








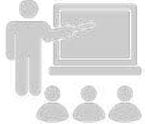
Urban climate research

in support of resilient city (& schools) planning

Koen De Ridder

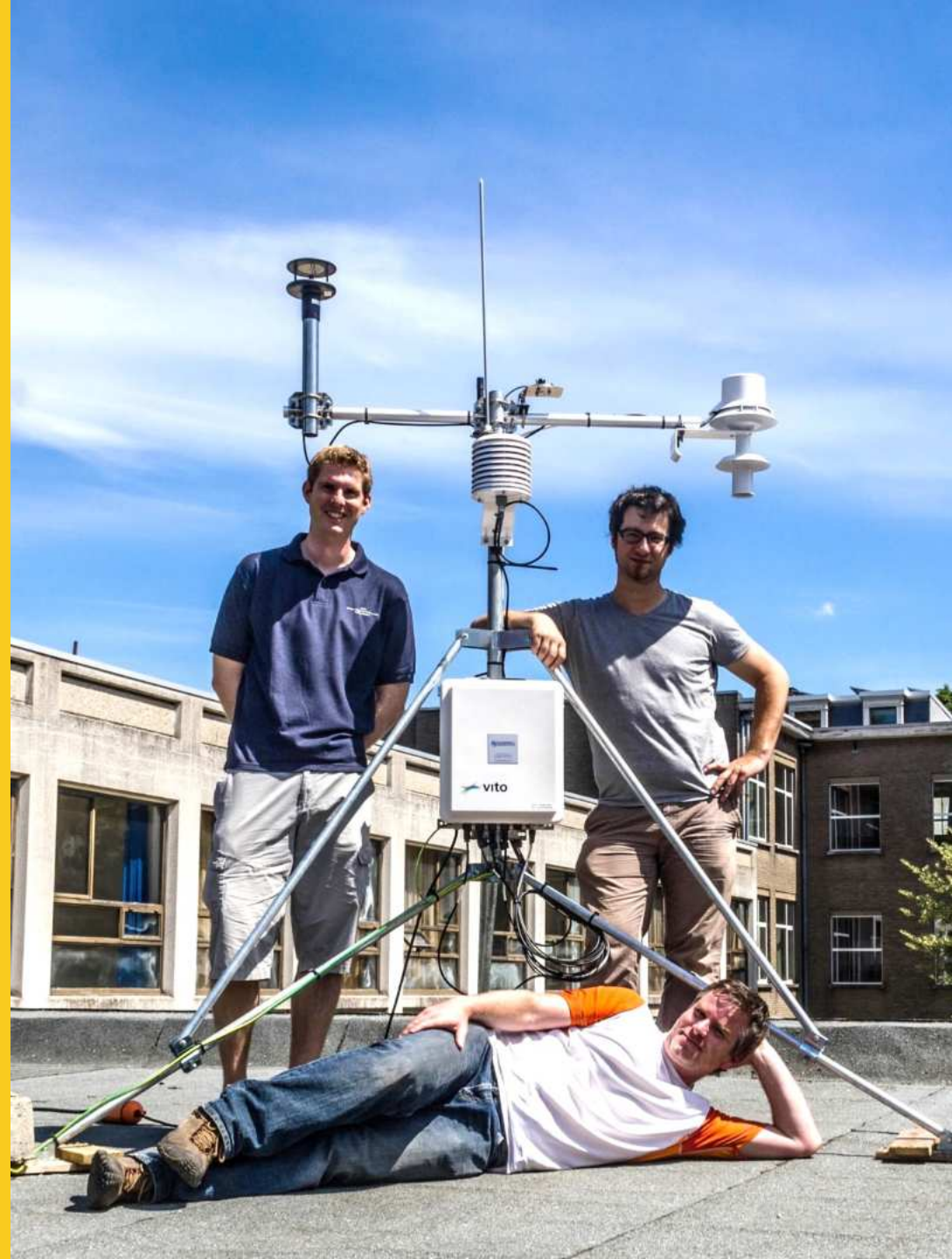
Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO)

Outline

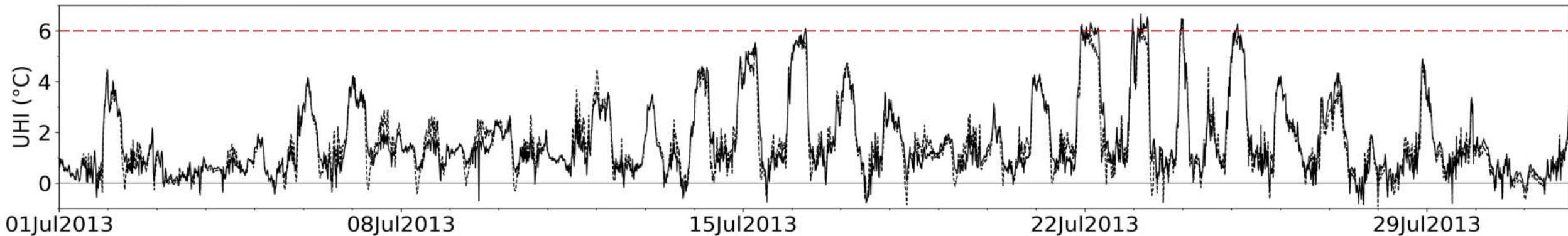
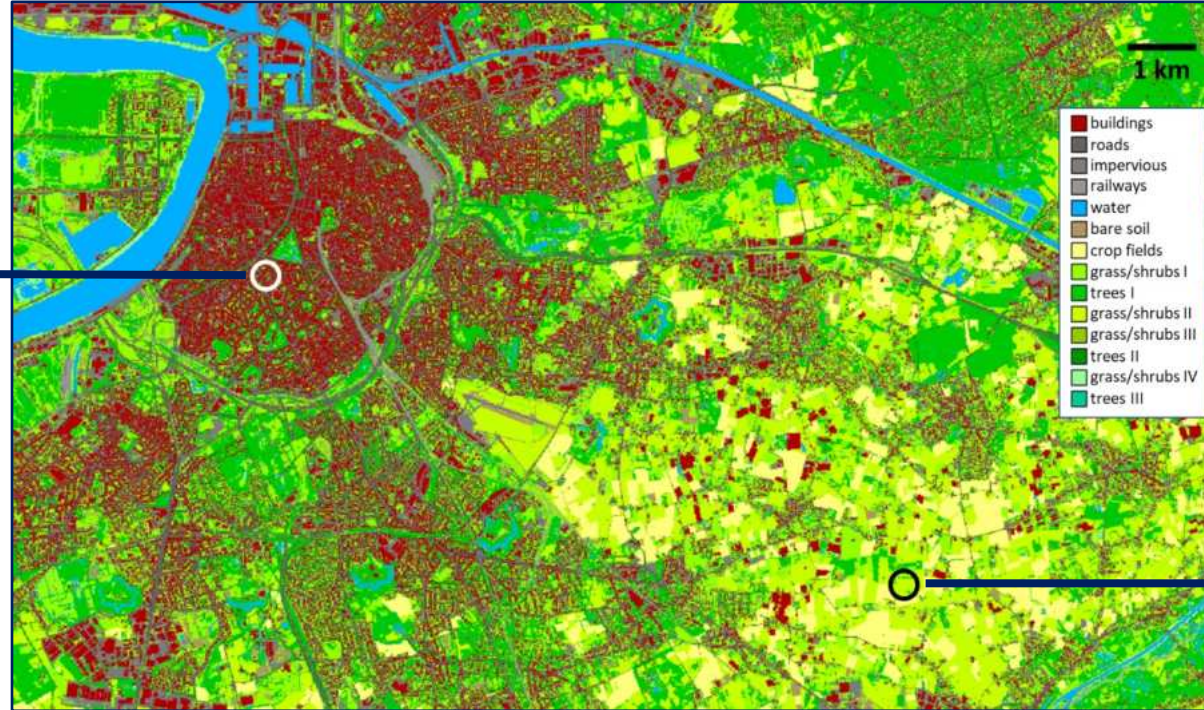
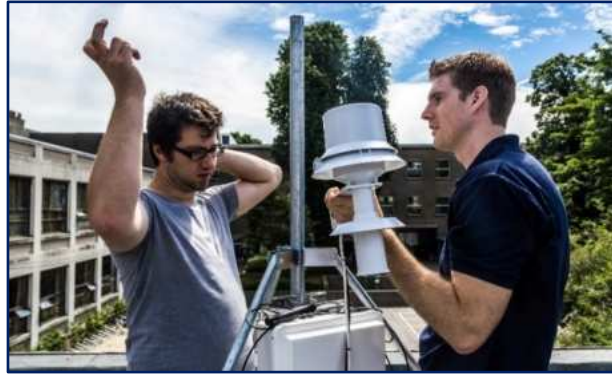
1		Urban climate monitoring – Belgium	
2		Urban climate modelling – Europe (& Global)	
3		Urban climate modelling and monitoring in Africa	
4		Monitoring of indoor climate in African schools	
5		Do It Yourself (DIY)	

Urban climate monitoring

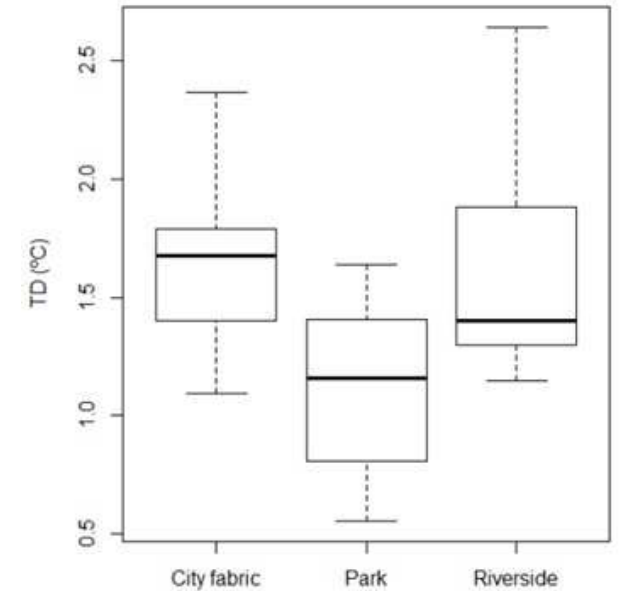
Belgium



Antwerp – urban-rural temperature differences (urban heat island)



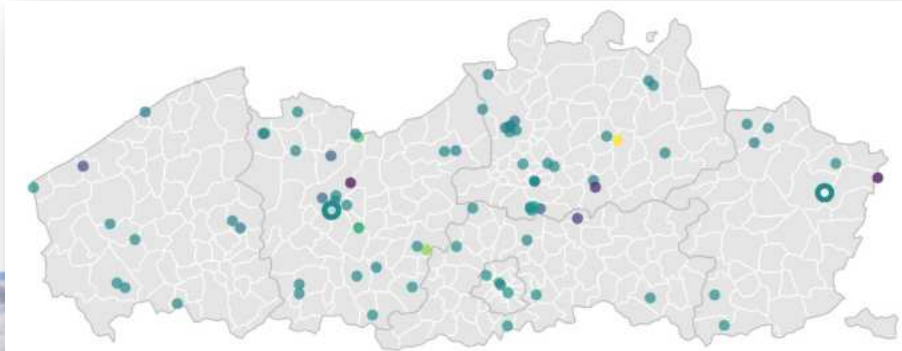
Ghent monitoring campaign



Lauwaet, D., B. Maiheu, K. De Ridder, W. Boëne, H. Hooberghs, M. Demuzere, M.-L. Verdonck, 2020. A New Method to Assess Fine-Scale Outdoor Thermal Comfort for Urban Agglomerations. *Climate*, 8, 6.



