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It is a great pleasure to look back and reflect on our first year of progress in Mistra Geopolitics. Thanks to the efforts of the host institution and our partners, the research programme was officially launched in early May and was able to complete, as planned, all necessary start-up activities to begin our work. For the first year of mobilizing a large and diverse consortium, I am extremely impressed by what has been accomplished to date.

In only a few short months, programme researchers have already displayed broad engagement with the Mistra Geopolitics agenda, presenting work that ranges from migration, mobility, and development in the context of Africa-EU relations, global climate policy after the Paris Agreement and under Donald Trump, to the weaponization of food security in Russia and China, and work on emerging transboundary climate risks. Mistra Geopolitics has been represented at a wide range of international conferences and topically relevant stakeholder workshops.
While we anticipated that analyses of the intersections between geopolitics, security, and environmental change were topical and timely, we have been overwhelmed by the profound interest and widespread support for the programme. Thus far, we have participated in activities with numerous organisations, including the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the EU External Action Service, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the OECD, the Green Climate Fund, the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Swedish Ministry for the Environment, the Reference Group for the Swedish Security Council, the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, and multiple county administrations. Relatedly, we are continuing to collaborate closely with our stakeholder partners, and have recently launched a **Breakfast Seminar series** which has attracted a great deal of interest.

In parallel to our research outputs, the **Mistra Geopolitics Research School** has recruited eight promising PhD candidates, many of whom are already contributing to advancing knowledge in this critical research field. In addition, three guest PhD researchers from Brazil, Peru, and Nigeria will join the school in the autumn of 2018, with the aim of fostering global collaboration and capacity-building to analyse and respond to the geopolitics of sustainable development.

The Mistra Geopolitics website, www.mistra-geopolitics.org, is flourishing with updates and insightful comments from our invited guests, board members, researchers and PhD candidates. Under the hashtag **#MistraGeopolitics**, many programme participants are not only reporting from events and announcing publications, but engaging in societal and scientific debates. Mistra Geopolitics' researchers have been widely visible as they have provided commentary on geopolitics and sustainable development, including through media appearances.

In the coming year, we hope to build on this encouraging start, in part by heightening our collaboration with programme partners both in and out of academia. We are excited to see new original research outputs from all across the research programme, as well as inspiring interactions with research school participants. It is with pride and optimism that I look forward to the future contributions of Mistra Geopolitics.

**Björn-Ola Linnér**
**Programme Director**
What is Mistra Geopolitics?

We live in a complex world. The Mistra Geopolitics research programme is designed to explore, analyse, and understand this complexity, specifically at the intersection of sustainability and security.

Could radical emission reductions under the Paris Agreement’s 1.5-degree target affect the short and medium-term prospects for human security and development?

How could Russia’s geopolitical calculus be affected by an accelerating shift toward renewables and thereby reductions in oil and gas prices?

Will the combination of shifting demographic structures in the Middle East and North Africa and mounting environmental pressures influence social instability and encourage transnational migration into Europe?
These questions help to demonstrate the way that environmental change interacts in important ways with social, political, and economic forces. Uncertainties surrounding our collective future continue to grow, and there is ample reason to believe that broad geopolitical shifts will have far-reaching implications for global governance and the pursuit of sustainable development. The dynamic linkage between geopolitical and environmental change forms the basis of our work in Mistra Geopolitics, where we aim to unpack the tension between challenges and opportunities in this era of unprecedented social transformation.

The overall goal of Mistra Geopolitics is to critically explore the interaction between geopolitics, security and environmental change. In a world characterized by growing uncertainties, the programme will contribute new knowledge while demonstrating opportunities created by innovation and technological development in a number of areas.

The broad nature of this complex challenge requires an inter-disciplinary approach. The programme brings together diverse disciplines and research approaches spanning peace and conflict, human security, global environmental governance, global environmental change, and the effectiveness of domestic, regional, and global policy-making.
MISTRA GEOPOLITICS AT COP23: BORDERLESS CLIMATE RISKS

By: Kevin M. Adams, Stockholm Environment Institute

Borderless climate risks have the potential to severely hamper or completely roll-back progress made on building resilience through climate change adaptation. Can they be addressed in the follow-up of the Paris Agreement’s global goal on adaptation?

