

# Human Dimensions of Climate Change Policy: Culture, Conflict, and Collaboration

**Gregg B. Walker, Ph.D.**

**Member, Faculties of Communication, Environmental Sciences,  
Forest Ecosystems & Society, Public Policy, and Water Resource  
Management Programs**

**Oregon State University, USA**

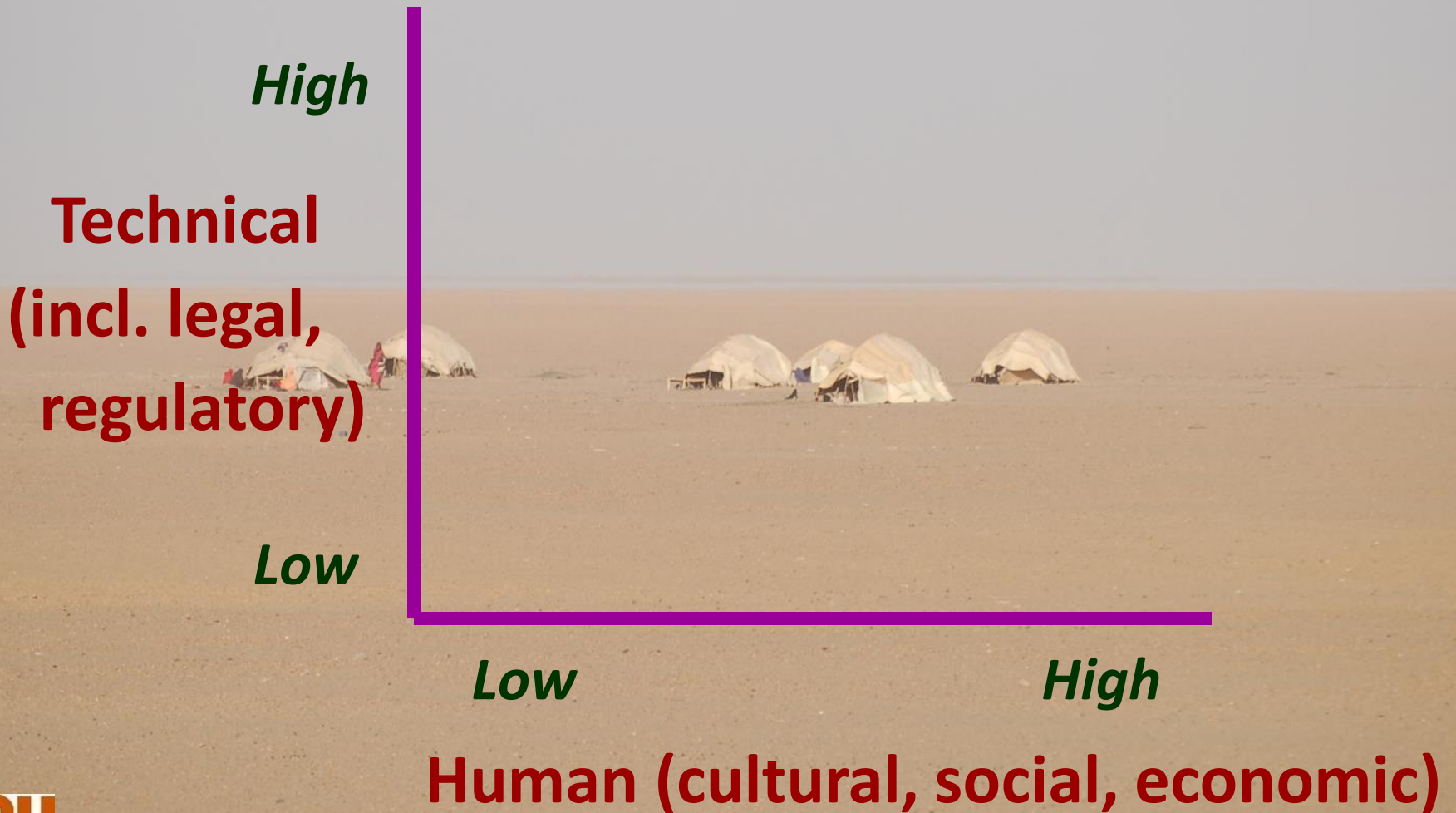
**[gwalker@oregonstate.edu](mailto:gwalker@oregonstate.edu)**

