



# Cascading risks from climate change for infectious diseases in Europe

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# CLIMATE CHANGE



Exposure

Severe weather

Extreme heat

Air pollution

Water contamination & quantity

Changes in vector ecology

Environmental degradation

Rising sea levels

Food supply and safety

Selected health risks

Injuries, fatalities, drowning

Heat-related mortality and morbidity, CVD

Asthma, allergies, CVD

*Human/ Social/ Financial/ Physical/ Natural Capital*

Dehydration, Infections with: *Campylobacter, Cholera, Cryptosporidium, Vibrio, etc.*

Chikungunya, dengue, Lyme disease, malaria, Rift Valley fever, West Nile fever

Civil conflict, physical and mental health

Displacement, drowning

Malnutrition, diarrheal diseases

*Human/ Social/ Financial/ Physical/ Natural Capital*



# Cascading risk pathways from climate change for waterborne diseases

# Cascading risks from climate change for waterborne diseases

- A heavy rain event can potentially trigger a **cascading event** with other consequences of **significant magnitude**, even larger than the initial rain event.
- Such cascading effects are a function of the magnitude of the **existing vulnerabilities** in society rather than of the **initial hazard**.

**Heavy rain**

**Storm runoff**

**Mobilizes & transports  
pathogens**

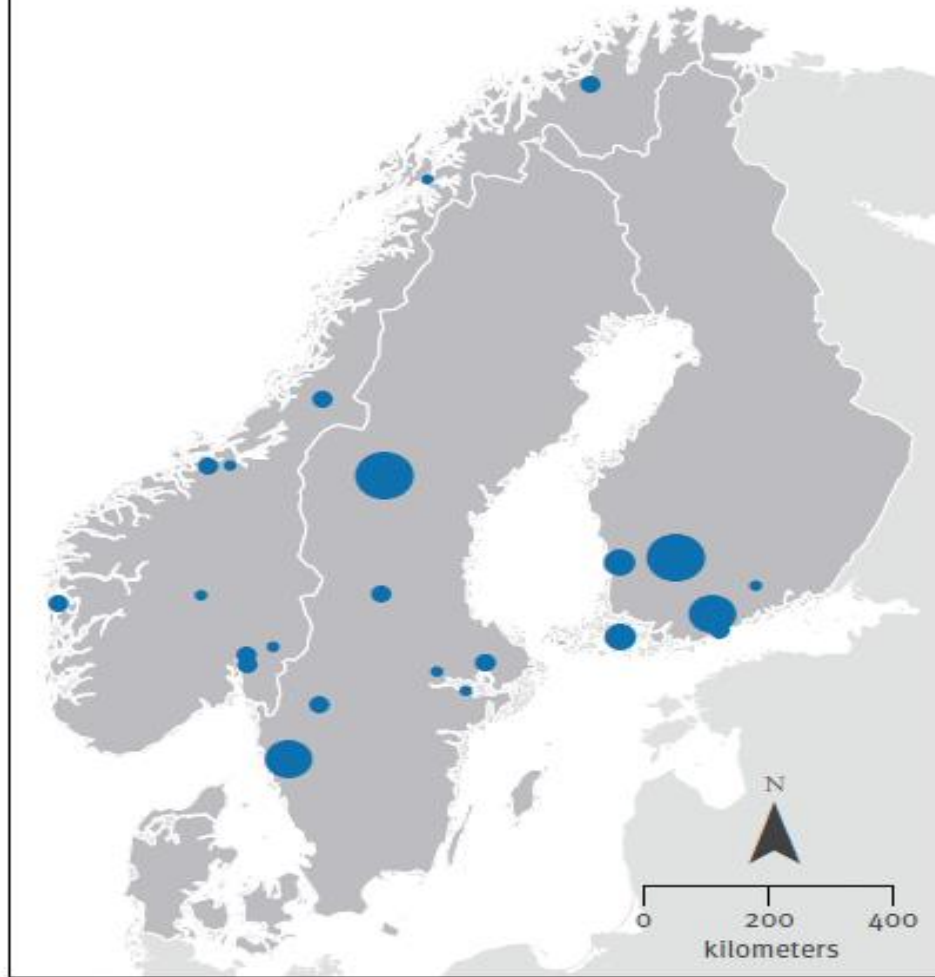
**Waterborne outbreaks**



# Seasonal distribution of waterborne outbreaks by size of outbreak, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, 1998–2012

Summer

Autumn



# Association between heavy precipitation events and waterborne outbreaks in four Nordic countries, 1992–2012

- Matched case-control study
- Epidemiological registries of waterborne **outbreaks**
- **Meteorological** data between 1992 and 2012 from four Nordic countries:
  - Central Weather Station
  - Gridded precipitation data
- **Heavy precipitation** events were defined by above average (exceedance: **95 percentile**) daily rainfall during the preceding week using local references



# Association between waterborne outbreaks and exceedance precipitation during the previous week

Sample	Cases						Week 1 prior to outbreak (1-7 days)			
	N (exceedance days)			Controls			1 day		≥ 2 days	
	0	1	2+	0	1	2+	OR (95% CI)	p	OR (95% CI)	p
All	26	51	12	88	249	19	1.39 (0.82-2.37)	<b>0.219</b>	<b>3.06 (1.38-6.78)</b>	<b>0.006</b>
Spring-summer	20	34	9	57	184	11	1.81 (0.96-3.42)	0.069	<b>4.27 (1.61-11.55)</b>	<b>0.004</b>
Autumn-winter	6	17	3	31	65	8	0.75 (0.27-2.04)	0.570	1.45 (0.34-6.13)	0.613
Groundwater	22	36	8	62	189	13	1.80 (0.99-3.29)	0.055	<b>3.13 (1.20-8.17)</b>	<b>0.020</b>
Surface water	2	12	3	17	47	4	0.43 (0.09-2.06)	0.29	3.23 (0.63-16.61)	0.160
Single household	5	10	5	19	57	4	1.43 (0.44-4.65)	0.549	<b>8.64 (1.58-47.11)</b>	<b>0.013</b>
Municipal/private	20	37	7	66	176	14	1.41 (0.76-2.60)	0.277	2.31 (0.87-6.14)	0.092

