

DOES CLIMATE CHANGE HIT THE POOR HARDEST ?

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CH.13 - LIVELIHOODS AND POVERTY - IPCC – AR5 - WG-2



- Much stronger focus than Report 4 (2007) on:
 - Development processes
 - Inequalities within societies
 - Direct and indirect impacts of climate on the poor

➤ Chapter 13 «Livelihoods and poverty»

Assessment of the existing scientific literature

- 52 pages ... 24 pages of scientific references (563)...
- Level of confidence :

Agreement ↑	<i>High agreement Limited evidence</i>	<i>High agreement Medium evidence</i>	<i>High agreement Robust evidence</i>
	<i>Medium agreement Limited evidence</i>	<i>Medium agreement Medium evidence</i>	<i>Medium agreement Robust evidence</i>
	<i>Low agreement Limited evidence</i>	<i>Low agreement Medium evidence</i>	<i>Low agreement Robust evidence</i>
	Evidence (type, amount, quality, consistency) →		

YES.... climate change hit the poor hardest...

- Climate-related hazards exacerbate other stressors, often with negative outcomes for livelihoods, especially for people living in poverty (*high confidence*).

WG2 – Summary for policy makers (approved 31.03.2014) – p. 8

➤ Why and How ?

Direct impacts

- Poor people are more dependant on natural assets and more sensitive to price changes.

Weather events and climate

- ...affect natural assets such as fish stocks.
- ...impact on livestock production.
- ...erode crop yields.

