



United Nations University
Institute for Environment & Human Security

“Advancing human security through knowledge-based approaches to reducing vulnerability and environmental risks”



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UNU-EHS

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The Climate Change - Migration Nexus

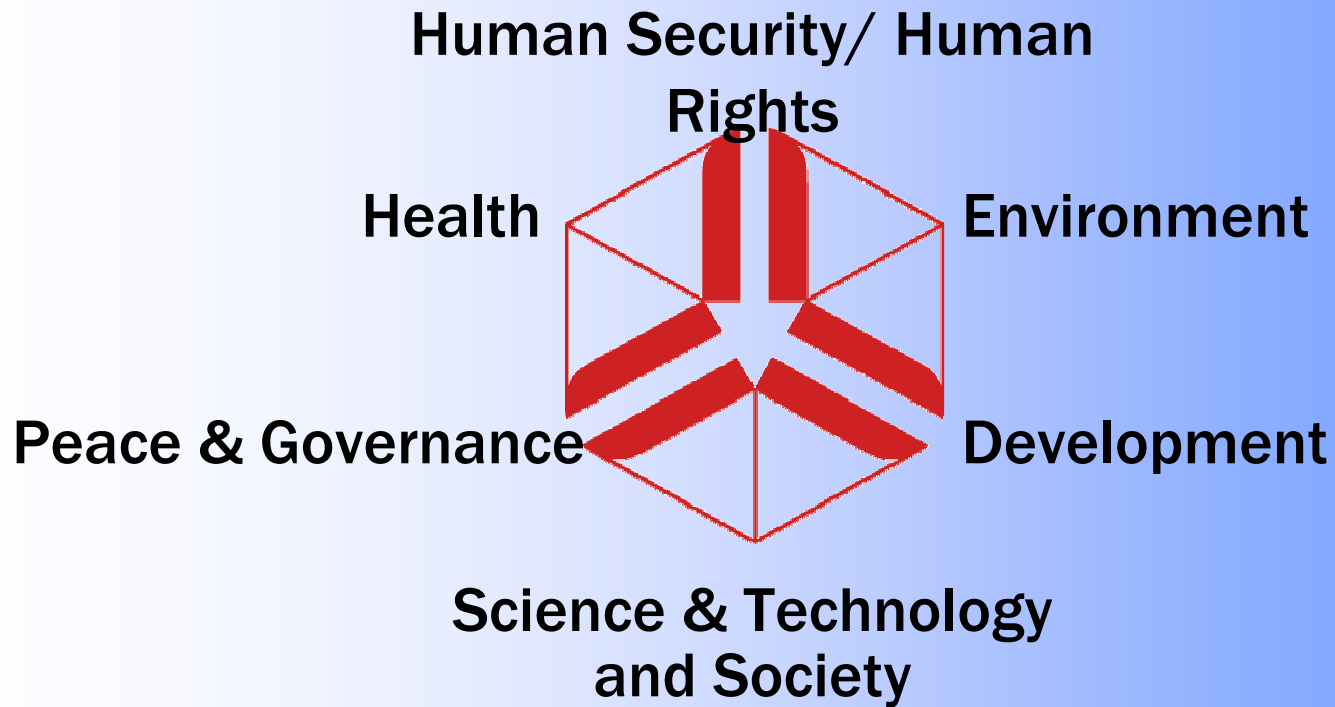
Dr. Koko Warner

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Bonn, Germany

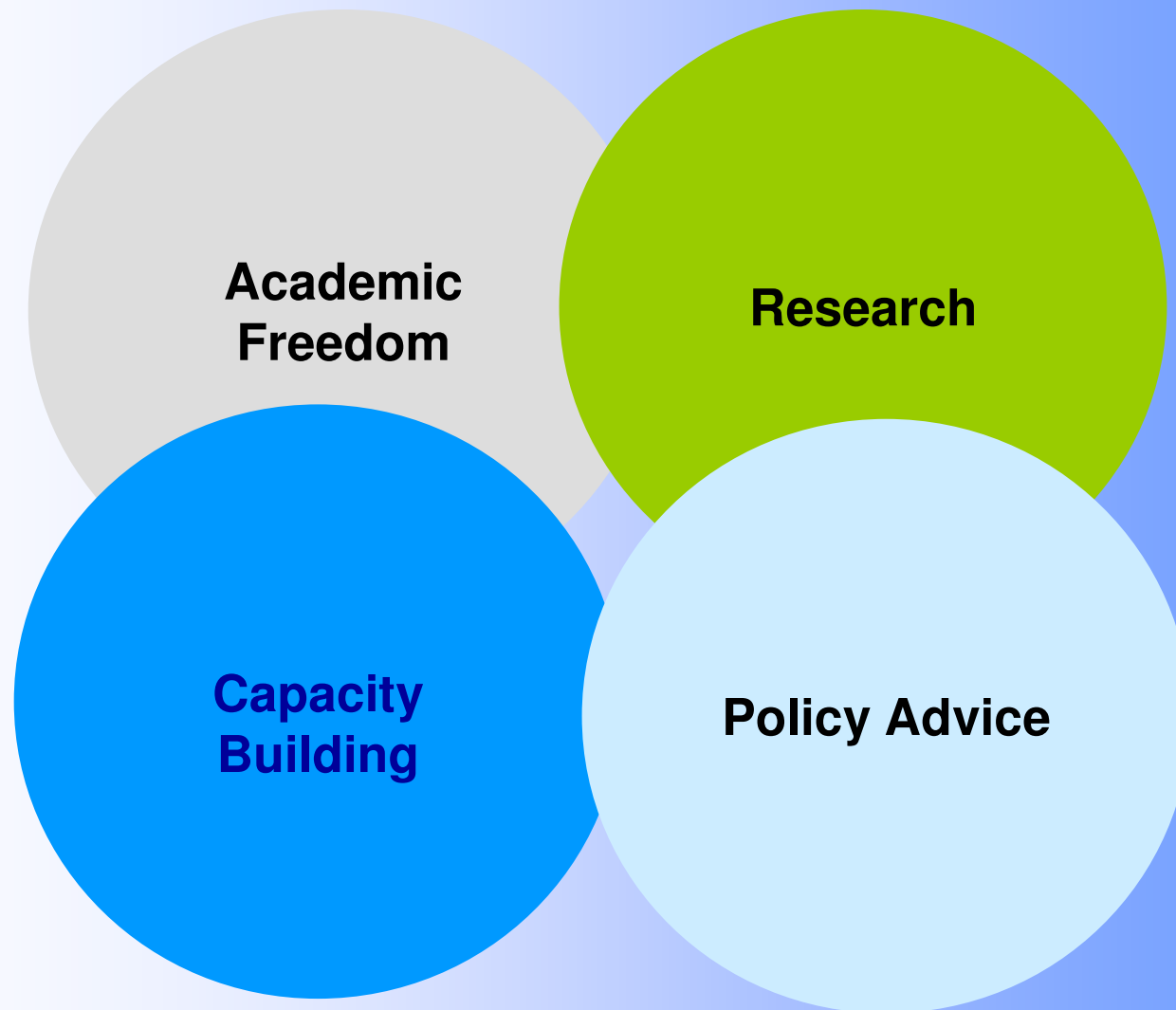


The UN University (UNU)





UNU brings research to policy processes





Introduction

- **Introduce**
 - Policy context: search for solutions to help communities and countries adapt to the negative impacts of climate change
 - First major global attempt to gather evidence about the relationship between environmental change and migration. 23 case studies.
- **Explain**
 - Some of the practical challenges of the fieldwork
- **Explore**
 - Directions for future research, building on lessons learned from this initial fieldwork experience.



Climate change & migration

- **What will climate change mean for migration?**
 - “In coming decades, climate change will motivate or force millions of people to leave their homes in search of viable livelihoods and safety. Although the precise number of migrants and displaced people may elude science for some time, all available estimates suggest their numbers will be in the tens of millions or more. The mass of people on the move will likely be staggering and surpass any historical antecedent”.
- **Do we know what we need to know?**
 - Given the potential of climate change and other forms of environmental change to profoundly affect human mobility, we know surprisingly little about how these factors interact.
- **How can we unlock the “black box” & understand the dynamics?**
 - A noted scholar suggested recently that despite widespread anecdotal evidence, generalised assumptions and emerging research findings, we still have little empirically grounded knowledge or conceptual understanding of the links between the environmental impacts of climate change and population mobility

