

# ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: POLICY CHALLENGES



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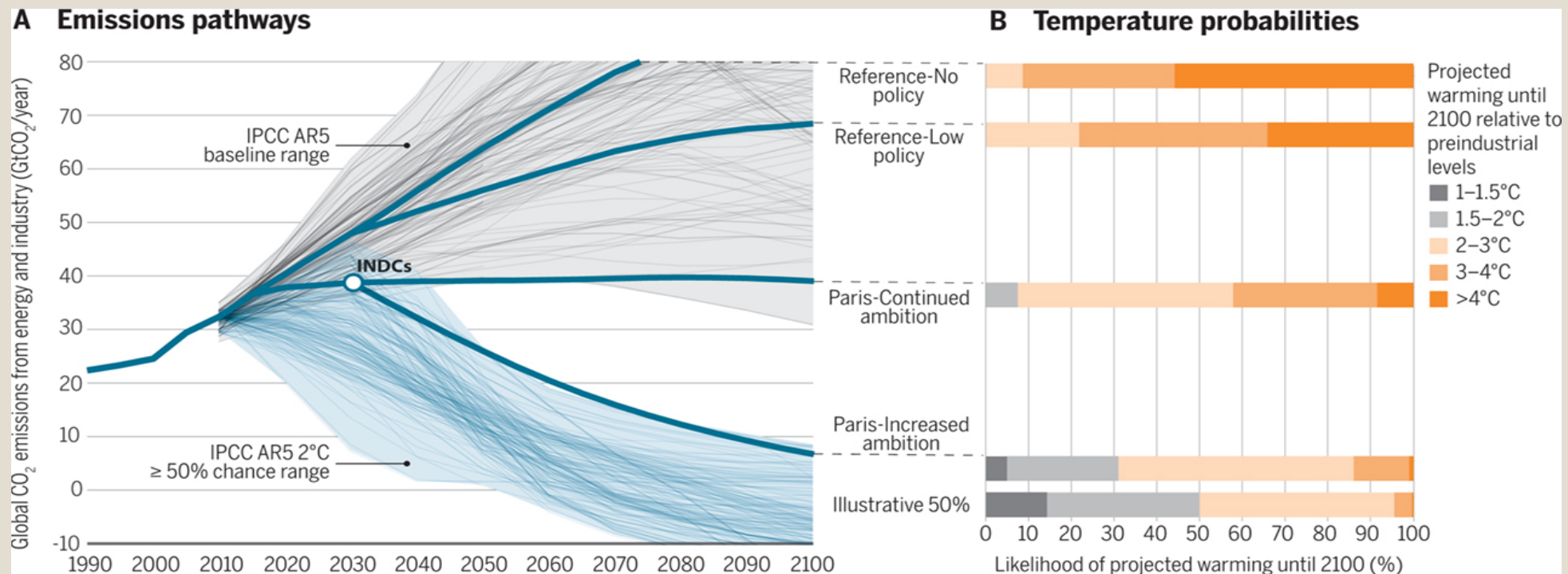
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# THE NEED FOR ADAPTATION POLICY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

- Climate impacts already being felt and will worsen
- Climate change could push more than 100 million people back into poverty by 2030 without adaptation efforts
- Largest impacts in developing countries with least capacity to respond

*Hallegate et al. 2016*



*Fawcett et al. 2015*

# POLICY CHALLENGES AND QUESTIONS

- 1** **Lack of data:** How does policy get made in data-scarce contexts? What does the adaptation policy process actually look like?
- 2** **Lack of funding:** How do we allocate scarce global resources to adaptation? Do funding incentives prioritize certain adaptation approaches and leave out others?
- 3** **Ethics of adaptation:** Who gets to define adaptation and resilience? Who gets left out?



