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Has the Time (Finally!) Arrived to Talk About Sustainable Lifestyles?

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Has the Time (Finally!) Arrived to Talk About Sustainable Lifestyles?

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New Jersey Institute of Technology
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Presentation at the Princeton American Chemical Society (PACS) event in recognition of the 52nd International Earth Day

Maurie J. Cohen

- Received a PhD in Regional Science from the University of Pennsylvania
- Started my academic career as an Assistant Professor at the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University
- Ove Arup Research Fellow at the Oxford Center for Environment, Ethics, and Society, Mansfield College, Oxford University
- Graduate Program in Environmental Policy Studies at the New Jersey Institute of Technology
- Founding Editor of the journal *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy*
- Co-founder of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative (SCORAI)
- Co-founder of the Future Earth Knowledge-Action Network on Systems of Sustainable Consumption and Production

"All the News
That's Fit to Print"

The New York Times

LATE CITY EDITION

Weather: Cloudy, rain likely today and tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. Temp. range: today 64-80; Wed. 67-46. Full U.S. report on Page 73.

VOL. CXIX... No. 40,997

© 1970 The New York Times Company.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1970

10 CENTS

**PRICES CLIMB 0.4%
BUT RATE OF RISE
APPEARS TO SLOW**

Gain in the Consumer Index for March Lags Behind the 4 Previous Months

INCREASE IS STEEP HERE

Medical Care and Mortgage Interest Are the Major Elements in Changes

By EDWIN L. DALE Jr.
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 22—Consumer prices rose strongly again in March but there were signs that the pace of inflation was slowing, the Labor Department reported today.

After adjustment of the data to reflect normal seasonal changes, the Consumer Price Index rose four-tenths of 1 percent in March, less than the five-tenths rise in February and the six-tenths rate of the three months before that.

What is more, one-quarter of the entire March increase in the index was accounted for by a somewhat artificial recording of an increase in Veterans Administration mortgage interest rates. The ceiling on these rates was recently raised by

Millions Join Earth Day Observances Across the Nation



Thongs jamming Fifth Avenue yesterday in response to a call for the regeneration of a polluted environment. View is north from 43d Street, with Central Park in background. The New York Times (by Patrick A. Burns)

**CAMBODIAN CRISIS
GROWS AS TROOPS
SEEM TO FALTER**

With Reds Near, Pnompenh Is Gloomy Over Limited Response to Aid Pleas

CIVIL AVIATION CURBED

Aide Declines to State How Long Army Can Hold Out With the Arms It Has

By HENRY KAMM
Special to The New York Times

PNOMPENH, Cambodia, April 22—An atmosphere of heightening national emergency is overtaking Cambodia.

It is due to evidence that the Cambodian Army is unable to turn back the Vietnamese Communist forces, which at one point are within 15 miles of the capital, and to the limited response to Premier Lon Nol's appeal to all nations for arms aid.

The military authorities closed the Pnompenh airport this evening to all civilian traffic. According to military sources, it is to remain closed until tomorrow in connection with an important military operation. The operation is presumably intended to dislodge the North Vietnamese and Vietnamese forces from the

**U.S. CONCERN SUED
WITH 9 IN JAPAN**

**Mood Is Joyful
as City Gives**

**Activity Ranges
From Oratory**

**BACKERS OF ROJAS
THREATEN REVOLT**

**U.S. Plane Flies In Arms
As Trinidad Fights Mutiny**

NJIT

New Jersey's Science & Technology University

THE EDGE IN KNOWLEDGE

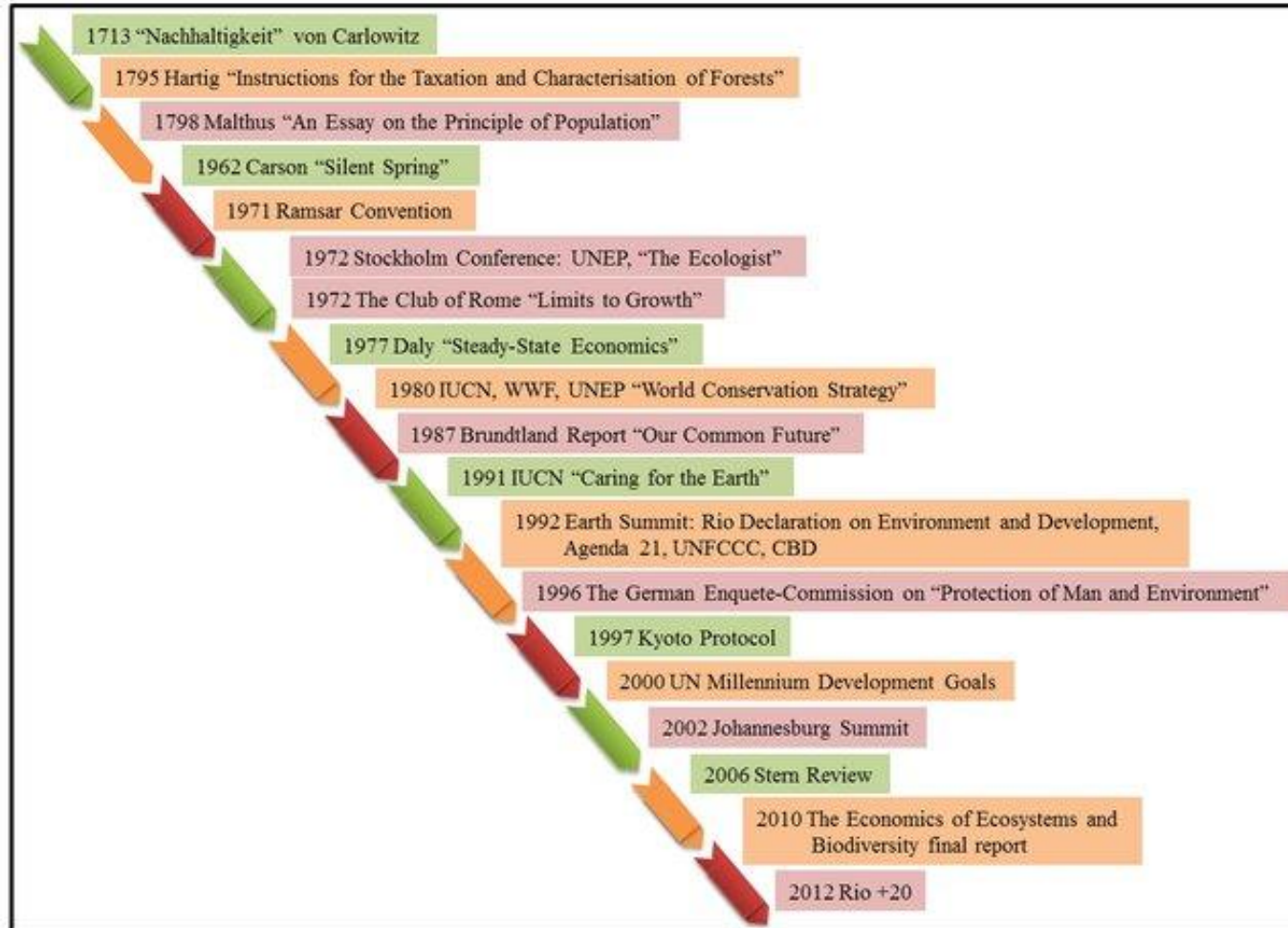


NJIT

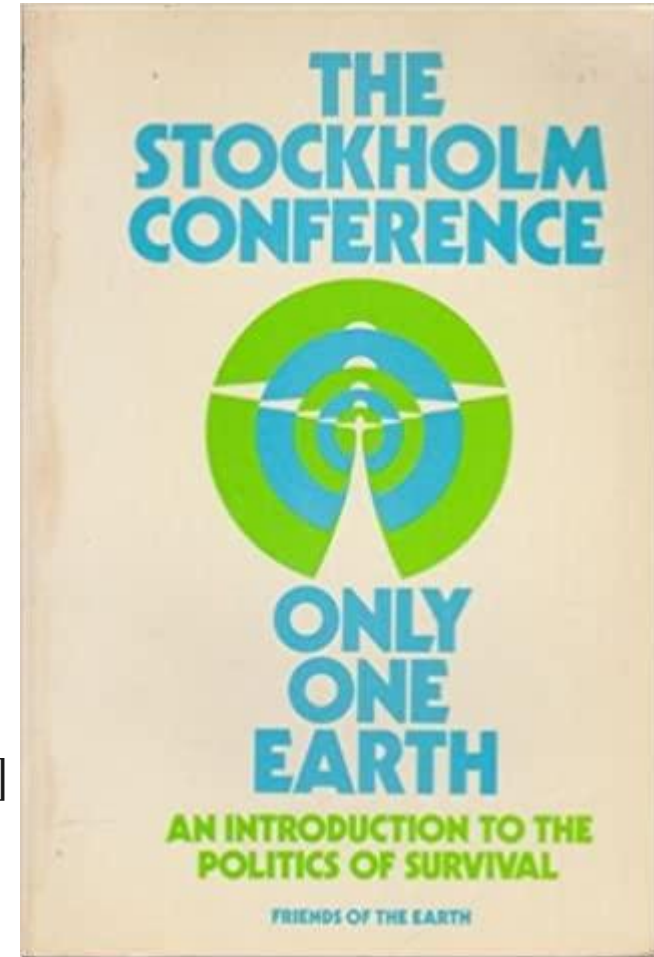
New Jersey's Science & Technology University

