

Regional effects of air pollution, disaster risk, and urban climate change

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Joint considerations for air quality and climate change



Air quality and climate change are two inexorably linked issues, in particular at the regional scale, and should be addressed in a coordinated manner.

Air Pollutant / GHG	Lifetime/Scale	Climate Impact	Health/Ecosystem Impacts
Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂)	Global	↑	Human Health Impact
Flourinated Gases (F-gases)	Global	↑	Human Health Impact
Methane (CH ₄)	Global	↑	Human Health Impact
Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x)	Regional	↑↓	Human Health Impact
Nitrous Oxides (N ₂ O)	Global	↑	Human Health Impact
Particulate Matter (PM)	Regional	↑↓	Human Health Impact
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	Regional	↓	Human Health Impact
Tropospheric Ozone (O ₃)	Regional	↑	Human Health Impact
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)/ Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Regional	↑	Human Health Impact

Lifetime in Atmosphere = days/weeks
Impact Scale = local/regional

Lifetime in Atmosphere = years
Impact Scale = global

↑ Warming

↓ Cooling

Human Health Impact

Ecosystem Impact

No direct impact on human health or ecosystems*

*No direct impact implies the substance in question either does not directly cause human health or ecosystem impacts or it does not go through a chemical process to create a substance that directly impact human health and ecosystems.

Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

Messages

- By taking into account the three key considerations, which include
 - (1) mix of emissions,
 - (2) lifetime, and
 - (3) benefits and trade-offs,more comprehensive sustainable policies can be developed to maximize the benefits for both air quality and climate change mitigation.

Melamed et al., 2016. Sustainable policy—key considerations for air quality and climate change. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 23, 85-91.

Cities and Climate Change conference 2018, co-sponsored by IPCC

Edmonton, Canada, in March 2018 - #CitiesIPCC C40

The conference is co-arranged by Future Earth, the Cities Alliance, ICLEI, Future Earth, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UN-Habitat, UN Environment and World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). The conference outcomes support the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals.



La Paz, photo by Thorsten Kiefer

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It is an open network for scientists of all disciplines, natural and social, as well as engineering, the humanities and law and for stakeholders of scientific knowledge at the global to the individual level. Transdisciplinarity, i.e. co-designing and co-producing knowledge across disciplinary and sectoral boundaries, is at the heart of Future Earth.

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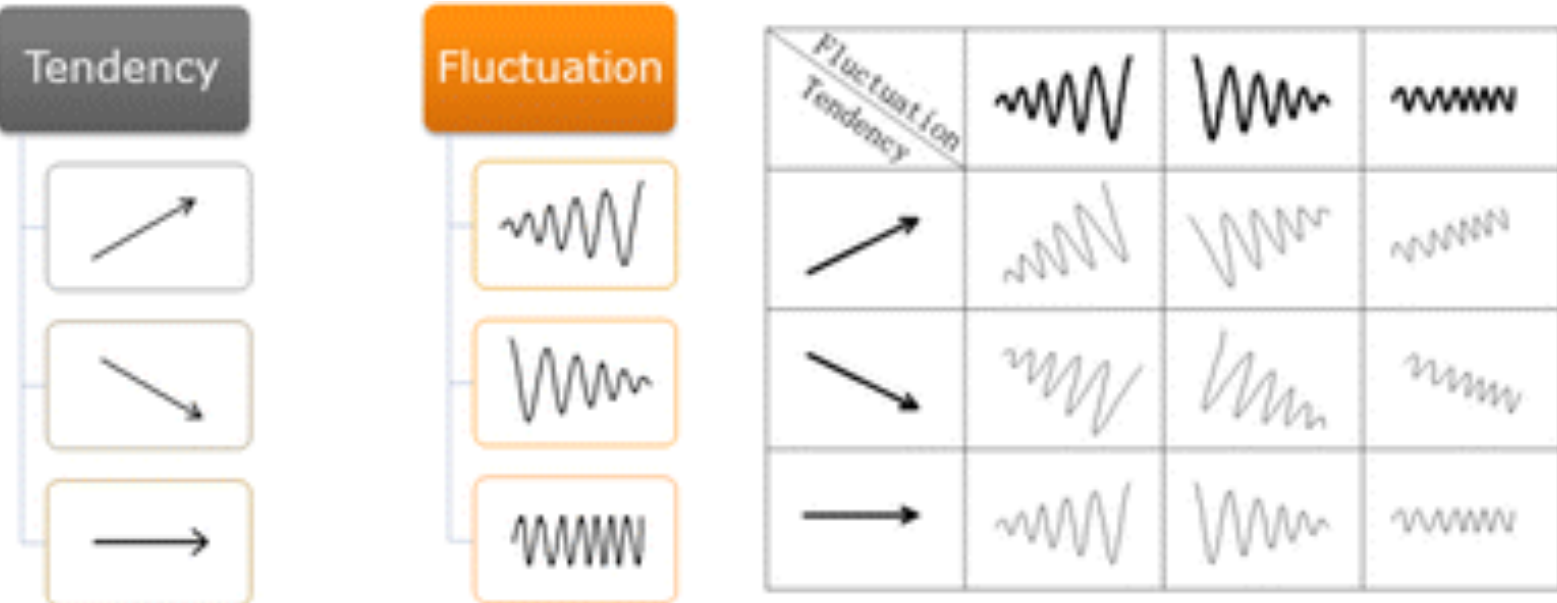


