

Global Environmental Problems

International Environmental Politics

- Environmental policy is about what government does and does not do to address environmental problems
- Environmental politics is the clash of values & interests that occurs in the course of formulating and implementing policy
- What does this suggest about international environmental politics and policy?

“Third Generation” Issues

- Global in Scale
- Long-term in Scope
- Significant Scientific Uncertainty
- Large Economic Stakes
- Complex Institutional Management

Global Environmental Problems

- Climate Change
- Ozone Depletion
- Biodiversity Loss
- Ocean Exhaustion

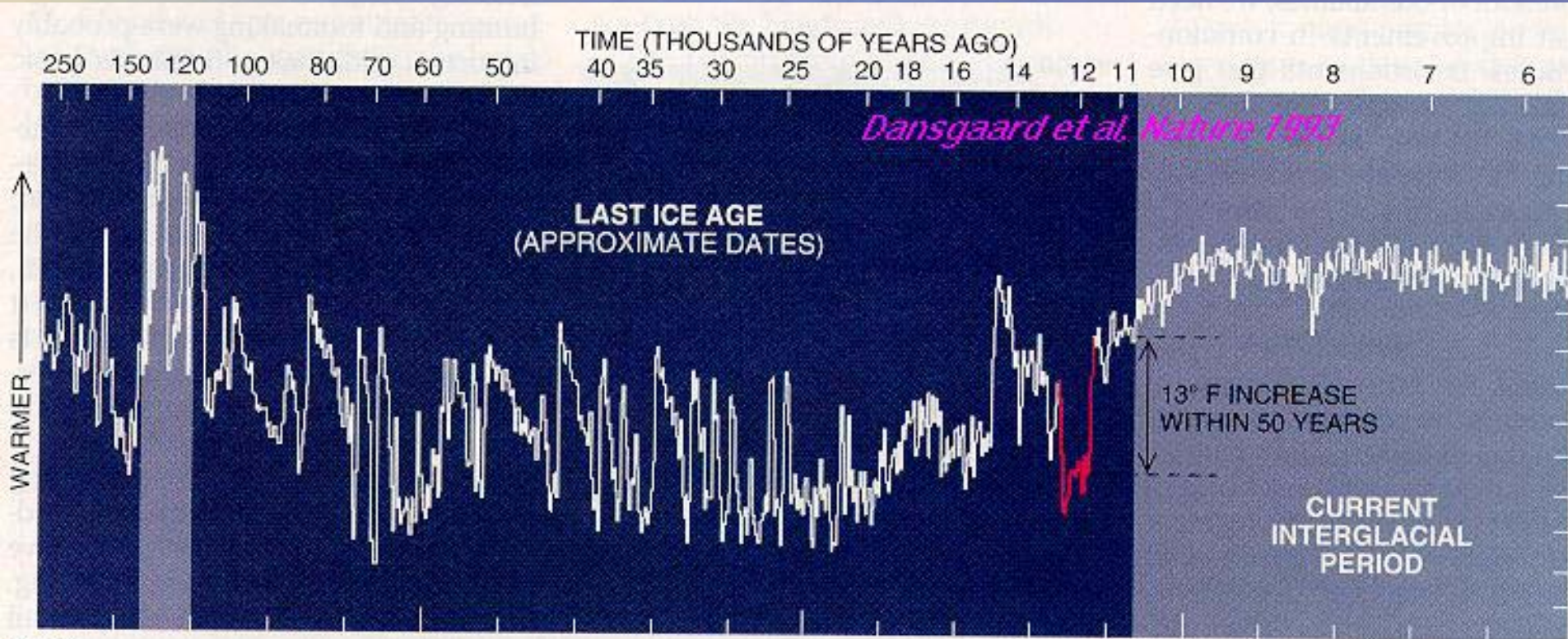
WHY NOT IMPOSE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS?

