"A situation becomes a *crisis* when it overwhelms the government's ability to respond"
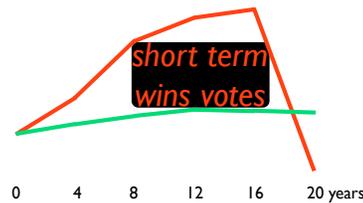
vinay gupta hexayurt@gmail.com

---

question time

?

---

we collectivized *risk management* in government

---

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

---

short term wins votes

0   4   8   12   16   20 years

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?

?

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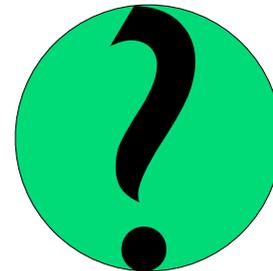
the failure of the State
to do risk management
returns risk to us

---

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) detect*
focused *2) avoid*
3) mitigate reaction
4) recover 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

* individual, group, organization or state

odds
impossible to
certain

examples

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

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

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

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

climate change *scope* global *severity* severe disruption *complexity* systems risk *source* humans *odds* ongoing	*financial collapse* *scope* global economy *severity* serious disruption *complexity* systems risk *source* humans *odds* common in the past
financial collapse *scope* global economy *severity* serious disruption *complexity* systems risk *source* humans *odds* *nearly happened in 2008*	*financial collapse* *scope* 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
contingency
complex
operations
wicked
problem

VUCA
(volatile, uncertain,
complex, ambiguous)
complex
contingency
complex
operations
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
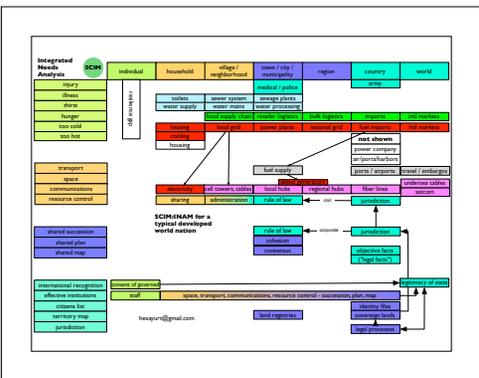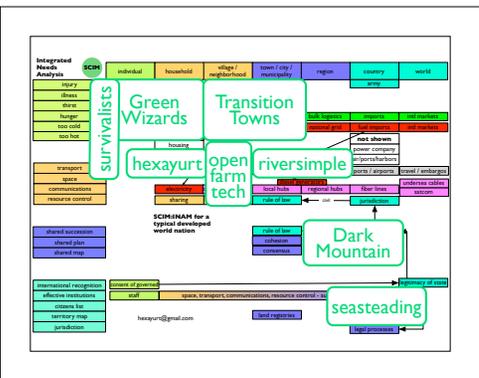individual and group
systems from skill banks

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
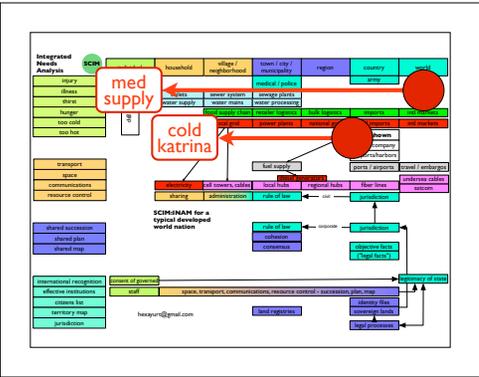part of the *whole system*

