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Public sector climate change reporting

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CCC secretariat

The UK Climate Change Act (2008)

Mitigation:

- Legal target to reduce UK greenhouse gas emissions by 100% from 1990 levels by 2050
- Requires Government to set 5 year carbon budgets as a pathway to get to the 2050 target (six so far, up to 2037)

Adaptation:

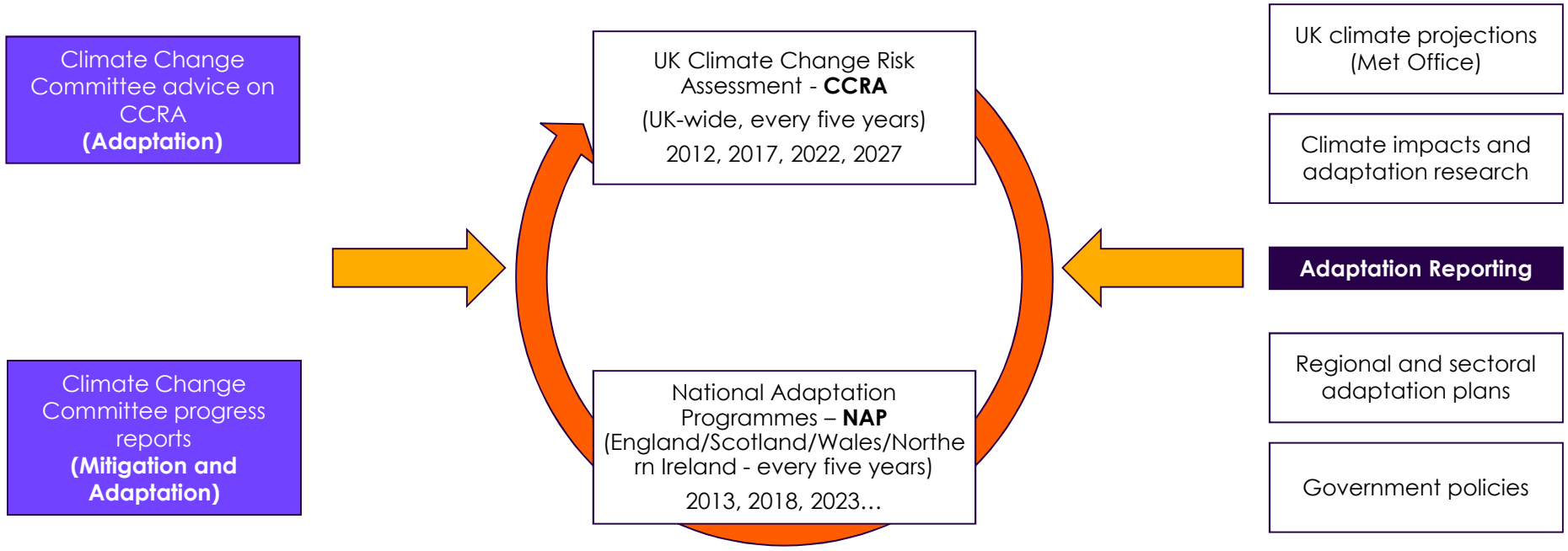
- Requires Government to publish a UK climate change risk assessment (CCRA) every five years
- And then a National Adaptation Programme (NAP) to address the risks (England only)
- Established the Adaptation Reporting Power (ARP)

The Act set up the Climate Change Committee (CCC)

- **The Mitigation Committee** advises Government on the level of carbon budgets, and scrutinises progress towards meeting the 2050 target
- **The Adaptation Committee** advises Government on the Climate Change Risk Assessment, and scrutinises progress in adapting to climate change

Climate change policy cycle (UK)

The role of reporting in adaptation policy



Climate change policy cycle (UK)