Engaging schools to explore meteorological observational gaps

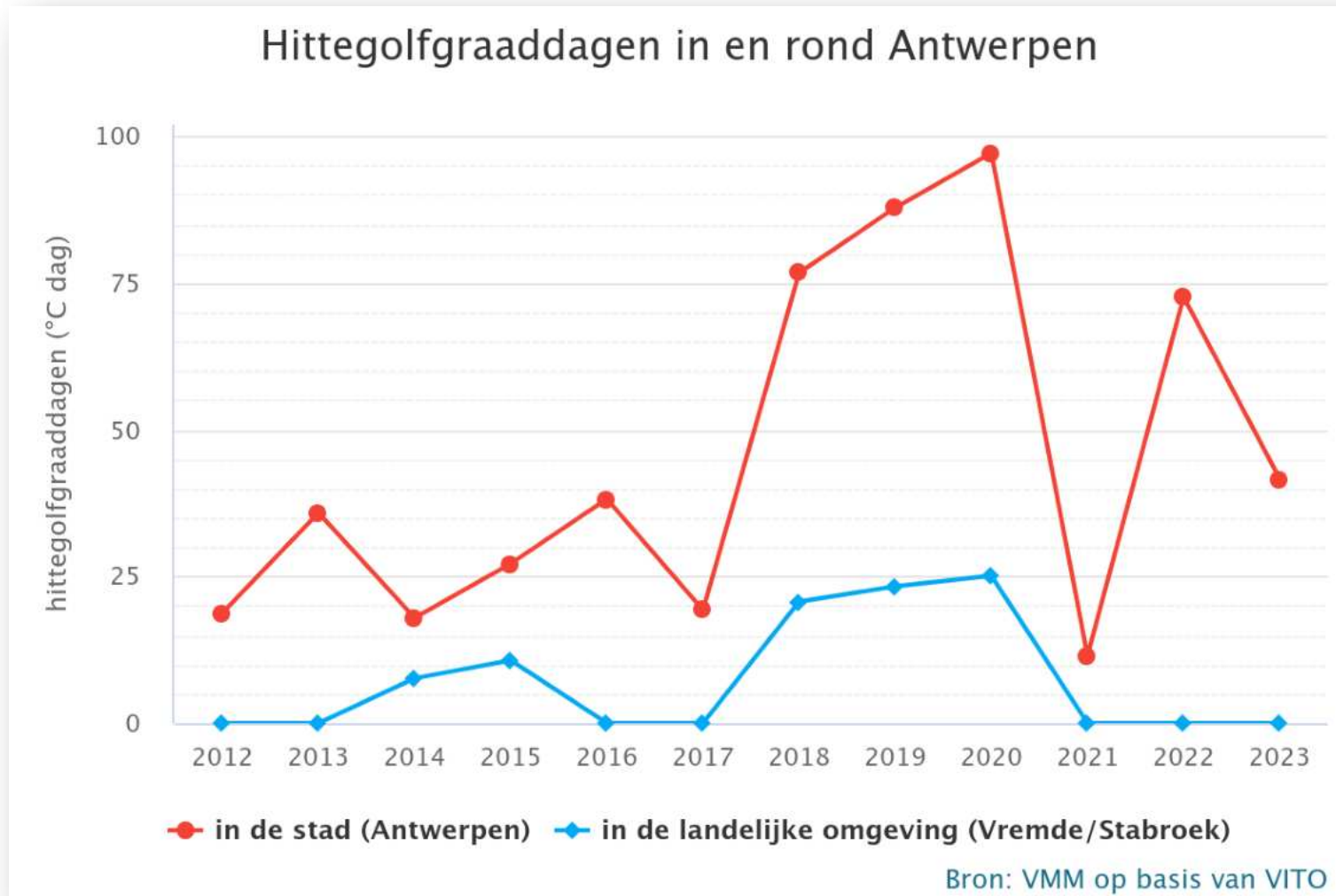


<https://vlinder.ugent.be/dashboard/>

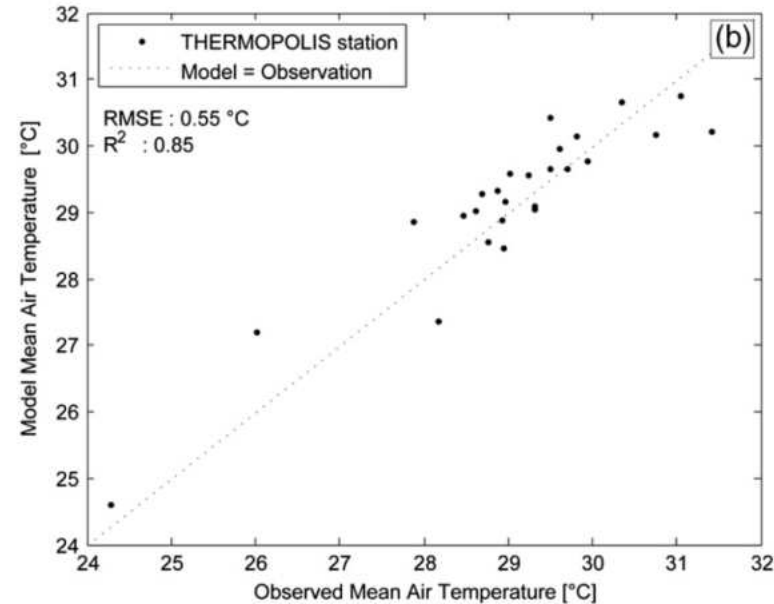
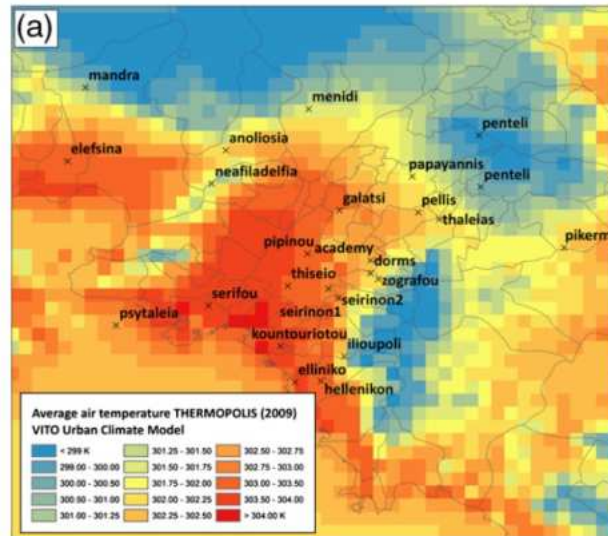



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Use by the Flemish Environment Agency



Observational data for model validation



Keramitsoglou, I., C.T. Kiranoudis, B. Maiheu, K. De Ridder, I. A. Daglis, P. Manunta, and M. Paganini, 2013. Heat wave hazard classification and risk assessment using artificial intelligence fuzzy logic. Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, DOI 10.1007/s10661-013-3170-y.

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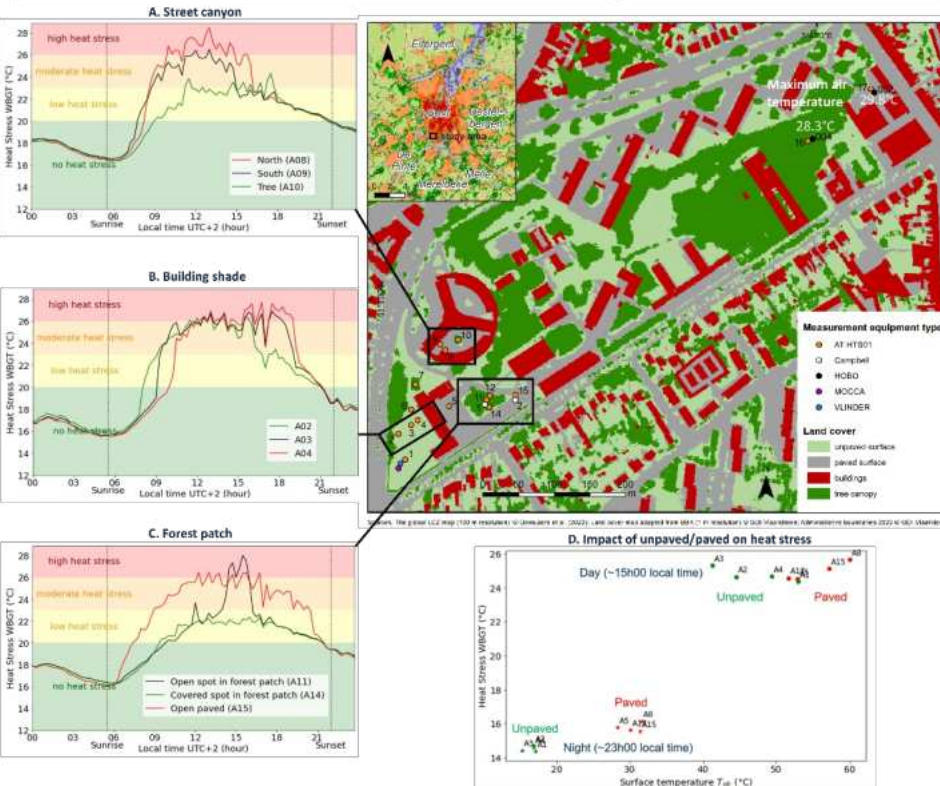
DENSE NETWORK OF WET BULB GLOBE TEMPERATURE OBSERVATIONS TO ASSESS THE EFFECT OF DIVERSE MICRO-ENVIRONMENTS ON HEAT STRESS

Ian Hellebosch, Sara Top, Steven Caluwaerts, Koen De Ridder, Raf Theunissen, Clemens Mensink

Climate change causes more extreme heat, which leads to people suffering more often from heat stress. It is therefore important to assess which measures effectively decrease heat stress and how to adapt urban environments accordingly. To address this question, an observational campaign took place in the urban fringe of Ghent during the summer of 2023, which included a 10-day heatwave (8 June – 17 June).

Observational campaign

- VLINDER station
 - MOCCA station
 - Campbell stations
 - HOBO air temperature sensors
 - Portable data loggers (AT-HT501)
- Calibration measurement (photos): 27 May – 1 June
 Location specific measurement (map): 9 June – 15 June, special attention for 10 June (graphs)
 Infrared images with drone → surface temperature: 14 June



Conclusion

The urban forest lowered maximum air temperatures by up to 1.5°C. However, during the day, radiation emerges as the predominant factor explaining heat stress differences – by up to 5°C WBGT – through shading from buildings or vegetation. In east-west oriented street canyons, the northside is more prone to heat stress due to increased direct and indirect (via reflective walls) solar radiation. Strategically placing trees in the street canyon can optimize their cooling efficiency. Regarding nighttime cooling, depaving is recommended to decrease the local urban heat island effect and reduce heat stress.

Logos for Ghent University, vito, CITYMESH, CSD INDEX.be, fwo, beispo, RMI, EGU, and a QR code. Contact: ian.hellebosch@UGent.be

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Abstract EGU24-1457

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EGU24-1457, updated on 08 Mar 2024
<https://doi.org/10.5194/eguph-egu24-1457>
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Poster | Thursday, 18 Apr, 10:45–12:30 (CEST), Display time Thursday, 18 Apr, 08:30–12:30 | Hall X5, X5.200

Dense network of wet bulb globe temperature observations to assess the effect of diverse micro-environments on heat stress

Ian Hellebosch^{1,2}, Sara Top¹, Steven Caluwaerts^{1,2}, Koen De Ridder², Raf Theunissen², and Clemens Mensink^{1,2}

¹Ghent University, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ghent, Belgium
²Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), Mol, Belgium
³Royal Meteorological Institute, Brussels, Belgium

There is an urgent need for governments to know which measures effectively decrease heat stress and how to adapt urban environments to keep our cities livable in a climate with more, and more extreme, heatwave days. To answer this question, an observational campaign took place in the urban fringe of Ghent (Belgium), a maritime mid-latitude city, during the summer of 2023, including a heatwave in June. This campaign employed diverse in-situ weather stations (2 Campbell stations, 2 Hobo devices and a station from the Flemish MOCCA and VLINDER networks) complemented by 16 AT-HT501 devices, specifically designed to measure heat stress. Combined, the stations are equipped with black globe thermometers, anemometers, humidity sensors, short-wave radiation pyranometers and actively and passively ventilated air temperature sensors. Based on these variables the wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) is computed and from this, the influence of different suburban micro-environments on heat stress is derived. In particular, the effects of the surface type, neighboring buildings, trees and forest patches on WBGT are investigated. Some air temperature sensors are installed in actively ventilated shields to detect air temperature differences in different forest patches excluding any radiation-induced measurement errors. Additionally, drone infrared measurements were conducted to estimate the surface temperature of the different surface types during the day and the night. A forest patch decreases the maximum air temperature during the heatwave to up to 1.5°C. At night, the unpaved surface decreases the globe temperature to up to 1.5°C compared to paved surfaces.

<https://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU24/EGU24-1457.html>

PhD research Ian Hellebosch

Urban climate modelling

Europe (& Global)



$$\frac{\partial^2 \hat{w}}{\partial z^2} + k^2 - l^2 \hat{w} = 0, \quad (\text{A2})$$

with k the horizontal wavenumber, and $l = N/U$ the vertical wave number, with $N = \sqrt{g\gamma/\theta_0}$ the Brunt-Väisälä frequency, g the gravitational acceleration and $\theta \approx 300$ K a reference temperature.

The lower boundary condition on the vertical velocity is given by

$$w'(x, 0) = U \frac{dh_m}{dx} = -\frac{U \bar{h}_m}{\pi} \frac{a}{a^2 + x^2} \quad (\text{A3})$$

and its Fourier transform is

$$\hat{w}(k, 0) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} w'(x, 0) e^{-ikx} dx = -\frac{U \bar{h}_m}{2\pi} e^{-ka} \quad (\text{A4})$$

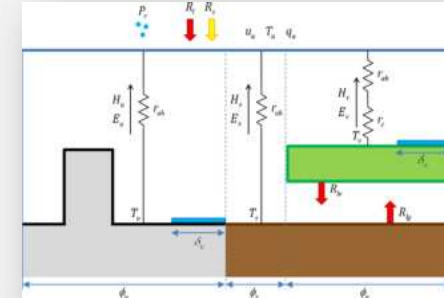
with the requirement that $k > 0$.

The vertical velocity is then obtained by applying the inverse one-sided Fourier transform,

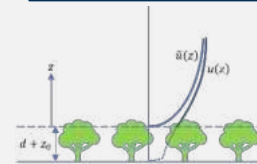
$$w'(x, z) = 2\Re \left\{ \int_0^\infty \hat{w}(k, 0) e^{ikx} dk \right\} = -\frac{U \bar{h}_m}{\pi} \frac{a \cos(lz) - x \sin(lz)}{a^2 + x^2} \quad (\text{A5})$$

However, as we are interested in an ABL slab that follows the terrain, the terrain-following vertical velocity $w'(x, 0)$ has to be subtracted, so that finally

$$w'(x, z) = -\frac{U \bar{h}_m}{\pi} \frac{a \cos(lz) - 1 - x \sin(lz)}{a^2 + x^2}, \quad (\text{A6})$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial u}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial u}{\partial z} &= -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial x} + f v - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (u'w') \\ \frac{\partial v}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial v}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial v}{\partial z} &= -\frac{1}{\rho_0} \frac{\partial P_0}{\partial y} - f u - \frac{\partial}{\partial z} (v'w') \\ \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial \theta}{\partial z} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w'\theta') \\ \frac{\partial q}{\partial t} + u \frac{\partial q}{\partial x} + v \frac{\partial q}{\partial y} + w \frac{\partial q}{\partial z} &= -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} (w'q') \\ \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial v}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial w}{\partial z} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$



$$\psi_i^*(z/L, z/z_*) = \Phi_i \left[\left(1 + \frac{v}{\mu z/z_*} \right) \frac{z}{L} \right] E_1(\mu z/z_*), \quad (\text{11})$$

in which E_1 is the exponential integral. The latter's so-called bracketing property (see (5.1.20) in Abramowitz and Stegun 1972) suggests that

$$E_1(x) \approx \frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{x} \right) e^{-x}, \quad (\text{12})$$

with $\lambda \approx 1.5$, thus finally yielding

$$\psi_i^*(z/L, z/z_*) \approx \Phi_i \left[\left(1 + \frac{v}{\mu z/z_*} \right) \frac{z}{L} \right] \frac{1}{\lambda} \ln \left(1 + \frac{\lambda}{\mu z/z_*} \right) e^{-\mu z/z_*}. \quad (\text{13})$$

c solution tridiagonal system

c

c beta=BB(1)

varcol(1)=RHS(1)/beta

c

DO k=2,nz

gama(k)=CC(k-1)/beta

beta=BB(k)-AA(k)*gama(k)

varcol(k)=(RHS(k)-AA(k)*varcol(k-1))/beta

ENDDO

c

DO k=nz-1,1,-1

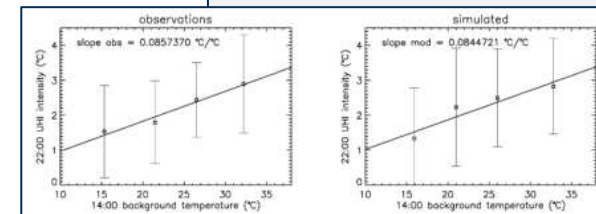
varcol(k)=varcol(k)-gama(k+1)*varcol(k+1)

