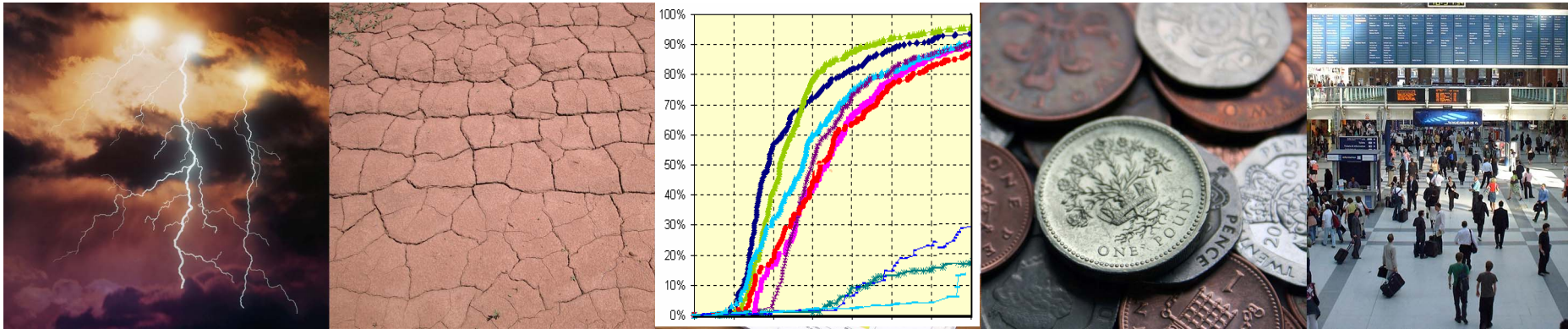


Nested Adaptation in the United Kingdom

Integration across administrative levels

Technical workshop on advancing the integration of approaches to adaptation planning, Bangkok, 12th - 14th October 2009

