

Trócaire

Climate Justice and Policy Coherence for Development in Ireland

www.trocaire.org

**Working for
a just world.**

Overview

1. The links between Climate Justice and International Development
 - Evidence of the impacts of climate change
 - Ireland's responsibility
2. What policy responses are necessary?
 - Institutional framework for tackling climate change
 - Sectoral responses
 - Institutional mechanisms for PCD

1. Why climate justice is a priority for us?

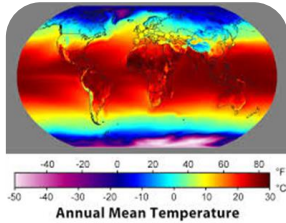
Developing countries are the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change

It is an issue of *justice* because it is those who have done the least to create the problem who are being hit the hardest

The *scale of the threat*: it is a game-changer: dictates what will be possible for development



The science: climate change already experienced




- The last three decades are the warmest on record
- Global temperature has risen 0.9C in the last century



- Global sea level risen by 20cm in the last century



- Increase in extreme events and disasters
- Erratic rainfall, intense rainfall

A photograph of a family of four sitting on a large, weathered log in a dry, open landscape. The father, wearing a green and red patterned shirt and dark pants, sits on the right, holding a young child in a light green shirt. The mother, wearing a light blue shirt and a red patterned skirt, sits on the left, holding a young child in a light blue shirt. The background shows sparse, dry vegetation and a cloudy sky. The ground is covered in dry sticks and twigs.

“The rains are getting worse every year”

The Ngera Family



“Before, the floods were not like now. It was possible to produce enough to eat. Now it is different.”

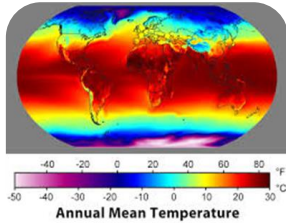
The Macaniji’s



“We were left without a home, without anything”

The Figueroa-Mártir family

The science: future climate change



- By 2050 a further rise of 1.4-2.6C if carbon emissions continue to rise as they are today.
- 2.6-4.8C higher than today by 2100 if left unchecked.

