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THEORY VS. POLICY? CONNECTING SCHOLARS AND PRACTITIONERS

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Peace Research and European Security Studies

Impacts of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought on Security Policy in the Anthropocene

WA04: Wednesday, 17 February, 8:30 AM -10:15 AM

Peace and Security in the Anthropocene

Sponsor: *Theory vs. Policy? Connecting Scholars and Practitioners*

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This talk is based on two papers that were coauthored with Ursula Oswald Spring, UNAM-CRIM, Cuernavaca, Mexico:

- **A report in English and Spanish for UNCCD that was launched on 13 May 2009 during 17th UN-CSD in New York, at: <http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_hgb.html>**
- **A book chapter on: „Securitizing Land Degradation and Desertifica-tion: A Proactive Soil Security Concept" to be published in: Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring, Czeslaw Mes-jasz, John Grin, Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Béchir Chourou, Pal Dunay, Jörn Birkmann (Eds.): *Coping with Global Environmental Change, Disasters and Security – Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities and Risks*. Hexagon Series on Human and Environmental Security and Peace, vol. 5 (Berlin – Heidelberg – New York: Springer-Verlag, 2010).**

Hans Günter Brauch, Úrsula Oswald Spring.

Securitizing the Ground - Grounding Security

Úrsula Oswald Spring, Hans Günter Brauch

Seguritizar la Tierra Aterrizar la Seguridad

The authors are grateful to the reviewers of the consultancy report and of the book chapter

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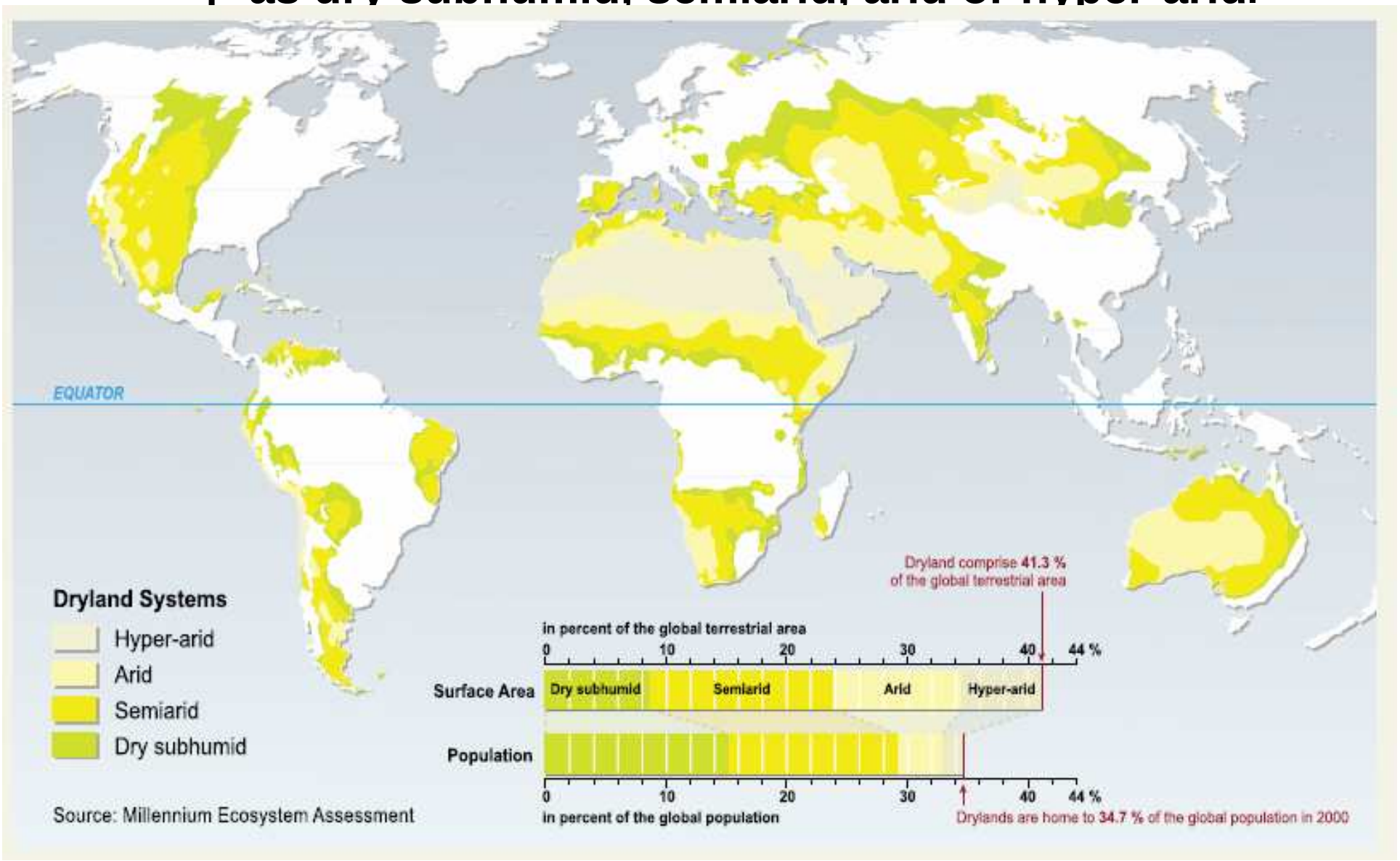
  - Food securiry, water security, soil security
  - Grounding Security: proactive security policy
- Diagnosis: DLDD as a Security Danger: PEISOR Model
- From Knowledge to Action
- Implementing Knowledge to Action

Threefold Challenge: Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD)

