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Strengthening the Climate Security (CS) Outcomes of Adaptation Plans: Moving from Concept to Practice

Sub-theme IV

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Presented at “ISAP 2025 Thematic Session “Progress and Challenges of the Asia-Pacific Climate Security Project: How to Address Diverse Risks” 8th October 2025, Tokyo, Japan (Online).

Outline of the Presentation

- ▶ How to make the sense of climate security while reviewing National Adaptation Plans?
- ▶ Review of NAPs submitted to UNFCCC on various security elements they covered
- ▶ Case study of how the climate security manifest at the ground level: Sri Lanka

Current Context Demanding Security Thinking

- ▶ Currently, many national governments are formulating their **national adaptation plans** including conducting risk and vulnerability assessments, identifying adaptation actions and building of capacity of stakeholders through training etc. Their synergy with human security and national is not clear.
- ▶ To enhance the overall **security paradigm of countries**, the adaptation plans and related actions must also be strengthened from the point of view of human and national security perspectives.
- ▶ Similarly, the **human and national security perspectives** need to be well-informed of climate change and related security concerns and threats.
- ▶ Though developed countries such as the US, Japan and the UK have improved their climate change planning from human and national security perspectives, the same cannot be said for many developing countries in Asia.

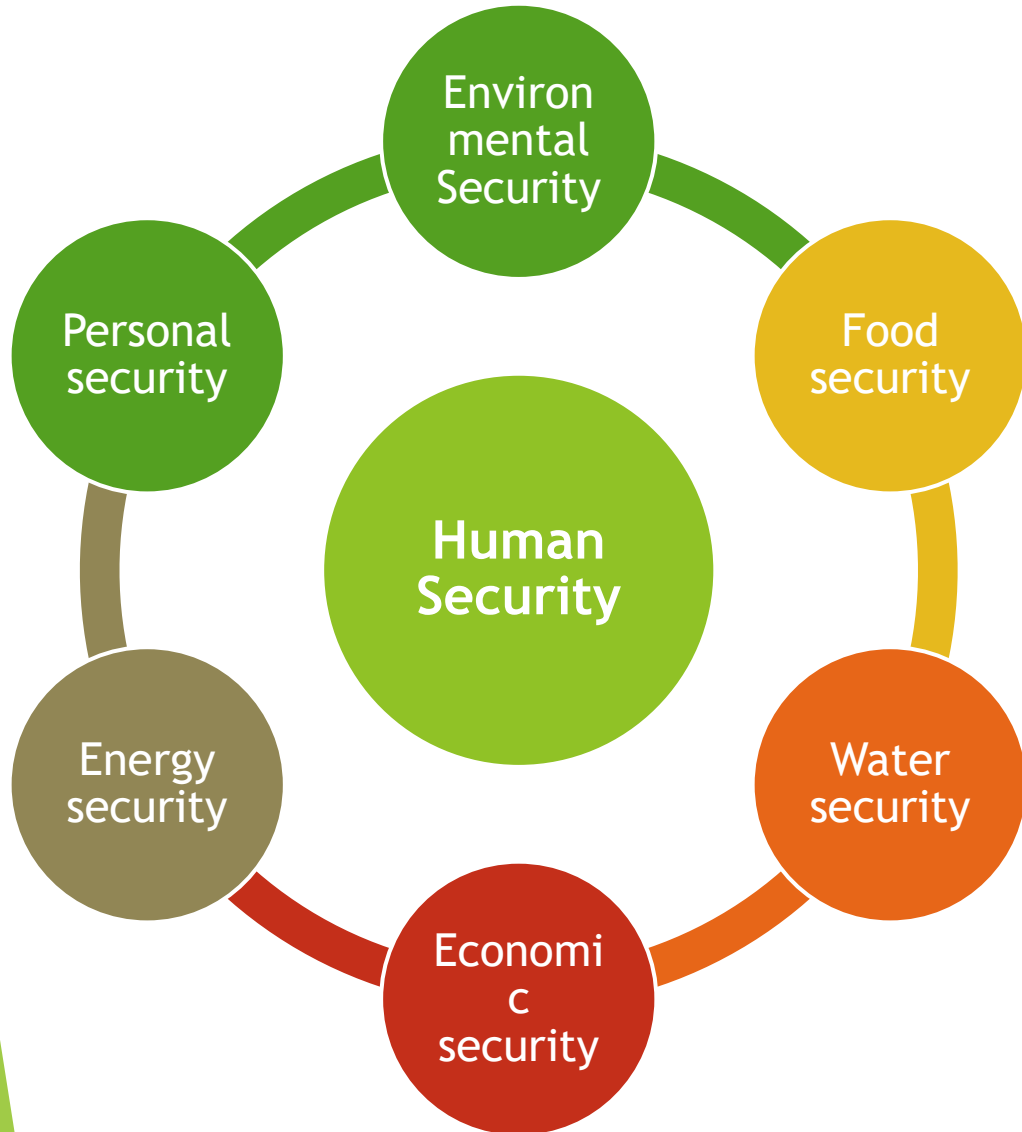
Overall Research Questions

- ▶ Address the following overarching research questions:
 1. What are the **synergies** and **additionality** between climate change adaptation and climate security (including other security dimensions such as human security, and national security dimensions)?
 2. What specific **adaptation plans** and **activities** will contribute to enhancing climate security (and other security dimensions such as human security and national security)?
 3. How climate security can be strengthened by bringing '*alienated*' **stakeholders** together leading to greater security outcomes?

A Global Paradigm Shift from National Security to Human Security

- ▶ Security has been traditionally thought and considered as threats coming from outside the borders.
- ▶ However, over the years the notion of security moved from national security to human-security as more and more threats to human prosperity are emerging from within the borders.
- ▶ This paradigm shift in security from national to human level has also left behind some traditional stakeholders who engaged with the security earlier.

Climate Security



- Climate security refers to the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on **human security**.
- Climate change as a threat multiplier, can exacerbate the underlying traditional security issues.
 - It means impact of climate change on the political stability, national security etc.

