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Climate change, water conflicts and human security (CLICO) – an FP7 research project

Christiane Gerstetter
Ecologic Institute





Climate Change, Hydro-conflict and Human Security
A three year project lead by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (2010-2012)
(coordinator Dr. Giorgos Kallis / Dr. Christos Zografos),

Part of the CLIWASEC cluster: www.cliwasec.eu



Climate Induced Changes on the Hydrology of Mediterranean Basins (CLIMB)

Four year project led by the Ludwig-Maximilian- University of Munich, Germany (coordinator Prof. Ralf Ludwig), involving 19 partners



Water Availability and Security in Southern Europe and the Mediterranean (WasserMed)

Three year project lead by CMCC, Italy (coordinator Prof. Roberto Roson, from Ca'Foscari University in Venice), involving 12 partners



Participants of CLICO

- 1) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Coordinators)
- 2) Addis Abbeba University (Ethiopia)
- 3) Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) (Spain)
- 4) Cyprus Institute
- 5) ETH Zürich (Switzerland)
- 6) Ecologic Institute (Germany)
- 7) Hebrew University Jerusalem (Israel)
- 8) Palestinian Hydrology Group (Palestine)
- 9) Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) (Norway)
- 10) Suez Canal University (Egypt)
- 11) University of East Anglia (UK)
- 12) University of Sussex (UK)
- 13) United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (Germany)



