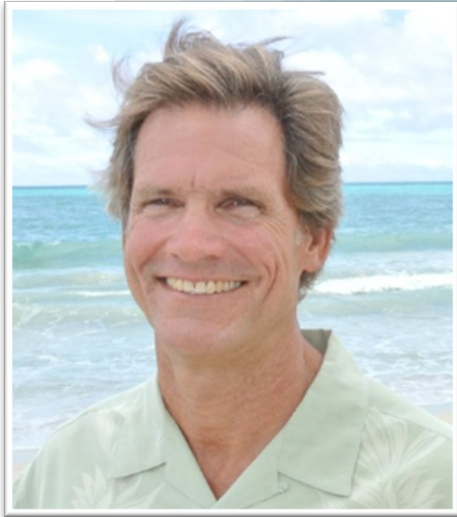


Impacts of Climate Change on Human Health in Hawaii



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University of Hawaii at Manoa



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Communicable Disease and Public
Health Nursing Division



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East-West Center
(EWC)



Volume 3, Issue 4
April 2024

Article Contents

Abstract

Climate change and global sustainability

Imperialism, overpopulation, and resource extraction

Global economics and values

Climate realities and the road to action

Climate outlook

Abrupt change

Oceans

Terrestrial biome

Food and water security

Heat

Illness and disease

Economic inequality, ecological destruction, and global security

Climate purgatory

A new era of reciprocity with nature and among human societies

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Earth at risk: An urgent call to end the age of destruction and forge a just and sustainable future



Charles Fletcher ✉, William J Ripple, Thomas Newsome, Phoebe Barnard, Kamanamaikalani Beamer, Aishwarya Behl, Jay Bowen, Michael Cooney, Eileen Crist, Christopher Field ... Show more

Author Notes

PNAS Nexus, Volume 3, Issue 4, April 2024, pgae106,

<https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgae106>

Published: 02 April 2024 Article history

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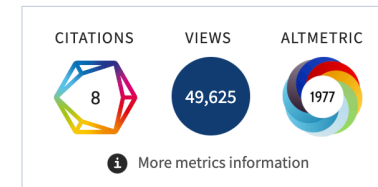
Abstract

Human development has ushered in an age of unprecedented progress, but it has also brought about climate change, ecological destruction, and social inequality. This review synthesizes the latest research on these challenges and underscores the urgent need for action. Propelled by imperious population growth, we are speeding up the rate of climate change, biodiversity loss, and social inequality. These trends are underpinning the Holocene climate system, leading to a new era of global environmental change. The consequences of these actions are dire: rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and loss of biodiversity threaten the well-being of billions of people. The world's most vulnerable populations, particularly in the Global South, face the greatest risks. Against this backdrop of Earth at risk, we call for a global response centered on urgent decarbonization, fostering reciprocity with nature, and implementing regenerative practices in natural resource management. We call for the elimination of detrimental subsidies, promotion of equitable human development, and transformative financial support for lower income nations. A critical paradigm shift must occur that replaces exploitative, wealth-oriented capitalism with an economic model that prioritizes sustainability, resilience, and justice. We advocate a global cultural shift that elevates kinship with nature and communal well-being, underpinned by the recognition of Earth's finite resources and the need for a just and sustainable future.

1. Climate Change
2. Biodiversity Loss
3. Social Inequality
4. Pollution
5. Disease



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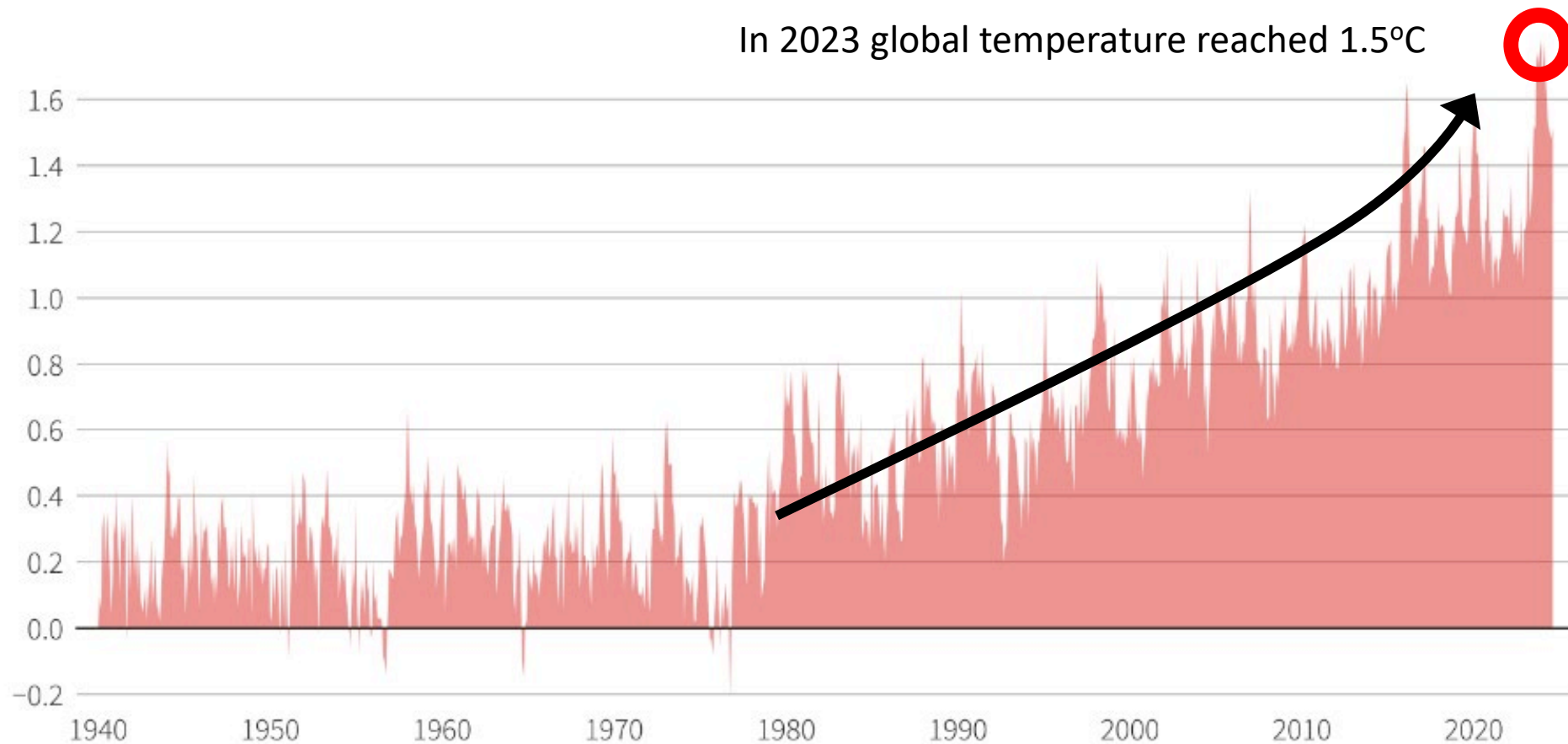
Recommended

Trajectories of the Earth System in the Anthropocene

Will Steffen. Proc Natl Acad Sci U.S.A. 2018

Climate change could reduce global GDP by up to 14% and displace 1.2 billion people as climate refugees by 2050

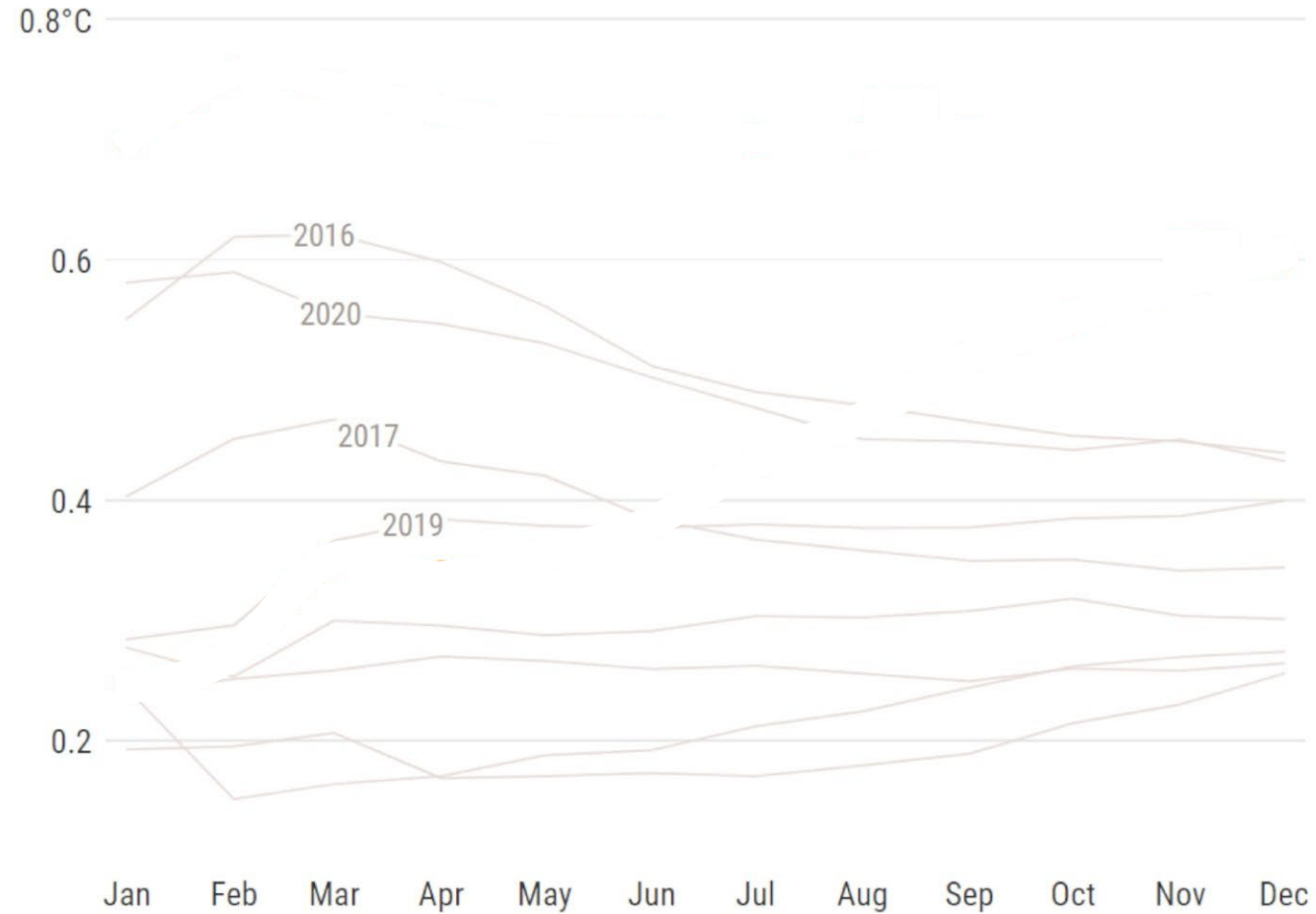
Monthly global average temperatures, compared to the 1850-1900 pre-industrial period. °C



Year-to-date global surface temperature anomalies

Data: ERA5 • Reference period: 1991–2020

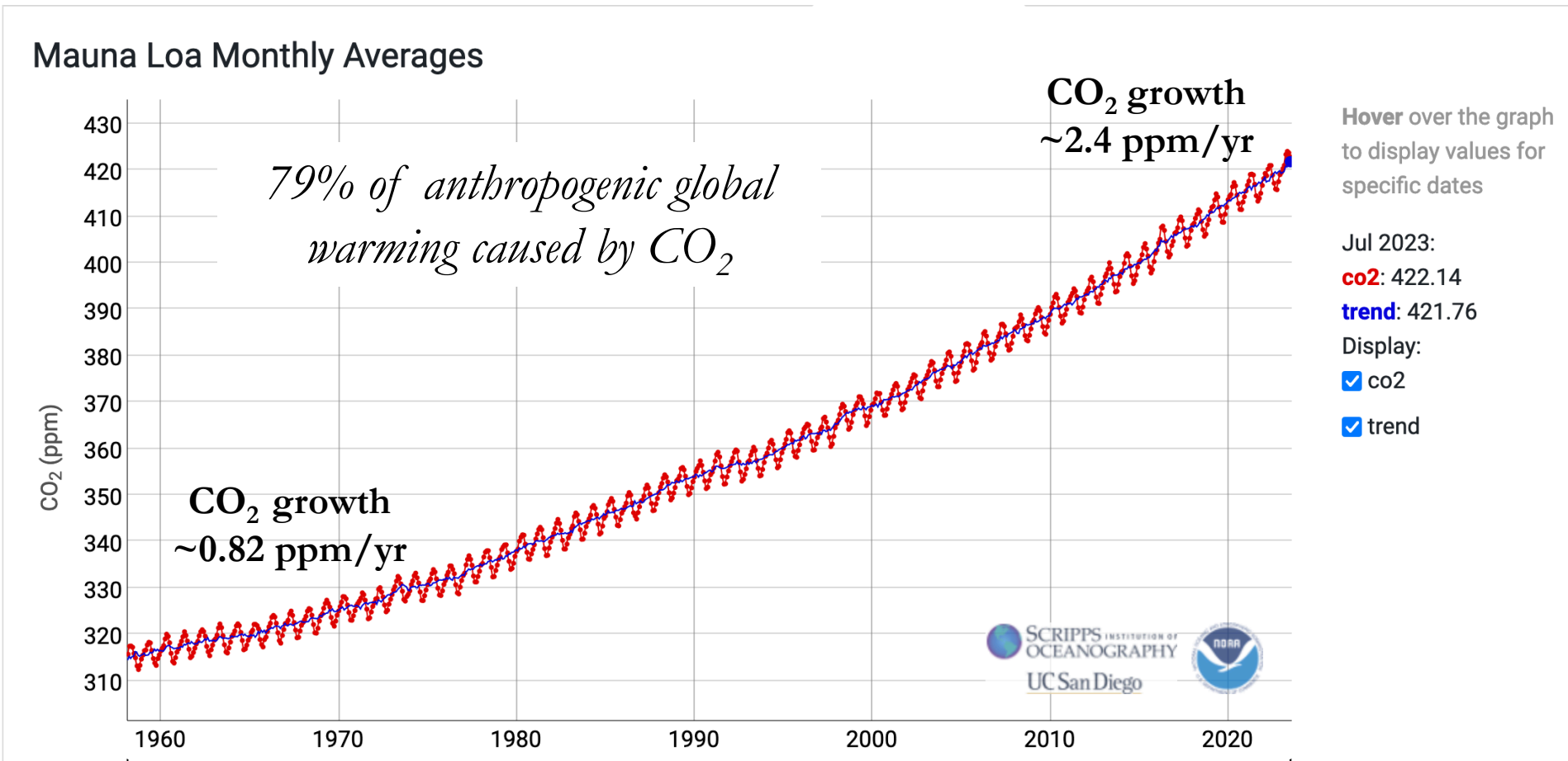
Credits: C3S/ECMWF



PROGRAMME OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION



In 2023, the CO₂ growth rate was 3.4 ppm, 86% above the previous year, and the highest in recorded history

