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Chad Raphael

CLEAN AIR
GOOD JOBS
& JUSTICE

CLIMATE JUSTICE





SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Environmental Justice and the Common Good

**Fostering community-driven research for
social and environmental justice**

www.scu.edu/ej



SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

Environmental Justice and the Common Good

- **Environmental Justice**
- **Climate Justice**
- **Example Research Project - Nicaragua**
- **Discuss Just Transition Principles and Strategies**



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)

Civil Rights

Farmworkers

Indigenous

Anti-Toxics

Rights of **all** people to healthy and livable communities, now and in the future

Urban
Planning

Public
Health

Occ. Safety &
Health

Anti-
Colonialism



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ)



The environment is everywhere we live, work, play, and pray





Fair **distribution** of environmental burdens and benefits



Full recognition of individual dignity and group rights, including **equitable protection** against environmental harms through law, regulation, and enforcement



Meaningful participation in environmental decision making by all who are affected, including historically excluded groups, and consideration of future generations



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Paris Climate Accord (2015)

Differentiation



- *Developed countries must continue to “take the lead” in the reduction of greenhouse gases*

Finance

2020-2025



- *Rich countries must provide 100 billion dollars from 2020, as a “floor”*

Burden-sharing



- *Developed countries must provide financial resources to help developing countries*

Reparations from largest GHG emitters to most vulnerable communities for climate adaptation and mitigation



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Participation and **self-determination** by vulnerable and excluded communities in adaptation and mitigation planning



CLIMATE JUSTICE

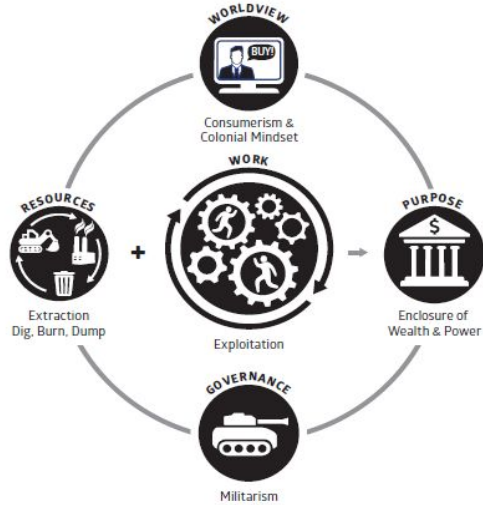


Regeneration and **restoration** through recognition of local communities' culture and knowledge

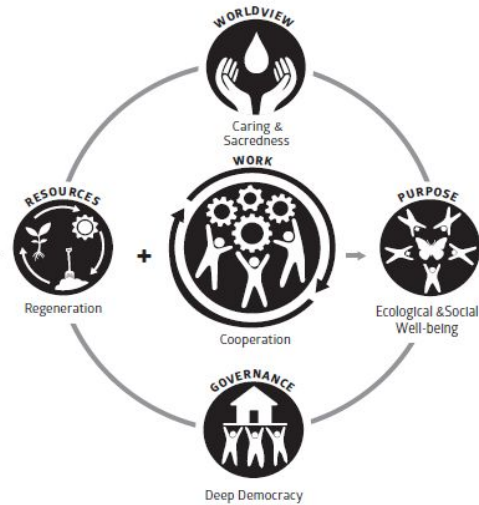


CLIMATE JUSTICE

Extractive Economy



Regenerative Economy



Transformation via a **just transition** to regenerative and equitable economies and societies



WHY COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH?

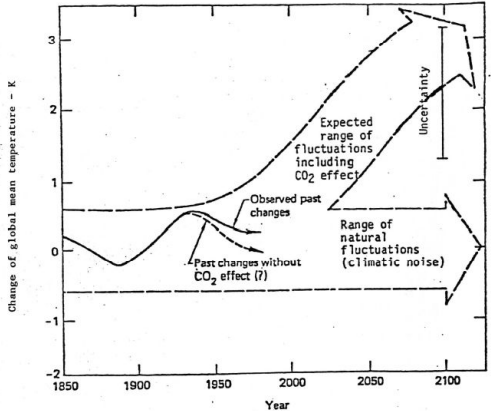
- Participatory justice includes participating in research
- Research **with** (rather than **on** or **for**) communities builds their capacities + power
- Increases relevance, reach, rigor, and reflexivity of EJ research

“We gave birth to a conversation that people would recognize as their own. We gave it a language, we gave it words, we gave it a science base, we gave it a public policy base, and we gave it a base that was rooted in the power and mobilization of people on the ground so it couldn’t be denied.”