Broad steps of this Research

Step 1

- Review of literature
- Review of NAPs
- Stakeholder consultations

Step II

- Specific country case studies to identify ways and means of strengthening NAPs from HS and NS perspectives

Step III

- Policy recommendations for strengthening adaptation planning from HS and NS perspectives
- Policy stakeholder outreach

Identifying Country ‘Security’ Priorities: NAPs Review

- ▶ Objective:
 - ▶ To understand the context and stress given to the ‘security’ perspective, identify various dimensions of security (especially human vs national) stressed in the NAPs and actions identified for security outcomes.
- ▶ Total NAPs reviewed (at the time of this exercise): 67
 - ▶ LDCs: 23
 - ▶ SIDS: 12
- ▶ Method:
 - ▶ Review of NAP documents for key words (keyword search), and analysing the context in which those keywords were used.
- ▶ Keyword sets:
 - ▶ Security, climate security, energy security, food security, mobility/migration, peace/conflict

vulnerability coordination sectoral programmes **strategic** awareness

development capacity integrated resources

priority ecosystems climatique impactos international relevant **increase measures**
infrastructure resilience d'adaptation training research including
environment communities **government changes** acciones

planning priorities **climaticas** ressources economic

national strategies biodiversity

implementation sistemas nacional temperature conditions
sustainable community monitoring information recursos potential

environmental **management** framework processes strategy
développement conservation population información livestock evaluation knowledge
services technical developed institutions changement implementación objective
disaster programme desarrollo regional production

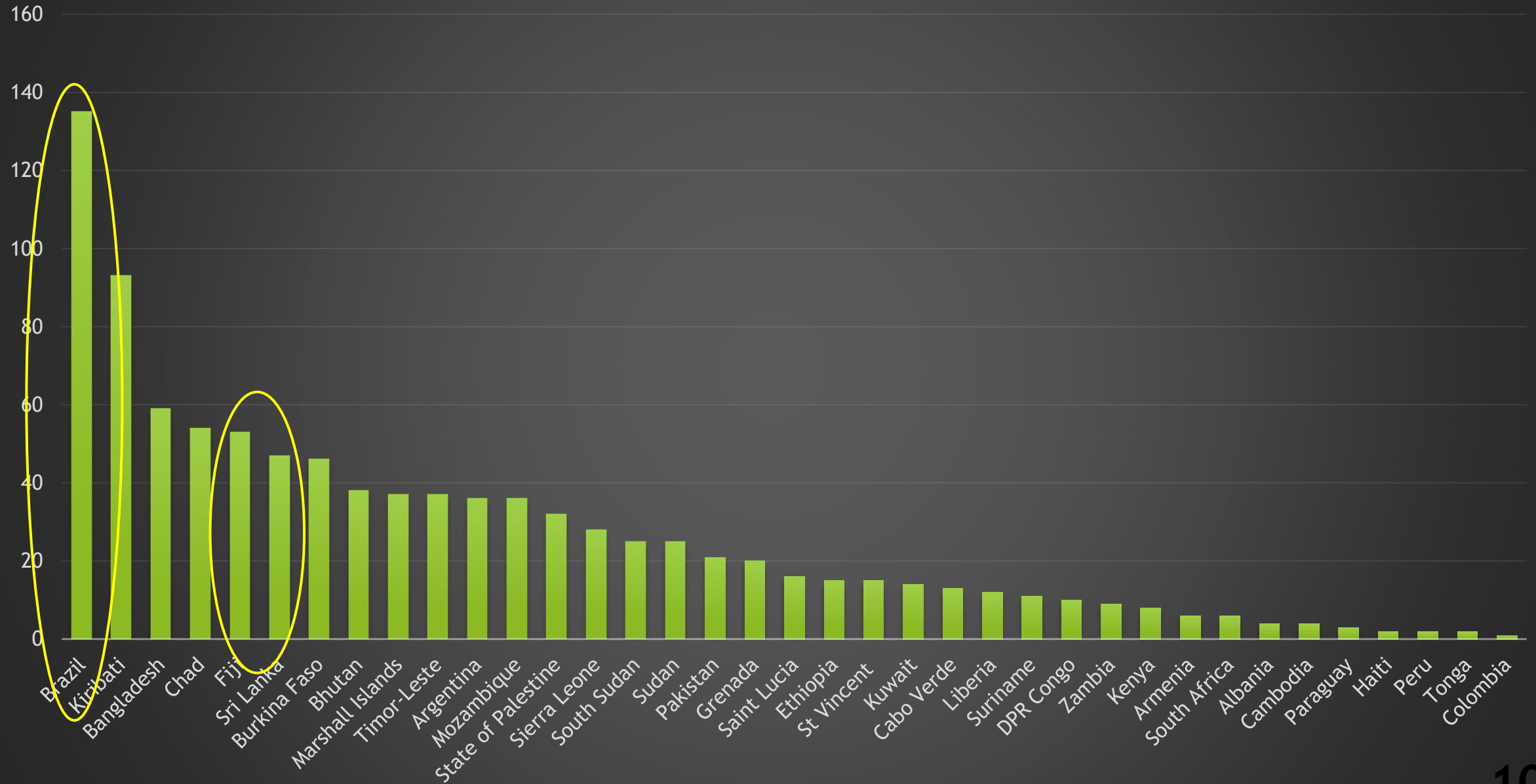
adaptation agricultural ecosistemas

rainfall **security** analysis activities ministry vulnerable building resilient policies
protection reduction projects education agriculture institutional servicios

