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Relevance of the Rome Statute for the Environmental
Challenges faced by Small Pacific Islands related to
Oceans and Climate

31st May 2019, Port Vila, Vanuatu
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Mobilising criminal law to protect people and planet



Arnold Kiel Loughman, Attorney General, Vanuatu and Polly Higgins, Assembly of State Parties, International Criminal Court, The Hague, 2016

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Climate Crime

What is new is the call for ecocide crime to include climate ecocide. Climate crime is when Carbon Majors – the biggest carbon and methane producers in the world – cause ecocide that exacerbates climate breakdown.

As part of the decision to adopt the Paris Agreement, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was invited to produce a Special Reports on limiting gas emissions to a 1.5°C cap; it concluded that to do so shall require 'rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes' in order to avert climate breakdown.

This is the challenge we seek to address.





Building a sea wall in Okaba village, Meranti, West Papua in Indonesia.

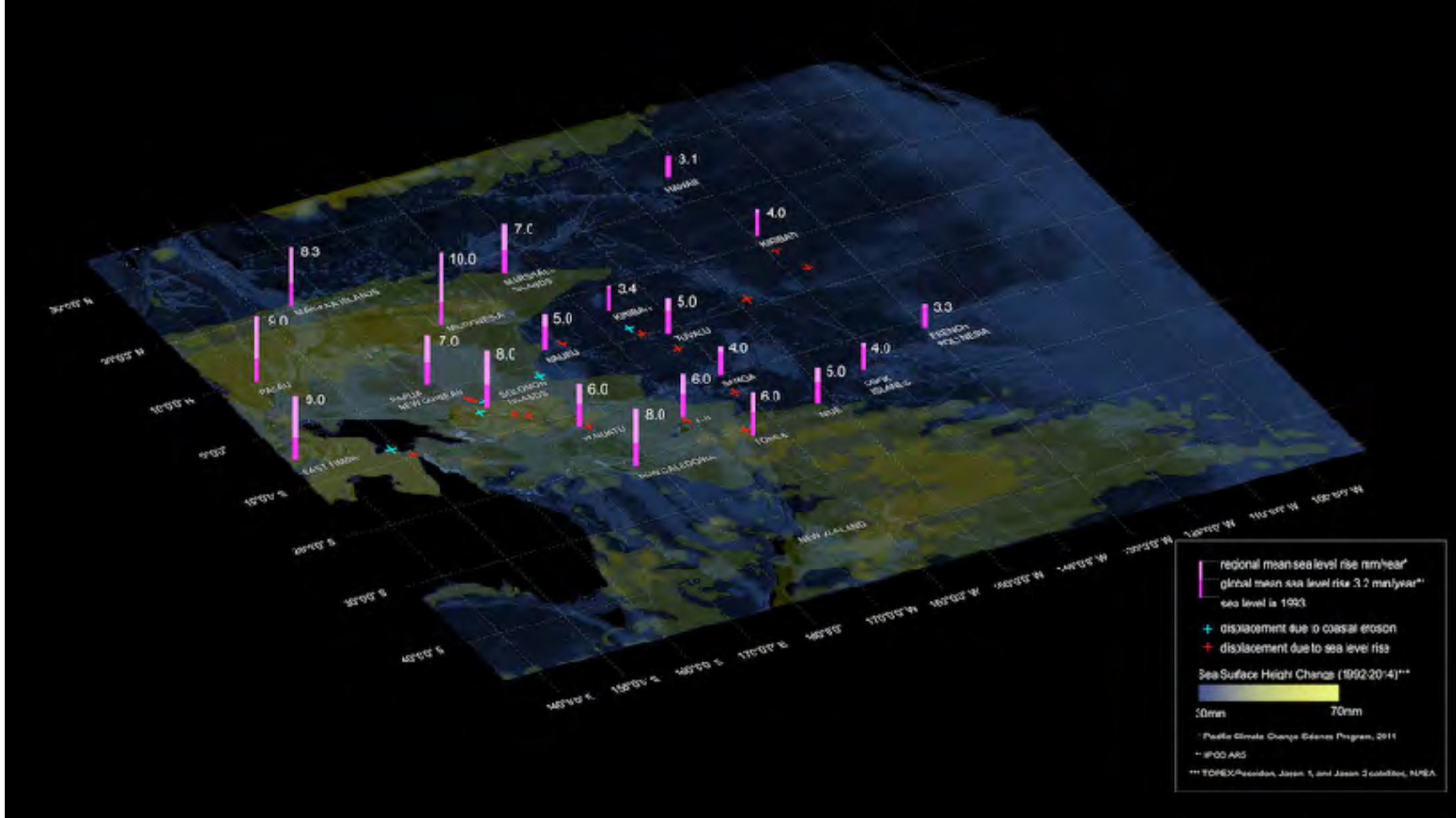


Caritas Kiriwani Youth Group planting mangroves to protect their coastline in South Tarawa.