**COP 22 side event – Marrakech, Morocco  
15 November 2016**

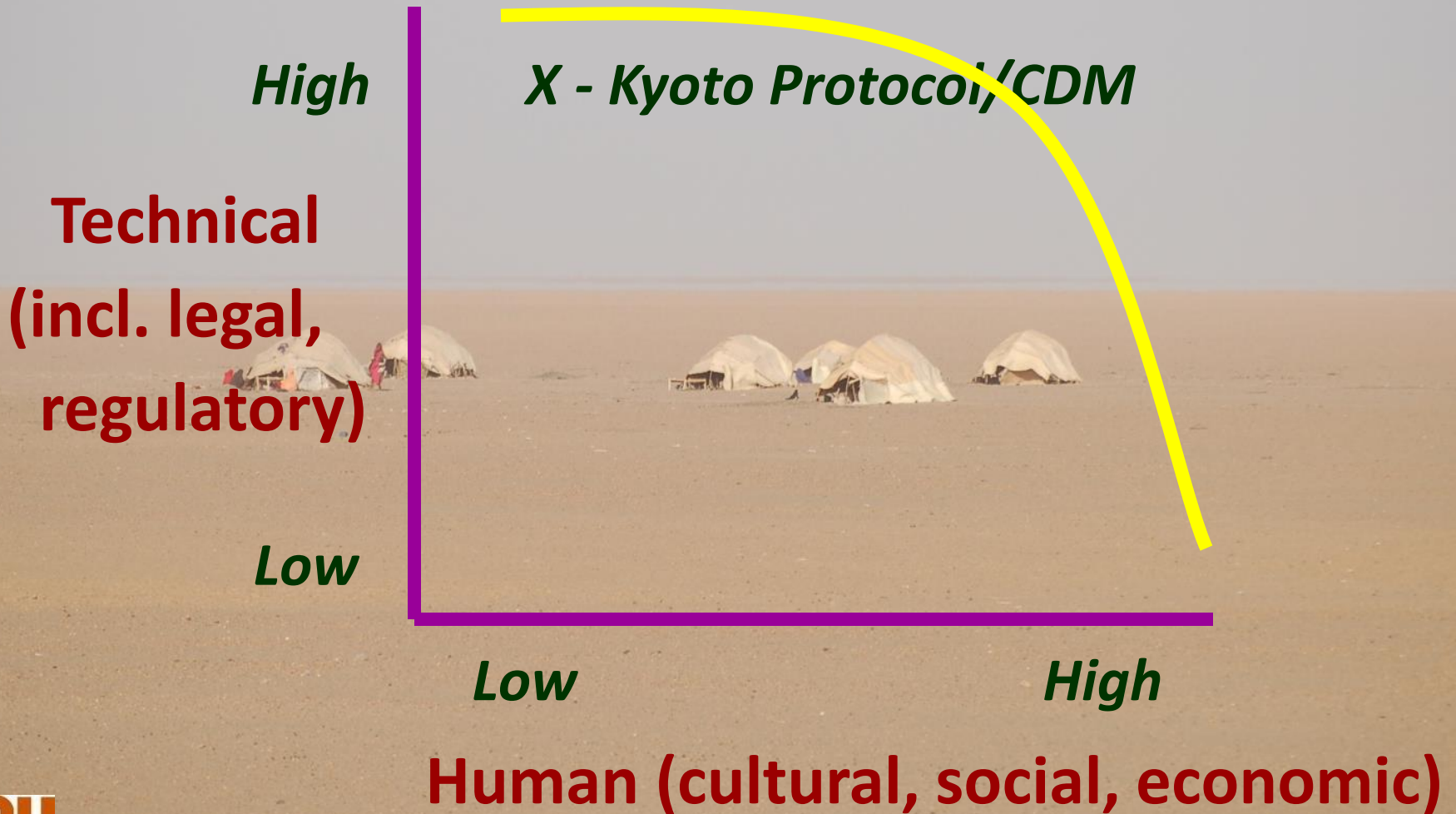
# UNFCCC negotiations and the Paris Agreement

- Have emphasized the technical dimensions of climate change policy
- Relied on the IPCC reports as a foundation
- Have created institutions that relate to technical, regulatory, and legal matters
- Post-Paris, implementation and improvement are key
- Implementation and improvement elevate the human dimensions

