European Network for
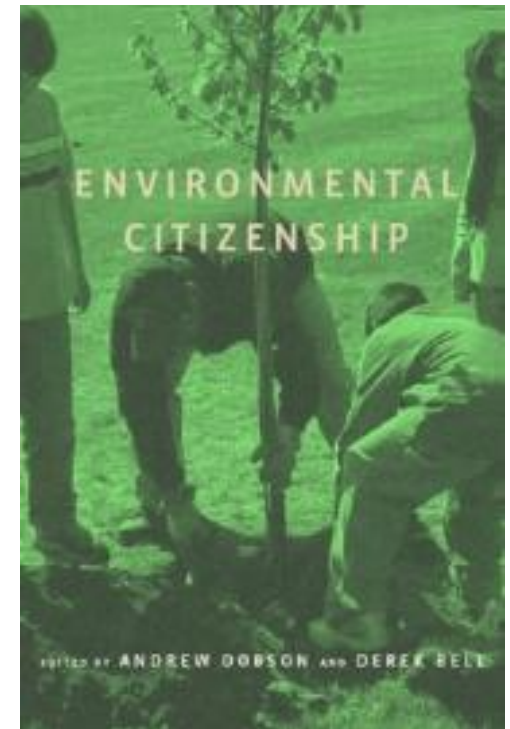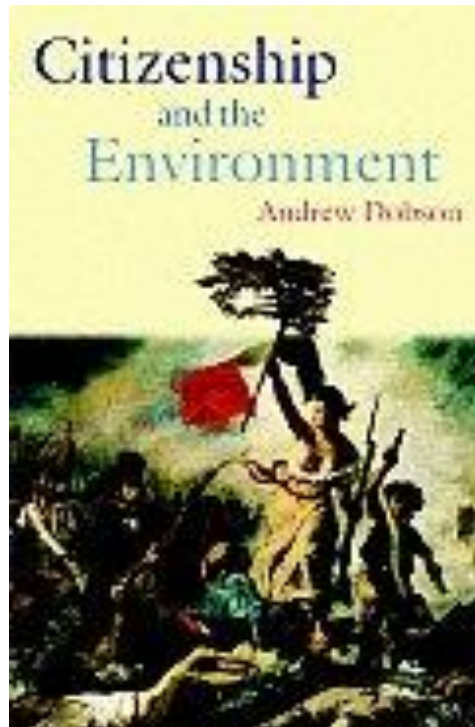Environmental Citizenship
Cost Action CA16229

1st European Joint Meeting, 28 Feb – 2 Mar 2018, Lemesos, Cyprus

Defining Environmental Citizenship
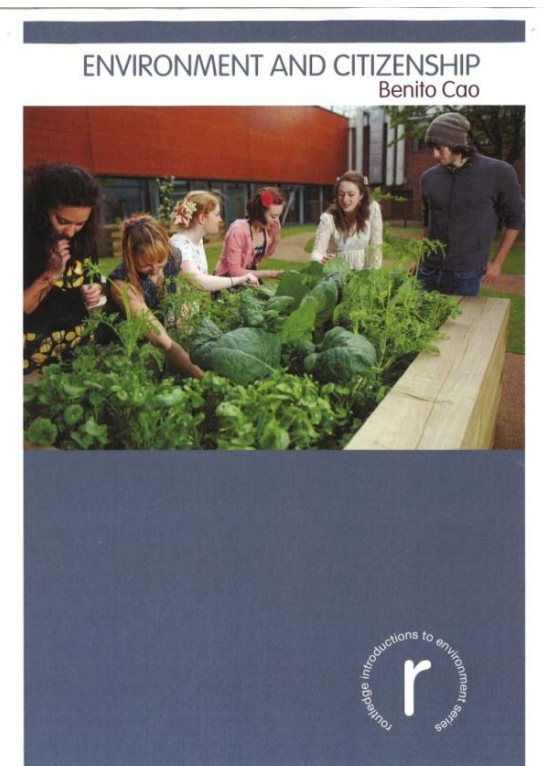
Dr Benito Cao

Senior Lecturer in Politics, The University of Adelaide (Australia)

environmental citizenship

environment and citizenship

- The Basics: Concepts and Histories

- Introducing Citizenship Theories

- Theorizing Environmental Citizenship

- Environmental Citizenship in Action

- Governing Environmental Citizenship

- Environmental Citizenship Incorporated

- Learning Environmental Citizenship

ENVIRONMENT AND CITIZENSHIP
Benito Cao

environment: the concept

☐ The roots of the term lie in the French word *environ*, meaning to surround, to envelop, to enclose. In this sense, environment is synonymous with surroundings. [environment: a relational concept]