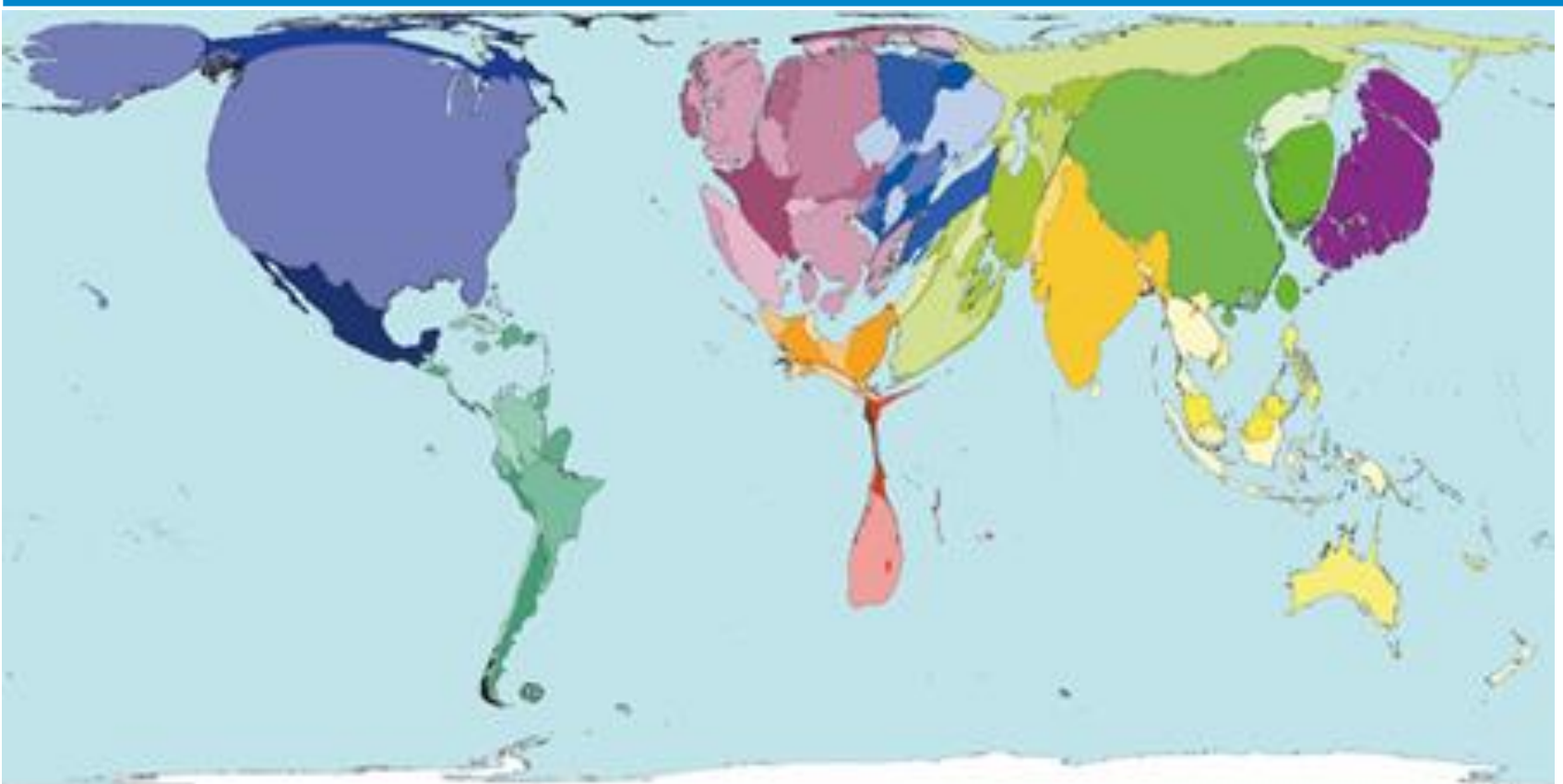


- Sea level rise will be 45-82cm higher than now by 2100 if nothing is done to curb emissions.



