

***Welcome  
to China***

***Welcome  
to Beijing***

***Welcome to  
the Seminar***



# A Brief Introduction

**Family Name:** LI                      **Given Name:** Rui

**Organization:** Institute of Soil and Water Conservation  
(ISWC) , NWUAF , CAS/MWR

**Research Field:** Regional SWC/Environment  
RS/GIS Applications for land resources,  
survey and evaluation. Soil erosion  
Soil erosion monitoring and assessing

**Position / Titles:** Retired professor  
President , World Association of Soil  
and Water Conservation (WASWAC)



# Lectures

- 13:30 – 15:00**    **Overview on Soil / Water Conservation in the world**  
Video 1– Soil erosion research in the world (Professor LAL)  
Introduction of World Association of Soil and Water Conservation
- 15:00 – 15:20**    **Tea break**
- 15:20 – 16:50**    **Overview on Soil / Water Conservation in China**  
Regional Effects of Grain for Green Program (Re-vegetation)  
Video 2-- Soil and Water conservation (John Liu)



**The first session**

# **Overview of Global Soil and Water Conservation**

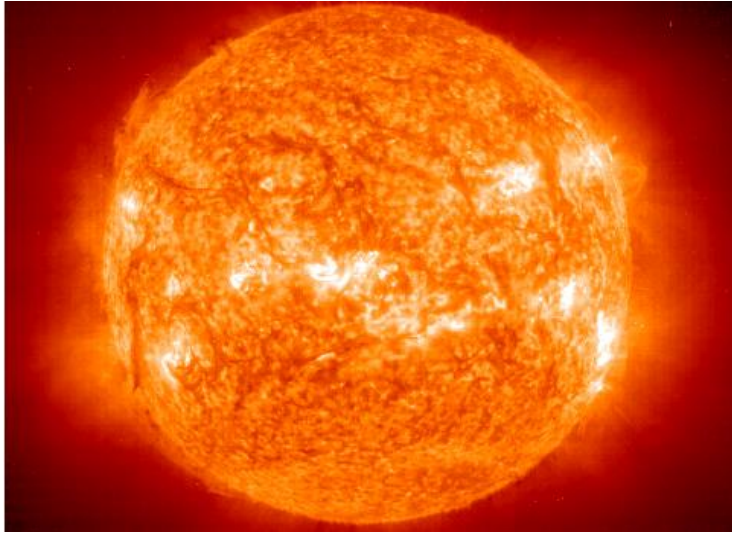


**LI RUI**

**Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (CAS&MWR)  
Northwest Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry**



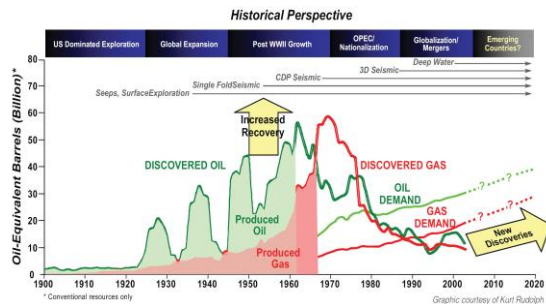
# Unstable Earth



**Climate change**



**Population explosion**



**Energy crisis**



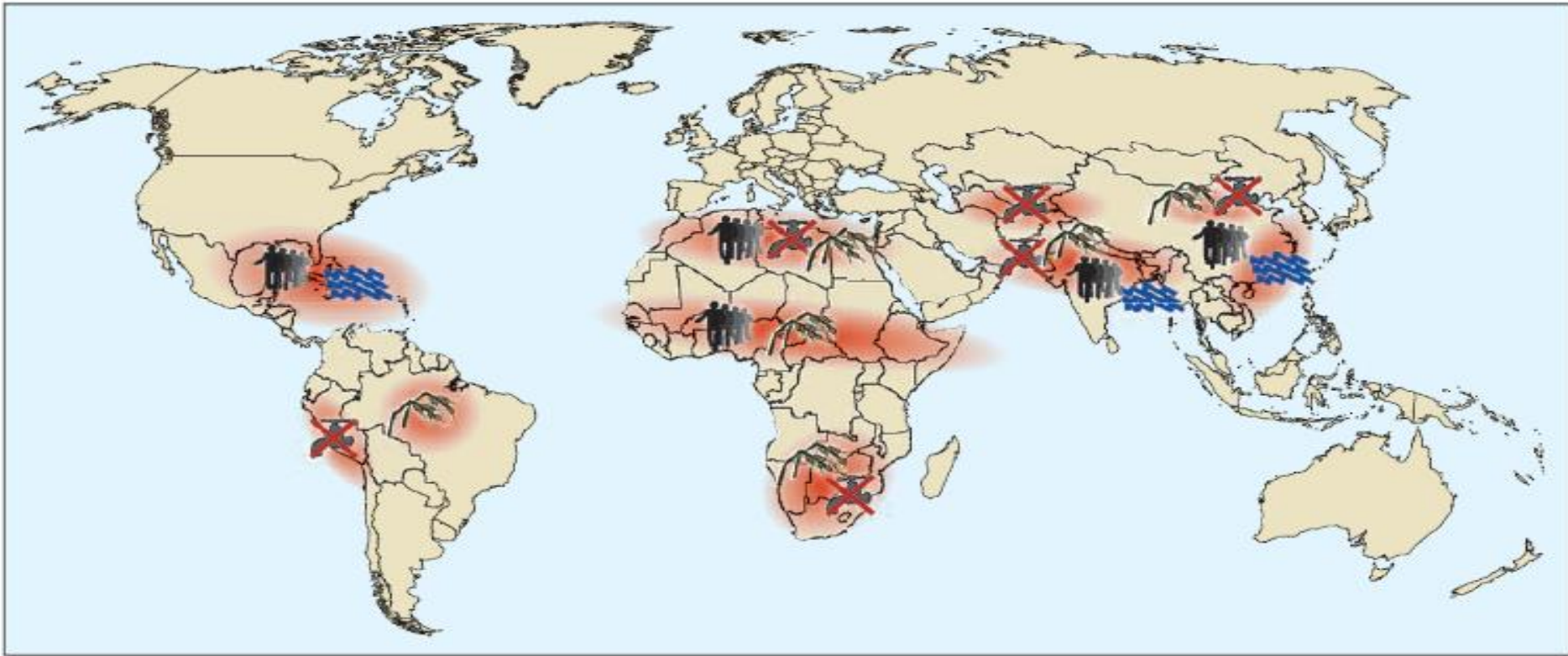
**Natural disaster**



**Economic crisis**

# Some Areas Suffering Climate changing

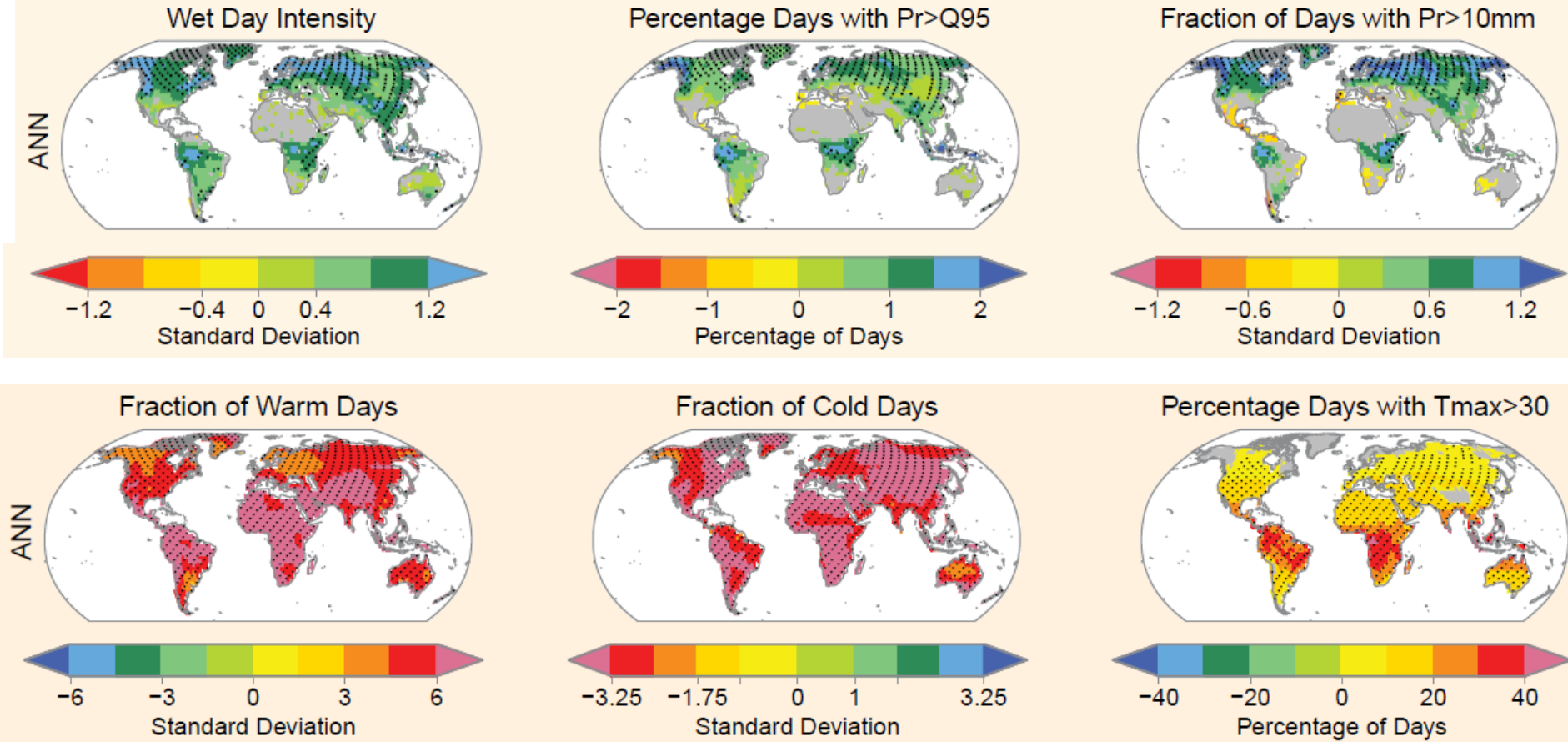
Source: German Scientific Committee on Global Environment Issues, 2007



