



## Adaptation to climate change: engaging the private sector

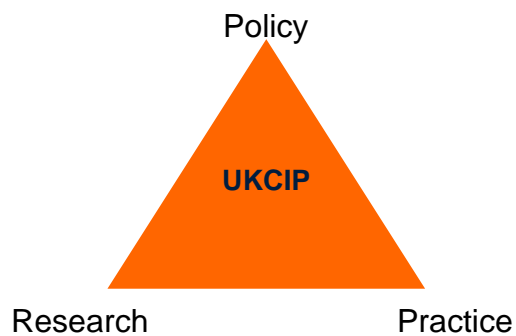
A reflection on practice



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UKCIP.

## About UKCIP



- UKCIP is a boundary organisation
- Working on adaptation since 1997, working with businesses since 2005
- 350+ businesses known to have used our tools



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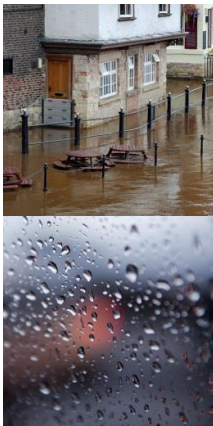
## Why engage the private sector in adaptation?

- Failure to adapt private sector will have wider societal impacts (economic, social and environmental)
  - Failure to adapt business practices may lead to systemic failures
- Private sector plays a key role in many investments critical to adaptation (e.g. building design, infrastructure, service delivery)
- Engagement can mobilise financial resources and technical capabilities
- It can catalyse innovation and create business **opportunities**
- It can leverage the efforts of governments and communities
- Businesses manage risk on a daily basis



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## Engaging business can be difficult



- Other priorities and risks
- Short-termism (especially difficult for SMEs)
- 'Investing to save' is not a priority
- Different capacities to affect change (premises, supply chains, access to finance)
- Confusion with mitigation when the 'climate change' term is used



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# 1) Direct engagement with businesses

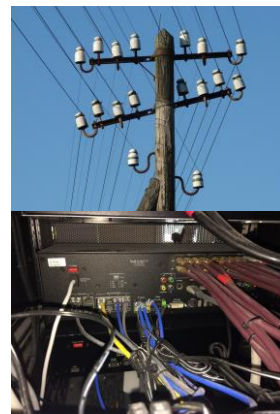
- Not easy – ‘working with the willing’
- Often larger companies (capacity and planning for longer term)
  - But don’t forget individual entrepreneurs!
- Link to existing risk management approaches
- Often requires internal champions and high level buy-in
- Need to make it meaningful for different roles within an organisation
- Tools for private sector e.g. UKCIP’s BACLIAT (Business Areas Climate Impact Assessment Tool)
- Living labs to bring together science and practice = solutions



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## Example 1: Communications company

- UKCIP helped a major communications company with adaptation planning
- Drivers for engagement and action included
  - Extreme weather (recent events)
  - Business continuity
  - Regulatory pressure (risk of fines)
  - Reputational risk
- Large company, thinking both shorter and longer term



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## 2) Engaging intermediary organisations

- Business-facing organisations
  - Trade bodies, sectoral organisations, business support organisations, professional bodies, national/regional/local
- Trusted sources
- Speak the same language – can tailor resources
- Extensive reach
- Set professional standards



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### Example 2: CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers)

- Have incorporated climate change adaptation considerations into their technical guidance
- Provide advice to help build to capacity of their members to adapt to climate change
- Funded a research project of climate change and the indoor environment
- Worked with UKCIP to set up a Knowledge Transfer Partnership
- Drivers for engagement and action:
  - Serve membership – “act as a well-informed and trusted source of information and guidance to our members”



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### 3) Sectoral approaches to engagement

- Coherent and focussed
- Can span supply chains (empowering adaptation at different levels)
- International dimension can improve knowledge sharing
- In isolation, can overlook interdependencies and regional variations



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### Example 3: Coffee and Climate

- UKCIP helped to develop training resources to help smallholder coffee farmers to adapt to climate change in Brazil, Tanzania, Central America and Vietnam.
- Implemented by the **coffee and climate** initiative (funded by major companies in the coffee sector)
- Drivers for engagement and action included:
  - Risks to global supply chain
  - Business models based on medium term relationships
  - Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)



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## Key messages

- Drivers and motivations for engagement differ
- Do not think of the private sector in isolation from communities and government
- Engage where engagement is needed – not everyone needs to adapt to everything
- Direct engagement is not the only option
  - Make use of intermediary bodies to tailor messages and increase relevance
- Recognise the strengths of the private sector in managing risks
- Exploit opportunities to do things smarter and better



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**Thank you for listening!**



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