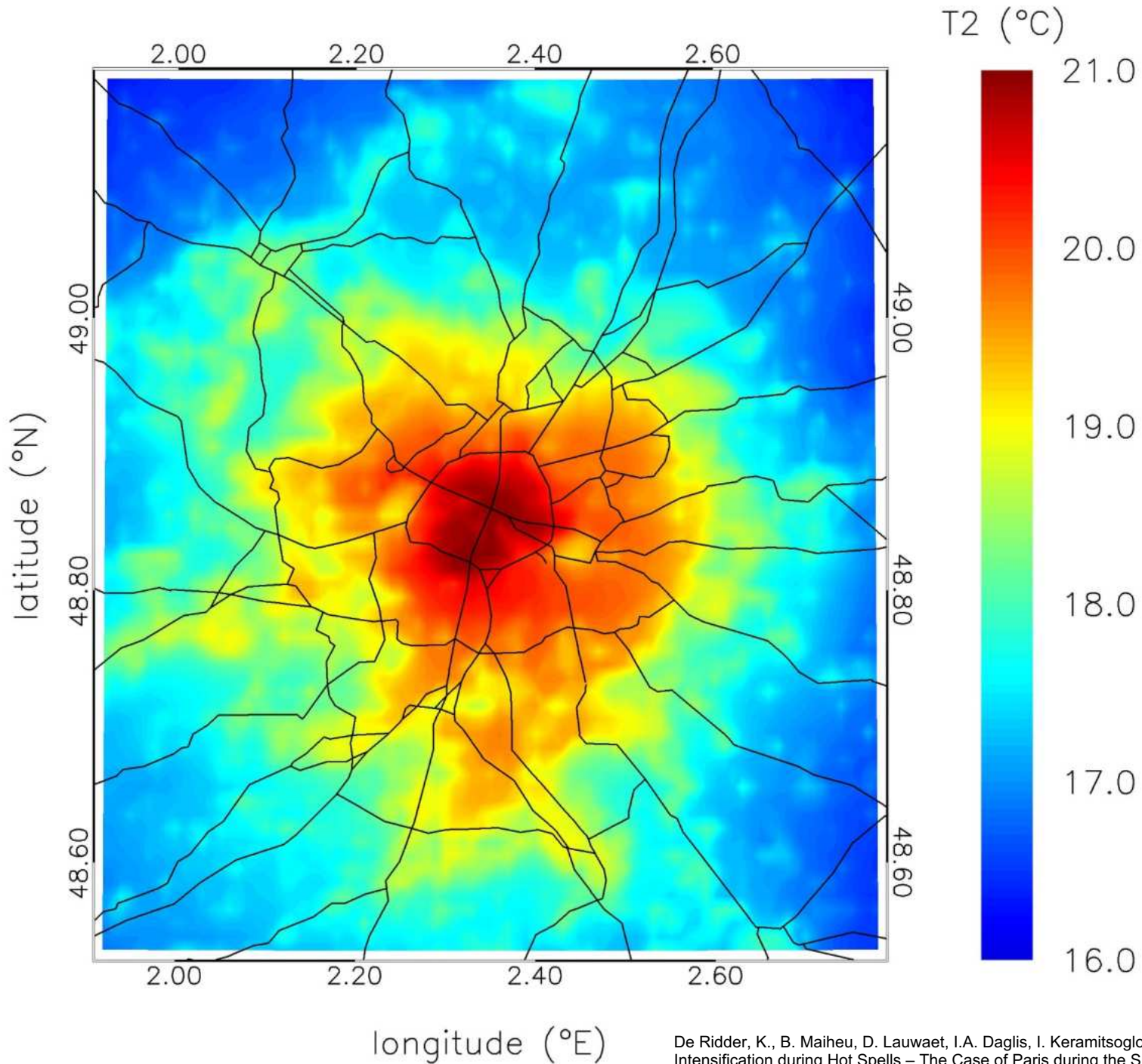
ENDDO

c

RETURN

END





Night-time (22:00 UT) 2-m air temperature averaged over May–September 2003.



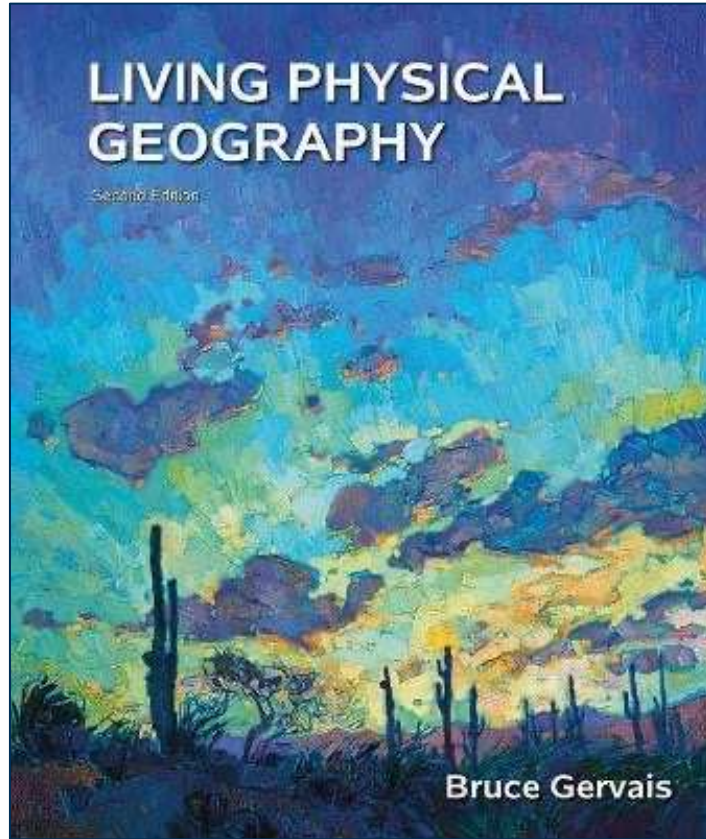
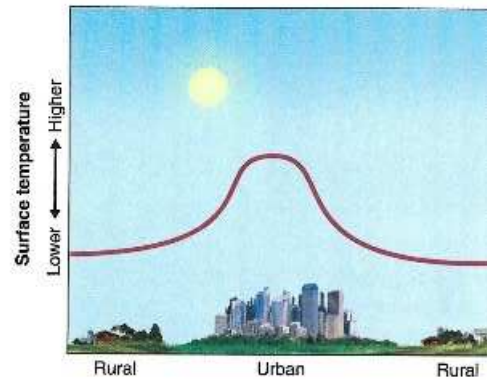
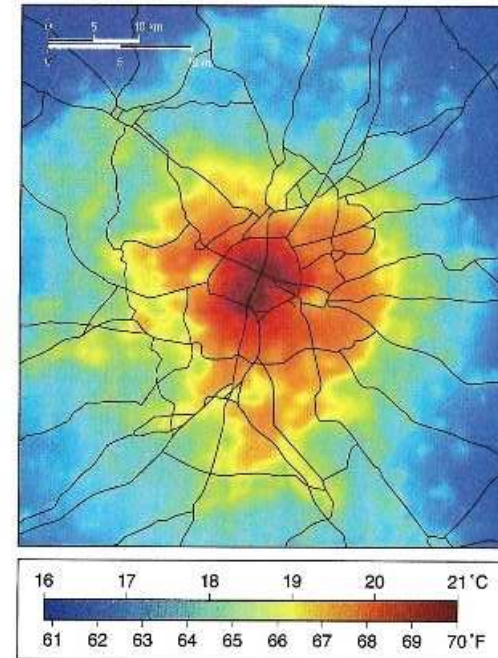


FIGURE 2.31 Urban heat island. (A) This generalized temperature profile (red line) shows the typical rise in temperature over an urbanized region in contrast to less developed rural areas. The urban heat island effect is most noticeable at night on calm, clear nights. (B) This nighttime thermal infrared map shows the city of Paris, France, during a record-breaking heat wave in early August 2003. The inner city is some 5°C (9°F) warmer than the surrounding farmlands. (All rights reserved - copyright VITO Planetek © 2013)



