

# The Consequences of Climate Injustices: Global and Local

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Irish Climate Analysis and Research Units





# Meet Abile and his Family



Niger Population 10.3M

Area 1.3 M km<sup>2</sup>

pc income €885

Growth rate 1965-1990  
-2.4% p.a.

(more recently +3% p.a.)

Ireland Population 4m

Area 0.07km<sup>2</sup>

pc income €37,500

Growth Rate 1965-2010  
3-5% p.a.

(more recently -1% p.a.)

# The Sahel

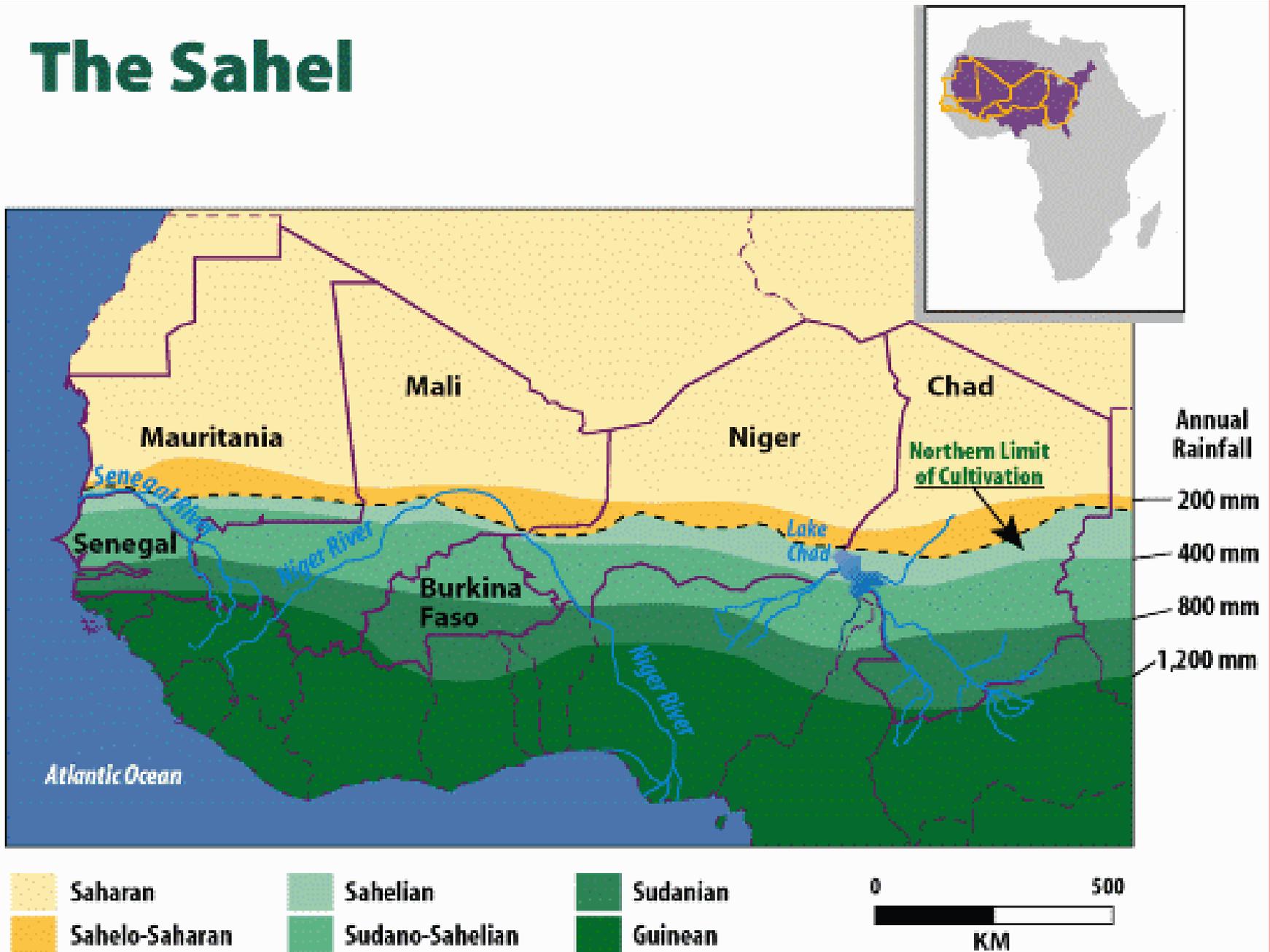
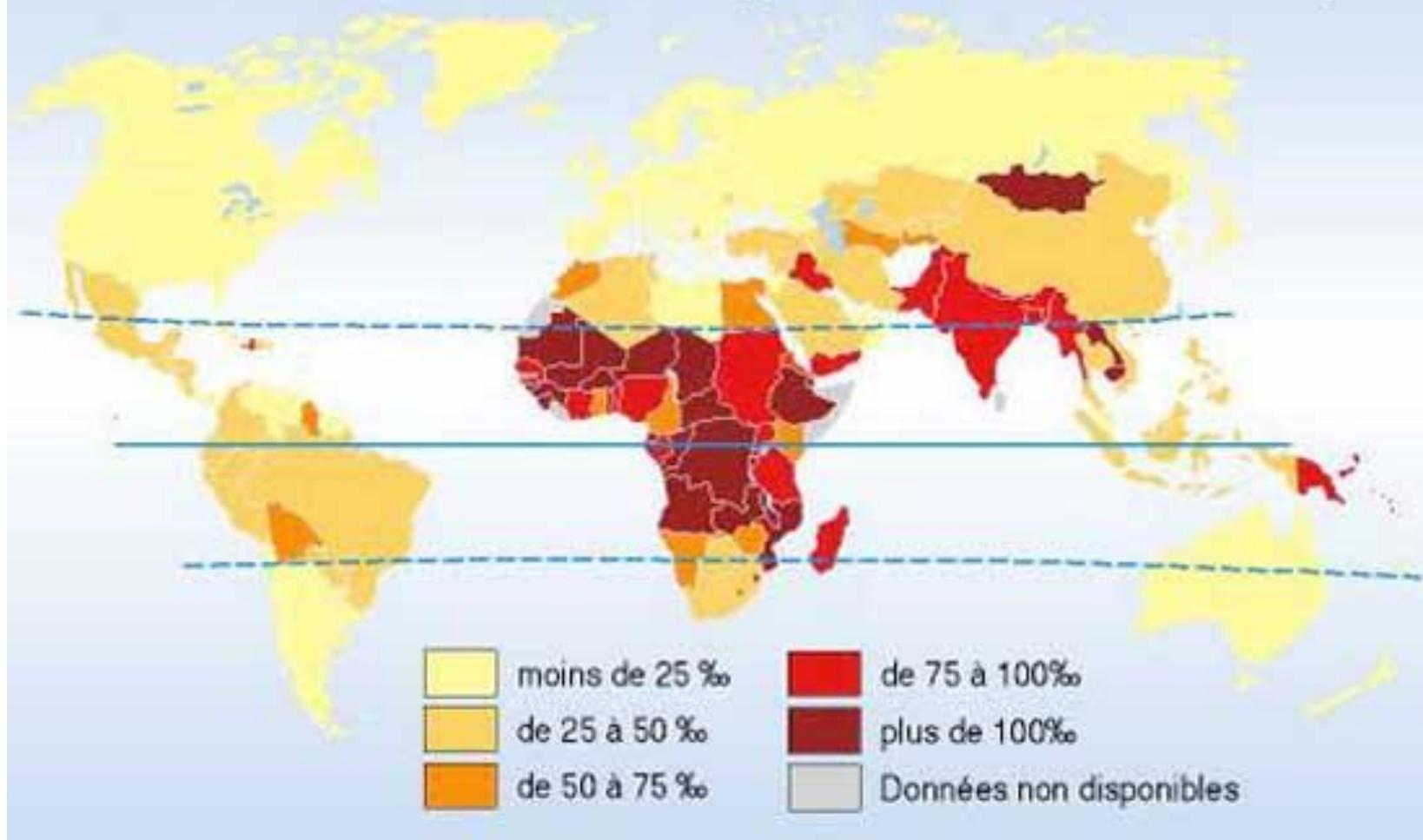


