

Adaptation to Climate Change in a Regional Perspective

ICIMOD

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development

Kathmandu, Nepal

FOR MOUNTAINS AND PEOPLE

The Institute:

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Inter-Governmental Organisation for the
Hindu Kush – Himalayan Region

Facilitates research and knowledge
validation with a mountain perspective

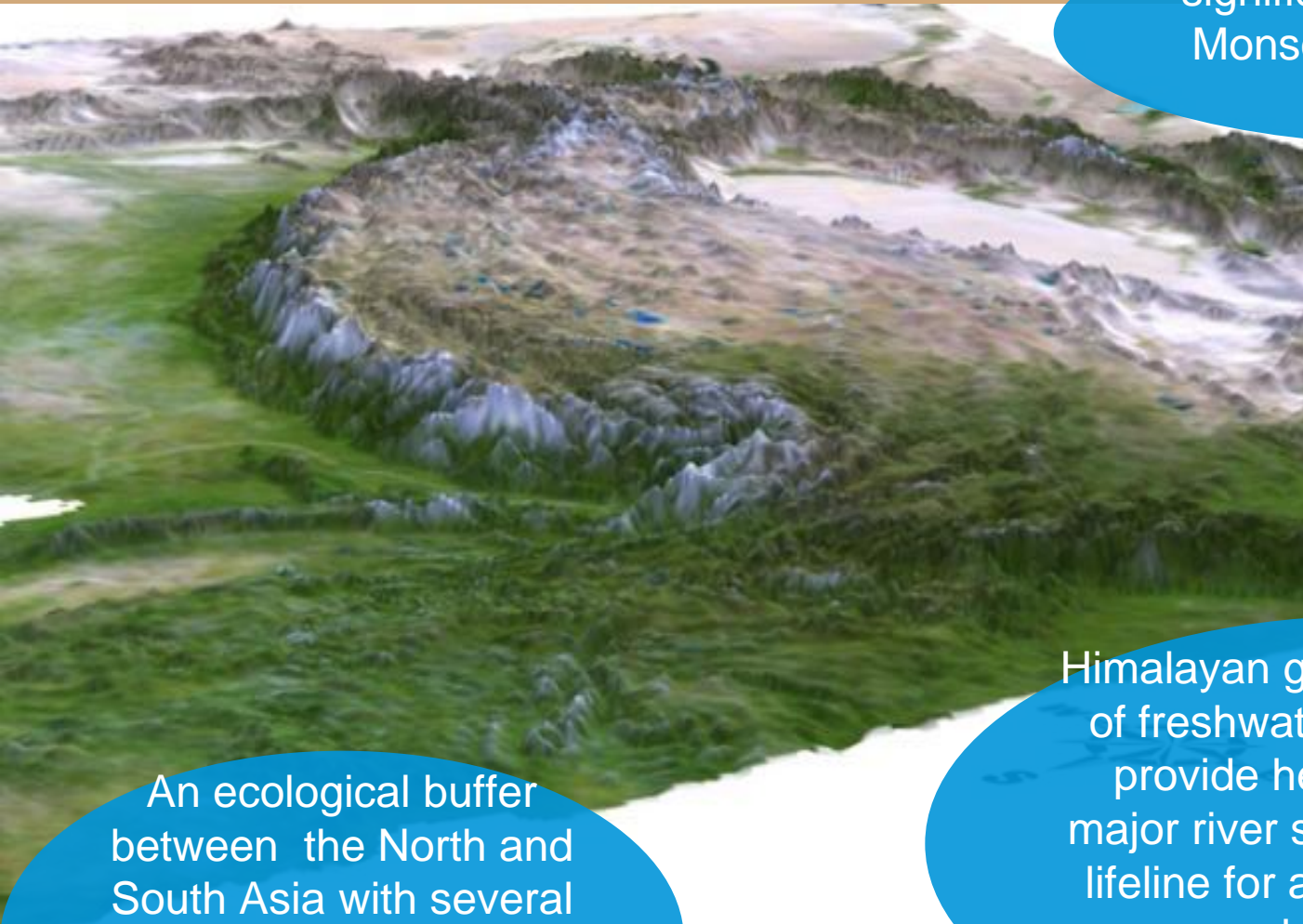
Capacity development, common
methodologies, regionally accessible data,
monitoring, quality control

Promotes trans-boundary approaches

Why the HKH region merits special attention:

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The Third Pole, plays significant role in the Asian Monsoon weather system



An ecological buffer between the North and South Asia with several global biodiversity hot spots

Himalayan glaciers are sources of freshwater reserves. They provide headwaters for 10 major river systems in Asia – a lifeline for almost one-third of humanity