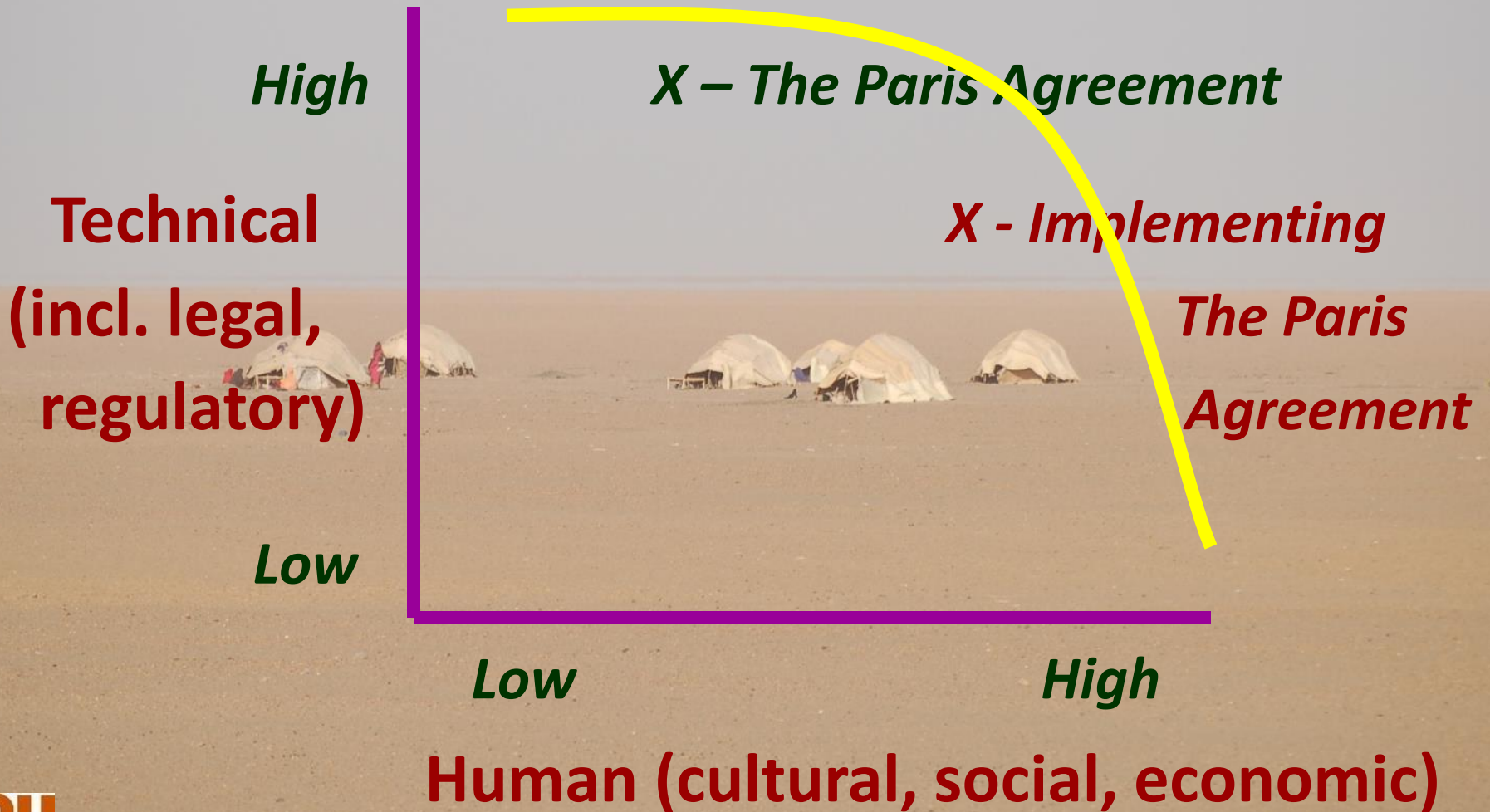
# Technical and Human Dimensions



# Technical and Human Dimensions



# Technical and Human Dimensions



# Key Human Dimensions

- Culture
- Communication
- Conflict
- Collaboration



**Key Point: some of these appear in the Paris Agreement, but HDs need greater attention during implementation.**

# Implementing Culture

- **Climate change policies need to be culturally appropriate.**
- **Members of relevant cultural communities need to be engaged as partners and leaders throughout the implementation process.**
- **Traditional knowledge (indigenous, local) should be incorporated into implementation and monitoring activities.**

# Implementing Conflict Management

- Parties should acknowledge the potential for climate change-related conflicts – at every scale, both vertically and horizontally
- Committees (e.g., the Adaptation Committee) and Mechanisms (e.g., Loss and Damage) should address conflict and conflict management
- The UNFCCC should link its work to the UN mediation efforts and resources
- Conflict management and mediation training should be encouraged



# Implementing Collaboration

- Parties and civil society working together – collaboratively – is essential to implementation
- Committees, mechanisms, negotiating bodies (e.g., SBI), civil society, and affected communities should locate opportunities for diverse stakeholder participation, joint decision-making, and shared implementation (collaborative governance)
- Like other HDs, work together vertically and horizontally
- Bring technical and human dimensions communities together

# Beyond Paris

- **Human dimensions need to be integrated and operationalized throughout the Paris Agreement implementation plans**
- **UNFCCC committees and mechanisms need to address human dimensions – through “expert panels” and community engagement**
- **Article 6 or “ACE – Action for Climate Empowerment” features human dimensions**
- **Civil society – non state actors – can play an important role**
- **Continue the connection to sustainable development efforts (the Sustainable Development Goals)**

# Integrating Technical & Human Dimensions



- **Capacity Building provides the confluence**
- As Saleemal Huq and Naznin Nasir of the Independent University, Bangladesh, wrote recently:

In Bangladesh, we need more local ability to both prevent catastrophic climate change...and also to deal with its effects... Local people need the skills to use important climate-related technologies. Improved planning and access to climate information, for instance, can allow farmers to better prepare for disasters and cope with climatic variability... Article 11 of (The Paris Agreement) reaffirmed that capacity building and climate education are essential to climate action ...It is now time for developing real capacity building approaches, instead of mindless spending on presentations and seminars.

([www.theconversation.com](http://www.theconversation.com); 03 October 2016)

Thank you for interest!  
I welcome your comments, questions,  
concerns...

-- Gregg

