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Forced Migration and Drought. The Mexican Case

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Index

1. Objective of the talk
2. What is environmental forced migration?
3. Climate treats
4. Historical drought
5. Present drought: 1994-2009
6. How is drought affecting livelihood?
7. Migration and survival
8. Internal rural-urban migration: the case of the Central Valley of Mexico City: CVMC
9. International Migration
10. Social Vulnerability: women and children
11. Some conclusive reflections: How is EFM affecting Mexico?

1. Objective

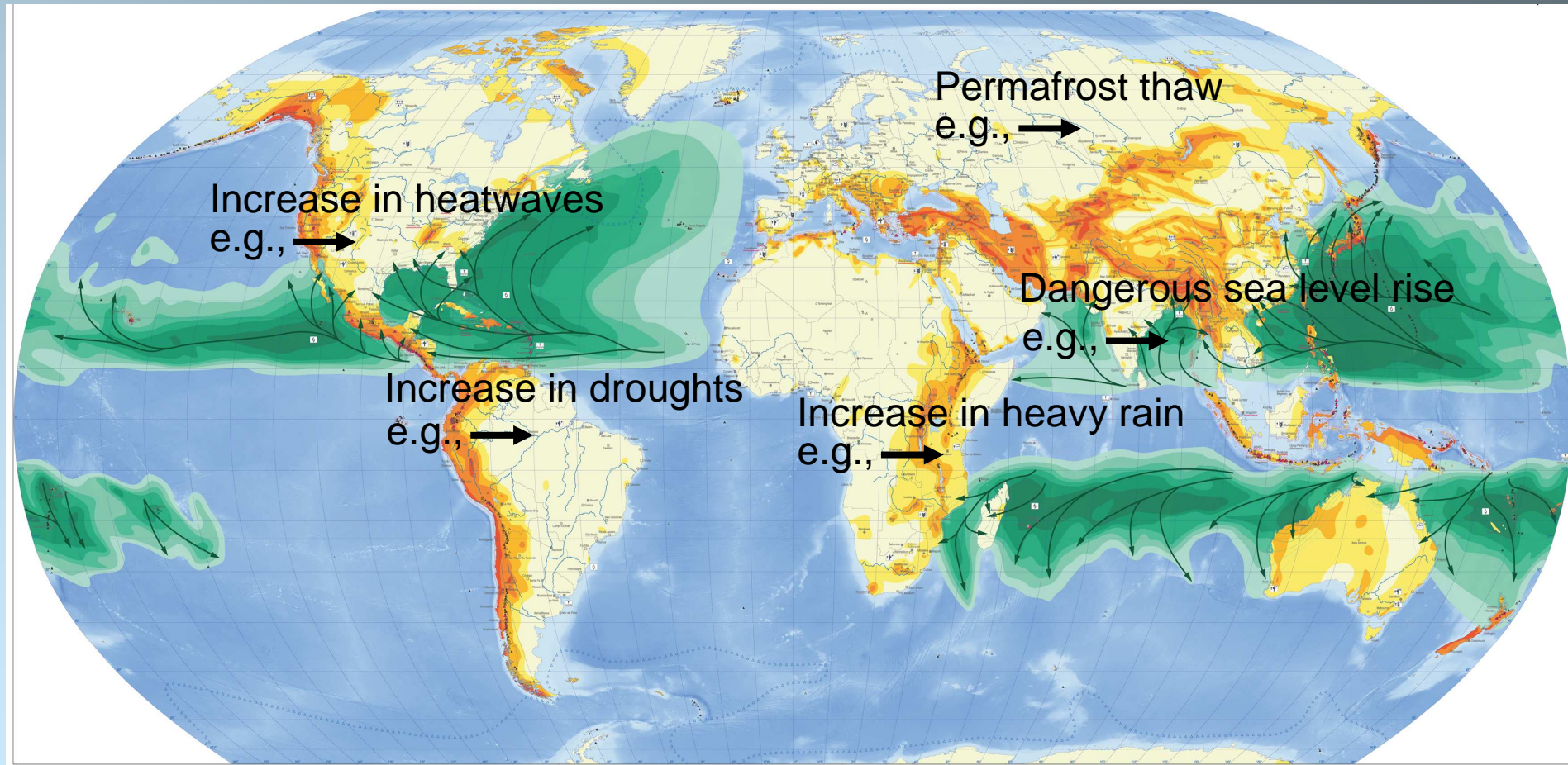
The presentation explores the complexity of the international migration and its geopolitical repercussions between Mexico and the USA:

1. Latinos are the **first minority in the USA**, and half of them are illegal migrants, the majority Mexicans. They are exposed to all kinds of **threats and persecution**. The present crisis created 10% of unemployment and the industrial GCP felt 13%.
2. The **fans built** between both countries, the technological training of the Border Patrol, drones, etc. oblige migrants to cross in dangerous region (the desert of Arizona).
3. Another option is to ally with the **transnational organized crime** (drug, arms, human and organs traffickers) transforming the border of Mexico in the most violent region, with repercussions in both countries due to prostitution (Klot & DeLargy 2007), public insecurity, crime, VIH-AIDS, money laundering and drug consumption.
4. The present situation of insecurity related to a high **consumption of drugs in the USA** obliged both countries to combat collectively within the Mérida agreement this social cancer (Kochhar 2007).

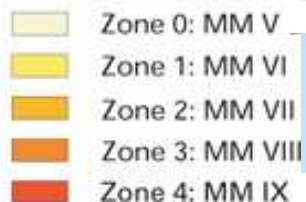
2.Environmental Forced Migration: some definitions

- “Environmental migrants are persons or groups of persons who, for compelling reasons of sudden or progressive changes in the environment that adversely affect their lives or living conditions, are obliged to leave their habitual homes, or choose to do so, either temporarily or permanently, and who move either within their country or abroad” (IOM, MC/INF/288 2007: 2).
- *Why forced or induced?*

3. Climate Threats, Disasters & Impacts

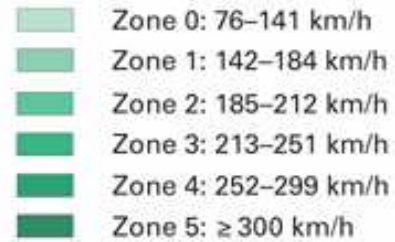


Earthquakes



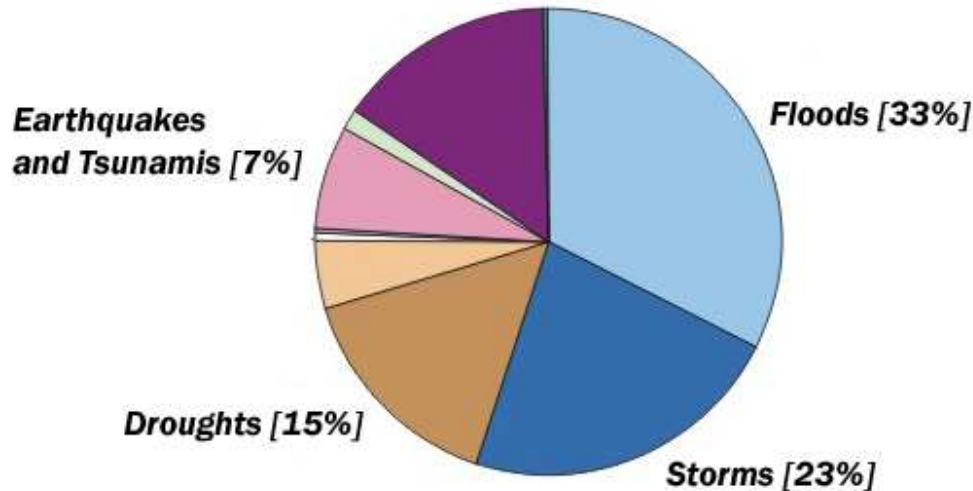
MM: modified Mercalli scale

Tropical Hurricanes

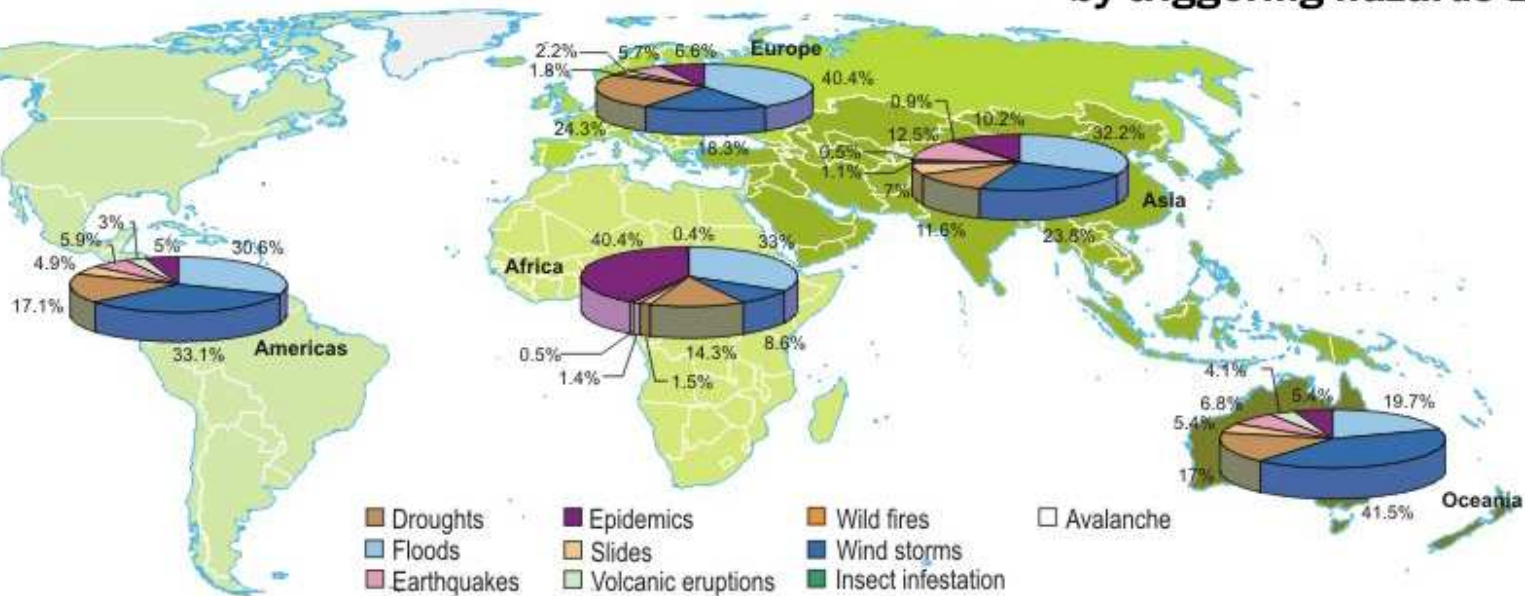


Münchener Rück
Munich Re Group

Distribution of disasters 1994-2003



Regional distribution of disasters: by triggering hazards 1994-2003



Conquest

1500

Late Postclassic

1400

1300

Early Postclassic

1200

1100

1000

(Terminal Classic)

900

800

700

Classic

600

500

400

300

200

100

A.D.
B.C.