Ten major river basins of Asia



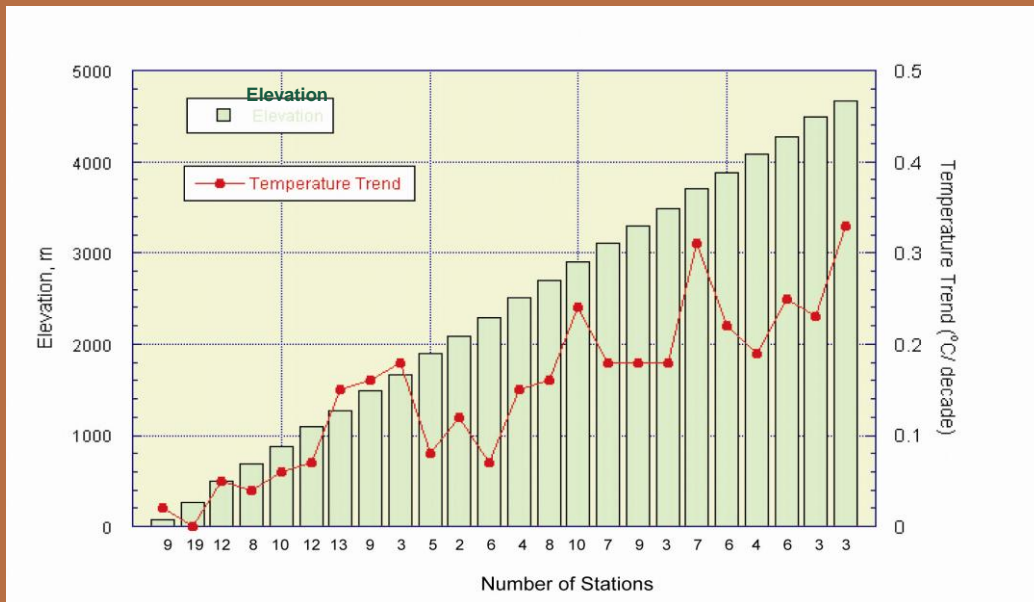
Adapatation Challenges

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Greater warming at higher elevation



Tibet up to 0.32°C per decade

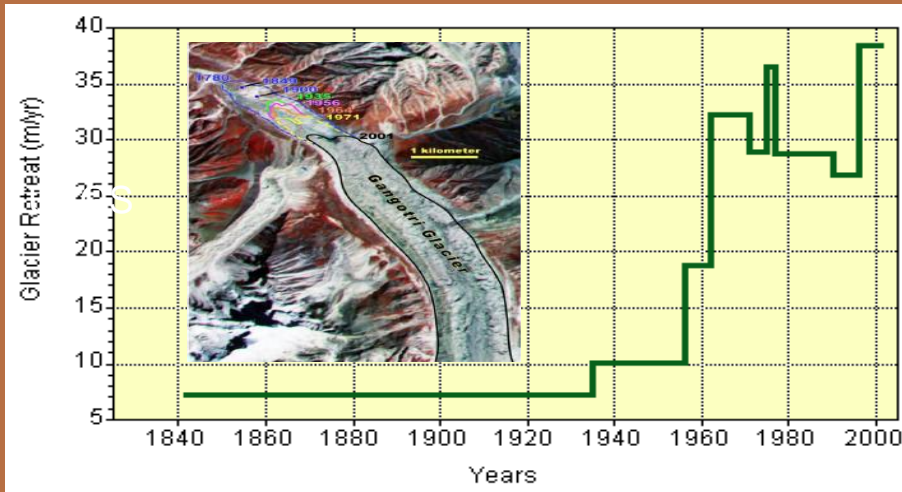
Nepal annual range – 0.04 to 0.09°C per decade, greater at higher elevation

Few meteorological stations in the high Himalayas

Elevation (m)	Area (10,000 km²)	No. met stations	Density (No./10,000 km²)
Below 300	17.36	419	24.13
300-1000	175.49	146	0.83
1000-2000	175.12	266	1.52
2000-3000	84.95	53	0.62
3000-4000	72.17	74	1.03
4000-5000	141.73	58	0.41
>5000	72.00	16	0.22

