



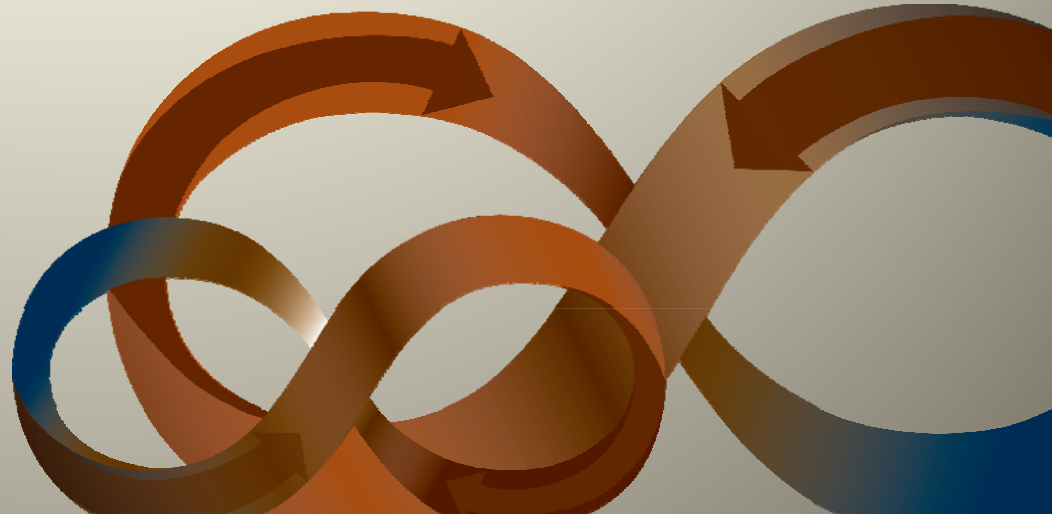
Stephen Tyler
Adaptive Resource Mgmt
Victoria BC


Sarah Opitz-Stapleton
Institute for Social and
Environmental Transition,
Boulder CO

Dealing with Data Deficits in Planning for Climate Adaptation

Or: what we would ask from regional climate
services if we had them in Asia

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A photograph of a city skyline at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and purple. In the foreground, there is a dense, dark forest. The city skyline is composed of various high-rise buildings, some of which are under construction with visible cranes. The overall scene is a mix of urban development and nature.

Cities and Climate Change

- More than half the world's population is urban
- More than half of the world's urban population is in Asia, where cities are growing rapidly
- Refuges of climate resilience, job creation, economic innovation and growth?
- Or concentrations of poverty, vulnerability and increased exposure to climate hazards?

Climate Science in Adaptation Planning

- Intro to ACCCRN program
- Challenges in using climate data in ACCCRN
- Planning without data
- Key roles for regional climate services

Planning for Urban Climate Resilience



- Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network: 10 cities, 4 countries, 5 years (Rockefeller Foundation)
- Assess vulnerability, develop strategic plan, implement priority actions and replicate
- Premise: regional scale climate projections readily available

Challenges in Communicating Climate Information in Asia

- Historical data at local scale non-existent, unreliable, or inconsistent
- Regionally downscaled projections either unavailable or unreliable
- Users constrained to more limited set of sanctioned national projections
- When they could find data sets or projections, users were unable to interrogate them

Other communication issues

- Terminology: scenario, projection, prediction, probability, likelihood
- Translation: climate / weather / season
- No explanation of climate uncertainty and how to deal with it
- No regional climate services: scientists busy doing science



