

# Climate Change and Health

---

Dr John Paul Cauchi  
MD, MSc, PhD

 Queen Mary  
University of London  
Malta Campus



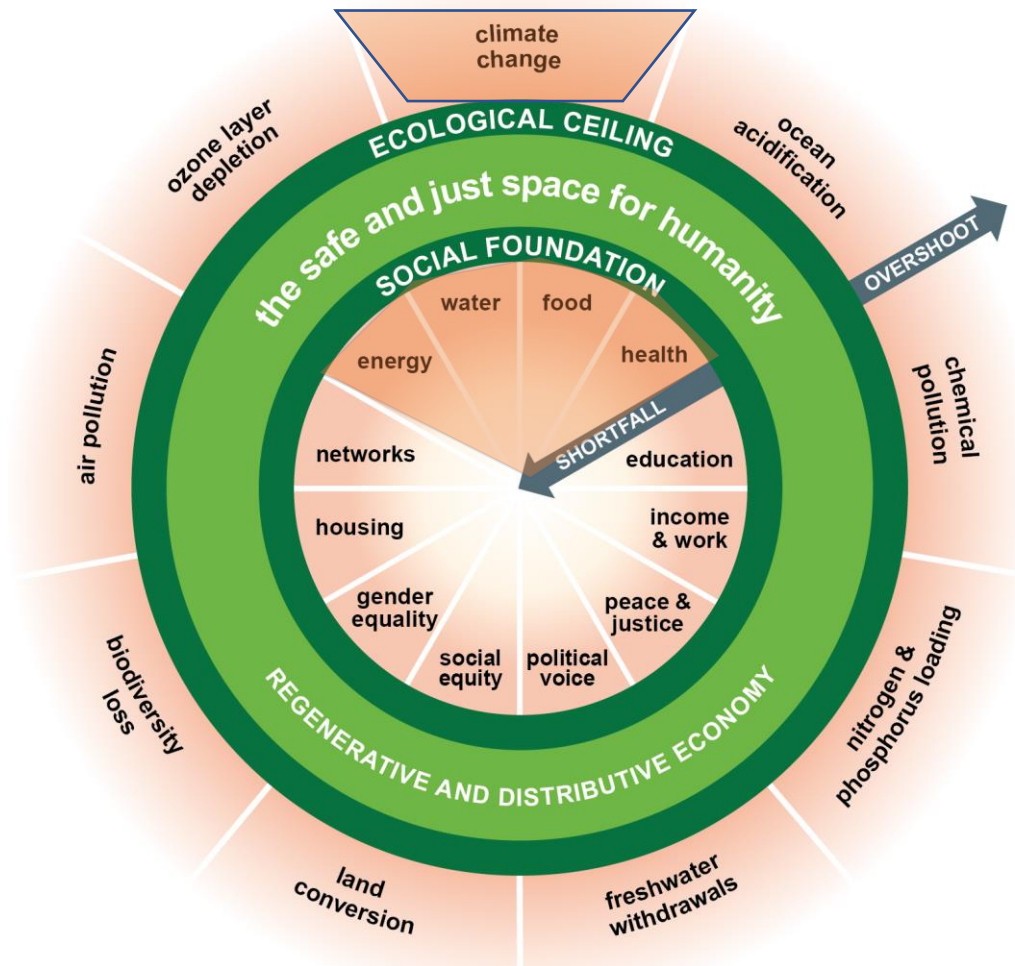
# What is Climate Change?

- *“Climate change refers to a change in the state of the climate that can be identified ... by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer.”*

*IPCC Glossary, 2022*

- **General warming observed across the globe**
- **Anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gasses.**





Looking at the Planetary doughnut model, climate change will have multiple effects on human society, especially where energy, water, food and health are concerned.

THE LANCET Submit Article

---

INFOGRAPHICS

*Lancet* Countdown on Health and Climate Change,

---

October 25, 2022

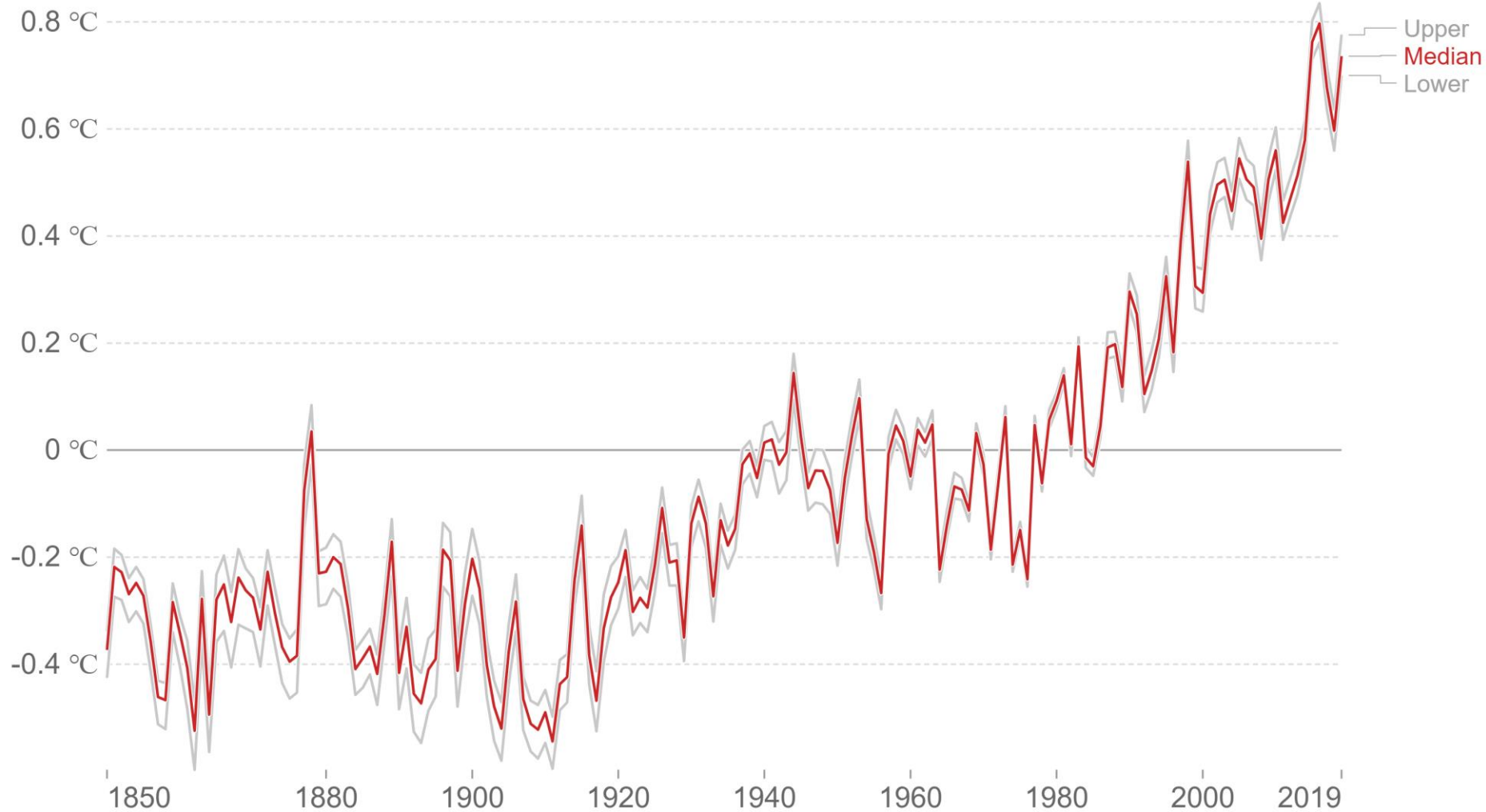
The world is at a critical juncture in its response to climate change. Worldwide, people are seeing their health increasingly affected by climate change amidst the compounding impacts of COVID-19 and the cost of living and energy crises; governments and companies continue to prioritise fossil fuels over a healthy future despite climate commitments; and rapid, holistic action is the only route to ensuring a just and healthy future.

Source: <https://doughnuteconomics.org/about-doughnut-economics>

# Average temperature anomaly, Global

Global average land-sea temperature anomaly relative to the 1961-1990 average temperature

Our World  
in Data



We are currently hovering around 1.27°C above preindustrial levels.

Source: Hadley Centre (HadCRUT4)

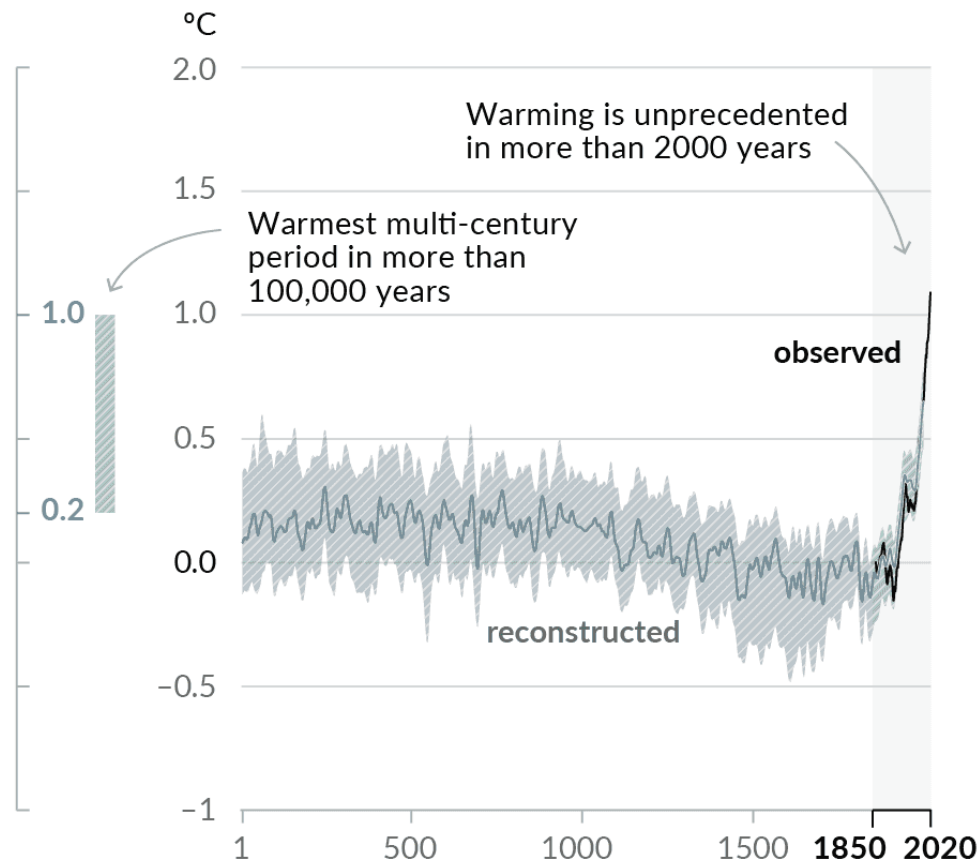
OurWorldInData.org/co2-and-other-greenhouse-gas-emissions • CC BY

Note: The red line represents the median average temperature change, and grey lines represent the upper and lower 95% confidence intervals.

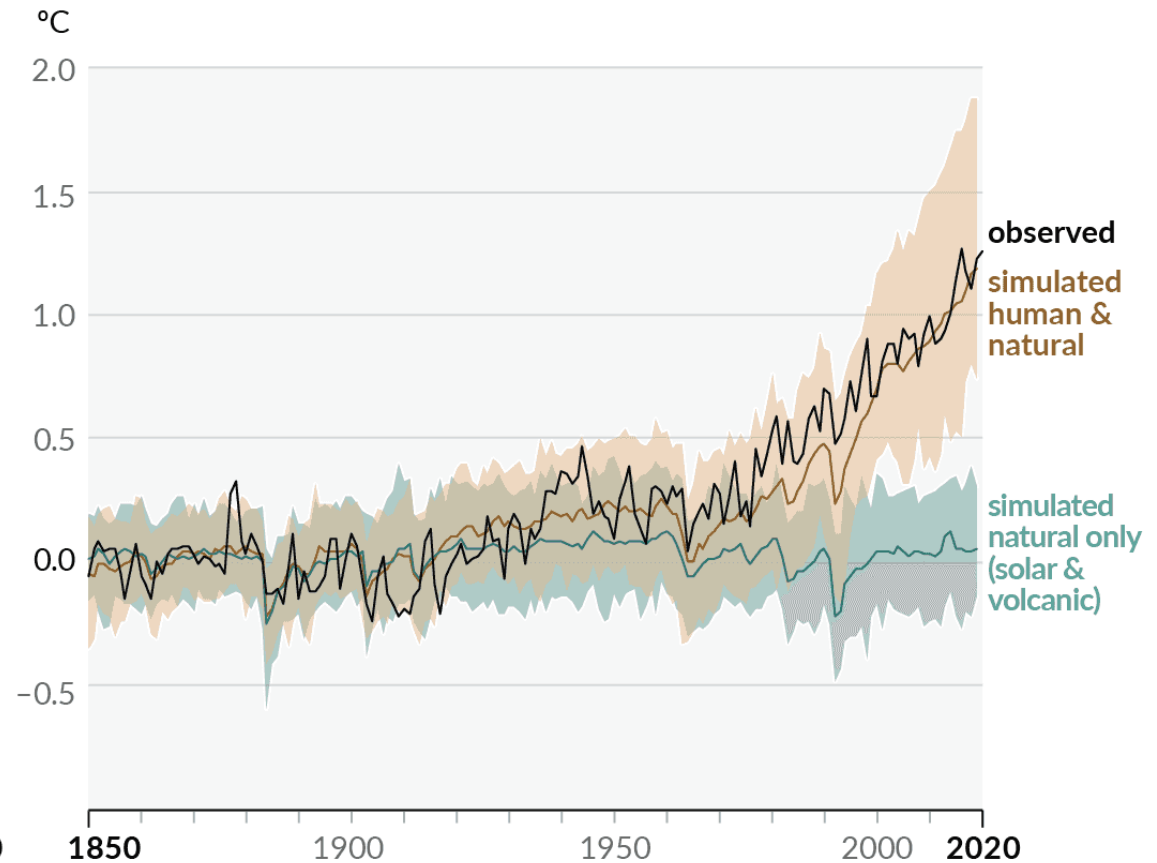
# Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years

## Changes in global surface temperature relative to 1850–1900

(a) Change in global surface temperature (decadal average) as **reconstructed** (1–2000) and **observed** (1850–2020)

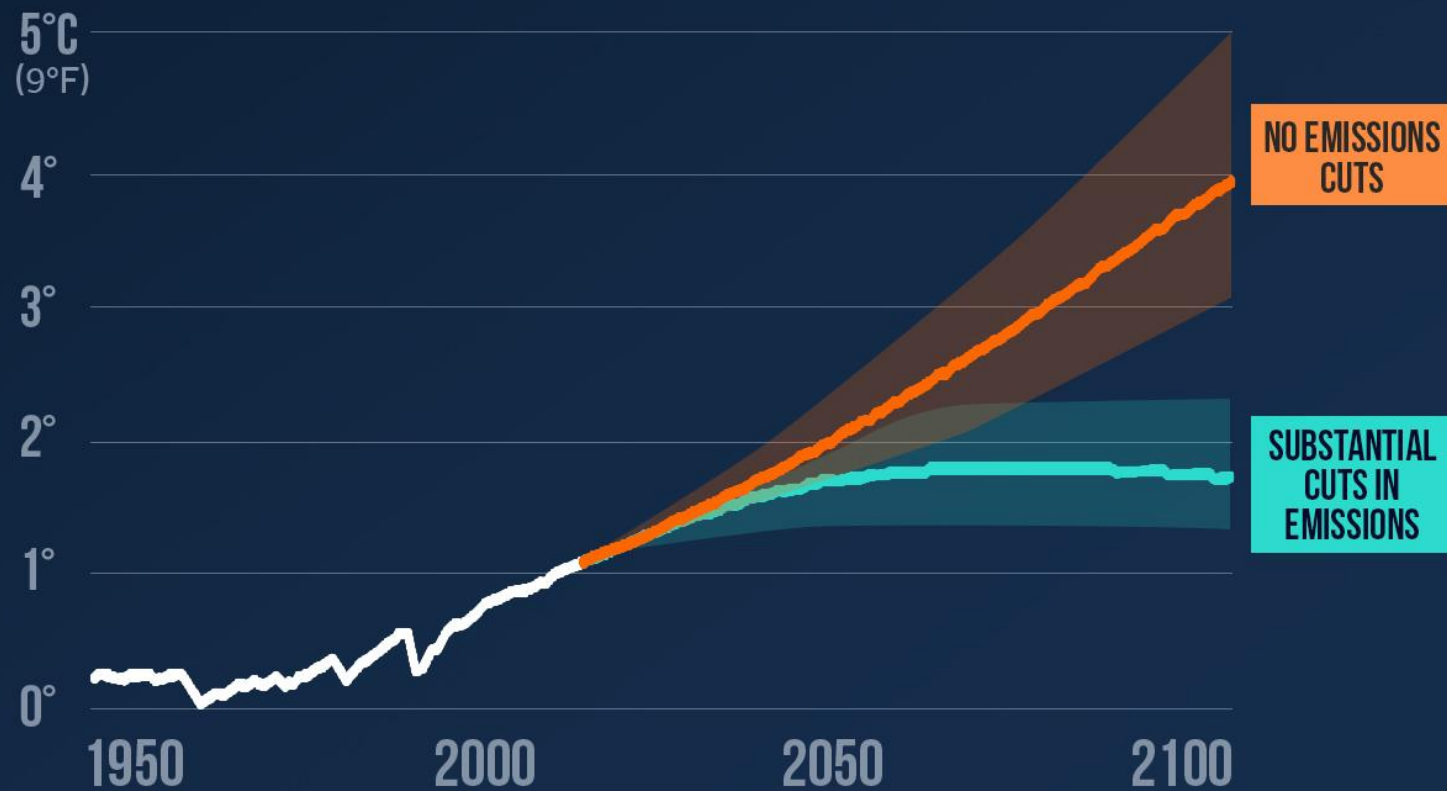


(b) Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & natural** and **only natural** factors (both 1850–2020)



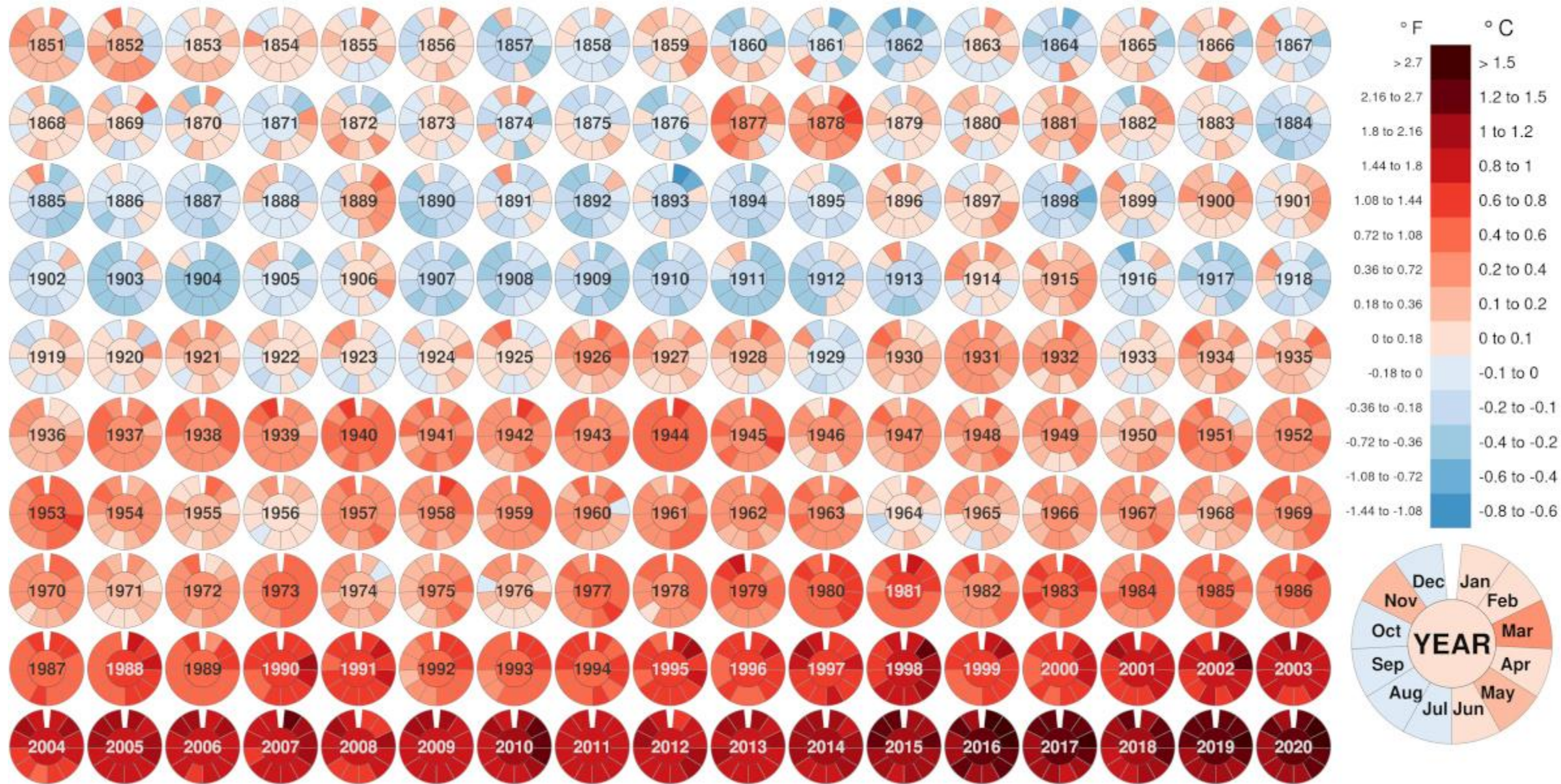
# FUTURE TEMPERATURES

WARMING DEPENDS ON CHOICES TODAY

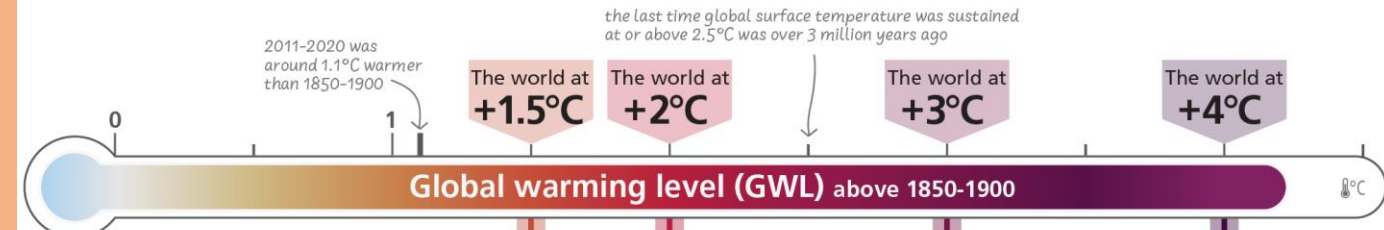


Global surface temperature (°C) anomaly relative to 1850-1900  
High warming scenario: SSP3-7, Low warming scenario from SSP1-2.6.  
Source: IPCC AR6 WG1

# Monthly global mean temperature 1851 to 2020 (compared to 1850-1900 averages)



# With every increment of global warming, regional changes in mean climate and extremes become more widespread and pronounced

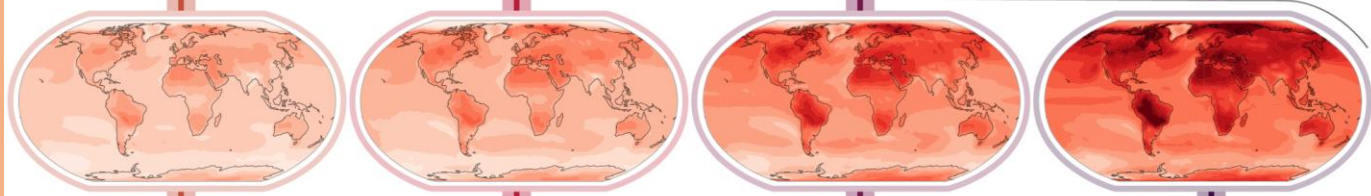


## a) Annual hottest-day temperature change

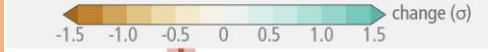


Annual hottest day temperature is projected to increase most (1.5-2 times the GWL) in some mid-latitude and semi-arid regions, and in the South American Monsoon region.

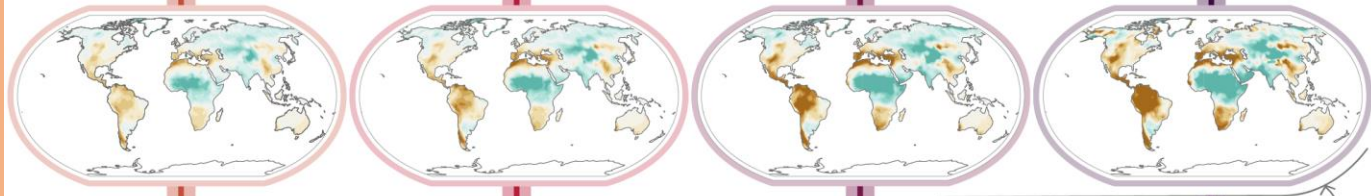
urbanisation further intensifies heat extremes



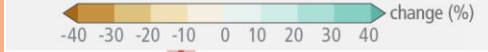
## b) Annual mean total column soil moisture change



Projections of annual mean soil moisture largely follow projections in annual mean precipitation but also show some differences due to the influence of evapotranspiration.

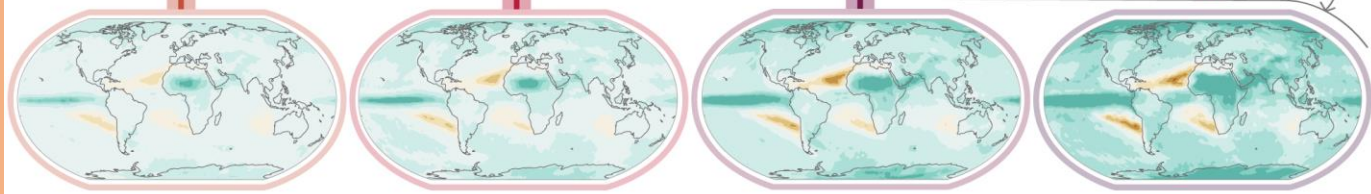


## c) Annual wettest-day precipitation change



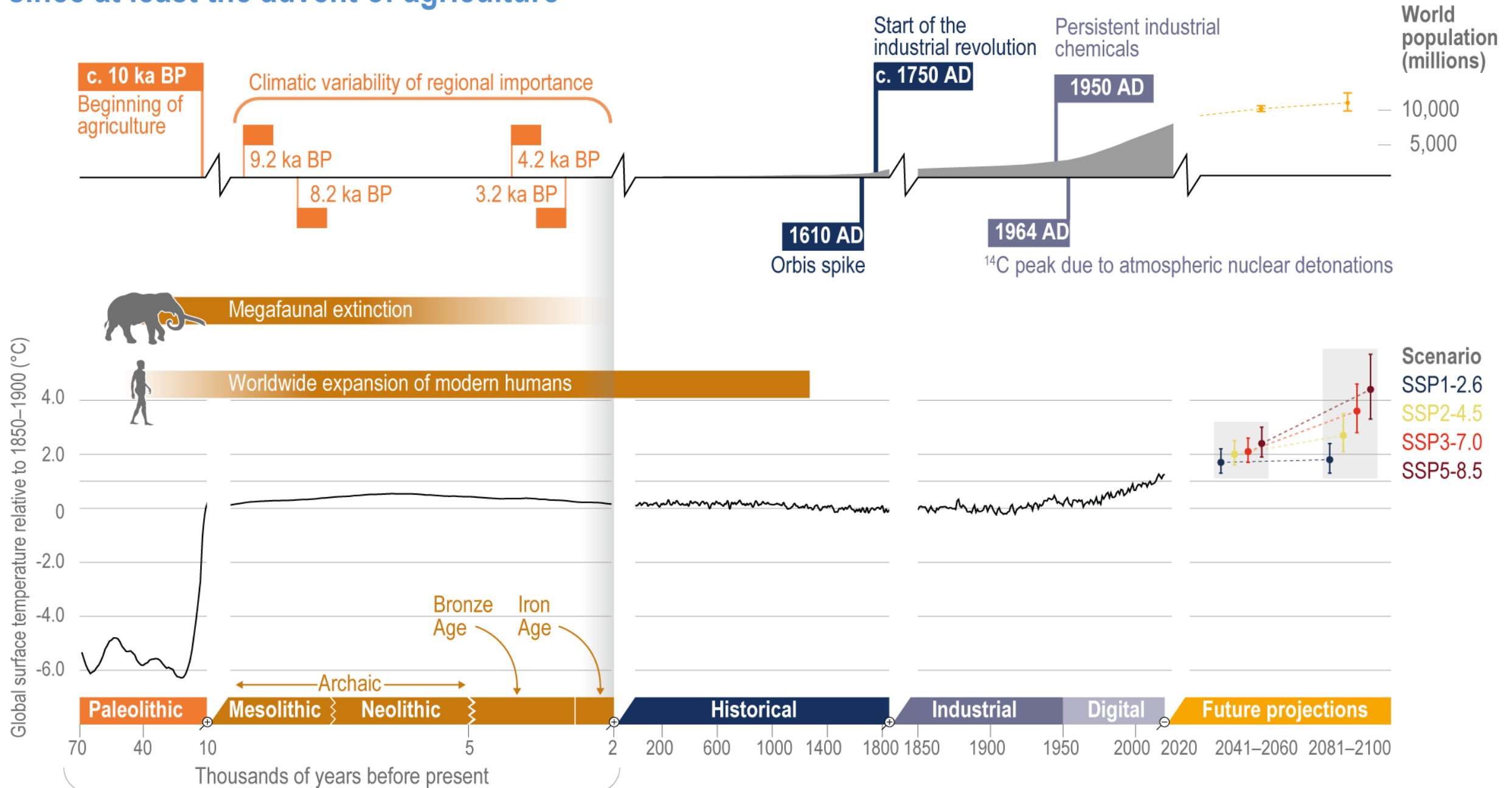
Annual wettest day precipitation is projected to increase in almost all continental regions, even in regions where projected annual mean soil moisture decline.