Figure 1

Source: FEWS  
FEWS, June 1997

## Very High Infant Mortality End Of 1990s (UNDP 2000)

### Taux de mortalité infantile (pour 1 000 naissances)

















# If the rains fail, the social fabric collapses

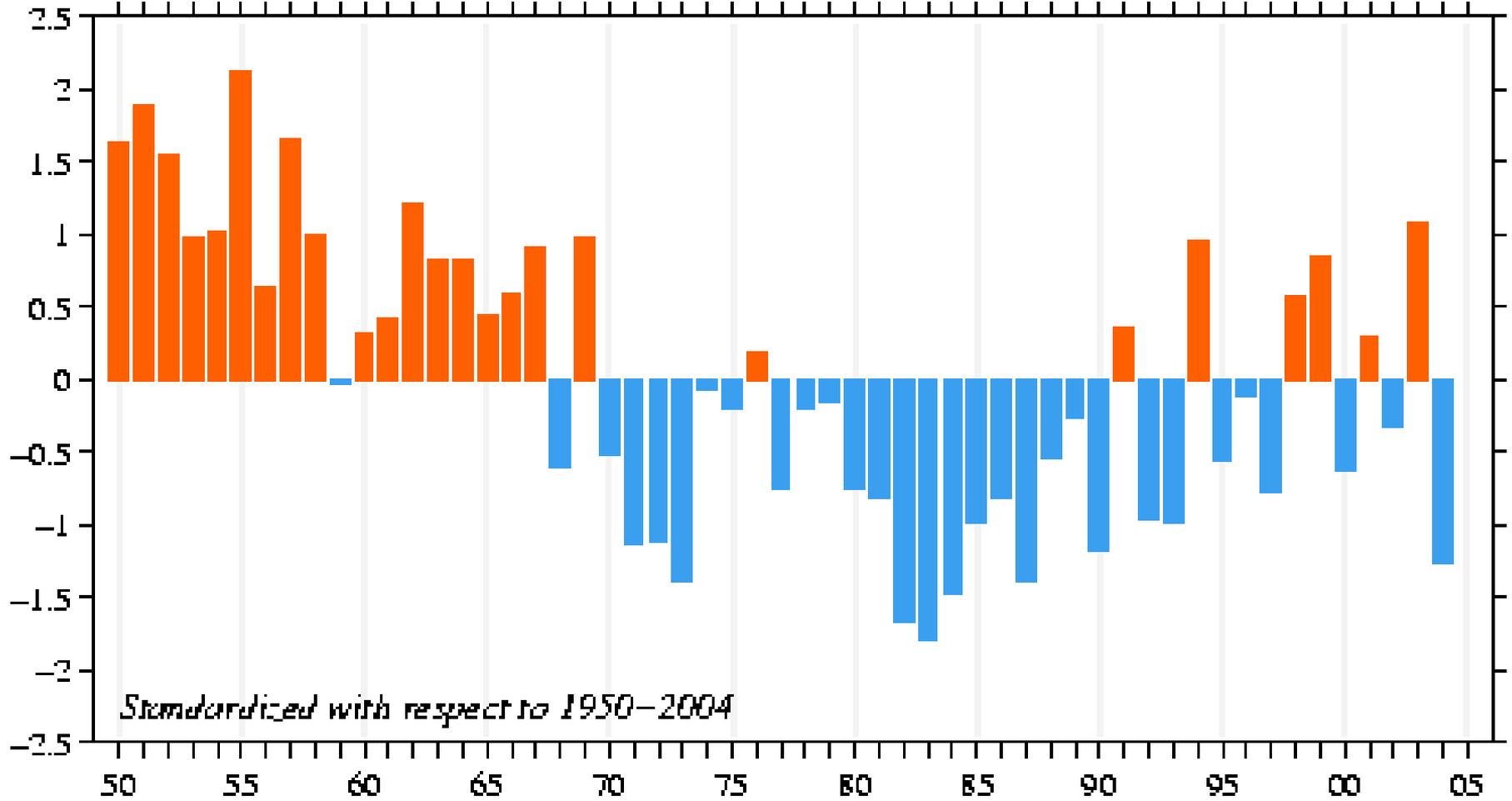


**Traditional nomadic pastoralism cannot deal with long term reductions in rainfall and rapid population growth:**

- rotations become too short;**
- land degradation accelerates**



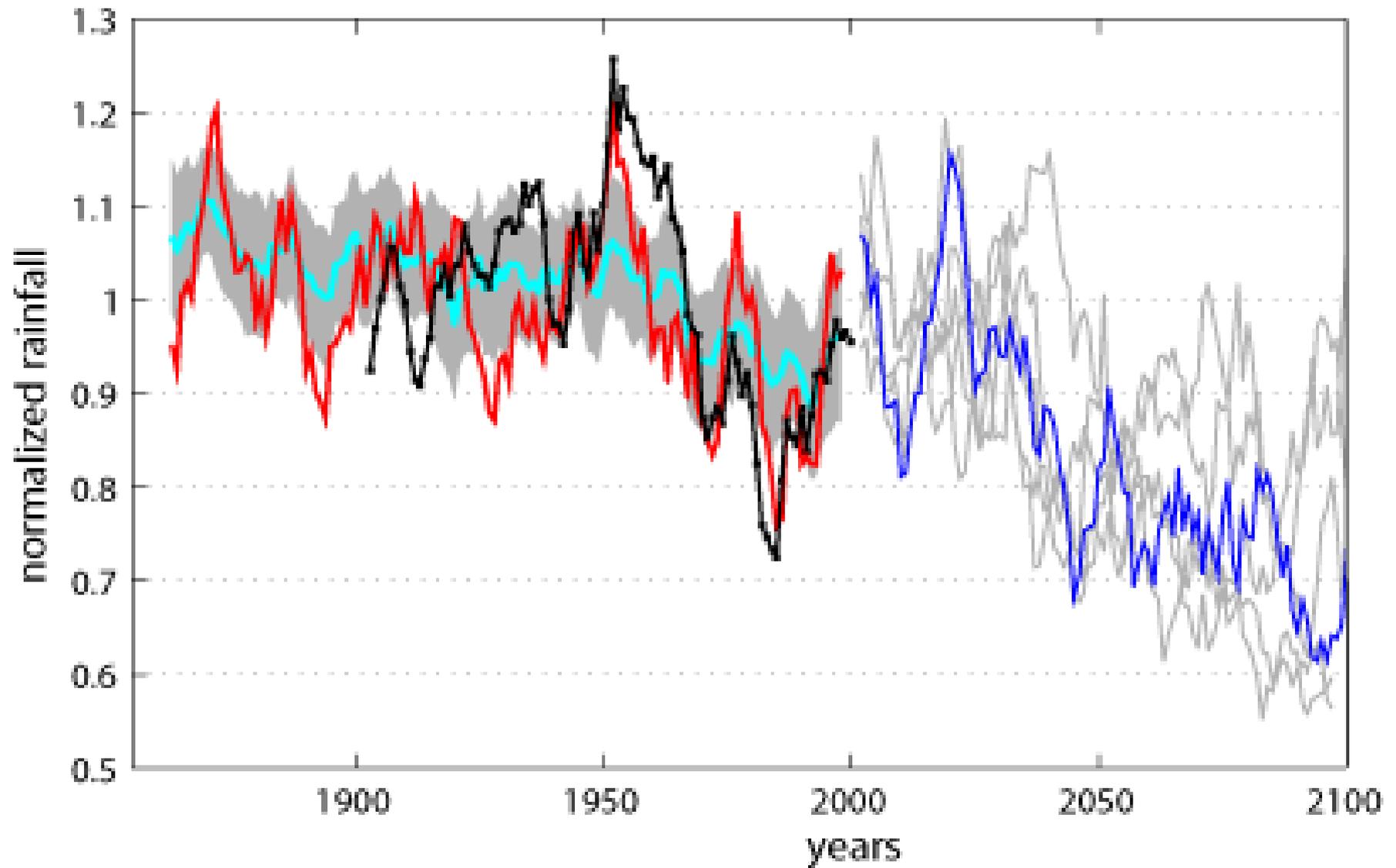
# Standardized JJASO–mean Sahel rainfall, 1950–2004



