



# Handling the Health Impacts of Extreme Weather Events

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# Outline of Presentation

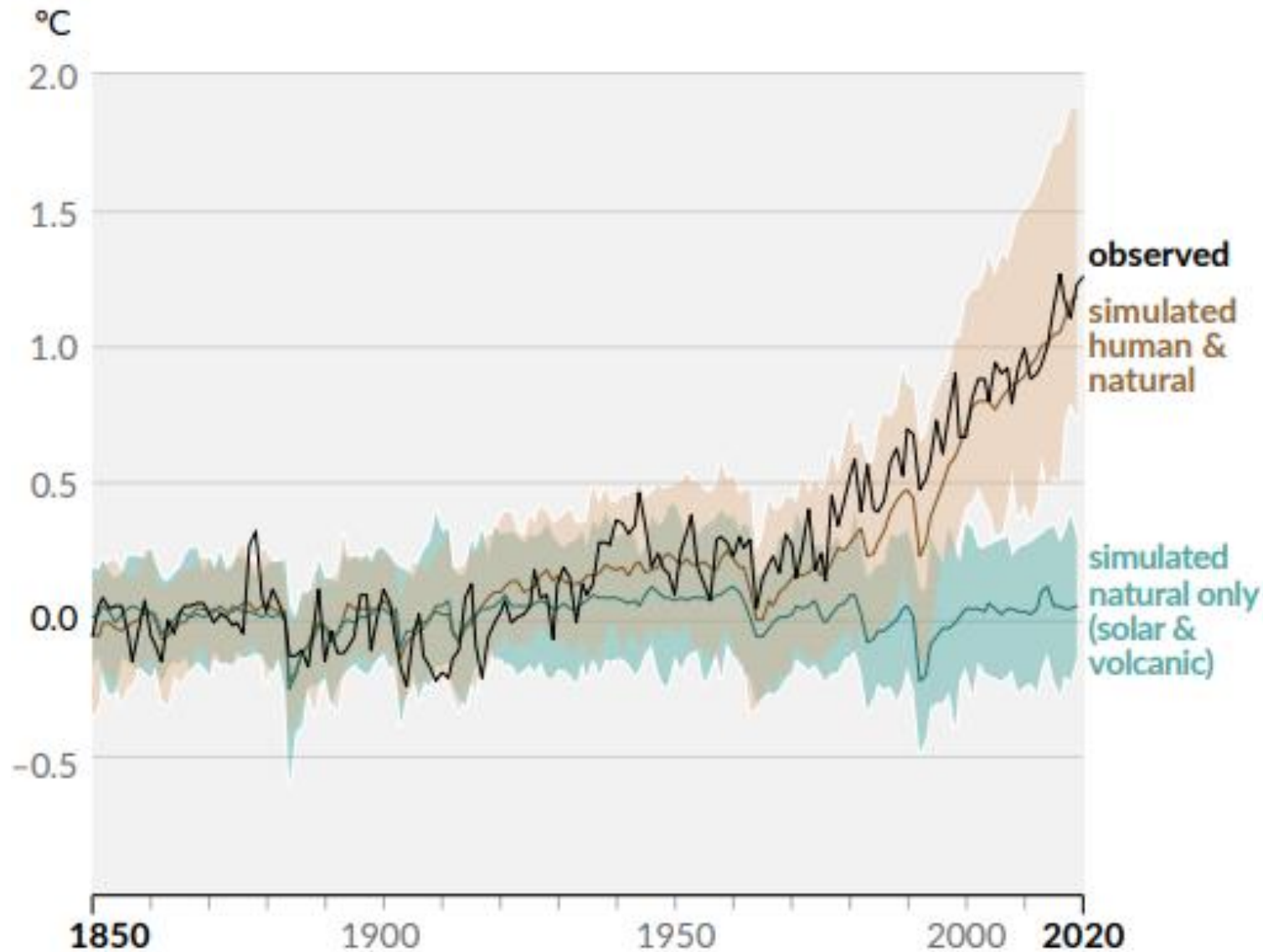
- Global climate change scenario
- Malaysia's climate change scenario
- Climate change and extreme weather events
- Climate change and COVID-19: Lessons learnt
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation

# IPCC's AR6 Findings

- Climate change is a threat to human well-being and planetary health.
- Human activities have unequivocally caused global warming, with global surface temperature reaching 1.1°C above 1850–1900 in 2011–2020.
- Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe.
- Vulnerable communities who have historically contributed the least to current climate change are disproportionately affected.
- Despite progress, adaptation gaps exist, and will continue to grow at current rates of implementation.
- Adaptation actions in this decade would reduce projected losses and damages for humans and ecosystems, and deliver many co-benefits, especially for air quality and health.
- Finance, technology and international cooperation are critical enablers for accelerated climate action.

Source: Summary for policymakers. Synthesis report of the IPCC AR6

(b) Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & natural** and **only natural** factors (both 1850–2020)



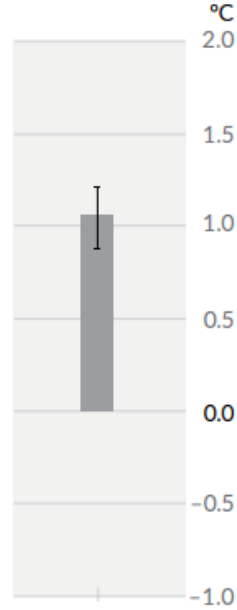
- Current global temperature has reached 1.1 °C above that in 1850-1900 (13.6 °C).
- CO<sup>2</sup> level in 1850 was 290 ppm. Current CO<sup>2</sup> level is around 420 ppm

Source: IPCC 2021. AR6

# Observed warming is driven by emissions from human activities, with greenhouse gas warming partly masked by aerosol cooling

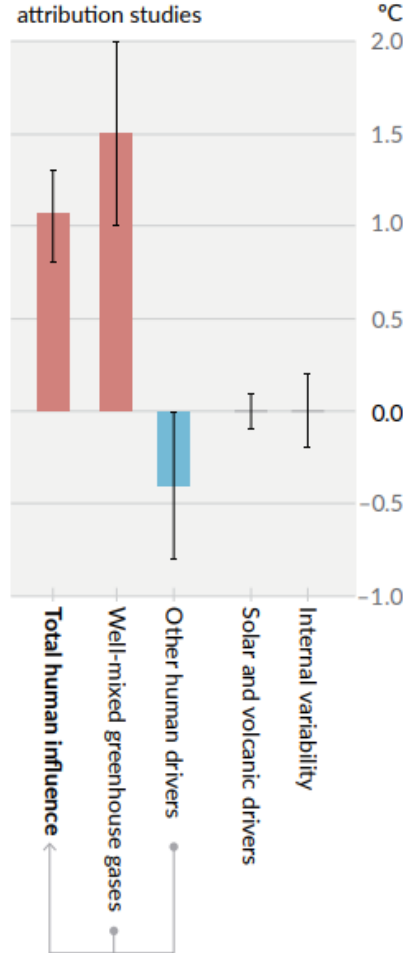
## Observed warming

(a) Observed warming 2010–2019 relative to 1850–1900

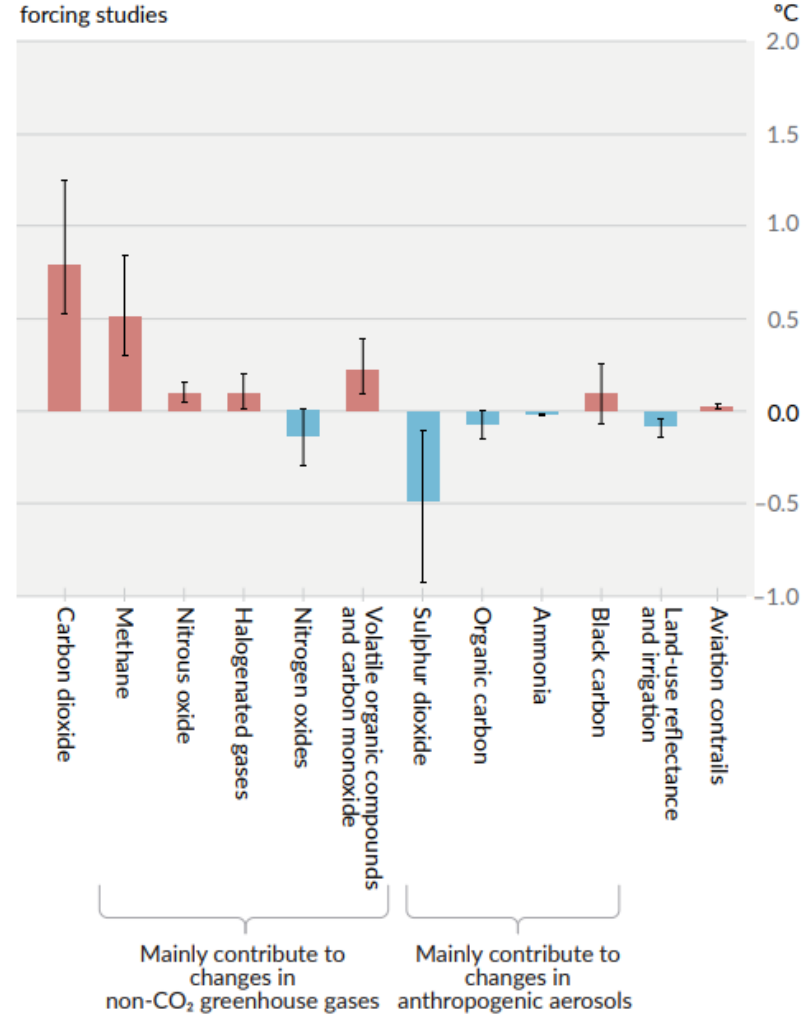


## Contributions to warming based on two complementary approaches

(b) Aggregated contributions to 2010–2019 warming relative to 1850–1900, assessed from attribution studies



(c) Contributions to 2010–2019 warming relative to 1850–1900, assessed from radiative forcing studies



