

*Africa and National Communications
under UNFCCC : A Means To An End*

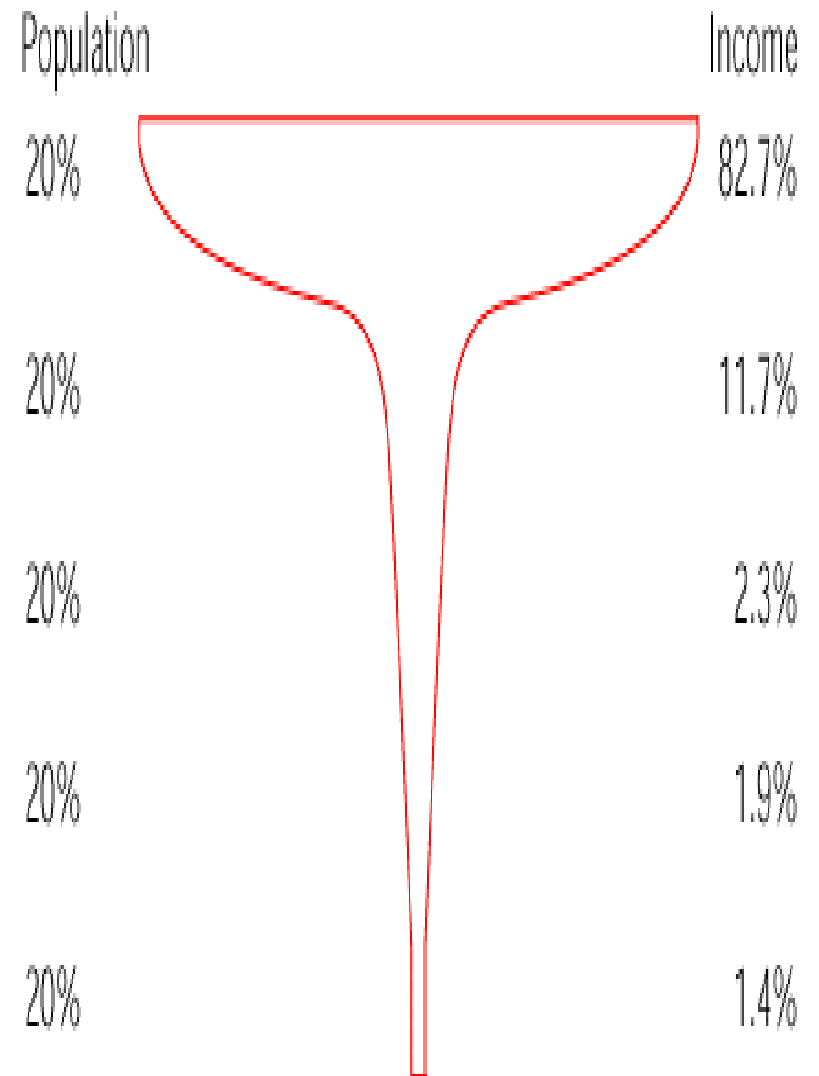
