

# Disaster Risk Reduction: “Possibilities Motivate Change”

*UN General Assembly, Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*

*Debra A.K. Johnson, DuPont Sustainable Solutions*

*10 January 2014*



# Background...

Disaster-related economic losses amount to hundreds of billions of dollars annually, and are projected to double by 2030. Since 1992, over \$2 trillion in damages have occurred.



Institutional investors currently manage assets worth more than \$80 trillion globally -- much of this is given limited consideration relative to disaster risk.

In the years ahead, trillions of dollars will be invested in hazard-exposed regions. If those investments fail to take into account natural hazards and vulnerabilities - risk will continue to accelerate.

Top 600 cities account for half of the Global GDP today and this is expected to increase to 60% by 2025. \*

70 - 85% of all new investment is generated from the private sector.



\* Source: The Atlantic Cities, <http://www.theatlanticcities.com/jobs-and-economy/2012/04/infographic-day-economic-power-top-600-global-cities/1682/> accessed January 3, 2014



*Possibilities*

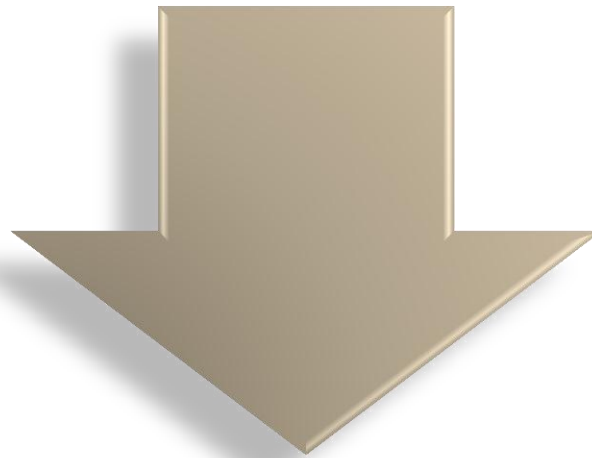
*Motivate*

*Change =*

*Hope...Innovation...Lasting Change*

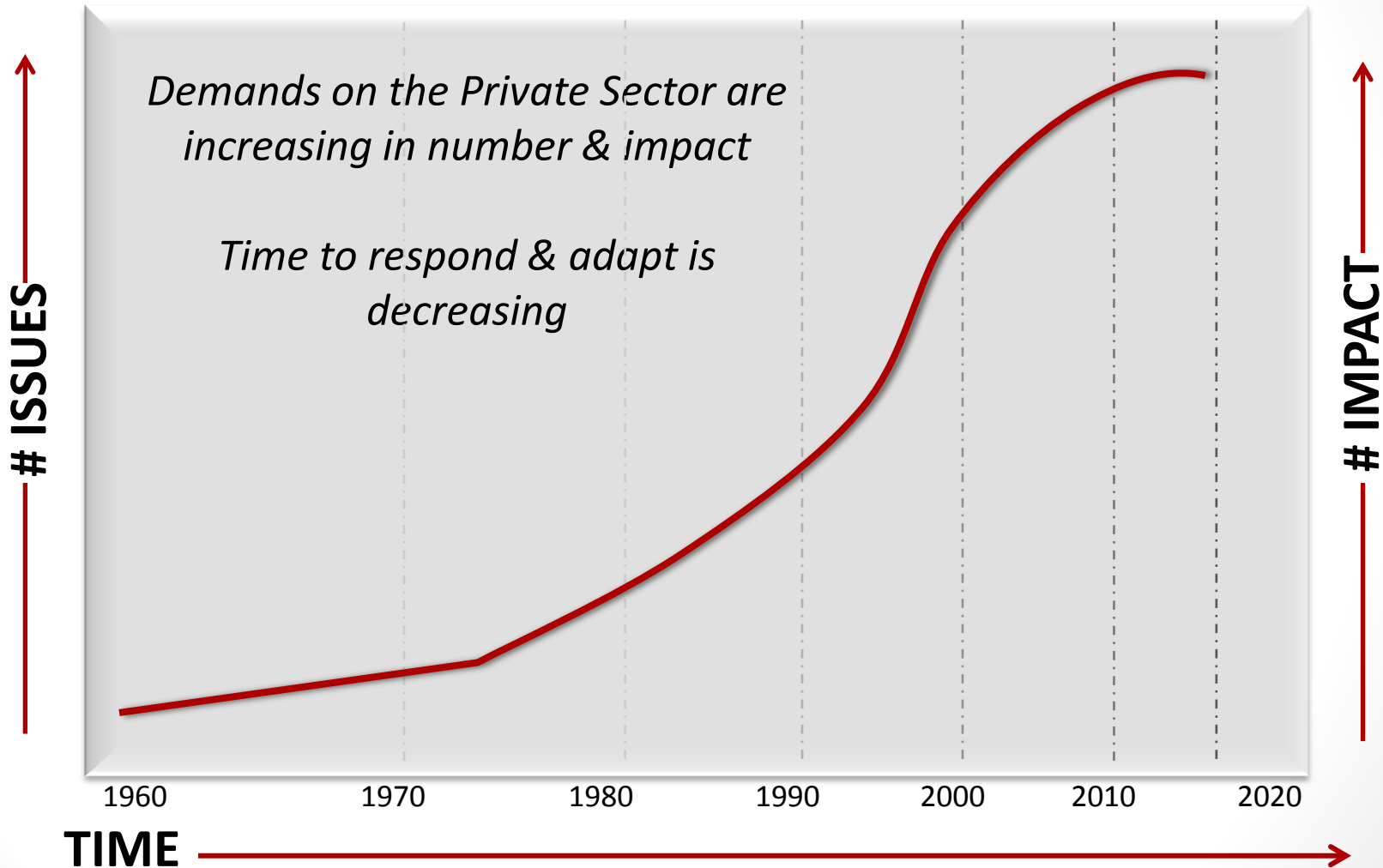
# Key Questions: Can we...