Deglaciation in the Himalayas

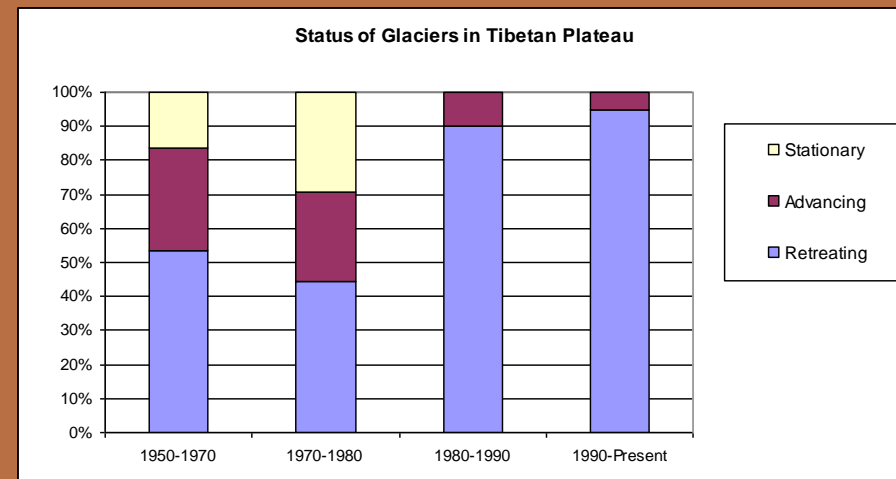
India



Deglaciation is widespread in the Himalayas

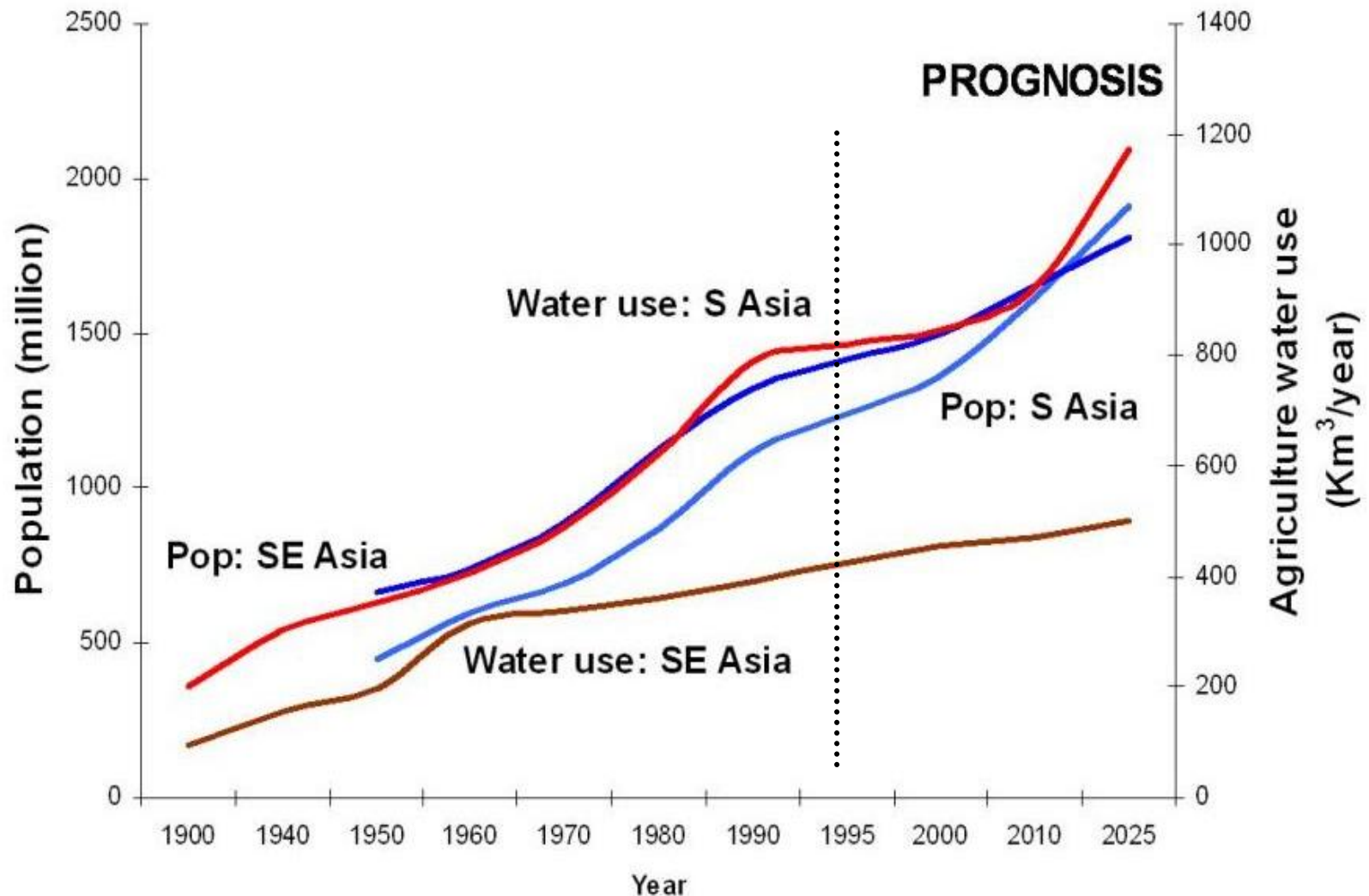
Data mostly on terminus fluctuation or areal change – no data on mass change

Tibet (Tandong et al., 2004)

