

# Climate Security after Paris



Opportunities – and challenges - for delivering  
climate security objectives to 2020

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# Summary



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- **Paris made us safer but not safe:** the Paris Agreement was stronger than expected but only limits climate risk to around 3.5C which is unmanageable. Strong increases in country mitigation commitments will be needed in 2020.
- **Climate change is currently impacting security:** predictions of climate change impacts on geo-politics and security have come true but faster than expected. Middle East refugee crisis is the most critical example and impacts critical interests.
- **Security responses are lagging:** despite recognition of climate security risks since 2007 little has changed in policy, operations or investments. Responses are unilateral, reactive and control-based; they often worsen political tensions and state fragilities.
- **A new wave of “reforms” is beginning:** during 2015 commitments were made to better tackle climate and resource risks through the Sendai Framework, SDGs, the G7, G20 FSB, and the Paris Agreement implementation.
- **To succeed these reforms need strong political and diplomatic support:** efforts to respond to climate risk are mainly bottom-up and technocratic; they have failed when faced with political and organizational barriers. Political cooperation is needed between major powers to ensure necessary reforms are delivered.

# Paris Agreement over-achieved against E3G expectations



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- Agreement has “legal force” (and strong political backing)
- It contains commitments to limit emissions from all countries
- It has a binding system for monitoring and reporting
- Strengthens goal to “well below 2C” and efforts to reach 1.5C
- No backsliding clause and five yearly cycle of assessing progress and countries increasing mitigation ambition
- New goal of GHG neutrality in second half of the century
- Puts adaptation and resilience on equal footing to mitigation

