

Science-Based Action for Climate Change Adaptation

Gordon McBean CM, OOnt, PhD, FRSC
Chair, Policy, Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction
Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography, Western University

Past-President, International Council for Science (2014-18)
Member, Governing Council, Future Earth: Research for Global Sustainability

Presentation to: RACC10
How to adapt to climate change(s) – face reality and take action
~Resilient Society against Climate Change~
October 6th, 2018



Institute for Catastrophic
Loss Reduction
Institut de Prévention des
Sinistres Catastrophiques



MEOPAR

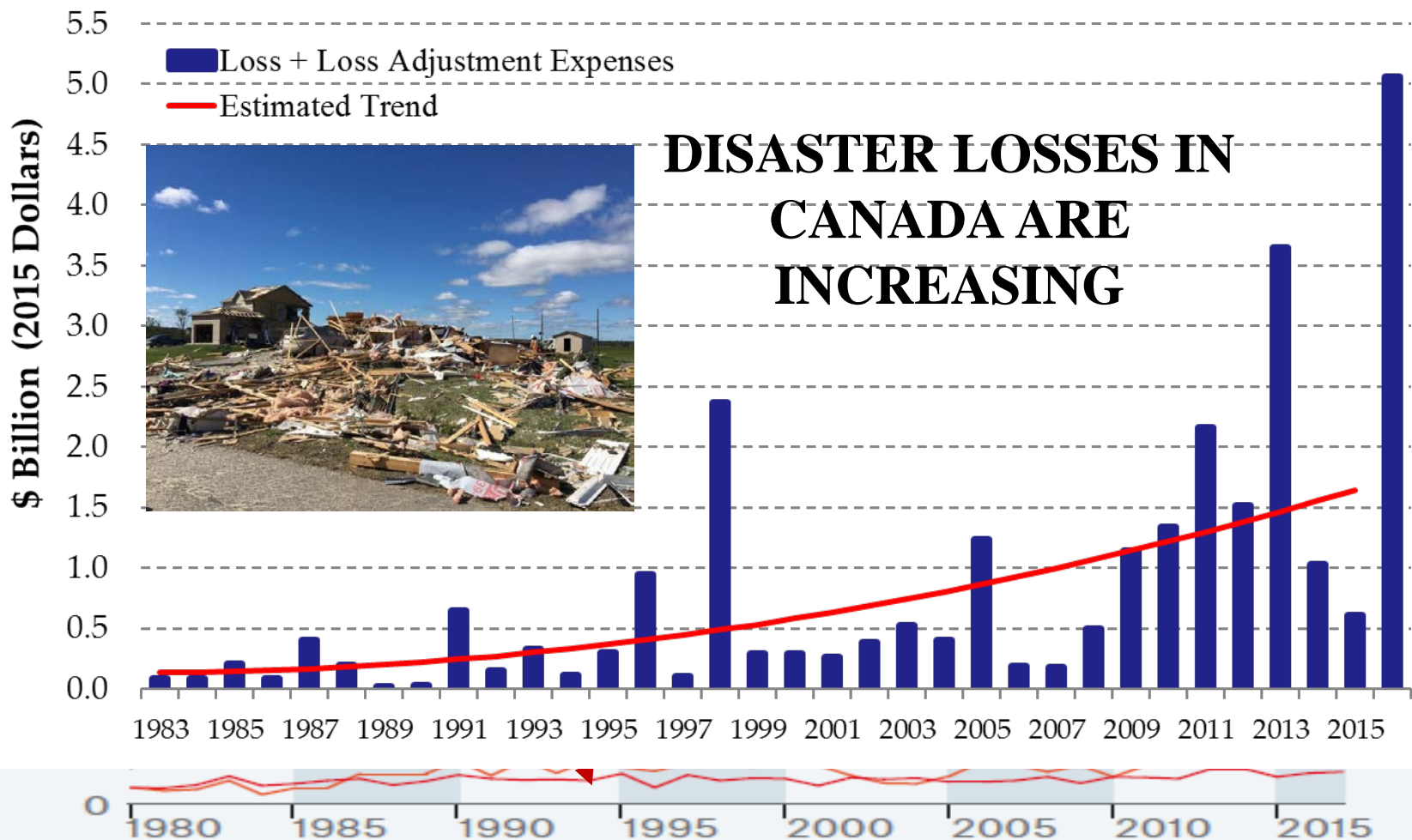
**MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATION
PREDICTION & RESPONSE NETWORK**



