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Institute for Integrated Management  
of Material Fluxes and of Resources



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DRESDEN

ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH**  
TO THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT  
OF **WATER, SOIL AND WASTE**



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INTERNATIONAL  
KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

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11-12 NOVEMBER 2013  
DRESDEN, GERMANY



ADVANCING A **NEXUS APPROACH**  
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OF **WATER, SOIL AND WASTE**

UNESCO-IHE  
Institute for Water Education



# **Global Change and Water – How far can the Nexus Approach help to meet Future Challenges?**

Stefan Uhlenbrook

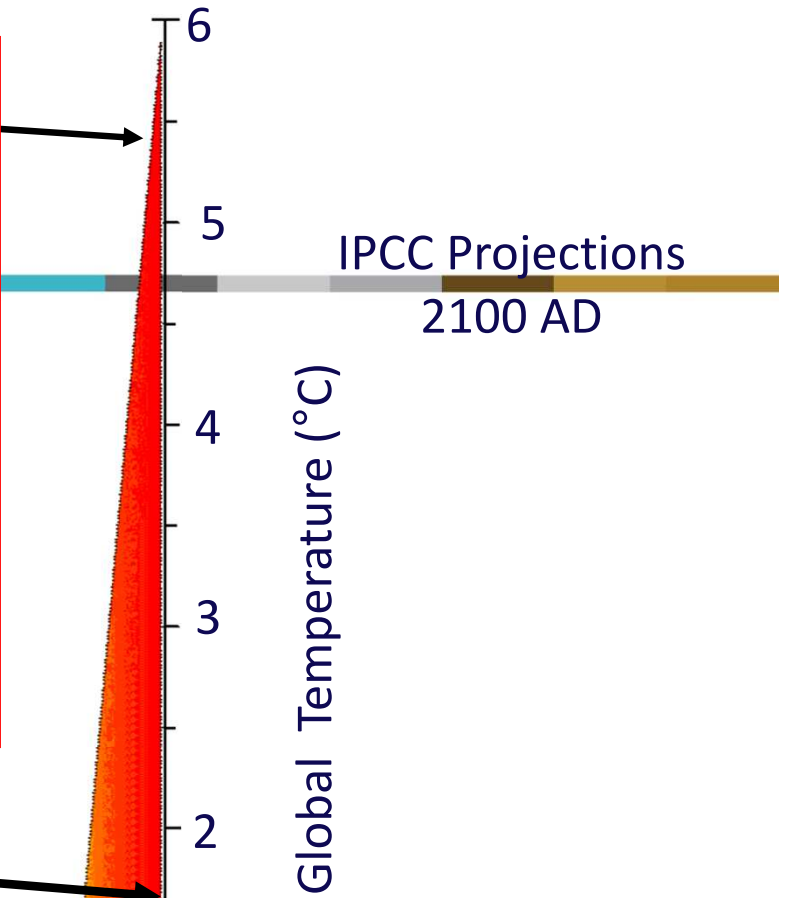
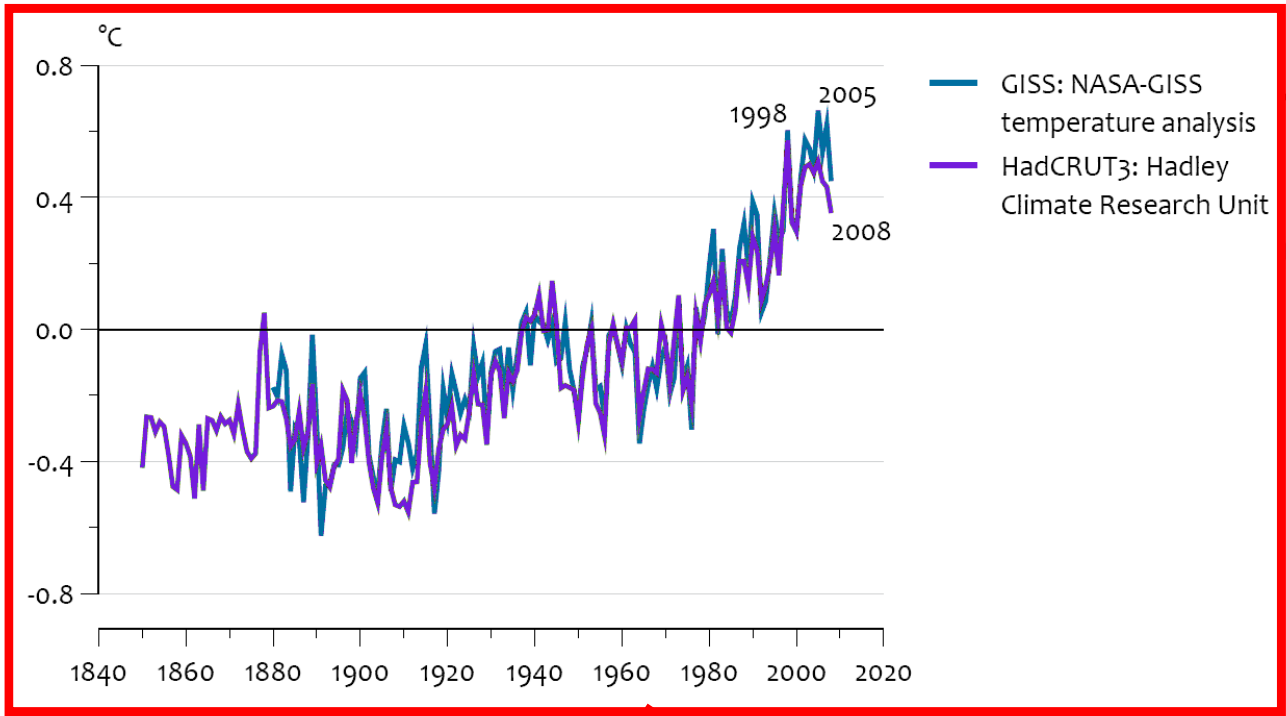
UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education

Delft, The Netherlands

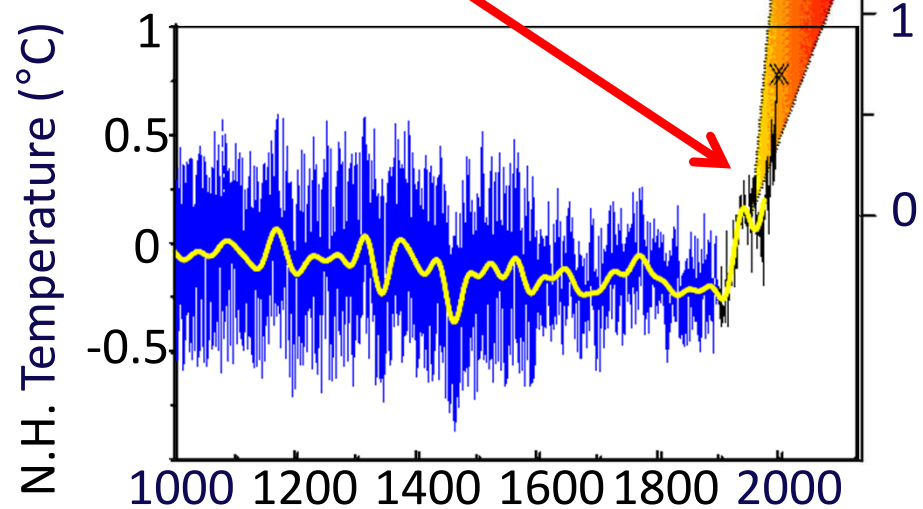


# Stefan's Questions

1. Do current management approaches adequately address implications of climate change, e.g. frequency, intensity and duration of floods and droughts? **-> No**
2. Will new or improved technologies (and which) be required or at least be helpful to foster integrated management approaches?
3. Data scarcity: how far can remote sensing and satellite data replace or complement data from monitoring programmes? Do we need new approaches in handling data scarcity (e.g. specific modelling tools)?
4. Overall: is there a need for more research on the nexus?



