

CIRCLE-2 Joint Initiative on Climate Uncertainties

Guidance on dealing with and communicating climate and climate change uncertainties in support of adaptation decision-making

One of the main goals of the [Joint Initiative on Climate Uncertainties](#) is to publish a Guide on how to deal with uncertainty in adaptation decision-making (including policy-making) that is able to provide practical case-study examples where dealing with uncertainties was successfully accounted for (or identified but failed).

In order to achieve this goal various requests were sent out calling for the submission of case-studies. So far, 16 case-studies have been received.

Case-studies were submitted by organisations who have been working with uncertainty issues in climate change adaptation. The information relating to their experience in this issue was collected in a reporting template.

Organisations interested in participating were asked to fill out a specific set of mandatory questions that will be used to compare and select the case-studies that are most suited to be included in the final guidance. The selection process is expected to be completed by the end of July of 2012. Authors of selected case-studies will then be asked to fill out the remaining items of the reporting template.

In the next pages we present a simple set of information relating to the case-studies received so far (e.g., origins of case-studies; sectors considered; methods used to deal with uncertainty; etc.)

According to Figure 1, the United Kingdom is the country with the largest number of case-studies submitted (3). Austria, Portugal, Spain and Sweden follow quickly after with two case-studies submitted by country. The remainder of the countries represented have submitted one case-study.

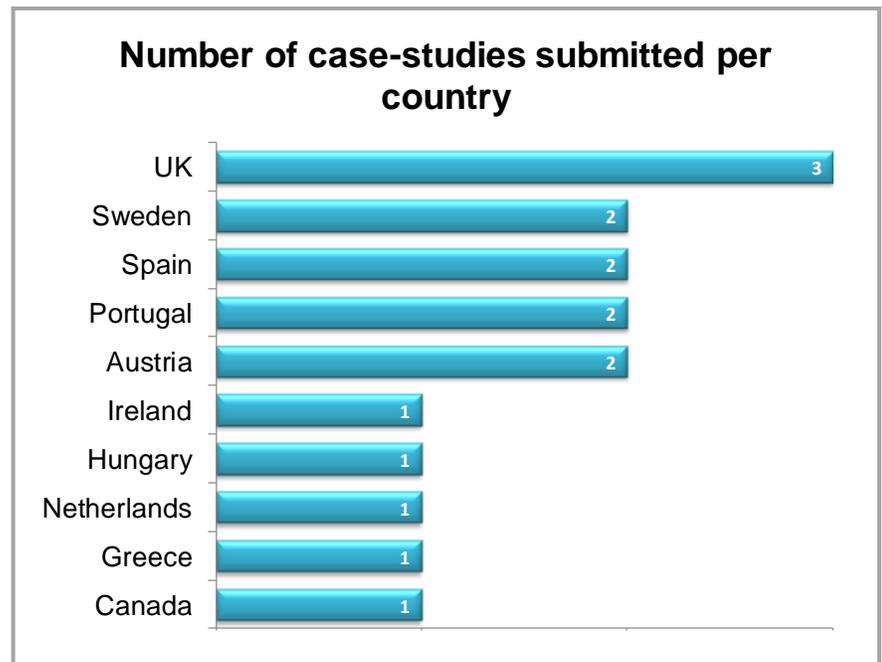


Figure 1 – Number of case-studies submitted per country.

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The case-study reporting template also asked authors submitting case-studies to signal sector policies dealt with. Figure 2 illustrates the ‘weight’ of each sector in the case-studies received to date. As was the case above, where case-studies could deal with one or more types of decision-makers, case-studies reported could deal with one or more particular sector. Among the 16 case-studies reported, the water management sector is the sector most signaled suggesting that this sector has more work related to dealing with and communicating uncertainties in support of adaptation decision-making.

Submitting authors were also asked to signal which methods they used to deal with the types of uncertainties identified. Observing Figure 3, one can extract that stakeholder involvement

was the most used approach when dealing with uncertainties in climate change adaptation decision-making. In the future, it will be interesting to analyse what methods were most used for each different type of uncertainty identified.

