Bridging the knowledge-practice gap in climate response at cityregion scale in Africa: the case of climate knowledge coproduction in the City of Lusaka (Zambia)

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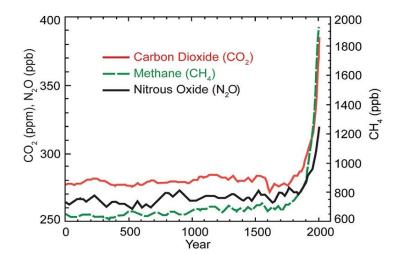
Impacts World 2017

Counting the true costs of climate change the international conference on climate-change impacts for scientists & stakeholders, 11-13 October, 2017, Potsdam- Germany

Workshop: C10- An educated guess: decision making towards adaptation strategies for the most vulnerable

# **Presentation outline**

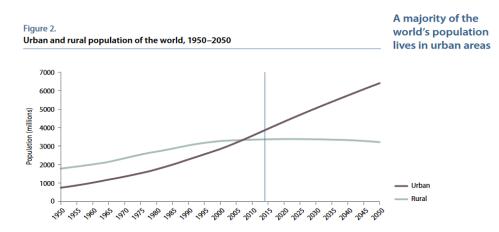
- About Fractal
- The research issue
- •Research innovations, activities and outcomes in Lusaka
- Conclusions



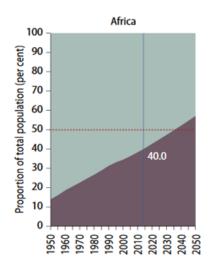
#### The challenge:

[Moving] From "*it's real*" to "*here is the information you need to make good decisions for your stakeholders*" Chris Field, IPCC AR5 WGII co-chair

# FUTURE RESILIENCE FOR AFRICAN CITIES AND LANDS



Africa generally urbanizing at 4%, the largest of any continent, but with major infrastructure deficits and capacity constraints



**FRACTAL objectives** 

# Overarching aim(s):

- Advance scientific knowledge on regional climate responses to global change;
- Enhance knowledge on how to integrate this information into decision making at the city-region scale (decision-making/governance);
- Responsibly contribute to decisions for resilient development pathways (case studies);
- Approach through iterative, transdisciplinary coexploration/co-production processes and enhance understanding of these (co-production of climate knowledge).



# The issue

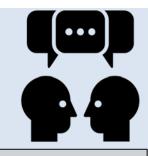
- Africa experiences a different form of urbanisation
- Urbanisation of poverty and concentration of climate risks
- Municipal decision making lack reliable climate information
- Climate scientists need to move out of their 'comfort space'
- Bridge the gap between climate science and local development processes and needs
- Urban informality needs special focus
- 60% of Lusaka population live and work informally.



#### **Research methodologies and approaches**

- Learning Labs Identify burning issues & explore solutions
- Training workshops new skills & knowledge
- Embedded researcher bridging research & practice
- Inter and intracity learning- knowledge exchange
- Targeting decision makers





A city learning lab is a multi-stakeholder platform for addressing a particular complex social challenge. City Learning Labs build on active participation of diverse stakeholders, and take an experimental and systemic approach to designing potential solutions.



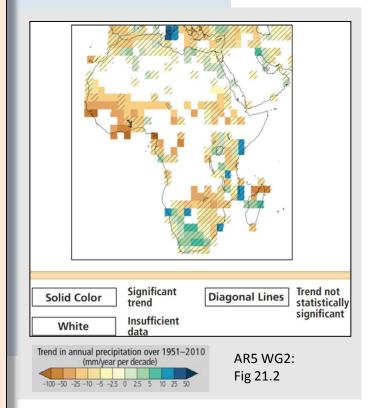
#### FRACTAL deliverables adding value in Lusaka

## Substance:

- Governance analysis and mapping
- Climate baseline and projections data & guidance
- Climate impacts assessment & threshold identification
- Contributions towards urban resilience, climate adaptation & risk management planning

