

# Puerto Rico Disaster Research Network (PR-DRN)

## Bringing Scholars Together to Strengthen the Disaster Risk Reduction Efforts on the Island



UCF Global

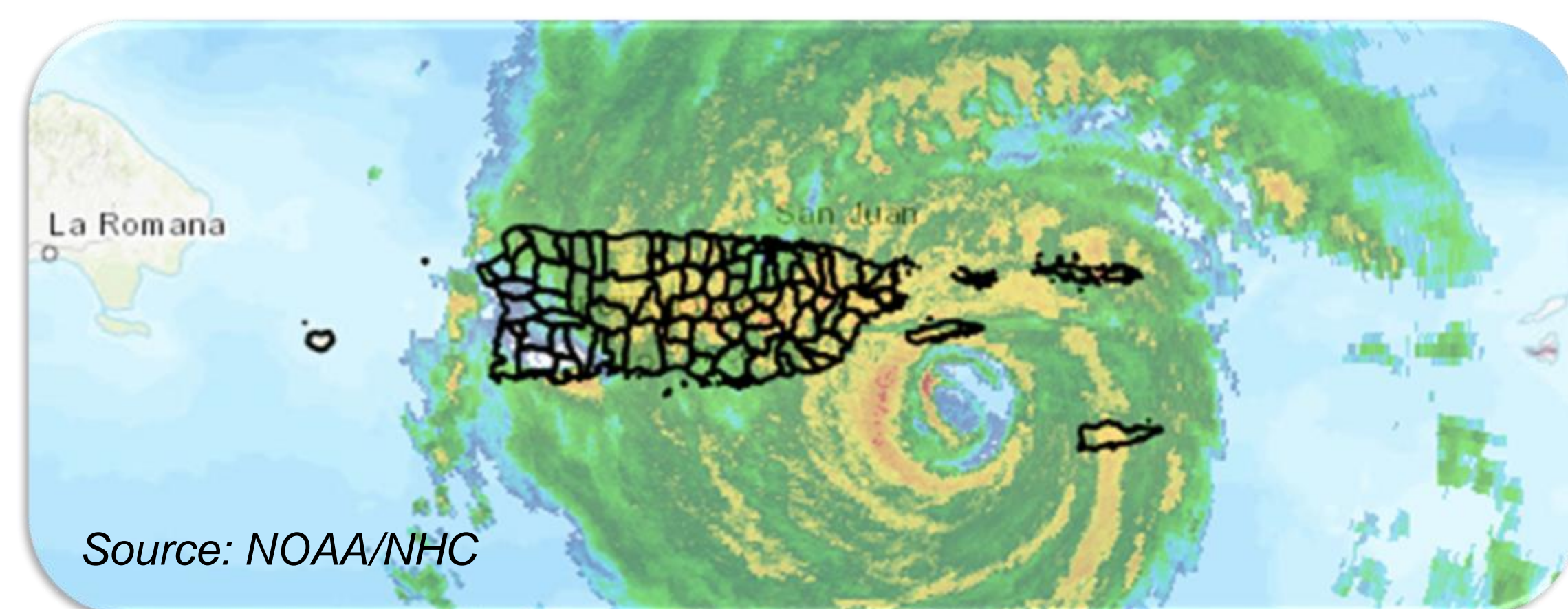
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Puerto Rico  
Research Hub

### MOTIVATION

The creation of the PR-DRN was motivated by the attention given to Puerto Rico's vulnerability following Hurricane Maria in 2017.

