

Planetary Boundaries & The International Trade Game

April 25

Patrícia Fortes

Fundamentals on Environment and Sustainability



NOVA | **NOVA**
NOVA SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS & ECONOMICS | NOVA SCHOOL OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WHO I AM



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- > Coordinator Energy and Climate research line of CENSE-Center for (www.cense.fct.unl.pt/)
- > Responsible for the design of the mitigation path of energy and industry sectors in the Portuguese Carbon Neutrality Roadmap 2050 (<https://descarbonizar2050.apambiente.pt/en/roadmap/>)

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AT THE END OF THIS CLASS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- > What is the Anthropocene
- > What are Planetary Boundaries
- > The Number and Core Planetary Boundaries.
- > Trends in Planetary Boundaries.
- > Importance and Challenges of Socio-Economic Development within Planetary Boundaries.



The background of the slide features a light gray, textured surface, possibly concrete or stone. Several green leaves are scattered across the top and right sides. A large, semi-transparent dark green rectangular overlay covers the center of the image, providing a background for the title text. The title "Planetary Boundaries" is written in a white, sans-serif font, centered within the green overlay. There are also solid dark green rectangular blocks in the top and bottom center of the slide.

Planetary Boundaries

EARTH SYSTEM

> The Earth system is a complex network of interactions among different spheres:

- *geosphere* (land),
- *hydrosphere* (water)
- *atmosphere* (air)
- *biosphere* (life)



RED CODE FOR HUMANITY

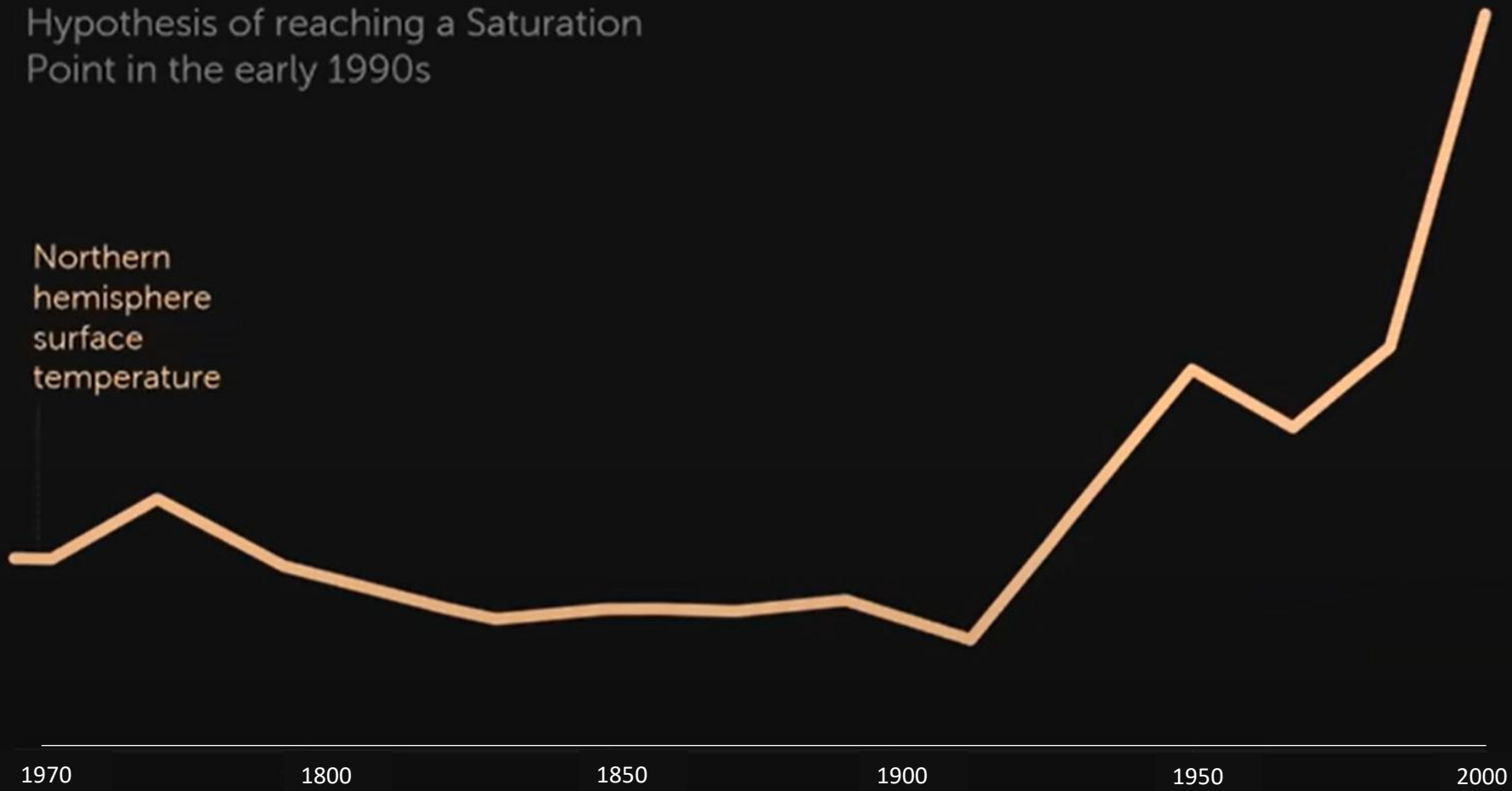


António Guterres
UN Secretary-
General

The Great Acceleration

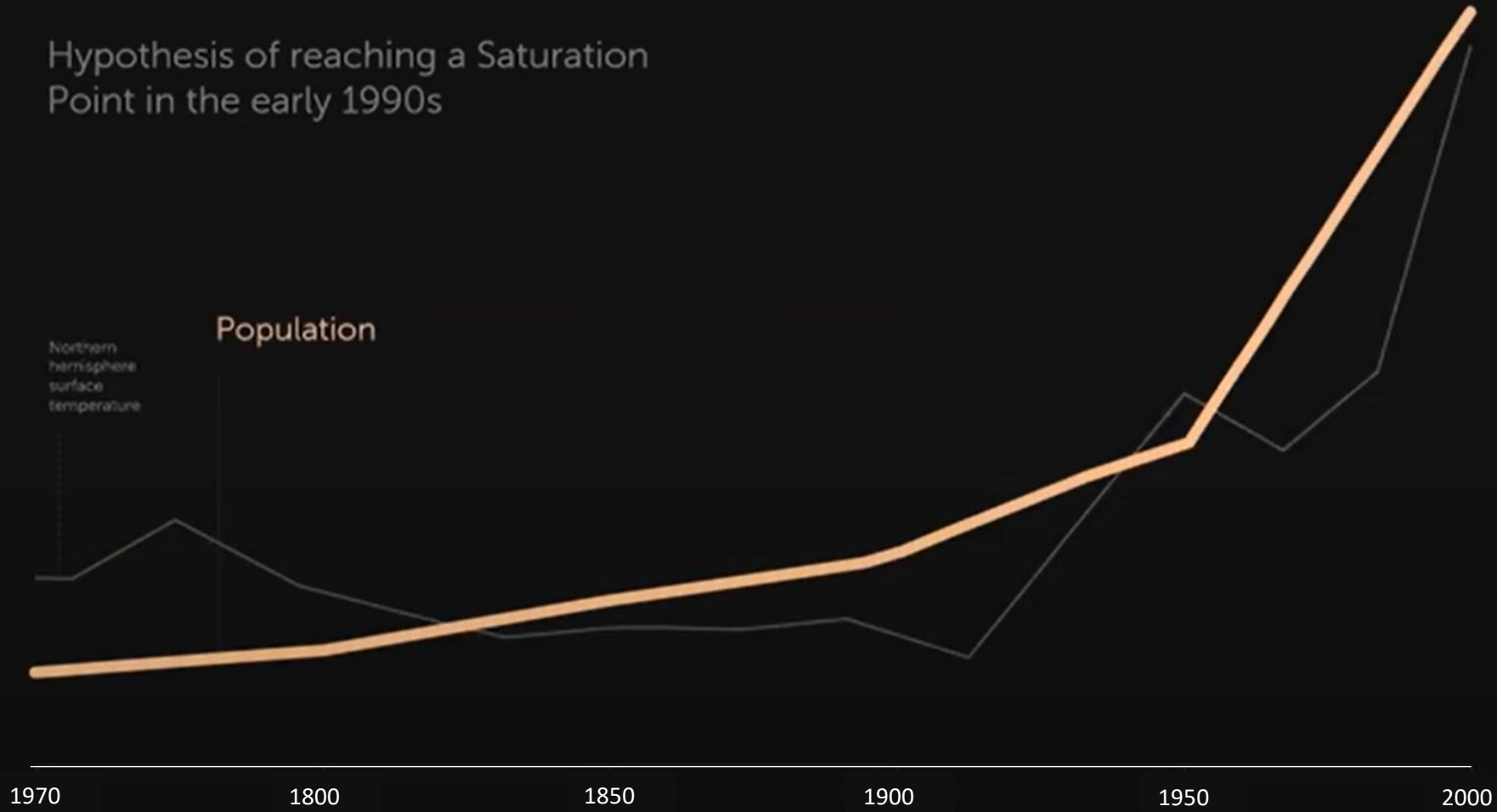
Hypothesis of reaching a Saturation Point in the early 1990s

Northern hemisphere surface temperature



The Great Acceleration

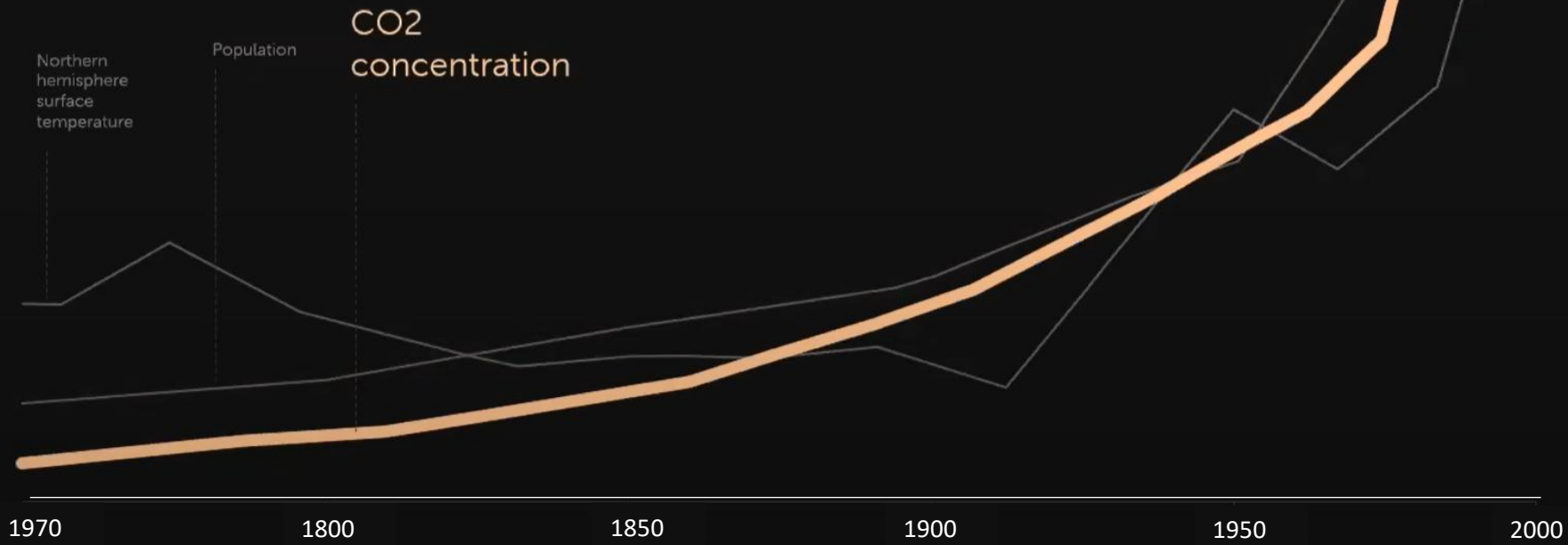
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New Scientist 2008 from Steffen et al. 2004

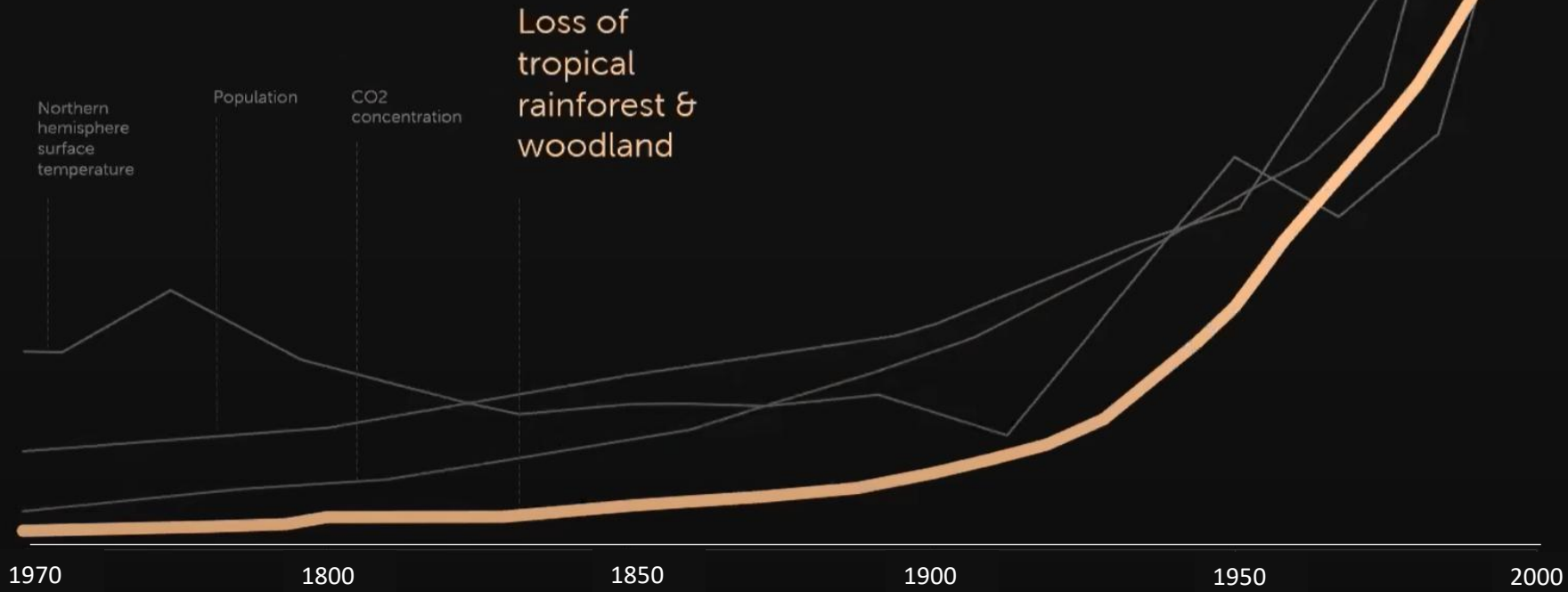
The Great Acceleration

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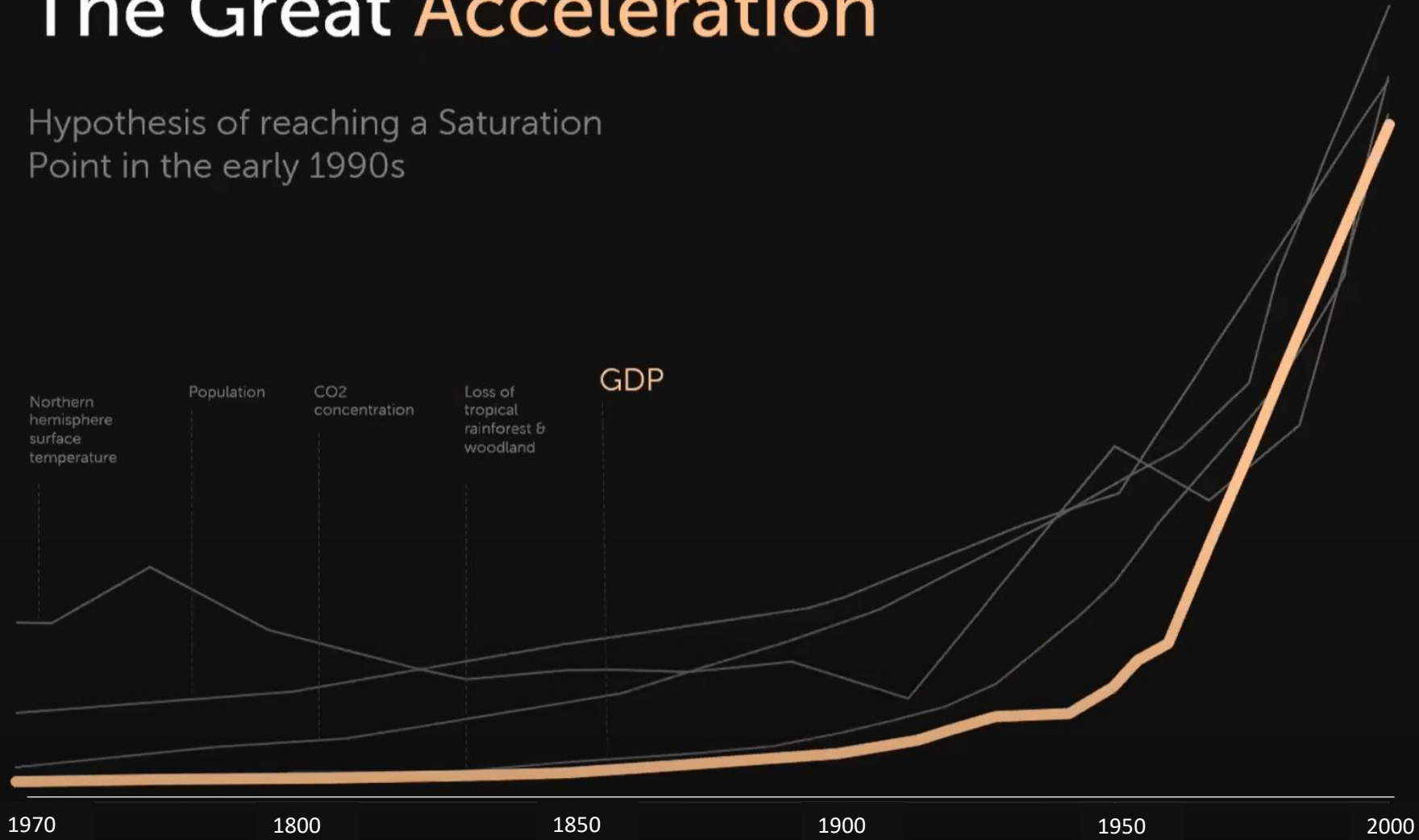
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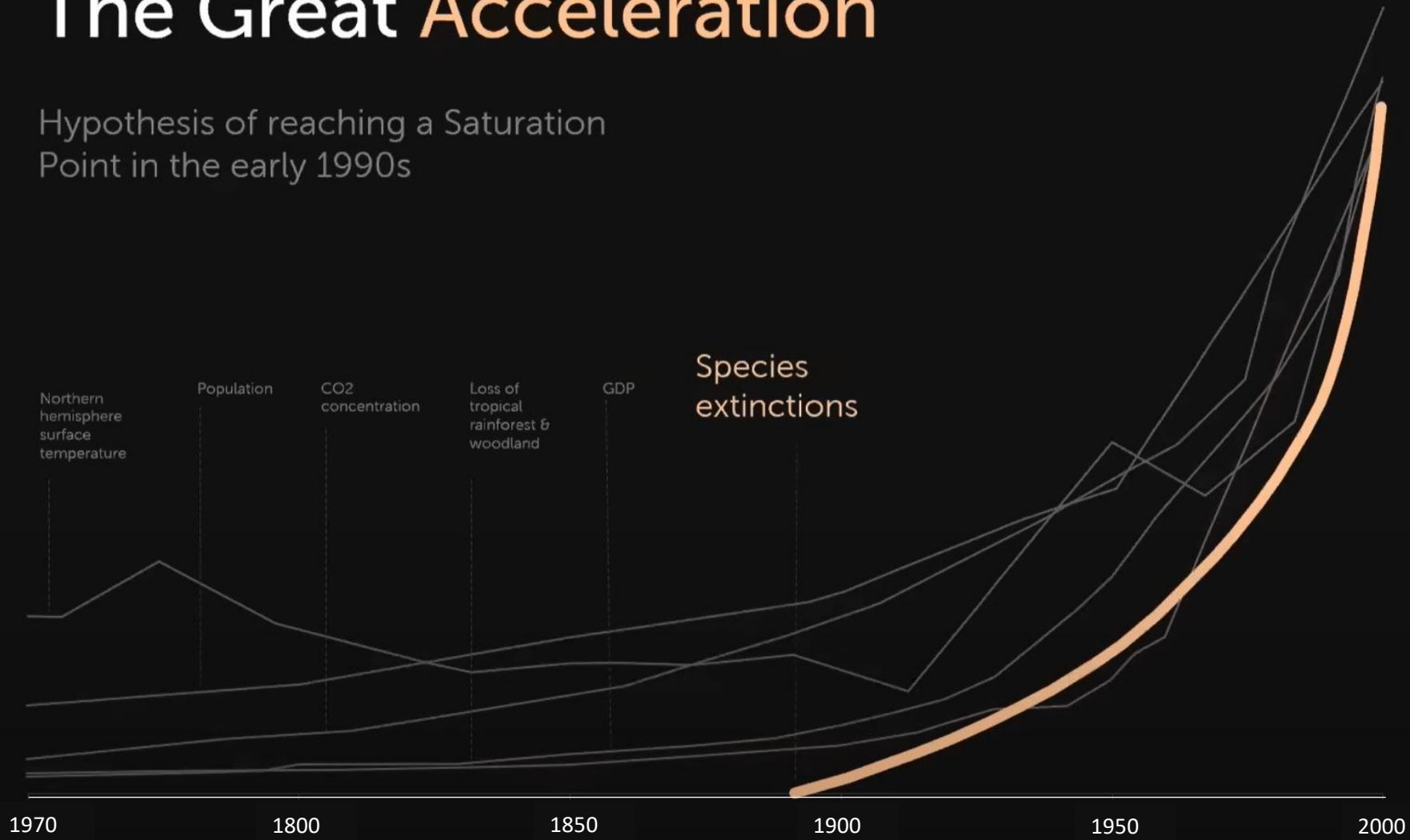
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The Great Acceleration