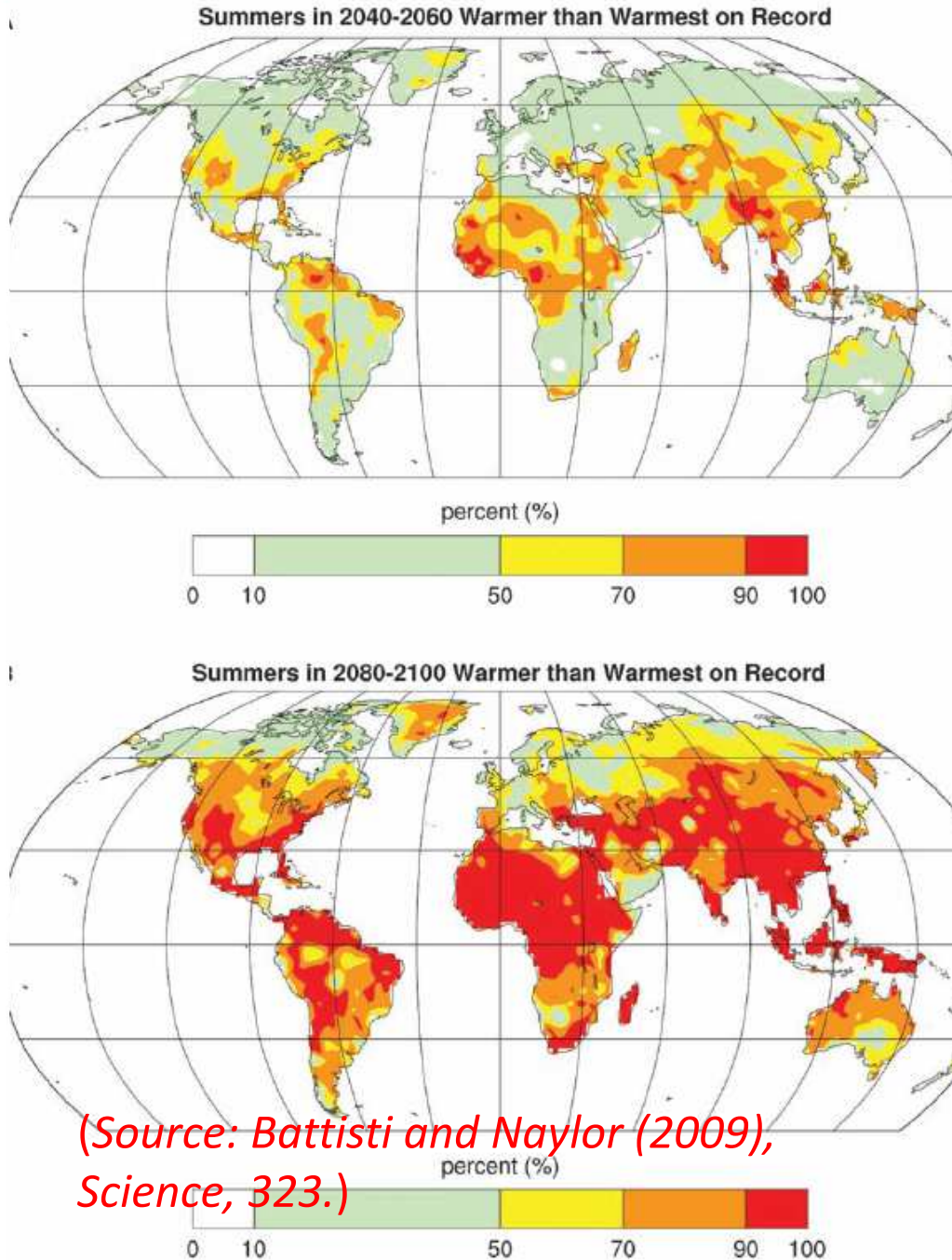
**Lower Risk for Instabilities**



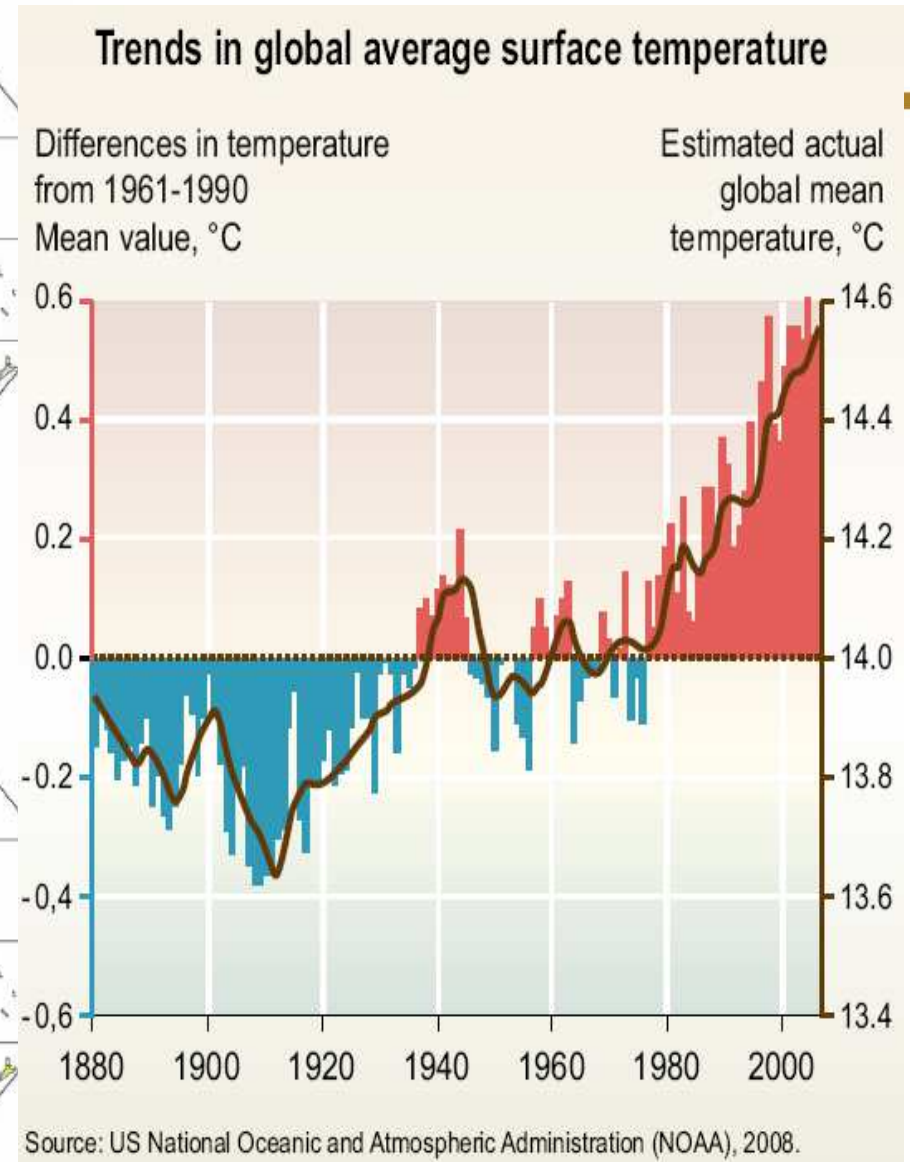
# Evidence of climate change

ADVANCING A NEXUS APPROACH

Fig. 3. Likelihood (in percent) that future summer average temperatures will exceed the highest summer temperature observed on record (A) for 2050 and (B) for 2090. For example, for places shown in red (22), there is greater than a 90% chance that the summer-averaged temperature will exceed the highest temperature on record (1900–2006) (22).



(Source: Battisti and Naylor (2009), Science, 323.)





# Global Changes – Connected by Water

- Population (amount, density, structure, ...)
- Climate (temperature, precipitation, radiation ...)
- Land use, land cover
  - De-forestation / re-forestation
  - Increase of (irrigated) agriculture
  - Biofuel production
  - Urbanisation
  - Etc.
- Change of energy production
- Hydraulic works
- Technological development
- Water use in space and time
- Economic development
- Change of diet (*more meat => more water*)
- Nutrient fluxes to water bodies
- Pollution (new substances etc.)
- etc. etc. etc.