Source: IPCC 2021. AR6

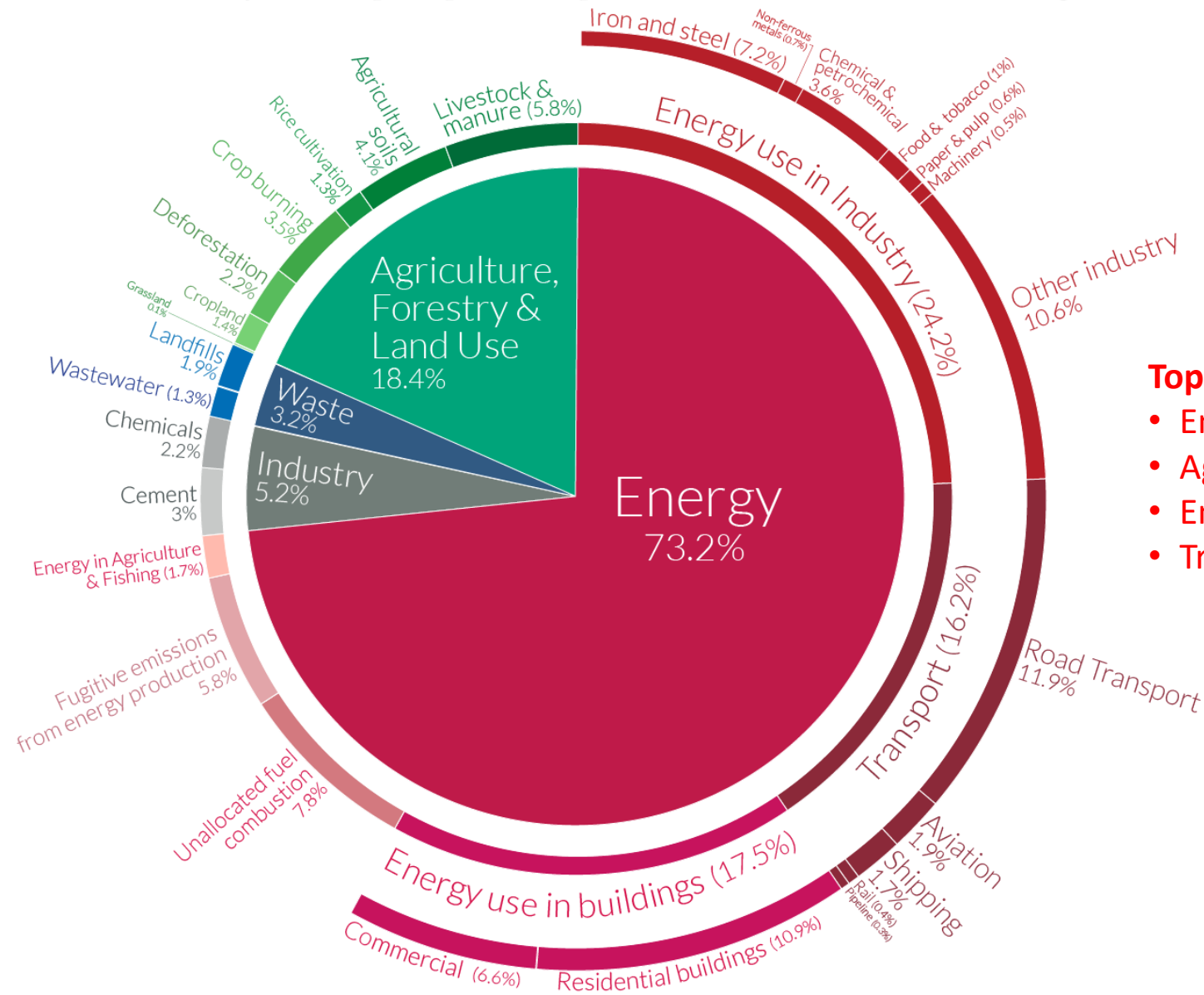
# Five Takeaways from COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh (Nov 2022)

- Established a dedicated fund for loss and damage from climate disasters.
- Maintain a clear intention to keep 1.5 °C within reach. This requires global GHG emissions to peak before 2025 and be reduced by 43% by 2030.
- Holding businesses and institutions accountable.
- Mobilising financial support for developing countries.
- Making the pivot toward implementation (walk the talk).

# Global greenhouse gas emissions by sector



This is shown for the year 2016 – global greenhouse gas emissions were 49.4 billion tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>eq.



## Top global GHG emitters :

- Energy use in industry = 24.2%
- Agriculture & deforestation = 18.4%
- Energy in building = 17.5%
- Transport = 16.2%



# Malaysia's National Policy on Climate Change

- Approved by the Cabinet in 2009.
- The policy recognised the need for mitigation and adaptation to be carried out in a balanced manner, consolidating economic, social and environmental development goals :
  - *Development on a sustainable path*
  - *Conservation of environment and natural resources*
  - *Coordinated implementation at all levels of development*
  - *Effective participation of stakeholders*
  - *Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities*

Source : MESTECC, 2018.

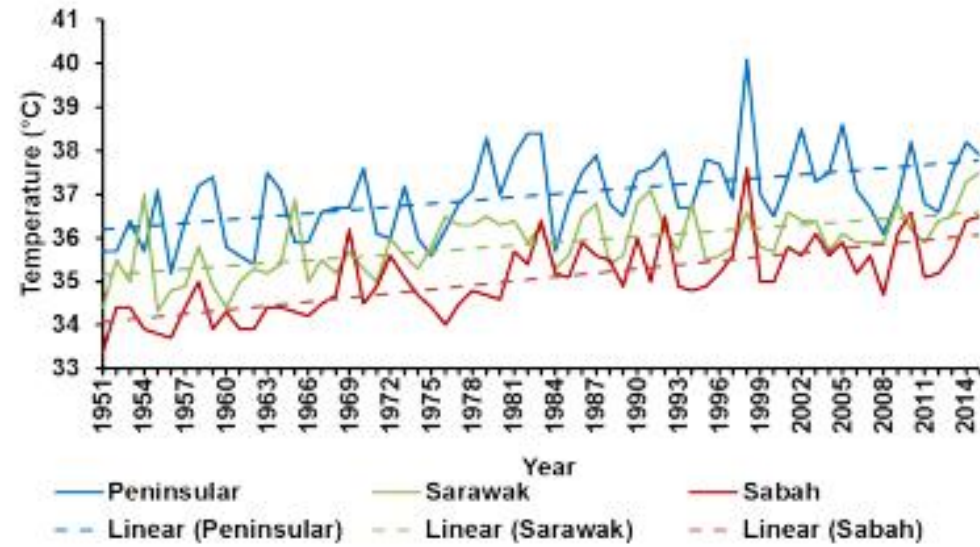
Rank	Top 10 Environmental Health Issues in Malaysia (Experts' FGD)	Total Score
1	Children environmental health (birth cohort study, impact of indoor environment). Formulate intervention strategies on how to manage, e.g. schools/homes/childcare centres.	169
2	Vector borne diseases (e.g. dengue and Aedes breeding in junk yards/abandoned places/no man's land; re-emergence of malaria).	168
3	Contamination of drinking water sources and emerging water pollutants [e.g. endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), pharmaceutical drugs (antiseptics, antimicrobials)].	167
4	Urban health issues (housing and sanitation, poor drainage, air pollution, migrants, urban poor, crime and security, related diseases).	166
5	<b>Climate change adaptation strategies and neglected health issues.</b>	<b>162</b>
6	Food safety and contamination issues (e.g. recycled cooking oil, untrained food handlers especially foreigners, incomplete food labelling on food allergens, non-compliance to food standards).	160
7	Human exposure to pesticides <sup>a</sup> and other environmental chemicals <sup>b</sup> (e.g. e-waste, industries and lead in paint/consumer products).	155 <sup>a</sup> /155 <sup>b</sup>
8	Zoonotic diseases (use ecosystem approach on malaria ( <i>Plasmodium knowlesi</i> ), rabies, leptospirosis, melioidosis).	152
9	Exposure to ionizing and non-ionizing radiation <sup>1</sup> .	144
10	More rigorous efforts to identify sources and means to reduce PM2.5 and ozone levels in Malaysia to assess the disease burden related to PM2.5 and ozone.	144

<sup>1</sup> Issue added during first FGD

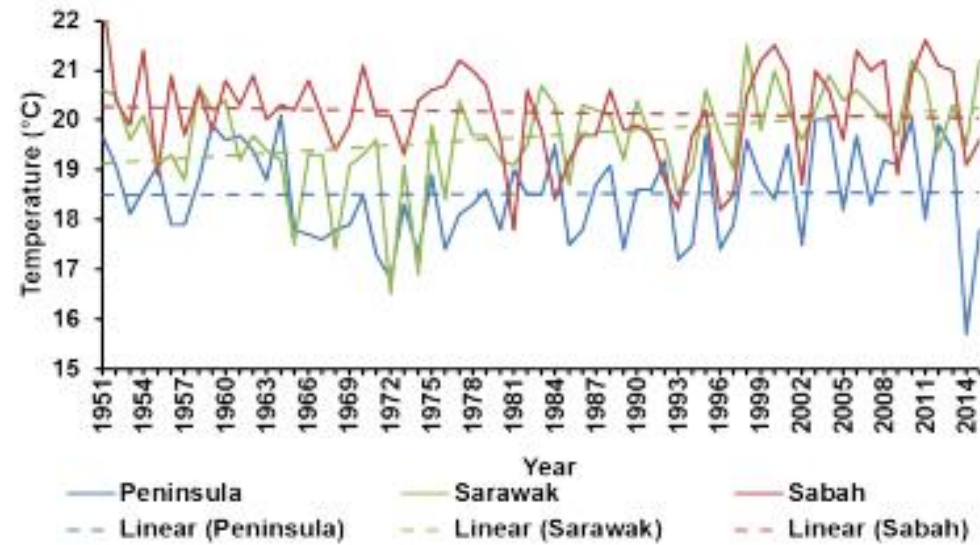
<sup>a,b</sup> Two issues combined

Source : Hashim J.H. *et al.* (2022). A priority list of environmental health issues for Malaysia. *Rev Environ Health*, <https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2022-0030>.

Figure 1.2: Highest Daily Maximum and Lowest Daily Minimum Temperature for Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak



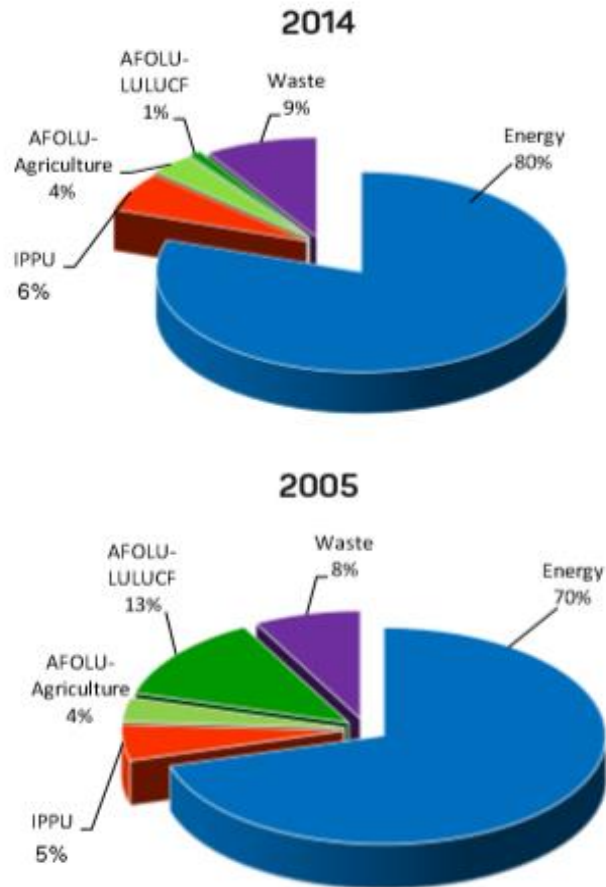
(a) Highest Daily Maximum



(b) Lowest Daily Minimum

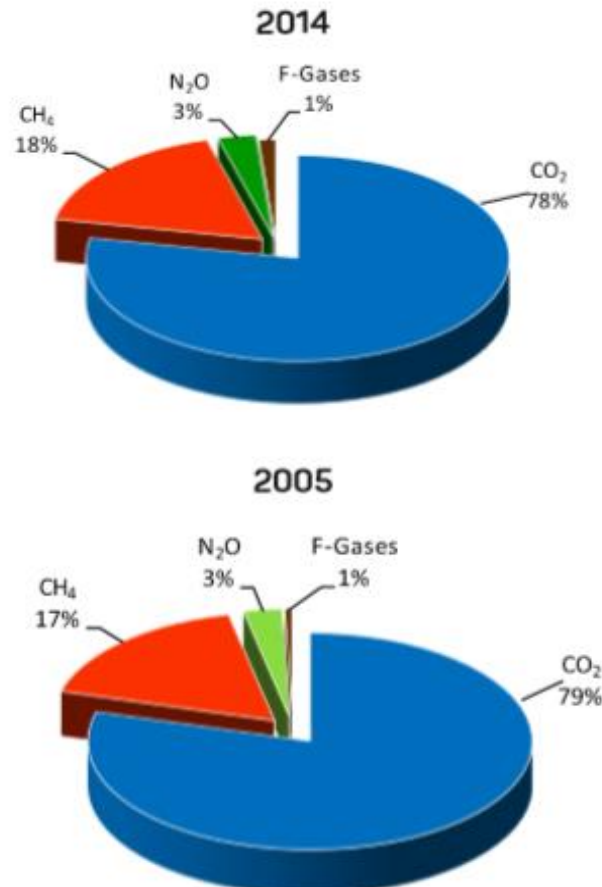
# Past GHG Emissions for Malaysia

Figure 2.3: Percentages of Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector in 2005 and 2014



