Peer Instruction

Are environmental issues an international relations problem?

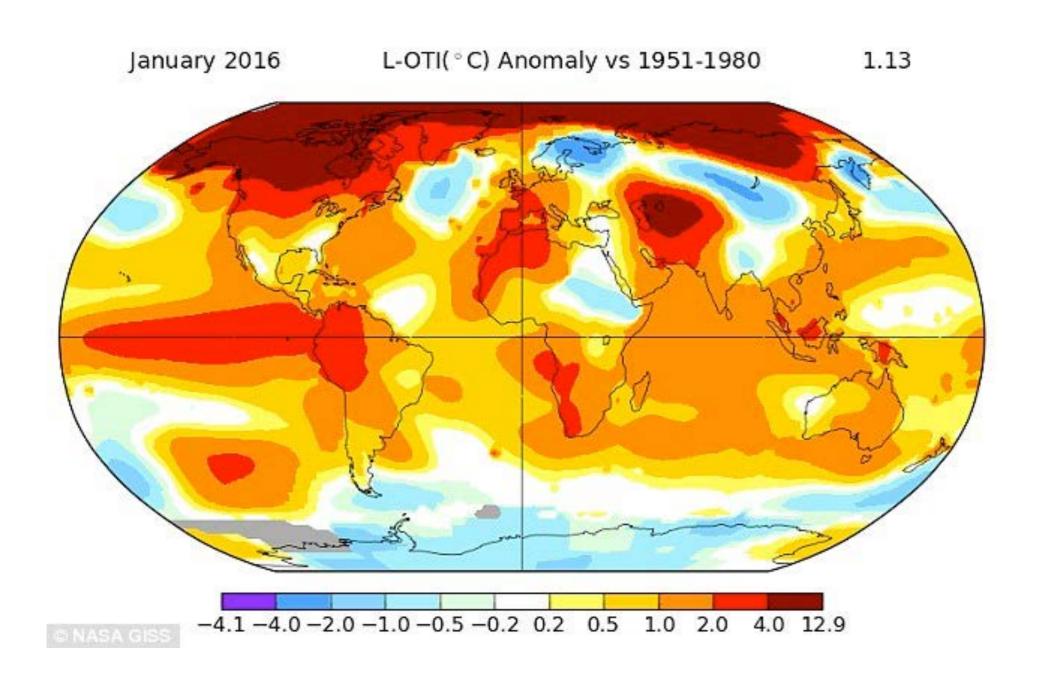
If so, which ones, and how do you address them?

Climate Change

Image 3 of 6 (play sliceshow) Download CLOSE X Arctic Sea Ice Extent (Area of ocean with at least 15% sea ice) 16 Extent (millions of square kilometers) National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder 10 2018 -- 2012 1981-2010 Median Interquartile Range Interdecile Range Feb Mar Jan Арг May

 $^{^{\}circ}$ National Snow and Ice Data Center, University of Colorado Boulder. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/ .

Climate change



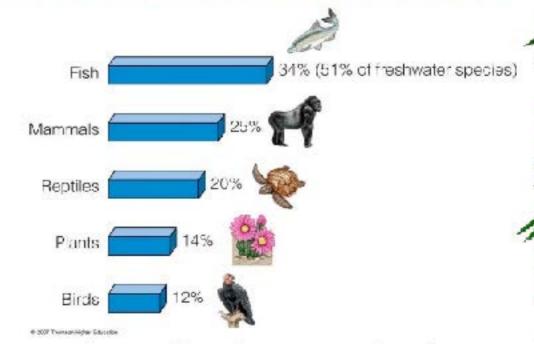
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Extinction



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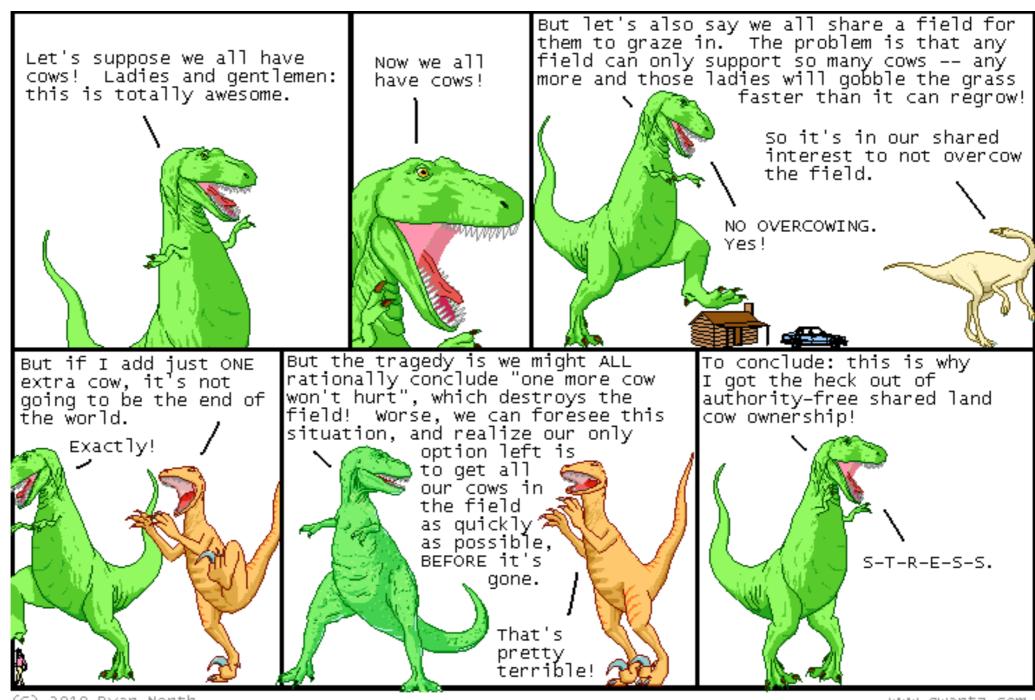
SPECIES EXTINCTION



 Percentage of various species types threatened with premature extinction from human activities.

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Tragedy of the commons

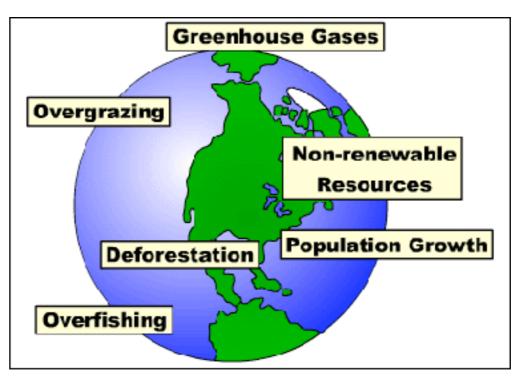


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Solving the tragedy?

- Privatize property
- Regulate public property
- Community management
- Global environmental governance?



TRAGEDY OF THE GLOBAL COMMONS

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- Mechanisms for international environmental policy
 - 10s
 - Regimes and multilateral agreements
 - Trade restrictions
 - International Conferences
 - Norm creation
 - Capacity building
 - Develop scientific knowledge

- What does IR theory say about environmental issues?
 - (Neo)realism (...)
 - Neoliberal institutionalism is the default approach for explaining environmental regimes
 - Emphasizes role of knowledge and transnationally organized groups of scientists and policy makers (epistemic communities)
 - Marxism argues that the capitalist system is the source of problem

Discussion

Does it make sense to talk about environmental problems in security terms?

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