



Emerging Issues and Opportunities for the LDCs

***Shaping the Post-2015 Development Agenda:
The LDC Perspective***

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Emerging issues

- The states present at the last Earth Summit in Rio have laid the foundations for a sustainable development agenda.
- Scope and diversity of the problems now facing the international community demands the adjustment of the goals that were defined in 2000.
- Some issues, neglected in 2000, such as environmental protection and adaptation and mitigation of climate change, have now acquired "urgent priority" status at the international level.
- Furthermore, the current goals largely neglect matters such as peace and security.
- Why is it urgent to deal with these issues? Because they are determinants of sustainability of our development.
- The difficulty is that most of these issues are global and must be dealt by a collective action, as mentioned by the recent SDSN report : *"A global market economy without adequate governance and cooperation is not equipped to address environmental threats (especially climate change)"*
- So, the next Agenda will have to be broadened to these new stakes

What is at stake for LDCs ?

- Promoting sustainability of development involves a broadening of current goals to global goals as climate change or environmental issues
- In the same time, vulnerable countries are faced with specific issues and could attach less importance to these global issues.
- With MDGs, Agenda was focused on human development and LDCs were at the heart.
- Now, the absolute need to take into account global stakes in next agenda leads to a fear that broadening the goals involves a dilution of the priority previously given to the countries the most in need of support
- How to transform this risk into opportunities for LDCs ?
- Is broadening goals compatible with taking into account specificities of vulnerable countries?

What is at stake for LDCs ?

- Vulnerability is an obstacle of sustainability, whatever the country : sustainability issues cannot be addressed without taking into account corresponding vulnerabilities
- Need to build sustainable development goals taking into account vulnerabilities
- Need to identify precisely which countries are the most vulnerable to these emerging issues to better elaborate future goals and future international development policies
- Works of Ferdi : Identify vulnerabilities

Building sustainable development goals taking into account vulnerabilities

- Goals of sustainable development cannot be designed and pursued without considering the corresponding vulnerabilities (vulnerability is a risk on sustainability)
- Consistent with a universal agenda of sustainable development: taking into account vulnerability in its various dimensions (economic, social, environmental), and paying special attention to countries vulnerable for these various reasons
- Economic vulnerability threatens the sustainability of economic growth and its inclusiveness, as does political or state fragility, itself to a large extent an outcome of structural economic vulnerability
- For environment, vulnerability is the opposite of environmental sustainability, as it clearly appears with climate change

Identify Vulnerabilities to Climate Change :

The physical vulnerability to climate change Index (*Ferdi*)

- Article from Ferdi : *Guillaumont & Simonet (2011) : To What Extent Are African Countries Vulnerable to Climate Change? Lessons from a New Indicator of Physical Vulnerability to Climate Change – WP Ferdi n°8*
- Aim :
 - To formulate an appropriate index of vulnerability to climate change that could be available for all the countries concerned and likely to be used as a criterion for allocation of adaptation resources
 - To build a Physical Vulnerability to Climate Change Index (PVCCI), only based on exogenous elements, and not on policy factors.
- 2 components of vulnerability :
 - shock: exogenous and often unforeseen factors
 - exposure : factors on which the direct impact of shocks depends