# CHALLENGE I: LACK OF DATA

Examples from Ethiopia and  
Honduras



# POLICY DESIGN PROCESS

## Assumed Process: Technical and Logical



## Real Process:

- Priorities driven by narratives, not simply scientific fact
- Policy options determined by previous experience, path dependency, and political constraints

# EXTREME EVENTS SHAPE ADAPTATION POLICY

National crisis that created a traumatic experience



Current crises



Climate change narratives and adaptation policies



**ETHIOPIA**

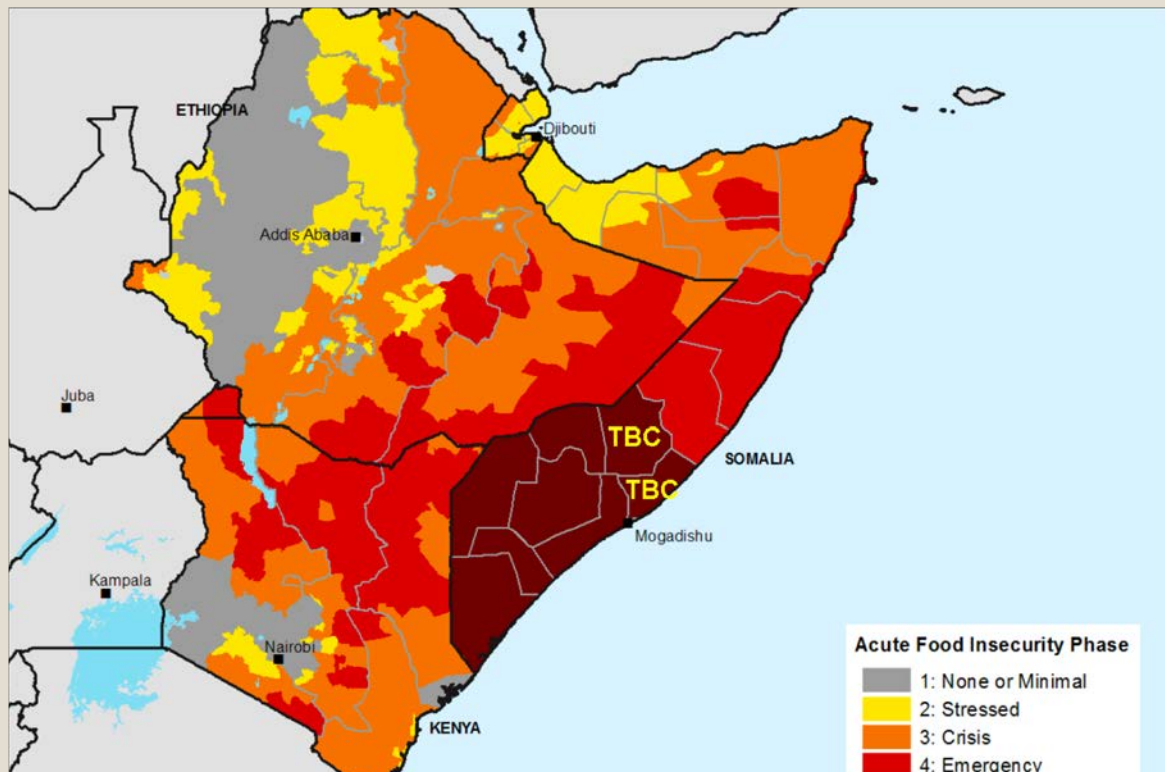


**HONDURAS**



# TRAUMATIC HISTORICAL EVENTS AS FOCUSING EVENTS

- Focusing events well-known to drive policy
- Historical events can play a similar role in shaping narratives



