

Environmentally-induced Migration:

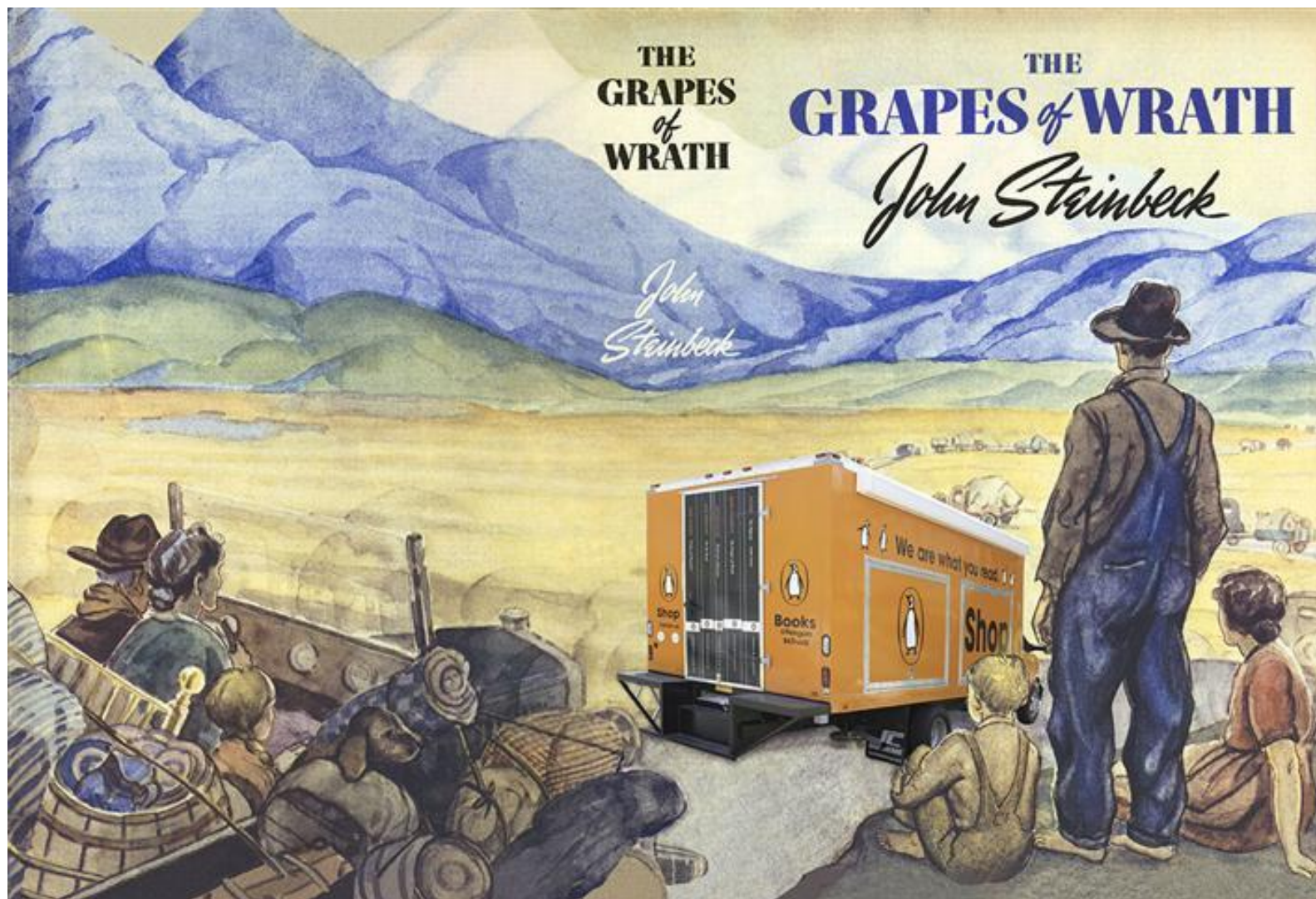
Perceptions and Realities

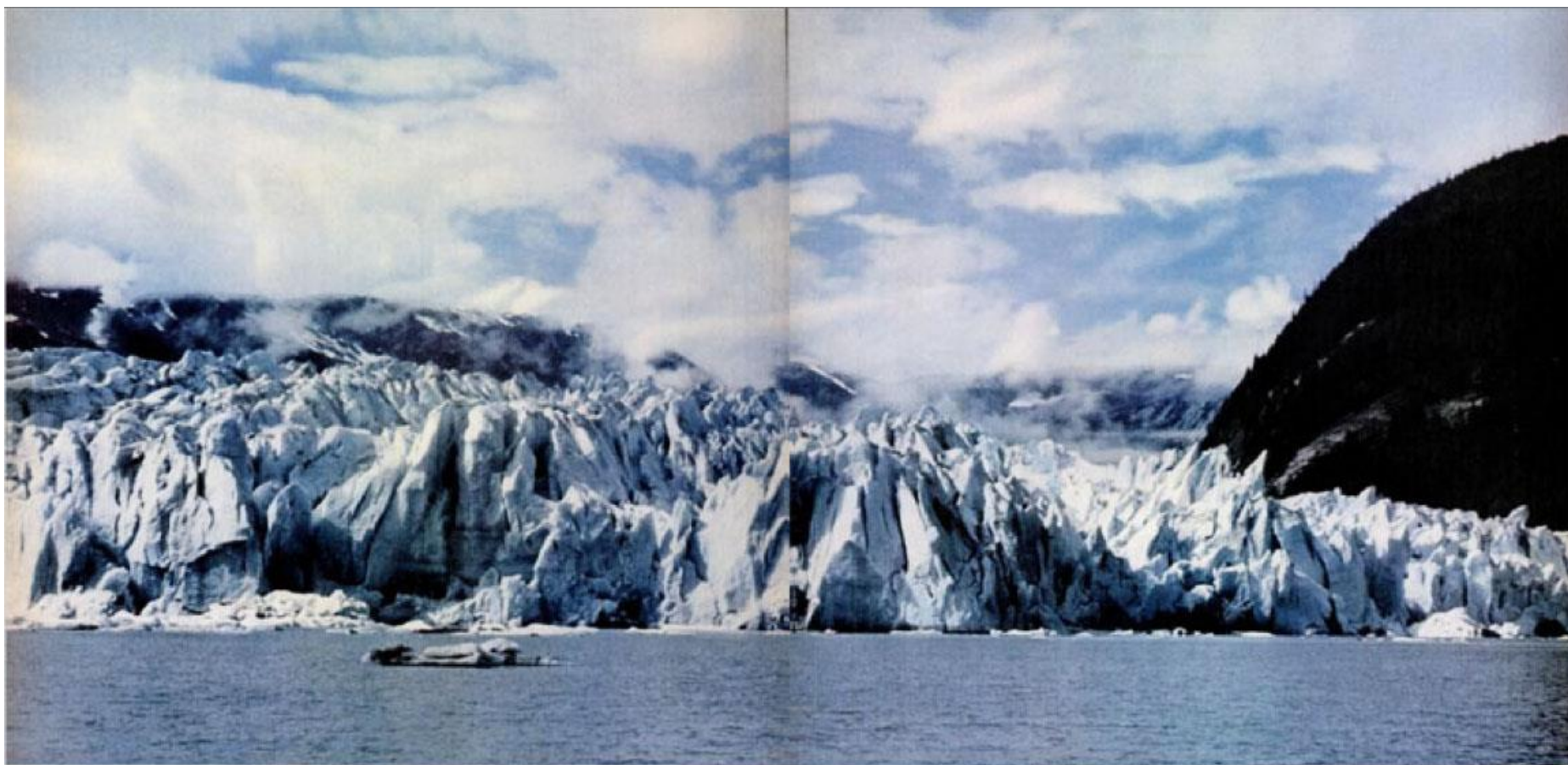
François Gemenne

@Gemenne

EMN Educational Seminar - Bratislava, 23 August 2018







THIS GLACIER, ALASKA, IS A RIVER OF ICE 200 FEET WIDE. YET THE PETROLEUM ENERGY HUMBLE SUPPLIES—WHICH IT COULD MELT AT THE RATE OF 7 MILLION TONS A DAY!

