



Protecting health in an environment challenged by climate change

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European Framework for Action

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Protecting health in an environment
challenged by climate change:
European Regional Framework for Action



Climate change in the WHO European Region



Third Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health



Fourth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Health (extreme events and energy)



World Health Day 2007: focus on health security



Nobel Peace Prize to the IPCC



World Health Day 2008: “Protecting health in Europe from climate change”



Ministerial Conference 2010: European Framework for Action

Global WHO enabling mechanisms



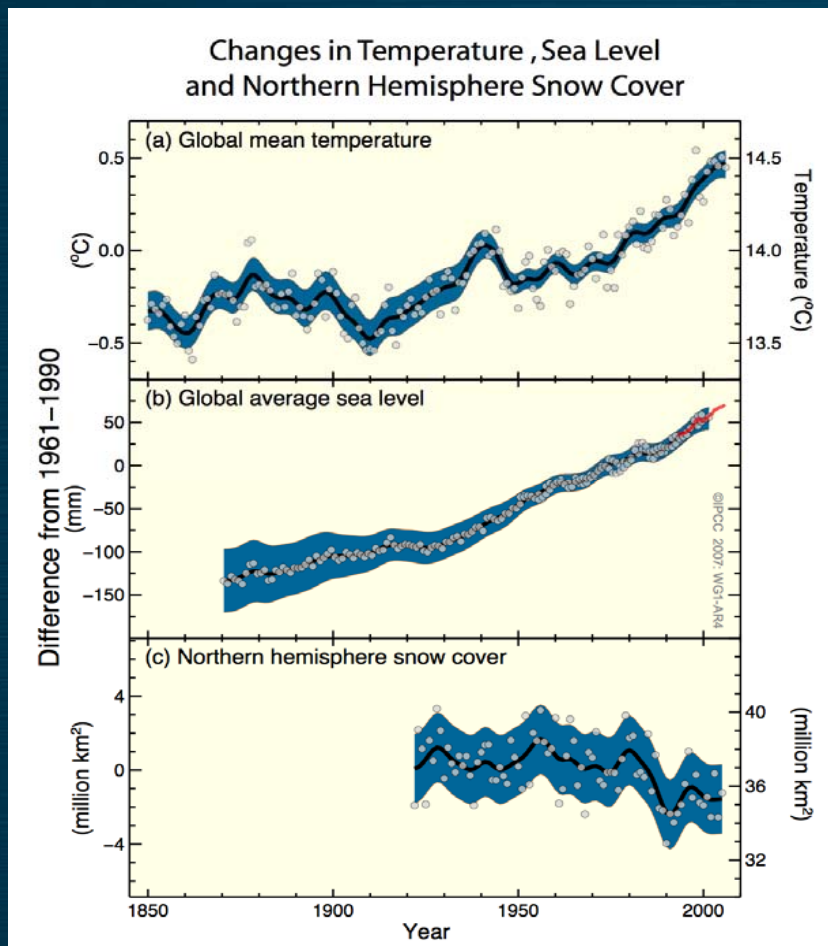
- UN Secretary General establishes coordination group including WHO's continuous participation
- EB Report January 2008
- World Health Assembly Resolution May 2008
- EB WHO workplan approval January 2009

The Aim of the European Regional Framework for Action



- protect health
- promote health equity and security
- provide healthy environments in a changing climate

Why is it a problem?

