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Produced Risks without Produced Solutions – Rethinking the Approach

Phil O’Keefe, Geoff O’Brien,
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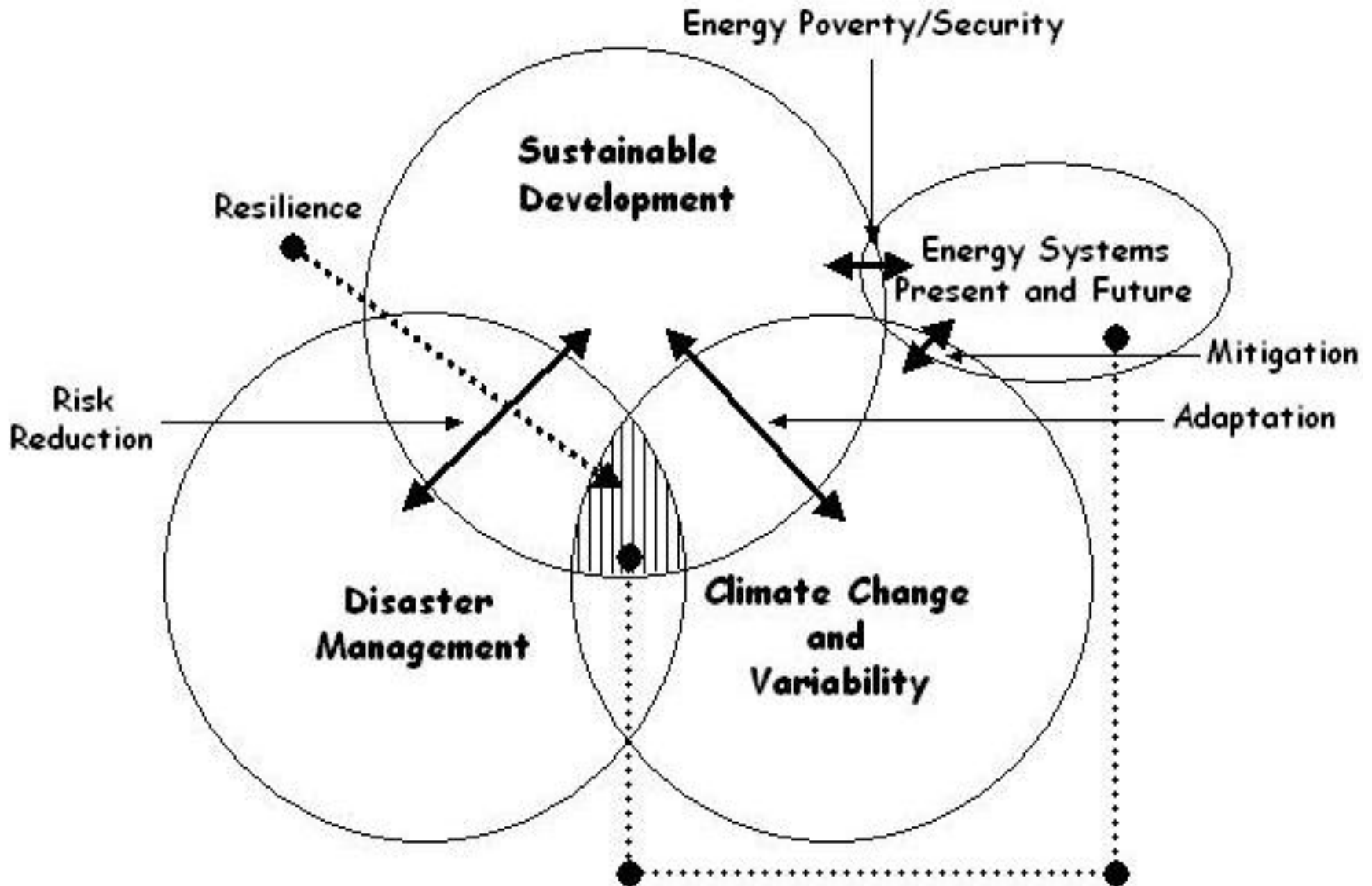
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Conceptualising the argument

