

National and international responsibility

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Questions

- Should climate change adaptation policies focus on the expected effects of climate change manifested within the national borders? Or should society also develop policies relating to possible effects of climate change taking place abroad? How should these two approaches be prioritized?
- Which actions should be undertaken to maximize Nordic impact on the international climate-change agenda?

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WHY?

“So act as if the maxim of your action were to become through your will a universal law of nature”

- Kant’s categorical imperative

Responsibility?

SUSTAINABILITY?

WORLD CITIZENSHIP?

“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

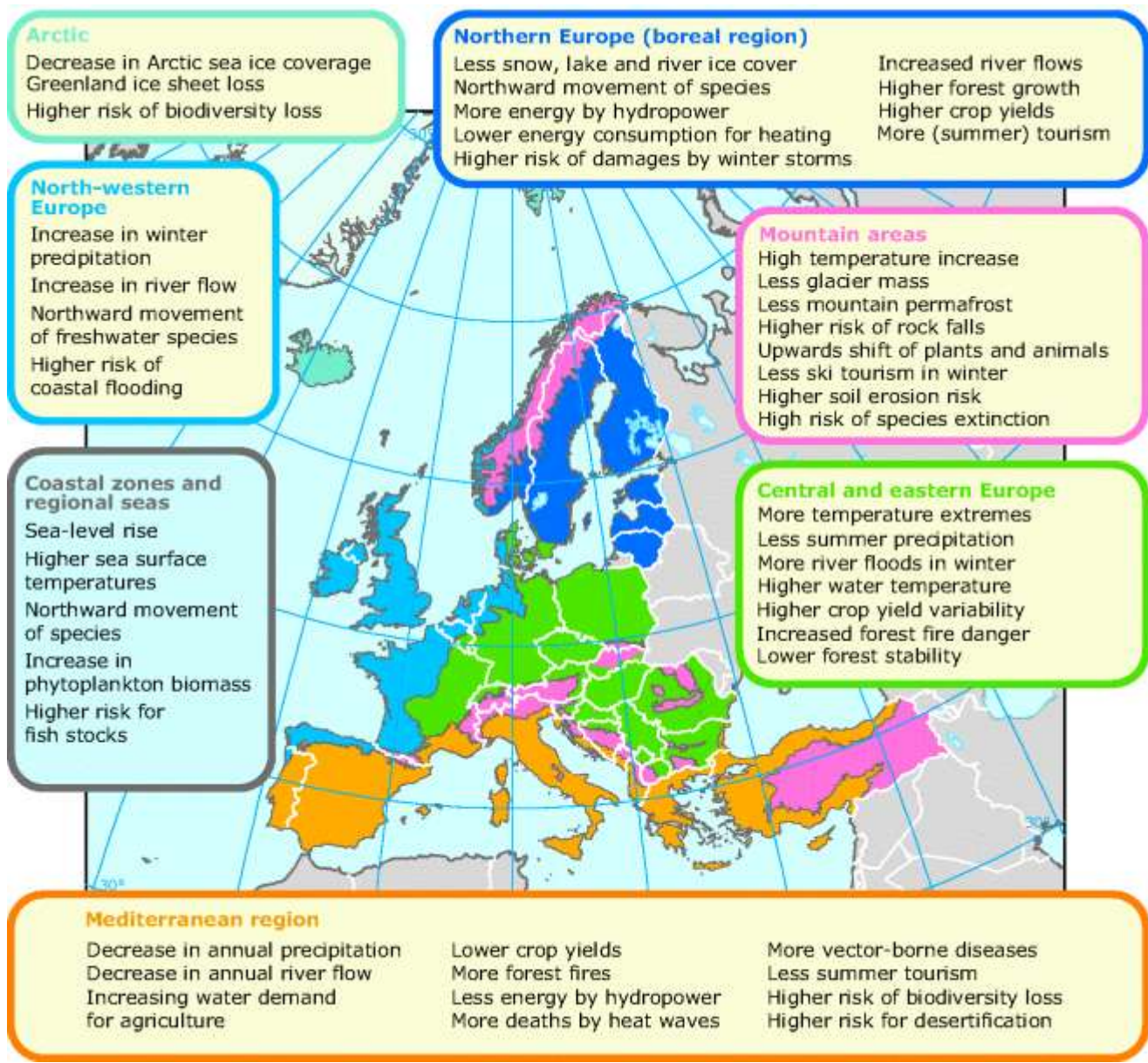
- Brundtland Commission report

We are quite many: <http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/>

Current World Population:

