



Committee on
Climate Change

Independent advice to government
on building a low-carbon economy
and preparing for climate change

20 February 2019

Climate projections What do policy makers need?

Baroness Brown of Cambridge
Chair, Adaptation Committee of the
Committee on Climate Change

The Adaptation Committee of the Committee on Climate Change

Statutory roles in the 2008 Climate Act:

- **To provide independent, expert advice** on the UK climate change risk assessment (advisory role)
- **To report to Parliament on progress** with implementation of the NAP (England only - scrutiny role)



Chair:
Baroness Brown
of Cambridge

Prof Mike Davies



Ece
Ozdemiroglu

Prof Richard
Dawson

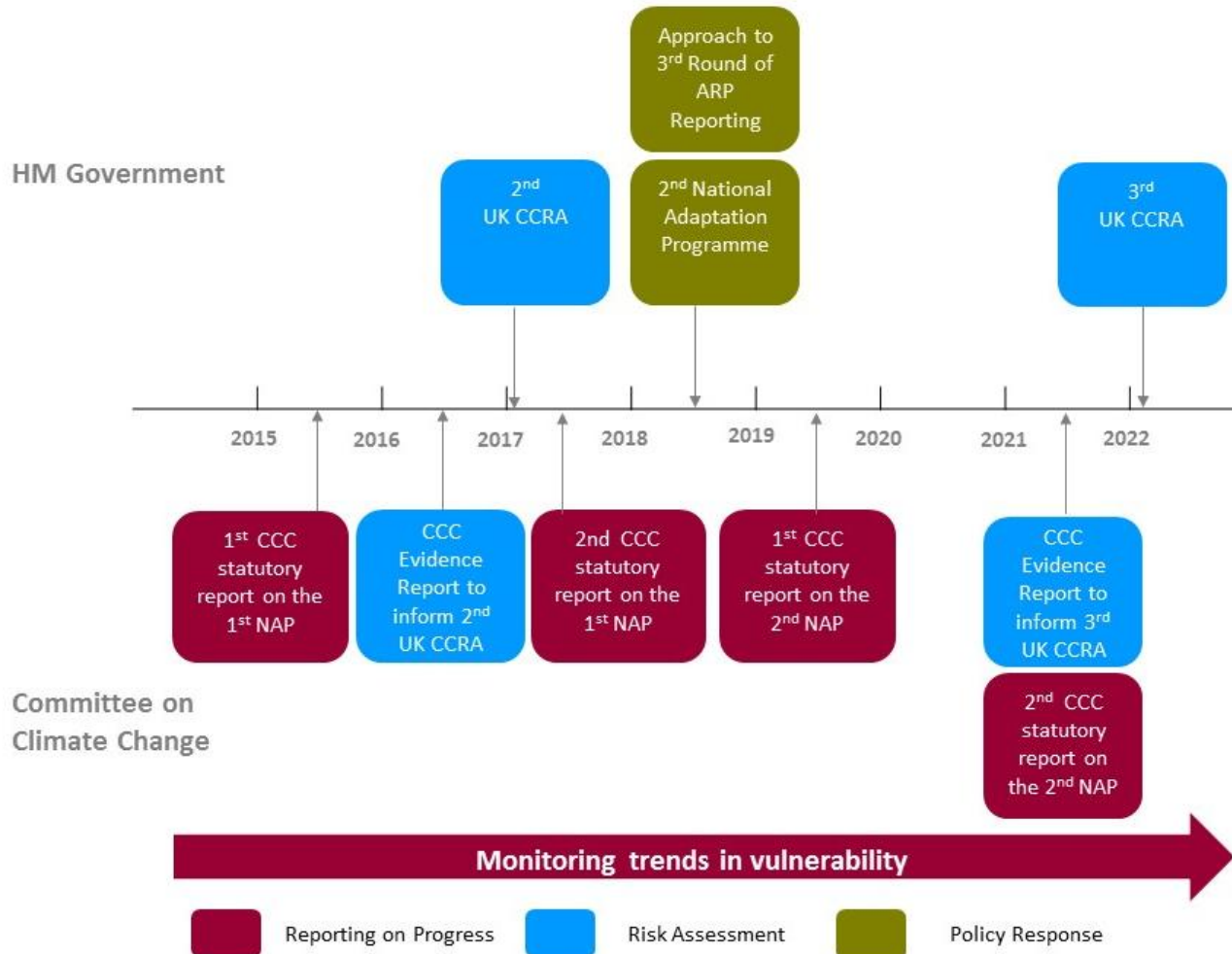


Prof Dame
Georgina Mace

Rosalyn
Schofield



The UK climate change adaptation policy cycle



The Climate Change Act puts in place a statutory

