

*Climate Change, Humanitarian Disasters and International Development:  
linking vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity*

**Human Security: a meta-framework for bridging  
disaster risk reduction, humanitarian  
assistance and development**

Mark Pelling, Hazards, Vulnerability and Risk Unit,  
Department of Geography, King's College London

*Climate Change, Humanitarian Disasters and International Development:  
linking vulnerability, risk reduction and response capacity*

**Human Security: a meta-framework for bridging  
disaster risk reduction, humanitarian  
assistance and development**

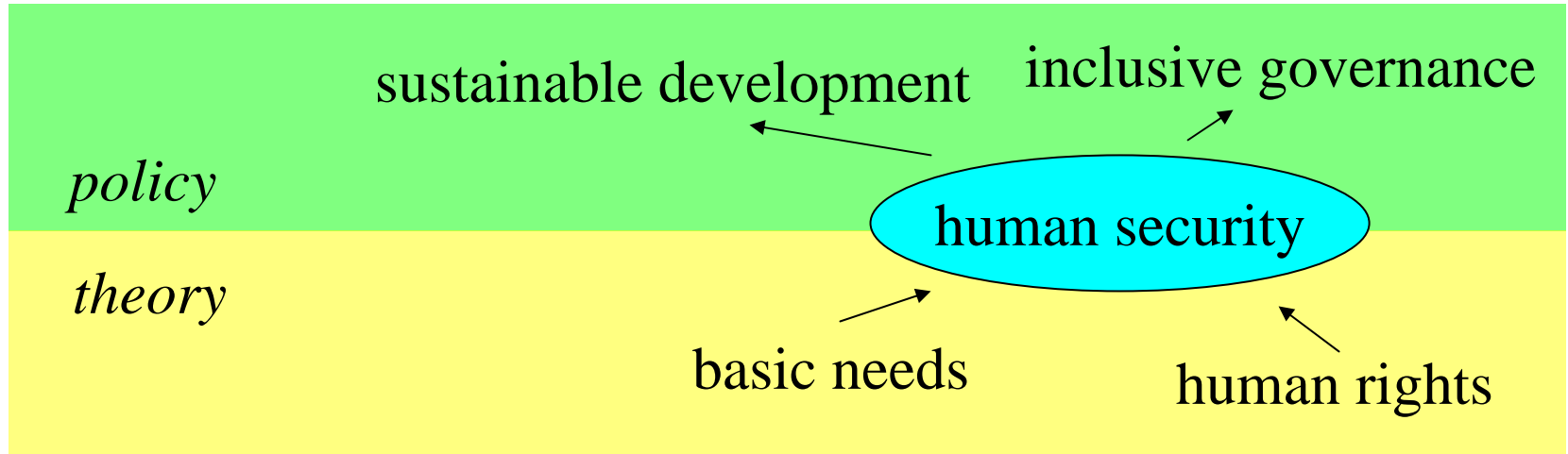
Mark Pelling, Hazards, Vulnerability and Risk Unit,  
Department of Geography, King's College London

- **What is human security?**
- **How is human security affected by climate change?**
- **What insights might a human security framework offer?**

“Climate change is a security issue, but it is not a matter of *narrow* national security – it has a new dimension. This is about our collective security in a fragile and increasingly interdependent world.”

Margaret Beckett, UK Foreign Secretary, UN Security Council debate on Impact of Climate Change on Peace and Security, 17 April 2007

# What is human security?



- Individuals and systems are important. Collectively so are nation states, transnational communities etc.

