

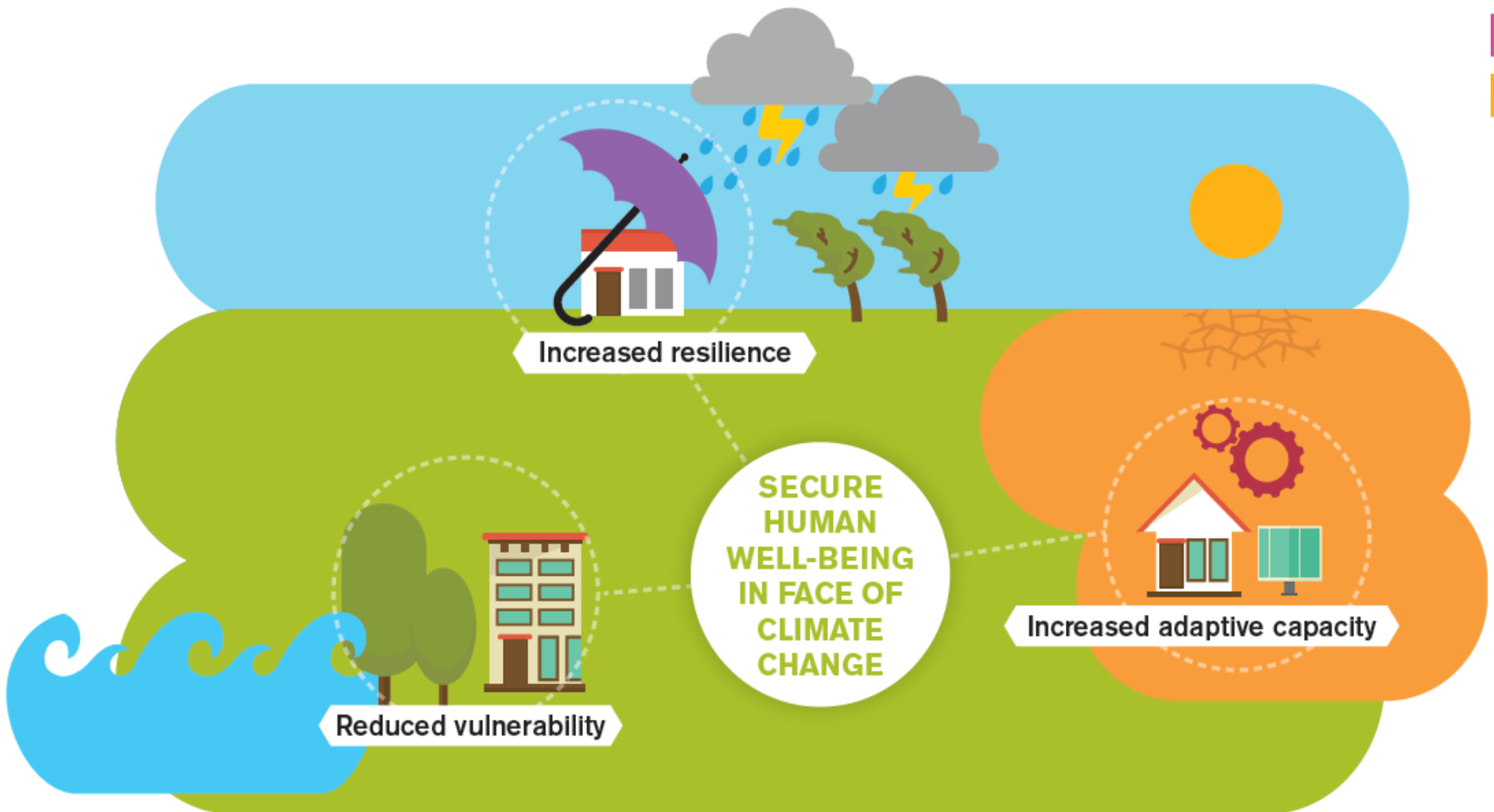
# The Global Challenges in Adaptation MEL & the Importance of National Systems

[barry.smith@iied.org](mailto:barry.smith@iied.org)