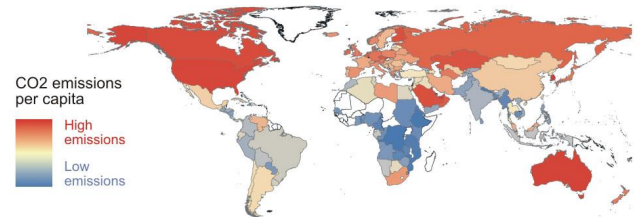
-Vernice Miller Travis,
co-founder of West Harlem
Environmental Action



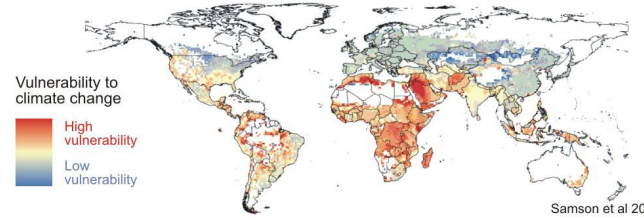
Climate Injustice



CO₂ GREENHOUSE EFFECT
 A TECHNICAL REVIEW
 PREPARED BY THE
 COORDINATION AND PLANNING DIVISION
 EXXON RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY



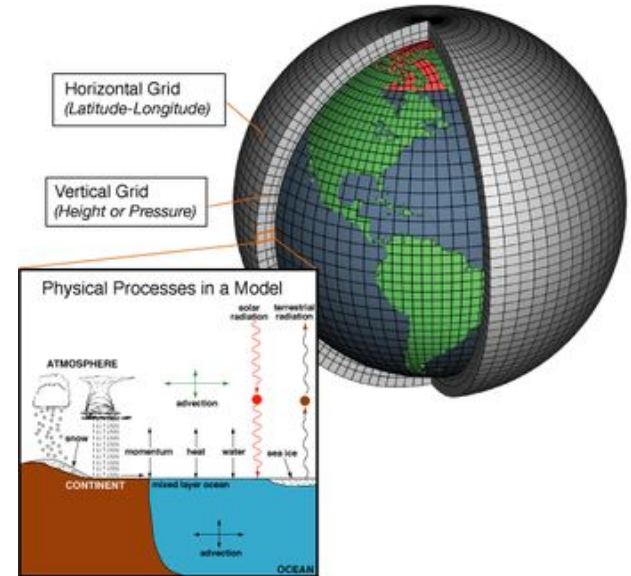
Those who contribute the least greenhouse gases will be most impacted by climate change





Community-focused Climate Research in Nicaragua and the Challenge of a Participatory Action Approach