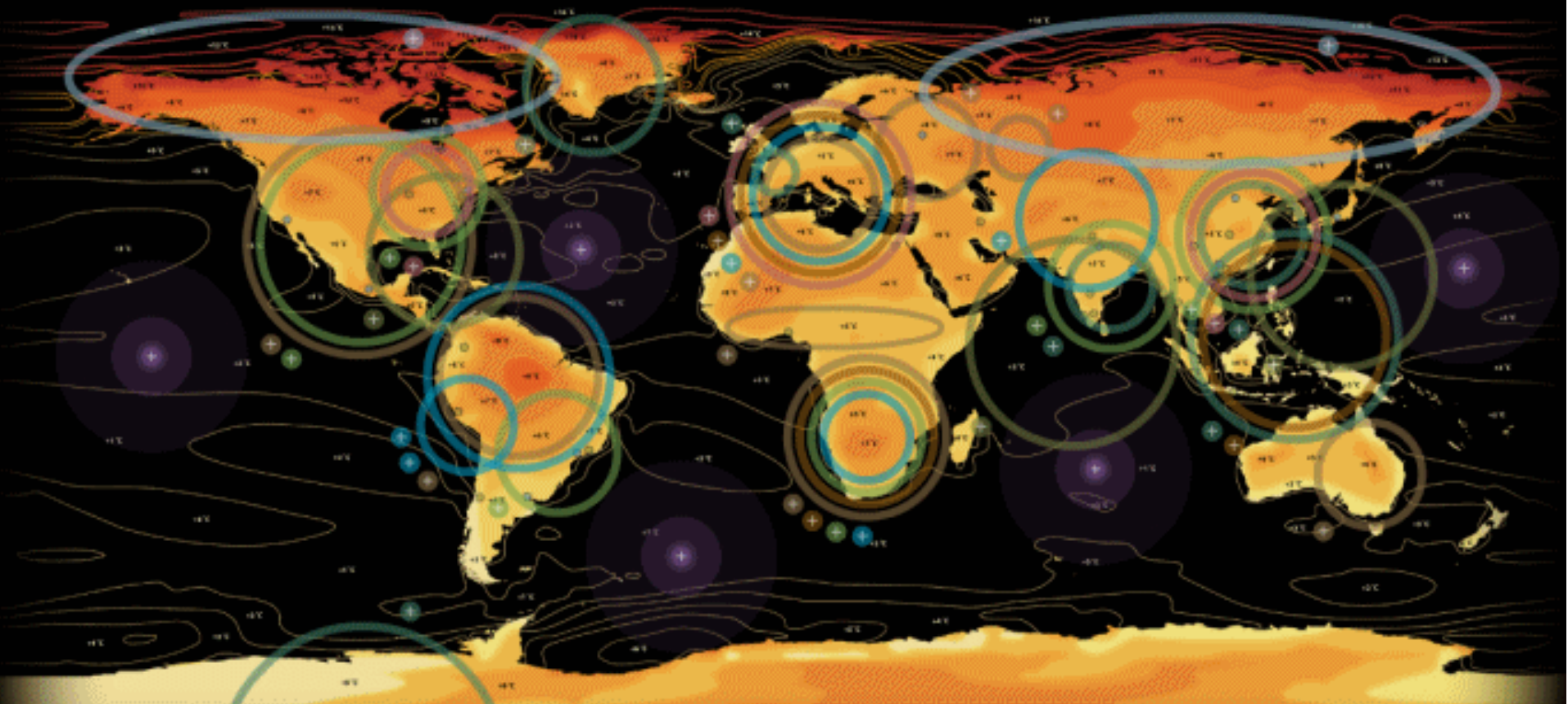
EACH DAY HUMBLE SUPPLIES ENOUGH **ENERGY** TO MELT 7 MILLION TONS OF GLACIER!

This giant glacier has remained unmelted for centuries. Yet, the petroleum energy Humble supplies—it converted into heat—could melt it at the rate of 80 tons each second! To meet the nation's growing needs for energy, Humble has applied science to nature's resources to become America's Leading Energy Company. Working wonders with oil through research, Humble provides energy in many forms—to help heat our homes, power our transportation, and to furnish industry with a great variety of versatile chemicals. Stop at a Humble station for new Enco Extra gasoline, and see why the "Happy Motoring" Sign is the World's First Choice!