**Heavy rain**

**Floods**

**Damage critical water  
supply**

**Waterborne outbreaks**



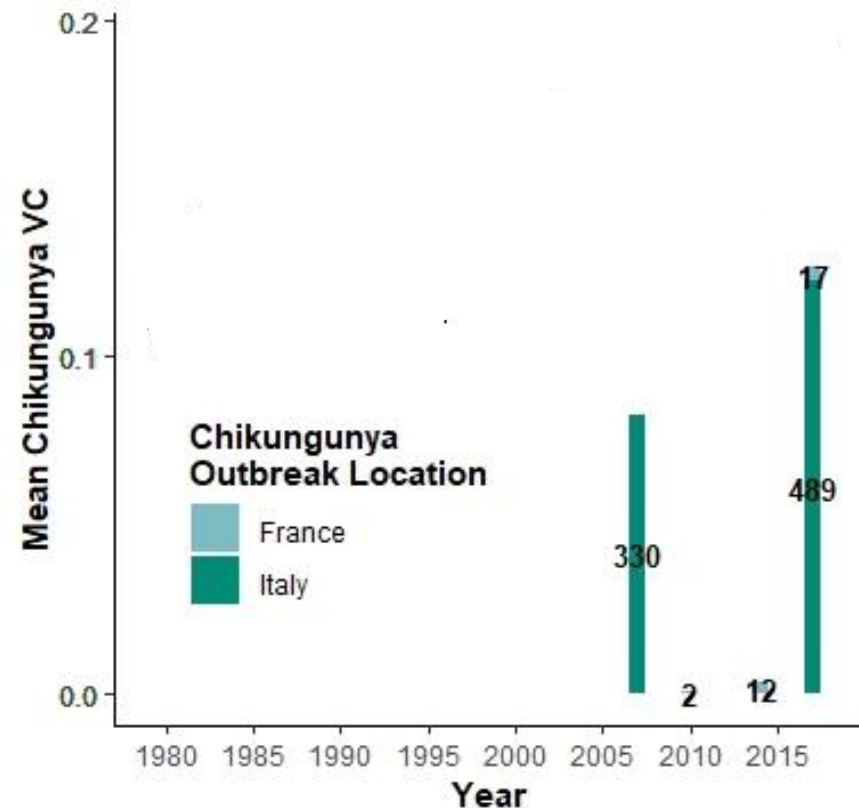
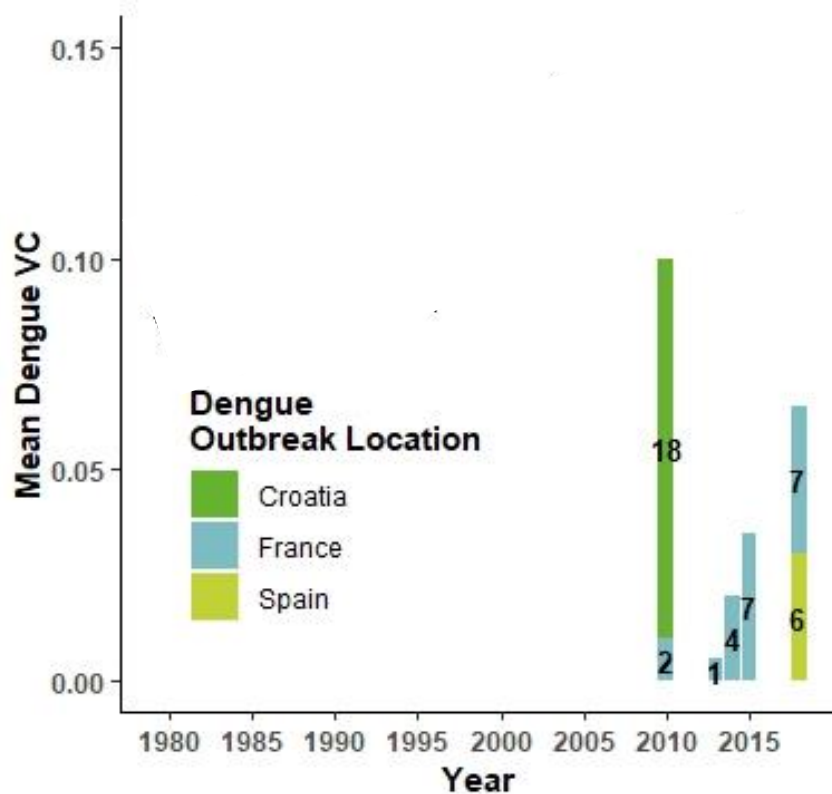
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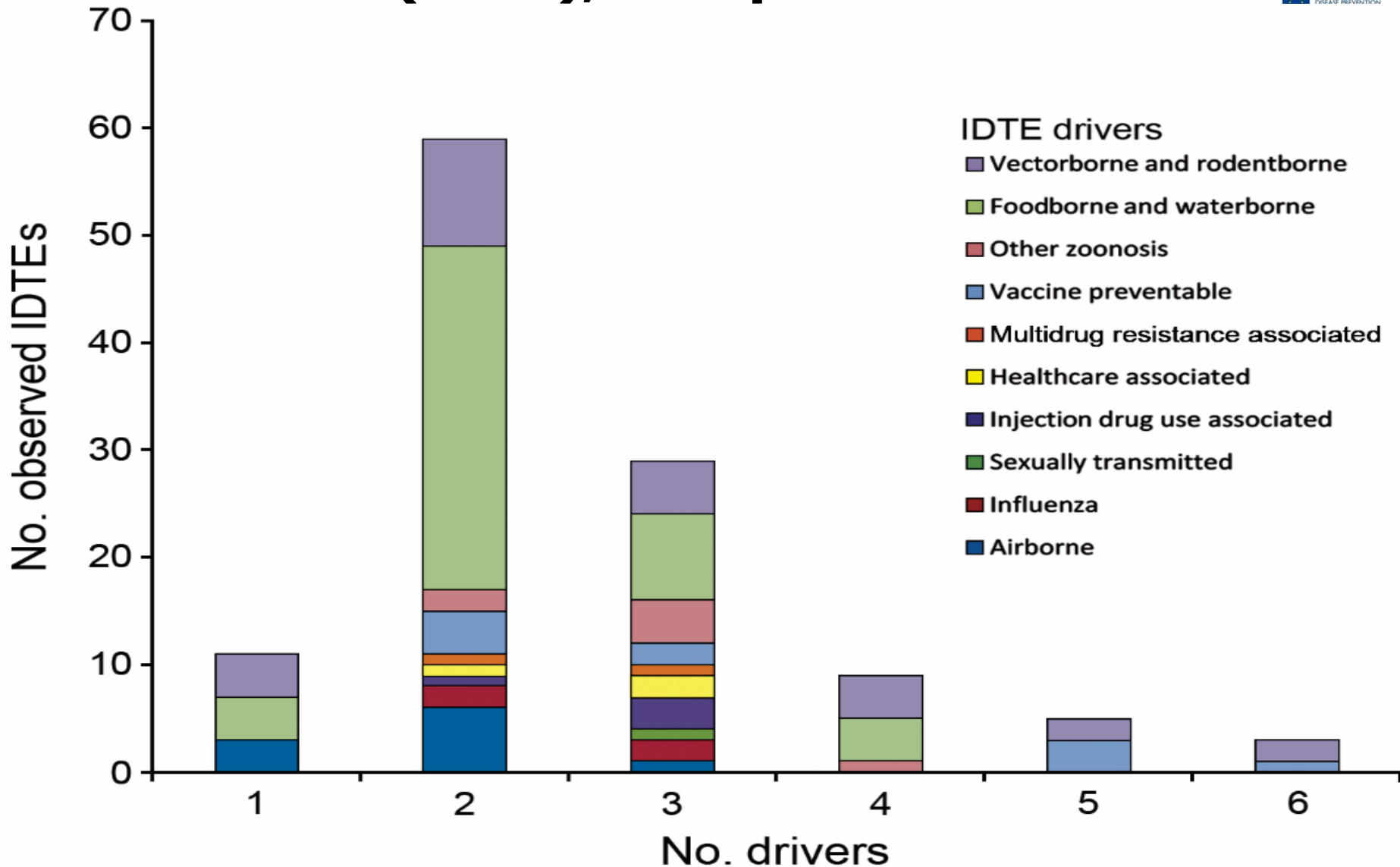
# Cascading risk pathways from climate change for vector-borne diseases