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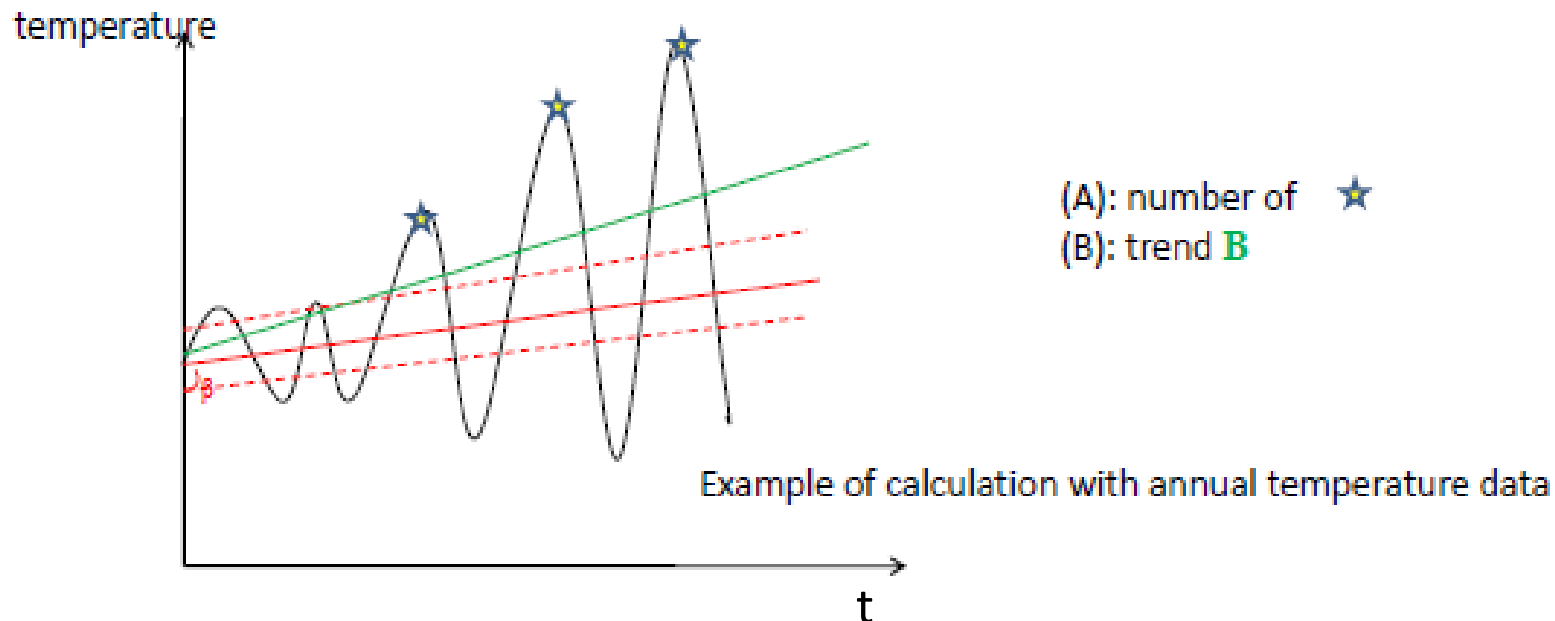
- Risk related to progressive shocks:
 - Likely impact of the rise of sea level: the vulnerabilities of zones likely to be flooded depends on
 - The exposure : the distribution of the heights of arable lands : h_{ij}
 - The shock: the distribution of the likelihood of sea-level rise in t years: s_{ijt}

$$SLR_i = \int \int \frac{h_{ij}}{(1+r)^t} \times s_{ijt}$$

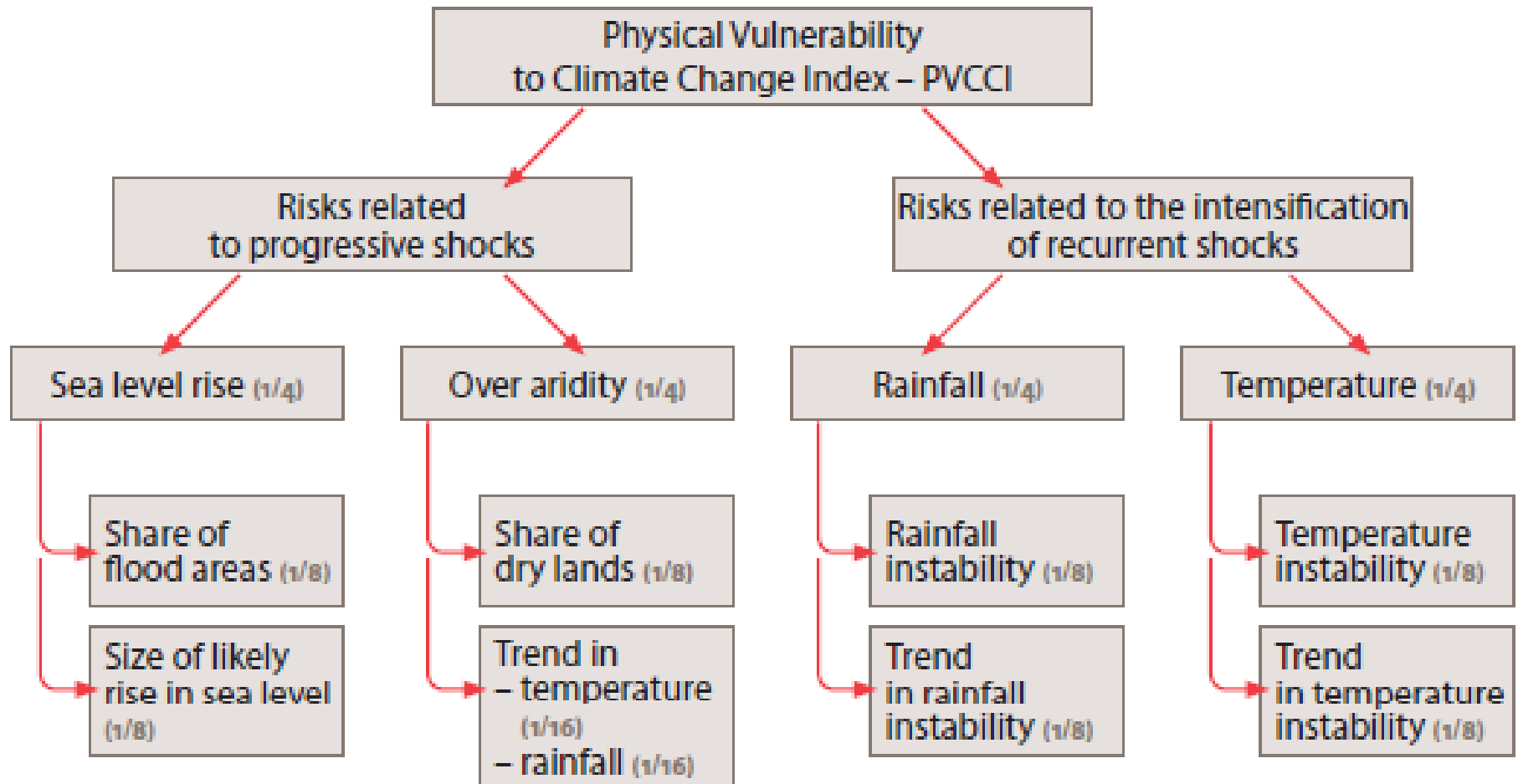
- Over-aridity and desertification impact (*OADI*) :
 - The exposure: proportion of arid areas
 - The shock: trend value in rainfalls and temperature (β)