Conflict constellations in selected hotspots



# Extreme climate events have also changed significantly

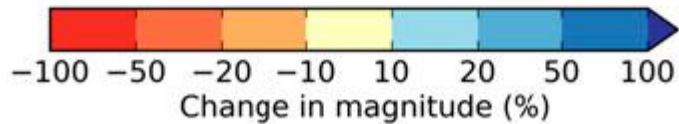
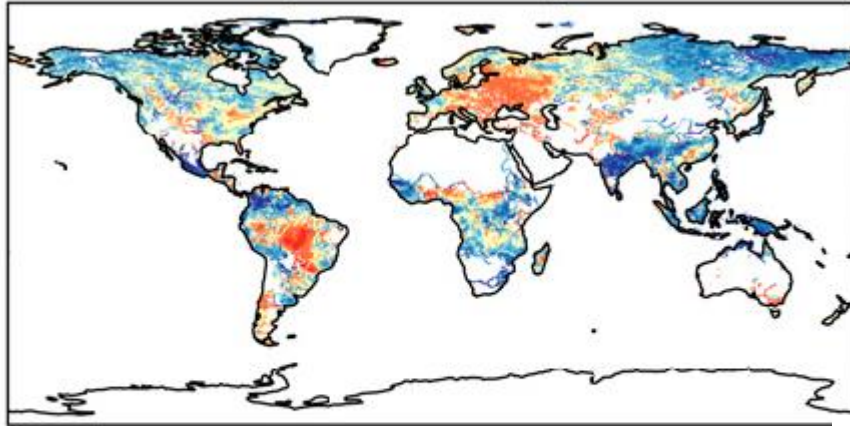


**Projected annual changes for 2081-2100 with respect to 1980-1999, based on 14 GCMs contributing to the CMIP3.**



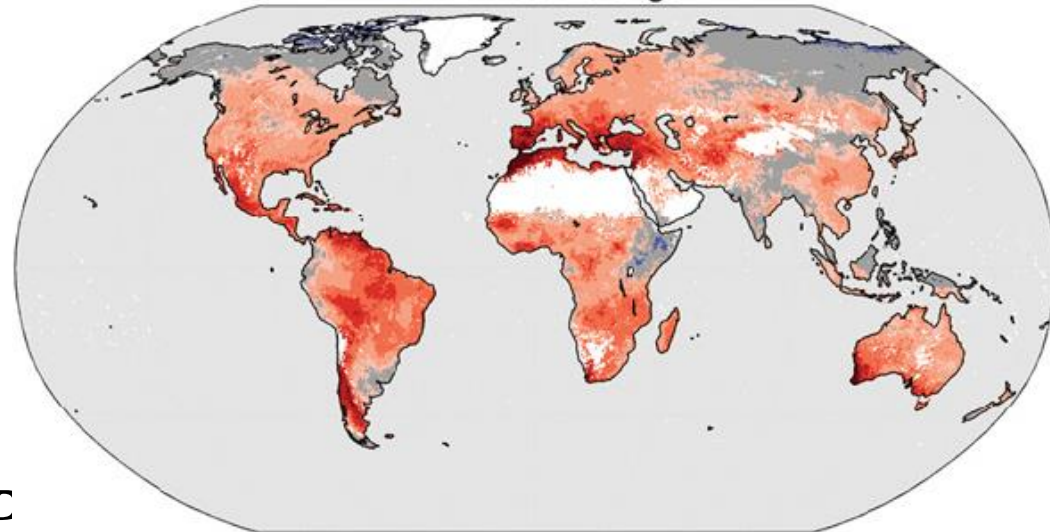
# Hydrological extreme events enhanced

Q30 mean change



**Flood (Dankers et al.  
PNAS 2013)**

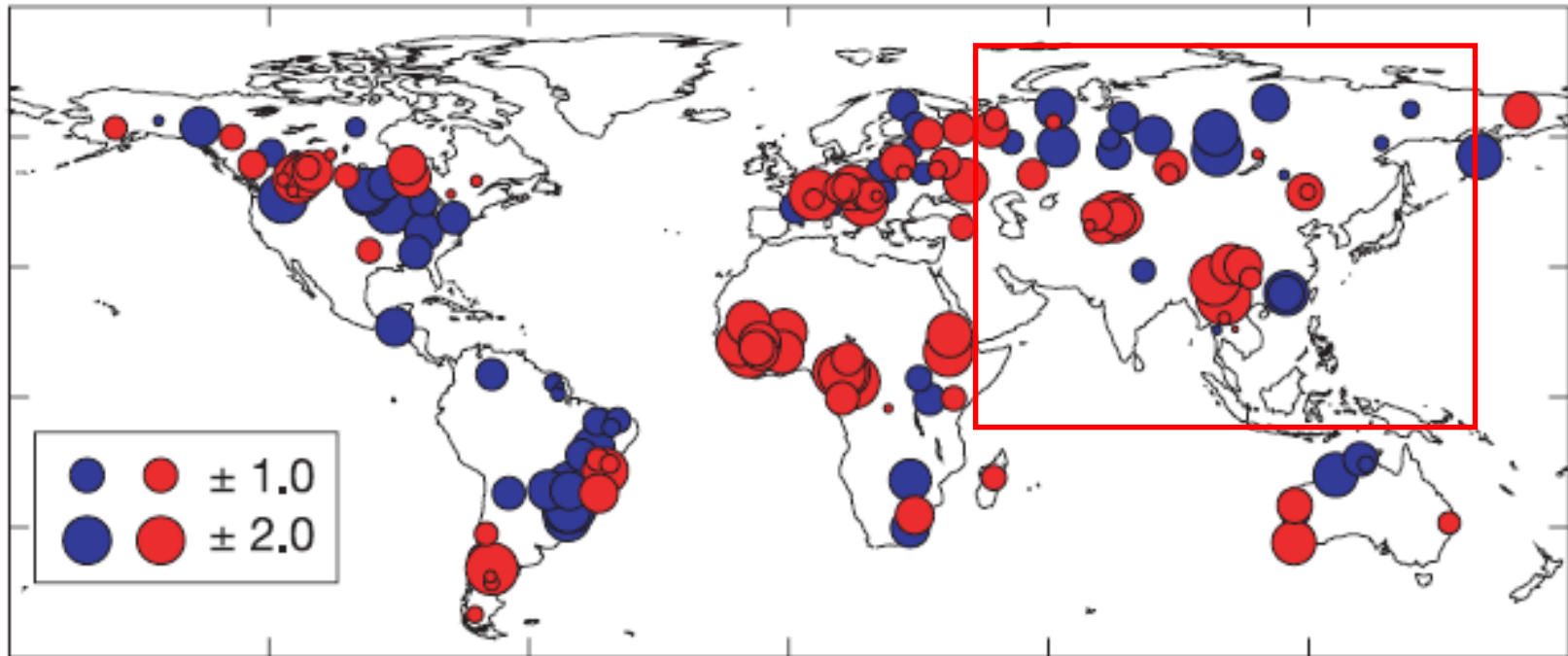
YEAR Mean change



**Drought  
(Prudhomme et al. F**



# Current runoff changes over the world



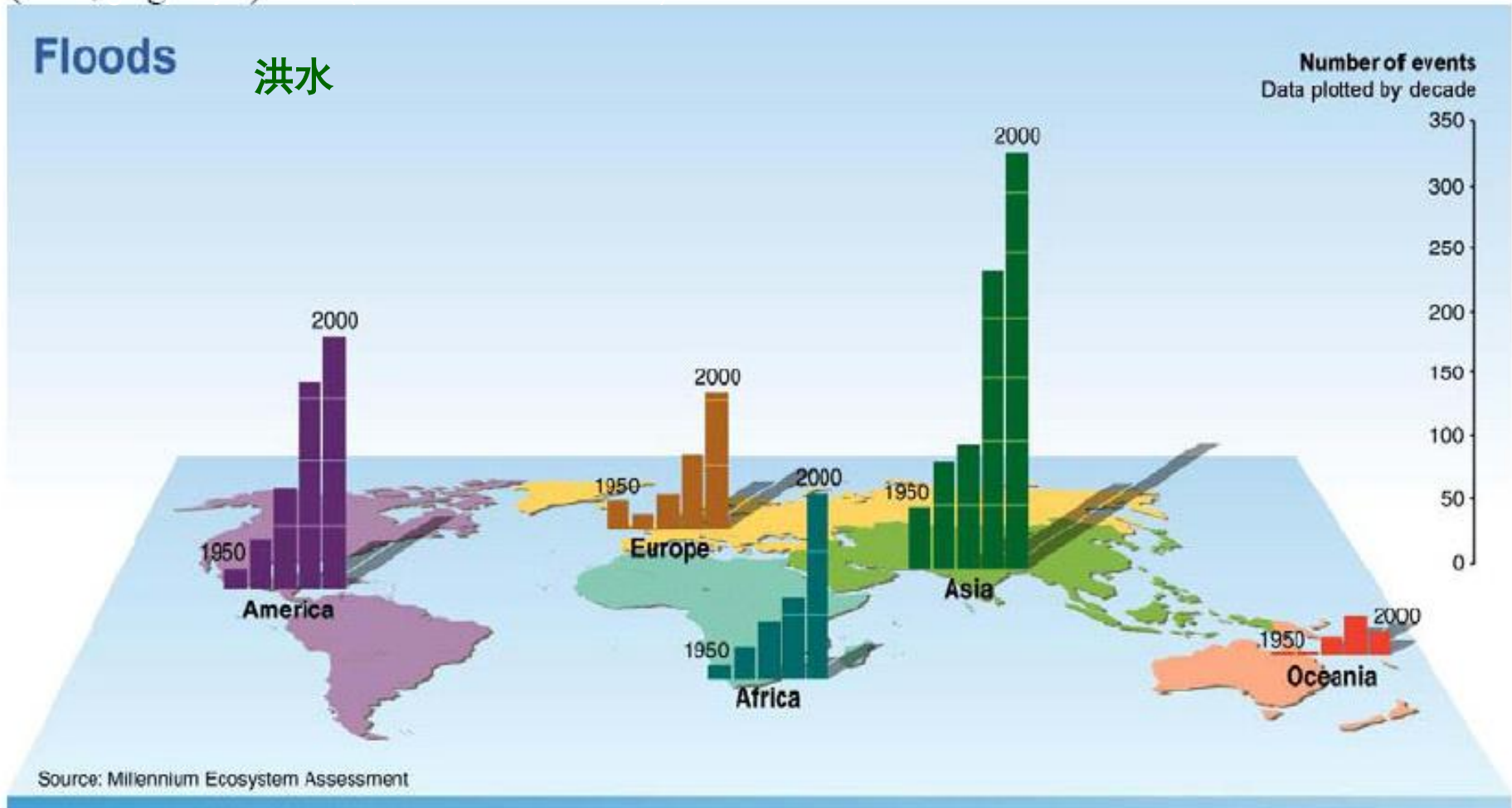
Global distributions of trend ( $Z$ ) in streamflow from 1900–70 to 1971–98