# Rainfall trends in the Sahel

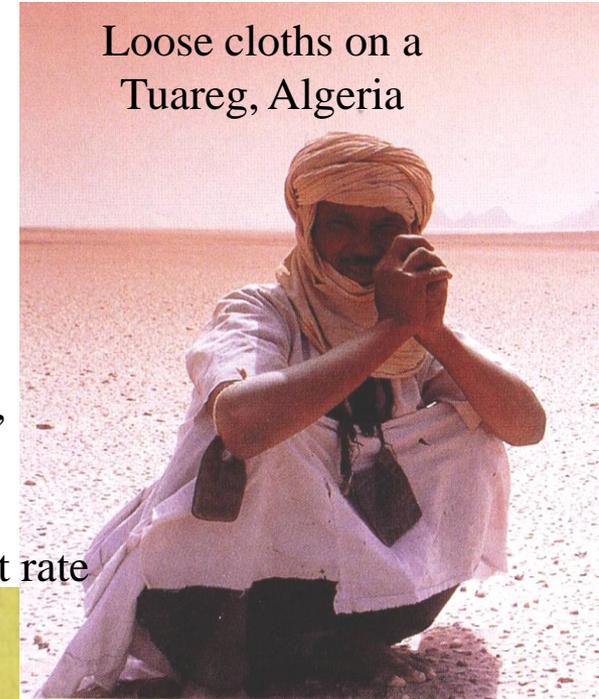
	1950-1959 (mm)	1970-1984 (mm)
Atbara	92	54
Khartoum	178	116
Agadez	210	97
Tombouctou	241	147

# Sahel: Present and future modelled rainfall



# Living in the Sahel

When over 100,000 people in the Sahel died, the human consequences of climate change became a reality.



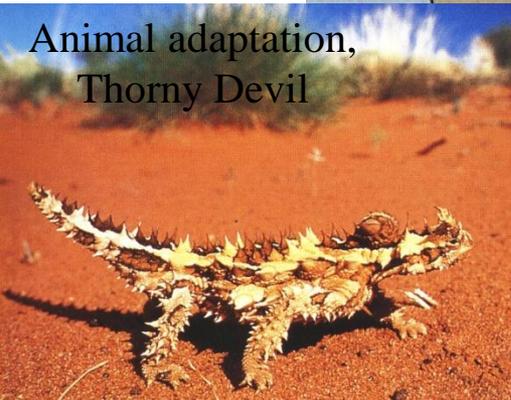
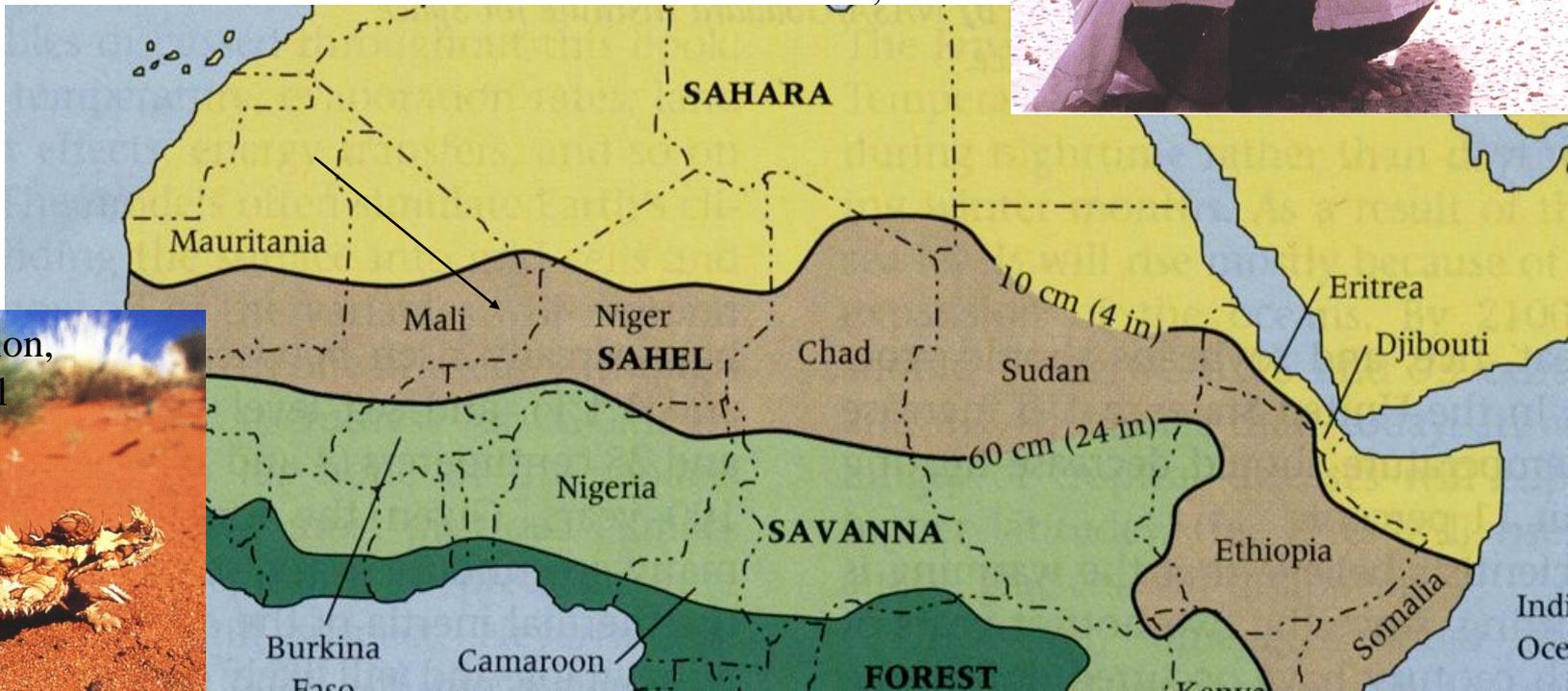
Loose cloths on a Tuareg, Algeria

