

The National Security Imperative for Climate Action

Wednesday, October 28th | 3:30pm PT

UCLA Luskin Center
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The National Security Imperative for Climate Action

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A Security Threat Assessment of Global Climate Change

How likely warming
scenarios indicate a
catastrophic security future

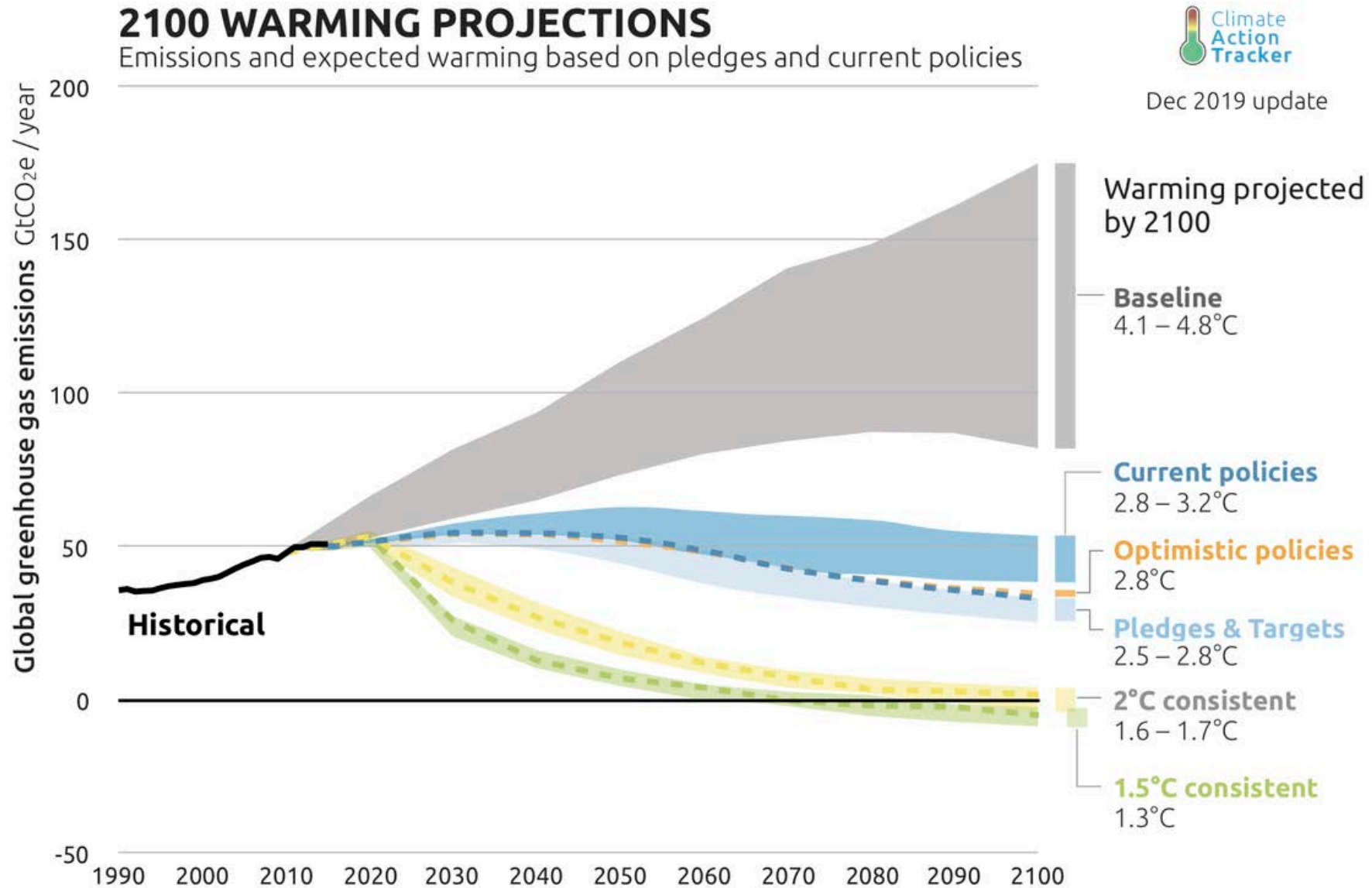
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RISKS

Overview of the Threat: Projections



Overview of the Threat: Climate-Security Nexus

In 2016, the U.S. National Intelligence Council identified several “pathways” through which climate change will challenge national security interests, including:

- Threats to the stability of countries
- Heightened social and political tensions
- Adverse effects on food prices and availability
- Increased risks to human health
- Negative impacts on investments and economic competitiveness
- Potential climate discontinuities and secondary surprises