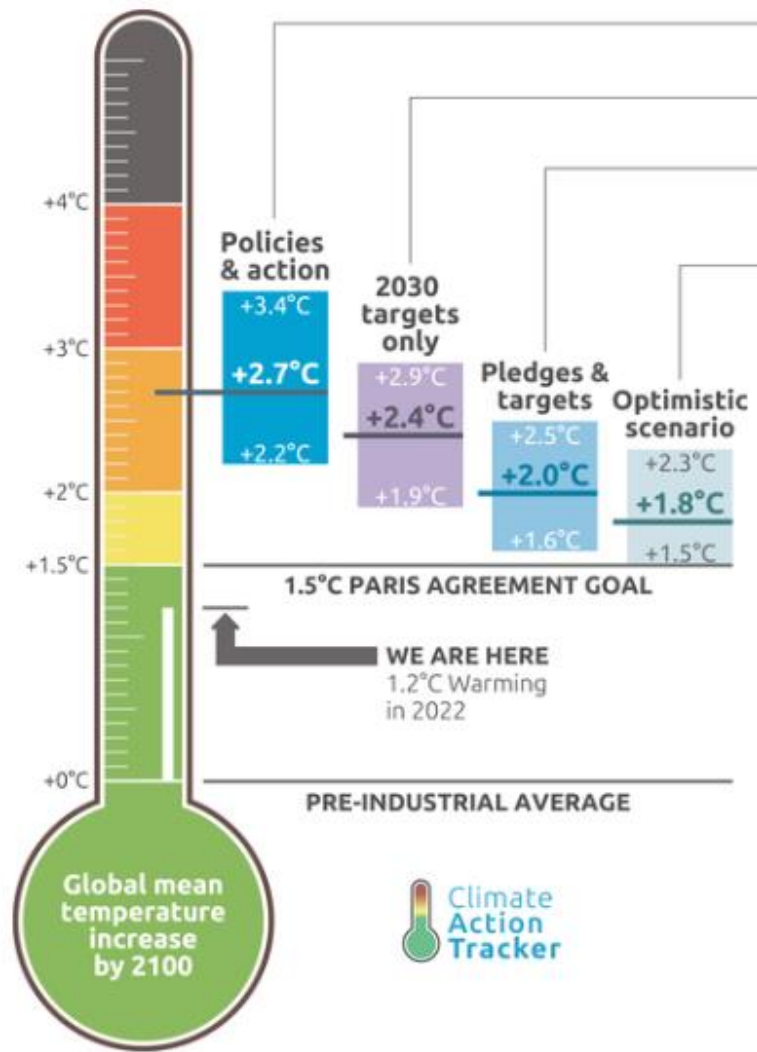
small absolute changes may appear large as % or  $\sigma$  changes in dry regions





# Humankind is embarking on a trajectory beyond the global temperatures experienced since at least the advent of agriculture





- Policies & action**  
Real world action based on current policies †
  - 2030 targets only**  
Based on 2030 NDC targets\* †
  - Pledges & targets**  
Based on 2030 NDC targets\* and submitted and binding long-term targets
  - Optimistic scenario**  
Best case scenario and assumes full implementation of all **announced** targets including net zero targets, LTSs and NDCs\*
- † Temperatures continue to rise after 2100  
\* If 2030 NDC targets are weaker than projected emissions levels under policies & action, we use levels from policy & action

CAT warming projections  
**Global temperature increase by 2100**  
 November 2022 Update

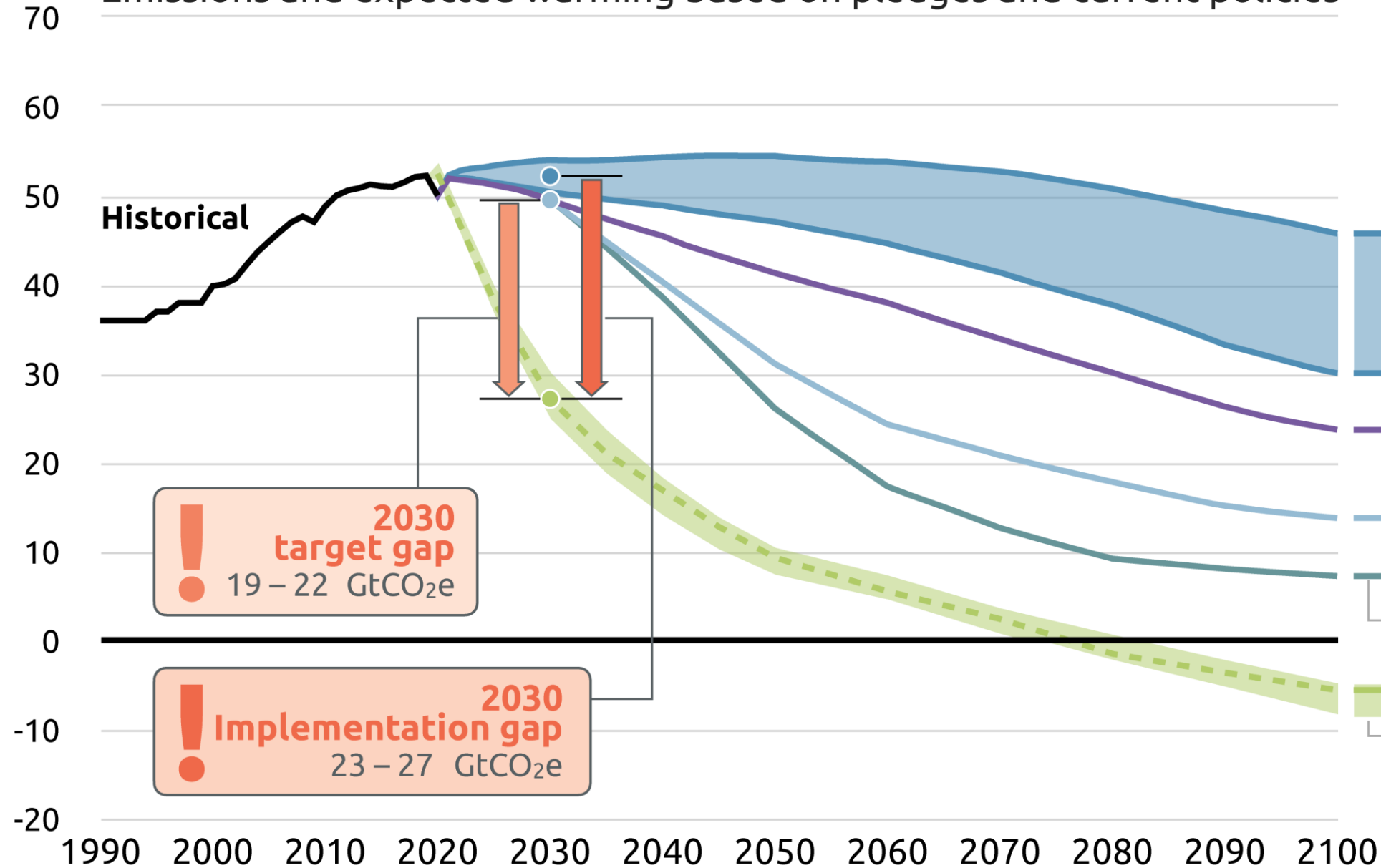


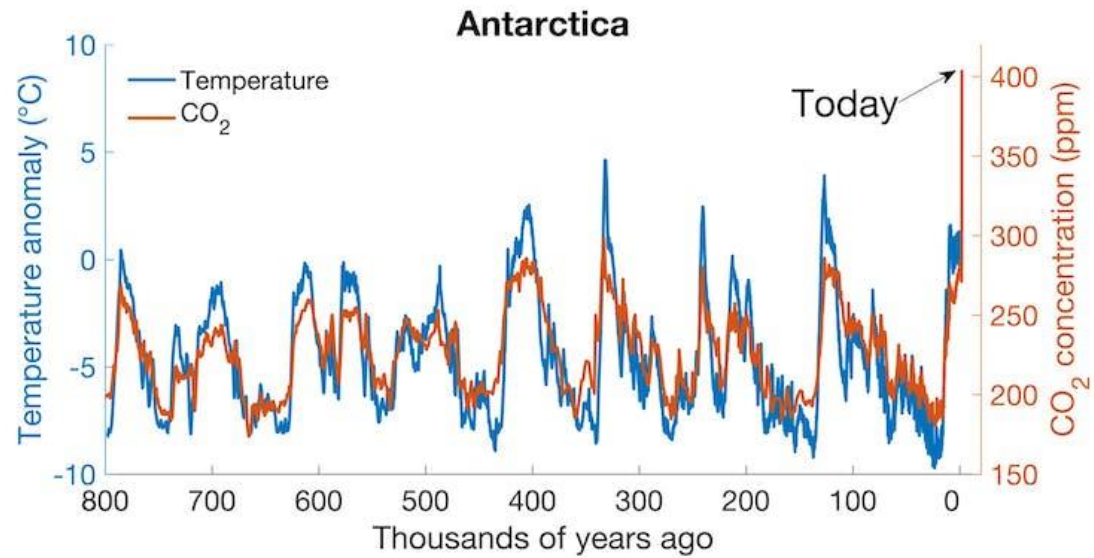
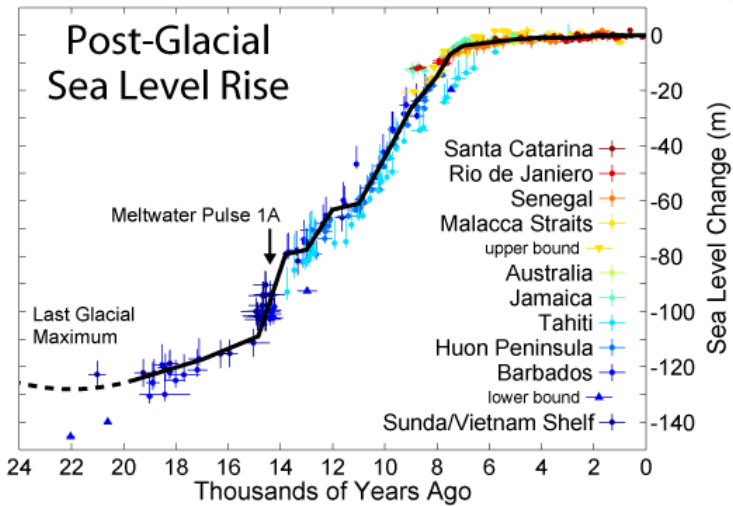
Global mean temperature increase by 2100

# 2100 WARMING PROJECTIONS

Emissions and expected warming based on pledges and current policies

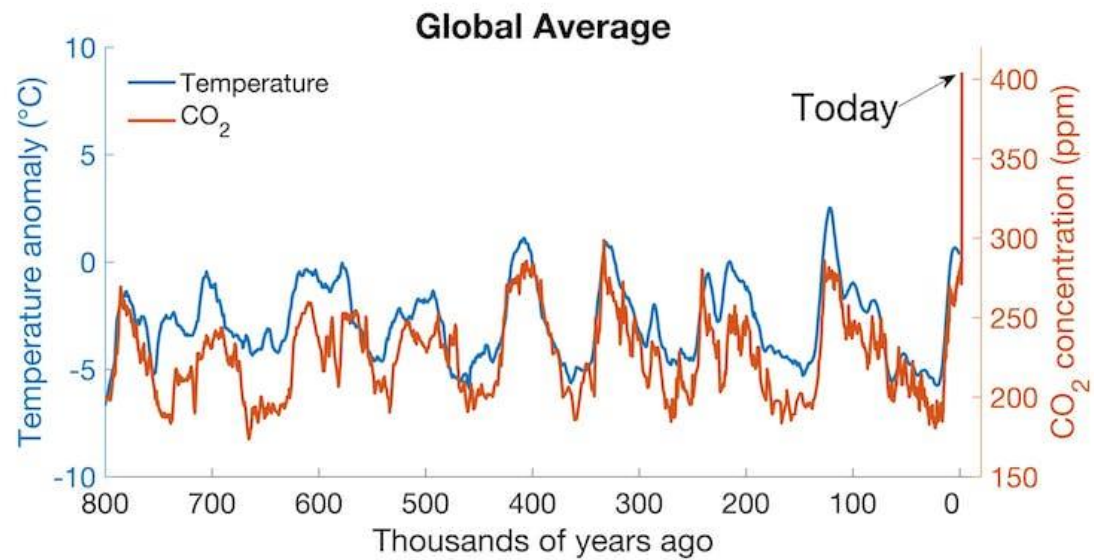
Global GHG emissions GtCO<sub>2e</sub>/year





We are currently hovering around 1.27°C above preindustrial levels.

Heading to 2.5 °C even 4 °C .

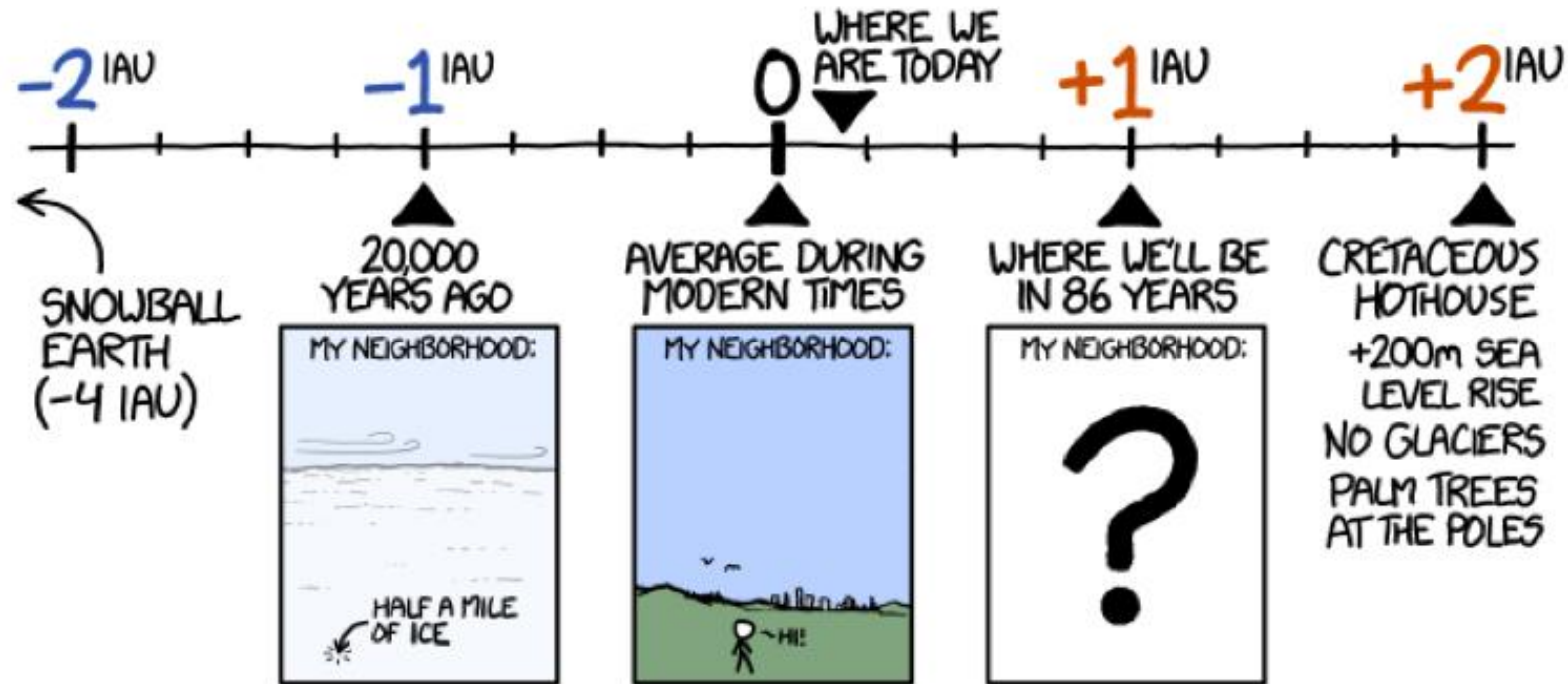


If 4 °C one way meant a vastly different world, heading to 4 °C the other way be as drastically different.

WITHOUT PROMPT, AGGRESSIVE LIMITS ON CO<sub>2</sub> EMISSIONS, THE EARTH WILL LIKELY WARM BY AN AVERAGE OF 4°-5°C BY THE CENTURY'S END.

## HOW BIG A CHANGE IS THAT?

IN THE COLDEST PART OF THE LAST ICE AGE, EARTH'S AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 4.5°C BELOW THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY NORM. LET'S CALL A 4.5°C DIFFERENCE ONE "ICE AGE UNIT."



# CLIMATE CHANGE IS A 'WICKED PROBLEM'

## COMPLEXITY

Difficulty in defining causal linkages of an event and determining its boundaries



## INHERENT INTERRELATEDNESS

Changing one factor can have multiple unknown effects, of unknown magnitude, and unknown consequences.

Changing one factor often leads to a new set of wicked problems.



*“ The problems that scientists and engineers have usually focused upon are mostly "tame" or "benign" ones. As an example, consider a problem of mathematics, such as solving an equation... the mission is clear. It is clear, in turn, whether or not the problems have been solved.*

*Wicked problems, in contrast, have neither of these clarifying traits...”*

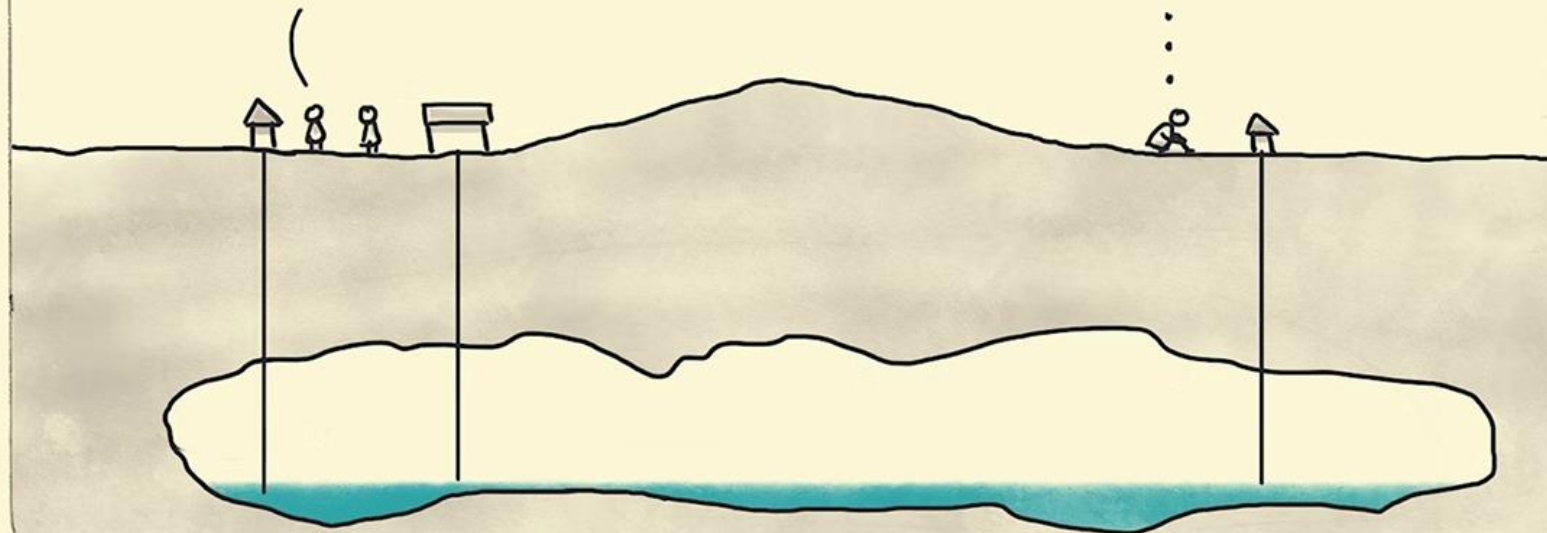
Rittel and Webber, 1973

# THE TRAGEDY OF THE COMMONS

WHEN SHORT-TERM SELF-INTEREST LEADS TO TRAGEDY FOR ALL

WATER BELONGS TO  
ANYONE. I TAKE AS  
MUCH AS I WANT

SEEMS THERE'S LESS  
AND LESS THESE DAYS



sketchplanations

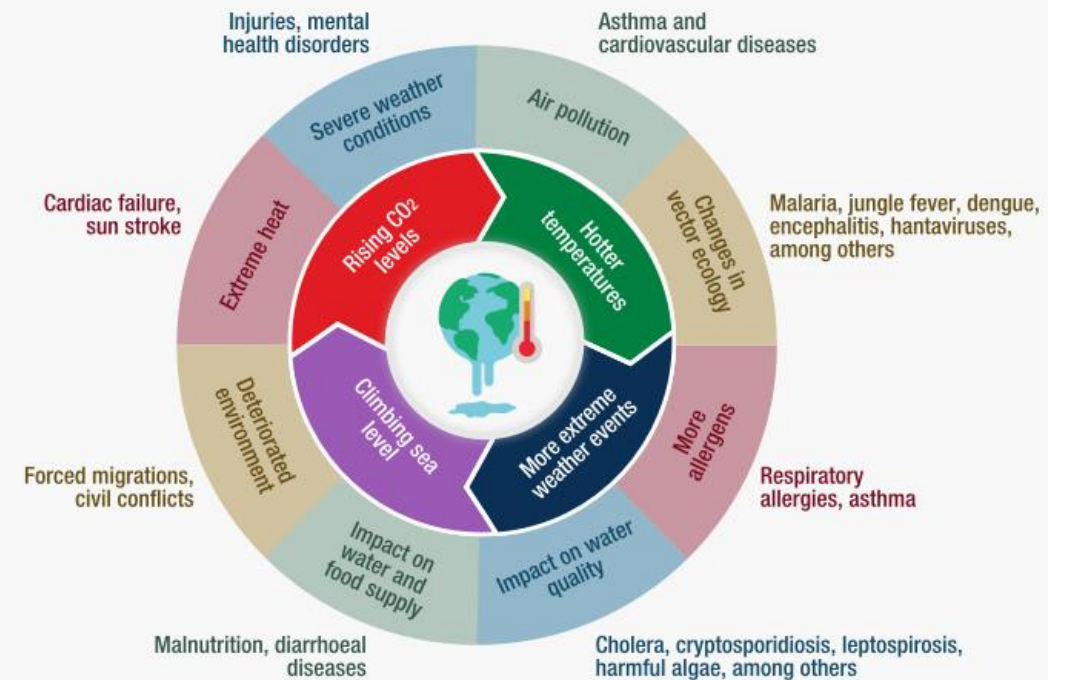
# How does climate change impact health?

- **Complex, multiple pathways.**
- **They are significant and measurable** (McMichael *et al*, 2006).
- **150,000 deaths** were attributable to climate change annually by the year 2000. This could reach at least 250,000 deaths annually between 2030 and 2050 (WHO, 2021).

## Effects felt strongly in:

- All countries
- Disproportionally so in poorer countries

## The effects of climate change and how it affects our health



Source: CDC (Centre for Disease Control).



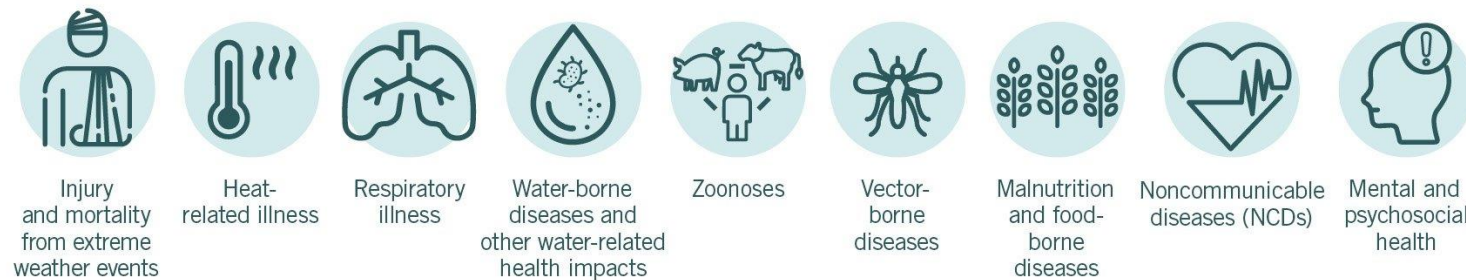
# Climate change

## Vulnerability

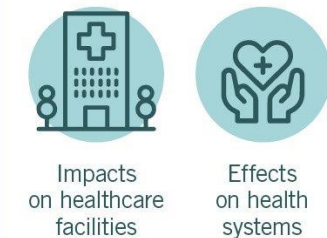


## Climate-sensitive health risks

### Health outcomes

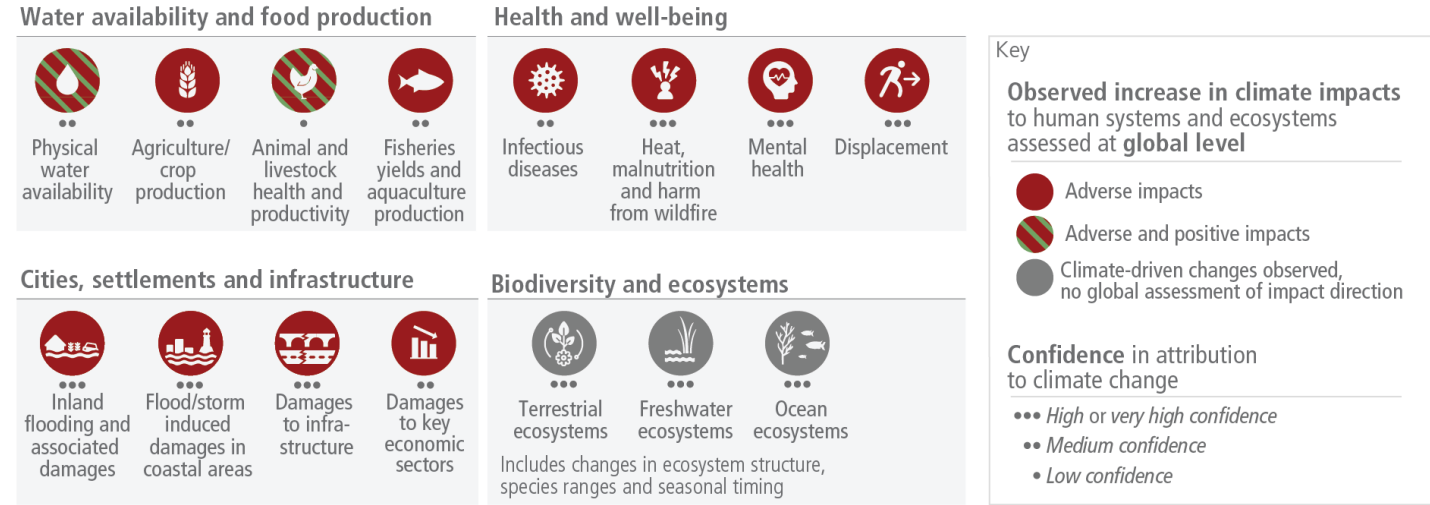


### Health systems & facilities outcomes

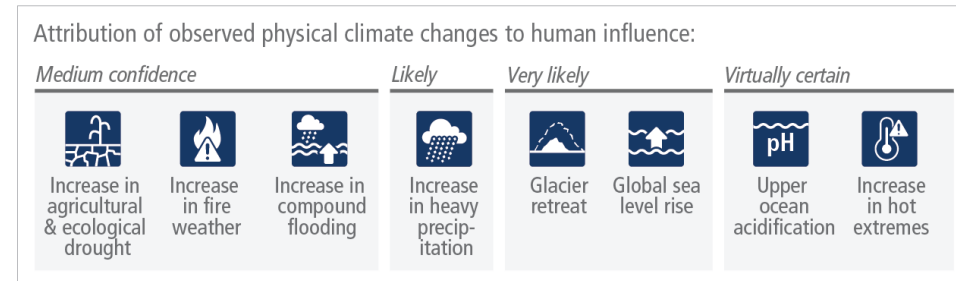


# Adverse impacts from human-caused climate change will continue to intensify

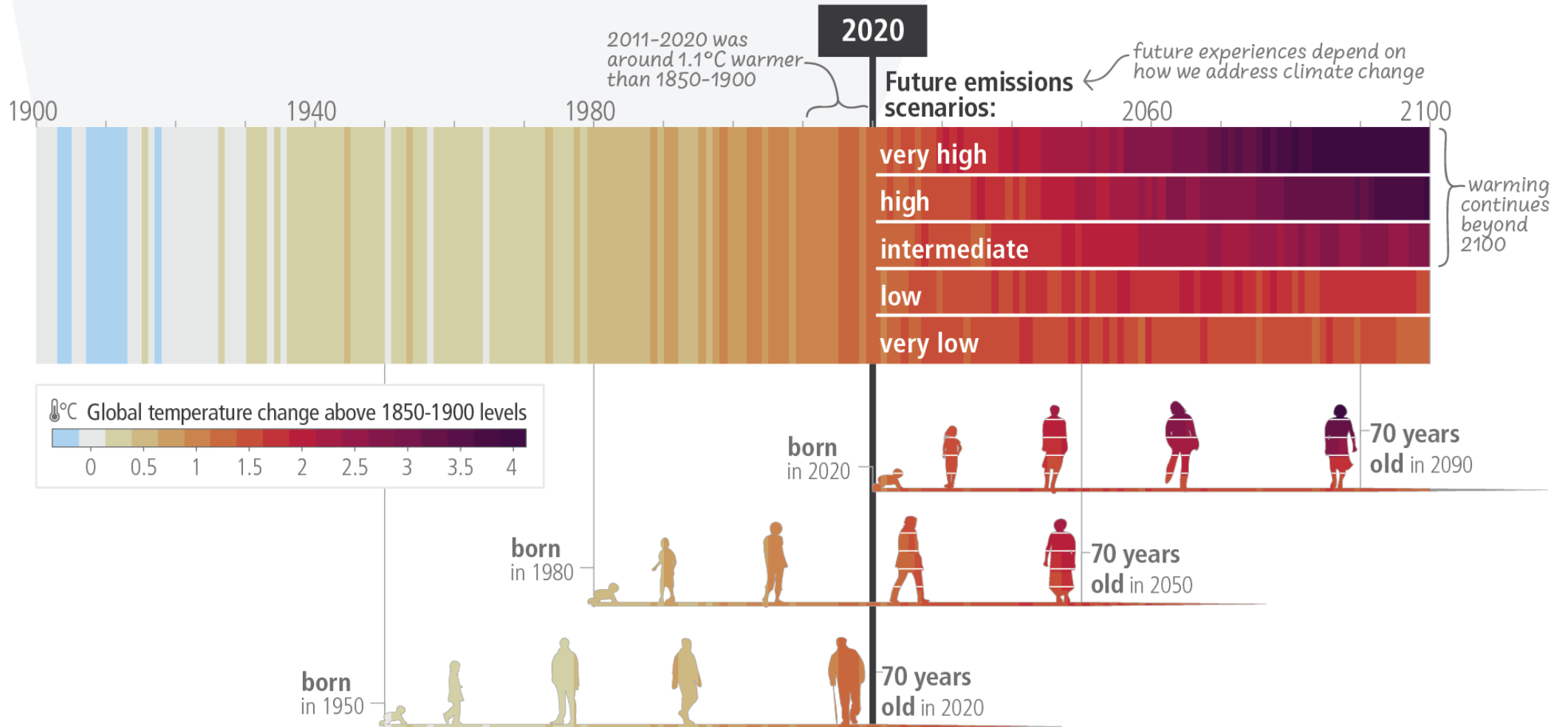
## a) Observed widespread and substantial impacts and related losses and damages attributed to climate change



## b) Impacts are driven by changes in multiple physical climate conditions, which are increasingly attributed to human influence



### c) The extent to which current and future generations will experience a hotter and different world depends on choices now and in the near-term



# Categories of climate-change risks to health

## Direct effects

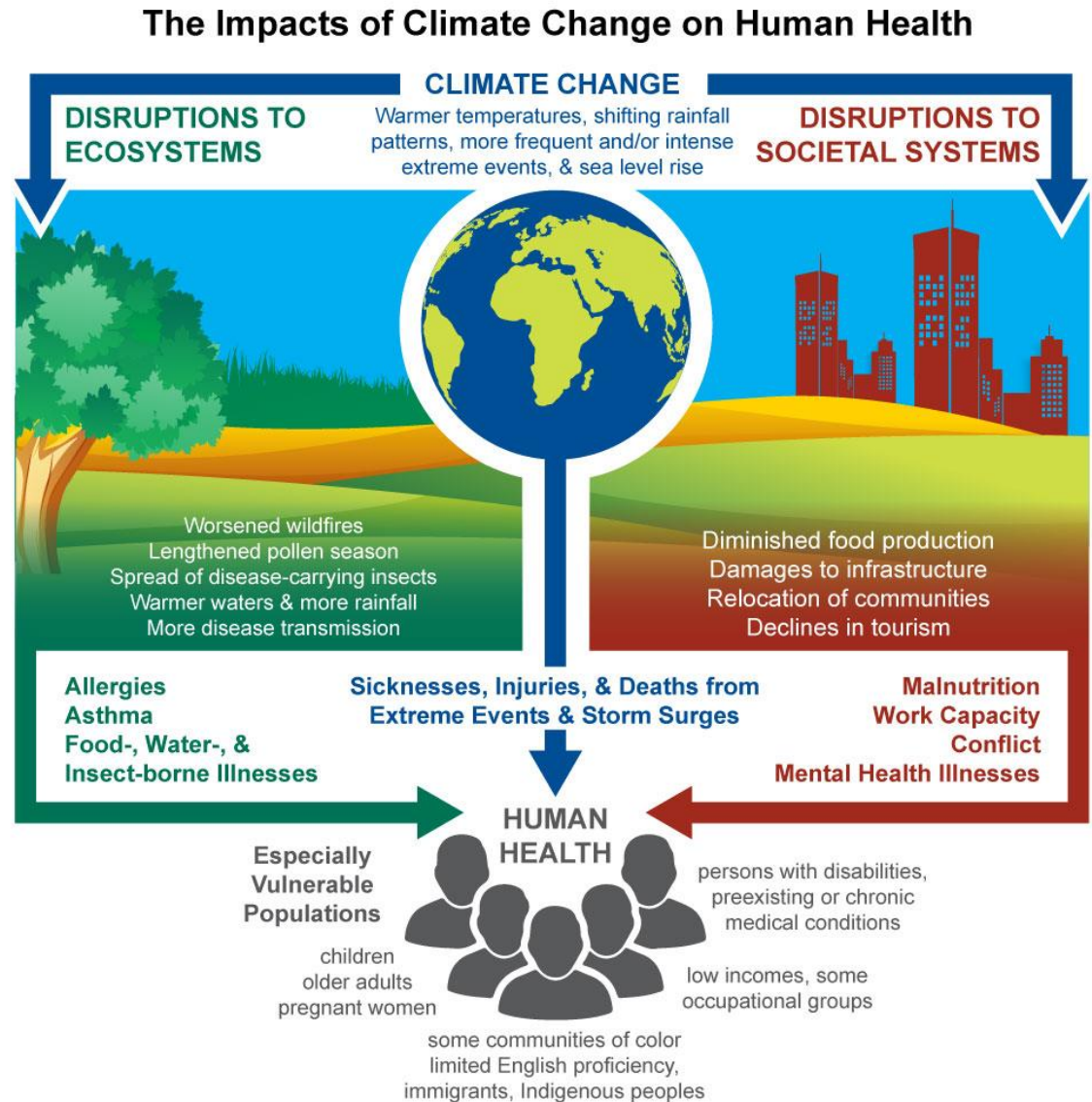
*Direct biological consequences.*  
e.g. heatwaves, extreme weather events, air pollution increase due to temperature

## Indirect effects

*Risks mediated by changes in biophysically and ecologically based processes and systems,* e.g. food security, water security, spread of vector-borne diseases