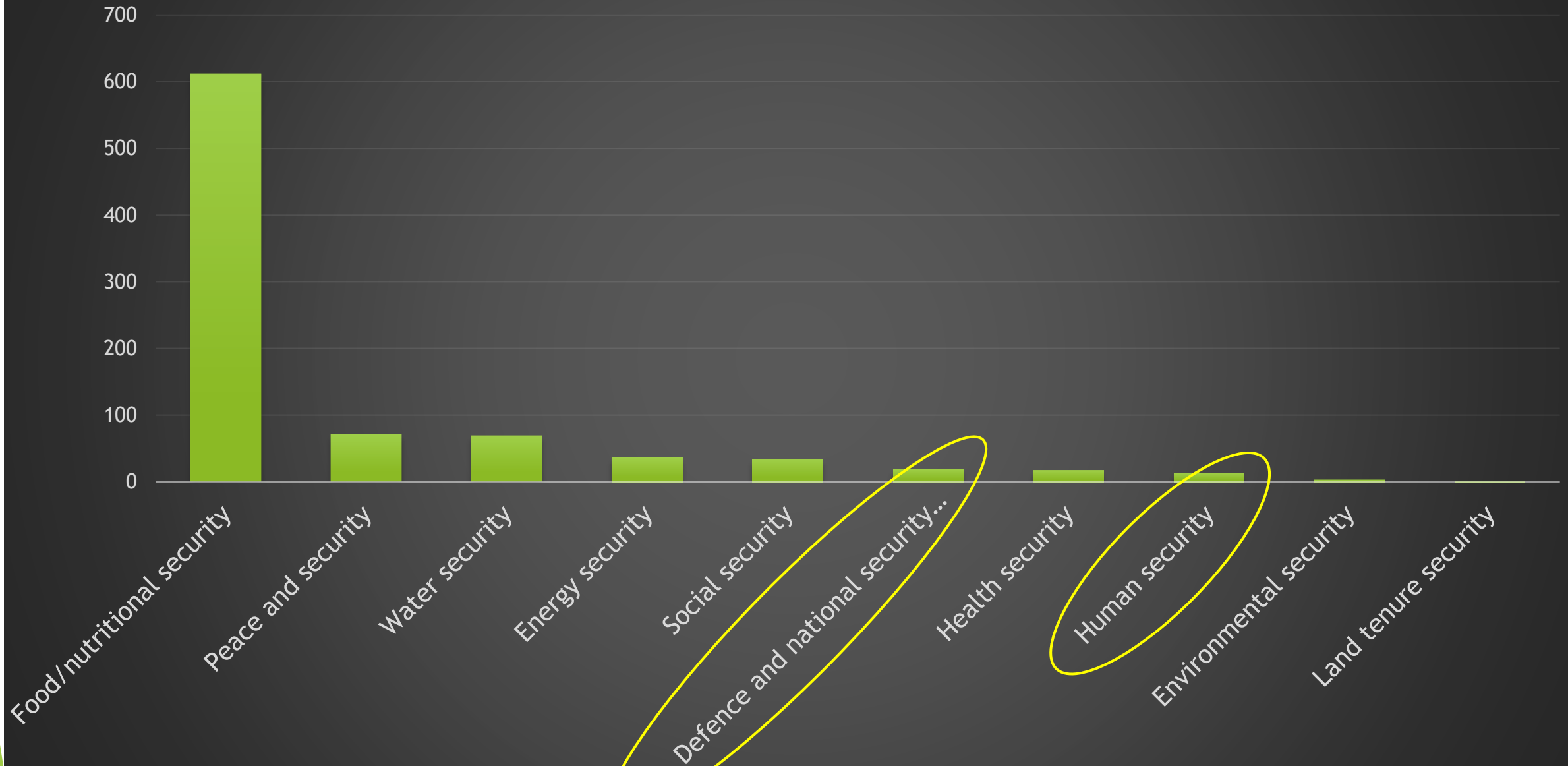
adaptación existing **climático** assessment communication
stakeholders increased fisheries

- ▶ The word 'Adaptation' in comparison appeared 11381 times
- ▶ The word 'Security' occurred 948 times in 36 NAPs (ranked 82)
- ▶ LDCs used the term security more often (493 times) compared to SIDS (262). However, there is no difference in average occurrence (approx. 19)