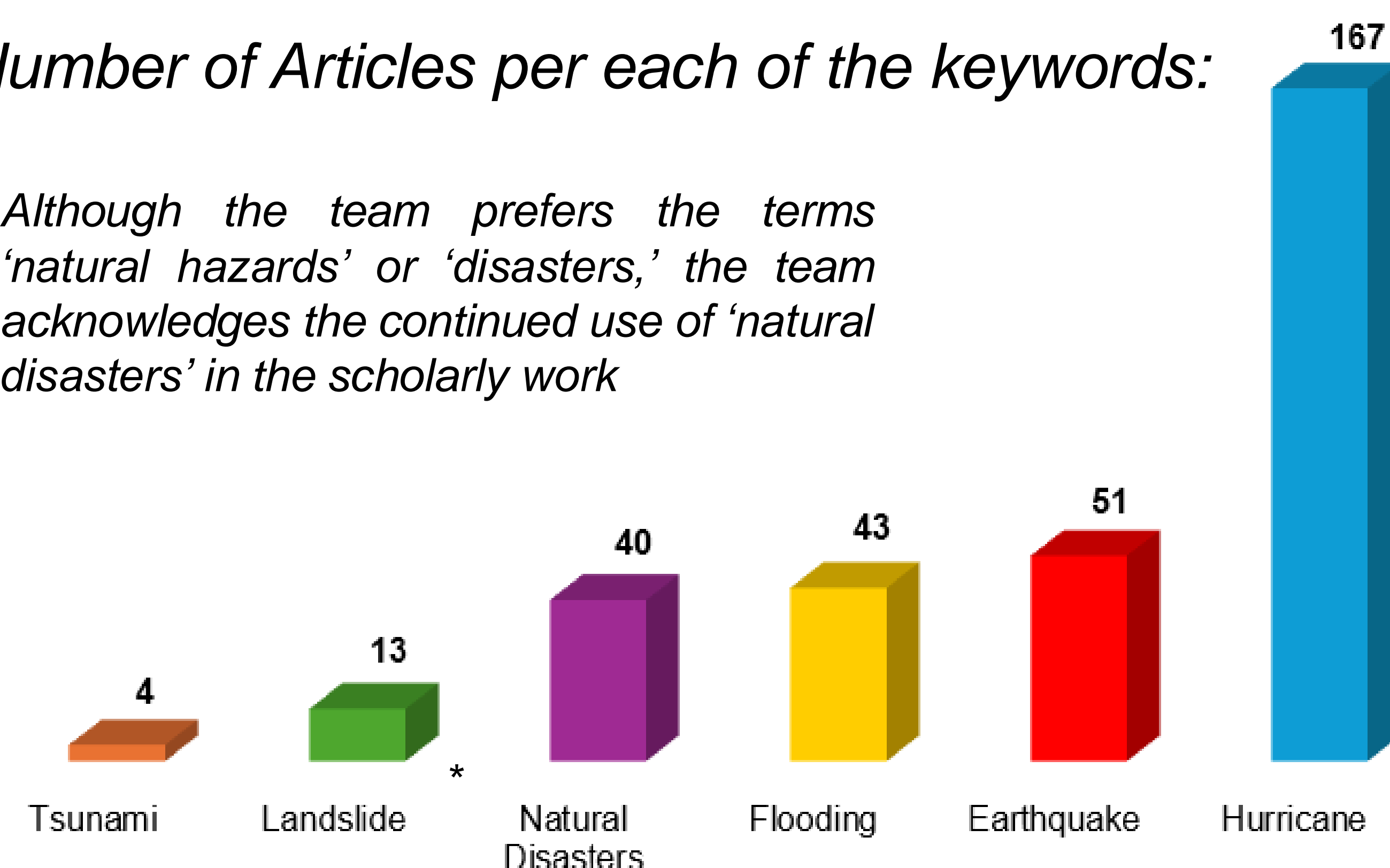


As a result, the Hub's team conducted a scholarly literature search of peer-reviewed articles about *disasters in Puerto Rico* published between 2014 and 2024. The search resulted in the creation of a database which includes studies looking at a variety of natural hazards of which Puerto Rico is prone to.

For each paper included in the database, the following fields were included: Basic details with title, authors' names, institutions, and location, year of publication, and journal, study contents with abstract and summary, and language and sources where the paper was retrieved from.

Number of Articles per each of the keywords:

\* Although the team prefers the terms 'natural hazards' or 'disasters,' the team acknowledges the continued use of 'natural disasters' in the scholarly work



### WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Although the search of scholarly literature targeted the 2014-2024 decade, most articles were published between 2017 and 2019.

Much of the existing research focuses on short-term post-disaster assessment, often neglecting long-term recovery processes and the socio-economic impacts of recurring disasters and compound crises.

