

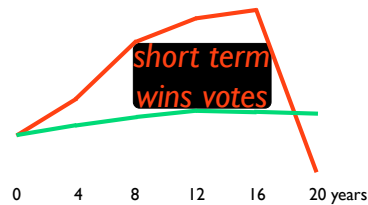
“A situation becomes a *crisis* when it overwhelms the government’s ability to respond”

vinay.gupta.hexayurt@gmail.com



we collectivized *risk management* in government

environment: *fail*  
economy: *fail*  
extraordinary risks: *fail*



China managed One Child Family but *absolute power corrupts*

*conclusion* government is the wrong place to manage big risks

it is not working  
we cannot fix it  
*now what?*



the failure of the State to do risk management *returns risk* to us

what could we use *instead of the State* for managing our risk?

*Survivalism*  
mitigate all risks, live in woods (with guns)

*Green Wizards*  
individual experts  
socially sharing skills

*Transition Towns*  
social cooperation for rising resource prices

*Dark Mountain*  
change cultural reality,  
refresh our possibilities

how do we  
*understand and evaluate*  
risk handling options?



some focus on the  
*threat*

nukes, climate, flu, sea,  
peak oil, bio all have  
*threat-focused groups*

threat-focused groups  
*try to prevent or mitigate*  
their target risk

only a very few  
threat-focused groups  
*fix* their target risk

others focus on the  
*reaction*

humanitarian NGOs  
like the Red Cross are  
*reaction-focused groups*

when a crisis happens  
*they try to clean up*  
and help people cope

we need both  
*threat and reaction*  
focused capabilities

managing risks

- 1) *detect*
- 2) *avoid* \*
- 3) *mitigate* \*
- 4) *recover*

\* success here is victory

managing risks

- |         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| threat  | 1) <i>detect</i>            |
| focused | 2) <i>avoid</i>             |
|         | 3) <i>mitigate</i> reaction |
|         | 4) <i>recover</i> focused   |



all of these groups  
function in  
the context of the state

we are worried that  
the state may *fail*  
in some scenarios

*sovereign default*

*systemic catastrophe*

how do we manage the  
risk of state failure?



where are we?

we are worried about  
the planet and all the life  
we live in symbiosis with

we are worried about  
industrial civilization (aiac\*)  
which we depend on

\*aiac - agro-industrial auto-catalysis

we are worried about  
the health of the state in  
financial collapse

we are worried about  
our families and friends  
in this uncertain future

we are worried about  
our own comfort/survival  
(unsustainable = stops!)

we are worried about  
a local or global  
USSR Argentina Iraq  
Afghanistan Detroit

*or worse*



*back to first principles*

*threat modeling*

*war* is the fundamental risk that governments are prepared to fight

not all risks look like *war*  
how can we model risks?

*describing risks*  
scope  
severity  
complexity  
source  
odds

*scope*  
individual to  
the whole world

*severity*  
inconvenience  
to destruction

*complexity*  
point risks  
system risks

*source*  
humans\*  
other species  
physical systems

*odds*  
impossible to  
certain

*examples*

*spilled milk*  
scope kitchen table  
severity no use crying over it  
complexity point risk  
source humans  
odds uncommon

*crime*  
scope individuals  
severity theft to murder  
complexity point risk  
source humans  
odds uncommon

*asteroid strike*  
scope national to global  
severity destruction  
complexity point risk  
source physics  
odds low

*plague*  
scope human race  
severity substantial mortality  
complexity systems risk  
source other species  
odds common in the past

scope *climate change*  
global  
severity *severe disruption*  
complexity *systems risk*  
source *humans*  
odds *ongoing*

scope *financial collapse*  
global economy  
severity *serious disruption*  
complexity *systems risk*  
source *humans*  
odds *common in the past*

scope *financial collapse*  
global economy  
severity *serious disruption*  
complexity *systems risk*  
source *humans*  
odds *nearly happened in 2008*

scope *financial collapse*  
global economy  
severity *serious disruption*  
complexity *systems risk*  
source *humans*  
odds *ongoing?*

*climate change* and  
*financial collapse* share  
deep complexity and  
global scope