Number of Occurrences of 'Security' in NAPs of countries

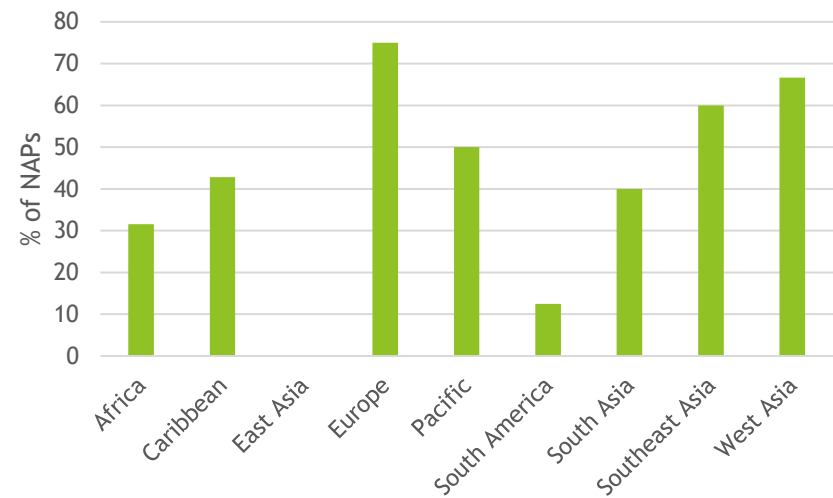


Security Dimensions

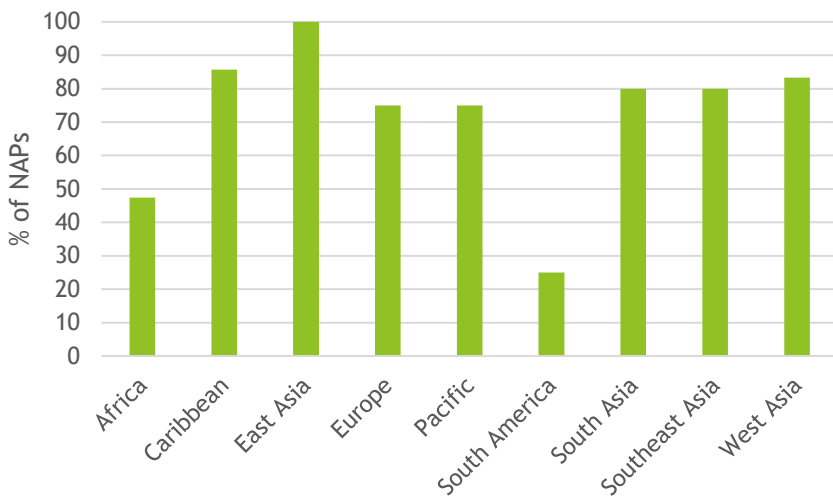


Diversity of Regions in Security Dimensions

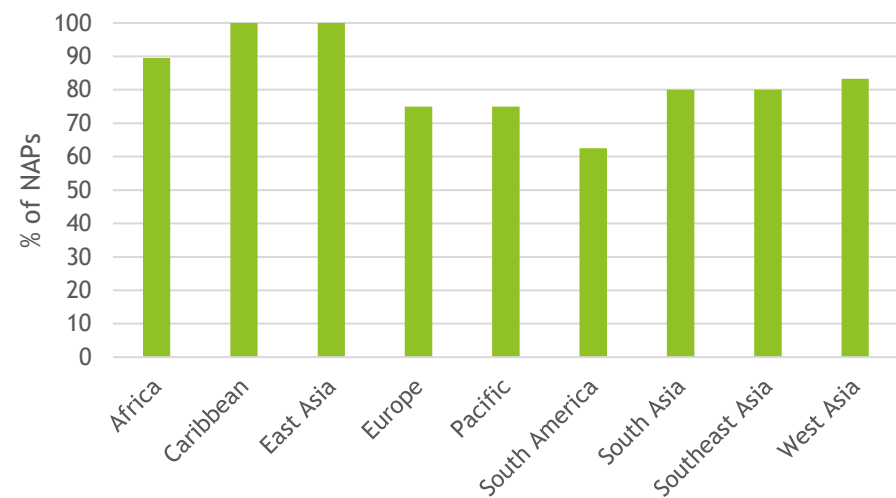
1 : Climate Security



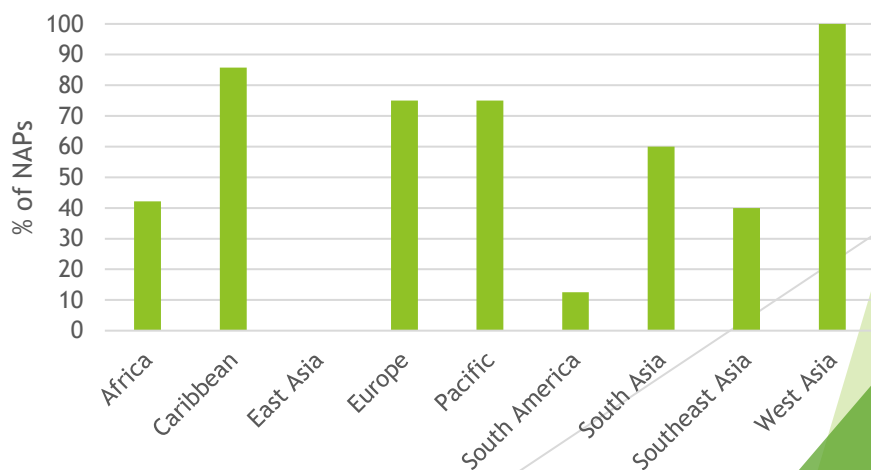
2 : Peace & Conflict



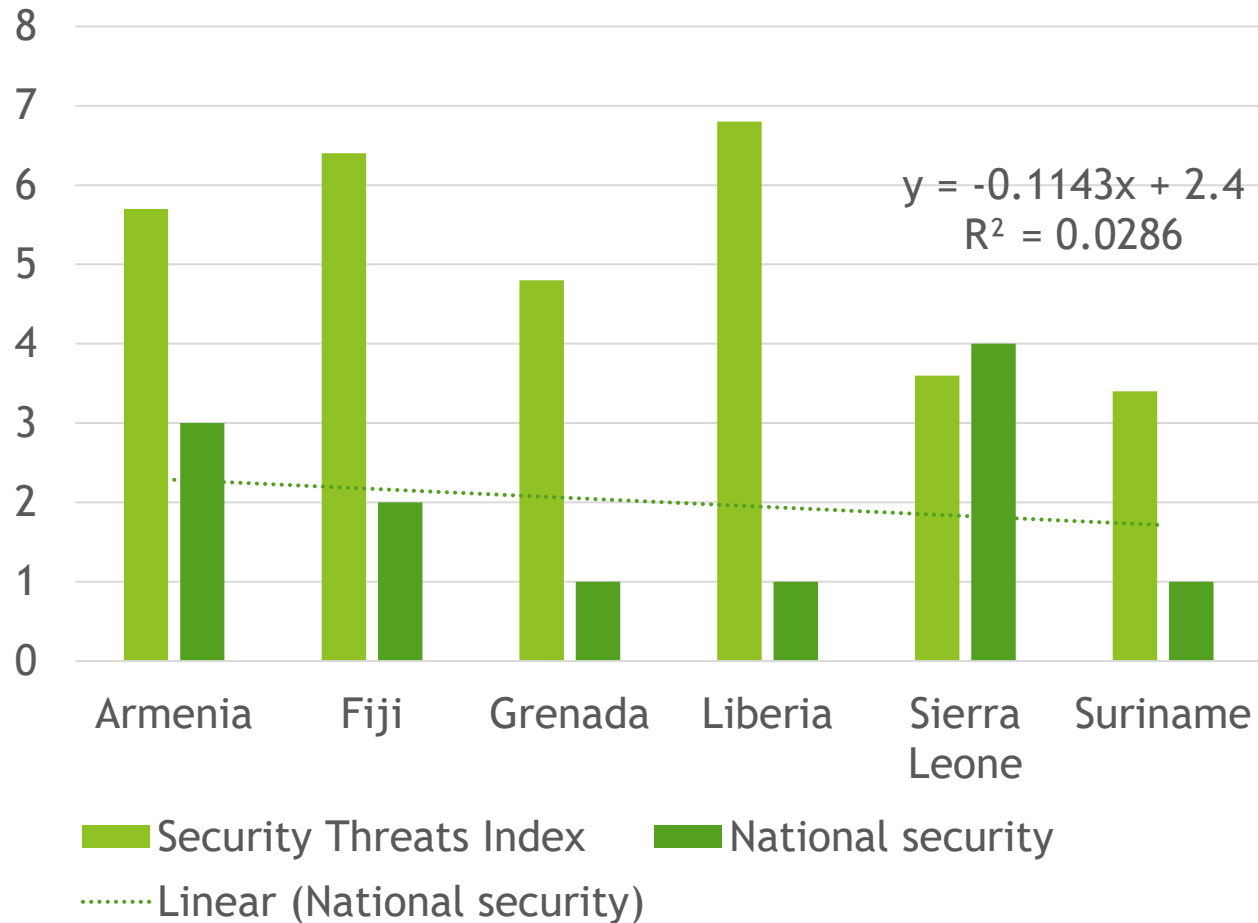
3 : Migration



4 : Defense



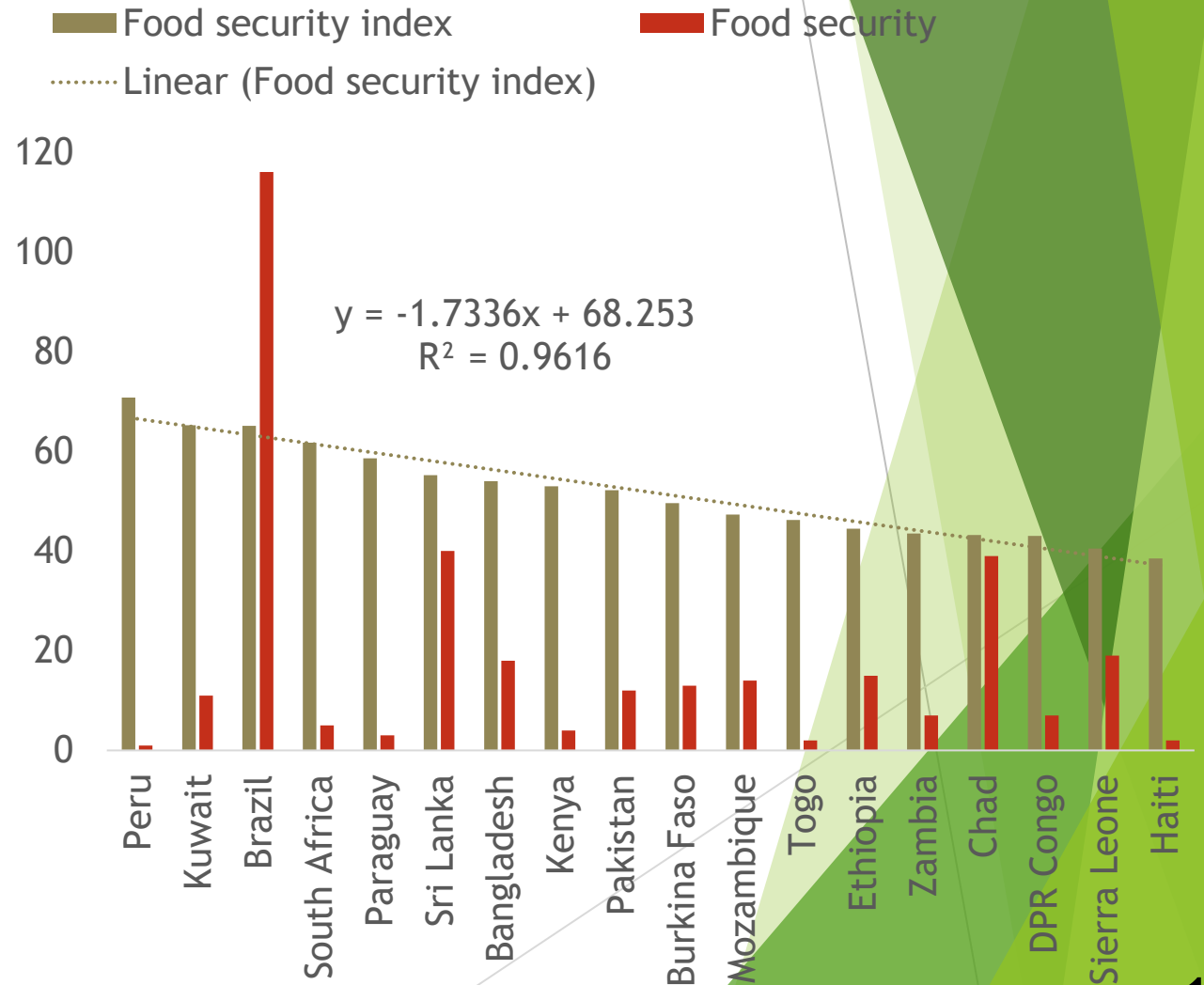
How is national security reflected vis a vis the security threats?



- ▶ Security threats index and the stress given on national security in the NAPs had a weak negative correlation ($r = -0.23$).
- ▶ Very limited data makes this relationship unreliable to draw any conclusions (only 6 countries mentioned the national security in their NAPs) as reflected by least regression value (R^2).

How is food security reflected vis a vis the Food Security Index?

- ▶ Food security showed weak negative correlation ($r=-0.25$).
- ▶ Countries with high food security status gave least stress to food security in their NAPs.
- ▶ We do not know if it means the future food security threats are considered or not in their NAPs and it has to be evaluated closely.



