

## 5<sup>th</sup> International Alumni and Student Workshop:

Bridging the gap between forest information needs and forest inventory capacity

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### Implications of the State Policies related to the upland watershed management in the conservation and sustainable use of forests: the case of Bangladesh and Guatemala

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Durban and Pietermaritzburg, South Africa,

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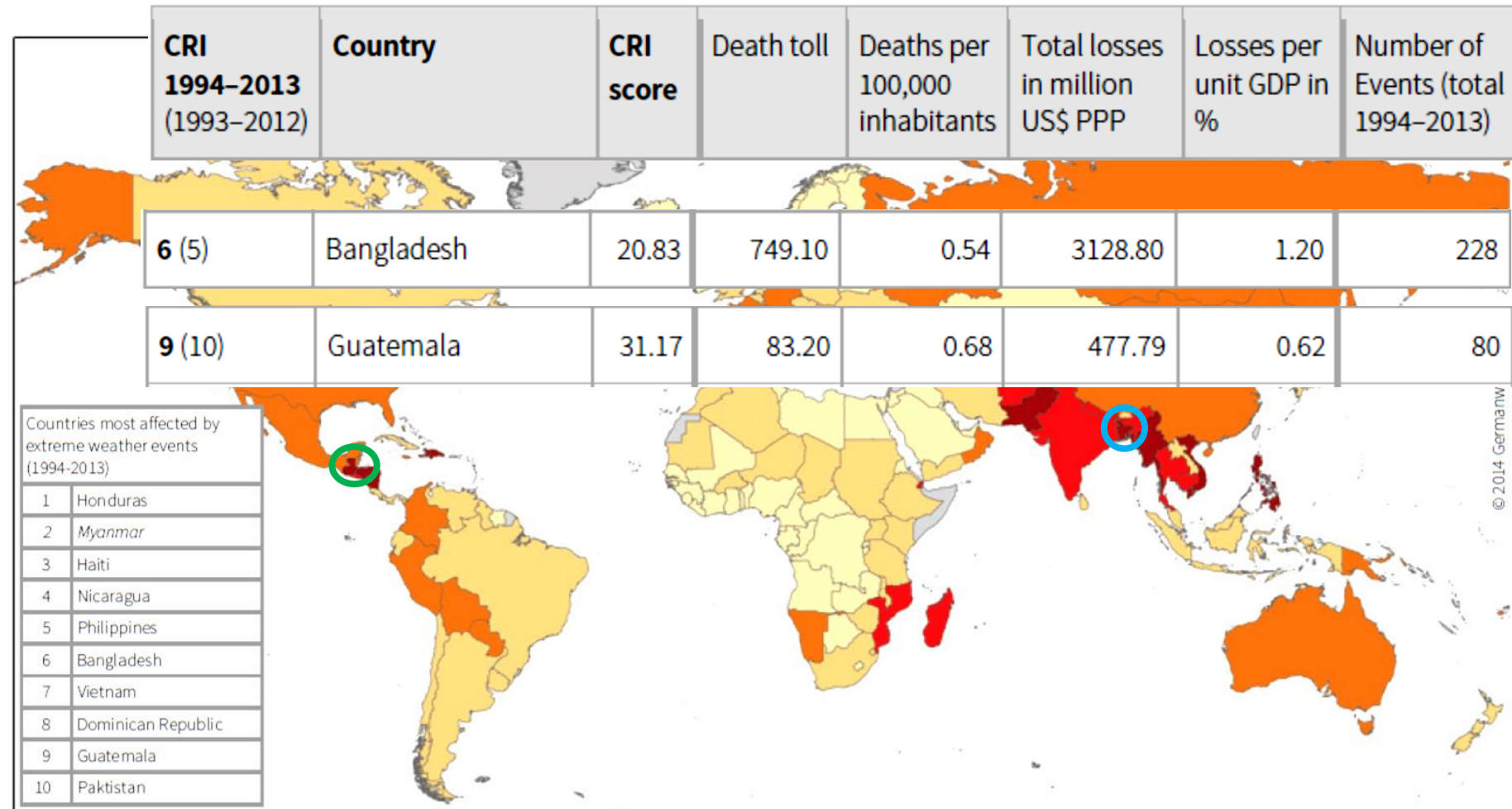
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# Two countries one common threat, one common challenge

- The Long-Term Climate Risk Index (CRI): the 10 countries most affected from 1994 to 2013 (annual averages)