THE EDGE IN KNOWLEDGE

Key Events in the History of Sustainability/Sustainable Development

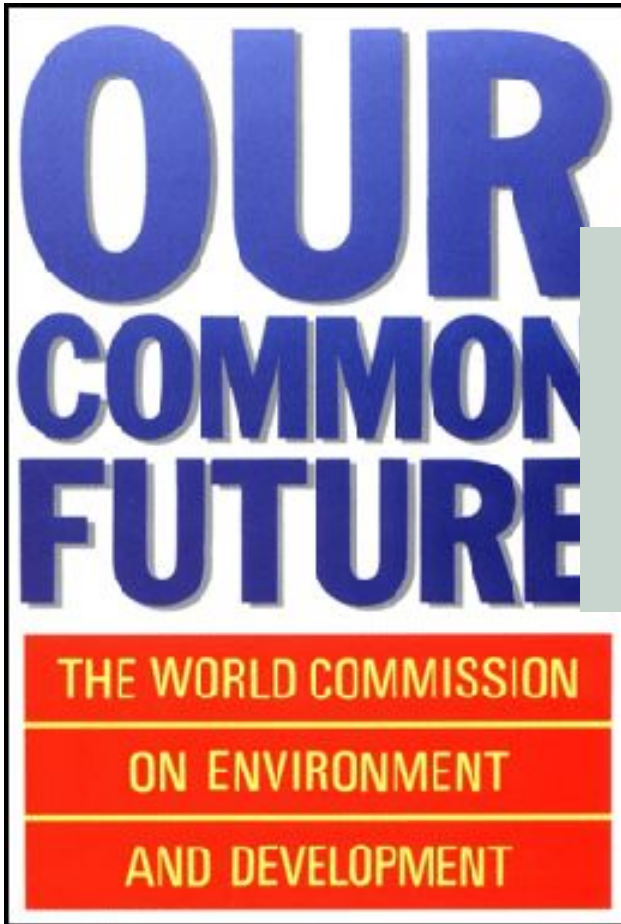


United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (1972)



Principle 1 (of 26) of Stockholm Declaration: “Man [sic] has the fundamental right to freedom, equality and adequate conditions of life, in an environment of a quality that permits a life of dignity and well-being.”

World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission) (1987)



“Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”



Principle 1 (of 27) of Rio Declaration on Environment and Development: “Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.”



RIO+20
United Nations
Conference on
Sustainable
Development

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • June 2012

the
future
we
want →

www.uncsd2012.org

The RIO+20 logo features a stylized globe with a green leaf and a red human figure. The text "RIO+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development" is in red and blue. Below it, "Rio de Janeiro, Brazil • June 2012" is in blue. The slogan "the future we want" is in white on a blue background with a white arrow. The website "www.uncsd2012.org" and the UN logo are at the bottom.

2-3 JUNE 2022

STOCKHOLM +

A HEALTHY PLANET FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ALL
- OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY

The Stockholm+50 logo features a large blue "50" with a plus sign, and a circular emblem containing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The text "2-3 JUNE 2022" is above the "50", and "A HEALTHY PLANET FOR THE PROSPERITY OF ALL - OUR RESPONSIBILITY, OUR OPPORTUNITY" is below it.

Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

01-12 NOV 2021
GLASGOW

COP26

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY



COP 27

SHARMEH-SHEIKH

7-18 NOVEMBER 2022



Sufficiently Discouraged?



Really?



EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

TO CHANGE EVERYTHING, WE NEED EVERYONE



CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE: EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

Smart, green, and sustainable cities:
identifying individual role and taking responsibility
Climate change and its consequences for ecosystems and society