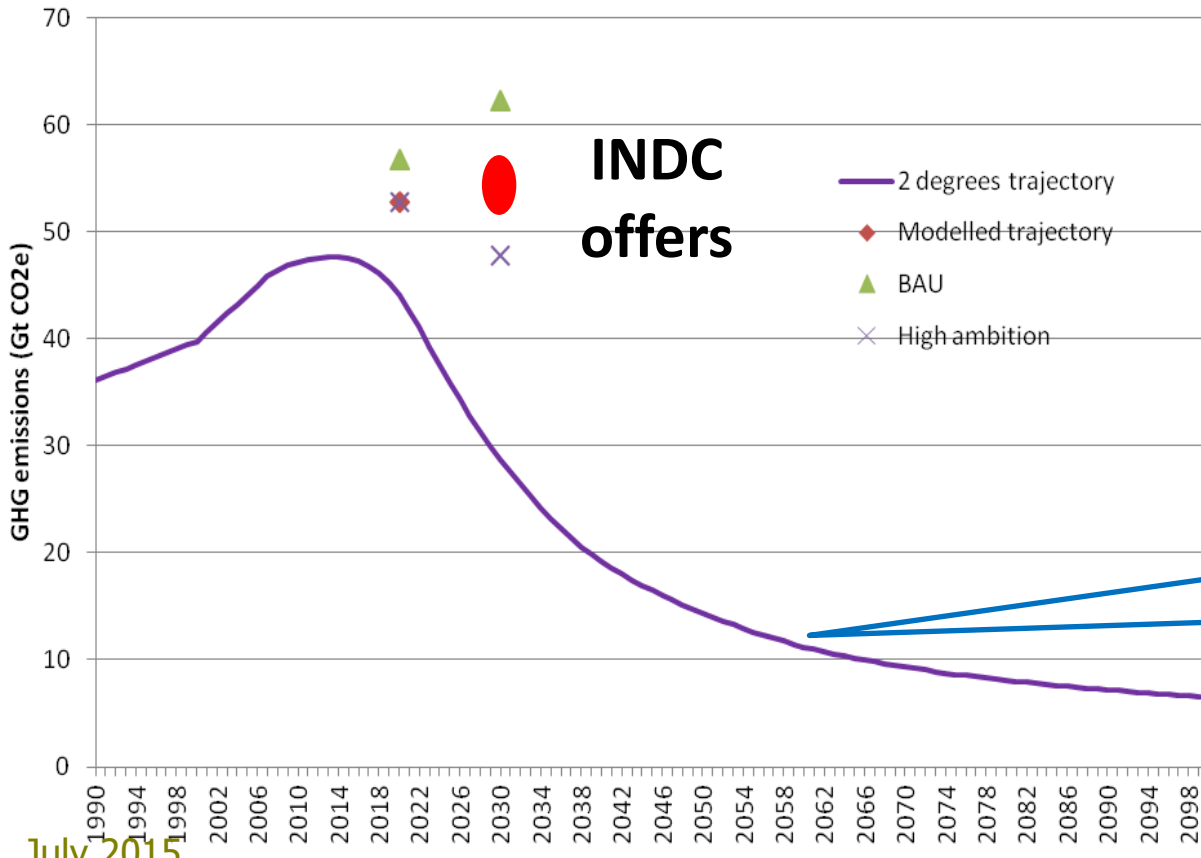
**Durable regime for next 20-30 years**

# INDCs deliver 3-3.5C scenario but countries likely to over-deliver



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Scenario emissions compared with an ideal 2°C trajectory



- High ambition scenario leads to 2030 emissions of around 48Gt towards the high end of a 2.5°C trajectory.
- The low ambition scenario leads to 2030 emissions of 55Gt, only 7Gt below BAU.
- This is consistent with 3 to 3.5C warming trajectory

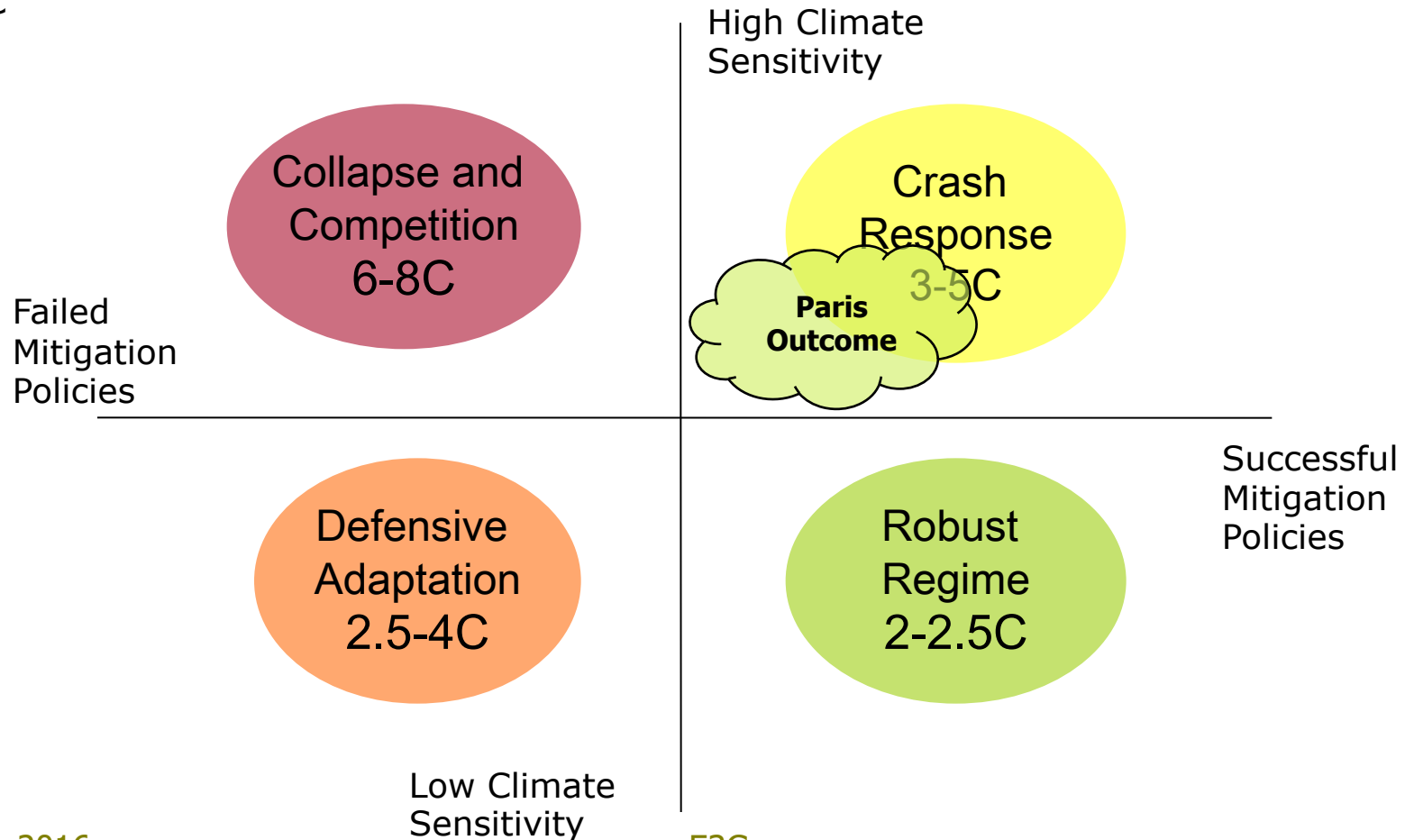
Purple line represents a 2°C trajectory, which passes through 44Gt in 2020 and 29Gt in 2030.