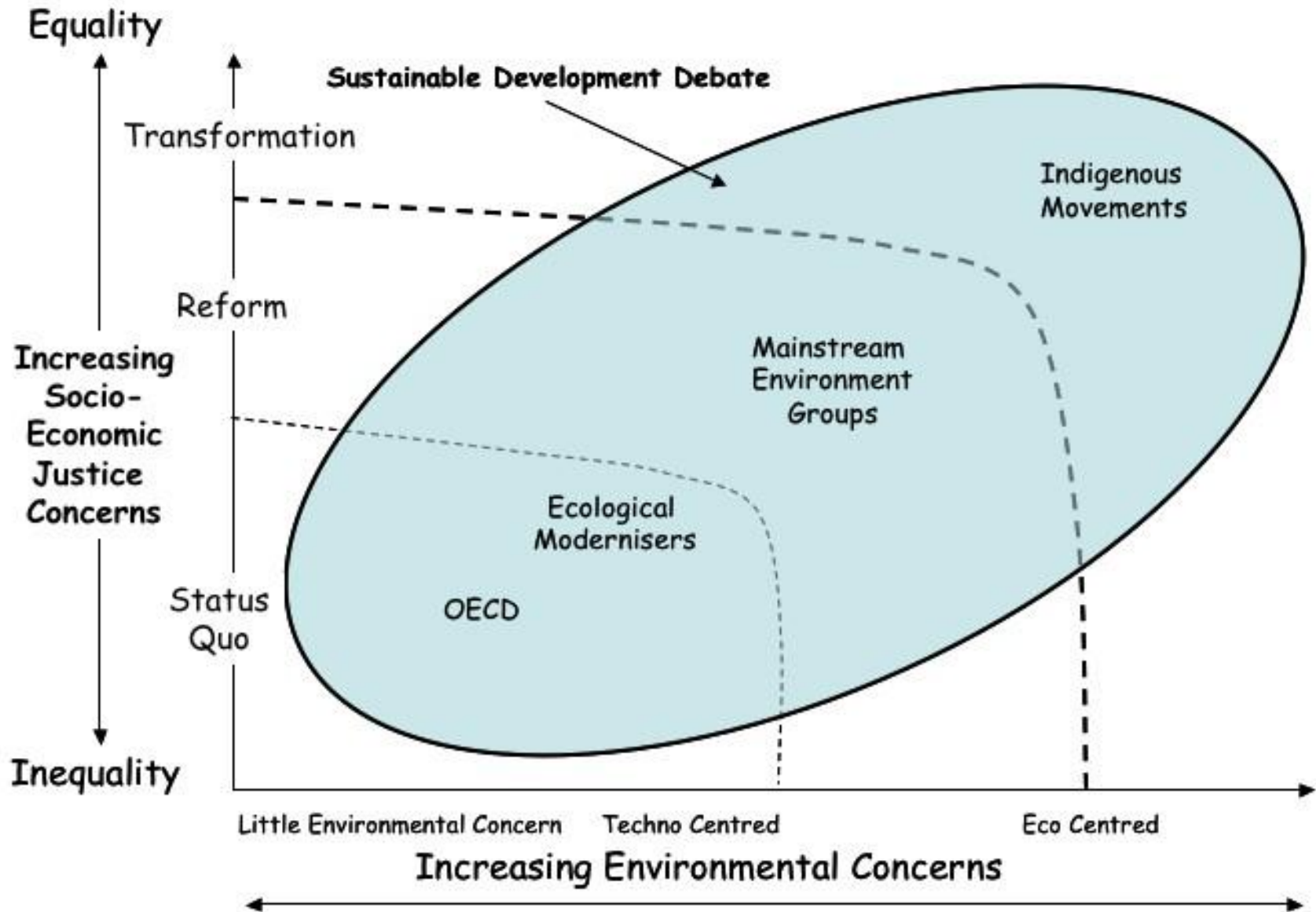
- Risks generated by climate change and variability are 'produced unknowns' - driven by human actions with unknown outcomes
- Produced unknowns are 'wicked problems' - answers are incomplete, contradictory and set against changing requirements

