

# Assessing Abilities of Policies to Reduce Vulnerability to Climate Change

Livia Bizikova  
lbizikova@iisd.ca

April 2016

# Aspects of Adaptation Planning



## Starting Points for Addressing Vulnerability to Climate Change

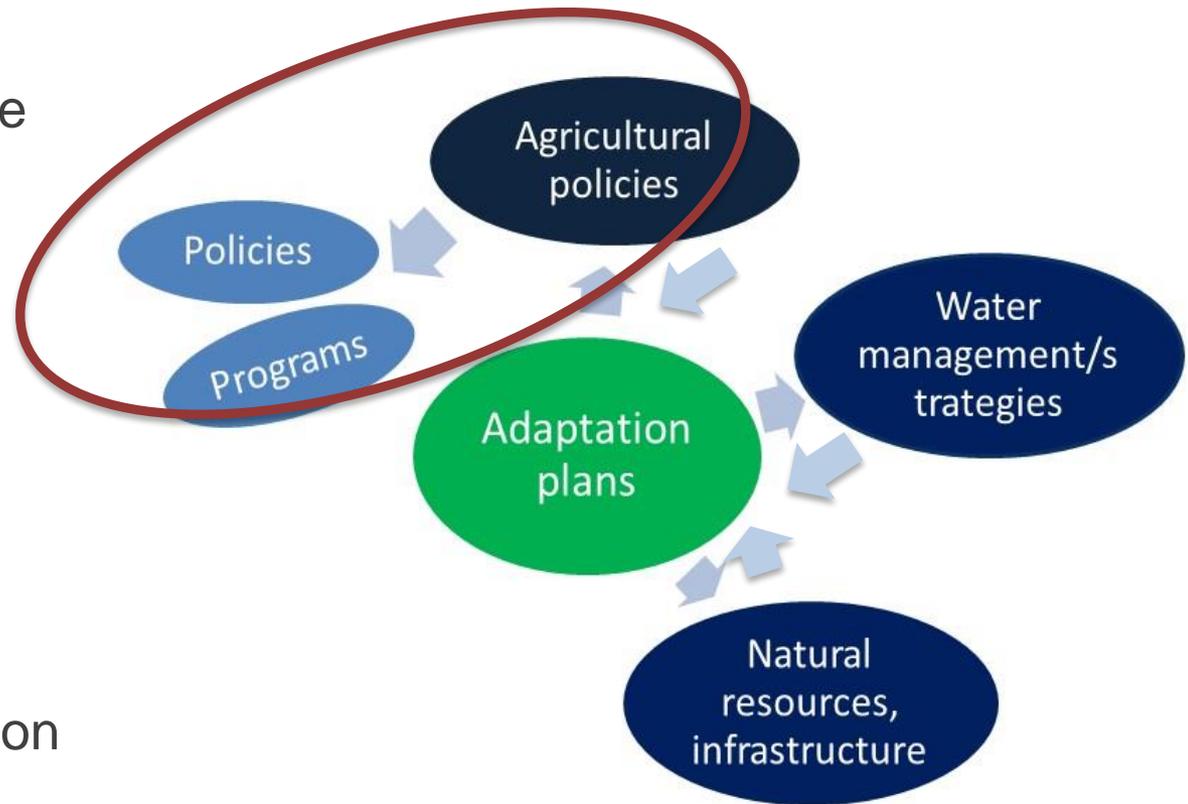
- Assessing climate change impacts, looking at vulnerabilities and identifying efforts to adapt is the focus of planning efforts for cities, municipalities, provinces, countries
- Increasing number of these jurisdictions focus on developing targeted and comprehensive adaptation strategies and plans to reduce vulnerability to climate change, integrate adaptation needs and promote resilience



# Adaptation Plans in Context

Adaptation planning interacts with other policies

- Critical to work with the integrated nature of adaptation plans
- Policy coherence to identify synergies and trade-offs between policies
- Issues of mal-adaptation





# Policy assessments in Canada



Using ADAPTool to assess policies in different provinces

- Total 51 policies were assessed
- Sectors: agriculture, water, parks and infrastructure, mining, forestry
- Policies assessed: long-term strategies, regulation, incentives, risk management and allocation programs





