

# Environmental role & importance of woodlands and forests in Namibia

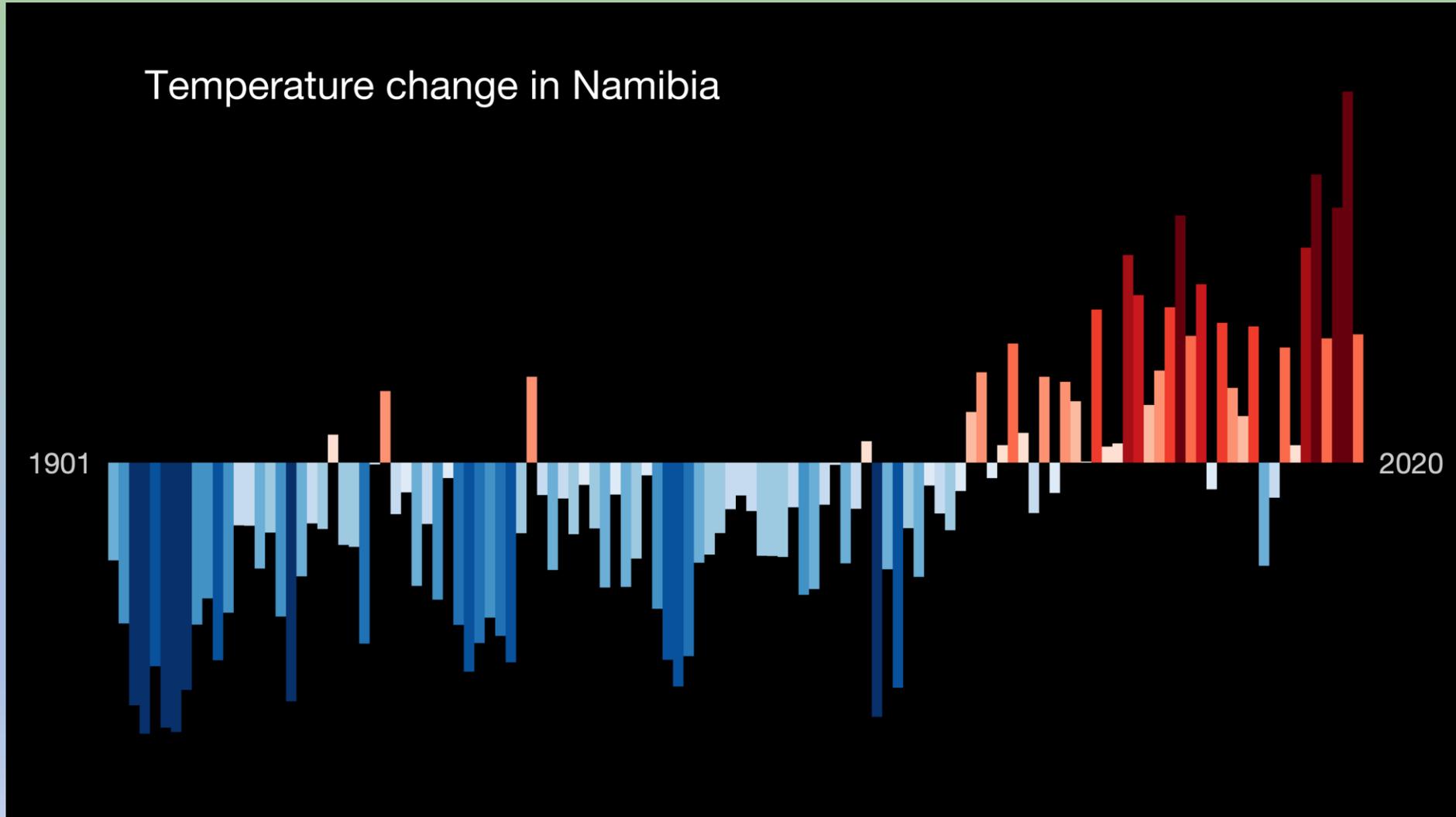
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Chris Brown