This concern was the convening force behind the UNFCCC Side Event at COP23 titled: A Global Adaptation Goal and borderless climate risks: Strengths and limits of the Paris Agreement. Below are five key insights from the event, which was co-Organized by Mistra Geopolitics and brought together researchers, practitioners, and policy-makers.

1. TRANSBOUNDARY AND TELECONNECTED RISKS
Traditionally, climate risk is closely linked to the direct impacts of climate change, like increased flooding or drought, heat waves, or other extreme weather events. Yet, according to Magnus Benzie, SEI Research Fellow, this view makes several critical omissions. “By focusing primarily on climate impacts within national borders, both policymakers and researchers have tended to overlook the ways that climate change in one part of the world can affect people in another,” Benzie said.

Climate impacts can flow across borders via several different ‘pathways.’ These include shared biophysical flows like shared rivers or ecosystems, trade flows, financial flows like investment, and flows of people as patterns of mobility, migration, and tourism change. Importantly, these borderless climate risks do not always occur among neighbours; transboundary risks may inspire regional cooperation when the impacts are localized,
but risk can also be teleconnected, linking countries and people who are relatively far away from one another. By considering the borderless dimensions of climate impacts, we are presented with a quite different view of vulnerability to climate change, raising important questions for the way we adapt, both nationally and as a global community.

2. ADAPTATION AS A GLOBAL PUBLIC GOOD
Throughout the conversation, a potent and recurring example was rice trade between exporting countries like Thailand, Vietnam and India, and heavily import-dependent countries like Senegal. Extreme weather events that impact rice exporters like Thailand cause price hikes, which makes food security in Senegal vulnerable to climate impacts beyond its own borders. Taking trade relationships like these as a focus, Oliver Schenker, from the Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, argued that climate adaptation should be considered a global public good with important benefits for both importers and exporters.

Using economic modelling, Schenker’s work suggests that when developing countries receive adaptation finance and are able to optimize their adaptation, the benefits are felt all across the globe. There is a collective interest in financing adaptation, a statement strongly seconded by panellists Mizan Khan, a climate finance negotiator from Bangladesh, and Maria Banda, who sits on the faculty of law at the University of Toronto.

3. BORDERLESS CLIMATE RISKS UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT
Recognizing the potentially significant role of borderless climate risks, as well as the collective interest in addressing them, what provisions or instruments exist under the Paris Agreement to help take these into account? According to Annett Möhner, Team Lead for the Adaptation Committee at the UNFCCC Secretariat, National Adaptation Plans may be one potential avenue for beginning to identify and assess borderless climate risks. Some countries have already begun to do this, though teleconnected risks are rarely considered. Additionally, as methodologies are developed for assessing progress toward the Global Goal on Adaptation and performing the Global Stocktake in 2023, there is an opening to raise awareness about these risks, and think about how they may be meaningfully incorporated into stocktaking efforts.

Likewise, as Åsa Persson, Senior Research Fellow at SEI noted, addressing borderless climate risks necessarily intersects with discussions about climate adaptation finance, and there is a need to think carefully about how to manage these risks while not re-allocating resources away from countries vulnerable to direct climate impacts. Dustin Schinn, Climate Change Specialist at the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), agreed, and suggested that countries needed to be in the “driver’s seat” for addressing borderless climate risks, and should be supported by finance and global coordination.
4. NOT THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN
Given the country-driven nature of the Paris Agreement, it is also important to consider that the UNFCCC may not be the only venue for capturing and addressing borderless climate risks. Despite Senegal’s interest in bolstering Thai rice production, adaptation must be country-driven and Thailand may rightly choose to focus on other adaptation priorities of national importance.

Rebecca Nadin, head of the Risk and Resilience Programme at the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), suggested that there is the potential to learn from other UN conventions like the UN Convention to Combat Desertification or the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, or to mainstream climate considerations into the multitude of existing water resources treaties. Similarly, Sara Venturini, Policy Analyst at Acclimatise, argued that trade agencies, financial institutions, and private sector actors may have a substantial role to play in this regard, especially given their high capacities for complex risk assessment.

5. RESEARCH FOR THE FUTURE OF BORDERLESS CLIMATE ADAPTION
Moving forward, there is a strong call for more knowledge and research in this area from policymakers and academics alike. It is especially necessary to develop methodologies, indicators, and indices to raise awareness about the potentially significant impacts of borderless climate risks, especially those that are teleconnected. Strong calls were made to produce specific case-studies, as well as to develop meta-analyses that locate commonalities, help to identify best-practices, and foster collaboration.

