

Core concepts for climate change thinking in the Olifants River catchment

Ancois de Villiers and Sharon Pollard



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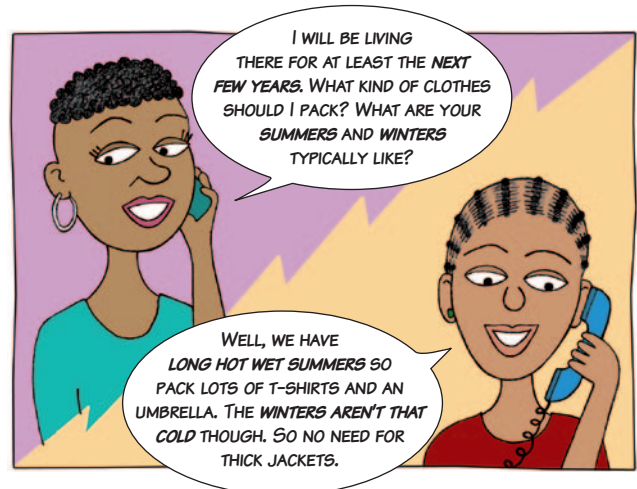
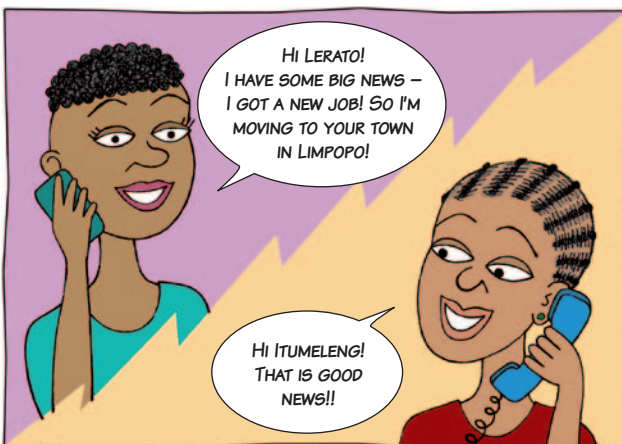
What is weather?

Weather is the pattern of rainfall and temperature over **a short period of time** (i.e. just a few days, and up to a week). The weather can change from day-to-day.



What is climate?

Climate is the expected pattern of rainfall and temperature over **a long period of time** (i.e. seasons, years, decades...). Climate is the overall rainfall and temperature patterns we expect to experience in the different seasons and in different regions, e.g. cold dry winters and hot wet summers in Limpopo, compared to cold wet winters and hot dry summers in the Western Cape.



What is climate change?

Climate change is **“beyond what we would expect”**. Climate change is when we see changes in the once expected pattern of rainfall and temperature over a long period of time. This is when things are “odd”, e.g. the rains arriving late, consecutive winters being unusually warm, and droughts and floods becoming more frequent and intense.

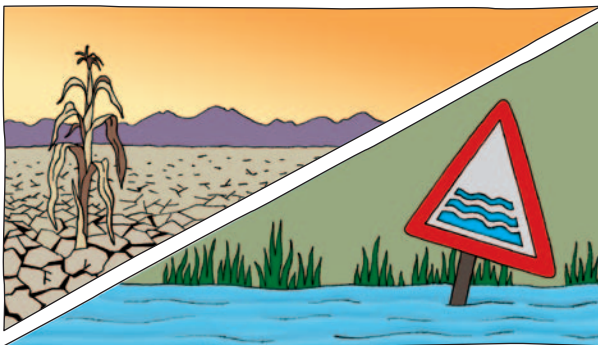


What has changed about our local climate?



