

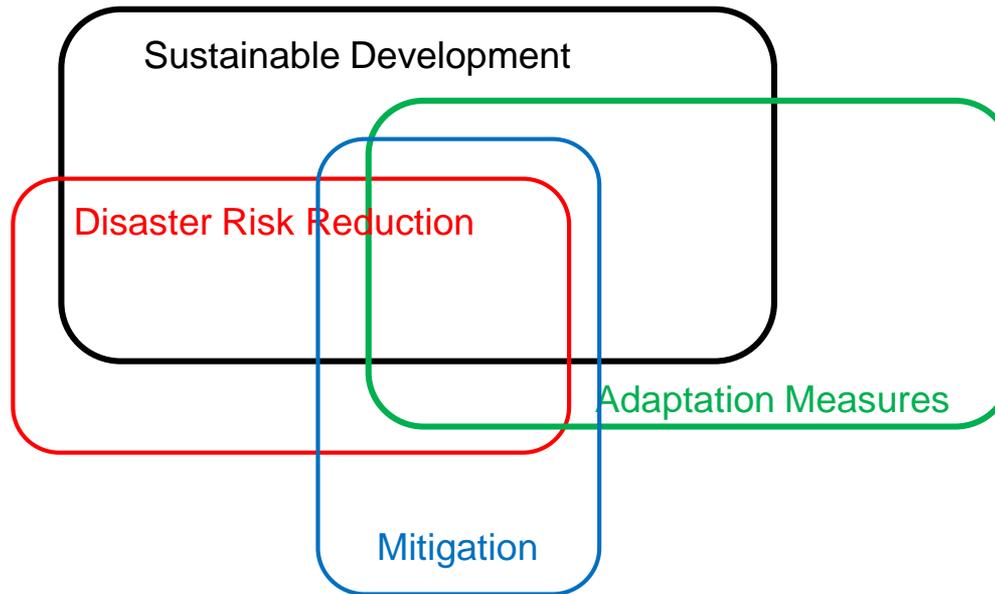


# Adaptation: the scope of action

**Adaptation Canada 2016, Closing Plenary**  
Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

# Adaptation in the context of other challenges

There are strong linkages between adaptation, disaster risk reduction, mitigation and sustainable development



- As such, there are synergies (co-benefits and dividends) that can be achieved through adaptation – development, and other societal challenges such as preparing and responding to extreme events and mitigation

# The Scope of the Required Adaptation

Is incremental adaptation sufficient to address the challenges associated with a changing climate?

- There are reasons why these types of adaptation measures are prominent – economic, social, cultural and political, as well as concerns about the associated uncertainties and the nature of the changes in climate being experienced
- We are already experiencing situations where such incremental changes are deemed insufficient – need for evidence that point to where moving beyond incremental adaptation is occurring and needed, including sharing lessons learned and challenges

Considering the nature of changes we are projected to experience:

- Are incremental adaptation measures going to be sufficient?
- Are we preparing society and institutions to address these changes?



# Do we have the evidence and knowledge needed to inform adaptation planning?

The move from **Supply-driven and user informed**

to

**Decision or user driven and science informed.**

- Includes the co-design and co-development of that evidence and knowledge with the intended spectrum of users

What is the evidence and knowledge needed to support a risk assessment of adaptation options and the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation programme?

- Is this similar to that required for impacts, vulnerability and risk assessments?



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# The Scope of the Required Adaptation

Adding to adaptation planning processes consideration of the need for transformative changes and including addressing such among the suite of options to be assessed.

Including building capacity to enable the required actions in the future

	Incremental	Transformational
<b>Framing</b>	Framed as 'complicated'	Framed as 'complex', 'wicked' or 'super wicked'
<b>Learning</b>	Single and double loop learning (Agyris & Schön, 1978)	Triple loop learning
<b>Scale</b>	Smaller, discrete, within system changes	System wide change or across many systems
<b>Temporal</b>	Focus on current conditions and short-term change and future uncertainty is not acknowledged	Focus on future, long-term change and uncertainty in the future is acknowledged and built into decision-making.
<b>Power</b>	Generally greater control over outcome	Outcome open ended or uncontrollable (and could be positive or negative)
	Seek to operate within the status quo to maintain and/or increase efficiency of existing systems	Addresses power imbalance and the causes of social injustice to induce a step change /radical shift to the operation of the existing system
<b>Management</b>	Reactive management of change, focusing on current conditions	Anticipated, planned management of change
	Management of change is focused on finding ways to keep the present system in operation	Management of change includes questioning the effectiveness of existing systems and processes
	Aim to address Type I (resistance and maintenance) and Type II (change at the margins) management problems (Handmers & Dovers, 1996)	Aim to address Type III (openness and adaptability) management problems