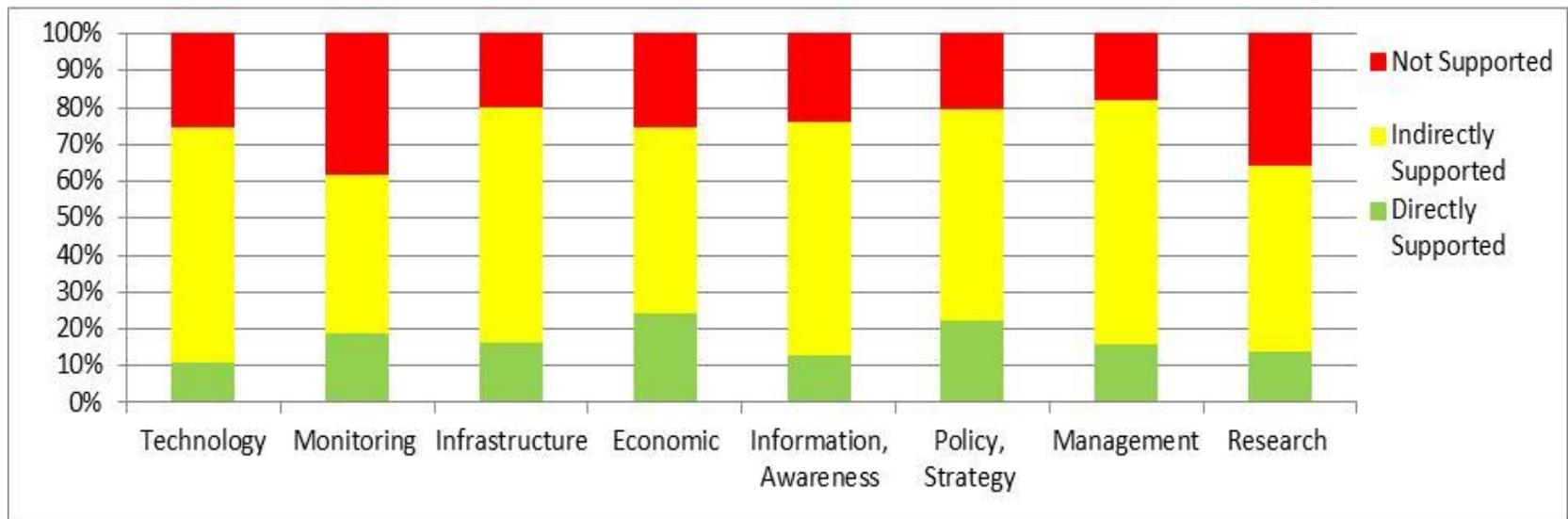
# Policies & Adaptation Needs

Adaptation actions are supported directly and often indirectly by policies

- In total 566 adaptation needs were identified across 6 sectors

Examples:

- *In the policy, seed zone boundaries are set but could be adjusted with an approval process.*
- *The “policy” does not inhibit the action, but the lack of data and information likely would; policy-makers are not actively working on this currently.*
- *The policy allows this action, but it is not part of the current work plan.*





# Policies & Capacities to Adapt

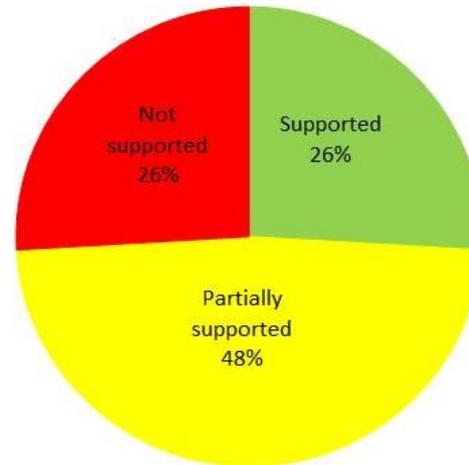
## Supporting capacities of Stakeholders

- All types of capacities are covered, but at different levels

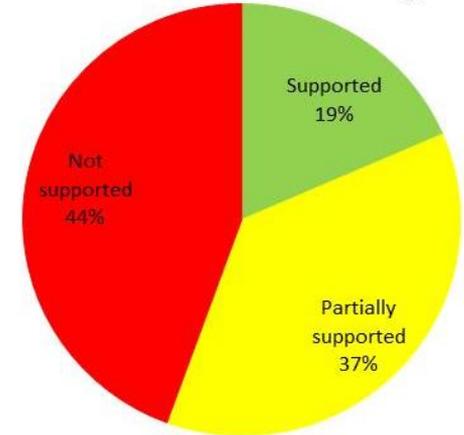
### Examples:

- *The programs provide information about pest management and best management practices to farmers.*
- *The policies provide information about methods of accessing water withdrawals.*
- *There is regular reporting about changes in water use and climate variability.*

