



biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

**Welcome! The Forum will
begin at 1:00 PM AZOST**

—
Biodiversity & transformative change:
science-policy pathways for Europe

#BiodivTransformAzores



Co-funded by
the European Union



Biodiversa+ Science Policy Forum

Biodiversity and Transformative Change:
Science-Policy Pathways for Europe

21st of April from 1 to 5 pm AZOST



Co-funded by
the European Union



Introduction

By Estelle Balian, moderator, FEAL

#BiodivTransform

**Posting about the
Science-Policy Forum on
social media?**

**Don't forget to tag
[@BiodiversaPlus](#)**



Welcoming words

By Bruno Teixeira, President of the Directive Board of FRCT

Welcoming words Science Policy Forum

By Magnus Tannerfeldt, FORMAS, Biodiversa+ co-chair

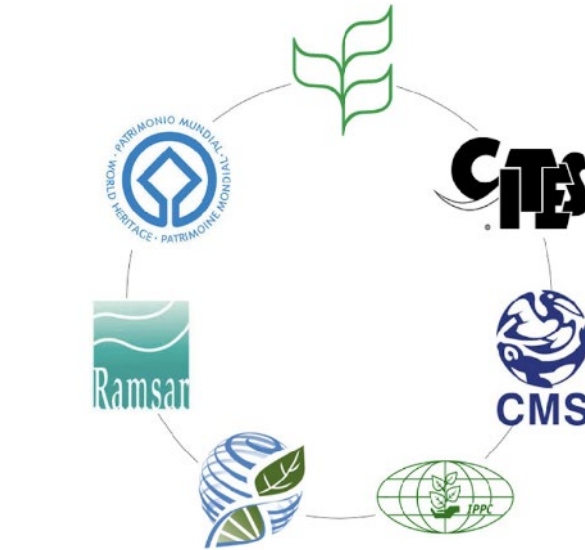
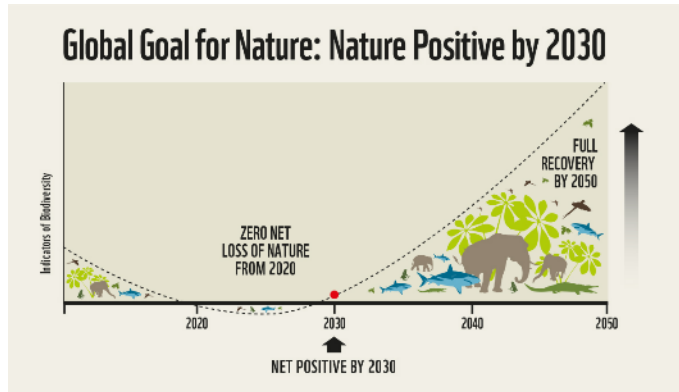
Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



'a package deal'

'truly global framework'

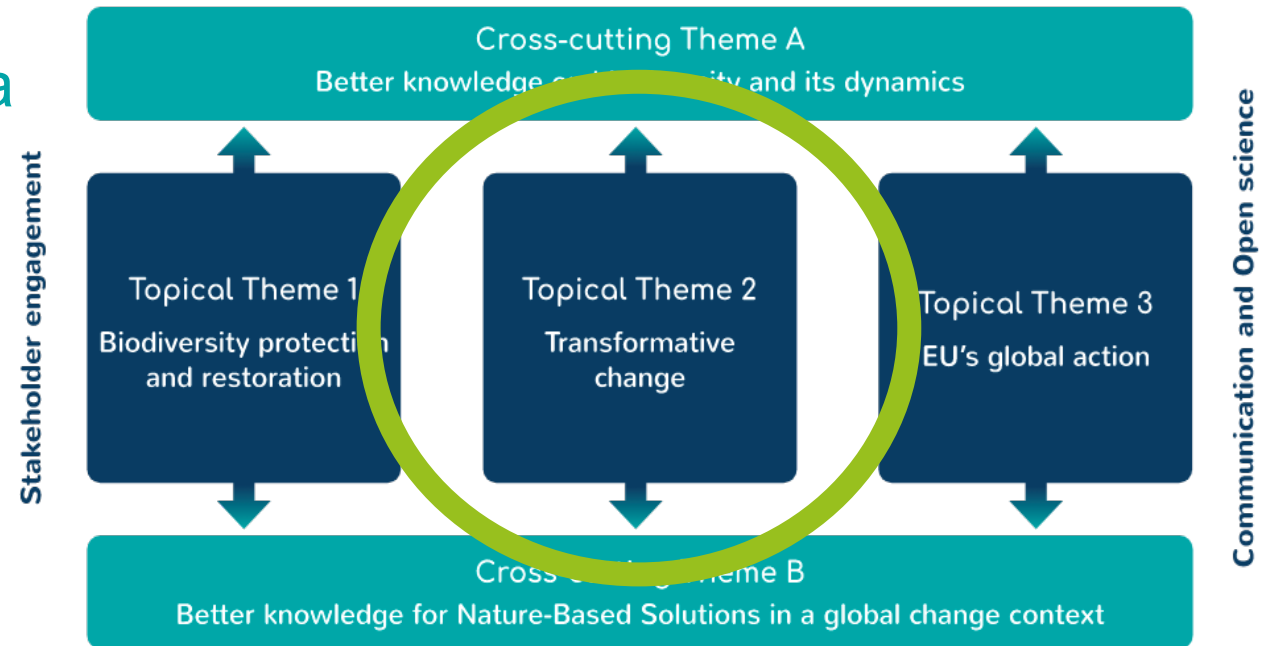
'30 x 30'



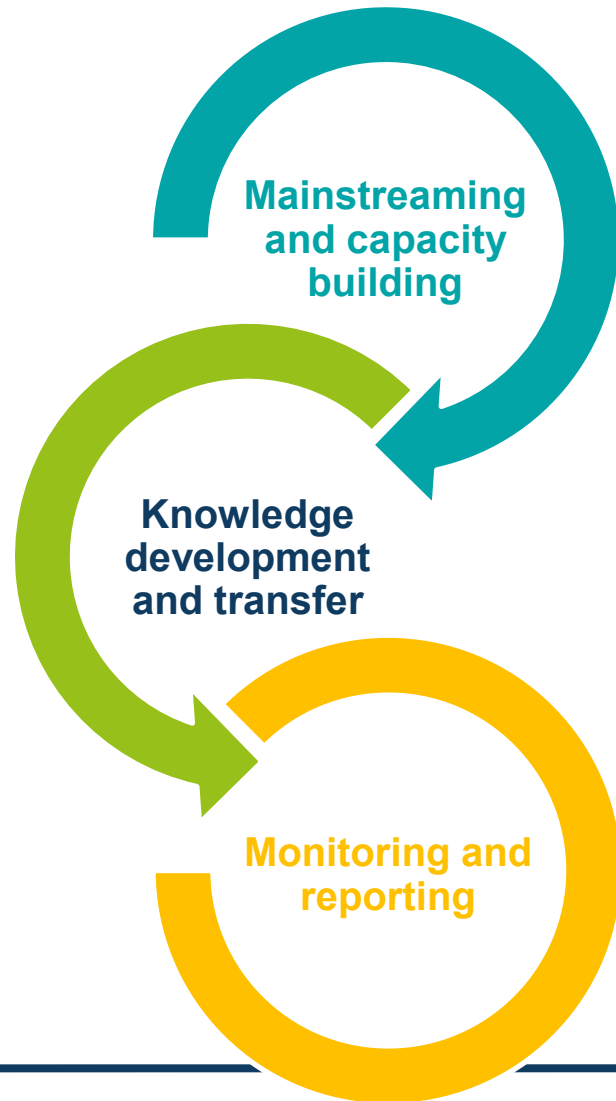
European Biodiversity Strategy 2030



Biodiversa+ Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda



Biodiversa+ and the GBF: Role & Added value



Mainstream transformative change into R&I

Capacity building for science-policy with stakeholders and citizens

Support scientific cooperation cross-borders at global scale

Reinforce the knowledge base in relation to the GBF targets and indicators, and CBD topics

Strengthen uptake of research in IPBES, and vice versa: use IPBES assessments for research programming and funding

Develop tools/methods/approaches which can serve as examples more globally (upscaling)

Strengthen coherence between global, EU and national approaches to science-based activities in relation to the GBF targets and indicators

Improve biodiversity monitoring

Biodiversa+

The **European Biodiversity Partnership** is part of the European Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

40

Countries

81

Partners

Supporting excellent research on biodiversity with an impact for policy and society



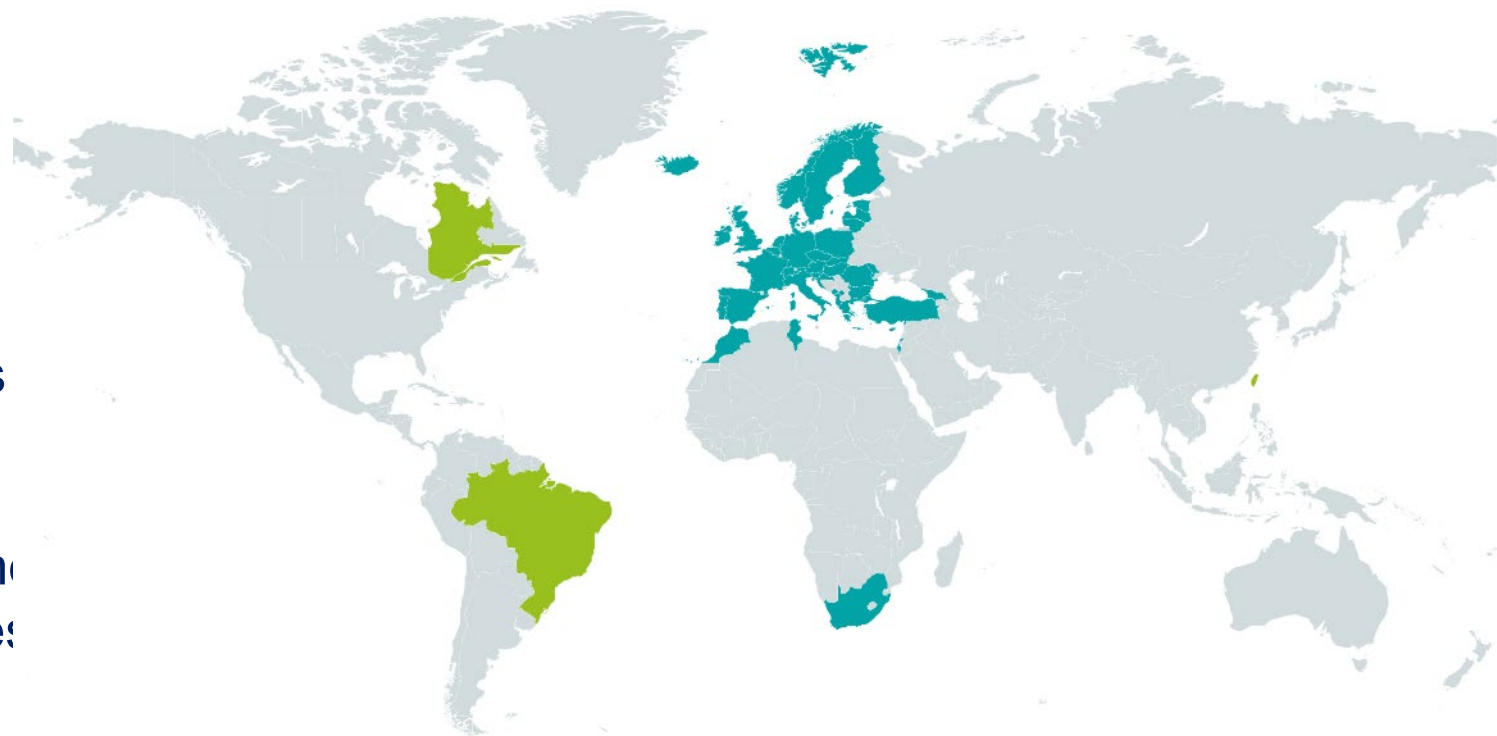
Research actors

- Ministries in charge of research
- Research funding organisations



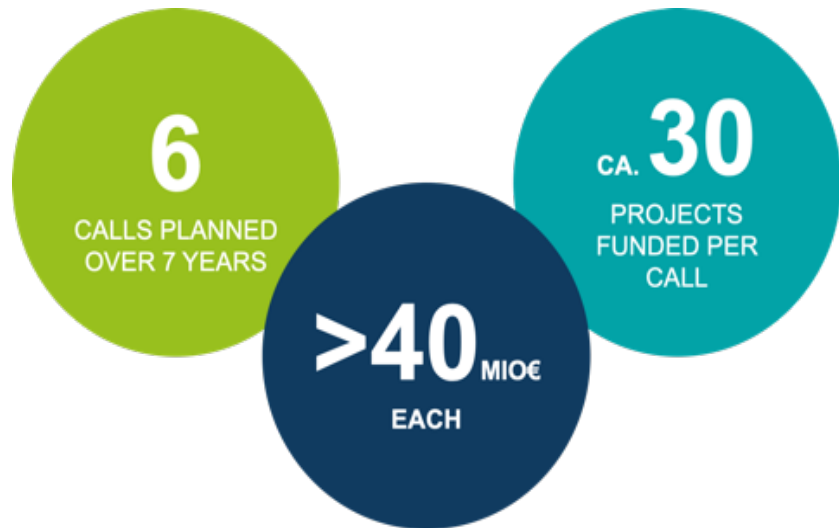
Policy actors

- Ministries in charge of environment
- Environment protection agencies



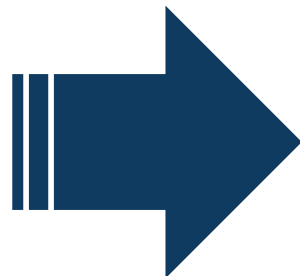
Created with mapchart.net

Objectives and portfolio

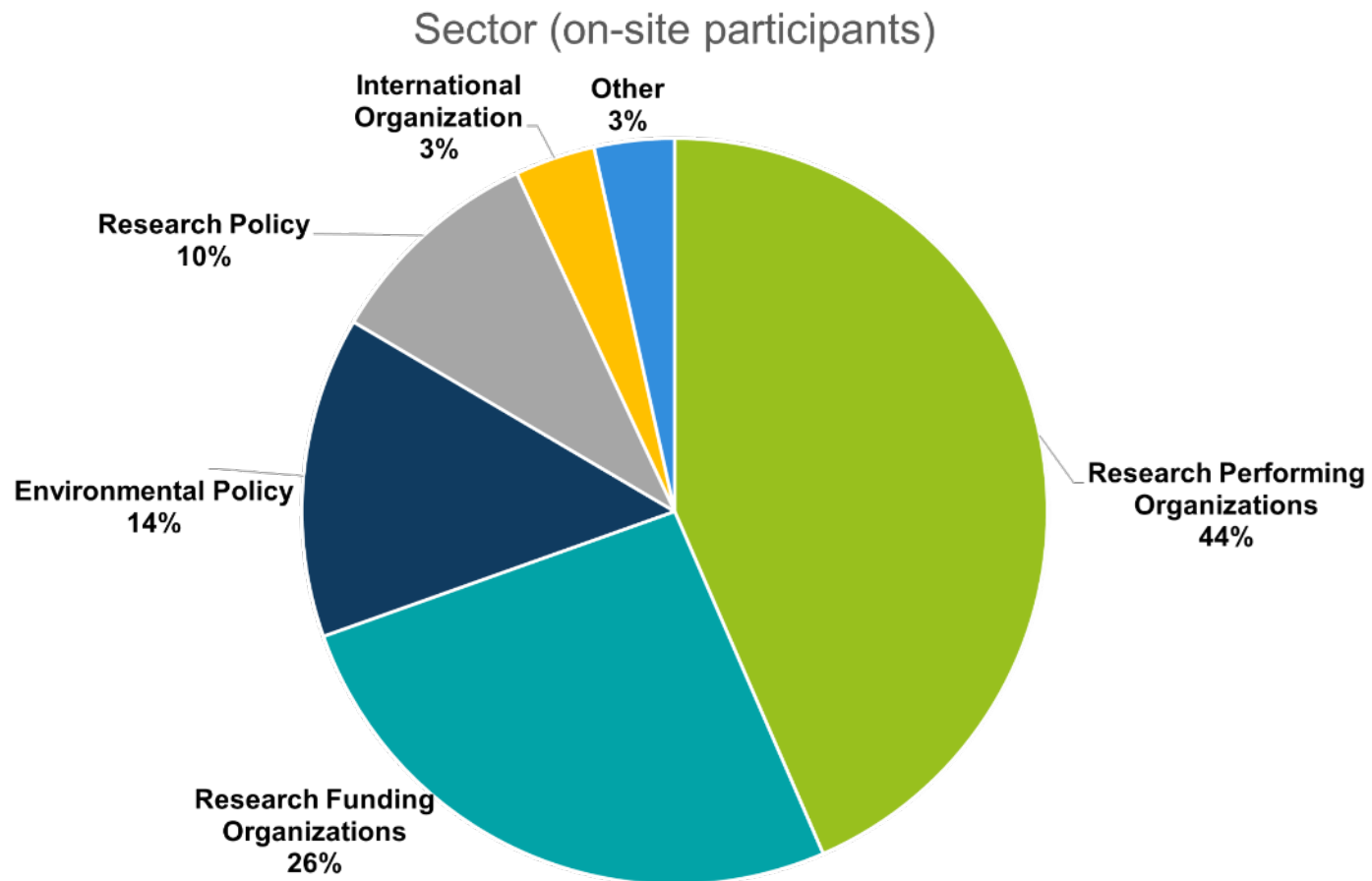


Participants of the Science policy forum

115
registered
participants
on site



382
registered
online
participants



Biodiversa+ 2026 BiodivTransform events

21 April

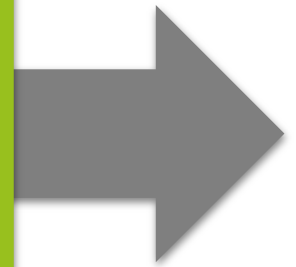
**Capacity
building
workshop
&
Science
Policy Forum**

22 April

**Kick-off
meeting**

23 April

**Clustering
workshop**





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European Biodiversity Partnership

Keynote speech

Conceptualization of Transformative
Change: Insights from the IPBES
Assessment

Karen O'Brien

*Co-Founder of cCHANGE, Zennstrom Visiting
Professor of Climate Change Leadership at
Uppsala University*





Conceptualisation of transformative change: *Insights from the IPBES assessment*

Prof. Karen O'Brien
Zennström Visiting Professor of
Climate Change Leadership,
Uppsala University

Co-Founder, cCHANGE.no

Biodiversa+ Science-Policy Forum, April 21, 2026



The 11th Plenary session





ipbes



The thematic assessment report on
THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE DETERMINANTS OF TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE AND OPTIONS FOR ACHIEVING THE 2050 VISION FOR BIODIVERSITY

SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS





“Transformative change is urgent, necessary and challenging – but possible”