Using climate data in ACCCRN



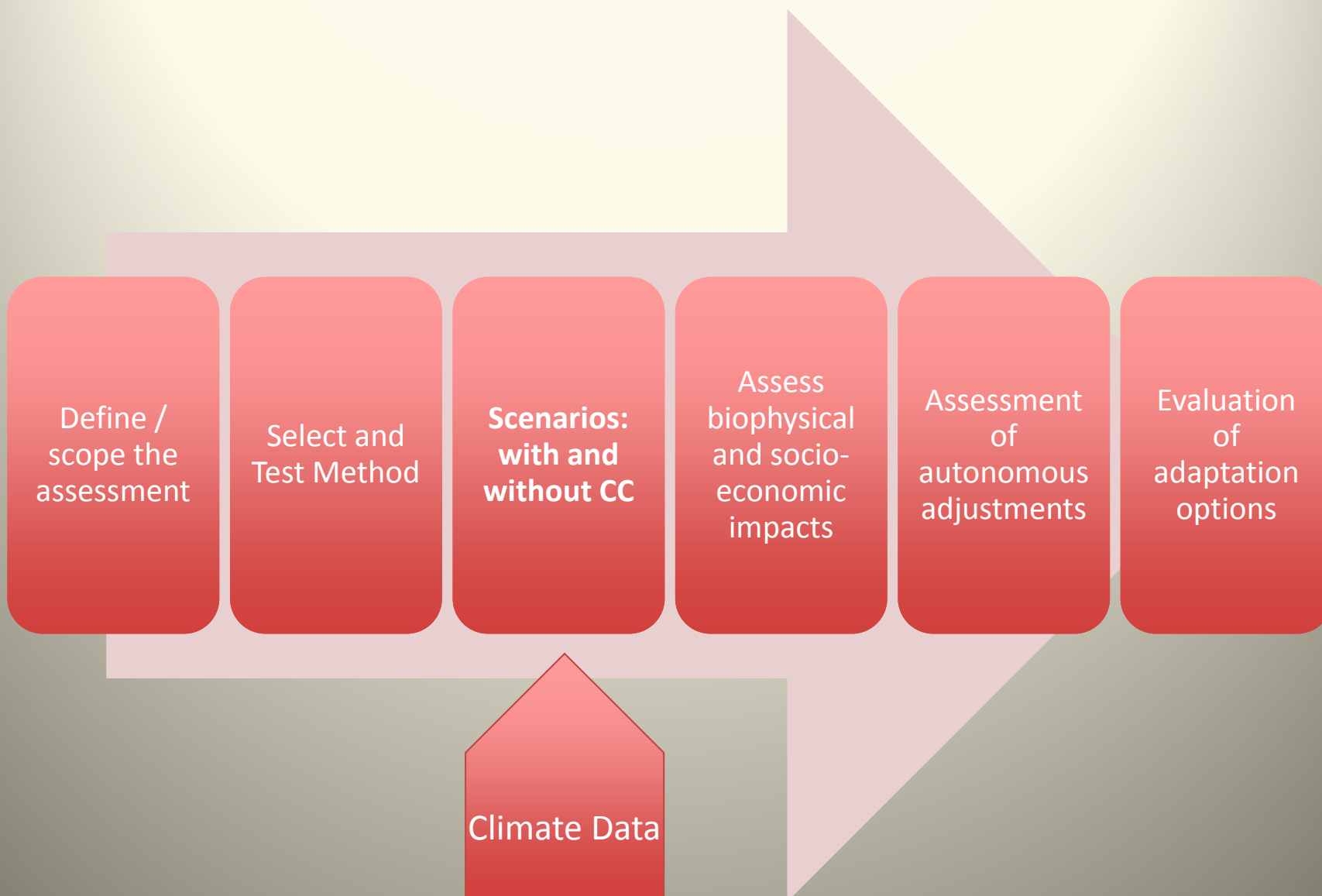
- Extra time collecting, assessing data
- Identified deficiencies for data providers
- Worked with users to interpret climate data
- Developed simple scenarios e.g. for input into hydrological models
- Vulnerability assessments based on *current impacts*

But how do you use climate data anyway?

- Users found climate data largely irrelevant without lots of interpretation
- Climate data did not address planning issues
- Uncertainty and risk for extreme events
- Pathways for slow onset and cumulative or indirect impact
- Flag key management issues and options



Impact / Adaptation Assessment (IPCC)