The current changes in runoff has great spatial variations

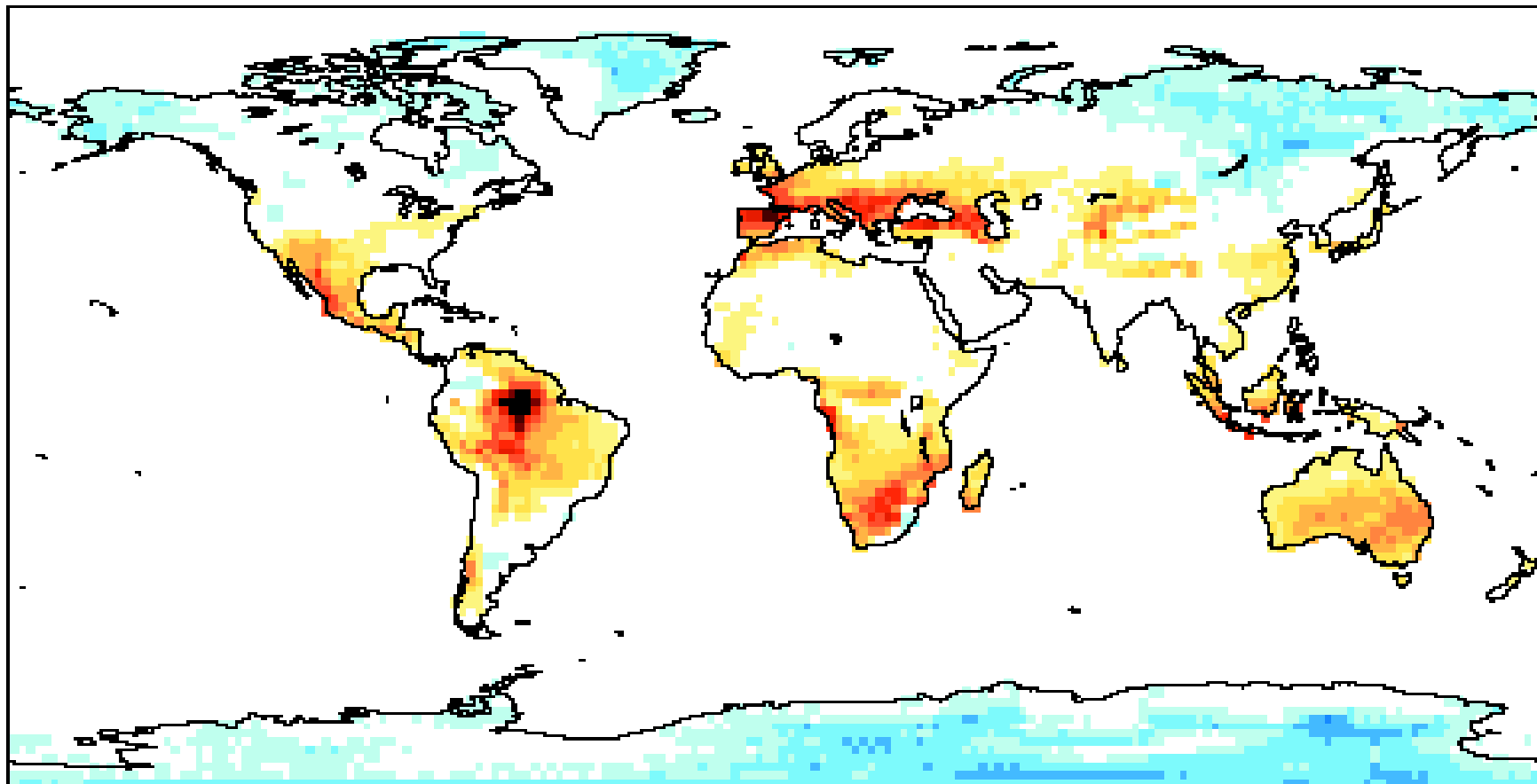
Milly, et al. 2005. Nature

# Flood Events in the World

Appendix Figure A.7. Number of Flood Events by Continent and Decade Since 1950 (C16, Fig 16.6)



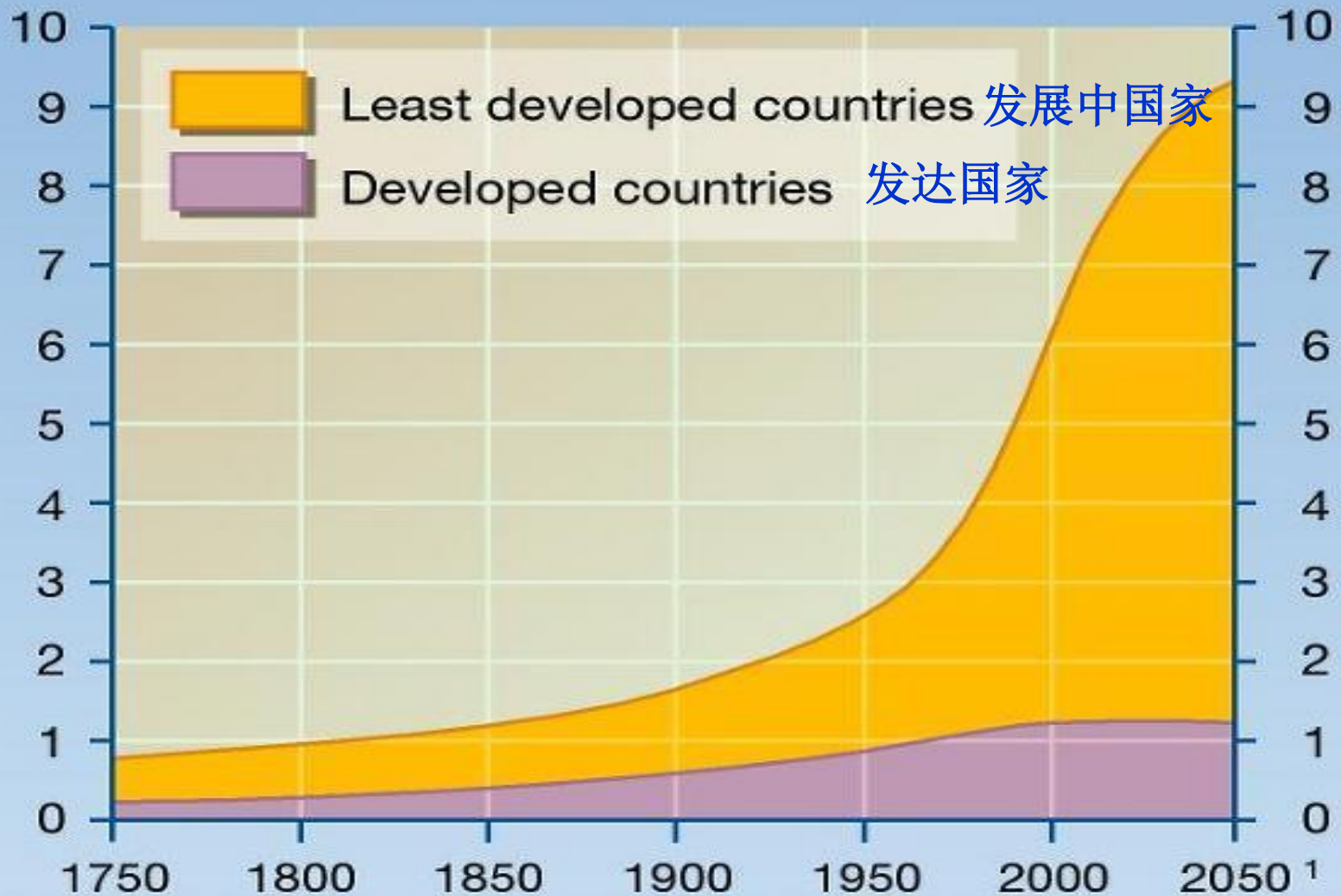
# Trend of Drought in the world



*Percentage change in average duration of longest dry period, 30-year average for 2071-2100 compared to that for 1961-1990.*

