

Climate, Peace and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean



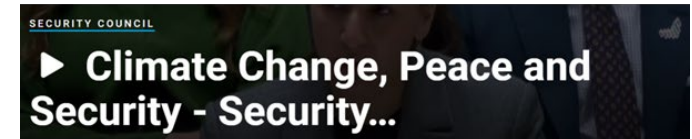
Adam Forbes

Regional Climate, Peace and Security Specialist

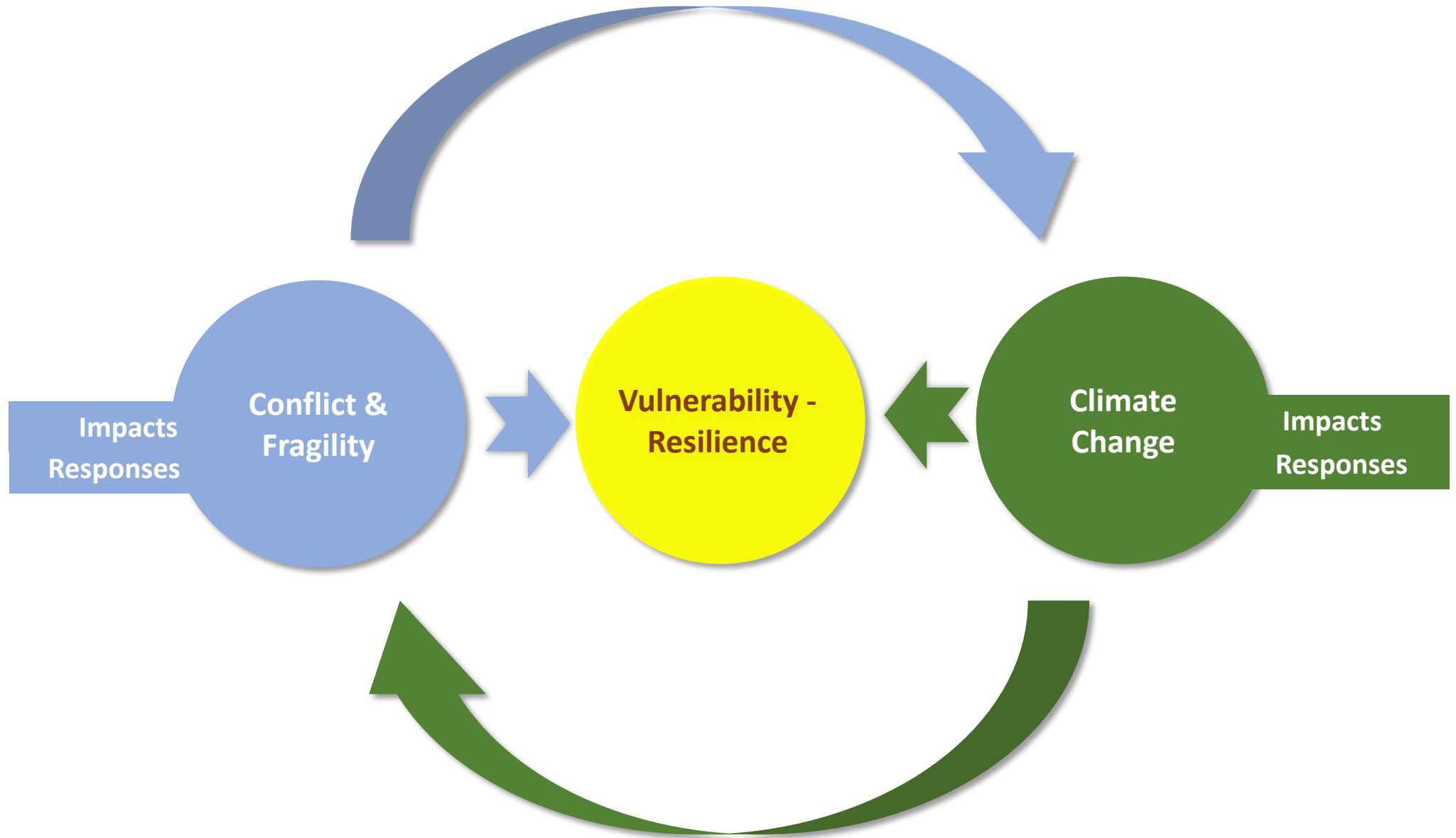
UNDP Regional Hub, Panama

What is Climate, Peace and Security?