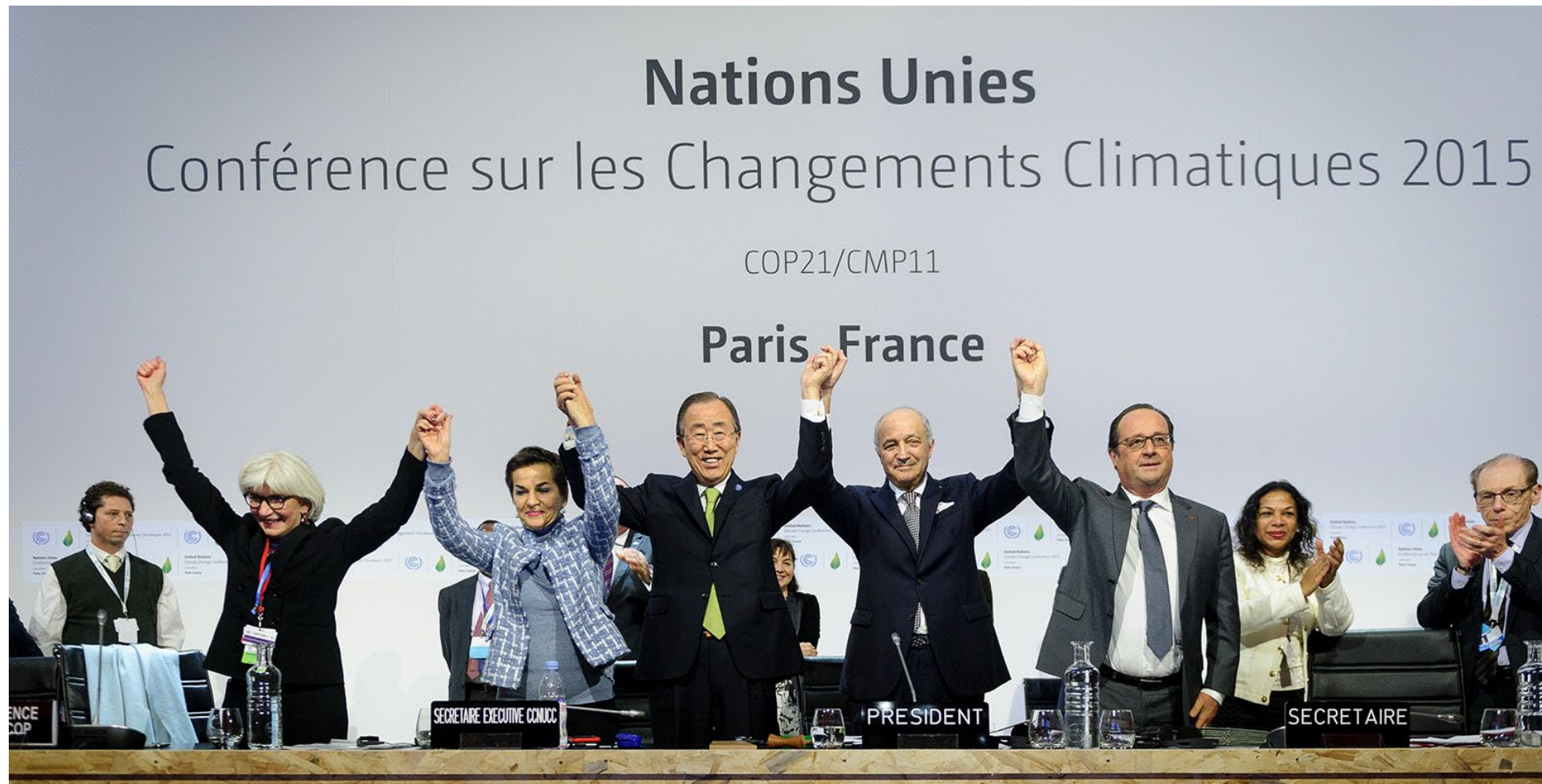


Paris Agreement, 2015

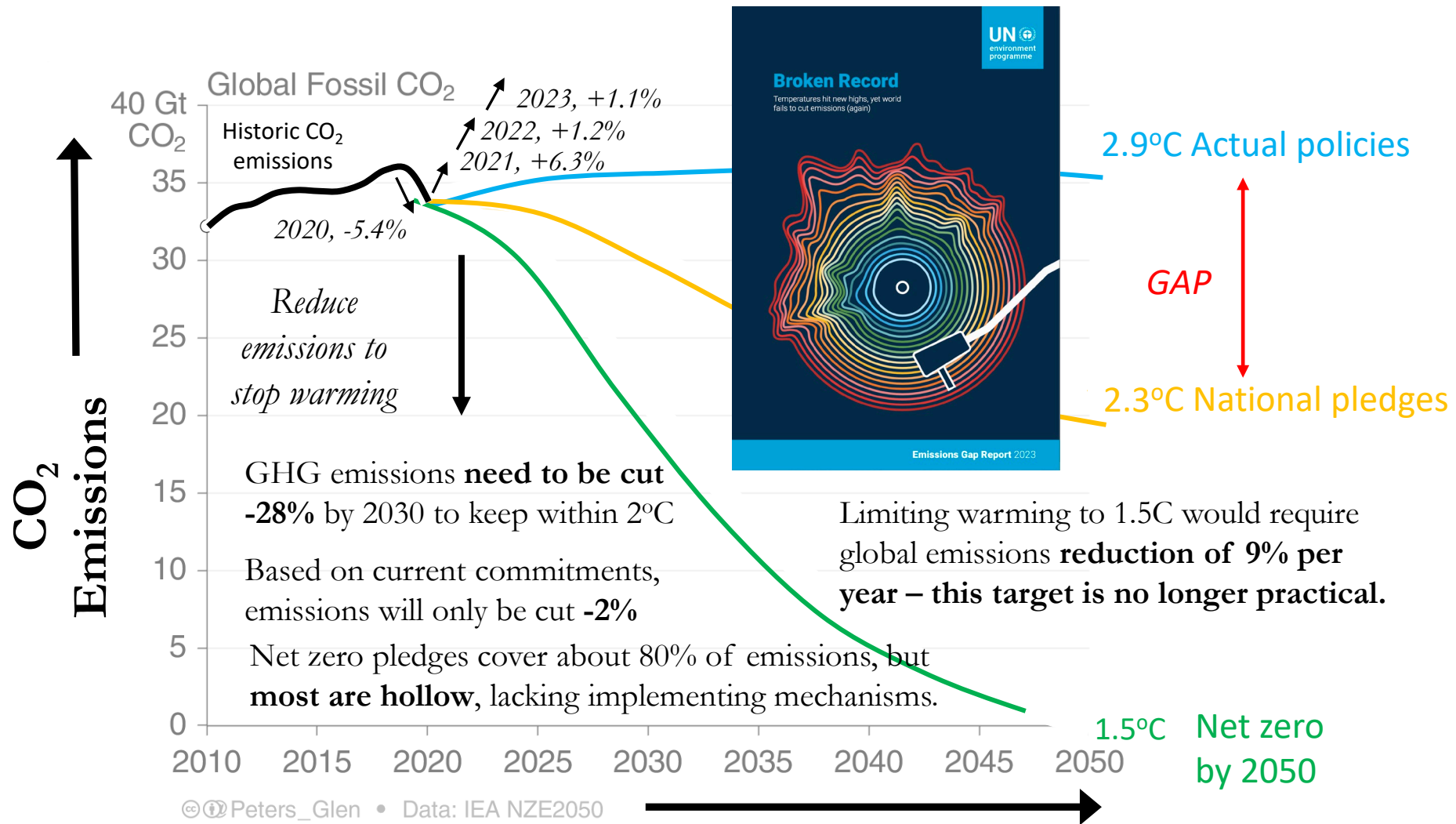
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

Stop global warming
before 2°C (3.6°F)

Pursue efforts to end
warming before 1.5°C (2.7°F)



Progress on Stopping Warming at 1.5°C

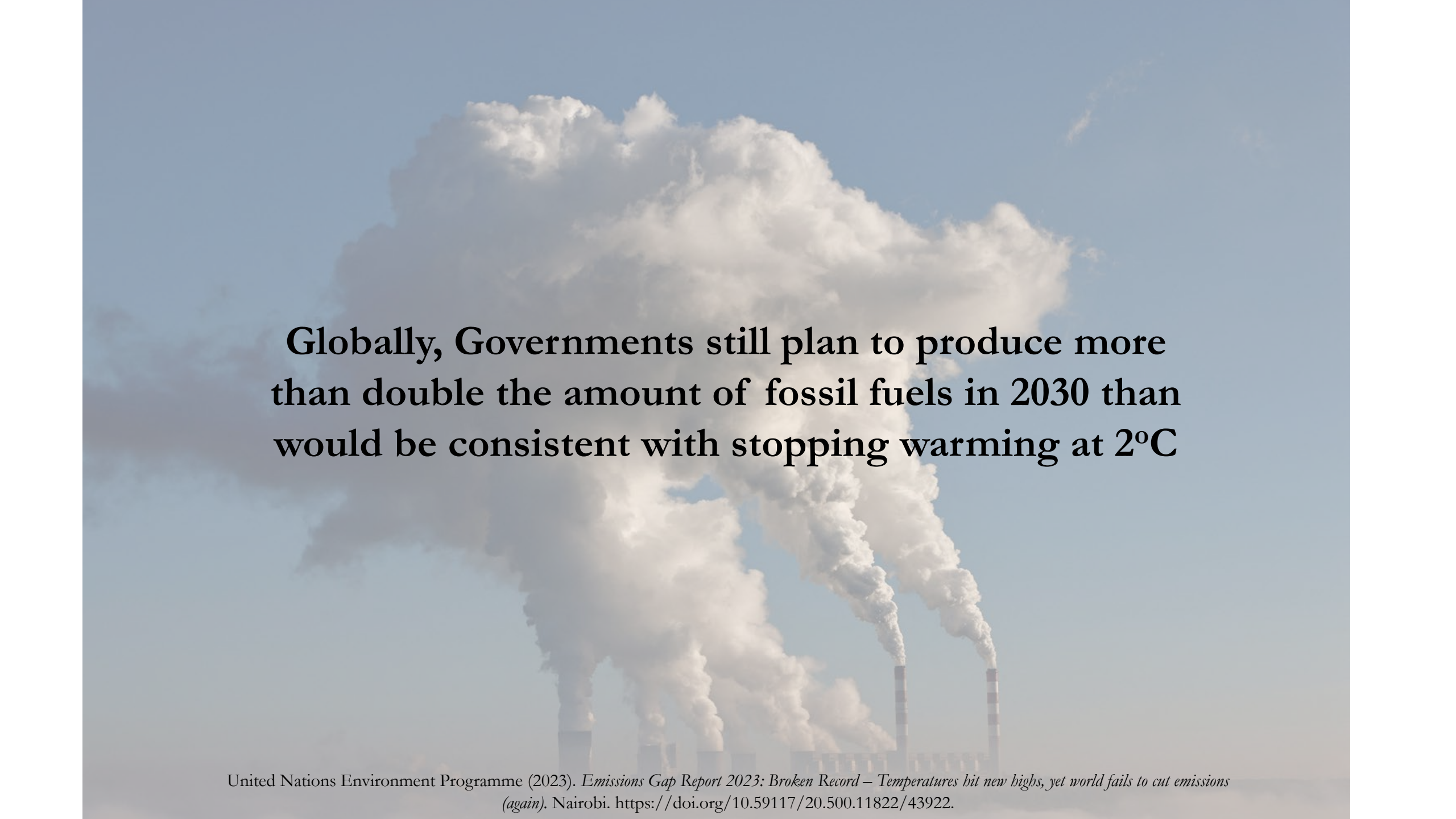


Climate Action Tracker (2022) https://climateactiontracker.org/documents/1055/CAT_2022-06-08_Briefing_EnergyCrisisReaction.pdf