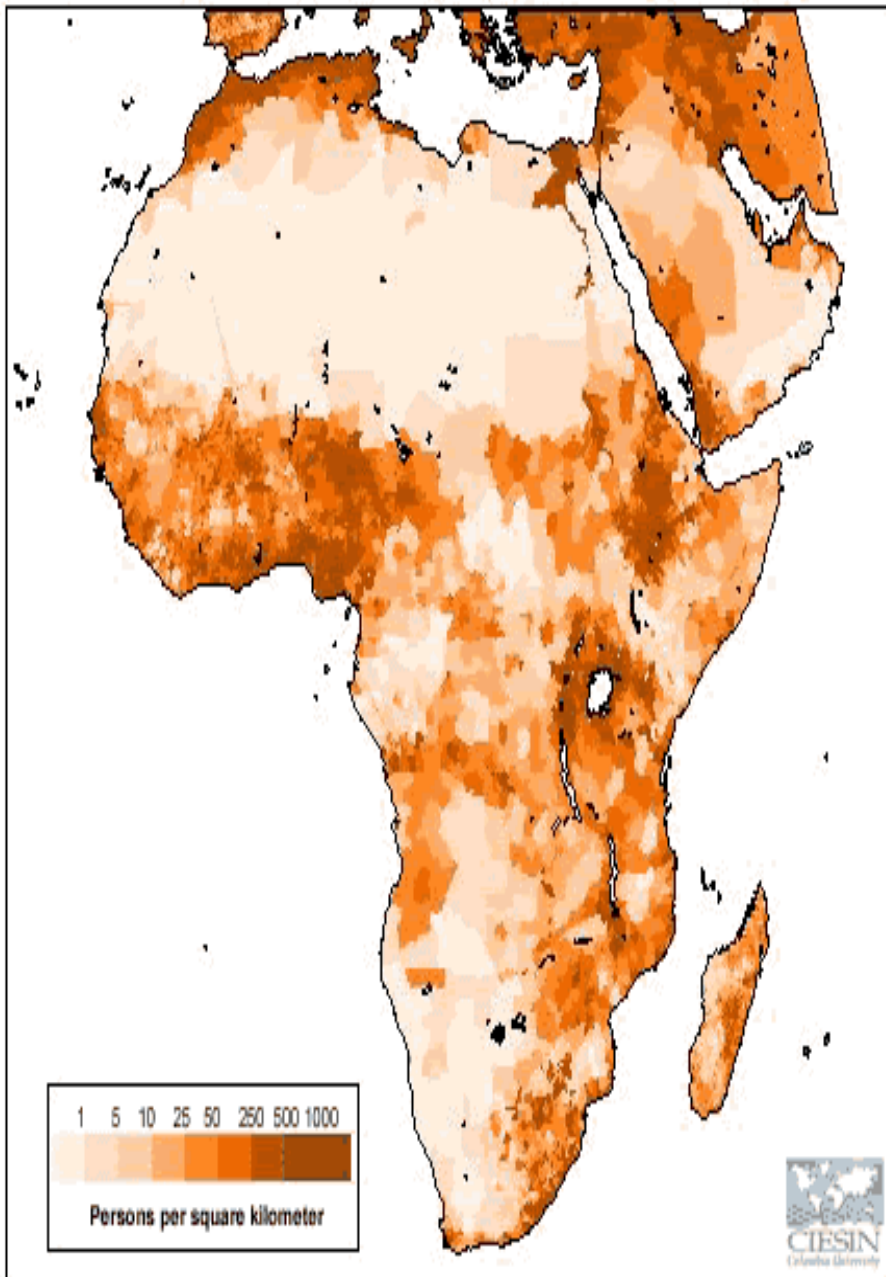
*Dr. George Manful
Senior Task Manager, Climate Change
Enabling Activities, UNEP*