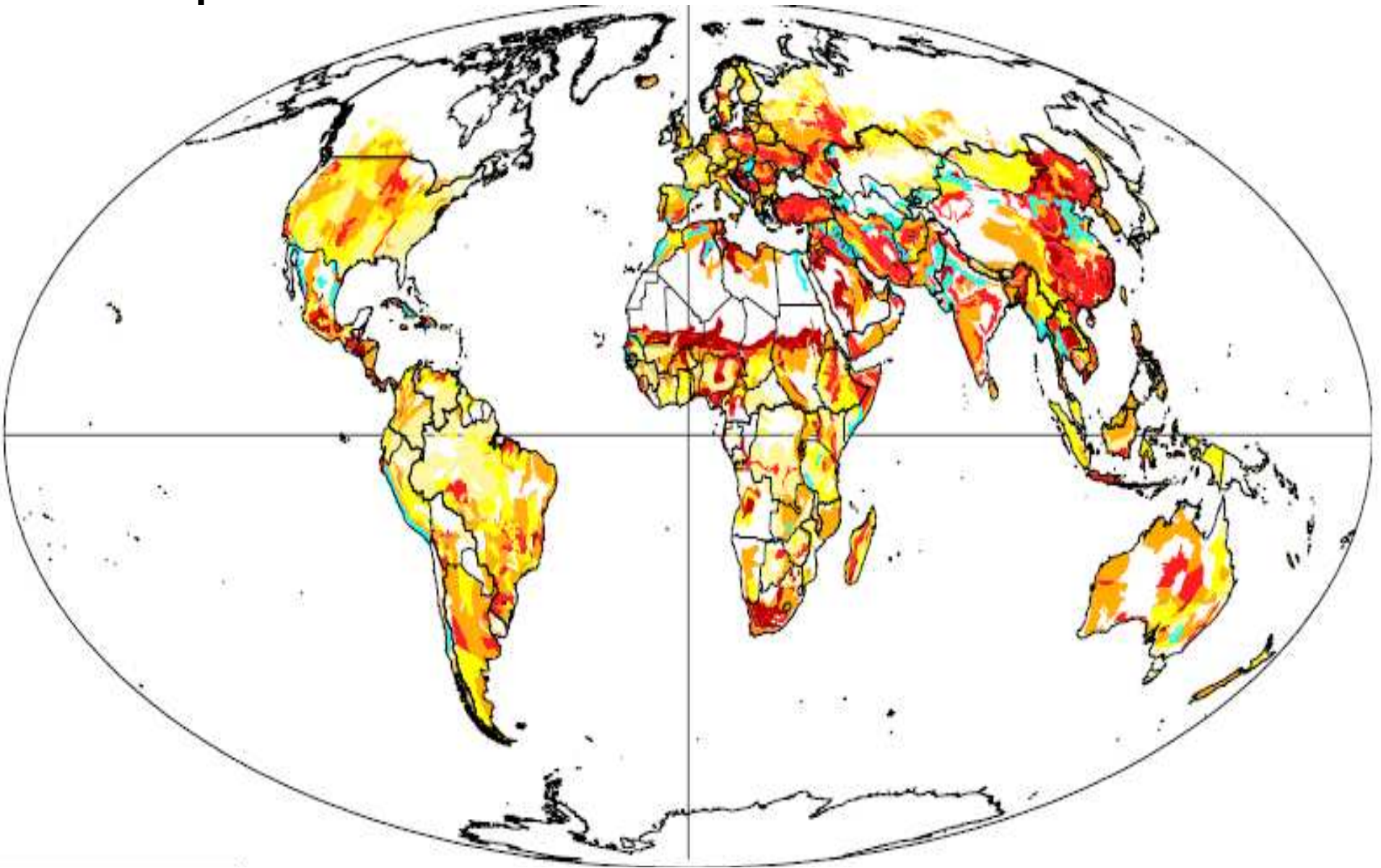
- **UNCCD (1994):** “desertification is caused by complex interactions among physical, biological, political, social, cultural and economic factors.”
- **UNCCD** dual task: (Art. 2) to “combat desertification” and “to mitigate the effects of drought”.
- **Land Degradation:** loss of environmental services or reduction of biological or economic productivity.
- **Land degradation** due to soil, water and wind erosion, fertility and biodiversity loss is prevailing in drylands affecting primarily marginalized people
- **Drought:** outcome of anthropogenic & climatic factors

Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (2005):

Drylands: all lands where the climate is classified as dry subhumid, semiarid, arid or hyper-arid.



Global soil degradation (% affected area). Source: WBGU (2006),GLASOD (1990)



Three Concepts: Security, Securing and Securitization

What have DLDD and Security in Common?

Security: basic value and goal of humans & states

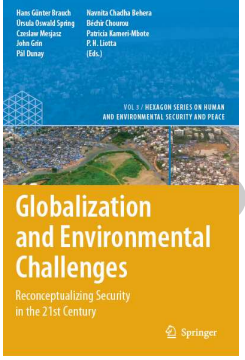
Wolfers (1962) pointed to two sides of the security concept:

> "Security, in an *objective* sense, measures the absence of threats to acquired values, in a *subjective* sense, the absence of fear that such values will be attacked".

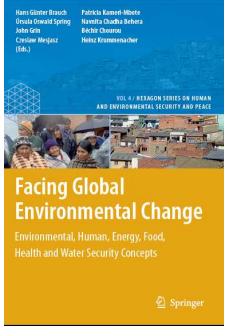
Objective Security: absence of threats posed by DLDD

Subjective Security: people feel secure of DLDD effects

- From a constructivist approach in international relations 'security' is the outcome of a process of social & political interaction where social values & norms, collective identities & cultural traditions are essential.
- **Security: *intersubjective* or "what actors make of it".**
- **Securing: Process of creating a sense of security**



Widening, Deepening and Sectorialization of Security Threats, Challenges, Vulnerabilities & Risks



Security dimension ▶ Level of interaction ▼	Military	Political	Economic	Environmental ▼	Societal
Human ▶			Securing soil, water, food, health, livelihood and energy for human beings combining all levels of analysis & interaction		
Village/Community/Society			▼▲		
National	Security dilemma of states		Social, energy, food, health, livelihood and *soil* threats may pose a survival dilemma in areas with high vulnerability		
International/Regional/Global	Security of the territory		▼▲		

What does Securitization mean?

Securitization Theory

- **Securitization theory developed by Waever (1995)**
- **“Securitization”**: is an intersubjective theoretical approach by which a problem is constructed by discursive and political processes in such a way that a danger is declared as an **“existential threat”** that requires **“extraordinary political countermeasures”**.
- **Securitization Theory: Copenhagen School** analyzes DLDD issues as an **existential threat** to sovereignty, where the state is the major securitizing actor.
- **The threat is posed by us** (our economic behaviour) and the **impact of anthropogenic climate change**.
- Classic **security policy with military means** (weapons) **no answer** to human and environmental security problems.
- **Goal is not the militarization of the environment but the demilitarization of the environmental dimension of human security!**

Securitization of DLDD

- **Spanish government** launched a process of securitization of desertification with UNCCD: 4 international workshops in **Almería** (1994, 2006); **Valencia** (2003, 2007).
- **Spain contributed making DLDD an issue of "utmost importance"** requiring **"extraordinary measures".**
- **UNCCD** discussed security risks at CRIC 3 (Bonn, 2005).
- **2006: AA workshop:** Desertification as a security threat?
- 30 November 2007 Foreign Ministers of the OSCE countries adopted the **'Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security'**. Environmental risks: **"those related to land degradation, soil contamination, desertification and water management."**

Securitizing the Ground (Land, Soil) and Grounding Security

- ***Securitizing the ground*** creates wider global political awareness for DLDD and societal consequences.
  - **Land as territory: classic territorial security of states**
  - **Ground as soil: new soil security concept of humans!**
- ***Grounding security*** includes **reactive and proactive short-, medium- and long-term strategies for mitigation and adaptation to soil insecurity** & societal, environmental and economic consequences.
- Addressing both aspects of **soil security** with political process of **securitization of DLDD** and development of effective international strategies, national policies and local measures requires understanding of complex natural and societal interaction.