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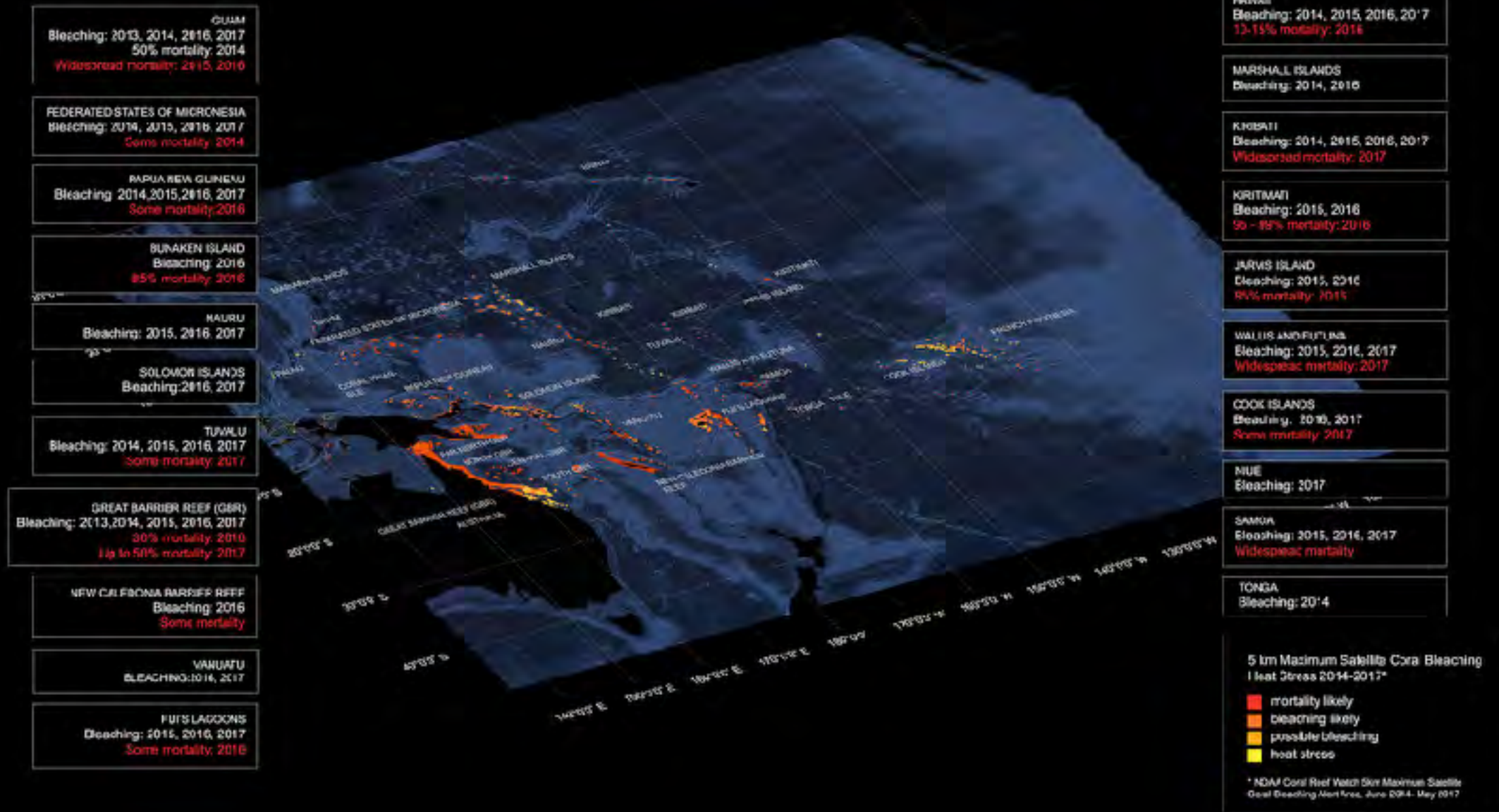
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