

# Technology Justice

Rebooting our relationship  
with technology

Technology as if people and planet mattered



## Rethink, Retool, Reboot

Technology underpins human development. We need it to provide the very basics of a minimum standard of life – food, water, shelter, health and education. But a significant proportion of the world's population do not have these basics today. And whilst a fifth of the world's population lacks access to technologies fundamental to a basic standard of living, unfettered use of technology by those who have it brings its own problems – including pollution, global warming and threats to the sustainable future of humanity. So why are we so slow to address these issues? Why is it that the drivers of innovation mean we are more likely to see research into a cure for male baldness than a malaria vaccine or into methods for extracting shale gas as opposed to solutions to store renewable energy?

We need to **rethink** the purpose of our technological endeavour and how we provide access to and govern the use technology today.

We need to **retool** – to change the alignment of our innovation systems to deliver technology that is socially useful and addresses the key challenges of poverty and environmental sustainability.

Above all, our relationship with technology needs a **reboot**. We need a different frame of reference – **Technology Justice** – to provide a radically different approach to our oversight and governance of the development and use of technology.

*Rethink, Retool, Reboot* addresses vital questions regarding the future of our world and the people living in it. It should be read by academics, students, activists and all those interested in international development and the environment.

Simon Trace is an international development consultant with over 30 years of working in the field of international development, with a particular emphasis on technology in relation to energy, water, food and natural resource management. He has an MBE and was formerly the CEO of Practical Action.

“Anyone interested in how technology can work for people, justice, sustainability and development should read this book.”

Ian Scoones, Director ESRC STEPS Centre,  
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

“Covering all today's big issues, Simon Trace provides a fresh and eloquent approach to innovation, governance issues and access to technology.”

Jonathon Porritt, Founder Director, Forum for the Future



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Rethink, Retool, Reboot Technology as if people and planet mattered Simon Trace



# Rethink, Retool, Reboot

## Technology as if people and planet mattered



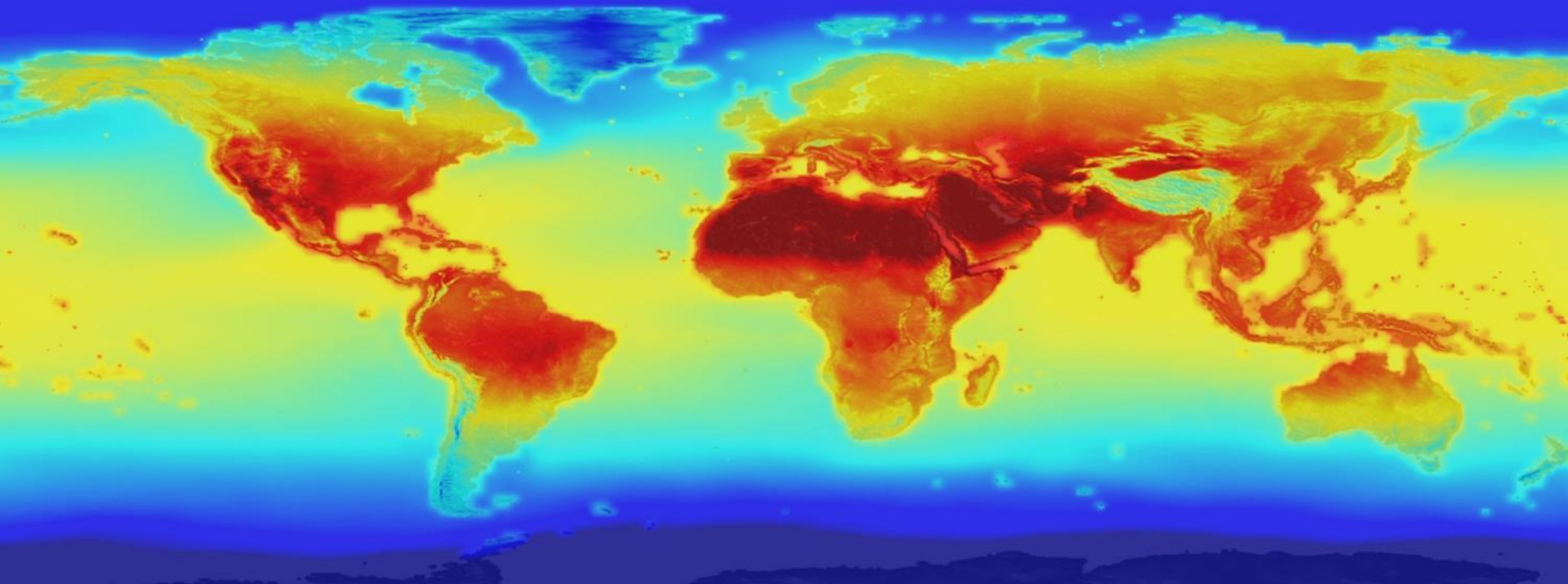
Simon Trace

# Technology =

physical infrastructure, machinery and equipment, knowledge and skills, and the capacity to organise and use all of these.

**Technology as if people and planet mattered**



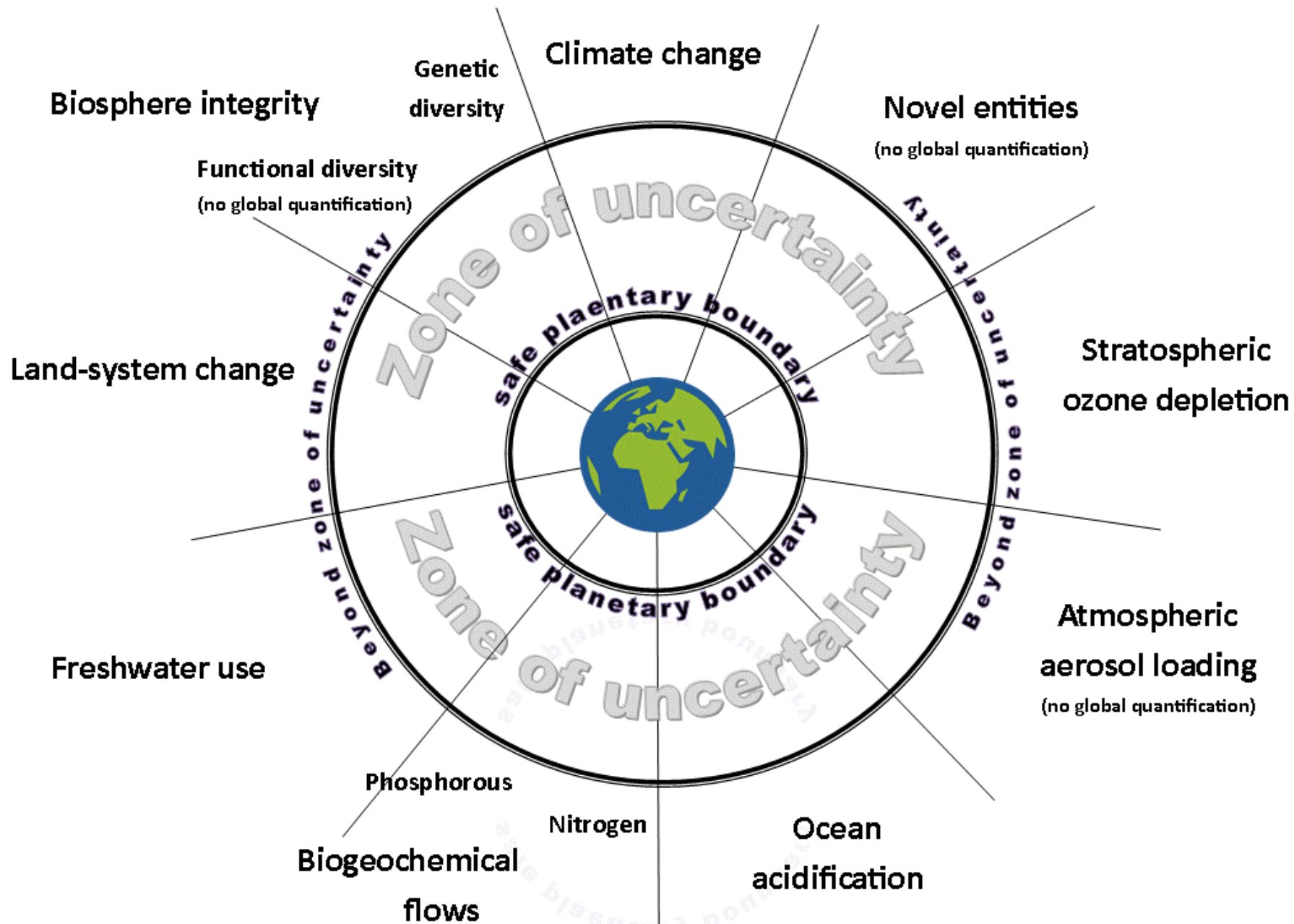


Johan Rockström et al. Stockholm Resilience Centre

# Planetary Boundaries

Technology as if people and planet mattered





**Biosphere integrity**

**Genetic diversity**

**Climate change**

**Novel entities**

(no global quantification)

**Functional diversity**

(no global quantification)

**Land-system change**

**Stratospheric ozone depletion**

**Freshwater use**

**Atmospheric aerosol loading**

(no global quantification)