Case Studies

Human security is a concept that aims to protect people's fundamental rights and needs, and to ensure that they can live in dignity.

Case studies are designed based on the following definition of CS:

“Climate security should capture how climate change affects the peoples ambition to life”

Case Studies on Climate Security Implications for Adaptation Planning: Addressing the Security Deficit

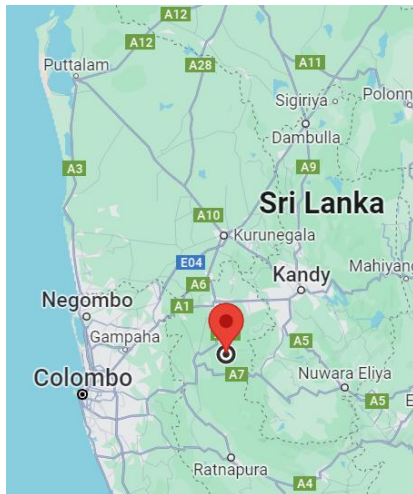
- ▶ Case Study in Fiji and Sri Lanka.
- ▶ Activities:
 - ▶ Focus group discussions with the communities to understand their perspectives of climate change and how it affects their security (*life ambitions*).
 - ▶ Round table structured discussions with policy makers and NGOs on how NAPs can contribute to national and human security and how NAPs can be strengthened from NS and HS perspectives.

Community Focus Group Discussions in Sri Lanka



- ▶ Wariyapola (Kurunegala, North Western Province)

- ▶ 15 participants
- ▶ Mostly focused on agriculture and arable farming
- ▶ Average age 63 years
- ▶ Education: Above ordinary level exam



- ▶ Yatinantota, Dombepola (Kegalle District of Sabaragamuwa)

