

# POLI 120N: Contention and Conflict in Africa

## Professor Adida

Geographic realities



Laura Seay

# iClicker Practice

## Simple question



Set your frequency to BB

# iClicker Practice

## Simple question



Q:What year are you?

- a. Freshman
- b. Sophomore
- c. Junior
- d. Senior



# iClicker Practice

Simple question  
+ Peer discussion



Q: Have you ever been to a sub-Saharan African country (outside of airport)?

- a. Yes
- b. No

“Africa is to be pitied, worshipped or dominated. Whichever angle you take, be sure to leave the strong impression that without your intervention and your important book, Africa is doomed.”



Binyavanga Wainana





Arno Meintjes Wildlife

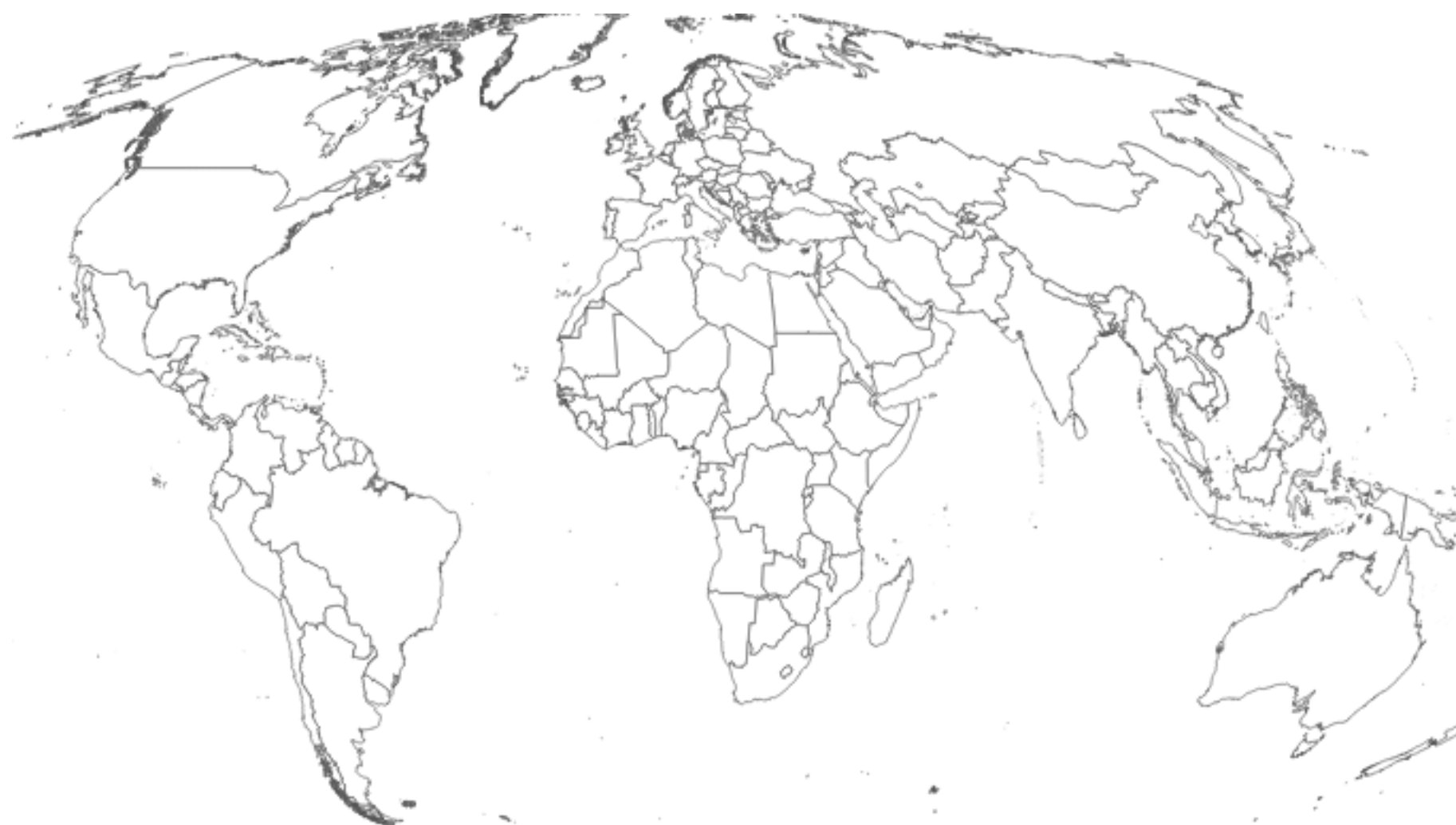


[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)



[www.atlas-westafrica.org](http://www.atlas-westafrica.org)







# The true size of Africa



Kai Krause

Q: Africa is the world's \_\_\_\_\_ continent:

- a. Largest
- b. Second-largest
- c. Third-largest
- d. Fourth-largest
- e. Fifth-largest







Arno Meintjes Wildlife



[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)



[www.atlas-westafrica.org](http://www.atlas-westafrica.org)





[urbanafrica.net](http://urbanafrica.net)



[digitaljournal.com](http://digitaljournal.com)



David Adjaye



[theguardian.com](http://theguardian.com)