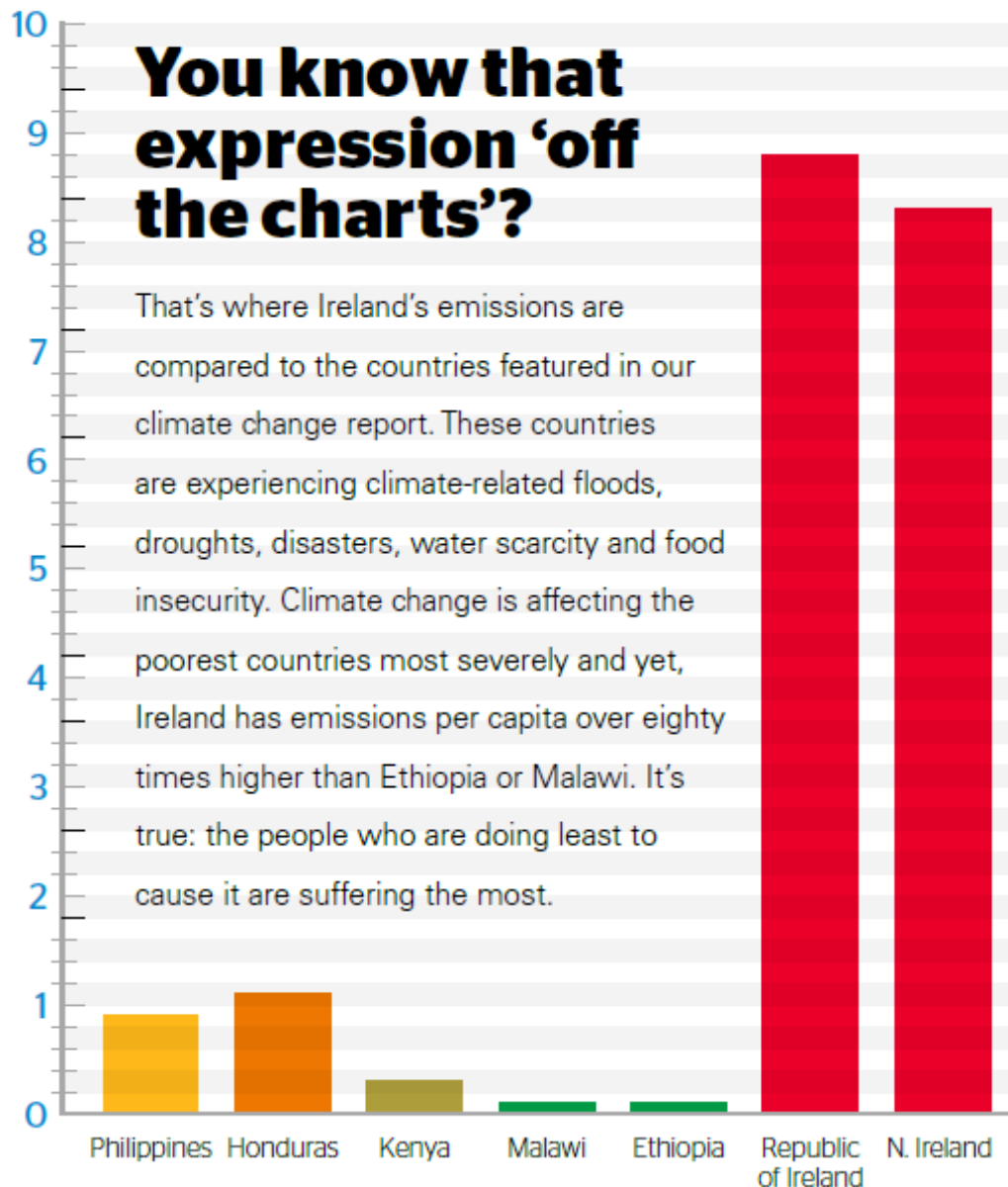
- Global agriculture production will decline by 2% a year, and by up to 22% in Southern Africa by 2050
- In Africa alone the population at risk of increased water stress is projected to be between 75-250 million by 2020 and 350-600 million by the 2050s.

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita



You know that expression 'off the charts'?

CO₂ emissions per capita (metric tonnes)



That's where Ireland's emissions are compared to the countries featured in our climate change report. These countries are experiencing climate-related floods, droughts, disasters, water scarcity and food insecurity. Climate change is affecting the poorest countries most severely and yet, Ireland has emissions per capita over eighty times higher than Ethiopia or Malawi. It's true: the people who are doing least to cause it are suffering the most.

Sources:

<http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.ATM.CO2E.PC>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/322822/20140624_Full_Dataset.xlsx

Ireland's track record

- Kyoto target: 13% increase from 1990 in 2008-12
- Kyoto performance: complied with Kyoto largely due to impact of recession
- Target for 2020: 20% reduction by 2020
- Performance: EPA projects only 5-12% by 2020 – significantly off-track
- Target for 2030: still tbc share of EU 40% by 2030
- Performance: EPA projects emissions *rising* by 2030

2. Policy Responses on Climate Justice

a) Institutional framework for climate policy

Set overall ambition for climate action (mitigation & adaptation) including measurement, accountability, reporting and compliance

b) Sectoral policies

Policies/measures in energy, transport, agriculture, finance etc. to ensure targets for climate action (mitigation & adaptation) are met

c) Institutional mechanisms on PCD

Mechanisms to ensure that all policy-making is compliant with PCD commitments of Ireland and the EU

a. Institutional framework for climate action

- **International (UNFCCC), Regional (EU) and Domestic**
- UNFCCC: est. 1992. Still working towards objective
- The Kyoto Protocol: aimed to bring global emissions back to 1990 levels, with 5% reductions by developed countries, US not part of it.
- Attempt to negotiate a new global agreement to succeed Kyoto Protocol ended in failure in Copenhagen, 2009.
- Currently: negotiations towards global agreement: by December 2015 in Paris at UN COP21.