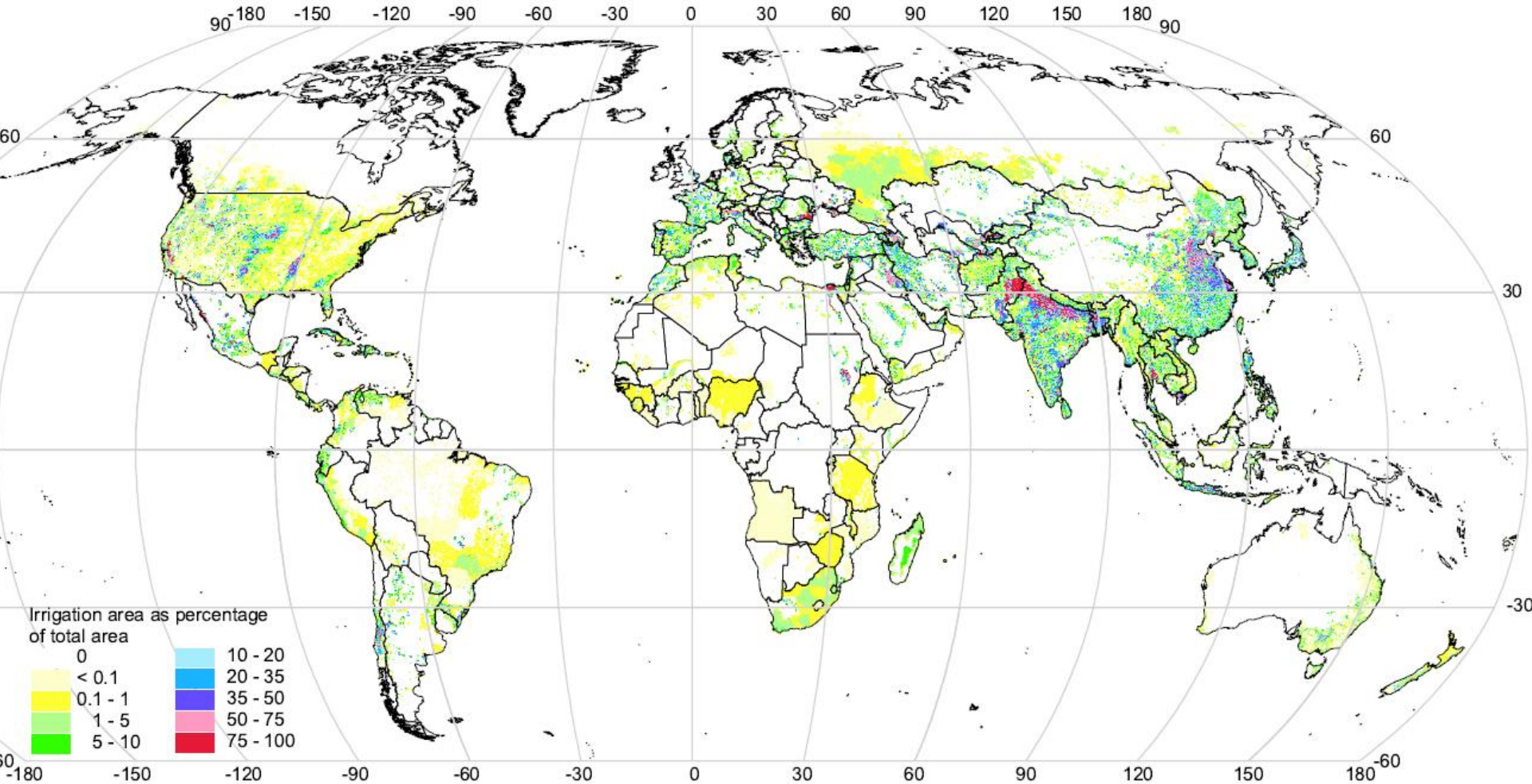


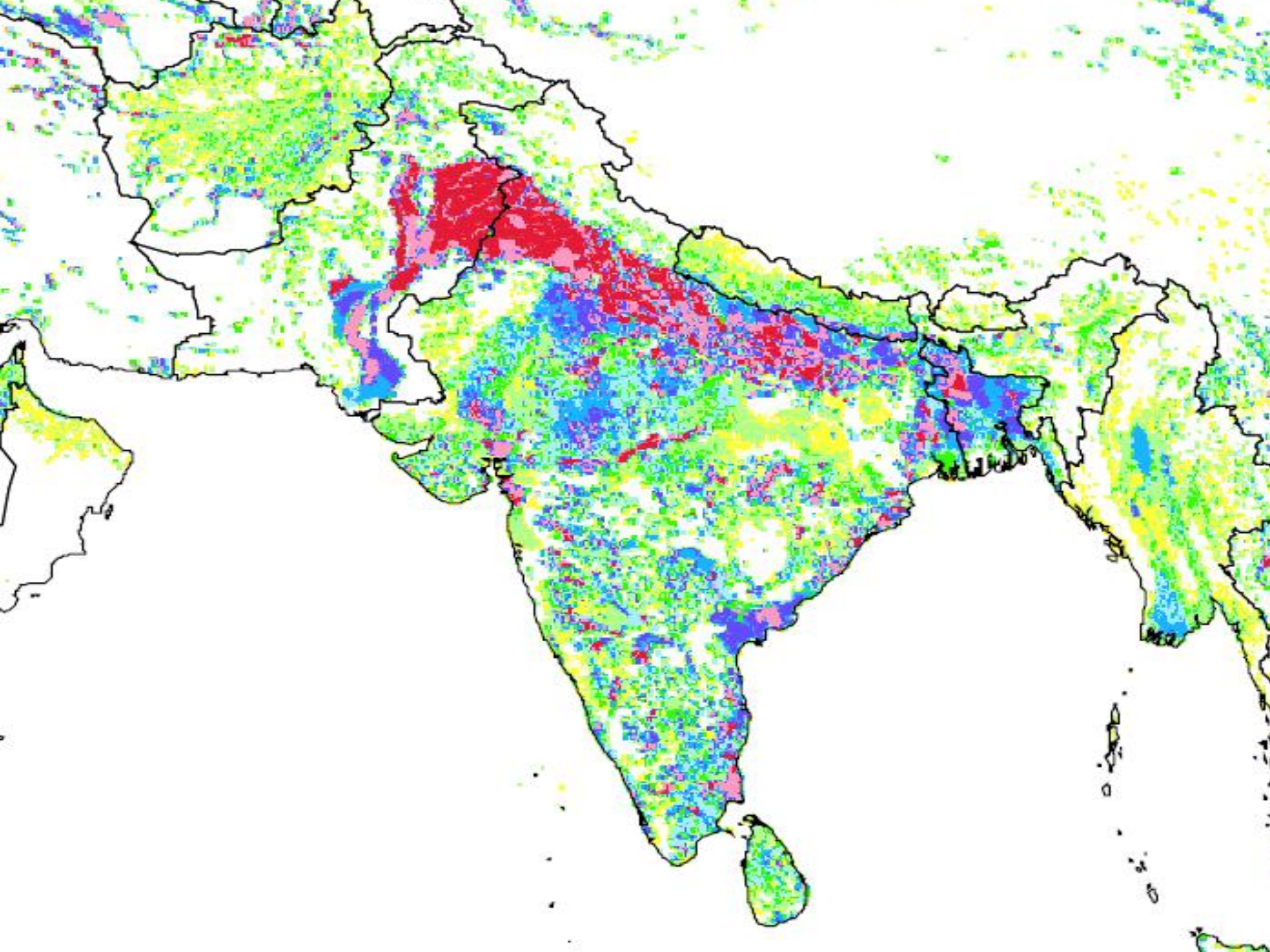
Strong Growing demand for water in South Asia

