

BROOKINGS

QUALITY. INDEPENDENCE. IMPACT.

# Twenty years later: can green growth change the conversation on conservation and development?

---

Katherine Sierra

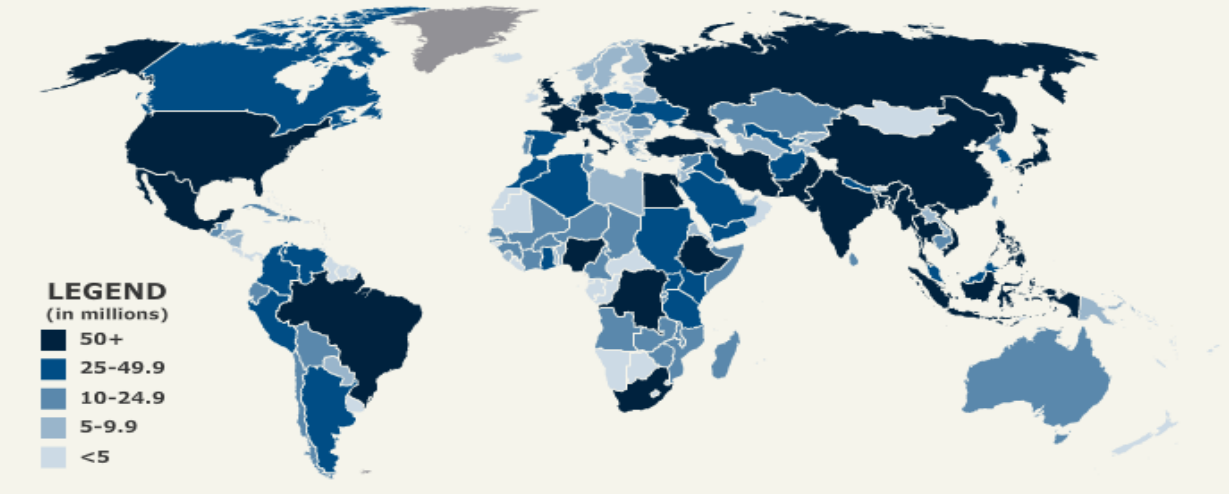
Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development

# Can green growth change the conversation on conservation and development?

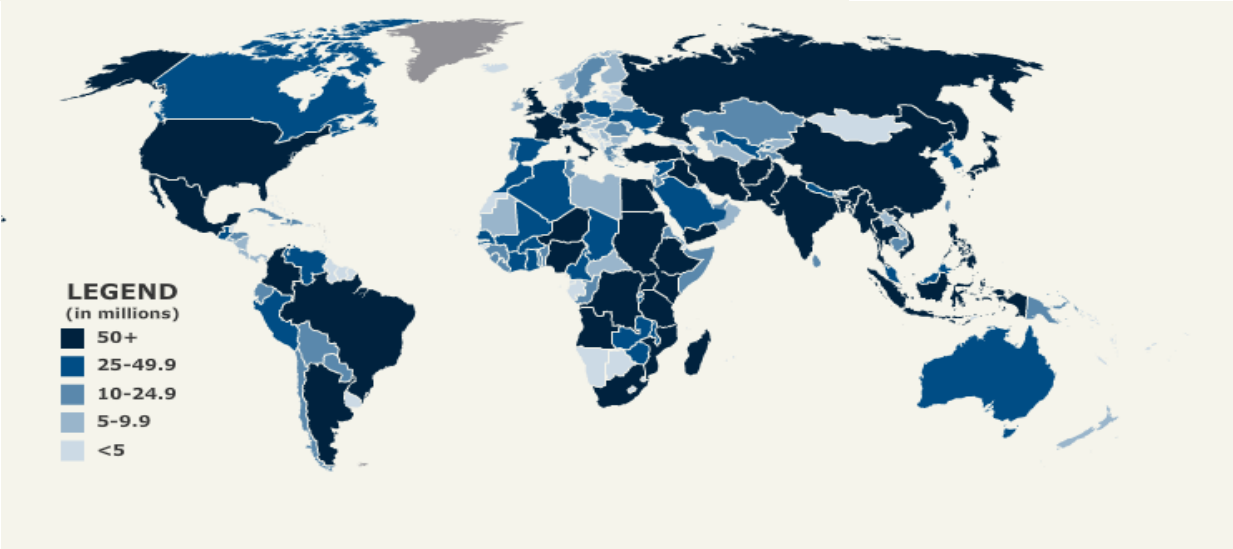
- **The megatrends**
  - population, urbanization, water stress, land use changes, climate impacts and natural resource degradation, and human vulnerability
- **The opportunity**
  - green growth as a new pathway for sustainable development
- **Three policy levers**
  - Pricing Natural Capital
  - Leveraging International and Innovative Finance
  - Investing in Innovation

# Population increases in 2050 will be mainly in the developing world

Global population reached over 7 billion in 2012...