# Africa's “baggage”

1. Geography

2. History

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1. Geography

2. History

# Africa's “baggage”

I. Geography

2. History

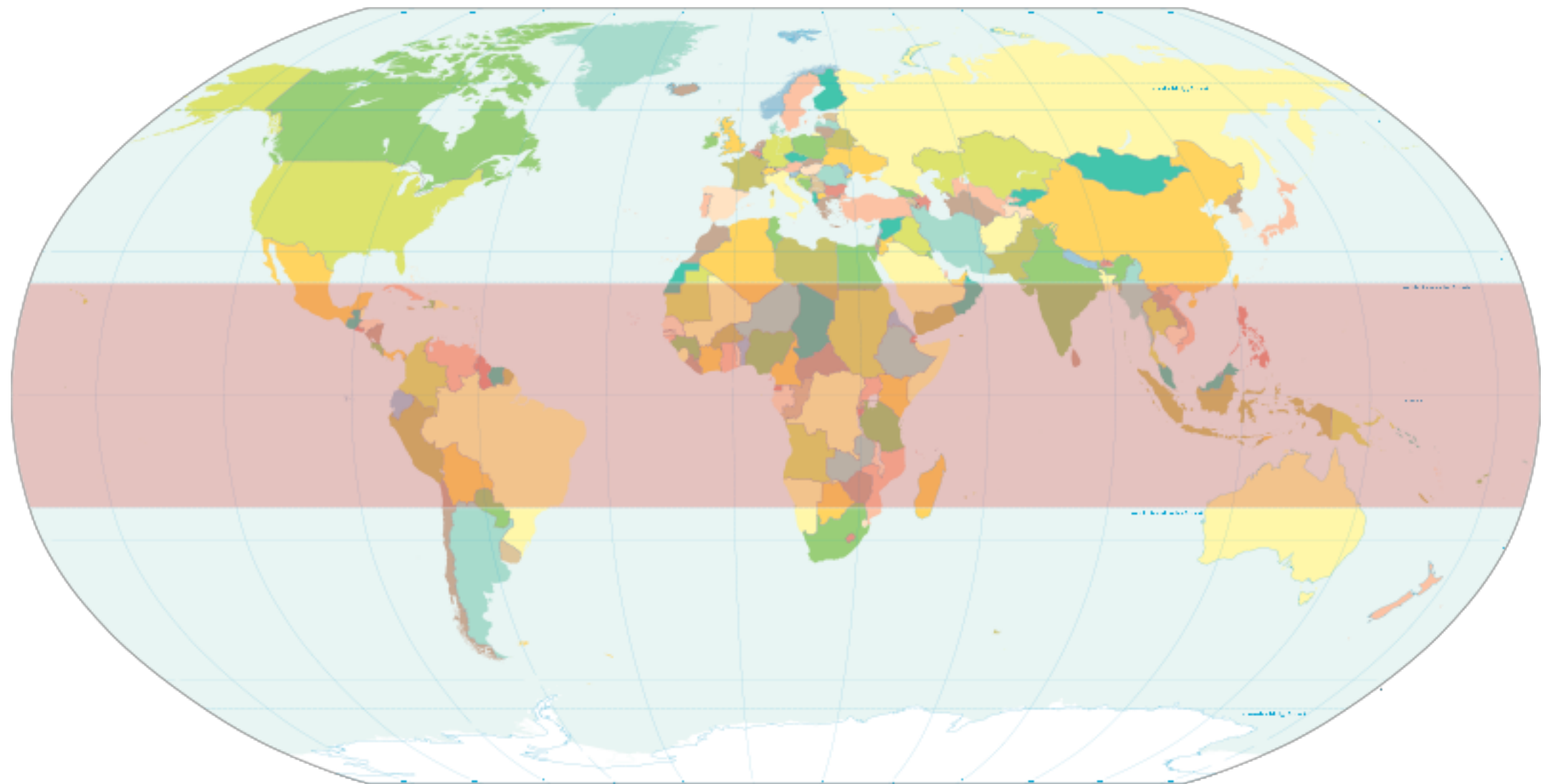
# African Geography



“The history of every continent is written clearly in its geographical features, but of no continent is this more true than of Africa.”

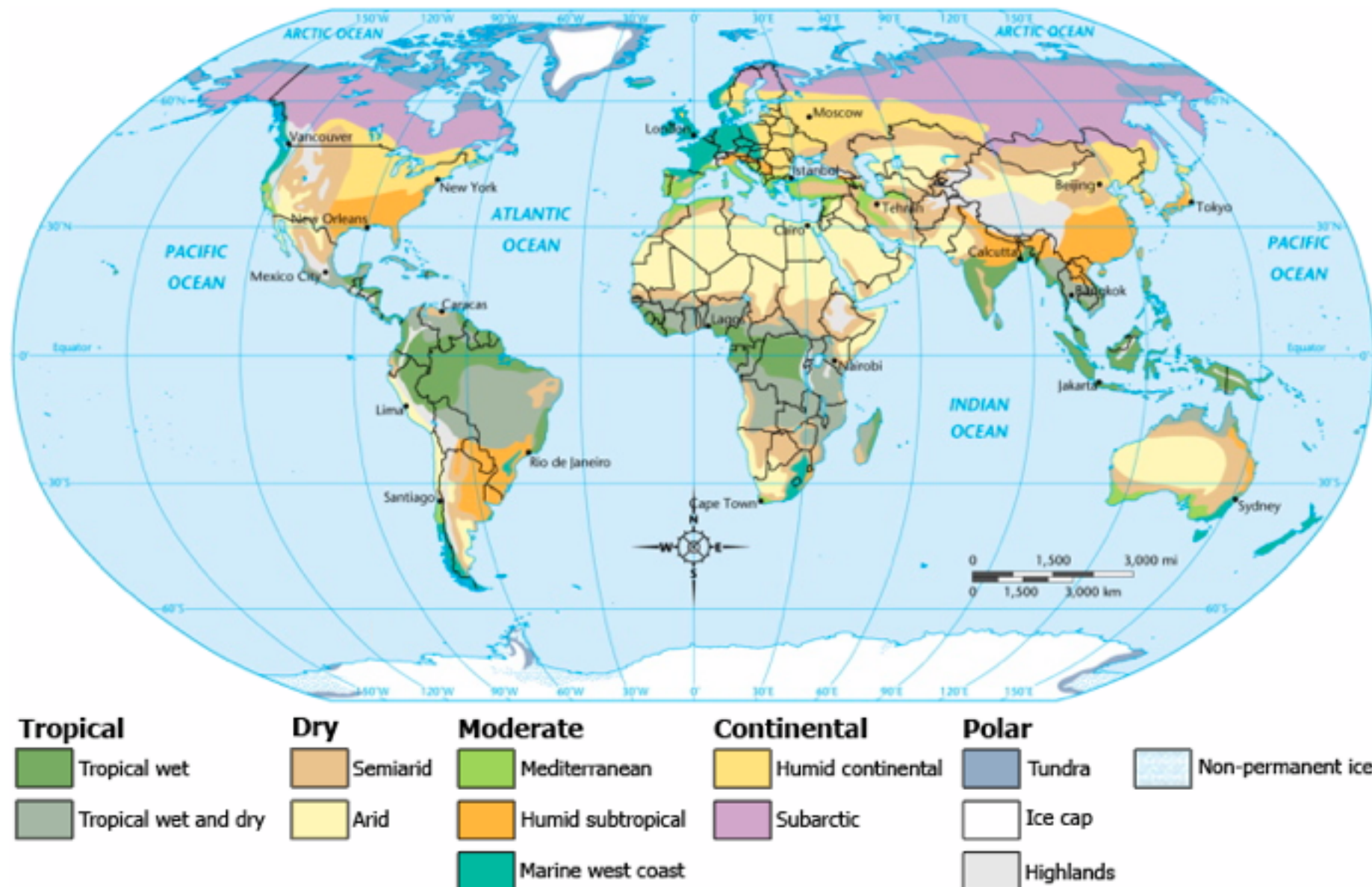
Lord Hailey, quoted in Herbst  
(2000)