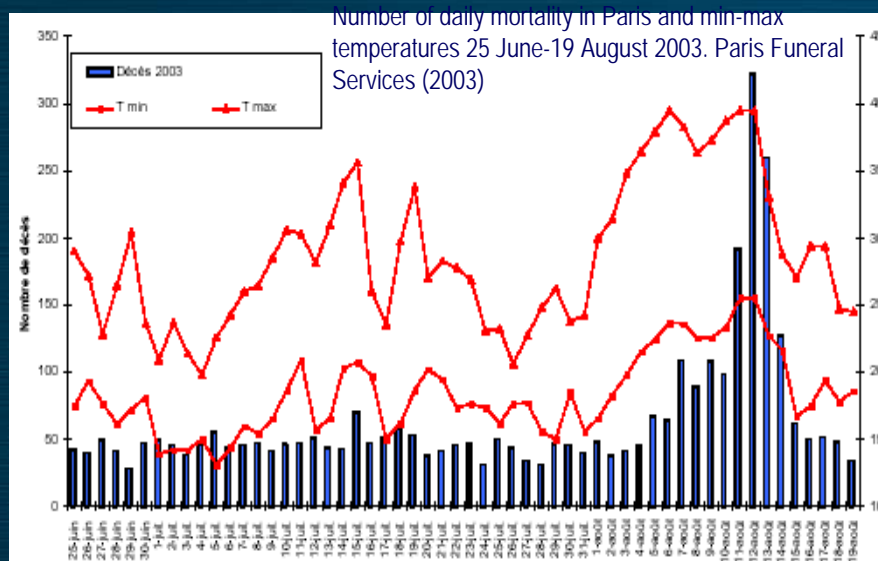


Warming is unequivocal

- The global average surface temperature has increased by approximately 0.74 °C over the last 100 years.
- The projected increase for Europe between the end of the 20th and 21st centuries varies from 2.3 °C to 6 °C, depending on the scenario.

Why is it a problem?