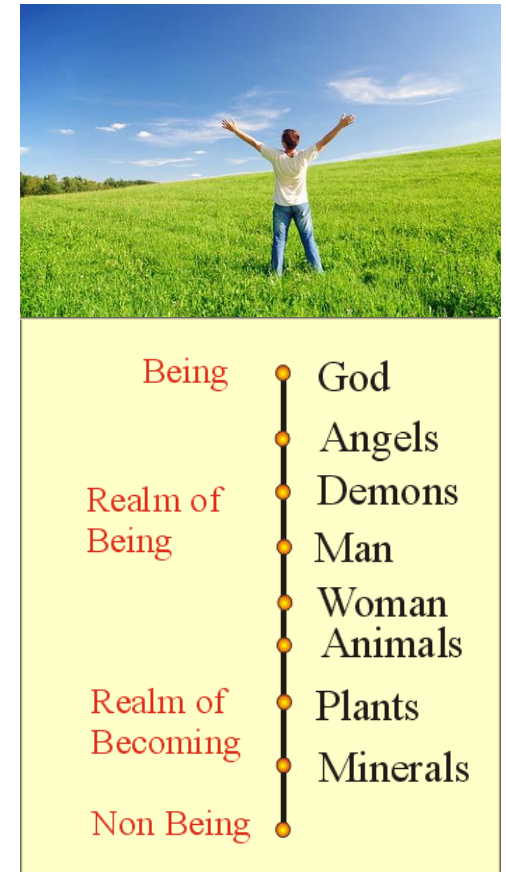☐ but typically: environment = nature = natural env.

humans and nature: two views

- **Anthropocentrism** describes the tendency for human beings to regard themselves as the central and most significant entities in the universe, or the assessment of reality through a human-centred perspective.
  - This is a major concept in the field of environmentalism, where it is often considered to be the root cause of problems created by human interaction with the environment.

- **Ecocentrism** is used in ecological political philosophy to denote a nature-centred, as opposed to human-centred (i.e. anthropocentric), system of values.

humans and nature: history

- [ ] the first humans: out of nature
- [ ] ancient philosophers: e.g. Aristotle
- [ ] ancient religions: e.g. <u>Christianity</u>
- [ ] romantic authors: e.g. Keats, Byron
- [ ] scientific revolution ... industrialism
- [ ] late 19th and early 20th century:
  Conservationism e.g. National Parks
  tension: environment vs development
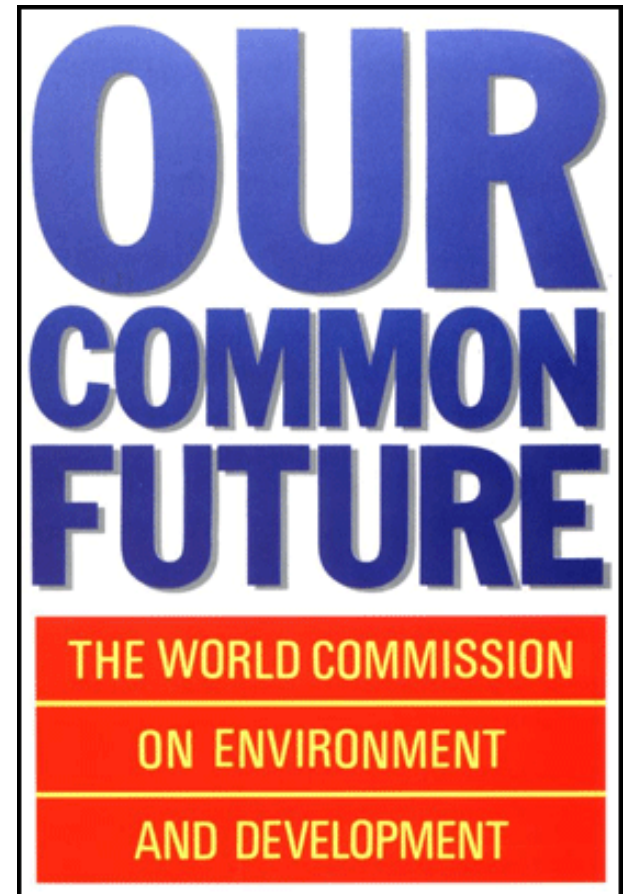- [ ] mid-20th century: environmentalism

ecological interdependence

- Blue Marble (1972)

