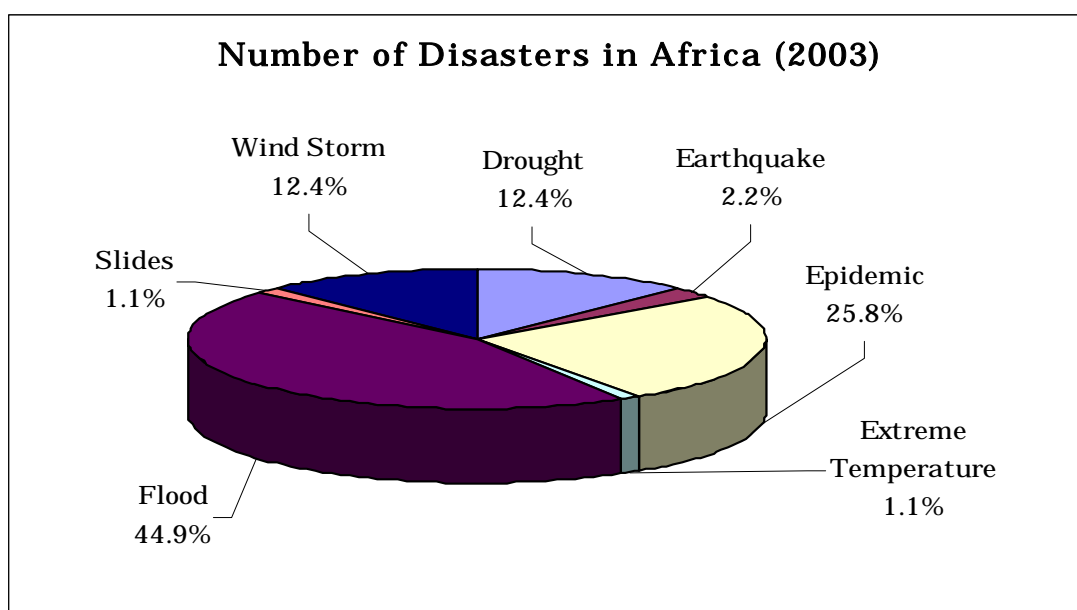


3.2 Regional Characteristics of Natural Disasters in the World:

3.2.1 Characteristics of Disasters in Africa:

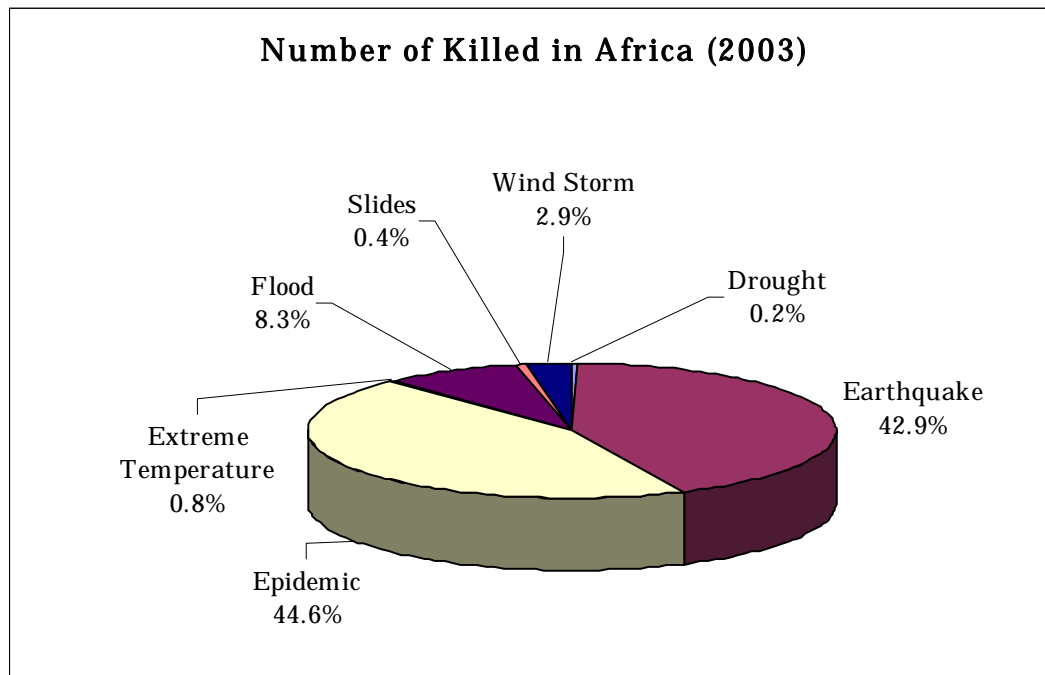
It can be seen from the Figure 27, that about 96% of the natural disasters in the year 2003 in Africa were floods, windstorms, epidemics and drought. Further, Figure 28 suggests that the majority of the human loss in Africa is due to epidemics and earthquake, as they account for 88% of the human loss. Meanwhile, the majority of the people affected by disasters in Africa are affected by drought which accounts for nearly 86% of the *totally* affected people in Africa in the year 2003, as shown in Figure 29. Also economic damage caused by the Algeria Earthquake is the biggest in the region (Figure 30). These figures characterize the African region as a serious disaster prone region with more socio-economic vulnerabilities where the majority of human suffering is from droughts, floods, earthquakes and epidemics.

