

In Search of Shelter



SLR – The Unique Threat it Poses

It can lead to forced displacement within a country and transborder migration

Can lead to the disappearance of nation states or render them unviable

Result in stateless people who have no realistic hope for return.

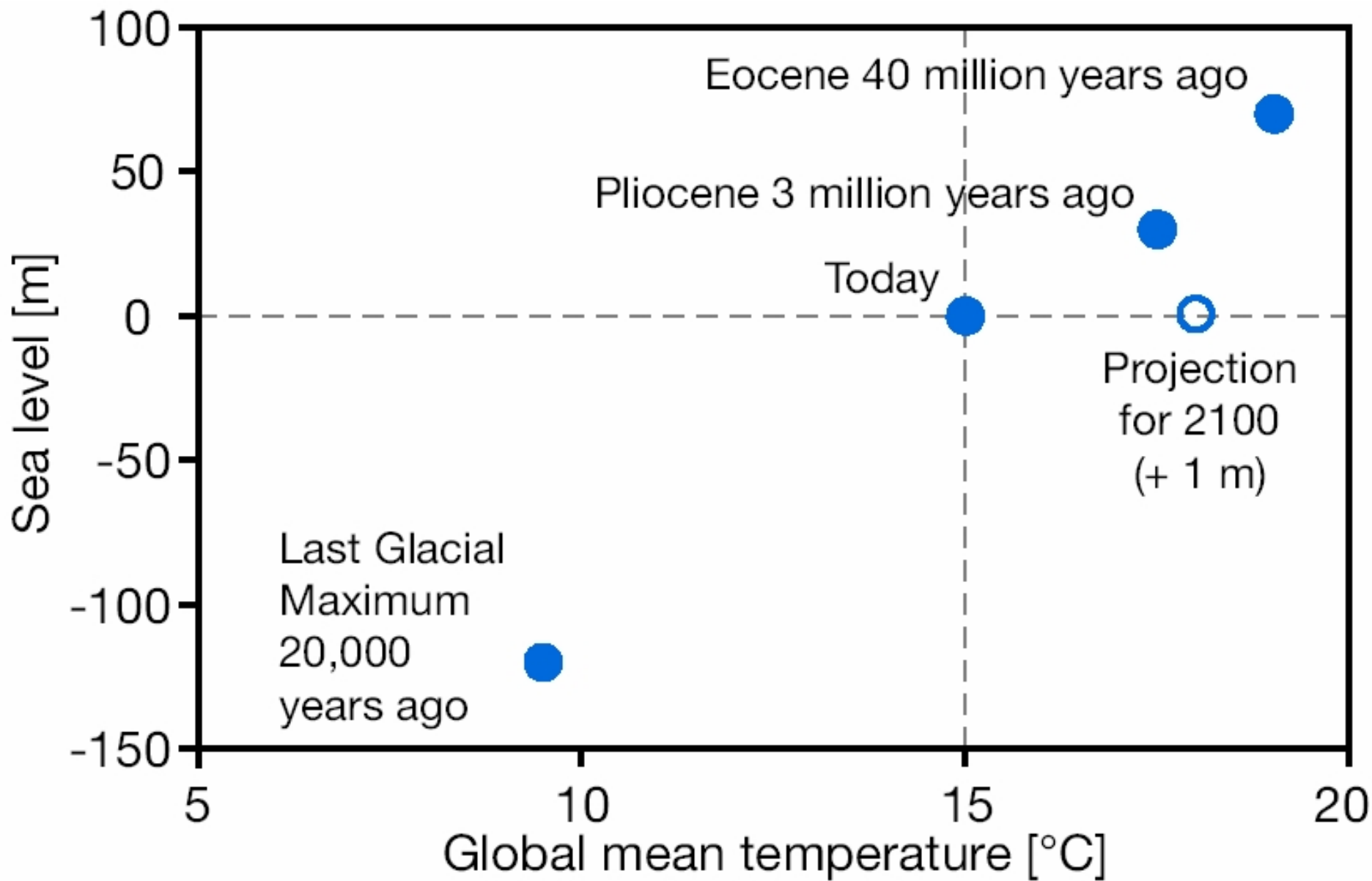
SLR therefore poses a unique security challenge that is economic, environmental, and political and requires a new way to build adaptive capacity

*Sea Level Rise and
Migration as Adaptation*



How much SLR?

