

FORUM

Wetlands: Wise Use, Smart Plans

Meeting the challenges for sustainable wetlands use



Topic: «Emerging areas and novel approaches»

Wetlands and Urbanization

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Recall some challenges and emerging areas of Ramsar convention

Suggest integrated program on Ecosystems (Wetlands), Urbanization, Health, Wellbeing, Poverty Alleviation

Recall some novel approaches for consideration in future projects (Transdisciplinarity)

Give some first recommendations to feed the discussions

Stimulus



Challenges



(i) Fragile ecosystems ...

State of protected areas in 2007

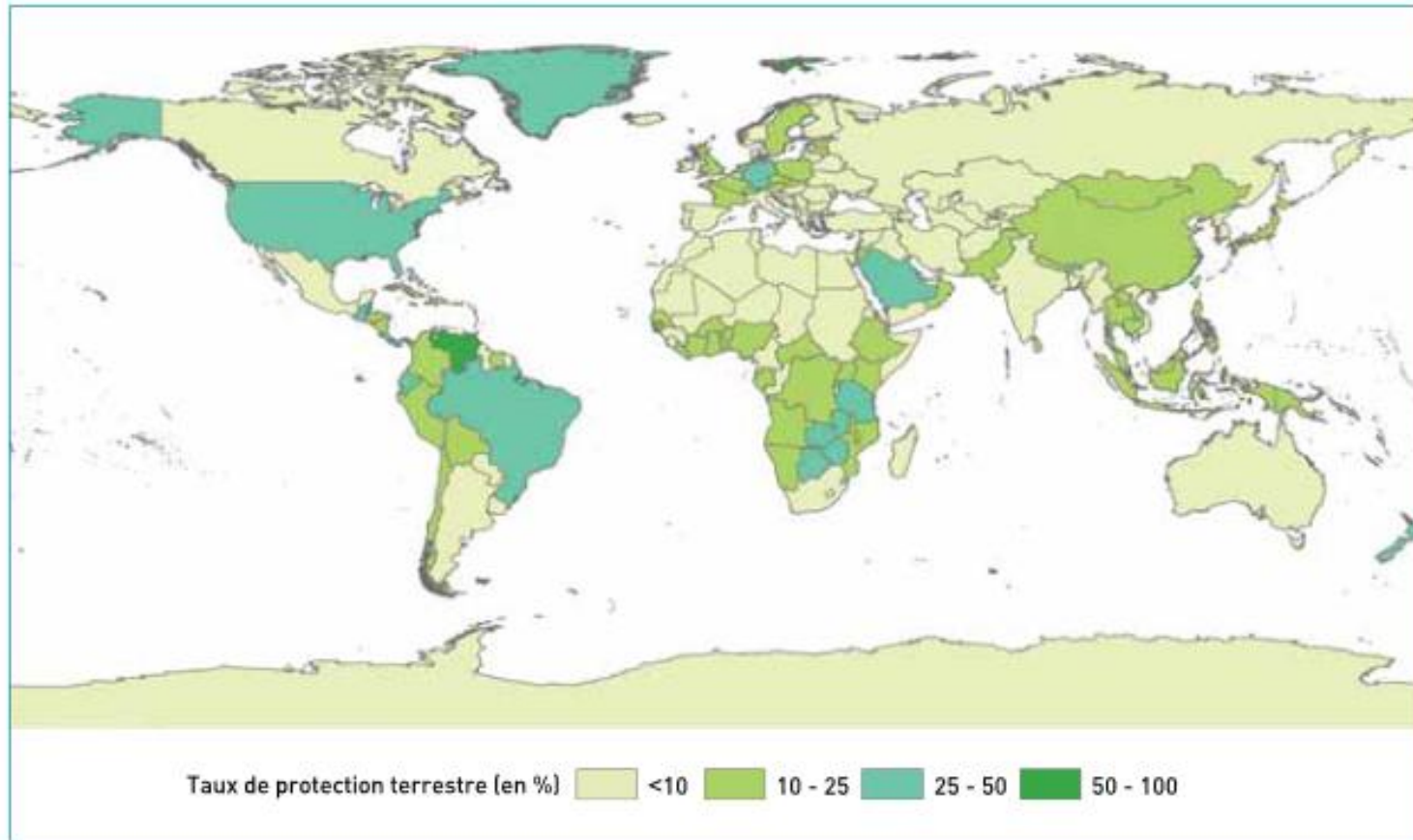


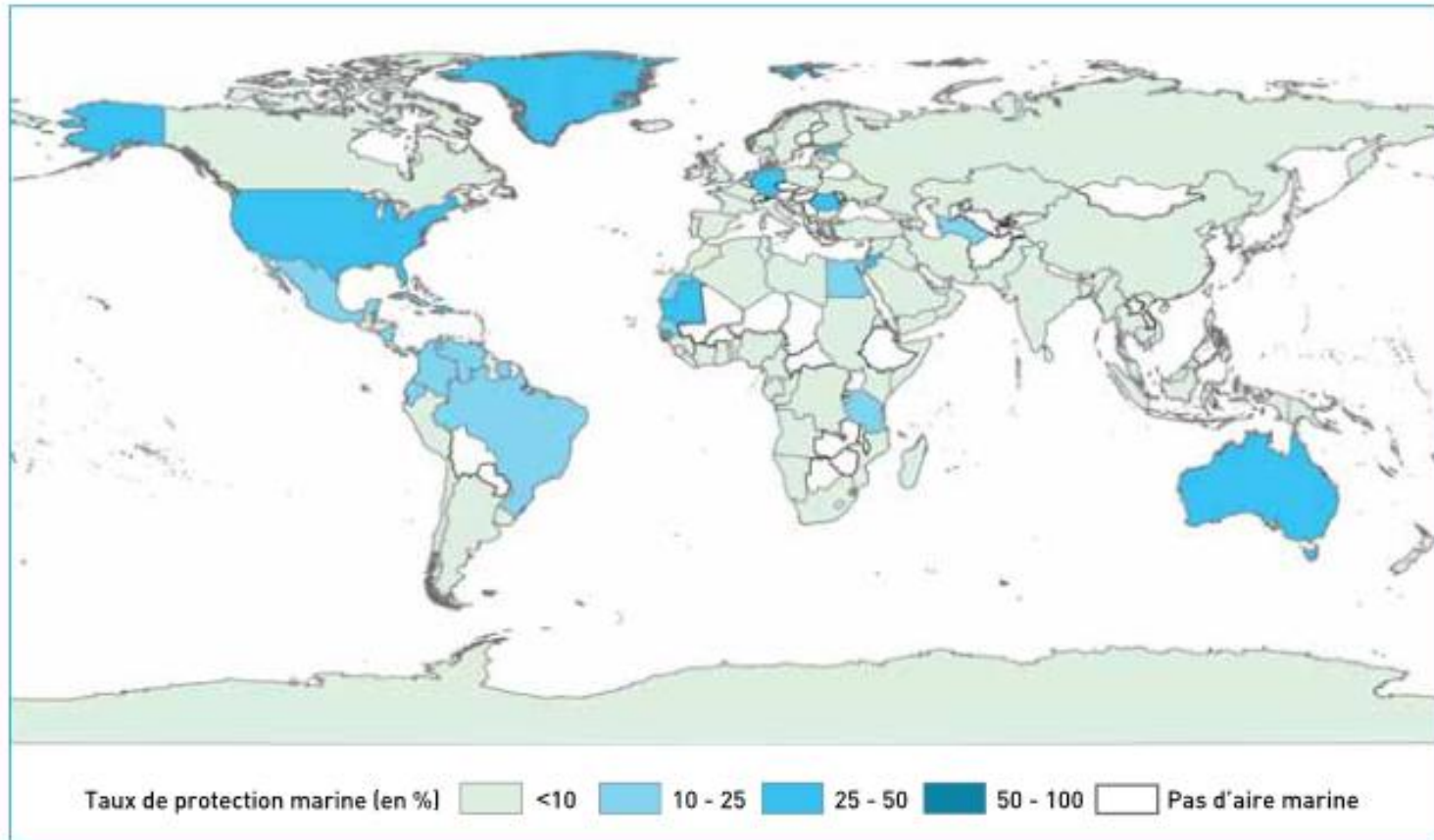
Schéma 3 : PROTECTION TERRESTRE PAR PAYS