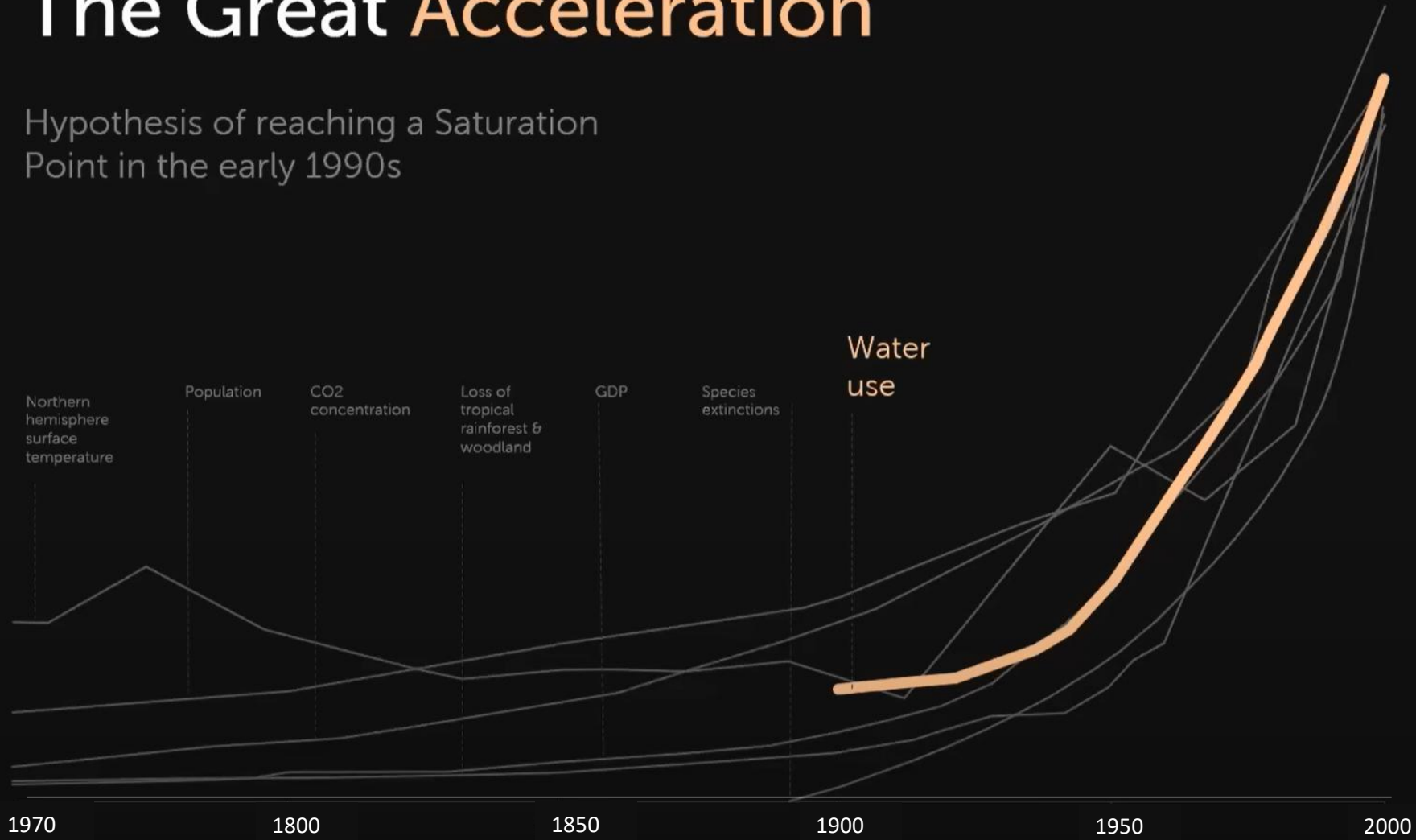
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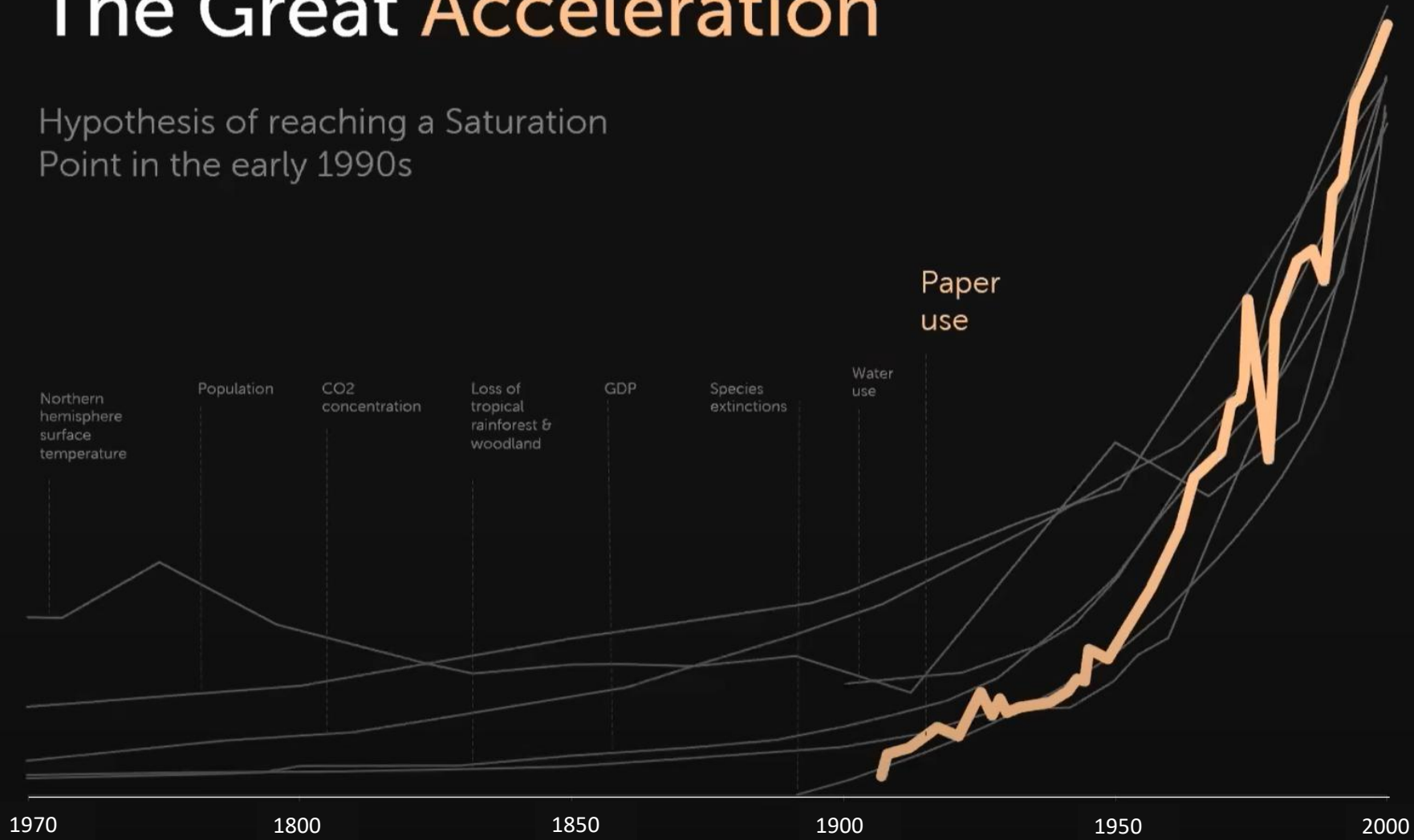
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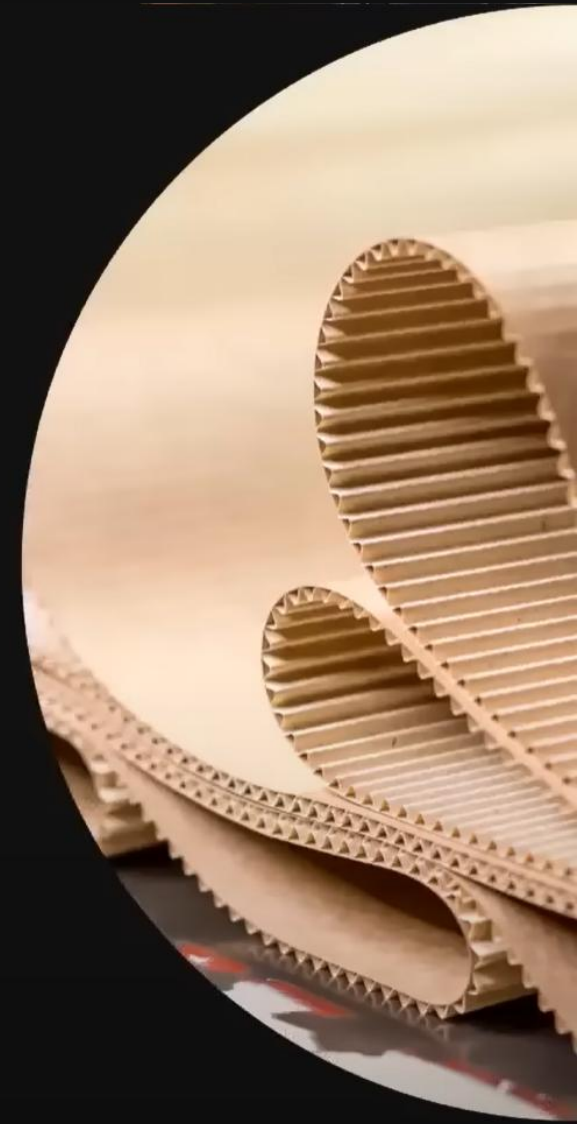


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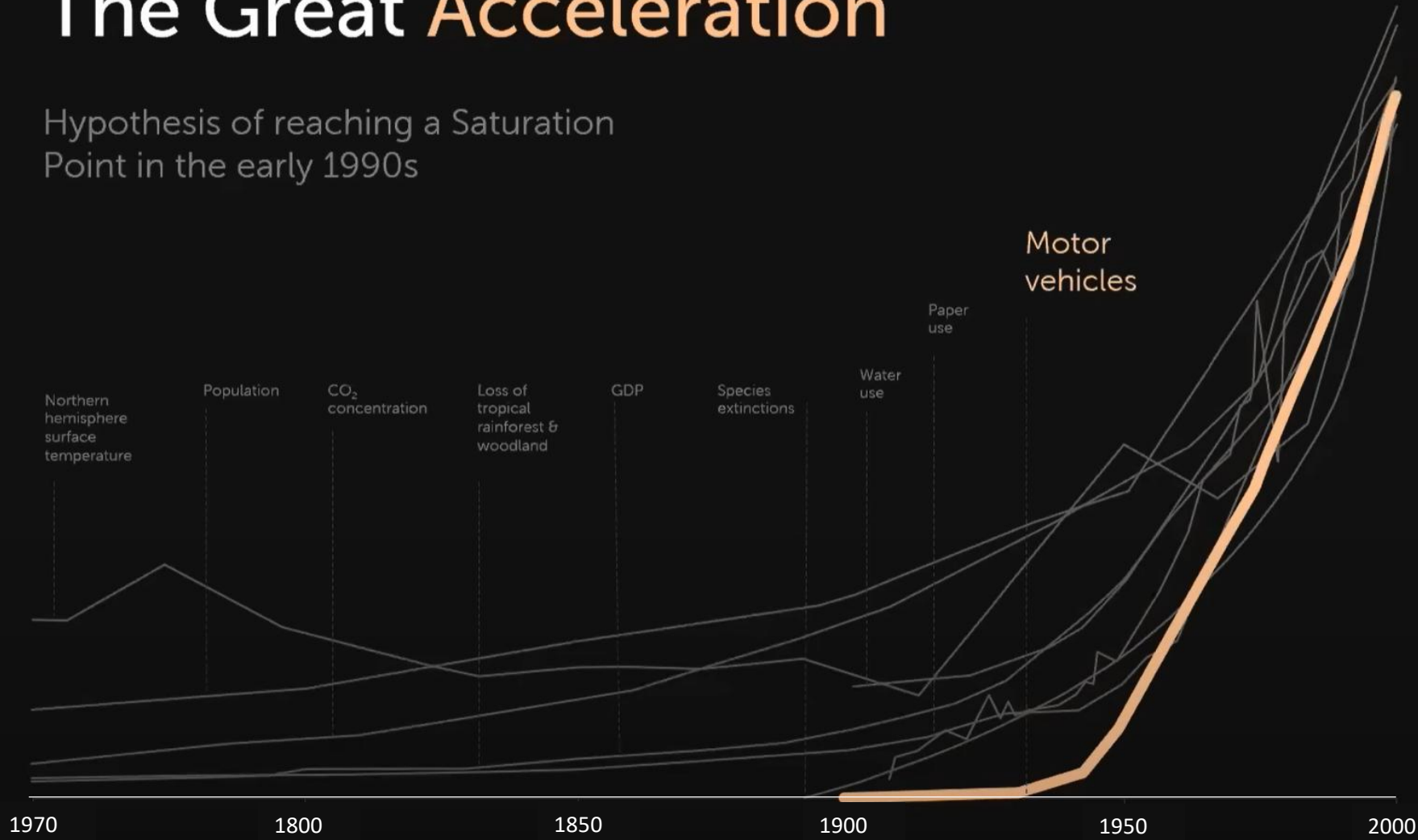


New Scientist 2008 from Steffen et al. 2004



The Great Acceleration

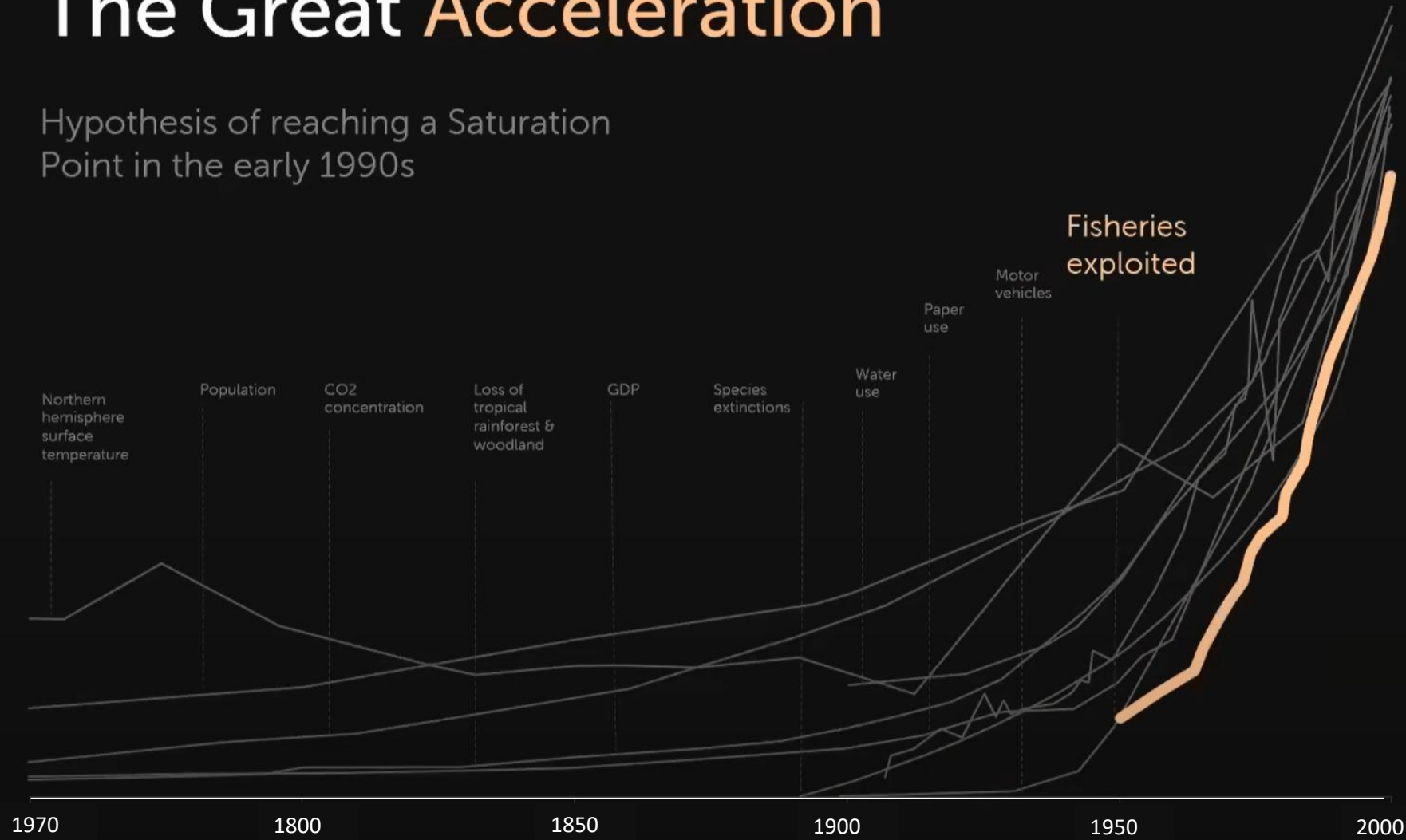
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The Great Acceleration

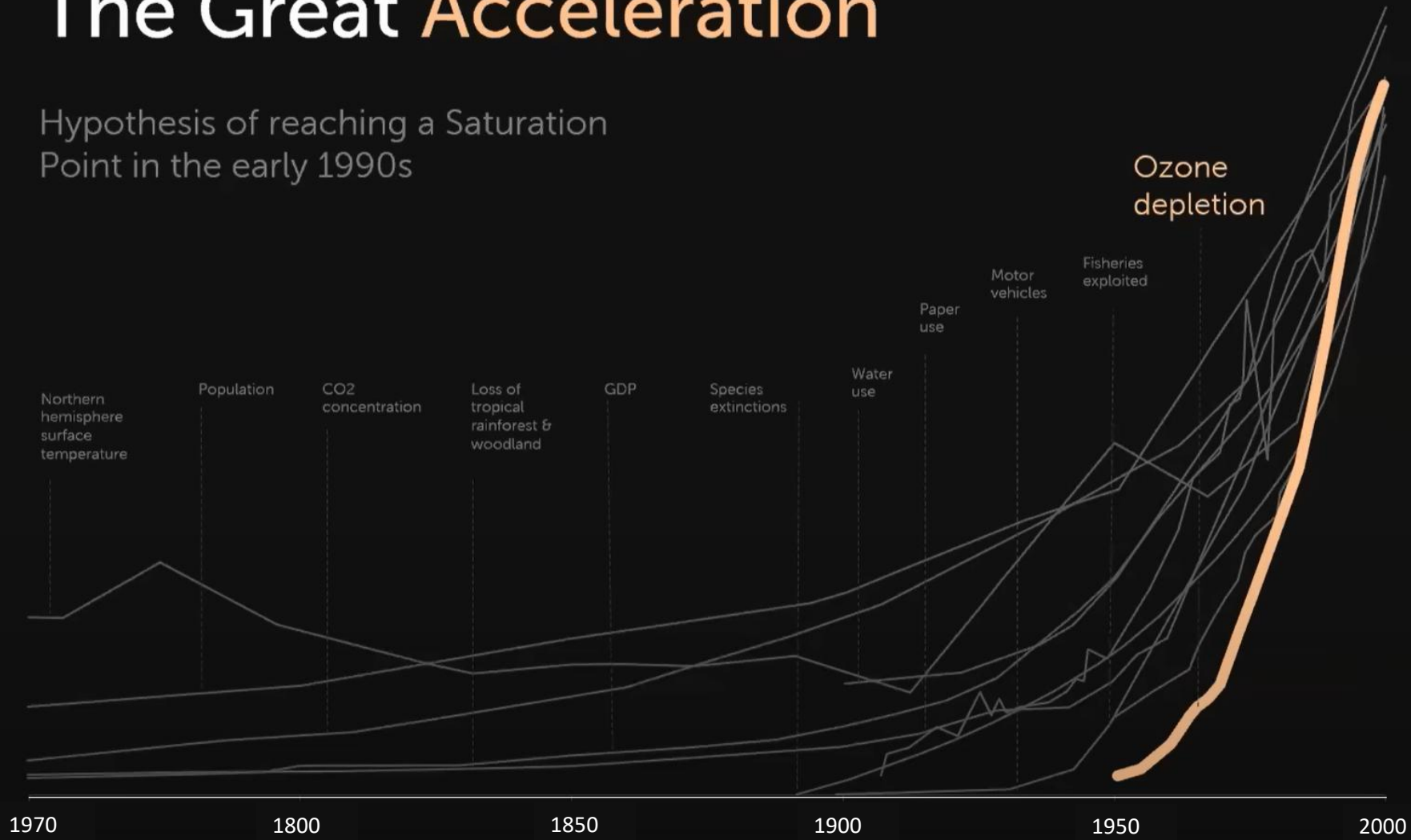
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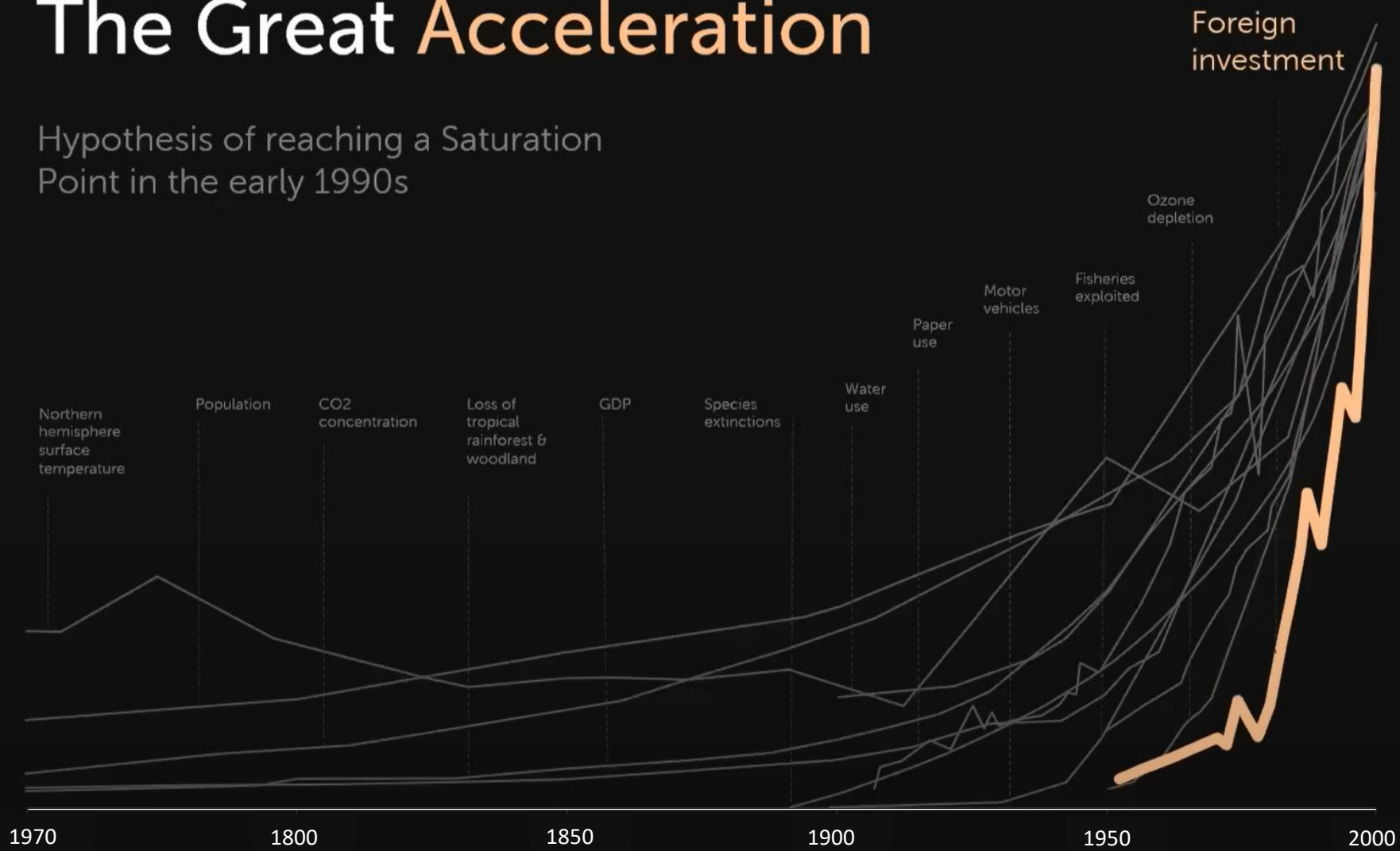
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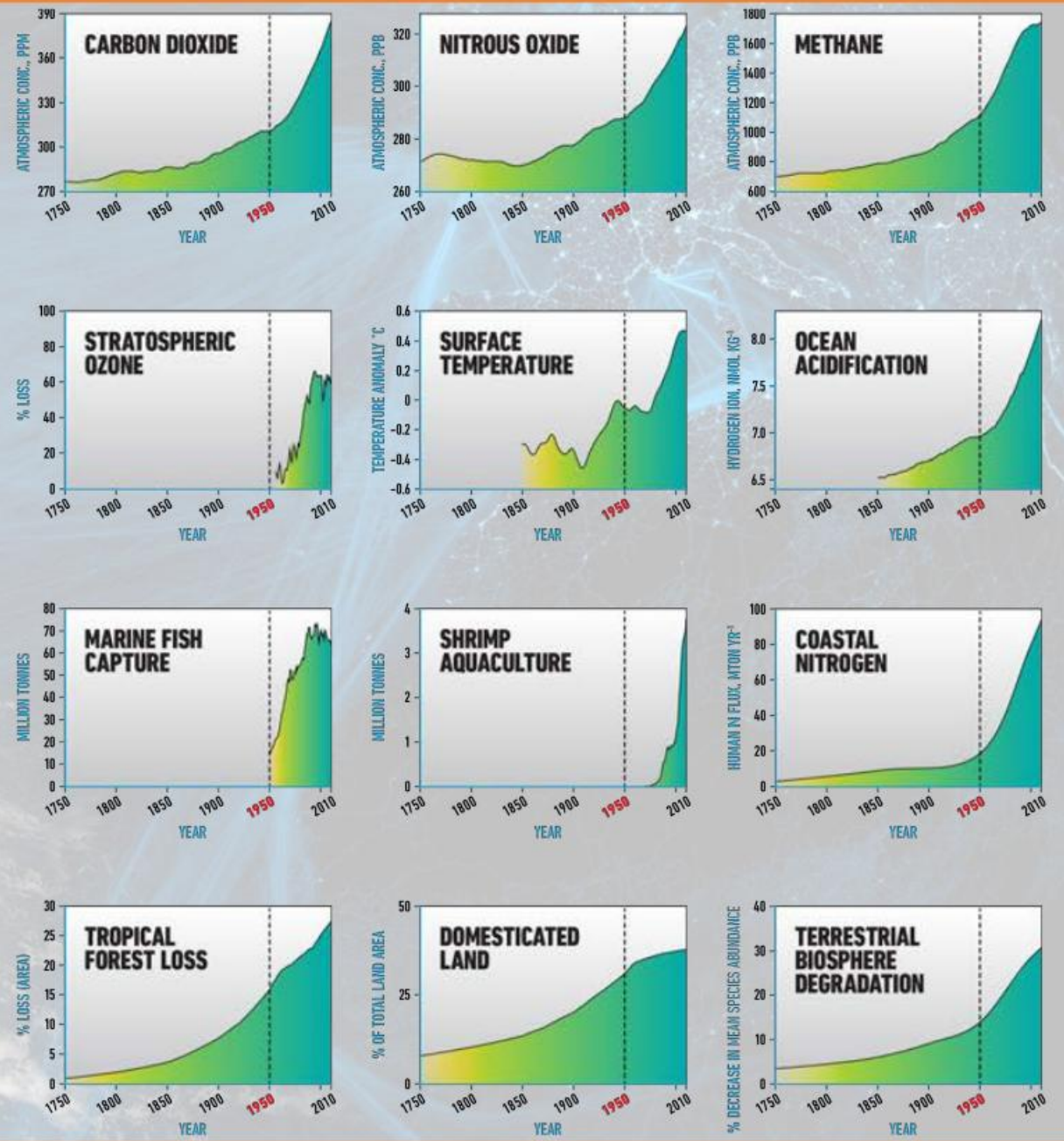
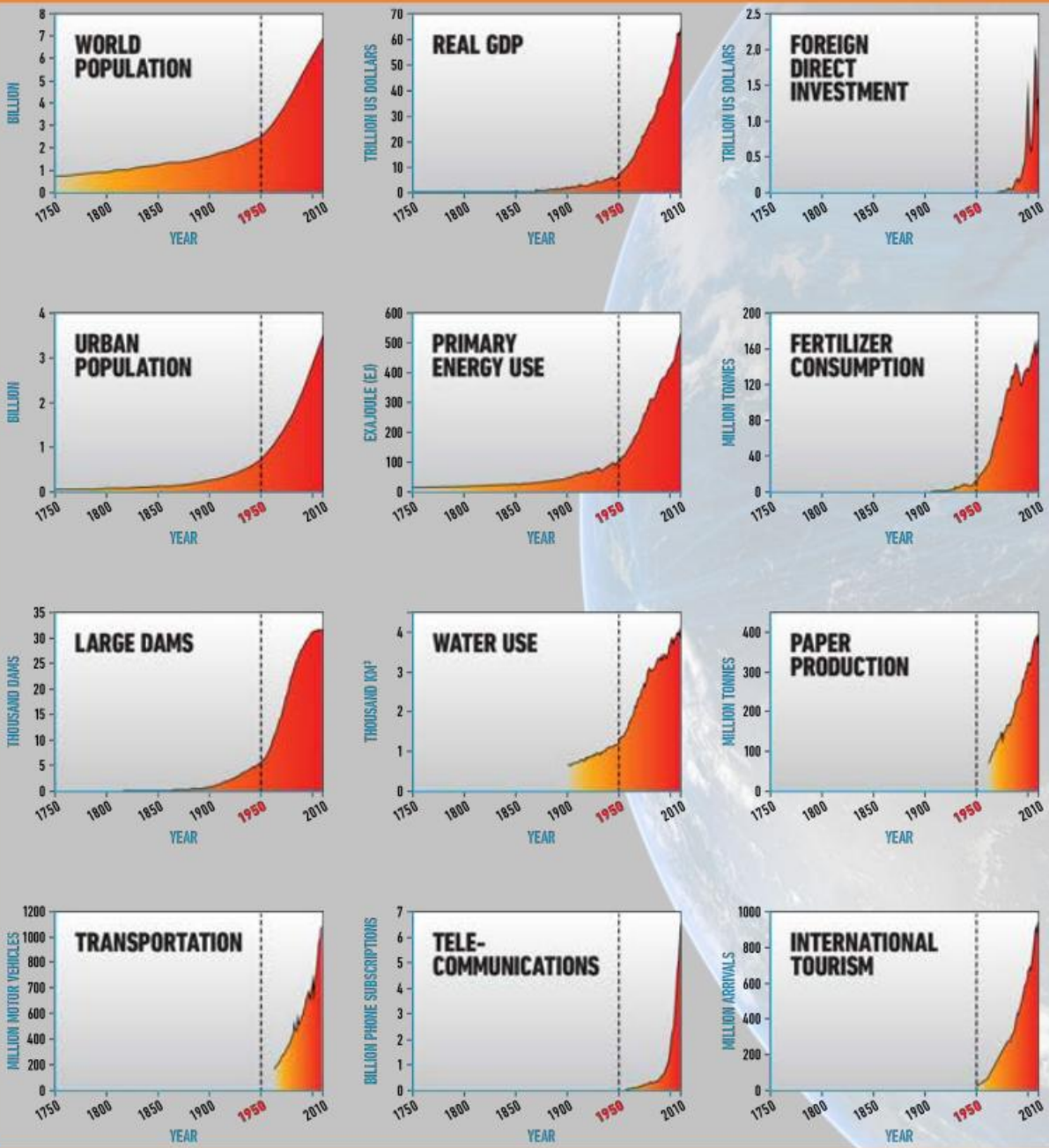
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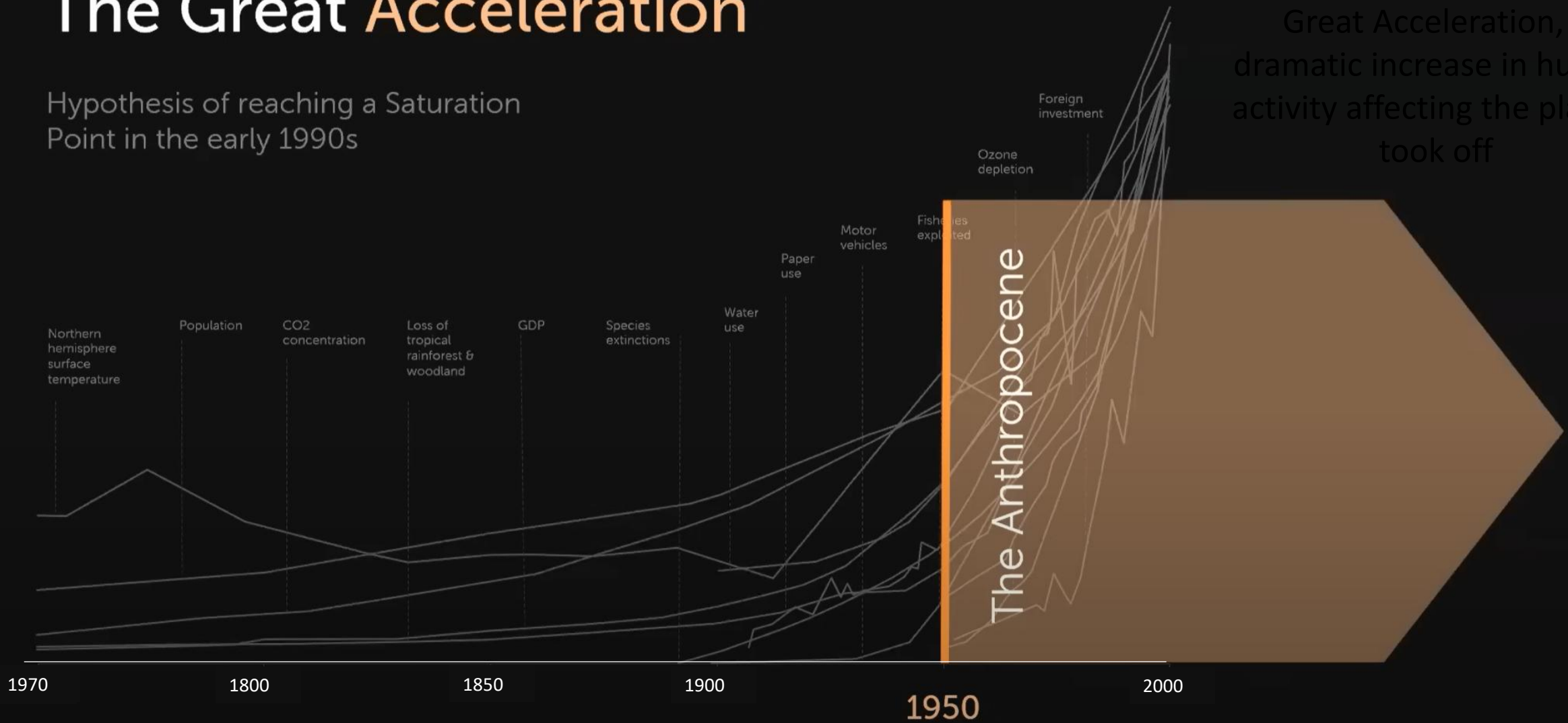