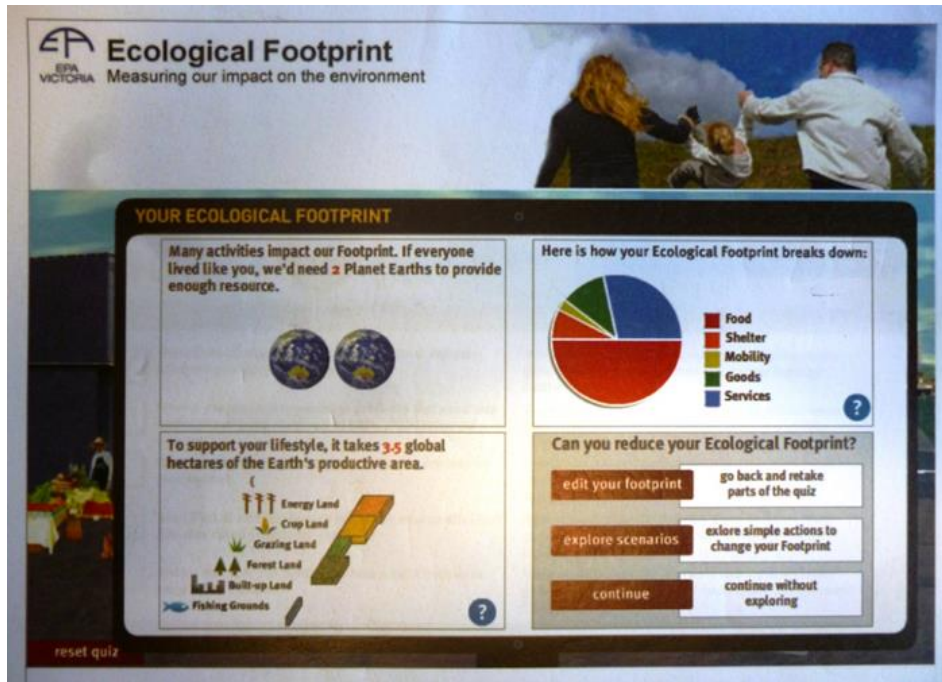"EVERYTHING IS ALIVE; EVERYTHING IS INTERCONNECTED."
– Cicero –

sustainable development

- The Brundtland Report (1987)

- sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- the concept implies that generations yet unborn have an entitlement to live in a undiminished natural environment.