UNDERLYING CAUSES



Disconnection from and domination over nature and people



Concentration of power and wealth



Prioritization of short-term, individual and material gains

INDIRECT DRIVERS

VALUES AND BEHAVIORS

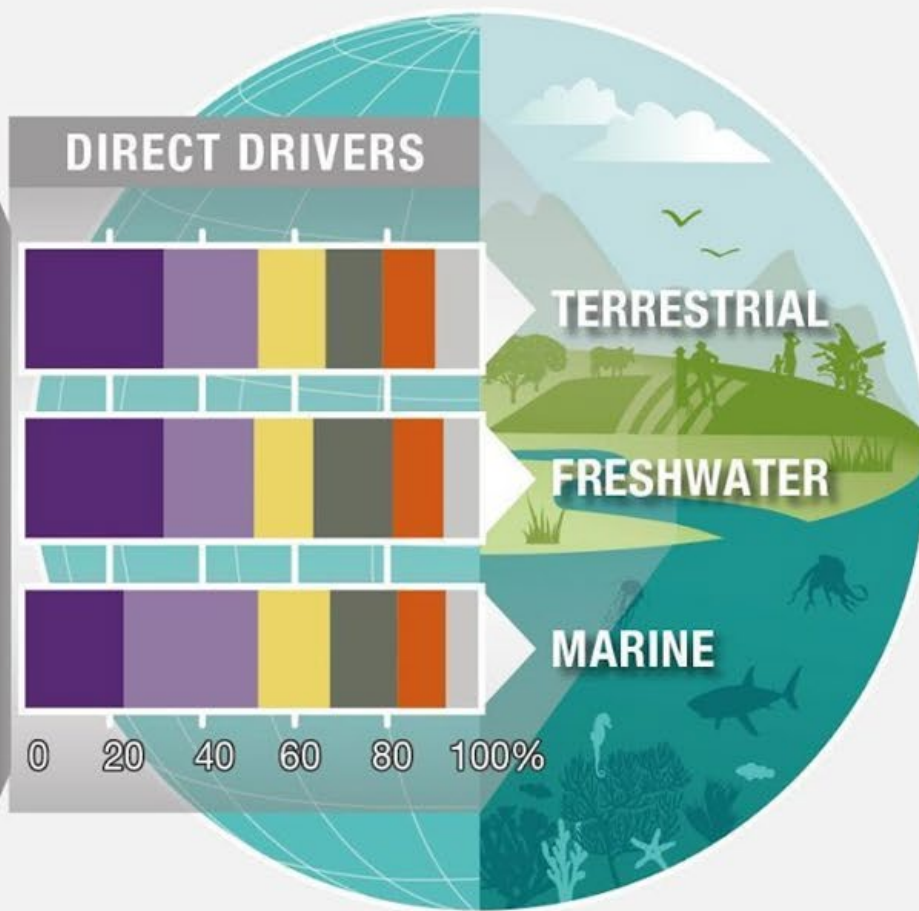
Demographic and sociocultural

Economic and technological

Institutions and governance

Conflicts and epidemics

DIRECT DRIVERS



Land/sea use change

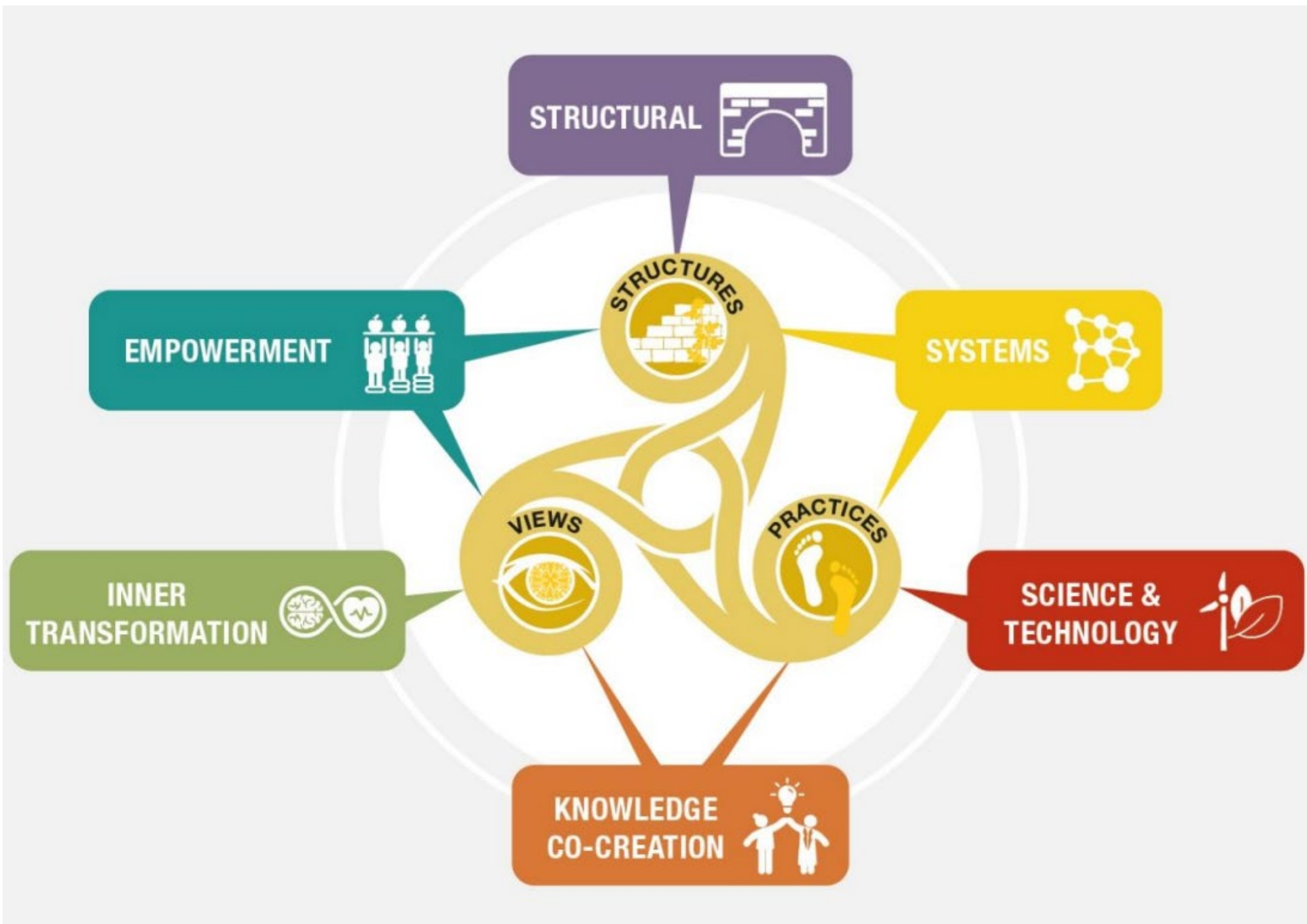
Direct exploitation

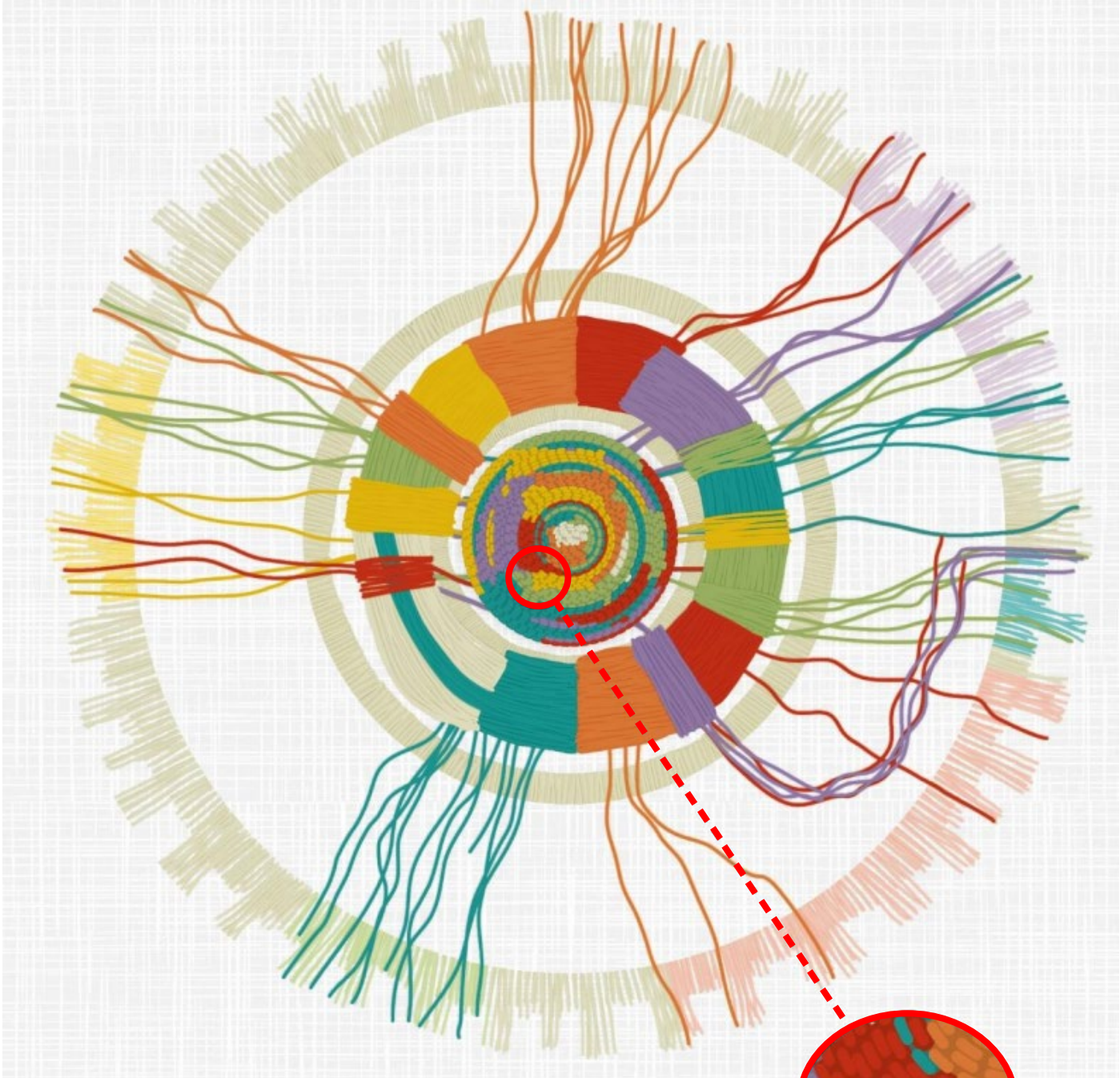
Climate change

Pollution

Invasive alien species

Others



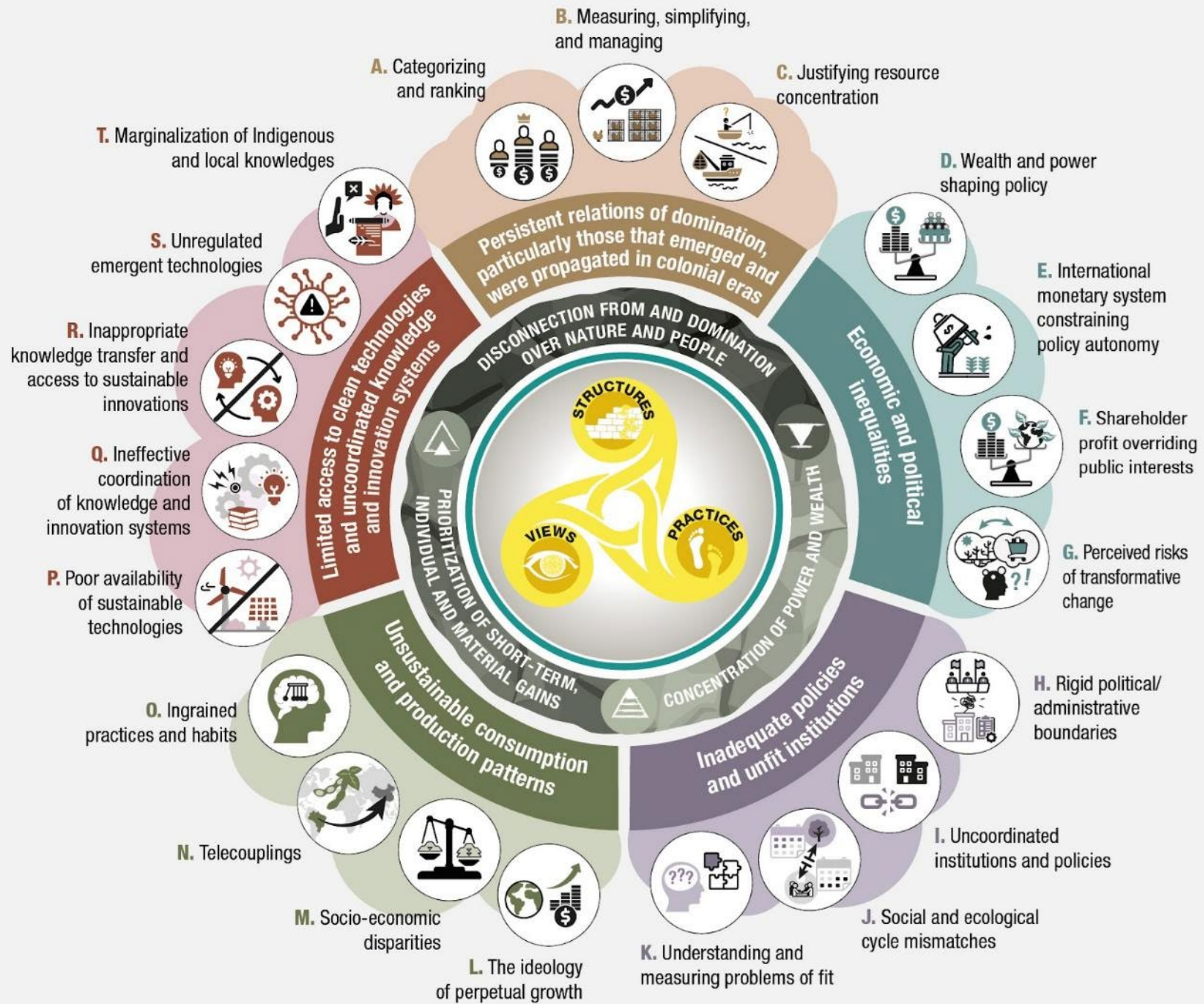


FIVE KEY STRATEGIES HAVE COMPLEMENTARY AND SYNERGISTIC EFFECTS

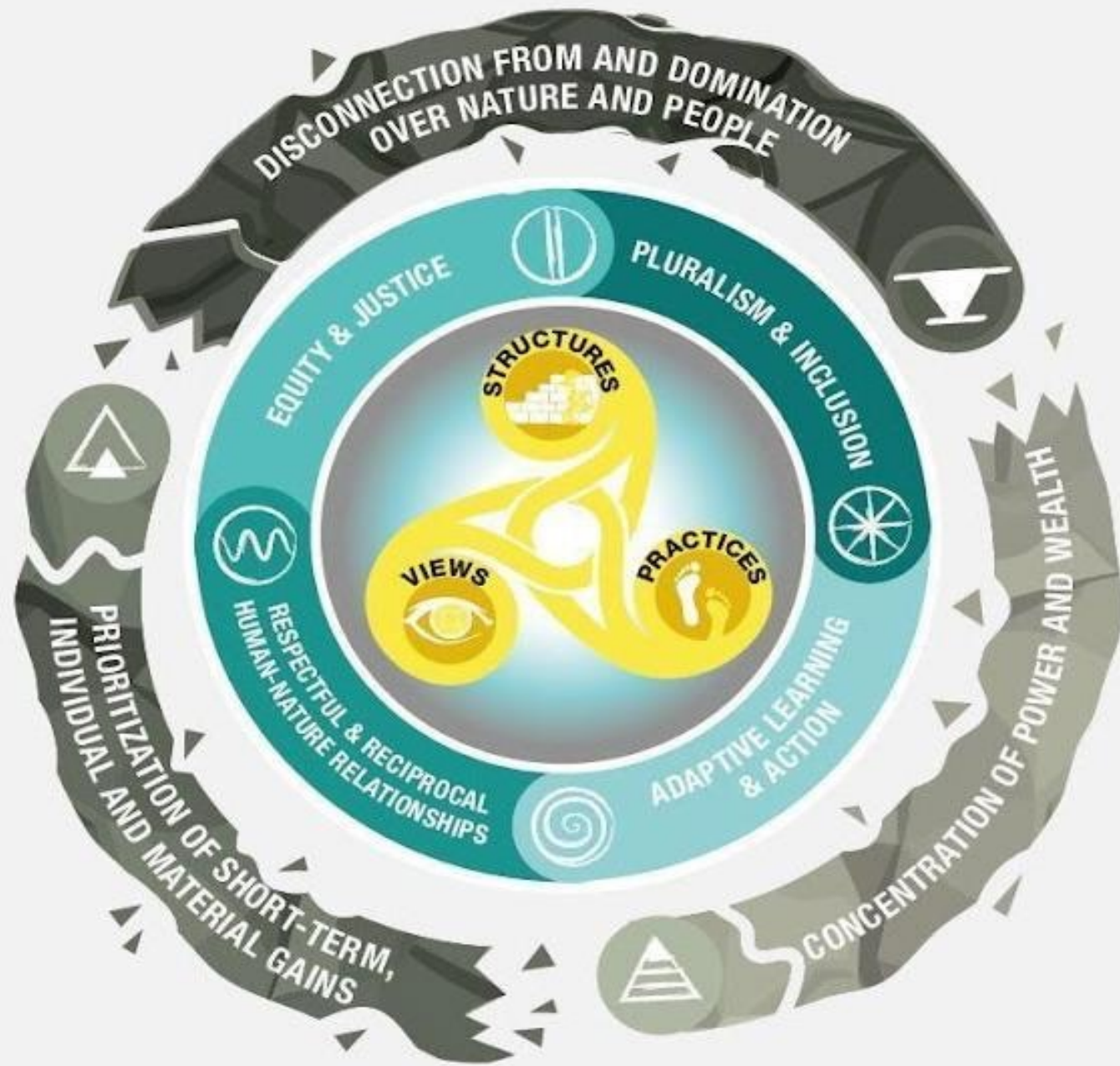
Strategy 1	Conserving and regenerating places of value to nature and people
Strategy 2	Driving systemic change in the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss and nature's decline
Strategy 3	Transforming economic systems for nature and equity
Strategy 4	Transforming governance systems to be integrated, inclusive, accountable and adaptive
Strategy 5	Shifting societal views and values to recognize and prioritize fundamental interconnections between humans and nature

FIVE OVERARCHING CHALLENGES TO TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE:

- Persistent relations of dominations, especially those that were propagated in colonial times;
- Economic and political inequalities;
- Inadequate policies and unfit institutions;
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns; and
- Limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and innovation systems









INSIGHTS FROM THE TCA

- Transformative change is possible and can be promoted, amplified, and scaled.
- Even small, incremental changes contribute to transformative change when they address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline.
- The direction and quality of transformative change make a difference.
- Synergy and alignment are important since there is no single vision or pathway for transformative change.
- It is not just what people do, but how they do it that makes a difference.
- Transformative change can have positive impacts on all dimensions of the polycrisis.

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

1

Identify a policy, project or any other initiative with transformative potential to address biodiversity loss and nature's decline (see chapters 1 & 5). What results are desired?

.....

Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of this initiative (see chapter 5)?

Directly:

Indirectly:

APPROACHES

6

Which approaches to transformative change are included in the initiative?

- Systems Inner transformation Knowledge co-creation
 Structural Empowerment Science and technology

Are they addressed in an integrated manner, acknowledging interactions among views, structures and practices?

.....

If not, what is missing?

.....

What values are foundational to your initiative? In other words, what do you care deeply about (see chapter 1)?

.....

Are these values aligned with the four principles of transformative change?

YES NO DON'T KNOW

If yes, please describe how.

.....

If not, how can these be included?

.....

PRINCIPLES

- 1 Equity and justice
- 2 Pluralism and inclusion
- 3 Respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships
- 4 Adaptive learning and action

2

There are numerous challenges to transformative change. What challenges do you anticipate as being most critical to your initiative? How do these link to the overarching societal challenges to transformative change?

.....

What needs to shift to address these challenges (from what to what)?

.....

CHALLENGES

- Persistent relations of domination, particularly those that emerged and were propagated in colonial eras
- Economic and political inequalities
- Inadequate policies and unit retributions
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns
- Limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and innovation systems

7

STRATEGIES

- Conserve and regenerate places of value to nature and people
- Drive systemic change in the sectors most responsible for nature's decline
- Transform economic systems for nature and equity
- Transform governance systems to be inclusive, accountable and adaptive
- Shift individual and societal norms to prioritize transconnections between humans and nature

3

Which of the transformative strategies does this initiative contribute to (see chapter 5)? (can be one, multiple, none, or other)

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Does the initiative address any underlying cause(s) of biodiversity loss?

