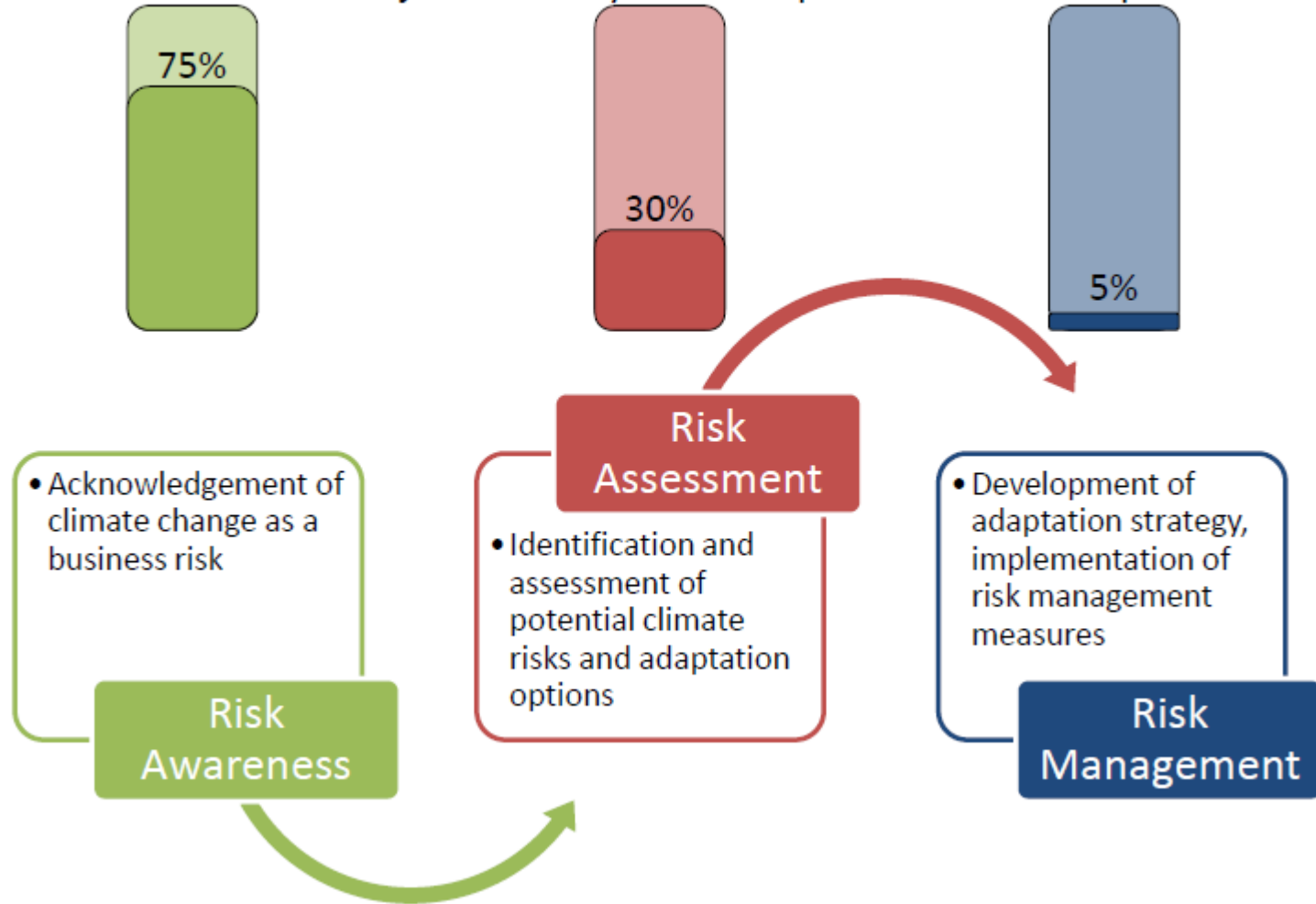
Importance in understanding the private sector

- >50% share of GDP
- Sophisticated / innovative approaches management of risk and uncertainty
- Involvement in sectors that are likely to be crucial for adaptation – construction, insurance, utilities



Awareness is high, but reported action is low...

