

# **UNCTAD National Workshop Jamaica**

30 May – 1 June 2017, Kingston, Jamaica

## **“Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation for Coastal Transport Infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS”**

### **LISCoAsT – Large Scale Integrated Sea- level and Coastal Assessment Tool: Application for the SIDS (I)**

**By**

**Michalis Vousdoukas**

European Commission, Joint European Research Centre,  
Ispra, Italy

This expert paper is reproduced by the UNCTAD secretariat in the form and language in which it has been received.  
The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the UNCTAD.



# LISCoAsT – Large scale Integrated Sea-level and Coastal Assessment Tool: Application for the SIDS

UNCTAD National Workshop Jamaica  
"Climate change impacts and adaptation for coastal transport infrastructure in Caribbean SIDS"

**Michalis Vousdoukas, Lorenzo Mentaschi, Evangelos Voukouvalas, Luc Feyen**

European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy



Joint  
Research  
Centre

1



## Disaster Risk Management Unit Directorate E, Joint Research Centre, EC

### Activity on river floods:

European/Global Flood Awareness System (EFAS/GLOFAS)

Climate change projections (Alfieri L., Rojas R., Feyen L)

### Coastal floods group:

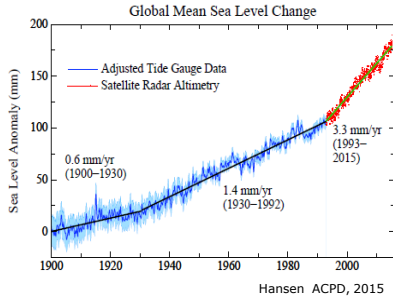
Michalis Vousdoukas, Lorenzo Mentaschi, Evangelos Voukouvalas, Dimitrios Bouziotas, Tomas Montblanc, Georgia Kakoulaki, Francesco Dottori, Luc Feyen



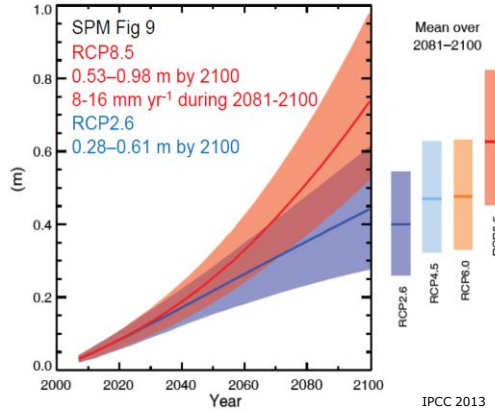
Joint  
Research  
Centre

2

## Sea level rise



- The ocean absorbs >90% of the increase in energy
- Past sea levels under +1.5-2°C were 6-10 m higher than present
- Expansion of sea water per °C of warming is greater at higher temperature and higher pressure