09.06.2021

18:00

Free Entrance
Open Buffet

Ul. Chmielna 26/22
00-020 Warsaw

Registration: spotkanie@dialoginstytut.pl

**CLIMATE CHANGE:
WHOSE
RESPONSIBILITY IS
IT ANYWAY?!**

Global Consumer Society



G20

G8

G7



Canada



France



Germany



Italy



Japan



United Kingdom



United States of America



Russia



Argentina



Australia



Brazil



China



European Union



India



Indonesia



Mexico



Saudi Arabia



South Africa



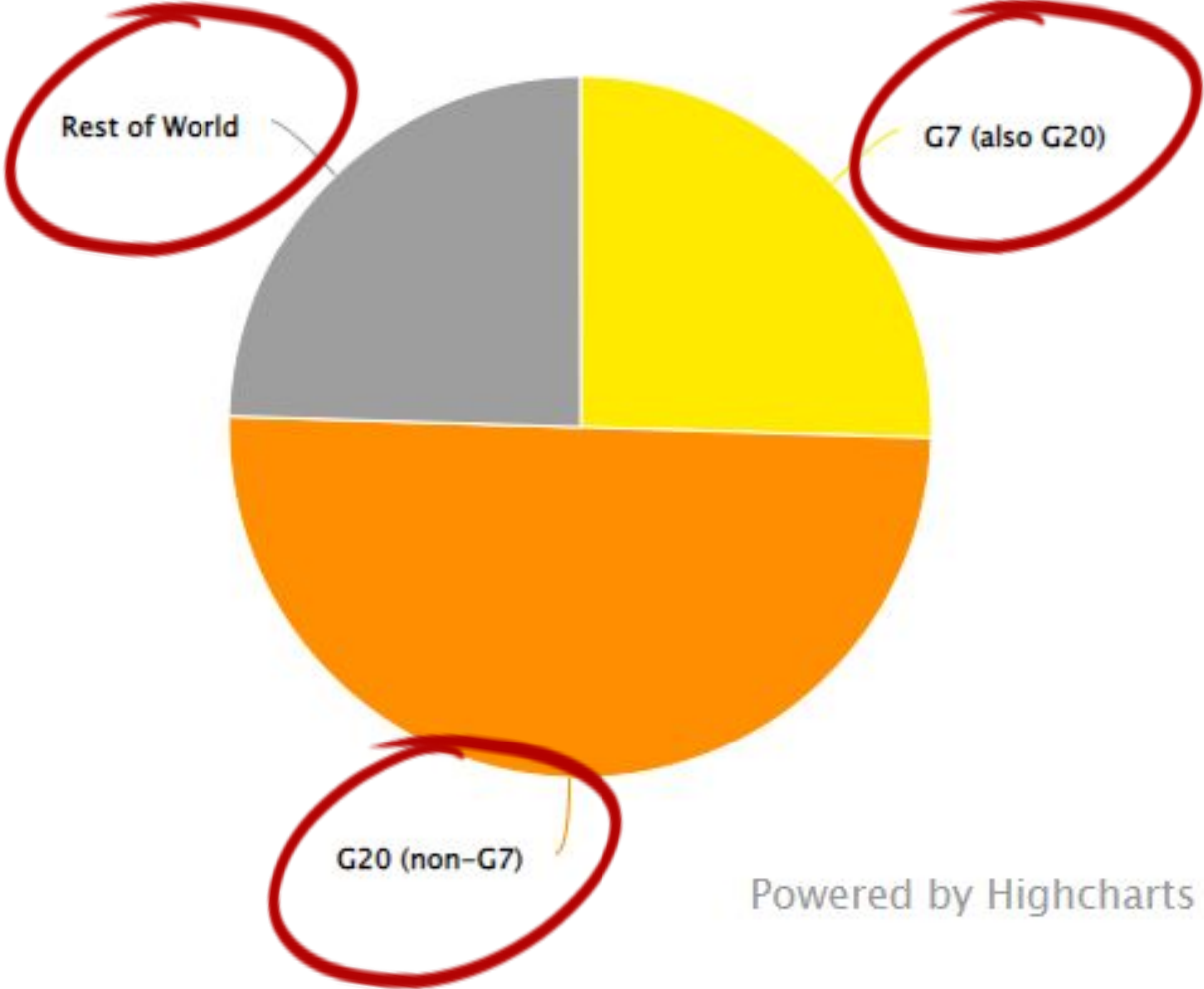
South Korea



Turkey

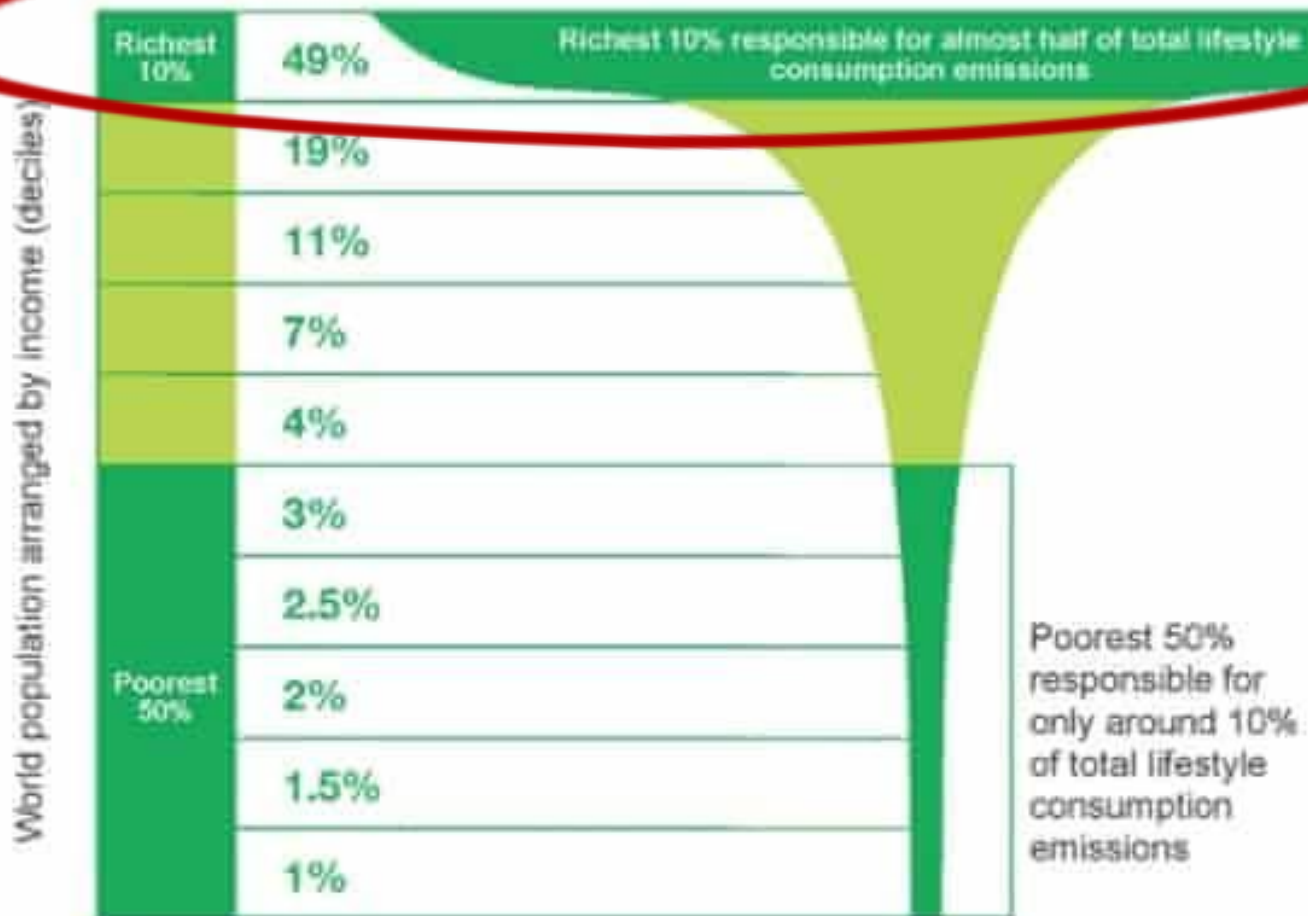
Source: Global Business Insights

2016 CO2 Emissions



Powered by Highcharts Cloud

Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



Source: Oxfam

Latest Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

The New York Times

Stopping Climate Change Is Doable, but Time Is Short, U.N. Panel Warns

A major new scientific report offers a road map for how countries can limit global warming, but warns that the margin for error is vanishingly small.

 Give this article    734



A new United Nations report warned that if countries do not move away much faster from fossil fuels, the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius would likely be out of reach by the end of the decade.

Hussein Faleh/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images



By Brad Plumer and Raymond Zhong

April 4, 2022

ipcc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

Climate Change 2022

Mitigation of Climate Change



WG

Working Group III contribution to the
Sixth Assessment Report of the
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change



**WORKING GROUP III CONTRIBUTION
TO THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6)**

“The acceptability of collective social change over a longer term towards **less resource intensive lifestyles, however, depends on the social mandate for change. This mandate can be built through public participation, discussion and debate, to produce recommendations that inform policymaking.”**

“The **lifestyle consumption emissions of the middle income and poorest citizens in emerging economies are between 5-50 times below their counterparts in high income countries.”**

“Changes in behaviour and lifestyles** are important to move beyond mitigation as incremental change, and when supporting shifts to more sustainable development pathways will broaden the scope of mitigation.”**

“Socio-cultural and lifestyle changes** can accelerate climate change mitigation.”**

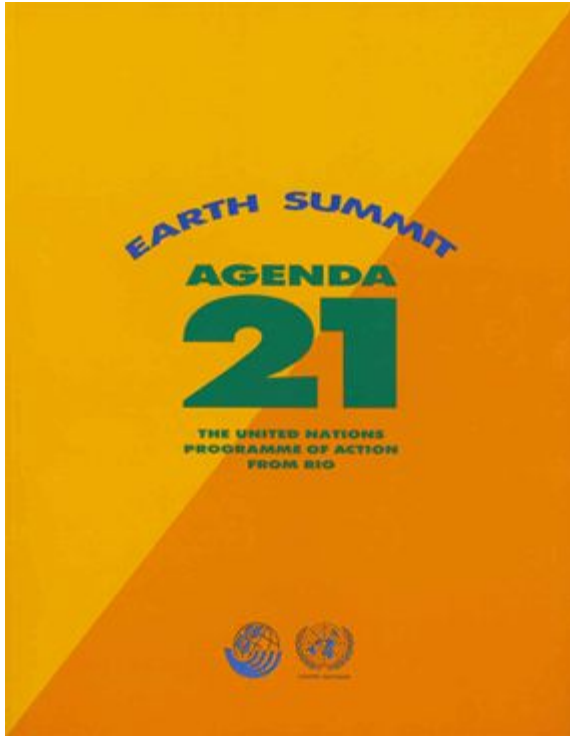


THE GOAL HAS TO BE SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES

Sustainable living means understanding how our lifestyle choices impact the world around us and finding ways for everyone to live better and lighter. [It involves] applying a “people lens” to sustainability.

