

#AdaptAmericas

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PANAMA,  
ON MAY 15 & 16  
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SUSTAINABLE  
REGION

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# Climate Resilience from bottom-up: Gender and Indigenous

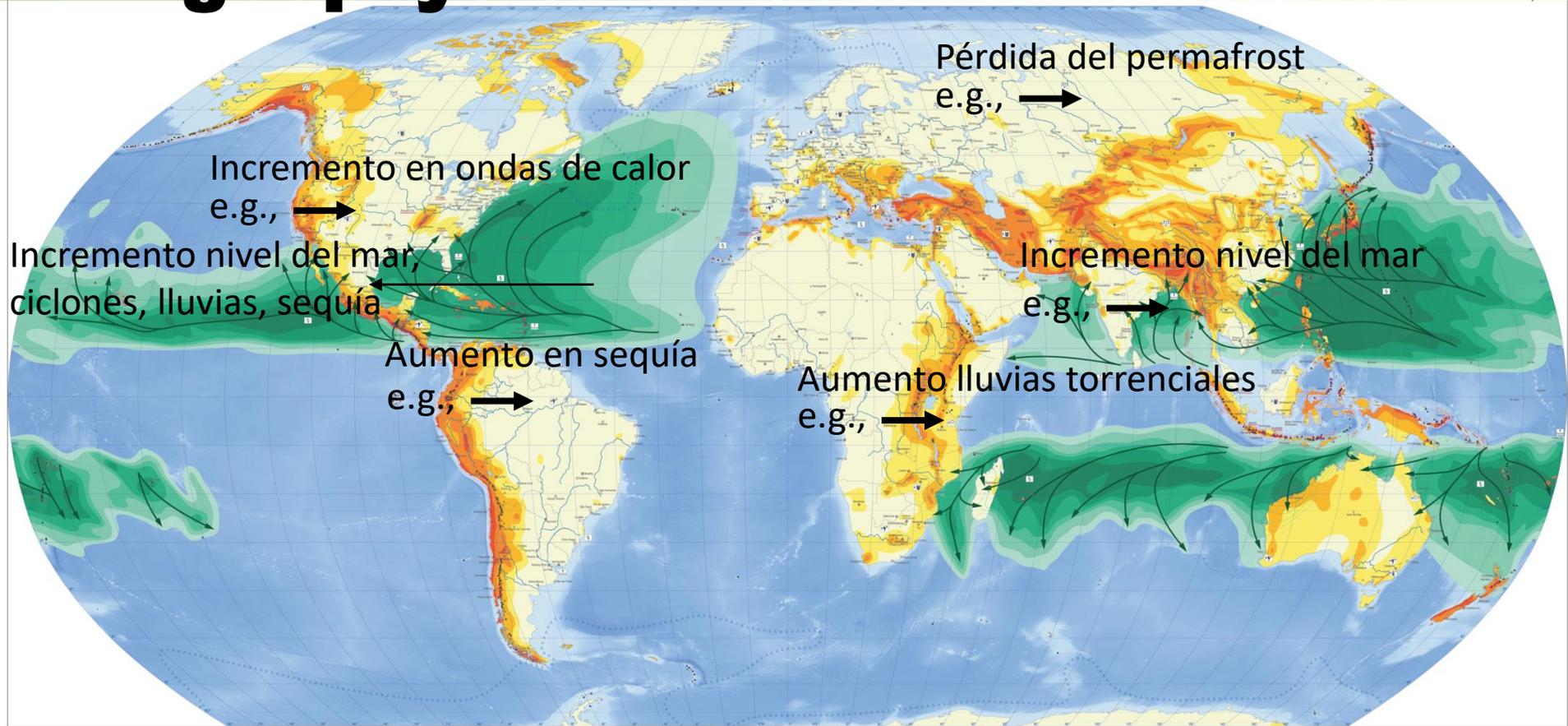
Úrsula Oswald Spring, Panama

CRIM-UNAM, México, 15-16 of May, 2018

# Questions for Climate Resilience

- Which are the key elements of gender equality that improve climate resilience from bottom-up, reduce their social vulnerability and empower women for active promotion of adaptation?
- How is indigenous wisdom and traditional knowledge improving climate resilience in highly risky areas?