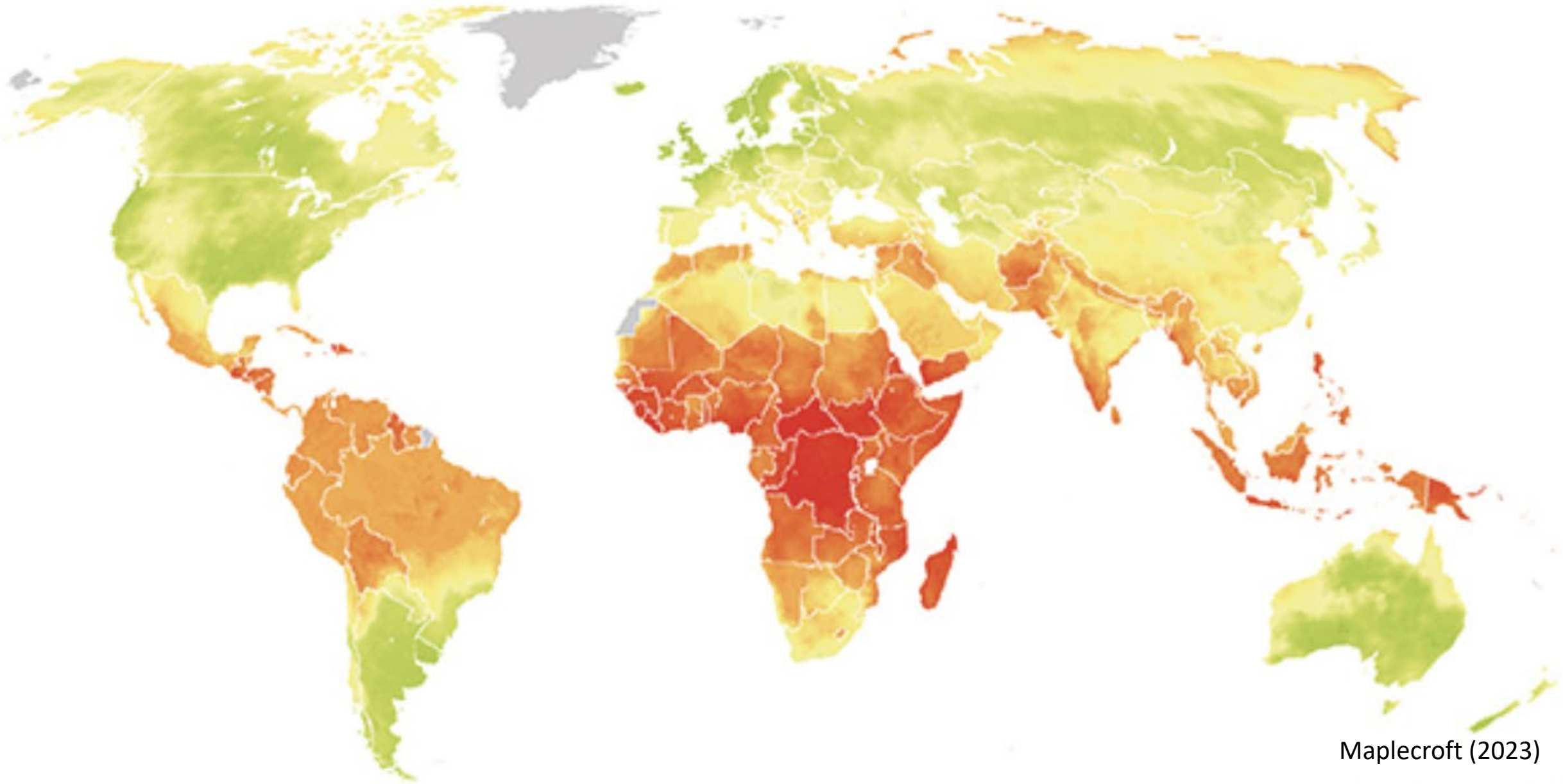
- Security Council 2008
- Recognition as a threat multiplier and 2-way interaction
- Declarations and Initiatives in COP 27 & 28
- Casual links are contested
- UNDP's focus: human security and resilience



