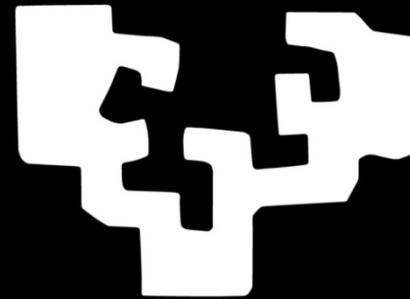


**bc<sup>3</sup>**

BASQUE CENTRE  
FOR CLIMATE CHANGE  
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eman ta zabal zazu



## THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE



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## THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE. The Basis

When considering the processes of global warming, in particular, and climate change, in general, there are two major aspects relating to **the rural world and agricultural activity** that have left the greatest mark on this type of landscape:

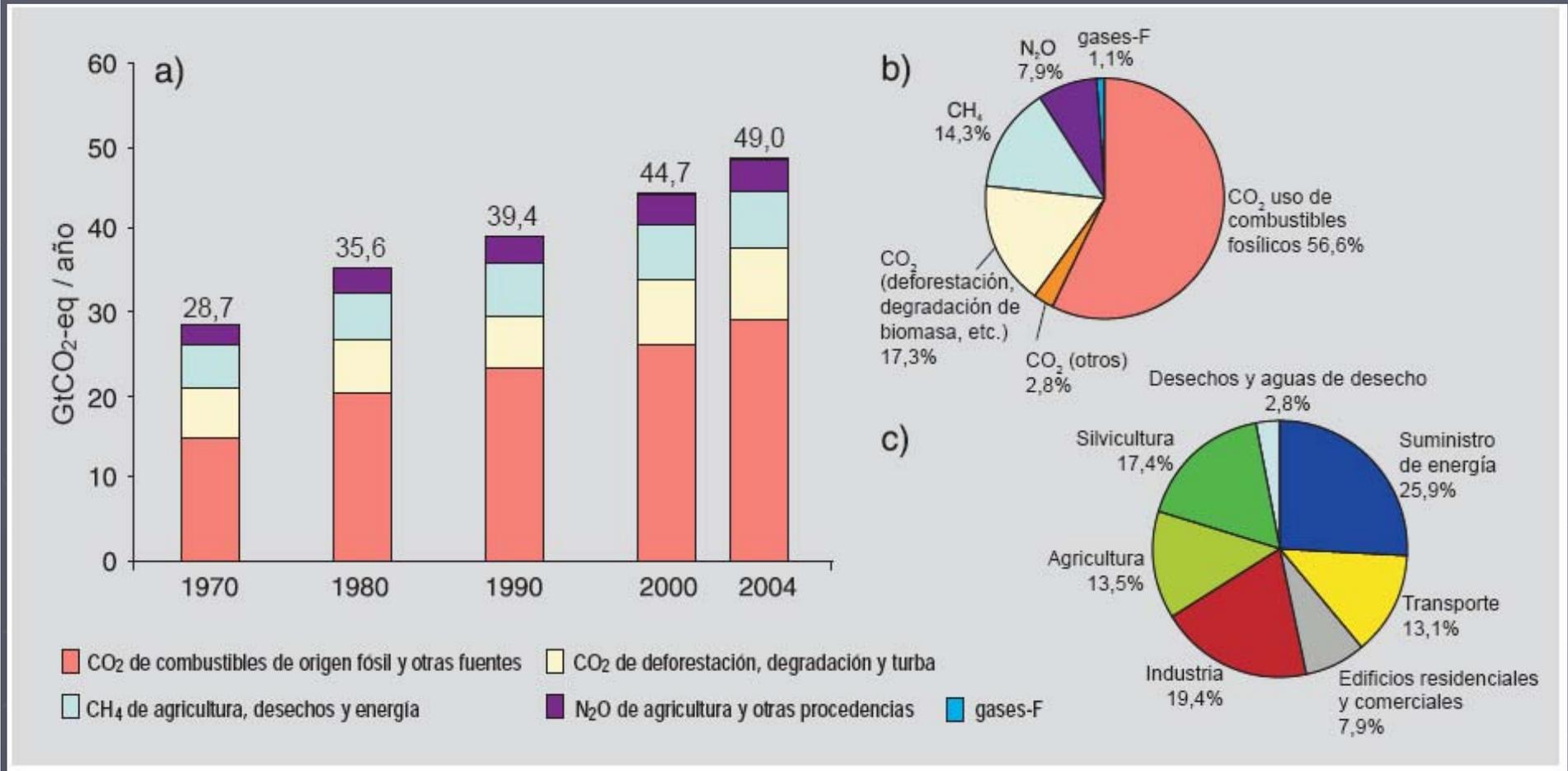
one would be that of the **generator** or **collaborator** that is needed in the said change: the substantial transformation of the landscape and albedo, emission of gases with a range of effects, CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, etc., alteration of natural carbon transforming processes, etc.

the other, the “**sufferer**” or **receiver** -also necessary-, of the effects that climate change is causing: changes in average and extreme temperature conditions, changes in the rainfall in certain climates and sectors, ice retreat or increase, outbreaks of new pests, and crops and livestock diseases, etc.

