

# Briefing on the 2018 Triennial Review of the List of Least Developed Countries

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# Structure

1. CDP work on least developed countries (LDCs)
2. LDC criteria and procedures
3. Findings and recommendations on graduation



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CDP website: <http://cdp.un.org>

# CDP work on LDCs

- **Reviews triennially the list of LDCs**
  - Recommends countries for inclusion and graduation
    - Core mandate of the CDP
    - Triennial reviews since 1991
  - ECOSOC endorses the recommendations
  - General Assembly takes note
  - Graduation normally three years later
  - Smooth transition after graduation
- **Developed and refined the criteria and procedures for identifying LDCs**
  - Endorsed by ECOSOC and General Assembly
  - Current criteria confirmed in 2017
  - Multi-year work programme (2017-2020)
- **Monitors graduating and graduated LDCs**
- **Analytical papers on LDCs**

# LDC criteria and indicators

LDCs are low-income countries suffering from the most severe structural impediments to **sustainable development**.

GNI per capita

Human assets index (HAI)

- Percentage of population undernourished
- Under-five mortality rate
- *Maternal mortality rate*
- Gross secondary school enrolment ratio
- Adult literacy rate

Economic vulnerability index (EVI)

- Population
- Remoteness
- Merchandise export concentration
- Share of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in GDP
- Share of population in low elevated coastal zones
- Victims of natural disasters
- Instability of agriculture production
- Instability of exports of goods and services

# Application of criteria

- Data collected for all 145 UN Member States in developing regions
  - Most data from UN sources
  - All data available at [cdp.un.org](http://cdp.un.org)
- Thresholds:
- **GNI per capita** (2014-2016 average, in \$ using Atlas exchange rates)
  - Inclusion: **\$1,025** and below
  - Graduation: **\$1,230** and above
  - 'Income only' graduation: **\$2,460** and above
- **Human assets index**
  - Inclusion: **60** and below
  - Graduation: **66** and above
- **Economic vulnerability index**
  - Inclusion: **36** and above
  - Graduation: **32** and below