Grant, N. (2022) The Paris Agreement's ratcheting mechanism needs strengthening 4-fold to keep 1.5°C alive, *Joule*, v. 6, p. 703-708, ISSN 2542-4351, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.joule.2022.02.017>

Meinshausen, M., Lewis, J., McGlade, C. et al. (2022) Realization of Paris Agreement pledges may limit warming just below 2°C. *Nature* 604, 304–309 <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04553-z>

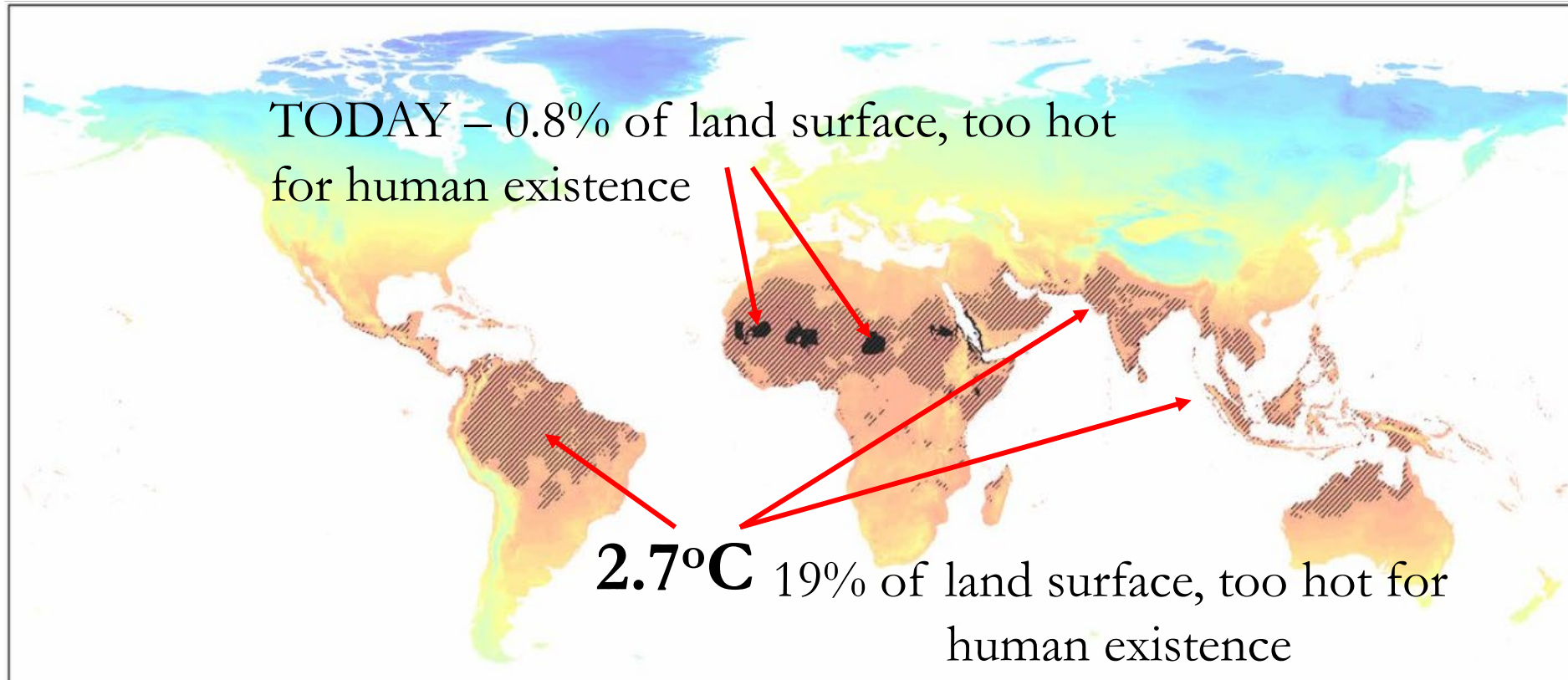
United Nations Environment Programme (2023). Emissions Gap Report 2023: Broken Record – Temperatures hit new highs, yet world fails to cut emissions (again). Nairobi. <https://doi.org/10.59117/20.500.11822/43922>.

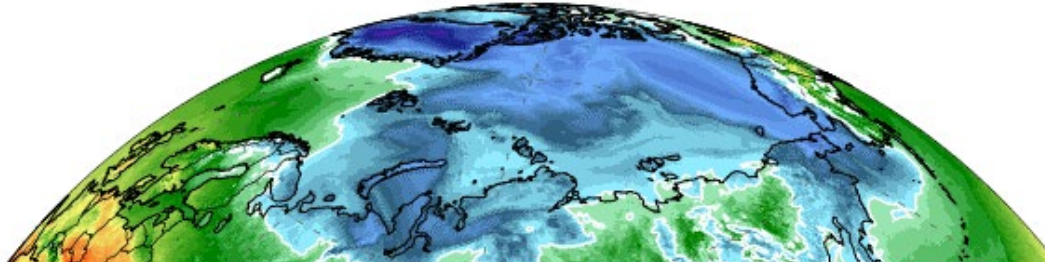


Globally, Governments still plan to produce more than double the amount of fossil fuels in 2030 than would be consistent with stopping warming at 2°C

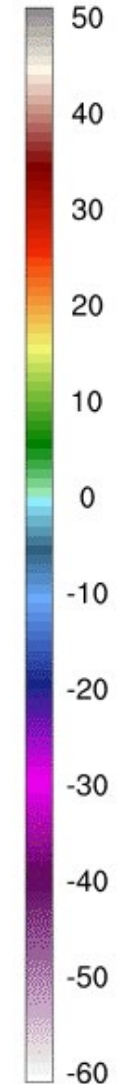
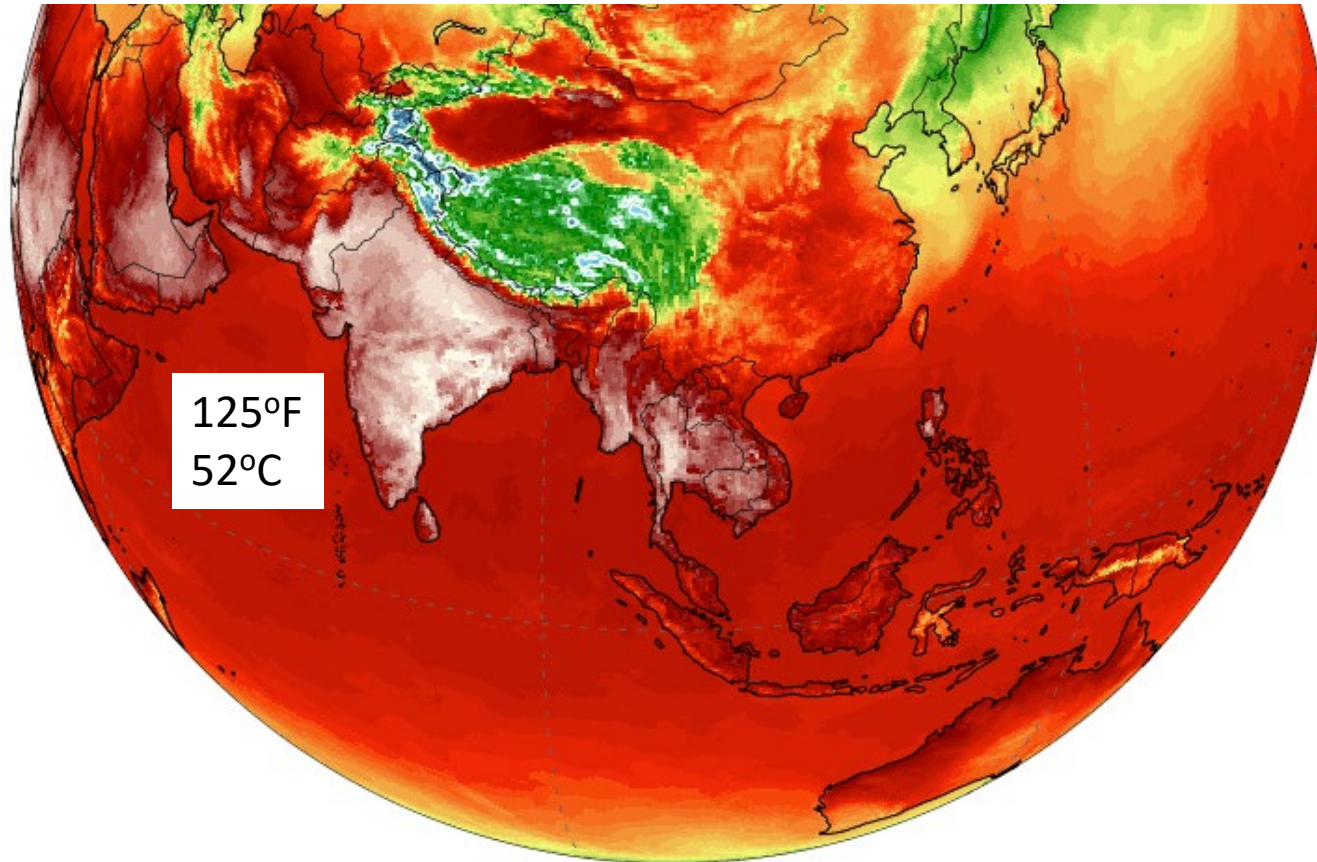
Warming on Land


1 billion displaced for every 1°C of additional global warming






climate change has already put ~9% of people (>600 million) outside the livable zone





Drought affected 1.84 billion people in 2022 and 2023 – nearly one-quarter of all people on Earth – “the vast majority” of whom live in low- and middle-income countries



More than half the world's food production will be at risk of failure within the next 25 years as a rapidly accelerating water crisis grips the planet

Demand for fresh water will outstrip supply by 40% by the end of the decade

The
problem in
a nutshell...

