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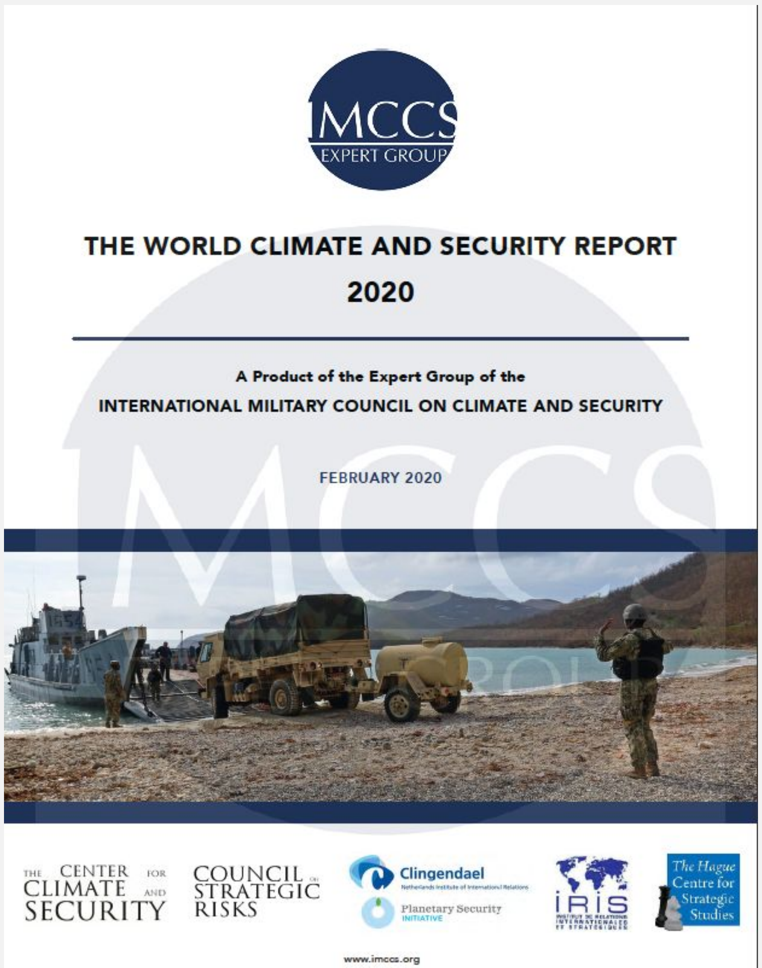
Climate Change & Security in the Indo-Pacific

Pacific Environmental Security Forum

23 February 2021

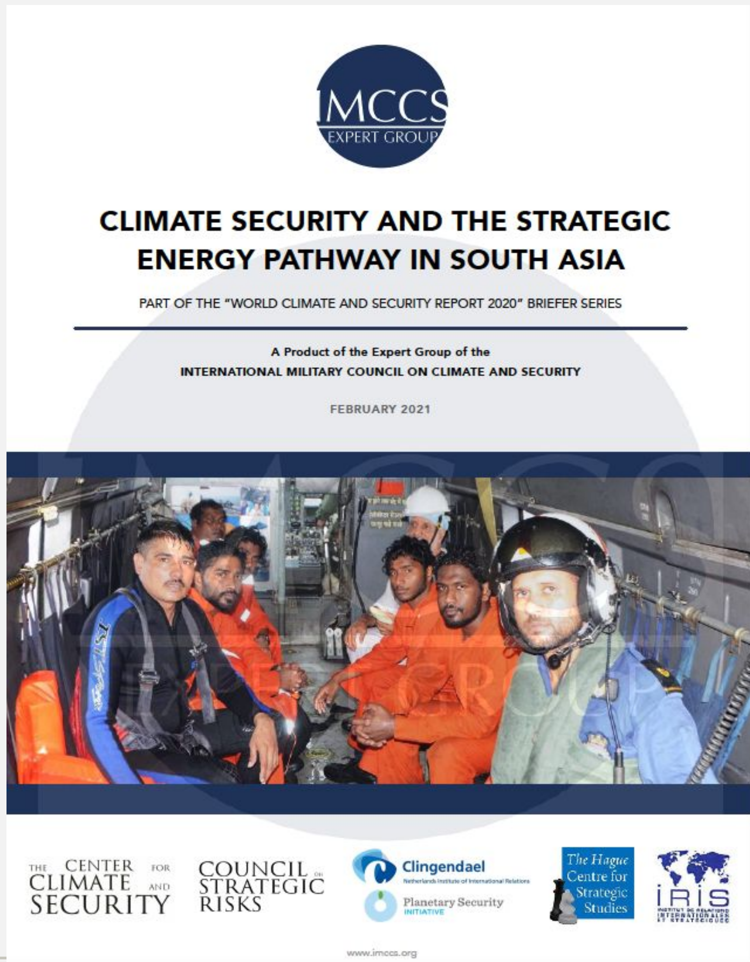
The World Climate and Security Report 2020