The Great Acceleration

Hypothesis of reaching a Saturation Point in the early 1990s

Great Acceleration, a dramatic increase in human activity affecting the planet, took off



New Scientist 2008 from Steffen et al. 2004

ANTHROPOCENE

- > The Anthropocene is a term used to describe the current geological age, viewed as the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and ecosystems.
- > Anthropocene Epoch is an **unofficial** unit of geologic time



The Anthropocene is a proposed geological epoch starting in the mid-20th century in which Earth has been radically altered by human impacts

Sources: Nature, LabXchange, Smithsonian National Museum of History, Britannica, NASA, Live Science, stratigraphy.org

AFP ●

NEWS | 06 March 2024 | Correction [06 March 2024](#)

Geologists reject the Anthropocene as Earth's new epoch – after 15 years of debate

But some are now challenging the vote, saying there were 'procedural irregularities'.

By [Alexandra Witze](#)



The sediments of Crawford Lake near Toronto, Canada, have collected and preserved signs of humanity's impact on Earth, including microplastics and plutonium from hydrogen-bomb tests. Credit: The Canadian Press/Alamy

The meaning of the Anthropocene: why it matters even without a formal geological definition

Even though geologists have rejected the designation of an Anthropocene epoch, the idea of a major planetary transition in the mid-twentieth century remains useful across physical and social sciences, the humanities and policy.

By [Jan Zalasiewicz](#), [Julia Adeney Thomas](#), [Colin N. Waters](#), [Simon Turner](#) & [Martin J. Head](#)



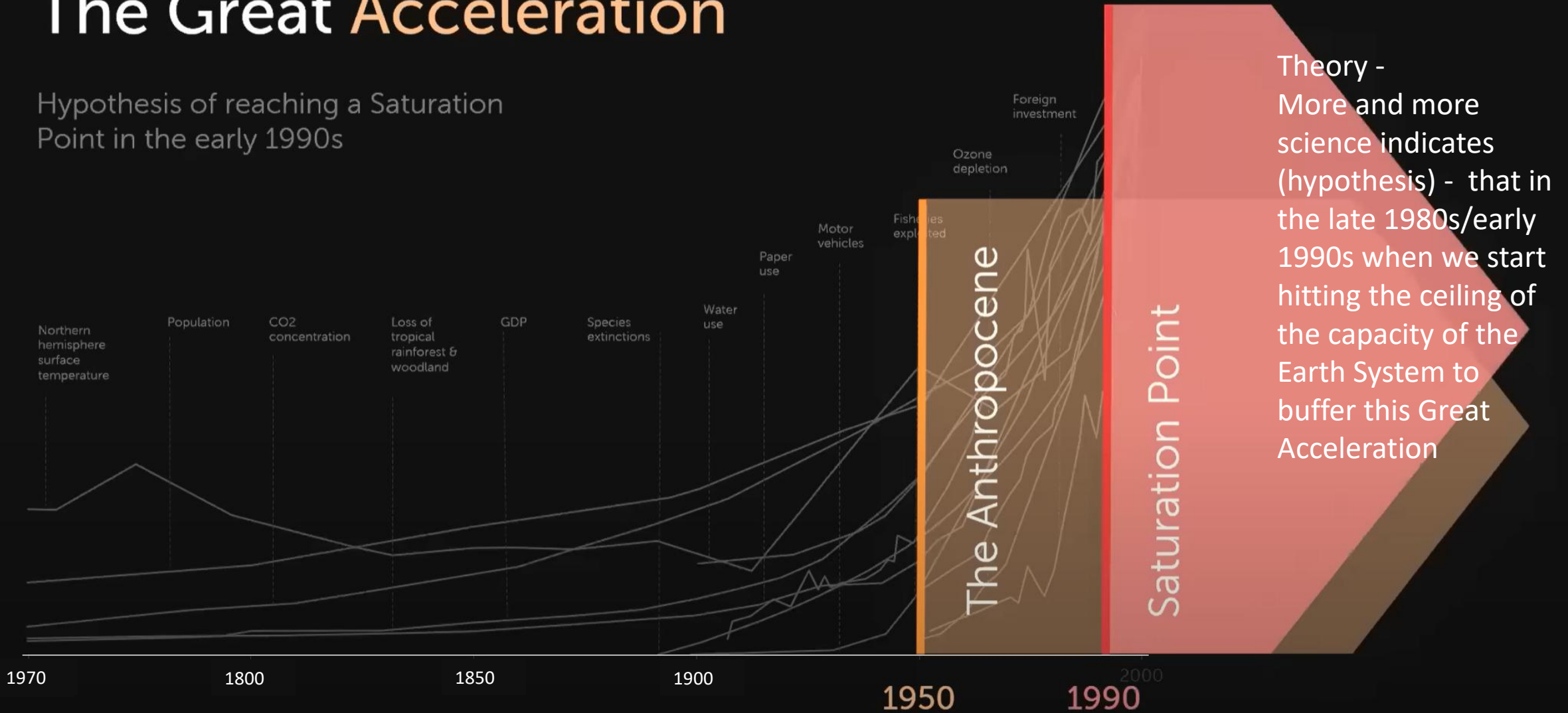
Anthropocene has been widely adopted to describe, analyse and interpret the transformed conditions in which humans now live

It is used by different groups.

- **Earth-System Science:** To model and assess human impacts on Earth's systems, particularly regarding transgressing planetary boundaries.
- **Humanities & Social Sciences:** Explores how human activities have begun to dominate natural forces, influencing history, philosophy, politics, and culture.
- **Policymakers & Urban Planners:** Focuses on understanding human-driven changes to climate and biosphere, critical for creating effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

The Great Acceleration

Hypothesis of reaching a Saturation Point in the early 1990s



Theory - More and more science indicates (hypothesis) - that in the late 1980s/early 1990s when we start hitting the ceiling of the capacity of the Earth System to buffer this Great Acceleration

New Scientist 2008 from Steffen et al. 2004

SMALL WORLD ON LARGE PLANET

Externalities

Incremental, linear change

Earth resilience high

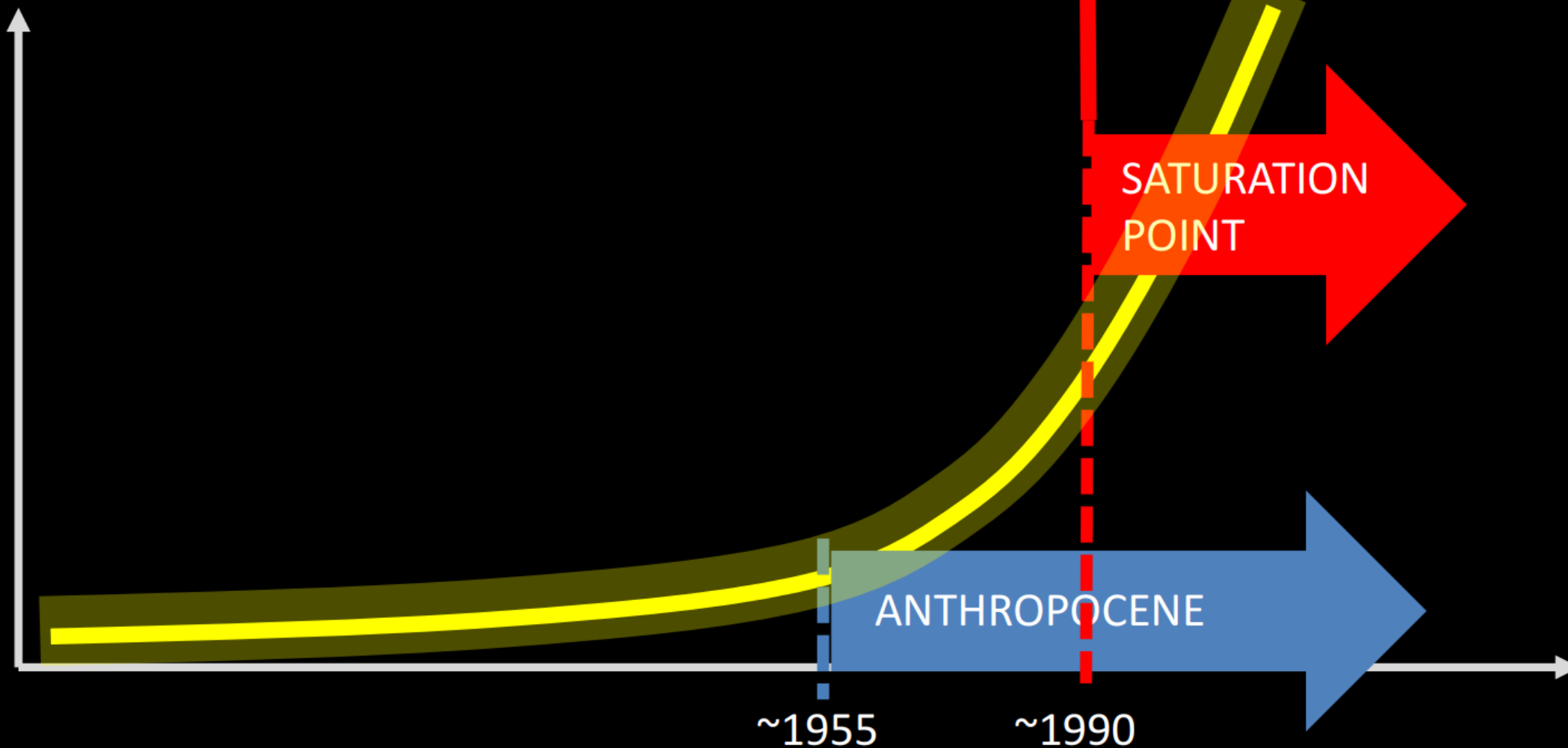
BIG WORLD ON SMALL PLANET

Internalities

Non-linear, Regime shifts

Earth resilience low

Tipping
points



TIPPING POINTS

- > **Tipping Points:** Critical thresholds in a system that, when exceeded, can lead to a significant change in the state of the system, often with an understanding that the change is irreversible
- > Threshold represents the point up to which a system can absorb “stresses” and adapt without experiencing fundamental shifts in its structure or function

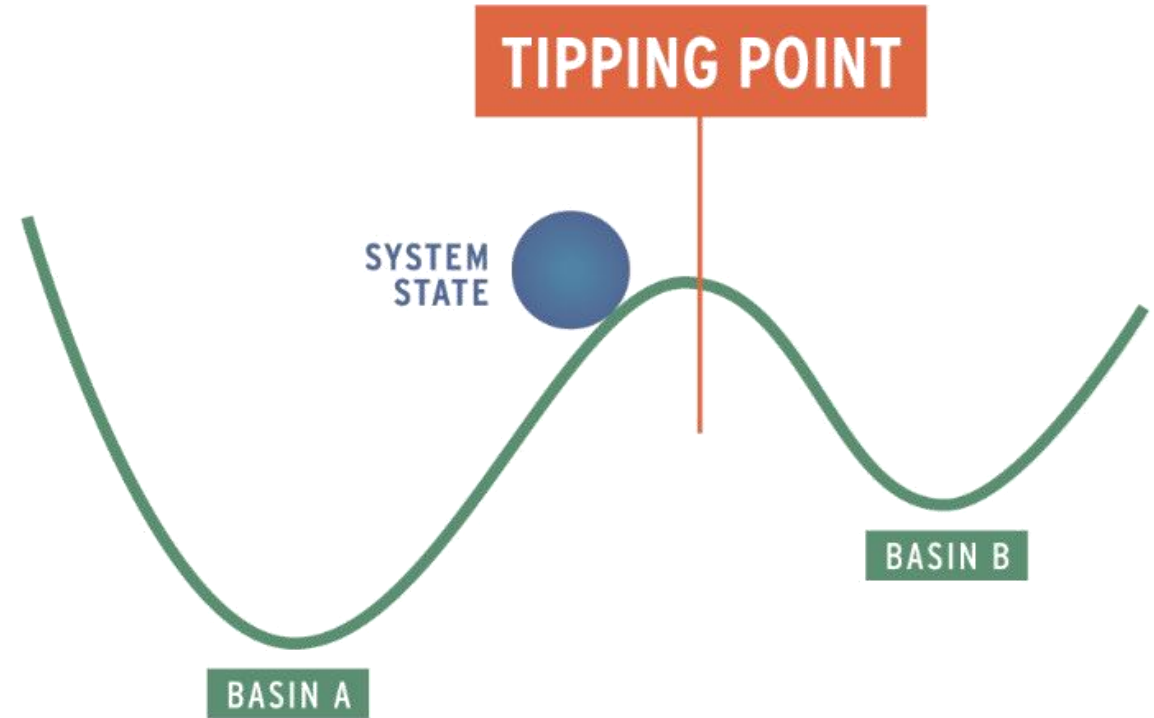
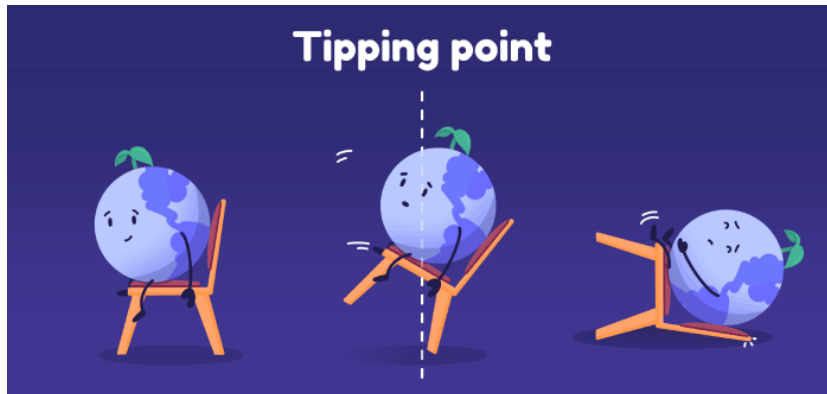
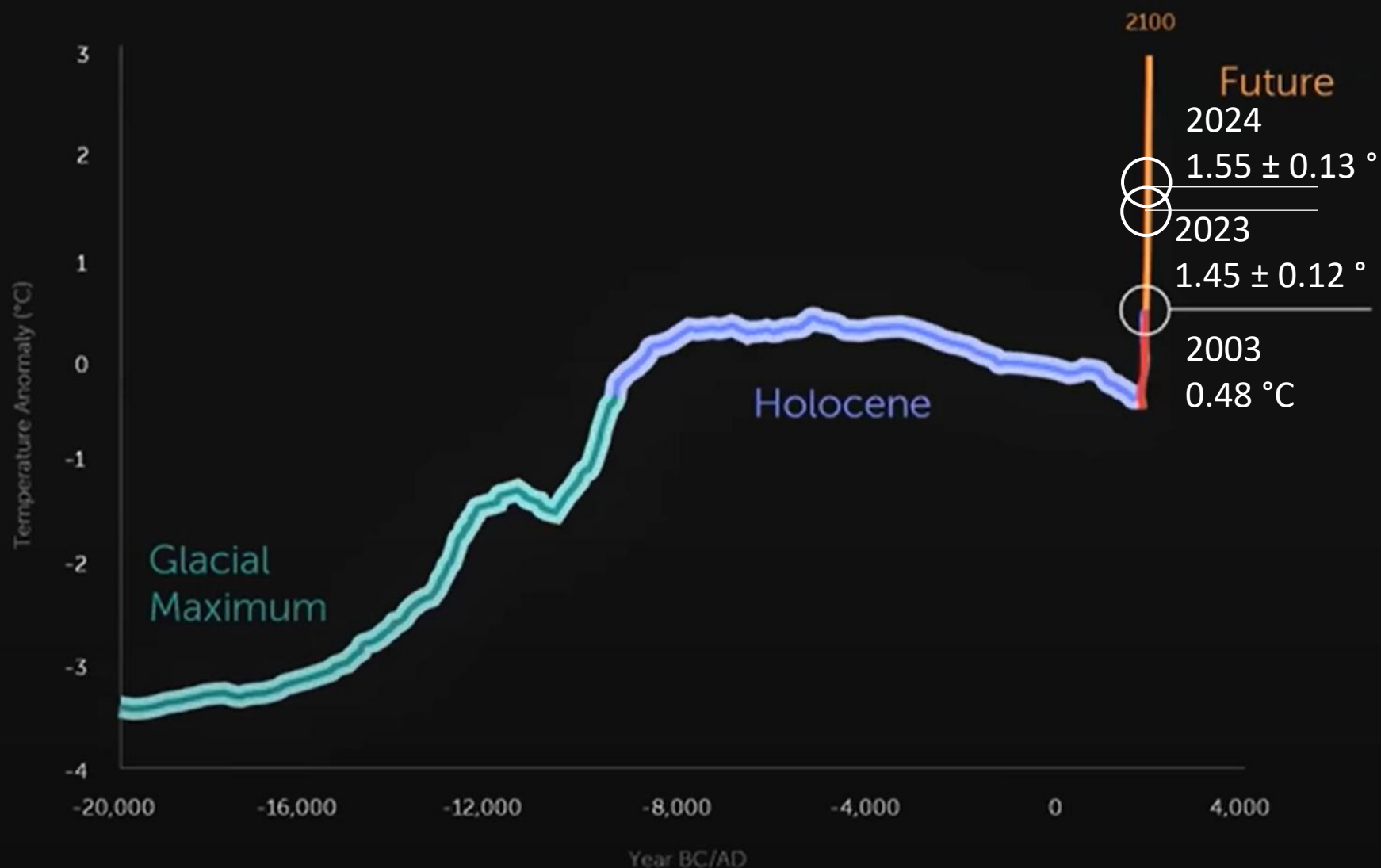


Illustration by Andrew Bernier, adapted from Walker, B. & Salt, D. (2006) Resilience Thinking: Sustaining Ecosystems and People in a Changing World. Island Press: Washington, DC.