YES NO If no, revisit step 2

If yes, please elaborate:

.....

.....

UNDERLYING CAUSES

- 1 Disconnection from and domination over nature and people
- 2 Concentration of power and wealth
- 3 Prioritization of short term, individual and material gains

4

WAYS OF...

8

How can you integrate new ways of thinking (i.e., shift in views), organizing (structures) and doing (practices) to overcome these challenges?

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VISIONS

- Regenerative and circular economy
- Community rights and empowerment
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Spiritual reconnection and behavioural change
- Innovative business and technology

5

Describe the vision or visions to be achieved:

.....

Is the vision inclusive (engaging and considering all actor groups) and comprehensive (multidimensional)?

YES NO DON'T KNOW If no, revisit step 1

If not, how can it be adjusted or complemented?

.....

.....

.....

ACTIONS

10

Identify the specific actions that will be pursued to address the underlying cause(s) of biodiversity loss, shift views, structures and practices and embody the four principles of transformative change. Also identify who will be involved, how and when.

1.

2.

3.

How do these actions contribute to realizing the identified visions?

5

What unintended consequences are possible and how can you strategically address them?

6



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How the transformative change levers can be used to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework?

Camille Guibal
CBD Scientific Officer, FRB





Biodiversa+ Science Policy Forum – 21 April 2026

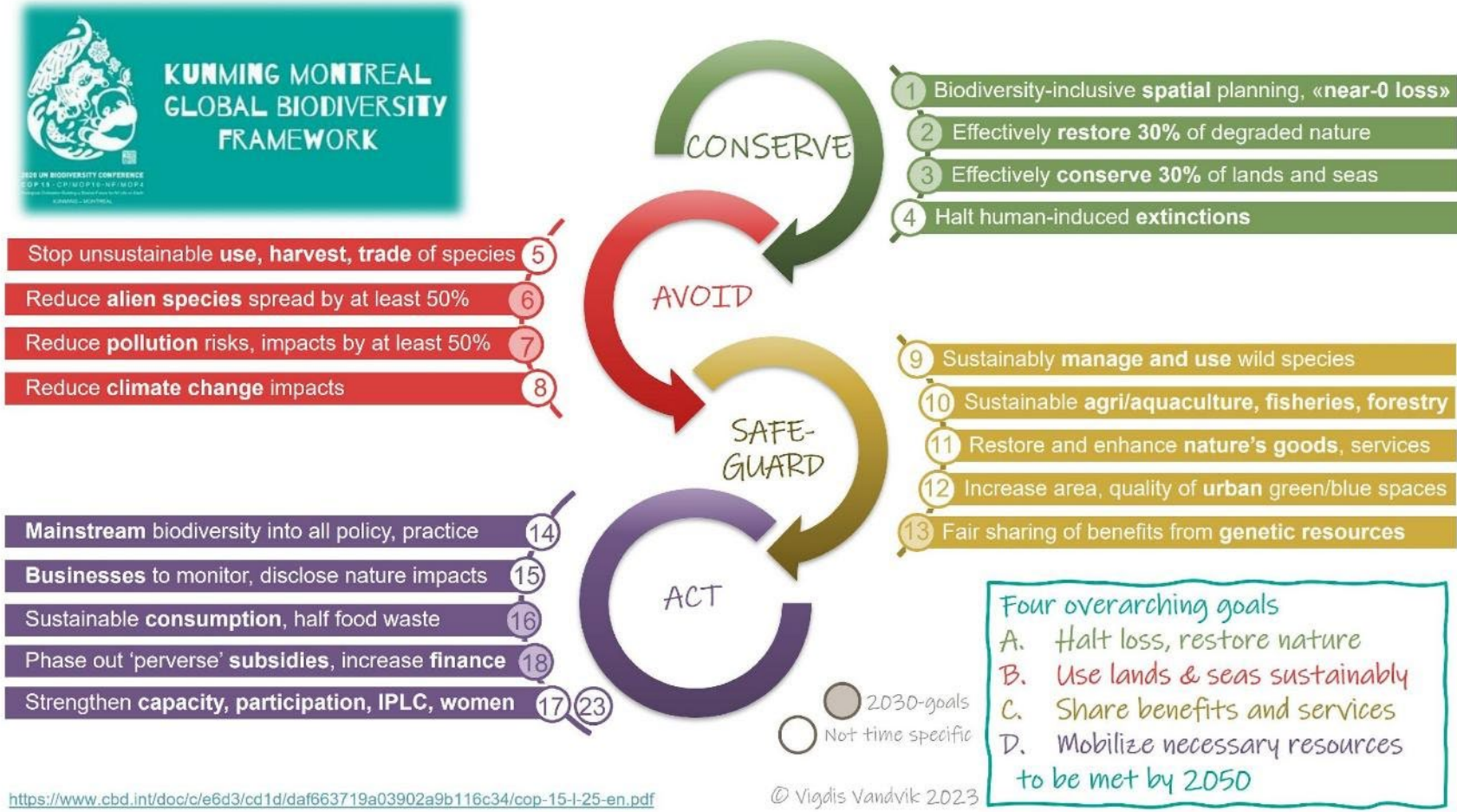
How can transformative change levers be used to implement the KM-GBF?



Camille GUIBAL (FRB – CBD scientific officer & SBSTTA NFP)



The Kunming-Montreal GBF and the IPBES TCA



<https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/e6d3/cd1d/daf663719a03902a9b116c34/cop-15-l-25-en.pdf>

- 2050 Vision: living in harmony with nature by 2050.
- The GBF sets **ambitious 2030 targets and 2050 goals**, but progress depends on **system-wide change**.
- The IPBES Transformative Change Assessment answers *how* to achieve those goals and targets (and the Vision)—not just *what* to achieve.

What is transformative change?

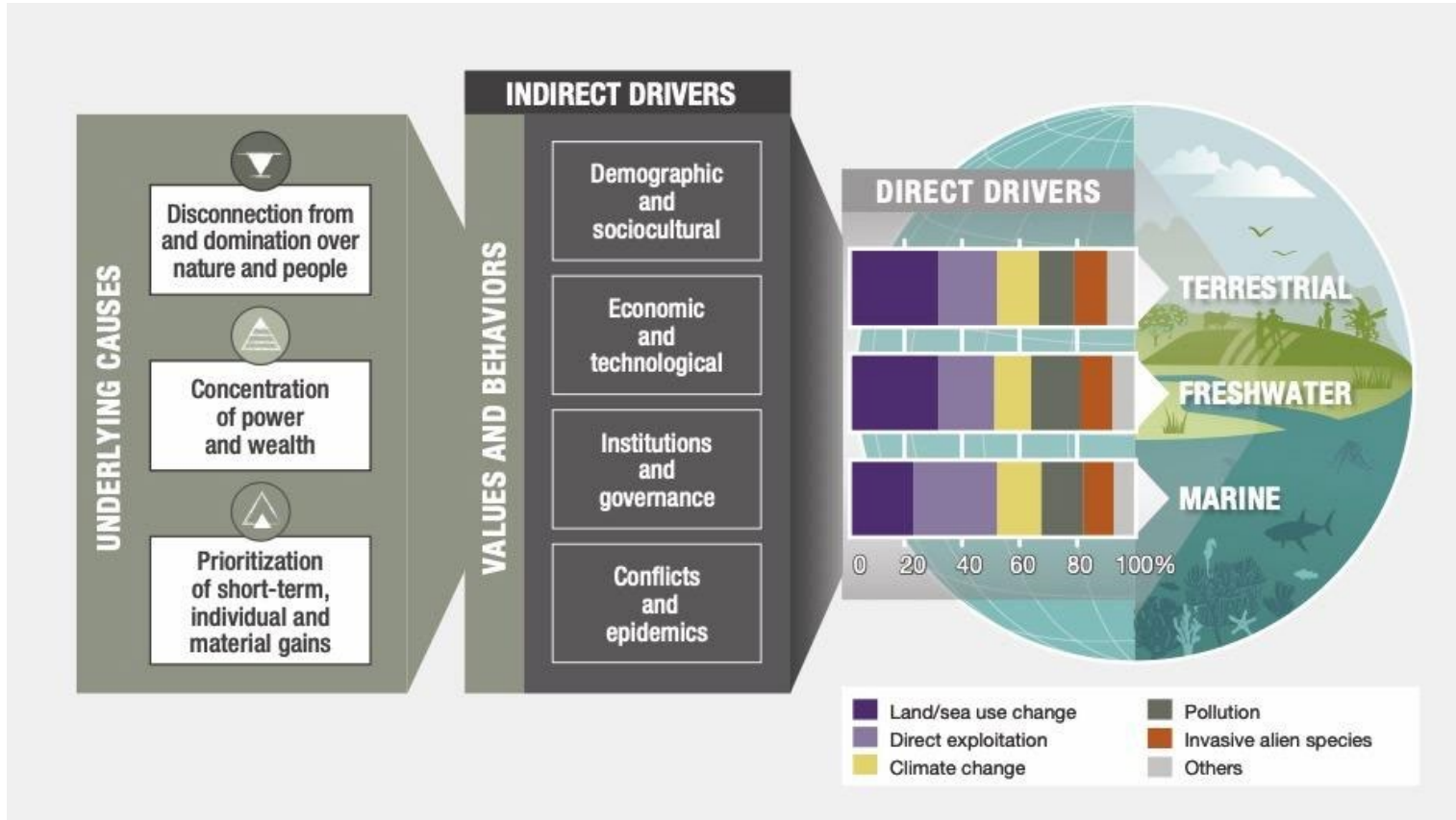


Figure SPM1. Underlying causes, indirect drivers and direct drivers of biodiversity loss and nature's decline

Transformative change is "fundamental, system-wide shifts in views, structures and practices. **Deliberate** transformative change **for a just and sustainable world** shifts views, structures and practices in ways that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline."

The GBF addresses the direct and indirect drivers but **implementation requires tackling them structurally.**

Challenge 1: Relations of domination over nature and people, especially those that emerged and were propagated in colonial eras and that have persisted over time

- Biodiversity loss is rooted in **worldviews that treat nature as exploitable**, linked to **colonial dynamics**, dispossession, and marginalization of Indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Contemporary relations of domination emerged from a convergence of prior relations and a focus on resource extraction during colonial eras. These relations are durable because they reproduce power imbalances and institutional structures that benefit the privileged and the powerful.
- The GBF emphasizes **rights-based approaches**, recognizes **Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)** and calls for **equitable governance and benefit-sharing**
- **Key targets:**
 - **Target 22** → Full, equitable participation in decision-making
 - **Target 13** → Access and benefit-sharing (genetic resources)
 - **Target 21** → Respect for traditional knowledge

However, the GBF does not explicitly address colonialism or historical responsibility and power imbalances in global decision-making remain largely unchanged. The GBF acknowledges justice and rights, but only partially confronts the deeper structural roots of domination identified by the TCA.

Challenge 2: Economic and political inequalities

- Powerful actors with vested interests may resist transformative change that reduces their privileges. Marginalized or vulnerable populations may perceive transformative change as adding an unacceptable, even existential, risk to their already precarious lives, such as when change might negatively affect employment and development
- The GBF focuses on **equity and fairness in implementation**
- Key targets:
 - **Target 19** → Financial resources (including international flows)
 - **Target 23** → Gender equality
 - **Target 22** → Inclusion and participation
- The GBF integrates equity principles, but its ability to reduce inequality depends heavily on the countries' implementation and financing.
- International economic inequalities show up on a regular basis in CBD negotiations and remain difficult to resolve.

Challenge 3: Inadequate policies and unfit institutions

- Reformist responses to biodiversity loss and nature's decline that do not address underlying causes can challenge transformative change when they obscure the indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, and they may lead to a sense that effective action has occurred.
- For example, many biodiversity offsets may seem to address biodiversity loss but have faced challenges with compliance and difficulties in effectively managing the complexity of measurement and offsetting.
- There have also been instances in which poorly designed and/or governed offset schemes led to dispossession and violations of the respective rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, among other challenges.
- **Key GBF targets:**
 - **Target 14** → Integrate biodiversity across all sectors (mainstreaming)
 - **Target 15** → Corporate accountability and disclosure
 - **Target 18** → Reform harmful incentives
 - **Target 21** → Knowledge sharing
- The GBF promotes a **whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach** along with biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors, but implementation remains largely within the hands of Parties with uneven capacity and willingness to do so.

Challenge 4: Unsustainable consumption and production patterns

- In a globalized economy, **telecoupling effects over distance, including through trade**, may cause economic incentives to increase consumption through efficiencies of scale and may obscure environmental impacts because they occur in faraway places.
- **Societal emphasis on economic growth** underpins modern-day consumerism, as do strategies to maximize profits, such as planned obsolescence and premature ageing of technologies
- **Key GBF targets:**
 - **Target 15** → businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts
 - **Target 16** → Sustainable consumption (reduce global footprint)
 - **Target 10** → Sustainable production (agriculture, forestry, fisheries)
 - **Target 7** → Pollution reduction
- Although the GBF addresses unsustainable consumption and production patterns to a certain extent, discussions over international trade not being within the mandate of the CBD keep arising in negotiations, namely when discussing **sustainable supply chains, due diligence**, etc.

Challenge 5: limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and information systems

- Prevents resource- and energy-intensive producers and consumers from adopting technologies that support transformative change
- **Planned obsolescence and premature ageing of technologies**, exacerbated by « rebound effects » cause unsustainable production and use.
- Many producers continue to rely on unsustainable technologies that harm people and biodiversity because of the limited availability and high costs of cleaner technologies
- **Key GBF targets:**
 - **Target 20** → Capacity building and technology transfer
 - **Target 19** → Financial support for implementation
 - **Target 15** → businesses assess, disclose and reduce biodiversity-related risks and negative impacts
 - **Target 10** → Sustainable production (agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry)
- The GBF acknowledges technology gaps, but does not deeply engage with structural barriers to access.

Strategies for transformative change

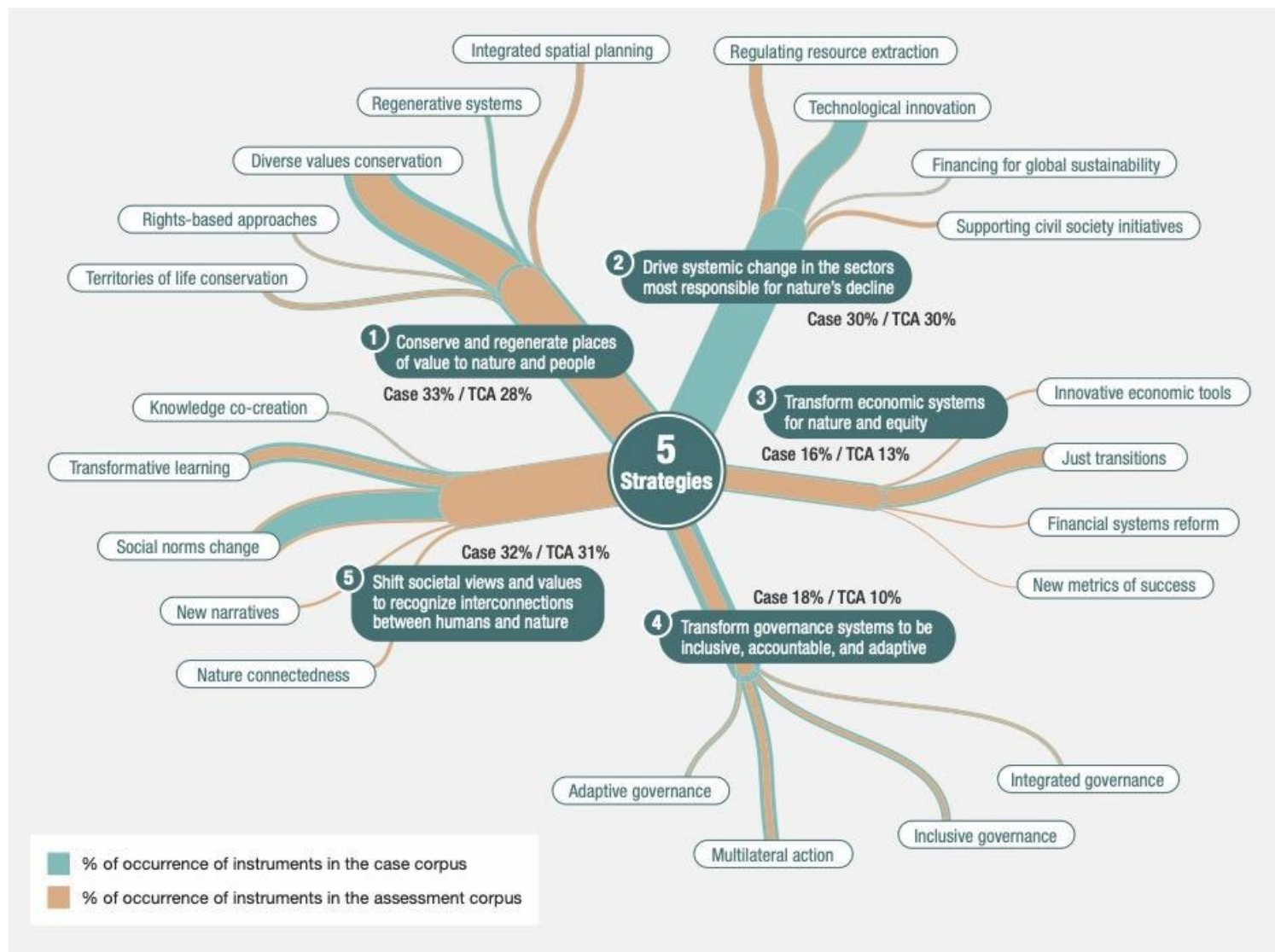


Figure SPM 6. Dendrogram displaying the proportion of occurrences of terms associated with strategies or actions

Strategies for transformative change (1)

Number	Strategy	GBF targets	Analysis
1. Where the change happens	Conserving and regenerating places of value to nature and people	<p>Target 1 → Spatial planning</p> <p>Target 2 → Restoration (30% of degraded ecosystems)</p> <p>Target 3 → 30x30 protected and conserved areas</p> <p>Target 12 → Urban green/blue spaces</p>	The GBF directly operationalizes the area-based and restoration targets. Coupled with targets 21 and 22, which if implemented ensure inclusivity and participation.
2. Where pressures come from	Driving systemic change in the sectors most responsible for biodiversity loss and nature's decline	<p>Target 5 → Sustainable use of wild species</p> <p>Target 7 → Pollution reduction</p> <p>Target 8 → Climate-biodiversity linkages</p> <p>Target 10 → Sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries</p> <p>Target 14 → Biodiversity mainstreaming</p>	The GBF tackles direct drivers of biodiversity loss at scale and ensures sectoral policies align with biodiversity goals
3. What drives decisions	Transforming economic systems for nature and equity	<p>Target 15 → Business and financial sector accountability</p> <p>Target 18 → Reform harmful subsidies</p> <p>Target 19 → Resource mobilization</p>	The GBF aligns economic incentives with biodiversity outcomes and aims to unlock the resources required for implementation

Strategies for transformative change (2)

Number	Strategy	GBF targets	Analysis
4. How decisions are made	Transforming governance systems to make them integrated, inclusive, accountable and adaptive	<p>Target 14 → Policy integration</p> <p>Target 21 → Knowledge sharing</p> <p>Target 22 → Participation and rights</p> <p>Target 23 → Gender equality</p>	The GBF provides the institutional architecture needed to implement all targets and aims for coherent, participatory, and flexible decision-making
5. Why decisions are made	Shifting societal views and values to recognize and prioritize fundamental interconnections between humans and nature	<p>Target 16 → Sustainable consumption</p> <p>Target 21 → Knowledge and awareness</p> <p>Target 13 → Respect for traditional knowledge</p>	The GBF addresses deep root causes of biodiversity loss and enables long-term, sustained behavioral change, but maybe not transformative?

