



# Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in the Mining Sector

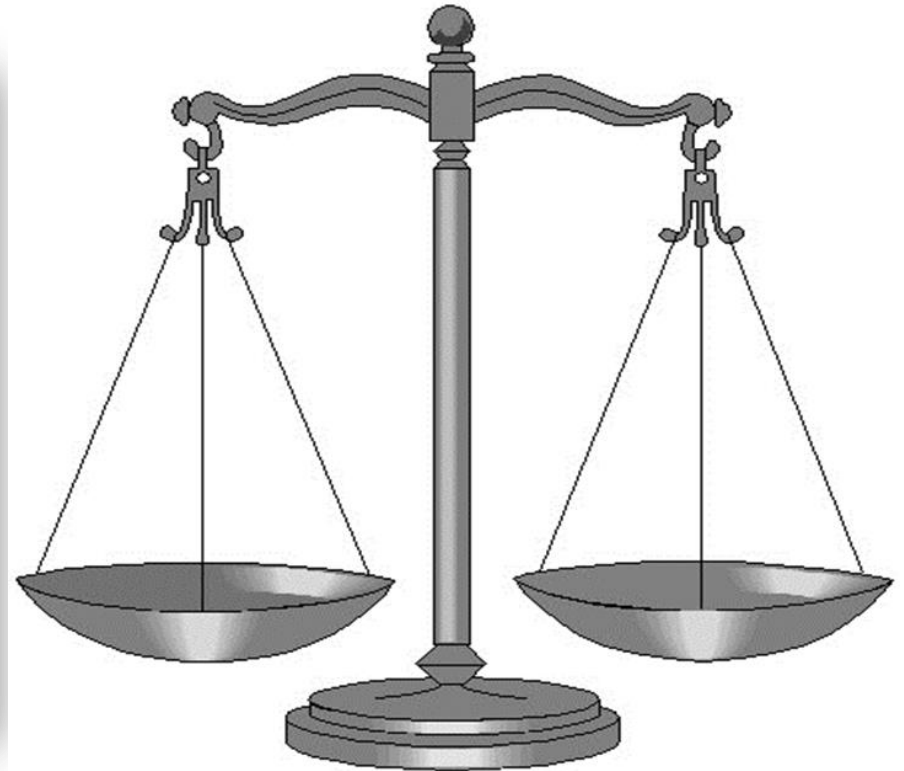
Sean Capstick, Golder Associates

Climate Change and Risk Management: Infrastructure Case Studies  
IAIA Sustainable Mega-Infrastructure and Impact Assessment





# Climate Change Adaptation





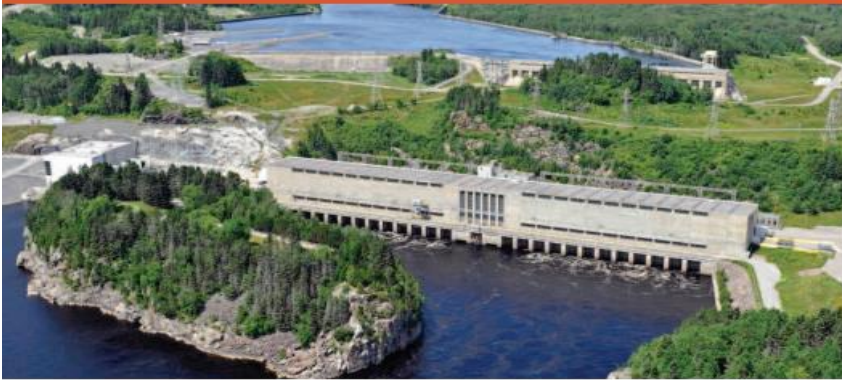
# Industry Recognition of the Problem

**ICMM**  
International Council  
on Mining & Metals

**Report**

## Adapting to a changing climate: implications for the mining and metals industry

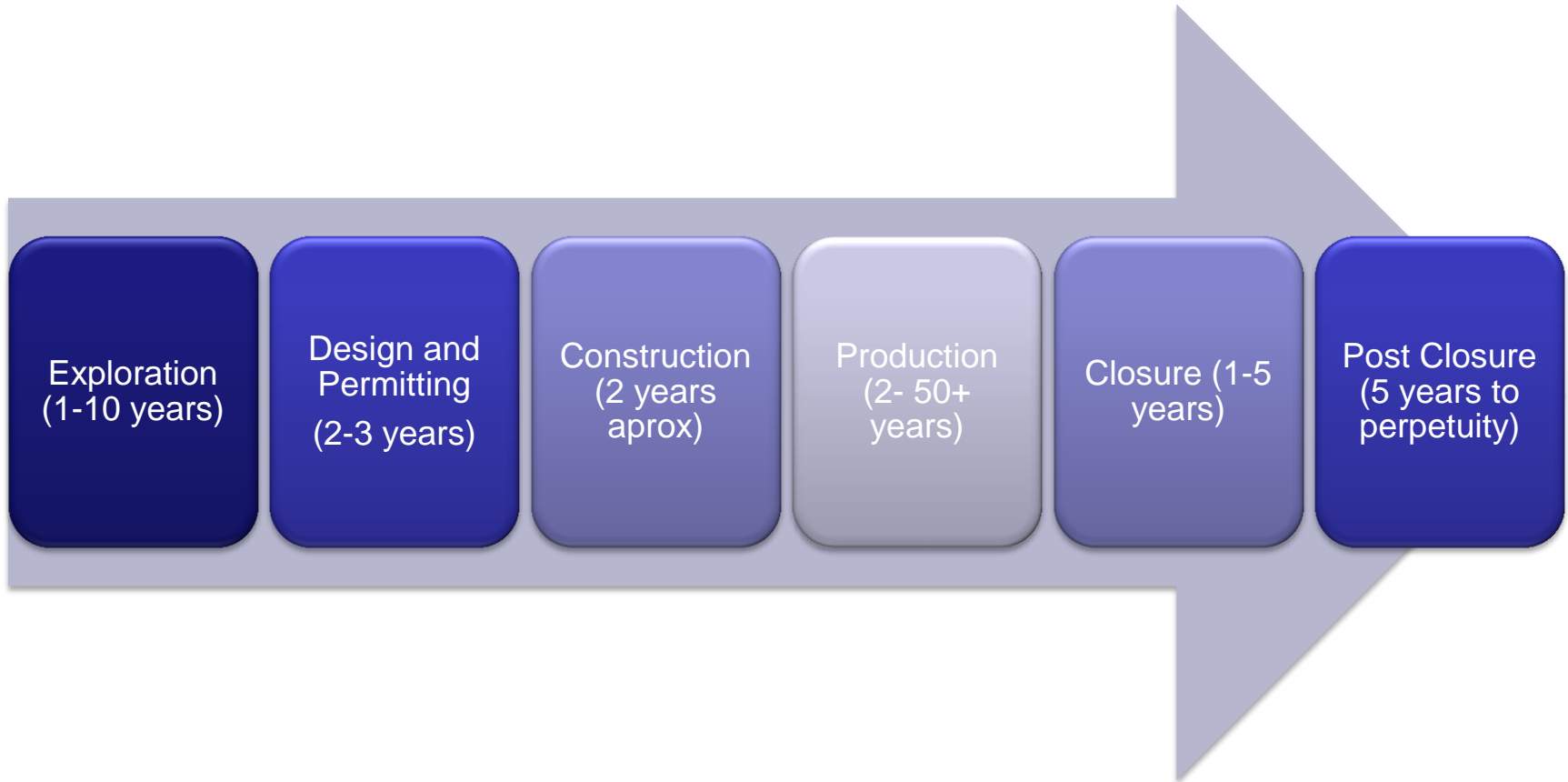
Climate Change  
March 2013



- Mines are often located in areas with extreme weather and challenging conditions
- ICMM identified a growing awareness that a changing climate and its impacts can affect the mining industry
- Report identifies potential climate impacts and how mining and metals companies can evaluate risks
- Provides available options for adapting to climate change impacts