# Impacts of climate change and geophysical events in the world



## Temblores

Lightest yellow	Zone 0: MM V
Yellow	Zone 1: MM VI
Orange-yellow	Zone 2: MM VII
Orange	Zone 3: MM VIII
Red-orange	Zone 4: MM IX

MM: modified Mercalli scale

## Huracanes tropicales

Lightest green	Zone 0: 76–141 km/h
Light green	Zone 1: 142–184 km/h
Medium green	Zone 2: 185–212 km/h
Dark green	Zone 3: 213–251 km/h
Very dark green	Zone 4: 252–299 km/h
Darkest green	Zone 5: ≥ 300 km/h



Münchener Rück  
Munich Re Group



Incremento en ondas de calor  
e.g., →

Incremento nivel del  
mar, ciclones, lluvias,  
sequía

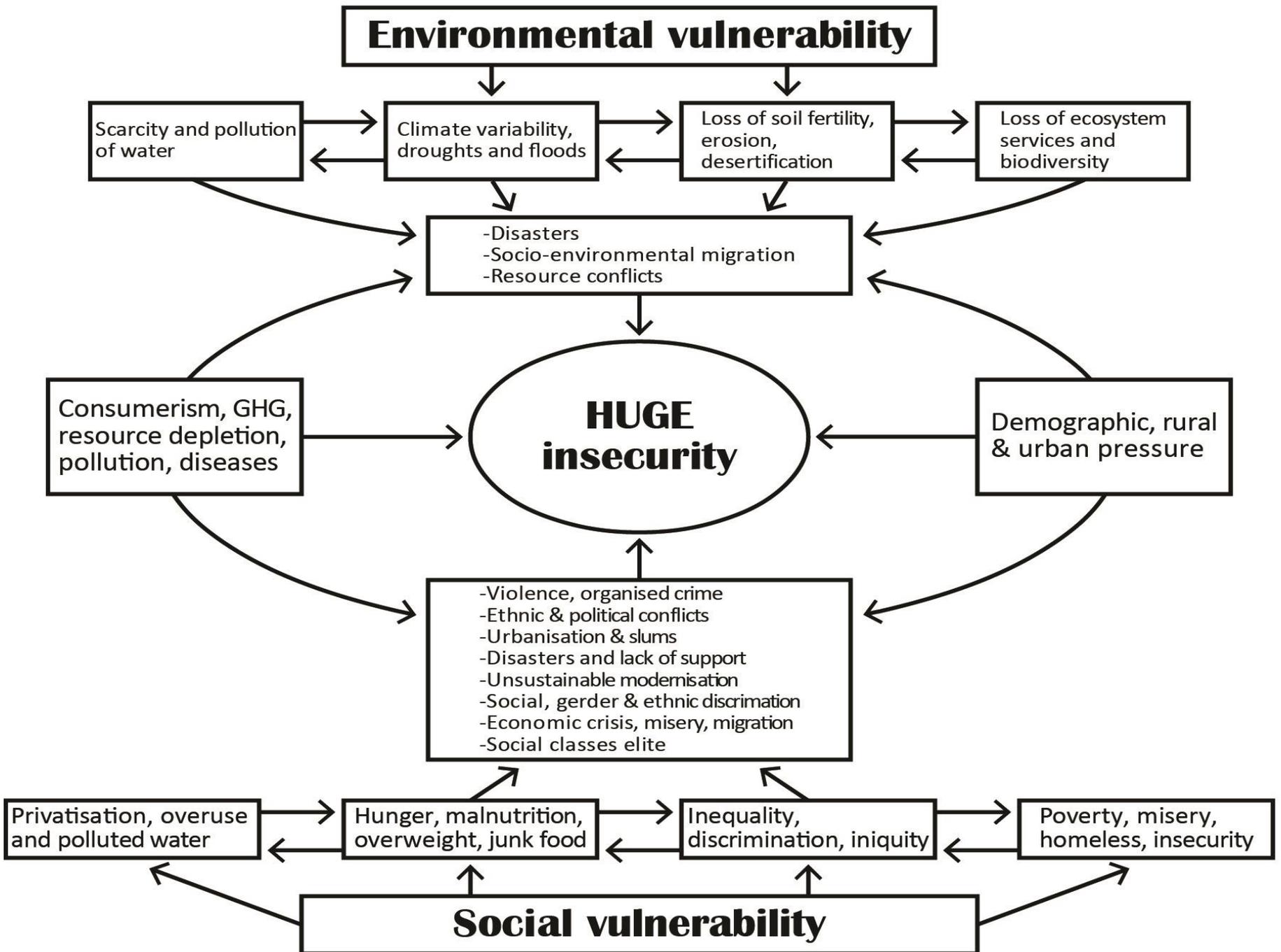
Aumento en sequía  
e.g., →

# Risks of extreme events in Latin America and the Caribbean

(MunichRe 2008):  
Floods, drought, bushfire, hurricane, irregular precipitations, mosquitos, sea level rise, temperature rise, loss of Andean glaciers and drink water supply

# **Principal impacts of climate change in LAC**

- Climate change is a threat to equitable and sustainable development that affects differently & more poor people, women, children & invalids.**
- Adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development are closely interrelated and with a gender perspective produces synergies.**
- Climate change is a multiplier of threats that affects equitable and sustainable development, especially in exposed regions.**
- Climate change policies with sustainable development and gender perspective simultaneously manage adaptation and mitigation for improving resilience.**



# Gender is socially constructed

**Social construction of  
masculinity & femininity**

**Roles, norms &  
values are  
engendered**

**Responsibilities,  
necessities, expectations**

**Sexuality and  
sexual behavior**

**GENDER**

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graph TD; GENDER[GENDER] --> Roles[Roles, norms & values are engendered]; GENDER --> Responsibilities[Responsibilities, necessities, expectations]; GENDER --> Sexuality[Sexuality and sexual behavior]; GENDER --> Labor[DIVISION OF LABOR, POWER AND RESPONSABILITIES]; GENDER --> Resources[DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES AND COMPENSATIONS];
