



Climate change adaptation on the policy agenda

- how did we get here and what are the next steps?

ASTRA Final Conference
Espoo, 10-11.12.2007

Lasse Peltonen
Centre for Urban and Regional Studies
Helsinki University of Technology

New phase in the climate debate



- ≡ "Attention is now shifting from arguments over whether the world is warming to what should be done about it."
(Comment in *Nature* on the IPCC 4 Assessment report, April 12, 2007)

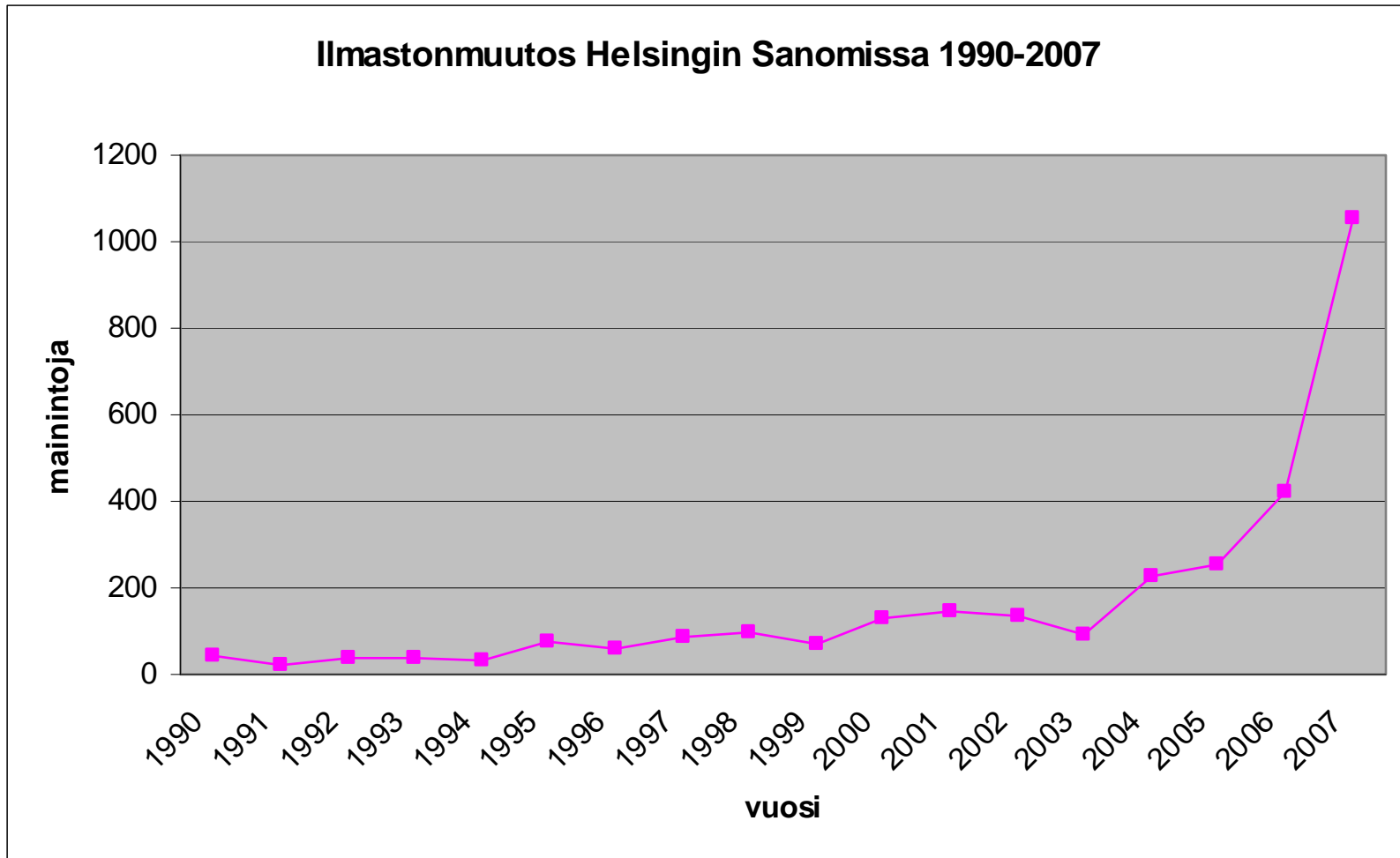
IPCC 4AR on adaptation:



