



HOLISTIC APPROACHES TO ADAPTATION: The Role of Population Dynamics

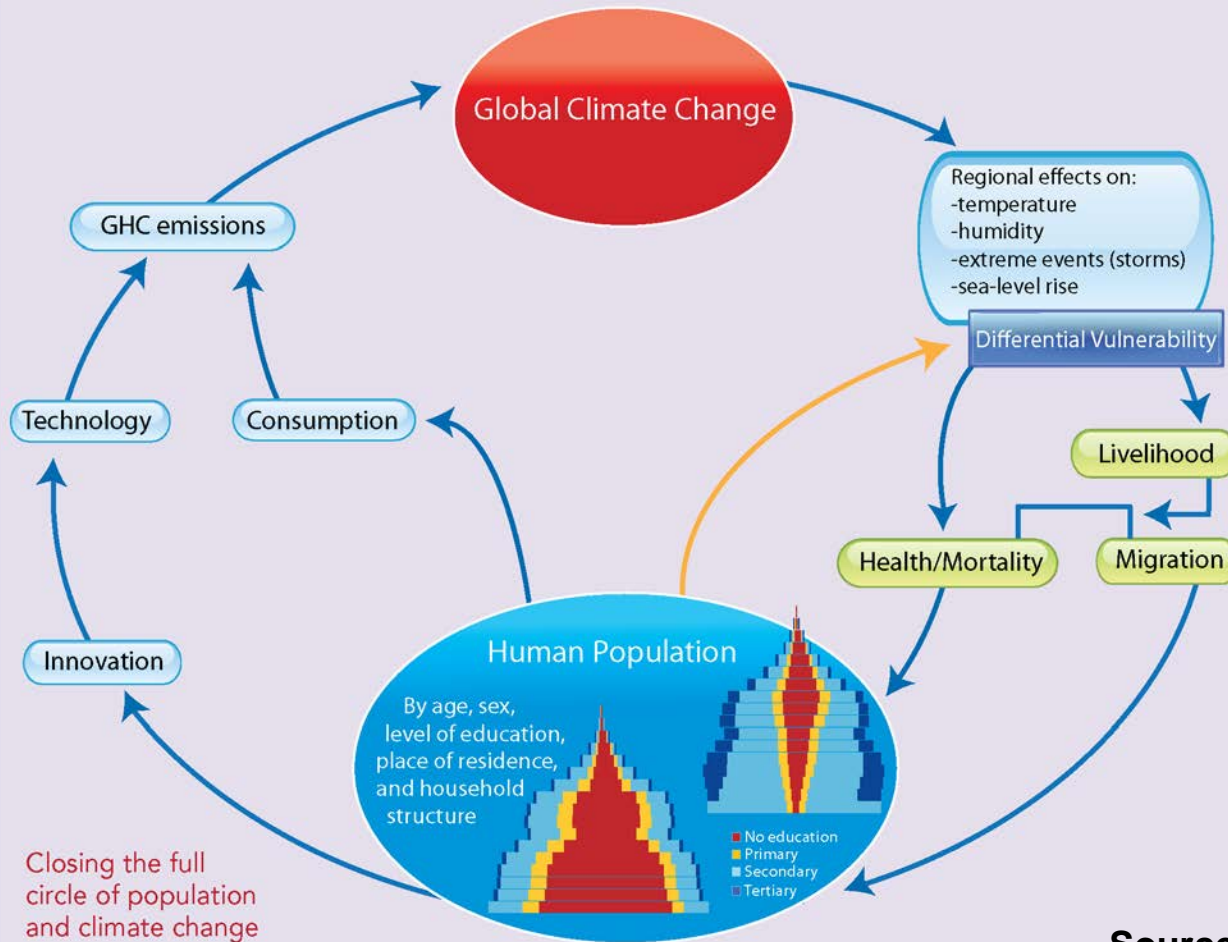
**Africa Biodiversity Collaborative
Group, July 2012**

Roger-Mark De Souza
Population Action International

Let's Explore...

