

# The Rise of Resilience

Building sustainable and resilient energy systems

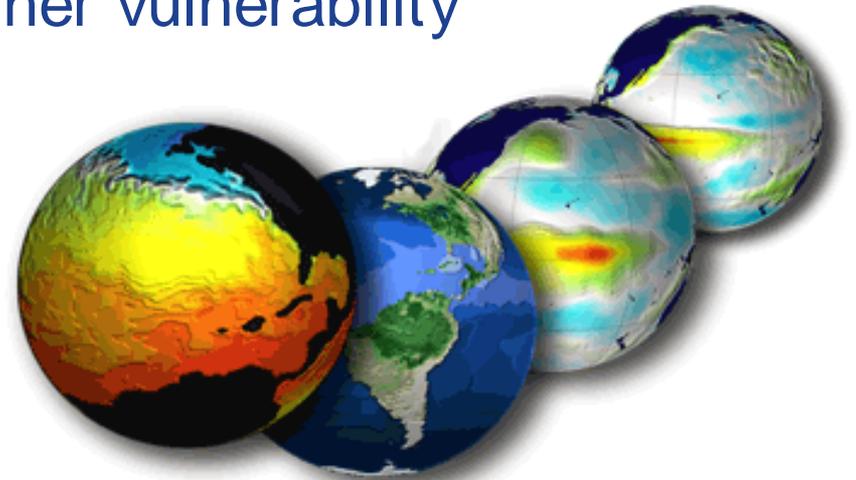
Climate Change and Extreme Weather Vulnerability

Atlantic Council, Washington DC

July 24-25, 2012

Brandon Owens, Program Manager

Carbon Center of Excellence



imagination at work



# The Rise of Resilience

**GE has been addressing resilience for over 100 years.**

- We've always been deeply involved in helping our customers build more robust energy systems and recover from natural disasters.
- Our ecomagination initiative is focused on enhancing internal and external energy system sustainability.

## **What's new?**

- Increasing urgency. Growing number of extreme events
  - The stakes are higher. More scale, complexity and people impacted.
  - Electricity is more important. More dependent upon electricity today for financial and manufacturing processes. The digital wave is here.
  - Converging sustainability and resilience narratives
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*Resilience*... the ability to recover faster after a stress or shock, endure greater stress or shock, and/or minimize the impact of a stress or shock.

# Technology @ Work:

Rapid deploy and integration technologies add or replace energy assets anywhere

45-days:

GE's FastPower delivers fully functional, onsite power plant

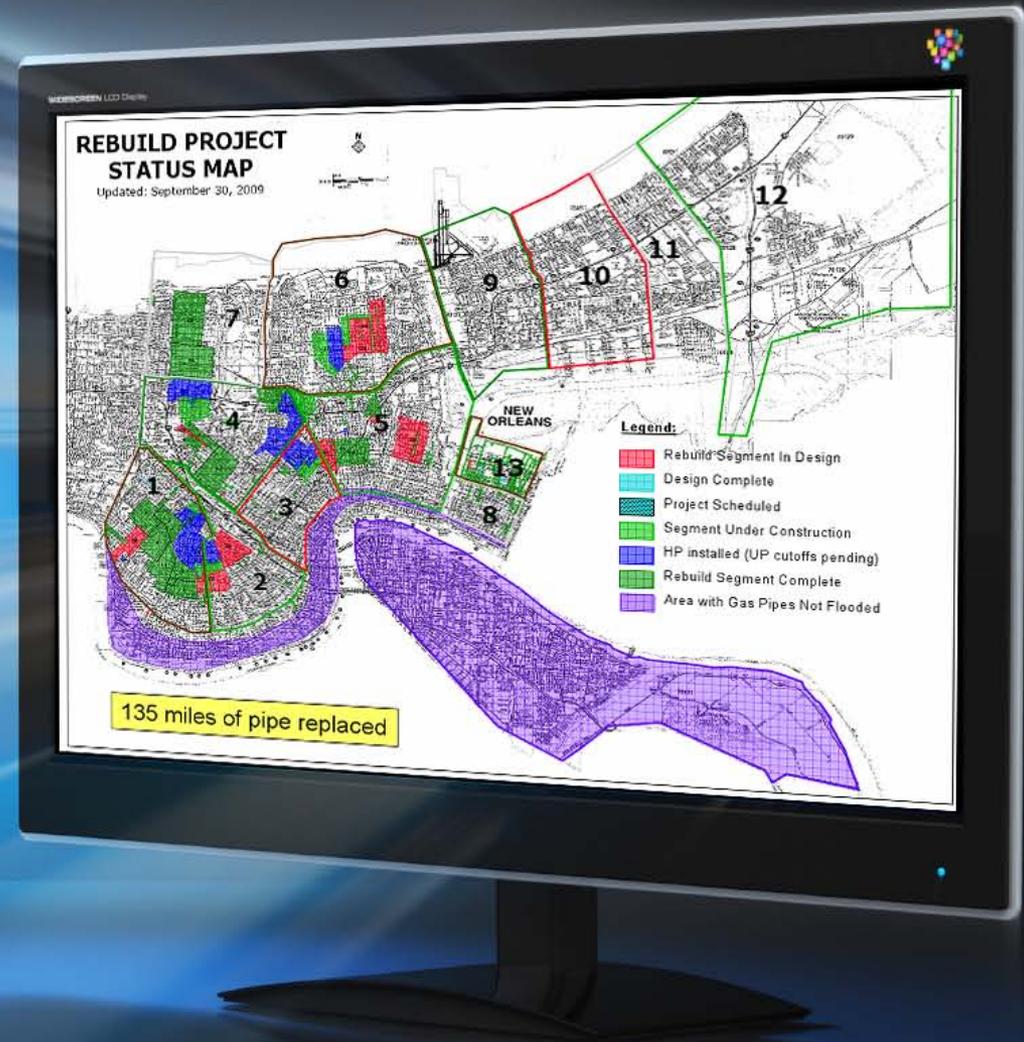


Technology triumphs take many forms:

Reliable data and a manageable plan are as important as spare parts

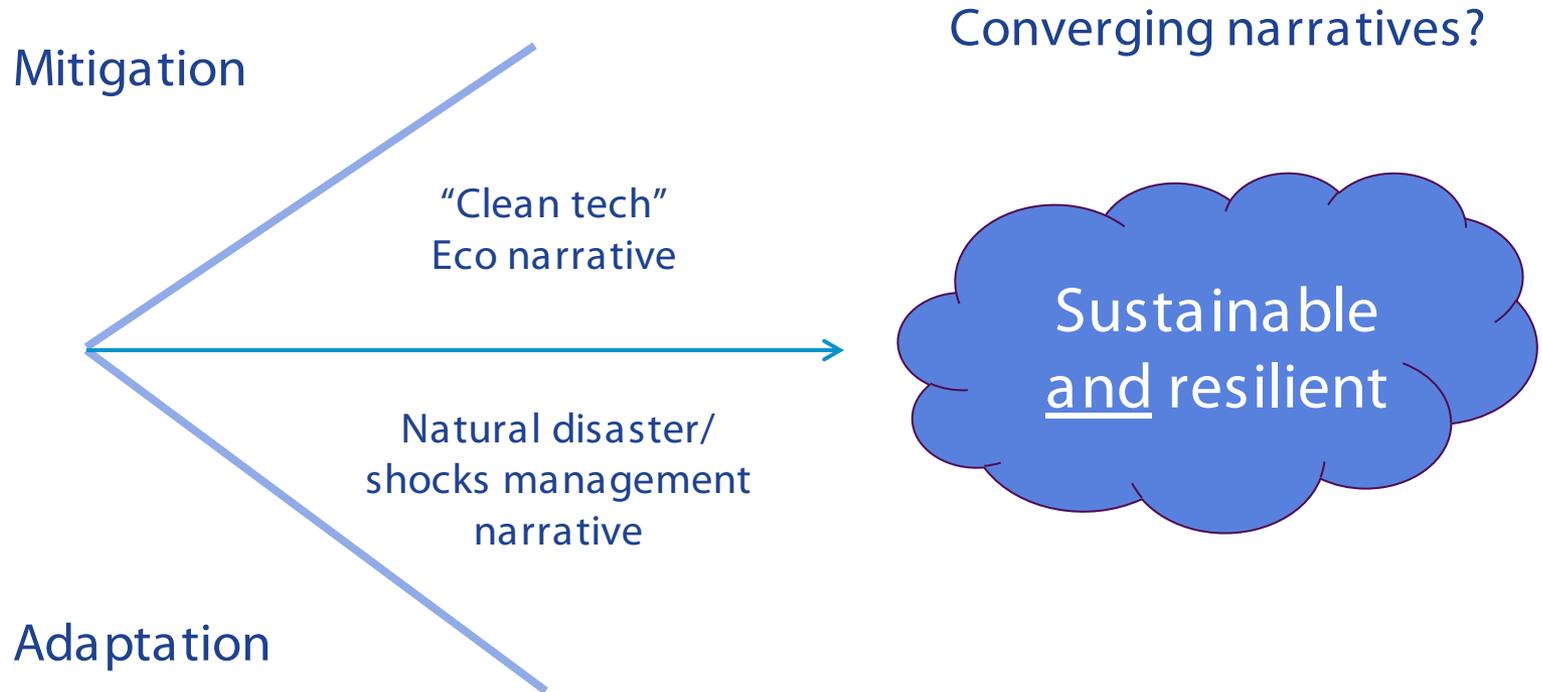
## New Orleans – Katrina

Natural gas infrastructure came online faster and under cost estimates – GIS-enabled, real-time asset management focused resources, decision making and planning



# Shifting global narrative

Growing attention to both mitigation and adaptation



Building sustainable and resilient social, economic and ecological systems

# Resilience thinking

Multilayered perspectives, roles and responsibilities

Ecological systems

Understanding global change;  
tipping points of natural systems

Critical human infrastructure

Improving civil engineered systems;  
understanding vulnerabilities;  
hardening assets; enhancing recovery

Civil institutions

Business continuity and risk planning

Urban & national  
planning

City, regional and national vulnerability  
assessments and disaster planning

Global attention to the concept of resilience is growing

# Forces driving need for resilience

Complex interlinked issues arising from global change

## Rapidly expanding human built environment

- The human built environment is growing globally at a rapid rate
- In the next 15 years global output will grow between \$40 and \$65 trillion dollars.
- The growth of the built environment enhances livelihoods but it also increases the exposure to naturally occurring hazards ranging from earthquakes to tropical storms.

## Dependence on critical infrastructure

- Technological change is increasing prosperity but it is also increasing dependence.
- As economies become more advanced they have become more dependent on critical supporting infrastructure including:
  - energy
  - information technologies
  - transportation networks
  - supply chains

## Rising economic damage from chronic and acute shocks

- Growing global concern about ecosystem dynamics and the potential for thresholds and tipping points.
- Rising economic damage associated with the impact of natural disasters, which climbed to an all time high of \$380 billion in 2011.