Institutional framework cont...

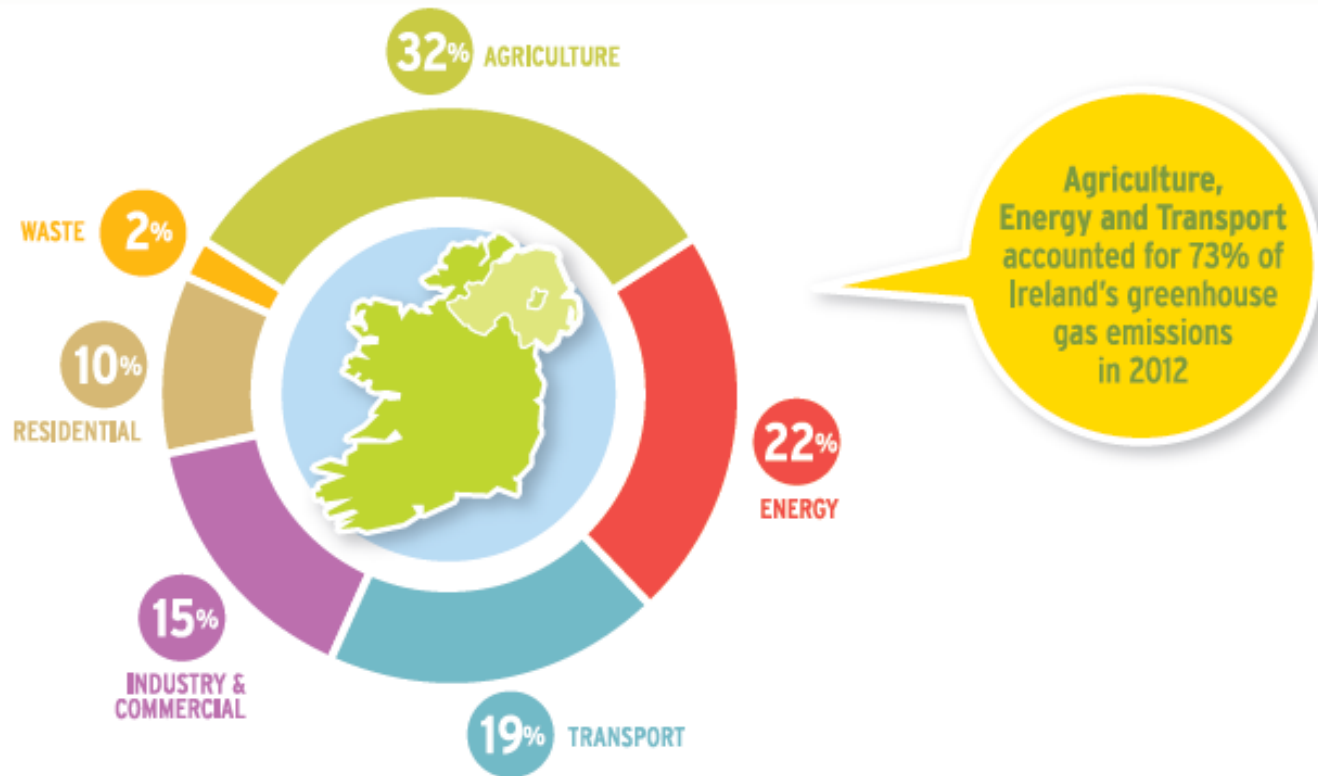
- The European Union represents Ireland within the UNFCCC and commits Ireland to binding climate action
- The EU's target under the Kyoto Protocol was an overall 8% reduction (Ireland's share of this an increase of 13%)
- EU 2020 Targets: overall EU 20% (Ireland 20%)
- EU 2030 Climate and Energy Package: overall EU ghg reduction target of at least 40%, (Ireland's share still tbd)

Institutional framework cont...