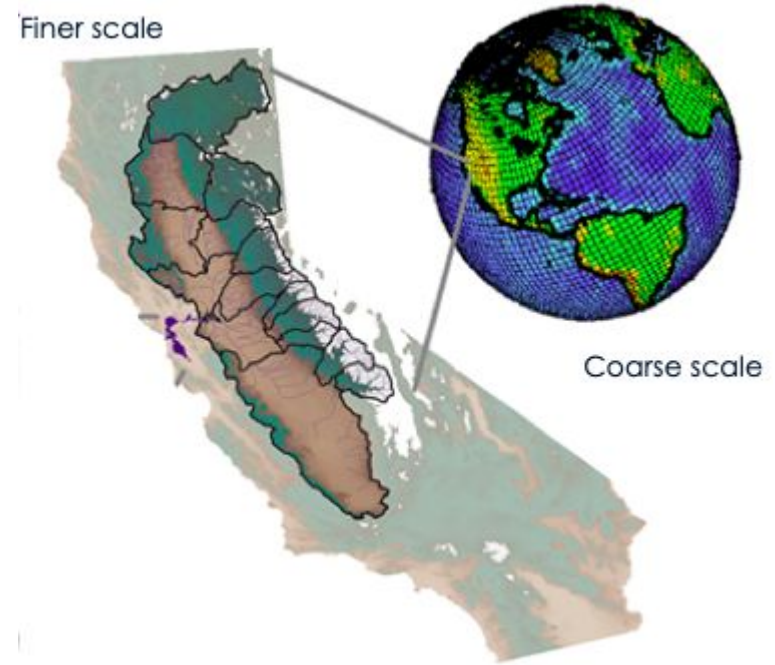
The scale of climate change





"Top-down" climate impacts research

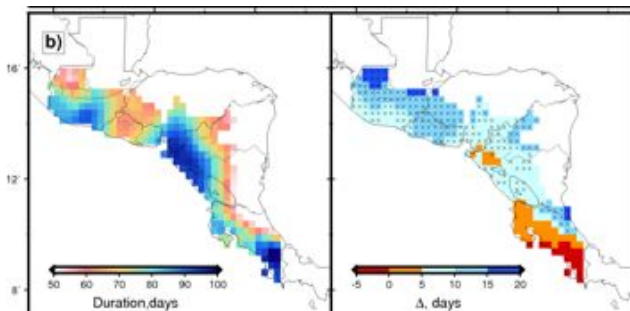
Downscaling is needed to translate changes to local resources.



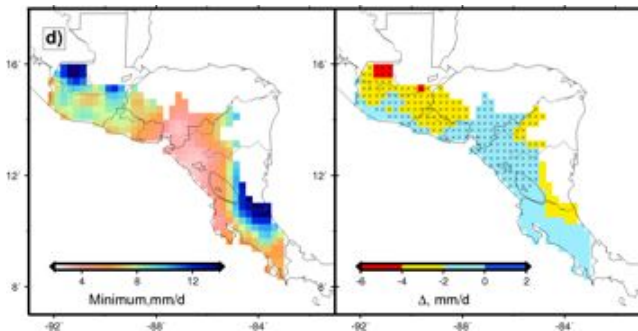


Projecting changes to seasonal drought in Central America

Mid-summer drought duration



Mid-summer drought minimum





But what do farmers really care about? A “bottom-up” approach

Start by identifying local vulnerabilities.

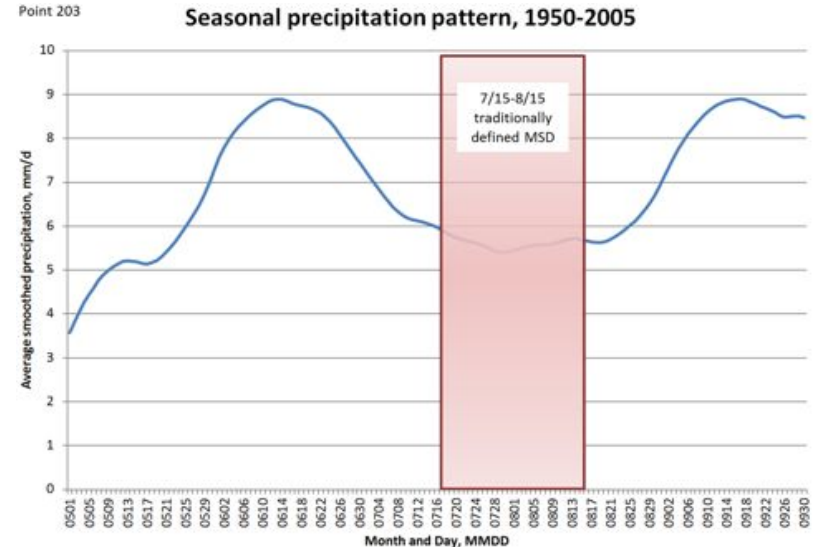
Community guides vulnerability and adaptation research.