# Why are woodlands and forest important?

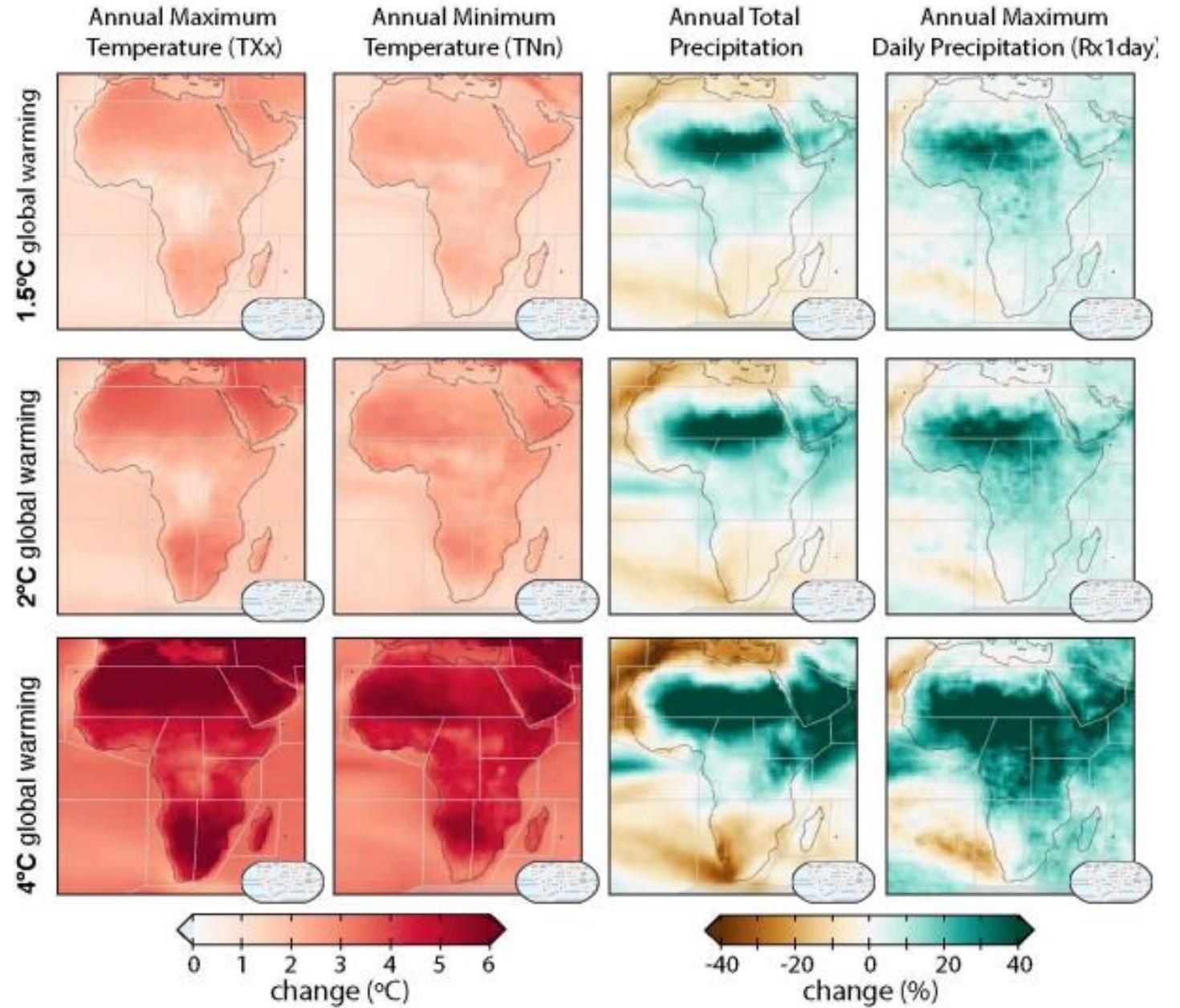
- Ecosystem services to people – both direct and indirect
- 65+% of Namibians depend on forest resources
- Habitat to a wide range of plant and animal species - biodiversity
- Protect soils
- Enhance water penetration
- Vital corridors and connectivity across landscapes
- Supports tourism – important part of economy, jobs & future growth
- Help moderate climate
- Reduce impact of climate change
- Absorb CO<sub>2</sub> – thus important part of national climate strategy (NDC)