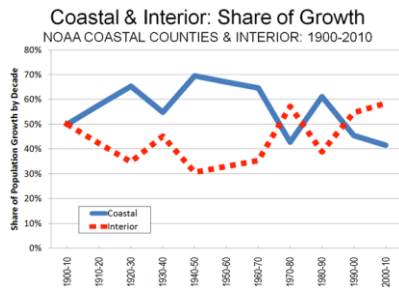


## Are SLR, erosion and flooding the problems?

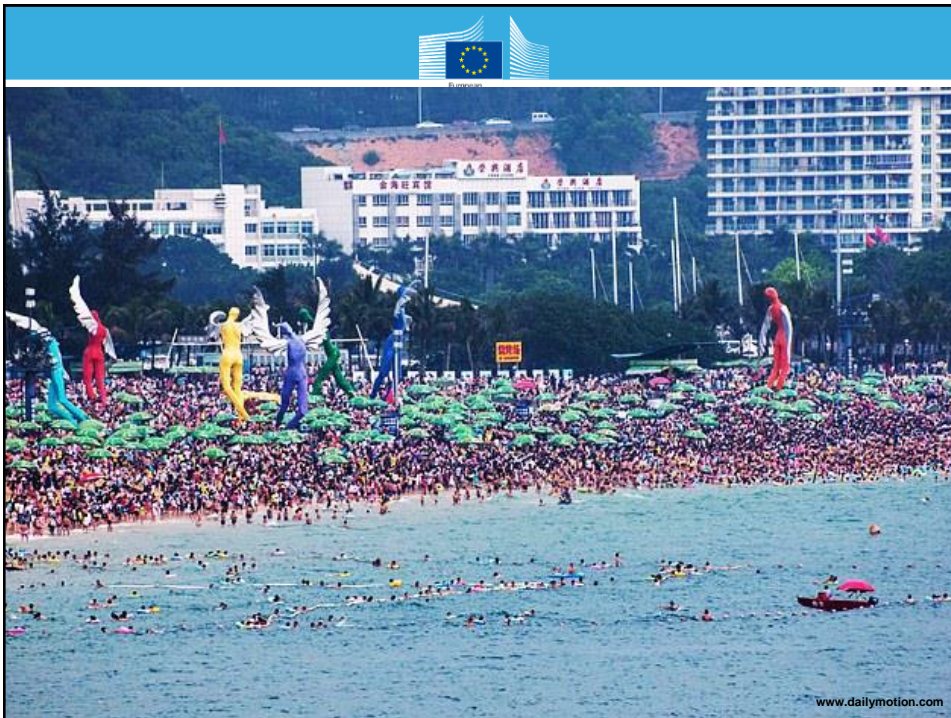
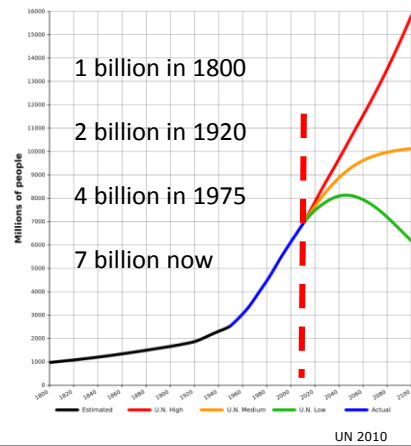


## Population growth

- 44% of global population lives within 100 km of the coast (UN Atlas 2010)
- A great proportion below 10 m elevation
- Population in Jamaica is increasing by 0.2%



Joint Research Centre



www.dailymotion.com

## Pressure on the coast: Population

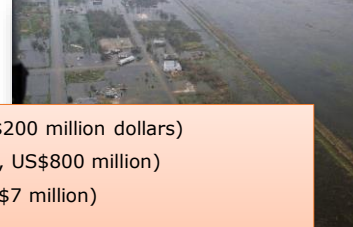


## Pressure on the coast: extreme events

Katrina 2005 1400 dead, 108 billion \$

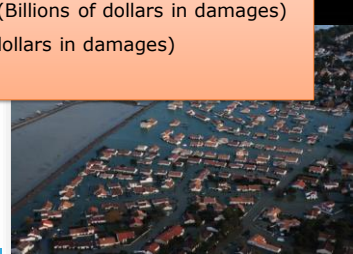


Rita 2005 120 dead, 12 billion \$



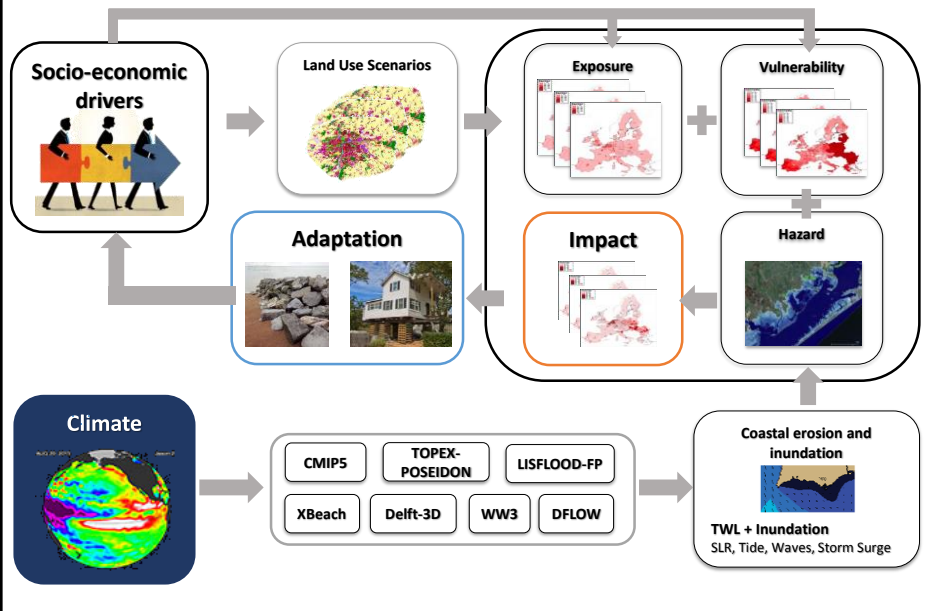
- 1980 Hurricane Allen (8 deaths, J\$200 million dollars)
- 1988 Hurricane Gilbert (45 deaths, US\$800 million)
- 2004 Hurricane Charley (1 death, \$7 million)
- 2004 Hurricane Ivan (17 deaths)
- 2005 Hurricane Dennis and Emily (Billions of dollars in damages)
- 2005 Hurricane Emily (Billions of dollars in damages)
- Nicole 2010 (16 deaths, 240 m \$)