Late Preclassic

100

200

300

400

Middle Preclassic

500

600

700

800

900

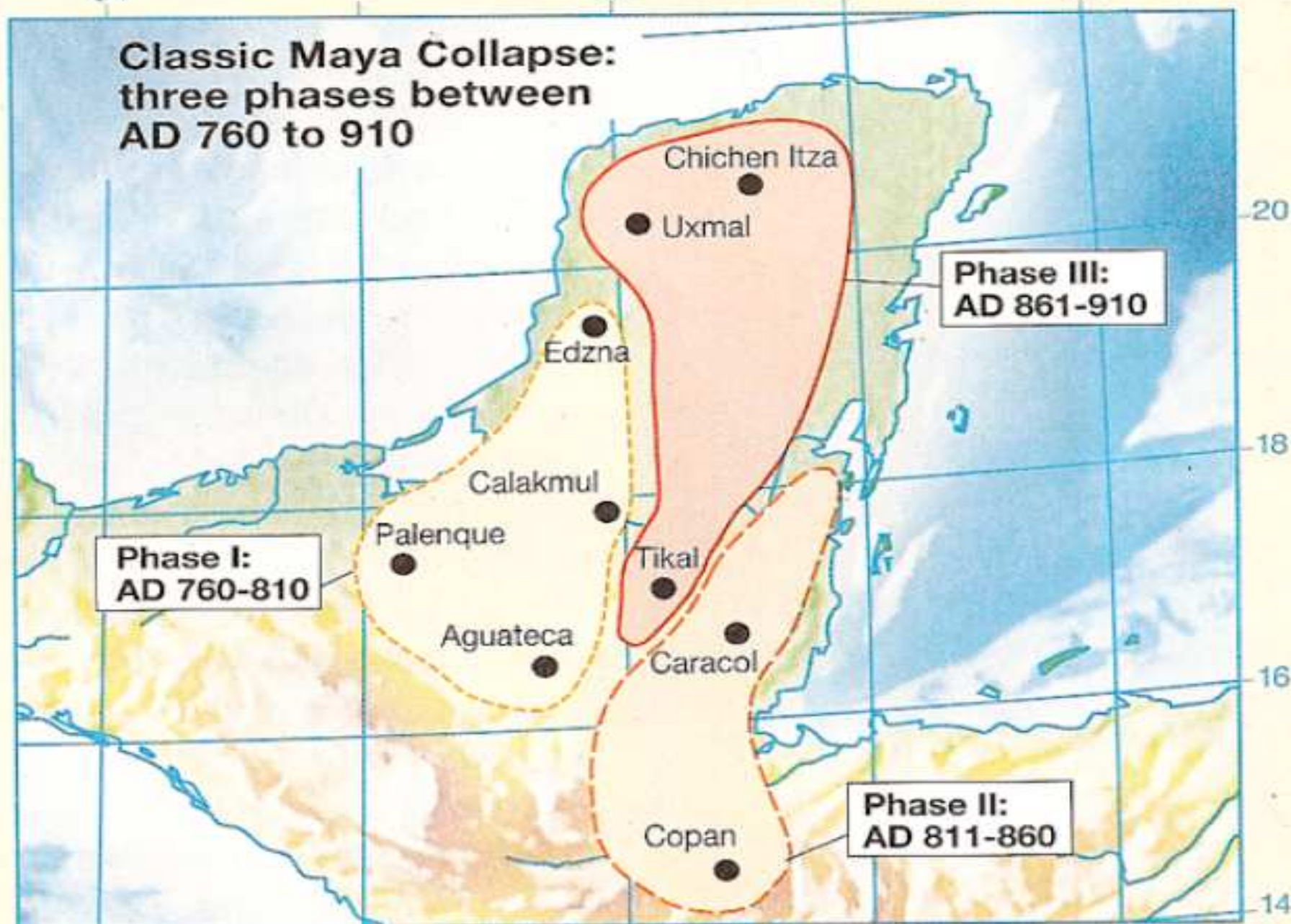


94

90

86

Classic Maya Collapse: three phases between AD 760 to 910



5. History of present droughts



Quelle: CENAPRED, 2001

6. How is drought affecting livelihood: DLDD in Mexico

Figura 9
Desertificación en la República Mexicana



Figura 10
Salinización en México



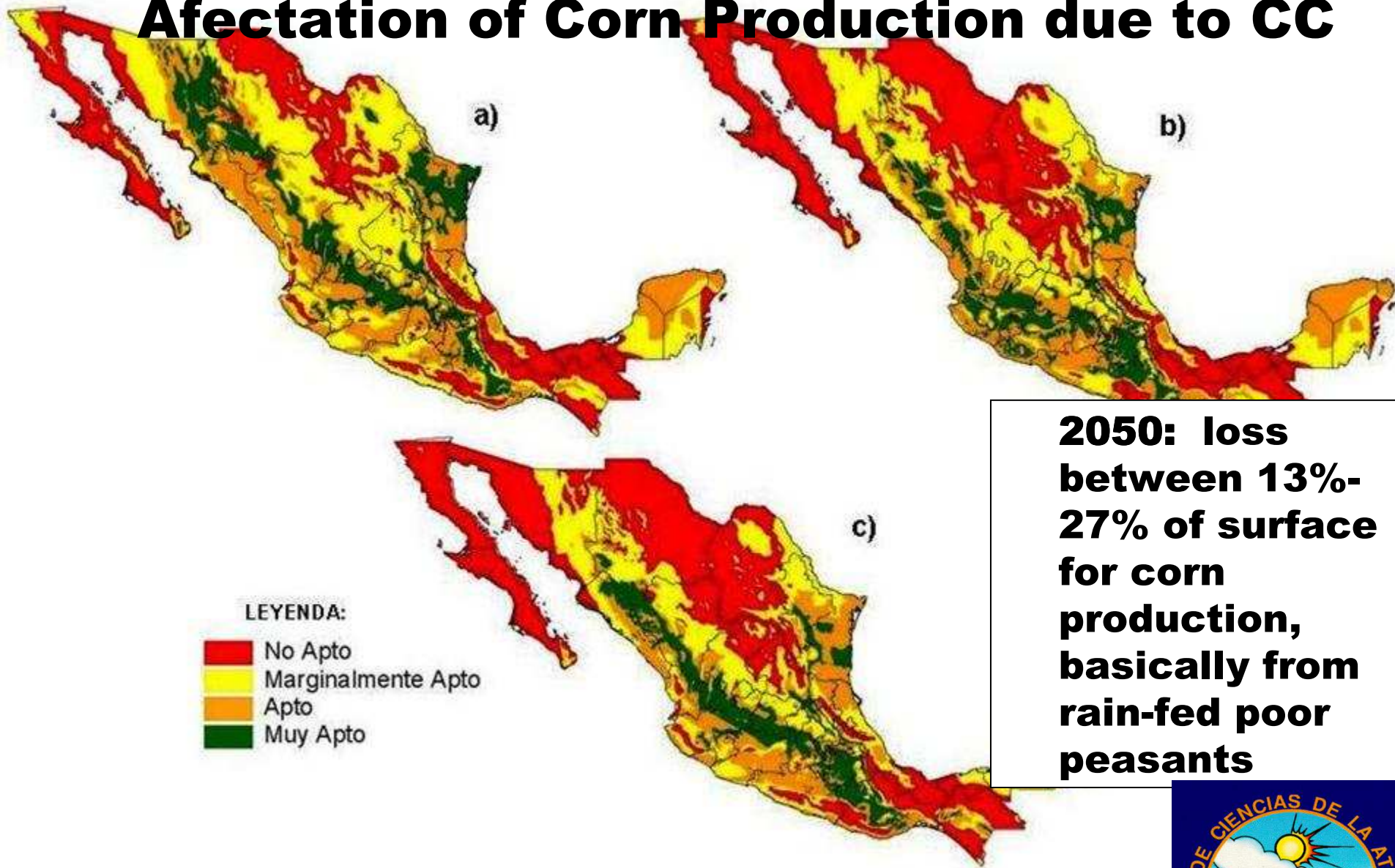
Figura 11
Erosión hídrica en México



Figura 12
Erosión eólica en México



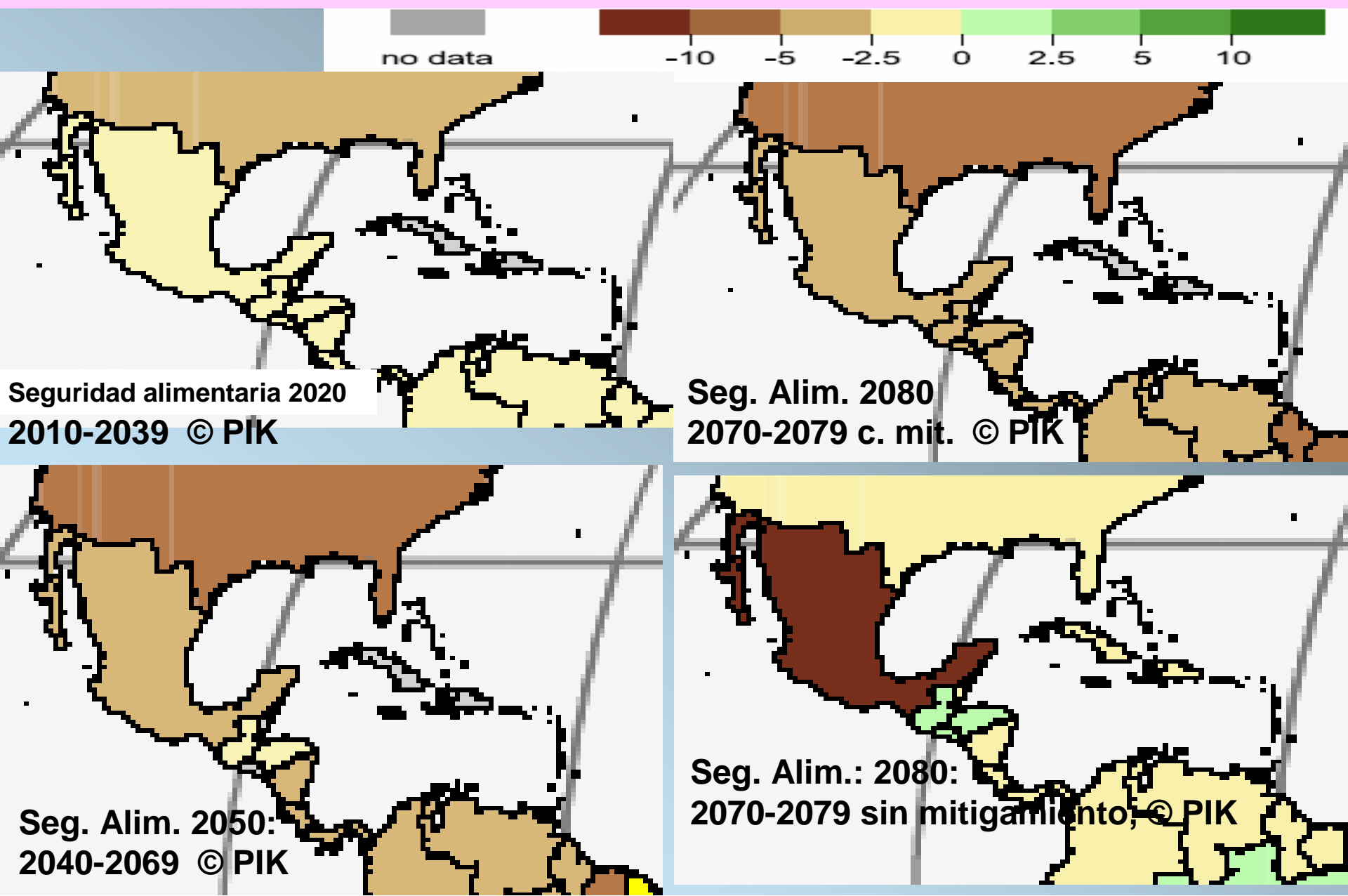
Afectation of Corn Production due to CC