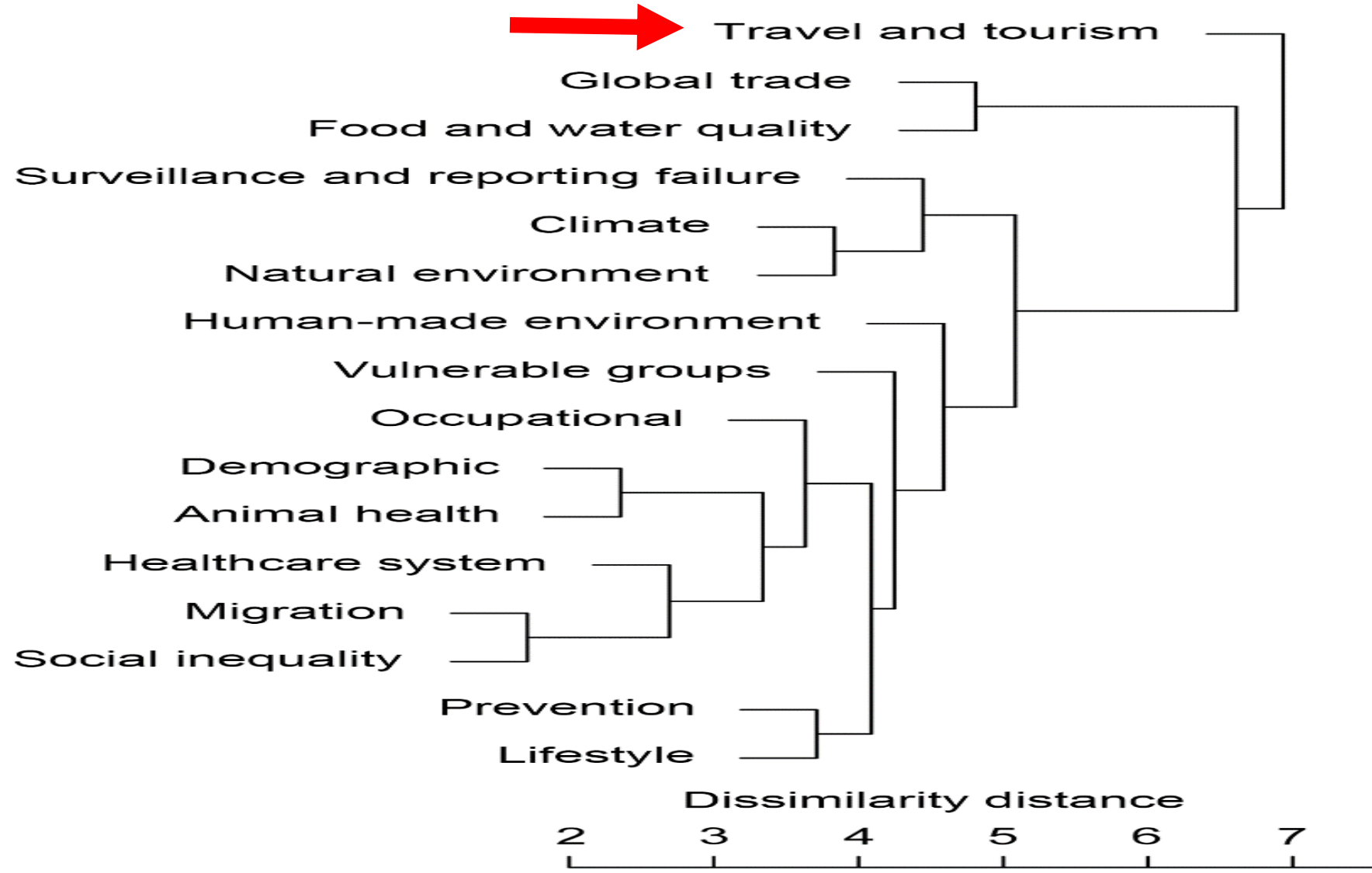
# Have dengue and chikungunya outbreaks in Europe increased due to the warming climate?