# The tropics

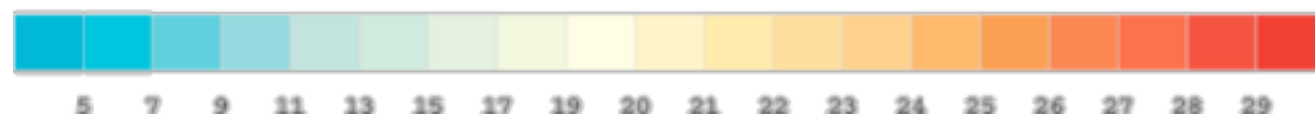
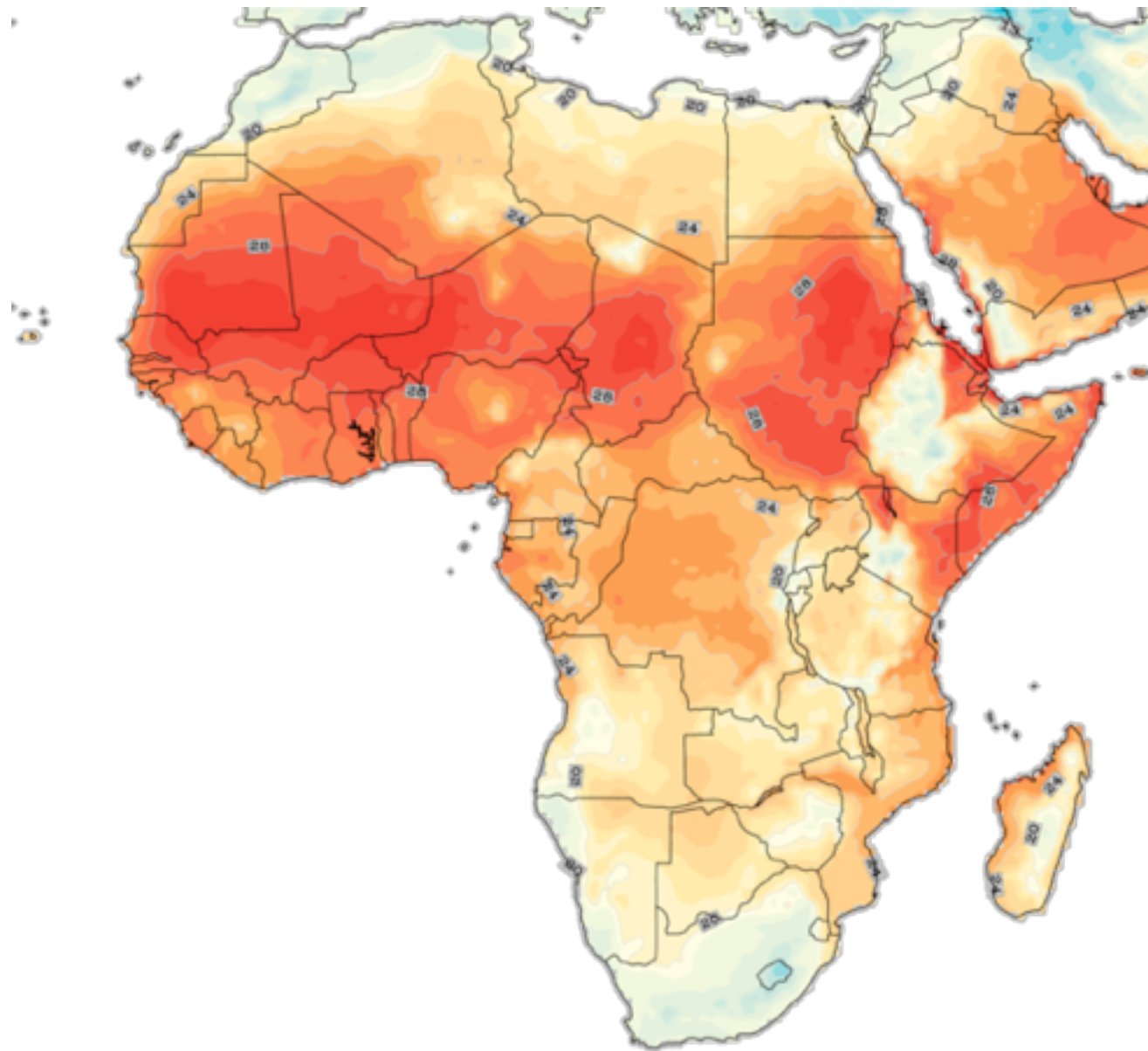




# Sub-Saharan Africa is either tropical or dry



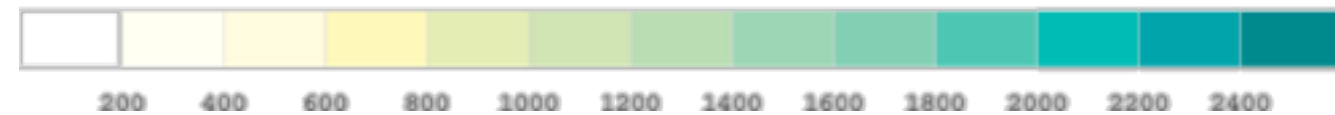
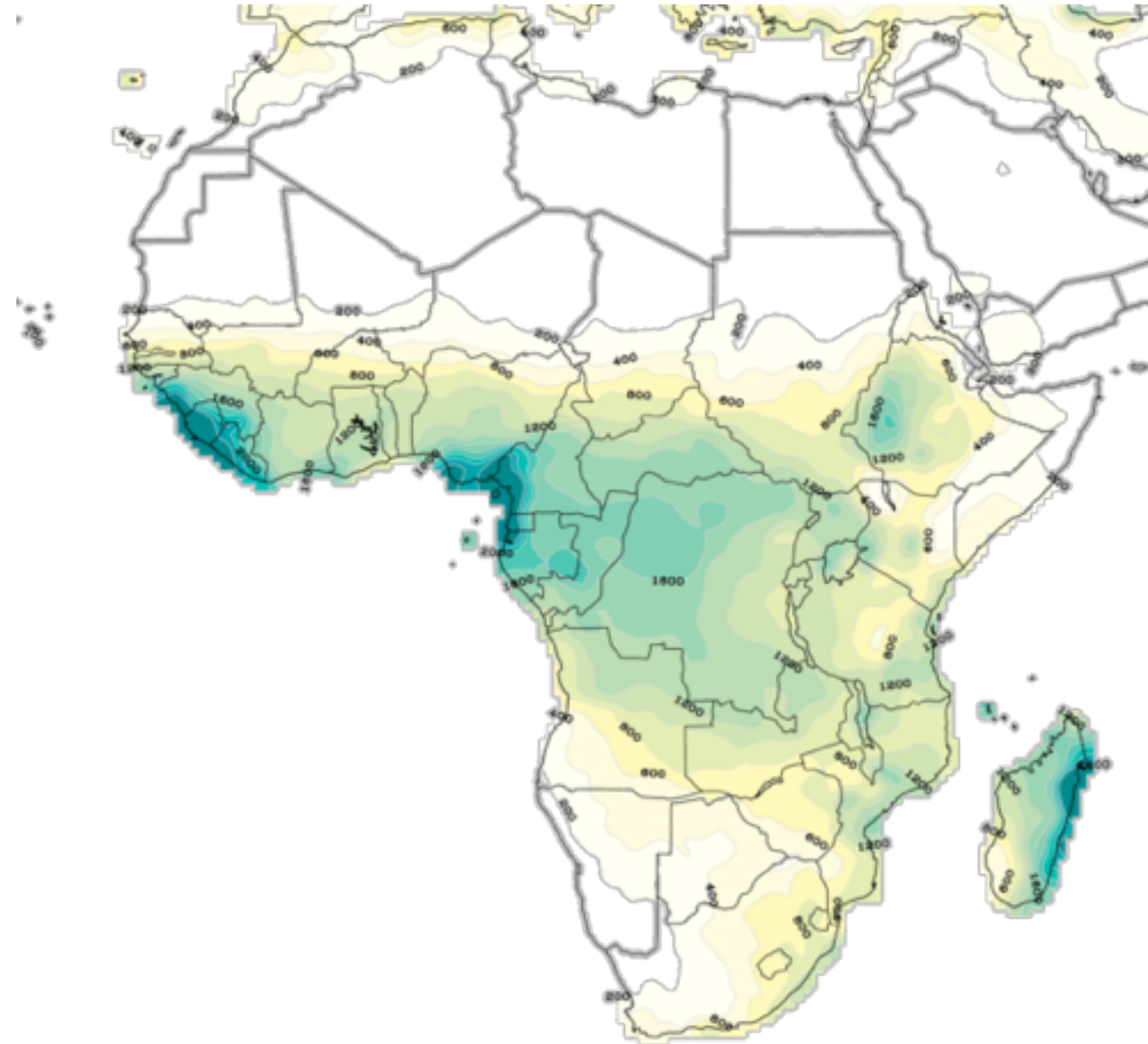
# Temperature