# Outline

- What constitutes adaptation success?
- Why undertake adaptation MEL?
- Global challenges for adaptation MEL
- How can we address those challenges?
- The importance of national systems – brief country examples

# What constitutes adaptation 'success'?



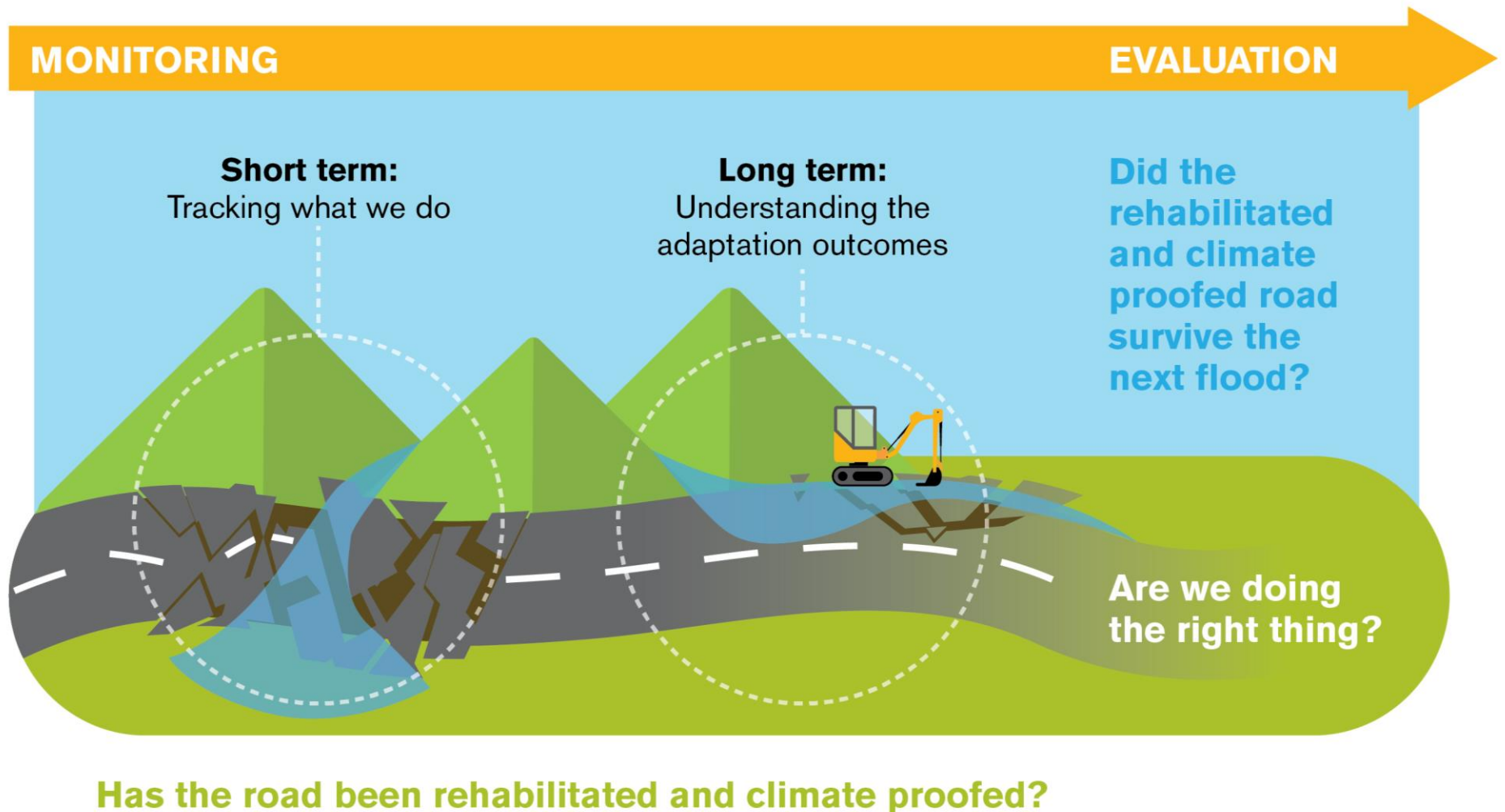