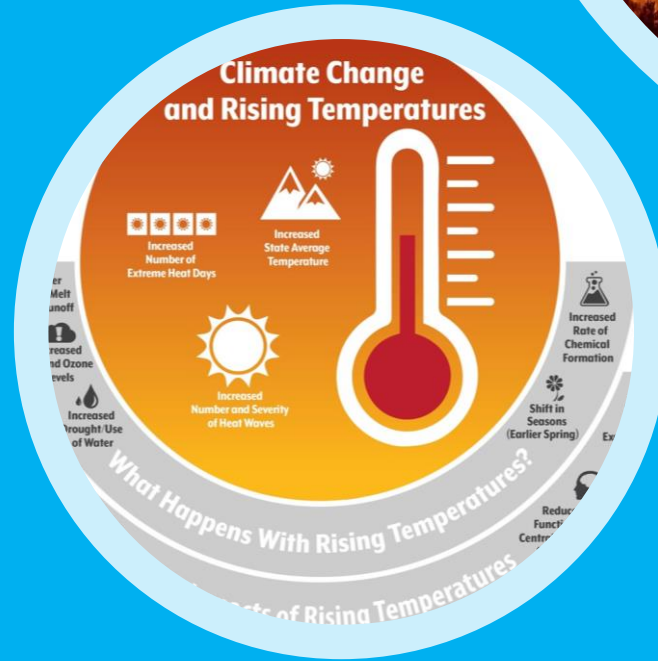
## Diffuse effects

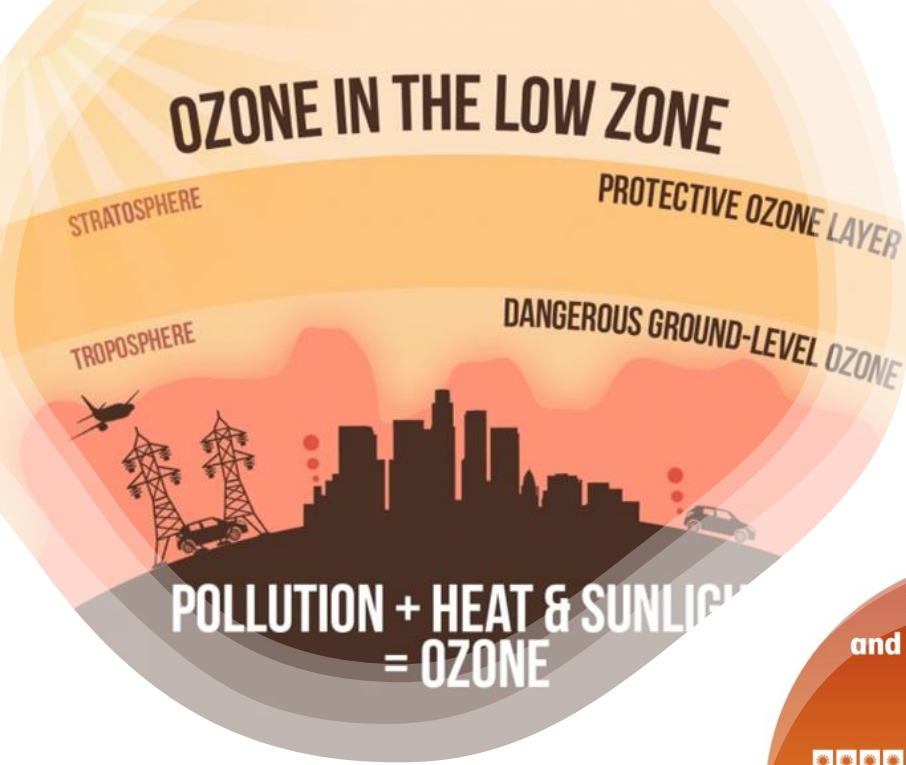
*Societal effects* due to social and systemic disruption, e.g. mental health effects, tension and conflict over basic resources, migration



# Direct effects

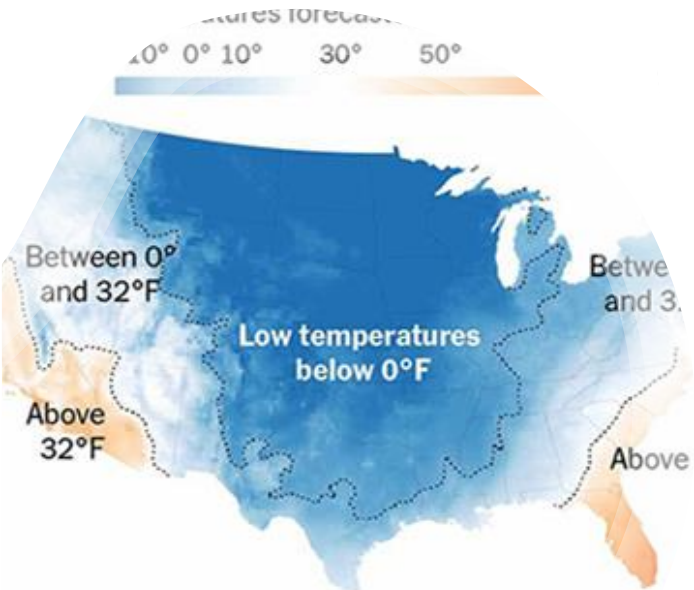
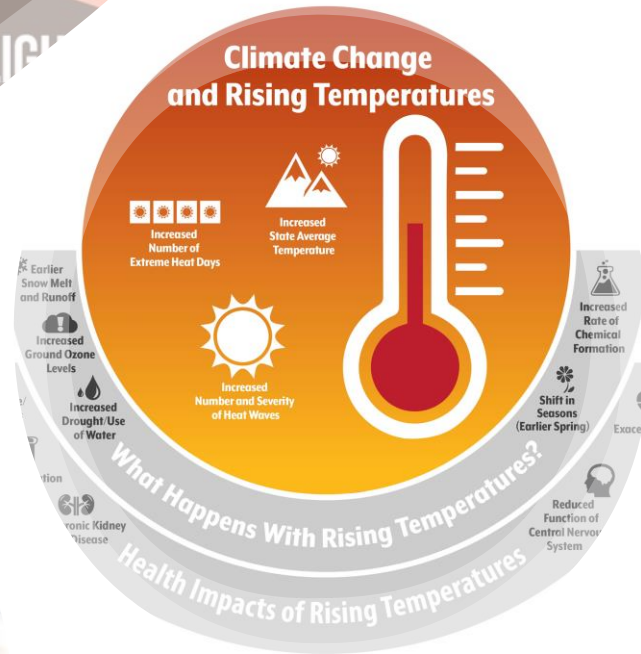
- Air pollution
- Temperature
- Extreme weather events



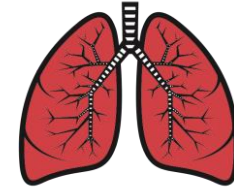


## Direct effects

- Rising temperatures
- Temperature-enhanced air pollution
- Extreme weather events
- Prolonged allergen season

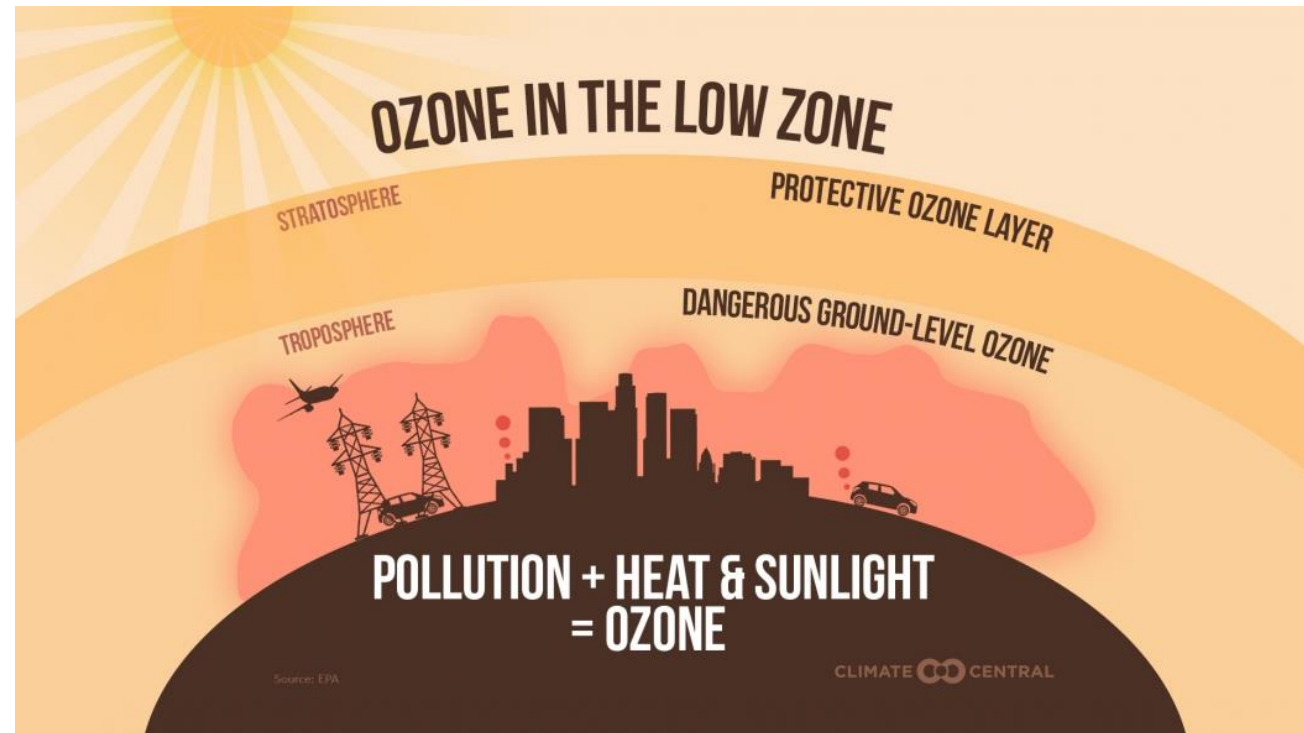


# Temperature-enhanced Air Pollution



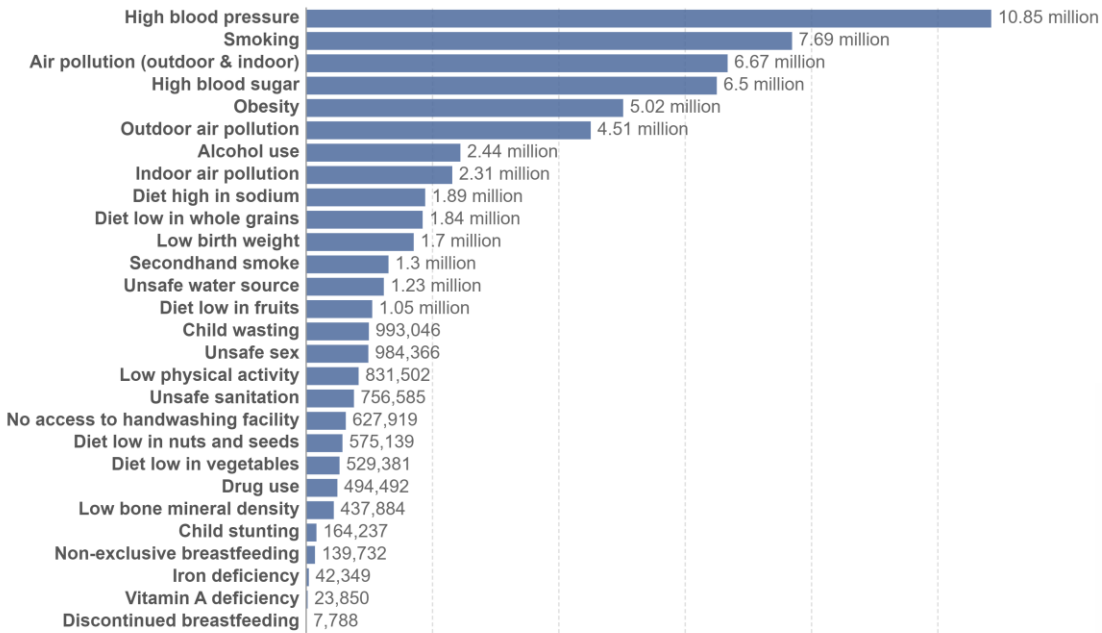
Depending on the level of exposure, ozone can:

- Make it more difficult to breathe deeply and vigorously.
- Cause shortness of breath, and pain when taking a deep breath.
- Cause coughing and sore or scratchy throat.
- Inflammate and damage the airways.
- Aggravate lung diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and chronic bronchitis.
- Increase the frequency of asthma attacks.
- Make the lungs more susceptible to infection.



# Number of deaths by risk factor, World, 2019

Total annual number of deaths by risk factor, measured across all age groups and both sexes.



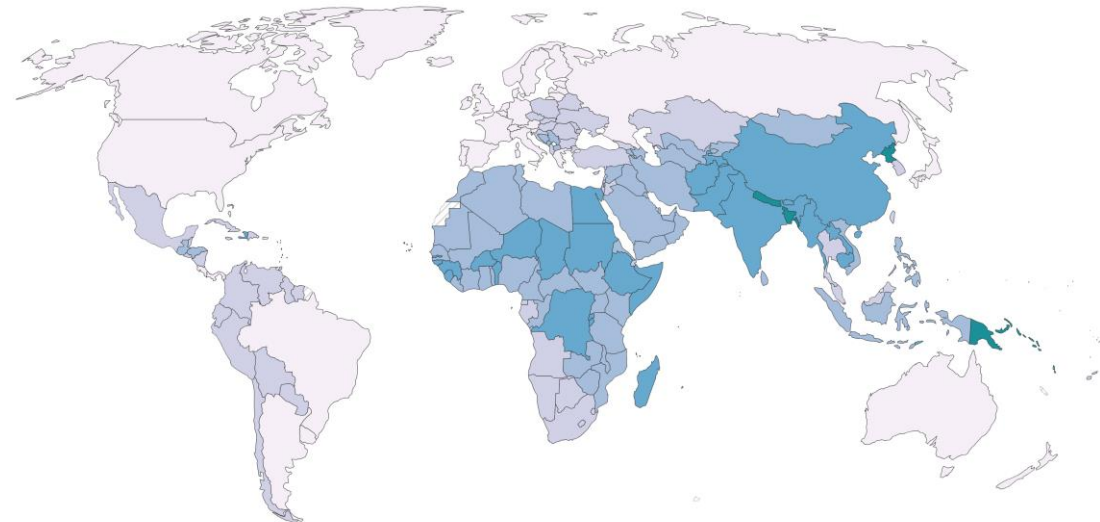
Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/causes-of-death • CC BY



# Share of deaths attributed to air pollution, 2019

Share of deaths, from any cause, which are attributed to air pollution – from outdoor and indoor sources – as a risk factor.



Source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2019)

OurWorldInData.org/air-pollution • CC BY

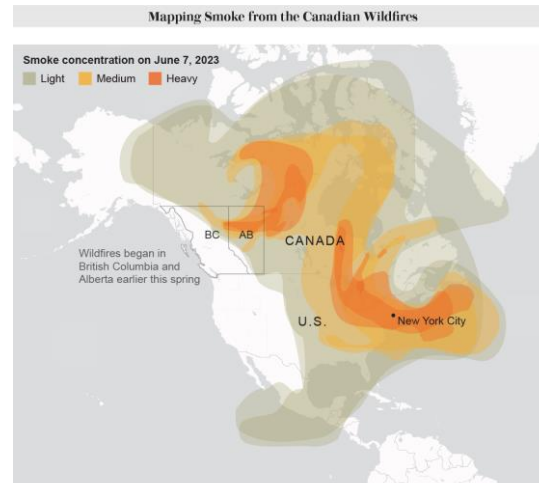
*Air pollution contributes to 11.65% of deaths globally (Our World in Data, 2023)*





# Wildfire Effects

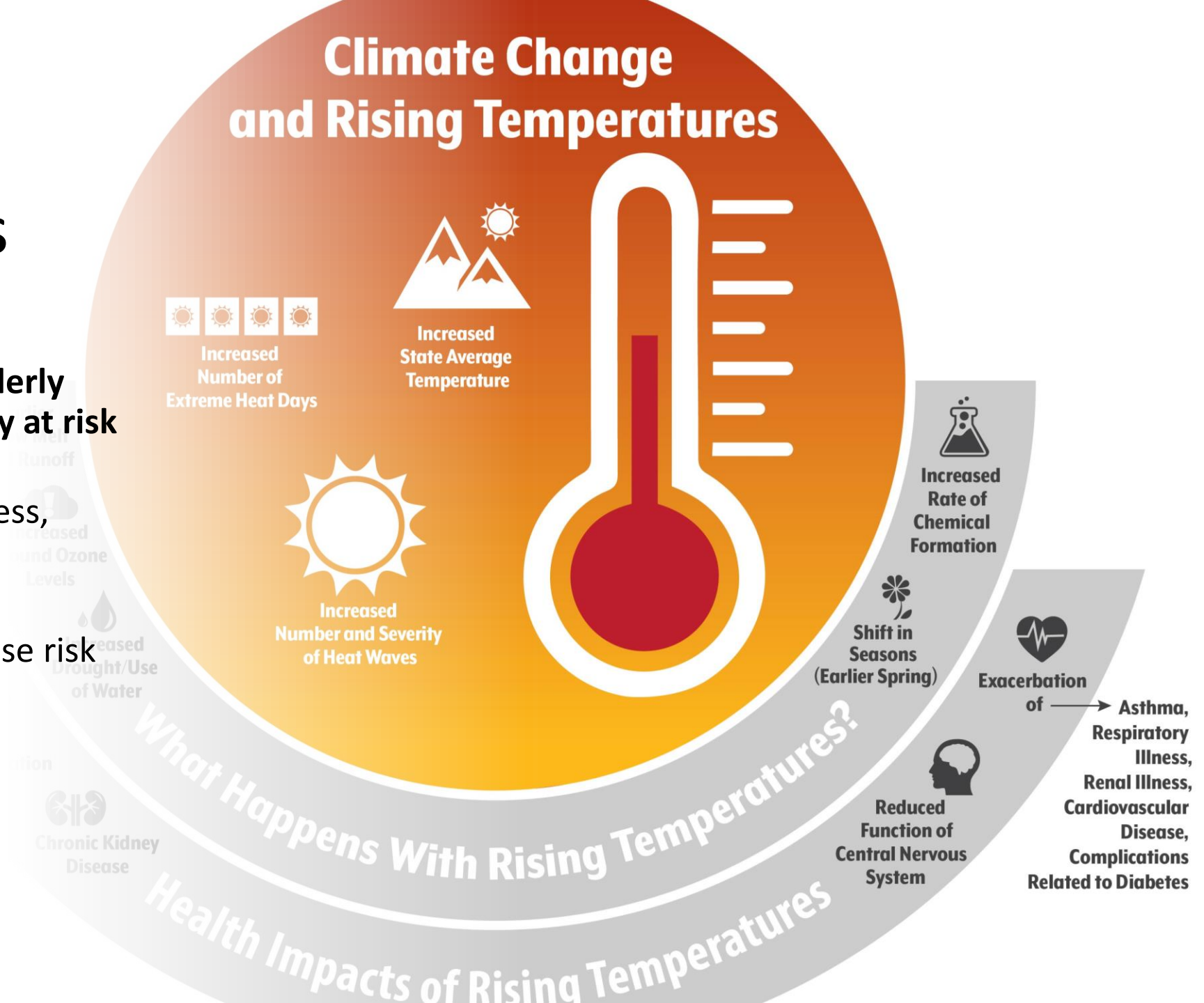
---



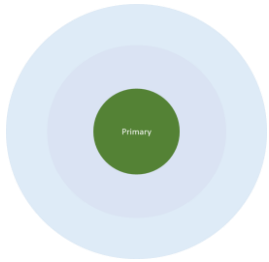
# Rising Temperatures

Vulnerable population (elderly and children) are especially at risk

- Discomfort, heat stress, heat stroke
- Dehydration
- Cardiovascular disease risk



EUROPE  
Extreme Maximum Temperature (C)  
July 17 - 23, 2022



**GBN**  
LIVE

A news broadcast scene. On the left, two female anchors are seated at a white desk. The anchor on the left is wearing a white blouse with red floral embroidery and is looking towards the camera. The anchor on the right is wearing a grey vest over a white blouse and is looking towards the camera. A laptop and a white mug with the GBN logo are on the desk. On the right, a male guest is shown in a video call window, wearing a light blue shirt and looking slightly downwards. The background features a blue and red geometric pattern.

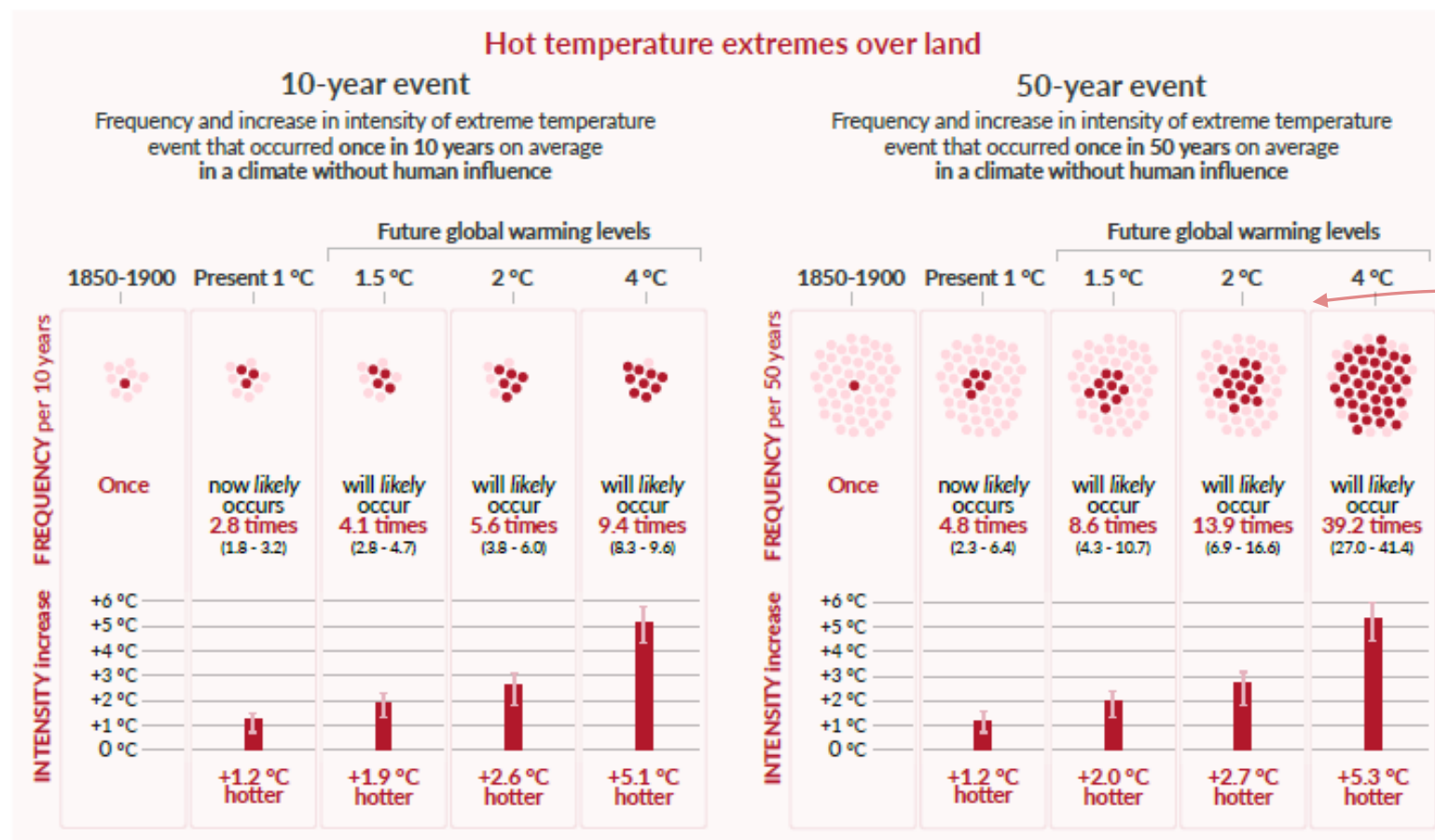
**UK HEATWAVE**  
Extreme weather said to be more frequent and lasting longer

GBNEWS.UK

CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER, NOAA  
Computer generated contours  
Based on preliminary data

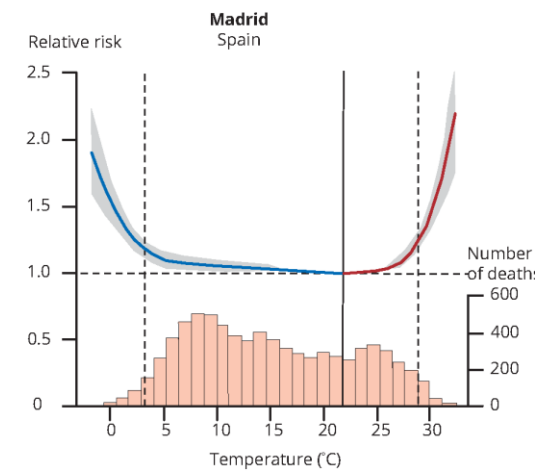
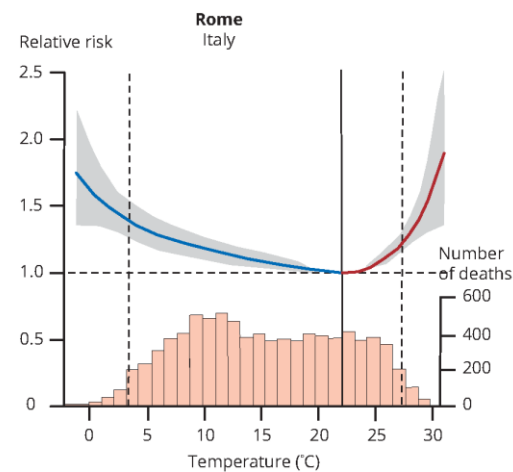
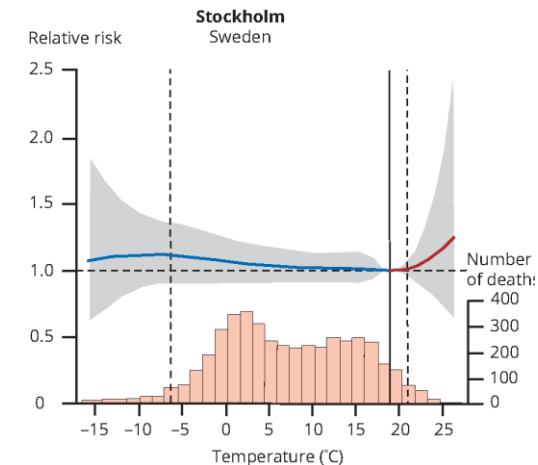
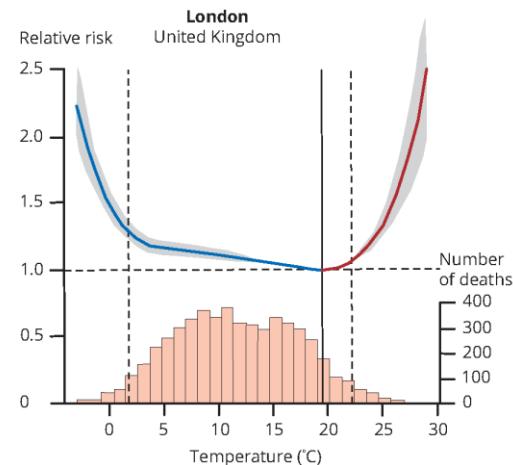
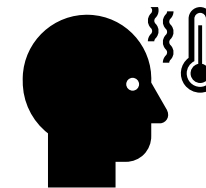
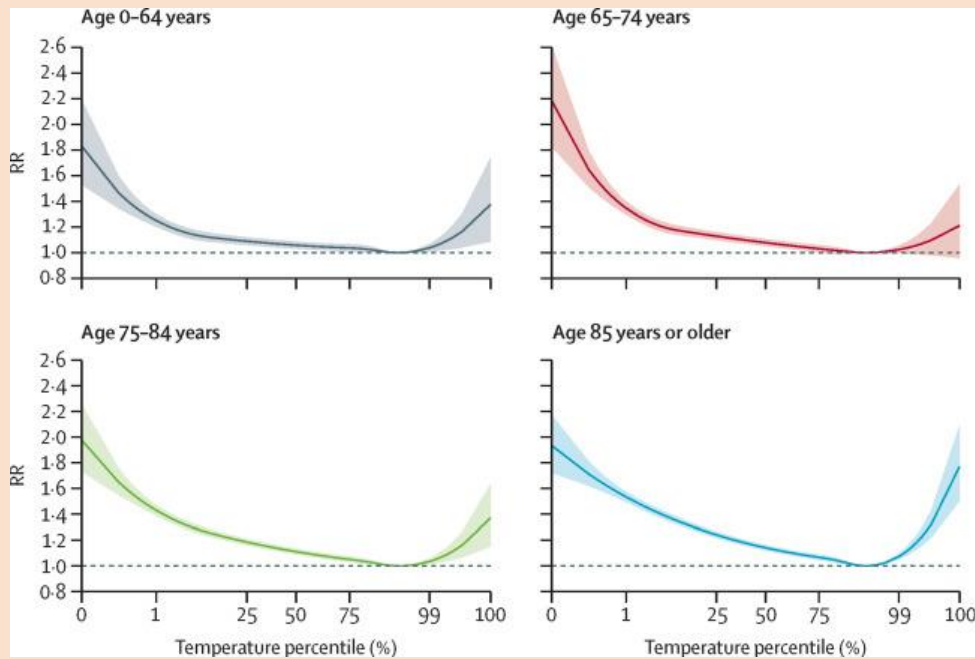


## Projected changes in extremes are larger in frequency and intensity with every additional increment of global warming



Where we're heading >3°C...

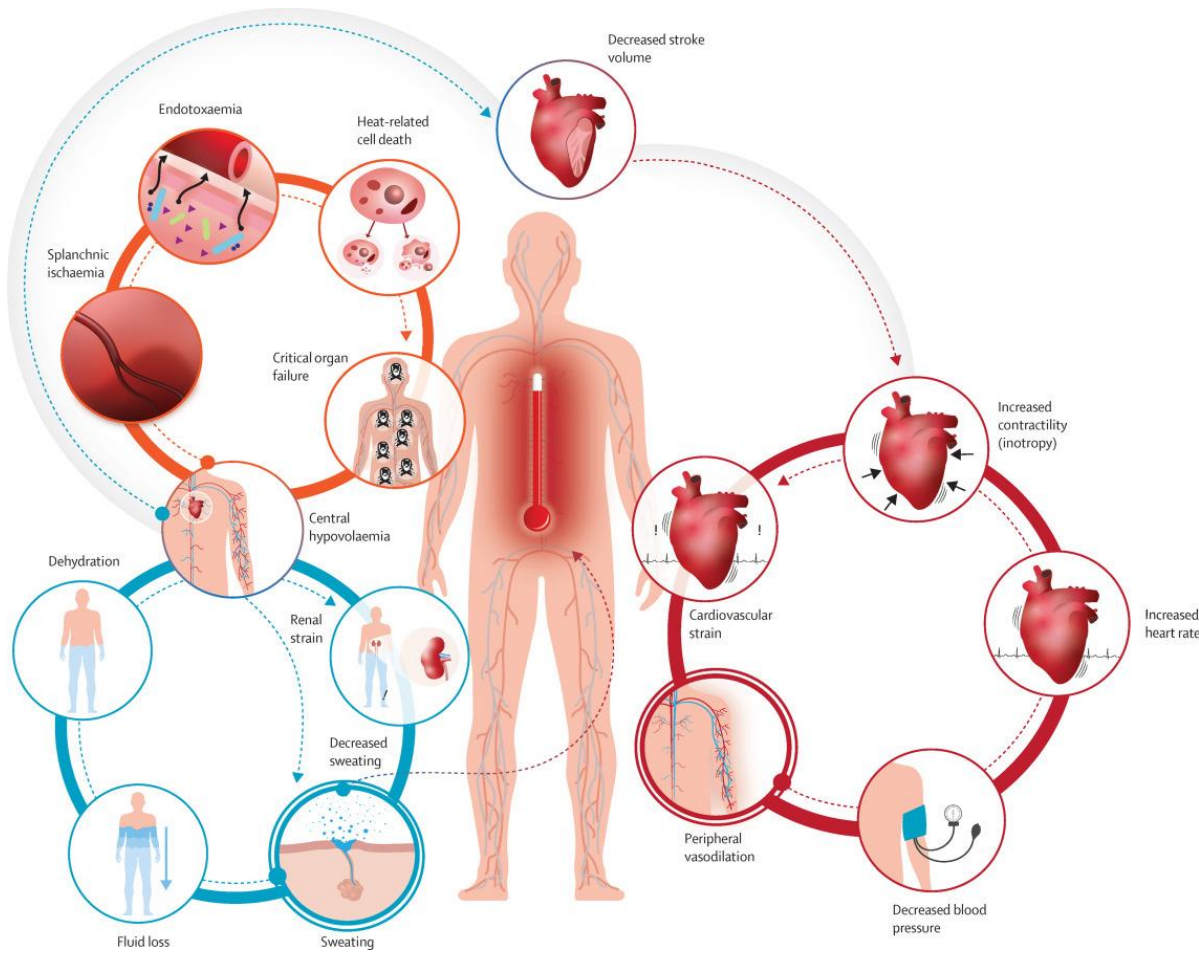
...14 – 40 times increased frequency of a 50-year event. Once every two years



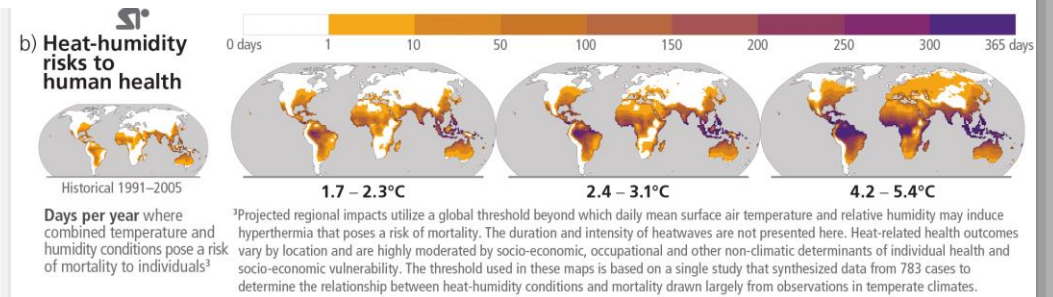
## England recorded 2,800 excess deaths in over-65s during 2022 heatwaves

**Calls for government to take action now to prevent further unnecessary deaths next summer**





*“Climate change is interacting with other trends, such as population growth and ageing, urbanisation, and socioeconomic development, that can either exacerbate or ameliorate heat-related hazards. Urban temperatures are further enhanced by anthropogenic heat from vehicular transport and heat waste from buildings.”*