–United Nations Environment Programme





Agenda 21 on Sustainable Production and Consumption

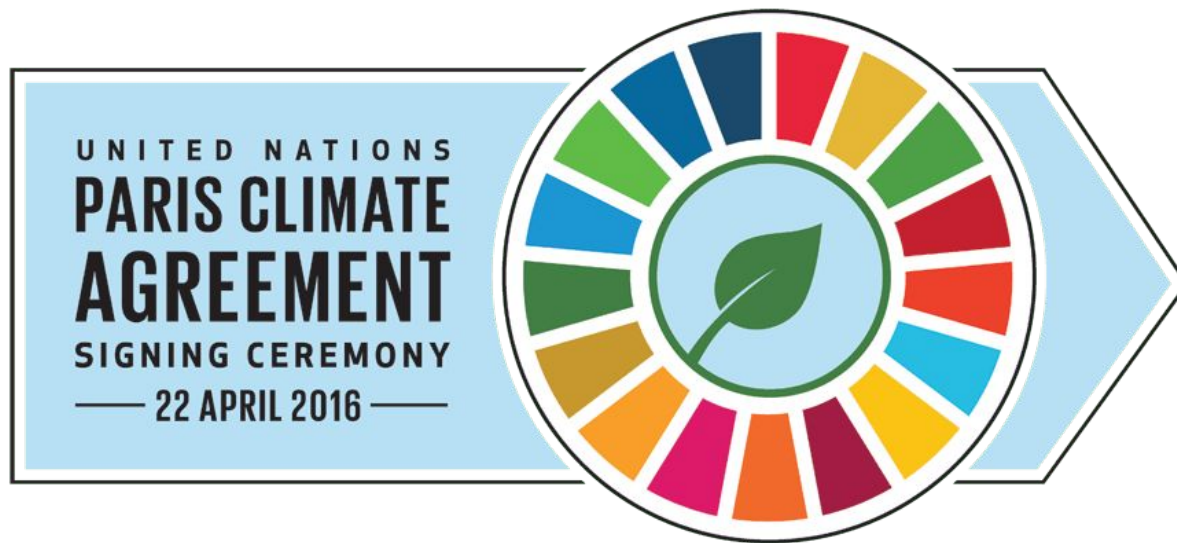
Accordingly, Chapter 4 of Agenda 21 states that action is needed to meet the following broad objectives:

- ✦ To promote patterns of consumption and production that reduce environmental stress and will meet the basic needs of humanity;
- ✦ To develop a better understanding of the role of consumption and how to bring about more sustainable consumption patterns.



“Poverty and environmental degradation are closely interrelated. While poverty results in certain kinds of environmental stress, the major cause of the continued deterioration of the global environment is the unsustainable pattern of consumption and production, particularly in industrialized countries, which is a matter of grave concern, aggravating poverty and imbalances.”

Chapter 4, Agenda 21 (1992)



“Also recognizing that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production, with developed country Parties taking the lead, play an important role in addressing climate change.”

Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Are We on the Verge of a New Mode of Thinking?



Are We Reaching a Tipping Point?

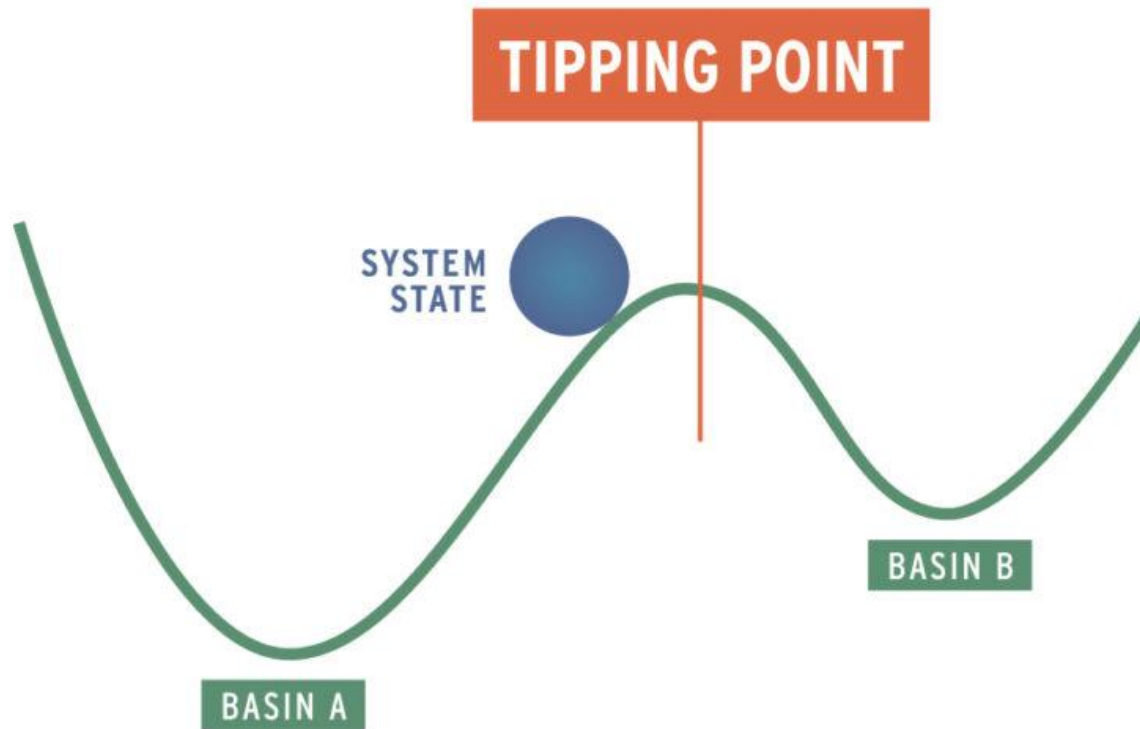
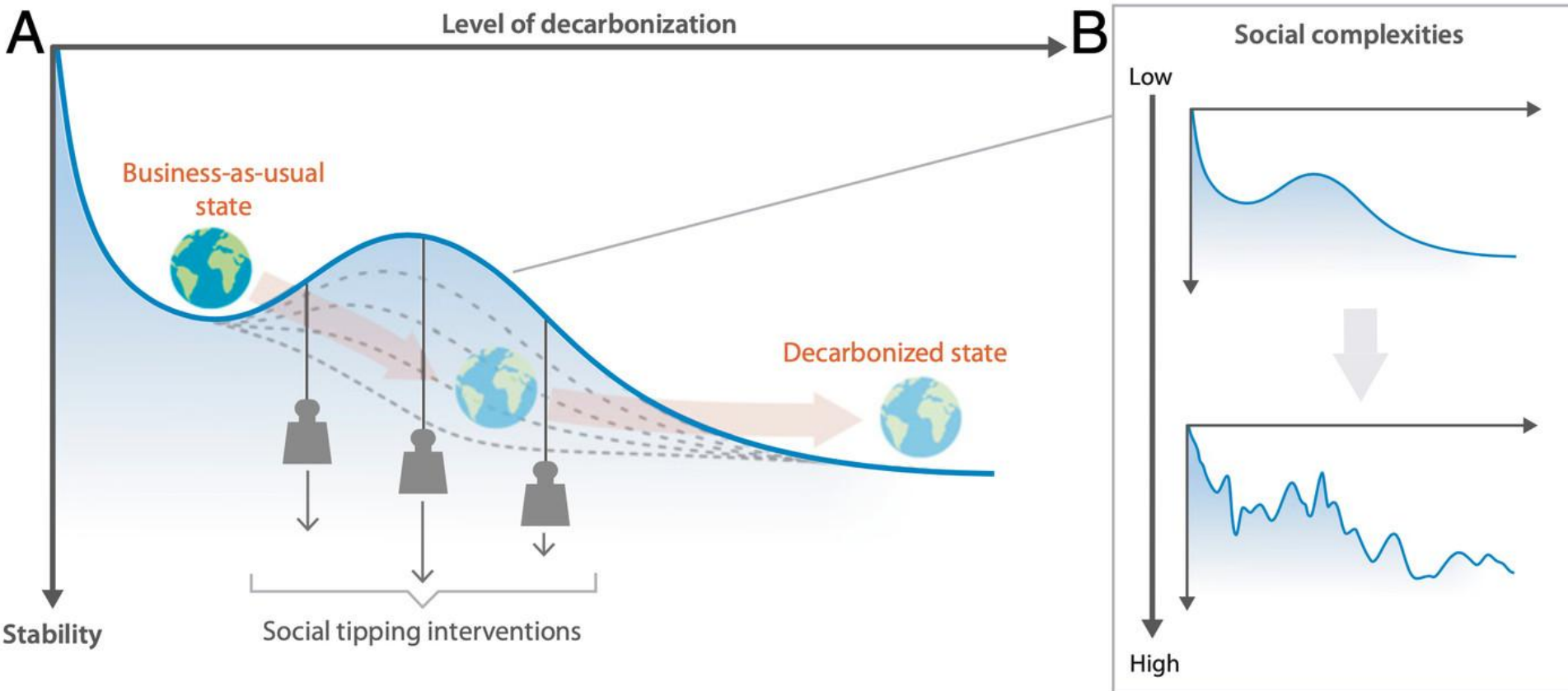


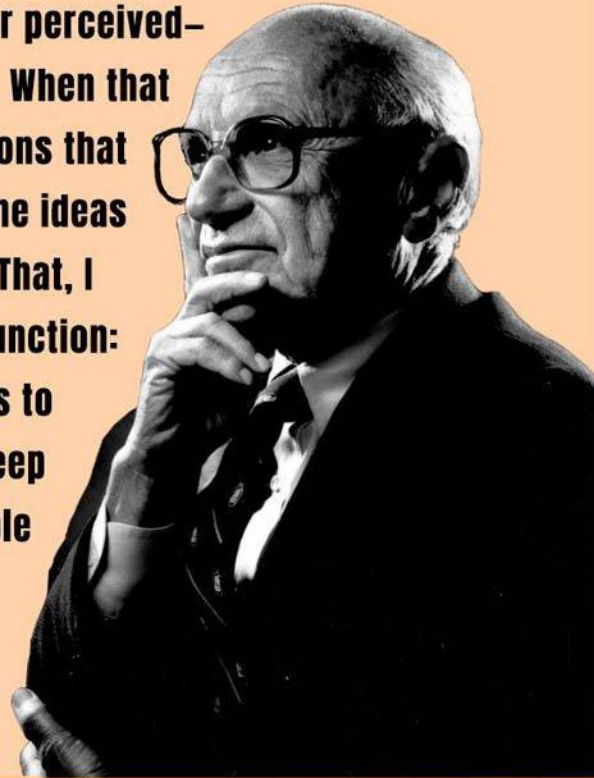
Illustration by Andrew Bernier, adapted from Walker, B. & Salt, D. (2006) Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World. Island Press: Washington, DC.