Mean annual temperature

BADC/CRU

# Rain



Mean annual precipitation, 1971-2000, in mm

DWD



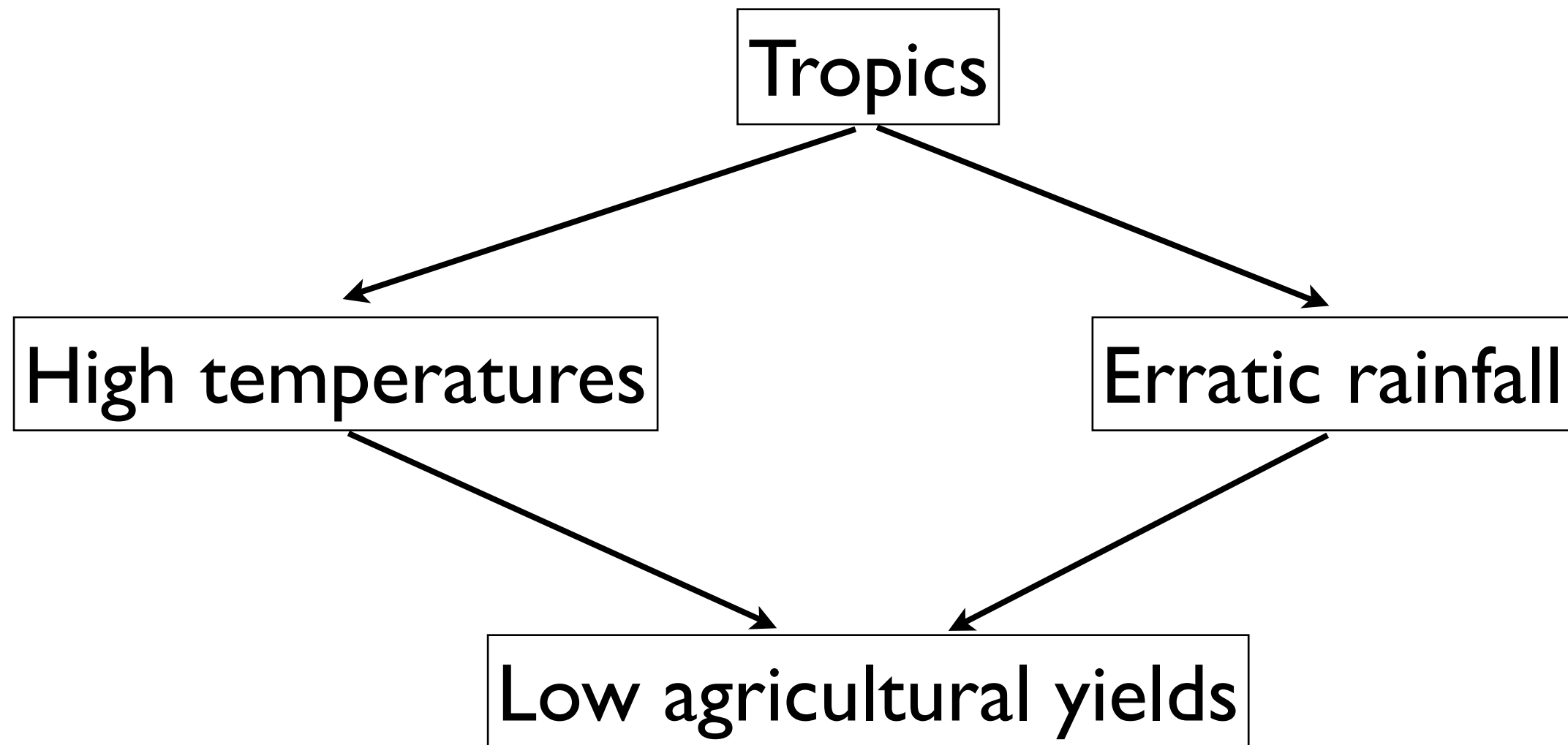
Q: By the way, which country is this?



