

ICTs, Adaptation to Climate Change and Sustainable Development at the Margins

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ITU Climate Change Symposium
London, 17-18 June 2008

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~~Edges~~

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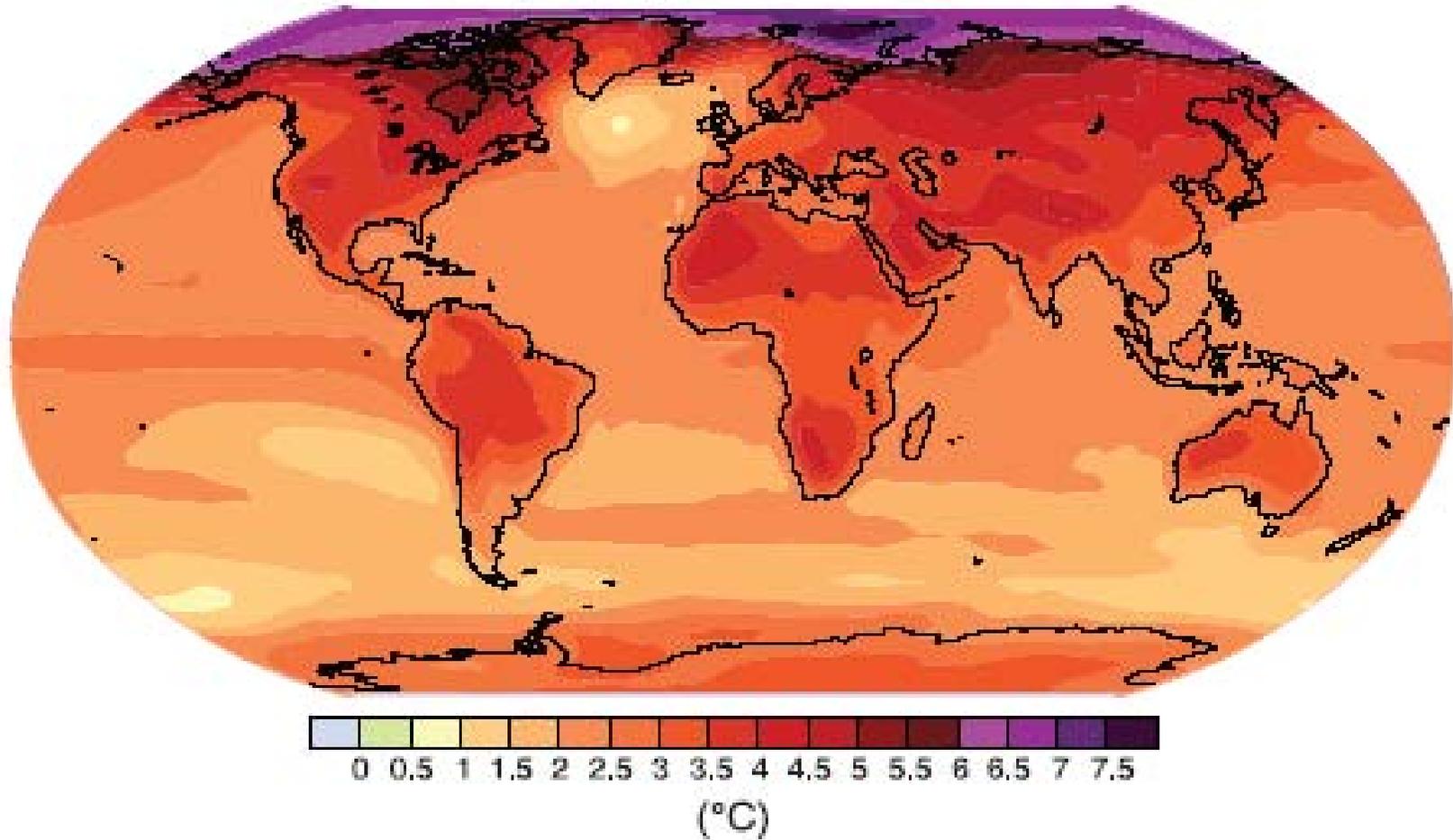
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Adaptation to Climate Change

“Adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.”

