

CLIMATE CHANGE AND MIGRATION

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**CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH: RISKS, ADAPTATION, RESILIENCE
AND CO-BENEFITS**

BASEL – DECEMBER 5TH , 2019



Guet Ndar

IPCC forecasts on Climate change (2014)

➤ Direct impacts

- Sea level (rise) > loss of habitat
- Hurricanes – Heavy rains (intensity) > destructions
- Temperatures (rise) > Decreasing yields + Droughts (severity)

➤ Indirect impacts

- Climate Change > Conflicts > Migration > Conflicts
- Health issues > Migration > Health issues

Number of publications and case studies on migration and climate change (1970-2016)

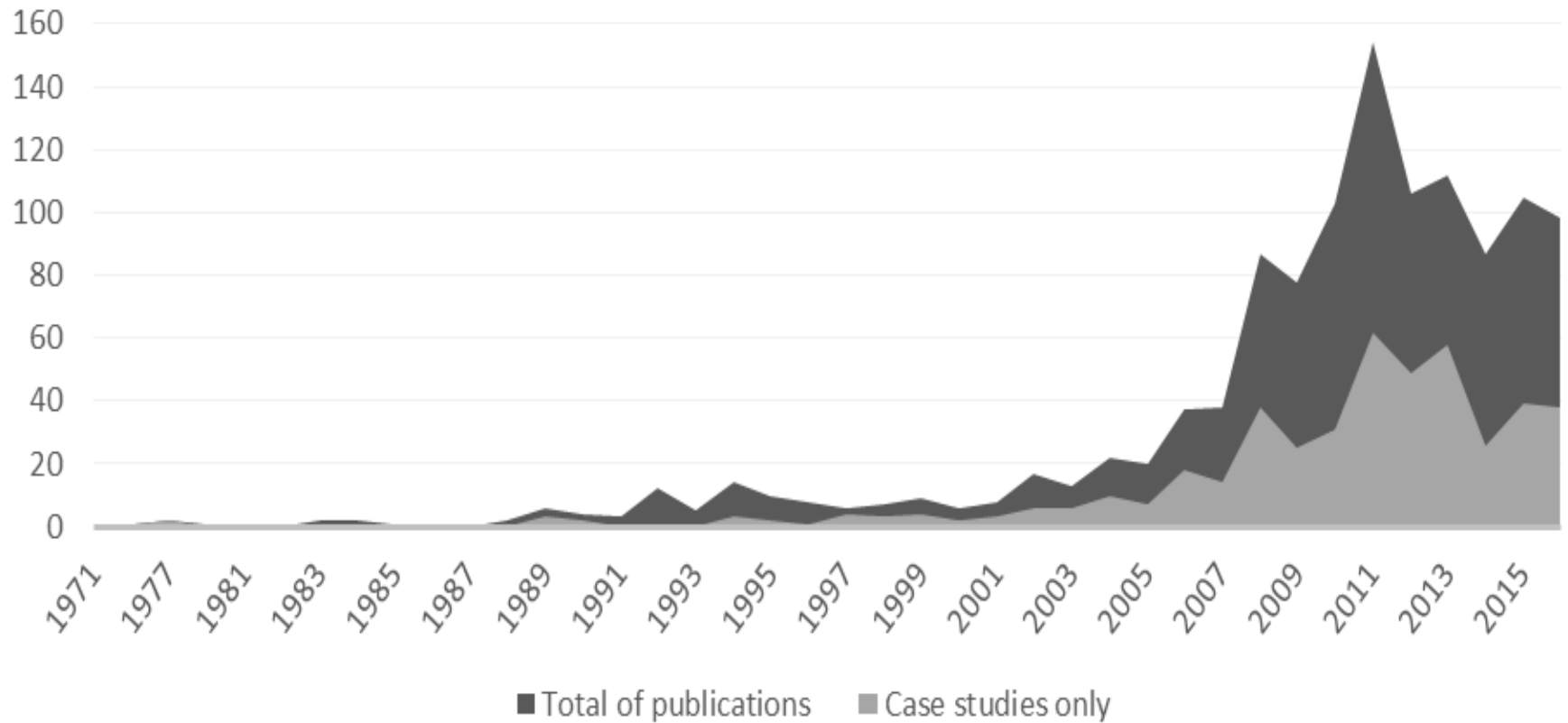


Figure 1: The evolution of the publications (N=1187) and case studies (N=461)