Note: AFOLU-LULUCF here represents the emissions part only

Figure 2.4: Percentage Emissions According to Greenhouse Gas in 2005 and 2014



Note: CO<sub>2</sub> total here included the AFOLU-LULUCF emissions part only

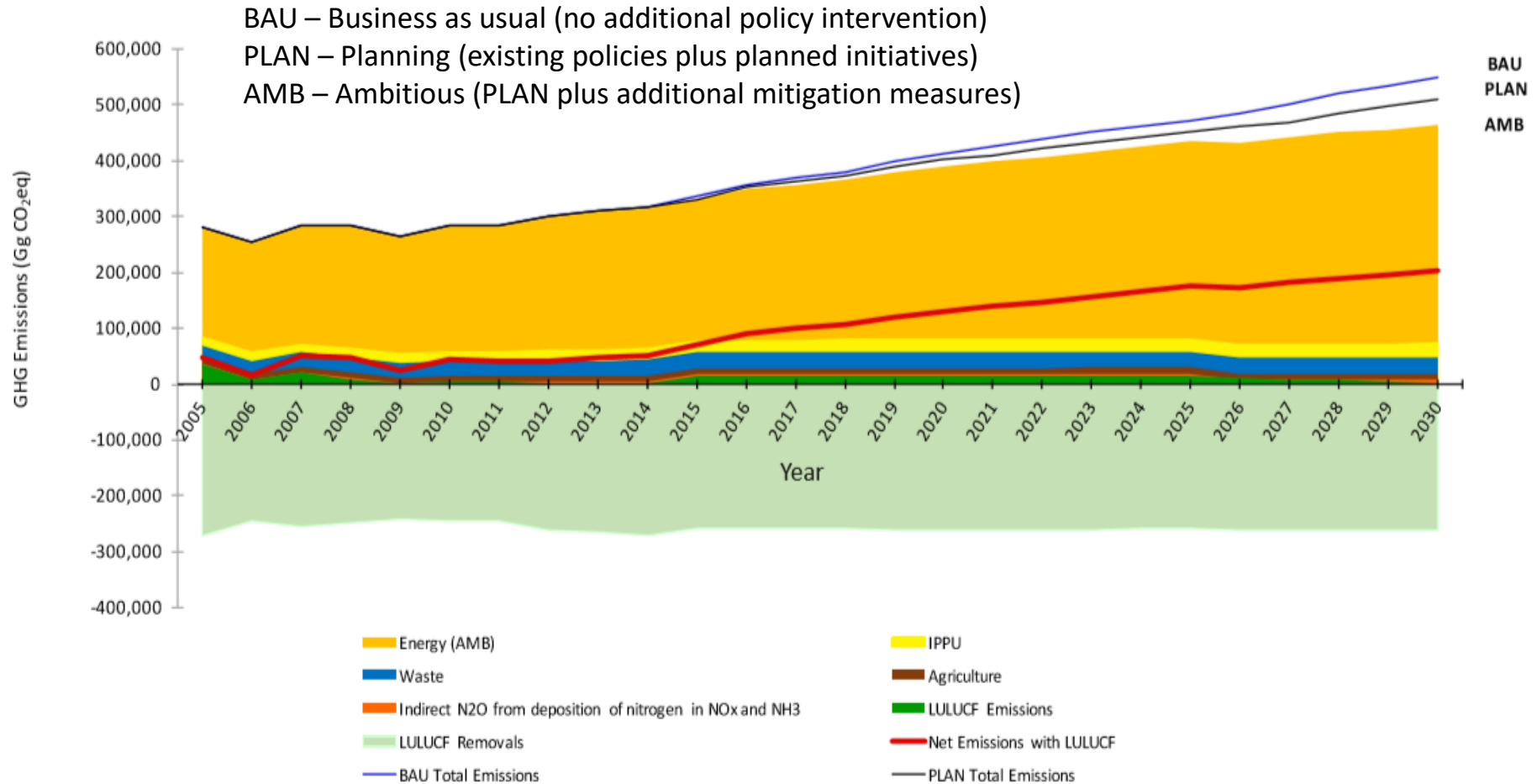
AFOLU - Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use

IPPU - Industrial Processes and Product Use

LULUCF - Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry

# Historical and Projected GHG Emissions for Malaysia

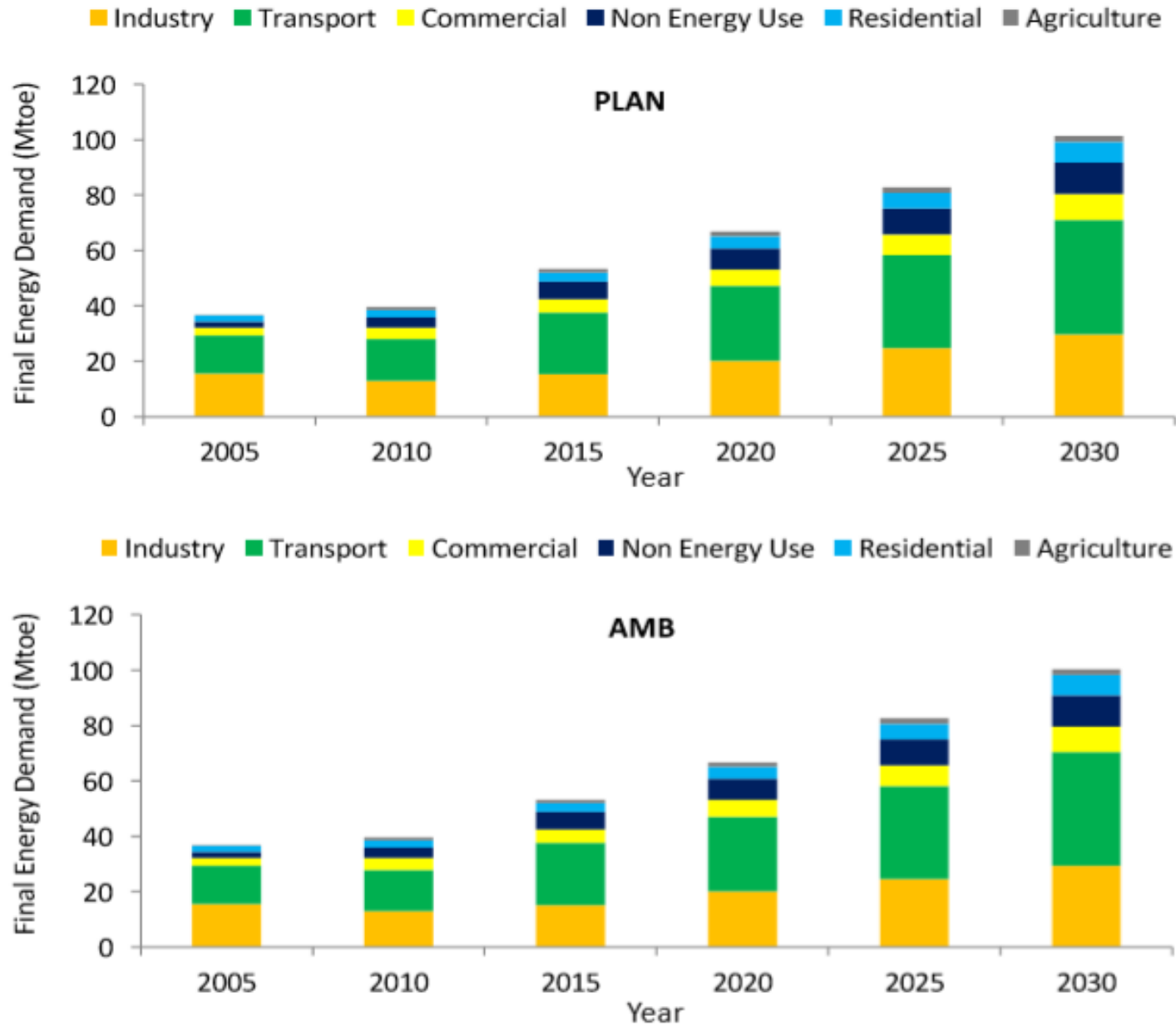
Figure 3.1: Projected Greenhouse Gas Emission Time Series for BAU, PLAN and AMB Scenarios



Note : LULUCF - Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry; IPPU – Industrial processes and product use

Source : MESTECC, 2018.

Figure 3.3: Final Energy Demand by Sub-Sectors under PLAN and AMB Scenarios from 2005 to 2030



The transport and industrial sub-sectors are major contributors within the Malaysian energy sector.

Source : MESTECC, 2018.

# Malaysia's Commitment to Climate Change

- Malaysia's updated its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submitted to the UNFCCC in July 2021.
- Malaysia is committed to reduce by 45% unconditionally, its GHG emissions per GDP by 2030, relative to its emission intensity in 2005.
- GHG coverage has been expanded to 7 greenhouse gasses (GHG): carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbon (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>).

Source : KASA, July 2021.

# Observed and Projected Annual Temperature and Rainfall for Malaysia

Parameter	Observed (1970 - 2000)	Projected for 2030	Projected for 2050
<b>Average Annual Temperature</b>			
Peninsular Malaysia	25.4 – 26.5 °C	26.0 – 27.4 °C (0.6 to 0.9 °C increase)	26.6 – 28.1 °C (1.2 to 1.6 °C increase)
Sabah	24.3 – 26.1°C	25.3 – 26.9 °C (0.8 to 1.0 °C increase)	25.7 – 27.4 °C (1.3 to- 1.4 °C increase)
Sarawak	24.8 – 26.2 °C	25.6 – 26.8 °C (0.6 to 0.8 °C increase)	26.4 – 27.5 °C (1.3 to 1.6 °C increase)
<b>Average Annual Rainfall</b>			
Peninsular Malaysia	1891 – 2619 mm	1998 – 2663 mm (1 to 6 % increase)	2068 – 2805 mm (7 to 11 % increase)
Sabah	2264 – 3532 mm	2338 – 3392 mm (-4 to 5 % increase)	2284 – 3549 mm (about 1 - 2 % increase)
Sarawak	3551 – 3907 mm	3597 – 4144 mm (1 to 6 % increase)	3574 – 4124 mm (1 to 5 % increase)

Source : MESTECC, 2018.