Even as
renewables
accelerate,
so does the
demand for
new energy

Monthly change in energy produced in the United States

Compared with January 2000

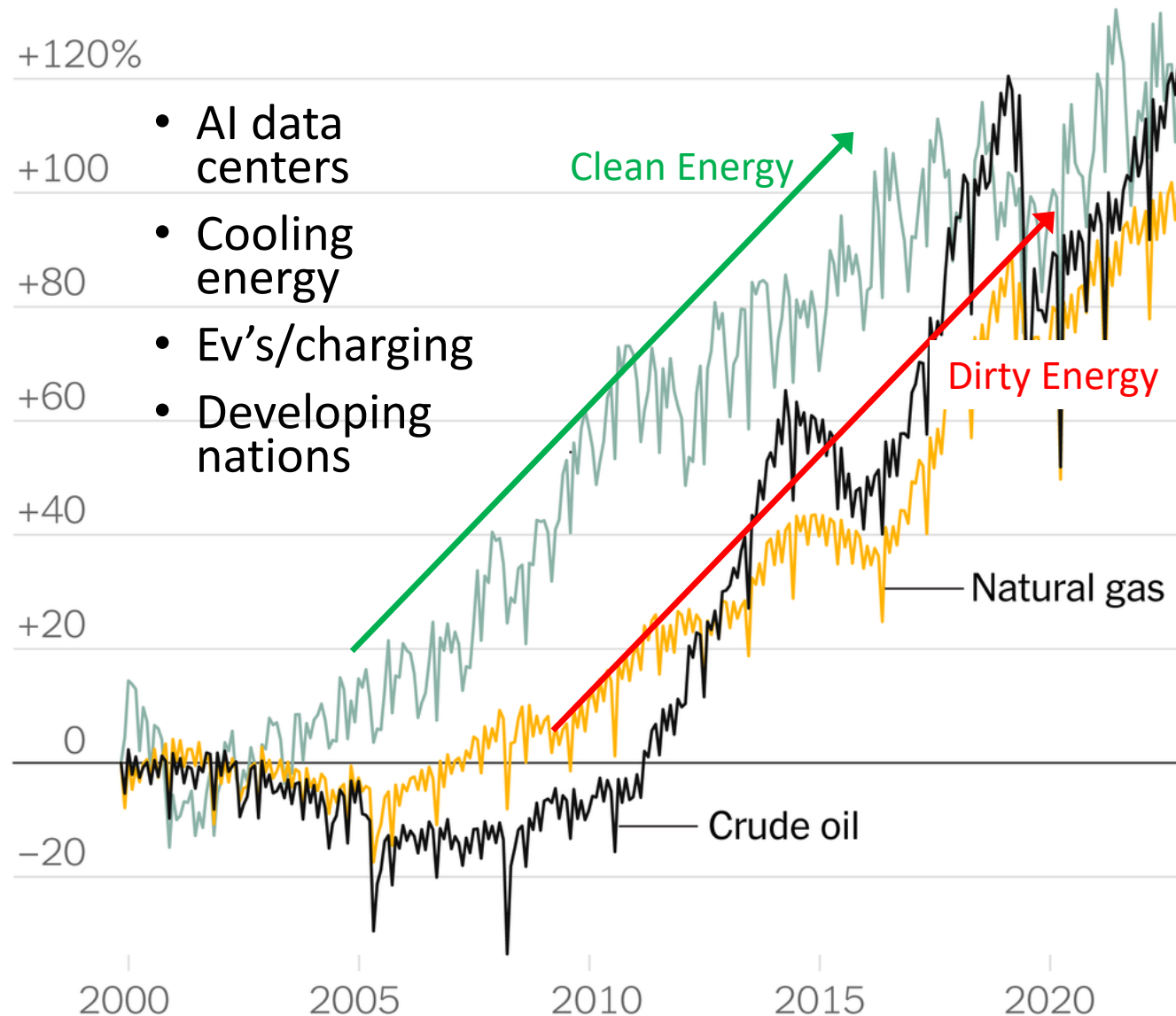
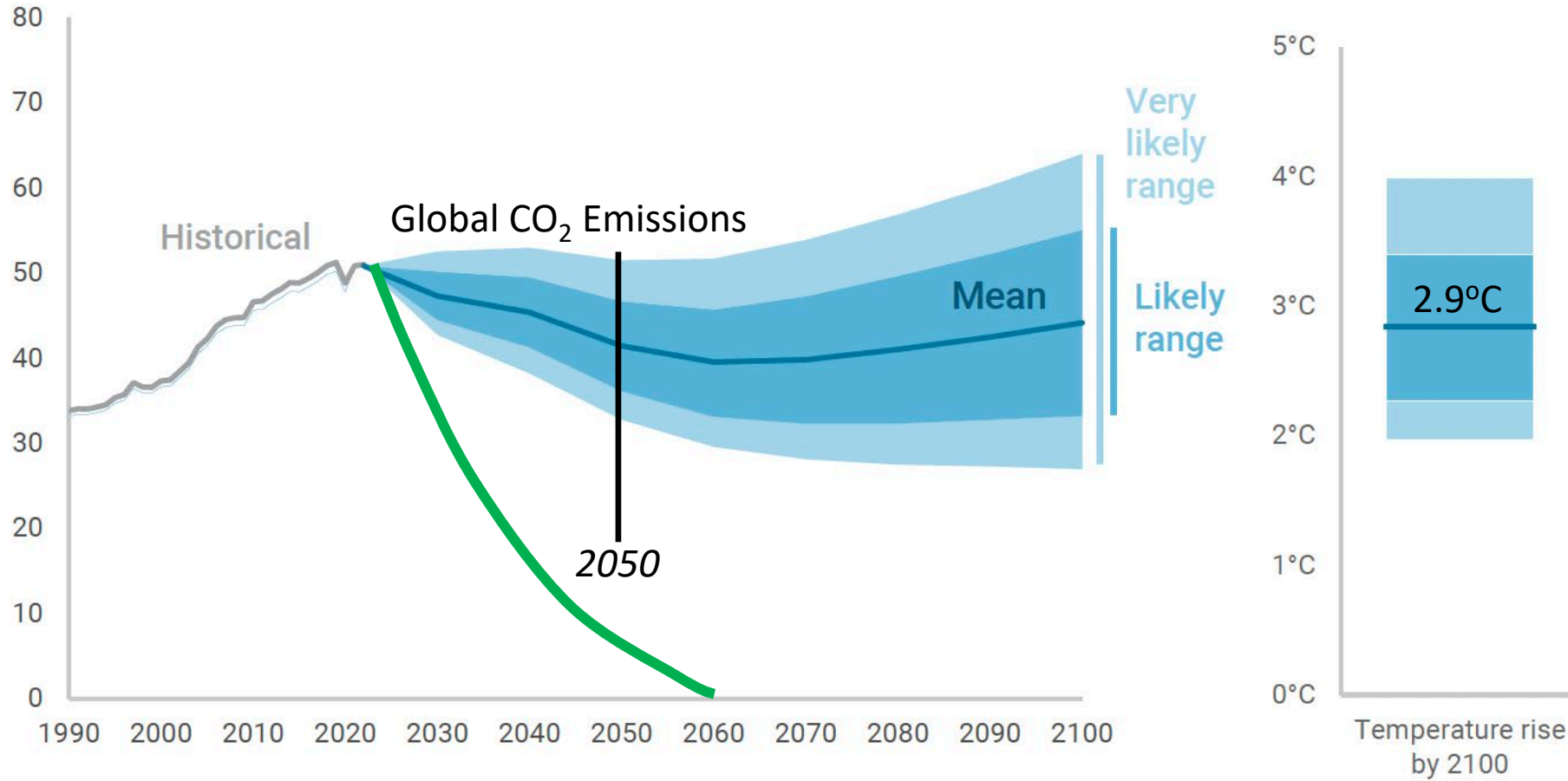


FIGURE 1

Global greenhouse gas emissions and temperature rise

Net emissions including removals (billion metric tons of CO₂-equivalent)



Source: Rhodium Climate Outlook, AR5 100-year GWP values. Following IPCC conventions, this report uses *very likely* to indicate a 90% probability of occurring and *likely* to indicate a 67% probability.

Fate of anthropogenic CO₂ emissions (2010–2019)

Sources = Sinks



35.3 GtCO₂/yr
88%

18.9 GtCO₂/yr
47%

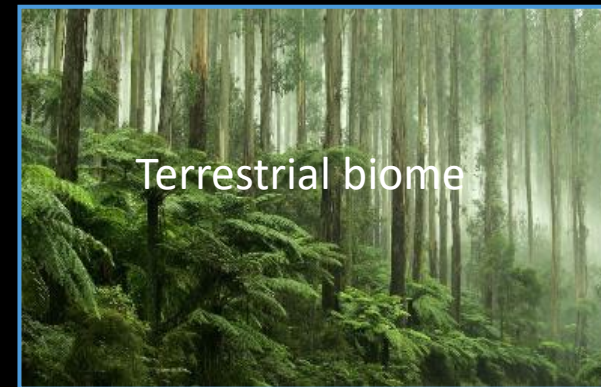


Global warming



12%
4.7 GtCO₂/yr

~~31%~~
~~12.3 GtCO₂/yr~~



Terrestrial biome



Ocean acidification

26%
10.4 GtCO₂/yr

Budget Imbalance:
(the difference between estimated sources & sinks)

4%
-1.6 GtCO₂/yr

The amount of carbon absorbed by land has temporarily collapsed. In 2023 forest, plants and soil – as a net category – absorbed almost no carbon.

The age of extinction Oceans

The age of extinction is supported by



About this content



Patrick Greenfield

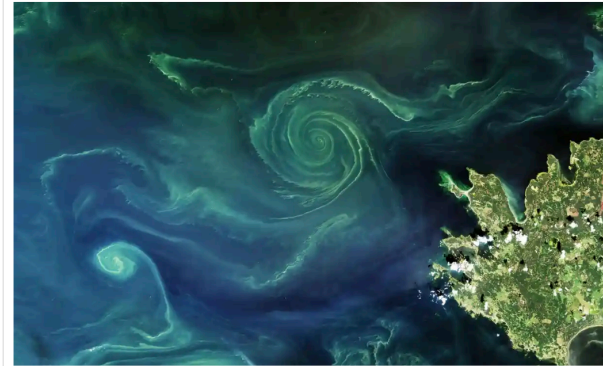
Mon 14 Oct 2024 03:00 EDT

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Trees and land absorbed almost no CO2 last year. Is nature's carbon sink failing?

The sudden collapse of carbon sinks was not factored into climate models – and could rapidly accelerate global heating

Read more: [What happens to the world if forests stop absorbing carbon? Ask Finland](#)



Phytoplankton in the Baltic Sea. Melting sea ice exposes algae-eating zooplankton to more sunlight, which could cut the amount of carbon stored on the seabed. Photograph: Nasa/Alamy

It begins each day at nightfall. As the light disappears, billions of zooplankton, crustaceans and other marine organisms rise to the ocean surface to feed on microscopic algae, returning to the depths at sunrise. The waste from this frenzy – Earth's largest migration of creatures – sinks to the ocean floor, removing millions of tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere each year.

This activity is one of thousands of natural processes that regulate the Earth's climate. Together, the planet's oceans, forests, soils and other natural carbon sinks [absorb about half of all human emissions](#).

But as the Earth heats up, scientists are increasingly concerned that those crucial processes are breaking down.

In 2023, the hottest year ever recorded, [preliminary findings](#) by an international team of researchers show the amount of carbon absorbed by land has temporarily collapsed. The final result was that forest, plants and soil – as a net category – absorbed almost no carbon.

There are warning signs at sea, too. Greenland's glaciers and Arctic ice sheets are melting faster than expected, which is disrupting the Gulf Stream ocean current and slows the rate at which oceans absorb carbon. For the algae-eating zooplankton, melting sea ice is exposing them to more sunlight – a shift [scientists say](#) could keep them in the depths for longer, disrupting the vertical migration that stores carbon on the ocean floor.

None of these models

“We’re seeing cracks in the resilience of the Earth’s systems.”

Advertisement

A quick question from The Guardian

Are you planning to change any of the following in the next six months?

- Life insurance
- Contents/Home insurance
- Car insurance
- Current account
- Mortgage provider



**86% of all land mammals are now
livestock or humans**

**Of all birds, 70% are chickens
and other poultry**

**Only 2.9% of Earth's land surface remains
faunally intact**

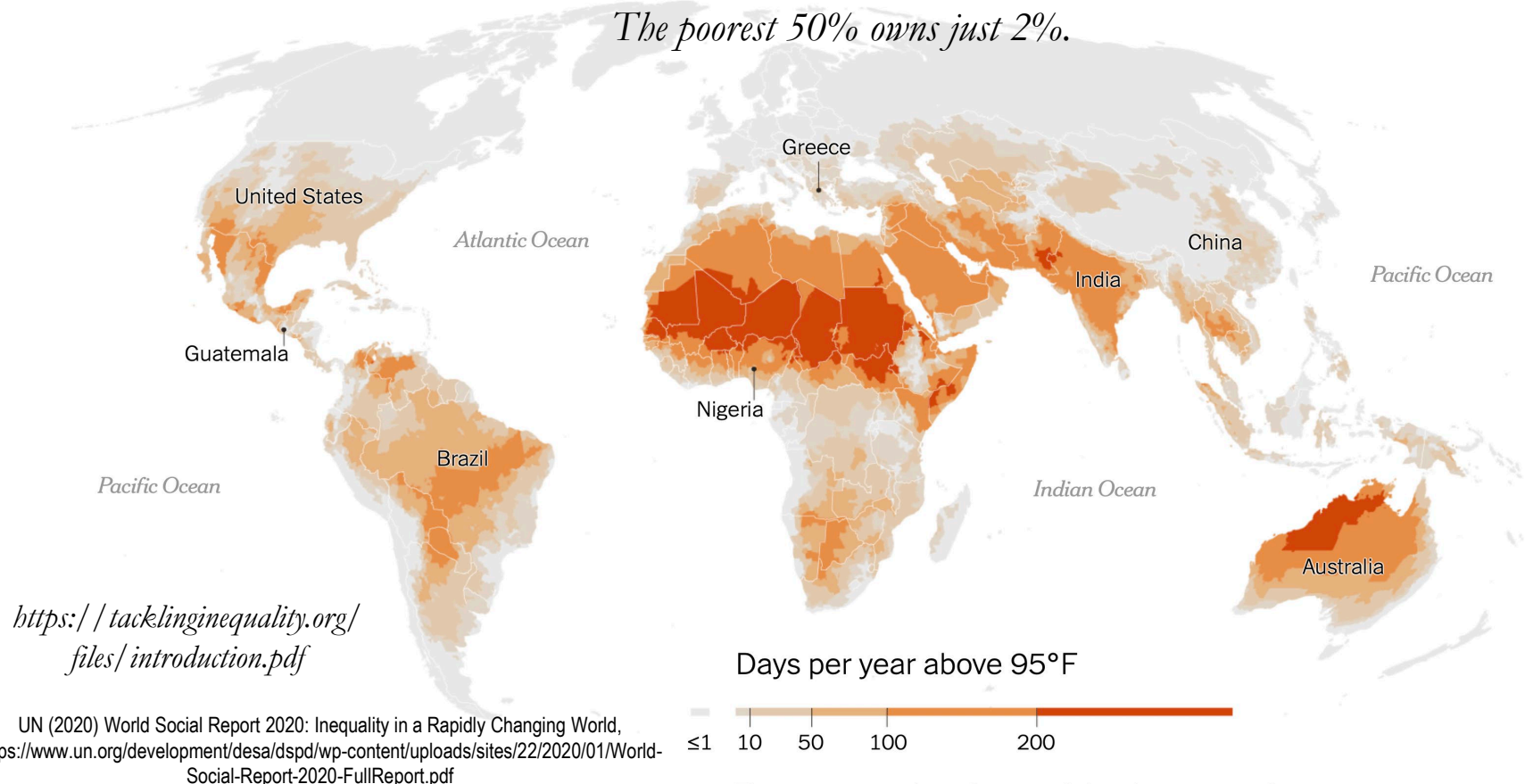
**Human overconsumption, population growth and
intensive farming, has shrunk global wildlife
populations by 73% in the past 50 years**

Pandemic Era

- **335 new infectious diseases** have emerged in recent decades
 - 75% of new or emerging infectious diseases are **Zoonotic**, jump species from animals to humans
 - *Ebola, HIV, Malaria, West Nile, Anthrax, Encephalitis, Zika, SARS, MERS, COVID19* and others
 - *Spillover Event* - Microbes carried by **animals** that cross to **humans** through contact with wildlife and livestock
- **Habitat loss** –
 - Roughly 1/3 of new zoonotic diseases are directly attributed to deforestation and habitat loss
 - About 50% of the worlds original forests have been eliminated
 - Globally, we cause a net loss of about 10 billion trees per year
- **Vector expansion** – Tropics expanding, mice, mosquitos, tics, deer and other carriers moving into human communities
- **Extreme weather events** – Flood, wildfire, heat displace humans and pathogens
 - Human *immune systems weakened* – disease is a major problem following disaster events
- **CAFO** – Breeding ground for virulent pathogens, no evolutionary pressure to preserve hosts
 - Pork, poultry, and beef are kept alive by pumping them with antibiotics
 - Nearly two-thirds of drugs important to human medicine in the U.S. are sold for food animal use
 - Overuse of these medicines drive the rise and spread of **bacterial resistance**

Disease, environmental damage, climate change & human inequality form an **amplifying feedback**

- *Disadvantaged groups suffer disproportionately, resulting in greater inequality*
- *The ratio between the income of the richest and poorest 10% is 25% larger than it would be in a world without global warming*
- *The richest 10% of the global population owns over 3/4's of all global wealth.
The poorest 50% owns just 2%.*



The average number of extremely hot days expected per year between 2020 to 2039 under a moderate warming scenario.

