

**SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT**  
Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

**ipcc**  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

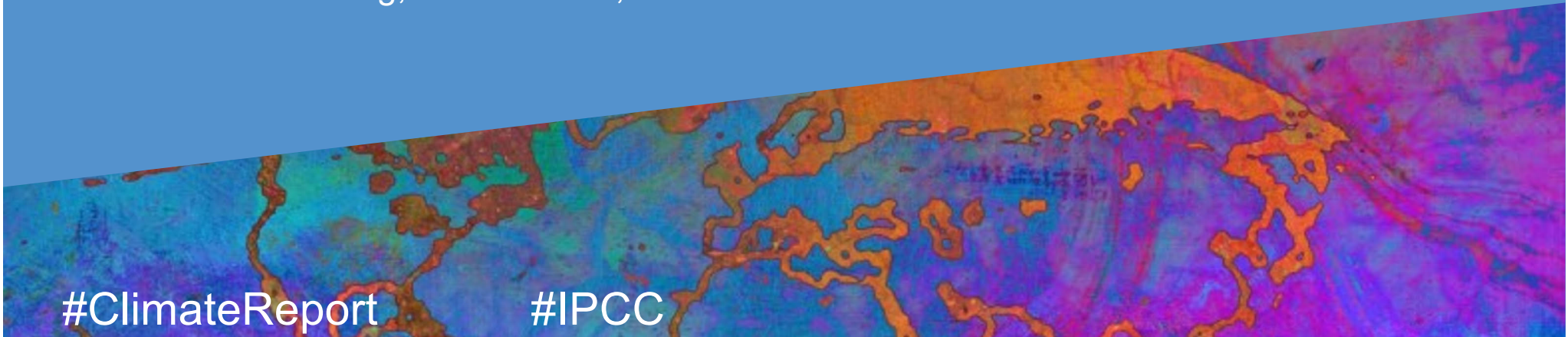


# The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report

Linda Mearns, National Center for Atmospheric Research  
Lead Author: Atlas, Interactive Atlas  
CAS Annual Meeting, November 8, 2021

#ClimateReport

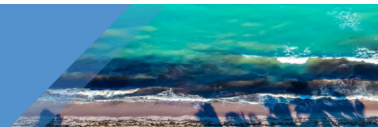
#IPCC





## **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

- Established by WMO and UNEP in 1988
- Purpose: to assess the scientific and socio-economic information regarding climate change
- The IPCC has three Working Groups:
  - Working Group I: Science of the climate system
  - Working Group II: Impacts, vulnerability and adaptation
  - Working Group III: Options for limiting greenhouse gases
- There have been six full assessments: 1990, 1995, 2001, 2007, 2013/14, 2021, and numerous special reports (e.g., SREX, 1.5 deg).



## Increasing Confidence in the Science

- **IPCC 1990:** The observed increase [*in temperatures*] could be largely due to natural variability; alternatively this variability and other man-made factors could have offset a still larger man-made greenhouse warming.
- **IPCC 1995:** The balance of evidence suggests a discernible human influence on global climate.
- **IPCC 2001:** There is new and stronger evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is due to human activities.
- **IPCC 2007:** Most of the observed increase in global temperatures since the mid-20th century is very likely (90%) due to the observed increase in greenhouse gas concentrations.



## Increasing Confidence in the Science (continued)

- **IPCC 2013:** The evidence for human influence has grown since AR4. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.
- **IPCC 2021:** It is indisputable that human activities are causing climate change.





## **IPCC Sixth Assessment Report : Some Statistics**

### **Author Team**

234 Authors from 65 countries

28% women, 72% men

30% new to the IPCC

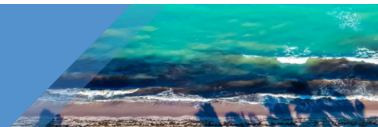
### **Review Process**

14,000 scientific publications  
assessed

More than 78,000 review  
comments

46 countries commented on  
final government distribution

Final plenary where SMP is  
accepted by country  
representatives



## How is the climate changing?

Observed changes in the atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere and biosphere provide unequivocal evidence of a world that has warmed.

Over the past several decades, key indicators of the climate system are increasing at levels unseen in centuries to millennia and are changing at rates unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years.

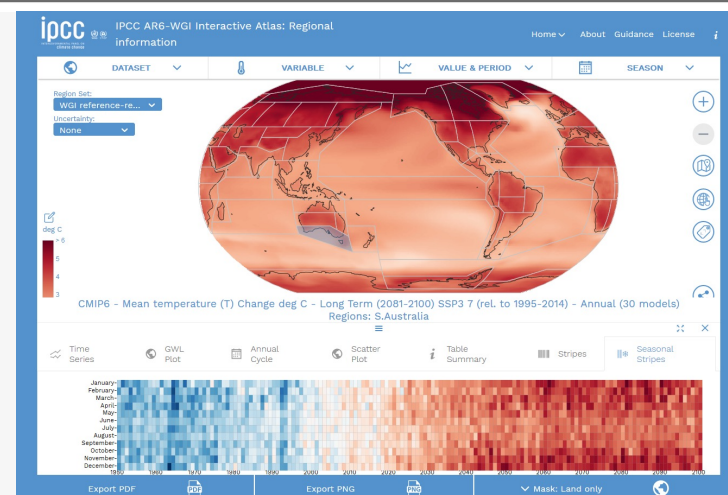
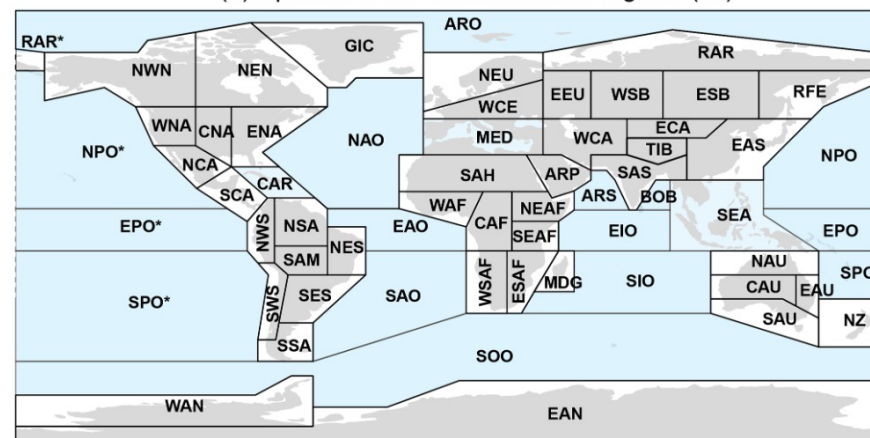
### What's new in this report?

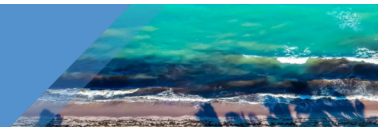
- Greater focus on regional information
- Greater integration with and production of information relevant to impacts of climate change (relevance to Working Group 2)
- Particular focus on changes in the water cycle
- More years of data
- Increasing range of observational products available
- Increasing integration of paleoclimate information
- Newer climate models (greater number) (global and regional models)

## Regional information

- Greater regional focus than any previous report
- Chapter 10 – Linking global to regional climate change
- Chapter 11 – Climate extremes
- Chapter 12 – Regional information for impact assessment, incl. 'Climate Impact-Drivers (CIDs)
- Atlas – average climate: past trends, attribution, projections
- Interactive Atlas – new online tool
- <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>

(b) Updated IPCC WGI reference regions (v4)





## Key messages

We've known for decades that the world is warming. Recent changes in the climate are **widespread, rapid, and intensifying**. They are **unprecedented** in thousands of years.

It is **indisputable that human activities are causing climate change**. Human influence is making **extreme climate events**, including heat waves, heavy rainfall, and droughts, more frequent and severe.

Climate change is already **affecting every region on Earth**, in multiple ways. The changes we **experience** will increase with further warming.

**There's no going back from some changes** in the climate system. However, some of these changes could be slowed and others could be stopped by limiting warming.

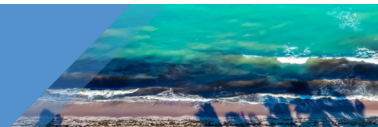
**Unless there are immediate, rapid, and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to 1.5°C will be beyond reach.**

To limit global warming, **strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, and other greenhouse gases are necessary**. This would not only reduce the consequences of climate change but also **improve air quality**.

## SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

Working Group I – The Physical Science Basis

ipcc  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change



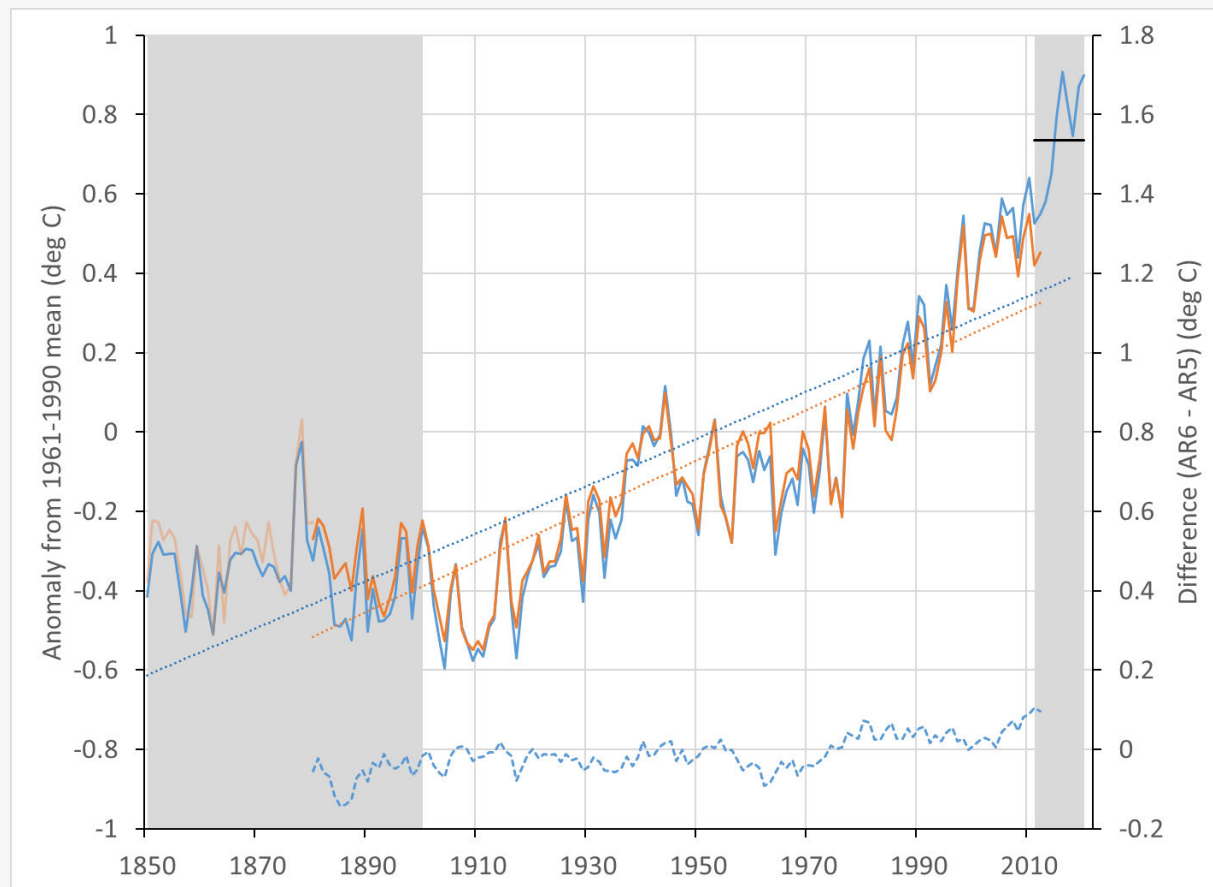
### Global mean surface temperature warmed 1.09 °C from 1850-1900 to 2011-2020

This compares with 0.85 °C warming reported in AR5

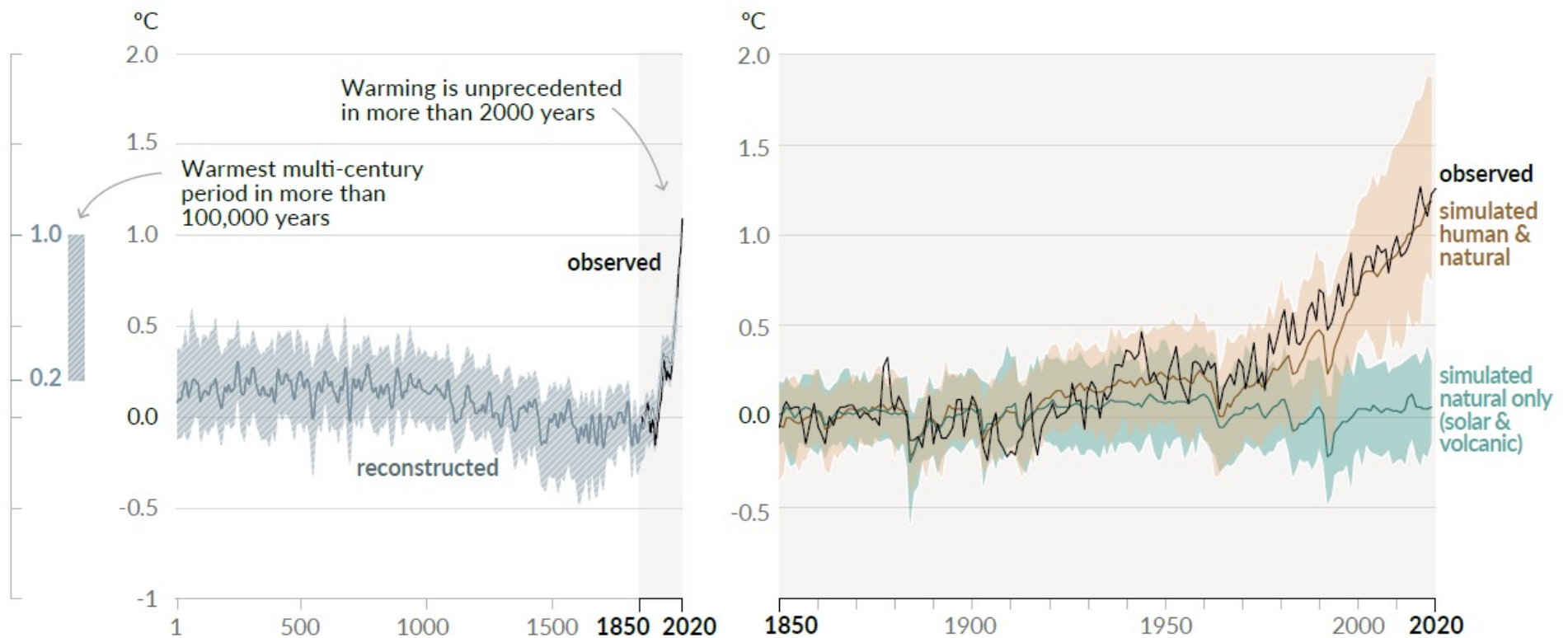
Most of this is additional warming since 2012, but new generations of data sets also contribute

Global temperature increases from 1850-1900 to 2011-2020:

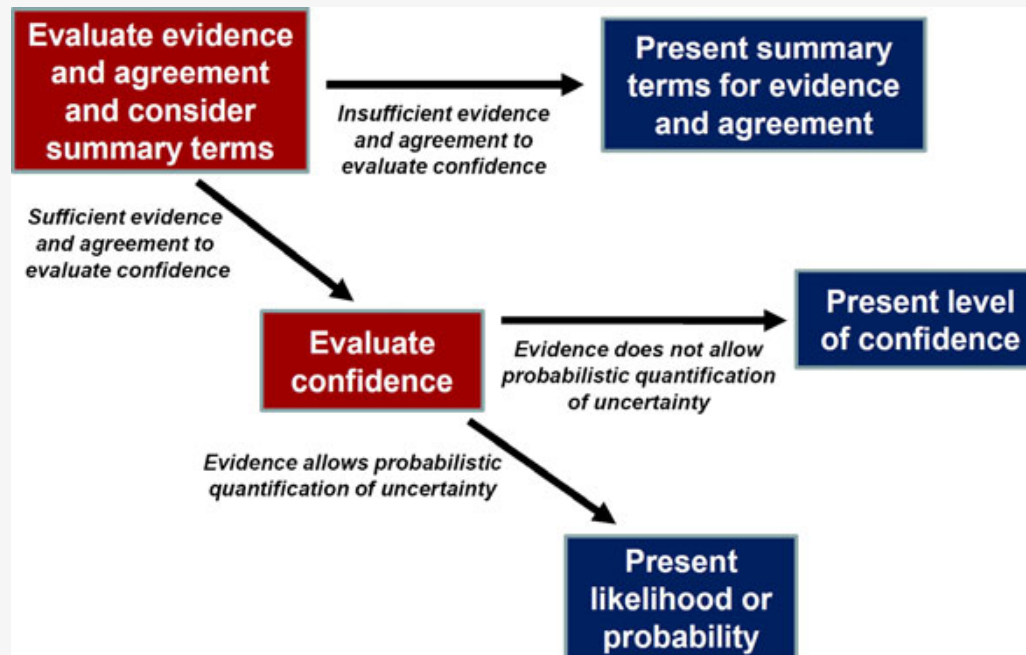
Land and ocean	1.09 °C [0.95-1.20]
Land	1.59 °C [1.34-1.83]
Ocean	0.88 °C [0.68-1.01]



## Global temperature – change and attribution



## Uncertainty in the IPCC Reports

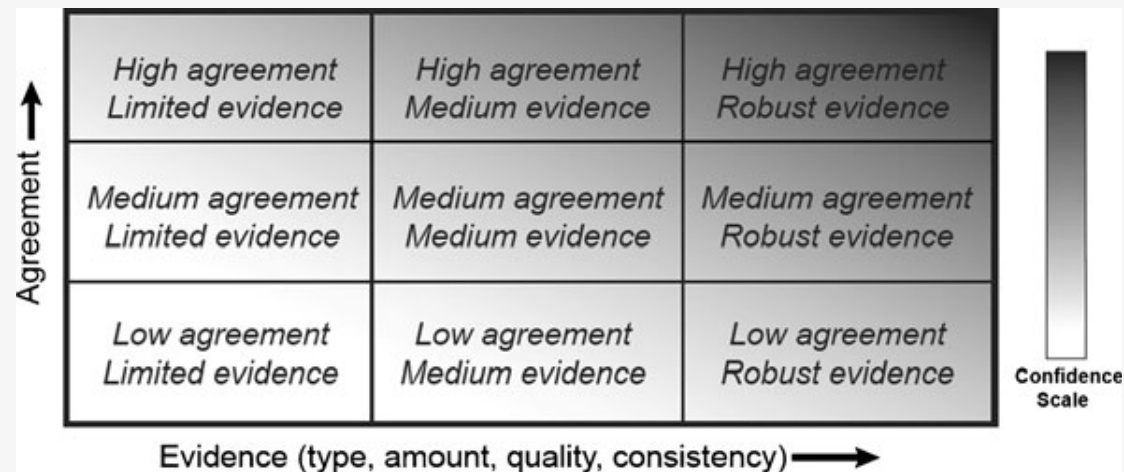


Process for Evaluating and Communicating the Degree of Certainty in Key Findings.