TERRESTRIAL PROTECTION BY COUNTRY

State of protected areas in 2007

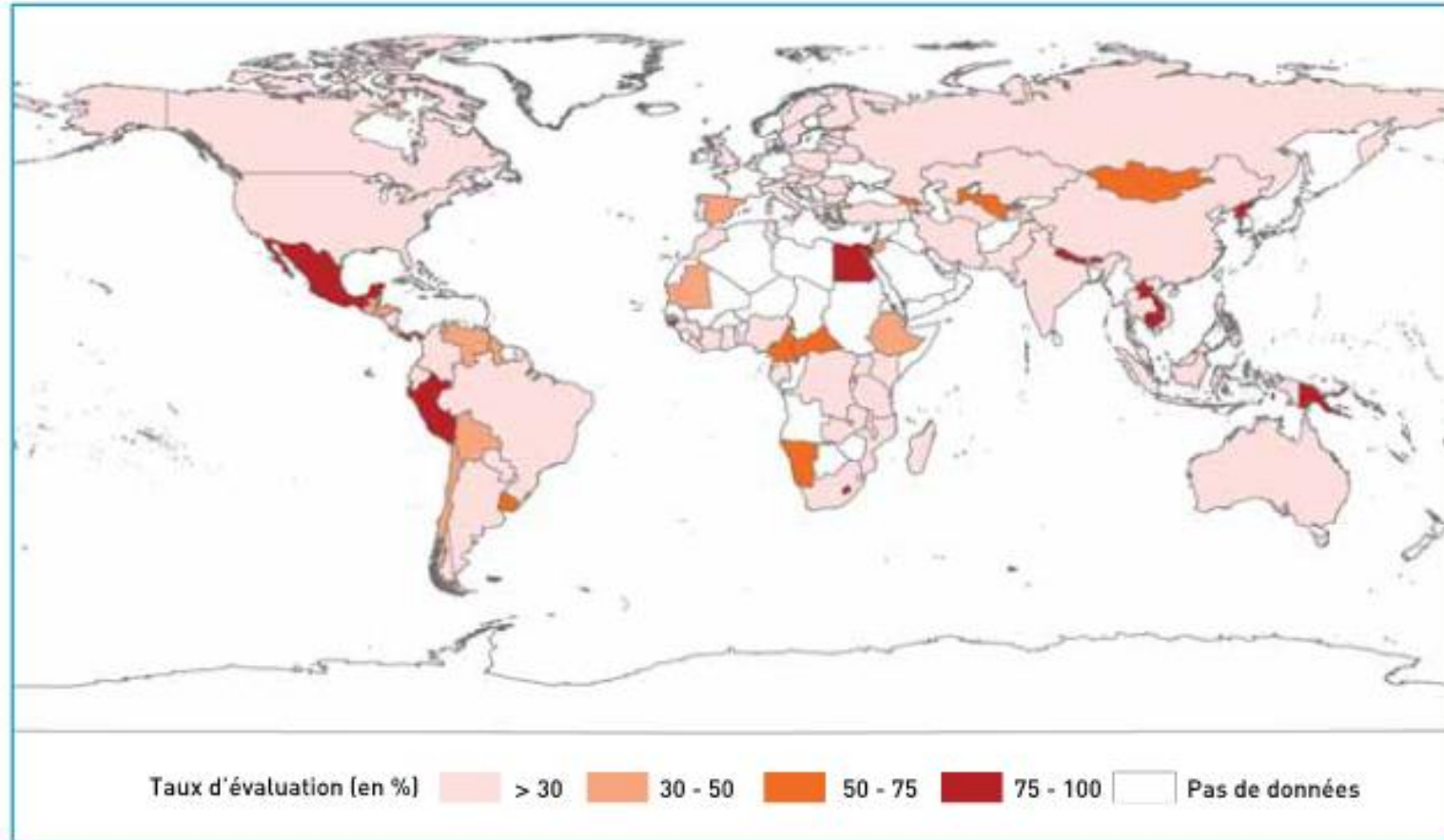
Schéma 4 : PROTECTION MARINE PAR PAYS

MARINE PROTECTION BY COUNTRY



State of protected areas in 2007

Schéma 11 : EFFICACITÉ DE LA GESTION DES AIRES PROTÉGÉES PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS





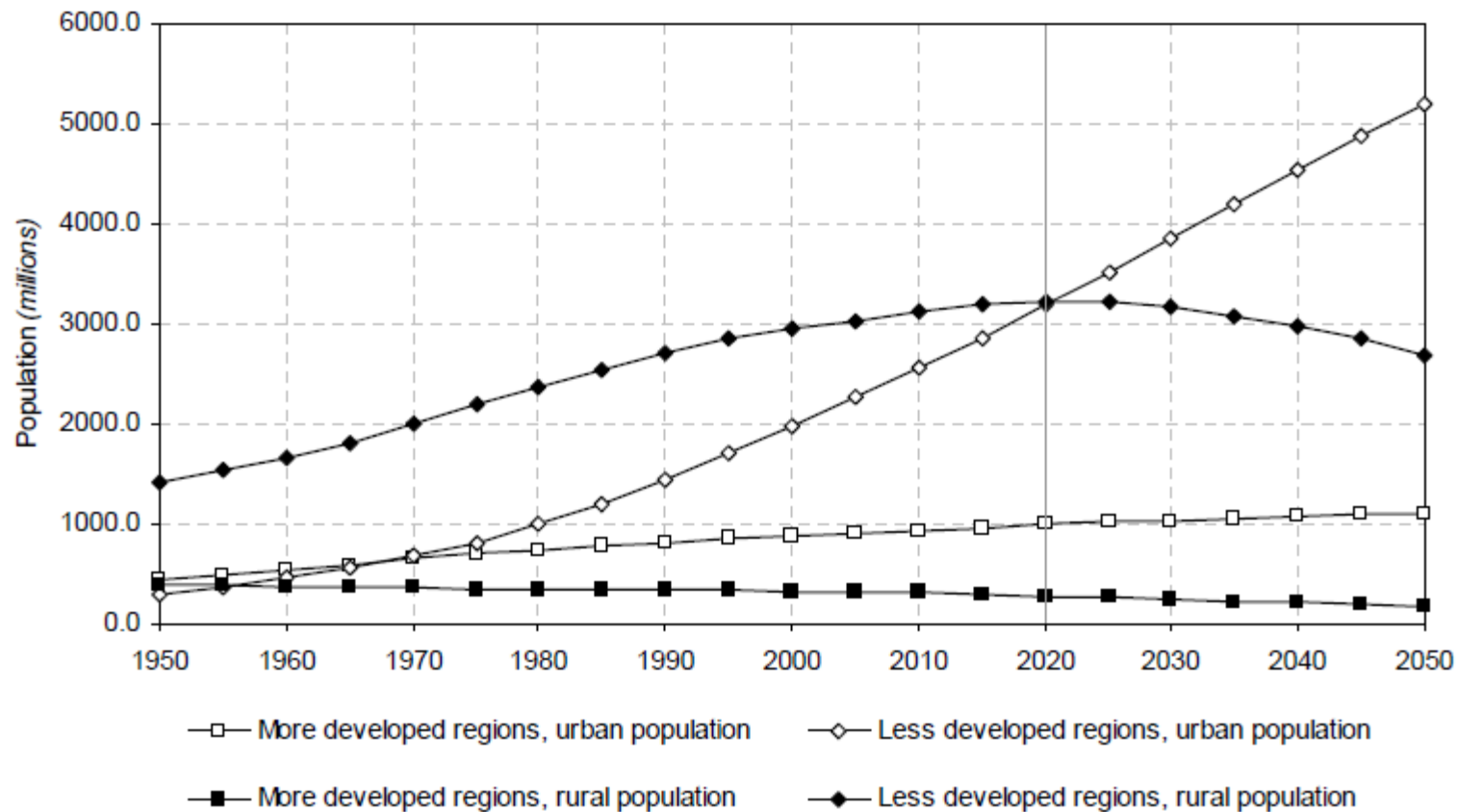
(ii) An Urbanizing world ...



- In 2009, **more people** already living in urban areas than in rural settings
- Projections for 2025 are that **70% of** the world's **population** will be located in **urban** settlements
- Highest rates of urbanization will occur in **secondary cities** across Africa

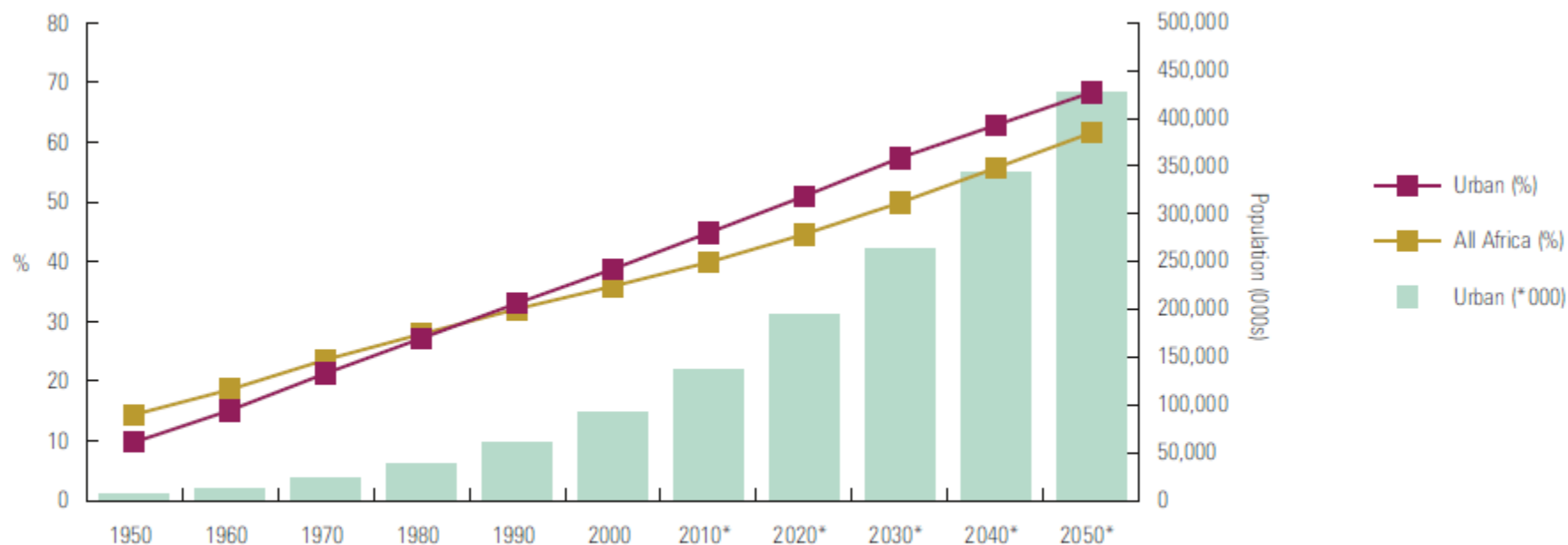


Figure II. Urban and rural populations by development group, 1950-2050



West Africa Urban Trends

Swiss TPH



* Projections
Source: WUP 2009



- **Western Africa will become predominantly urban around 2020 with an estimated 195.3 million city dwellers**
- **By 2050, that number will reach 427.7 million, or 68.36 per cent of the total population**



