



The Tragic Resilience of Humanity

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Introduction

Set in 2050, this constructed climate scenario focuses on the global achievement of net zero. It will explicate successes in mitigation in the Global North, and demonstrate how ongoing crises in the Global South are induced by exacerbating environmental catastrophes.

Key Terms

Global North/South

Nations characterized by their level of economic development, including: politics, wealth, technology, and resources. The Global North refers to highly developed economies; the Global South refers to underdeveloped economies.

Net Zero

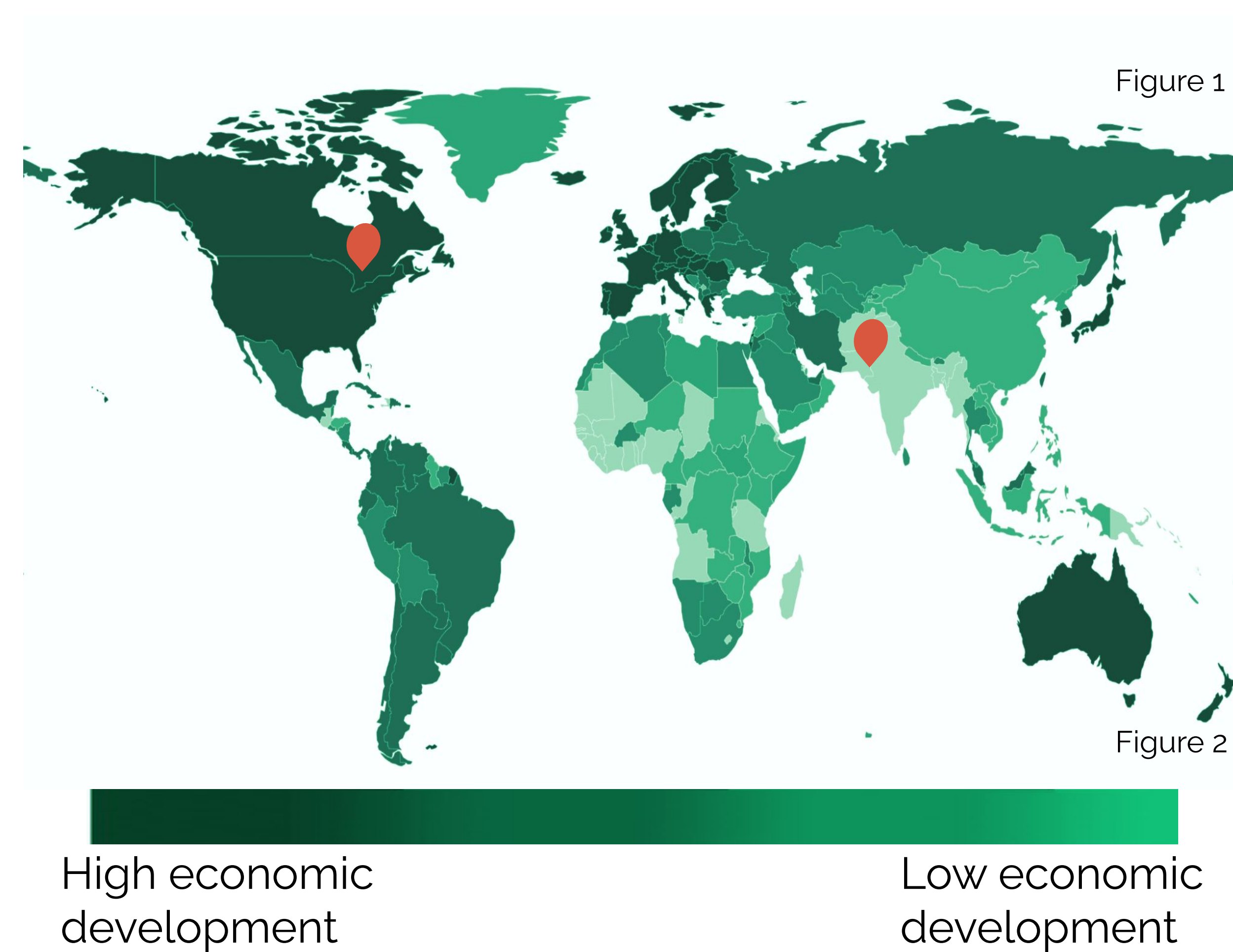
The target for reducing carbon emissions, implementing methods to remove excess carbon dioxide, and negating greenhouse gas amounts stimulated by humans.

Conference of the Parties (COP)

Annual, international climate summits where representatives of UNFCCC's member states convene to assess the impact of their frameworks and policies. These measures are introduced by the Parties to mitigate climate change and foster resiliency and methods of adaptation across the evolving world.

Story Premise

In 2050, a senior foreign service officer based in Ottawa is sent alongside Canadian delegations to the annual Conference of the Parties. Through experiences gained from specialized Loss and Damages responses in Pakistan, the diplomat reports upon the severity of global climate change, the need for international collectivized support, and the significance of hope.



Storyline

- 1 The diplomat contrasts Canada's emission reductions and successful energy transitions with ongoing climate disasters in Pakistan
- 2 During geopolitical negotiations in COP, the diplomat addresses the global achievement of net zero in relation to concurrent disasters in developing countries, and the lack of holistic solutions
- 3 The diplomat voices a call for ongoing hope when attenuating climate change as a unified, collective effort amongst nations in the Global North and South

Themes

Political Conflicts and Negotiations

"I witnessed Canada's continuous efforts to combat climate change and institute mechanisms for environmental improvement. Our country was steady. We made it. / made it. But not everyone was as fortunate. It's a collective endeavour to address this, to try and achieve global net zero and help developing countries meet our prosperity."

Land Displacement

"People are not just losing a spot on the map. They are losing their homeland -- their memories, their identity, any number of family members still living in the country."

Humanity's Impact Through the Anthropocene

"I knew that if I stopped now, that if I relented because it seemed hopeless, I would be no better than my predecessors. Those despots who called themselves God and cast this burning, flooding fate upon us and expected us to make do."

"We are only human. But that is enough. We must only keep trying."

Conclusion

It is important not to accept climate crises and their damages to the world as inevitable. Instead, this scenario imagines the positive outcomes of recognizing disparities between international political economies and instituting mechanisms of change. Humanity is the catalyst for both the birth and recovery of climate change's impact on the planet.

Figure Adaptation References

1. Samsel, Francesca, et al. "Colormapping Resources and Strategies for Organized Intuitive Environmental Visualization." *Environmental Earth Sciences*, vol. 78, no. 9, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12665-019-8237-9>.
2. Fortgang, Amelia. "Countries and Territories Most Affected by Climate Change Also More Likely to Believe It to Be Personally Harmful." *Yale Program on Climate Change Communication*, 30 July 2021. <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/news-events/countries-and-territories-most-affected-by-climate-change-also-more-likely-to-believe-it-to-be-personally-harmful/>