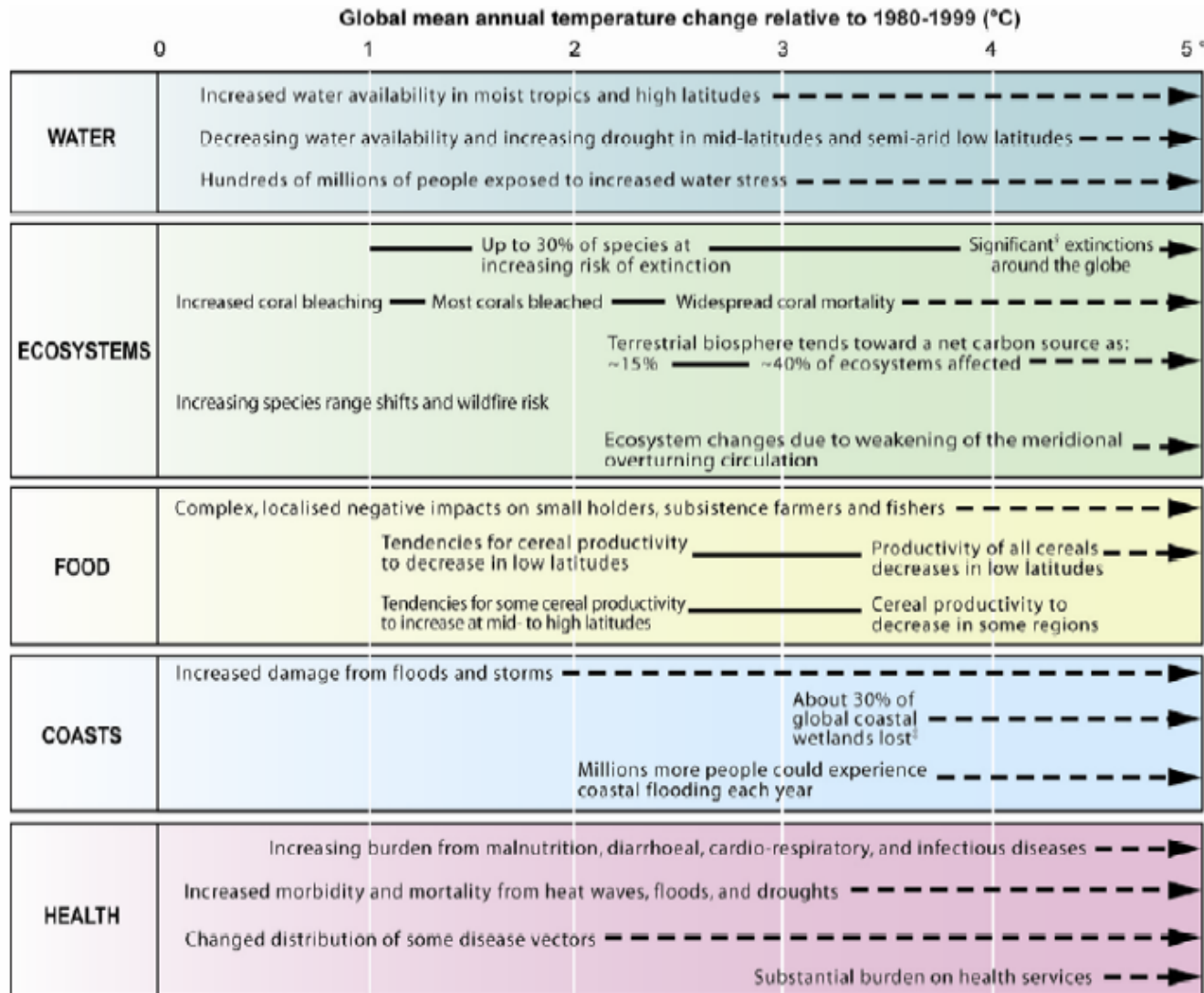
# What is human security?

- Ken Booth (1991): state-citizen security relationship
  1. Minimum levels to maintain regime legitimacy
  2. Insecurity a price to pay for social surplus extraction
  3. Lack capacity to maintain minimum standards
- UNDP (1993, 1994): a people centred approach
  - Shift from territorial to people's security
  - Security sought through sustainable development not armaments (prevention is better than intervention)
  - Global interdependence and contagion

# What is human security?

- Commission on Human Security (2003): integration
  1. Integrates basic needs and human rights
    - no individual can be sacrificed in meeting needs
    - individual and agency accountability through legal structures
- Duffield (2005): ideology
  - Human security as a meta-project: security for the global elite or well-being for the global poor? Two agendas hard to separate on the ground. What are the consequences?

# How is human security affected by climate change?



## How is human security affected by climate change?

- IPCC 4<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report:

Trajectories for human security depend on rates of change (mitigation), development pathways and adaptive choices.

direct and indirect impacts on security

adaptation has limits

adaptation is constrained by history and strategy.

## How does climate change affect human security?

- Climate extremes and base level change.
- Direct and indirect impacts.

Key pressure points:

1. *Water availability, drought and food security*
  - The poor and marginalised are least resistant.
  - Indirect impacts through global markets and migration.
  - Food riots, regime change.

# How does climate change affect human security?

## 2. *Health ecologies*

- Early warning and adaptation in public health?
- Non-human health
- Fear and perceptions of risk and security

## 3. *Rapid onset disasters*

- Risk overlaps with development paths
- Contagion in the global economy
- Disaster politics – local reconstruction

## How does climate change affect human security?

### 4. *Sea-level rise*

- Need to build risk reduction into development
- Migration

### 5. *Justice in mitigation and adaptation*

- Returning threats – big dams and nuclear energy.
- Bio-fuel v food, protests in Mexico.
- Political ‘adaptation’ post-disaster, e.g. Turkey.

## **What insights might a human security framework offer?**

- Multiple, interacting threats to human well-being
- How to inform decisions on what to preserve and expend in adaptation?
- Pushes for rights as well as needs in disaster reconstruction and pre-disaster risk reduction (pro-active adaptation)
- The non-human underpins human security
- [www.radixonline.org/cchs.html](http://www.radixonline.org/cchs.html)