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**DIVISION OF LABOR,  
POWER AND  
RESPONSABILITIES**

**DISTRIBUTION OF  
RESOURCES AND  
COMPENSATIONS**

# **Gender: Fundamental Difference among Sexes**

**.Cultural construction** of sexual differences.

.The structuring of gender becomes a social fact so much consolidated that it is conceived as natural. The gender determines:

- Special necessities of attention
- Specific risks
- Different health necessities and its perception
- Different access and control over natural and social resources.
- Priorities in public resources for women, indigenous and other vulnerable groups

# **Gender and indigenous status increase social vulnerability**

- PNUD (2016): 72% of extreme **poor people** are women
- Index of Human Development: only with **policies** is it possible to reduce poverty
- During **disasters** more women die than men: tsunami in Asia: 63-68% ; earthquake in Mexico 2017 78% and women and children are principle victims of social and political unrests.
- Women get **limited and inadequate support** during emergencies.
- **Social networks are complex:** They support humans in normal time, during crisis they get destroyed and social vulnerability increases.
- It is crucial to ask: **how to protect** affected women, children, elderly and indigenous confronted with complex vulnerabilities: before whom, before what and for what?
- Protected women **protect the whole society.**

# **Social Re-representation' processes**

- **Socio-cognitive** activity produces representations.
- What are we doing **to understand** in the world we inhabit?
- As a result of this process **we turn social representations into our social reality (ies)**.
- Socio-cognitive processes: re-representations are constantly **re-interpreted, re-thought, re-evaluated** (inevitably)