Population and agricultural water use



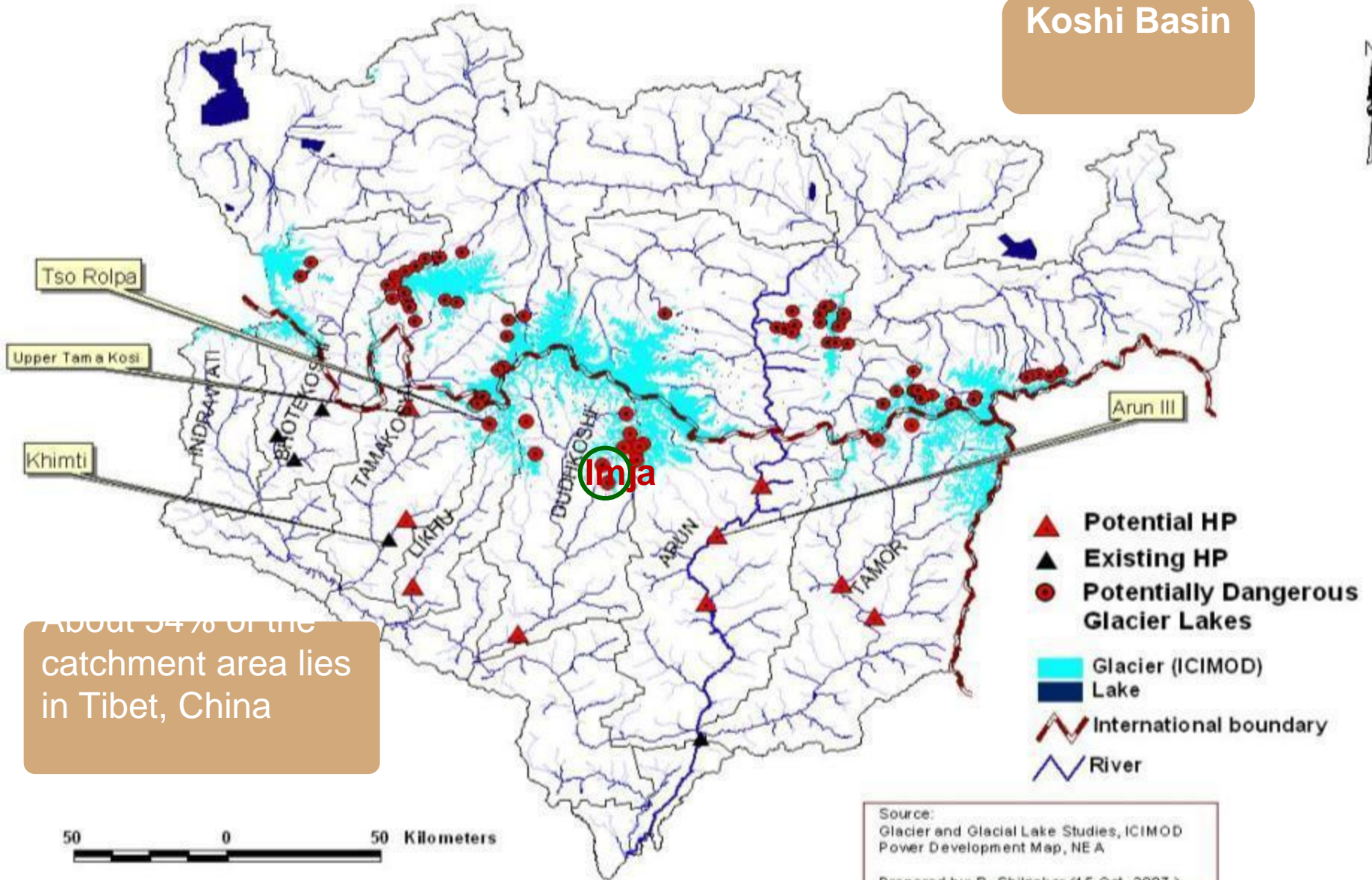
S. Siebert et al.: Global map of irrigation areas