**1984 DROUGHT/FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA**



**1998 HURRICANE MITCH IN HONDURAS**



# HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE DRIVES INNOVATION



**ETHIOPIA:** productive safety net programme



**HONDURAS:** extensive early warning system



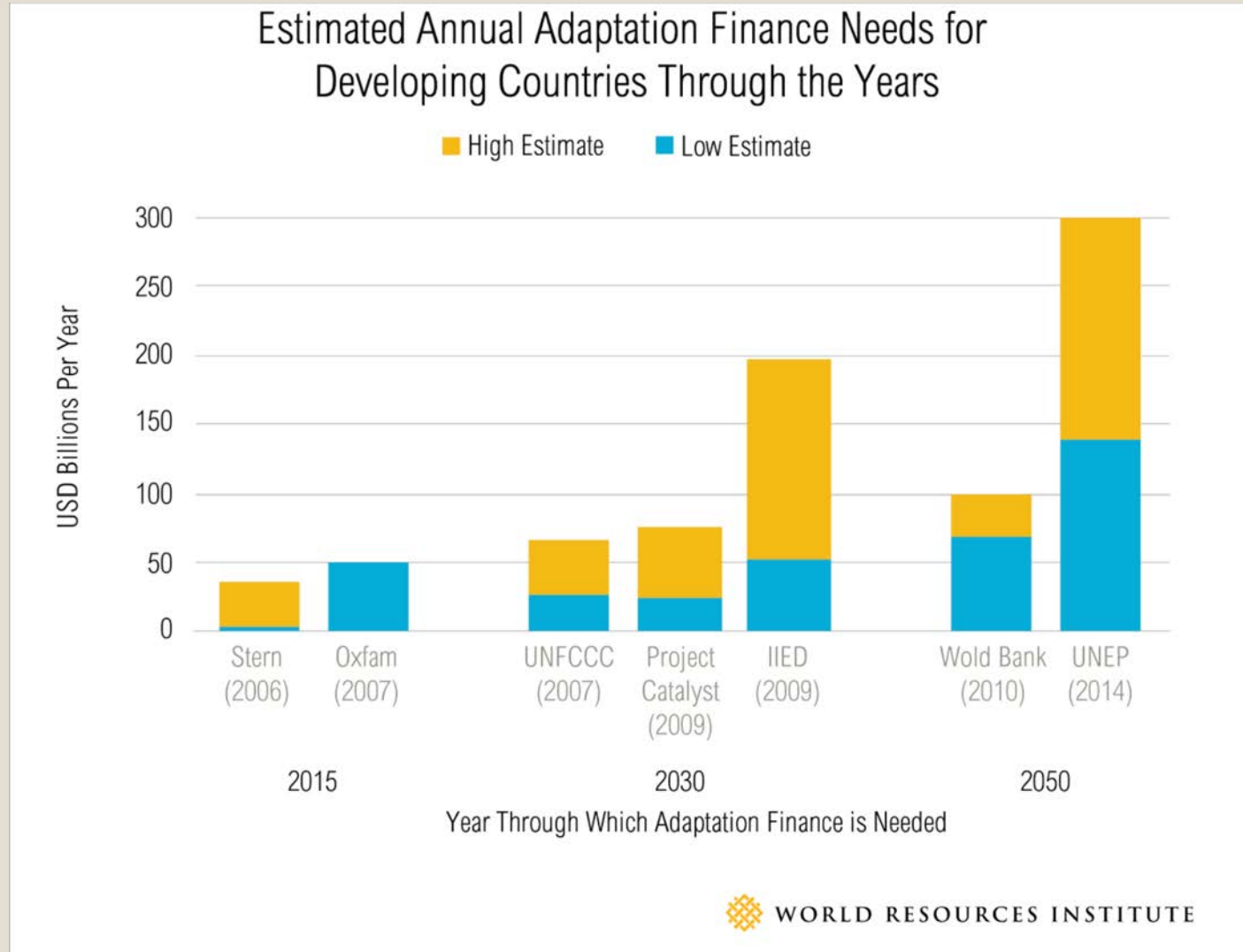
## **CHALLENGE 2: LACK OF FUNDING**

Examples from Multilateral  
Adaptation Funds



*Photo credit: UNDP*

