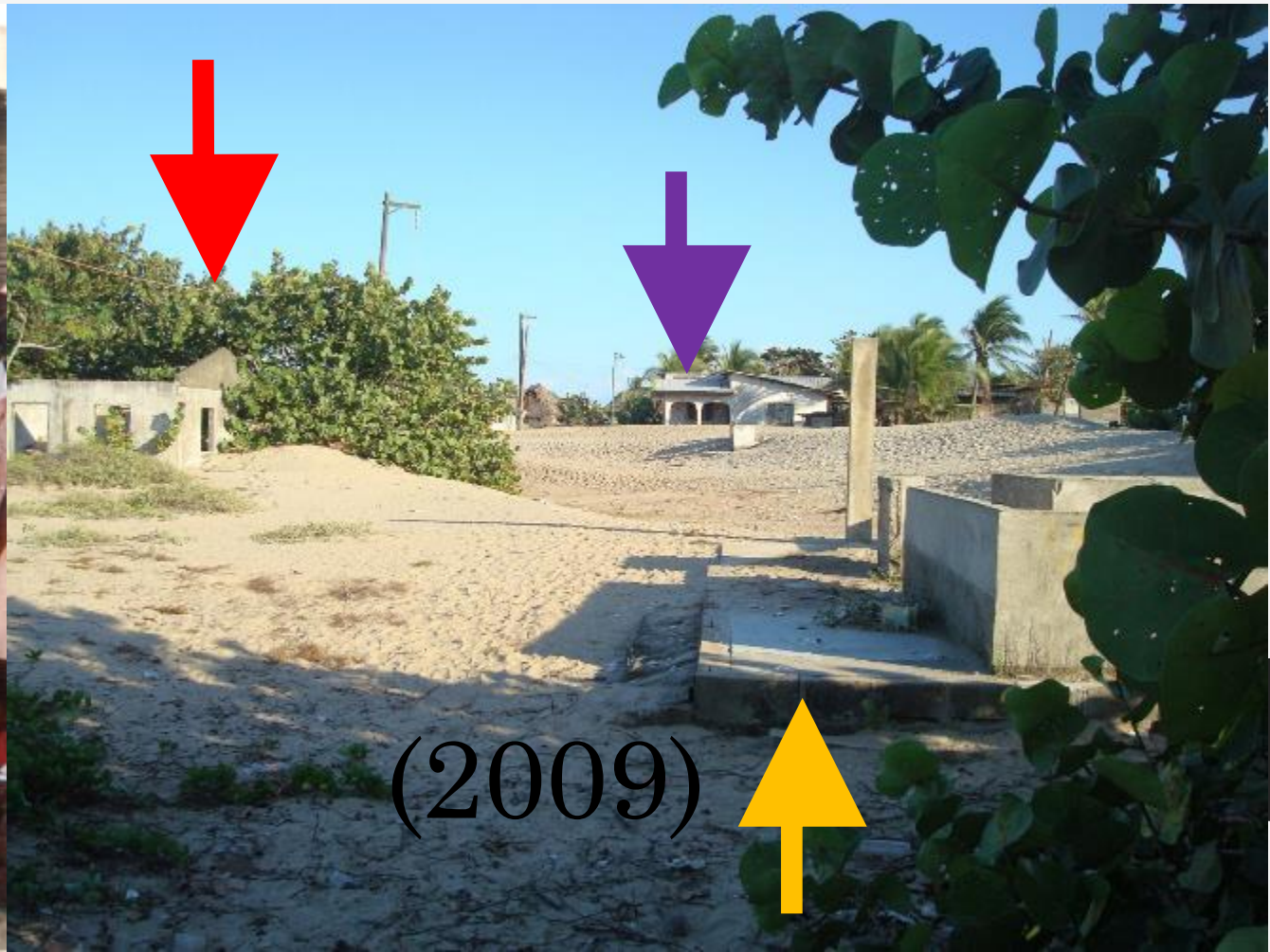


DEFINING HABITABILITY

David J. Wrathall, Alex deSherbinin, Michael Oppenheimer, Radley Horton
Assoc Prof | Oregon State University | College of Earth Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences

*Population Environment Research Network Cyberseminar: Habitability
Columbia University | SEDAC
13 March 2023*