Integral monitoring of the impact of Climate Change at river basin level

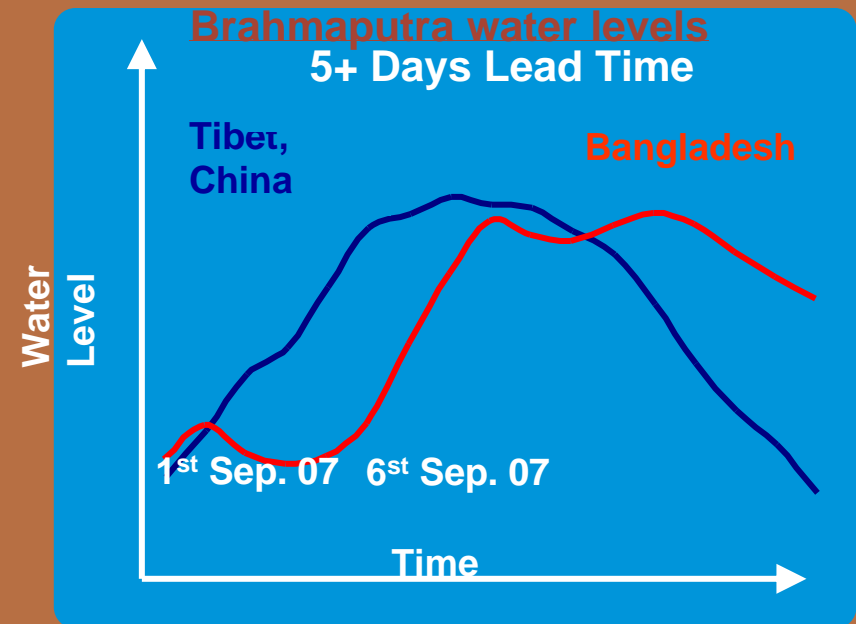
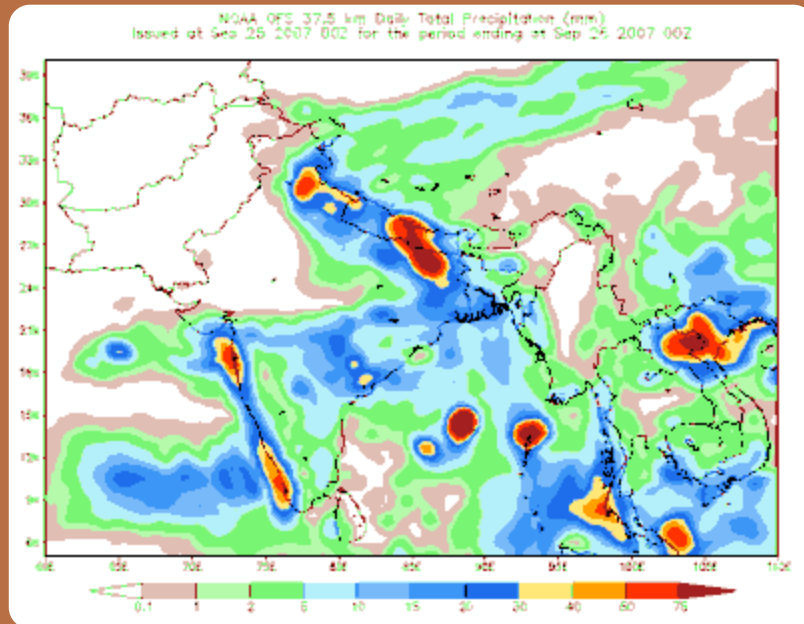
Koshi Basin



