

ENVS 3521 Climate Politics & Policy



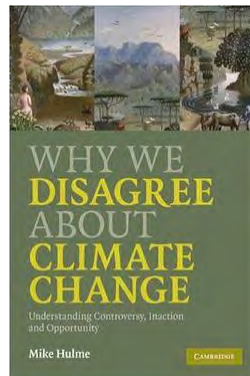
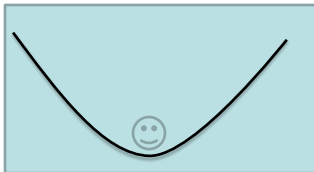
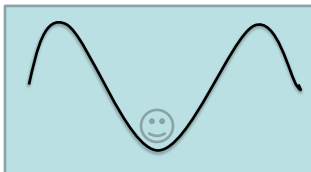
Spring 2012
Component II – February 16



HULME (2009) Ch 6 - The Things We Fear



“one of the reasons we disagree about climate change is because we evaluate risks differently”
~ Hulme (2009) p. 181



Okereke (2009)

ongoing negotiations considered along lines of ‘two great conflicts’:

- (1) **between the USA & the rest of the world** – over nature of the commitments and types of governance instruments
- (2) **global North-South conflicts** – issues of development, justice, adaptation

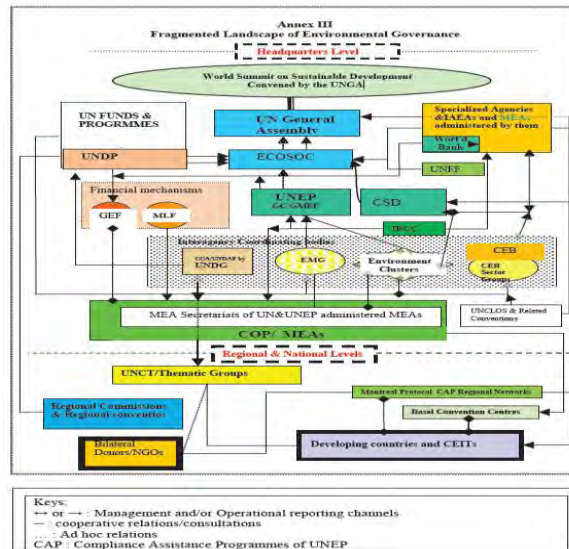
“global governance of the climate is probably the most complex environmental diplomacy ever undertaken by the global political community”
 ~ Okereke (2009) p. 45

Okereke (2009)

intricacies and complexities of climate negotiations include:

- (1) **scientific uncertainties** – over magnitude of future climate change and the range of potential consequences
- (2) **centrality/ubiquity of carbon**– embedded in human activities of transportation, land use, industry, and household energy use
- (3) **differences between contributors and those who bear the burden** – common but differentiated responsibilities (CDR)
- (4) **up-front costs** – time horizons combined with economic impacts of action
- (5) **institutional arrangements** – how to best configure organizations to optimally deal with mitigation and adaptation challenges

capturing complexity or fragmented by design?



1992 UN Conference on Environment & Development
(*UNCED*, the *Rio Conference* or the *Earth Summit*)



THREE MAJOR PRODUCTS:

1. Rio Declaration on the Environment & Development

2. Two Binding Conventions:

- The Biodiversity Convention
- **The Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)**

3. Agenda 21

- a 'blueprint' for sustainable development in the 21st century

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)

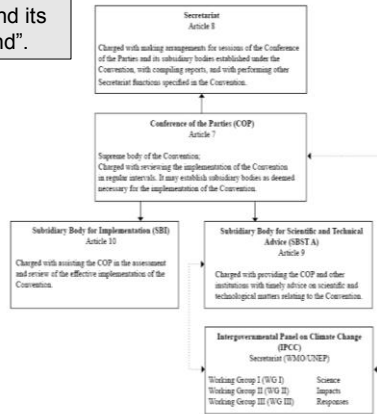


“Acknowledges that change in the Earth’s climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind”.

Article 2: “achieve **stabilization of the greenhouse gas concentrations** in the atmosphere at a level that would **prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.**”

Article 3: 5 principles to guide actions

- (1) common but differentiated responsibility (CDR)
- (2) specific needs of developing countries should be given full consideration, especially vulnerable ones
- (3) employing the precautionary principle
- (4) actions be consistent with sustainable development
- (5) that parties should cooperate in promoting an open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth



from Schroeder, Chapter 2 (2009)

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)



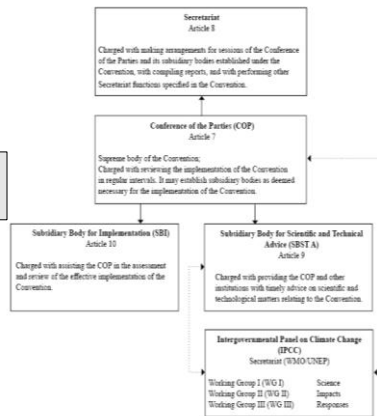
Article 4(2): distinguishes between groupings of Parties to the convention:

- Annex I Parties (all industrialized countries)
- Non-Annex I Parties (developing countries)

notes that “the aim” for these Annex I countries is to return to 1990 levels of anthro emissions

Articles 4(3) & 4(4): new and ‘additional’ resources must be provided for vulnerable countries to ‘adjust’ to these climate stimuli

Articles 10 & 12: various rules for Annex I Parties to “adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change”



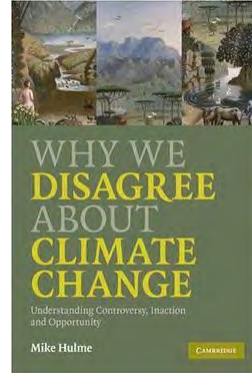
from Schroeder, Chapter 2 (2009)

HULME (2009) Ch 6 - The Things We Fear



“the idea of danger in the context of global climate change is notoriously difficult to quantify”
 ~ Hulme (2009) p. 192

- (1) attribution challenges
- (2) deciding what counts...influences of ethical stances
- (3) complexity in connecting problem identification to risk management
 (from *Principles to action...*)



UNFCCC → COP3 → COP17

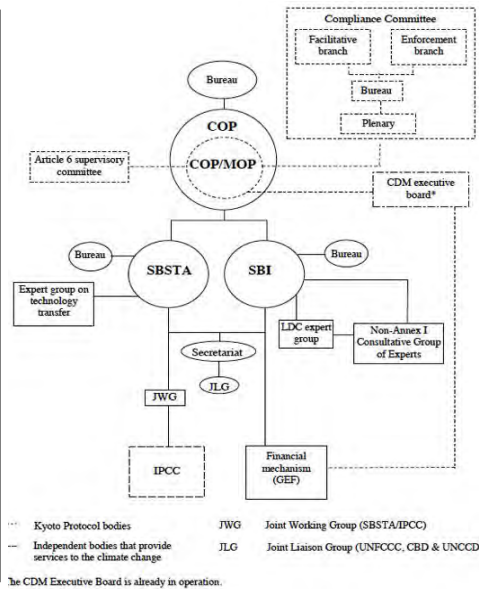


Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)
 (UNFCCC Article 10)

- (1) bridges implementation between the Parties to the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol and Conference of Parties (COPs)
- (2) addresses questions of project approval/funding (e.g. CDM projects)
- (3) assists governments to fulfill the terms of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) (UNFCCC Article 9)

- (1) bridges between Parties to the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol, and scientific or technical bodies, such as the IPCC
- (2) addresses questions of technology transfer
- (3) designed to increase coordination at the climate science-policy interface



The Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997)



"The Parties to this Protocol...in pursuit of the ultimate objective of the Convention as stated in its Article 2 ...have agreed (to the 28 Articles) as follows..."

Articles 3 & 4: Annex I Parties to KP must reduce GHG emissions overall by at least 5% below 1990 levels in commitment period 2008 thru 2012

Annex B: Quantified Emissions Limitation and Reduction Objectives (QELROs)



The Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997)



"The Parties to this Protocol...in pursuit of the ultimate objective of the Convention as stated in its Article 2 ...have agreed (to the 28 Articles) as follows..."

Articles 6, 12 & 17: flexible mechanisms
market-based strategies for GHG reductions

- Joint Implementation
- Clean Development Mechanism
- Emissions Trading

Article 15: established SBI and SBSTA as permanent standing committees for Kyoto Protocol implementation

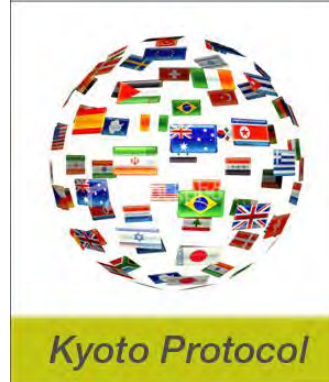


see Mace (Chapter 21) and Sathaye (Chapter 26) in Schneider et al (2010) for more

The Kyoto Protocol (COP3, 1997)



Article 25: the Kyoto Protocol enters into force "on the ninetieth day after the date on which not less than 55 Parties to the Convention, incorporating Parties included in Annex I which accounted in total for at least 55% of the total carbon dioxide emissions for 1990 of the Annex I countries"



- 55 countries reached in May 2002 w Iceland ratification
- 55% emissions reach in November 2004 w Russian ratification
- entered into force in February 2005

Bali Road Map (COP13, 2007)



Adaptation Fund: "established to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change"

- issues of 'additionality'
- National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs)