# Paris suggests co-operative approach to managing security risks may prevail



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Scenarios for 2050 based on global agreement to keep temperatures well below 2C



# MENA Migration Crisis shows complexity of climate impacts



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- MENA region has suffered 1 in 900 year drought. Drought and resource prices drivers of tension in Syria, Tunisia, Egypt and Yemen
- Conflicts now have self-sustaining dynamic driven by internal and regional rivalries
- Migration to EU a response to lack of hope that conflicts will be resolved in medium term
- Creating huge political stresses in the EU and a focus on short term reactive and control responses (fences etc)
- Low oil prices now creating fragility in oil exporting countries and their dependents; exacerbated by climate change mitigation policy.

**No sustainable security without addressing climate and resource issues but crowded out by crisis**

# 70% of nations view climate as security concern



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Level of Concern about how Climate Change Threatens Security

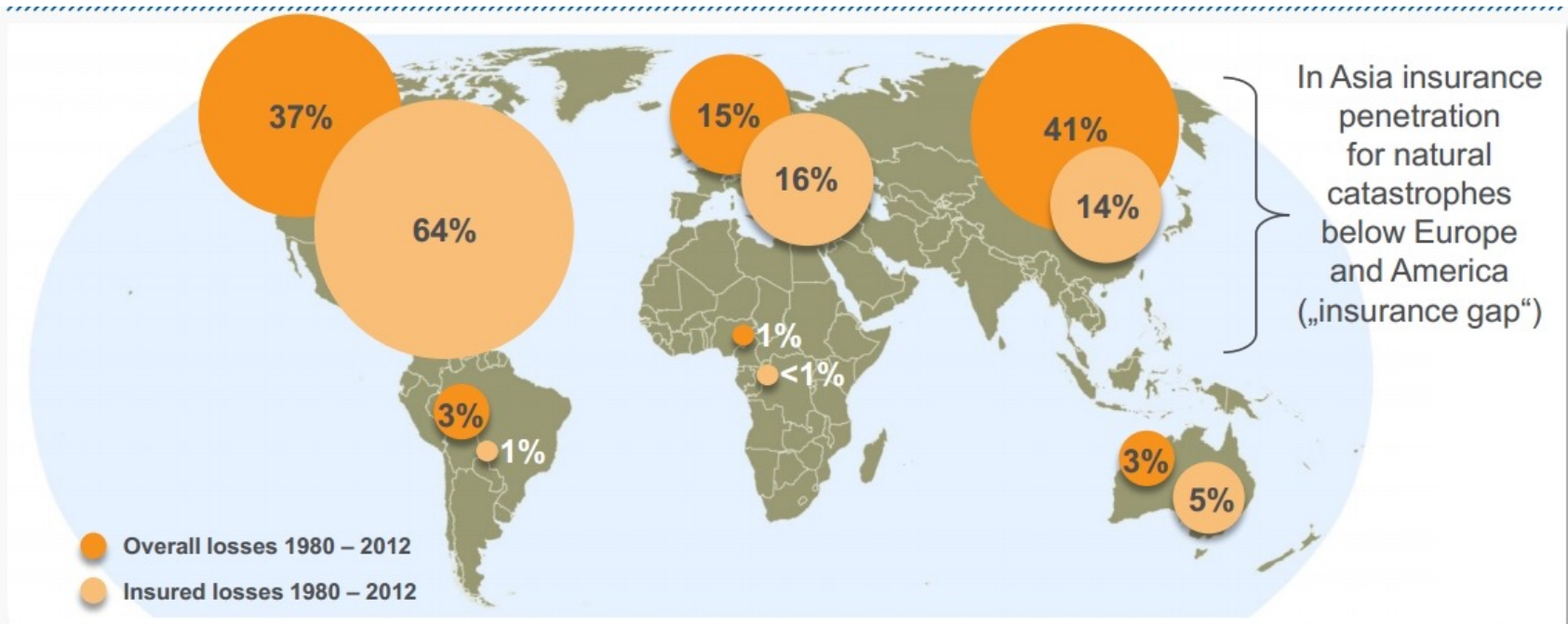


Green – Climate is a national security threat  