- *UNFCCC Glossary*

Projected Surface Temperature Changes for 2090-99

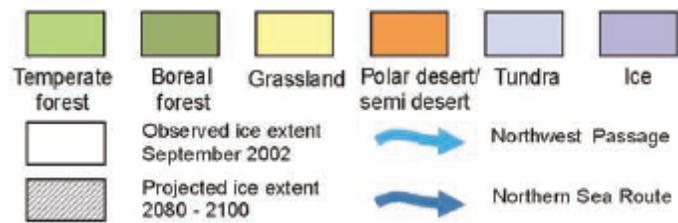
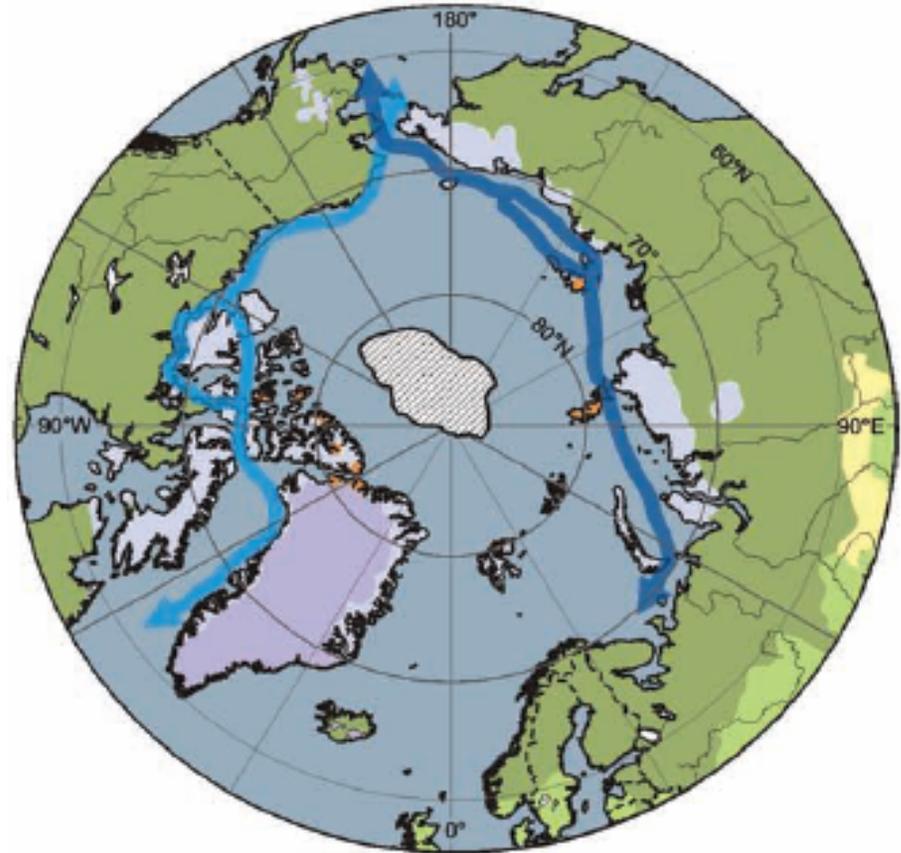
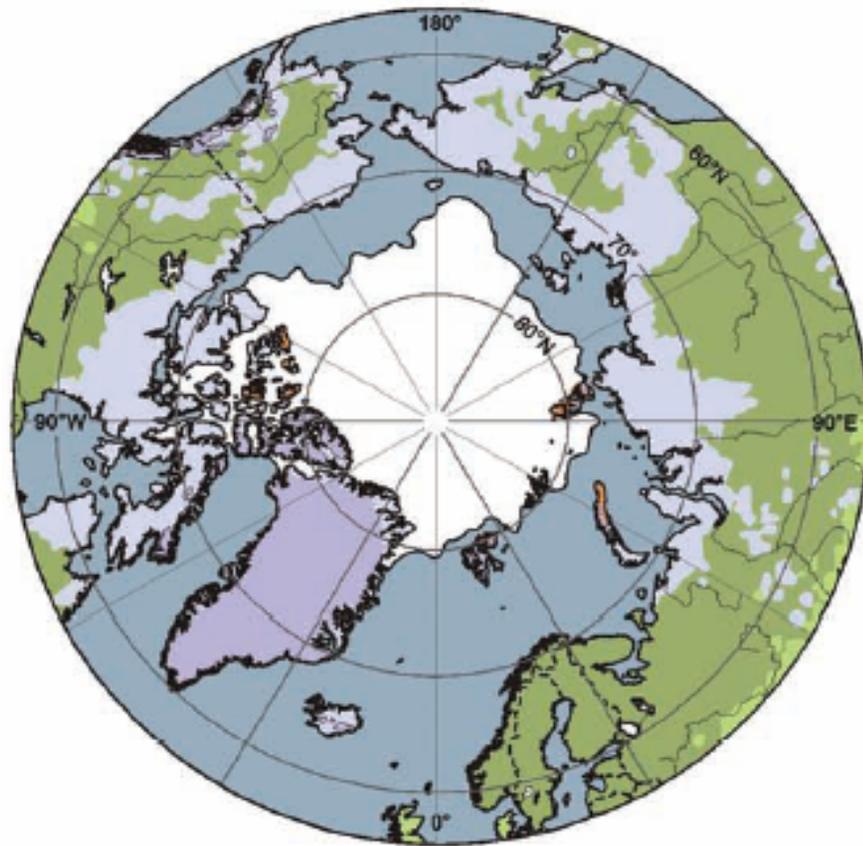


10 June 08 - presentation version

Source: IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report*

Current Arctic Conditions

Projected Arctic Conditions



Source: IPCC, *Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability*.

