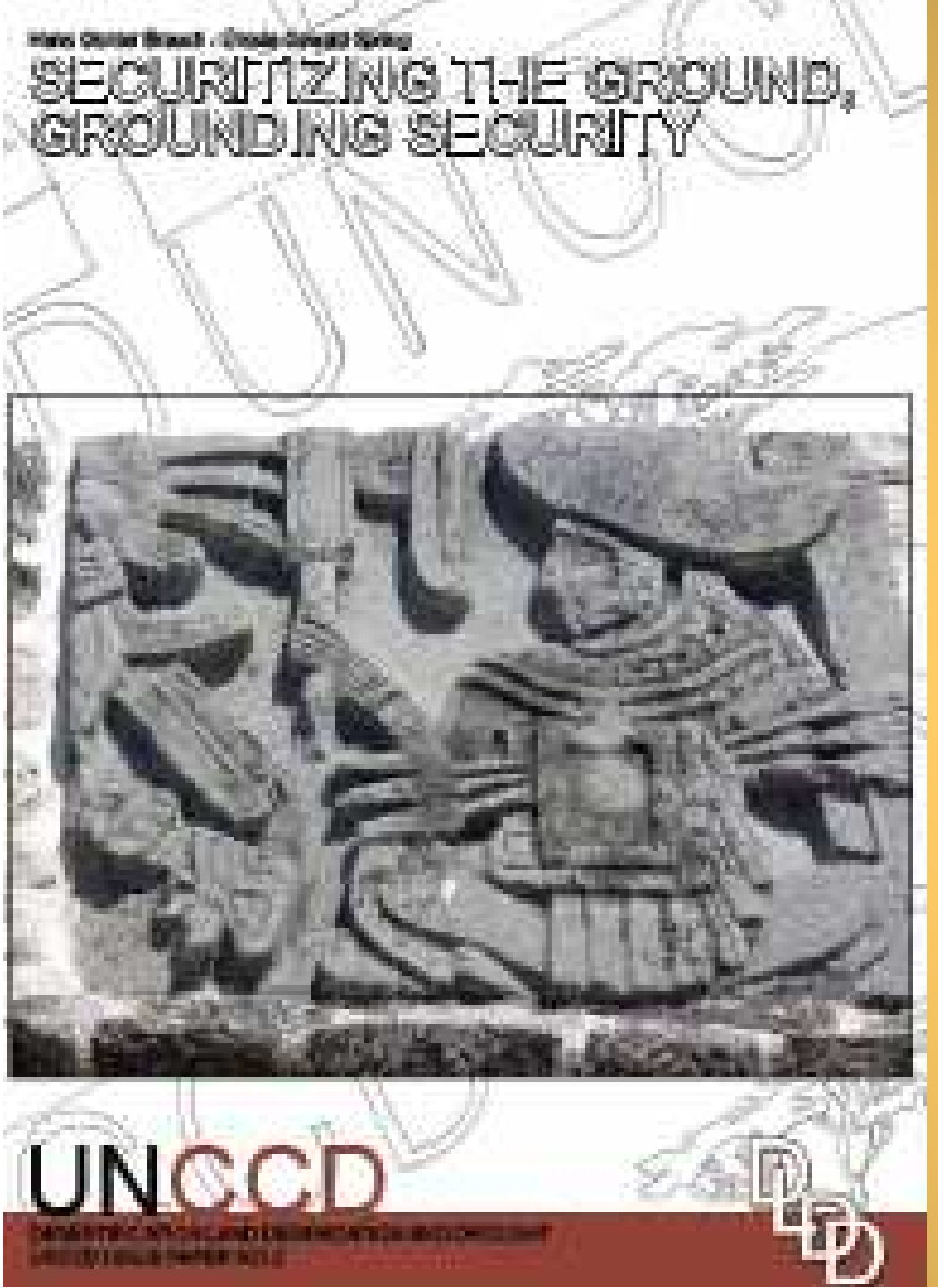

Presentation of the UNCCD Report

Thursday, 14 May 2009,

UN Headquarters

SECURITIZING THE GROUND, GROUNDING SECURITY

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MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE

UNCCD

Contents

1. Questions & Objectives of the Study
2. Policy Context: Multiple Crises & Their Causes
3. DLDD: Scientization, Politicization, Securitization
4. Securitizing the Ground & Grounding Security
    a. Soil Insecurity as a Security Danger & Concern
    b. Towards proactive policies for soil security
5. Diagnosing DLDD with the PEISOR Model
6. Addressing Causes & Security Impacts of DLDD
7. Implementing Knowledge to Action
8. Policy Recommendations

1. Questions of the Talk

- Why are *Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought* (DLDD) discussed as **security issues**?
- Does DLDD pose **security dangers** and concerns for whom, from what and how?
- What does the concept of **soil security** mean?
- Why is **securitizing the ground** policy-relevant?
- Which **proactive policy** measures are needed to ground security?
- **Goal: Develop a combined soil, water and food security for the people most affected by DLDD**

Key Thesis of the Talk

"Poor soils result in poor people. We take the land for granted" (Luc Gnacadja).

About 1.4 billion people in 110 countries suffer from desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD)