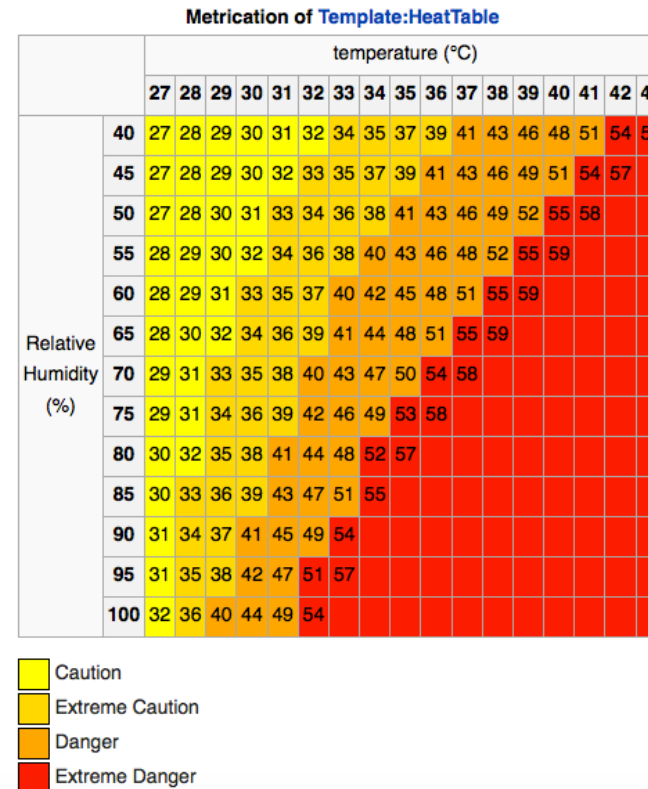
*“Although there is some evidence of adaptation to increasing temperatures in high-income countries, projections of a hotter future suggest that without investment in research and risk management actions, heat-related morbidity and mortality are likely to increase.”*

# Wet Bulb Temperature

- Defined as the temperature read by a thermometer covered in a water-soaked cloth over which air is passed,
- At 100% relative humidity, the wet-bulb temperature is equal to the air temperature (dry-bulb temperature). At a lower humidity, the wet-bulb temperature is lower as there is evaporative cooling (humidity gradient). The drier the air, the faster the water will evaporate, the faster the cooling (= lower temperature)

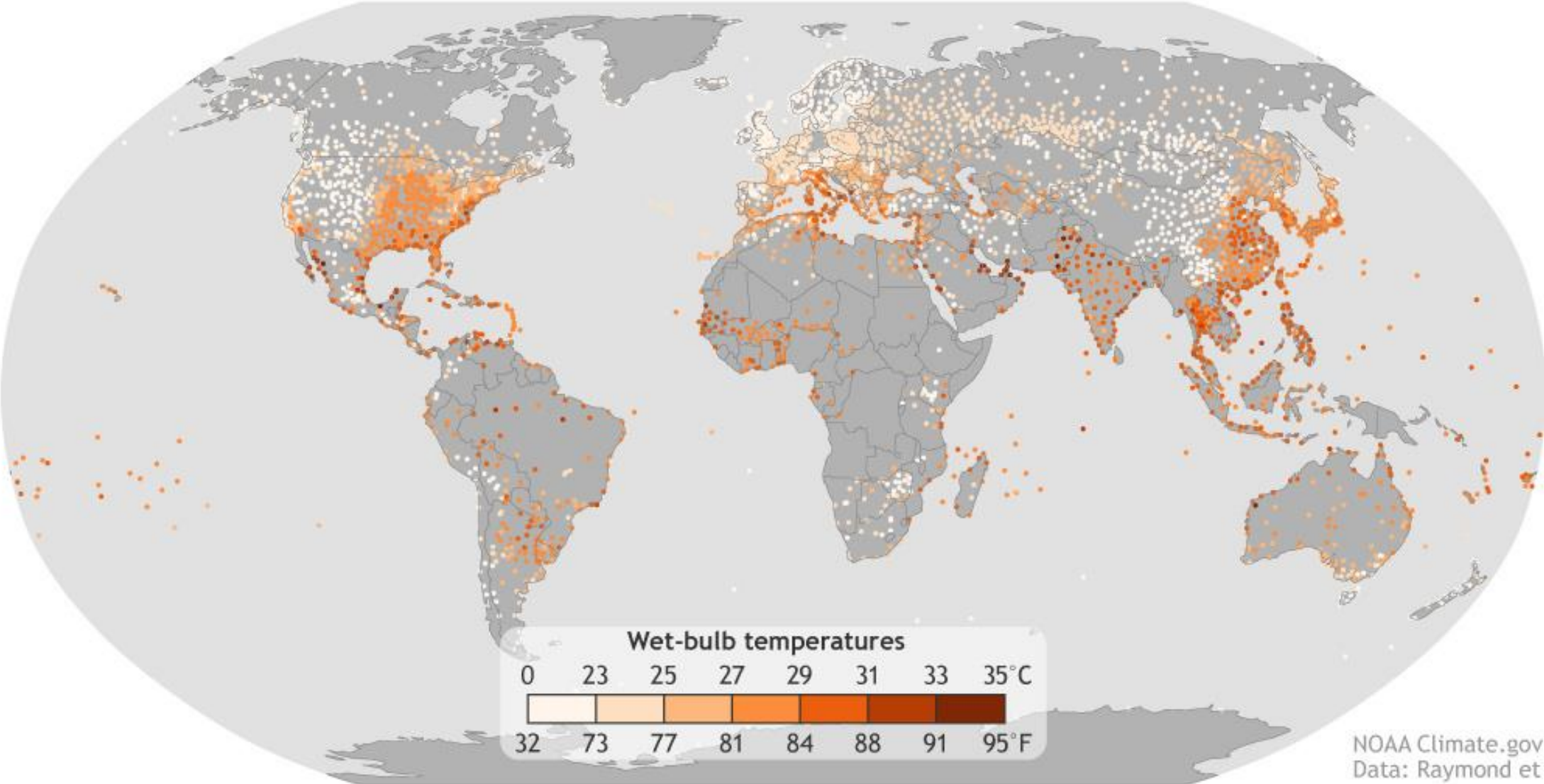
# Wet Bulb Temperature

Heat Stress Category (WBGT)	Moderate Work		Hard Work	
	Work/Rest Cycle	Water Intake Per Hour	Work/Rest Cycle	Water Intake Per Hour
<b>White</b> ≤76.9°F (≤24.9°C)	60/15 MINUTES	300 ml (1/3 qt)	40/20 MINUTES	500 ml (1/2 qt)
<b>Green</b> 77-81.9°F (25-27.7°C)	60/15 MINUTES	750 ml (3/4 qt)	40/20 MINUTES	1000 ml (1 qt)
<b>Yellow</b> 82-84.9°F (27.8-29.4°C)	40/20 MINUTES	1000 ml (1 qt)	30/30 MINUTES	1000 ml (1 qt)
<b>Red</b> 85-88.9°F (29.5-31.6°C)	30/30 MINUTES	1000 ml (1 qt)	<b>Exercise is forbidden. Very high risk for heat casualties.</b>	
<b>Black</b> ≥89°F (≥31.7°C)	<b>Exercise is forbidden. Very high risk for heat casualties.</b>			





# TOP 0.1% OF HOT AND HUMID DAYS (1979-2017)



NOAA Climate.gov  
Data: Raymond et al., 2020

# High Temperature implications

- Climate change can have knock-on effects, many of which we may not necessarily think of (e.g. heat – drought – poor cooling – power cuts – heatstroke – overwhelmed systems)
- Question to ask – as the world warms and the UK enters a warmer climate regimen, do you think UK housing on average is adapted to extreme heat?
- This is just one example. There are other knock-on effects – on food, farming, disease, which we will look into.



# Tier 1: Direct effects : Extremes

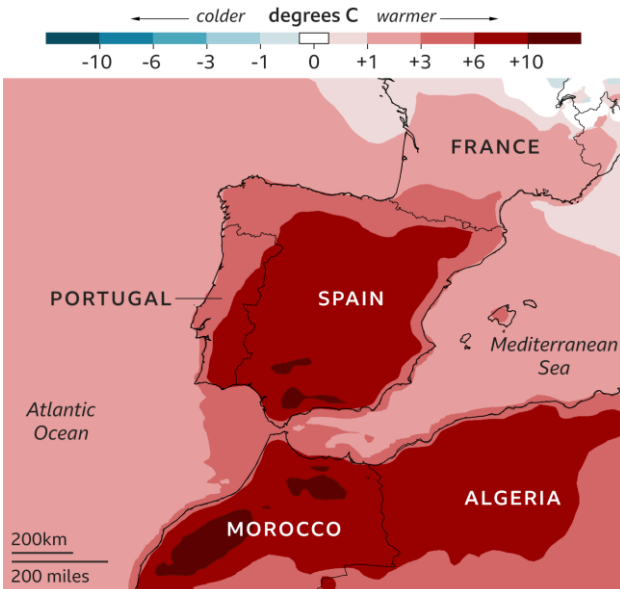
April 2023



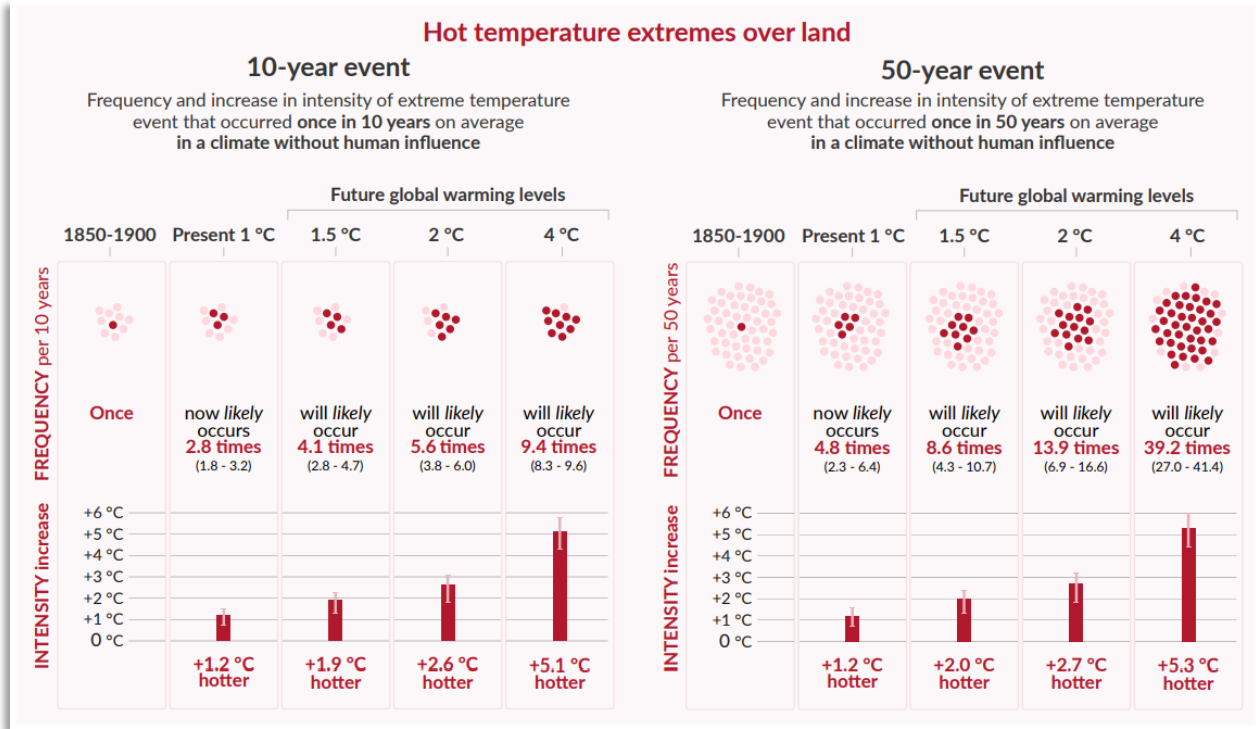
- Record temperature in Spain for April
- Temperature anomalies of >10°C above normal reached in Granada

## Much warmer than usual weather is forecast for Spain this week

Forecast air temperatures for 24 April - 1 May 2023, compared to average values over the last 20 years at the same time of year



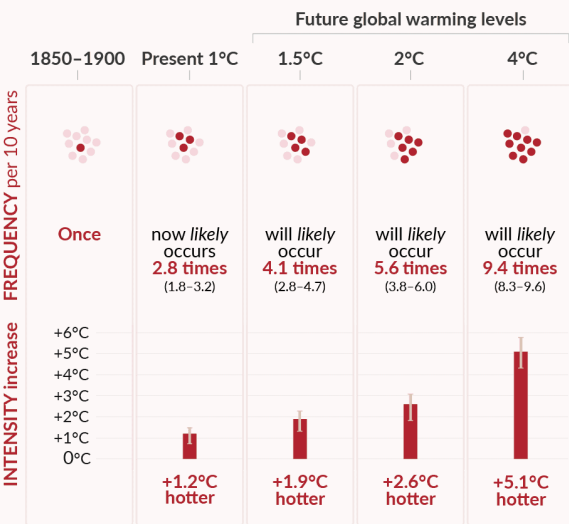
Source: ECMWF



## Hot temperature extremes over land

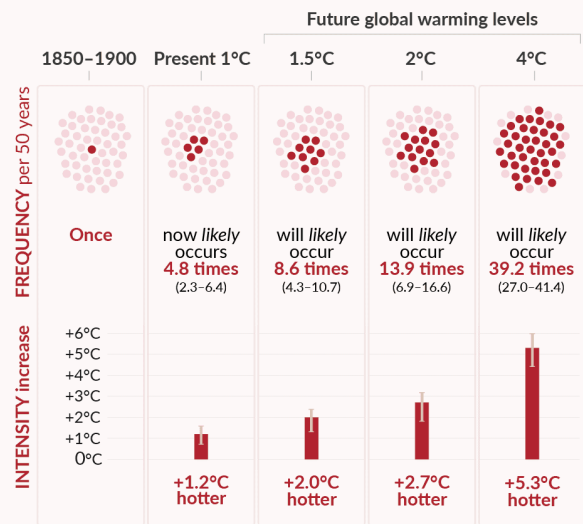
### 10-year event

Frequency and increase in intensity of extreme temperature event that occurred **once in 10 years** on average in a climate without human influence



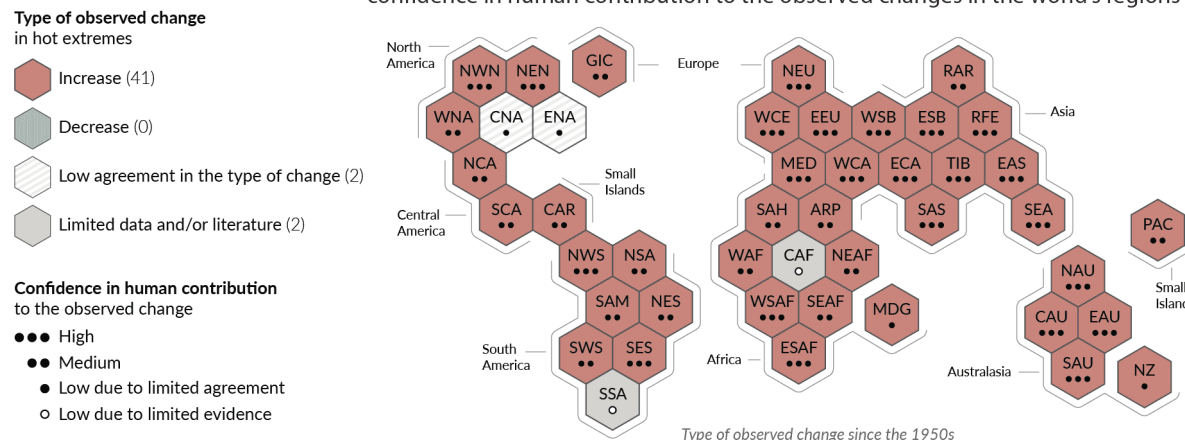
### 50-year event

Frequency and increase in intensity of extreme temperature event that occurred **once in 50 years** on average in a climate without human influence



## Climate change is already affecting every inhabited region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes

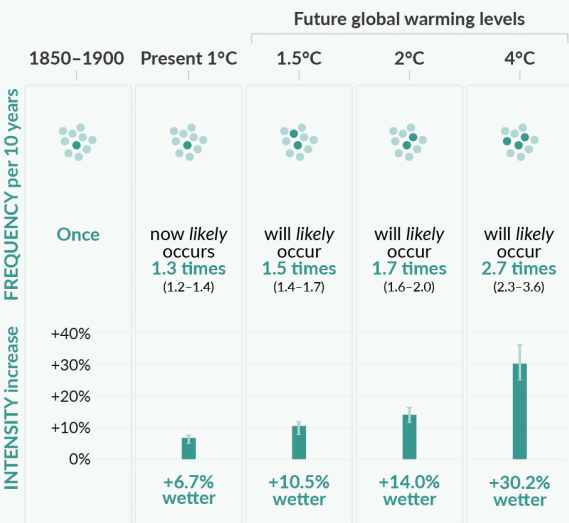
(a) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in **hot extremes** and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions



## Heavy precipitation over land

### 10-year event

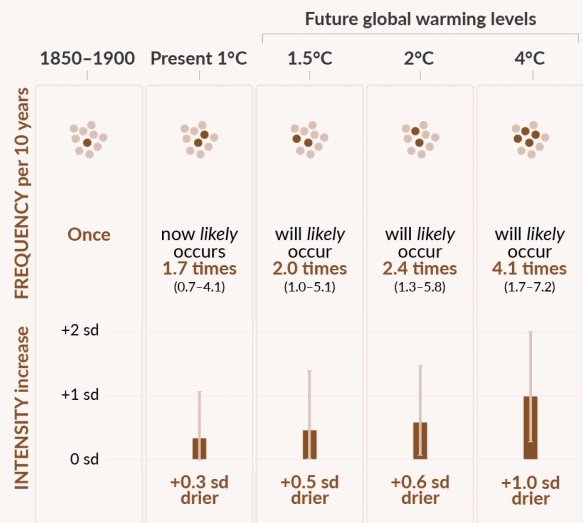
Frequency and increase in intensity of heavy 1-day precipitation event that occurred **once in 10 years** on average in a climate without human influence



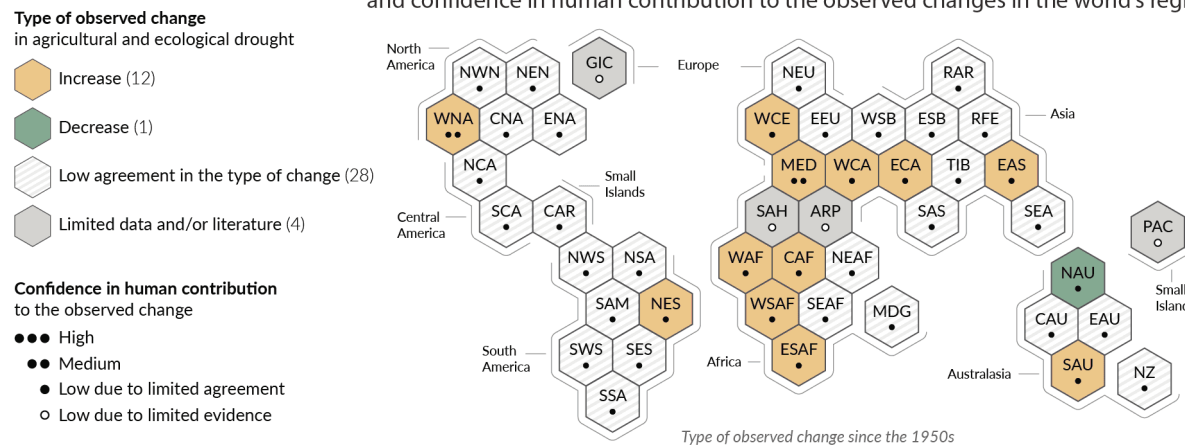
## Agricultural & ecological droughts in drying regions

### 10-year event

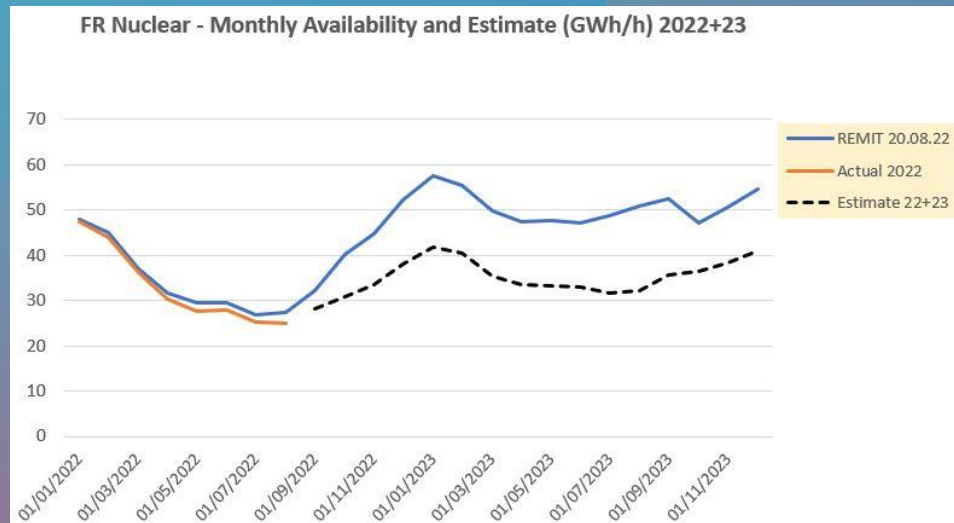
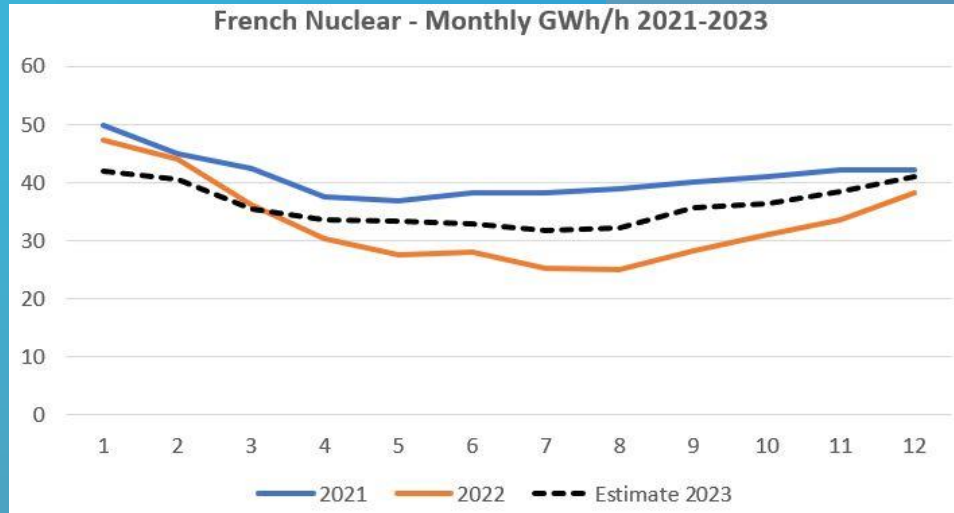
Frequency and increase in intensity of an agricultural and ecological drought event that occurred **once in 10 years** on average across drying regions in a climate without human influence



(c) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in **agricultural and ecological drought** and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions



# High Temperature implications: the unexpected



ENVIRONMENT

## France authorities shut down nuclear reactors due to drought

The French government has shut down two nuclear reactors after weeks of drought made the cooling process too difficult to manage.

Published: 25 August 2020 11:05 CEST

SHARE

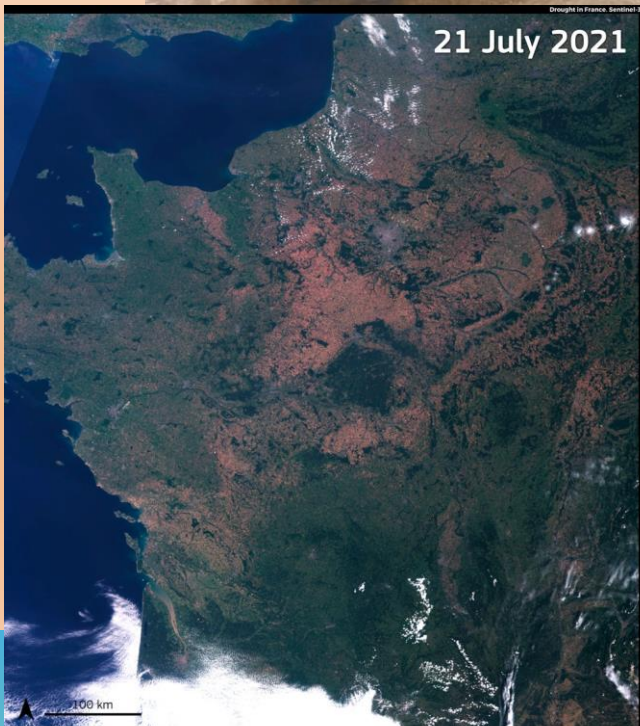
COPY LINK



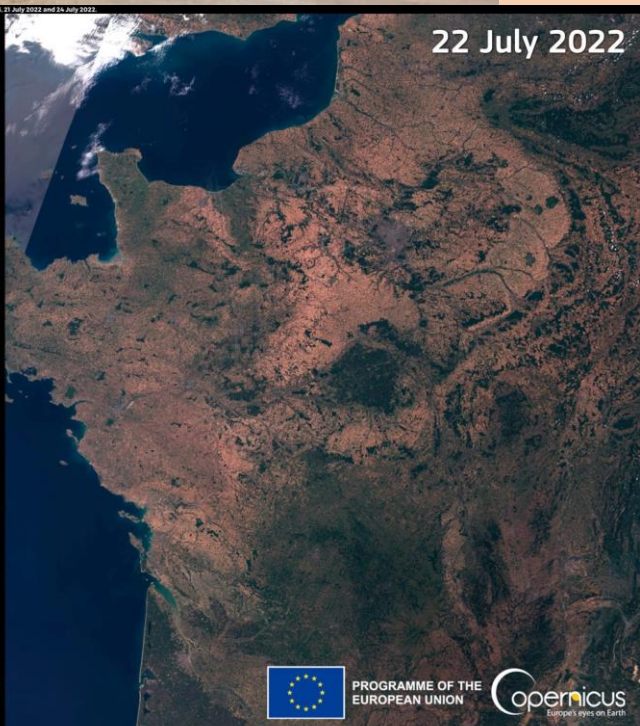
Loire River, France, 2022



Jialing River, China, 2022



21 July 2021

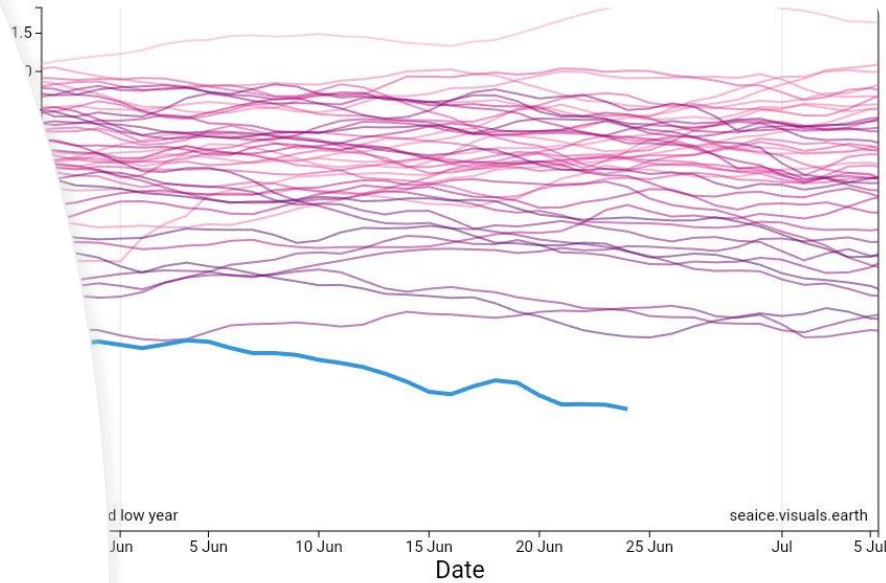


22 July 2022

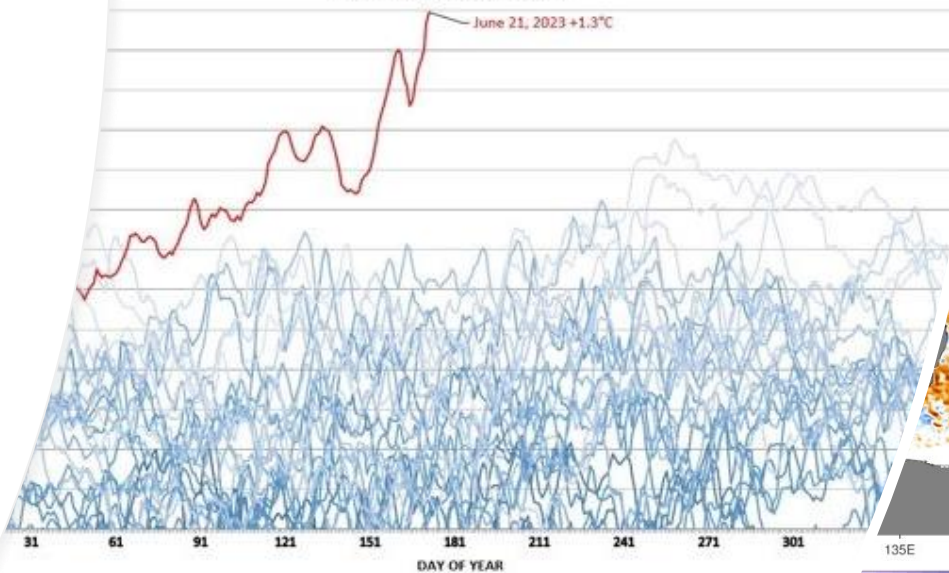


2023 –  
Temperatures off  
the charts

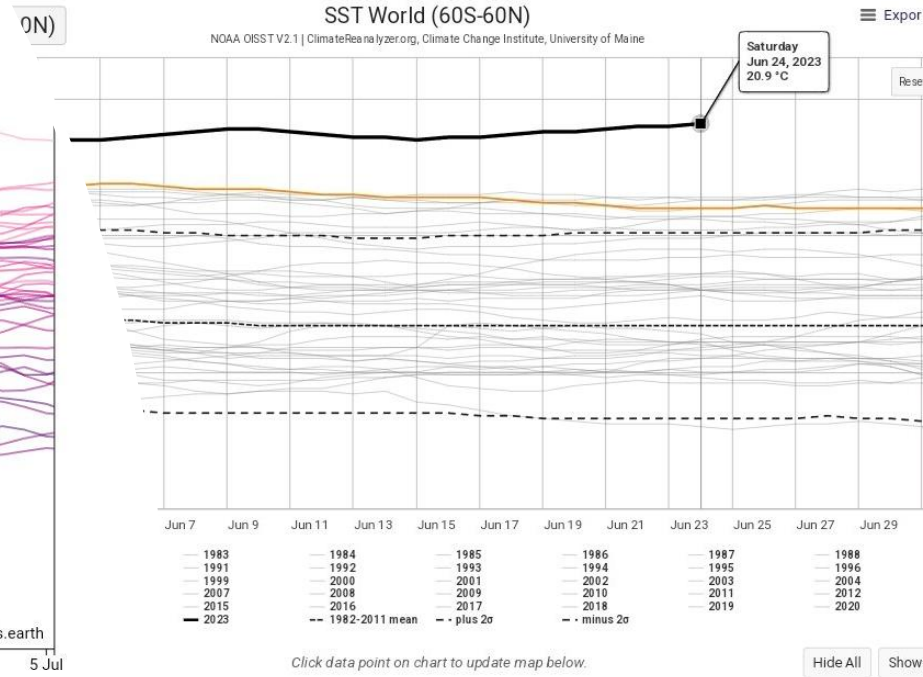
Global Sea Ice Extent Anomaly - NSIDC



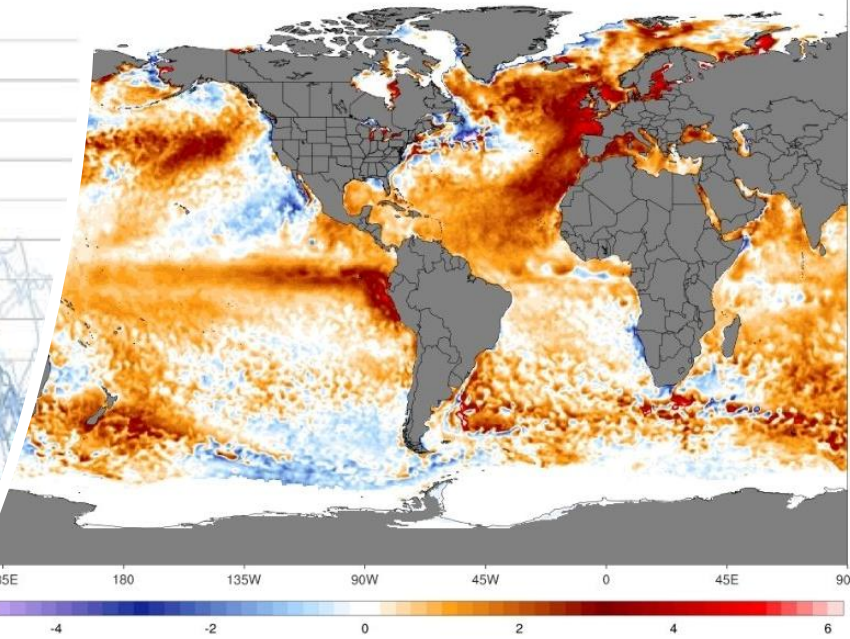
North Atlantic (0-60N) Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly (SSTA) from 1982-2011 mean



©Leon Simons, adjusted from Prof. Eliot Jacobson - Data source: NOAA Optimum Interpolation SST (OISST) dataset version 2  
Trough [https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst\\_daily/](https://climatereanalyzer.org/clim/sst_daily/), Climate Change Institute University of Maine. Data up to June 21th, 2023



C) [1971-2000 base] [preliminary]

