

Unpacking Climate Change

16 March 2012

Eren Zink

Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology

Today's objectives

- Review basic definitions of climate change
- Review social science approaches to studying climate change
- Apply discourse analysis to contemporary climate change debates
- Apply science and technology studies approaches to the facts of climate change

Key Concepts

Anthropogenic Climate Change

Climate Variability

Adaptation

Mitigation

How to cut the cake? Anthropological approaches to climate change

I. Human Practices and Responses to Adaptation/Mitigation/Disaster

A. (Pre)Historical

a. Maya Civilization

b. Rise and fall of Roman Empire

How to cut the cake? Social science approaches to studying climate change

I. Human Practices and Responses to Adaptation/Mitigation/Disaster

A. (Pre)Historic

B. Contemporary

- a. Arctic peoples
- b. Island countries
- c. Coastal lowlands
- d. Andean/Himalayan glaciers

More slices...

II. Discourse approaches

A. What are the logics of climate change discourse and what/whose interests does it serve?

B. Why are some narratives of climate change more powerful than others?

C. How/Why do some discourses become dominant/ change/ disappear?

D. How do individuals figure in the social, cultural, political or economic lives of climate change discourses?

Röd mak

Femtio öre mer för bensinen är inte fel. Miljöpartiet inte vill erkänna att sammanlagt om de används till utsläppsminskning.

DN. DET VAR Maria Wetterstrands dag i går. Hon var på stor bild i DN där hon berättade om innehållet i den miljöskatteuppgörelse som de rödgröna gjorde.

Hon var på mögenen även intervjuad i Ekot och senare i andra medier.

Bakom detta finns antagligen ett gemensamt rödgrönt beslut. Alla partier samarbete måste ibland få stå i rampljus. Att ett parti som heter Miljöpartiet bjöds på just detta tillfälle var inte konstigt.

Vad som däremot är ett problem för i en grön amarbetet är att så många av de som står i rampljus är miljöpartistiska. Det är inte tillräckligt tydligt att det är tillsammans med Peter Eriksson målmedvetet och skickligt lett omvandlingen av Miljöpartiet från ett lite udda partipolitiskt marginal till en dominerande maktpolitisk aktör.

Under den socialdemokratiska regeringsperioden gjorde Miljöpartiet ibland upp med de borgerliga, bland annat om skolpolitiken och om undantag från läroplanen. Men huvudspåret har hela tiden varit att bli Socialdemokraternas närmaste allierade. Dit har Miljöpartiet i dag nått.

Dagens Nyheter,
"50 öre more for
The problem is
does not want to
resources give a
are used for em
other countries"

8. Implementing REDD strategies

a) What are the potential challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies or programs, and how might they be overcome?

Effective forest law enforcement is the main challenge facing Vietnam. Despite the introduction of tight restrictions on logging in natural forests in 1997, the area of primary natural forest continues to decline. The scale of the problem is a challenge in itself. Forest violations have numbered 30,000 - 50,000 per annum in recent years, very few of which are ever investigated and only a tiny proportion of which result in criminal prosecution.

Other challenges include

- the lack of capacity and investment in forest monitoring, evaluation and protection, especially at district and provincial levels
- the lack of coordination between the new enforcement agencies and forest management and law enforcement agencies
- a lack of awareness of the implications of REDD as an asset for livelihoods
- weakness of physical planning, and
- weak institutional arrangements for REDD implementation

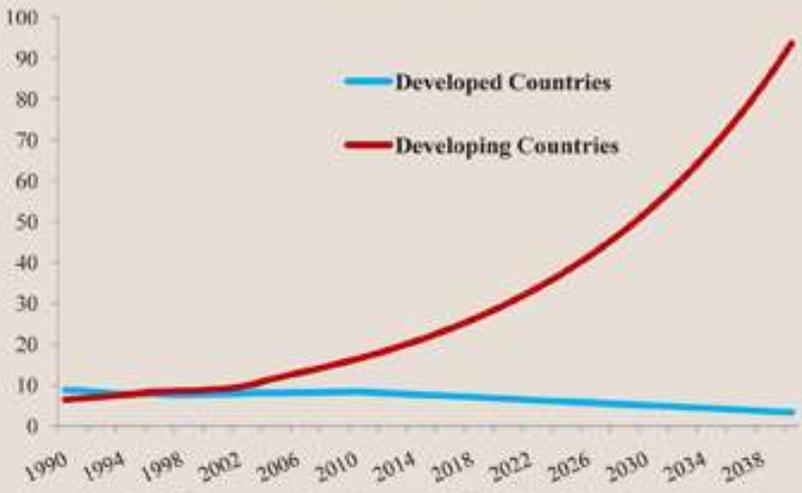
"The strength of the consequent incentive to protect forest resources will depend on the unit price of REDD-generated credits, and will only be felt by those who receive the revenue. The mechanism will work best, therefore, when the revenue is channeled to those with a direct impact on forest protection: forest-dependent rural communities, natural forest management boards and local forest protection enforcement agencies." (P.14)

Minister has issued Decision 12/2006 that exhorts MARD to work in close coordination with other enforcement agencies, including MPS and MCD, to address continuing forest crimes that lead to deforestation and degradation. Sufficient investment in strengthening the capacity of forest management and law enforcement agencies, promoting active participation of the local authorities and communities and raising public awareness on sustainable forest management are needed.