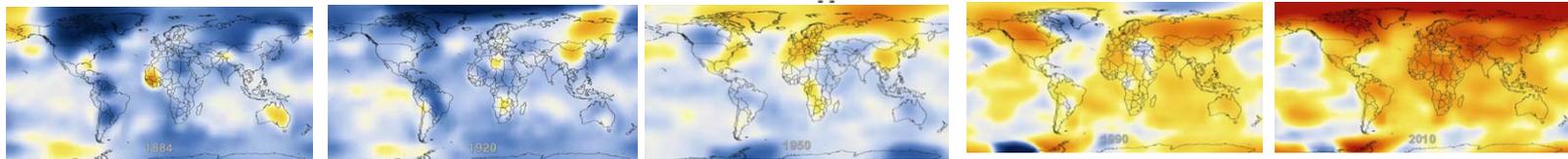
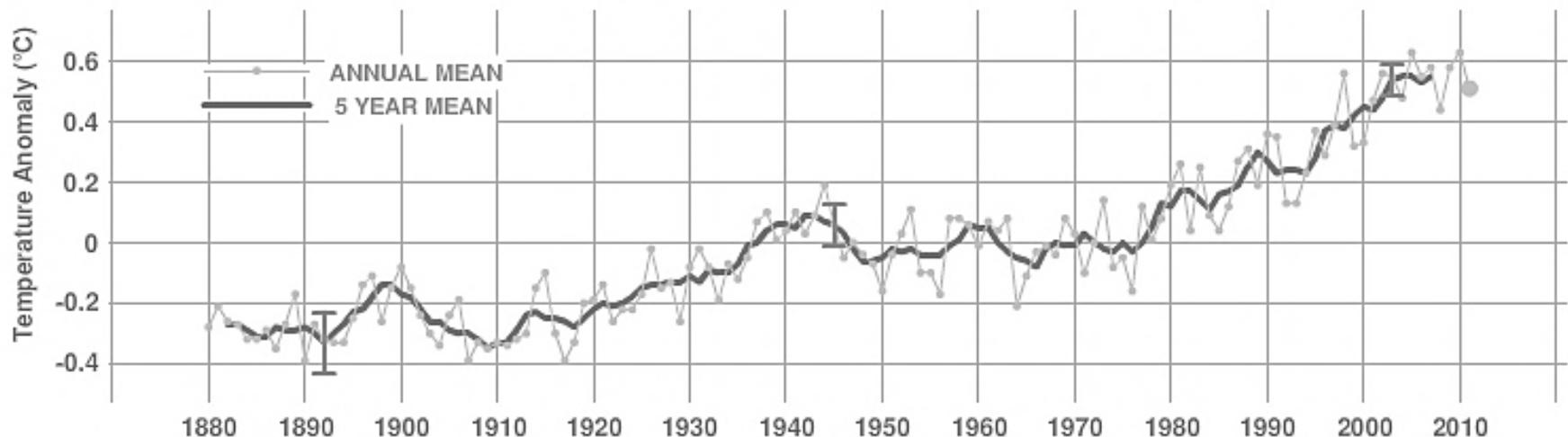
Source: GE Energy, 2012; Munich Re, 2012