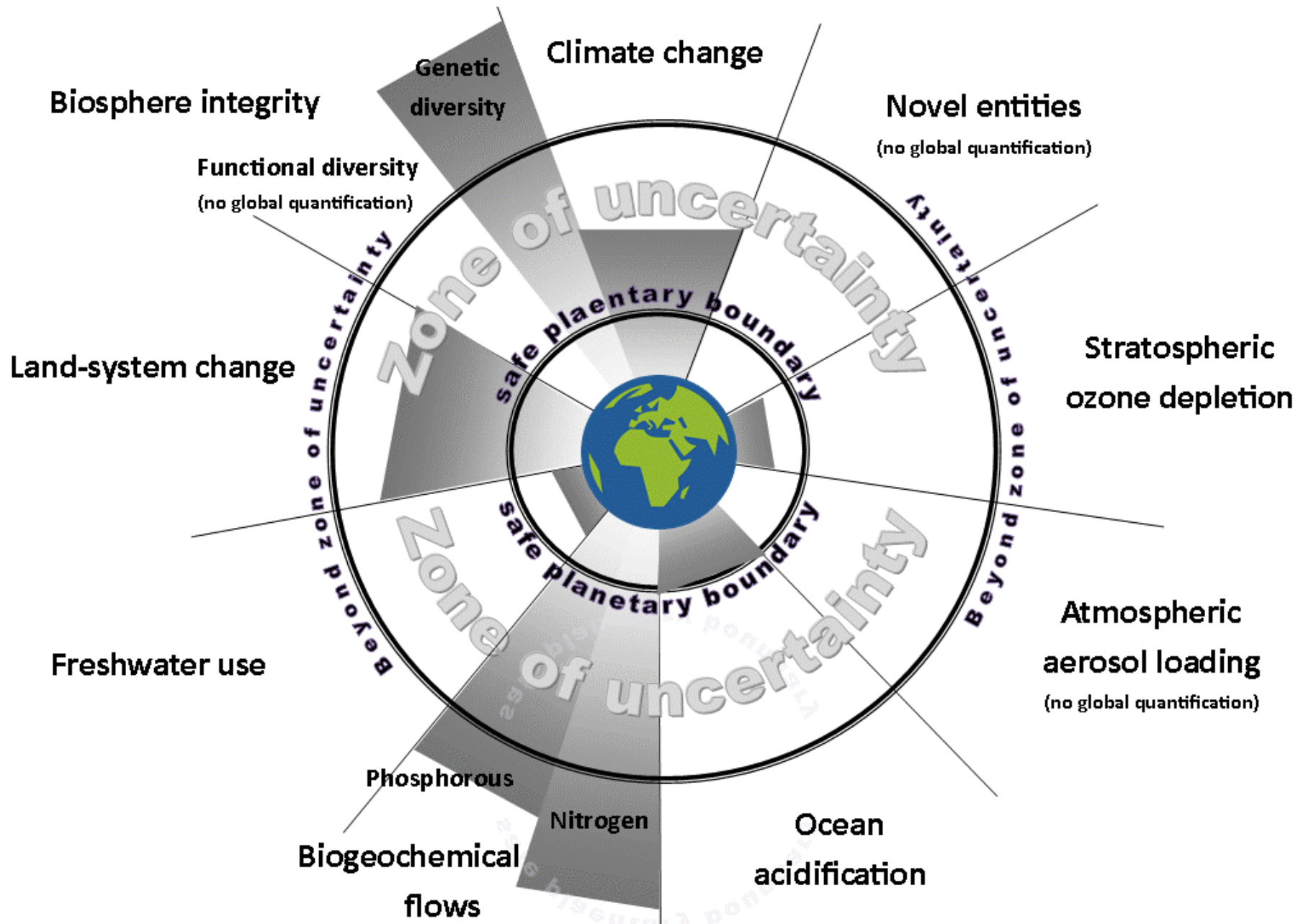
**Phosphorous**

**Nitrogen**

**Ocean acidification**

**Biogeochemical flows**

**acidification**



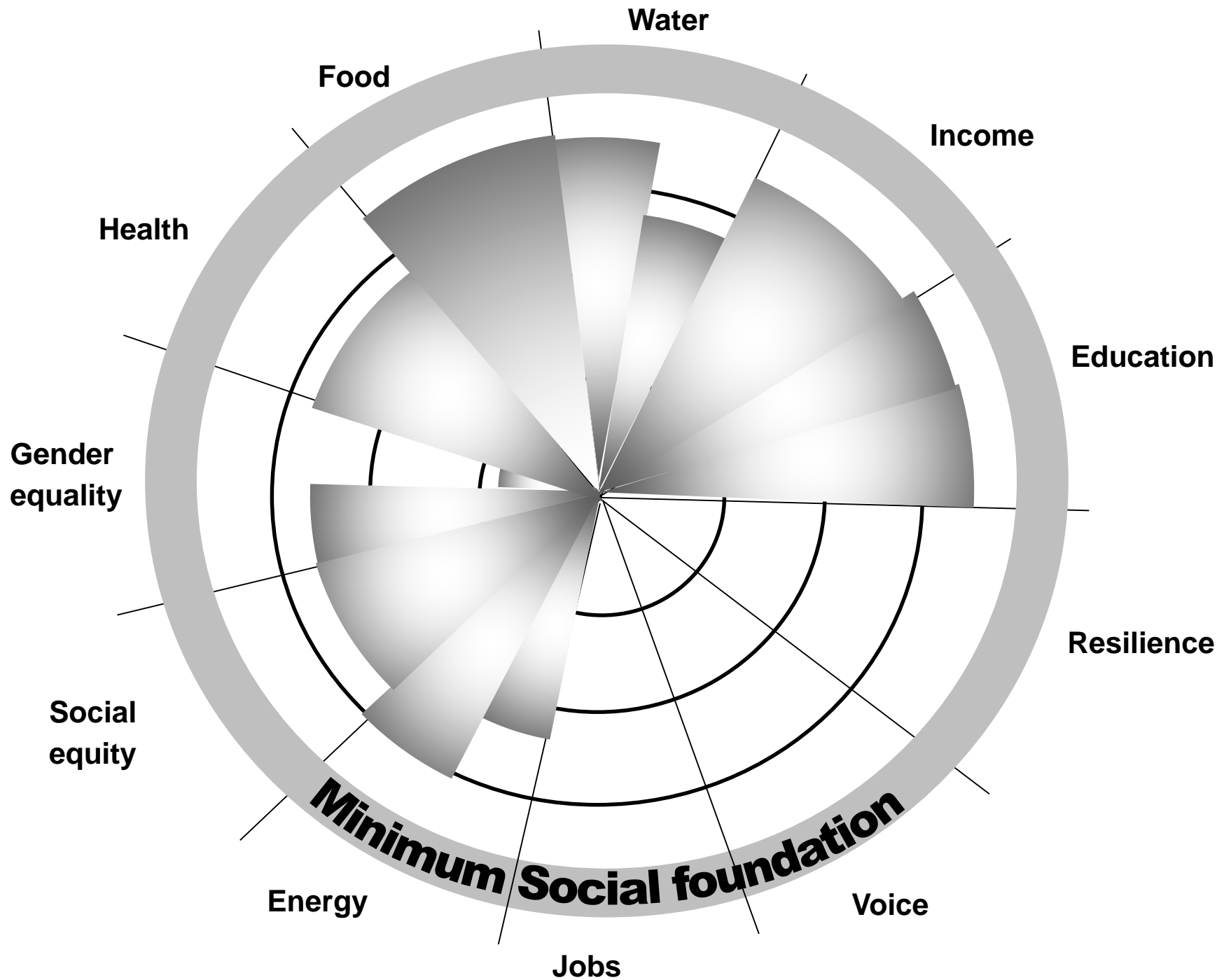
Kate Raworth, Oxfam

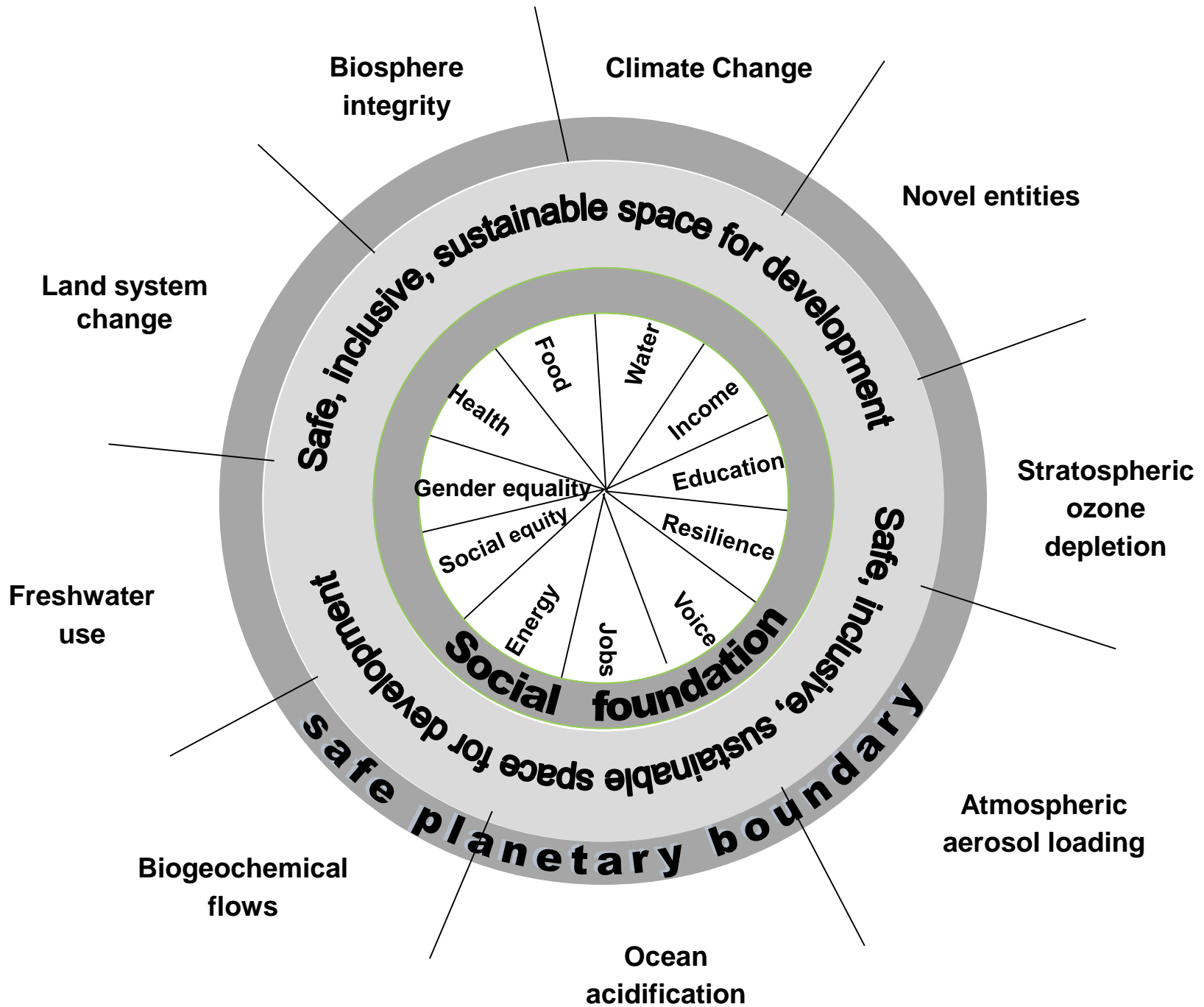
# Doughnut Economics

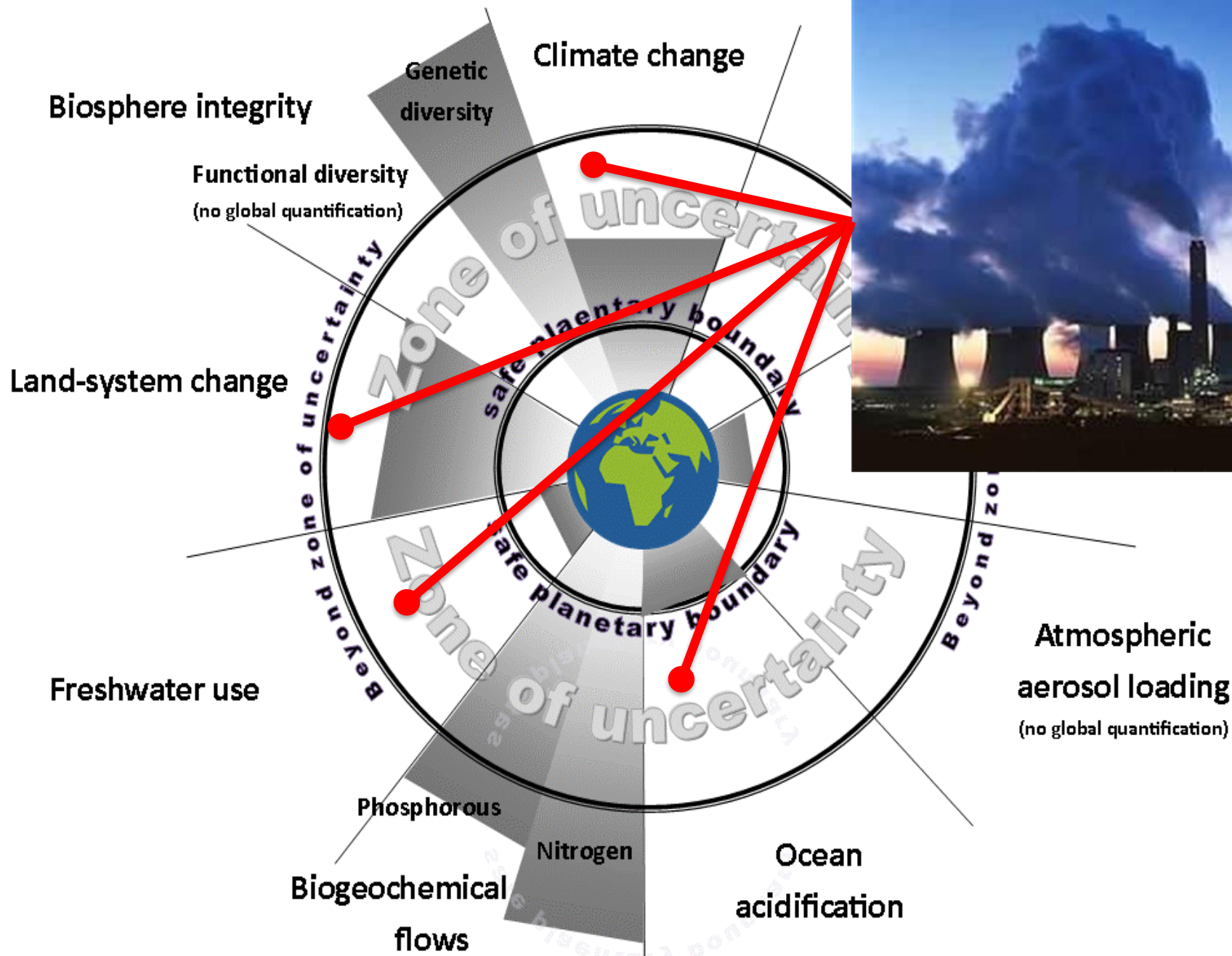
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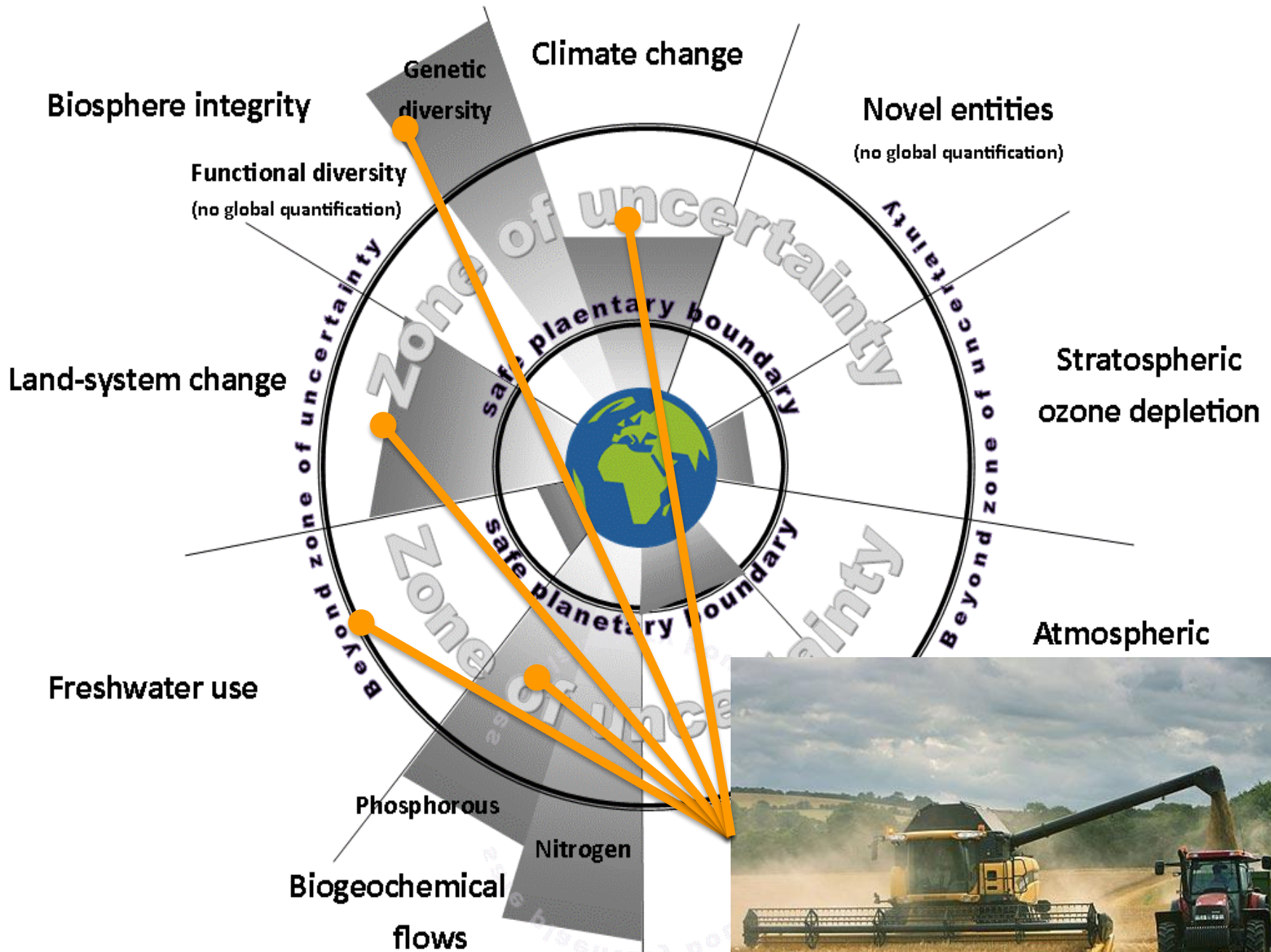