Is Increasing Vulnerability to Systemic Risks Increasing the Likelihood of Shift in System State?



“

Only a crisis –actual or perceived– produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around. That, I believe, is our basic function: to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes politically inevitable.

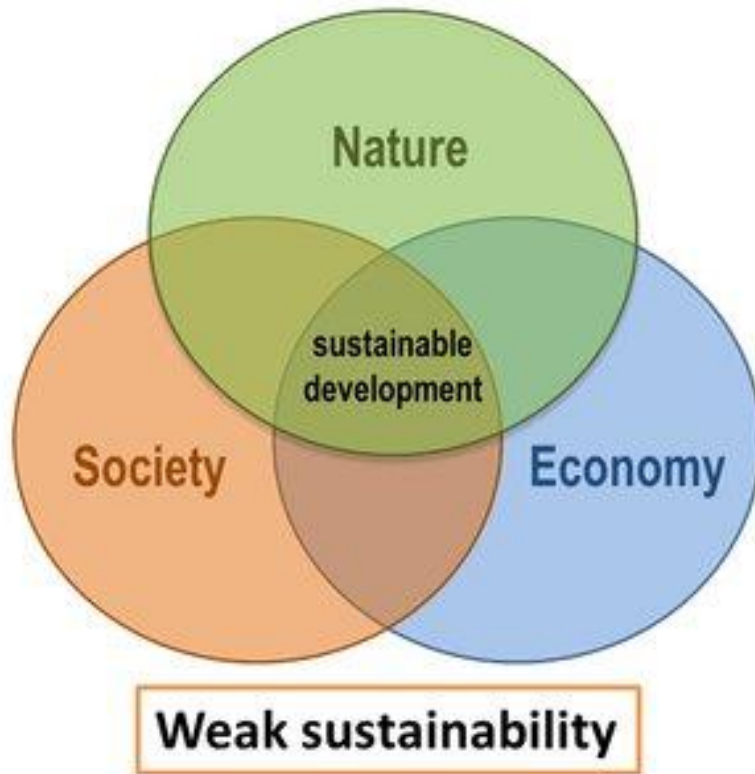


”

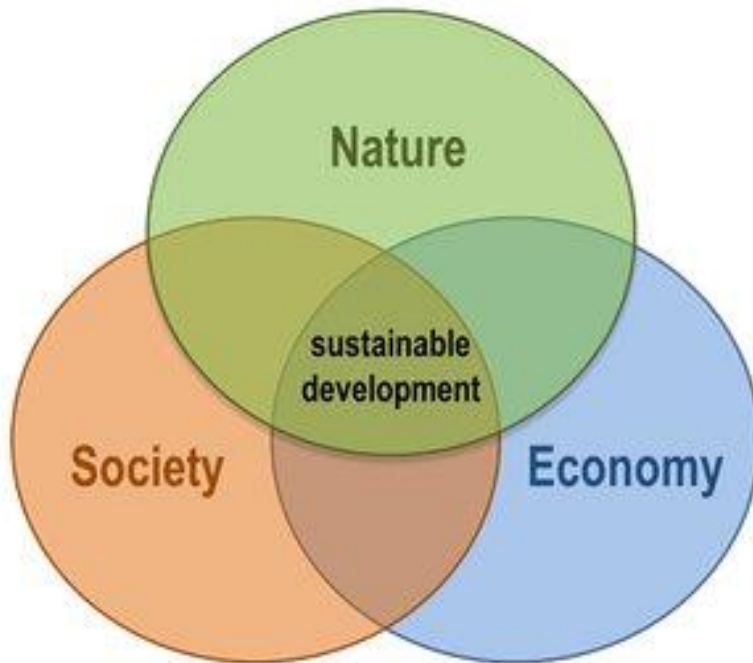
PEOPLE vs. OIL
GREENPEACE

Milton Friedman

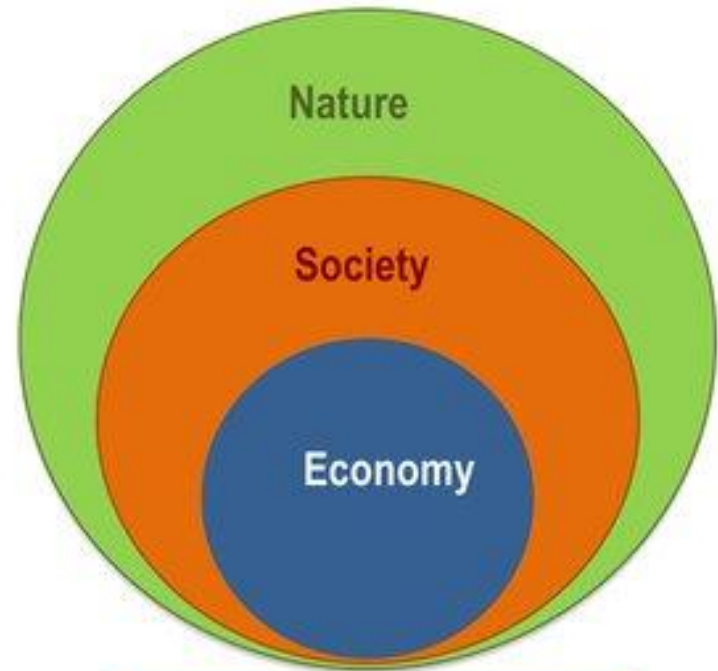
Weak vs. Strong Sustainability



Weak vs. Strong Sustainability



Weak sustainability



Strong sustainability

Source: Morandín-Ahuerma et al (2019)

Weak vs. Strong Sustainability

Weak sustainability/ modernity paradigm

Status quo

Technological fix with minor or no changes to lifestyle choices

Prioritise economic issues; deal with environmental issues as needed

Technical progress and optimism

Perfect substitution of natural and manmade capital

Manage business risk within existing free-market system

Weak vs. Strong Sustainability

Weak sustainability/ modernity paradigm

Status quo

Technological fix with minor or no changes to lifestyle choices

Prioritise economic issues; deal with environmental issues as needed

Technical progress and optimism

Perfect substitution of natural and manmade capital

Manage business risk within existing free-market system

Strong sustainability/ sustainability paradigm

Transformation

Fundamental reassessment of values and lifestyle choices

Integrated, holistic approach to three dimensions

Technological scepticism and precautionary principle

Limited substitution of natural and manmade capital

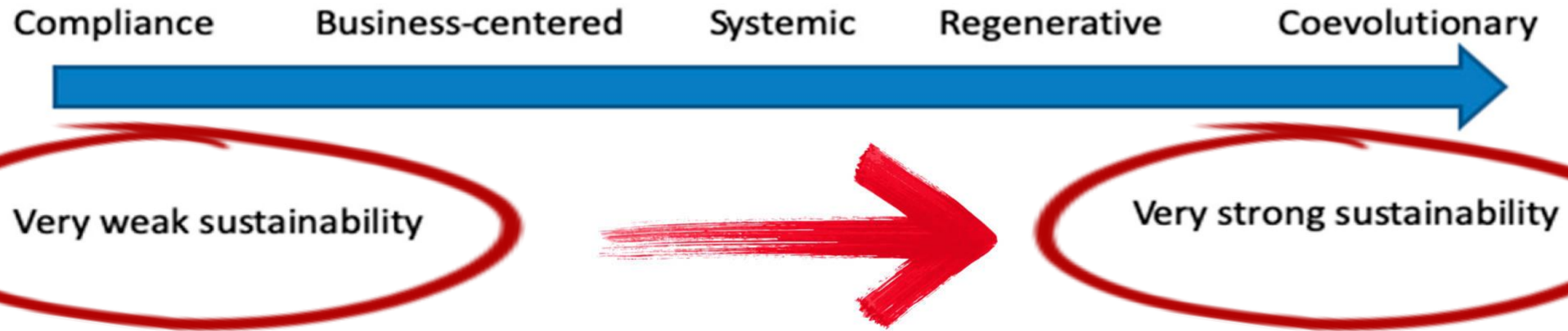
Transform market system

Source: Lombardi et al (2010) based on Ehrenfeld (2000)