  i.e. the rights of future citizens/humans
  i.e. the responsibility of present citizens
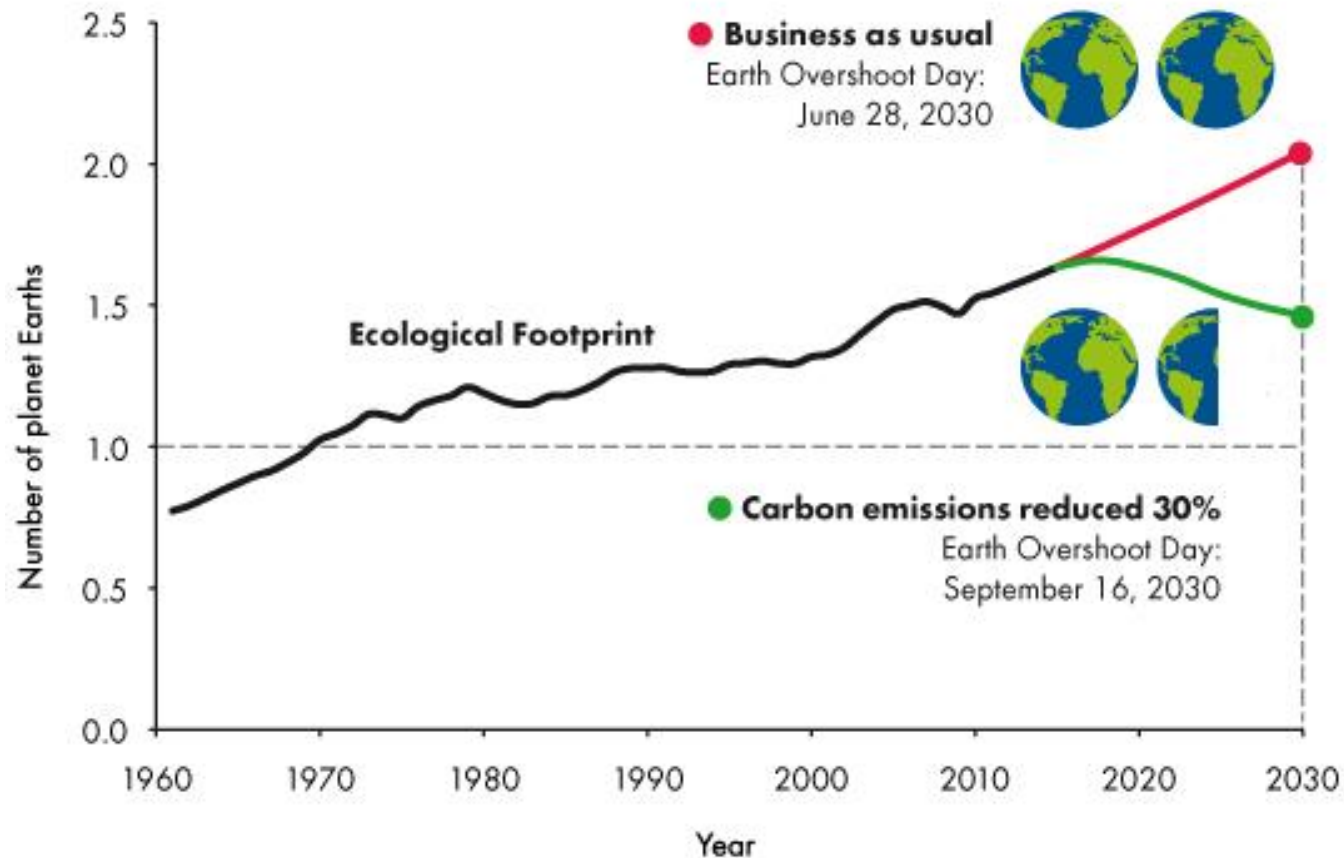
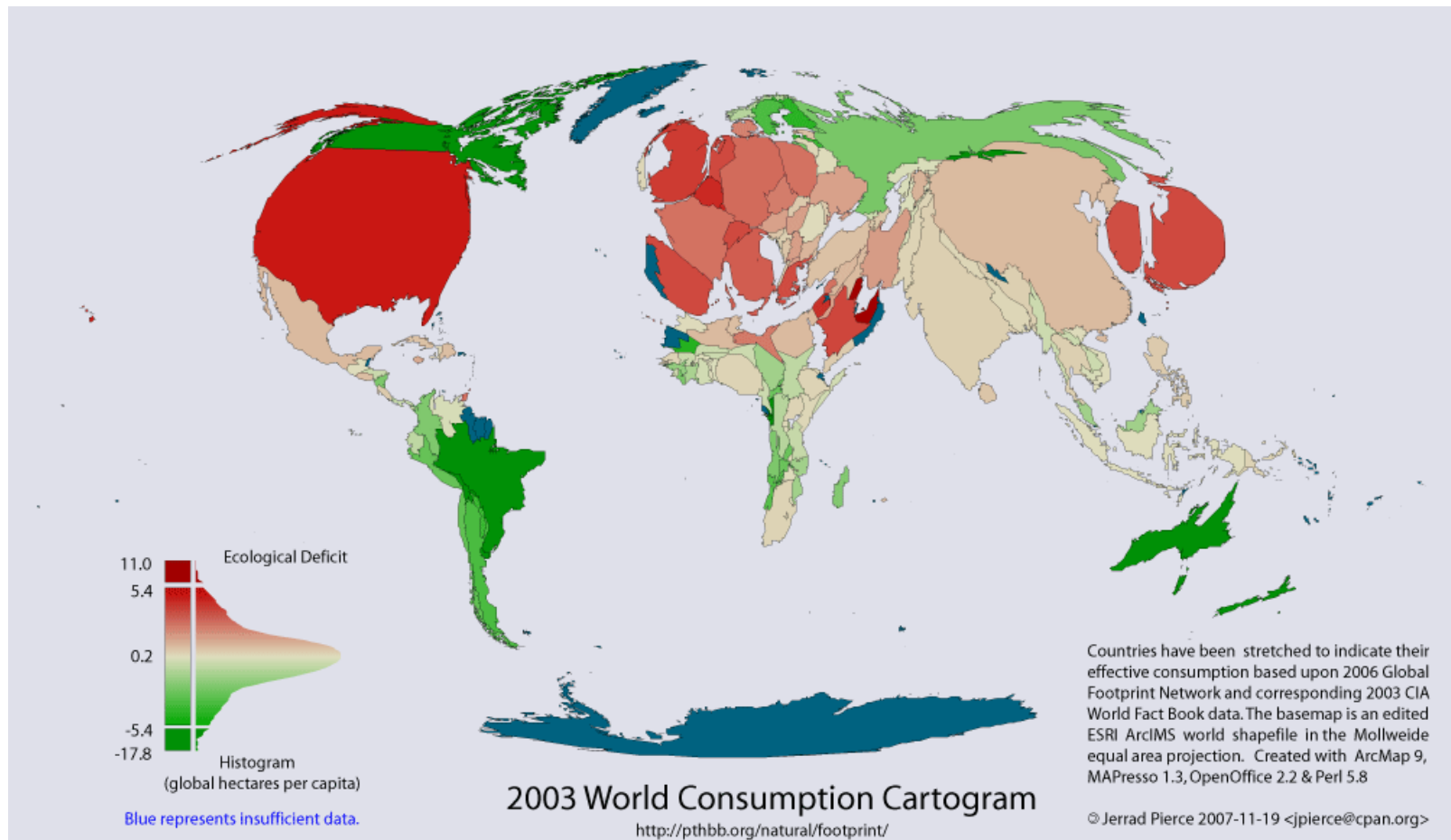- inequality: global North vs global South

sustainable consumption

ecological footprint: calculator

unsustainable consumption

How many Earths does it take to support humanity?

