

Extreme weather, migration and the urgency of country- wide landscape restoration in El Salvador

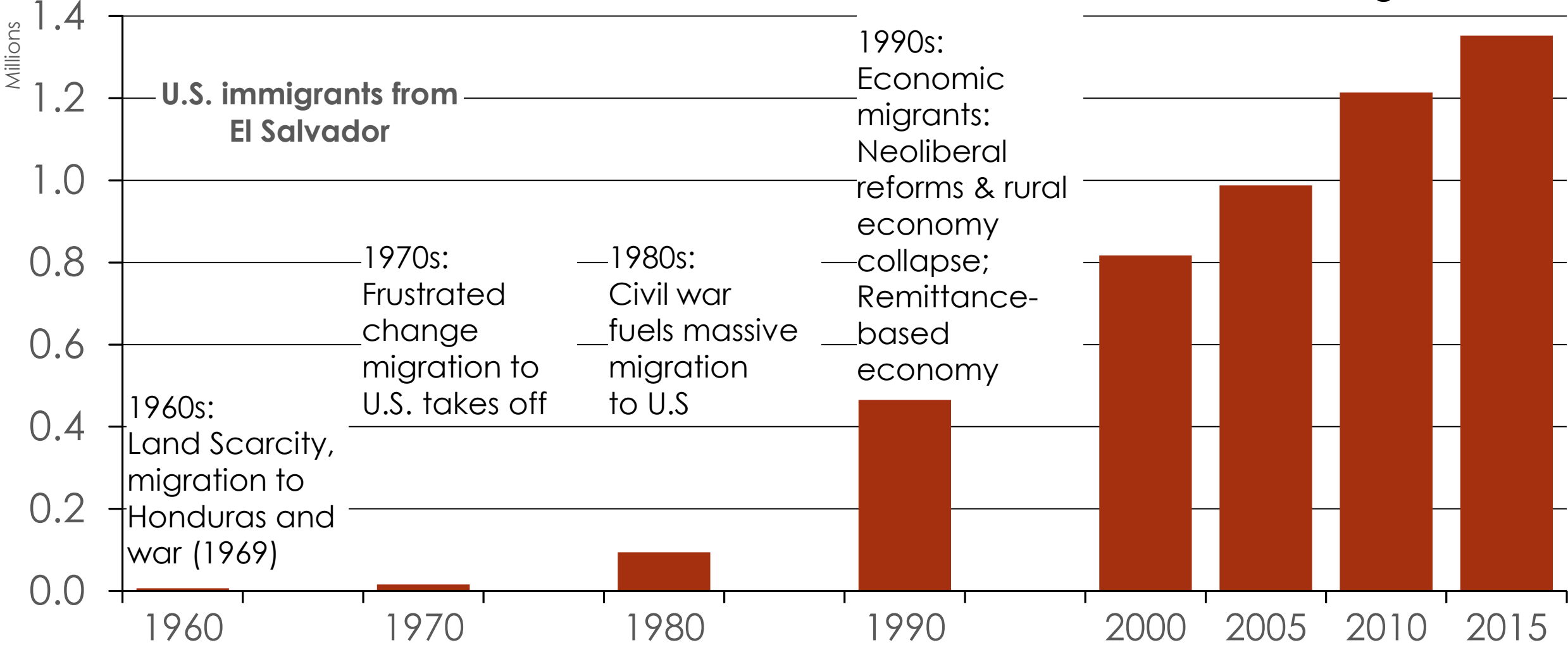
Herman Rosa Chávez

Former Minister of the Environment and Natural Resources, El Salvador

Water, food security, and migration in Central America
WWF-Wilson Center, Washington D.C., 25 January 2017