Risks and tradeoffs – TCA principles

- Transformative change can create social resistance and unequal impacts, and poorly designed policies can worsen inequalities
- Transformation must be socially just to be politically viable and durable.
- Overall, transformative change must be principled:
 - **Equity and justice**
 - **Pluralism and inclusion**
 - **Respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships**
 - **Adaptive learning and action**
- It must be based on a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach

TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

1

Identify a policy, project or any other initiative with transformative potential to address biodiversity loss and nature's decline (see chapters 1 & 5). What results are desired?

.....

.....

Which actors are involved in the development and implementation of this initiative (see chapter 5)?
Directly:

Indirectly:

APPROACHES

6

Which approaches to transformative change are included in the initiative ?

Systems Inner transformation Knowledge co-creation

Structural Empowerment Science and technology

Are they addressed in an integrated manner, acknowledging interactions among views, structures and practices?

.....

If not, what is missing?

.....

What values are foundational to your initiative? In other words, what do you care deeply about (see chapter 1)?

.....

Are these values aligned with the four principles of transformative change?

YES NO DON'T KNOW

If yes, please describe how.

.....

If not, how can these be included?

.....

PRINCIPLES

2

- Equity and justice
- Pluralism and inclusion
- Respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships
- Adaptive learning and action

There are numerous challenges to transformative change. What challenges do you anticipate as being most critical to your initiative? How do these link to the overarching societal challenges to transformative change?

.....

What needs to shift to address these challenges (from what to what)?

.....

CHALLENGES

7

- Persistent relations of domination, particularly those that emerged and were propagated in colonial eras
- Economic and political inequalities
- Inadequate policies and unfit institutions
- Unsustainable consumption and production patterns
- Limited access to clean technologies and uncoordinated knowledge and innovation systems

STRATEGIES

3

- Conserve and regenerate places of value to nature and people
- Drive systemic change in the sectors most responsible for nature's decline
- Transform economic systems for nature and equity
- Transform governance systems to be inclusive, accountable and adaptive
- Shift individual and societal views to prioritize interconnections between humans and nature

Which of the transformative strategies does this initiative contribute to (see chapter 5)? (can be one, multiple, none, or other)

.....

.....

WAYS OF...

8

How can you integrate new ways of thinking (i.e., shift in views), organizing (structures) and doing (practices) to overcome these challenges?

.....

.....

UNDERLYING CAUSES

4

- Disconnection from and domination over nature and people
- Concentration of power and wealth
- Prioritization of short term, individual and material gains

Does the initiative address any underlying cause(s) of biodiversity loss?

YES NO If no, revisit step 2

If yes, please elaborate:

.....

Are any actor groups missing to achieve shifts in views, structures and practices that address biodiversity loss and nature's decline?

.....

If yes, how can they be included and involved?

.....

ACTORS

9

VISIONS

5

- Regenerative and circular economy
- Community rights and empowerment
- Biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Spiritual reconnection and behavioural change
- Innovative business and technology

Describe the vision or visions to be achieved:

.....

Is the vision inclusive (engaging and considering all actor groups) and comprehensive (multidimensional)?

YES NO DON'T KNOW If no, revisit step 1

If not, how can it be adjusted or complemented?

.....

ACTIONS

10

Identify the specific actions that will be pursued to address the underlying cause(s) of biodiversity loss, shift views, structures and practices and embody the four principles of transformative change. Also identify who will be involved, how and when.

-
-
-

How do these actions contribute to realizing the identified visions?

5

What unintended consequences are possible and how can you strategically address them?

6



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Justice and Equity in Biodiversity Transformation: From Principles to Practice

Amanda Loeffen
CEO Human Right 2 Water



Human Right 2 Water Biodiversity Project

Amanda Loeffen, 21st April 2026, The Azores

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN

WHITE & CASE



AGENDA

- **Introduction to HR2W**
 - Vision and Mission
- **HRWS and Biodiversity**
- **Biodiversity Project methodology and questionnaire**
- **Initial Results**

Human
Right
2
water

VISION

A world where all people realise the human rights to water and sanitation

MISSION

To collect, use and share expert knowledge on how the human rights to water and sanitation should be integrated into law, policy and practice to realise safe and sustainable access to water and sanitation for all, including the most vulnerable and marginalised communities

Human
Right
2
water

HUMAN RIGHT 2 WATER

Swiss-based Association

- ie not for profit/NGO
- Global Members
- Expert Committee/ Advisory Board

Strategy:

1. Research
2. Applications
3. Capacity Building
4. Awareness

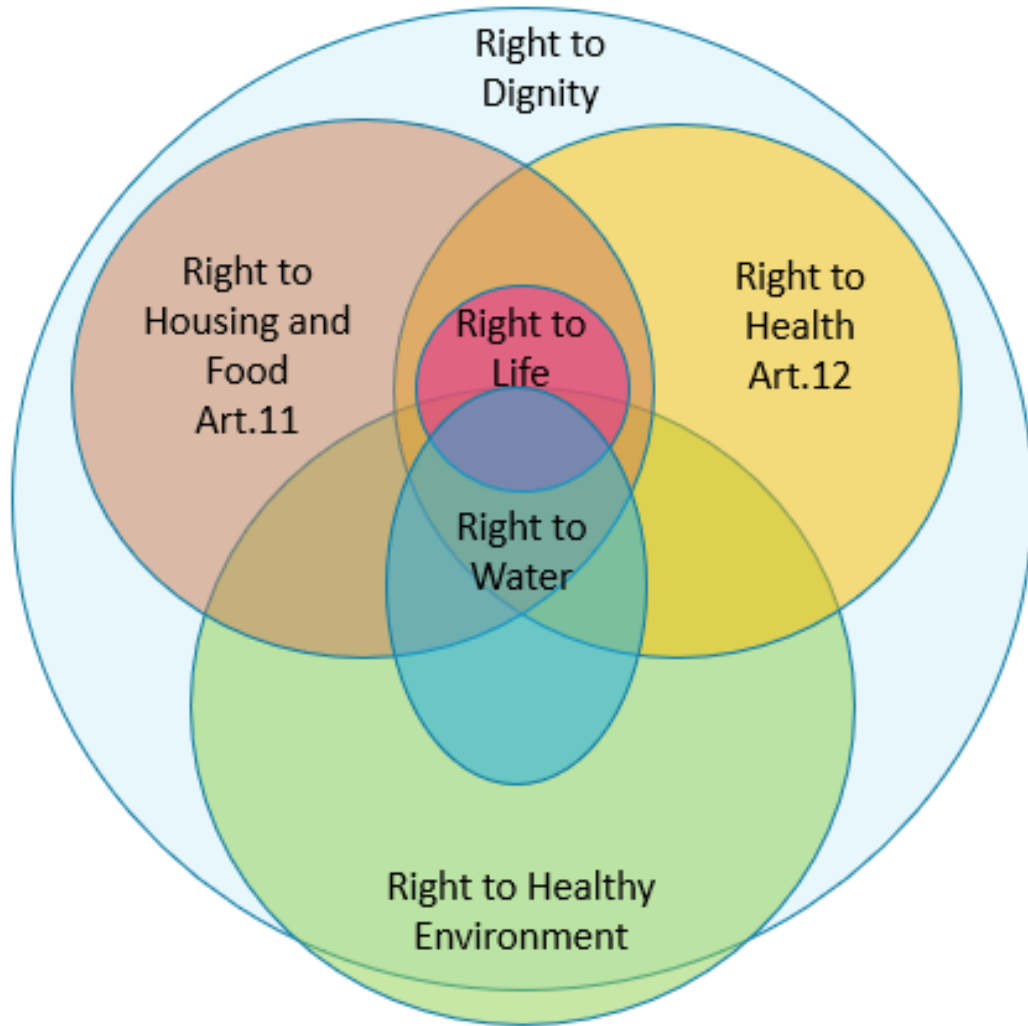
Funded by:

- Governments (SDC)
- Development Banks (IDB, ADB)
- Organisation of American States (OAS)
- Horizon Europe (EC)
- Membership fees
- UN Agencies
- Pro Bono support in research

Partnerships with

- UN-Water and INGOs
- Water Authorities
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Parliamentarians
- Citizen Societies

HUMAN RIGHTS AND BIODIVERSITY



The right to water is fundamental to ensuring that all people can live lives of dignity, health and cultural integrity.

Water underpins the full enjoyment of many other human rights, including the right to food, water, health and a safe, clean and sustainable environment.

Biodiversity is only present in a healthy environment and can be seen as a marker for access to this right, and hence to other rights such as water

Given the deep interconnection of these rights, safeguarding and restoring biodiversity must be a central priority.

Safeguarding ecosystems. Species and genetic diversity is essential not only for present wellbeing but also for future generations.

A HUMAN RIGHT TO BIODIVERSITY

- Biodiversity is a critical component of Human right to a healthy environment
- Relation to other human rights: food, water, health, cultural integrity
- Biodiversity as a human right would protect:
 - Natural systems that sustain human life,
 - Drinking water,
 - Food production,
 - Medicinal products,
 - Vulnerable communities

“The full enjoyment of human rights depend on biodiversity; degradation and loss of biodiversity undermine people’s ability to enjoy their rights to life, health, food, water and adequate living standards.”

Ref. CBD

WHY BIODIVERSITY NEEDS ITS OWN RECOGNITION

- Biodiversity is often included as a component of HRHE, but without explicit recognition as a separate right, protections may be underdeveloped or overlooked
- Recognising biodiversity as a standalone human right ensures detailed legal safeguards and stronger state obligations, creating clearer legal frameworks for ecosystem protection
- A separate right also promotes sustainable and intergenerational equity ensuring ecosystems and species are preserved for coming years.

Example: Polluted rivers and lakes lose much aquatic biodiversity. Without a separate human right to biodiversity, legal protections for these ecosystems may be weak and harm communities that rely on them for food, livelihood and cultural practices

THE IMPACT OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS

- Biodiversity underpins ecosystem services critical to human survival including food provisions, medicinal resources and water access.
- Globally over 1 million species are threatened with extinction, highlighting the urgency of biodiversity protection on the whole (IPBES, 2019).
- Degraded habitats and overexploited fisheries also disproportionately affect local and indigenous communities around the globe who depend on them for a livelihood.
- Therefore, loss of biodiversity does not only relate to reduction of ecosystems, but also diminishes aesthetic, cultural and economic values of the environment.

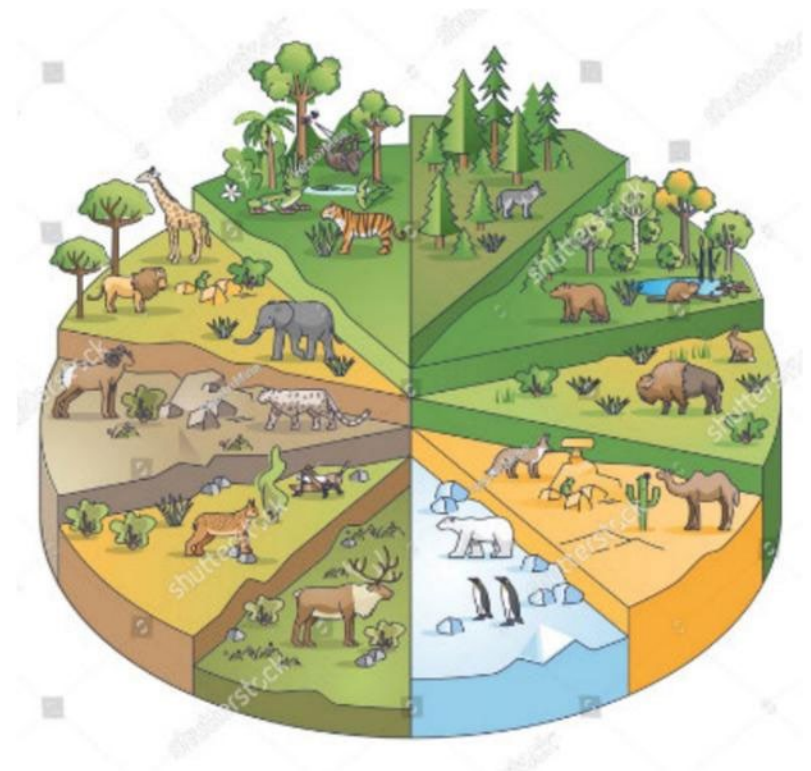


DUTY BEARERS AND RIGHTS HOLDERS

- States have a duty to Protect, Respect and Fulfil Human Rights
- Progressive Realisation means:
 - obligation to make progress to a maximum of available resources
- Duty Bearers include:
 - national governments, environmental authorities and conservation bodies, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), parliamentarians, businesses and extractive industries, UN and development agencies
- Rights Holders include:
 - civil society, marginalised and vulnerable people, women, children, migrants, indigenous peoples, elderly, disabled, internally displaced...

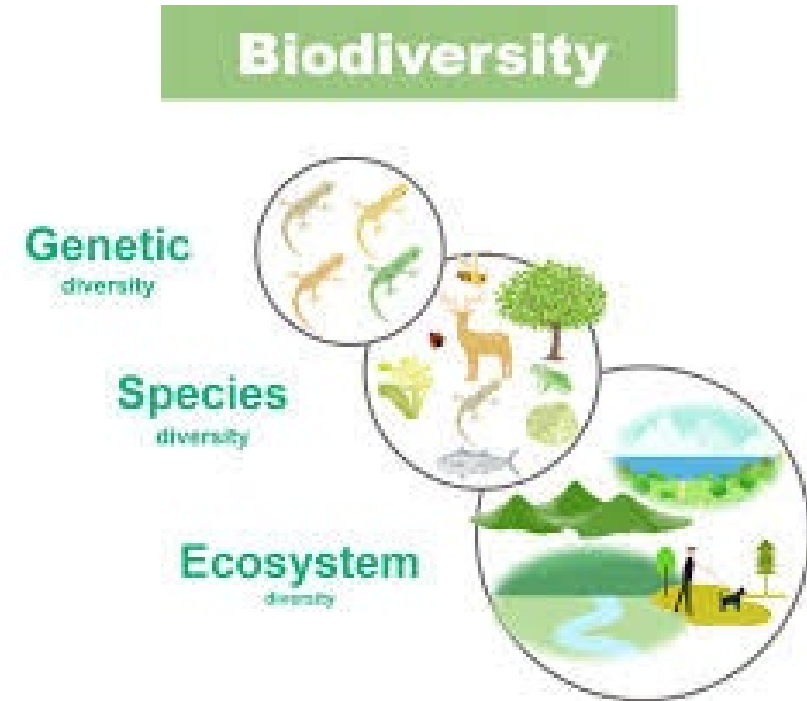
BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

- No defined global treaties, standards or guidelines on biodiversity as a right
- Expert Committee
- Interviews with experts, academics, and organisations specialising on environmental rights and biodiversity
- Independent research on articles, reports and studies.



METHODOLOGY

- Links between Human Rights to Water and Sanitation (HRWS) and biodiversity
- Analysis of the laws, policies and regulations
- **Questionnaire similar to country legal mapping for HRWS**
- 10 categories related to criteria and principles of HRWS



THE NORMATIVE AND PROCEDURAL CONTENT OF BIODIVERSITY AS A HUMAN RIGHT

1. Normative Content	2. Procedural Guarantees
I. Accessibility	I. Non-discrimination
II. Affordability	II. Access to information
III. Availability	III. Public participation
IV. Quality	IV. Accountability
V. Acceptability	V. Sustainability

- Procedural = Human rights-based approach

CRITERIA (*based on standards of human right to water*)

AVAILABILITY

- Availability concerns the presence of diverse habitats and species necessary for maintaining biodiversity

ACCESSIBILITY

- Concerns the level of access people and communities have to these habitats and species for conservation and sustainable use

QUALITY

- Minimum ecological standards are needed to ensure ecosystem health

ACCEPTABILITY

- Cultural and socially acceptable conservation practices, enabling coexistence with nature

AFFORDABILITY

- Biodiversity as an essential service, adequately funded and available to all regardless of cost outcome

PRINCIPLES OF HRBA

NONDISCRIMINATION

- Central element for human rights. Positive targeted measures may have to be adopted

ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND TRANSPARENCY

- People have right to seek, receive and impart information concerning biodiversity
- States should reach people and provide accessible information

PARTICIPATION

- Inclusion of individuals, groups and communities in a participatory process to plan and design public policies on biodiversity

SUSTAINABILITY

- Human rights obligations related to biodiversity need to be economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Responsive and accountable institutions
- Monitoring process and access to effective judicial and non-judicial mechanisms

STRUCTURE OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

- Overview of the issue
- Definition of biodiversity
- Rights and SDGs that have a relationship to biodiversity
- Explanation of the HRWS criteria and principles for biodiversity
- Guideline for methodology
- Country Dashboard
- Questions divided in 10 categories

Biodiversity from a Human Rights Perspective

Country Legal Mapping Questionnaire

Introduction

This methodology provides a human rights–based framework for understanding and assessing biodiversity protection within international and national legal systems. It seeks to position biodiversity not merely as an environmental objective, but as an essential element of the Human Right to a Healthy Environment and other interdependent rights such as water, food, health, and culture. By connecting biodiversity to human dignity and wellbeing, this approach emphasises that ecosystem degradation directly undermines the fulfilment of fundamental rights.

DASHBOARD COUNTRY SUMMARY

- **Yes or No** questions on rights related to biodiversity included in the constitution
- Reference to laws or regulations specifically for biodiversity and environmental health
- Question on ministries in charge of issues of relevance for biodiversity e.g. indigenous communities, water, gender.

Section 2: How International laws on Biodiversity are Included in National Law

DASHBOARD: Country _____

This page summarises the key frameworks in the country, and the level to which biodiversity is included in national legislation.