HUMBLE
OIL & REFINING COMPANY
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The Amazon Forest ▲

Agriculture ▲

Water availability ▲

Sea-level rise ▲

Carbon cycle ▲

Temperature rise ▲



Crops

Water
AvailabilitySea Level
Rise

Marine



Drought



Permafrost

Tropical
CyclonesExtreme
Temp.

Health

+ °Celsius

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
2	4	5	7	9	11	13	14	16	18	20	22	23	25	27	29

+ °Fahrenheit

City population

● 5-10 Million

● 10-20 Million

Source: UN Statistics Division Demographic Yearbook 2014

Credit

Act on climate change, or fear the refugees

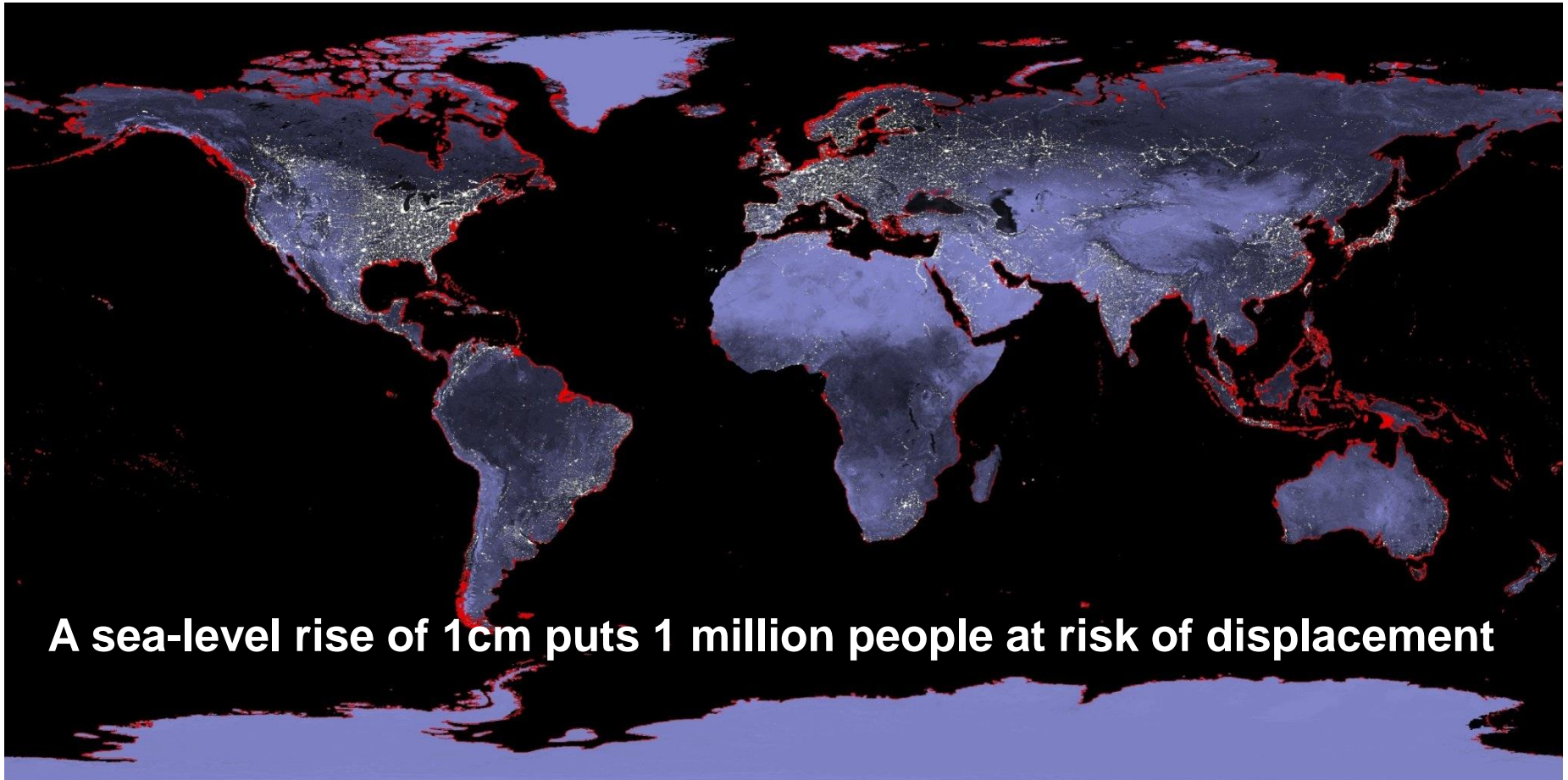


▶ London Futures, exhibition at the Museum of London