New Soil Security Concept:

Conserving land and water = Securing our common future

Soil security that can be analysed from the perspective of state and human, gender and environmental security refers to a

- loss of soil capacity to regulate & store water
- the depletion of aquifers for drinking and irrigation that puts in extreme cases the survival of affected people at risk.

Soil security is threatened by

- the **spatial expansion of existing deserts,**
- the **severe degradation of soils** and related fertility and biodiversity losses due to processes of geophysical, wind and water erosion and
- **drought resulting in bad harvests and crop yield declines**. In developing countries DLDD has triggered severe and extended periods of famine affecting several billion people during the 20th century and causing the death of millions of people.

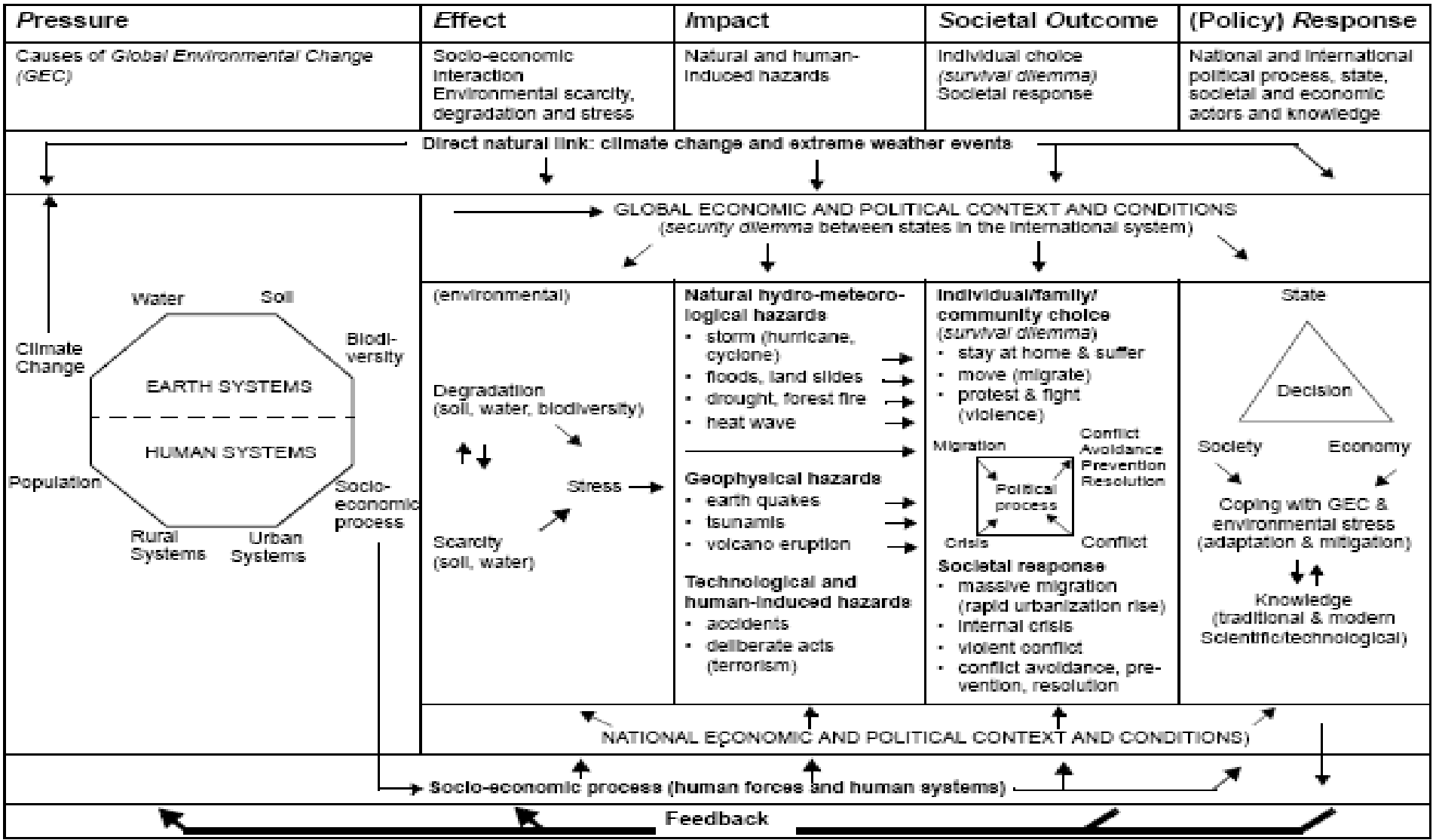
Soil security is achieved when efforts succeed

- **to conserve soil fertility:** contain land degradation and combat desertification and
- **when the consequences of drought are reduced by improving livelihood and human well-being of the people**.