Global temperature since the last Ice Age

- Shakun et al.
- Marcott et al.
- A1B
- HadCRUT4



Tipping becomes likely within

Regional
elements



Global
elements

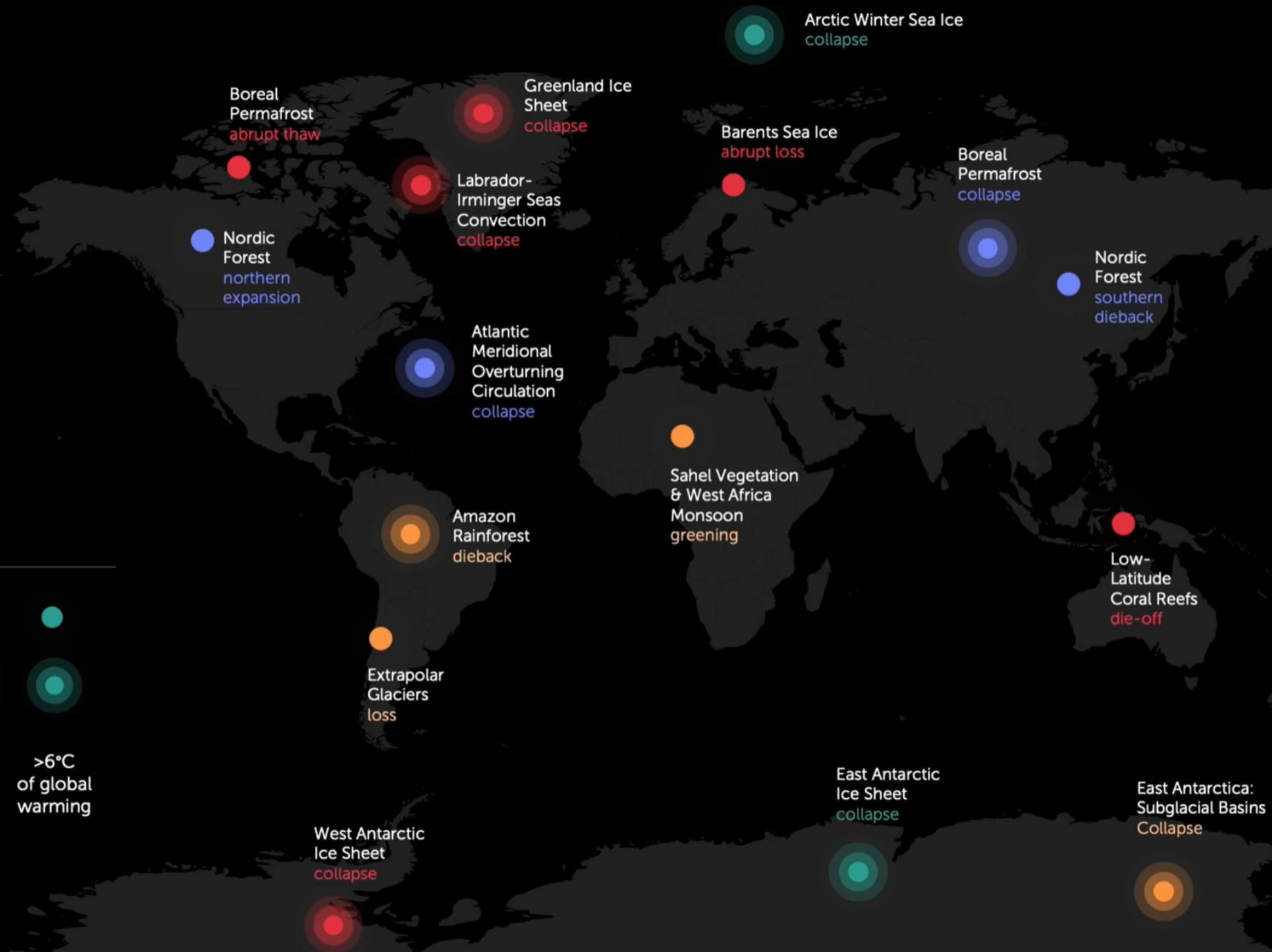


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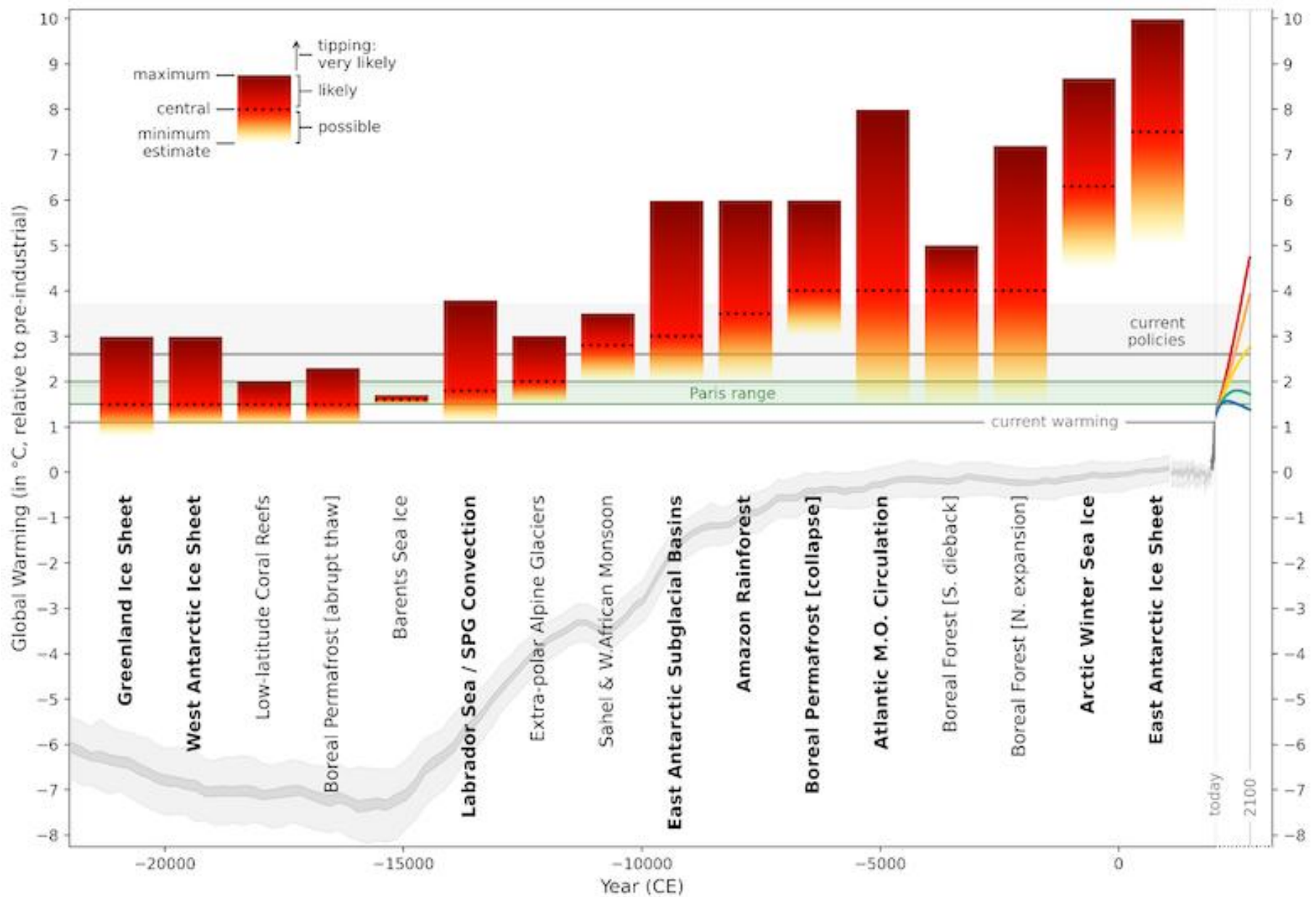
2.0-3.7

3.7-6.0

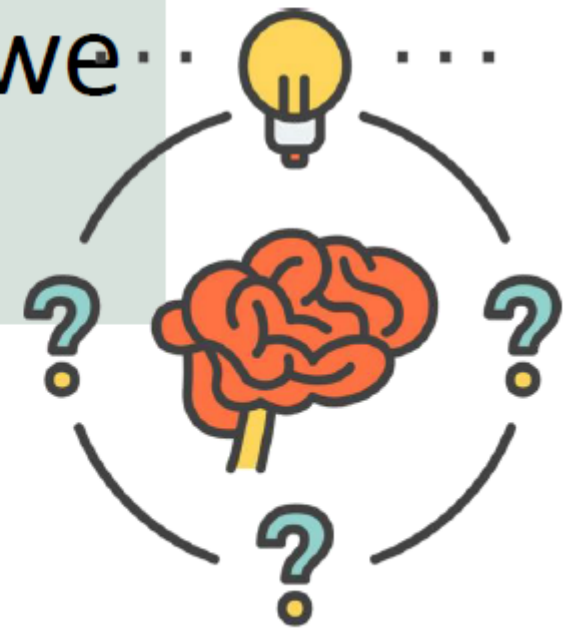
>6°C
of global
warming







real Is the burden of human activities on Earth's systems reaching a critical level? Are we crossing tipping points?



What is the safe operating system for humanity on planet Earth?

What are the limits of key Earth system processes that we cannot exceed if we want to avoid rapid and catastrophic environmental change?



Earth, oceans, atmosphere. These interconnected systems exist in a delicate balance that has kept

PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

- > Johan Rockström from the Stockholm Resilience Centre and Will Steffen from the Australian National University led a group of scientists and developed the **Planetary Boundaries Framework** in 2009
- > The Planetary Boundaries define the safe operating space for humanity with respect to the Earth system and are associated with the **planet's biophysical subsystems**.
- > No assumptions on human needs
- > No assumptions on human innovation capacity

nature

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Feature | Published: 23 September 2009

A safe operating space for humanity

[Johan Rockström](#), [Will Steffen](#), [Kevin Noone](#), [Åsa Persson](#), [F. Stuart Chapin III](#), [Eric F. Lambin](#), [Timothy M. Lenton](#), [Marten Scheffer](#), [Carl Folke](#), [Hans Joachim Schellnhuber](#), [Björn Nykvist](#), [Cynthia A. de Wit](#), [Terry Hughes](#), [Sander van der Leeuw](#), [Henning Rodhe](#), [Sverker Sörlin](#), [Peter K. Snyder](#), [Robert Costanza](#), [Uno Svedin](#), [Malin Falkenmark](#), [Louise Karlberg](#), [Robert W. Corell](#), [Victoria J. Fabry](#), [James Hansen](#), ... [Jonathan A. Foley](#) [+ Show authors](#)

[Nature](#) **461**, 472–475 (2009) | [Cite this article](#)

596k Accesses | **8752** Citations | **2374** Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Identifying and quantifying planetary boundaries that must not be transgressed could help prevent human activities from causing unacceptable environmental change, argue Johan Rockström and colleagues.

Summary

- New approach proposed for defining preconditions for human development
- Crossing certain biophysical thresholds could have disastrous consequences for humanity
- Three of nine interlinked planetary boundaries have already been overstepped

PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

- > **9 processes** that are critical for maintaining the stability and resilience of Earth system as a whole and have been affected by anthropogenic activities:

1. **Climate Change**

2. **Biosphere integrity (genetic diversity):** linked to biodiversity loss

Core Planetary Boundaries the most critical because they affect the other boundaries altogether- Significantly altering either of these “core boundaries” would “drive the Earth System into a new state”

3. **Ocean Acidification** Preventing ocean acidification is crucial for preserving the health of marine ecosystems and fisheries.

4. **Biogeochemical flows (Nitrogen and Phosphorus Cycles):** Keeping these cycles within safe boundaries is essential to prevent water pollution and habitat degradation.

5. **Freshwater Use**

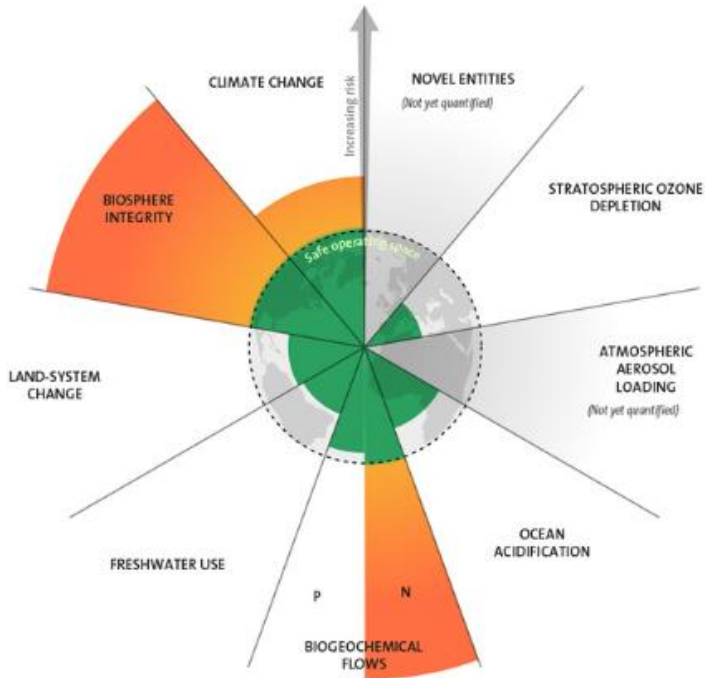
6. **Land Use Changes (forests):** Protecting natural habitats is crucial for maintaining ecosystem services.

7. **Atmospheric Aerosol Loading**

8. **Stratospheric Ozone Depletion**

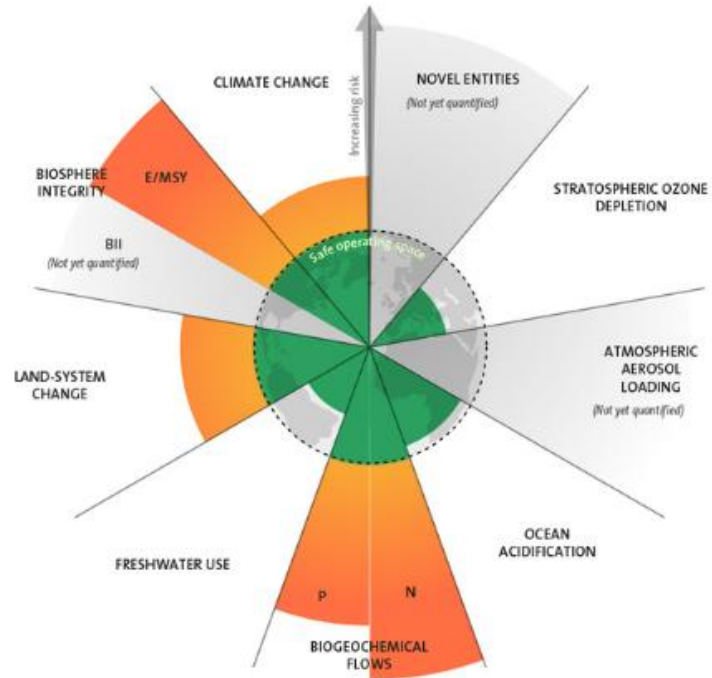
9. **Novel Entities (Chemical Pollution)** - aims to limit the release of synthetic chemicals (e.g., microplastics), which affects human and ecosystem health.

2009



7 boundaries assessed,
3 crossed

2015



7 boundaries assessed,
4 crossed

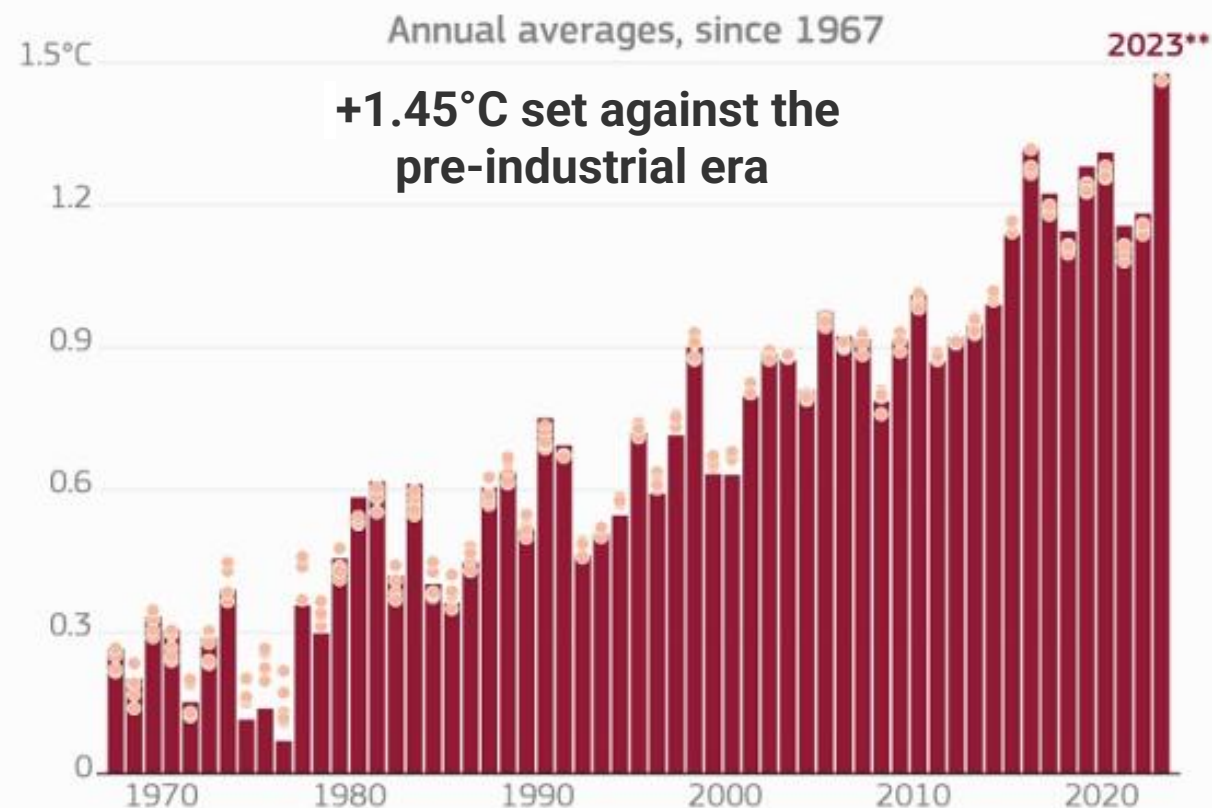
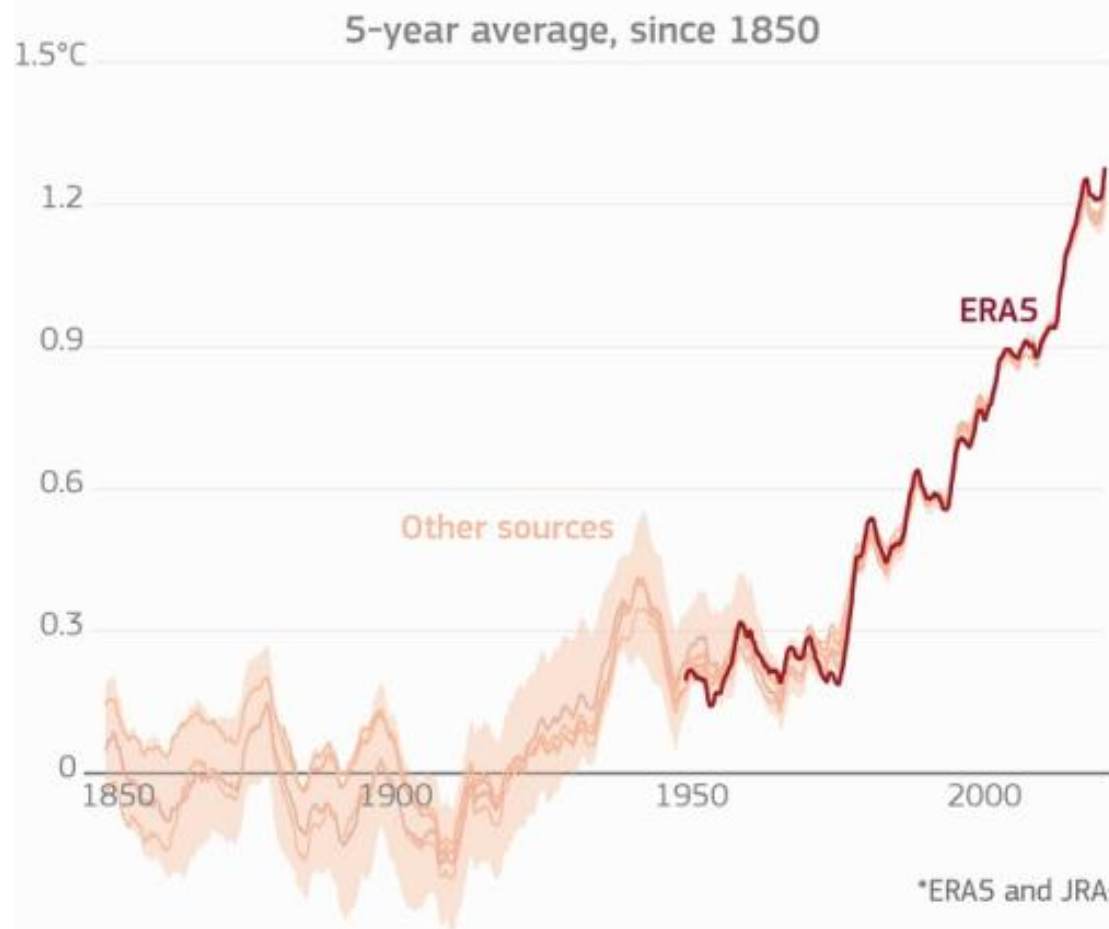
2023

How are we
today?