Figure 27:



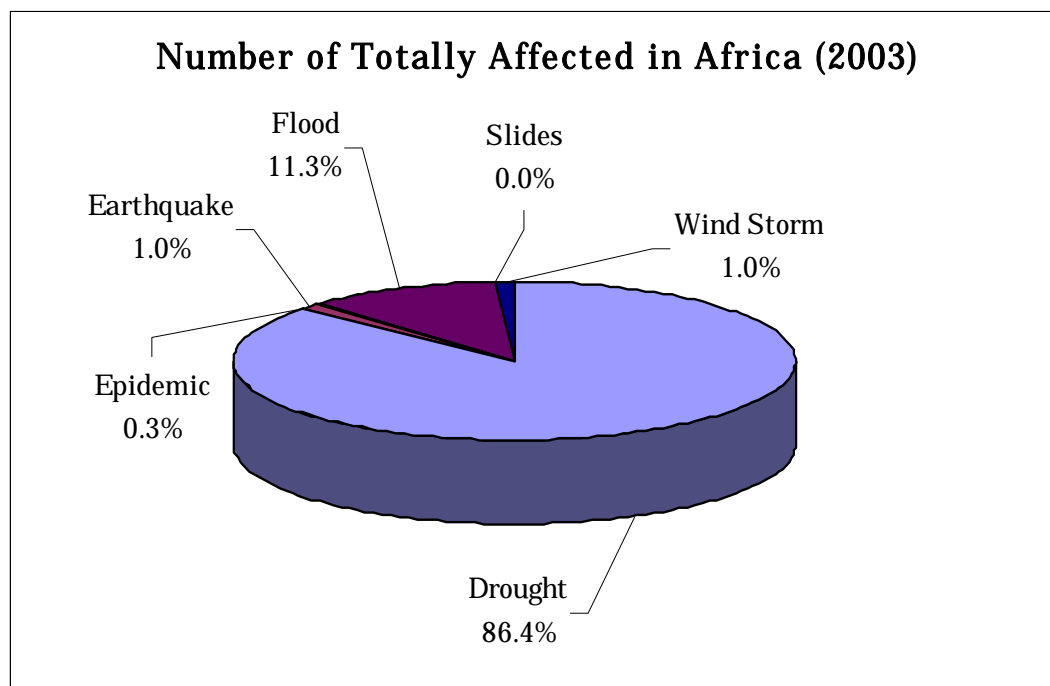
Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 28:

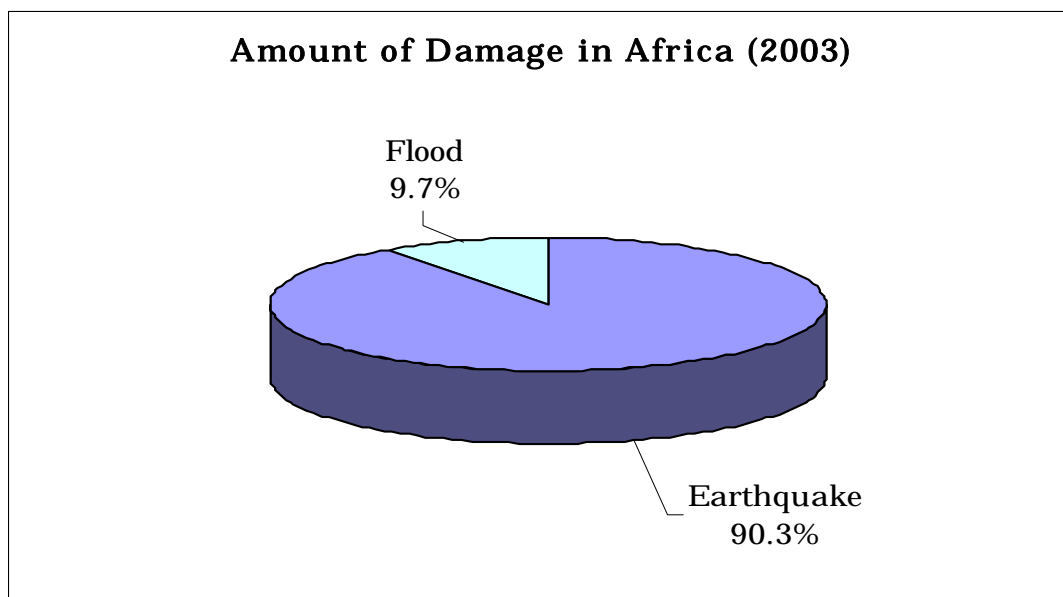


Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 29:



Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

Figure 30:

Source: ADRC, Japan and CRED-EMDAT, Universite Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, Belgium, 2003

3.2.2 Characteristics of Disasters in Americas:

In the American region which includes North and South American countries, floods and windstorms make up the majority of natural disasters occurred in the region in 2003. When human loss and suffering are considered, 97% of people were killed by floods, windstorms, epidemics, extreme temperatures and slides. Meanwhile, nearly 88% of the disaster-affected people are brought by floods and extreme temperatures. Majority of the economic damage was caused by hurricane and tornado in 2003. It is evident from Figure 31 to 34 that the American region was greatly affected by hydro meteorological disasters in the year 2003.