- Max 59cm by 2100; “excludes future dynamical changes in ice flow” (IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report)
- SCAR (The Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research) suggests a rise up to 1.4m by 2100
- Other scientists (Rignot, Ivins, and others) suggest around 1m by 2100; 1m by 2100 and several metres by 2300



Impacts of SLR

- Salt water intrusion
- Increase in the intensity & frequency of storms
- Coastal inundation, storm surges and coastal erosion
- Can lead to reduction in availability of fresh water, destroy coastal ecosystems
- Impacts livelihoods and can result in an increase in temporary/permanent migration



- Climate Migrants: Internally displaced
- Climate Exiles: Stateless people; Forced migration out of their countries as nation states become unviable
- Climate exiles have no legal standing under the 1951 Refugee Convention, which is designed for political exiles and provides a right to nonrefoulement

How Many Are affected and Where do they live?

- About 60m live within 1m of mean SLR
- About 640m live in the 10m Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ)
- People's lives are impacted even with smaller SLR
- People in river deltas, low lying coasts and low lying islands. e.g. Irrawady, Mekong, Nile, Ganges deltas, small islands such as Kiribati, Fiji, Maldives.
- Evacuation program initiated for Carteret



Kids wait out tidal flooding on Funafuti Tuvalu Feb 2005. © 2005 Gary Braasch One-time print only

“Pacific islands like Tuvalu and Kiribati will probably need one strategy to stop climate change: complete evacuation.” Oxfam Australia

Low Elevation Coastal Zone (LE CZ) Statistics for 4 Countries in South Asia

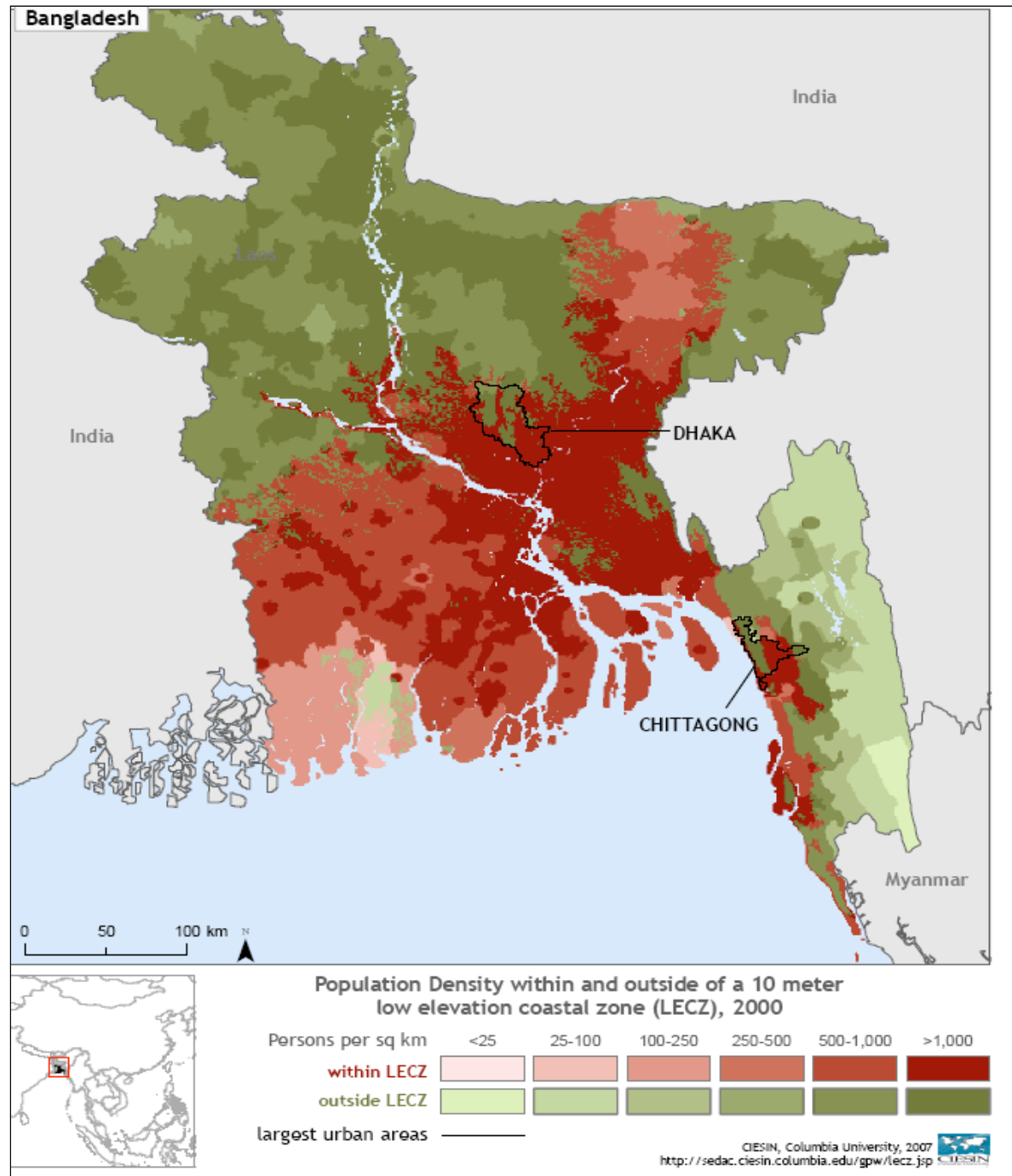
	Area of LE CZ (square km)	Population in LE CZ	Urban Population in LE CZ	Fraction of Urban Population in LE CZ in Cities Exceeding 5 Million
Bangladesh	54,461	65,524,048	15,428,668	33%
India	81,805	63,188,208	31,515,286	58%
Pakistan	22,197	4,157,045	2,227,118	92%
Sri Lanka	5,536	2,231,097	961,977	0%