- a. Botswana
- b. Angola
- c. Rwanda
- d. Benin



# How does this matter?

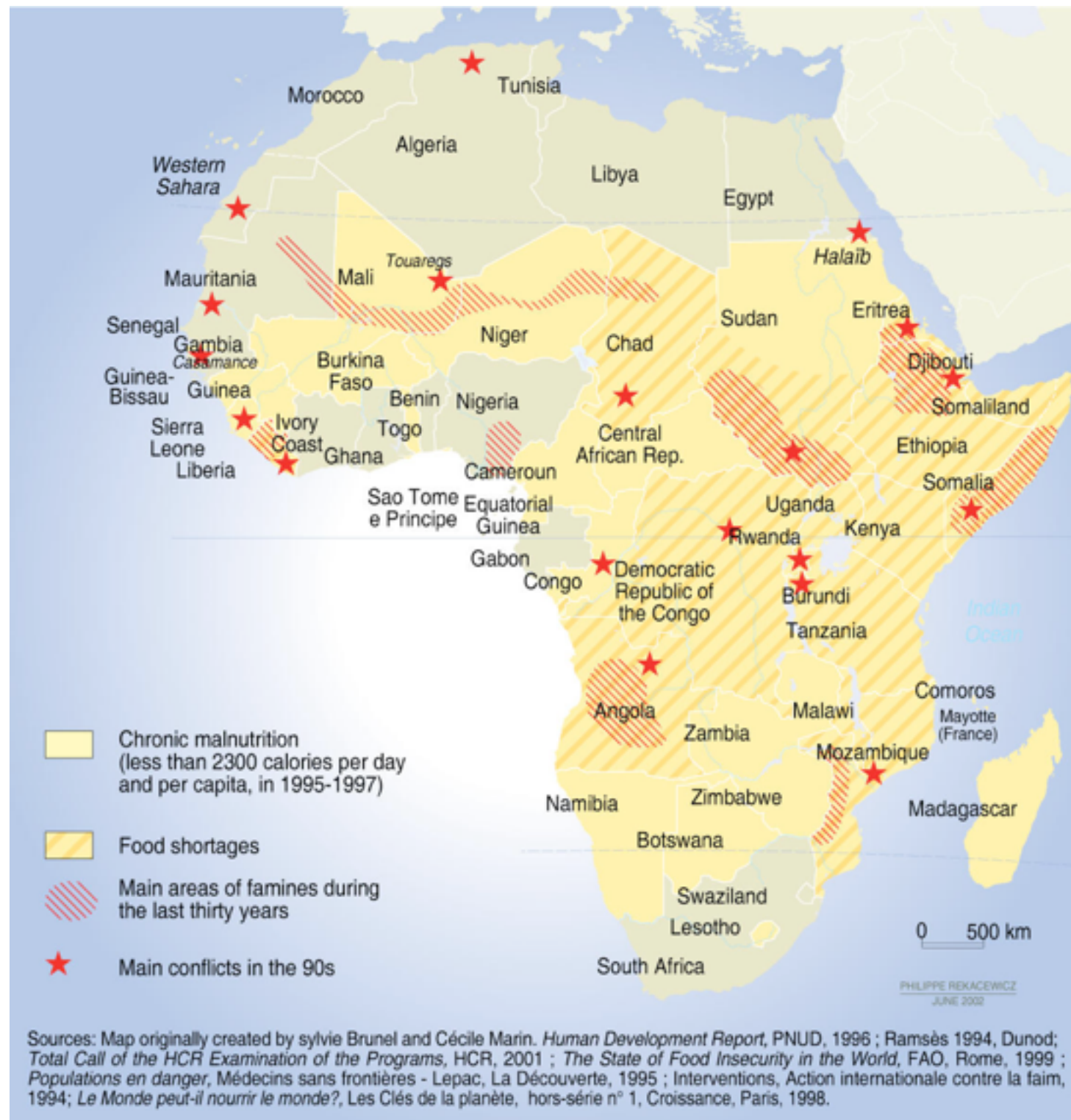




# Low agricultural yields

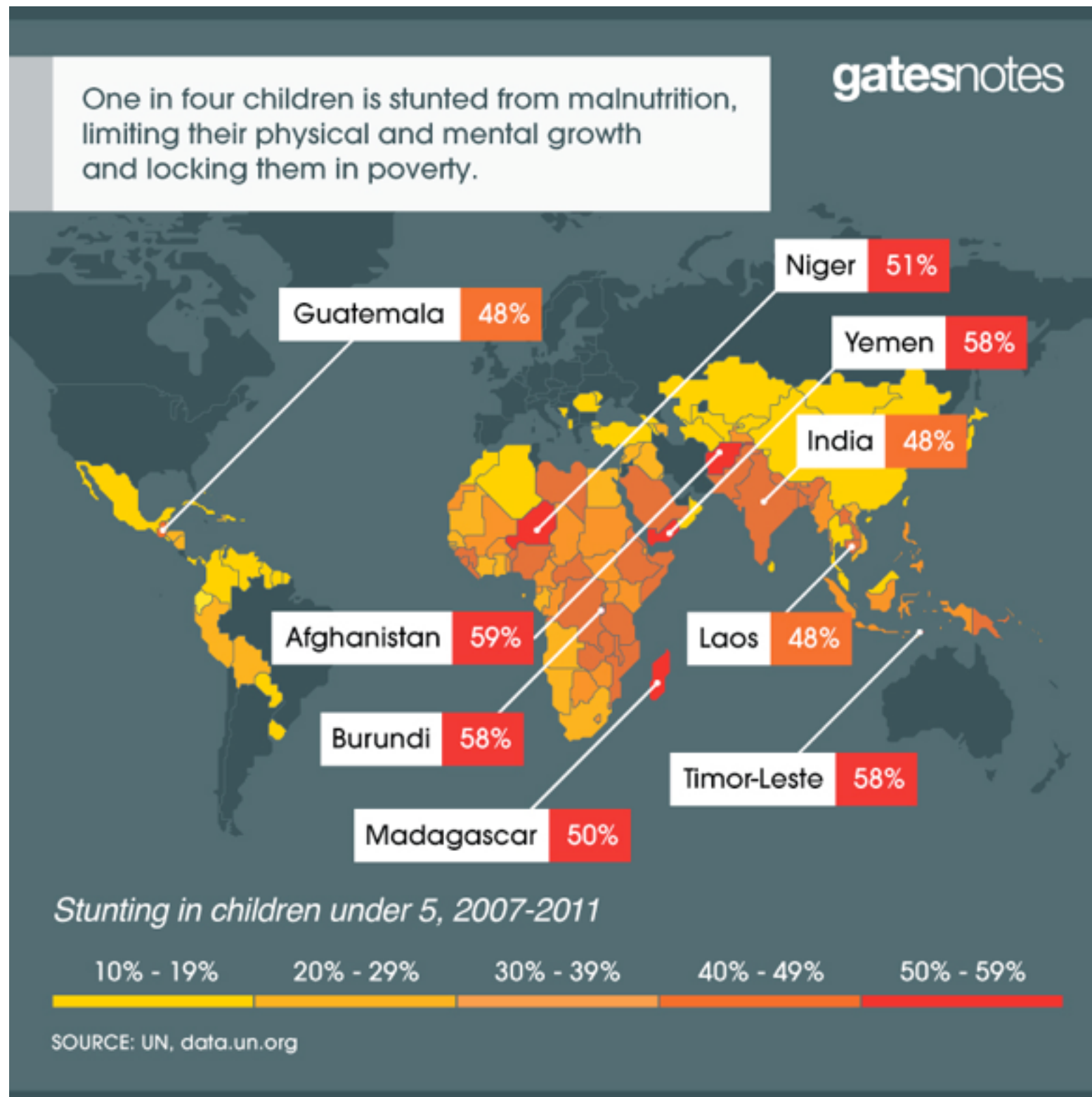


# Malnutrition

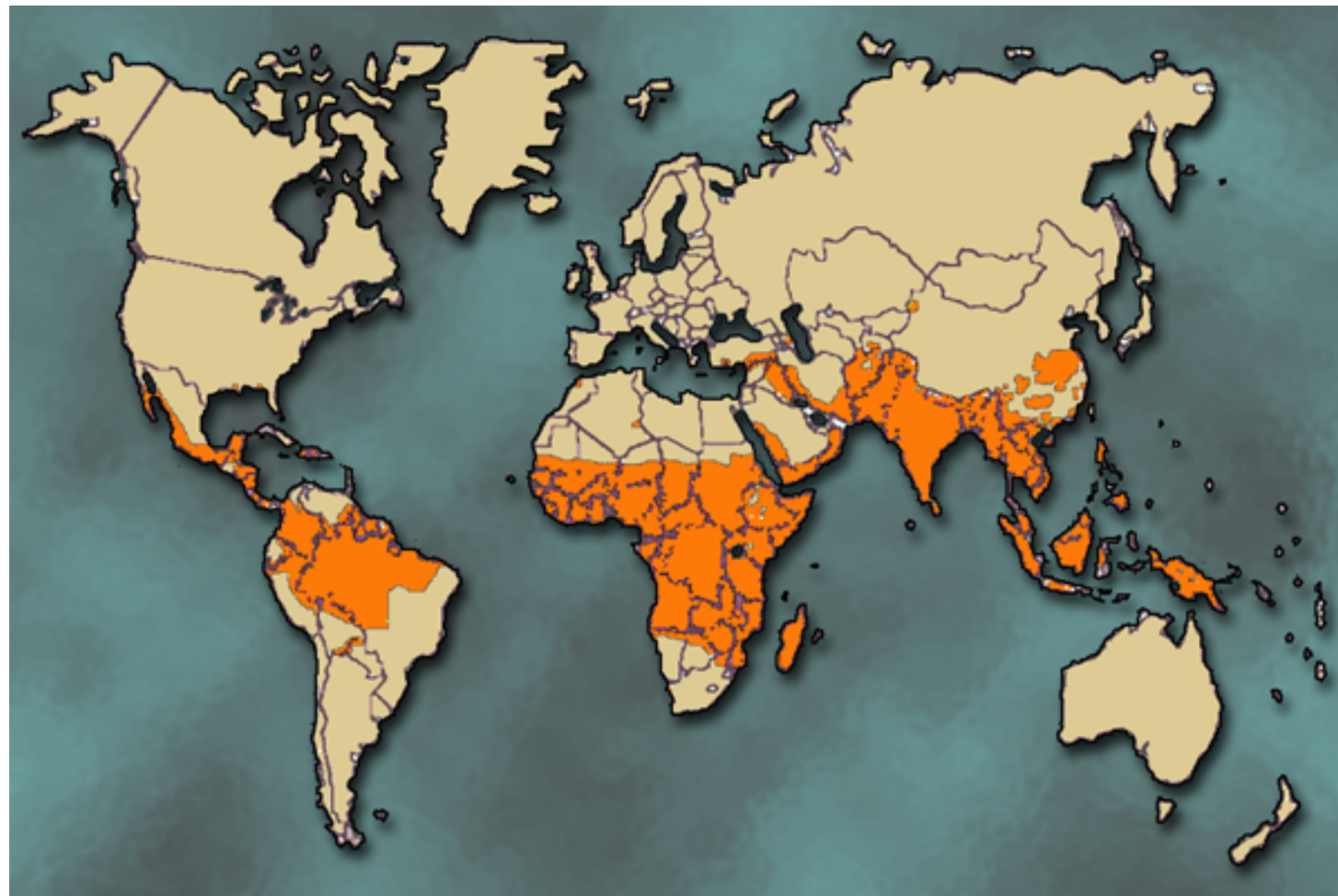