National
Institute for
Environmental
Studies, Japan



THE NUMBER OF “NATURAL” CATASTROPHES IS INCREASING



NatCatSERVICE, Munich Re, 2017

World Economic - C

■ Societal

Failure of climate change mitigation and adaptation

Biodiversity Loss and Ecosystem Collapse

Water crises

Extreme Weather Events

Natural Disasters

Spread of infectious diseases

Large-scale involuntary migration

Human-made Environmental Disasters

Food crises

Failure of Critical Infrastructure

Impact

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

■ Economic

■ Geopolitical

■ Environmental

A global risk is a significant negative impact on that, if it occurs, will have significant negative consequences for countries within the next 10 years.

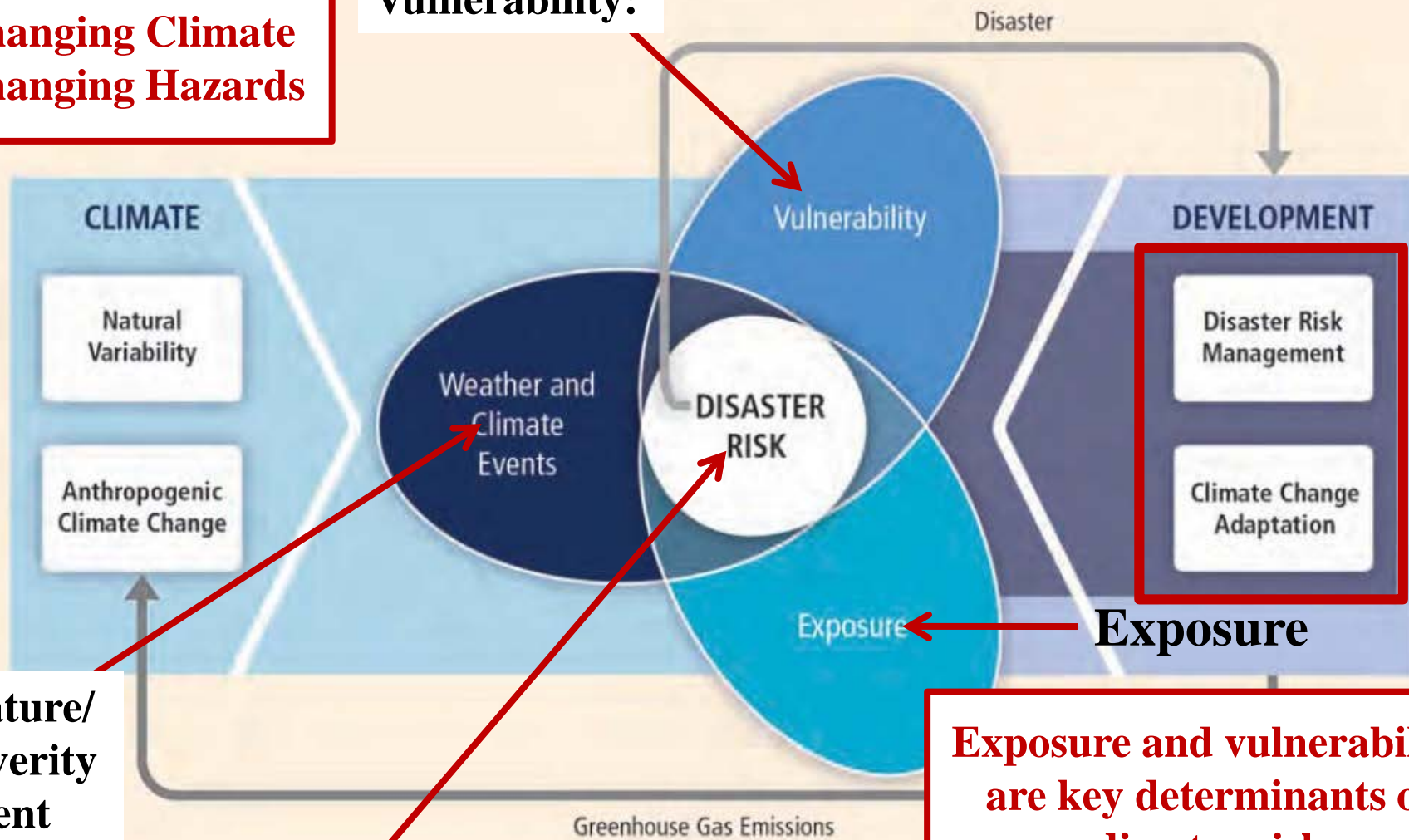
COMMITTED TO IMPROVING THE STATE OF THE WORLD

HIGH



Vulnerability:

**Changing Climate
Changing Hazards**



**Nature/
severity
event**

**Exposure and vulnerability
are key determinants of
disaster risk**

Disaster Risk: the likelihood of severe alterations in the normal functioning of a community or society due to hazard events interacting with vulnerable social conditions

Article 2 1. This Agreement, .. aims to strengthen the global response to .. threat of climate change, .. context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty:

(a) Holding the increase .. global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing .. Limit .. to 1.5 °C .., significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change; MITIGATION

(b) Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production; ADAPTATION

Article 7 Parties hereby establish the global goal of adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, ... sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation ...

Strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems,

The process to formulate and implement NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLANS;

The post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, climate change and disaster risk reduction ...

Lead - S&T
Major Grp



Ensuring credible links, ... between these processes will contribute to building resilience of eradicating poverty."

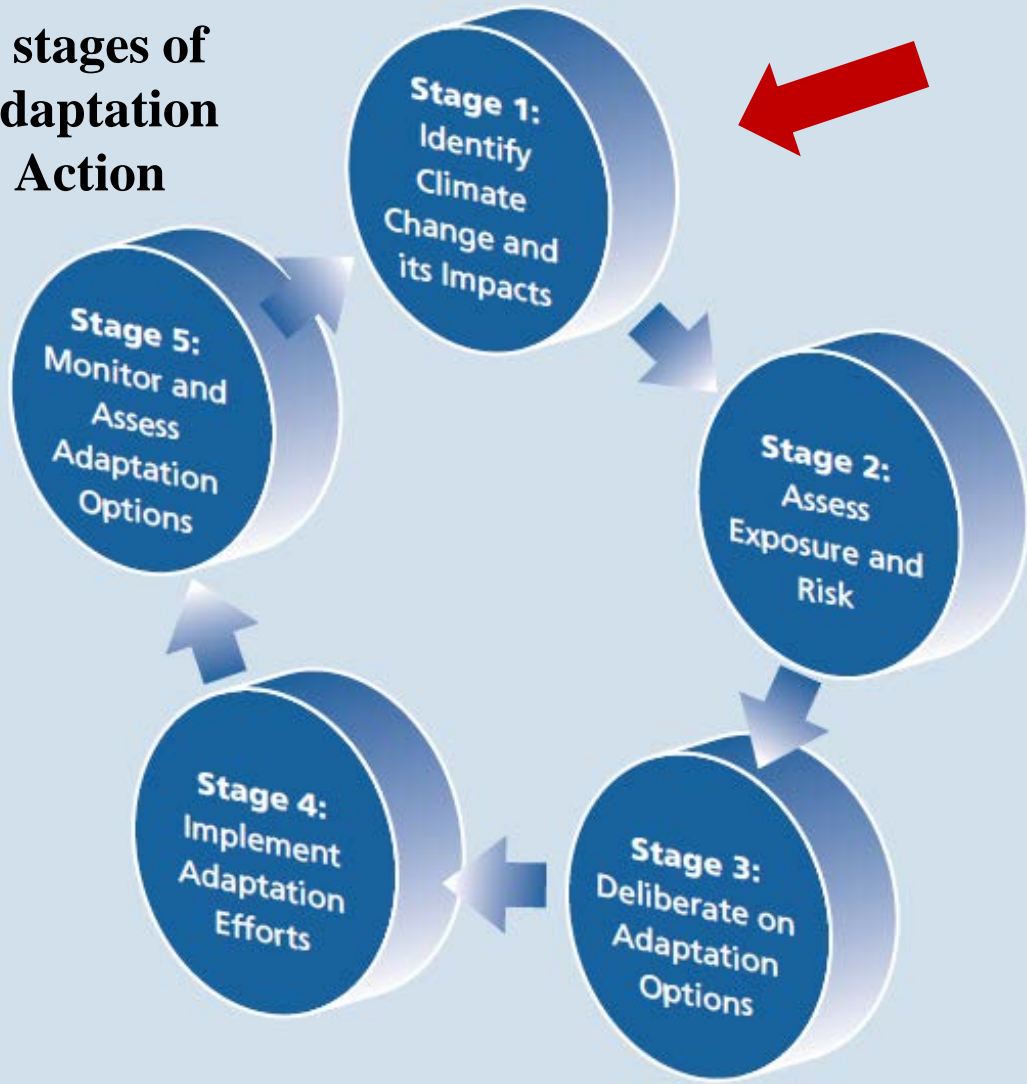
States at local, national,

Four priority areas for D

**RISK GOVERNANCE
DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
RESILIENCE
“BUILD BACK BETTER”**

1. **Understanding disaster risk**
2. **Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;**
3. **Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;**
4. **Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.**