## 3. Adaptation Acclimatization

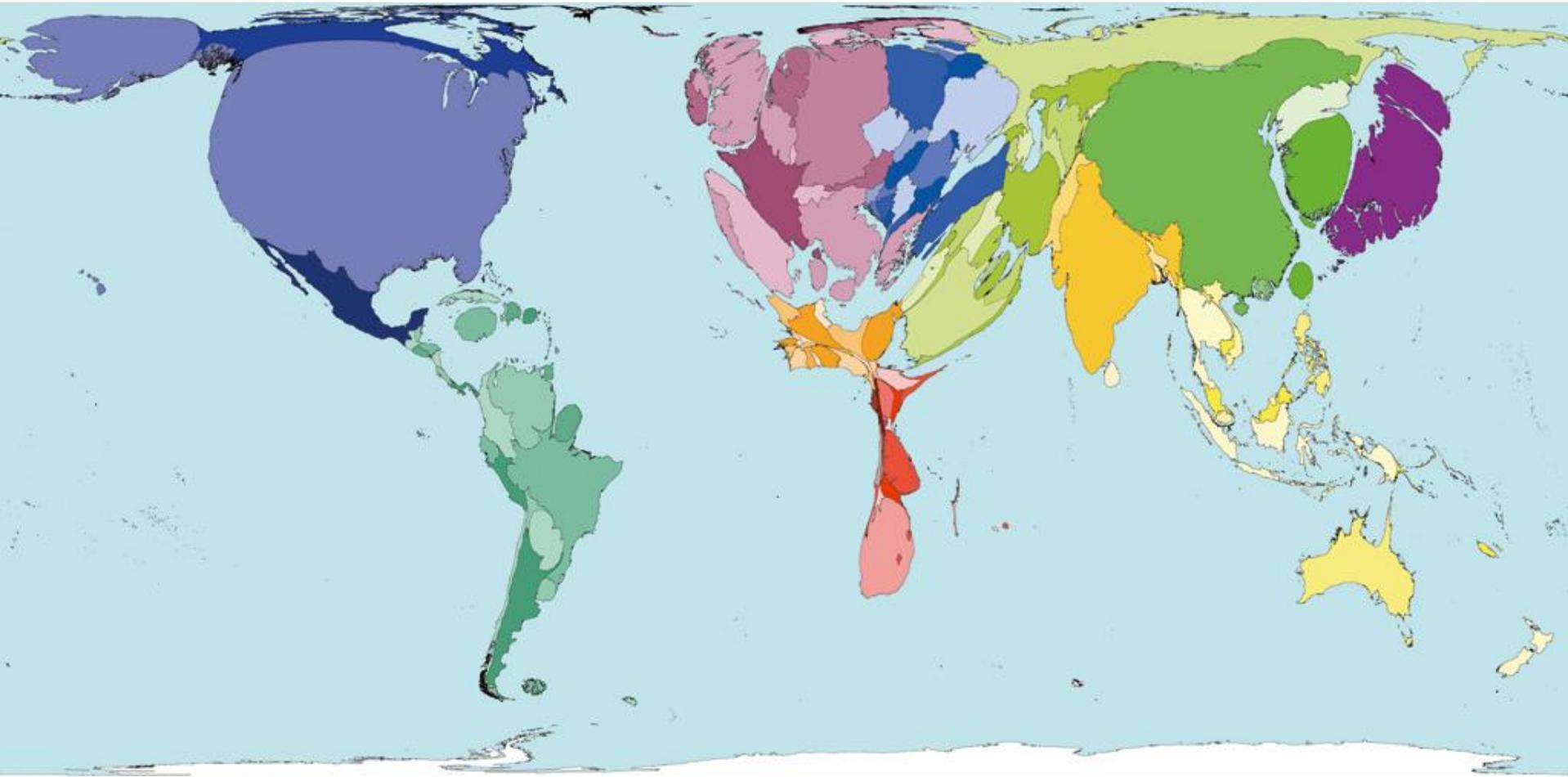
- low body mass, long limbs,
- long nose(humidify air)
- > in blood and sweat, < heat rate

## Human response to heat

1. The human thermostat
2. Dehydration (15-20% of body wt.)



Animal adaptation, Thorny Devil



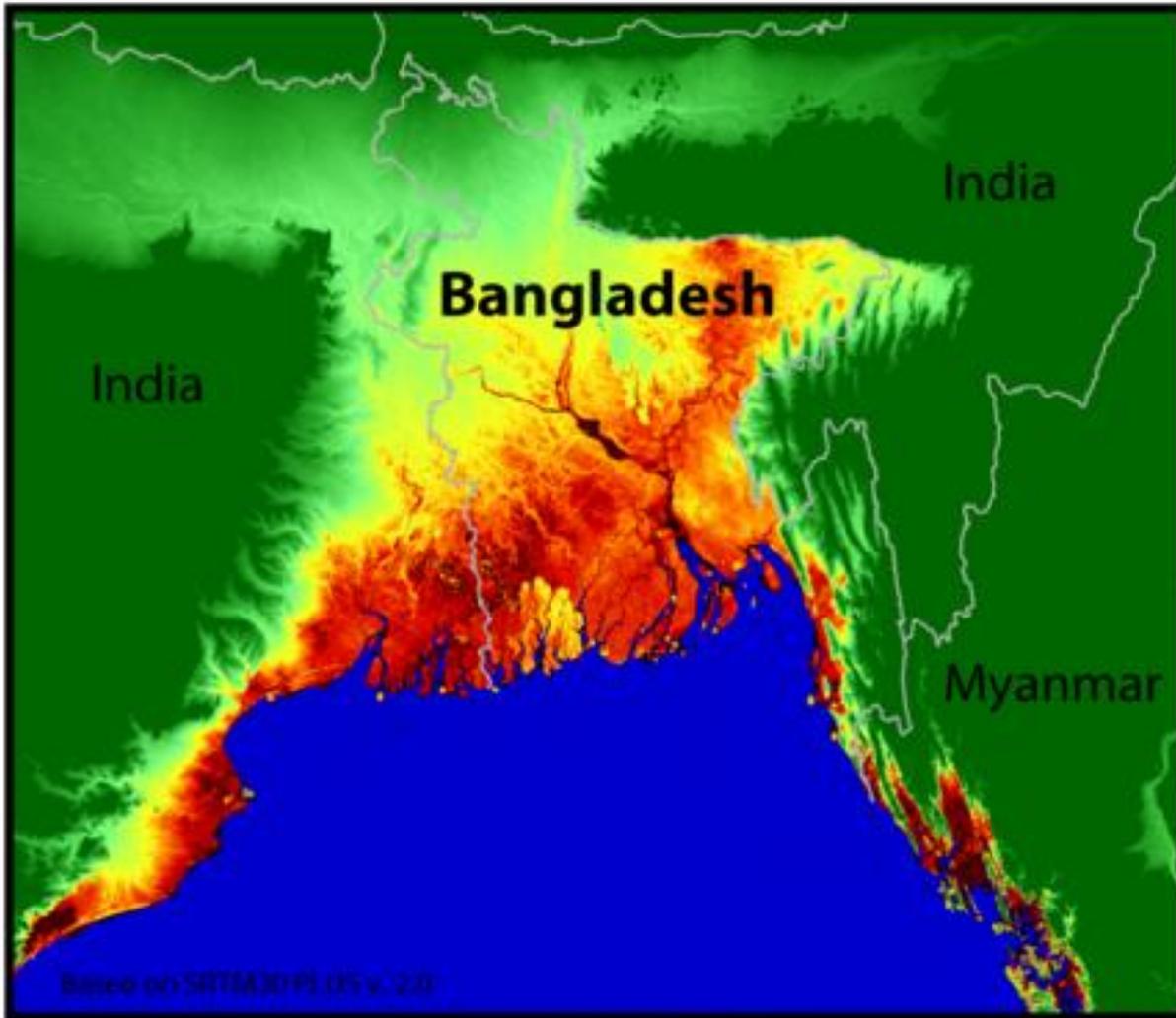
# Global Climate Justice: Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Country

