Communicating Climate Change Information through Climate Risk Narratives

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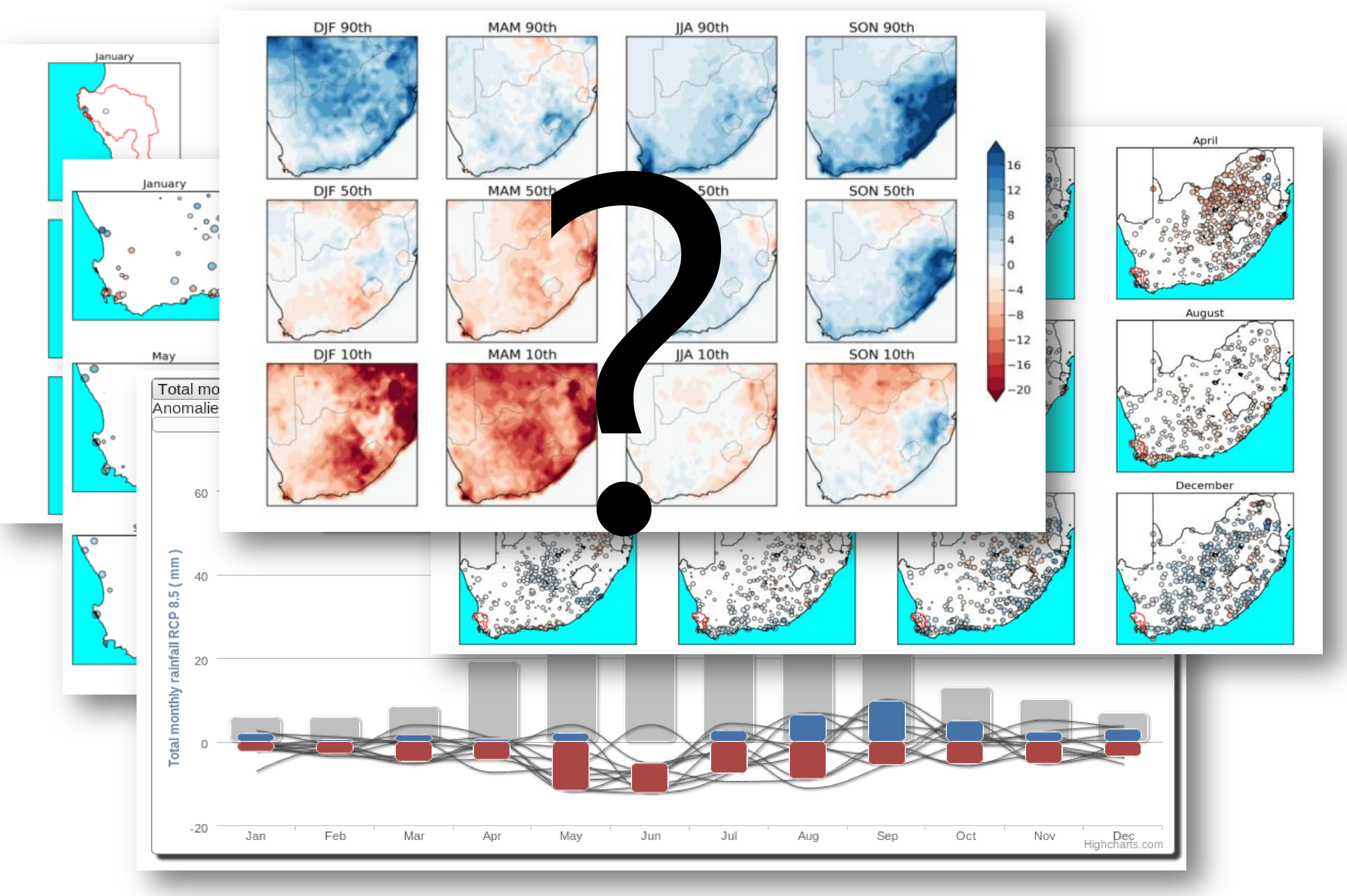
Moving from this... and/or this…



to decisions here…

introduces problems and challenges

- ❑ Requires comprehension and interpretation of complex scientific visuals representing signal, noise, and uncertainty over different spatial and temporal scales
- ❑ Requires understanding and interpretation of languages of uncertainty (eg. what does a decision maker take from a statement of *high agreement, limited evidence?*)
- ❑ Requires implicit (or explicit in some form) downscaling to decision relevant scales, risk, and impacts

The result is that **decision makers implicitly construct their own stories or narratives** through interpretation of the complex and opaque evidence they are presented with. Often, these implicit narratives reflect miss-understandings and misinterpretations of the evidence.