# Stunting

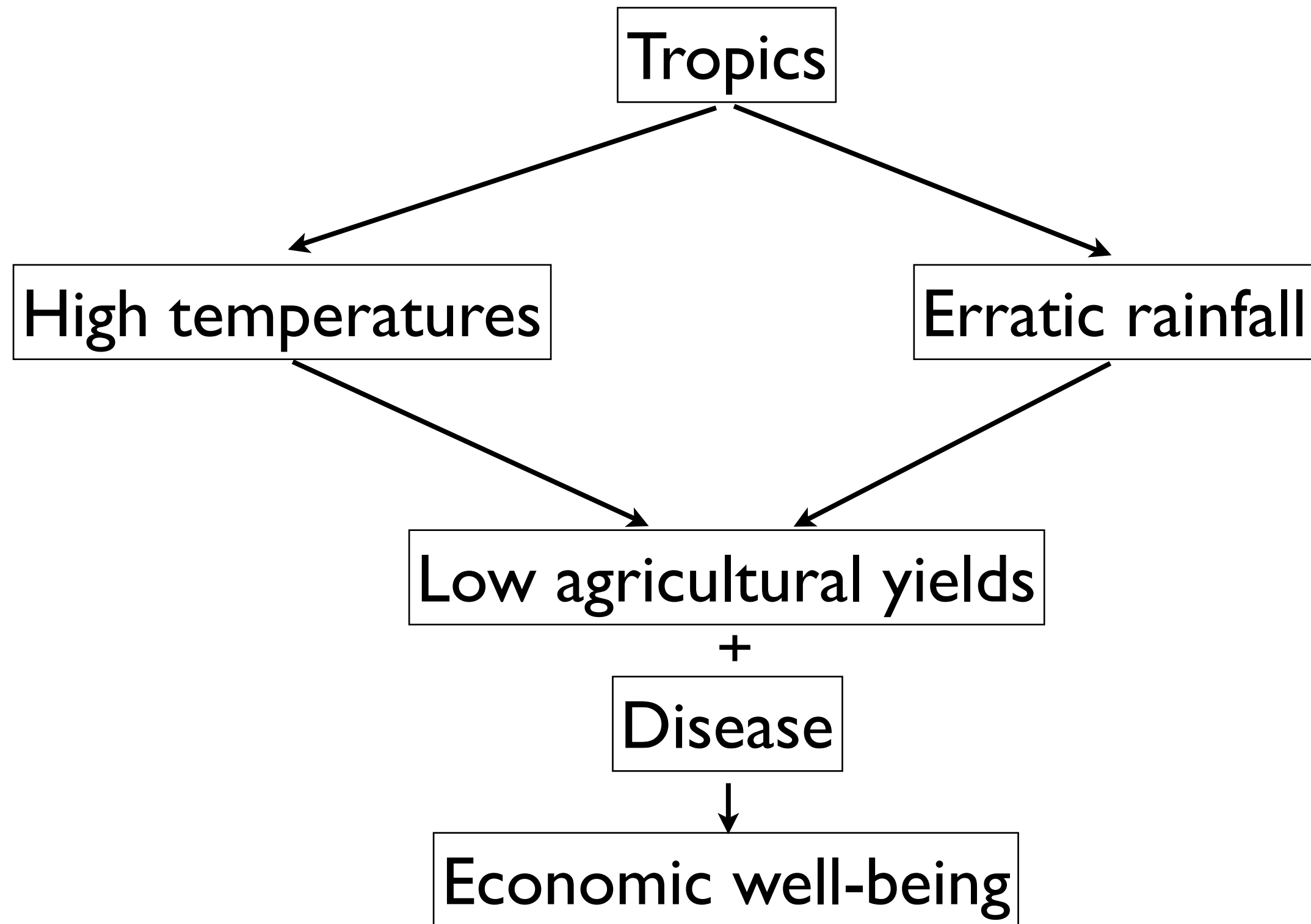


# Malaria



Source: Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

# How does this matter?



# 15 landlocked countries

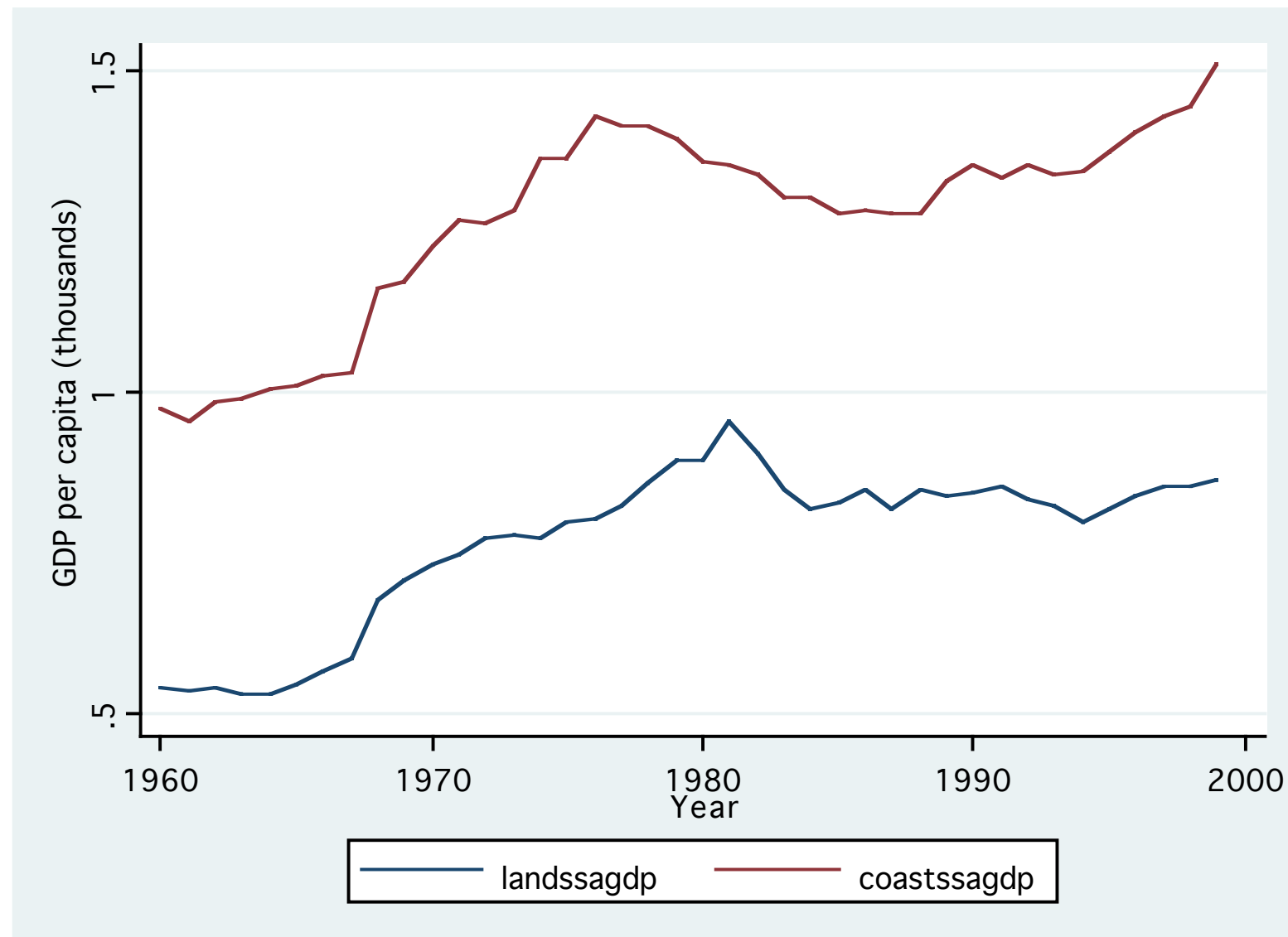