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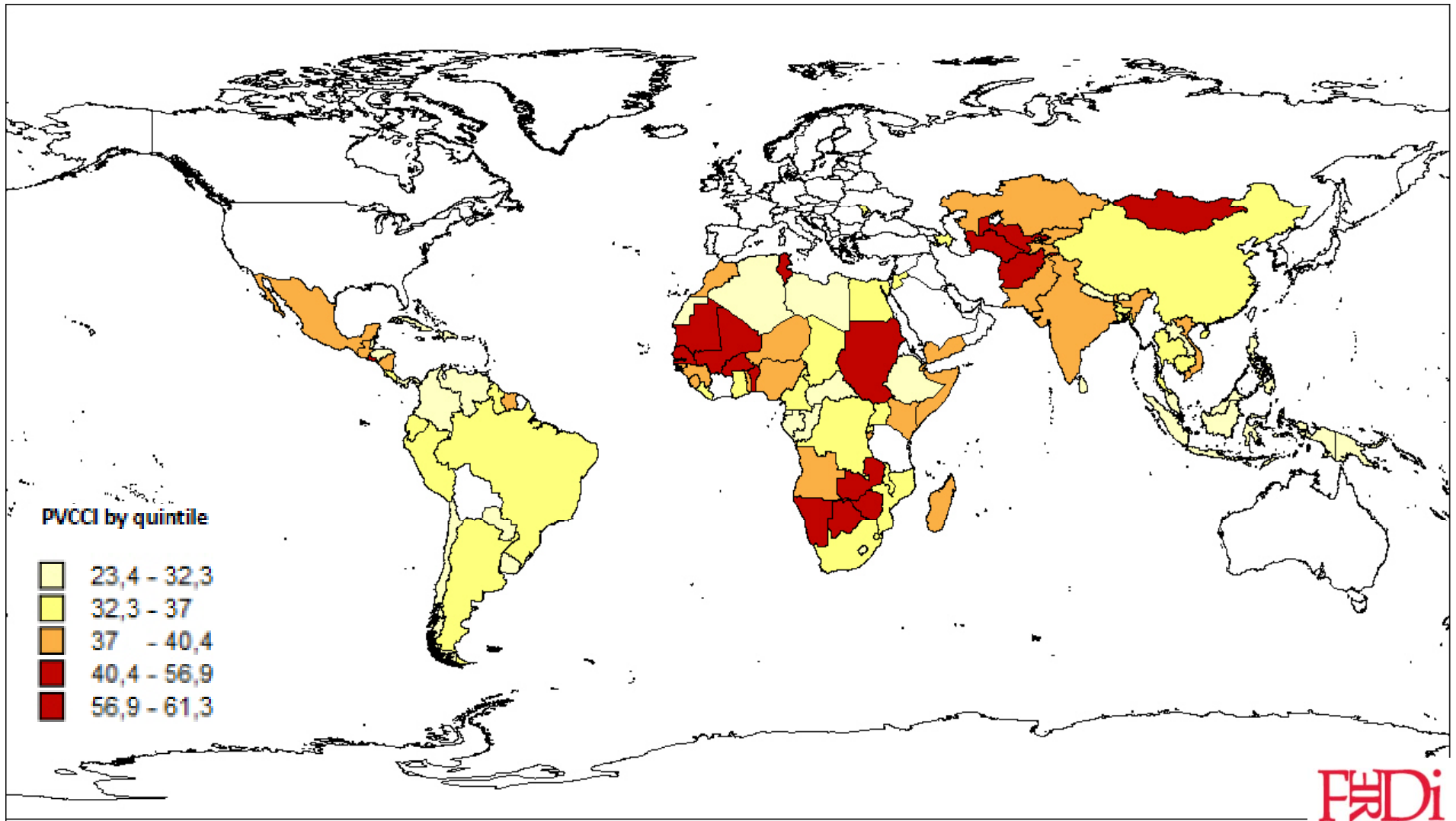
- Risk related to intensification of recurrent shocks:
 - The exposure: average frequency of shocks in rainfalls and temperature (A)
 - The shock : trend in the size of shocks as a proxy of the intensity of future shocks (B)