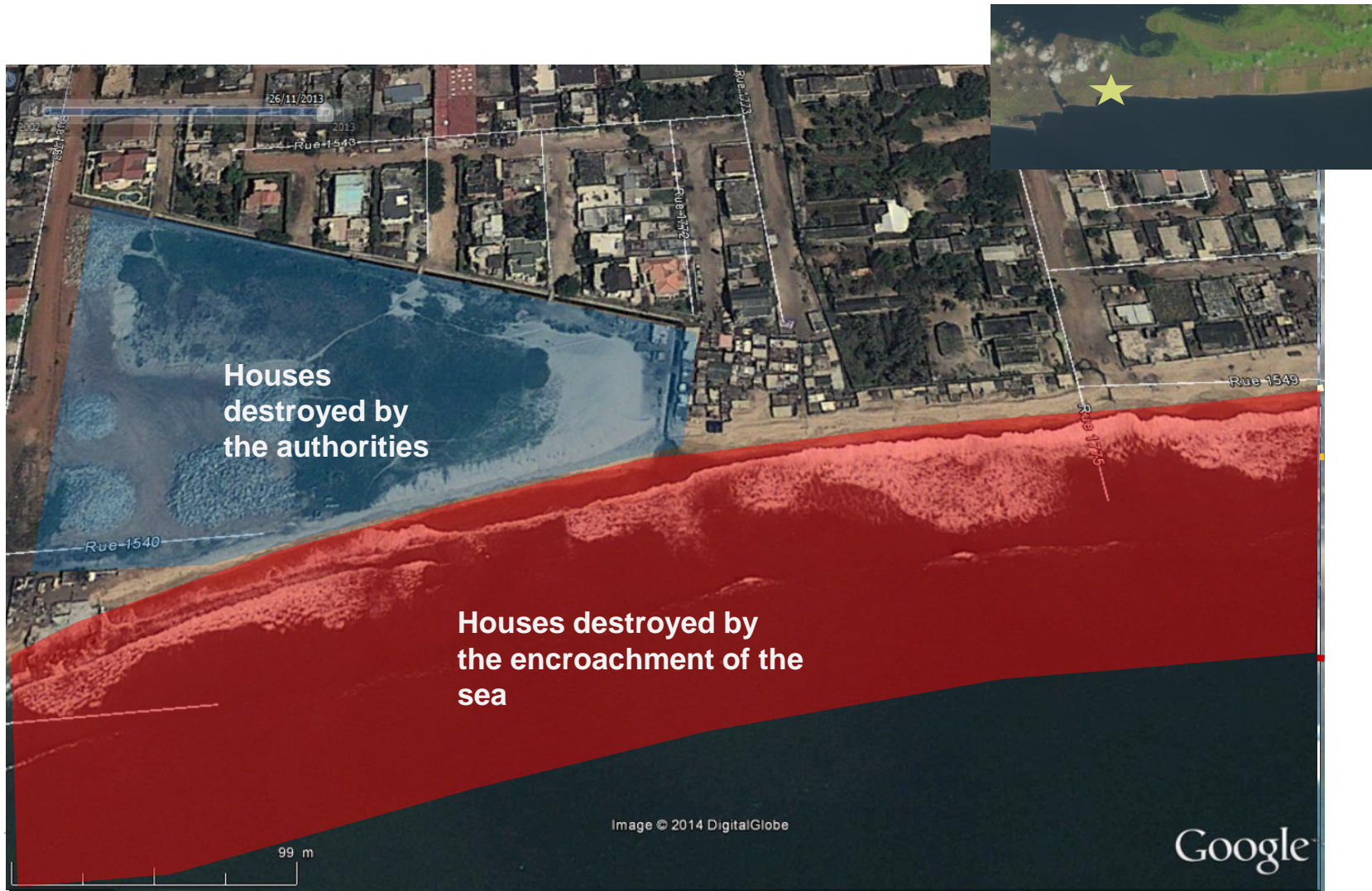
1. Sea-level rise

Coastal regions will be first and most affected



A sea-level rise of 1cm puts 1 million people at risk of displacement

Two processes of habitat loss that induce migration



The canaries in the coalmine

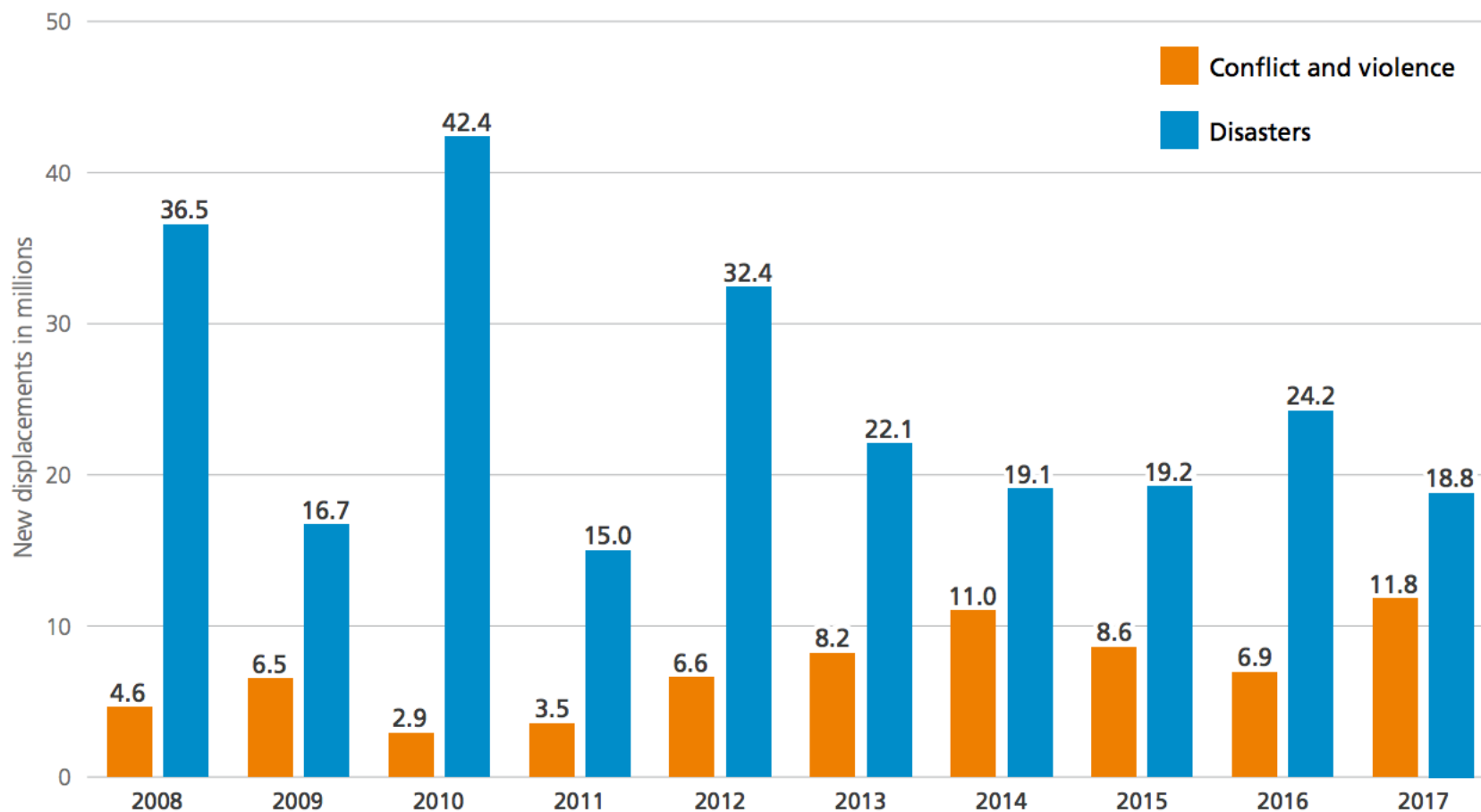