Sandy 20





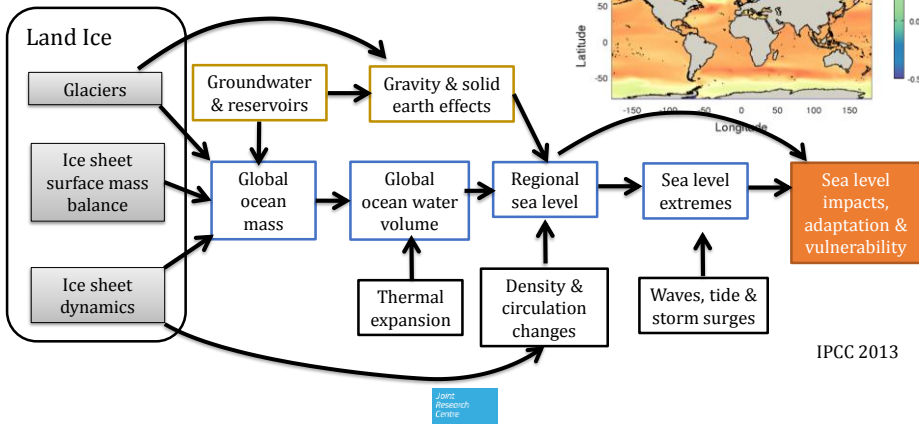
# The LISCoAsT approach



## The LISCoAsT approach HAZARD PROJECTIONS



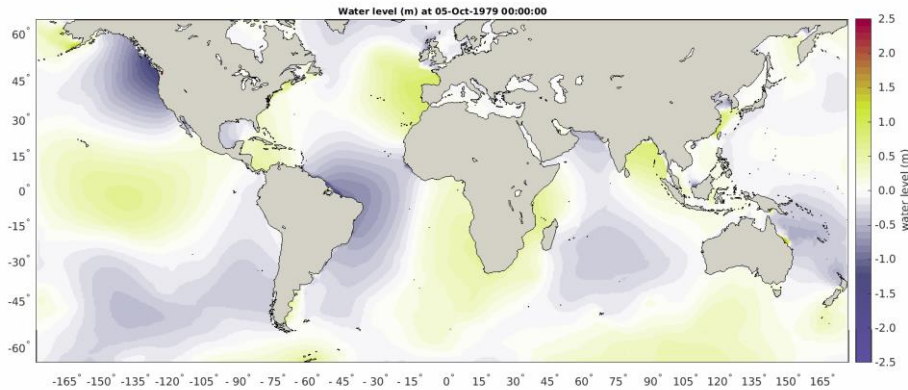
# Sea Level Rise and beyond



## Sea level extremes: Global Storm Surge Model

Model used: DFLOW  
Simulated tidal, wind and pressure driven ocean circulation

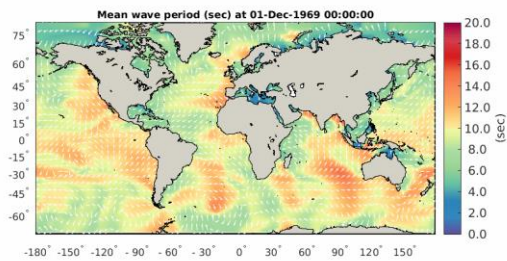
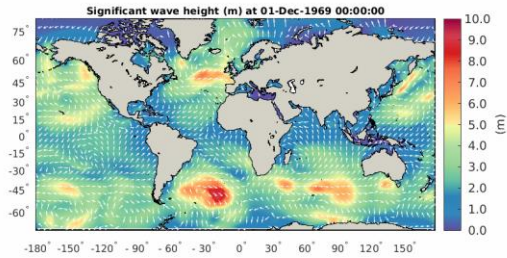
Flexible mesh  
Nearshore resolution 0.11° x 0.05°  
Offshore resolution 0.94° x 0.42°