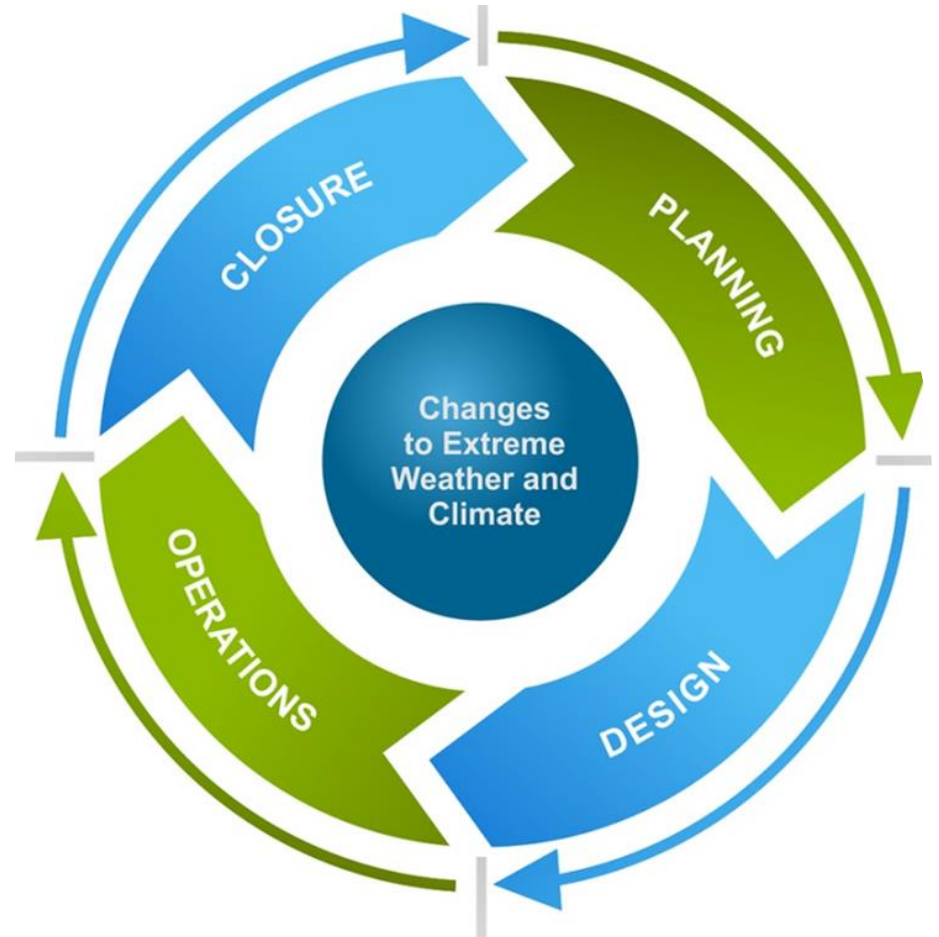
# Typical Mine Life Cycle





# Incorporating Climate Change into Project Life Cycle

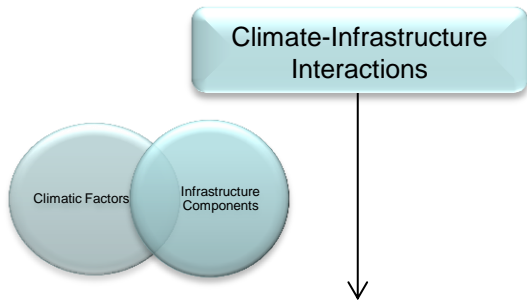
- Climate data is incorporated in most facets of Mining Projects and Infrastructure Design
- Design is generally based on historic climate data
  - Foundation Design
  - Material Specification
  - Tailings Dam Design
  - Outflow structures
  - Dewatering Requirements
  - Power Requirements
  - Water Supply / Water Balance
  - Closure Design
  - Transportation





# Risk Based Assessment Tools

Infrastructure Component	Climate Factor				
	Temperature	Rain	Snow	Wind	Mixed Events
Stormwater, Wastewater Treatment and Collection Systems	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Water Resource Systems	Y	Y	Y	N	N
Ground Transportation	N	Y	Y	N	Y
Buildings and Infrastructure	N	N	N	N	Y
Environmental Compliance	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Biodiversity	Y	Y	N	N	N
Public Infrastructure	N	N	N	N	Y

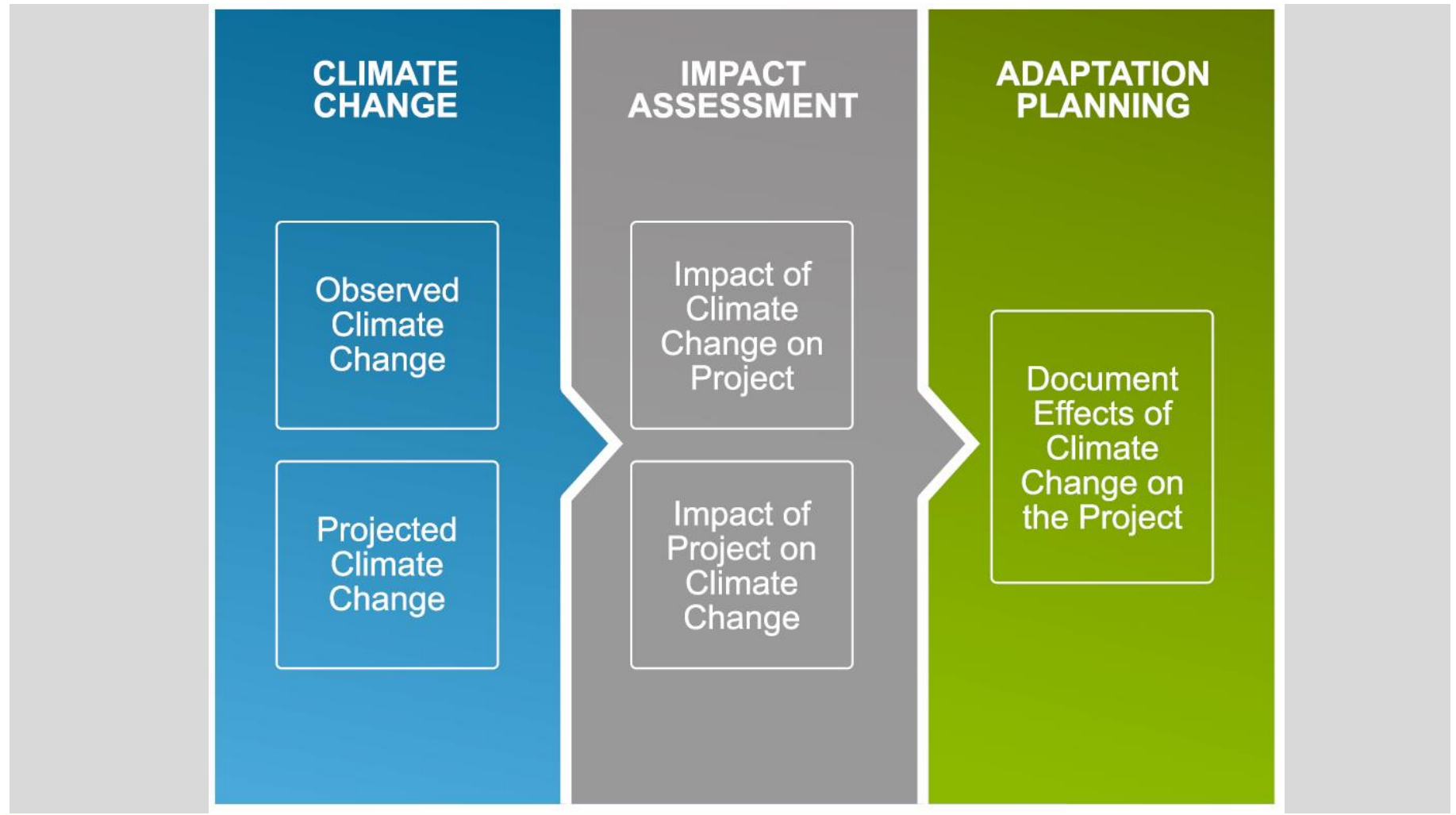


$$R = C \times P$$

R = Risk  
 C = Consequence  
 P = Probability



# Incorporating Climate Change in to ESIA's





## Case Study: Meliadine Mine, Rankin Inlet, NU, Canada



- Project located in Canadian Arctic
- Golder completed a ESIA in 2013
- Climate Change impact assessment was an important Technical Supporting Document
- Hearings held in Nunavut in 2014
- Assessment of significance on tailings design and bio-diversity were of particular interest during the review



