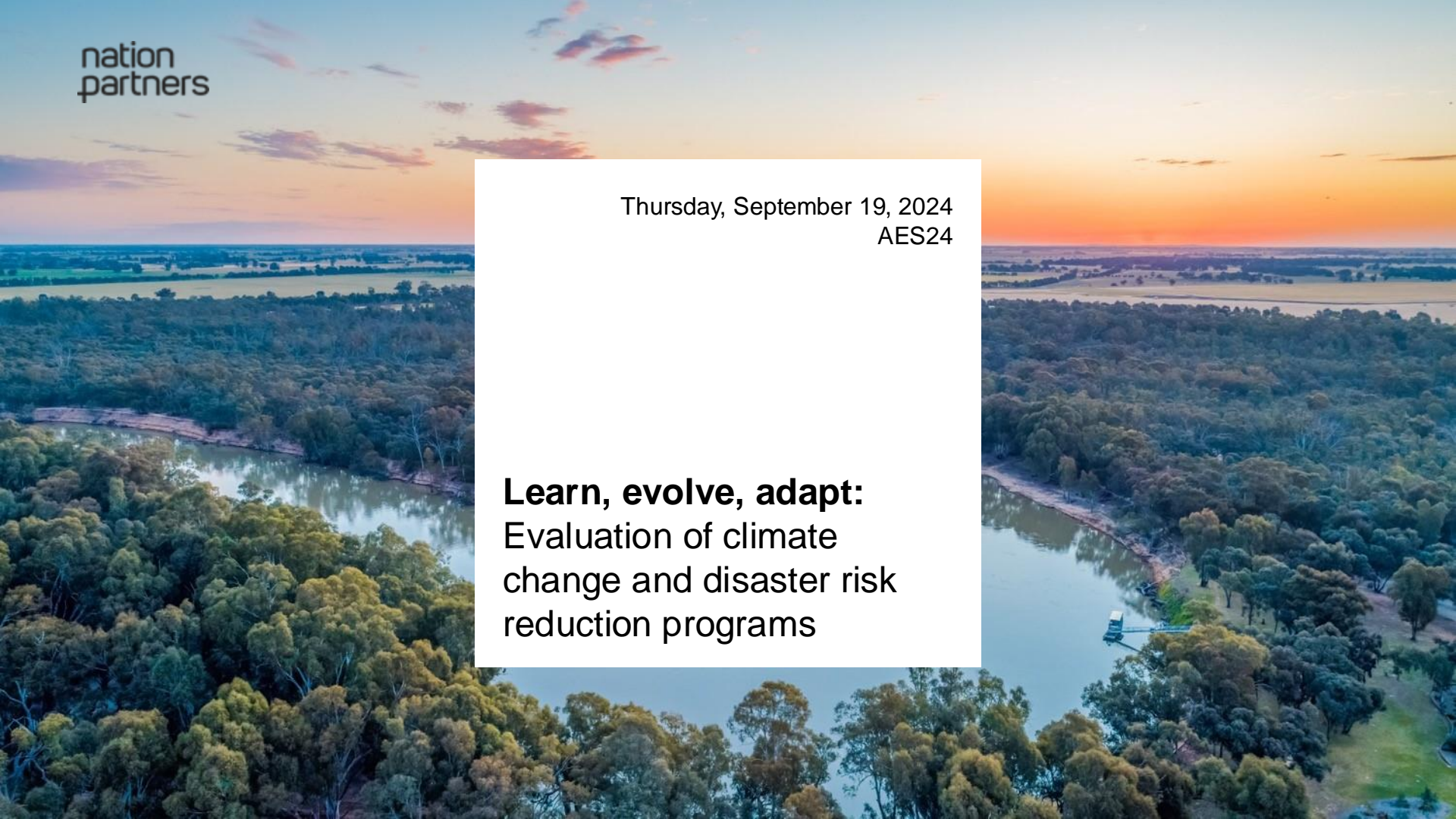


Thursday, September 19, 2024  
AES24

**Learn, evolve, adapt:**  
Evaluation of climate  
change and disaster risk  
reduction programs



Learn

Evolve

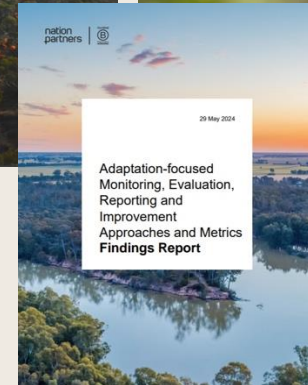
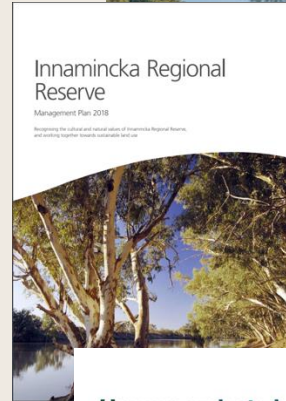
Adapt



Learn

Evolve

Adapt



Learn

Evolve

Adapt



# Session purpose

To share some of my observations of the challenges and opportunities in evaluating climate change and disaster risk reduction and resilience projects and programs.

1

2

3

4

5



What I'm thinking about to evolve my evaluation work in this space

# Challenges

Reporting requirements

Variable and long time horizons

Changing risks and operating environment

Accountability

Attribution and contribution in the context of big picture change

Focus on monitoring and indicators

Constantly evolving knowledge base

Uncertainty

Shifting baselines

Reviews and royal commissions

Multiple scales of action and impact

# A note for consideration



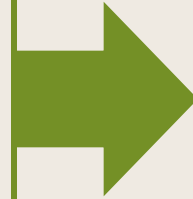
These challenges and observations are not unique to the climate change and disaster risk reduction context



Our opportunity is to learn across sector and program types whilst recognising what is unique to the specific area of work.

# Observation 1: Accountability needs can mean we miss out on the value of evaluation

Strong push for accountability in climate change and disaster risk reduction



## Opportunity:

- To influence via evaluation planning and recommendations
- Emphasis the learning & improvement
- Embed evaluative thinking and an improvements mindset

## Observation 2: There is often a focus on metrics that aren't connected to outcomes and action

- Internationally climate change adaptation MER, including guidance, is very focused on tracking metrics.
- Gap between the big picture, and the action on ground.
- Difficult to know what is and isn't working

### Opportunity:

- To identify metrics related to specific outcomes to give them meaning.