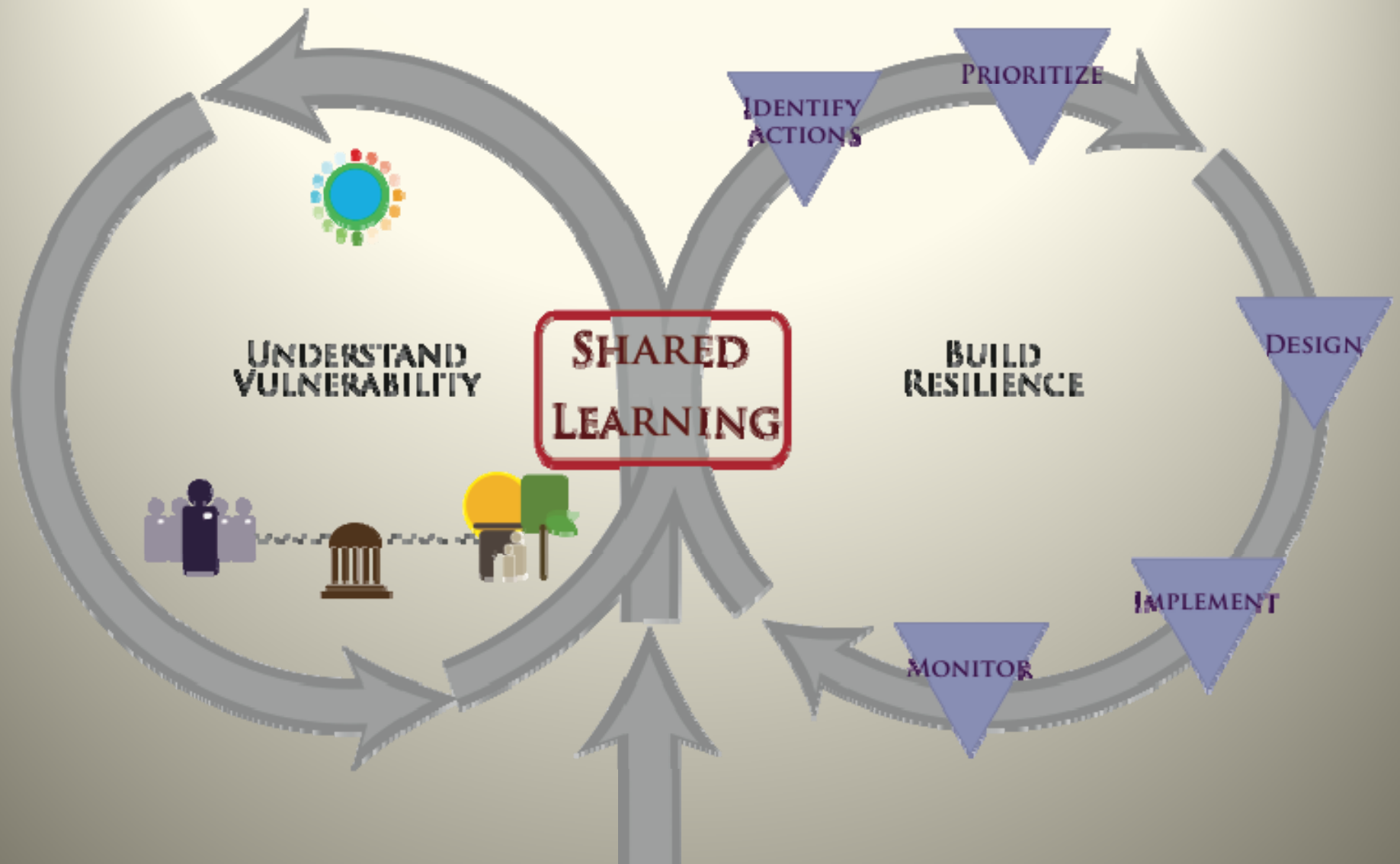


ACCCRN: climate science mostly absent from planning process

- Cities were limited by data deficiencies, but not paralyzed
- Shared Learning Dialogue
- Start from current climate vulnerabilities
- Focused on *resilience* of systems and people
- Priority measures included awareness and information gathering, no-regrets investments