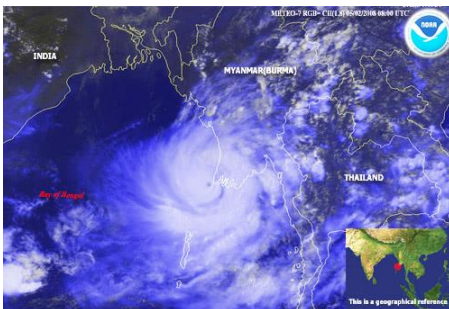
# Observed and Projected Sea Level Rise for Malaysia

Parameter	Observed Rate (1993-2010)	Projected for 2030	Projected for 2050
<b>Sea Level Rise</b>			
Peninsular Malaysia	2.73 - 6.45 mm/year	0.03 - 0.10 m	0.11 - 0.21 m
		0.05 - 0.10 m (West Coast)	0.11 - 0.21 m (West Coast)
		0.03 - 0.07 m (East Coast)	0.11 - 0.15 m (East Coast)
Sabah	5.06 - 7.00 mm/year	0.11 - 0.15 m	0.21 - 0.62 m
Sarawak	3.82 - 5.11 mm/year	0.04 - 0.12m	0.15 - 0.22 m

Source : MESTECC, 2018.

# Climate Change and Extreme Weather

- According to IPCC's AR5, more extreme weather events have been observed since the 1950s.
- Globally, from 1993 to 2012, more than 530,000 people died from almost 15,000 extreme weather events.
- Since 2000, 1.2 billion people in the Asia Pacific Region have been exposed to hydrometeorological hazards through 1,215 disaster events, with losses of more than US\$2.5 trillion in PPP.
- Environmental hazards + human exposure + population vulnerability = health risk.



- Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in May 2008.
- Wind speed up to 134 mph.
- 138,366 fatalities.

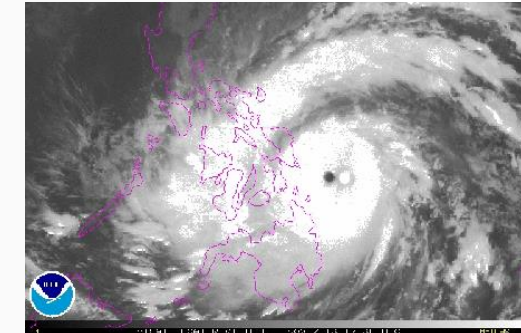
Source : Hashim and Hashim (2016)

# Where Extreme Weather Is Causing The Most Fatalities

Annual average fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants due to extreme weather events (1998-2017)



Extreme weather events in the form of hurricanes, typhoons, thunderstorms, and droughts are the main outcomes of climate change.



Category 5 Super Typhoon Haiyan or Yolanda that hit the Philippines in November 2013 claimed 6,352 lives with 1,771 missing.



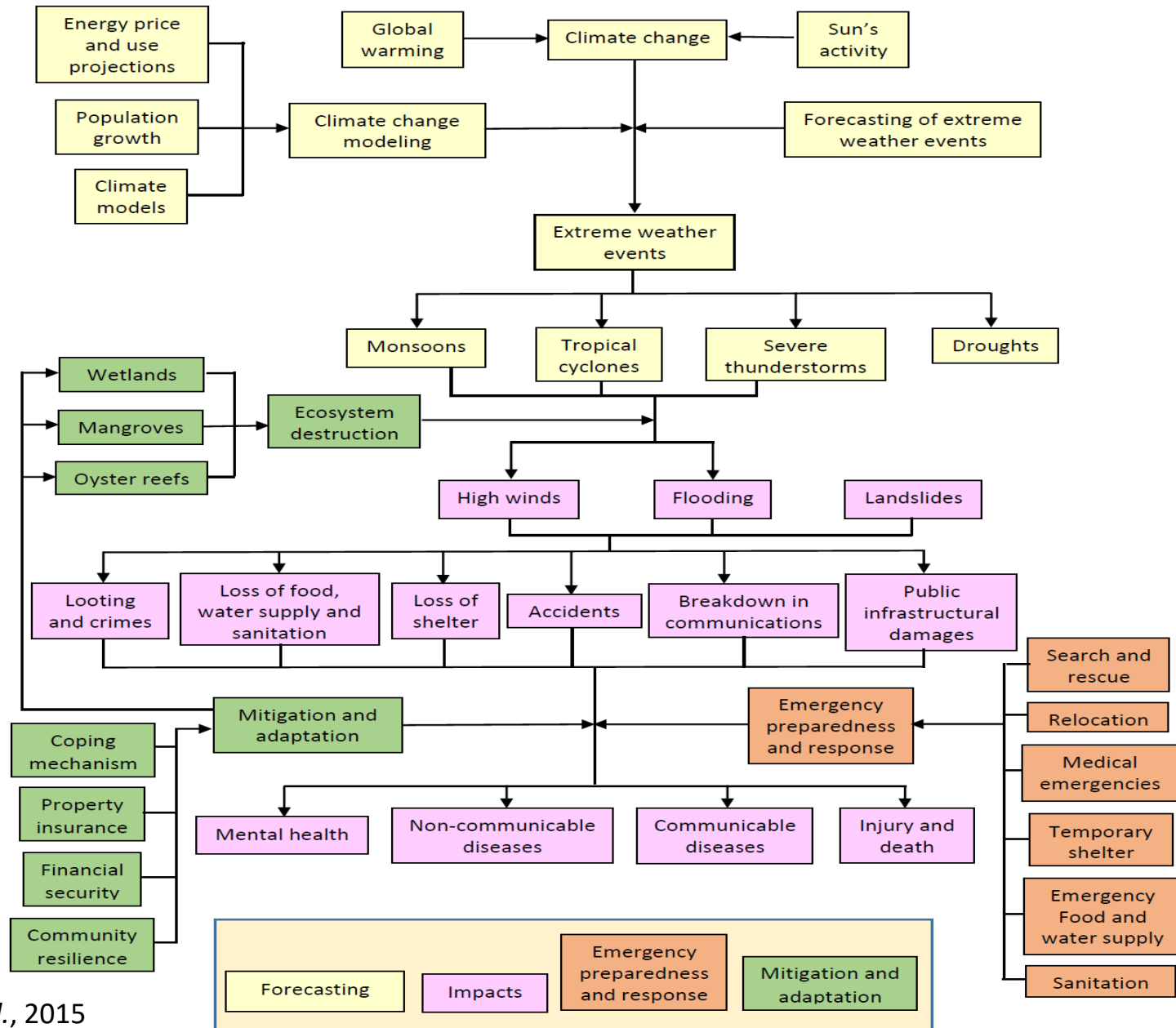
@StatistaCharts Source: Germanwatch

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# Conceptual Framework on Health Impacts from Extreme Weather Events



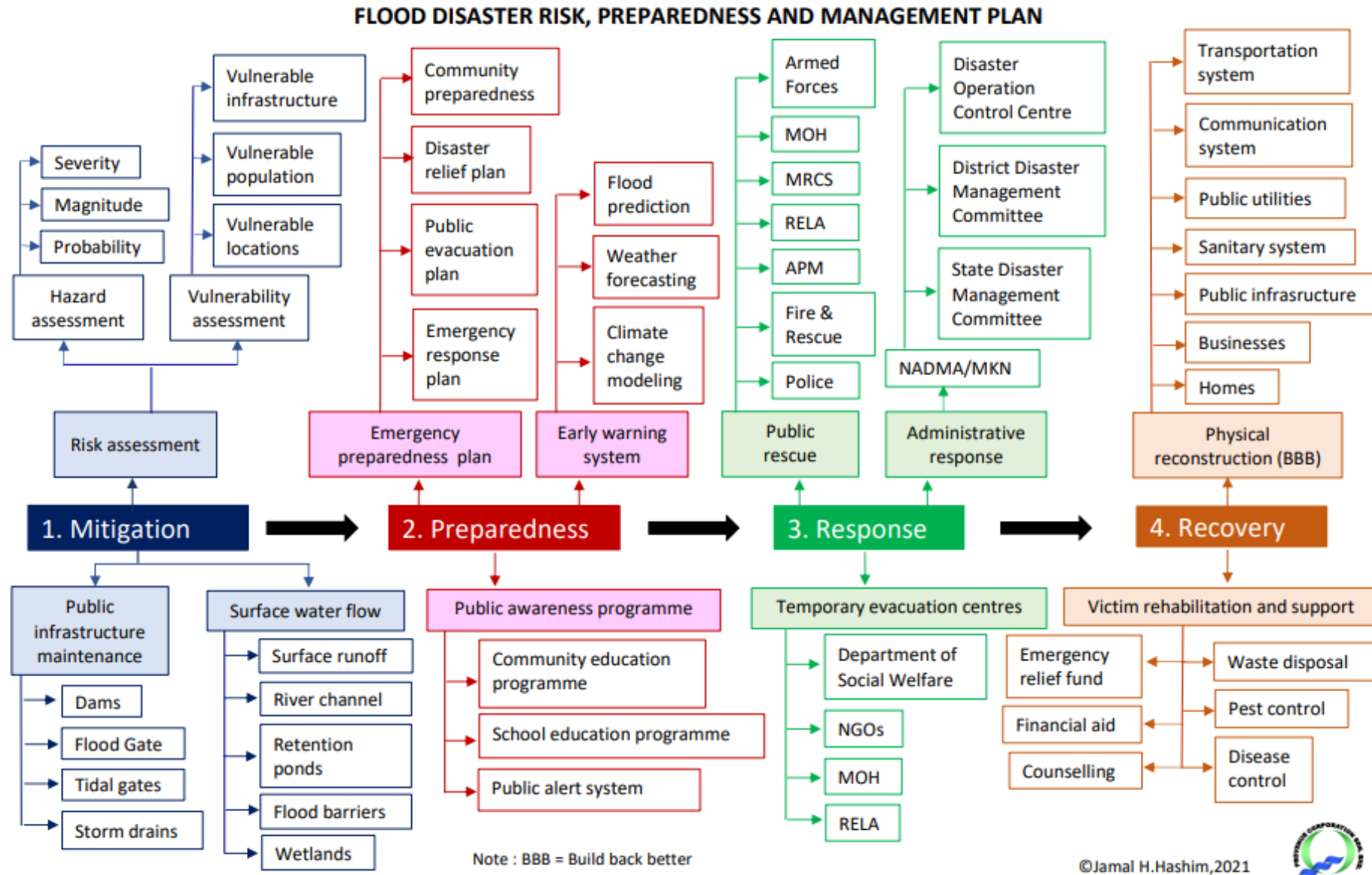
# December 2021 Malaysian Flood

- On 16 December 2021, Tropical Depression 29W made landfall near Kuantan, Malaysia bringing torrential downpours over 3 days.
- The resulting floods affected 8 states across Malaysia, displacing 125,490<sup>1</sup> residents, left at least 54 dead, and 2 missing.<sup>2</sup>
- One of the worst hit area was Taman Sri Muda in Shah Alam which recorded 14 deaths as of 22 December.<sup>3</sup>
- The SMART Tunnel operated for a record 22 hours and diverted 5 million m<sup>3</sup> of flood water.<sup>4</sup>
- The economic loss of this flood has been estimated to be between RM6.5<sup>5</sup> to RM20 billion<sup>6</sup>.