Mastandrea et al.,  
2011 (*Climatic Change*)



## Uncertainty in the IPCC Reports

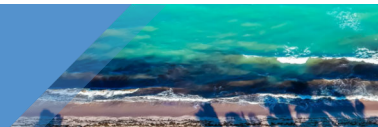


Depiction of evidence and agreement statements and their relationship to confidence.

Level of confidence provides a qualitative synthesis of authors' judgement about the validity of a finding.

Mastandrea et al. 2011





## Uncertainty in the IPCC Reports

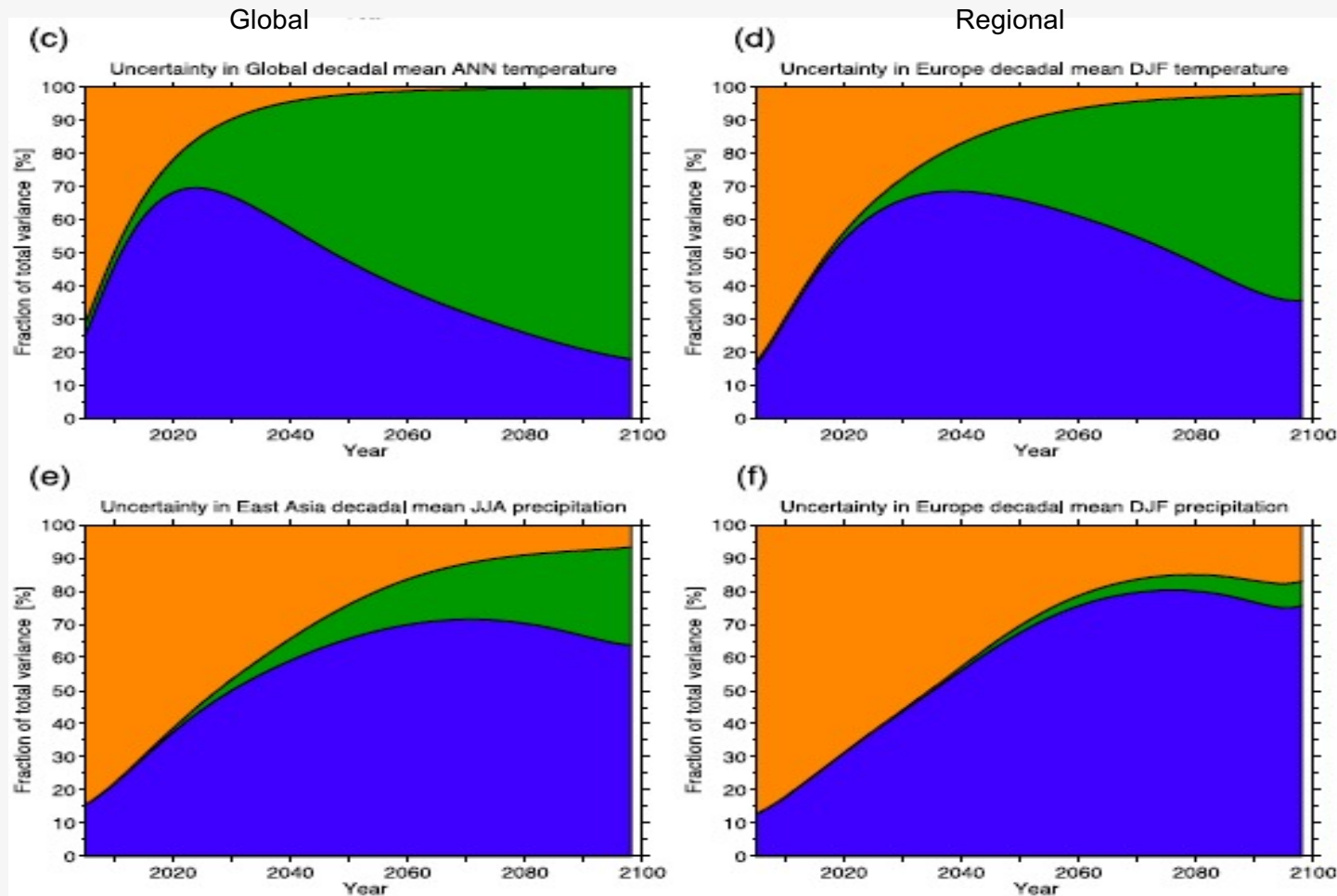
**Table 1** The likelihood scale presented in the AR5 Guidance Note. Reproduced from Mastrandrea et al. (2010)

Term <sup>a</sup>	Likelihood of the outcome
Virtually certain	99–100% probability
Very likely	90–100% probability
Likely	66–100% probability
About as likely as not	33 to 66% probability
Unlikely	0–33% probability
Very unlikely	0–10% probability
Exceptionally unlikely	0–1% probability

<sup>a</sup> Additional terms that were used in limited circumstances in the AR4 (*extremely likely*—95–100% probability, *more likely than not*—>50–100% probability, and *extremely unlikely*—0–5% probability) may also be used in the AR5 when appropriate

Mastandrea et  
al. 2011

## Future Climate Uncertainties



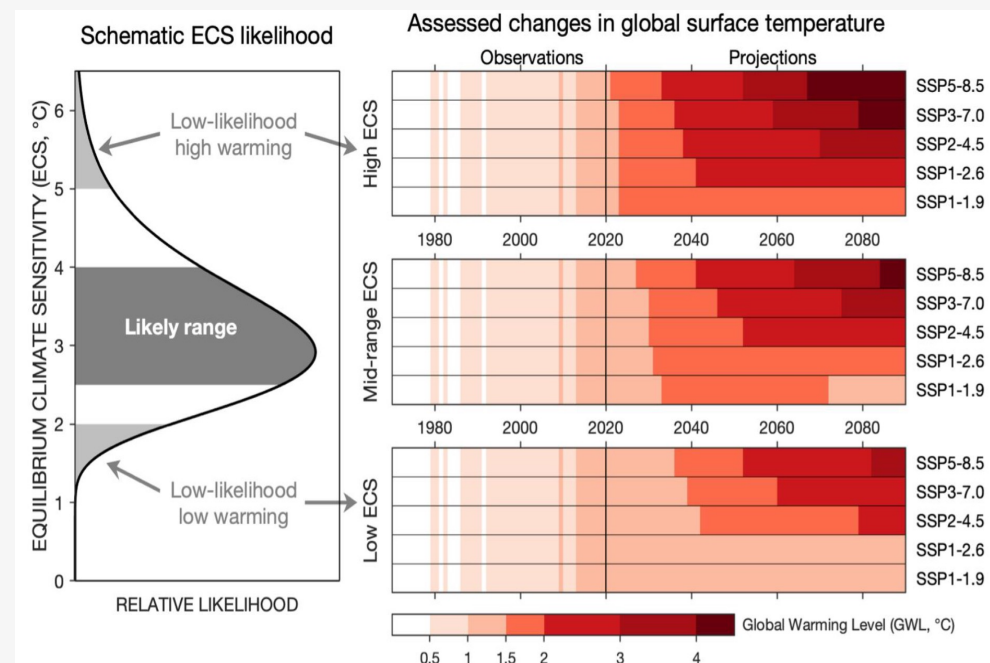
Green = scenario uncertainty;  
blue = climate model uncertainty;  
orange = internal variability.  
(Hawkins and Sutton, 2009).

## Projections

Presented in three ways:

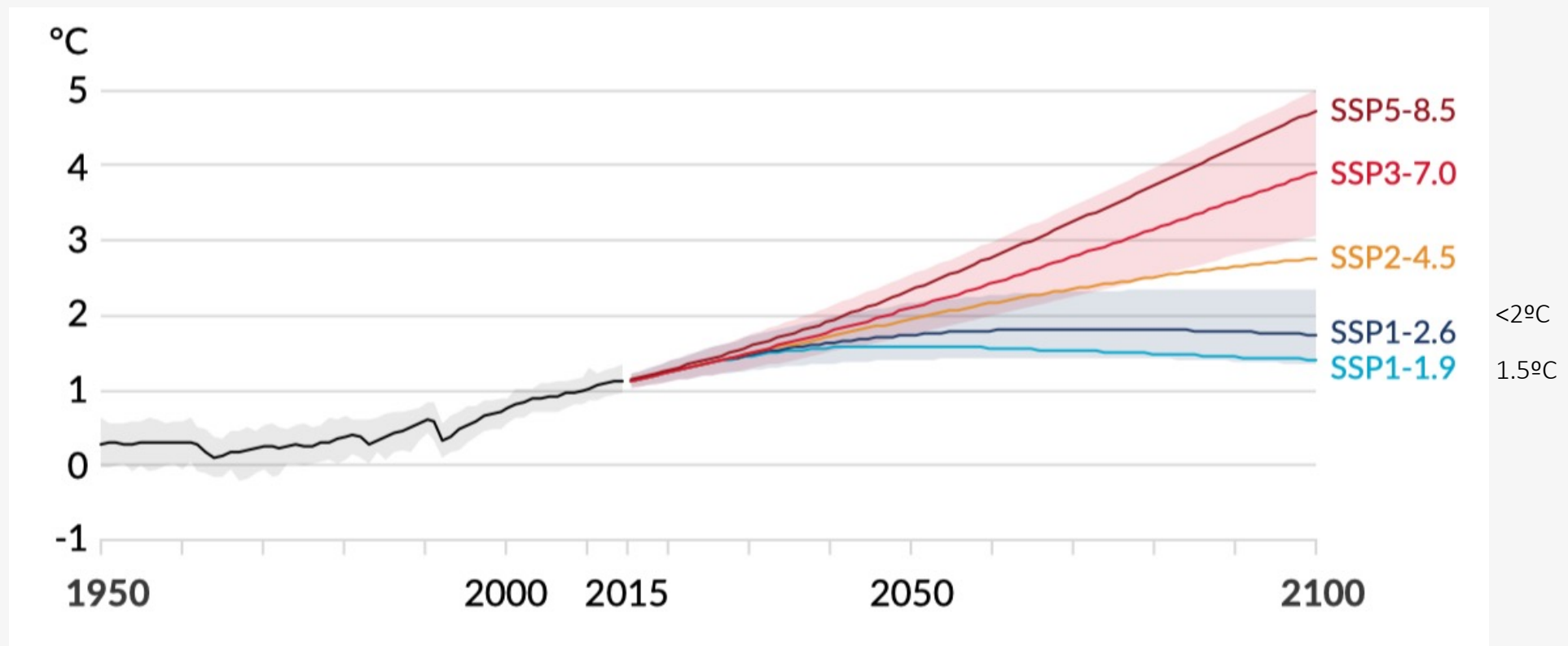
- New Shared Socio-economic Pathways (SSPs)  
SSP1-1.9 – Sustainability, to  
SSP5-8.5 – Fossil-fuelled development
- Global Warming Levels 1.5, 2, 3 and 4 °C
- Warming with carbon budget

Assessed for new *likely* range of climate sensitivity (2.5 to 4 °C) and low-likelihood (<2 and >5 °C)





## Projections – emissions and time horizon



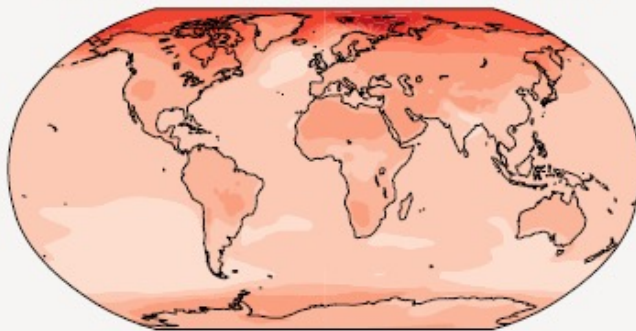
Extract from SPM, Fig. SPM8

## Projections – global warming levels

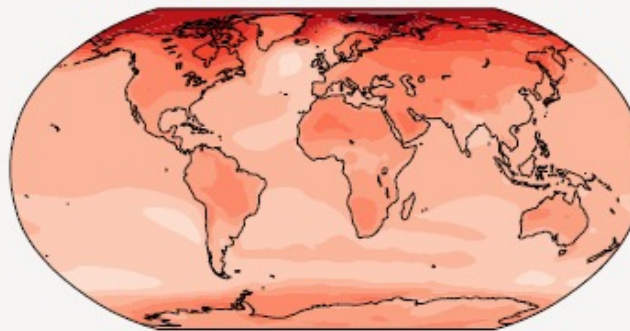
### b) Annual mean temperature change (°C) relative to 1850-1900

Across warming levels, land areas warm more than oceans, and the Arctic and Antarctica warm more than the tropics.

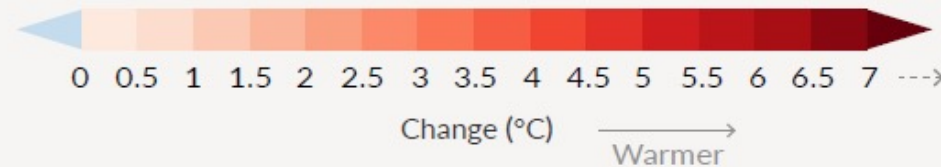
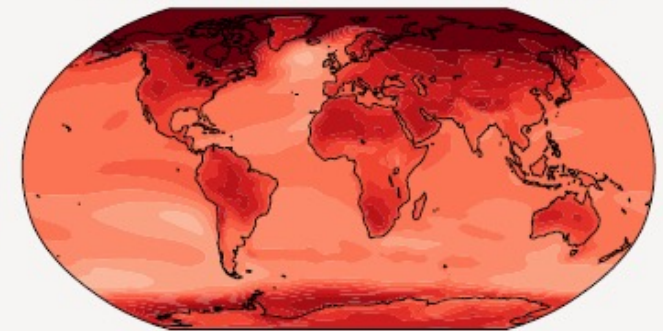
Simulated change at 1.5 °C global warming



Simulated change at 2 °C global warming



Simulated change at 4 °C global warming

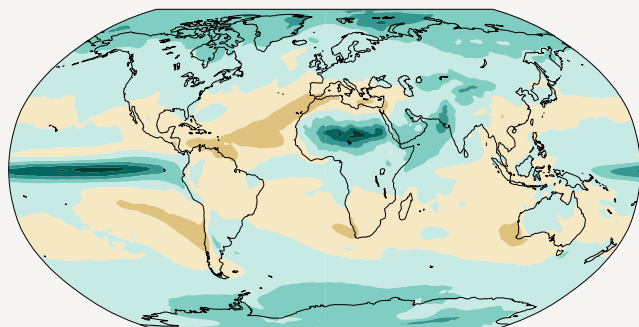


Extract from SPM, Fig. SPM5

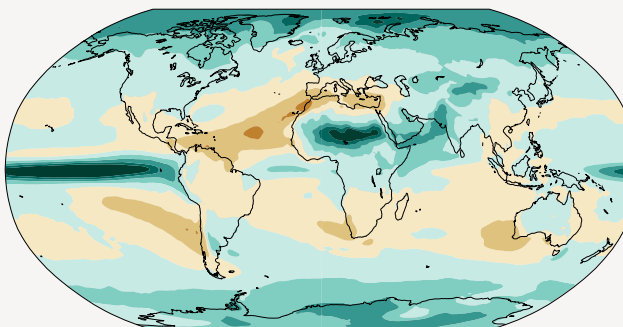
### c) Annual mean precipitation change (%) relative to 1850-1900

Precipitation is projected to increase over high latitudes, the equatorial Pacific and parts of the monsoon regions, but decrease over parts of the subtropics and in limited areas of the tropics.