Research question

**How does climate change affect water related conflicts
and human security?**

Geographical area: Mediterranean, Middle East, Sahel = water
scarce region

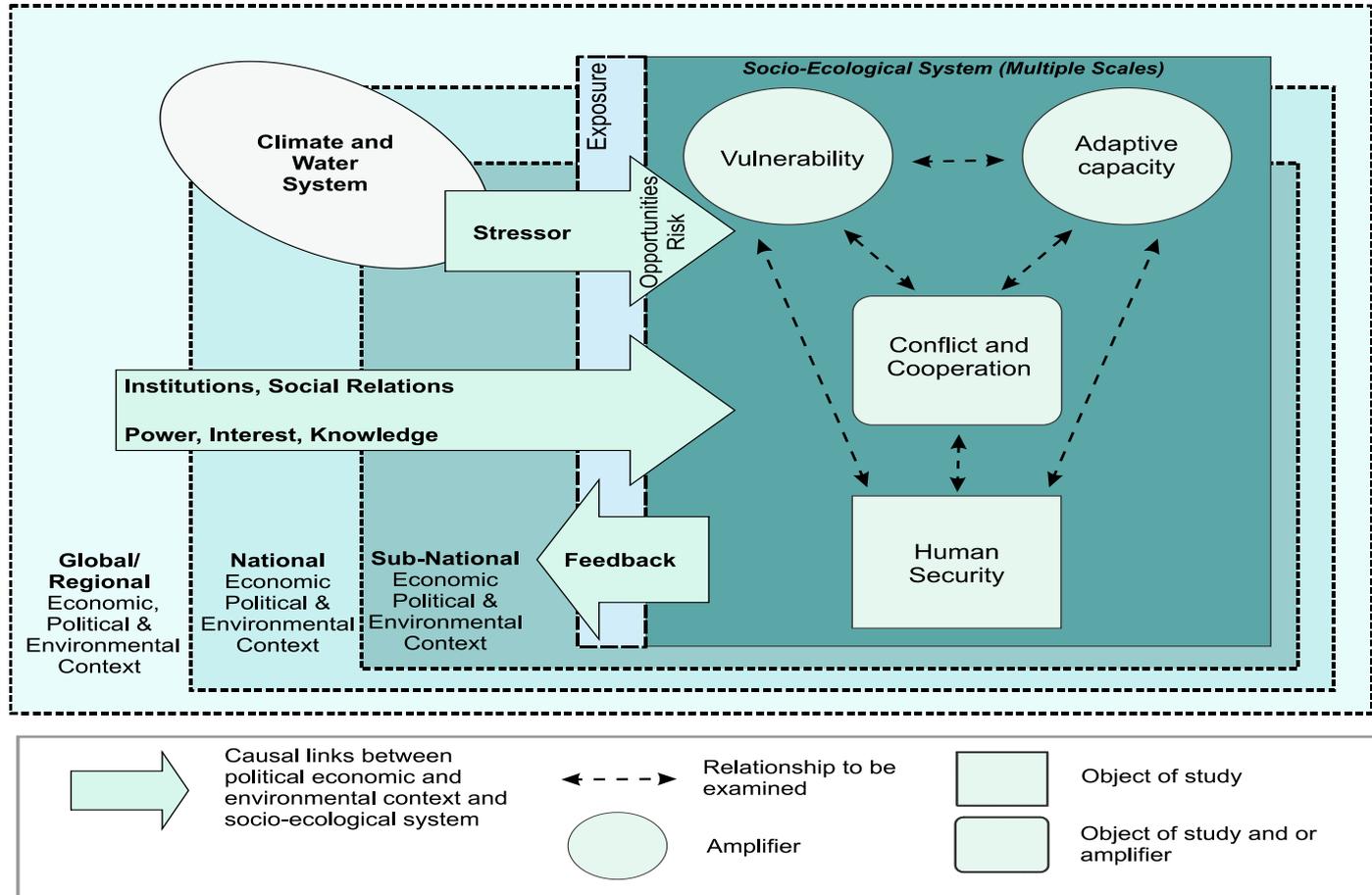


“Human security can be said to have two main aspects. It means, first, safety from such chronic threats as hunger, disease and repression. And second, it means protection from sudden and hurtful disruptions in the patterns of daily life – whether in homes, in jobs or in communities. Such threats can exist at all levels of national income and development. (UNDP, 1994a: 23)”

> Water security, food security, climate security, national security.....



Conceptual framework





Research activities

Case studies in 11 countries/regions

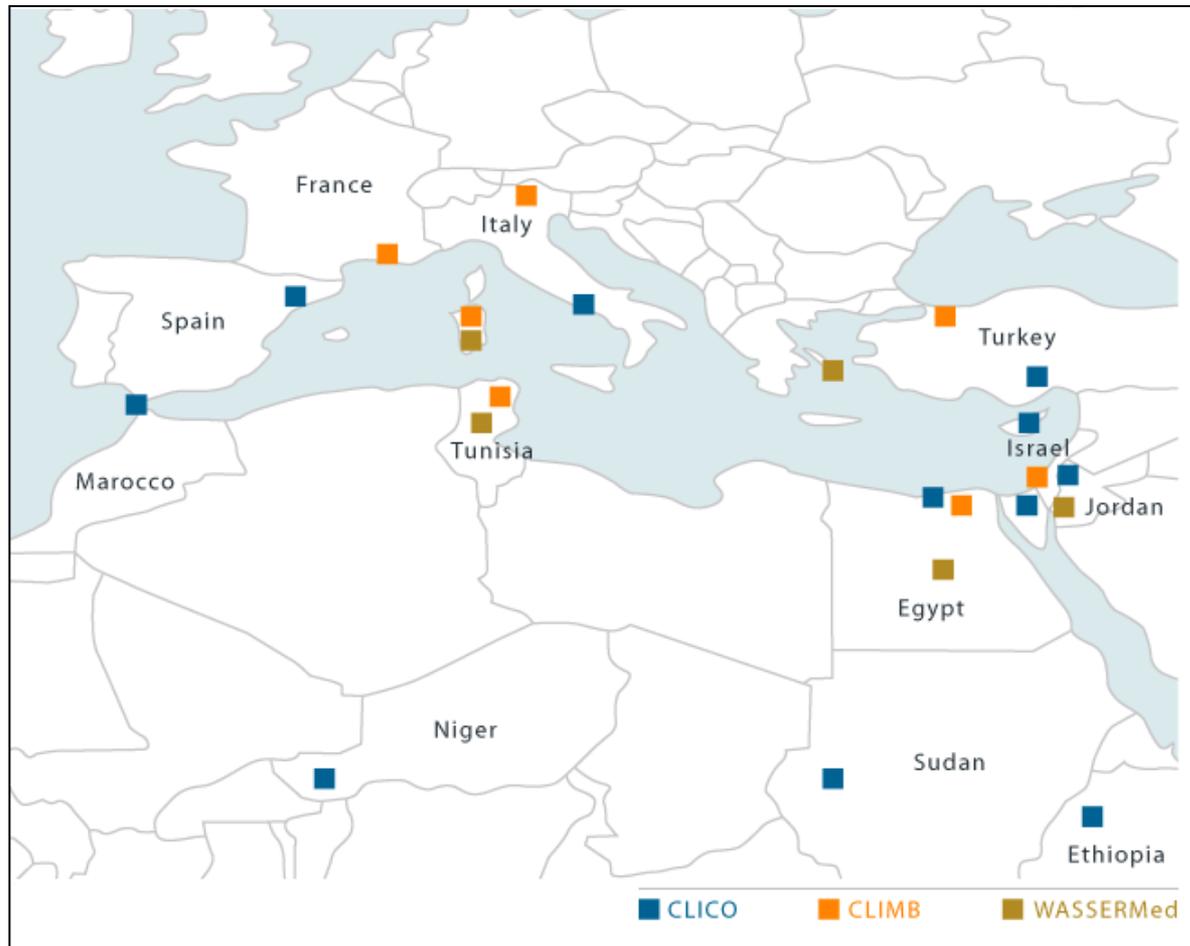
Media-based large statistical analysis of relationship between climate change and water conflicts for all Mediterranean, Middle East and Sahel countries