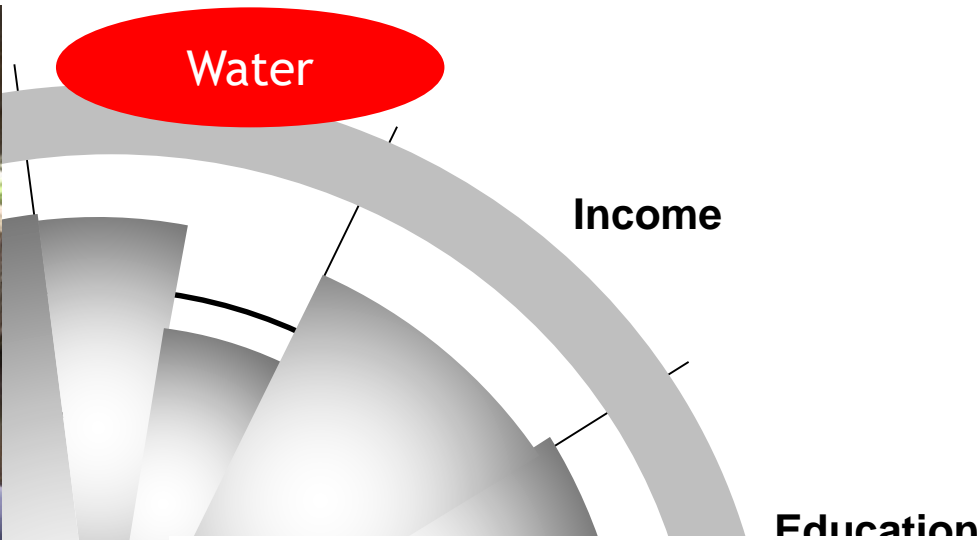


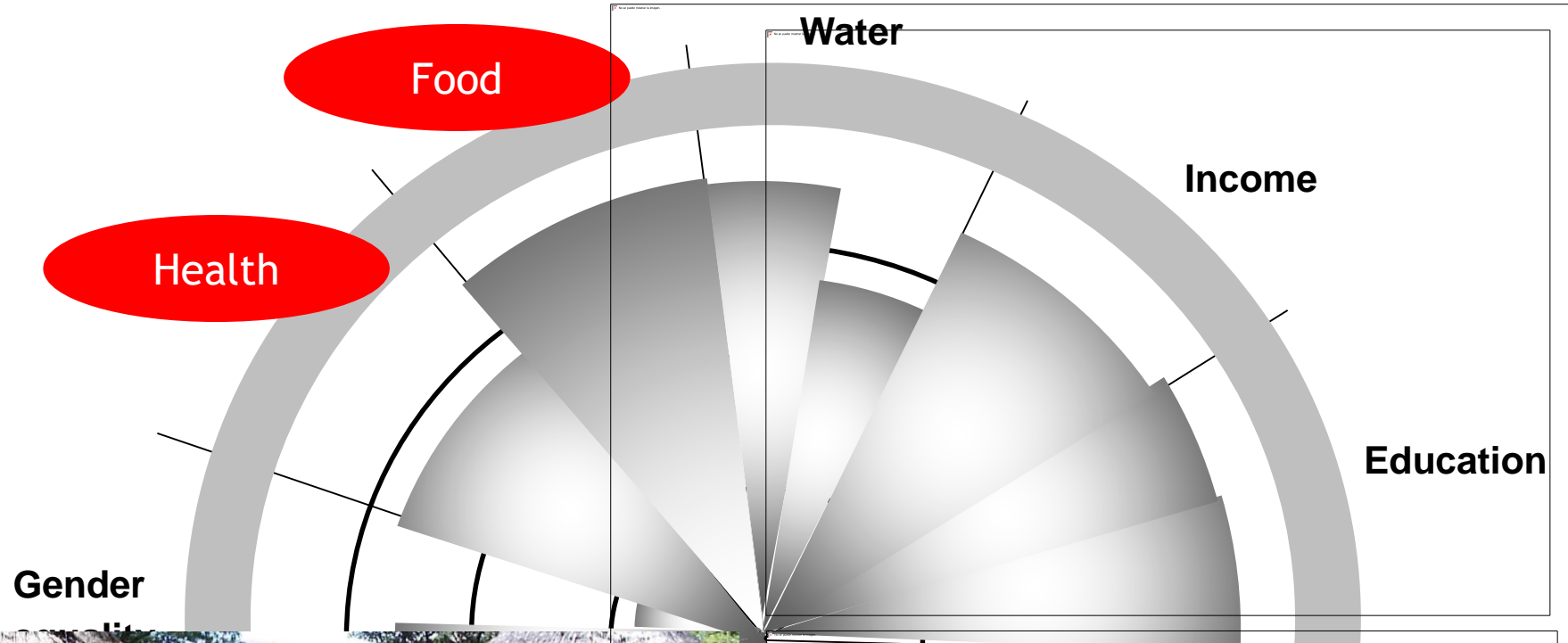


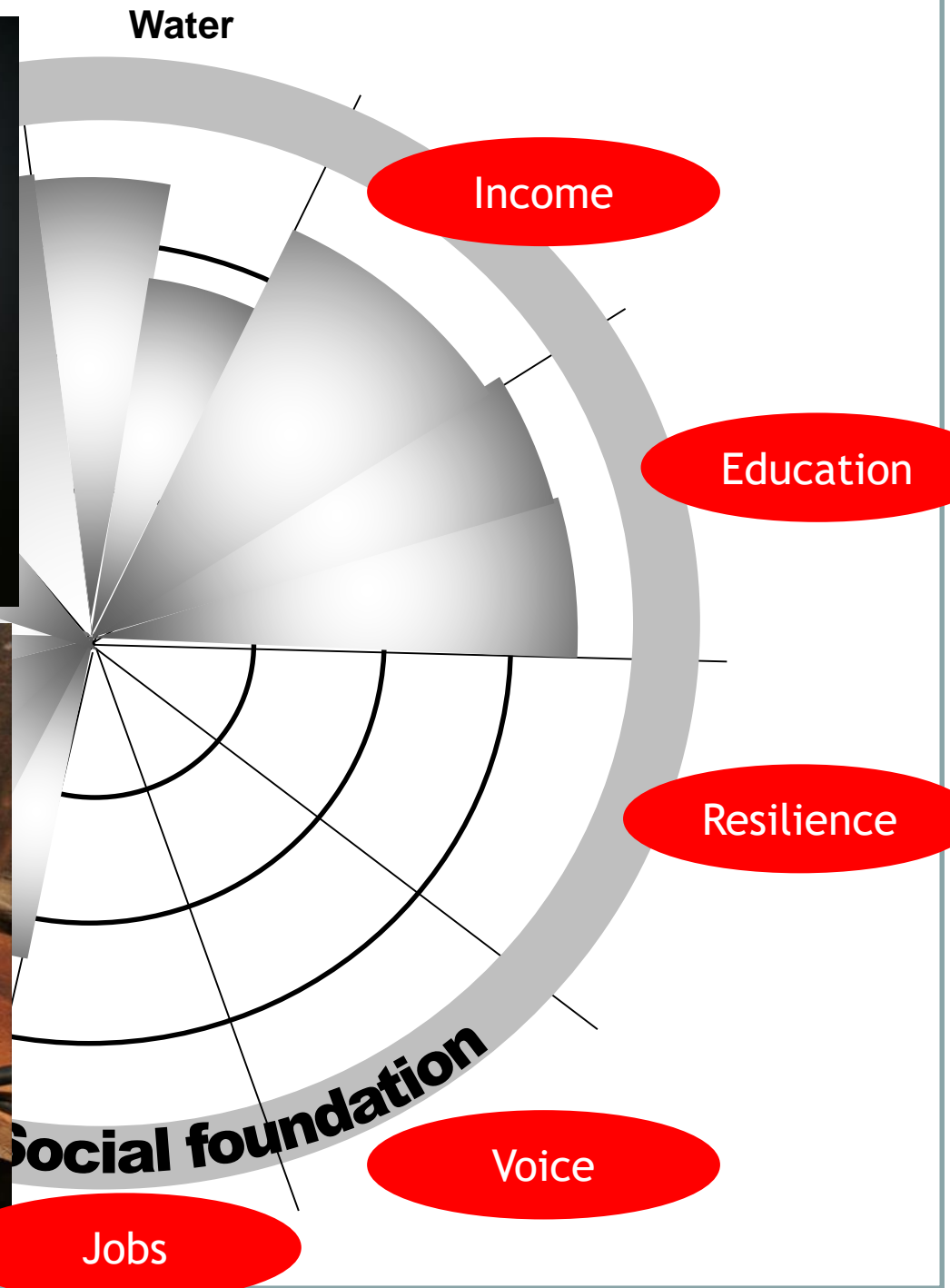
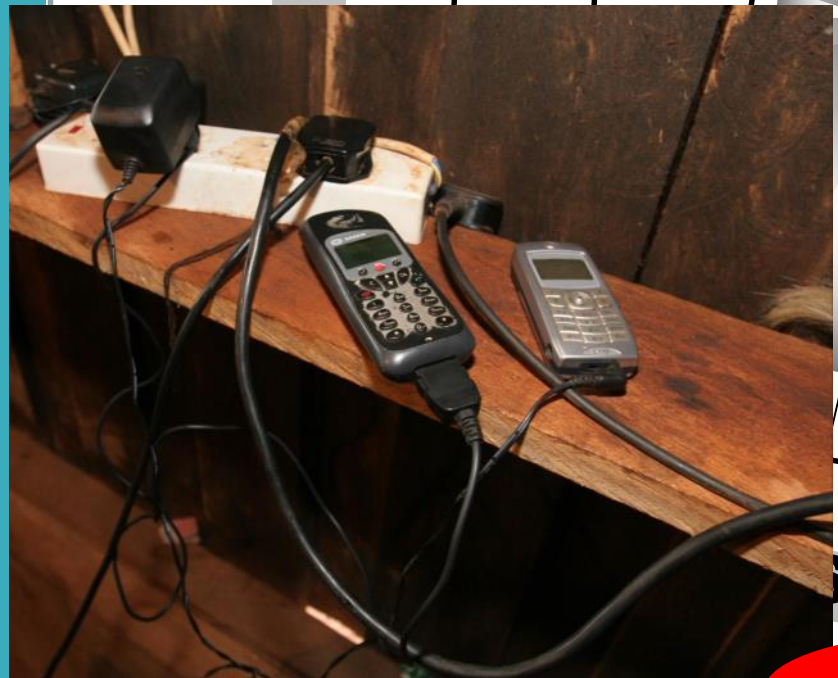


