

# Understanding the era of loss and damage – opportunities and challenges in attributing & projecting extreme events and their consequences

#### Dr Fredi Otto + many others

Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment Imperial College London

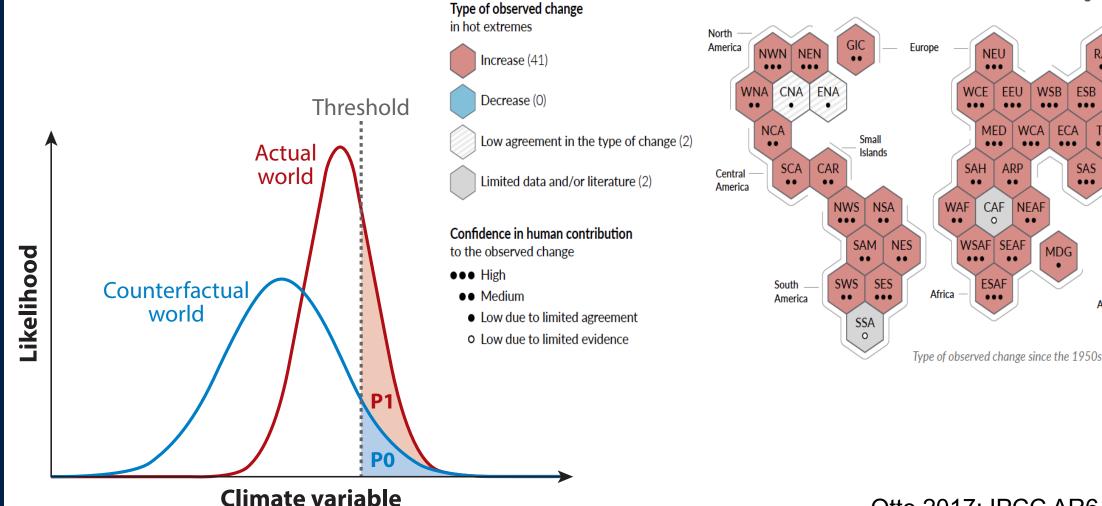


We are in the era of loss & damage



https://www.worldweatherattribution.org

## Climate change is already affecting every region across the globe with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes



a) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in hot extremes and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions

RAR

...

TIB

...

RFE

...

Australasia

EAS

...

SEA

...

NAU

...

SAU

...

CAU

...

EAU

...

Asia

PAC

...

NZ

Small

Islands

ESB

...

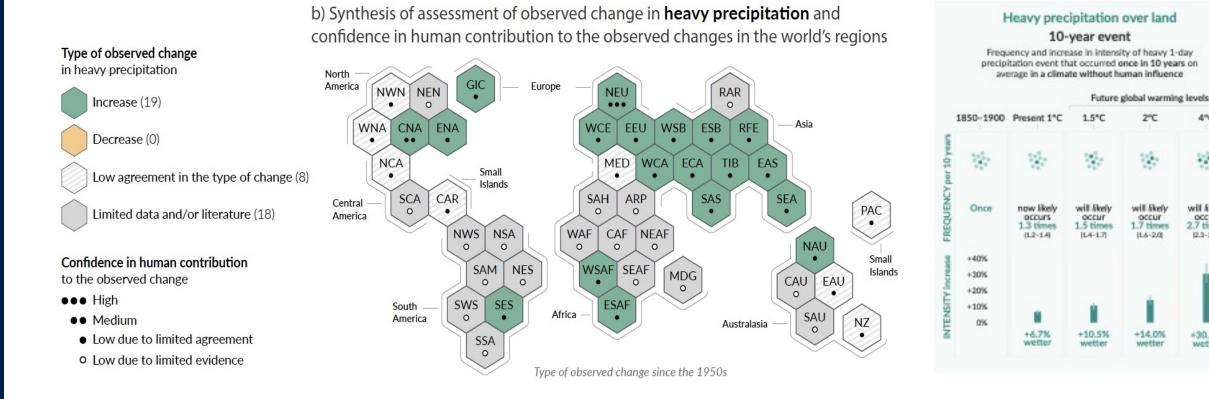
SAS

...

...