5 stages of Adaptation Action



Pe

to

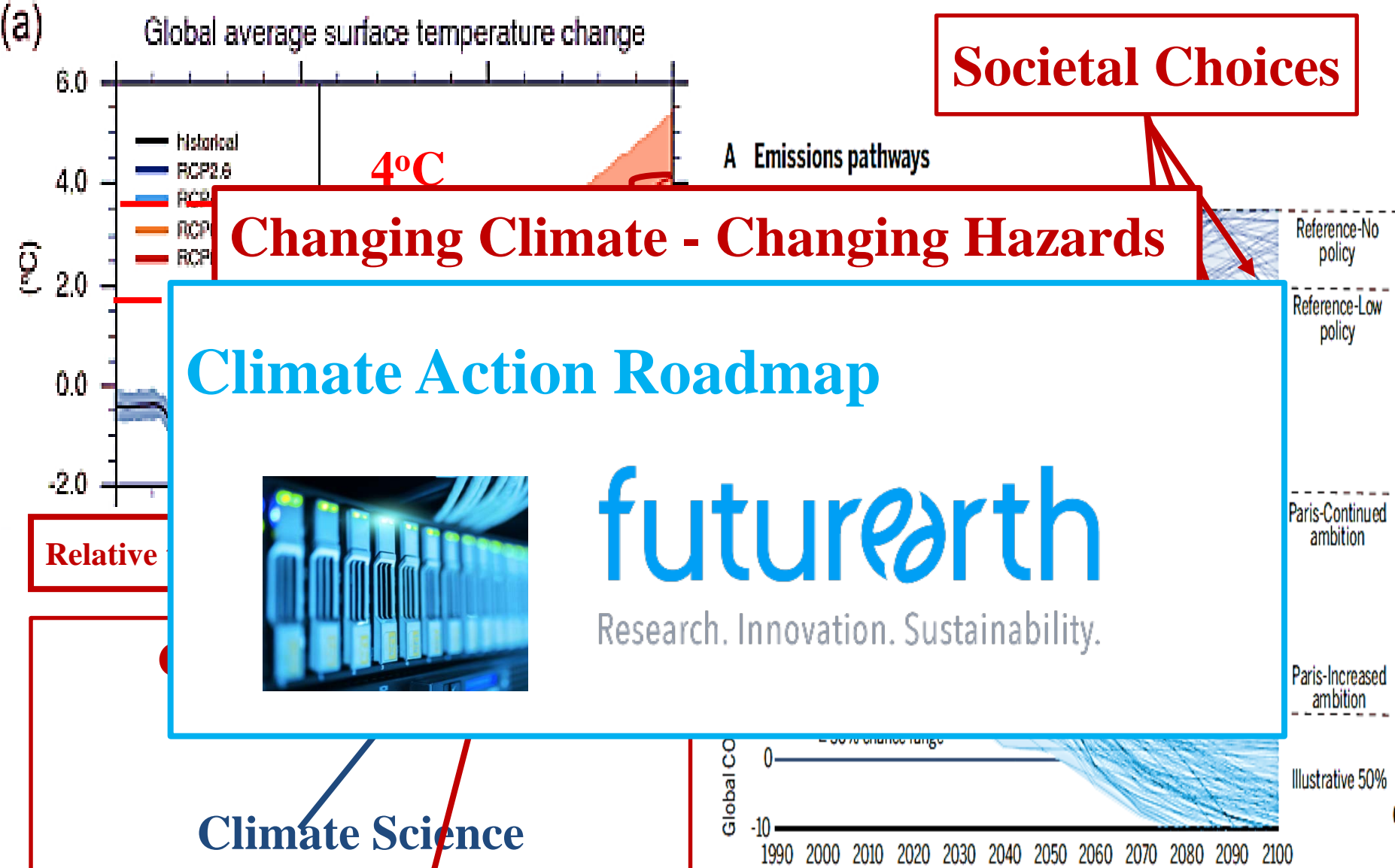
BUI
E

TH
ING

NATIO

TION

Climate Projections for future



Societal Choices