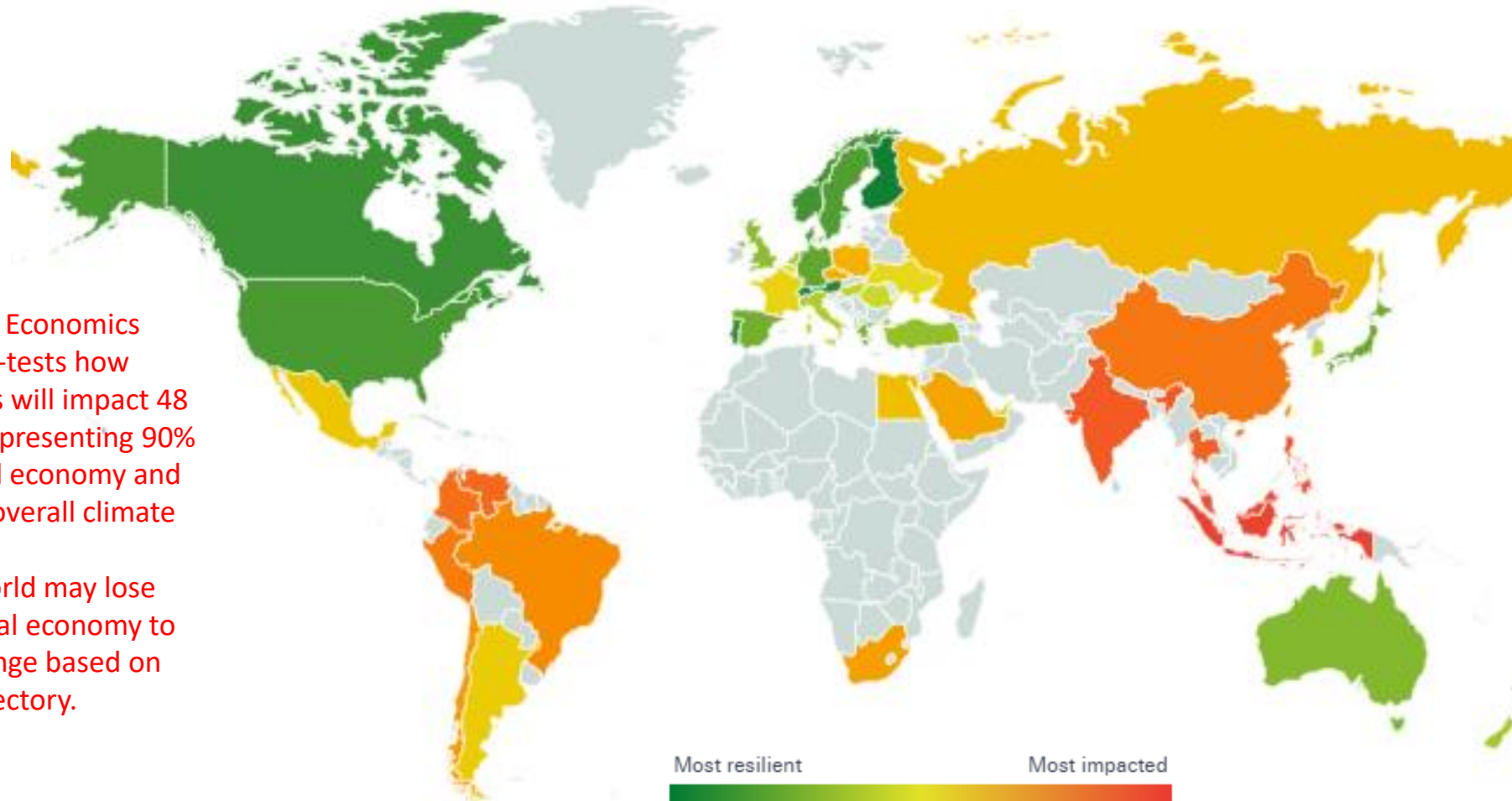
Tropical Depression 29W

# Flood Disaster Risk, Preparedness and Management Plan



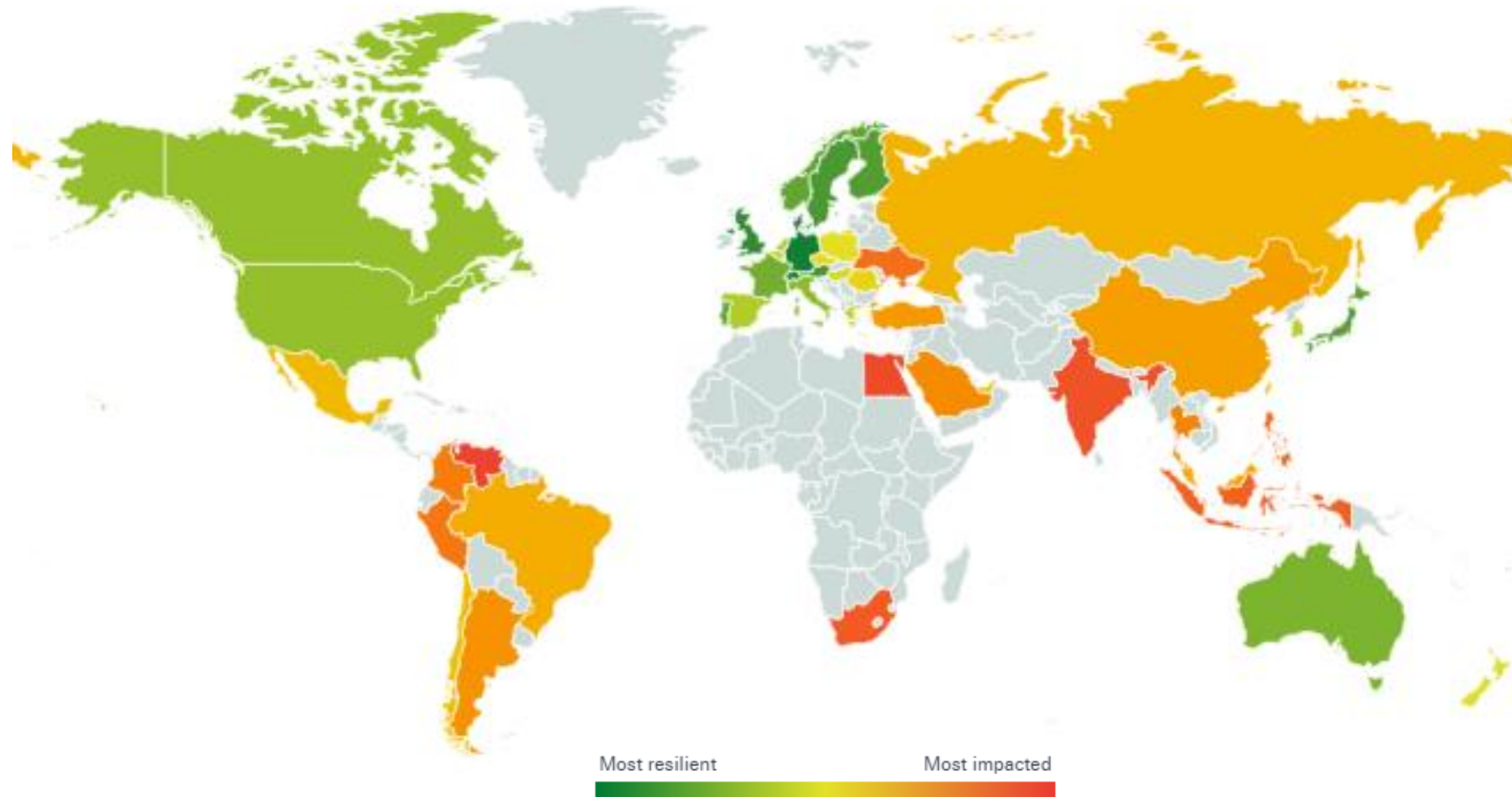
# Global Extreme Weather Economic Risks

- The Climate Economics Index stress-tests how climate risks will impact 48 countries representing 90% of the world economy and ranks their overall climate resilience.
- By 2050, world may lose 10% of global economy to climate change based on current trajectory.



Source : Swiss Re Institute (2022)

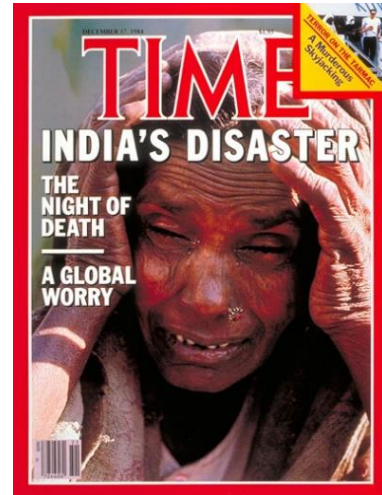
# Global Climate Risk Adaptive Capacity



Source : Swiss Re Institute (2022)