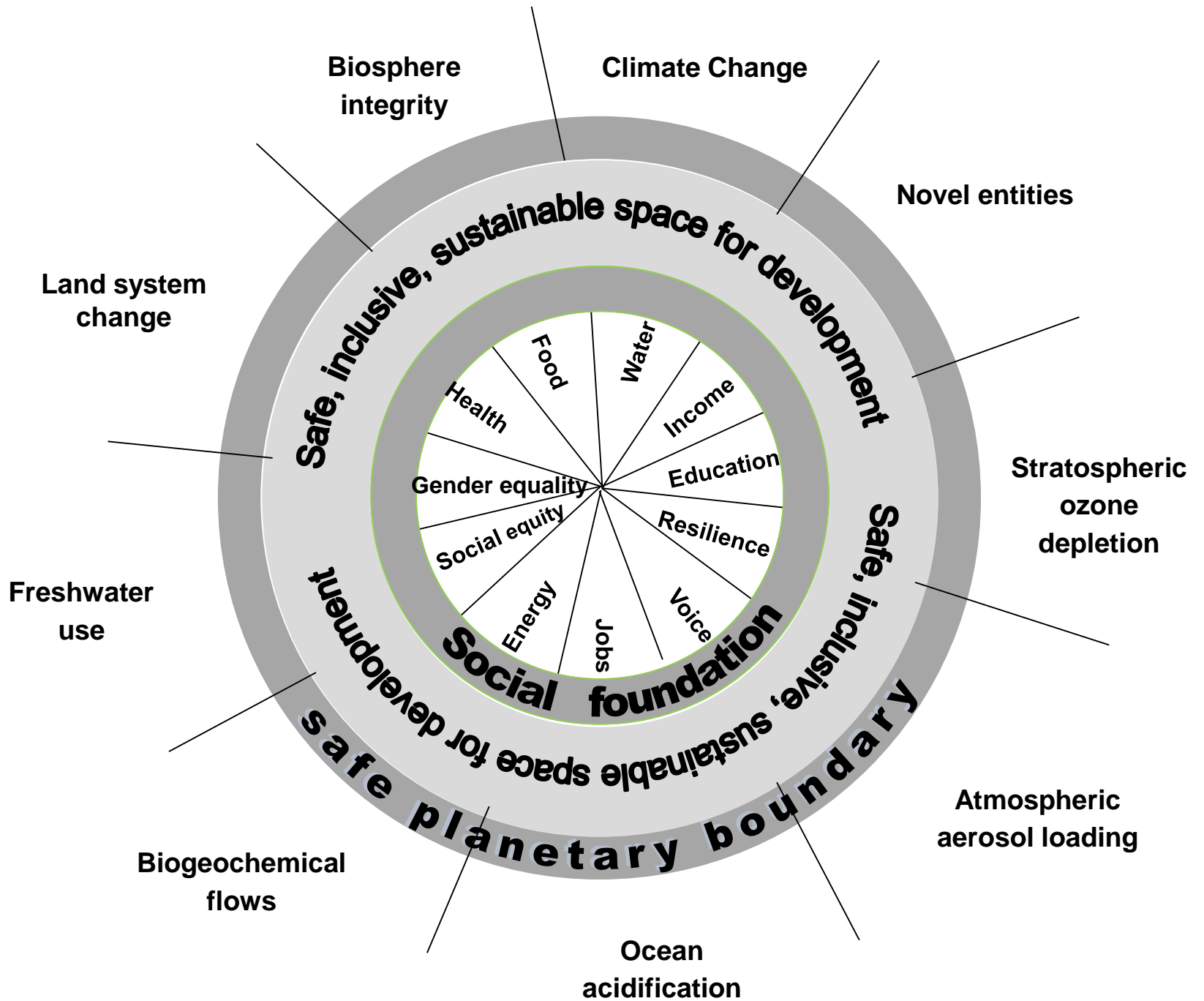




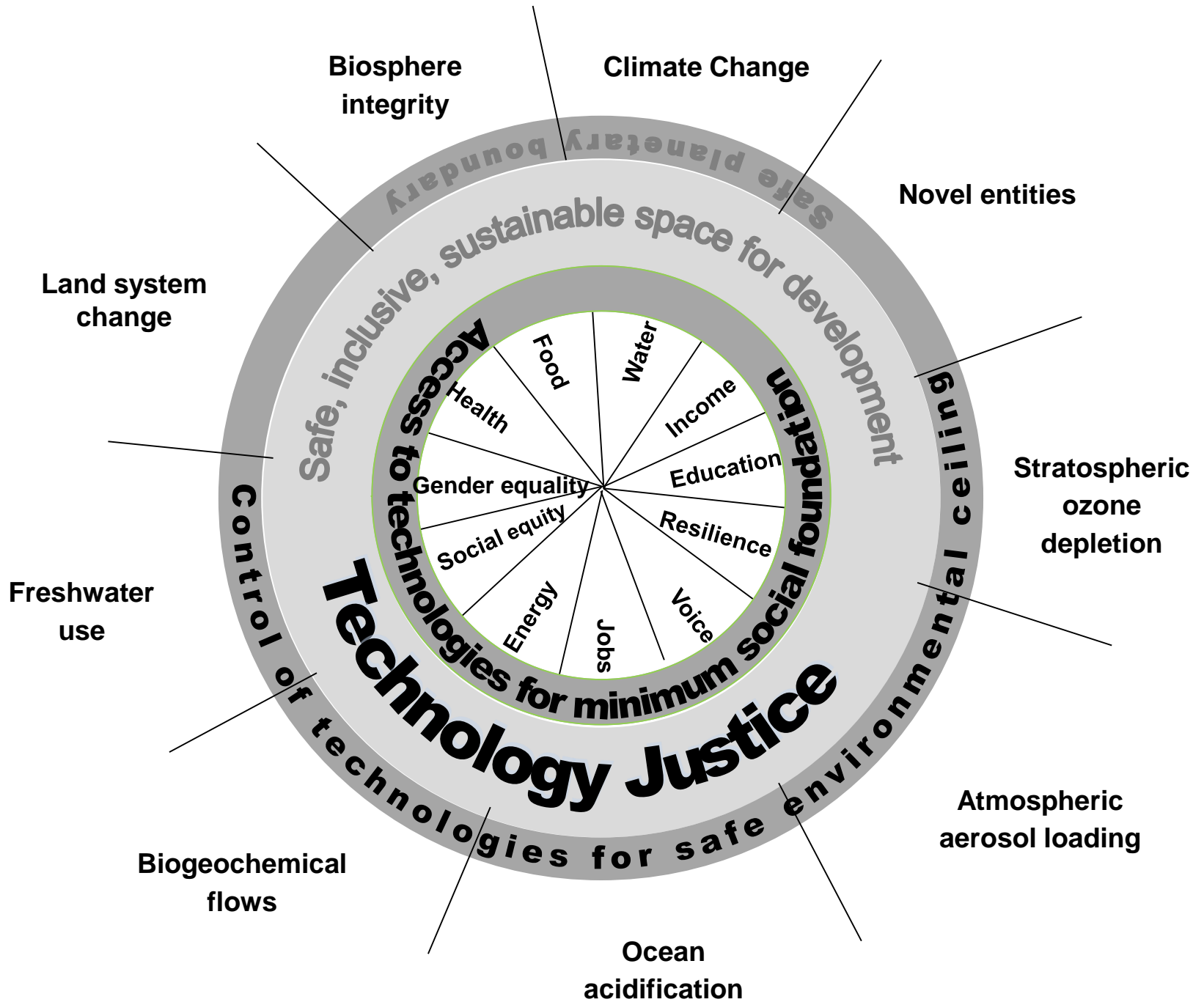












# Technology Justice

Where everyone has access to the technologies that are essential for a basic standard of life, in a sustainable way that doesn't prevent others now, or in the future, from doing the same.