Changing Climate - Changing Hazards

Climate Action Roadmap



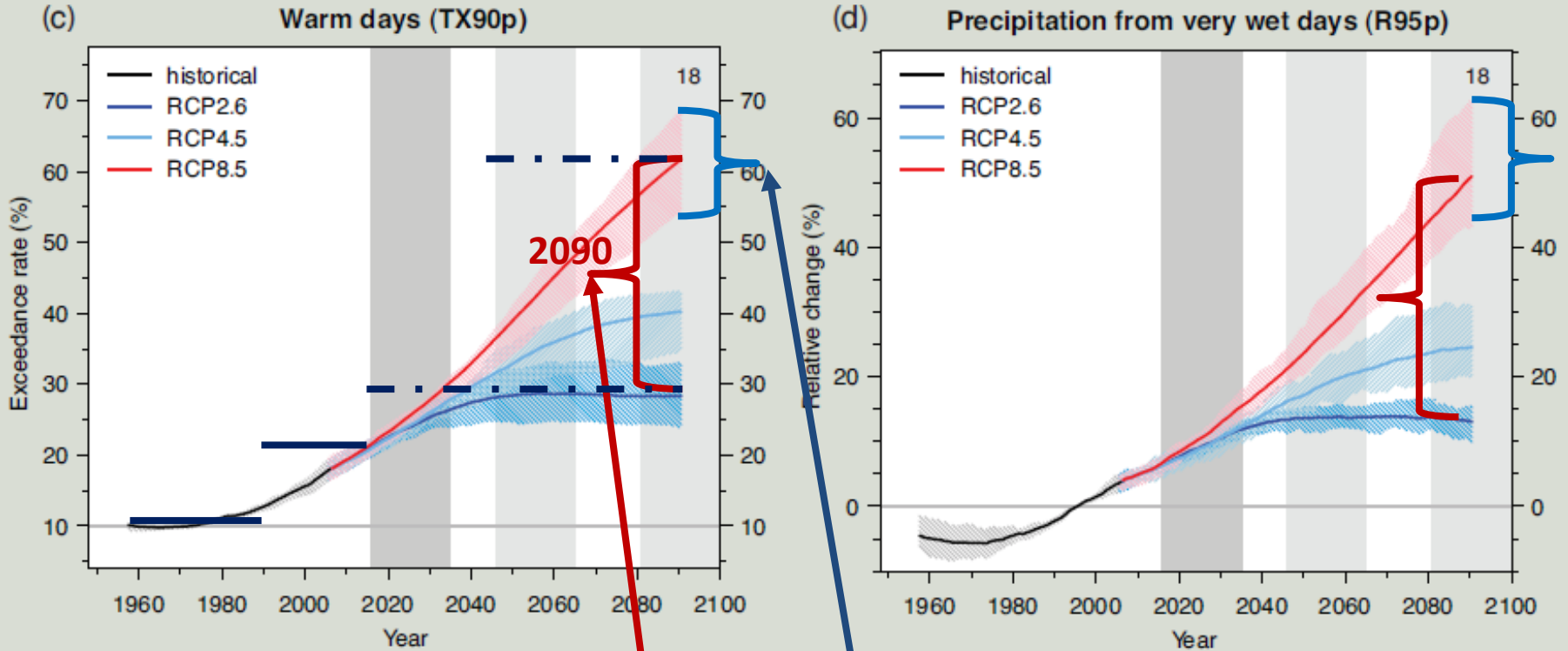
futureearth
Research. Innovation. Sustainability.