# Case Study: Iron Ore Mine, South Eastern Guinea, West Africa



- Project located in a mountain range has an altitudinal gradient of over 1,000 m from lowland to summit
- Surrounded by an area classified under Guinean Law as a Strict Nature Reserve (SNR)
- Assessment of localized micro climate and effects of changes to topography and potential impacts to biodiversity

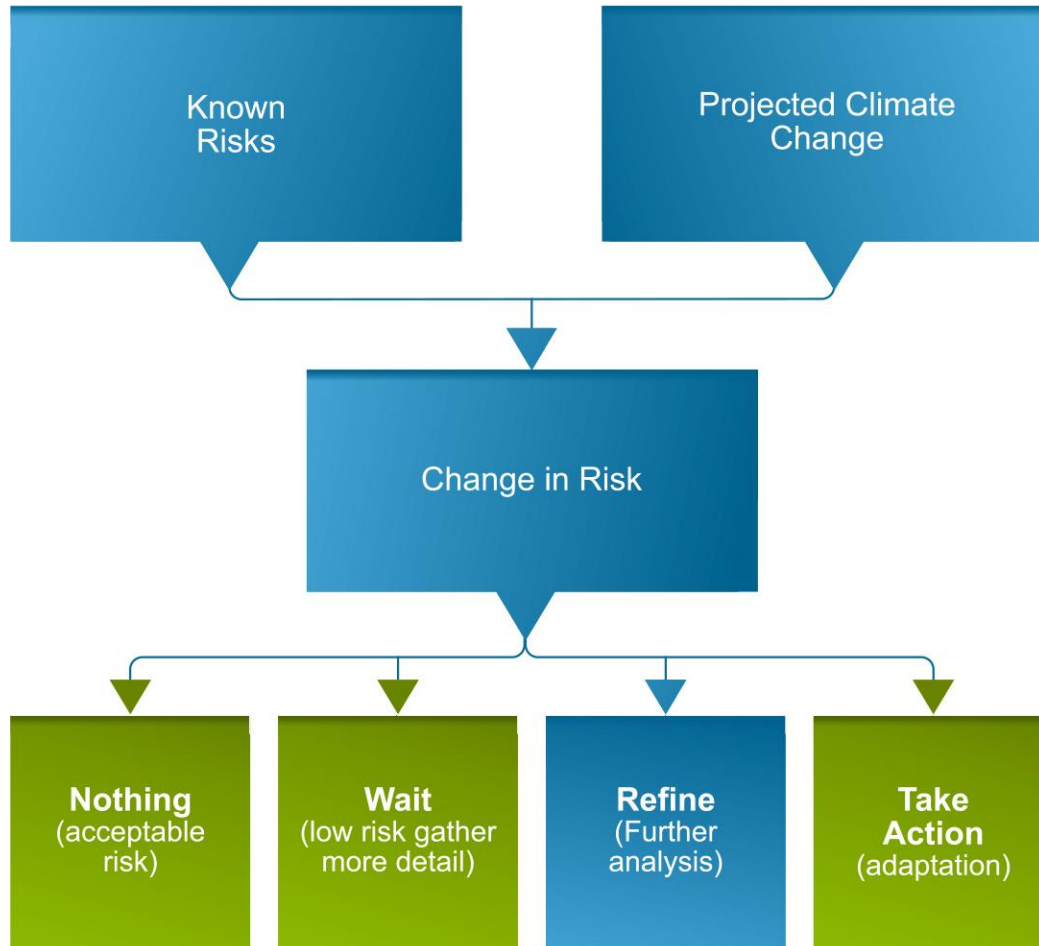
# Case Study: Copper Mine, Northern region of Argentina



- Project located at approximately 2,600 m asl in an arid area
- Investigation of meteorological trends that could affect the water balance, especially at closure
- Results showed that projected increases in total precipitation was within historical observations, however pan evaporation is projected to increase
- Availability of water identified as an issue