Defining climatic regions based on a dynamic climate

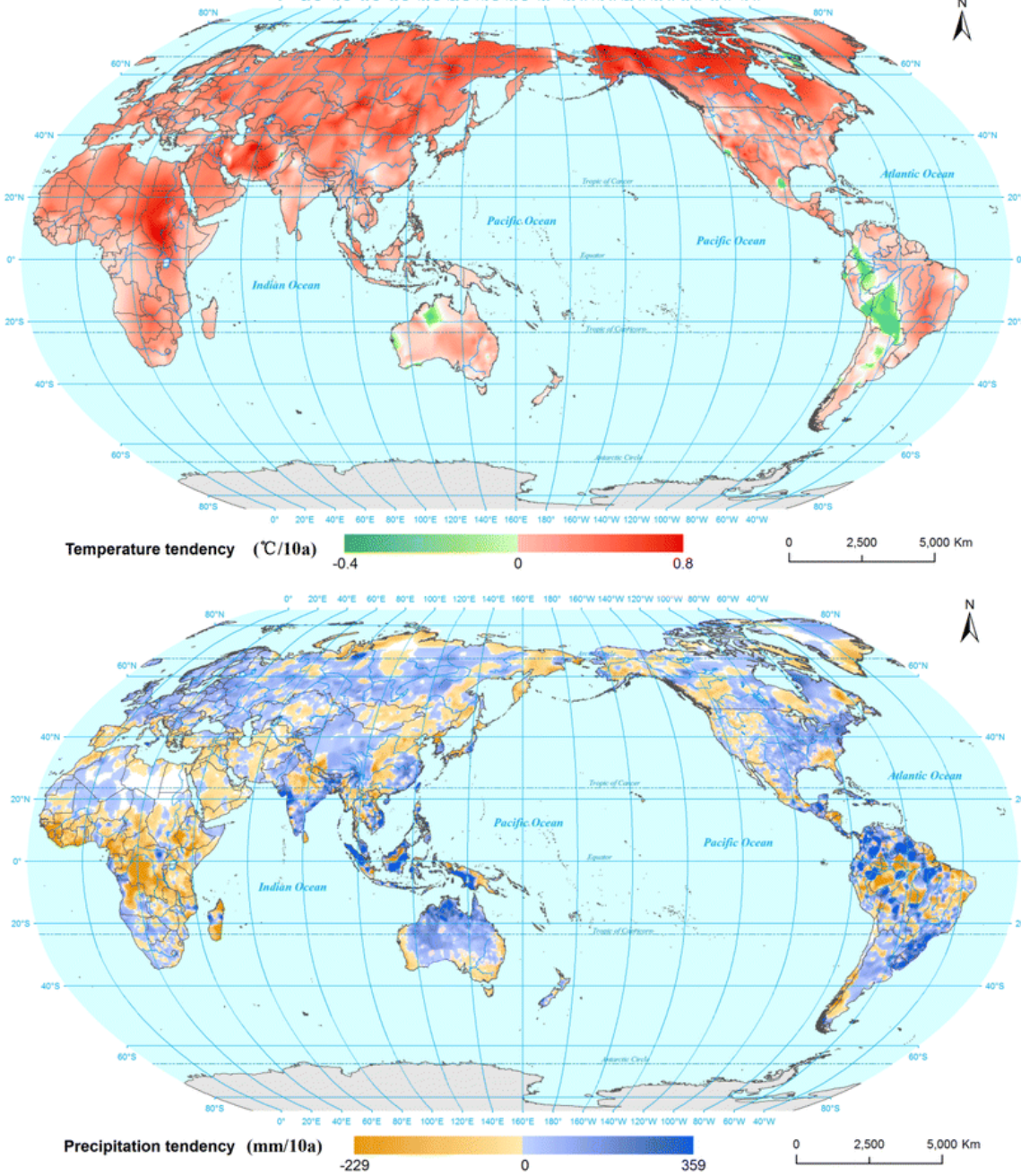


A new climate region classification method was developed to account for the dynamics of climate change.