African countries working with UNEP

*Angola, Cameroon,
Central African Republic, Comoros,
Côte d'Ivoire,
Democratic Republic of the Congo,
Djibouti, Gambia,
Kenya, Liberia,
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lesotho,
Madagascar, Mauritania,
Mauritius, Mozambique,
Senegal,
South Africa,
Rwanda, Uganda,
United Republic of Tanzania
Zimbabwe*





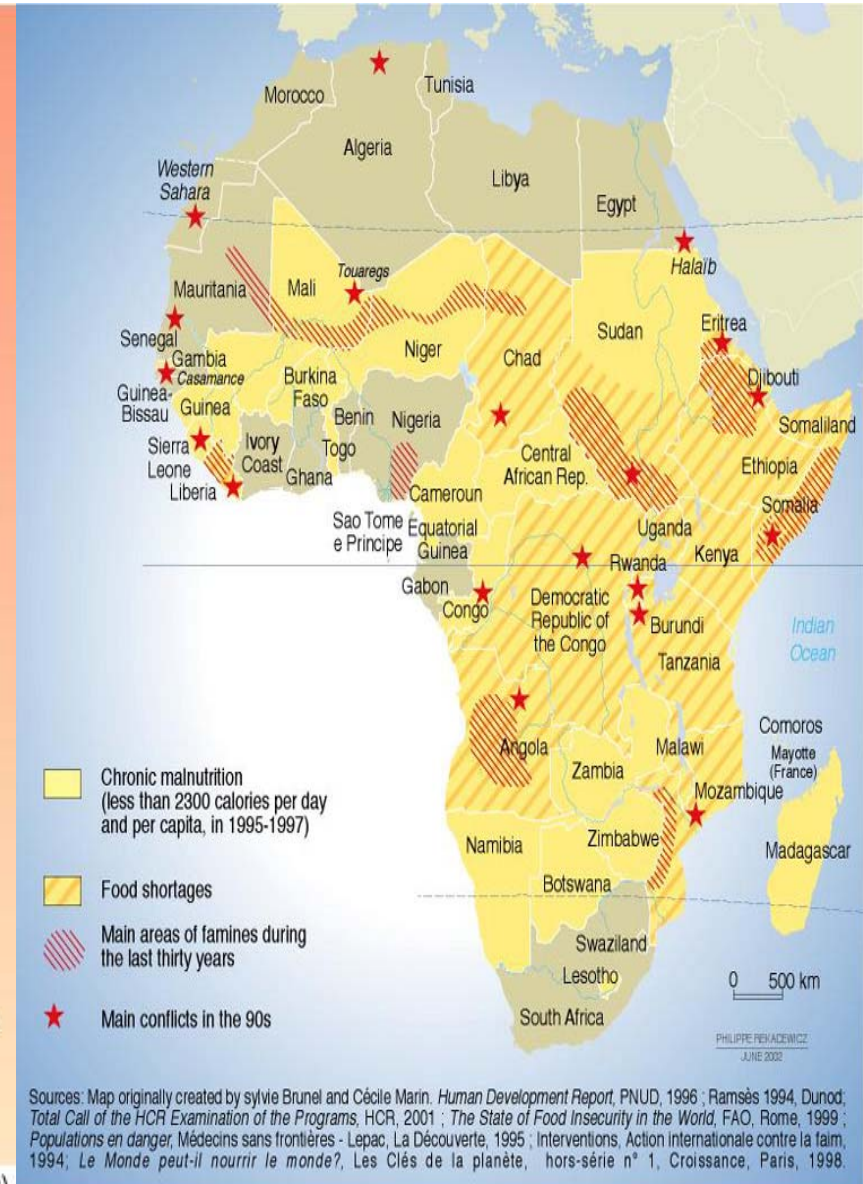
Food Production Index

Net per capita (PIN base 1989-1991)



GRID
Arendal
UNEP

PHILIPPE FIEKACIEWICZ
MAY 2002



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Statistical databases (FAOStats), 1995.



National Communications: An opportunity and challenge

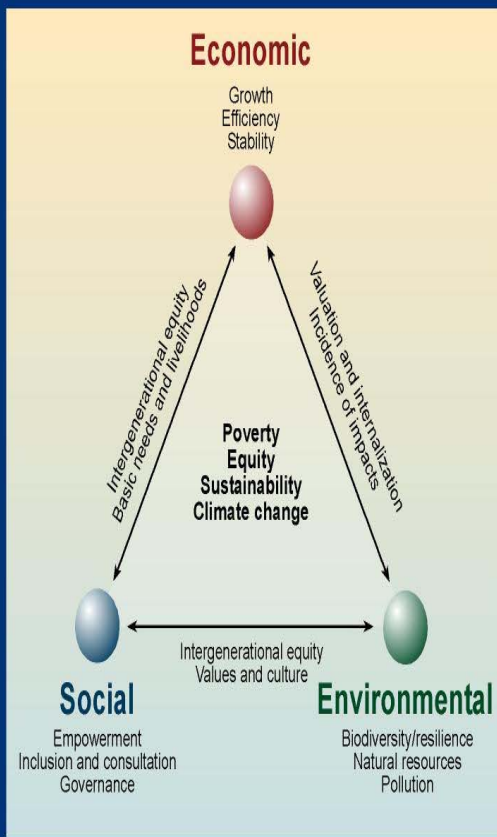
- National Communications the main reporting instrument of the UNFCCC process
- A powerful tool for bringing climate change concerns to the attention of policy makers at the national level.
- A tool for highlighting and disseminating climate change concerns to a wider national audience.
- A strategic tool to help countries align national development interests and priorities to the overall goals of the Convention.
- National Communication document not the end point
- Transforming the NC from a mere reporting process to a strategic and policy support tool



