

From planning to practice: Development of a UK Adaptation Inventory

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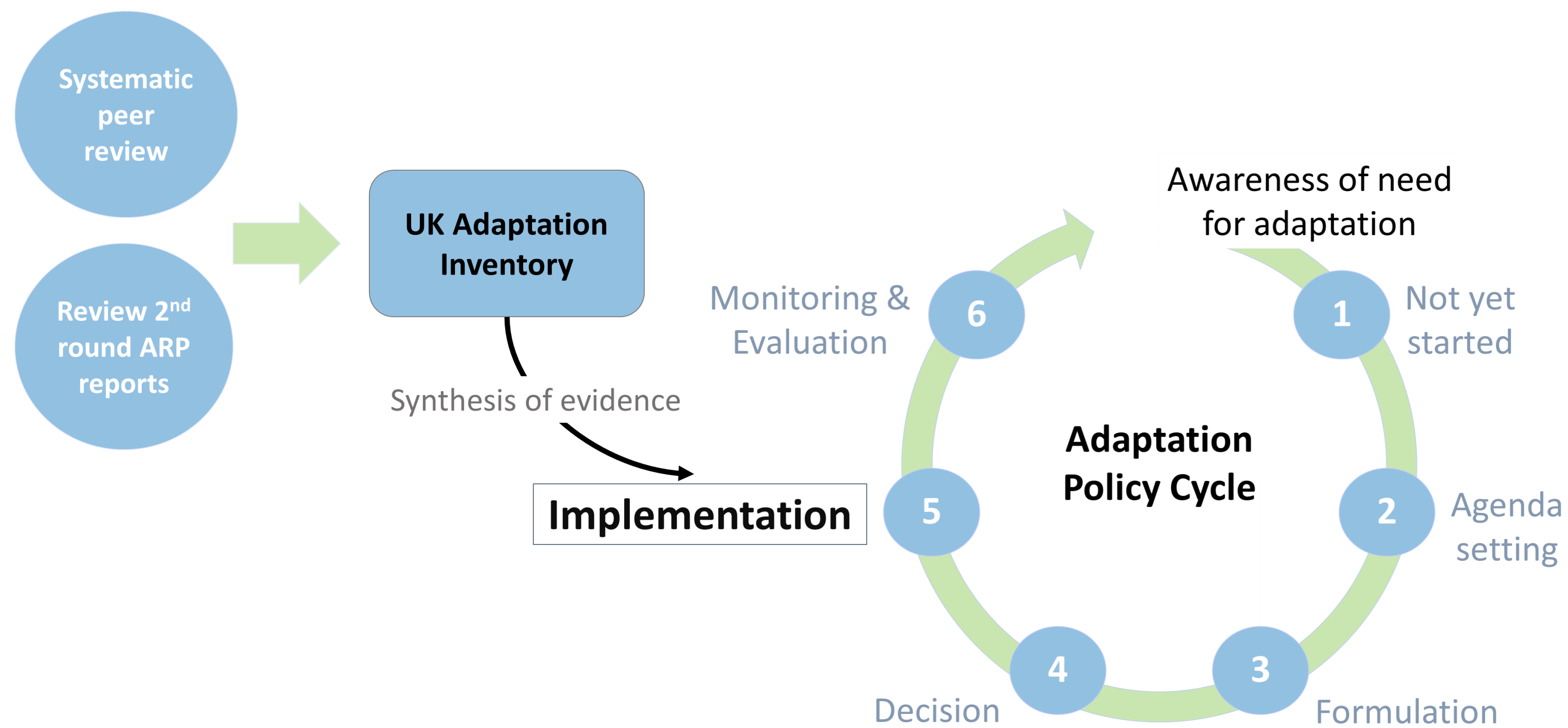
INTRODUCTION

Adaptation plays a crucial role in managing the unavoidable risks from climate change. The UK is considered one of the countries at the forefront of adaptation planning. However, to what extent do such plans translate into implementation of tangible risk reducing action ‘on the ground’?

Very few assessments of adaptation focus on the practical process of implementation and the effect of adaptation actions, versus those discussing concepts, strategies, and plans themselves. To identify *if* adaptation planning is translating into practical action; *how* it is being implemented in terms of the types of adaptation actions and the sectors *where* adaptation is occurring an up-to-date and forward-looking UK Adaptation Inventory has been created.