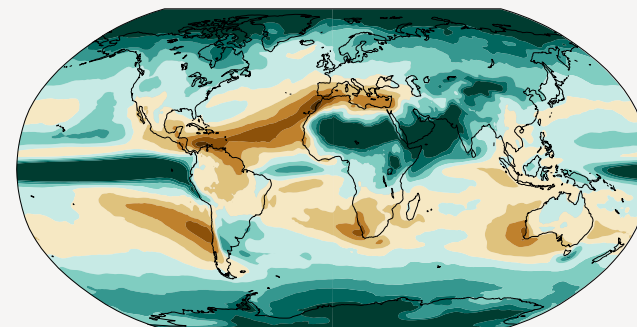
Simulated change at 1.5 °C global warming



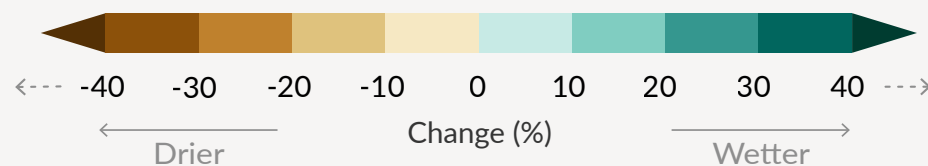
Simulated change at 2 °C global warming



Simulated change at 4 °C global warming

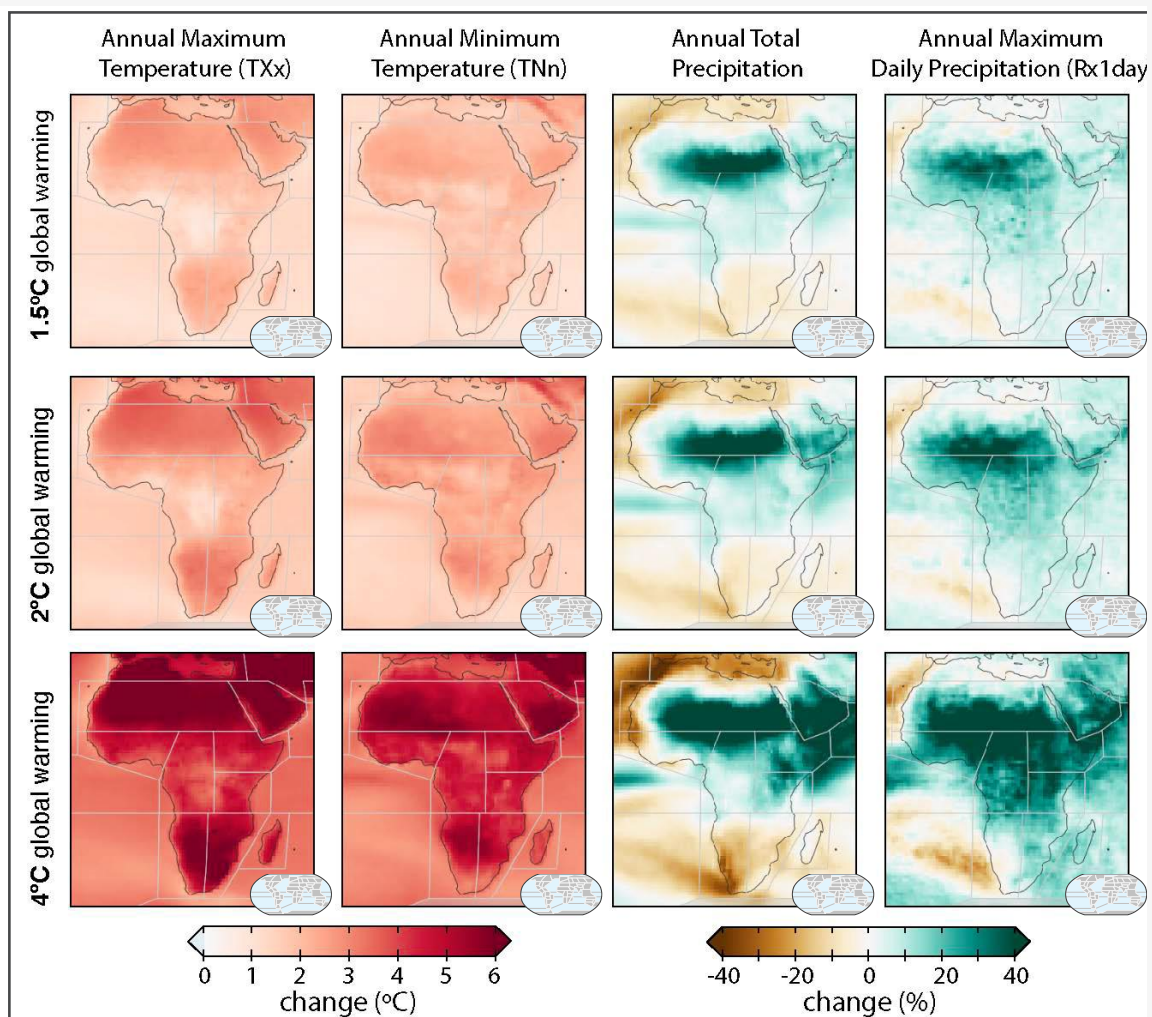


Relatively small absolute changes may appear as large % changes in regions with dry baseline conditions





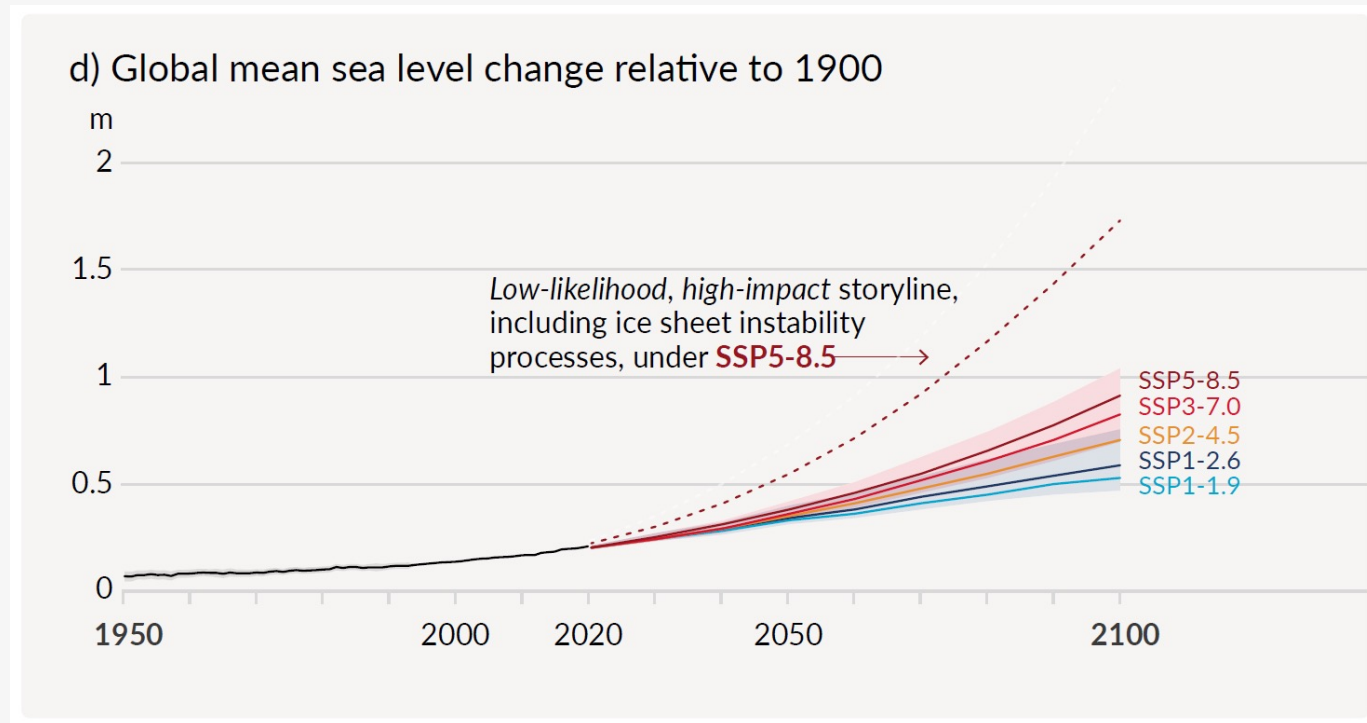
## Projections – Africa



Results for  
global warming  
levels

See more in  
Ch10-12, Atlas  
and  
<https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>

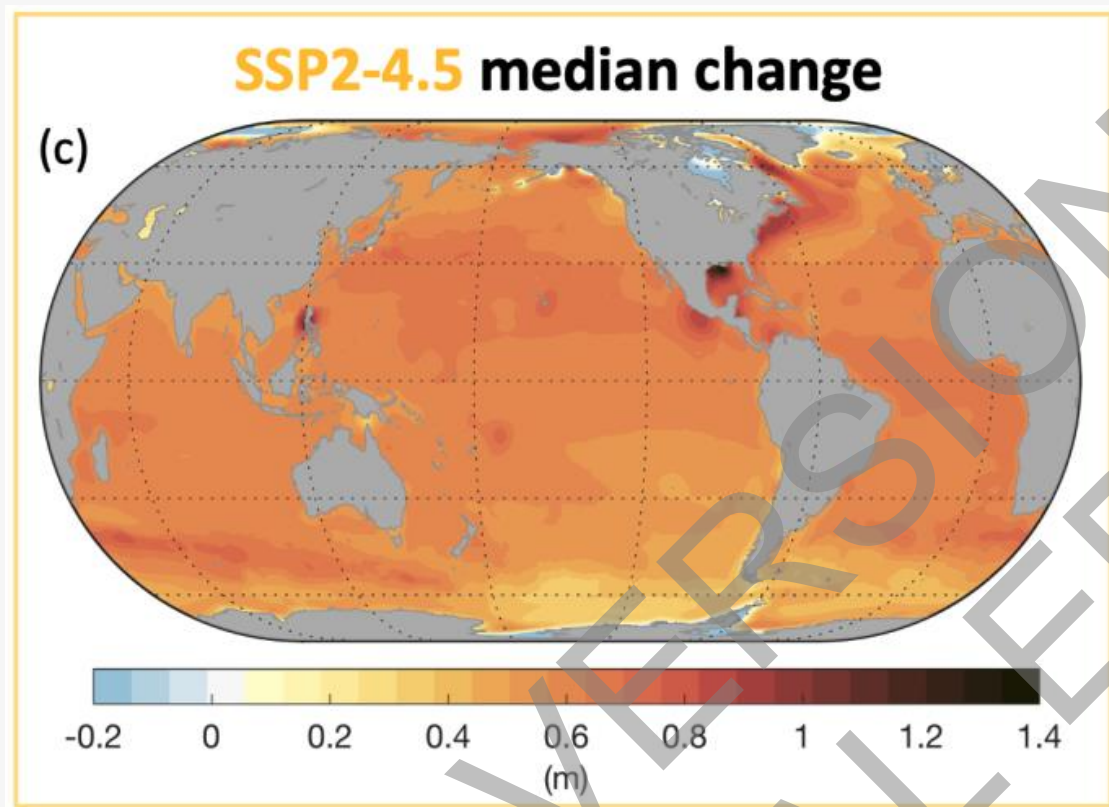
## Sea level rise



- Rate in last 100 years fastest in last 3000 years, accelerated in recent decades
- Faster in Australasian region than the global average
- Sandy shorelines have retreated in many locations
- Extreme sea-level events - more frequent and severe coastal flooding in low-lying areas, coastal erosion



## Regional Sea Level Rise – end of 21<sup>st</sup> Century



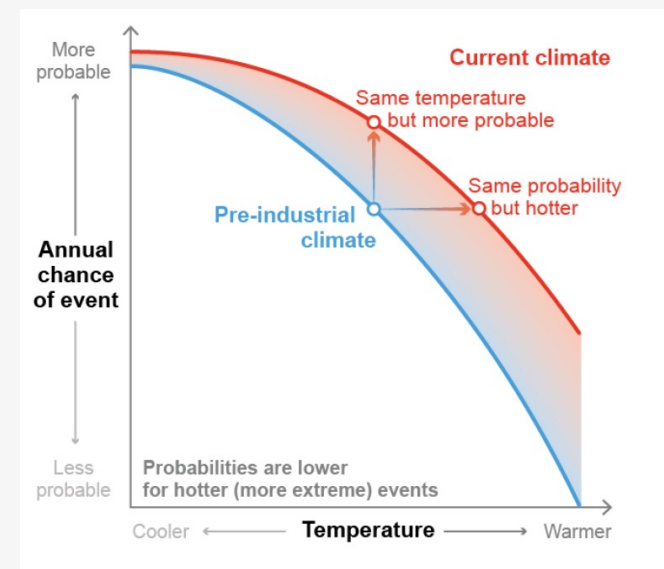
## South Florida Shoreline Change after a 1-Meter Rise in Sea Level

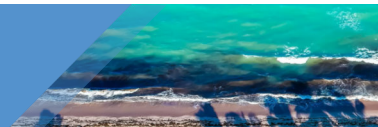
One meter sea level  
rise quite possible by  
end of this century



## Extremes – event attribution

- Now higher confidence in human influence on events generally, such as:
  - Heat extremes (*virtually certain*)
  - Heavier rainfall from tropical cyclones (*high confidence*)
  - The chance of compound extreme events (*likely*)
- Extremes with formal attribution, such as: (examples from different countries)
  - Heat extremes on land in 2013, 2017, 2019-20
  - Marine heatwaves – southeast, and Great Barrier Reef
  - Precipitation extremes – Rx 1 and Rx 5, North America and Eurasia, Europe
  - Conditions setting up bushfires – Queensland 2018, Tasmania 2015-16, the 'Black Summer' 2019-20





## Extremes – Major Messages

It is an *established fact* that human-induced green house gas emissions have led to an increased frequency and/or intensity of some **weather and climate extremes** since pre-industrial time, in particular for temperature extremes.

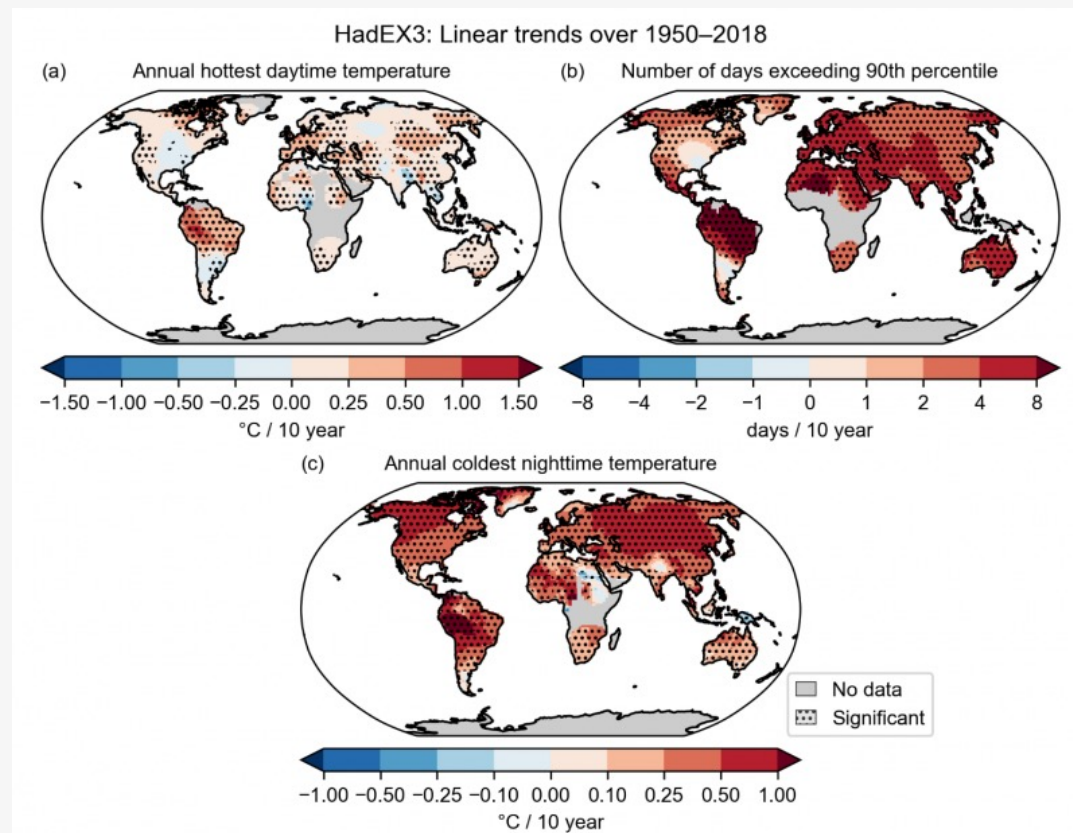
The frequency and intensity of **hot extremes** have increased and those of cold extremes have decrease on the global scale since 1950 (*virtually certain*). This also applies at regional scale, with more than 80% of AR6 regions showing similar changes assessed to be at least *likely*.

