

climate change & sustainable development

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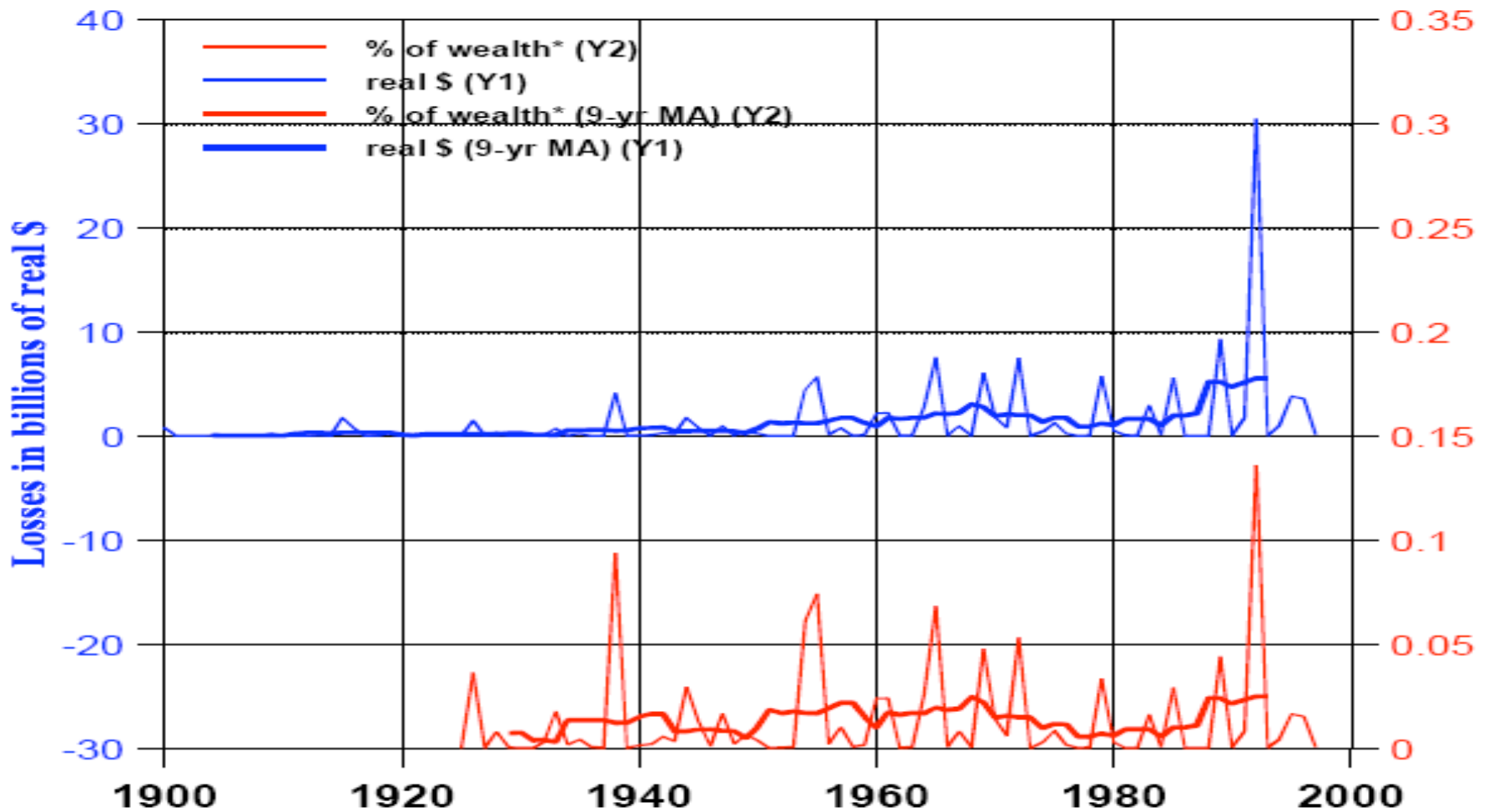
overview

- ⊕ Threats posed by climate change
- ⊕ Other threats to humanity
- ⊕ Proposed 'solutions'
- ⊕ What can be done

climate change 'threats'

- ❖ Extreme IPCC Scenarios based on implausible economic assumptions
- ❖ Storms, hurricanes? Complex relationship with changing temperature
- ❖ Floods? Poss. increase in precipitation, but decline in glacier melt, small sea-level rise; net effect?
- ❖ Droughts? Hyper-arid regions arose because of global cooling ... regional changes unclear
- ❖ Vector borne diseases? Many factors; human mediation (animal prox., etc.) important
- ❖ Temperature-related deaths: deaths from cold greater than deaths from heat ...
- ❖ Biodiversity? Unclear, prob. not dramatic.
- ❖ Agriculture? Increase?