- UK climate change risk assessment CCRA, every five years
- National Adaptation Programme NAP, every five years

The CCC

- Provides advice on the risk assessment (every five years)
- Scrutinises the National Adaptation Programme (every two years)

What do we want policy makers to do?



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting

Making the country resilient to a changing climate

July 2018



- Set clear priorities for adaptation
- Ensure objectives are outcome-focused, measurable, time-bound
- Prioritise the core set of policies and actions that will have the biggest impact
- Include effective monitoring and evaluation
- **This all requires a sensible assessment of current and future risk and opportunity**

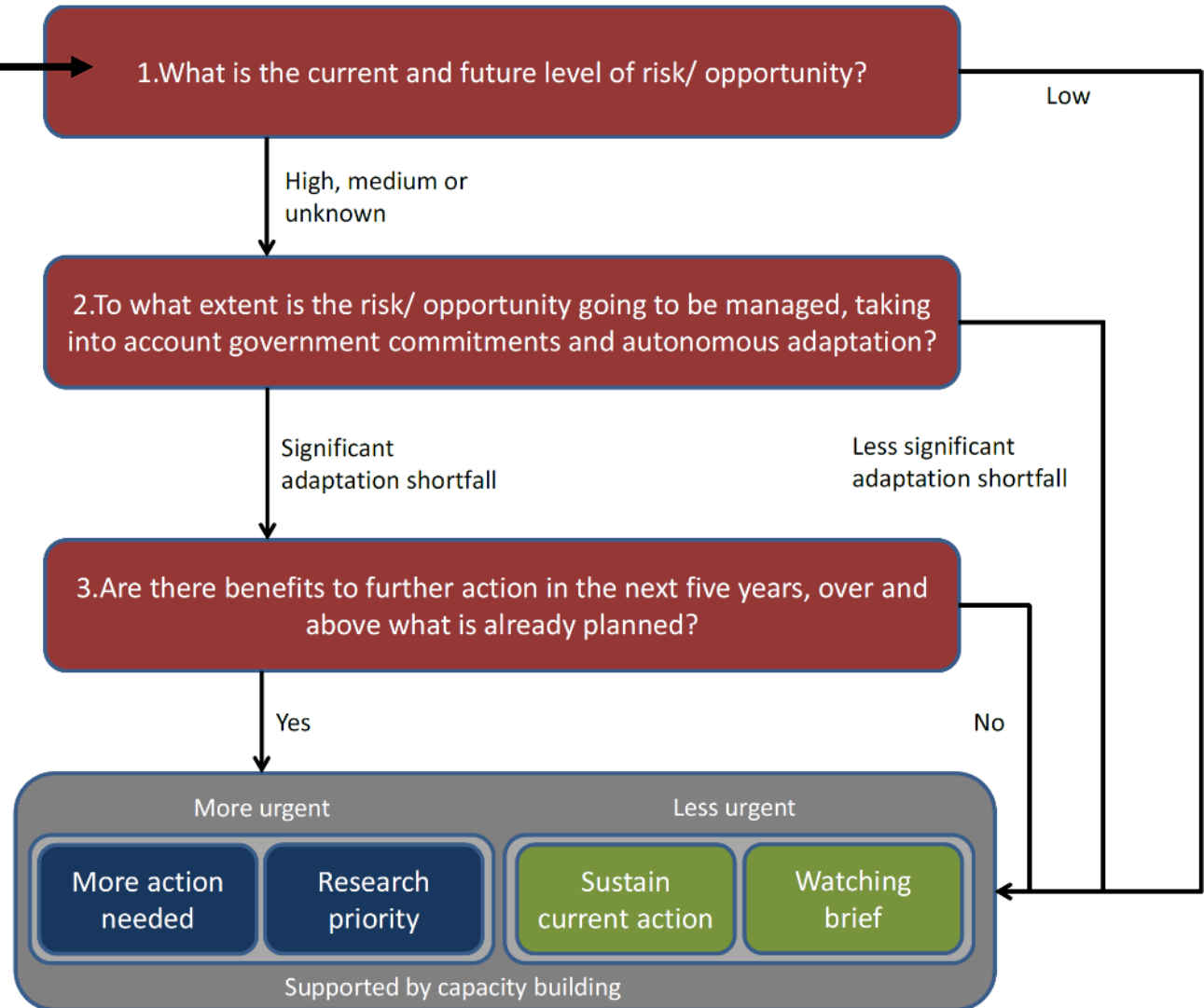
CCRA3 'Exam Question' – understanding climate change needs to translate into priorities for action