Examples of Weak Sustainability



Spectrum of Sustainability



Source: Jackson (2021)

Systems/Regenerative/Co-evolutionary “Frameworks” for Sustainable Lifestyles

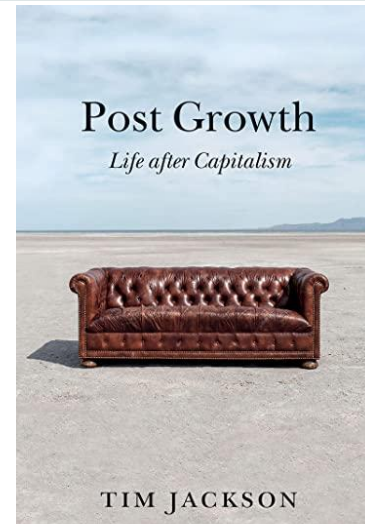
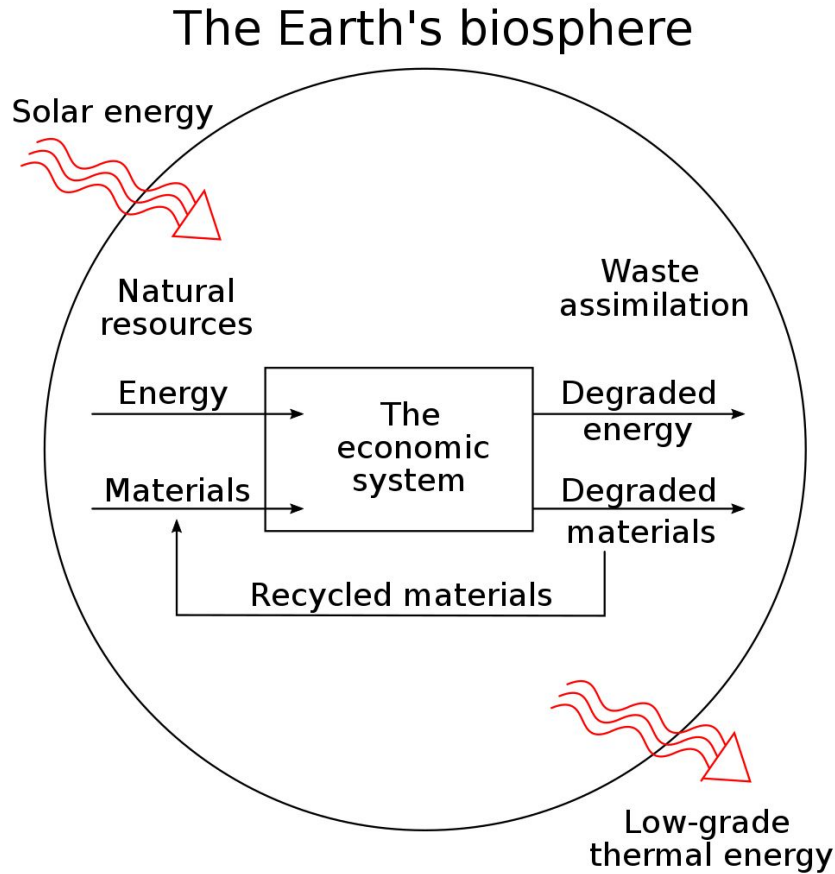
futureearth
research for global sustainability



Degrowth/Décroissance

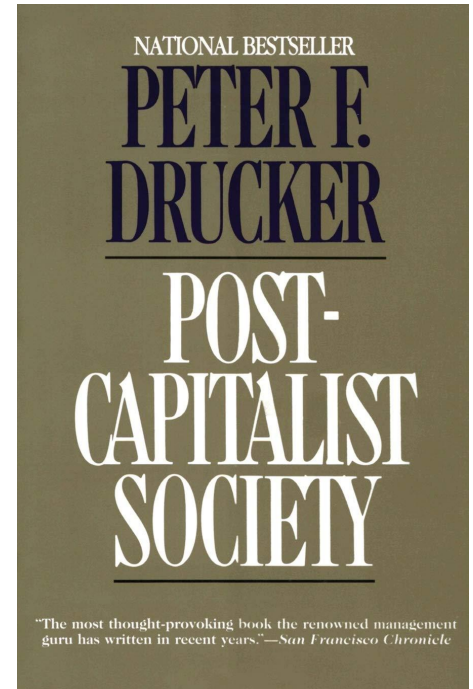
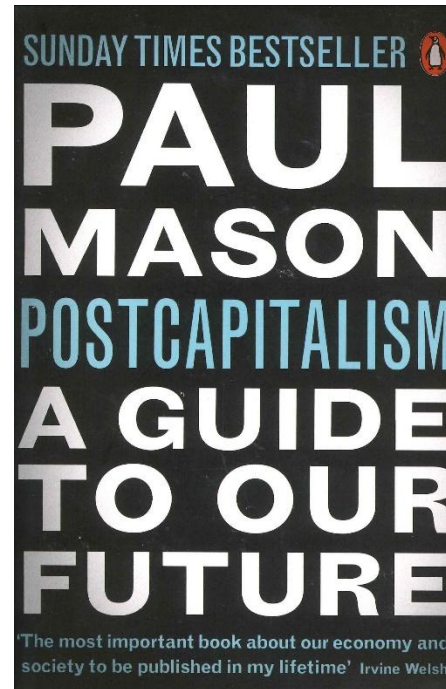


Post-Growth Economics



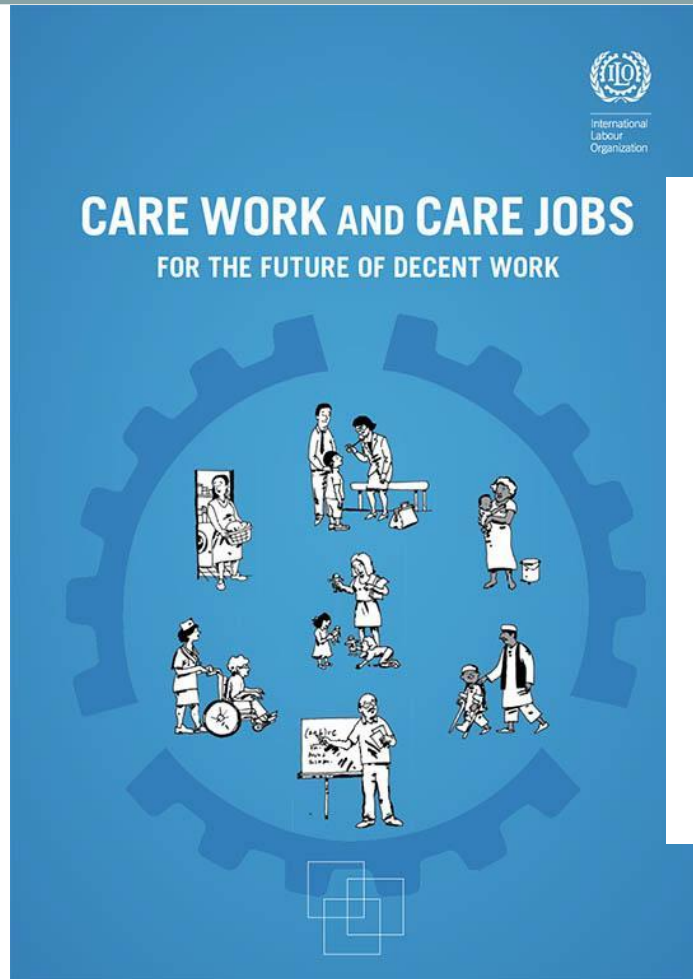
Post Growth
INSTITUTE

Post-Capitalism



(1993)

Care Economy



Creating an Economy of Care

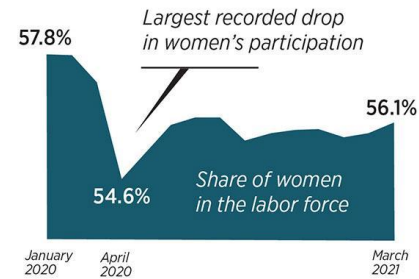
There's a desperate need for services.