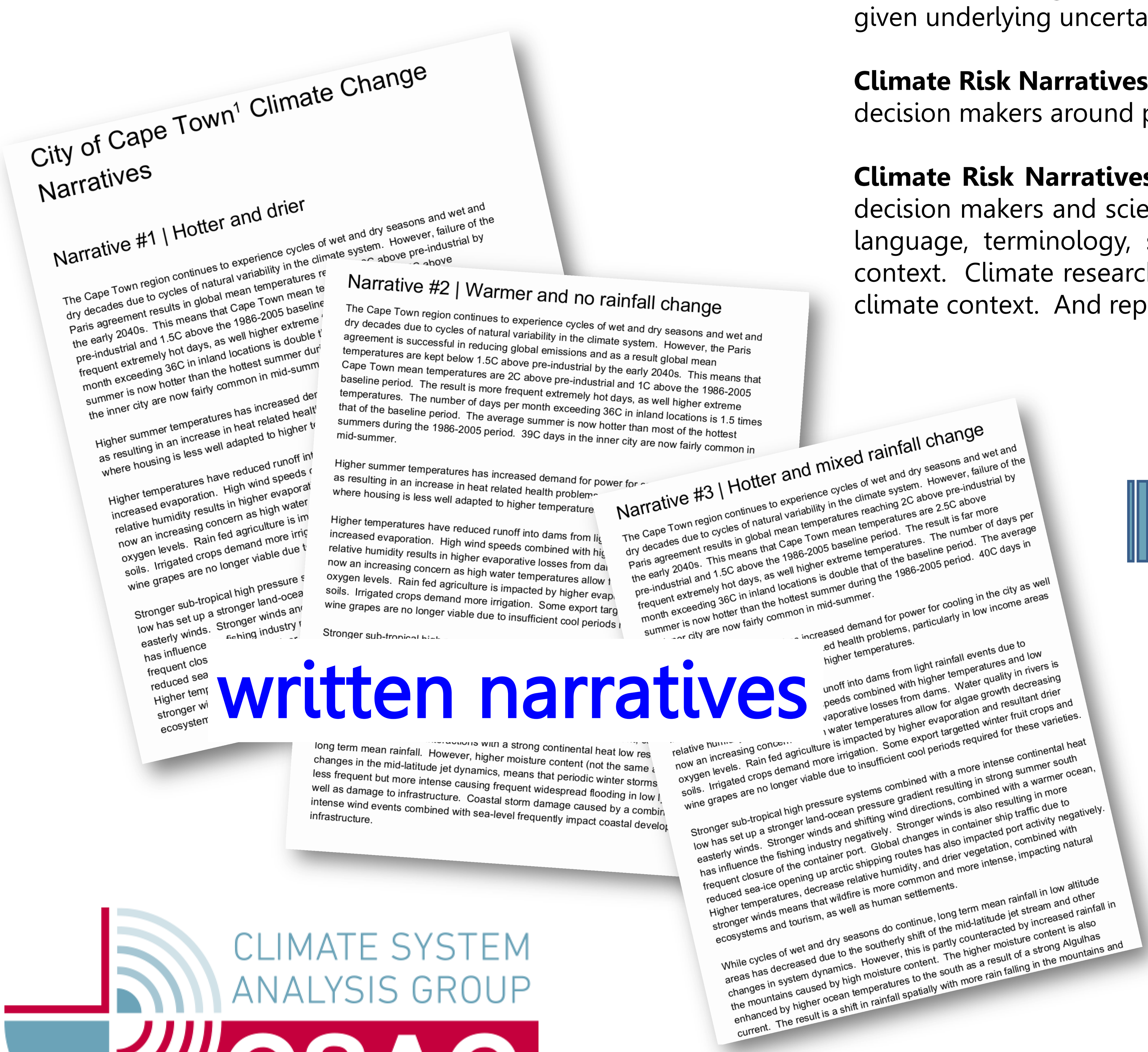
Climate Risk Narratives are one part of the solution

