

*3-4 September 2009, Nordic
Climate Change Adaptation
Workshop Norrköping, Sweden*

Climate change and the elderly in the Nordic region – Developing vulnerability indicators in the CARAVAN project

Hanna Mela

Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)



Vulnerability to climate change as a function of exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity

- Choosing key indicators for each
- This presentation concentrates on indicators of adaptive capacity

Choosing exposure and sensitivity indicators for the elderly

- Identification of key climate and weather events to which the elderly are sensitive, (e.g. heatwaves, freeze-thaw conditions)
- Representation of how climate change will affect the frequency and intensity of these key events (indicators of exposure)

Choosing indicators of adaptive capacity for the elderly

A sample of key indicators of adaptive capacity
(demographic, health-related, social, economic)

- Selection of indicators based on a literature review: (identifying key issues affecting vulnerability of the elderly) and availability of data on a municipality scale in all three countries
- List of potential candidates: other indicators to be considered, feedback and ideas welcome



Challenges related to data availability and consistency

- Different statistical categories by age 67-/65-
- Not all data is available at municipality level in all three countries
- Consistency: do the indicators mean the same in different countries? → challenges for data normalisation and comparison across the Nordic region, important to recognise when interpreting the results

Demographic indicators

- Share of the elderly over total municipal population (current and projected for 2030)

Health-related indicators

- Share of elderly receiving regular home care and home nursery

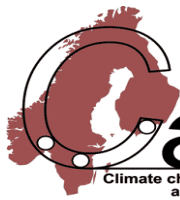
Social indicators

- Share of elderly living alone

Economic indicators

- Share of elderly receiving social assistance

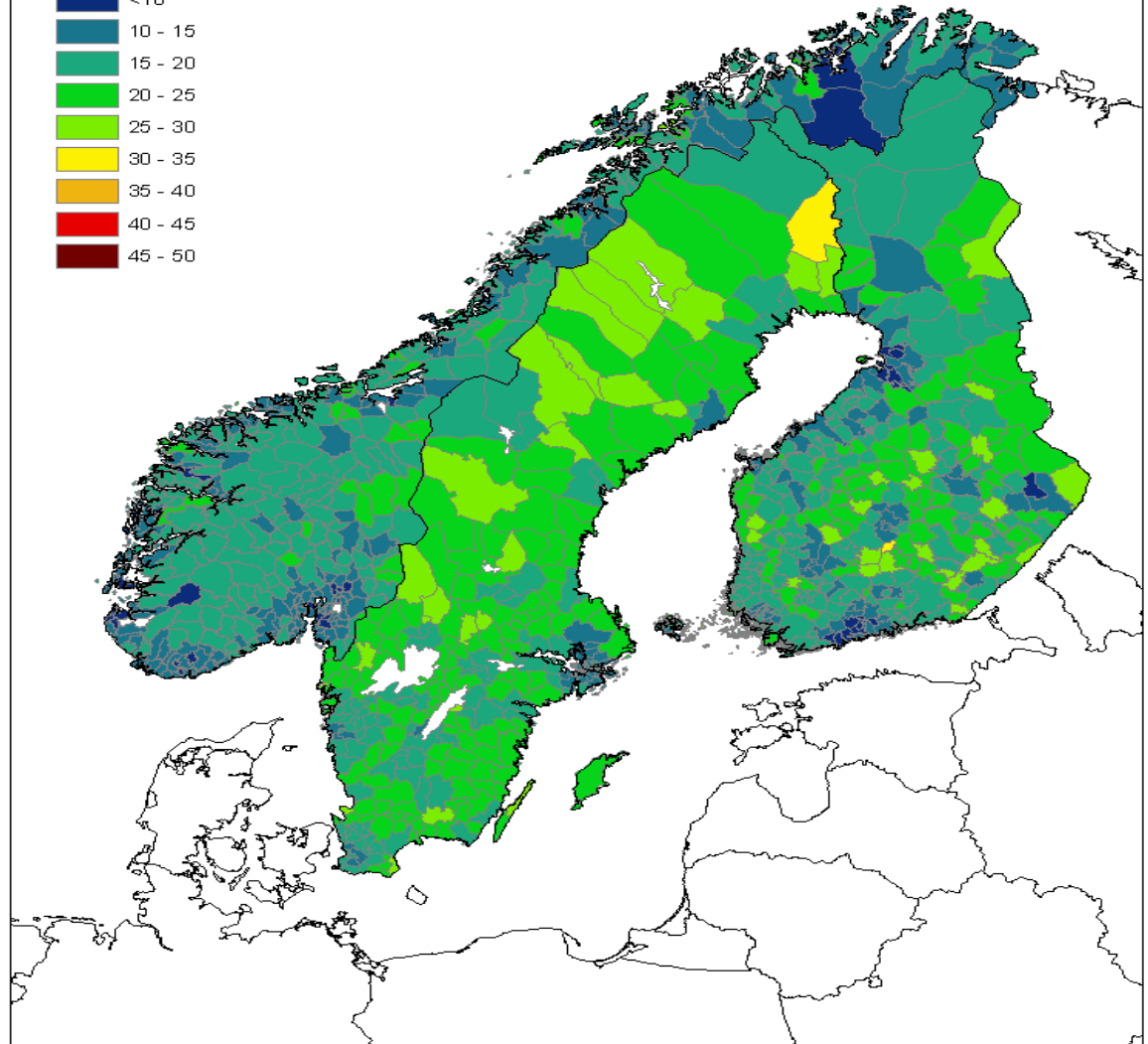
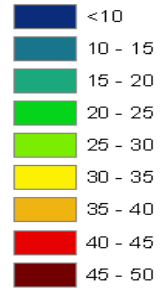
Preliminary adaptive capacity maps for the elderly in the Nordic region, by indicator:



