

How are some Countries Adapting to Climate Change?

Annette Morand

Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts
and Adaptation Resources

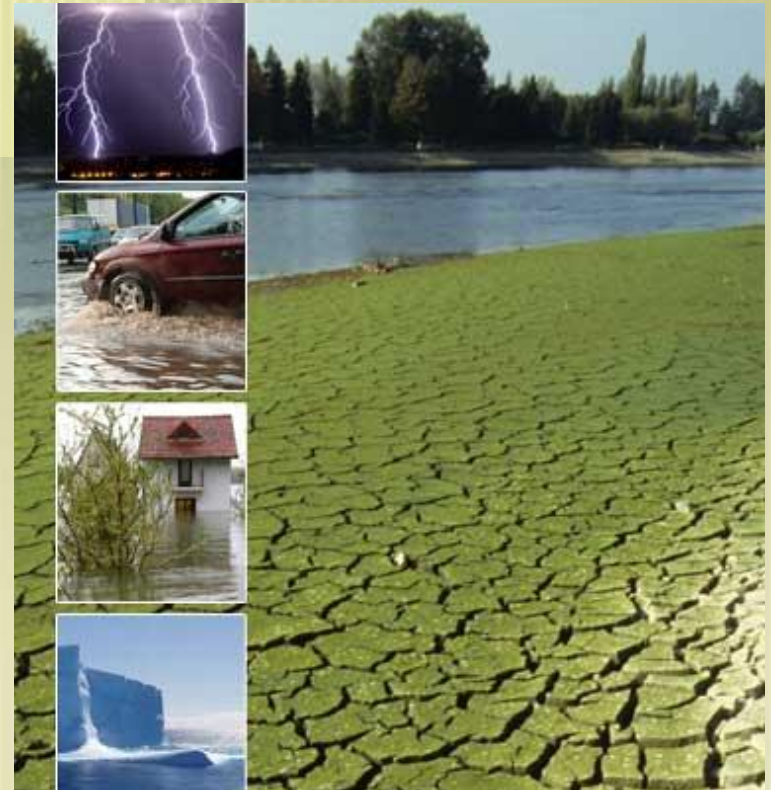
OCCCIAR

Citizen Panel Workshop
Sunday November 13, 2011



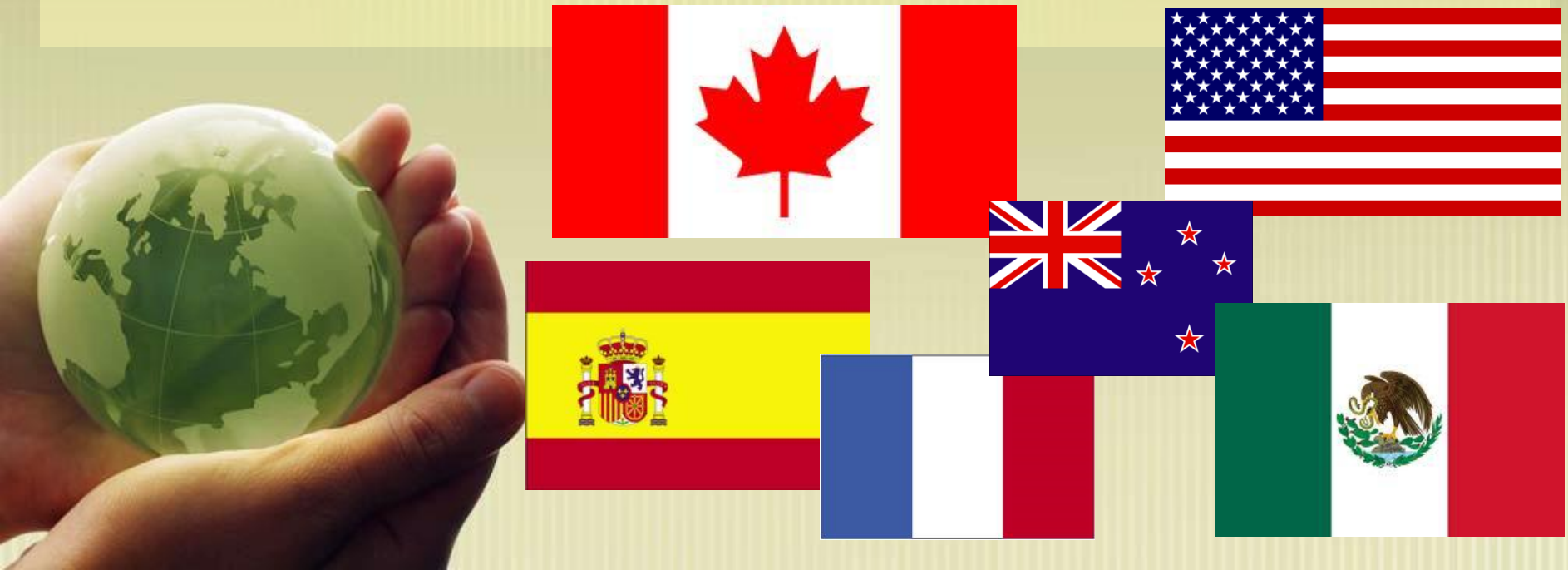
Mitigation vs. Adaptation

- ❖ A lot of action at the national level in terms of MITIGATION
- ❖ But ADAPTATION starting to garner more attention



Adaptation at the National Level

- ❖ Adaptation should be happening at several levels simultaneously
- ❖ Adaptation generally considered a “local” issue
- ❖ Local action should to be guided and supported by policies from higher levels of government



European Countries: Leading the way in National Adaptation Strategies

- Belgium
- Denmark
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom



Finland's National Adaptation Strategy

- ❖ *National Climate Strategy* - submitted to Parliament in March 2001
 - **OBJECTIVE:** “to reinforce and increase the capacity of society to adapt to climate change”
- **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
- Ministry of Transport and Communication
- Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Ministry of Social Affairs and Health
- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Finnish Meteorological Institute
- Finnish Environment Institute



Sector Specific Adaptation Measures (2005-2015)



- Agriculture and food production
- Forestry
- Water resources
- Energy
- Industry
- Transport and communications
- Fisheries
- Biodiversity
- Land use
- Health
- Tourism and recreation
- Insurance

