

# **ABCD of Adaptation**

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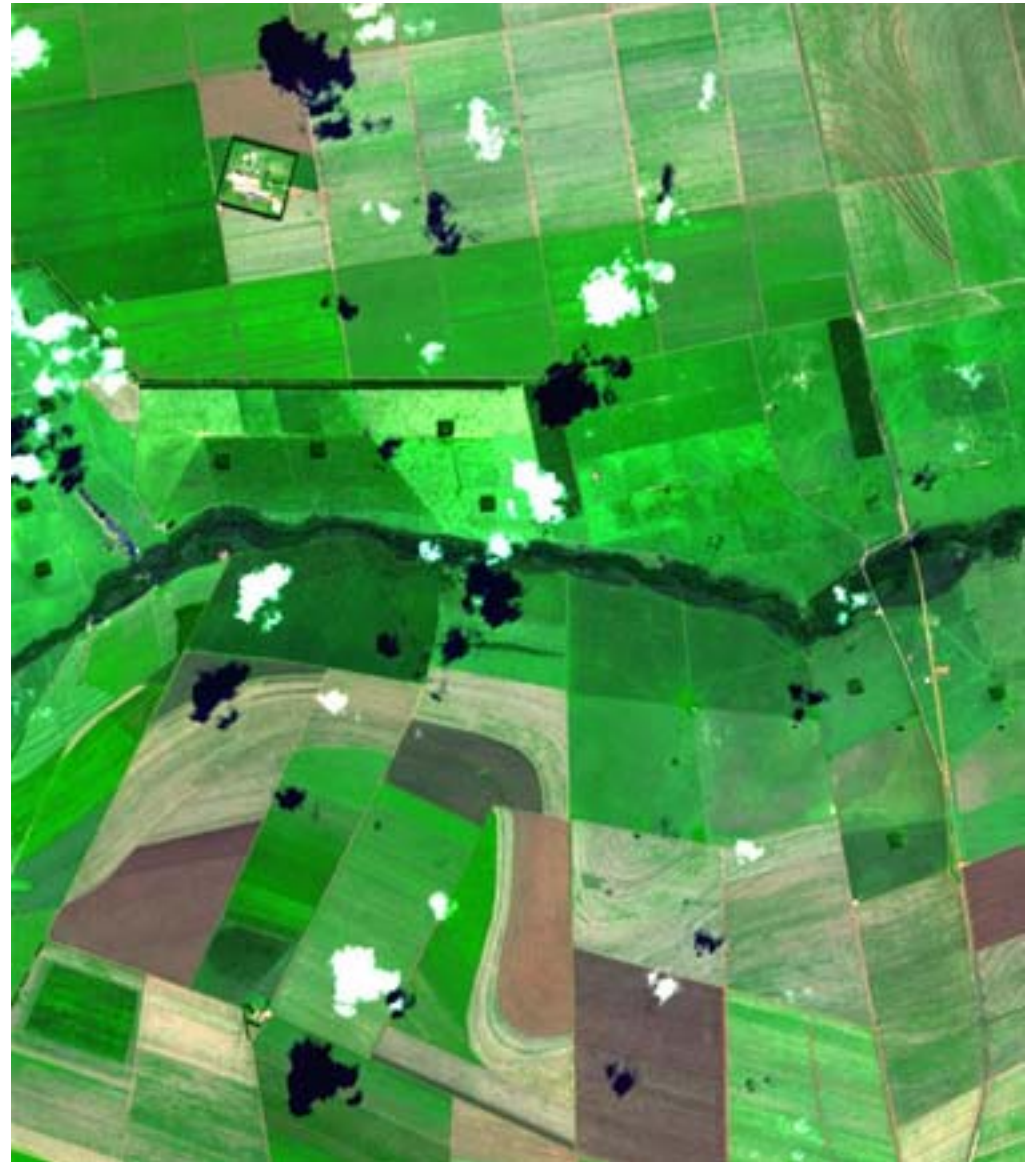
*Congressional Briefing*

8 January 2010

# Impacts Result from the Interaction of:

- Exposure
  - Extreme weather events will often be more significant than changes in average conditions
- Underlying vulnerabilities
  - Geographic
  - Socioeconomic
  - Institutional
  - Cultural
  - .....