707,000 people are wait-listed for home or community care across 40 states.

And Covid-19 pushed many women to leave paid work.



Proposals to expand the care industry will allow people—especially women—to return to jobs.



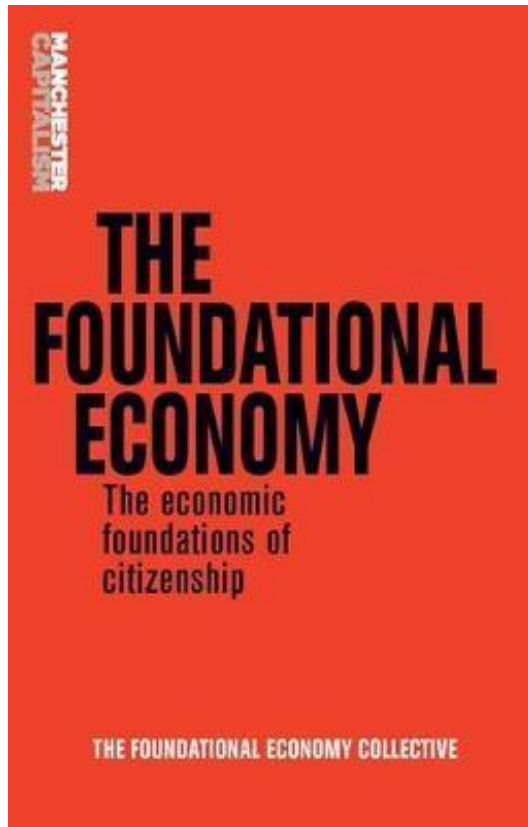
Expand access to affordable home and community care.

Upgrade and expand child care.



Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2017 data; Bureau of Labor Statistics

Foundational Economy



“The Foundational Economy is made up of the everyday goods and services we all use and need.

”Care and health services, food, housing, tourism and retailers on the high street are just some of the examples of the foundational economy which improve people’s experiences of everyday life.”

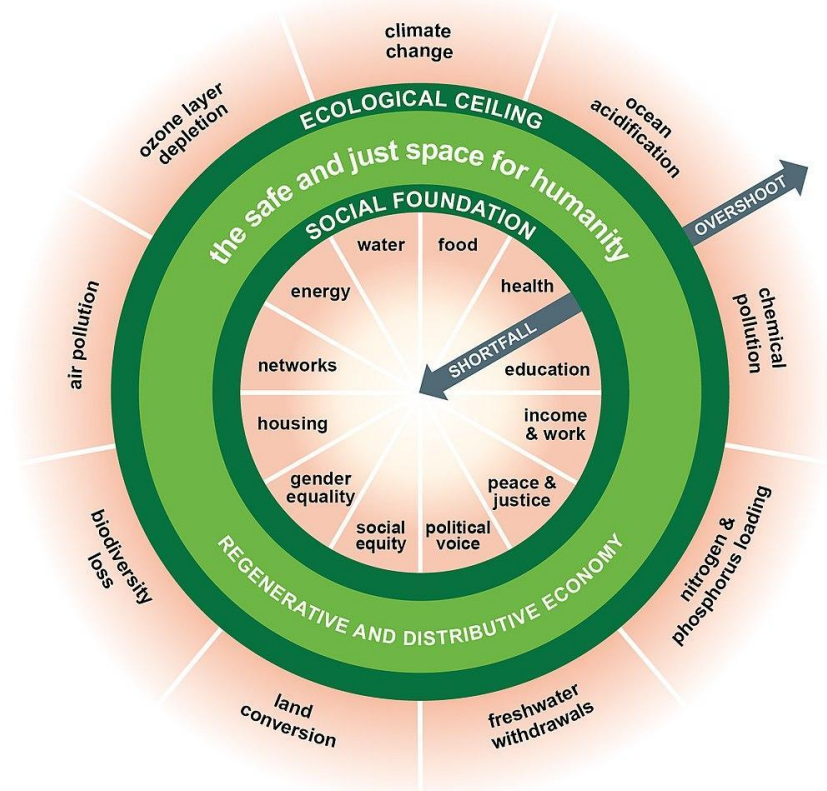
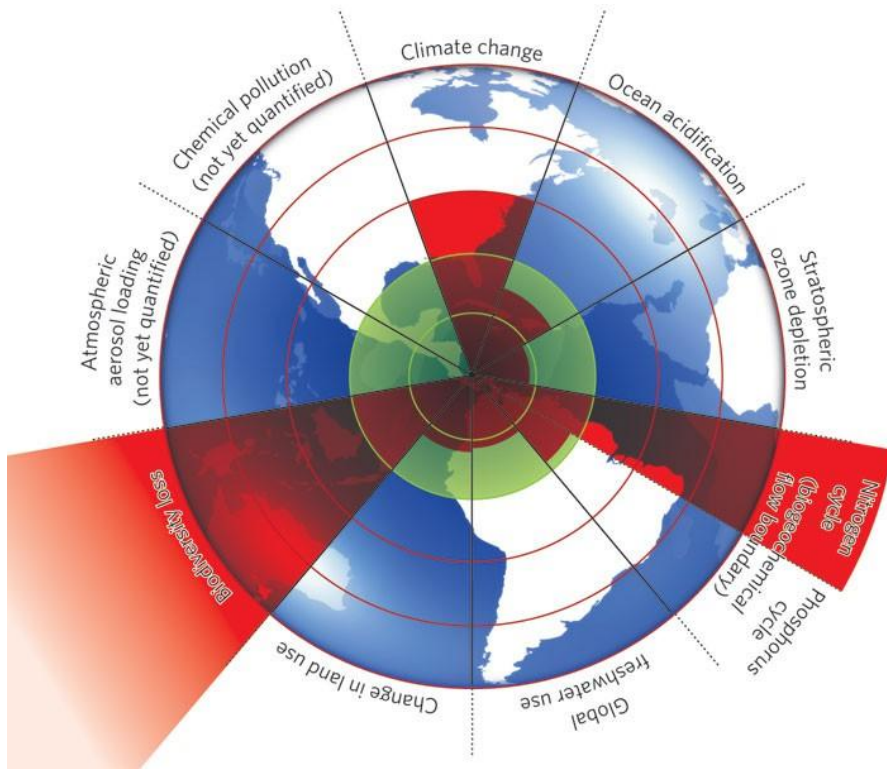
WELSH GOV