# Climate change physical indicators

## Global surface temp anomaly climbs above 0.5°C

### GLOBAL LAND-OCEAN TEMPERATURE INDEX

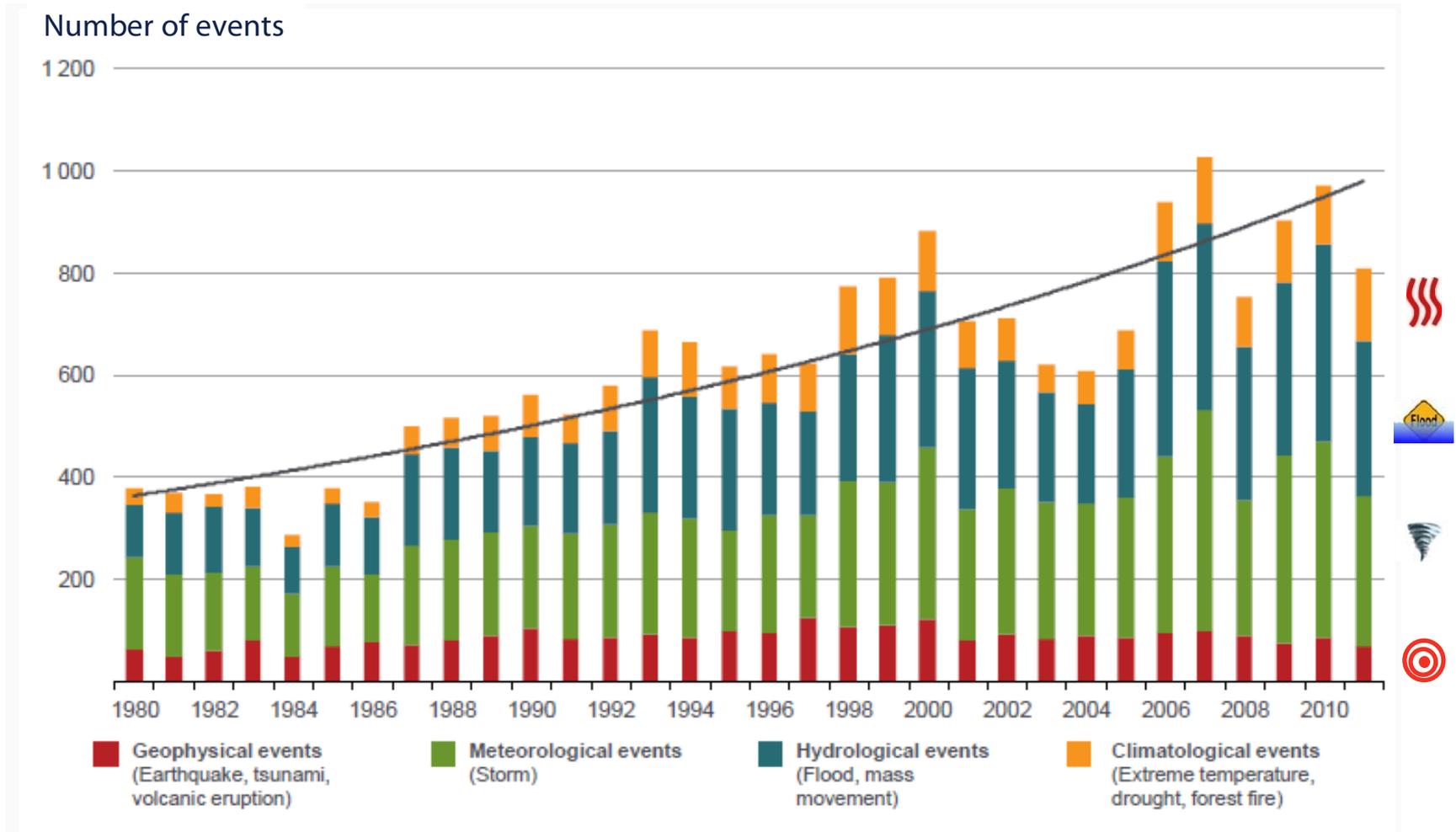
Data source: NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS) This trend agrees with other global temperature records provided by the U.S. National Climatic Data Center, the Japanese Meteorological Agency and the Met Office Hadley Centre / Climatic Research Unit in the U.K. Credit: NASA/GISS