Africa

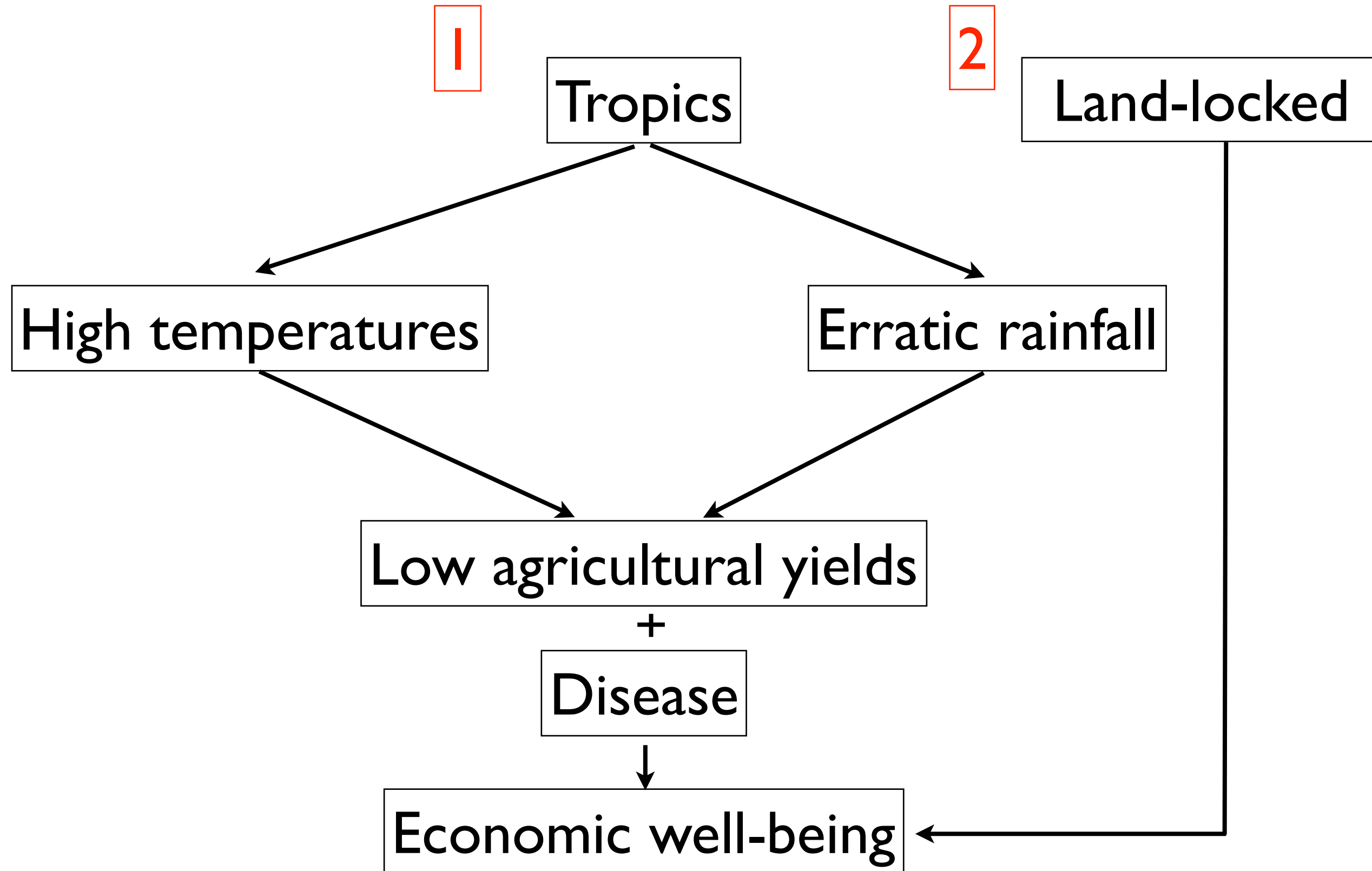


Europe

# Landlocked vs. Coastal growth in SSA

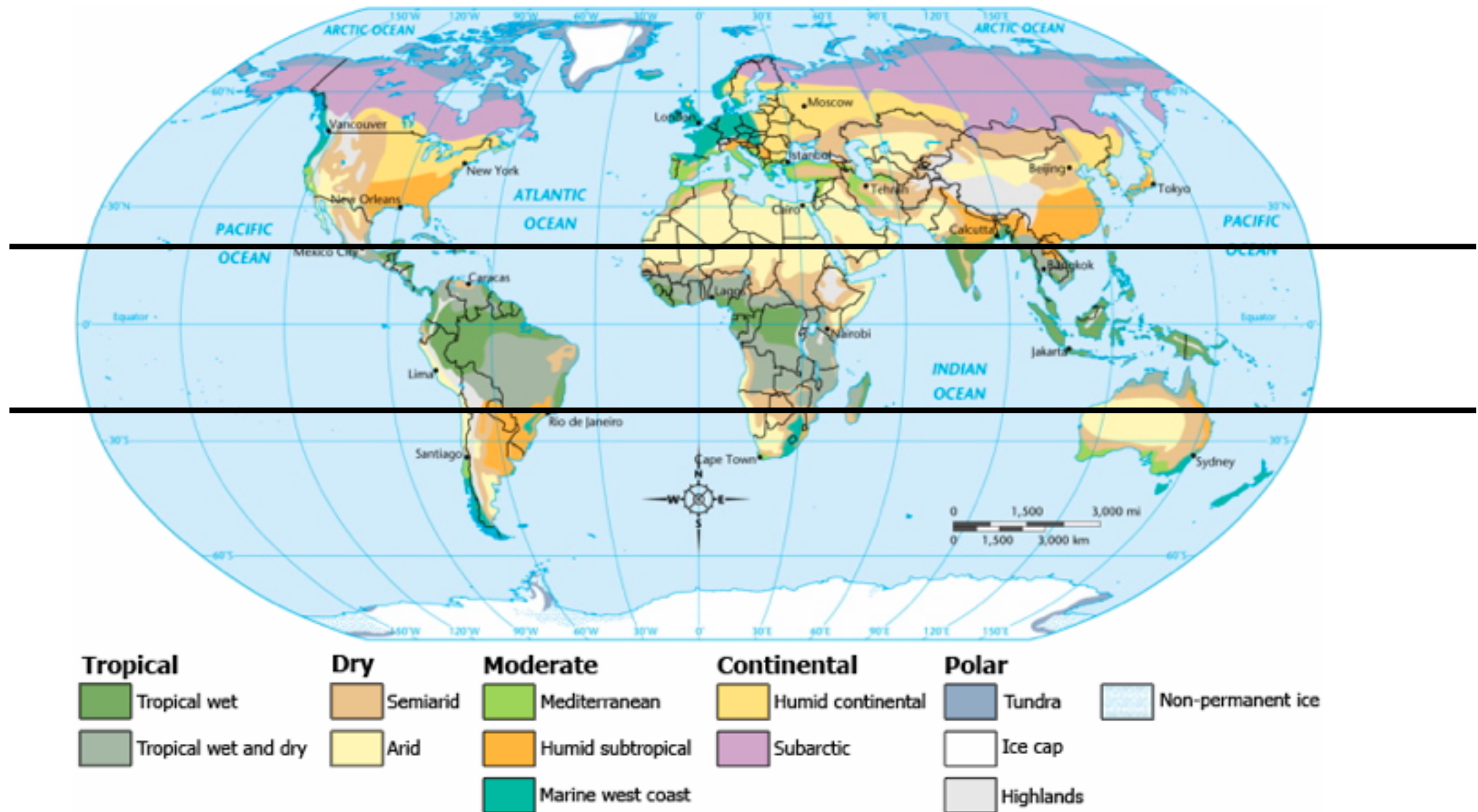


# How does this matter?





# Is this unique to Africa?





# Link to conflict?



Weak states

Weak economies

Colonial institutions

Slave trade

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**Next class: European imprint**

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