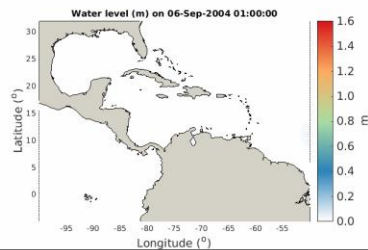
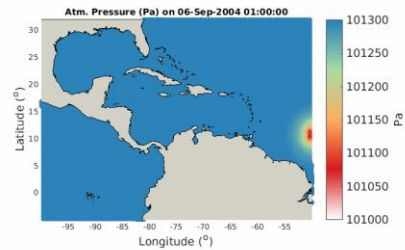
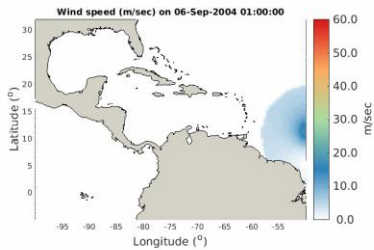


## Sea level extremes: Global wave model

Model used: WaveWatch3 v4.18  
Generates waves from wind fields  
Resolves all wave directions and frequencies  
Considers several parameters including temperature, ice concentration



## Sea level extremes: Tropical cyclones







### Geophysical Research Letters

RESEARCH LETTER  
10.1002/2016GL072488

## Global changes of extreme coastal wave energy fluxes triggered by intensified teleconnection patterns

Lorenzo Mentaschi<sup>1</sup>, Michalis I. Vousdoukas<sup>1,2</sup>, Evangelos Voukouvalas<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Dosio<sup>1</sup>, and Luc Feyen<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Ispra, Italy, <sup>2</sup>Department of Marine Sciences, University of the Aegean, Mitilene, Greece

- Key Points:**
- Extreme waves will change along a large portion of the coasts generally increasing in the S. Hemisphere and decreasing in the N. Hemisphere
  - The projected changes of extreme waves can be explained with a projected intensification of climatic patterns such as AAO, ENSO, and NAO

**Supporting Information:**  
• Supporting Information S1

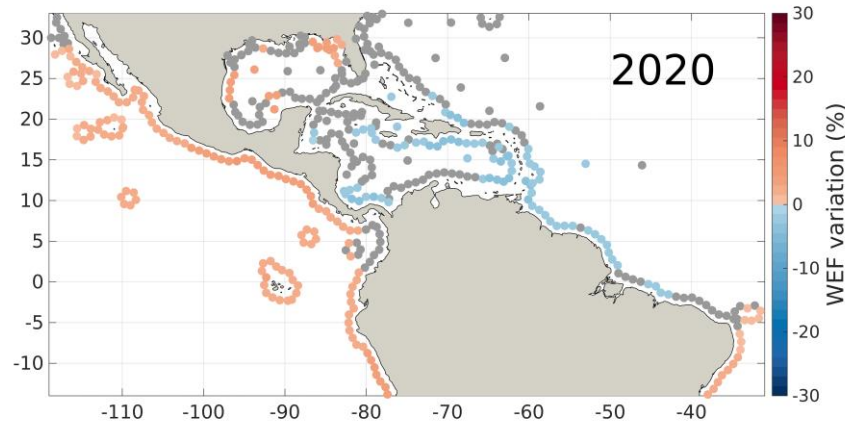
**Correspondence to:**  
L. Mentaschi,  
lorenzo.mentaschi@ec.europa.eu

