

Climate Change, Social Stress and Violent Conflict

State of the Art and Research Needs



Universität Hamburg

International Conference



KlimaCampus

KlimaCampus, IFSH, ZNF of Hamburg University

19/20 November 2009

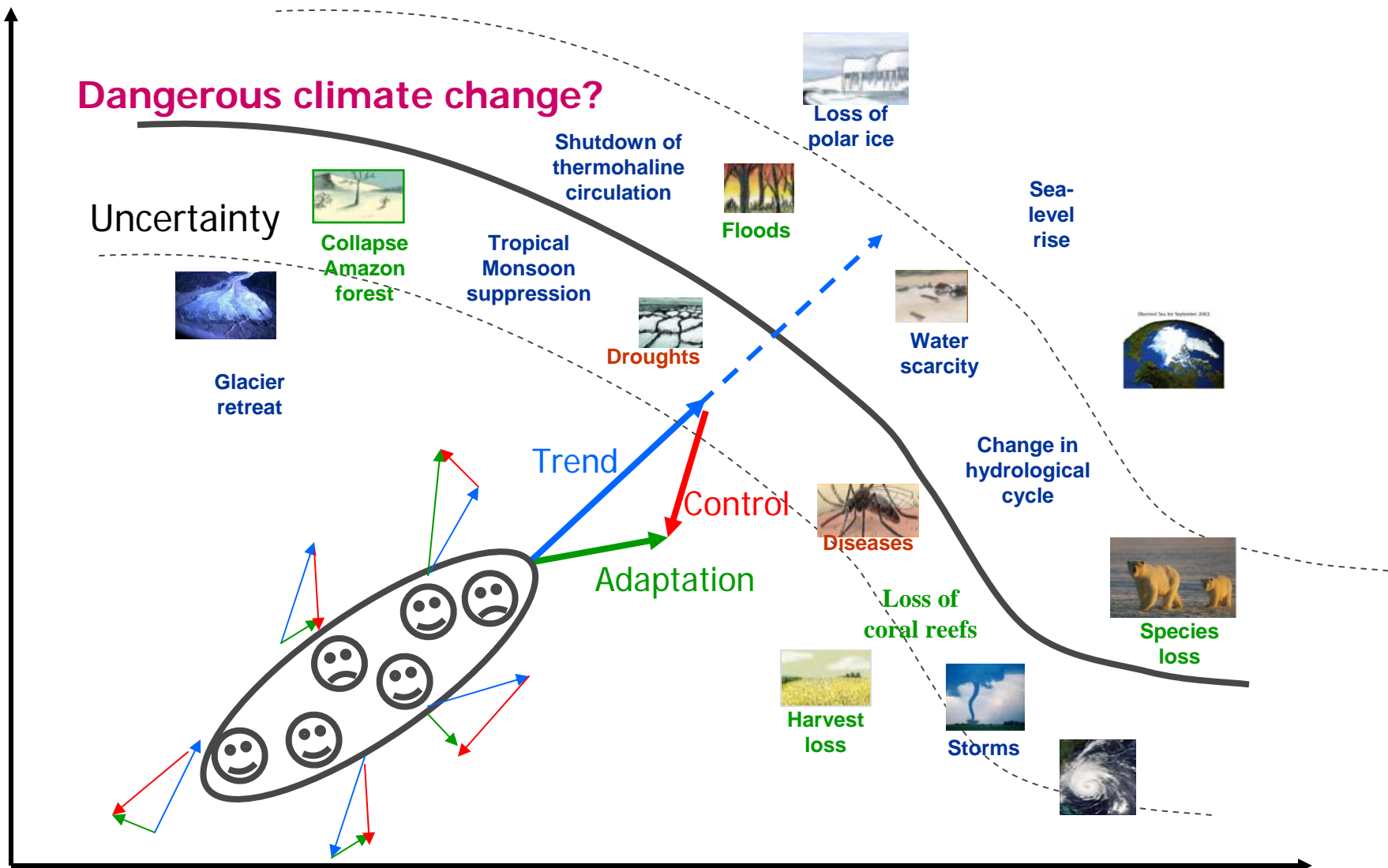
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Are we all in the same boat facing climate change?