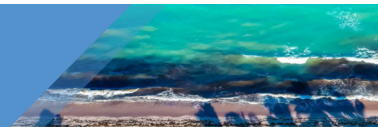
The frequency and intensity of **hot extremes** will continue to increase and those of cold extremes will continue to decrease, at both global and continental scales and in nearly all inhabited regions with increasing global warming levels.

The frequency and intensity of **heavy precipitation** events have *likely* increased at the global scale over a majority of land regions with good observational coverage. Heavy precipitation has *likely* increased on the continental scale over three continents: North America, Europe, and Asia.

Human influence, in particular greenhouse gas emissions, is *likely* the main driver of the observed global scale **intensification of heavy precipitation** in land regions

## Extremes are also warming strongly





## Extremes – major messages (cont'd)

### Hydrologic Elements

**Heavy precipitation** will generally become more frequent and more intense with additional global warming. The increase in frequency and intensity is *extremely likely* for most continents.

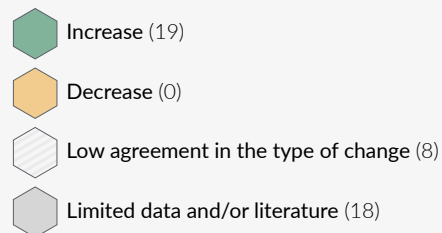
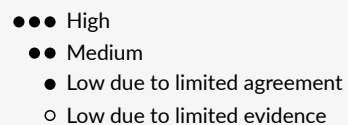
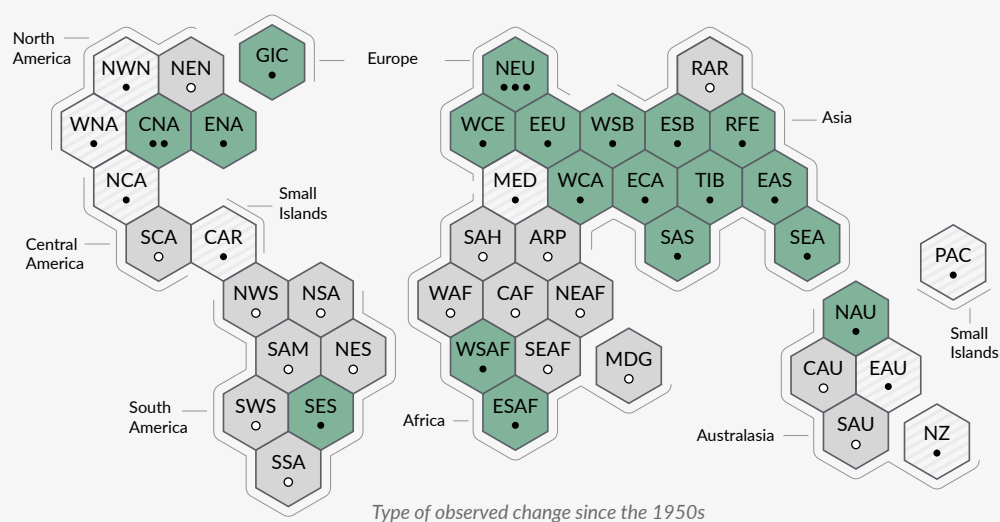
The projected increase in the intensity of extreme precipitation translates to an increase in the frequency and magnitude of **pluvial floods** – surface water and flash floods – (*high confidence*), as pluvial flooding results from precipitation intensity exceeding the capacity of natural and artificial drainage systems.

Global hydrological models project a larger fraction of land areas to be affected by an increase in **river floods** than by a decrease in river floods (*medium confidence*).

Human-induced climate change has contributed to decreases in **water availability** during the dry season over a predominant fraction of the land area due to evapotranspiration increases (*medium confidence*)

The **land area affected by increasing drought frequency** and severity expands with increasing global warming (*high confidence*).



**Type of observed change  
in heavy precipitation**

**Confidence in human contribution  
to the observed change**

**b) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in heavy precipitation and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions**




# Hydrologic Engineering Study

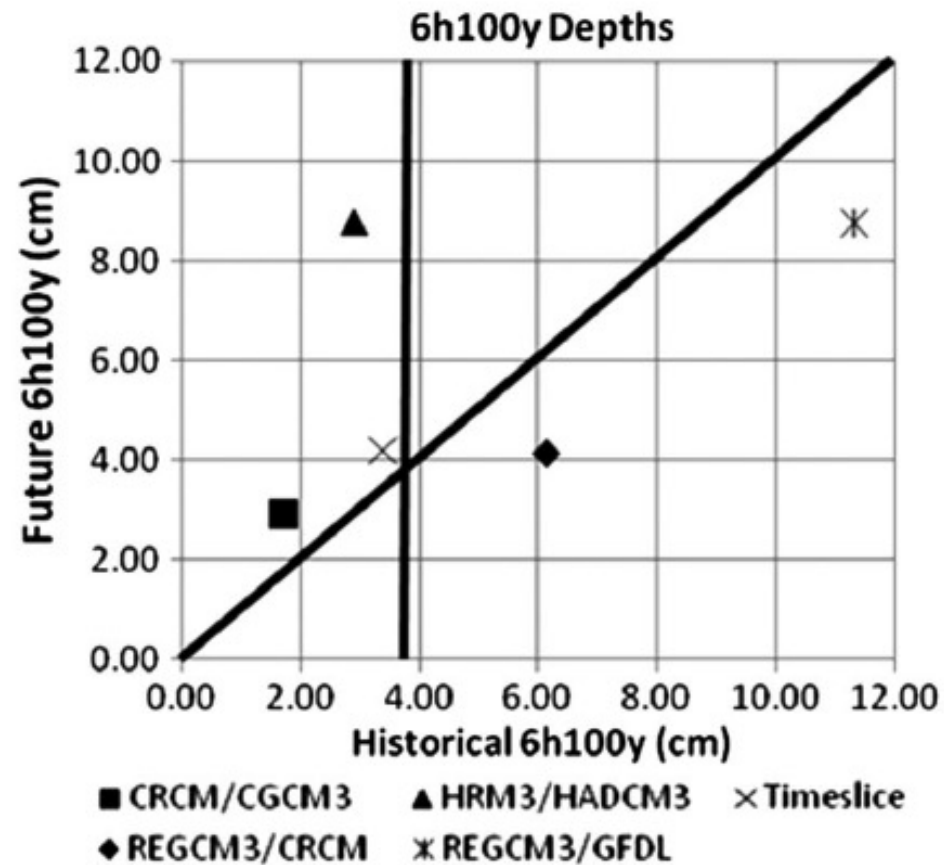
## Using Regional Model Simulations

- Forsee and Ahmad, 2011: Evaluating storm-water infrastructure design in response to projected climate change. *J. Hydro Engineering*.
- Examined projected changes in 6-hour 100 yr design storm depth for water shed in Las Vegas Valley, Nevada
- Changes incorporated into a HEC-HMS model
- Results show some current design standards will be exceeded in future



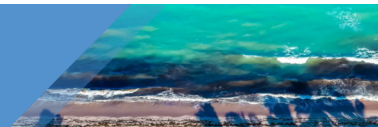


## 6h100yr depths



Vertical line  
= observed  
value

Eliminated  
RCM3 sims  
because  
values too  
large



## **Extremes – major messages (cont'd)**

### **Extreme Storms (including Tropical Cyclones)**

The average and maximum rain rates associated with TCs, extratropical cyclones and atmospheric rivers across the globe, and severe convective storms in some regions, increase in a warming world (*high confidence*).

It is *likely* that the global proportion of major TC (Category 3–5) intensities over the past four decades has increased.

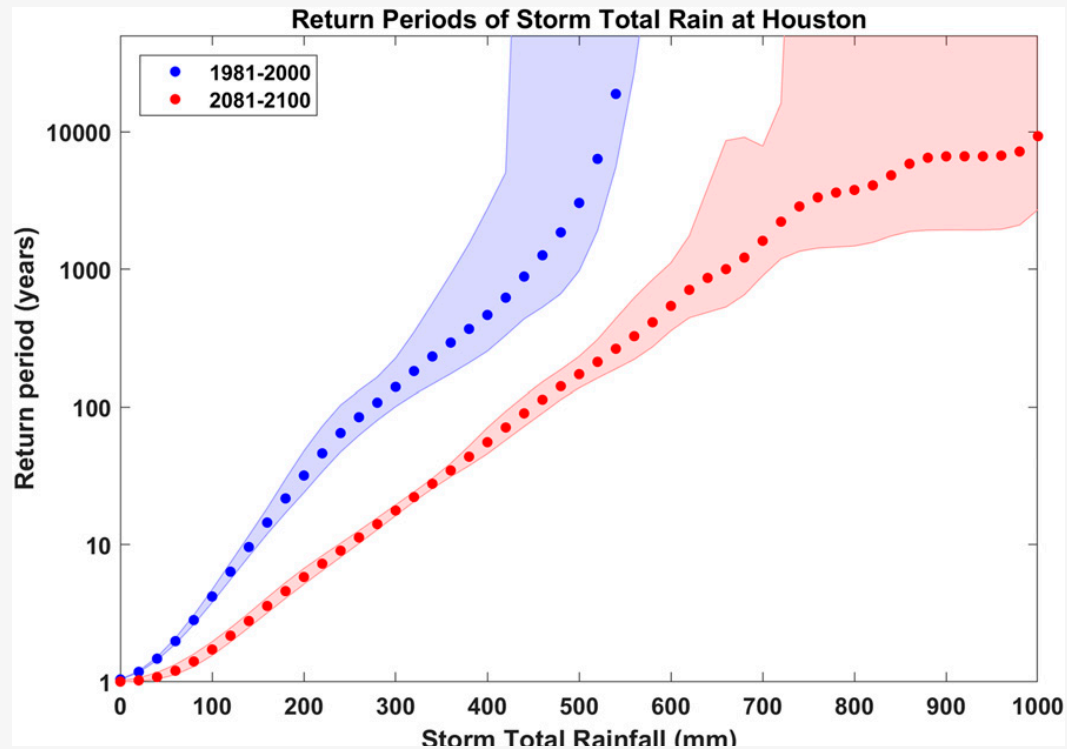
The proportion of intense TCs, average peak TC wind speeds, and peak wind speeds of the most intense TCs will increase on the global scale with increasing global warming (*high confidence*)

There is *low confidence* in past changes of maximum wind speeds and other measures of dynamical intensity of extratropical cyclones. Future wind speed changes are expected to be small, although poleward shifts in the storm tracks could lead to substantial changes in extreme wind speeds in some regions (*medium confidence*).

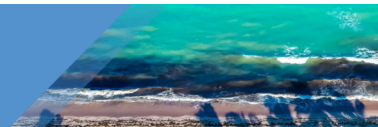


# Hurricane Harvey

- **K. Emmanuel: ‘Assessing the present and future probability of Hurricane Harvey’s Rainfall’, *PNAS*, 2017**
  - Annual probability of 500 mm of area integrated rainfall was 1% 1981-2000
  - Will increase to 18% under IPCC AR5 RCP8.5, 2081-2100
  - Assuming probability increasing linearly in between, then in 2017 prob. = 6%, six-fold increase



Hurricane Harvey  
Emanuel, 2017 (*PNAS*)



## Extremes – major messages (cont'd)

### Compound Events (e.g., dry/hot events, fire weather)

The **probability of compound events** has *likely* increased in the past due to human-induced climate change and will *likely* continue to increase with further global warming.

Concurrent **heat waves and droughts** – more frequent in observations and will become more so in the future (*high confidence*).

**Fire weather conditions** (compound hot, dry, and windy events) – *high confidence* they will become more frequent in some regions in the future.

**Compound flooding** (storm surge, extreme rainfall, and river flow) has increased in some areas and will continue to do so (*high confidence*).

**Land area affected** by concurrent extremes has increased (*high confidence*).

The **future occurrence of LLHI** events linked to climate extremes (e.g., ) is generally associated with *low confidence*, but cannot be excluded, especially at global warming levels above 4 deg. C.

# SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT

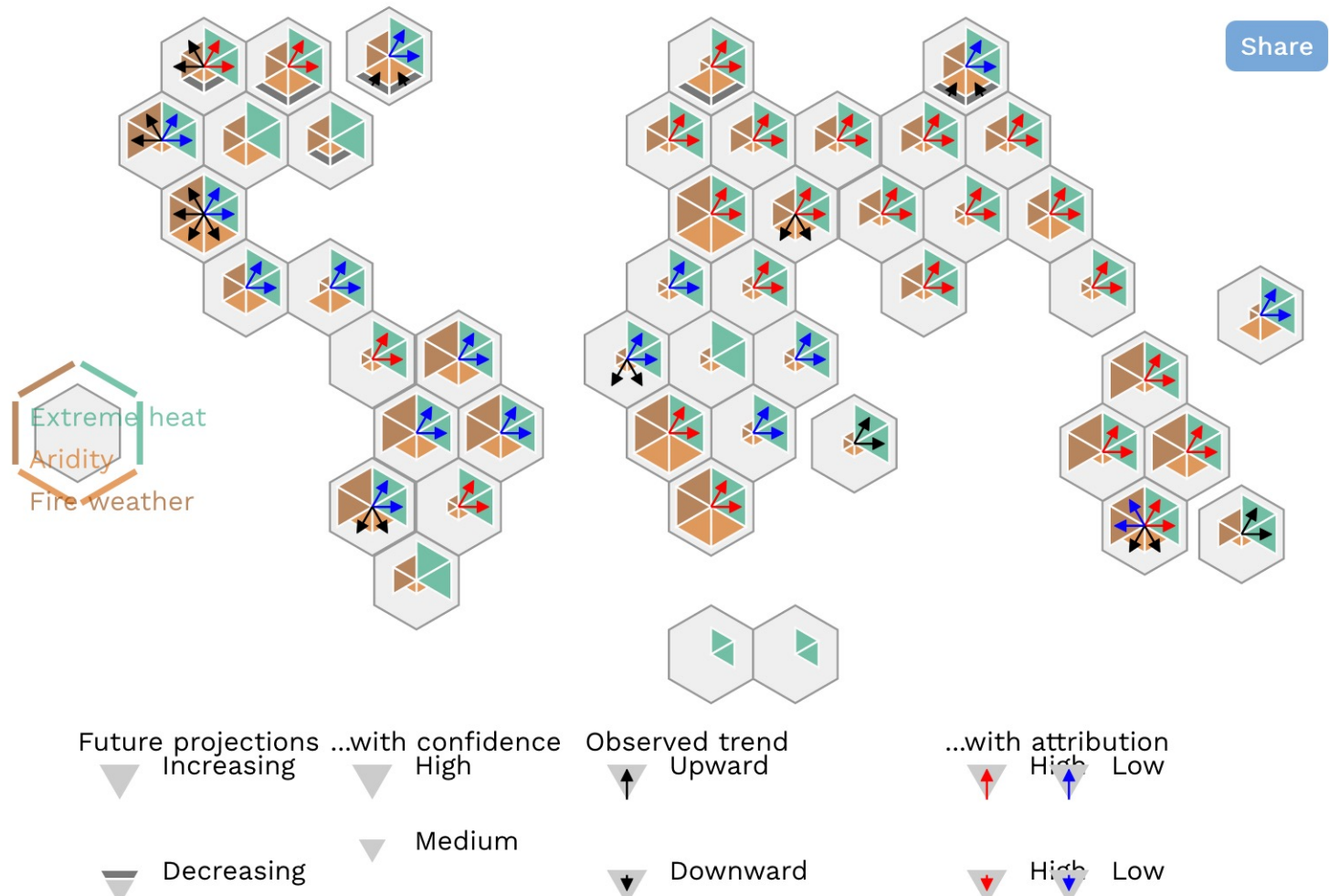
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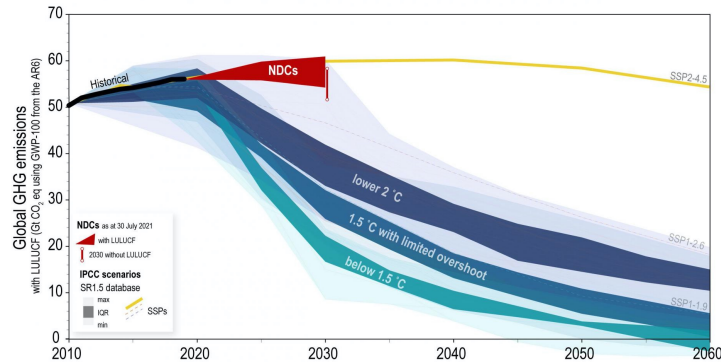


## Sample Compound Extremes from Interactive Atlas:

Extreme heat,  
aridity,  
and fire weather



## A case for cautious optimism



### On reducing emissions: latest UNFCCC synthesis:

- Nationally determined contributions' now result in around 2.7 °C (closest to SSP2-4.5) – down from 3.4 °C in previous, and well below worst case scenario
- 'Some Progress, but Still a Big Concern'

### On awareness, taking action and adapting:

- More engagement and conversation than ever, climate science appearing in weather reports, current affairs, talk shows and more
- IPCC report, recent extreme events and coverage – adding to momentum to reduce emissions, plan for adaptation
- Private sector is now engaged - we need governments and private sector to pull together

*Note: this is interpretation, goes beyond the report contents*



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# Thank you.