- How population is important for climate change adaptation in Africa
- Some key lessons about incorporating population into CC adaptation
- Implications for the future

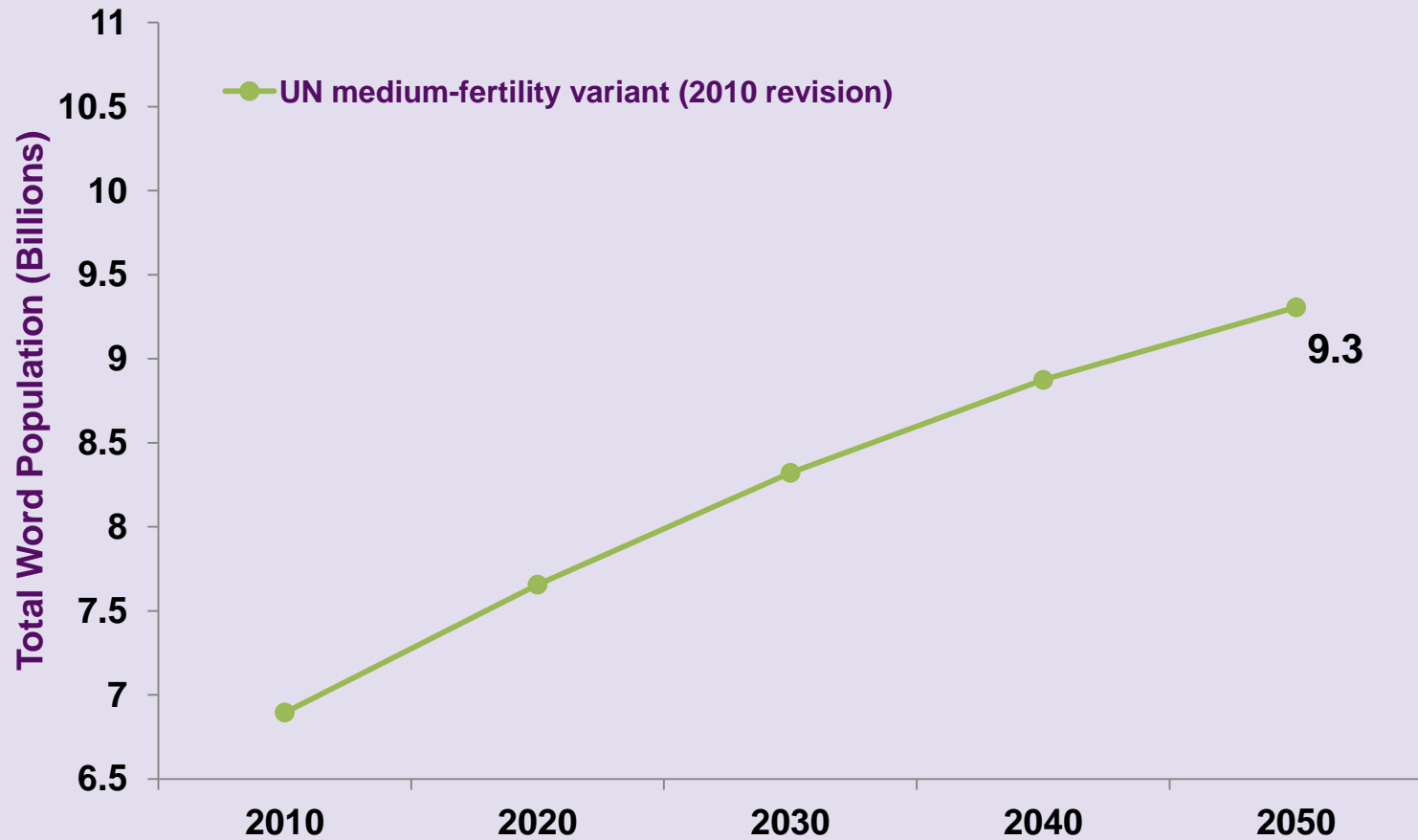
A Holistic View: Population and Climate Change Linkages Matter



Source: IIASA, 2009.

