

Paris Agreement

Implications for Adaptation

Louise Comeau

Overview

- Review the Paris Agreement
- Summarize the relevant Adaptation outcomes
- Reflect on how the idea of adaptation is changing
- Close with some ideas of how we might adapt our adaptation

Paris Buzz

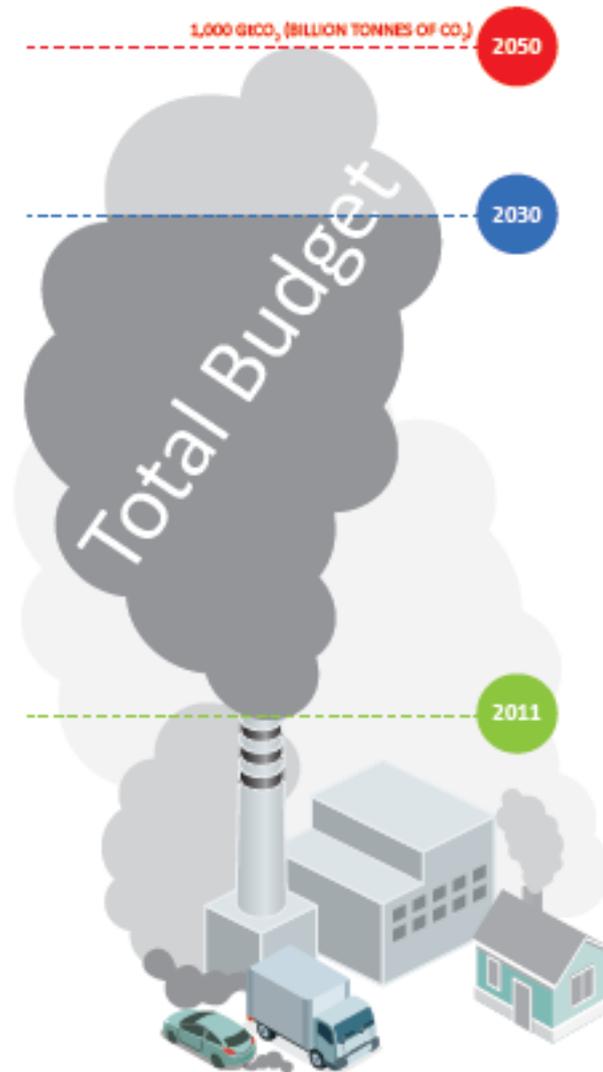
- Long-term temperature limitation goal is embedded in the Agreement
- There is a long-term Adaptation Goal
- Stronger balance encouraged between mitigation and adaptation
- Adaptation in the international context primarily a developing country focus
 - All Parties do have obligations, however, with respect to adaptation

Article 2: The Buzz

1. This Agreement, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, including its objective, aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by:
 - a. **Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels**, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change;
 - b. **Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production**; and
 - c. Making finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development.
2. This Agreement will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances.

2°C Global
Carbon Budget:
20 Years to
Drive Deep
Reductions.

75% of Global
Budget Used
Up After Paris
Agreement
Reduction
Targets
Implemented



The earth is surrounded by a thin layer of air that is being filled with pollution that is trapping heat. The more we pollute, the more heating will occur. Scientists now know that to keep global warming from dangerously changing our climate we have to manage a global budget for carbon pollution. If the world doesn't do more soon to control our emissions we will exceed our budget in as little as 15 to 20 years.

Implications of New Temperature Limits

- Implications from a carbon budget perspective: deep decarbonization before 2050
- Energy systems and our communities need to adapt to BOTH climate change impacts and to energy transformation at the same time:
 - Need for integration has never been more urgent

The Paris Agreement Includes an Adaptation Goal

- Article 7.1
 - Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.