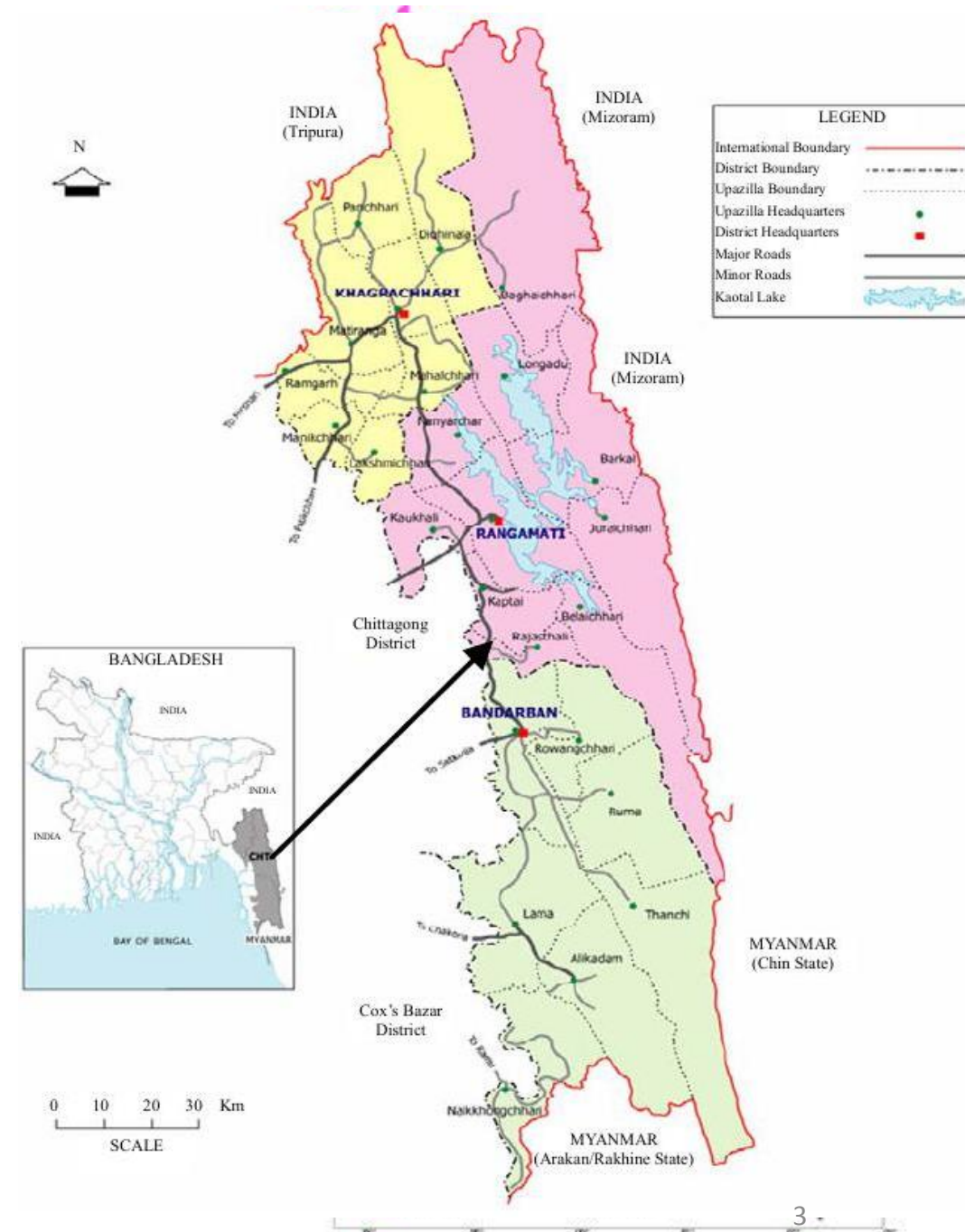
*Cursive: Countries where more than 90% of the losses/deaths occurred in one year/event*

## Climate Risk Index: Ranking 1994 – 2013



# Status of upland watershed: Bangladesh

- Population 150 million
- Land area only 14 million ha
- Forest cover is 11%
- Deforestation rate was
  - 2.1 % during 1960-1980 and
  - 0.2% during 1990-2010
- Upland watershed with 77% sloping land
- Forests of CHTs cover about 30% of the nation's total forest area
- Habitat of 12 indigenous community