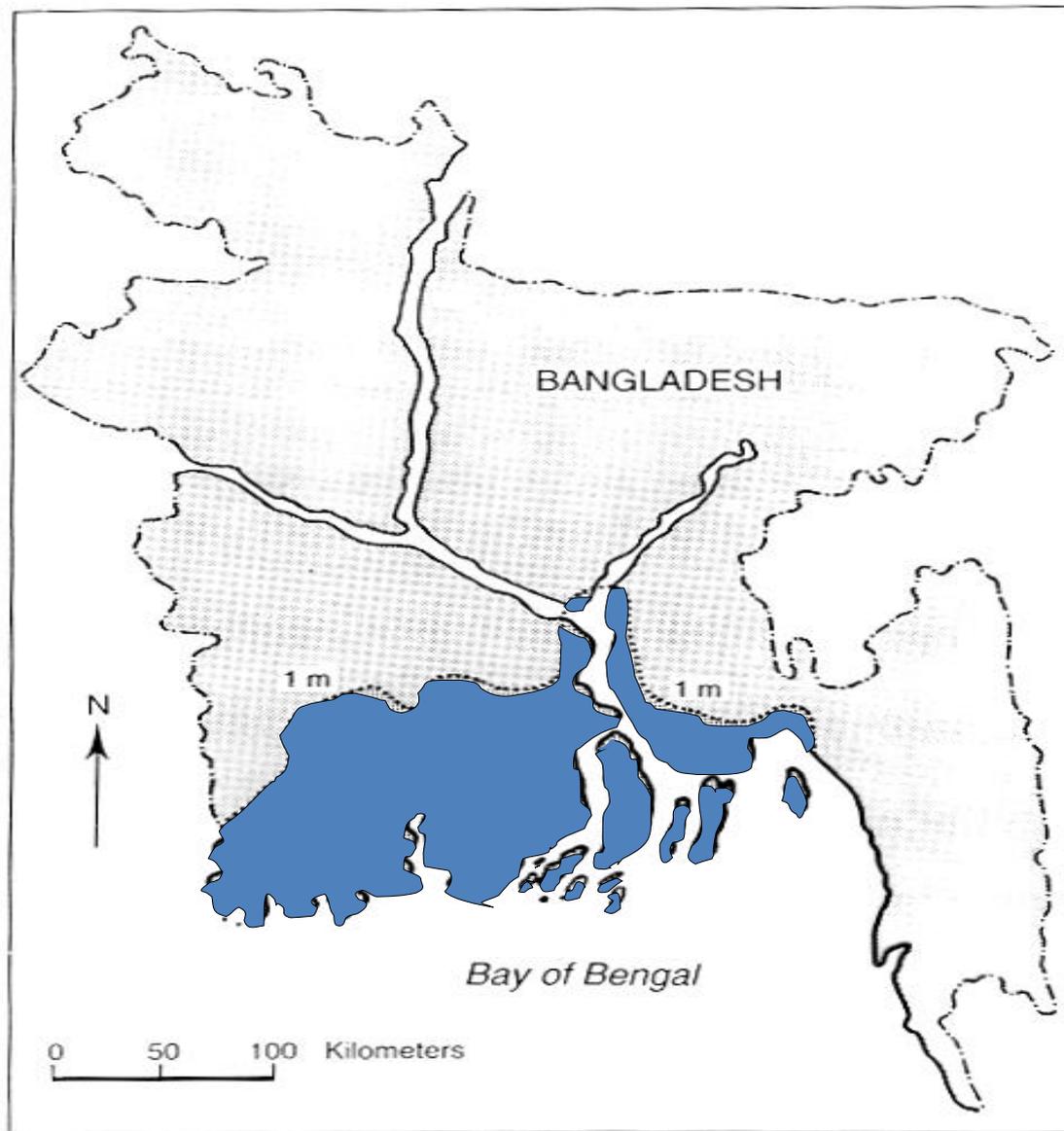






# Sea Level Risks - Bangladesh



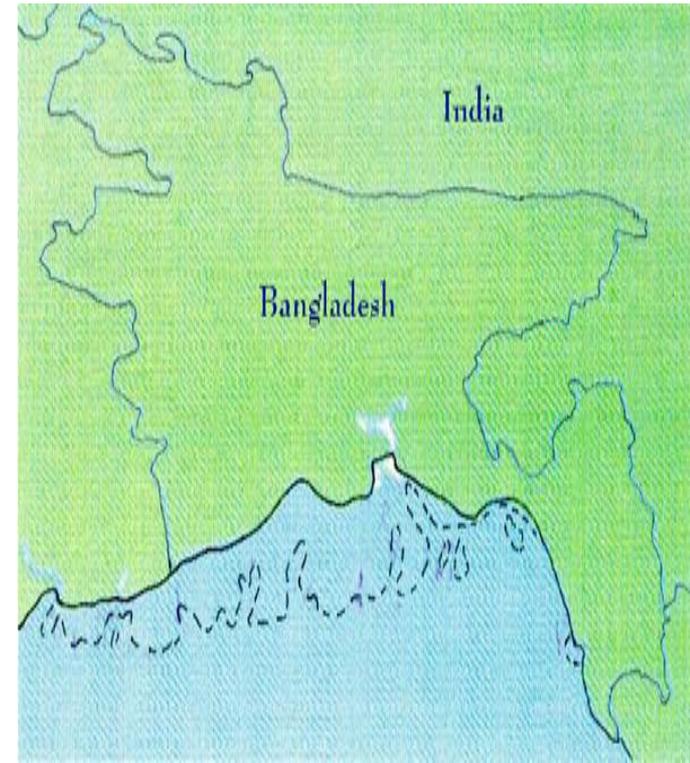


Land at risk in Bangladesh due to a 1m rise in sea level (after Huq *et al.* 1995).

Increased risk of floods, potentially displacing tens of millions of people, due to sea level rise and heavy rainfall events, especially in Small Island States and low-lying deltaic areas.

Bangladesh is projected to lose about 17% of its land area with a sea level rise of one metre

projected  
present



## Bay of Bengal Major Surges

1737	300,000 killed
1864	100,000
1876	100,000
1897	175,000
1970	300,000

(tide plus 6m surge)