- Sovereignty
- No Supra-National Authority
 - U.N.
 - World Court

Ozone, CFCs, and Montreal

- Why was it possible to construct an international regime to respond to Ozone Depletion
 - Immediate scope and tangibility of the problem
 - Small set of CFC producers
 - Industry interested in product change
 - Relatively Low Cost to Industry
 - No net economic impact on states
 - Developed-Developing states rift healed by funding

Global Climate Fluctuations



Kyoto Treaty

- Treaty Text
- GHG Emissions Reductions
 - 1990 target year
 - Industrial Countries = 5% reduction from 1990 emissions levels by 2012
 - US = 7%
 - European Union = 8%
 - Japan = 6%
 - Emissions trading allowed
 - Industrializing Countries = voluntary reductions

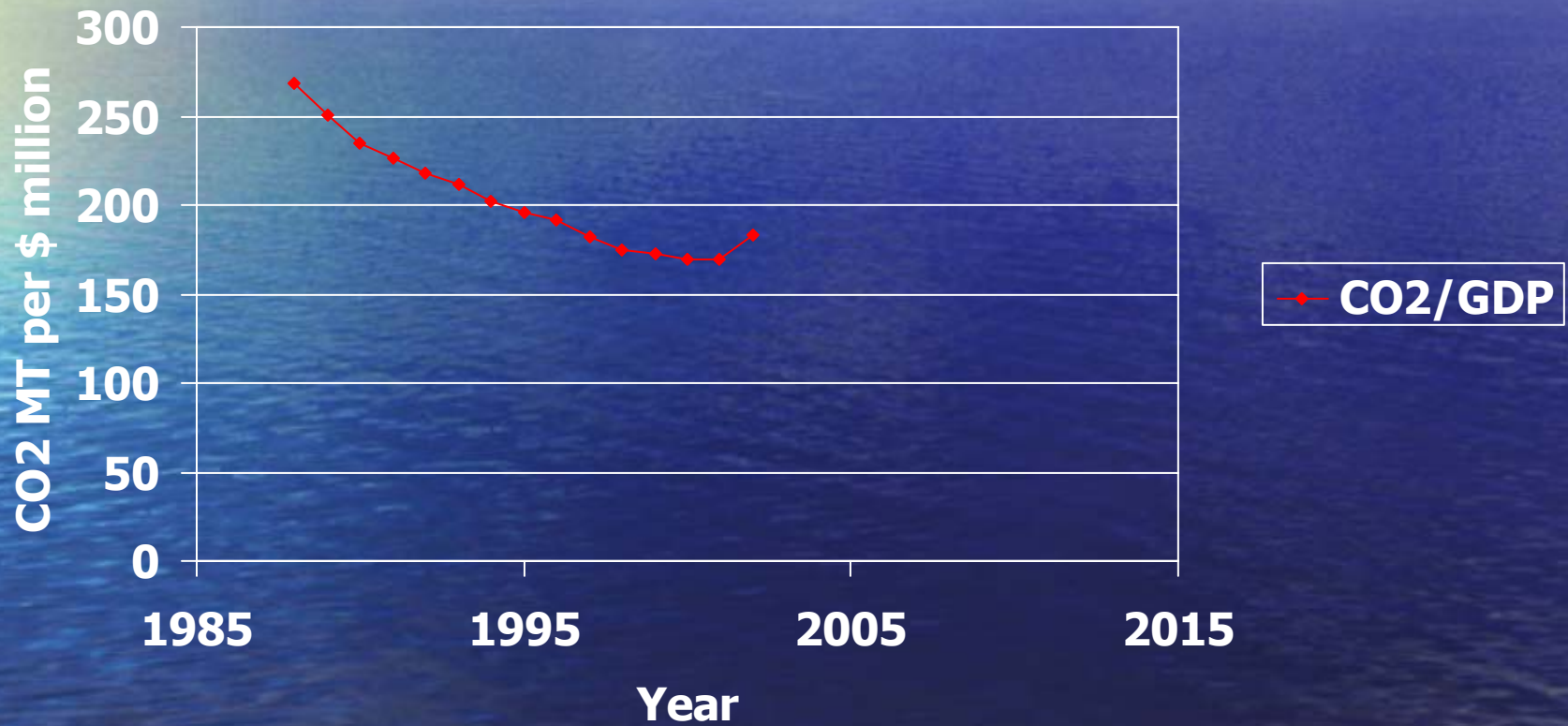
US GHG “Problem”

- 90% of US GHG emissions = fossil fuel combustion
- US reduction strategy must involve
 - Energy efficiency/conservation
 - Removing subsidies from fossil fuel extraction/production
 - (~ \$100 billion/year)
 - Develop alternative energy sources