# Basic eligibility rules

## • Inclusion

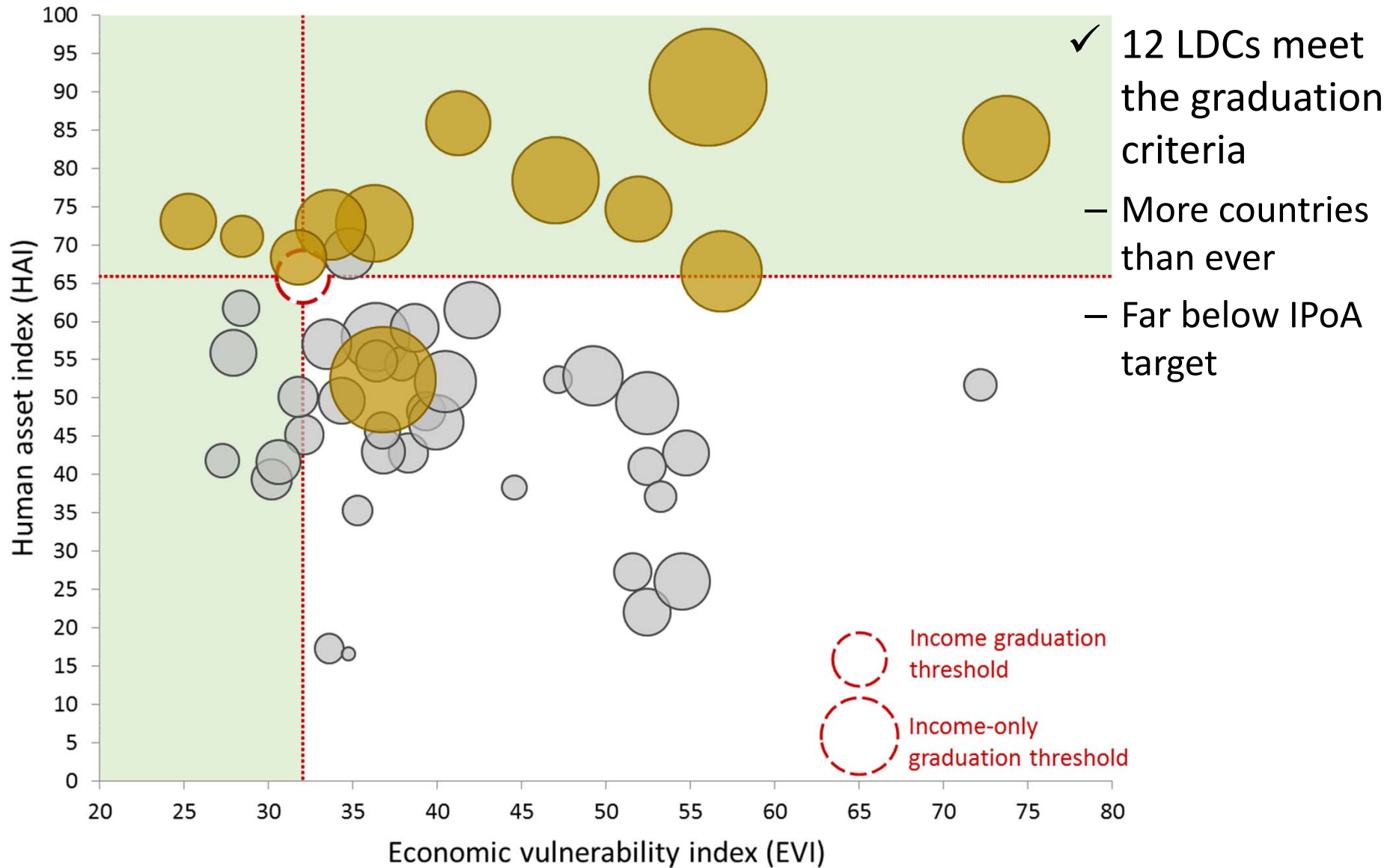
- Country meets inclusion thresholds for all three criteria
- Country must agree to its inclusion
- **No country recommended for inclusion in 2018**

