

Outline

- Conceptual approach and objective of research
- Purpose of presentation
- Case Study: Rigolet, Nunatsiavut
- Methods
- Key Results
- Conclusions

Conceptual approach and objective

- People's priorities shape their goals for adaptation (Adger et al. 2009)
- Adaptation policy that ignores people's values may be perceived as ineffective and/or illegitimate (O'Brien & Wolf 2010)



Objective of research

- To examine what people value about their way of life, how they view the changing climatic conditions, what the changes mean to them, and how they are adapting.

Purpose of presentation

- To reflect on participants' perception of and wish to engage in climate service provision

Research Questions

- Q1: What weather/seasonal changes are perceived, including unusual winter 2009/10 (negative NAO)?
- Q2: How are these changes affecting people's activities?
- Q3: How are people adjusting to the perceived changes?
- Q4: What role do values play in these adjustments?

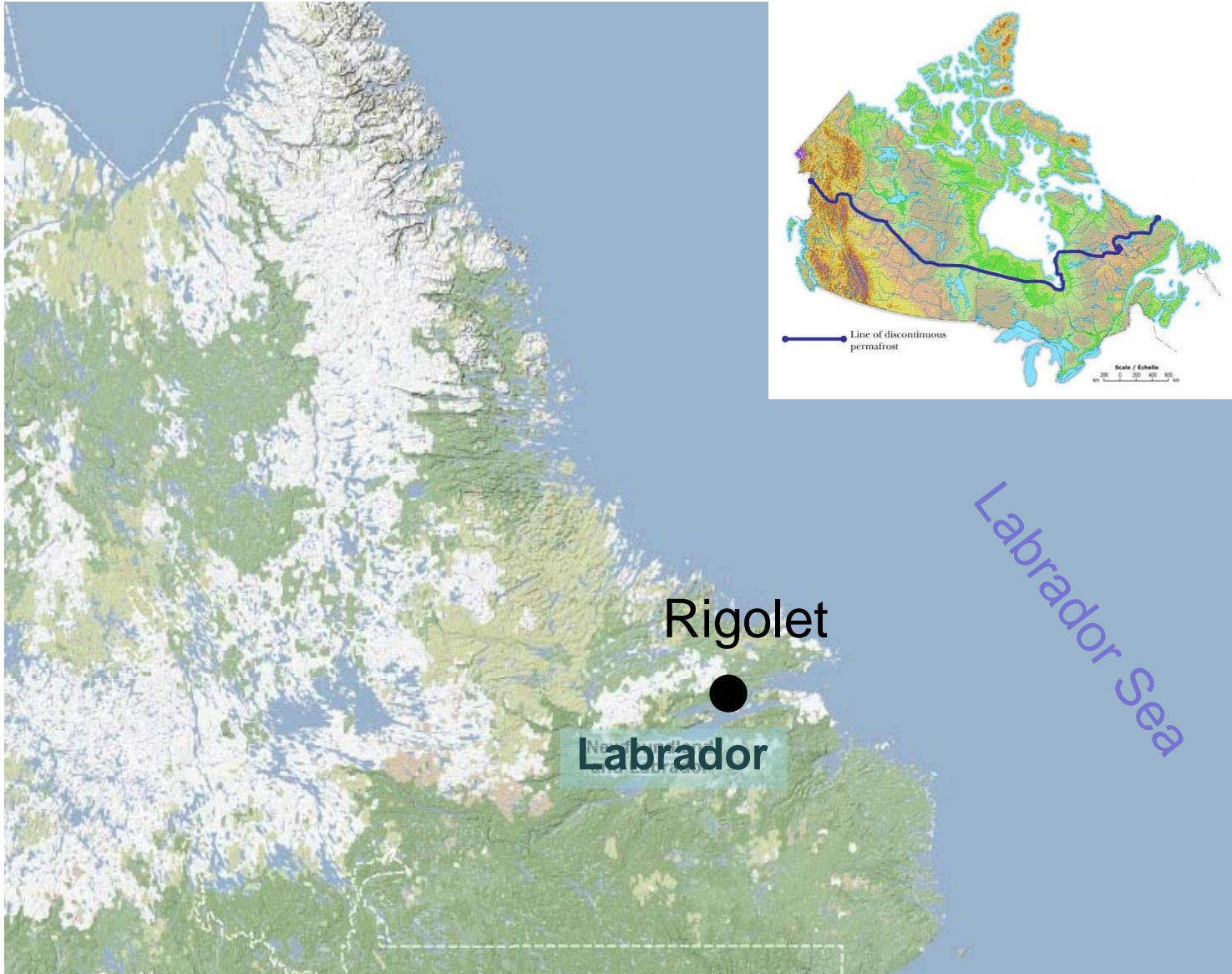
Case-study

- Inuit community of Rigolet, Nunatsiavut, Labrador
- Representative sample by age and gender (N=29)

Mixed qualitative-quantitative methods

- Researcher spent three weeks in the community
- Semi-structured interviews, Q-sort ranking exercise, Focus groups

Setting




Results: Perceived Changes

- Shorter milder winter, early spring, less ice & snow, unseasonal rain
- Changes to berries, caribou, seals, prevailing winds, ability to forecast
- Lack of mobility in winter due to dangerous ice conditions
- Limited access to firewood and wild meats; increased damage to snowmobiles
- Some find the changes scary, others are not concerned
- Perceive no benefits from the changes
- Did not articulate feeling vulnerable; view changes with resigned acceptance:

“It’s no use fighting the weather.”