7,039,681,045

... we were also on Wednesday (9.5.2012)



Arctic
 Decrease in Arctic sea ice coverage
 Greenland ice sheet loss
 Higher risk of biodiversity loss

Northern Europe (boreal region)
 Less snow, lake and river ice cover
 Northward movement of species
 More energy by hydropower
 Lower energy consumption for heating
 Higher risk of damages by winter storms
 Increased river flows
 Higher forest growth
 Higher crop yields
 More (summer) tourism

North-western Europe
 Increase in winter precipitation
 Increase in river flow
 Northward movement of freshwater species
 Higher risk of coastal flooding

Mountain areas
 High temperature increase
 Less glacier mass
 Less mountain permafrost
 Higher risk of rock falls
 Upwards shift of plants and animals
 Less ski tourism in winter
 Higher soil erosion risk
 High risk of species extinction

Coastal zones and regional seas
 Sea-level rise
 Higher sea surface temperatures
 Northward movement of species
 Increase in phytoplankton biomass
 Higher risk for fish stocks

Central and eastern Europe
 More temperature extremes
 Less summer precipitation
 More river floods in winter
 Higher water temperature
 Higher crop yield variability
 Increased forest fire danger
 Lower forest stability

Mediterranean region
 Decrease in annual precipitation
 Decrease in annual river flow
 Increasing water demand for agriculture
 Lower crop yields
 More forest fires
 Less energy by hydropower
 More deaths by heat waves
 More vector-borne diseases
 Less summer tourism
 Higher risk of biodiversity loss
 Higher risk for desertification

Definitions

- Adaptation: Dealing with current and future consequences of climate change
- Mitigation: Reducing GHG emissions and enhancing sinks.