2. Policy Context: Multiple Crises & Their Causes

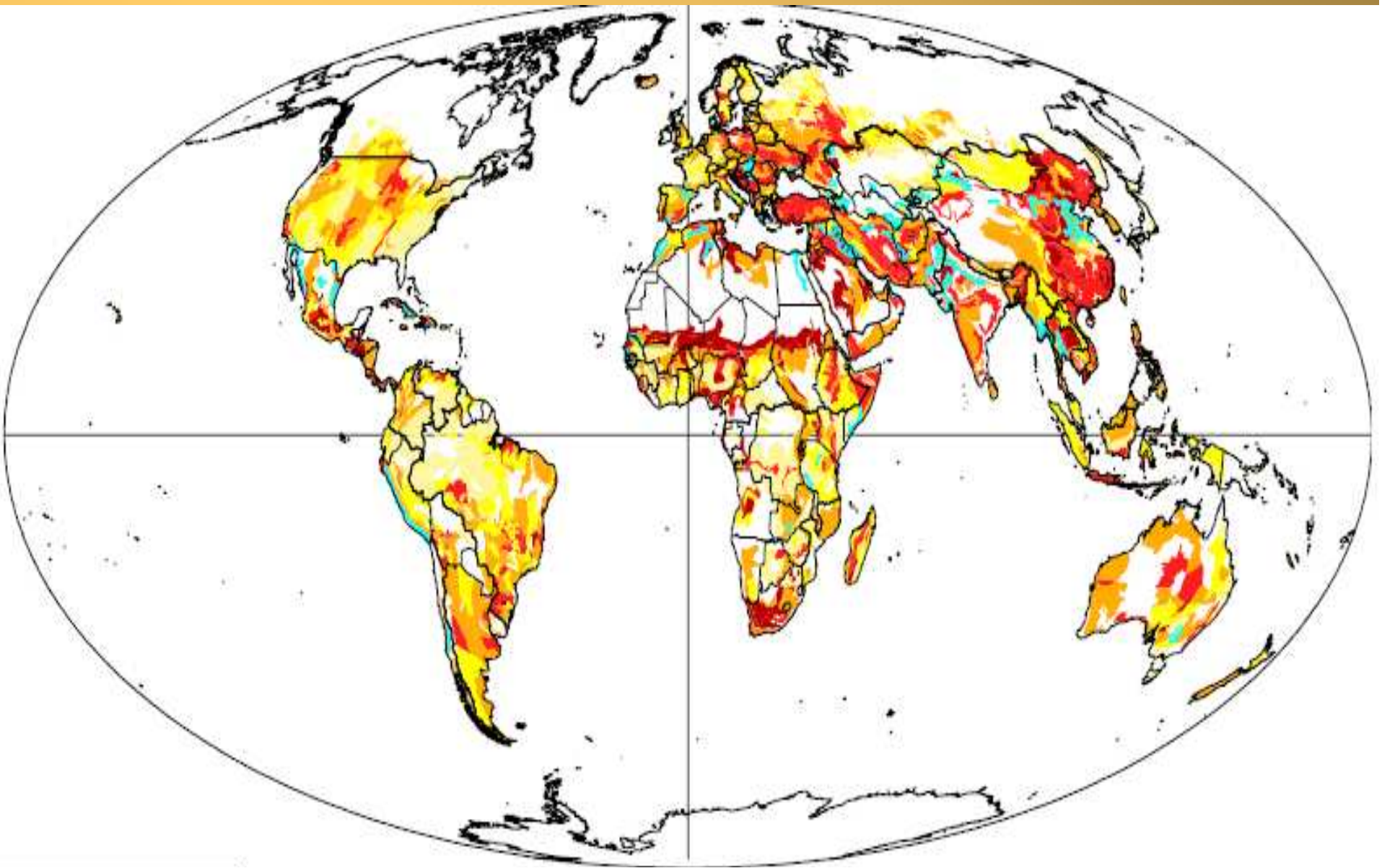
1. ***Financial/economic crises:*** **collapse of banks, insurance, companies, decline in GDP, wealth and remittances of migrants, increase in unemployment; public bailout 4.1 trillion US$ (April 2009).**
2. ***Population Growth:*** **last century from 1.6 to 6.1 billion and water consumption increased six fold; until 2050 projected to 9 billion, mostly in drylands in poor countries.**
3. ***Water Security:*** **By 2025, 2.8 billion people in 48 countries will face water stress due to scarcity, overexploitation of aquifers, pollution & salinization (40 in West Asia & Africa).**
4. ***Climate Change*** **by 2100*:* temperature increase 1.1 to 6.4℃; sea-level may rise 18 cm to 2.4 metres; precipitation decline and temperature increase: hotter drier in drylands with more hazards (heat waves, drought, forest fires and storms & floods affecting people and economy).**
5. ***Food Crises:*** **One billion of people suffer from hunger today; food price rise provoked 44 million more hungry & 110 million people were driven into poverty. MDG cannot be reached affecting above all rural and urban poor.**

DLDD as a Challenge to Humankind

- No agreement on **extension of drylands** and land affected by Drought, Land Degradation and Desertification (DLDD): 33-41% of the Earth.
- **Anthropogenic & climate change creates a vicious circle of drought, forced migration, political crises and conflicts with threats for human, national and international security,** aggravated further by:
  - **poverty** (overgrazing, overexploitation and land use change)
  - **market-driven expansion** of agricultural production and
  - **depletion of aquifers** in drylands and **salinization of land**.
- **Desertification costs: US$ 42 billion/year (Africa:** US$ 9 billion/year).