More Information:

IPCC: [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch)

IPCC Secretariat: [ipcc-sec@wmo.int](mailto:ipcc-sec@wmo.int)

IPCC Press Office: [ipcc-media@wmo.int](mailto:ipcc-media@wmo.int)

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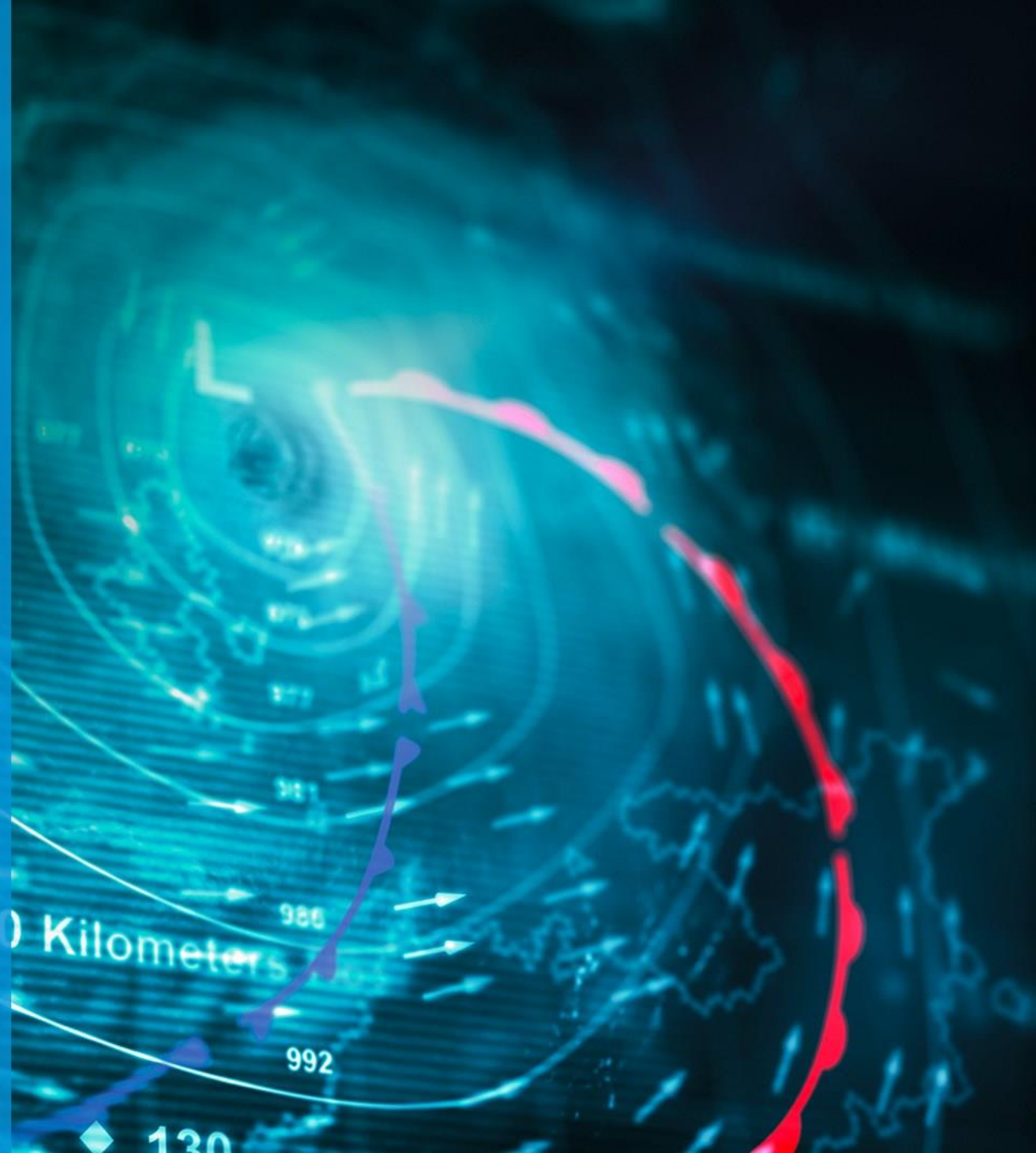


**Swiss Re**  
Corporate Solutions

# Developing 'fit for purpose' physical climate risk assessment

Dr. Alex Pui  
Head Nat Cat and Sustainability (APAC)  
Swiss Re Corporate Solutions  
Email: [alex\\_pui@swissre.com](mailto:alex_pui@swissre.com)

◆ 100 Kilometers





# Outline



Overview of notable recent climate catastrophes and economic impacts



A robust framework to assess physical climate risks



Example use case:  
Impact of typhoon risk to hypothetical property portfolio



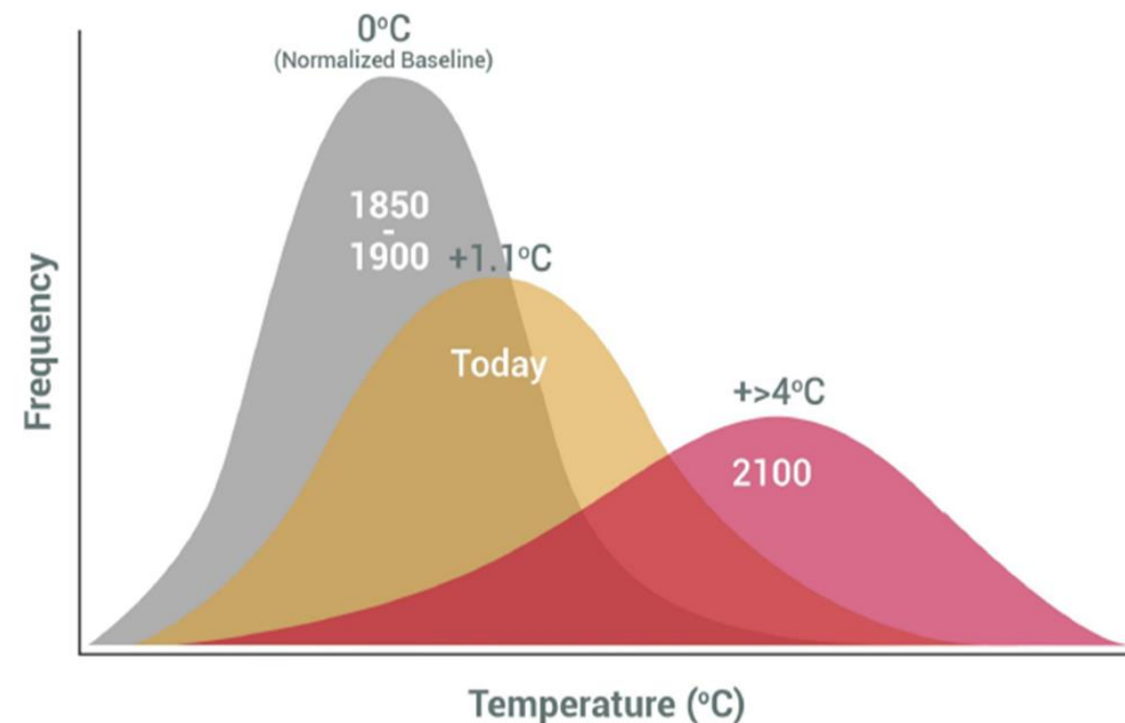
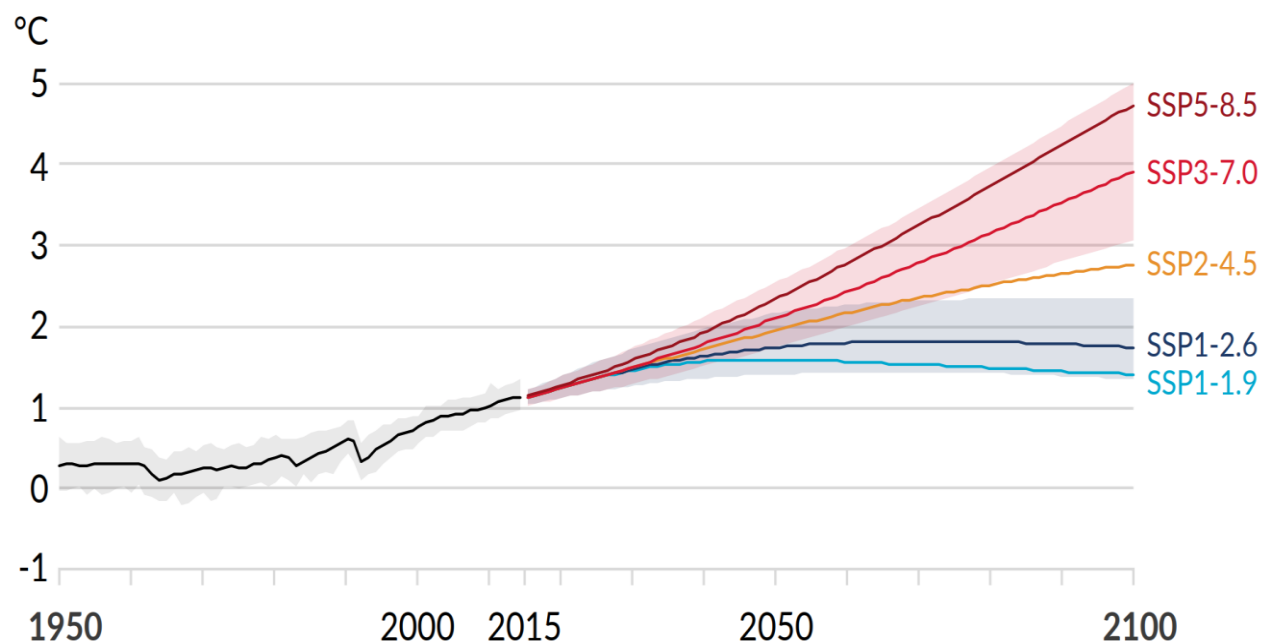
# Overview of notable climate catastrophes and economic impacts

# What does our best current view of temperature projections tell us?

IPCC AR6: 'We are on a dangerous warming path, and must act now to avoid catastrophic impacts'

How bad climate change eventually gets is up to our actions today and into the future

Small changes in averages can lead to disproportionate changes at the tail .. every little bit of improvement helps!



# What does our best current view of temperature projections tell us?

IPCC AR6: Increasing urgency and certainty that humans are causing observed changes.



## 1st Assessment

"Calculate **with confidence**"



## 2nd Assessment

"Balance of evidence suggests a **discernible** human influence on global climate"



## 3rd Assessment

"New and stronger evidence that most of warming over last 50 years **attributable to human activities**"



## 4th Assessment

"Warming of the climate system is **unequivocal**"



## 5th Assessment

"Warming of the climate system is **unequivocal**, changes **unprecedented over decades to millenia**"



## 6th Assessment

"It is **virtually certain** that **human caused CO2 emissions are main driver** of various changes to a range of climate variables"



# What happens when temperatures increase?

+2 deg F change from 1850-1900 baseline drives disproportionate increase in extreme heat waves

In some places,  
summers are looking  
great



Fire weather conditions  
are mostly worsening,  
particularly across large swathes  
of US and Continental Europe.

Source: IPCC

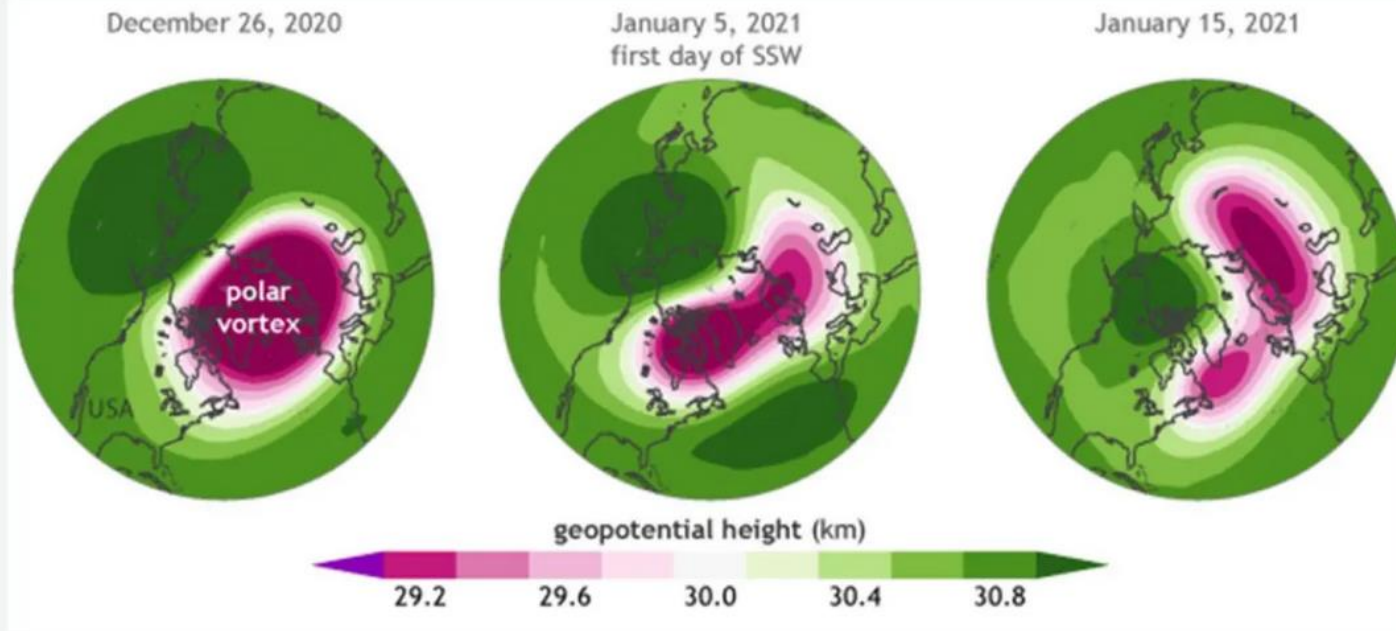
While other areas  
are 150x more likely  
to to experience  
wildfire conditions



# What happens when temperatures increase?

Don't ignore counter-intuitive threats such as winterstorms (i.e Texas, 2021)

Disruption of the Polar Vortex in lead up to the Texas snowstorm



Source: <https://www.climate.gov/news-features/blogs/enso/sudden-stratospheric-warming-and-polar-vortex-early-2021>



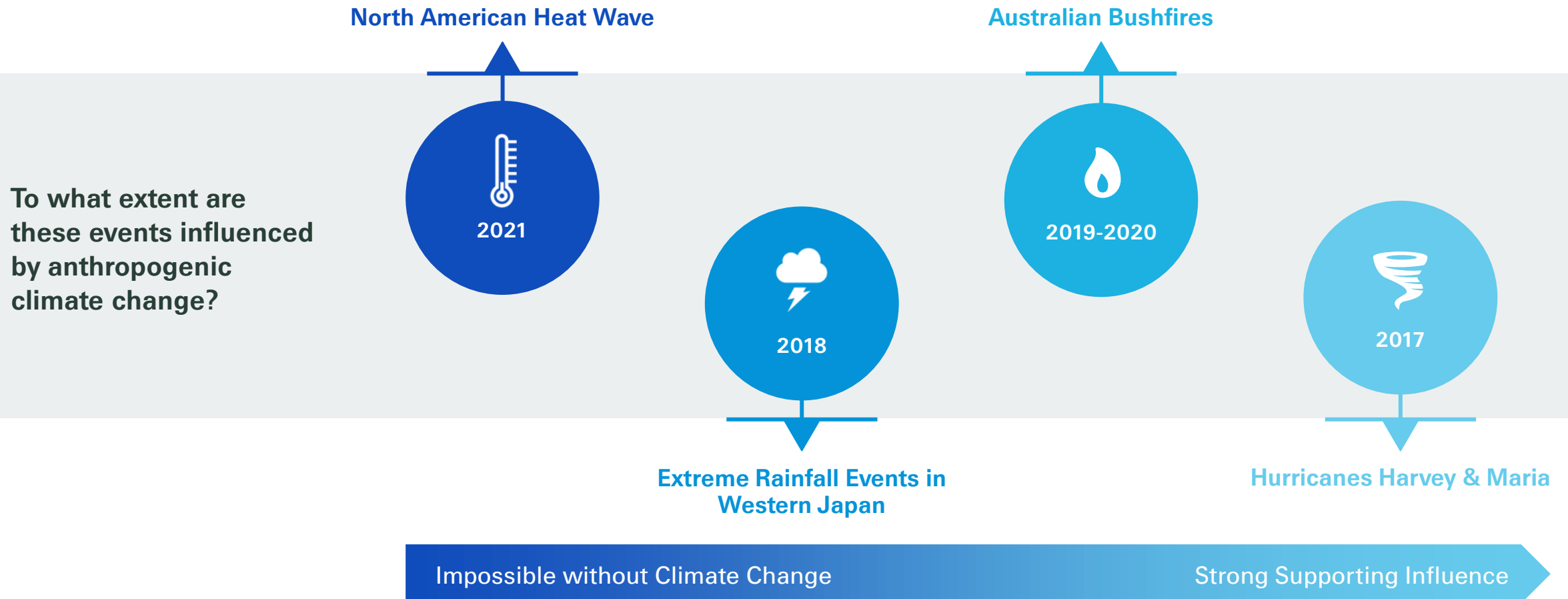
Compounding factors:

- Standalone power grid
- Scheduled winter maintenance
- Poor adaption for freezing conditions
- Poor real time event management



# Can we already see climate change footprint in current extreme events?

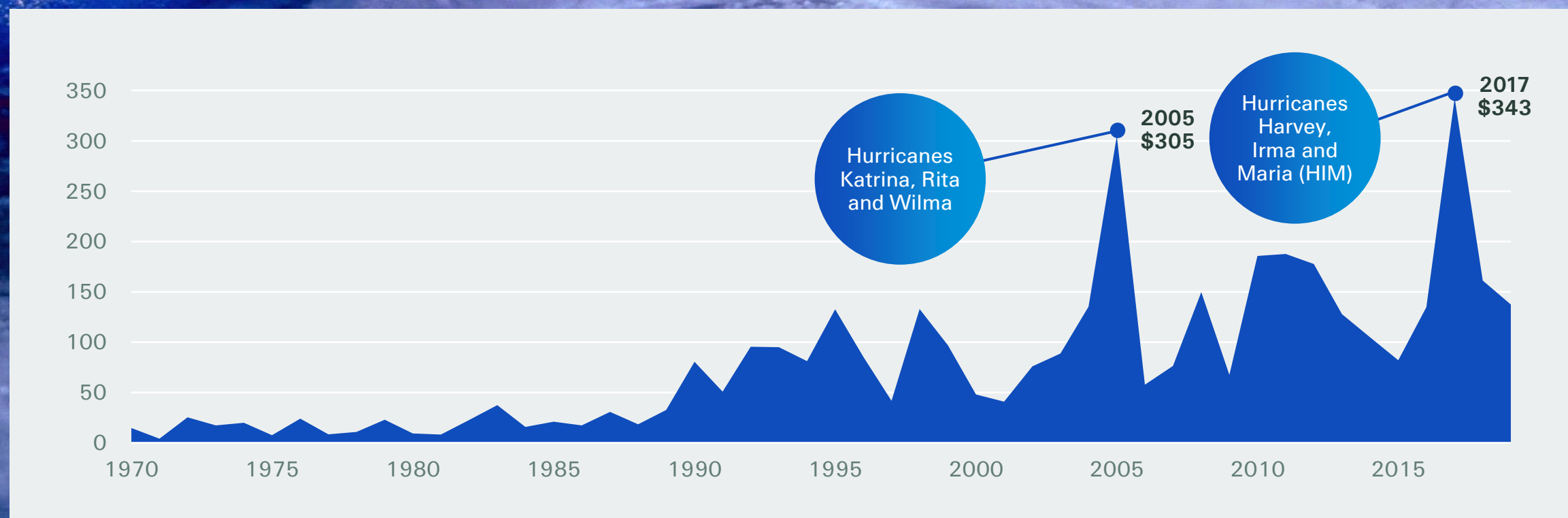
Recent advances in climate attribution science now enables 'BUT FOR' test for individual climate related events



# Economic Loss Trends in Climate Perils

Can observed increase in climate related economic losses be attributed to elapsed climate change?

Global Economic Losses, 1970 to 2019, US \$b (norm. 2019)

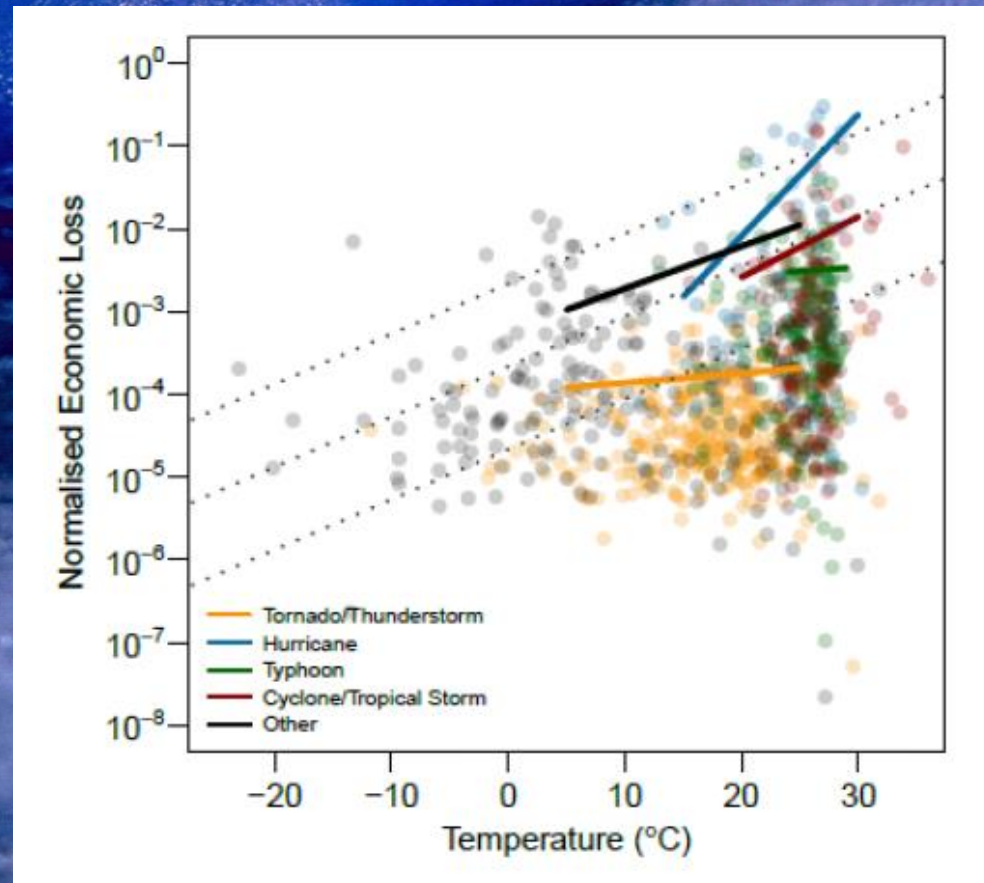




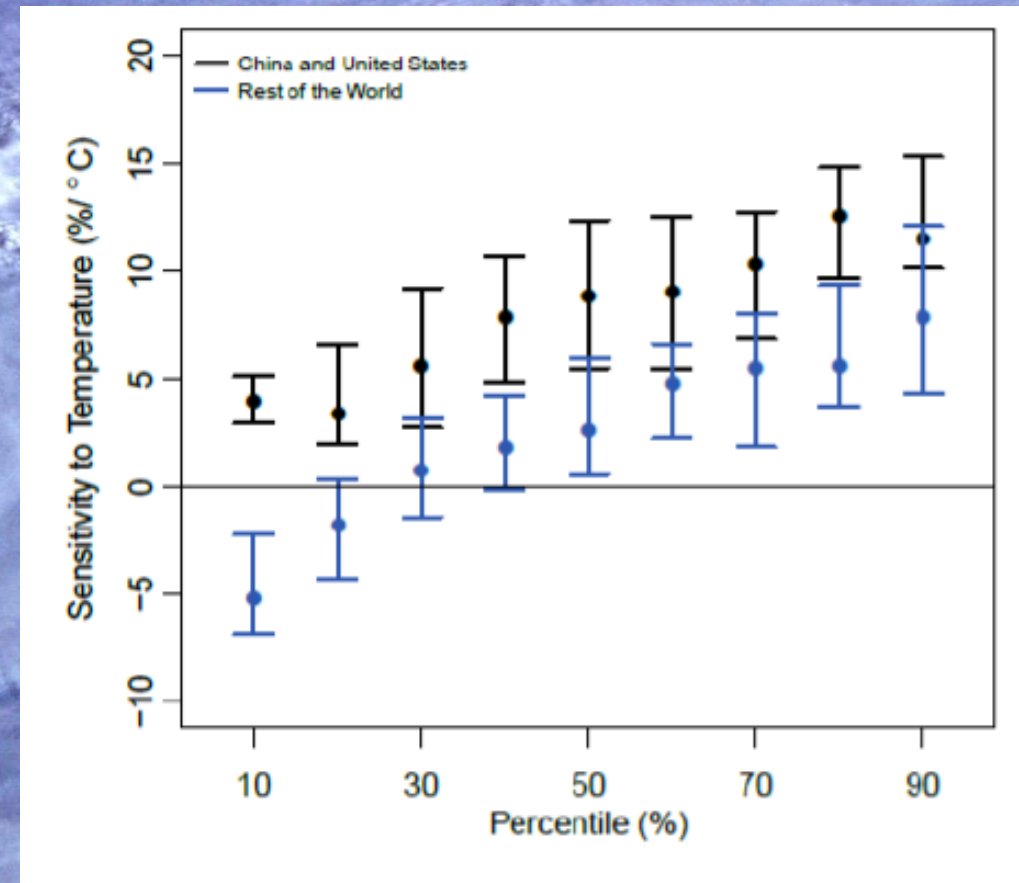
# Economic Loss Trends in Climate Perils

Research shows that storms are 15% more damaging per degree increase in temperature

Economic loss sensitivity of different perils to temperature



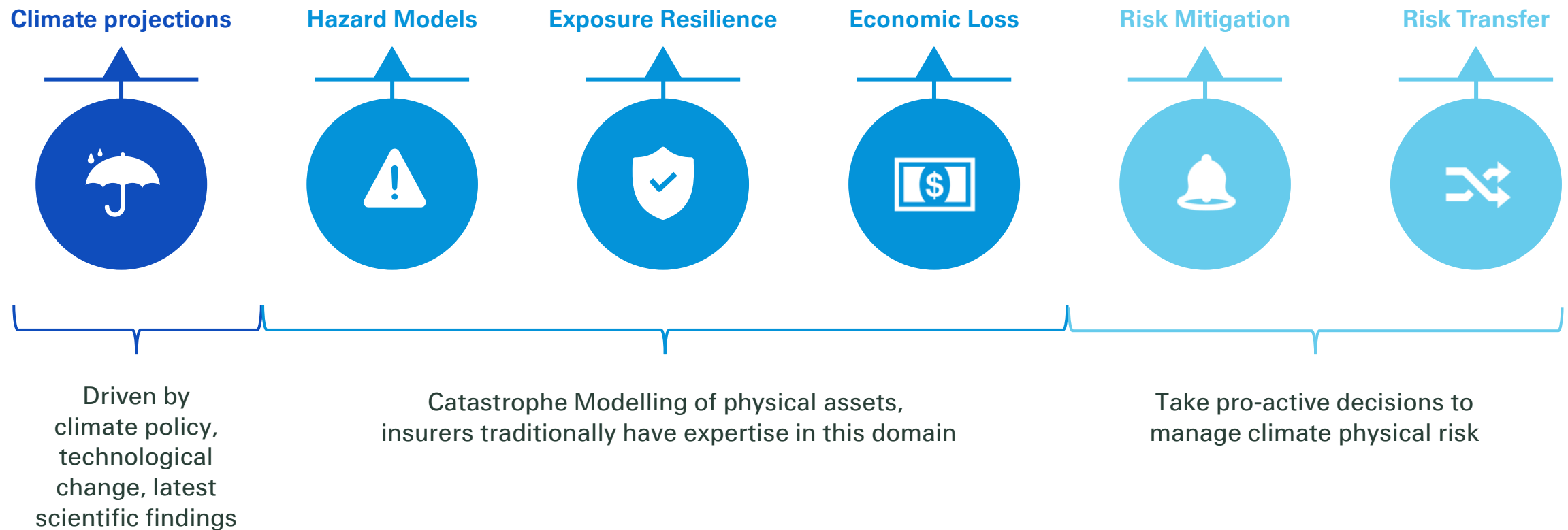
Sensitivity of storms to temperature by percentile



# A robust framework to assess physical climate risk

# An integrated approach to Physical Climate Risk Management adds economic value

Using climate change projections and catastrophe modelling expertise to improve resilience



# Brief review of catastrophe models

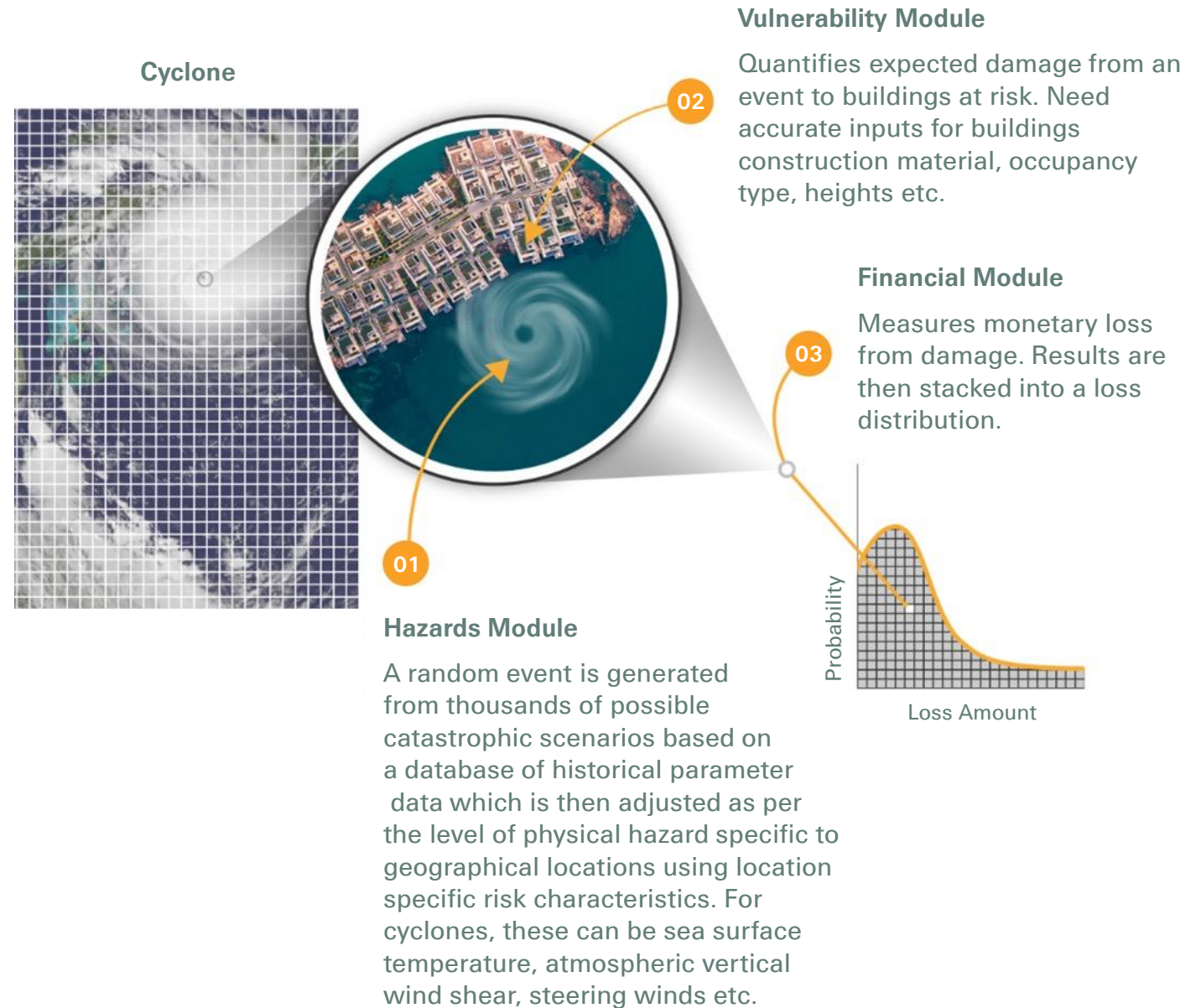
Catastrophe models marry hazard science, engineering and financial considerations to estimate loss costs from events