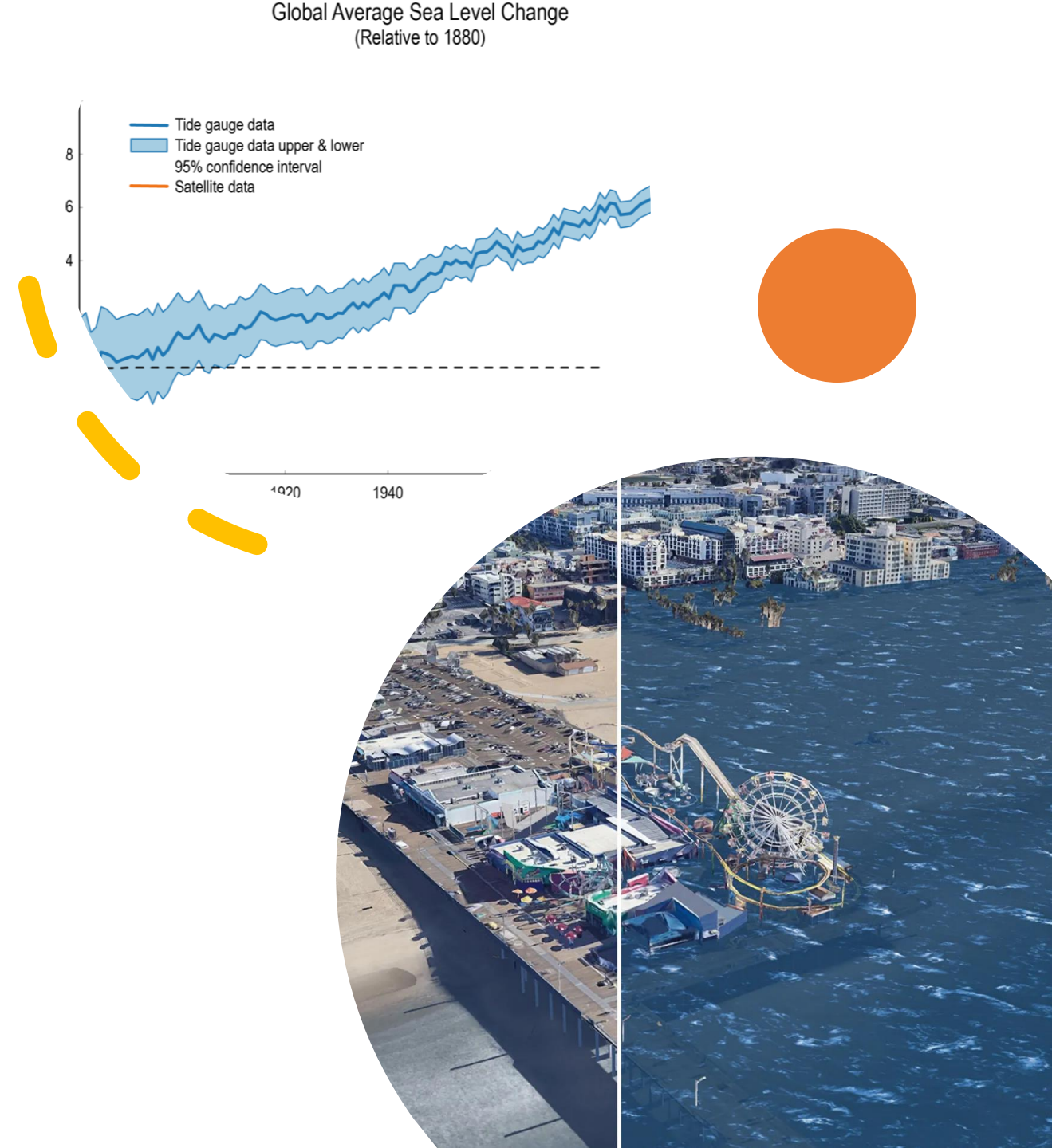


ClimateReanalyzer.org  
Climate Change Institute | University of Maine

# Sea-Level rise

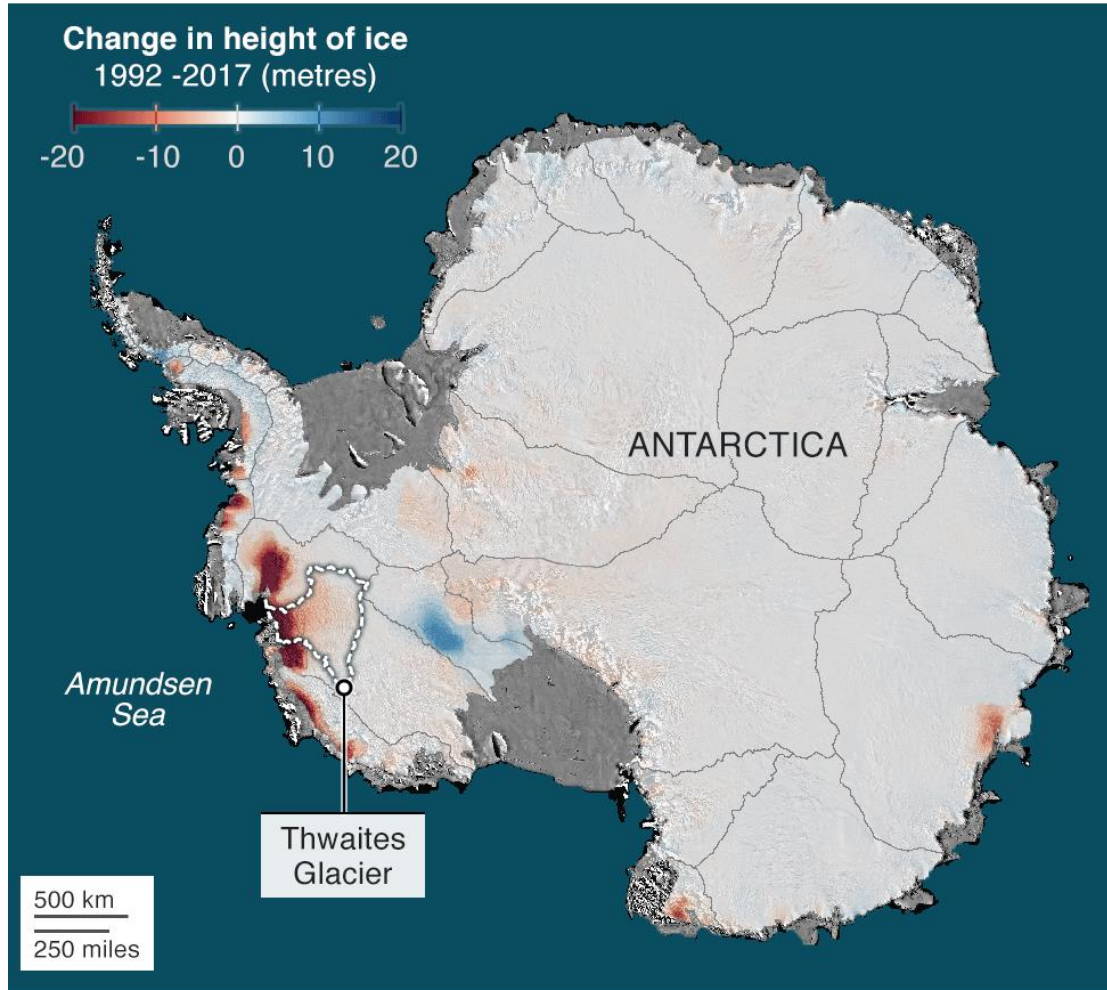
Direct effects of sea-level rise include incremental risks that may go beyond infrastructure-capacity threshold

E.g. Rising seas lead to an increased risk of storm surges that flood low-lying areas





## Ice sheets in West Antarctica have thinned the most



Source: Tom Slater, CPOM

BBC

2 minute read · April 21, 2023 6:06 PM GMT+2 · Last Updated 12 days ago

## Pace of rise in global sea level has doubled, UN climate report says

By Emma Farge ▾

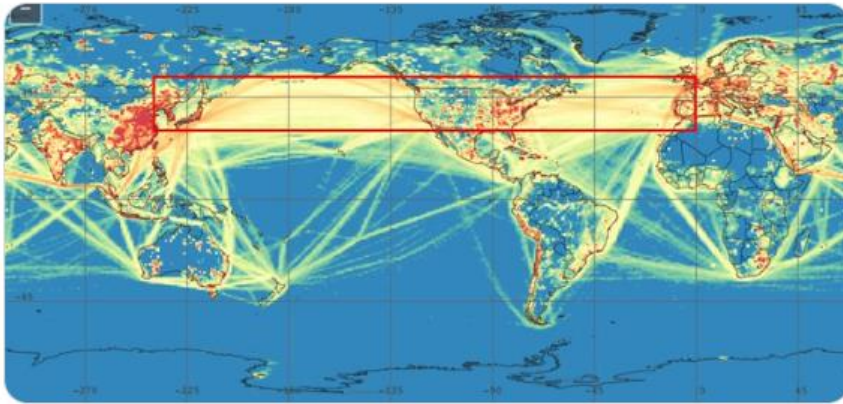


[1/2] The remains of houses are pictured as rising sea levels destroy homes built along the shoreline, forcing villagers to relocate, in El Bosque, Mexico, November 7, 2022. REUTERS/Gustavo Gra [Read More](#)

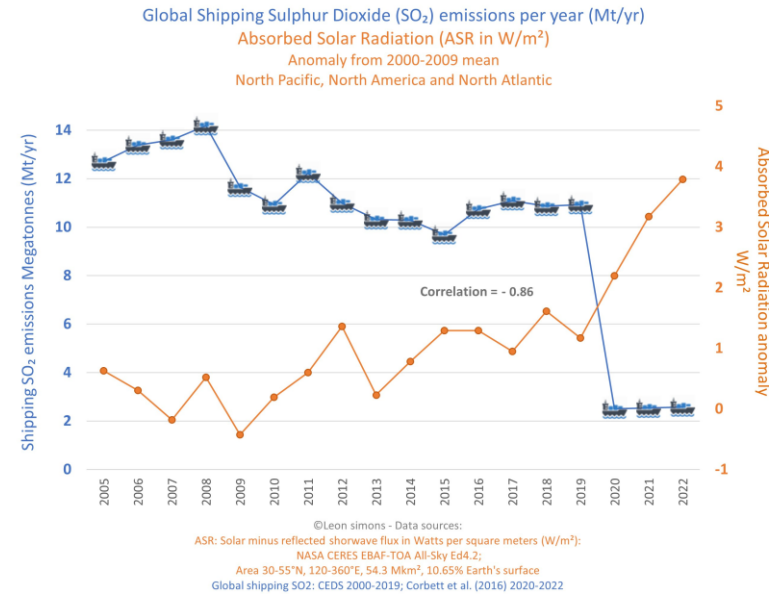
# Knock-on effects of global change

For decades this area has been kept relatively cool by sulfur emissions from ships.

But this changed in 2020.



9:33 PM · Mar 8, 2023 · 2.2M Views



As sulphur emissions plummeted since 2020 (a good thing!), so has the cooling effects of sulphur aerosols (ouch!). Consequently, the 'masks are off' with climate warming. This might explain the temperatures rising in ways we have not seen before.

# Allergens

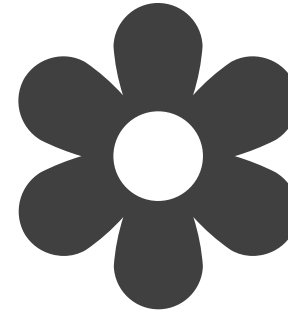
Prolonged allergen season

Longer/earlier growing seasons

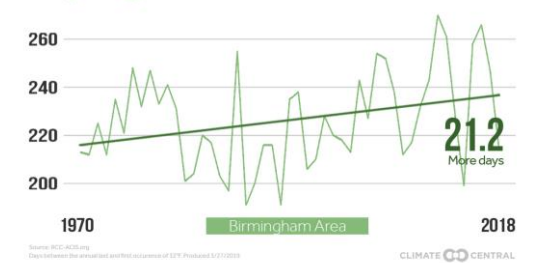
= more pollen

= more allergens

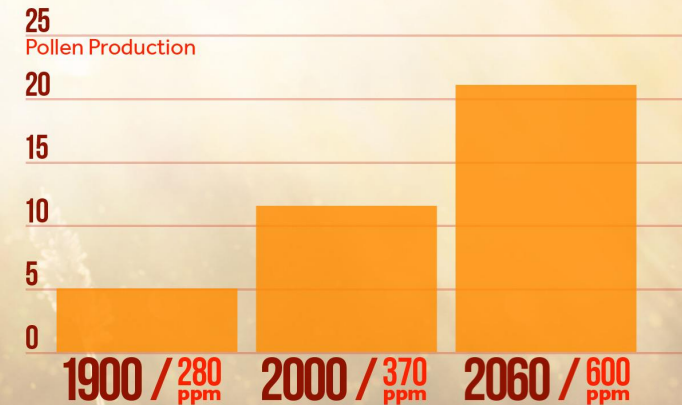
This not only increases discomfort but can cause severe threats to respiratory health, especially for asthmatics, etc.



Longer Growing Season  
= Longer Allergy Season



## MORE CO<sub>2</sub> = MORE POLLEN



Pollen Production: Grams Per Ragweed Plant  
Source: Ziska et al. 2000

CLIMATE CENTRAL

# MORE CO<sub>2</sub> = MORE POLLEN

25

Pollen Production

20

15

10

5

0

1900 / 280  
ppm

2000 / 370  
ppm

2060 / 600  
ppm

Pollen Production: Grams Per Ragweed Plant  
Source: Ziska et al. 2000

CLIMATE  CENTRAL



# Extreme weather events

People, infrastructure – everyone is at risk from these events

- Disruption of community life
- Destruction of infrastructure
- Risk to health
- Damage to health infrastructure

*Waves driven by strong gusts of wind hit the coast of Malta.  
Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019. (AP Photo/Rene Rossignaud)*

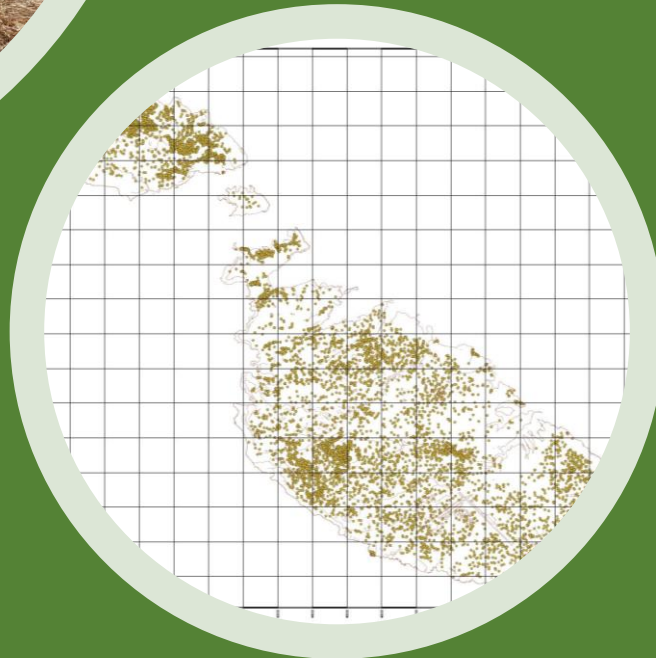
# QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON

- How will extreme heat affect our communities? Think of your immediate community, your city, and your country.
- With added stresses on our infrastructure and communities, what are the health implications of added discomfort and direct danger to health?



# Indirect effects

- Food security
- Water security
- Vector-borne diseases

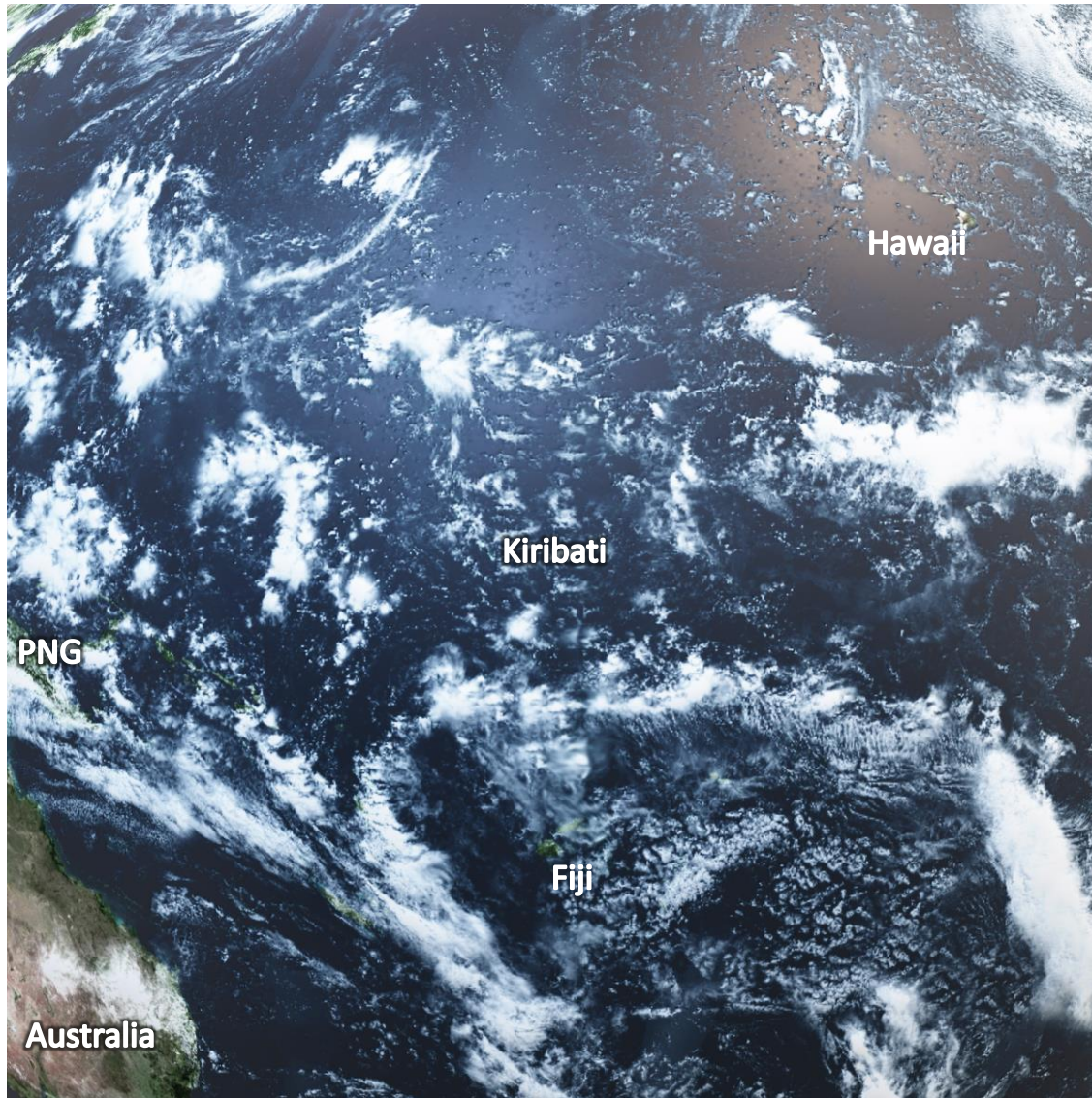




## The Pacific

- Vast region encompassing apx. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Earth's surface.
- Characterised by my small island nations (barring PNG)





## The Pacific

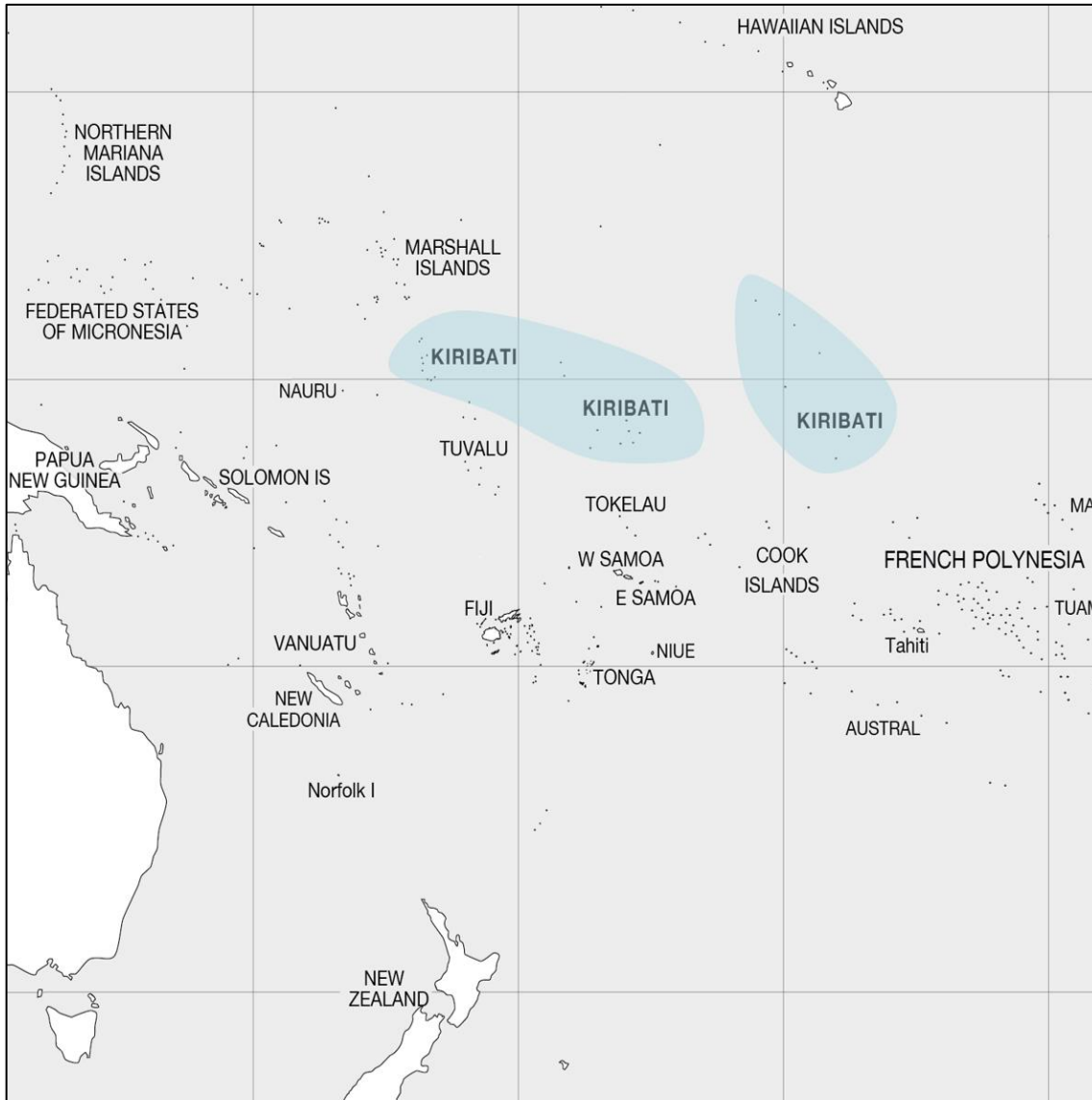
- Vast region encompassing apx. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the Earth's surface.
- Characterised by my small island nations (barring PNG)
- Islands roughly come in two main types.

Volcanic islands



Atolls





## Kiribati



- 32 coral atolls & 1 raised atoll
- Population: ~120,000
- Roughly half population live on one atoll: South Tarawa
- Independent since 1979
- Official languages: I-Kiribati, English
- Classified as a 'Least Developed Country' by the UN

### Atolls



Gilbert islands

Phoenix islands

Line islands



## Kiribati



- Culture: Micronesian
- Max width: 300-400m
- Max height above sea level: ~3m
- fragile freshwater lens
- limited land availability for food
- limited infrastructure; very limited financial capacity for adaptation
- Remote; geographical spread

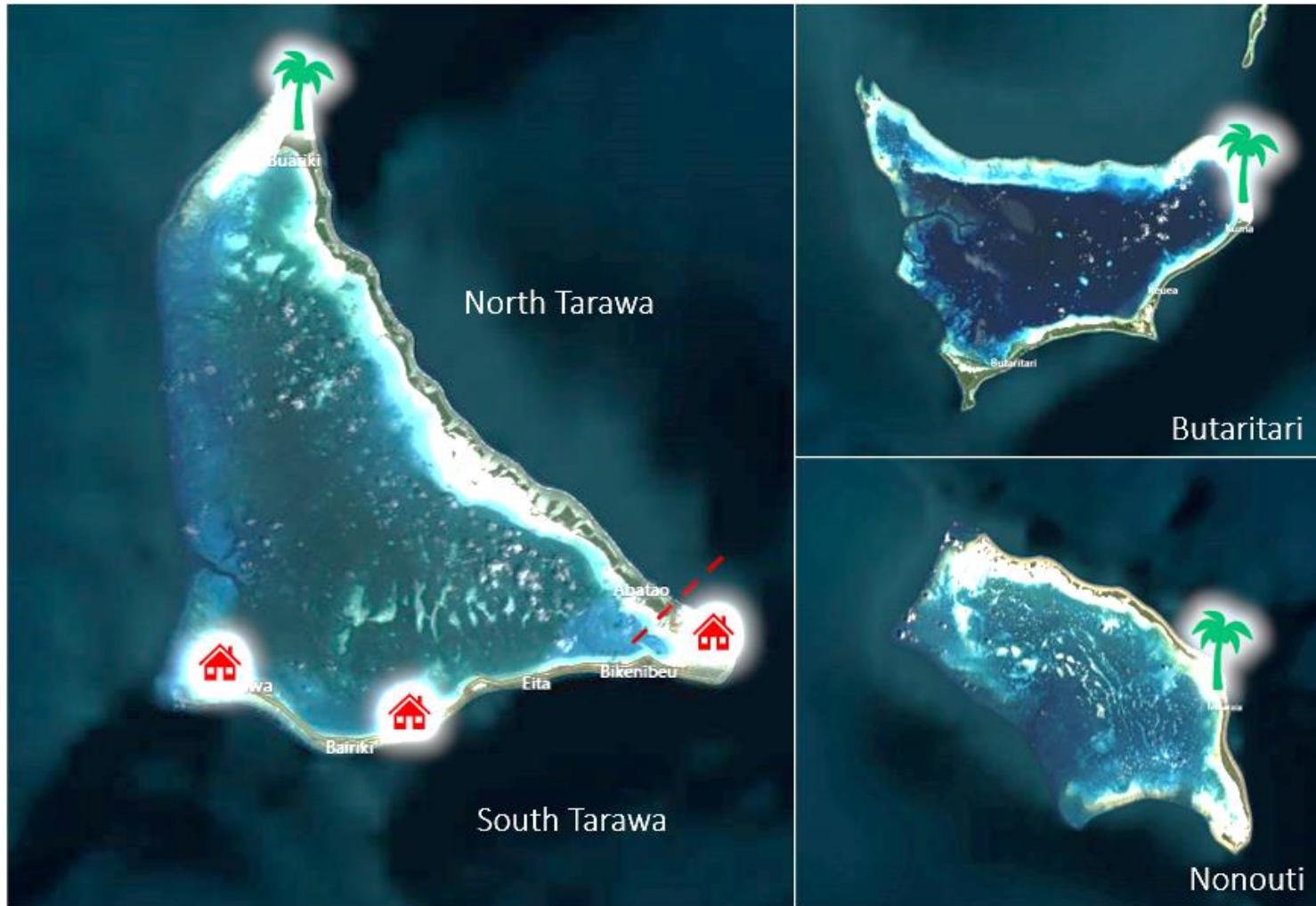
### Atolls



Gilbert islands

Phoenix islands

Line islands



## Locations



Urban



Rural

# The future of food and farming: 2050s



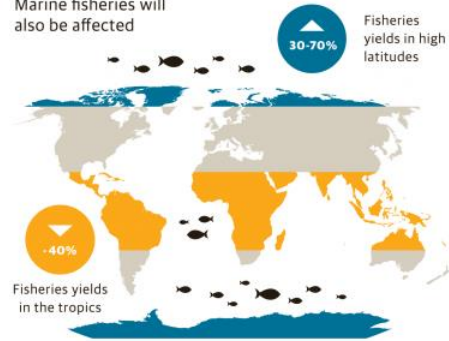
By 2050, climatic impacts on food security will be unmistakable. There are likely to be 9 billion people on the planet, most people will live in cities and demand for food will increase significantly.

## Widespread impacts on food and farming are highly likely

Average decline in yields for eight major crops across Africa and South Asia

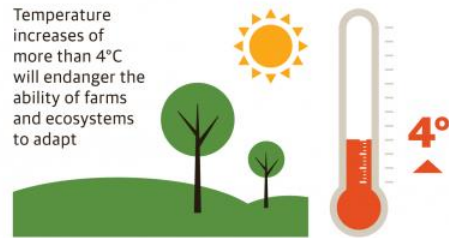


Marine fisheries will also be affected

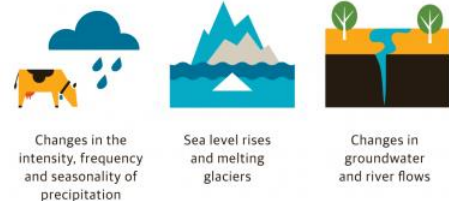


## Heat and water may pass critical thresholds

Temperature increases of more than 4°C will endanger the ability of farms and ecosystems to adapt



Water cycles will be very different and less predictable



## We will need major innovations in how we eat and farm

To cope with climatic changes, we may need to consider:



SOURCES: Porter, J. R., Xie, L., Challinor, A., Cochrane, K., Howden, M., Iqbal, M. M., Lobell, D., Travasso, M. I. 2014. Food Security and Food Production Systems. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/> With data from Cheung et al 2010, Cochrane et al 2009, Knox et al 2012



# Tier 2: Indirect effects: Food Security

February, 2019: Kiribati, Central Pacific



# The future of food and farming: 2050s

By 2050, climatic impacts on food security will be unmistakable. There are likely to be 9 billion people on the planet, most people will live in cities and demand for food will increase significantly.

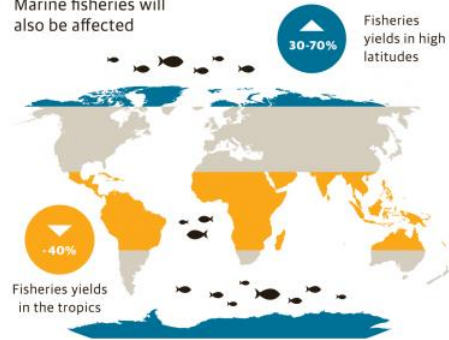


## Widespread impacts on food and farming are highly likely

Average decline in yields for eight major crops across Africa and South Asia

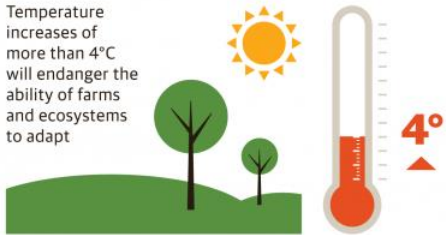


Marine fisheries will also be affected

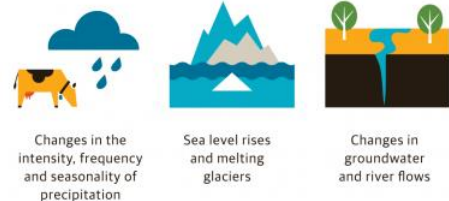


## Heat and water may pass critical thresholds

Temperature increases of more than 4°C will endanger the ability of farms and ecosystems to adapt



Water cycles will be very different and less predictable



## We will need major innovations in how we eat and farm

To cope with climatic changes, we may need to consider:



Completely different diets



Shifting production areas for familiar crops, livestock and fisheries



New approaches to managing waste, water and energy in food supply chains



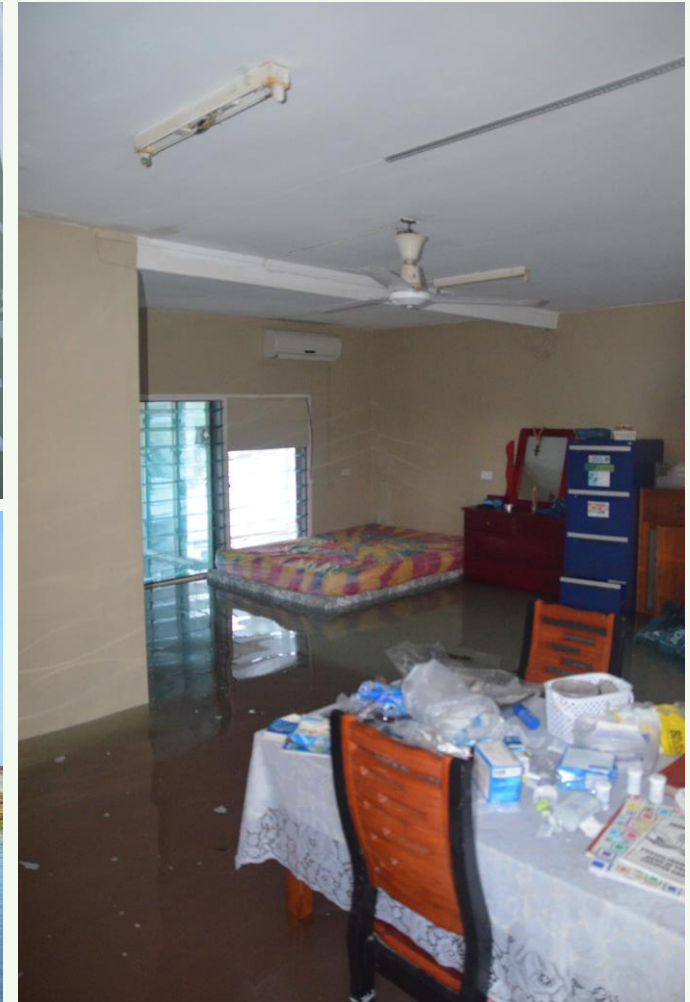
Restoring degraded farmlands, wetlands and forests

SOURCES: Porter, J. R., Xie, L., Challinor, A., Cochrane, K., Howden, M., Iqbal, M. M., Lobell, D., Trávasso, M. I. 2014. Food Security and Food Production Systems. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/> With data from Cheung et al 2010, Cochrane et al 2009, Knox et al 2012



# Tier 2: Indirect effects: Food Security

February, 2019: Kiribati, Central Pacific



# The future of food and farming: 2050s

By 2050, climatic impacts on food security will be unmistakable. There are likely to be 9 billion people on the planet, most people will live in cities and demand for food will increase significantly.