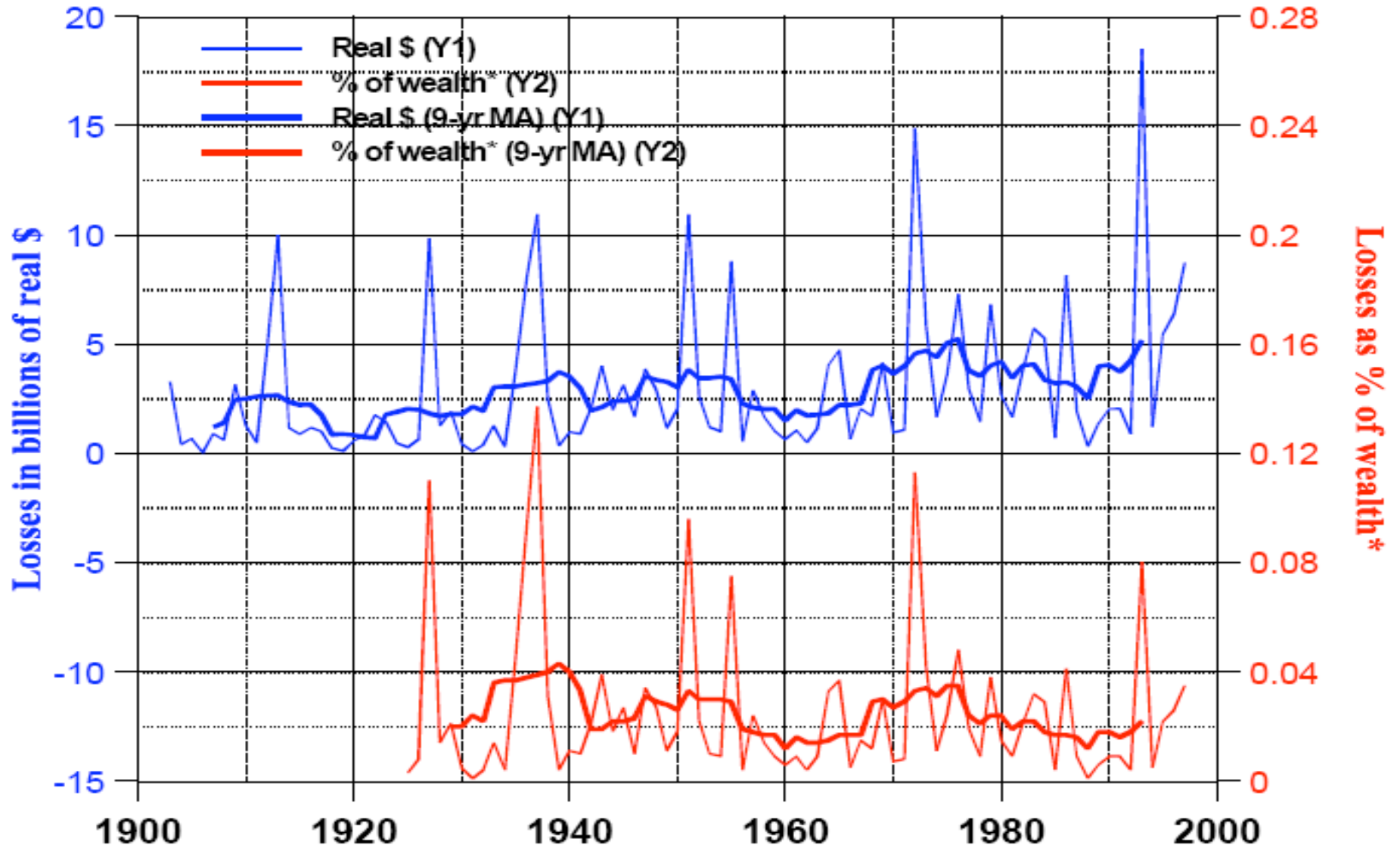
US hurricane property losses - real and as % of wealth



* Wealth measured as fixed reproducible tangible assets.