Results: Traditional Knowledge

- Older generations relied largely on traditional forecasting methods
 - Changing conditions mean methods less reliable now
 - Younger generations lack aspects of this knowledge
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- Increasing reliance on weather offices for forecasts
→ Further reduction in transmission of traditional knowledge
 - Interest in involvement in local forecasting for Rigolet, seasonal forecasts, climate monitoring, improving understanding of future variability

Results: Interests & Needs

Interest:

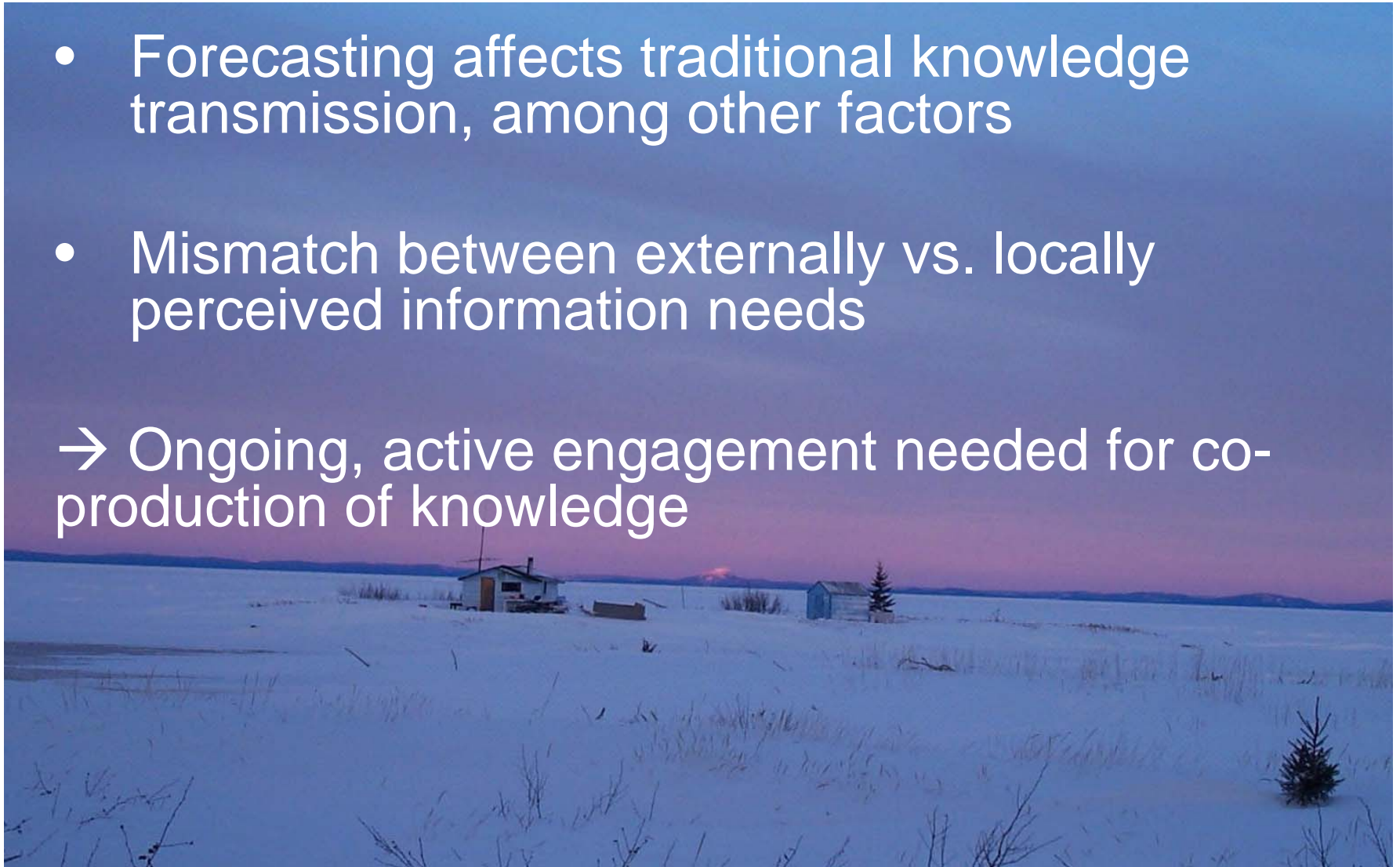
- Improved local weather forecasting - “the triangle” Nain, Goose Bay, Cartwright
 - Improved local climate monitoring & analysis
 - Seasonal forecasts: extreme winters e.g. 2009/10
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- Ambiguous about understanding potential future change: Resigned yet curious, wishing to be involved

Perceived need:

- Unresolved – biggest impact (lack of ice and snow) difficult to adjust to

Conclusions

- Forecasting affects traditional knowledge transmission, among other factors
 - Mismatch between externally vs. locally perceived information needs
- Ongoing, active engagement needed for co-production of knowledge



Ideas for Climate Service Providers

Meaningful engagement relies on...

- **...legitimacy:**

- Develop strategies specific for aboriginal groups
- Consultation: e.g. everyday priorities, climate-sensitive activities, perceived information needs
- Facilitate community input: co-production of knowledge
- Involve and foster traditional knowledge

- **...trust:**

- Support dedicated group in community
- Dedicated staff

Thank you!
Questions? Comments?
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