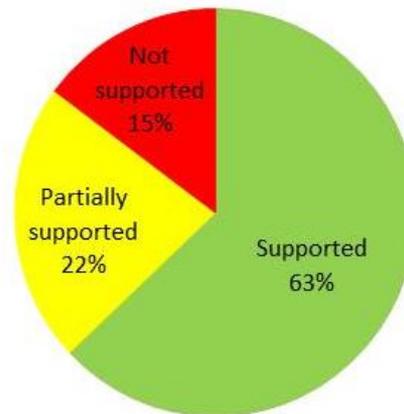
Access to Financial Resources



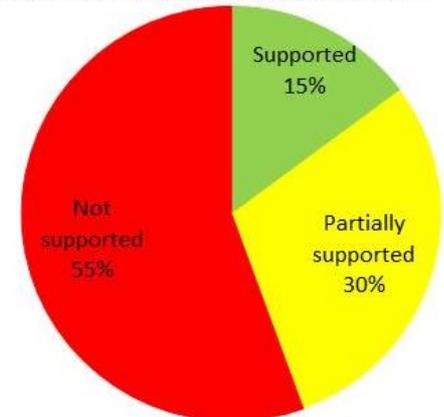
Access to Relevant Technology



Access to Relevant Information and Skills



Access to Relevant Infrastructure



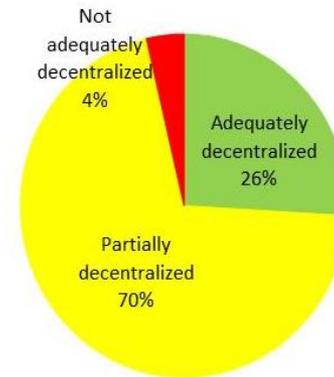
# Policies Addressing Uncertainty



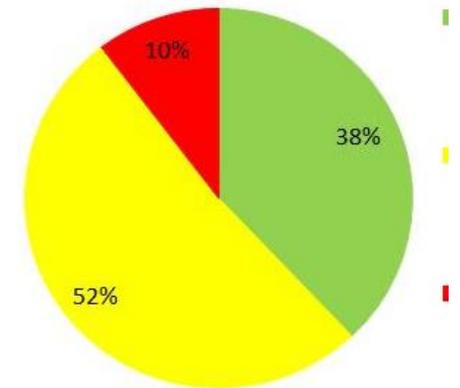
## Role of Adaptation Planning to Challenge the Policy Process

- Foresight methods and multi-stakeholder deliberation used in the scoping and implementation
- Policies enabling self-organization and social networking
- Implementation adequately decentralized
- Adequate variety in the suite of policies and programs (e.g., economic, regulatory, expenditure, institutional policy instruments)
- Regular formal review process in place that can detect emerging issues

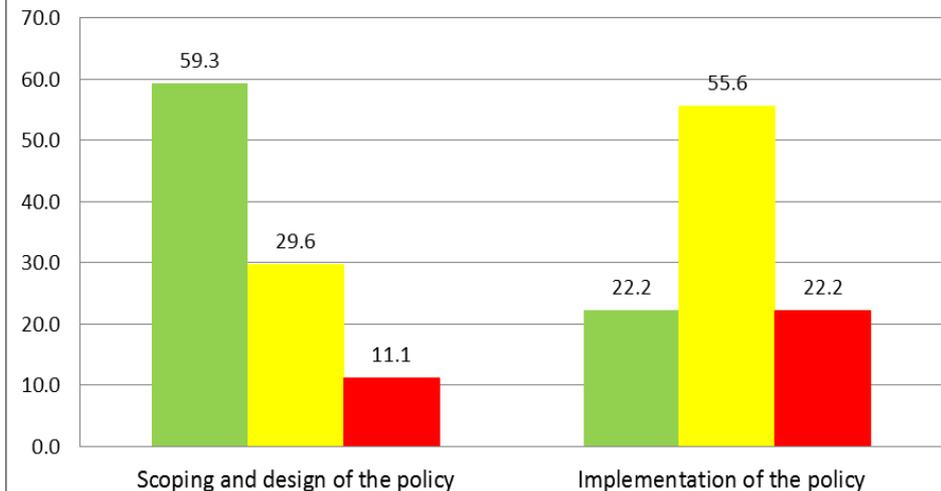
Decision-making for policy implementation adequately decentralized



Regular formal policy review



Use of foresight methods; multi-stakeholder deliberation (%)