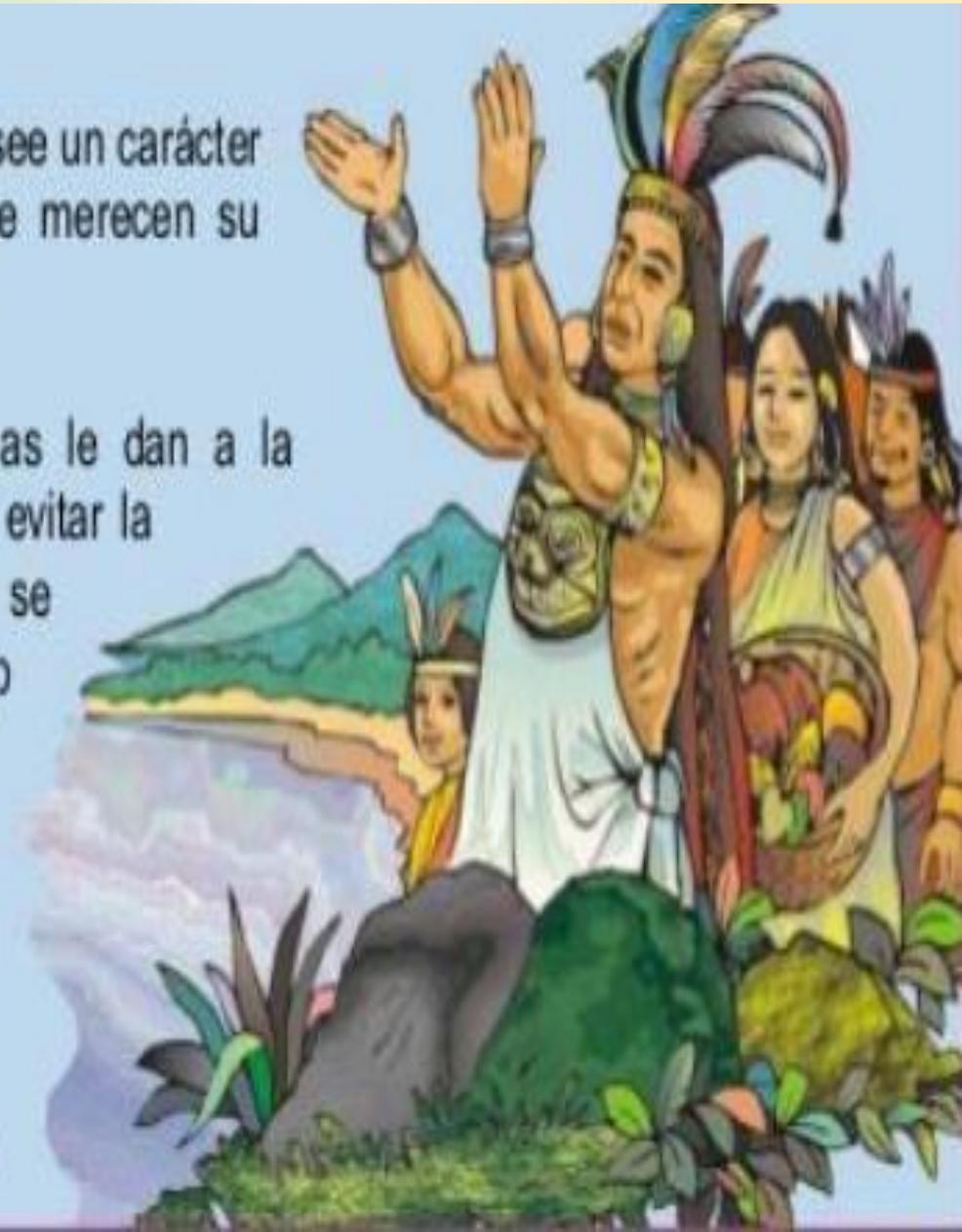
# Indigenous Cosmvision

Para las comunidades indígenas, la naturaleza posee un carácter sagrado, ya que está habitada por espíritus que merecen su reverencia.

