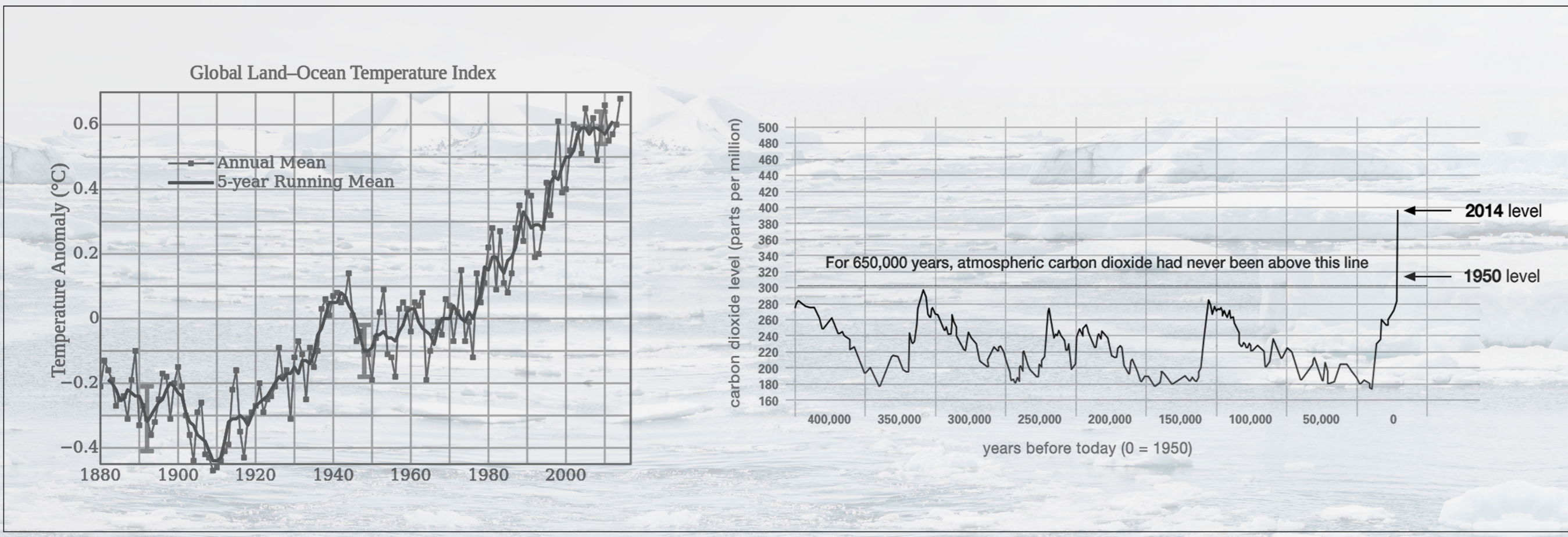


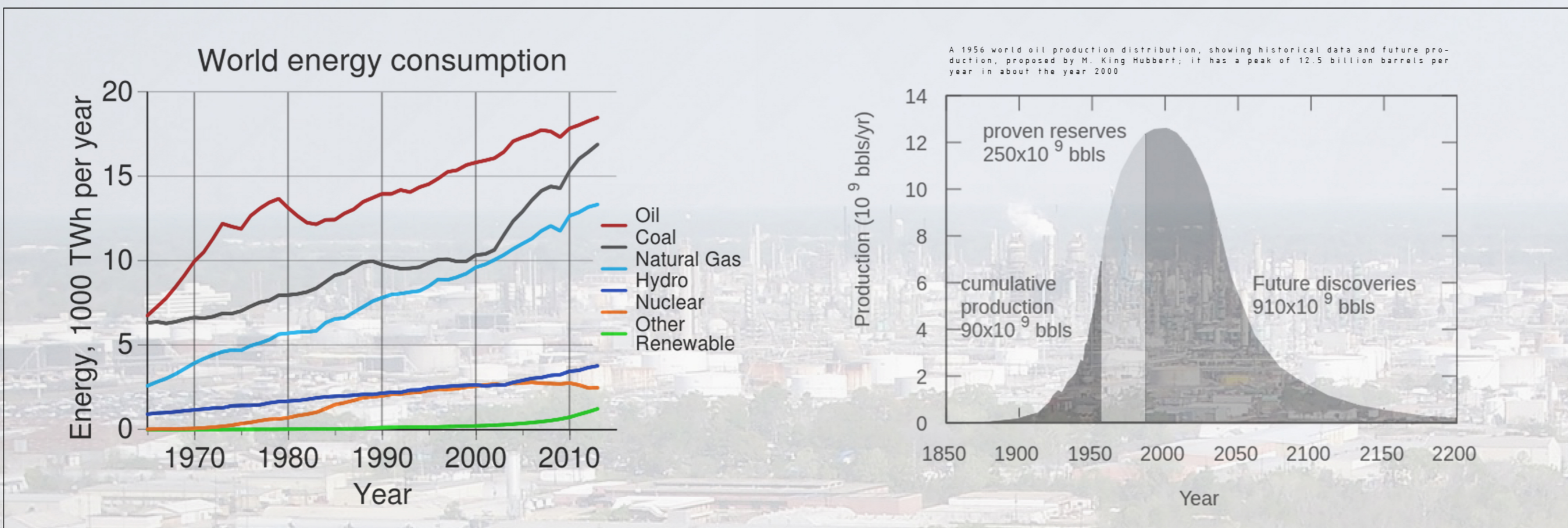
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