- Design evaluation frameworks that connect across scales

## Observation 2: There is often a focus on metrics that aren't connected to outcomes and action

- Internationally climate change adaptation MER, including guidance, is very focused on tracking metrics.
- Gap between the big picture, and the action on ground.
- Difficult to know what is and isn't working



# Observation 3: Many aim for resilience outcomes without really knowing what that might look like



Collaborative program logic mapping can be really powerful to unpack what resilience really looks like for a program

## **Observation 4:** We want to learn from the experience of disasters but we don't plan for doing this.

*'we won't know until disaster strikes'*

### **Barriers:**

- Investment that may not have value.
- Time investment during a challenging period.
- That disaster might not happen within the funding/evaluation period - uncertainty.

### **Opportunities:**

- Make it easy, minimal effort, start small
- Embed reflection and data into existing processes and systems
- Use what you can, forget what you might have missed

## Observations 5: There are lots of people out there that really want to learn, evolve and adapt.

The people keen to evaluate, in this space are out there!



**BUT**

They don't always have the time, the resources and the buy-in to invest in good evaluation from outset.

Learn

Evolve

Adapt



# Adapt: What I've been thinking about.....

...what contribution to big picture, long-term change looks like at different scales and what I can do to help show this effectively

The value of **structured reflective practice** for those on ground delivering innovative and pilot programs.

How and when to use **rubrics** effectively to help tell the story of impact.

The **power of story** to demonstrate impact – and how to effectively capture stories.

# Adapt: What have you been thinking about?



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