This sentiment is perhaps best captured by John Firth, CEO at Acclimatise, who during the panel discussion remarked: “climate change has caused us to embark on a complex experiment that we do not entirely understand. New teleconnections may arise as we continue to grapple with how we should adapt to our changing world – work in this area will need to be iterative and ongoing.”

RIGHT: Borderless climate risks are distributed heterogeneously around the globe
Mistra Geopolitics is an interdisciplinary research programme which brings together researchers from different fields of expertise to combine their intellectual skills. This is an effective, and sometimes challenging approach, but necessary when it comes to understanding the complex world we live in. The programme comprises five interrelated work packages (WPs).
The first work package sets the frame for an inquiry into the relationships between geopolitics and sustainable development. It investigates how political drivers, risks and security threats of global environmental change are construed today, and what the implications are for our understanding of security and geopolitics. This work package also involves future prospects, which will be explored through stakeholder dialogues.

**MALIN MOBJÖRK**

**WORK PACKAGE LEADER**

Malin Mobjörk is a Senior Researcher and Director of SIPRI’s Climate Change and Risk Programme. Malin's work focuses on the intersection of climate change, security and development and how policy organizations are responding to climate-related security risks.
ANTHROPOCENE MEETS POLICY: TRAVELLING NOTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND SECURITY

How is the Anthropocene staged as a geopolitical drama in the study and practice of international politics? Researchers Malin Mobjörk and Eva Lövbrand have set out to address this question as part of work package one and presented preliminary findings from a forthcoming paper at this year’s annual conference. Their work draws inspiration from the field of critical geopolitics, which suggests that geopolitics itself is a discursive practice in which the analytical frames employed by intellectuals and practitioners are of central importance. This particular study utilizes an extensive review of the scholarly and policy literatures, in the hopes of comparing the ways that the Anthropocene is invoked in each body of work. Ultimately, this paper hopes to better understand how the Anthropocene contributes to the production and practice of international politics.

Work Package 2 analyses the magnitude and kind of transnational impacts a small export dependent country like Sweden is likely to face, as well as how this translates into risks and opportunities. The research focuses on broadening our approach to climate impacts, in particular by focusing on three pathways: trade of goods and services, people (specifically migration), and armed conflicts.

ÅSA PERSSON
WORK PACKAGE LEADER

Åsa Persson is a senior research fellow at SEI. Her research interests include environmental policy-making processes in Sweden and Europe, global environmental governance in relation to climate change adaptation, and the notion of planetary boundaries. In 2018, Åsa will serve as Programme Co-Director. Magnus Benzie will replace her as Work Package leader.
CHANGING LANDSCAPES: CONCEPTUALISING THE GEOPOLITICS OF DECARBONISATION

Decarbonisation is not a linear process, but rather can be disruptive and contested. Understanding this fraught transition is one aim of adelphi’s Dennis Tänzler’s research, who argues that achieving a just transition will involve complex negotiations and trade-offs between multiple objectives. With this backdrop, Tänzler’s team is working to identify ‘smooth’ ‘challenging’ and ‘fragile’ transformers in order to support decarbonisation across a diversity of geopolitical contexts, accounting for exposure to climate risks, the potential for energy diversification, and the level of policy ambition.

Building on this work, the research team hopes next to select case study countries in which to explore potential future trends under ambitious climate action scenarios and business-as-usual approaches. This will help to identify proactive foreign policy approaches that can the European Union maximise synergies and contain risks as we approach 2030.

This work package examines how, why, and with what consequences global governance systems are able to respond to processes of geopolitics and environmental degradation, and the conditions under which these responses are legitimate and effective. Until now, relatively little has been understood about how political institutions relate to policy changes that concern sustainable development, security, and welfare.

LISA DELLMUTH
WORK PACKAGE LEADER

Lisa Dellmuth is an Associate Professor of International Relations at the Department of Economic History and International Relations, at Stockholm University. Her research focuses on: Fiscal policy, economic inequality, and public opinion; legitimacy in global governance; and global climate security governance.
THE LIMITS OF CIVIL SOCIETY: ECOLOGICAL FACTORS, POLITICS, AND PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS

While a large literature in environmental social science suggests that higher levels of environmental degradation lead to greater participation among civil society actors (CSOs) in international fisheries management, new work by Lisa Dellmuth and colleagues suggests that this may not be the case. Using a statistical analysis that spans nine international fisheries management organizations, this work explores alternative explanations for CSO participation.