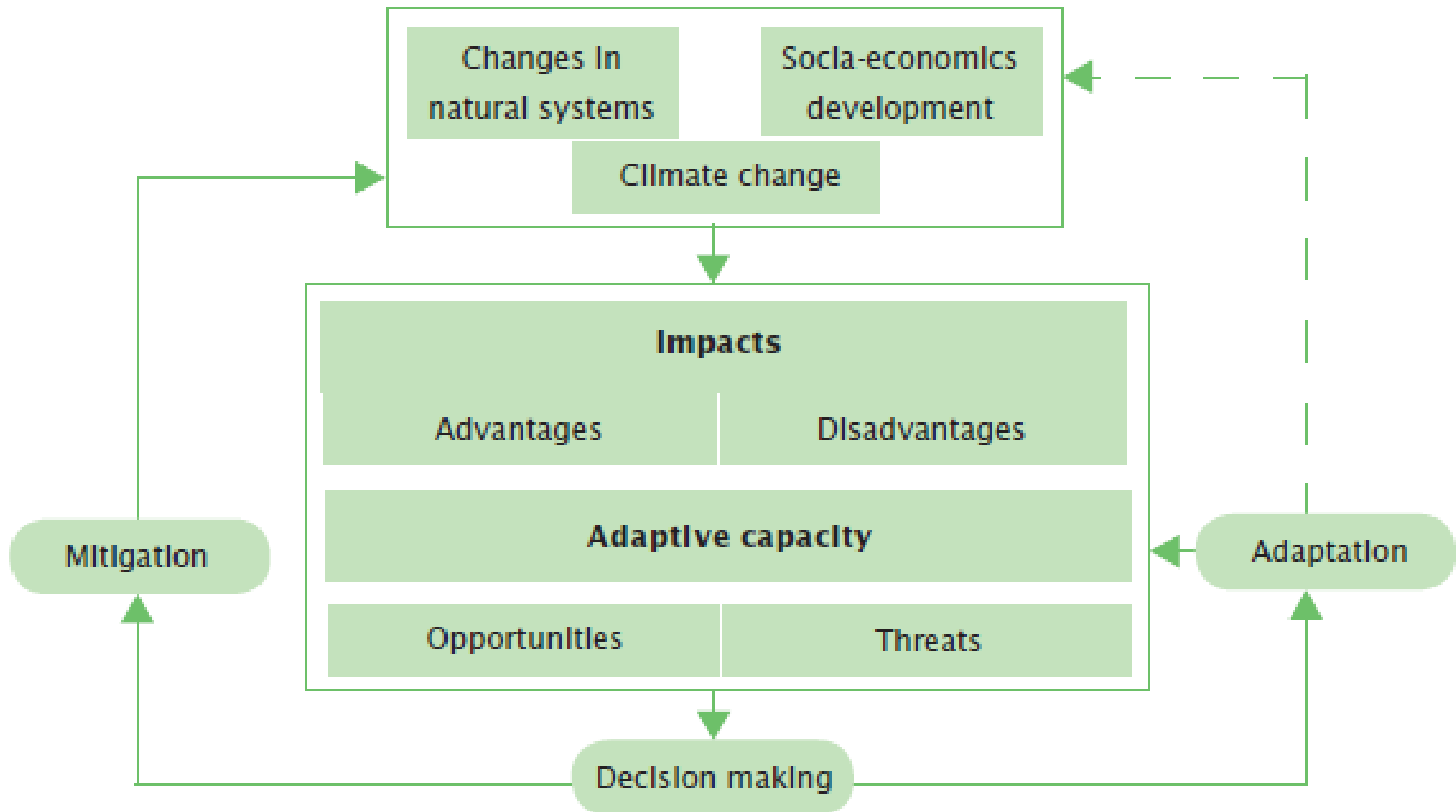


Increasing Finland's Adaptive Capacity

- 1) Mainstream climate change impacts and adaptation into sectoral policies
- 2) Address long-term investments
- 3) Cope with extreme weather events
- 4) Improve observation systems
- 5) Strengthen research and development
- 6) Increase international cooperation



Main Elements of the Adaptation Strategy



Framework of Finland's National Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change

National Adaptation Strategies in Australia

❖ *Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency*

- Climate Change Adaptation Program
 - Science
 - Research
 - Information
 - developing skills to help communities, industries and governments adapt



Australian Government: Position Paper February 2010

Adapting to Climate Change in Australia

- building community resilience
- taking climate change into account in the management of national assets and programs
- providing sound scientific information
- leading national reform

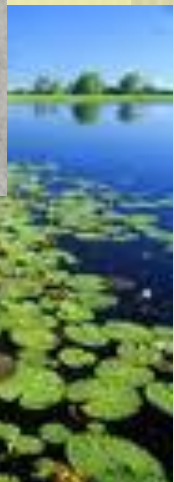
❖ National priority areas for action: water, coasts, infrastructure, natural ecosystems, natural disaster management, and agriculture.



