**Supporting Information S8**

Results of a frequency analysis including only the cases since 1980.

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| **Proximate causes** |
| Agricultural development | 19 | Arable land | 12 |
| Aquaculture | 5 |
| Harvesting for bioresources (cranberries, reed cutting, medicinal plants) | 0 |
| Plantations | 2 |
| Drainage to combat malaria, dysentery, cholera | 0 |
| Wood extraction | 3 | Large-scale logging | 3 |
| Local use of wood | 0 |
| Pasture expansion | 2 | - | 2 |
| Settlement development | 10 | Urban | 9 |
| Rural | 1 |
| Industrial/commercial development | 8 | Oil and gas extraction | 0 |
| Water extraction (for e.g. irrigation, hydroelectical power) | 2 |
| Industrial/commercial activities/extraction: other | 6 |
| Peat extraction | 2 | For fuel (local use versus large-scale peat extraction) | 2 |
| For horticulture/litter/fertilizer | 0 |
| Infrastructure construction | 8 | Roads, airport, recreational functions, etc. | 4 |
| Dam construction / Reservoirs (sediment deficit) | 2 |
| Canal dredging/filling/dykes (for land drainage) / boat traffic | 2 |
| Natural causes | 7 | Climatic events: droughts, fires, storms, cyclones | 1 |
| Increased temperature | 3 |
| Decreased precipitation | 2 |
| Sea-level rise | 1 |
| **Underlying factors** |
| Institutional factors (mainly government regulations and subsidies) | 6 |
| Population growth | 13 |
| Economic growth / benefits | 16 |
| Little environmental awareness | 0 |
| Technological innovations | 5 |
| Cultural reasons (traditional use of the land by local people) | 0 |
| Tourism/recreational developments | 0 |