# Why is climate change such a threat to Namibia?

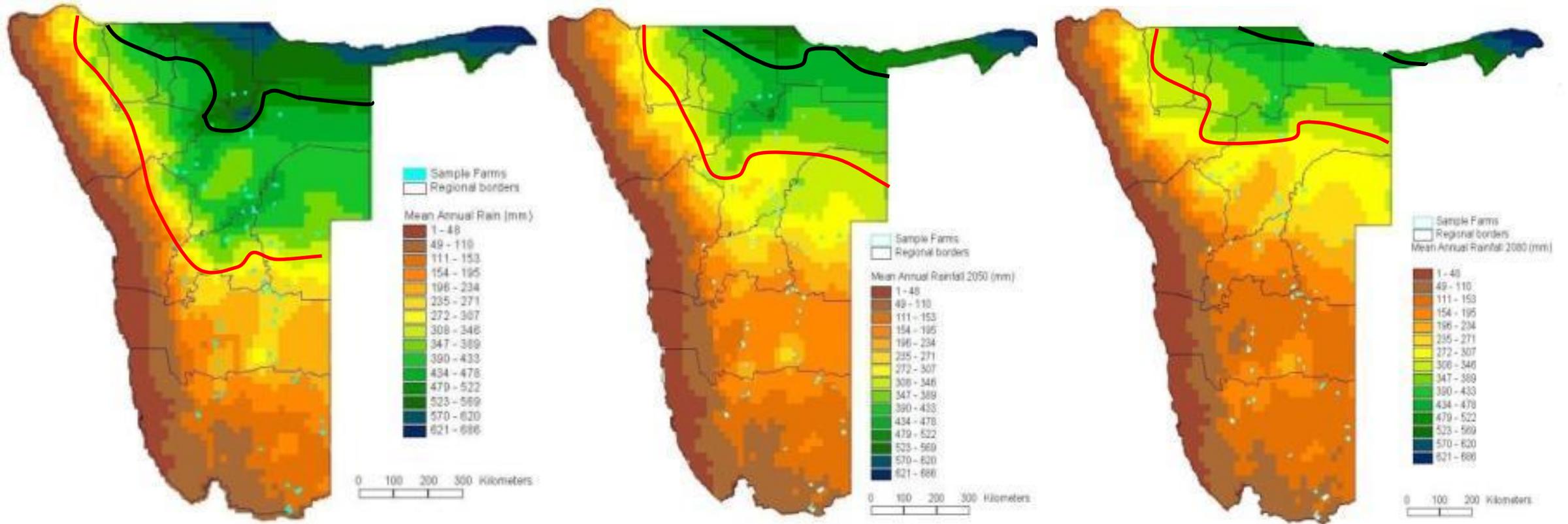


# Temperature and rainfall projections at different levels of global warming.

Maps produced as part of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report: <https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>.