- The National Climate Change Strategy 2007-12 (now expired) we've operated without a strategy since 2012
- Legislation on Climate Change: “Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill” currently before Oireachtas
- **Strengths:** puts on a statutory basis the requirement to produce 5 year mitigation action plans, and puts in place mechanisms of reporting and accountability to the Dáil and public scrutiny
- **Needs improvement:** 2050 target, definition of low carbon, independence of the expert council to advise the government, including ‘climate justice’ and the timeframe

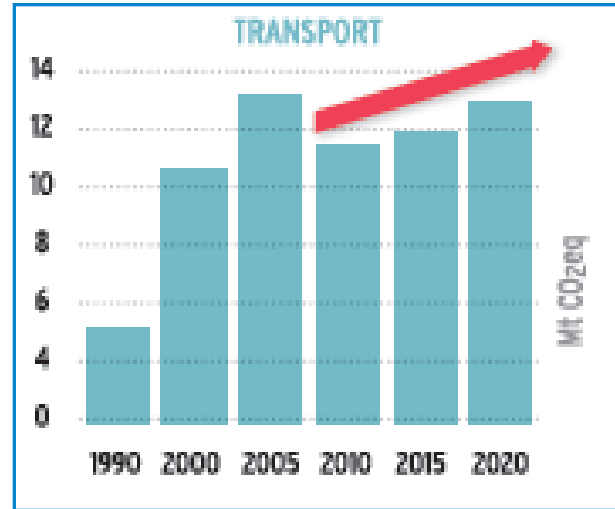
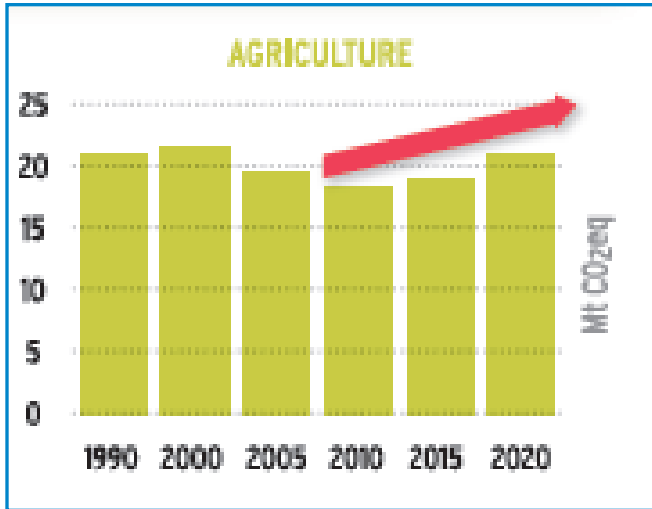
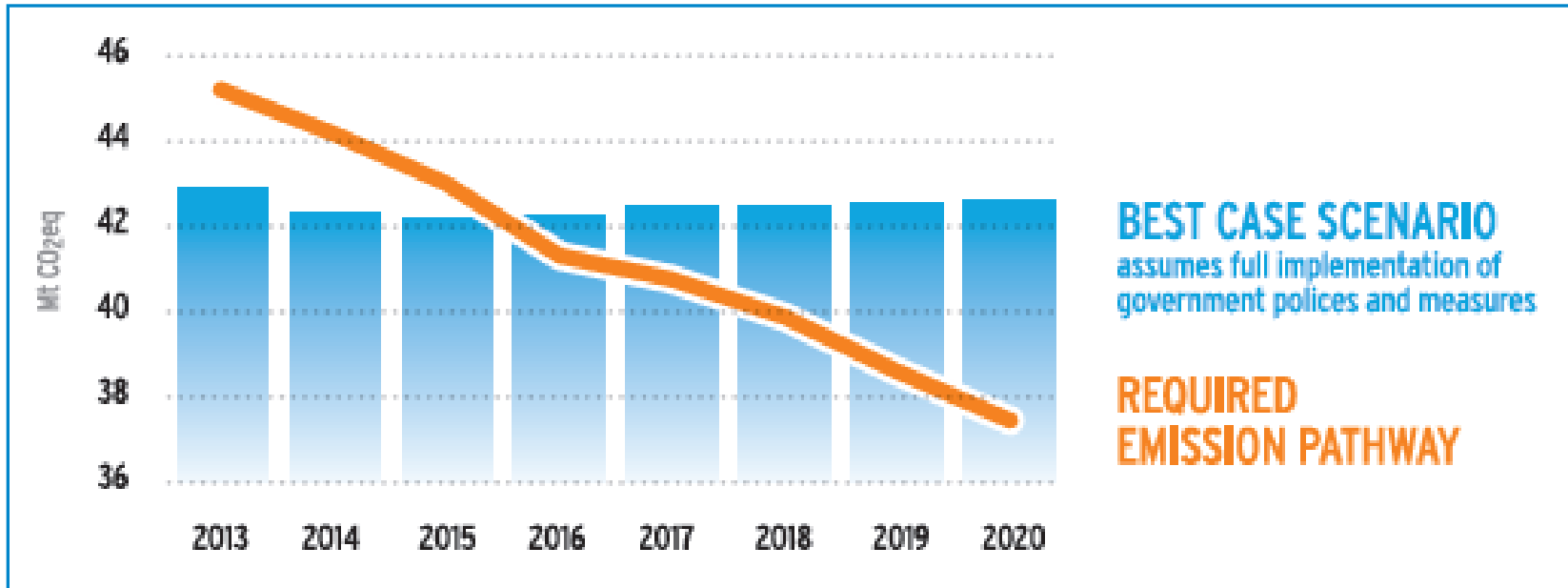
b. Sectoral Policies