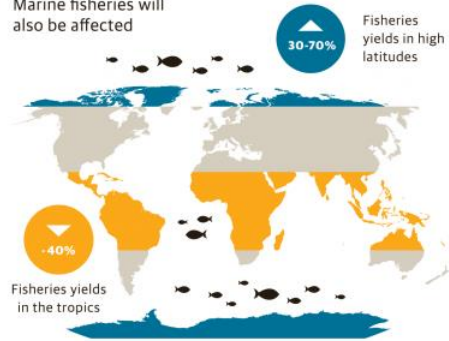


## Widespread impacts on food and farming are highly likely

Average decline in yields for eight major crops across Africa and South Asia

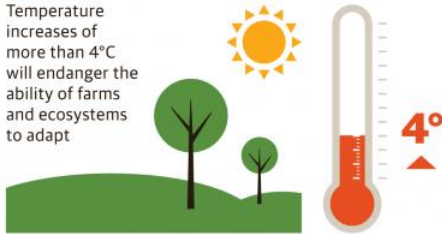


Marine fisheries will also be affected

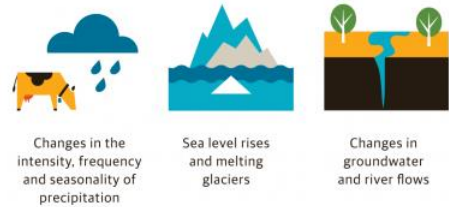


## Heat and water may pass critical thresholds

Temperature increases of more than 4°C will endanger the ability of farms and ecosystems to adapt



Water cycles will be very different and less predictable



## We will need major innovations in how we eat and farm

To cope with climatic changes, we may need to consider:



Completely different diets



Shifting production areas for familiar crops, livestock and fisheries



New approaches to managing waste, water and energy in food supply chains



Restoring degraded farmlands, wetlands and forests

SOURCES: Porter, J. R., Xie, L., Challinor, A., Cochrane, K., Howden, M., Iqbal, M. M., Lobell, D., Trnka, M. J. 2014. Food Security and Food Production Systems. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/> With data from Cheung et al 2010, Cochrane et al 2009, Knox et al 2012



# The future of food and farming: 2050s

By 2050, climatic impacts on food security will be unmistakable. There are likely to be 9 billion people on the planet, most people will live in cities and demand for food will increase significantly.

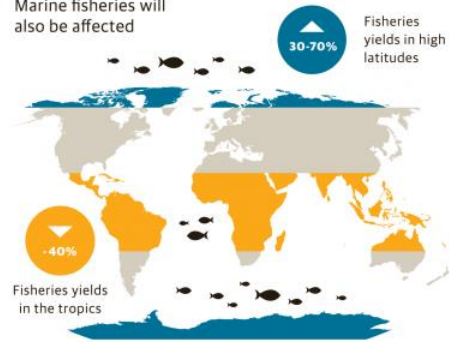


## Widespread impacts on food and farming are highly likely

Average decline in yields for eight major crops across Africa and South Asia

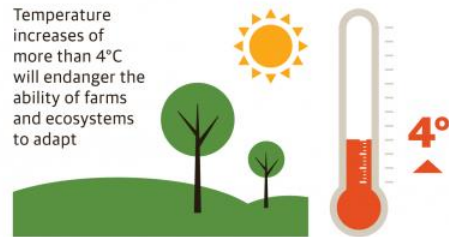


Marine fisheries will also be affected

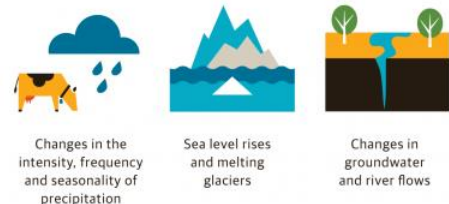


## Heat and water may pass critical thresholds

Temperature increases of more than 4°C will endanger the ability of farms and ecosystems to adapt



Water cycles will be very different and less predictable



## We will need major innovations in how we eat and farm

To cope with climatic changes, we may need to consider:

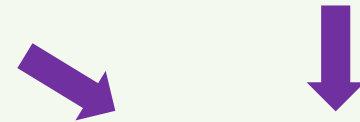


SOURCES: Porter, J. R., Xie, L., Challinor, A., Cochrane, K., Howden, M., Iqbal, M. M., Lobell, D., Travasso, M. I. 2014. Food Security and Food Production Systems. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. <http://www.ipcc-wg2.gov/> With data from Cheung et al 2010, Cochrane et al 2009, Knox et al 2012



# Tier 2: Indirect effects: Food Security

February, 2019: Kiribati, Central Pacific



NCDs+++

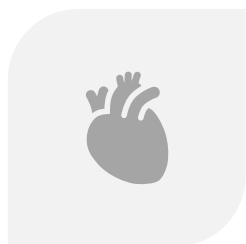




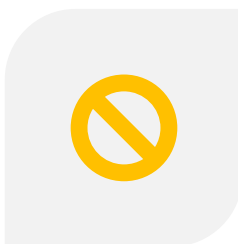
# Tier 2: Indirect effects: Food Security



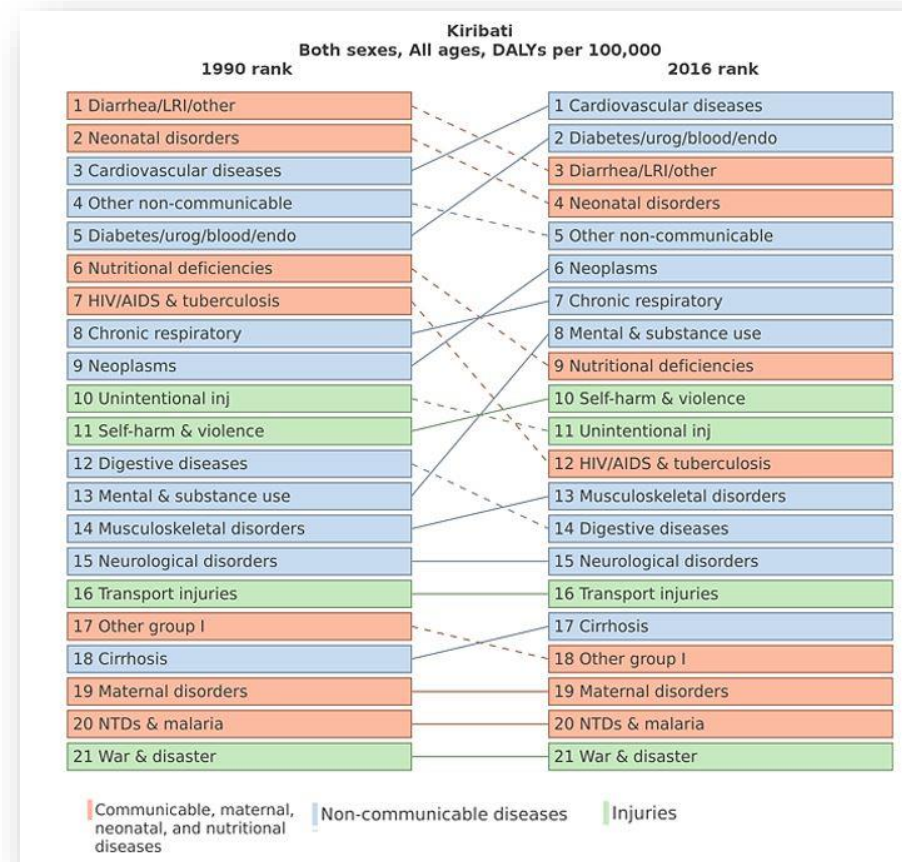
**SHARP INCREASE IN  
NONCOMMUNICABLE  
DISEASE**



**DIABETES,  
CARDIOVASCULAR  
DISEASE**



**NO SIGN OF SLOWING  
DOWN**



# Tier 2: Indirect effects : Food Security

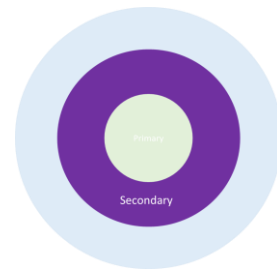
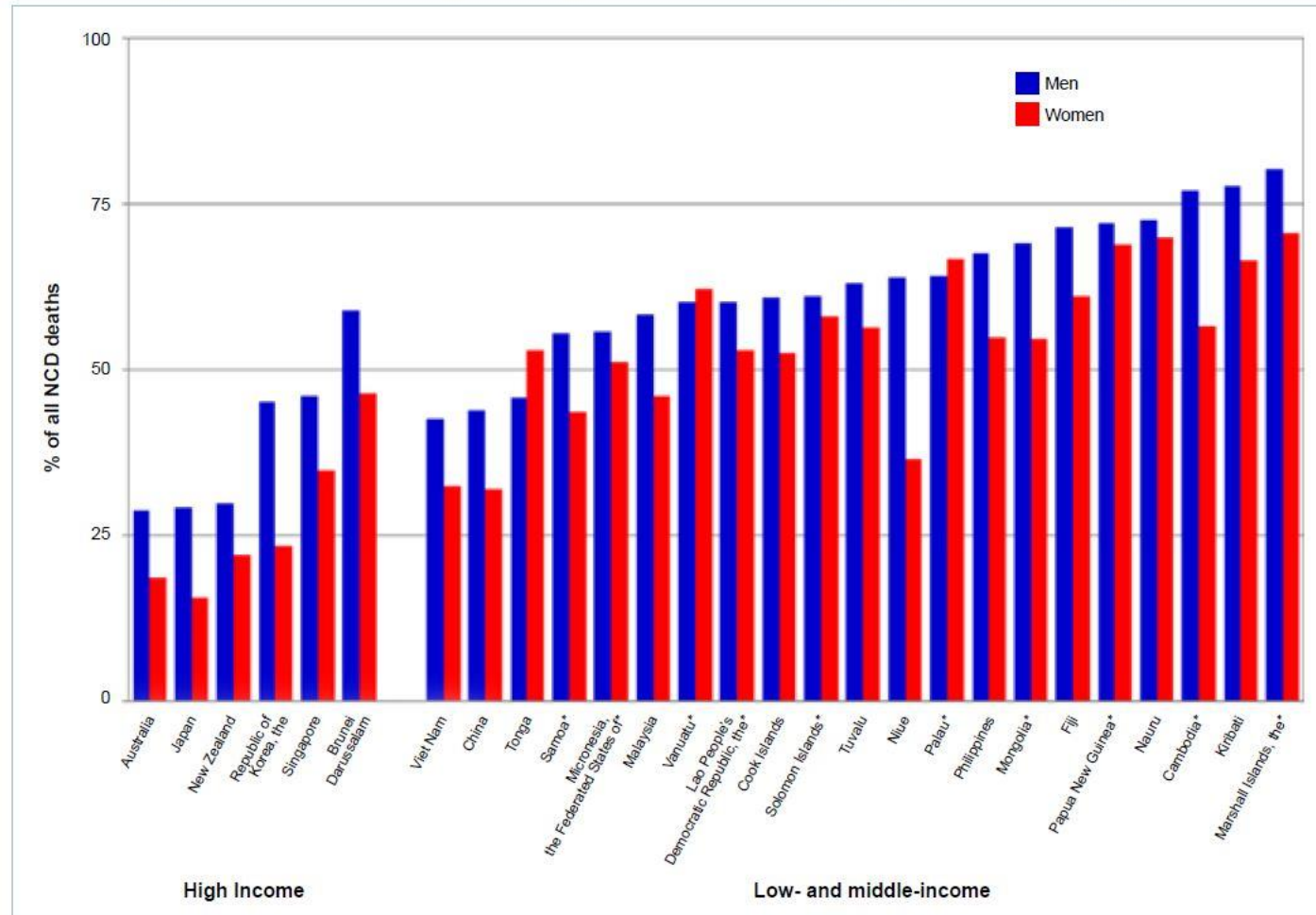


Figure 2. Percentage of all NCD deaths under age 70, Western Pacific Region, 2008

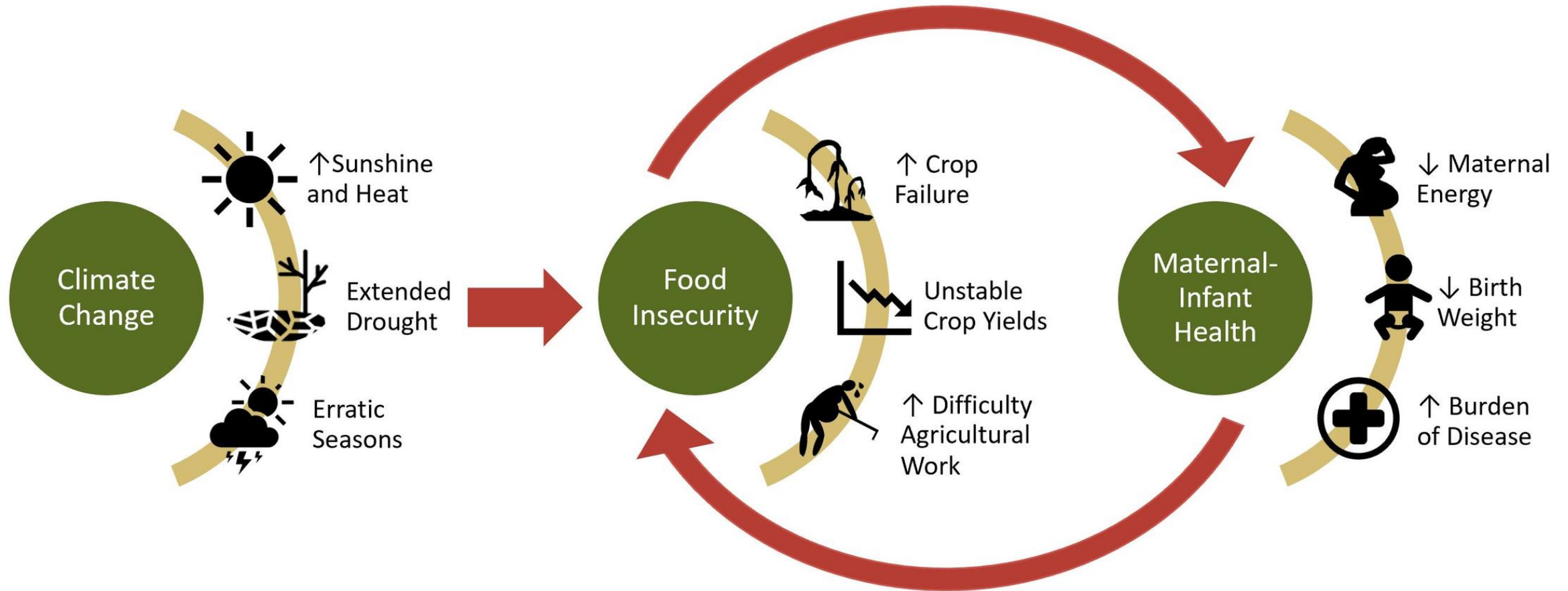
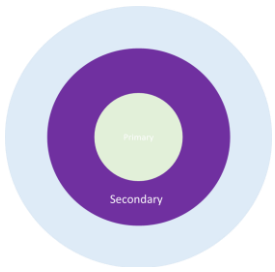


**Climate change is a driver of food insecurity, leading to health consequences:**

- Discouragement from pursuing local agriculture
- People move to eating imported food, which is often heavily processed/poor quality
- Leads to a significant rise in NCDs such as obesity, diabetes, hypertension

\*Countries have a high degree of uncertainty because they are not based on national NCD mortality data. The estimates for these countries are based on a combination of country life tables, cause of death models, regional cause of death patterns, and WHO and UNAIDS programme estimates for some major causes of death (not including NCDs).

# Tier 2: Indirect effects : Food Security



**Source:** Bryson et al, 2021: Seasonality, climate change and food security during pregnancy among indigenous and non-indigenous women in rural Uganda: Implications for maternal-infant health.

# Health impacts of low food security

- **Decreasing food security** leads to lower household income available for other expenditures.
- **Lower food quality** leads to the emergence of poor health patterns, chronic disease, lower quality of life
- **Chronic disease** may lead to shorter life expectancy, decreased mental health, decreased employability, fostering the cycle of low food security and rising stress.

## A Conceptual Framework: Cycle of Food Insecurity & Chronic Disease



Adapted: Seligman HK, Schilling D. N Engl J Med. 2010;363:6-9.

# Mental health impact of food crop destruction

---

- Loss of self worth, inability to feed or sustain families
- Severe psychological impact on livelihoods of farmers
- Farmers do not feel empowered to change – partly due to socioeconomic conditions, partly because they do not have assistance from the state.
- Food is an important part of cultural life and expression. What can we expect with climate change, and how will it affect us spiritually, culturally and economically?

## Suicides of nearly 60,000 Indian farmers linked to climate change, study claims

Rising temperatures and the resultant stress on India's agricultural sector may have contributed to increase in suicides over the past 30 years, research shows



Farmers from Tami Nadu demonstrate in Delhi with what they say are the bones of farmers who committed suicide because of a crippling drought and high debt. Photograph: Julian Chung/The Guardian

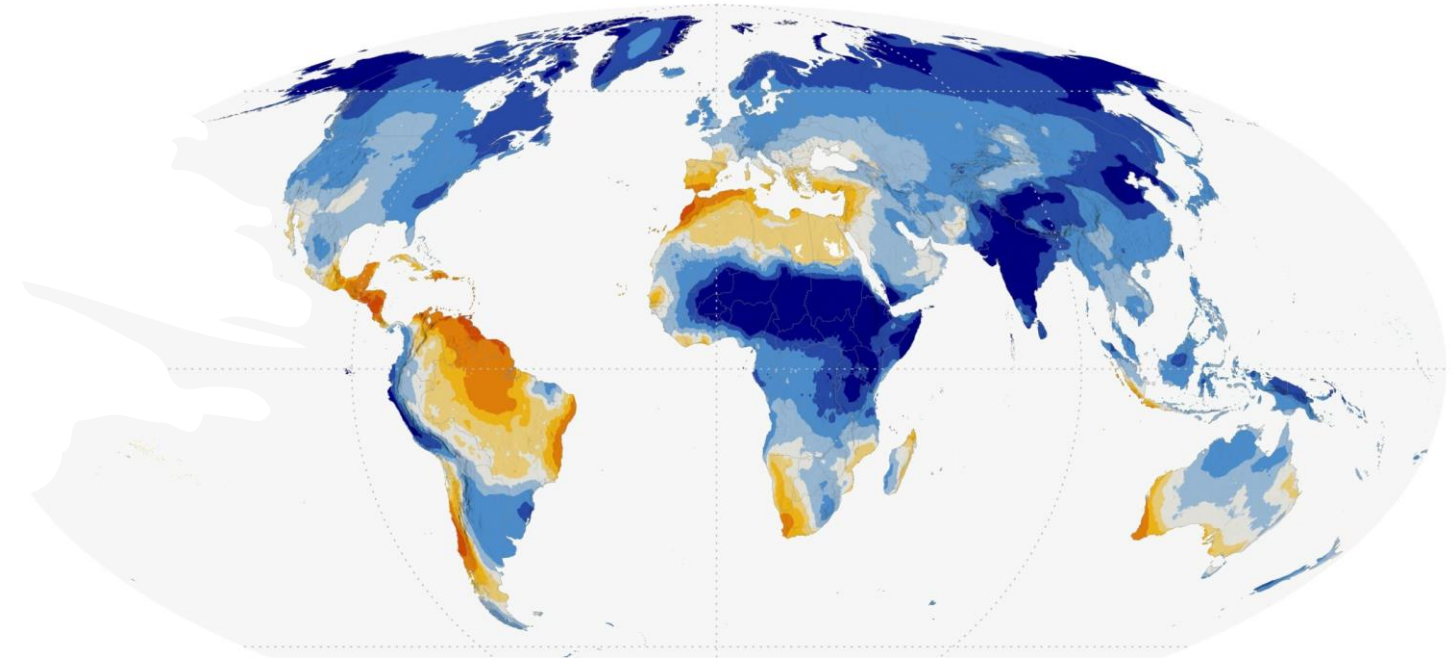


## Annual % Precipitation Change by 2050

# Tier 2 Indirect Effects: Water Security

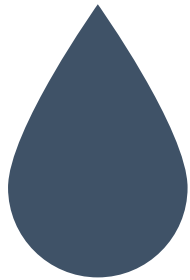
A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, about 7% more, per 1°C.

This also means that the atmosphere becomes more 'supercharged' – storms become more common, producing heavier rain and snow, but with longer periods of drought in most areas.

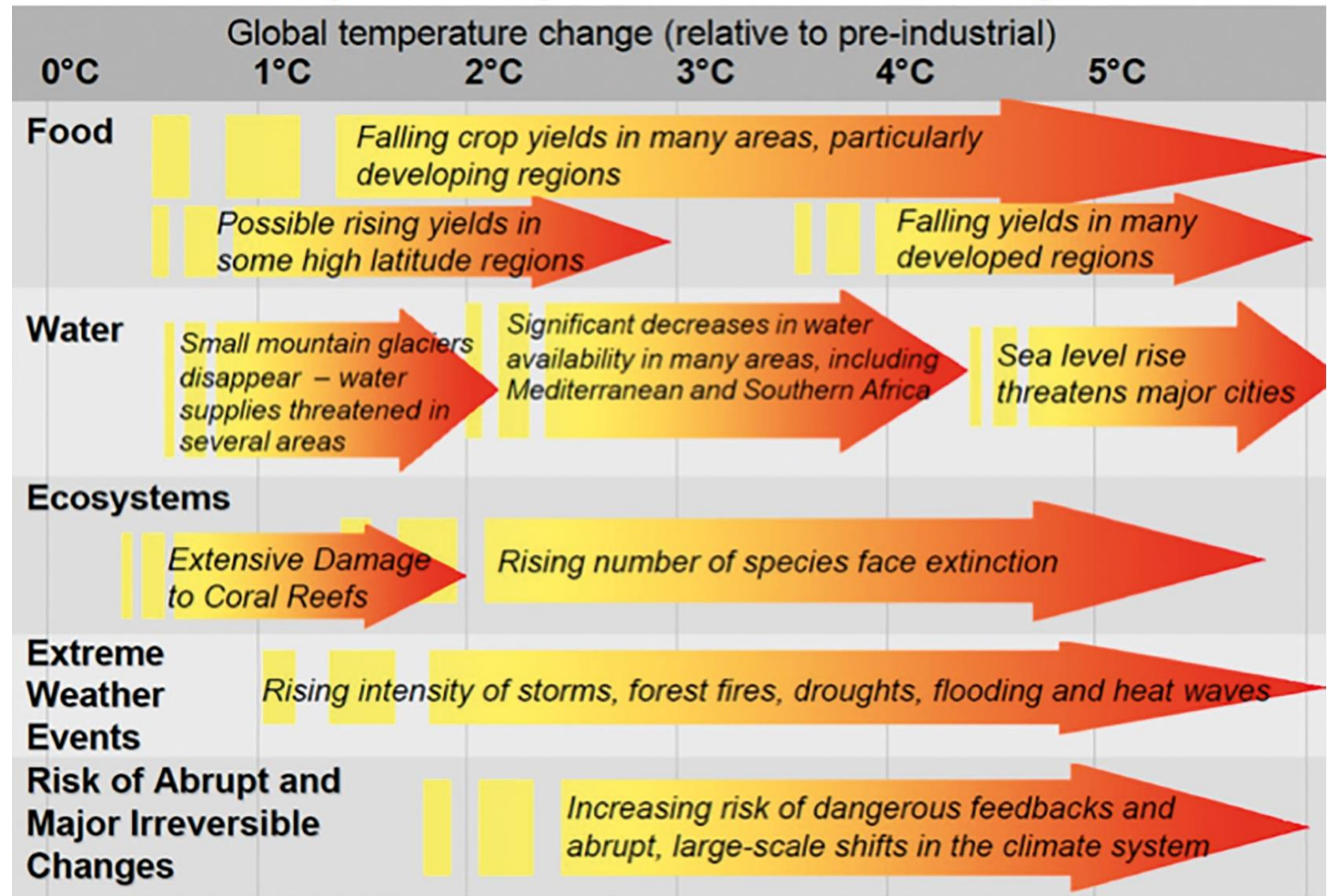


Tier 2  
Indirect effects

Water Security



## Projected Impacts of Climate Change





Pakistan Floods, 2022. 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the country under water

## Tier 2 Indirect effects: Water Security

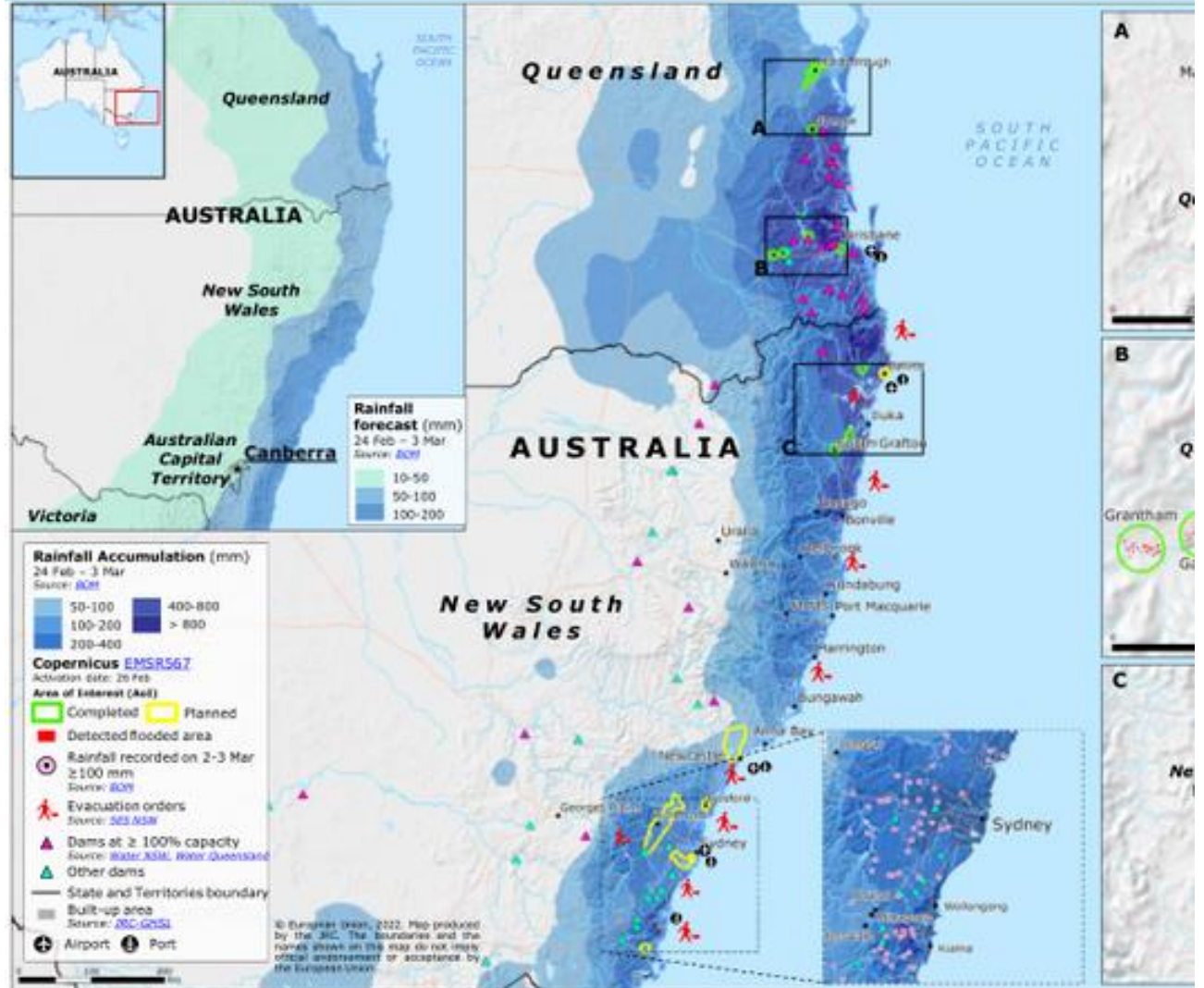
- Melting snowpacks/glaciers
- Sea level rise
- Unseasonality
- Extreme rainfall / drought
- Disease

All these have a significant effect on water supply, in terms of water safety, availability, capacity



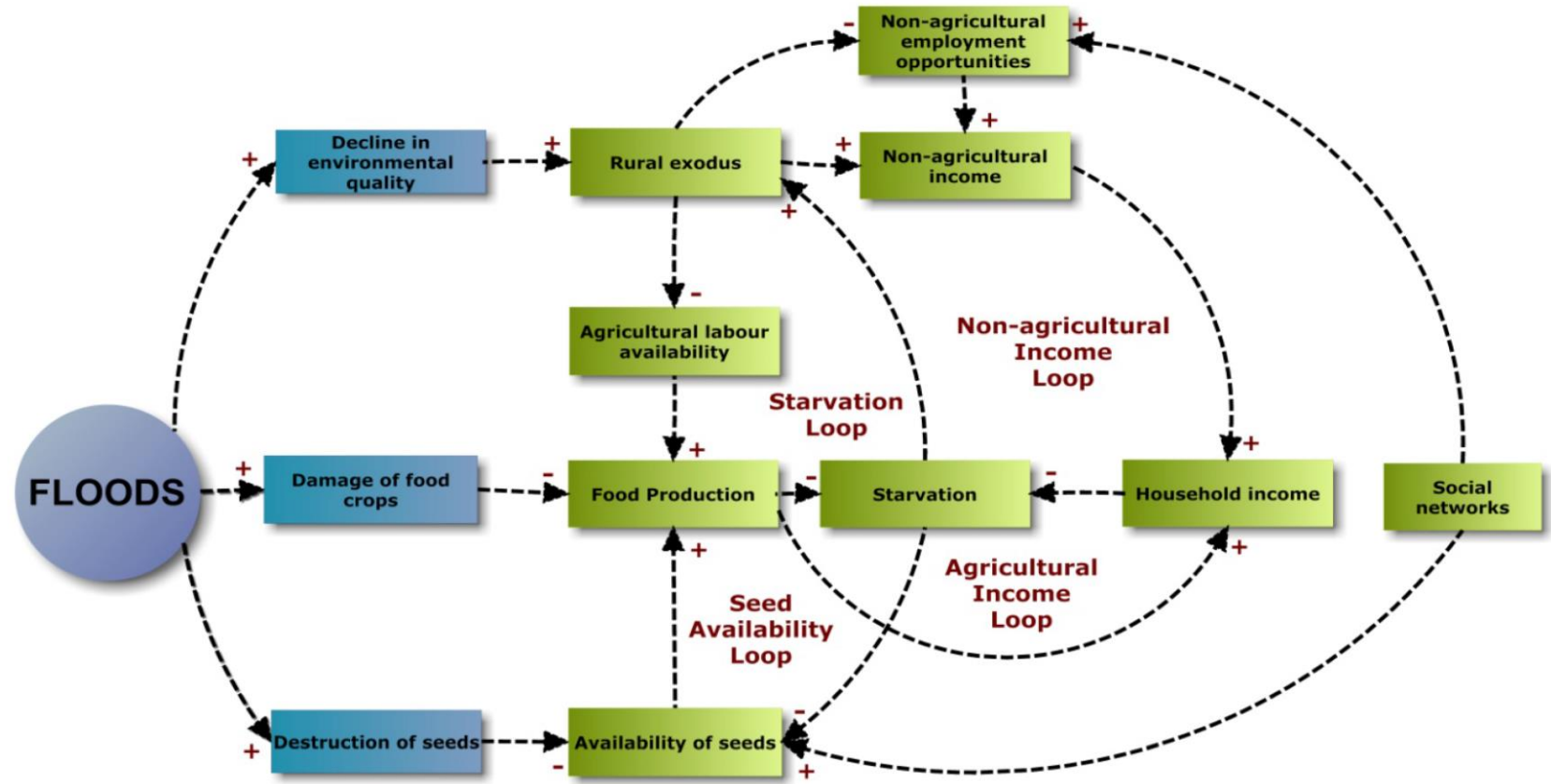


# Australia | Floods



# Tier 2 Indirect effects: Water Security

- Damage from extreme weather due to excessive rainfall can include extensive economic damage, infrastructure destruction, mental health problems, infectious diseases, death.
- Also effects food security due to crop destruction/ soil erosion

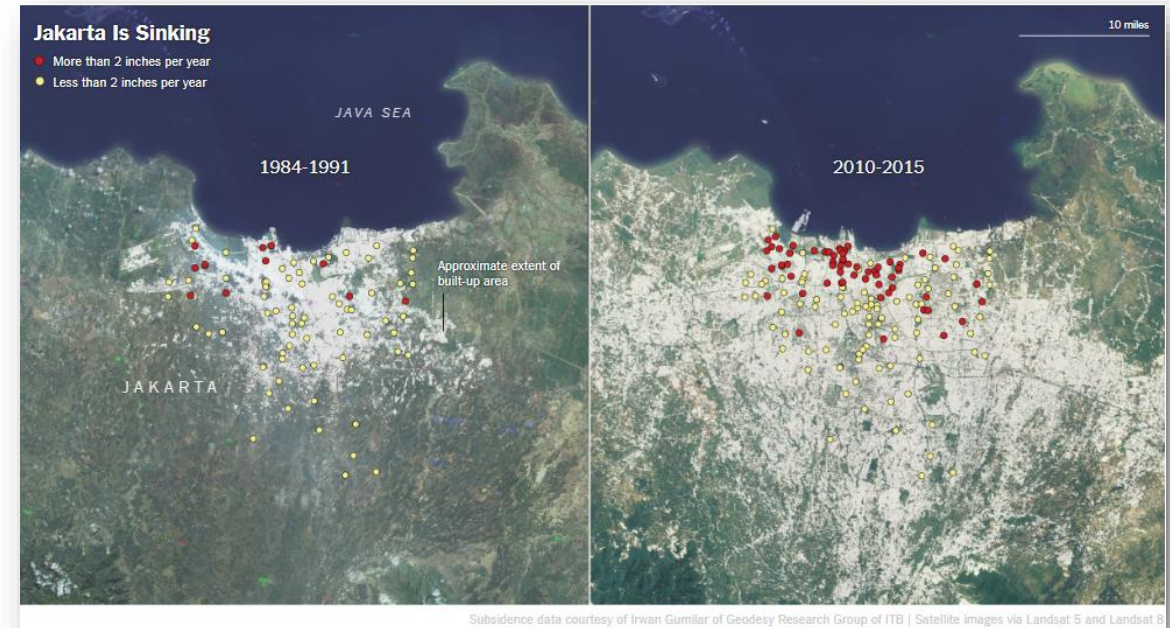


# Case Study: Jakarta. Population 10.5 million (2020)

The New York Times | WORLD

Changing Climate. Changing Cities

## Jakarta Is Sinking So Fast, It Could End Up Underwater



# In Java, the water is running out

KATE WALTON

Drought, pollution, and poor resource management threaten Indonesia's most populous island with total water scarcity.