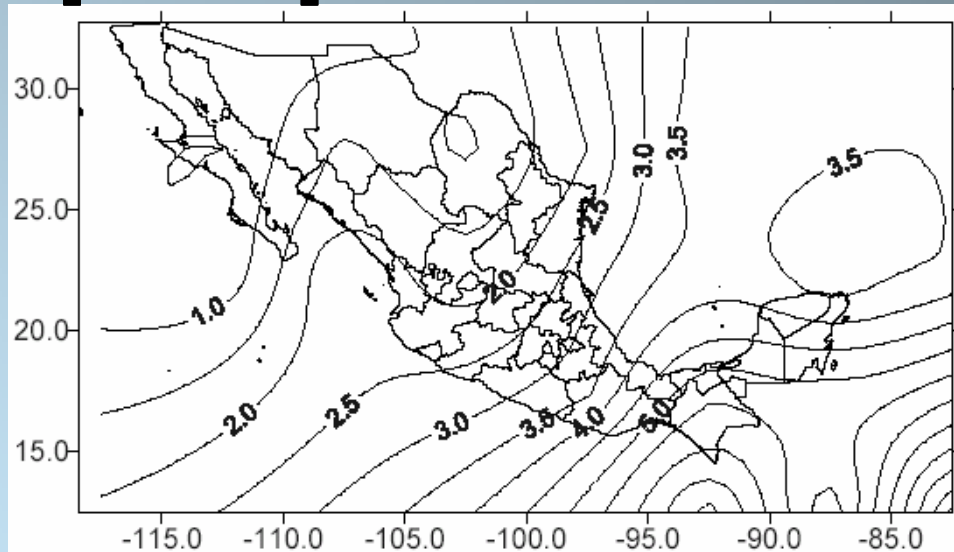
Monterroso, A. G, Rosales, 2006.



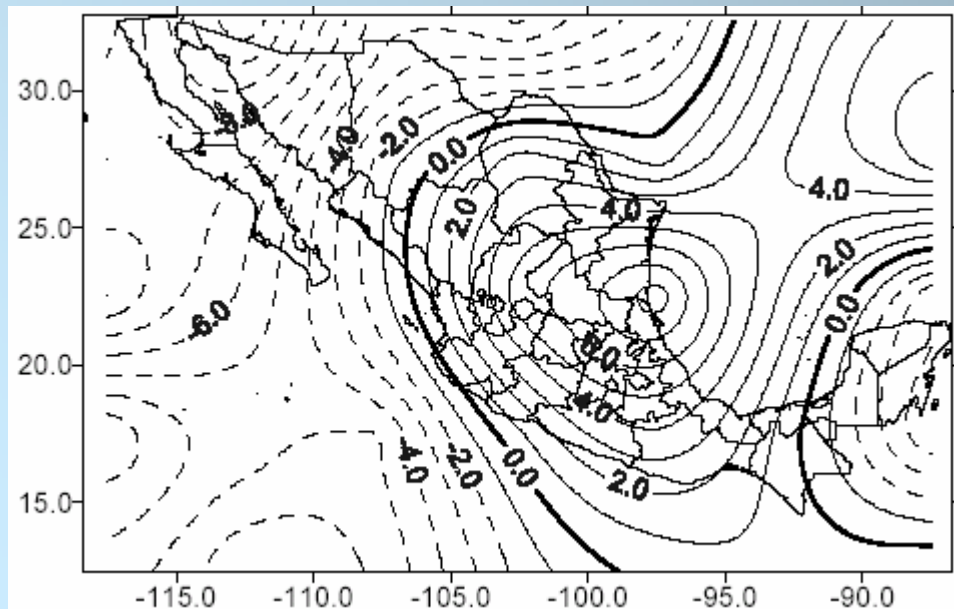
Projections of yield averages/ ha related to climate change: 2020, 2050, 2080 with & without mitigation



Potential changes in annual precipitation in Mexico for 2050



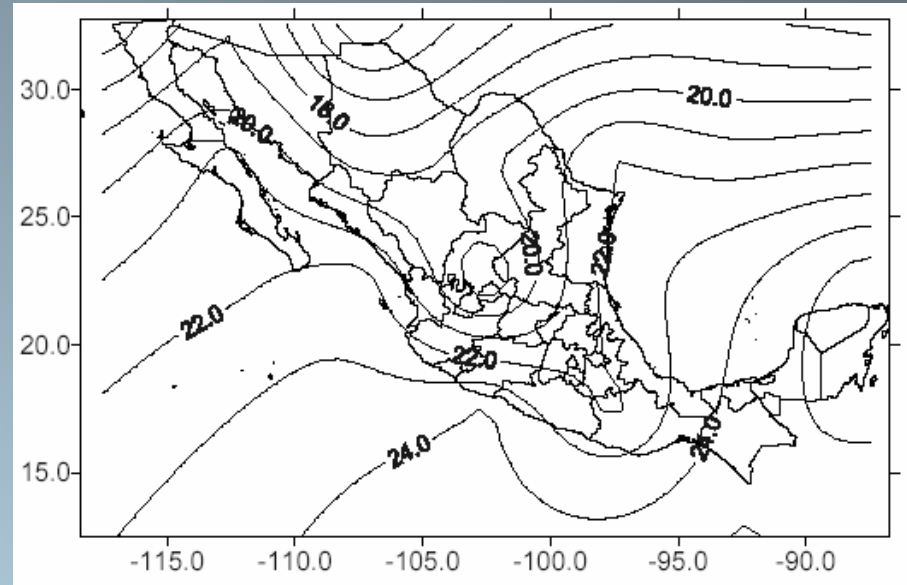
**Scenario base
(1961 – 1990) of
average
precipitation/year
annual (mm/day)**



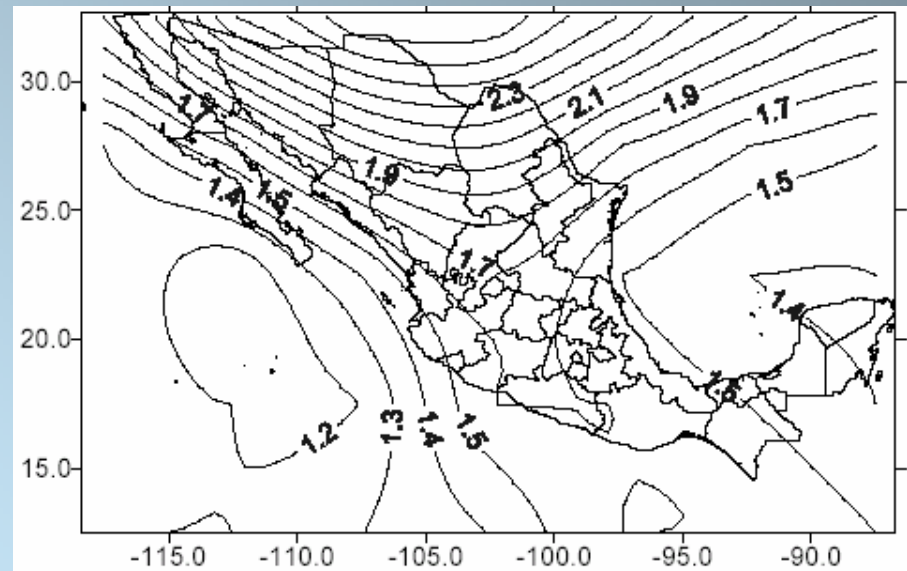
**% of changes in average
annual precipitation
depending on medium
sensitivity. The interrupted
lines represent decrease.
Model ECHAM4**

