

Growing Old in a Changing Climate – *cost and consequence*

Dr Gary Haq
Stockholm Environment Institute
University of York

www.sei.se

www.garyhaq.com



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Climate Change

Diverse Demographic Group

Carbon Footprint

Vulnerability to Climate Change

Exposure, Sensitivity, Threats and Coping Capacity

Opportunity for Change



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A Diverse Demographic Group



Baby Boomer



Elder

Health
Wealth
Mobility
Social Networks
Carbon Emissions



Senior

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The Carbon Footprint

The carbon footprint is the total amount of carbon emissions which result directly and **indirectly** from the lifestyle choices of an individual

Energy
Travel
Waste
Consumables



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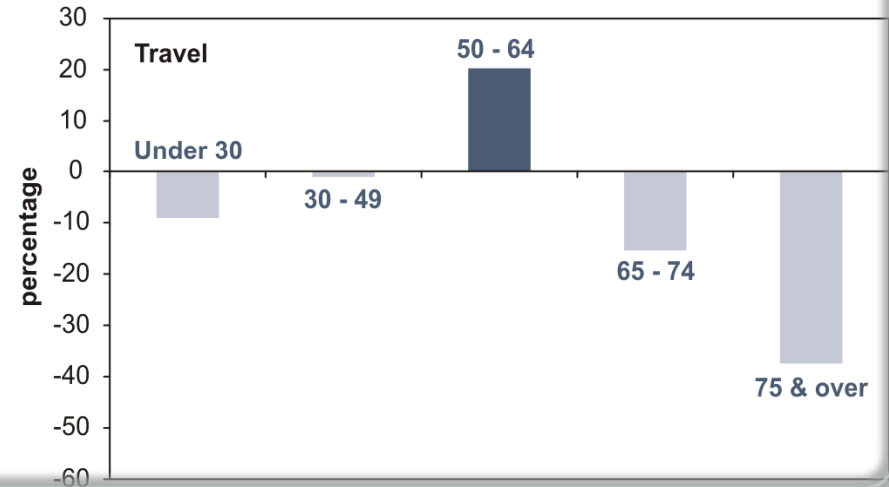
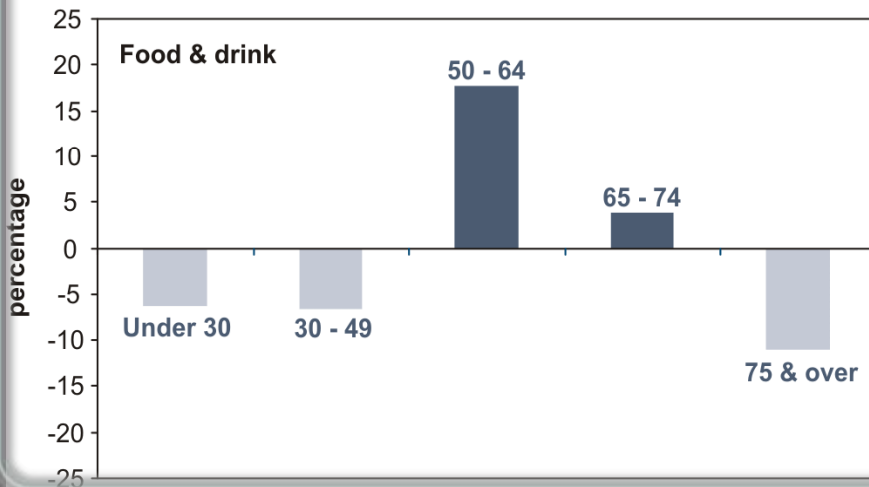
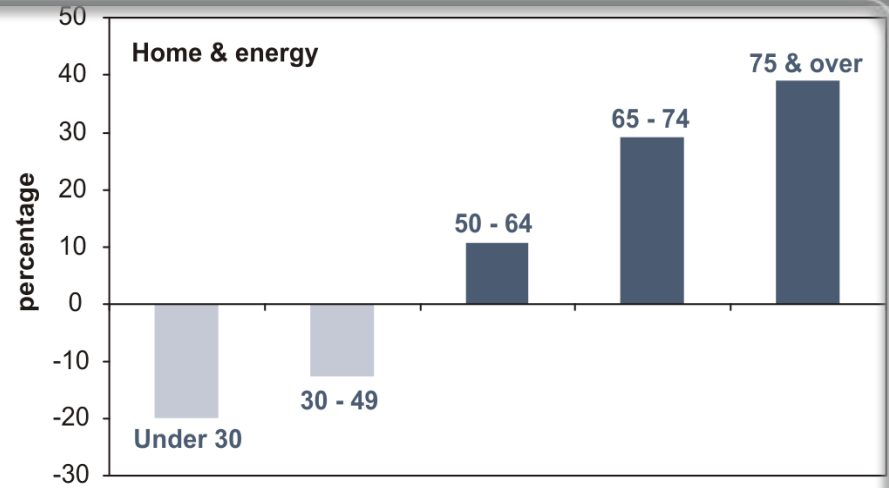
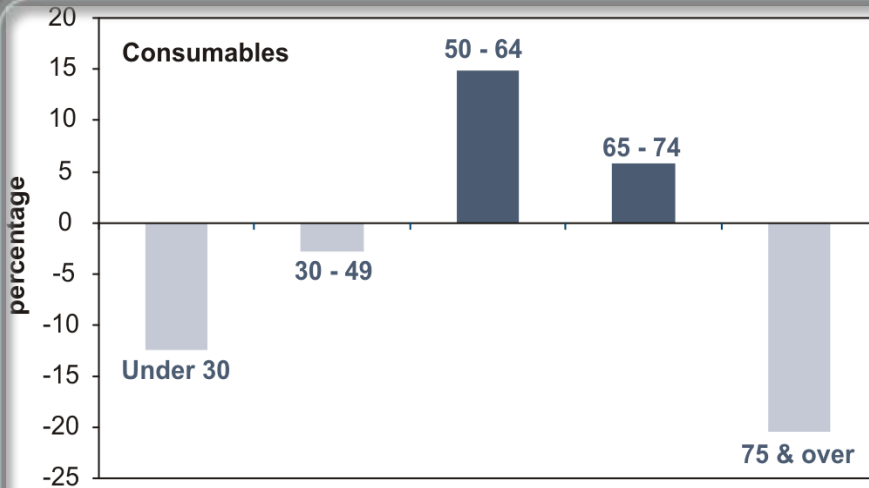
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Percentage difference in Carbon Emissions by Age