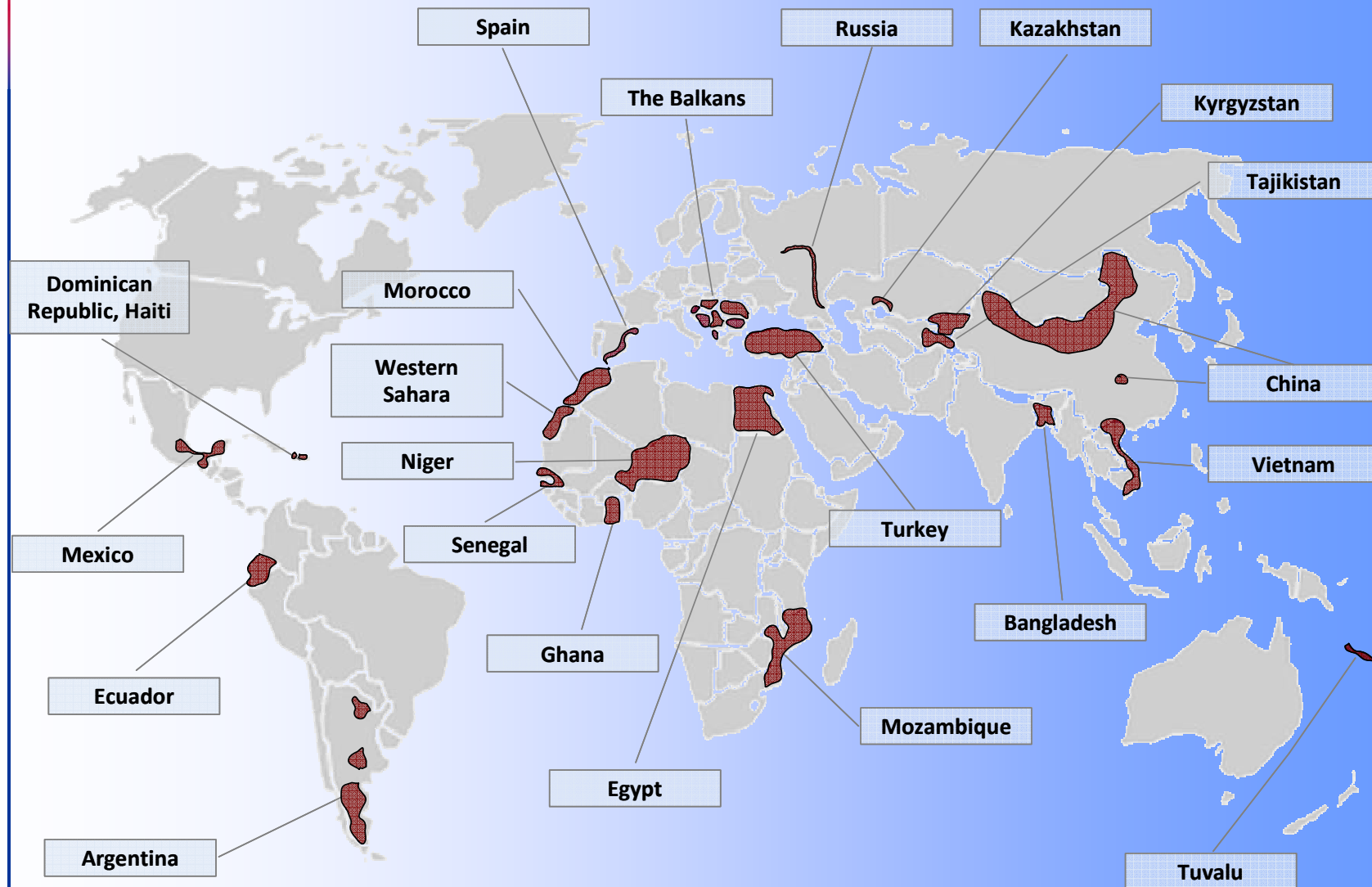


Compelling questions

- **Who** has been migrating away from situations of environmental degradation/change;
- **Where** migrants are coming from and where are they going to;
- **Why** people have migrated;
- **How environmental degradation interplays** with other social, economic and political factors when migration decisions are made;
- **What might have prevented people** from migrating in the first place;
- **Why people who remained** in areas of environmental degradation/ change remained in their location while others migrated
- **How the migration activities occurred** (choice of destination, what networks were used to facilitate migration?).
- **The effects of migration** on the area of origin (remittances, etc.)