**Citation:**  
Mentaschi, L., M. I. Vousdoukas, E. Voukouvalas, A. Dosio, and L. Feyen

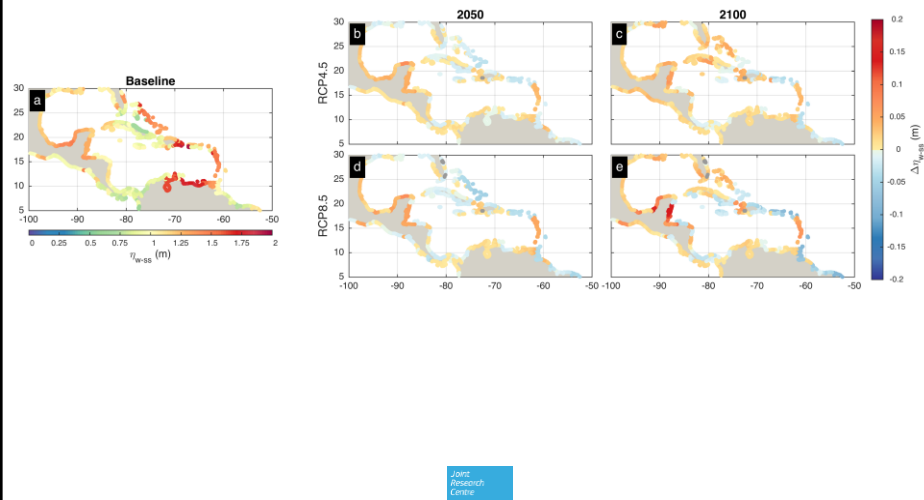
**Abstract** In this study we conducted a comprehensive modeling analysis to identify global trends in extreme wave energy flux (WEF) along coastlines in the 21st century under a high emission pathway (Representative Concentration Pathways 8.5). For the end of the century, results show a significant increase up to 30% in 100 year return level WEF for the majority of the coastal areas of the southern temperate zone, while in the Northern Hemisphere large coastal areas are characterized by a significant negative trend. We show that the most significant long-term trends of extreme WEF can be explained by intensification of teleconnection patterns such as the Antarctic Oscillation, El Niño–Southern Oscillation, and North Atlantic Oscillation. The projected changes will have broad implications for ocean engineering applications and disaster risk management. Especially low-lying coastal countries in the Southern Hemisphere will be particularly vulnerable due to the combined effects of projected relative sea level rise and more extreme wave activities.



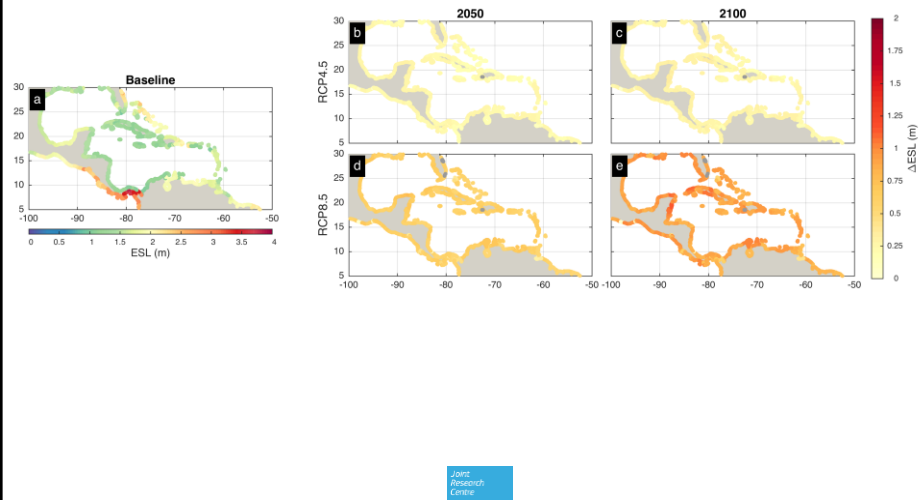
## Caribbean TWL projections: Waves



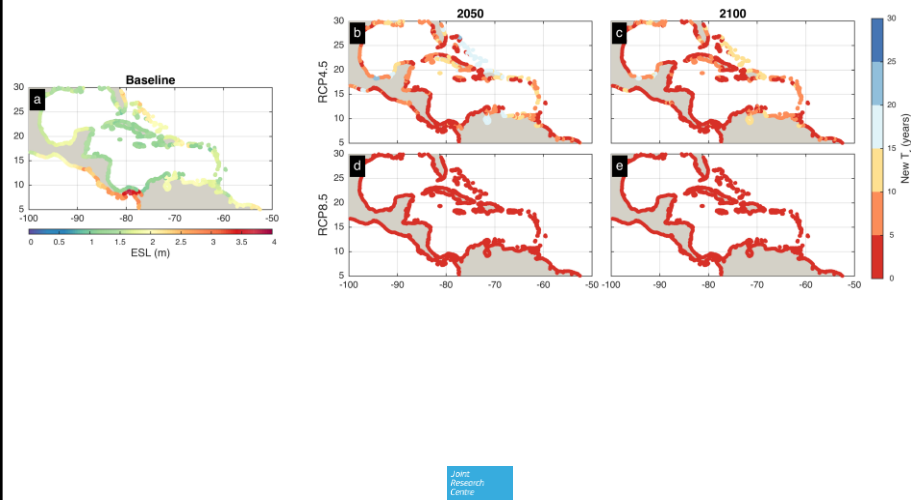
## Caribbean TWL projections: Waves and storm surge