Este carácter sagrado que las culturas indígenas le dan a la naturaleza, a los bosques y lagunas, sirvió para evitar la destrucción desmedida de los bosques y que se construyera en lugares o sitios peligrosos. Hoy a esto lo conocemos como **ordenamiento territorial**.

El ordenamiento territorial, es la capacidad para definir qué se puede hacer y qué no se puede en cada parte del territorio.

*Fuente: Wilches-Chaux Gustavo, Wilches Castro Simón. (2001)*



# Cosmovision & nature

- López Austin: **cosmovision** is "the structured set of the various ideological systems with which the social group, in a historical moment, seeks to apprehend the universe, encompasses all systems, orders and locates them".
- For this reason, indigenous people have a **sacred perception of nature** that coincides with the sustainable management of natural and social resources. They are ecologists since always.
- Their **political practices integrate nature, production, culture and conflict resolution**.
- Therefore, the indigenous world view represents a **set of beliefs, values, customs of indigenous peoples and their relationship with nature**.
- **Not all customs are positive**, since **patriarchy** has penetrated power relations for thousands of years and transformed indigenous worldview. Today, direct and invisible mechanisms of discrimination exist against indigenous women that affect their basic human rights, including that of life and reproduction.

# Indigenous Vulnerability in Bolivia

## 1. Physical Vulnerability: 33%

1. Agro-productive activities: 53.5%
2. Population density: 14.9%
3. Road density: 13.3%
4. Houses/km<sup>2</sup>: 13.2%
5. Fertility: 5.1%

## 2. Social Vulnerability : 67%

1. People requiring assistance: 15.9% (children, disabled)
2. Poor life conditions: 21.5% (poverty, education, shelter, unemployment)
3. Infrastructure: 4.3% (health, schools communitarian)
4. **Internal social differences: 36.7%** (indigenous language, self-identification as indigenous, female household, migrant)
5. **Prevention: 21.5%** (by radio, TV, internet, telephone, lack of early alert)

# Correcting gender bias

- FAO (2015): "Women make fundamental contributions to the rural economy of all regions of developing countries such as farmers, daily workers and entrepreneurs". They produce half of the food, through subsistence agriculture and livestock raising in the backyards (IPCC 2014).
- Women take **care of children, run the house, provide health services, promote hygiene, supply energy and water.**
- Women have barely **19% seats in parliaments** and only **6% hold management positions.** The global financial crisis affected women and men, particularly the poor and vulnerable groups. The **crisis** pushed more women to **informal work** and they often used natural resources in their tasks.
- Programs of mitigation, adaptation and resilience with **gender perspective are more efficient and reduce the dual vulnerability.**

# Equity improves global economy

- The **World Bank** (2016) insists that one more year of a woman's education increases the national GDP by 1%.
- The **McKinsey Report** calculated that in a scenario of medium gender equity the world GDP will increase **12 trillion or 11% of GDP in 2025**. In case of total equity, where women play the same role in politics and economy, this increase in world GDP will be **28 trillion USD** or 26% of GDP in 2025 (Woetzel/Madgavkar/ Ellingrud et al., 2015).
- The World Economic Forum (2016) developed the **Global Gender Gap Index**. In two decades: education and health have improved, while the differences in **economy and politics have stagnated**. **Iceland** is the country with the least gender difference, followed by the Nordic countries.
- There are countries with **large internal differences**: in India women have risen to political positions, but they show a serious **backlog** in education and health.

