From 'An Inconvenient Truth' to Disastrous Misconceptions.

Blowing the whistle on 'Sustainable Development'

Poaching Humanity I.

1918 – 1924	Sir Albert Howard and Rudolf Steiner.
1940's	Lady Eve Balfour and J.I. Rodale
1950's	Prof. Hans E. Suess.
1960's	Rachel Carson
60's-70's	Paul and Anne Ehrlich, Lester Brown, Hunter and Amory Lovins, John and Nancy Todd, James Hansen, Frederick Schumacher, Bucky Fuller

Poaching Humanity II.

1972   UN Conference on the Human Environment ('Only One Earth') and the Stockholm Declaration.

1972   Club of Rome and 'The Limits to Growth'

1976   'Overshoot Year'. When human demand begins to exceed carrying capacity of planet.

1982   UN General Assembly *"there is a heavy deterioration of the human environment and our natural resources."*

Poaching Humanity III.

1983	World Commission on Environment and Development (Gro Brundtland chair).
Task	Report on State of environment/resources Unite countries to pursue Sustain' Devpt.
1987	Commission report "Our Common Future" (the 'Brundtland Report').
SD is:	"Development that meets the <u>needs</u> of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own <u>needs</u>."

Our Disastrous Misconceptions I.

Needs?   What are *'Needs'* – who defines them?
3 Pillars   Economic Growth (EG)
              Environmental Protection (EP)
              Social Equality (SE)

