Mediation and Climate Change: Working through Conflicts and Disputes -- Local to Global

A side event presented at the COP 18/CMP 08 UNFCCC meetings, Doha, Qatar, 27 November 2012

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This Afternoon's Plan

- **Considering climate change, conflict, and disputes – key questions**

- **Why mediation (informal problem solving, conflict resolution) matters … and links to governance, transparency, public participation, local decision-making**

- **The fundamentals of mediation**

- **Other treaties/conventions**

- **Conflict resolution capacity building – the Haiti Project (via Skype)**

- **Discussion**

Climate Conflict Questions

- **What kinds of climate-related conflicts and disputes can we imagine – what are likely?**

- **Who will be involved in these conflicts?**

- **At what scale(s) will these conflicts occur?**

- **Is "capacity" sufficient to deal with/resolve these conflicts?**

- **Resources? Infrastructure? Methods? Skills?**

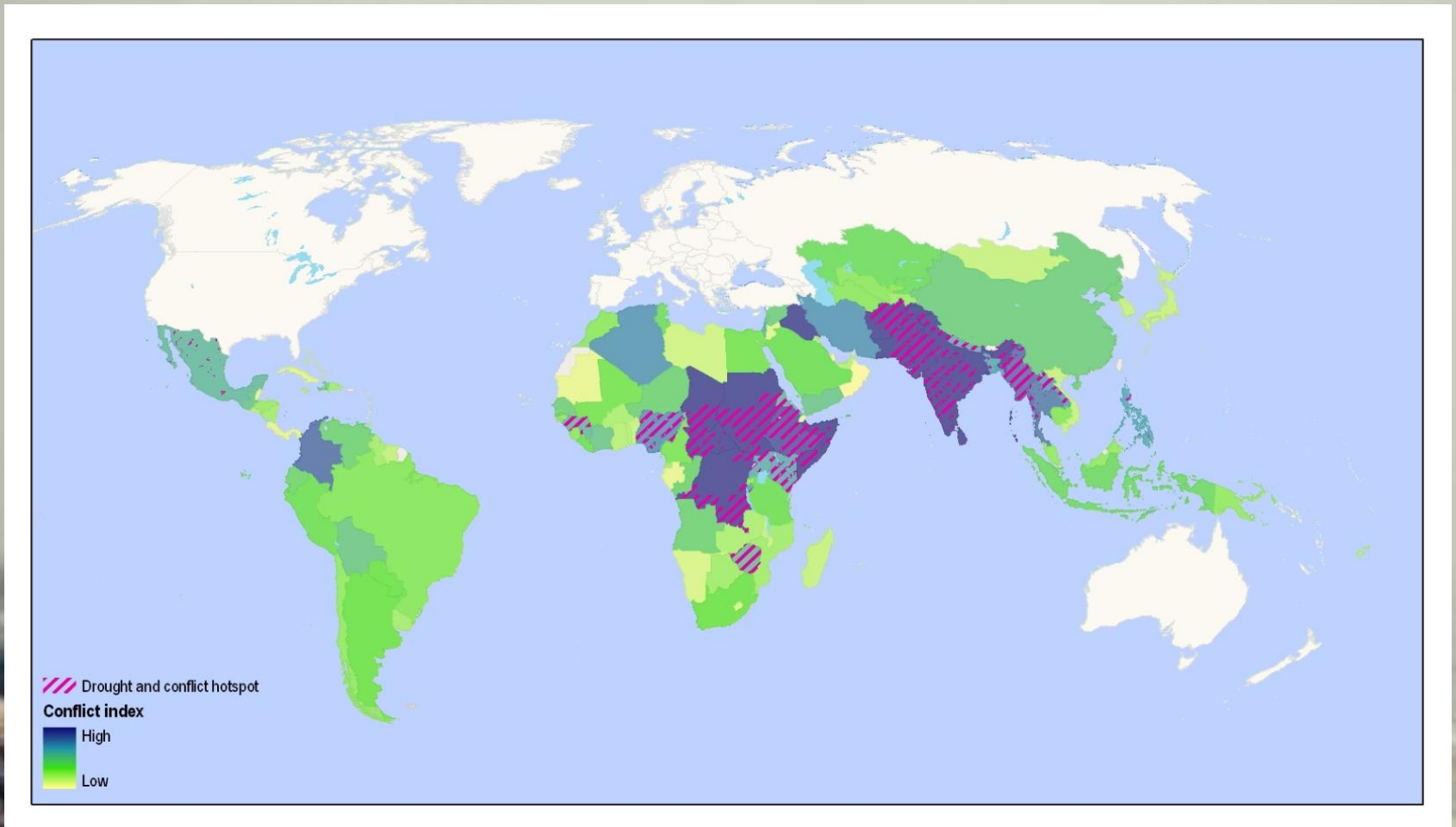- **What need for "mediation – participatory conflict resolution – informal problem-solving" methods, resources, and training?**