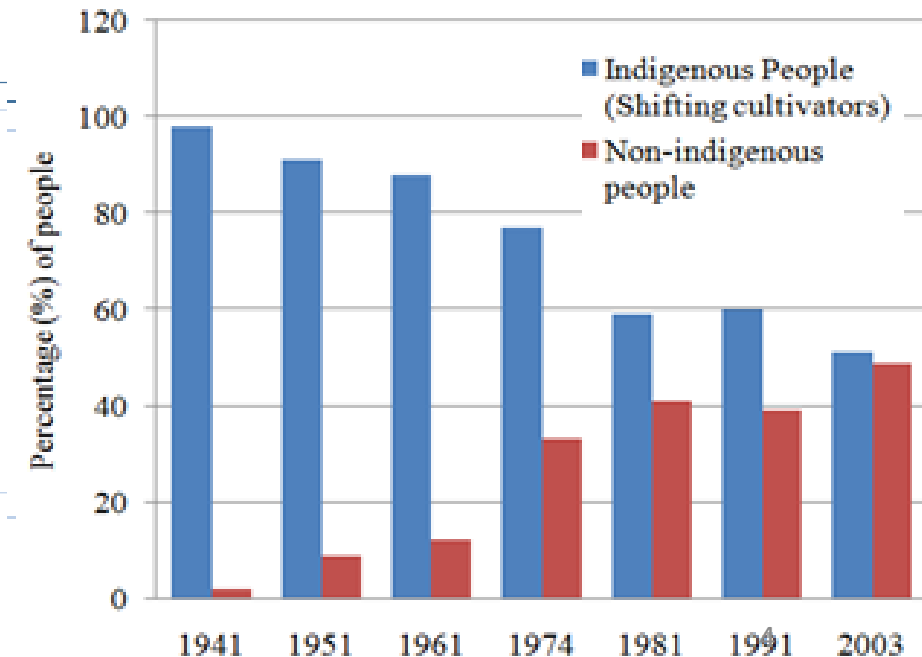
# Threats and Challenges of watershed management

## Threats

- Shifting cultivation, locally known as Jhum
- Use of natural resources beyond carrying capacity
- Clear felling of natural vegetation followed by artificial regeneration

## Challenges

- Growing population
- Integrating people to watershed management
- **No watershed Policy, Strategy or Plan**
- No monitoring authority with particular mandate





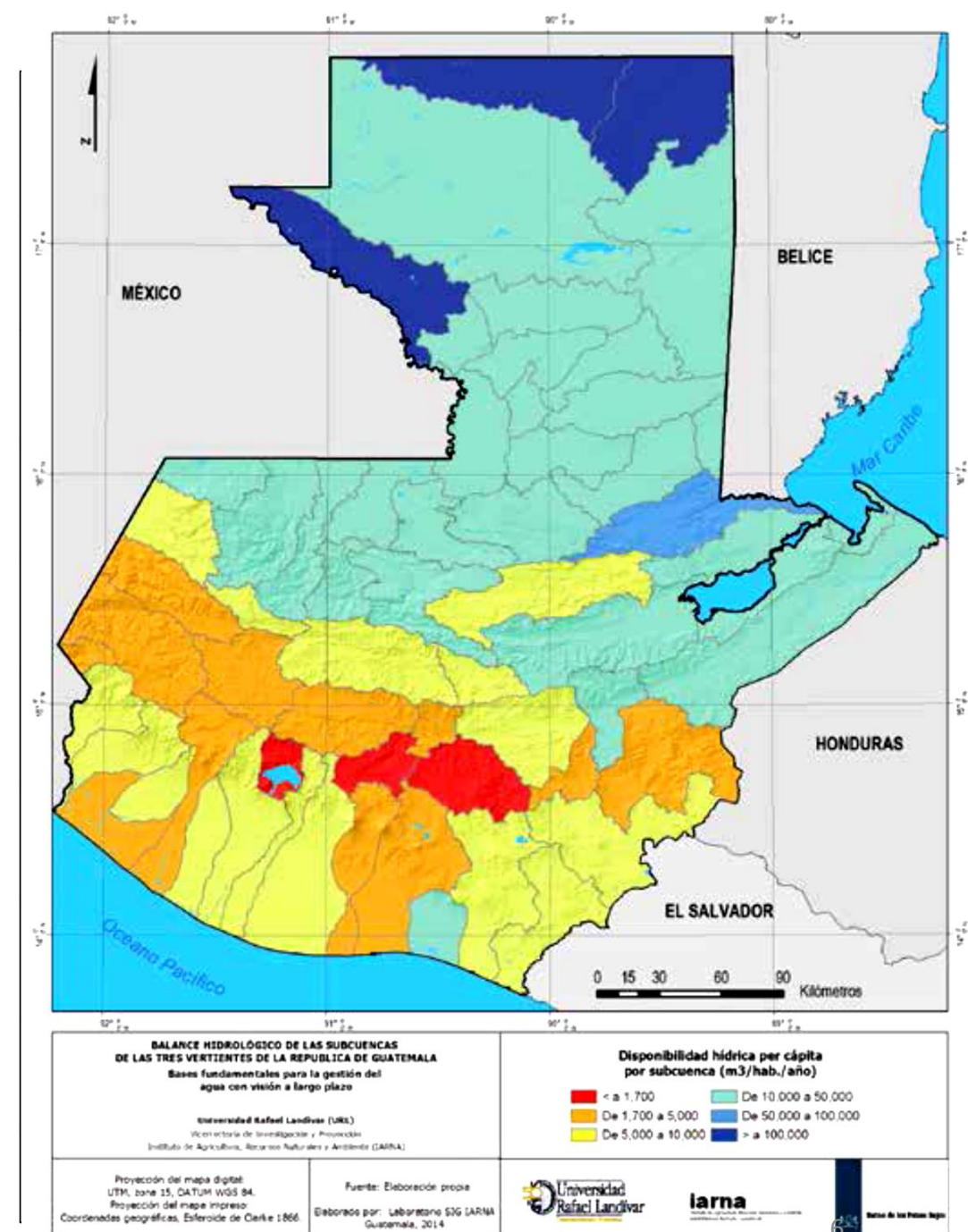
# Watershed status in Guatemala: A growing complexity