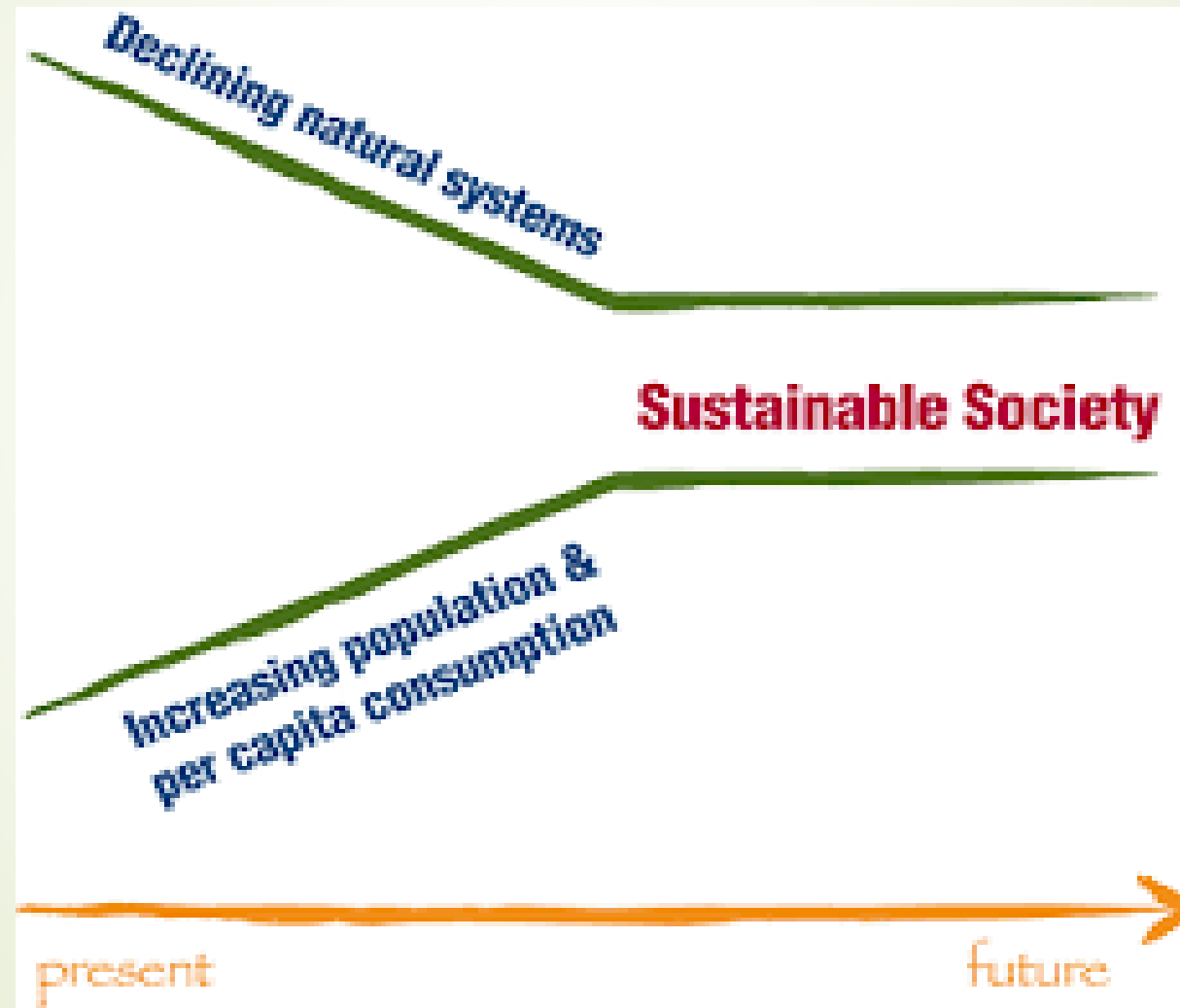Needs?   Where's the discussion? Maslow or
              Manfred Maxneef (or others)?
EG   Infinite growth in a finite system?
EP   State of Environment and Resources?
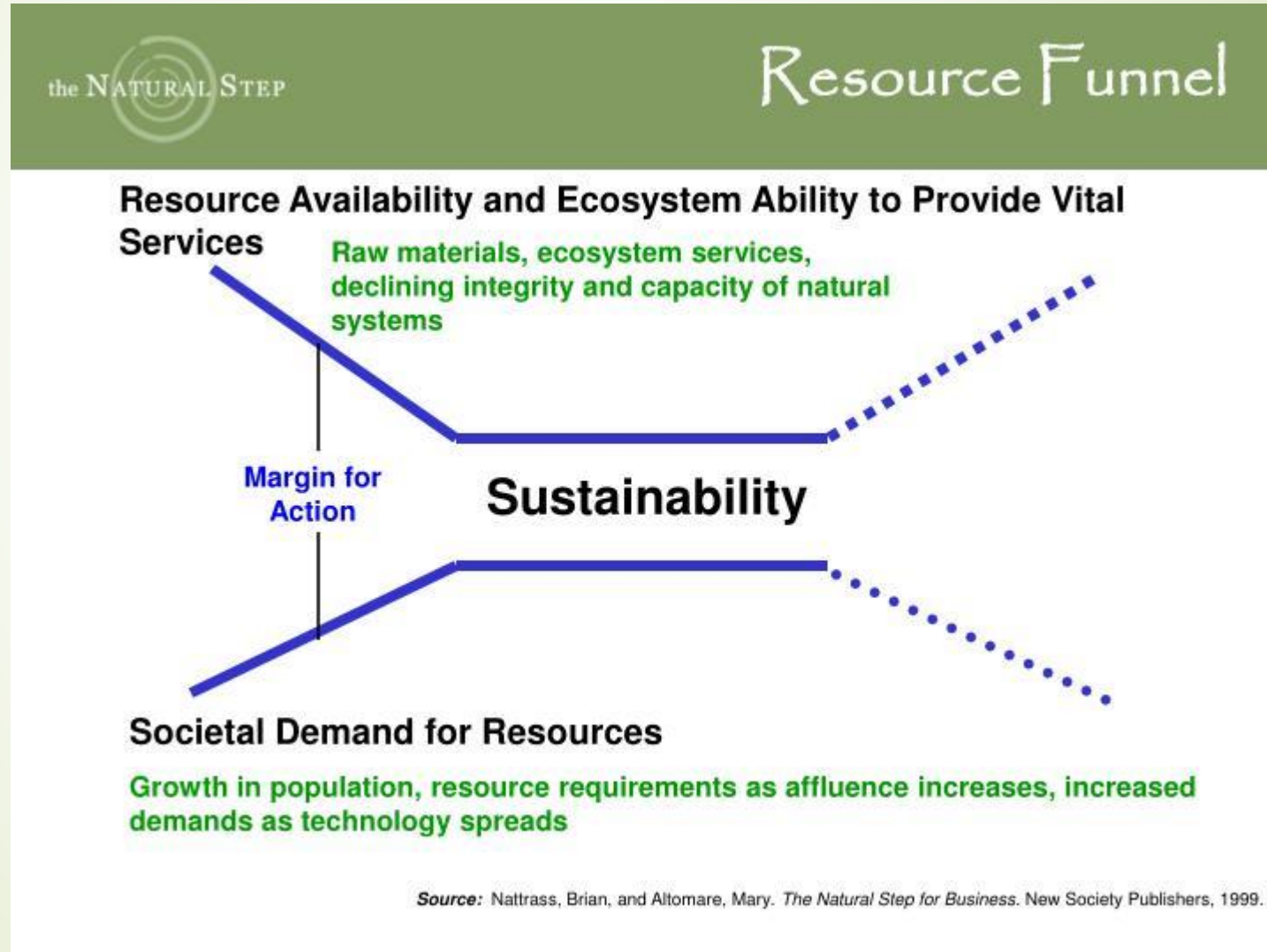SE   Social Equality (and the 1%)?