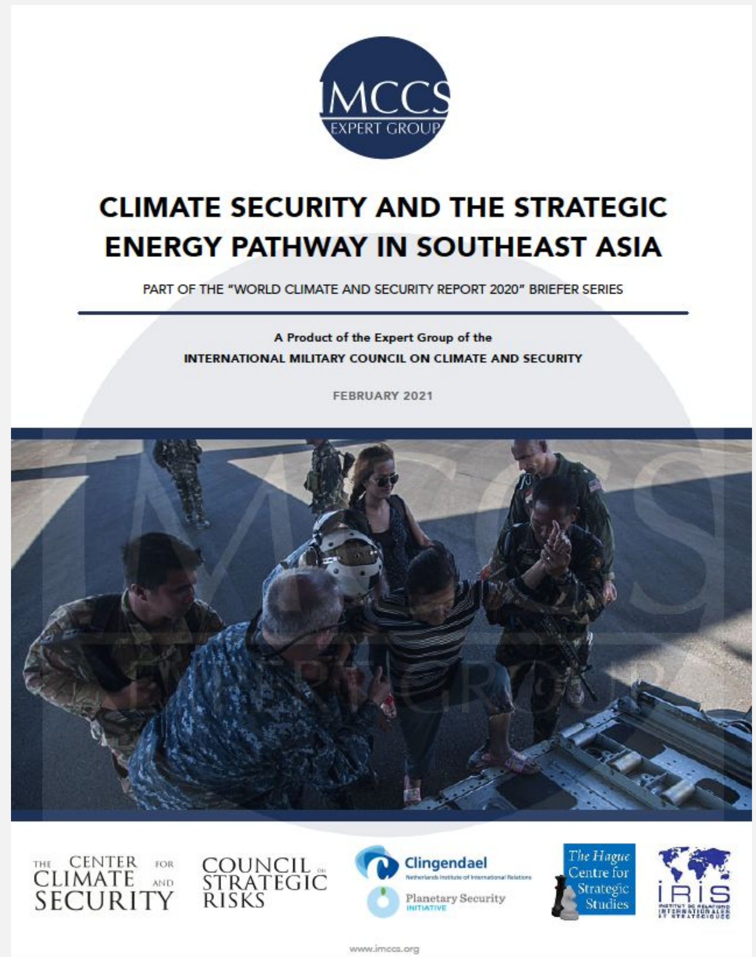


Key recommendations:

- “Climate-proofing” international security, including infrastructure, institutions and policy.
- Major emissions reductions necessary to avoid catastrophic security threats.

Climate Security & Strategic Energy Pathways in South and Southeast Asia





Climate Security in the Indo-Pacific

"In the Indo-Pacific region, climate change is the biggest long-term security threat."

Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Former PACOM Commander, Center for Climate and Security Advisory Board

"The future security and stability of the Indo-Pacific depends on how multiple, converging threats are handled in the context of climate and energy decisions."

Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Former Commander, U.S. Navy Third Fleet, Center for Climate and Security Advisory Board

Climate Security Risks in the Indo-Pacific

- Within States
  - Internal Displacement & Instability
  - Separatist & Violent Extremist Groups
- Between States
  - Transboundary River Conflict
- Military Readiness

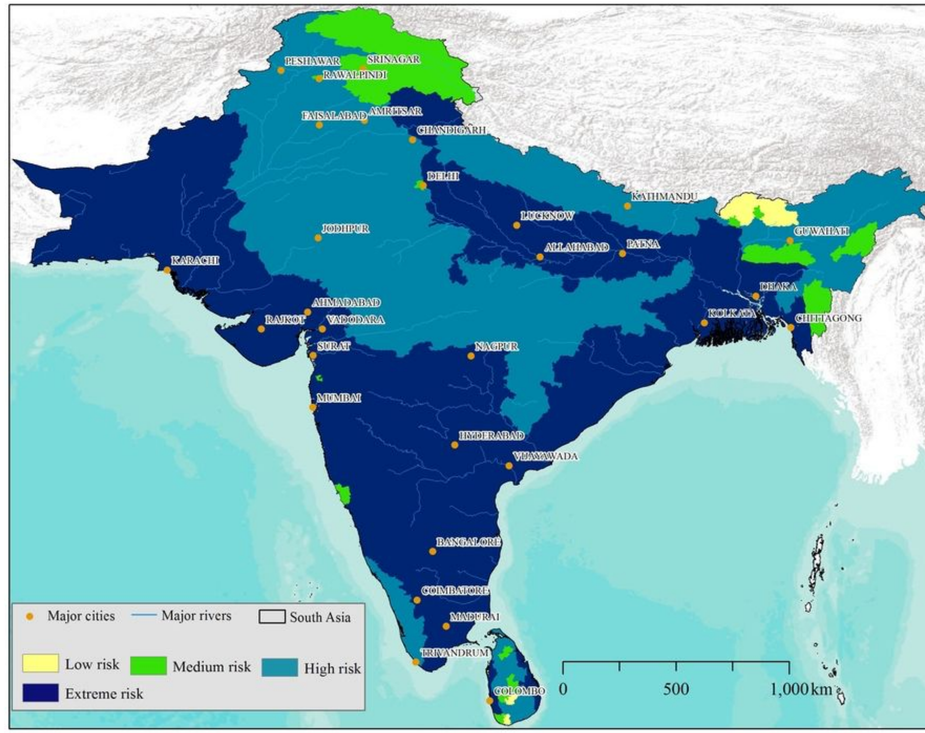
Risk: Internal Displacement & Instability

Key drivers:

Heat, extreme weather, sea level rise

Food & water insecurity

Short term, acute threats & slow onset threats



Composite climate vulnerability mapped across South Asia. *Source: International Water Management Institute 2017.*

Risk: Separatist & Violent Extremist Groups

Key drivers:

Changing opportunity costs

Economic stress

Governance failures

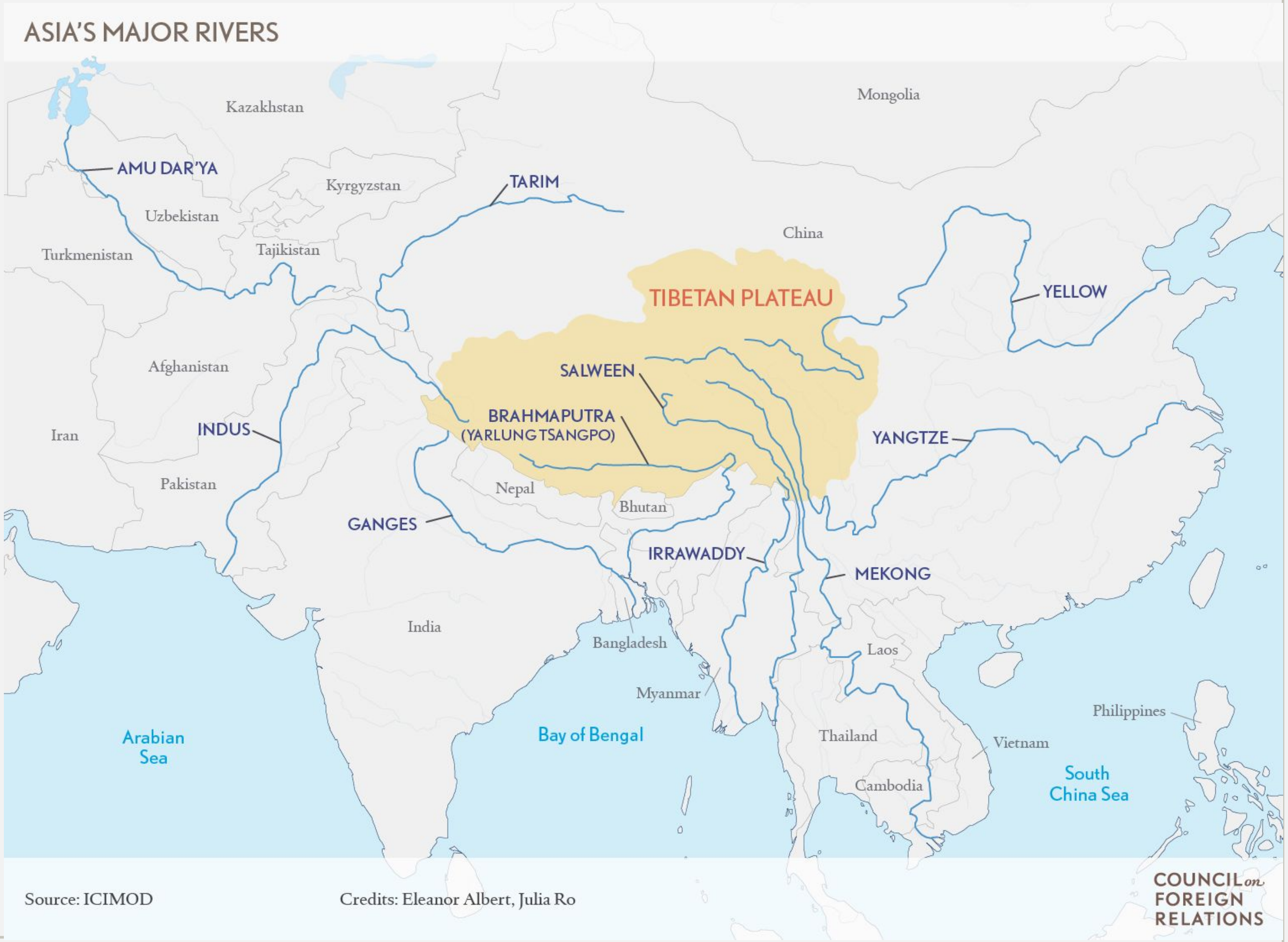
Risk: Transboundary River Conflict

Key drivers:

Changing weather patterns & melting glaciers

Lack of trust & existing tensions

Dam development



Risk: Military Readiness

Key drivers:

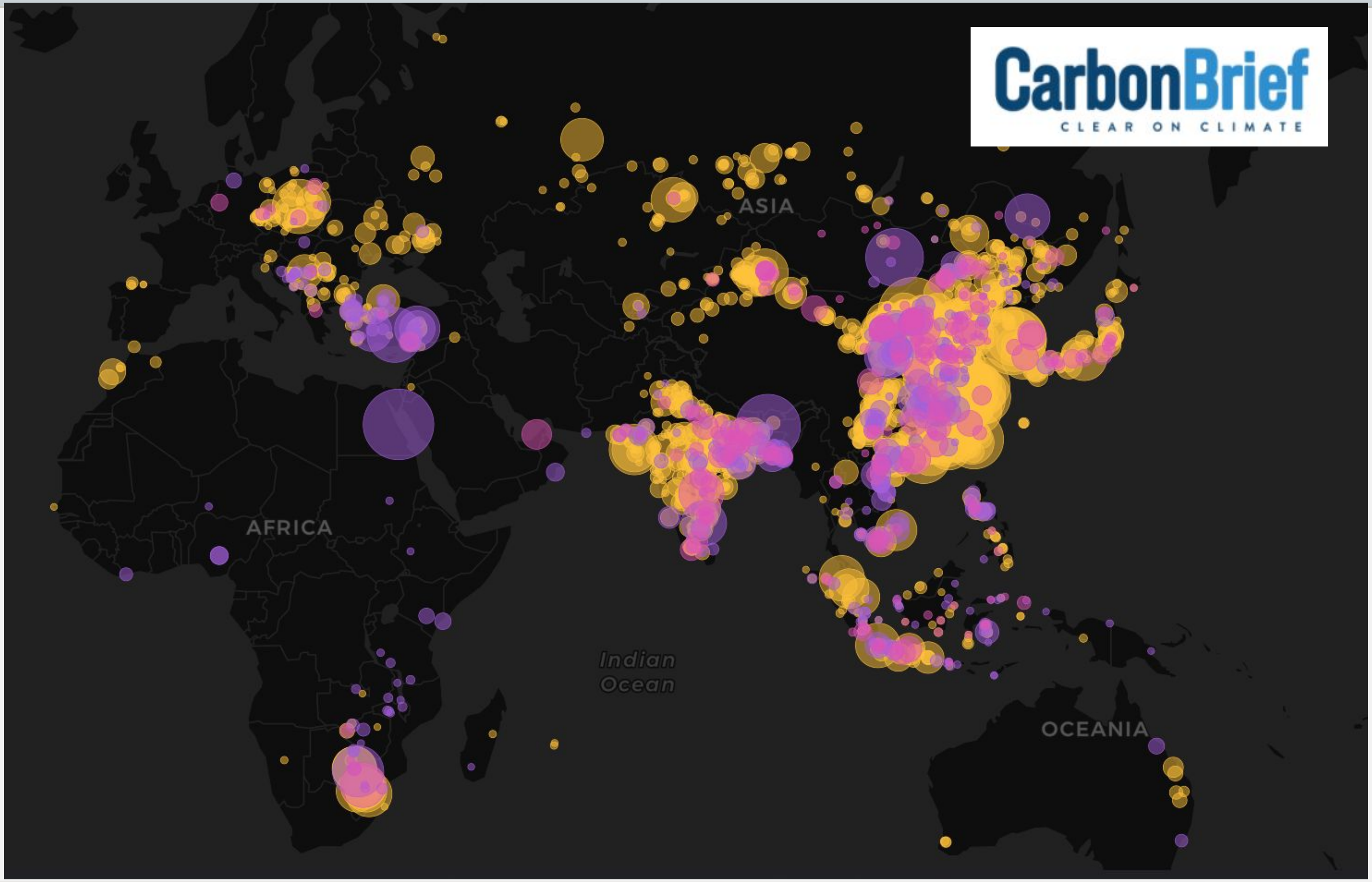
Infrastructure damage

Increased demand for humanitarian assistance and disaster response

Increased demand for fisheries protection

Members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division respond to an emergency scenario during the 2017 South Asia Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange in Dhaka, Bangladesh, *Courtesy US Indo-Pacific Command Website Photo By: Sgt. 1st Class Corey Ray*

The Climate-Energy Security Nexus: Coal Power in South & SE Asia



Source: Data courtesy of Global Energy Monitor. Interactive by Rosamund Pearce/Tom Prater with data wrangling by Simon Evans for Carbon Brief.

Key Recommendations

- **Security actors** in the region should fully integrate climate change projections and their cascading effects into security projections, planning, equipment acquisition and training, including, where applicable, by conducting regular joint exercises to improve readiness for disaster response.
- **Diplomatic actors** in the region should actively seek to enshrine common environmental and climate security goals into regional agreements and practices, particularly in agreements related to key river basins.
- **Regional governments** should assess and manage climate security risks and the climate energy-security nexus at national and regional level, including by leveraging ASEAN platforms to coordinate data-sharing, planning, funding and emergency response.
- **Energy policy actors** in the region should incorporate the systemic costs of human security, internal security and external security into the calculus of energy policy.

Questions?

- Int'l Military Council on Climate and Security:

Web: www.imccs.org   Twitter: @imccs_

- Climate and Security Resource Hub: www.climateandsecurity.org/resources

- Climate Security 101: www.climatesecurity101.org