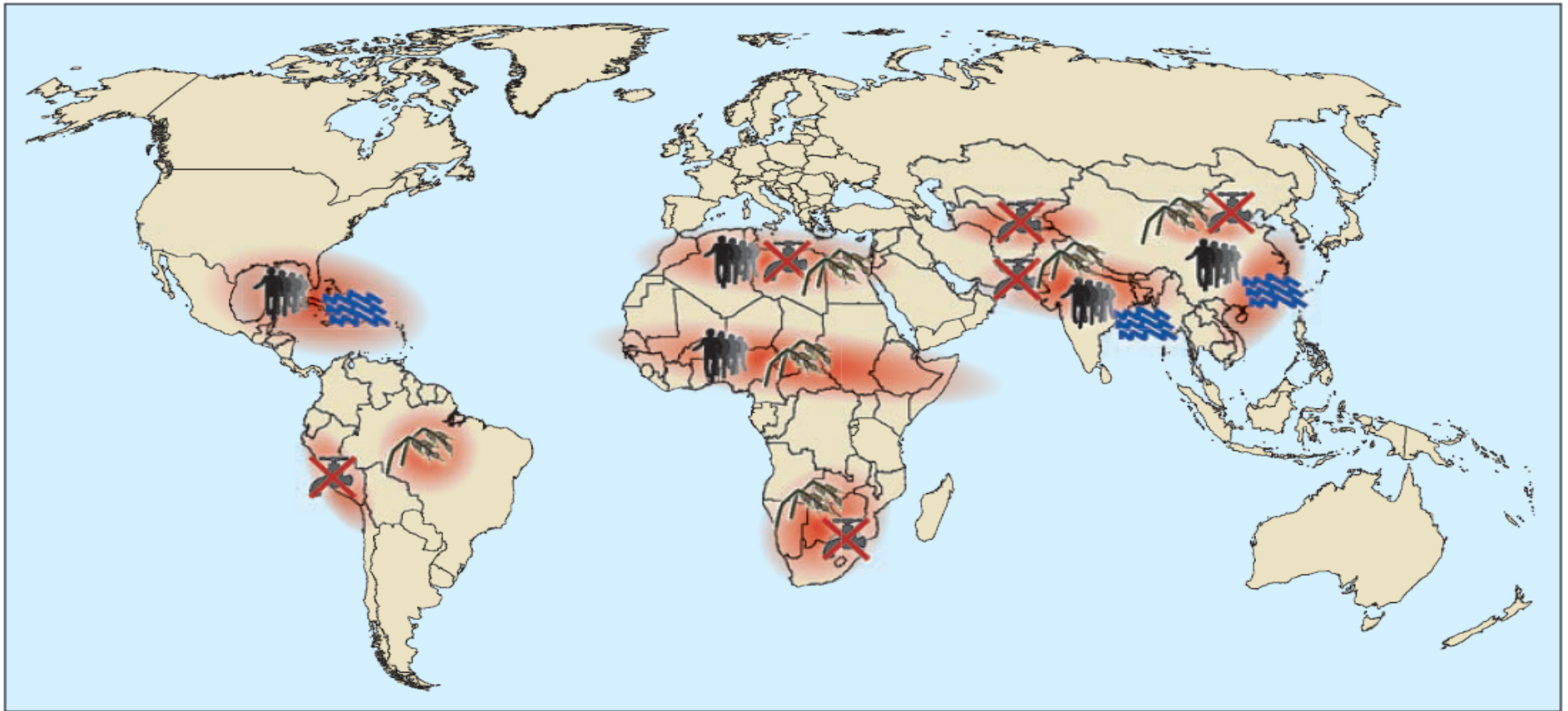


Is climate change a security threat?

“Without resolute counteraction, climate change will overstretch many societies’ adaptive capacities within the coming decades, which could result in destabilization and violence, jeopardizing national and international security to a new degree.” (WBGU 2007/2008)

“Climate change is best viewed as a threat multiplier which exacerbates existing trends, tensions and instability. The core challenge is that climate change threatens to overburden states and regions which are already fragile and conflict prone.” (European Commission 2008)

Who is facing which climate security risks?



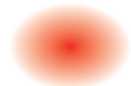
Conflict constellations in selected hotspots