# Multiple stresses produce survival strategies & environmental migration

Climate change

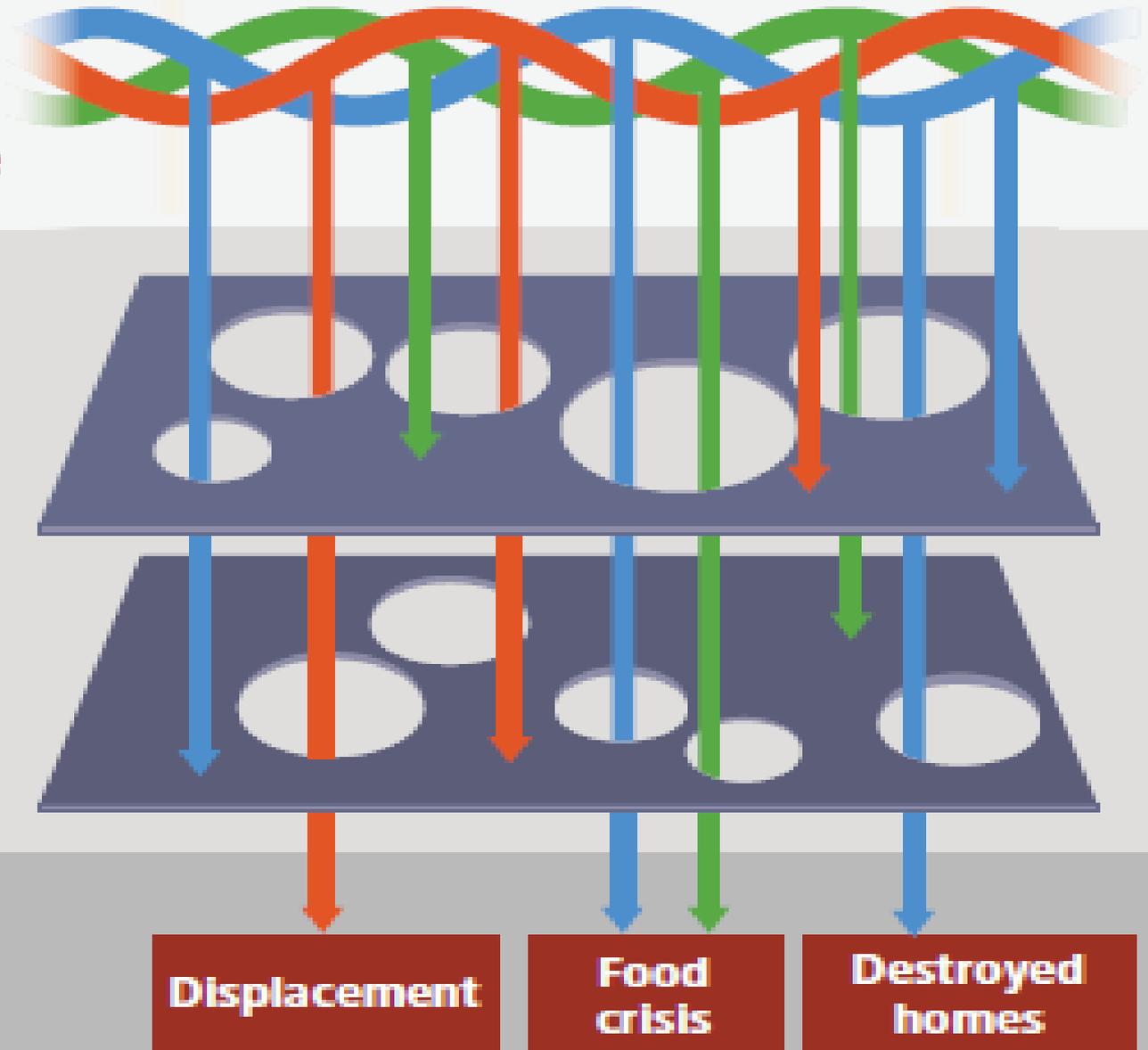
Globalizations

Technological change

Institutions such as:

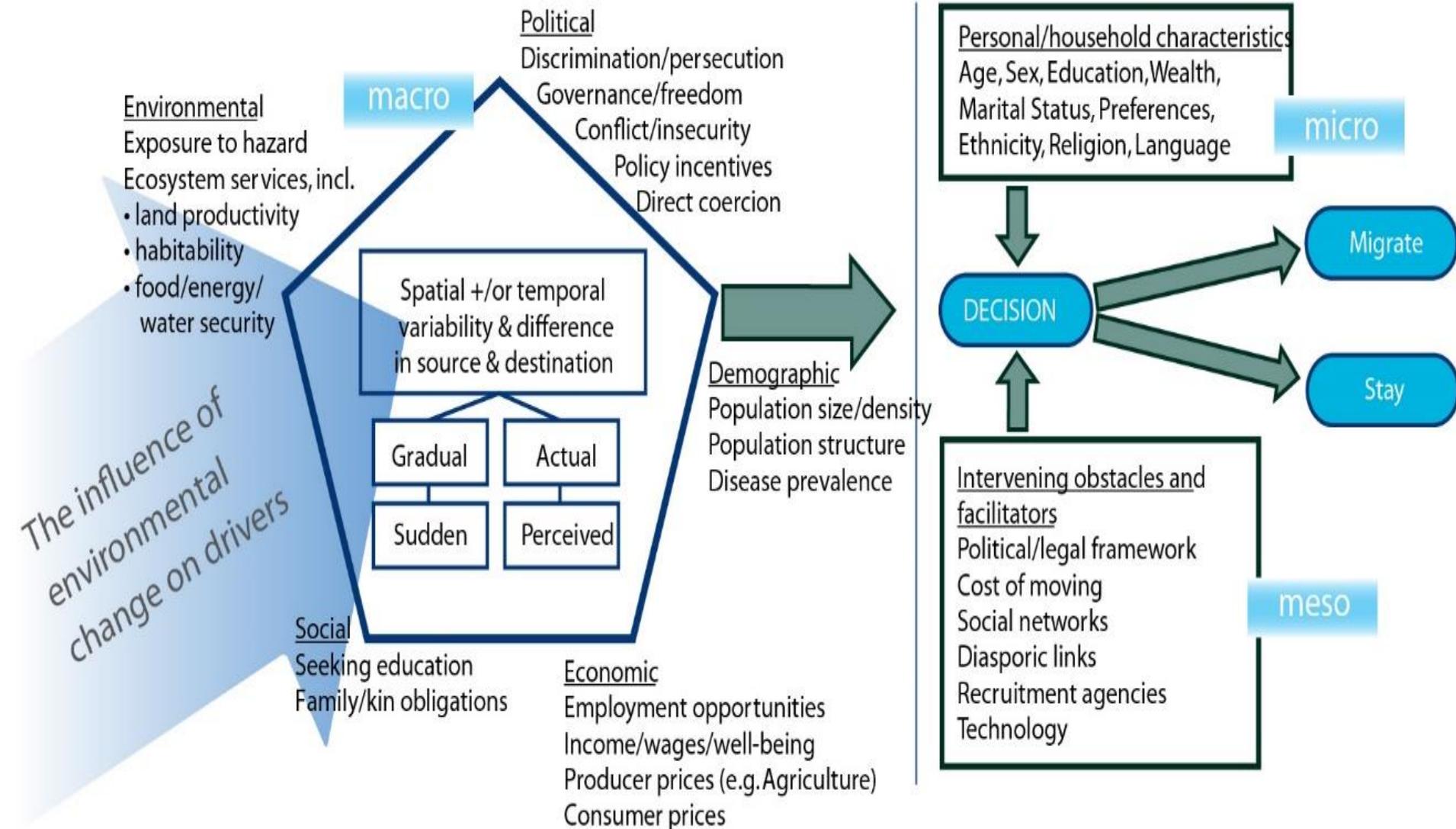
- Social protection
- Relief organizations
- Disaster prevention

Livelihoods



# Is environmental migration an adaptation strategy?

(UK Government Office of Science (2011: 12))



**Thank you for your attention**

A photograph showing two women in a field. The woman on the left is wearing a white tank top and a floral skirt, looking down at a small plant. The woman on the right is wearing a white jacket and dark pants, kneeling and holding a clear plastic bottle. In the background, there are more plants and a person in a white shirt. The scene is outdoors with trees and a blue sky.

**[http://www.afes-press.de/html/download\\_oswald.html](http://www.afes-press.de/html/download_oswald.html)**