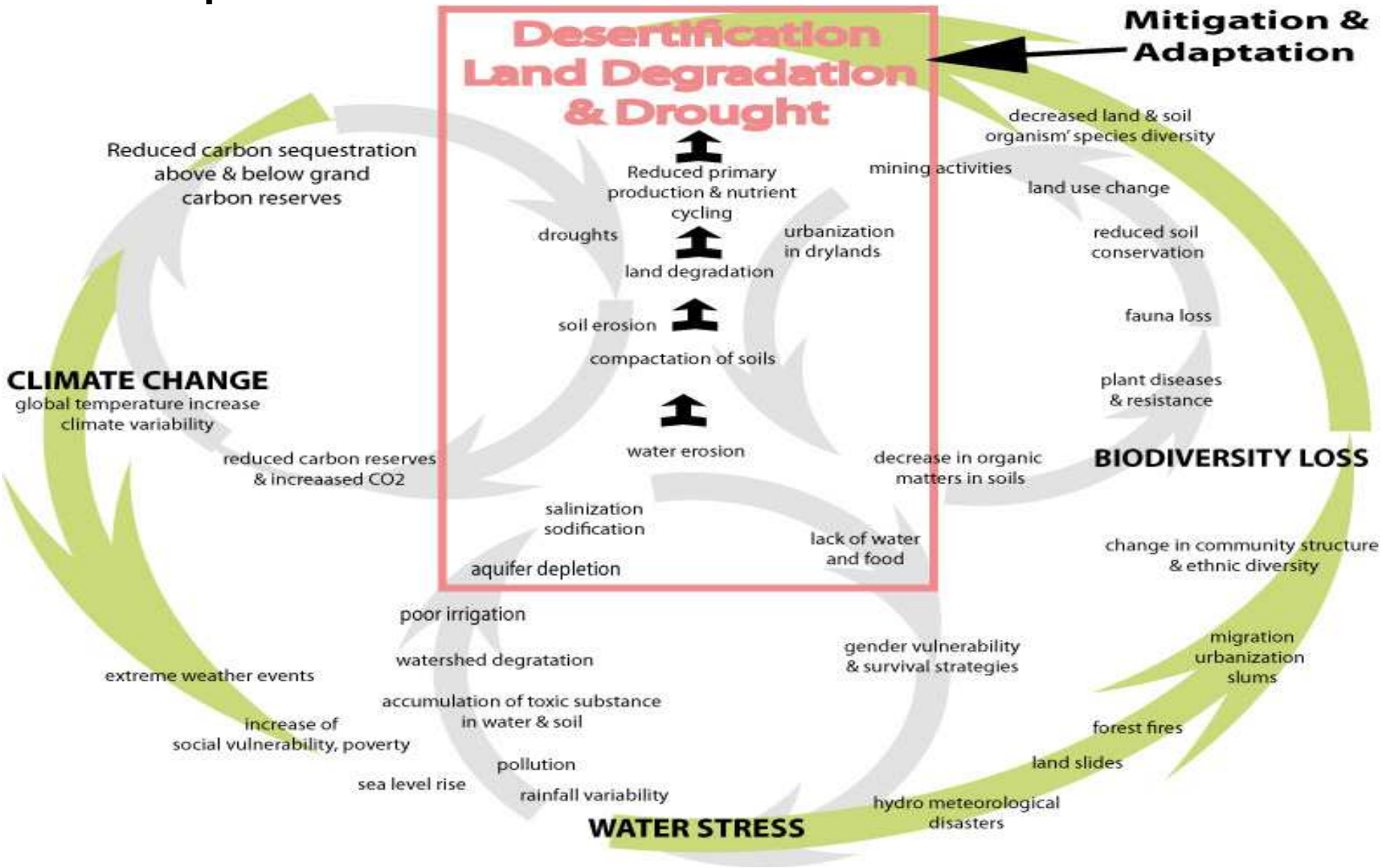
DLDD: UN Debate & EU-Studies
Climate Change & Security

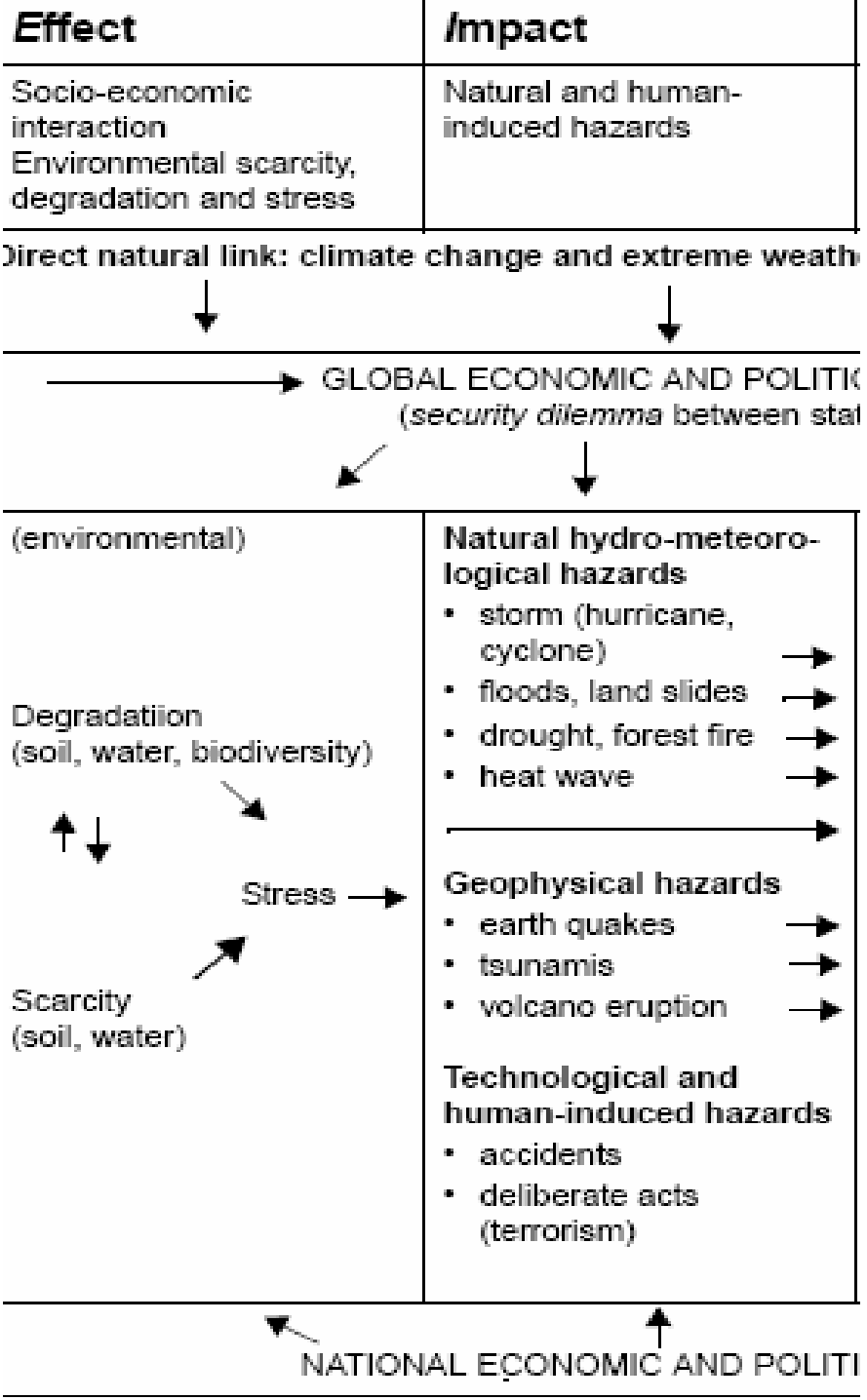
- **17 April 2007: Controversial debate in the UN Security Council: Climate change & international security**
- **June 2007: WBGU Report:** Security Risk Climate Change
- **14 March 2008: EU Commission and Council: Paper on Climate change and international security**
- **May 2008: Athens: Human Security Network: Climate change and human security: victims of migration**
- **11 December 2008: European Council: Report on Implementation of European Security Strategy**
- **3 June 2009: Resolution of UN General Assembly**
- **11 September 2009: Report of UN Secretary General**

