

Forest politics in the era of climate change

– across sectors and across scales

Daniela Kleinschmit and Sara Holmgren

Structure

- **REDD+ as a wicked problem**
- **REDD+ Discourses at different scales**
- **Forest and the climate – a Swedish media discourse**

REDD+

- Reducing Emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserving and enhancing forest carbon stocks and sustainably managing forests
- Key international strategy against greenhouse gas emissions from land-use change in developing countries
- Market governance with the state

Contribution of Policy Research

- empirical-analytical understanding of elements and functions of REDD+ policy in the context of political sciences
- focus on agency, interests, institutions and rules

REDD+ architecture

- Multi-level
- Multi-purpose
- Multiple-actor
- Multi-sector



Wicked problem: fragemented but interdepending, uncertain, trade-offs and conflicting interests

”What if our language does not simply mirror or picture the world but instead profoundly shapes our view of it in the first place?”¹

- Discourses as a form of social practices
- Discourse analysis focuses on the power of language²
- Discourse analysis entangles the way social and political ideas and concepts are reproduced in text and talk³

¹ Fischer & Forester, 1993: The argumentative turn in Policy analysis and planning, Duke; Durham and London.

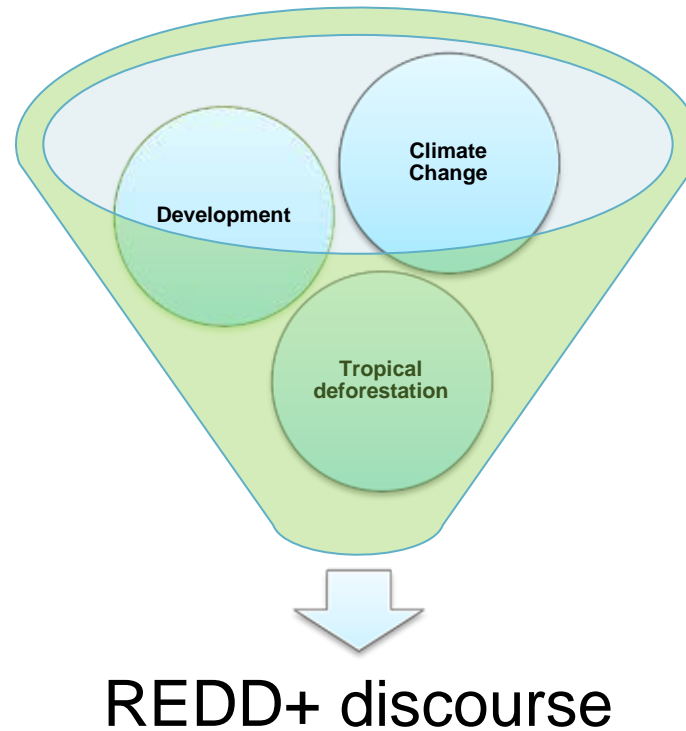
² Fischer, 2003: Reframing public policy. Discursive politics and deliberative practices, Oxford univ. Press, Oxford.

³; Fairclough, 1995: Critical Discourse Analysis: The Critical Study of Language. Longman.

REDD+ discourse research

Forest politics in the era of climate change

A mix of global policy discourses



Problem formulation context dependent!



Global REDD+ discourse



(Holmgren, 2013, submitted)

National/regional level

- Tropical forests represented as a global good.
- Focus on mitigation.
- Top bureaucrats, politicians, private forest sector.
- Cheap revenues



Photo: CIFOR

(Somorin et al., 2012)

Local level

- Sceptic attitudes
- Job opportunitien
- Distant drivers
- Distribution



Photo: CIFOR

(Evans, K. et al., 2013)

Local and global narratives

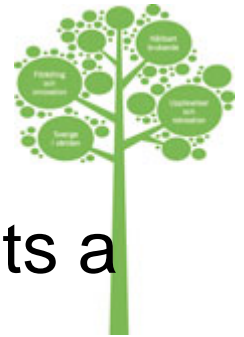
- Local scepticism. Jobs and distribution key issues.
- Risk that national and regional development drives overrides the demands for justice and fairness.
- Global discourse focus on local forest dependence and local livelihoods, distorts distant drivers.
- Tropical forests as global commons. Non-tropical forests, a national/private resource.

Lessons learned?



The forest kingdom – with what values for the world?

- Development – the rural
- Climate mitigation – forests as sinks, forests a national concern.
- Social justice and equity absent
- Reflects values and norms prevailing in the Swedish forest sector.



