



*CLIMATE AND SOCIETAL
INTERACTIONS: INCREASING
RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE RISKS*

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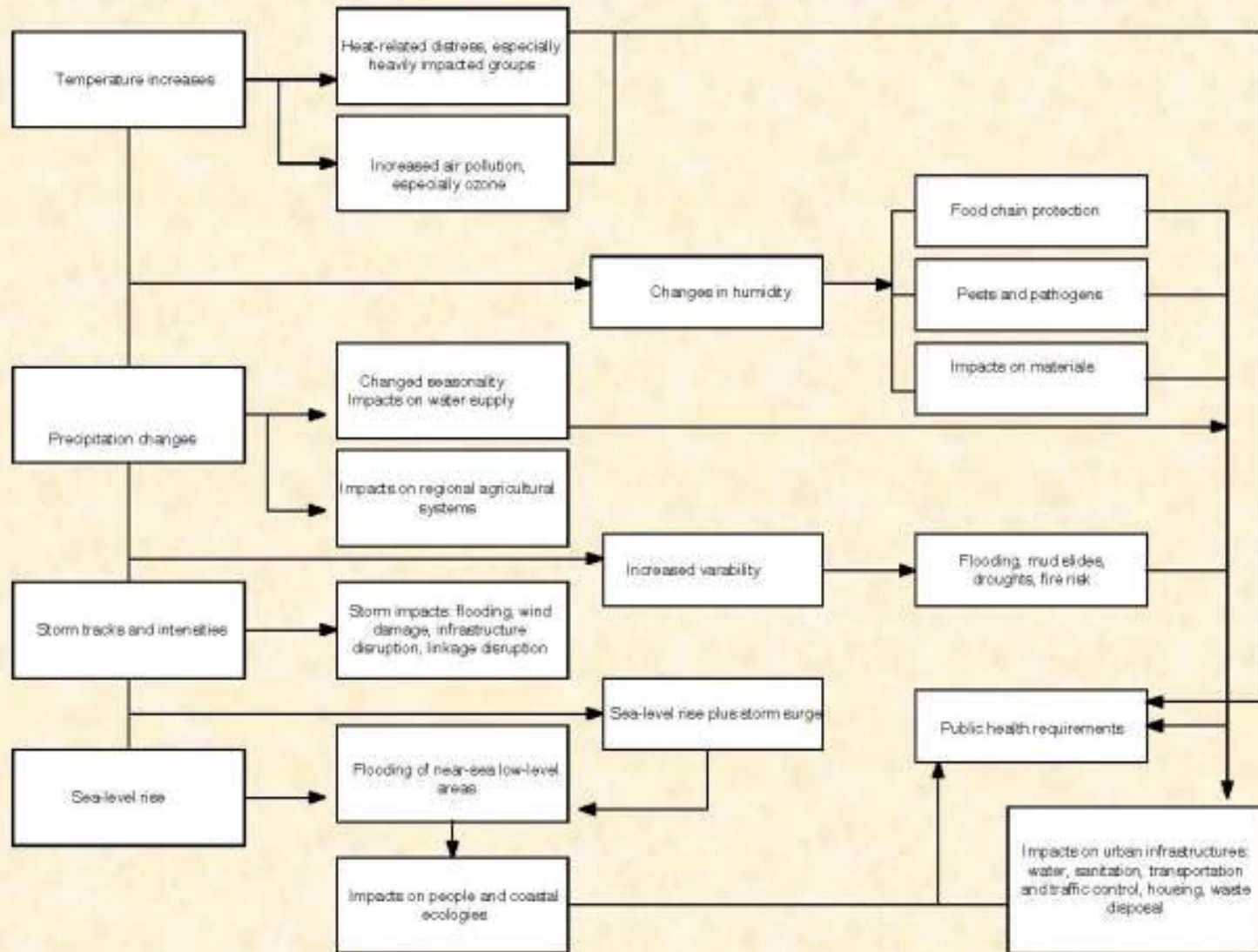


THIS PRESENTATION WILL:

- Provide a brief rationale for adaptation action at the local level
- Provide an overview of NOAA programs that may be of interest
- Discuss international opportunities
- Conclude with emerging consensus on ways to best address climate risks at the local level



Figure 1. IMPACT PATHWAYS (NOTIONAL)



Source: Tom Wilbanks, ORNL



RESPONDING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Mitigation

- Addresses **causes**
 - Reducing GHGs
 - Improving technology
- Costs now, benefits to later generations
- Local costs, global benefits
- Must act early despite uncertainty

Adaptation

- Addresses **effects**
 - Changes in temp & precip
 - Resulting stresses
- Costs when action taken, benefits soon after
- Local costs, often relatively local benefits
- May act when uncertainty reduced



ICLEI - CLIMATE SAFE CITIES

- Create a network of local governments in the U.S. to improve their resiliency to an increased risk of climate-related crisis
- Transfer research by NOAA into tools to support local government decisions in reducing vulnerabilities to climate change and variability.
- Strengthen linkages between local government decision makers, stakeholders and the media



ICLEI ASSISTS CITIES TO:

- commit to better integrate climate risks into local planning;
- perform an assessment of vulnerability to climate change and variability;
- benchmark their current adaptation planning efforts against those of their peers;
- engage in a multi-stakeholder process to develop actions to improve local resiliency;
- implement, track and report actions and best practices; and
- educate the media.



REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES AND ASSESSMENTS (RISA)

- NOAA supports 8 RISA teams in the U.S.
- RISA teams are comprised of researchers and stakeholders in a region who determine how climate impacts key resources and how climate information could aid in decision making.
- Topics covered by each RISA team depend on regional interest and include:
 - Agriculture
 - Wildland Fire
 - Fisheries
 - Water Resources
 - Drought Planning
 - Public Health

The RISA Network





NOAA-USAID-ACMAD RANET PARTNERSHIP

- Working with the African Center of Meteorological Applications for Development to enhance the capability of rural and resource-poor communities to access information for coping with hydro-meteorological hazards
- Applies satellite and rural radio technologies to extend existing dissemination networks and developing a community-based dialogue on issues related to weather and climate
- Also in the Pacific



INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE AND SOCIETY (IRI)

- Part of Earth Institute, Columbia University, NY
- Research institute that predicted the El Nino event in late nineties
- Has shifted its focus to provide climate products and information in service to society
- Trains individuals with a general understanding of basic concepts underlying climate forecasting
- Undertakes projects addressing regional and local problems in such sectors as agriculture and water resource management.



OTHER INT'L OPPORTUNITIES

- **UNFCCC:**
 - Programme of Work on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation
 - Adaptation Funds
- **Bilateral/multilateral donors (UNDP, WB, USAID)**
- **WMO World Climate Conference 3 - seasonal to inter-annual prediction**



CONCLUSIONS

- Make research accessible and responsive to decision-makers and their needs
- Respond to known climate stresses and variability as a first step to addressing climate change
- Address adaptation in the context of other priorities for sustainable development (co-benefits) at the local level



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www.oar.noaa.gov/spotlite/archive/spot_ranet.html

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UNFCCC: www.unfccc.int