Likely climate conflicts/disputes?

Most obvious?

- **Food production?**
- **Catastrophic climate and weather events?**
- **Environmentally induced migration?**
- **Degraded fresh water resources?**
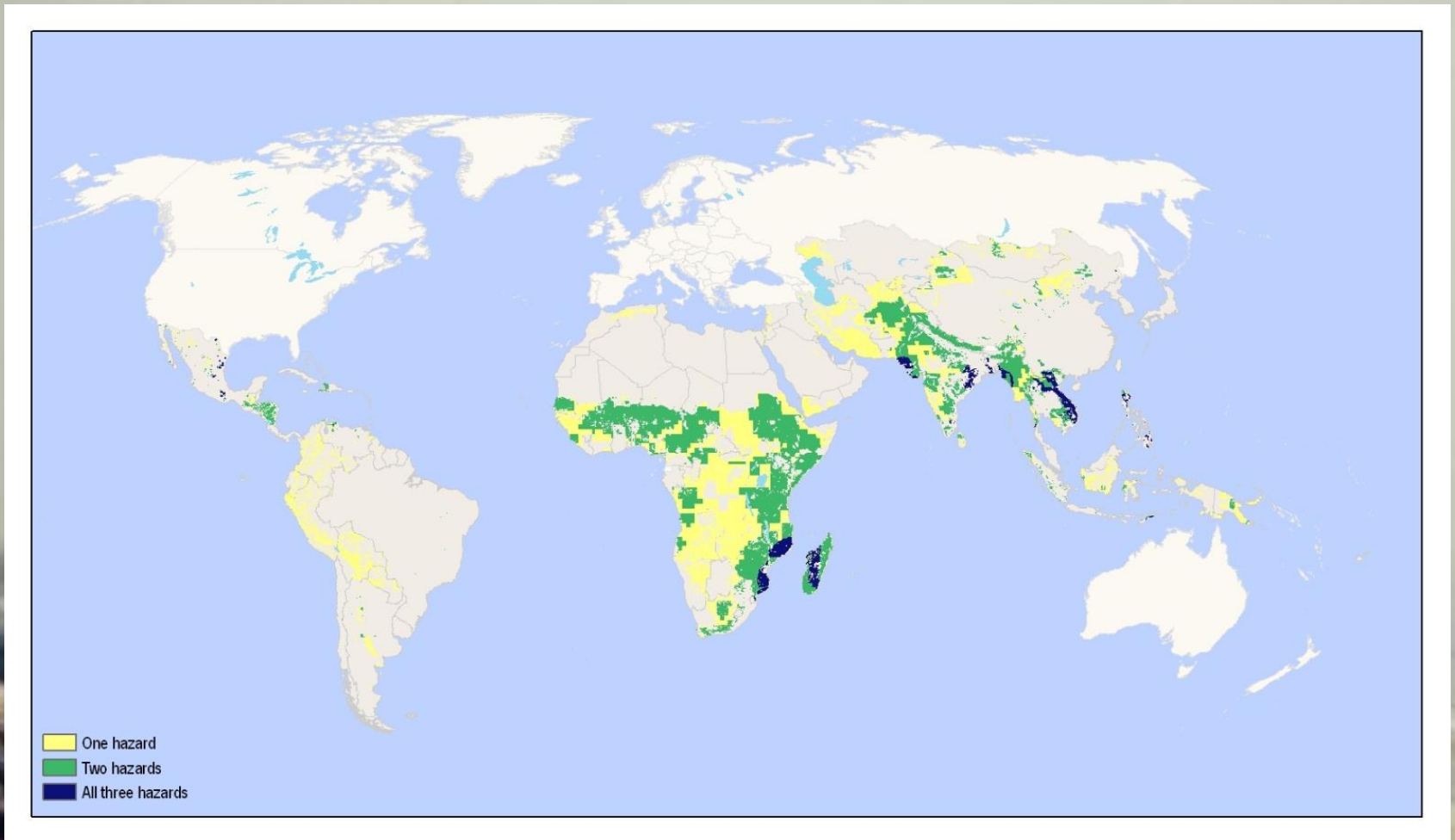- **Armed conflict?**