**.... and many interdependencies/feedbacks!**

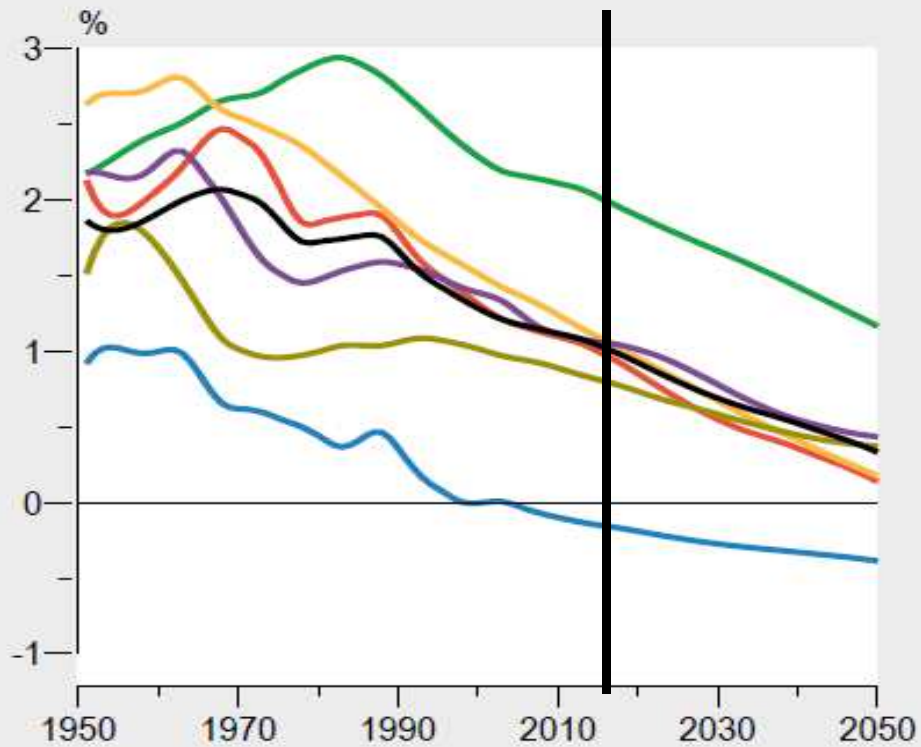


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# Demographics – *a huge challenge ...*

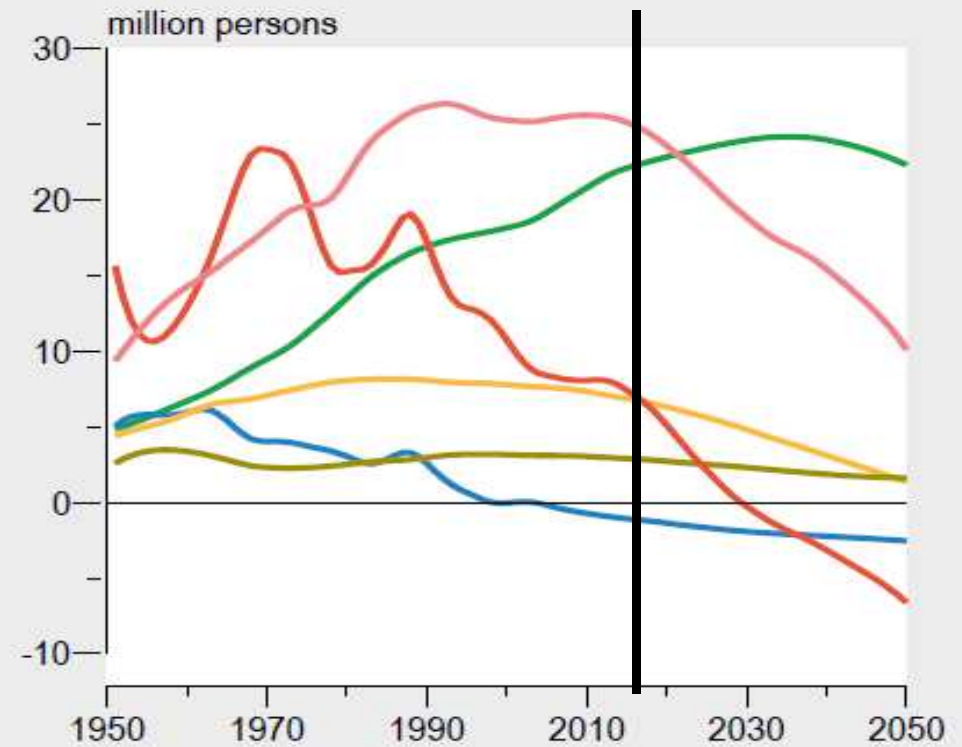
## Net annual population change

### Relative growth



- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Northern America
- Oceania
- World

### Absolute growth

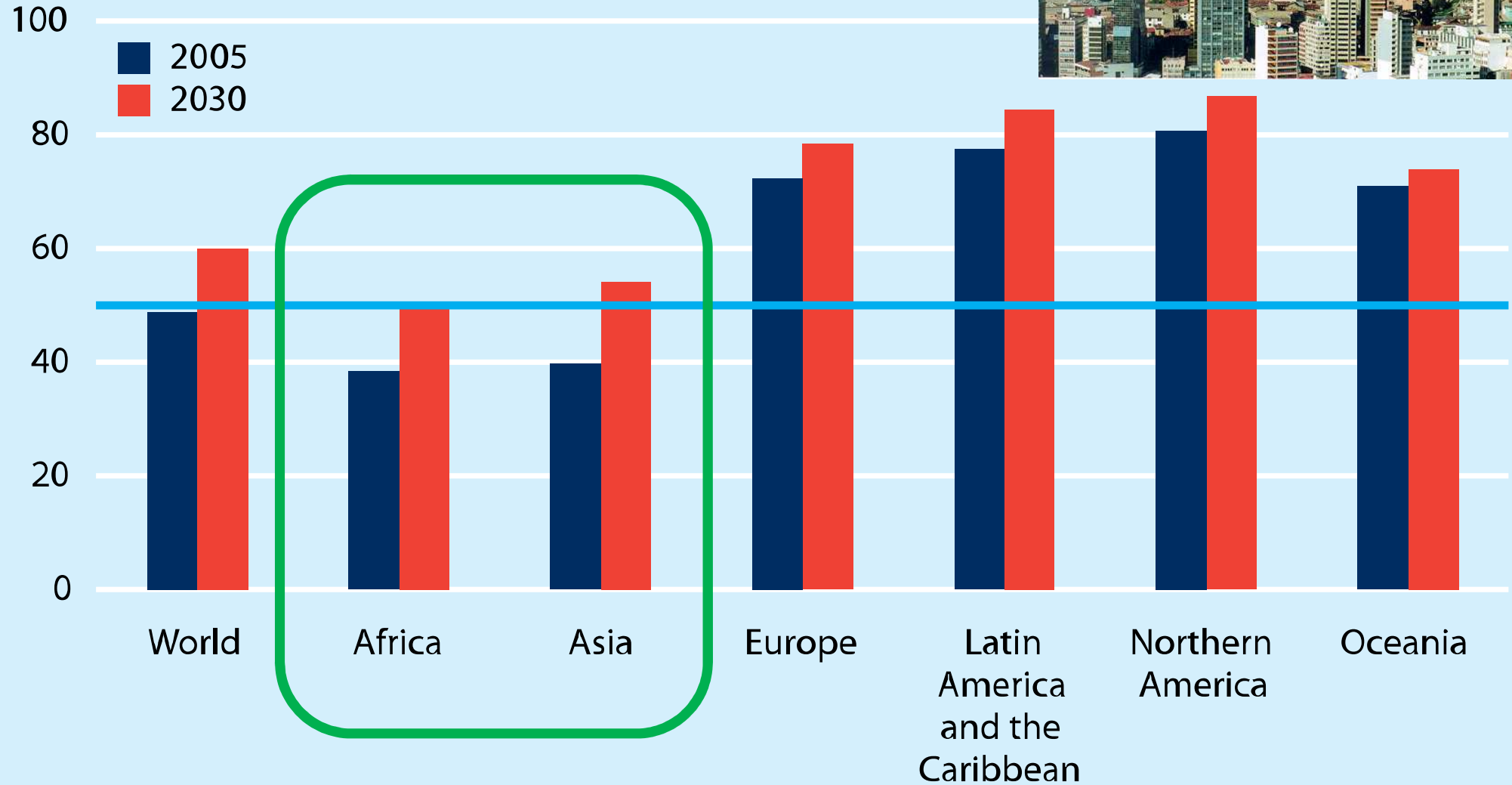


- Africa
- Europe
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Northern America
- Asia: Eastern
- Asia: South-central

By 2030 about 60% of the world's population is expected to live in urban areas



Share of population residing in urban areas, 2005 and 2030 (percentage)



Note: Regions are official UN regions.

Source: United Nations 2006b.