Caravan
Climate change: a regional assessment of vulnerability
and adaptive capacity for the Nordic countries

Elderly as a percent of total population: present

NO: ≥ 67 in 2007, FI: ≥ 67 in 2008, SE: ≥ 65 in 2008



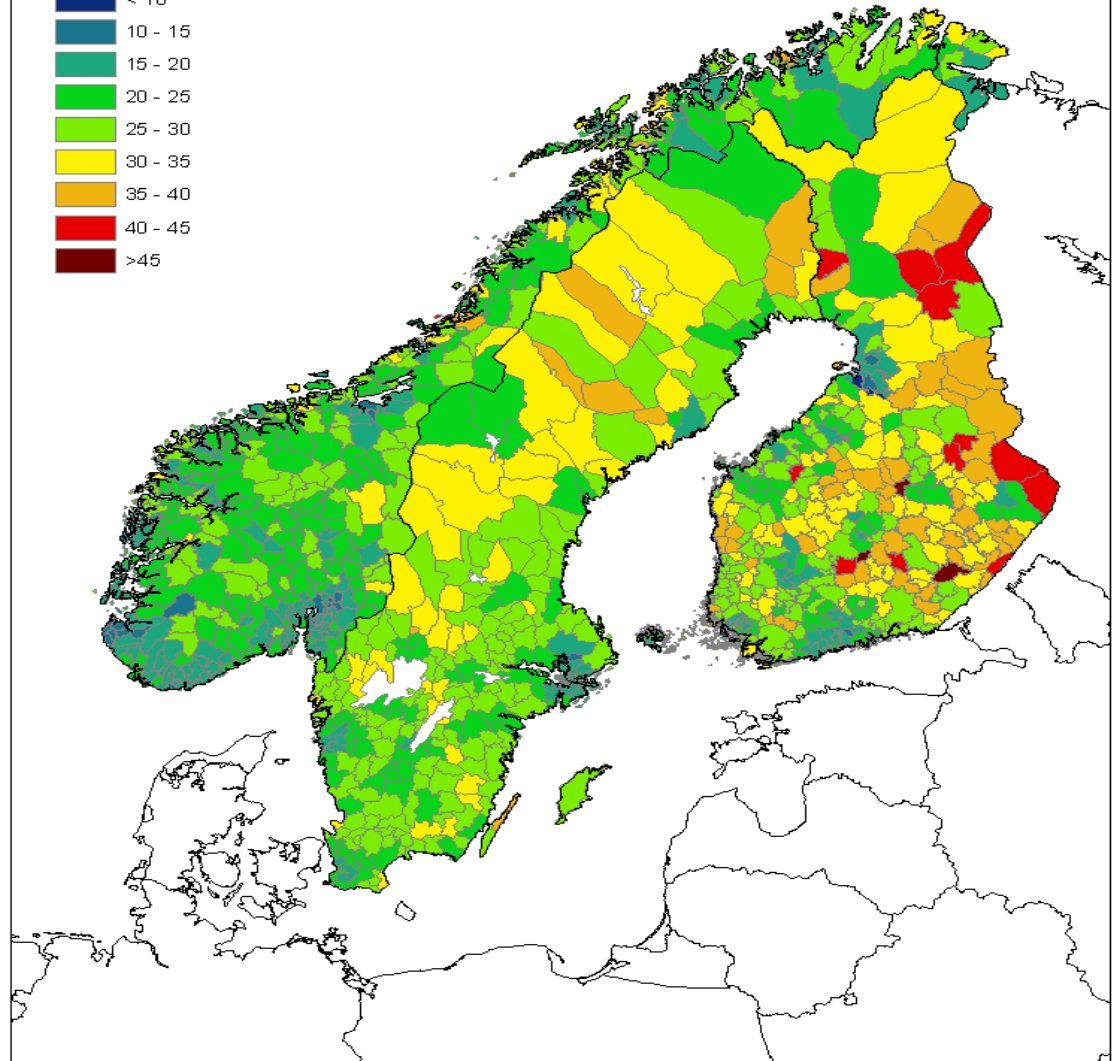
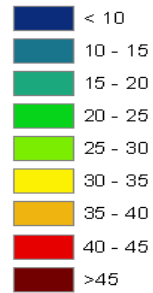
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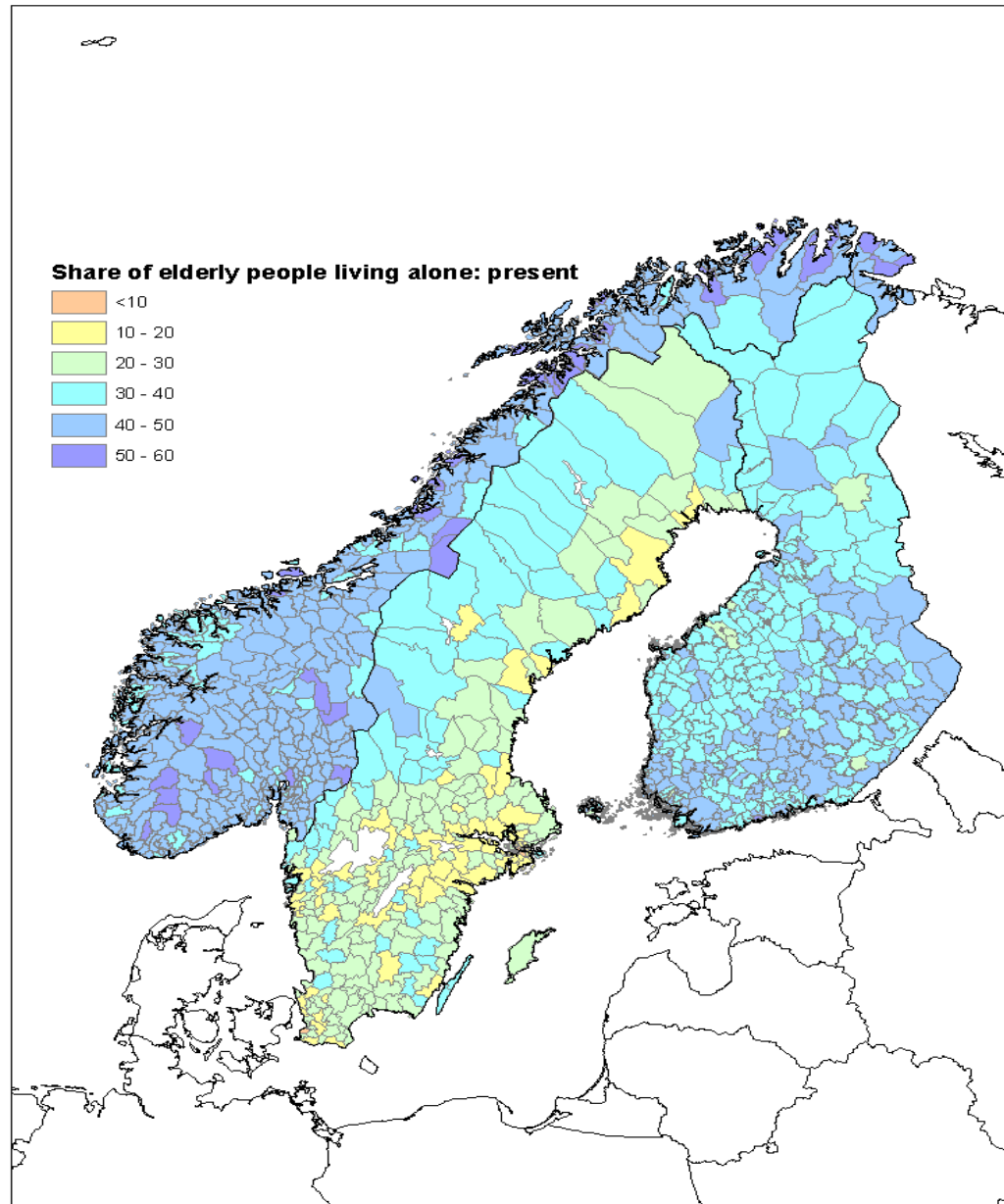
Caravan