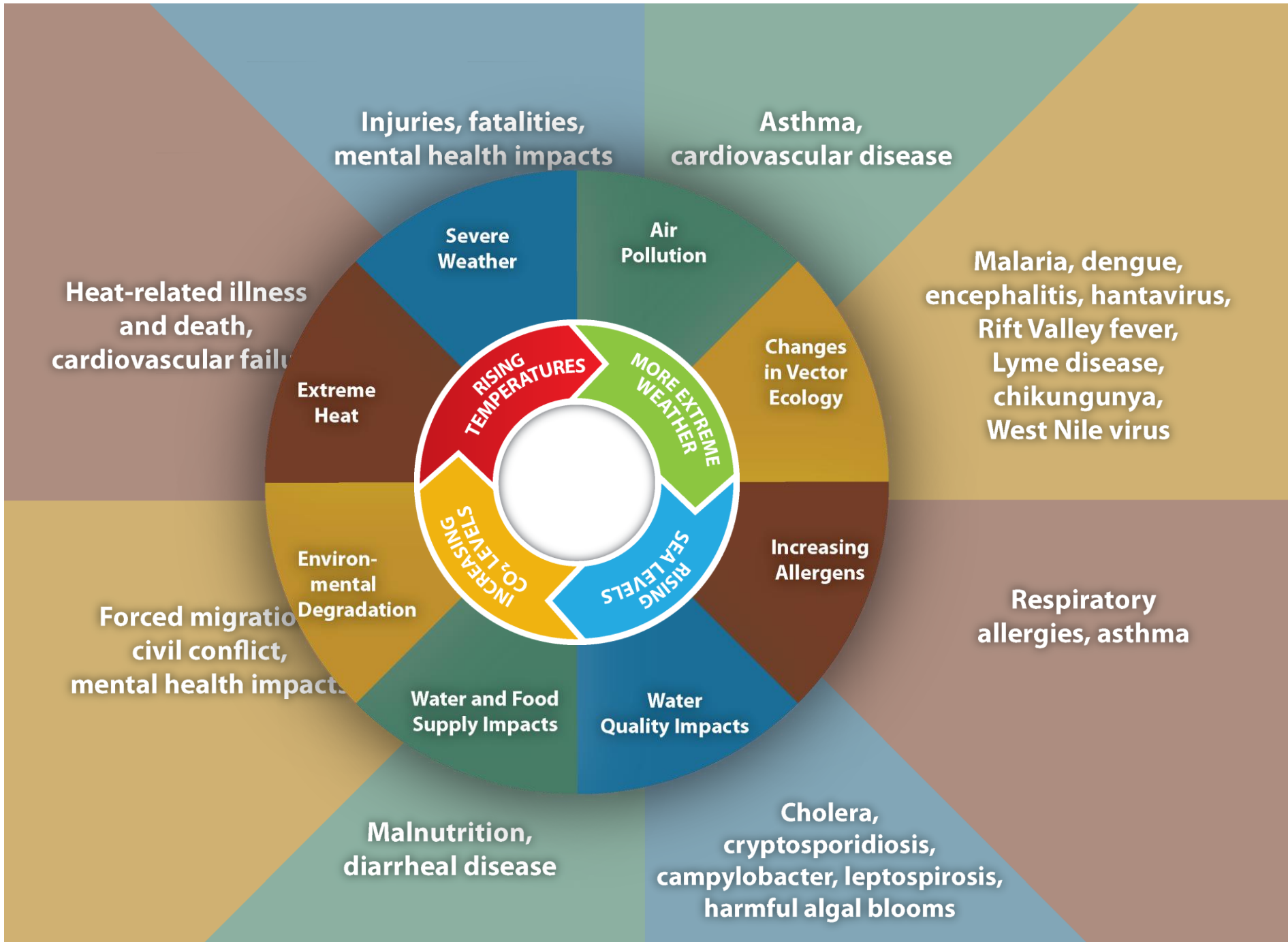
# What is a Disaster

A disaster is a sudden, calamitous event that seriously disrupts the functioning of a community or society and causes human, material, and economic or environmental losses that exceed the community's or society's ability to cope using its own resources. Though often caused by nature, disasters can have human origins.

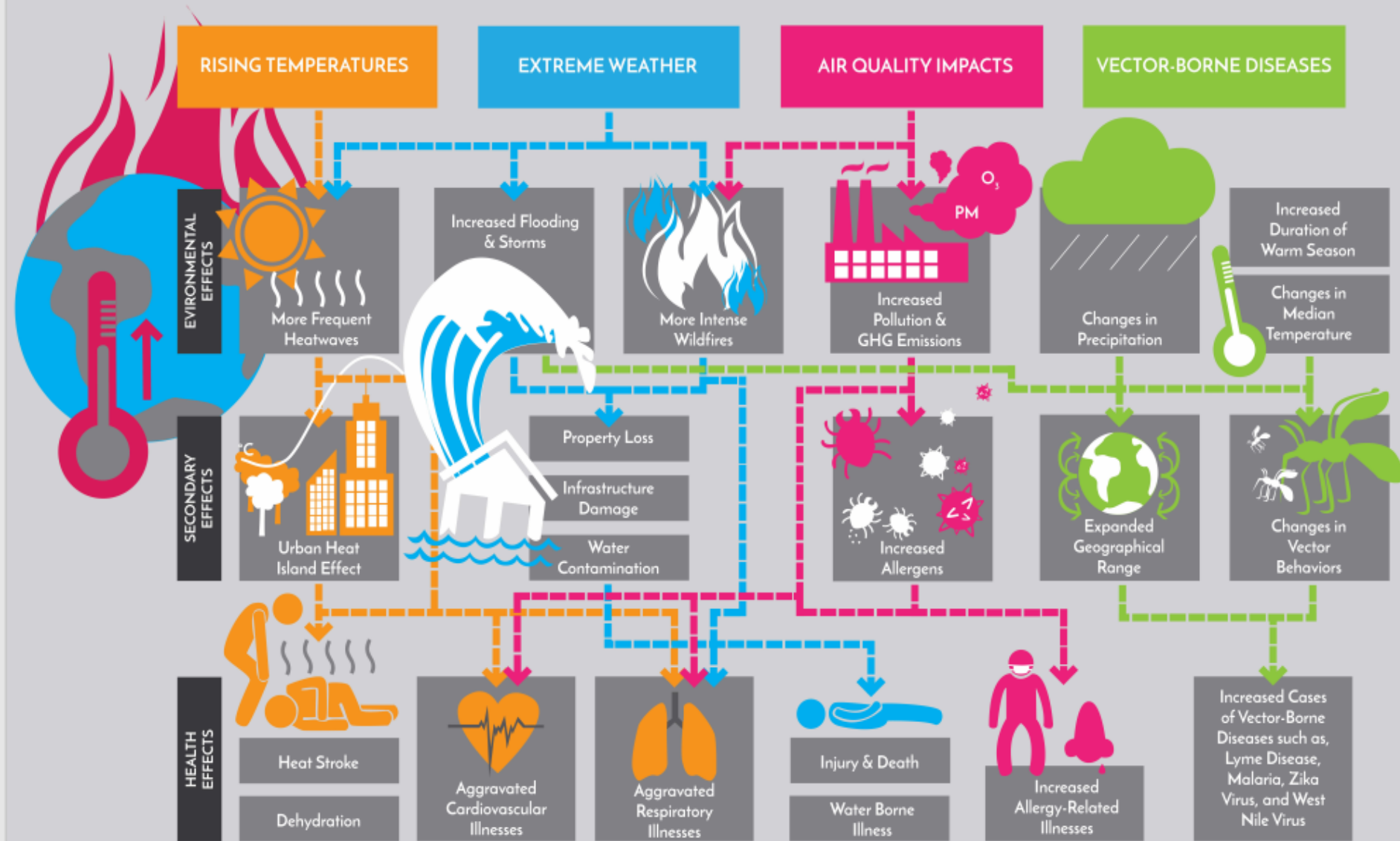


**(VULNERABILITY + HAZARD) / CAPACITY = DISASTER**

Source: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.  
<https://www.ifrc.org/en/> (accessed 26 July 2015).



# HOW CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS YOUR HEALTH



## Leptospirosis Outbreak After the 2014 Major Flooding Event in Kelantan, Malaysia: A Spatial-Temporal Analysis

Mohd Firdaus Mohd Radi,<sup>1,2</sup> Jamal Hisham Hashim,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Mohd Hasni Jaafar,<sup>1</sup> Rozita Hod,<sup>1</sup> Norfazilah Ahmad,<sup>1</sup>  
Azmawati Mohammed Nawawi,<sup>1</sup> Gul Muhammad Baloch,<sup>3</sup> Rohaida Ismail,<sup>4</sup> and Nur Izzah Farakhin Ayub<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine, National University of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; <sup>2</sup>United Nations University-International Institute for Global Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; <sup>3</sup>School of Medicine, Taylor's University, Subang Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia; <sup>4</sup>Kelantan State Health Department, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaysia

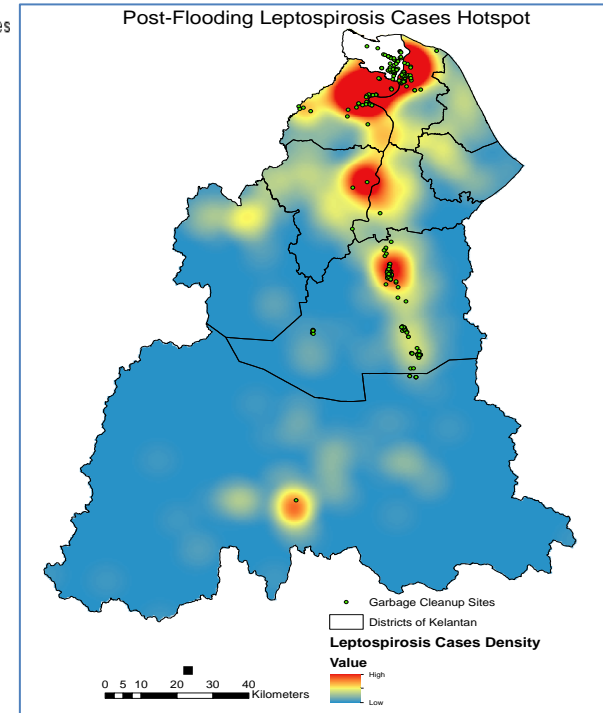
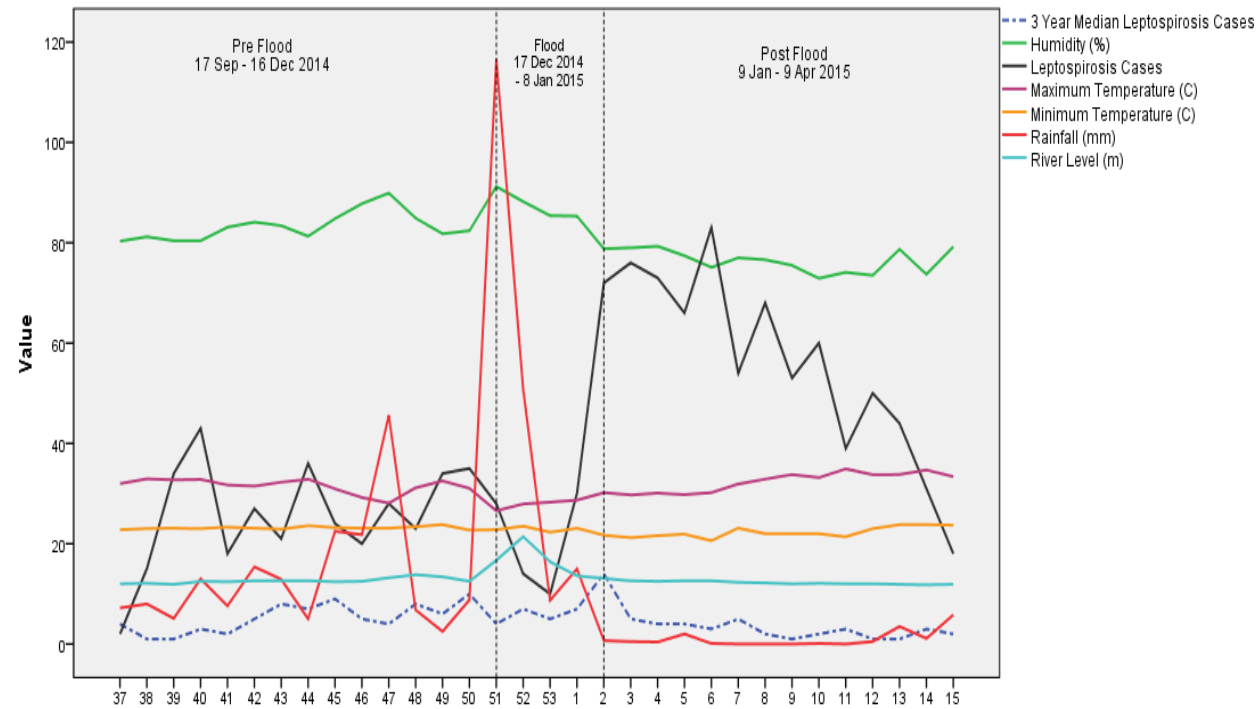
**Abstract.** Severe floods increase the risk of leptospirosis outbreaks in endemic areas. This study determines the spatial-temporal distribution of leptospirosis in relation to environmental factors after a major flooding event in Kelantan, Malaysia. We conducted an observational ecological study involving incident leptospirosis cases, from the 3 months before, during, and three months after flood, in reference to the severe 2014 Kelantan flooding event. Geographical information system was used to determine the spatial distribution while climatic factors that influenced the cases were also analyzed. A total of 1,229 leptospirosis cases were notified within the three study periods where incidence doubled in the postflood period. Twelve of 66 subdistricts recorded incidence rates of over 100 per 100,000 population in the postflood period, in comparison with only four subdistricts in the preflooding period. Average nearest neighborhood analysis indicated that the cases were more clustered in the postflood period as compared with the preflood period, with observed mean distance of 1,139 meters and 1,666 meters, respectively (both at  $P < 0.01$ ). Global Moran's  $I$  was higher in the postflood period (0.19;  $P < 0.01$ ) as compared with the preflood period (0.06;  $P < 0.01$ ). Geographic weighted regression showed that living close to water bodies increased the risk of contracting the disease. Postflooding hotspots were concentrated in areas where garbage cleanup occurred and the incidence was significantly associated with temperature, humidity, rainfall, and river levels. Postflooding leptospirosis outbreak was associated with several factors. Understanding the spatial distribution and associated factors of leptospirosis can help improve future disease outbreak management after the floods.