Source: CliMig, University of Neuchâtel

The world's case studies

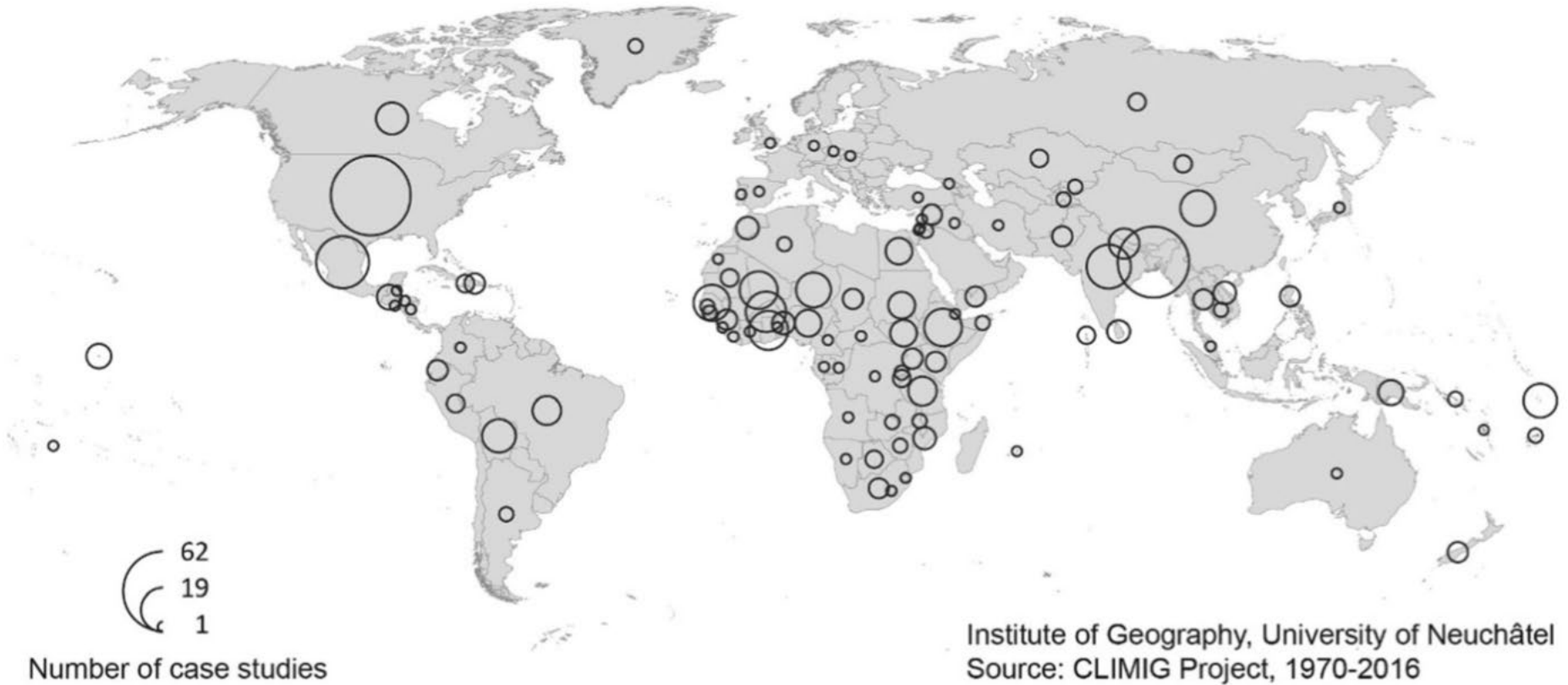
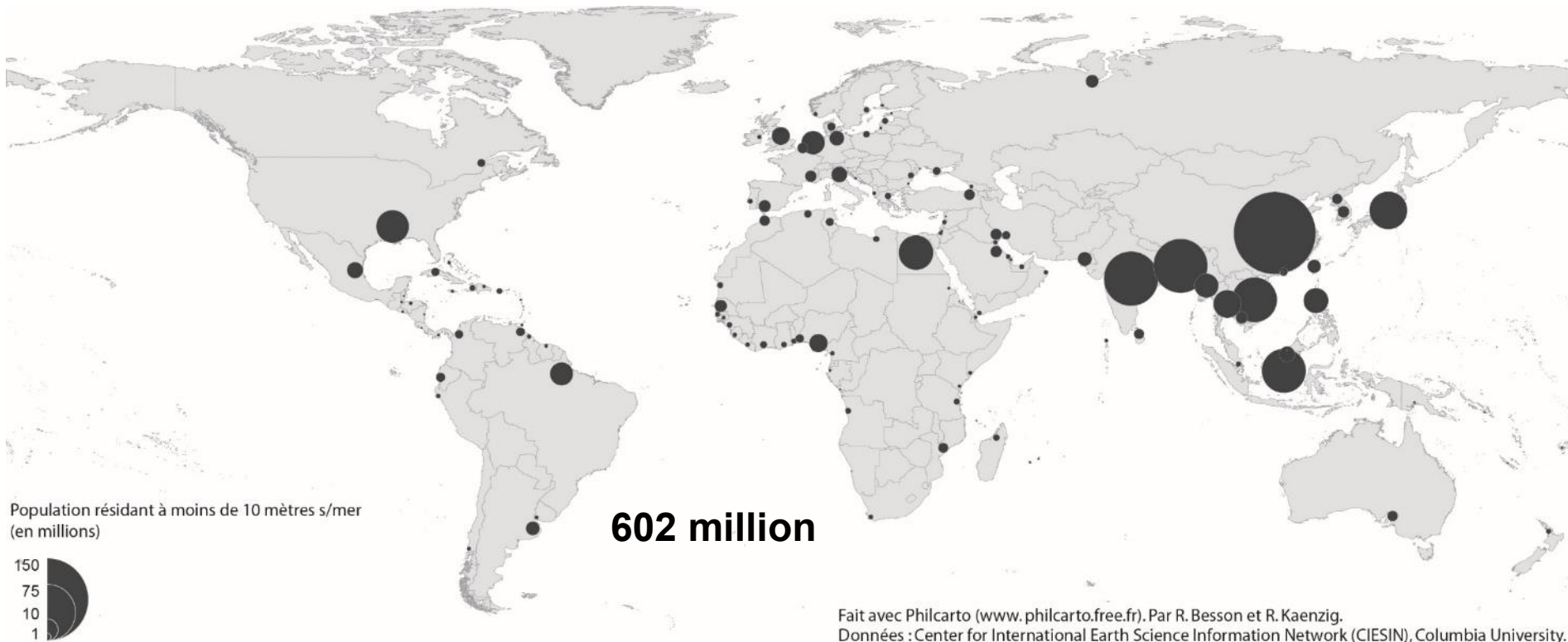