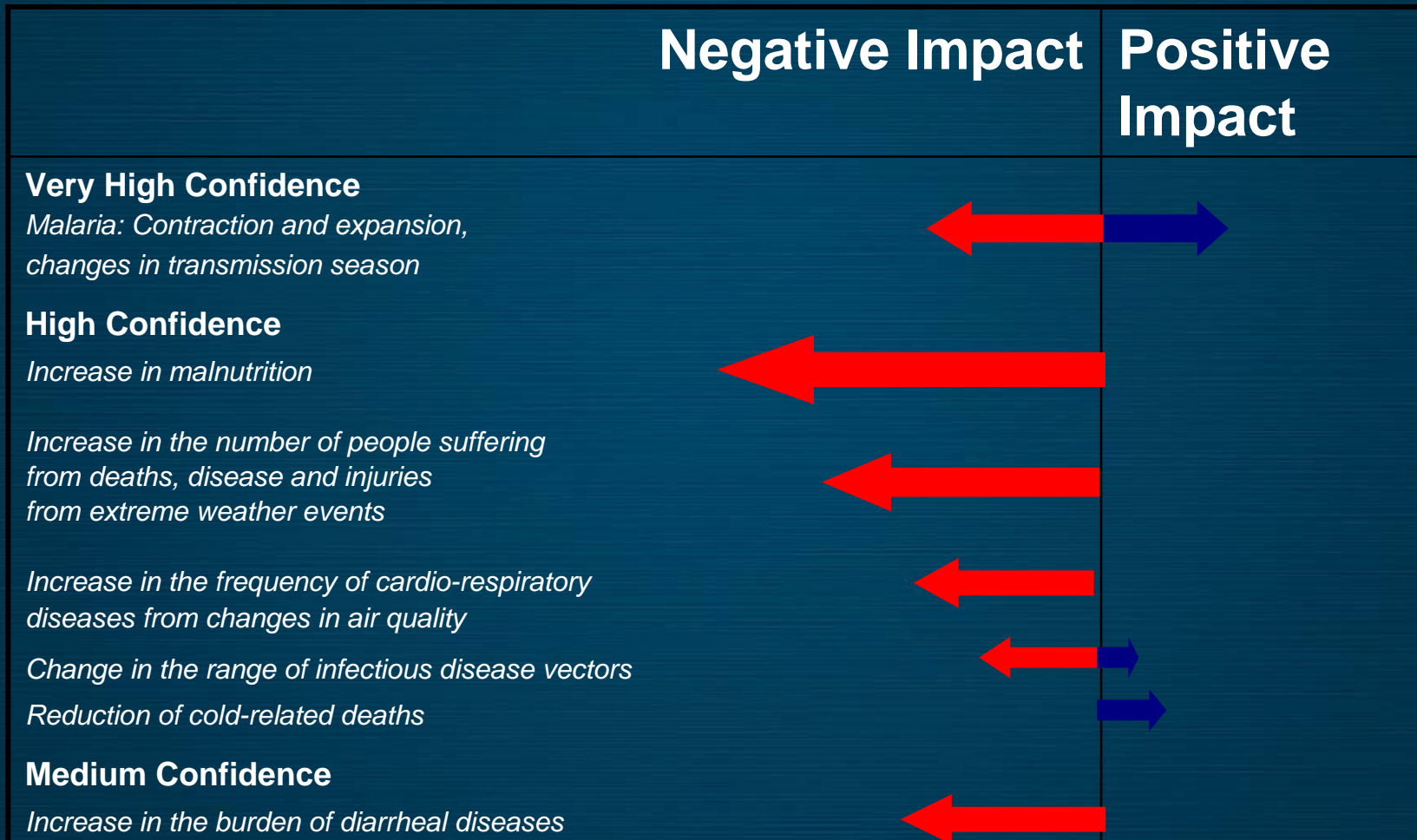
Health is already affected



- In Europe over 70,000 excess deaths were observed in twelve European countries in the heat-wave summer of 2003
- A change of the distribution of some vector borne diseases was observed
- Allergic pollen are changing timing and distribution

Why is it a problem?

Direction and magnitude of change of selected health impacts of climate change

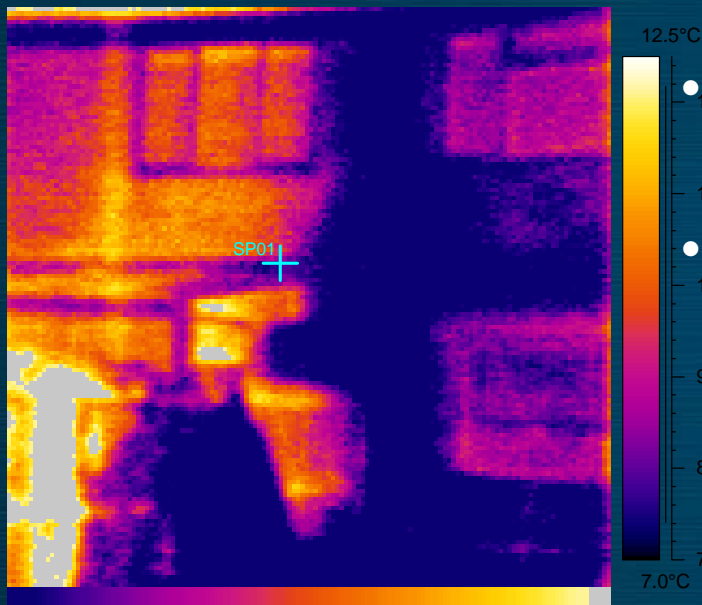


The objectives of the European Framework

- to raise awareness to encourage healthy mitigation and adaptation policies in all sectors;
- to ensure that all current and future mitigation and adaptation climate change measures, policies and strategies integrate health issues at all levels;
- to strengthen health, social and environmental systems and services to improve their capacity to prevent, prepare for, and cope with climate change;
- to increase the health and environment sectors' contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- to share best practices, research, data, information, technology and tools at all levels on climate change, environment and health.






Ensure health issues at all levels

- Health impact assessments;
- National adaptation plans with a focus on health;



- Enforce effective measures in reducing deaths and disease;
- Promote:
 - healthy, energy-efficient buildings and renewable energy;
 - access to safe transport, encouraging physical activity and social contact;
 - improved outdoor and indoor air quality;
 - the modification of carbon-intensive food choices and production practices.