Yellow – Climate is an environmental issue  
Red – Climate is not a defined concern  
Grey – No information available

# US domestically climate vulnerability is driving some national risk debate



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| Continent / Subcontinent | Overall losses US\$bn<br>(US\$ 3,800bn)* | Insured losses US\$bn<br>(US\$ 970bn)* | Fatalities<br>(2,300,000) |
|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| America                  | 1,500                                    | 630                                    | 340,000                   |
| Europe                   | 500                                      | 160                                    | 150,000                   |
| Africa                   | 45                                       | 2.1                                    | 610,000                   |
| Asia                     | 1,600                                    | 130                                    | 1,180,000                 |
| Australia/Oceania        | 105                                      | 42                                     | 5,900                     |



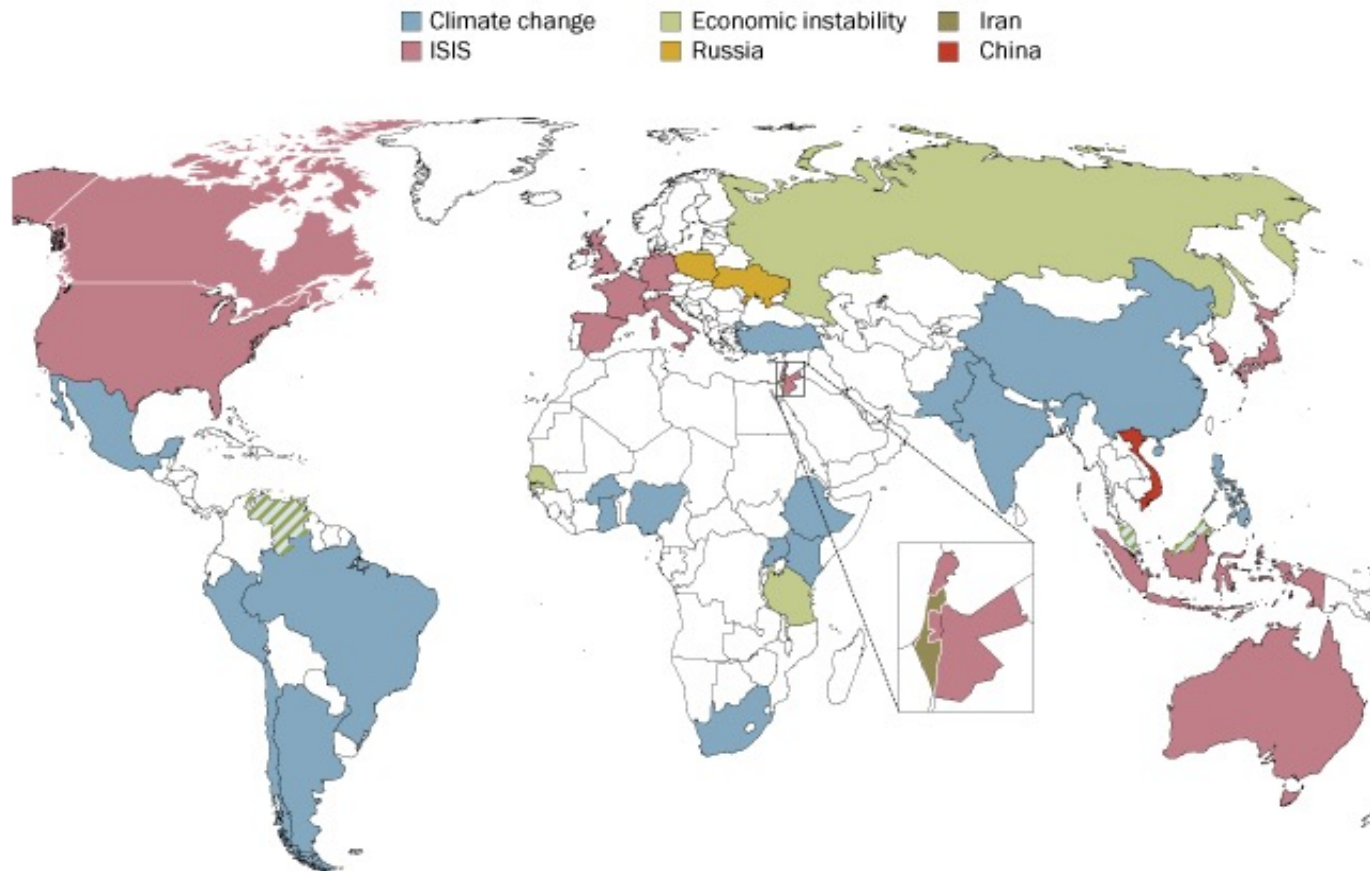
# Climate risk concerns highest in Emerging Economies