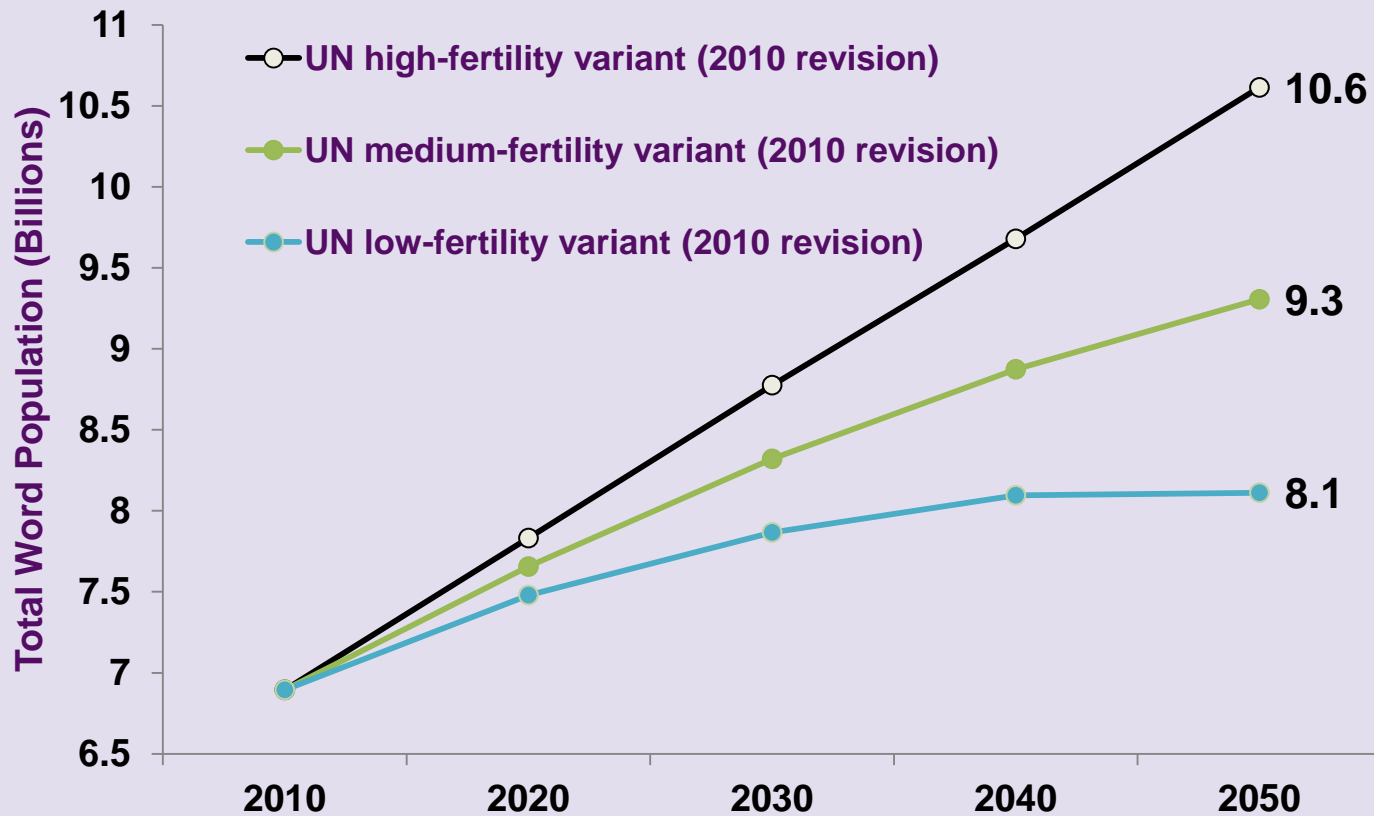
Particularly as Population is Continuing to Grow