Estimated Health Effects of Increased Active Travel in London

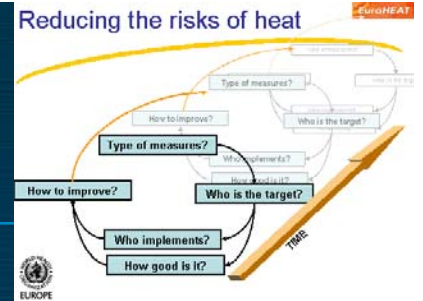
| | Change in disease burden | Change in premature deaths |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Ischaemic heart disease | 10-19% |  1950-4240 |
| Cerebrovascular disease | 10-18% |  1190-2580 |
| Dementia | 7-8% |  200-240 |
| Breast cancer | 12-13% |  200-210 |
| Road traffic crashes | 19-39% |  50-80 |

Strengthen health systems

Improve and maintain:

- the provision of early warning and extreme weather events action plans;
- early warning, and rapid response to, climate change-related disease outbreaks; with integrated disease surveillance and monitoring, and control of communicable diseases;
- strengthened primary health care, public health and social services; with training to deal with unfamiliar medical conditions;
- climate-resilient infrastructure; with strengthened environmental services, such as water and waste management.





Example: What should GPs know on heat

Is to understand and advice people on:

- Thermoregulation and cardiovascular responses
- Pathogenic mechanisms, clinical manifestation, diagnosis and treatment
- Early signs of heatstroke and initiate cooling
- Risk factors for morbidity and mortality
- Identification of patients at risk - education
- Pre-heat-wave medical assessment
- Side effects of prescribed medication and adjust dosage
- Monitor drug therapy and fluid intake



To raise awareness



- **Develop special curricula;**
- **Train health and environment professionals;**
- **Promote and facilitate the development and implementation of communication strategies and advocacy campaigns;**
- **Involve children, young people and adults, in settings such as schools, hospitals and workplaces in promotional activities;**
- **Ensure public participation and access to information on climate change;**
- **Promote dialogue among public authorities.**

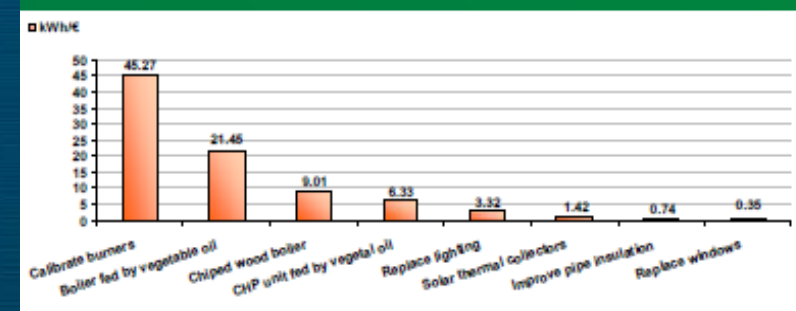
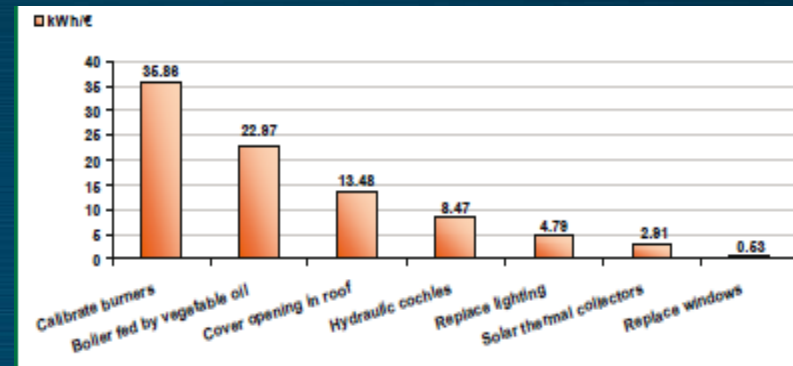
Increase the health and environment sectors' contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- Ensure energy- and resource-efficient management of energy, food supply, buildings, transport, waste, water supply and sanitation, in your own services;
- Encourage individual action by all stakeholders