Partnership Facility (FCPF) (R-PIN) Template

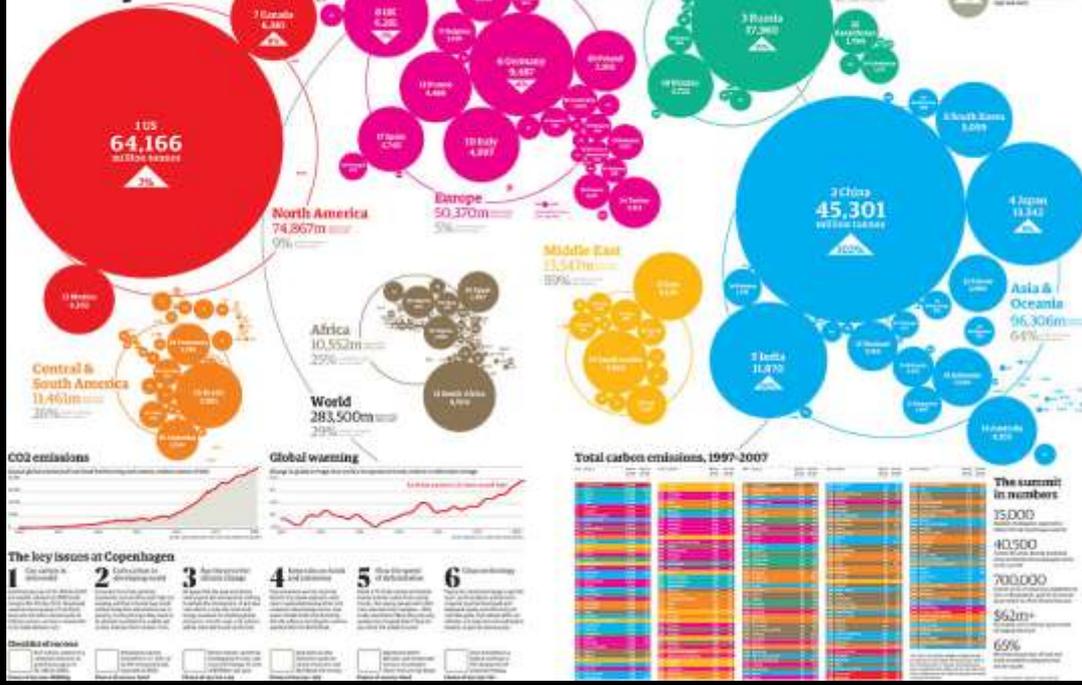
your country's interest in the FCPF program, and stakeholder consultation process, and long Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (EDF) into the FCPF by the Participants (see Annex 1). Participants may consider using the optional Annex 1 information to provide other information (e.g., maps, data tables, etc.), but this is not required. The information should be included into the format of the FCPF program. The information should be included into the format of the FCPF program. The information should be included into the format of the FCPF program.

CO₂ Emissions From Developing and Developed Countries* (Billions of tons)