Relative

Climate Science
Societal choices

**Changing Climate
Changing
Hazards**

Hot and Wet Days.



**Climate Projections
Uncertainties:**

**Climate Science
Societal choices**

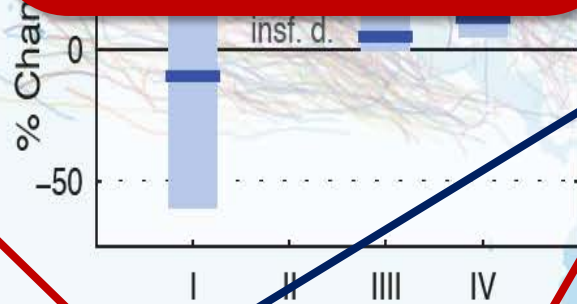
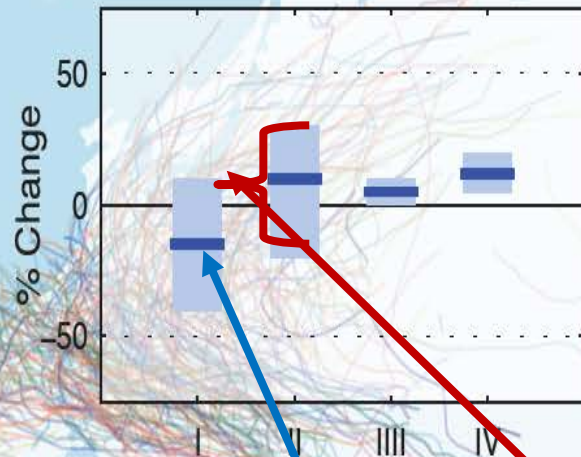
(c) warm days (TX90p)
air temperature (Tmax)
(d) very wet day prec
ann

maximum surface
for 1961 to 1990 and
ve to 1986–2005 of
e.

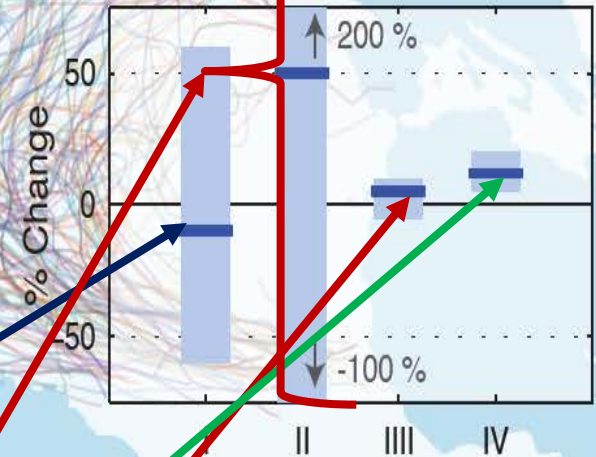
Typhoons – Projections with Climate Change