Adaptation Threats and Opportunities: Arctic Examples

- International
 - Melting of ice cover and permafrost
 - Resource ownership and exploitation
 - Territorial boundaries

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 - Security and inclusion of northern peoples
- Local
 - Social adaptation
 - Preservation and application of traditional knowledge

Adaptation and ICTs

- IISD climate change research suggests successful adaptation requires
 - Top-down approaches
 - Bottom-up approaches
 - New governance mechanisms

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- IISD information society research suggests ICTs can help
 - As tools in each of these areas (direct effects)
 - As new media for communication, cooperation, and coordination (indirect effects)
 - As enablers of “networked governance” - new forms of economic and social organization and decision-making (systemic effects)

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ICT Linkages

- Scientific research and modelling
- Emergency warning and relief
- Monitoring and control

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- Intelligent infrastructure
- E-government and e-services

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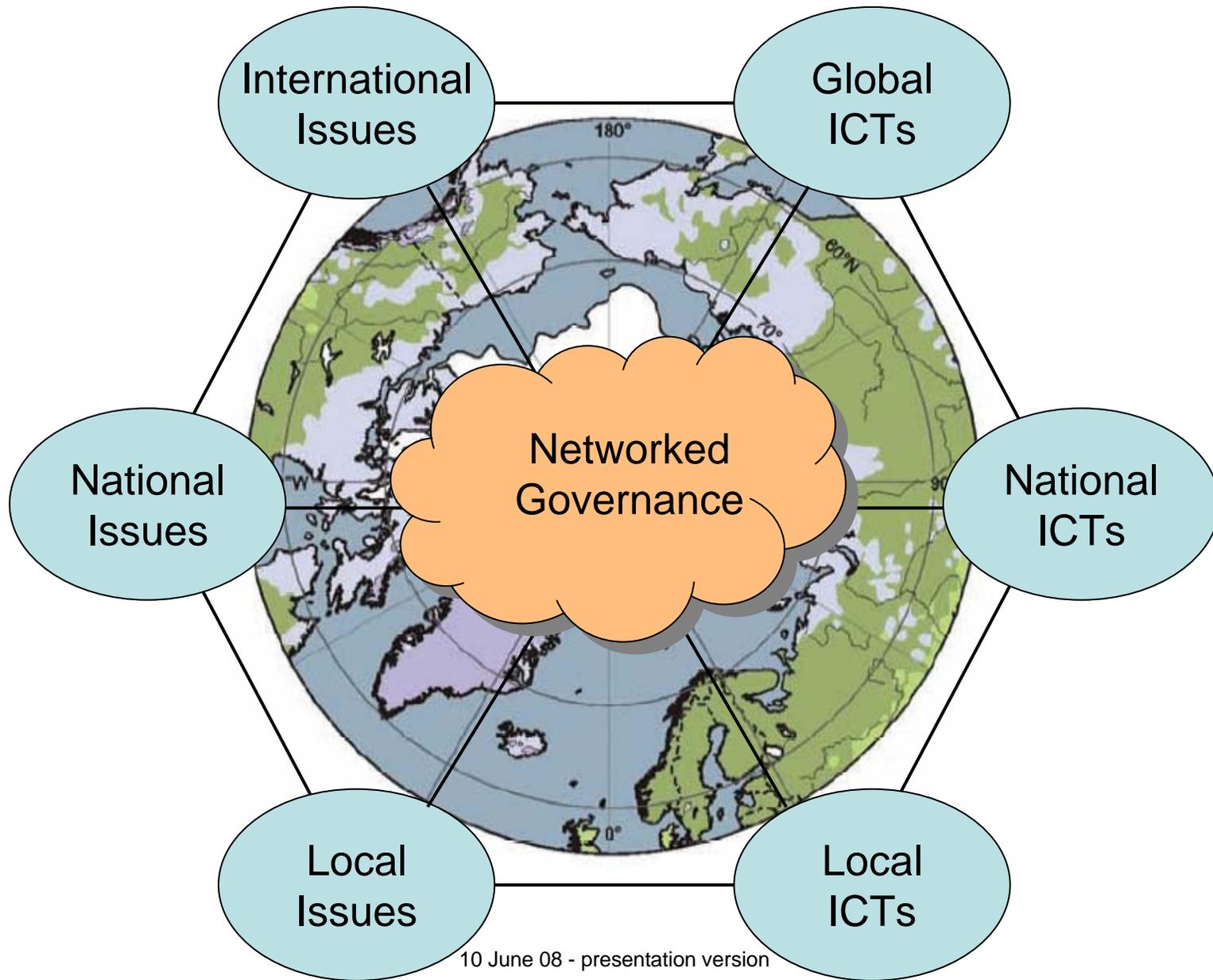
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- Affordable access to ICT networks and knowledge resources
- Local content



Questions

- Can the Arctic example be generalized to other areas “at the edges”?
- Assuming a global will to adapt successfully to climate change - including at the edges
 - What will it take to make the necessary connections among issues, mechanisms and stakeholders?
 - What role, if any, should the ITU play beyond technical standardization and spectrum management?