We must urgently redefine our relationship with nature and each other as one of reciprocity, regeneration, and social justice.



Marine Heat Wave 2019

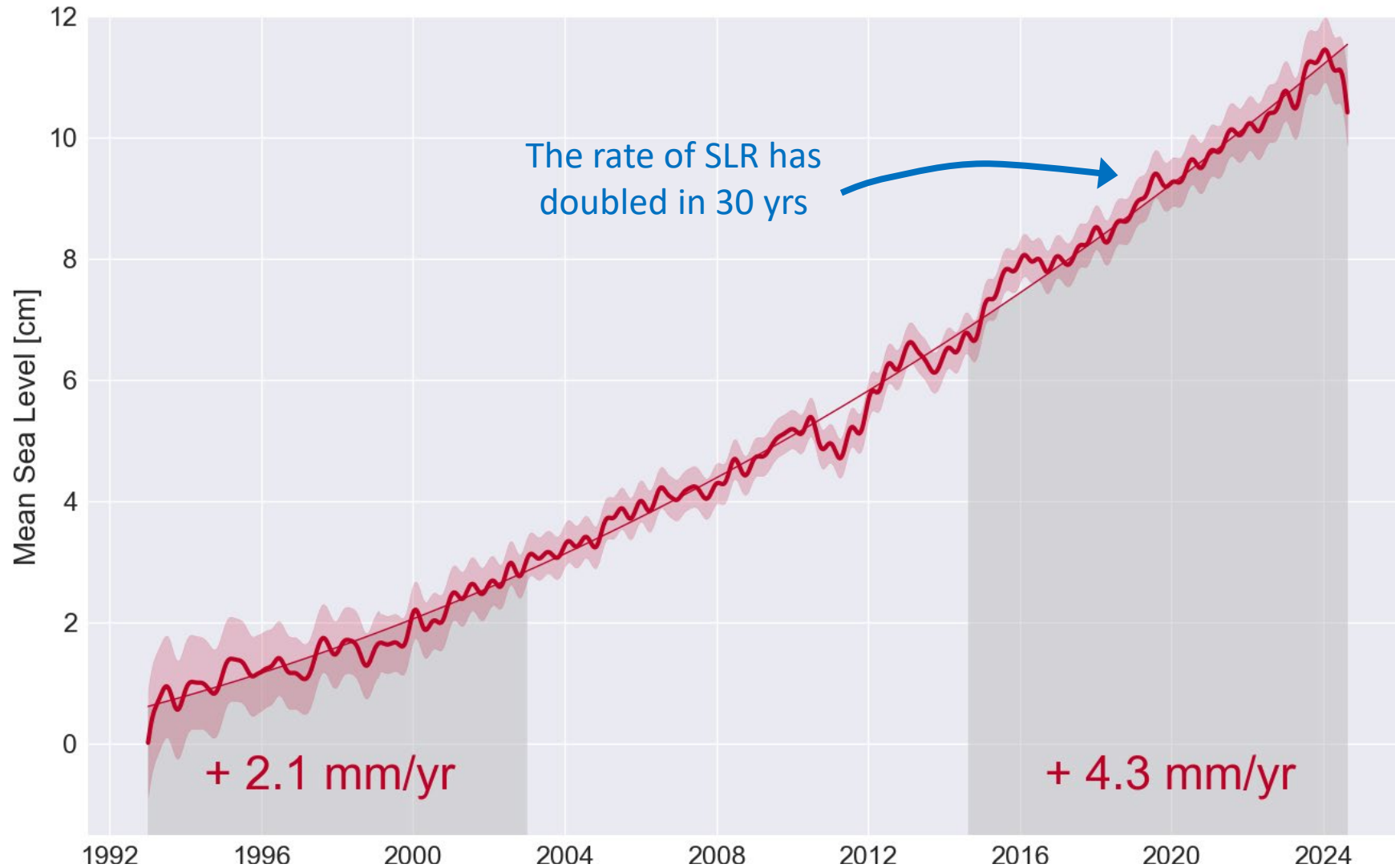


- Beginning August 10, Honolulu hit 90 °F each of the next 37 days
- By October 2019, Honolulu had recorded 45 days of record high temperature
- In July, Aug, and Sept, 48 days set record highs
- 44 nights set record high lows
- Zero days or nights set record lows.
- Statewide, over 300 heat records were tied or broken in 2019

Global Mean Sea Level Rise

Latest MSL Measurement
2024-08-21

Acceleration: $0.11 \pm 0.05 \text{ mm/yr}^2$



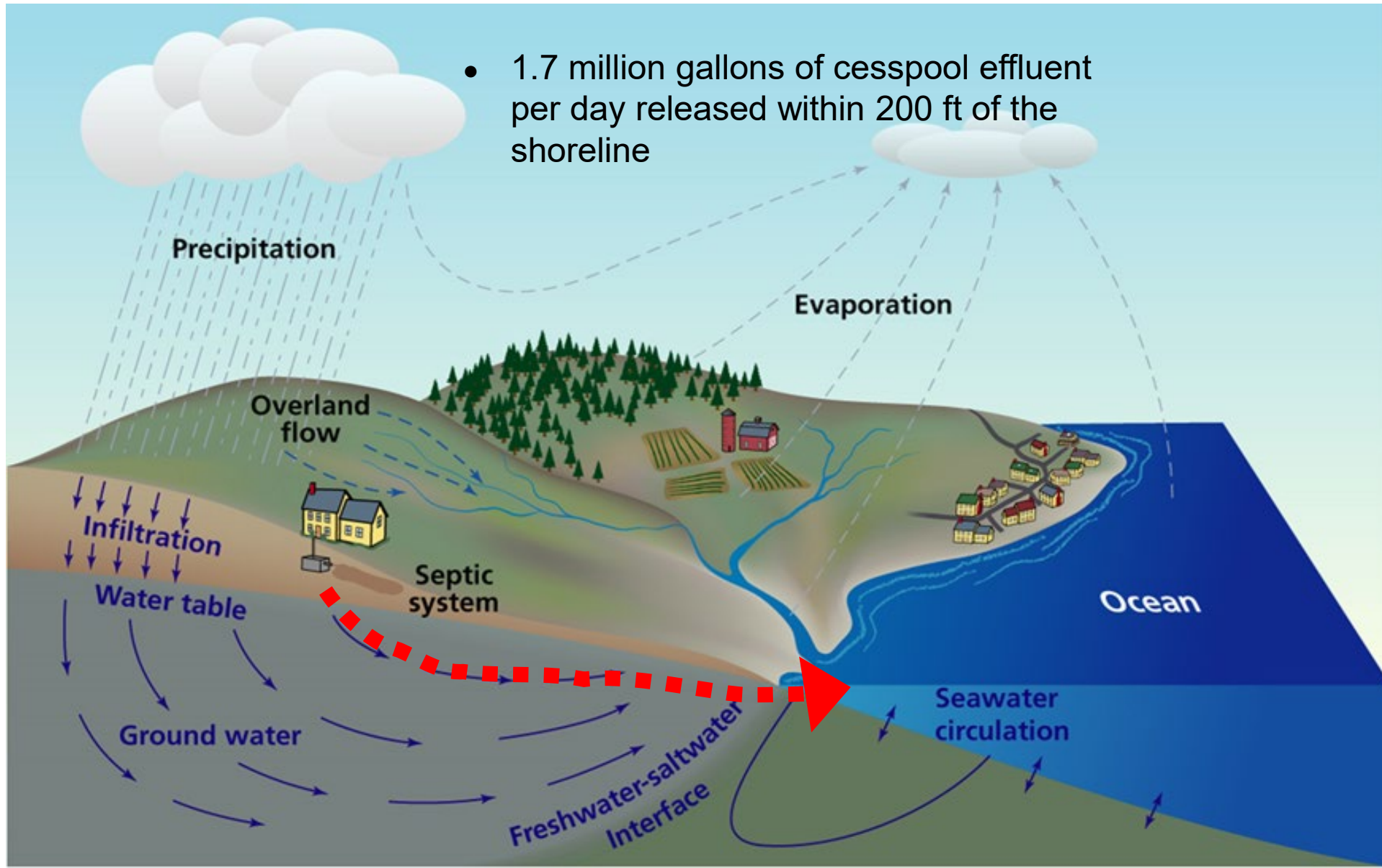
<https://www.aviso.altimetry.fr/en/data/products/ocean-indicators-products/mean-sea-level.html>

As sea level rises, so does
the water table



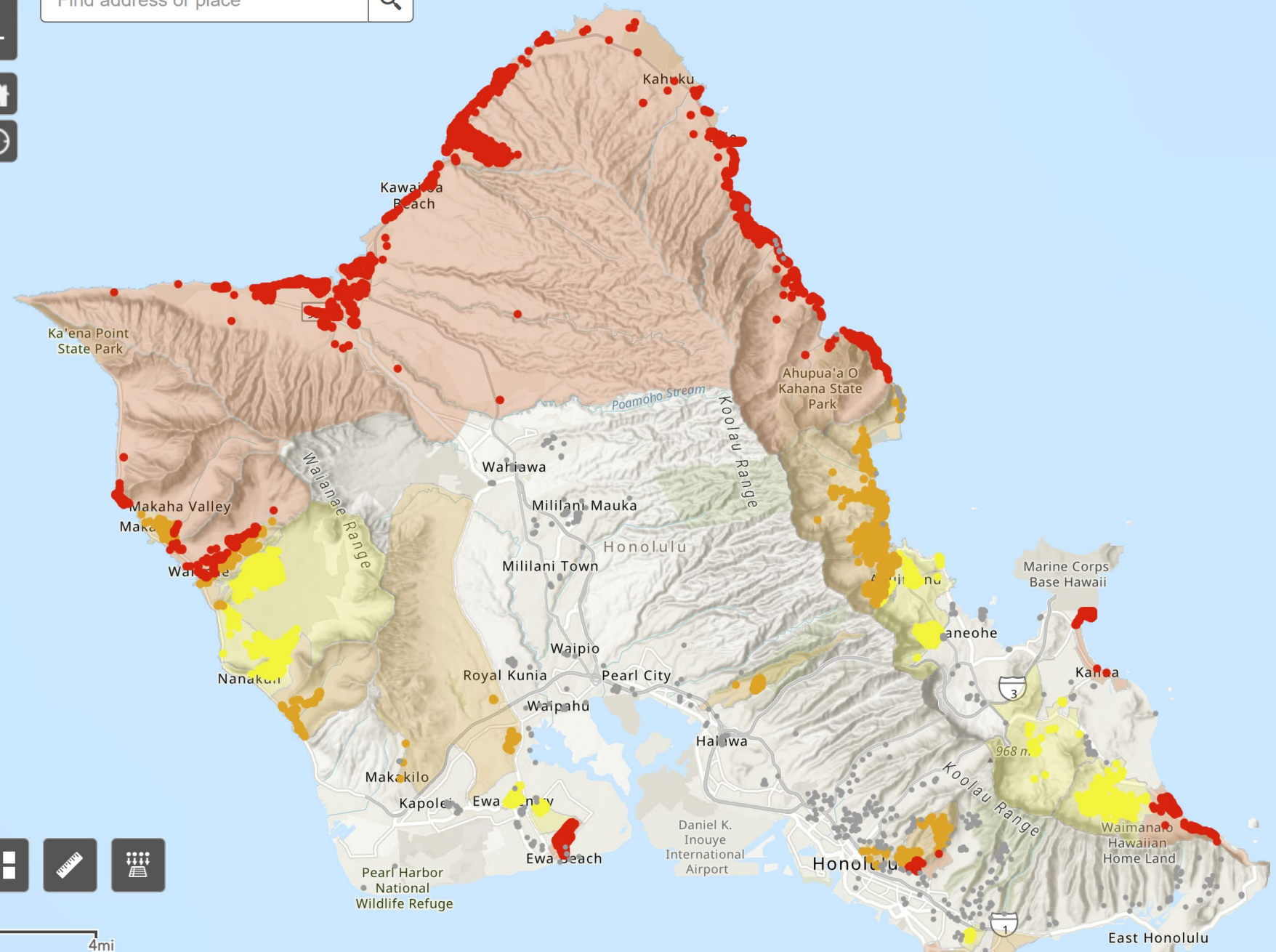
Subterranean Estuary

- 1.7 million gallons of cesspool effluent per day released within 200 ft of the shoreline



