

Water security in periurban South Asia

Adapting to climate change and urbanization

Vishal Narain

Management Development Institute,
Gurgaon

June 18, 2013

Overview of presentation

Conceptual
groundwork
for the
study of
periurban
issues

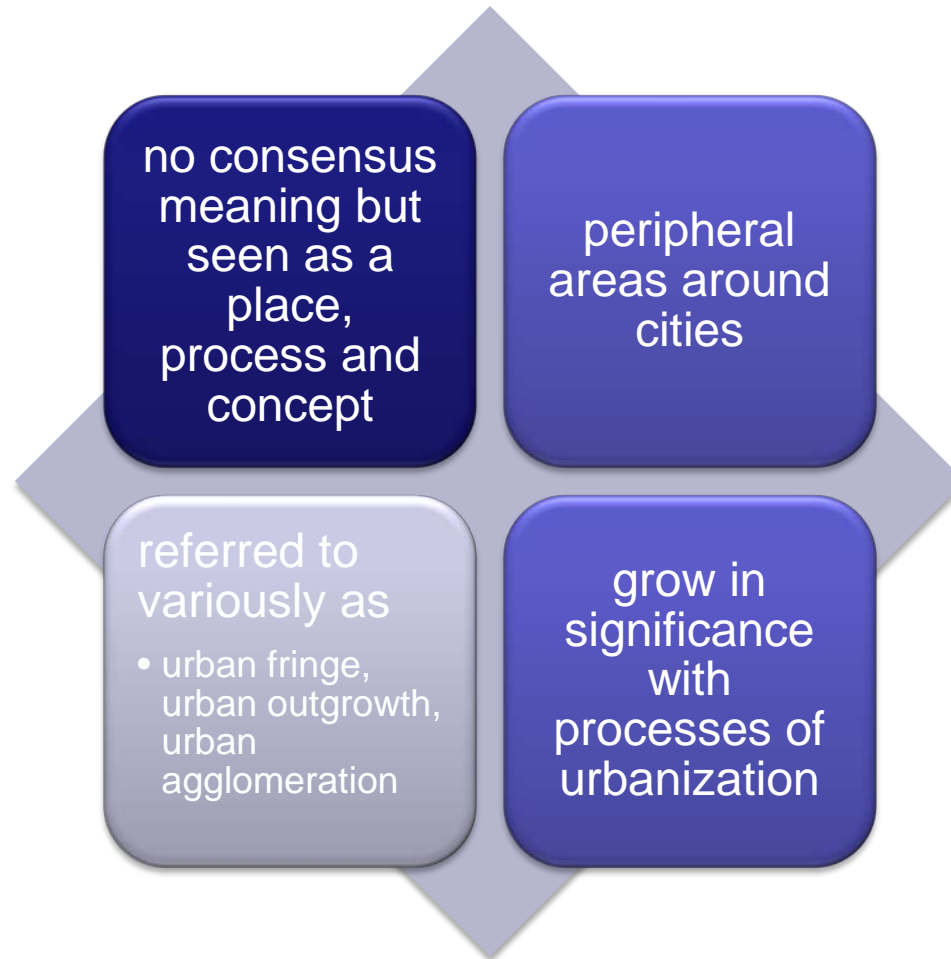
Research
Objectives
and
conceptual
framing of
the problem

Tools and
methods
used

Research
Sites

Approach
to
intervention
and action
research

What is periurban?



Counterparts of periurban in other languages

Dutch

- *halfstedig* (semi-urban)

East Asia

- '*desakota*' (city village)

German

- *urban landlichen zonen* (urban rural zones)

Afrikaans

- *buitestedelik* (outer city or beyond the city)

How we defined periurban

- ❑ In terms of a process, concept and features rather than a fixed geographical space around the city
- ❑ Identified by a 'periurbanscape'
 - ❑ Changing land use from rural to urban
 - ❑ Social transition and heterogeneity
 - ❑ Periurban livelihoods across rural and urban resources and assets
 - ❑ Flows of goods and services between rural and urban areas
 - ❑ New claimants on water and new rural-urban water flows
- ❑ periurban as a conceptual lens to study rural-urban relationships and flows of water

Value of a conceptual lens of periurban

Raises questions about the ecological foot-print of cities and the politics of urban planning