Analysis of current policy frameworks and suggestions for improvement

Evaluation of international water basins and treaties



Case study sites





Field research in Israel and Palestine

How does climate change affect conflict (internal and between Israelis and Palestinian) as well as human security? What policy measures have been taken/should be taken?



Background

- ▶ Physical impact of climate change in Israel and Palestine: droughts & changed patterns of water availability
- ▶ Long-standing conflict over water between Israel and Palestine, with Israel essentially in control of water allocation for both sides
- ▶ Interviews with policy makers, NGOs, academics in Israel and Palestine (West Bank)



Differing perceptions of CC and water scarcity



- Water scarcity and access to water is a national issue
- Water scarcity requires a political solution which respects Palestinian water rights
- CC does not really matter, the Israeli occupation matters



- ▶ Water is part of the conflict with Palestinians, but the one that is the easiest to solve
- ▶ Water scarcity is an economic issue and has a technological solution
- ▶ CC does not really matter concerning water, Israel prepared for drought



Conclusions

- ▶ **Perceptions:** CC is not a major issue, other factors are more relevant
- ▶ **Experiences:** conflict and distrust, domination/control
- ▶ **(Likely) behaviour:** blaming the other; informed by history of conflict
- ▶ Translating into political effects:
 - efficient adaptation solutions (e.g. co-management, joint infrastructure) not implemented
 - initial resistance among Palestinians to formulation of national adaptation strategy



Conclusions II: Link between CC and conflict

- ▶ Existing (political) conflict makes CC a side topic, at least from the perspective of one of the parties
- ▶ Palestinians fear that CC is being used by Israel to allocate less water to them
- ▶ External conflict (i.e. with Israel) is expected to keep internal conflict between communities/villages at bay
- ▶ Situation of conflict led to weakened governance structures on Palestinian side during Intifada, and to uncontrolled drilling of wells on Palestinian side in at least one area - using conflict for a local level adaptation?



If you would like to learn more...

Side event: "**Climate change, violent conflict and human security**", Thursday, 8 December, 18.30-20h, Indwe River Room (featuring e.g. preliminary results of media analysis on CC and conflict)

OR

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Thank you for listening.

Christiane Gerstetter

Ecologic Institute, Pfalzburger Str. 43-44, D-10717 Berlin
Tel. +49 (30) 86880-0, Fax +49 (30) 86880-100

christiane.gerstetter@ecologic.eu

www.ecologic.eu