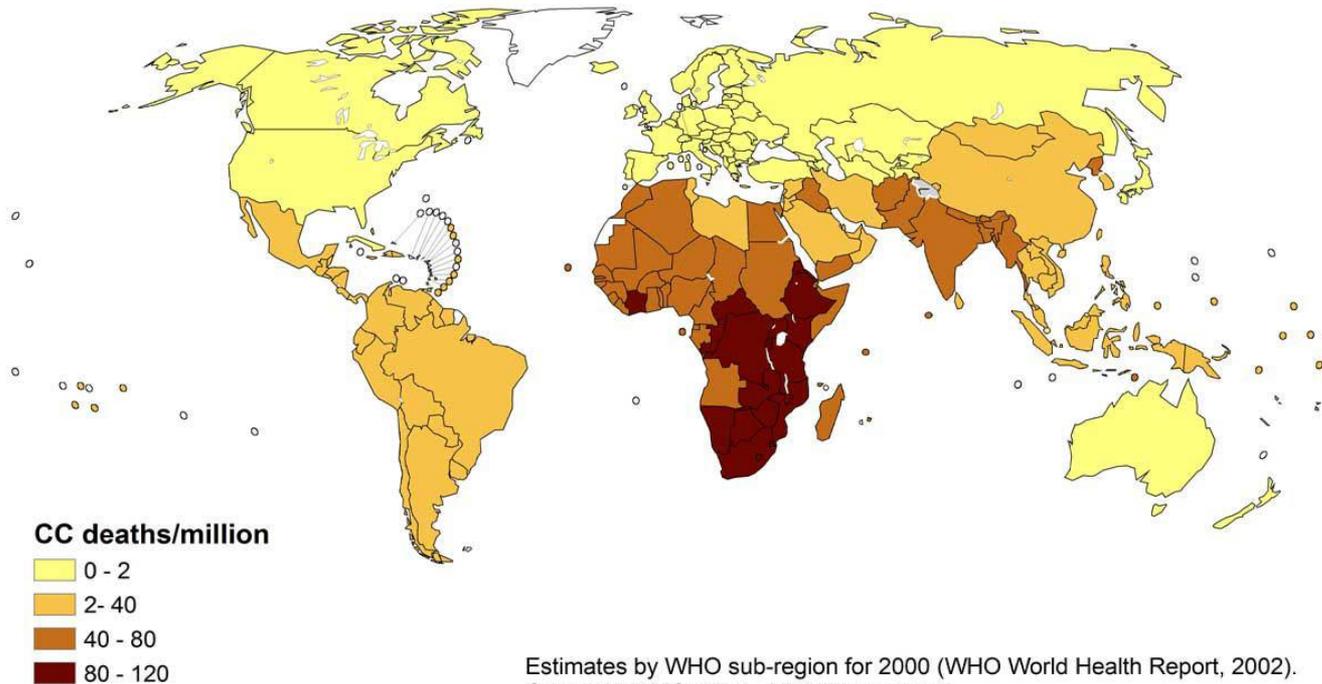
And at least 23 surge events with over 10,000 killed since 1737

November 2007 10,000?

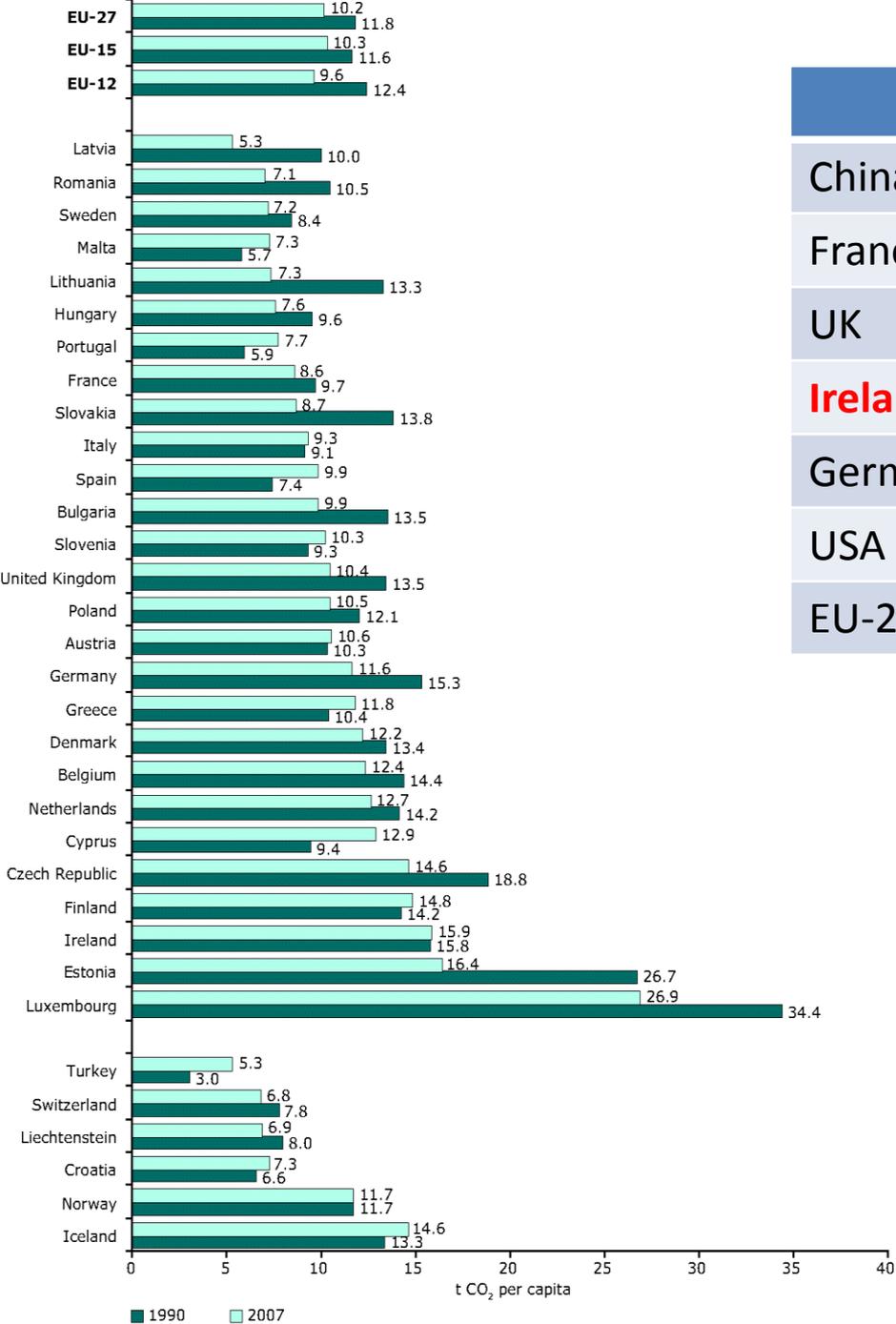
Climate changes already underway are estimated to cause over 150,000 deaths annually. (WHO/UNEP)