# Number of drivers for infectious disease threat events (IDTE), Europe 2008-2013

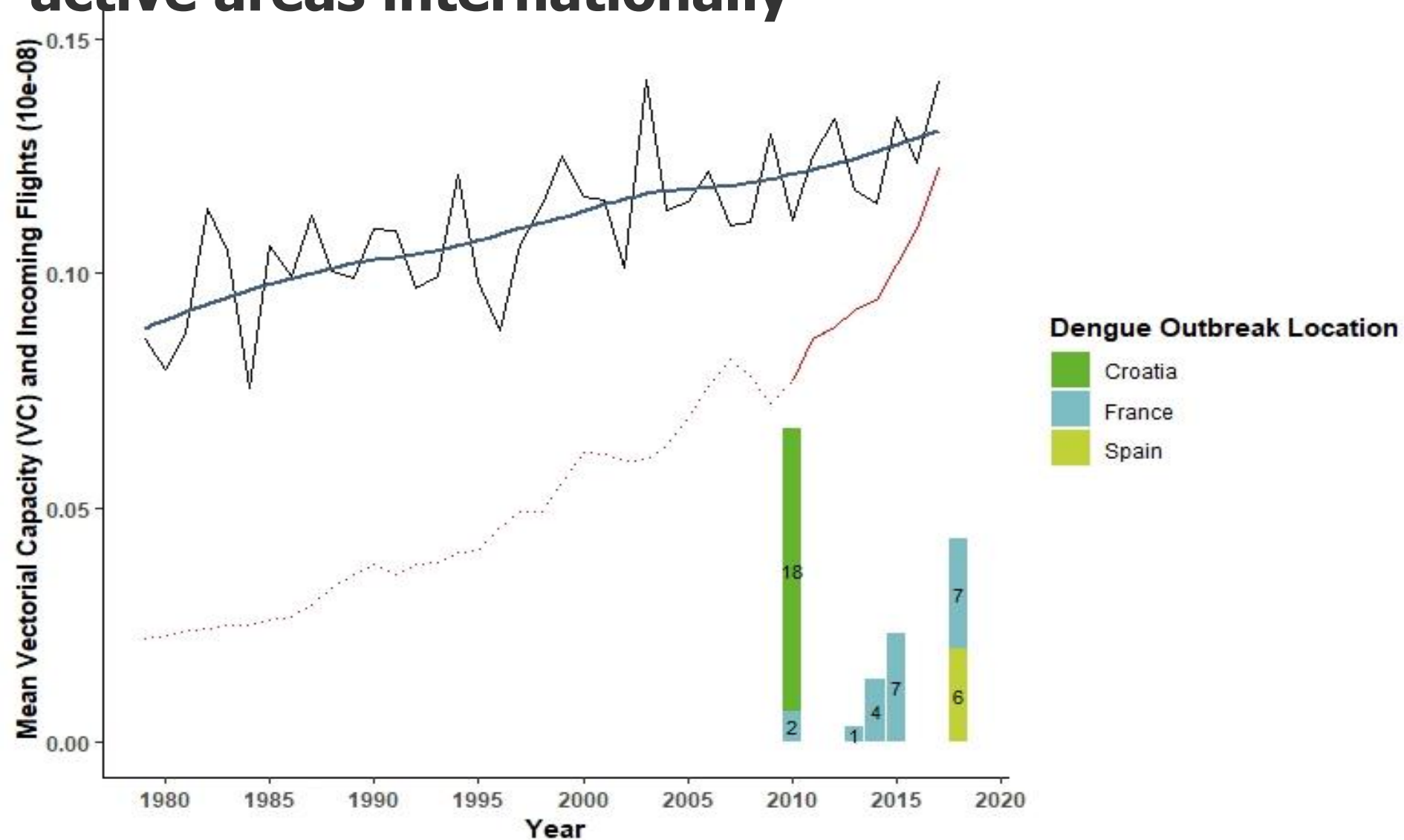


# Cluster dendrogram from hierarchical cluster analysis of drivers of IDTE, Europe 2008-2013

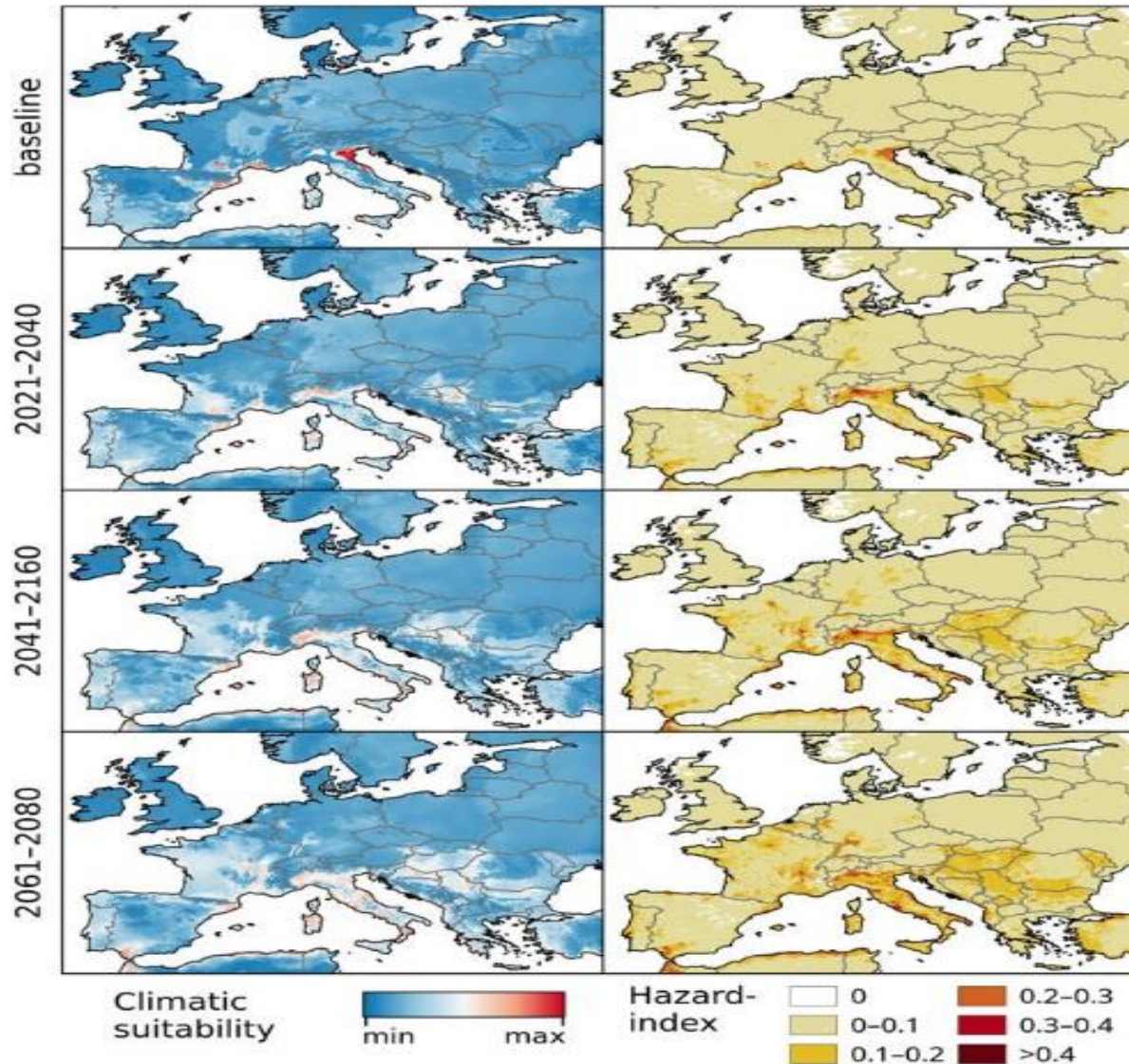