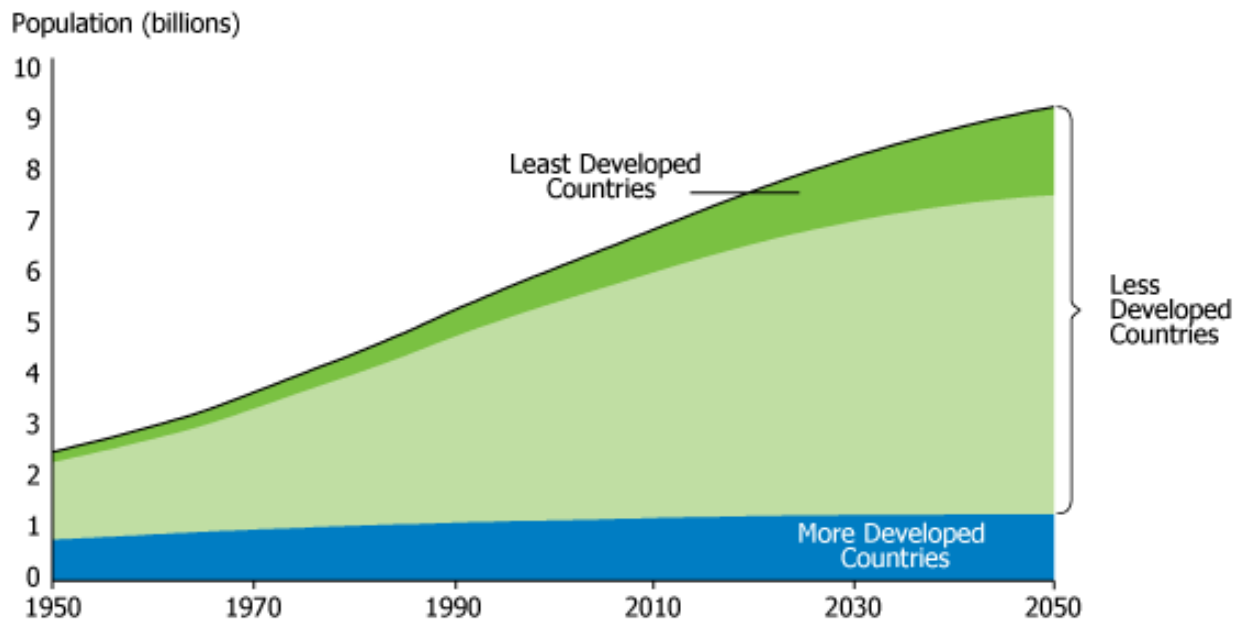


...and is projected to rise to nearly 10 billion by 2050



Source: Population Reference Bureau, 2012.