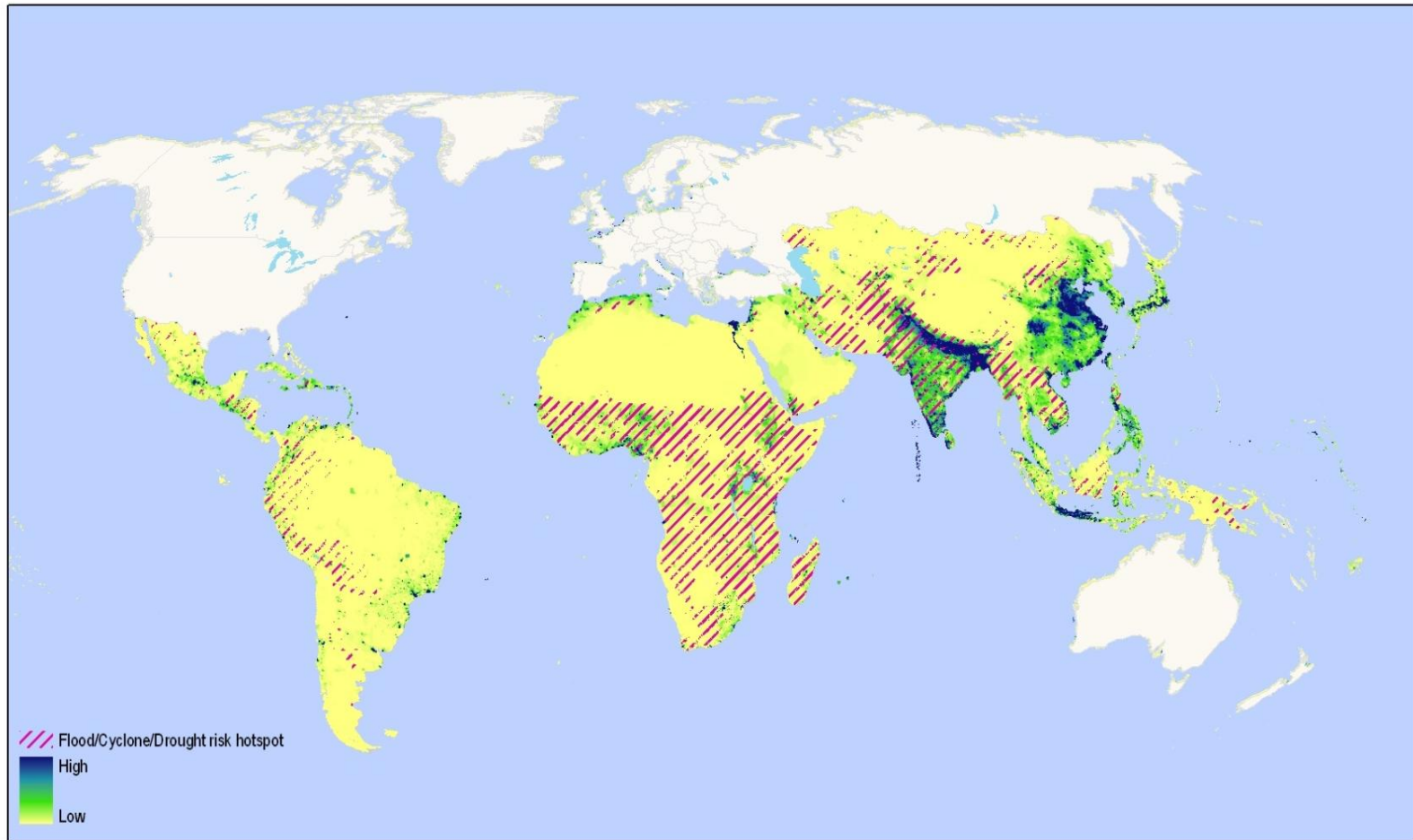# Climate change conflict and food production decline