## • Graduation

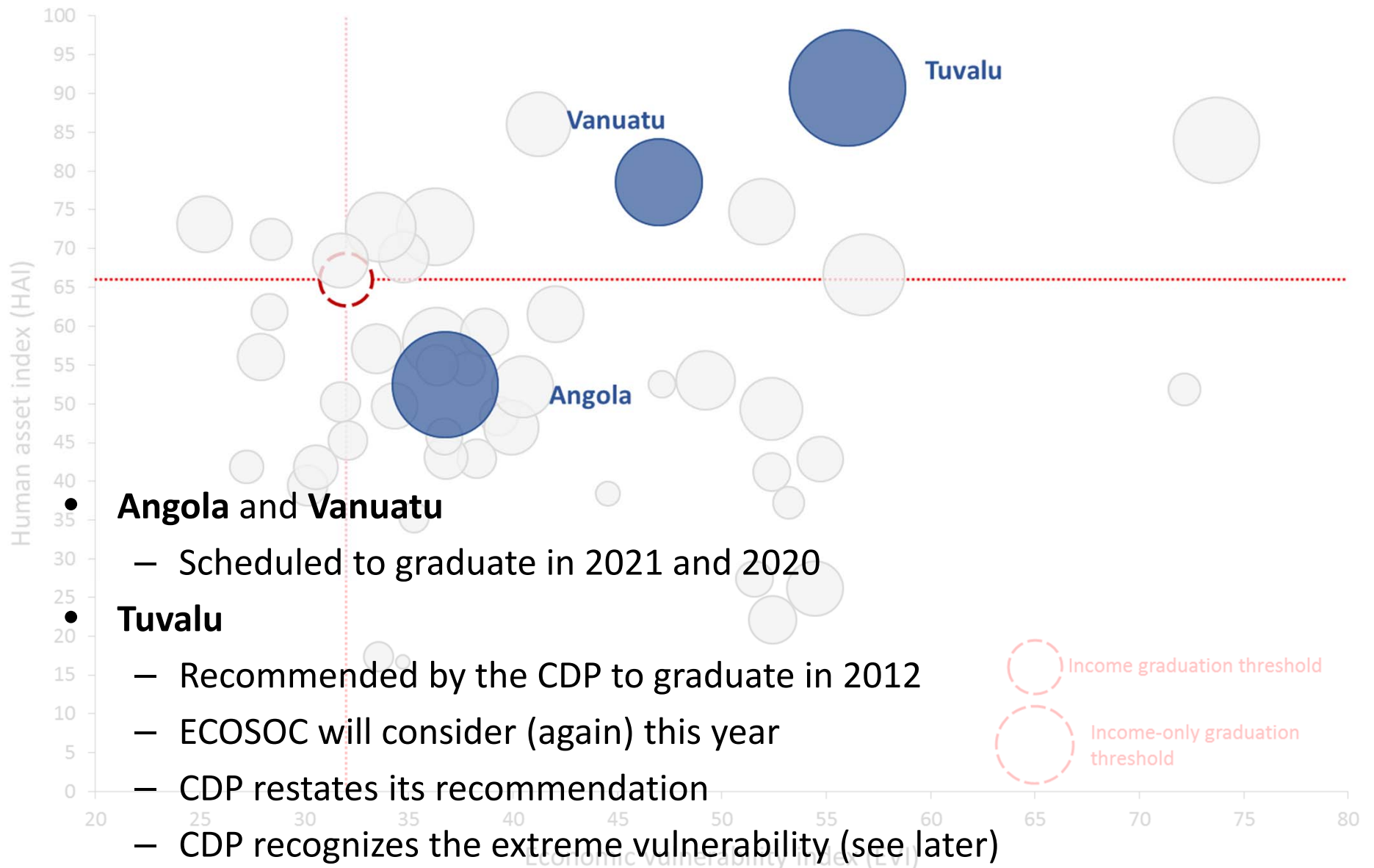
- Country passes thresholds of any 2 criteria
  - **GNI** and **HAI** ; or
  - **GNI** and **EVI** ; or
  - **HAI** and **EVI** .
  - Or: Income > twice income graduation threshold
- Country must meet criteria at **two consecutive reviews**
- No automatism: **impact assessment, vulnerability profile, country views** taken into account