(Holmgren & Arora-Jonsson, forthcoming)



Forest and the Climate

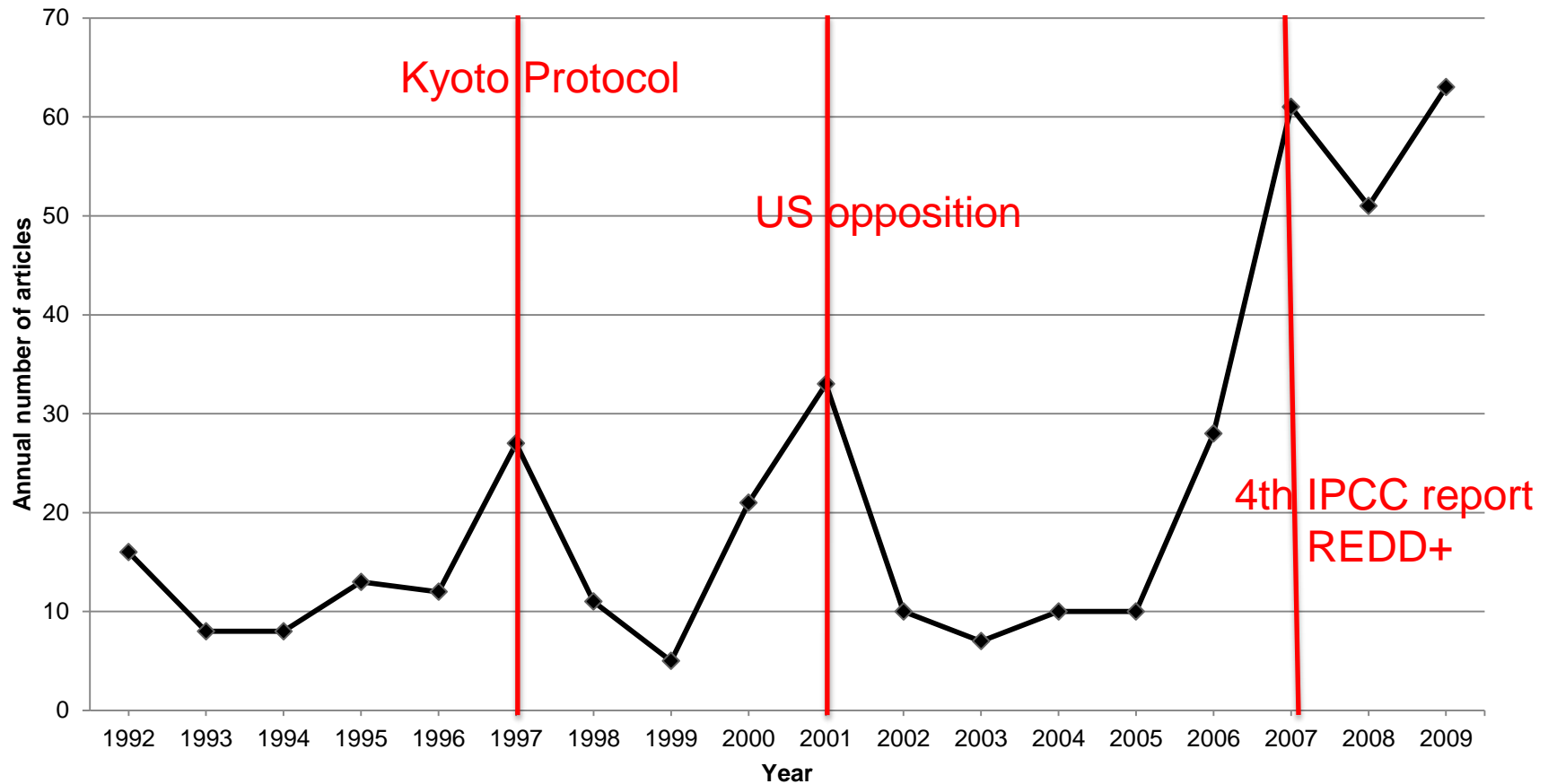
A discourse in the Swedish media

Forests in a changing climate

- Internationally negotiated focusing on implementation in developing countries
- Not without controversies in Sweden
 - “Skogen. Naturens egen medicin mot klimatförändringar”¹
- Media has the power to assign a specific meaning