PROJECTED WORLD POPULATION GROWTH, 2010 – 2050



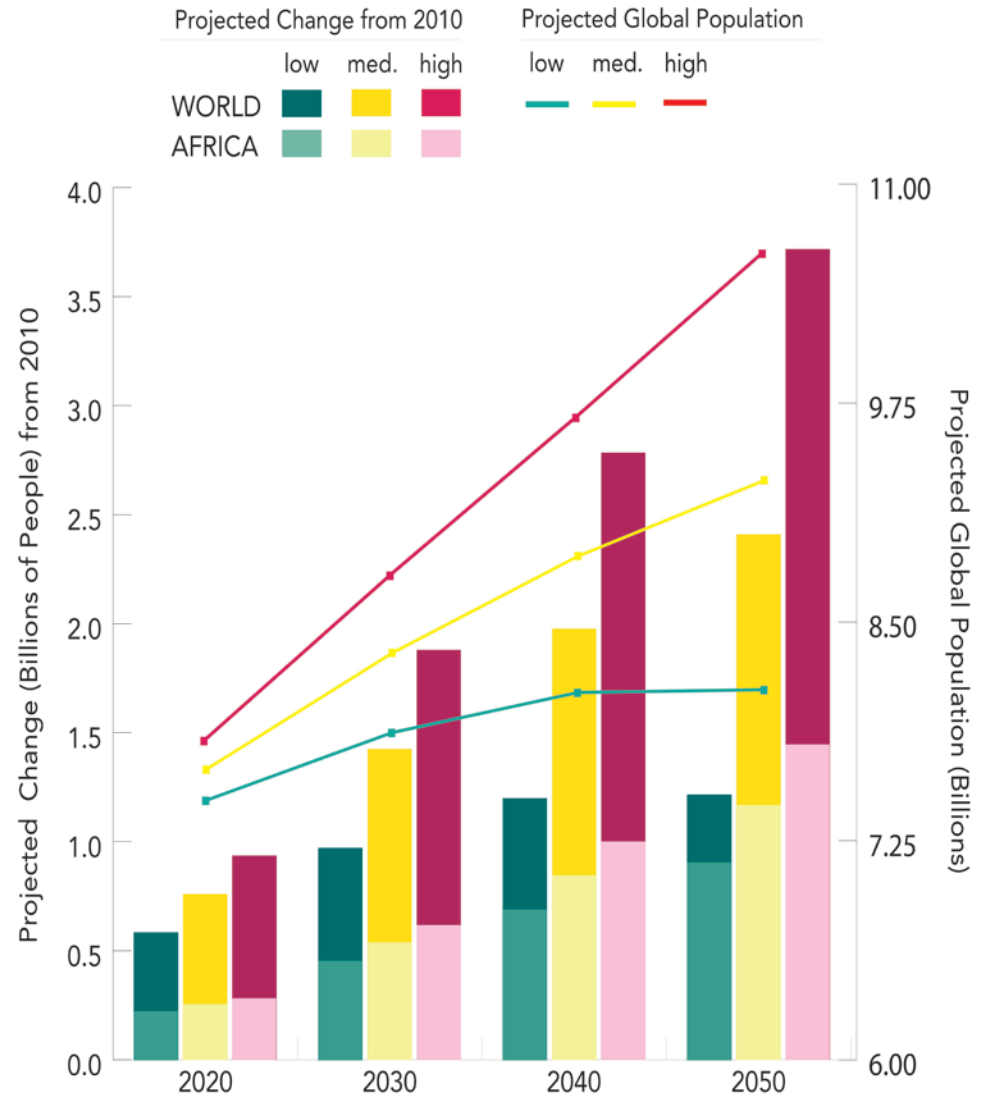
And We Need to Understand Assumptions for Medium Fertility Variant