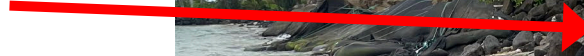


4mi



Chronic Coastal
Erosion

Cess Pool



SLR will bring
polluted
groundwater to
the surface

*Groundwater
Pollution*



Storm
drain
backflow



Rain + High Tide = Compound Flooding



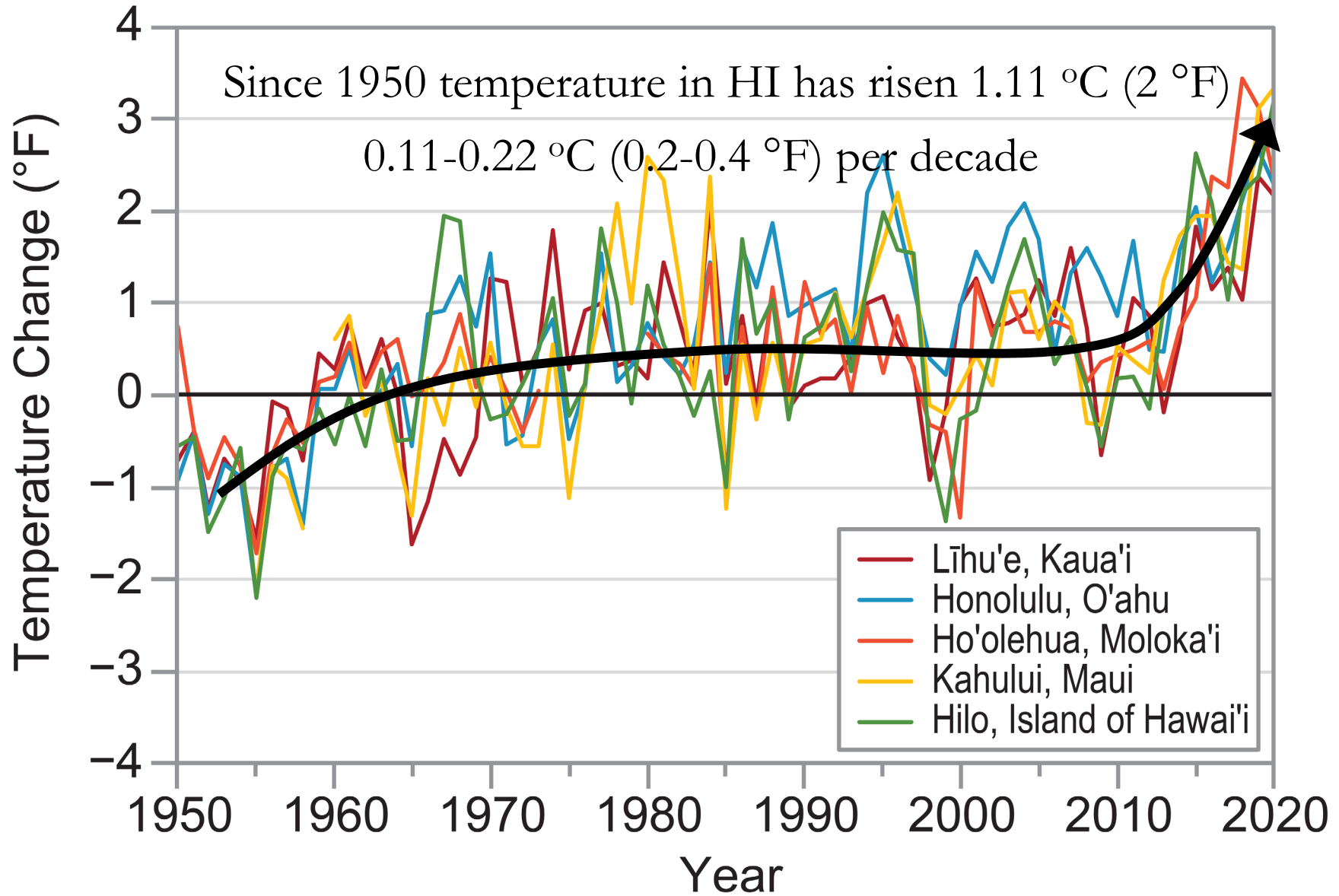
Kaua'i, April 2018
Hanalei River rose 15 ft, jumped its bank, and carved
a new channel



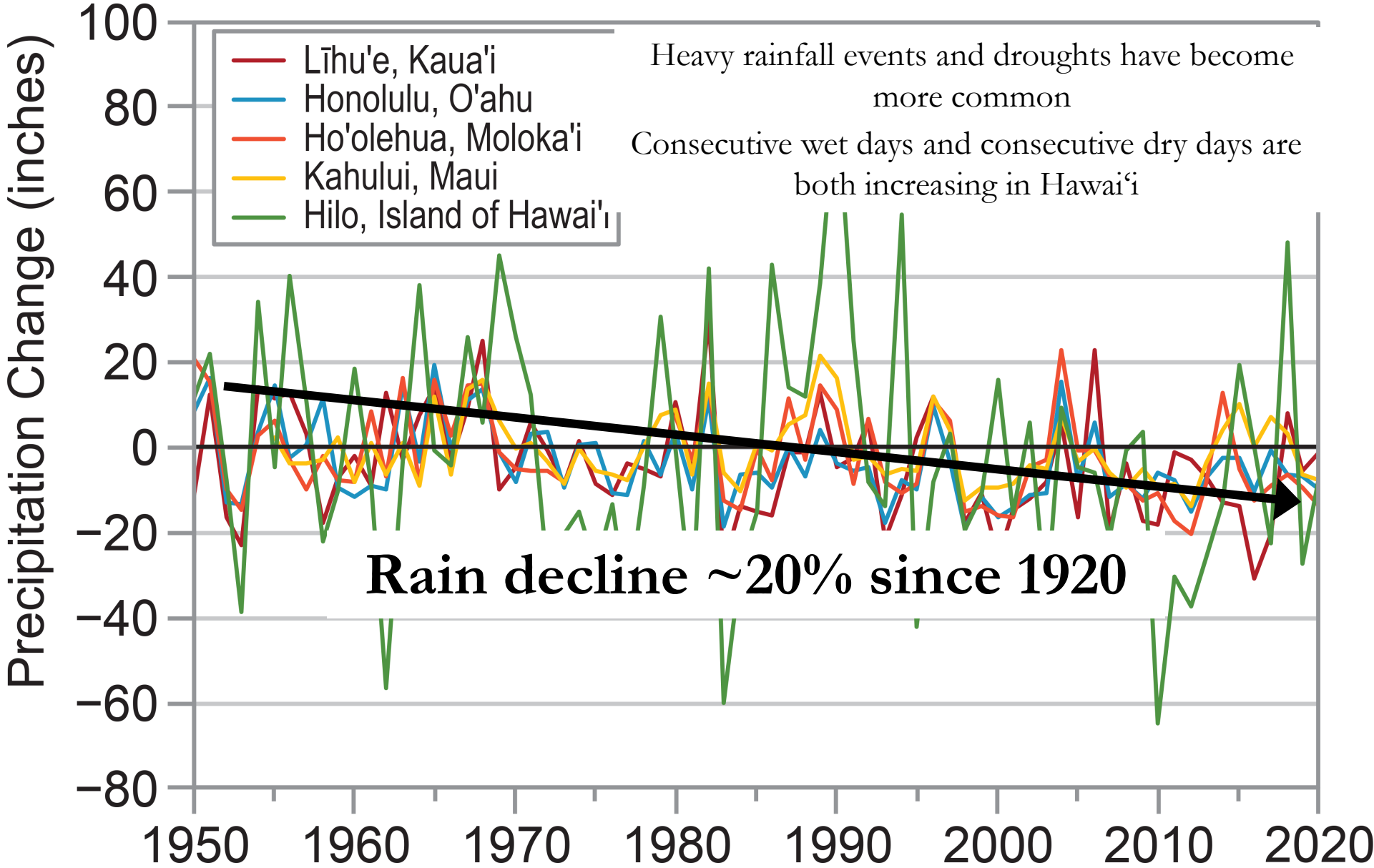
Rising SST's, Acidification
Bleaching
Invasive Species



Observed Temperature Change

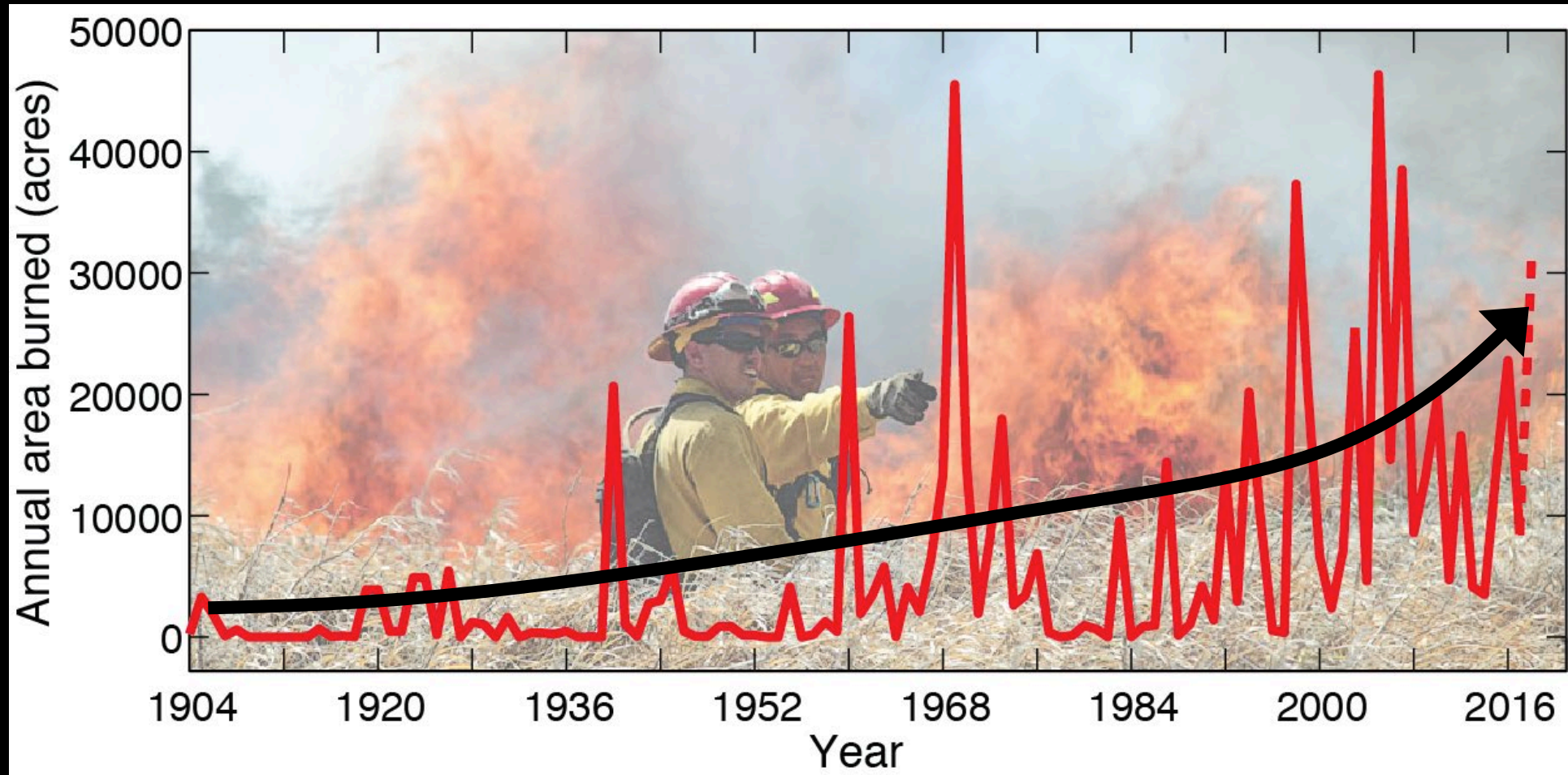


Observed Precipitation Change



Stevens, L.E., R. Frankson, K.E. Kunkel, P.-S. Chu, and W. Sweet (2022) Hawai'i State Climate Summary 2022. NOAA Technical Report NESDIS 150-HI. NOAA/NESDIS, Silver Spring, MD, 5 pp