Summary of projected changes in crop yields

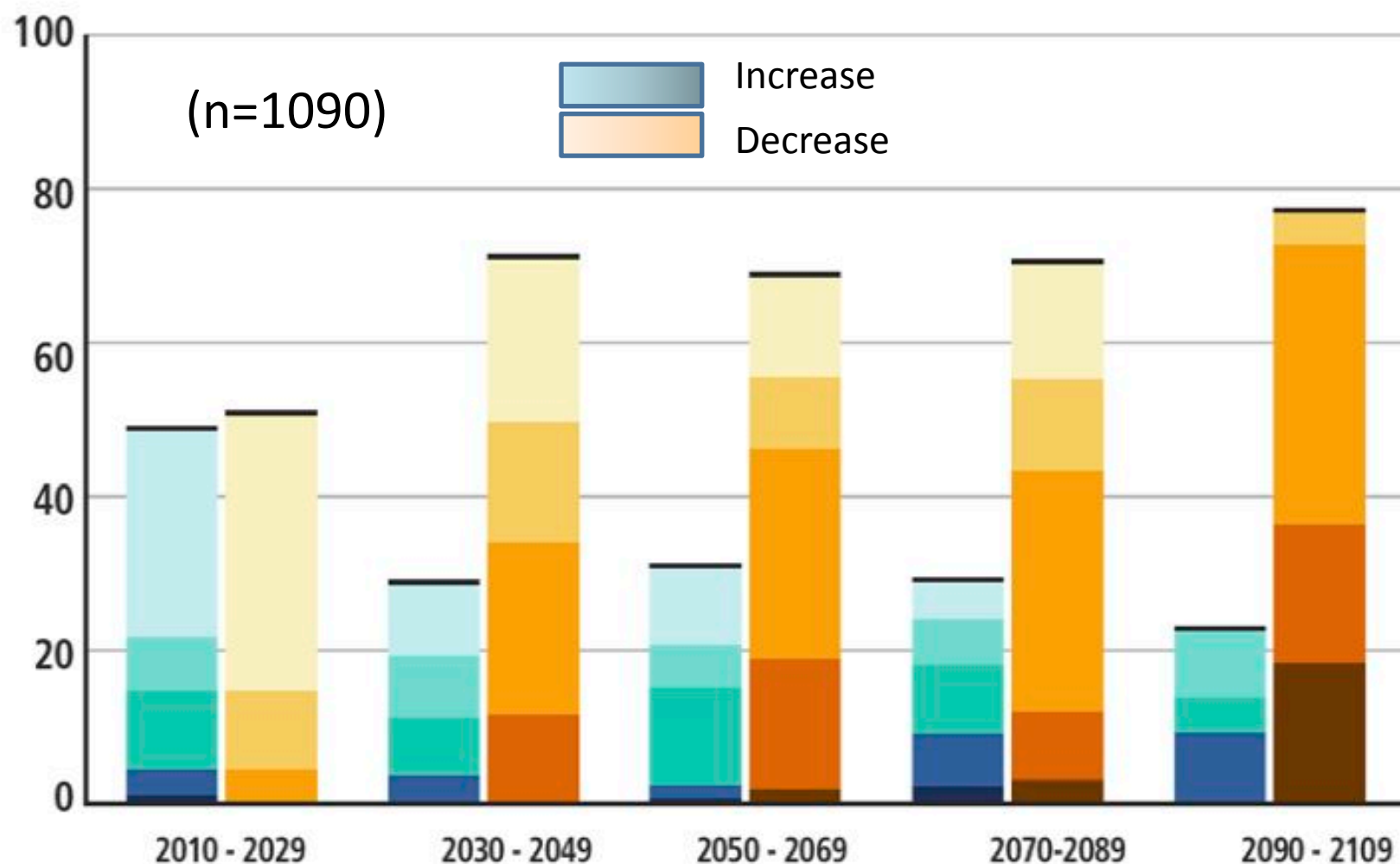
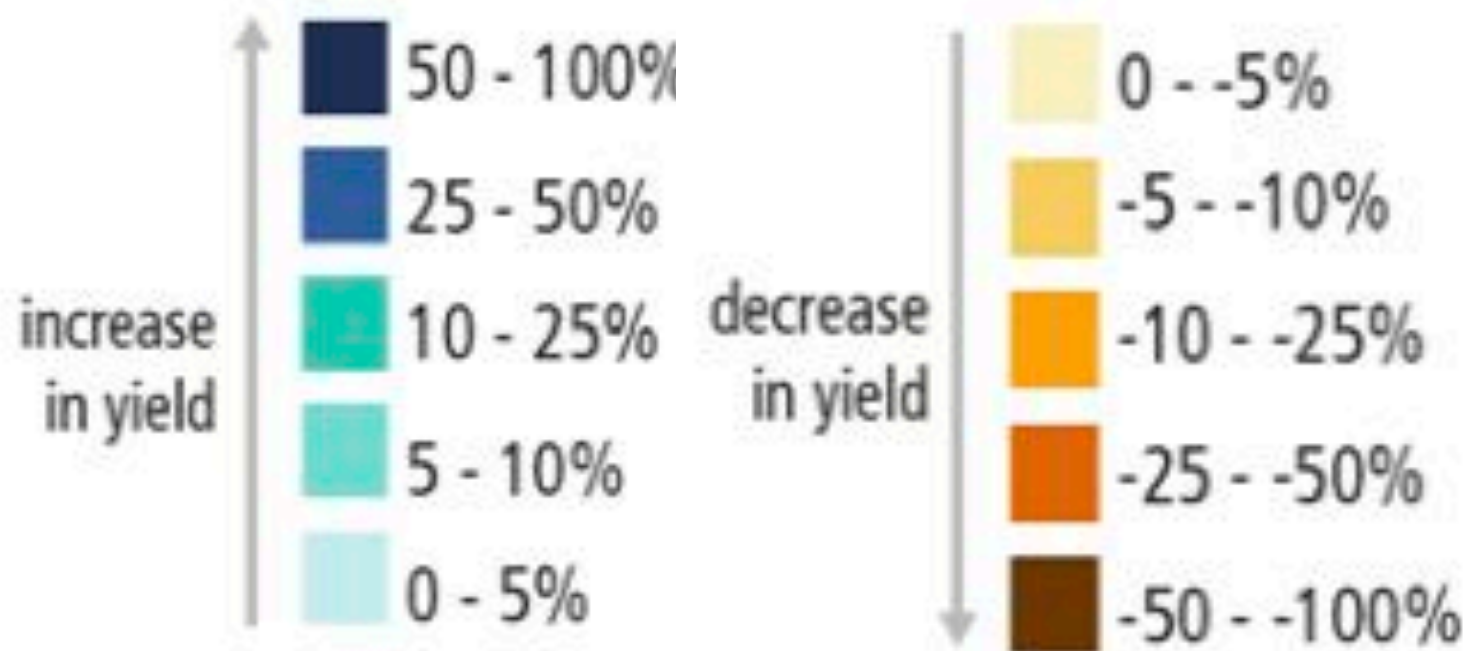


Figure 7/WG2 - SPM

Figure 7/WG2 - SPM



Direct impacts

- In urban areas, low-income groups face climate risks because of poor quality housing and flood exposure.
- The most extreme form of erosion of natural assets is the disappearance of people's land.
- Poor people settlements are more often in vulnerable zones
 - Country level
 - Regional level
 - Local level



Mobility as a risk and as a chance (chap. 12)

“Major extreme weather events have in the past led to significant population displacement, and changes in the incidence of extreme events will amplify the challenges and risks of such displacement.”

“Expanding opportunities for mobility can reduce vulnerability for such populations. Changes in migration patterns can be responses to both extreme weather events and longer-term climate variability (...)”