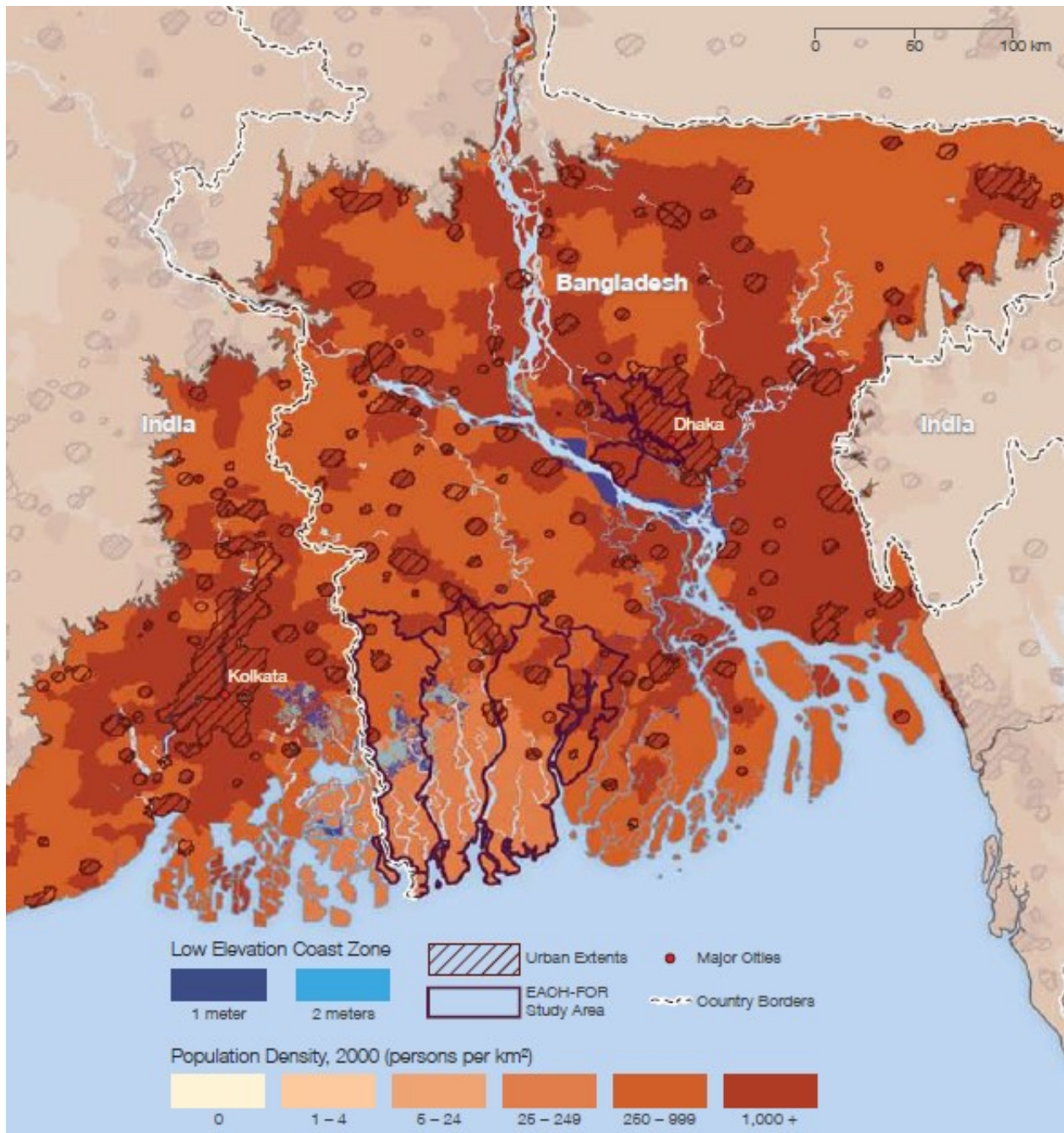
(Source: sedac.ciesin.org).