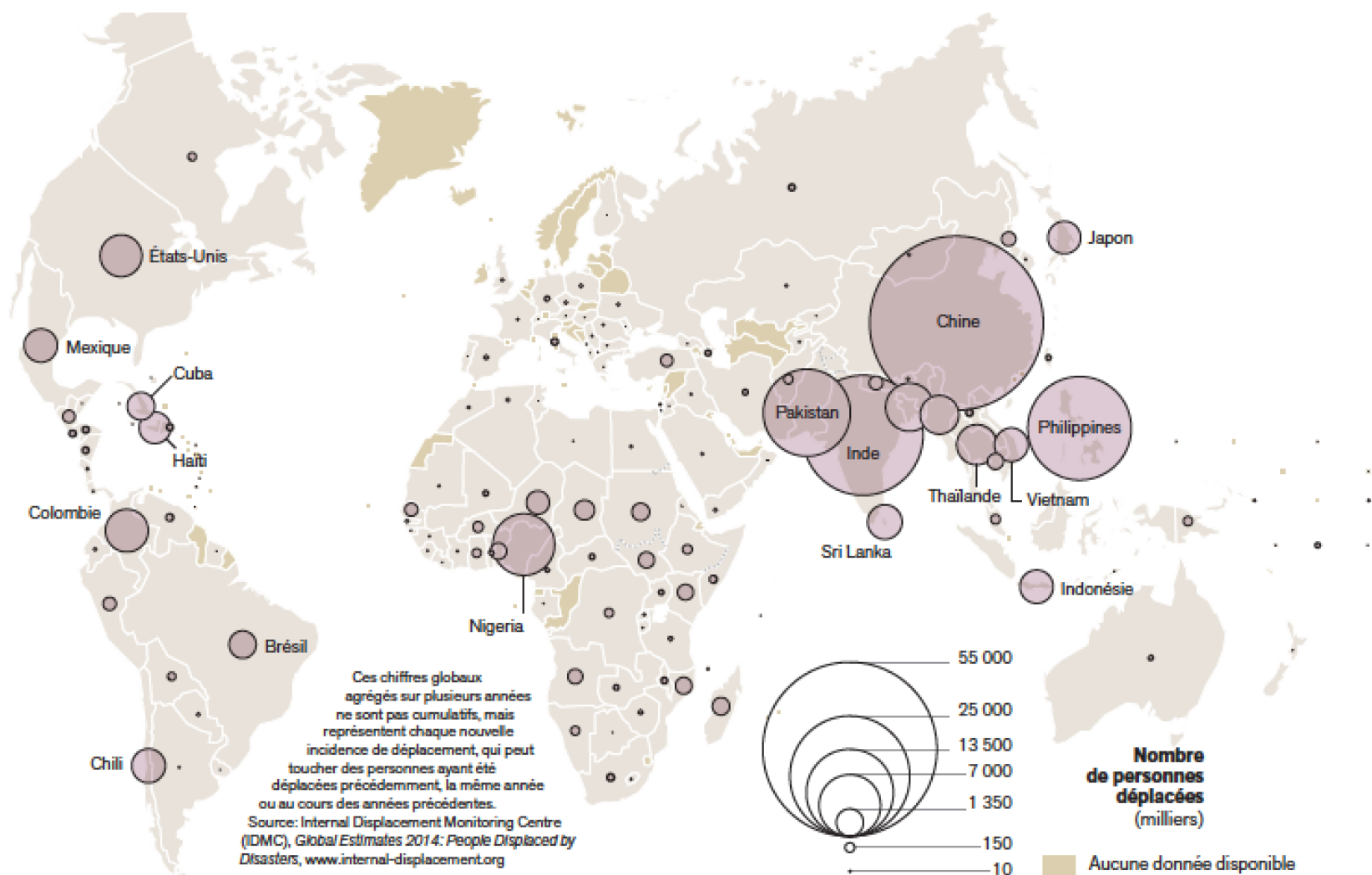
Maldives, October 2009

2. Land degradation



3. Disasters





The 4 degree scenario

4° Turn Down the Heat

**Why a 4°C Warmer World
Must be Avoided**

November 2012

A Report for the World Bank
by the Potsdam Institute for
Climate Impact Research and
Climate Analytics



That would result in this:





Characteristics of the migrants

- ▶ Positive relationship between environmental degradation and migration.
- ▶ Different factors intermingle, but environmental factors are of growing importance.
 - ▶ Definitional issue
- ▶ These factors increase the constraints to migration
 - ▶ Rise in forced migration
- ▶ Migration flows are often internal, and happening on short distances
 - ▶ Affected countries bear all the burden of migration.
- ▶ The most vulnerable are often unable to migrate.
 - ▶ Migration is expensive



A disconnection from the realities of migration

- ▶ Migrants are seen as expiatory, resourceless victims of climate change.
 - ▶ Many of them don't consider themselves as victims, or don't want to be considered as such.
 - ▶ Migrants are resourceful agents – they are not the most vulnerable
- ▶ Migration is perceived as an adaptation failure
 - ▶ In many cases, it can be an adaptation strategy
- ▶ We assume a direct, causal relationship between climate change and migration.
- ▶ We expect that these displacements will be forced and international.
- ▶ We assume that the nature and extent of the migration flows will depend upon the impacts of climate change.
 - ▶ Environmental determinism
- ▶ Climate-induced migration can also improve human security.

‘Climate refugees’ as the human faces of global warming

- ▶ Migrants are often portrayed as expiatory, powerless victims of climate change.
- ▶ They are also the first witnesses of climate change, the living proofs that global warming is under way.
- ▶ The idea of a multi-causal migration doesn't get along very well with this rhetoric.



A Copernican revolution



Families in Bangladesh seek safer areas after severe floods in 2007.

Migration as adaptation

Mobility can bring opportunities for coping with environmental change, say **Richard Black, Stephen R. G. Bennett, Sandy M. Thomas and John R. Beddington.**

POLICY RESEARCH WORKING PAPER

5270

BACKGROUND PAPER TO THE 2010 WORLD DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Accommodating Migration to Promote Adaptation to Climate Change

*Jon Barnett
Michael Webber*

The Nansen Initiative

- ▶ Launched in 2012 by the government of Norway and Switzerland.
- ▶ With support of Costa Rica, Australia, Philippines, Mexico, Kenya.
- ▶ Walter Kälin as special envoy.
- ▶ Intergovernmental process.
- ▶ Protection agenda agreed 2015.

The Nansen Principles

Building upon Nansen's legacy, the following principles were recommended to guide responses to some of the urgent and complex challenges raised by displacement in the context of climate change and other environmental hazards.

I

Responses to climate and environmentally-related displacement need to be informed by adequate knowledge and guided by the fundamental principles of humanity, human dignity, human rights and international cooperation.

II

States have a primary duty to protect their populations and give particular attention to the special needs of the people most vulnerable to and most affected by climate change and other environmental hazards, including the displaced, hosting communities and those at risk of displacement. The development of legislation, policies and institutions as well as the investment of adequate resources are key in this regard.

III

The leadership and engagement of local governments and communities, civil society, and the private sector, are needed to address effectively the challenges posed by climate change, including those linked to human mobility.

IV

When national capacity is limited, regional frameworks and international cooperation should support action at national level and contribute to building national capacity, underpinning development plans, preventing displacement, assisting and protecting people and communities affected by such displacement, and finding durable solutions.

V

Prevention and resilience need to be further strengthened, at all levels, particularly through adequate resources. International, regional, and local actors have a shared responsibility to implement the principles enshrined in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disaster.

VI

Building local and national capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters is fundamental. At the same time, the international disaster response system needs to be reinforced. The development of multi-hazard early warning systems linking local and global levels is critical.

VII

The existing norms of international law should be fully utilized, and normative gaps addressed.

VIII

The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement provide a sound legal framework to address protection concerns arising from climate- and other environmentally-related internal displacement. States are encouraged to ensure the adequate implementation and operationalization of these principles through national legislation, policies and institutions.

IX

A more coherent and consistent approach at the international level is needed to meet the protection needs of people displaced externally owing to sudden-onset disasters. States, working in conjunction with UNHCR and other relevant stakeholders, could develop a guiding framework or instrument in this regard.

X

National and international policies and responses, including planned relocation, need to be implemented on the basis of non-discrimination, consent, empowerment, participation and partnerships with those directly affected, with due sensitivity to age, gender and diversity aspects. The voices of the displaced or those threatened with displacement, loss of home or livelihood must be heard and taken into account, without neglecting those who may choose to remain.

earthscan
from Routledge

The Atlas of Environmental Migration

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