Identify Vulnerabilities to Climate Change : The physical vulnerability to climate change Index (*Ferdi*)



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- As with the EVI, vulnerability to climate change can be assessed at the country level as a structural vulnerability, not depending on present or future policy, but only on components reflecting both the likely size of the climatic shock and the exposure to these shocks
- Such an index set up at Ferdi, the Physical Vulnerability to Climate Change Index (PVCCI), with components reflecting both the impact of progressive shocks (sea level rise and desertification) and of the intensification of recurrent shocks (in rainfall and temperature)
- According to this index, the LDCs appear to be significantly more vulnerable, than Others DCs:
 - for LDCs, PVCCI= 38;
 - for Others Developing Countries, PVCCI= 35;
- Policy use :
 - An index likely to be relevant for resources allocation
 - To detect various profiles of vulnerability to climate change and so help to design appropriate adaptation policies

A re-emerging environmental issues: Safe drinking water access

- A poor access to safe drinking water is one of the main consequences of environmental troubles.
- Access to safe drinking water was already considered by MDGs.
- Indeed, MDG 7, although limited in scope, is to insure environmental sustainability. His target 7.C is « Halve the % of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation »
- So, it's not really an emerging issue. But, with SDGs, international community wants to tackle all dimensions of environmental set of problems. And a universal safe drinking water acces appears as a fundamental result to obtain.
- It's therefore an emerging issues because all dimensions of environmental matter are concerned behind this aim.
- High Level Panel report :*“We realised that providing access to [...] drinking water would not endure unless [...] water systems are also addressed”*.
- Through this example, we see that environmental issue must be taken as a whole : that's the novelty of the SDGs approach