Fig. 6 Countries where case studies on migration and climate change have been conducted ($N = 532$; an article can contain multiple case study locations)

Main results...

- Distinction: sudden events versus slow-onset events
- Serious issue > major (future) impact
 - SLR could displace hundreds of millions by 2100

Population in Low Elevation Coastal Zones



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 - SLR could displace hundreds of millions by 2100
- No systematic link
 - The correlations migration/climate remain weak
 - Political and economic variables are more important than the environment (multicausality)
- No major risk for Europe to be suddenly «flooded»
 - Most displacements on short distance – often for short periods > a mobility rather than a migration issue !

Comment | Published: 26 November 2019

Climate migration myths

Ingrid Boas , Carol Farbotko, Helen Adams, Harald Sterly, Simon Bush, Kees van der Geest, Hanne Wiegel, Hasan Ashraf, Andrew Baldwin, Giovanni Bettini, Suzy Blondin, Mirjam de Bruijn, David Durand-Delacre, Christiane Fröhlich, Giovanna Gioli, Lucia Guaita, Elodie Hut, Francis X. Jarawura, Machiel Lamers, Samuel Lietaer, Sarah L. Nash, Etienne Piguet, Delf Rothe, Patrick Sakdapolrak, Lothar Smith, Basundhara Tripathy Furlong, Ethemcan Turhan, Jeroen Warner, Caroline Zickgraf, Richard Black & Mike Hulme - Show fewer authors

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Misleading claims about mass migration induced by climate change continue to surface in both academia and policy. This requires a new research agenda on ‘climate mobilities’ that moves beyond simplistic assumptions and more accurately advances knowledge of the nexus between human mobility and climate change.

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- No major risk for Europe to be suddenly «flooded»
 - Most displacements on short distance – often for short periods > a mobility rather than a migration issue !
- Adaptation measures can be efficient but protection schemes are expensive
- Health issues are underresearched as causes and consequences of mobility

Conclusion...

- There is no such thing as a (pure) “climate migrant” but climate change will have severe mobility impacts in combination with other drivers.
- Migration linked to environmental change should not be treated as a specific topic or a subfield of study. The issue should be (re)embedded within mobility studies.