The EACH-FOR Project: Global fieldwork sites



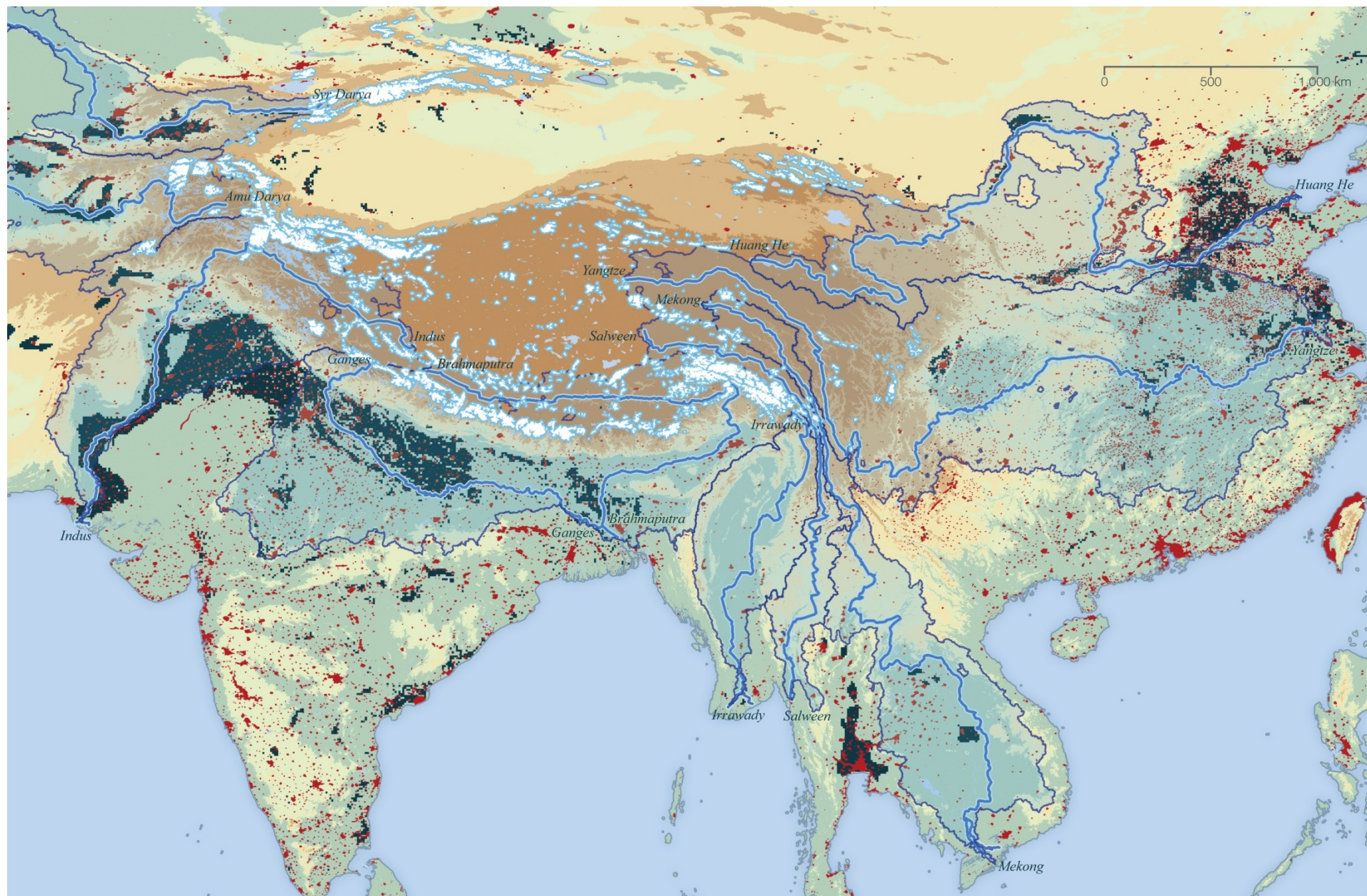


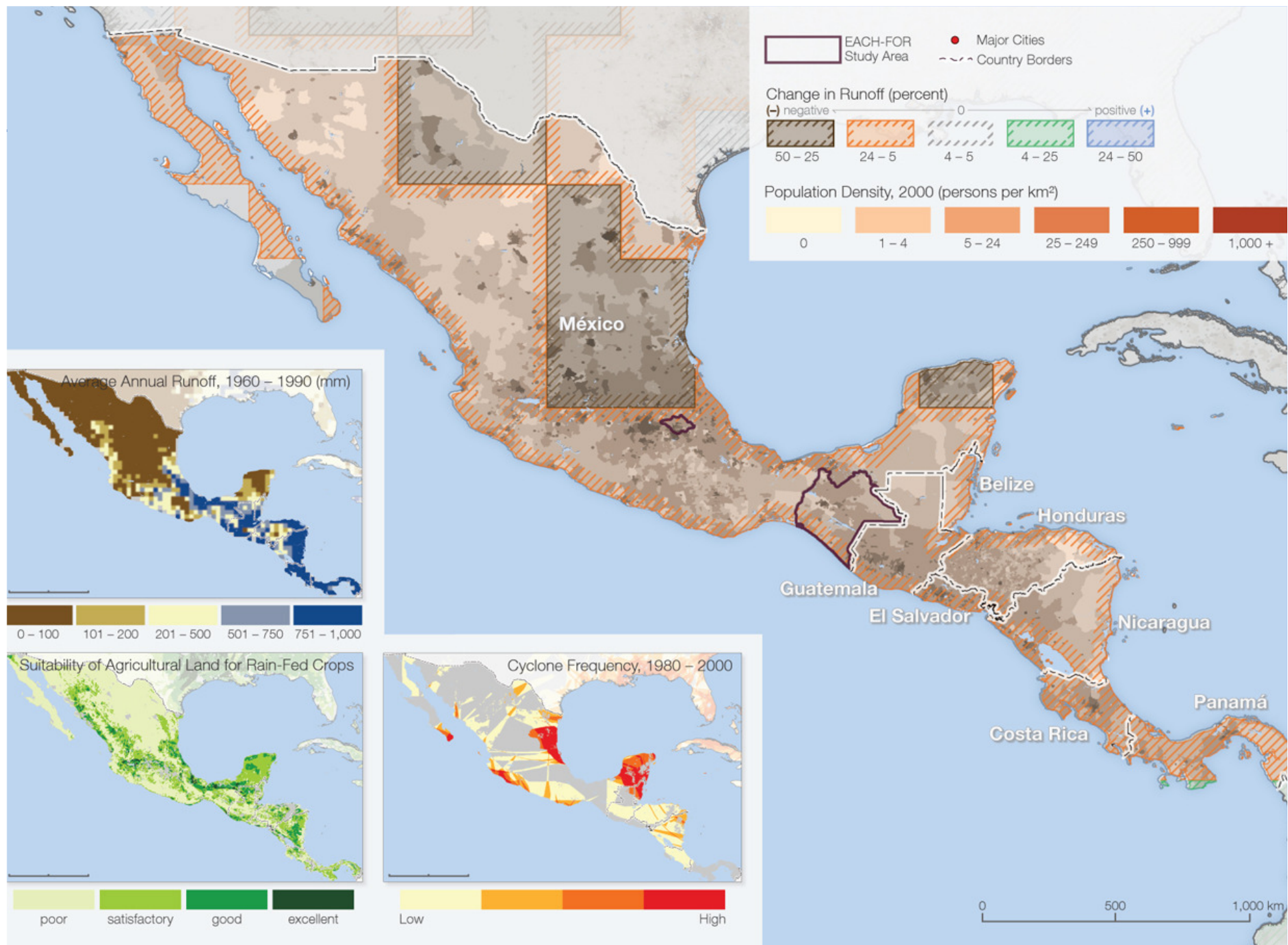
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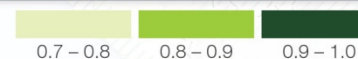
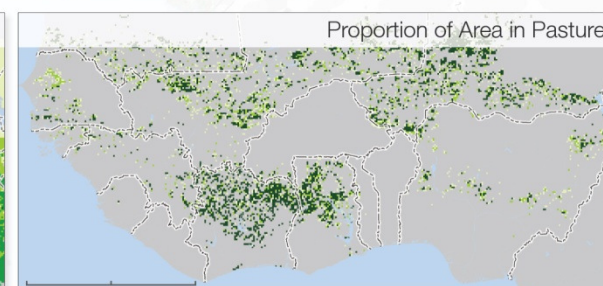
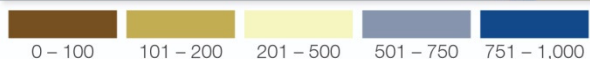