PROJECTED WORLD POPULATION GROWTH, 2010 – 2050

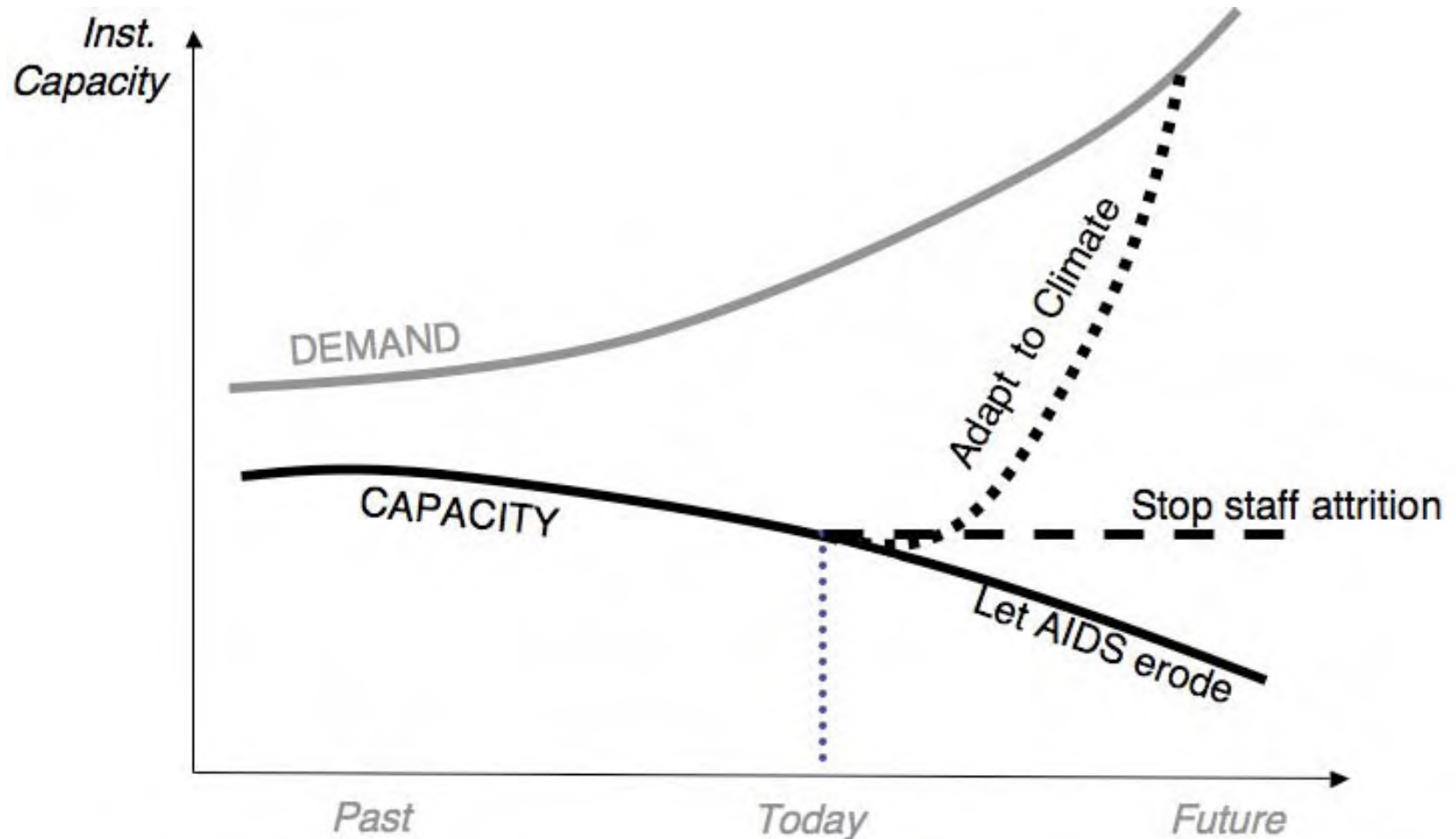


Population is Particularly Important for SSA

- Rapid growth: from 1 billion in 2010 to 2.1 billion by 2050
- Doubling: 31 SSA countries will at least double by 2050
- High fertility: approx 5 children per woman
- Many youth: 43% of total population under 15 yrs
- High unmet need for FP



HIV-AIDS is Increasing Vulnerability to Climate Impacts



(Source: World Bank Development Research Group, May 2008)

Such as on Agricultural Extension Service in Malawi

- Standard ratio: 1 ext. worker per 500 farmers
- Average ratio (2008) was 1: 1,603
 - Lilongwe ratio was 1 : 2,164
- Changing rainfall patterns require farmers to modify their agricultural practices
- Ext. workers should spend more time w/each farmer on adequate adaptation measures
- Desired ratio should be close to 1 : 450

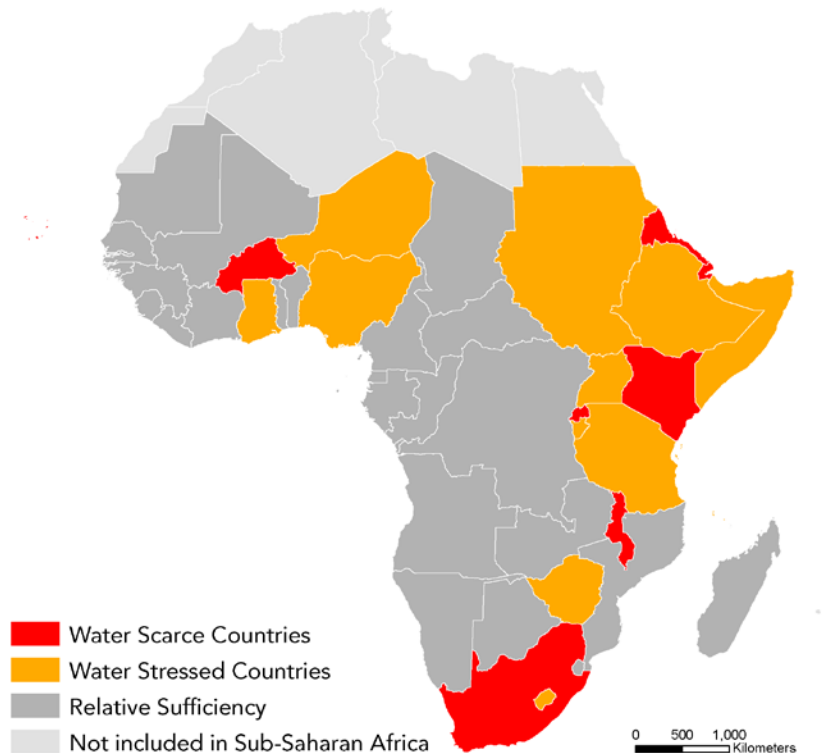
(Source: World Bank Development Research Group, May 2008)