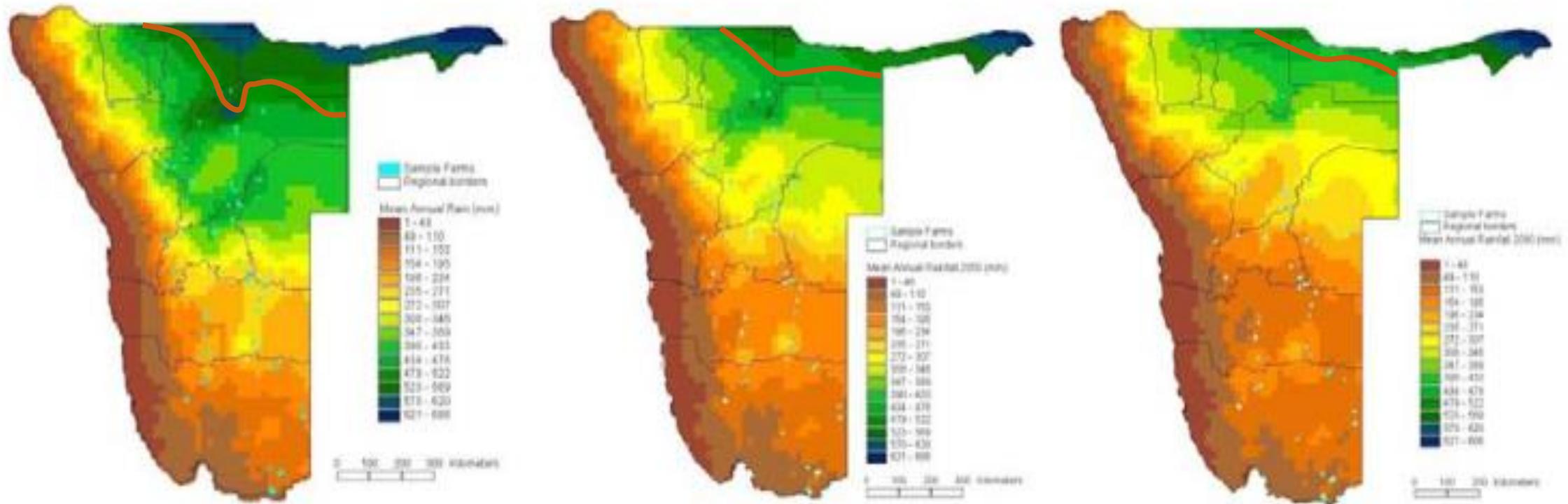
# Local level implications ...



**Current mean annual rainfall across Namibia up to 2010**

**Projected mean annual rainfall across Namibia by 2040 and 2065, according to predictions generated by the HADCM3 general circulation model**

# Woodland recruitment predictions



2010

2040

2065

# Namibia Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) - CoP26

- Committed to the Paris Agreement, and to taking action to reduce emissions and ensure a climate-resilient economy.