# Population increasing

Billion human beings 10亿





# World Food need in 2050



Food  
Need

+70%

Global

+100%

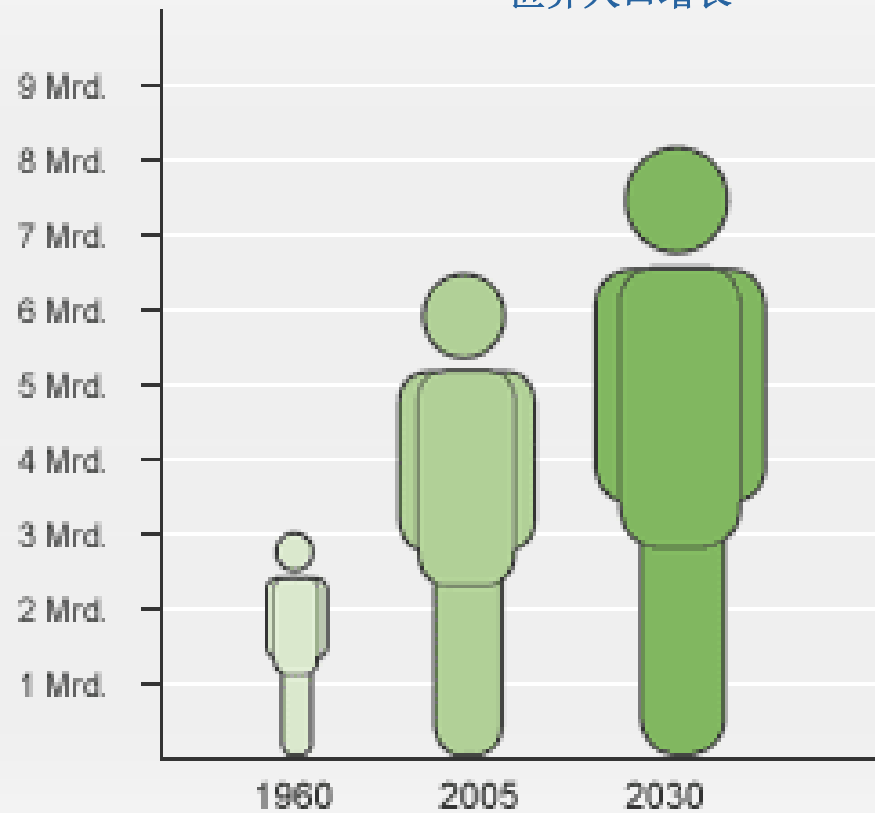
Developing  
countries

# Global agriculture – a success story despite of shrinking land resources

## 全球农业 — 还是一个成功的事实， 尽管土地资源相对严重缩减

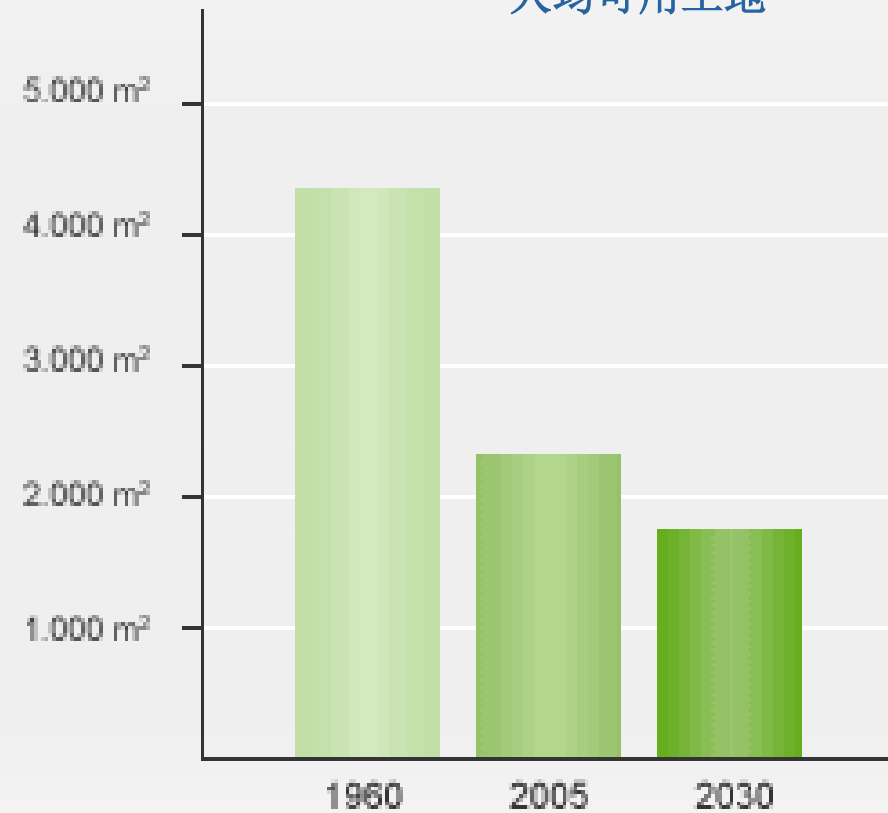
World population growth

世界人口增长

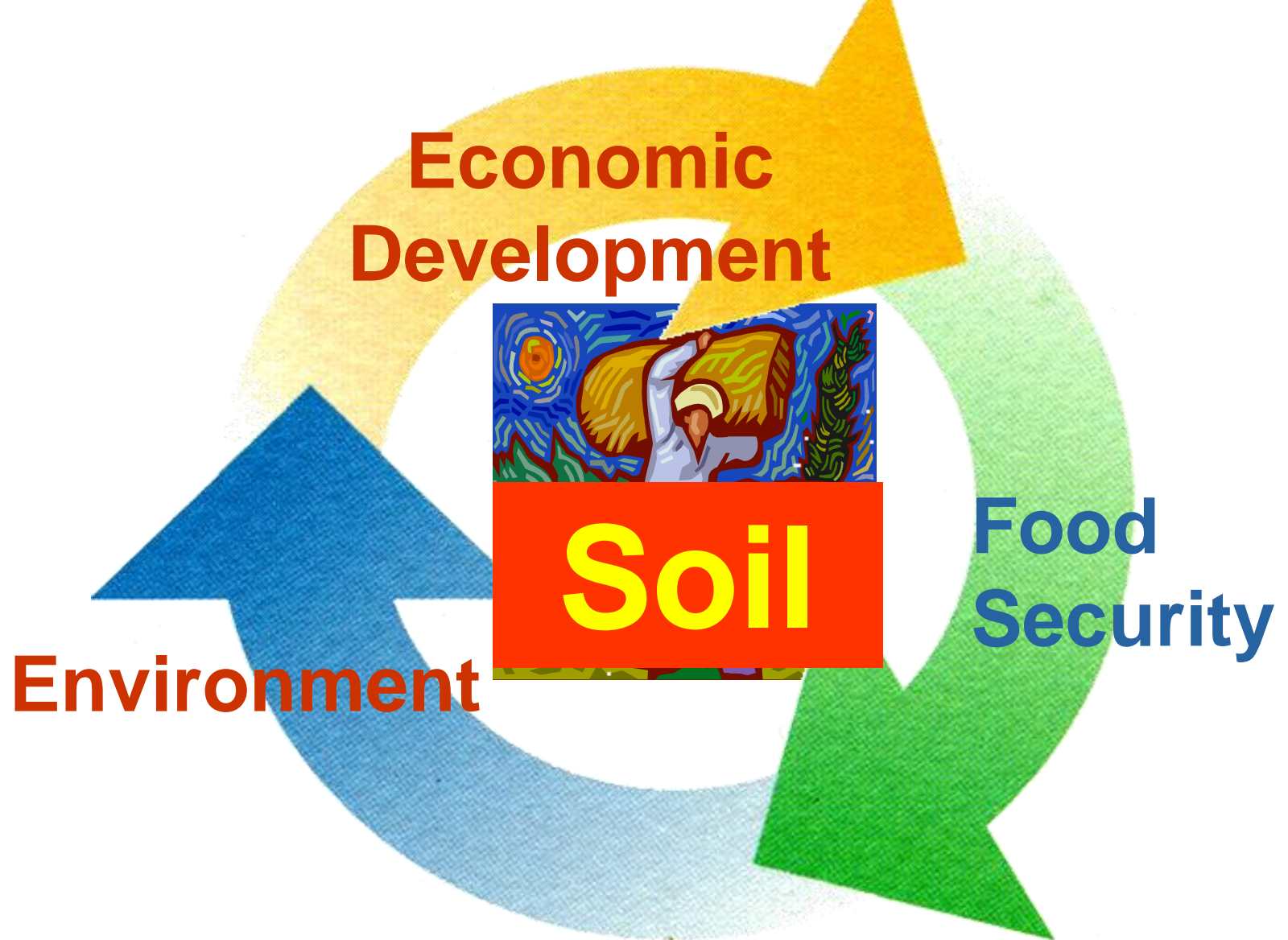


Arable land per capita

人均可用土地



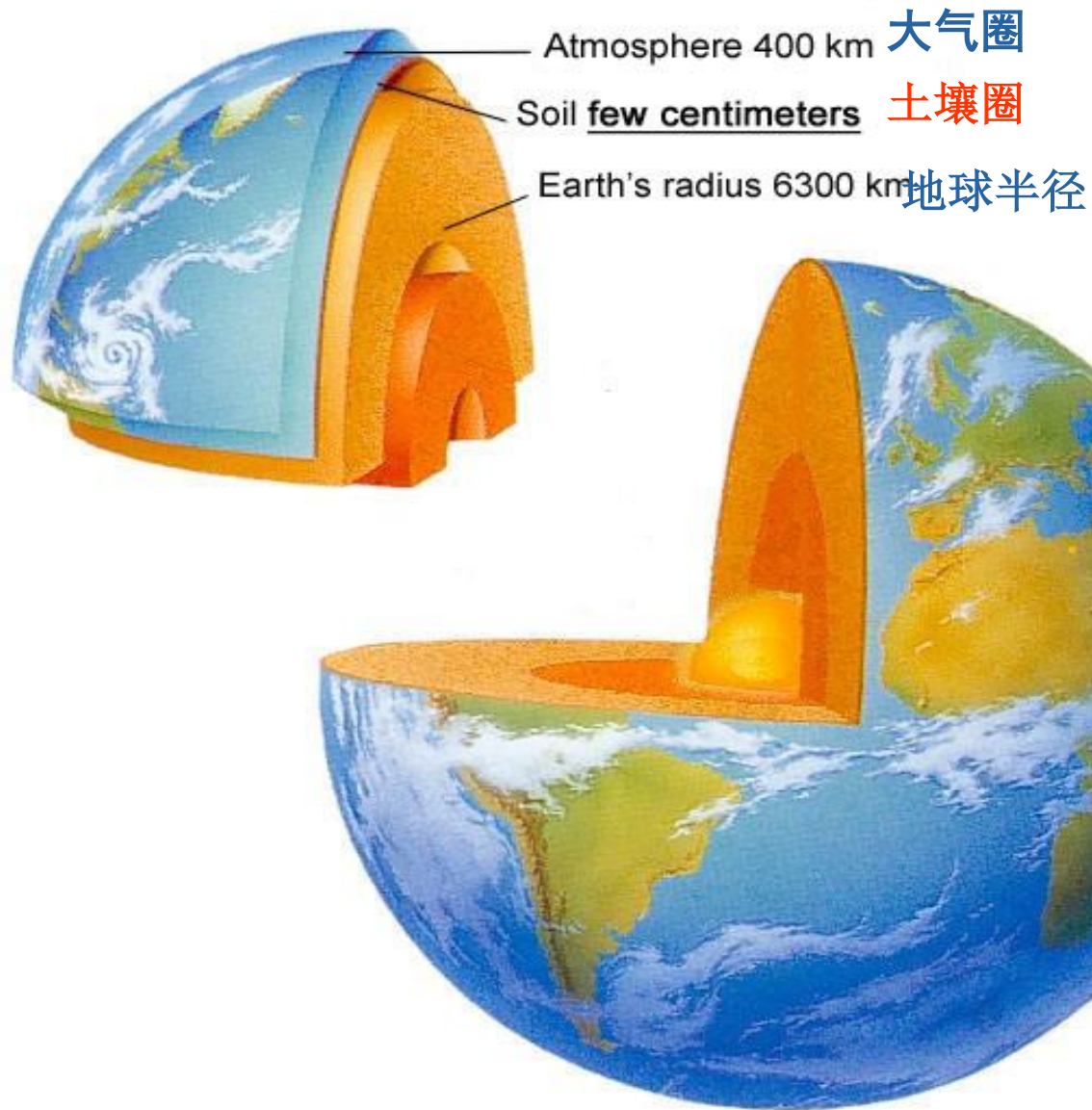




«Human beings can survive if the loss of OIL reserves, but cannot survive if the loss of SOIL resources»