In Ireland our emissions profile breaks down as:



Sectoral Policies (cont)

- We have a national policy position (published November 2014 in parallel with the draft Climate Bill) to reduce emissions from buildings, transport and energy by 80% compared to 1990 levels by 2050 and to achieve carbon neutrality in agriculture.
- But we lack the sectoral plans that set out the policies and measures for achieving these kind of emission reductions



Sectoral Policies

- Climate Change Bill an essential first step
- Policies and measures will need to be developed, and will need to address:
 - Shift away from fossil fuels towards 100% renewables (while avoiding unintended consequences, e.g biofuels)
 - Tackling overall emission reductions in agriculture in addition to the current preference for emission intensity
 - Tackling consumption as well as production, e.g. addressing areas such as food waste, dietary demand
 - Energy efficiency and effective planning in the areas of transport and buildings

c. Policy Coherence for Development (PCD)

- **Basis in Article 208 of Lisbon Treaty:**
- “Union development cooperation policy shall have as its primary objective the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty. The Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries.”
- “The Union and the Member States shall comply with the commitments and take account of the objectives they have approved in the context of the United Nations and other competent international organisations.”
- **Irish Commitment:**
- “In the coming period we will specify areas where coherence can be enhanced, as well as indicators to track performance... We will also promote greater coherence of EU policies.” One World, One Future (2013)
- Specific mechanisms: biennial report on PCD to JCFAT; Inter-Departmental Committee on Policy Coherence.

c. Policy Coherence for Development

- Recommendations:
 - Assign responsibility to Dept. of Taoiseach
 - Establish strong national monitoring and evaluation framework
 - Develop focal points across departments
 - Promote parliamentary oversight and legislative Competencies
 - Facilitate Partner Country Engagement
 - Promote engagement with civil society

Thank You!

Trócaire

**Working for
a just world.**

Trócaire is the overseas development agency
of the Catholic Church in Ireland.

www.trocaire.org