# Triennial review results– overview

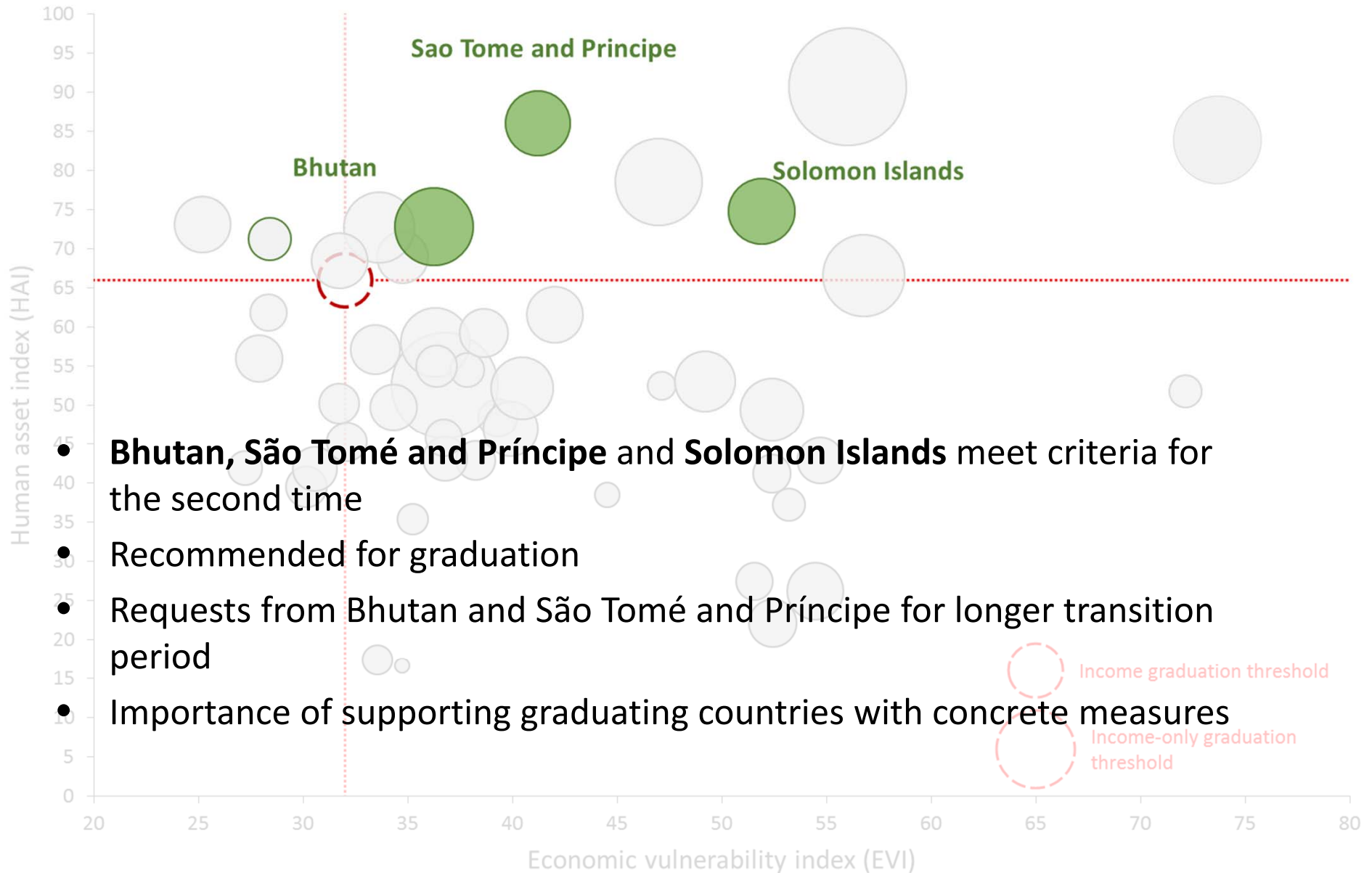


# Graduation – past decisions





# Graduation – recommendations (I)



- **Bhutan, São Tomé and Príncipe and Solomon Islands** meet criteria for the second time