- ≡ Irrespective of the scale of mitigation measures, adaptation measures are necessary
- ≡ A wide array of adaptation options is available, but more extensive adaptation than is currently occurring is required to reduce vulnerability to climate change. There are barriers, limits and costs, which are not fully understood.
- ≡ Adaptive capacity is intimately connected to social and economic development but is unevenly distributed across and within societies.

(IPCC AR4 Summary for policymakers, 2007)

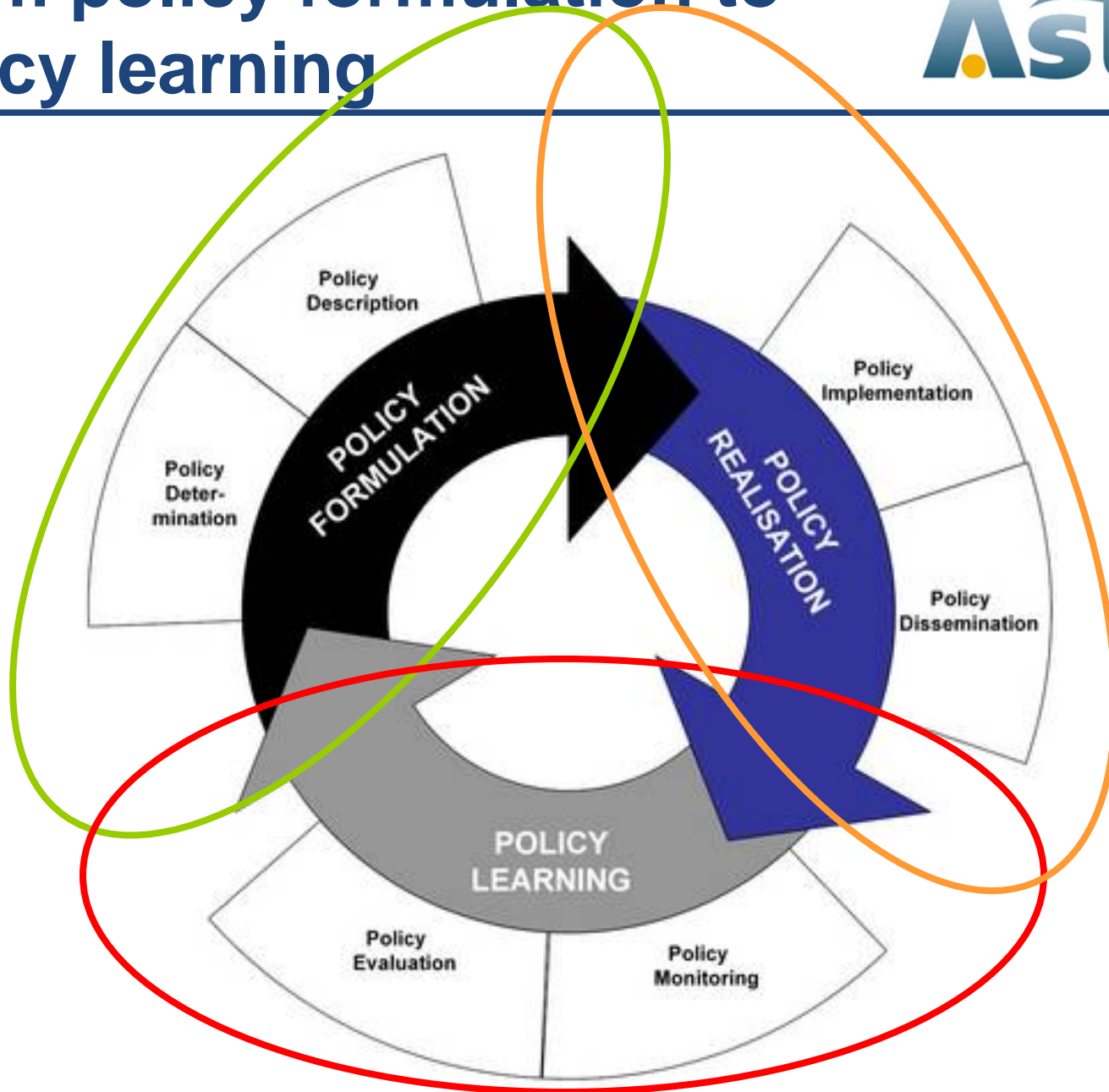
Hockey stick curve of CC attention



ASTRA experiences

- ⇒ Stakeholders and policy focus is on climate change mitigation, adaptation remains relatively unknown
 - ⇒ Examples of sectoral policies exist related to climate variability (e.g. water, forestry)
 - ⇒ Actions at national level are taking place (e.g. Finland, Denmark, Germany) and EU policy is pushing national governments forward (WFD, Floods Directive)
 - ⇒ Lack of concrete, local action, clear guidelines, money and knowledge
- Cause for a humble attitude!
- Government or governance?

From policy formulation to policy learning



Next steps: a top ten wishlist



1. Concrete and determined implementation measures – responding to the challenge of uncertainty boundaries
2. Costing adaptation measures – what does it cost
3. Funding mechanisms for adaptation measures – who will pay?
4. Integration: across sectors, with a regional perspective, integrating climate change impacts to patterns of societal change
5. Continued need for government action, but also engaging new groups of actors (public and private), also geographic reach
6. Methods for accommodating conflicting goals: conflict assessment and conflict management
7. Better combination of adaptation and mitigation
8. Monitoring and evaluation of adaptive actions – periodical review?
9. Securing & maintaining and up-to-date knowledge base and providing a easy-to-use interface for practitioners
10. Enhanced dialogue between practitioners and researchers