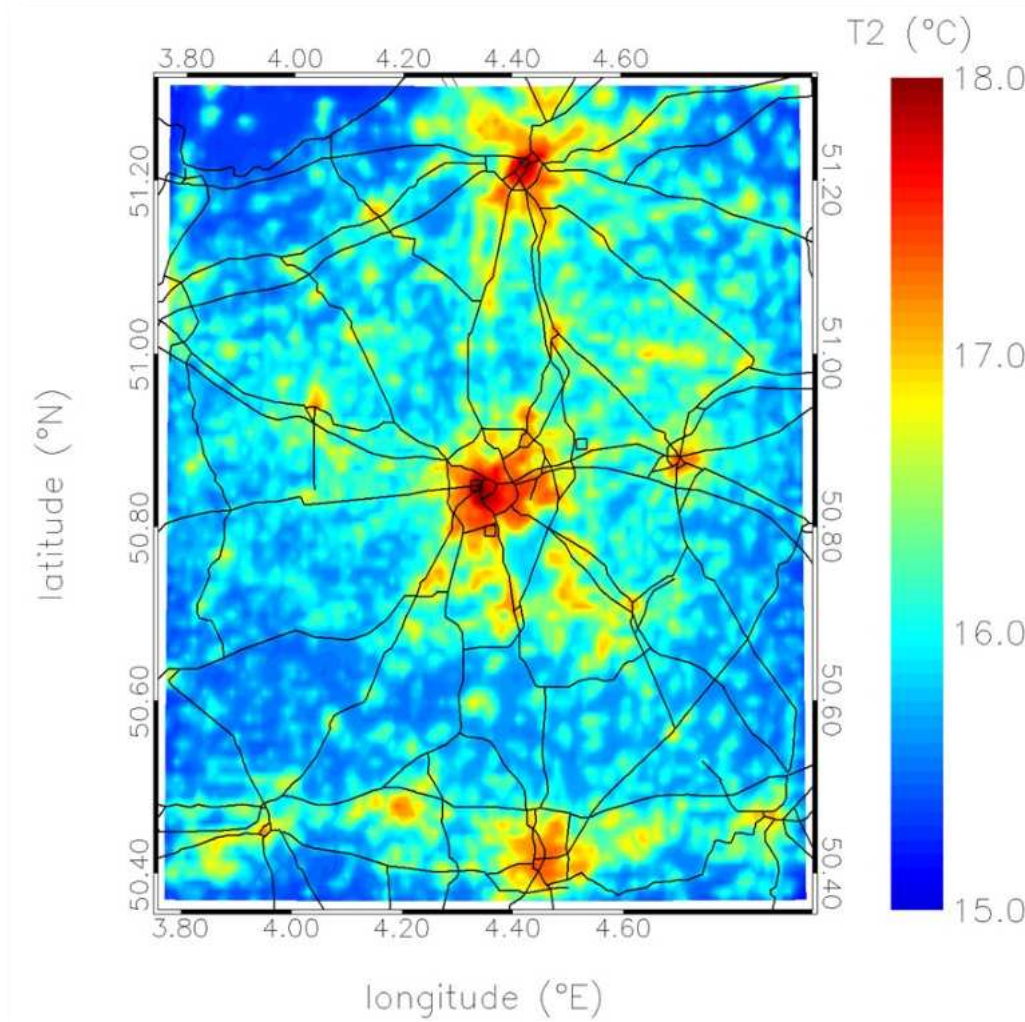
A



B

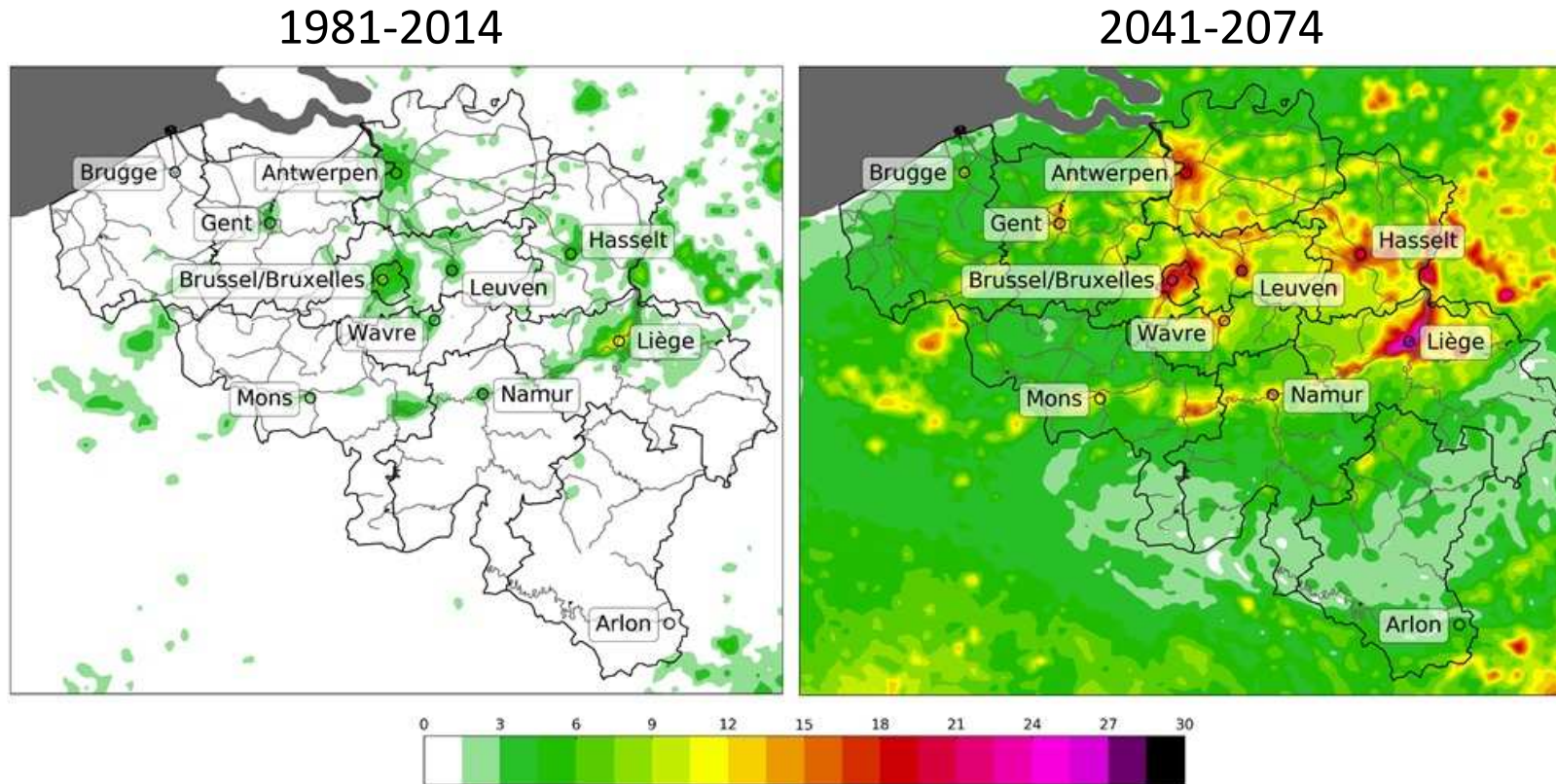


Creating awareness through simple images



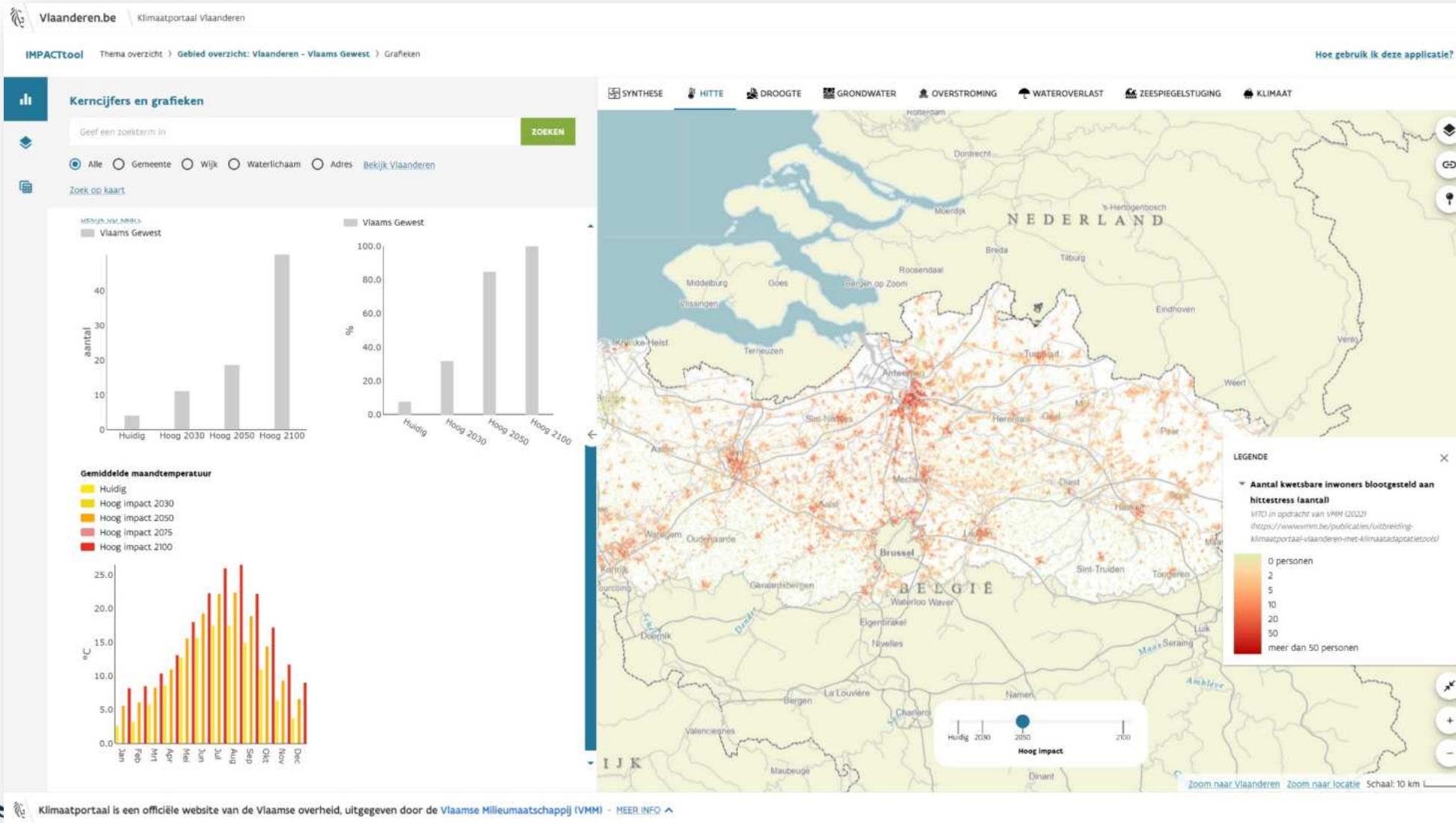
*Urban heat island for central Belgium
(midnight air temperature averaged
over the period May–September 2008).*

Annual number of heatwave days – *projections*

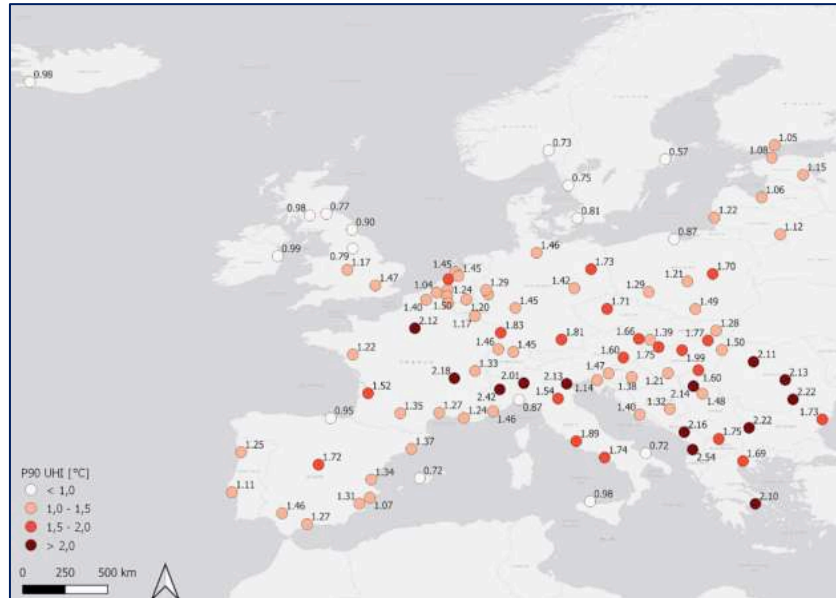


Simulated number of annual heatwave days

Climate Portal of the Flemish Region



Copernicus project – 100 European cities



Simulated urban heat island for 100 European cities (averages for the summer periods of 2008–2017).

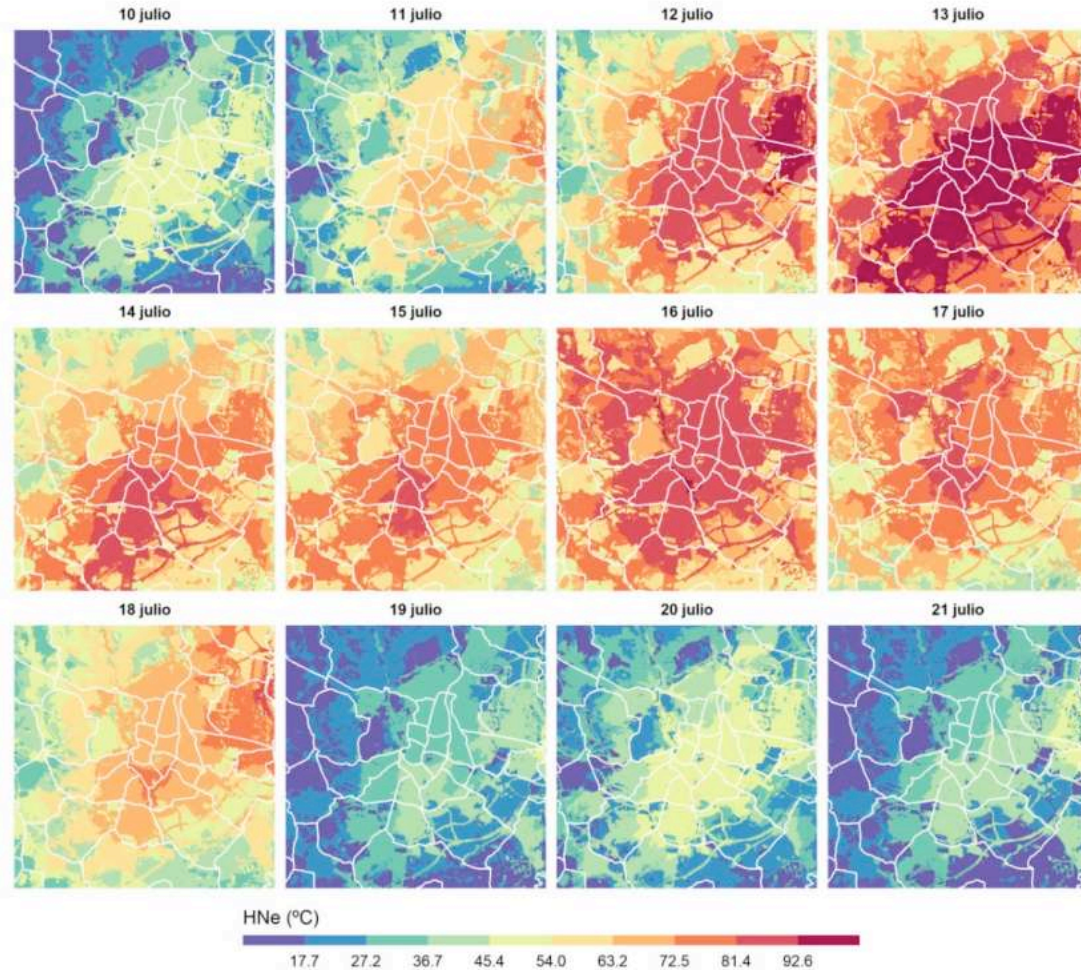


Estimated actual urban cooling from vegetation and soil unsealing.



Estimated potential urban cooling from vegetation and soil unsealing.

Use of the 100-cities data



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Climate variables for cities in Europe from 2008 to 2017

A new CDS soon to be launched - expect some disruptions and watch this page for latest. Thank you.

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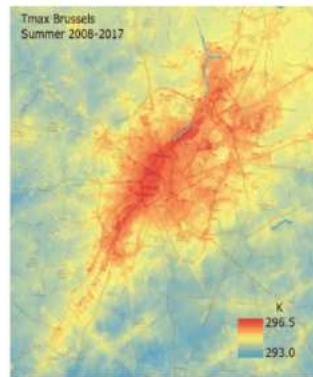
The dataset contains air temperature, specific humidity, relative humidity and wind speed for 100 European cities for the current climate.

The data were generated using the urban climate model UrbClim, developed at VITO. This model was designed to simulate and study the urban heat island effect (UHI) and other urban climate variables at a spatial resolution of 100 metres. The unique capabilities of UrbClim allow to generate spatially explicit timeseries of hourly variables from which a variety of indicators can be retrieved in postprocessing at the scale of a city neighbourhood.

For this specific dataset, the ERA5 reanalysis large-scale weather conditions are downscaled to agglomeration-scale. UrbClim then computes the impact of urban development on the most frequent weather parameters, such as temperature and humidity.

The 100 European cities for the urban simulations were selected based on user requirements within the health community. Furthermore, a high spatial distribution was aimed with specific focus on Eastern European countries that often lack access to relevant information.

The data was produced on behalf of the Copernicus Climate Change Service.



DATA DESCRIPTION		
Data type	Gridded	
Horizontal coverage	European	
Horizontal resolution	100m x 100m	
Temporal coverage	From January 2008 to December 2017	
Temporal resolution	Hourly	
File format	NetCDF-4	
Conventions	Climate and Forecast (CF) Metadata Convention v1.6, Attribute Convention for Dataset Discovery (ACDD) v1.3	
Update frequency	No updates expected.	
MAIN VARIABLES		
Name	Units	Description
Air temperature	K	Air temperature valid for a grid cell at the height of 2m above the surface.
Land-sea mask	Dimensionless	The land cover classes from CORINE that represent land areas are masked with value 1 and land cover classes that represent water surfaces are masked as NaN.
Relative humidity	%	Relation between actual humidity and saturation humidity at 2m height. Values are in the interval [0,100]: 0% means that the air in the grid cell is totally dry whereas 100% indicates that the air in the cell is saturated with water vapour.
Rural-urban mask	Dimensionless	The land cover classes from CORINE that represent rural areas are masked with value 1 and land cover classes that represent urban areas are masked as NaN.
Specific humidity	kg kg ⁻¹	Mass of water vapour in a unit mass of moist air at 2m height.
Wind speed	m s ⁻¹	Wind speed valid for a grid cell at the height of 2m above the surface. It is computed from both the zonal (u) and the meridional (v) wind components by $\sqrt{u^2 + v^2}$.