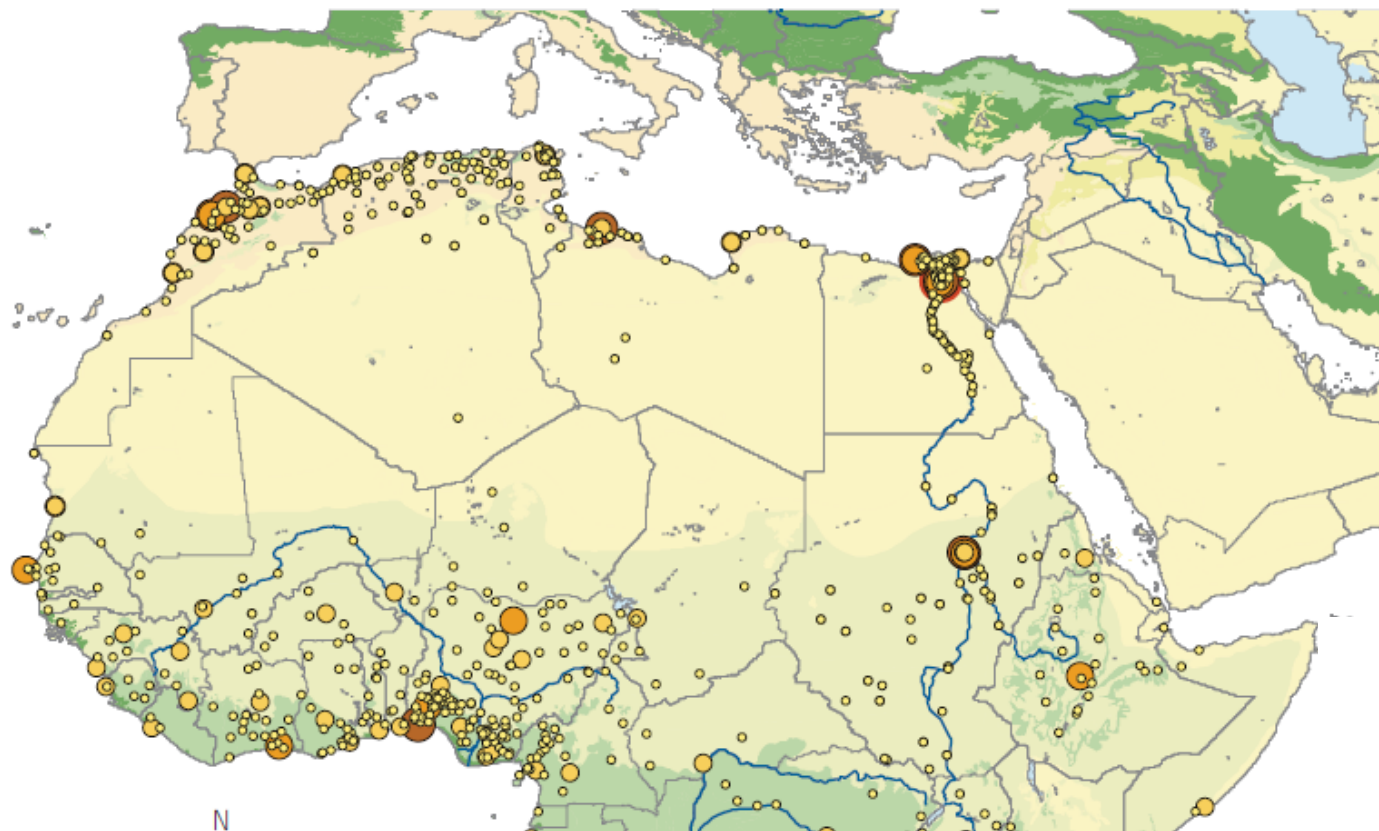
Currently, some 50% of urban dwellers live in cities or towns with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants

In the near future, half of the increase in urban populations is expected to occur in urban settings of this size

An important feature of the growing landscapes of secondary cities in Africa is that they comprise of both urban and rural co-existing contexts

More and more Secondary cities ...

Swiss TPH



**More
secondary
cities than
capital cities**

Legend

Urban Settlements over 50,000
2000 Population

- 50,000 - 500,000
- 500,000 - 2,000,000
- 2,000,000 - 4,500,000
- 4,500,000 - 10,000,000
- 10,000,000 - 18,500,000

0 1,250 1,875 2,500
Kilometres

- Weaknesses for ecosystems conservation and wise use are worse in the secondary cities than in capital cities !!

Source: CIESIN 2004



(iii) Urban Poverty ...



Poverty has become increasingly concentrated in **urban** settlements

The **numbers of urban people in poverty** are likely to be **growing** at a faster rate – and in parts of the world are already greater in absolute terms – than the numbers of **poor rural people**



- **Poor** in the peri-urban areas heavily dependent on **ecosystem services**
- People and areas most prone to **water-related diseases** (closely linked to local ecosystem characteristics)
- Need **sustainable ecosystem services**
- Need more **opportunities** to poor
- Need protection of **human health**
- Need protection against **disasters** and **climate change extreme events**



(iv) Climate change, disasters

...

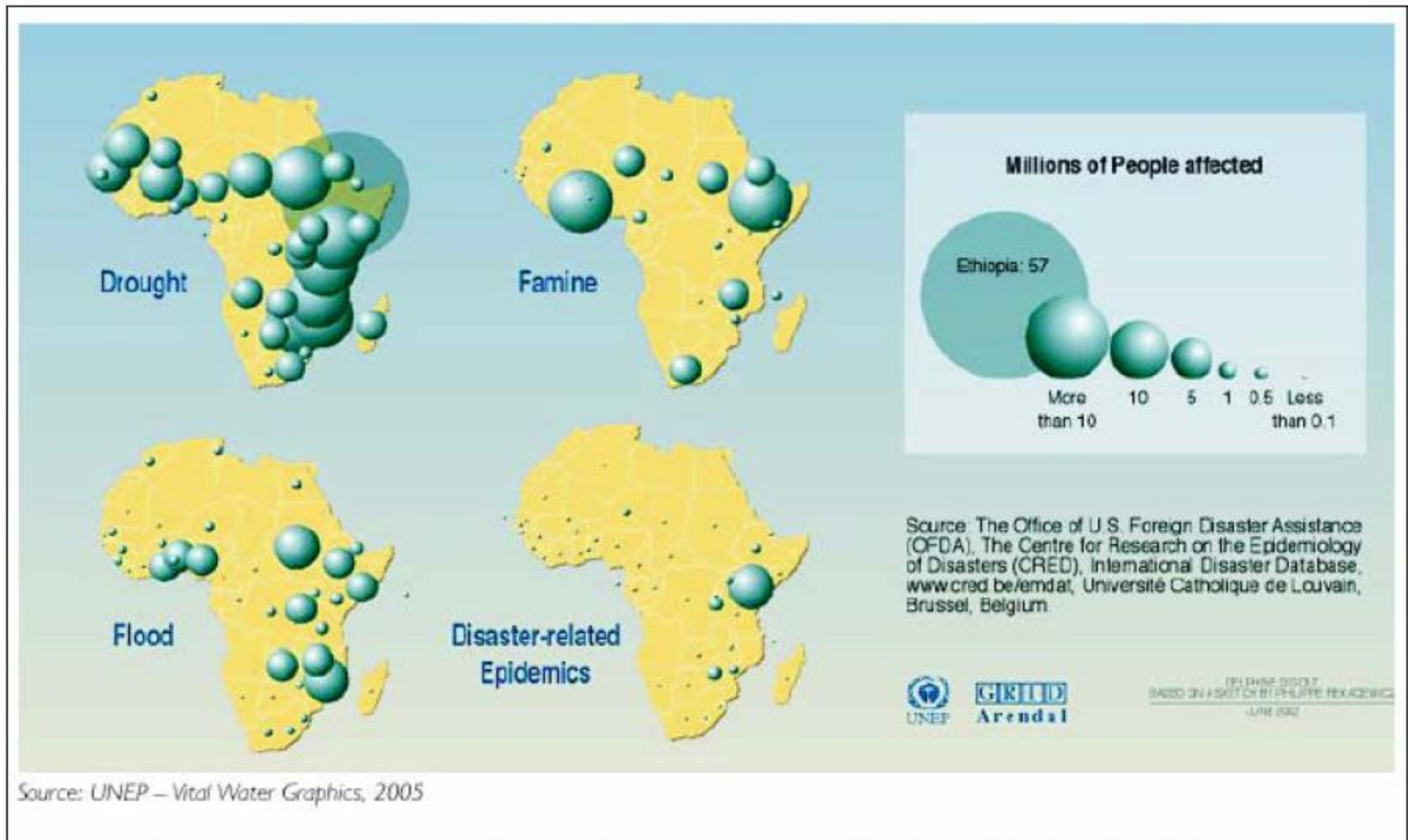


Figure 10: People affected by natural disasters between 1971 and 2000 (UNEP, 2006)

Case 1 : Floods in Ouagadougou

Swiss TPH



2009 !!!