## Two components: Mitigation & Adaptation

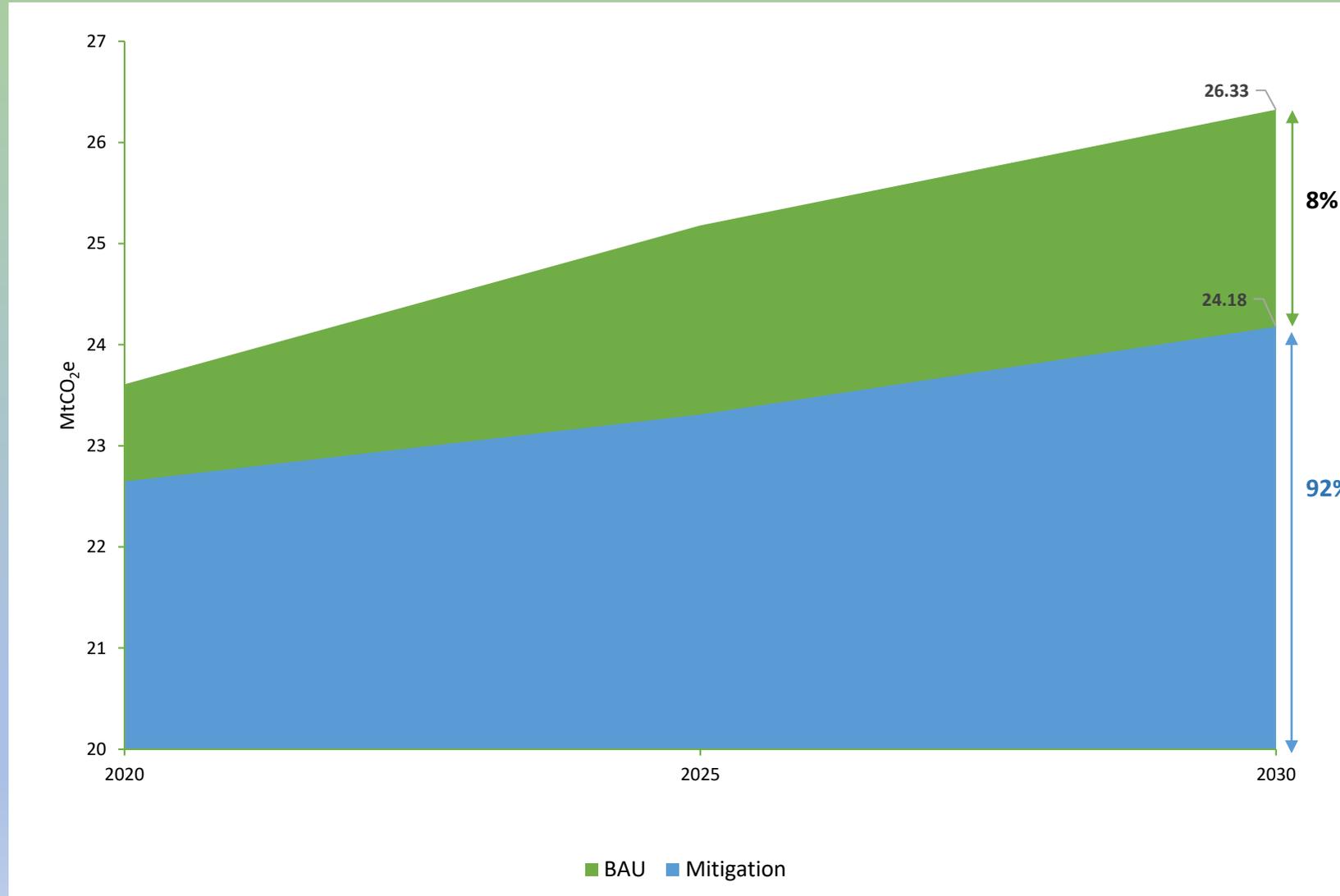
### Mitigation

1. To decrease GHG emissions compared to the Business as Usual (BAU) over 2015-2030 and net zero emissions by 2050.
2. Reforestation, agroforestry, urban forests and best forest management are vital.

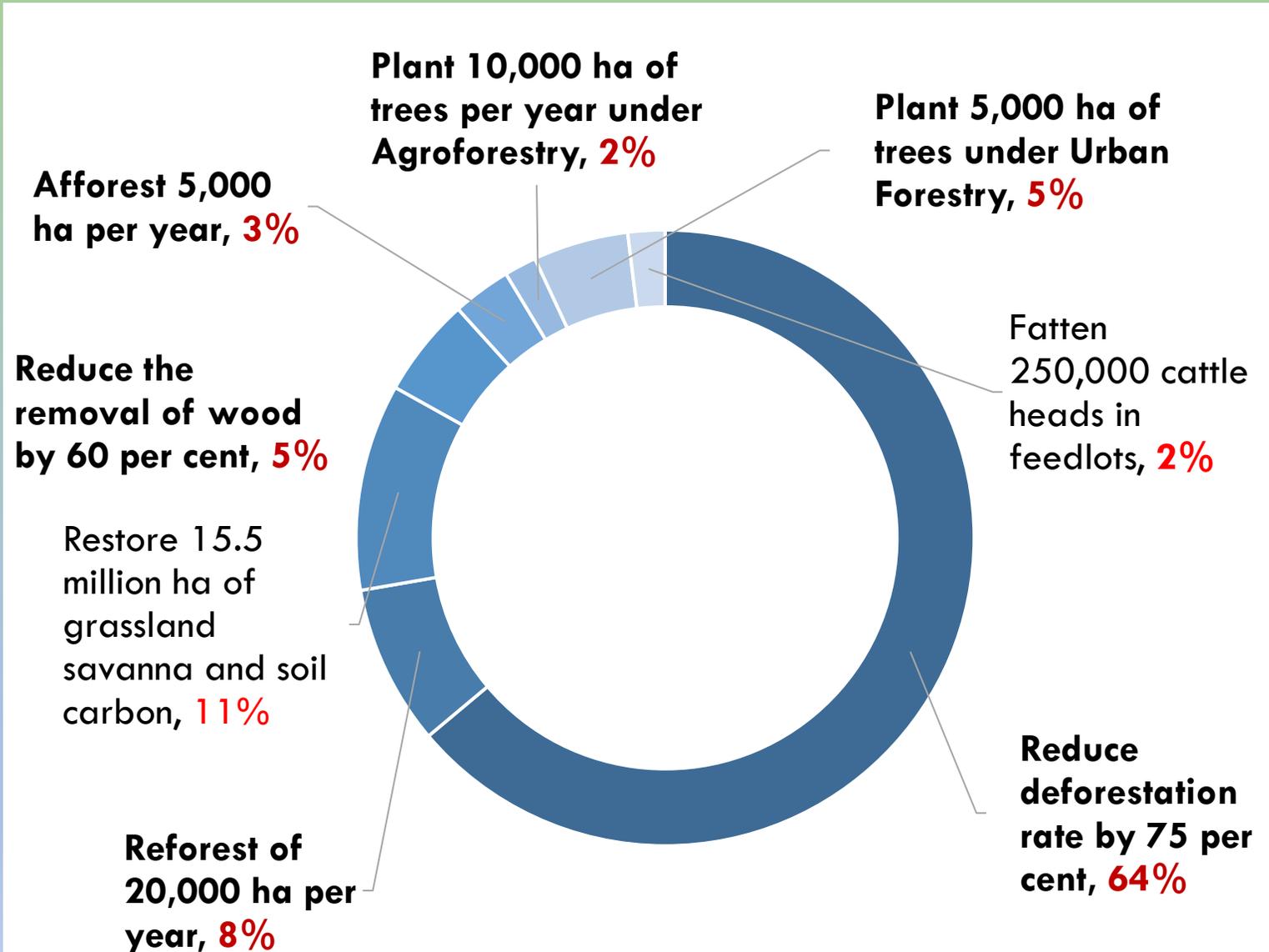
Sector	Mitigation potential (MtCO <sub>2</sub> e)	% of BAU scenario in 2030
Energy (electricity generation & transport)	2.79	10.6% *
IPPU & RAC (cement, refrigeration, aircon)	0.17	0.6%
<b>AFOLU (forestry, agroforestry, agriculture)</b>	<b>21.19</b>	<b>80.5%</b>
Waste	0.03	0.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.18</b>	<b>91.8%</b>