Migration: Evolving push factors

Since 2000s:
Gang violence
Weather extremes
Low economic growth



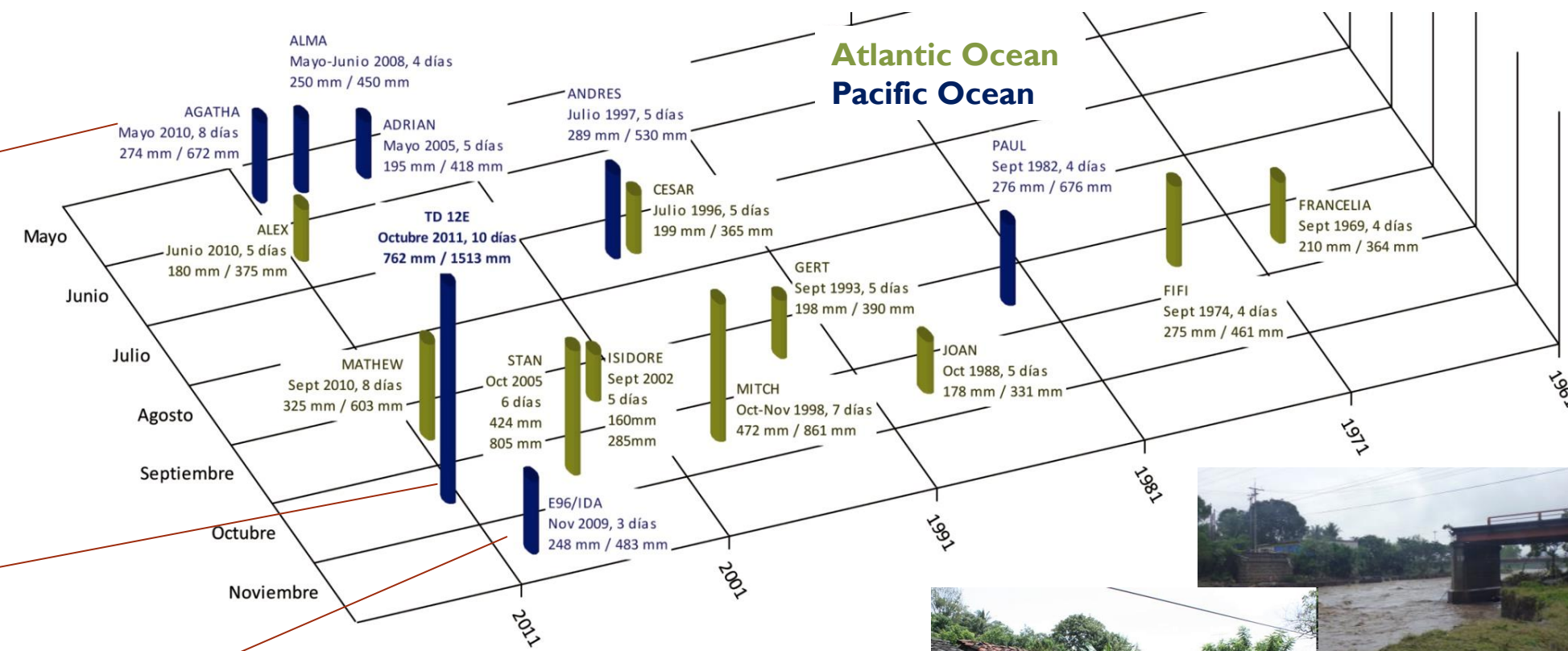
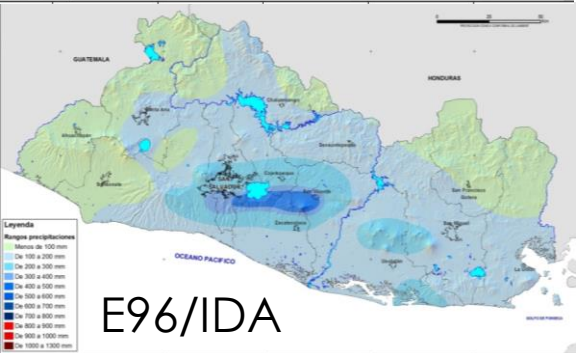
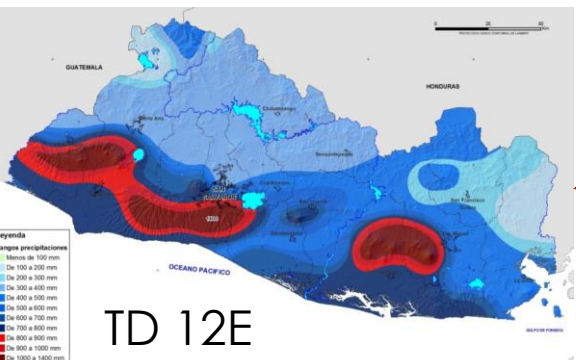
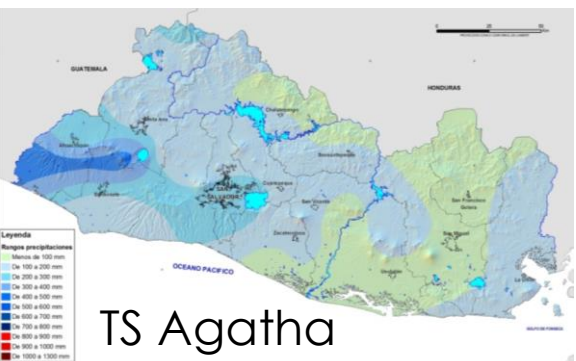
Source: Migration Policy Institute (1970-2000) and U.S. Census (1-year estimates for 2005-2015)