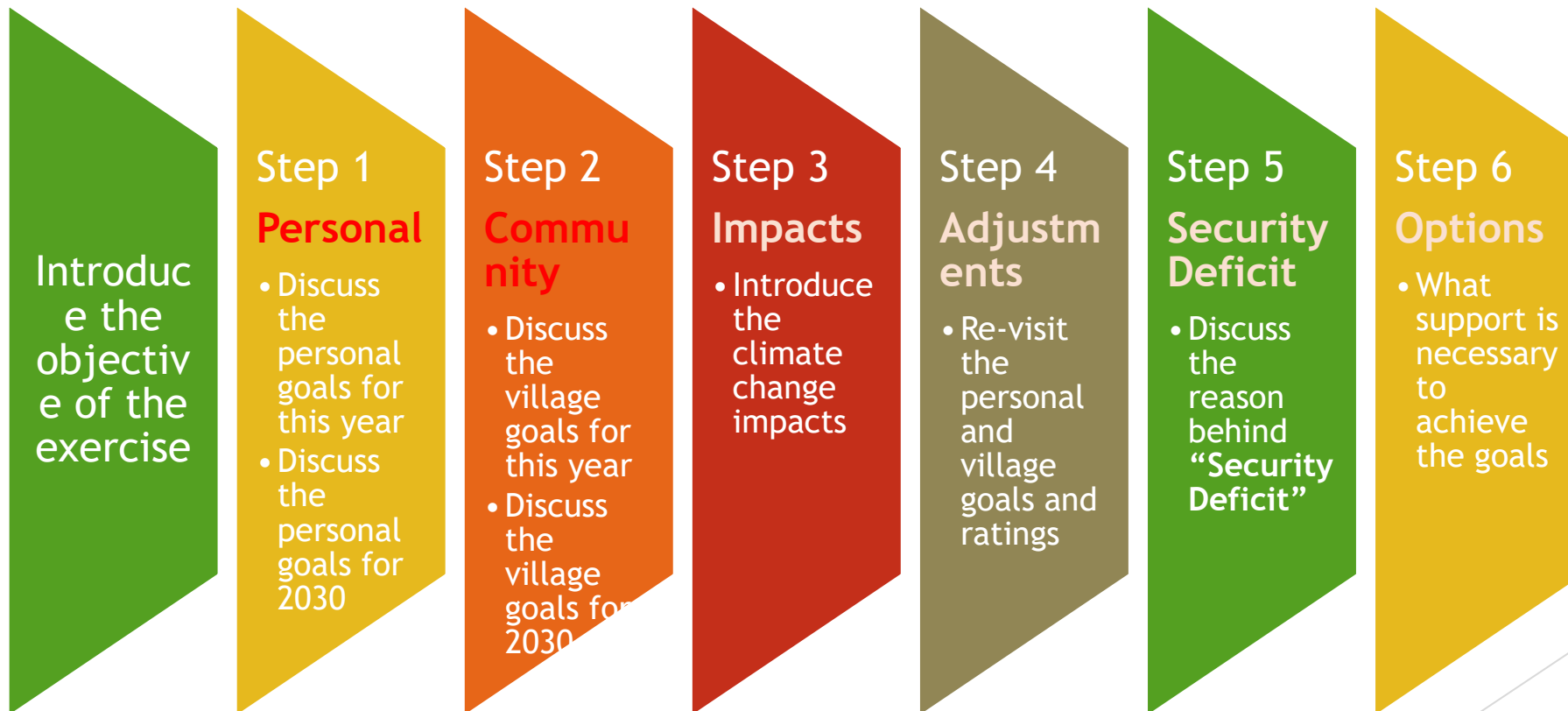
- ▶ 15 participants
- ▶ Mostly farmers and plantation staff/owners
- ▶ Average age 59
- ▶ Education: Above ordinary level exam

Community Focus Group Discussions in Fiji

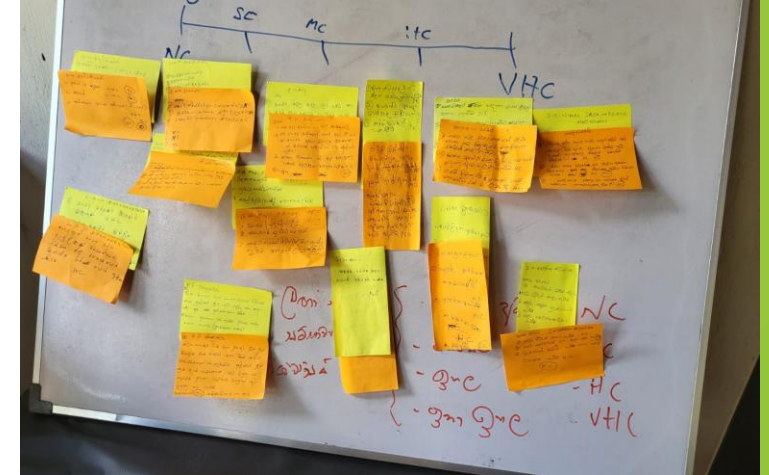


- ▶ Nasilai village
 - ▶ 16 participants
 - ▶ Mostly focused on fisheries, some are engaged in providing other village services
 - ▶ Average age 44 years
 - ▶ Education: Above Form 3 level

Identifying *Security Deficit*: Community Level Scenario Exercises in Sri Lanka



Wariyapola (Kurunegala, North Western Province)