Integration

- ≡ "Climate-proofing", "mainstreaming"
- ≡ E.g. National review of legislation and policy guidelines by the Finnish MoE (land use, nature conservation, waste management) in 2007
- ≡ "A systematic check of how climate change is going to impact on all Community policy areas and legislation should be conducted by 2009 and followed up with further concrete action." (EU Green Paper on Adaptation)



Dealing with conflicting goals

- ≡ Comprehensive methods needed to address problems arising from the "mainstreaming" approach
- ≡ Cost-benefit analysis needs to be embedded in a broader debate: multiple criteria for sound adaptation measures
- ≡ Principles of communicative & participatory planning



Costing and Funding

- ≡ Costing needs to be done both at micro and macro levels, multi-criteria, short-, mid- and long-term
- ≡ Public and private funding – what resources are available for adaptation? Varying local patterns.
- ≡ Insurance & solidarity mechanisms
- ≡ "Integrate adaptation into existing Community funding programmes." (EU Green paper on adaptation)
- ≡ "It is also essential that agreement is reached on how the Kyoto Protocol's Adaptation Fund is managed so that the Fund can begin financing real adaptation projects" (UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, 3 dec 2007)



Knowledge base and dialogue



- ≡ Encouraging experience from both SEAREG and ASTRA projects
- ≡ Dialogue between researchers and practitioners is vital for successful adaptation
- ≡ Need for 'packaging' research into practical tools
- ≡ The need dialogue is continuous, due to new research results and changing decision-making settings
- ≡ E.g. Finland: new platforms: Climate change communications programme, Ministry of Justice democracy programme tackling climate change?

Thank you!



Lasse Peltonen
Centre for Urban and Regional Studies
P.O.Box 9300,
02015 Helsinki University of Technology

Tel. +358-9-4514082

Fax. +358-9-4514071

lasse.peltonen@tkk.fi

<http://www.tkk.fi/Units/Separate/YTK/index.html>