Paris Agreement and Adaptation

- Canada's submission (Intended Nationally Determined Contribution, INDC) did not refer to adaptation
 - Best practice requires that our new submission include commitments to adaptation and an adaptation plan

Integrate

- There is guidance for countries like Canada on adaptation in clauses that bind All Parties:

Agreement Article 6.8

- Parties recognize the importance of **integrated, holistic and balanced non-market approaches** being available to Parties to assist in the **implementation of their nationally determined contributions**, in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, **in a coordinated and effective manner**, including through, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer and capacity-building, as appropriate. These approaches shall aim to:
 - a. Promote mitigation and adaptation ambition;**
 - b. Enhance public and private sector participation in the implementation of nationally determined contributions; and
 - c. Enable opportunities for coordination across instruments and relevant institutional arrangements.

Paris Agreement and Adaptation

- Expectation now that Mitigation and Adaptation investments will be more “balanced”
- Significantly, there is now inclusion in the Agreement of processes to determine how least developing countries and small island developing states will be compensated for or insured against: “loss and damage”
 - **We need to consider this issue at home: loss and damage for climate change impacts that cannot be adapted to must be considered: Can’t adapt to your home falling in the Northumberland Strait**

Paris Agreement and Climate Change

- Canada committed to \$2.65 billion to 2020 to fund mitigation and adaptation activities in developing countries
- Agreement includes requirements for sharing information, lessons learned but focus is on developing countries:
 - **We need to monitor this international work for insights into how to make our own communities more resilience and to build capacity for change**