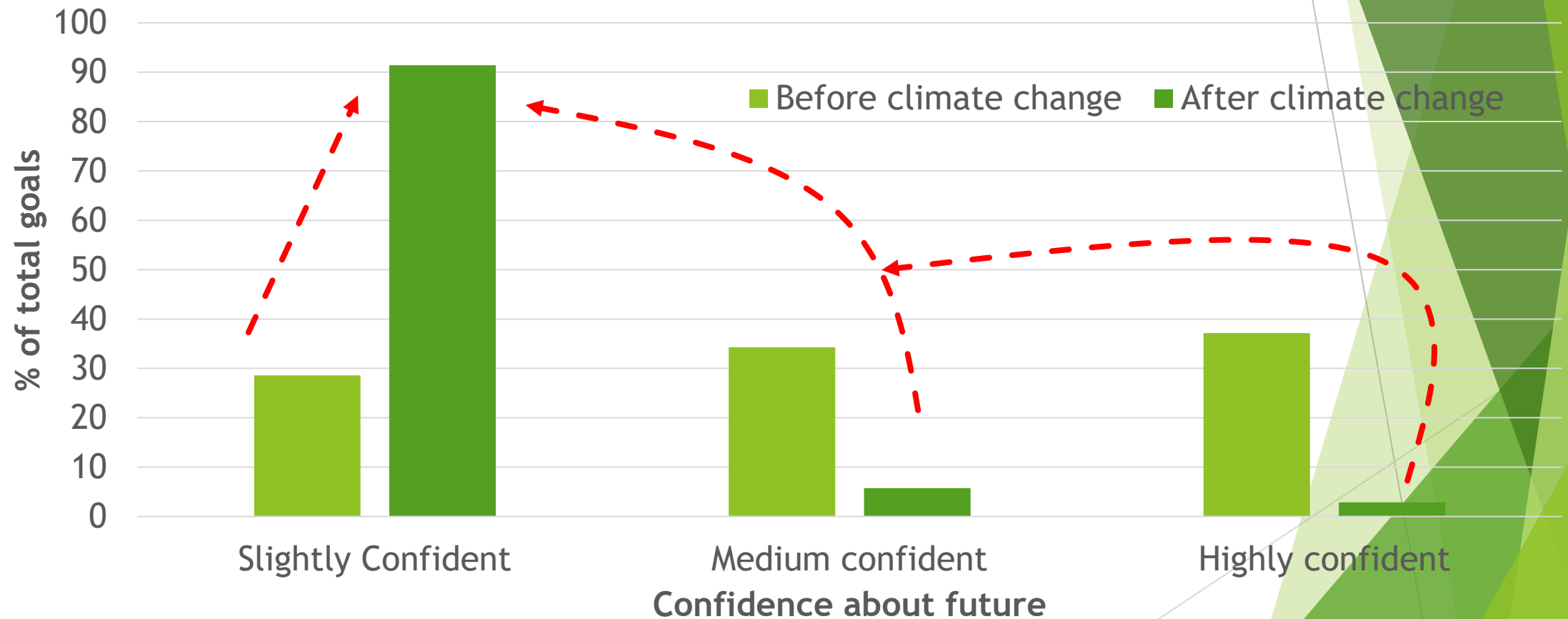


Yatinantota (Kegalle District of Sabaragamuwa)

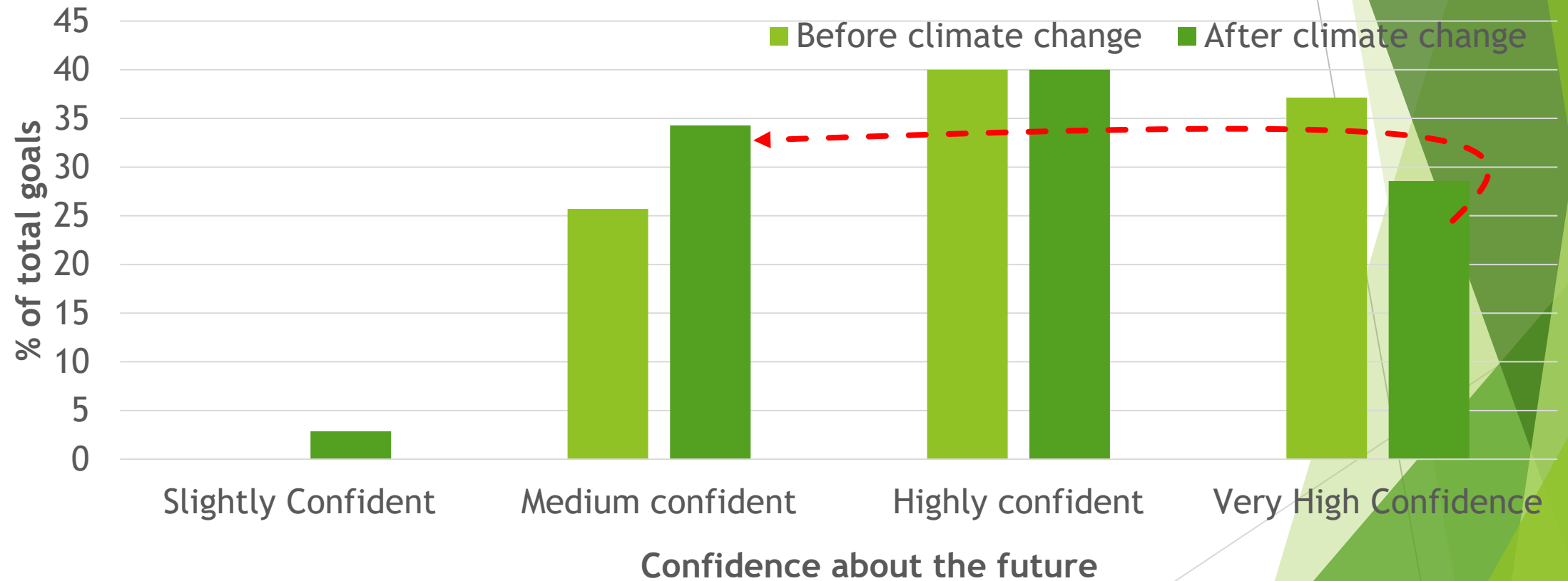




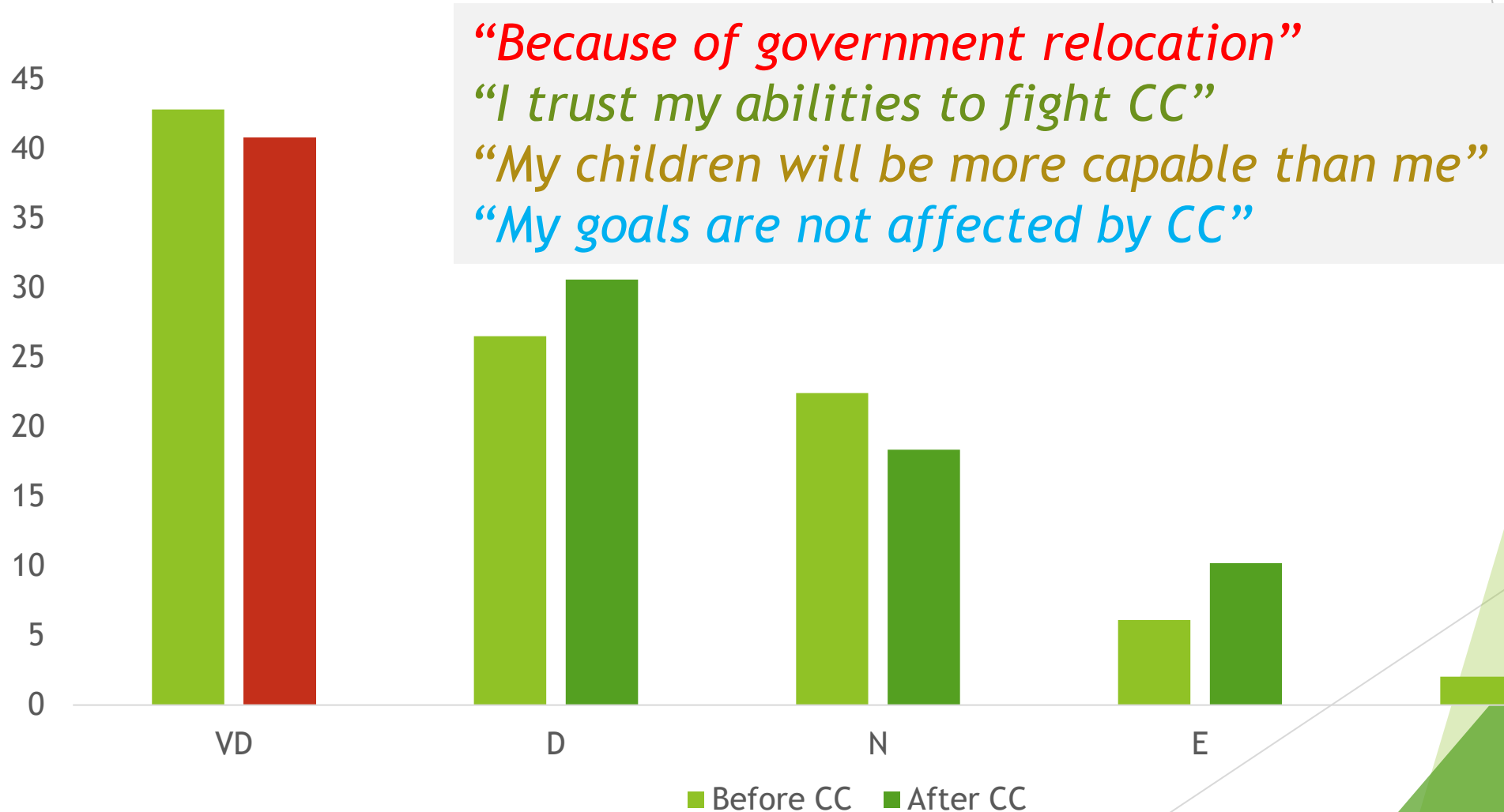
The Impact of Climate Change on Human Security (Security Deficit): Wariapola, Sri Lanka