Potential changes in annual temperature 2050

Scenario base (1961
– 1990) of annual
average of
temperature



Increase of medium
annual average
temperature (°C) in 2050.
Model ECHAM4



7. Social Vulnerability in Mexico



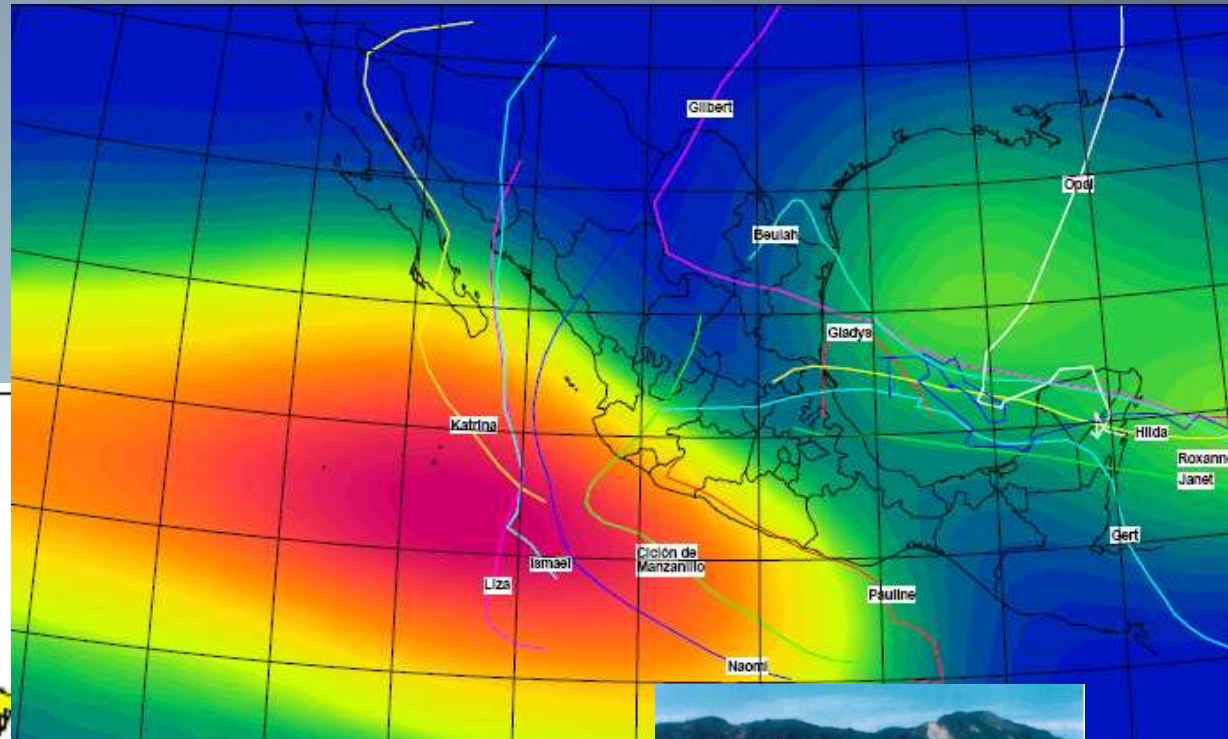
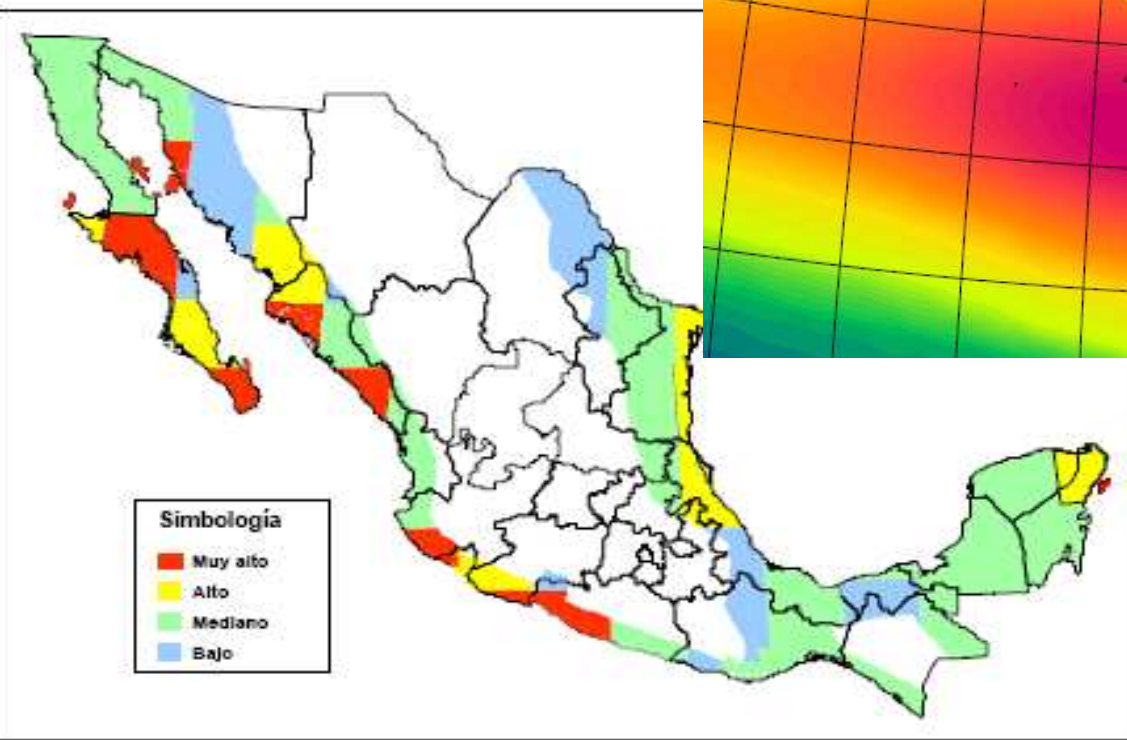
2 decades:

- 75 hydro-meteorological disasters:
- 10,000 deaths, million of affected
- Damages: over 10 billion US\$ (500 million/year)
- 2008: 632 storms (average 469), Tabasco flood: 1.2 million inhabitants affected; 80% of territory