- **Business as usual** Earth Overshoot Day: June 28, 2030
- **Carbon emissions reduced 30%** Earth Overshoot Day: September 16, 2030

Ecological Footprint

Number of planet Earths — 2.5, 2.0, 1.5, 1.0, 0.5, 0.0

Year — 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2020, 2030

differentiated responsibility

2003 World Consumption Cartogram
http://pthbb.org/natural/footprint/

environmental citizenship
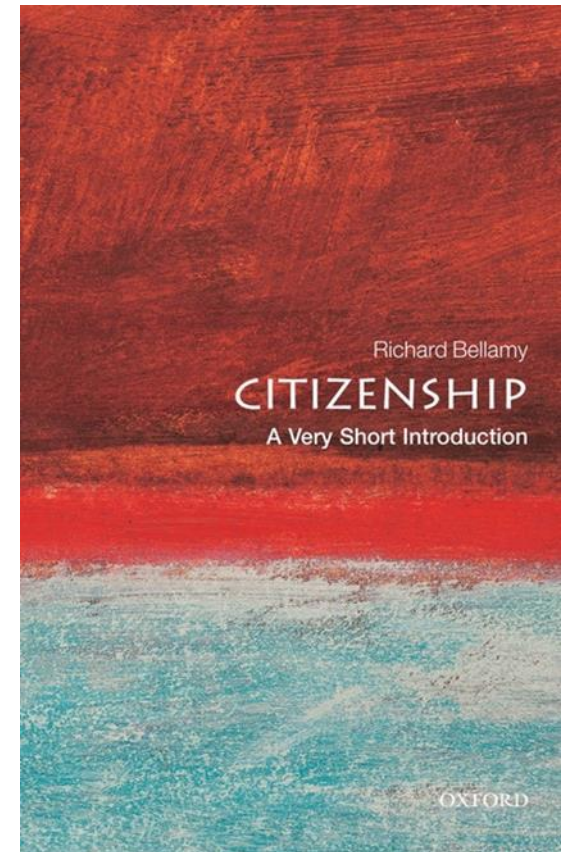
Van Steenbergern: Towards a Global Ecological Citizen"

Van Steenbergen (1994): ecological citizenship is concerned with the rights and responsibilities of the earth citizen. Ecological citizenship consists of a series of rights (e.g. clean air, clean water … 'right to life') and duties (e.g. not to pollute) which should be seen as sitting alongside T.H. Marshall's civil, political and social rights. [additional dimension]

environmental, ecological, sustainable, green, etc.

citizenship: the concept

- 'Citizenship is a notoriously polyvalent concept, with many meanings and applications'. (Joppke 2010: 1)

- citizenship: membership of a political community which comes with a series of rights and duties.
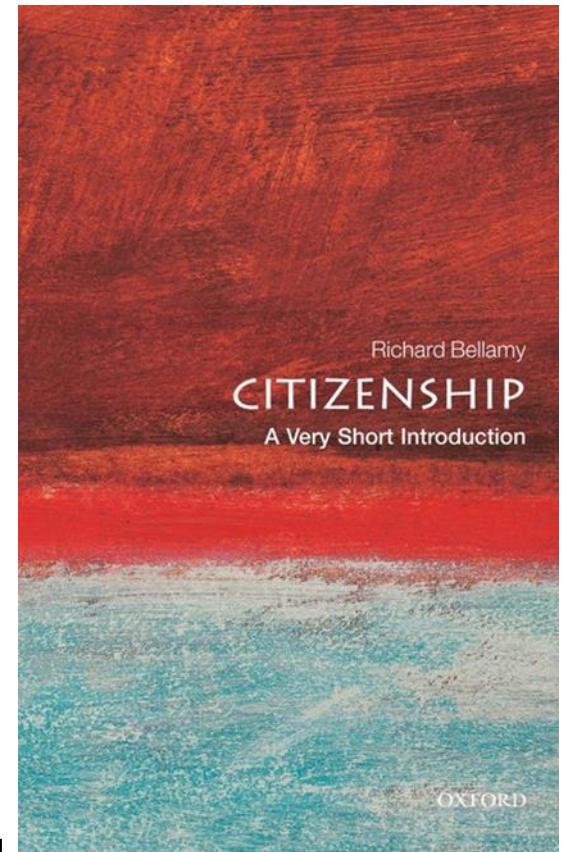
  citizenship has become synonymous with membership of a nation-state, but political communities have differed throughout history: city-state, empire, nation-state, cosmopolis …

Richard Bellamy

CITIZENSHIP
A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

citizenship: the elements

- who: **status**   [membership]
- what: **rights**   [protection]
  - civil (protection against the state: freedoms)
  - political (right to vote and hold public office)
  - social (protection against economic hardship)

- what: **duties**   [participation]
  - military service, social service, paying taxes
  - obeying the laws, voting (where compulsory)
  - serving on juries (in some countries)