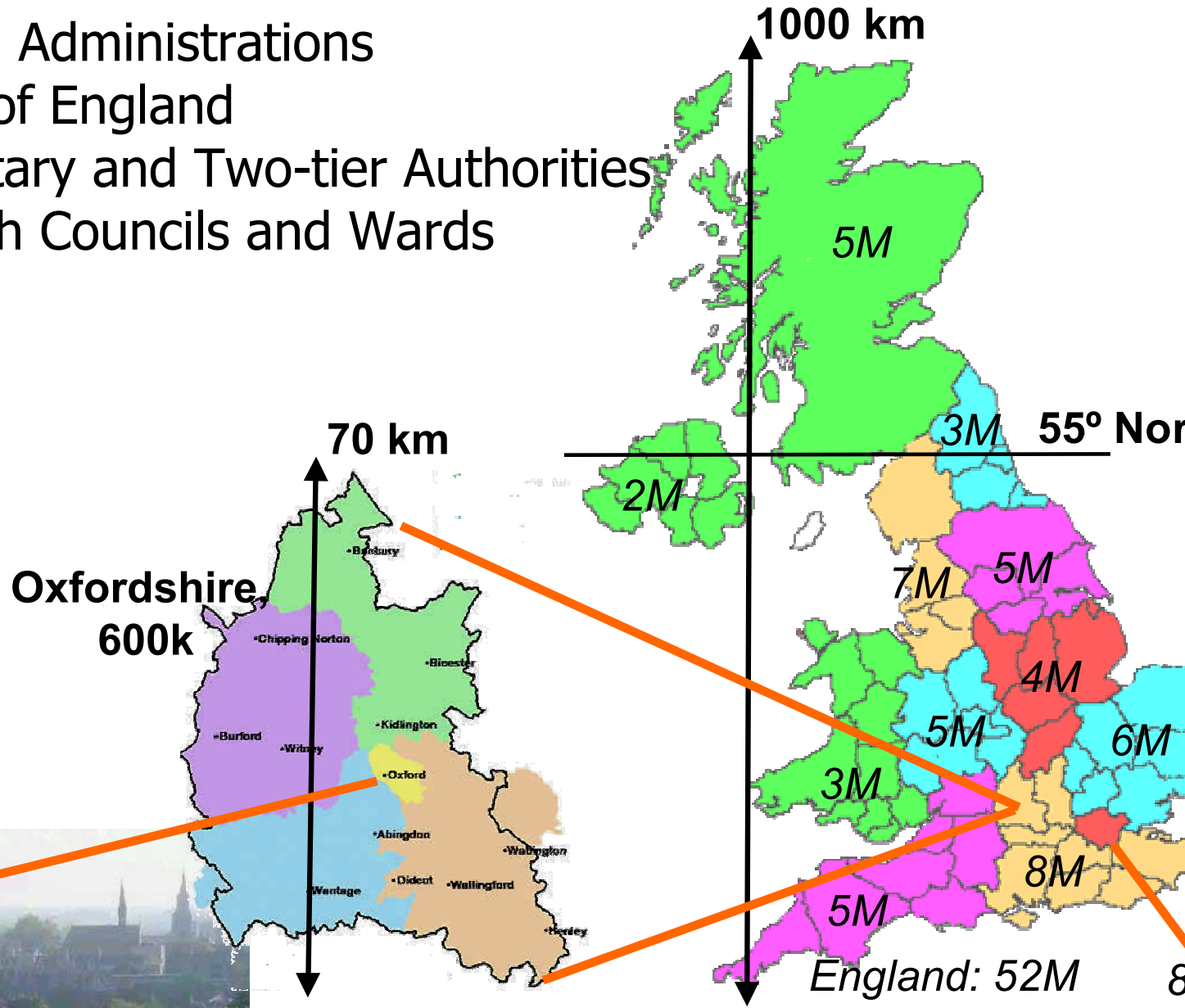


**Dr Chris West, Director
UK Climate Impacts Programme**

United Kingdom

- 3 Devolved Administrations
- 9 Regions of England
- C. 500 Unitary and Two-tier Authorities
- Many Parish Councils and Wards

- Adaptation
- Research
- Capacity
- Relevance



Evolution of Adaptation in UK

1. Impact Description, ~1980–1996

- Lead by researchers, aimed at researchers
- CCIRG review 1996

2. National Encouragement, 1997 - 2007

- UKCIP+Tools → Integrated National Impact Assessment
- Engagement of Stakeholders
- Description only → Responses too
- Working with willing Early Adapters
- Learning about Adaptation

3. National Requirement, 2008 - ?

- Domestic Adaptation Programme
- Climate Change Act 2008
- Lessons from Phase 2
- UK “adapting well to climate risks”
- Assurance

Top-Down and Bottom-Up



Top-Down - Building Adaptive Capacity

Science Knowledge (UKCIP at this boundary)

- Understanding of impacts and adaptation process
- Tools – frameworks, decision support, risk management, costs
- Current and recent climate data, and climate projections

Imposed Duties

- Regional Spatial Strategies must address Climate change
- National Performance Indicator NI 188 for Local Authorities
- Adaptation plans from any body delivering public goods

Context

- Parliament, via Climate Committee, holds Government to account

Integration

- Need to manage co-vulnerability, conflicts, risk transfer

Resources

- Money (but adaptation can not be an “optional extra”)

Bottom-Up - Delivering Adaptation Action

Assurance

- That risks are being adequately addressed
- (local citizens also need same assurance directly)

(Best) Practice

- Do we yet know what “good adaptation” looks like?
- What doesn't work is as important as what does

Local Experience

- Not every place is the same – different solutions
- This diversity supports learning about adaptation

Support and Needs

- Citizens have an important role in demanding that all levels, components, and facets of society adapt to climate risks
- People want to feel safe, cared for, and able to thrive, and may express the same on behalf of their children and descendants

Useful provisions

UKCIP: understanding of impacts; assistance with adapting; learning about adaptation; boundary organisation; honest broker.

Hadley Centre: Access to best knowledge of present, past, and future climates.

Regional Impact and Adaptation Partnerships: qualitative impact description; models for partnership working.

Nottingham Declaration: bottom up voluntary scheme for local authorities; allowed creation of NI188 and LRAP.

National Risk Assessment: iterative; reports to Parliament.

Secretaries of State's powers: Requires adaptation plans from bodies delivering public goods.

Willing early adapters: Environment Agency, Water and Insurance Industries, Conservation Agencies.

Lesson: strike the right balance between..

Build Adaptive Capacity	&	Take Adaptation Action
Future impacts	&	Present vulnerability
Steady climate change	&	Changes in extremes
Climate information	&	System information
Adaptation plan	&	Adaptation pathway
Negative impacts	&	Opportunities
Predict, Optimise, Relax	&	Assess, Hedge, Review

Challenges

How can legislation, standards, and guidance be used?

How do we balance efficiency and resilience?

How can we judge and measure adaptation ?

How should organisations address adaptation?

Do we all understand risks, probability, etc?

What does “sustainable adaptation” look like?

How can we avoid “silo adaptation”?

What can we share between countries?

SWOT Analysis, Adaptation in UK

Strengths

UKCIP
Hadley Centre
Climate Act

Weaknesses

Efficiency
Discount rate
Single climate centre

Opportunities

Mitigate & adapt
Resilient industry
Private Finance

Threats

Cold wet decade
Imperfect humans
Economic troubles

www.ukcip.org.uk