Source: SEI (2009)

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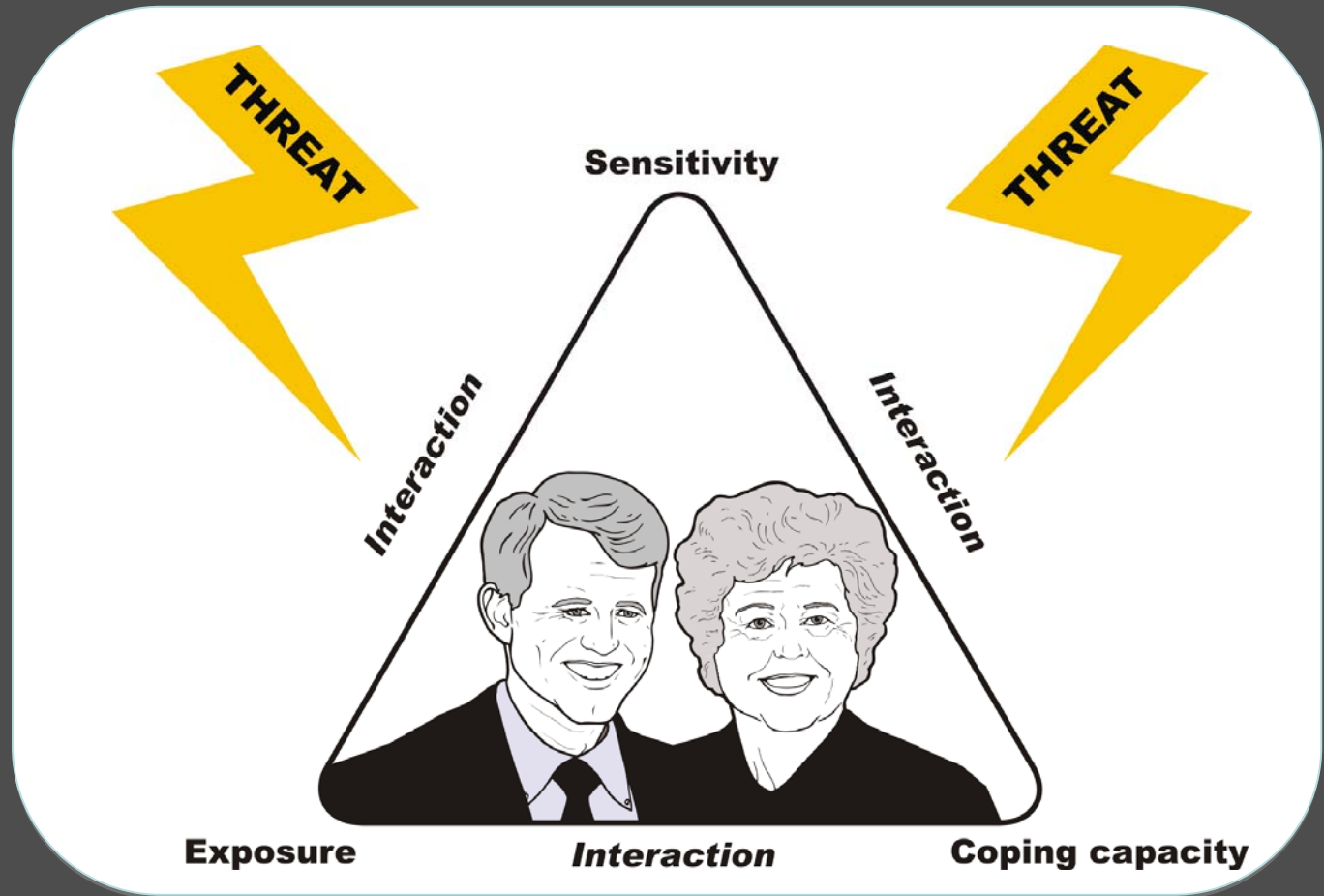
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Vulnerability to Climate Change