*worse* both are driven  
by a fundamental human  
distaste for limits and  
*failed governance*

we are our own  
and the planet's  
*worst enemies*



*so are we ready  
to start planning?*

*provenance*  
“State in a Box” project  
on Iraq for US DOD\*

\*never used

*objective* figure out how  
to keep a country  
running in a war zone

*critical tools*  
rapidly enable  
complex cooperation

“unity of effort .  
without  
. *unity of command*”

*bit of overkill for peak oil?*  
reaction oriented not  
threat oriented model

*goal* keep the systems  
that keep you alive  
running & transforming

*step 1*  
identify the systems  
that keep you alive

*step 2*  
identify the threats to  
those systems

*step 3*  
avoid threats and  
mitigate risks to systems

*step 4*  
repeat until your area of  
concern is safe enough

*problem 1: isolation*  
you control very little of  
what you need to live

*problem 2: competition*  
systems are centralized,  
efficient, cheap, brittle

*problem 3: permission*  
status quo is mandated  
by same orgs failing to  
provide safe systems

*problem 4: priority*  
cf guns or butter? cf  
solar panels or hospitals?

*methodology*  
find interdependencies  
in the global system and  
harden all vital links

*VUCA*  
*(volatile, uncertain,*  
*complex, ambiguous)*  
*complex*  
*operations*  
*complex*  
*contingency*  
*wicked*  
*problem*

*VUCA*  
*(volatile, uncertain,*  
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*wicked*  
*problem*

*this is insoluble*  
*it's too complicated*  
*we need a map*



Simple Critical  
Infrastructure Maps  
to the rescue

*first, let's identify the actors*  
individuals  
groups  
organizations  
states  
*these are our teams*

Simple Critical  
Infrastructure Maps  
asks a simple question:

*what does each actor need  
to survive?*

*individual survival*  
too hot  
too cold  
hunger  
thirst  
illness  
injury

*groups*  
communications  
transportation  
workspace  
resource control

*organizations*  
shared map  
shared plan  
shared succession

*states*  
effective organizations  
list of citizens  
map of territories  
jurisdiction  
international recognition

18 points to ensure the  
basic survival of all  
concerned

SCIM keeps people alive  
until you have a strategy  
*it is triage to buy time*

why is it so simple from  
this angle?  
*very little of our energy  
goes into basic survival*

SCIM constrains the  
problem and presents  
*a manageable set of  
system interdependencies*

keep everything alive  
*constrain the problem*



*we still have to deal with interdependencies*

\*

\*agro-industrial auto-catalysis  
a big idea in a little word

[eye-ack]

aiac is the technical “biosphere” which supports our lives

aiac is like a fire, autocatalytic feeding on itself

cheap food, energy & tools enable us to make more cheap food, energy & tools enable us to make more cheap food, energy & tools enable us to make more cheap food, energy & tools

cheap food  
cheap energy  
cheap tools  
*cheap food  
cheap energy  
cheap tools*