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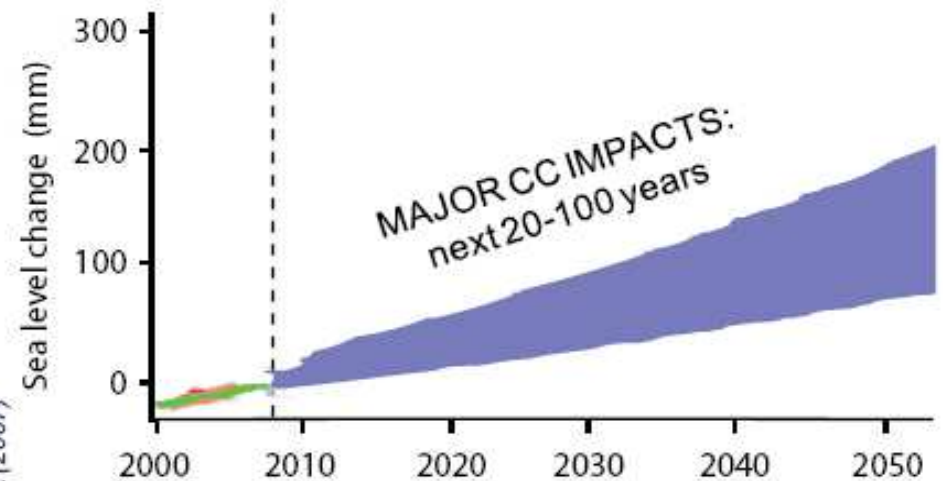
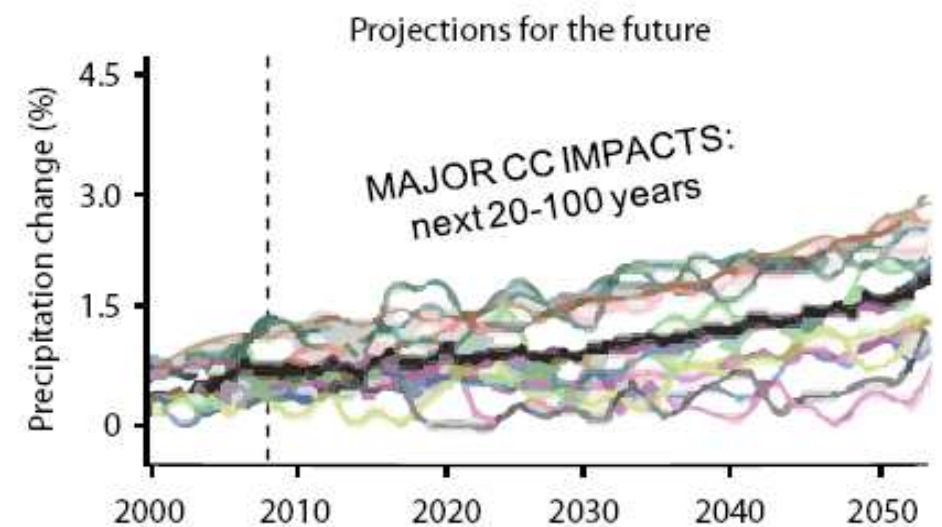
## Facts about Mekong River Basin

*Prediction of two climate  
related variables  
(precipitation and SLR)*

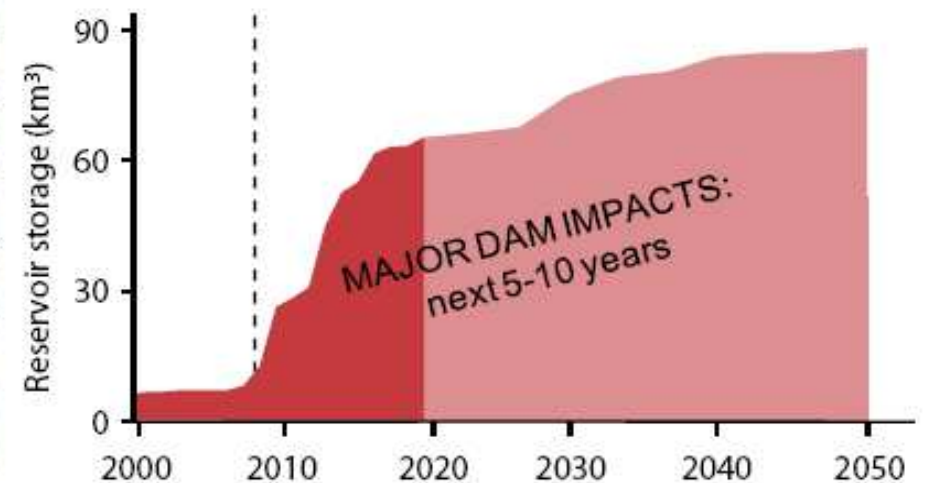
**vs.**

*planned reservoir storage  
development in the Mekong  
Basin*

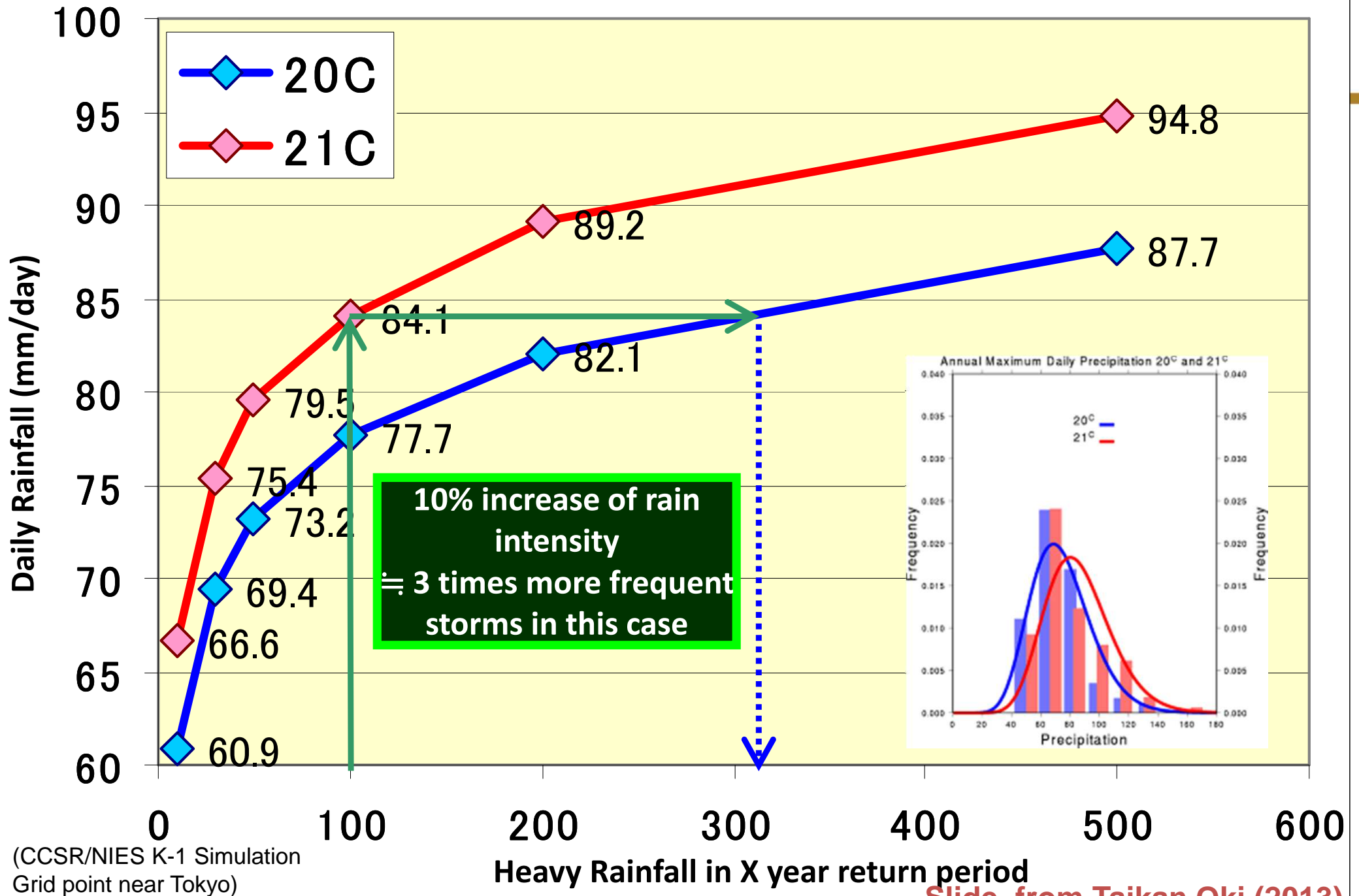
(TKK & SEA START RC, 2009)



Source: IPCC (2007), MRC (2008), King et al. (2007)