With a warming climate,
INCREASED RISK OF SEVERE TYPHOONS

Western North Pacific



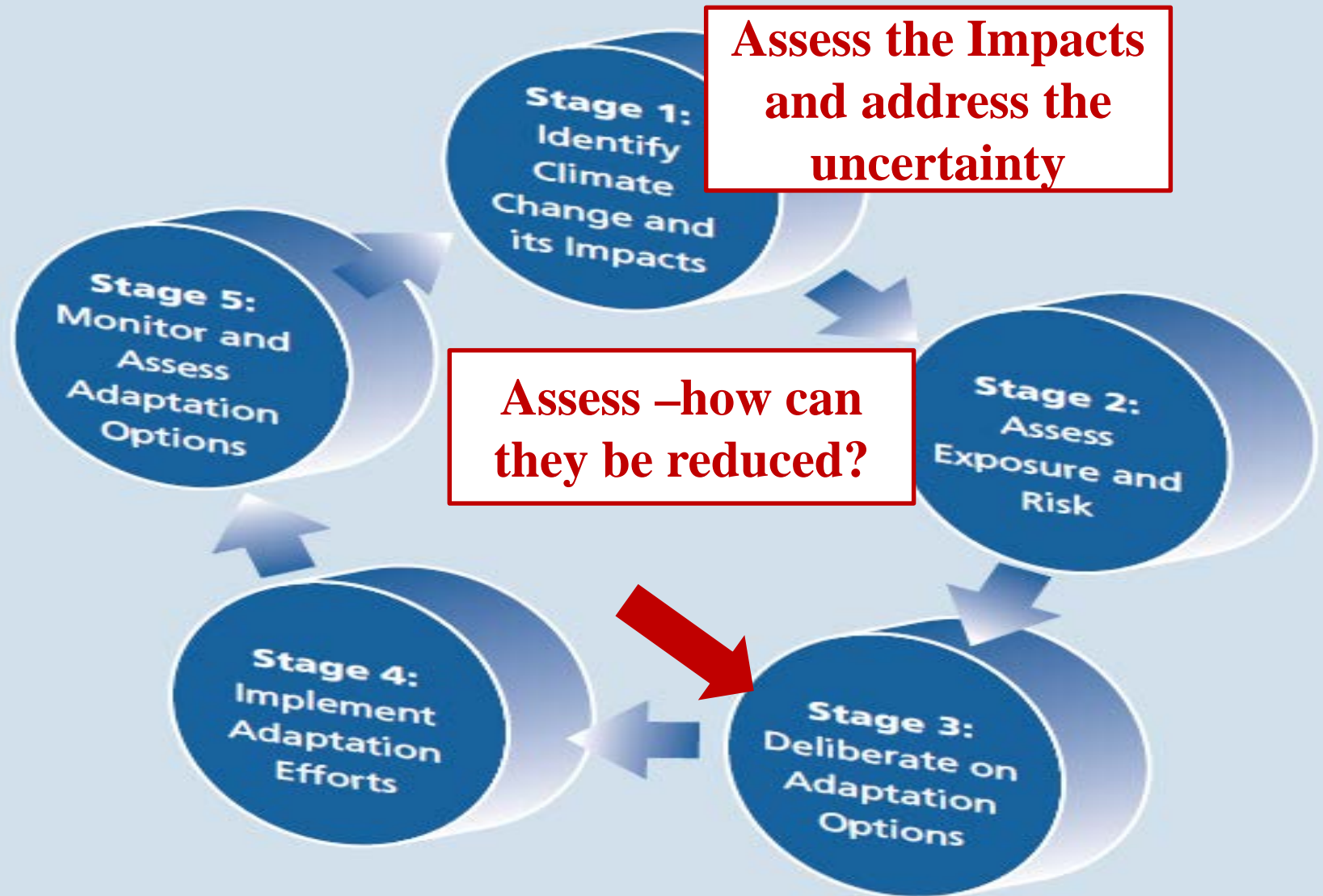
North Atlantic



IPCC 2014 Projected changes in tropical cyclone statistics. Expected % change over period 2081–2100 relative to 2000–2019, A1B-like scenario. % in

- I) the TOTAL ANNUAL frequency of tropical storms.**
- II) the annual frequency of CATEGORY 4 AND 5 STORMS,**
- III) the mean LIFETIME MAXIMUM INTENSITY**
- IV) the PRECIPITATION RATE within 200 km of storm center at the time of LMI. solid blue line is the best guess of the expected % change. coloured bar = 67%**

Science Based Action for Climate Change Adaptation



Challenges:

- **Political**
- **Societal**
- **Economic**



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan

Risk Interpretation to Action

Objectives:

1. Science for ... hazards, vulnerability and risk
2. Effective decision making risk interpretation to action
3. Reducing risk and curbing losses ...

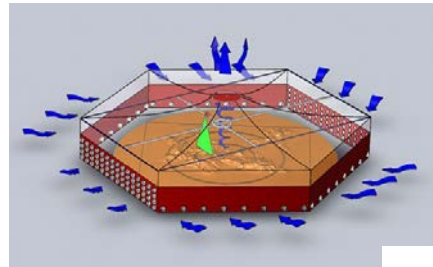
IRDR International Centres of Excellence – ICOE (16)