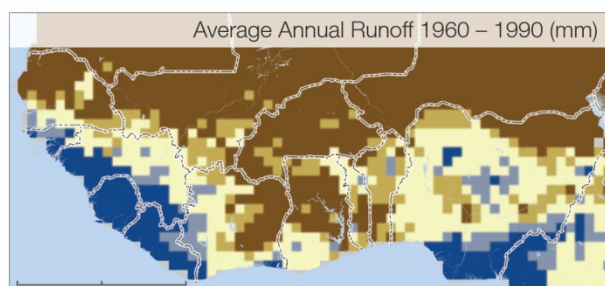
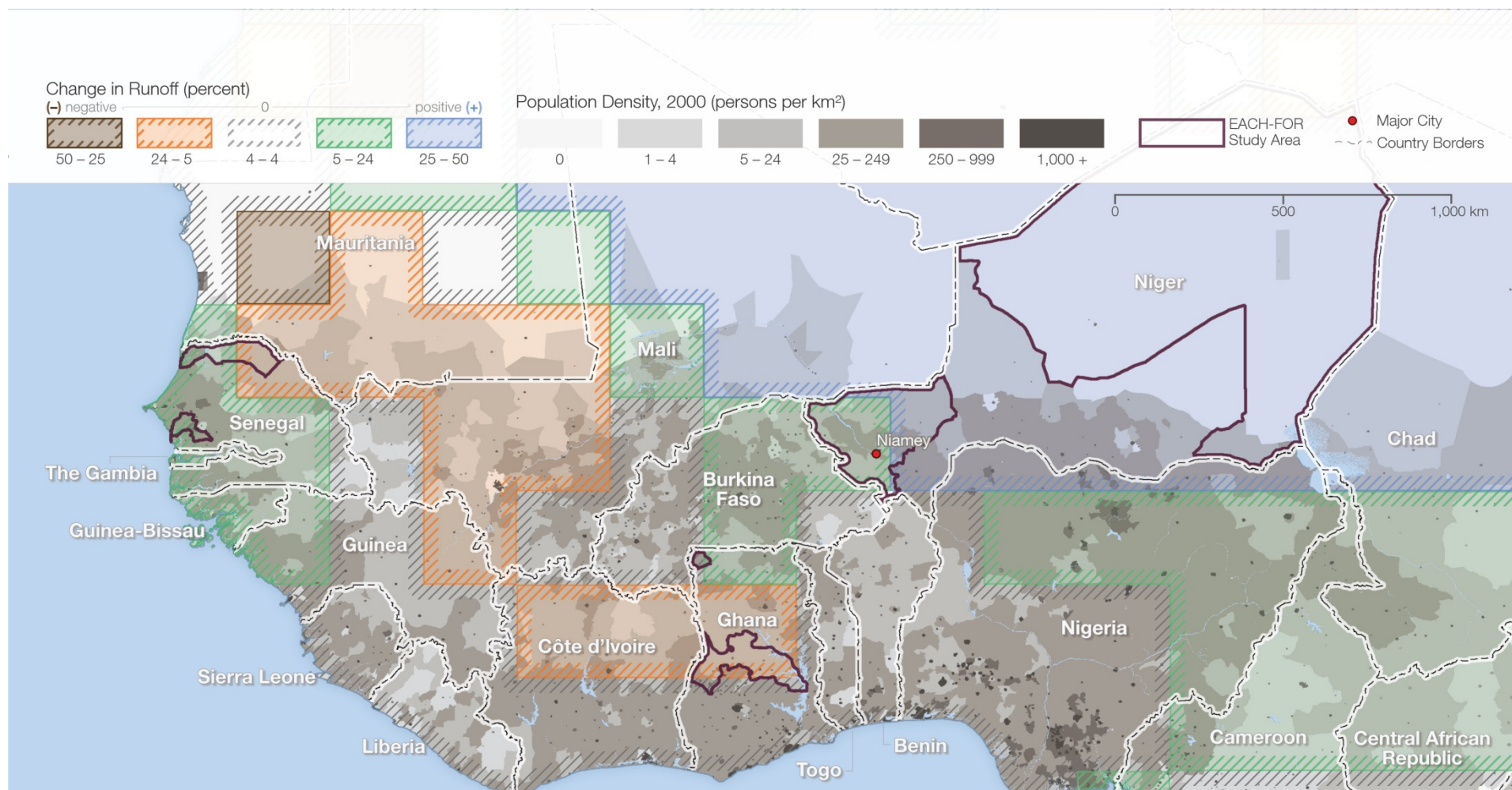
- 2 year project (Jan 2007 – Dec 2008)
- Funded under European Commission 6th Framework Programme Priority 8.1 Policy-oriented research Scientific support to policies (SSP)
- 7 partner institutes across Europe involved
- Multidisciplinary approach