人类失去油储备尚可生存，如果失去了土壤资源将无以生存。

Lester Brown, Earth Institute, April 2011



# The wounding Earth's fragile skin

(Kaiser,2004)



# Global Current Land Degradation of Different Types

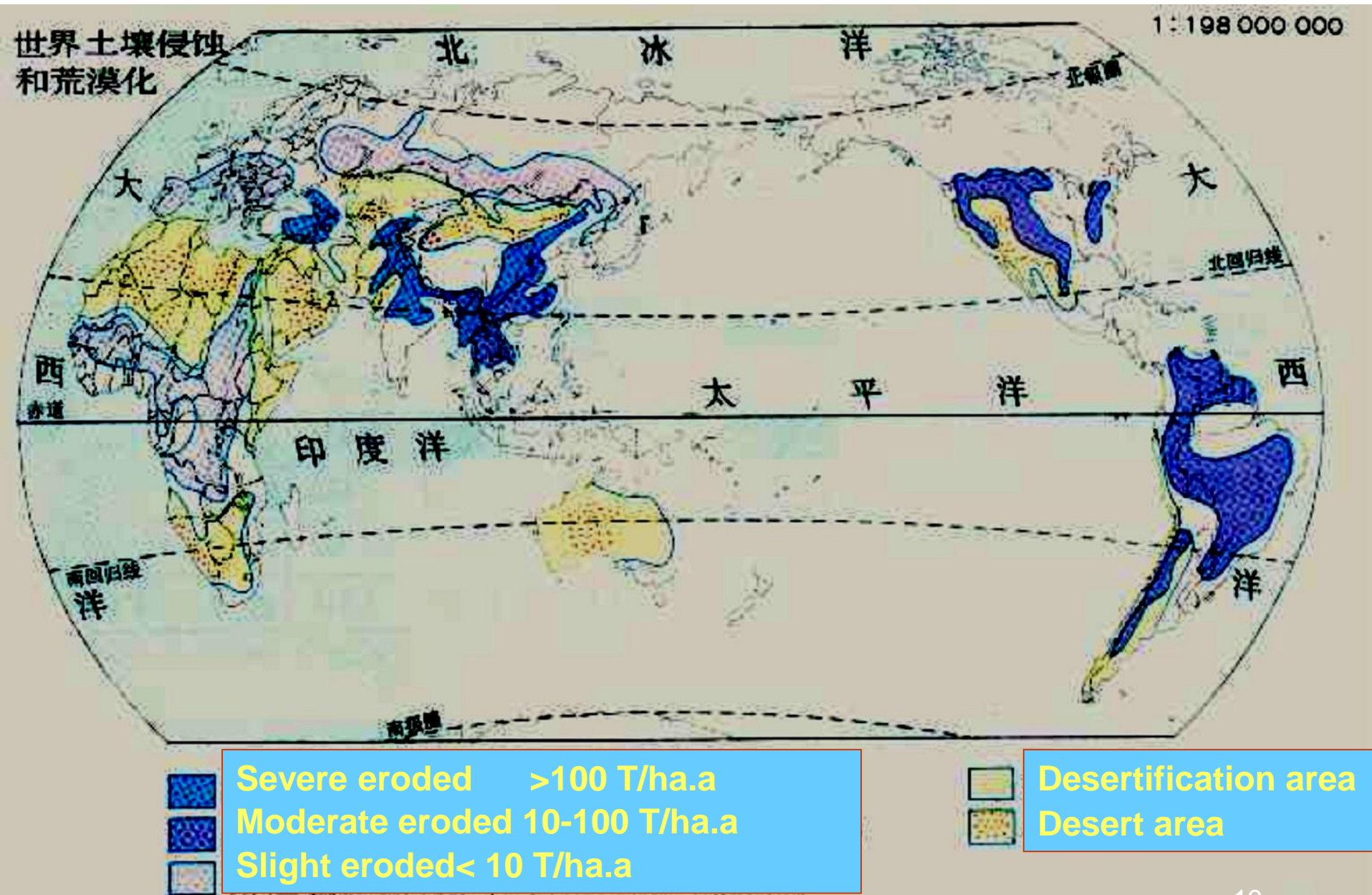
	Light	Moderate	Strong + extreme	Total
Water	343	527	224	1094
Wind	269	254	26	549
Chemical degradation	93	103	43	239
Loss of nutrients	52	63	20	135
Salinization	35	20	21	76
Pollution	4	17	1	22
Acidification	2	3	1	6
Physical degradation	44	27	12	83
Total	749	911	305	1965

# Global Current Soil Degradation in Different Land Use

	Agricultural land			Permanent pasture			Forest and woodland		
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Degraded	%	Total <sup>1</sup>	Degraded	%	Total <sup>1</sup>	Degraded	%
Africa	187	121	65	793	243	31	683	130	19
Asia	536	206	38	978	197	20	1273	344	27
S. America	142	64	45	478	68	14	896	112	13
C. America	38	28	74	94	10	11	66	25	38
N. America	236	63	26	274	29	11	621	4	1
Europe	287	72	25	156	54	35	353	92	26
Oceania	49	8	16	439	84	19	156	12	8
WORLD	1475	562	38	3212	685	21	4048	719	18

<sup>1</sup> Source: FAO, 1990

# The Map of Soil Erosion and Desertification



# Global Current Soil Erosion Area ( $10^4 \text{ km}^2$ )

type Class	L	M	H	VH	Total
Water Erosion	343.0	526.8	217.2	6.6	1093.6
Wind Erosion	268.6	253.5	24.3	1.9	548.3
Total	611.6	780.3	241.5	8.5	1641.9



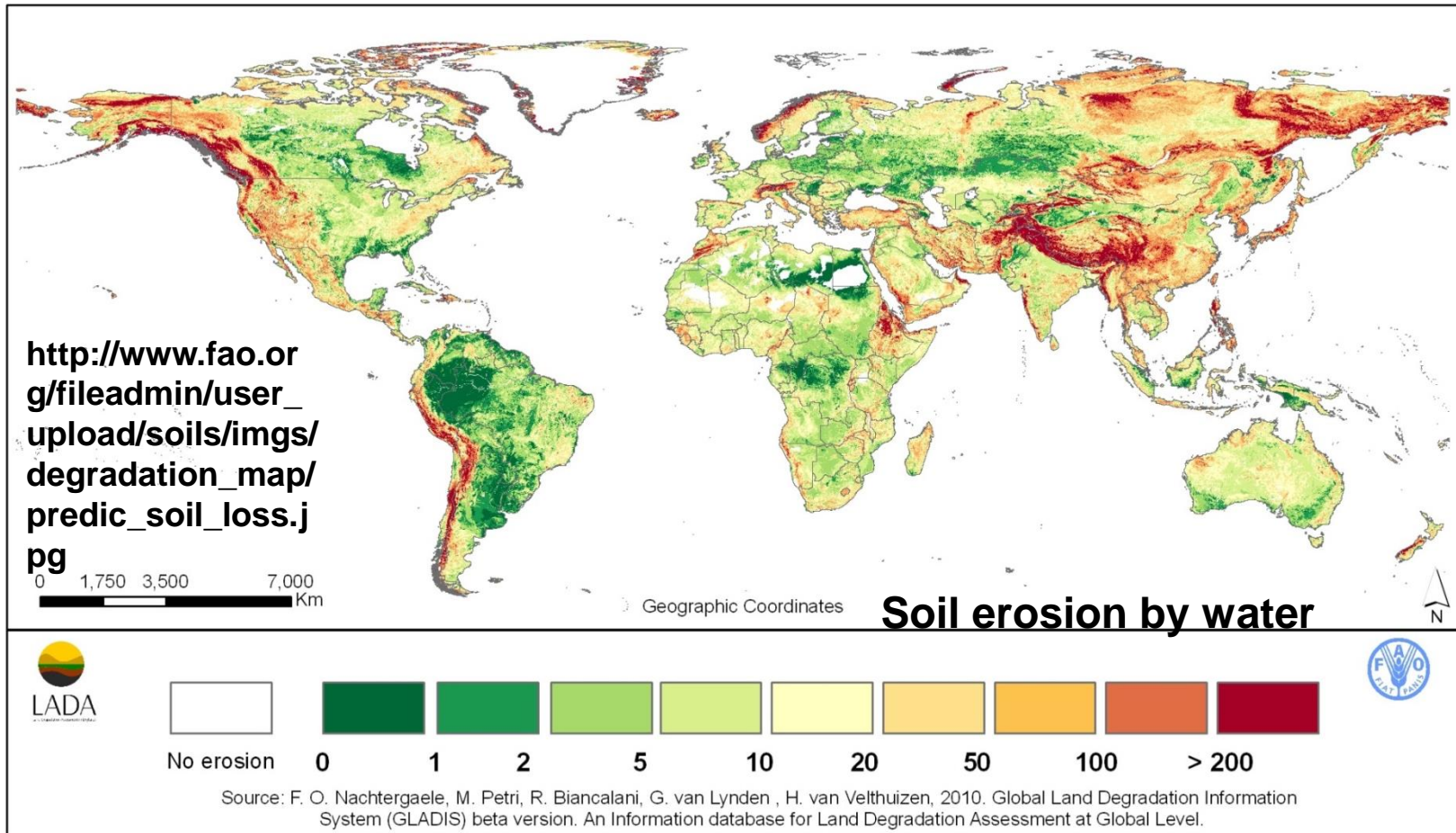
# Global Current Soil Erosion

	Light	Moderate	Strong + Extreme	Total	Percentage of degraded soils	Dryland zone <sup>1</sup>	Humid zone <sup>1</sup>
Africa	58	67	102	227	46 %	122	105
Asia	124	242	73	441	59 %	165	276
S. America	46	65	12	123	51 %	35	88
C. America	1	22	23	46	74 %	38	68 <sup>2</sup>
N. America	14	46	-	60	63 %		
Europe	21	81	12	114	52 %	48	66
Oceania	79	3	+	83	81 %	70	13
WORLD	343	526	223	1094	56 %	478	615

<sup>1</sup> Dryland zone is defined as the climatic region with an annual precipitation/evapotranspiration ration of 0.65 or less (UNEP, 1992a). The humid zone has a ratio of more than 0.65.

