

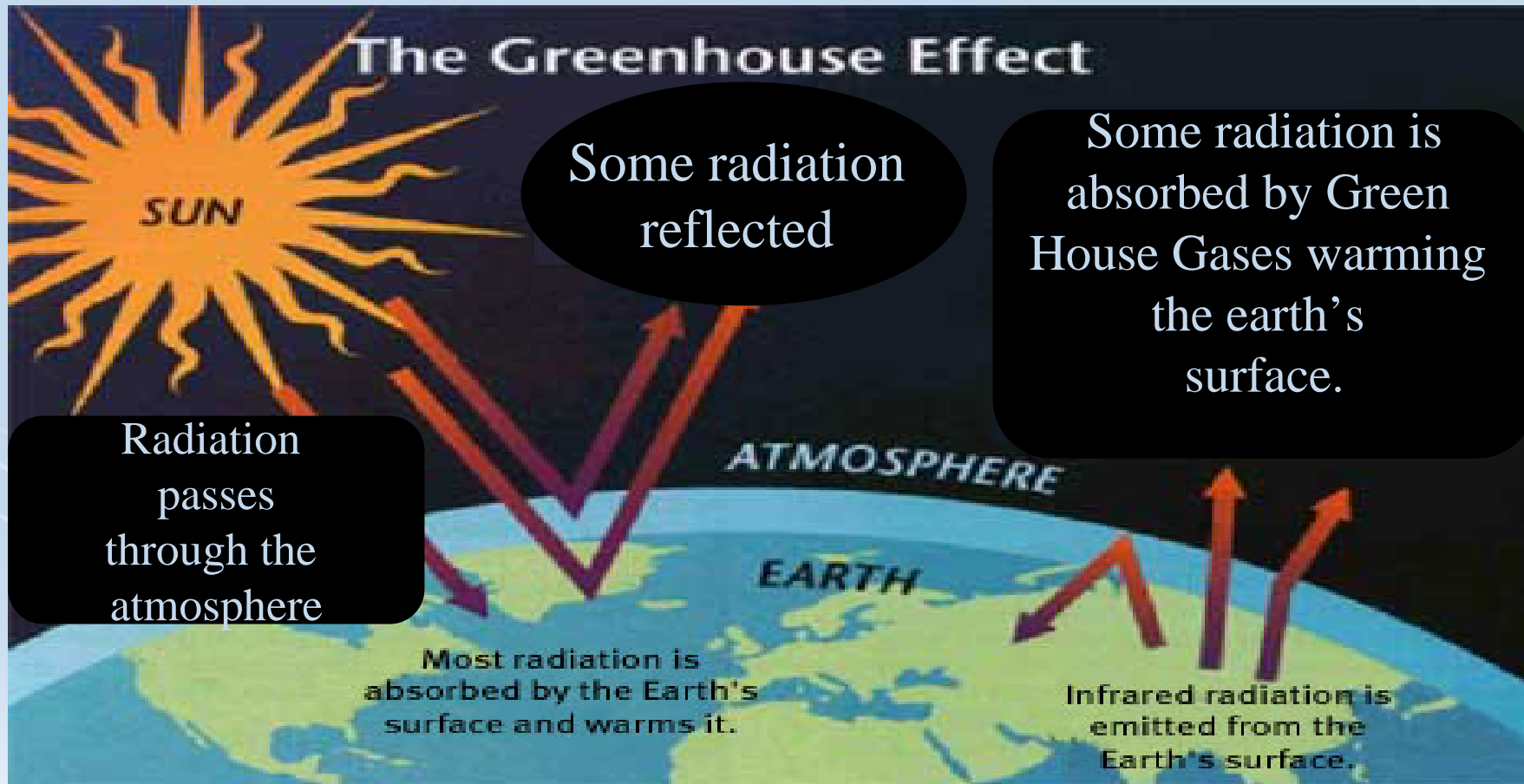


Climate Change: Impacts and Implications for Africa

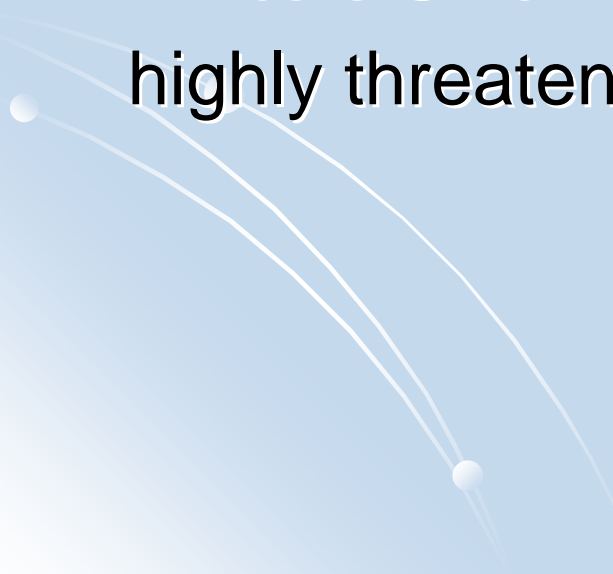
Dr. Strike Mkandla
Representative to AU, UNECA & Ethiopia
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Earth Day presentation in Addis Ababa. 22 April 2009

Global Warming results from Greenhouse Gases (GHG) trapping heat on Earth



Africa Most Vulnerable, Small Contributor to Problem

- Africa has contributed less than 3.8% to GHG concentration, some say 2.5%
 - Africa's Small Island States (SIDS) highly threatened yet small emitters
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Signs of Climate Change in Africa