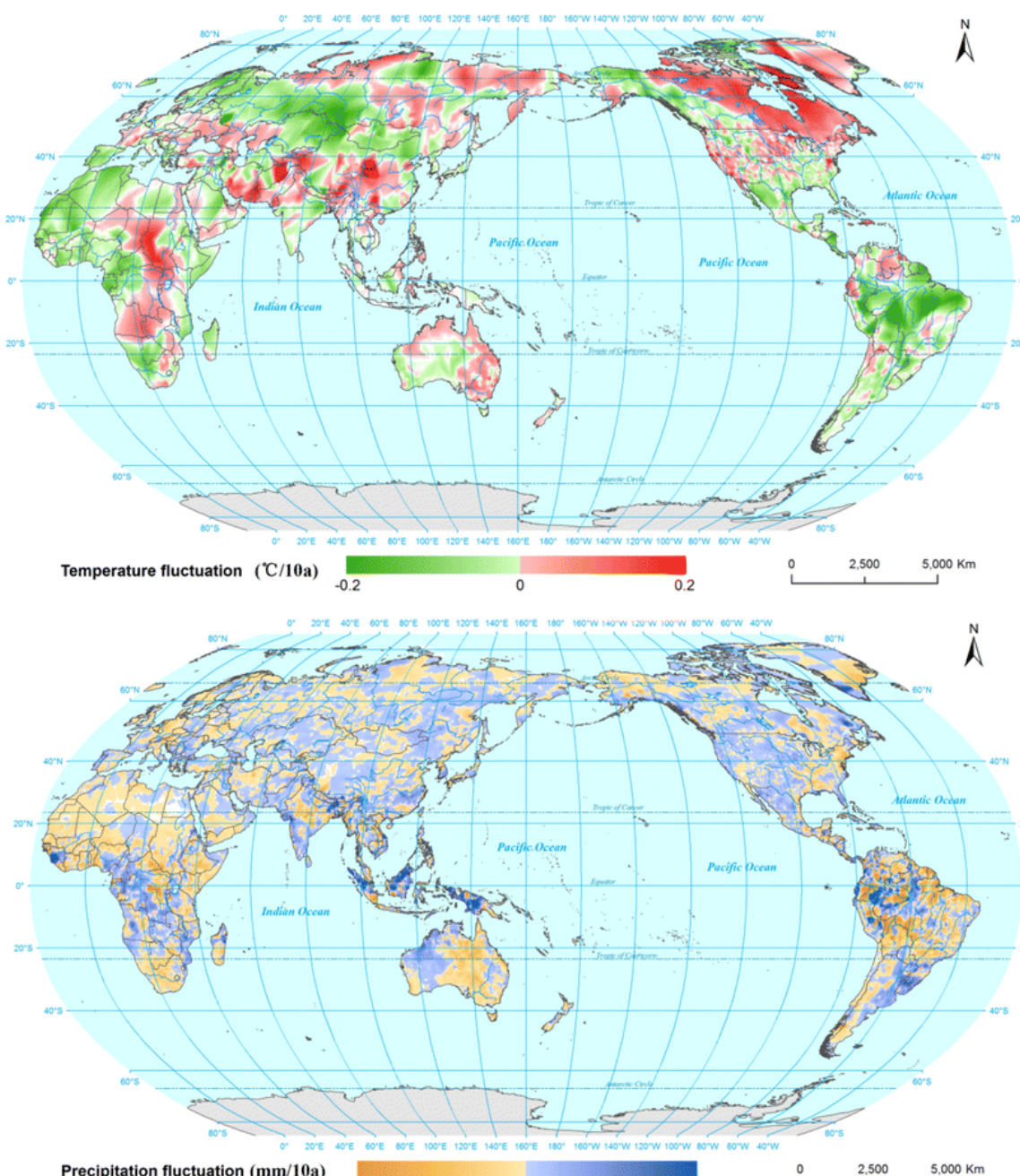
It uses annual mean temperature and precipitation as climatic indices, and linear trend and variation change as change indices to characterize climate change quantitatively.



