

# Linkages between systematic observation and the work of the Adaptation Committee

Expert Talk 3 by Klaus Radunsky

Enhancing observation – Workshop by GCOS/IPCC/UNFCCC  
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# Goal

Assessing the adequacy of national and regional networks and records for detection of climate trends to inform global, regional and national assessments of climate change and for developing regional and national climate risk profiles.



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# Overview

- Question, challenge
- Key messages from GCOS Workshop, Offenbach, February 2013
- Work programme Adaptation Committee
- Selected gaps related to observation and research
- Risk management approach
- Communication challenges
- Conclusions



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## **Question**

What are the most significant gaps with respect to the detection of climate trends, which ECVs do they relate to, and how do they vary by region?

## **Challenge**

What needs to be done in order to close the above gaps efficiently and speedily?



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## **GCOS WS, Offenbach – key messages (1)**

- GFCs: meet the needs of end users (who are those?)
- Re-focus and strengthen observation systems
- Four priority areas: agriculture, water resources, health, and disaster risk reduction issues
- Provide strategic guidance to the GCOS Programme
- Cross-cutting issues: risk management, early warning systems, research, modelling, data rescue & management
- Develop products in consultation with practitioners



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## **GCOS WS, Offenbach – key messages (2)**

- Higher spatial and temporal resolution of observation required to support adaptation
- Focus on regions with highest vulnerability
- Need for development of infrastructure to support data rescue
- Enhanced investments in long-term observations required
- Complex array of international organizations requires clarification of responsibilities
- Need of sector-specific activities



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## Work programme Adaptation Committee - **Mandate**

- Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties
- Strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge
- Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with organizations, centers and networks
- Providing information and recommendations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties
- Considering information with a view to recommending what further actions may be required;



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## Adaptation Committee – first workplan: **Workstreams**

- on technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action;
- on technical support and guidance to the Parties on means of implementation;
- on awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information





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## Adaptation Committee – workplan: **Context**

- promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner;
- Adaptation to climate change is not a solitary activity but must be part of the development agenda of a country;
- Adaptation is primarily driven by regional/local needs and insights;
- consideration of vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, based on and guided by the best available science



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## Gaps in data/knowledge: **selected examples**

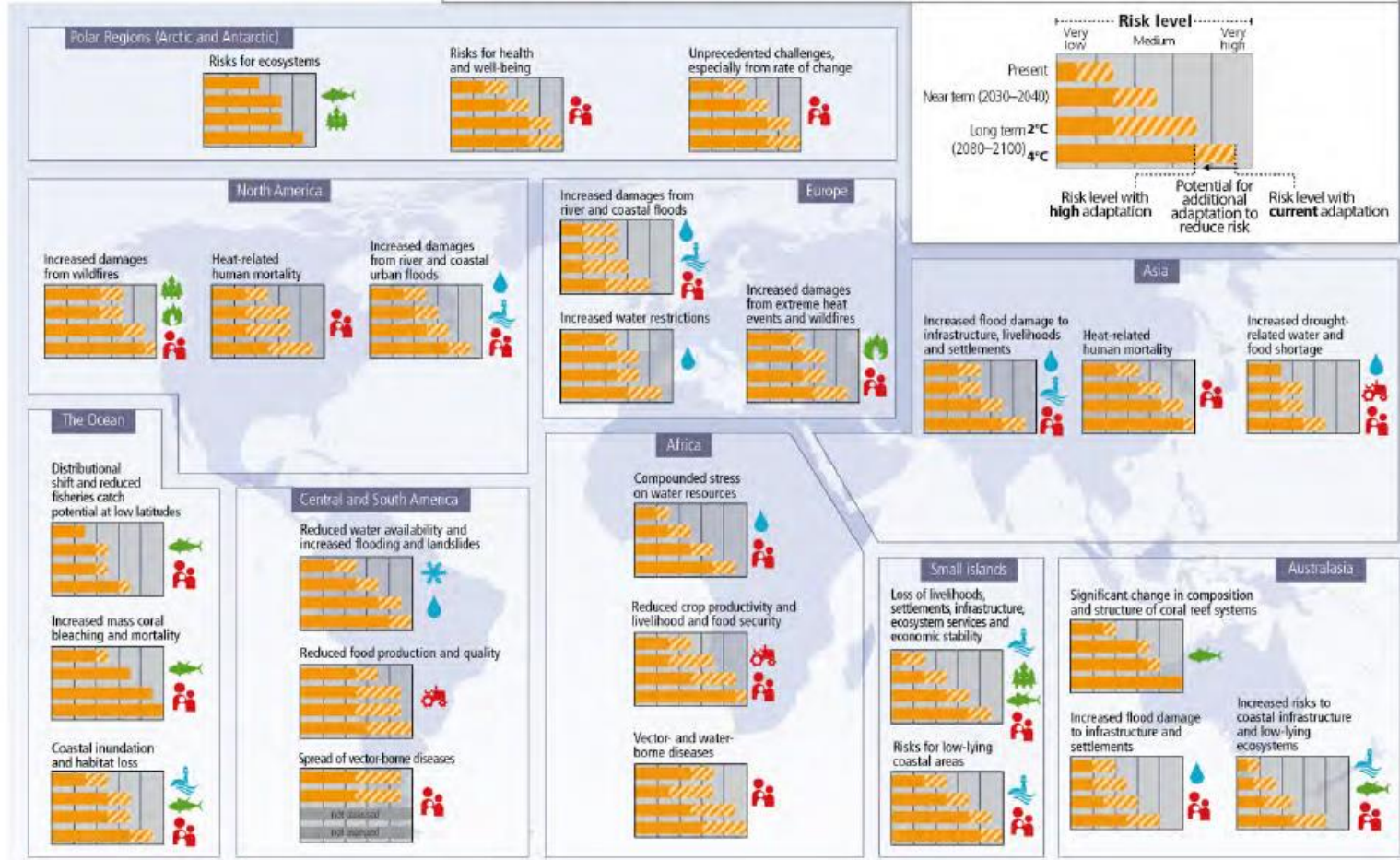
- AR5 SYR Figure SPM.8 on Regional key risks and potential for risk reduction
- Uncertainty related to the globally averaged combined land and ocean surface temperature data for 2014
- Uncertainty related to the climate sensitivity, or more specifically to the positive feedback of additional evaporation of water due to warming by GHGs
- Linkages to human security & livelihoods and poverty
- limits of adaptation