Technology as if people and planet mattered

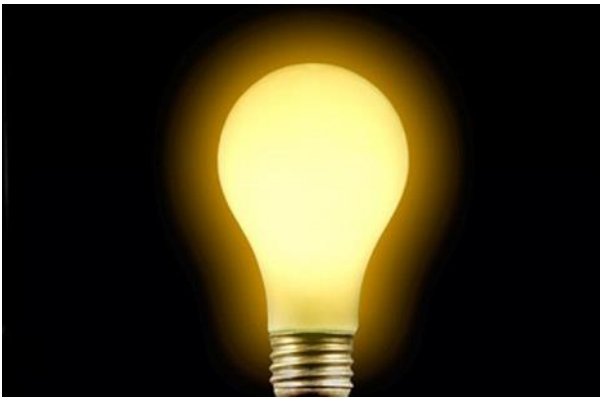


# Technology Injustices

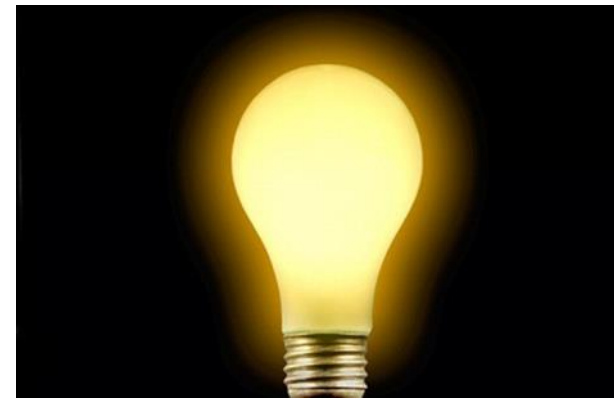
- Access
- Use
- Innovation

Technology as if people and planet mattered

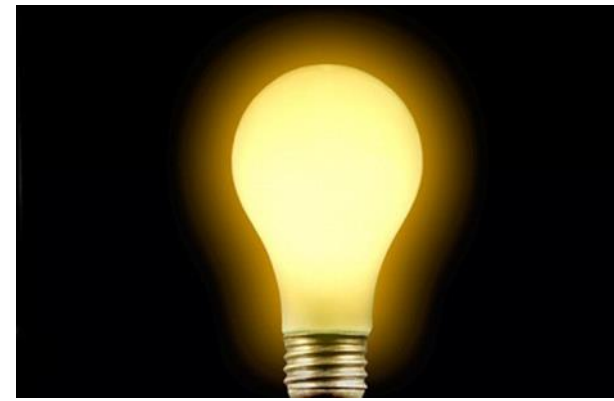




1879



**2015**

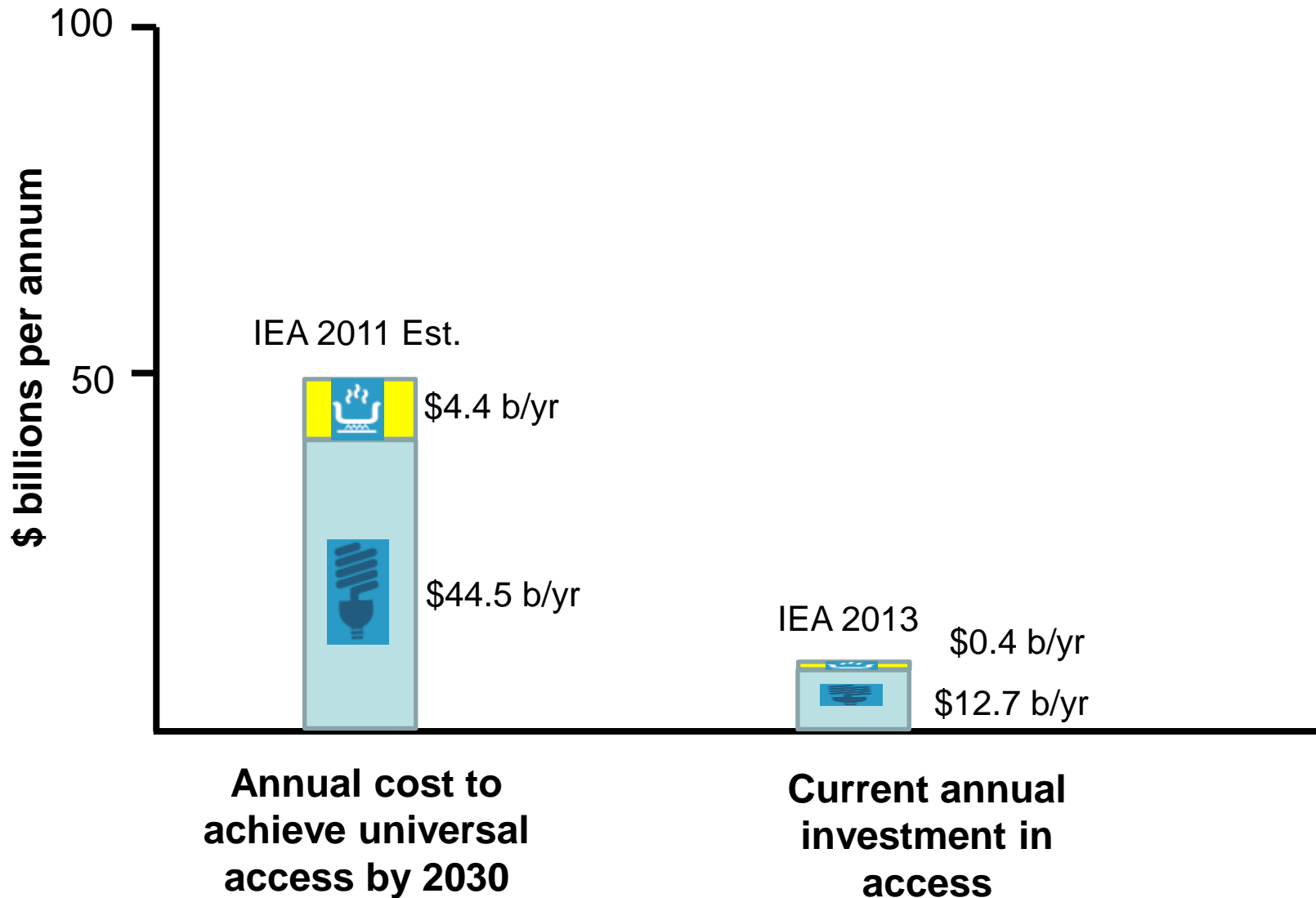


**1.1 billion**



**2.9 billion**

# Finance- requirement vs available



To achieve universal access to electricity by 2030 we need to invest \$890 billion in new generating capacity as follows (i):

**Grid electricity 35%**



**Off Grid electricity 65%**



**Current investment is:**

**? %**

**? %**

(i) Based on UNSE4ALL Global Tracking framework report 2013



# Funding going to the wrong technology

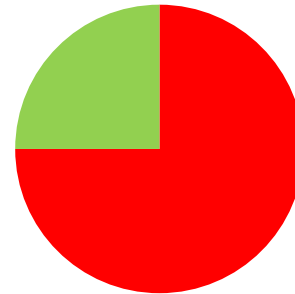
IEA Energy for all scenario



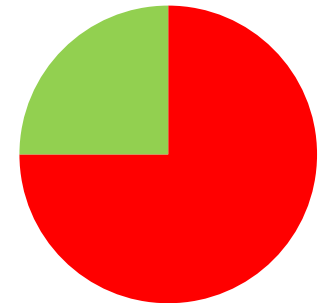
■ Grid ■ Off-Grid

Development Bank Energy portfolios 2011-2013.

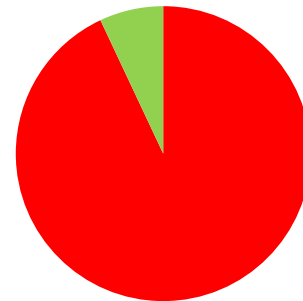
World Bank



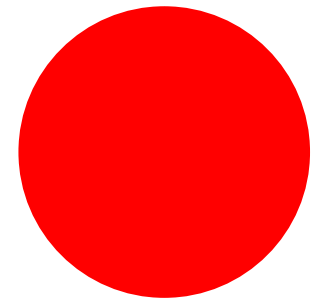
Inter American Dev. Bank



Asia Dev. Bank



African Dev. Bank



**A choice is being made:**



**VS**





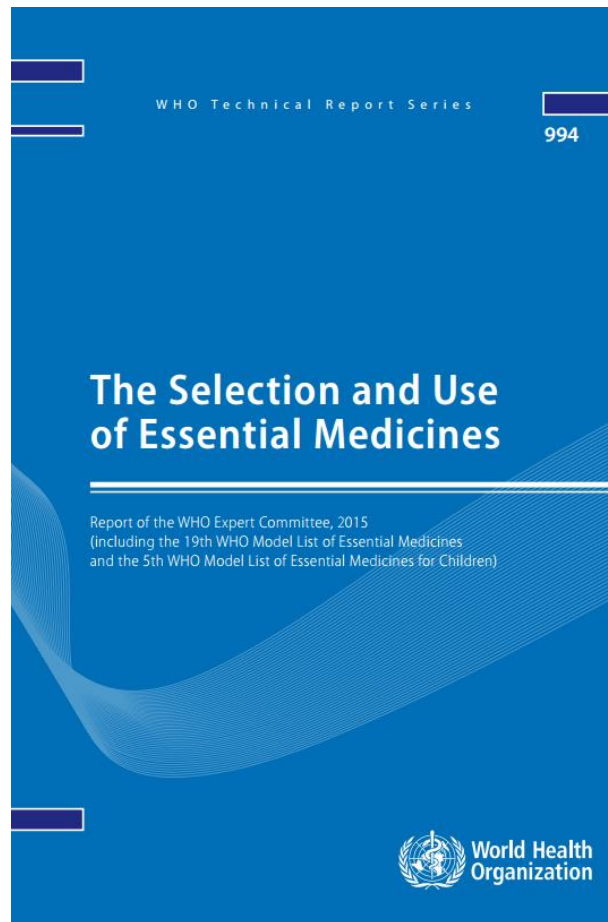


**750 million**

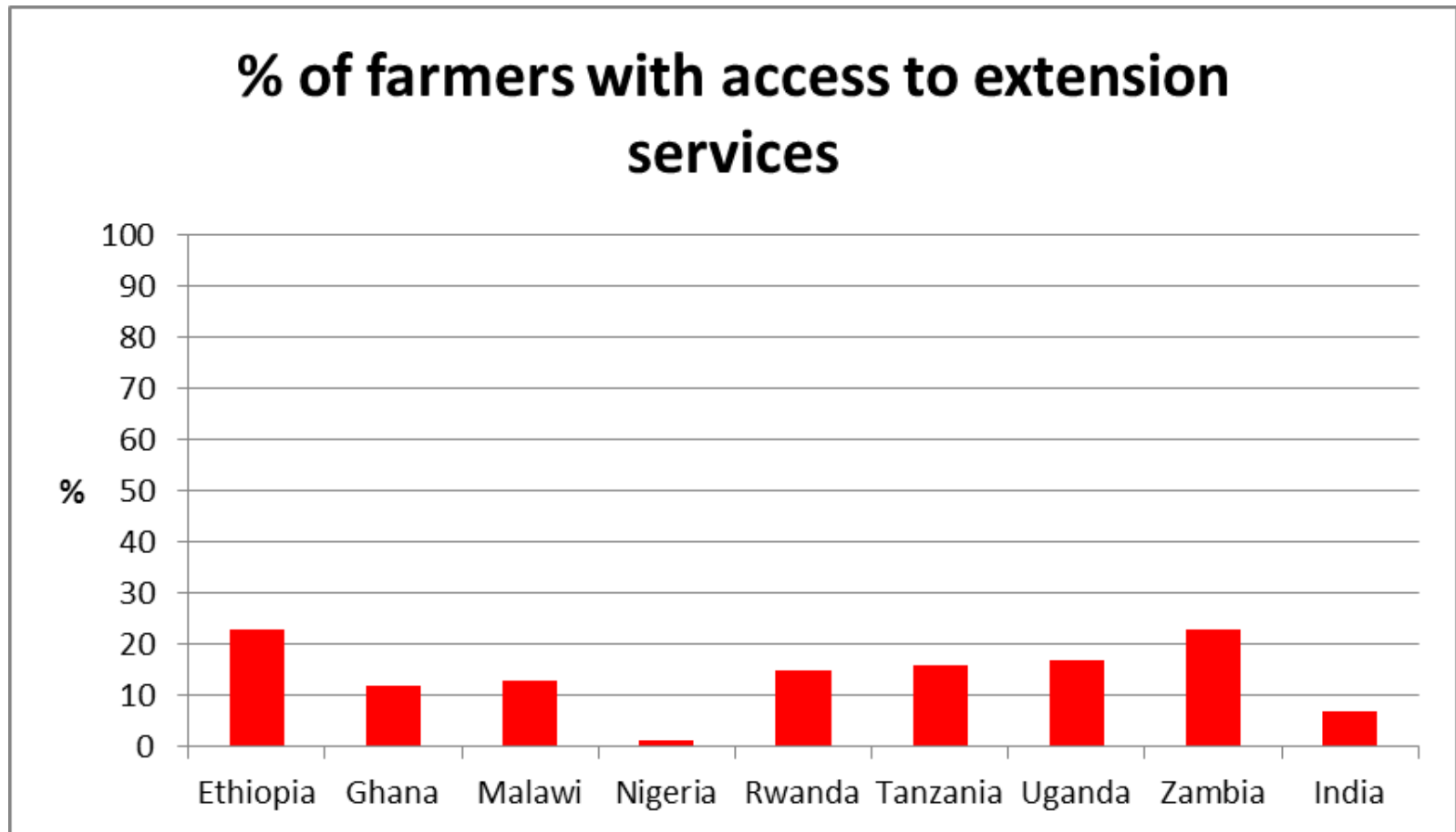
**2.5 billion**



# 30% of the world's population lacks access to WHO's list of essential medicines



# Most developing country farmers have no access to technical advice

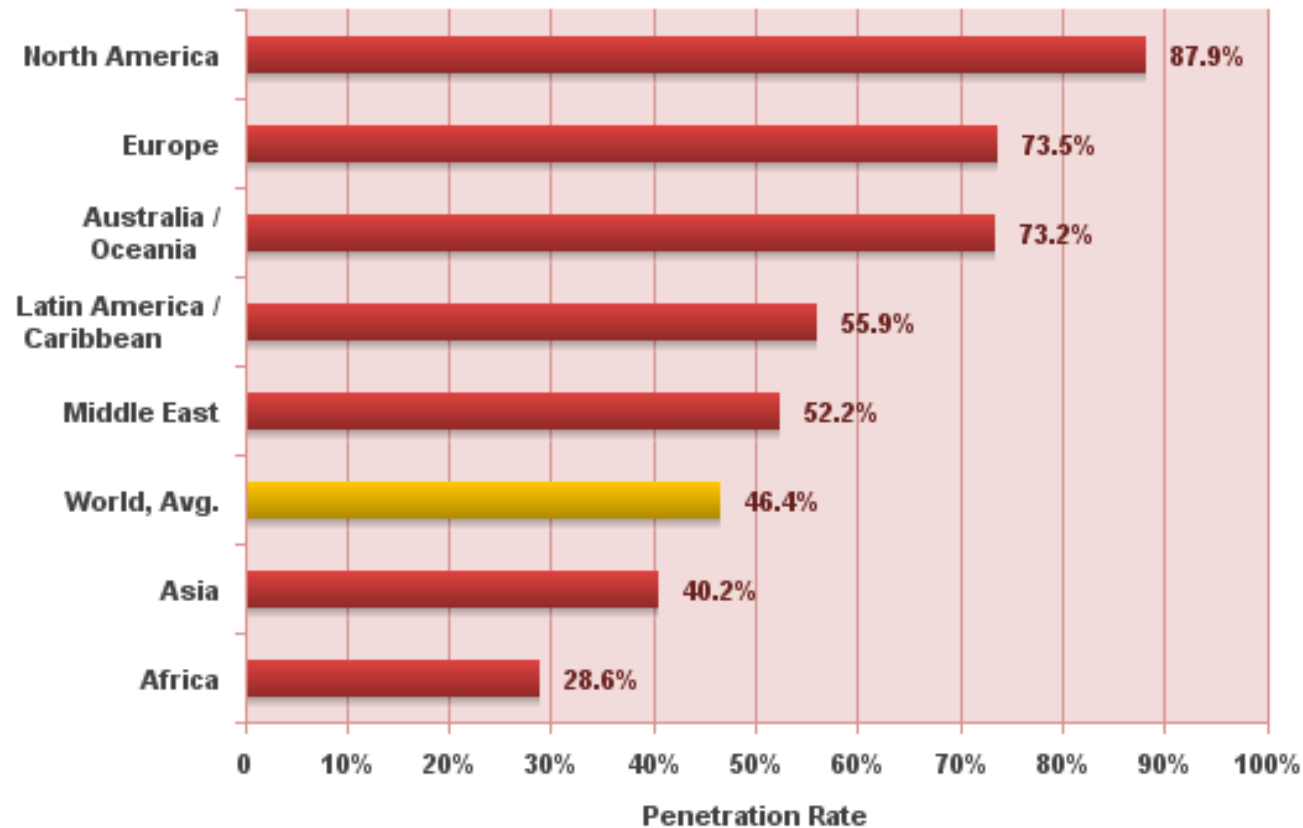


ActionAid. (2013). *Walking the Talk: Why and how African governments should transform their agriculture spending*. London: ActionAid.