Population Density within and outside the 10m Low Elevation Coastal Zone in Bangladesh (Source: sedac.ciesin.org).

About 40% of the land area and 50% of the people are in the 10m LECZ

Up to 80 million people in Bangladesh may be displaced by 2100 (5...)

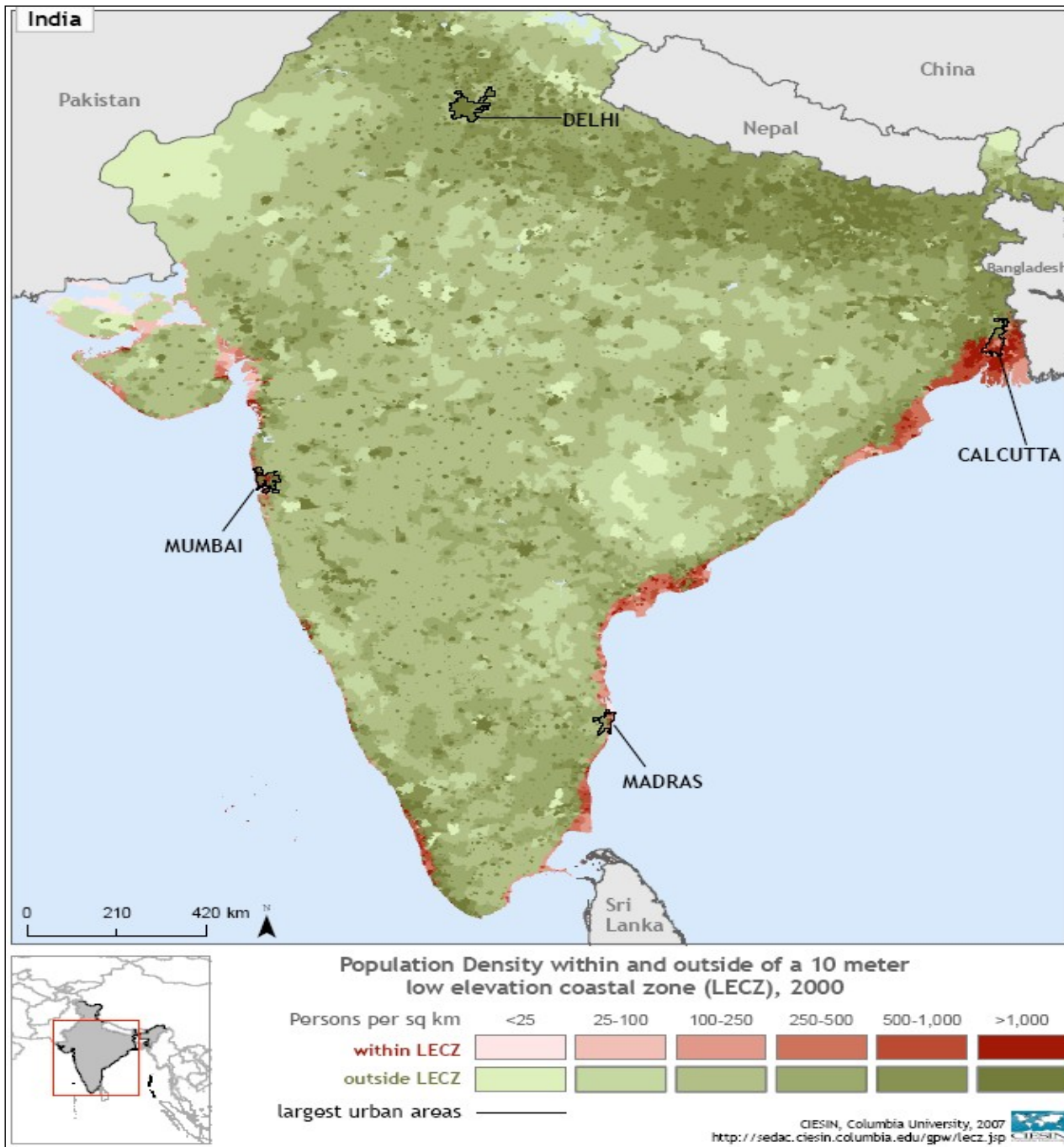




In Search of Shelter by Koko Warner, the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security; Charles Ehrhart, CARE International; and Alex de Sherbinin, Susana Adamo, and Tricia Chai-Onn, Center for International Earth Science Information Network at the Earth Institute of Columbia University. Copyright © May, 2009

Population Density within and outside the 10m Low Elevation Coastal Zone in India (Source: sedac.ciesin.org).

Up to 80 million may be displaced along the coast in India by 2100 (5m)