'EXAM' QUESTION FOR THE CCRA EVIDENCE REPORT :

“Based on our latest understanding of current, and future, climate risks/opportunities, vulnerability and adaptation, what should the priorities be for the next National Adaptation Programme and adaptation programmes of the devolved administrations?”

The CCRA is built around three questions

Climate projections
including UKCP18

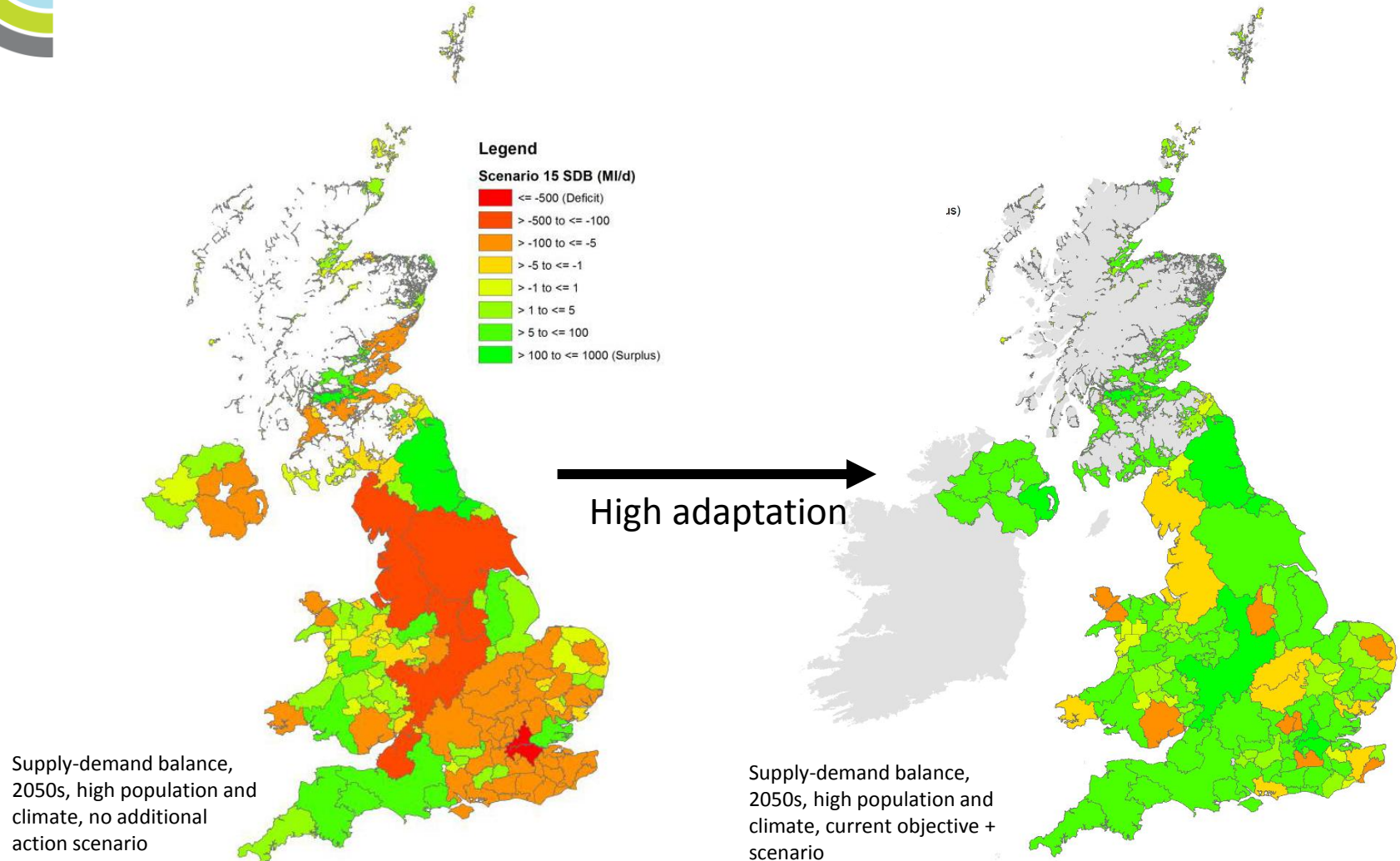


How are we using UKCP18 in CCRA3

Chapter 1 will set out what we know about current and future UK climate, including recap of UKCP18 messages. Plus, five research projects:

CCRA3 Research Project	How is UKCP18 being used?
Flooding projections	UKCP18 sea level rise is being incorporated and new river flow projections are being driven by UKCP18 data.
Water projections	UKCP18 temperature and rainfall data will be used to inform projections of changes in river flows, groundwater levels and the characteristics of droughts.
Interacting risks	Method in development – will likely be using UKCP18 alongside systems models to look at biggest interactions between sectors
Thresholds in the natural environment	Used to consider how projected changes in temperatures and rainfall patterns increase the potential for the crossing of thresholds within the natural environment.
Behaviour change	General use of projections for temperature and rainfall.

Using UKCP09 in CCRA2 – e.g. underpinned our water projections



Progress in managing uncertainty

2002

- Policy makers not made aware of uncertainty in climate projections
- Made decisions on the basis of the average result (UKCIP02)

2012

- Policy makers aware of uncertainty (UKCP09, CCRA1)
- Many still making decisions on the basis of the average result, or ignoring uncertainty altogether.

2018

- Policy makers aware of uncertainty
- Can apply frameworks to handle the uncertainty in decision making, but examples still few and far between?

What do policy makers need?

- Need simple messages for Ministers (something you can explain in 30 seconds)
- Need simple standards and regulations against which compliance can be measured e.g. standards uplifts in flood defence planning.
- Need to be able to calculate costs/benefits in any decisions made.
- Uncertainty is not a problem – but boiling this down to simple messages can be hard.

What will be important for the next 10 years?

- Setting long-term outcomes for adaptation – what are we aiming for? Are we aiming for the same things in a 2°C and a 4°C world?
- Identifying (or developing) metrics – which are most important for giving early indications of changes or tipping points?
- Communicating with people, organisations and government – as we experience higher temperatures and the resulting impacts, what can we learn and what support is needed?
- Placing adaptation and mitigation in context – adaptation still not well known amongst many people, more to do to communicate it as a complement to mitigation not an alternative – how can we use climate projections to do this?



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Contact us

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