



# TRENDS, HIGHLIGHTS, AND LESSONS LEARNED -- THE OECD SURVEY OF POLICIES FOR WATER AND ADAPTATION

4<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Water and Adaptation to Climate Change in  
Transboundary Basins, 25-26 June 2013

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# Trends: progress on adaptation

## National Adaptation Strategy



## National Adaptation Plan

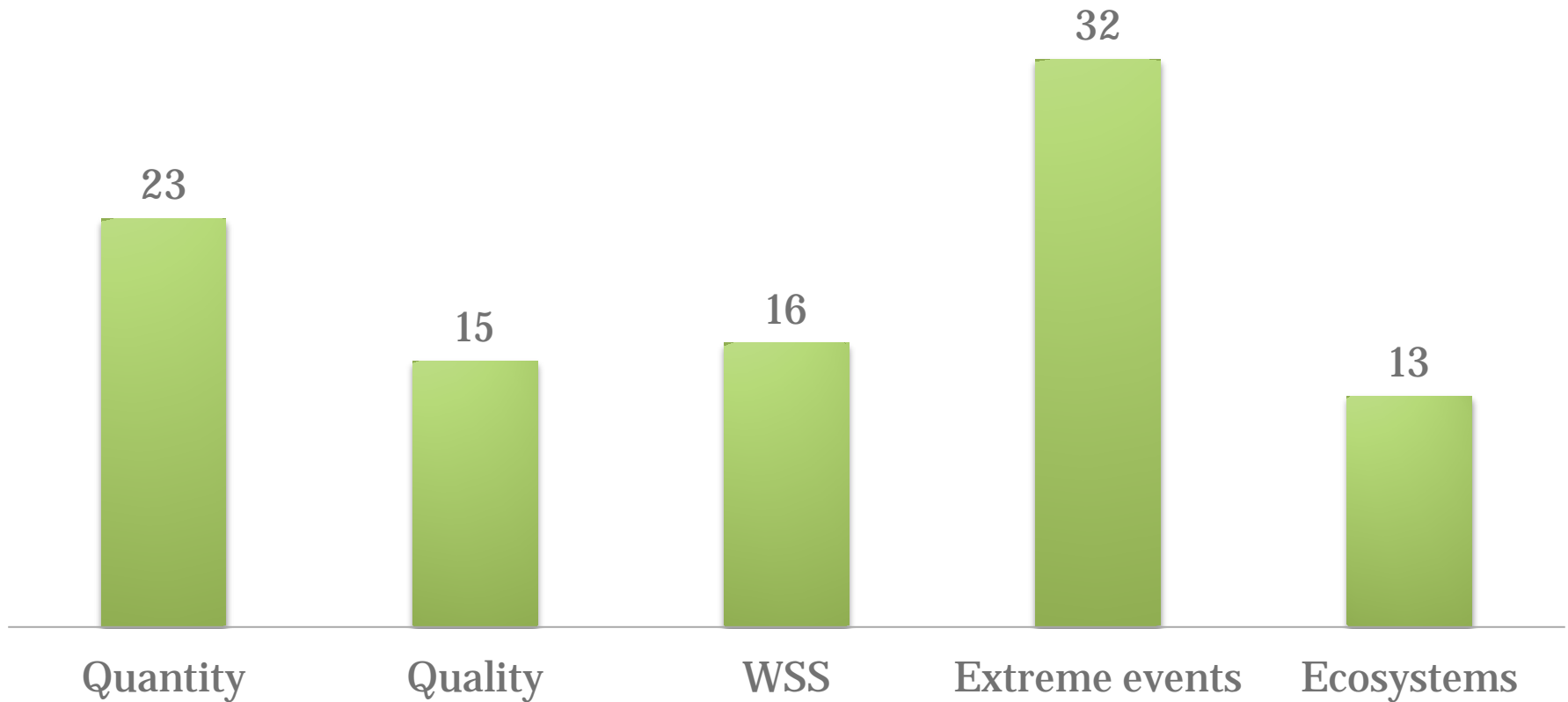
***All countries report observed changes in freshwater systems.***