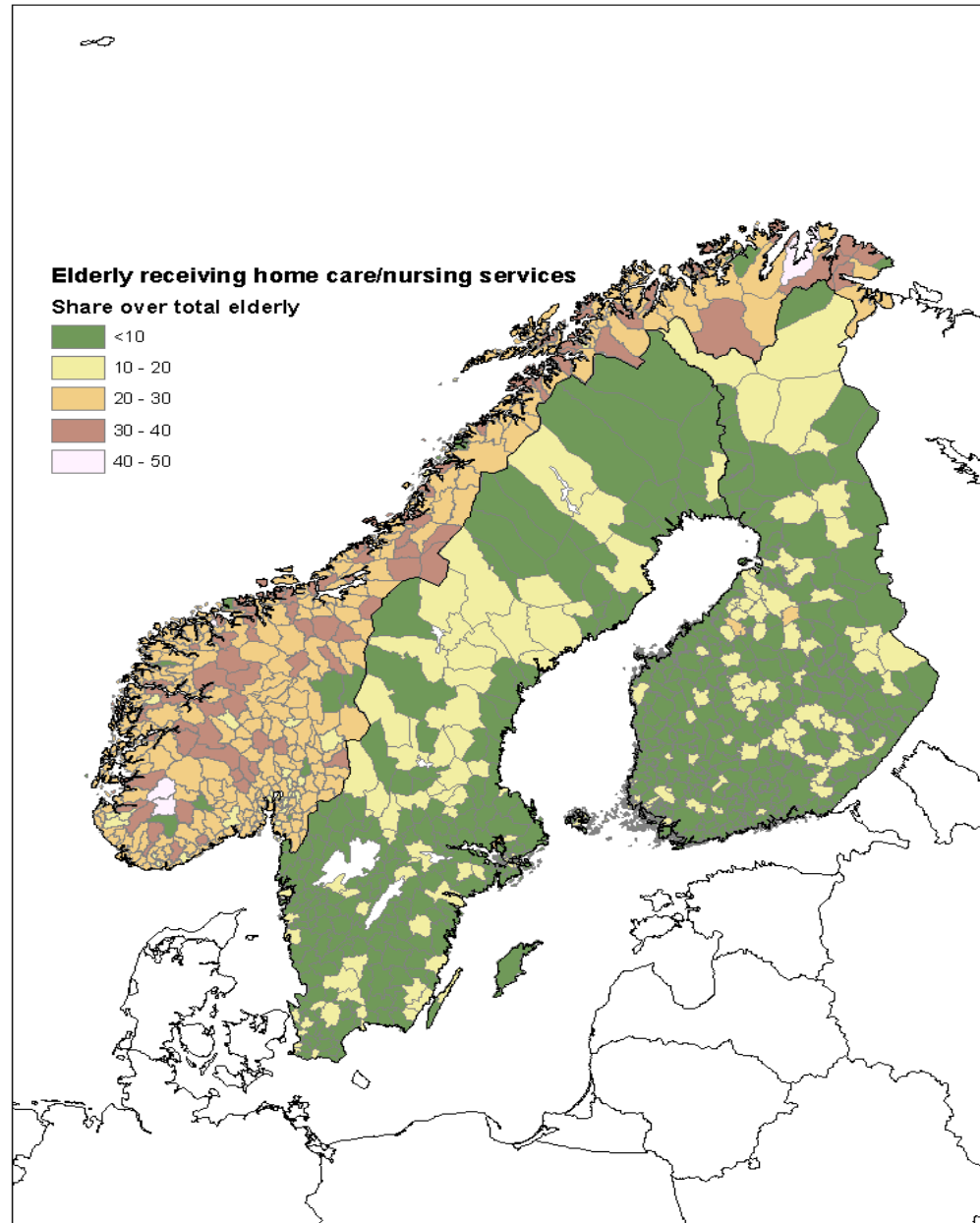
Climate change: a regional assessment of vulnerability and adaptive capacity for the Nordic countries