POPULATION AND ADAPTATION:

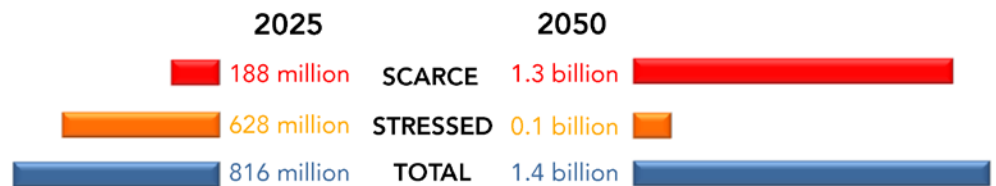
What Have We Learned?

1 Population Dynamics Increase Vulnerability

- 15 hotspots countries in SSA: high rates of population growth, high projected declines in agricultural production and low resilience to climate change
- 4 of these countries (Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Malawi and Somalia) also experiencing water stress/scarcity
- Many hotspots already face widespread poverty, low education levels, limited health services, and high gender inequality
- Most hotspot countries have high levels of unmet need for family planning (fertility is very high partly because of inability of women and their partners to access and use contraception)

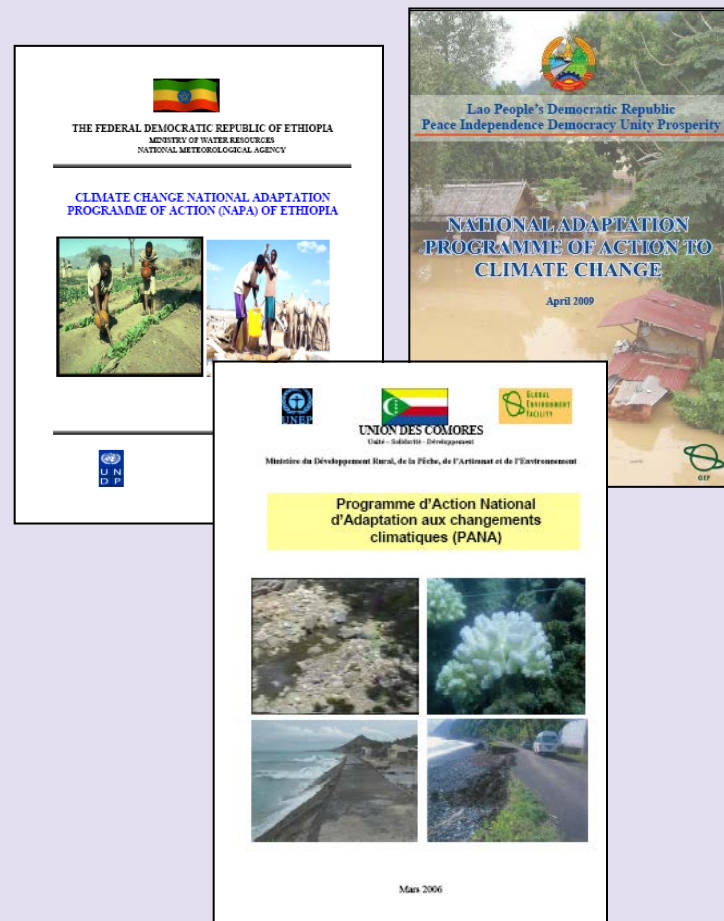


PROJECTED POPULATION LIVING IN WATER STRESSED OR SCARCE COUNTRIES



2 Emerging Mechanisms such as National Adaptation Programs of Action ...

- Established in 2001
- Major mechanism for adaptation funding for 49 LDCs and small island states
- To respond to urgent and immediate adaptation needs
- Participatory across sectors
- Leads mostly meteorology and environment