Climate-induced degradation of freshwater resources



Climate-induced decline in food production



Hotspot



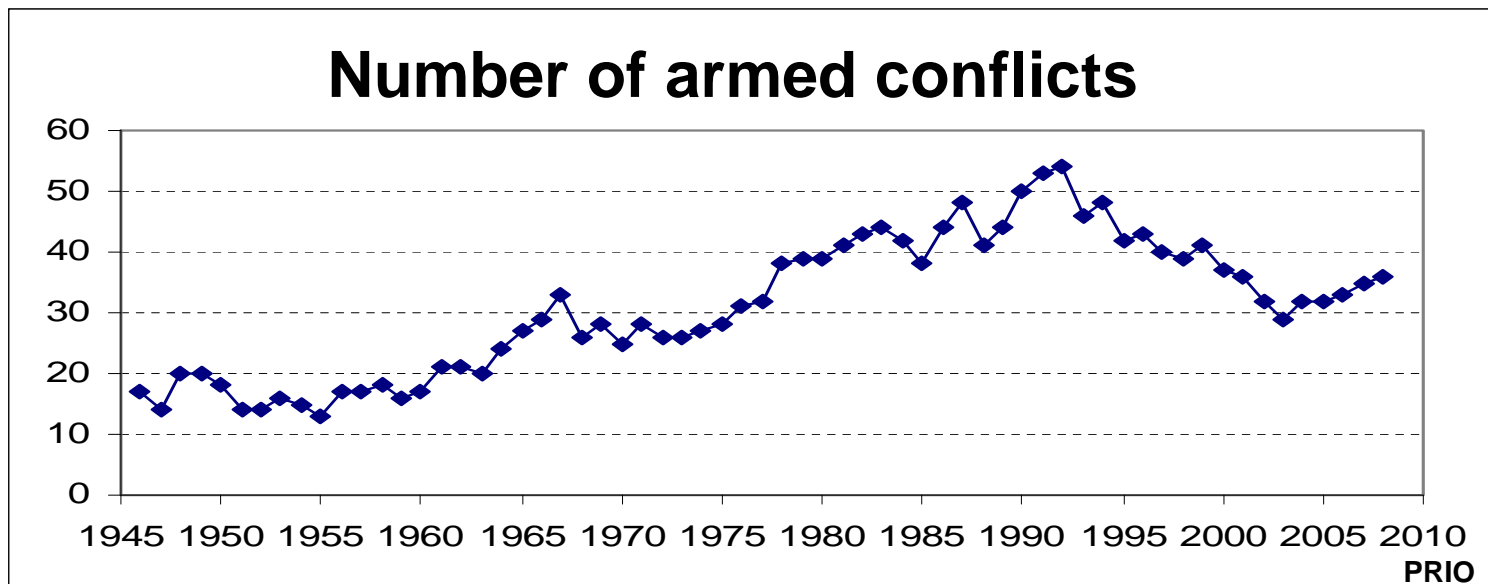
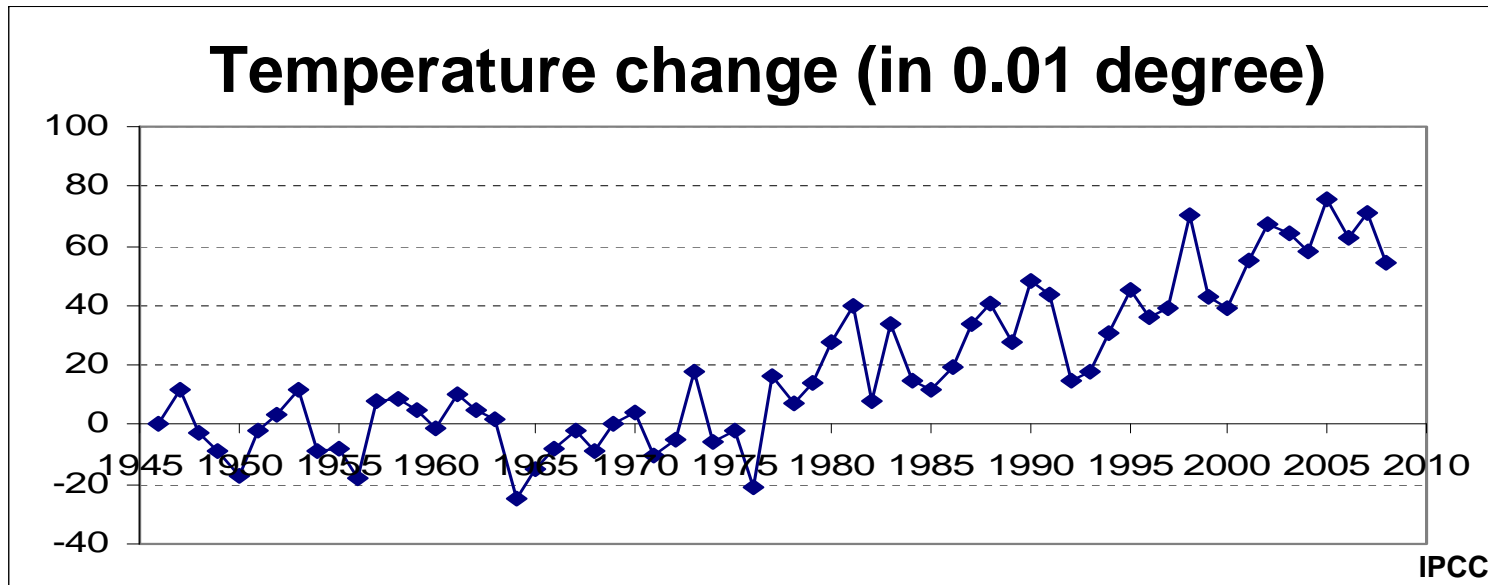
Climate-induced increase in storm and flood disasters