# Air passenger volume from dengue active areas internationally



# Chikungunya under the baseline and RCP 8.5 climate change scenarios in Europe



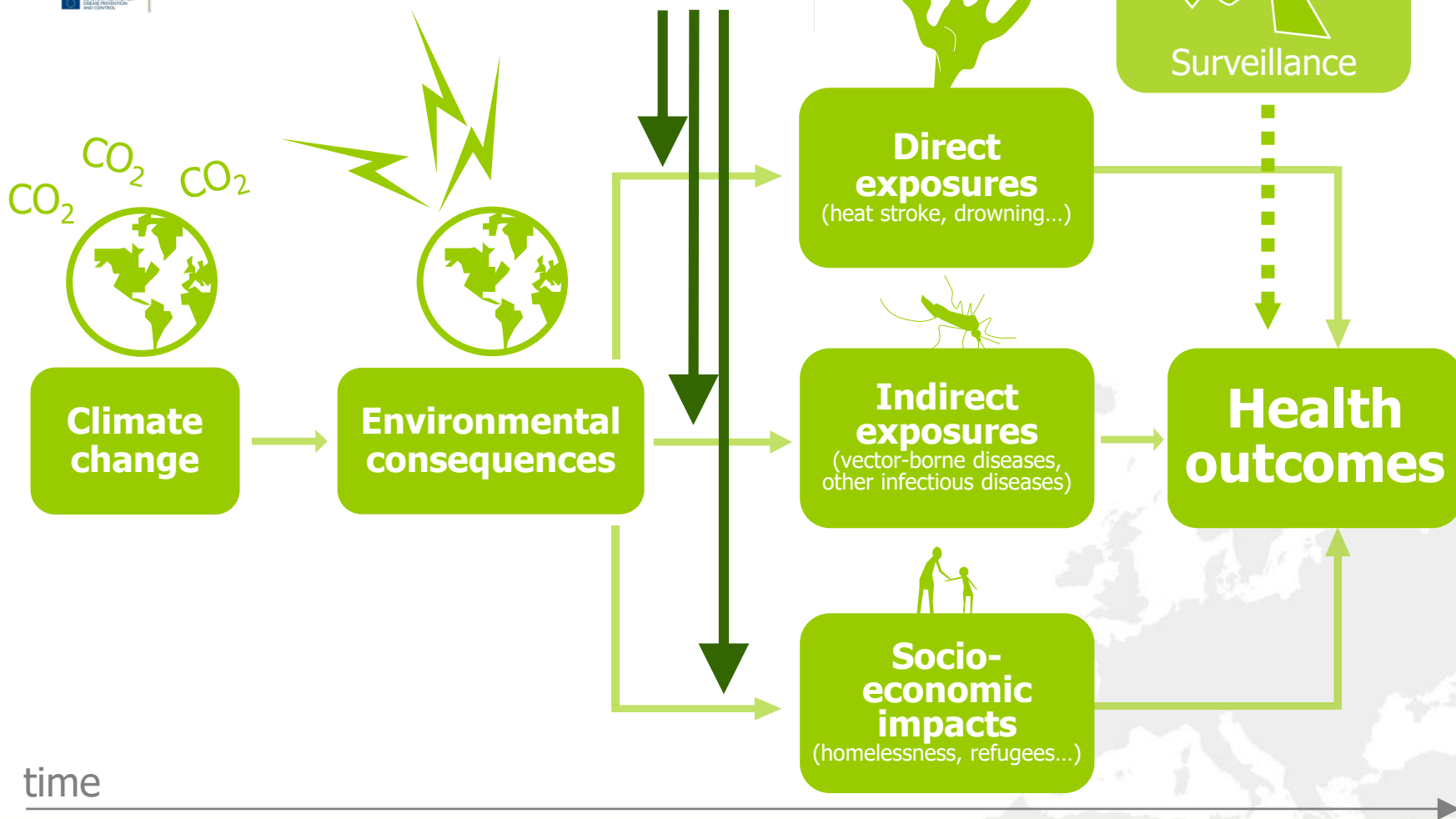
# Mosquito-borne diseases

## Future projections

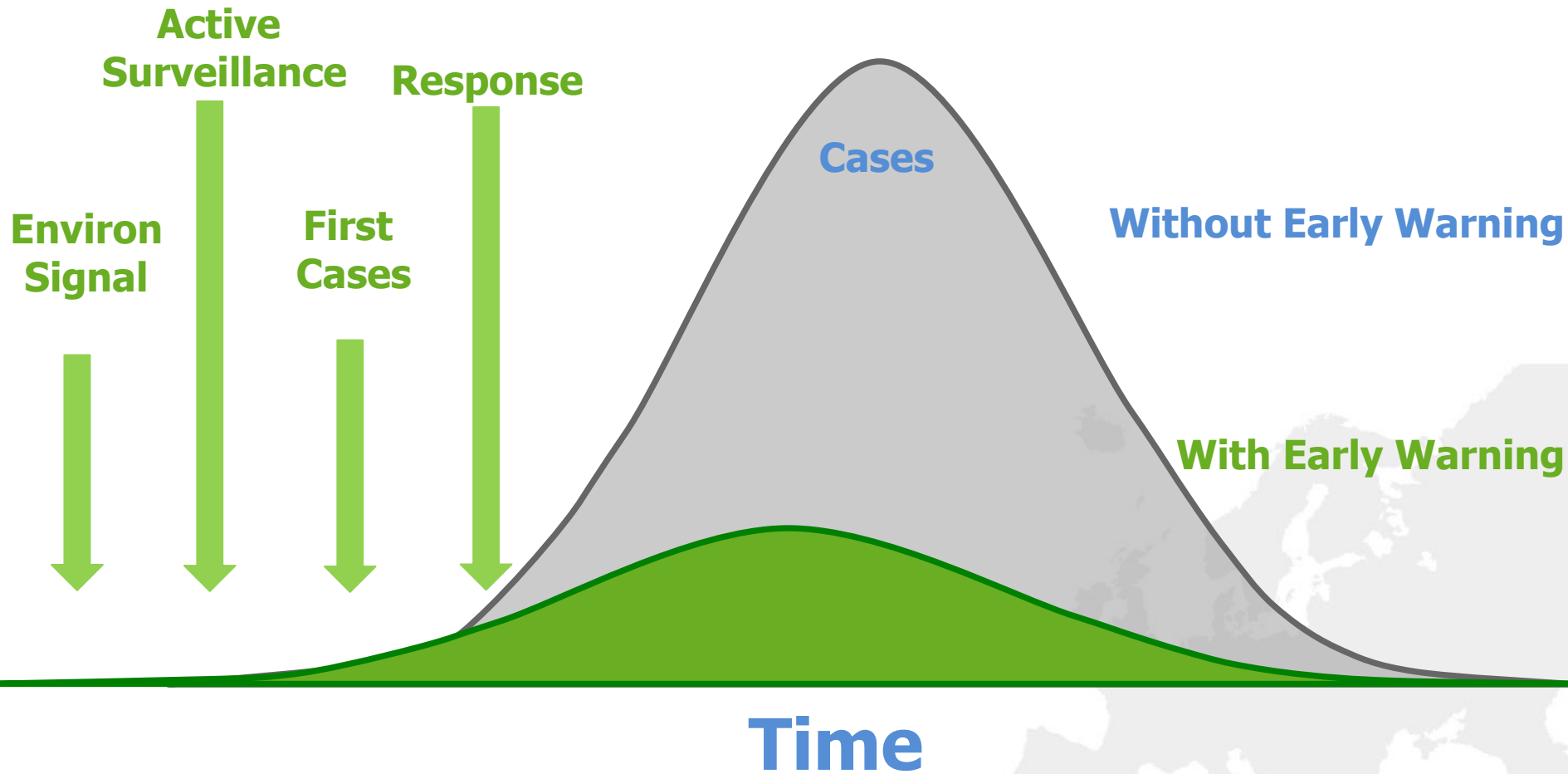
Models have generally projected a **moderate climatic suitability** for chikungunya transmission, notably across France, Spain, Germany and Italy, with increased suitability projected for large areas by the Rhine and Rhone rivers

Some areas by the Adriatic coast in Italy are projected to experience a **decline in suitability** due to the increased probability of summer droughts