The Impact of Climate Change on Human Security: Yatiyantota, Sri Lanka



The Impact of Climate Change on Human Security: Nasilai, Fiji

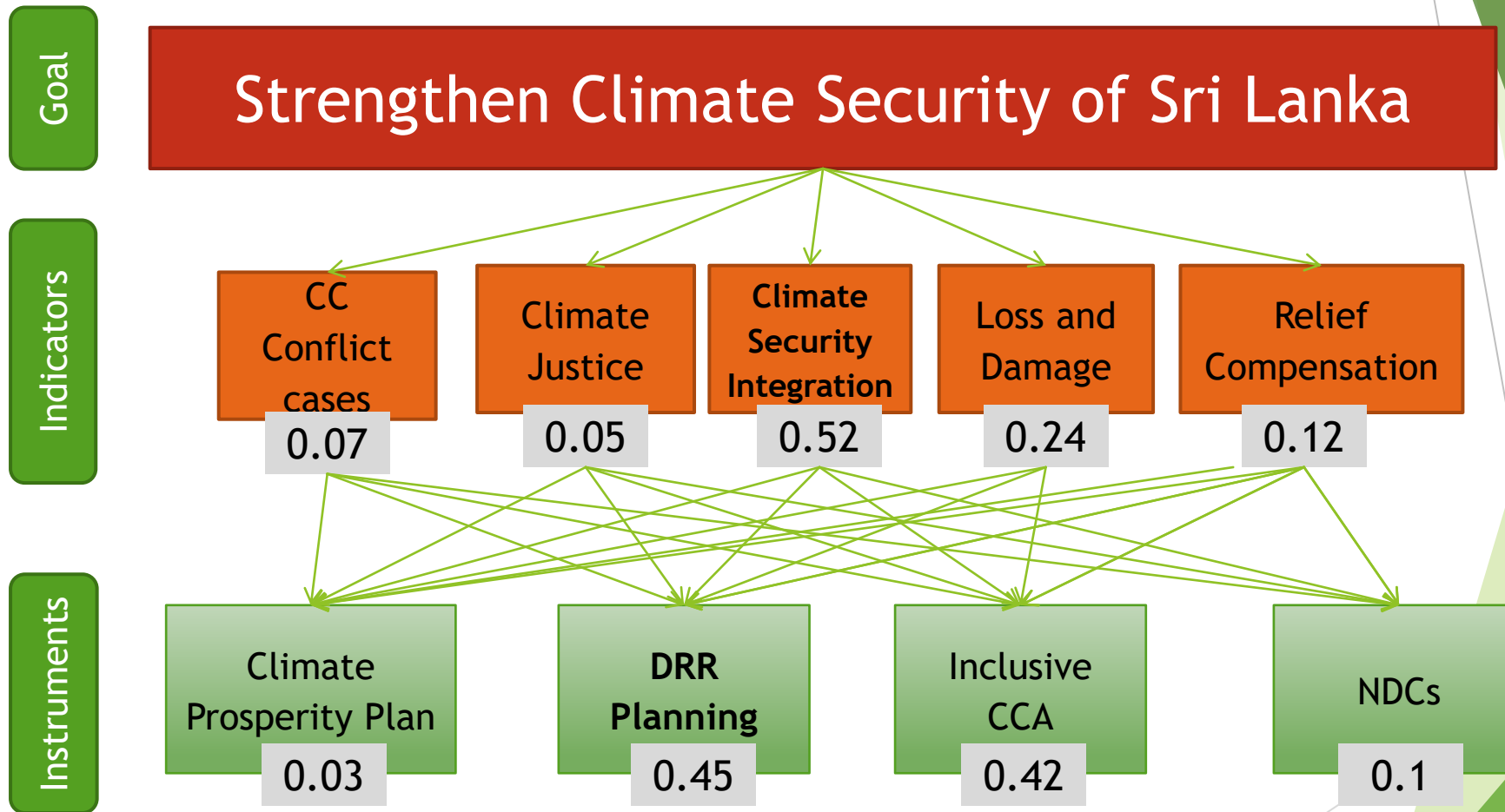


Structured Consultation Meeting with National-level stakeholders in Sri Lanka



Strengthening the Climate Security

Outcomes of NAPs: Sri Lanka



Conclusions

- ▶ For NAPs to make significant contribution to climate security and human security, **there is a need to identify additionality and synergies between climate change adaptation and climate security.**
- ▶ However, NAPs do not address **peace and security explicitly** but rather have implications at secondary and tertiary levels.
- ▶ There is a large gap between the national level and local stakeholders. There is also need to link NAPs with how local stakeholders understand and implement security concepts in the practice.

Thank You!



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