Environmentally-induced migration

Source: WBGU 2007

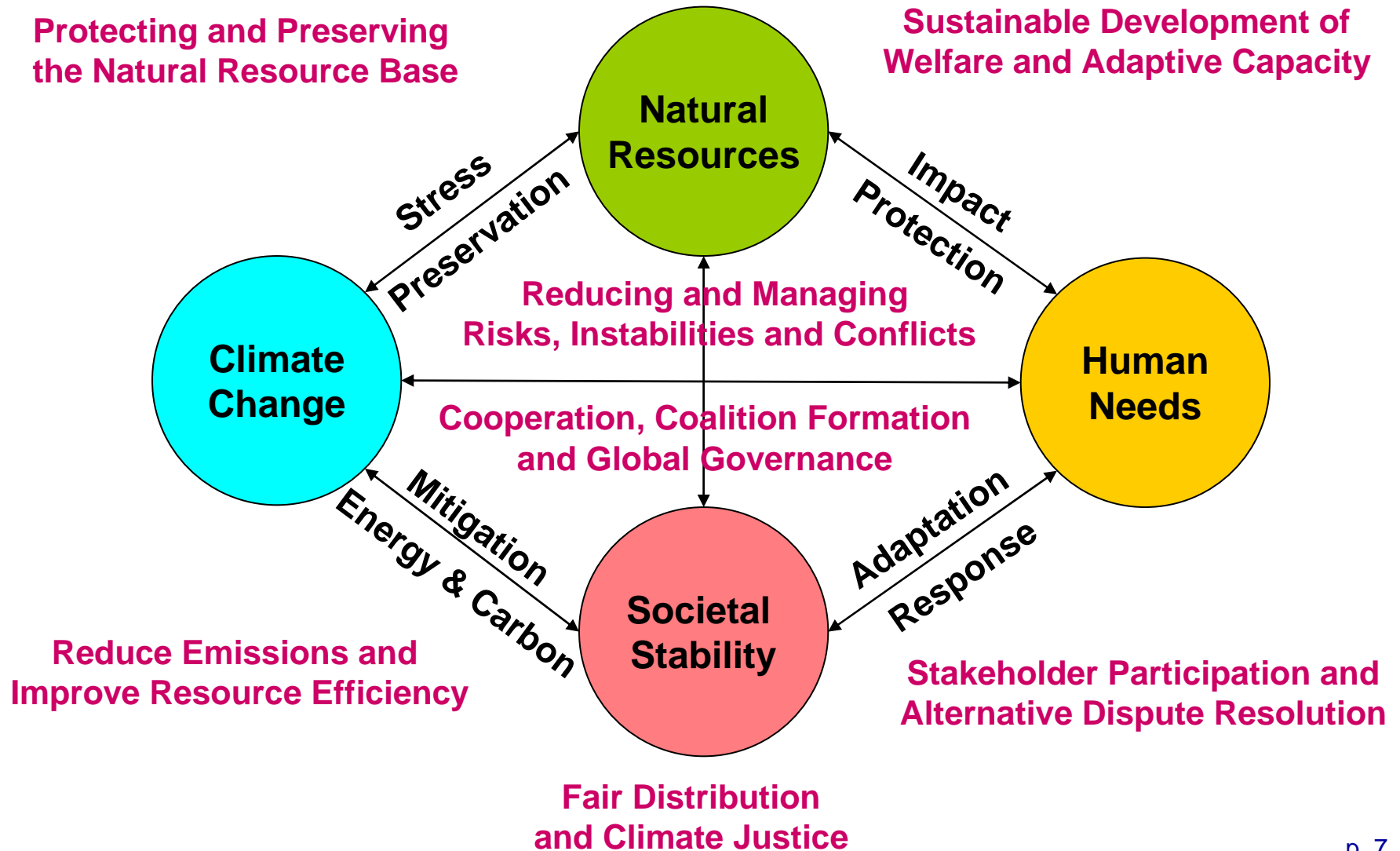
Which data do we need on climate change and conflict?