Diagnosis: DLDD as a Security Danger: PEISOR Model



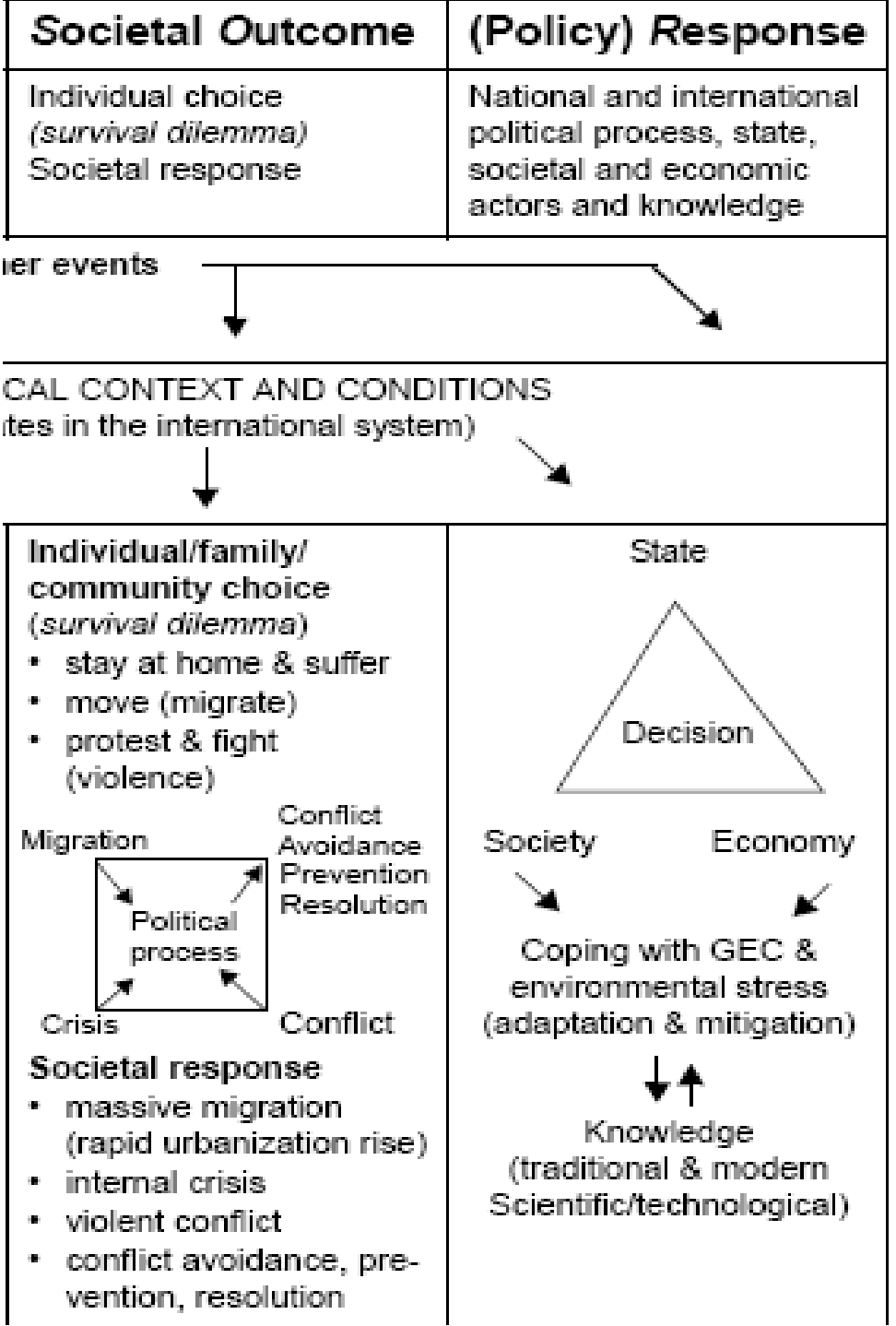
P: Pressure: Interactions of GEC





E: Effect & I: Impact

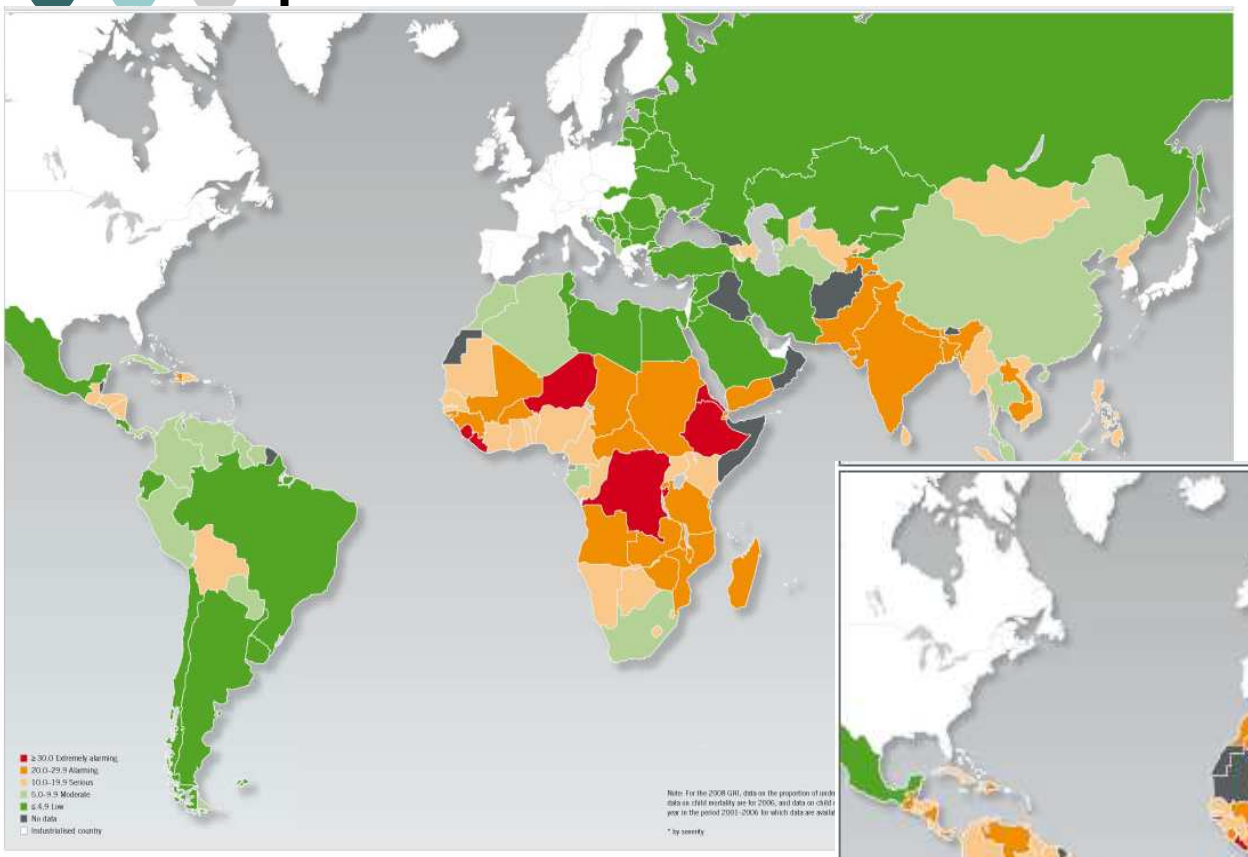
- **E: Environmental security debate of 1990s**
  - Toronto school
  - Swiss school (ENCOP):
  - **Soil scarcity > degradation > environmental stress**
- **I: climate change -> extreme weather events**
  - Hydrometeorological hazards
    - **Drought (wind erosion)**
    - Heatwaves
    - Forest fires