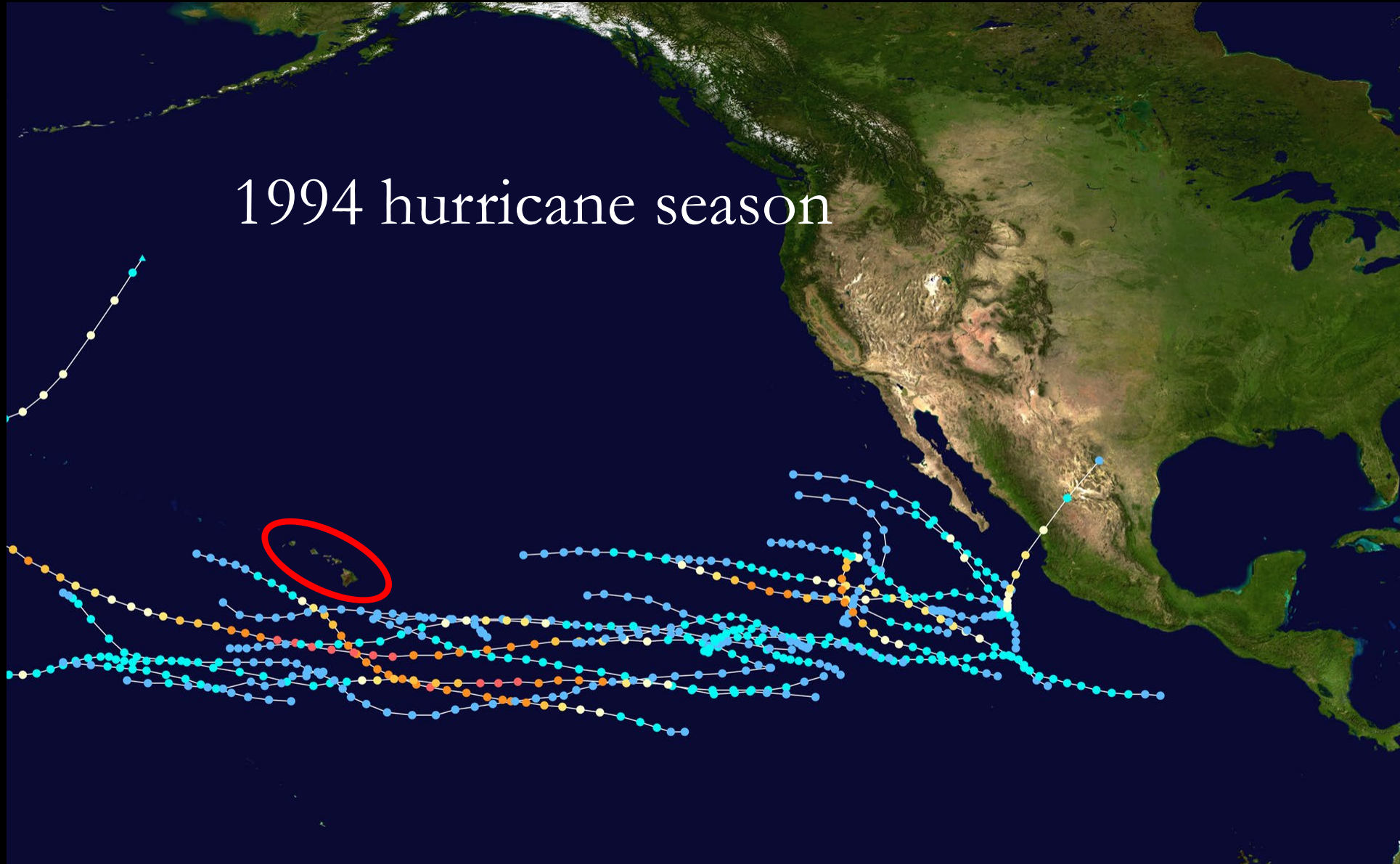
400% increase in wildfire on O'ahu since 1960's



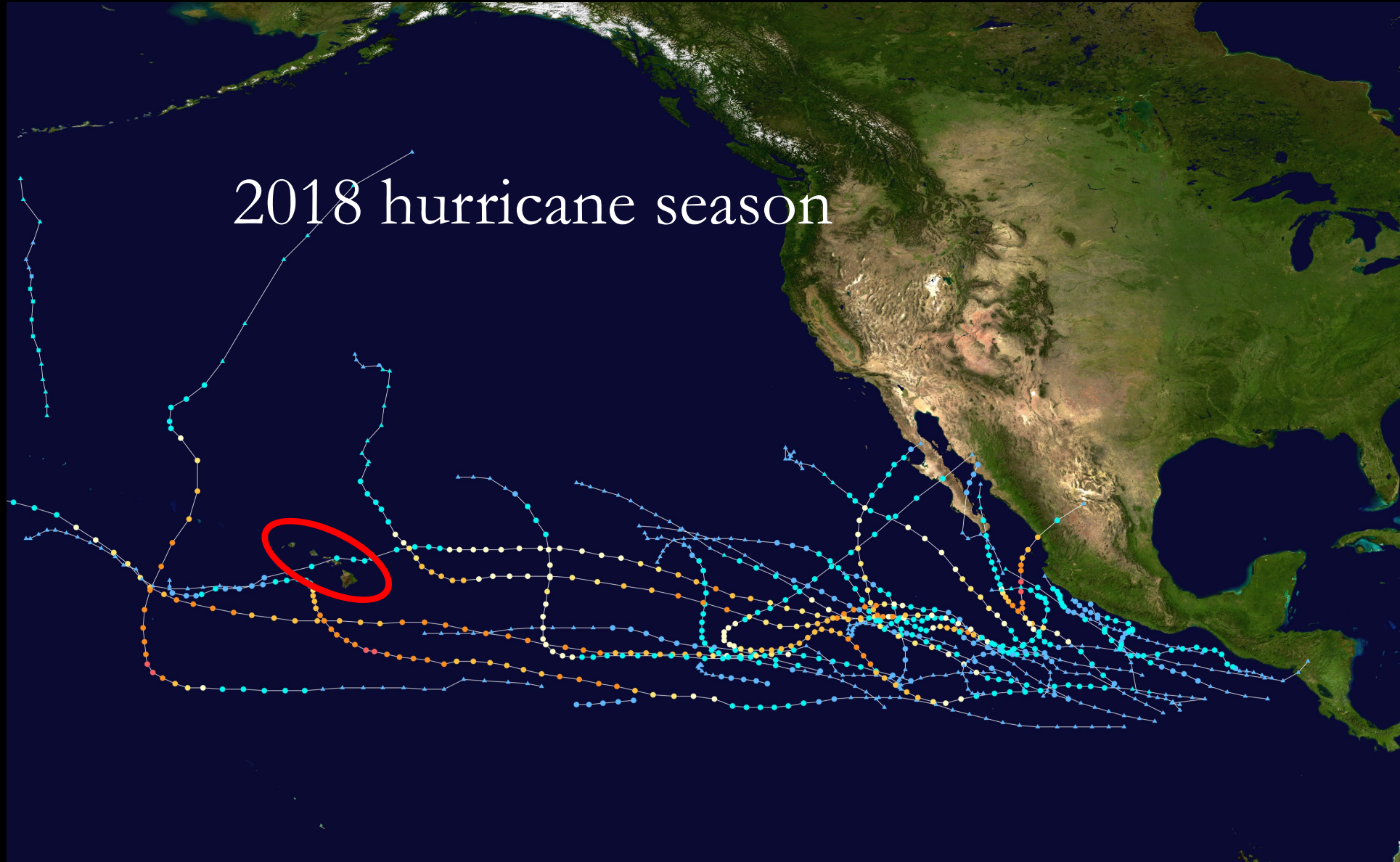
Average daily wind speeds are declining



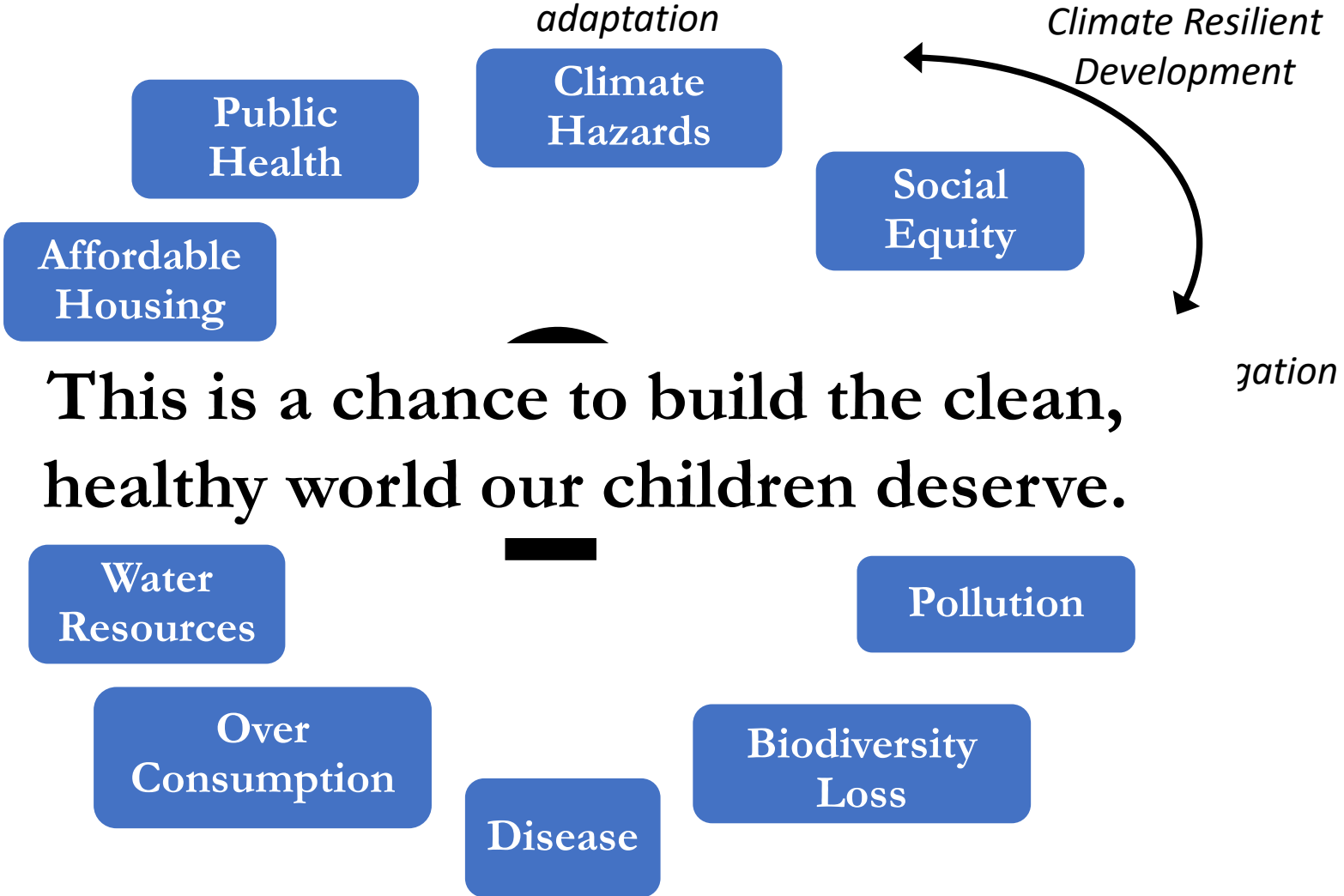
1994 hurricane season



2018 hurricane season



Sustainability Transition



“We don’t choose the times we live in.
The only choice we have is how to
respond.”



An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. In the foreground, there's a sandy beach curving around a bay with clear, turquoise water. The background is dominated by lush, green mountains with deep valleys and ridges. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic.

Climate Change and Health in Hawai'i

Diana Felton, MD

Hawai'i Department of Health

Climate Change and Health Conference

October 23, 2024



CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HEALTH CRISIS

I'M MARCHING FOR
A BRIGHTER
FUTURE 4ALL
PEOPLE'S CLIMATE

CHANGE
THE WORLD

LIBRARIANS
BEAR
WITNESS TO
CLIMATE CHANGE

SAVE OUR EARTH

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HEALTH CRISIS

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Clim

**CLIMATE CHANGE
IS A HEALTH
CRISIS**

is a

ACT UP

HEALTH CARE NOW!

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL 99%

NU ASSO

Logos for National Nurses Union, PSR, and other organizations.