A f r i q u e d e l ' o u e s t

*Pluie exceptionnelle,
inondations
dévastatrices...*

« Une pluie pareille, ça n'arrive que tous les mille ans au même endroit, voire tous les dix mille ans, mais cela fait partie des aléas climatiques de cette région ! », affirme l'hydrométéorologue Thierry Lebel¹, coresponsable du programme international de recherche sur la mousson africaine², en évoquant le déluge qui s'est abattu sur la capitale du Burkina Faso le 1^{er} septembre dernier. Quelques heures d'intempérie avaient suffi à provoquer

que les plus grosses précipitations enregistrées jusqu'ici. Mais, rappelle-t-il, une inondation c'est le croisement entre un événement pluvieux intense et des conditions locales de ruissellement ». La ville, avec ses aménagements qui contribuent à imperméabiliser les sols et sa forte concentration de population qui représente autant de sinistrés potentiels, est particulièrement exposée à de tels aléas. Le même épisode, s'il avait eu lieu en

2007. Ce genre d'événement très violent est une caractéristique intrinsèque du système climatique de la région, où la pluie est provoquée par des systèmes convectifs localement intenses mais très variables dans l'espace et dans le temps », explique-t-il. Enfin, coupant court aux spéculations sur le rôle du changement global dans cette catastrophe, le scientifique assure « qu'il est hasardeux de faire des déductions sur l'évolution du fonctionnement climatique à partir de

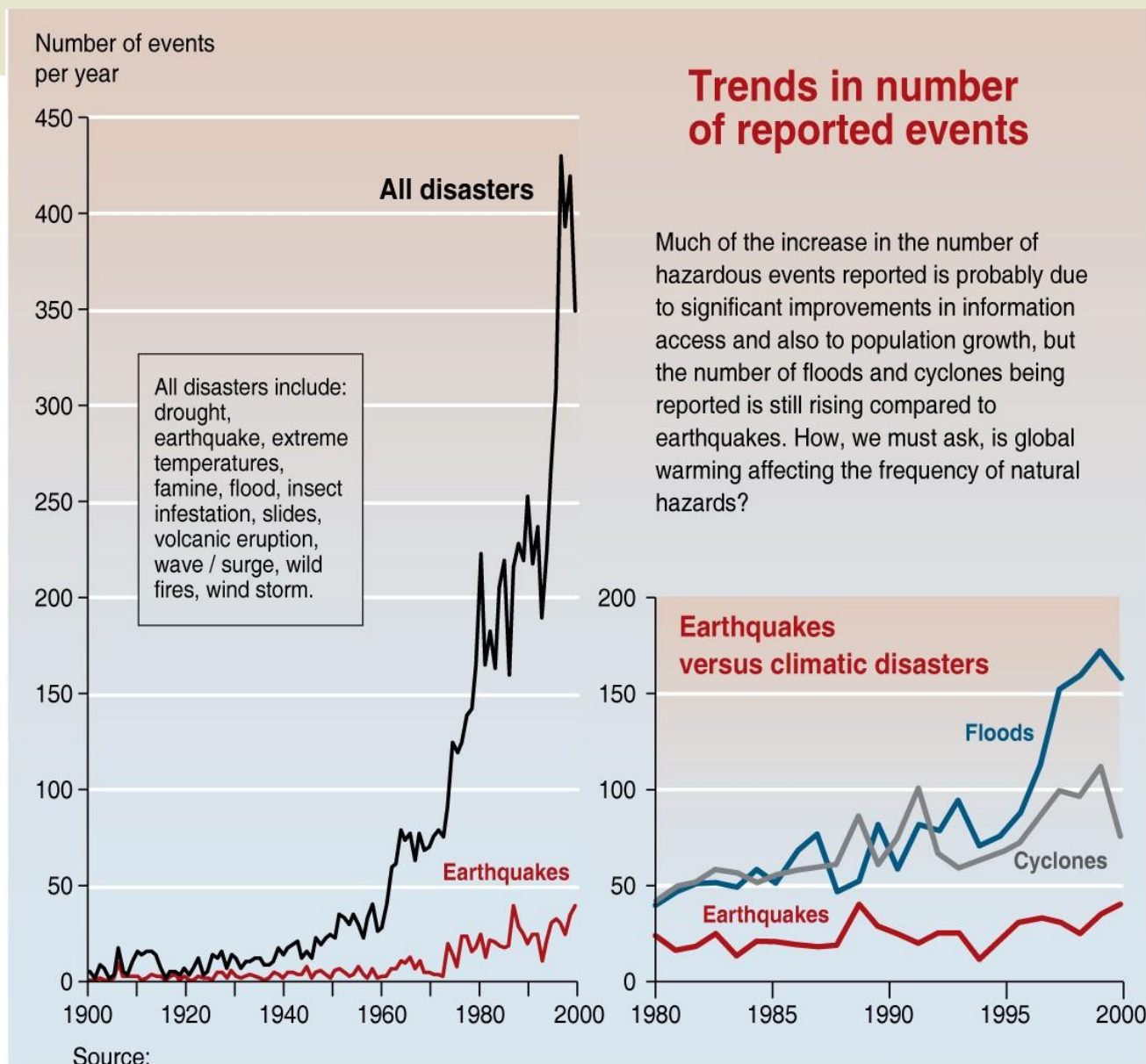


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“Une pluie pareille, ça n'arrive que tous les mille ans au même endroit, voire tous les dix mille ans, mais cela fait partie des aléas climatiques de cette région” !





(v) Health ...