Some of the worst water shortages are felt on Java – Indonesia's most populous island, home to more than 60% of the population, many of its largest cities, and much of its agriculture. For all this human abundance, Java is seriously lacking in water, holding just [10% of the nation's water supplies](#).

Indonesia's [Ministry of Public Works and Housing](#) has predicted that [Java's water levels will drop to 476m<sup>3</sup> per person per year by 2040](#). This is categorised as “total scarcity” and is far below the current annual level of [1169m<sup>3</sup> per capita](#). The ministry says the ideal per capita amount of water is 1600m<sup>3</sup> per year. Almost 10% of Indonesia is expected to experience water crisis by 2045, while Java is already considered to be “under pressure”.



## Case study: Jakarta

- While the city is sinking due to water uptake, sea level rise will cause existential problems for the city
- Adapt or fade – cities have been abandoned over time in history, and Jakarta may suffer the same fate.
- What will happen to millions of people living in Jakarta? Uprooting communities, poverty, mental health anxieties

## True water security calls for our protection of 'invisible' water



Non-potable: A child uses a hand water pump in Kali Besar, West Jakarta, on Oct. 29, 2019. The water, however, cannot be consumed because it has been contaminated by sea water. (JP/P.J.Leo)

Source: [Jakarta Post](#)

# Jakarta: Water security

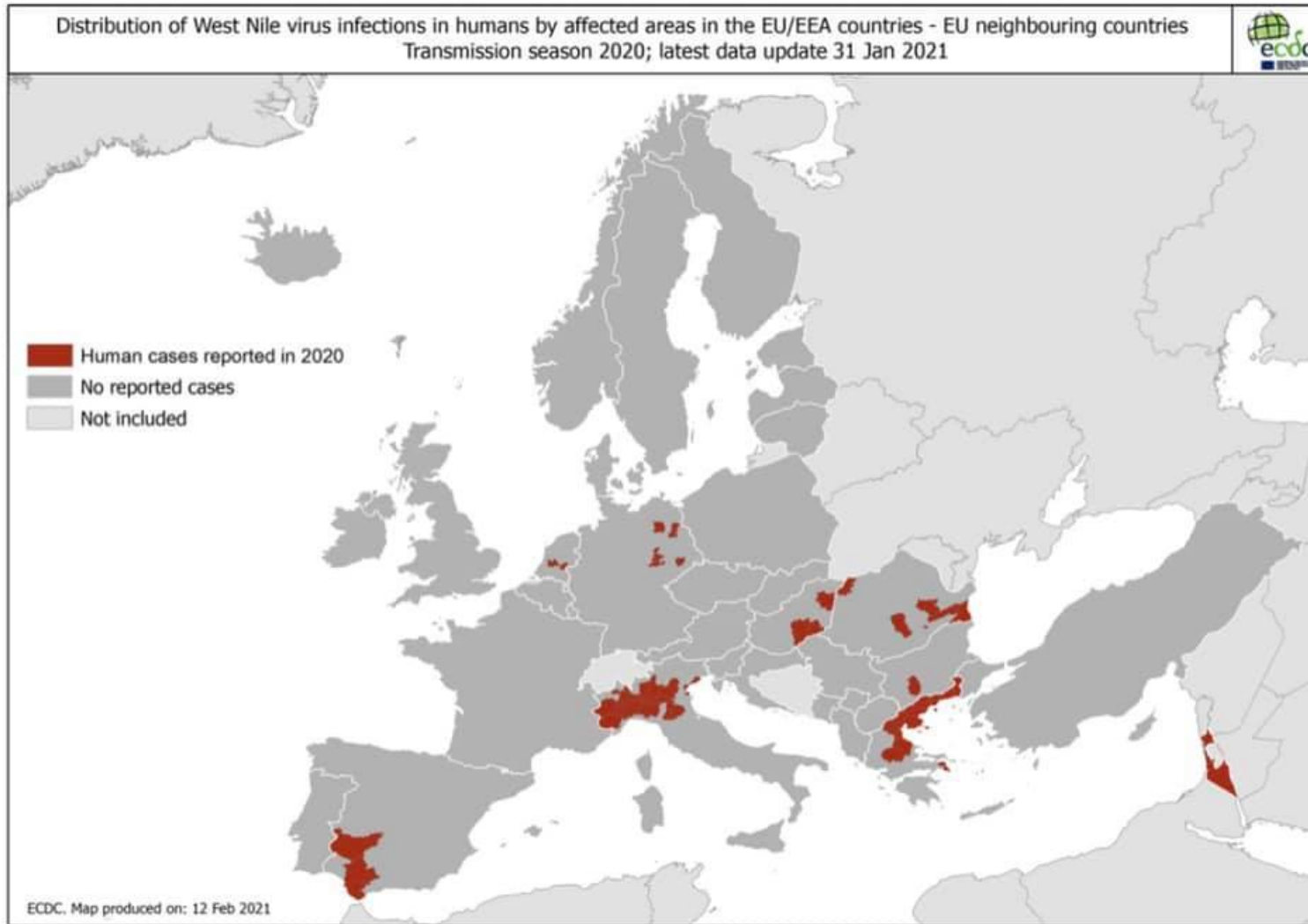
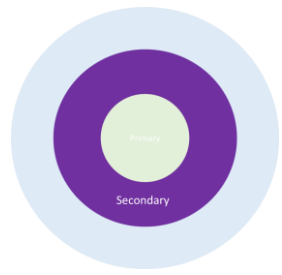
- As water tables are increasingly contaminated by sea water and pollution, health problems increase.
- We need to design our cities around these problems, which could spell the death of vibrant communities and vast cities.
- A 2019 report found that groundwater is an especially important resource, with 90 percent of households using groundwater as their primary source of drinking water in Indonesia.

# Tier 2 Indirect effects: Existential threats of Sea Level Rise





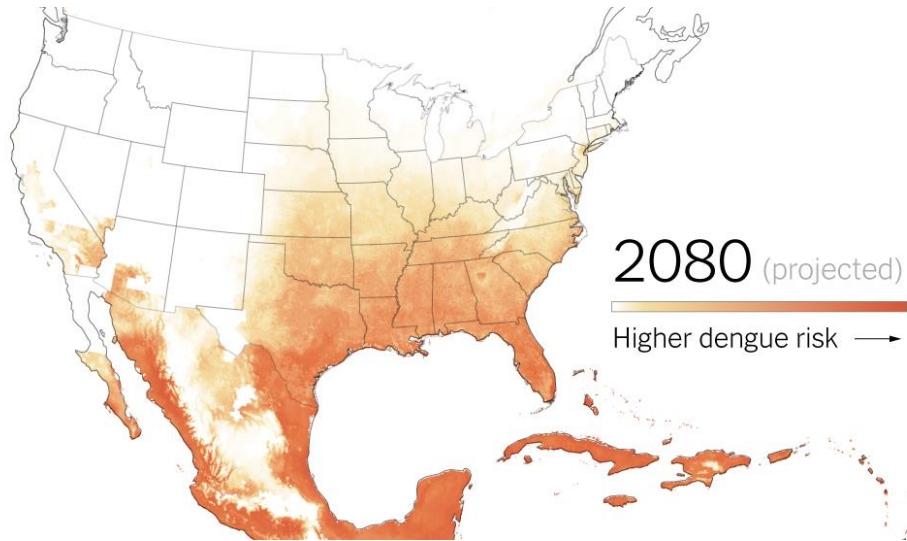
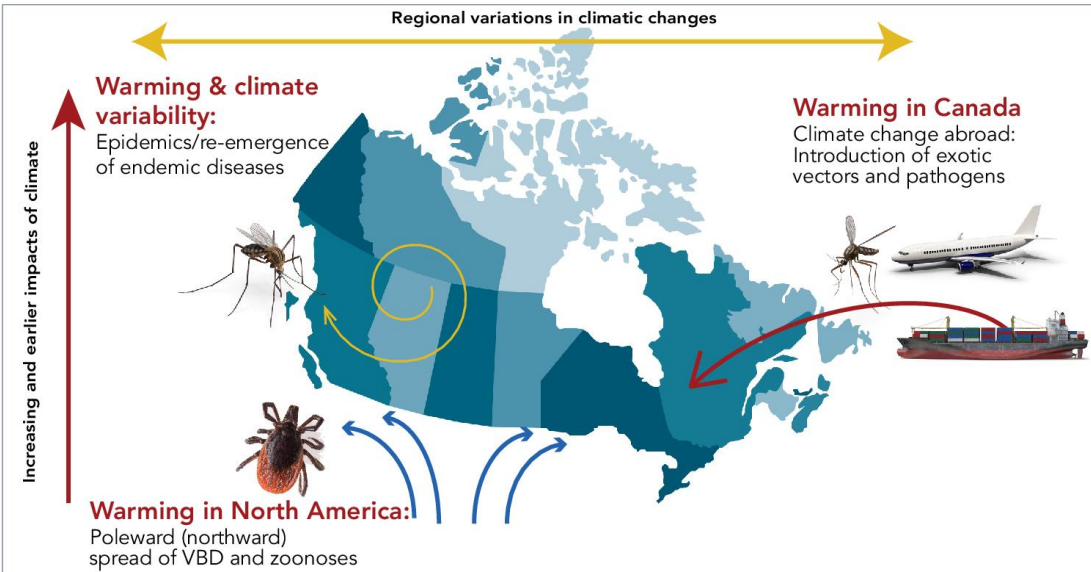
# Tier 2 Indirect effects: Infectious Diseases



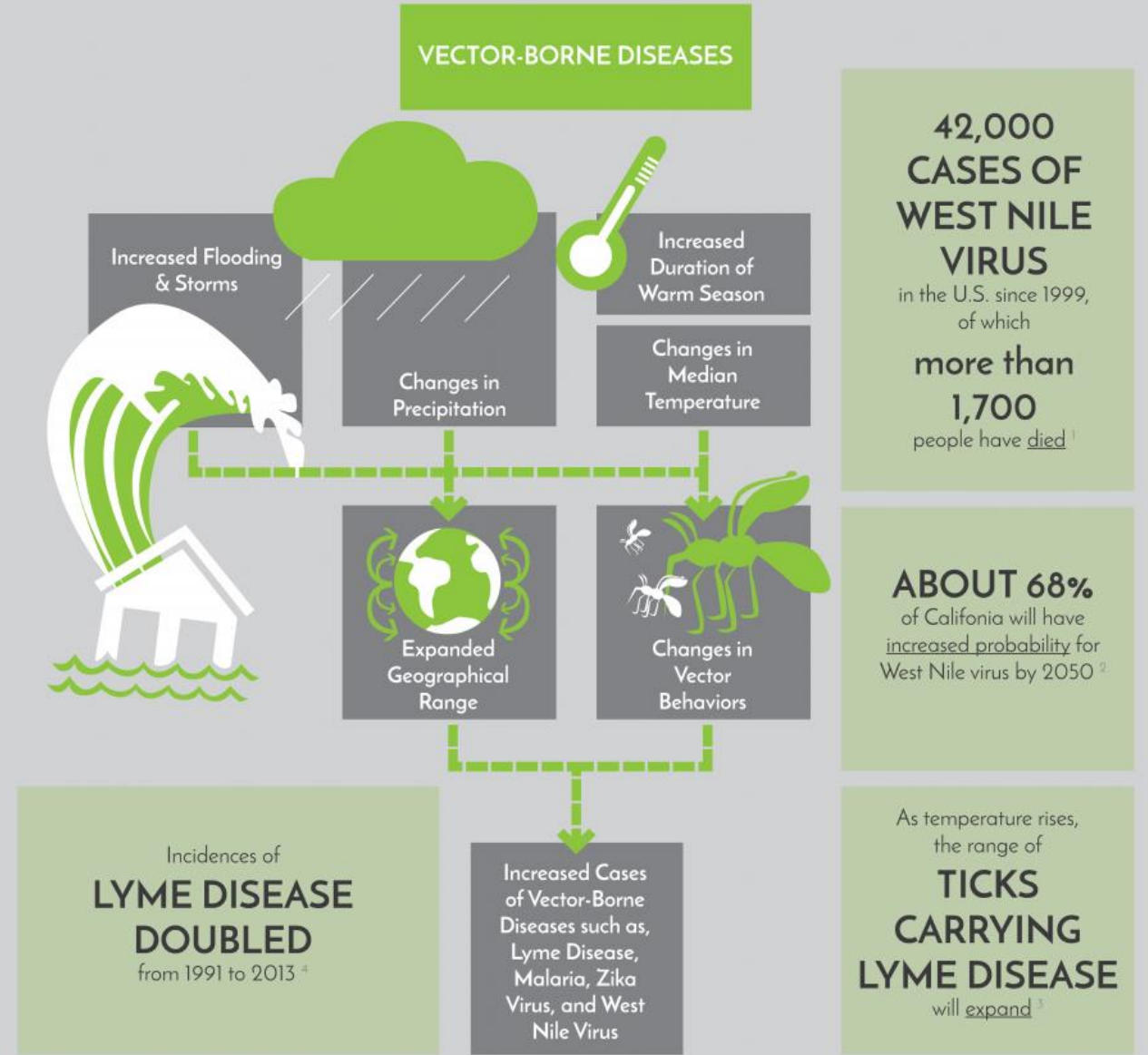




# Tier 2 Indirect effects: Infectious Diseases



## HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH



1. <http://www.cdc.gov/features/westnilevirus/>  
 2. <https://www.library.mcgill.ca/010111/jgdc/20554.pdf>  
 3. <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/impacts/lyme.html>  
 4. <https://www3.epa.gov/climatechange/effects/impacts/lyme.html>

# Example: Indonesia - at risk of tropical diseases

---



**JAKARTA**GLOBE

NEWS | BUSINESS | LIFESTYLE | TECH

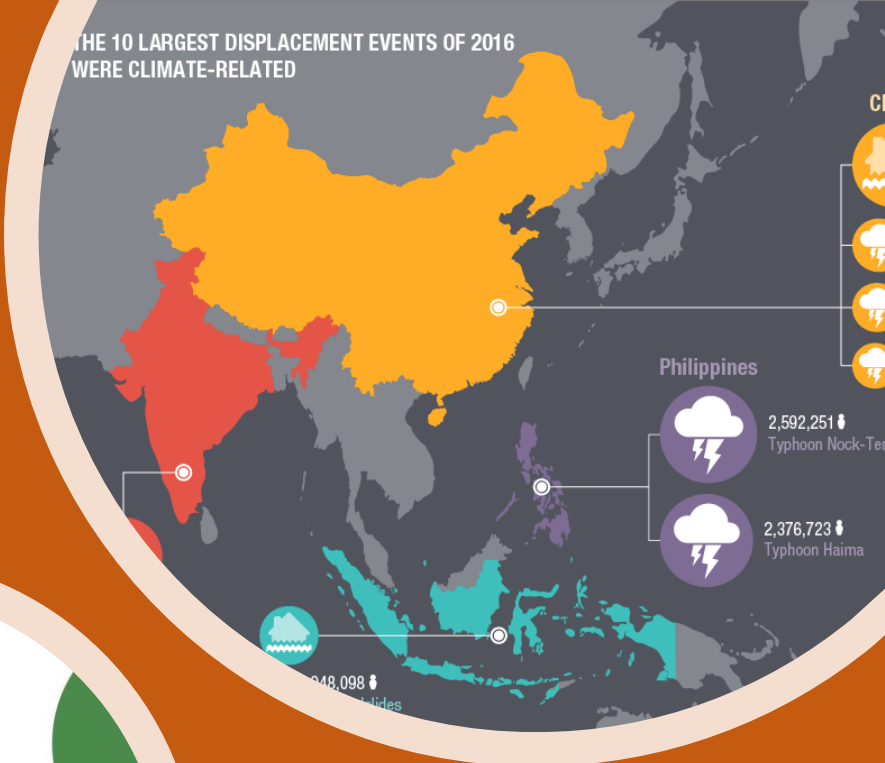
## Malaria Threat Resurfaces Due to Climate Change and Covid-19

BY :MAGGIE LEUNG  
AUGUST 25, 2021

**Singapore.** The Asia-Pacific region is under threat of Vector Borne Disease (VBDs) especially in face of climate change and the evolving Covid-19 challenge. In a recent landmark study by the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the extreme weather conditions caused by climate change have provided rising hurdles for disease control.

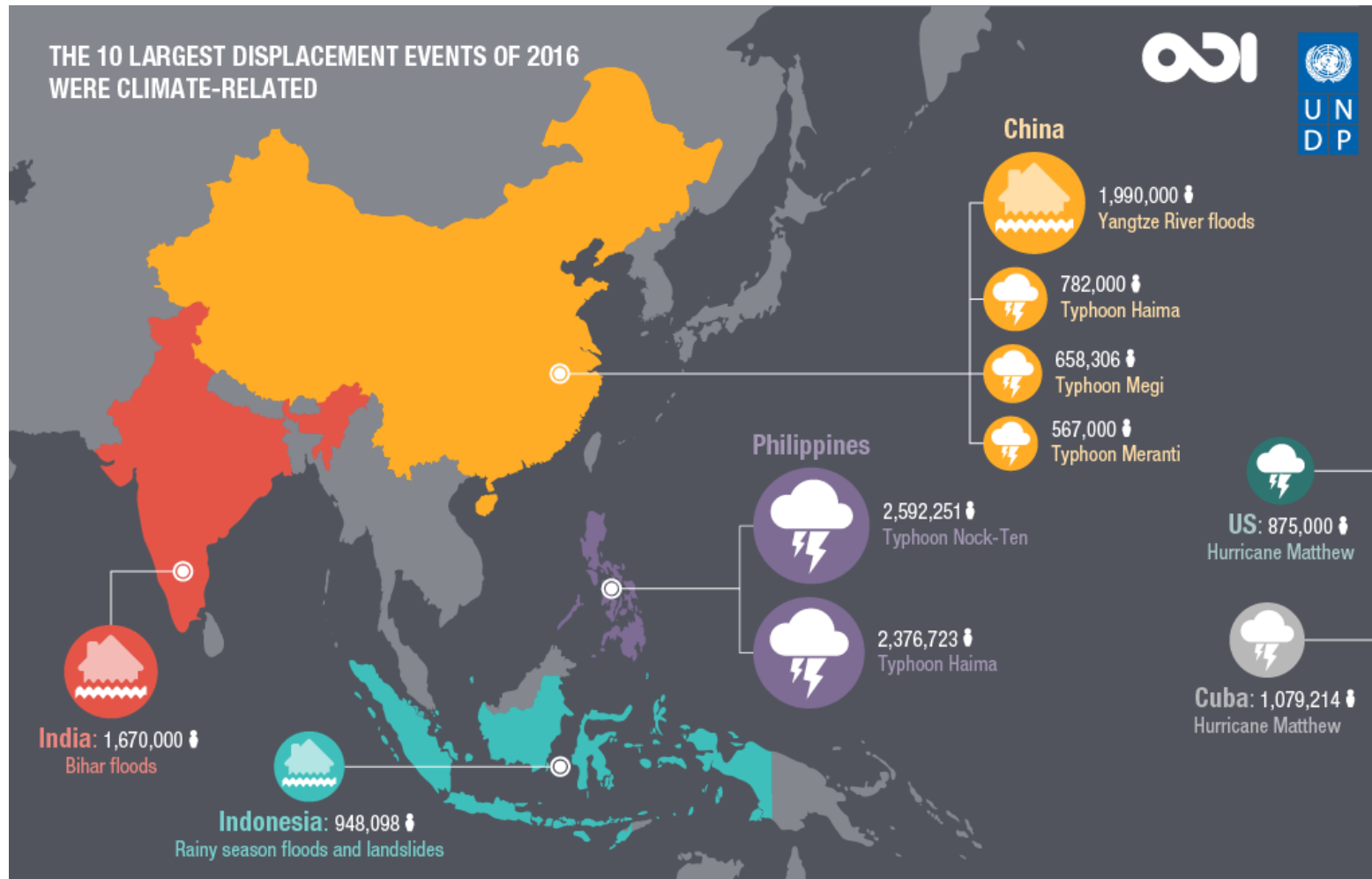
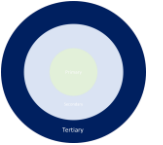
# Diffuse Effects

- Mental health
- Migration
- Conflict





## Tier 3 Diffuse Effects: Migration



As Sea levels rise and weather becomes increasingly erratic, will be on the move in the coming decades



# Tier 3 Diffuse Effects: Migration

**BY 2050—IF NO ACTION IS TAKEN—THERE WILL BE MORE THAN 143 MILLION INTERNAL CLIMATE MIGRANTS ACROSS THESE THREE REGIONS**

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

86 MILLION



SOUTH ASIA

40 MILLION



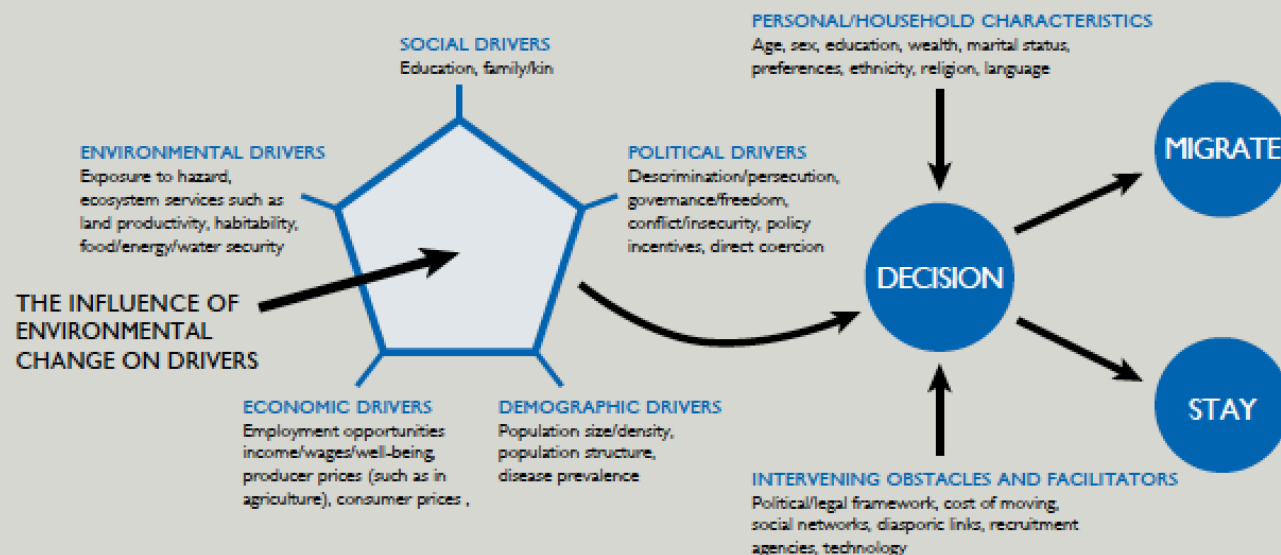
LATIN AMERICA

17 MILLION



## THE DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

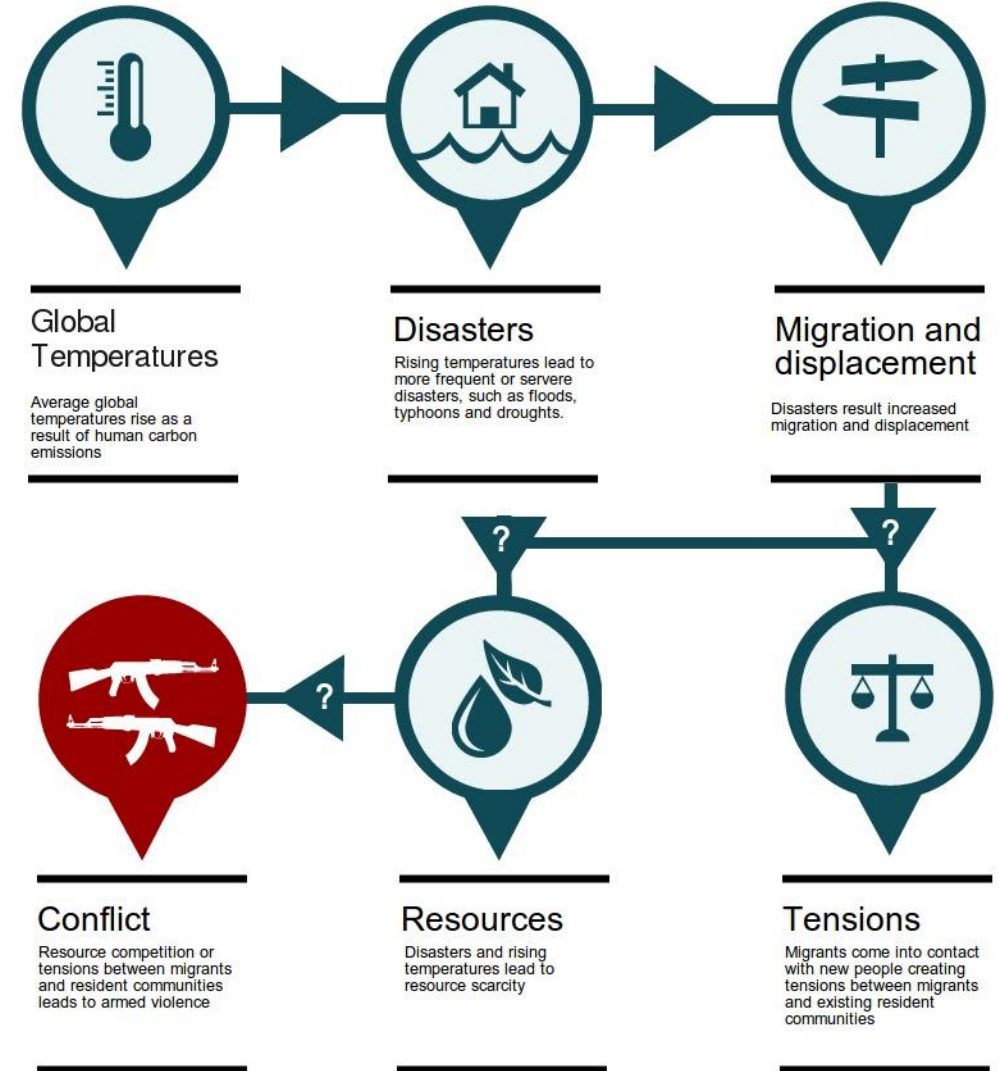
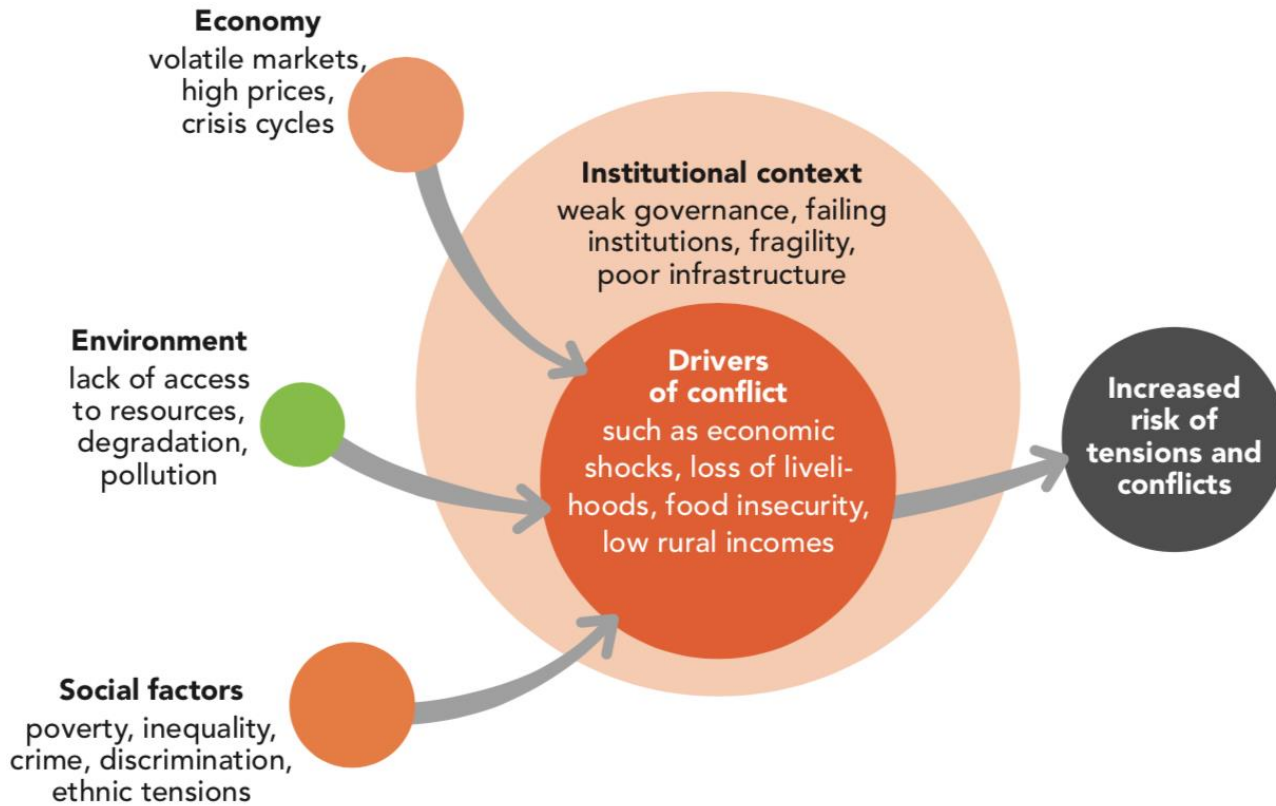
Many drivers influence whether a person or family will migrate. In turn, these drivers can all be influenced by environmental change. Their effects are closely intertwined, so it makes little sense to consider any of them in isolation.