# COSTS OF ADAPTATION





# GLOBAL ADAPTATION FINANCE



GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

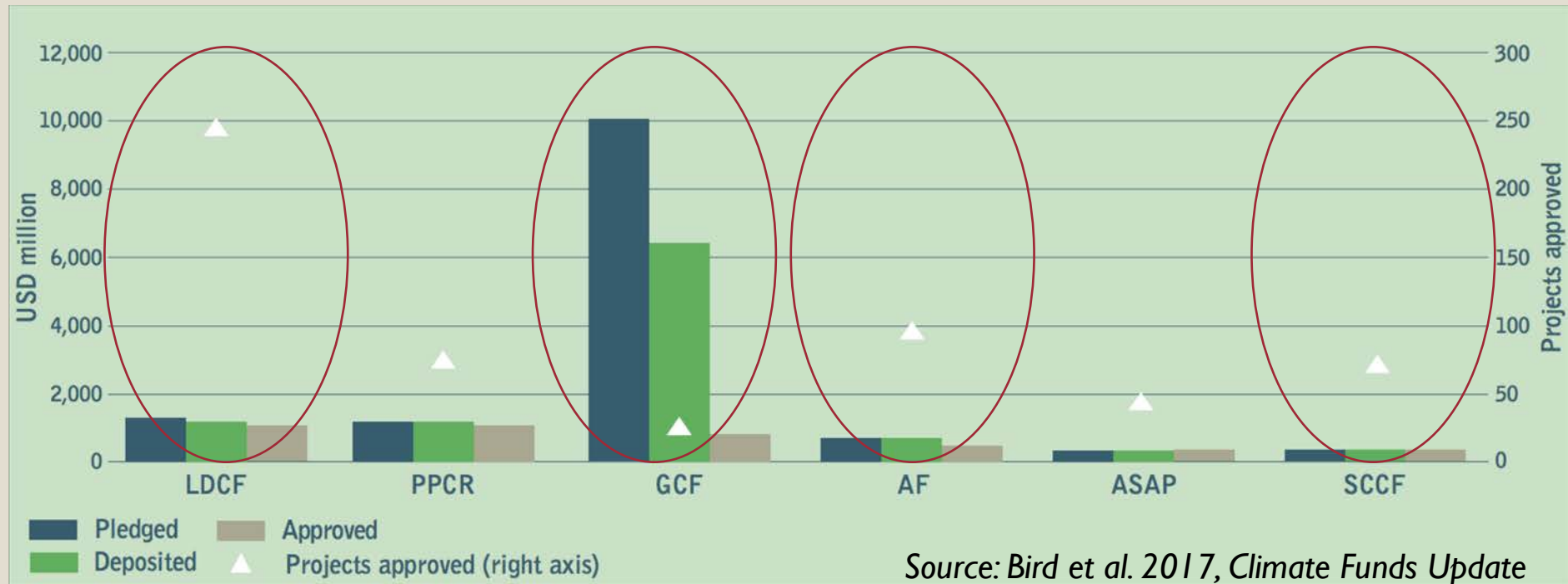


ADAPTATION FUND



GREEN  
CLIMATE  
FUND

## Multilateral Climate Funds Supporting Adaptation (2003-2017)



Source: Bird et al. 2017, Climate Funds Update

# ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT: A CONTINUUM

- Is adaptation fundamentally different from “good” development?
- Where along the continuum should we draw the line for eligibility for adaptation finance?