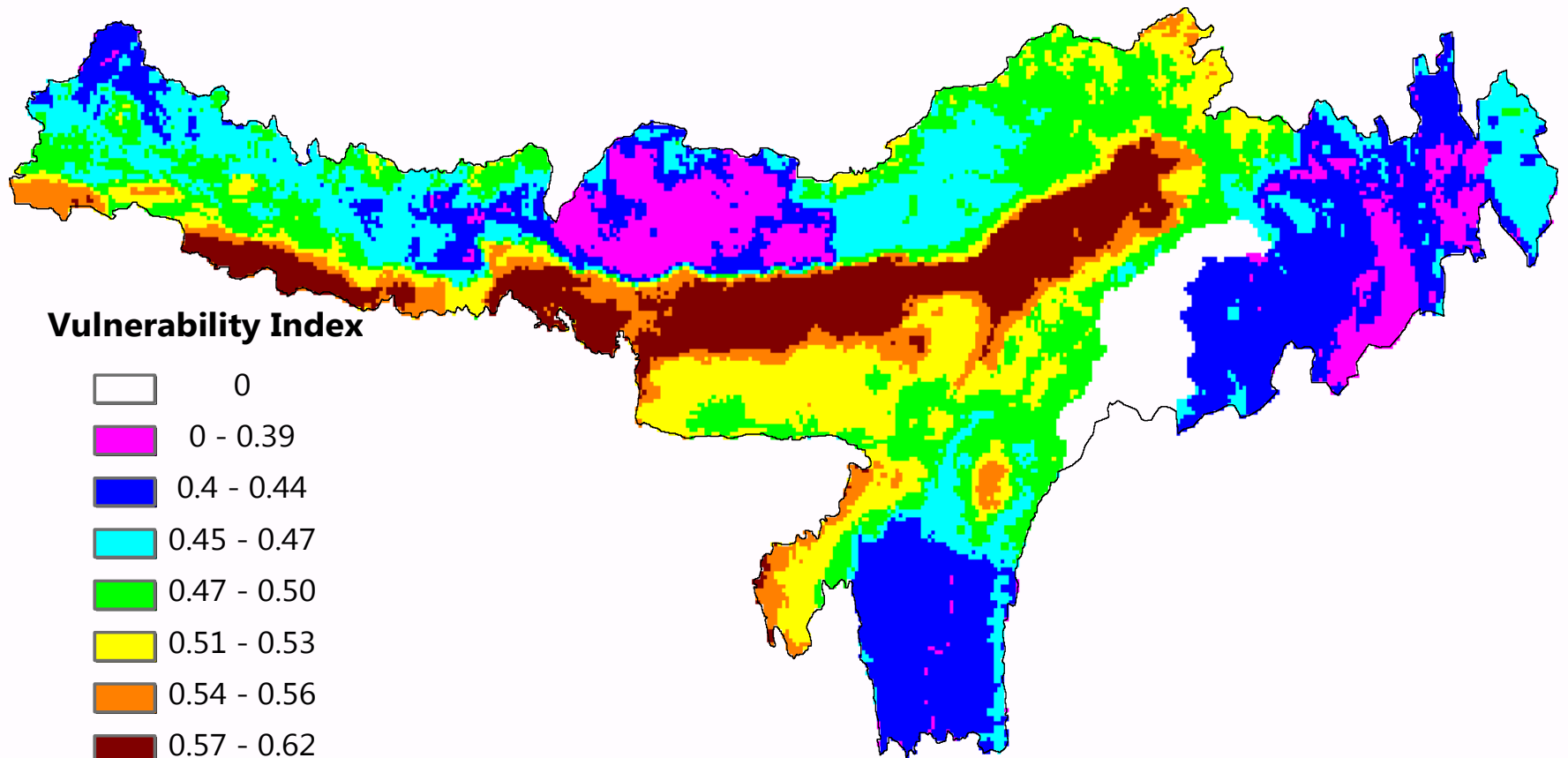
Need for better early warning systems

Facilitate regional cooperation for flood disaster mitigation

Facilitate forecasting and early warning systems

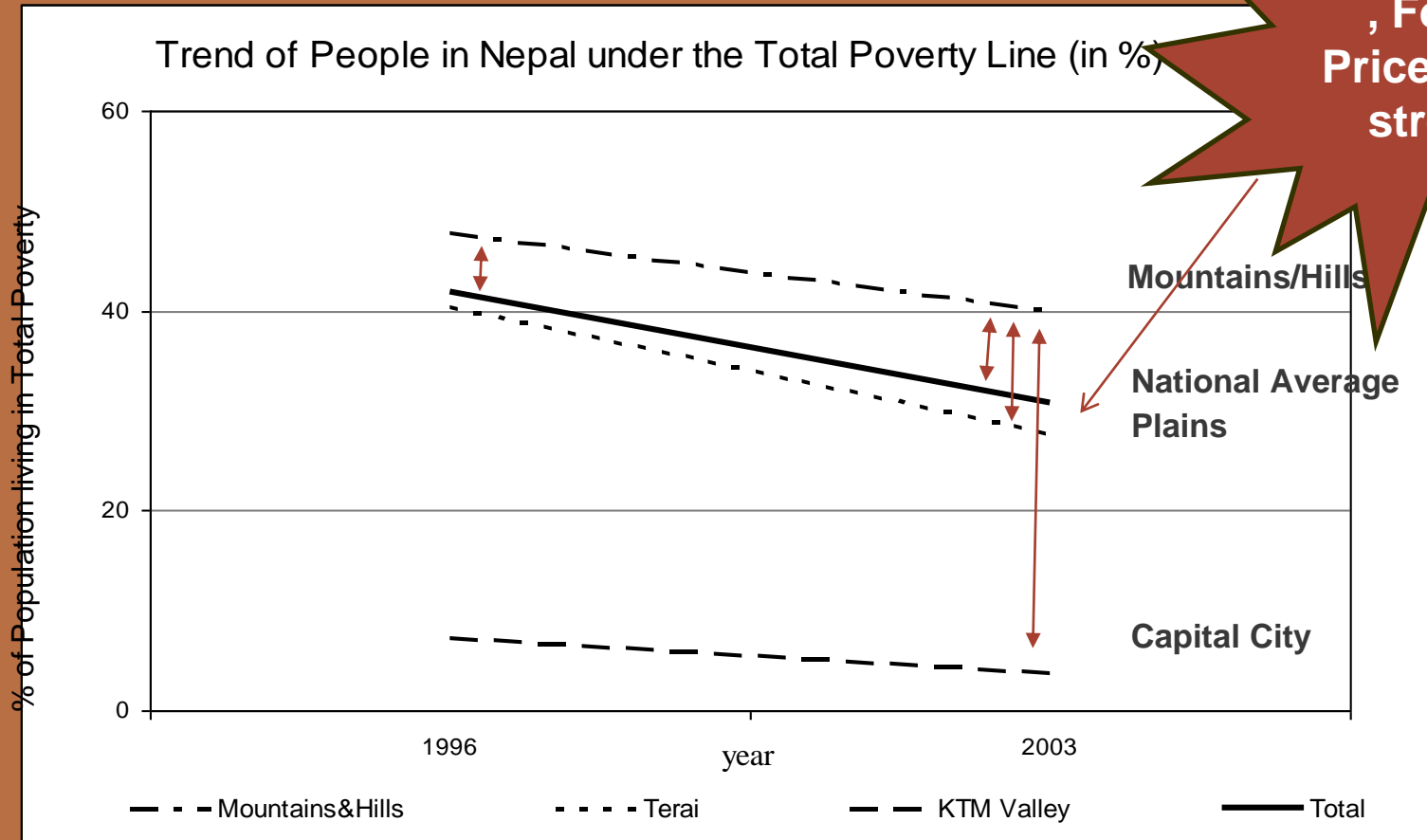


High variation in Vulnerability:



Widening inequality

Globalisation
, Food
Prices, CC
stress



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India finds '100 million' more poor people

The Indian government says it has found that 100 million more Indians are living below the poverty line than previously thought.