There is a lack of comprehensive studies that integrate multiple types of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, flooding, and earthquakes, in the context of the island's unique geographic and socio-political conditions. The current focus is:



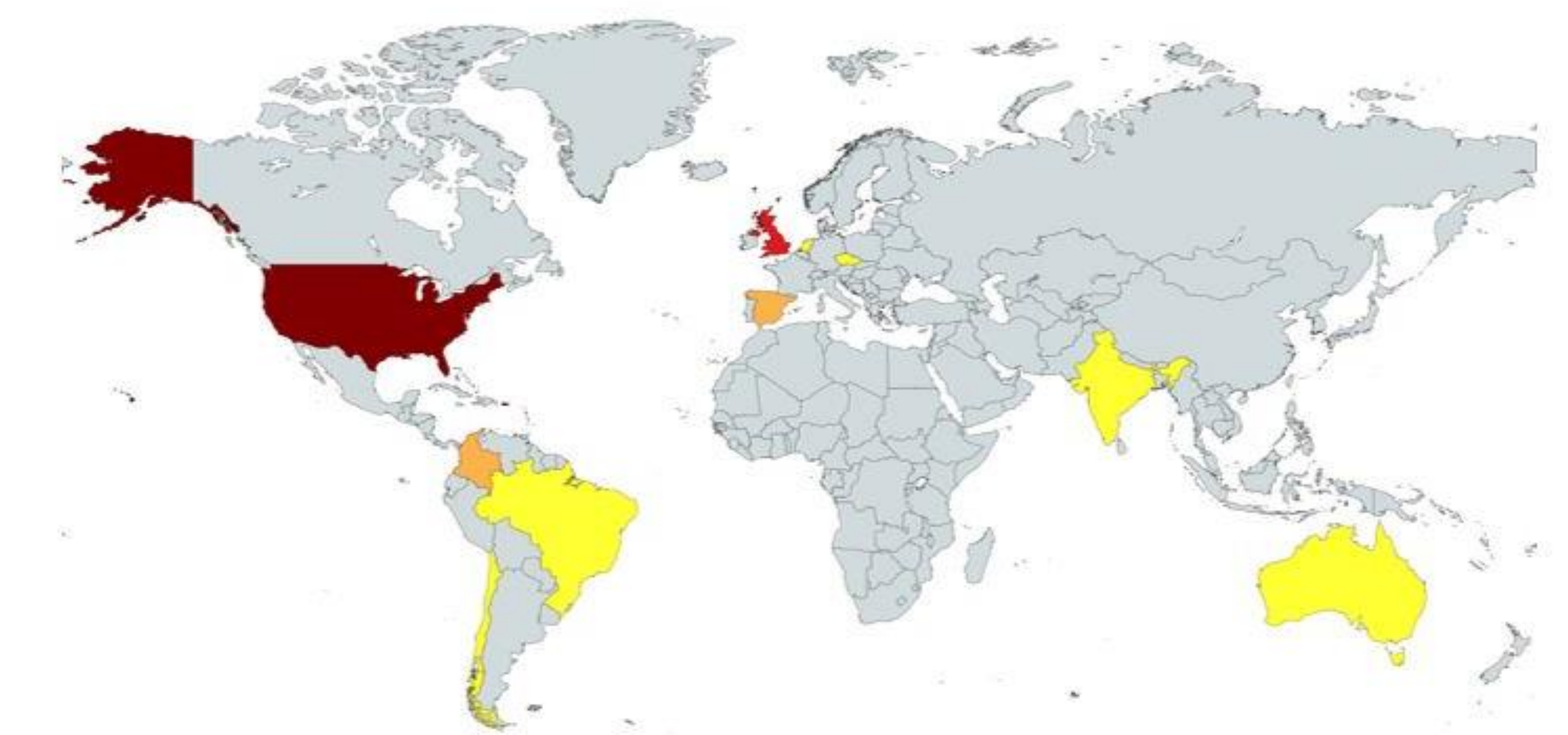
Interdisciplinary studies able to bridge environmental/disaster science with policy, community resilience and community-led responses with adaptation/mitigation strategies are underexplored, but also the future of the discipline:



### RESULTS

In addition to the creation of the database, the team identified which region and institutions, majority of the studies about disasters in Puerto Rico were investigated from.

Location of the institution of articles' authors:



The project culminated with the creation of the PR-DRN designed to foster interdisciplinary collaborations and networking opportunities for researchers. The initiative aims to enhance future research and strategies for disaster management in Puerto Rico by connecting experts with each other and stakeholders on the island, while facilitating collaborative efforts across institutions and disciplines.

The final products of this project are:

- 1) Database of scholars working in this field
- 2) Database of publications covering 2014-2024
- 3) Website to engage, join, and follow the PR-DRN activities

If you want to learn more and join the network scan the QR code and send us a note!