# Operations and Closure



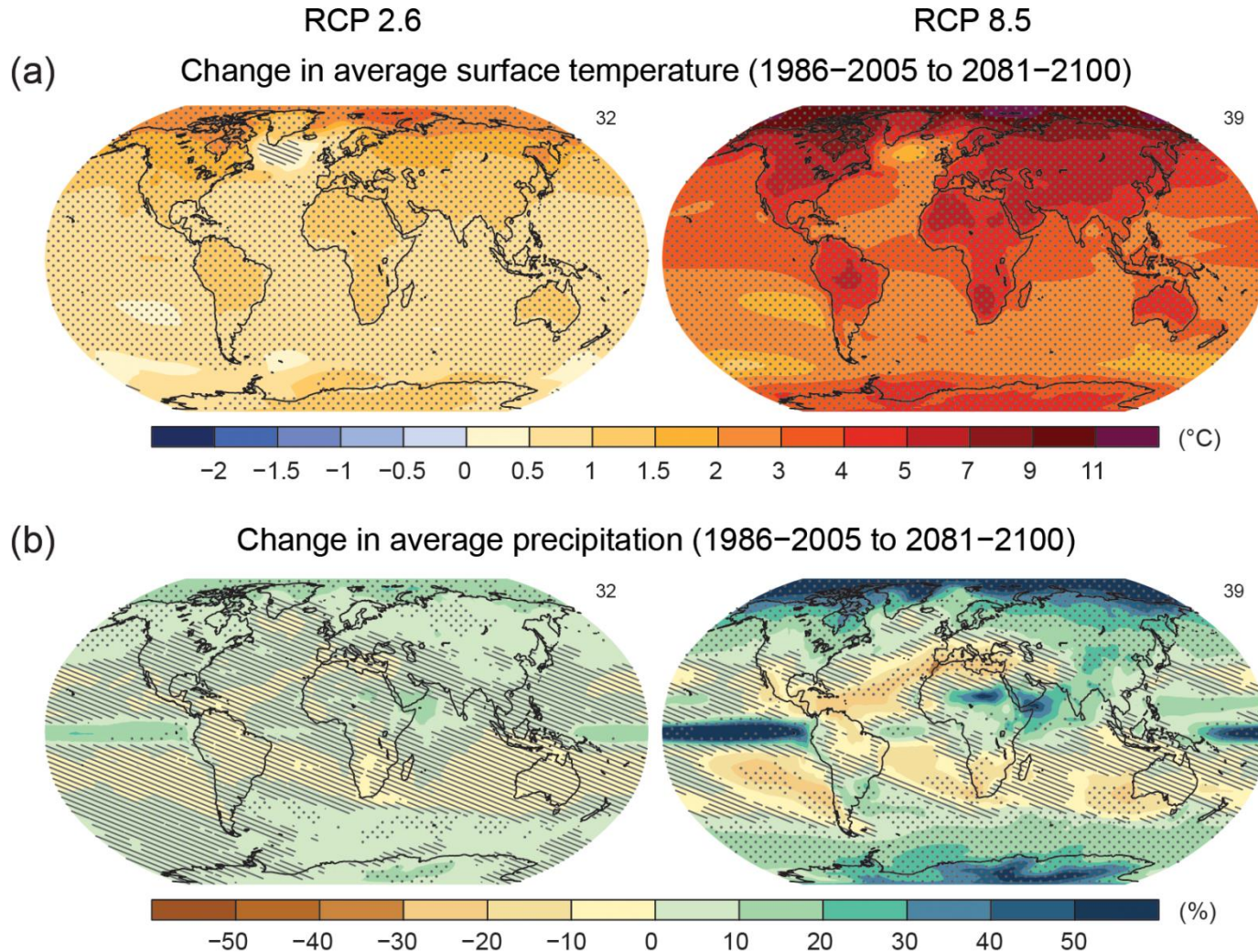


# Case Study: Vulnerability Assessment, Sudbury INO ON, Canada





# Climate-Related Risk: Adapting to What?

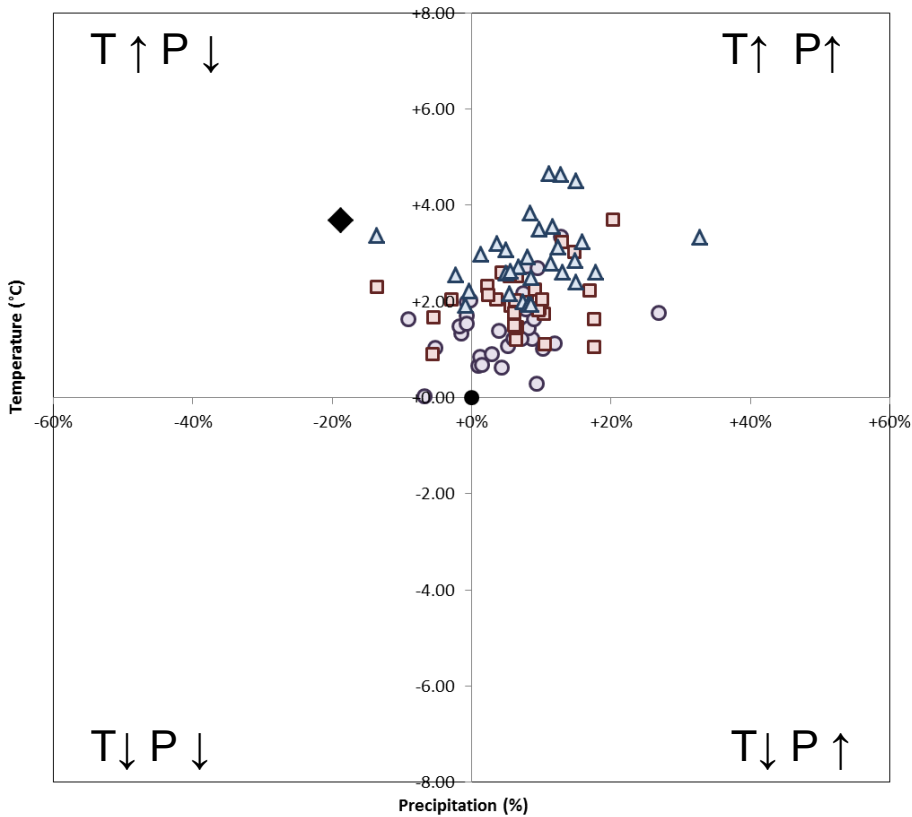




# GCM Output – Scatter Plot

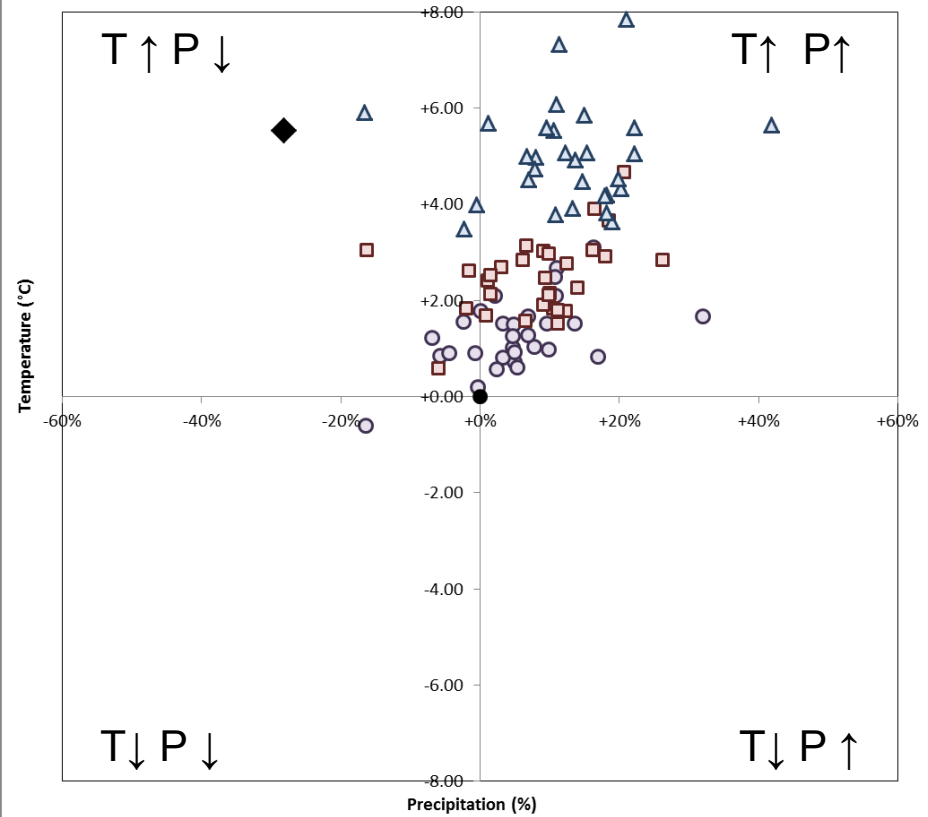
### Future (2041–2070) Annual Climate Relative to Normals Sudbury

- Scenario rcp26
- Scenario rcp45
- △ Scenario rcp85
- ◆ Based on Historic Trend
- Climate Normal



### Future (2071–2100) Annual Climate Relative to Normals Sudbury

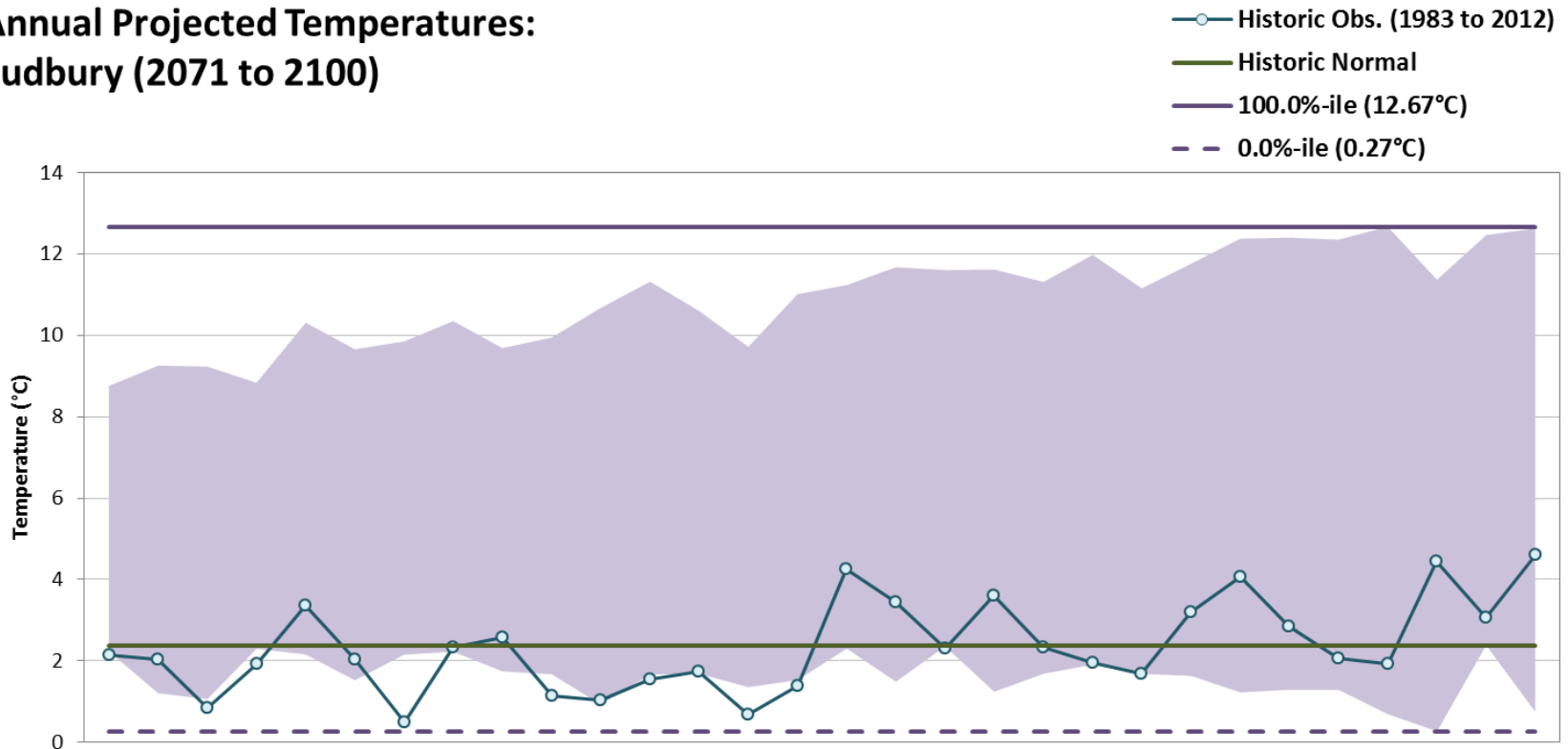
- Scenario rcp26
- Scenario rcp45
- △ Scenario rcp85
- ◆ Based on Historic Trend
- Climate Normal