GLOBAL WARMING



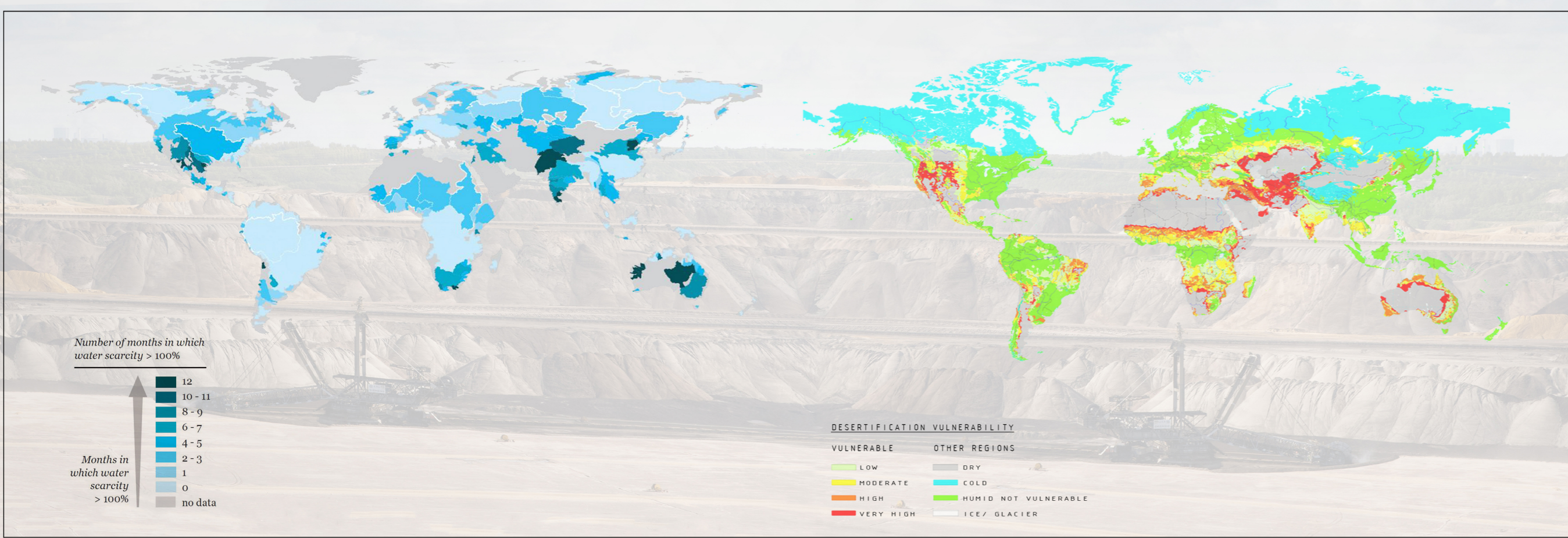
- According to IPCC 2007 report, sea levels will rise by 18-60 cm by the end of this century due to global warming.
- The last two decades of the 20th century have been hottest in the last 400 years, according to climate studies.
- Global warming poses a significant risk for fresh water reserves, the health of ecosystems and the survival of forests.
- Extreme and unpredictable weather patterns occurrences are much more frequent due to global warming.