Humanitarian risk hotspots for drought and conflict. The base map shows an index of conflict risk. The striped areas of the map represent areas where drought risk hotspots coincide with high and extreme conflict risk. These areas are interpreted to be at relatively higher risk of climate-risk conflict.   -- from Hartley, 2008

Climate change conflict and storm, flood, drought events

One hazard
Two hazards
All three hazards

Map showing cumulative humanitarian risk hotspots for three climate-related hazards – floods, cyclones and drought. Areas at risk for more than one type of hazard are considered to be of most concern for humanitarian actors.   -- from Hartley, 2008
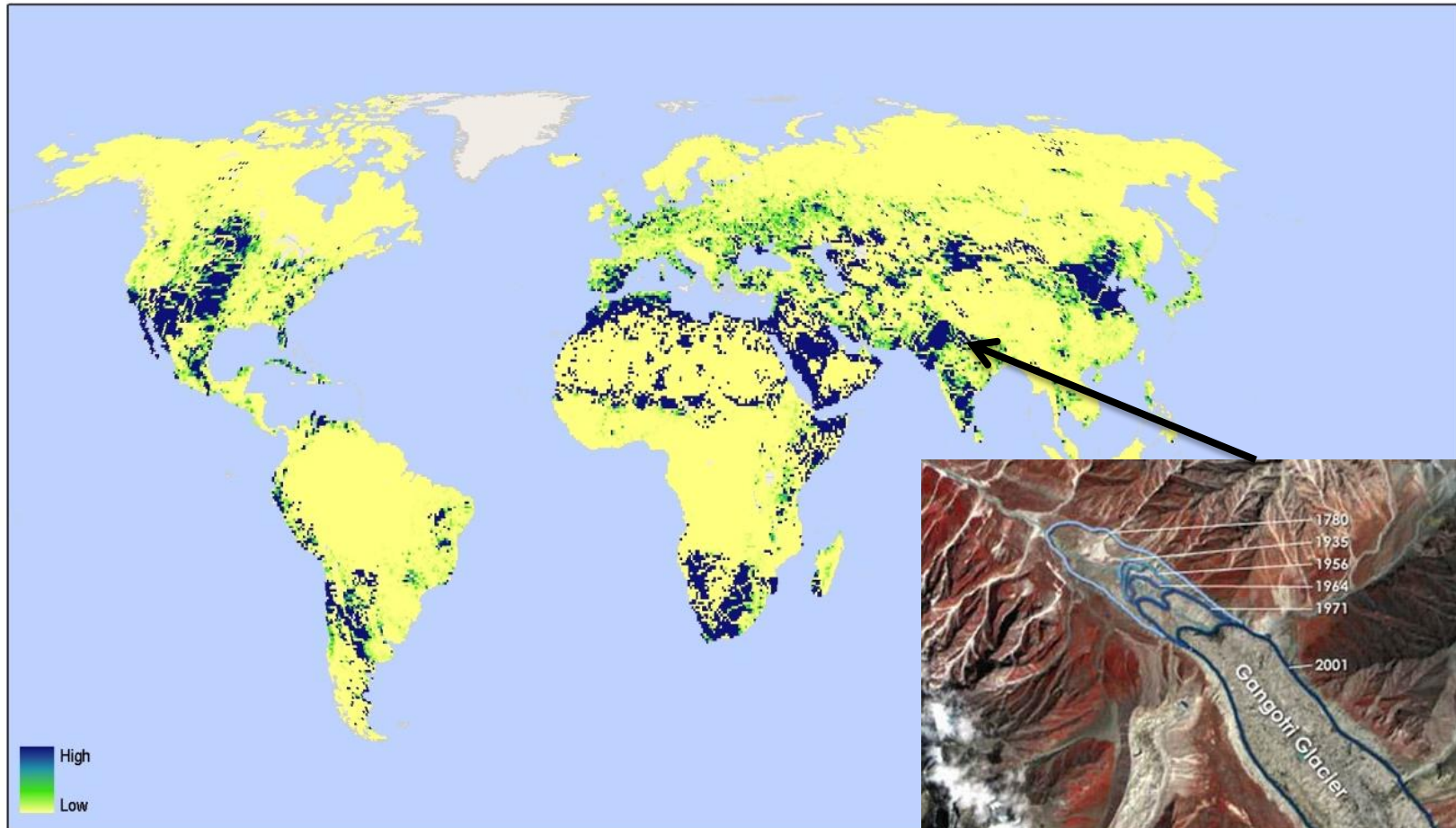
Climate change conflict and environmental migration