<sup>2</sup> North + Central America

# Soil erosion by water



Many result in severe landscape deterioration by gullies and ravines or the silting up of dams downhill. It is the overall effect of **accelerated erosion that is largely negative** as most of the displaced soil and nutrients end up in rivers or dams and finally are largely lost in the sea.

# Global Current Soil Erosion by Water

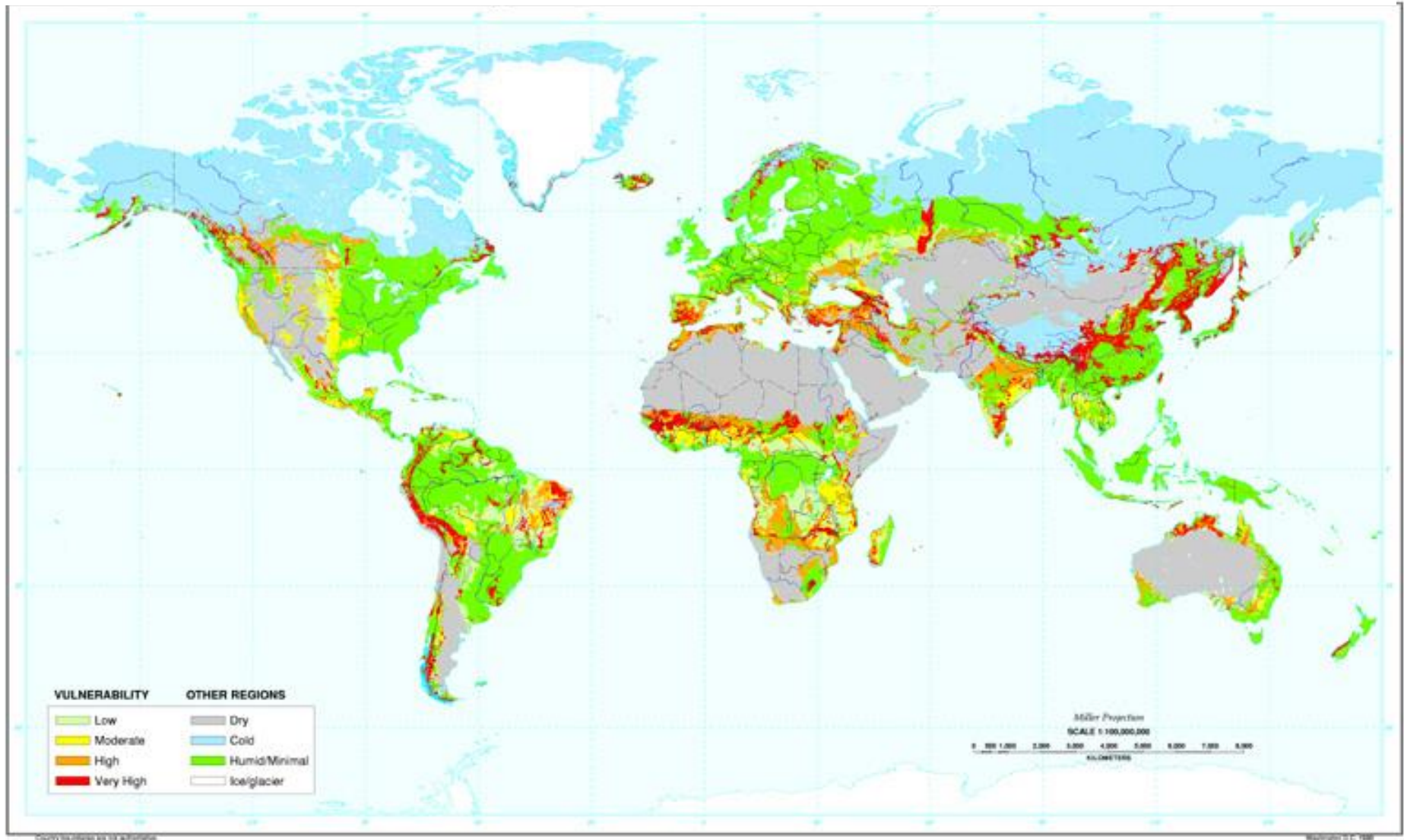
Table 1. Global and continental extent of Water Erosion in M ha

	Light	Moderate	Strong + Extreme	Total	Percentage of degraded soils	Dryland zone <sup>1</sup>	Humid zone <sup>1</sup>
Africa	58	67	102	227	46 %	122	105
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<sup>2</sup> North + Central America

# The Map of Wind Erosion in world





# Global Current Soil Erosion by Wind

Table 2. Global and continental extent of Wind Erosion in M ha

	Light	Moderate	Strong	Total	Percentage of degraded soils	Dryland zone <sup>1</sup>	Humid zone <sup>1</sup>
Africa	88	89	9	186	38	186	1
Asia	132	75	15	222	30	206	16
S. America	26	16	-	42	17	28	14
C. America	+	4	1	5	7	38 <sup>2</sup>	1 <sup>2</sup>
N. America	3	31	1	35	36		
Europe	3	38	1	42	19	39	3
Oceania	16	-	+	16	16	16	+
WORLD	269	254	26	548	28	513	36

<sup>1</sup> Dryland zone is defined as the climatic region with an annual precipitation/evapotranspiration ration of 0.65 or less (UNEP, 1992a). The humid zone has a ratio of more than 0.65.

<sup>2</sup> North + Central America

# BACKGROUND

**Land degradation and desertification threatens over 1 billion people in more than 110 countries around the world**

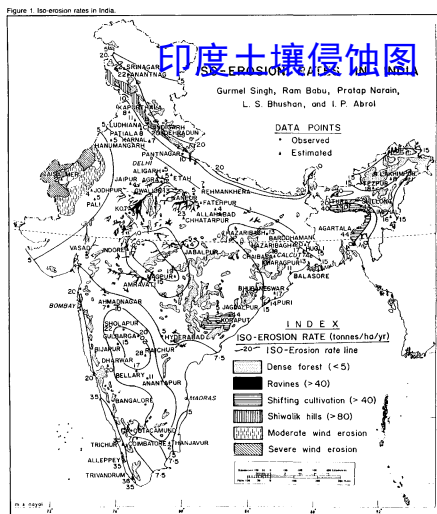
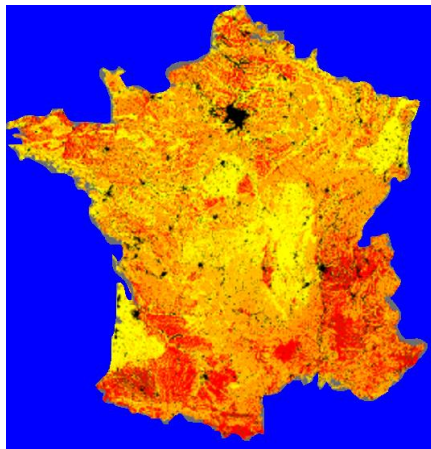
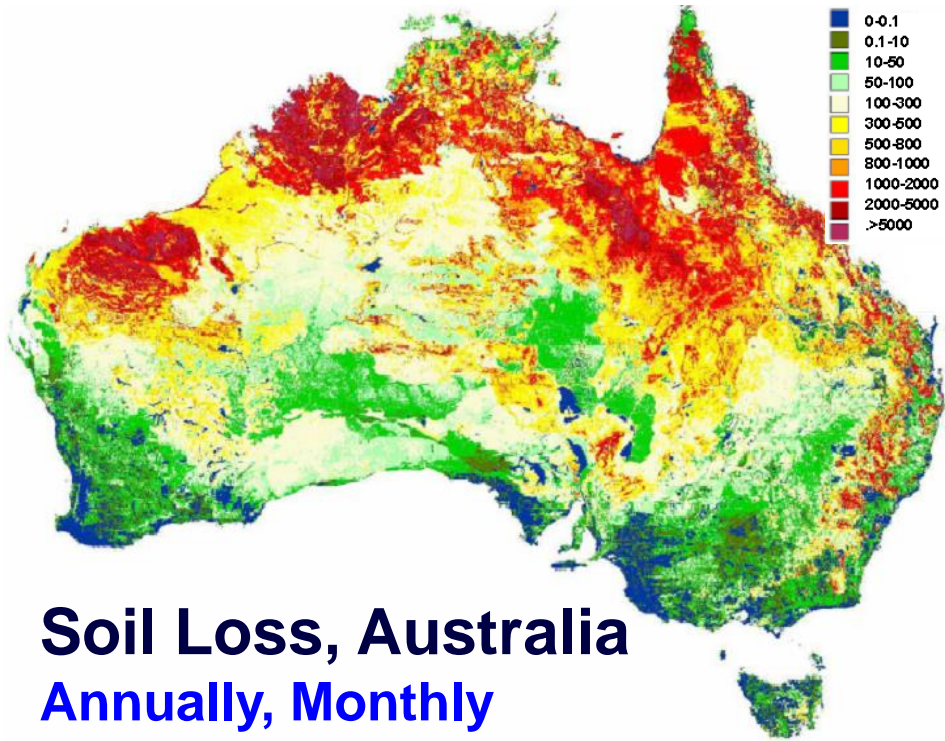
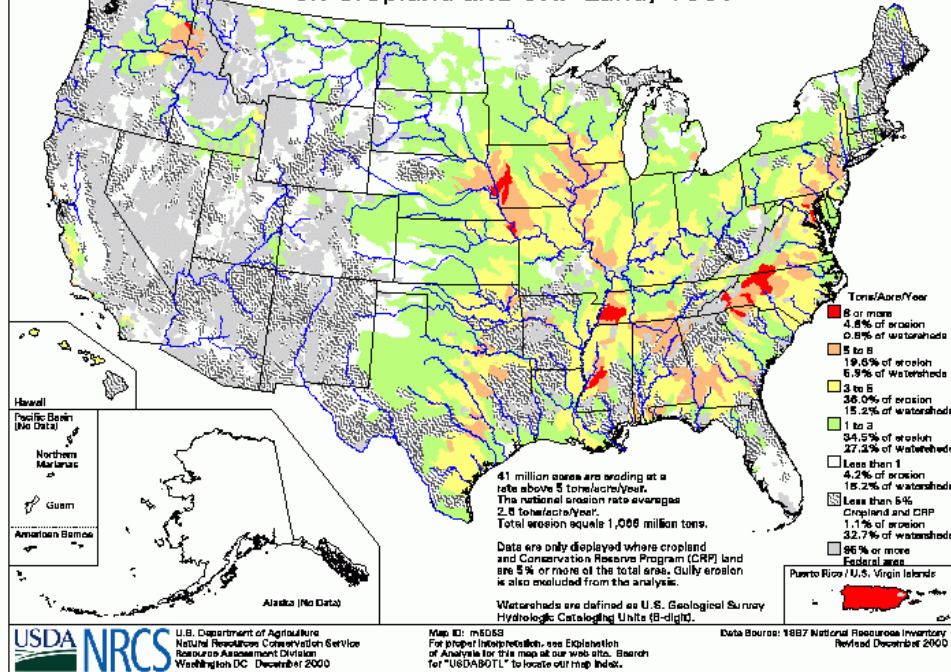
**土地退化和荒漠化威胁到110个国家10亿人口  
(The Global Mechanism, UNCCD)**