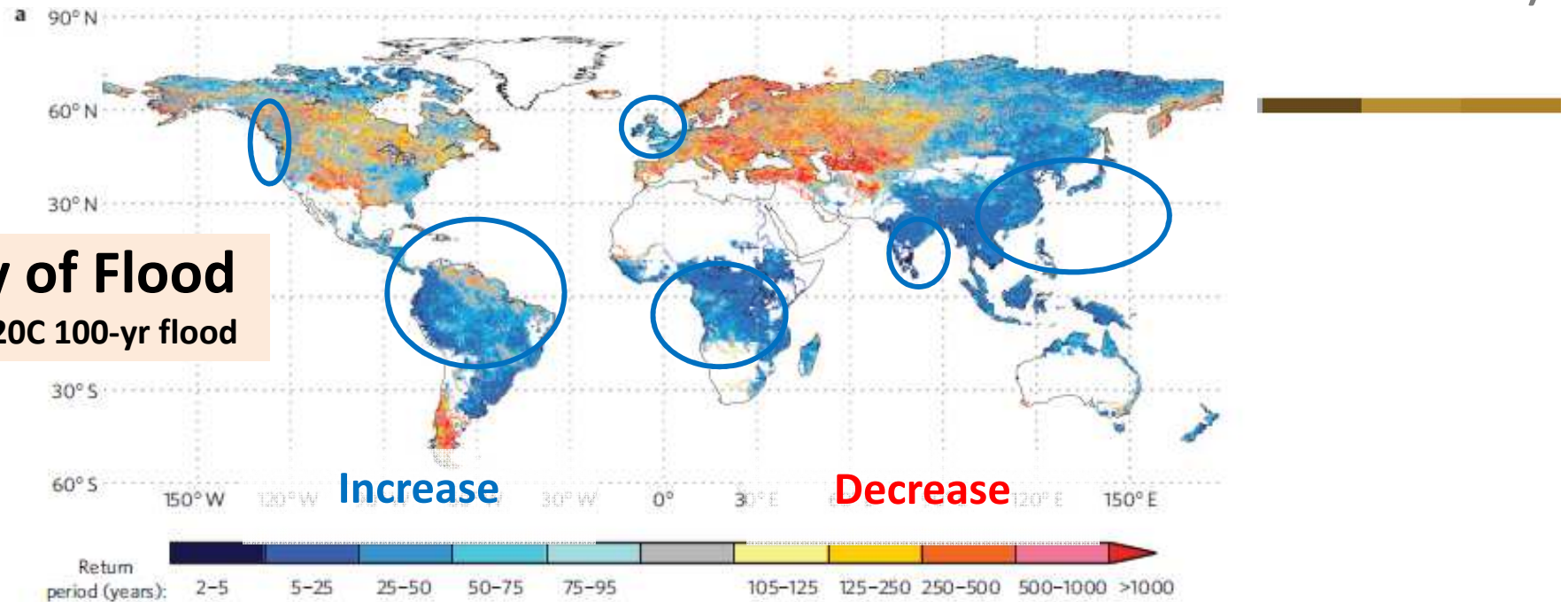
# Expected Annual Maximum Daily Rainfall in X year return period



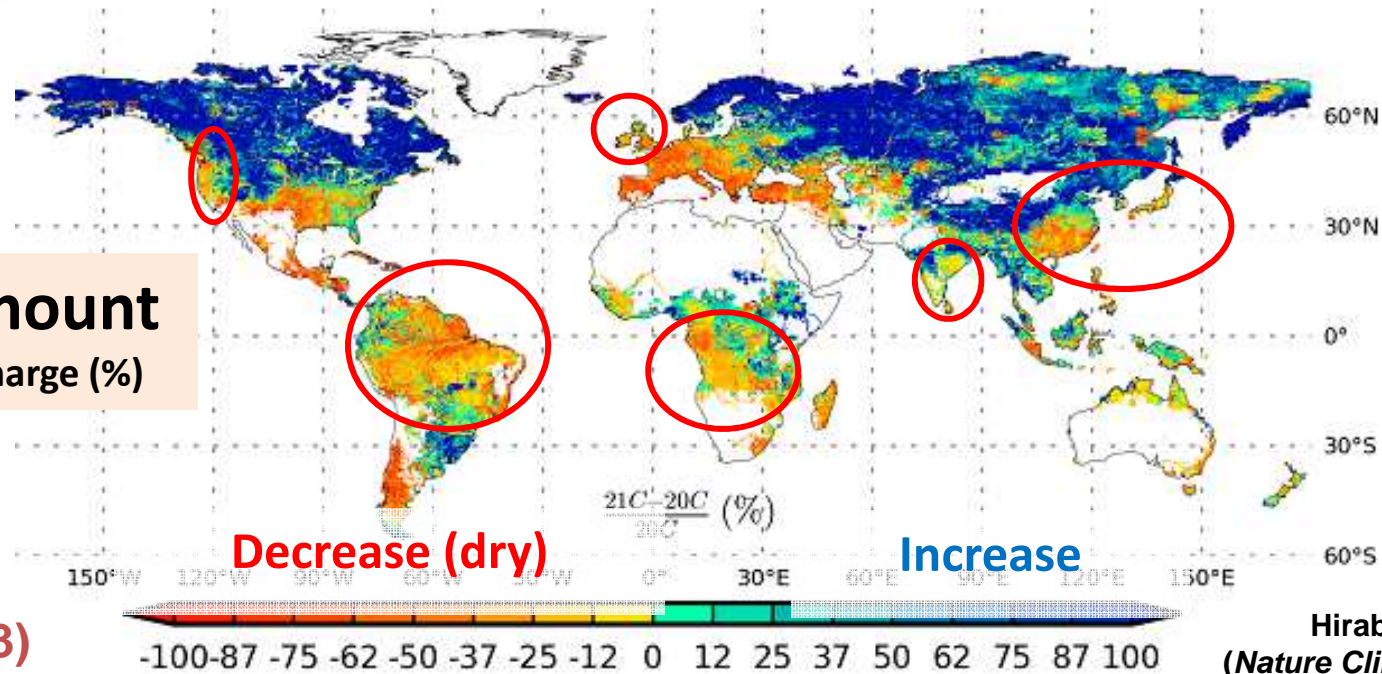
# Future change in flood frequency and low flow

(Median of 11 GCMs under the extreme future scenario, RCP 8.5 difference between 2071-2100 and 1971-2000)

**Frequency of Flood**  
return period of 20C 100-yr flood



**Low flow amount**  
change in Q95 discharge (%)



Slide from  
Taikan Oki (2013)

Hirabayashi et al.,  
(Nature Climate Change, 2013)



# Stefan's Questions

*Innovations?!*

1. Do current management approaches adequately address the implications of climate change, e.g. frequency, intensity and duration of floods and droughts?
2. Will new or improved technologies (and which) be required or at least be helpful to foster integrated management approaches? **-> probably**
3. Data scarcity: how far can remote sensing and satellite data replace or complement data from monitoring programmes? Do we need new approaches in handling data scarcity (e.g. specific modelling tools)?
4. Overall: is there a need for more research on the nexus?





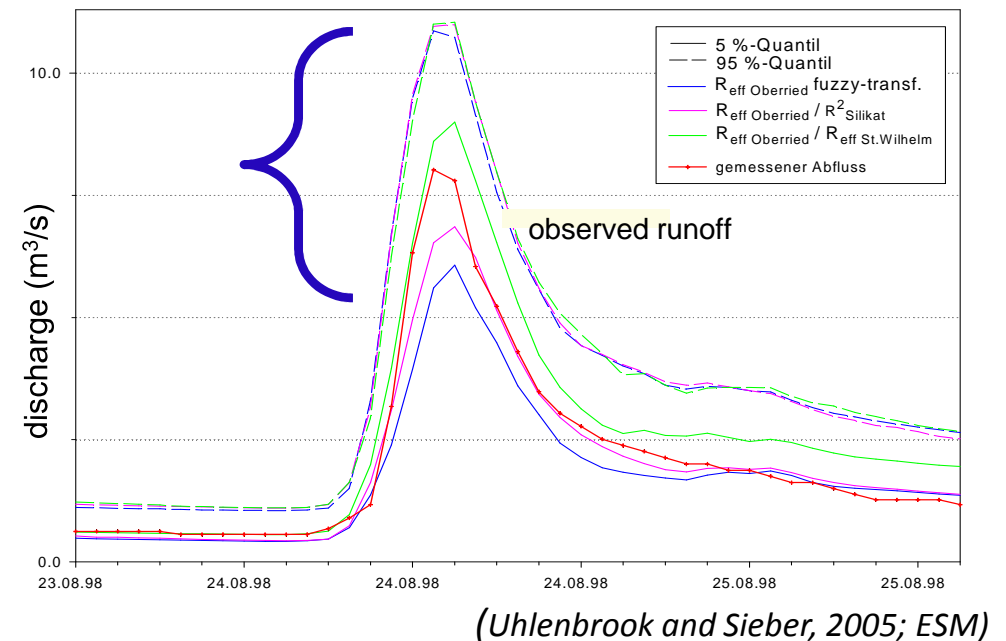
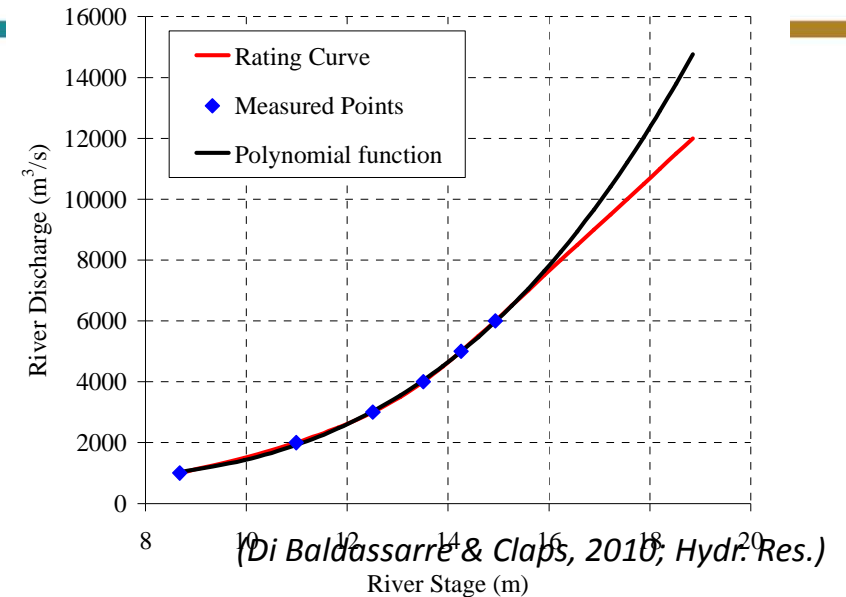
# Example: Uncertainty in flood modelling