- how: **education**
  - education for citizenship is not an optional extra, but an integral part of the concept (Heater 2004)

Richard Bellamy

CITIZENSHIP
A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

education for citizenship

- <u>Why Citizenship Matters</u> (6:17)
- Short film following Hamza, a student, exploring why citizenship matters in his daily life. [note: the environment matters]

- the topic: moral, social and cultural issues
- keywords: citizenship, responsibility, future, environmental concern, recycling, caring, consequences, volunteering, stereotype.
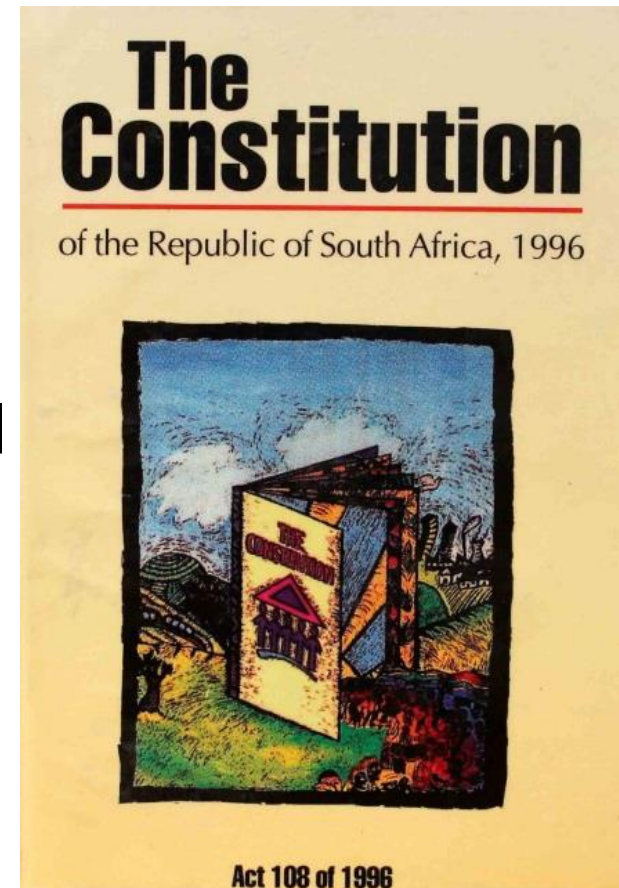- themes: recycling, bike-lanes, global poverty

membership: global village

- community: the planet
- membership: all humans

- Earth Hour/Earth Day

- future citizens/humans

- animals (all or only some)
- nature (the ecosystem)

rights: human rights

- to a healthy environment … health rights e.g. clean air, clean water … vs pollution example: the South African Constitution

- to a place where to live [climate refugees]

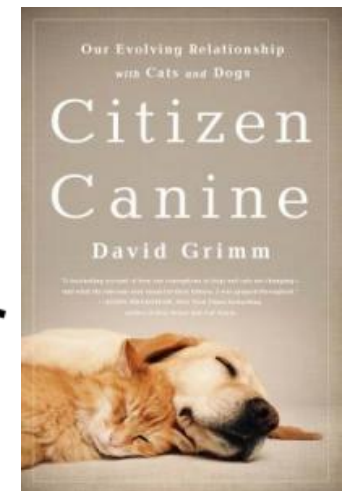# rights: animal rights

- The Great Ape Project (1993)

  Declaration of the Rights of Great Apes.

  - Right to life
  - Protection of individual liberty
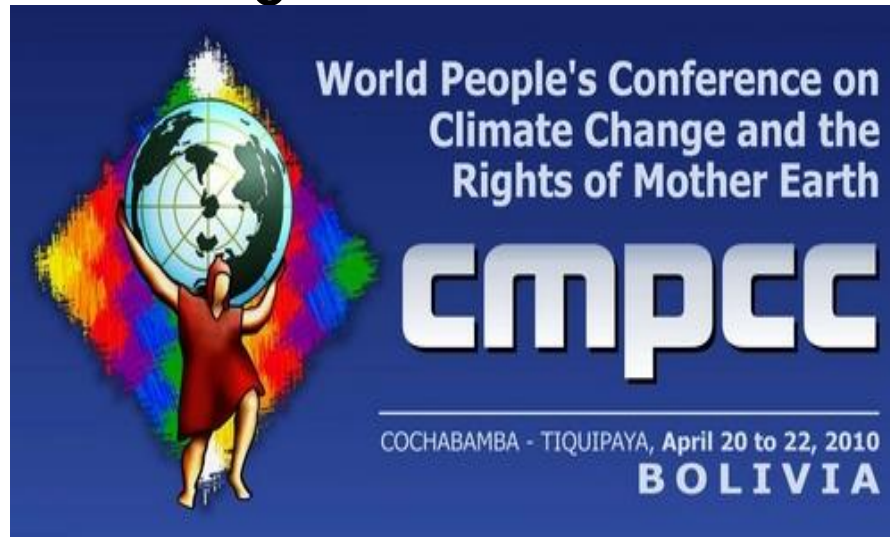 - Prohibition of torture