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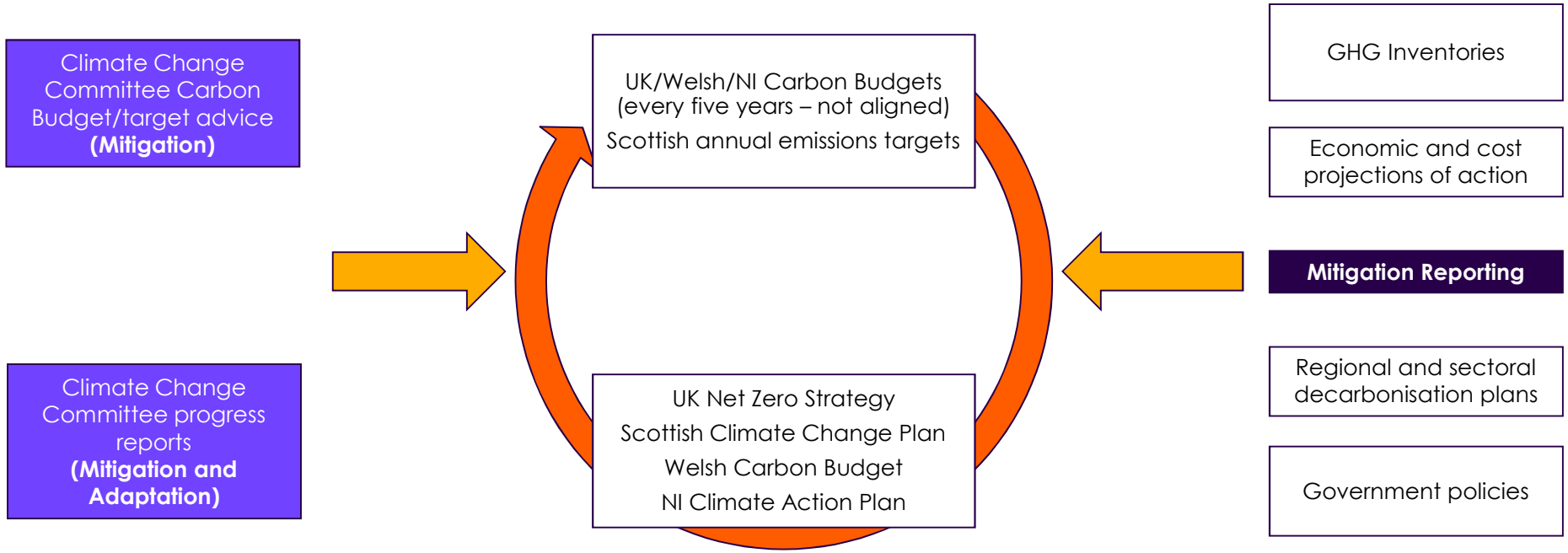
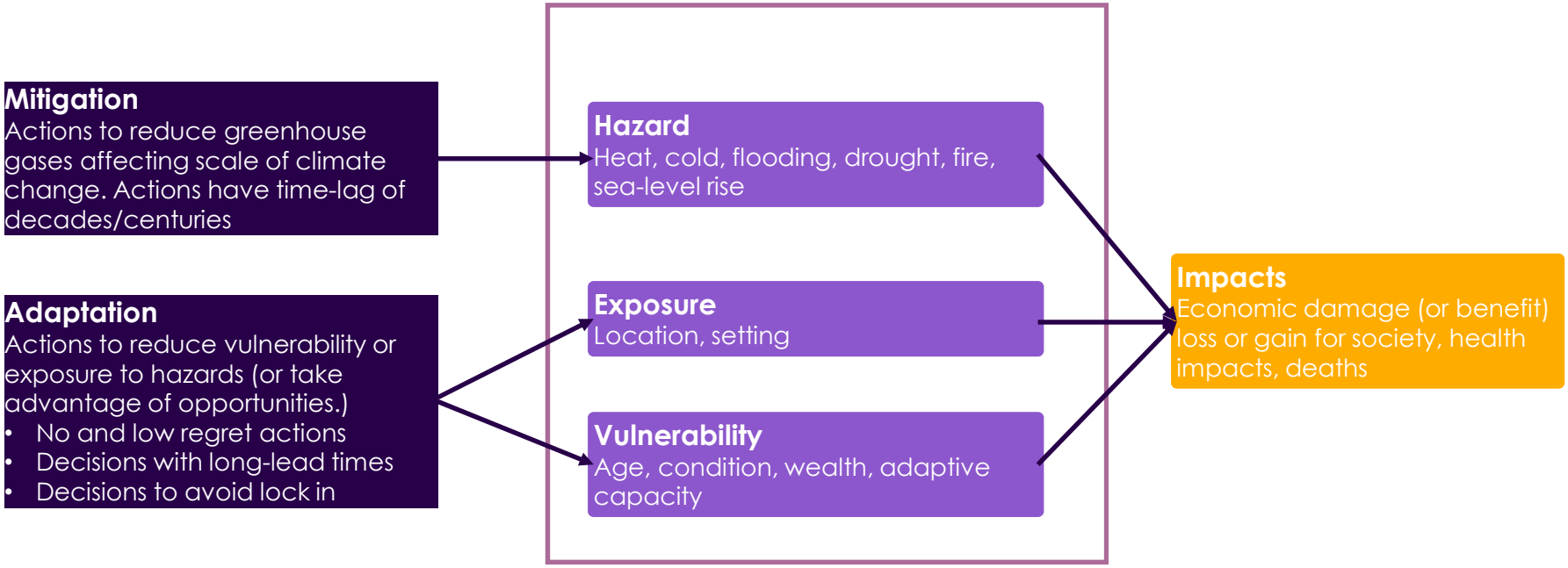