Longitudinal study of climate change and habitability, Santa Rosa de Aguán, Honduras



Longitudinal study of climate change and habitability, Santa Rosa de Aguán, Honduras



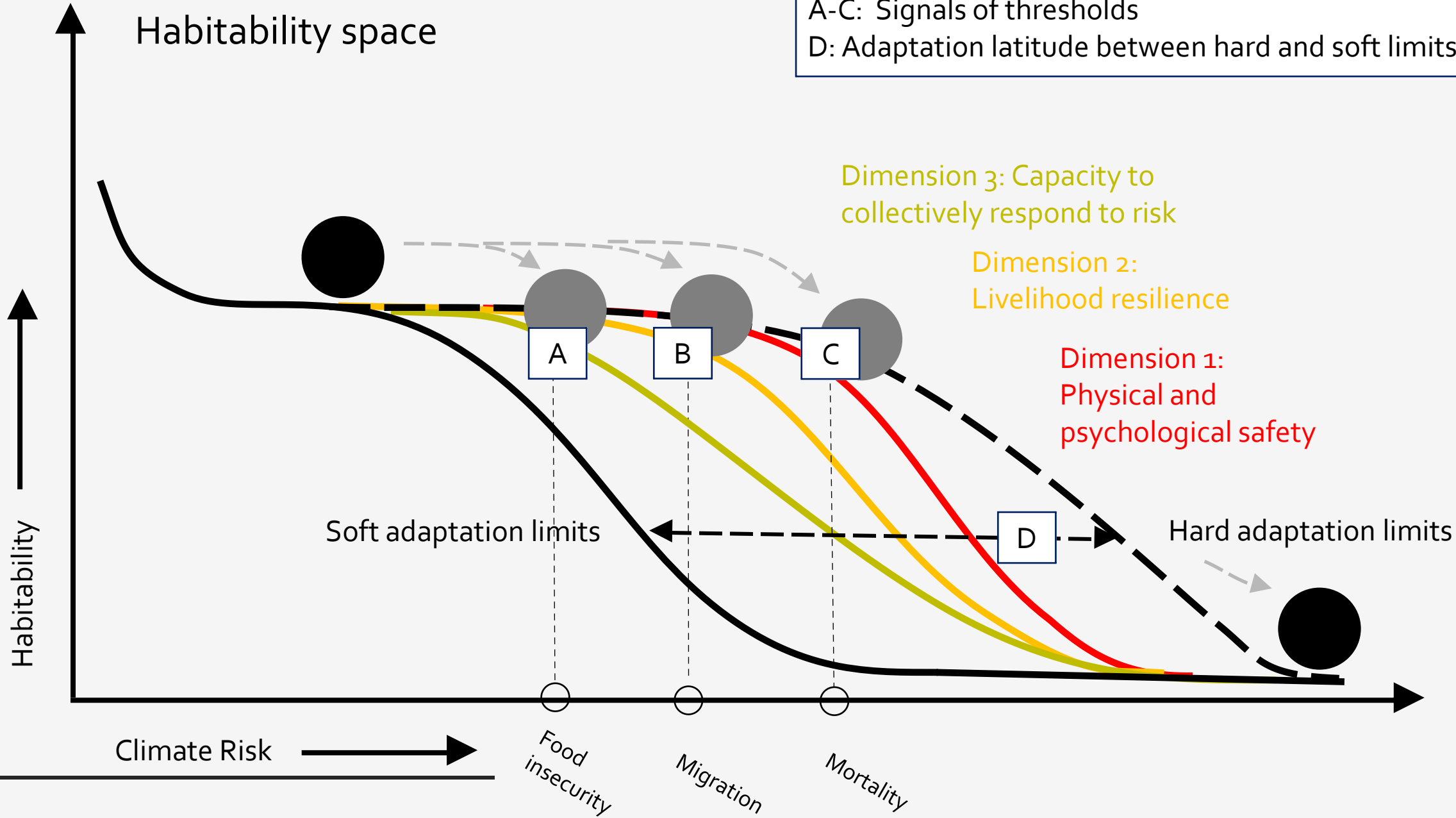
Longitudinal study of climate change and habitability, Santa Rosa de Aguán, Honduras