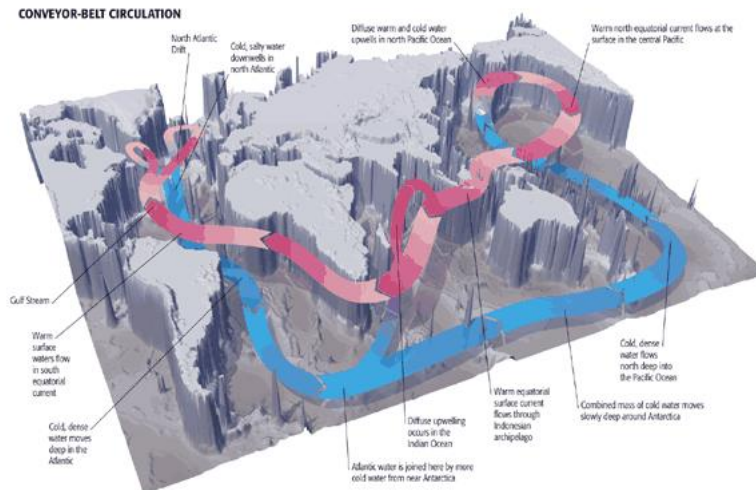
## Caribbean TWL projections: All components



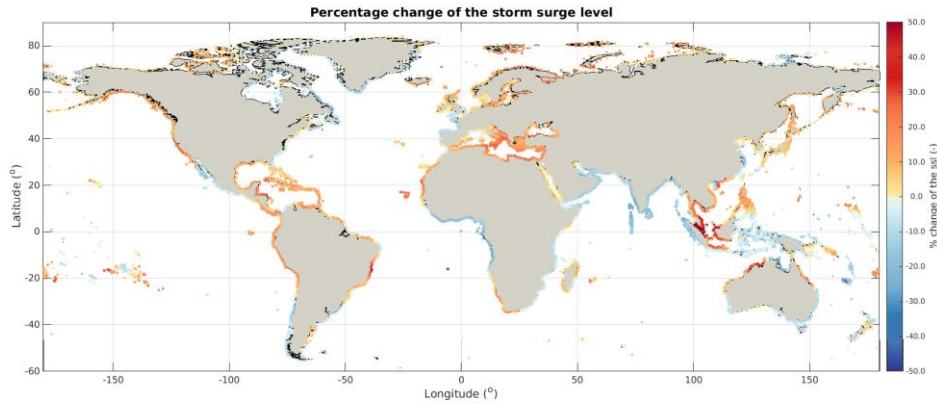
## Caribbean TWL projections: Changes in frequency



## Climate tipping points: Thermohaline circulation

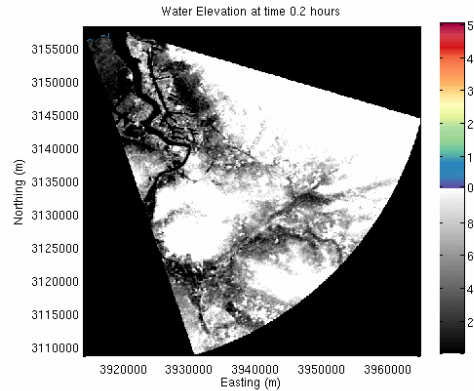
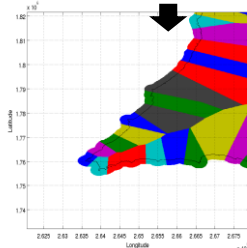


