



15 reflections from *Mediators Beyond Borders* conference at COP 15

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1. While in Copenhagen COP 15 felt like a real turning point in global perceptions about the need to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions - this feeling has weakened since returning home.
2. Effective policies to mitigate and adapt to climate change can contribute to other priorities - such as stronger development and a more equitable and more peaceful global society - they don't have to crowd them out.
3. There is insufficient recognition that this is not a negotiation where someone will win and someone will lose (few are) - together we are all winners or losers depending on the outcome.
4. Because of inertia resulting from the stock of carbon already in the atmosphere climate change over the next 30-40 years will be little influenced by what we do now - but our actions will have a profound effect on the latter half of the century.
5. Not all the possible tipping points and feedback loops have been included in the most quoted climate models so the impact of climate change could be greater and faster than anticipated.
6. The impact of global warming on the sea lags the land, therefore there is greater uncertainty over the direct impact and the knock-on effects e.g. carbon absorption, acidification.
7. Climate change, adaptation to climate change and policies to mitigate climate change will each have a significant, yet different impact on physical, economic and social geography throughout the world.
8. The impact of climate change will vary (a 4 degree average covers a range of 1 to 16 degrees) - some places will feel much greater direct effects and all places will feel significant indirect effects.
9. There is evidence of a correlation between warmer years and armed conflict in Africa - a 50% increase in violent conflict is estimated by 30%
10. The cradle of the industrial revolution in north west Europe will suffer relatively less direct effects, but significant indirect impact as those suffering the worst direct effect seek resources and refuge
11. Efforts to significantly reduce (by at least 50% in 40 years) emissions come at a time of significantly increasing demand on resources generated by rising population and greater per capita income, e.g. food demand is estimated to increase by 70% between now and 2050.
12. The earth is not given to you by your parents but loaned to you by your children - Kenyan proverb.
13. Climate change will be significant in scale but quite gradual in timing, which could mask its impact.
14. Conflicts generated by climate change, adaptation to climate change and policies to mitigate climate change will include those caused by access to resources, migration, responses to policy and disasters and will be inter-organisational, cross-cultural, intra-national, international, commercial, inter-generational in nature.
15. The types of conflict will not be new (so we have experience of dealing with them), however, their scale and intensity of the conflicts will grow.