***Desertification makes 12 million hectares of land useless for cultivation every year***

**每年因荒漠化有1200万公顷耕地不能再耕种。  
(Atlas of Population and Environment)**



## Average Annual Soil Erosion by Water on Cropland and CRP Land, 1997









# Severe erosion area in USA





# Severe erosion area in USA





# Dust and sand storm

## --Gansu province, China



# Severe erosion area in Europe





# Introduction – Soils need protection

or contaminated by  
diffuse and local  
pollution



or, lost by water and  
wind erosion





# Introduction – Soils need protection



- Soils form slowly, on average in the range of a few mm/cm per 100 years under the combined effects of climate, parent material, flora, fauna and fire, but
- Soils degrade quickly, e.g. a single rainstorm can erode several cm ( $\approx$  centuries!) of soil, or an instantaneous pollution event can make the entire soil unusable



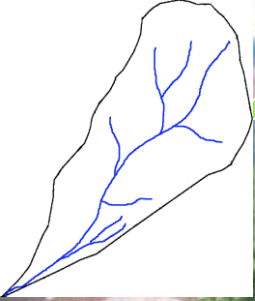


**Soil erosion in the  
Južna Morava river  
watershed**

**Gully erosion on the  
arable land in the  
Južna Morava river  
watershed**







Midstream



# Landslide in Uttaradit Province



**27,154 ha Agriculture Area Damaged**



# How does it work? 恶性循环

High water and soil losses



Increasing demand for food, fiber, fodder by growing human and livestock populations



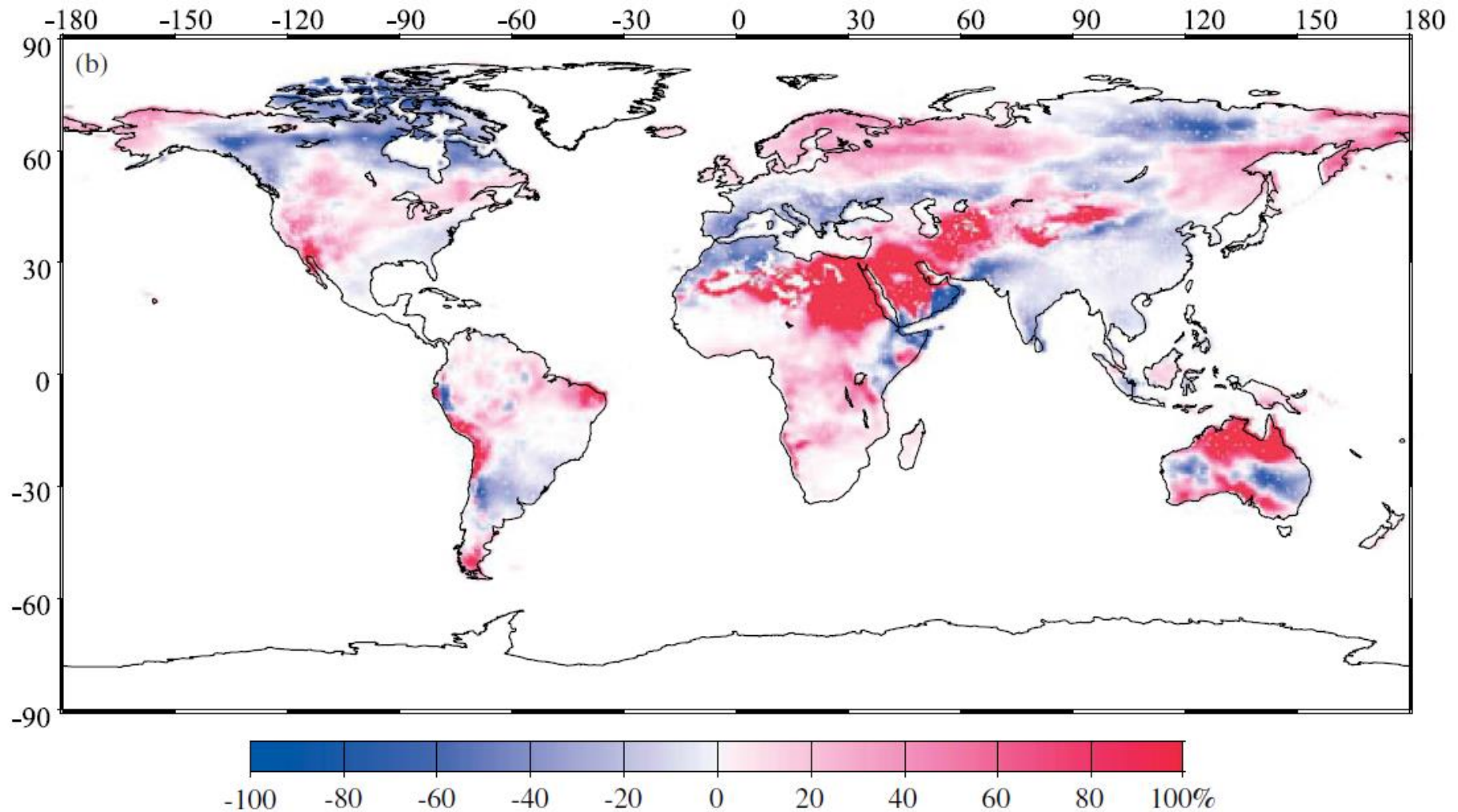
Land degradation



Decrease of plant cover

Over-exploitation of natural resources for cultivation, grazing, fuel wood and timber

## Projection of soil erosion change in the 2090s due to global warming



# Potential soil erosion

Region	1900s	1910s	1920s	1930s	1940s	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	2090s
Whole world	8.7	8.9	8.9	9.3	9.3	9.7	9.9	10.1	10.2	11.6
Continents										
Africa	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.8	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.4	6.0
Asia	10.4	10.8	10.8	11.2	11.3	11.8	12.0	12.0	12.2	14.4
Australia	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	3.1	3.0	4.1
Europe	10.7	11.4	11.2	11.6	10.7	11.5	11.6	11.6	11.1	8.9
N. America	6.8	6.8	6.9	7.5	7.9	8.3	8.8	8.9	9.3	10.0
S. America	6.1	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.0	7.0	7.2	8.2	8.5	10.3
Selected countries										
China	14.9	15.6	14.9	15.1	15.0	15.0	15.0	14.9	14.7	14.2
India	14.3	15.1	15.3	16.2	16.6	17.1	16.6	16.8	16.8	15.5
Thailand	5.5	5.8	6.5	7.8	9.0	10.4	12.2	13.4	14.1	17.3
Selected basins										
Huanghe	7.7	7.8	7.2	7.8	7.6	7.7	8.2	7.4	7.5	6.2
Yangtze	29.1	31.0	28.8	29.5	29.3	30.0	29.9	29.5	29.1	26.5
Mekong	7.3	7.1	7.7	7.8	8.9	8.6	9.5	9.0	9.6	13.0
Ganges	38.3	40.7	40.0	40.8	40.9	39.7	40.1	41.0	42.2	40.7
Indus	20.6	19.8	20.9	19.5	19.6	22.3	21.1	21.0	21.5	20.4

Unit: ton ha<sup>-1</sup> year<sup>-1</sup>

Yang, 2013. Hydrological Processes



## Change in soil erosion for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Regions	Total change %	By land use %	By climate %
Whole world	13.9	5.3	9.0
Africa	36.2	18.8	15.7
Asia	11.9	3.6	8.2
Australia	51.1	8.0	42.4
Europe	-4.9	-7.7	3.9
North America	-6.9	-4.5	-2.2
South America	12.2	7.8	6.3

# How to do with the severe soil erosion?

- ❖Vegetation practices: **Planting tree, shrub and grass**
- ❖Engineering practices: **Terraced fields, Check dams, ditch, fish scales and others**
- ❖Tillage practices: **Contour farming, No-till, stubble mulch and others**
- ❖Soil improving practices: **Using Chemical, physical and biological methods.**

# What is WOCCAT?



**W**ORLD

**O**VERVIEW OF

**C**ONSERVATION

**A**PPROACHES AND

**T**ECHNOLOGIES

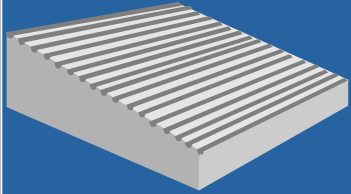


# Case Study Sites of SWC in the world

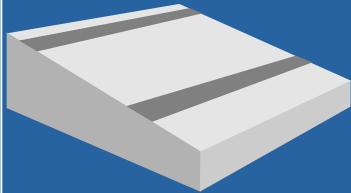
where the land is greener



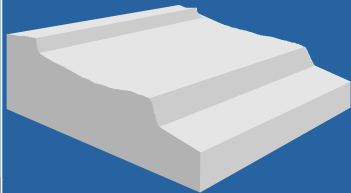
# Potentials for prevention and restoration 全球防治水土流失措施



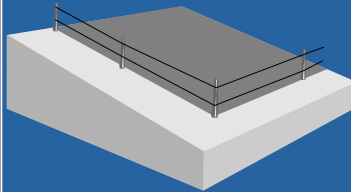
**农耕** Agronomic measures such as mixed cropping, contour cultivation, mulching, etc.



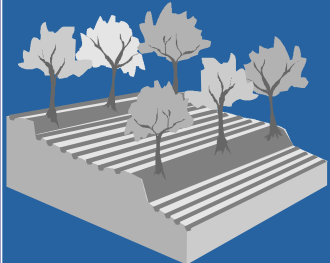
**植被** Vegetative measures such as grass strips, hedge barriers, windbreaks, etc.