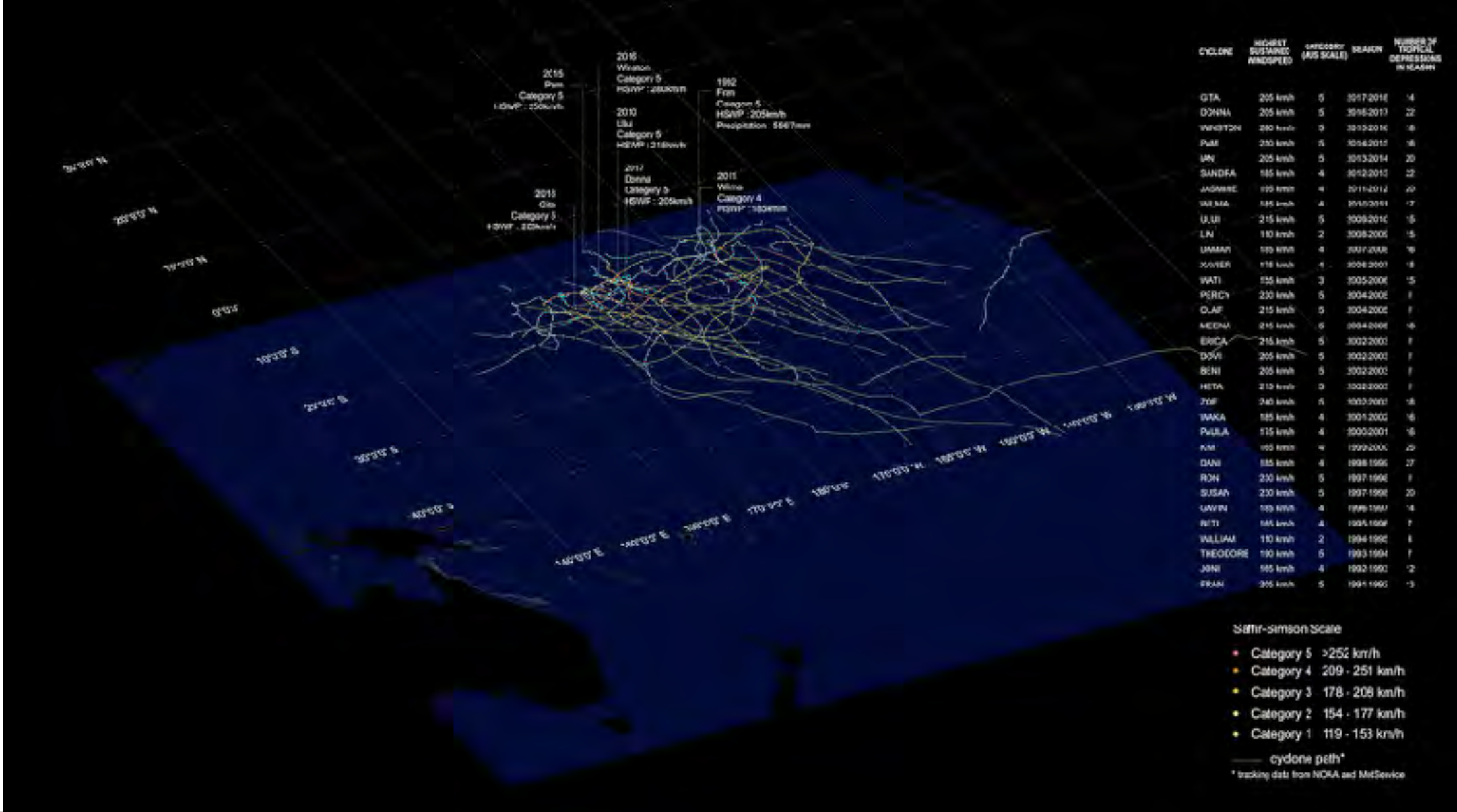
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Cyclone Pam - 24 confirmed ...