6% of GDP in economic loss and damage from 3 extreme events in 2009-2011

- 2009: E96/IDA
- 2010: TS Agatha
- 2011: TD 12E

Extreme precipitation events* in El Salvador

[*More than 100mm (24h) and 350mm (72h)]

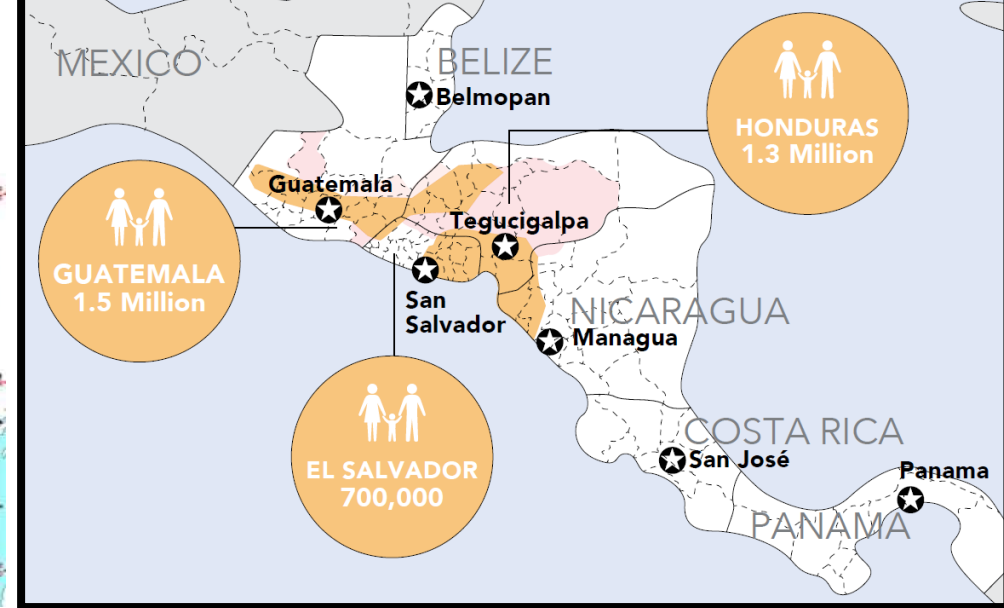
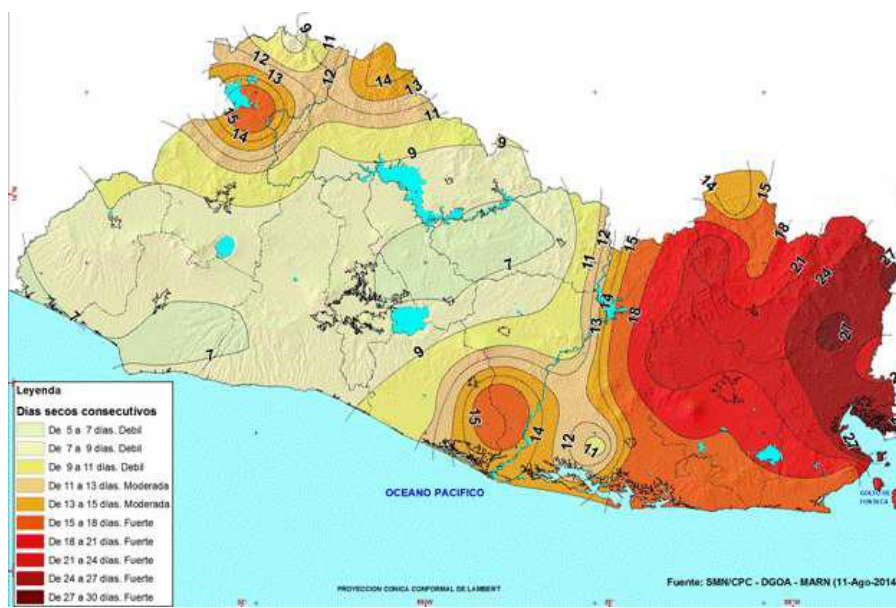


	Atlantic	Pacific	Total	Month of occurrence
1960s	1		1	September
1970s	1		1	September
1980s	1	1	2	September and october
1990s	3	1	4	July, september y october
2000s	4	4	8	May, june, september, october y november.
2010s		1	1	October (DT12E): 42% de annual precipitation in 10 days.