FEATURES

People migrate due to environmental, economic, social, and political factors

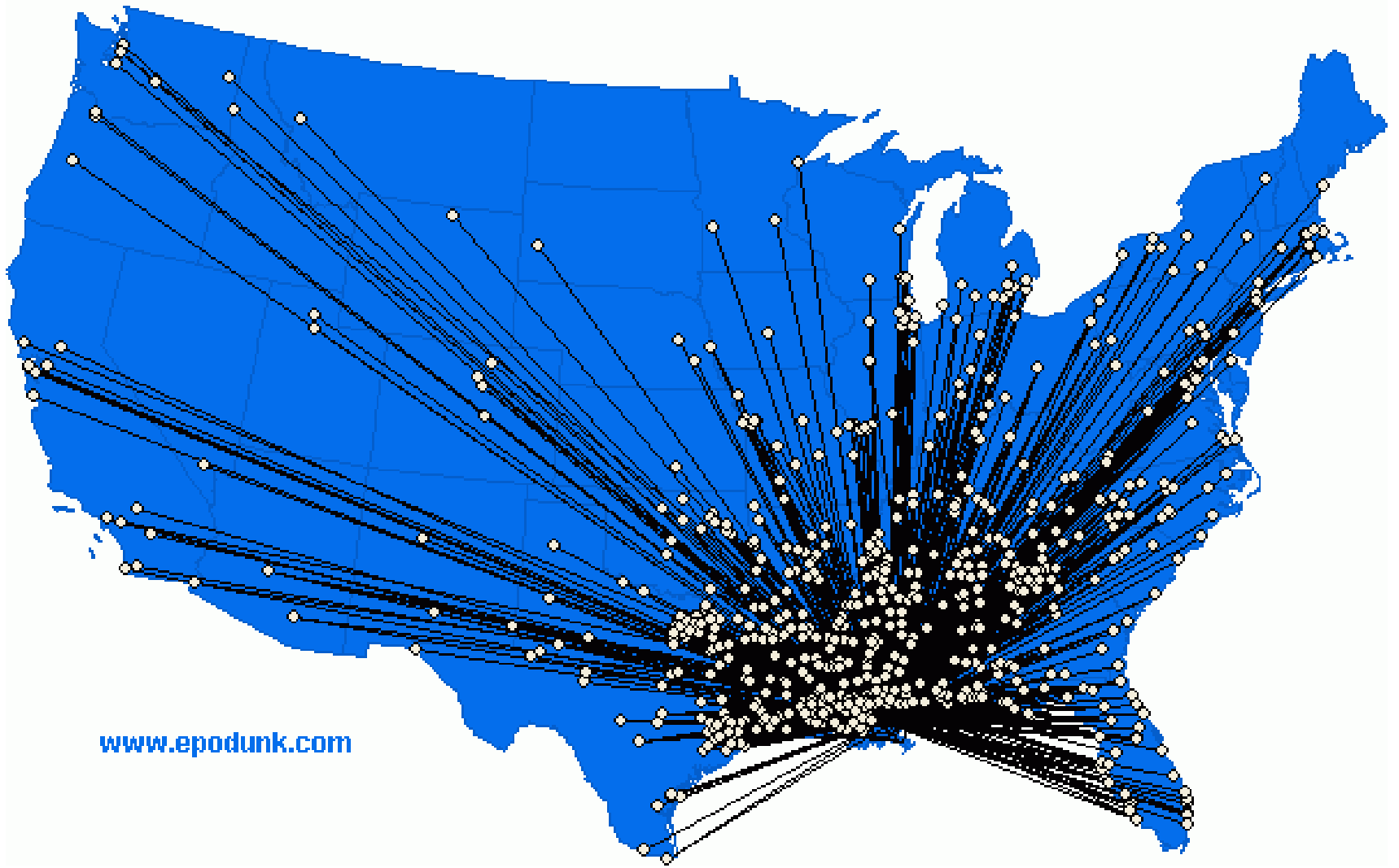
Environmental change can trigger long-term migration when ecosystem-dependent livelihoods are threatened.

People's response reflects a combination of their exposure, sensitivity, adaptive capacity.

Some people will be more vulnerable, the poor and women for instance.

Resettlement also leads to cultural degradation, loss of employment networks, social services etc.





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Migration can be the appropriate adaptive response rather than a breakdown in adaptive capacity to SLR.

Need a better understanding of the dynamics of migration which appears to be manifold and interconnected

Identify indicators of social and cultural tipping points associated with outmigration. E.g. economic factors, number of young people, availability of services etc.

Definition and understanding of key physical and social thresholds and the drivers for outmigration need to be understood

Who is migrating away from SLR and associated environmental degradation/change?

Where are these migrants coming from and where are they going to?

How will this dovetail with ongoing migration patterns and numbers?

How does SLR interplay with environmental degradation, other social, economic and political factors in decisions about migrating?

What are the key thresholds and tipping points in deciding to migrate?

What might delay or prevent people from migrating?

What does India need to do?

- Proactive engagement on the issue.
- Take regional initiative on SLR and forced displacement. Develop regional labour migration agreements.
- Support an international agreement for the rights of climate exiles and migrants
- Number of knowledge and policy gaps on this subject still exist. These need to be identified and research supported.
- Appropriate planning and preparation for SLR and migration

The International Refugee Convention of 1951 only recognises as refugees those who are “persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion.”

Climate exiles do not have any agreed upon principles that guarantee them rights.