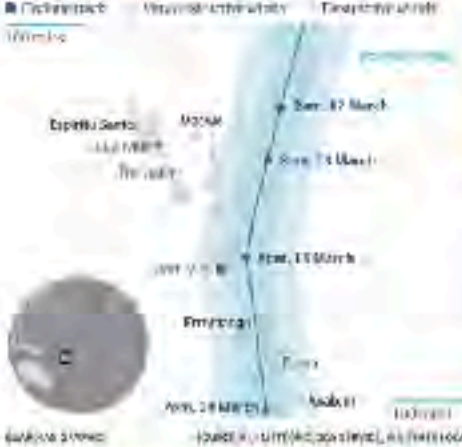
https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/10/vanuatu-president-blames-climate-change-for-extreme...

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"It's a setback for the government and for the people of Vanuatu," he said. "After all the development that has taken place, all this development has been wiped out."

Vanuatu: Cyclone Pam

Cyclone Pam Vanuatu's weather Vanuatu's climate



Lonsdale said the cyclone seasons that the nation had experienced were directly linked to climate change. "We see the level of sea rise ... The cyclone seasons, the warm, the rain, all this is affected," he said. "This year we have more than in any year ... Yes, climate change is contributing to this."

"I am very emotional ... Everyone has that same feeling. We don't know what happened to our families ... We cannot reach our families; we do not know if our families are safe. As the leader of the nation, my heart hurts for the people of the whole nation."

Anote Tong, the president of Kiribati, also at the conference, urged action: "It is time to act ... Let us match the rhetoric of these international gatherings with pledges and commitments as leaders to do our best to improve conditions and lives of those who need it most."

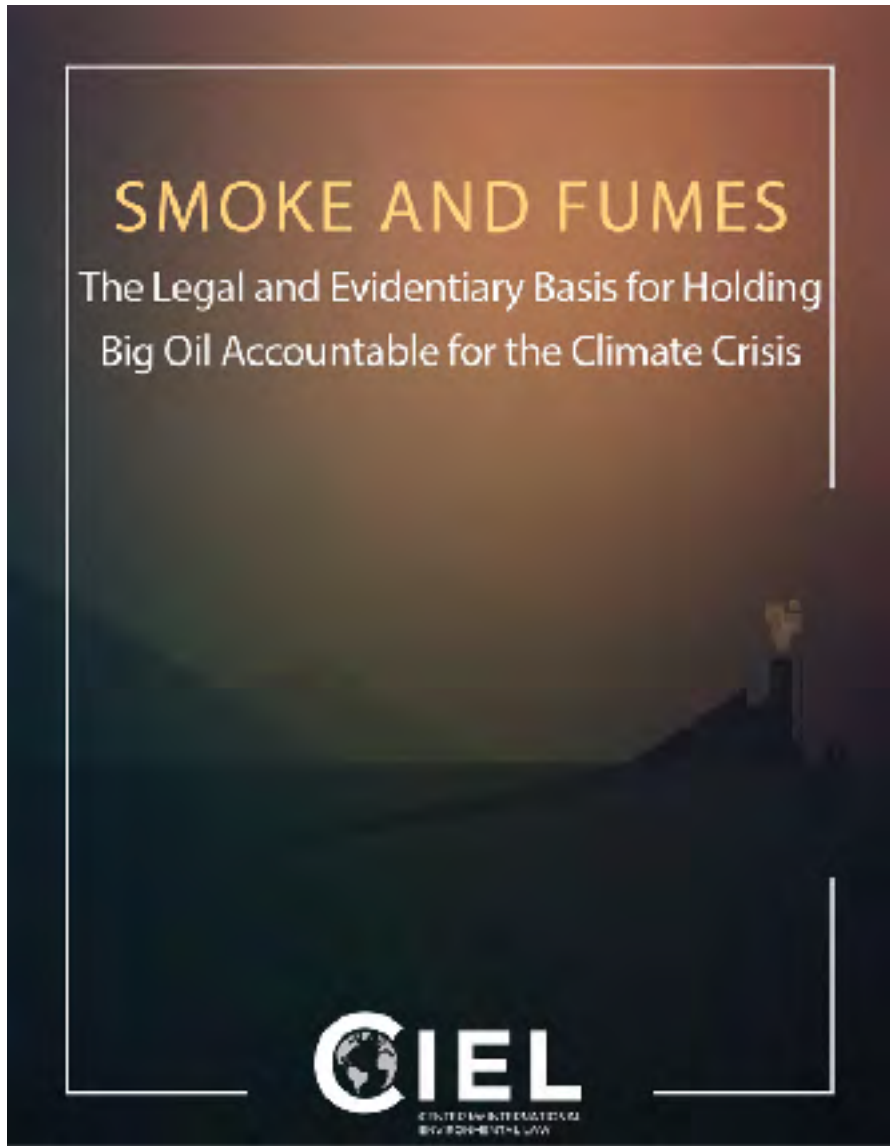
The aid agency Care International said it had just received its first update from another of the nation's 83 islands, Tanna, to the south of Port Vila, which was even more directly in the path of the storm.