Climate Resilience Planning

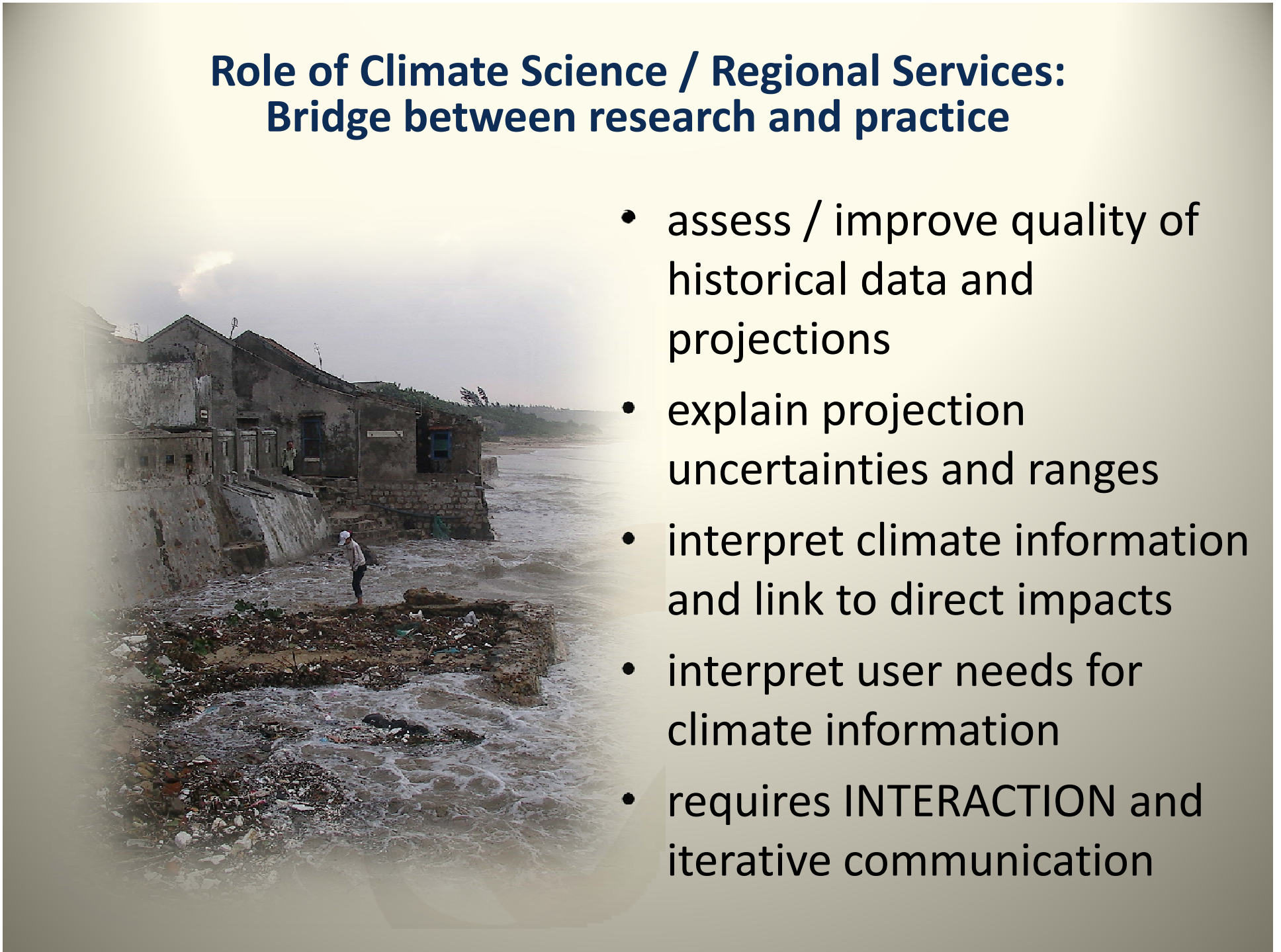


The climate communication challenge

- Scientists see the problem mostly as improving quality of models, data and projections
- Users see the problem as *relevance* of data
- Neither able to identify strategic issues *on their own*
- Improvements in climate data and emission scenarios led by a small group of scientific institutes
- Adaptation will be essential but must be undertaken locally and contextually: communication essential
- Climate change is the stimulus for adaptation, but NOT the key factor in decision making

Role of Climate Science / Regional Services: Bridge between research and practice

- assess / improve quality of historical data and projections
- explain projection uncertainties and ranges
- interpret climate information and link to direct impacts
- interpret user needs for climate information
- requires INTERACTION and iterative communication





For more information, please visit:
www.i-s-e-t.org | www.acccrn.org

Stephen Tyler: adaptive@telus.net
Sarah Opitz-Stapleton: sstaplets@gmail.com