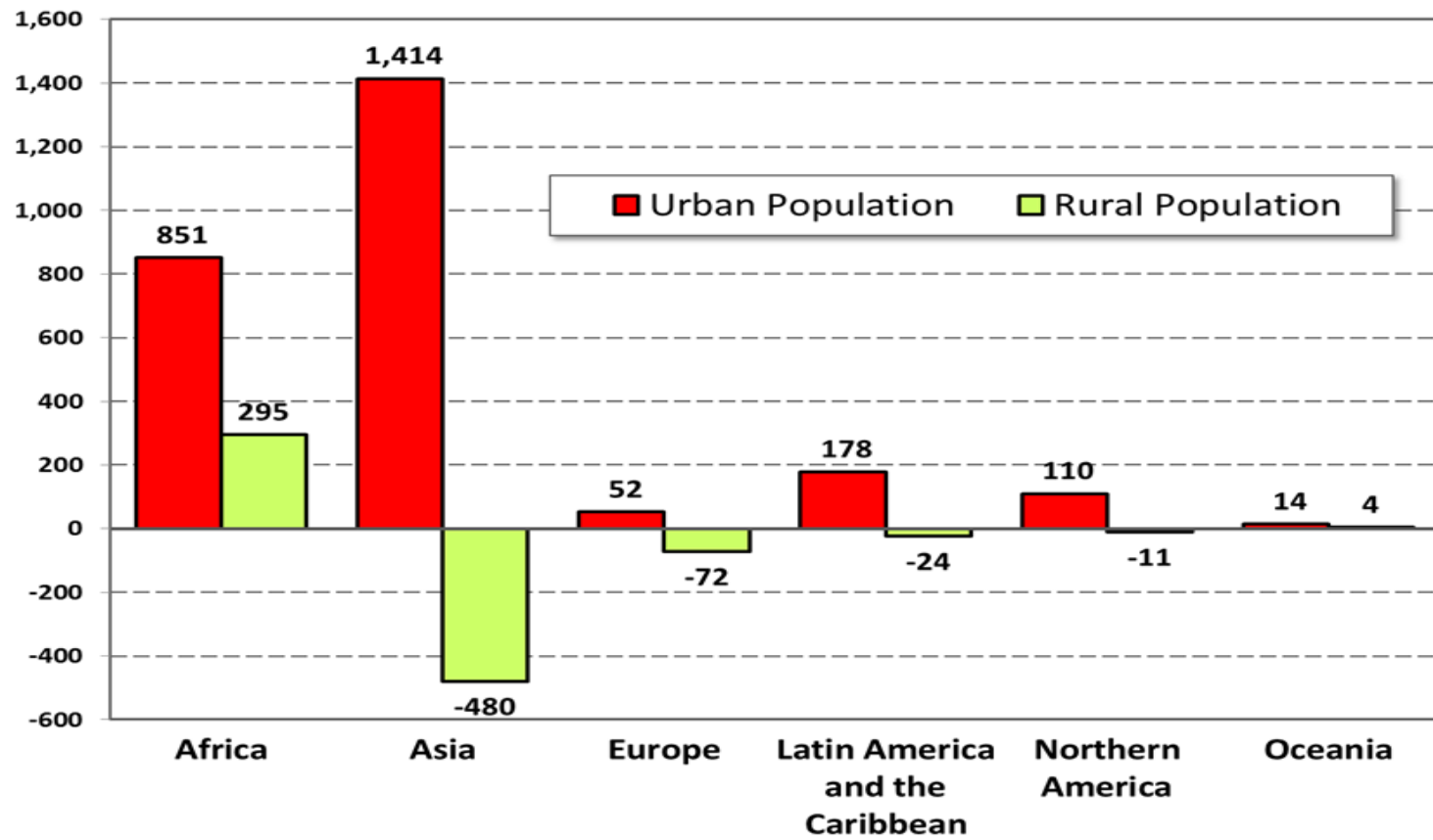
# Nearly All Future Population Growth Will Be in the World's Less Developed Countries



**Africa and Asia will see the biggest increases in population**

# From 3.6 now to 6 billion people in cities by 2050 – with dramatic changes in Africa and Asia

Changes in urban and rural populations between 2011 and 2050 (millions)