## Main sources of uncertainty:

- input data
- calibration data
- model parameters
- model structure

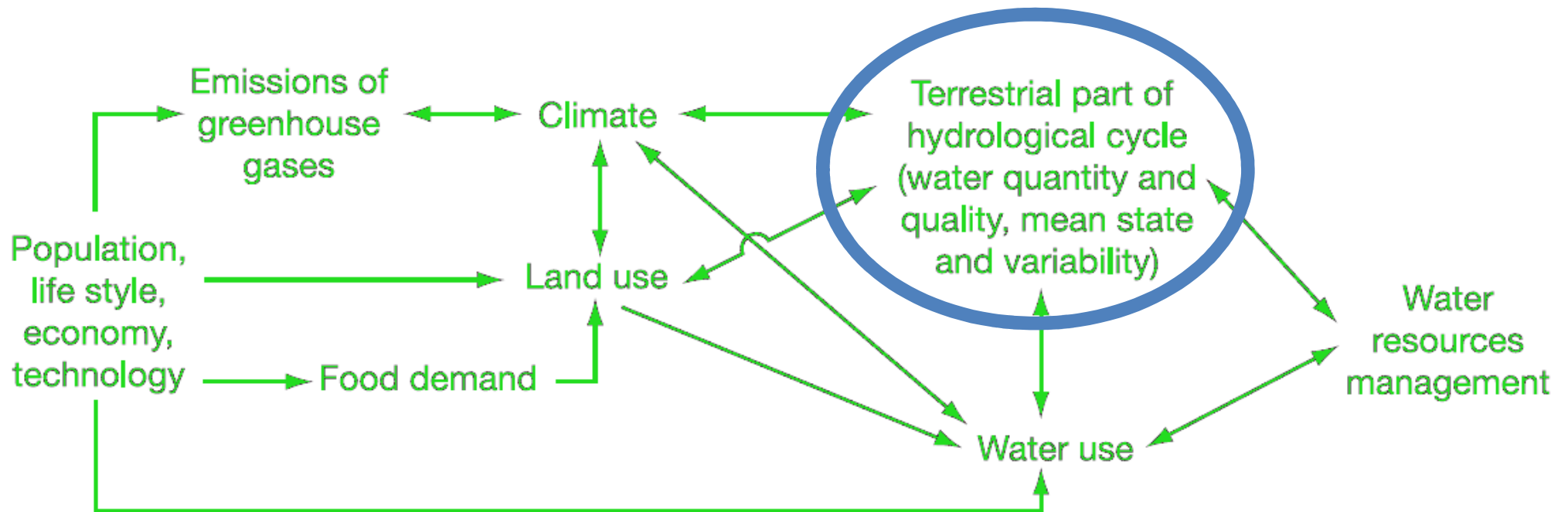
## Uncertain predictions:

- Design floods
- forecasting
- inundated areas
- Risk maps/risk assessment
- Etc.





# We begin to understand the connections, but ...

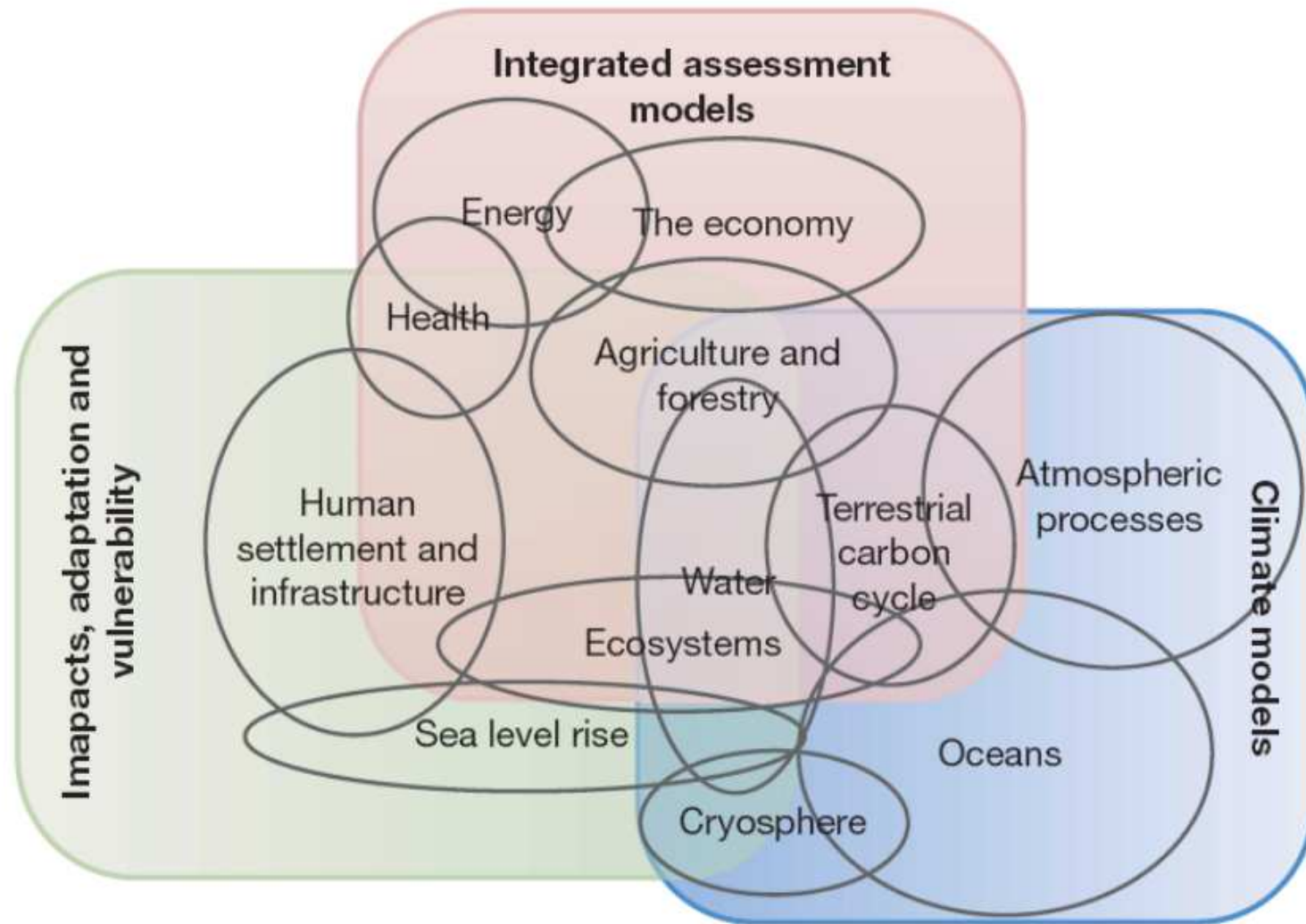


**Figure 3.1.** *Impact of human activities on freshwater resources and their management, with climate change being only one of multiple pressures (modified after Oki, 2005).*





# Towards integrated models, but still along way to integrated management ...





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4. Overall: is there a need for more research on the nexus?