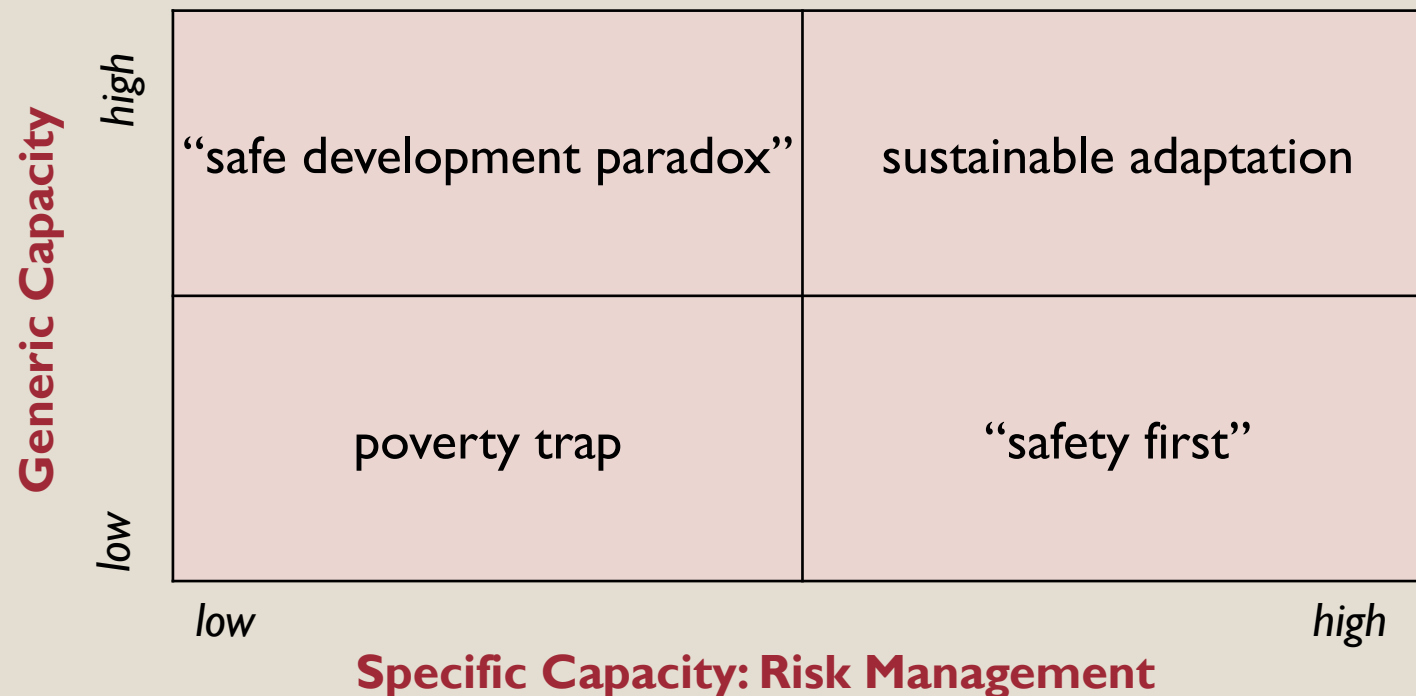


## ADDITIONALITY ARGUMENTS

- 1 Mainstreaming:** Increasing the capacity of government to plan for climate change or incorporate climate change into policies and plans
- 2 Climate-proofing:** Incorporating adaptation into existing projects
- 3 Demonstration/Piloting:** Implementing concrete adaptation measures with a goal of demonstrating their effectiveness

# ADAPTATION AND DEVELOPMENT: GENERIC AND SPECIFIC CAPACITY

- o **Generic Capacities:** address deficiencies in basic human development needs
- o **Specific Capacities:** address the tools and skills needed to anticipate and effectively respond to specific (climatic) threats