1 - Extreme weather events - floods



El Niño floods in Rhoka
Village, Tana River Valley,
Kenya

Signs of of Climate Change in Africa

2 – Droughts - threats to rangelands & crops

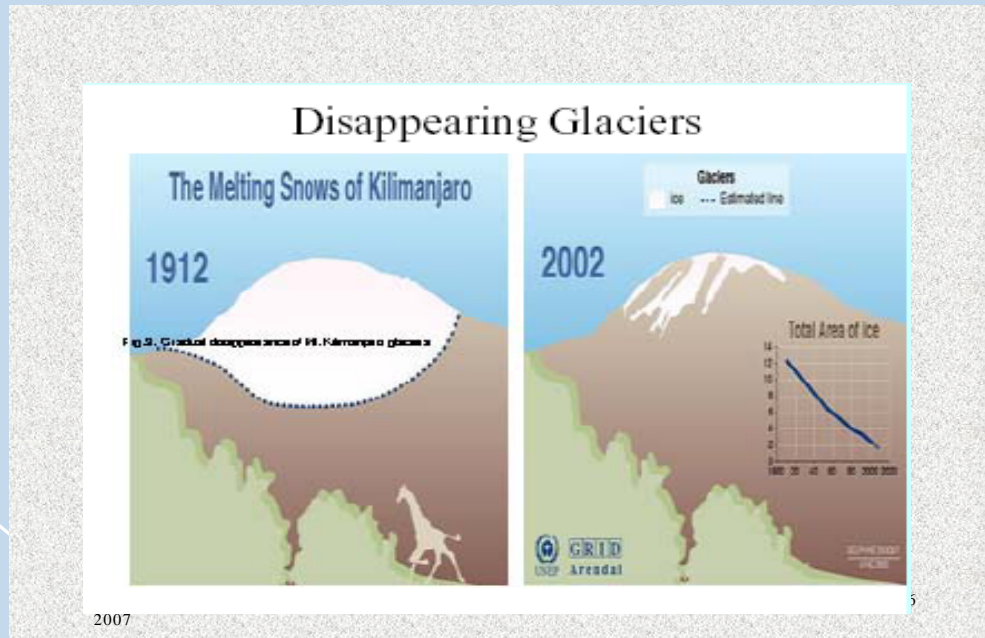


Erratic rains and livestock loss

Signs of Climate Change in Africa

3 - Disappearing Glaciers

- Melting snow cap over Mount Kilimanjaro