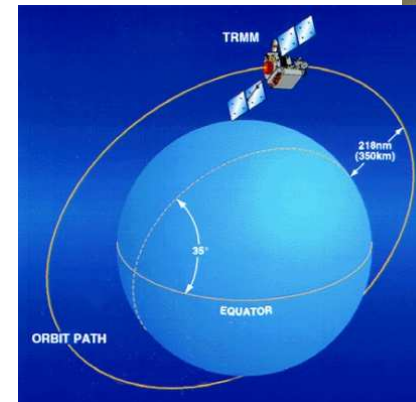
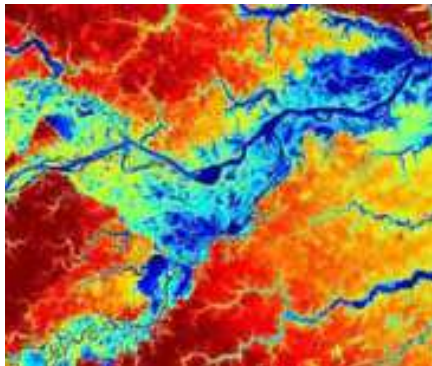




# But, isn't there a 'flood of data' ?

Globally and freely available space-borne data  
(e.g. SRTM, ENVISAT, SAR images etc.)

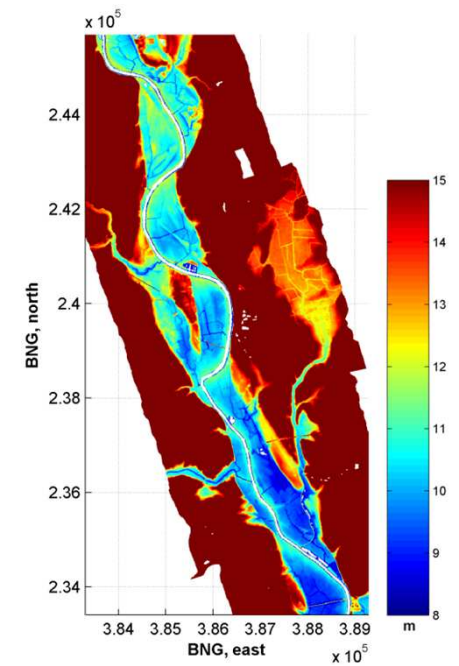
## Space-borne data



Airborne laser altimetry (LiDAR):

High resolution topography (1m DTM; 10 cm accuracy)

Model output: GCMs, regional models etc.

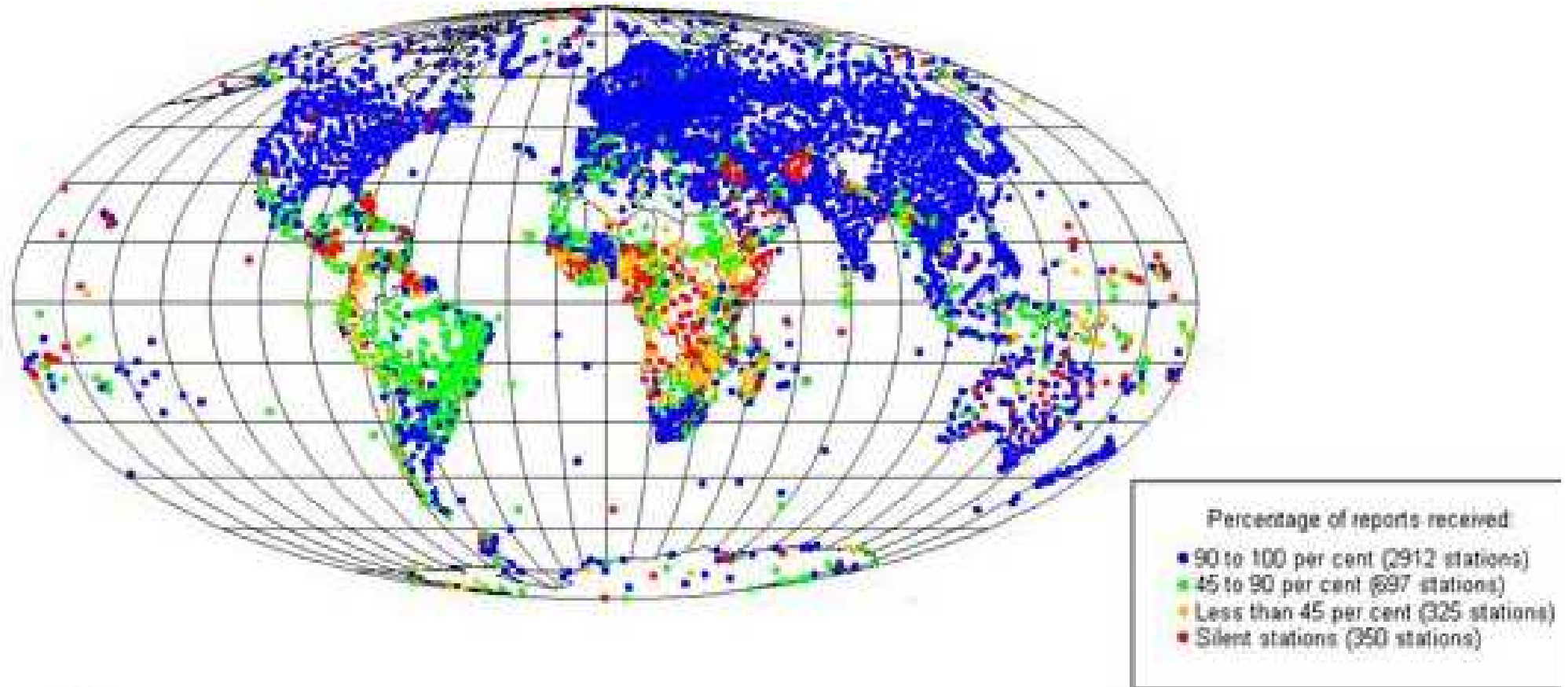




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## WMO Stations



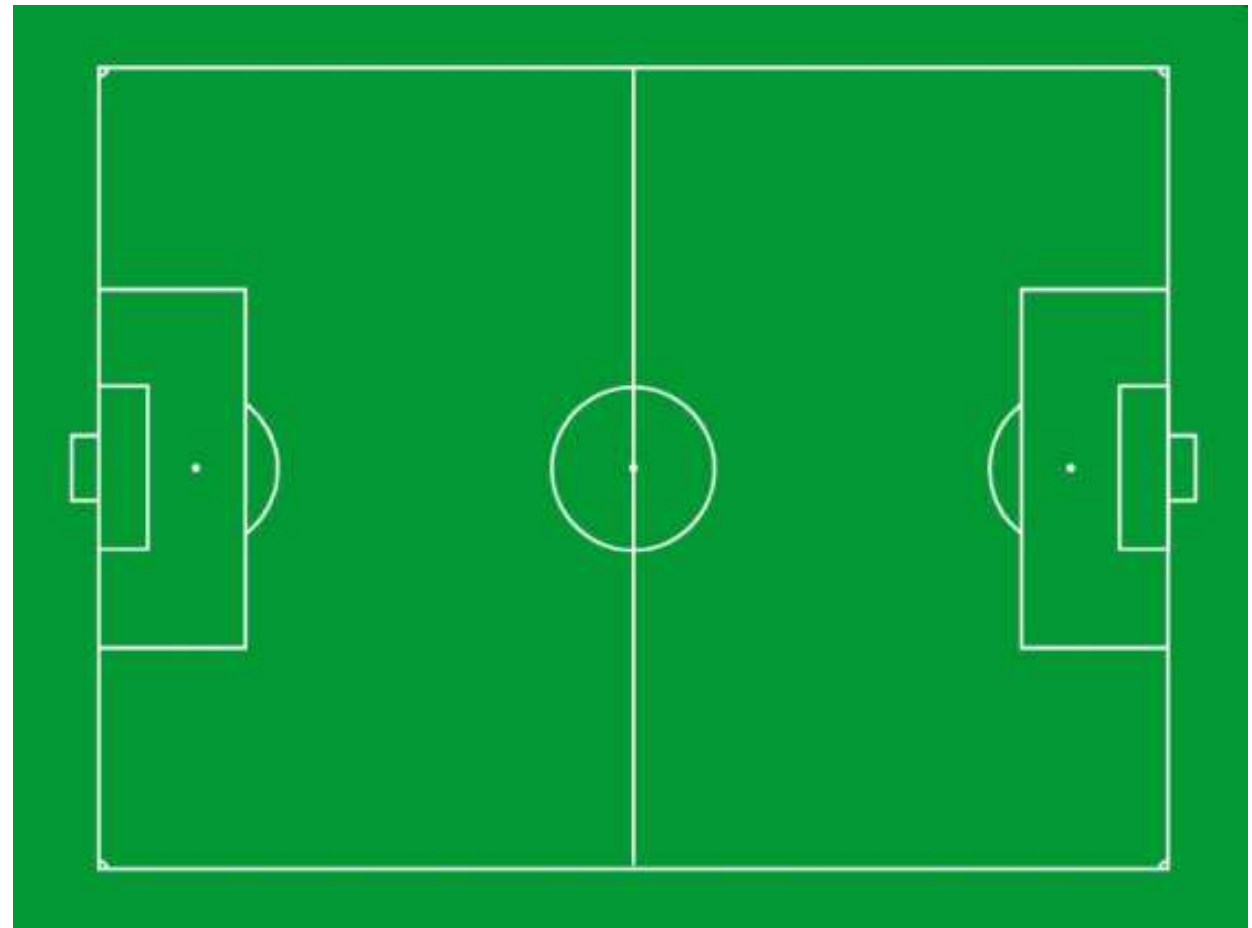
WMO Secretariat

(courtesy Van der Giesen and Hut, 2013)