- A common feature of sustainable development, climate change and disaster risk reduction discourses is doing things differently or change
- It is desirable to develop an approach that provides a bridge among disaster management, sustainable human development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Resilience is a Process:



Mapping Sustainable Development



Bali Roadmap

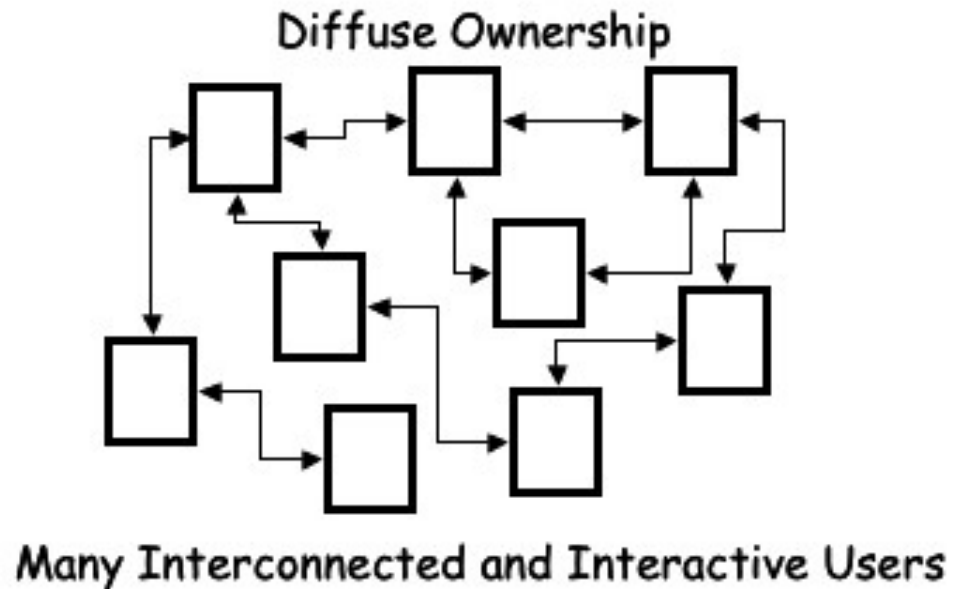
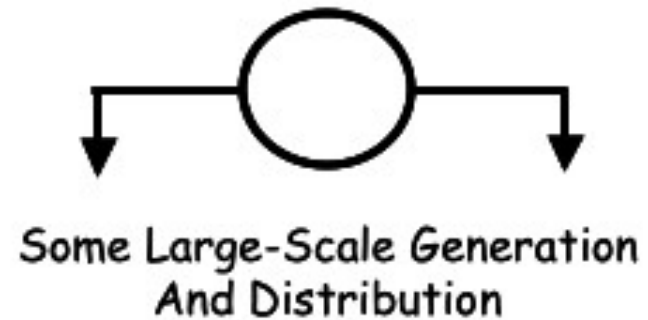
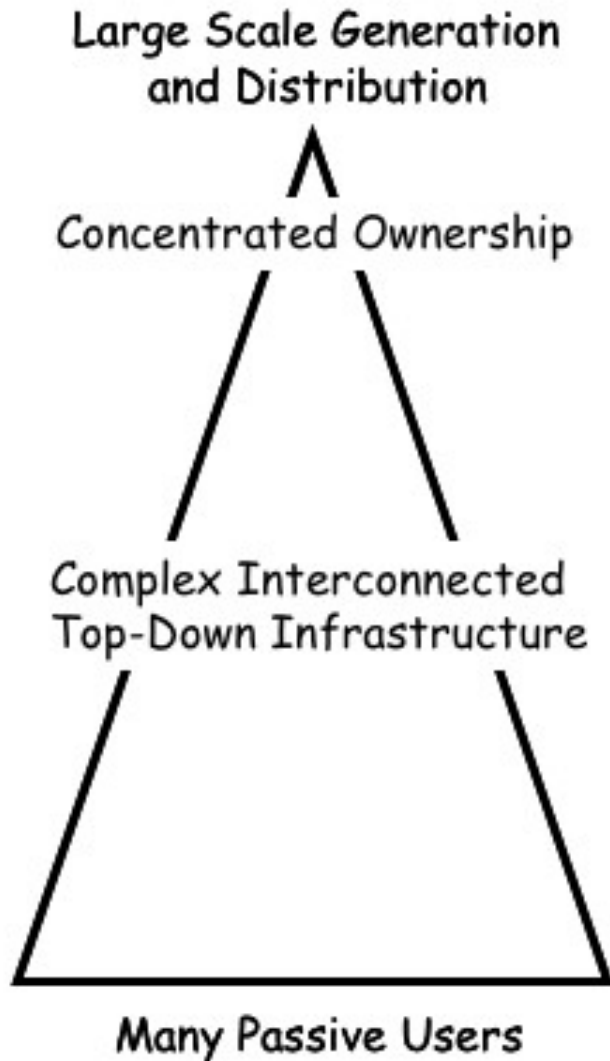
- Deep cuts in global emissions needed to avoid dangerous climate change
- Measures to enhance forests
- Urgent implementation of adaptation measures for poorer nations
- Disaster risk reductions measures
- Removal of obstacles and provision of financial and other incentives to scale up the transfer of clean technologies