aiac has two small issues  
*extractive on one end  
polluting on the other*

without it we starve  
*with it we poison the world*

aiac is mankind’s imitation of nature  
*out of control*

“collapse of civilization” actually means  
*“death of aiac”*

it is the fire that has burned since the start of farming  
*going out*

we must repair and improve aiac but we must also *survive* it

closed-loop industrial ecologies and renewable energy can fix our aiac

but that could take decades, and we are running out of *time*



back to the near term

Survivalism  
individual and group  
short term  
stockpile-oriented

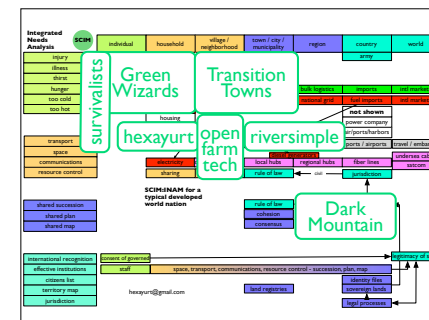
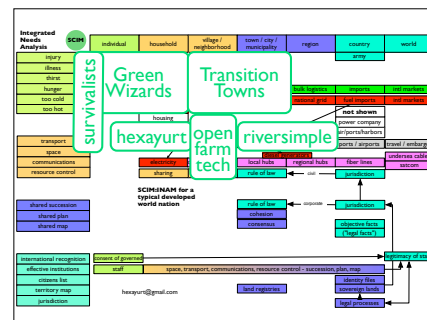
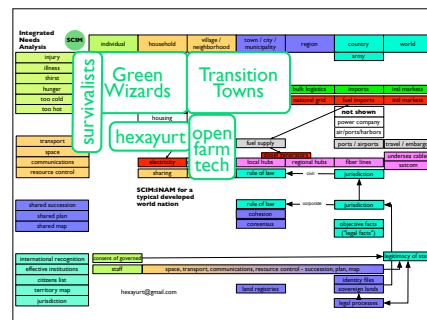
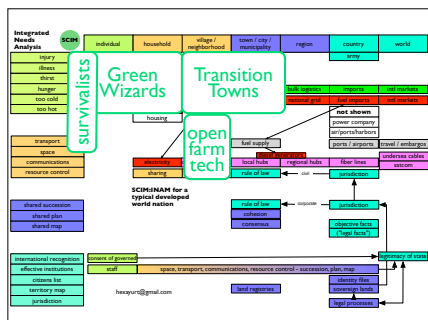
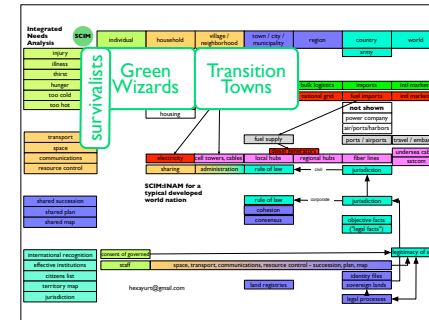
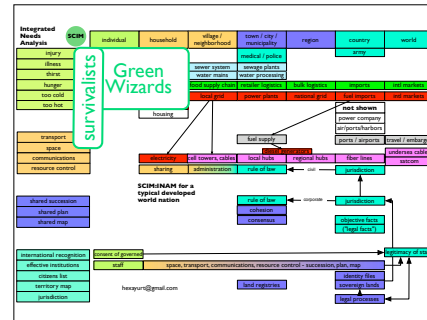
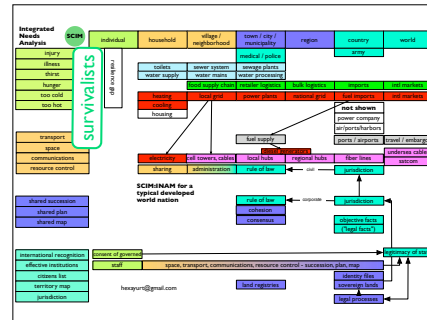
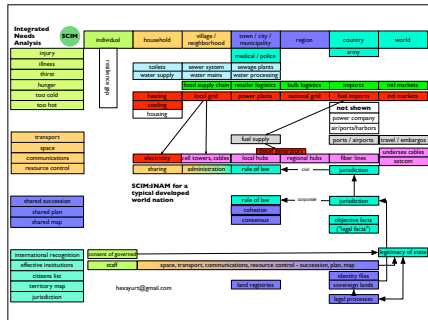
Green Wizards  
rapid roll-out of  
individual and group  
systems from skill banks

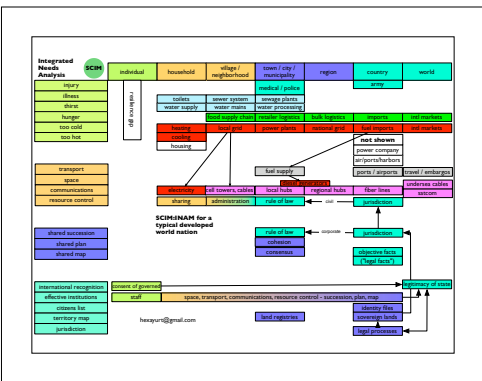
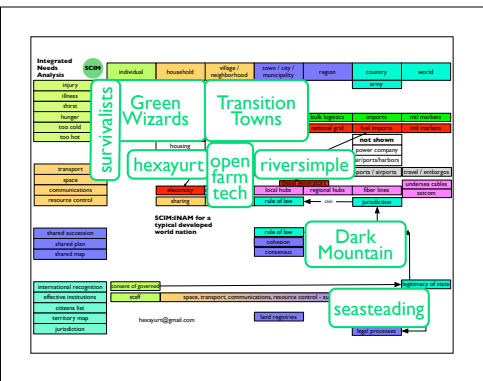
Transition Towns  
group & org strategy  
for maintaining supply  
chains & infrastructure