- 
- 1) Physical and psychological safety,
 - 2) Livelihood resilience,
 - 3) Capacity to collectively adapt to environmental risk

(2021)

Habitability space

A-C: Signals of thresholds
D: Adaptation latitude between hard and soft limits



Habitability = the sum of individual determinations,
 i , made by people in group n

$$H = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left[\frac{AC_w}{e_w \cdot s_w}, \frac{AC_l}{e_l \cdot s_l} \right]_i$$

Habitability

$$H = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left[\overset{\textit{safety}}{\frac{AC_w}{e_w \cdot s_w}}, \overset{\textit{livelihoods}}{\frac{AC_l}{e_l \cdot s_l}} \right]_i$$

...where the sensitivity of people's *safety* to climate hazards, s_w , multiplied by their *exposure* to climate hazards e_w , is fractionally weighted against the *capacity to adapt* to meet the goal of *safety* amidst changing conditions, AC_w .

Habitability

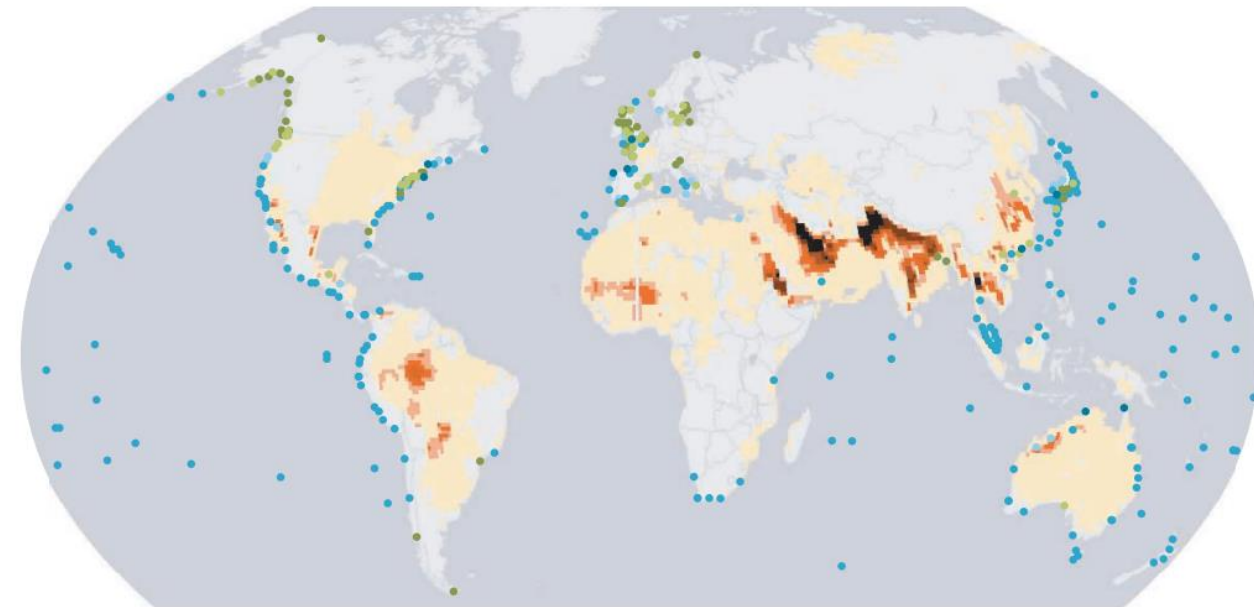
$$H = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left[\frac{AC_w}{e_w \cdot s_w} \right]$$

exposure ■ *sensitivity*

Frequent exceedance by 2100 of historically rare climate thresholds

Under the high-emissions scenario RCP8.5, at most coastal locations extreme sea level events historically defined as 1-in-100-year events are projected to range in frequency from once per year to more than 10 times per year due to the effects of sea level rise alone. Only point locations where historical event data are available are shown. Projected number of days per year by 2100 exceeding a 33°C wet bulb globe temperature (WBGT) in a high-emissions scenario are also depicted. Under standard assumptions of wind and solar radiation, a WBGT of 33°C corresponds to a wet bulb temperature of roughly 31.5°C. [Sea level data are from figure 4.12 in (8); WBGT data are from figure 3 in (12).]