General Legislation

- | | | |
|---------|--|--|
| 1.
1 | State organization type | |
| 1.
2 | Relationship between international and national law | |
| 1.
3 | Name of institution possessing regulation-making authority | |
| 1.
5 | Popular consultation as part of the governing process | |
| 5.
1 | Independent National Human Rights Institution | |

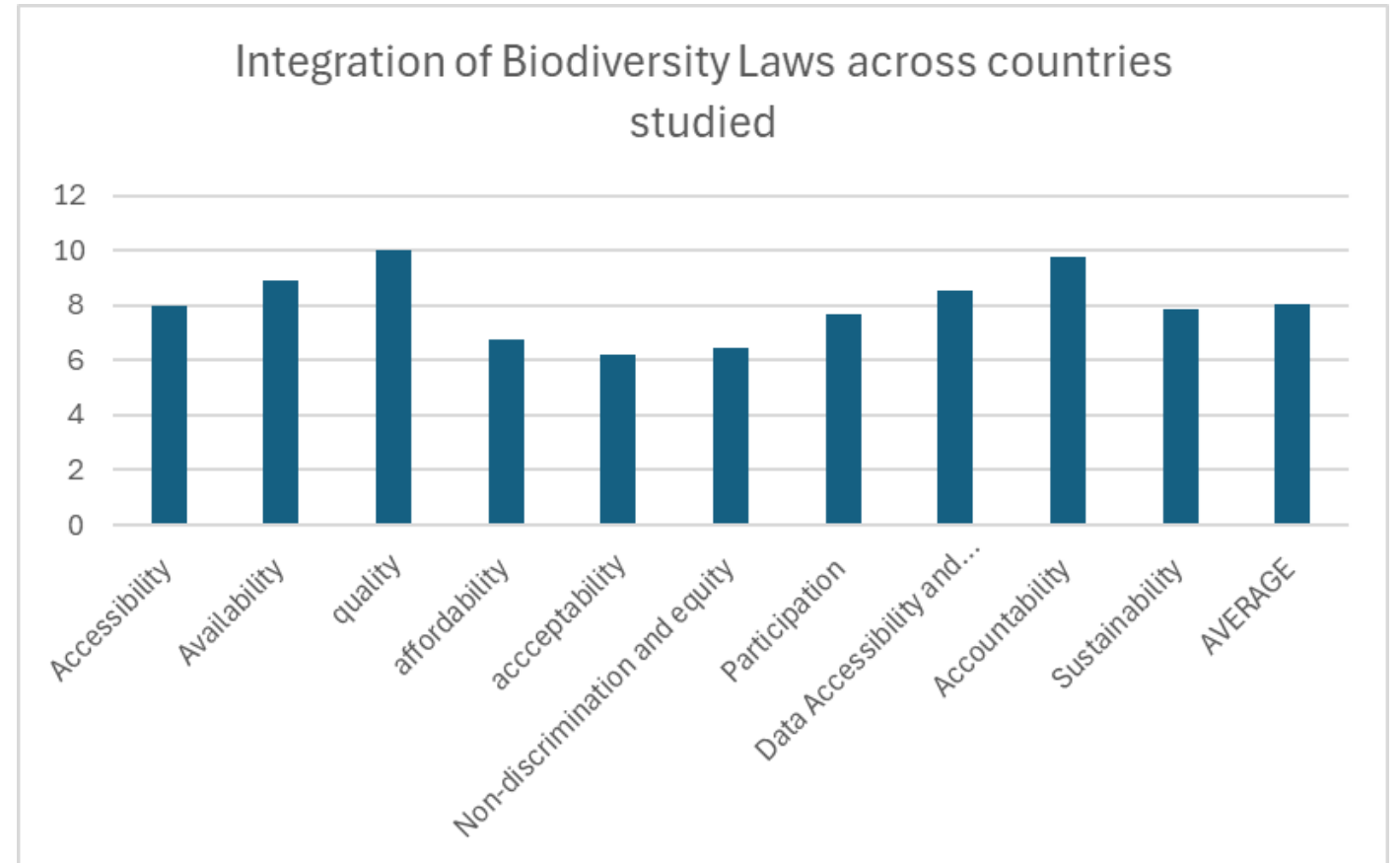
INITIAL RESULTS

- Overview of countries completed to date
 - Australia
 - Bhutan
 - Brazil
 - Colombia
 - Costa Rica
 - Mexico
 - New Zealand
 - USA
- Reference laws and examples of good practice

Human
Right
2 water

OVERVIEW OF COUNTRIES STUDIED

- Quality and accountability are generally included
- Lowest scores for acceptability, non-discrimination and affordability
- On average 80% recognised in these countries
- Note that we chose countries that are notably committed already



EXAMPLE BEST PRACTICES ACCESSIBILITY

Colombia

- **Equitable Access** - Ensures equitable access to biodiverse ecosystems through constitutional rights (A.79, A.13) and environmental laws that guarantee public participation and inclusion of indigenous and vulnerable groups in protected areas and natural resources.

Extract from
questionnaire

i. Equitable Access for All

How does the country implement policies and strategies to ensure equitable and sustainable access to biodiverse ecosystems for all citizens? (CBD A.15)

ii. Enjoyment of Access

Are there policies and legislation that support the enjoyment of access to biodiverse ecosystems for all individuals? (Resolution 48/13)

iii. Inclusion

What laws or regulations ensure that all people, including indigenous and disabled people, have access to protected areas with biodiversity? (CBD A.8)

iv. Public Access to all Typologies

Are there measures to provide public access to the following typologies of ecosystems:

EXAMPLE BEST PRACTICES FOR AFFORDABILITY

Australia

- **Benefit sharing (GBF 13)** - EPBC & GBR Marine Park laws require permits and fees that return benefits through conservation funding and community owner program
- **Equitable access (CBD 10c)** - Policies support affordable access to nature via public parks, daily access to nature with 20-minute neighbourhoods, camping equity rules
- **Financial mechanisms** - National Landcare Program and Environment Restoration Fund with just under \$5 million AUD for biodiversity. Nature Repair Act 2023 enables a biodiversity certificate market for restoration projects

Extract from

i. **Sharing Benefits**

Is there any legislation that ensures that the results of the research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources, including the use of marine and coastal biodiversity in the fisheries, tourism and medicine sector are shared? (GBF Target 13)

ii. **Affordable Access**

Are there any policies to ensure affordable and equitable public access to biodiversity-rich areas, such as national parks, including transportation and related infrastructure? (CBD 10C, Aichi Target 11)

iii. **Impact of Lack of Access**

Are there any assessment criteria to measure how individuals are impacted by a lack of biodiversity within the ecosystems, for instance indigenous fishing, plants for food? (CBD A.10, Aichi Target 14)

EXAMPLE BEST PRACTICE ACCEPTABILITY

Mexico

- Indigenous customary use under Constitution A.2 enabling cultural and ecological self determination
- LGVS A.18 allows traditional use of protected areas under sustainability limits and Native Maize Law protects traditional seed use
- Fishing and water rights protected under National Water Law
- FPIC and benefit-sharing required under LGEEPA A.87

Extract from

i. Encourage Traditional Practices Is there a law or policy that protects and encourages the customary use of biological resources in accordance with traditional cultural practices? (CBD A.10)
ii. Sustainability Is there a law or policy that ensures these customary practices are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements? (CBD A.10c, Aichi Target 18)
iii. Protection of Rights How are customary fishing and water-use rights protected? (CBD A.8j)
iv. Local Communities Is there any legislation that ensures the acceptance of ecosystem biodiversity access

EXAMPLE BEST PRACTICE NON-DISCRIMINATION

Costa Rica

- Biodiversity Law (No. 7788) protects traditional knowledge, requires FPIC
- Law No. 7554 establishes environmental equity, women are 35% of PES beneficiaries
- Indigenous rights are constitutionally protected and aligned with UNDRIP and Law 6172

Extract from

i. Preserving Traditional Lifestyles

Is there a law or policy to respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles such as using forestry products, relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity? (CBD A.8j)

ii. Sharing Benefits from Traditional Knowledge

In what ways are the benefits derived from the use of traditional knowledge equitably shared with indigenous and local communities and promoted more widely? (CBD A.8j)

iii. Equitable Access

What specific measures are in place to ensure that individuals and communities from low socioeconomic backgrounds have fair and equitable access to the

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING



<https://humanright2water.org/our-projects/>

See Projects Map for countries and studies available

a.loeffen@humanright2water.org

Available for supporting biodiversity projects globally to strengthen legislation and policy around biodiversity



biodiversa+

European Biodiversity Partnership

Pathways for a Nexus Approach to Transformative Change: Linking Biodiversity, Climate, Water, Food and Health

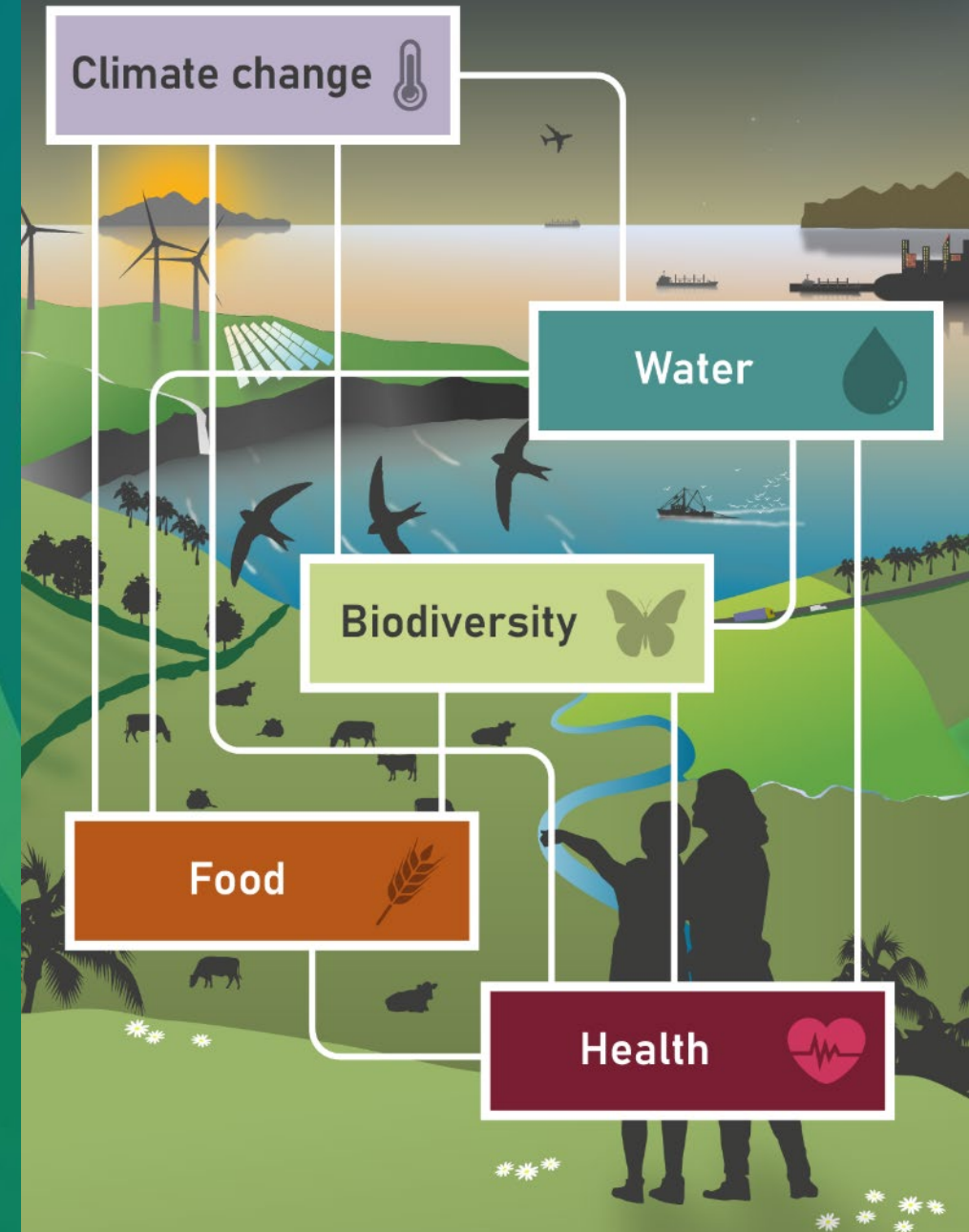
Paula Harrison

Principal Natural Capital Scientist, UKCEH



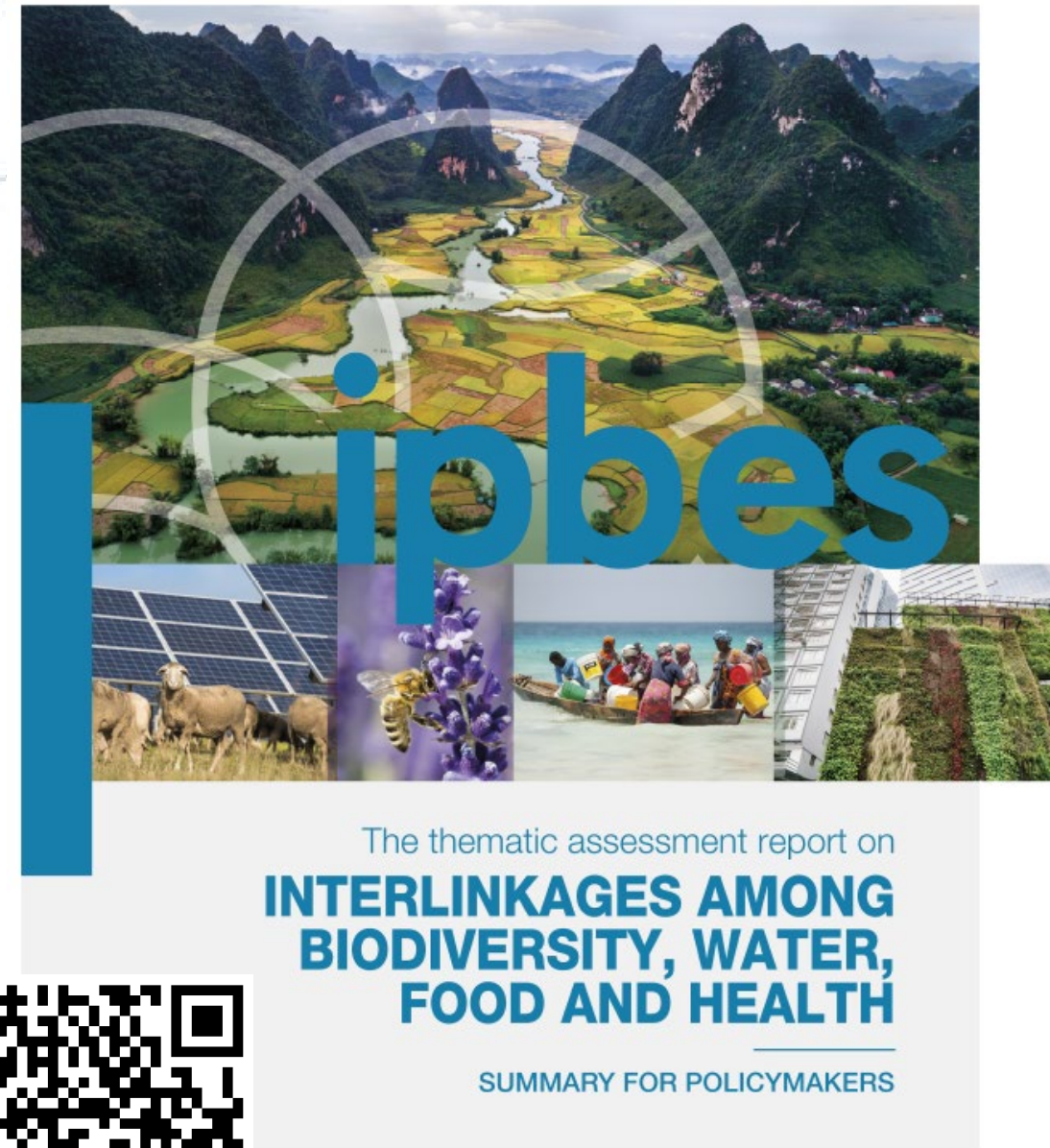
Pathways for a Nexus Approach to Transformative Change: Linking Biodiversity, Climate, Water, Food and Health

Professor Paula Harrison
IPBES Nexus Assessment Co-chair



IPBES Nexus Assessment

- Our crises are interlinked
 - Our responses are not
- Solutions already exist
 - > 70 response options assessed
- Role for everyone
 - Collaboration required



Nexus-wide benefits with positive outcomes for people and nature are feasible in the future

- Continuation of current trends in direct and indirect drivers will result in substantial negative outcomes for biodiversity, water, food, and health while exacerbating climate change

A PROJECTED FUTURE IMPACTS ON THE NEXUS ELEMENTS

Nexus archetype	Nexus element					Impacts on each nexus element under each nexus archetype
	Biodiversity	Water	Food	Health	Climate	
1. Nature-oriented nexus	▲▲▲	▲▲	▲	▲	▲▲	▲▲▲ Highly positive
2. Balanced nexus	▲	▲	▲▲	▲▲	▲	▲▲ Moderately positive
3. Conservation first	▲▲	~	▼▼	~	▲	▲ Slightly positive
4. Climate first	▼	~	▼▼	▲	▲▲	~ Variable
5. Food first	▼▼	▼	▲	▲	▼▼	▼ Slightly negative
6. Nature overexploitation	▼▼	~	▼▼	▼	▼▼	▼▼ Moderately negative
						▼▼ Highly negative

Nexus-wide benefits with positive outcomes for people and nature are feasible in the future

- Continuation of current trends in direct and indirect drivers will result in substantial negative outcomes for biodiversity, water, food, and health while exacerbating climate change
- Scenarios that prioritize a single nexus element without regard to other elements result in trade-offs across the nexus

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Nexus-wide benefits with positive outcomes for people and nature are feasible in the future

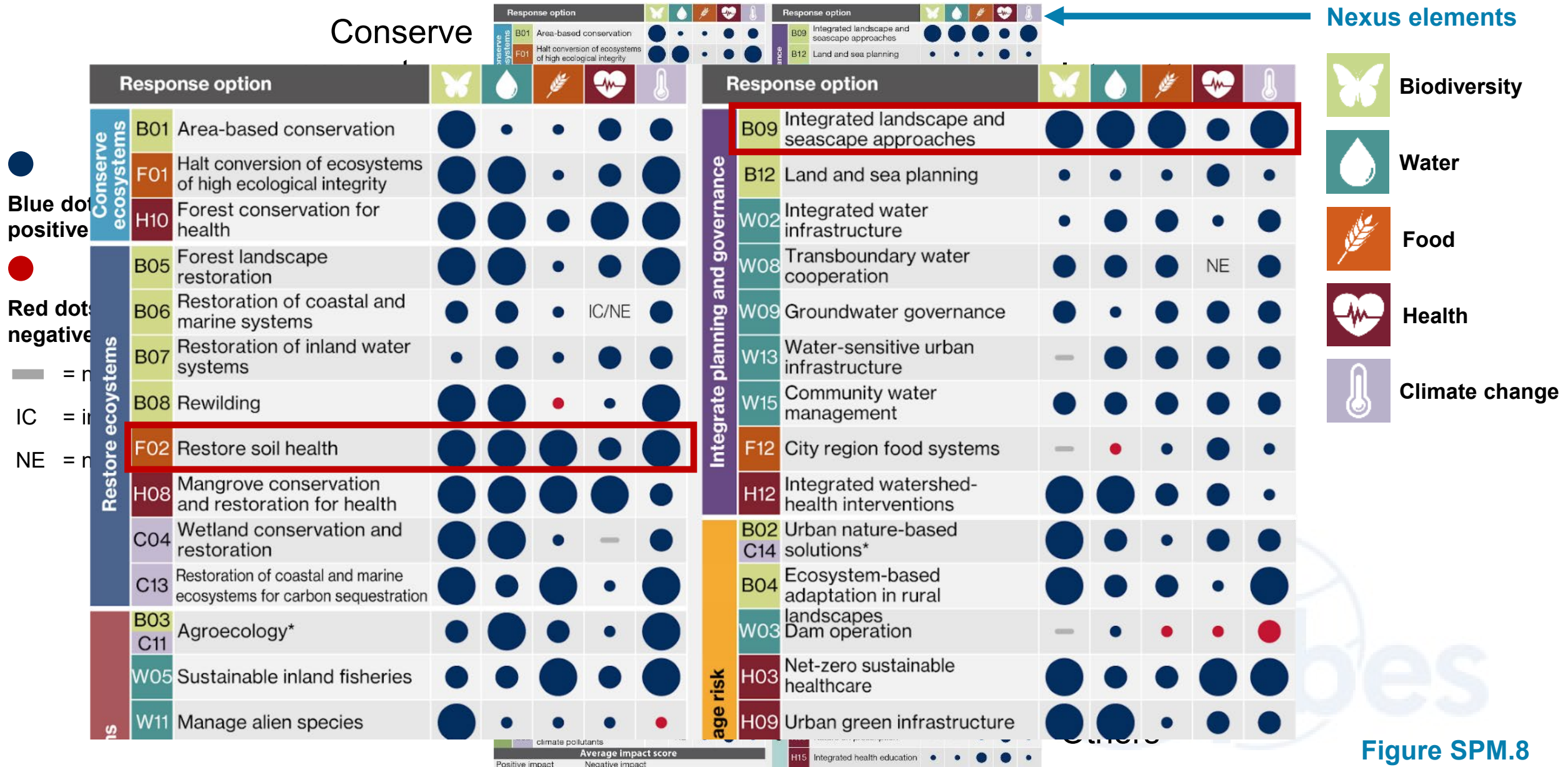
- Continuation of current trends in direct and indirect drivers will result in substantial negative outcomes for biodiversity, water, food, and health while exacerbating climate change
- Scenarios that prioritize a single nexus element without regard to other elements result in trade-offs across the nexus