Worked with communities and local advocates:

- Focus groups
- Household Interviews
- Community Visits

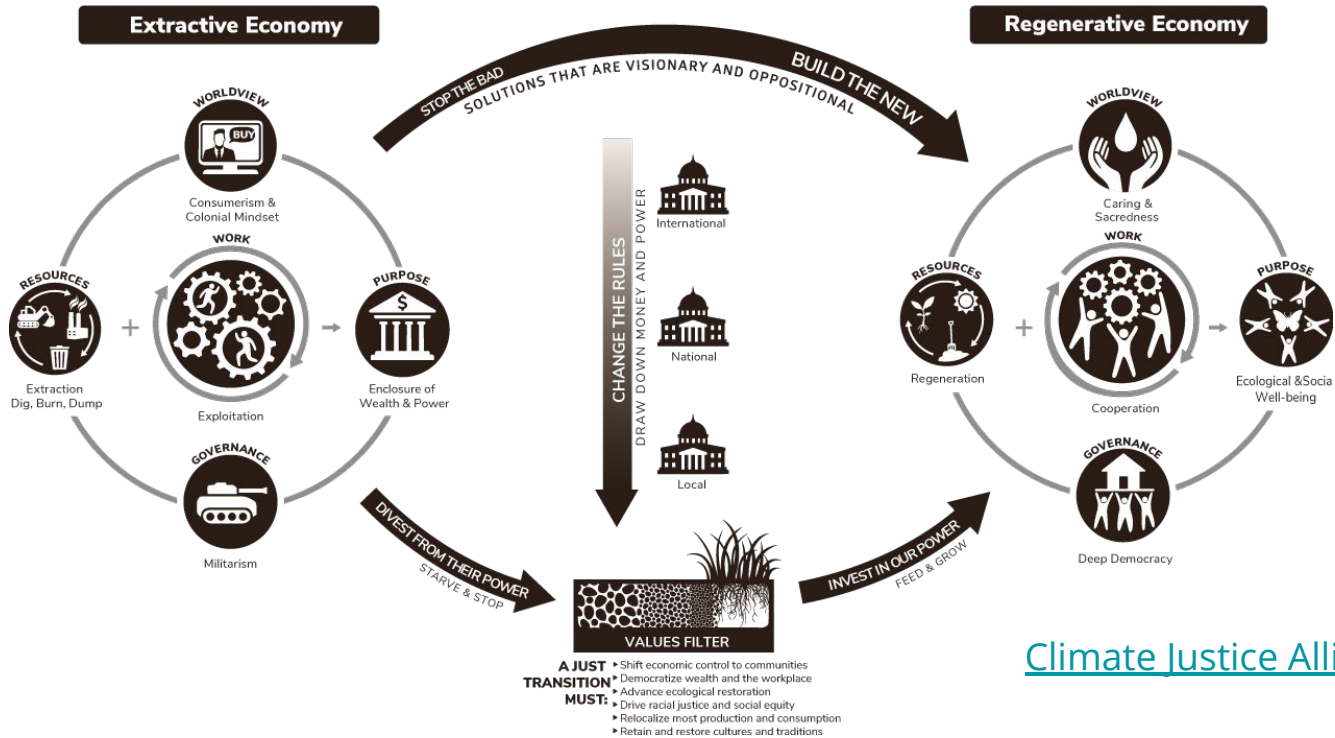
Farmers concerns include:

- Rainfall sequences
- Intensity
- Heat
- Soil Moisture
- Etc.





Climate Justice Alliance Just Transitions Principles





Climate Justice Alliance Just Transitions Strategies



- **Fight the Bad:** Organizing to shut down extractive industries + economies in our communities
- **Build the New:** Grassroots organizing to build regenerative economy now
- **Change the Rules:** Challenge legal and structural barriers, starting at the local level
- **Move the Money:** Shift public and private investment from the old to the new economy (divest + invest)
- **Build the Bigger We:** Bridge movements across economic sectors, issues, and borders
- **Change the Story:** Challenge normalization of extractive economy, imagine regenerative one, see climate crisis as chance to drive needed structural changes

[Climate Justice Alliance](#)