# Defining key terms

**Adaptation?** The ability of a system to adjust to climate change

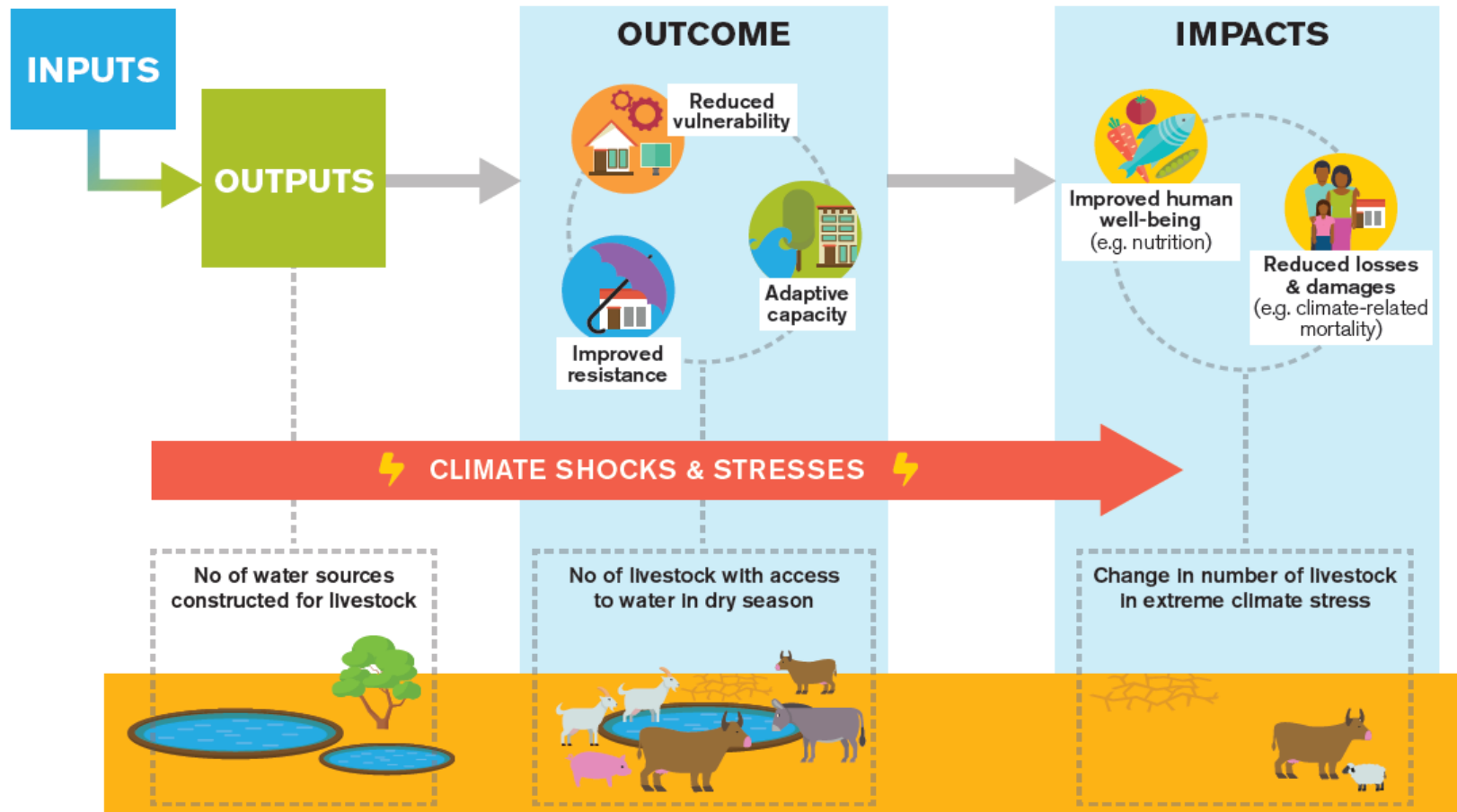
**Resilience?** Capacity of a system to cope with a hazardous event by responding in ways that maintains its essential function