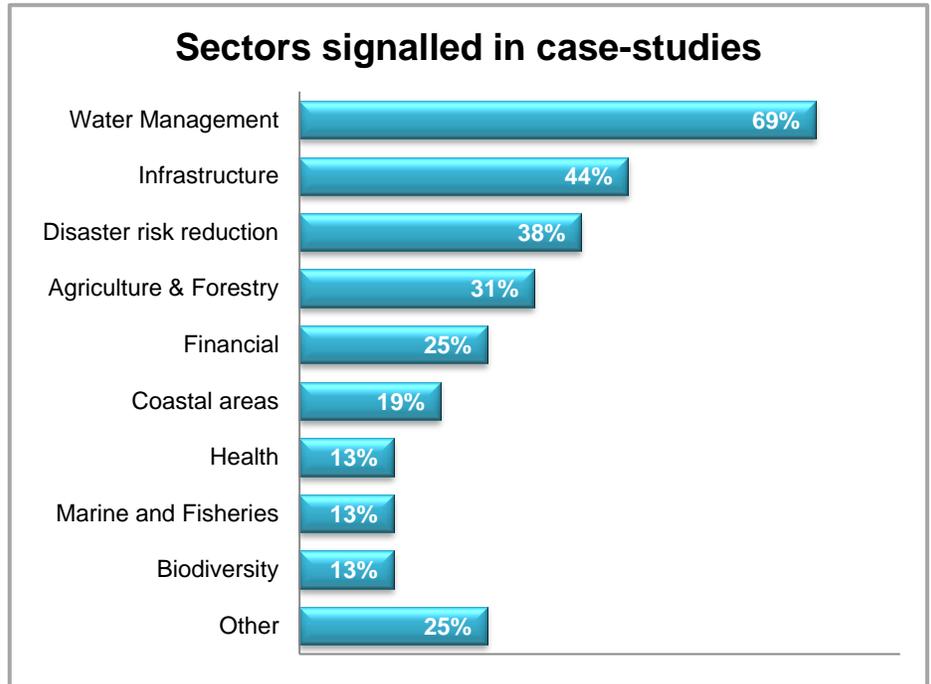


Figure 2 – Sectors signalled in case-studies reported.