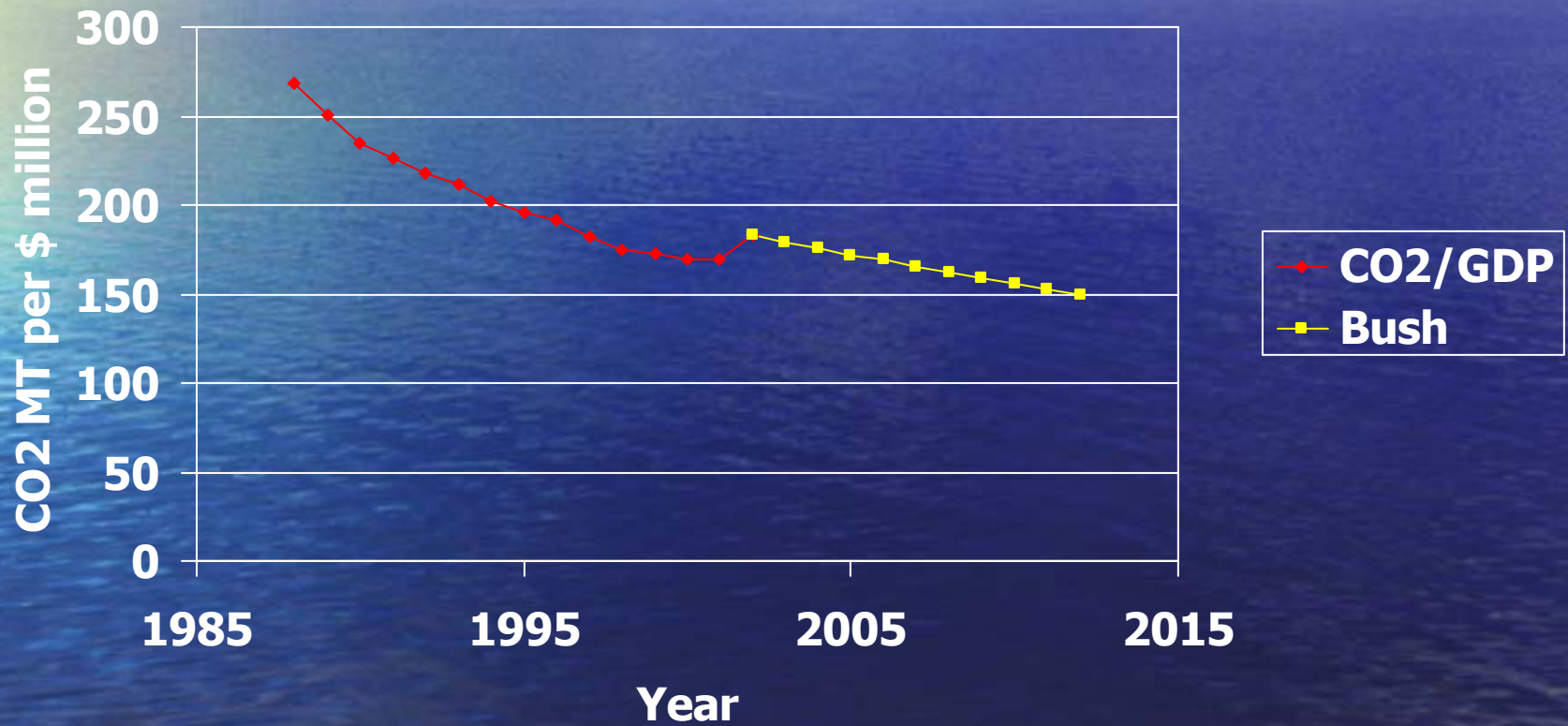
Policy Problem

- Convincing the government there is a problem
- Devising an effective course of action
- Getting other governments to do likewise