Gives insight into the nature of urbanization processes

Provides an entry point to study rural-urban relationships

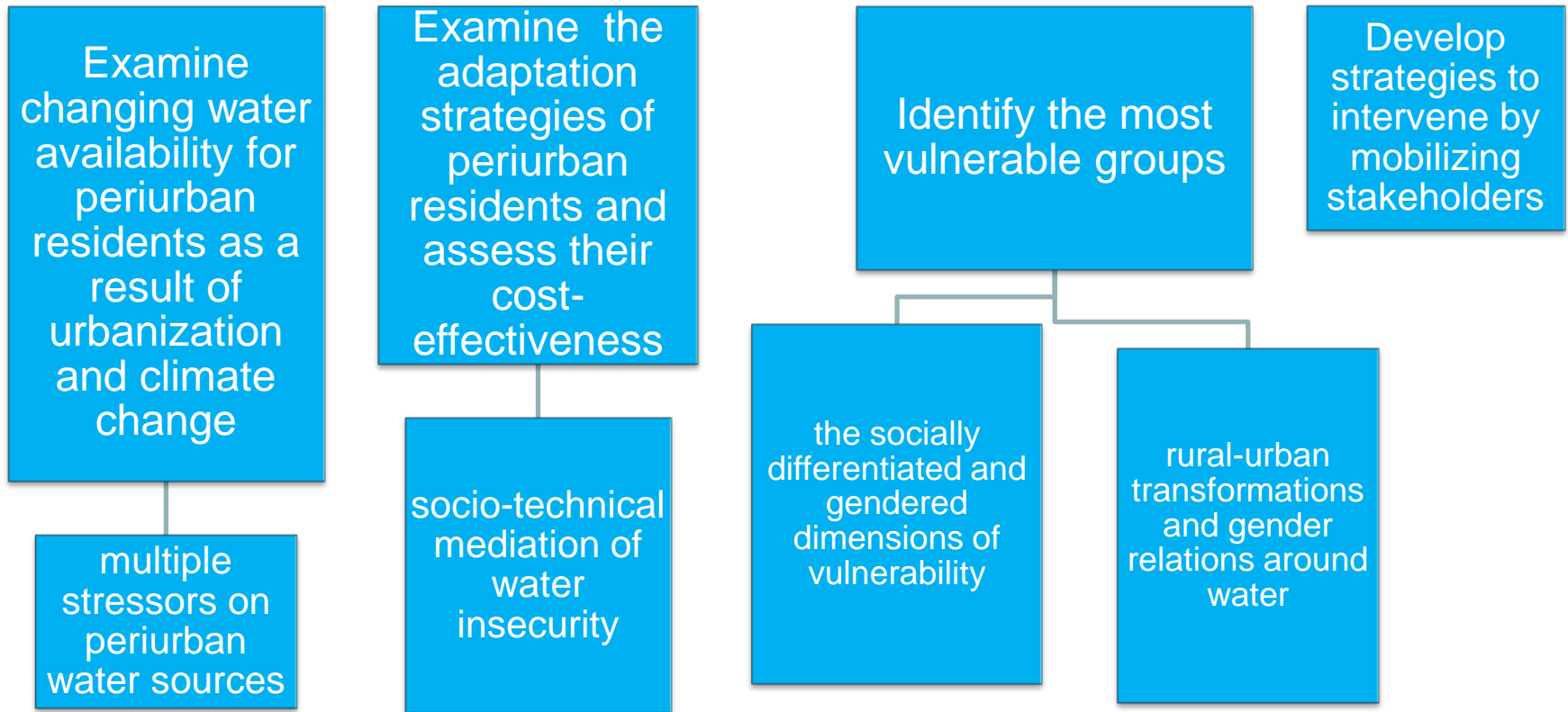
Questions the perception that livelihoods are either 'rural' or 'urban'