Our Distastrous Misconceptions II

Error Problems when we use the wrong model, (e.g. 4 wellbeings circle) language or map.

SD Incessant use of 'Sustainable', but do we <u>ever</u> acknowledge our unsustainable state ?

Needs Morphed to 'Wellbeings'- warm/fuzzy, non-urgent. But the issue is <u>'basic needs & survival'</u>.

Time Because of soft language, erroneous models and aversion to face reality, we are unaware, (yet unaware that we are unaware), AND also running out of time.

What Now? Reality is always a good place to start. Four useful models for understanding the situation.

Natural Step Concept (1)
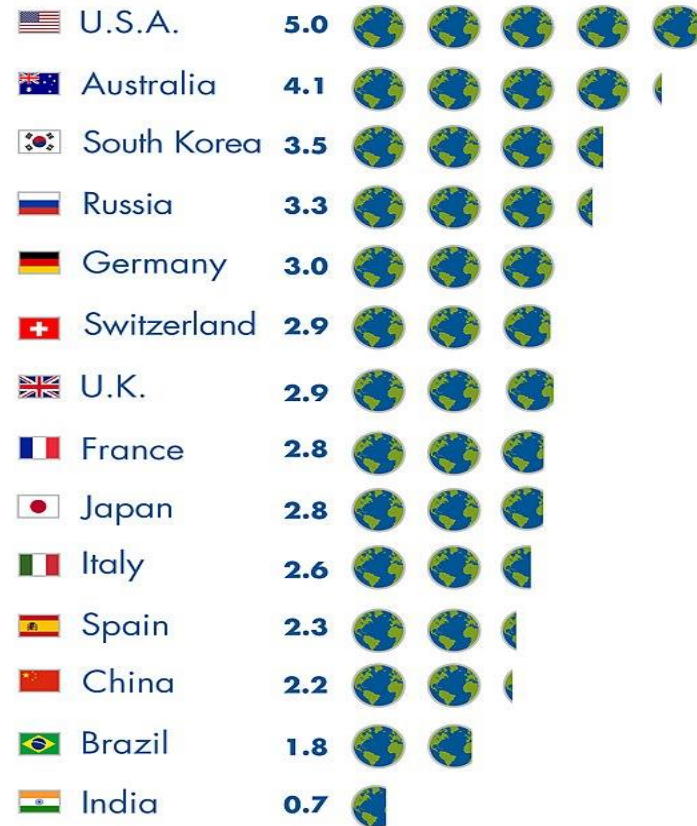
Natural Step Concept (2)

the NATURAL STEP

Resource Funnel

Resource Availability and Ecosystem Ability to Provide Vital Services

Raw materials, ecosystem services, declining integrity and capacity of natural systems

Margin for Action

Sustainability

Societal Demand for Resources

Growth in population, resource requirements as affluence increases, increased demands as technology spreads

Source: Nattrass, Brian, and Altomare, Mary. *The Natural Step for Business.* New Society Publishers, 1999.

Ecological Footprint Concept(1)

Ecological Footprint Concept (2)