- Recommended for graduation

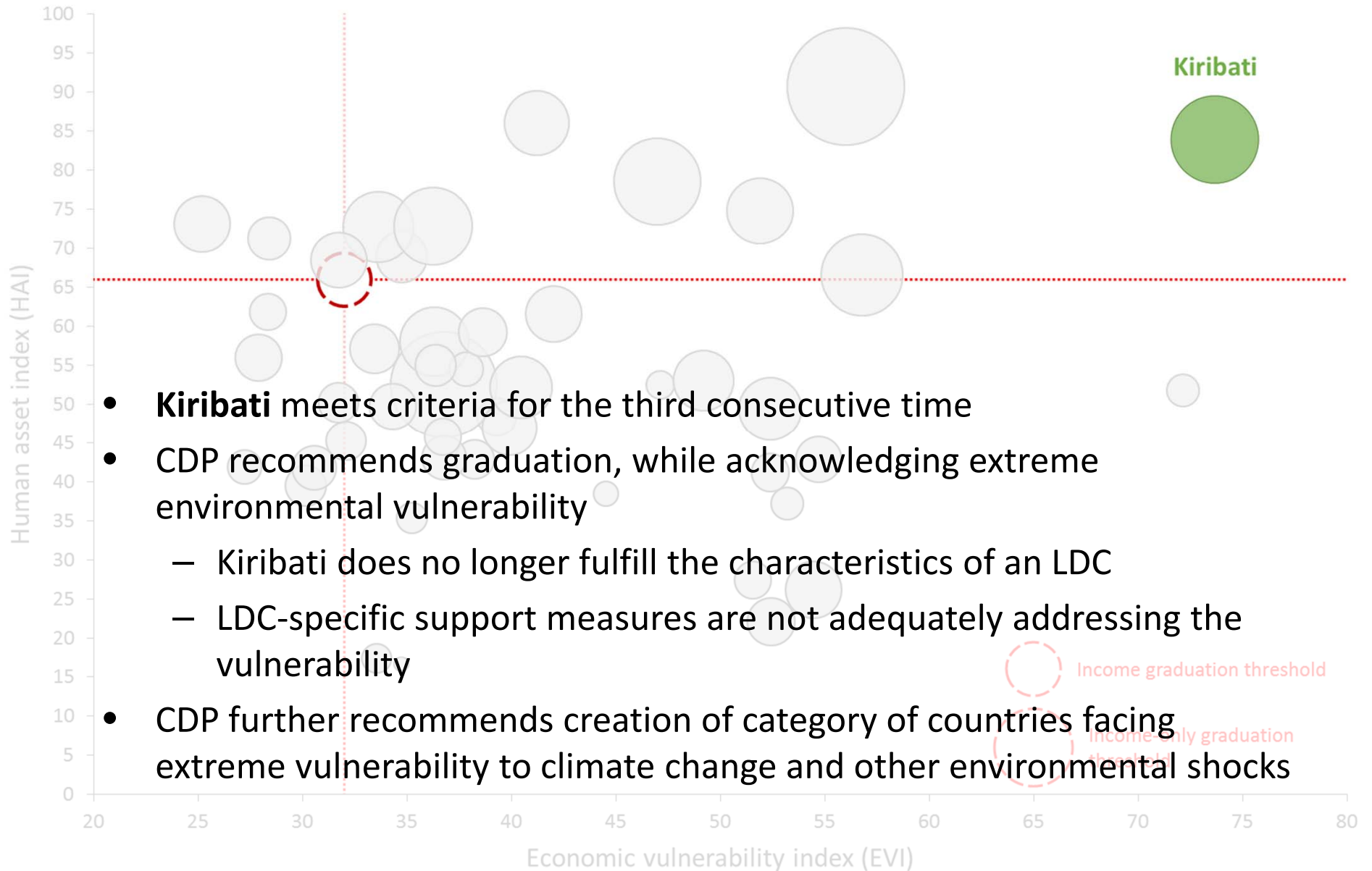
- Requests from Bhutan and São Tomé and Príncipe for longer transition period