GFRAS. (2012). *Fact Sheet on Extension Services Position Paper*. Lindau: Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services.

# 3.2 billion people in Africa and Asia lack internet access

**Internet World Penetration Rates  
by Geographic Regions - November 2015**



Source: Internet World Stats - [www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm](http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm)

# Technology Injustices

- Access
- Use

Technology as if people and planet mattered





# An addiction to fossil fuels



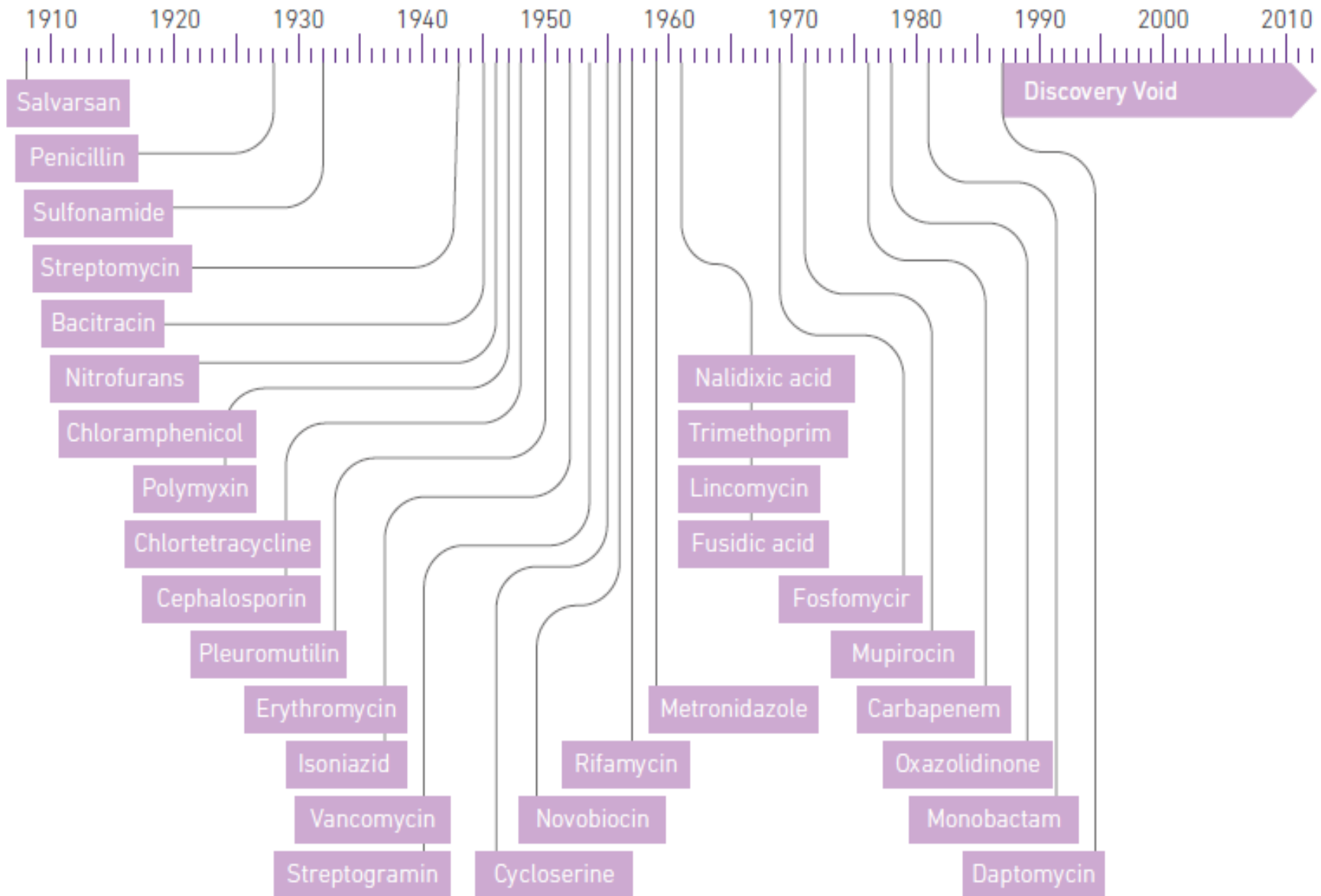
# Misuse of antibiotics



- Inappropriate prescription
- Affordability and under-dosage
- Use as prophylactic and growth stimulator in animal feed

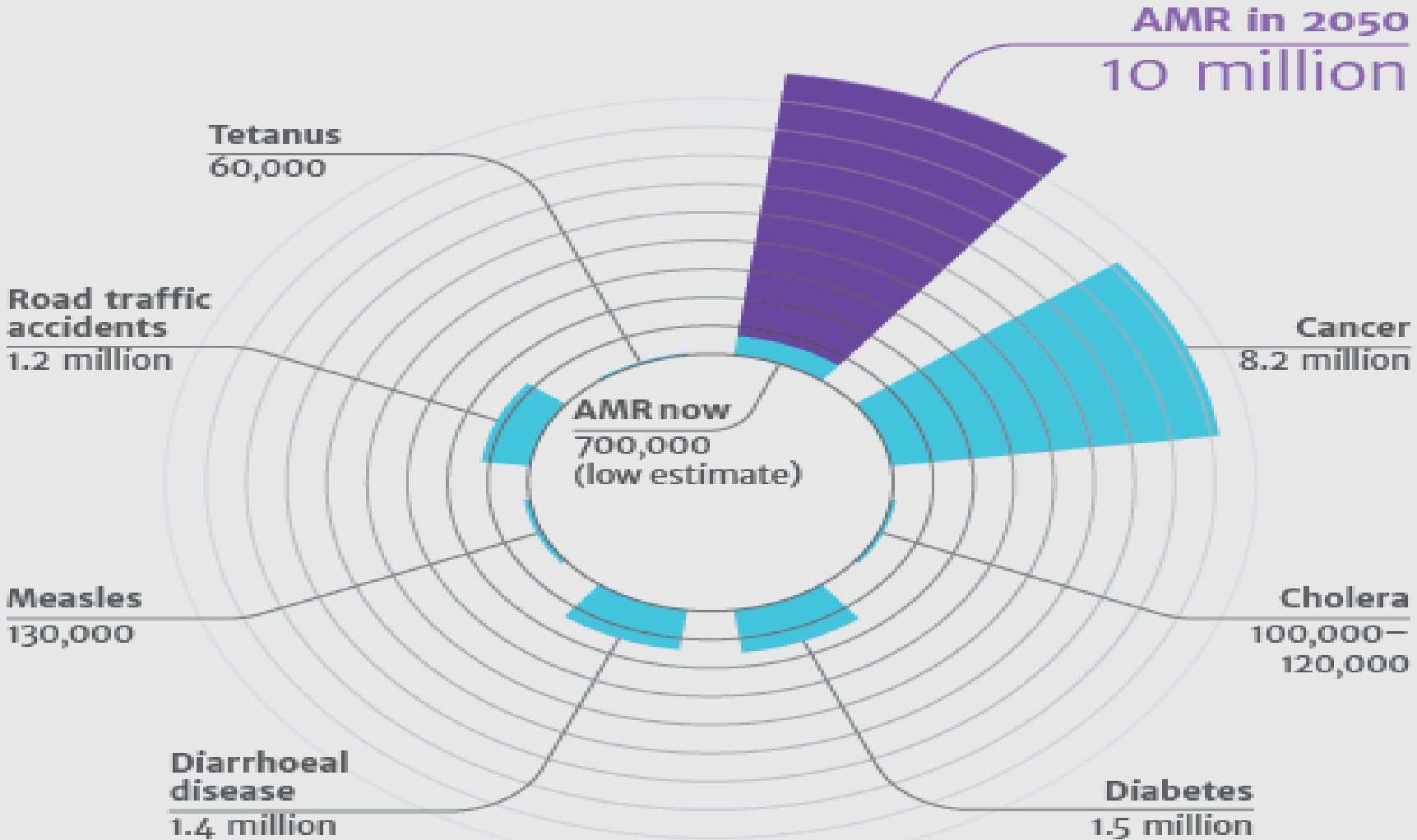
## Figure 1 Dates of discovery of distinct classes of antibacterial drugs

Illustration of the "discovery void." Dates indicated are those of reported initial discovery or patent.



Adapted from Silver 2011 (1) with permission of the American Society of Microbiology Journals Department.

# Deaths attributable to AMR every year compared to other major causes of death



# Destabilising the global food supply





Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

Since the 1900s, 75 % of plant genetic diversity has been lost as farmers worldwide have left their multiple local varieties for genetically uniform, high-yielding varieties.



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

30 percent of livestock breeds are  
at risk of extinction; six breeds are  
lost each month

# Technology Injustices

- Access
- Use
- Innovation

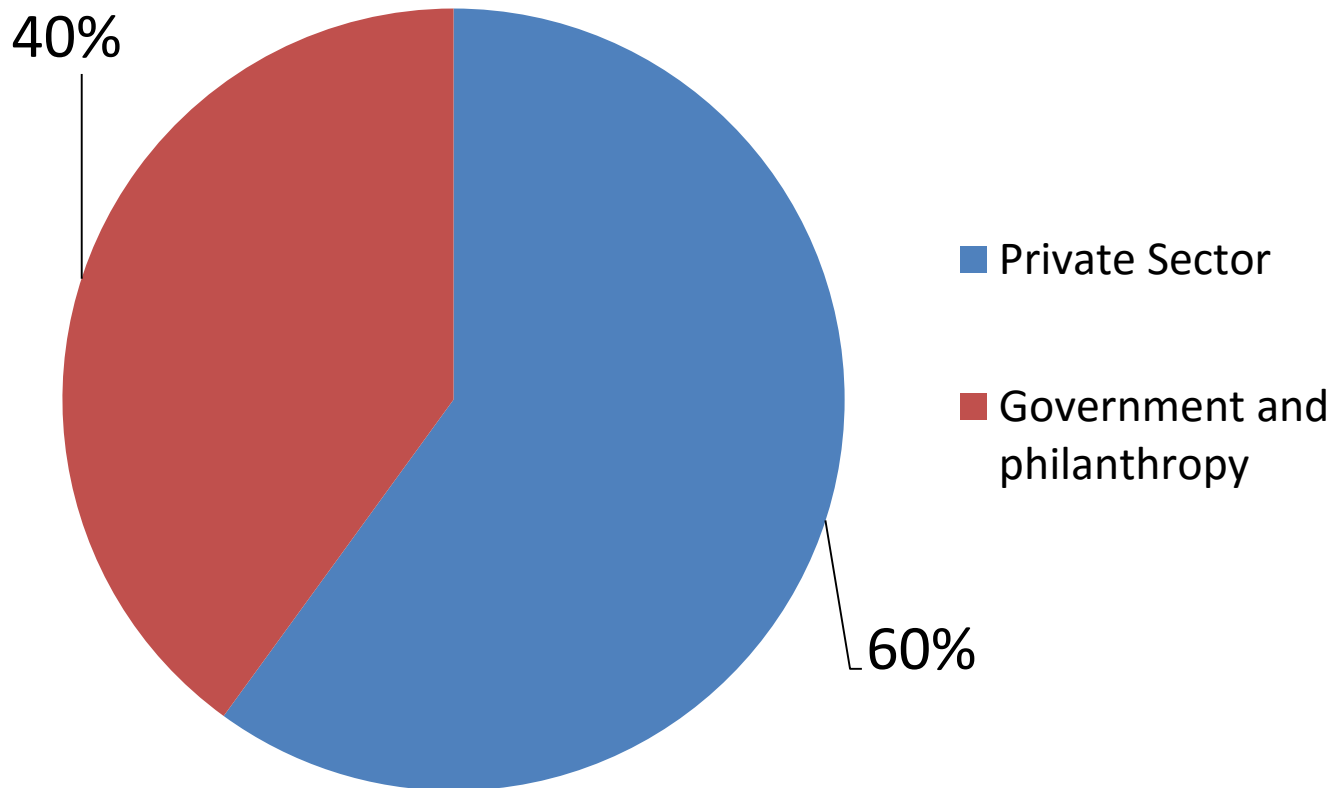
Technology as if people and planet mattered