**Vulnerability?** The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected

# Monitoring of outputs vs Monitoring & evaluation & learning of outcomes



# A 'global' view of adaptation outcomes & impacts



Based on theory of change for DFID BRACED programme

# Why undertake adaptation MEL



Adaptation M&E can support the ongoing **management** of adaptation interventions by assessing progress and pointing out needs for adjustments



Adaptation M&E can also support **learning and exchange** about what works well and what does not, thereby helping to improve adaptation actions



Adaptation M&E can also provide **accountability** to citizen as well as to funder by demonstrating results



M&E systems can help to gather information that is relevant for provisions of the **Paris Agreement** such as the **transparency framework** or the **Global Stocktake and the adaptation goal**



# Benefits of adaptation MEL



Good Monitoring & Evaluation informs policies plans, strategies and programmes, enables accountability and is a feedstock for learning



Social learning from M&E evidence can shape better future investments



MEL supports reporting of delivery and learning on effectiveness, and it provides evidence for benchmarking that increases the effectiveness of planning and implementation at sub- and national scales



MEL systems facilitate better internal planning and policy development and to do so they should be developed at the beginning of the cycle, not the end



Assessing sub national community based outcomes and linking them up with National M&E will inform better national planning while ensuring downward accountability



Adaptation MEL contributes to national development M&E, and monitoring SDG achievement in context of climate risks can both inform on adaptation needs and where adaptation supports SDG targets