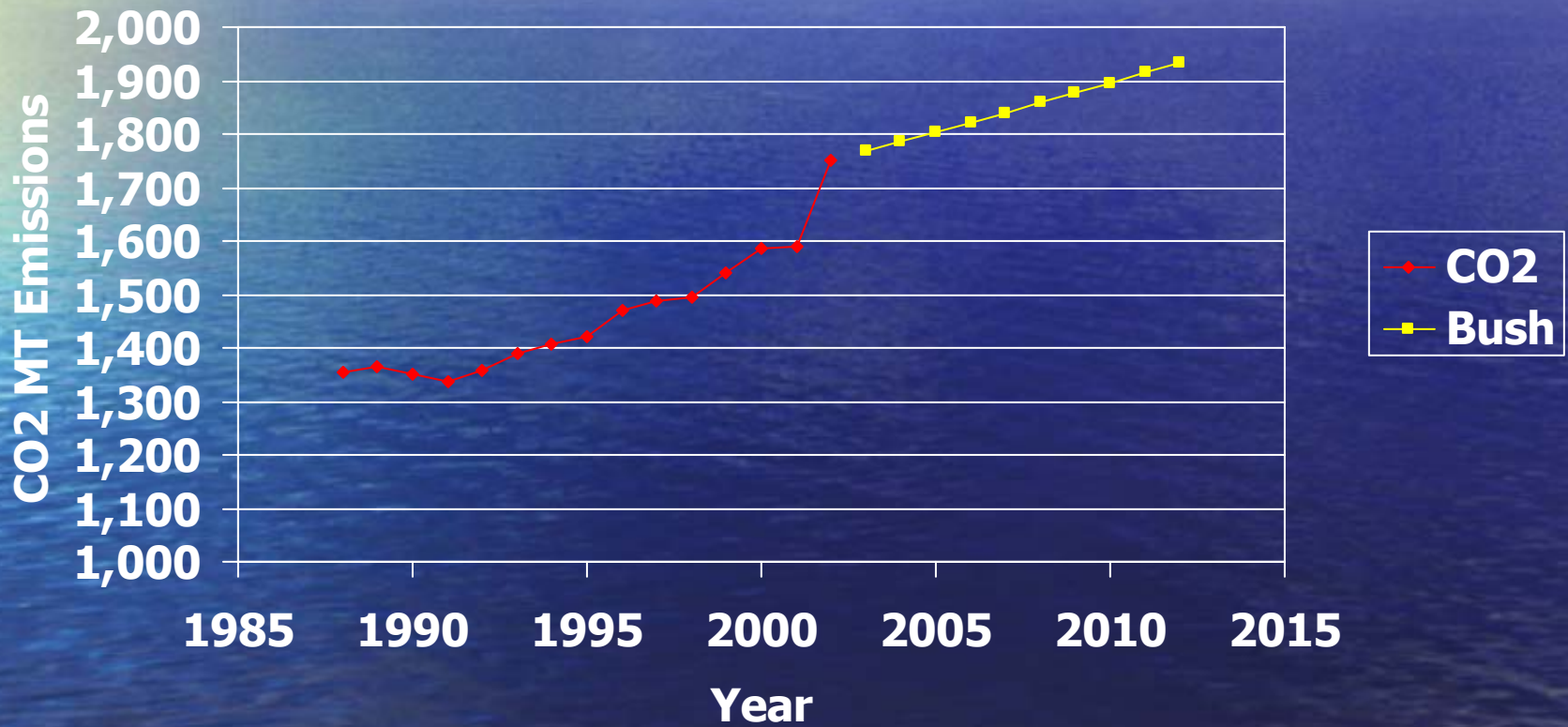
Bush CO2 Plan



Bush CO2 Plan



Bush CO2 Plan



Biodiversity Loss

- Continental-Scale Ecosystem Destruction
 - Human Population Growth
 - Economic Development
 - Mining, forestry, agriculture
 - Ebola virus killing off African primates
- Climate Change

Biodiversity Loss

- Consumptive Use
- Bio-Homogenization
 - Economic Globalization
 - Alien Invasions
 - Fungus decimating amphibian populations
 - West Nile Virus decimating bird populations
 - Plus dozens of other species
 - Sudden Oak Death Syndrome
 - Woolly Adelgid

Ocean Exhaustion

- Consumption
 - Collapsing Fish Populations
 - “collateral damage”
 - Leatherback turtles
- Pollution
 - Eutrophication
 - Dying Coral reefs
 - Toxins, Viruses, Bacteria
 - Sea otter decline
- Habitat destruction
 - Bottom trawling
 - Coastal wetlands