2000-2009 was the warmest decade on record

# World-wide natural disaster trend

Annual rate of over 800 events in recent years



Source: Munich Re, January 2012

# Energy infrastructure vulnerability

## Examples of sever damage caused by natural hazards



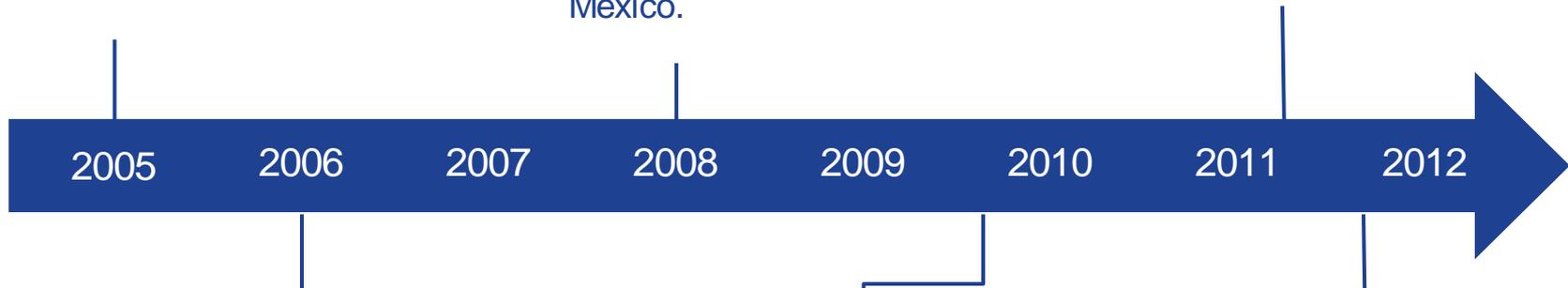
**Hurricane Katrina** shut off 19% of US refining capacity; damaged 457 pipelines and destroyed 113 offshore platforms



**Hurricanes Gustav and Ike** destroyed 60 offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico.



**Japan earthquake and tsunami** destroyed or damaged over 27 GW of power including the Fukushima nuclear plant



**Heat wave** causes France, Spain and Germany to power down nuclear plants because of heat and water problems



**Chile earthquake** knocked out 3 GW of power and destroyed transmission networks



**Severe flooding in Thailand** damages or destroyed 1.3 GW of power

# Data infrastructure vulnerability

## Examples of severe damage caused by natural hazards



Several datacenters survived **Hurricane Katrina** on backup power only to be taken down when fuel for the generators ran out



Severe **flooding** in Turkey knocked out a Vodafone datacenter disrupting phone service



Japan **earthquake** knocks over many server cabinets and disrupts datacenter power



**Flooding** in Bothell, WA shuts down a T-Mobile datacenter affecting customer support and activations



Colorado **wildfires** force the evacuation and shutdown of HP data center



**Thunderstorm** in mid-Atlantic causes power failure to Amazon datacenter knocking out Netflix, Pinterest, Instagram and others

# What's next.. the missing pieces

## **Expand speed and scope of technology deployment**

Incentivize more rapid deployment of technology and services across the spectrum of resilience: prior to, during and after disruptions.

## **Close governance and policy gaps**

Enhance coordination across government bodies responsibility for sustainability on the one hand and natural hazards preparedness on the other at the local, state and international levels.

## **Send the right market signals**

Take measures to encourage innovation around resilience. Devise new policy architecture and incentives for resilient energy systems.



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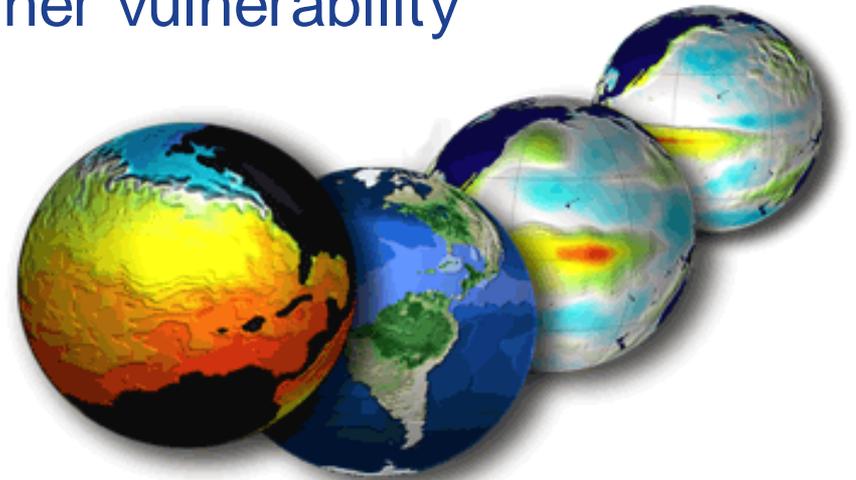
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