Can scientific methods help to understand human behavior in conflicts?

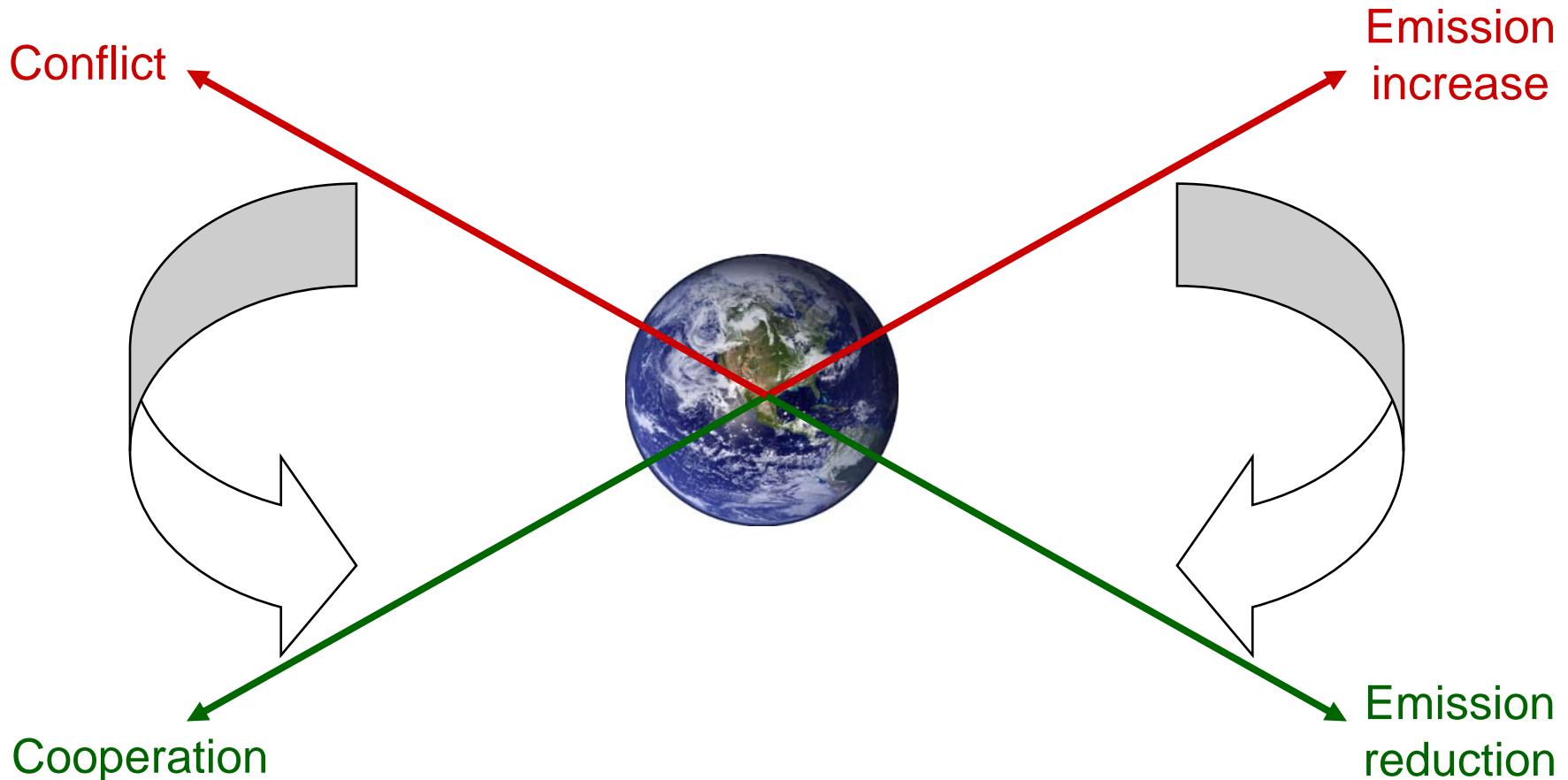



Can the climate-society interaction be safely managed despite its complexity?



Will the world move towards more conflict or to more cooperation?

Instability and War  **Environmental Destruction**



Peace and Security  **Sustainable Development**

Who are the actors making a difference?



Will Copenhagen be a success or a failure?