- Positive outcomes for people and nature are feasible and include integrated and timely adoption of multiple response options

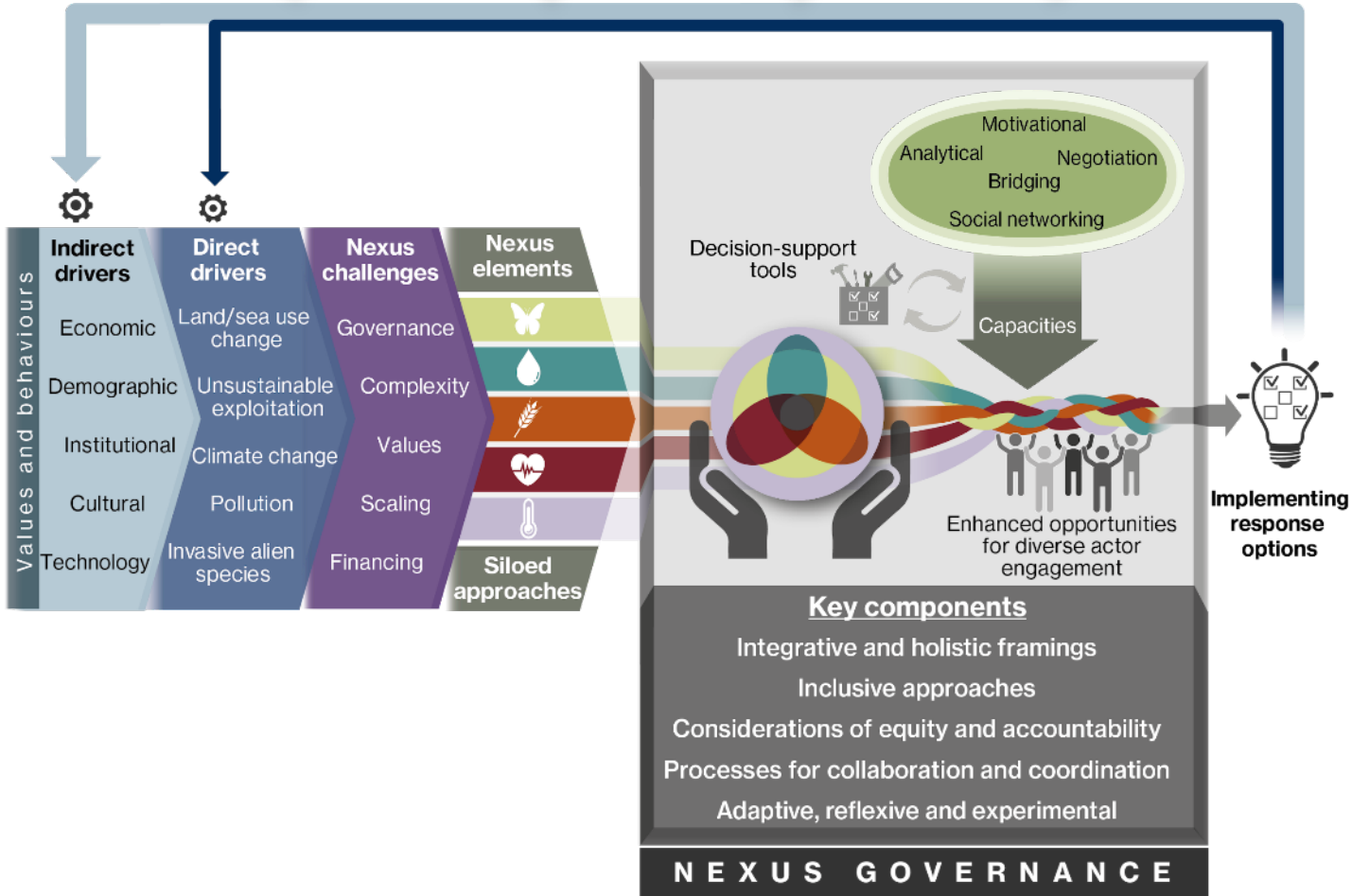
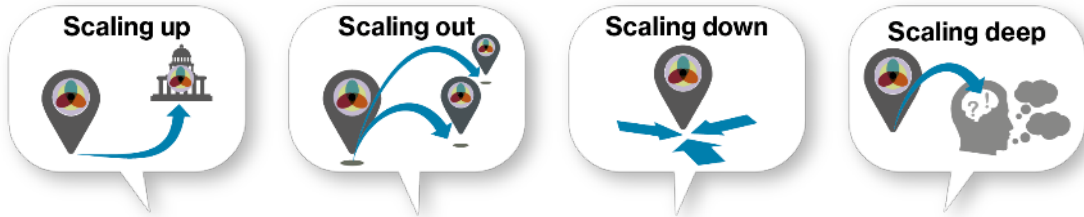
A PROJECTED FUTURE IMPACTS ON THE NEXUS ELEMENTS

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5. Food first	▼	▼	▲	▲	▼	▼ Moderately negative
6. Nature overexploitation	▼	~	▼	▼	▼	▼ Highly negative

Many response options benefit multiple nexus elements



Scaling helps accelerate the adoption, implementation and amplification of response options

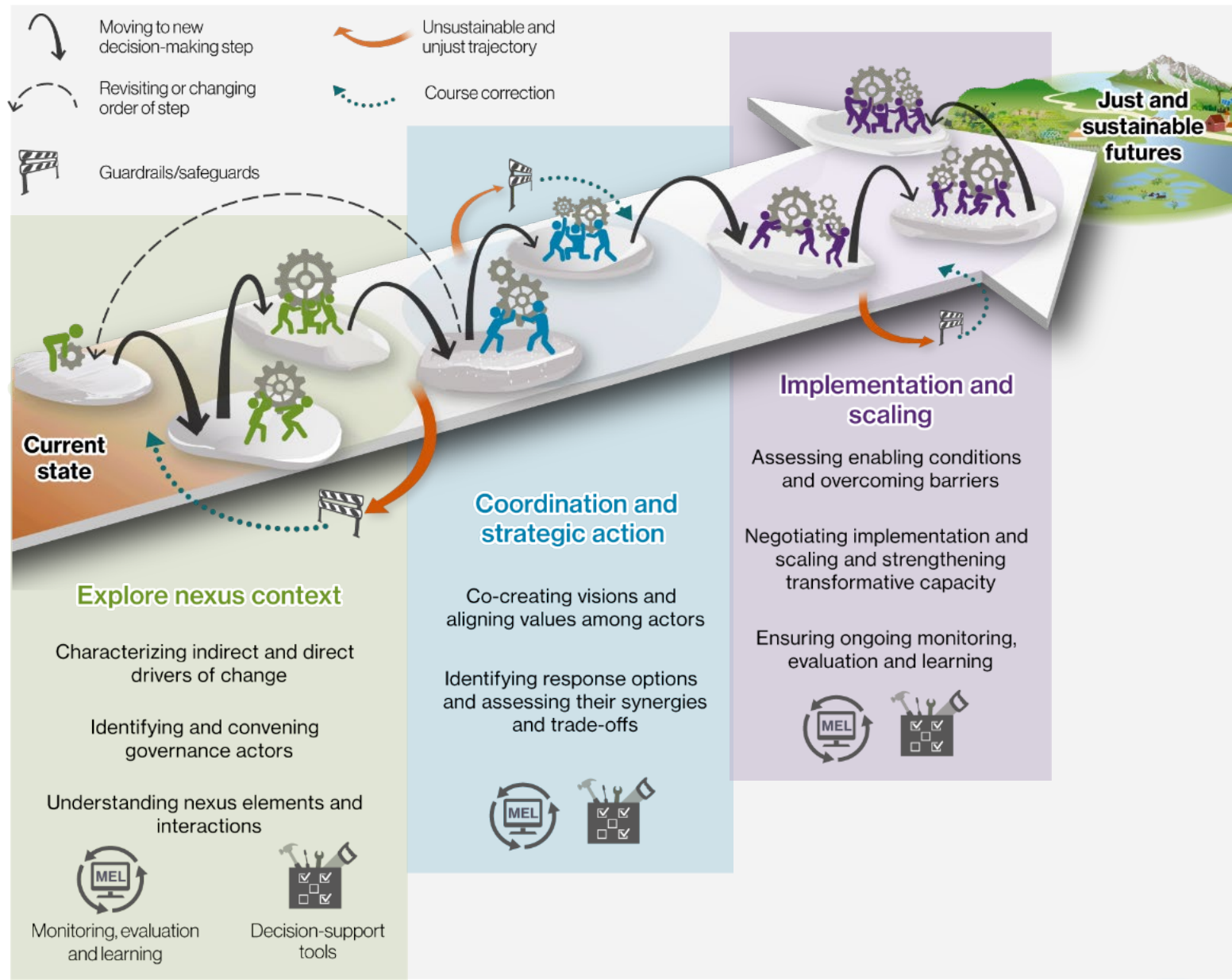


Nexus governance approaches enable integrated, inclusive, equitable and adaptive policies and actions



Figure SPM.11

Everyone has a role to play in implementing nexus approaches



Roadmap of nexus action



Conclusions

- Urgent action is needed to tackle our interlinked crises
- The assessment provides decision-makers with the best-available evidence on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change
- A wide range of response options are available now for tackling our crises together. Increased financial support and scaling these out will be crucial
- Evidence and tools are available on the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, health and climate change to support decision-makers in developing integrated decisions and actions
- This includes guidance on how economic, financing and governance systems can transform towards holistic and integrated approaches
- Recognizes and emphasizes the role different actors have in addressing global crises challenges and ensuring more just and sustainable outcomes for people and nature





#NexusAssessment

Thank you!
¡Gracias!
Merci!

For further information:
www.ipbes.net/nexus-assessment

Email: PaulaHarrison@ceh.ac.uk





biodiversa+
European Biodiversity Partnership

Transforming Economic and Financial Systems for Biodiversity

Cengiz Akandil
University of Zurich





Universität
Zürich ^{UZH}

Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies

Transforming Economic & Financial Systems for Biodiversity

Biodiversa+ Science-Policy Forum, Azores

Cengiz Akandil

21 April 2026



Biodiversity Means Life

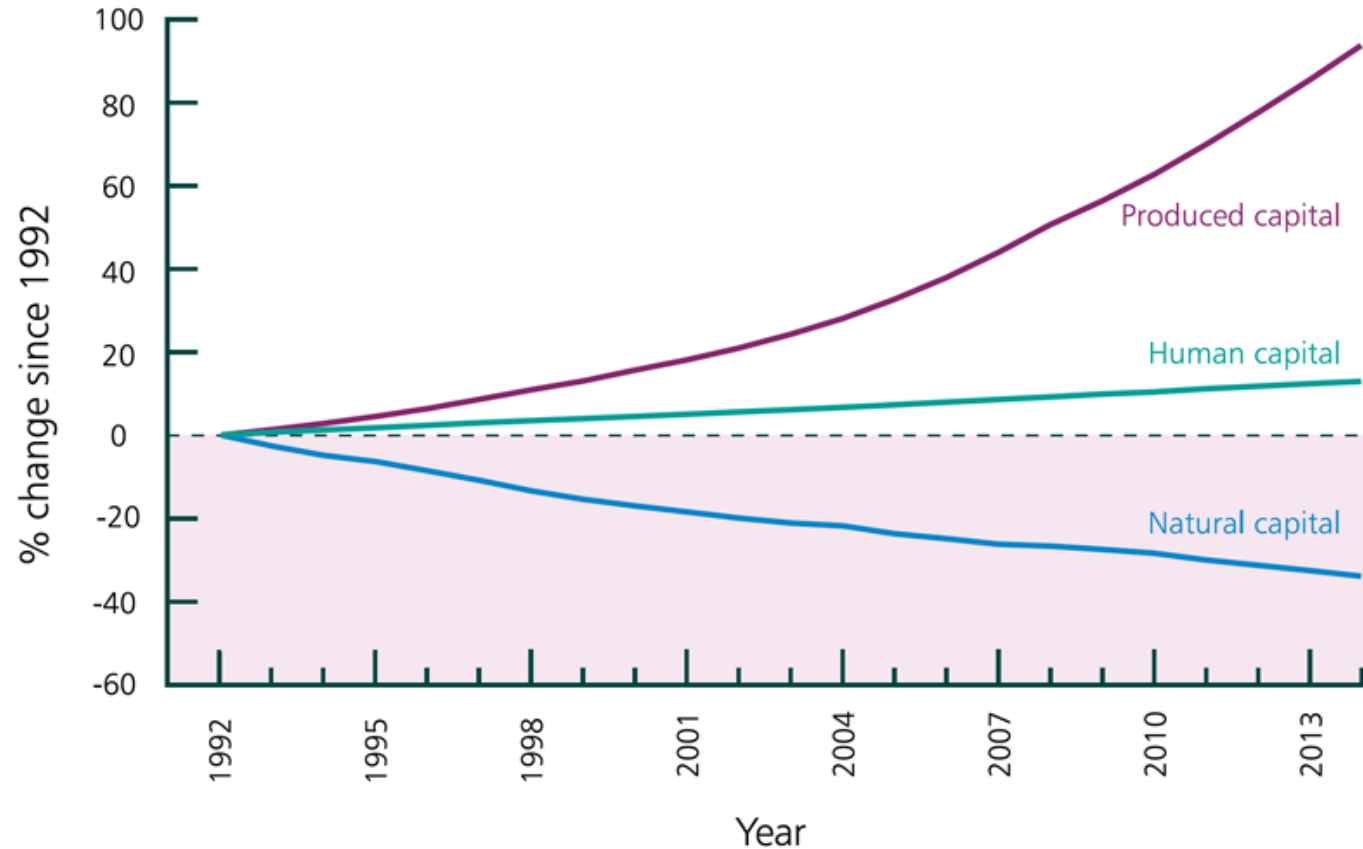
Economic growth came at the expense of nature

“In the past 50 years,

- the human population has **doubled**,
- the global economy has grown nearly **fourfold** and
- global trade has grown **tenfold**,

together driving up the demand for energy and materials.”

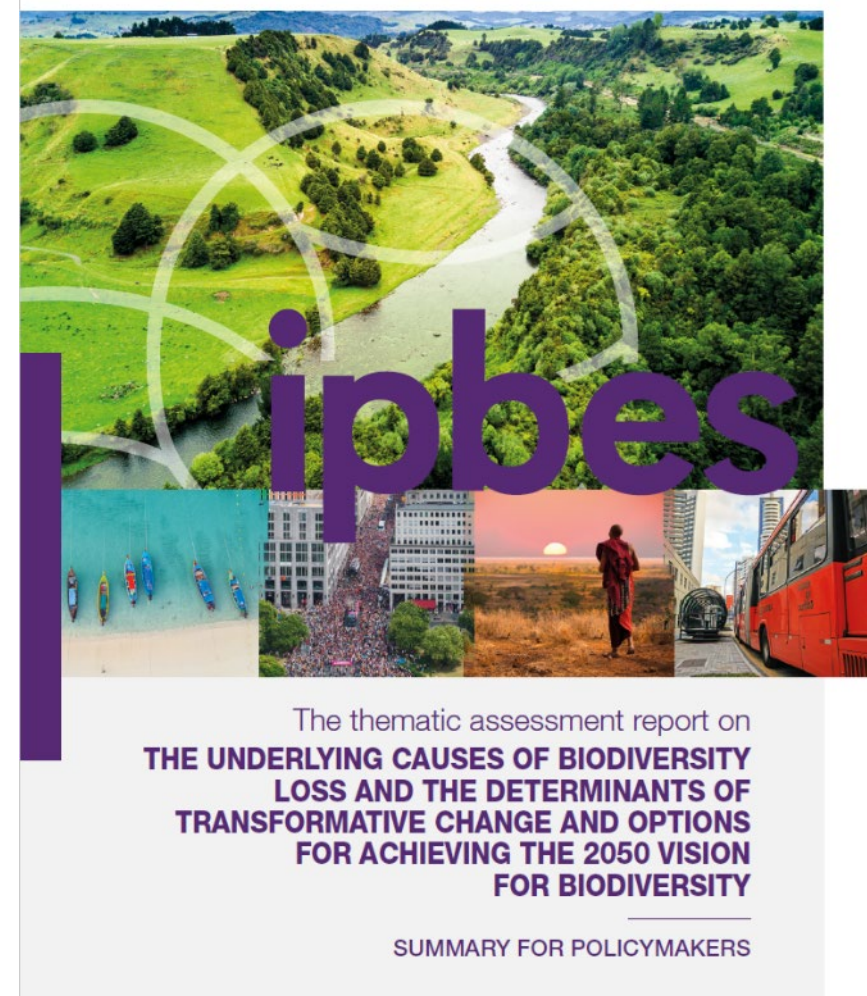
IPBES 2019



Dasgupta Report 2021

Transformative change is not an option but an urgent necessity

“Transformative change is defined as fundamental, system-wide shifts in views, structures, and practices.” IPBES 2024