[Figure: Black et al. 2011]

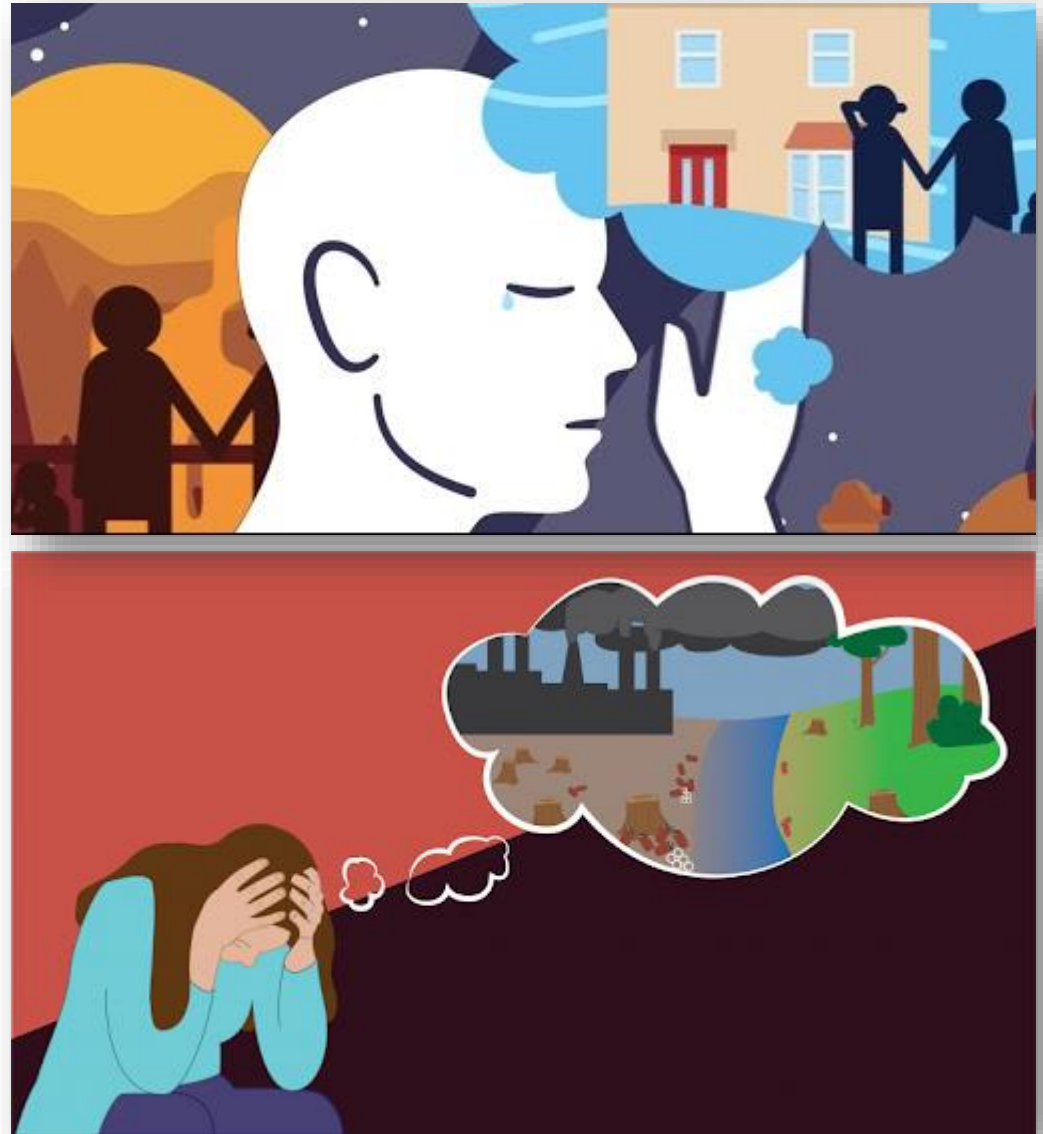
# ✂ Tier 3 Diffuse Effects: Conflict

🎲 Domino effect of climate change could trigger conflict

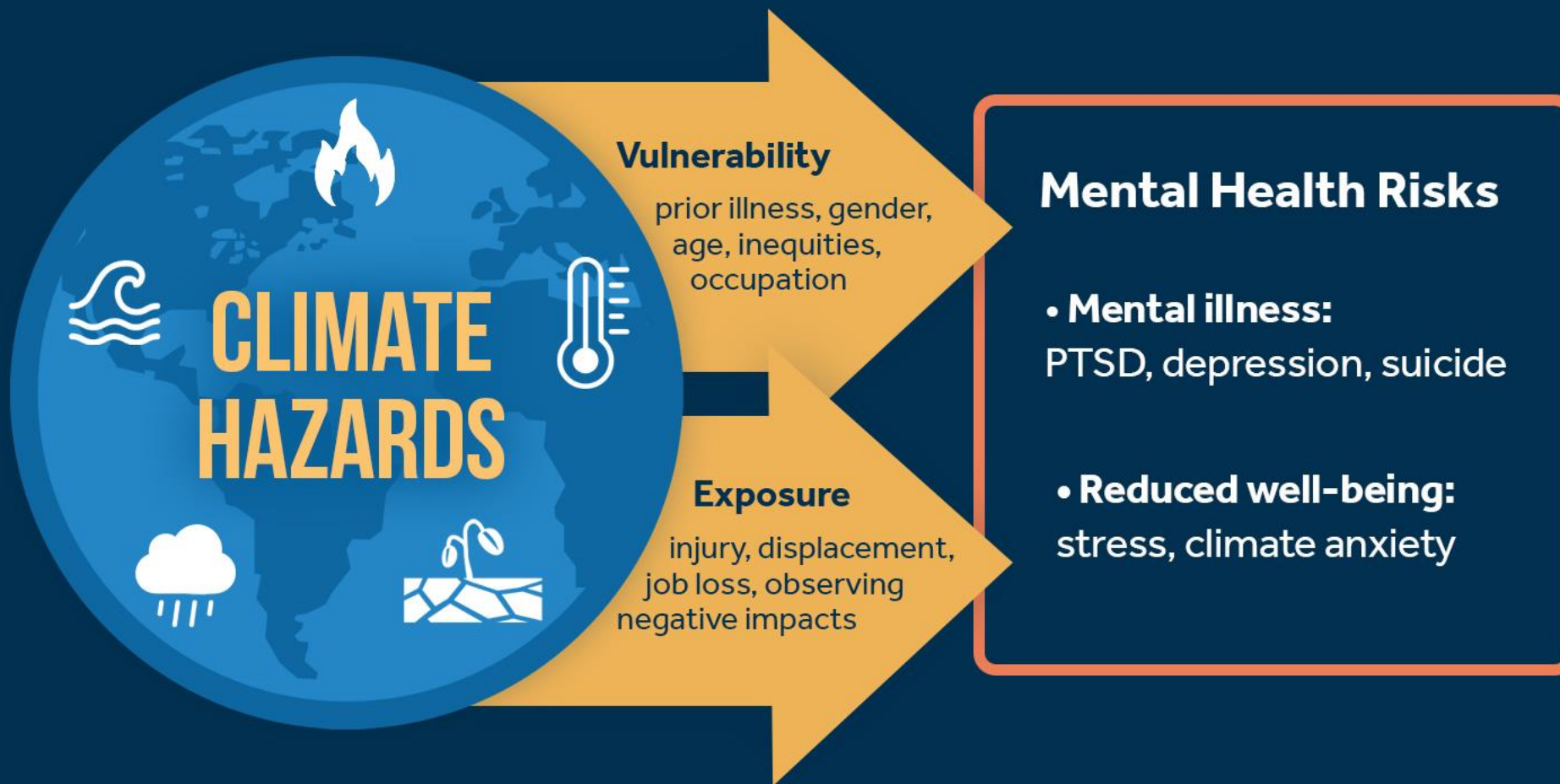




# Tier 3 Diffuse Effects: Mental Health



# Climate Change & Mental Health



Source: Adapted from IPCC AR6 WGII Ch 7 (2022) & health2016.globalchange.gov Ch 8 (2016).



## Tier 3 Diffuse Effects: Mental Health

- Loss of culture
- Loss of community
- Eco-anxiety
- Lack of hope in the future
- Inability to plan ahead

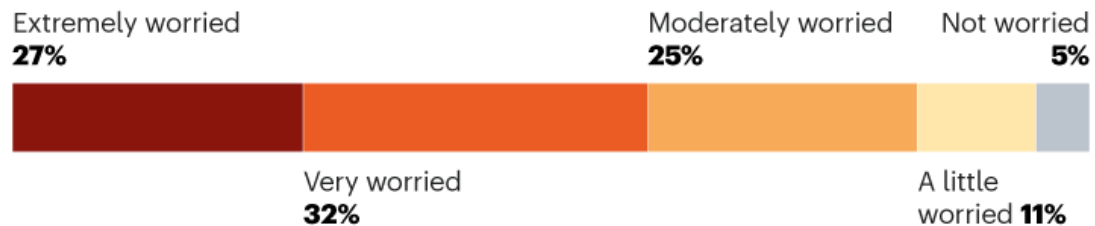
### How does climate change affect physical, mental and community health?



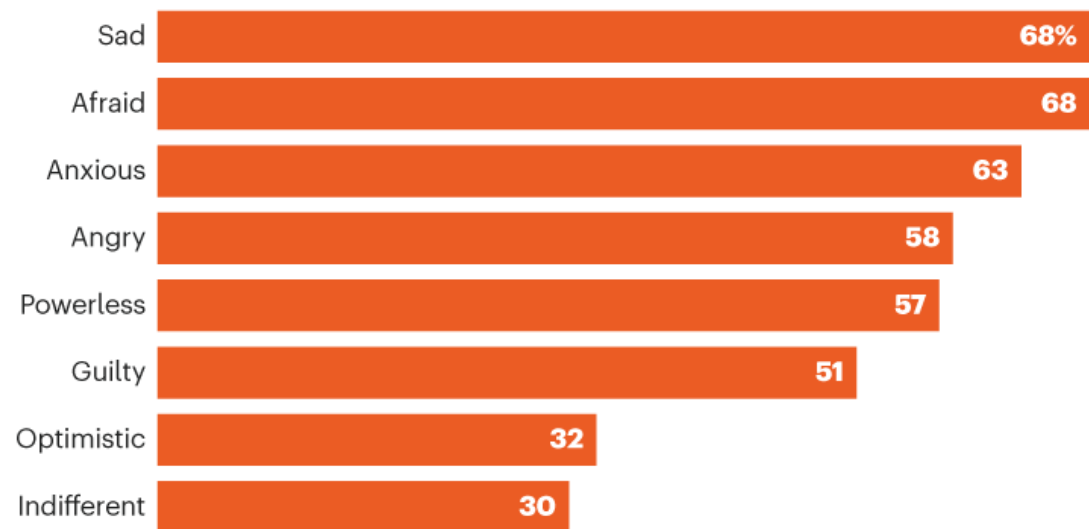
# CLIMATE ANXIETY

A survey of 10,000 young people shows that negative feelings about climate change can cause psychological distress.

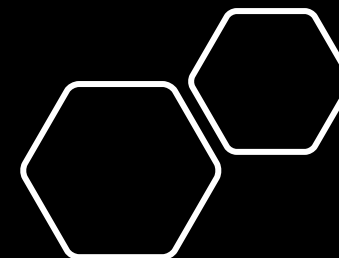
## How worried are you about climate change?



## Climate change makes me feel...



©nature



Source: Hickman, C. *et al.*, *Lancet* (2021). [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(21\)00278-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(21)00278-3/fulltext)



# Generation Dread



Finding Purpose in an Age of  
Climate Crisis



# Climate change and Psychology

## POINTS TO CONSIDER

Being born into a world where “things will probably get much worse” can be very difficult to deal with.

People feel disempowered, frustrated, especially with politicians for failing to deliver

The changes needed are many, urgent, and radical. It should inspire people to act, rather than be bystanders.



# Questions to reflect on

- Eco-anxiety is on the rise worldwide, leading to a growing sense of dread and depression.
- We underestimate the impact of a growing mental health crisis at our peril.
- We are still in time to make the necessary changes to mitigate climate change (although some adaptation will be necessary)





## Part 3: The Way Forward



From helplessness to  
action – options for  
difficult times

FIGHT TODAY  
FOR A BETTER  
TOMORROW

IT'S OUR  
LIFE

Planet  
Let's  
change  
for  
climate  
sake!

THE CLIMATE  
IS CHANGING  
WHY ARE  
WE NOT?

They  
Time

# The Good News

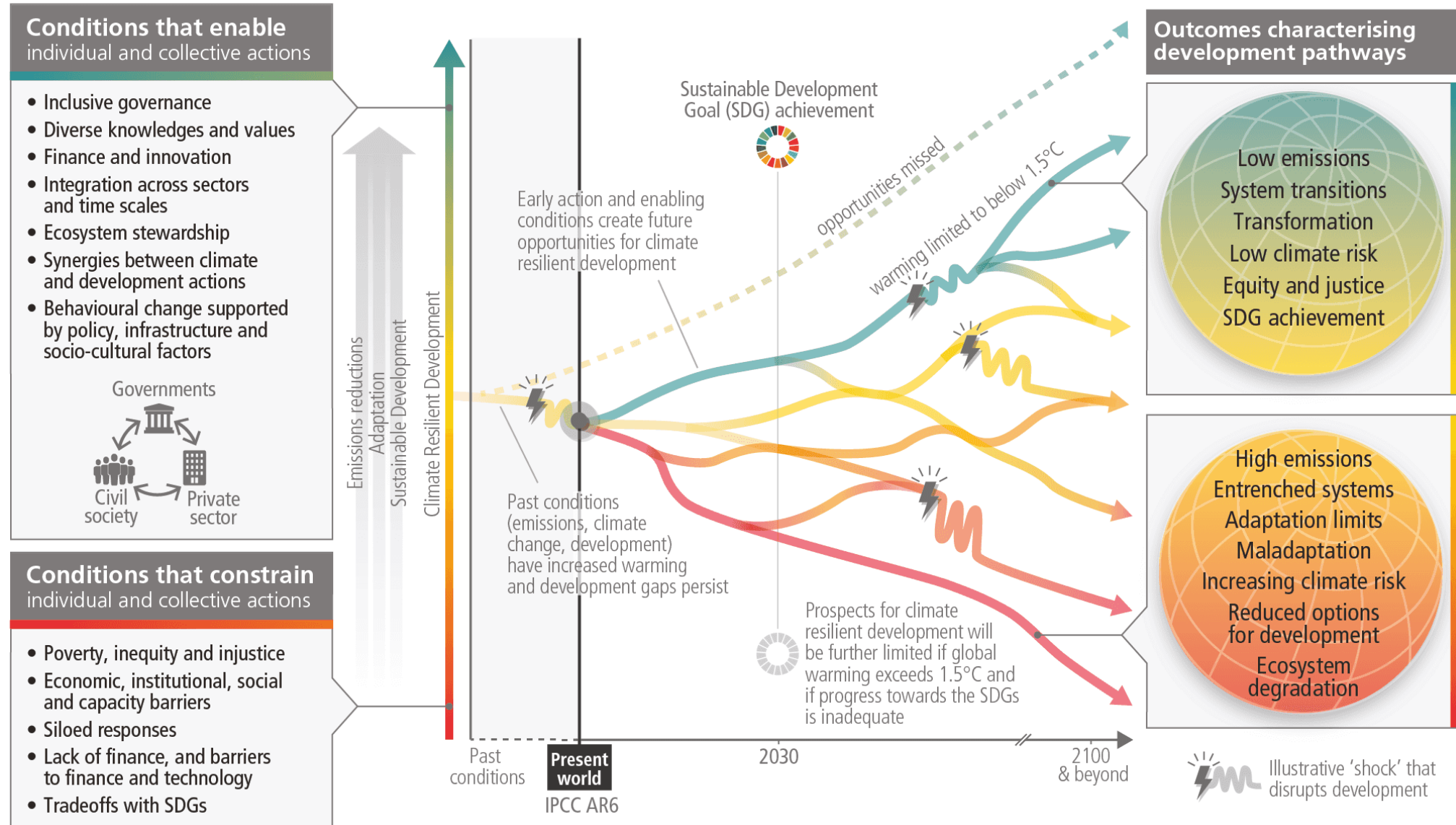
- The changes we need to implement to mitigate climate change and adapt to it have real tangible benefits to:
  - Improve our health
  - Strengthen our communities
  - Enhance our general wellbeing
- **We can turn this crisis into an opportunity**
- Inspiring others to **speak out, act and intervene** to improve our lives and deal with climate change would lead to positive improvements in all spheres, including health.

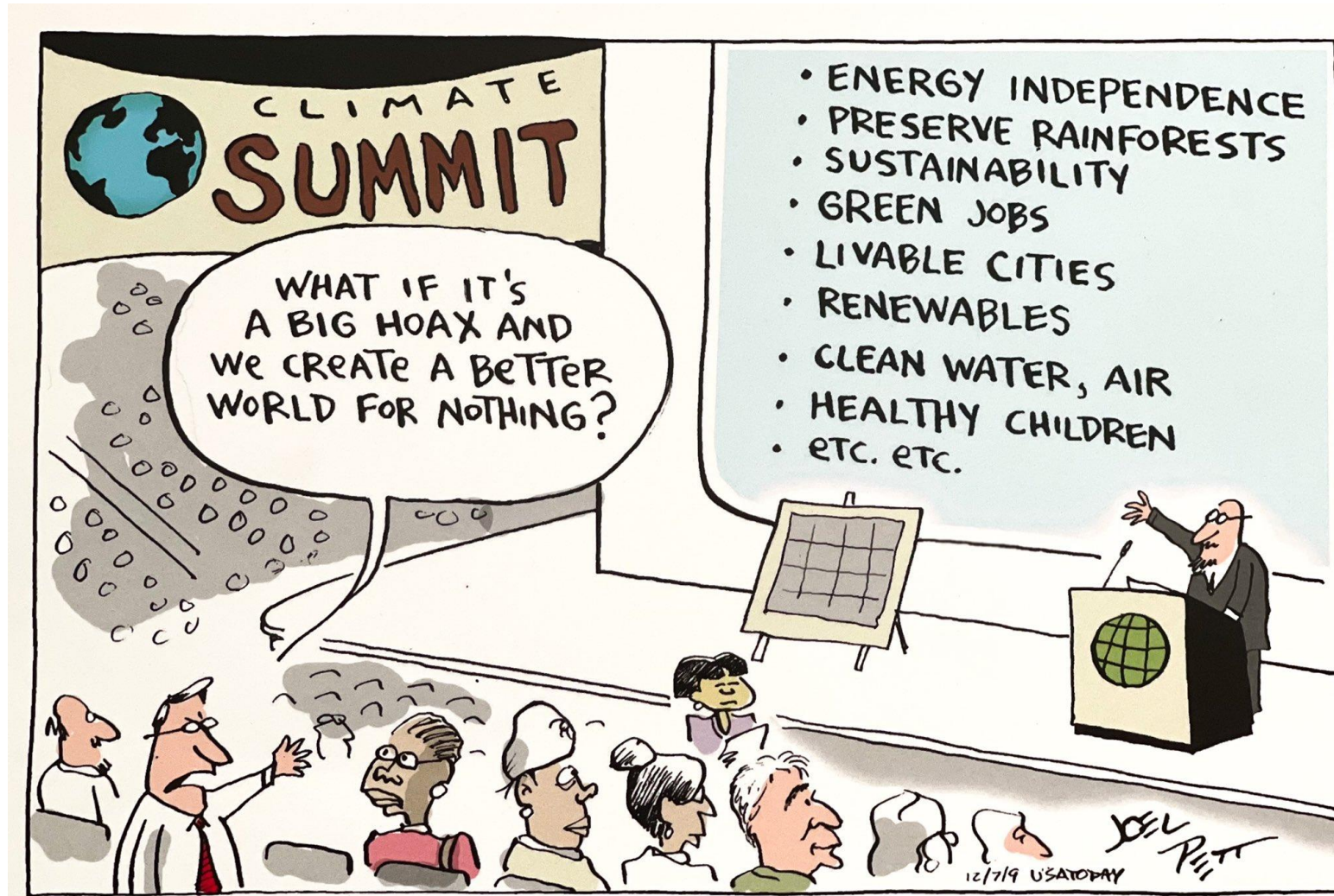




# There is a rapidly narrowing window of opportunity to enable climate resilient development

Multiple interacting choices and actions can shift development pathways towards sustainability



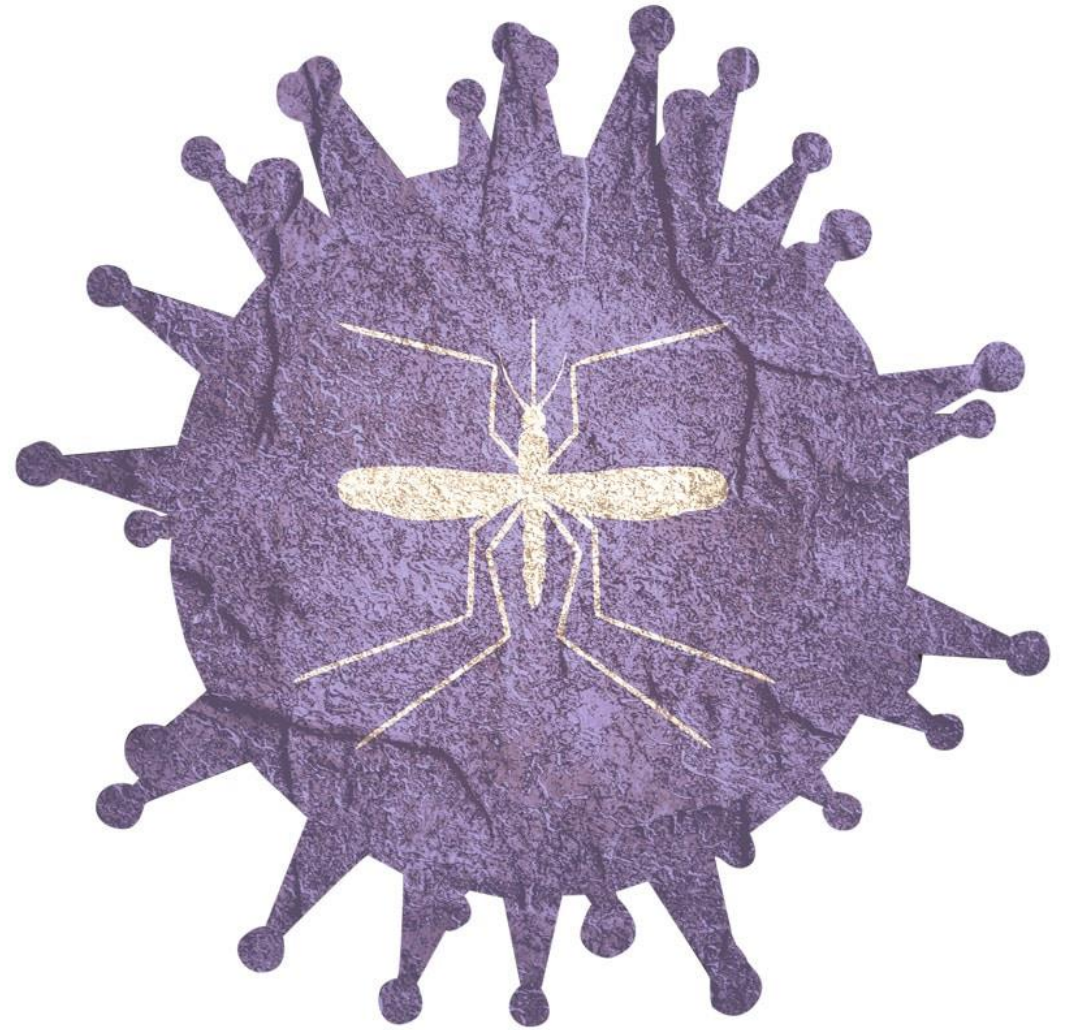


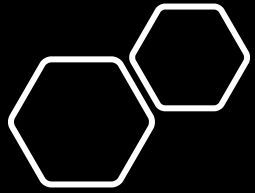
# Public Health

## *Be prepared*

- Preparing infrastructure for increasing extreme weather events
- Consulting with public health experts in any policy
- Stop compartmentalising, start connecting

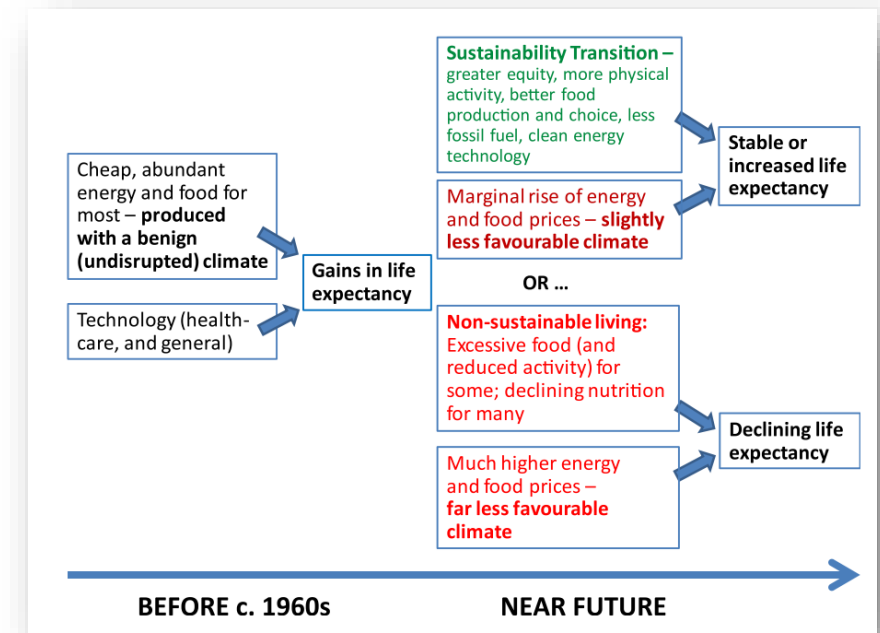
**‘Health in all’  
policy approach**

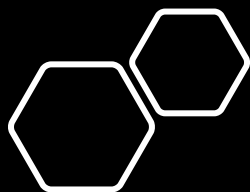




# Public Health strategies to tackle Climate Change

- Various possibilities, but ultimately **synchronise well** with general public health goals
- E.g. healthier diets, encouraging active commutes, integrated communities





# Public Health strategies to tackle Climate Change

- Various possibilities, but ultimately **synchronise well** with general public health goals
- E.g. healthier diets, encouraging active commutes, integrated communities

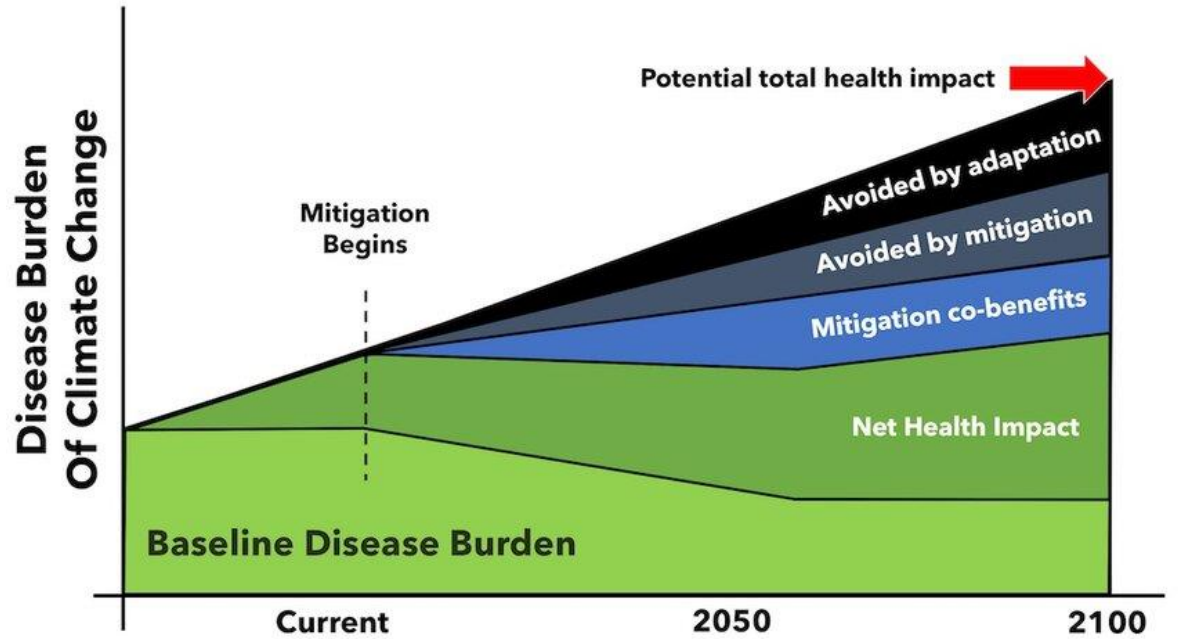
**Table 3.** Role of the Health Sector in Climate-Change Mitigation (Primary Prevention) and Adaptation (Preparedness, or Secondary Prevention).\*

Goal and Generic Action	Suggested Strategies
<b>Mitigation of climate change</b>	
Carry out health impact assessment of mitigation strategies	Conduct epidemiologic research to estimate and document changes in health outcomes that result directly from mitigation actions
Limit the carbon (and other environmental) footprint related to the health care system	Design buildings, transport services, and facilities to achieve energy efficiency, in terms of energy sources and use, and to minimize waste
Enlist health professional organizations and government health departments	Educate the public about risks to health from climate change and explain that mitigating actions can confer additional, local health benefits
Include physicians and other health care workers as citizens	Participate in wider public discussion and moderate personal behaviors
<b>Adaptation to lessen health risks</b>	
Provide adequate health care facilities and services	Improve facilities for handling increased patient volume resulting from extreme weather events and ensure adequate stocks of vaccine
Anticipate necessary surge capacity (e.g., for major heat waves, fires, epidemics)	Coordinate with emergency-services agencies and ambulance facilities and consider morgue capacity
Reinforce and extend public health programs to provide a foundation for dealing with most types of climate-related health effects	Develop early-warning systems (e.g., for heat waves, floods, and possible epidemics); programs for infectious-disease surveillance and analysis, vaccination, and vector control (e.g., mosquitoes, ticks); support for vulnerable communities; and mental health services (e.g., for postevent trauma and depression)
Educate and train the health workforce	Develop programs that prepare health care workers to contribute to public education and to be on the alert for unexpected diagnoses
Engage in broader collaboration with other sectors	Institute policies for creating green spaces in cities (to promote physical and mental health); develop housing design and insulation to optimize health protection; consider livestock and wild animals as possible risks for infection

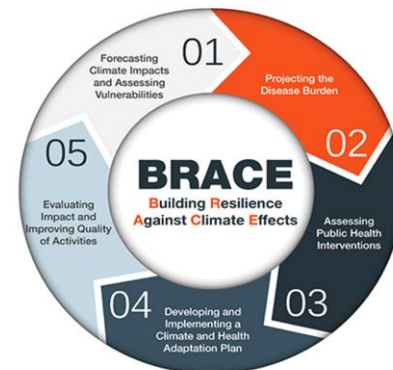
\* The listed adaptation activities are intended to reduce health risks on the local and regional levels.

# Public Health strategies to tackle Climate Change

Health co-benefits of co-mitigation should not be underestimated

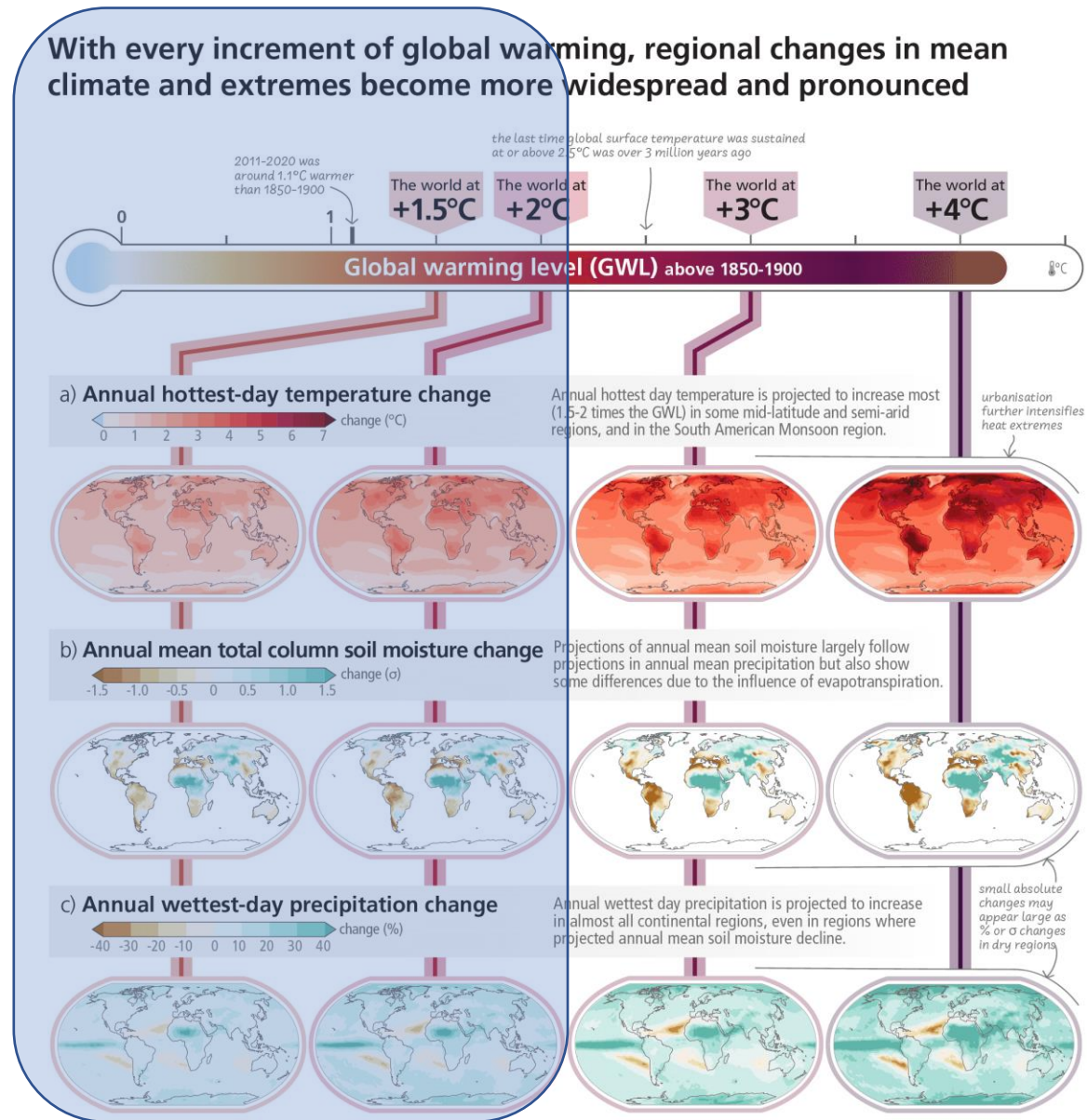


## Building Resilience Against Climate Effects



The world desperately needs to aim for a maximum of 2°C, if not 1.5°C, to ensure a degree of adaptation.

Past that, we enter a world of tipping points which are irreversible and detrimental to human life.



# References

EPA, 2020. Accessible from: <https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/public-health-adaptation-strategies-climate-change>

EPA, 2020. Accessible from: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/health-effects-ozone-pollution>

Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). (2018). GBD Compare Data Visualization: Kiribati. Seattle, WA, USA: University of Washington.

<http://ghdx.healthdata.org/geography/kiribati>

IPCC. (2014). Climate Change 2013 - The Physical Science Basis. *Annex II: Glossary [Mach, K.J., S. Planton and C. von Stechow (eds.)]. In: Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [(Core Writing T, 117–130. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107415324>*

McMichael, A. J., & Lindgren, E. (2011). Climate change: Present and future risks to health, and necessary responses. *Journal of Internal Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2796.2011.02415.x>

McMichael, A. J. (2013). Globalization, Climate Change, and Human Health. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 14368(4), 1335–43. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMra1109341>

McMichael, A. J., Butler, C. D., & Dixon, J. (2015). Climate change, food systems and population health risks in their eco-social context. *Public Health*, 129(10), 1361–1368. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.puhe.2014.11.013>

McMichael, A. J. (2013). Globalization, Climate Change, and Human Health. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 14368(4), 1335–43. <https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMra1109341>

NYTimes, 2019 - How Dengue, a Deadly Mosquito-Borne Disease, Could Spread in a Warming World. Available from:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/06/10/climate/dengue-mosquito-spread-map.html>

Rittel HWJ, Webber MM. Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning Author ( s ): Horst W . J . Rittel and Melvin M . Webber Published by : Springer. Policy Sci. [Internet]. 1973;4:155–169. Available from: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4531523>.

Dodds, J. (2021). The psychology of climate anxiety. *BJPsych Bulletin*, 45(4), 222-226. doi:10.1192/bjb.2021.18



**Thank you**