The poor will be eligible for subsidised food

Over 370 million Indians - 40% of the population - are now eligible for subsidised food supplies.

The recalculation is based on earnings and the ability of a family to afford one meal a day meeting minimum nutritional needs.

The previous estimate was based only on calorie intake, officials say

India's poor has been hit by the sharp rise in food prices - the official index indicates that food price inflation has varied between 18% and 20% in recent months.

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Coping mechanisms for mountain communities

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Water resource development

Continue developing high-value added products:
horticulture, livestock, medicinal plants, etc.

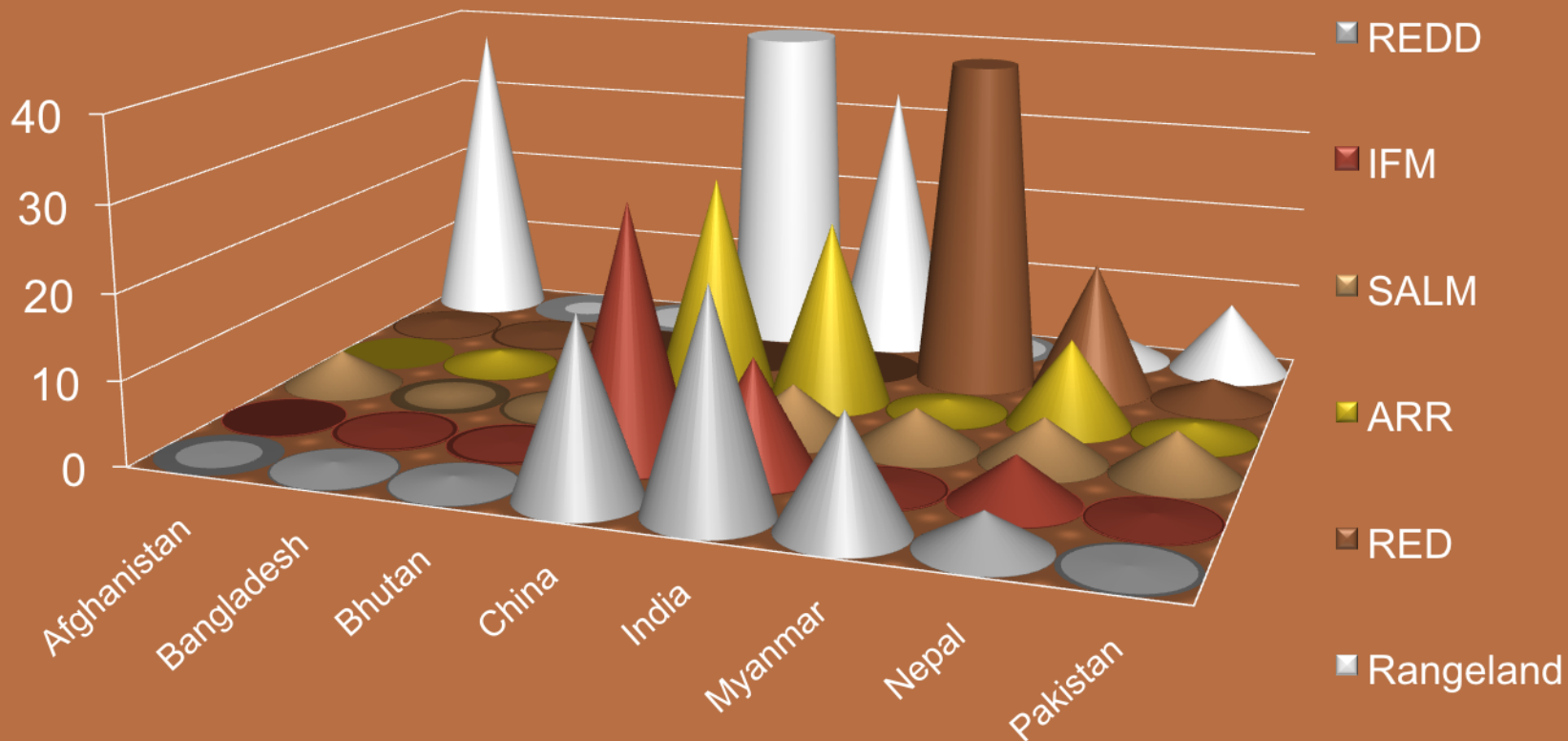
Tourism

Migration and remittances

Validation of eco-system service



AFOLU carbon mitigation potential in the HKH in Mio t CO₂/ year



	Afghanistan	Bangladesh	Bhutan	China	India	Myanmar	Nepal	Pakistan
REDD	0.1	0.9	1.0	20.9	25.4	13.4	4.4	0.4
IFM	0	0.4	0.3	29.8	13.4	0.7	5.6	0.8
SALM	4.3	0.14	0.44	1	6.1	4.8	5.3	5.4
ARR	0	1.8	0	26.5	22.1	1.5	10.4	1.8
RED	0.86	0.5	0	0	0	86.8	15.97	2.94
Rangeland	37.7	0.1	0.1	184.8	33.2	0.2	3.6	8.6

Challenges:

Representation of Mountain systems in the UN conventions (CBD, UNFCCC)

Use of ICIMOD as common regional platform for monitoring impact of CC and adaptation measures

Different levels of knowledge and capacities in the regional member countries

Donor perception continue to drive programme priorities – very high transaction costs

Thank you

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