## What is a Catastrophe Model?

- Cross disciplinary model that combines fields of hazard science, structural engineering and financial considerations

## Applications

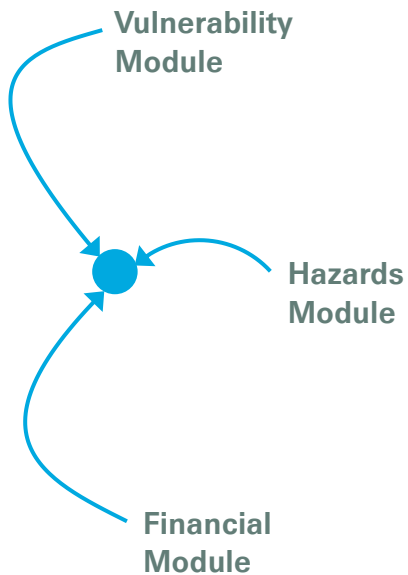
- Better understand nat cat risk exposure
- Produces loss costs associated with specific perils
- Traditionally used to price insurance/reinsurance programs





# How can Climate and Catastrophe Models help to project future risk profiles?

Using climate model outputs to inform relevant input parameters of catastrophe models for deep dive analysis



## Climate Change Variables



### Sea Surface Temperatures

Influences intensity of cyclone



### Atmospheric Vertical Wind Shear

Influences ability of cyclone to develop



### Steering Winds

Winds dictating the direction of a cyclone

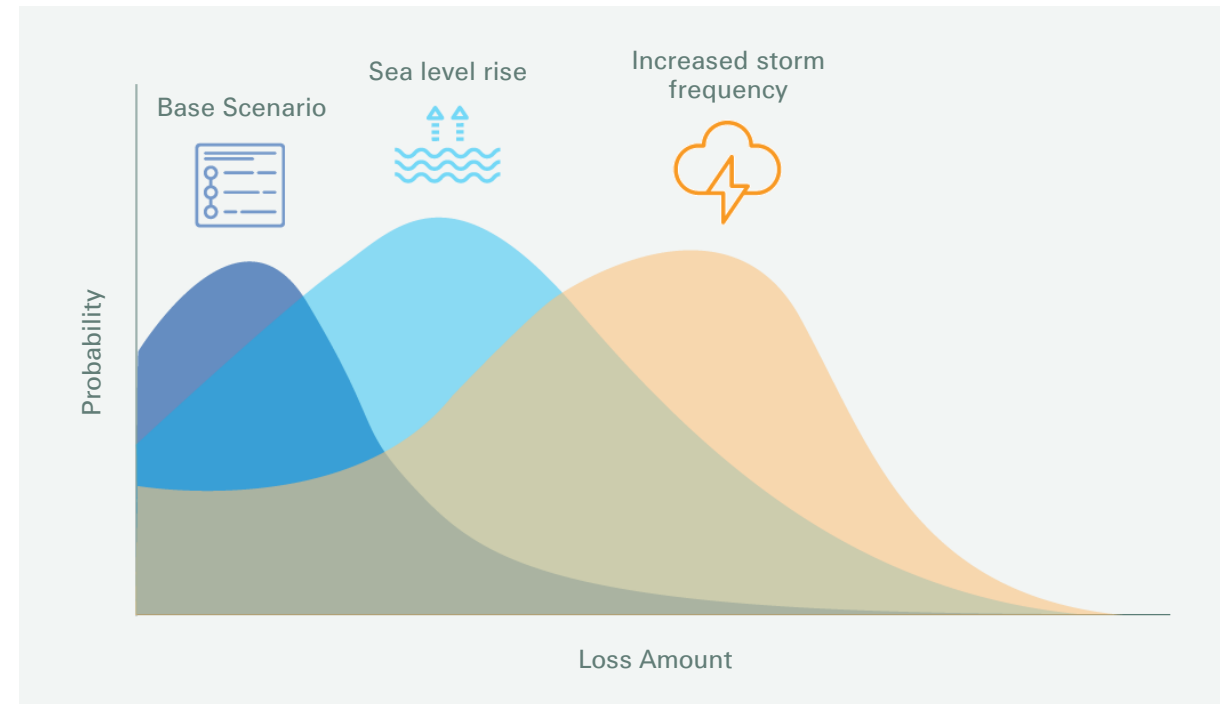
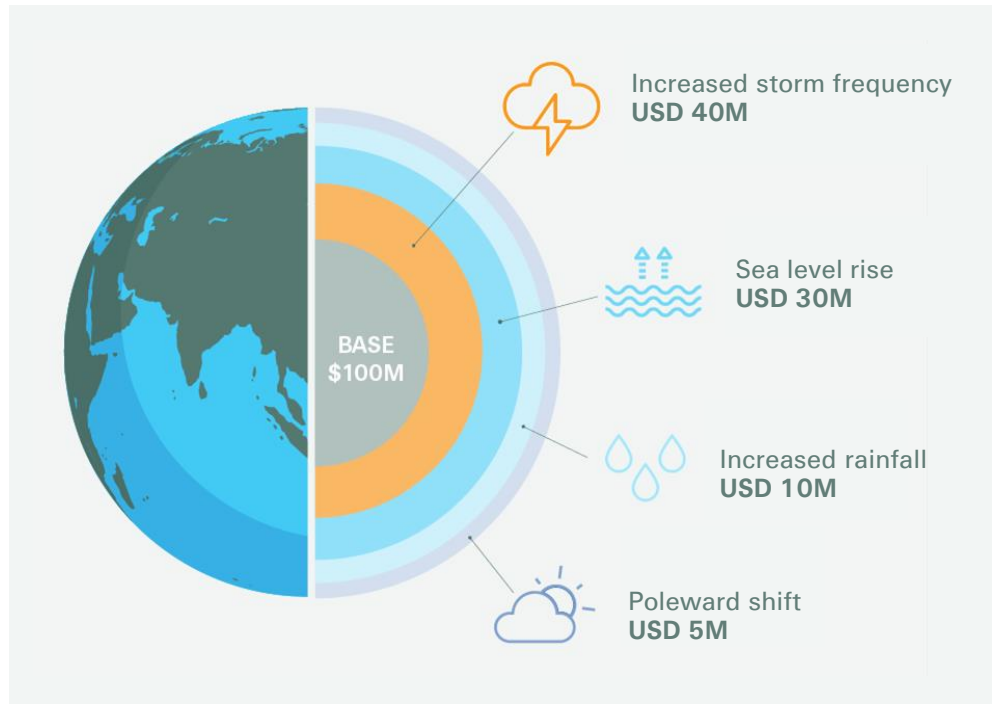


Each of these can be modified to capture climate changes to look into what future catastrophes might look like.



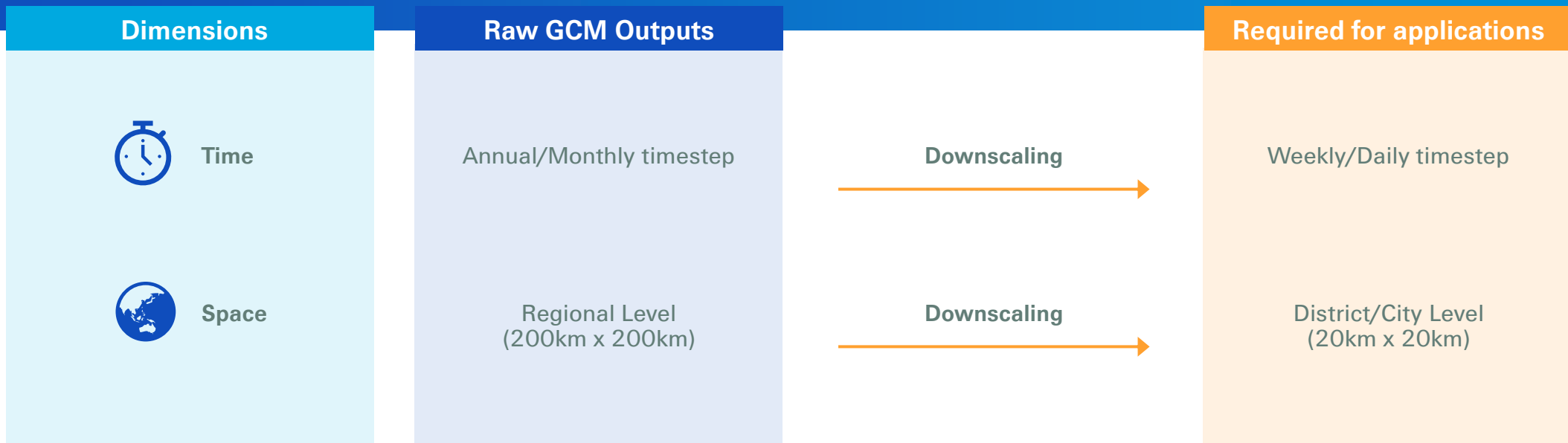
# Quantifying the economic impact of physical climate risk at a more granular level

Providing estimates of future annual loss burden, as well as changes to loss distributions



# Physical Climate Risk Assessment is a complex exercise

Understanding the limitations and quantifying uncertainty of GCMs is key for 'fit for purpose' applications



Increasing level of uncertainty

# Example:

## Impact of future typhoon risk on property portfolio (Level 2 deep dive)

# Identifying Climate 'Hot Spots' in a hypothetical global real estate portfolio

Climate Risk Score results can be used to identify hot spots for further analysis

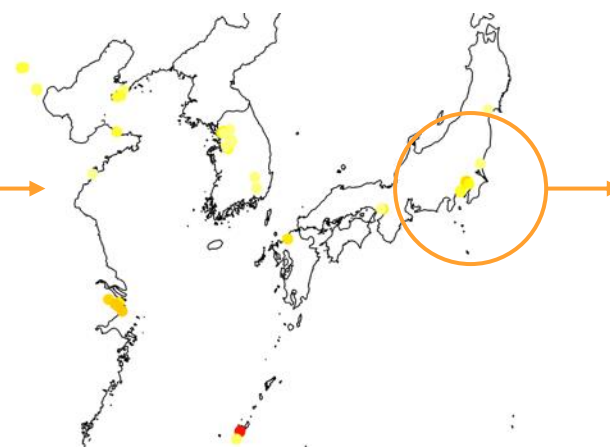
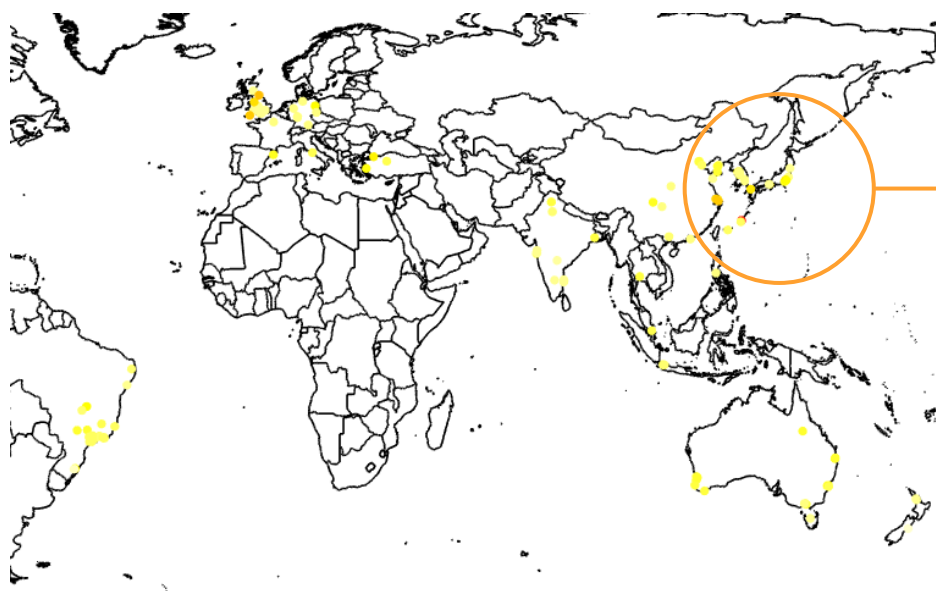
Global Level



Country Level

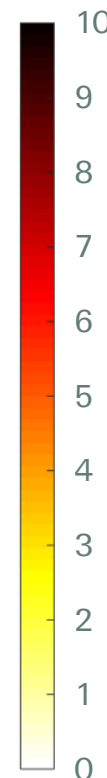


City Level



Japan selected for deep dive  
due to high TIV, exposure to  
flood and typhoon

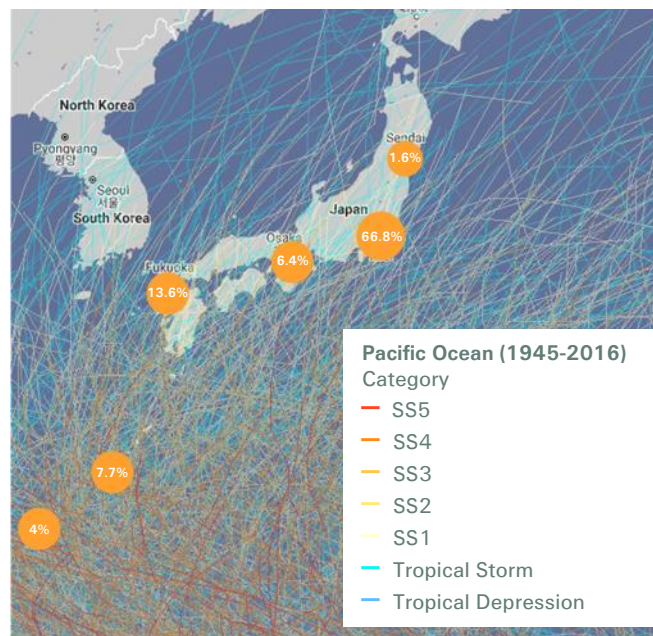
Overall Climate  
Risk Score Index



# Portfolio in Japan

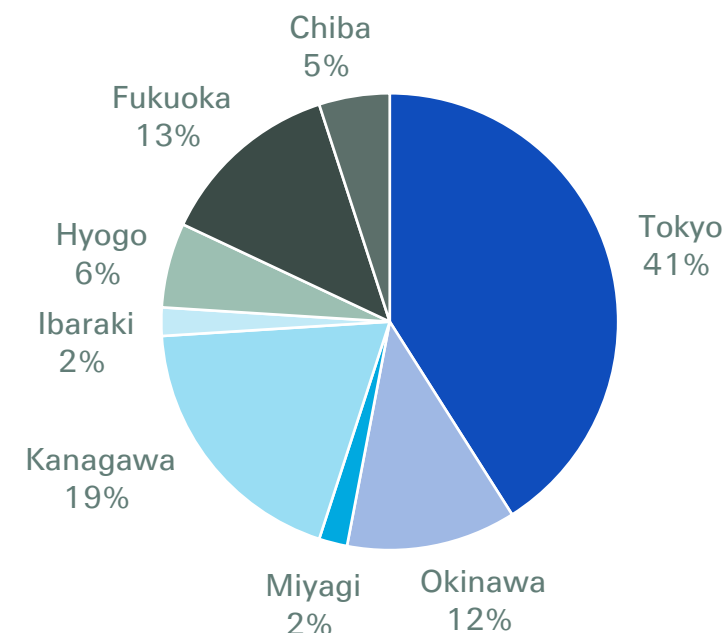
- Exposure to Typhoon-induced wind and flood damage
- Several locations are exposed to river-flood, torrential-rainfall and storm-surge risk
- Climate change can lead to a change in typhoon:
  - Change in occurrence frequency of typhoons
  - Intensification of storms
  - Increase in extreme precipitation
  - Increase of storm-surge intensity due to sea-level rise

## Value distribution and historic Typhoon tracks in the vicinity of Japan



### Windstorm

50 Year Peak Gust Range [m/s]	No of Locations	Share
Very High (60-70 m/s)	8	11.66%
High (50-60 m/s)	2	13.55%
Significant (40-50 m/s)	44	73.16%
Moderate (35-40 m/s)	2	1.62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



### River Flood

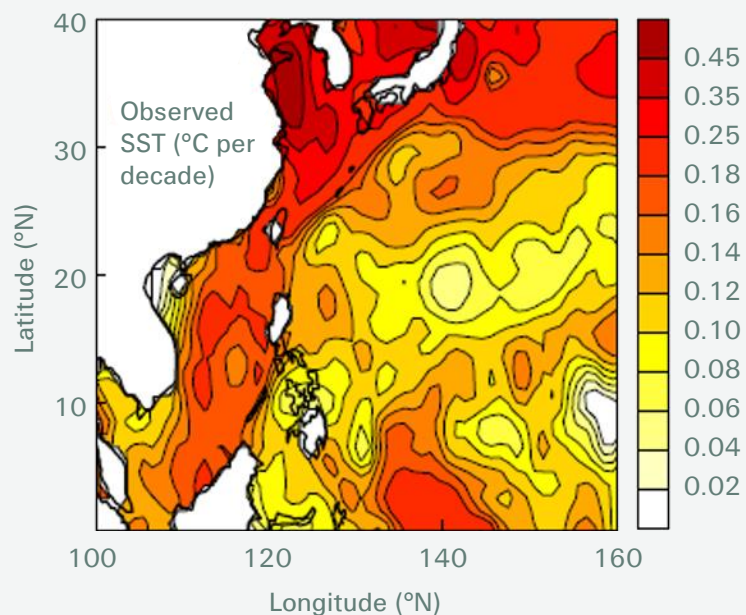
Return Period	No of Locations	Share
50	4	7.58%
200	6	8.40%
500	6	5.84%
Outside	40	78.18%
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>100%</b>