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2019-12-04

References

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DOI: [10.24381/cds.c6459d3a](https://doi.org/10.24381/cds.c6459d3a)

Related data

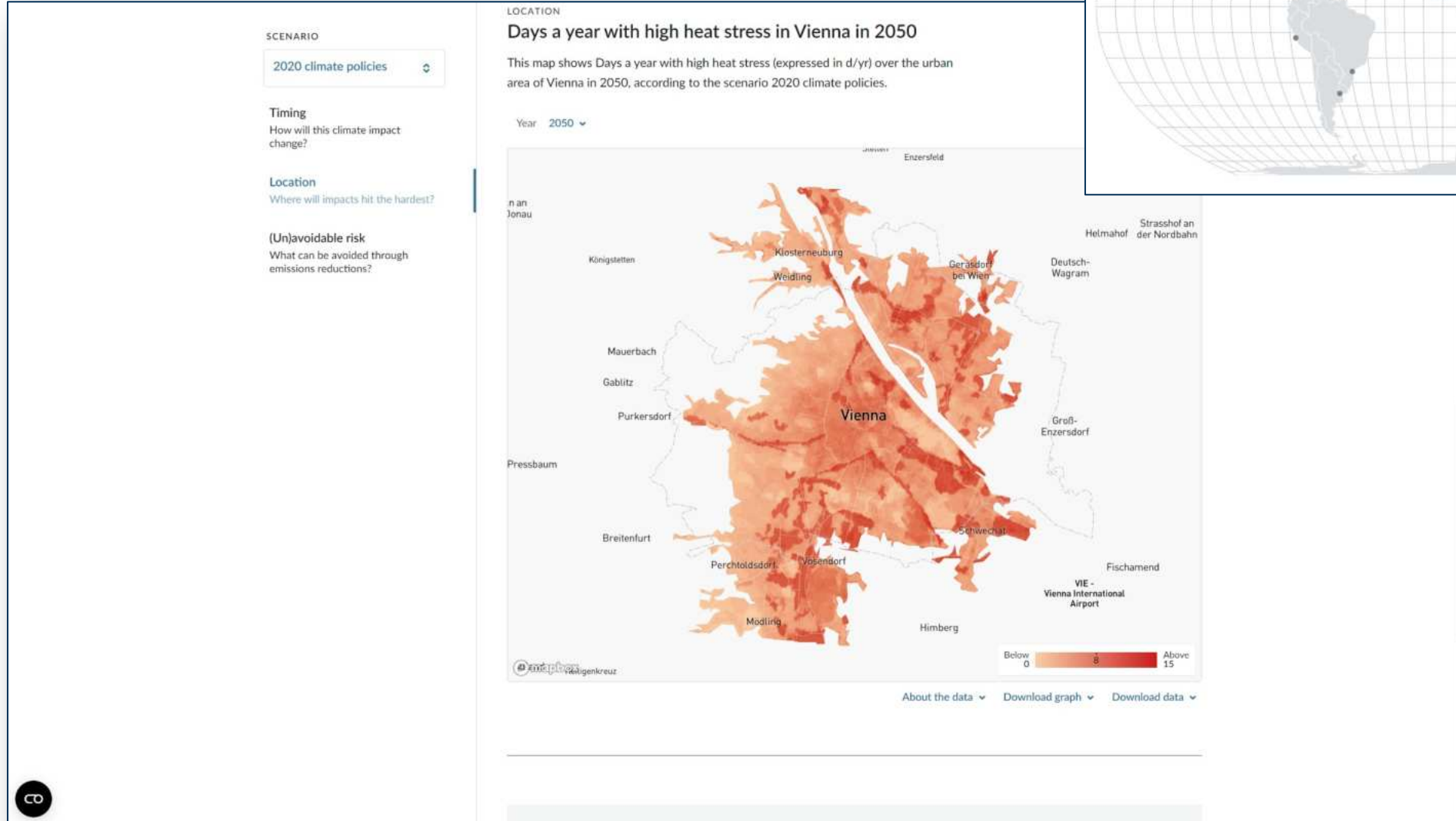
[Winter windstorm indicators for Europe from 1979 to 2021 derived from reanalysis](#)

Related applications

[Urban heat island intensity for European cities from 2008 to 2017 derived from reanalysis](#)



Horizon Europe – PROVIDE project



Abstract EGU24-15412

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Oral | Thursday, 18 Apr, 08:30-08:40 (CEST) ■ Room F1

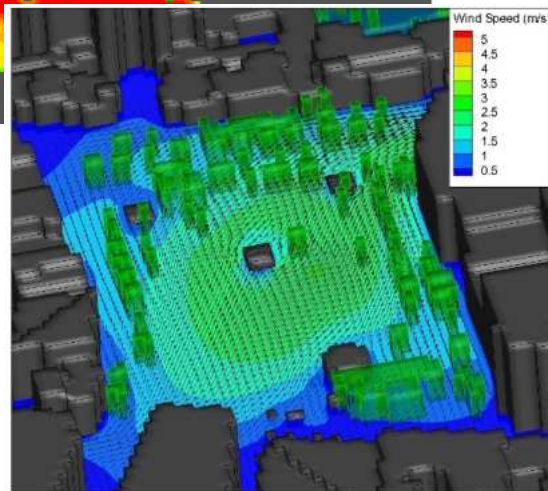
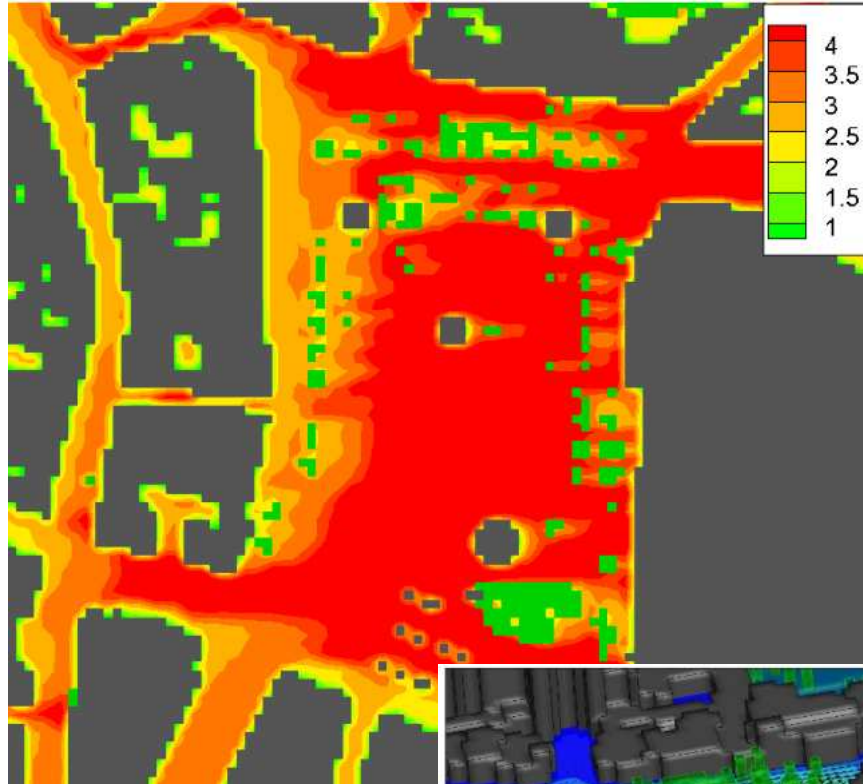
A public database of future heat stress in 140 cities to examine the potential for heat reduction via climate-smart urban development

Quentin Lejeune¹, Niels Souverijns², Sarantis Georgiou³, Niklas Schwind¹, Sajid Ali¹, Tiago Capela Lourenço⁴, Khadija Irfan⁵, Dirk Lauwaet², Inês Gomes Marques⁴, Helena Gonzales Lindberg⁵, Inga Menke^{1,7}, Shruti Nath⁶, Peter Pfeleiderer¹, Hugo Pires Costa⁴, Fahad Saeed^{1,5}, Mariam Saleh Khan⁵, Sylvia Schmidt¹, Emily Theokritoff^{1,7}, Burcu Yesil¹, and Carl-Friedrich Schlieussner^{1,7}

¹Climate Analytics, Berlin, Germany²VITO, Mol, Belgium³BUUR part of Sweco, Sweco Belgium, Brussels, Belgium⁴Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c), Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, 1749-016 Lisbon, Portugal⁵Weather and Climate Services, Islamabad, Pakistan⁶Nordland Research Institute, Bodø, Norway⁷Geography Department & IRI THEsys, Humboldt University of Berlin, Berlin, Germany

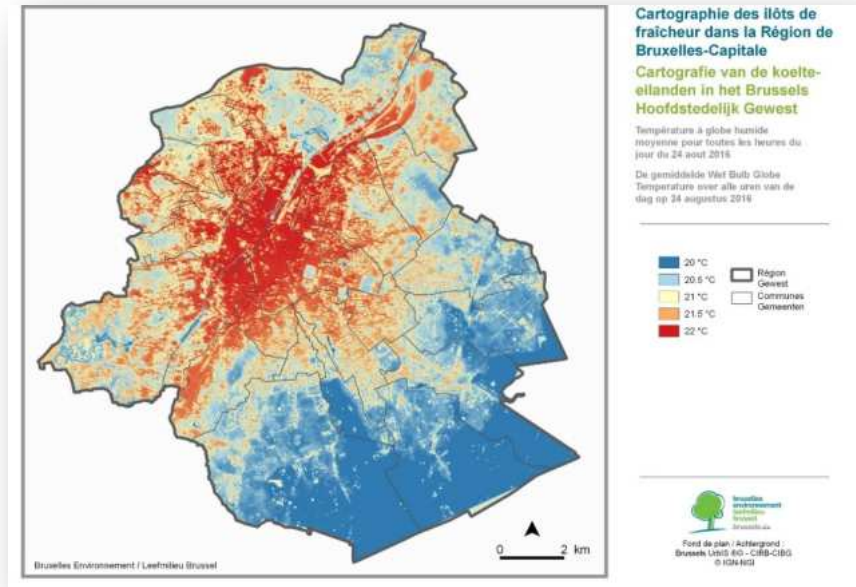
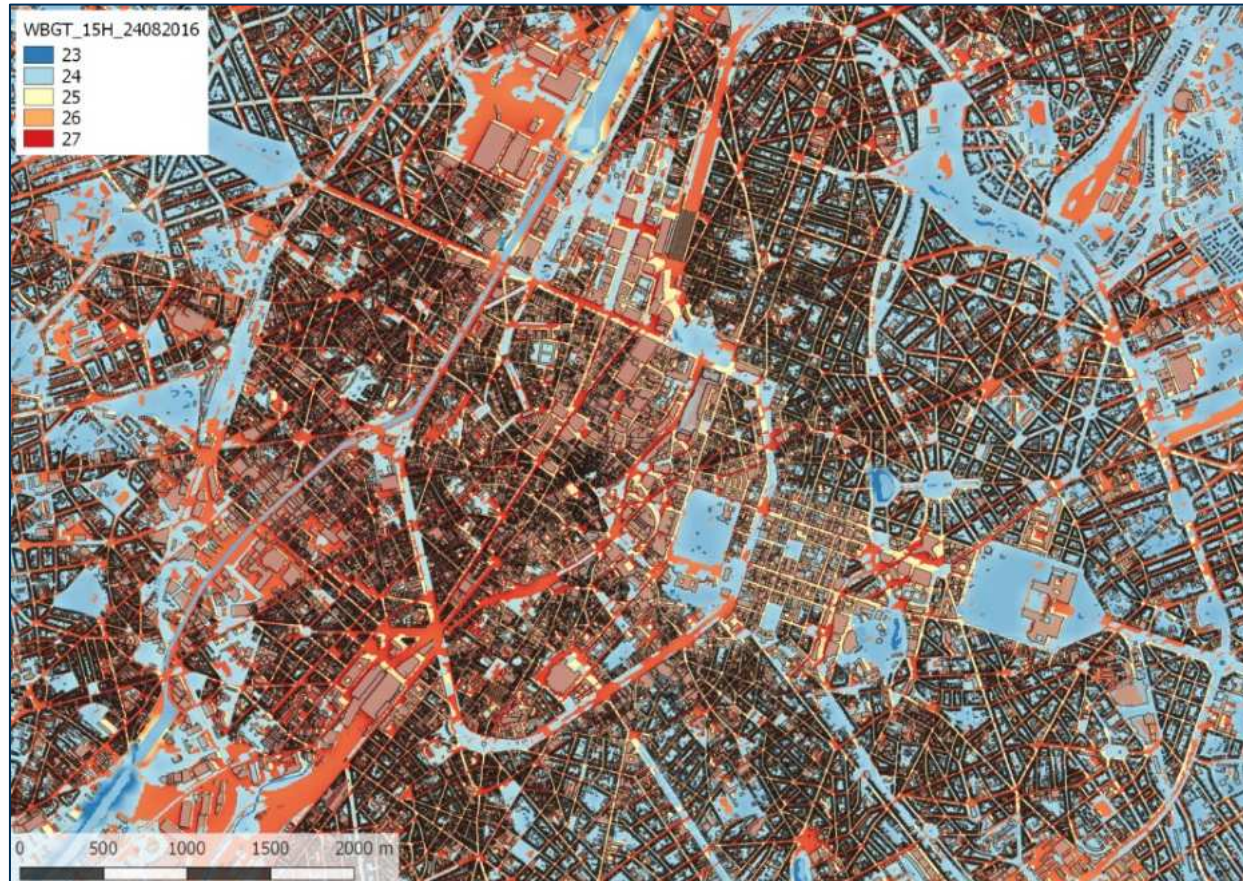
Heatwaves are becoming more frequent because of climate change, and this trend is exacerbated in cities due to the urban heat island effect. With more than half of the world's population living in cities, it is essential to quantify the future evolution of heat stress and develop smart adaptation strategies to counter its impacts. This requires the capturing of fine-grained variations in heat-related hazards within the urban fabric. However, the coarse resolutions of Earth System

Redesigning a city square for climate resilience



Redesign of a major Antwerp city square: architectural design bureaus invited to include spatial designs promoting climate resilience (green infrastructure)