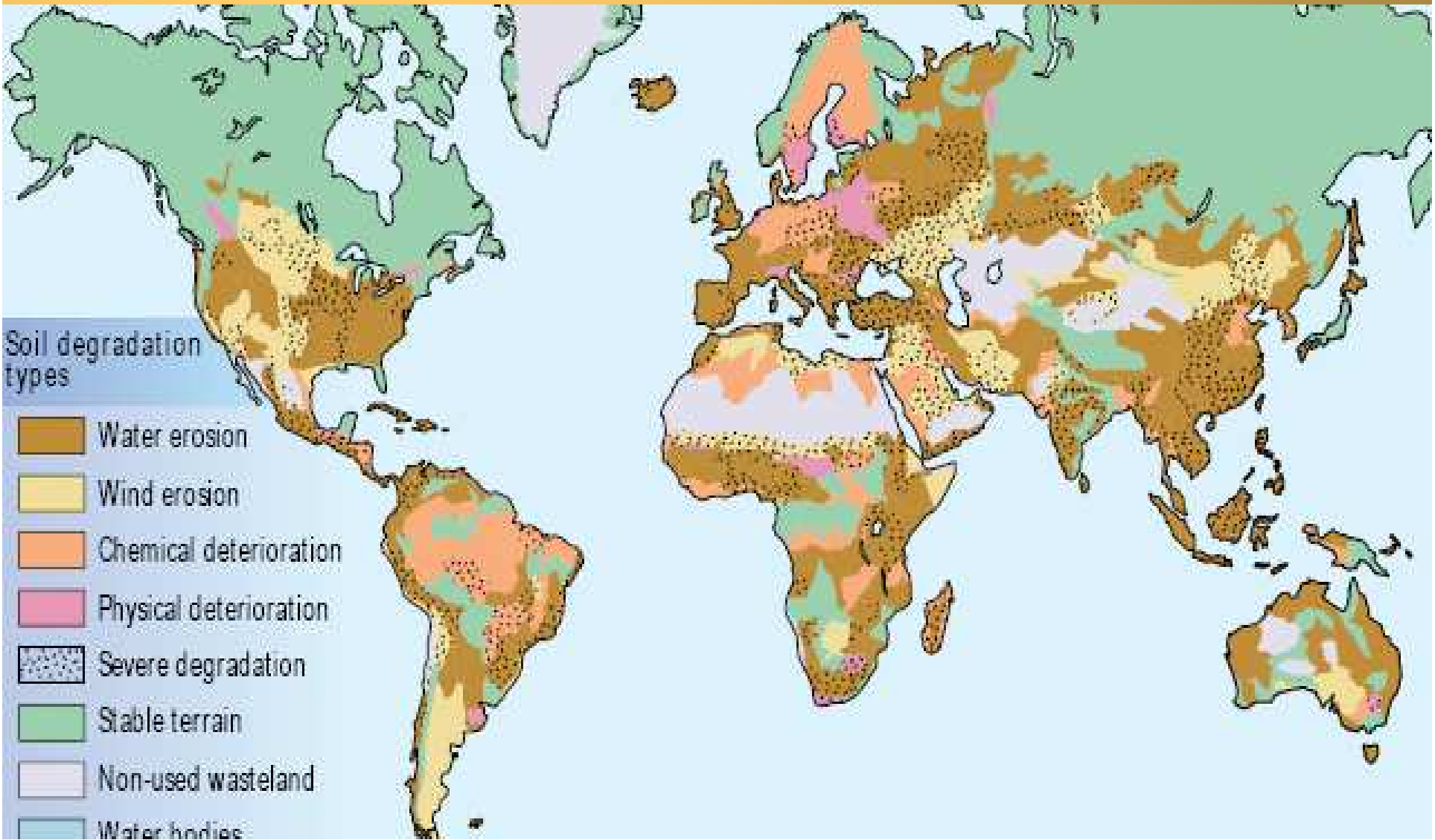
Global soil degradation (% affected area)

Source: WBGU (2006) based on GLASOD (1990)

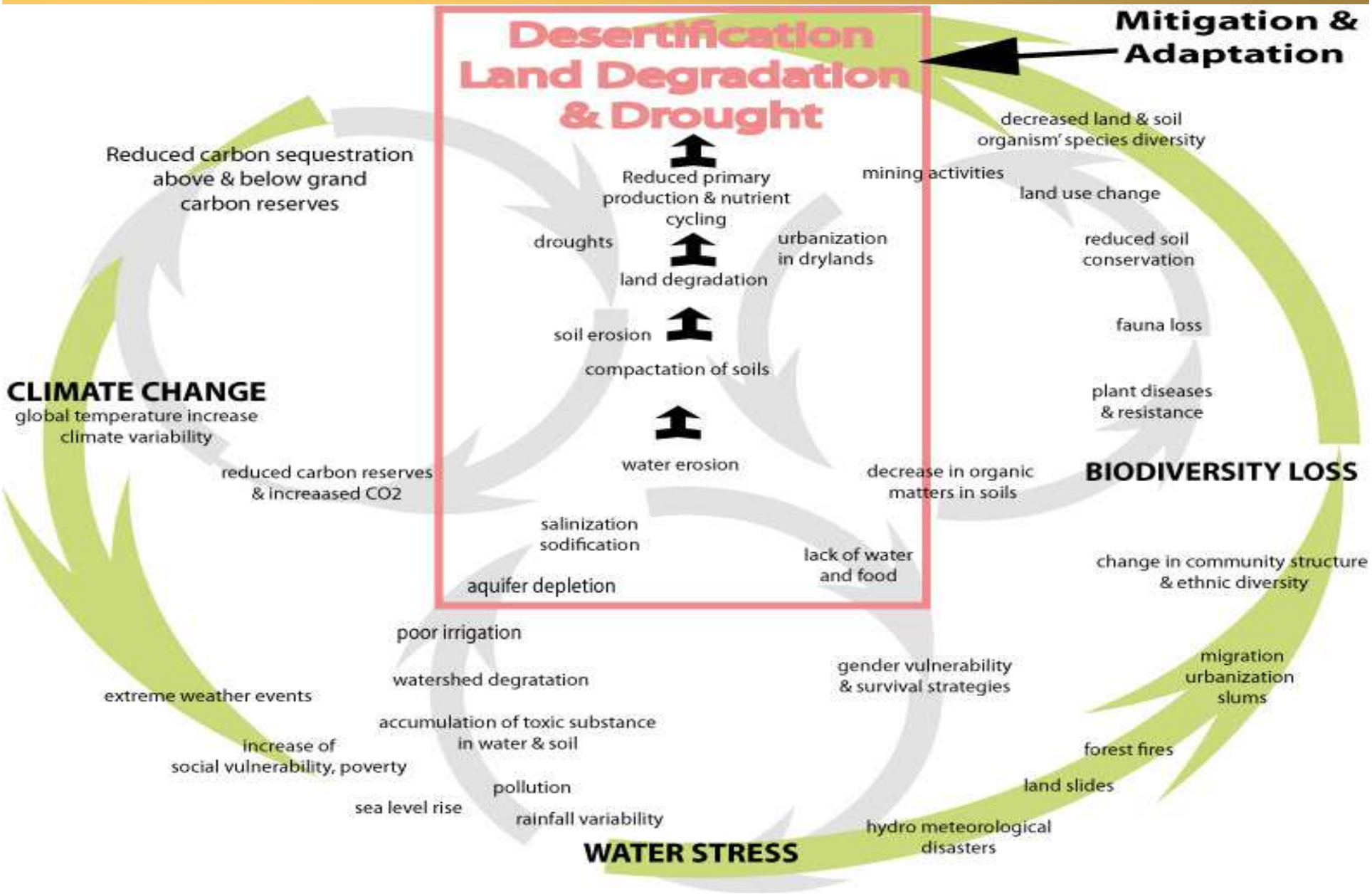


Human-induced Soil Degradation

Source: ISCRIC-UNEP (1996: 12)