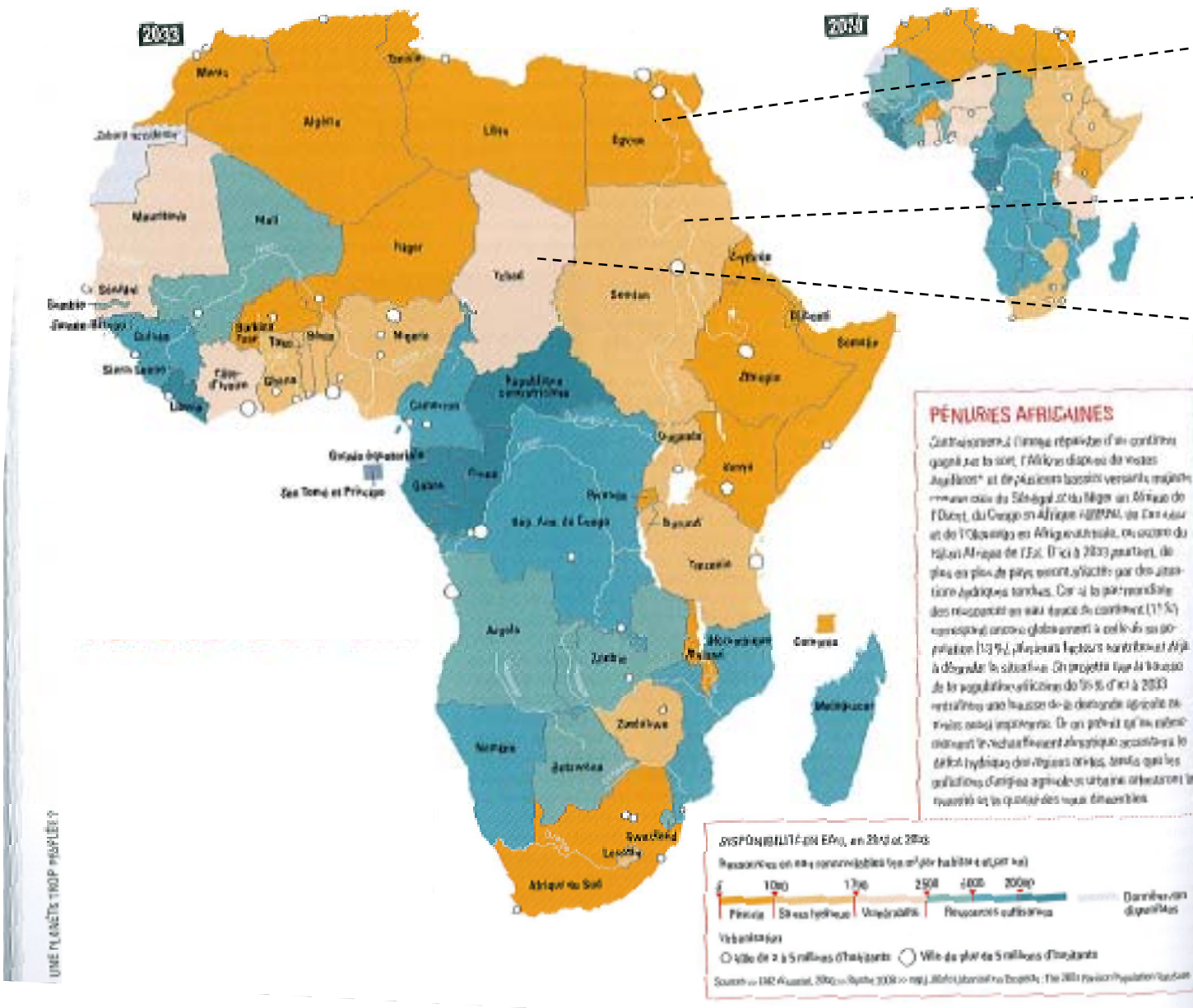
Safe drinking water access in LDCs

- What's the matter with LDCs ?
 - Progress in LDCs have been significant, but weaker than in the ODCs, with regard to the quantitative targets, as illustrated by target 7.C :
 - Improved water source, population without access:
relative rate of change (target -50%): LDCs: **-33%**; ODCs: **-45%**
*(relative rate of change of population **with** access: LDCs **+30%**; ODCs **+10%**)*
 - Heterogeneity among LDCs / Not a specificity of LDCs : Problem for Horn of Africa, Some Sahelian countries, Benin, Togo, Nigeria, and asian LDCs
 - Projection of FAO for 2033 shows an extension of this problem to Chad, Senegal, Mauritanie
- UN projections for 2033 show that, in African LDCs, the main problem will not be the availability of sources of water but distribution network.
- So the real emerging issue, in this case, is an infrastructures issue too.
- Conclusion : We have to develop measures of vulnerabilities to better identify problems