**工程** Structural measures such as terraces, banks, bunds, constructions, palisades, etc



**管理** -Management measures such as land use change, area closure, rotational grazing, etc.

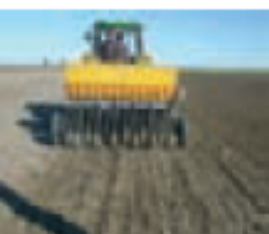


**综合** Combinations in conditions where they are complementary and thus enhancing each other.

In WOCAT prevention and restoration measures are categorized in agronomic, vegetative, structural, management, and combined options

# Case study Sites of measures

## Conservation agriculture



Morocco

### No-till technology

A no-till system with crop residue management for medium-scale wheat and barley farming.

→ p 69



UK

### Conservation agriculture

Improved soil management based on non-inversion tillage for cost-effective and timely crop establishment.

→ p 77



Kenya

### Small-scale conservation tillage

Ripping of soil using oxen-drawn implements, to improve water storage capacity and cropland productivity on small-scale farms.

→ p 85



Australia

### No-till with controlled traffic

Large-scale no-till grain production with permanent wheel tracks common to all on-farm equipment.

→ p 93



Australia

### Green cane trash blanket

Elimination of burning as a pre-harvest treatment of sugar cane, and managing the resultant trash as a protective blanket to give multiple on and off-site benefits.

→ p 97

### Applied research and knowledge transfer

Innovative, cross-disciplinary community-based approach for development and transfer of no-till technology at the farm level.

→ p 73

### Soil management initiative

An independent organisation that promotes the adoption of appropriate soil management practices, especially conservation agriculture, within England.

→ p 81

### Self-help groups

Small-scale farmers forming self-help groups to provide mutual support for adopting and promoting conservation agriculture.

→ p 89

no approach described

### The 'triple bottom line'

A new expression used by agriculturalists in Australia to explain why farmers change practices: the 'triple bottom line' implies economic, environmental and social concerns.

45 → p 101



# Case study Sites of measures

## Terraces

## Terraces (continued)



Syria



Peru



South Africa



Kenya



Thailand



Nepal

### Traditional irrigated rice terraces

Level bench terraces with risers protected by fodder grasses, used for irrigated production of rice, potatoes and wheat.

no approach described

→ p 297



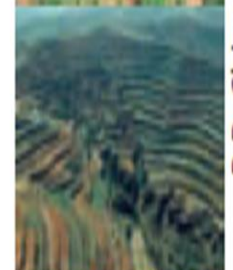
P. R. China

### Orchard terraces with bahia grass cover

Rehabilitation of degraded hillsides through the establishment of fruit trees on slope-separated orchard terraces, with bahia grass planted as protective groundcover.

no approach described

→ p 281



P. R. China

### Zhuanglang loess terraces

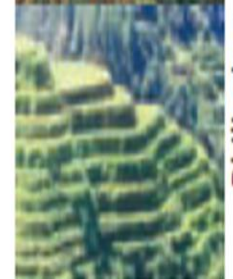
Level bench terraces on the Loess Plateau, converting erodible, sloping land into a series of steps suitable for cultivation.

### Terrace approach

Highly organised campaign to assist land users in creating terraces: support and planning from national down to local level.

→ p 285

→ p 289



Philippines

### Rainfed paddy rice terraces

Terraces supporting rainfed paddy rice on steep mountain slopes: these have been in existence for more than a thousand years.

no approach described

→ p 293

ems  
roach.

→ p 257

ng –

→ p 265

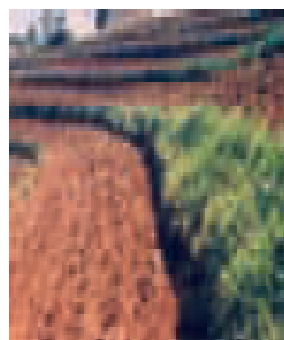
manage-

inised

→ p 273

# Case study Sites of measures

## Vegetative strips/ cover

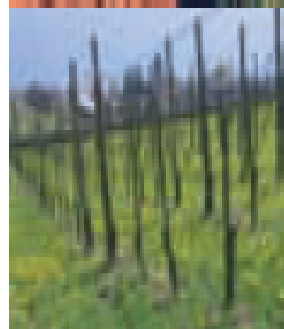


Philippines

### Natural vegetative strips

Within individual cropland plots, strips of land marked out on the contour and left unploughed in order to form permanent, cross- slope barriers of naturally established grasses and herbs.

→ p 129

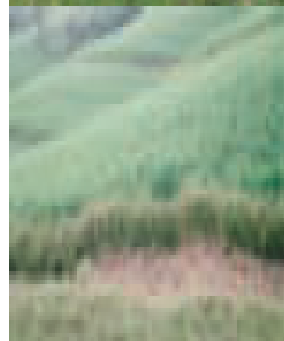


Switzerland

### Green cover in vineyards

Naturally growing or sown perennial grasses/herbs providing cover between rows in sloping vineyards, where the vines are usually oriented up and down slope.

→ p 137



South Africa

### Vetiver grass lines

Contour lines of vetiver grass planted within fields of sugar cane, on stream banks and roadsides, to act as 'hedges against erosion'.

→ p 145

### Landcare

Associations that help diffuse, at low cost, soil and water conservation technologies among upland farmers to generate income while conserving natural resources.

→ p 133

### Farmer initiative within enabling environment

Initiative and innovation of land users, stimulated by government's technical and financial support.

→ p 141

### Self-teaching

Learning how to use vetiver grass as a vegetative conservation barrier through instructions from a booklet and hands-on, practical experience.

→ p 149

# Case study Sites of measures

## Agroforestry

	P.R. China	<b>Shelterbelts for farmland in sandy areas</b> Belts of trees, planted in a rectangular grid pattern within areas of farmland, to act as windbreaks.  → p 153	no approach described
	Kenya	<b>Grevillea agroforestry system</b> Multipurpose <i>Grevillea robusta</i> trees planted along farm boundaries, on terrace risers and occasionally scattered in cropland.  → p 157	<b>Spontaneous spread</b> Spontaneous land users' initiative to meet household needs – especially firewood and timber – through planting <i>Grevillea robusta</i> trees as part of an agroforestry system.  → p 161
	Kyrgyzstan	<b>Poplar trees for bio-drainage</b> Poplars planted to lower the ground water table and reduce salinity where irrigation drainage systems have broken down; lucerne cultivated between the tree lines.  → p 165	no approach described
	Philippines	<b>Multi-storey cropping</b> Cultivating a mixture of crops with different heights (multi-storey) and growth characteristics which together optimise the use of soil, moisture and space.  → p 169	no approach described
	Colombia	<b>Intensive agroforestry system</b> A protective and productive high-input agroforestry system comprising multi-purpose ditches with bunds, grass barriers, contour ridges, annual crops and fruit trees.  → p 173	<b>Integrated rural community development</b> Development of an impoverished indigenous reserve – incorporating alternative land use systems – through intensive training provided by a small NGO.  → p 177
	Costa Rica	<b>Shade-grown coffee</b> An agroforestry system which combines coffee with shade trees – including fruit, timber and leguminous species – in a systematic fashion.  → p 181	<b>Agroforestry extension</b> Participatory extension of agroforestry systems, especially of shade-grown coffee, to promote sustainable and productive use of natural resources among small and medium scale farmers.  → p 185
	Tajikistan	<b>Conversion of grazing land to fruit and fodder plots</b> Fencing-off part of an overgrazed hillside, combined with terracing, manuring and supplementary irrigation for grape, fruit and grass production.  → p 189	<b>Farmer innovation and self-help group</b> Overcoming administrative and technical problems, an innovative land user, assisted by a self-help group, has established a fruit garden within degraded communal grazing land.  → p 193
	Tajikistan	<b>Orchard-based agroforestry</b> An agroforestry system where legumes and cereals are planted in fruit orchards, giving simultaneous production and conservation benefits.  → p 197	<b>Transition from centralised regime to local initiative</b> A land use system established during the authoritarian regime of the Soviet Union is being adapted to farmers' needs through their own initiative.  → p 201



# Case study Sites of measures

## Water harvesting



India

### Sunken streambed structure

Excavations in streambeds to provide temporary storage of runoff, increasing water yields from shallow wells for supplementary irrigation.

→ p 205



Niger

### Planting pits and stone lines

Rehabilitation of degraded land on gentle slopes through manured planting pits, in combination with contour stone lines.

→ p 213



Syria

### Furrow-enhanced runoff harvesting for olives

Runoff harvesting through annually constructed V-shaped microcatchments, enhanced by downslope ploughing.

→ p 221

### Comprehensive watershed development

Participatory approach that includes a package of measures leading to empowerment of communities to implement and sustain watershed development.

→ p 209

### Participatory land rehabilitation

Planning and management of individual and village land, based on land users' participation, with simultaneous promotion of women's activities.

→ p 217

### Participatory technology development

Participatory technology development, through close researcher-farmer interaction, for sustainable land management of olive orchards in dry marginal areas.

→ p 225





## Continuous mulch









# Agronomic measures











แปลงสาธิตการอนุรักษ์ดินและน้ำ  
โครงการพัฒนาค่าบล  
และกองทุนพัฒนาชนบท  
โดย สถานีพัฒนาที่ดิน จ.แพร่  
สำนักงานพัฒนาที่ดิน เขต 6 กรมพัฒนาที่ดิน



# Structural measures





# Structural Farmland



## Zhuanglang loess terraces

China – 庄浪水平梯田

**Level bench terraces on the Loess Plateau, converting eroded and degraded sloping land into a series of steps suitable for cultivation.**

The Loess Plateau in north-central China is characterised by very deep loess parent material (up to 200 m), that is highly erodible and the source of most of the sedi-

**left:** Aerial view over Zhuanglang county where 90% of the hillsides are covered with terraces. Reducing runoff and erosion, maintaining soil fertility and making farming operations easier are key for rainfed agriculture in this semi-arid environment. (He Yu)

**right:** A 4 m high terrace riser, where the lower part is vertical and bare – demonstrating the stability of the loess soil at this depth. The upper part is sloping, and stabilised with grasses, bushes and trees. (Hanspeter Liniger)











# Conclusion

Soil erosion is a big problem in the world. The Climate change has become an indisputable fact and resulted in a variety of impacts on soil erosion environment

**Many** countries have made great efforts to create a lot of successful experiences and examples of SWC to adapt climate change and the changing world.

**There is long way to go for SWC on mitigation and adaptation to changing world.**





# Suggestions

01

**To monitor, assessment and predict the impacts on soil erosion caused by climate change and human activities**

02

**To integrate and extend the existing models of soil and water conservation to adapt to climate change and to meet the needs of natural and social development**

03

**To develop new knowledges including theories, models, and technologists of soil and water conservation to adapt to the changing world**

***Thank You for  
your attention***