    - Storms (hurricanes)
    - **Flash floods & landslights (wind & water erosion)**



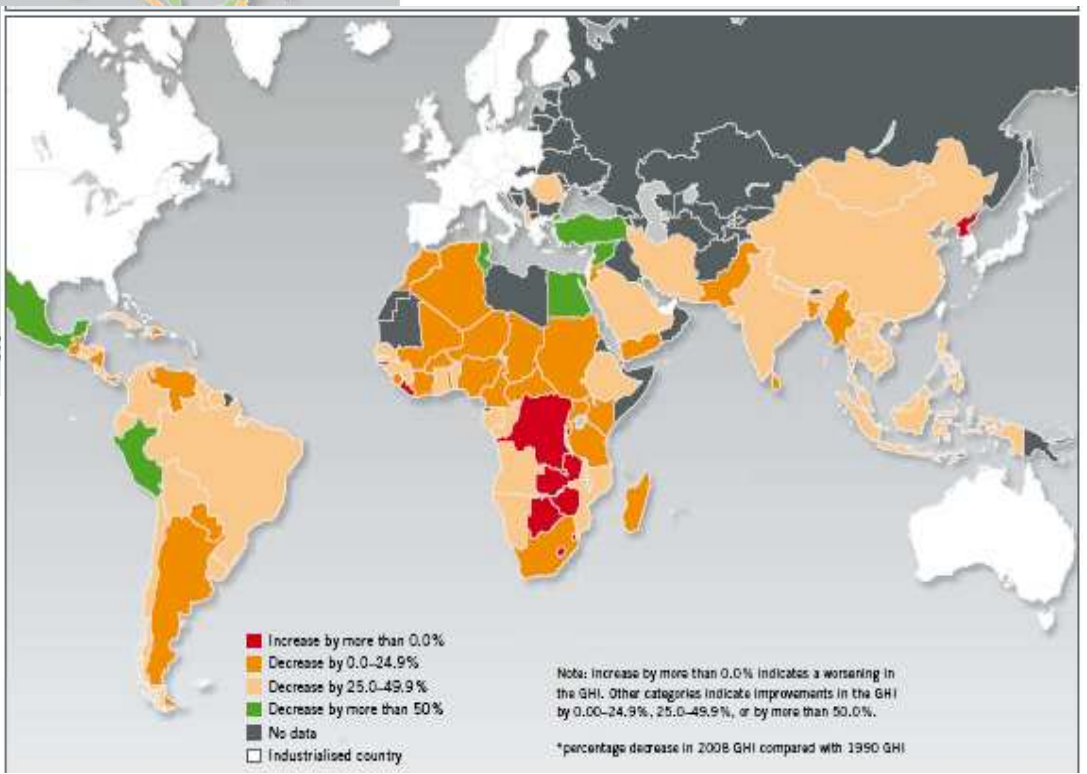
SO: Societal Outcomes

- Individual level (choice)
  - Human security perspective
  - Survival dilemma of humans
- State/society level
  - Hunger, famine
  - Migration to urban slums
  - Rural-rural migration
  - Transborder migration
    - Seasonal (labour,nomads)
    - Permanent
  - Crises: domestic
  - Conflicts:
    - Peaceful protests
    - Violent clashes
  - Complex emergencies