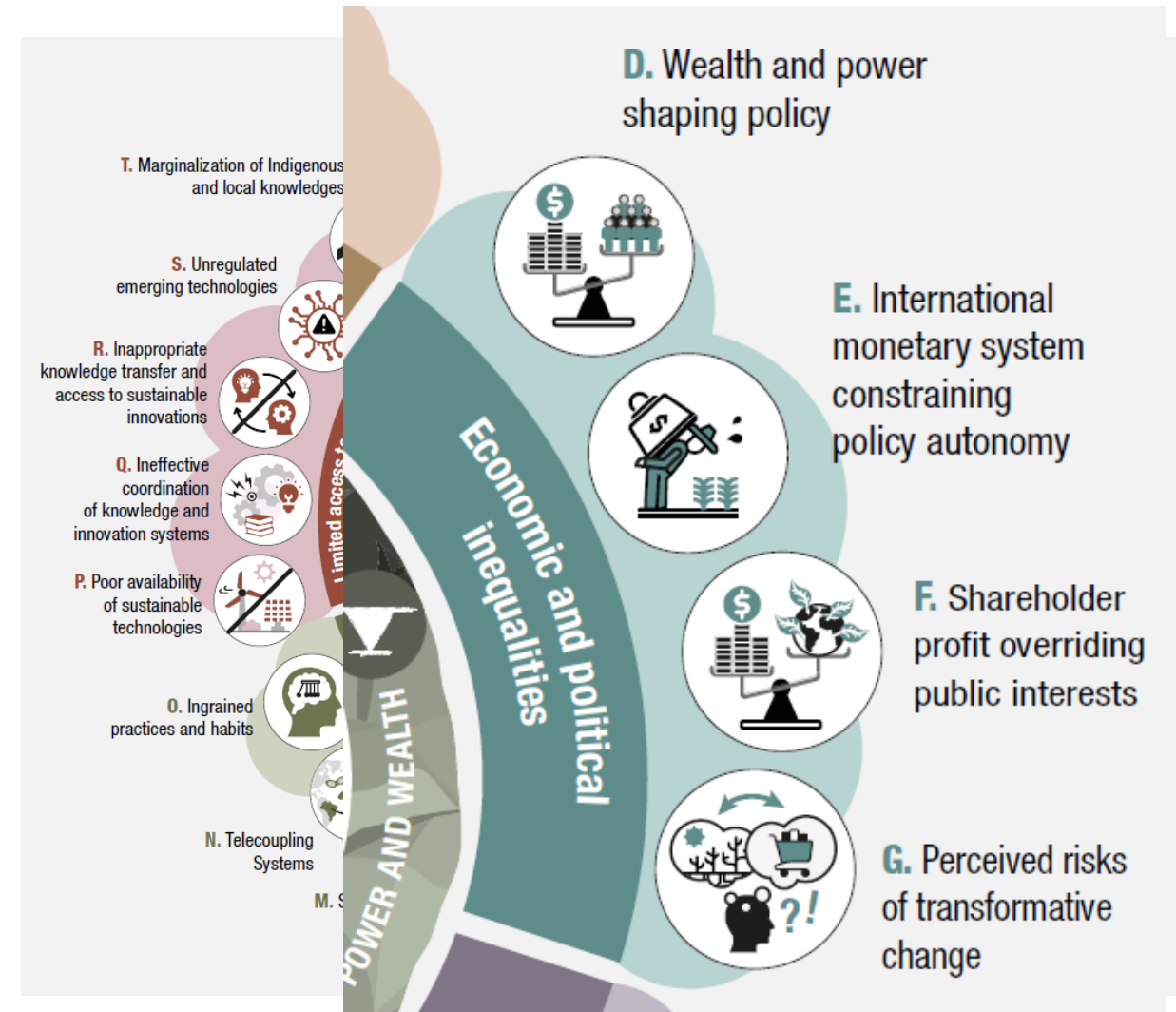
IPBES 2024



Financial markets amplify structural inequalities

Short-term returns dominate while long-term risks discounted heavily

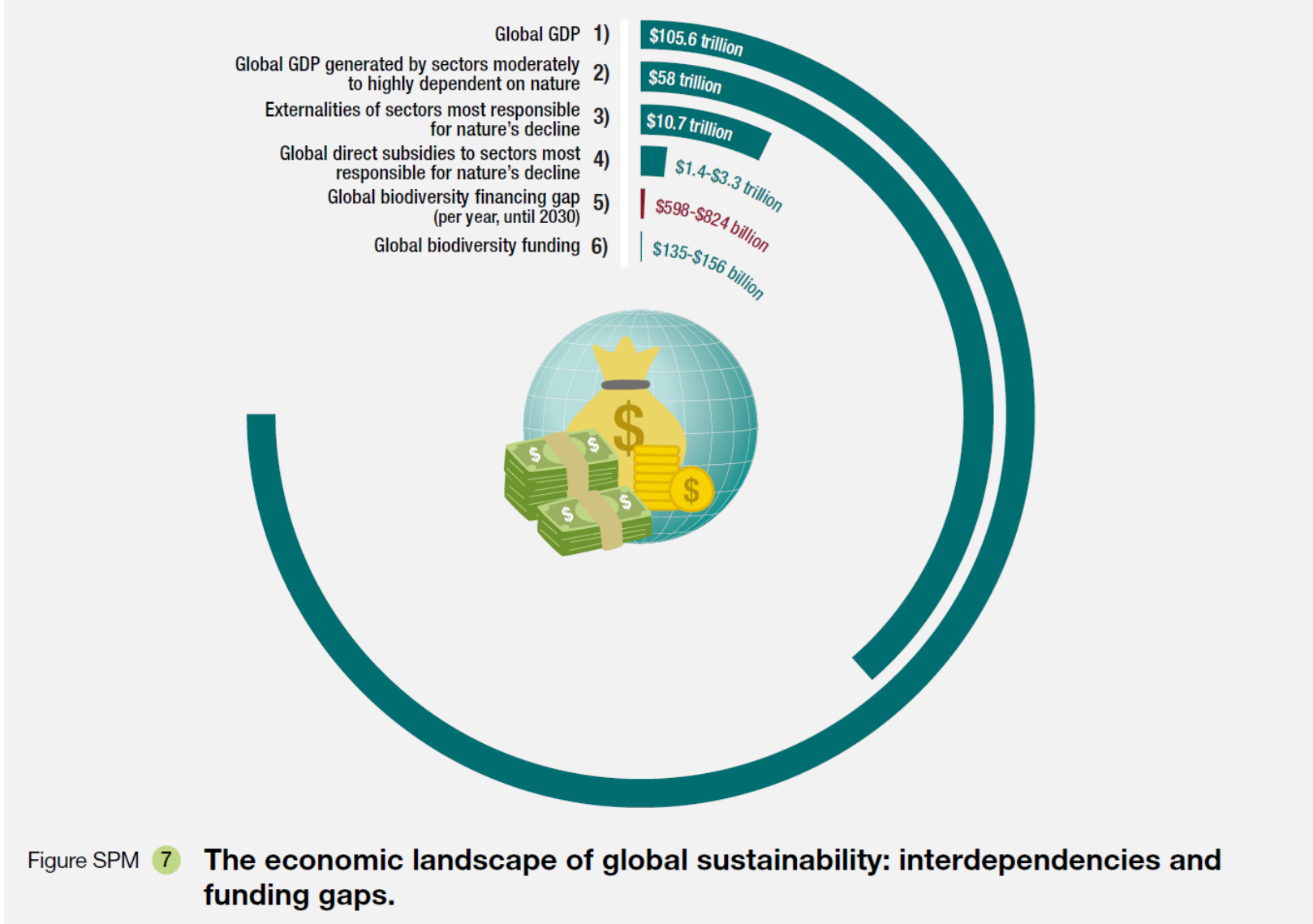
Profits are privatized, ecological and social risks are pushed onto society



Asset managers became giants while biodiversity remains underfunded

Too big to ignore

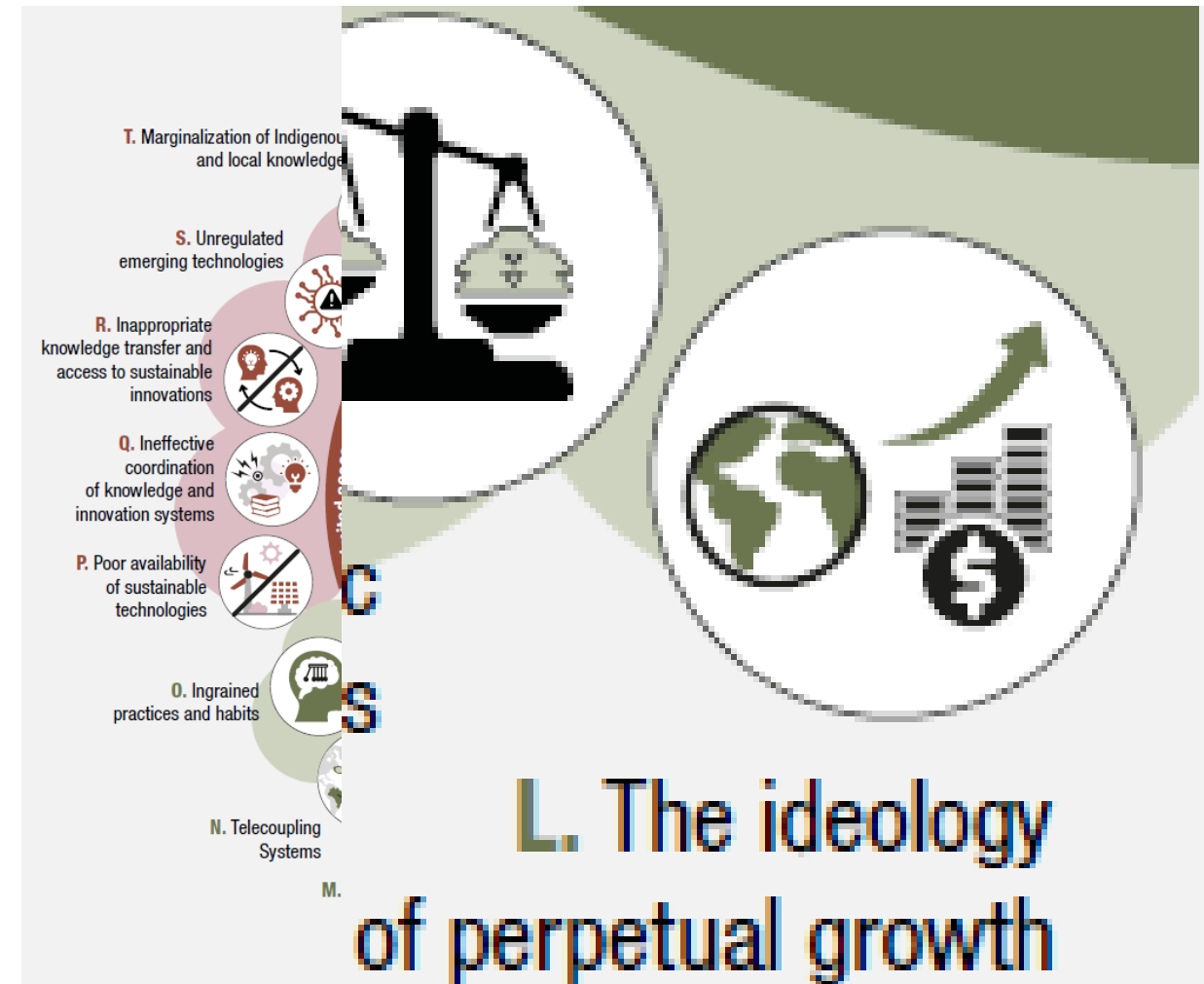
Black Rock : ~14 trillion USD
Vanguard : ~12 trillion USD



Degrowth is not an alternative, it is a consequence of ecological limits

Negative interest rates were once a financial taboo, until reality forced adaptation.

Degrowth is a systemic risk and risks must be priced.



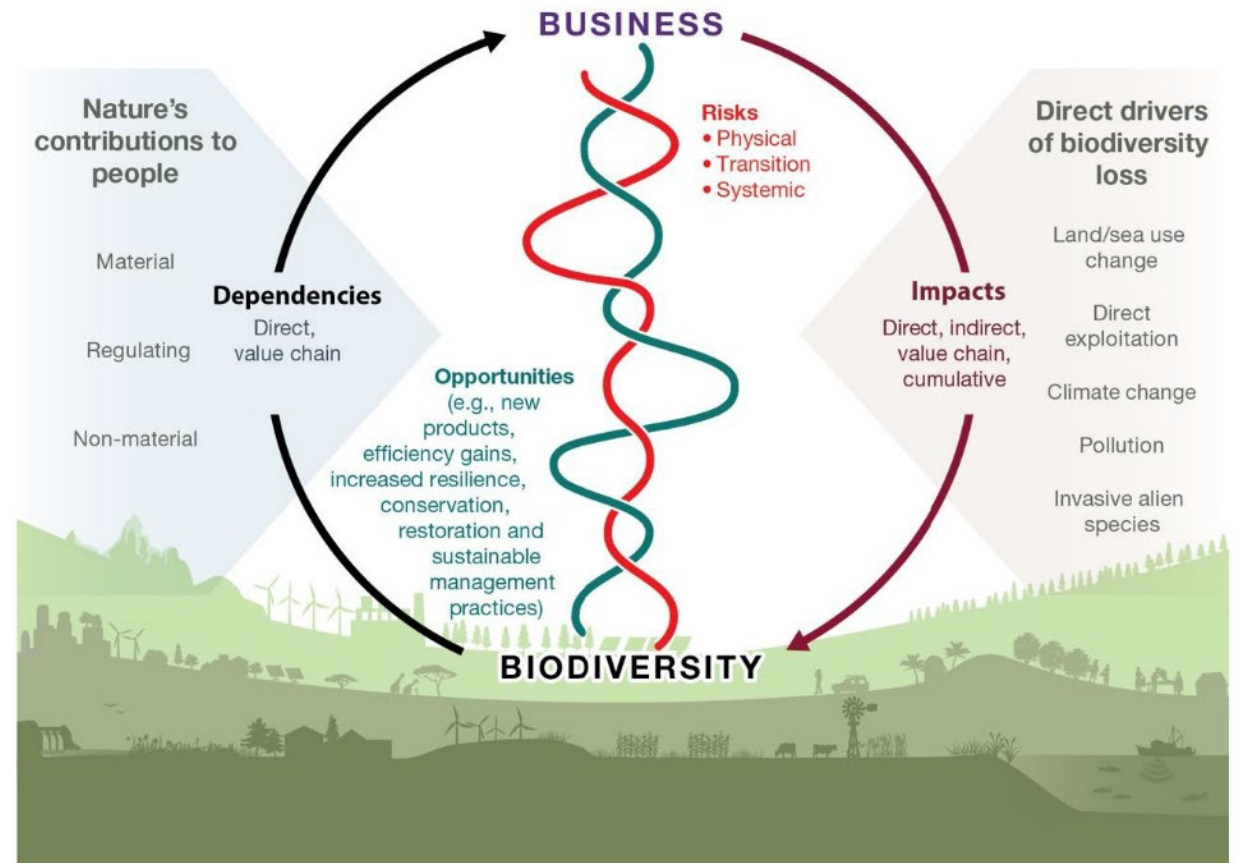
Biodiversity loss is a systemic risk that requires collective action.

Systemic risk is a regulatory responsibility

Banks are regulated for

- Liquidity risk
- Capital adequacy risk

Biodiversity loss generates all

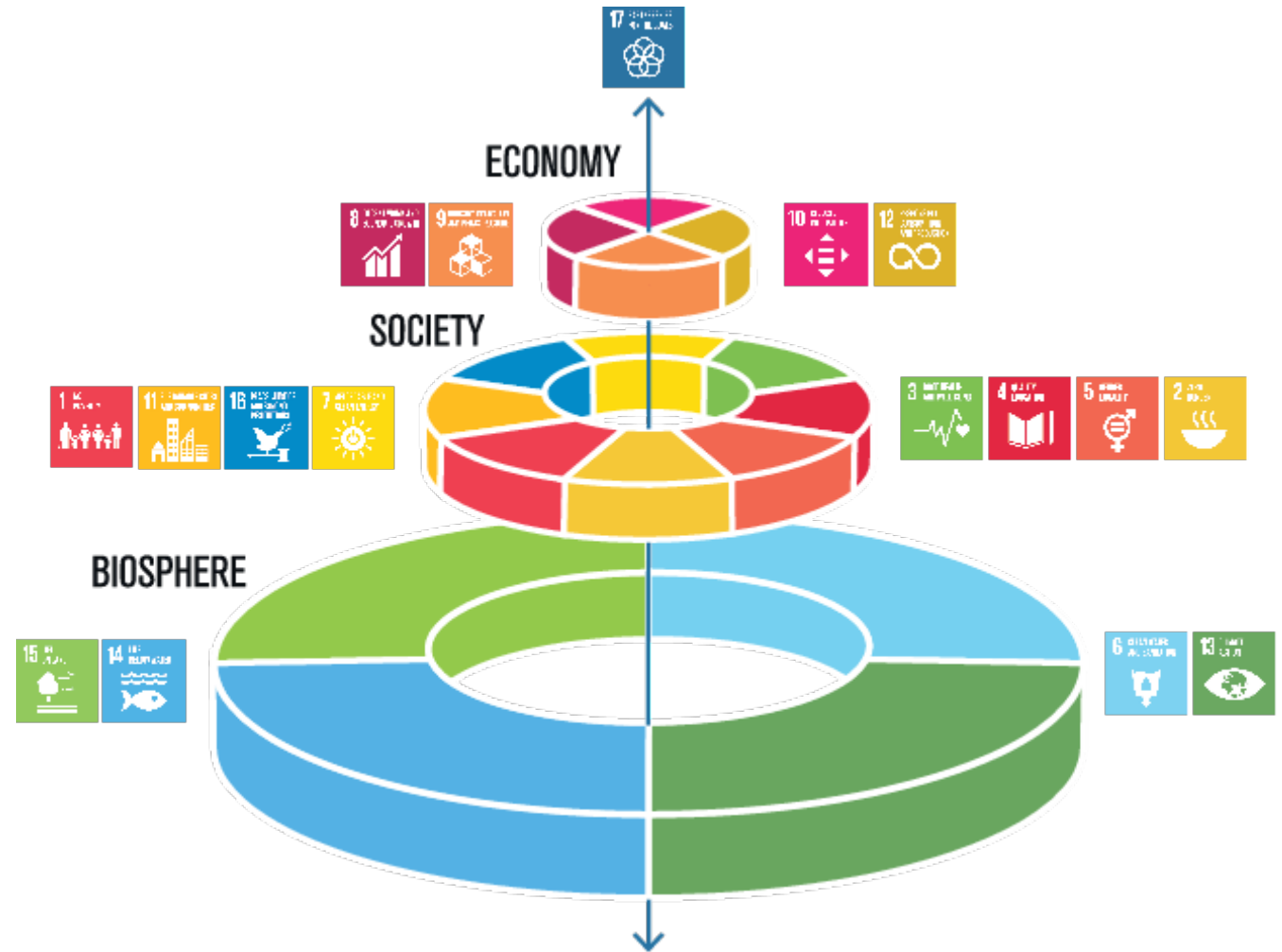


IPBES 2026

Biodiversity underpins all economic activity

Biodiversity is the foundation of society and economy.

Financial stability depends on stability of natural ecosystems.



Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Illustration by Azote.

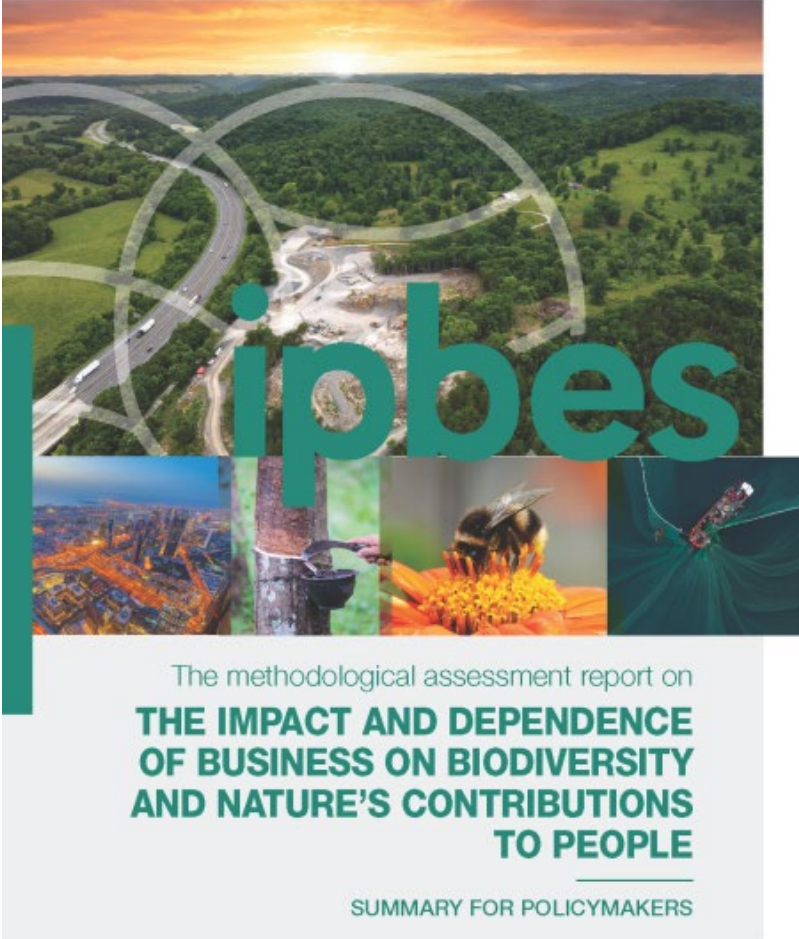
Transformation has already begun, time to accelerate it.

Nature blind finance is ending

Indebted to nature
Exploring biodiversity risks for the Dutch
financial sector
June 2020

DeNederlandscheBank
EUROSYSTEEM

Planbureau voor de Leefomgeving



The methodological assessment report on
**THE IMPACT AND DEPENDENCE
OF BUSINESS ON BIODIVERSITY
AND NATURE'S CONTRIBUTIONS
TO PEOPLE**
SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS



Thank you for listening...