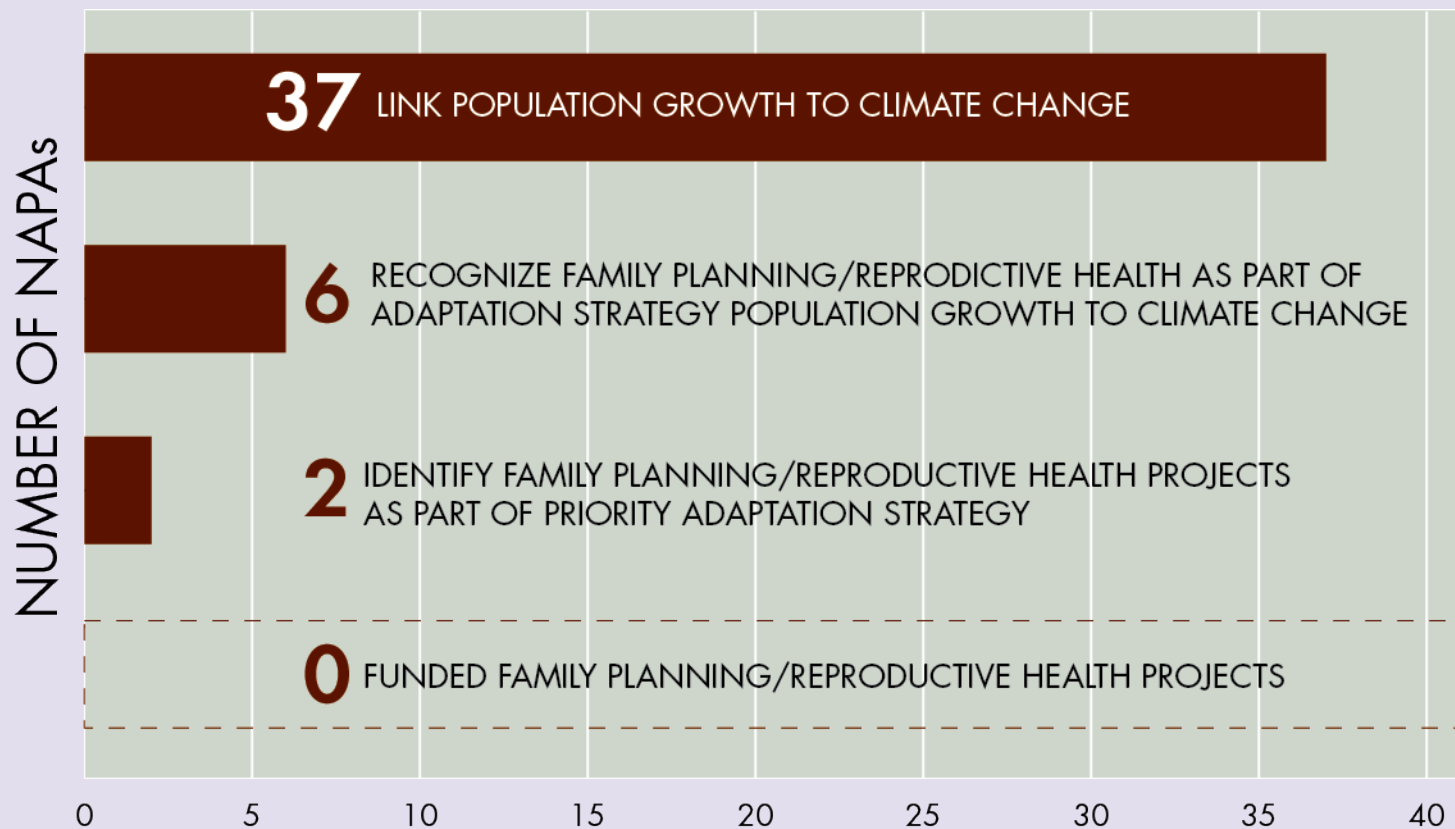


... Recognize Role of Population Growth,

Rapid population growth:

- “results in the imbalance of the already limited resources and the threat of climate instability” (Comoros)
- “is a cause of decline in resources base” (Ethiopia)
- “linked to environmental resource stress,” (where) “leads to excessive fishing and to structural changes to the shoreline” (Kiribati)
- “led to ecological imbalances expressed by the deterioration of livelihoods” (Niger)
- “an important factor of pressure on the environment” (Haiti)

But Don't Recognize Reproductive Health/ Family Planning as Priority Adaptation Strategies