Tom Perry from the organisation said he had talked to a colleague newly arrived on Tanna: "The basic information he gave us was that the damage in

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The Carbon Majors Database

CDP Carbon Majors Report 2017

100 fossil fuel producers and users responsible for 71% of greenhouse gas emissions



CDP Report July 2017
Cover for this report

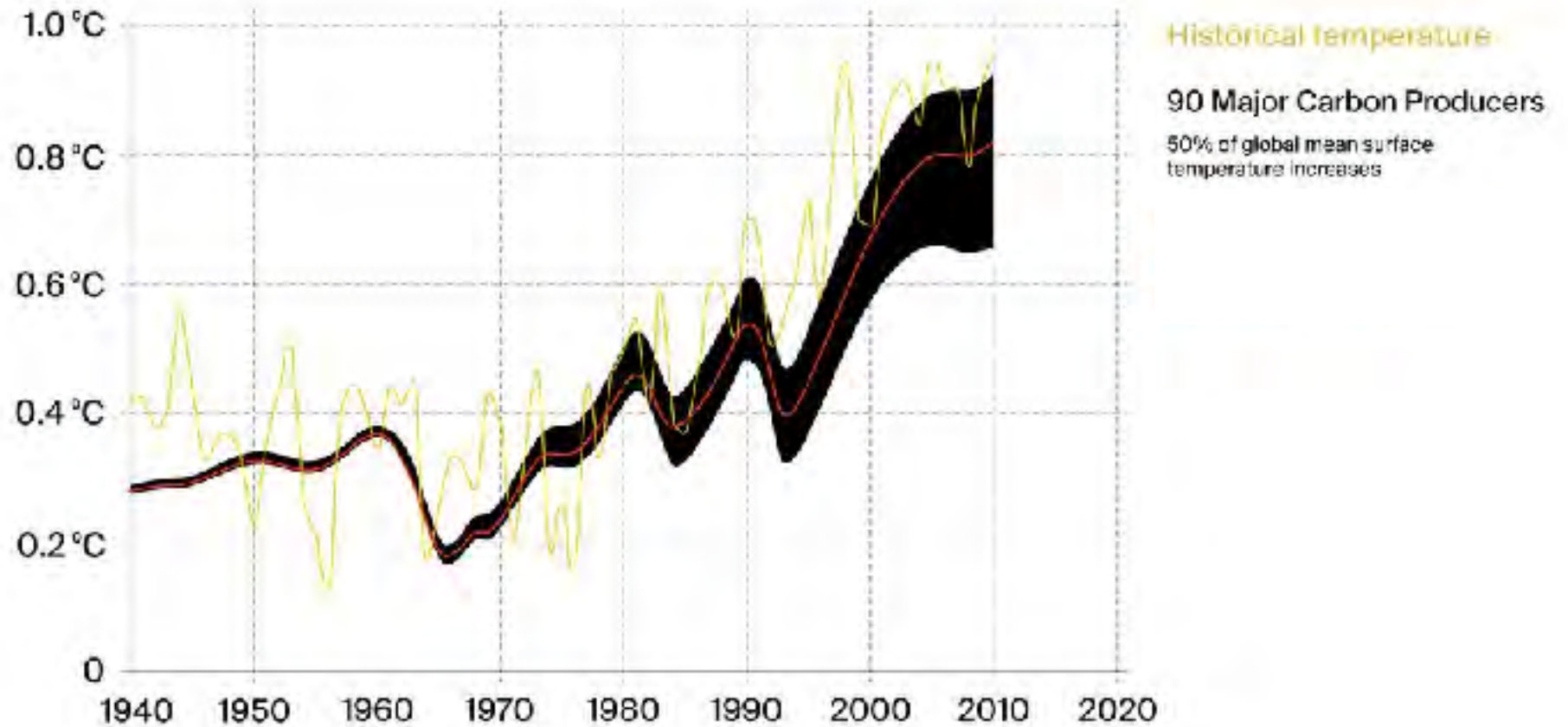
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Temperature Change