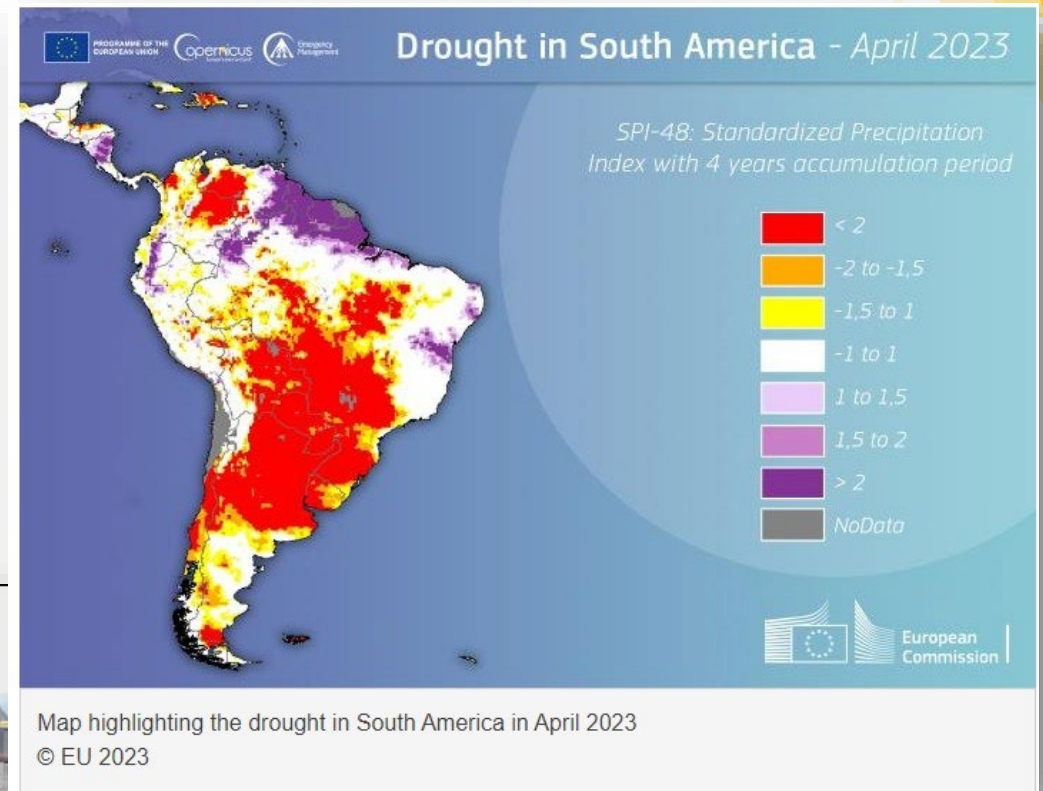
A vicious, or virtuous, circle



Global climate vulnerability: LAC in focus



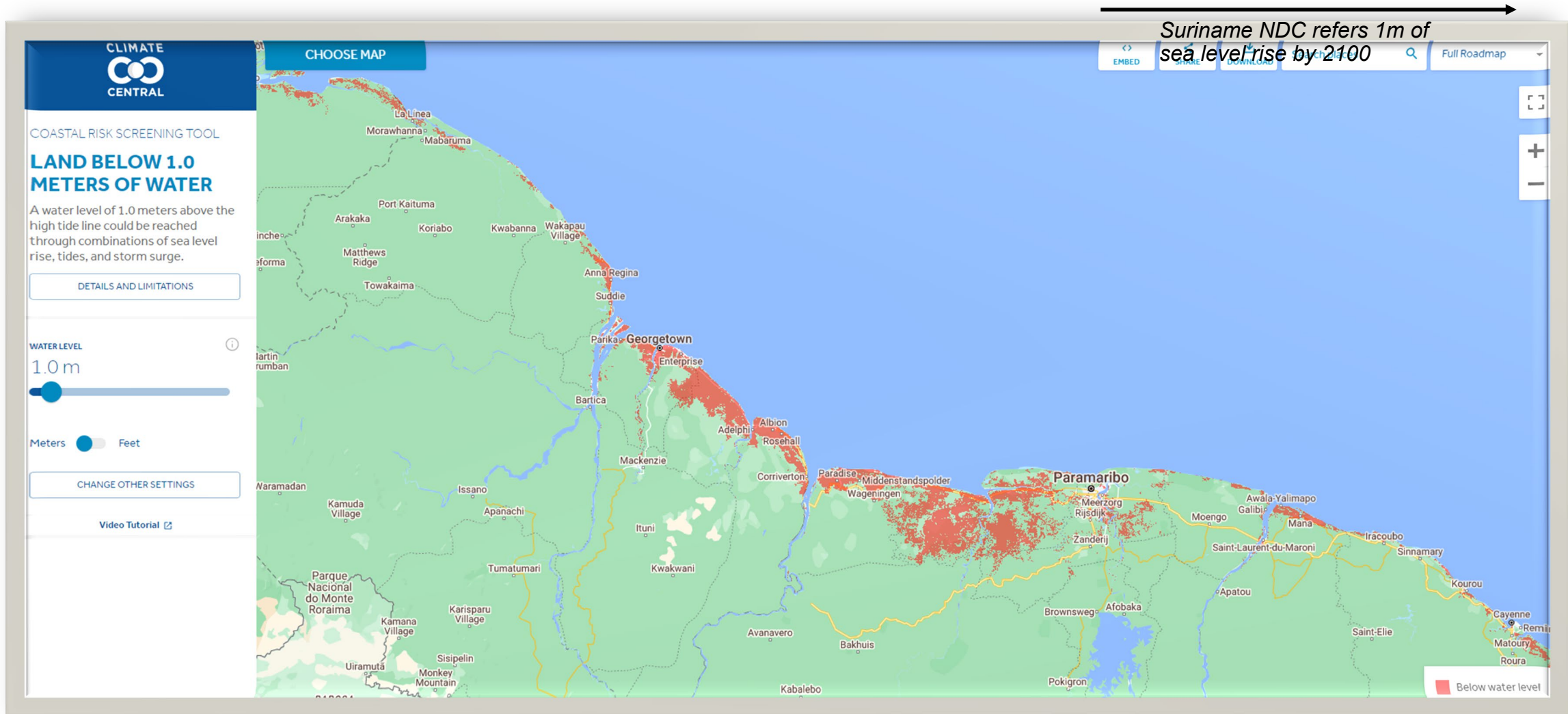
Water scarcity



EU Copernicus precipitation index 2023

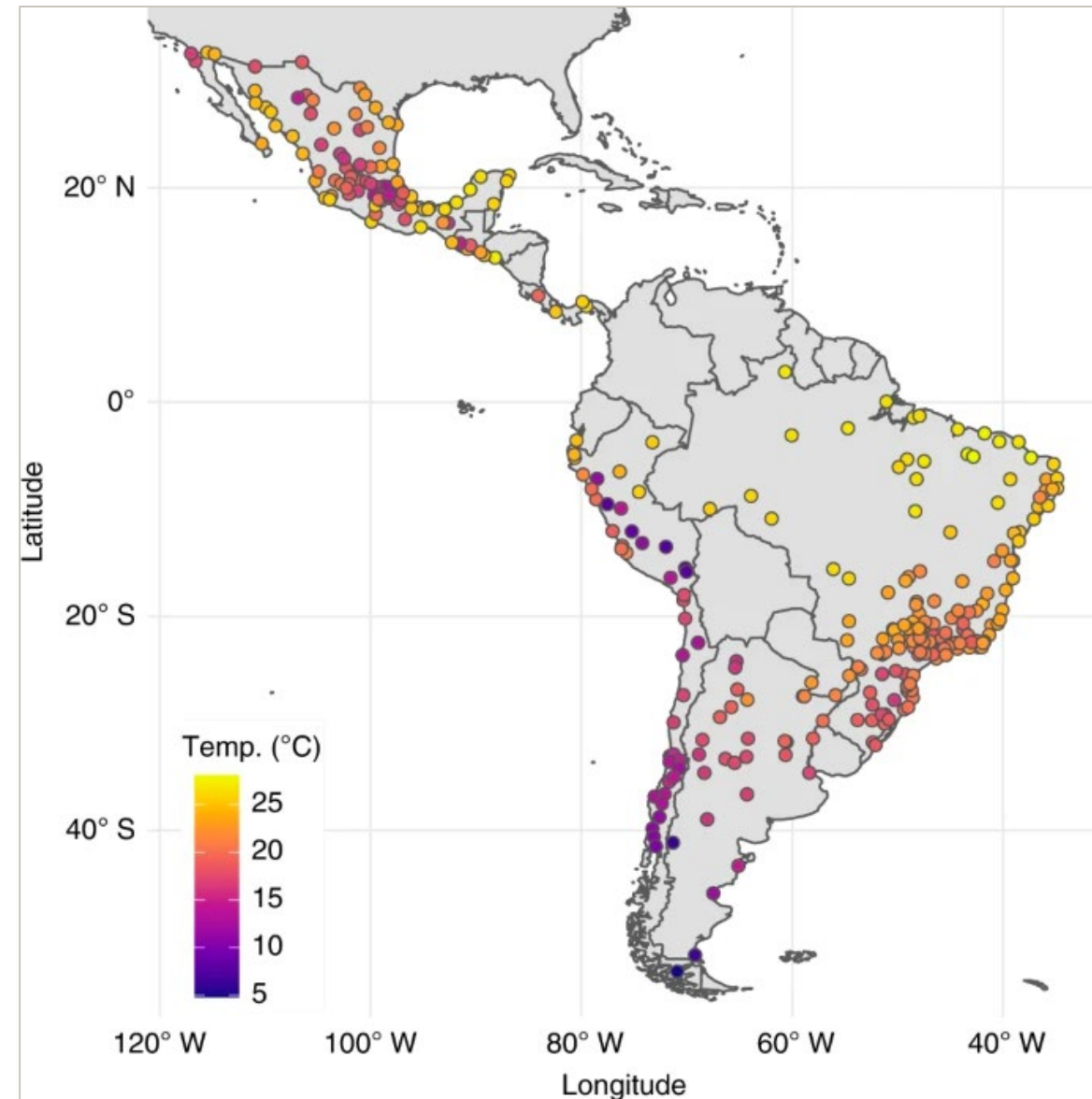
Coastal flooding

The case of Suriname and Guyana



Climate change and cities

- Latin America is one of the **most urbanized regions of the world** (over 82%) and has a large population at risk of urban heat exposure
- **Extreme hot and cold ambient temperatures** are linked to excess morbidity and premature mortality in cities