Interactions of GEC



3. Addressing DLDD: Scientization, Politicization, Securitization

Three stages of **Global Environmental Change** (GEC) and of **DLDD** can be distinguished:

a) since 1970's of scientific agenda-setting and research (**scientizing**),

b) 1992 (Rio de Janeiro): **politicizing**

c) **securitizing:** of water (The Hague 2000); desertification (Valencia 2003); climate change (Security Council 2007).

Scientization

- **Global Assessment of Human Induced Soil Degradation** (GLASOD) (1990) first global assessment of soil degradation.
- **TerrAfrica** scaling up support for country-driven (SLM) practices in Sub-Saharan African countries and NEPAD.
- **DesertNet** interdisciplinary group of scientists in Europe to support communication with policy makers and stakeholders.
- **ARIDnet** research coordination network in Americas and Australia addressing *biophysical & socio-economic* factors of desertification.
- **Earth System Science Partnership** (ESSP) with: climate change (WCRP), International Geophysical and Biological Programme (IGPB), biodiversity (DIVERSITAS), and IHDP.
- **No science programme on soil issues and similar assessment body compared to IPCC exists.**

Politicization

- **Earth Summit in Rio, 1992** with 3 conventions: climate change (UNFCCC), biodiversity (CBD) and **desertification** (**UNCCD**) promote international governance and **World Water Fora**.
- UNCCD put DLDD on international political agenda through its **conferences of parties** (COPs) & **Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention** (CRIC).
- 2007: debate of the **Security Council on Climate Change recognized DLDD** issues within climate related security risks.
- UNCCD lacks a report on the **potential costs of non-action** for DLDD (Stern Report).

4. Security and Securitzation

- **Which Security?** Security for whom? (referent object); security of what? (endangered values); security from whom? (sources of fear)
- "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". From a constructivist approach security is **intersubjective** or refers to "what actors make of it".
- **"Securitization"**: is a political process where a danger is declared as an **"existential threat**" that requires **extraordinary political measures**.
- The threat is posed by us (our socioeconomic behaviour) and the impact of anthropogenic climate change.
- **Goal is not militarization of the environment but the demilitarization of the environmental dimension of human security!**

Securitizing the Ground (Land, Soil) Grounding Security

- Spain & UNCCD launched process of securitization of DLDD (Almería 1994, 2006; Valencia 2003/07)
- **Present study**:
  - ***Securitizing the ground*** creates a wider global political awareness for DLDD and its societal consequences, as a key international political problem by upgrading it as a security issue.
  - ***Grounding security*** includes reactive/proactive short and long-term strategies for mitigation and adaptation to soil insecurity and its consequences.

New Soil Security Concept

Soil security is threatened by

- the spatial expansion of drylands
- the severe degradation of soils and related fertility and biodiversity loss due to geophysical, wind and water erosion
- drought resulting in crop yield decline
- DLDD has triggered severe periods of famine

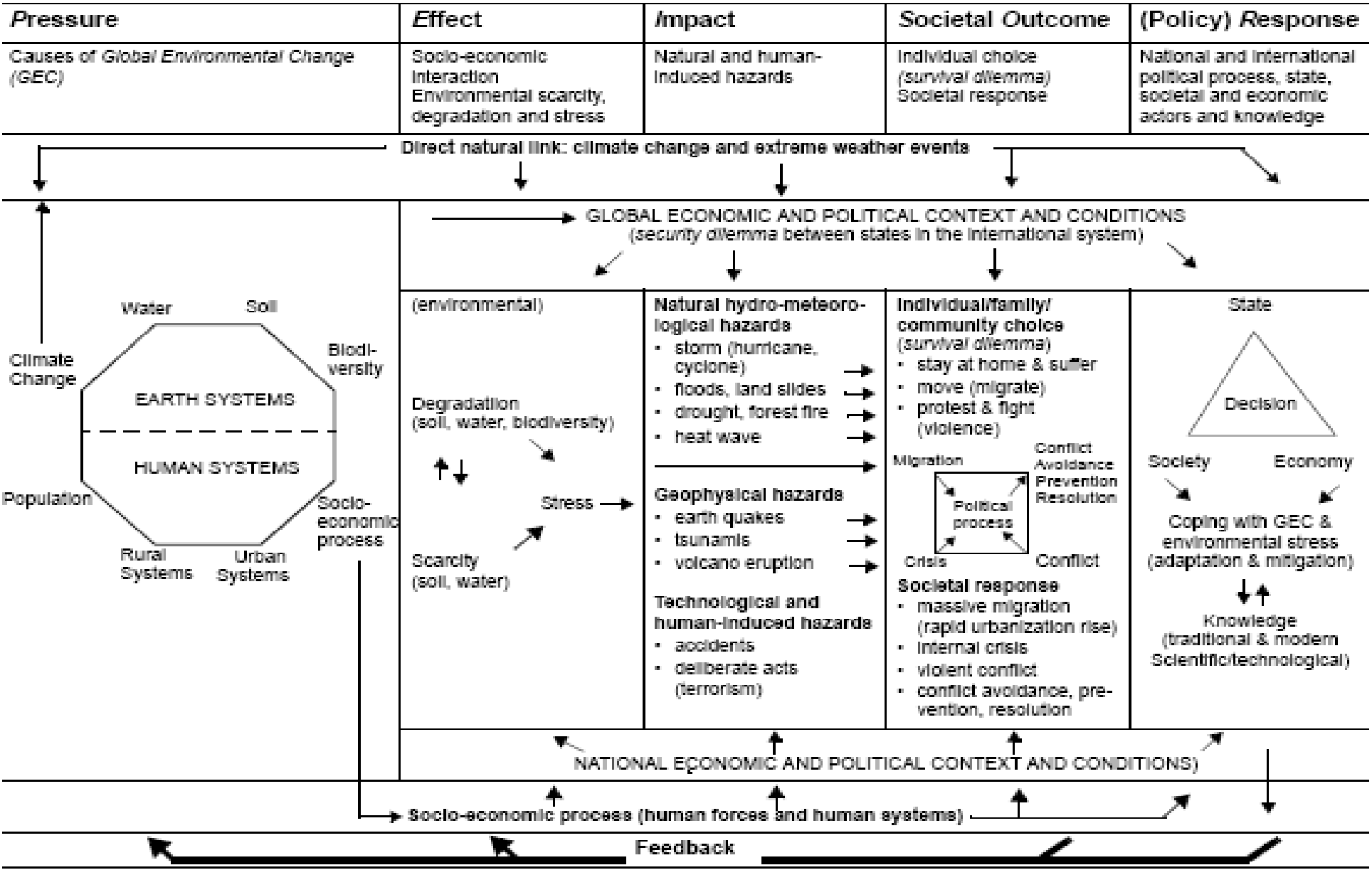
Soil security is achieved when efforts succeed