- Forest cover changes
  - In 53 years loss of 60.32%
  - In 2010 the forest cover estimated in 34%
  - Deforestation rate of 3.4%
  - Potential erosion 107.4 million tons of soil per year
- Global changes
  - Reduction of annual water availability per capita (7,539 cubic meters) in more than 20% by 2020



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# Threats and Challenges of watershed management: Guatemala

## Threats

- Climate change
- Illegal trade of timber and non-timber forest products
- Habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation
- Drug trafficking
- Land conversion
- Social and institutional drivers

## Challenge

- No nationwide regulation concerning watershed management
- Weak institution without dedicated task
- Development of a unifying national policy and the improvement of the institutional coordination



# Legal Framework related to watershed management

## Bangladesh

Year	Policy title
1991	Bangladesh National Conservation Strategy
1992	Bangladesh Environment Policy
1994	National Forest Policy
1995	Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act (amended on 2010)
1999	Bangladesh National Water Policy
2001	National Land use Policy
2012	Bangladesh Biological Diversity Act
2012	Wildlife (Conservation and Security) Act

## Guatemala

Year	Policy title
1986	Law for the Protection and Improvement of the Environment
1989	Protected Areas Law
1990 1996 1997	Legislative decrees related to the declaration of the protected areas: a) Biosphere reserve b) Protective Reserve of hydric resources c) Forest Reserve of Hydric resources d) Multipurpose Reserve of Lake Atitlan Basin
1996	Forest Law
1996	Law Creating the Authority for the Sustainable Management of Lake Atitlan Basin
2007	Regulations for the evaluation, control and environmental monitoring
2010	Law to Promote Environmental Education



# Conflicts between forest use and Indigenous Livelihood: **Guatemala**

*“Governments are not able to understand that the indigenous vision goes beyond seeing natural resources as an economic asset..., There are aspects that are not evaluated by Western extractive system, and that indigenous peoples have another way of looking natural resources”*

Daniel Pascual  
Leader of the Peasant Unity Committee in Guatemala

# Conflicts between forest use and indigenous livelihoods: **Bangladesh**

## Forest Department complains

- Illegal occupancies of indigenous people in the Government forest
- Illegal logging
- Shifting cultivation

## According to indigenous people

➤ Land tenure

➤ Watershed boundary

Sl. No	Factors affecting forests	** Average magnitude of the effect of each factor in forest degradation				
		1	2	3	4	5
1	Systemized corruption					
a	Forest Department					
b	District administration					
c	Military administration					
d	Police Administration					
e	Politicians and elites					
2	Syndicated illegal logging					
3	Poor transit rules					
4	Leasing lands to outsiders					
5	**Inappropriate management					
6	Private forest felling permit					

# Conclusions

- Land tenure needs to be assured so that they are able to invest for long or medium term with changing in cropping patterns.
- Watershed boundaries should be clearly identified to reduce conflict between villages and State.
- Need to ensure involvement of all ethnic population groups in planning and implementing watershed management programs.
- Watershed related state policies need to implement strongly
- Policy makers need to promote the governance of forests with a more integrated approach of forest management, with improved engagement between the public, private, and civil society actors.

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THANK YOU