- **Assessment of over 326 cities** found that a substantially higher proportion of deaths is attributable to ambient cold than to ambient heat, but high risk associated with sudden heat temperatures
- **Coastal Mexico, northern Argentina and southern and north/northeastern Brazil** are particularly at risk



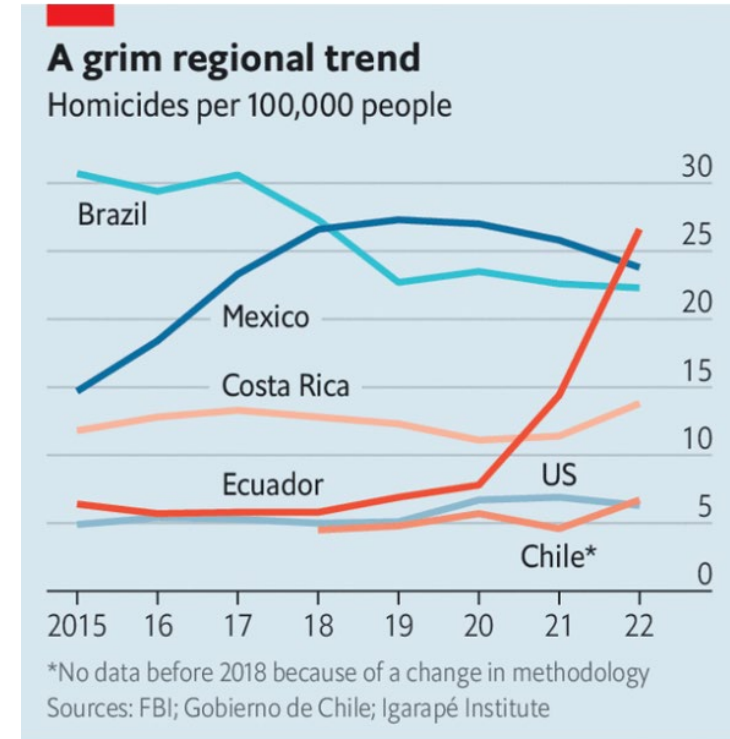
Role of nature in LAC

- **Biodiversity superpower** - Over 40% of the world's biodiversity – forests and coral reefs
- 1/3 of planet's freshwater resources
- Forest biomass 2x world average
- 31% of rural household income derived from “environmental income”
- Amazon – makes its own weather, critical for regional and global rainfall patterns – tipping point for climate change