# GCM Output – Cloud Graph

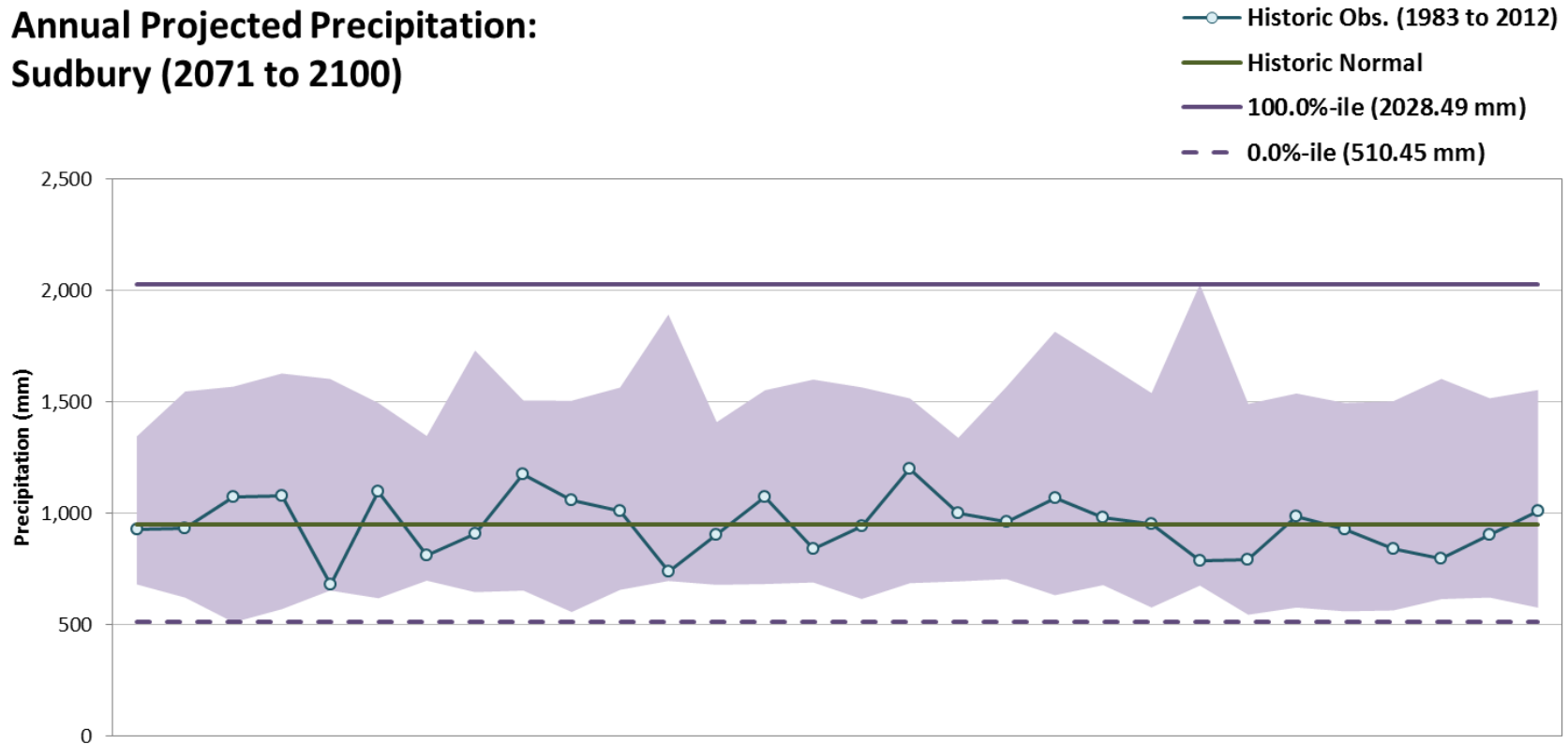
## Annual Projected Temperatures: Sudbury (2071 to 2100)