***Water is a priority for adaptation.***



## Trends: key concerns

### Number of countries flagging key concern



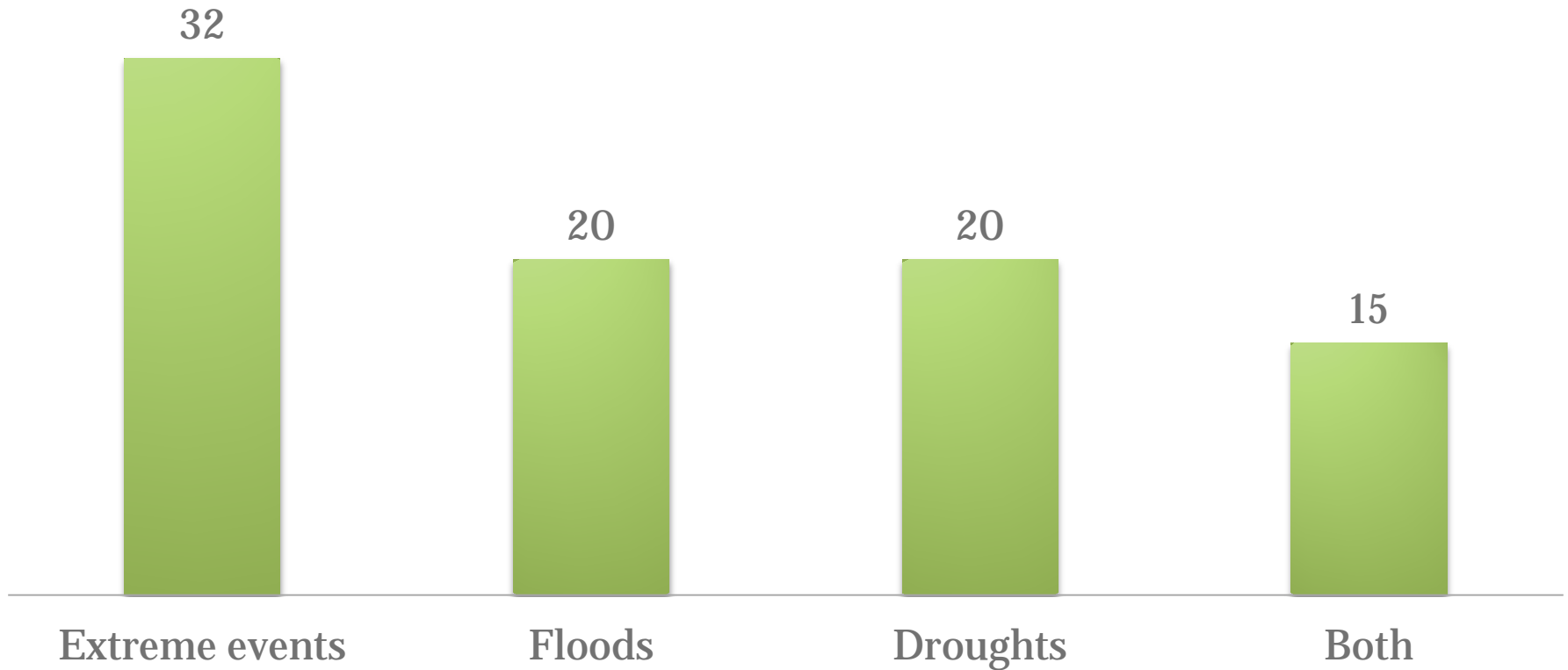
*Nearly all countries expect **increasing water risks** due to climate change.*



## Trends: key concerns

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### Number of countries flagging key concern