Securing the Country's Water Supply

Water for the Future

- ❖ \$12.9 billion in one of the single largest investments in climate change adaptation
- ❖ Focuses on four national priorities:
 - taking action on climate change
 - using water wisely
 - securing water supplies
 - supporting healthy rivers and wetlands



Australia's National Climate Agenda

- ❖ Climate Change requires contributions from all levels of government, businesses, communities and individuals
- ❖ Council of Australian Governments to develop a national adaptation agenda:
 - clarify the roles and responsibilities for adapting to the impacts of climate change
 - will identify priorities for collaborating between governments



Not All Countries Adapt for the same Reasons

- ❖ Reasons countries may adapt to climate change:
 - international climate negotiations
 - increase in extreme weather events
 - examples of adaptation in other countries
 - access to research on impacts and adaptation
 - the cost of inaction

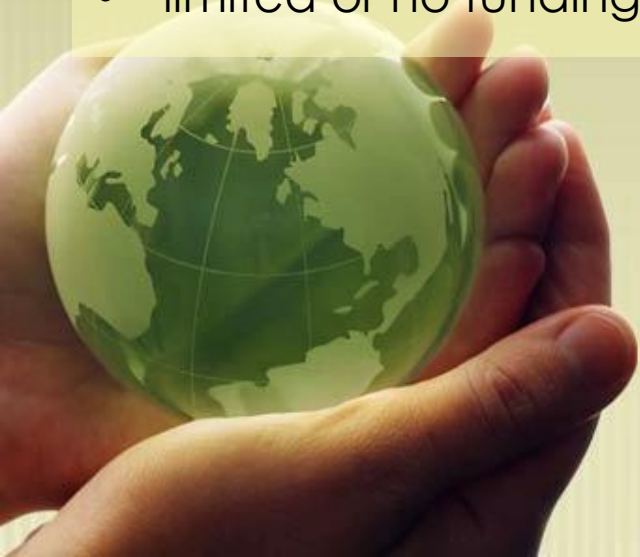


Barriers to National Adaptation Strategies

❖ **Barriers:** hinder, or prevent countries from being able to adapt effectively to climate change

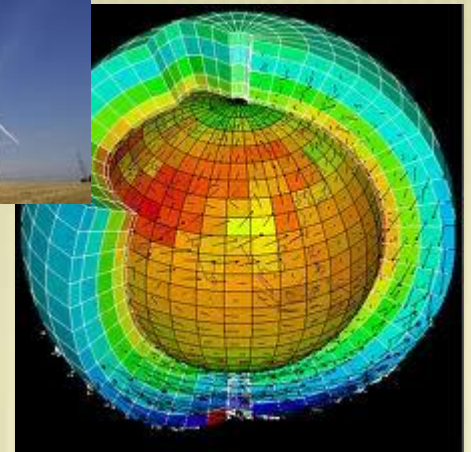
Examples:

- limited access to climate change experts and research tools
- lack of political will or leadership
- no communication or co-ordination between key actors, stakeholders or departments
- limited or no funding



Increasing Capacity to produce a National Adaptation Strategy

- ❖ Main components a country will need in order to have the capacity to produce an effective climate change adaptation plan:
 - Information
 - Capacity
 - Financial resources
 - Institutions
 - Technology



Conclusions

- ✓ National strategies are needed in order to provide an overall adaptation policy guideline
- ✓ There should be high levels of co-ordination to integrate climate risk management into policy making and strategic planning.



Thank You

❖ Resources:

- Brooks, M. et. al. (2009). *Prioritizing Climate Change Risks and Actions on Adaptation: A Review of Selected Institutions, Tools, and Approaches*. Government of Canada. Policy Research Initiative. Accessed from: <http://www.horizons.gc.ca/2009-0007-eng.pdf>
- European Union. (2011). *National Adaptation Strategies*. Accessed from: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/national-adaptation-strategies>
- Burton, I. et. al. (2006). *Adaptation to Climate Change: International Policy Options*. Pew Centre on Global Climate Change. Accessed from: http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/PEW_Adaptation.pdf
- Swart, R. et. al. (2009). *Europe Adapts to Climate Change: Comparing National Adaptation Strategies*. Partnership for European Environmental Research. Accessed from: http://www.peer.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/publications/PEER_Report1.pdf