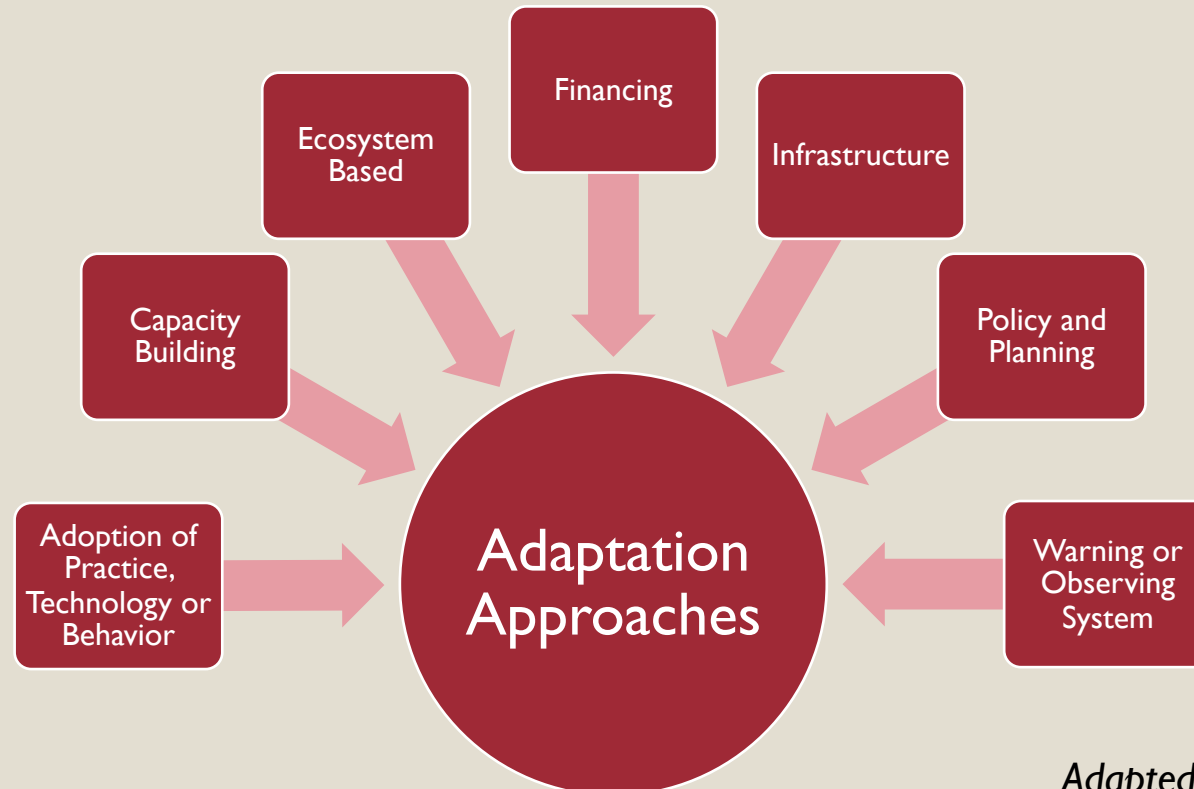


# CASES AROUND THE WORLD

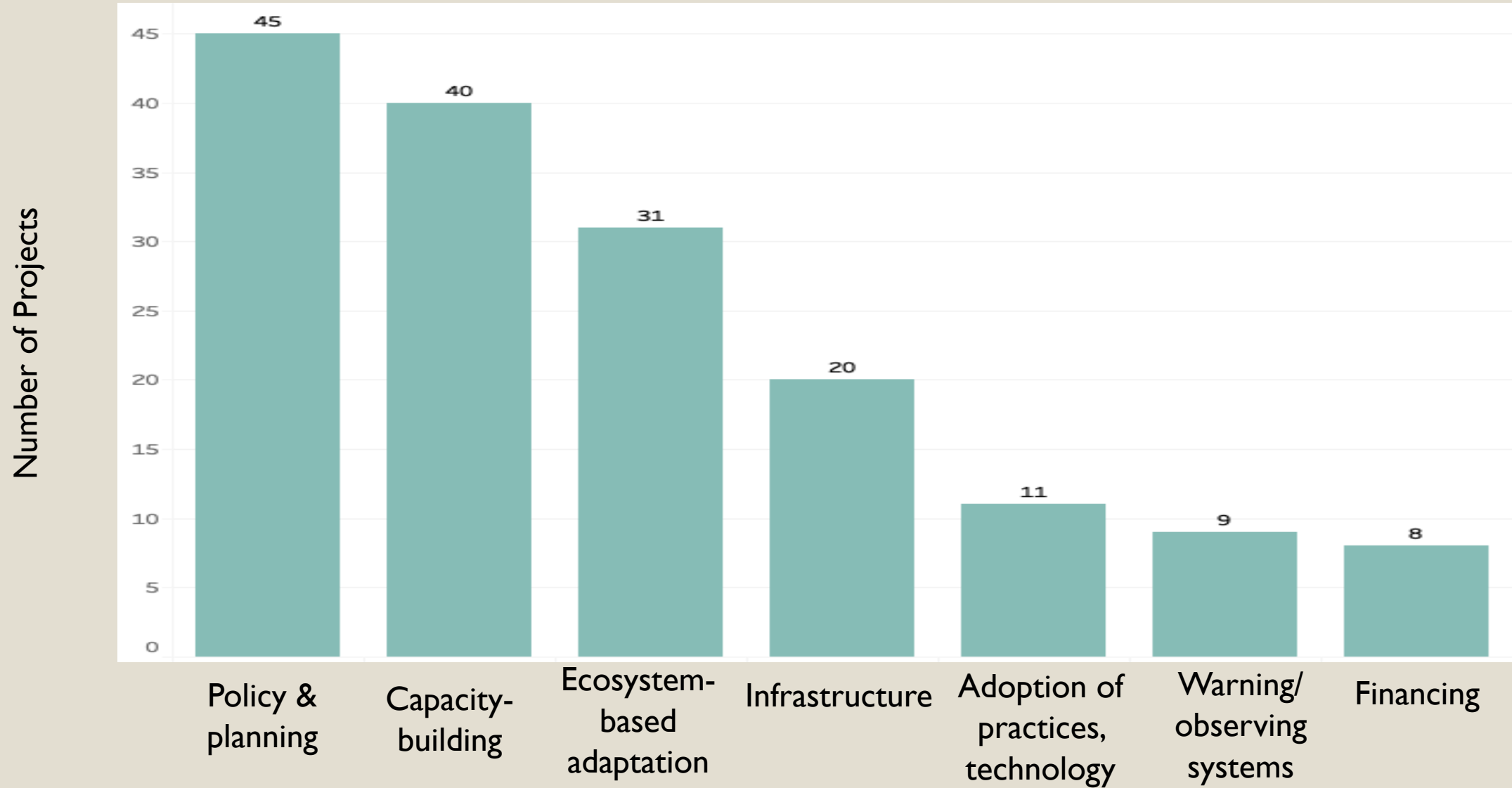


# ADAPTATION OPTIONS

- Wide range of approaches to adaptation
- Some approaches are more abstract (policy and planning, capacity-building), others more concrete (infrastructure, ecosystem-based)