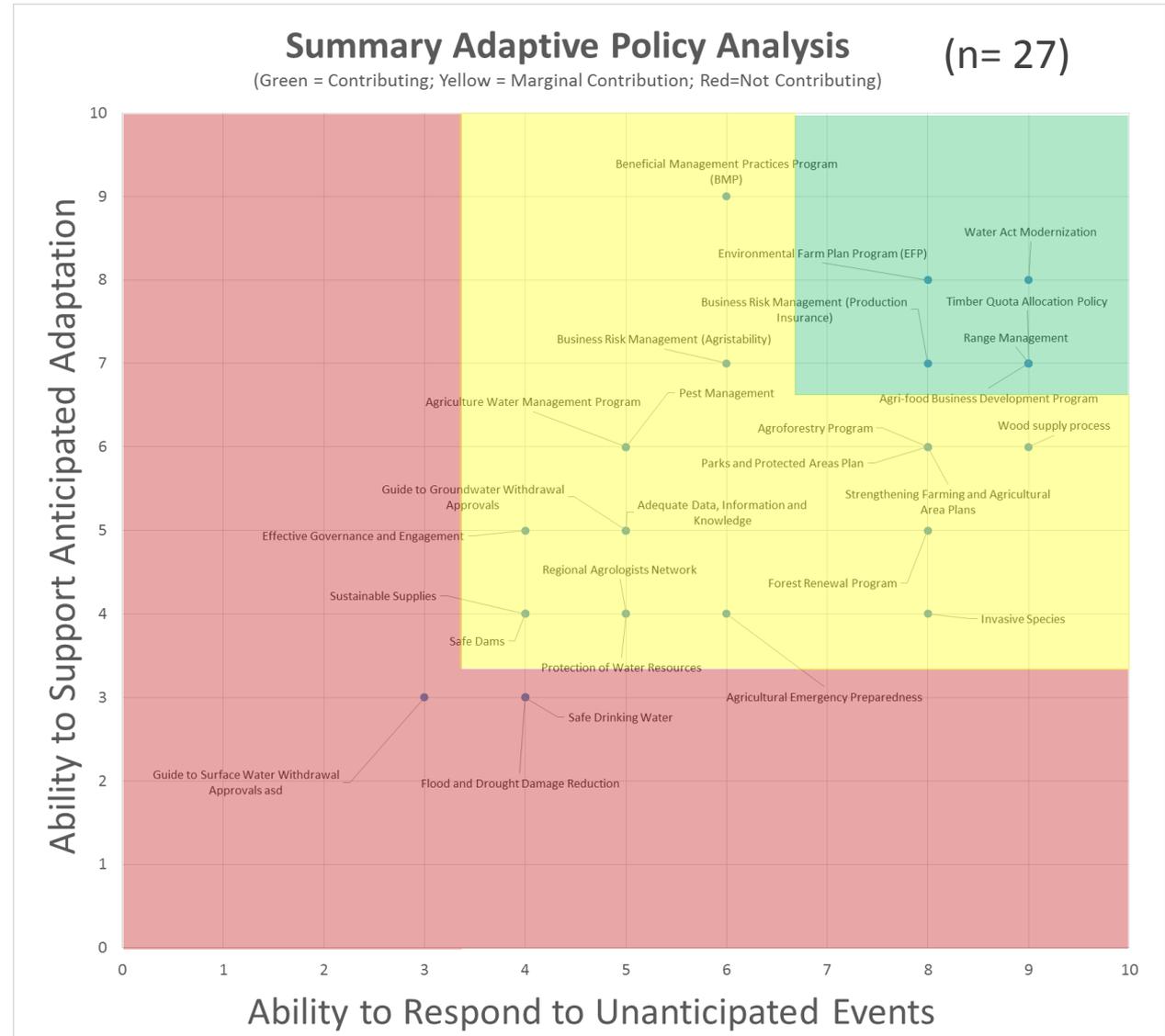


# Policy Support for Adaptation



Moderate-level of support for adaptation

- Limited policy coordination
- Mal-adaptation is rare
- Regular policy reviews and other assessments to make sure policies are targeted/relevant





# Policy Design & Adaptation

## Policy Focus and Policy Process

- ADAPTool is not a policy evaluation tool, but aims to provide guidance for policy-makers on how well their policies support adaptation needs as well as can respond when needed
- Most policies can support adaptation; it is more how they are translated into programs
- Policy design challenges: the focus is on creating a set of policies that cover different aspects of the sectoral needs/management and adaptation needs is one of them
- Role of Adaptation Planning to Create Innovation in the Policy Process