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 Revision*

# Water stress is growing

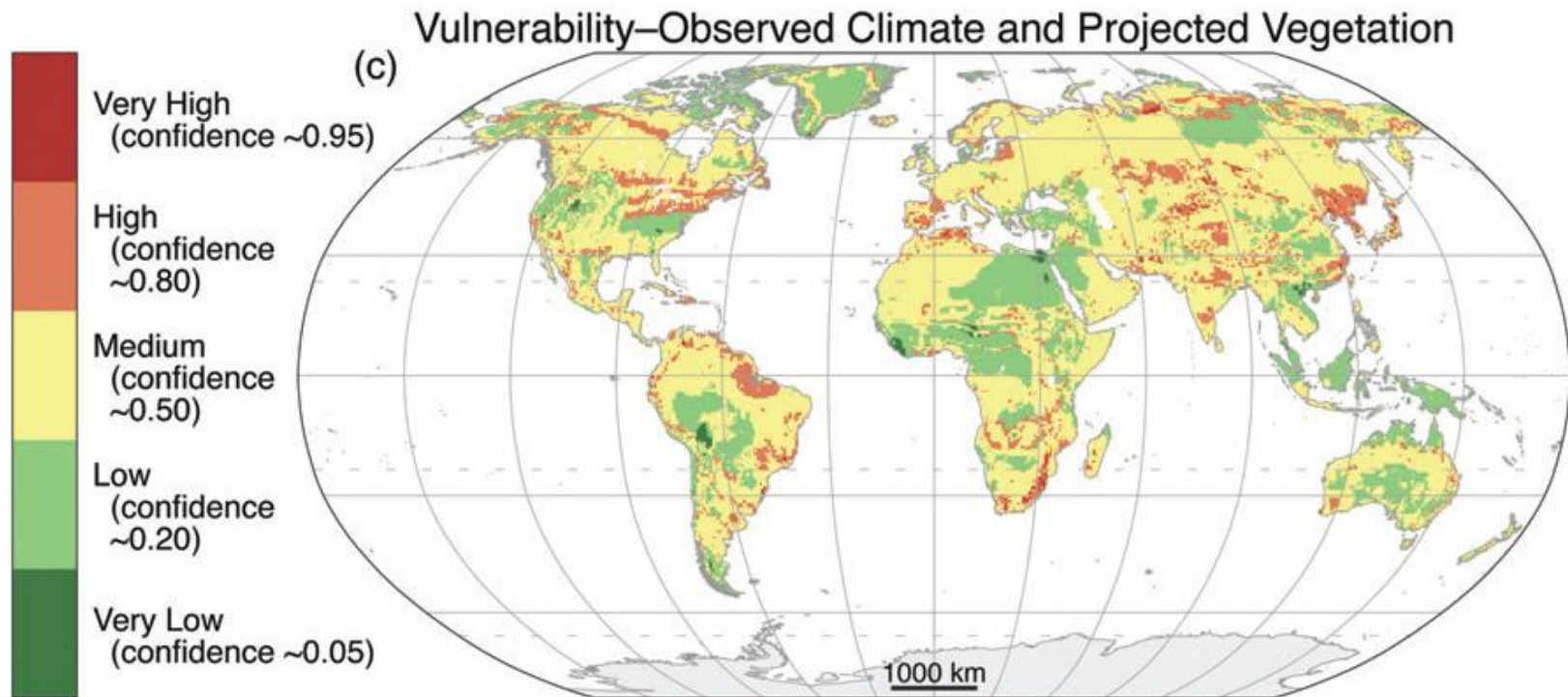
Global water demand is projected to increase by 55%  
between 2000 and 2050



...with increases coming from: manufacturing (+400%), electricity (+140%) and domestic use (+130%)

# Climate change increases ecosystem vulnerability

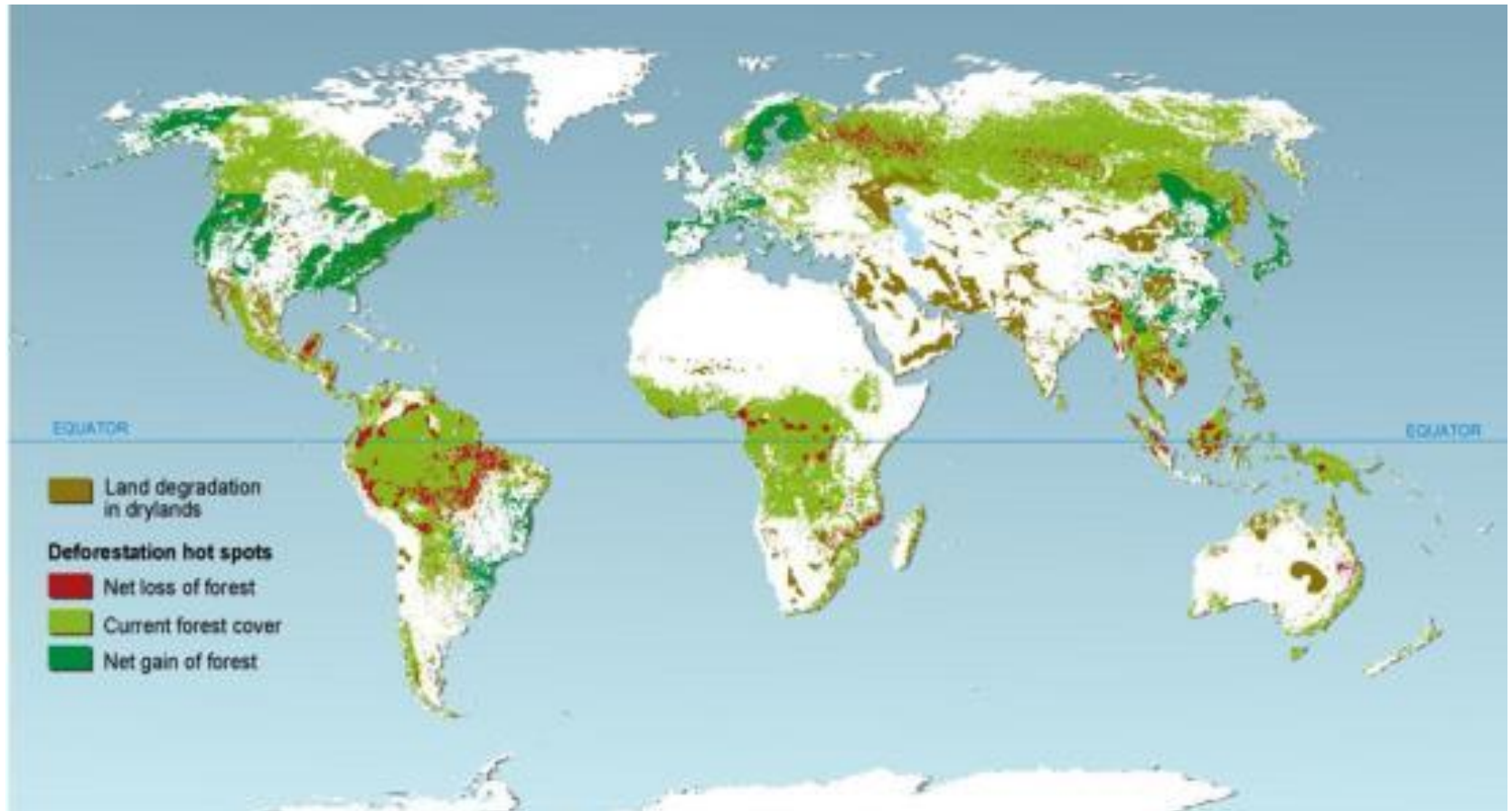
## Vulnerability to biomass change based on IPCC confidence class names and levels