# Measuring adaptation not straightforward

**“Current results frameworks on resilience are not outcome-oriented and risk emphasising spending over results.”**

*Independent Evaluation Group of the World Bank  
(IEG, 2013)*

# MEL challenges

## CHALLENGES IN MEASURING PROGRESS



No single  
metric



Uncertainty and  
complexity



Long term  
horizon



Context  
specificity

## OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES



Multiple  
reporting  
requirements  
and lack of  
MEL capacities



Connecting,  
but not  
substituting,  
frameworks



Indicators and  
comparability

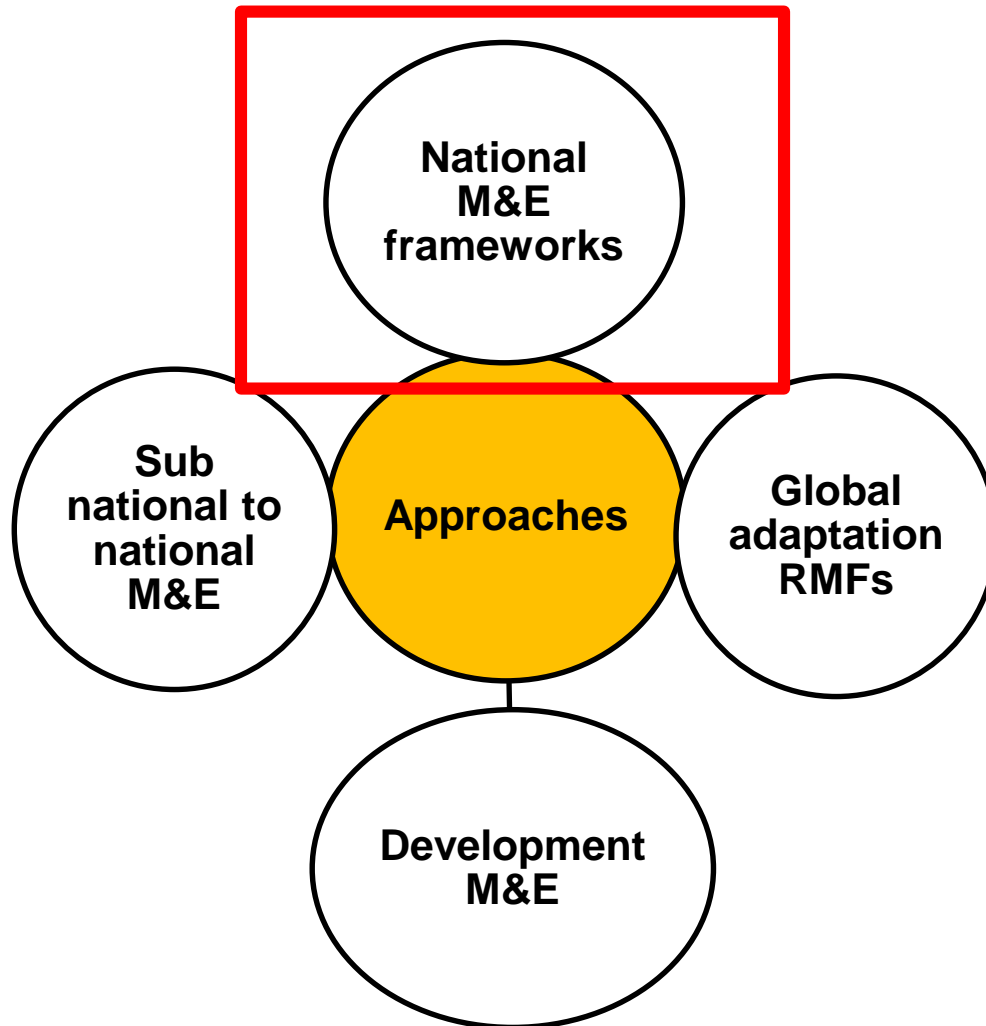


Financing and  
sustaining  
MEL within  
country  
systems



Coordinating  
MEL and data  
collection  
across  
ministries

# National MEL is critical

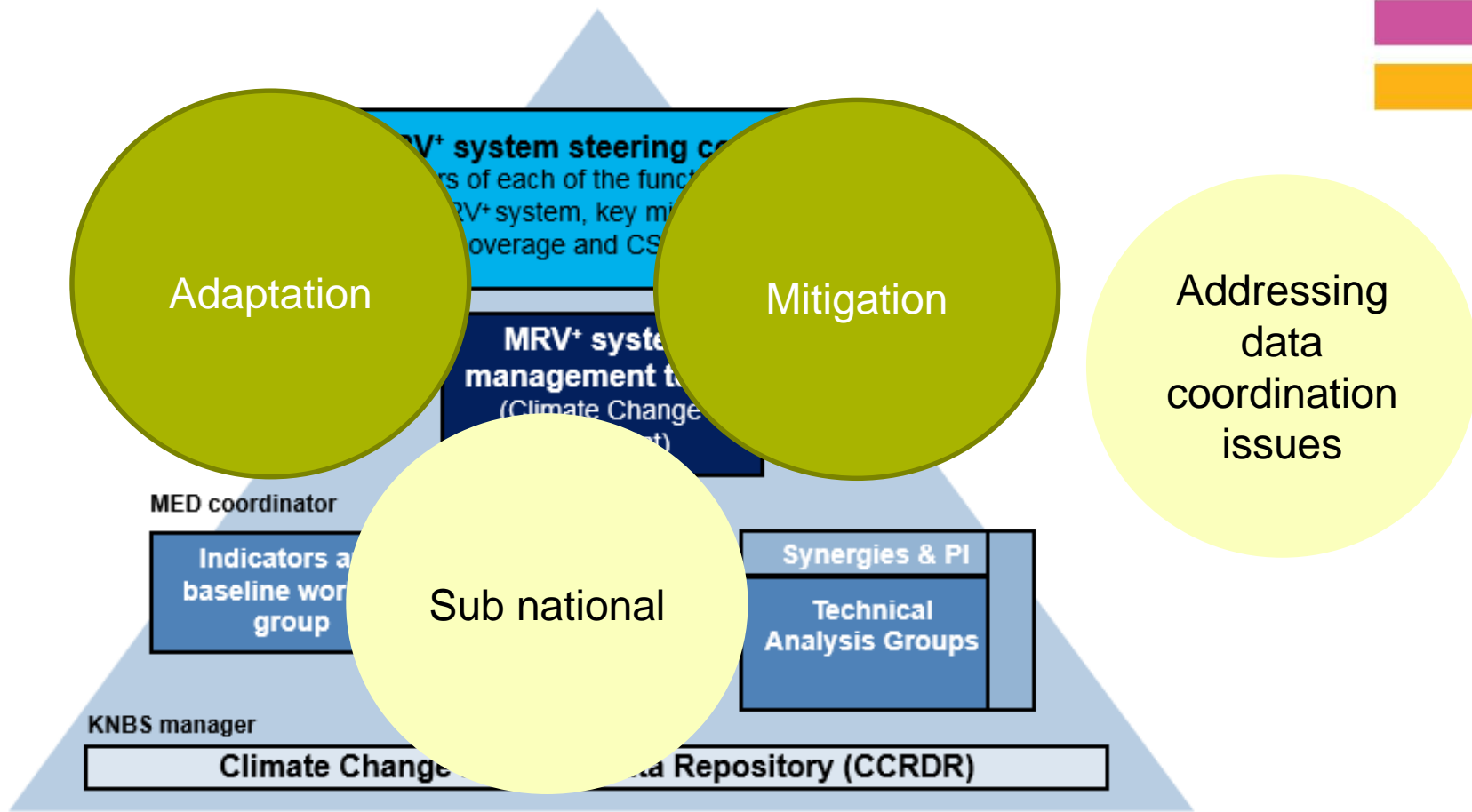


# Kenya: addressing challenges

- Conjoined layers of M&E by integrating: adaptation and mitigation (MRV+)
- Data coordination – by obligatory decree, statute and centralised repository
- Sub-national to national aggregation