## Deaths from climate change

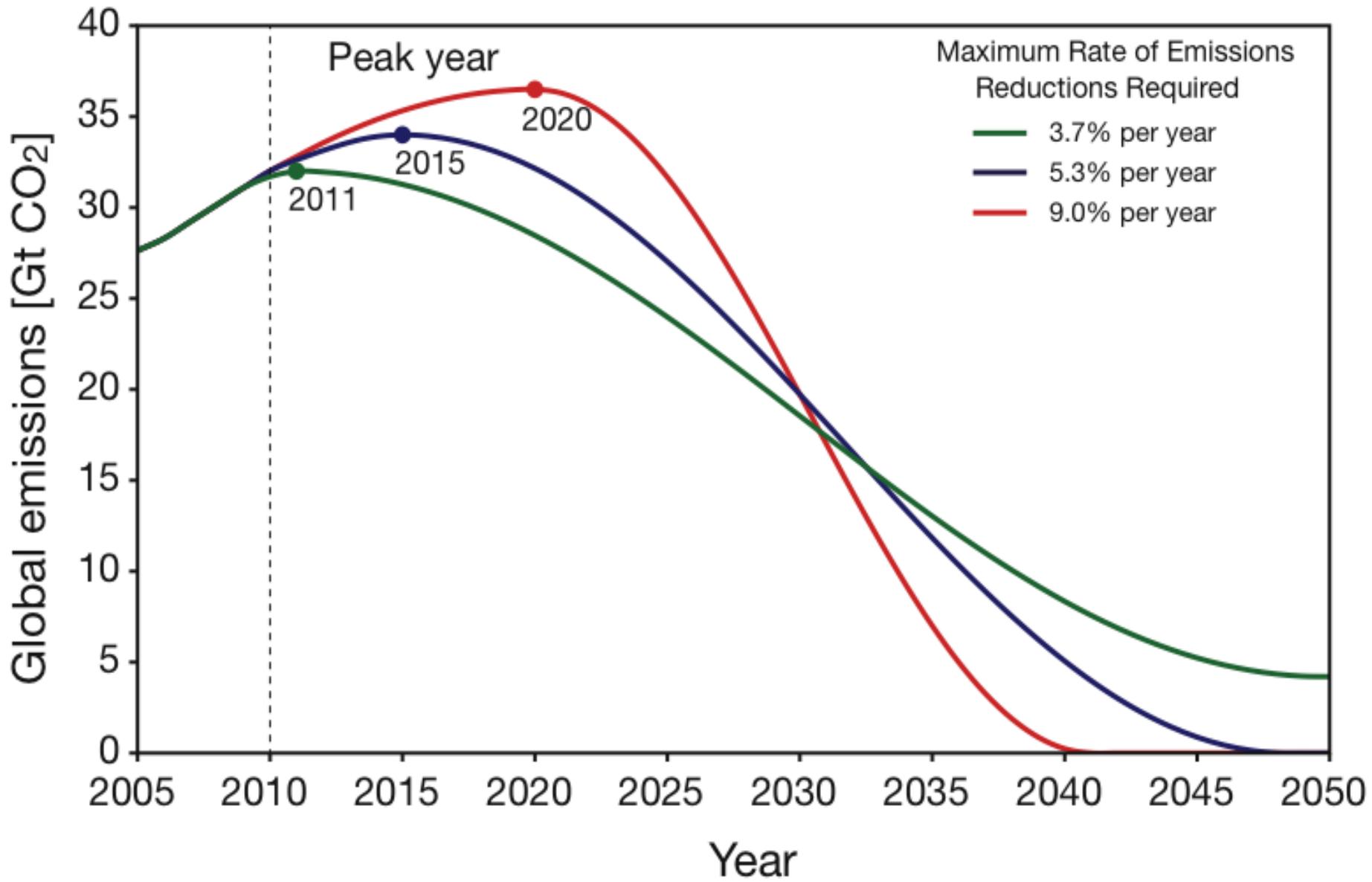


Estimates by WHO sub-region for 2000 (WHO World Health Report, 2002).  
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Tonnes Per Capita 2010	
China	6.8
France	5.9
UK	8.1
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>15.9</b>
Germany	10.0
USA	16.9
EU-27	8.1





Emissions pathways to give 67% chance of limiting global warming to 2°C



# Winners and Losers in Ireland



(C. J. P. M. M.)

## Threatened Landscapes of Ireland



Increased summer drying may eliminate 20–30% of the suitable climate area by 2055



# Threatened Landscapes of Ireland

## Turloughs:



·Increased summer drying may eliminate 45% of the suitable climate area by 2055



# Some vulnerable species in Ireland



Curlew



Kerry slug



Irish damselfly



Budapest slug



Salmon



Cowberry



Arctic Char



Water beetle 1.

2.



Buzzard

Justice requires legislation to ensure Ireland plays its part in the global community of developed nations and to implement the international agreements it has already signed up to at EU and global levels.

To allow for the Developing World to develop sustainably, climate scientists estimate that developed countries require to reduce their emissions by 80% within the next 40 years.

This is an EU objective which has been enshrined in legislation by the UK with



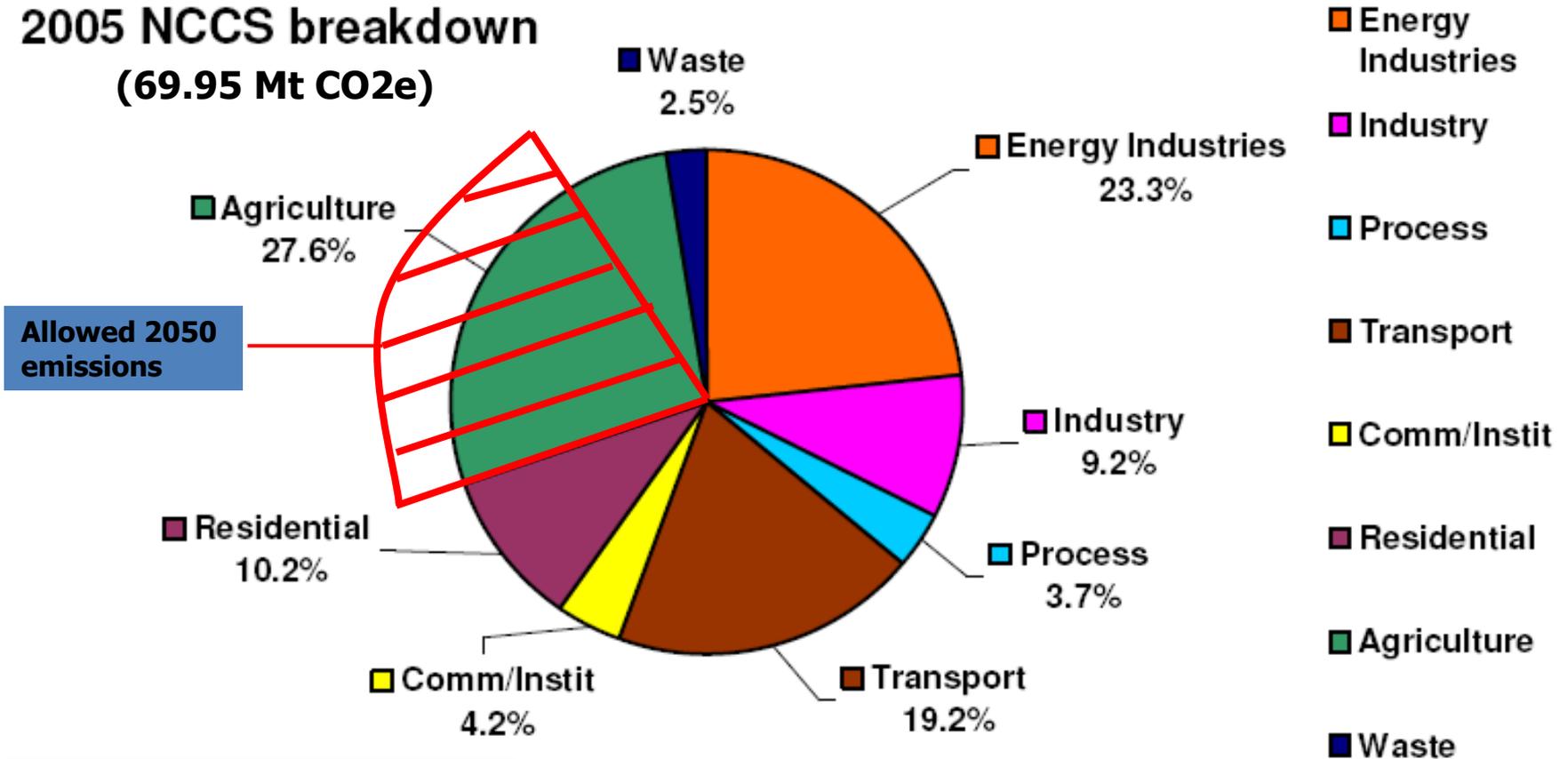
# So how far are we along the road to Climate Justice in Ireland in 2012

- ❑ An all-party Climate Change Bill was shelved by the last government who wanted to devise their own Bill. After considerable delay this was introduced into the Senate in late 2010
- ❑ An active campaign against the Bill (much of it based on incorrect interpretation of the targets proposed) was mounted mainly by IBEC and the IFA
- ❑ The proposed Bill fell with the government.
- ❑ A commitment to new legislation is in the current Programme for Government, but not prioritised
- ❑ Recently a 'road map' to start the process of legislation by the end of 2012 has been announced. Unlikely to have sectoral targets and as such the efficacy of it in curtailing emissions is questionable.