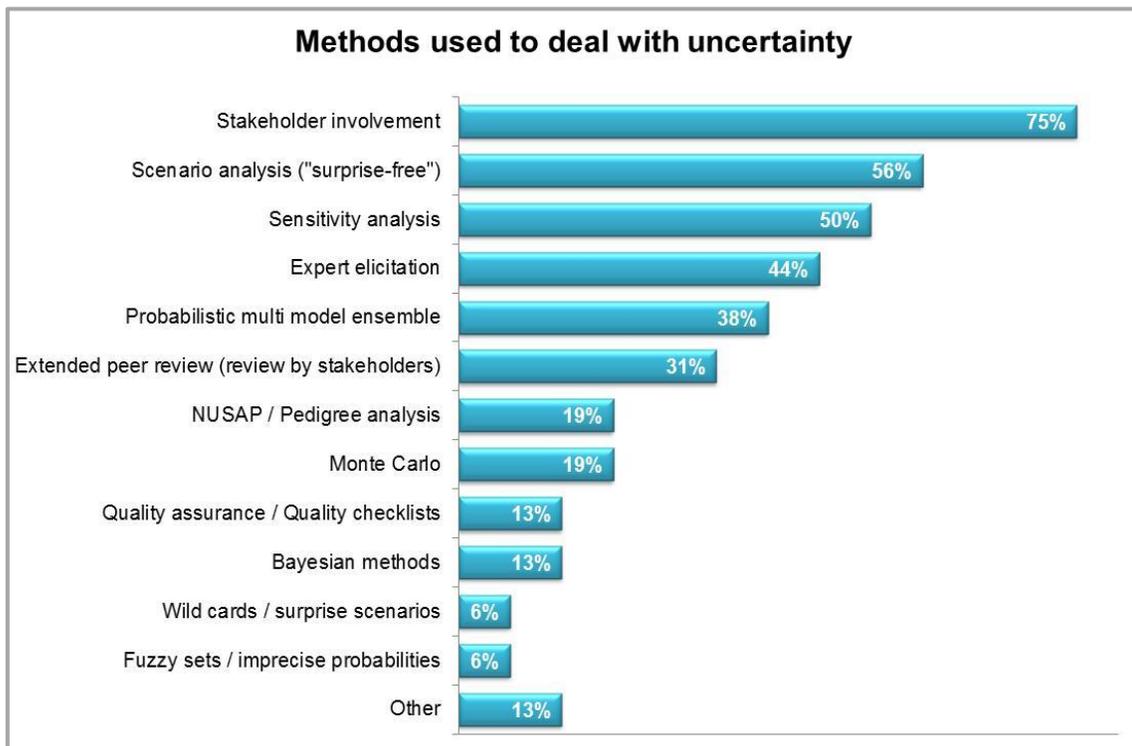


Figure 3 – Methods signalled as being used to deal with uncertainty.

Workshop on Uncertainty and Climate Change Adaptation

Call for Papers

One of the main goals of this event is to promote discussion and contribute with scientific insight by calling for the submission of abstracts that respond to the following question:

How do decision-making processes on climate change adaptation, at the multi-decadal timescale, envision the future and deal with related uncertainties?

Participation is open to all actors (e.g., scientific and communication experts; policy analysts; decision-makers; modellers; economists; etc.) working in the field of uncertainties in climate and climate change adaptation. In order to take part in the workshop, participants must submit an abstract of up to 3 000 characters, including spaces, on the [online submission form](#), by no later than June 1st 2012. After submission, abstracts will be analysed and selected, until June 15th 2012. If selected, authors will be invited to present a full paper by September 21st 2012, to be discussed in Lisbon during November 8th and 9th of 2012. Selected papers will be part of a Special Issue to be submitted to peer-reviewed journal by April 2013.

[For more information on the workshop click here.](#)

Figure 4 provides refers to the types of decision-makers involved (e.g., public, private, state-owned and non-profit organisations) in each case-study. For each case-study, more than one type of decision-maker could be involved. According to this figure, the entities belonging to the public sector are the most represented type of decision-makers (75% of case-studies dealt with decision-making public organisations), suggesting that dealing with and communicating uncertainties in climate and climate change adaptation decision-making processes are mainly lead by government initiatives.

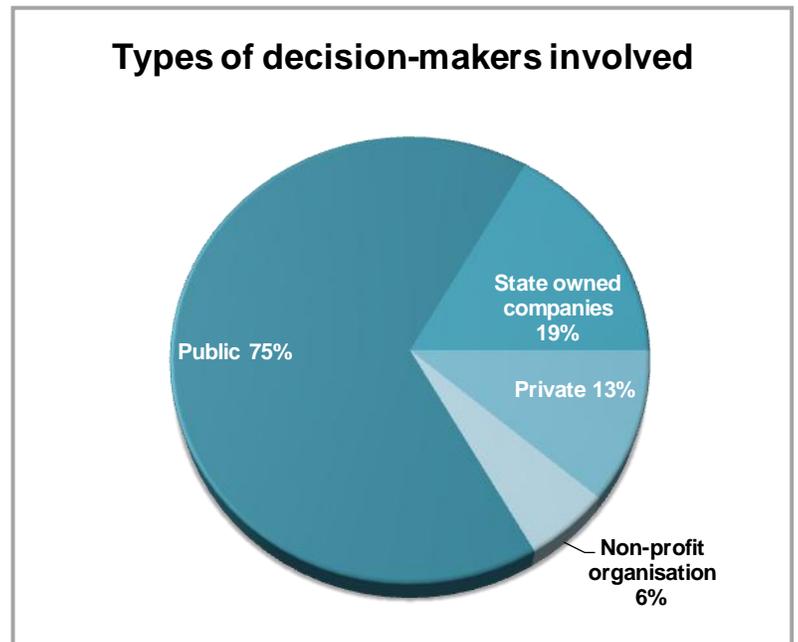


Figure 4 – Types of decision-makers involved in case-studies submitted.