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## Greatest Threats around the World

*Top concern*



March 21

Note: In Malaysia and Venezuela, both climate change and economic instability are top concerns.

# Attention has not led to action



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- UK sponsored UN Security Council debate in 2007 raised climate change to highest level
- EU integrated climate change into its security strategy in 2007. Country initiatives in UK and Germany.
- Climate integrated into UK, US, NATO and EU strategic risk assessment processes
- US military addressed operational and basing resilience against climate and energy risks.

**Low impact on diplomatic, military or development investment in key regions e.g. MENA**

# 2015 Climate Risk Reform Processes



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- Sendai => World Humanitarian Summit in 2016
- G7 Extreme Weather Insurance for 400m people
- G20 Financial Stability Board Study => report 2016
- Sustainable Development Goals aligning development spending with climate resilience => IFIs plans at Spring Meetings 2016
- Paris commitments on loss and damage, environmental refugees and adaptation

**Focus on resilience lacks security/political analysis**

# National Climate Security Initiatives



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- G7 Climate Security Report => Action Plan April 2016?
- US State Department process on integrating climate change
- EU Global Strategy Review June 2016
- NL Planetary Security Conference process. Swedish MFA initiative. Canadian MFA Initiative.

**New political interest but capacity lacking**

# Private Sector is Limiting Exposure



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- Investors analysing portfolio exposure of climate and low carbon transition risks
- Insurance industry active in pushing 1 in 200 years extreme weather standards
- Companies actively analysing supply chain risks; WEF risk index sees badly managed climate as top risk
- Emergence of city risk indices – reluctance of cities to reveal climate exposure. Focus on exposure of large emerging mega-cities in Asia.