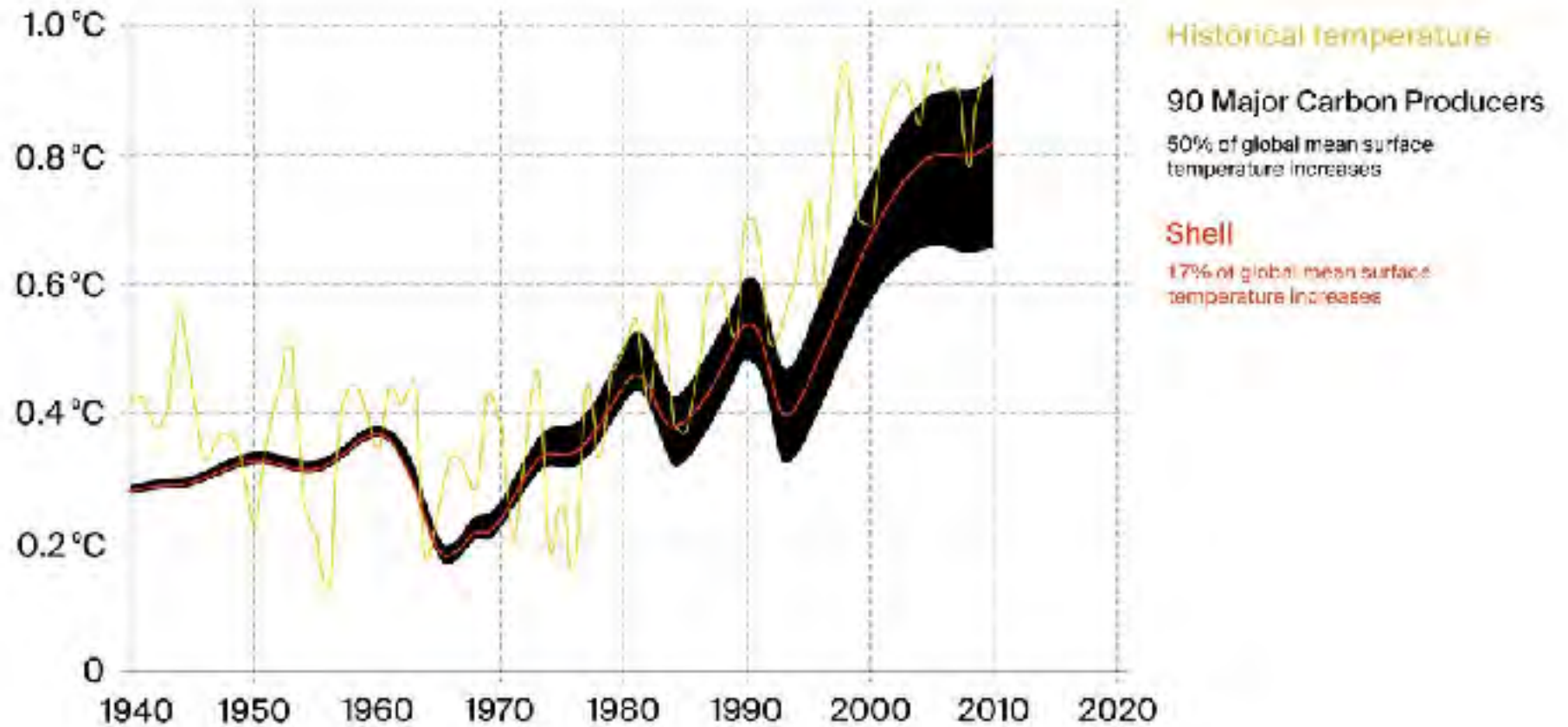
Adopted from Ekwurzel et al. (2018)