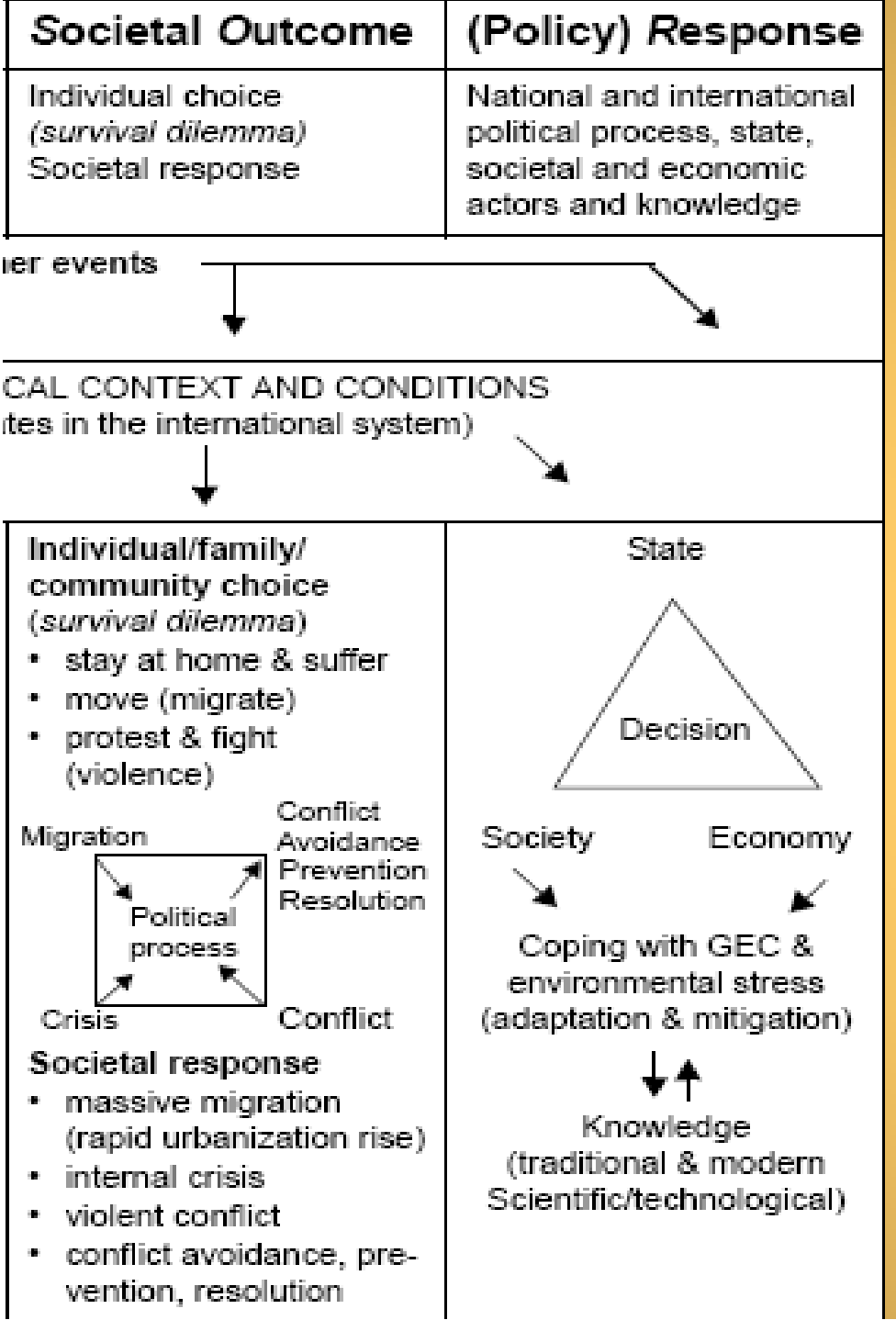
- to conserve/ restore soil fertility
- to contain land degradation and combat desertification
- to reduce consequences of drought by improving livelihood

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

- loss of soil capacity for regulating & storing water
- depletion of aquifers for drinking and irrigation affecting the survival of people at risk