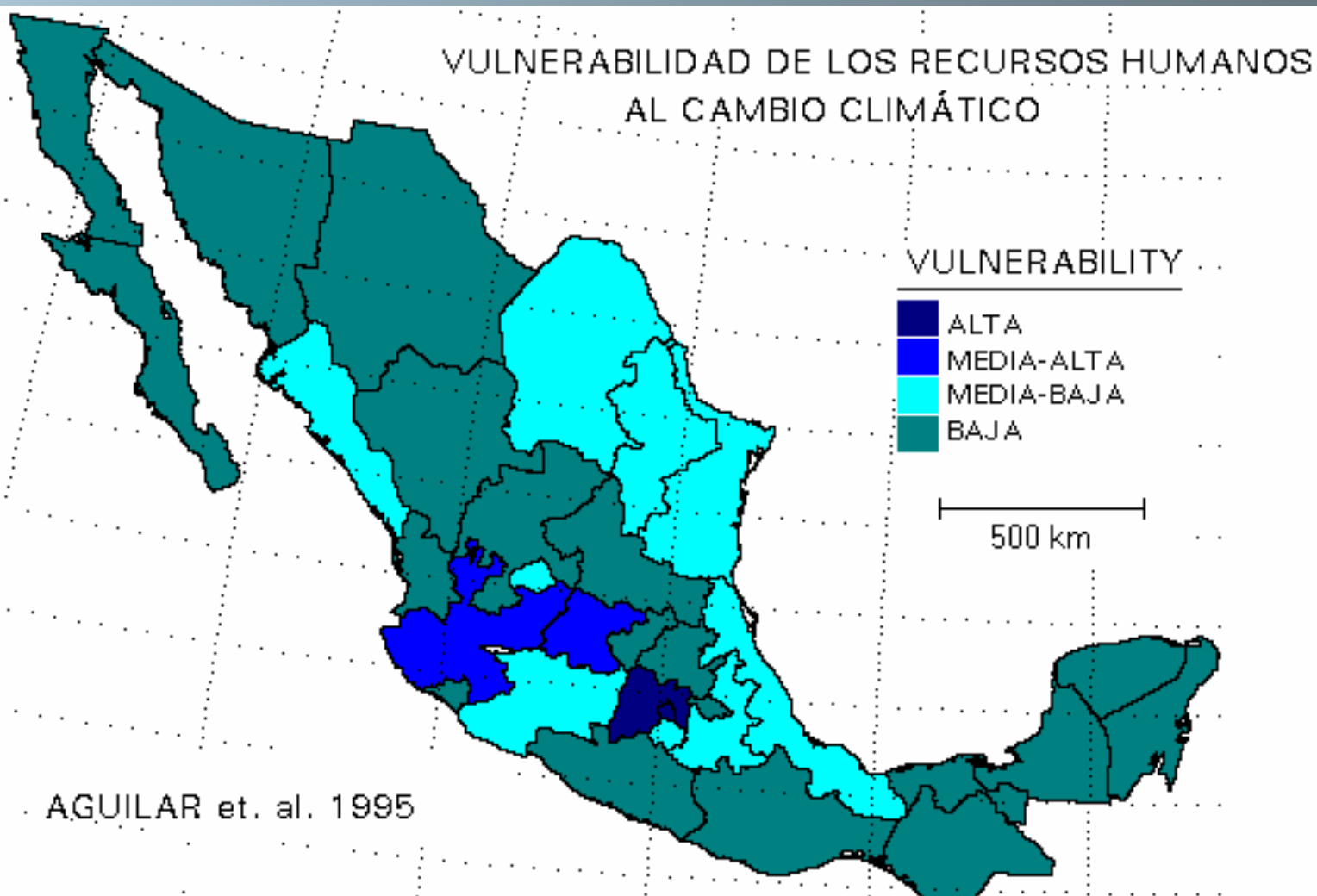
Arreguín, 2009; Oswald, 2009

Mexico highly vulnerable to CC

Source: CENAPRED, 2001

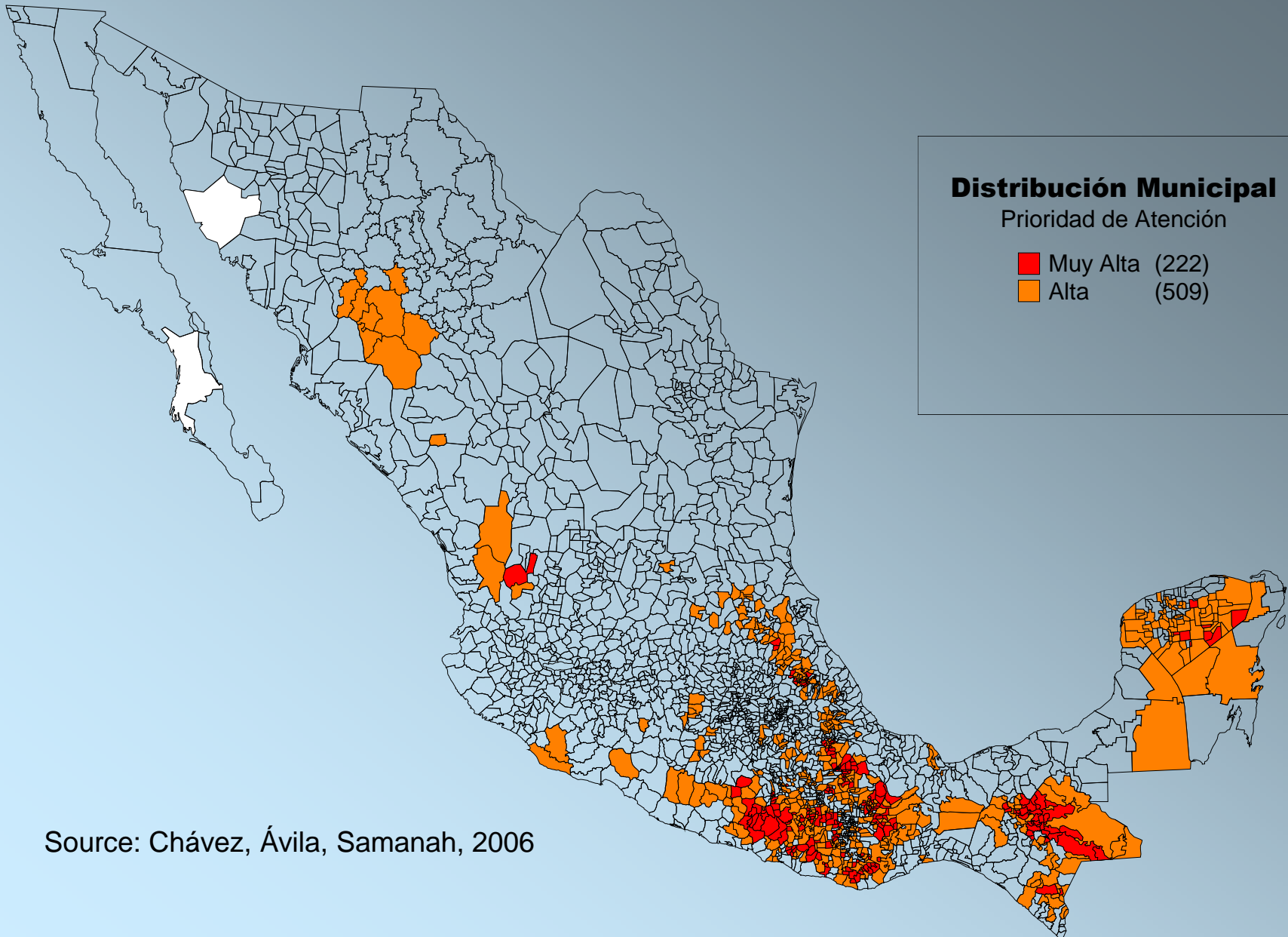


Vulnerability of Human Settlement



Vulnerability related to population density, growth, morbidity, water consumption/ scarcity / pollution and the impact of CC

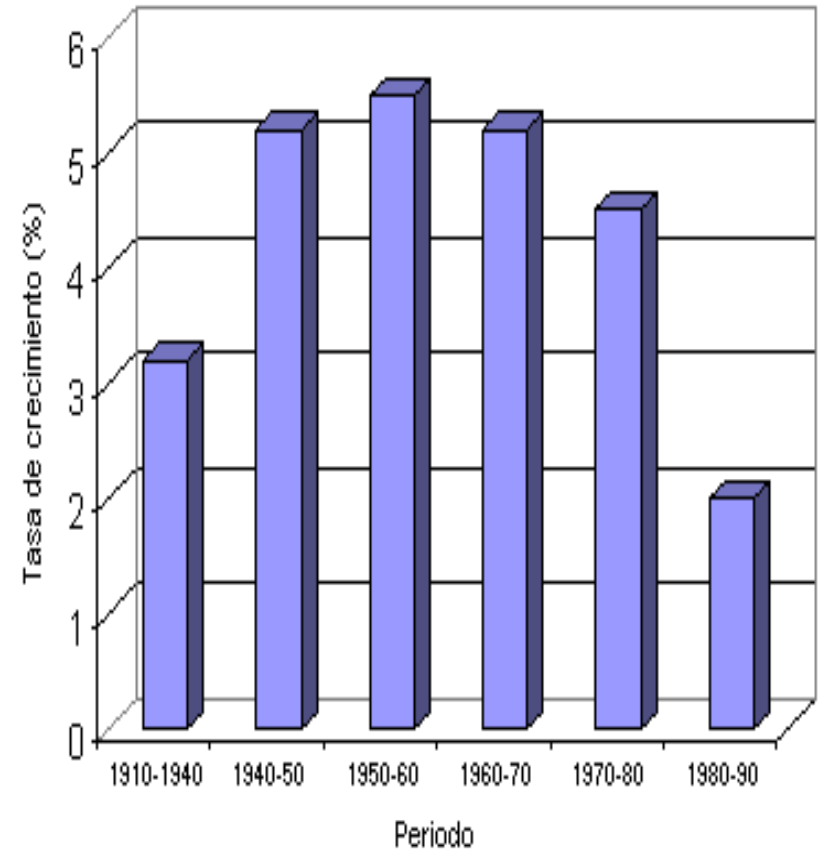
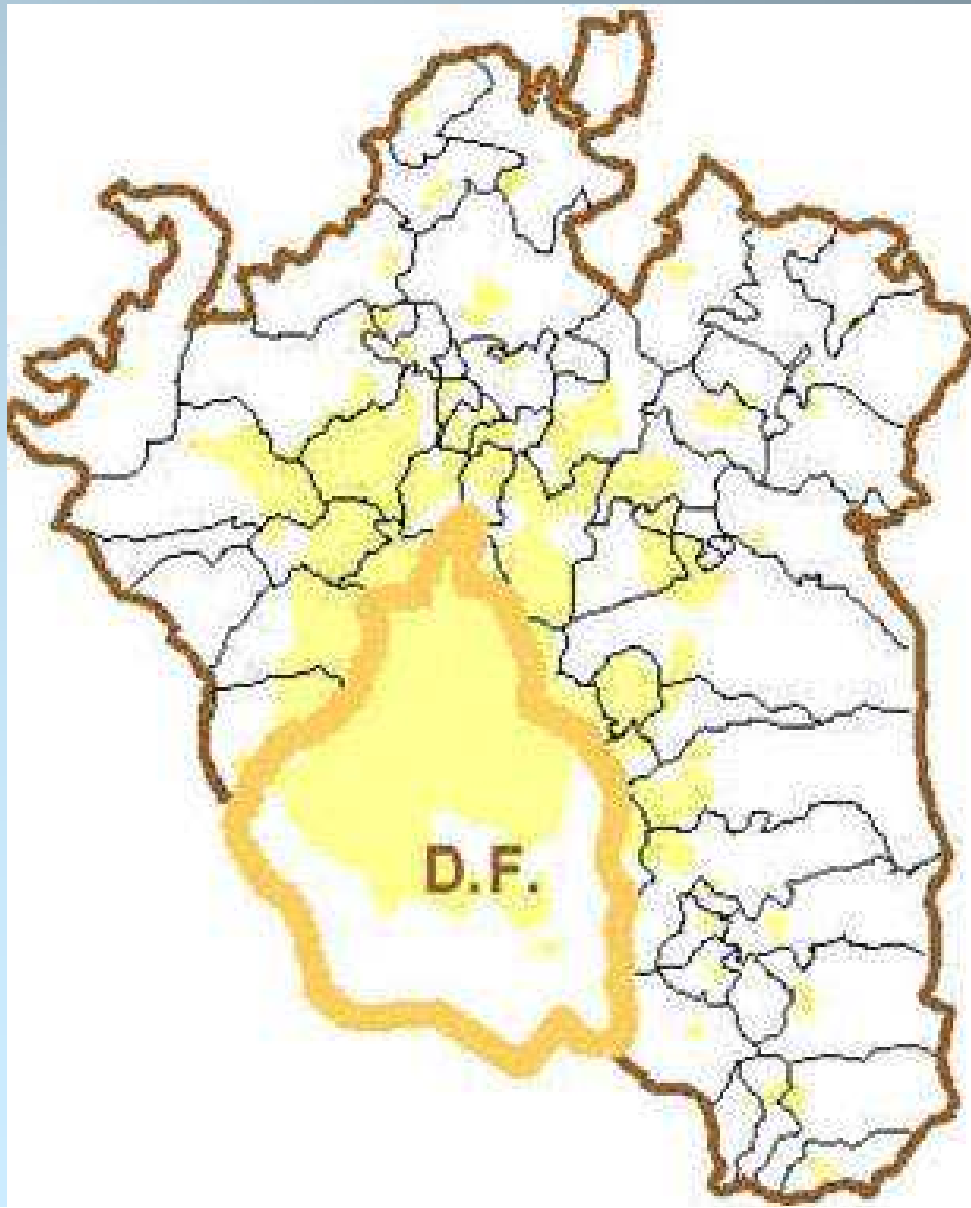
Poverty and High Marginality