When reserve capacity falls below the threshold needed to cope successfully with the challenges they face



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Exposure

Direct Effects

- Heat waves
- Floods
- Storms

Indirect Effects

- Disruption of essential services
- Financial loss
- Anxiety and Stress
- Health effects

European Heat Wave August 2003



Approx. 14,000 mainly elderly people die due to temperatures reaching 40°C

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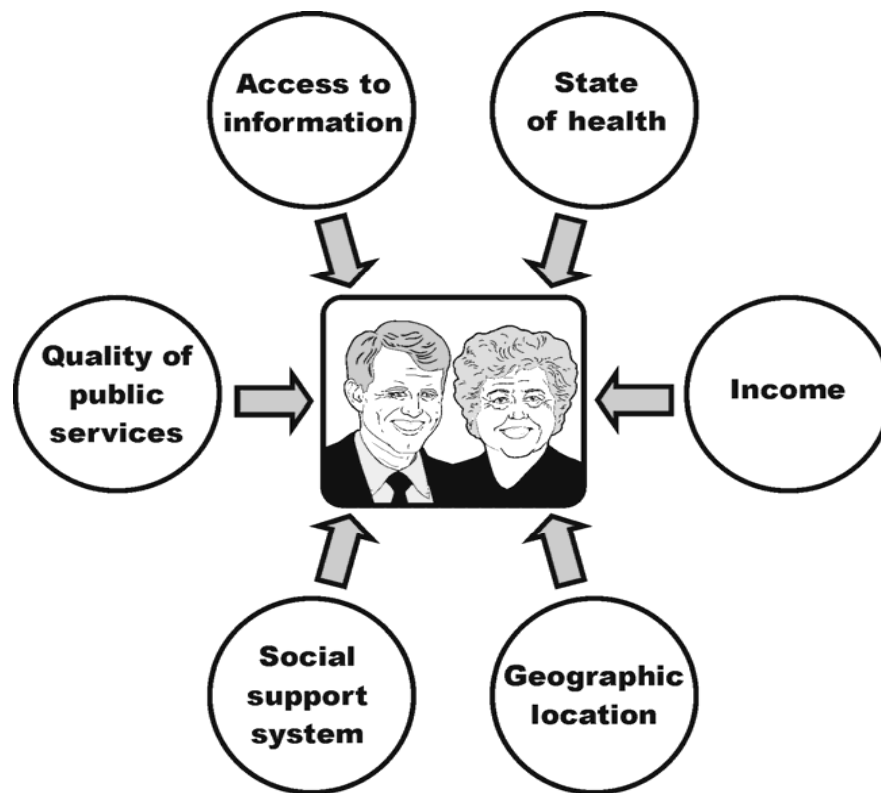
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Sensitivity