ACT UP

CLIMATE CHANGE



ENVIRONMENTAL
DAMAGE

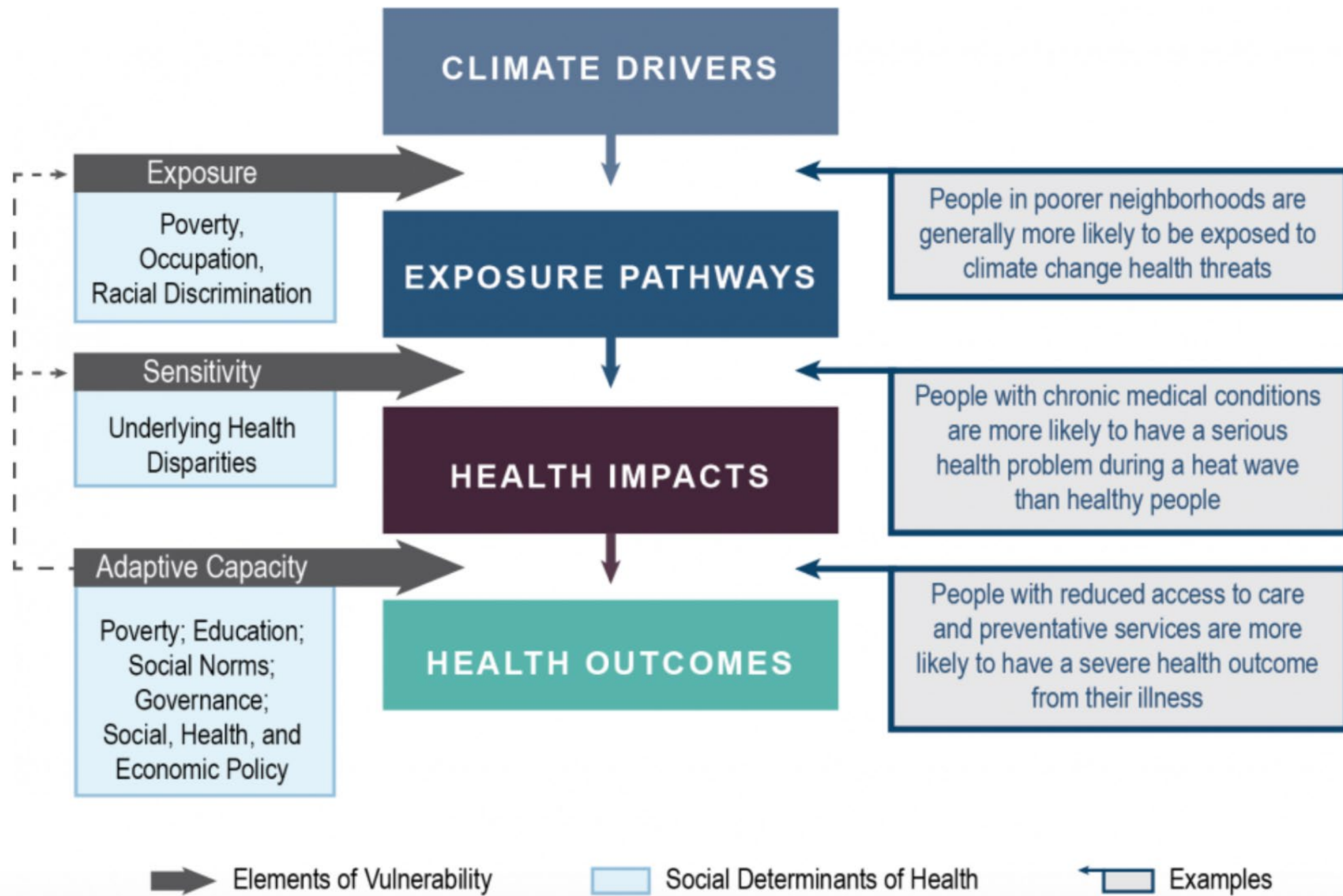


HEALTH IMPACTS

FROM OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY (OHA) 2014
CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROFILE REPORT

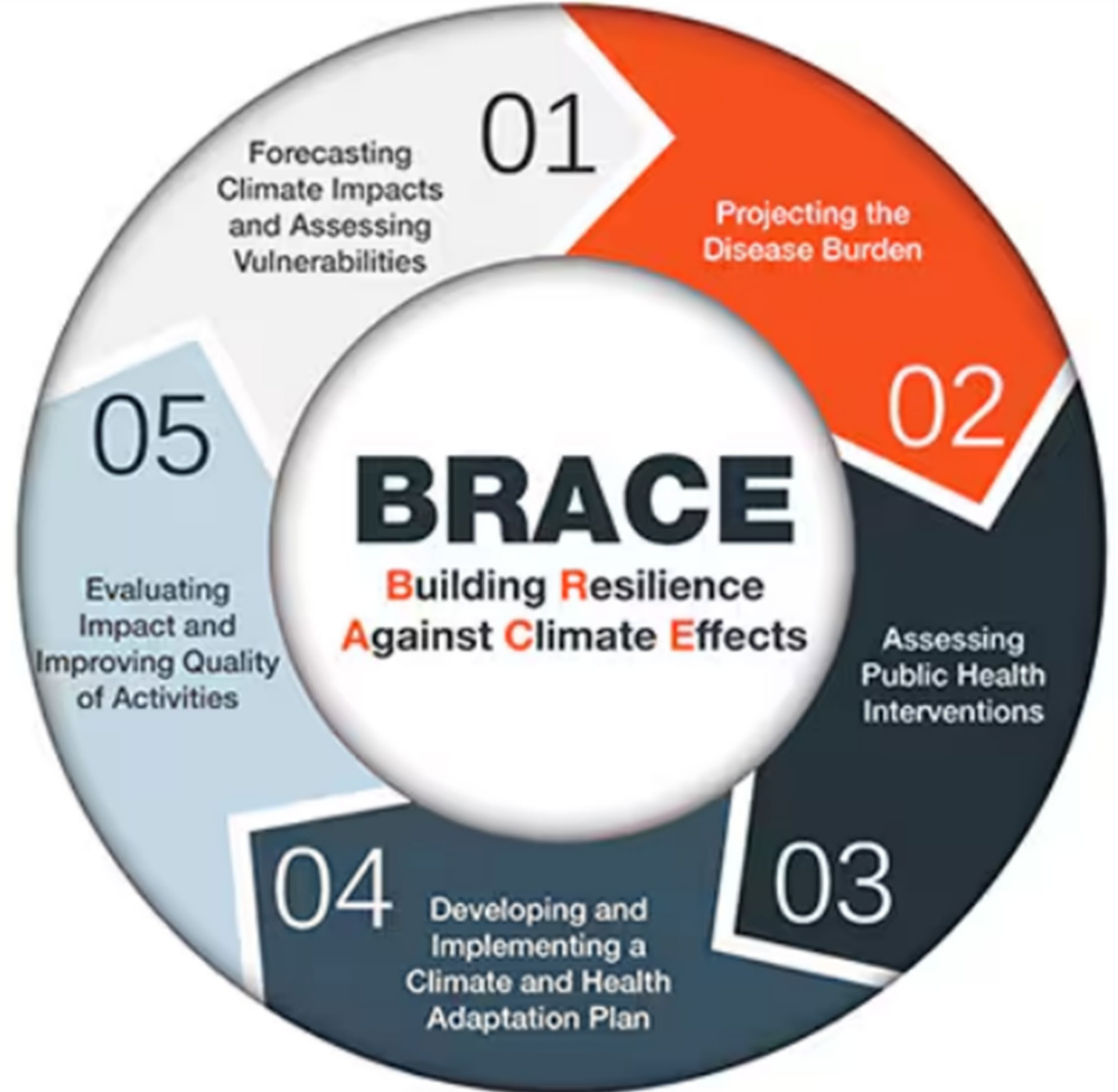
Figure 4.1. Causal pathways





BUILDING A CLIMATE & HEALTH PROGRAM AT DOH

- CDC - BRACE
- Person-power
- Partnerships



Air Pollution & Increasing Allergens

Asthma, allergies, cardiovascular and respiratory disease. Impacts of VOG & decreasing trade winds

Degraded Living Conditions & Social Inequities

Exacerbation of social vulnerabilities and determinants of health, economic hardship

Extreme Heat

Heat-related illness, death, dehydration, decreased learning, increased violence, occupational hazards

Drought

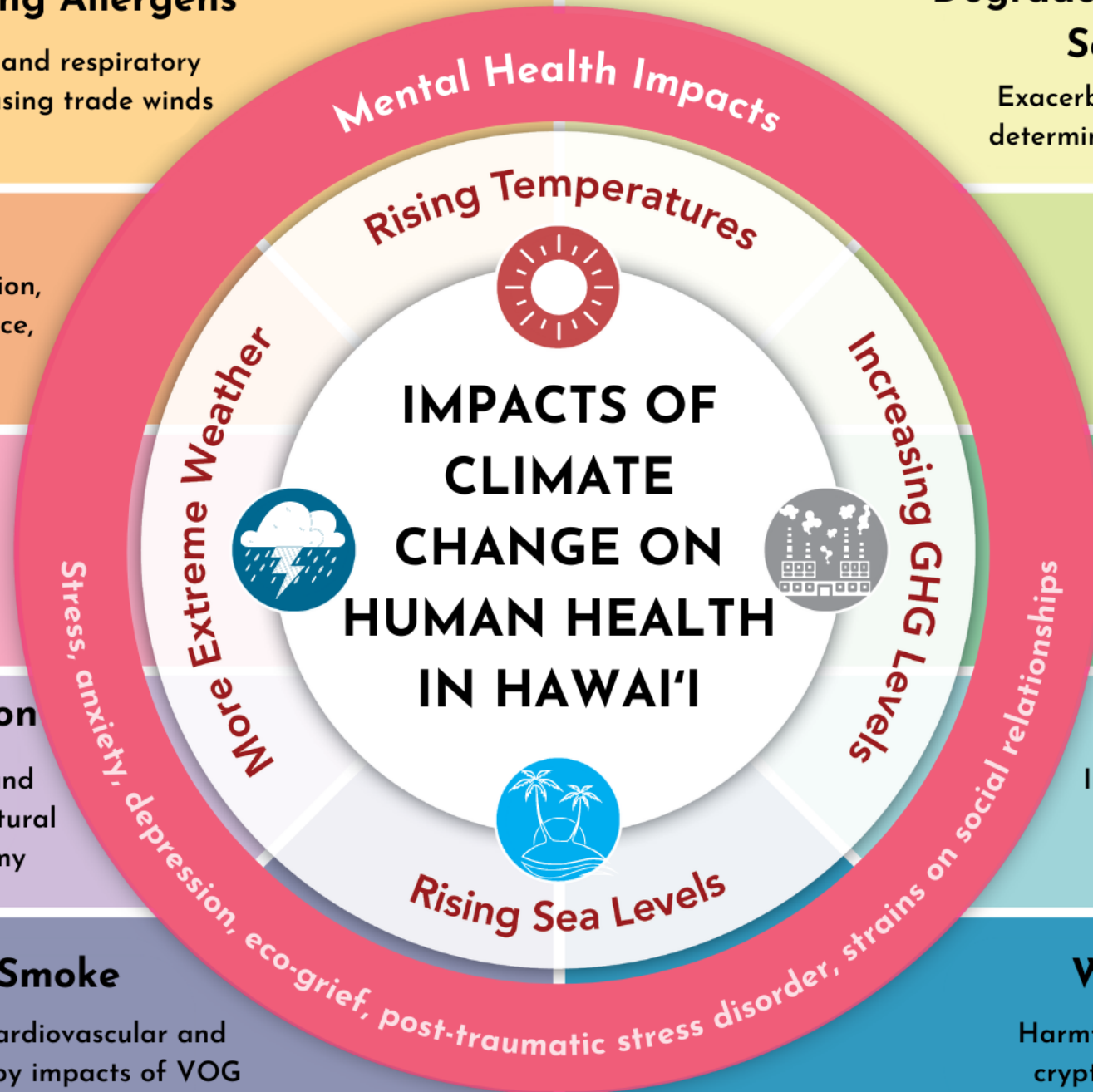
Water supply impacts, decreased air quality

Environmental Degradation

Climate migration from Pacific Island communities, civil conflict, loss of cultural ties to land, loss of tourism economy

Wildfires & Wildfire Smoke

Injuries, fatalities, loss of homes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases. Compounded by impacts of VOG & decreasing trade winds



Risk of Invasive Vectors

Dengue, chikungunya, Zika, malaria, West Nile Virus

Food System Impacts

Malnutrition, food insecurity, higher prices, foodborne illness, fragile import supply chain

Severe Weather & Floods

Injuries, drowning, loss of homes, indoor fungi and mold, chemical exposure, cesspool overflows

Water Quality Impacts

Harmful algal blooms, campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis, leptospirosis, chemical contamination

VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT



Following CDC's BRACE Framework



Foundation of DOH's Climate & Health Program



Living, dynamic story map

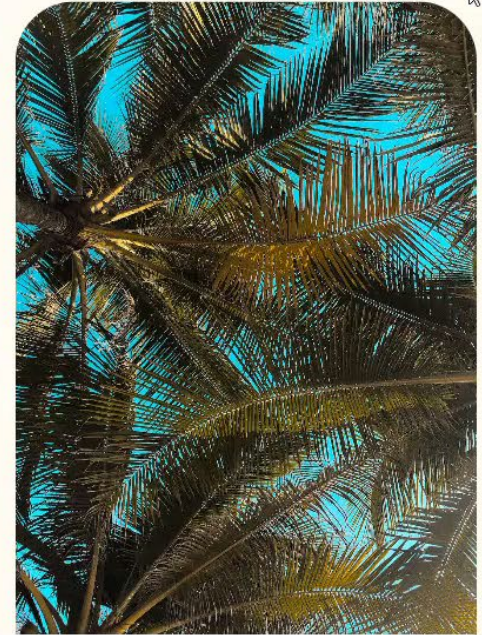


<https://view.storydoc.com/qLIKLT7>



Climate Change & Health in Hawai'i Comprehensive Vulnerability Assessment

🕒 Avg. Reading Time: 60 min



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www.climatehealthhawaii.org

An aerial photograph of a tropical mountain range. The mountains are covered in dense green vegetation. In the foreground, a bay with clear turquoise water meets a sandy beach. The sky is clear and blue.

QUESTIONS?

diana.felton@doh.hawaii.gov