Ecosystems
Poverty



Environmental factors play a role in more than 80% of the major diseases and injuries around the world

Environmental factors are among the biggest killers

Diarrhoea kills 2.2 million people

Malaria kills 900,000 people

Extreme weather events kill tens of thousands



The health costs of poverty are high

The poorest people tend to have more illness and die younger

Poor people are more likely to live in places with no proper infrastructural drainage, with solid and liquid waste improperly disposed, and at a risk of flooding – all of them factors associated with poorer health

Source: George A. Kaplan, September 2009



Ramsar emerging areas

**Wetlands and Urbanization
Wetlands and Health**

Wetlands and Climate Change



Conservation and the wise use of wetlands are vital for people, especially the poor

10th Session of the Convention of Parties

Changwon, Republic of Korea,

28 Octobre - 4 November 2008

The Changwon Declaration is a statement and a call to action



5 priority thematics:

- Water and wetlands**
- Climate change and wetlands**
- People's livelihoods and wetlands**
- People's health and wetlands**
- Land use change, biodiversity and wetlands**



2 key areas of crosscutting delivery mechanisms:

- Planning, decision-making, finance and economics**
- Sharing knowledge and experience**

Knowledge and experience generation: action research !!!



Ramsar

Wetlands and Urbanization

Ramsar - Resolution X.27

Wetlands and Urbanization

Swiss TPH



Changwon, Republic of Korea,

28 October-4 November 2008

**10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention
on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”

**“Urban wetlands” are those wetlands lying
within the boundaries of cities, towns and
other conurbations**

**“Peri-urban wetlands” are those wetlands
located adjacent to an urban area between the
suburbs and rural areas**



Principles for the planning and management of urban and periurban wetlands

COP11, Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

Land-use planning and management so as to minimize further future impacts on urban wetlands, vulnerable to urban encroachment

Review the state of the urban and peri-urban wetlands and, where needed, to put in place schemes for their restoration and rehabilitation



Ramsar Wetlands and Health



« Our Health depends on the Health of Wetlands »

« The Changwon Declaration on Human
Wellbeing and Wetlands », adopted by
the Résolution X.3 at the
10th Session of the Convention of Parties

Changwon, Republic of Korea,

28 Octobre - 4 November 2008



Wetlands and human health and well-being

Resolution X.23

10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar,
Iran, 1971)

“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”

Changwon, Republic of Korea

28 Octobre - 4 November 2008



Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach

11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

"Wetlands: home and destination"

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012



Ramsar

Wetlands and Climate change



Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Integrative policies and planning measures for the wise use of wetlands need to be encouraged in order to address the influence of global climate change on the **interdependencies** between **wetlands, water management, agriculture, energy production, poverty reduction, and human health**



Initiative

Ramsar/UN Habitat/Swiss TPH

**Pilot project Wetlands and
Urbanization**

West Africa (Ghana, Senegal, Togo)