Flood/Cyclone/Drought risk hotspot
High
Low

Map showing hotspots of humanitarian risk for floods, cyclones and drought (combined) overlaying a population density gradient. Blue areas with striped overlay represent areas of high population density that are also risk hotspots. These areas could be interpreted to be possible locations of future population displacement as a result of climate hazards. – Hartley 2008
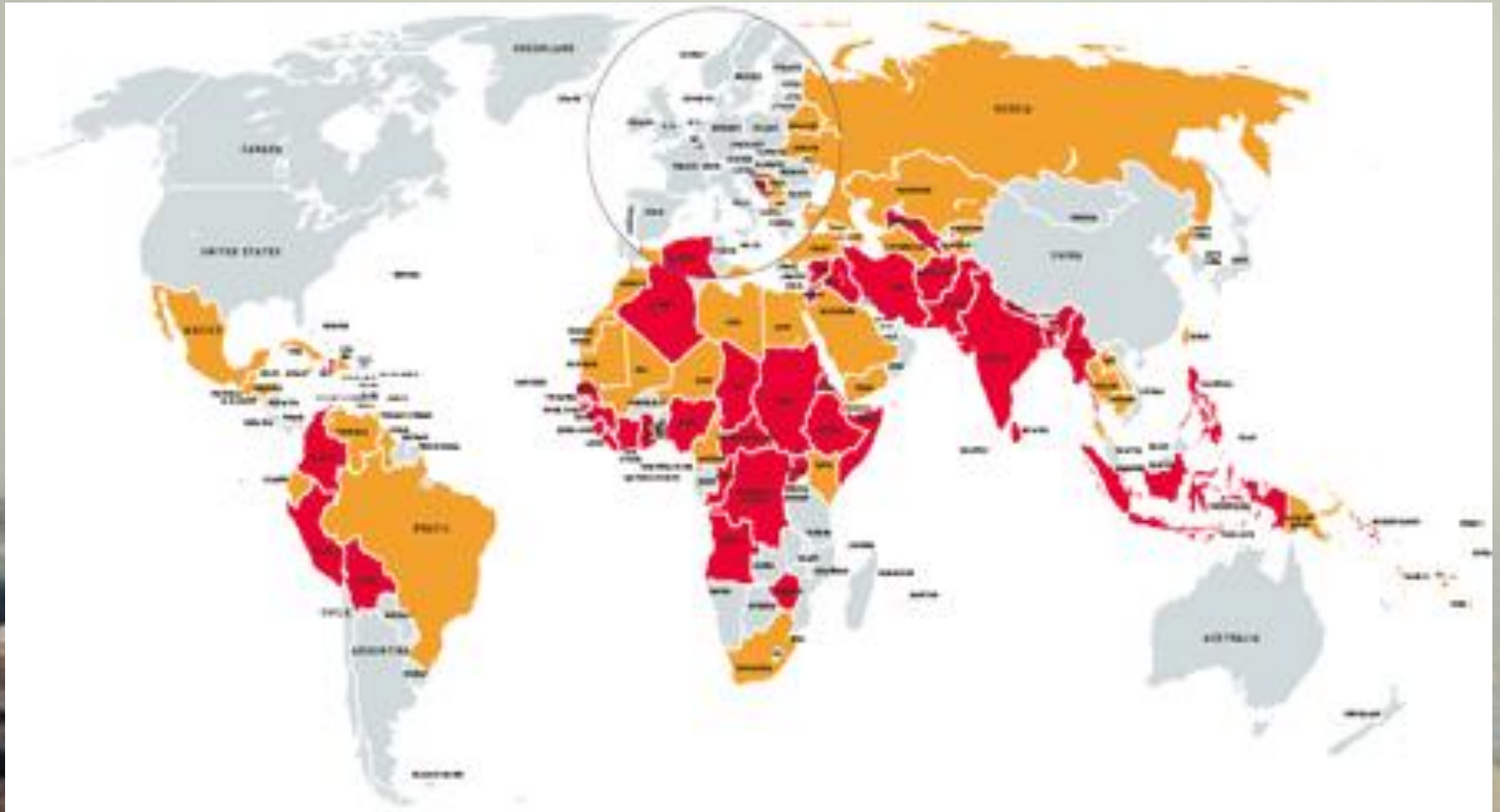
Climate change conflict and degraded freshwater