Internal rural-urban migration

1. **1950-1970:** neglect of rural areas and transference of **accumulation to urban area** and **industrialization** induced massive rural-urban migrations led to a rapid growth of slums in Mexico City and other urban centers;
2. **1970-1990:** import substitution policy, cheap oil and food prices due to the **green revolution**, economic crises, resulted in further rural-urban migration that triggered high air pollution in urban centers;
3. **1990-2005:** economic **globalization** with **free trade agreements** (NAFTA) and 1994/95 huge **economic crisis**. Importation of basic food at low prices led to an abandonment of rural policy what resulted in a new wave of massive (primarily illegal) emigration to the **USA** that was further aggravated by the effects of climate change, desertification and water scarcity;
4. **since 2005:** more frequent and intense **disasters**, desertification, floods, **regressive globalization**, loss of food security and massive population movements from the rural and hazard prone areas to small towns reinforced also the illegal migration to the USA, partly organized by **transnational crime** rings.

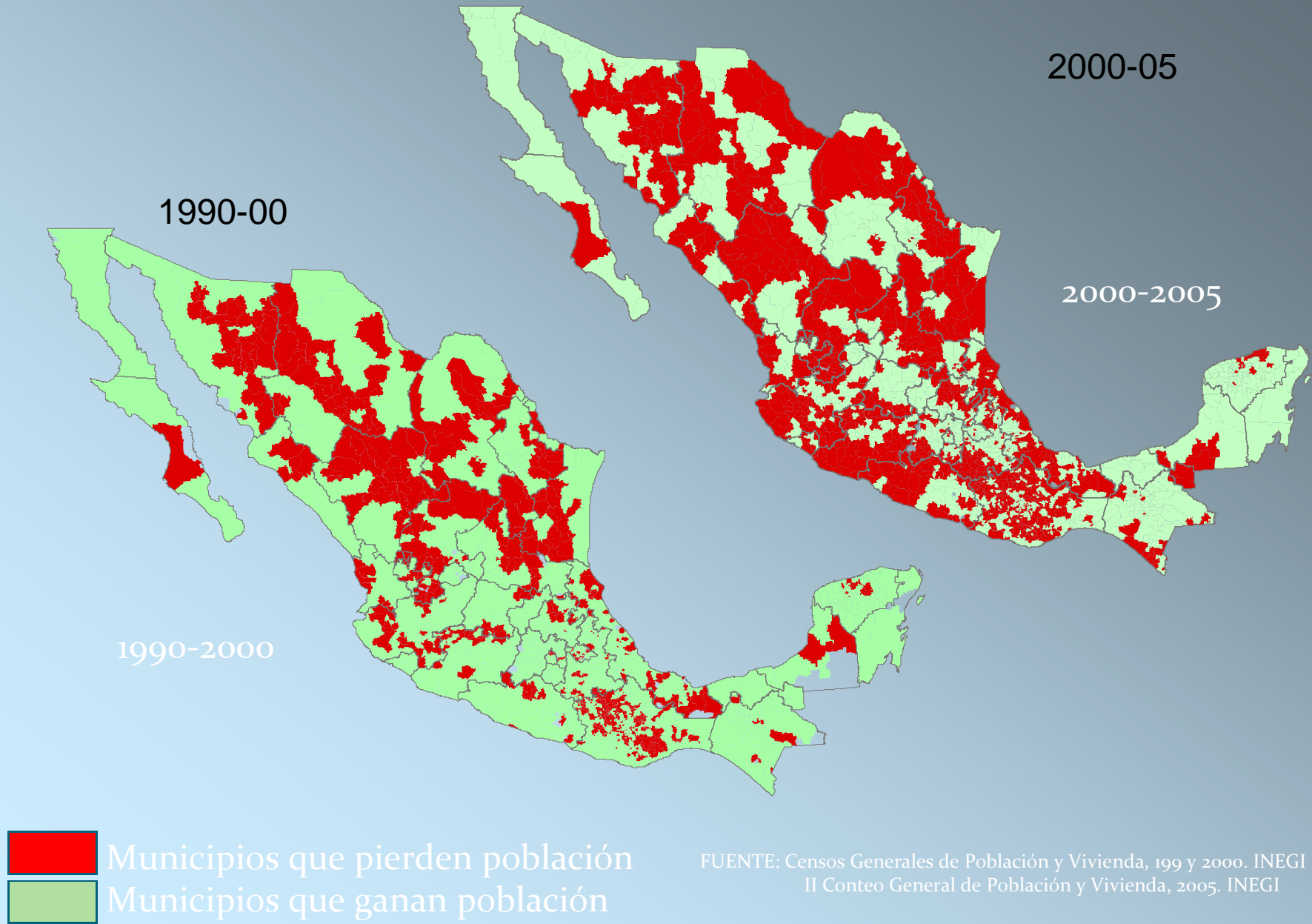
Megacity of CVMC



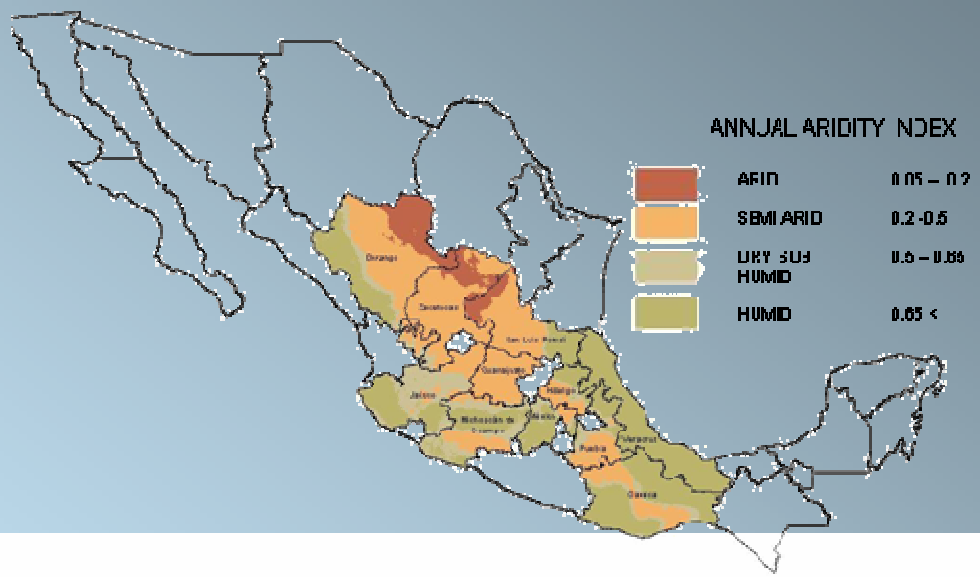


8. International Environmental Forced Migration

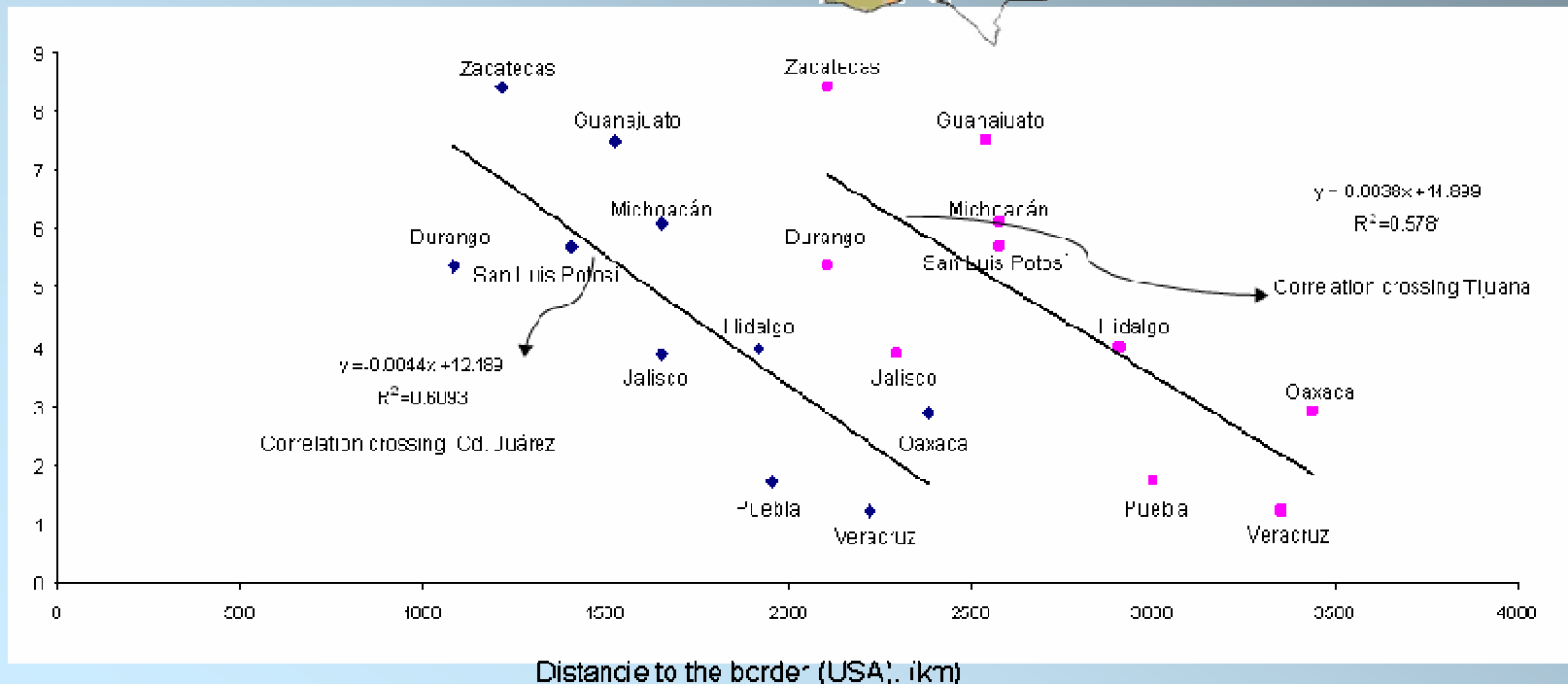
Loss of Population in Mexico



Aridity Index, distance to USA, EFM