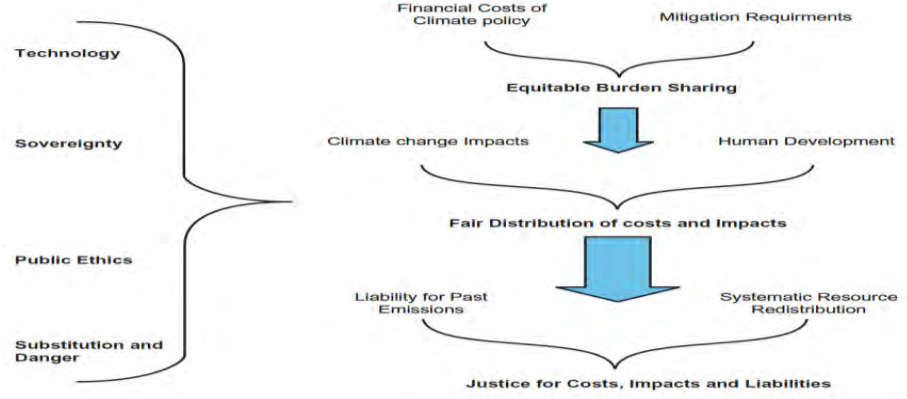


REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation & Forest Degradation)

- forest conservation, sustainable forest management & enhancement of carbon stocks
- issues of justice & equity



“Distributive justice in climate change has been of interest both to the ethics and to the climate policy communities, but the two have remained relatively isolated ” (p. 88)



...this helps to “more carefully analyse which options present the best fit with the challenge of climate change and the potential implications of these choices and assumptions... recognizing its multiple interpretations and the varied perceptions of the burden to be shared may be an important first step.” (p. 104)

Principle 2: “We agree that deep cuts in global emissions are required according to science and as documented by the IPCC AR4 with a view to reduce global emissions so as to hold the increase in global temperature below 2°C”



Principle 5: commitments to GHG emissions reduction targets for 2020

Principle 8: “...adequate funding as well as improved access shall be provided to developing countries...including REDD”

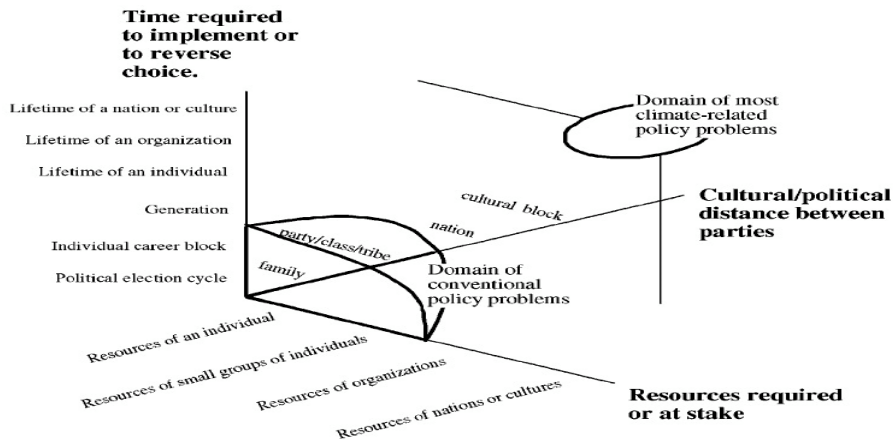
Cancun Agreements (COP16, 2010)



- promised \$30 billion to support adaptation endeavors in the developing world by 2012, with the declared intention to raise \$100 billion by 2020
- established a Green Climate Fund, governed by a Board with equal representation from developed and developing countries



policy analysis & climate change
Morgan et al (1999)



“We in the analysis community must stop viewing global change as yet another opportunity to apply our existing tool kit. We must view the problems of global change as an opportunity to better recognize the limitations of current tools, and as a test bed in which to develop new formulations and analysis methods” (p. 279)

Durban Platform for Advanced Action (COP17, 2011)



- a "road map" → guide ALL 190 countries towards a legal deal to cut carbon in 2015, coming into force after 2020
- 2nd commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (2013-2020) → yet non-Annex I/B countries and non-participants (e.g. US) are to continue with voluntary commitments until 2020
- further commitments to Green Climate Fund established at approx US\$75 billion/year from 2020



Rio+20 (2012)



Objective

“to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges”

Themes

- a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and
- the institutional framework for sustainable development.

Zero Draft – “the future we want”



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Schroeder (Chapter 2)



negotiating blocs (p. 30)

limits to 'solving climate change' through international structures (p. 27)



carbon-based lives & livelihoods



“...if things are *made* rather than found, then the possibility exists for them to be *unmade*, or *made differently*.”

~ Rutherford, 2007

“philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways; the point is to change it.”

~ Marx, 1845



Revkin (1992)