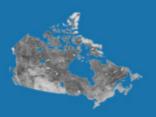
#### International Dialogue on National Climate Assessments

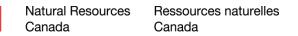




## National Assessment of Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in Canada

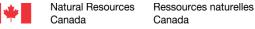
Don Lemmen Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Division Natural Resources Canada dlemmen@nrcan.gc.ca



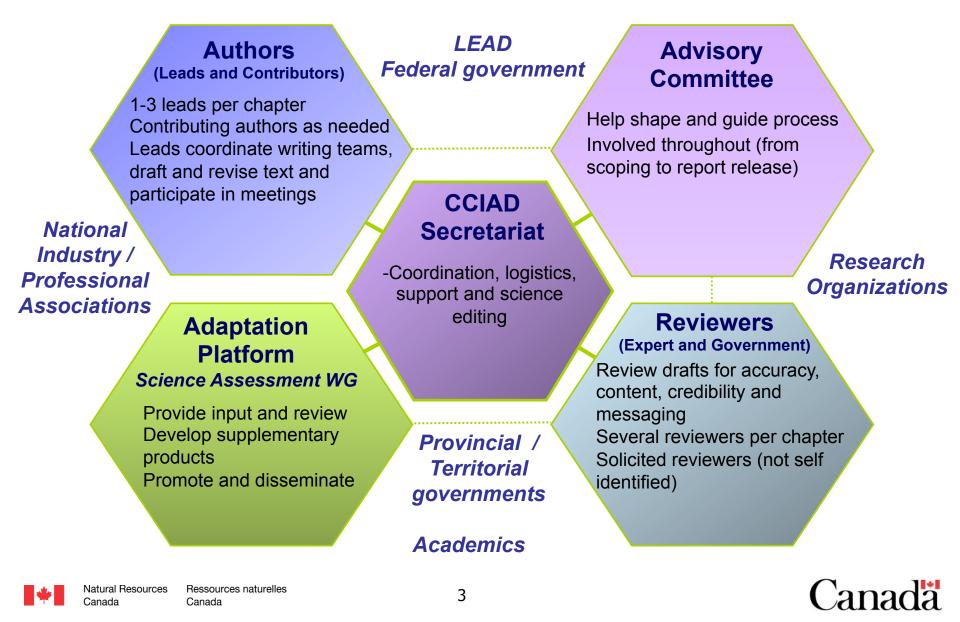


### Background

- National science assessments published in 1998 and 2008
- Based on peer-reviewed and grey literature, practitioner and local knowledge
- Impacts and adaptation only do not assess climate science or attribution, although do provide an overview of developments in both areas
- Outputs- traditional reports in hard copy, PDF and HTML
- Update to 2008 report in development (2013) organized by sectors rather than regions (back to regions in 2018?)
- Ongoing sector-specific assessments health (2008), coasts (2014), transportation (2015), mining (2016)



# **Key players**



# **Goals and Audience**

### Goals

- 1. Inform adaptation decision-making
- 2. Raise awareness
- 3. Contribute to capacity building

### Users

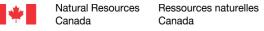
- Policy and science advisors *feed into decision-making processes*
- Practitioners (engineers / planners)
- Industry
- University level instructors and students
- General public
- Media

Recognize need for distinct products to be developed for specific user groups



# **Drivers – Science / Policy**

- Assessments must be policy-relevant at multiple scales
- "Balance" will depend on scope and purpose of assessment, as well as state of awareness / understanding of target audience
- With emphasis on adaptation decision-making, policy needs tend to be dominant driver of Canadian assessments
- As policy / economic / other context can change while assessment is being developed, assessment should be structured to inform these drivers but not be dependent on them
- Assessments need to highlight new knowledge in a manner that illustrates policy relevance – hence science also remains an important driver.





### **Key lessons learned**

- Need to develop clear definitions of target audience(s) and scope early in assessment process
- Each stage of the assessment process offers opportunities for engagement – building of awareness and capacity
- Planning and coordination of communication and product release is critically important – and can be challenging
- Gradual dissemination percolate through peer networks can be effective but takes time



## **Remaining challenges**

- Measuring the impact of assessments
- Understanding how and why the audience is using products
- Delivering relevant information across spatial scales managing expectations at the local level
- Conveying findings in innovative ways use of new media
- Communicating uncertainty
- Ensuring scientific rigour
- Time .....