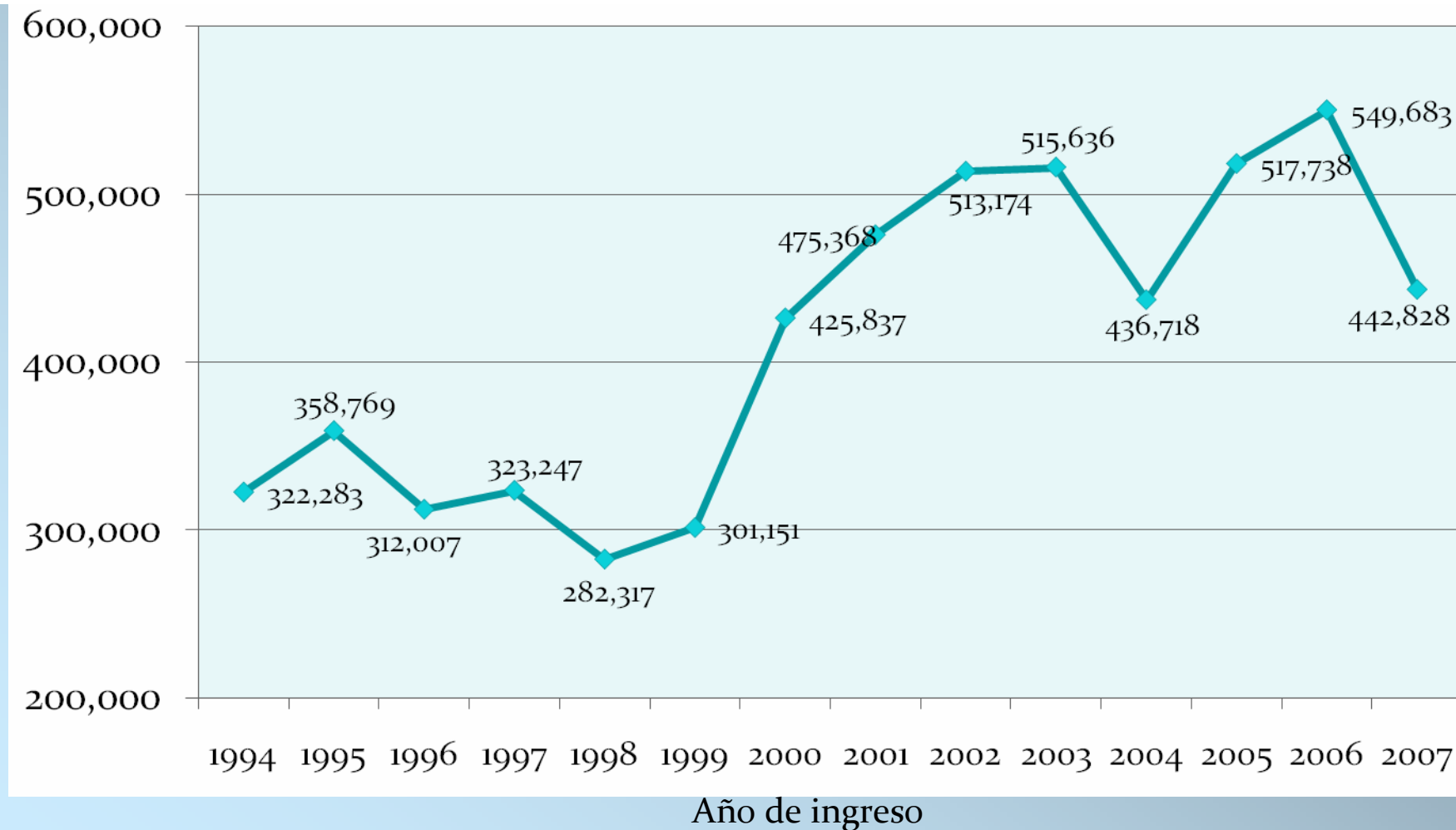
Percentage of population of the state that has emigrated to 2002



Migration from Mexico to the USA

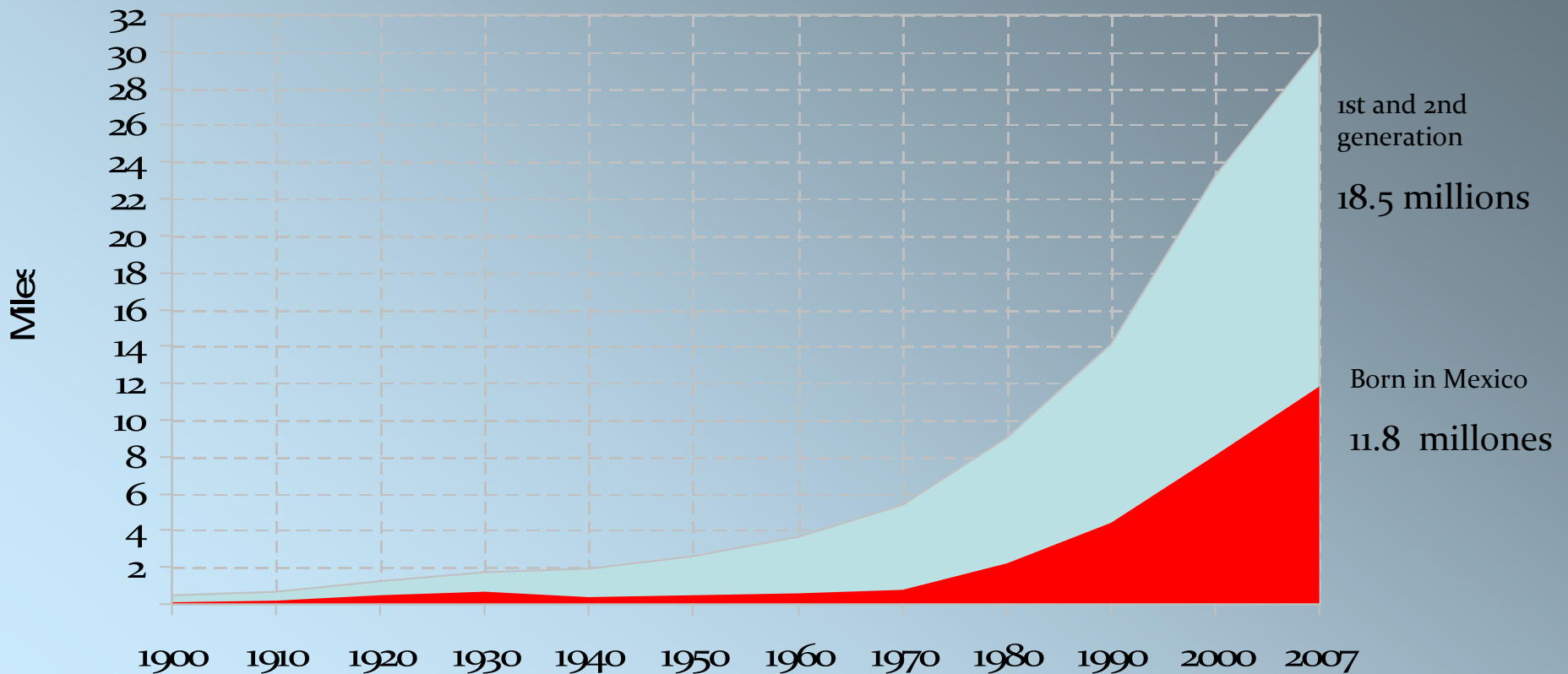
- The **abysmal socioeconomic differences**, environmental threats and public insecurity between both countries.
- Since 1986, the legal status of Latin migrants in the USA has changed and now **most cross illegally**.
- Since NAFTA (1994), the number of Mexican migrants has increased since Despite the fence, a sophisticated electronic observation system including drones, now **annually 450,000 to 500,000** Mexicans cross the border.
- Legal and physical obstacles have created **new conflicts** and the rejection of an immigration law in 2007 by the US Congress has increased the vulnerability of the Latin migrants.
- Often migration is linked to **organized crime** (drug dealers, human trafficking, pornography, illegal purchase of human organs).
- Migration is a **result of the neoliberal model with low growth rates** (below 2%), a corrupt privatization process with a high concentration of wealth, an inefficient education system and low investments in infrastructure, and a lacking policy to create jobs that pushed trained young people into illegal activities (500,000 are linked to drug gangs; AFI 2008; Mexican Congress 2008). But also the demand for a cheap labor, drugs and pornography in the USA are drivers for illegal migration.