Well-Being / Happiness Economics

THE
ECONOMY OF
WELLBEING:
GOING
BEYOND GDP

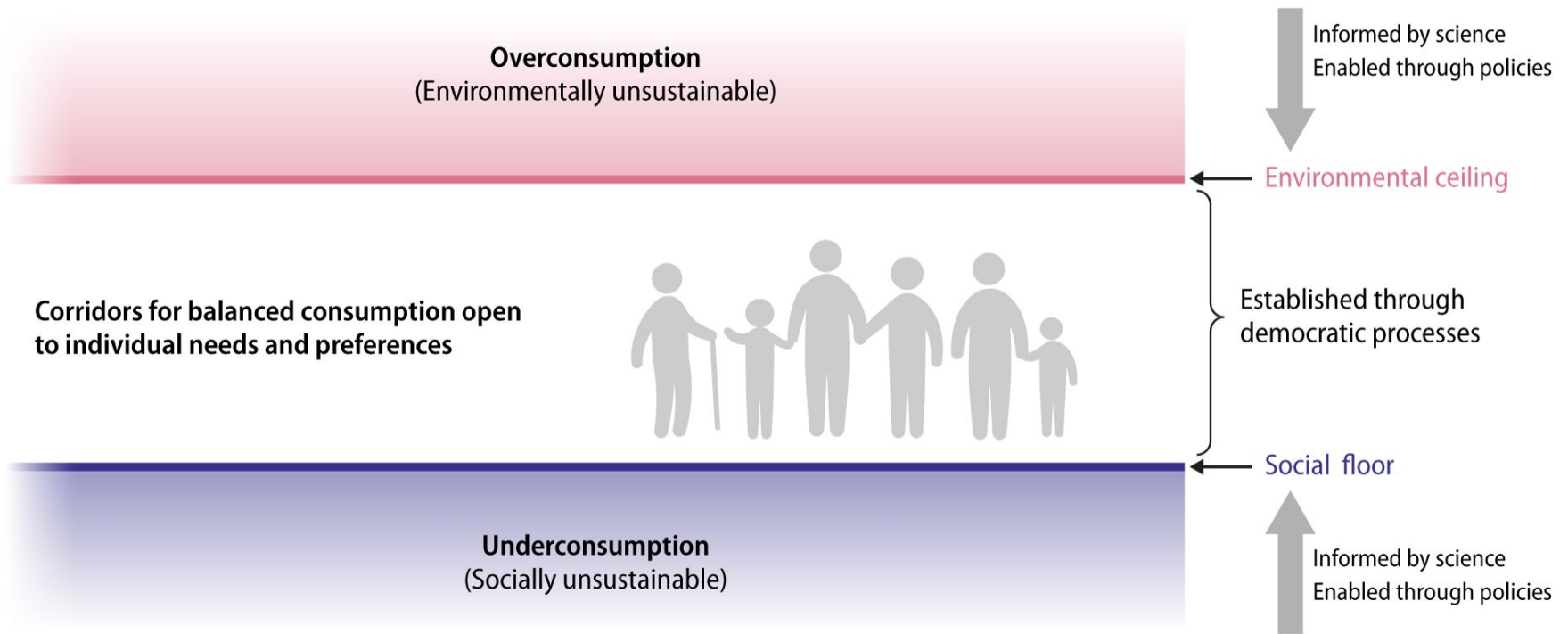


From Planetary Boundaries to Doughnut Economics



(Sustainable) Consumption Corridors

Consumption Corridors for a sustainable and fair space for every individual



Inspired by: Akenji et al. 2021

1.5°C Lifestyles

1.5-Degree Lifestyles:
**Towards A Fair
Consumption
Space for All**

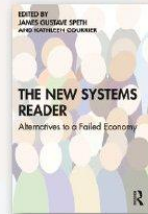
An aerial photograph of a city street with a crosswalk. Several people are walking across the crosswalk, and their long shadows are cast on the pavement. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Next System Thinking



“ Although capitalism has been around for about 500 years, it has become increasingly clear that it must be replaced by a “next system”... ”

—Hans A. Baer
in *The New Systems Reader*



AVAILABLE NOW: NewSystemsReader.com

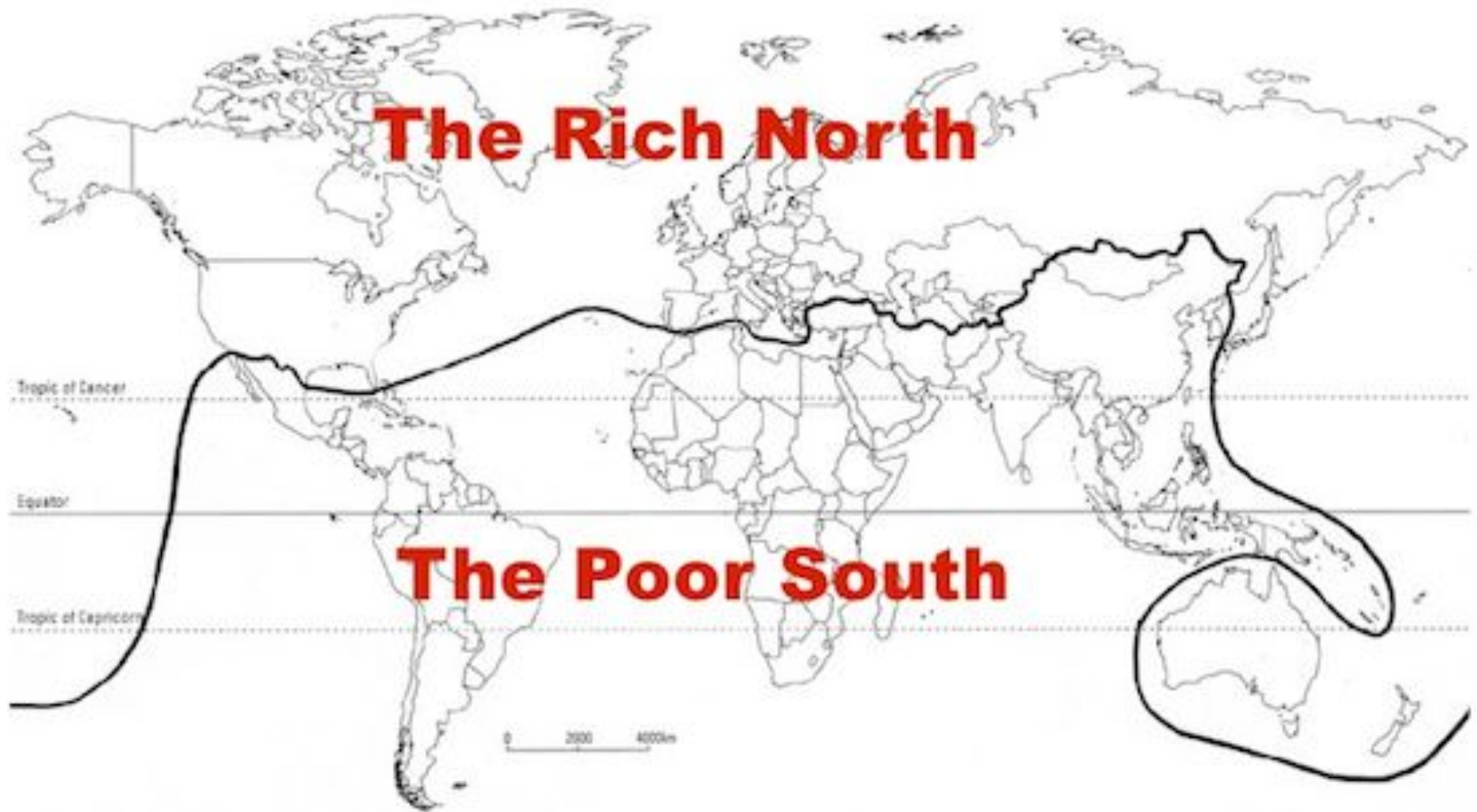
Next System Thinking



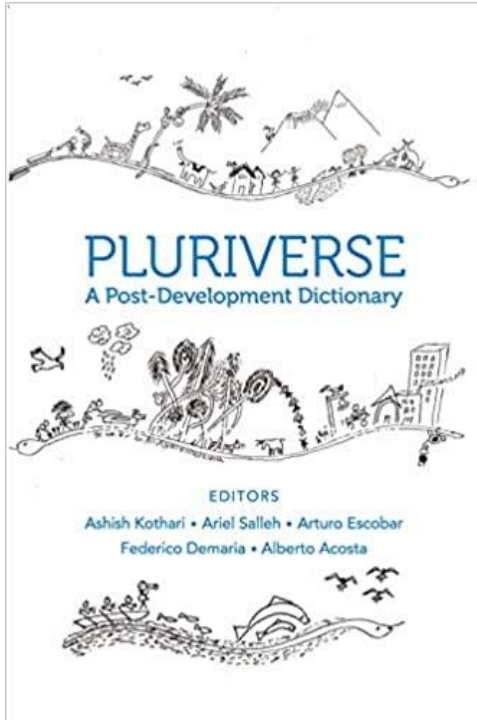
I USED TO THINK THE TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS WERE BIODIVERSITY LOSS, ECOSYSTEM COLLAPSE AND CLIMATE CHANGE. I THOUGHT THAT WITH 30 YEARS OF GOOD SCIENCE WE COULD ADDRESS THOSE PROBLEMS. BUT I WAS WRONG. THE TOP ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ARE SELFISHNESS, GREED AND APATHY... AND TO DEAL WITH THOSE WE NEED A SPIRITUAL AND CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION - AND WE SCIENTISTS DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT.

GUS SPETH

- Founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council
- Former head of the United Nations Development Program
- Former Dean of the Yale School of the Environment



“Frameworks” From the Global South



THE IMPETUS PLAN FOR THE SOCIAL AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

2016 – 2019



El Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir ya está disponible para la ciudadanía

Quito, (21-07-2017).- La Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo (Senplades) publicó hoy en su sitio web el Plan Nacional para el Buen Vivir 2017-2021, concebido como la hoja de ruta técnica y el instrumento político que direccionará el accionar del gobierno durante los próximos cuatro años. Este documento fue aprobado por el Consejo Nacional de Planificación el pasado 13 de ... [Sigue leyendo](#)

Secretaría Técnica Planifica Ecuador





How much
is

ENOUGH