Source: Gonzalez et al., 2010. Global Patterns in the Vulnerability of Ecosystems to Vegetations Shifts due to Climate Change. *Global Ecology and Biogeography*.



# Land use change is leading to increased rates of deforestation

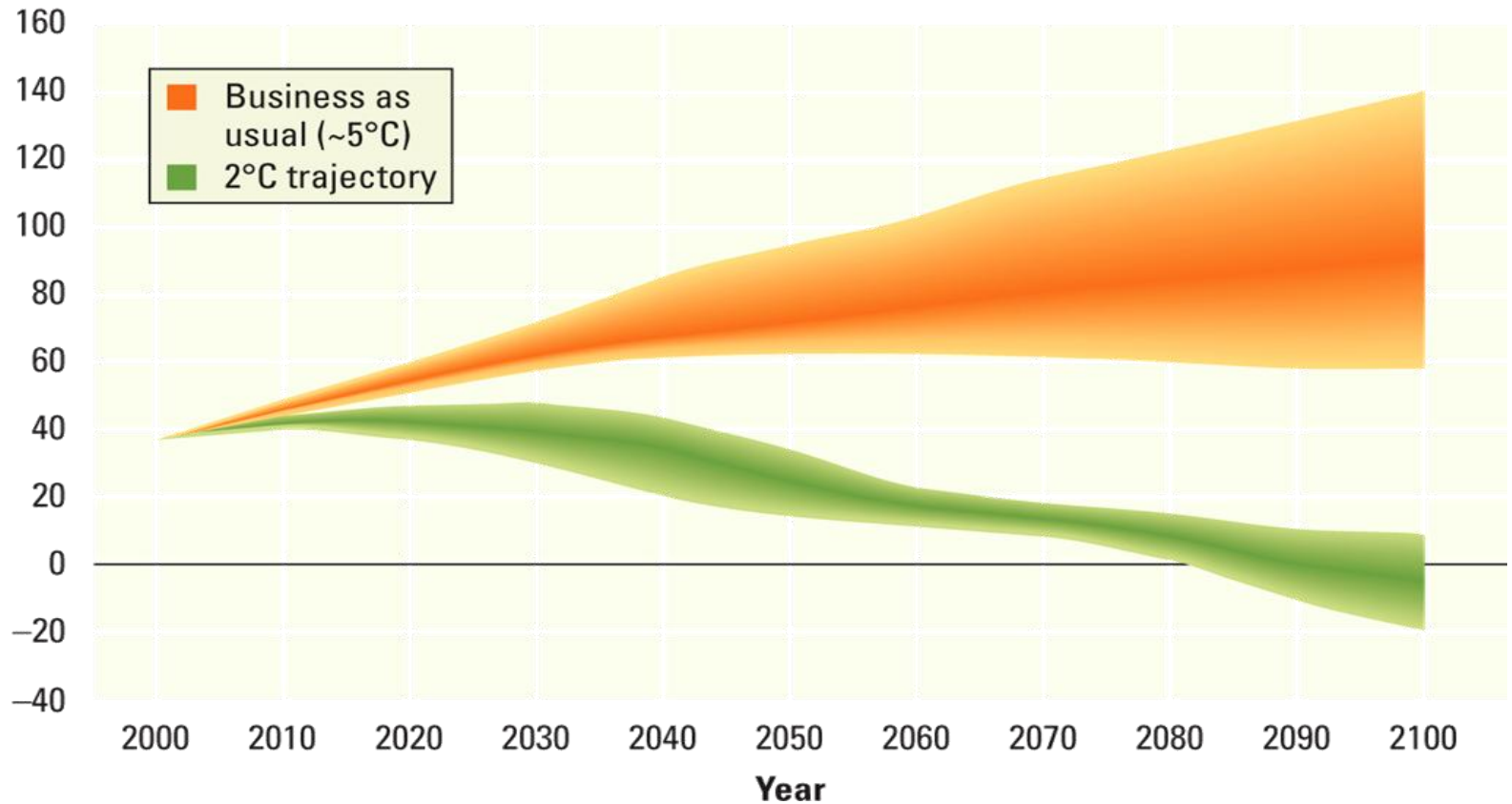