- Create Clarity?
- Identify What Is Most Important and Most Needed?

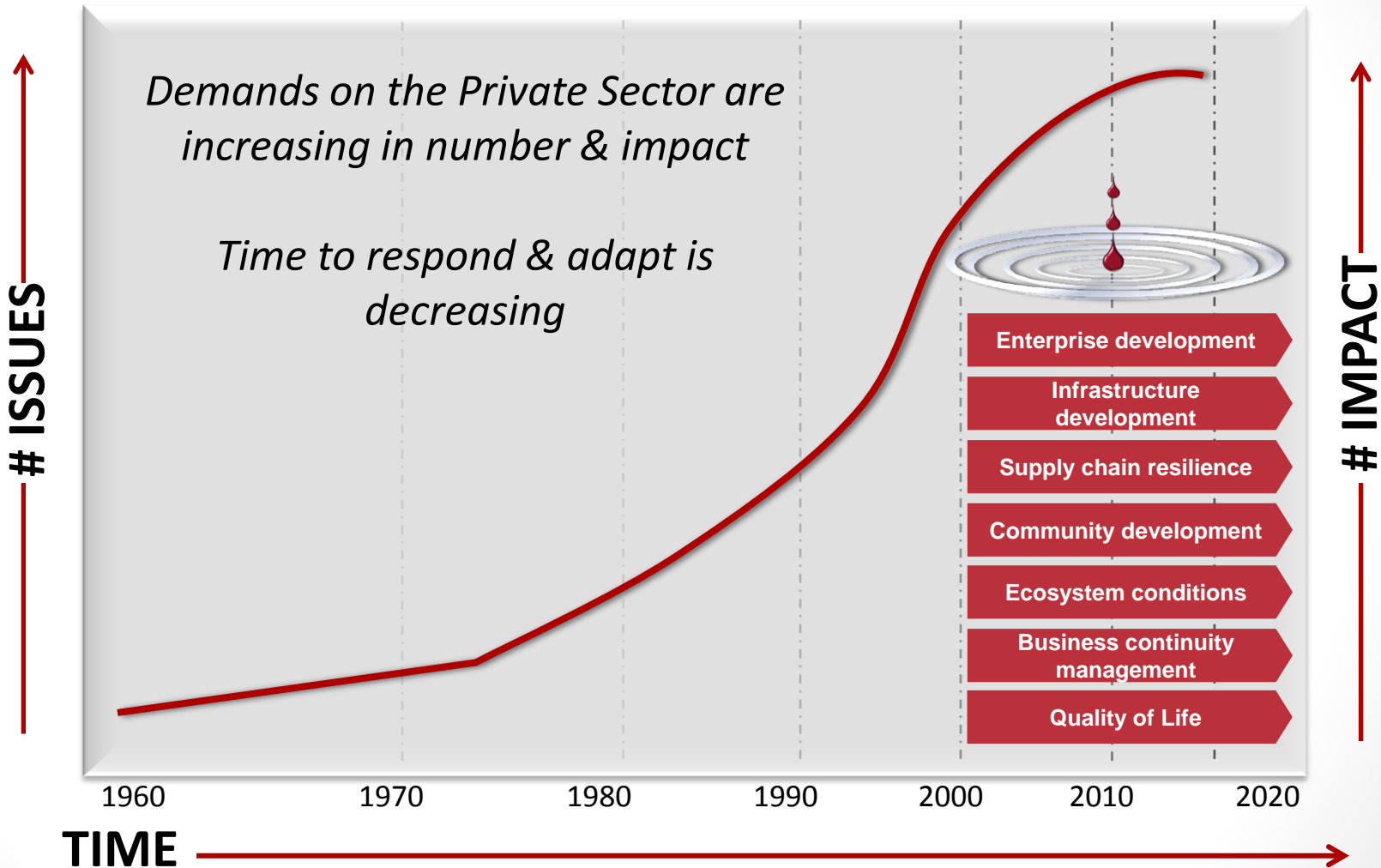


**Clarify direction & targets** so we can collectively begin our Resilience Journey?

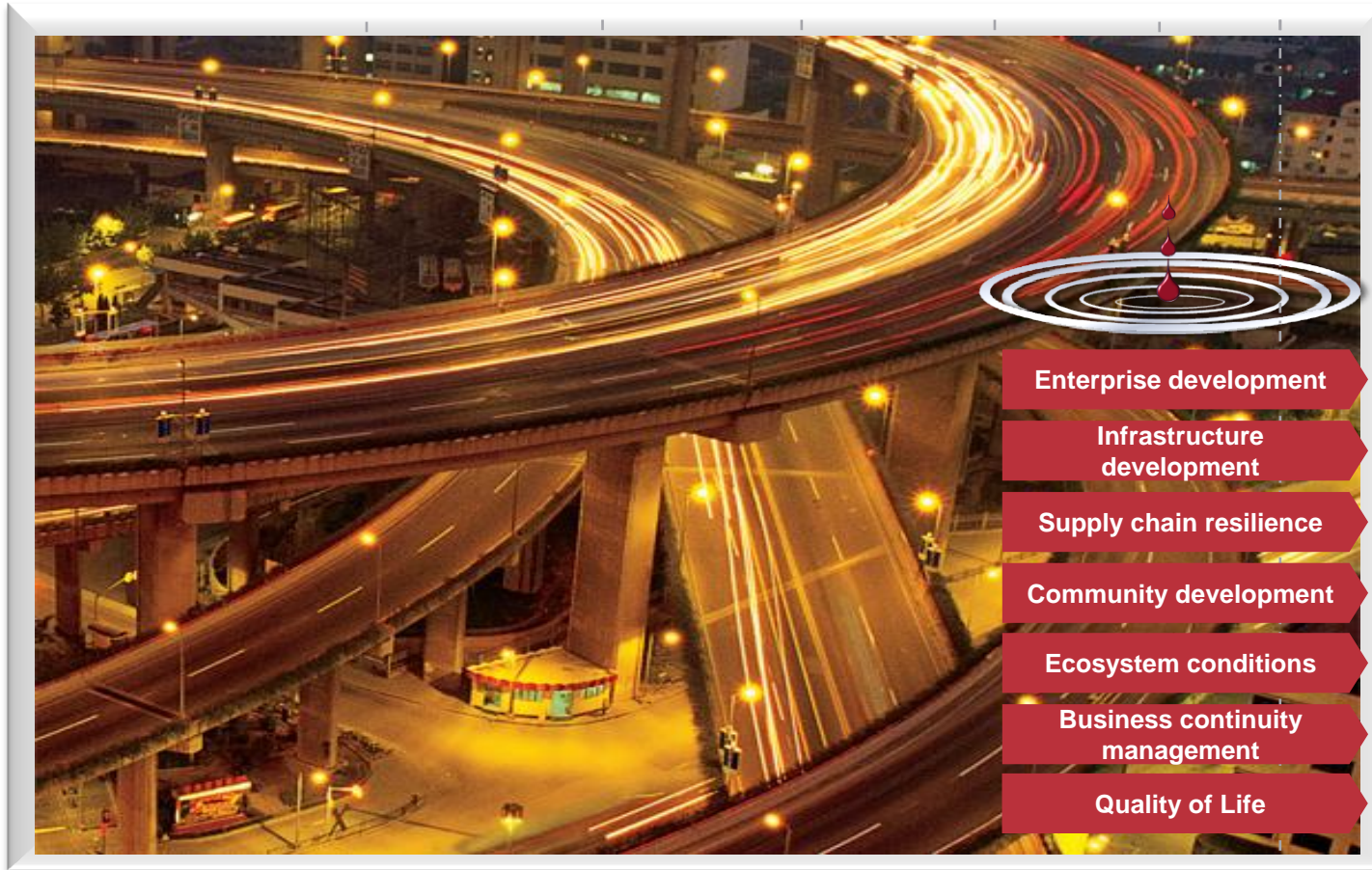
# Critical Business Issues



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# Use Bridges to Accelerate DRR



# Bridge... Supply Chain Resilience





# Bridge: BCM



# Strengthen BCM Following Katrina

## (Business Continuity Management)



**Objective:** Proactively reduce vulnerability and minimize damage at DuPont sites against the effects of a hurricane event.

**Benefits of Hurricane Hardening:**

- Safety increase.
- Lower insurance costs by several million USD.
- Reduce operations disruption.
- Lower recovery costs.



Sites	SLOSH review	Storm surge threat (ft)					Wind Review Hurricane category
		1	2	3	4	5	
Victoria, TX	Regional SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Corpus Christi, TX	SLOSH	0	0	0.7	5	9.7	Yes (1 bldg.)
HMS, TX	Regional SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Powder Coatings Houston, TX	Regional SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Bayport, TX	Regional SLOSH	0	0	5.2	10.6	16	No