Relevant in studies of vulnerability

Rural livelihoods can face stresses from urban expansion

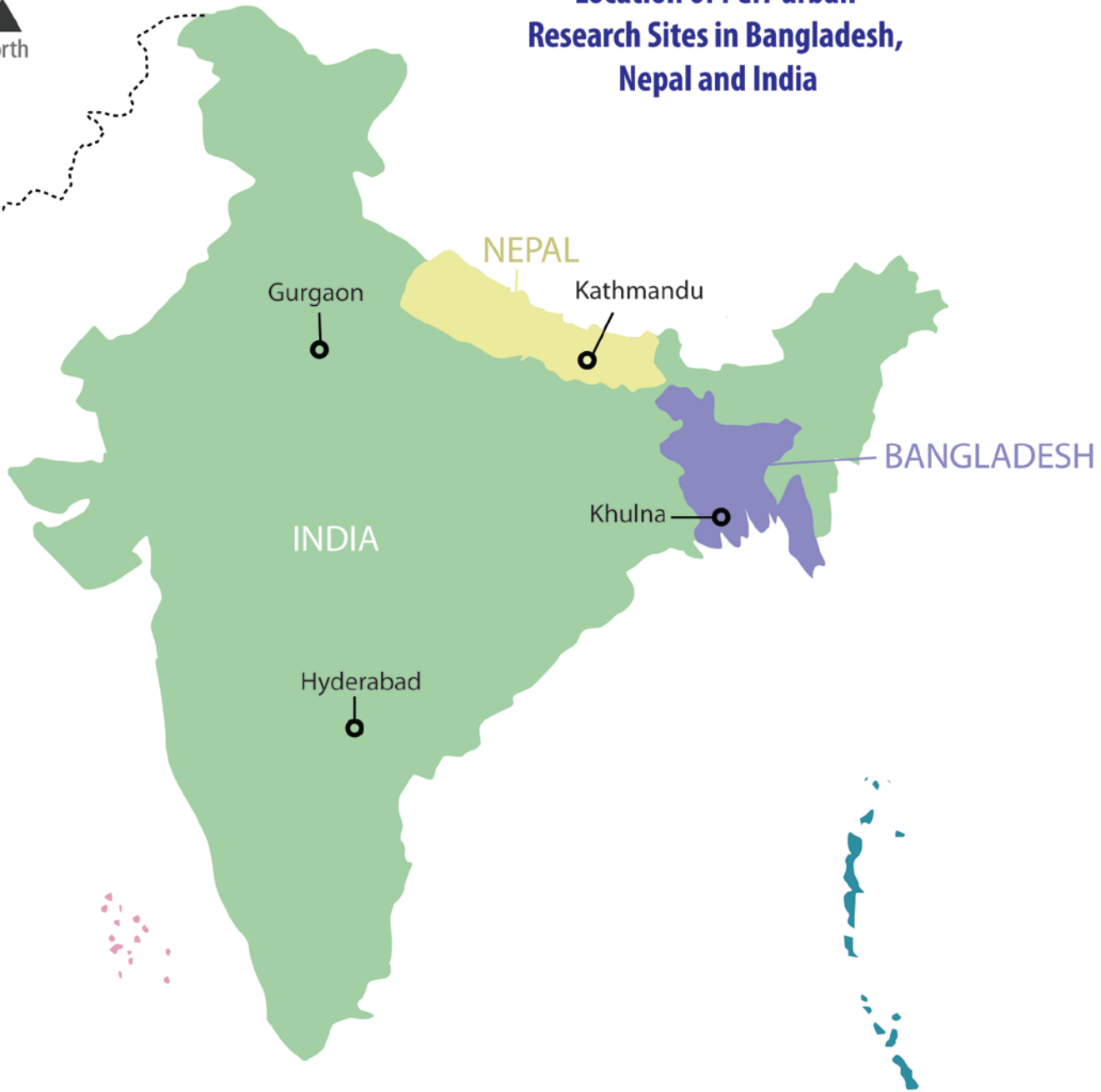
Livelihoods constructed across rural and urban spaces shape differential vulnerabilities

Project objectives



Location of Peri-urban Research Sites in Bangladesh, Nepal and India

▲
North



Other Key concepts

Water security

- Access to water of sufficient quality and quantity
- Uncertainty attached to water supply induced by urbanization, climate change or both of them

Adaptation

- A process of adjustment to mitigate or exploit harm

Vulnerability

- Susceptibility to harm
- Exposure to negative events, but also capacity to deal with them
- Intersection of multiple stressors
- Chronic phenomenon

Research tools and methods

A mixed methods approach

Assessing climate change and variability

- Analysis of hydro-meteorological data
- PRA tools
- People's narratives of a changing climate

Structured household survey,
cost benefit analysis

PRA, FGDs, ethnographic
studies

Intervention approaches.. The basic premise

- ➔ Periurban issues need the attention of government agencies
 - A mobilization of stakeholders is needed to overcome periurban inertia
- ➔ Improving periurban water security can build community resilience in the face of climate change
- ➔ Strengthening civic engagement can build social capital

The intervening approaches