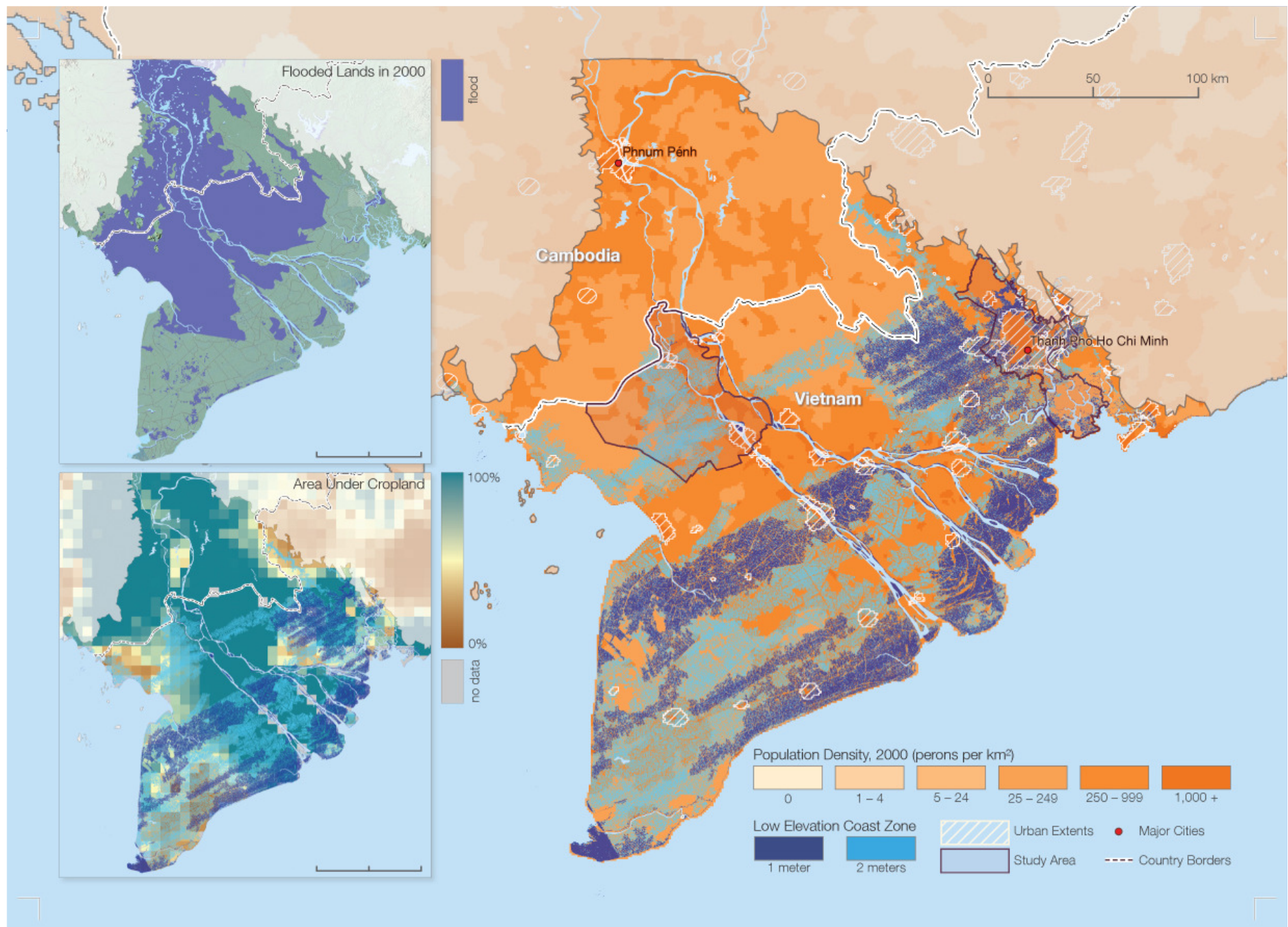
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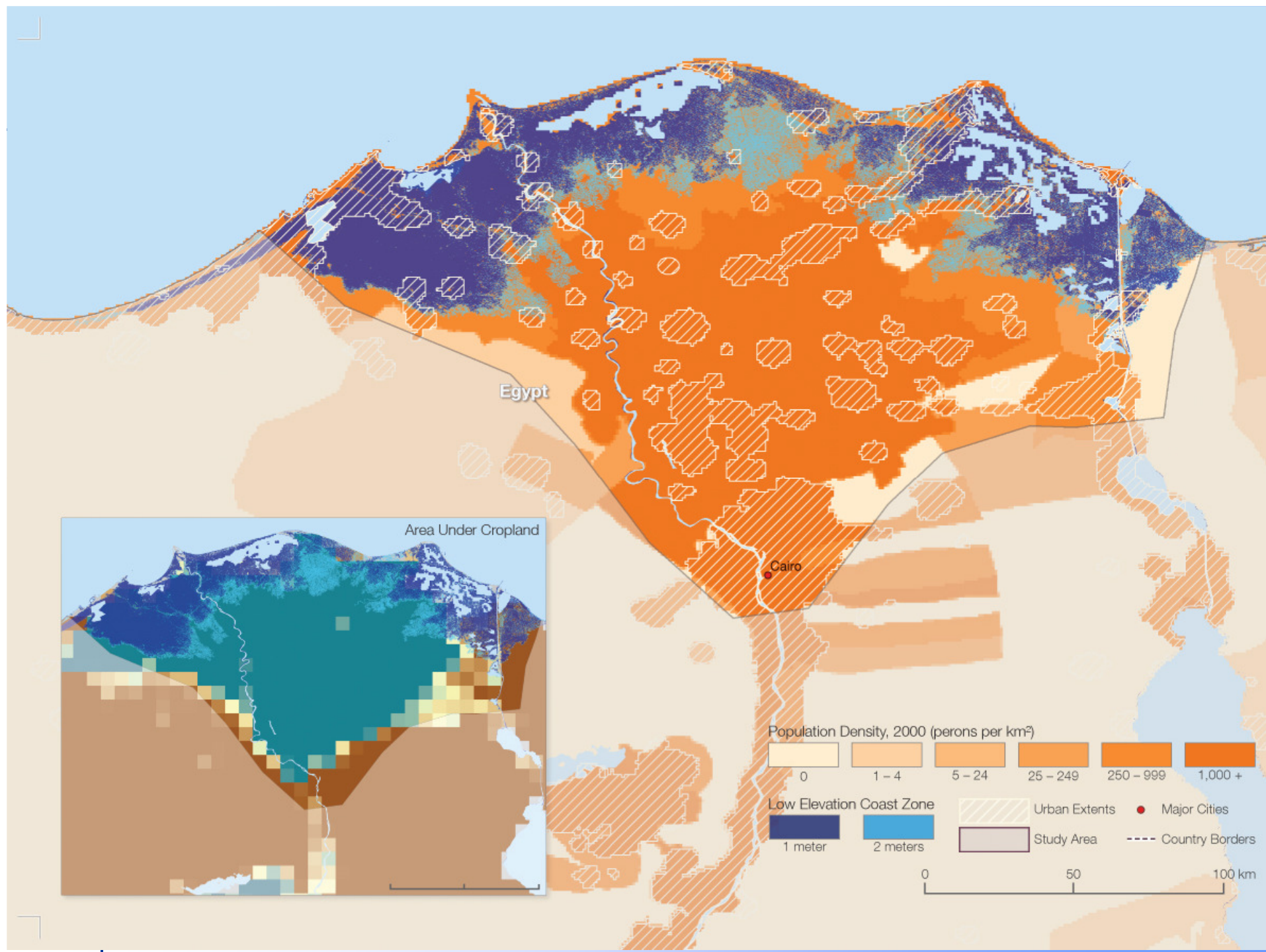