Scope of information required in National Communication

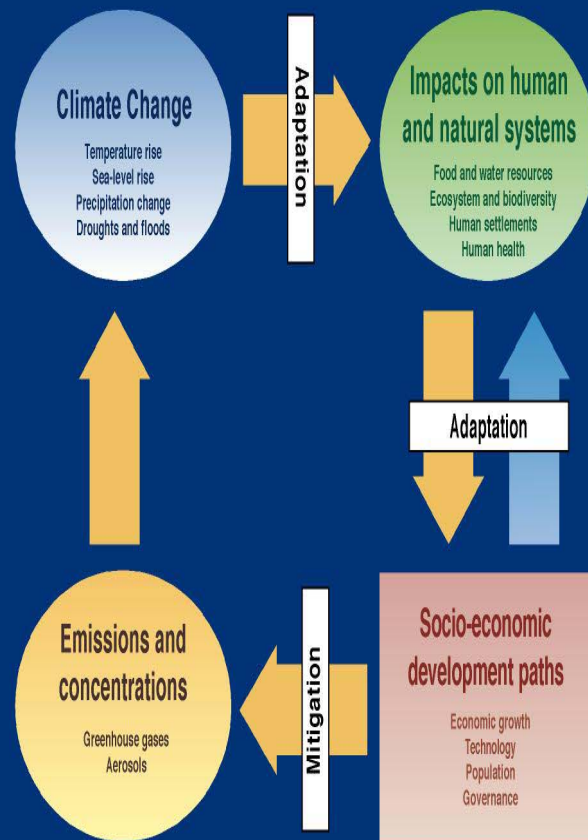
- (a) A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removal by sinks of all GHGs not controlled by the MP,
- (b) A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the non-Annex I Party to implement the Convention;
- (c) Any other information considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its communication, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends.