3 Communities See Climate Change Impacts, Recognize Vulnerabilities and Note Role of Family Size



- Ethiopia - Unmet need for FP = 34%
- Most (peri-urban, rural, community members and leaders, policymakers, men and women):
 - Know that climate change is occurring and notice environmental change
 - Believe women, children, and the elderly are most affected
 - Note that large families are not currently sustainable and the need to expand access to family planning – in addition to other adaptation strategies (e.g. food and water security)



Integrated PHE Programs



Programs that combine population, health, and environment have performed better than single-sector programs:

- Reaching under-served communities
- Cost savings
- More women involved in natural resource management
- More men involved in family planning and health (particularly youth)
- Greater improvement in some environmental indicators



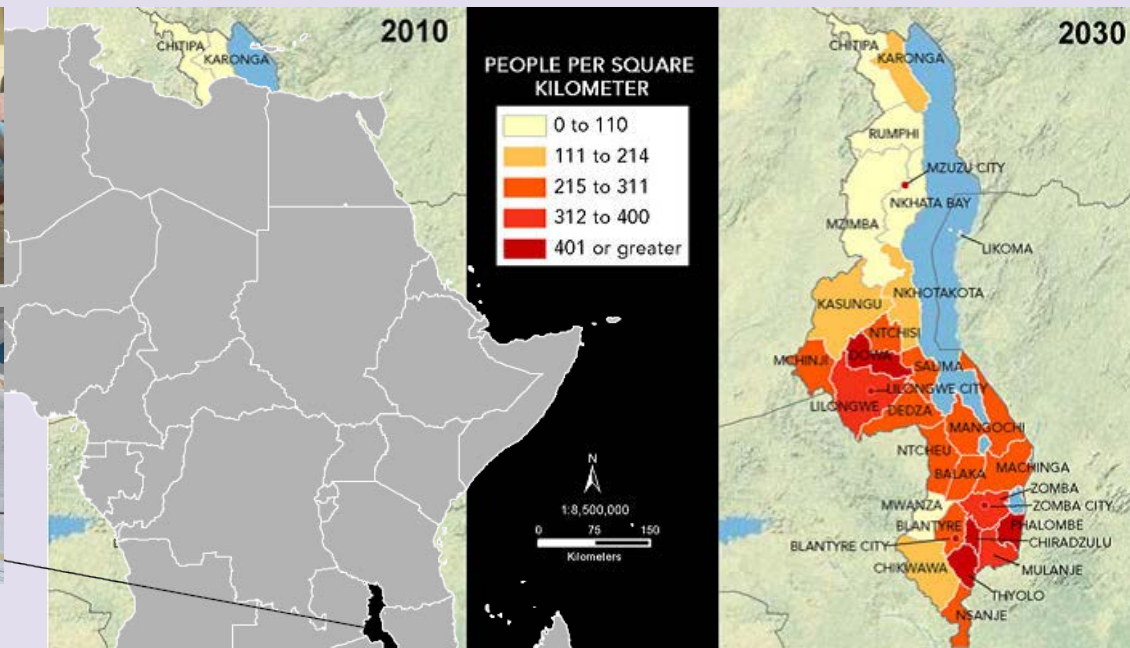
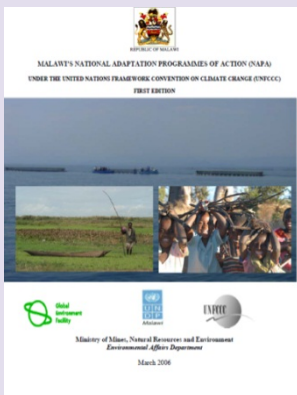
PHE ETHIOPIA CONSORTIUM

"Healthy Families - Healthy Environment"

PHE Lessons for CBA

- Building local awareness of connections between environmental conditions, human health, and behavior
- Strengthening community capacity to plan and manage resources in the context of those connections
- Engaging communities in assessing ecosystem values that could strengthen bridge between CBA and ecosystem-based adaptation approaches

Malawi: A Holistic Approach



MALAWI

“Governments in the continent have to be in the forefront to study the climate change phenomena and advocate for better policies for women ... (there is) a need to empower them in climate change adaptation processes.”

— **Lingalireni Mihowa**, Special Advisor to the (Vice) President, Malawi



Recommendations for Integrated Approaches

- Encourage a mix of short- and longer-term projects
- Integrate to avoid “winner” and “loser” sectors
- Translate recognition of population pressure into relevant adaptation programs/projects
- Expedite development and implementation of existing RH/FP projects
- Include attention to population and integrated strategies (like PHE) as part of the longer-term enhanced adaptation programming