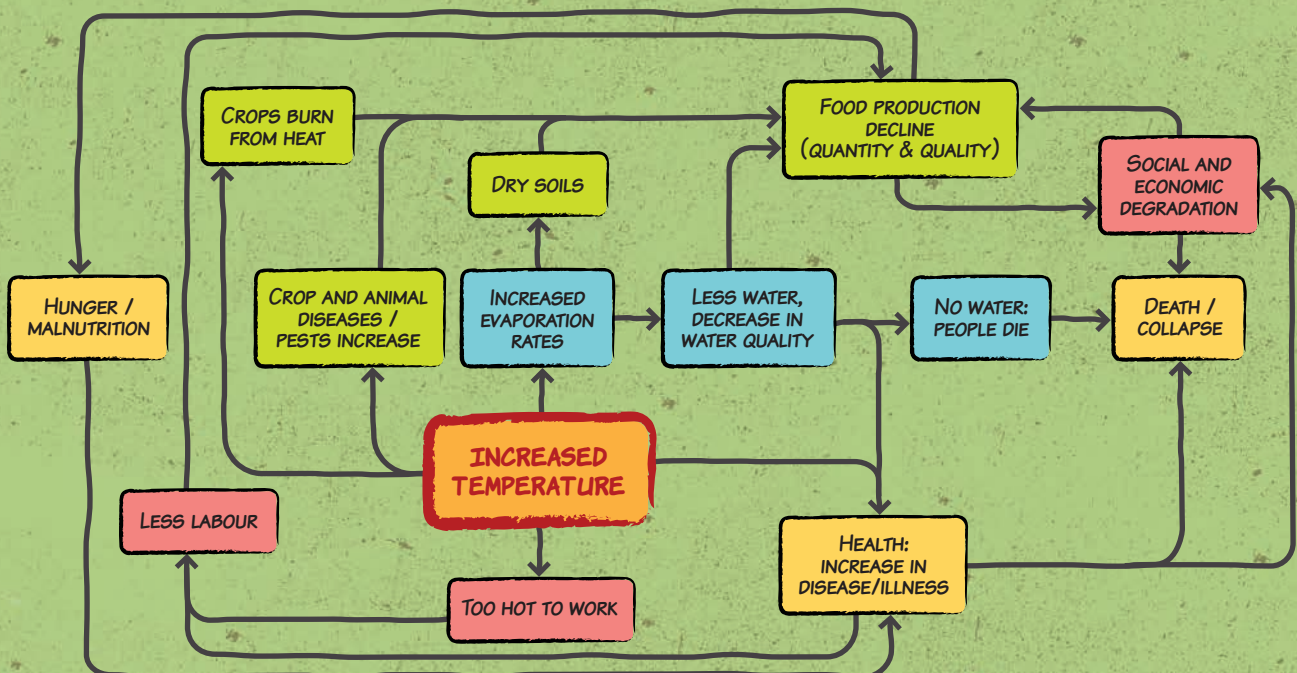
Temperatures have increased and are highly likely to continue to increase.

Rainfall patterns are expected to become more unclear and erratic.



Extreme events are expected to become more frequent and intense, including floods, droughts and "unusual" events.

What are the impacts of climate change?





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The Association for Water and Rural Development

AWARD is a non-profit organisation specialising in participatory, research-based project implementation. Their work addresses issues of sustainability, inequity and poverty by building natural-resource management competence and supporting sustainable livelihoods. One of their current projects, supported by USAID, focuses on the Olifants River and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems to sustain livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment.

P O Box 1919, Hoedspruit 1380, Limpopo, South Africa

T 015-793 0503 **W** award.org.za

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About USAID: RESILIM-O

USAID: RESILIM-O focuses on the Olifants River Basin and the way in which people living in South Africa and Mozambique depend on the Olifants and its contributing waterways. It aims to improve water security and resource management in support of the healthy ecosystems that support livelihoods and resilient economic development in the catchment. The 5-year programme, involving the South African and Mozambican portions of the Olifants catchment, is being implemented by the Association for Water and Rural Development (AWARD) and is funded by USAID Southern Africa.

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Sharon Pollard
sharon@award.org.za

Ancois de Villiers
ancois@award.org.za

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