# Avoiding layers of M&E by integrating: MRV+ in Kenya

## Kenya's Climate Change Action Plan

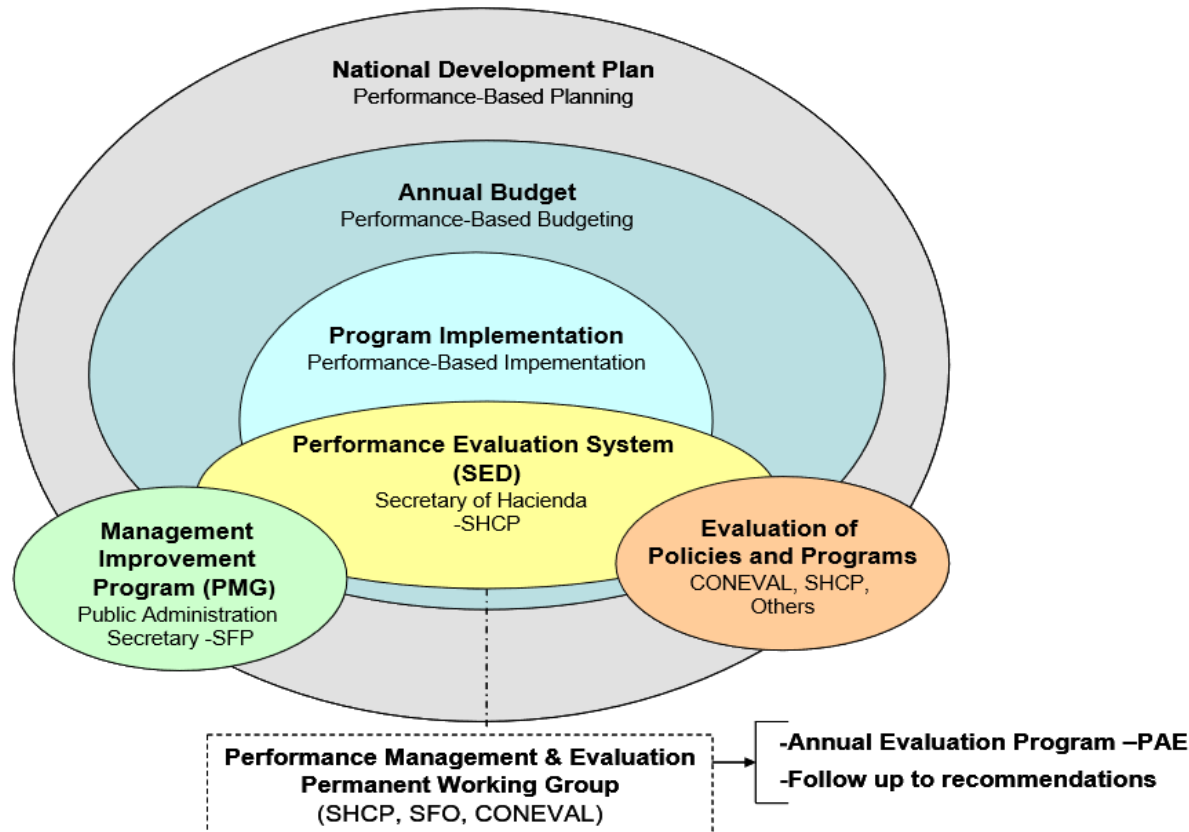


# Mexico: addressing challenges

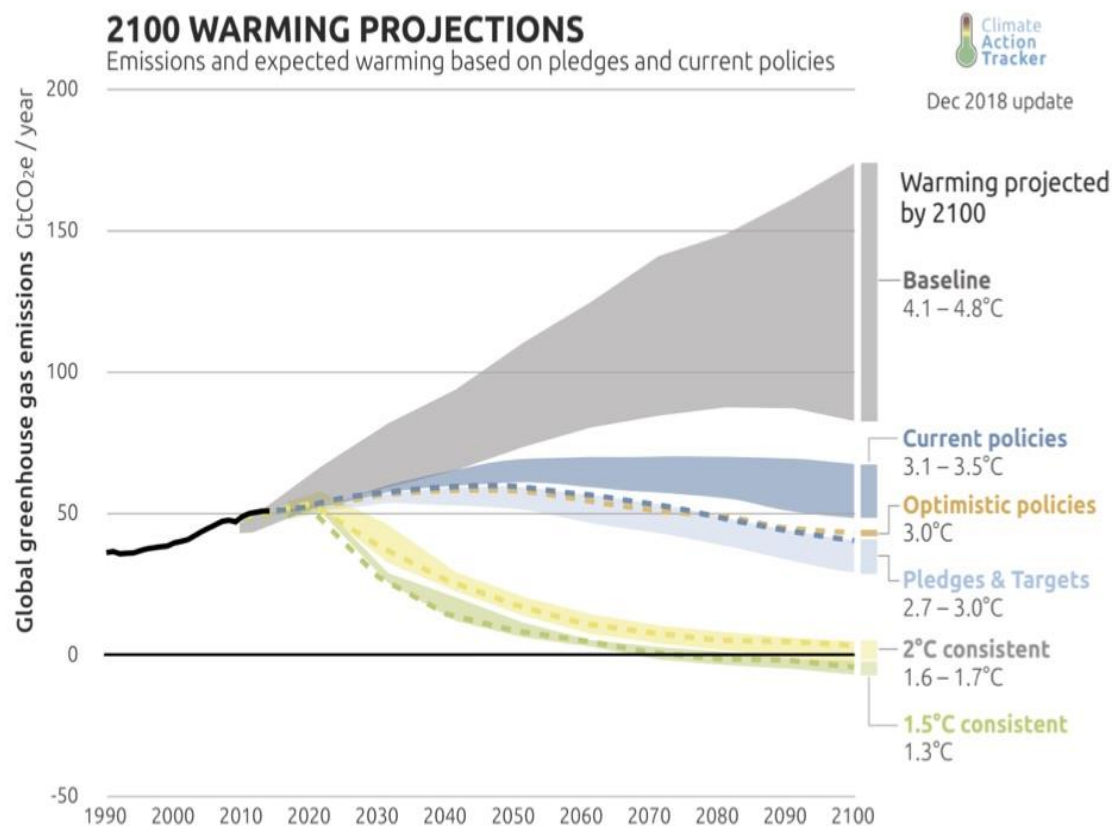
- Linking adaptation performance with development outcomes
- Sustaining M&E systems by dedicated financing for an independent body
- Scaling up from the sectoral to the national level



# Mexico's established national M&E system



# Final Thought: what should countries be adapting to?



- Article 7 of Paris Agreement specifies “adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal [of 1.5°C-2°C] referred to in Article 2.”
- But current NDC policies likely to result in ~3.3 °C warming by 2100
- **Adaptation M&E/MEL systems must operate in this context, e.g. is adaptation adequate?**

# Thank you!

Barry Smith

[barry.smith@iied.org](mailto:barry.smith@iied.org)