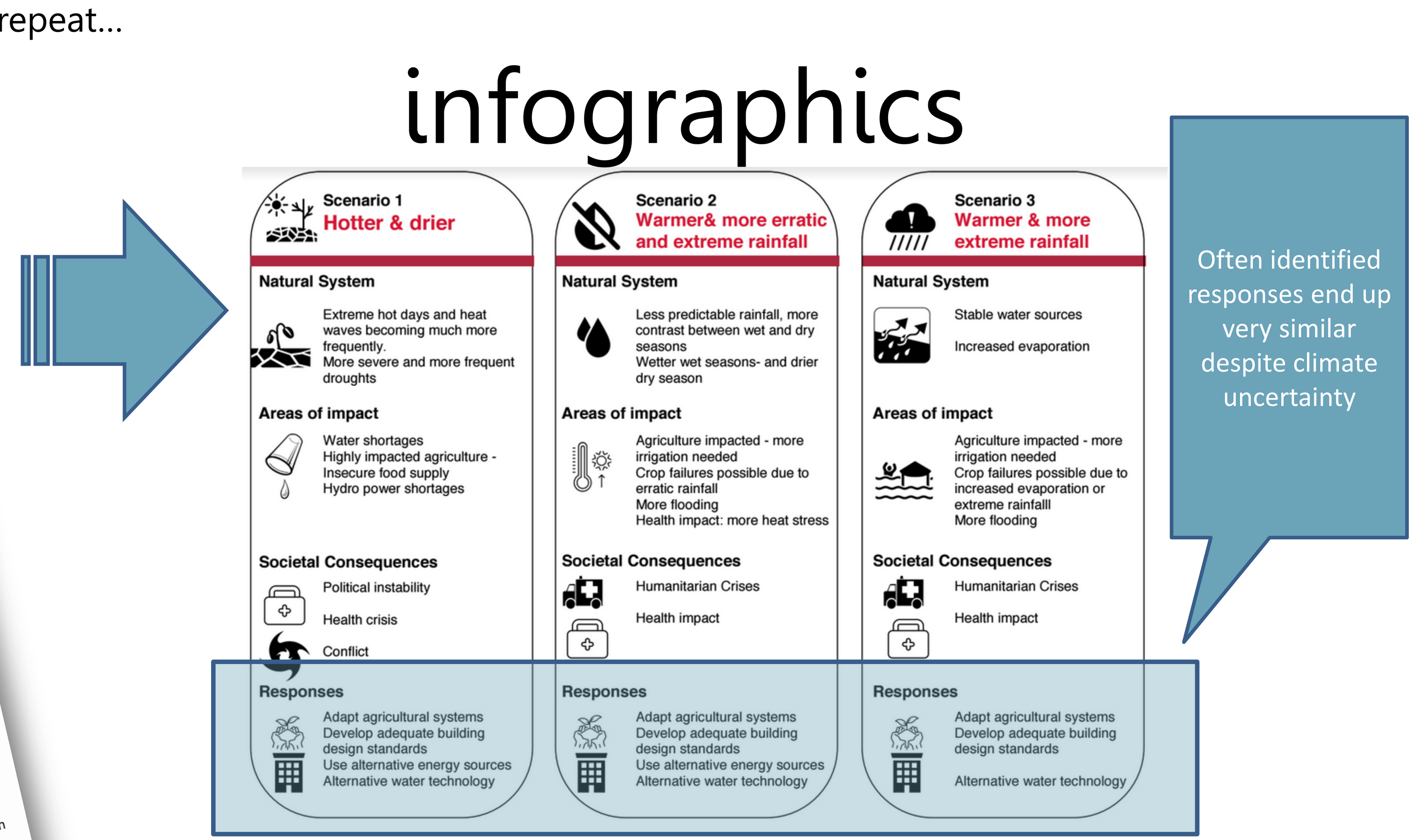
Climate Risk Narratives are an attempt to explicitly construct **evidence based, physically plausible** (based on climate science/modeling) **narratives of the future** climate risk in a particular context (eg. a city) including non-climate elements such as population growth and socio-economic futures in a **co-production, participatory process**

Climate Risk Narratives are written with absolute certainty to avoid the pitfalls of uncertainty language and/or visualizing uncertainty. **Multiple narratives** are used to describe **a range of possible futures** given underlying uncertainty in the evidence. **Probabilities are not assigned** to each narrative.

Climate Risk Narratives are "**conversation starters**" to facilitate starting productive conversations with decision makers around potential changes in climate related risks and impacts

Climate Risk Narratives are an **iteratively evolving** "framework" for ongoing engagement between decision makers and scientists. Decision makers and other knowledge holders can critique and change language, terminology, socio-economic futures, etc. to make the narratives more relevant to their context. Climate researchers can iterate the climate evidence/interpretation to better address the non-climate context. And repeat…





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