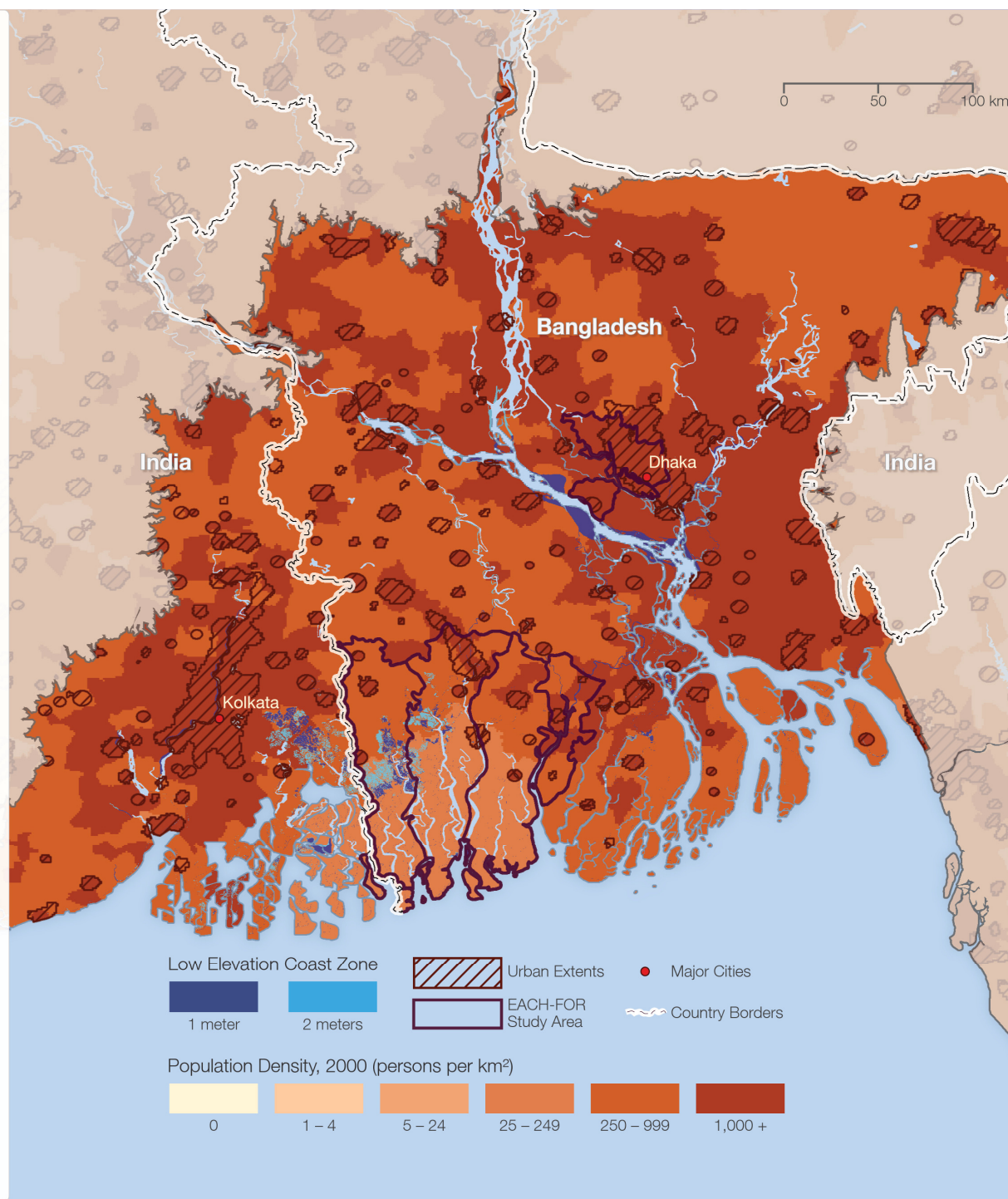
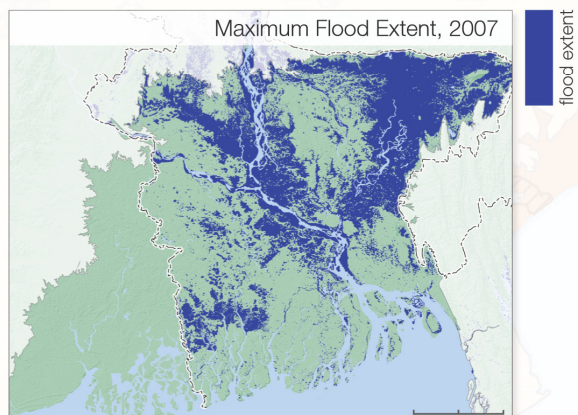
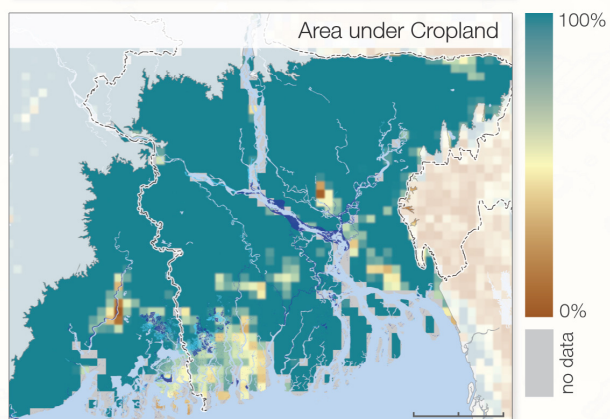
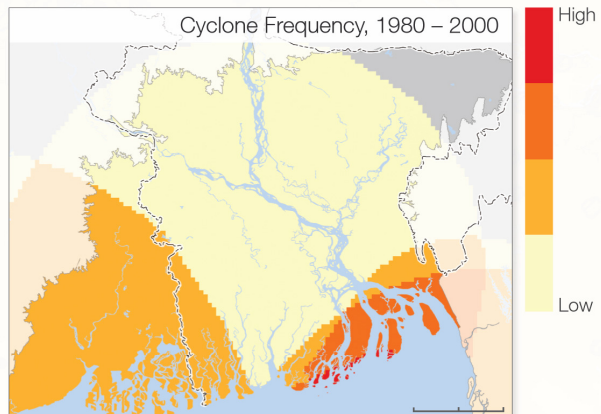