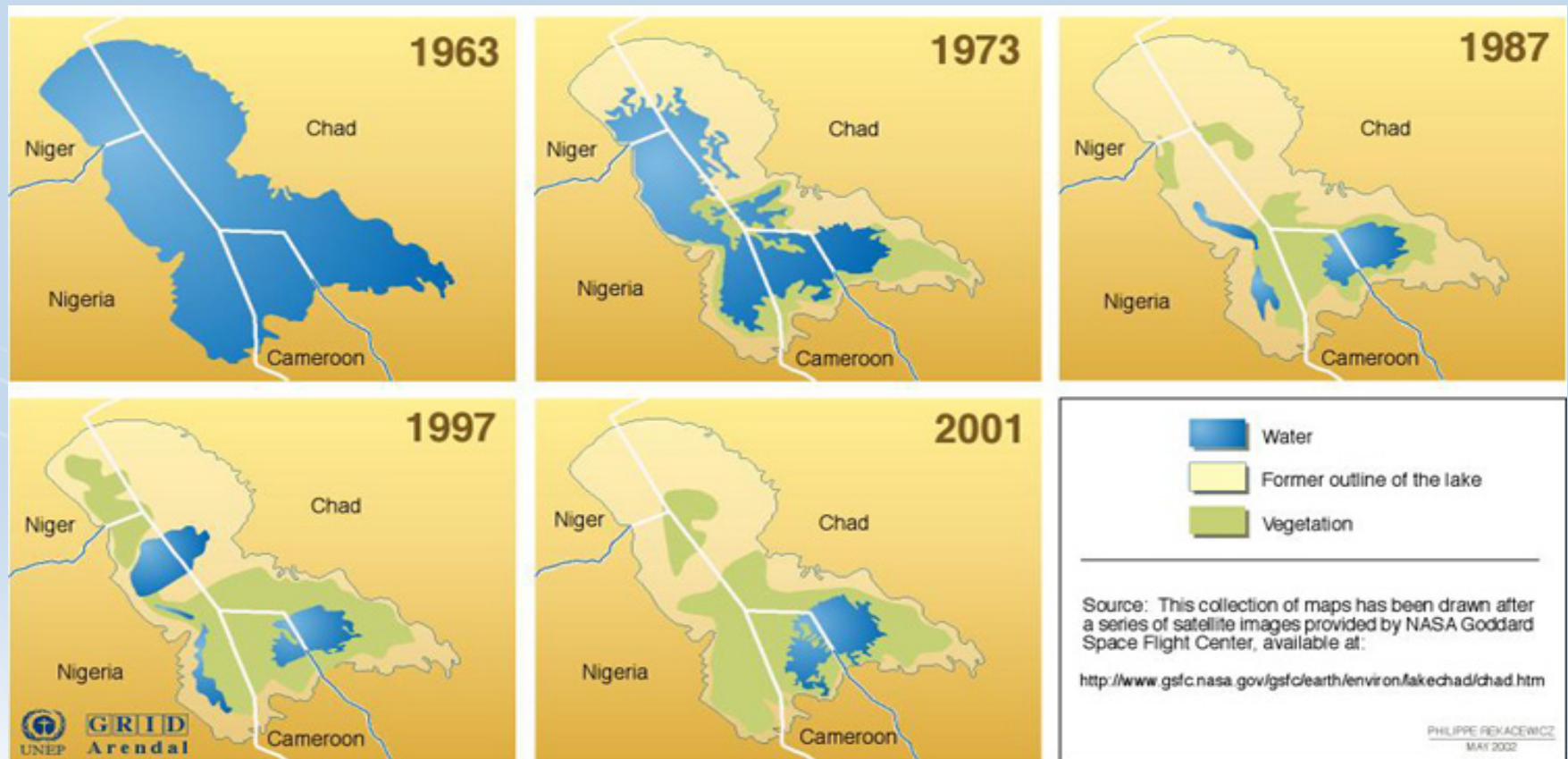


- ❖ Glaciers projected to disappear by 2020 if current trend continues

Impacts of climate change in Africa

Economic, health and security threats:

1 - Shrinking Lakes and fisheries – L. Chad



Impacts of climate change in Africa

Economic, health and security threats:

2 - Water stress (irrigation, cities, ecosystems)