# Regional key risks and potential for risk reduction

**Representative key risks for each region for**

Glaciers, snow, ice and/or permafrost	<b>Physical Systems</b> Rivers, lakes, floods and/or drought	Coastal erosion and/or sea level effects	Terrestrial ecosystems	<b>Biological Systems</b> Wildfire	Marine ecosystems	<b>Human &amp; Managed Systems</b> Food production	Livelihoods, health and/or economics
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SYR Figure SPM.8

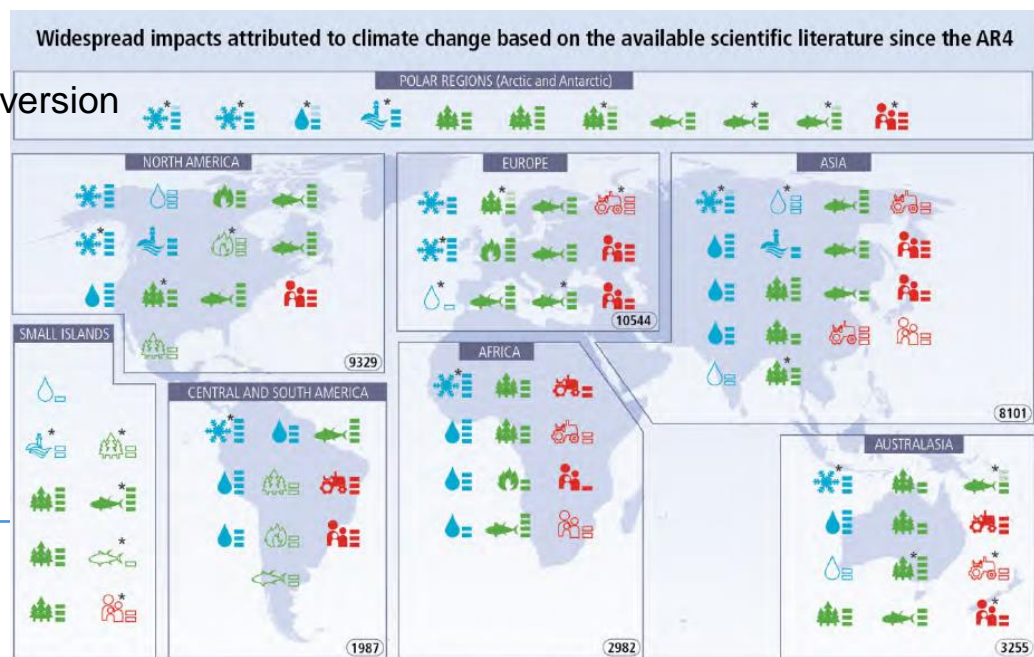
Gaps in data and research can affect communication of adaptation needs:

the evolution of SYR  
Figure SPM.4.

Review draft



Final version



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**Limited resources – need for prioritization**

informed by an

**iterative risk management approach?**



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## Risk management approach: **requirements?**

- Consult a broad range of risks
- Acknowledge uncertainty of risks
- Map interdependencies of the risks
- Consider at least the past 10 years and the next 10 years
- Re-evaluate the risks – on a yearly basis
- Communicate risks effectively – for non-experts in the specific field

From: Erwann Michel-Kerjan (Wharton Risk Center)



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## Conclusions (1)

- Agreement on the great importance of systematic observation
- However, still significant gaps in data, resulting in inaction that e.g. contributes to disasters, losses and indirectly increases risks of violent conflicts
- despite global efforts such as the GFCS there remains the challenge to close gaps efficiently and speedy





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## Conclusions (2)

- The National Adaptation Planning process (NAPs) offers an opportunity to link adaptation and systematic observation
- Bilateral/multilateral and regional cooperation (coordinated by regional centers) could be triggered by NAPs and thus speed up closing gaps in systematic observation
- The AC will make every effort in its second workplan to help close the gap in systematic observation and is open for any helpful suggestions





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Thank you!