5. DLDD & Impacts: PEISOR Model

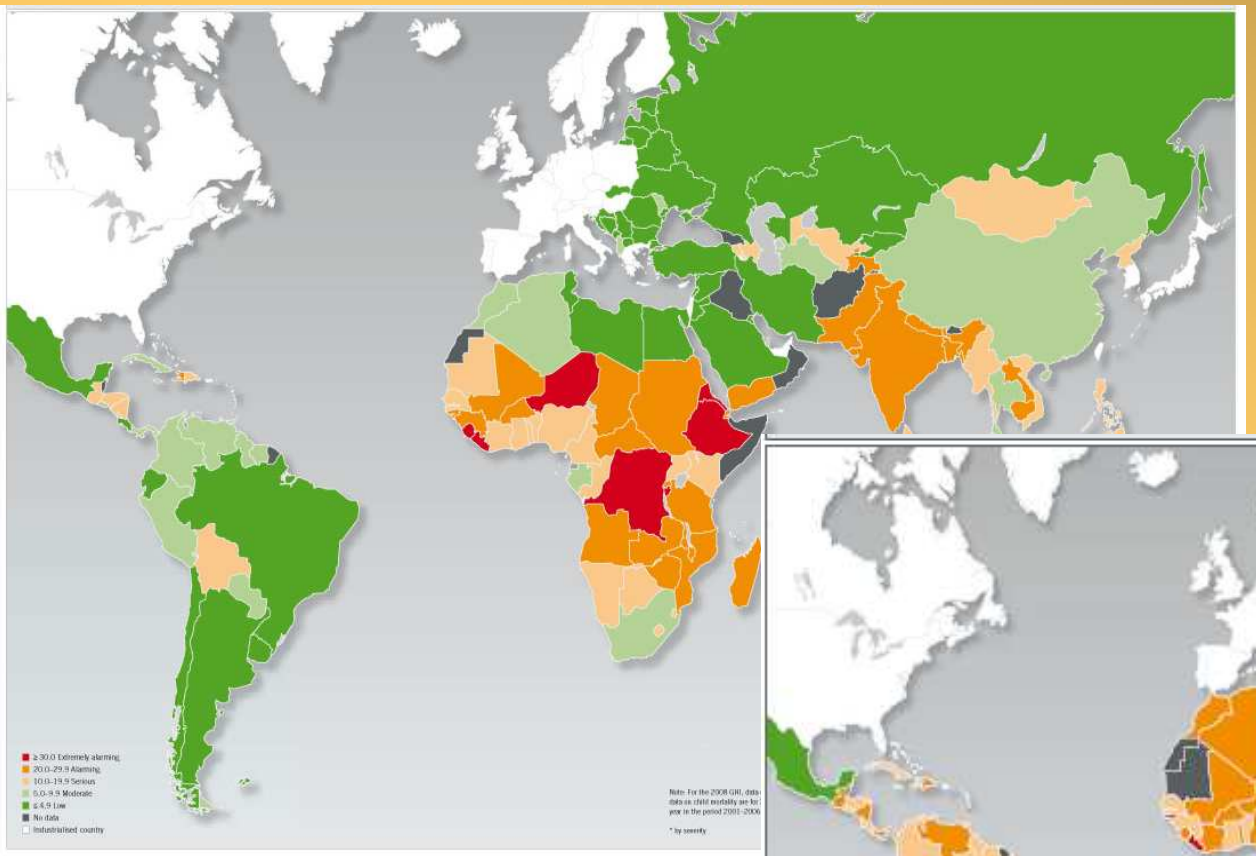




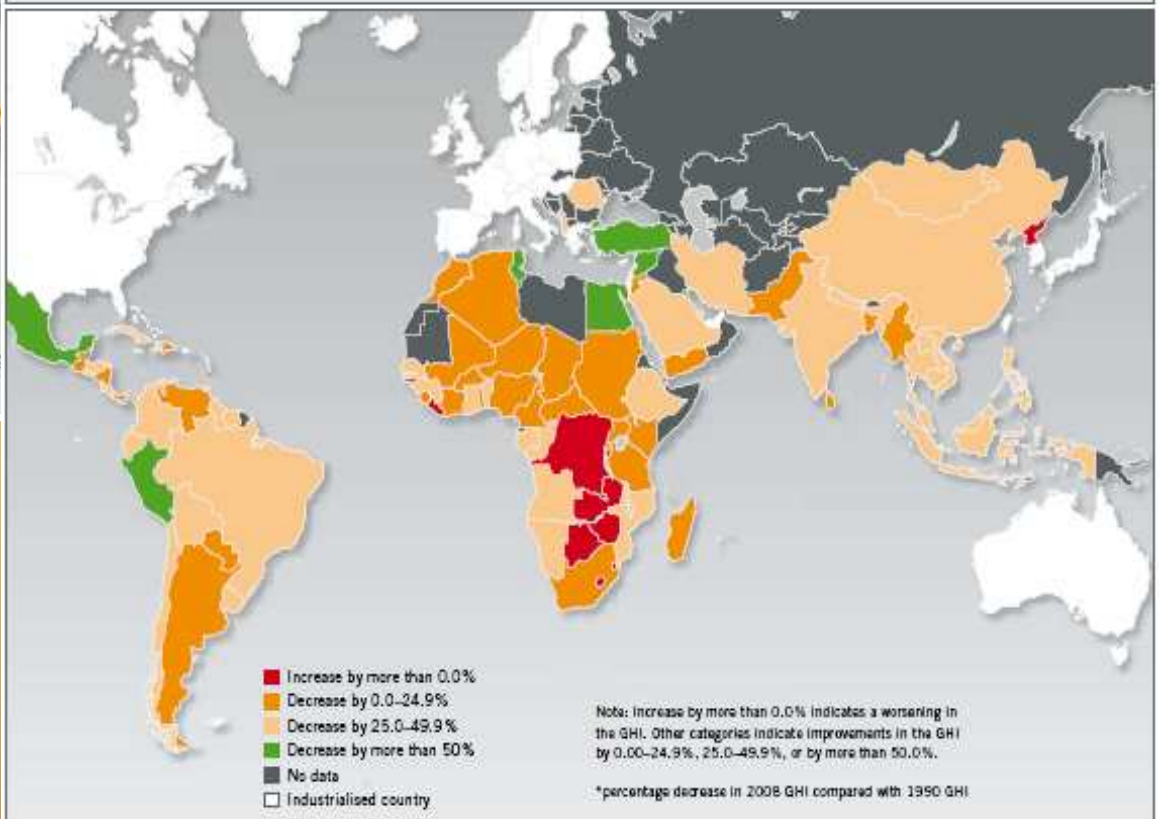
Societal Outcomes

- Hunger, famine
- Migration to urban slums
- Rural-rural migration
- Transborder migration
- Crises: domestic
- Conflicts:
  - Peaceful protests
  - Violent clashes
- Complex emergencies