How many Earths do we need
if the world's population lived like…

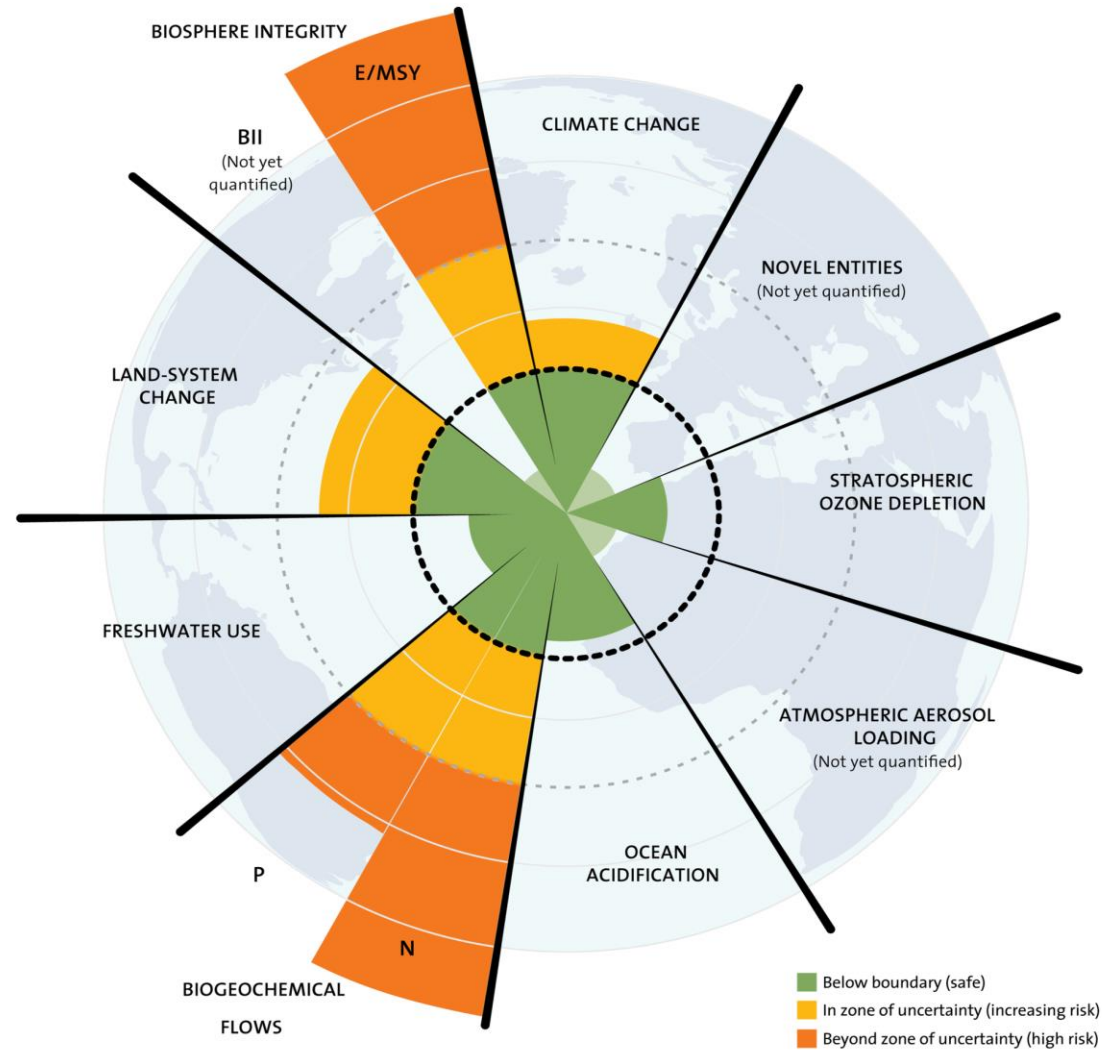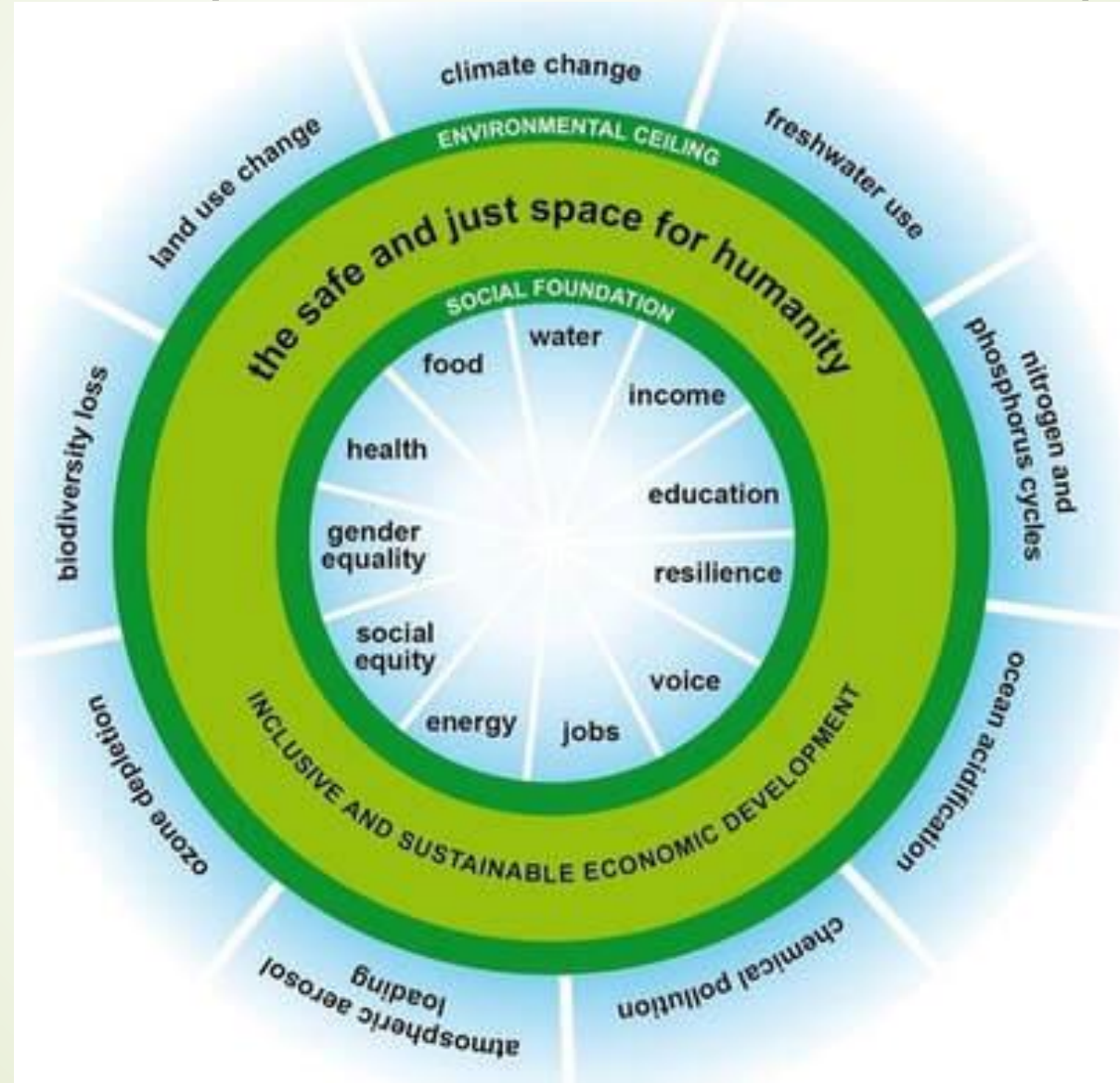|		
🇺🇸 U.S.A.	5.0	🌍🌍🌍🌍🌍
🇦🇺 Australia	4.1	🌍🌍🌍🌍🌍
🇰🇷 South Korea	3.5	🌍🌍🌍🌍
🇷🇺 Russia	3.3	🌍🌍🌍
🇩🇪 Germany	3.0	🌍🌍🌍
🇨🇭 Switzerland	2.9	🌍🌍🌍
🇬🇧 U.K.	2.9	🌍🌍🌍
🇫🇷 France	2.8	🌍🌍🌍
🇯🇵 Japan	2.8	🌍🌍🌍
🇮🇹 Italy	2.6	🌍🌍🌍
🇪🇸 Spain	2.3	🌍🌍🌍
🇨🇳 China	2.2	🌍🌍🌍
🇧🇷 Brazil	1.8	🌍🌍
🇮🇳 India	0.7	🌍
🌍 **World**	1.7	🌍🌍