what is critical is the
interdependencies and
areas of cooperation
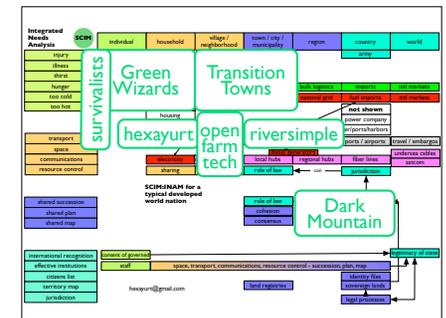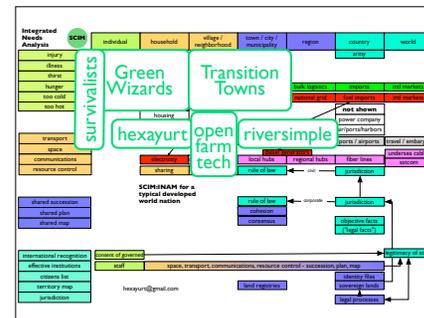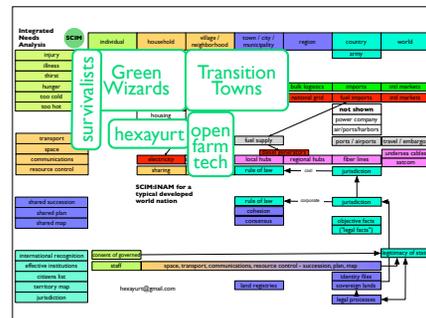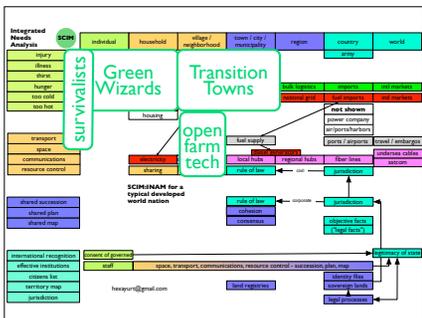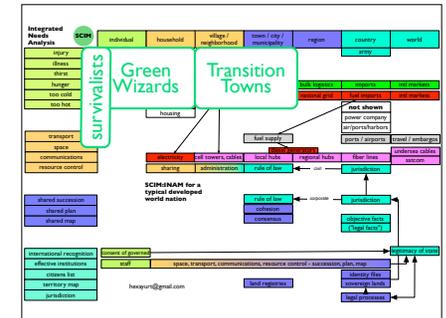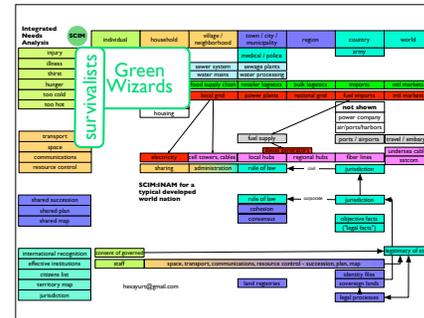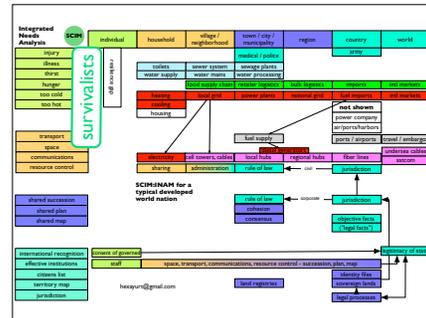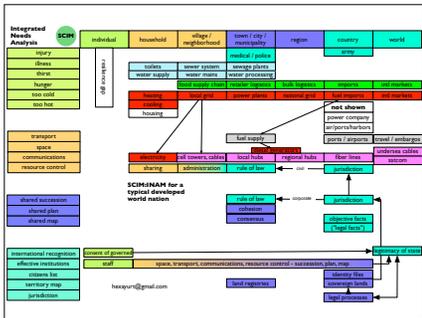
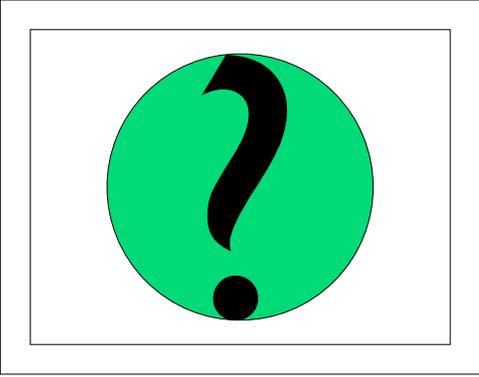detailed regional scim maps can highlight how people can work together and share

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

hexayurt shelter

burning man 2010

hexayurt shelter

burning man 2010

wood hexayurt (haiti)

grassroots united
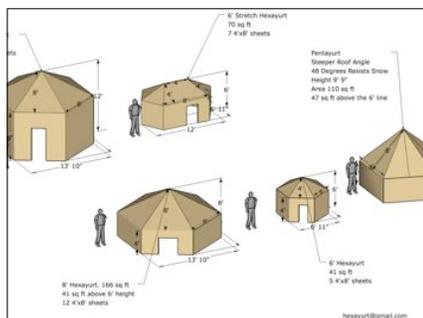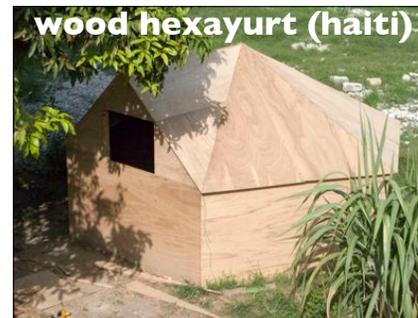
resources
"dealing in security"
"how to reboot civilization"
"the living city - london"
"hexayurt project"
http://hexayurt.com/plan

The
Future
We
Deserve

collaborative futures book
seeking submissions!