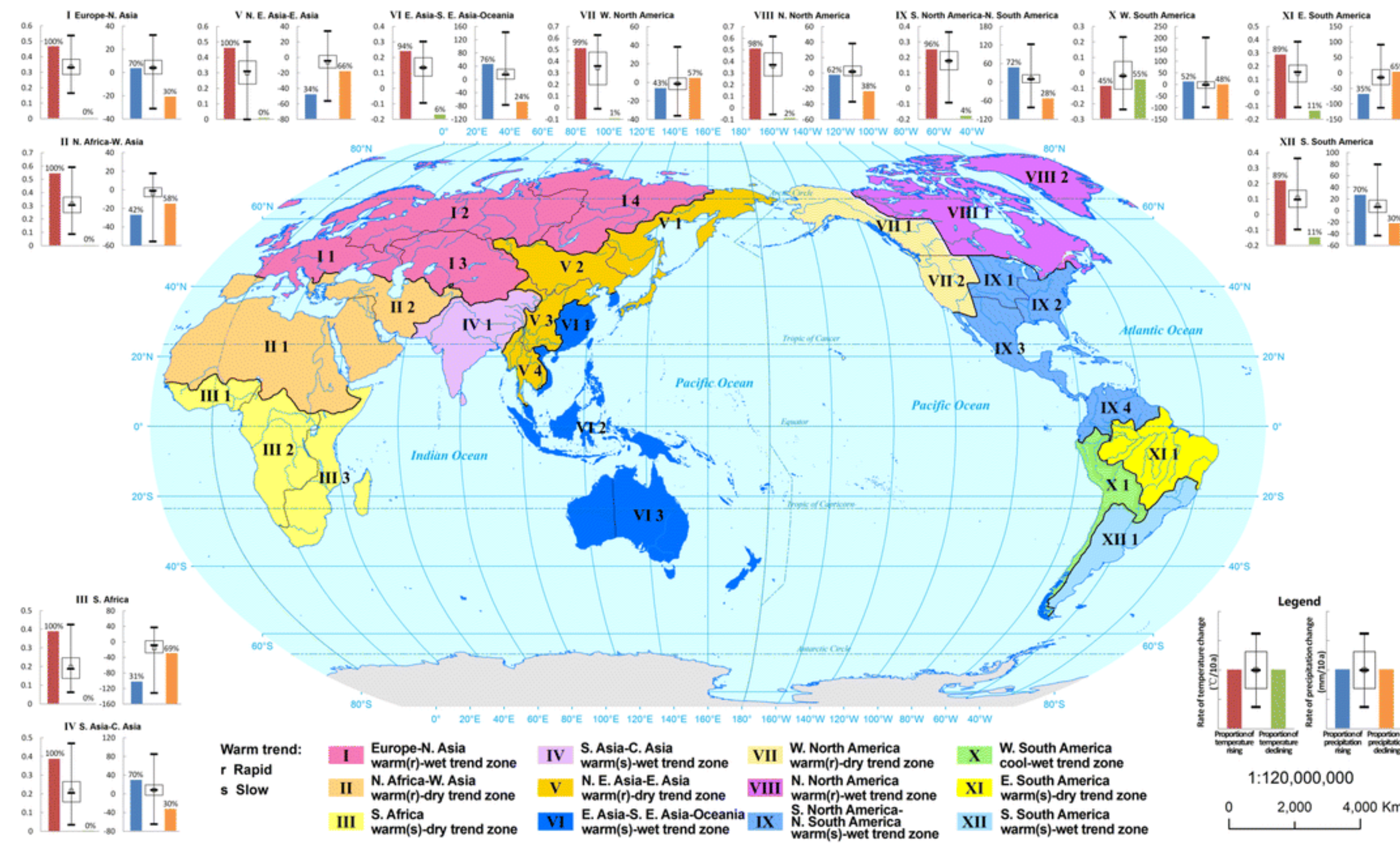
Climate change tendencies



Climate change fluctuations



Revised world regionalization of climate change



Messages

- Based on data from 1961–2010 resulted in 12 tendency regions and a sub-division into 28 fluctuation regions based on the variation change of climate.
- Climate change regionalization provides a scientific basis for countries and regions to develop plans for adapting to climate change, especially for managing climate-related disaster or environmental risks.