Carbon Disclosure Project – Analysis of responses to 2009 questionnaire

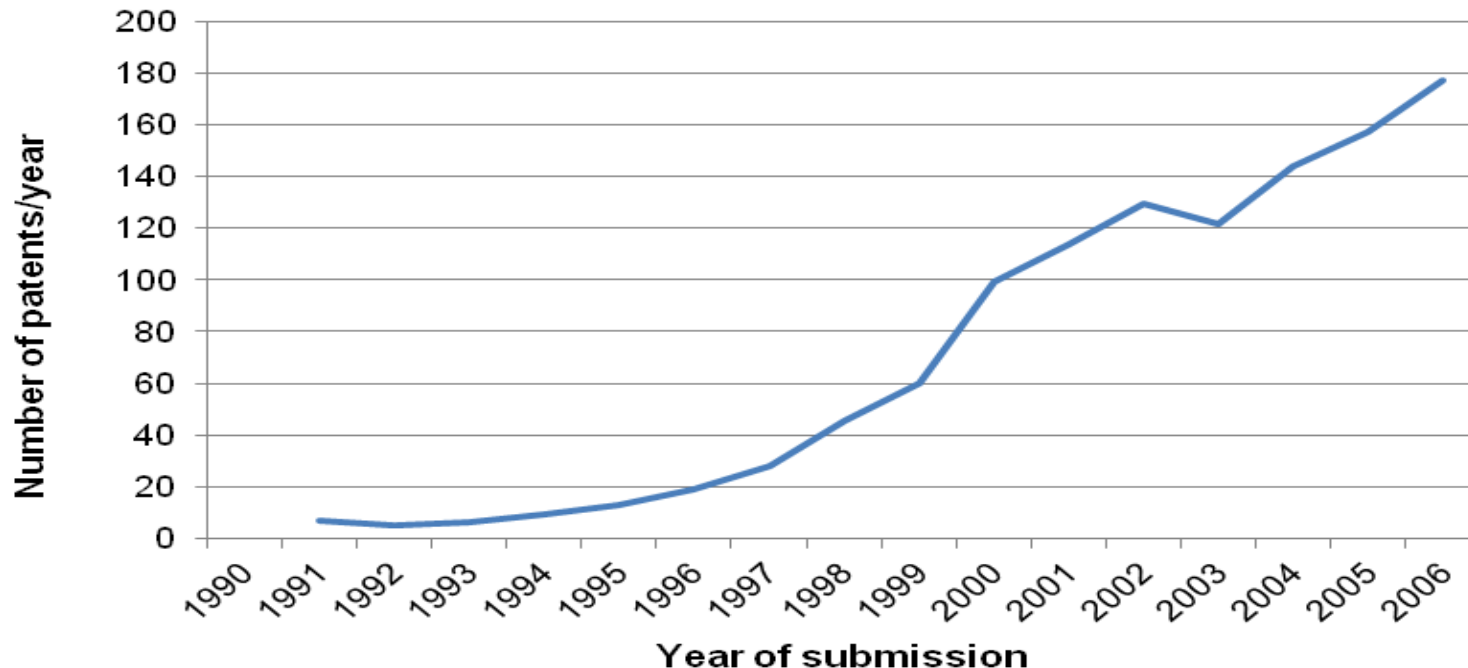


Agrawala et al (2011) – analysis based on 1100 English responses to CDP7



... but with examples of innovation in climate resilience

Annual adaptation-related crop biotechnology patent applications (1990-2007)



Note: Patent counts are based on the priority year, 3-year moving average



Lessons from the case studies

- Sensitivity of information
 - Reluctance to share / publish information
- Adaptation generally not seen as a meaningful term
- Interpreting lack of action
 - Barriers, missed opportunities or flexibility?



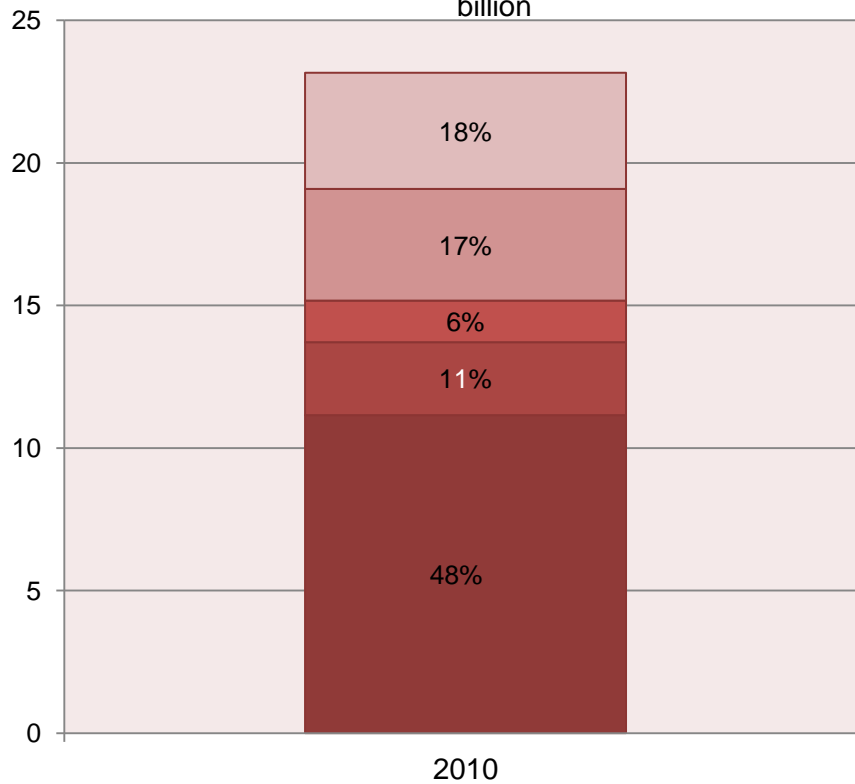
MEASURING SUCCESS



Significant resources for adaptation in developing countries...

USD billion

Total climate change-related aid: USD 22.9 billion



- Activities marked both for mitigation and adaptation ("overlap")
- Adaptation only: significant objective
- Adaptation only: principal objective
- Mitigation only: significant objective
- Mitigation only: principal objective



... But difficult to measure the effectiveness at the project level

- A recent OECD survey of the M&E approaches used by 6 bilateral agencies finds:
 - Climate models not widely used: only 1 out of 106 programme documents analysed used climate modelling;
 - With long time horizons, the timing of M&E must be revised to 20 years or more, yet today most evaluations occur 5-10 years after project completion;
 - “Attribution” to outcomes is difficult; new M&E approaches focus on “contribution”. Most agencies use combination of process and impact indicators.



And growing need to look at the national level for all countries

Level of policy making

- OECD countries looking at national level – move to do so for developing countries
- Potentially misleading to extrapolate from the effectiveness of projects

Accountability

- Increasing domestic spend requires increasingly robust justification

Mid-course correction

- Links to best-practice adaptation decision-making, but limited application of this in practice



CONCLUDING THOUGHTS



Linking research to decision-making

- Vital to understand the policy-making process – generally more than one “policy-maker” to be targeted
- Growing volume of “doing” – challenge is to ensure it also leads to learning

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