Extreme sea level (occurrences per year) **WBGT return periods (occurrences per year)**
● 1-3 ● >3-6 ● >6-9 ● >9-12 ● >12 ● >50 ● >40-50 ● >30-40 ● >20-30 ● >10-20 ● >5-10 ● >0-5

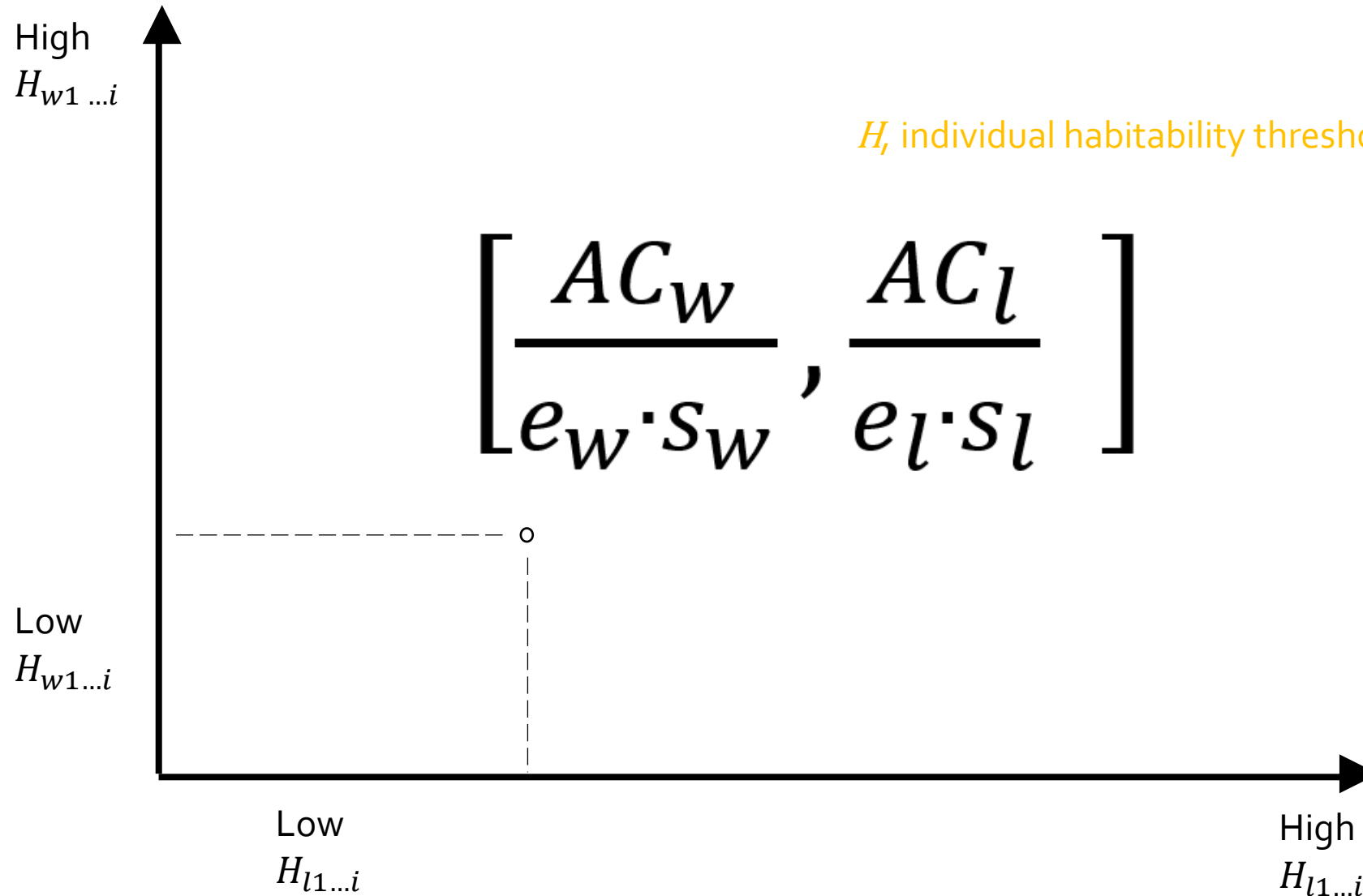


Habitability

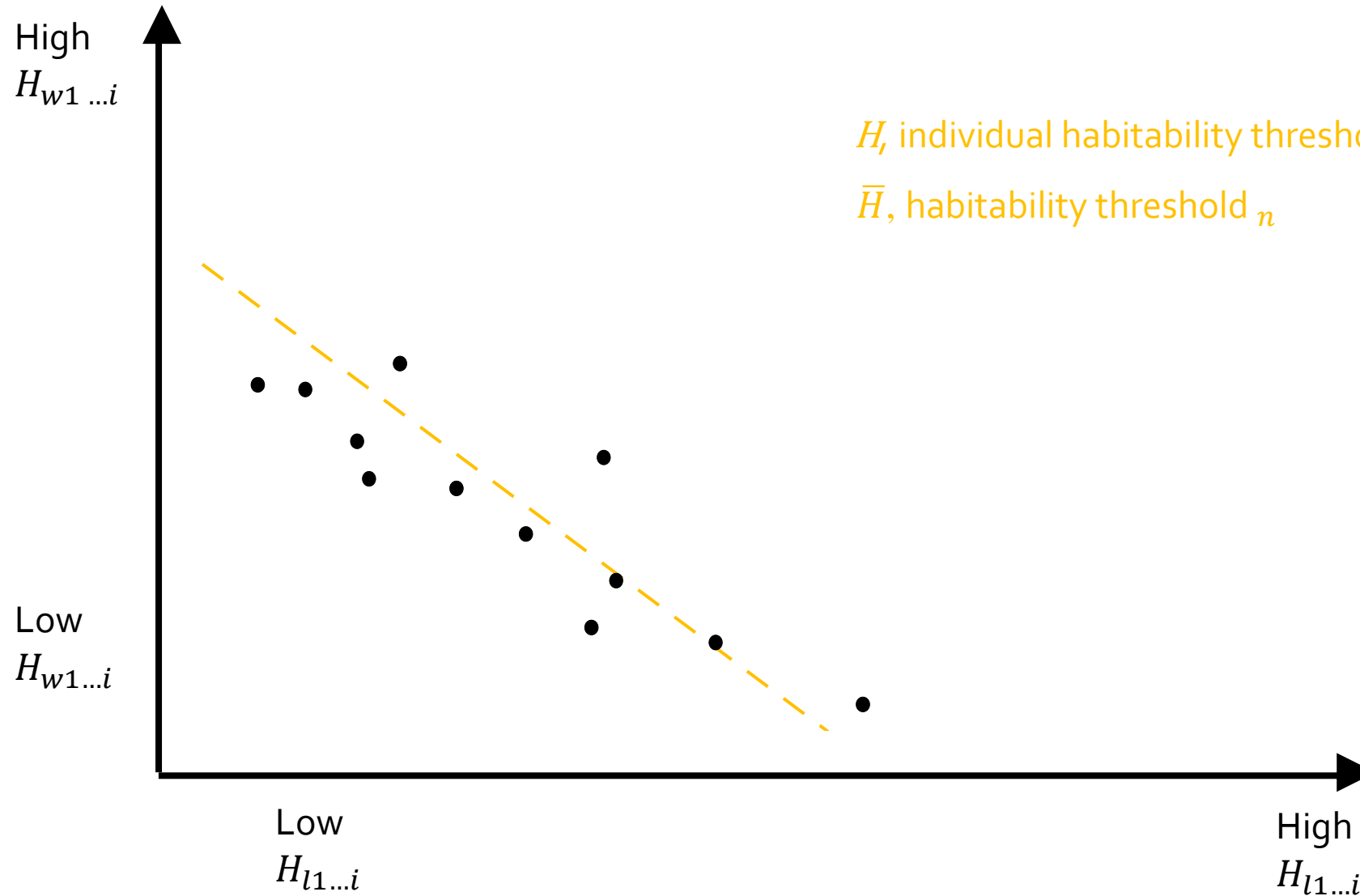
$$H = \frac{1}{n} \sum_i^n \left[\frac{AC_w}{e_w \cdot s_w}, \frac{AC_l}{e_l \cdot s_l} \right]_i$$