# Implications of 80% reduction for Ireland??

2005 NCCS breakdown  
(69.95 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>e)



1990	55.78 Mt
2020	54.81 Mt
2050	13.70 Mt

# Department of Finance Briefing to the incoming Minister in Spring 2011

## **Climate Change Response Bill**

The draft Climate Change Response Bill was at Second stage in the Seanad last month (January 2011). This bill fell with the fall of the Government. In the context of preparations on this Bill, the Department expressed grave reservations about its content, particularly targets that appeared to be well in excess of EU targets.

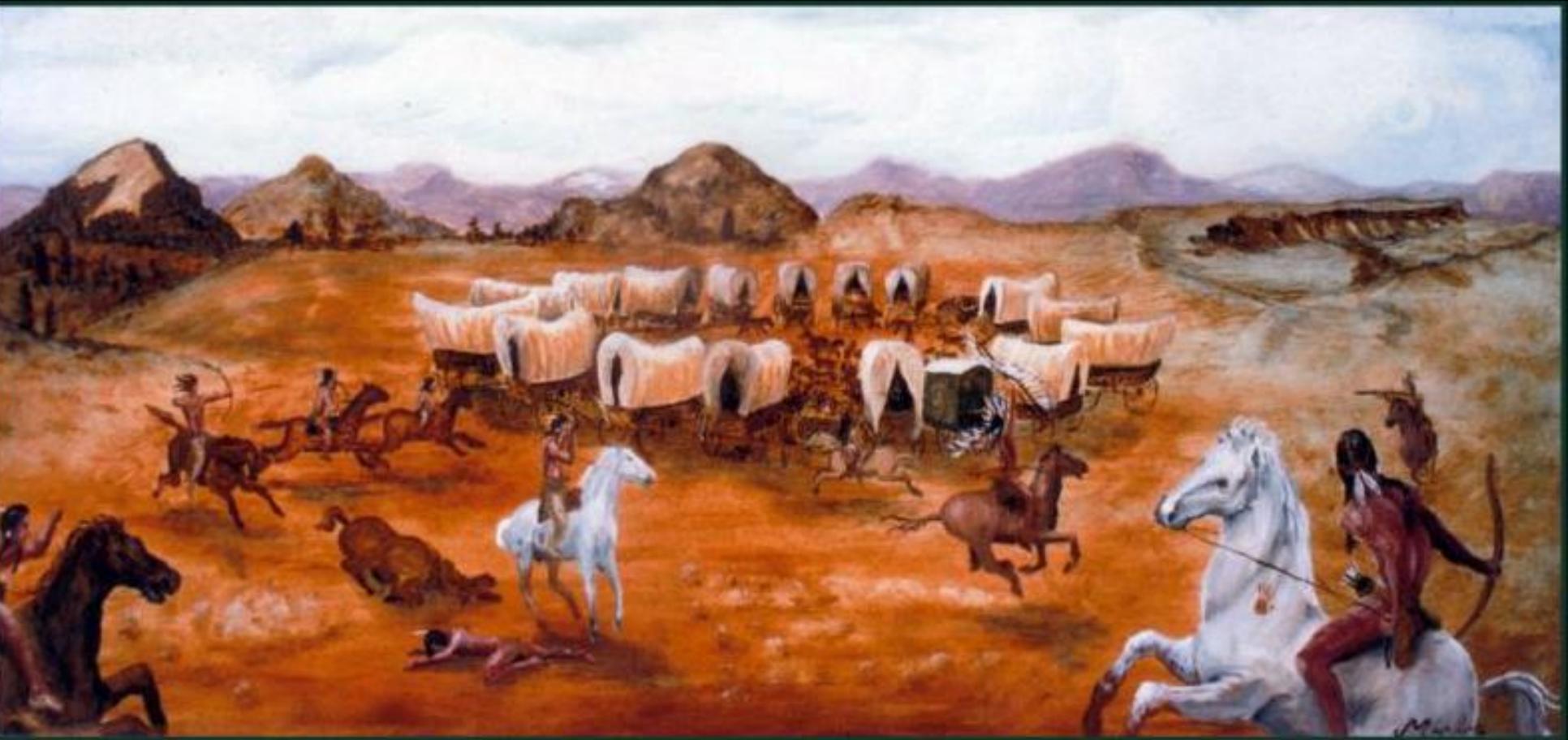
The policy agenda on Climate Change has been driven recently more by ideology and target setting rather than being informed by a rational assessment of what is possible and what is in Ireland's interest, given the costs and benefits involved.

As the economy has weakened, political resolve has weakened and climate change issues in Ireland have slipped down the political agenda.

# EPA Statement April 16<sup>th</sup> 2012

- Ireland can comply with its Kyoto obligations (2008 – 2012) with regard to greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ireland is predicted to breach its annual obligations under the EU 2020 target from 2017 onwards in the best-case scenario.
- Total emissions are projected to be 4.1 to 7.8 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>eq above the EU 2020 target.
- Emissions from agriculture are projected to increase by 7.0% by 2020 (on 2010 levels) which shows the projected impact of Food Harvest 2020 and removal of EU milk quota.

# Time to Circle the Waggon's ?



# Where are the Cavalry?



# Here come the Cavalry!



We can walk from all the areas highlighted on the map



The class with the most **cyclists** on Wednesdays will win The Golden Helmet Award

# Walk



The Golden Helmet Award Winners



**Winners**

February: Room 13, 3<sup>rd</sup> Class  
March 1: Room 10, 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
March 2: Room 4, Senior Infants  
March 3: Room 4, Senior Infants

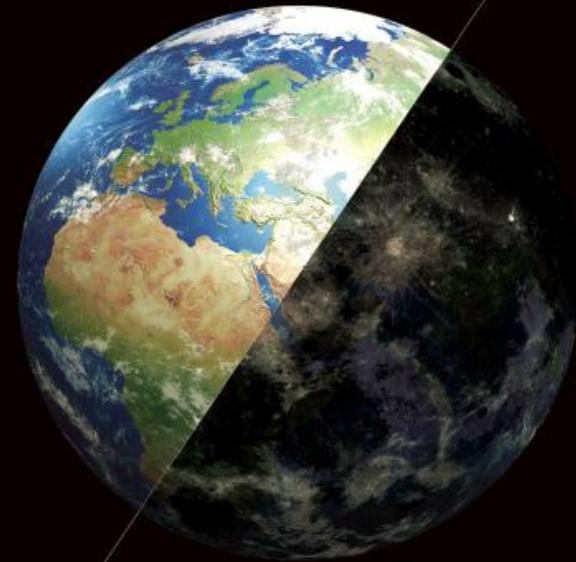
Education and Environmental Sensitisation of the coming generation is the best hope for Climate Justice.

This can only be done successfully at community level.

“Towards Climate Justice” offers an exemplary strategy for mobilising communities to address what will be the most critical issue the globe will face in the present century

# Towards Climate Justice

*a strategy guide for the community sector  
in responding to climate change*



Seminar Programme

Climate change – an issue for community work