Cartography of cool islands in Brussels

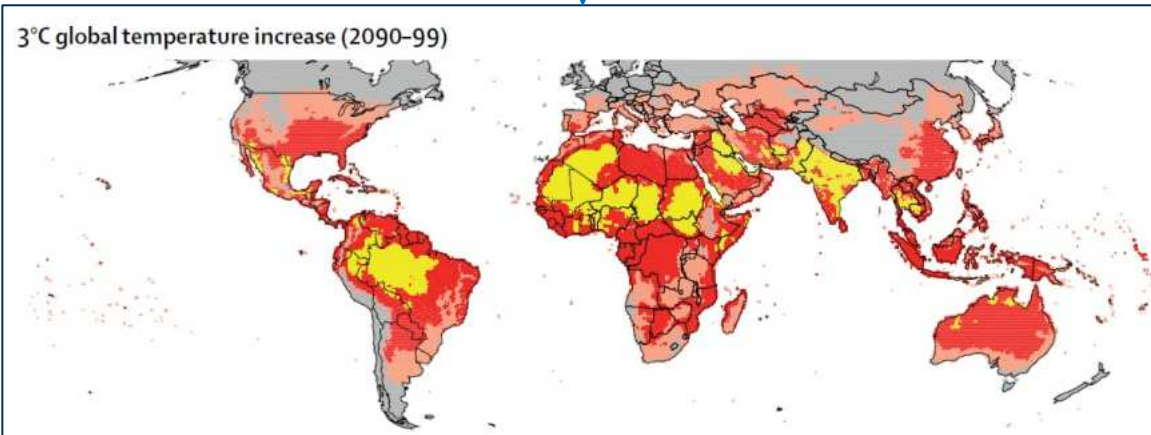
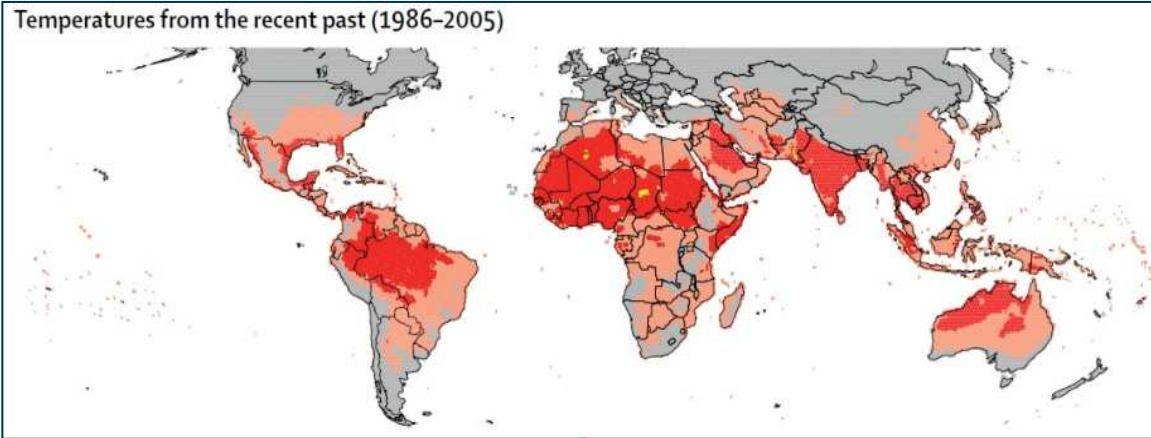


Urban climate modelling & monitoring

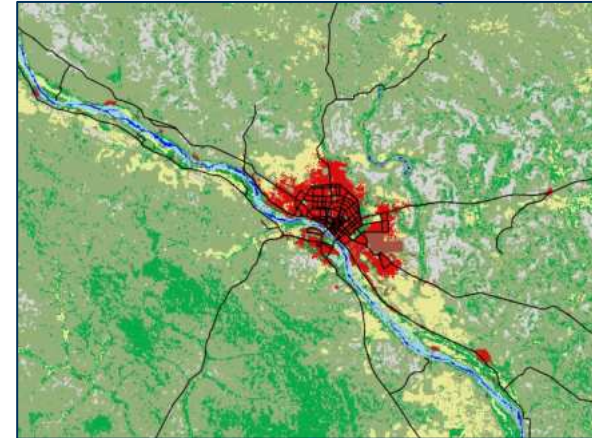
Africa



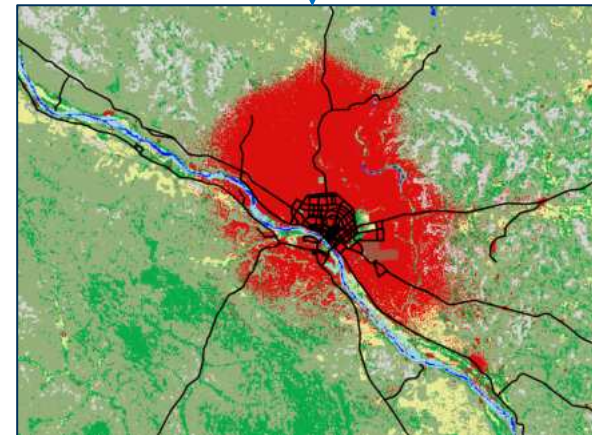
Why urban climate research in Africa?



■ Low risk ■ Moderate risk ■ High risk ■ Extreme risk



2018:
2.2 M inhabitants



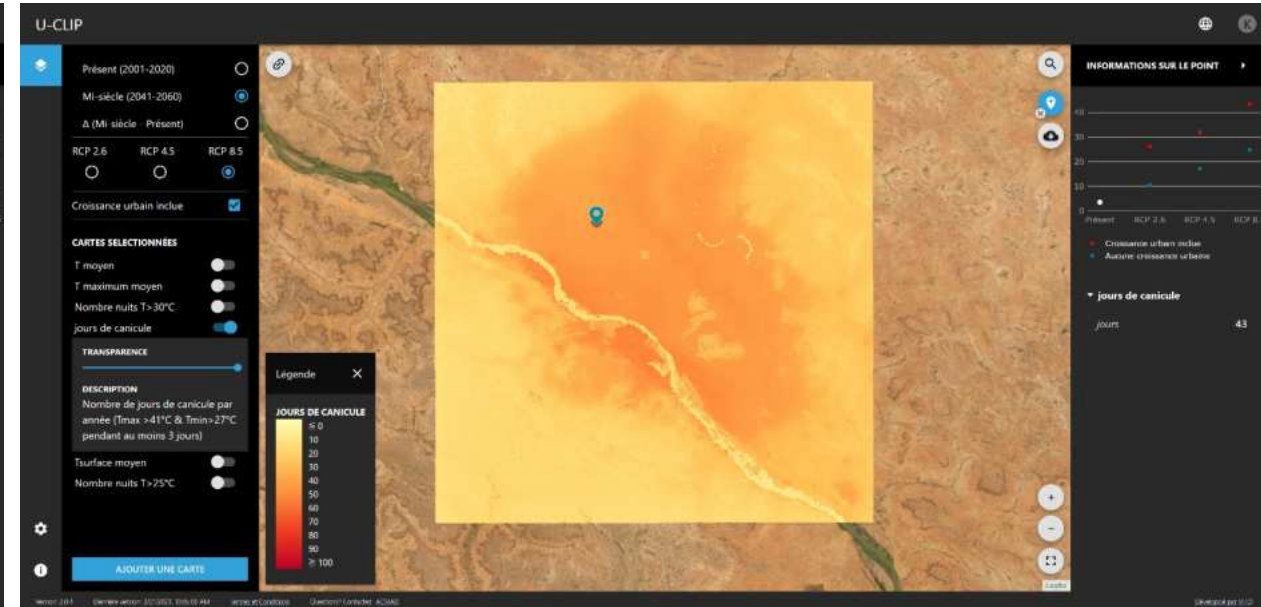
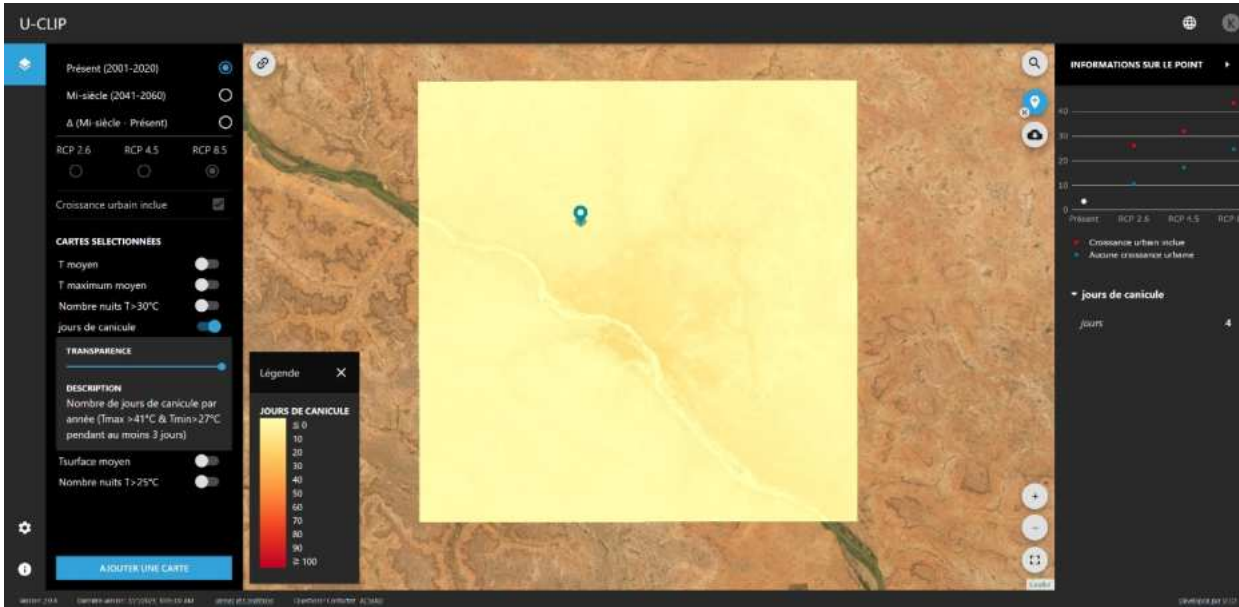
2050:
9.5 M inhabitants
(projection)

Souvereinjs, N., De Ridder, K., Takacs, S., Veldeman, N., Michielsen, M., Crols, T., Foamouhoue, A. K., Nshimirimana, G., Dan Djé, I., & Tidjani, H., 2023. High resolution heat stress over a Sahelian city: Present and future impact assessment and urban green effectiveness. *International Journal of Climatology*, 1–19.
<https://doi.org/10.1002/joc.8268>

u-CLIP – Urban Climate Information Platform (Niamey)