## Climate tipping points: Thermohaline circulation



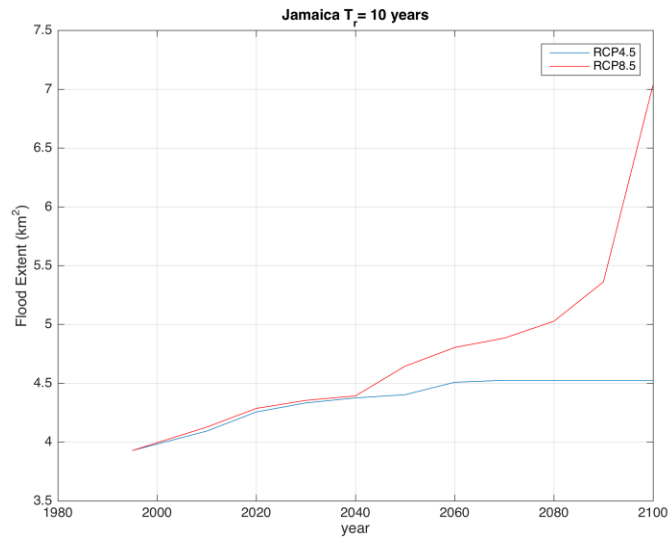
## Coastal Inundation on continental scales

- TWL components estimated every 25 km of coast
- SRTM DEM
- Similarly coastline and all data divided in 25 km long segments, extending 50 km inland



$$\eta_{TWL} = \eta_{MSL} + RSLR + \eta_{tide} + \eta_{stormsurge} + \eta_{wave}$$

## Flood extent projections for Jamaica

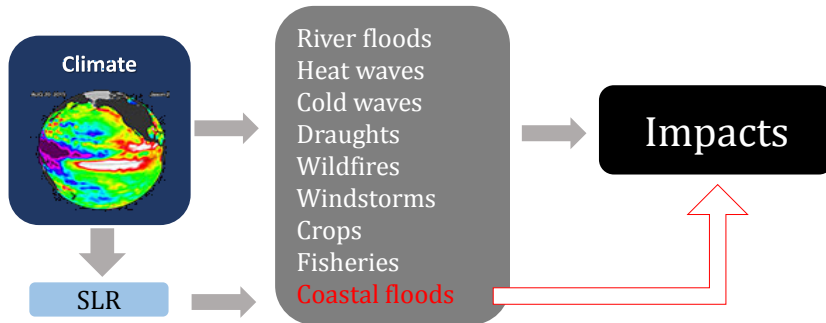


Closing Remarks

**SUMMARY AND WORK IN PROGRESS:  
METHODOLOGICAL GAPS, IDEAS, CRITICAL QUESTIONS**

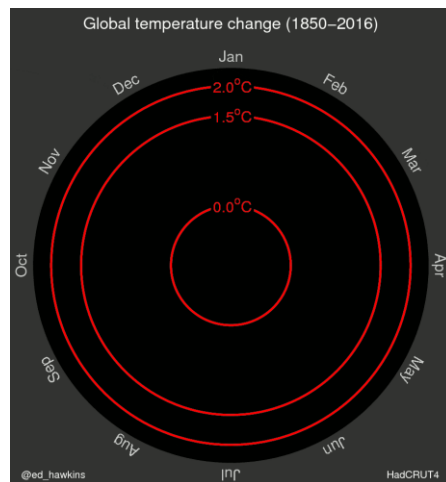
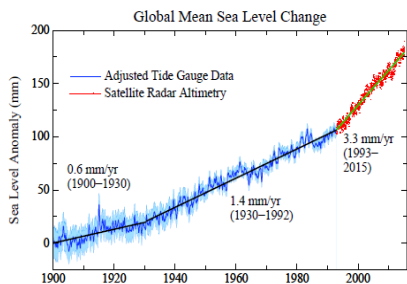


## What is really at stake?



## What is really at stake?

- The ocean absorbs >90% of the increase in energy
- Past sea levels under +1.5-2°C were 6-10 m higher than present
- Expansion of sea water per °C of warming is greater at higher temperature and higher pressure



## What is really at stake?

- Projections indicate an order of magnitude increase of direct impacts by the end of the century
- Without considering tipping points
- Without considering indirect impacts
  - Business interruption
  - Ecology
  - Sector interactions
  - Criticality of transport hubs
  - Etc....

## Intangible/indirect impacts



[www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)



	Coastline (km)	GDP	Expenses	GDPratio
Jamaica	894	14	0.7599	5.43%
NL	2000	752	1.7	0.23%

## Adaptation and social justice



James G. Titus and Michael Craghan (2009)



<http://porterbriggs.com/>

- Need to acknowledge the challenging nature of coastal adaptation in view of climate change
- Urgency of moving towards the direction of a timely response, taking coordinated and fair measures

Thank you very much...