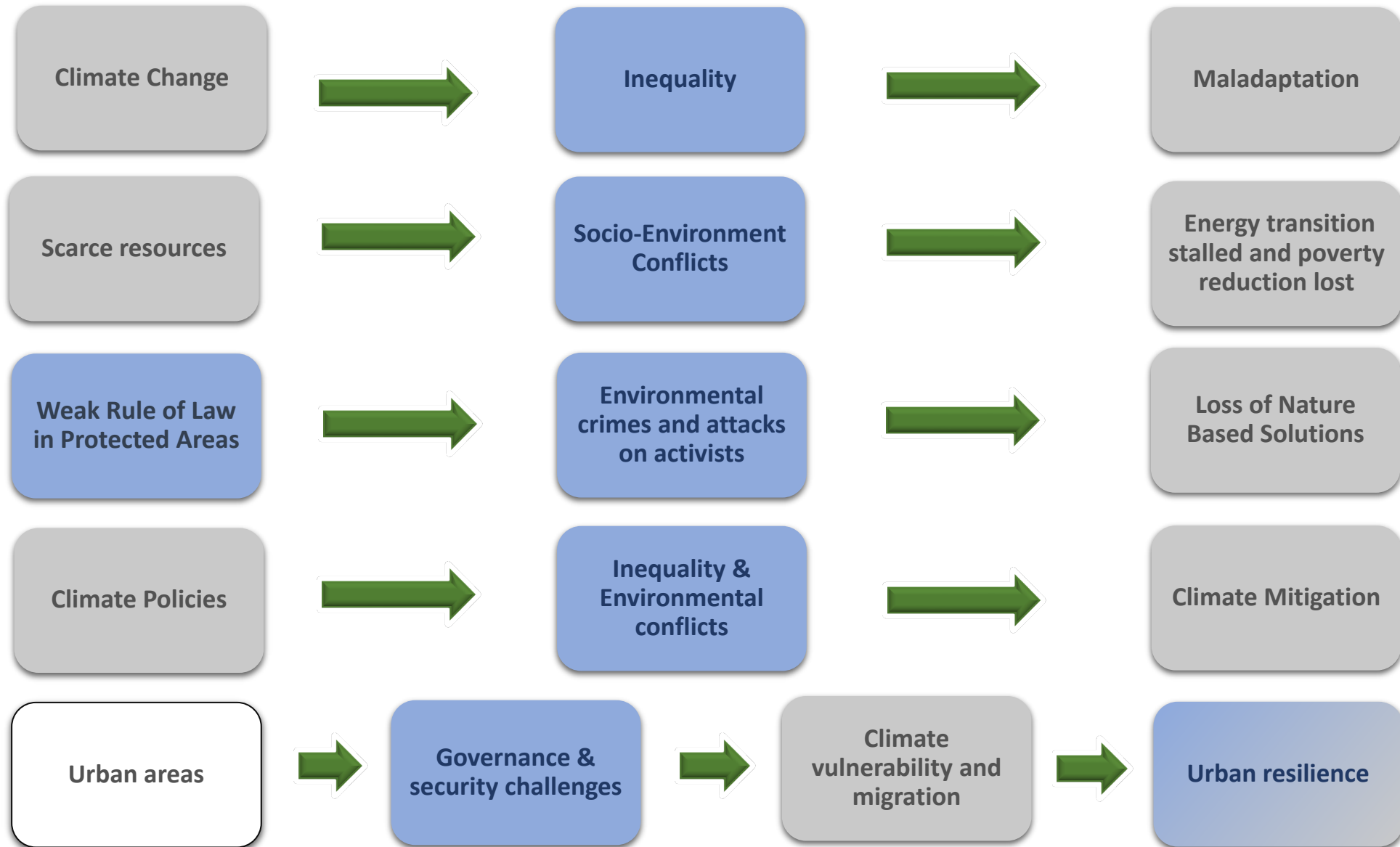
Conflict and Fragility

- Highest global levels of homicides
- Ever growing and expanding threat of organised crime
- 2nd most unequal región – decreasing trust in democratic politics
- Polarisation