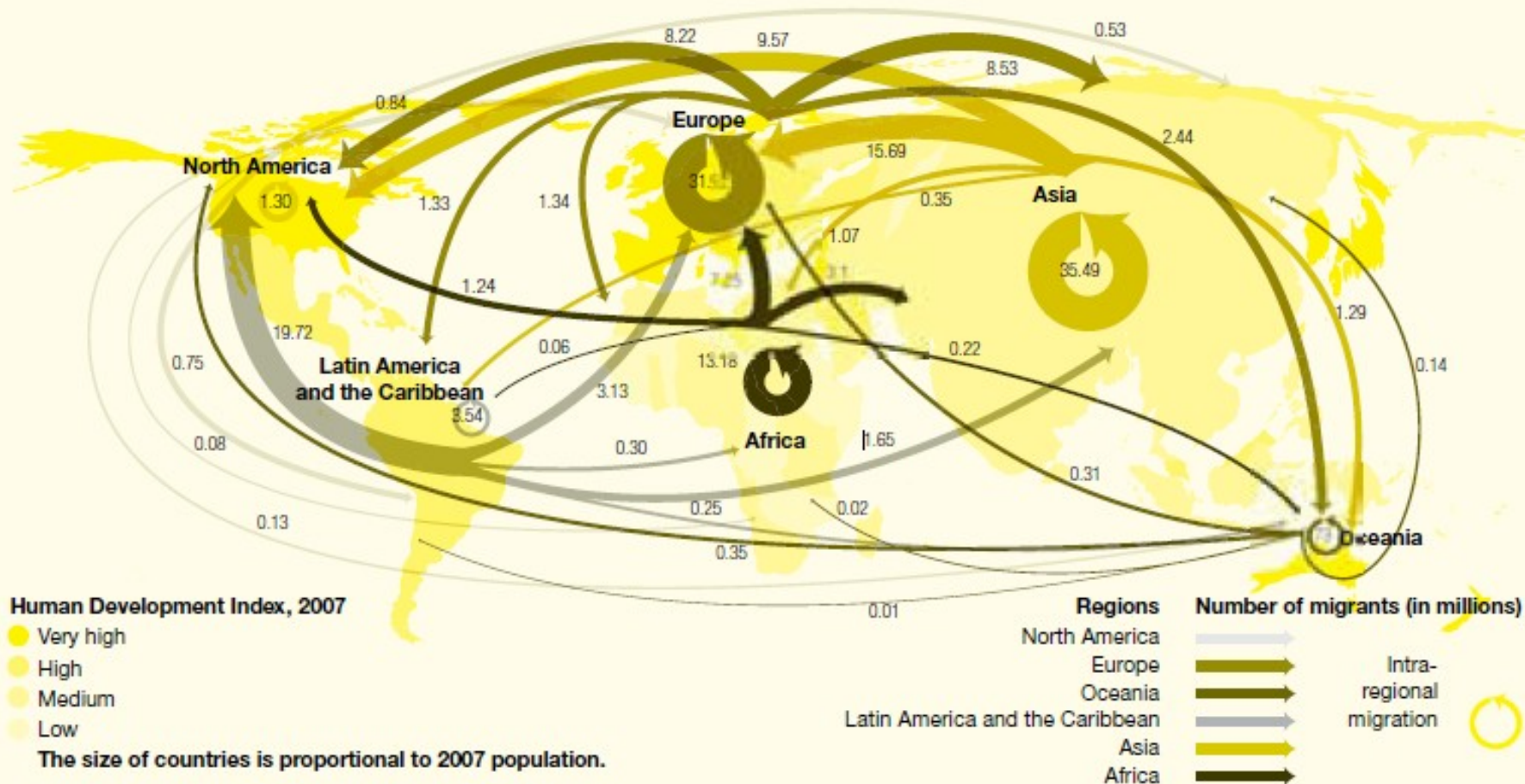
A new legal framework is required to address their unique situation. Need a new international agreement: a protocol under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or a new.

The new agreement would need to do the following:

- Acknowledge obligations towards climate exiles who live in countries with very low cumulative greenhouse gas emissions.
- It should agree on a separate “climate exile” status, giving such people specific rights such as the right to migrate to a particular or previously agreed upon country of their choice.
- It should enable them to migrate in advance of actual SLR as part of a new mechanism for compensation and rehabilitation.
- It should prepare climate exiles through skill-building and training so that they are able to contribute to and build a new life elsewhere.

Most movement occurs within regions

Origin and destination of international migrants, circa 2000



740 million people are internal migrants, almost 4x as many as those who have moved internationally.
 200 million international migrants: 70 million move from developing to developed and 130 million from developing-developing or developed to developed

Human Development Report, 2009