Work Package 4 focuses on how resource dynamics and geopolitical interests affect strategies for sustainable development and how these strategies may in turn impact the geopolitical arena. By analysing relationships between the various goals in the 2030 Agenda, we will deepen our understanding of the synergies and conflicts embedded within our pursuit of sustainable development across the globe.

**BENGT JOHANSSON**  
**WORK PACKAGE LEADER**

Bengt Johansson is a senior lecturer in Environmental and Energy Systems studies at Lund University. His research deals with the transformation of the energy system, with a specific focus on how energy and climate policies affect this transformation.
GLOBAL METAL FLOWS IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION
Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set out in Agenda 2030 will require the adoption of clean energy technologies on a global scale. This transition, in turn, will require significant amounts of metals and other key materials to produce solar panels, lithium batteries, and other critical items. In this paper, André Månsson and Björn Stenqvist analyse the expected demand for 11 key metals under various climate change mitigation scenarios. Overall, the study finds that metal reserves are sufficient to support the needed development of solar and wind power, as well as electric motors, but other sub-technologies may be stifled and alternatives required. Additionally, metal accessibility is likely to constrain the growth rate of some technologies and can be difficult to increase in some cases. Given the concentration of certain key metals in relatively few countries, there are likely to be significant geopolitical implications as the demand for these extractive industries continues to grow.

The last work package will bring together research from the other work packages in an iterative co-creation process involving project stakeholders and seek answers to the key questions of the programme. It will provide opportunities to discuss innovation and business development as ways to strengthen Sweden’s competitiveness. The co-creation process will include developing “explorative” scenarios of possible alternative futures, which will serve as the basis for analysing options and identifying strategies.

VICTORIA WIBECK
WORK PACKAGE LEADER

Victoria Wibeck is a Professor in Thematic Studies at Linköping University. The aim of her research is to analyze the challenges and opportunities associated with new and emerging technologies, as information moves from the scientific arena and is recontextualised in political decisions, media, and the everyday lives of citizens.
PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF MISTRA GEOPOLITICS FOCUS GROUPS

Given the centrality of the co-creation process to Mistra Geopolitics, one key aim of the research programme is to understand the opportunities and challenges perceived by Swedish actors as they navigate the current geopolitical context to pursue sustainable development. The rich results from stakeholder focus groups will help to inform the development of the explorative scenarios, as well as influence the direction of other research activities ongoing across the programme.

**RESEARCH HIGHLIGHT**

**CLIMATE SECURITY GOVERNANCE: A NEW RESEARCH AGENDA**

By: Lisa Dellmuth and Maria-Therese Gustafsson, Stockholm University

Societies worldwide are increasingly confronted by a new wave of security challenges posed by climate change, such as droughts, wildfires and hurricanes. Human and state security risks posed by climate change are often transnational and therefore require viable and effective intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) to manage. IGOs such as the African Union, Asian Development Bank, European Union (EU), International Organization for Migration, and United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) have over the past two decades increasingly engaged with climate security risks.

The growing importance of IGOs in this area raises a number of questions. Which IGOs address climate security risks? How, why, and to what extent do traditional security organizations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the UN Security Council deal with climate change? How have these IGOs interpreted their mandates differently to address climate security risks more effectively? To what extent has the UNHCR expanded its work to help climate migrants and refugees? When, how, and why do IGOs interact with non-governmental organizations, private transnational regulatory organizations, and public-private partnerships to address climate security risks? To what degree must IGOs with mandates in different policy areas (e.g. development, environment, health, migration, and security) collaborate with other organizations in order to effectively address climate change?

Previous research on global climate security governance has only insufficiently addressed these questions. Existing studies have
revealed that climate change is increasingly talked about both in connection to state security and human security, sometimes called the “securitisation” of climate change. IGOs have increasingly responded to these challenges through the creation of working groups and the assessment of climate risks.

In terms of state security, the absence of an international agreement has prevented the UN Security Council from addressing climate security challenges, and some analysts have therefore suggested that EU may be better suited to address these challenges due to its comprehensive approach to security.

In terms of human security, several UN agencies have made efforts to counteract the adverse effects of climate change by to larger extent emphasizing the importance of people-centred and right-based approaches. However, although global climate security is increasingly attracting scholarly attention across the environmental social sciences, we still know little about when and why IGOs address climate security challenges, and how they can do so effectively.