**Humans are the key factor** in all the changes taking place on the Earth; they are emerging as the only species which, to date, is not only able to bring about far-reaching changes in the system but which can also **bring about its own extinction**.

**Gaia Theory:** The planet as a living organism made up of other smaller parts. Darwinian ecology “crass error”

# THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE. The Basis



Source: IPCC, 2007.

# THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE Opportunities

## THE NEED TO CHANGE THE PARADIGM

To assign **value** to **staple goods**. The upside-down world; it is products that feed us and provide us with the greatest amount of goods and services which are the least rated in money terms.

Why do we say “yes” to **energy sufficiency** and “no” to **nutritional sufficiency**? Good and bad globalisation. The principle of localness and the closing of cycles (... production, purchase, consumption, waste, production...)

**Spatial and Landscape Planning** is an extremely powerful tool for correcting trends and changing the paradigm.

**The CAP, the tool for exerting global influence** in farming and climate change policies. **From production to the agricultural world, the guarantor of environmental quality.**

**The need to internalise externalities.** Let us incorporate the actual cost and the impact of transport into staple products.

**Social and economic equity.** First World versus Third world. Pizarro and the Indians. Now that we are developed, you're not allowed to pollute. Townies versus country folk.

# THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE Challenges and obstacles

## NEED FOR IDEOLOGICAL CHANGE

Any revolution (agricultural, technological, environmental, spatial, economic, cultural, political, etc.) has been preceded by an ideological, ethical, philosophical revolution.

The **prevailing neoliberalism must be overcome** to give way to the socialisation of policies, goods and services. Should anyone be able to hold exclusive rights over the Earth?

**The change has to be from quantity to quality, from distance to localness, and from low cost to fairness.**

If this change **does not take place** vertically **from top to bottom**, in other words, from the ruling castes and elites (the big economic and political lobbies) towards the more modest strata, **it will have to be undertaken from individuals and extend up to these elites**, and basically start with the most powerful and widespread tool: **consumption.**

Ideologically and culturally, Basque Country society is not, in fact, that far away from these issues. A base is already in place!

**The sector itself must shift from quantity to quality, from chemical to organic means, from linearity to the closing of cycles, from intensive to extensive systems.**

## THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE Challenges and obstacles

Yet who wants to work in the primary sector? Who wants to live (and not just sleep) in the rural world?

Will townies be prepared to **pay a little more** for responsible, sustainable products?

**Are townies prepared to pay a little more through their taxes for the work to maintain the landscapes?**

To what extent is Basque Country society prepared to **guarantee a sustainable rural landscape** that is also functional (not for exhibition purposes)? French example.

And the inhabitant of the rural world and the worker in the primary sector... Is he/she prepared to **change his/her production habits** towards more labour-intensive but more sustainable techniques?

Will he/she be prepared to undertake new tasks? What the French refer to as **landscape gardener**.

**Can all this really lead to a point of sustainability that will entail less use of fossil fuels, the reduction of emissions and waste, greater social fairness, etc.?**

## THE RURAL LANDSCAPE, A FUTURE OPPORTUNITY FACING AN UNCERTAIN REALITY: CLIMATE CHANGE Proposals

On a large scale, **to adapt the CAP** properly so that in theory it would have to be a sustainable primary sector (respect for the environment, social equity and cost-effectiveness).

On a regional, county and local scale, to **develop** “genuine” **policies for rural land and the agricultural sector** (Spatial Planning Guidelines, Spatial Plan of the Agroforestry Sector, Partial Spatial Plans, General Urban Planning Schemes, Listed Landscapes, etc. )

**In all these policies, social participation is non negotiable, especially that of the players involved**

A **great social commitment** is needed between townies and country folk, production and environmental respect, income and social development, etc.

**Initiatives that are working successfully** already exist; certification of organic products, local markets, local co-operativism, consumer cooperatives, direct agreements between producers and consumers, etc.

Yet the possibilities need to be expanded: **Spatial Stewardship and environmental contracts.**

**Academia has maximum responsibility here. We also have to do our homework. Clear explanations, monitoring and criticism of the system and policies, application of our research, social responsibility, etc.**

Mila esker!

Thank you very much!

Gracias.