Questions, tried to answer

1. At which level climate change adaptation should take place? Prioritizing?

2. How should Nordic countries react? Our role?

React

Learn

Think

Shame

Build

Get jealous

...and ***ADAPT!***

Volunteere

Eat

Smile

Lose

Pay

Buy

Work

Mitigate

Wonder

Research

Share

Talk

Communicate

Help

Teach

Burn

Win

Compete

Fear

Give

Status quo

Activities from local to global

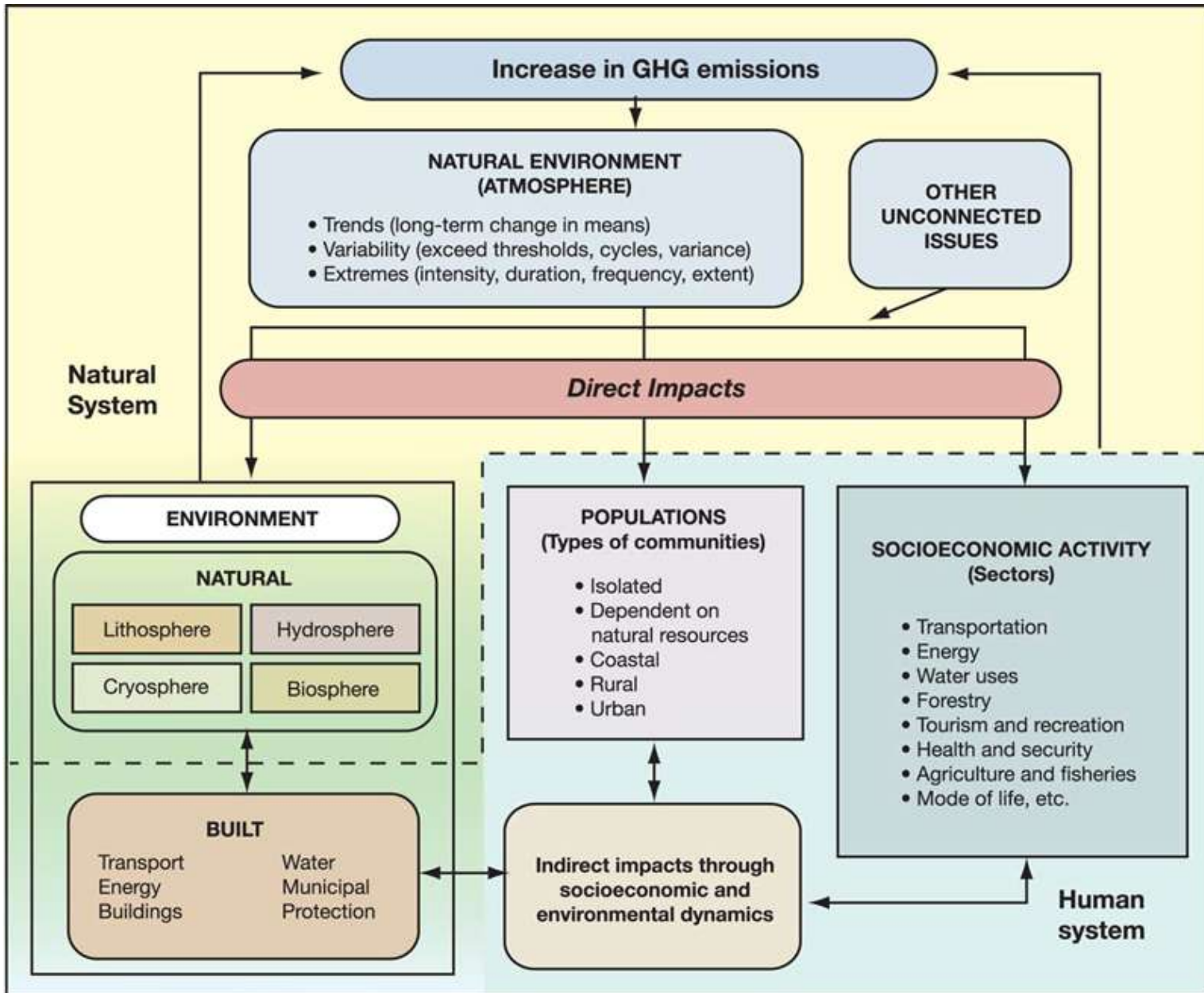
- Copenhagen: The world's first carbon-neutral capital by 2025
- Germany: law to promote renewable energies
- EU: cut GHG emission by 20% (1990-2020)
- Kyoto: 5% less emissions over the period 2008-2012 compared to 1990
- Clean Development Mechanism: fulfill emission limitation commitments by implement an emission-reduction project in developing countries.