Native Mexican Population resident in the USA: Migration 1994-2007



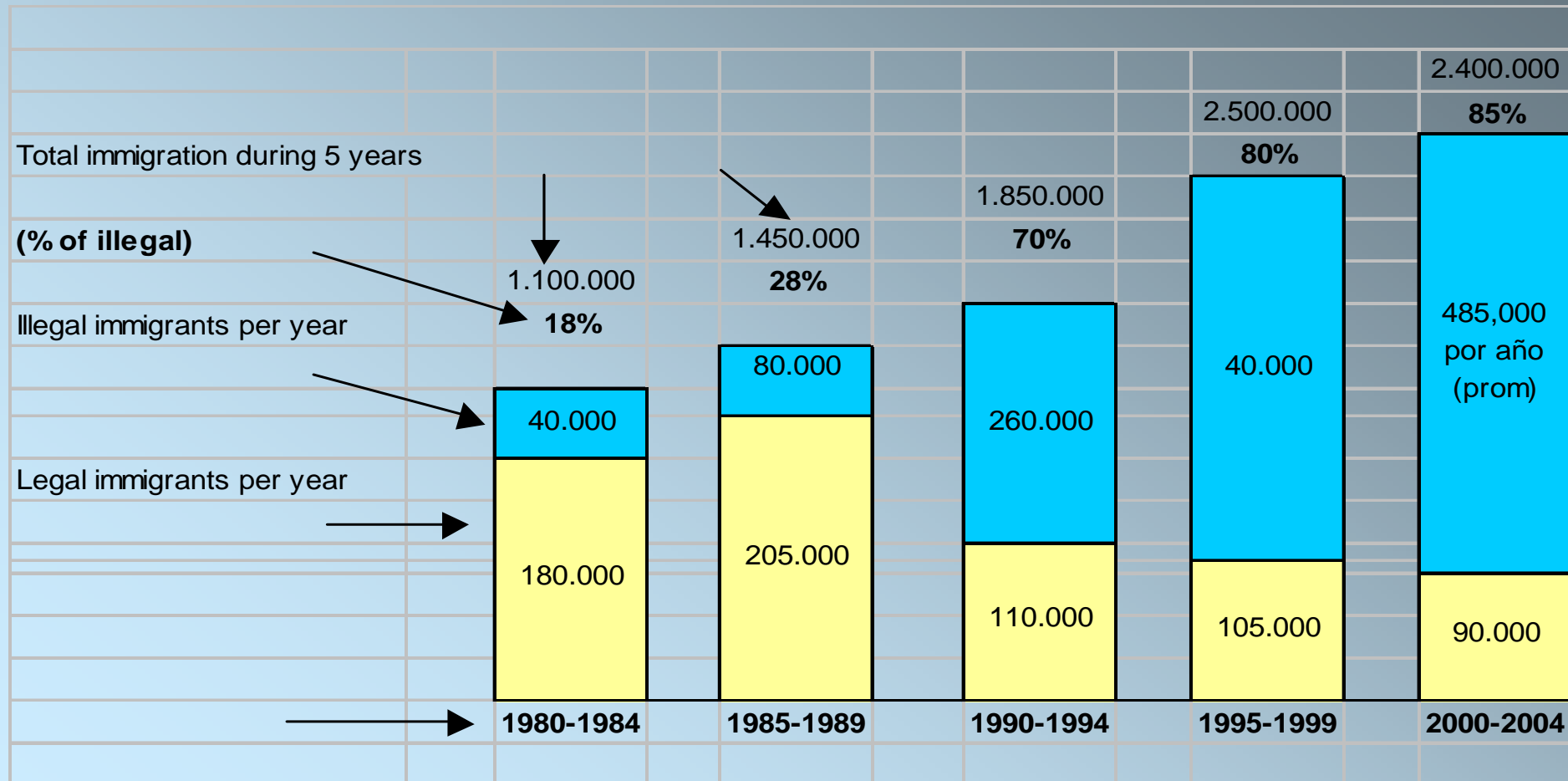
Source: Estimations CONAPO based on *Current Population Survey* 1994-2007, elaborated by F. Lozano, CRIM, 2009

Mexican's Residents in the USA



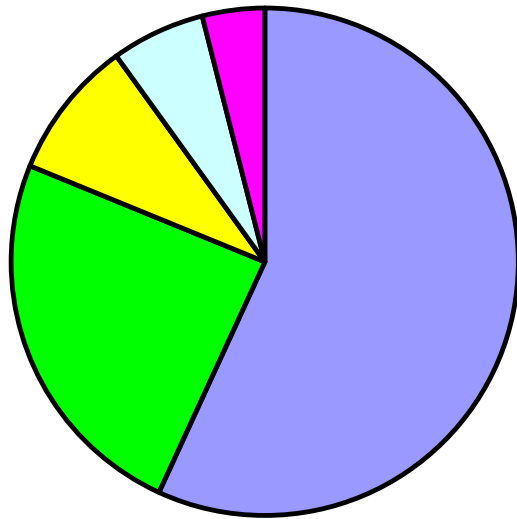
Source: Estimations CONAPO based on *Current Population Survey* 1994-2007, elaborated by F. Lozano, CRIM, 2009

Migrants from Mexico to USA and legal condition



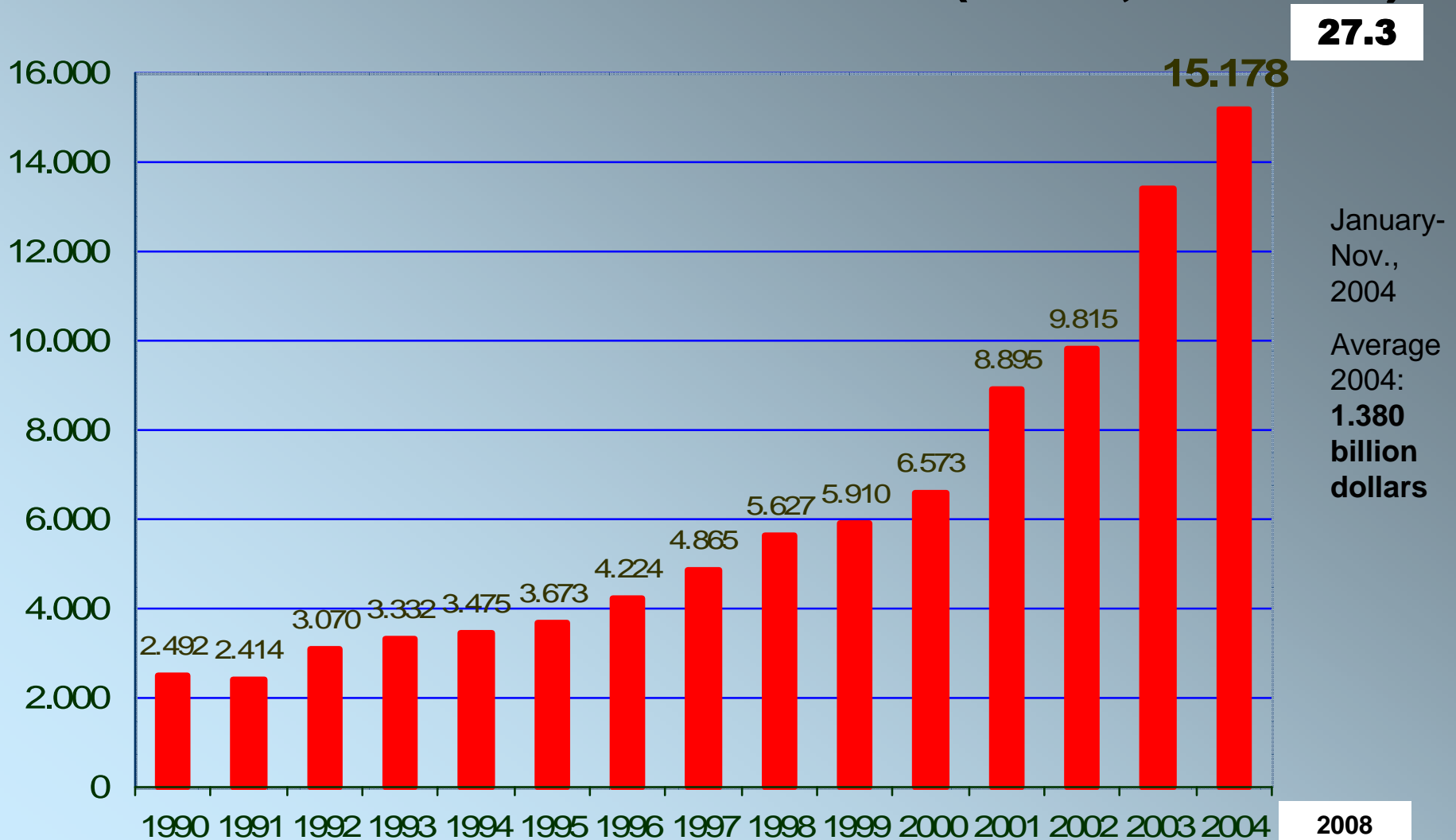
Source: Pew Hispanic Center, Estimation of the Amount and Characteristics of Undocumented Population Living in USA

Illegal immigrants to USA and origin (Total 10.3 million, March 2004)



- Mexico (5.9 millones)
- Latin America (2.5 millones) without Mexico
- Asia (1 millon)
- Europe and Canada (0.6 millones)
- Africa and others (0.4 millones)

Remittances 1990-2004 (1'000,000 US \$)



SOURCE: Informes Anuales Banco de México, varios años. www.banxico.org.mx, elaborated by Fernando Lozano, CRIM, 2005

10. Some conclusive reflections

1. Migration is a complex phenomena with positive and negative outcomes for source countries and receiver.
2. Mexico trains and educate migrants and receive ill and injured people back
3. Illegal migration increase vulnerability and migrants get most dangerous and bad paid jobs
4. Remittances are second foreign income just after oil exportation
5. Remittance alleviate poverty in most remote and marginal regions
6. Migration destroys family ties and charge the cost mostly on women
7. Returning migrants often bring illnesses (HIV-AIDS)
8. Trained migrants invest in micro-business and develop new technologies
9. Children grown up in the USA are well trained and offer alternatives to crisis situation
10. Illegal migration creates crime, drug trafficking and prostitution
11. Both countries would benefit with a legalization of migration

Thank you for your attention

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