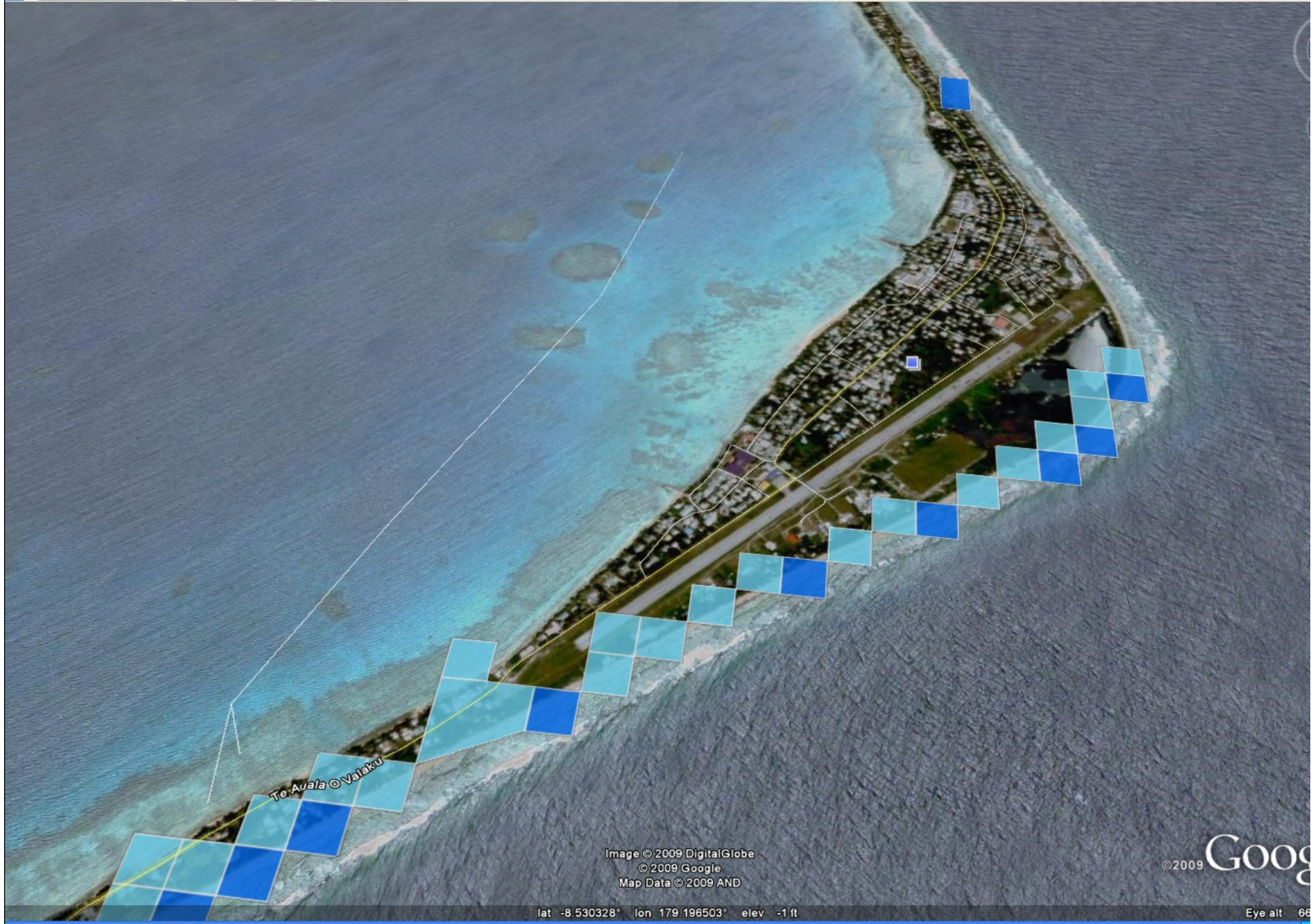
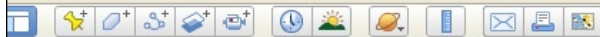












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6 Messages for Decision Makers

1. **Avoid dangerous climate change**
2. **Focus on human security**
3. **Invest in resilience**
4. **Prioritize the world's most vulnerable populations**
5. **Include migration in adaptation strategies**
6. **Close the gaps in protection**





Thank you.

**UNU and our partners will report back to the
climate negotiations in Barcelona, and
Copenhagen in 2009.**

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