# GCM Output – Cloud Graph

## Annual Projected Precipitation: Sudbury (2071 to 2100)

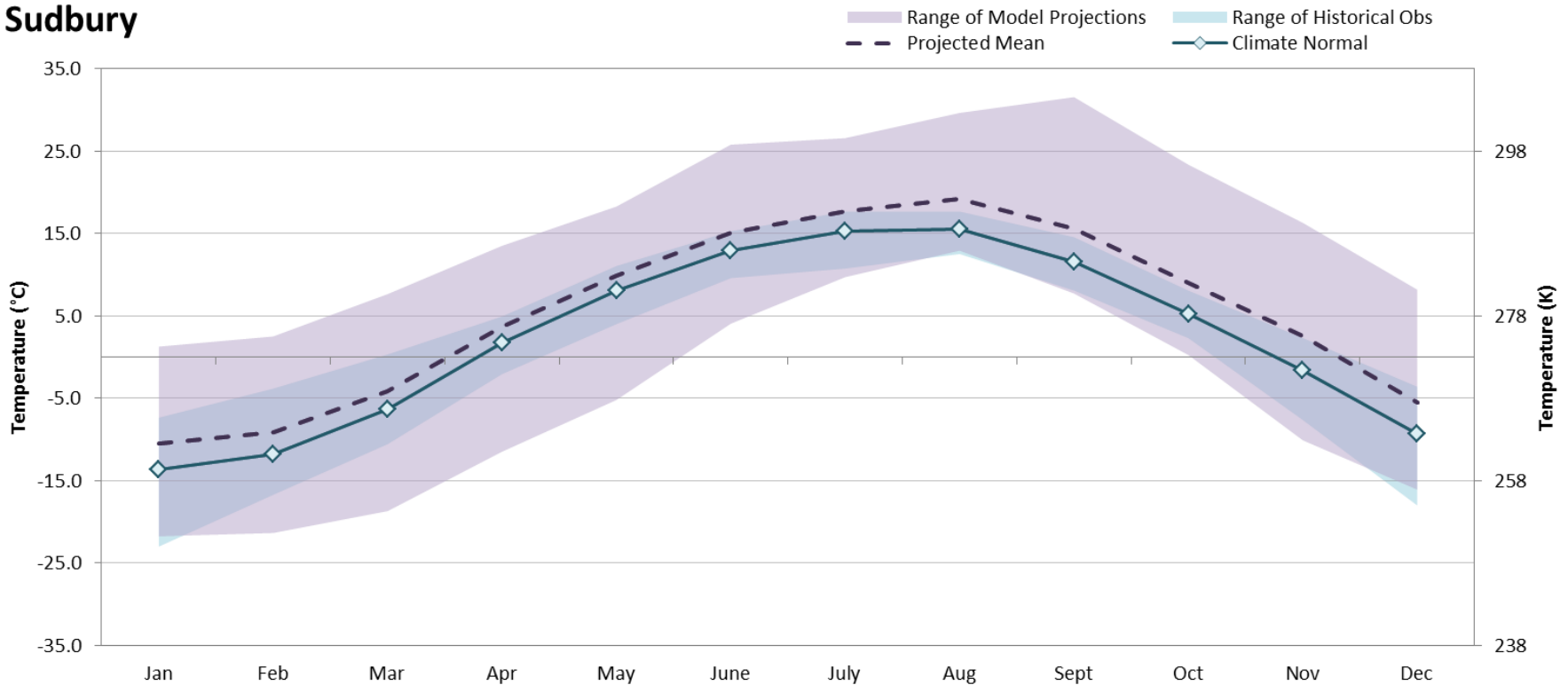






# GCM Output – Cloud Graph

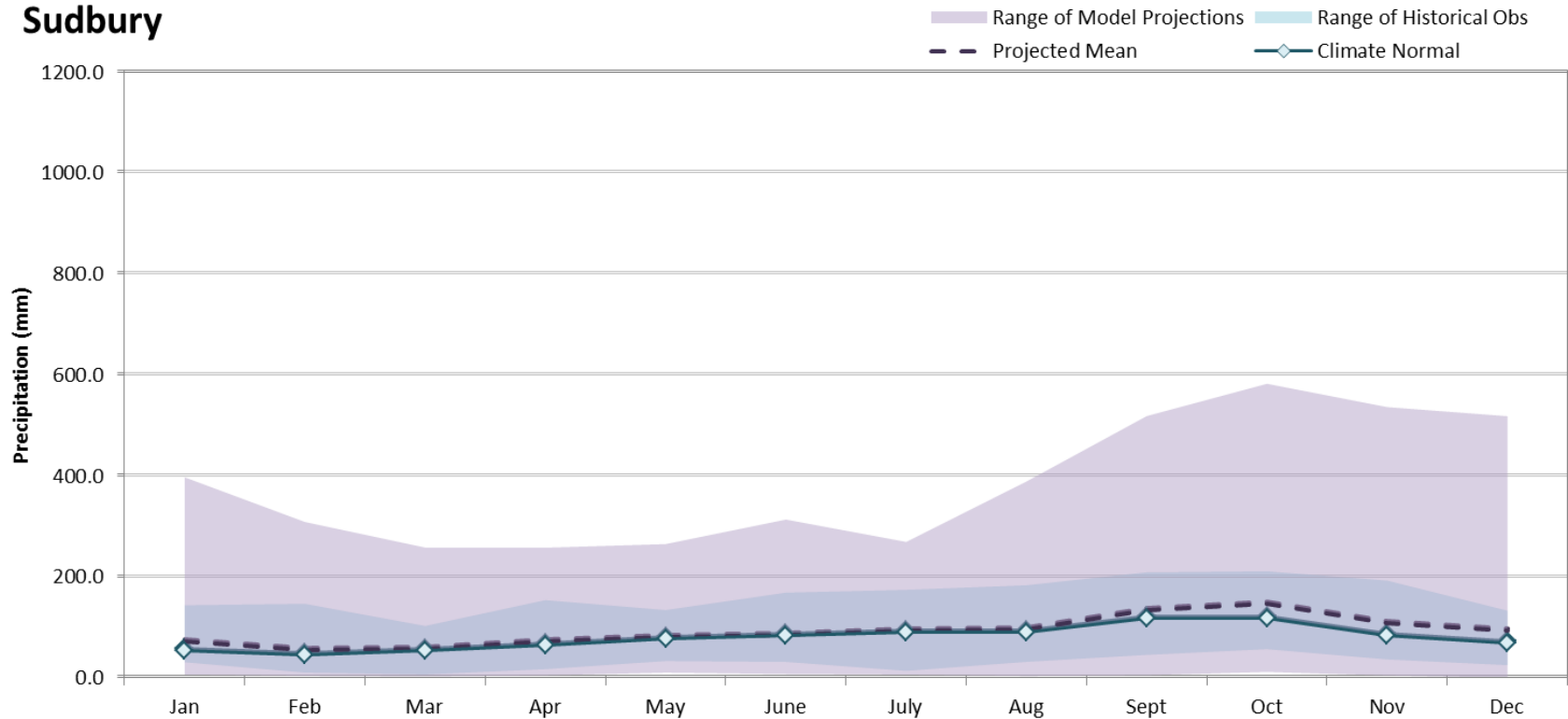
## Monthly Mean Projected Temperatures for All Models (2071 - 2100): Sudbury





# GCM Output – Cloud Graph

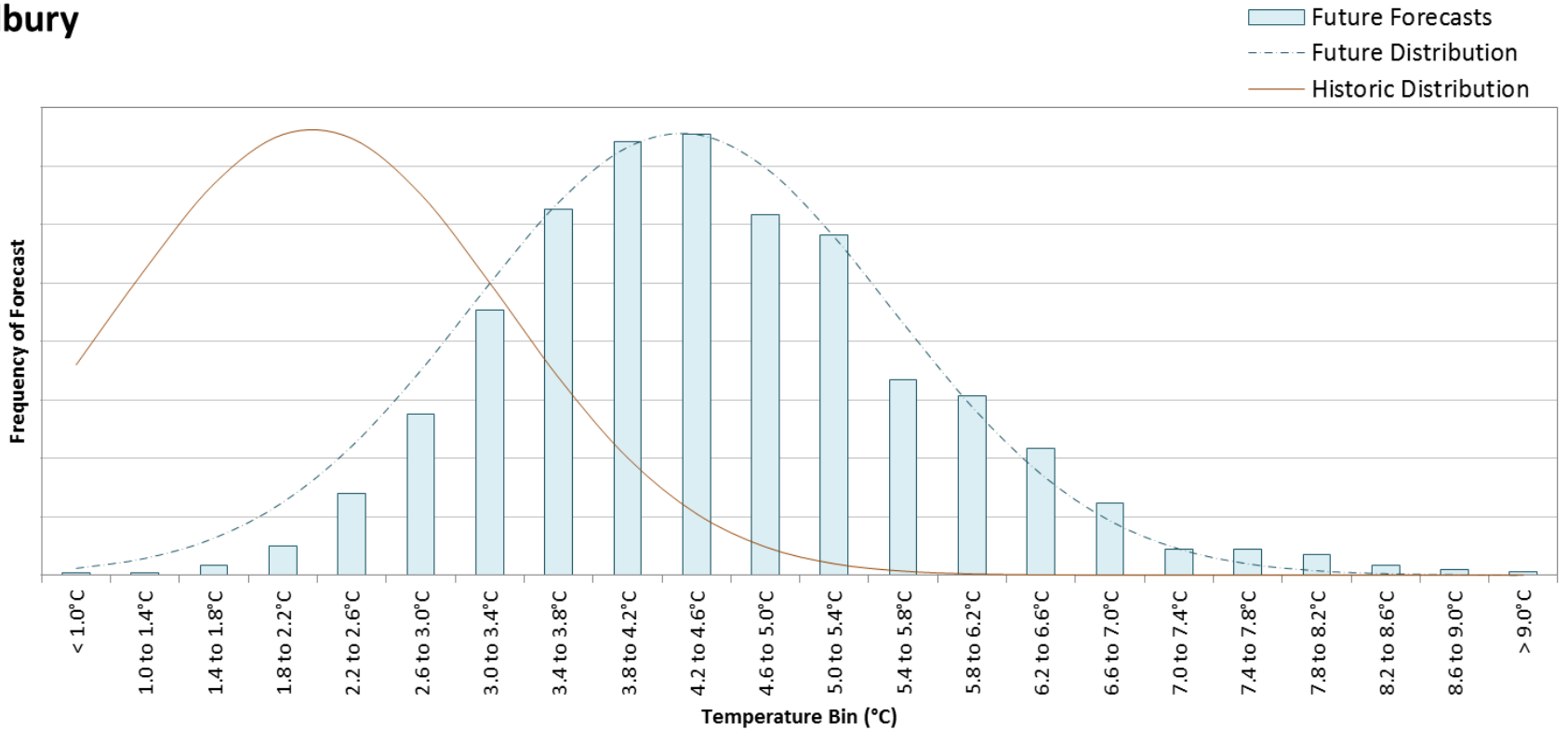
## Monthly Mean Projected Precipitation for All Models (2071 - 2100): Sudbury