Sources: Goklany 1998b, 2000a

US property losses due to floods - real and as % of wealth



* Wealth measured as fixed reproducible tangible assets.

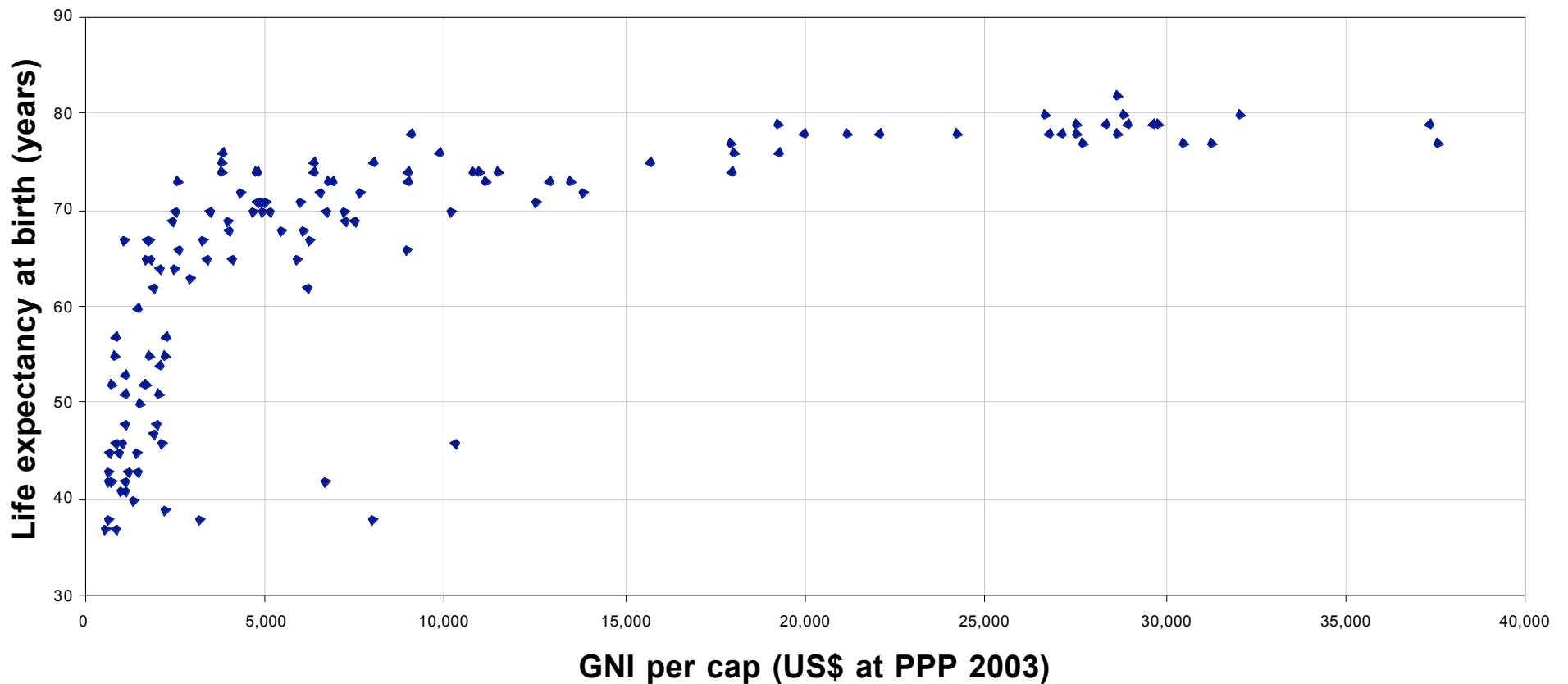
Source: Goklany

www.policynetwork.net

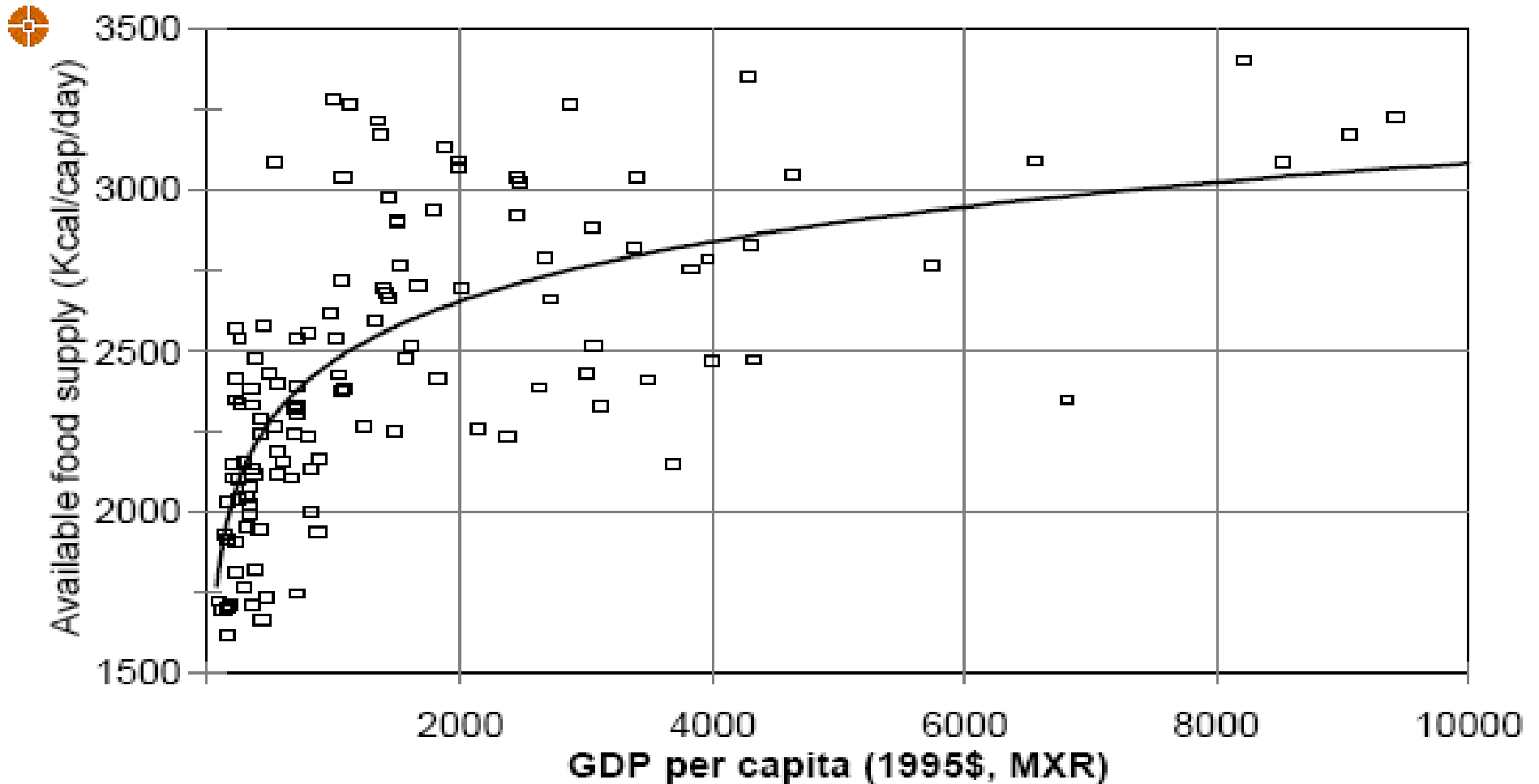
other threats to humanity

- ✿ Poverty: 2 billion live on less than \$2/day
 - ✿ Diseases of poverty
 - ▣ AIDS - c. 40 million infected. No cure
 - ▣ TB and other respiratory diseases; c. 1 million die/year
 - ▣ Malaria - c. 2 million die/year
 - ▣ Diarrhoea - c. 2 million die/year
 - ✿ Malnutrition - over 500 million
- ... and the relationship between these ...