Source: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2007



# Global Greenhouse Gas Emission are on a dangerous path

Projected annual total global emissions (GtCO<sub>2</sub>e)



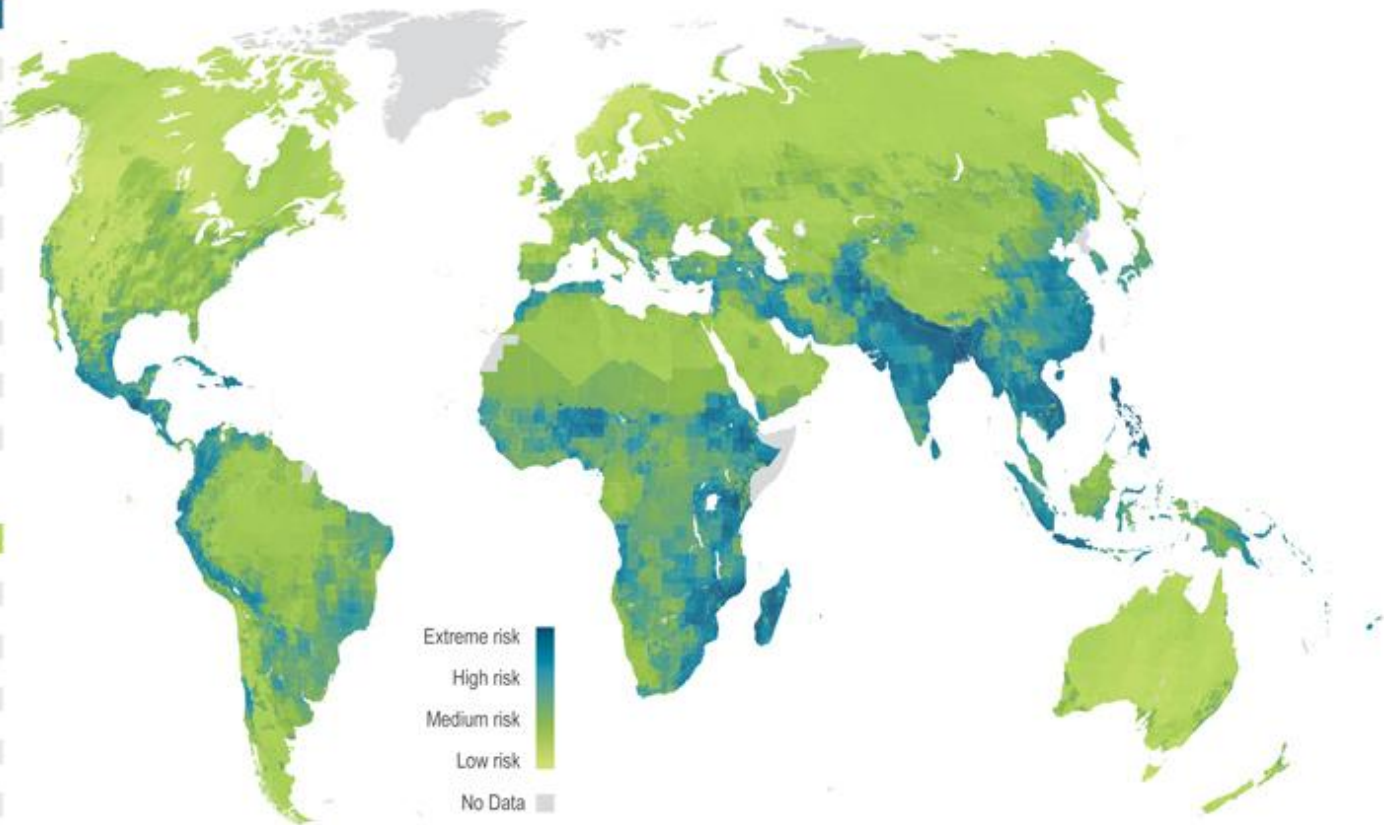
Source: World Development Report: Climate Change and Development