Climate change monitoring

Key concepts



Why report?

Climate change reporting brings multiple benefits

For reporters

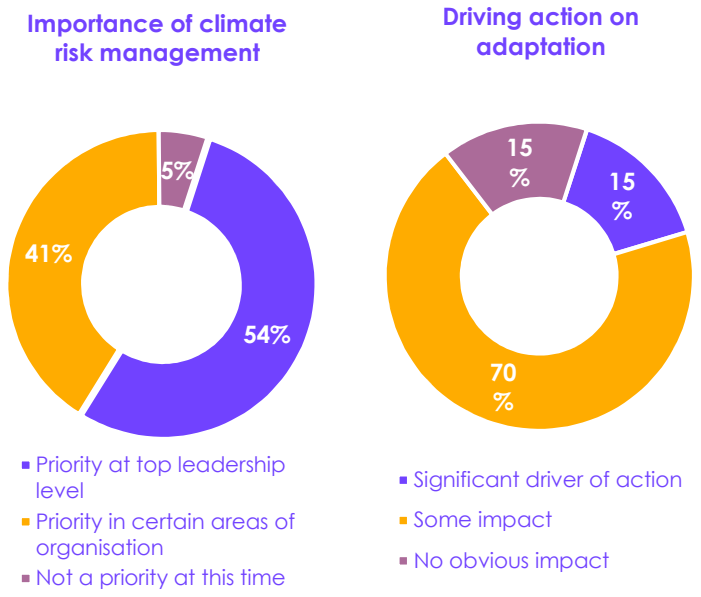
- Raise awareness of climate issues, building capacity and capability
- Helps public services & infrastructure reduce emissions and become climate resilient
- A more planned and cost-effective response
- Act now, save later e.g. retrofit
- Engage other sectors they indirectly depend on, encourage partnership working
- Improve availability and quality of data (GHG inventory not the only valid source)
- Identify barriers and opportunities
- Focus efforts on most effective actions (those that have the biggest impact)
- Highlight good work to public, investors etc

Why report?

Reporting is driving action in other nations

- The Adaptation Reporting Power (Defra) is driving action on adaptation
- Adaptation is more of a leadership priority now than in earlier rounds of reporting
- For mitigation, coordination of efforts for delivery in some sectors is critical, and reporting can improve the data and platforms to do that (in buildings, transport, public procurement)

ARP reporting organisations on the benefits of reporting (2022)



Source: CCC ARP3 evaluation workshops with reporting organisations.

But reporting design is key

Key considerations for effective reporting

- A clear reporting framework and transparent assignment of responsibilities
- Level of prescription in regulations vs reporting guidance
- Support integration of emissions reduction and climate risk management into operations of reporting bodies
- Proportionate, risk based and streamlined to minimise burdens and duplication:
  - duplication of effort with other reporting
  - double-counting of emissions
- Ensure reporters have sufficient support to do the reporting, clear information on expectations and how information will be used
- Support continual improvement as organisations' approaches mature

Thank you

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