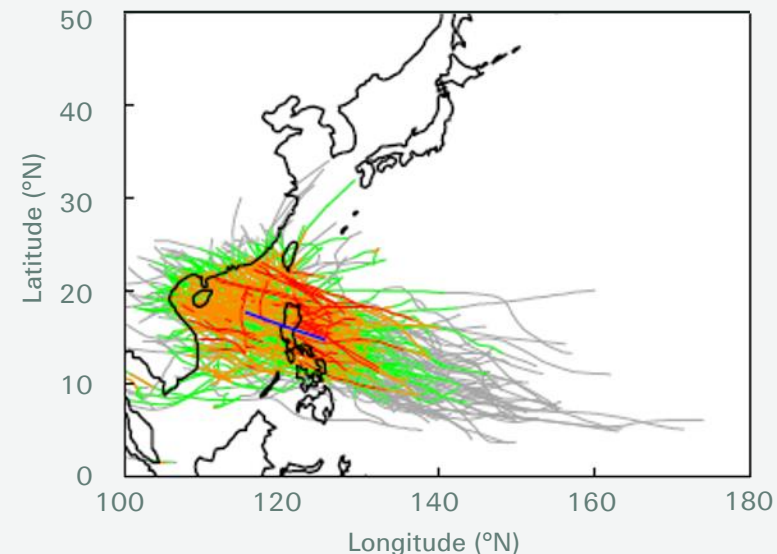
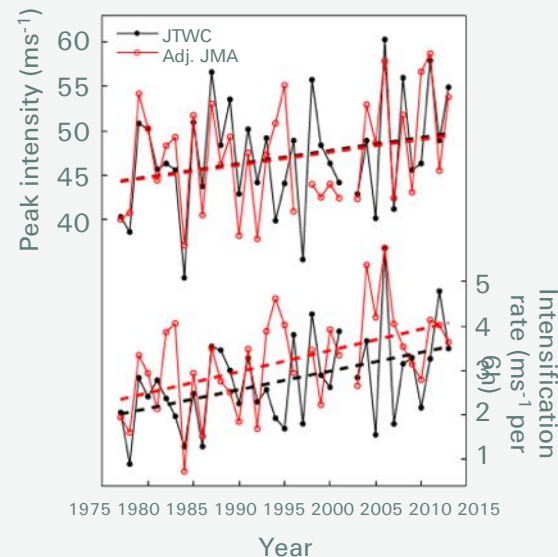
# Historical trends in North West Pacific Typhoon activity

More intense TC activity in the NW Pacific Basin consistent with increasing SSTs

## Warmer Oceans



## More Intense Typhoons

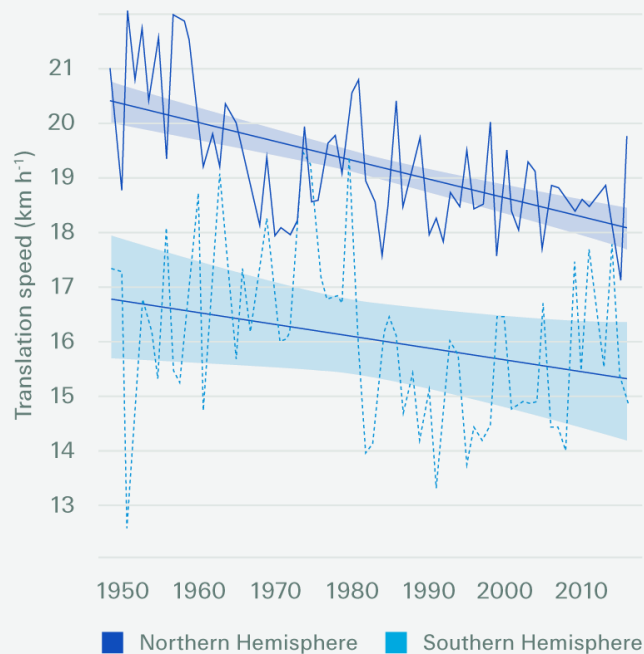




# Historical trends in North West Pacific Typhoon activity

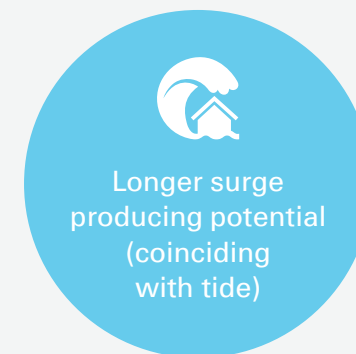
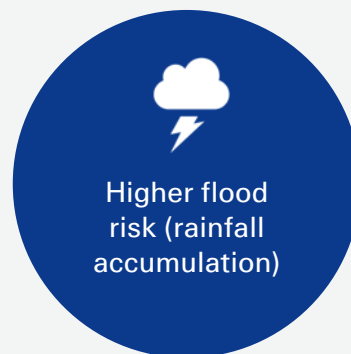
Slower moving storms means increased risk of flood, time exposed to high winds and storm surge

## Slowing of TCs in key basins



## Characteristics of Slower Storms

Slowing storms increases threat of TCs in 3 ways:



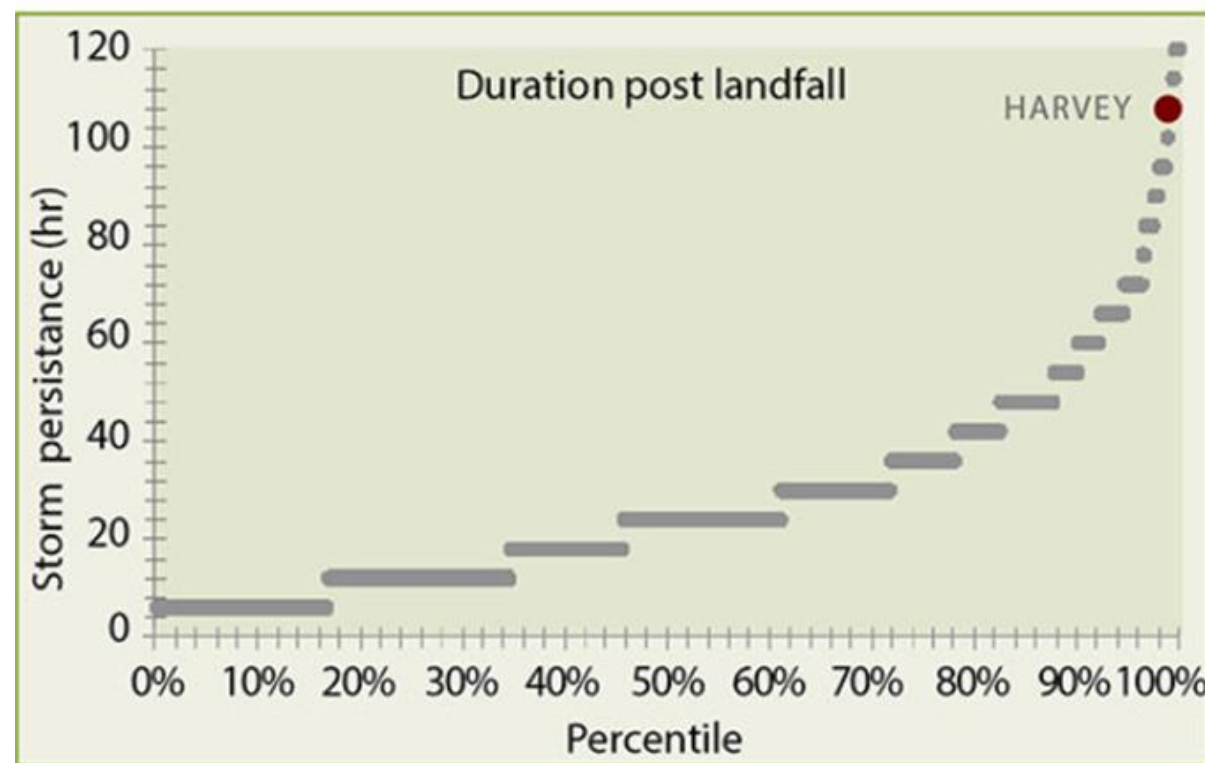
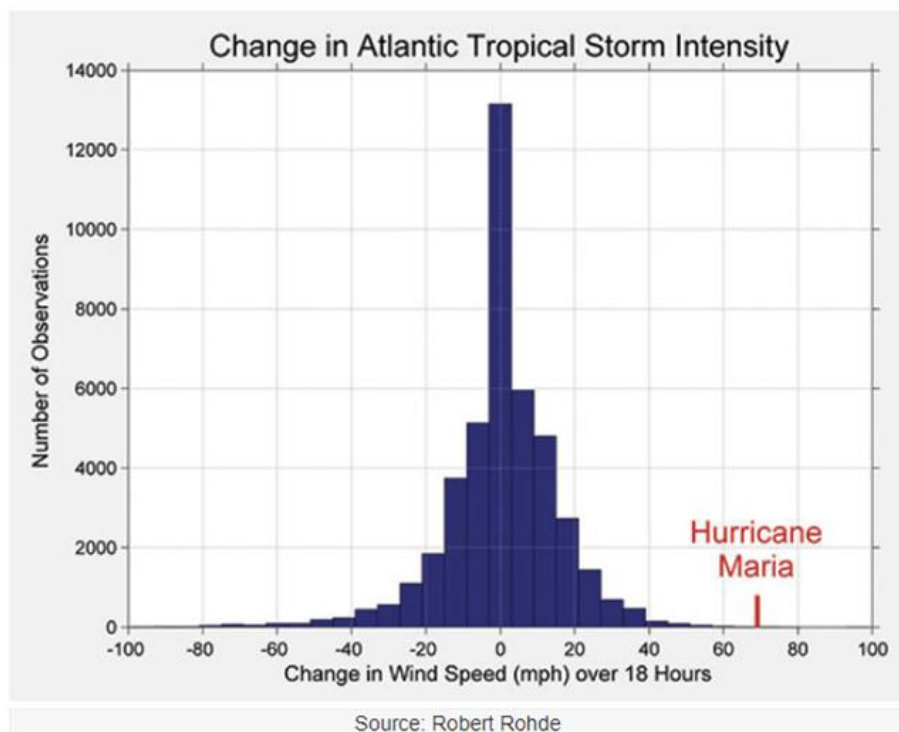
- Slowing most pronounced in NW Pacific Basin - **up to 30% decrease!**
- Cause of slowing still unclear, but may be influenced by changing pressure gradients (due to polar regions warming faster than other parts of the globe)

# 2017 – the year of slow and intense storms

(USD 80bn), Maria ( USD70bn) gave us a scary sneak peak into the future...

TC Maria : Example of Rapid Intensification

TC Harvey: Example of a VERY slow storm

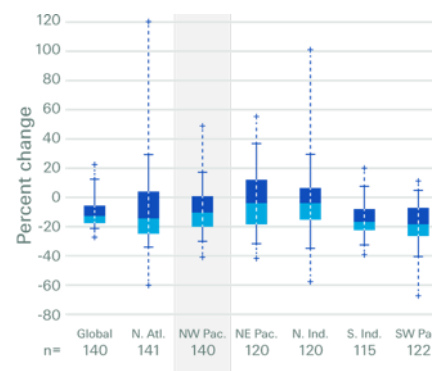


# Climate Scenarios

- A loss-sensitivity analysis was performed on the Japan sub-portfolio for several scenarios that could materialize in a future environment with a global mean surface temperature increase of +2°C.
- Based on past observations (Lee et al., 2019), frequency increases for Japan are expected to be above the basin-wide average (NW Pacific).

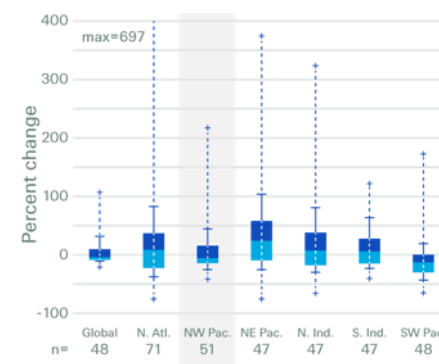
## Tropical Cyclone Frequency Change Projections: By Basin

**Verdict: No Consensus**



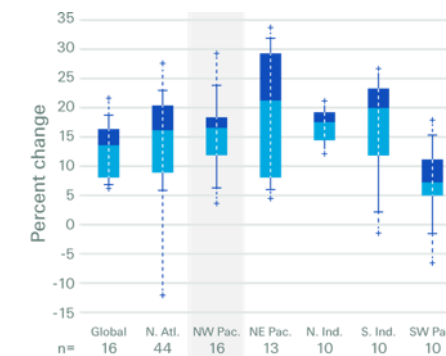
## Very Intense Tropical Cyclone Frequency Change Projections: By Basin

**Verdict: No Consensus**



## Tropical Cyclone Precipitation Change Projections: By Basin

**Verdict: Likely Increasing**



# Climate Scenarios

- The effect of sea-level rise is considered small for the portfolio due to the elevated and/or protected locations.
- Getting today's view of risk right is critical as it forms the 'point of reference' in which all future climate scenarios are premised upon.

## Effect of various frequency scenarios



Scenario	SS0 FC	SS1 FC	SS2 FC	SS3 FC	SS4 FC	SS5 FC	% change in AEL*	% change in 10yr loss	% change in 50yr loss	% change in 100yr loss
Baseline (Today)	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
1 Intensification	0%	0%	0%	0%	30%	30%	22%	23%	15%	11%
2 Increased Frequency	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	30%	29%	18%	13%
2 Stress Scenario 1	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	100%	73%	69%	42%	32%
4 Stress Scenario 2	-10%	-10%	-10%	0%	100%	100%	72%	68%	42%	32%





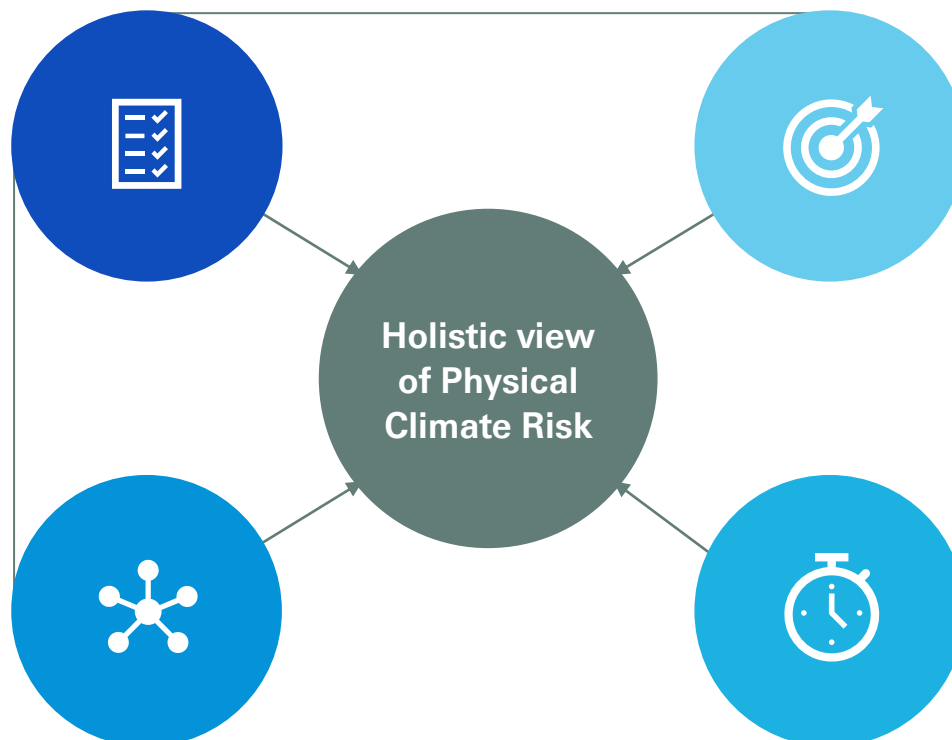
# Building a holistic view of peril risk beyond just GCM projections

Robust scenario analysis should include perspectives beyond simply modelled outputs

Where do we have higher/lower confidence? Do we need climate risk disclosure standards?

**Model Outputs**  
GCM projections  
Catastrophe Model results

**Inter-dependencies**  
Exploring hidden links and  
inter connectivity between  
climate/other events



**Counter Factual Analysis**

What can we learn from  
near misses?

**Paleo Data**

Looking further back beyond  
modern instrumental records  
for useful clues





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