PEAK OIL



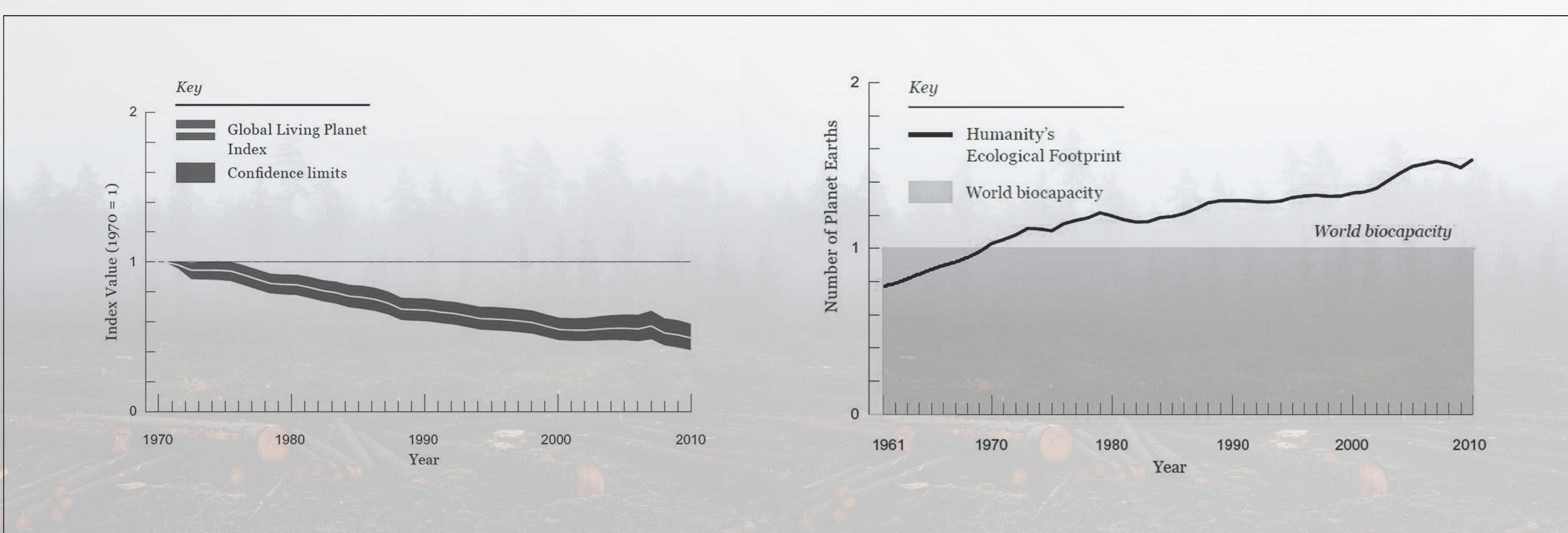
- In 2008, 81.2 percent of energy consumed globally came from fossil fuels.
- 86 percent of energy consumed for transportation worldwide comes from gasoline and diesel fuels, and therefore from fossil fuels.
- The burning of fossil fuels constitutes the bulk of greenhouse gas emissions, and therefore a major contribution to global warming.
- Most predictions for when global oil production will peak are within the range of the next 30 years.

DEPLETION OF NATURAL RESOURCES



- Fresh water reserves across the world are under threat by different factors, such as climate change, pollution from chemicals and nutrients used in industrial agriculture, and pollution by industrial activity.
- Most natural environments in developing countries are under threat by oil excavations, over exploitation, illegal poaching, and urbanization.
- Other important resources, such as copper, zinc, gas, aluminium, coal and iron, are expected to enter production decline within the 21st century.
- Fertile soil is under threat by desertification and soil erosion all over the world; a phenomenon exacerbated by unsustainable industrial agricultural practices.

DESTRUCTION OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



- There is a large consensus in the scientific community that we are now facing the 6th mass extinction of animal species in the planet's history which is caused by human activity.
- Vertebrates species populations have dropped by half in the last 40 years.
- Terrestrial animals species population have declined by 39 percent in the last 40 years.
- If current trends continue, marine life in oceans will disappear completely by 2048.
- The Global Ecological Footprint exceeds by 50 percent the regenerative capacities of the earth.