DROUGHT

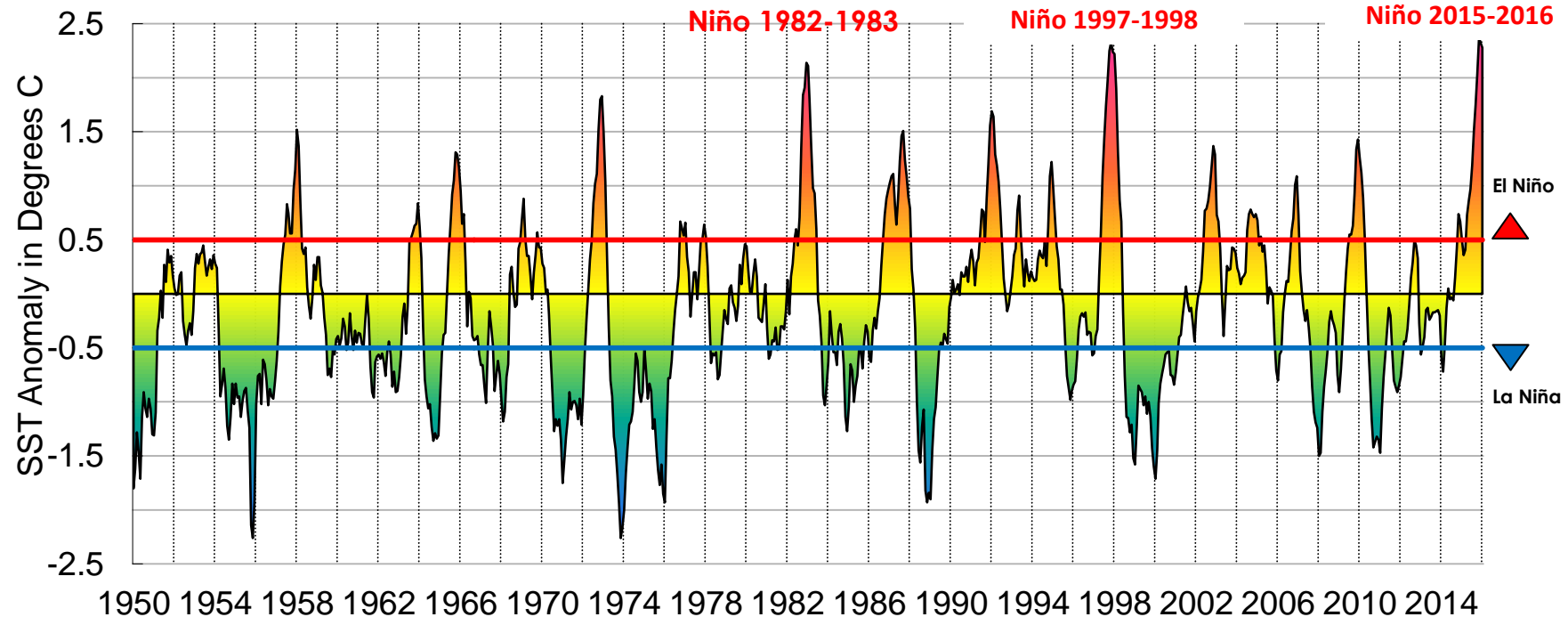
➤ Eastern El Salvador suffered four successive years of drought in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015



➤ Niño 2015-2016 was third strongest in a century

➤ 2015 drought in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador left 3.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

SST Anomaly in Niño 3.4 Region



Soil degradation and deforestation magnify the impacts of weather extremes and demand country-wide ecological landscape restoration effort

- Flooding and infrastructure-destroying water surges under extreme precipitation
- Crops quickly shrivel even during brief drought periods
- Water scarcity in dry season
- Largest tree cover—shaded coffee—is rapidly being lost
- Country wide landscape restoration is required to increase permanent vegetation cover and soil organic matter
- Landscape restoration needs to be seen as a fundamental component for any strategy to address insecurity in El Salvador as it can help
 - Rebuild its torn social fabric
 - Guarantee food security
 - Reduce social and economic vulnerability



Final thoughts

- Migration to the U.S. will continue to play an important role for a long time, regardless of any barriers
- But the forced nature of that process can be reduced
- Support El Salvador in an integrated manner
 - To restore its degraded environment
 - Rebuild its torn social fabric
 - Revitalize its economy



Thank You

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