# APPROACHES ACROSS PROJECTS



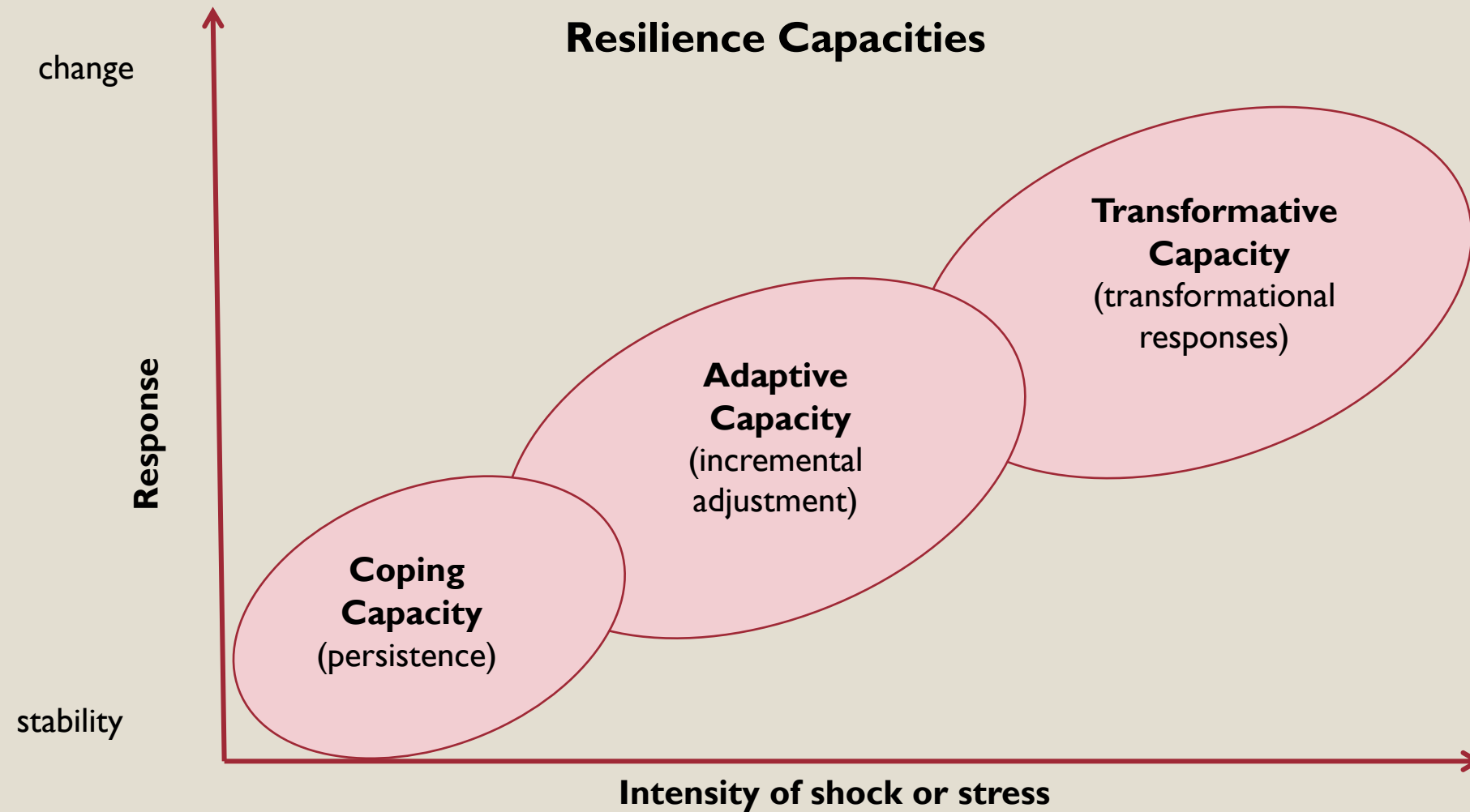


**CHALLENGE 3:  
ETHICS OF  
ADAPTATION AND  
RESILIENCE**

Examples from Puerto Rico



# RESILIENCE



*Adapted from Béné et al. 2016*



# COMMUNITY SOLIDARITY: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESILIENCE?





# CONCLUSIONS

- 1 We need to better utilize climate narratives to encourage innovation and avoid path dependency
- 2 We need to ensure that climate finance is used effectively without biases against certain approaches
- 3 We need to recognize that resilience is not always desirable and resilience initiatives can reinforce existing power dynamics