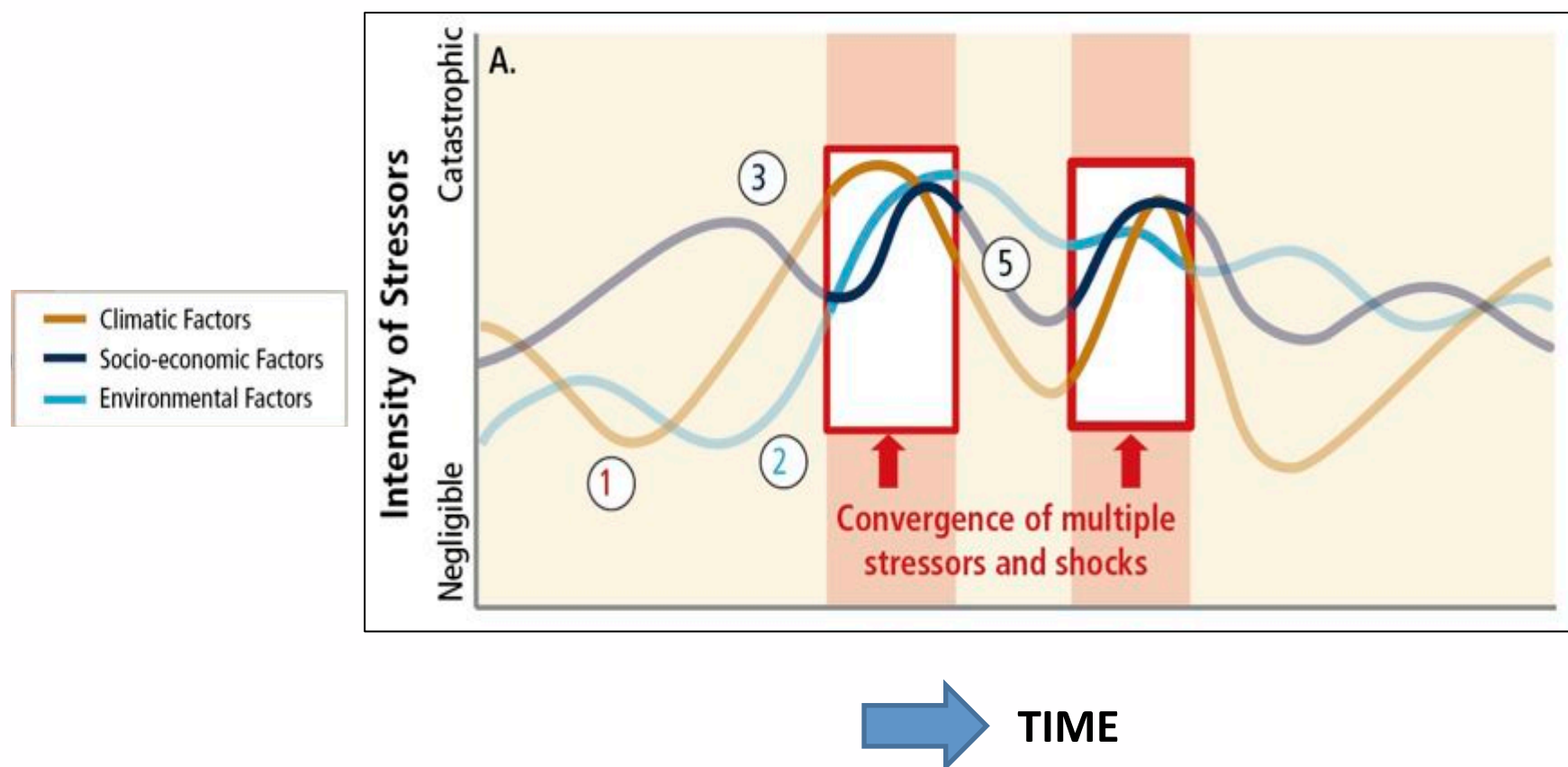
Indirect impacts

- Even well-intentioned adaptation projects may have detrimental impacts on poverty.
 - Biofuel production sometime displaces small landholders and contributes to food price increases.
 - Biofuel schemes may also harm poor people through declining biodiversity or reduced grazing land.
 - However, employment in the biofuel industry may create opportunities for some people to improve their livelihoods.

Poverty ↔ Climate : dynamic and multicausal

- Climate change is never the only factor that affects poverty dynamics. It is a **threat multiplier** at the intersections of policies, power structures, gender, age, class, ethnicity, etc...
- Climate change does not act alone, it is not a *deus ex machina*. We have to reduce emissions, foster adaptation and mitigate impacts but we can also address the CC-poverty nexus by addressing more fundamentally the organization of our societies.

Poverty ↔ Climate : dynamic and multicausal



Take home message...

- Poor people will suffer more from climate change
 - One more reason to act !
- Poverty - Climate : dynamic and multicausal interactions
 - Action should encompass all ranges of policies
(reduction, mitigation, trade, development, migration, etc...)