- Paul Watson: Sea Shepherd

  - animals feel/suffer pain

    … against animal cruelty

  - the crew and passengers:

    survival depends on crew
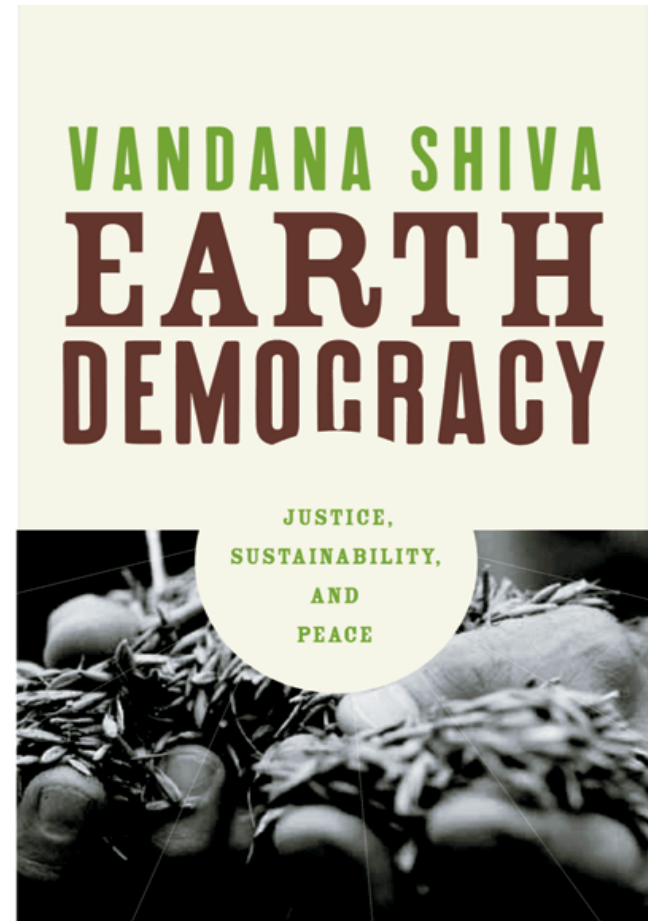
rights: nature's rights

- Chipko, Ecuador, Bolivia ...
- The Rights of Mother Earth

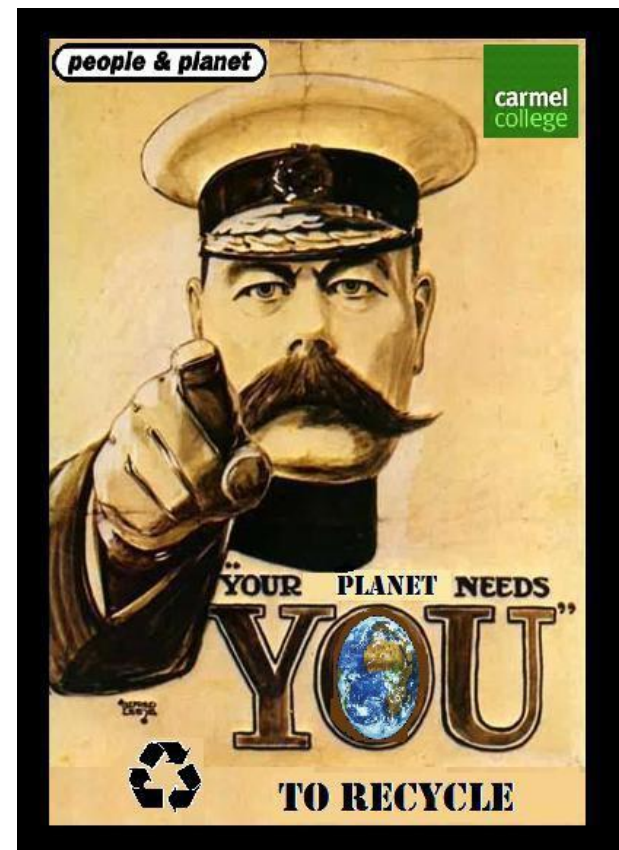World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth
cmpcc
COCHABAMBA - TIQUIPAYA, **April 20 to 22, 2010**
BOLIVIA

- leave things on the ground
- ABC: What if trees could sue?