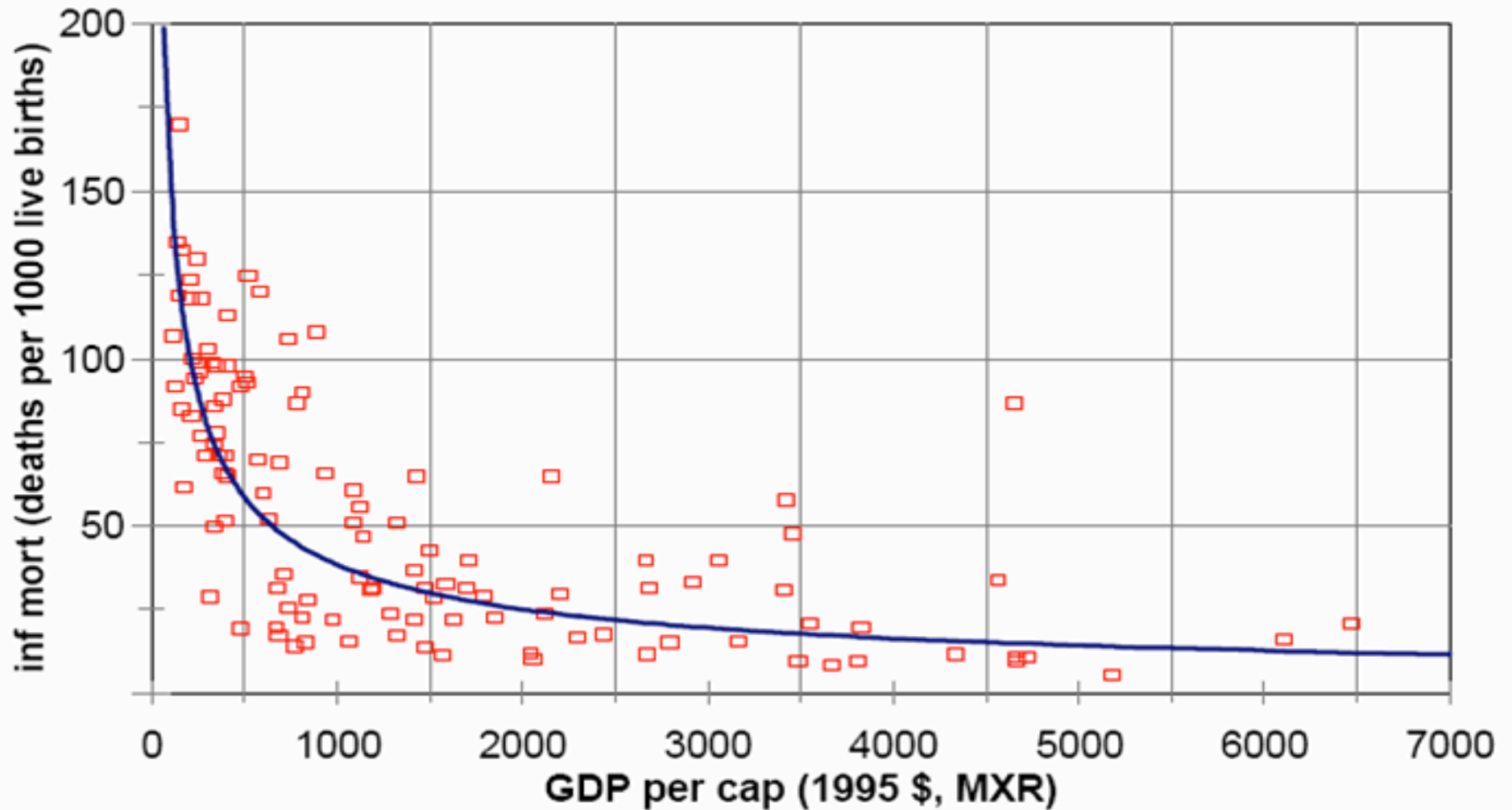
life expectancy at birth and GNI/cap



GDP/cap and available food



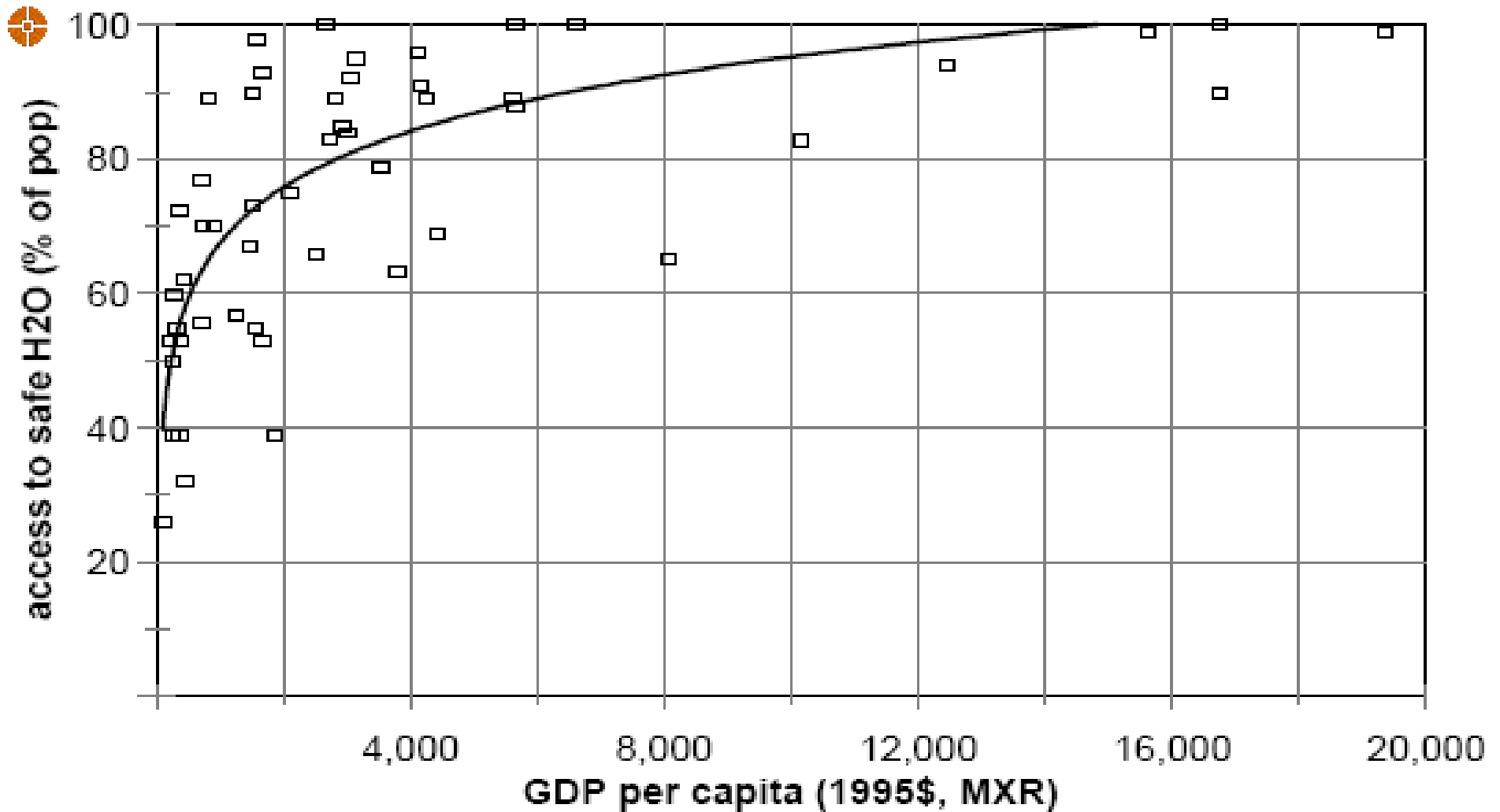
infant mortality and GDP/cap



Source: Goklany

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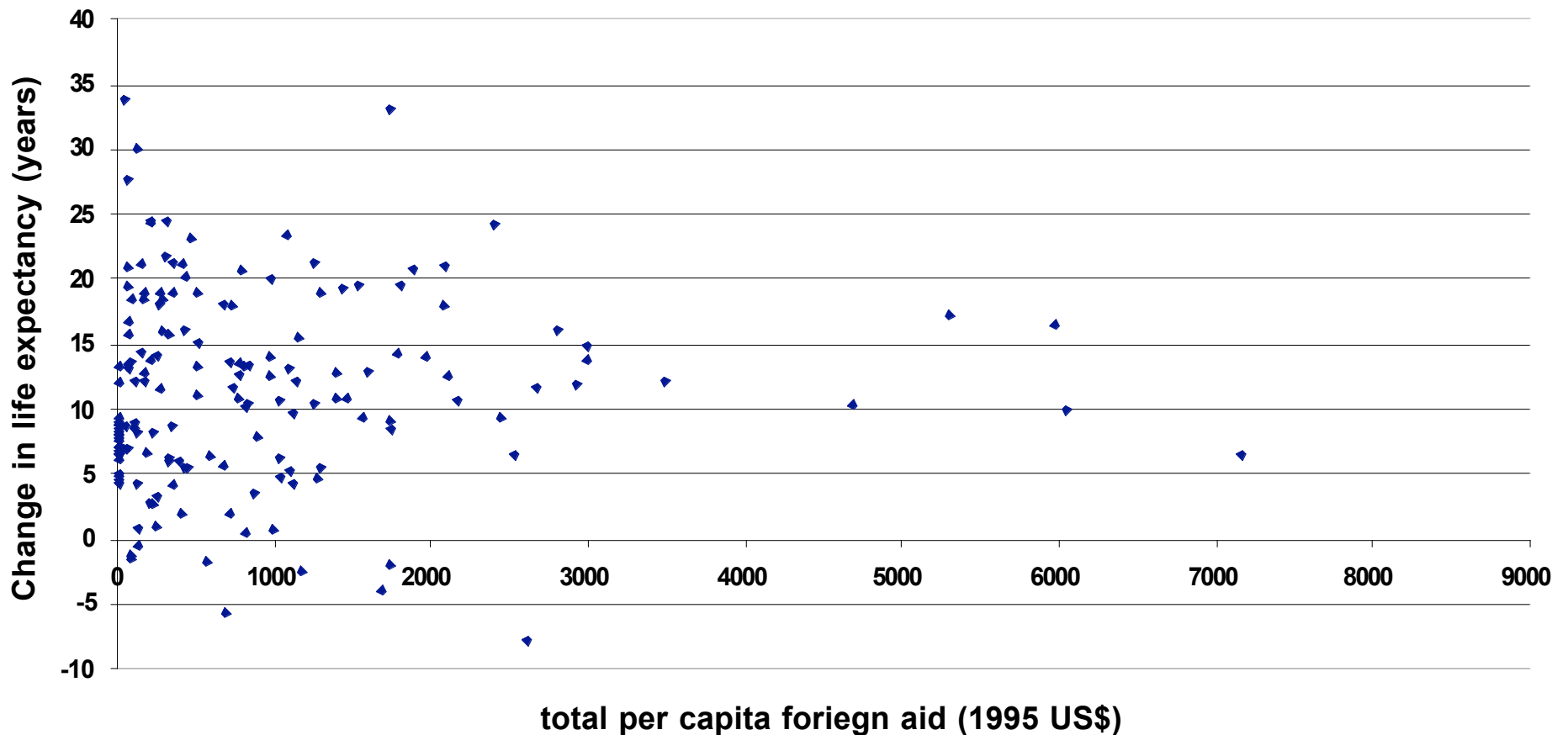
access to safe water and GDP/cap



the solution?

- ✪ 'For every problem there is a solution that is simple, direct and wrong' - Mencken
 - ❏ The simple, direct solution to climate change is, according to the IPCC, the FCCC, and Tony Blair, to reduce emissions of carbon a la Kyoto
 - ❏ The simple, direct solution to poverty, promoted by anti-poverty organisations around the world, is foreign aid
 - ❏ **Both are wrong**

change in life expectancy at birth and foreign aid 1960 - 2000



the underlying causes

- ❖ War and civil unrest
- ❖ Inadequately defined property rights
- ❖ Corrupt and/or inadequate administration and enforcement of law
- ❖ Excessive and inappropriate govt intervention:
 - ❖ Direct control over 'public services', such as physical and electronic communications, health, education
 - ❖ Regulations on business activities, including the private provision of public services
 - ❖ Monetization of debt through inflation
 - ❖ Excessive taxation
 - ❖ Excessive centralisation of power

what can be done

- Most problems local and must be solved locally
- Rich countries should avoid doing harm
 - Scrap subsidies to agriculture and other goods that compete with producers in poor countries
 - Remove trade barriers
 - Redirect aid to purposes that do the least harm - and might conceivably even do some good:
 - Provision of medicines
 - Projects, such as de Soto's, which investigate the underlying institutional defects

Reconstruction of temperature record by von Storch et al - Science, 9/30/04