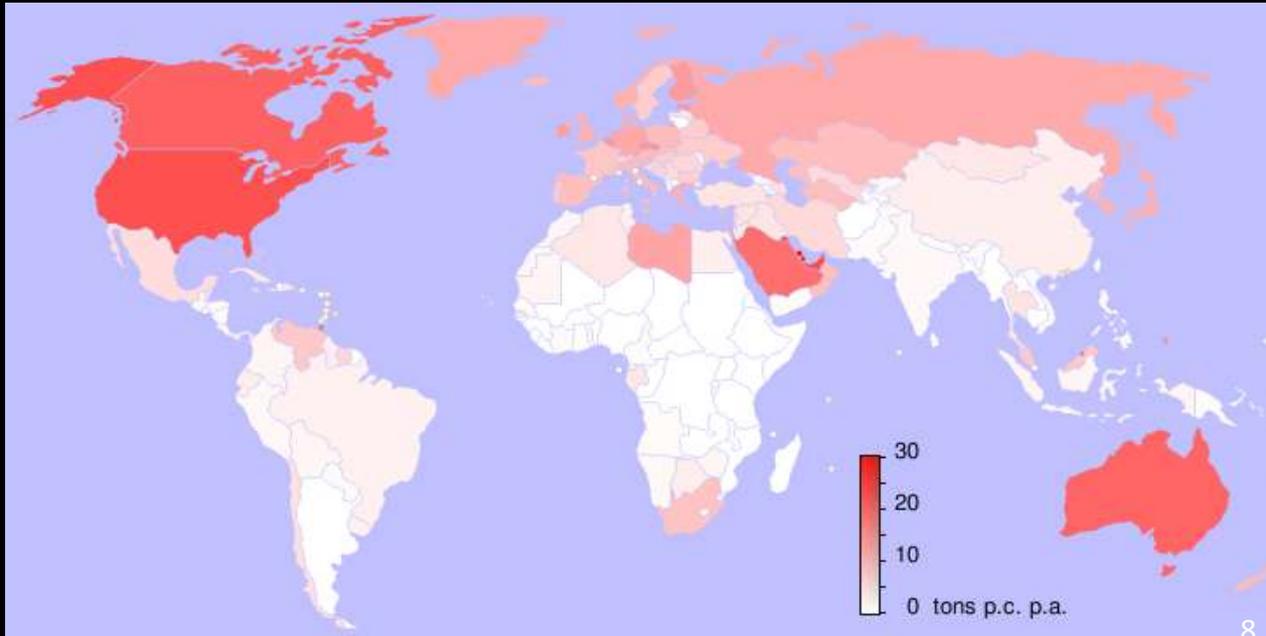


* Assumptions: United States cuts emissions 80 percent by 2050. Other developed countries cut emissions 60 percent by 2050. China and other developing countries increase emissions by 6 percent annually. Source: Muller & Associates, "Naked Copenhagen: The Numbers Behind the Op-Ed," 2009.

Global emissions since Kyoto



(c) Cumulative Emissions to 2005



More slices...

III. Science and technology studies

A. Unpacking the fact of climate change.

a. What is in a fact?

b. How is the fact made?

What are facts

Coproduction refers to the idea that what we understand to be facts about the world, actually consist of a mixture of natural phenomenon, human-made representations of those phenomenon, as well as a whole range of other social, cultural, and economic relationships. Making facts requires a lot of work!

A characteristic of facts is their stability. They either are not challenged, or they are able to resist challenges to unseat them.

Facts are also, to some degree, mobile. In other words, they can be moved by people from place to place, without undermining their stability.

Relevant sources:

- Orlove, Ben. 2005 *Human adaptation to climate change: a review of three historical cases and some general perspectives*. *Environmental Science and Policy* 8:589-600.
- Jasanoff, Sheila, and Marybeth Long Martello, eds. 2004 *Earthly Politics: Local and Global in Environmental Governance*. Cambridge: MIT Press.
- Pettenger, Mary E., ed. 2007 *The Social Construction of Climate Change: Power, Knowledge, Norms, Discourses*. Hampshire: Ashgate.
- Crate, Susan A., and Mark Nuttall, eds. 2009. *Anthropology and Climate Change*. Walnut Creek, CA: Left Coast Press.
- Bumpus, Adam G., and Diana M. Liverman. 2008. *Accumulation by Decarbonization and the Governance of Carbon Offsets*. *Economic Geography* 84(2):127-155.
- Bäckstrand, Karin, and Eva Lövbrand. 2006. *Planting Trees to Mitigate Climate Change: Contested Discourses of ecological Modernization, Green Governmentality and Civic Environmentalism*. *Global Environmental Politics* 6(1):50 - 75.
- Lahsen, Myanna. 2005. *Seductive Simulations? Uncertainty Distribution Around Climate Models*. *Social Studies of Science* 35(6):895-922.
- Adger, N.W., P.M. Kelly, and N.H. Nguyen, 2001. *Living with Environmental Change: Social Vulnerability, Adaptation and Resilience in Vietnam*. New York: Routledge.
- Wynne, Brian
2010 *Strange Weather, Again: Climate Science as Political Art*. *Theory, Culture & Society* 27(2-3):289-305.
- Zink, Eren
2011 *Flexible Science: An anthropology of scientists, society and nature in Vietnam*, Uppsala University.

The identities, institutions, languages and representations created by science and technology can be politically sustaining, by helping societies to accommodate new knowledges and technological capabilities without tearing apart (indeed, often by reaffirming) the legitimacy of existing social arrangements. (Jasanoff 2004b:39)

Climate change is a stable fact in Vietnam due to the mutability of its meaning, and its facilitation of wide ranges of social, political and economic relationships and exchanges... as well as the presence of changing atmospheric conditions and scientific truths.

“Climate change is not environment, it is politics... We don’t talk about party or government, we talk about climate change.”

Vietnamese scientist, Hanoi 2008

Thank you for your attention!

Eren Zink

Dept. of Cultural Anthropology and Ethnology Uppsala University

eren.zink@antro.uu.se