METHOD

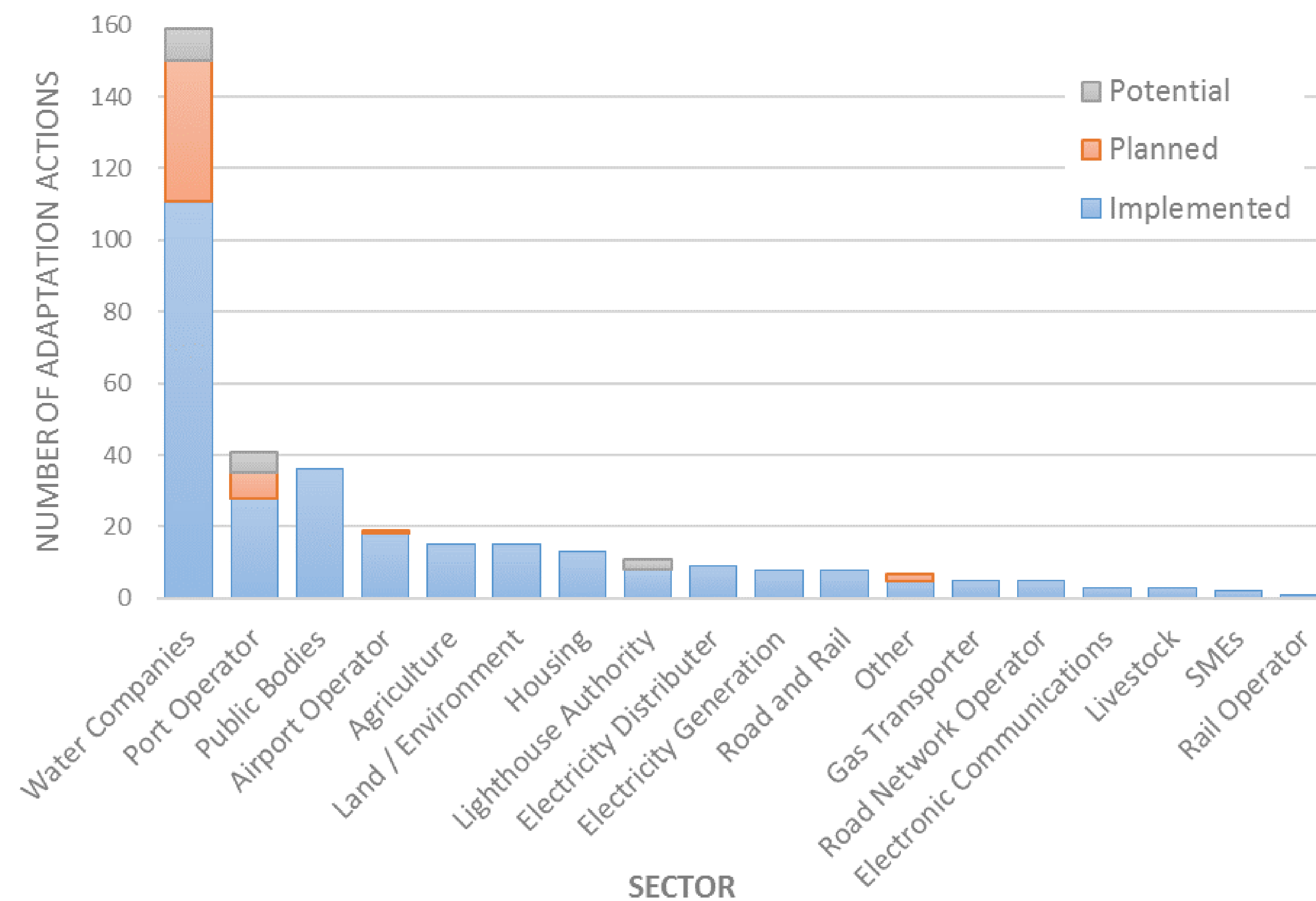
The Inventory documents information on each adaptation action identified as being implemented on the ground. Evidence is based on reports submitted under the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP), by public and private sector organisations, and a systematic review of peer-reviewed literature.



Adaptation ‘*on the ground*’ is defined here as delivering practical actions that reflect a tangible change in response on the ground, compared to building adaptive capacity.

KEY FINDINGS

In total, 360 examples of adaptation were identified and included in the Adaptation Inventory. Contrary to earlier reviews, the Inventory highlights clear evidence of a wide range of cross sectoral and sector specific types of adaptation being implemented on the ground in the past decade in the UK.



-  Covers 134 different types of adaptation action
-  18 sector categories
-  15 climate related hazard/events
-  20 risk categories

For the sub-set of sectors captured, adaptation actions were mainly targeted to reducing vulnerability using engineered and built environment, technological and ecosystem-based approaches. However, within and across sectors, organisations are clearly at different stages of the adaptation cycle.

The Inventory also highlights where there is less evidence of translating planning into practice in some sectors; limited reporting of identified or anticipated benefits of actions implemented; and limited reporting of challenges or barriers to implementation that may have been faced or overcome.

CONCLUSIONS

The Inventory can help disseminate information on types of action that are technically, economically, and politically feasible to a wide audience. Providing a clear understanding of what adaptation is happening in practice, where, and by who, will also be an important pre-cursor to adaptation monitoring and evaluation.

For further details see: Jenkins et al. (2022) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.crm.2022.100430> and the online tool at https://www.nismod.ac.uk/openclim/adaptation_inventory