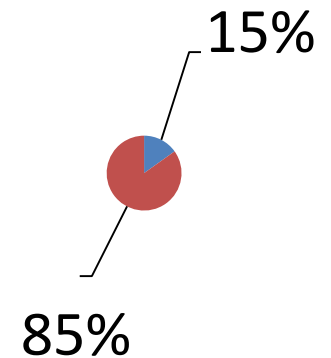


# 10/90 Gap today

**\$214b Global health R&D spend**



**\$2.5b R&D on neglected diseases of poverty**



# Weak market signals for R&D on diseases of poverty

‘Our priorities are tilted by marketplace imperatives. The malaria vaccine in humanist terms is the biggest need. But it gets virtually no funding. But if you are working on male baldness...you get an order of magnitude more research funding’

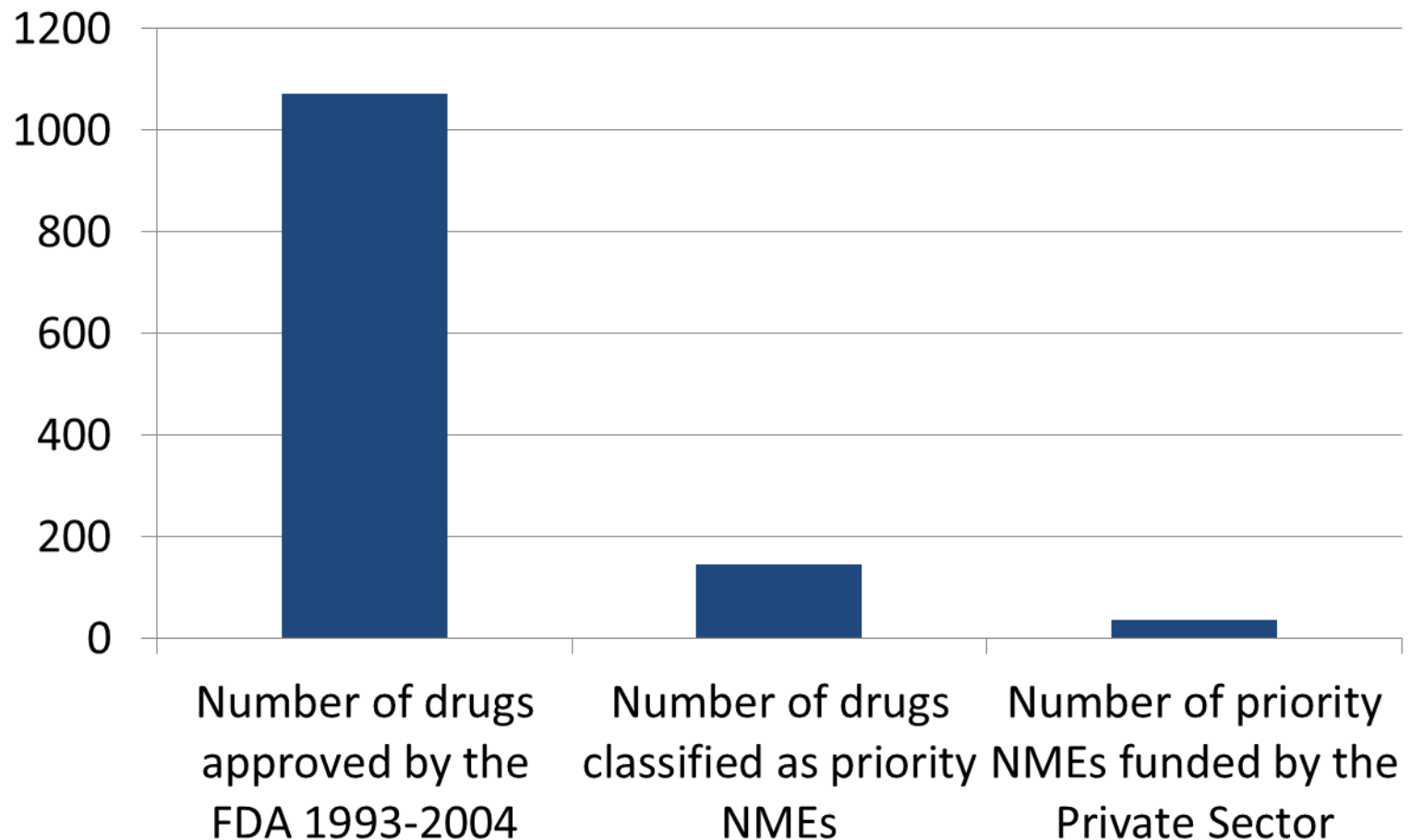
*Bill Gates 2013*



**VS**



# But weak market signals for new medicines in the US too!



# IPR doesn't help

ACCESS TO MEDICINES AND TREATMENT

## Intellectual property antiretroviral

Mara Kardas  
Published: ...

# Drug companies fined £45M for "pay-for-delay" deal that kept cheaper generics off the market

UK gov't says GlaxoSmithKline kept prices artificially high, costing the NHS millions.

by Glyn Moody - Feb 12, 2016 12:50pm GMT



GlaxoSmithKline's headquarters in West London.

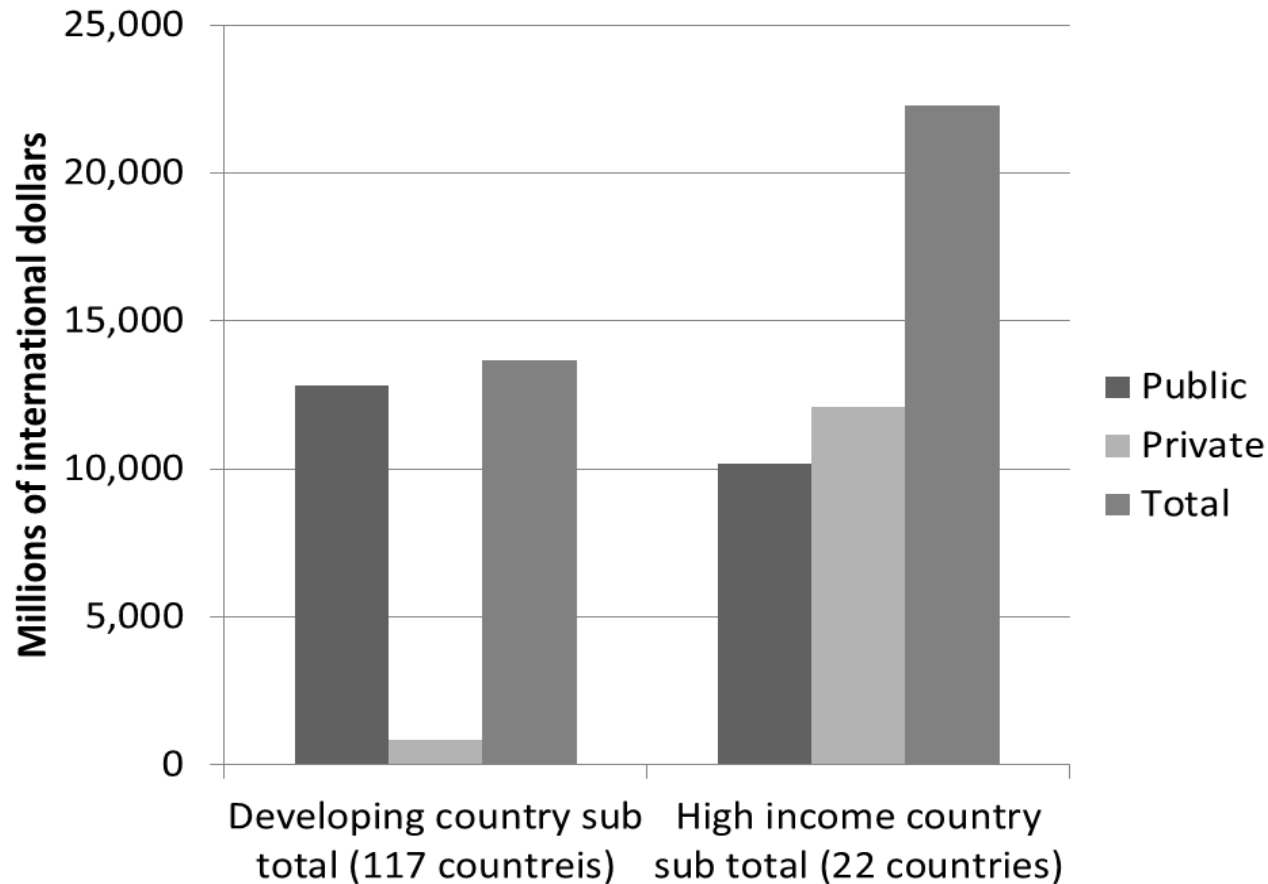
- Print
- Email
- Share

Like 5  
Tweet

Share  
Tweet  
Email  
9

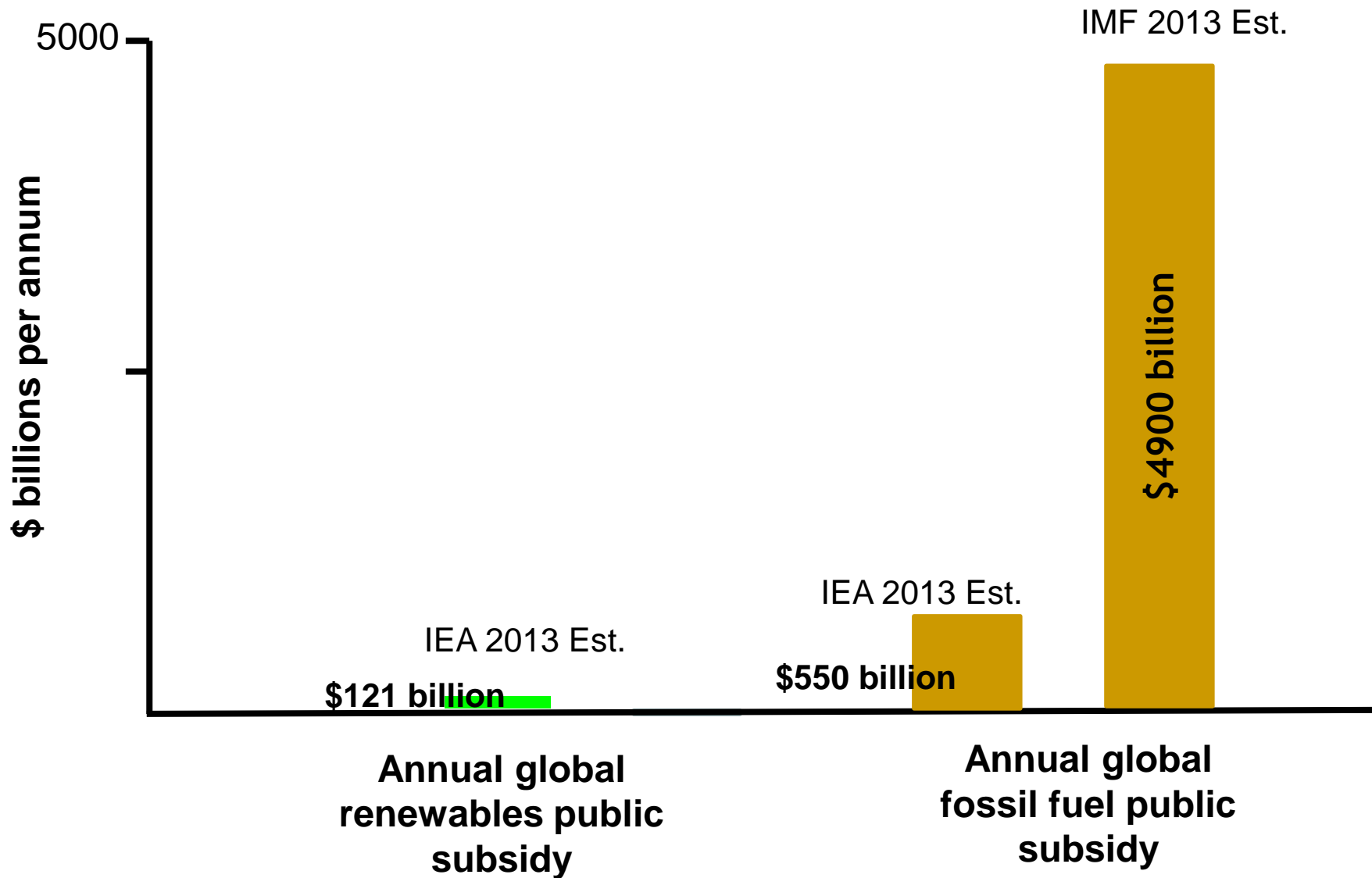
Partic...  
Confere...