Key elements of sustainable development and interconnections



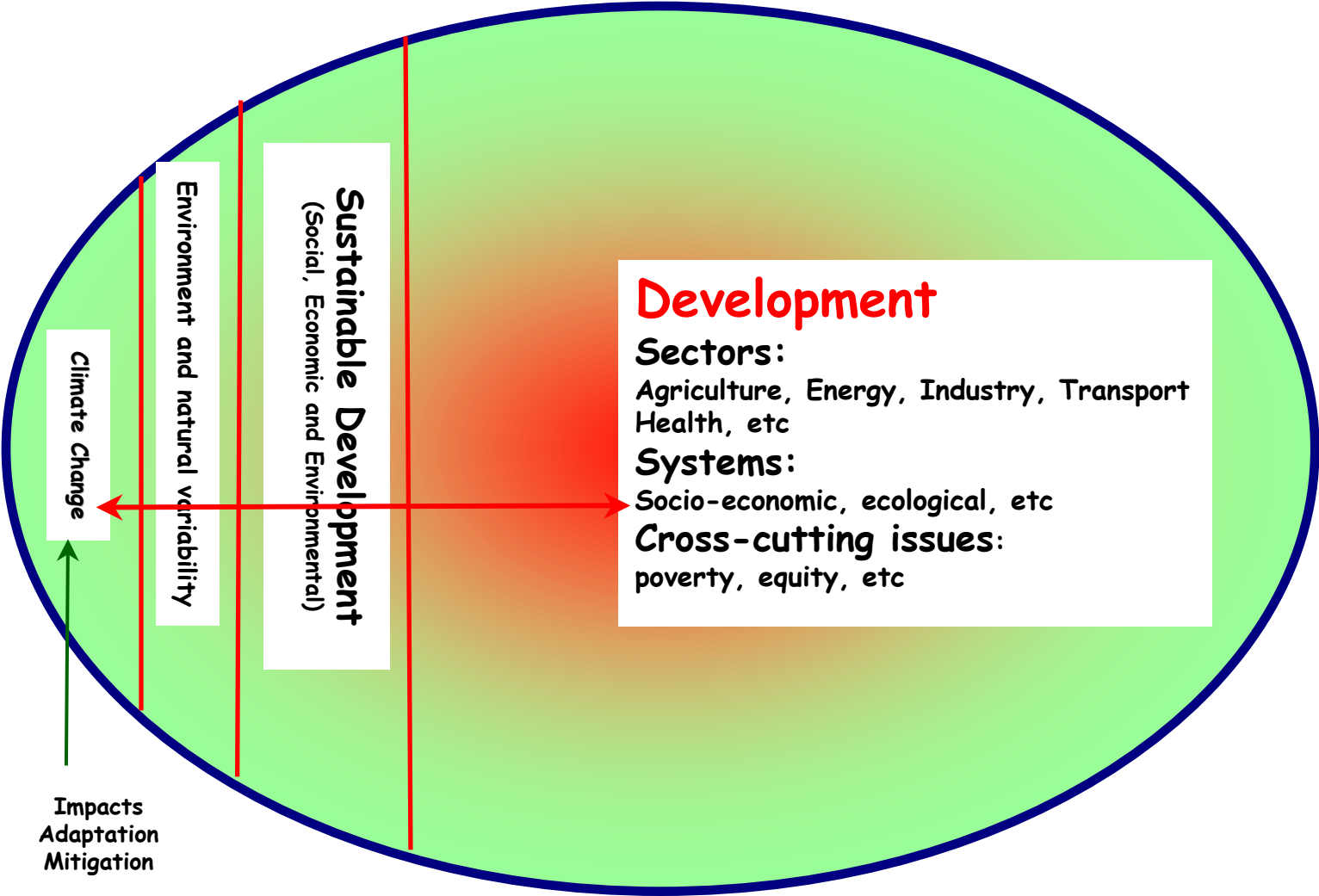
SYR - FIGURE 8-3

Climate Change - an integrated framework



SYR FIGURE 1-1

Linkages between Climate Change and National Development



Impacts
Adaptation
Mitigation

- **National communication should be a vehicle to facilitate:**
 - **Institutionalization of climate change responses**
 - **Production of knowledge and information on the basis of national development priorities**
 - **Mechanism of policy dialogue for effective actions**
 - **Public education and awareness for mainstreaming climate change concerns at different levels in society**



Strategy for a more policy-relevant SNC:

- Providing terms of reference that specifically address policy relevant issues in the different component of the SNC
- Establishing a system from the beginning of the SNC process to undertake policy dialogues and pursue political buy-in
- Promoting policy-oriented studies, to expand the traditional technical assessment
- Guiding technical teams to leverage the results of mitigation and V&A studies for project formulation and implementation

Objectives/outcomes of SNC

National teams to explore ways to facilitate the mainstreaming of the NC process into the government agendas - sustainability and appropriation

- Objective of SNC should seek to facilitate policy changes
- Outcomes of the SNC process to highlight the policy strategies in the short and long terms

Scope of work

National teams are being assisted to ensure effective linkage with development planning

- Ensuring consistency of V&A and mitigation with development needs (i.e., SNC to focus on assessments conducive to influence decision making)
- Ensuring scope of V&A and mitigation studies addresses policy questions
- Conversely, studies may be explicitly driven by policy changes needs to address both development and adaptation/mitigation
- Adequately treating and interpreting uncertainties

Communication Strategy

National teams are encouraged to establish effective communication of the SNC process and results to ensure a policy dialogue

- Public awareness under SNC to target policy relevant issues
- At least one outcome should clearly deal with communicating needs for policy decisions to adopt appropriate measures in the short and longer terms

Production of knowledge and information

SNC strategy should focus on what is important

- Favoring identification of current practices and trends that enhance vulnerability and increase GHG emissions
- Keeping it simple - no complex studies or scenarios necessarily required
- Emphasizing socio-economics assessments as a key element of adaptation and mitigation assessments
- Selection of the methods/tools that considers the research questions, data requirements, and technical expertise
- Designing a strategy to address data gaps
- Identifying opportunities for strengthening technical and institutional capacities

Conclusions

- African countries must endeavour to prepare and submit good quality National Communications
- National communication is *NOT* an academic exercise, but a living and useful document that should allow for full integration of *CC* concerns into national planning and be used to attract investments
- National communication is a collective effort of relevant stakeholders for highlighting the national actions needed in addressing climate change issues, including adaptation options for addressing adverse climate change impacts and *GHG* mitigation options in various socio-economic sectors while advancing development agenda
- Data and information reported have implications for national planning and for future funding of projects (e.g., *CDM*, *etc*), and hence they must be as accurate as possible