Source: Global Footprint Network National Footprint Accounts 2018
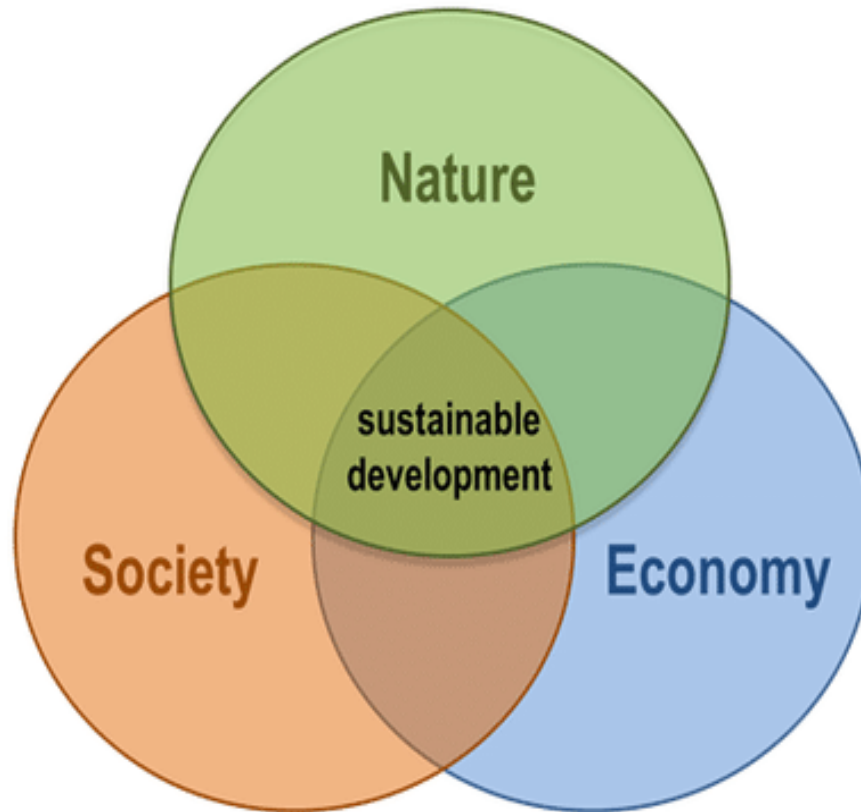
Planetary Boundaries Concept (1)