2020

2050

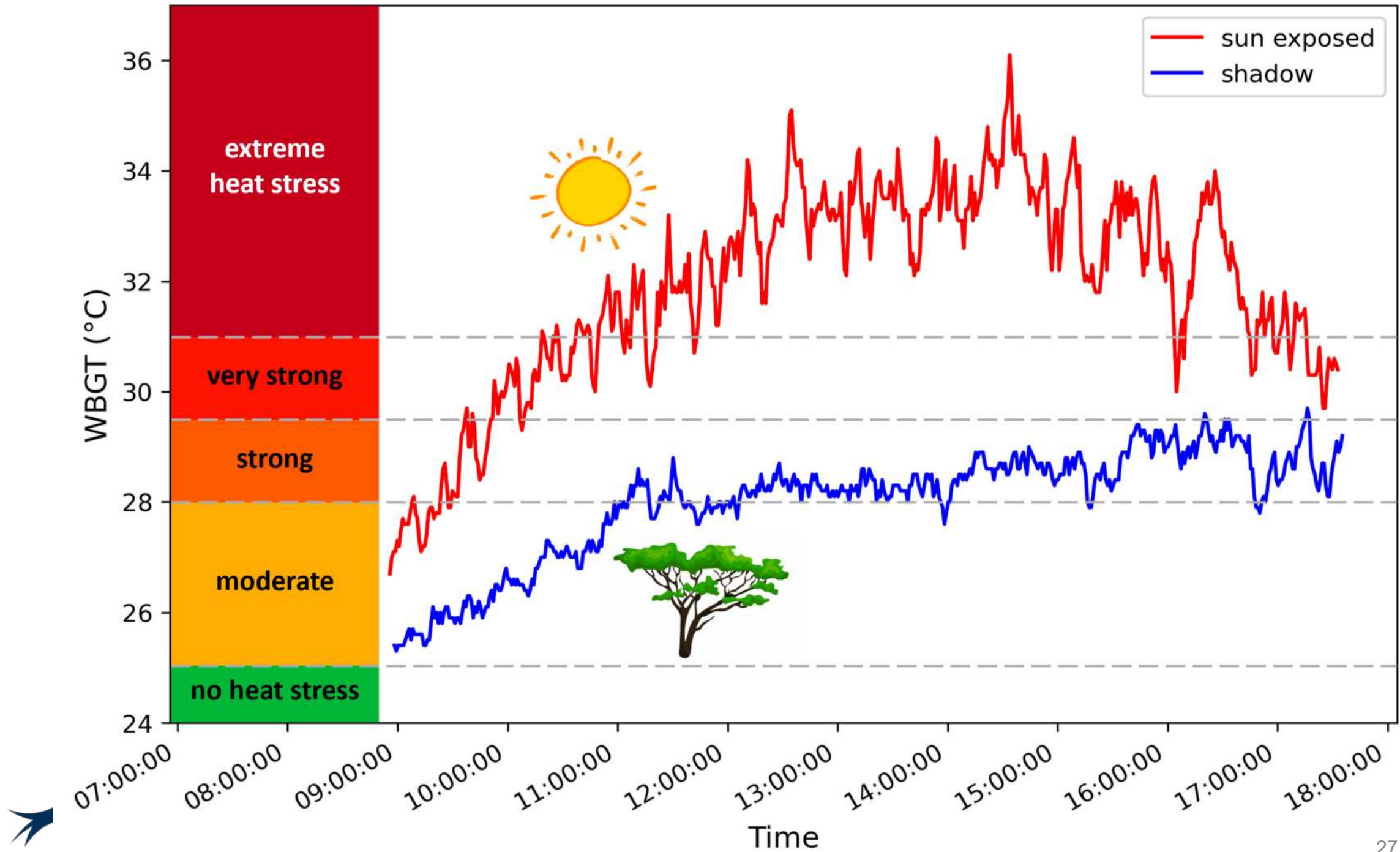


<https://uclip.acmad.org/>

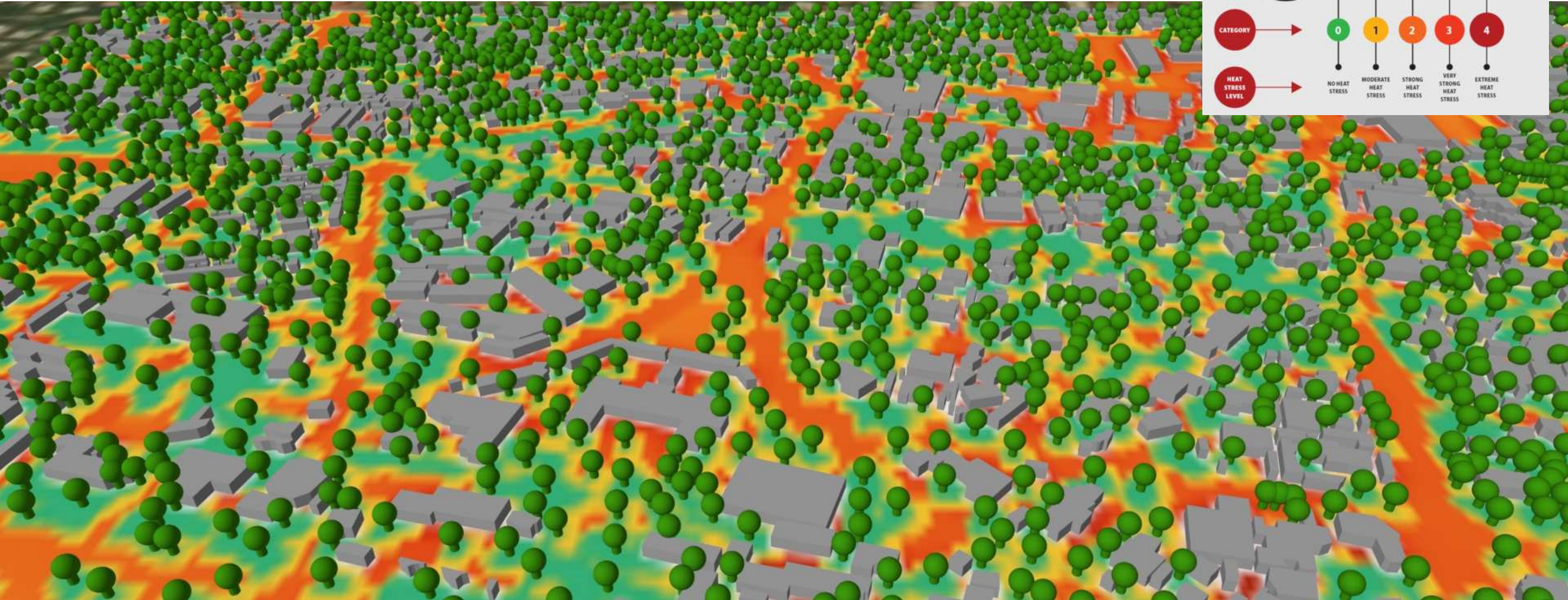


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High-resolution modelling



Adaptation planning

Mesures d'adaptation à la chaleur excessive pour Niamey

Un ensemble de mesures d'adaptation pour Niamey est proposé ci-dessous. Plutôt que de servir comme une liste définitive, les mesures proposées serviront pour alimenter des discussions lors des ateliers avec les parties prenantes à Niamey. Dans la suite de ce document, chacune de ces mesures est décrite en détail, et des recommandations sont formulées.

1	verdissement stratégique dans les quartiers sous-approvisionnés	
2	mise en garde et sensibilisation à la chaleur et à la santé	
3	stratégies de refroidissement passif pour logements modestes	
4	espaces communautaires frais (abris)	
5	protéger les travailleurs et assurer la productivité du travail	
6	mise en place de potagers urbains communautaires / agroforesterie	
7	minimiser les besoins en énergie pour le refroidissement des bâtiments	
8	protection de lieux hautement fréquentés	
9	protection de composantes critiques d'infrastructure	
10	intégration de mesures de protection dans l'ensemble des stratégies urbaines	



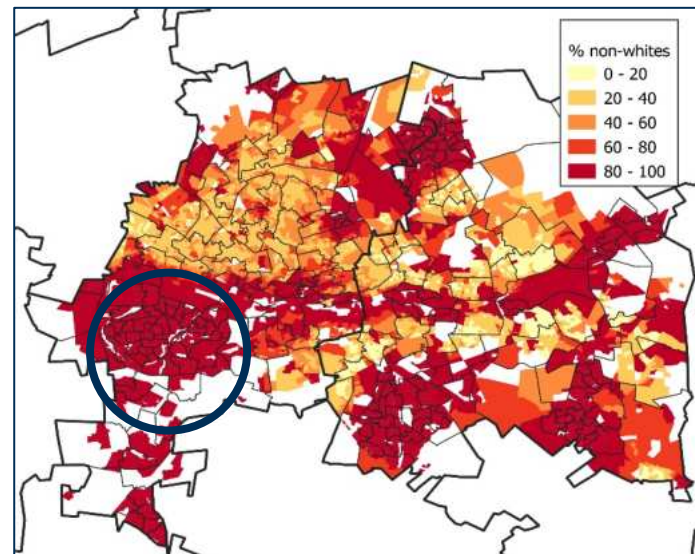
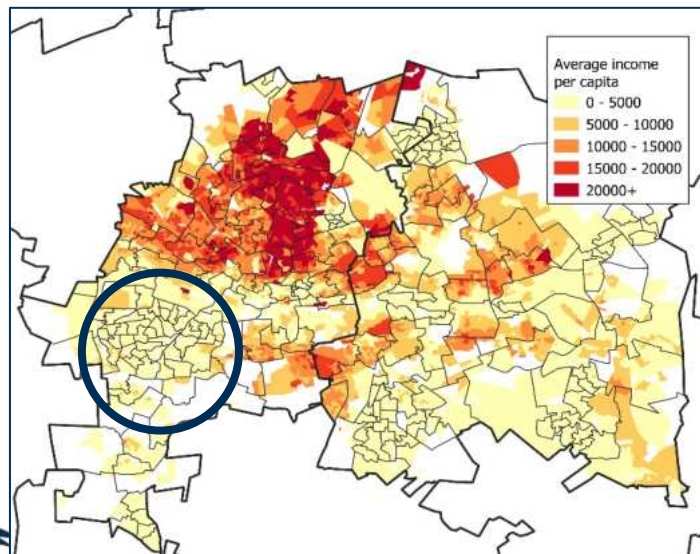
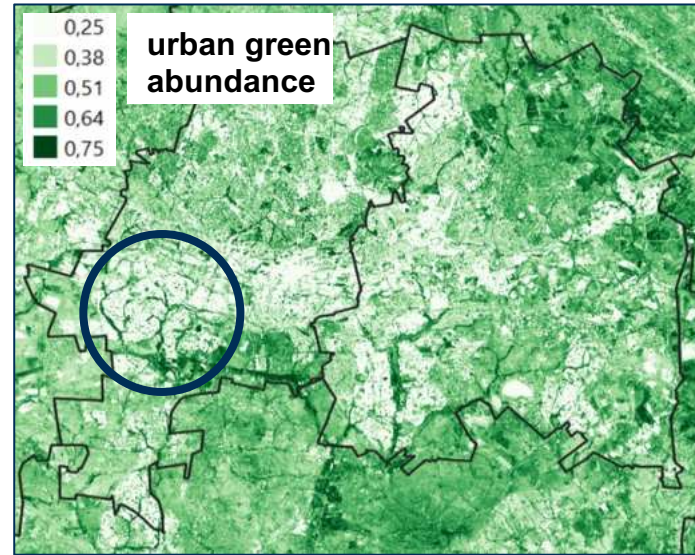
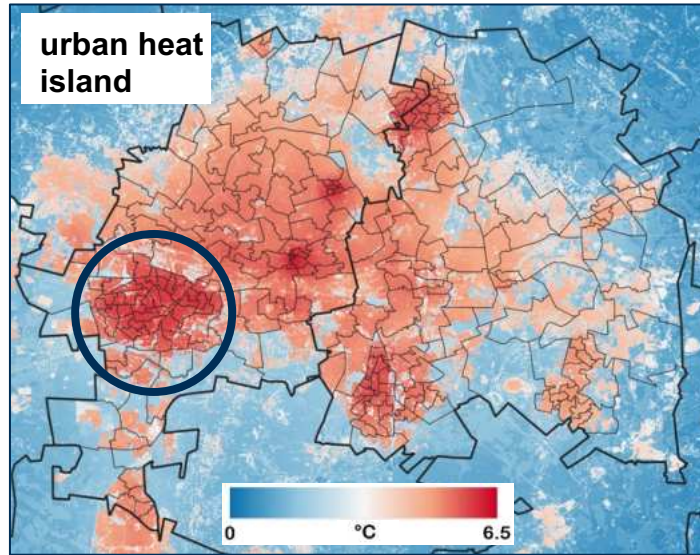
Stakeholder engagement



Niamey Climate Forest



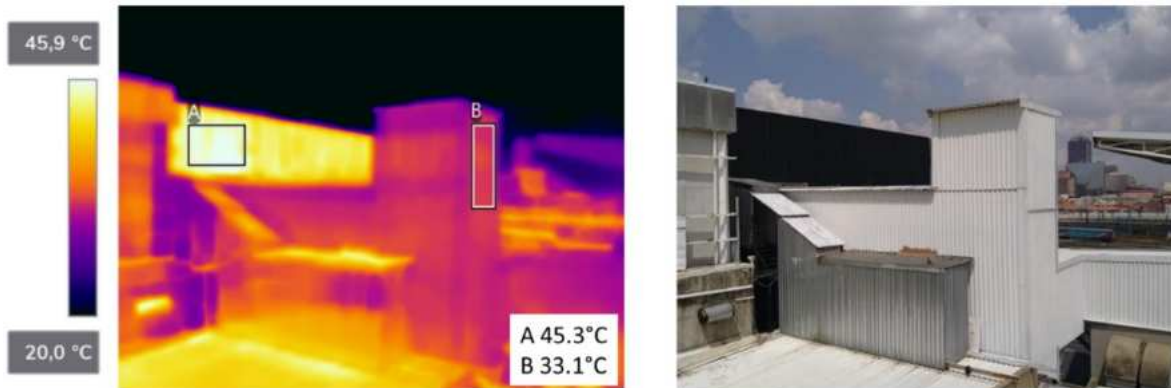
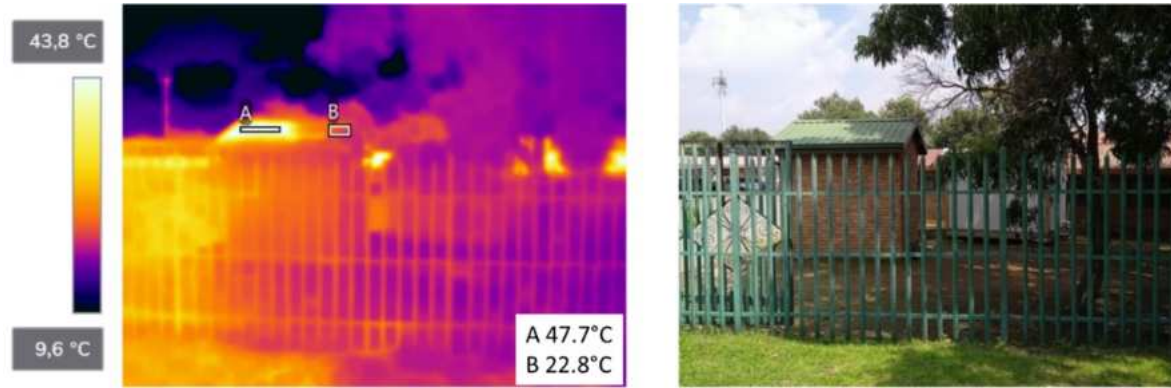
Link to socio-economic indicators (Johannesburg)



Community-based measurements



Thermal imaging



URBAN HEAT IN JOHANNESBURG AND EKURHULENI

Impacts and Mitigation Options

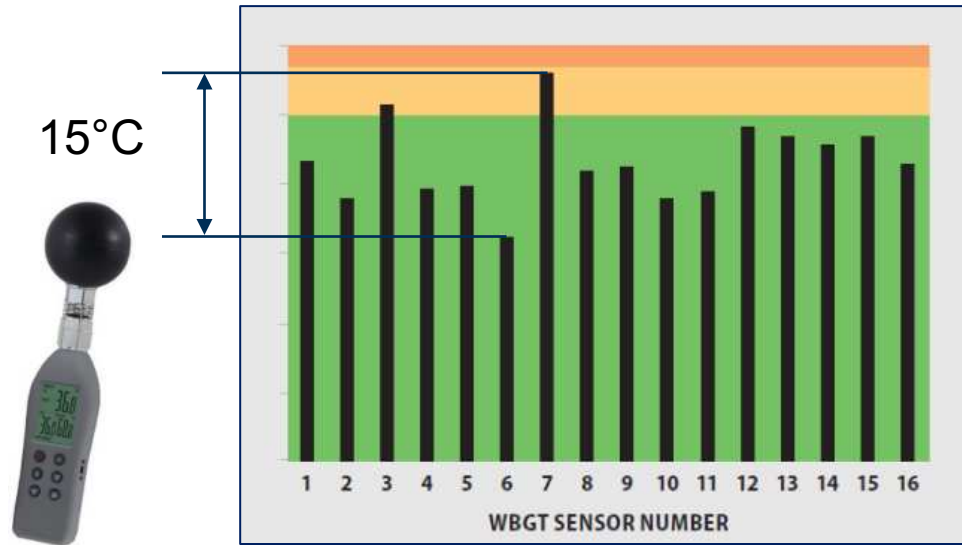


“This report is a crucial policy informant as it provides scientific data and a clear policy directive on urban heat impacts in the City. The adaptation measures laid out in this report will be implemented to build climate resilience and reduce the impacts of heat in the City of Ekurhuleni.”