# GCM Output – Histogram

**Annual Projected Temperature Distribution for All Models (2041 to 2070):  
Sudbury**

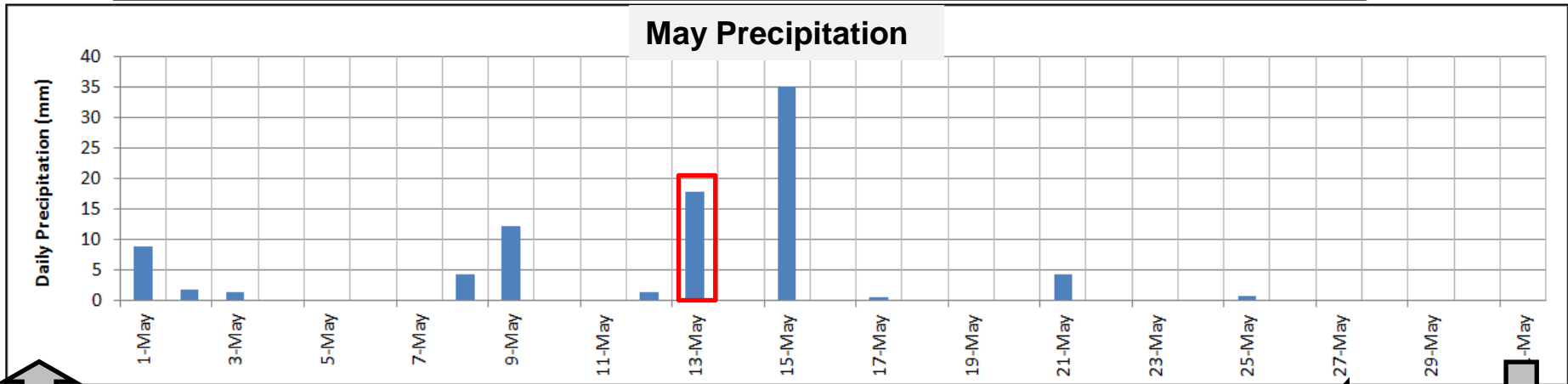
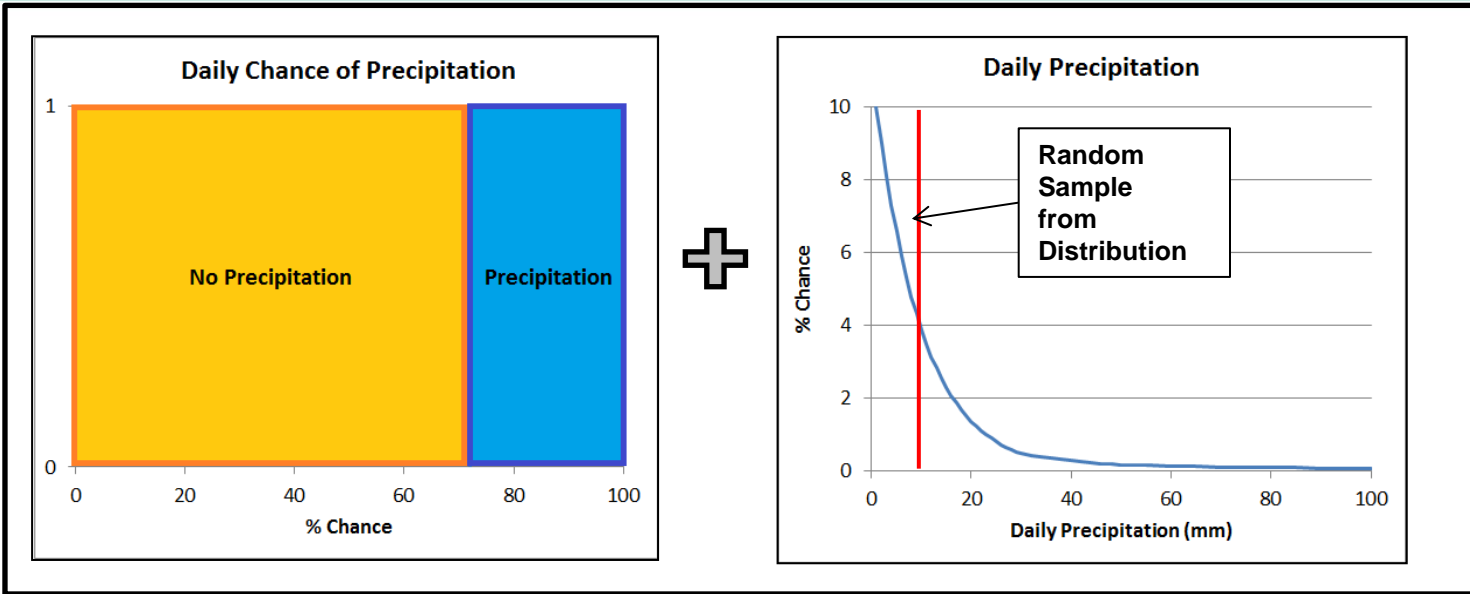




# The Future is Always Uncertain



# Generating Climate (Precipitation)



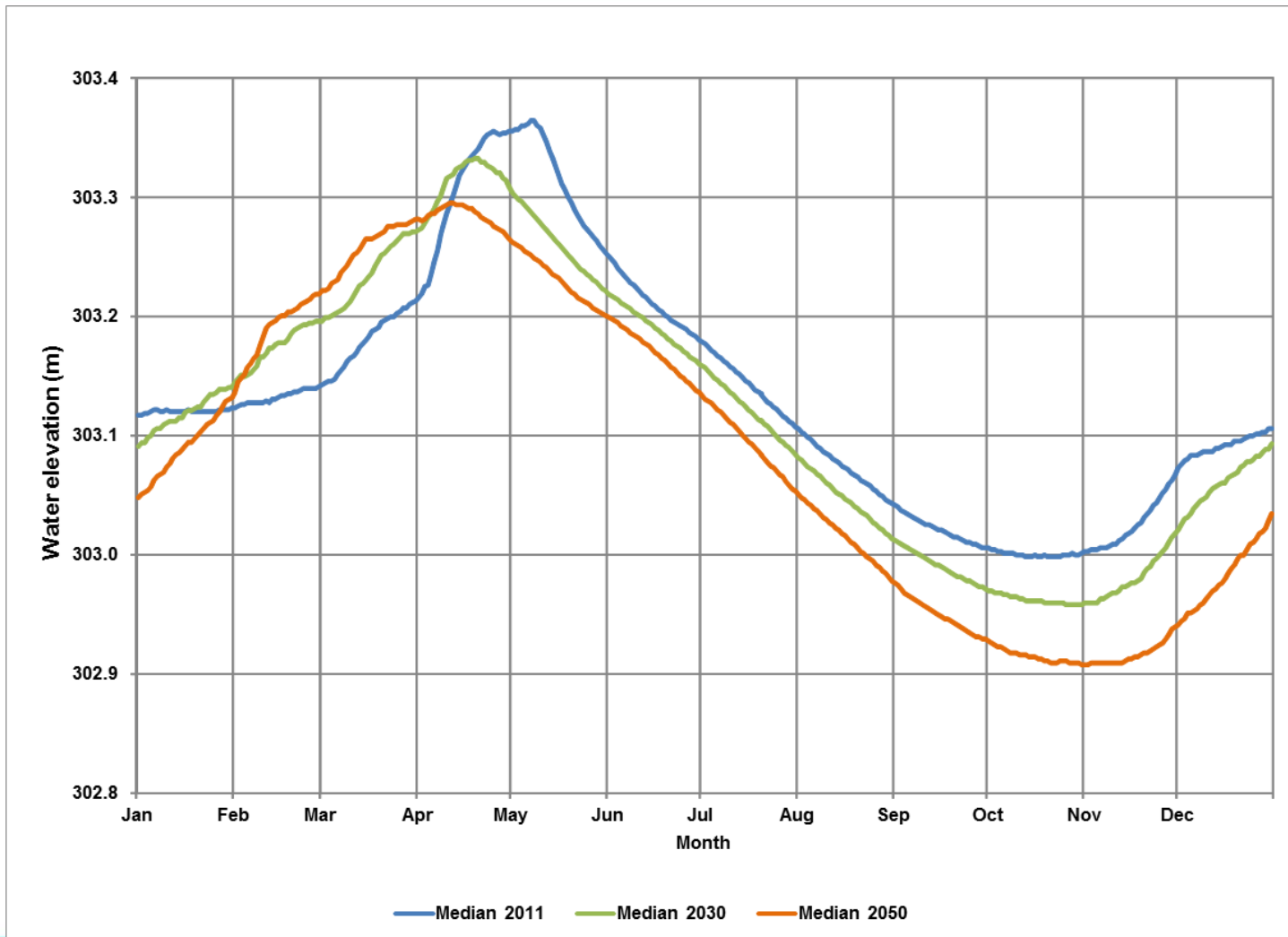
If No, Restart

Does Sum of Daily Precipitation = Monthly Precipitation?