- Importance of supporting graduating countries with concrete measures

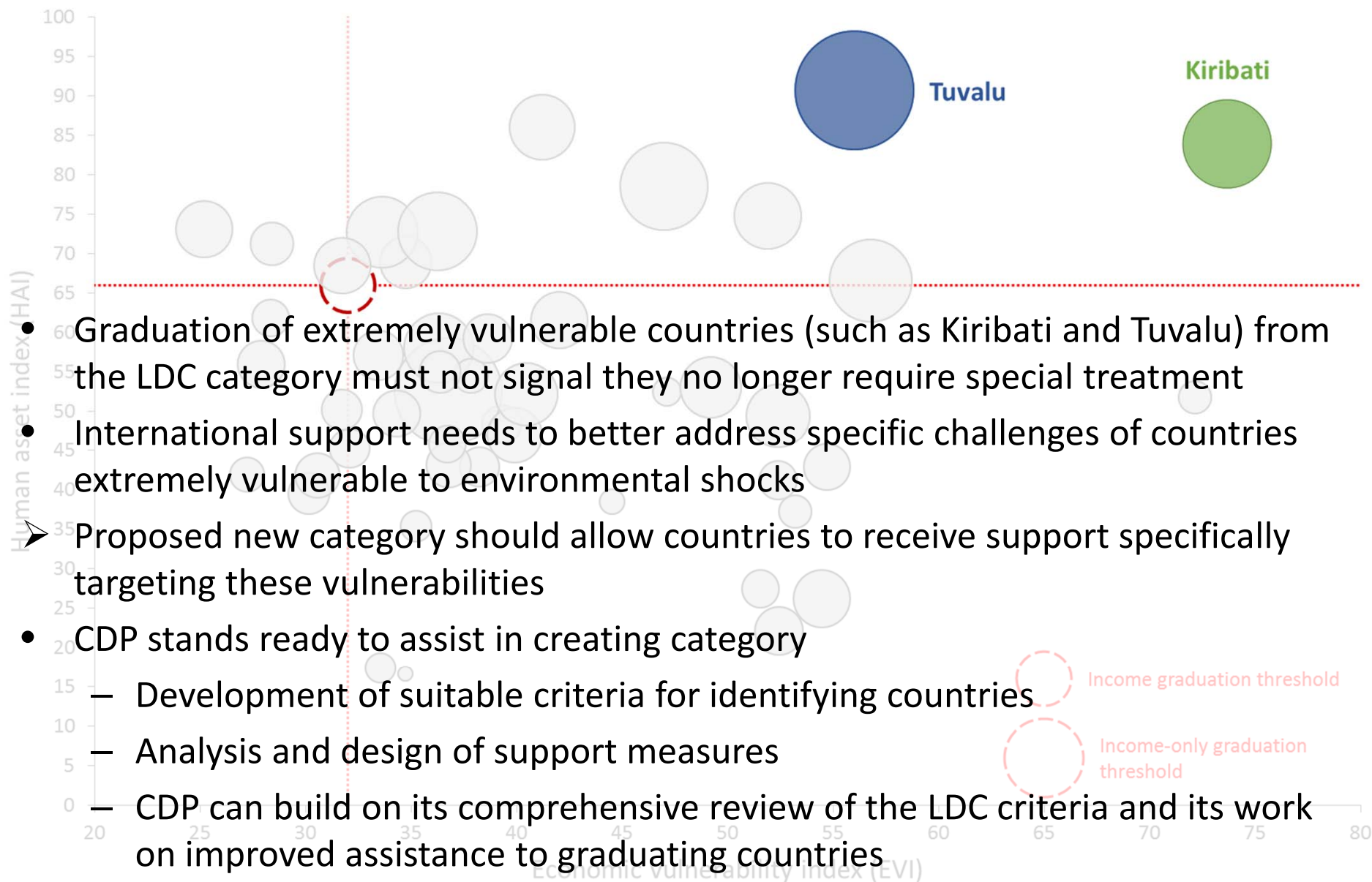
Income graduation threshold

Income-only graduation threshold

# Graduation – recommendations 2018 (II)

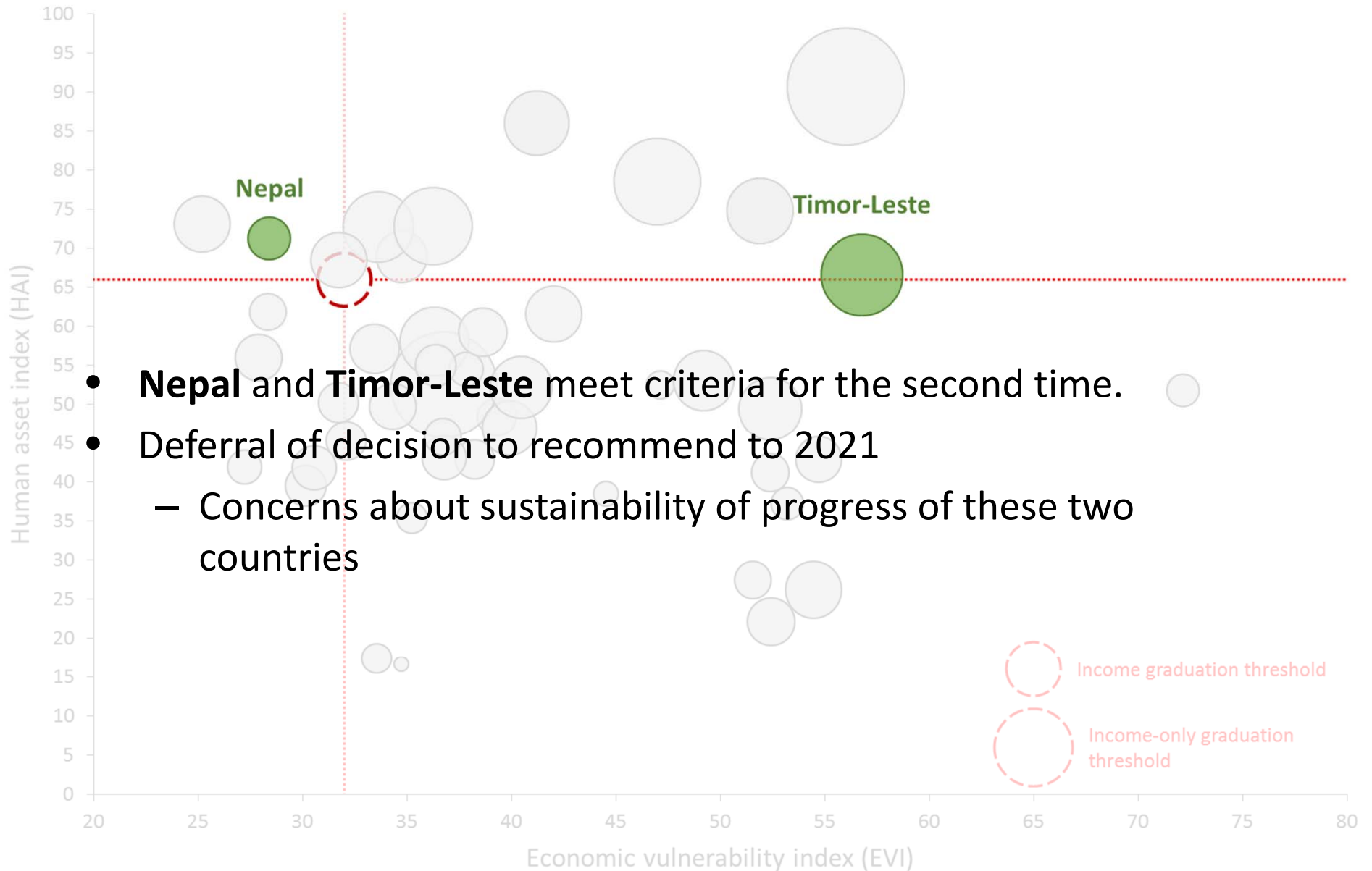


# Proposed category of countries facing extreme vulnerability to climate change and other environmental shocks

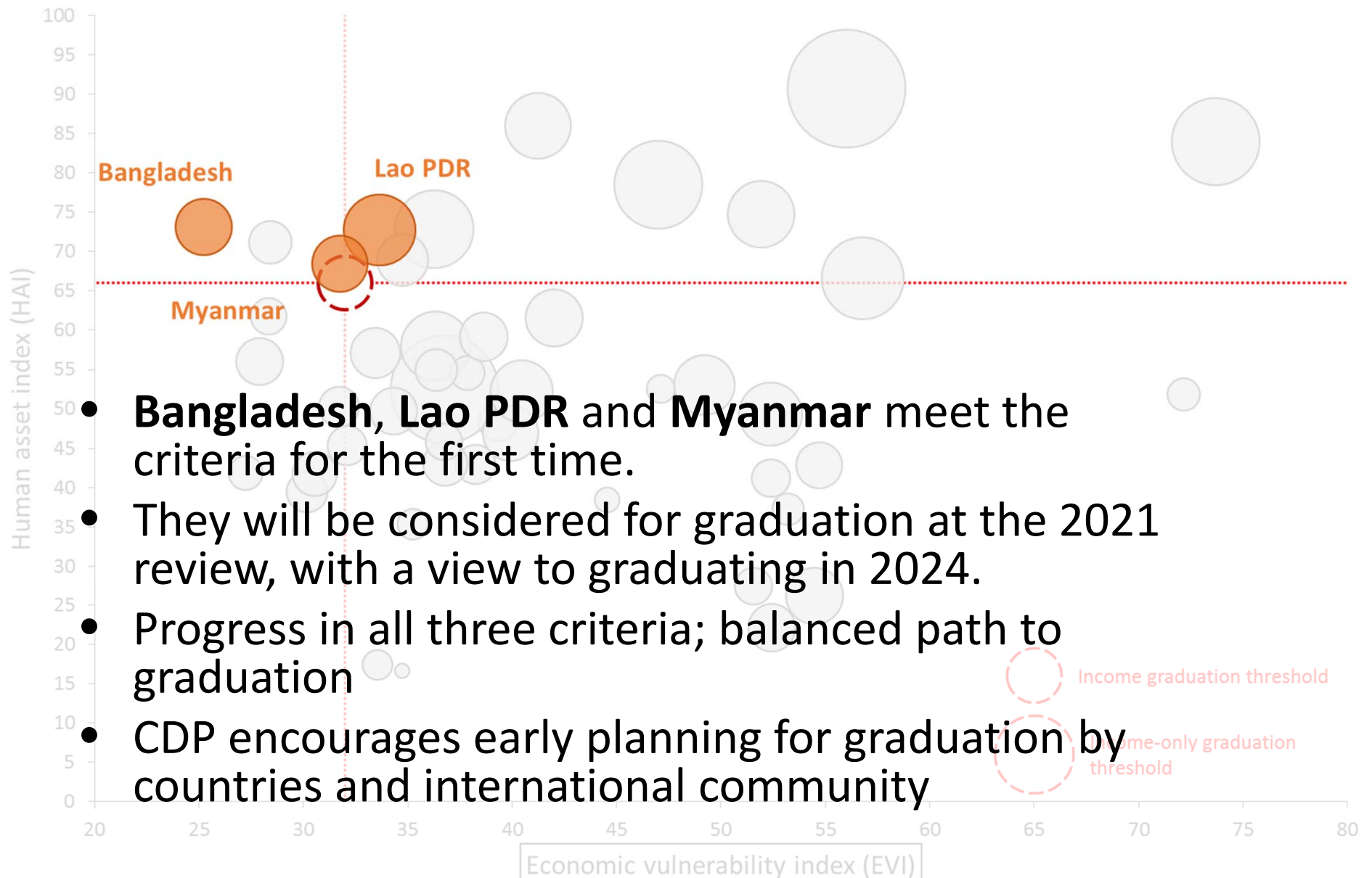


- Graduation of extremely vulnerable countries (such as Kiribati and Tuvalu) from the LDC category must not signal they no longer require special treatment
- International support needs to better address specific challenges of countries extremely vulnerable to environmental shocks
- Proposed new category should allow countries to receive support specifically targeting these vulnerabilities
- CDP stands ready to assist in creating category
  - Development of suitable criteria for identifying countries
  - Analysis and design of support measures
  - CDP can build on its comprehensive review of the LDC criteria and its work on improved assistance to graduating countries

# Graduation – deferred decisions



# Graduation – first eligibility 2018





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