GLOBAL SURFACE TEMPERATURE: INCREASE ABOVE PRE-INDUSTRIAL LEVEL (1850-1900)



■ ERA5 data ● Other sources* (including JRA-3Q, GISTEMPv4, NOAA GlobalTempv5, Berkeley Earth, HadCRUT5)



*ERA5 and JRA-3Q data are only shown from 1948. Shaded area represents the uncertainty for HadCRUT5 data
**Estimate for 2023 based on ERA5 and JRA-3Q data only
Credit: C3S/ECMWF



PROGRAMME OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION

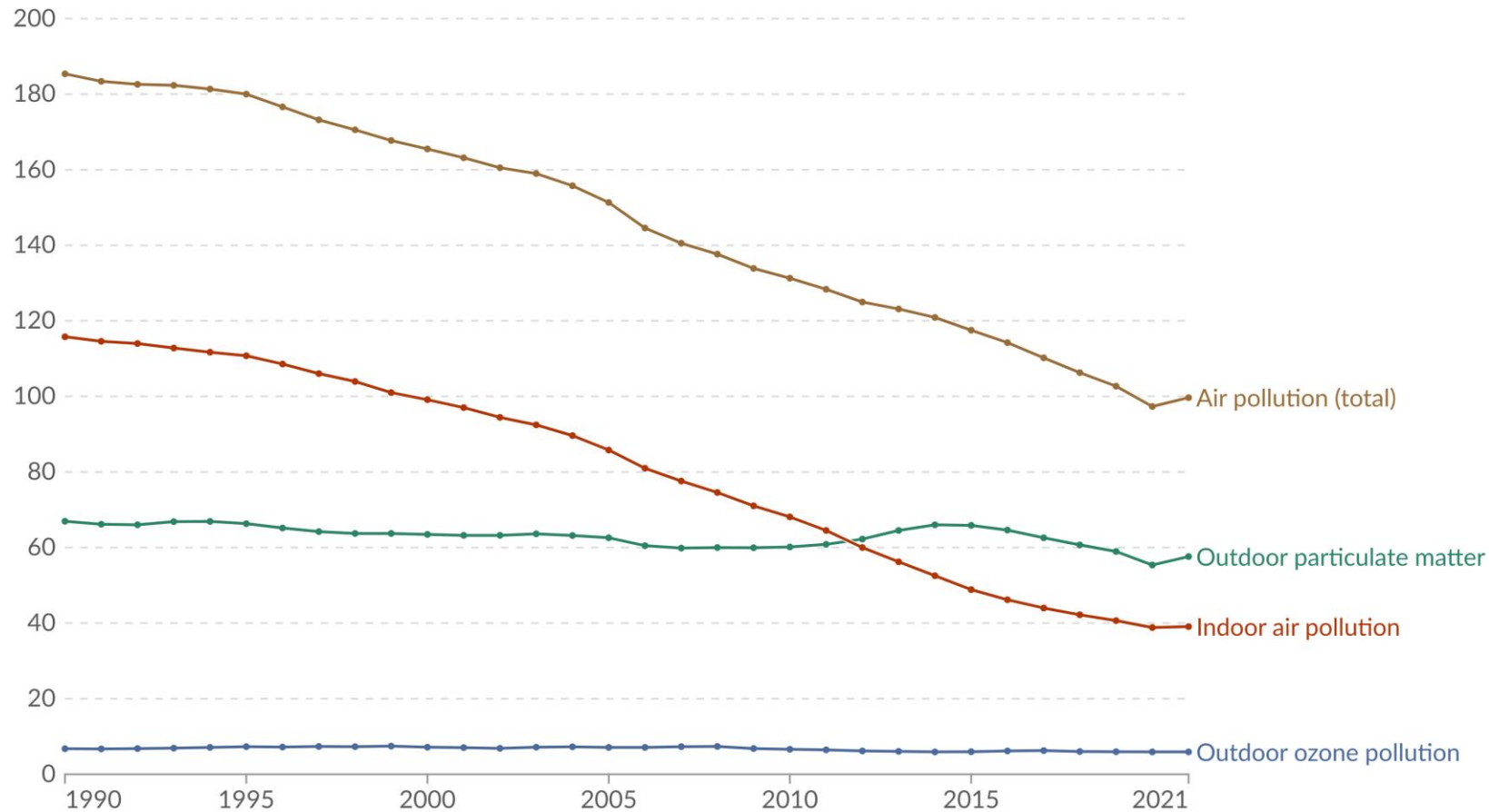


Climate
Change Service

climate.copernicus.eu

Death rate from air pollution, World

Estimated number of deaths attributed to different types of air pollution per 100,000 population. Deaths can be attributed to multiple risk factors.



Data source: IHME, Global Burden of Disease (2024)

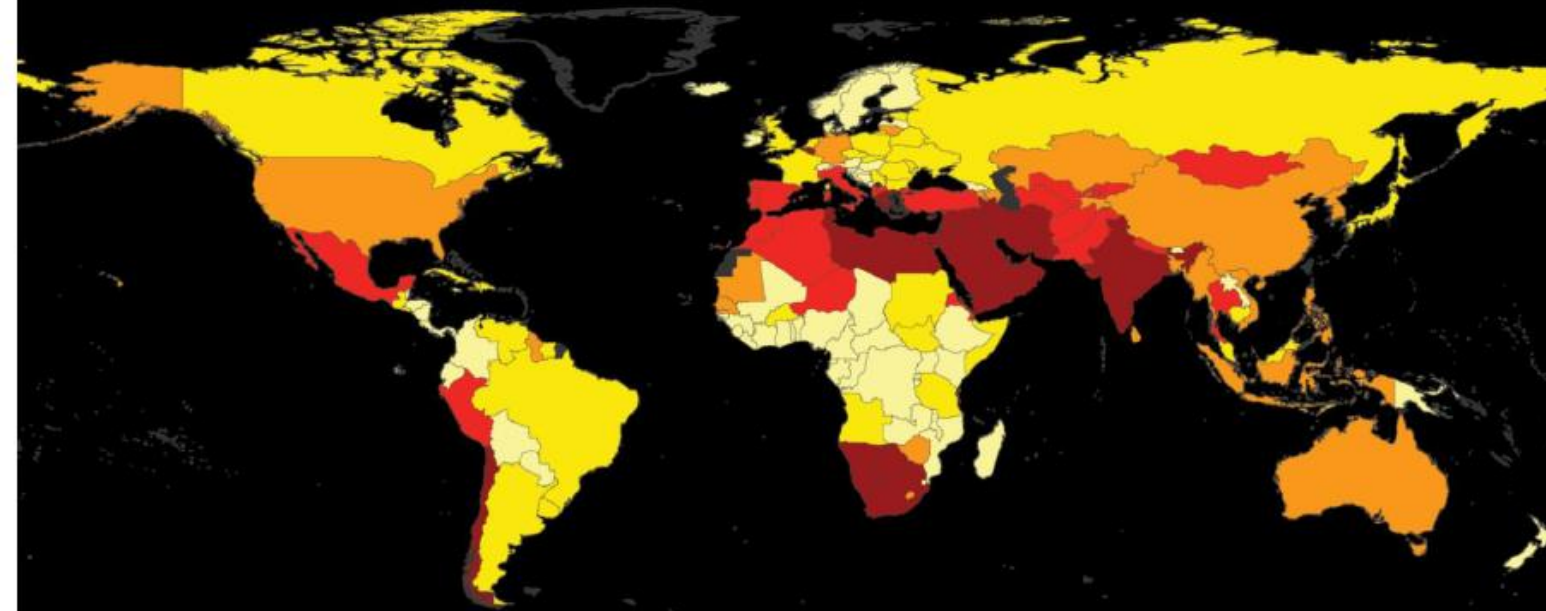
OurWorldinData.org/air-pollution | CC BY

Note: To allow for comparisons between countries and over time, this metric is age-standardized¹.

1. Age standardization: Age standardization is an adjustment that makes it possible to compare populations with different age structures, by standardizing them to a common reference population. [Read more: How does age standardization make health metrics comparable?](#)

25 COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY EXPOSED TO EXTREMELY HIGH WATER STRESS ANNUALLY

BASELINE WATER STRESS



Source: wri.org/aqueduct.

23.08.02

 **AQUEDUCT™**



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Water stress: ratio of water demand to renewable supply. A country facing “extreme water stress” means it is using at least 80% of its available supply, “high water stress” means it is withdrawing 40% of its supply.

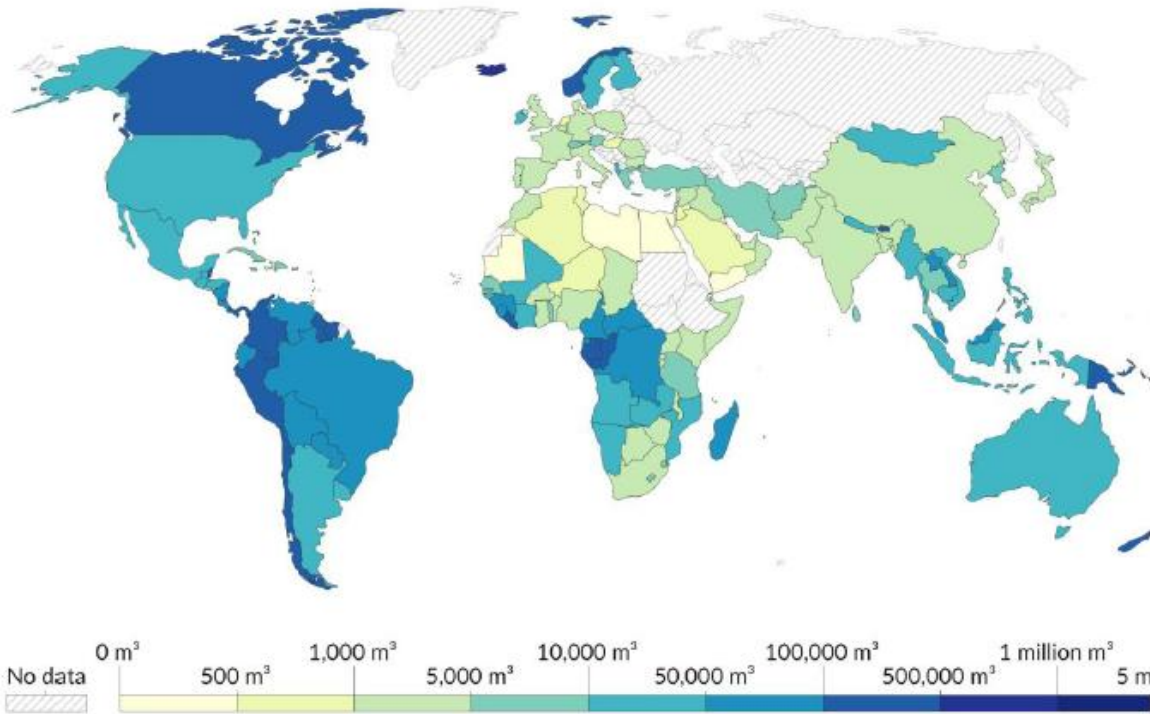


1/4 of the global population — face extremely high water stress each year, regularly using up almost their entire available water supply.

At least 50% of the world’s population live under highly water-stressed conditions for at least one month of the year.

Renewable freshwater resources per capita, 1961

Renewable internal freshwater resources flows refer to internal renewable resources (internal river flows and groundwater from rainfall) in the country.

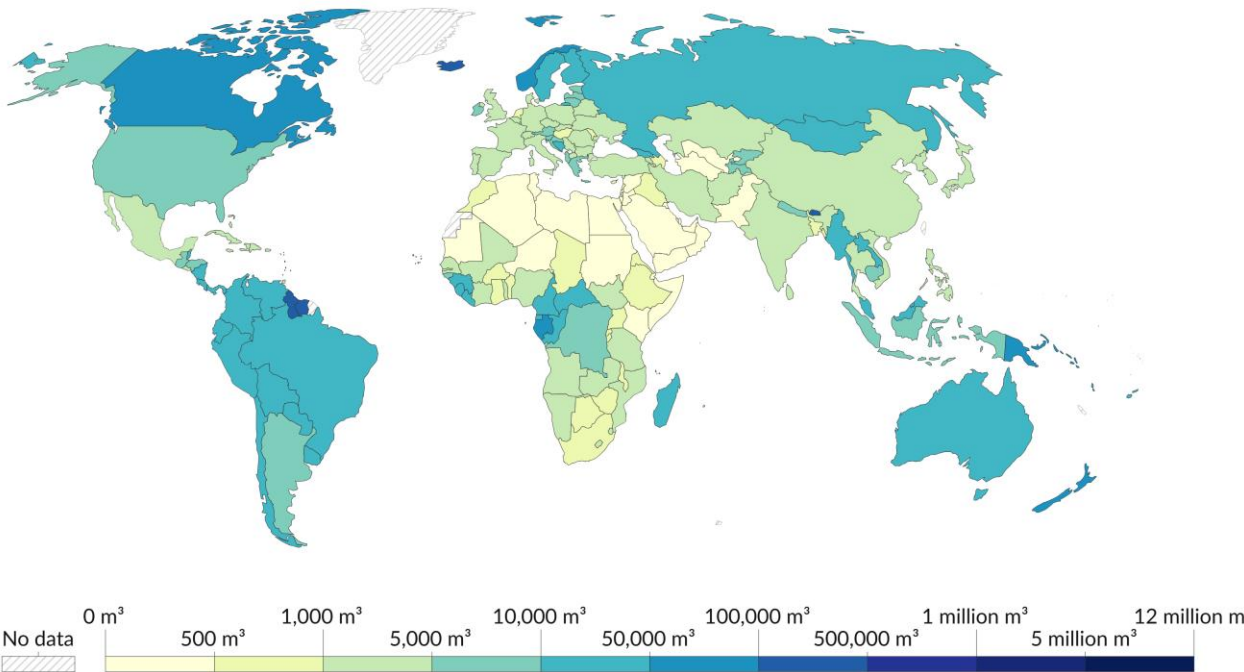


Data source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (via World Bank)
OurWorldInData.org/water-use-stress | CC BY

Our World
in Data

Renewable freshwater resources per capita, 2021

Renewable internal freshwater resources flows refer to internal renewable resources (internal river flows and groundwater from rainfall) in the country.



Data source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (via World Bank) (2025) OurWorldInData.org/water-use-stress | CC BY

Our World
in Data

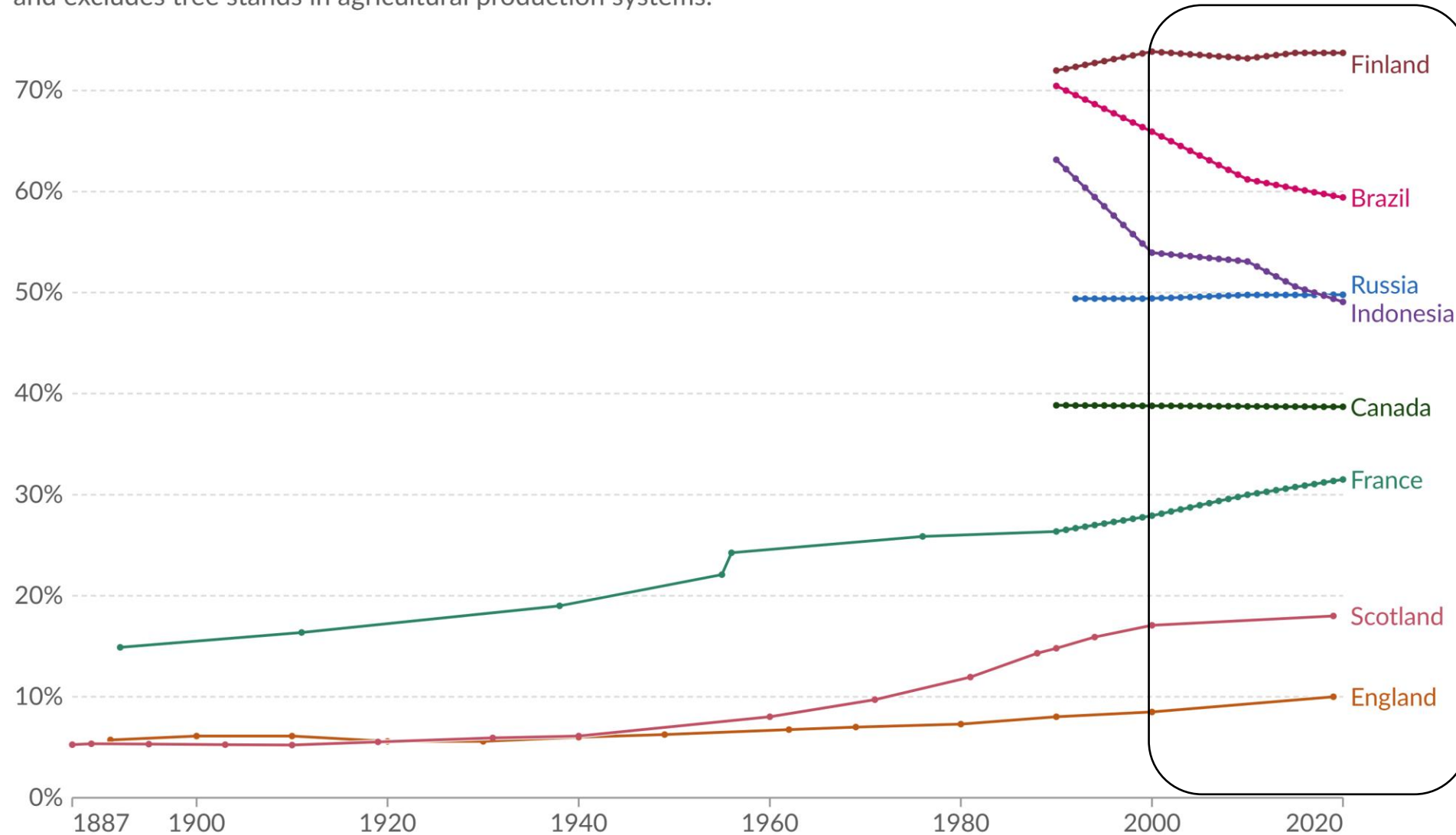


“A total of 4.1 million hectares of primary tropical forest were lost in 2022” (global forest loss 4% higher than in 2021)

Source: WWF (2023) The Forest Pathways Report. Gagen, M.H., Dudley, N., Jennings, S., Timmins, H.L. BaldwinCantello, W., D’Arcy, L., Dodsworth, J.E., Fleming, D., Kleymann, H., Pacheco, P., Price, F., (Lead Authors). WWF, Gland, Switzerland.

Share of land covered by forest

Forest area is land with natural or planted stands of trees at least five meters in height, whether productive or not, and excludes tree stands in agricultural production systems.



Data source: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and historical sources
OurWorldInData.org/forests-and-deforestation | CC BY

The rapid loss of species we are seeing today is estimated by experts to be between 1,000 and 10,000 times higher than the *natural extinction rate*.

Between 0.01 and 0.1% of all species will become extinct each year

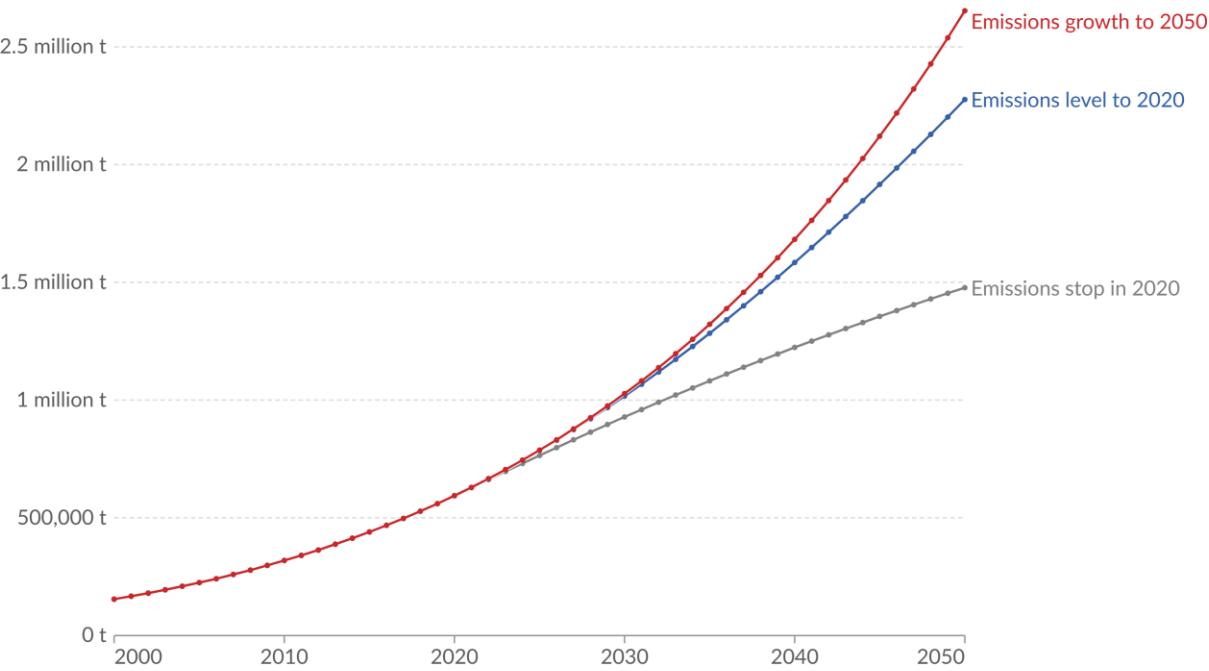
Source: wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/biodiversity/biodiversity/



Microplastics in the surface ocean, 2000 to 2050

Our World
in Data

Microplastics are buoyant plastic materials smaller than 0.5 centimeters in diameter. Future global accumulation in the surface ocean is shown under three plastic emissions scenarios: (1) emissions to the oceans stop in 2020; (2) stagnate at 2020 rates; or (3) continue to grow until 2050 in line with historical plastic production rates.



Data source: Lebreton et al. (2019)

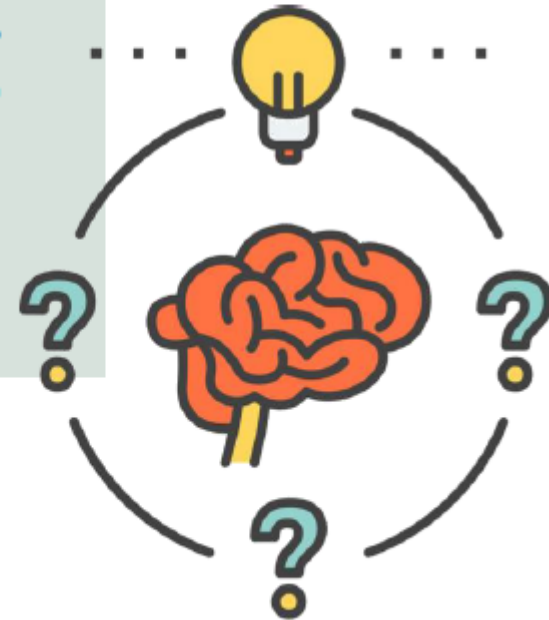
OurWorldInData.org/plastic-pollution | CC BY

France (EU) size = 543,94K km²

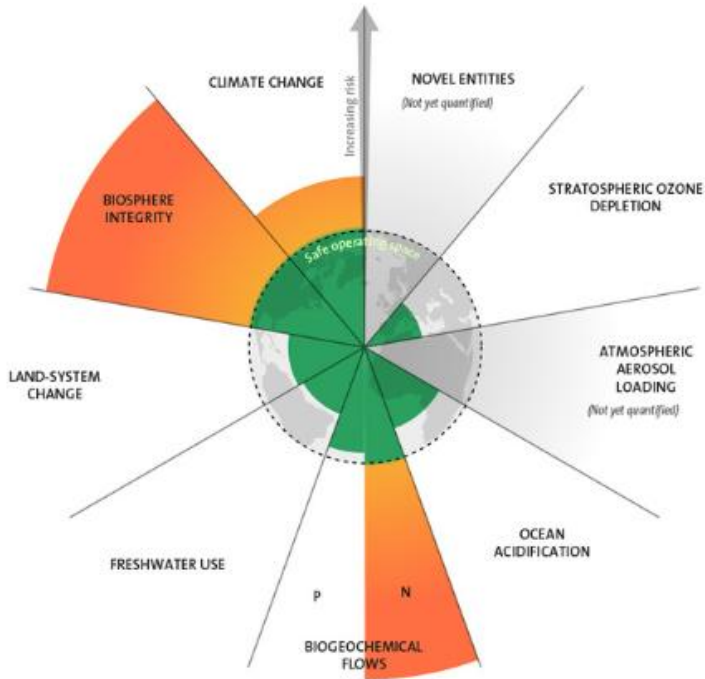
A 2018 Scientific Report in Nature puts the size of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch at 1.6 million km2



How do you think it is our position today regarding planetary boundaries?