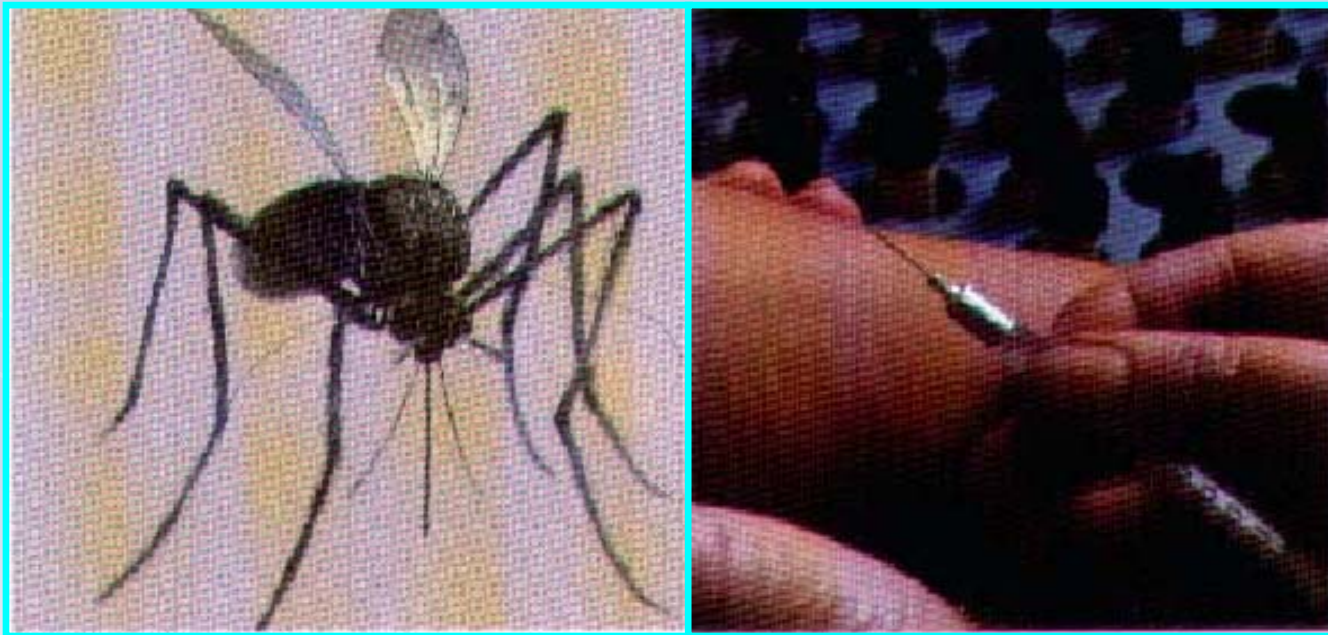
- Decreasing precipitation reduces ground and surface water recharge
- Lower/fluctuating reservoirs and threats to hydropower (Akosombo Dam recently stood at 40% capacity)
- Combination of severe soil erosion and freak storms can lead to landslides
- Conflict over degraded natural resources (transboundary basins, energy, land etc) - resulting in loss of human lives and livestock, migration ...

Impacts of Climate Change on Africa

Economic, health and security threats:

3 - Health Impacts

- Changes in vector borne diseases
- Heat strokes



Shifting zones for malaria and other diseases

Climate change and Gender in Africa

Different/unequal impacts on rural women & men

Pressure on energy sources

- for domestic cooking (firewood etc.)
- Too much and too little water –
pressure on domestic supply and
pressure on clean water and sanitation

(contamination)

Erratic food supply –

insecurity for women & children



How has Africa responded?

- Dec. 2005- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) convened by African Union Commission in Addis Ababa (in collaboration with UNEP and ISDR Secretariat). Mapped strategic approaches and actions needed to cope with expected impacts of climate change
- 2006 AMCEN 11th Session, Brazzaville. The session took and incorporated the DRR ministers' recommendations into report to the AU summit of January 2007. The 12th Session in July 2008 (Johannesburg) came up with comprehensive decision and roadmap. Currently taking inputs from sector ministers for African Common Position towards December 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit
- AU Summits decisions and declarations (Jan. 2007 and 2009). The 2009 Summit endorsed the roadmap to Copenhagen proposed by ministers of environment (AMCEN)

African Roadmap to Copenhagen

- Algiers, November 2008 meeting. African participation & training of negotiators organized by UNEP/ECA for AMCEN, 7 Algiers Platform
- Poznan, Poland - review of progress in negotiations at the 14th session of UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (CoP) 2008
- Bonn, March/April 2009 negotiations
- AMCEN Special Session to adopt African Common Position for presentation to July 2009 AU Summit
- Copenhagen, Denmark, 15th session of UNFCCC CoP and 5th MoP of the Kyoto Protocol in December 2009 – target completion date for negotiations on post-2012 regime to succeed Kyoto

What can Africa do?

- Creation of the Adaptation Fund and additional mechanism for carbon trading to finance adaptation and mitigation. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) design did not deliver to Africa – less than 5% of CDM projects
- Africa has provided a large part of the carbon sinks for the world. Avoided deforestation and keeping large areas under small scale agriculture has avoided the pressure for clearing large tracts of land. Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) will be an important issue for mitigation credits.
- Technology transfer and financing for cleaner production
- Climate proofing of economies and mainstreaming climate change, to anticipate challenges to infrastructure, agriculture, human settlements and natural resources.

Thank you for your
attention!