Ms Faith Wotshela
Head of Department
Environmental Resource and Waste Management
City of Ekurhuleni



Indoor climate monitoring



Classroom indoor climate monitoring – *future plans*

Africa

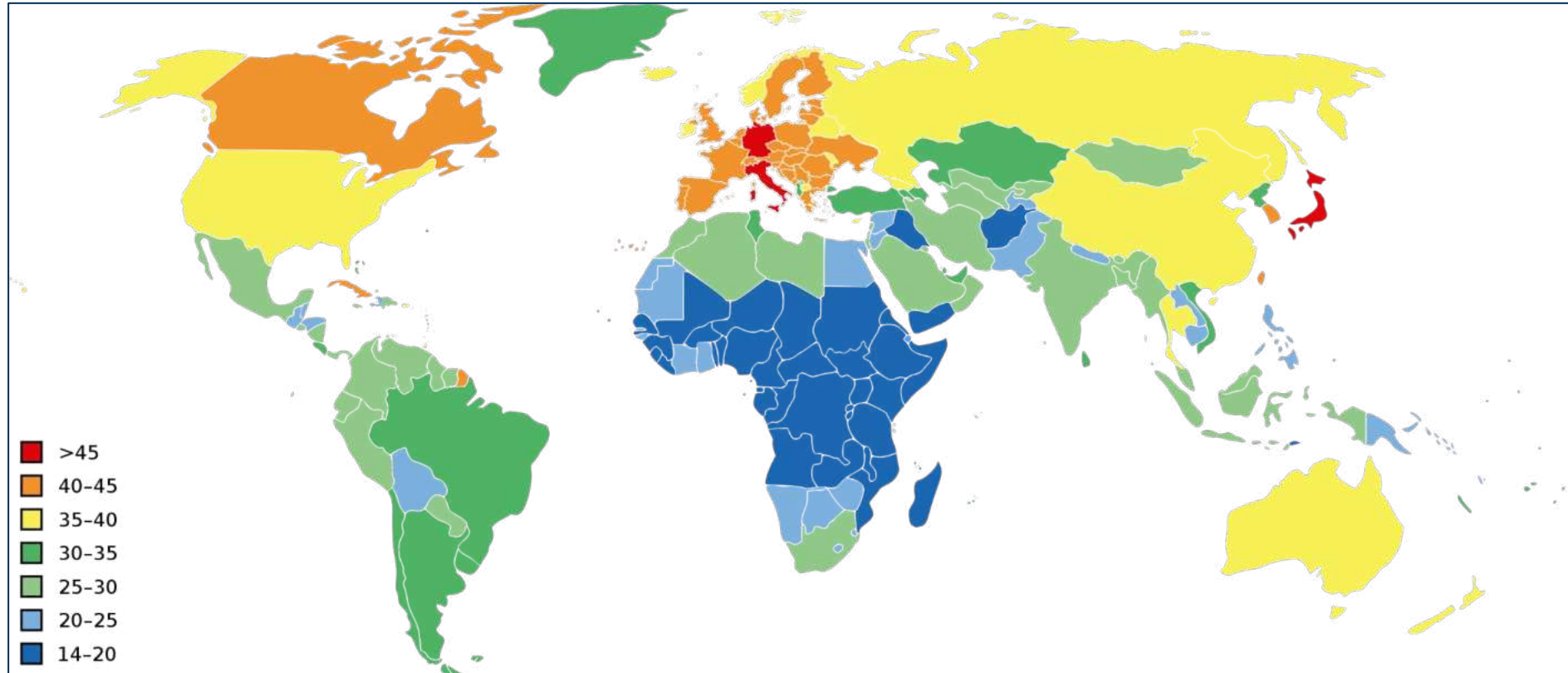


Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.

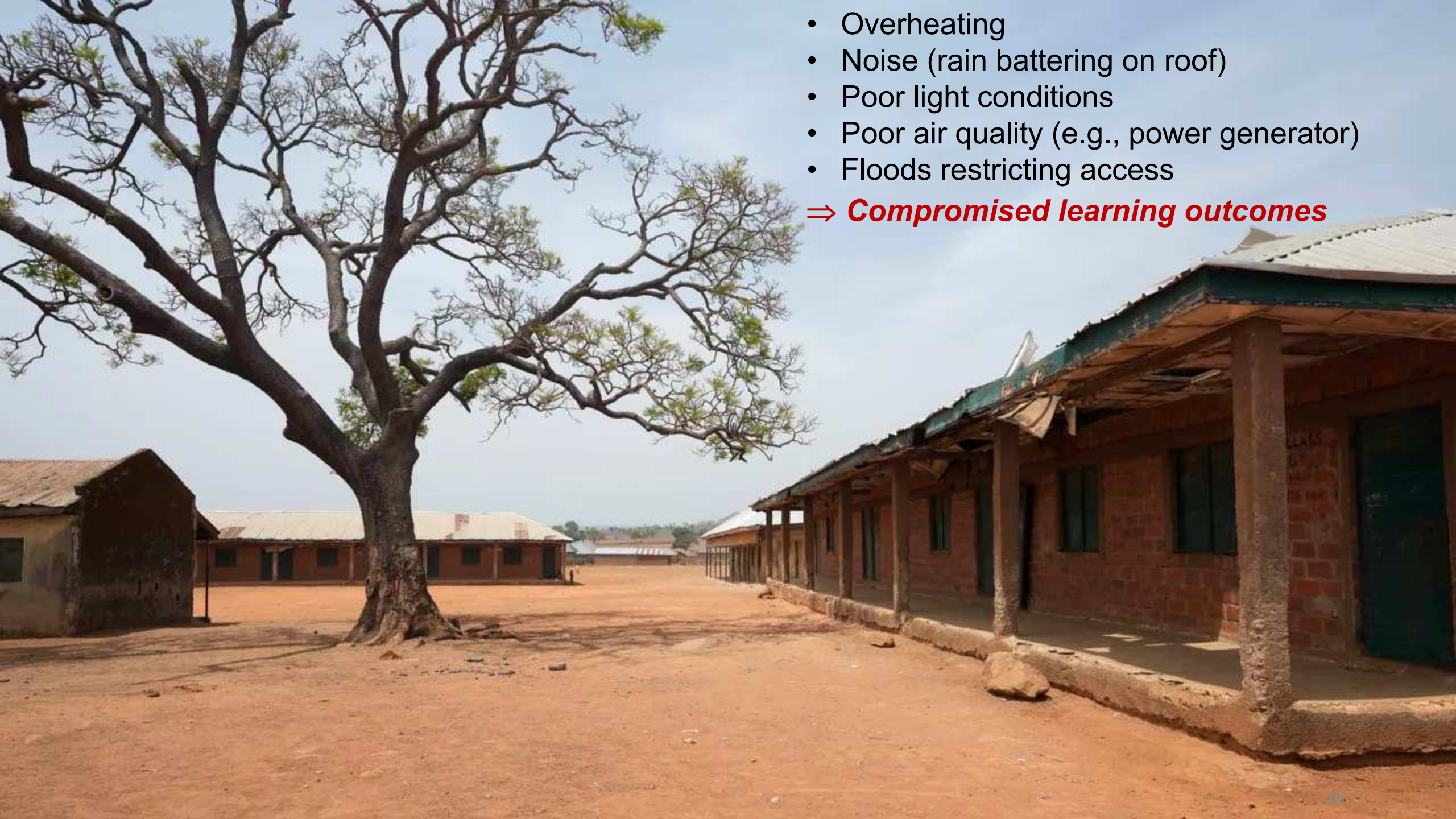
Nelson Mandela

www.thequotes.in

Africa has the highest share of its population in primary / secondary school age



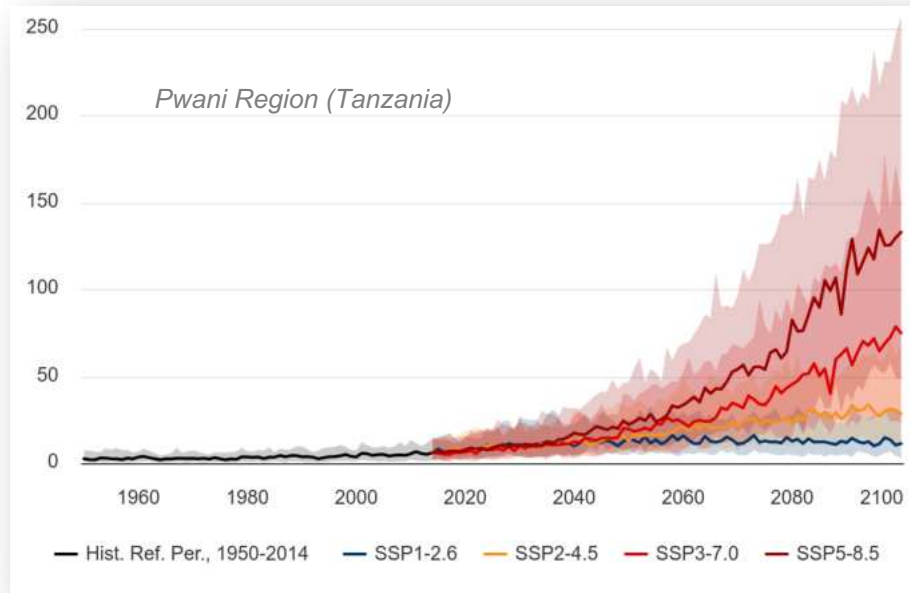
median age



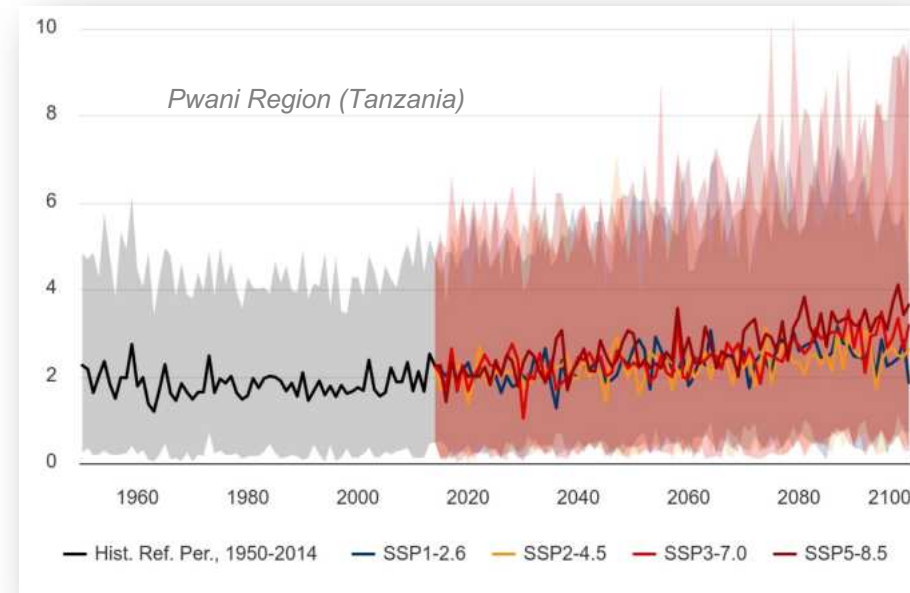
- Overheating
- Noise (rain battering on roof)
- Poor light conditions
- Poor air quality (e.g., power generator)
- Floods restricting access

⇒ ***Compromised learning outcomes***

Climate change will enhance adverse conditions further still



Increasing number of **hot days** ($T_{max} > 35\text{ °C}$)
→ Enhanced indoor thermal stress

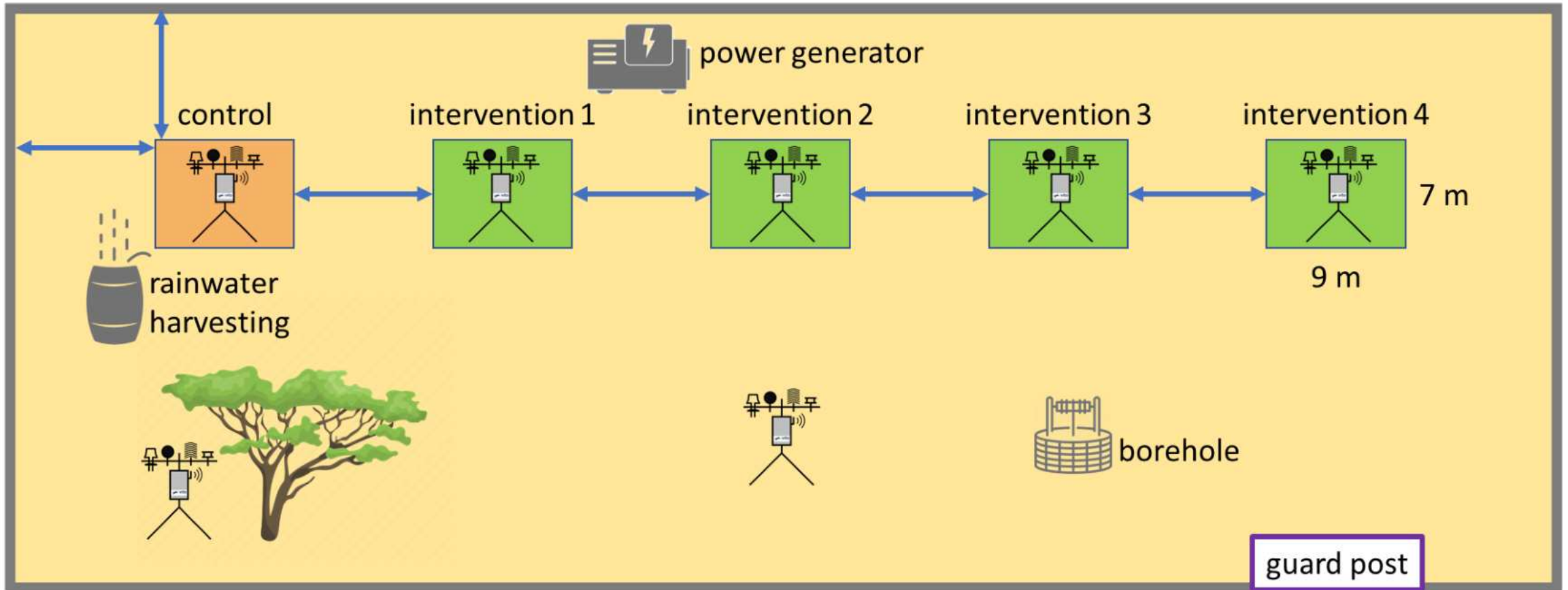


More days with **abundant rain** (> 20 mm)
→ More frequent noise hindrance

Large knowledge gaps remain

- *“Literature on classroom thermal comfort in relation to learning outcomes in the tropics is limited” (Toyinbo, 2023).*
- *“Thermal comfort research is minimal for 84% of tropical countries, Africa being the least studied region” (Rodriguez et al., 2019)*
- *“More research is needed on climate change impacts on education in Africa” (IPCC, 2022)*

'Cool Schools' – experimental facility (*in preparation*)



Do It Yourself

Feasible things to do at your school



Conduct your own measurements!



- Devices are fairly easy to manipulate
- Data processing is rather straightforward
- Not too expensive (up to a few hundred €)
- Great way to learn about climate (change), and also physics, IT, data processing, ...
- *“Brings the idea of climate change to a way more personal scale”*

Results include those from the PROVIDE project, which has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101003687.



koen.deridder@vito.be