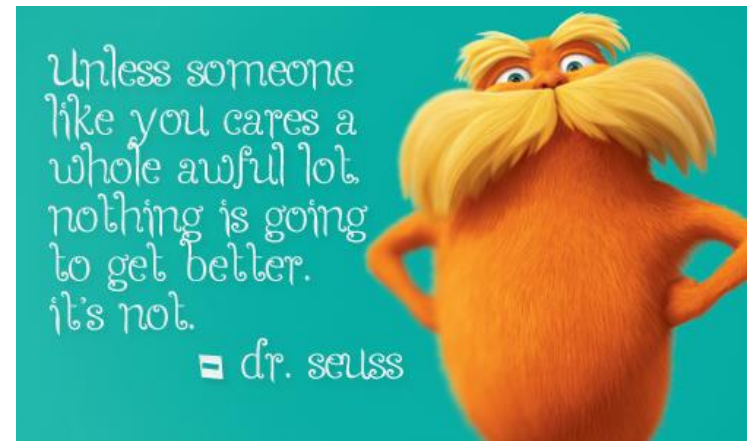VANDANA SHIVA
EARTH DEMOCRACY
JUSTICE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND PEACE

duties: human duties

- duties towards nature
- duties towards others
- e.g. mindful consumption

  [sustainable consumption]

- the danger of tyranny:

  eco-authoritarianism
  green police (video link)
- sustainability with justice

  [sustainable development]

whose duties (debate)

- citizens/humans … present; some more than others e.g. differentiated responsibility
- corporations (as citizens); CSR/CorpEnvICiti … but:
  - property rights
  - voluntary duties
  - duties outsourced
- states/govs: governmentality: i.e. governing through citizens; individualized responsibility.

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. it's not.
— dr. seuss

YOU CONTROL CLIMATE CHANGE.

TURN DOWN. SWITCH OFF. RECYCLE. WALK. CHANGE
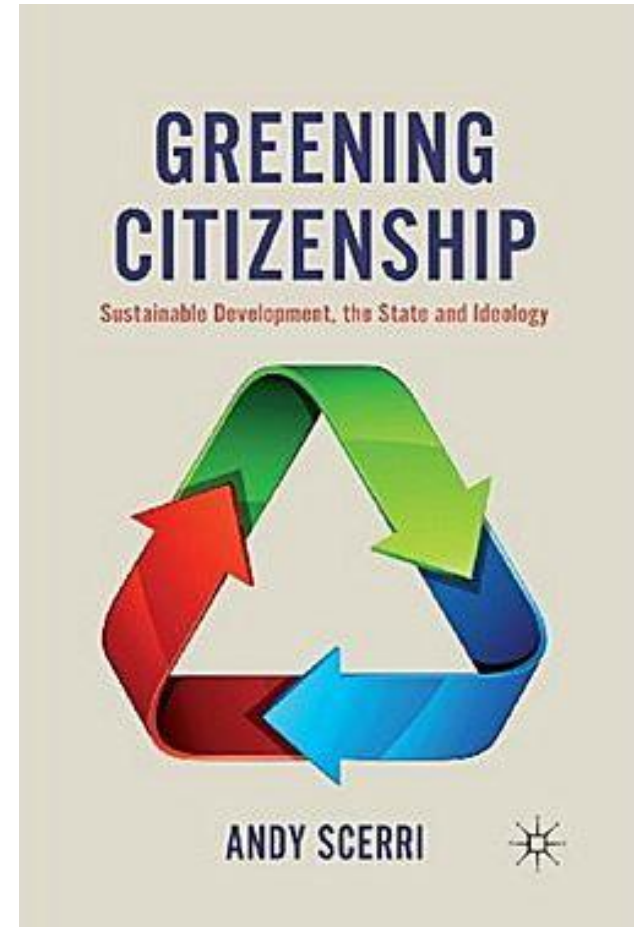
green(ing) citizenship: r+d+m

1. impact on rights:

- additional rights: clear air, potable water, etc.
- extension of rights beyond present citizens
  - future generations: the right to a healthy planet
- extension of rights beyond citizens/humans
  - animals, nature: not to suffer, biodiversity
- emphasis on property rights, driven by corps.

2. impact on duties:

- additional duties: green duties e.g. recycling
- voluntary and individualised responsibilities

3. impact on membership:

- additional members: future humans, animals

GREENING CITIZENSHIP

Sustainable Development, the State and Ideology

ANDY SCERRI

defining environmental citizenship

Environmental Citizenship is defined as the responsible pro-environmental behaviour of citizens who act and participate in society as **agents of change** in the **private** and **public sphere**, on a **local, national** and **global scale,** through **individual** and **collective actions,** in the direction of **solving** contemporary **environmental problems, preventing** the creation of new environmental problems, **achieving sustainability** as well as **developing a healthy relationship with nature.** *Environmental Citizenship* includes the **exercise of environmental rights and duties,** as well as the identification of the underlying **structural causes** of environmental degradation and environmental problems, the development of the **willingness** and the **competences** for **critical** and **active engagement** and **civic participation** to address those structural causes, acting individually and collectively within democratic means, and taking into account **inter- and intra-generational justice.**

(**European Network for Environmental Citizenship**, **2018**)

Thank you!