- **Dakar, Senegal**

Workshop: 16 – 20 November 2012

- **Aneho, Benin**

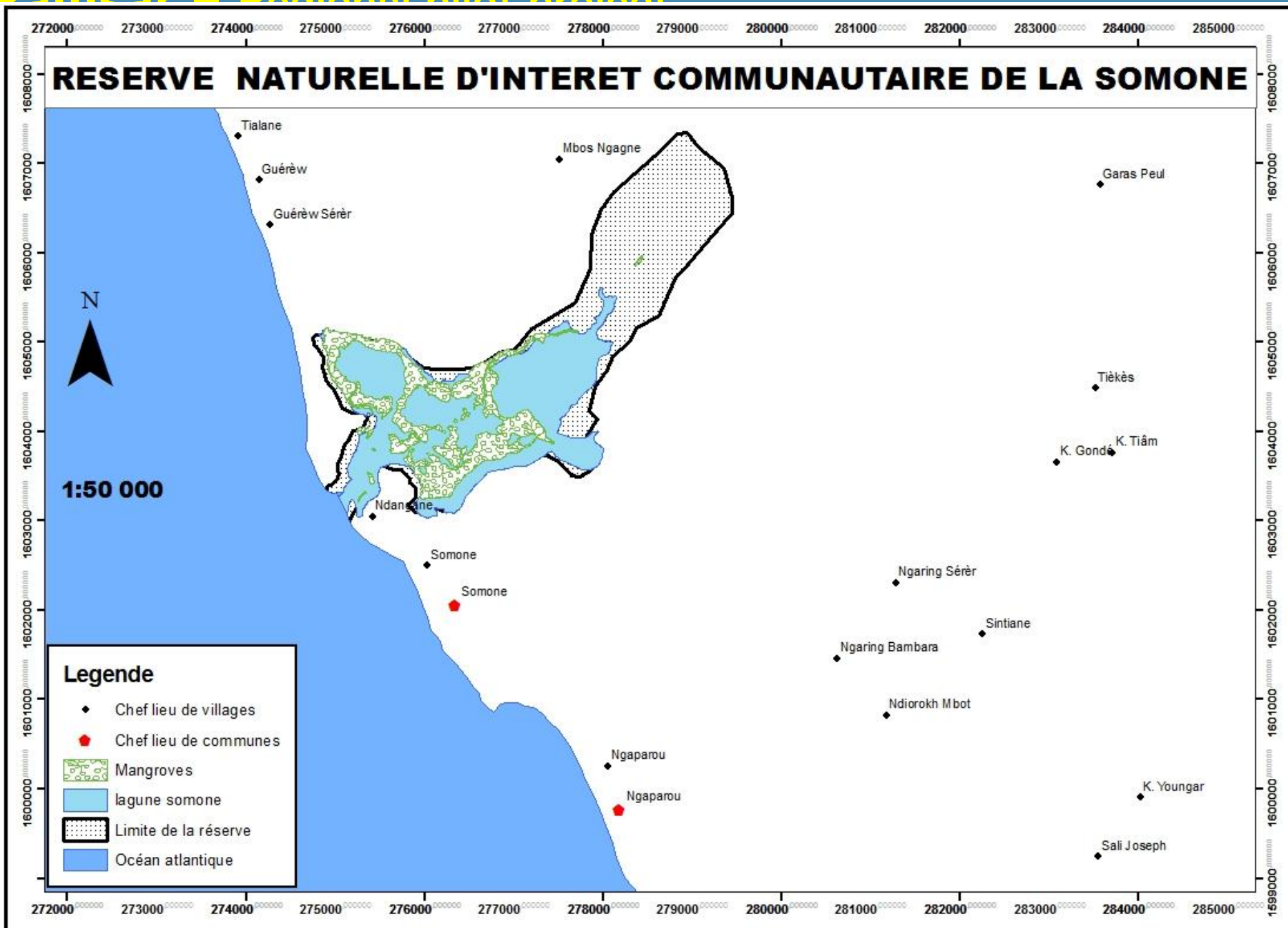
Workshop: 17 – 18 June 2013

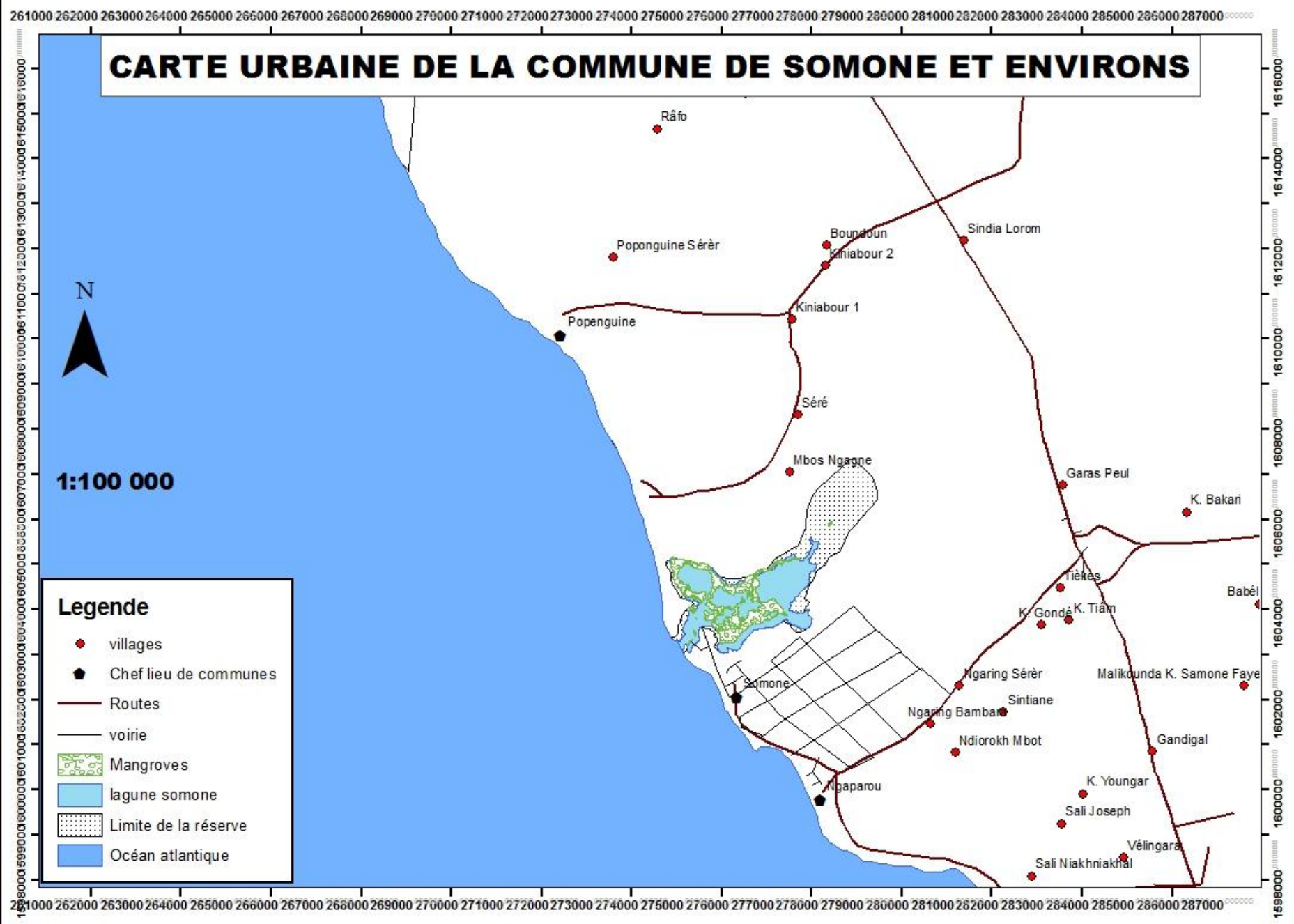
- **Gah South Municipality, Ghana**

Workshop: 20 – 21 June 2013

- **Somone, Senegal**

Workshop: 24 – 25 June 2013





Ramsar – Regional pilot project

Urban Wetlands, Ecosystem Services and City-Region Planning



Aerial view of Somone, Senegal

Ramsar – Regional pilot project

Urban Wetlands, Ecosystem Services and City-Region Planning



Ramsar – Regional pilot project

Urban Wetlands, Ecosystem Services and City-Region Planning



Gah South Municipality, Ghana

Ramsar – Regional pilot project



Aneho, Togo



Perspectives

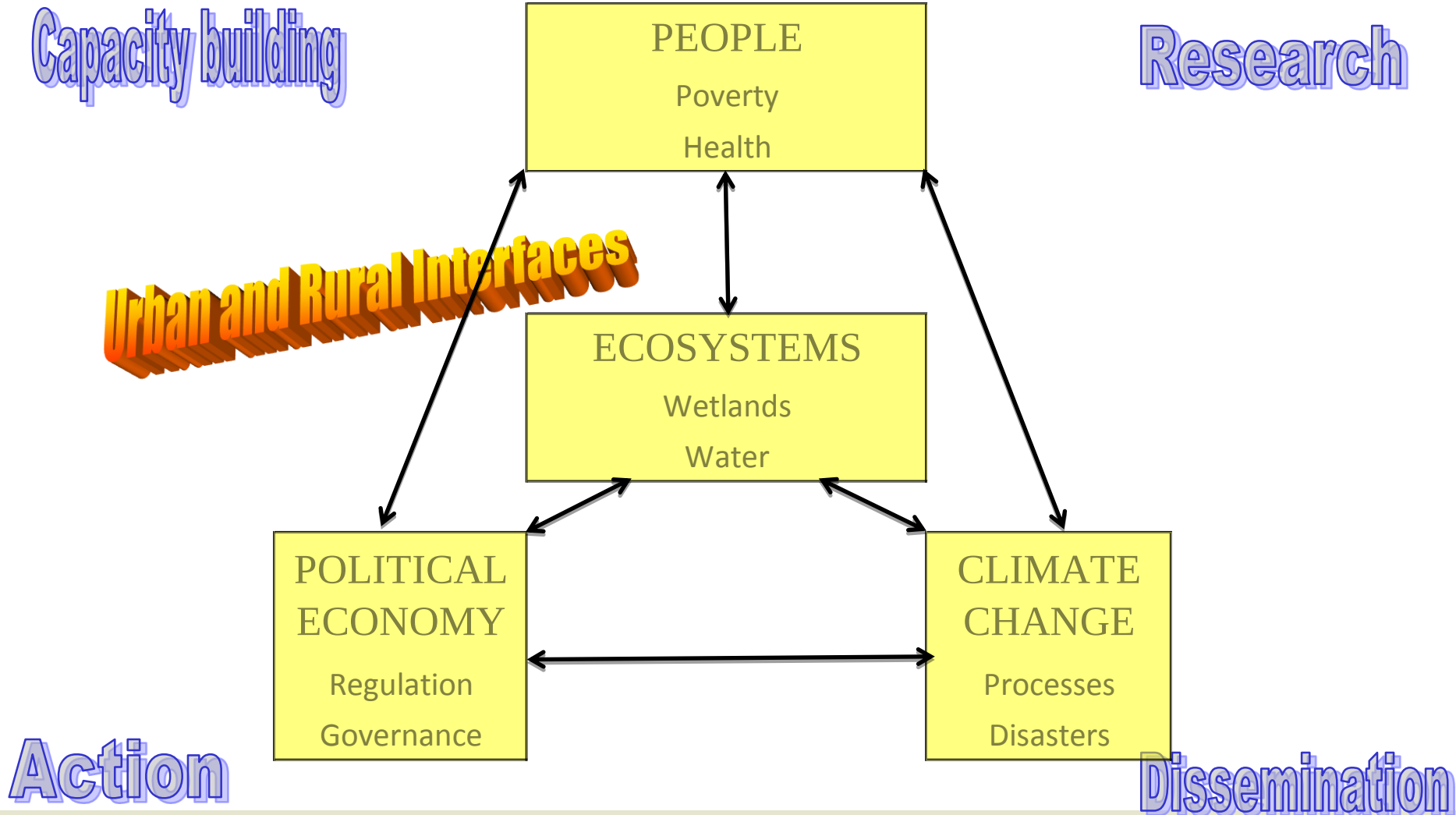


Integrated program on Ecosystems, Climate Change, Health, Poverty, Local Governance