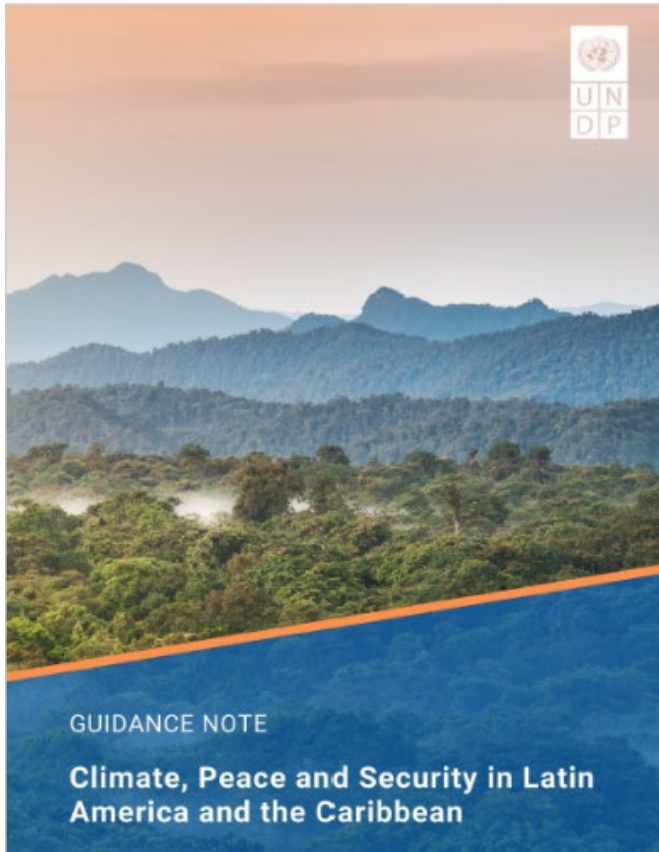


The Economist

Climate, peace and security pathways



Entry Points



Conflict-Sensitive Adaptation

Natural Resource Management & Peace

02

04

01

03

05

Climate Mobility

Illicit Economies and the Environmental Justice

Conflict Sensitive Climate Policy

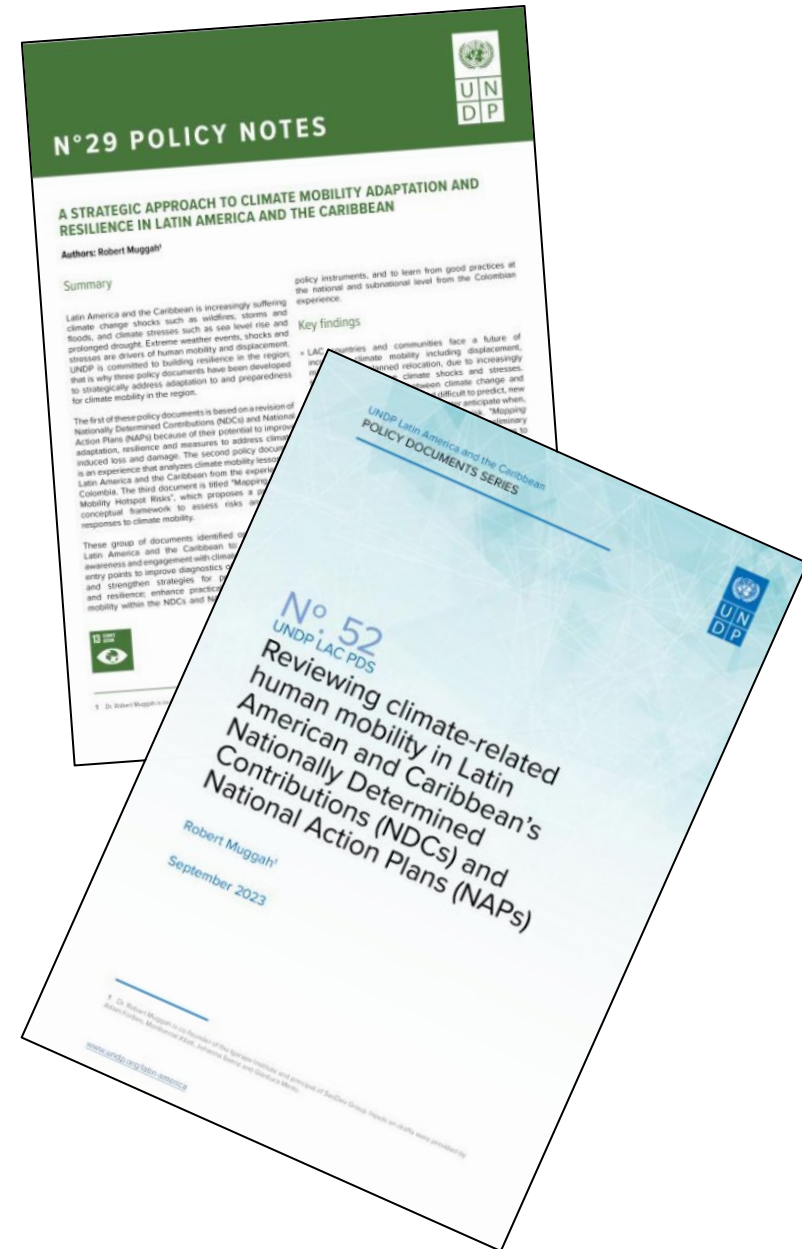
01

Climate Mobility

- Estimates of 9-17m by 2050. Over 2 million climate displaced people in 2022 due to floods, storms and drought
- No consensus definition of climate mobility – displacement, migration, planned relocation, and “trapped” populations
- Most will be internal rather than cross-border
- Much will be to precarious urban settings – further risks

UNDP Research

1. LAC at the vanguardia – policy *and* policy: Majority of NAPs and 1/3 of NDCs mention climate mobility
2. Countries testing approaches – Colombia, Argentina, Antigua & Barbuda
3. Options exist to strengthen preparedness
 - Relatively simple frameworks to map hotspots
 - Integration into Disaster Risk Reduction, urban planning and climate adaptation to enhance resilience.