\* Bush biomass – 5% of Energy

# Mitigation contribution against business-as-usual



# Forestry, Agroforestry and Agriculture



# Headline message

- Reduce, stop and reverse deforestation rate – 64%
- Plant trees – 18%
- **Reducing rate of deforestation is the single most important action**
- **Followed by reforestation, afforestation, agroforestry, and urban forestry.**

**How to achieve this, given that Forestry has been so mismanaged, incompetent and corrupt to date?**

# 10 Recommendations

**Cause for optimism now that Forestry is in the Environment Ministry, but the sector will need your support, your monitoring and your strong demonstration of political will**

- State Forests (three of them on paper) must be proclaimed, protected and managed.
- New areas of woodlands and forest should be identified and proclaimed.
- Community Forests should be promoted and supported far more effectively than in the past – with better integration with conservancies.
- No **commercial** harvesting of timber unless:
  - ✓ There has been a thorough, transparent and verifiable resource assessment to determine sustainable harvest; and
  - ✓ All harvested timber will be used for significant value addition in Namibia (i.e. as furniture or other goods). Raw timber (round and squared logs and planks) should not be allowed to be exported.

- The woodlands in the north, east and north east should be managed and protected primarily for subsistence use by local communities.
- Ecological and wildlife corridors should be identified and strictly protected – particularly within the KAZA Trans-frontier Conservation Area.
- Conservation (minimum tillage) agriculture should be rigorously promoted and supported at village level, so that soils become enriched and slash-and-burn cropping stops.
- An effective woodland cover monitoring system should be established with regular reporting and data in the public domain.
- An effective, participatory nation-wide reforestation programme must be established, with a national budget and provision for international support, e.g. through the Green Climate Fund and bilateral donors.
- The importance of woodlands and their effective management in Namibia require far more political engagement and support.



Today, at COP26 in Glasgow, world leaders agreed to eliminate deforestation globally by 2030, and start reforestation initiatives.

THANK YOU