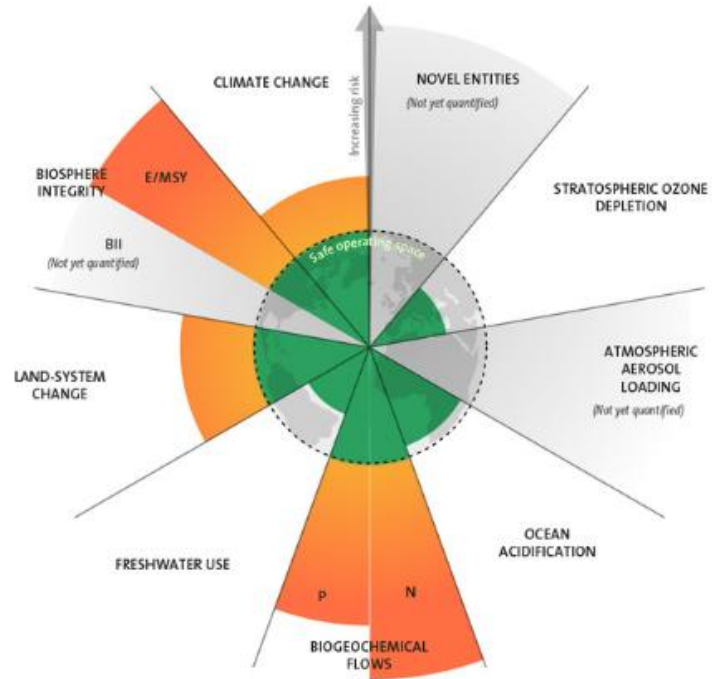


2009



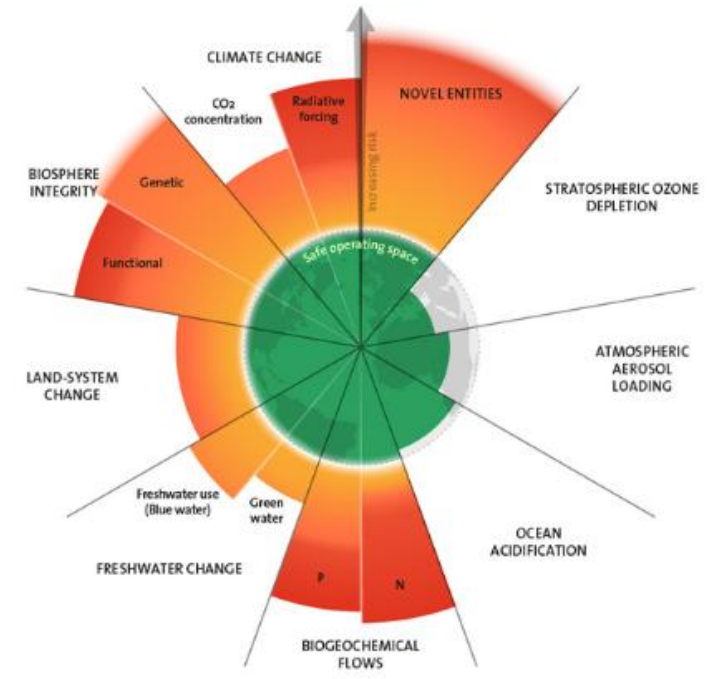
7 boundaries assessed,
3 crossed

2015



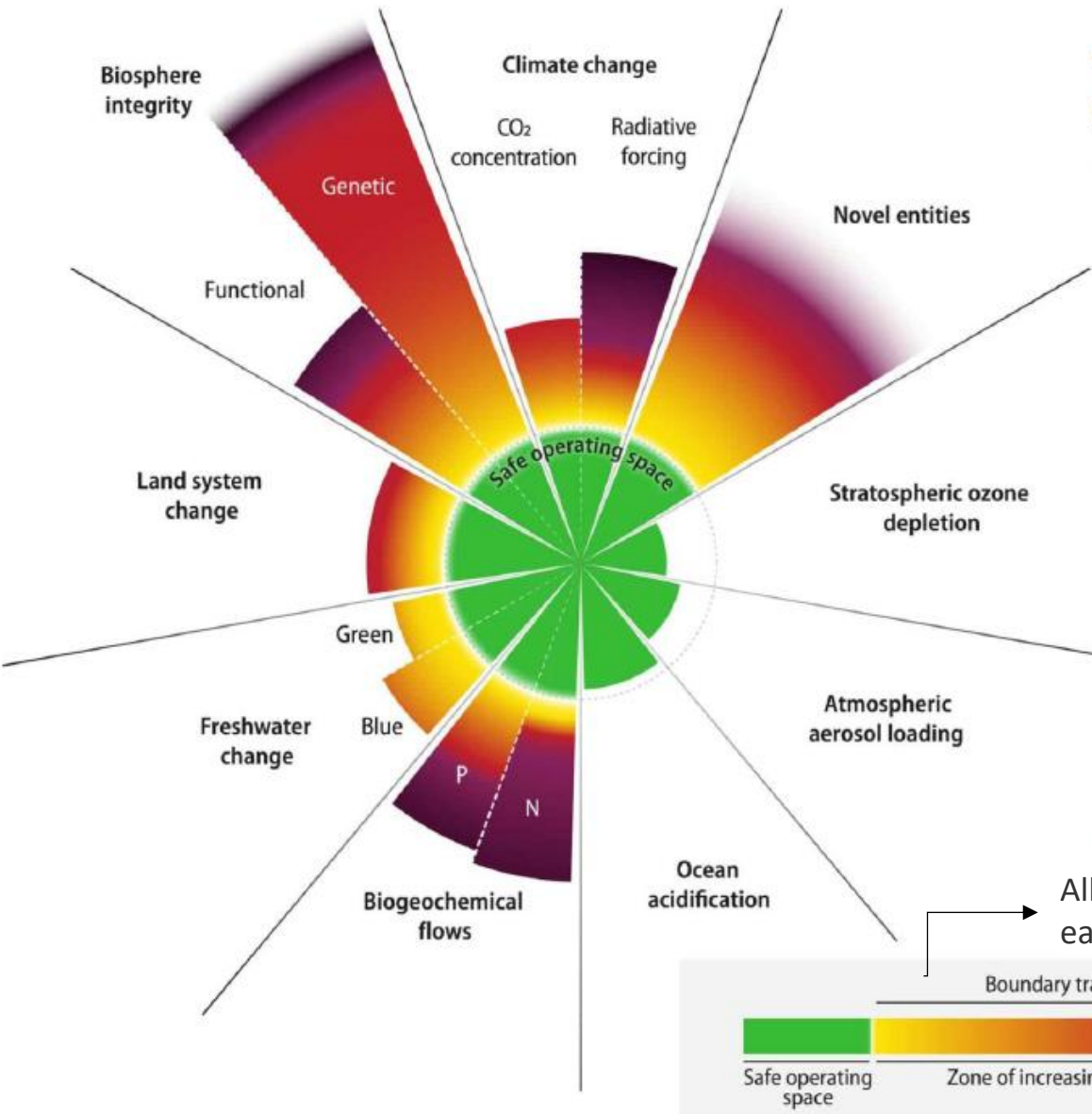
7 boundaries assessed,
4 crossed

2023



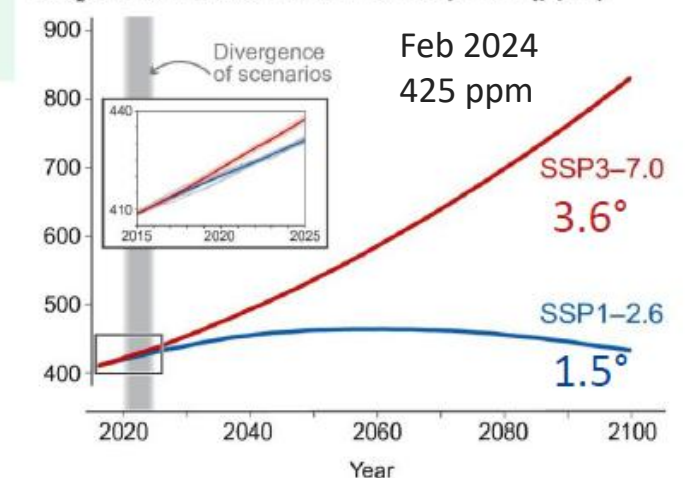
9 boundaries assessed,
6 crossed

2023 | Climate Change



Earth system process	Control variable(s)	Planetary boundary	Preindustrial Holocene base value	Upper end of zone of increasing risk	Current value of control variable
Climate change	Atmospheric CO ₂ concentration (ppm CO ₂)	350 ppm CO ₂	280 ppm CO ₂	450 ppm CO ₂	417 ppm CO ₂ (41)
	Total anthropogenic radiative forcing at top-of-atmosphere (W m ⁻²)	+1.0 W m ⁻²	0 W m ⁻²	+1.5 W m ⁻²	+2.91 W m ⁻² (41)

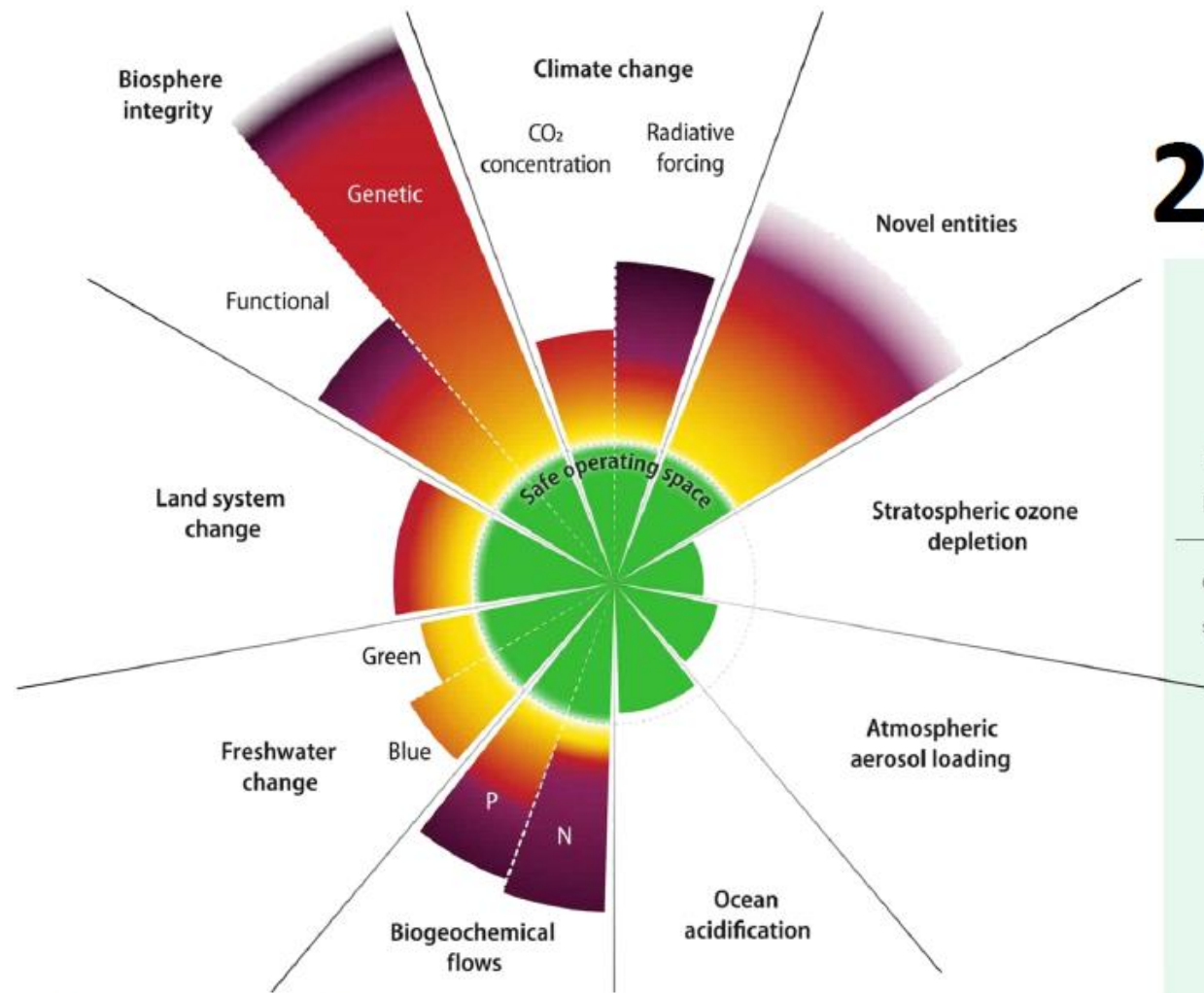
CO₂ concentration in the atmosphere (ppm)



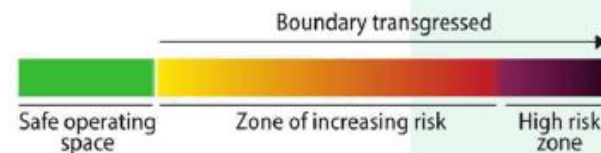
Source: Richardson et al. (2023). Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. Science, 9(37).

doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458

2023 | Biodiversity



“Estimated 8 million plant and animal species, around 1 million are threatened with extinction, and over 10% of genetic diversity of plants& animals may have been lost over the past 150 years”



Source: Richardson et al. (2023). Earth beyond six of nine planetary boundaries. Science, 9(37).
doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adh2458

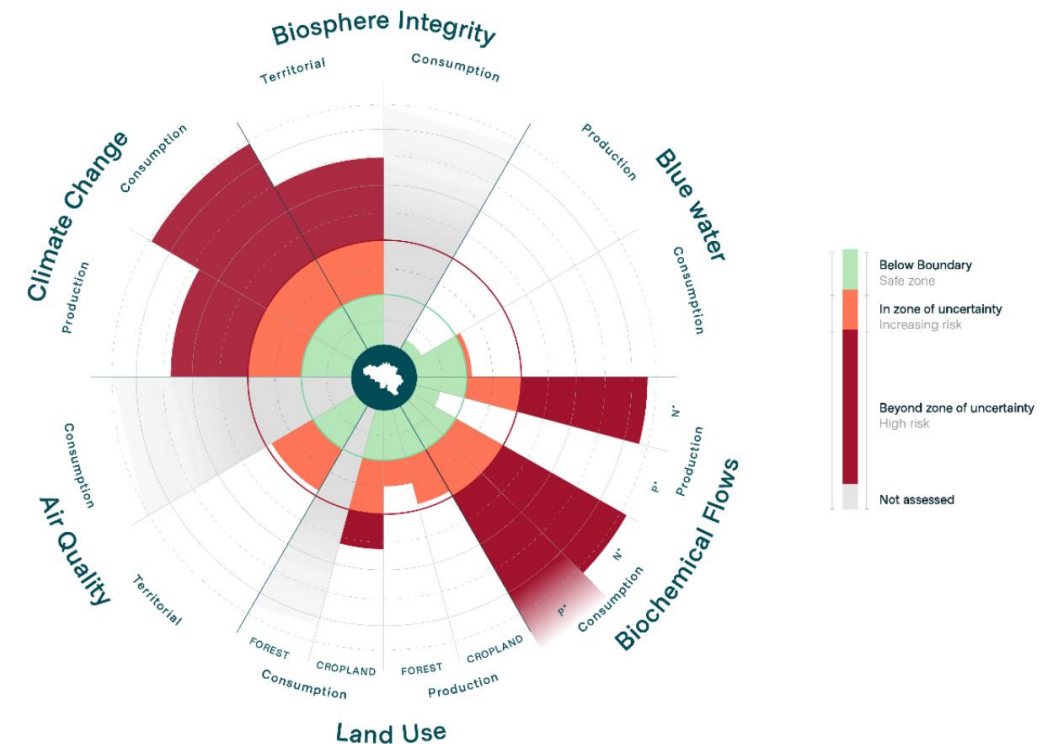
Earth system process	Control variable(s)	Planetary boundary	Preindustrial Holocene base value	Upper end of zone of increasing risk	Current value of control variable
Change in biosphere integrity	Genetic diversity: E/MSY	<10 E/MSY but with an aspirational goal of ca. 1 E/MSY (assumed background rate of extinction loss)	1 E/MSY	100 E/MSY	>100 E/MSY (24–26)
	Functional integrity: measured as energy available to ecosystems (NPP) (% HANPP)	HANPP (in billion tonnes of C year ⁻¹) <10% of preindustrial Holocene NPP, i.e., >90% remaining for supporting biosphere function	1.9% (2σ variability of preindustrial Holocene century-mean NPP)	20% HANPP	30% HANPP (see the Supplementary Materials)
					HANPP: Human Appropriation of Net Primary Productivity

TRANSLATING THE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES FRAMEWORK TO A NATIONAL LEVEL

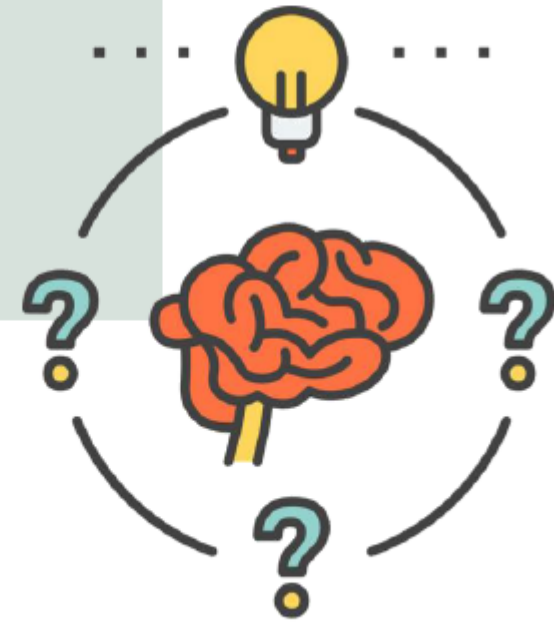
- > 'Downscaling' - translation of globally defined planetary boundaries into locally or nationally actionable targets.

How can we share the Planetary Boundaries fairly?

- > Equality – equal share per capita
- > Right to develop – equal share of development index

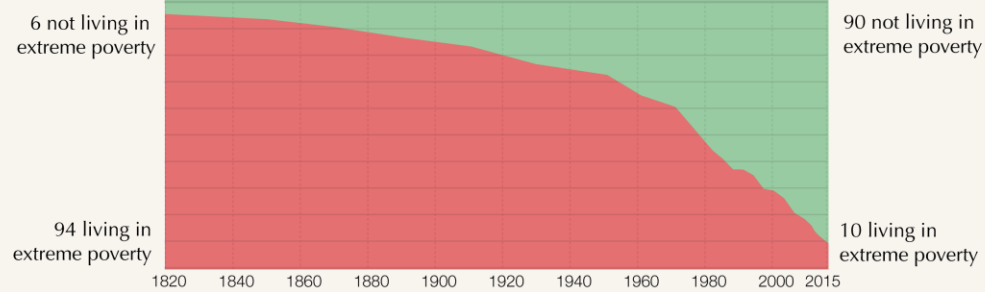


From a socioeconomic perspective how do you think the world is changing?

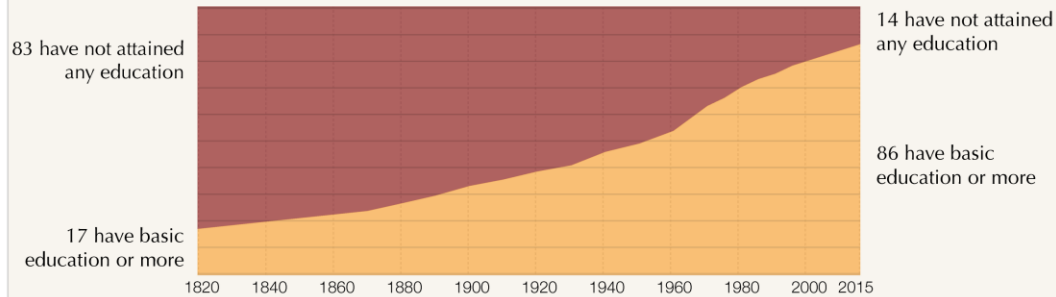


The World as 100 People over the last two centuries

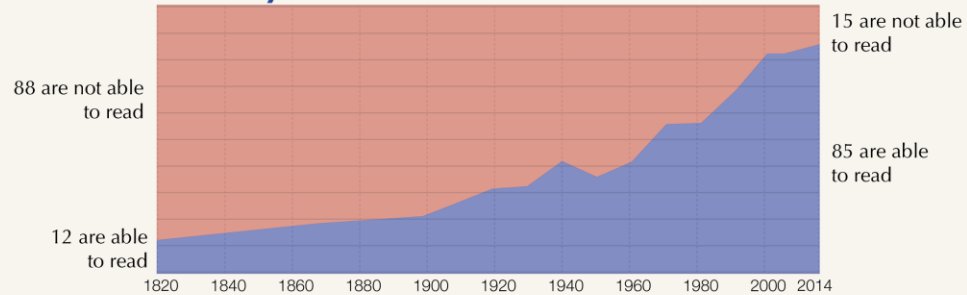
Extreme Poverty



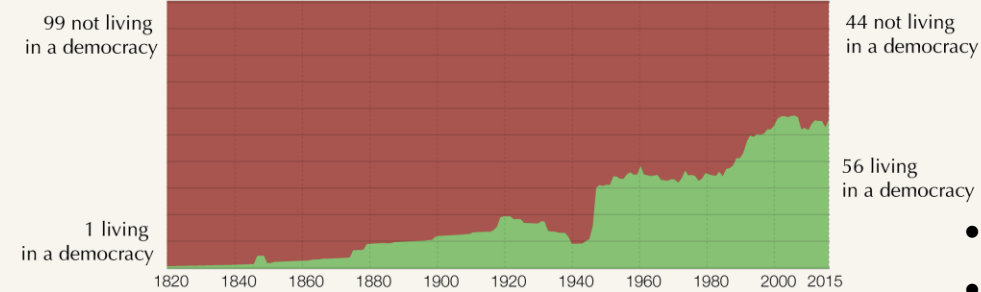
Basic Education



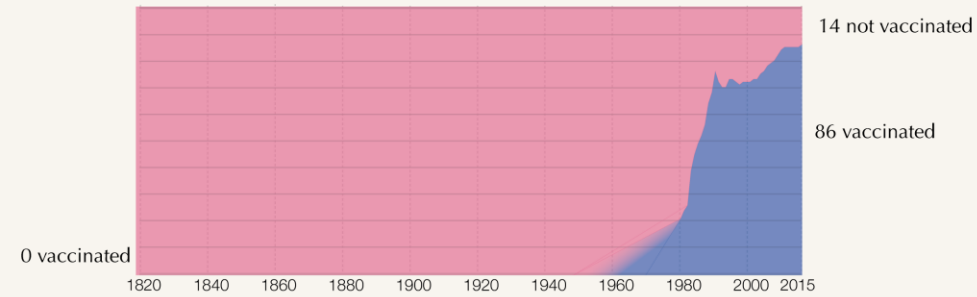
Literacy



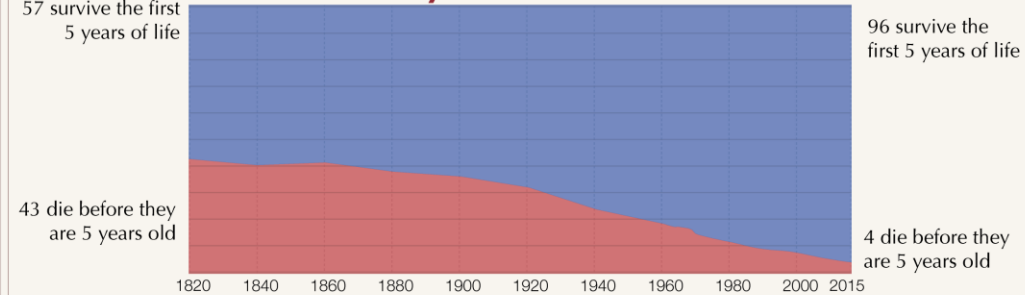
Democracy



Vaccination against diphtheria, pertussis (whooping cough), and tetanus



Child Mortality

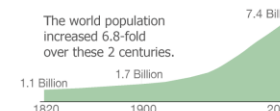


- Better health
- Fewer in poverty
- Better education

Data sources:

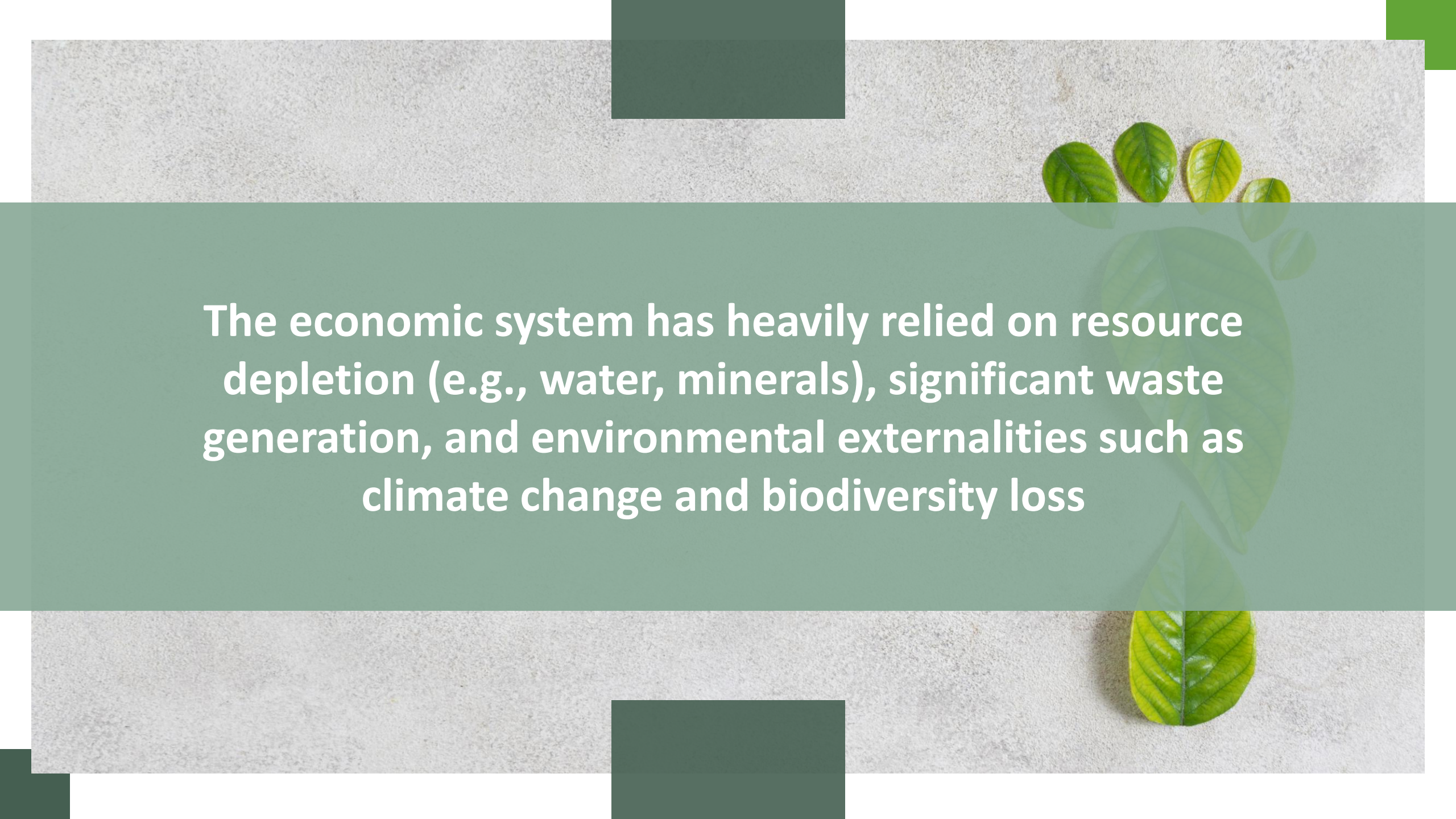
Extreme Poverty: Bourguignon & Morrison (2002) up to 1970 – World Bank 1981 and later (2015 is a projection).
Vaccination: WHO (Global data are available for 1980 to 2015 – the DPT3 vaccination was licenced in 1949)
Education: OECD for the period 1820 to 1960. IIAA for the time thereafter.
Literacy: OECD for the period 1820 to 1990. UNESCO for 2004 and later.