## Format:

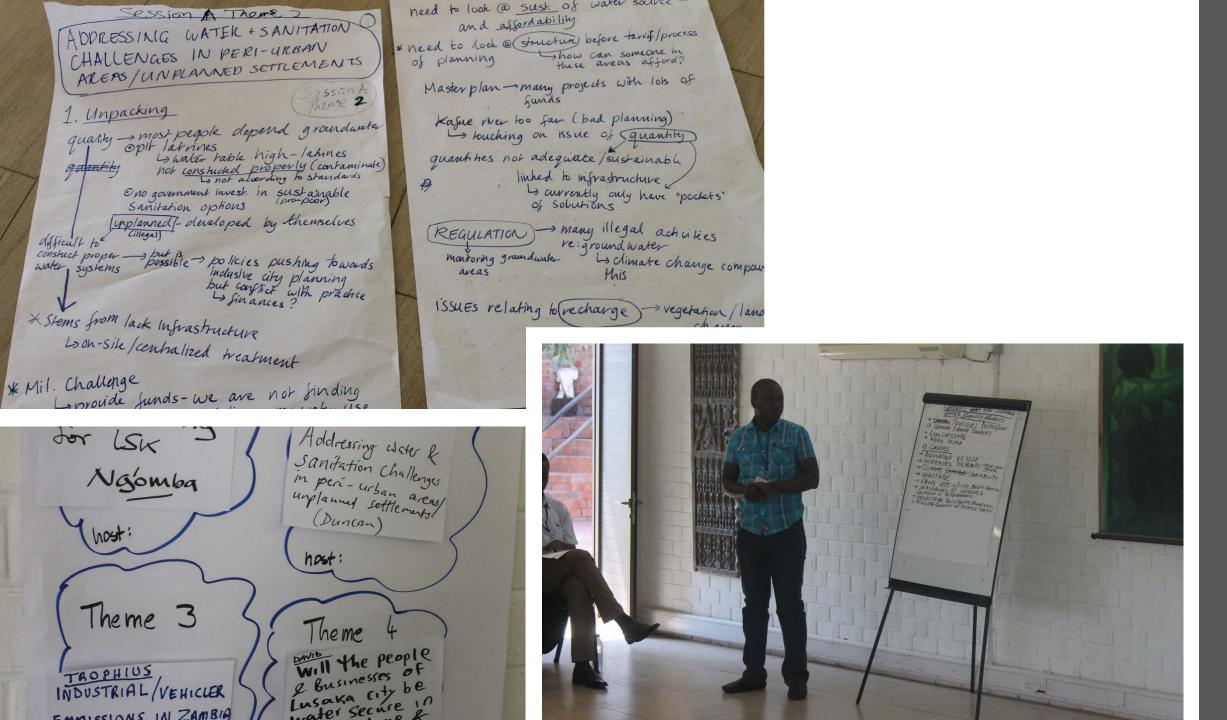
- Policy / planning briefing notes
- Training & capacity building workshops
- Networking forums local, regional, international
- Reports & journal articles
- Conference sessions
- Web portals
- ... through co-production, we are responding to local urban contexts



- An exemplar for integrated, userinformed climate change research to guide future investment in development and research
- Alter how Lusaka include climate change in development planning
- Increased understanding of regional climate information informed by coexploration with decision makers
- **Fundamental changes in key decision pathways** (around water, flooding and energy) to increase the resilience of city-regions
- A legacy of new knowledge, capacity and learning exemplars
- **Balance in a research landscape** dominated by actions with national, sectoral or rural foci

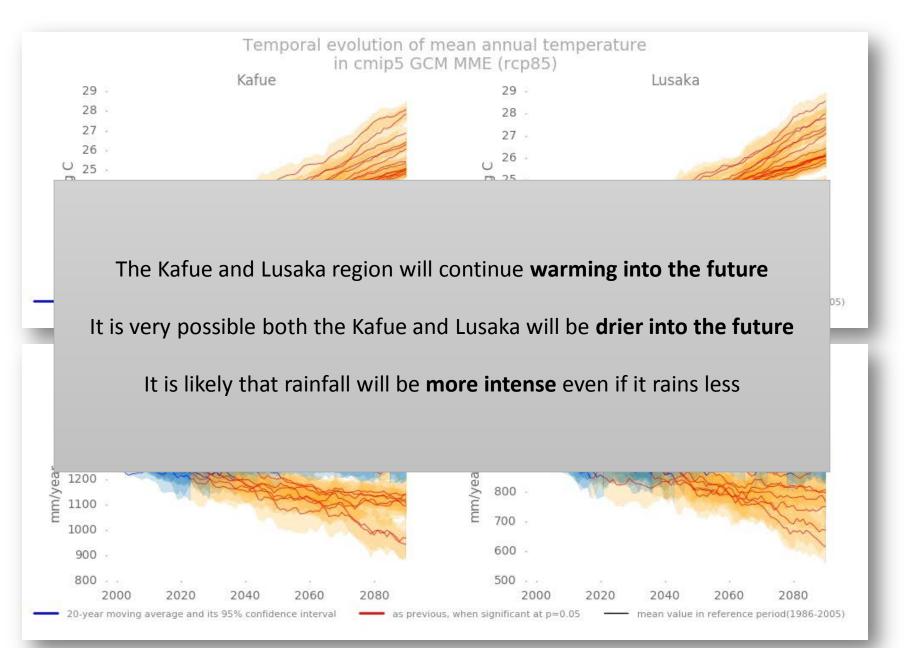












# Summary messages

- Fractal involves climate scientists, urban development researchers, decision makers and city residents
- There is co-ownership of products and processes
- Demand driven research
- Science commutation is key
- Water insecurity for residents of informal settlements as burning issue
- We are pioneering integrated climate research in Africa
- Advancing adaptation efforts at the local scale

#### **Questions/comments**