## Leptospirosis Outbreak After the 2014 Major Flooding Event in Kelantan, Malaysia: A Spatial-Temporal Analysis

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Epid Week (2014-2015)

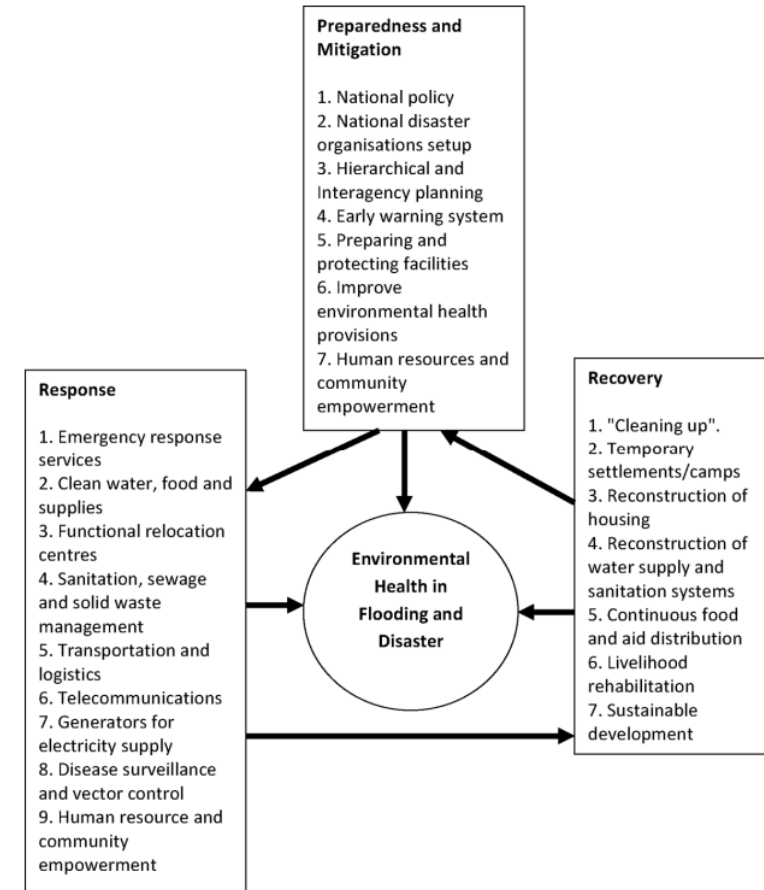


## Title: Lessons on environmental health and disaster preparedness, response and recovery from the severe Kelantan flooding in 2014

**Authors:** Mohd Firdaus Mohd Radi; Jamal Hisham Hashim; Mohd Hasni Jaafar; Rozita Hod; Norfazilah Ahmad; Azmawati Mohammed Naw; Gul Muhammad Baloch; Rohaida Ismail; Nur Izzah Farakhin Ayub

**Abstract:** Flood is a natural disaster that occurs annually in Malaysia causing devastating effects and damages to property and lives. This study looks into our environmental health and disaster preparedness, response and recovery management throughout the severe 2014 Kelantan flooding. We conducted three focus group discussions (FGDs) with healthcare, rescue and welfare workers, and community representatives involved throughout the disaster. The unprecedented severe flooding affected our environmental health and disaster management leading to various prominent issues. State level officers faced greater challenges in inter-agency communication, coordination and collaboration. District level staff faced more complications during disaster and emergency response. Meanwhile, community representatives faced issues pertaining to their livelihood mainly during and after the disaster. Recommendations include improved coordination, effective communication, improved human resource management, accessible early warning system, community empowerment and awareness, and prioritisation of continuous environmental health services. We hope that these recommendations can improve our future disaster management.

**Figure 1** Theoretical framework on environmental health provisions in different disaster management phases



# Malaysia's Adaptation to Climate Change

- Upgrading climate modelling capacity.
- Monitoring and forecasting of extreme weather events.
- Training on adaptation of agriculture to climate change.
- Improve public health response to extreme weather events such as heat waves, drought and flooding.
- Improve national disaster response mechanism (NADMA).

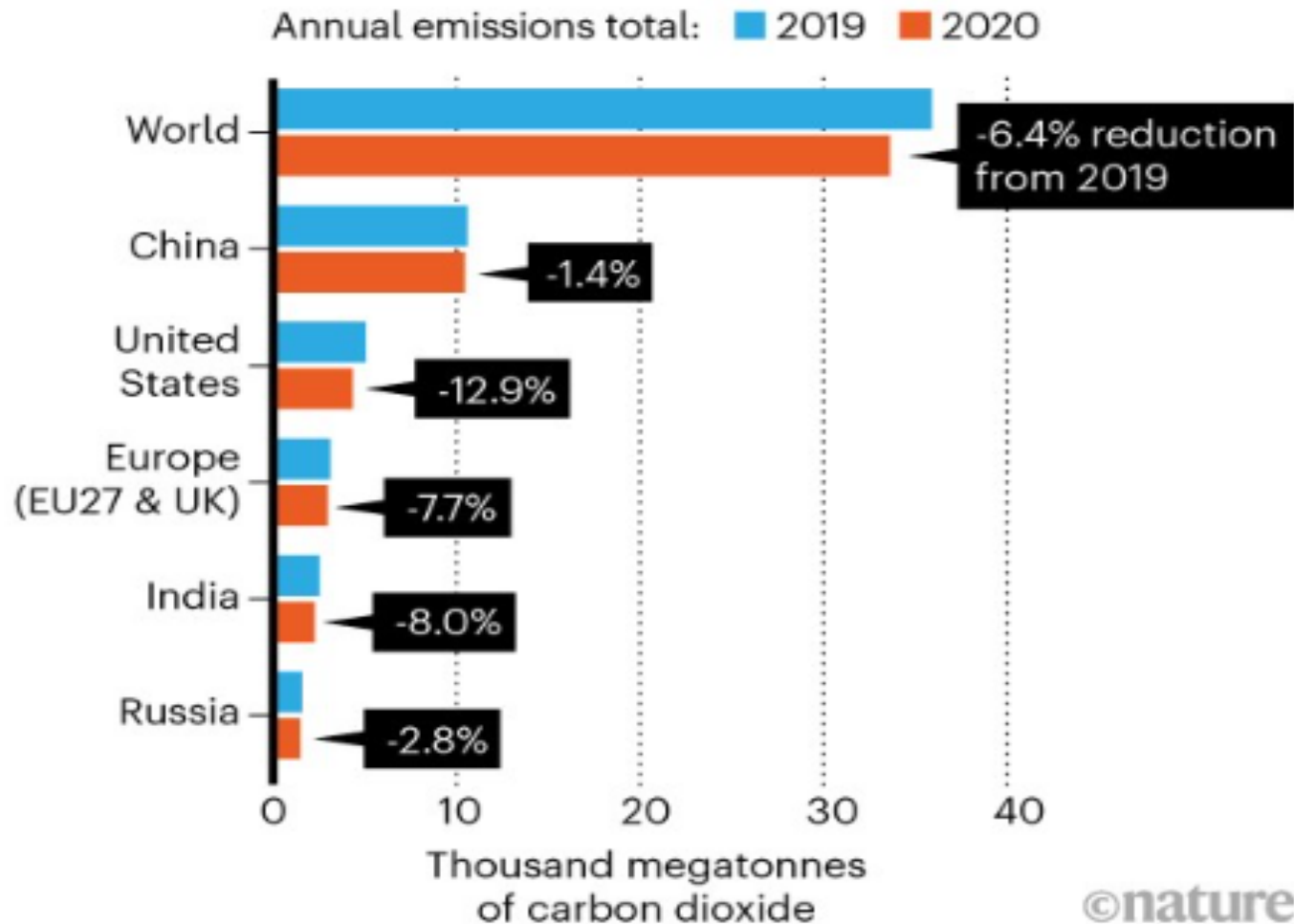
# COVID-19 and Climate Change

- Worldwide lockdowns, travel restrictions and economic slowdown due to COVID-19 have curbed carbon emissions globally.
- Global carbon dioxide emissions fell by 6.4%, or by 2.3 billion tonnes in 2020, compared to 2019 (equivalent to twice Japan's yearly emissions).
- Carbon emission from the aviation sector fell by 48%.
- UNEP estimated that we need to cut carbon emissions by 7.6% per year for the next decade to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Source : Tollefson (2021)

