# QUIZ ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT ARE COUNTRIES DOING TO "CLIMATE-PROOF" THE PLANET?



### Where in the world are they:

- 1) painting mountains white?
- 2) developing houses that float on water?
- 3) texting warning of bad weather to fishermen?
- 4) putting air-conditioning in bus stops?
- 5) painting roof gardens white?
- 6) lending money to help people after disasters?
- 7) giving free bottles of water?
- 8) planting more trees?
- 9) fighting against dengue?
- 10) improving the soil?

(check your answers in the infographic on the next slide)

### Moves to climate-proof the planet Adaptation projects from around the world

Hazard key Temperature rise Sea-level rise

Floods

Ocean acidification

Less rain

natural disasters

Changing rainfall patterns Unpredictable weather

Extreme risk High risk Medium risk

Low risk No Data



### **Adaptive Capacity ranking**

These scores are taken from the Maplecroft Adaptive Capacity Index (ACI). The ACI balances a country's exposure to climate risks with its ability to absorb and recover from losses.

### Canada **Cooling centres** and travel tokens

DISASTER CONTROL

To combat the urban heat island effect. Toronto has designed weather alerts to protect vulnerable people such as the elderly, children, those who are ill, and homeless people from extremes of heat (and cold). Public information and action include a heat advice line,

bottled water distribution, and transit tokens to get people to cooling centres.



### Britain **Greening London** and the mighty Thames barrage

Working with Sustainable Cities: Options for Responding to Climate cHange Impacts and Outcomes (SCORCHIO – yes, really), the mayor's office will 're-green' the city to shade, cool and insulate. Some 100,000 square metres of green roofs are planned as well as a 10-per-cent increase in green cover by 2050. The gigantic Thames Barrier,

which cost over \$1 billion, should be able to protect the capital from tidal floods

Vulnerability to climate change\*

URBAN PLANNING, WATER MANAGEMENT

Uganda

SMS weather

warnings

DISASTER CONTROL

Around 5,000 fishers die each vear

on Lake Victoria when their boats

and high waves. A pilot

project will see weather

forecasts and warnings sent

out by mobile phone text

message, so fishers know

when to stay docked.

nin.tl/xTdF8g

are capsized by sudden winds

until at least 2070.

HIGH

### **United States** White-out global warming NYC URBAN PLANNING

A hip project that encourages New Yorkers to 'adopt a roof' and paint it white, to cool down sweltering NYC in the summer. Meanwhile, city hall is moving back-up power generators to higher ground in anticipation of floods. No talk of green space



### Micro-disaster cover INSURANCE

Fonkoze, Haiti's largest microfinance organization, has rolled out catastrophe insurance to their 55,000 small-loan clients. Under a donor-supported scheme, insurance is extended to those traditionally excluded from it, in this case poor women entrepreneurs. The against ever more frequent floods and fiercer

indemnity pay-out, cancellation of any loan, and eligibility to receive a new loan when ready to re-start business



LOW

WATER MANAGEMENT

The inventor Eduardo Gold is trying to restore glacial mass in the Peruvian Andes. His team will finish painting the rocks of three peaks white this year. Sounds wacky but draws on the scientific principle 'the albedo effect' - reflecting the sun's rays back into space to bring down the

Adaptive MEDIUM

earth's temperature. The World Bank was impressed - it awarded him \$200,000.

### The Netherlands Smart dykes and amphibian houses

WATER MANAGEMENT, URBAN PLANNING

Holland enjoys a sophisticated web of polders, dykes and dams, but these may not be enough to withstand rising seas and river floods. The government plans to boost defences but also to make room for the river', extending flood plains and introducing innovations like floodable dykes. They are also trialing 'amphibian houses'- homes that are anchored to the ground and can rise with the water, and dykes with sensors that can warn of impending danger, By 2050. the country expects to spend over \$2 billion every year on adaptation.

Adaptive HIGH

### Dubai Air-conditioned bus stops

URBAN PLANNING

This gulf state now has 900 air-conditioned bus stops to cool down waiting commuters. Developers have eschewed traditional Persian architecture in favour of tall, glass buildings ill-equipped for soaring 50 degrees Celsius heat. The Burj Khalifa - the world's tallest building – is a case in point.
It uses 150 megawatts of power, equal to
about a 10th of the output of a big nuclear reactor.

Also, isn't it time Dubai lost the indoor ski slope? Just a thought.

MEDIUM

### **Fighting** dengue with the Mesocyclops

Dengue fever is one lethal vectorborne disease that - like malaria - may spread to new tropical areas. In Vietnam dengue was all but eliminated by a biological weapon, a mosquito larvae predator supremo: the scarily named (but really very small) Mesocyclops, which was introduced into water storage containers.

net for Turkana pastoralists LIVELIHOODS

Meat safety

Droughts, which once occurred every 10 years, now come on an annual basis, wiping out livestock and causing famine. As an alternative to food aid, an NGOfinanced Meat Safety Net Programme pays herders a fair, fixed price for the weakest cows or goats. The animals are slaughtered and the meat and the hide are returned to the seller. They

can use the money to restock buy food or pay off debts.

LOW

Zambia

farming

FORESTRY AND

AGRICULTURE

A minimum tillage method that traps

moisture, improves the quality of the

soil, minimizes soil erosion and creates

global warming continues, the Victoria

Falls, 'seventh wonder of the

world', will be an empty

ravine within 50 years

solution for that.

sadly, no adaptation

drought-tolerant growing conditions.

Can result in tenfold yield increase. If

Conservation

### Australia Closing off the **Great Barrier Reef**

BIODIVERSITY

The organization that manages the Great Barrier Reef undertook a major review of the marine park in 2004 and decided to close off a far greater area to fishing, as coral bleaching is predicted to devastate fisheries and biodiversity here. This will minimize human pressures on the reef, but it won't actually stop corals from bleaching. A proposal to 'shade' the reef from sunlight never got much traction.

\* Maplecroft's **Climate Change Vulnerability Index** maplecroft

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borrower's home and business are insured hurricanes, as well as earthquakes. In the event of a disaster they get a \$125



HIGH

26 \* NEW INTERNATIONALIST \* APRIL 2012

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http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Protecting\_
the\_planet\_against\_climate\_change