Exposure

Exposure



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Threats

- Disruption to an individual's way of life and routine
- Any thing that affects what an individual values for a good quality of life:
 - quality of neighbourhood
 - social networks and community
 - material conditions
 - health and well-being

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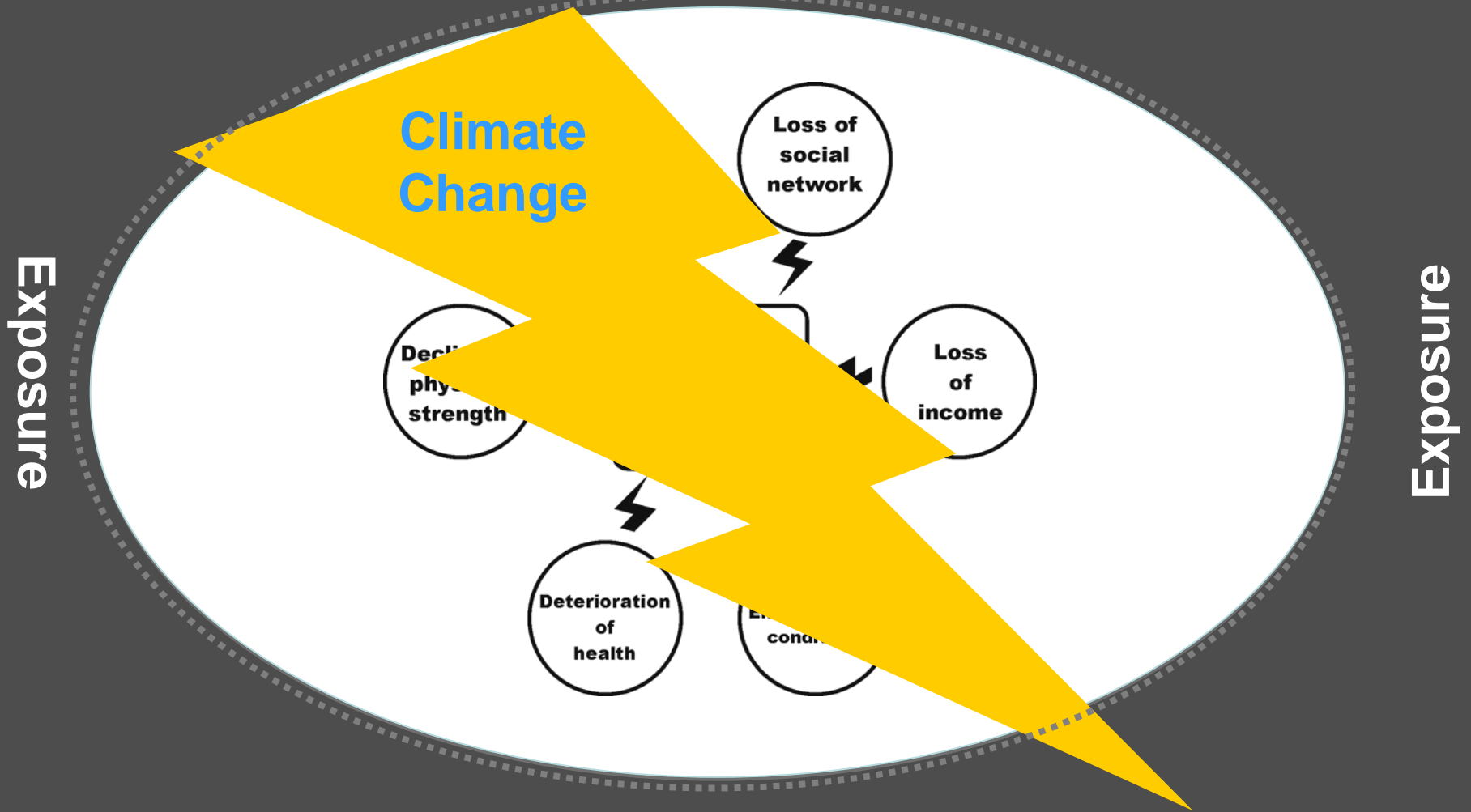
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Threats in Old Age



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Coping Capacity

How adaptable an individual is to climate change is dependent on:

- **Individual capacities** (e.g. wealth, health, education)
- **Social networks** (e.g. family, friends, community institutions, voluntary groups)
- **Social protection** (e.g. welfare provision)

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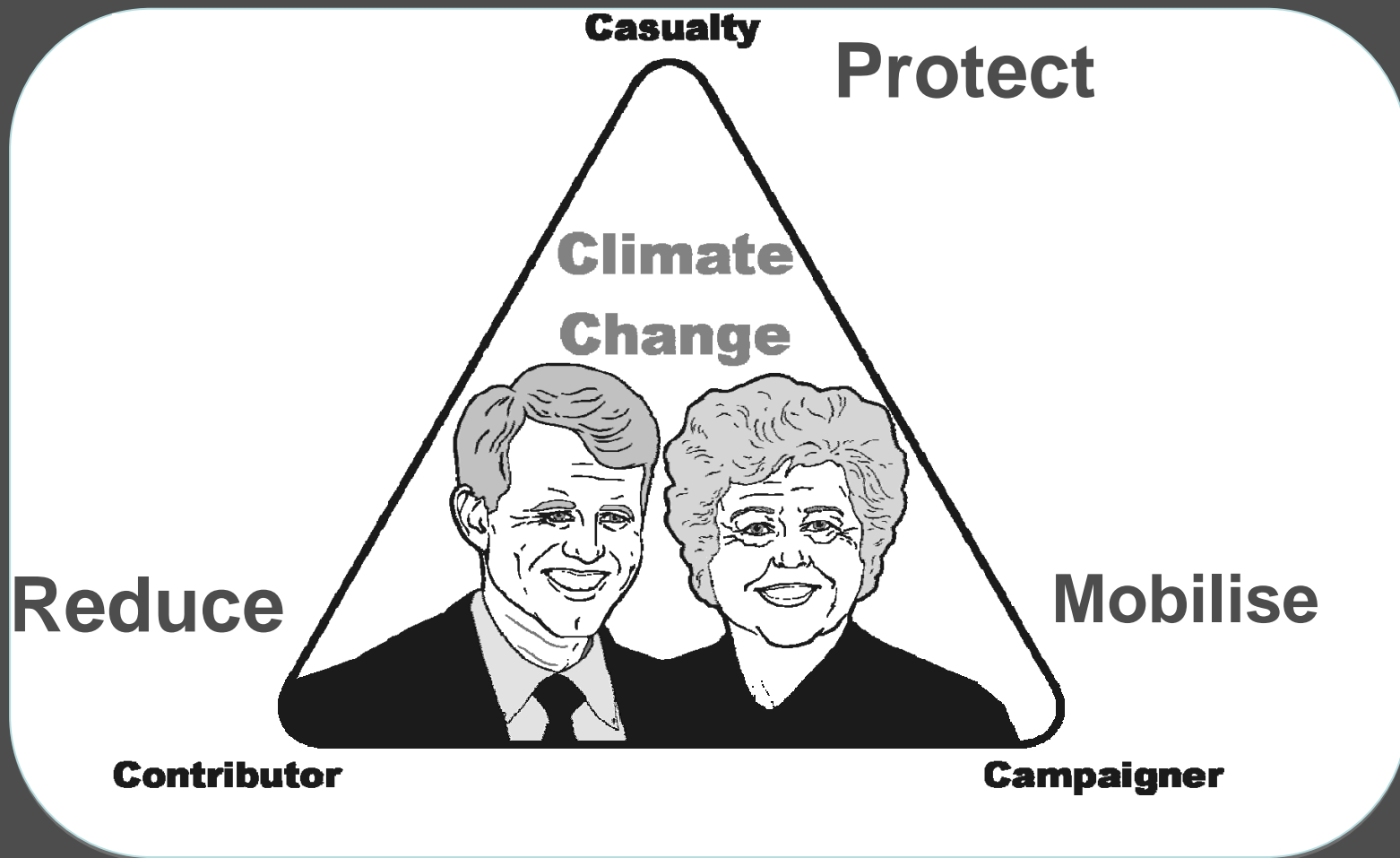
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Opportunity for Change



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Policy Response

- Age and climate change proof all future policies
- Climate change proof the homes of older people
- Enrich local accessibility
- Better transport for older people
- Leadership on older people and climate change

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Crisis = Danger + Opportunity

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