Steffen et al (2015) Stockholm Resilience Centre.
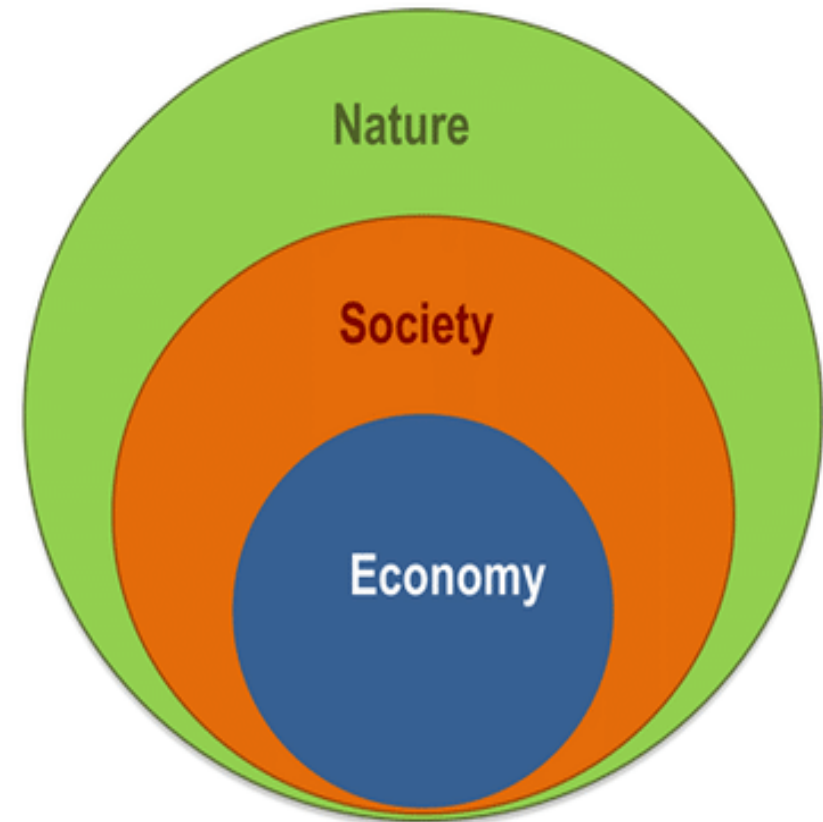
Planetary Boundaries Concept (2)

Weak and Strong Sustainability Model

Weak sustainability
Based in Brundtland 1987.

Strong sustainability
Giddings 2002.