# Early warning system



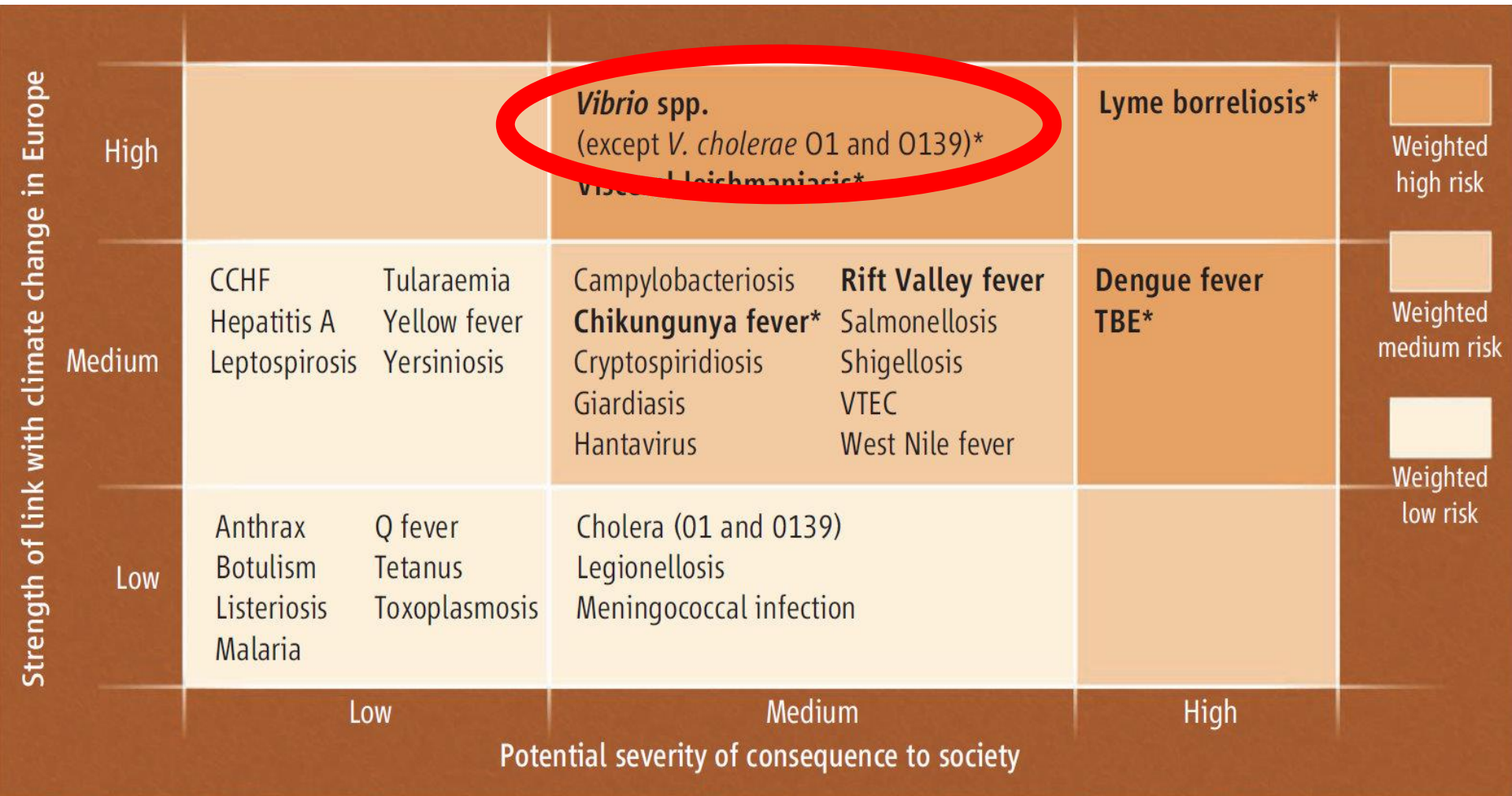
# Early warning system Environmental/climatic precursors of disease



# Weighted risk analysis of climate change impacts on infectious disease risks in Europe



IDs for suggested changes to disease-specific surveillance are in bold.  
Asterisks indicate diseases currently notifiable in some EU Member States



Daily Suitability Index

Daily Vibrio Risk

Suitability Index (last 7 days)

Weekly Maximum

Weekly Mean

Forecast (next 5 days)