High

Low

Global distribution of water stress – defined as withdrawal of more than 40 percent of renewable water resources. Source data: World Water Assessment Programme. -- from Hartley, 2008

GANGOTRI GLACIER - CENTRAL HIMALYAS

NASA Earth Observatory

Climate change and armed conflict?

From International Alert, *A Climate of Conflict*, **2007. Red-risk of armed conflict. Yellow-risk of destabilization**.

Likely climate conflicts/disputes?

Less obvious?

- **Transparency/corruption? (*Global Witness*)**
- **Failures in governance? (*International Alert*)**
- **Insufficient capacities to adapt? (*German Advisory Council on Climate Change*)**
- **Local and vulnerable groups' lack of access to participation and decision making? (*FAO and others*)**

Parties and Scales

- **Climate change conflicts and disputes will involve a diversity of parties and occur on and across a range of scales**

- **Horizontal conflict – farmers and fishers; municipalities; businesses; nation-states**

- **Vertical conflict – farmers and agencies; NGOs and ministries; businesses and churches**

- **Potential interactions involve any party at or across any scale**

Is "conflict resolution capacity" sufficient?

- Do all parties, in any context, on any scale, have the culturally relevant resources to work through their conflicts and settle their disputes?

- Sufficient skills?

- Access to impartial third parties?

- Appropriate people, organizations, and facilities?

- Time, money, understanding, training?

Is "language" enough? Will CR capacity and resources follow?

From the UNFCCC charter, Article 14, "Settlement of Disputes" (and the Article 19 of the Kyoto Protocol):

In the event of a dispute between any two or more Parties concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention, the Parties concerned shall seek a settlement of the dispute through negotiation or by any other peaceful means of their own choice.

Is "language" enough? Will CR capacity and resources follow?

From the REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Project (CCBA and CARE)

Criteria 1.4 – The REDD+ program identifies and uses a process for effective resolution of any disputes over rights to lands, territories and resources related to the program…

Criteria 6.6 – Mechanisms are in place to receive and resolve grievances and disputes relating to the design, implementation and evaluation of the REDD+ program.

Is "language" enough? Will CR capacity and resources follow?

- **Language alone is not enough – but it is an important step.**

- **Mediation (conflict resolution, informal problem-solving) as a capacity building-human dimensions-governance issue.**

Mediation – a broad view

- **Mediation, broadly viewed, refers to the involvement of an impartial (neutral) third party to guide constructive negotiations. Mediators help parties engage in their own informal problem solving.**

- **This broad view includes an array of third party methods, including facilitation, dialogue, and participatory conflict resolution.**

- **And on to Part Two – "mediation fundamentals" with Suzi Norbeck (and no PowerPoint slides)**

- **Then to Part Three- UN treaty language – with Gregg Walker (and PowerPoint slides)**