Overview of the Threat: Climate-Security Nexus

Physical Shocks

- Food, Water, and Resource Stress
- Extreme Weather
- Sea Level Rise

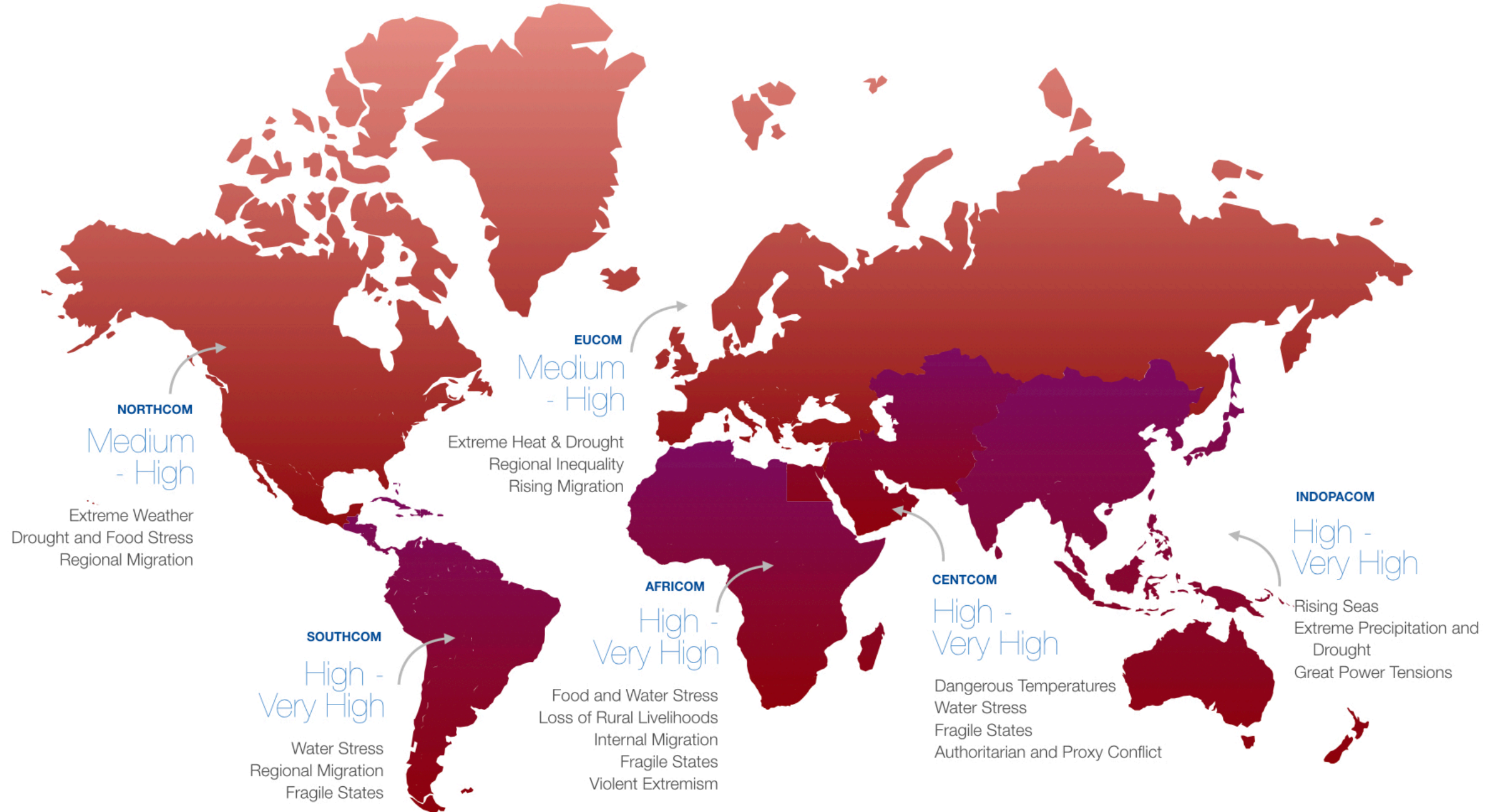
Social Tensions

- Migration and Displacement
- Health Risks
- State Fragility & Conflict

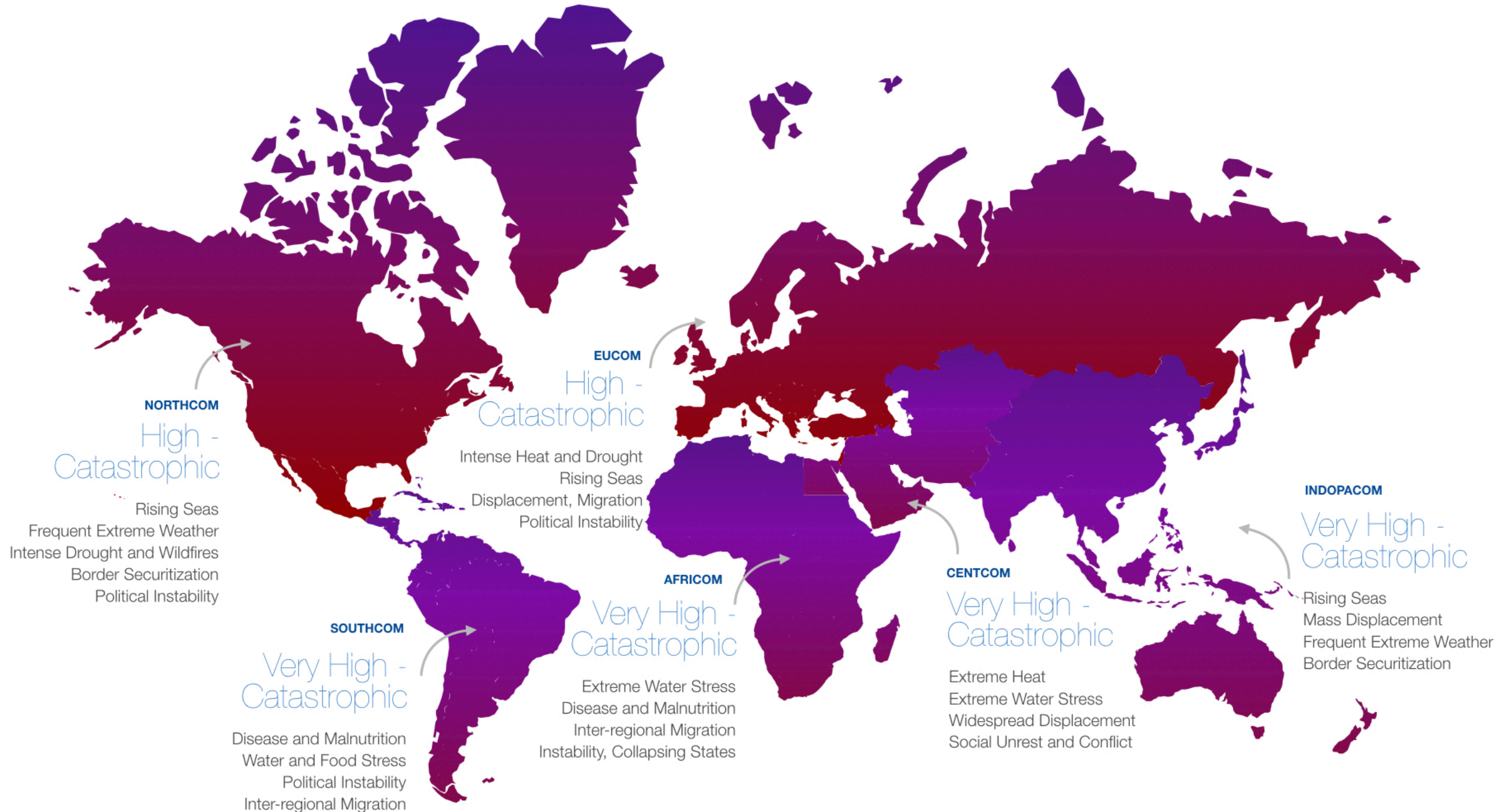
International Competition

- Ungoverned spaces
- Militarization
- Geo-engineering Risks

Climate Security Threat Profile: Near Term Scenario (1-2°C Warming)



Climate Security Threat Profile: Medium-Long Term Scenario (2-4+°C Warming)



Regional Threats: Key Findings

- 1 No area of the world will be unaffected by climate risks, in either low or high warming scenarios.
- 2 On these trajectories, all regions will face severe, and potentially catastrophic, consequences to security environments, institutions, and infrastructure.
- 3 Climate-induced threats will have a lasting impact on U.S. interests, at home and abroad.

International and Intersecting Threats

- **Rising Instability:** Climate risks will strike already fragile regions first, many with on-going or recent histories of conflict and violent groups.
- **Uninhabitability:** High temperatures and physical shocks will render many densely populated regions of the world uninhabitable.
- **International Tensions:** Some nations will take advantage of shocks on adversaries; and will seek to blame others for tragedies. Weak institutions and alliances compound.
- **Wild Card Threats:** Low probability, high impact events are of increasingly concern, and tipping points necessitate future study.

Recommendations

- 1 We call for the world to achieve net-zero global emissions as soon as possible in a manner that is ambitious, safe, equitable, and well-governed, in order to avoid severe and catastrophic security futures.
- 2 The world must also “climate-proof” environments, infrastructure, institutions, and systems on which human security depends, and so we call for rapidly building resilience to current and expected impacts of climate change. With future-oriented investments in adaptation, disaster response, and peacebuilding efforts, we will be better able to recover from tragedies that strike and to avoid deeper instability.
- 3 In the United States, we call for renewed efforts to prioritize, communicate, and respond to climate security threats, and to integrate these considerations across all security planning.



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DEMOCRACY
UNCHAINED

*How to Rebuild
Government for
the People*

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www.stateofamericandemocracy.org

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Thanks for tuning in!