Global Hunger Index 1990-2008

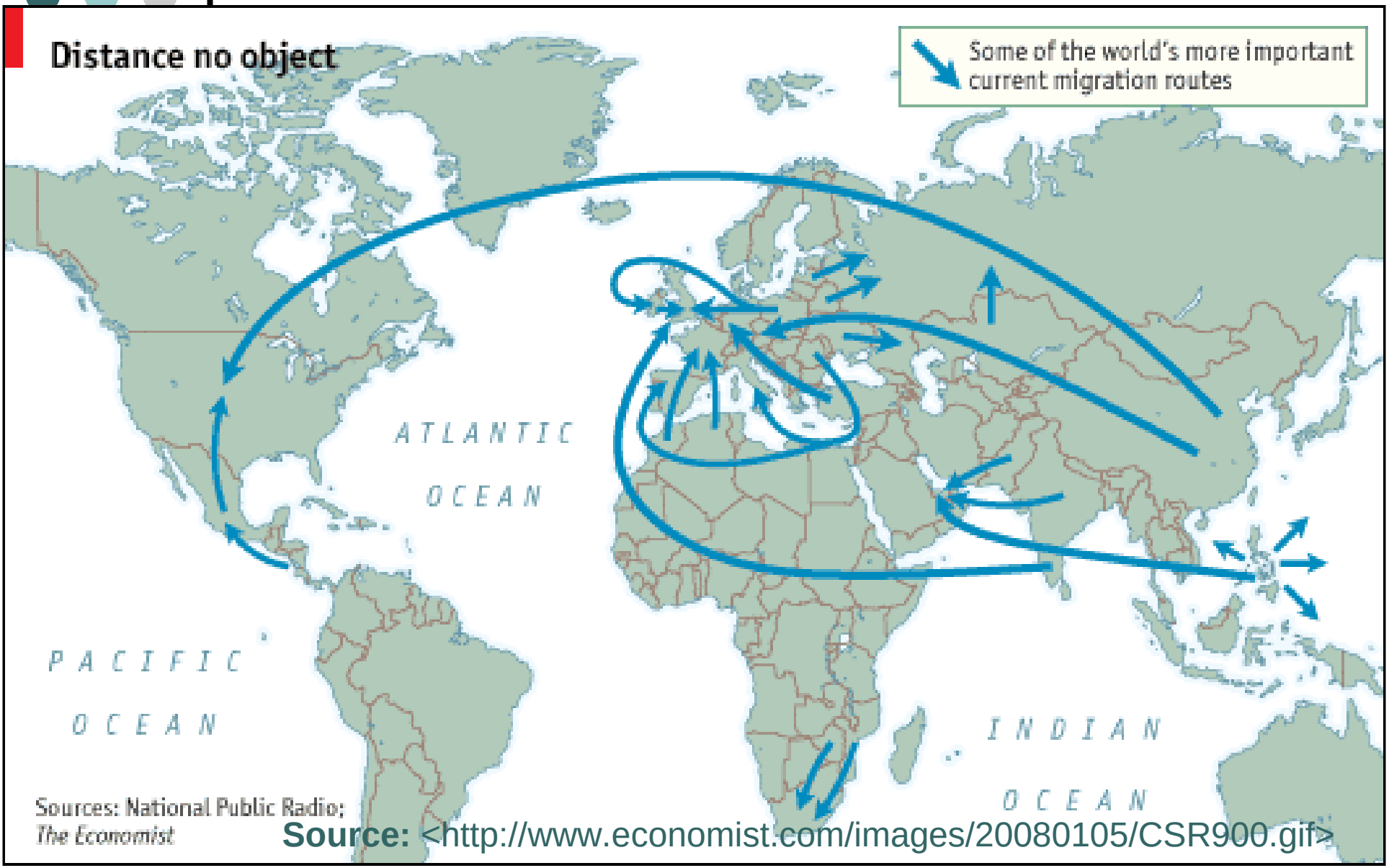


←2008 Global Hunger Index.
Country progress in reducing the Global Hunger Index between 1990 and 2008 ↓



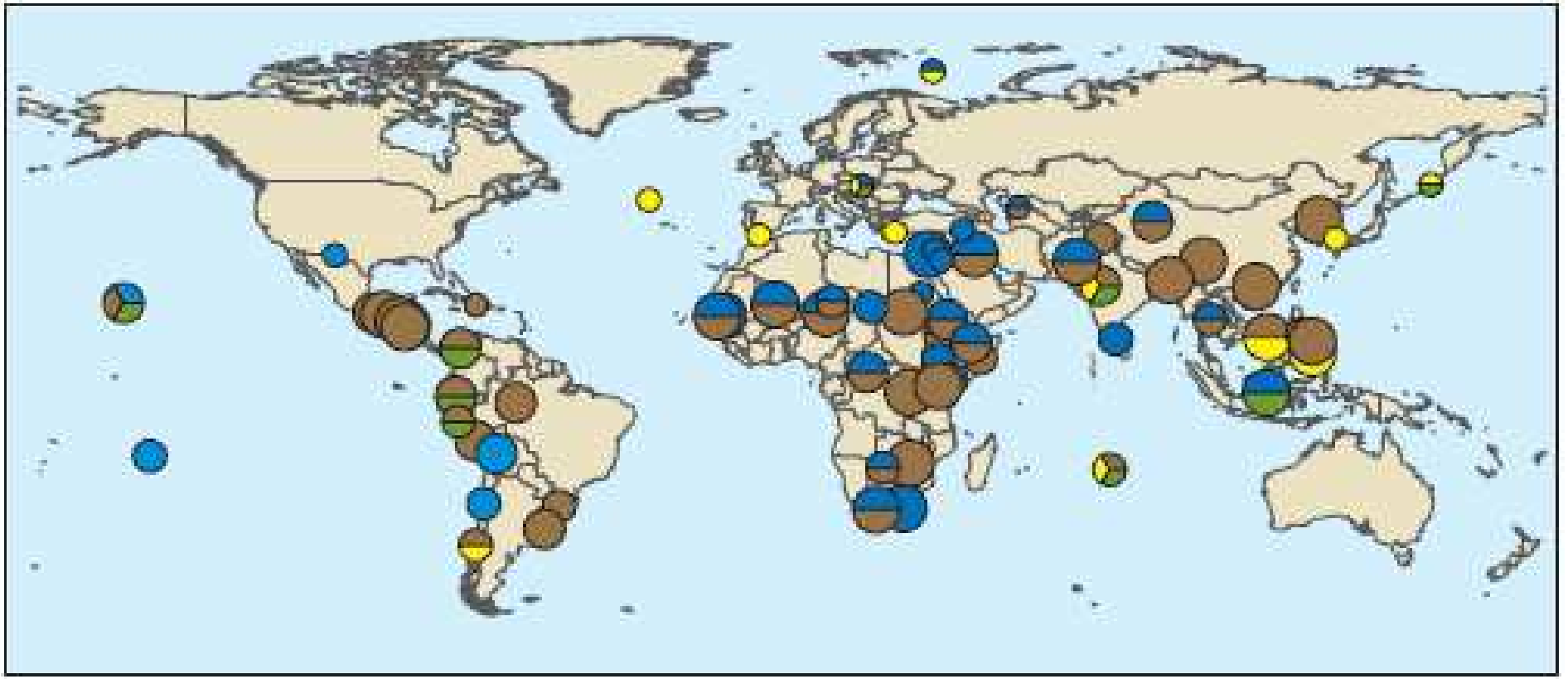
Source: IFPRI, 2008

Migration currents



Source: <http://www.economist.com/images/20080105/CSR900.gif>

Environmental Conflicts: Water and Soil (1980-2006)



Source: WBGU (2008: 32)

R: Policy Response to DLDD Dangers

- **How? Responsive vs. proactive action**
  - **Reponse:** cost of non-action (Stern Report)
  - **Proactive:** anticipatory knowledge, learning, action
- **What? Addressing causes (Pressure)**
  - **Earth system:** environmental quartett
  - **Human:** productive/consumptive behaviour
- **Responding to Effects & Impacts**
  - **Environmental stress**
  - **Climate-related natural hazards**
- **Addressing Societal Outcomes:** Migration/Conflicts

From Knowledge to Action

- **Soil security concept** highlights **multiple causes, effects, impacts and societal outcomes** of soil insecurity and contribute proactive policies for grounding security
- **Emerging security challenges** of DLDD **require extraordinary proactive policy measures** to counter worst case developments in vulnerable hotspots.
- **Cost of inaction** or late policy response are much higher than acting early by launching proactive strategies, policies and measures.