Forecast

Time range selection

From 2013-06-12

To 2016-05-08

Colour palette



Colour bands

10

Scale method

linear

Legend range

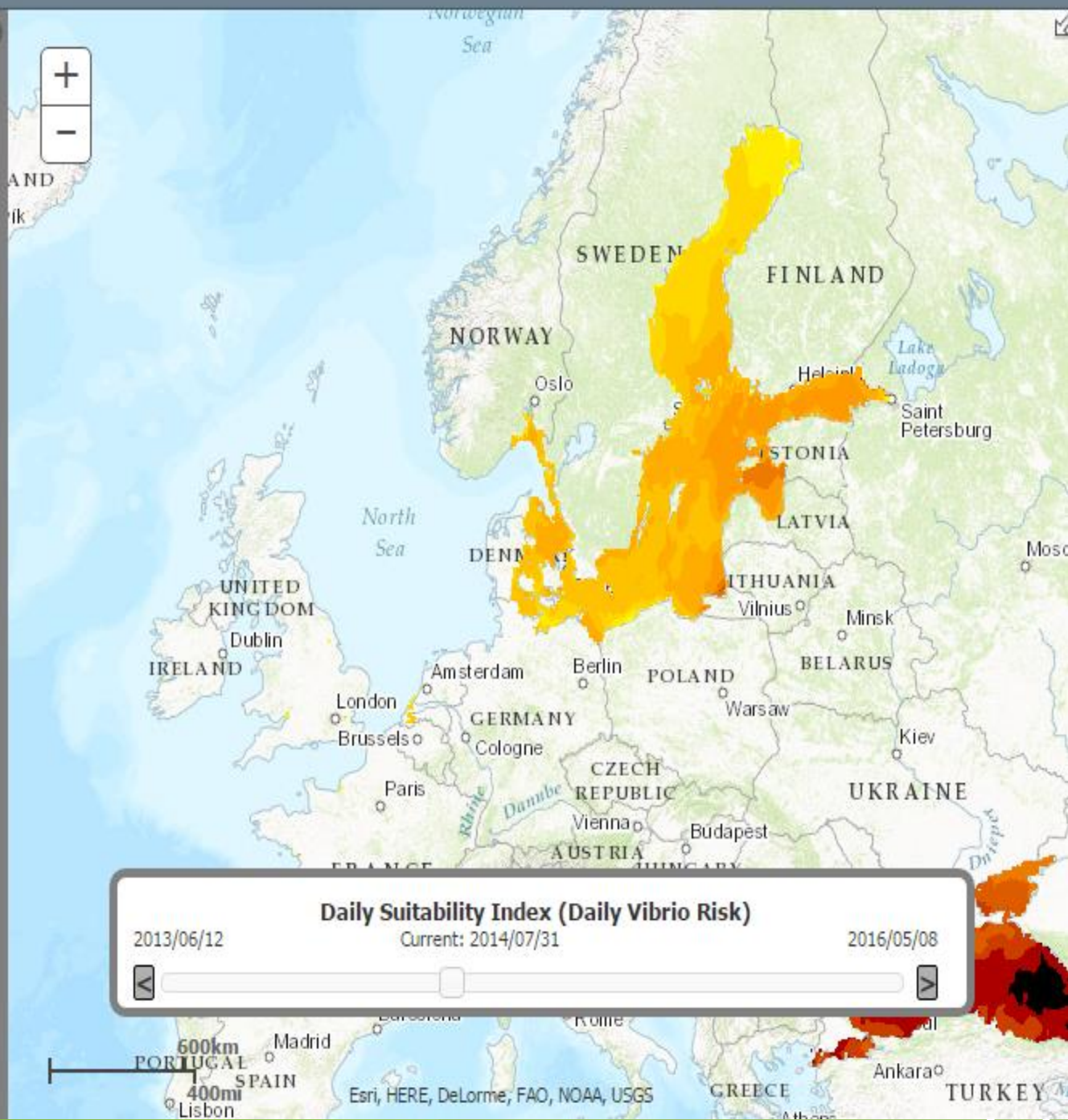
Min. value 0

Max. value 28

Legend



> or = 16: Very High  
12-15: High  
8-11: Medium  
4-7: Low  
0-3: Very Low  
Black: > selected range

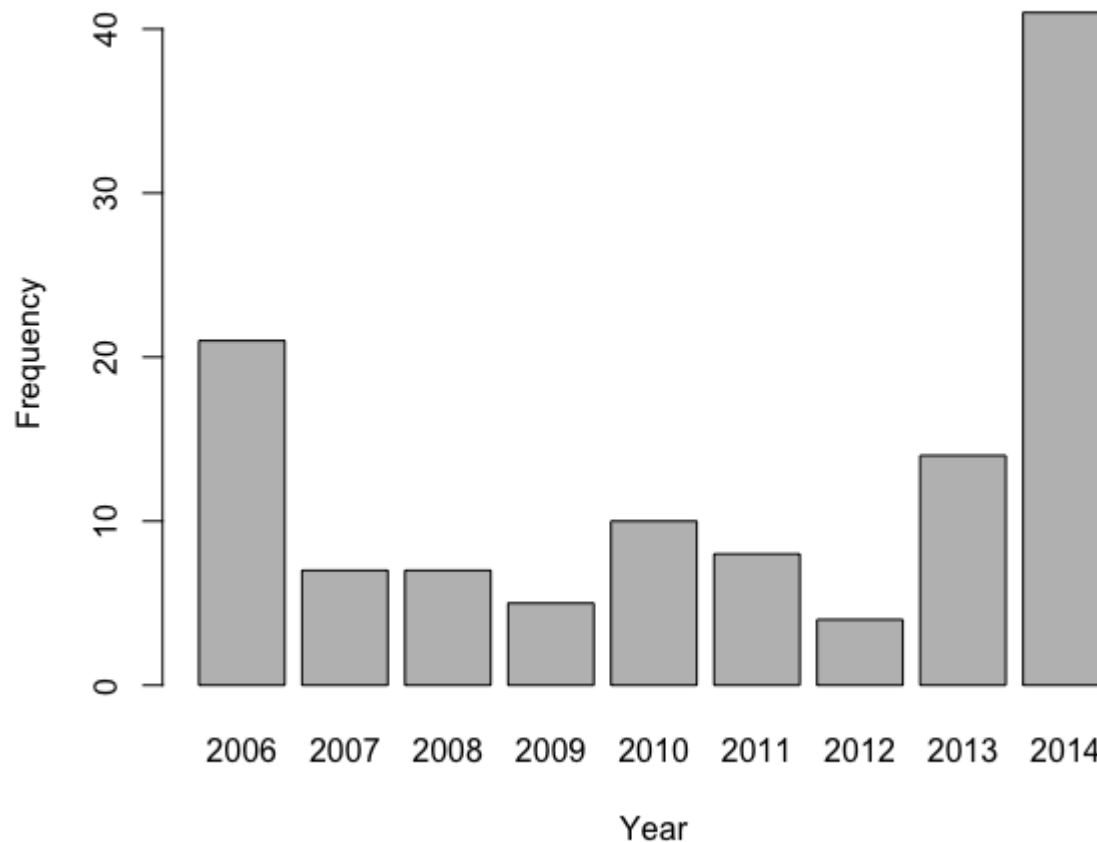


**Daily Suitability Index (Daily Vibrio Risk)**

2013/06/12      Current: 2014/07/31      2016/05/08

◀ [Slider] ▶

# Annual frequency of total *Vibrio* infections notified in Sweden from 2006-2014





# Conclusion

- Climate change can trigger a **sequence of events** of significant magnitude with consequences for infectious diseases
- The most important driver of Infectious Disease Threat Events (IDTE) in Europe is **travel and tourism** but **climate** is also an important driver of IDTE
- Climate change has **already** impacted the transmission of a wide-range of water-borne and vector-borne diseases in Europe, and it will **continue** to do so in the coming decades
- **Early warning systems** could intercept these cascading risks

# Acknowledgements



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## ID Threat Events

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## Waterborne outbreaks

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