¹Skogsindustrierna; Skog and klimat campaign

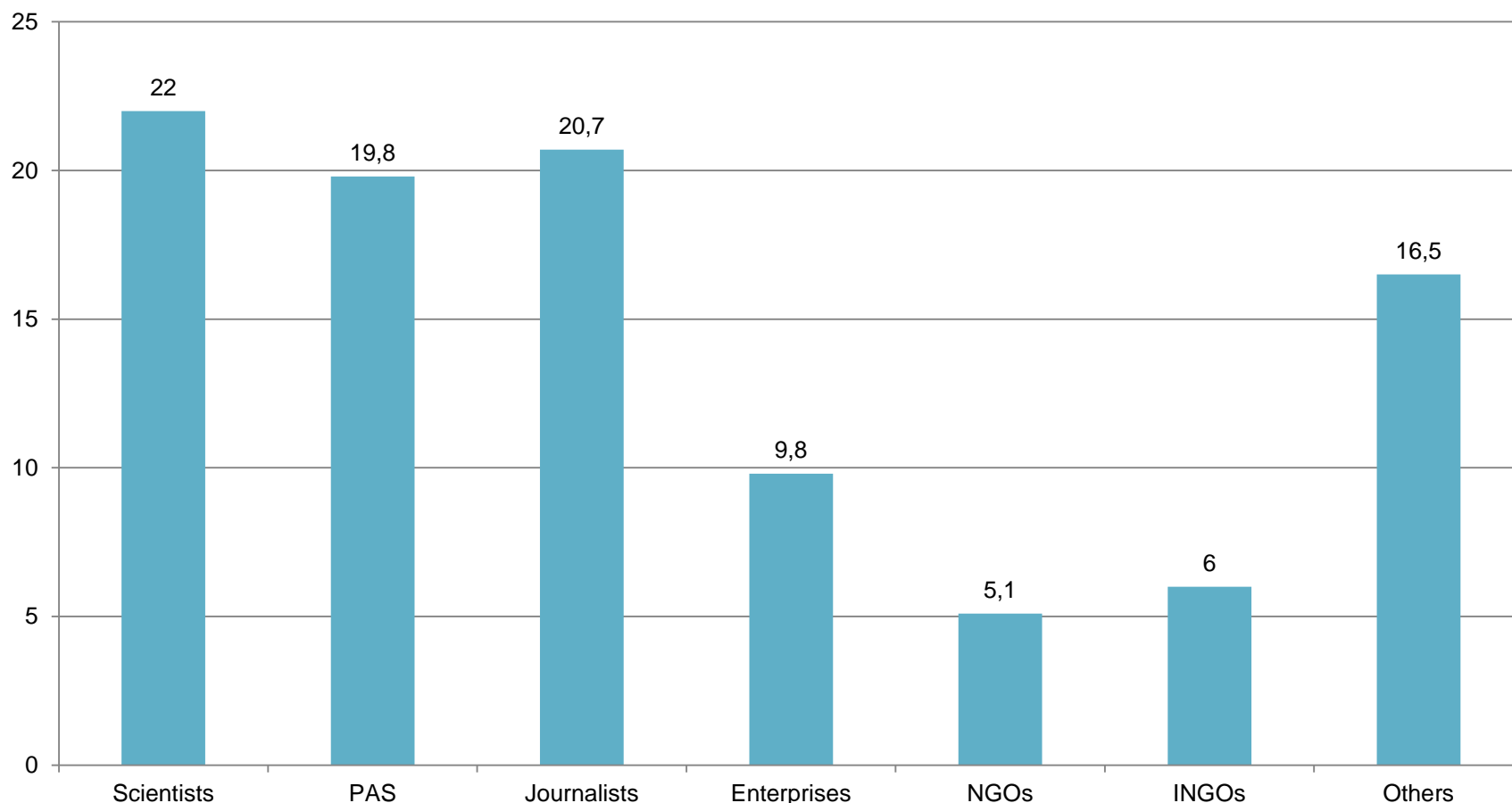
Prominence of the forest and climate change debate in Dagens Nyheter (N= 394; source: Kleinschmit and Sjöstedt, 2013)



Kleinschmit & Sjöstedt, 2013: between science and politics: Swedish newspaper reporting on forests in a changing climate, submitted to Environmental Science and Policy

Scientists, Politicians and Journalists as major speakers in the forest-climate discourse in DN

(N= 426 statements; source: Kleinschmit & Sjöstedt, 2013)



Framing actor interest in the forest-climate discourse in DN¹

- Society is the major causer of problems on forests and climate but as well the major victim
- Politicians and journalists name politicians and enterprises as causers
- Politicians are highlighted as the once who can contribute to solve the problem

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