The Mistra Geopolitics programme has an important role to play in addressing this research need. Under Work Package 3, and in collaboration with other programme activities, we will address the questions of when and why IGOs address climate security challenges, and how they can do so effectively. This work will identify all IGOs engaging in climate security governance since the 1990s, quantitatively map these organizations and their governance responses, explain variation in governance responses across roughly 50 IGOs in different policy areas, and identify pathways to effective climate security governance through field studies.

Findings on the effectiveness of different types of governance responses will contribute to evidence-based policy advice that will be tested in stakeholder dialogues conducted by Work Package 5. The results will also include high-quality data on governance responses that can be combined with data from Work Package 2 on global resource flows in order to understand how and when these flows are matched with governance responses.

Taken together, this work is at the forefront of environmental social science research and will advance theory on the conditions under which IGOs can effectively address climate-induced challenges for human and state security.

**FIGURE:**
The emerging field of research on intergovernmental organizations and climate security. Source: Dellmuth, L.M. et al. (2018), Intergovernmental Organizations and Climate Security: Advancing the Research Agenda, WIREs Climate Change, 9(1).
The greatest asset of Mistra Geopolitics is the internationally-renowned team of experts that make the programme work. The Mistra Geopolitics management team, supported by the Board, are responsible for facilitating the programme’s widespread success, built on the hard work, critical analysis, and innovation of work package leaders, researchers, and programme partners.

Mistra Geopolitics combines theory testing and development with a co-creation approach, where a variety of stakeholders from public, private and civil society sectors are actively involved to improve the research design and ensure that theoretical perspectives as well as empirical research are relevant for the people who translate them into policy and action.

Mistra Geopolitics includes a two-year Research School in order to train the next generation of scholars in methods, theories, and data collection for advanced analysis of geopolitics and sustainable development. It includes doctoral students enrolled in the Mistra Geopolitics programme, as well as external graduate students, including 3 PhD students from partner countries in the Global South. The Research School constitutes a meeting point where doctoral students, researchers and the scientific advisory board interact.
CHAIR OF THE BOARD

LENA EK

CHAIR OF SÖDRA, SWEDEN’S LARGEST FOREST-OWNER ASSOCIATION. SHE ALSO SERVED AS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FROM 2011 TO 2014.

BOARD MEMBERS

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PROJECT MANAGER AT THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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ÅSA PERSSON
2018 CO-DIRECTOR; SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW AT SEI
PROGRAMME MANAGER

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KEVIN ADAMS
ASSISTANT PROGRAMME MANAGER; RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT SEI

COMMUNICATIONS

EVA KRUTMEIJER
COMMUNICATIONS LEAD; SENIOR COMMUNICATION ADVISOR AND SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR, FOUNDER OF EKKO AB, STOCKHOLM

BRENDA OCHOLA
COMMUNICATION OFFICER AT SEI
**2017 Financial Summary**

**Revenues**
- MISTRA: 5,749,324 SEK
- Co-funding from Programme Partners: 1,408,233 SEK
- **Total Revenues**: 7,157,557 SEK

**Expenditure**
- Salaries: 4,888,584 SEK
- Travel: 238,758 SEK
- Consumables: 27,089 SEK
- Other Direct Costs: 113,721 SEK
- Purchased Services: 460,509 SEK
- Indirect Costs: 1,383,896 SEK
- **Total Revenues**: 7,157,557 SEK

**Cash Flow**
- Opening Balance: 0 SEK
- Disbursements from MISTRA: 10,292,925 SEK
- Co-funding from Programme Partners: 1,408,233 SEK
- Programme Expenditure: -7,157,557 SEK
- **Closing Balance**: 7,157,557 SEK

**Expenditure by WP**
- WP1: 4%
- WP2: 6%
- WP3: 14%
- WP4: 17%
- WP5: 15%
- Management: 37%
- Communication: 7%
## KEY OUTPUTS

### EVENTS

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<td>STACY D. VANDEEVER LECTURE: CLIMATE POLITICS AFTER PARIS AND UNDER TRUMP</td>
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FULL CITATION


STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE. (2017). MISTRA GEOPOLITICS: SUSTAINABILITY, STABILITY, AND COMPETITIVENESS FOR SWEDEN IN THE ANTHROPOCENE. SEI FACT SHEET.