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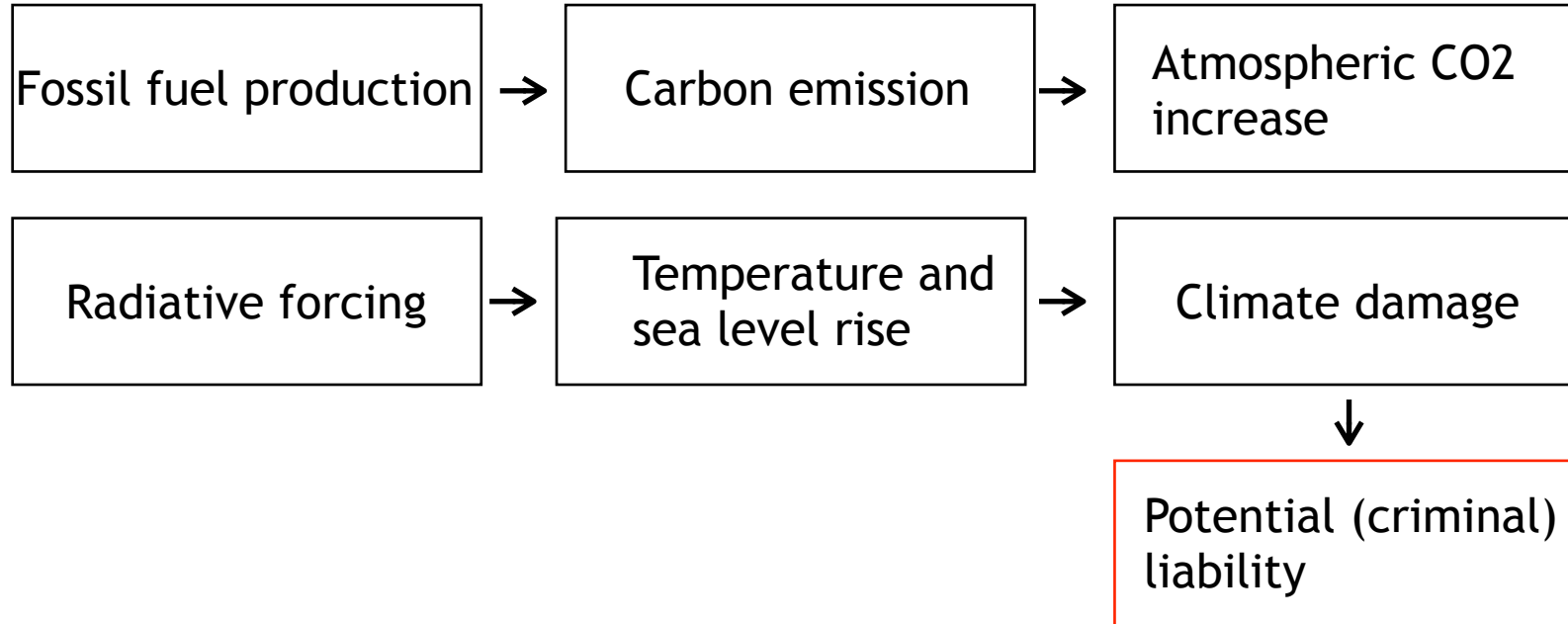
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Adopted from Ekwurzel et al. (2018)





Adopted from Climate Accountability Institute (2017)