1. Emerging issues in LDCs

2. Vulnerability to Climate Change

3. Opportunities for LDCs



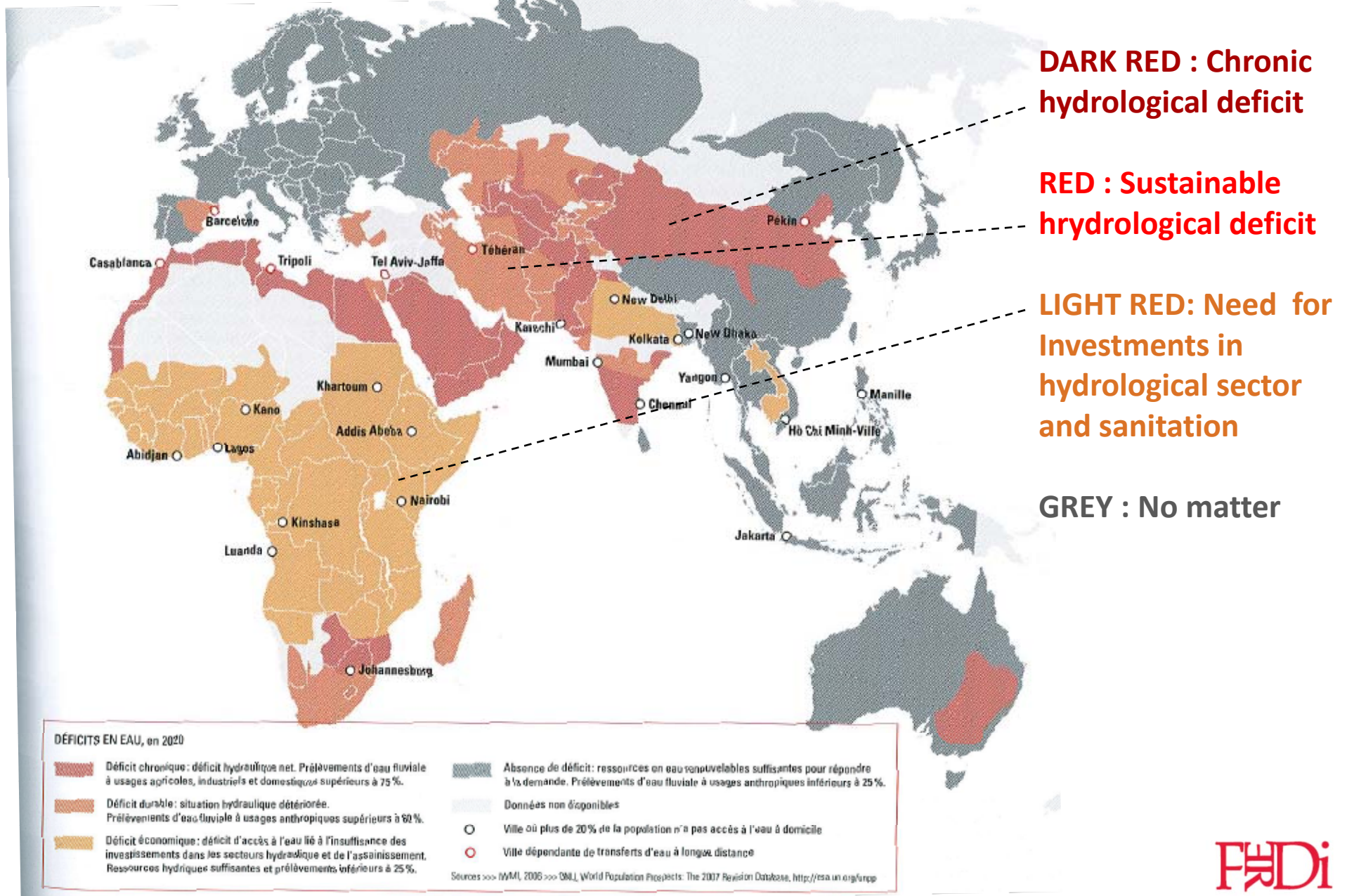
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Opportunities for LDCs ?

- How to transform the risk of a dilution of the priority previously given to LDCs into a chance ?
- Seeing that LDCs are among the countries facing the most structural (or physical) obstacles to sustainable development (notably on the economic, and environmental levels), broadening agenda beyond the MDGs could be a chance for LDCs if their specific vulnerabilities are taken into account in aid allocation.
- It's not a defense of « categories », but of principles: global equity involves addressing countries structural handicaps to sustainable development
- Most often, continuous criteria can be used for policy purposes, instead of ad hoc and possibly arbitrary categories that are leading to binary measures
- Progress in that direction made by the GA in December Resolution on the Follow-up to the 4th UN Conference on the LDCs, §23 :

« Invites development partners to consider least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance »

Opportunities for LDCs ?

- The application of such a principle, in particular by the Multilateral Development Banks, would be a significant progress in ODA allocation, which would rely on uniform criteria and not on ad hoc and debatable categories (such as fragile states or very small or very large countries)
- Similar principle may be applied to other sources of public external finance, in particular the resources for adaptation to climate change
- For adaptation, relevant to consider the physical vulnerability to climate change as part (may be a main part) of the criteria for allocating official resources devoted to the adaptation to a climate change for which the poor and vulnerable countries are not responsible.

Thank you