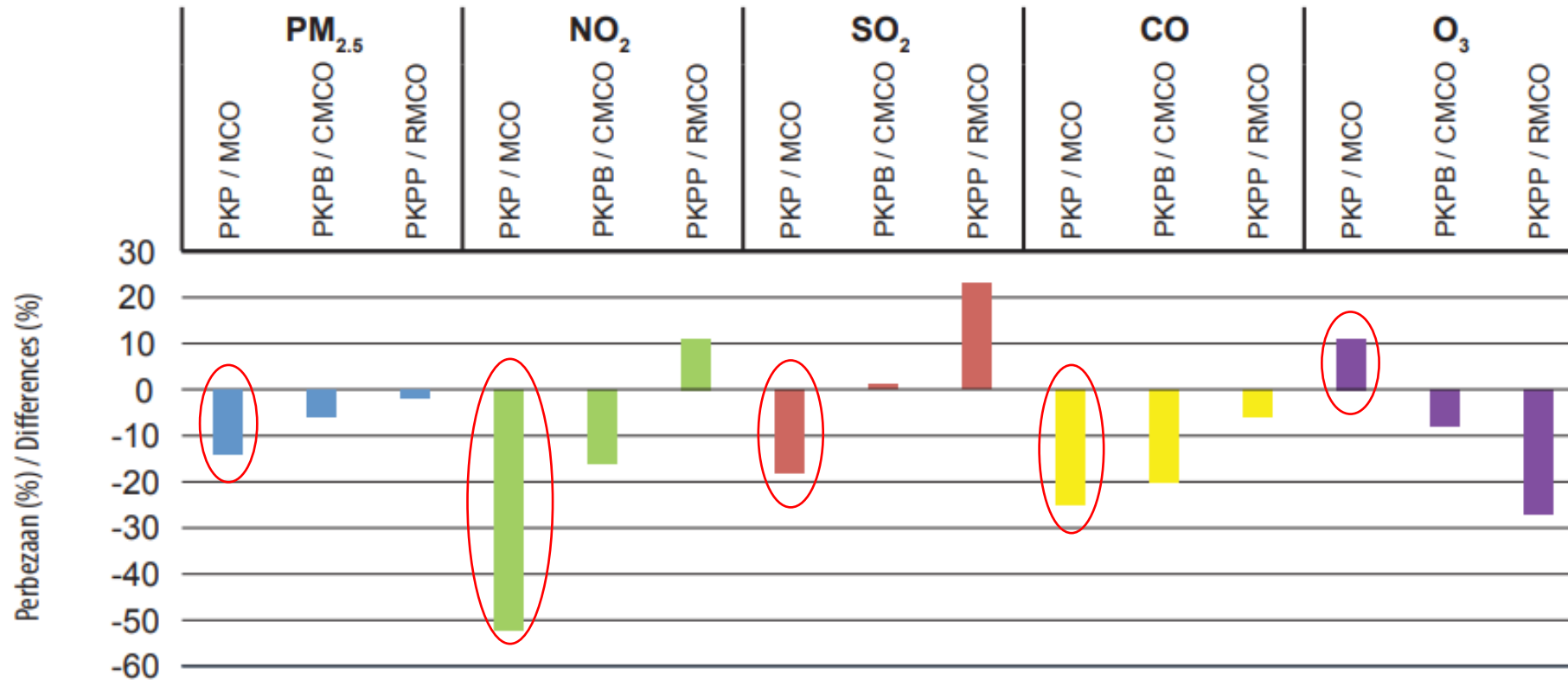
# CARBON CUTS

The COVID-19 pandemic took a bite out of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in many countries, but trends varied. China saw a minor decrease because its economy recovered after outbreaks in early 2020. The United States tallied the largest reduction, driven by outbreaks lasting throughout the year.



Source : Tollefson (2021)

# Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Air Quality in Malaysia, 2020



MCO = Movement control order  
 CMCO = Conditional movement control order  
 RMCO = Recovery movement control order

Rajah 1.14 : Perbezaan Peratus Pencemar Udara Semasa PKP, PKPB dan PKPP di Lembah Klang  
 Figure 1.14 : Percentage Differences of Air Pollutants During MCO, CMCO and RMCO in Klang Valley



# Malaysia's Low Carbon Mobility Blueprint 2021-30

## FOCUS AREAS

The output of the LCMB study is organised into four focus areas, namely:

- 1 GHG emission and energy reduction via vehicle fuel economy and emission improvement
- 2 GHG emission and energy reduction via electric mobility adoption in strategic applications
- 3 GHG emission and energy reduction via alternative fuel adoption
- 4 GHG emission and energy reduction via mode shift

4 focus areas and 10 strategies had been developed



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journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jth](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jth)



## The carbon savings and health co-benefits from the introduction of mass rapid transit system in Greater Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



Focus Area 4 : GHG emission & energy reduction via mode shift

Soo Chen Kwan<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Marko Tainio<sup>c,d</sup>, James Woodcock<sup>c</sup>, Rosnah Sutan<sup>b</sup>, Jamal Hisham Hashim<sup>a</sup>

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- <sup>c</sup> MRC Epidemiology Unit, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, United Kingdom
- <sup>d</sup> The Systems Research Institute (SRI), Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw, Poland

- S6: Shifting private transport to public transport
- S7: Promoting public transport through land-use development
- S8: Improving traffic flow
- S9: Shifting freight mode from road to rail
- S10: Promoting active and micro mobility

- Malaysia targets 40% of modal share for public transport in all cities by 2030.




**Table 2**CO<sub>2</sub> eq (tons/year) and PM2.5 emissions (g/day).

	MRT(SBK)			MRT (SSP)			Total
	PC	MC	Subtotal	PC	MC	Subtotal	
<b>CO<sub>2</sub> eq (tons/year)</b>							
Line haul	-114,848	-38,306	-153,155	-138,493	-46,193	-184,687	-337,842
Access-egress	40,484	2867	43,353	48,819	3458	52,279	95,632
Net total	-74,364	-35,439	-109,802	-89,674	-42,735	-132,408	-242,210
<b>PM2.5 (g/day)</b>							
Line haul	-20,751	-18,693	-39,444	-25,024	-22,541	-47,565	-87,009
Access-egress	7301	1400	8701	8805	1688	10,493	19,194
Net total	-13,450	-17,293	-30,743	-16,219	-20,853	-37,072	-67,815

PC: passenger car, MC: motorcycle

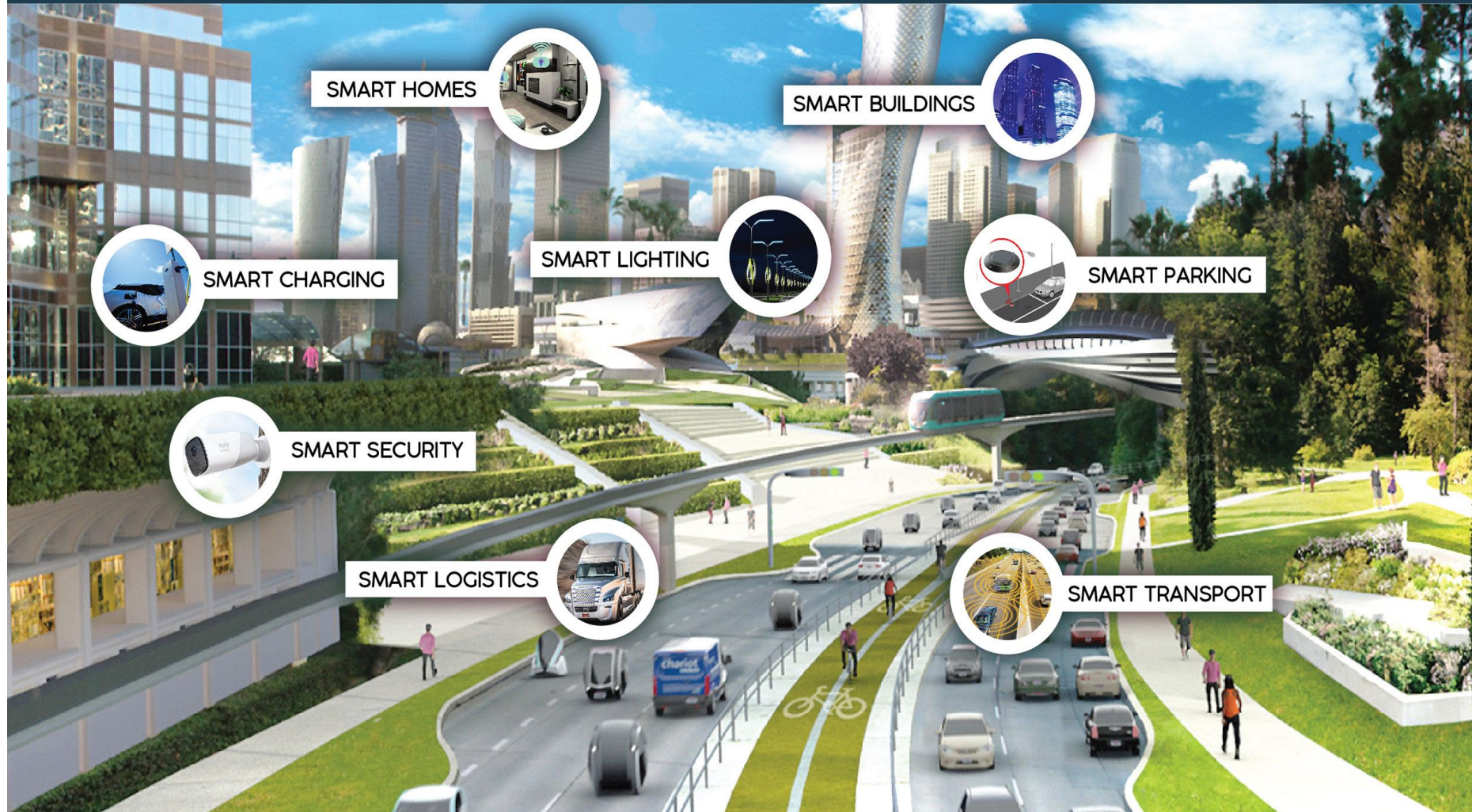
**Table 3**

Mortality and DALYs avoided by the two MRT lines per year.

	MRT (SBK)		MRT (SSP)		Total	
	Death	DALYs	Death	DALYs	Death	DALYs
<b>Air pollution<sup>a</sup></b>						
Line haul	-2	-44.2	-4	-88.9	-6	-133.1
Access-egress	0.4	9.7	0.9	19.5	1.3	29.2
Net total	-1.6	-34.5	-3.1	-69.4	-4.7	-103.9
<b>Traffic injuries<sup>b</sup></b>						
Line haul	-73	-4424	-88	-5335	-161	-9759
Access-egress	33	1568	40	1891	73	3459
Net total	-40	-2856	-48	-3444	-88	-6300
<b>Physical activity<sup>b</sup></b>						
Net total	-41	-1443	-49	-1740	-90	-3183
Net total	-83	-4334	-100	-5253	-183	-9587

<sup>a</sup> Population of impacts: MRT (SBK) = 1.2 million; MRT (SSP) = 2.0 million.<sup>b</sup> Population of impacts: MRT (SBK) = 442,000; MRT (SSP) = 553,000.

# SMART CITY ENVISIONED | A View of the Future



Smart homes, smart workplaces, smart cities.

Source: Energy Watch (2021)

# Green and Smart Building Concept

- Intelligent approach to **energy efficiency** (e.g. intelligent lighting, temperature control, ventilation, solar panels, inverter air-conditioning and LED lights).
- **Efficient water use** (e.g. rain water harvesting, dual-flushing toilets).
- **Minimising wastes** and maximising reuse (e.g. promote waste recycling).
- **Promoting health** and well-being (e.g. good indoor air quality and health monitor).
- **Greening the environment** (e.g. urban farms).
- **Resilient structures** (e.g. heat and flood resistant).
- **Connecting communities** and people (e.g. promote active transport, high-speed internet).
- Reducing impacts in **buildings life-cycle** (e.g. use of recycled materials).

# FIRST STEPS FOR GREENING YOUR HOME





Picture: a graphic showing how the modern office may function, showing perspex screens, automated reception and one-way systems



**Thank you**