LaPorte, TX	SLOSH	0	0	1	5.3	9.9	Yes (2 bldgs.)
Baytown, TX	Regional SLOSH	0	0	5	11	16	No
Beaumont, TX	SLOSH	0	0	3.1	6.2	10	Yes (14 bldgs.)
Sabine, TX	SLOSH	0	4	8.5	12.5	17	Yes (8), PE
Burnside, LA	Regional SLOSH	0	0	1.8	5.8	24	No
Ponchartrain, LA	Regional SLOSH	0	0	2	9.9	16	No
Delisle, MS	Reg. SLOSH, Before wall	5.4	7	14	20	30	No
Pascagoula, MS	Regional SLOSH	0	8	16	20	24	No
Mobile, AL	SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	Yes (4 bldgs.)
Stark, FL	Regional SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Cooper River, SC	SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Manati, PR	SLOSH	0	0	0	0	0	No
Altamira, Mexico	Extrapolated SLOSH	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	Yes (2 bldgs.)

# Moving from Awareness to Action

- DRR learning is difficult & slow
- Adapting to new language, complex governance, a growing number of initiatives, actors & programs overwhelms
- Lack of clarity related to what's most important and most needed resulting in hesitation to allocate resources
- Private Sector success relies on making tough choices and concentrating on most pressing and most promising areas



# What's Needed Next

- Guidelines, standards and regulations that support the uptake of Private Sector DRR & Resilience solutions & innovations
- Strong local level collaboration that reduces investment uncertainties
- Sustainable Development Goals that clearly define and frame the risks – especially those that matter most
- Strong Leadership
- Clear Guidance
- Target-aligned incentives



# Accelerating Engagement

- Private Sector is quick to recognize benefits of collaborating on common areas of interest
- Collaborative acceleration will occur with clarity, alignment & support.
- Together these can attract and grow early adopters



# Early Adopter 'Possibilities'

*"Is trying to be perfect standing in the way of us getting better? Should we be reaching for perfection or should we be reaching for progress?"*

*...hybrid seeds with the potential to withstand severe drought or flood conditions*



*...front-end resilience modeling for the construction of upgraded and new facilities*



*A proposal to explore DRR for the development of new advanced materials for 'resilient construction'*



*Leading company requesting 'resilience' consulting for an upcoming capital project.*

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