Elderly as a percent of total population: 2030

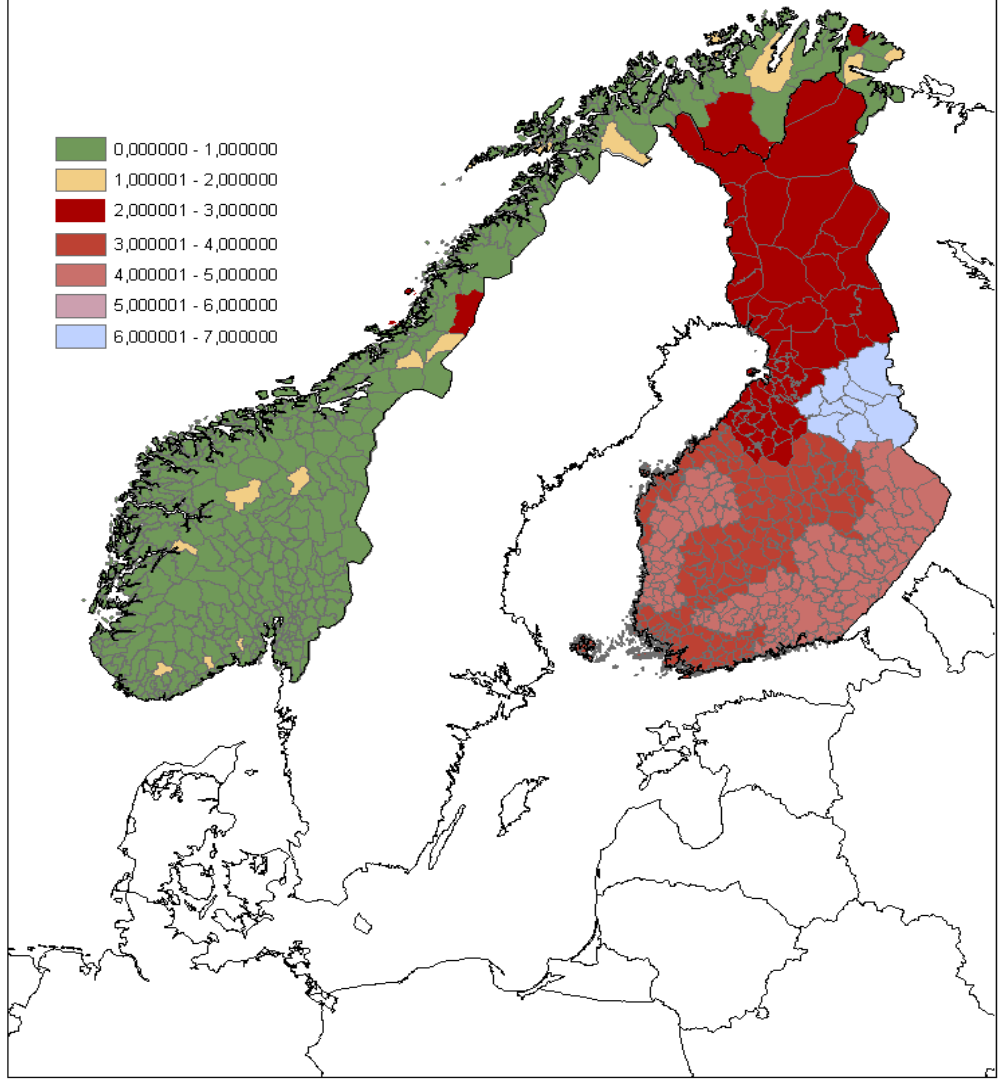


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Share of elderly receiving social assistance in 2007, share over total elderly



Questions to be answered:

- What kind of data is needed for developing other indicators on the vulnerability of the elderly?
- What are the key exposure and sensitive indicators for the elderly?
- How do we develop a composite index of vulnerability?
- How to deal with the data inconsistencies between the countries?
- What do the results tell about the vulnerability of the elderly in the Nordic region?
- What could be the implications of the results on policy-making?



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Thank you!