Democracy: Polity IV index (own calculation of global population share)
Colonialism: Wimmer and Min (own calculation of global population share)
Continent: HYDE database
Child mortality: up to 1960 own calculations based on Gapminder; World Bank thereafter



All these visualizations are from [OurWorldInData.org](https://ourworldindata.org) an online publication that presents the empirical evidence on how the world is changing.

Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

The background features a light gray, textured surface. In the upper right, a small cluster of four green leaves is visible. A large, semi-transparent green rectangular overlay covers the center of the image, containing white text. In the lower right, a single green leaf is positioned. The overall design is clean and modern, with a focus on nature and environmental themes.

The economic system has heavily relied on resource depletion (e.g., water, minerals), significant waste generation, and environmental externalities such as climate change and biodiversity loss

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX (HDI)

There is still a huge path to run

World map representing Human Development Index categories (based on 2021 data, published in 2022)



Human Development Index (HDI)

DIMENSIONS

Long and healthy life

Knowledge

A decent standard of living

INDICATORS

Life expectancy at birth

Expected years of schooling

Mean years of schooling

GNI per capita (PPP \$)

DIMENSION INDEX

Life expectancy index

Education index

GNI index

Human Development Index (HDI)

The background of the slide features a light gray, textured surface. In the upper right corner, there is a small cluster of four green leaves. In the lower right corner, there is a single, larger green leaf. A large, semi-transparent green rectangular overlay covers the center of the image, containing the main text. The text is white and centered within this overlay.

**Humanity faces the challenge of how to achieve a
high quality of life for >8 billion people without
destabilizing critical planetary systems**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The economy should be able to grow within a planetary boundary operating space

Can we envisage an economy growing within a safe operating space?



Towards transformation



Global energy system transformation



Transformation towards sustainable cities & urbanisation



Transformation towards a healthy & sustainable food system



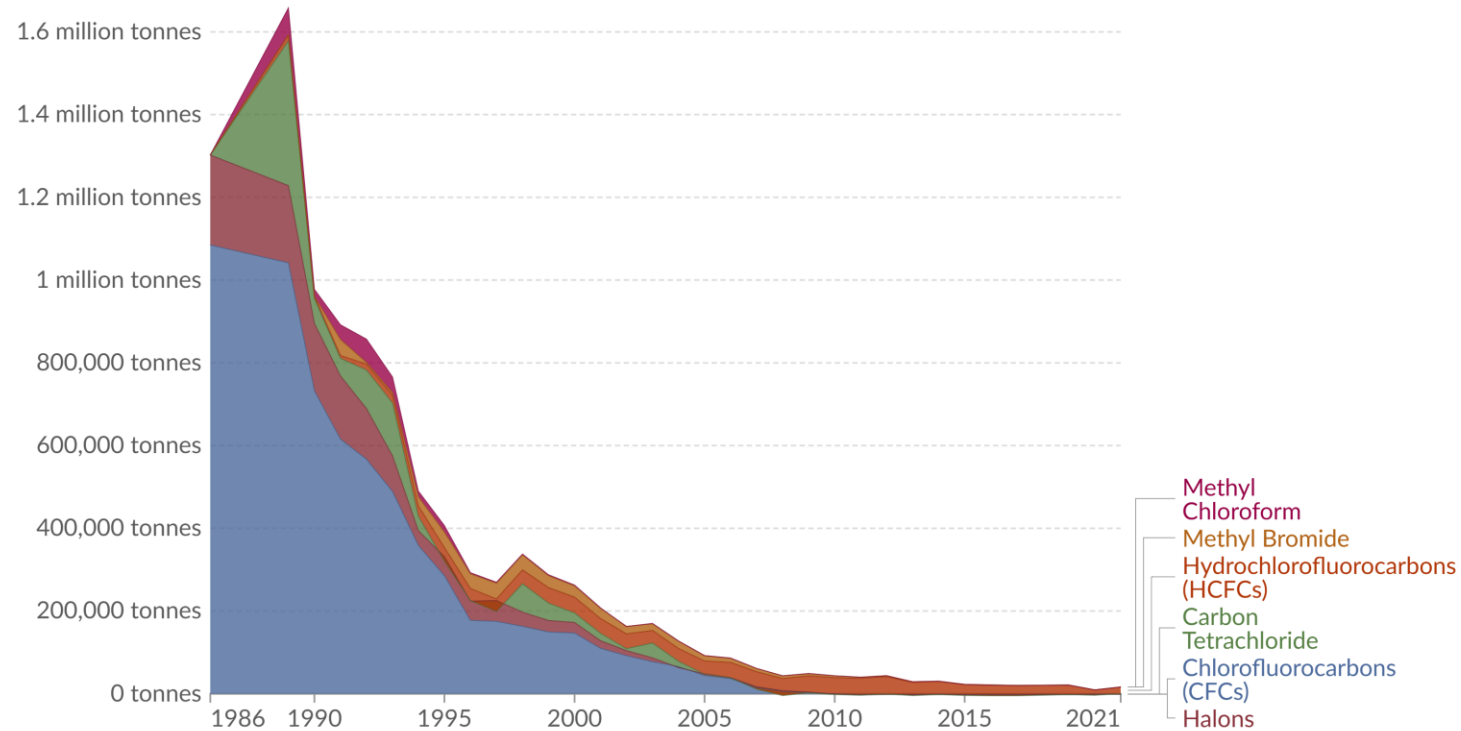
A transformation to a circular economy paradigm

"EXPONENTIAL" GROWTH OF SOLUTIONS

Emissions of ozone-depleting substances, World

Our World
in Data

Annual consumption of ozone-depleting substances. Emissions of each gas are given in ODP tonnes¹, which accounts for the quantity of gas emitted and how "strong" it is in terms of depleting ozone.



Data source: UN Environment Programme (2023)

OurWorldinData.org/ozone-layer | CC BY

Note: In some years, gases can have negative consumption values. This occurs when countries destroy or export gases that were produced in previous years (i.e. stockpiles).

1. Ozone-depleting tonnes (ODP tonnes): Ozone-depleting tonnes measure the total potential of substances to deplete the ozone layer. Some substances that deplete the ozone layer are 'stronger' than others, meaning one tonne will cause greater damage than one tonne of another. ODP tonnes are calculated by multiplying a substance's emissions in tonnes, by its 'ozone-depleting potential'. Ozone-depleting potential measures how much depletion a substance causes relative to CFC-11, which has a value of 1.0. If one tonne of a gas caused twice the depletion of CFC-11, it would have a potential of 2.0.

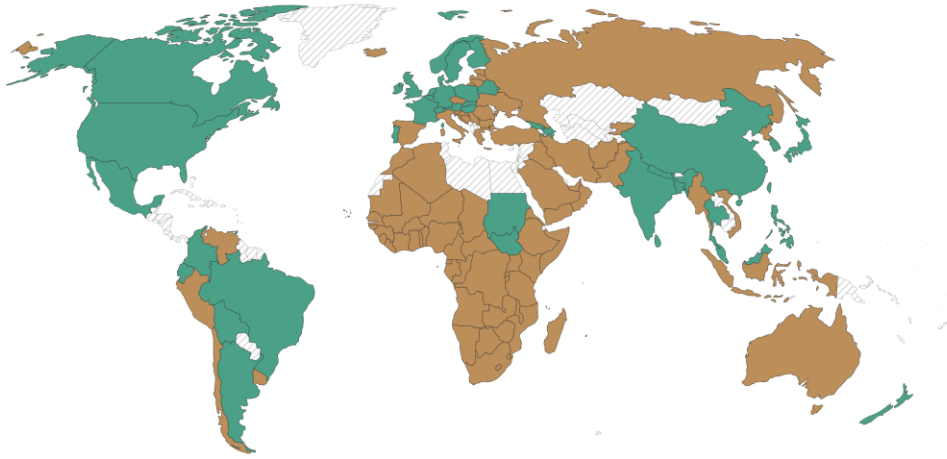
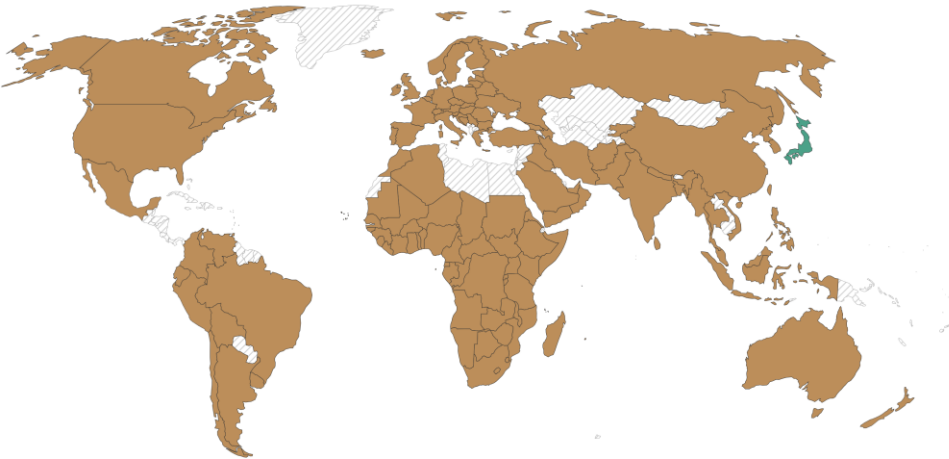
Global phase-out of leaded petrol in road vehicles, 1986

All countries have banned the use of leaded petrol in road vehicles. Algeria was the final country to do so in 2021.



Global phase-out of leaded petrol in road vehicles, 2000

All countries have banned the use of leaded petrol in road vehicles. Algeria was the final country to do so in 2021.



Still in use Banned



Global phase-out of leaded petrol in road vehicles, 2021

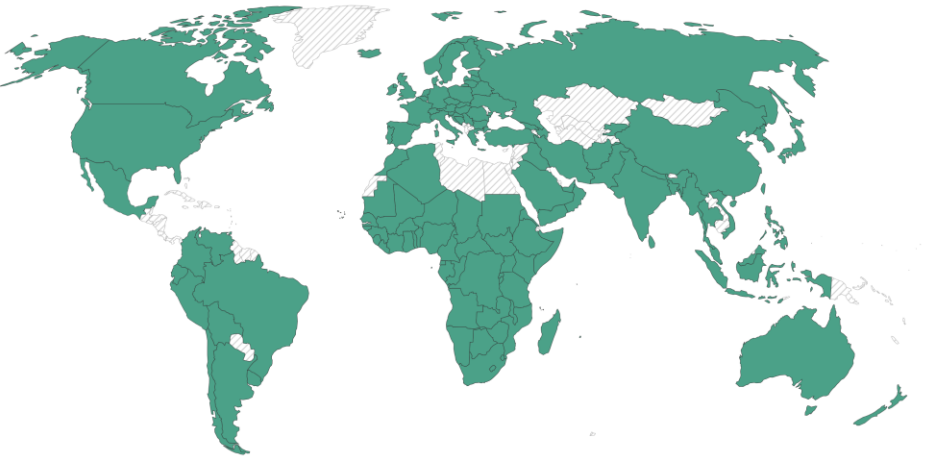
All countries have banned the use of leaded petrol in road vehicles. Algeria was the final country to do so in 2021.



Banned Unknown year of ban

Data source: Collected by Our World in Data based on multiple sources
Note: The specific date of phase-out could not be found for some countries

multiple sources
OurWorldinData.org/lead-pollution | CC BY
or some countries, but all countries have banned its use.



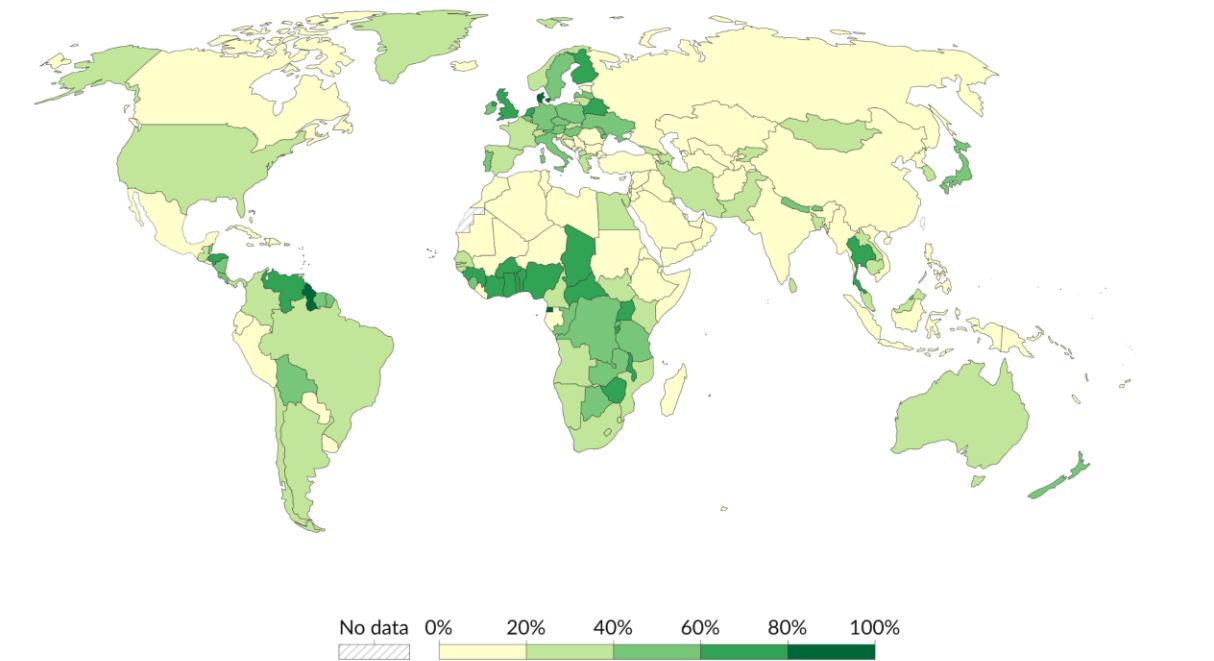
Still in use Banned Unknown year of ban

Data source: Collected by Our World in Data based on multiple sources
OurWorldinData.org/lead-pollution | CC BY
Note: The specific date of phase-out could not be found for some countries, but all countries have banned its use.

Phase-Out of Leaded Fuel

Share of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas that are protected, 2000

Proportion of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)¹ that are covered by designated protected areas².

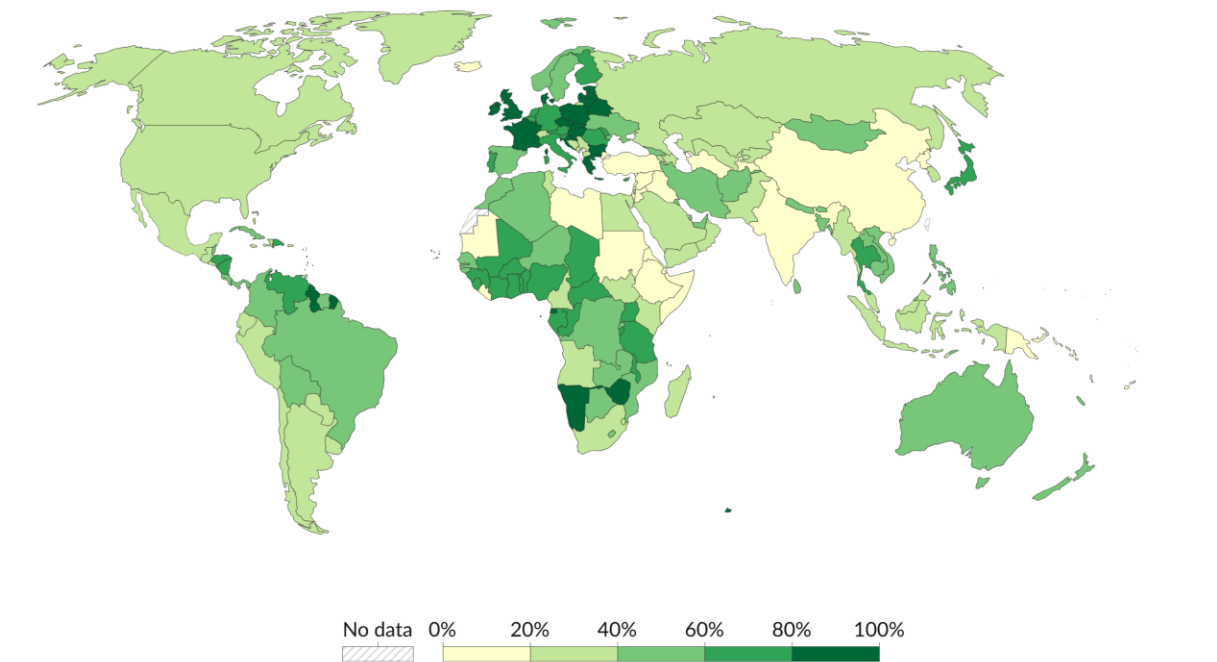


Data source: BirdLife International, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC OurWorldinData.org/biodiversity | CC BY

- 1. Key Biodiversity Area (KBA):** A Key Biodiversity Area is a site that makes a significant contribution to the global persistence of biodiversity. This is often the case if a site contains many unique species. It can also mean that the site is home to a species that isn't found anywhere else, or is only found in a few other locations. The IUCN uses 11 criteria to assess whether a site is a KBA. These cover five categories: threatened biodiversity, geographically restricted biodiversity, ecological integrity, biological processes (e.g. nesting) and irreplaceability.
- 2. Protected area:** A protected area is a clearly defined geographical space that is recognised, and managed through legal or other effective means. Protected areas are managed to preserve their ecosystem services and cultural values over the long-term. There are seven different categories of protected areas, ranging from strict nature reserves which are protected from all but light human use; to protected areas which allow the sustainable use of natural resources (such as logging, or fishing). Protected areas can be in the ocean (a marine protected area – MPA) or on land.

Share of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas that are protected, 2023

Proportion of terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)¹ that are covered by designated protected areas².



Data source: BirdLife International, IUCN and UNEP-WCMC OurWorldinData.org/biodiversity | CC BY

- 1. Key Biodiversity Area (KBA):** A Key Biodiversity Area is a site that makes a significant contribution to the global persistence of biodiversity. This is often the case if a site contains many unique species. It can also mean that the site is home to a species that isn't found anywhere else, or is only found in a few other locations. The IUCN uses 11 criteria to assess whether a site is a KBA. These cover five categories: threatened biodiversity, geographically restricted biodiversity, ecological integrity, biological processes (e.g. nesting) and irreplaceability.
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Decoupling: Countries that achieved economic growth while reducing CO₂ emissions, 2005–20

Our World
in Data

Emissions are adjusted for trade. This means that CO₂ emissions caused in the production of imported goods are added to its domestic emissions – and for goods that are exported the emissions are subtracted.

Average incomes are measured by GDP per capita (except for Ireland, for which it is measured by GNI per capita).

Green growth: 30% of regions worldwide achieve economic growth while reducing carbon emissions

Source: <https://doi.org/10.1073/pnas.241141912>



Data sources: Global Carbon Project & World Bank.

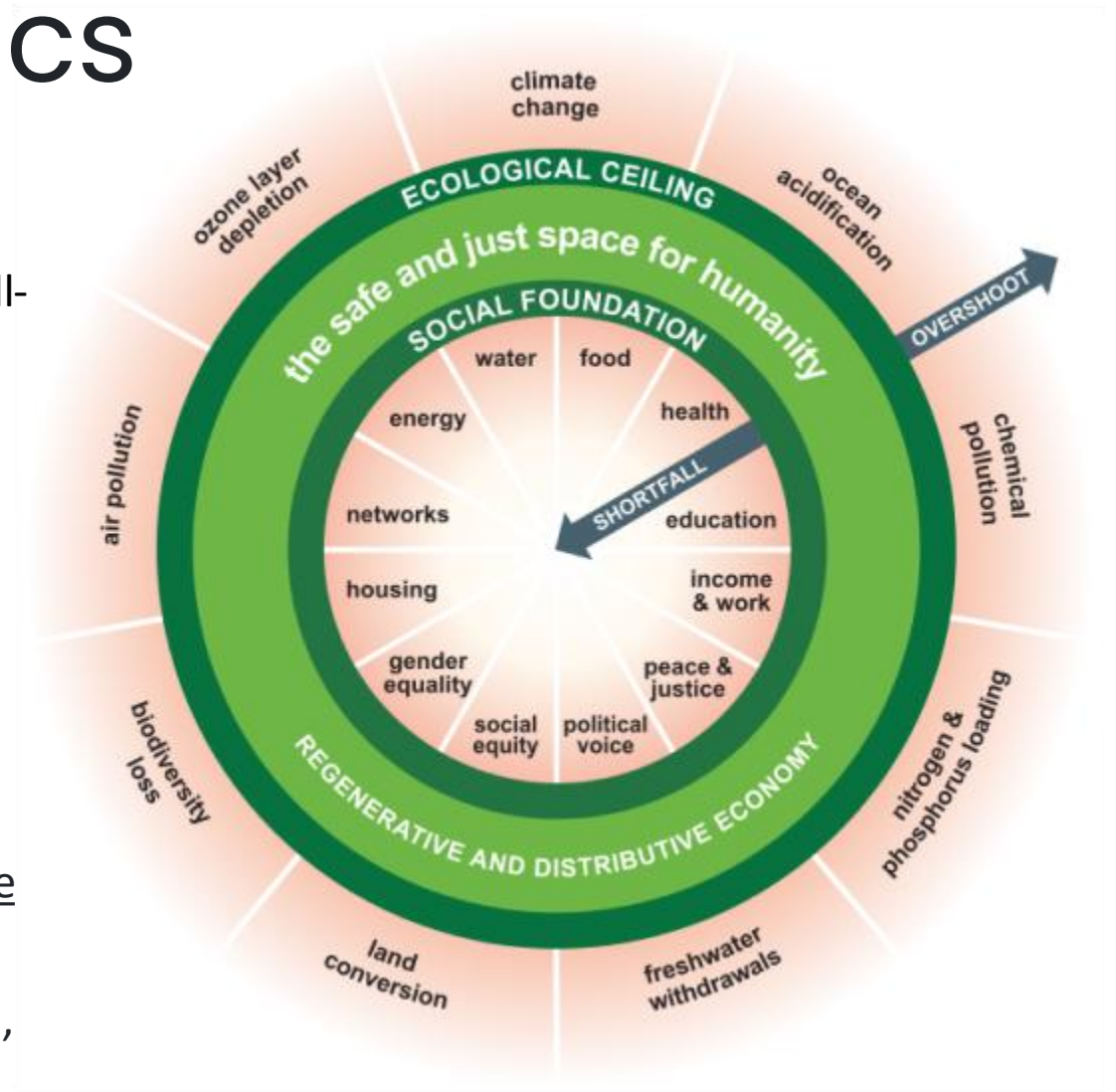
There are more countries that achieved the same, but only those countries for which data is available and for which each change exceeded 5% are shown.