Status quo

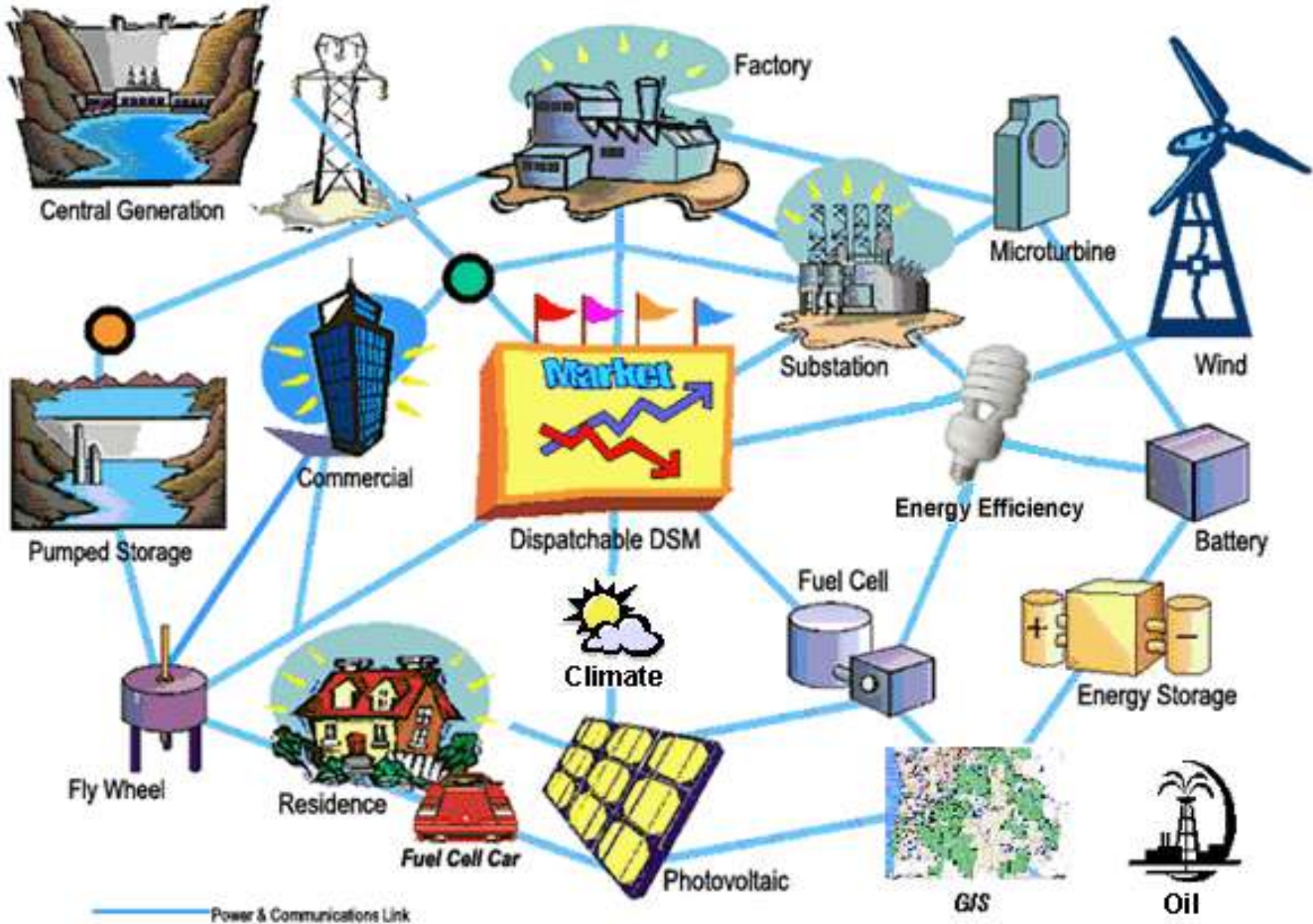
Activities from local to global

- Adaptation Strategy for Salacgriva (Latvia)
- Helsinki Region Adaptation Strategy (sectoral approach)
- National adaptation strategies
- EU white paper on climate change adaptation (asks for knowledge and policy integration)
- UNFCCC convention article 4 (points to adaptation in general and to support for developing countries)

What we should adapt to?



(Policy) Integration



Negotiations and responsibility

- Nordic countries' role
- Ranking on political agenda
 - High in wealthy countries
 - Low in developing countries

Why to negotiate?

- Joint action means big action
- Benefits and the paradox of free-riding
- Worst outcome: No-one acts
- Someone has to take a leading role: Nordic countries have incentives for this!

How to reach a successful agreement?

- Direct benefits vs. additional benefits
- Timing
Now or in 50 years?
- Location
Local / Global

Probability of reaching an agreement

- Additional benefits
 - Relatively higher impact in developing countries
 - High on political agenda
- Increases probability of reaching an agreement
- More than a cheese pizza?

Responsibility

- Polluter pays principle
 - EU directive 2004/35/CE
 - IPCC – stated as one of the possible
 - UK legislation
 - Arguable in the individual level (Caney, 2005)
- Developed countries
 - Research, education, technology, setting an example, helping other countries

Nordic countries

- Research – Sharing knowledge and know how
- Setting an example
- Helping developing countries
 - Nordic Environment Finance Corporation (NEFCO)
- Education (inside & outside the Nordic area)

Actions to maximize impact of Nordic countries in the CC agenda

- Nordic centers of excellence – Climate change

“The three projects shall contribute to improving our knowledge about the effects of climate change, with a focus on possible solutions to how we best can adapt to these changes in the future.”

TRI - Top-level Research Initiative

- Promoting green technology companies, ambitious municipalities and environmentally-conscious consumers

Responsibility – As scientists

- Increase the knowledge on climate change
- Informing policy makers about – initiate discussions - involvement in the policy making
- Communicating the research in a proper way

- Caney, Simon (2005) *Cosmopolitan Justice, Responsibility, and Global Climate Change* , *Leiden Journal of International Law*, 18 (2005), pp. 747–775
- Rentmeester, Casey (2010) "A Kantian Look at Climate Change," *Essays in Philosophy*: Vol. 11: Iss. 1, Article 7
- Rübhelke, Dirk T. G. and Pittel, Karen, *Climate Policy and Ancillary Benefits - A Survey and Integration into the Modelling of International Negotiations on Climate Change* (November 2007). Zentrum Für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung (ZEW) - Centre for European Economic Research Discussion Paper No. 07/064