From Knowledge to Action: Addressing Causes & Security Impacts of DLDD

- **Evidence-based assessments** are key factors for affected countries **adopting proactive response strategies, policies and measures** that include best practices and traditional and modern scientific knowledge.
- **Response** necessitates the **involvement of the state, the society, the business and academic community**.
- **Good governance, scientific recognition** and public awareness call for processes of **anticipatory learning and proactive policies to mitigate societal impacts of complex nature-human interactions to prevent that projected trends become a future reality**.

Implementing Knowledge to Action Requires

- Extraordinary Policy Measures for Enhancing Soil Security
- Demand Side Management and Efficiency Improvements
- Supplying More Environmental Services and Food with Less Resources
- Transition to Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Economy
- Responding to and Coping with Environmentally-Induced Migration
- Avoiding Environmentally-Induced Conflicts

Responding to & Coping with Environmentally-Induced Migration

- **Most cost-effective** and **human policy responses** to environmental migration are to **intervene at earliest possible stage**.
- **Sustainable development assistance** must engage the most vulnerable to strengthen adaptation capacity of communities affected by DLDD, more so in the context of climate change.
- **Community stabilization through participatory governance** should involve diasporas and returning migrants to optimize their financial resources.
- **Urban authorities** should be prepared to limit negative impacts on the environment due to the influx of population.
- **Expected additional flow** of environmental migrants requires **capacity building** to reduce push factors of population movements and **to cope with irregular migration**,human trafficking.

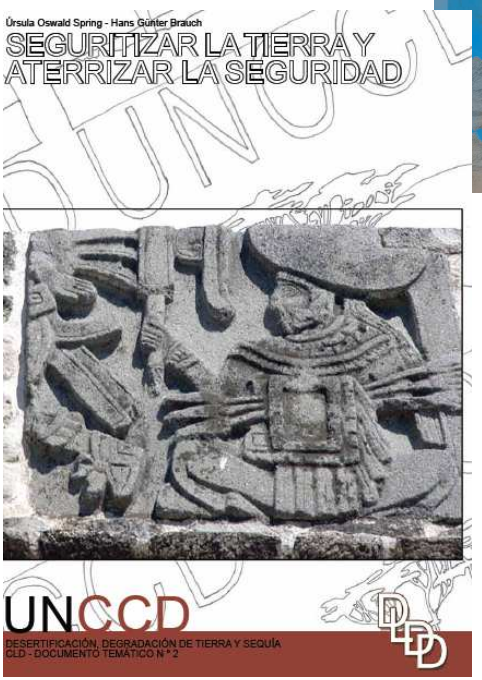
Avoiding Environmentally-Induced Conflicts

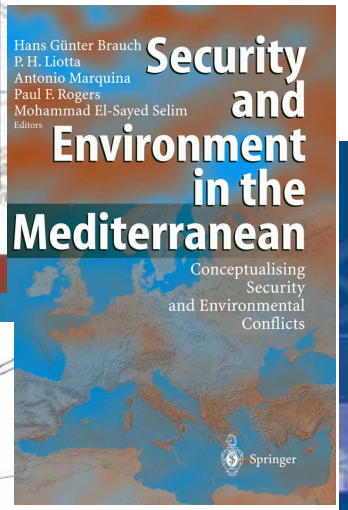
- **Joint North-South anticipatory learning**, peace building, search for action-oriented strategies to cope with root causes and socio-economic implications.
- **Survival pact**: linking the ***virtual water*** through food imports with the ***virtual sun*** or renewable energy exports through partnership building.->**TREC**
- **Functional cooperation against soil erosion**, DLDD, water scarcity & pollution, employment in rural areas and in intermediary urban networks.
- **Empowerment of grassroots stakeholders** enhance human and societal security, expands adaptation measures and soil security & reduces costs of coping with consequences.

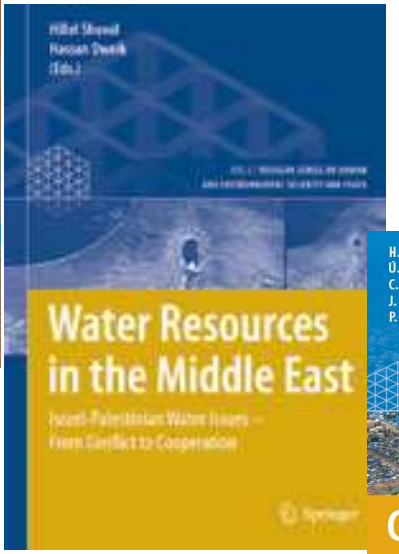
Thank you for your attention

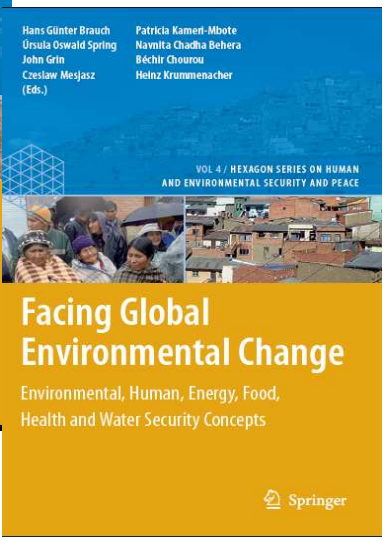
http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_hgb.html

Background Reading on DLDD:
Hexagon Series: Volumes I-IV









Hexagon Series on Human, Environmental Security and Peace (HESP)

<http://www.afes-press-books.de/html/hexagon.htm>

<http://www.unccd.int/knowledge/docs/dldd_eng.pdf>