02

Conflict-Sensitive Adaptation

- Adaptation - reduce vulnerability to CC
- Maladaptation – adverse effects adaptation
- “Whose Adaptation” – reinforcing inequalities and conflict dynamics
- Fragility obstacle to climate finance and policy

Haiti

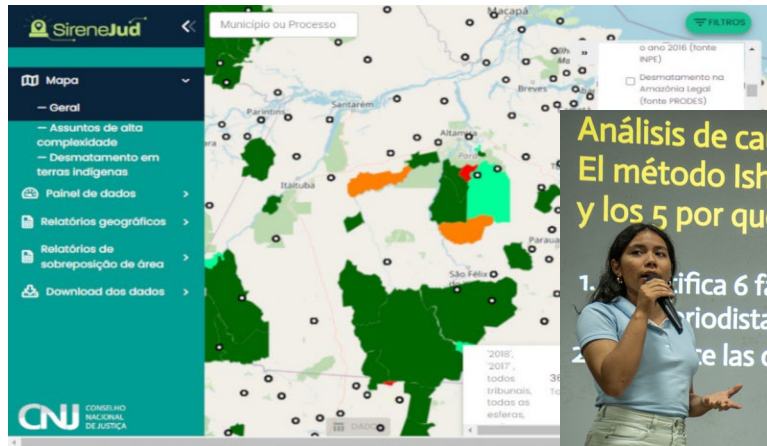
- Conflict sensitive integrated flood management
- Linking conflict analysis to safeguarding
- Country-level climate security analysis
- Integrating climate security into National Climate Policy



03

Illicit Economies and Environmental Justice

- Escazu – groundbreaking treaty
- Environmental Justice
- Illicit Wildlife Trade
- Supporting Indigenous leaders



The Escazú Agreement

Opened for signature on September 27, 2018.

- State parties
- Signatories



04 Peaceful Natural Resource Management

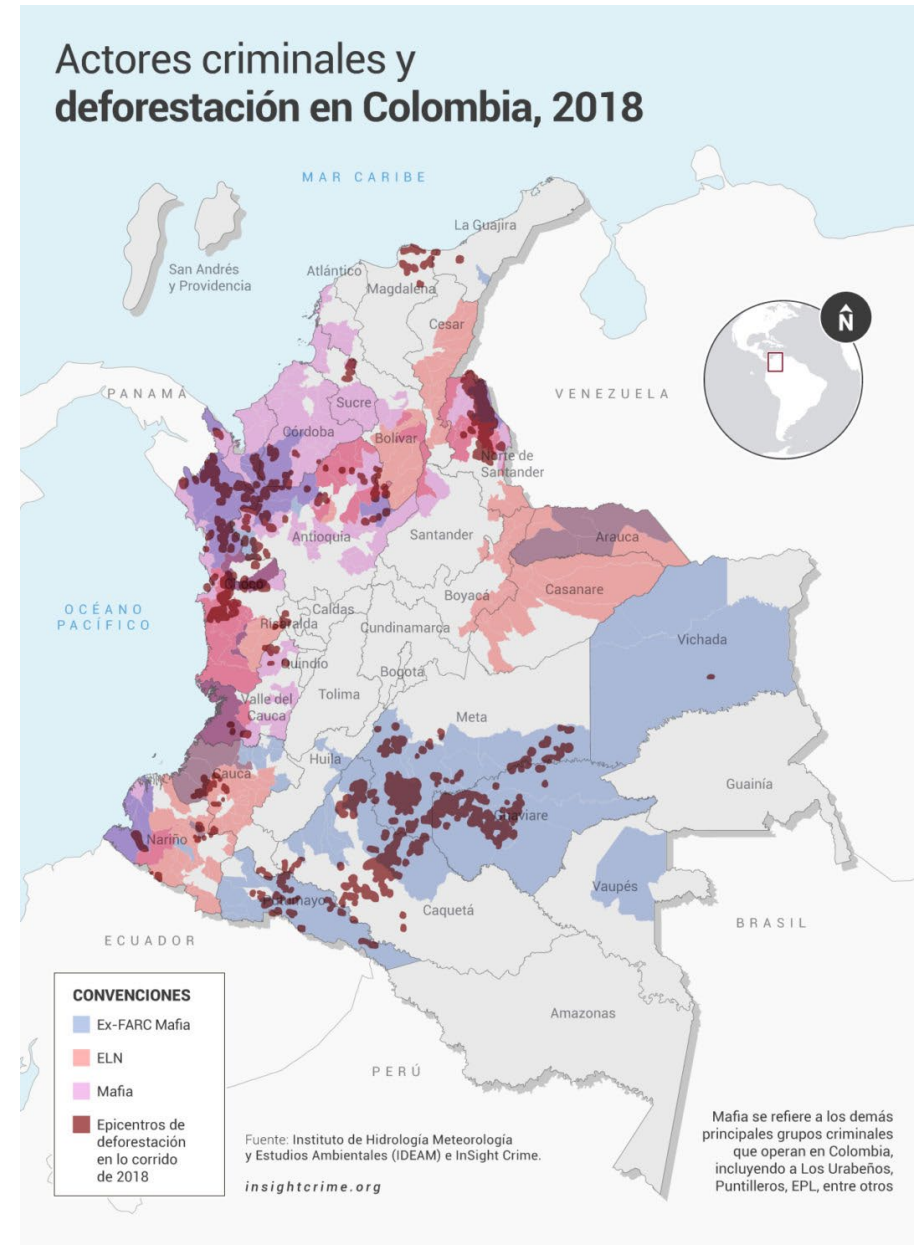
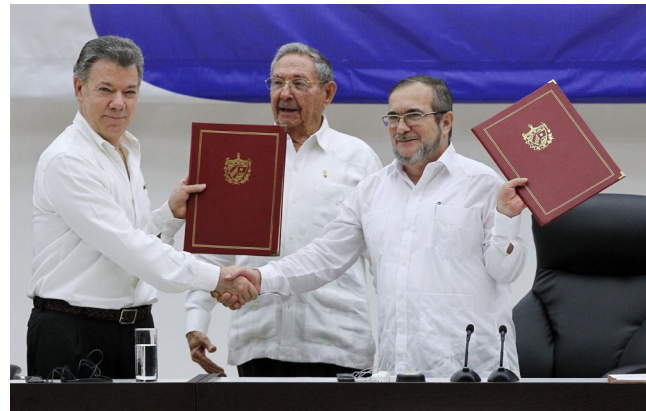
- Environmental Peacebuilding
- Linking nature and climate security
- Focus on water