Otto 2017; IPCC AR6 WG1, SPM.3

## Evidence base for mitigation is much stronger than for adaptation & loss and damage – no inventory of the impacts of climate change exist



Global trends Local change

IPCC AR6 WG1, SPM.3; SPM.6

4°C

12

will likely

occur

2.7 time

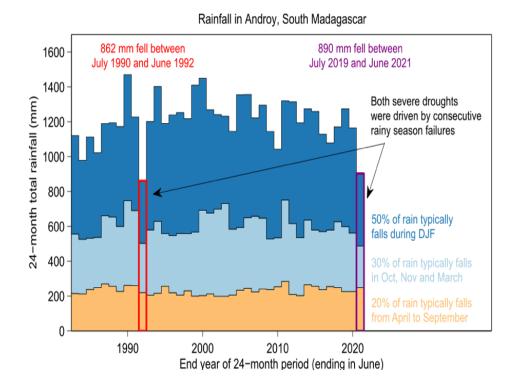
23-24

+30.29

wetter

# Climate change is not the only driver of losses and damages

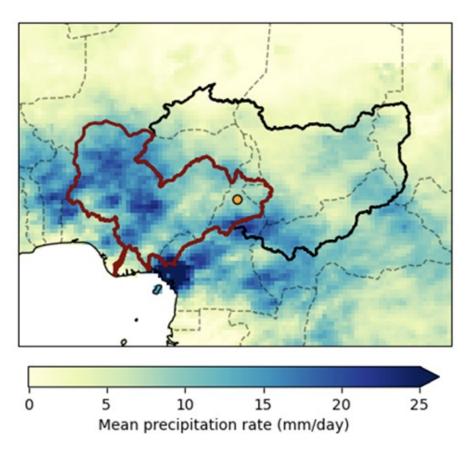
Factors other than climate change main drivers of recent drought in Southern Madagascar



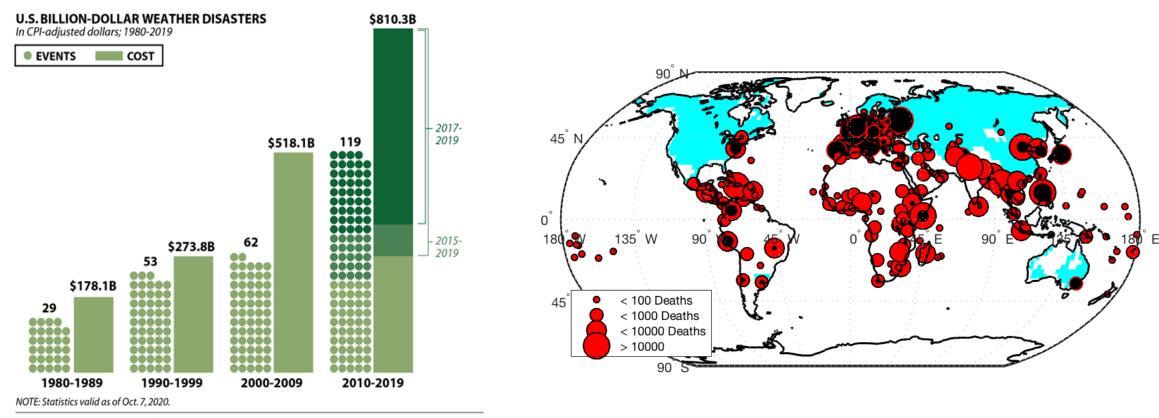
Harrington et al., 2022;



Climate change exacerbated heavy rainfall by aa factor of 80 leading to large scale flooding in highly vulnerable communities in West Africa



# We know a lot more about the impacts of climate change than just a year ago, but many gaps remain



SOURCE: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information

PAUL HORN / Inside Climate News

Source: https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/summary-stats

Otto et al.,2020

# References

- Otto, F.E.L., et al. (2020) Challenges to understanding extreme weather changes in lower income countries. *Bulletin American Meteorological Society*, doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-19-0317.1
- van Oldenborgh, G.J., van der Wiel, K., Kew, S. *et al.* Pathways and pitfalls in extreme event attribution. *Climatic Change* 166, 13 (2021). Otto, F.E.L. (2017) Attribution of Weather and Climate Events. *Annual Review of Envi. and Resources*, 42.
- Raju, E, E Boyd, F Otto <u>Stop blaming the climate for disasters</u> Communications Earth & Environment 3 (1)
- Clarke, BJ, FEL Otto, RG Jones <u>Inventories of extreme weather events and impacts</u>: <u>Implications</u> for loss and damage from and adaptation to climate extremes</u> Climate Risk Management 32, 100285
- Otto, FEL (2017) Attribution of Weather and Climate Events. Annual Review of Environment and Resources 2017 42:1, 627-646
- Harrington et al., (2022) Limited role of climate change in extreme low rainfall associated with southern Madagascar food insecurity, 2019–21. *Environ. Res.: Climate* 1 021003DOI 10.1088/2752-5295/aca695



## world weather attribution

https://www.worldweatherattribution.org/reporting-extreme-weather-and-climate-change-a-guide-for-journalists/