Learning the Lessons?

Technology alone cannot solve the interrelated problems of energy and climate change:

- Institutional willingness to change
- A shift in public attitudes towards the environment

Models of energy systems



Disaster Management

- Dominant model is “all-hazards” approach characterised as legally based, professionally staffed, well funded and organised.
- It aims for a return to ‘normality’
- Top-down structure is incompatible with the notion of resilience building

Technocratic Model of Disaster Management

Dominant Paradigm	Comment
Isolated event	Disasters usually regarded as unusual or unique events that can exceed coping capacity
Risk not normal	Risk is socially constructed and risk management aims to reduce risk to within proscribed levels realised through governance structures
Techno-legal	The legislative framework, regulatory system and the technologies used for risk reduction and disaster response
Centralized	Realised through a formal system such as a government department or state funded agency
Low accountability	Typically internalised
Post event planning	Internal procedure for updating and validating plans based on lessons learned
Status Quo restored	The overall aim is a return to normal

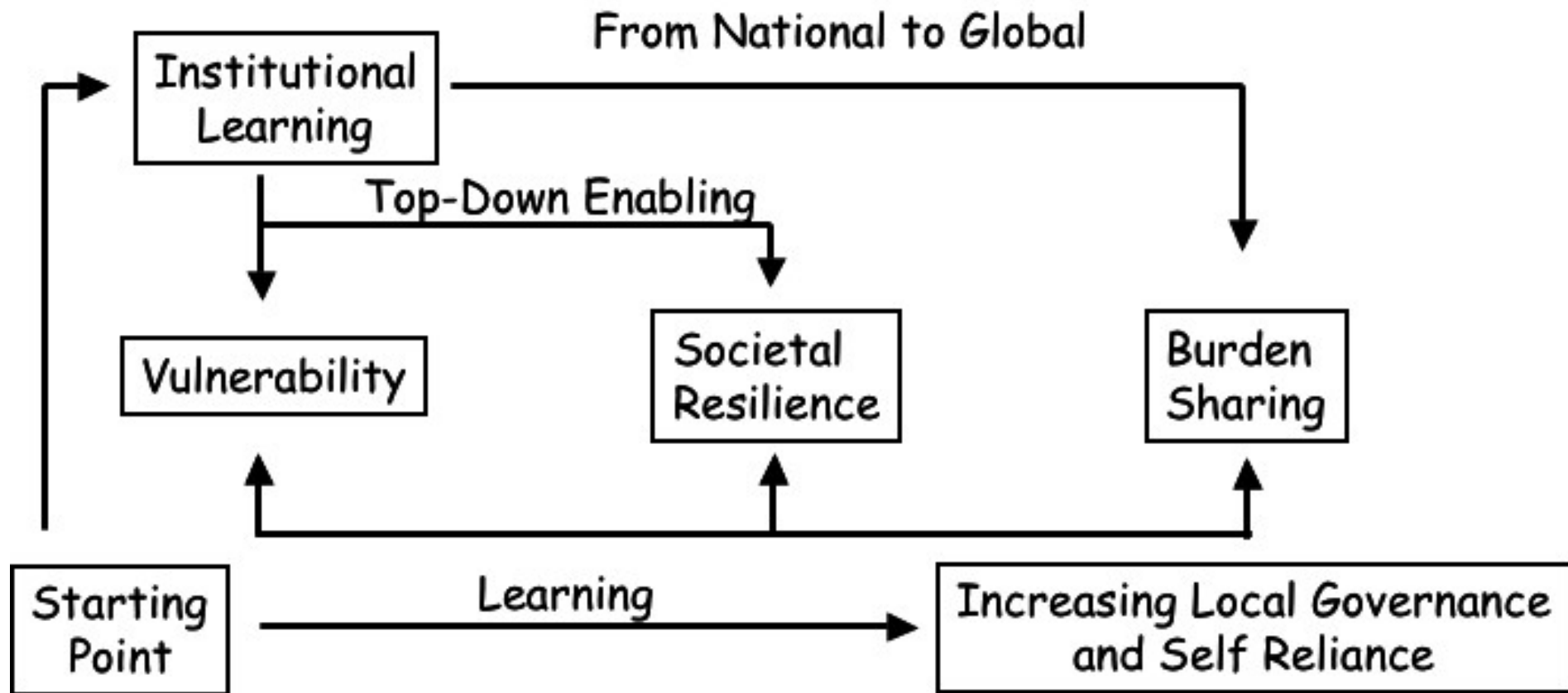
Adaptation as Disaster Risk Reduction

Adaptation Paradigm	Comment
Part of development	Adaptation is not an add-on but should be an integral part of societal development
Risk of disaster is an everyday condition	Climate change and variability is a known category of natural hazards amplified and accelerated by anthropogenic activities that will occur
Social capacity	Enhancing the ability of societies to both respond to hazards and adjust to change
Participatory	Learning to enhance capacity
Transparent	Undertaken in an enabling environment
Pre disaster plans	Aimed at prevention
Transformation	Move society to a new set of conditions. Enhance coping capacity and improve baseline condition, for example, decrease levels of poverty

PDP Principles for Adaptation

Pre-Disaster Planning Principles	Comment
Sustainable Development	An approach that focuses on reducing risk both now and in the future
Risk Avoidance	Developments should be evaluated from a risk reduction perspective
Embedded in Policy and Practices	Adaptation should be normalised
Distributed to the appropriate level	It is both top down and bottom up
Shared responsibility	The basis for renewing the preparedness partnership between government and people
Learning from scientific evidence, indigenous knowledge and experience	All knowledge is important, but of equal importance is effective communication and dissemination
Adjusting to changes	A recognition that the future may be very different
Organisational and Social Learning	Thinking differently and learning about how we approach problems related to adaptation should be the norm

Linking Concepts for Climate Risk Reduction



Conclusions

- Responding to produced unknowns driven by a changing climate requires resilience building.
- Local as well as institutional capacity needs to be strengthened - resilience building is a learning process at all levels.
- A focus on resilience recognises that there is no steady-state or end result. It is an iterative process based on notions of entitlements and governance.

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