## WMO Stations

5,000

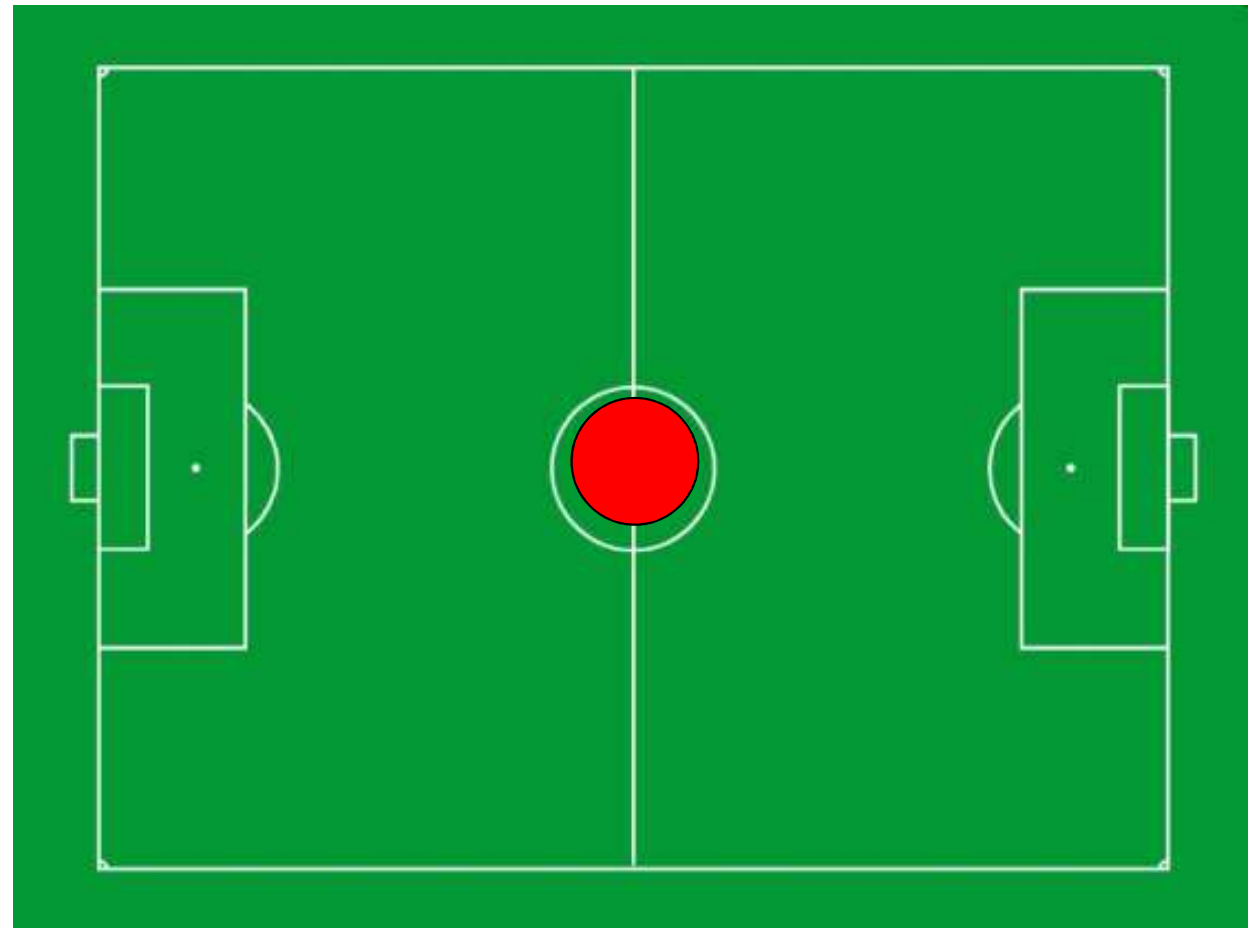


(courtesy Van der Giesen and Hut, 2013)



## WMO Stations

5,000



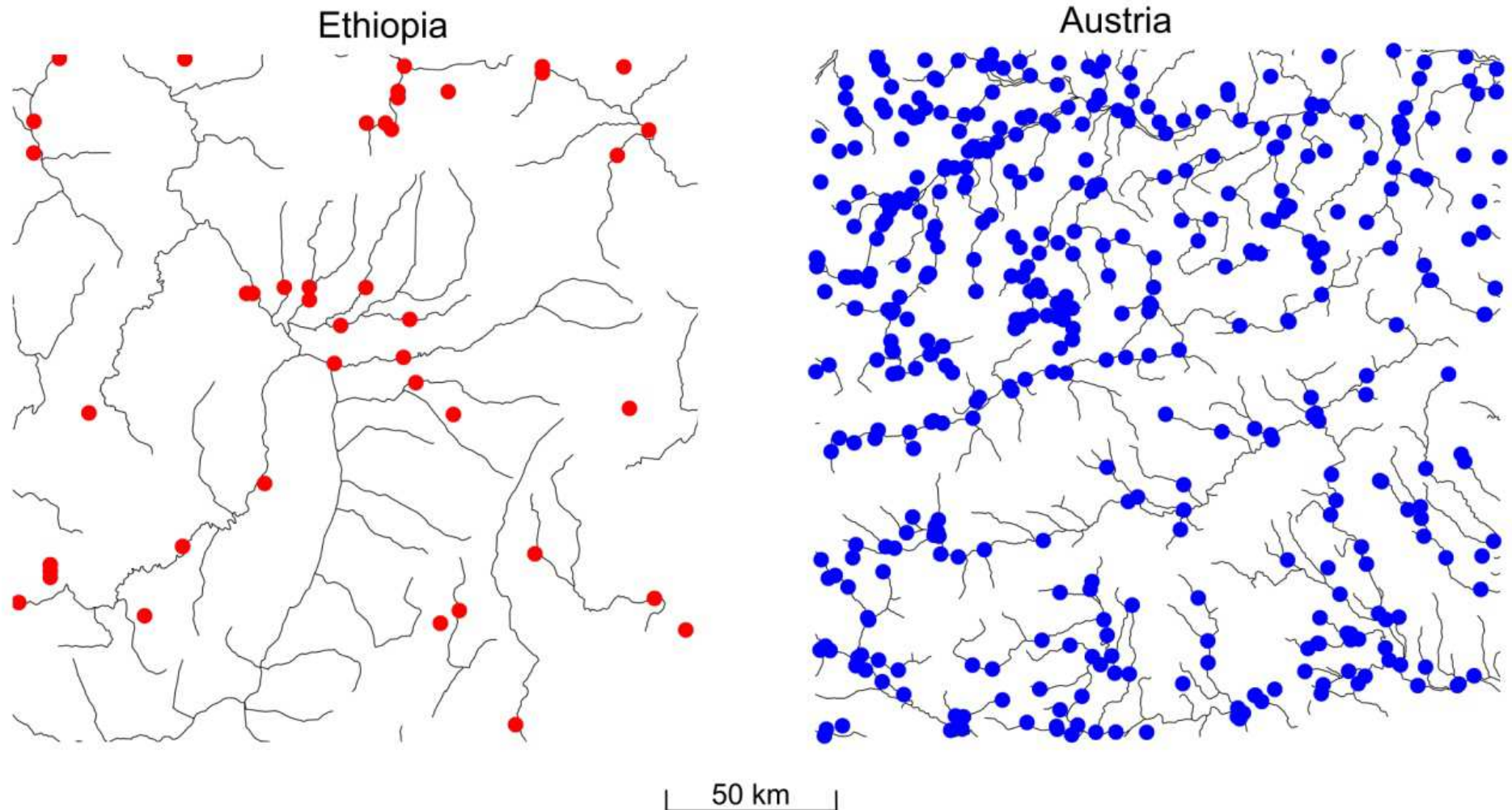
(courtesy Van der Giesen and Hut, 2013)





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# Density of gauging station network – ‘ground truthing’?!



(Bloeschl et al. 2013)



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**-> of course!**