**Private sector will limit exposure to risky regions –  
this raises public sector risks**

Select location

Southeast Asia cities

Southeast Asia cities

Average annual GDP

\$1.70trn

Total GDP@Risk

\$300.20bn

17.71% of Average annual GDP

GDP@Risk: Top 5 threats

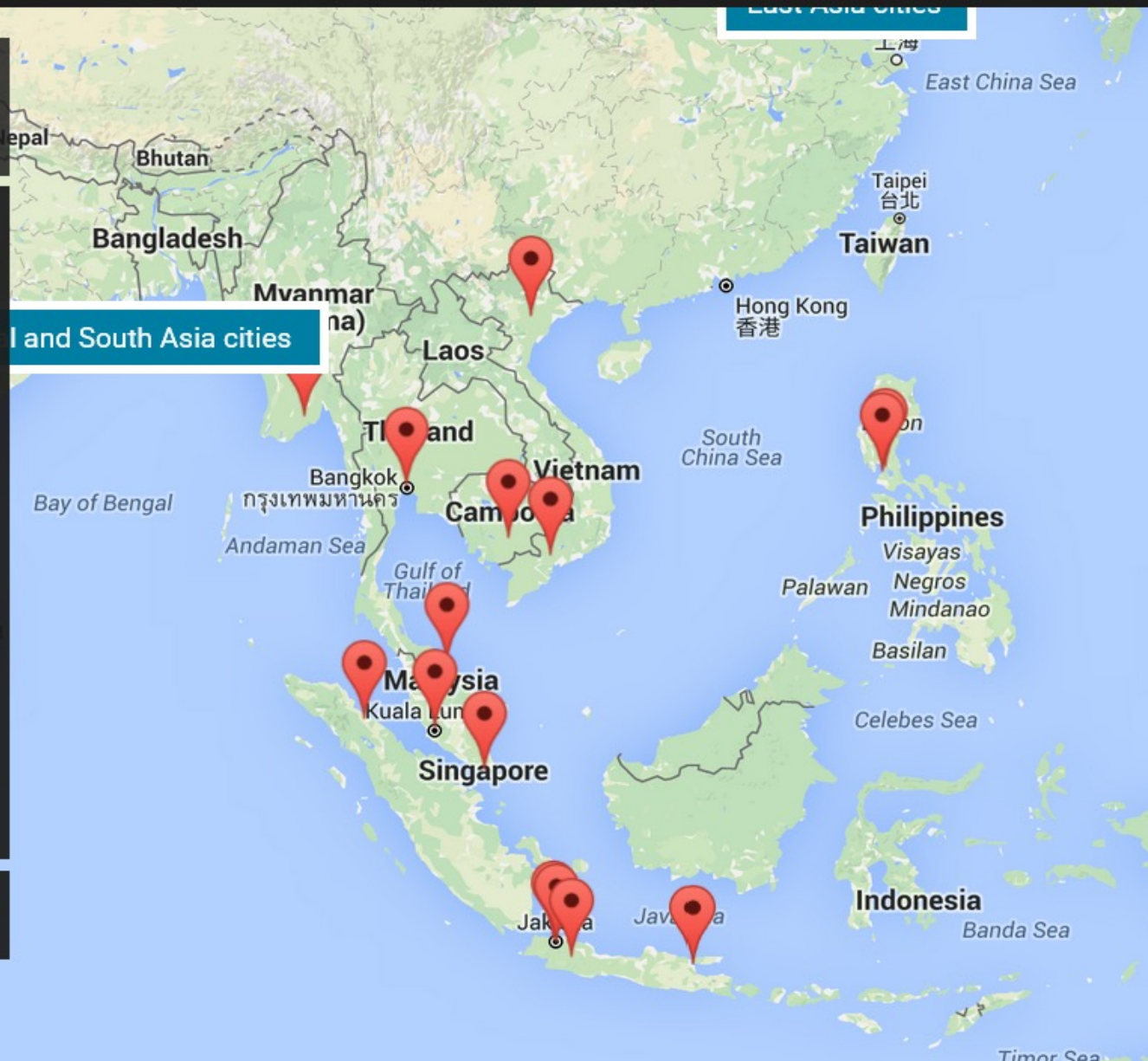
|   |                |           |
|---|----------------|-----------|
| 1 | Wind storm     | \$68.29bn |
| 2 | Market crash   | \$60.80bn |
| 3 | Human pandemic | \$30.74bn |
| 4 | Earthquake     | \$30.06bn |
| 5 | Flood          | \$22.48bn |

[View breakdown of threats](#)

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[View city rankings by country](#)



# Priority Security Outcomes in Climate Regime 2016-2020?



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- Develop coherent reform process for integrating climate resilience throughout UN and international system
- Progress on institutional reform overseen by UNSG Special Envoy on Climate Security reporting to UNSC and UNGA
- Build capacity for on-going risk assessment in international system, including tipping points, through stronger UNFCCC secretariat
- Agreement to ensure “conflict-sensitivity” analysis of adaptation spending and prioritise building governance resilience
- Deliver pilot co-operative large scale resilience programmes in at risk regions e.g. North Africa, Mekong and East Africa
- Design extreme weather insurance systems that target conflict prevention and risk reduction in fragile regions

**Ensuring that urgent does not displace the important**

# Delivering Climate Security



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- Security actors have a strong stake in delivery of Paris Agreement
- Security actors need to support effective climate diplomacy in order to increase mitigation commitments to “well below 2C” path in 2020
- Need clearer understanding of consequences of missing 2C/1.5C goal – building alliances with financial regulators, investors, cities?
- Opportunities to build stronger international cooperation on risk management, resilience and stability which also strengthen key relationships. **New UNSG agenda to reform Intl system?**
- Need stronger US-EU cooperation to move from assessment to large scale investment in resilience in fragile states. EU needs to show more leadership in MENA.
- Need to engage other major countries on joint agenda for stability

**What is the coalition of countries to drive this change?**