Colombia

- Combining peace, nature and climate goals
- Transitional justice, reintegration of former combatants

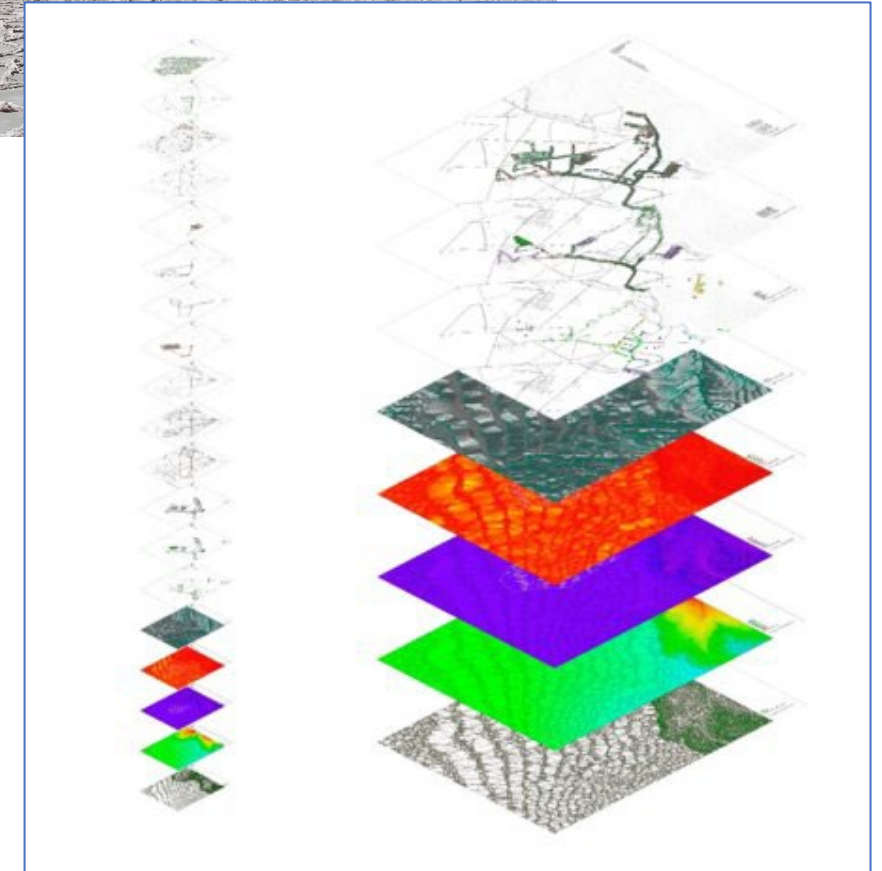
Guatemala

- Supporting state – society climate security dialogues



Bolivia

- Energy transition an opportunity and a risk
- Lithium – 23 million tons (largest globally)
- Tensions
 - Gap between expectations and benefits
 - Environmental impact
 - Socio-environmental conflicts
- “Lithium Landscape System”
 - Multi-stakeholder dialogue approach to mapping, understanding and managing the conflicts around lithium governance
 - Using this understanding to support inclusive laws, regulatory frameworks
- Machine learning as a means to depoliticise



Challenges

- Evidence
- Concepts and language – security for whom?
- Cross-disciplinary focus
- Under-addressed regions. E.g. Caribbean

Resources

Climate Security Mechanism

- Overview ([en](#))
- Briefing note on climate security ([en](#))
- Conceptual approach to risk assessments ([en](#))
- Relevant data sources ([en](#))
- Checklist to help climate-proof political analysis ([en](#))

Other relevant UNDP resources

- UNDP and CSM [Climate Finance for Sustaining Peace: Making Climate Finance Work for Conflict-Affected and Fragile Contexts](#)
- UNDP [A typology & analysis of climate-related security risks in the first round NDCs](#) with UNFCCC
- UNDP [Environmental Justice: Technical Paper](#)

Climate Mobility in LAC

<https://www.undp.org/es/latin-america/publicaciones/movilidad-climatica-adaptacion-y-resiliencia-lecciones-de-colombia-para-america-latina-y-el-caribe>

<https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/strategic-approach-climate-mobility-adaptation-and-resilience-latin-america-and-caribbean>

<https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/mapping-climate-mobility-hotspot-risks-approach-development-organizations-assess-risks-and-responses-climate-mobility>

<https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/reviewing-climate-related-human-mobility-latin-american-and-caribbeans-nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs-and>