References

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Q&A



On-site attendees: raise
your hand



Zoom attendees: use the
chat

#BiodivTransform

Let's take a break!
See you at 3pm AZOST





biodiversa+

European Biodiversity Partnership

Leveraging EU Policy Instruments for Transformative Change for Biodiversity

Bénédicte Blaudeau, DG ENV
Bastian Bertzky, DG RTD



EU policy and action for transformative change for biodiversity

21.04.2026 - Biodiversa+ Science-Policy Forum on biodiversity and transformative change: science-policy pathways for Europe

Bénédicte Blaudeau, ENV A.3

Bastian Bertzky, RTD B.3

Outline

EU policy framework

Nature restoration regulation

Biodiversity mainstreaming

Towards nature credits

EU-funded R&I for transformative change

Towards the next MFF

EU policy framework

8th EU Environmental Action Programme

- Long-term priority objective to 2050 for Europeans to live well, within planetary boundaries and in a well-being economy where nothing is wasted
- 6 priority objectives for 2030: climate mitigation & adaptation, circular economy, zero-pollution, biodiversity, reduction of environmental and climate pressures

EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

- Put biodiversity on the path to recovery by 2030

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

[EU Biodiversity Strategy Dashboard](#)

[7th EU Reporting to the CBD on progress on the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework - Environment](#)

**transformative change: fundamental, system-wide shifts in views, structures and practices that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and nature's decline.*

(IPBES 2024 transformative change assessment)



Protect Nature



Enable Transformative Change



Restore Nature



EU For An Ambitious Global Agenda



Kunming-Montreal
GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK



EU policy framework: 2024-2029

Commission priorities

A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and **competitiveness**

A new era for European **Defence and Security**

Supporting **people**, strengthening our societies and our social model

Sustaining our **quality of life**: food security, water and nature

Protecting our **democracy**, upholding our values

A **global Europe**: Leveraging our power and partnerships

Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future

Stay the course of the European Green Deal, focus on incentives and equitable and efficient implementation

Ensure we reach our international commitments

- Water resilience strategy
- Ocean Pact
- Upcoming Circular Economy act
- EU Preparedness Strategy - integrated wildfire management
- EU intergenerational strategy

....



Nature restoration regulation

Objectives:

- Enable the long-term and sustained recovery of **biodiverse and resilient ecosystems** through the restoration of degraded ecosystems
- Contribute to climate change **mitigation**, climate change **adaptation** and **land degradation neutrality**
- Enhance **food security**
- Meeting the EU's **international commitments**

Overarching commitment of putting restoration measures on:

- **20%** of the **EU's land and sea** by **2030**
- All ecosystems in need of restoration by **2050**

**restoration: the process of actively or passively assisting the recovery of an ecosystem in order to improve its structure and functions with the aim of conserving or enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem resilience [...]*

<<

Specific targets

- Protected habitat types and habitats of protected species
- Pollinators
- Forest ecosystems
- Urban ecosystems
- Agricultural ecosystems
- marine ecosystems
- River connectivity



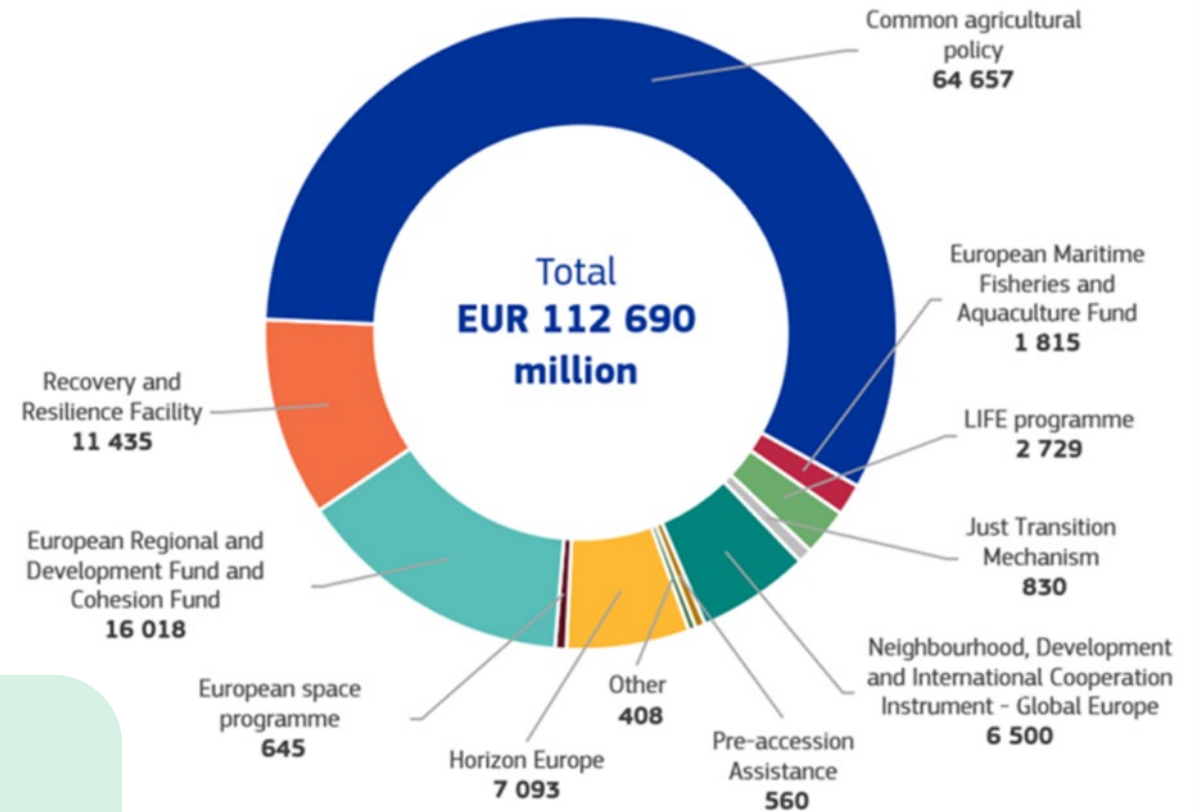
Biodiversity mainstreaming

Biodiversity mainstreaming in the EU programmes:

- 7,5% of annual spending to biodiversity objectives in 2024
- **10%** of annual spending to biodiversity objectives in **2026 & 2027**

Horizon Europe

- Additional horizontal biodiversity call in preparation as part of the 2027 amendment of the Horizon Europe 2026-2027 work programme to ensure the 10% biodiversity target is reached



Biodiversity contribution in 2021 to 2027 (million EUR). *European Commission.*

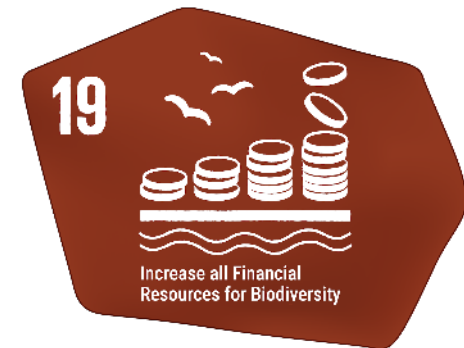


Towards nature credits

EU roadmap towards nature credits July 2025

Incentivise private investments into actions that protect and preserve nature, and reward those who undertake these actions and invest in them.

- **Public finance is essential but insufficient to bridge the biodiversity finance gap**
 - EU: €65bn/year needed, **€37.4 bn/year gap** ([EIR 2025](#))
 - Global gap circ.€700 bn/year
 - **Nature credits**: nature-positive action; science-based; verified outcomes; high integrity; a new financial tool; EU aligned.
- [Expert group on nature credits](#)



EU-funded R&I for transformative change

Horizon Europe 2021-2027: c. EUR 7 billion for biodiversity-related R&I

- Supporting **EGD, BDS and NRR, IPBES, the GBF** and other international commitments
- Cluster 6 supports **transformative change of the EU economy and society** to reduce environmental degradation, halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity, better manage natural resources, and meet the EU's climate objectives
- **EU Missions** such as "Restore our Ocean and Waters" and "A Soil Deal for Europe"
- **European Partnerships** such as **Biodiversa+**, **Agroecology**, **Blue Economy**, ...
- Big portfolio of projects covering a wide range of biodiversity "issues", nature-based solutions, cross-sectoral transitions, nature-positive economy, citizen science etc => **targeting root causes, transforming governance, scaling solutions...**
- **Evolving "cluster" of R&I projects** working on transformative change for biodiversity and funded through different Work Programmes
- **Additional horizontal (across all clusters) "biodiversity call"** in preparation to ensure the 10% biodiversity spending target for 2026-2027 is reached



Cluster of R&I projects on “TC”

- **More than 40 Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects** working specifically on transformative change for biodiversity
- **Plus 300+ ERC-funded projects** (€653 million) in last decade dealing with various aspects of transformative change for a sustainable future...
- EU R&I investment helps **address key knowledge gaps** identified in IPBES transformative change assessment and beyond: e.g. on TC-related **metrics, governance and capacity** (see next slide)
- The projects help ensure that **science, policy, and society can co-create transformative pathways** towards the 2050 GBF Vision:
=> building the knowledge, governance, and innovation base to **transform how people value, conserve, restore and use nature**
- EU funded R&I projects are **not just focused on the EU**: they work, for example, in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and with Indigenous peoples globally!

[Towards transformative change for biodiversity - EC RTD](#)

[Transformative change for a sustainable future - EC ERCEA](#)



Building Capacities for Transformative Change

IPBES Knowledge Gaps:

Case studies, imagination gap, cultural insights, philosophical and theoretical foundations, empowerment

Example projects:

PLANET4B: behavioural change frameworks for biodiversity priorities

BIOTraCes & **BIOTRAILS**: case studies on sectoral & community transitions

COEVOLVERS: co-design of nature-based solutions with human & non-human actors

PRO-COAST: citizen empowerment in biodiversity governance

TRADITION & **REWILDING**: historical & cultural insights into human–nature relations

LEVER: values as leverage points for societal transformation

RIDaGoP: indigenous data sovereignty in biodiversity research

Brussels, 4-5 June 2026:
Final conference of
several TC projects



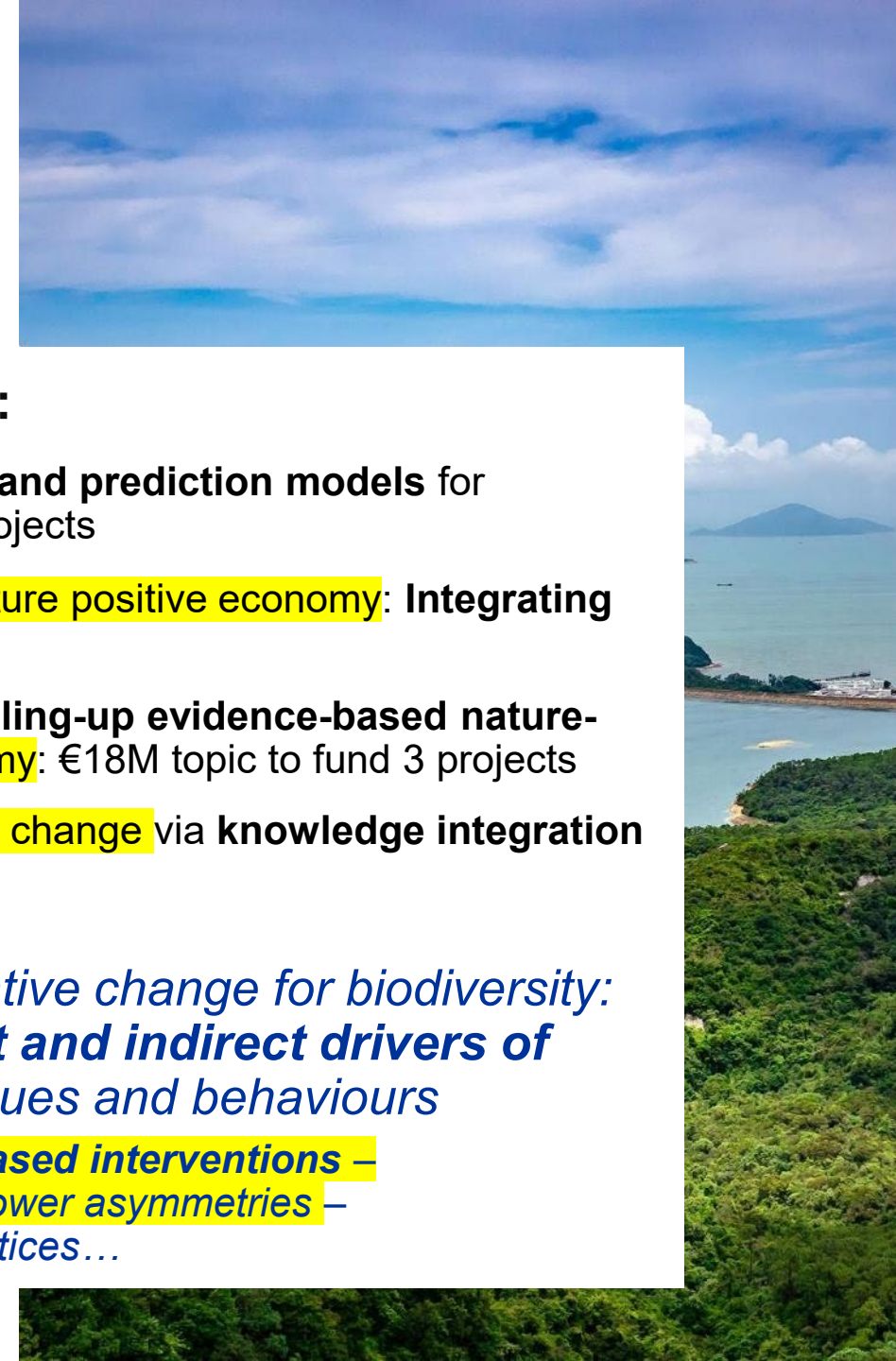
"TC" topics in WP 2026-27

Examples of relevant topics in the published WP 2026-2027:

- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-05: Advancing **integrated scenarios and prediction models** for **informing transition to a nature positive society**: €10M topic to fund 2 projects
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-05: **Accelerating the transition to a nature positive economy**: **Integrating biodiversity into the private sector**: €14M topic to fund 2 projects
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV-04-two-stage: Mainstreaming and **scaling-up evidence-based nature-based solutions** **towards a nature positive and climate-resilient economy**: €18M topic to fund 3 projects
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-06: **Living labs** driving transformative change via **knowledge integration and inclusive governance**: €14M topic to fund 2 projects

*Additional horizontal call in preparation to accelerate transformative change for biodiversity: e.g. by **applying a systemic, nexus approach** to tackle direct and indirect drivers of **biodiversity loss**, which are in turn underpinned by societal values and behaviours*

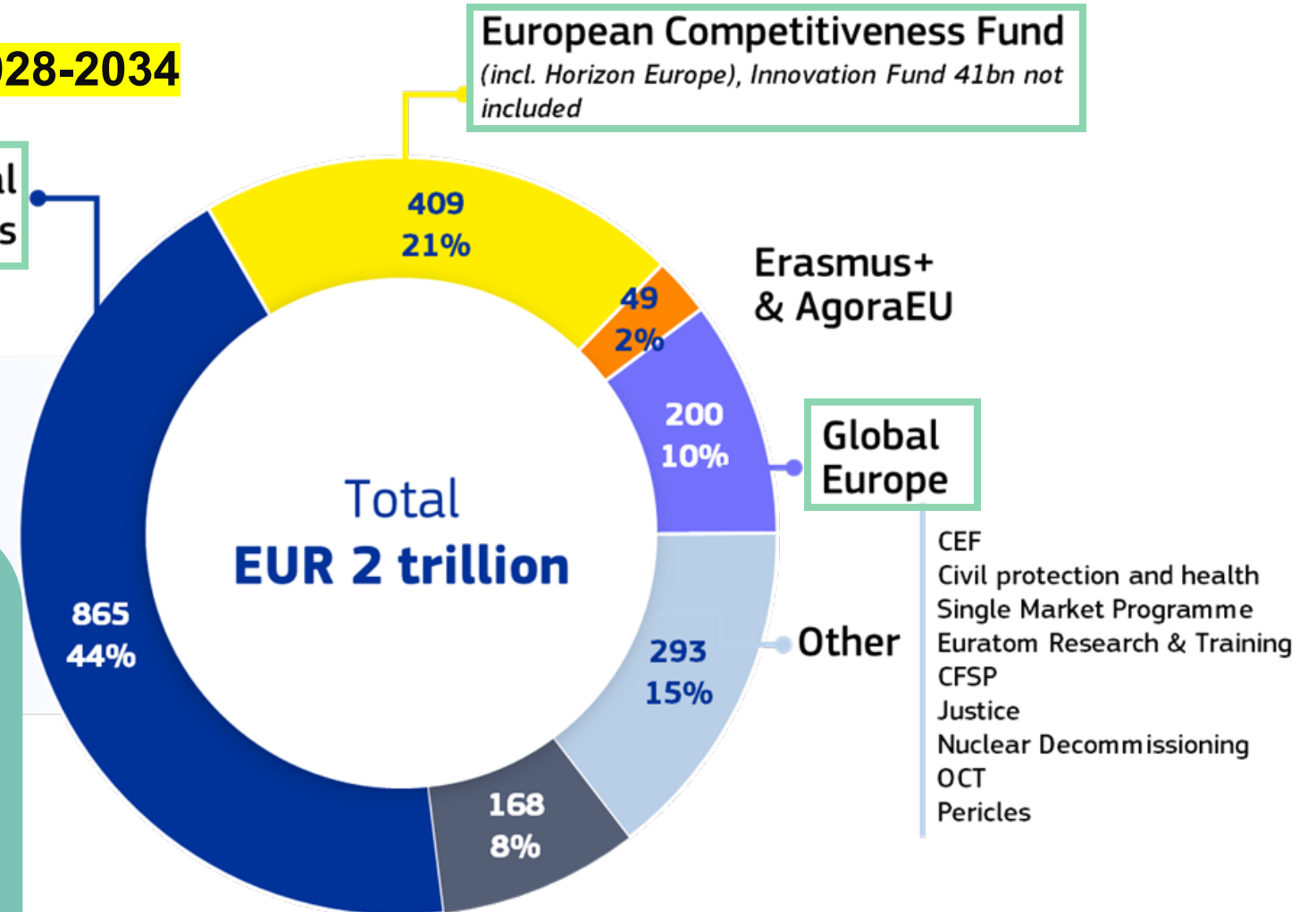
- *For example, by **identifying leverage points and testing evidence-based interventions** – **including in relation to governance, incentives, narratives, norms and power asymmetries** – with public and private sectors actors to incentivise nature-positive practices...*



Towards the next MMF: A more ambitious budget

Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034

- **Results** oriented, **more agile**
- Streamlined to **16 funding programmes**
- An ambitious **green spending target of 35% of the EU budget (€700 bn)** => aim to better align climate resilience and environmental measures
- **Better monitoring** of EU spending and results on green objectives
- Consistent & simple application of “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principle
- **HE 2028-34**: twice the budget (€175 bn), simpler, faster and more impactful...



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Thank you



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Panel

Navigating Tensions in Biodiversity Transformation: Trade-offs, Backlash, and Social Justice

- Cengiz Akandil, University of Zurich
- Mariana Walter, IBEI
- Isabel Mesquita, GLF



Q&A



On-site attendees: raise
your hand



Zoom attendees: use the
chat

Panel

Prospects from the BiodivTransform projects from Theory to Action: Research Frontiers in Biodiversity and Transformative Change

- LEVER – Tilman Hertz
- MultiDiv – Maja Schlüter
- SKETCH – Annette Breckwoldt & Lol Dahlet
- ATTITUDE – David Goldsborough



Q&A



On-site attendees: raise
your hand



Zoom attendees: use the
chat



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European Biodiversity Partnership

Wrap-up

Osman Tikansak
FORMAS, Biodiversa+



Next steps

- **Social dinner:** let's meet at 7 PM at “KOI” restaurant (same floor)
 - **Tomorrow:** Kick-off meeting from 9:30 to 16:45 (AZOST)
 - > Registration desk opening at 9:10 AM (AZOST)
- /// Typos /careless mistakes in the printed agendas*



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Thank you!



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