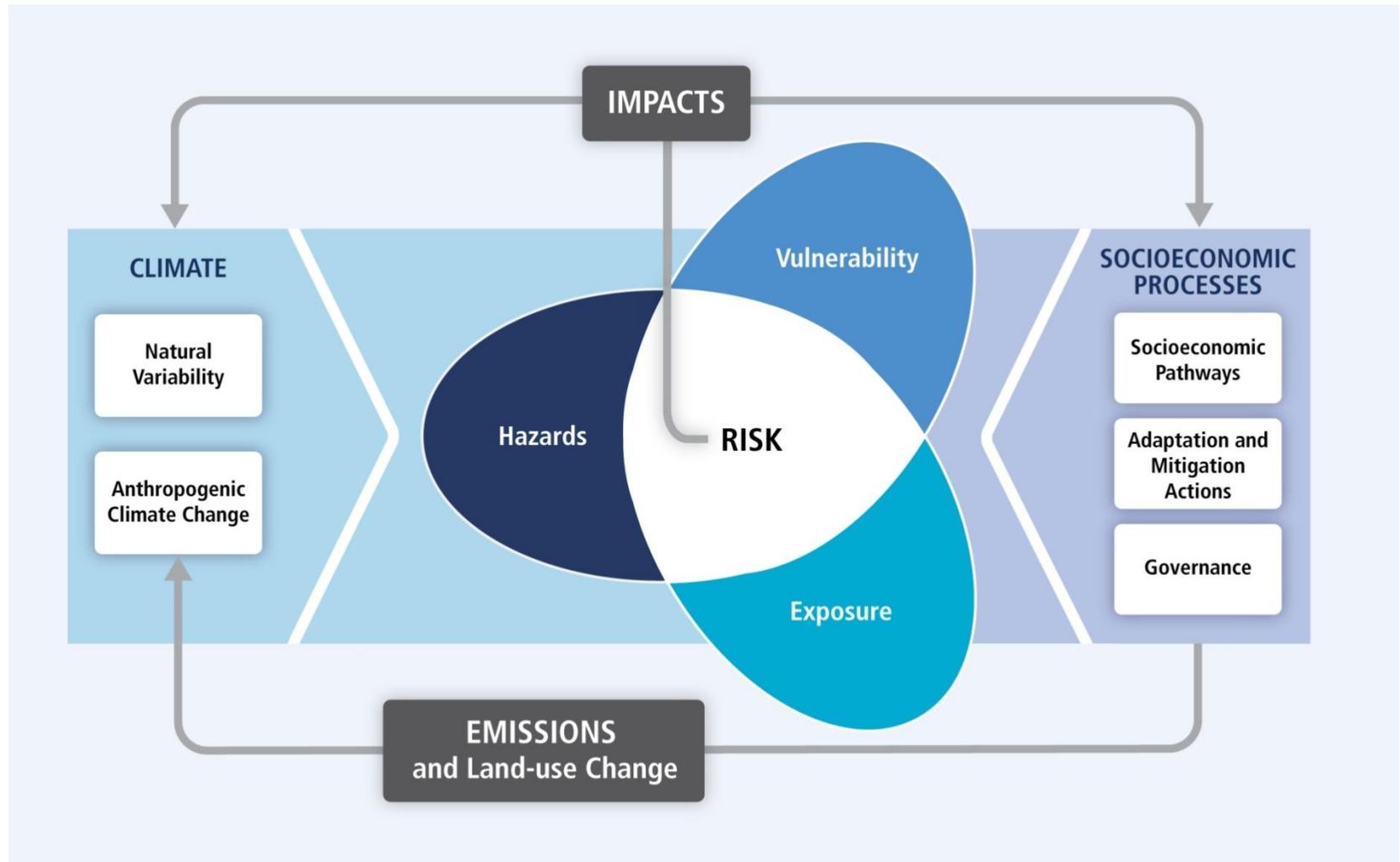
Idea of What Adaptation is Expanding

- A technical review of adaptation actions starting in 2016 will consider:
 - a. Facilitating the sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned;
 - b. Identifying actions that could significantly enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, including actions that could **enhance economic diversification** and have mitigation co-benefits;
 - c. Promoting cooperative action on adaptation;
 - d. Identifying opportunities to strengthen enabling environments and enhance the provision of support for adaptation in the context of specific policies, practices and actions;

Adaptation: Impacts and Response

- OPEC countries have long argued for compensation for the effects of responding to climate change
- But the need for a rapid transition to deep decarbonization suggests that the idea of adaptation a climate impacts only response needs new thinking:
 - The need for energy transformation and integration requires new thinking on adaptation and a move away from an impacts only; infrastructure emphasized approach

Current Approach to Adaptation: Risk Assessment: IPCC AR5



Risk Assessment

- Issues of vulnerability, exposure and hazards reflect social justice drivers, including poverty, prejudice, environmental injustice (exposure to pollution)
 - Are we taking enough account of the link between social and environmental injustice in our domestic approach to adaptation?

Agreement: Article 7.2

- Parties recognize that adaptation is a global challenge faced by all with local, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions, and that it is a key component of and **makes a contribution to the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods and ecosystems**, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

Agreement Article 7.5

- Parties acknowledge that adaptation action **should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems**, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, **traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.**

Agreement 7.9:

Adaptation Plans Required

- Each Party **shall**, as appropriate, engage in **adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant plans, policies and/or contributions**, which may include:
 - a. The implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts;
 - b. The process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;
 - c. The assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into **account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems**;
 - d. Monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions; and
 - e. **Building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources.**

Closing Thoughts

- The Paris Agreement provides guidance on best practice approaches to adaptation
- While the emphasis is on developing countries we can take guidance from international learning to improve our domestic approaches
- Mitigation and Adaptation emerge in the Paris Agreement as more “balanced”
- We are required to develop and submit adaptation plans

Closing Thoughts

- Canada/New Brunswick as we pursue a new national climate plan over the next few months should consider:
 - A plan that fully incorporates adaptation into the plan
 - Risk management options for loss and damage similar to what's is being considered internationally:
 - Do we need government backed risk insurance for example?

Closing Thoughts

- The links between social injustice and adaptation need to be more fully considered
 - Adaptation activities too heavily weighted toward infrastructure solutions; engineering standards
- To move toward a more integrated approach to climate change appears to require thinking about adaptation from both a climate impacts point of view and from a energy transformation point of view: communities will need to face these joint challenges at the same time

Adaptation Platform

- Enormous effort at the moment to scale up infrastructure investments:
 - Canada Building Fund
 - Social Infrastructure
 - Green Infrastructure
 - Green Municipal Fund will get more dollars
- Not clear to me how the excellent work being done by the national Adaptation Platform is translating into focused policy recommendations and advocacy:
 - Climate Change Impacts and Energy Transition must be central to any criteria for ALL infrastructure investments, including Social

Thank You

- Discussion