Decision making for Strong Sustainability

**1   Is the issue under consideration 'good' for the environment? (Will it protect and/or enhance the physical environment, the biota and the ecological systems and processes of that place?)
If the answer is 'No', do not proceed.
If the answer is 'Yes', proceed to question 2**

**2   Is the issue under consideration 'good' for all peoples and cultures concerned? (Does this issue/proposal consider the needs and cultural sensitivities of the people who have a stake in this issue and contribute to them in a positive manner?)
If the answer is 'No', do not proceed.
If the answer is 'Yes', proceed to question 3**

**3   Is the issue under consideration 'economically sound'? (Have all downstream social and environmental costs for present and future generations been taken in to account, and is the venture financially viable?)
If the answer is 'No', do not proceed.
If the answer is 'Yes', proceed.**

Iroquois' Nation (First Laws).

"In our every deliberation, let us consider the impact of our decisions, unto the seventh generation."

UN Secretary General (3rd Dec. 2020)

"Humanity is waging a suicidal war on nature."

A Way Forward.

1   Use sustainability modelling to build / structure <u>resilience</u> into all communities – especially for food, water and adequate shelter.

2   Use the same projects as in 1 above to 'level the playing-fields' and create higher levels of equity within and between communities.

3   Focus on precepts of localism and build strong civic leadership in all communities exemplifying tinorangatiratanga, 'subsidiarity' and claiming sovereignty of economy, water, food & shelter.
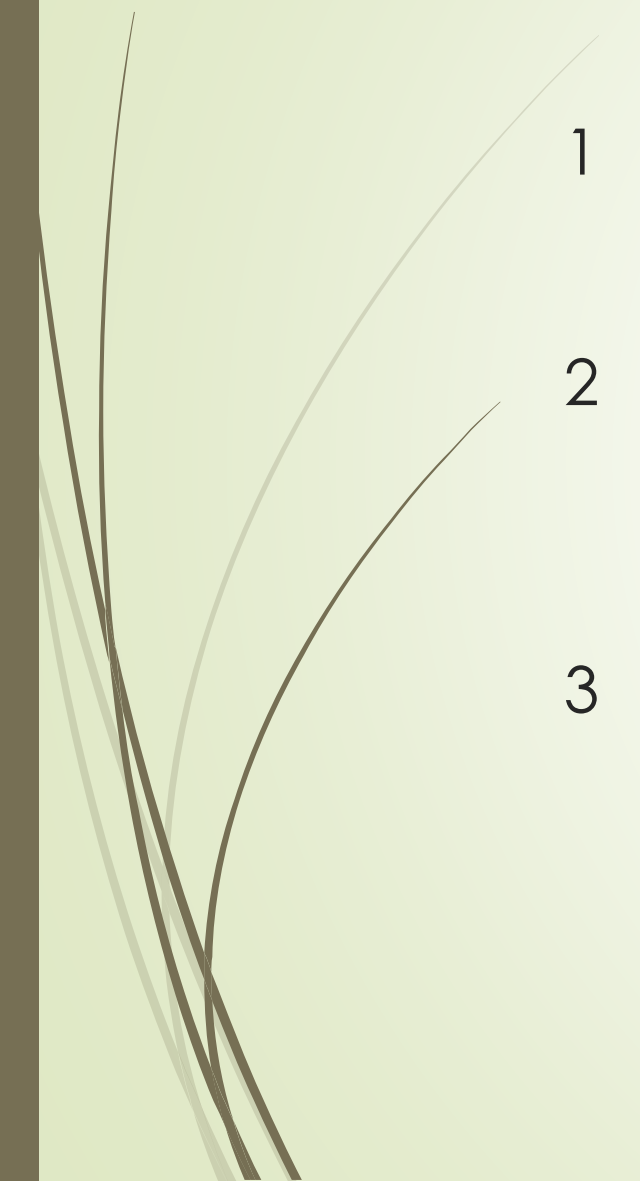
Kai Ora Programme (as a useful model).

2015   Two partners (Manaia PHO & FNDC) with $40k. Aim was to tackle food poverty and food insecurity in Far North.

2020   Eight partners with $147k to tackle food poverty, food insecurity and food sovereignty in the whole of Northland, by building Marae and community gardens, small businesses, food networks, hubs and co-ops.

We were 'Covid ready' in parts of Northland.

Useful thoughts from 'big thinkers'

1   "We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them". Albert Einstein.

2   "You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." Bucky Fuller.

3   "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

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