Urban context

Wetlands

Continium: Wetlands – Community – Households



(Source: Cissé et al. 2011)



Transdisciplinarity

Metaphore of Elephant

Perception by 6 different blind persons

1: Defense = spear

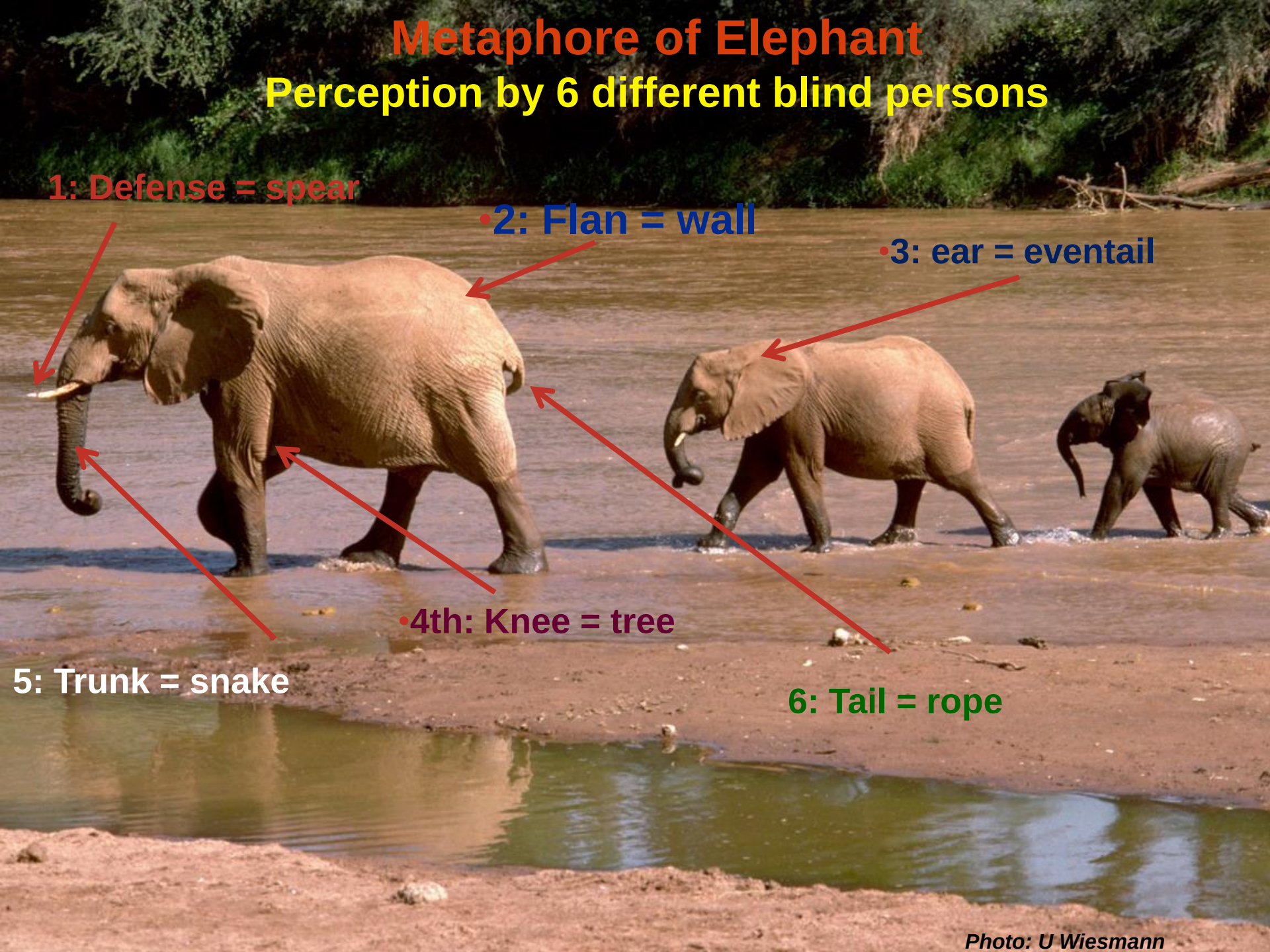
•2: Flan = wall

•3: ear = eventail

•4th: Knee = tree

5: Trunk = snake

6: Tail = rope





Recommendations

Recommendations

- Support the processes of the pilot project in the 3 countries
- Mobilize additional resources for successful implementation of the pilot project
- Look beyond the pilot project
- Go for a big International Initiative on “Wetlands and Urbanization” at the level of the continent (mobilizing multiple donors and agencies)
- One ambitious program with a coordination office and a multidisciplinary team located in one country that has demonstrated a pioneering experience on the matter

Recommendations

- The program multidisciplinary team supported by the Ramsar Secretariat, working within strong international partnerships and supporting country/local teams
- Set up a follow up committee of this forum on this topic and for this ambition
- Invite the African members of the Ramsar bodies, particularly the member of the Standing Committee to play a leadership role in that follow-up

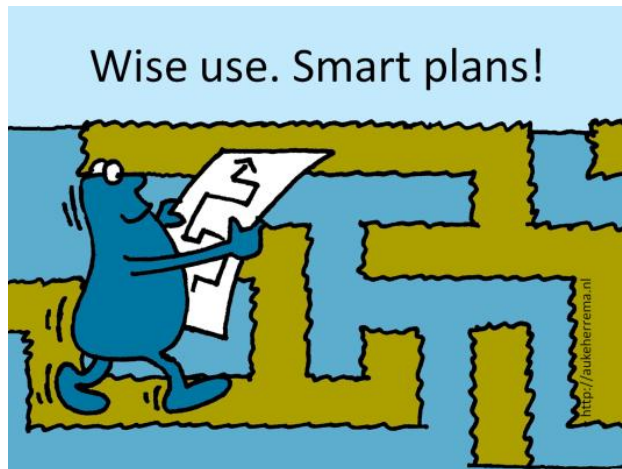


Illustration:Auke Herrema
<http://aukeherrema.nl>

Thank You!

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