Global Hunger Index 1990 & 2008

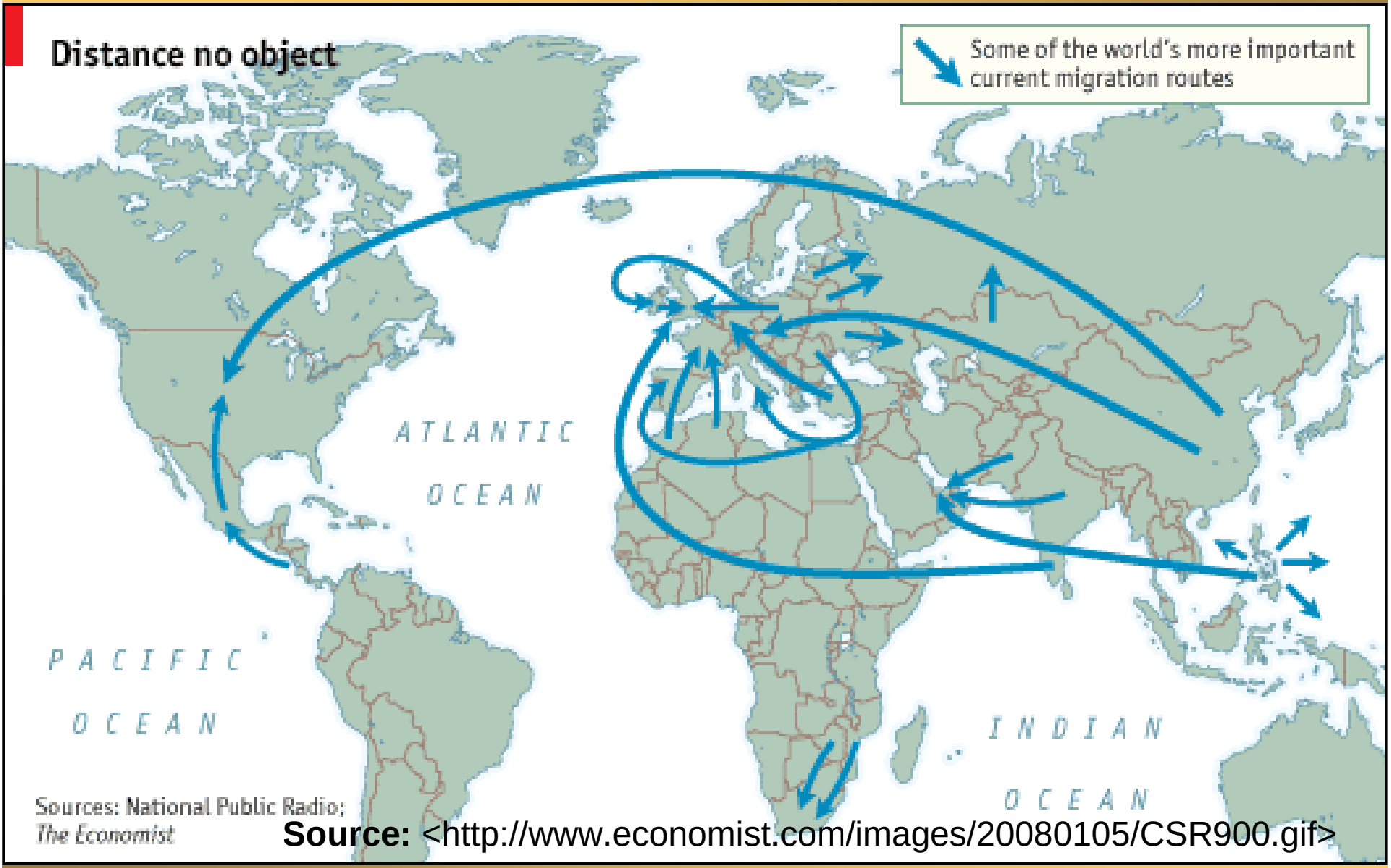


←2008 Global Hunger Index
Country progress in reducing the Global Hunger Index between 1990 and 2008 ↓



