

# **Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into development policy: the case of UK Department for International Development (DFID)**

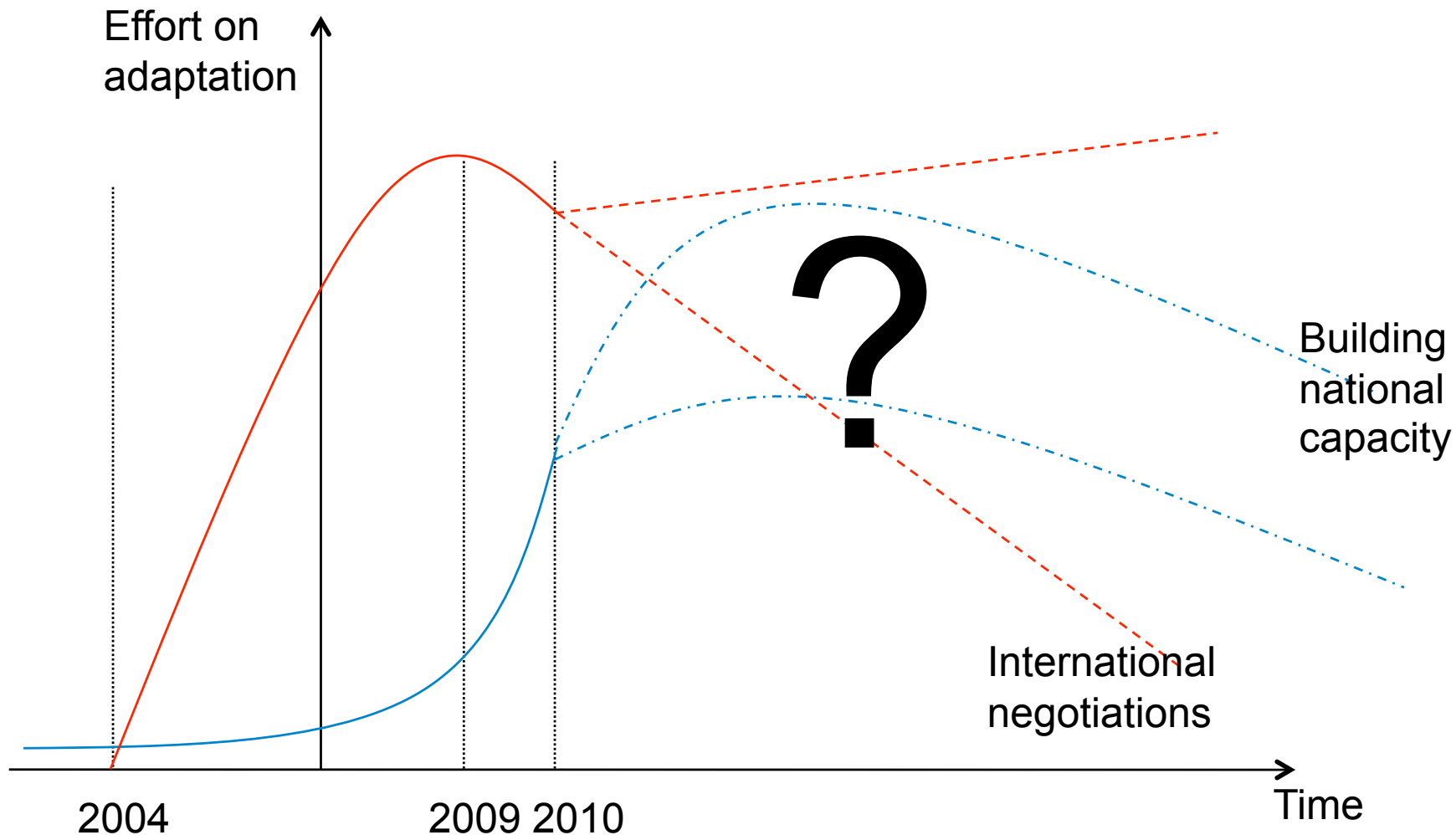
**A perspective from a DFID Senior  
Research Fellow**

June 29<sup>th</sup> 2010

Emma L. Tompkins

School of Earth and Environment  
University of Leeds

# DFID work on adaptation



Initial idea: two work streams align over time – but no convergence.  
Challenge: how to balance the needs of building adaptive capacity at the local level and supporting the international negotiations.

# What worked well

## *Awareness raising*

- 1) In-house capacity building / training: generic and specialist
- 2) Gathering evidence: CCAA and economics of adaptation
- 3) Tools, e.g. ORCHID tool to screen development projects to 'climate-proof' projects, OECD guidance

## *Agents of change / association*

- 1) Creation of a 'climate and environment' professional group
- 2) Targeted recruitment: 12 in-country climate change advisors (PFA)
- 3) Climate champions network
- 4) Senior Research Fellows

# What didn't work / gaps?

## *Clarity of vision*

- 1) No clear objective for adaptation
- 2) No clear understanding of adaptation, resilience, climate resilient growth
- 3) No clarity on how to influence adaptation (spontaneous or planned)?
- 4) Accidental focus on current climate variability, by default – e.g. CCAA

## *Agency*

- 1) Technical capacity initially limited to design climate change and development policy

# Challenges for DFID

- i) *Clarify aim*: What exactly is climate resilient development?
- ii) *Adaptive learning*: How to evaluate the success of adaptation and redirect interventions?
- iii) *Managing operations*: Does development have to be 'done differently'? Is it transformation vs incrementalism?
- iv) *Value for money*: not to be confused with success
- v) *Leadership*: loss of momentum w.o. strong mandate

**THANK YOU**