Opportunities

- Energy efficiency – Reduce hospital energy consumption and costs through efficiency and conservation measures.
- Alternative energy generation – Produce and/or consume clean, renewable energy on site to ensure reliable and resilient operation



Green building design

- **Italy: Meyer Children`s Hospital consumer 35% less energy for heating and cooling and 36% less electricity than standard**



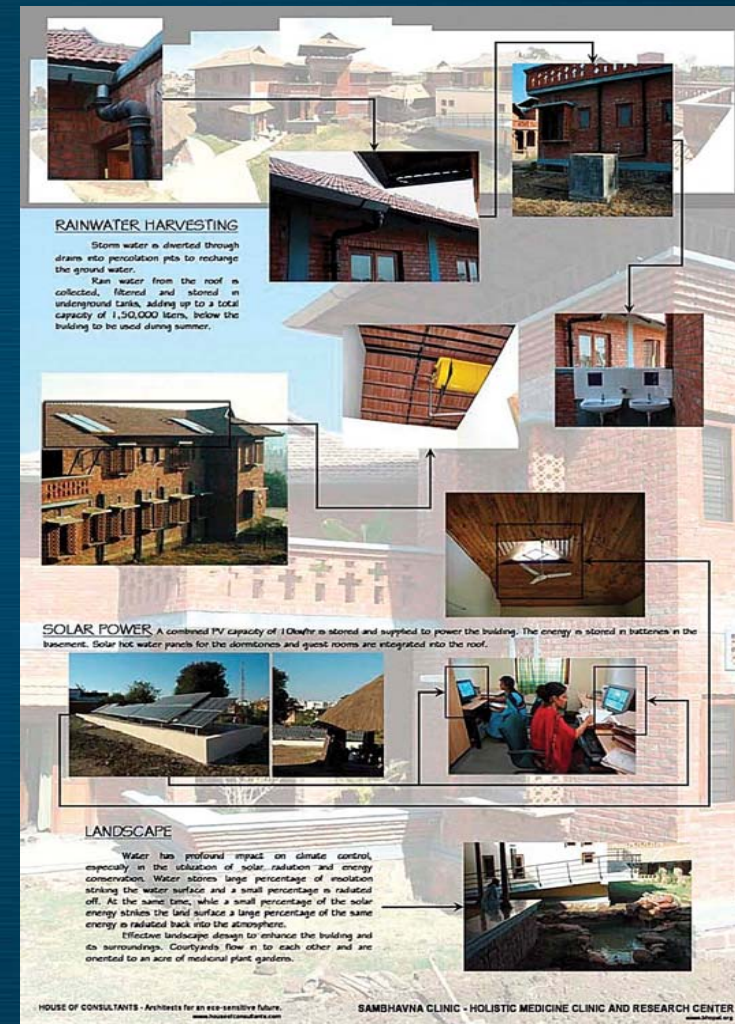
Transport

- **Transportation – Use alternative fuels for hospital vehicle fleets;**
- **encourage walking and cycling to the facility;**
- **promote staff, patient and community use of public transport;**
- **site health-care building to minimize the need for staff and patient transportation**



Food, waste, water

- **Food** – Provide sustainably grown local food for staff and patients
- **Waste** – Reduce, reuse, recycle, compost; employ alternatives to waste incineration
- **Water** – Conserve water; avoid bottled water when safe alternatives exist



Share best practices, research, data, information, technology and tools at all levels

- Request to agencies to discuss the development of an information platform by 2014, building on available tools and information gathering processes



Member States in the WHO European Region are called on to contribute, and support the provision of regular information to the platform.

Overall strengthen research from improved risk assessment to applied research and improved economic assessments

For whom?