# Climate change is putting people at risk

## Climate Vulnerability Index 2011

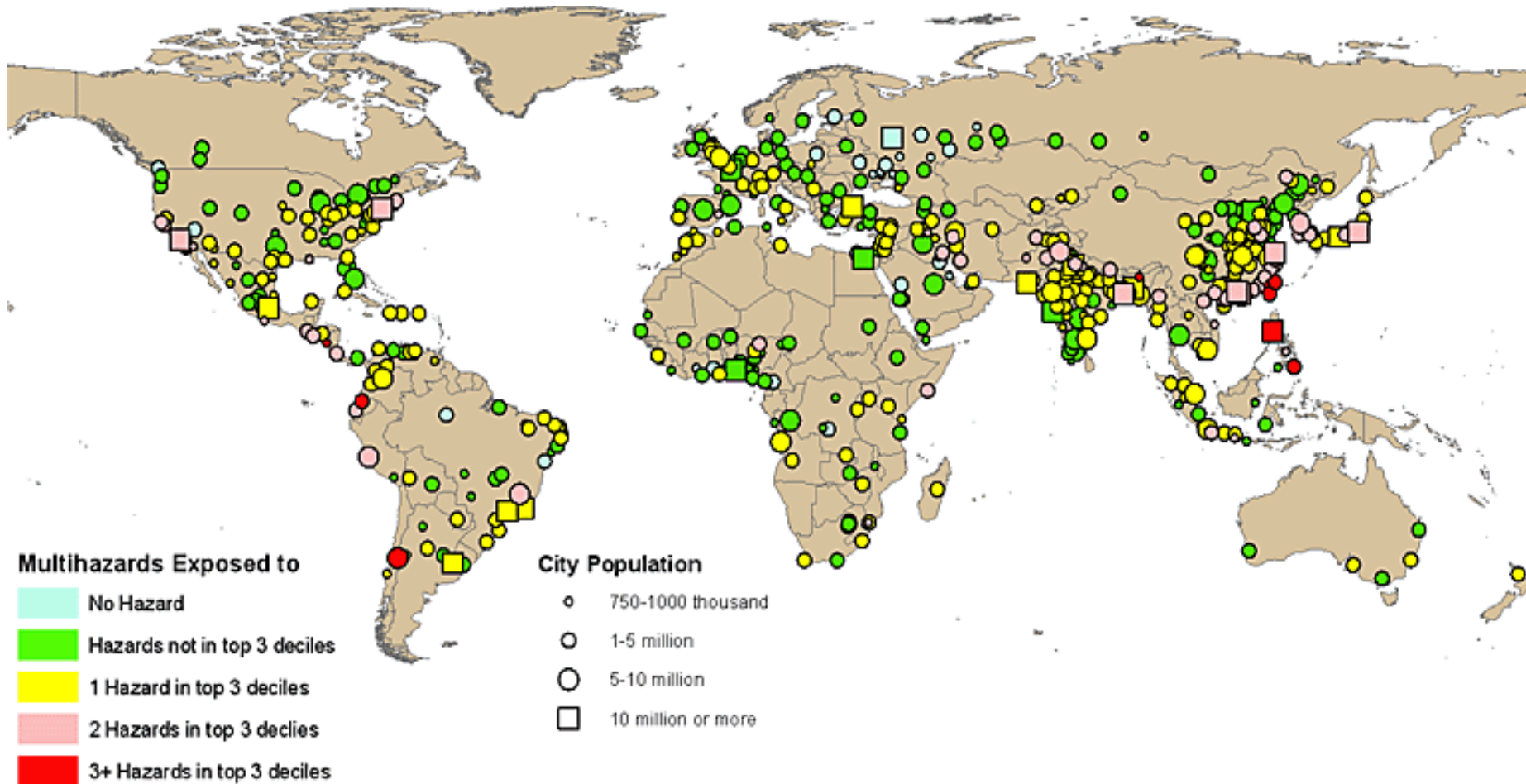
Rank	Country	Category
1	Bangladesh	Extreme
2	India	Extreme
3	Madagascar	Extreme
4	Nepal	Extreme
5	Mozambique	Extreme
6	Philippines	Extreme
7	Haiti	Extreme
8	Afghanistan	Extreme
9	Zimbabwe	Extreme
10	Myanmar	Extreme
11	Ethiopia	Extreme
12	Cambodia	Extreme
13	Viet Nam	Extreme
14	Thailand	Extreme
14	Malawi	Extreme
16	Pakistan	Extreme