If Yes, Continue

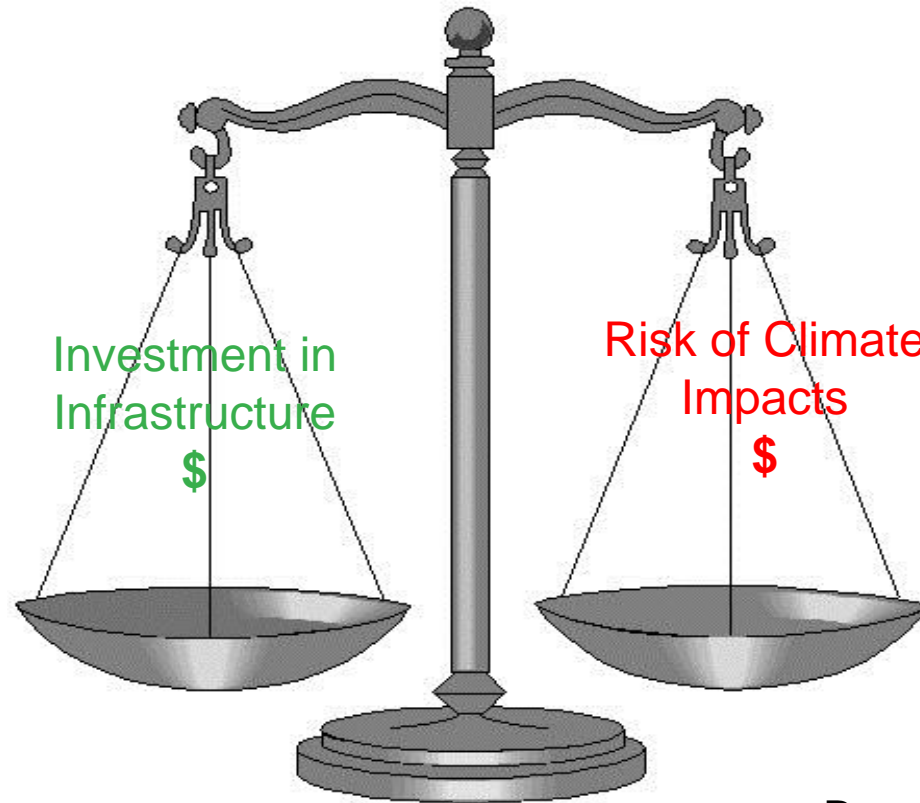


# Water Management





# Economic Models

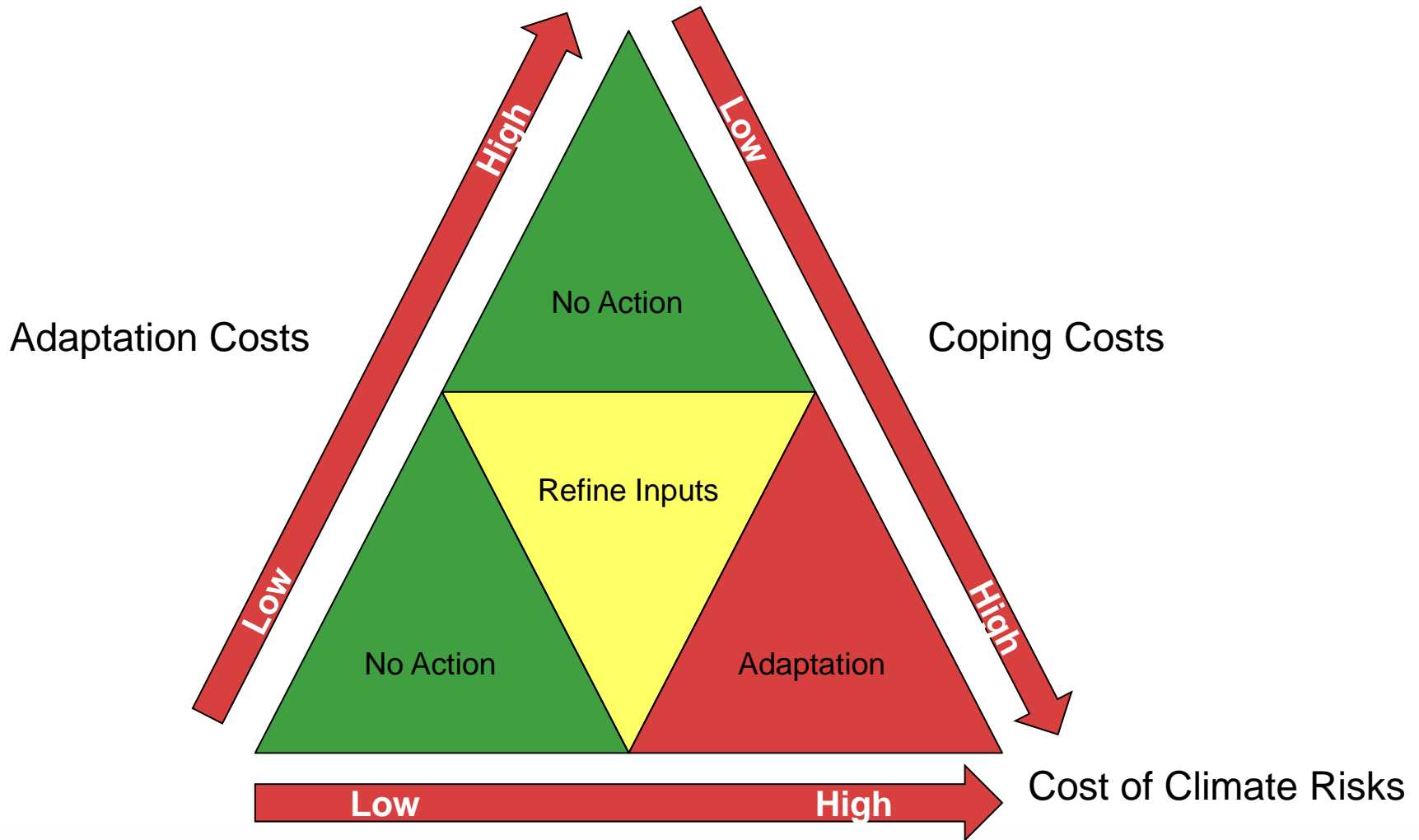


Planning for  
Future

React to impacts of climate  
change



# CBA to Identify Adaptation Uncertainties







# Summary of Results – 10 year

10 Year Period		Coping Preferred	Adaptation Preferred
		Payback Not Achieved	Payback Achieved
E1	Current Climate	89.5%	10.5%
	Future Climate	86.4%	13.6%
E2	Current Climate	13.2%	86.8%
	Future Climate	1.4%	98.6%
E3	Current Climate	92.6%	7.4%
	Future Climate	44.5%	55.5%
E4	Current Climate	100%	0%
	Future Climate	100%	0%
E5	Current Climate	96.6%	3.4%
	Future Climate	71.8%	28.2%



# Summary of Results 40 year

39 Year Period		Coping Preferred		Adaptation Preferred	
		Payback Not Achieved		Payback Achieved	
E1	Current Climate	83.1%		16.9%	
	Future Climate	79.2%		20.8%	
E2	Current Climate	0.2%		99.8%	
	Future Climate	0%		100%	
E3	Current Climate	73.8%		26.2%	
	Future Climate	4.3%		95.7%	
E4	Current Climate	100%		0%	
	Future Climate	100%		0%	
E5	Current Climate	88.6%		11.4%	
	Future Climate	30.8%		69.2%	



## Moving Forward

- Climate Change Impact Assessments should:
  - Clearly document both baseline and future climate projections that will be used in the assessment
  - Use a multi model and multiple concentration pathways analysis to describe the range and uncertainties of the future climate projections
  - Clearly identify the Valued Components and climate interactions that are to be considered in the assessment
  - Document the significance assessment for the identified interactions
  - Identify the proposed design features or adaptation measures (mitigation measures) that are proposed
  - Better document Adaptive Management Strategies between coping and adaptation and rational why one is preferred over the other



[Sean\\_Capstick@Golder.com](mailto:Sean_Capstick@Golder.com)