# A is for Action



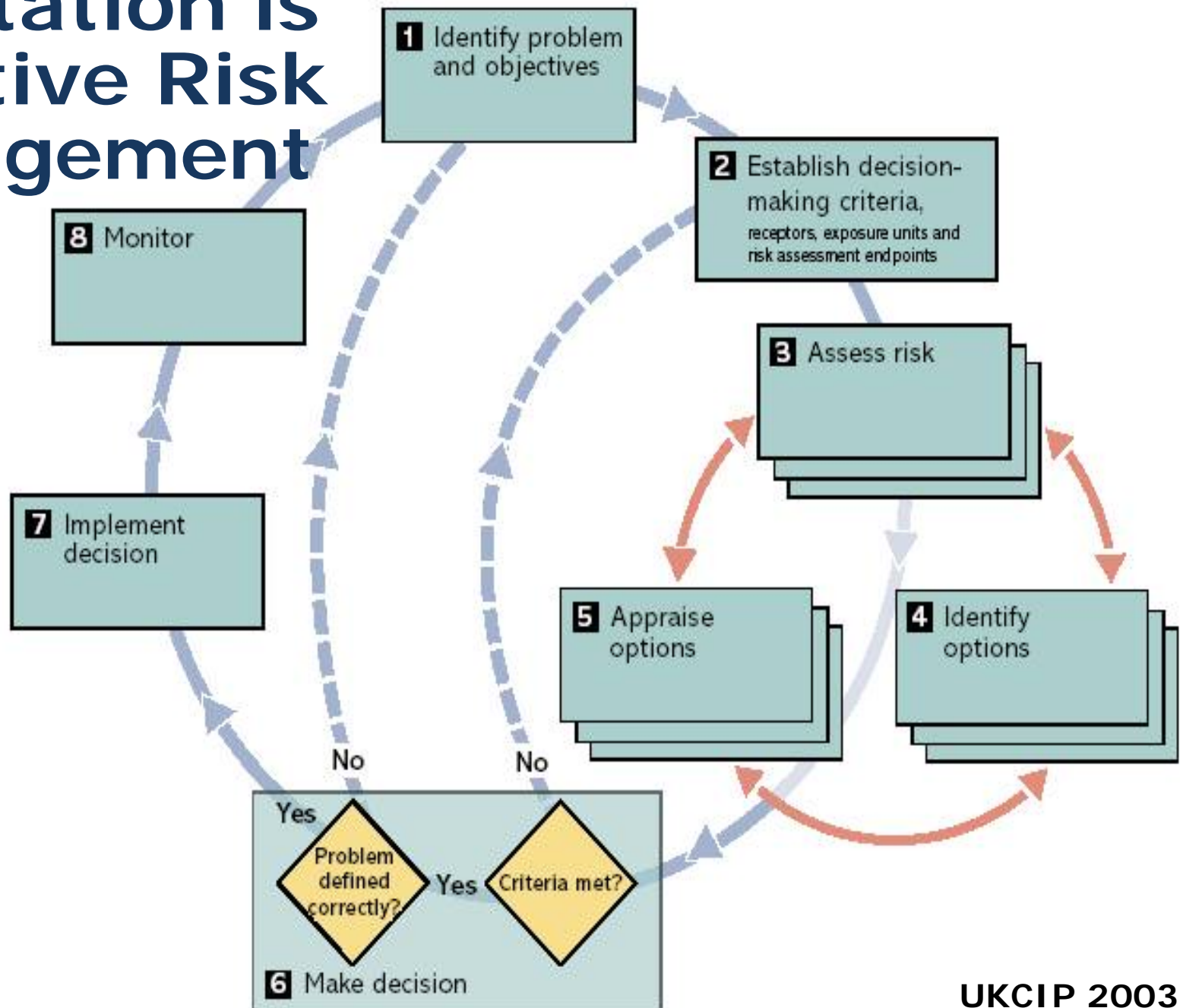
# A is for Action



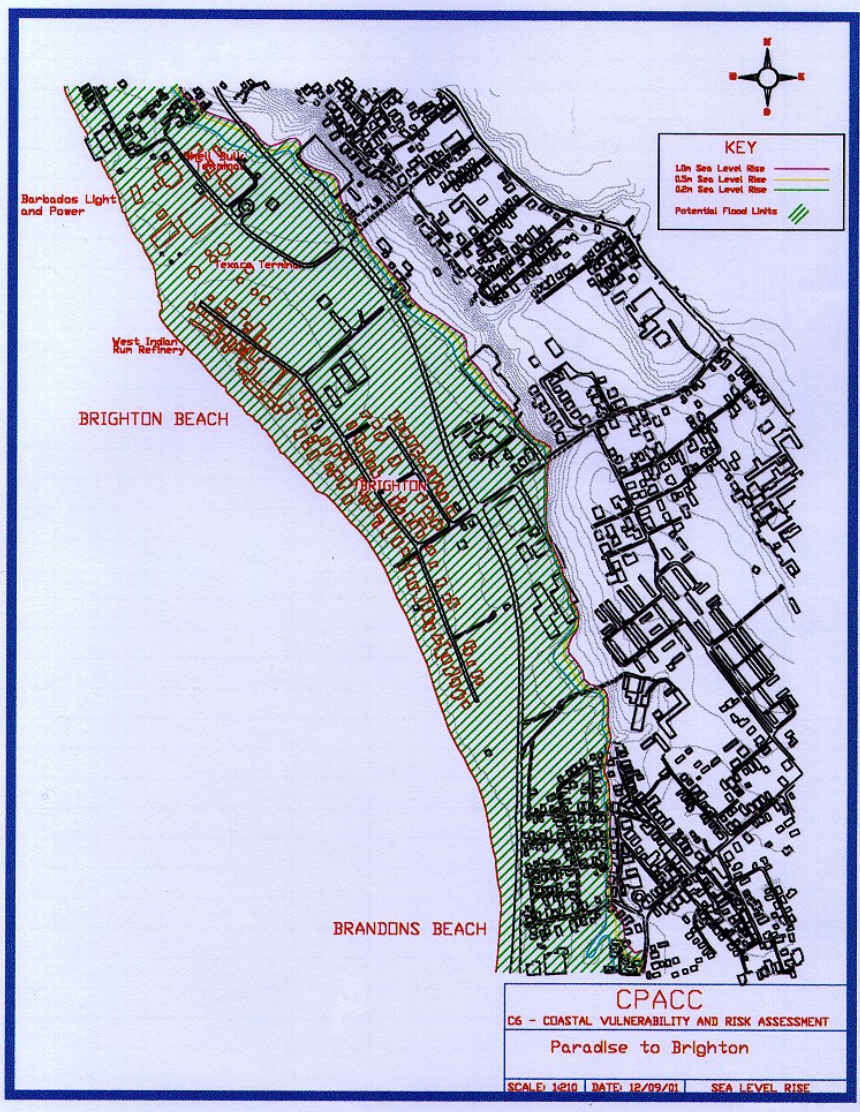
# Prerequisites for Action

- Awareness that a problem exists
- Understanding of the causes
- A sense that the problem matters
- The capability to influence
- The political will to deal with the problem

# Adaptation is Iterative Risk Management



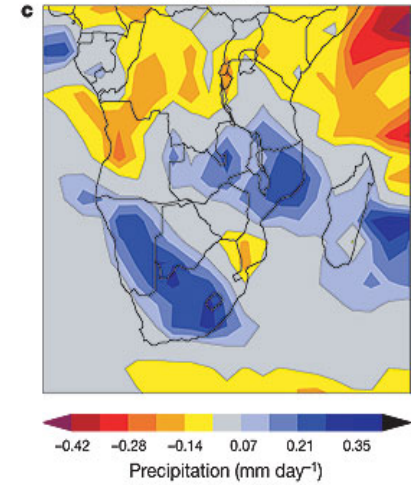
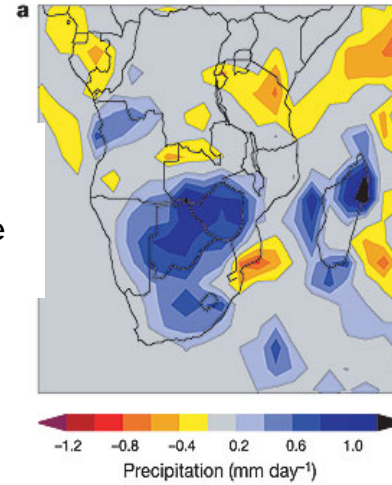
# B is for Be prepared



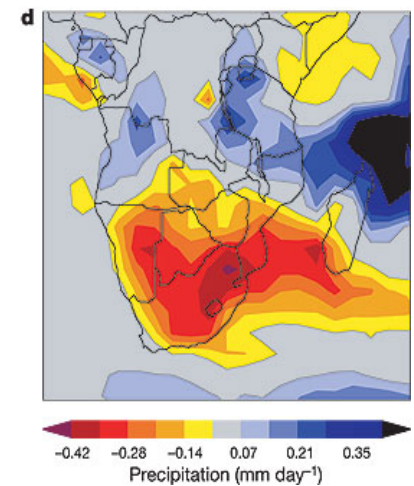
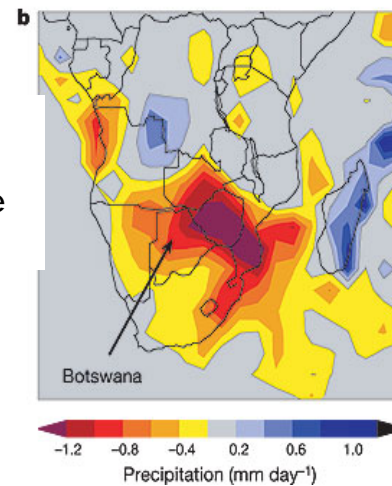
Observed summer (Dec-Feb) rain

Forecast (November-modelled) summer rain

Highest malaria incidence years



Lowest malaria incidence years





# C is for Challenges

- Lack of awareness/concern
- Perception that mitigation is more urgent
- Limited funding & competing priorities
- Institutional roadblocks, conflicting mandates, and political concerns
- Complexity and magnitude of the issues
  - Actions in one sector/region can affect others; intergenerational issues; ....

# **D is opportunities for Decision-makers**

- **Develop a national adaptation strategy**
  - Enable, facilitate, empower, incentivize ...
- **Establish national & regional programs to:**
  - Identify vulnerabilities
  - Build capacity for adaptation
  - Coordinate across regions and sectors
  - Fund research to inform adaptation
  - Monitor & evaluate
- **Engage as a major player in adaptation internationally**

**Thank-you**

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**Responding to climate change involves an iterative risk management process that includes both adaptation and mitigation and takes into account climate change damages, co-benefits, sustainability, equity and attitudes to risk**