1. **Academy of Sciences, Taipei**
3. **Community Resilience - Joint Centre for Disaster Research, Massey University, New Zealand**
6. **Risk Interpretation and Action - Centre for Integrated Research on Risk and Resilience (CIRRR), King's College London, UK**
7. **Disaster Resilient Homes, Buildings and Public Infrastructure – ICLR, Western University, Canada**
10. **Disaster Risk and Climate Extremes - Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative, National University of Malaysia**



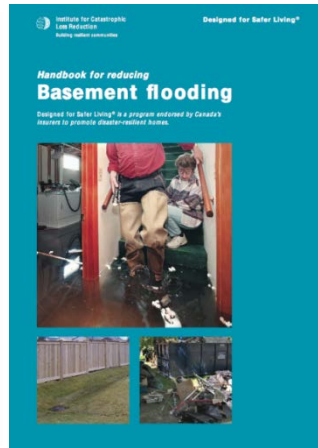
Adaptation and Resilience – Structural – Protecting Homes

- Improved observations and predictions
- Better structural design of homes and property.
 - Correcting ageing infrastructure
 - Adjusting behaviour (finished basements)
 - Guidebooks for homeowners
- Reducing population growth in areas of risk



www.iclr.org

Municipal Planning and Standards – implementation, regulation, ...



Science Based Action for Climate Change Adaptation

Challenges: political, economic, social, ...

Health impacts – a motivating factor



Stage 5:
Monitor and
Evaluation

Weather forecasts for all: Improving access to weather information for women and ethnic minorities



Stage 4:
Implement
Adaptation
Efforts

Stakeholder Involvement - Co-Design Knowledge Action Networks





INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL
FOR SCIENCE



**International
Science Council**



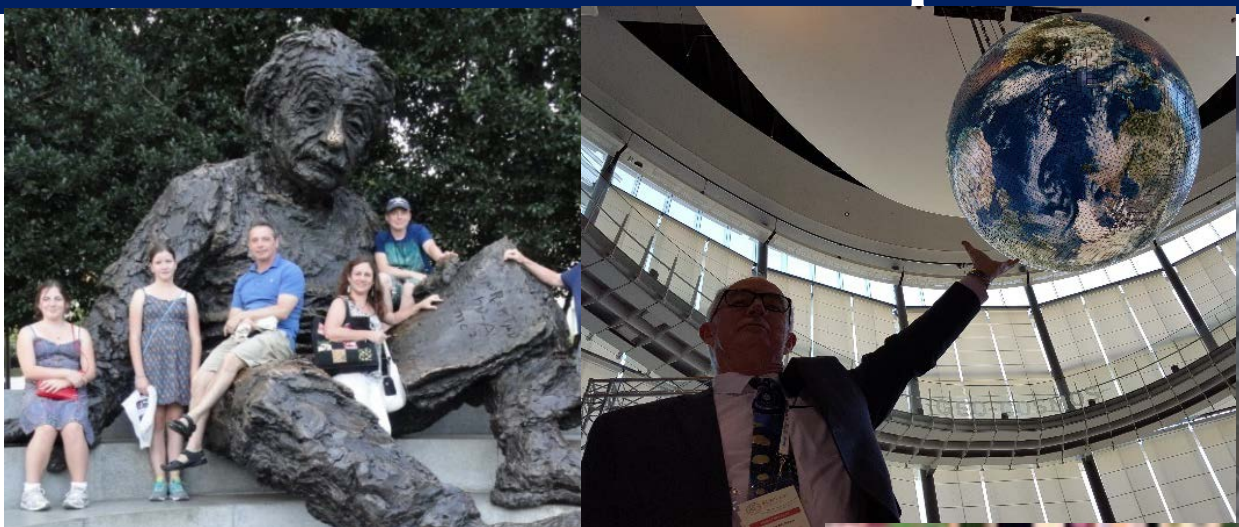
Math; Physics; Chemistry; Biology; Mechanics; Geology; Anthropology, Geodesy and Geophysics; Geography; Sociology; Psychology; Arctic Social Sciences; Public Opinion; Population; Economics; Political Science; Peace; ...

A global voice to advance science as a global public good

- **Mobilizing science for policy and public action on issues of global public concern**
- **Safeguarding the free and responsible practice of science**
- **Co-sponsoring international scientific programmes, networks and committees**



Science-Based Action for Climate Change Adaptation



FACE REALITY AND TAKE ACTION