Dark Mountain  
managing expectation by  
imagination to make  
room for adaptation

each group addresses a  
different overlapping  
part of the *whole system*

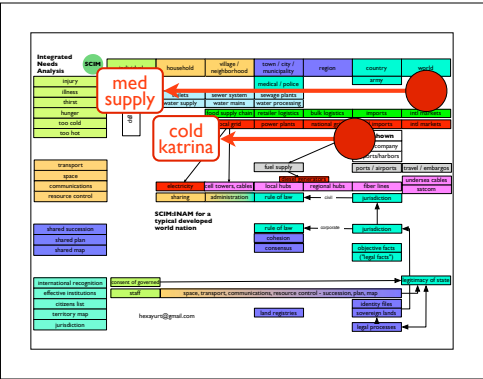
what is critical is the  
interdependencies and  
areas of cooperation





detailed regional scim maps can highlight how people can work together and share

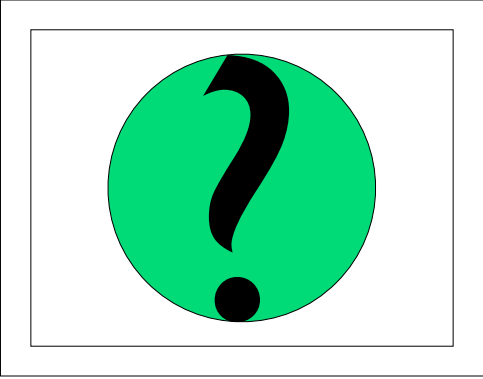
SCIM highlights two critical areas:  
*grid power in cold areas*  
*medical supply chains*



scim bridges the gap between *threat* and *response* groups

using mapping tools groups can reduce duplication of effort

perhaps we can even start thinking together about the long term



in a *point crisis* government resources flow from all sides

in a *point crisis* government resources flow from all sides

in a *systemic crisis* government resources only reach worst cases

if you have government support, you must be in *big trouble!*

managing without govt support is key to *systemic crisis response*

effective mapping of capacity is key to building local self-reliance  
**swadeshi**

we may be in for a rough few years

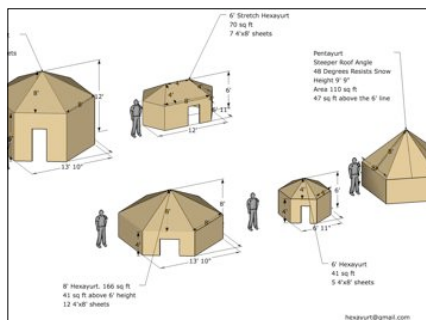
tech fixes

emergency food reserve  
1.3 bn cattle globally  
500 person-days each  
10 weeks food reserve  
far more in US/Europe  
how to transport & eat

satellite communications  
relatively cheap (\$5000)  
voice/data wifi BGAN  
all orgs should have this  
servers w. inet backup?  
user apps on spare boxes

pharmaceutical stockpiling  
where in the supply chain?  
individuals usually do not  
local pharmacy level?  
subsidy for stockpile costs  
local manufacture  
Nubian tetracycline beer?

population resettlement  
10m+ in too-cold risk areas  
grid fail = cold katrina  
food supply chain fail means  
resettling on ag land  
emergency permaculture  
hexayurt shelter + utilities



resources  
“dealing in security”  
“how to reboot civilization”  
“the living city - london”  
“hexayurt project”  
<http://hexayurt.com/plan>



The  
Future  
We  
Deserve

collaborative futures book  
seeking submissions!