Rank	Country	Category
160	Netherlands	Low
161	Latvia	Low
162	Lithuania	Low
163	Qatar	Low
164	Estonia	Low
165	Denmark	Low
166	Sweden	Low
167	Ireland	Low
168	Iceland	Low
169	Finland	Low
170	Norway	Low



Source: Maplecroft, 2011

# Cities are at risk, especially on the coasts



Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division: *World Urbanization Prospects, the 2011 Revision*. Urban agglomerations by size class and potential risk of multiple natural disasters, 2011

# Green growth presents an opportunity to build pathways for sustainable development

## Green growth is sustainable

- Efficient in use of resources
- Inclusive
- Resilient
- Attractive, improving the quality of life

## Green growth is also transformative

- Innovative, on the technology frontier
- Productive and competitive
- Connects, using ICT
- Transforms business models
- Capitalizes on partnerships



# Countries are beginning to protect natural capital as part of low-carbon and climate resilience strategies

- **Mexico:** Water management through environmental services payments
- **Niger:** drought and water management
- **Cambodia:** agriculture and resilience to drought and flooding.
- **Mongolia:** Ecosystem based adaptation approach to maintaining water security
- **Indonesia:**
  - economy-wide National Green Growth Strategy;
  - project level conservation and flood protection efforts like mangrove conservation in West Kalimantan;
  - Yet, Jakarta flood program still “hard-solution” focused
- **Indonesia, Brazil:** REDD+
- **Maldives:** Increasing climate resilience through an integrated water resources management program

**Indonesian mangrove conservation project**



Source: Allianz.com

## Going forward: How to Scale-up?

**Development and economic growth are critical**, but the quality of that growth path is critical for future sustainability.

**Three policy levers are critical for green growth:**

- Pricing natural capital
- Leveraging international and innovative finance
- Investing in innovation

Green growth initiatives must be supported by **knowledge creation, sharing and capacity building, and partnerships.**

## Value natural capital

- **Integrate the value of ecosystem goods and services in decision making:**
  - “Hard” versus “Soft” infrastructure solutions.
  - “compact” city form
- **Use pricing as a lever:**
  - Implement policies that set a price on ecosystem services.
  - Price carbon through a tax or market mechanism or tax.
  - Remove water and fossil fuel subsidies, with safety net for poorest.
- **Introduce natural capital accounting, making good the Rio+20 pledge:**
  - United Nations System of Environmental-Economic Accounts (SEEA).
  - World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES).
  - Private initiatives – Natural Capital Declaration for financial services.



## Step up international and innovative finance

- **Multilateral Support:**
  - *Global Environmental Facility*: payment for eco-system services.
  - *Adaptation fund*; *CIF Pilot Program on Climate Resilience*: links conservation and resilience.
  - *CIF Forest Investment Program*: readiness & investment needed for REDD+.
- **Bilateral support, with an emphasis on performance and results:**
  - Millennium Challenge Corporation: \$450 compact with Indonesia for green prosperity.
  - Norwegian \$3 billion support for REDD+ (Indonesia, Brazil, Guyana, etc.).
- **Market Based Approaches:** Forest Carbon Partnership Facility; Rio de Janeiro Green Exchange; voluntary carbon markets; green bonds.

**Green Climate Fund:** priorities and practices still unclear

## Invest in innovation

- **Extend focus on technological innovation beyond clean energy:**
  - CGIAR investments important, but more R & D support needed in developing countries.
- **Build innovation capacity in developing countries:**
  - Innovation eco-systems, with a focus on entrepreneurship.
  - Business incubation centers and financial mechanisms to support venture capital in least developed countries.
  - ICT to link the digital to the physical.
  - Promote south-south sharing.