OurWorldInData.org – Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Max Roser

Doughnut Economics

- Developed by economist Kate Raworth, Doughnut Economics provides a framework to ensure human well-being within ecological limits.
- **Social foundation**, to ensure that no one is left falling short on life's essentials
- **Ecological ceiling**, to ensure that humanity does not collectively overshoot the planetary boundaries
- Between these two sets of boundaries - both ecologically safe and socially just: a space in which humanity can thrive.
- Interactions between the Planetary Boundaries and the Social Foundation - Environmental stress can exacerbate poverty and vice versa, and policies aiming to reduce environmental pressure, if not well designed, can exacerbate poverty and vice versa.



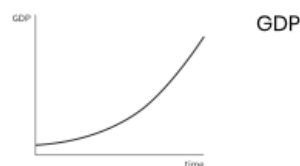
Seven ways to think like a 21st century economist

Seven Ways to Think:

From 20th-Century Economics

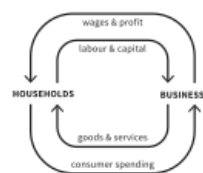
To 21st-Century Economics

1. Change the Goal

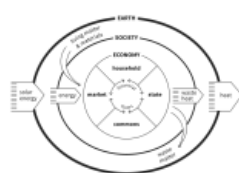


the Doughnut

2. See the Big Picture



self-contained market



embedded economy

3. Nurture Human Nature

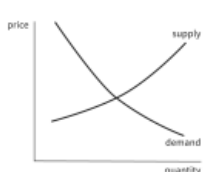


rational economic man

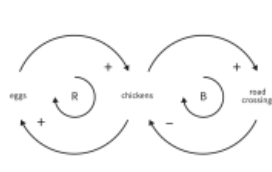


social adaptable humans

4. Get Savvy with Systems



mechanical equilibrium

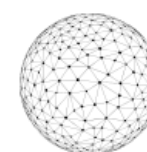


dynamic complexity

5. Design to Distribute



growth will even it up again

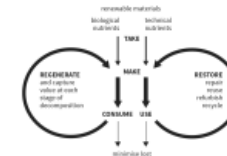


distributive by design

6. Create to Regenerate

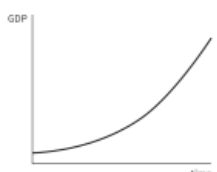


growth will clean it up again

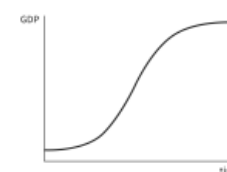


regenerative by design

7. Be Agnostic about Growth



growth addicted



growth agnostic

April 2017 | Doughnut Economics Action Lab | For licensing visit doughnuteconomics.org/license

LEREN
EN
INTEGRERENVERSTERKEN
EN
FINANCIERENPOPULARI-
SEREN EN
ACTIVEREN

STUDIO

IJZAAL

SPACE

Welcome to DEAL

Turning the ideas of Doughnut Economics into action

[Discover the community](#)[Join the community](#)

The background features a light gray, textured surface. A horizontal dark green bar spans the width of the image, positioned in the upper third. Several green leaves are scattered across the scene: a cluster of small leaves in the top right, a large leaf in the center right, and a single leaf at the bottom right. The title text is centered within the dark green bar.

International Trade Game

INTERNATIONAL TRADE GAME + PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

- > This game is an adapted version of the World Trade Game developed by the Third World development charity Action Aid
(https://www.economicsnetwork.ac.uk/showcase/sloman_game#Introduction)
- > Teams represent 5/6 countries in this game: A1, A2, B1(B2), C1, C2
- > Countries compete against each other to 'manufacture' materials (papers shapes: circles, triangles, rectangles) and sell them to an international commodity market trader at posted prices, which vary with supply and demand

Objective: become the richest country at the end of the game

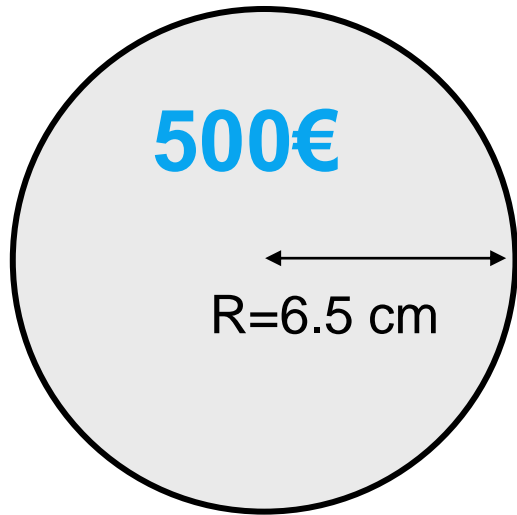
RULES

- > You may only use the materials provided (do not cut the envelopes please)
- > You can choose to make any of the shapes shown on the diagrams.
- > All the shapes must be cut with clean sharp edges using scissors and must be the exact size shown.
- > Take the shapes to the banker in batches who will check them for accuracy and exchange them for cash. Inaccurate shapes will be rejected or paid at a lower price
- > You can manufacture as many shapes as you like - the more you make, the richer you will become.
- > If you hear me clap hands, you must immediately stop what you are doing and pay attention.
- > If there is any dispute, I will settle it. My word is final! No physical force is to be used in the game

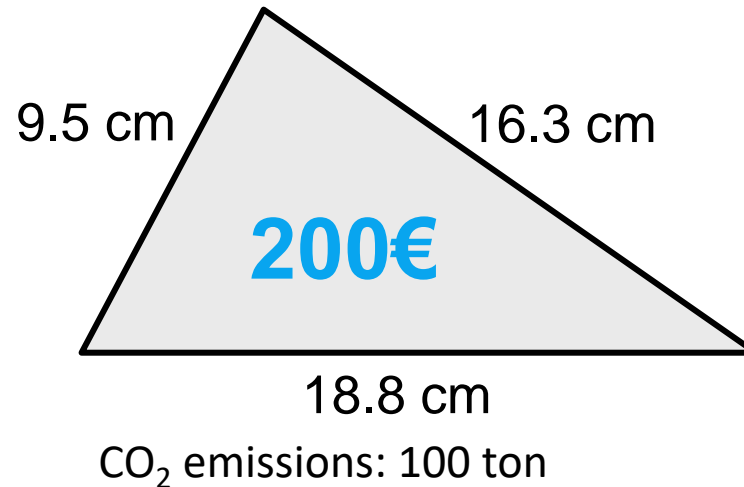
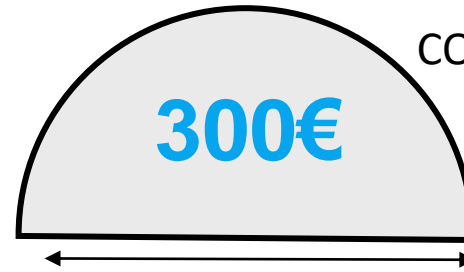
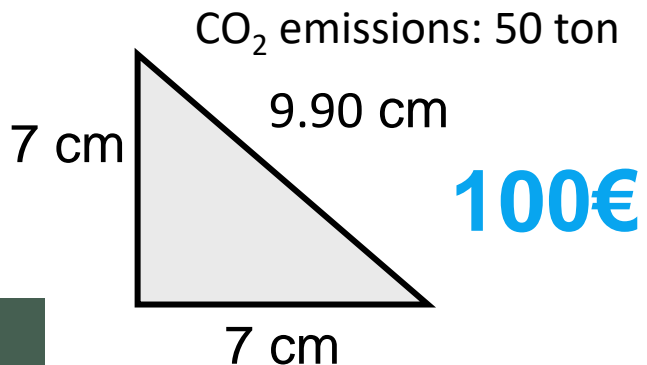
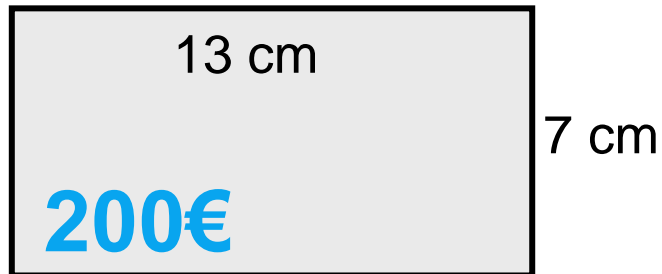
The background features a light gray, textured surface with several green leaves scattered across it. A large, semi-transparent dark green rectangle is centered over the image, containing the text. There are also solid dark green rectangular blocks in the top and bottom center corners.

**You have 50 minutes to boost
your economy!**

Shapes and money



CO₂ emissions: 125 ton



50€

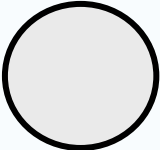

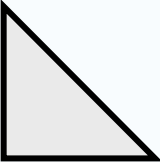

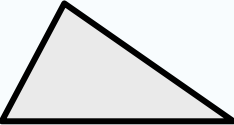
100€

500€

1.000€

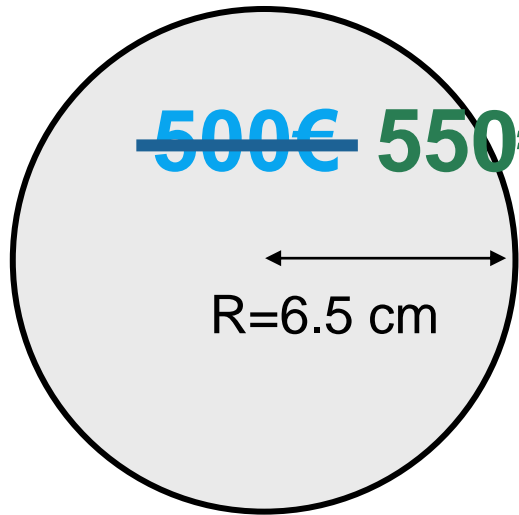
2.000€



	A1	A2	A3	B1	B2	B3	C1	C2	C3
									
									
									
									
									



New Prices



CO₂ emissions: 450 ton

R=6.5 cm

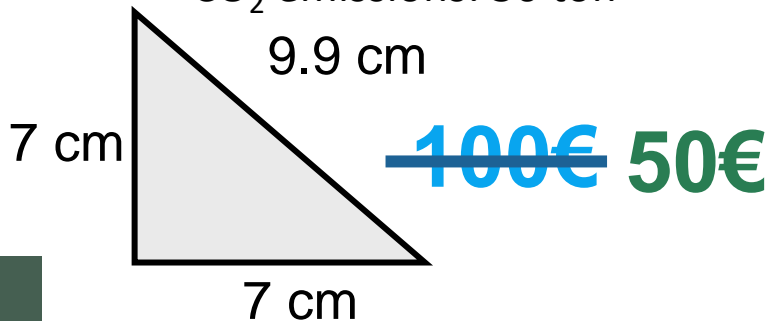
CO₂ emissions: 125 ton



13 cm

7 cm

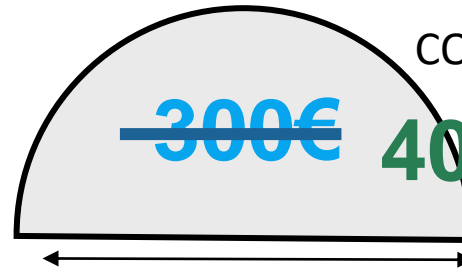
CO₂ emissions: 50 ton



9.9 cm

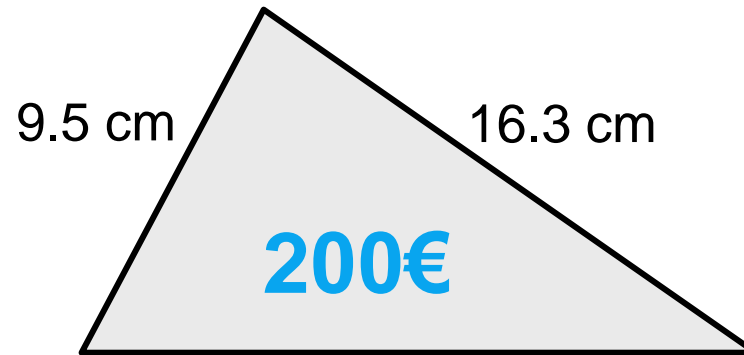
7 cm

7 cm



CO₂ emissions: 200 ton

D=10.3 cm



9.5 cm

16.3 cm

18.8 cm

CO₂ emissions: 100 ton

50€

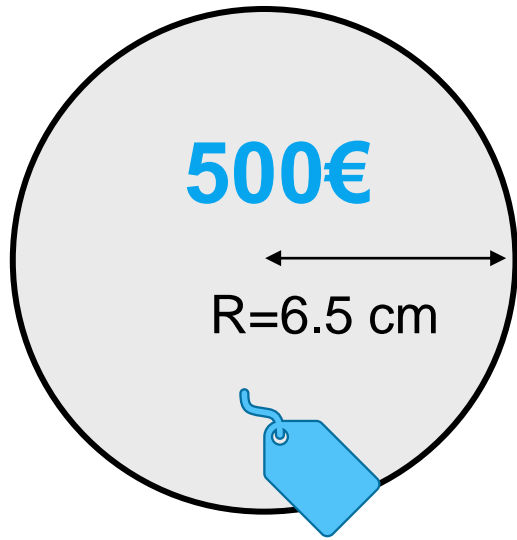
100€

500€

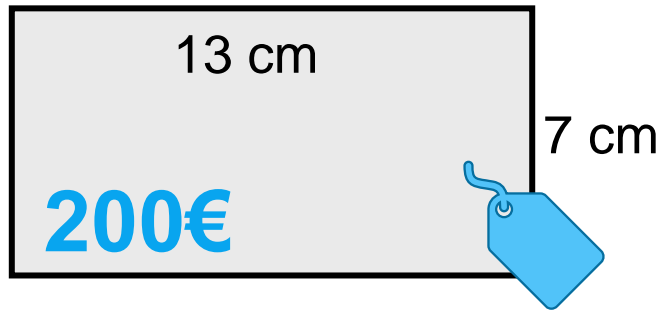
1.000€

2.000€

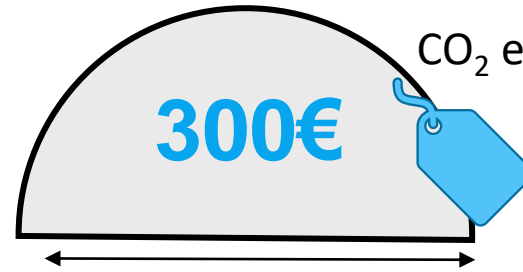
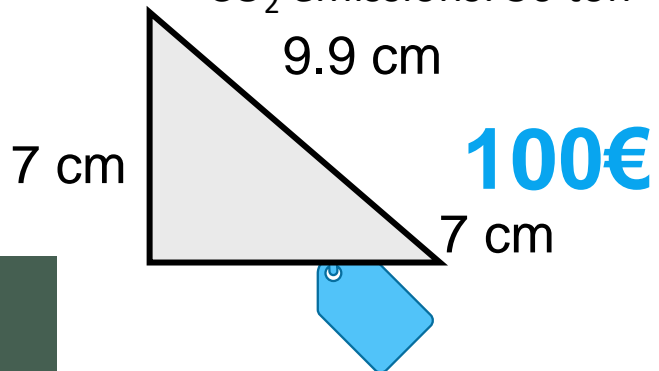
Only the shapes with
blue post-it can be sell



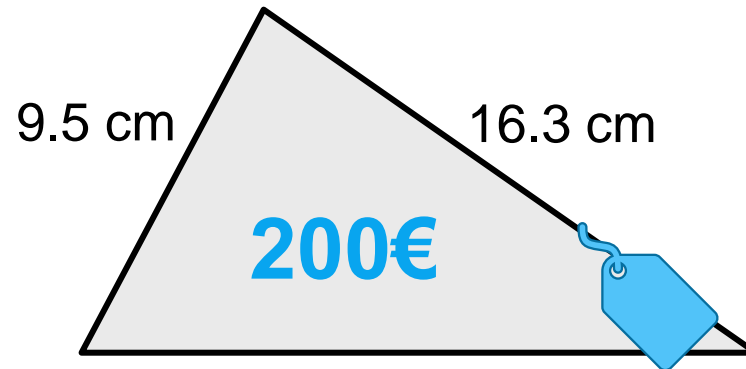
CO₂ emissions: 125 ton



CO₂ emissions: 50 ton



CO₂ emissions: 200 ton



CO₂ emissions: 100 ton

50€

100€

500€

1.000€

2.000€

**Objective: become the richest country at the
end of the game**

But...

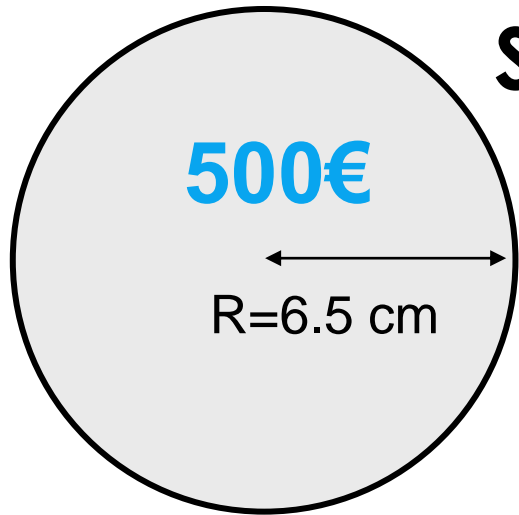
Minimize your environmental impact

PENALTIES

- > **CO₂ Emissions:** 1€/t per shape produced
- > **Water Usage:** -50€ per shape except semicircles
- > **Deforestation:** -10€ per shape

Shapes and money

- **CO₂ Emissions:** 1€/t per shape produced
- **Water Usage:** -50€ per shape except circles and semicircles
- **Deforestation:** -10€ per shape



CO₂ emissions: 450 ton

R=6.5 cm

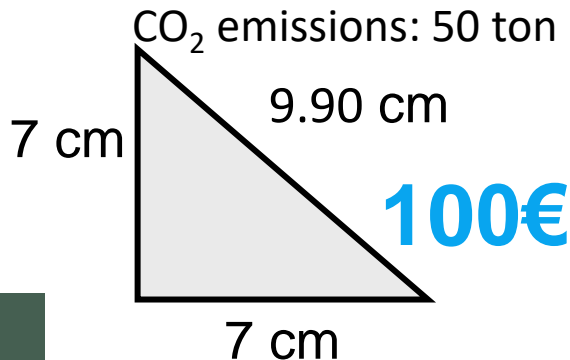
CO₂ emissions: 125 ton



13 cm

7 cm

200€



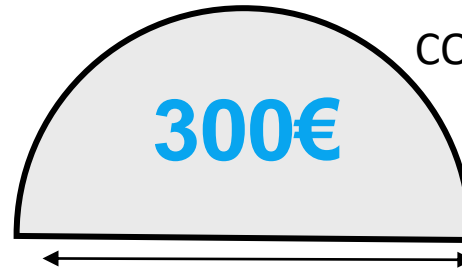
CO₂ emissions: 50 ton

9.90 cm

7 cm

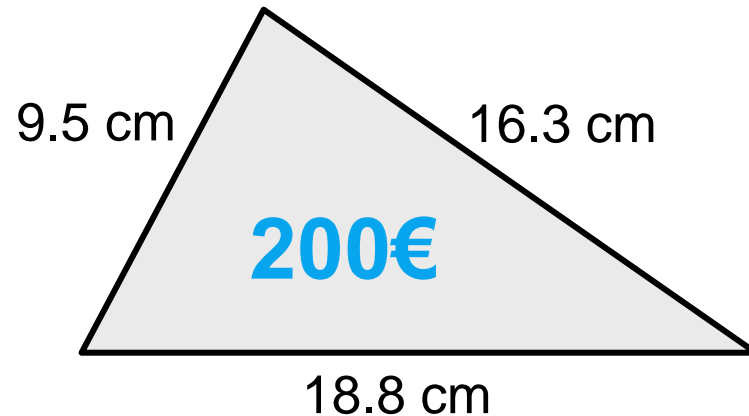
7 cm

100€



CO₂ emissions: 200 ton

D=10.3 cm



9.5 cm

16.3 cm

18.8 cm

CO₂ emissions: 100 ton

50€

100€

500€

1.000€

2.000€

#	What was in the envelope?	What tools do you own now?	How much money do you have? (€)	CO ₂ emissions?(kt)
			Planet A	Planet A
A1	1 sheet of paper, 2 scissors, 2 rulers, 3 shapes already made, 2 pencils, 600€			
A2				
A3				
B1	10 sheet of paper, 1 ruler, 2 pencils, 300€			
B2				
B3				
C1	4 sheets of paper, 2 pencils, 200€ and a bad feeling...			
C2				
C3				

BONUS

- > Bonus for providing free technology or resources: **+10% of total funds** for countries that share resources or technology at no cost with other countries.
- > Bonus for alliances: **+5% of total funds each** for countries that form alliances to share technologies or knowledge
- > These bonuses reward cooperative behaviour, encouraging sustainable collaboration and support among countries.

DEBRIEFING

- > How do you felt when you opened the envelopes?
- > How much of the difference between the groups was due to strategies pursued and how much to the initial endowment?
- > Why is it so difficult to change the system?
- > How this simulates real world?
- > **Who owns the world's natural resources?**
- > **Who owns the world's technology?**
- > (To more successful countries) How did you achieve your success? What problems did you experience and what strategies did you use to overcome them?
- > (To less successful countries) What factors limited your success? What strategies did you pursue? Which strategies failed and why? Now that you have learned how to play the game, what would you do differently next time?
- > (To countries that formed alliances) Why did you form the alliance? How well did it work? What prevented it from breaking up?

ESSENTIAL TAKE AWAYS FROM THE WORLD TRADE GAME + PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

- > The World Trade Game illustrates the disparities and imbalances among countries and shows the challenges of balancing economic growth with the reduction of environmental externalities.
- > Within the framework of this game, participants can explore fundamental concepts like economic inequality, uneven resource distribution (e.g., critical minerals vital for clean energy technologies), technology availability and environmental impacts.
- > Many developing countries are rich in resources, but they struggle to benefit from them due to trade rules, weak infrastructure, and limited technology. In some cases, poor governance, social challenges, and weak environmental regulations make the negative impacts worse.
- > The exploration of some resources can be affected by environmental impacts, particularly in regions that are already vulnerable. For example, some mineral extraction methods require large amounts of water, making climate-related problems even more serious in vulnerable regions.

ESSENTIAL TAKE AWAYS FROM THE CLASS

- > The Trade Game represent economic inequality, the challenges of balancing economic growth with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental externalities, and resource distribution challenges
- > What is the Anthropocene ([slide 21](#)) and Tipping Points ([slide 26](#))
- > What are Planetary boundaries? ([slide 34](#) and video on [slide 33](#))
- > How many Planetary boundaries exist and what are the two core ones? ([slide 35](#))
- > Are the Planetary boundaries independent or interrelated? (video [slide 33](#))
- > How has the crossing of planetary boundaries evolved over time? ([slide 46](#))
- > What transformations can be done to ensure a good quality of life for a globally expanding population while avoiding the crossing of planetary boundaries? ([slide 57](#))

The background features a light gray textured surface with several green leaves scattered across it. A large, semi-transparent dark green rectangle covers the center of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text. Dark green geometric shapes, including squares and rectangles, are positioned at the corners of the slide.

Thank you!

Patrícia Fortes
p.fs@fct.unl.pt