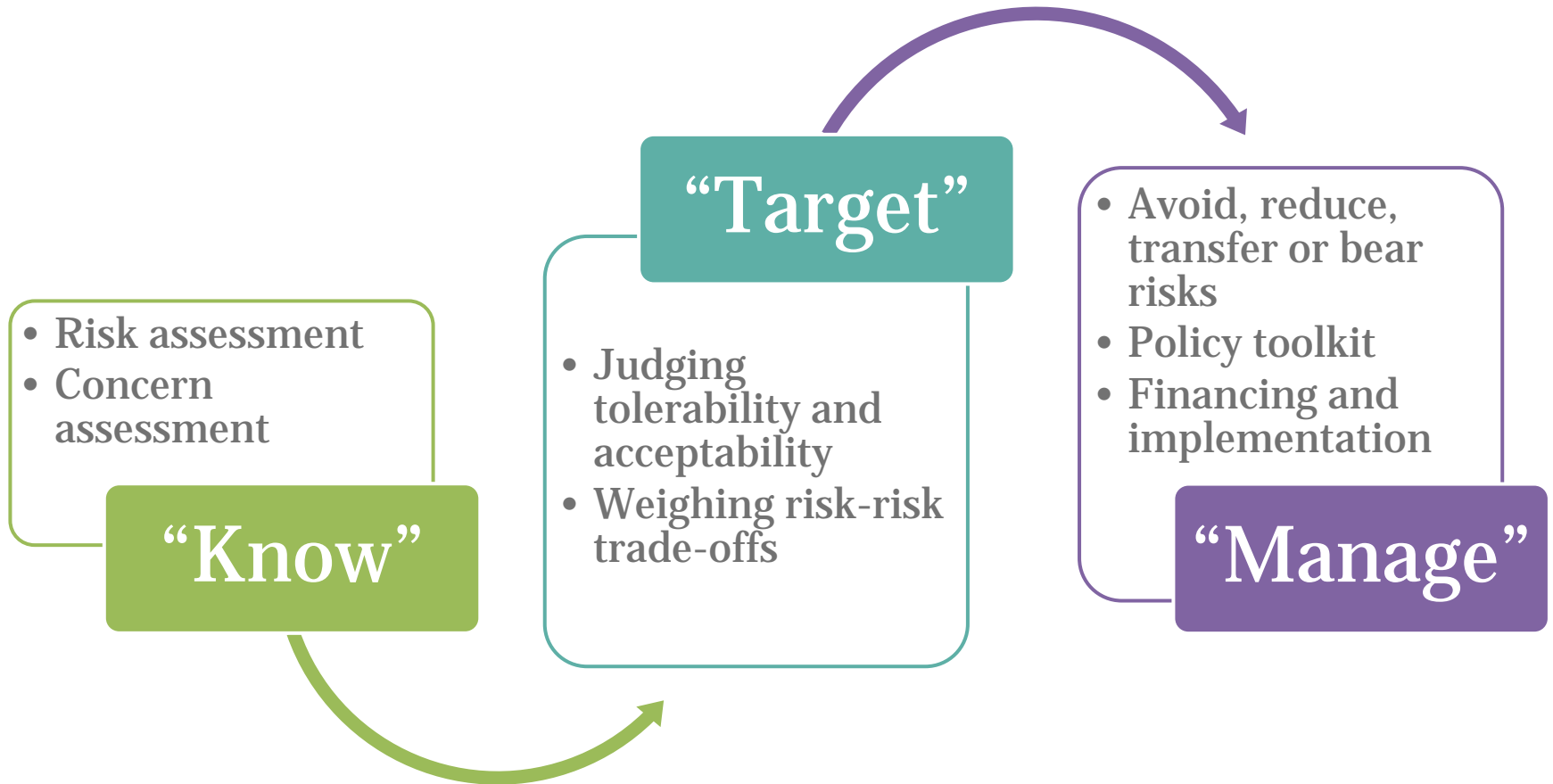
# Trends: adaptation at multiple scales

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- **Sub-national** – provincial/ state level, city level
  - 15 countries flagged sub-national responses
  - A *focus* for some countries, supported by adaptation tools and guidance
  - A *compliment* to national planning for others
- **Transboundary**
  - Shared river basins, coast lines
  - Financing for common challenges (e.g. WSS for cross border communities)



# A risk-based approach to resilient water security





# Highlights: policy levers for adaptation

## “Know”

- Risk and vulnerability assessments, research programmes, scenario analysis, boundary organisations
- Adaptation guidance, flood risk maps, public campaigns on water saving

## “Target”

- Revising building codes, land-use planning
- Revising abstraction limits (ground and surface water)

## “Manage”

- Water trading, pricing, environmental taxes
- Spatial planning and regulation
- Investments in structural flood protection, urban drainage



## Lessons learned

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- Majority of efforts to date aimed at “knowing” the risk

*A need to ensure that the evidence base meets the needs of users making practical, on-site adaptation decisions.*

- Information-based instruments by far the most widely used

*Significant potential for scaling up use of economic and regulatory instruments.*

- Only a few countries have begun to address financing. Several approaches are being taken.

*Should avoid skewing financing to “speciality” projects that might be easily labelled as adaptation, but do not necessarily maximise net benefits.*





## Lessons learned

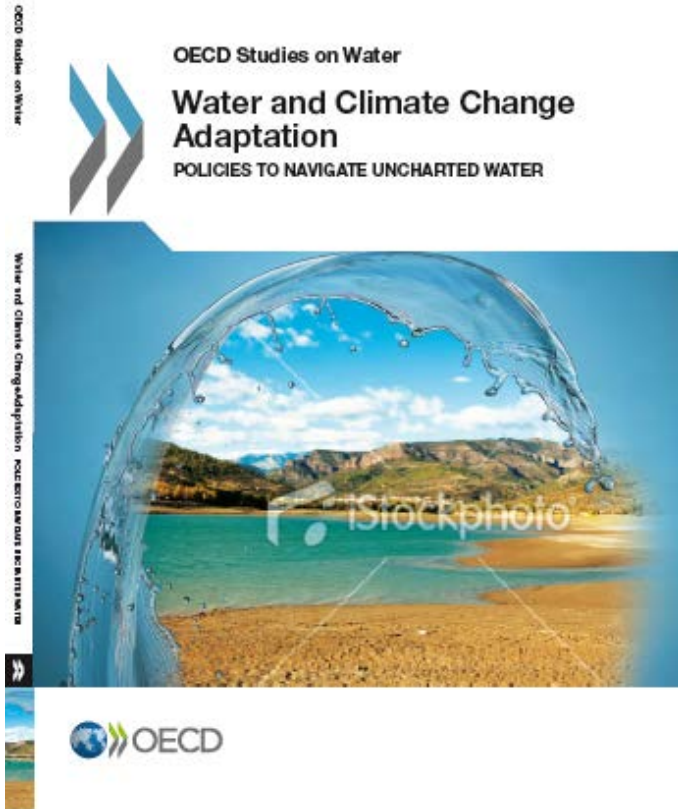
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- **Adaptive governance** – keeping options open at least cost
- **Flood insurance schemes** – striking a difficult balance
- **Water trading** – short and long term adjustment
- **Efficient pricing** – efficient use, finance diverse supply sources
- **Option value** of green infrastructure, ecosystem-based approaches
- **Real options approaches** for investment under uncertainty

*Using hindsight to guide the future?*



# Questions?



Coming soon:

**Country profiles from the OECD survey of policies**

[www.oecd.org/env/cc/waterandclimatechange](http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/waterandclimatechange)

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