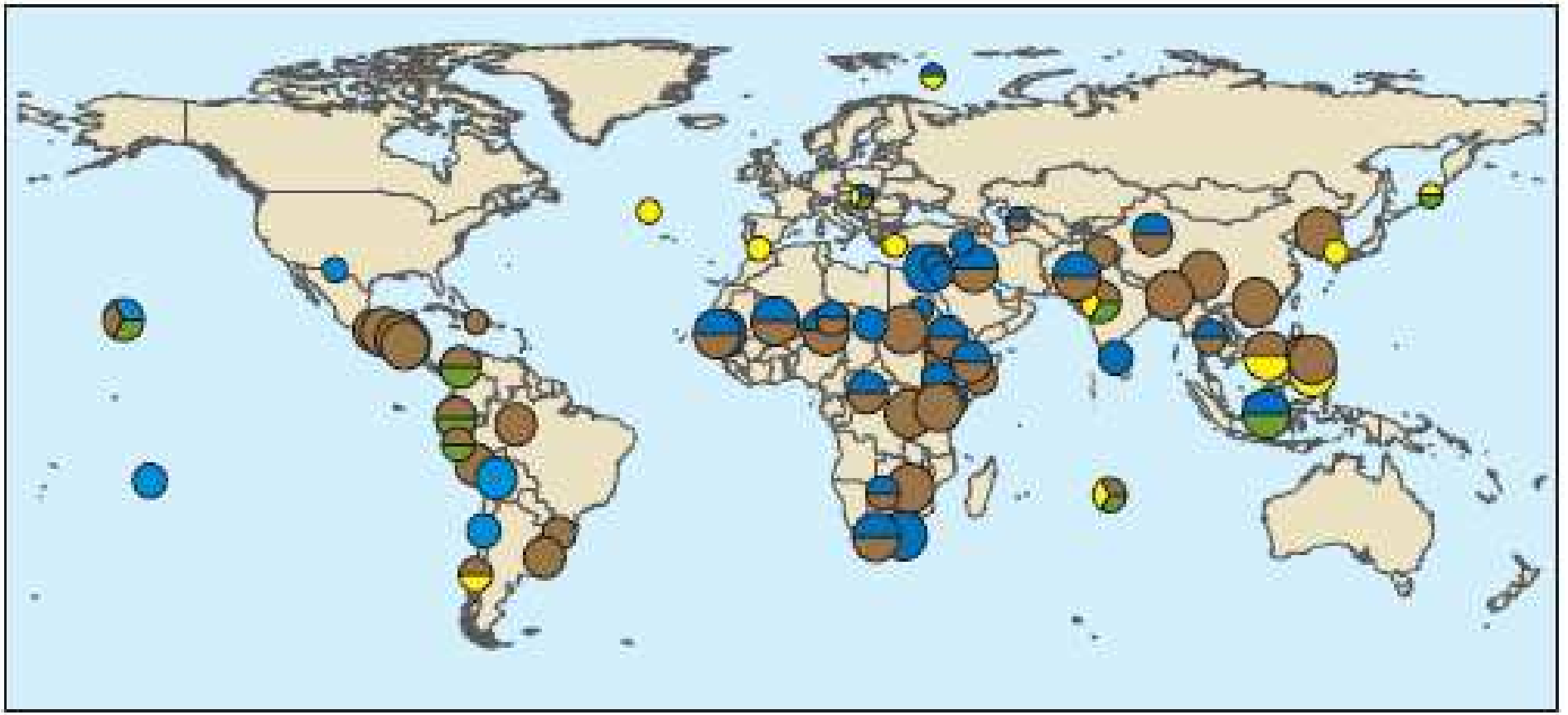
Source: IFPRI, 2008

Migration currents



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

Environmental conflicts (1980-2006)



Source: WBGU (2008: 32)

6. Addressing Causes & Security Impacts of DLDD

- Requires **political strategy** for complex nature-human interactions where emerging risks are linked to multiple & simultaneous crises
- **Involving** the state, society, business & academia
- Adopting **proactive response** strategies, policies and measures with best practices, traditional and modern scientific knowledge
- Focusing on **soil security** to enhance problem awareness on environmental risks for people and ecosystems
- Requiring **anticipatory learning & proactive policies** to prevent further deterioration & mitigate soc. impacts

7. From Knowledge to Action

- Soil security concept highlights **causes, effects, impacts and societal outcomes** of soil insecurity & 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.

Implementing Knowledge to Action Requires

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

Extraordinary Policy Measures for Enhancing Soil Security

Securitizing the ground with policy measures:

- prevent weakening livelihood of affected, often poor people in developing countries
- support of financial and administrative capacities by well-equipped state
- supplying more environmental services and food with fewer resources
- developing alternative livelihoods in drylands
- responding to/coping with environmental migration & conflicts

Demand Side Management and Efficiency Improvements

- river basin management, flood protection & reforestation
- recovering mountain ecosystem: erosion control, water harvesting, soils and biodiversity conservation, disaster mitigation in lower-lying densely populated areas
- in river plains & valleys: sustainable, participative land planning for agriculture, life-stock & urbanization
- long-term monitoring desertification indicators needs information on land and water degradation trends & complex interrelationships with human activities
- field studies on natural, human, societal, cultural and historic conditions in drylands

Transition to Alternative Livelihoods and Sustainable Economy

- **Decentralized governance:** traditional knowledge from women, peasants, *grassroots* movements against desertification
- **Consolidation of local leadership** (clergymen, spiritual leaders, doctors, lawyers, schools, teachers) and training (old/young people, migrants)
- **Off-farm jobs** create financial resources to recover degraded land and feed people
- **Concrete Action Programmes** to prevent migration, crises and conflicts

Avoiding Environmental Conflicts

- Anticipatory learning, peace building, multidisciplinary search for action-oriented strategies to cope with root causes and socio-economic implications.
- 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 for soil security & reduces costs of coping with consequences.

8. Policy Recommendations

UNCCD pursues 5 operational objectives in its 10 years strategy (2007):

- Knowledge Creation & Management
- Awareness Raising
- Policy Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Channelling Resources

Awareness Raising

- Cooperation with universities, research institutes in translating knowledge to actions on DLDD
- Documenting soil security hotspots
- Best practices and experience on extreme land degradation
- Dissemination of information

Policy Advocacy

- **Expert community** on DLDD to foster cooperation between science and policy making on soil security issues.
- UNCCD with FAO, UNESCO, WHO, WMO, UNDP, UNEP, UNU, UNSO, OSCE, NATO, IUCN & CGIAR to **prioritize soil security** for sustainable dryland management.
- International workshops on **practical experiences** for territorial governance.
- **Pro-active strategies** to counter DLDD with rural production, renewable energy or ecotourism.
- Countries affected by DLDD may enact **legislation** on soil security for sustainable agricultural and land management practices.

Capacity Building

- Strengthening traditional and innovative knowledge for embedding assessment of levels of soil security into environmental impact & risks assessment, land use planning and environmental auditing.
- Training on **best practices** for conflict settlement mechanisms should be provided at the sub regional and national levels and linked whenever relevant to the adjustment process of UNCCD National Action Programmes.

Channelling Resources

- International financial organizations and national donors improve policies for soil security
- Climate related finance mechanisms for affected rural areas
- Local development programmes and economy of solidarity promoting sustainable livelihood and off farm income generation (micro credit, insurance & land use micro investments) for vulnerable groups at risks of social destabilization due to DLDD.

Achieving Soil, Water, Food Security for People Most Affected by DLDD

- **Food security & sovereignty:** FAO
- **Water security**: Declaration of the 2nd World Water Forum (The Hague, 2000)
- **Health security: WHO**
- **Jointly soil, water and food security address major related challenges for the people most affected by DLDD.**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