*Capacity to adapt vs. adaptation limits;
Rate of adaptation vs. rate of change*

Habitability Space



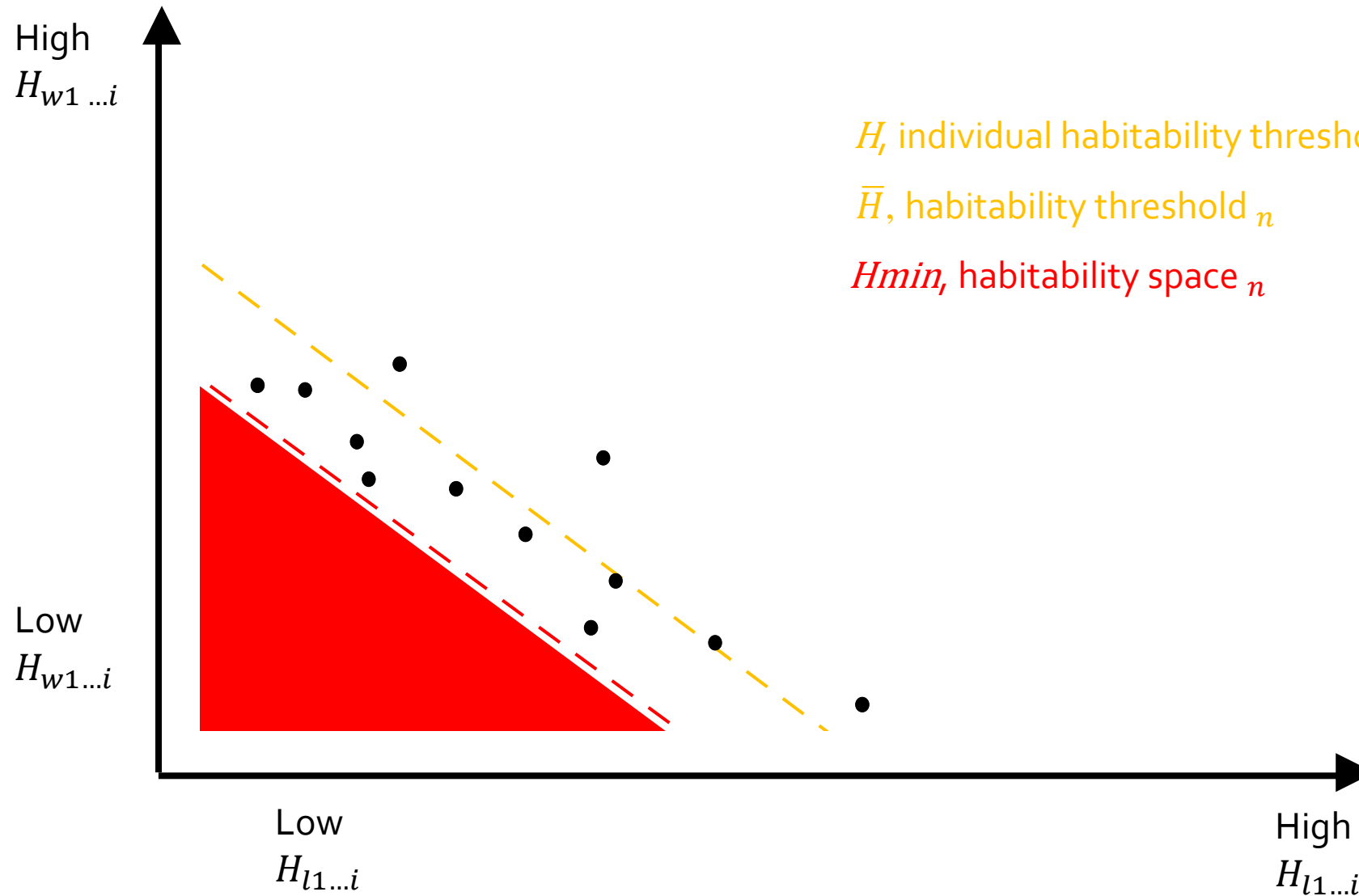
Habitability Space



H_i , individual habitability threshold 1 ... i

\bar{H} , habitability threshold n

Habitability Space



H , individual habitability threshold 1 ... i

\bar{H} , habitability threshold n

H_{min} , habitability space n

Habitability Space