# Agriculture R&D - different sector, same story



Global expenditure on agricultural R&D, 2000, based on figures from (Pardey & et\_al, 2006)

# Renewable vs fossil fuel subsidy



# Technology Justice

- Access
- Use
- Innovation

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# Access

- Define the social foundation and identify the technologies needed to support it

**Technology as if people and planet mattered**





**1** NO POVERTY



**2** NO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION




**5** GENDER EQUALITY




**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** RENEWABLE ENERGY



**8** GOOD JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**16** PEACE AND JUSTICE



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**THE GLOBAL GOALS**  
For Sustainable Development

**Technology as if people and planet mattered**



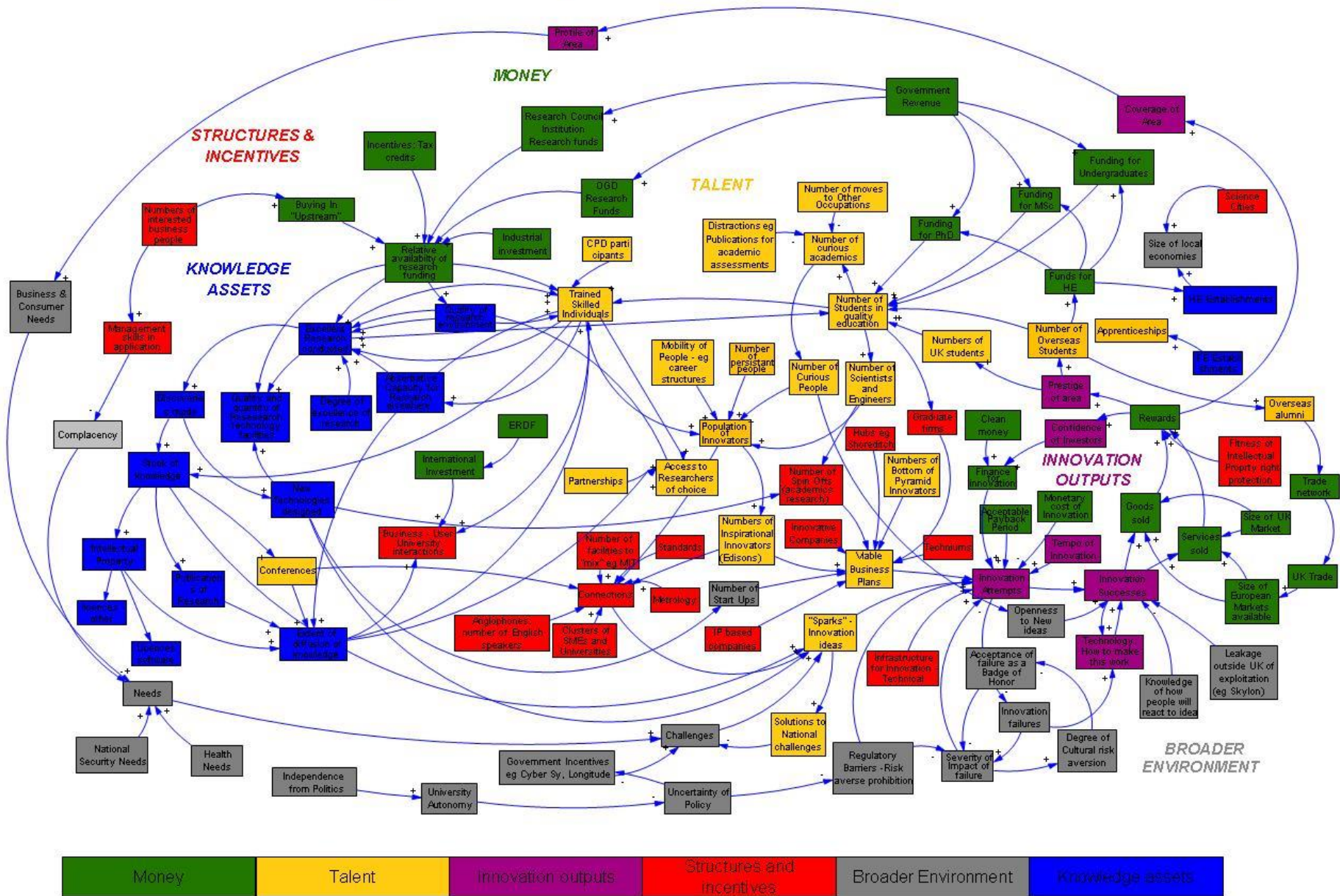
# Access

- Define the social foundation and identify the technologies needed to support it
- Improve our understanding of what influences the success of innovation and technology transfer in developing economies

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# Science and innovation systems map

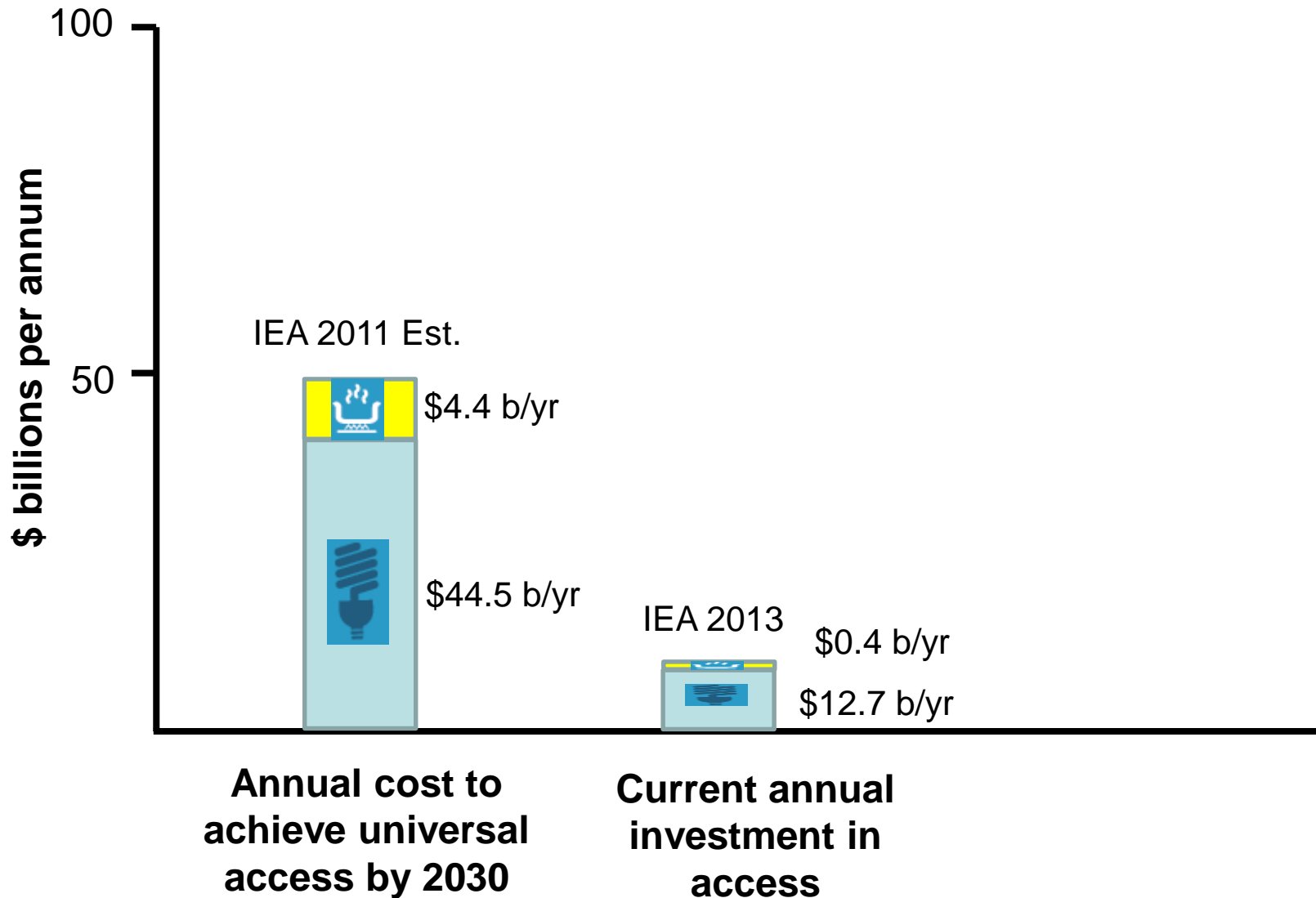


# Access

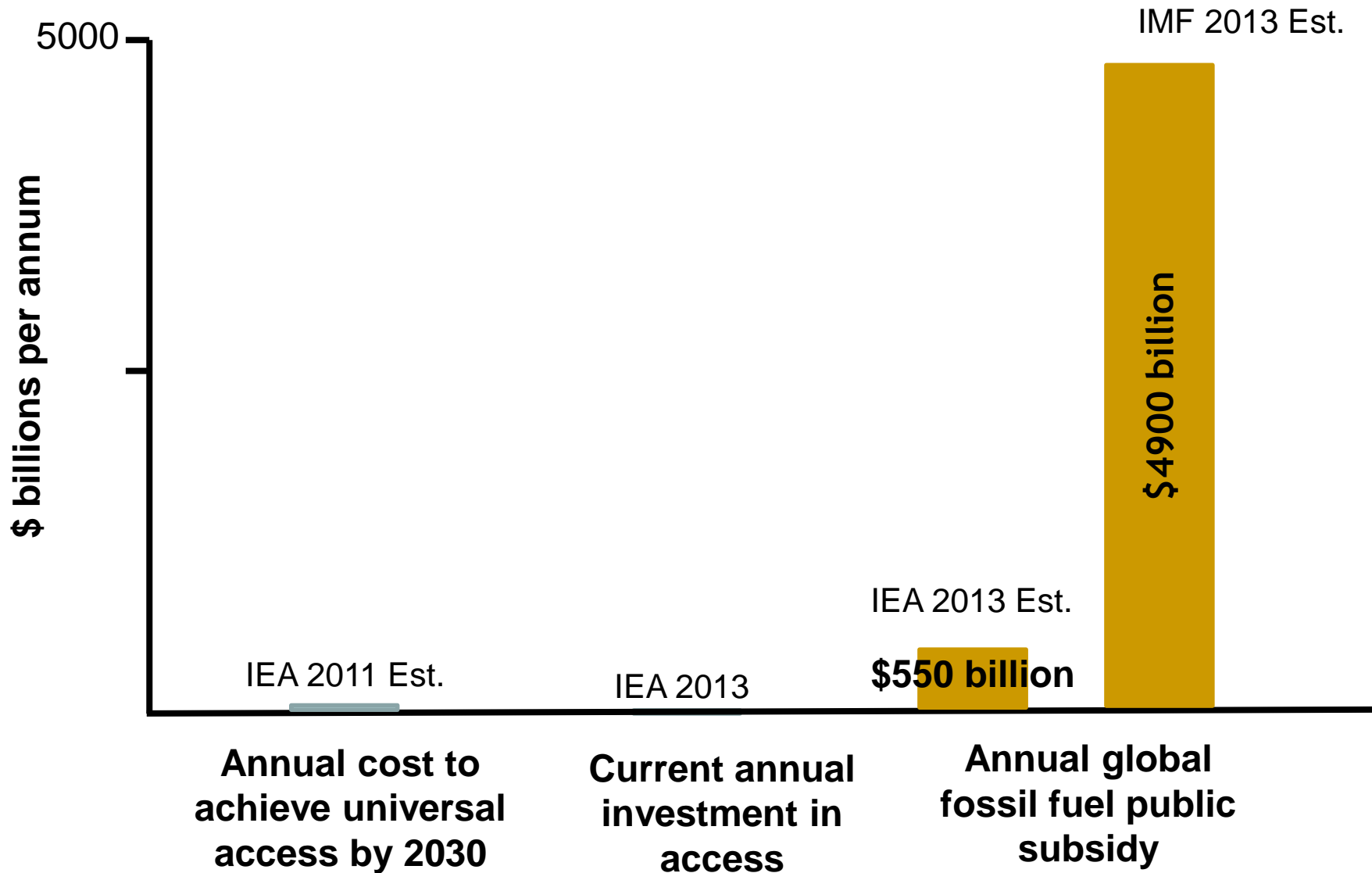
- Can we agree the social foundation and the technologies needed to support it?
- Improve our understanding of what influences the success of innovation and technology transfer in developing economies.
- Change the finance debate



# Finance- requirement vs available



# Subsidy?



# Use

- Foster public debate and consensus on managing risks associated with technology development and use

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# Choices





# Choices

## Capturing carbon

Governments are urged to step up research of a process called carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) – capturing carbon dioxide and storing it underground or underwater.

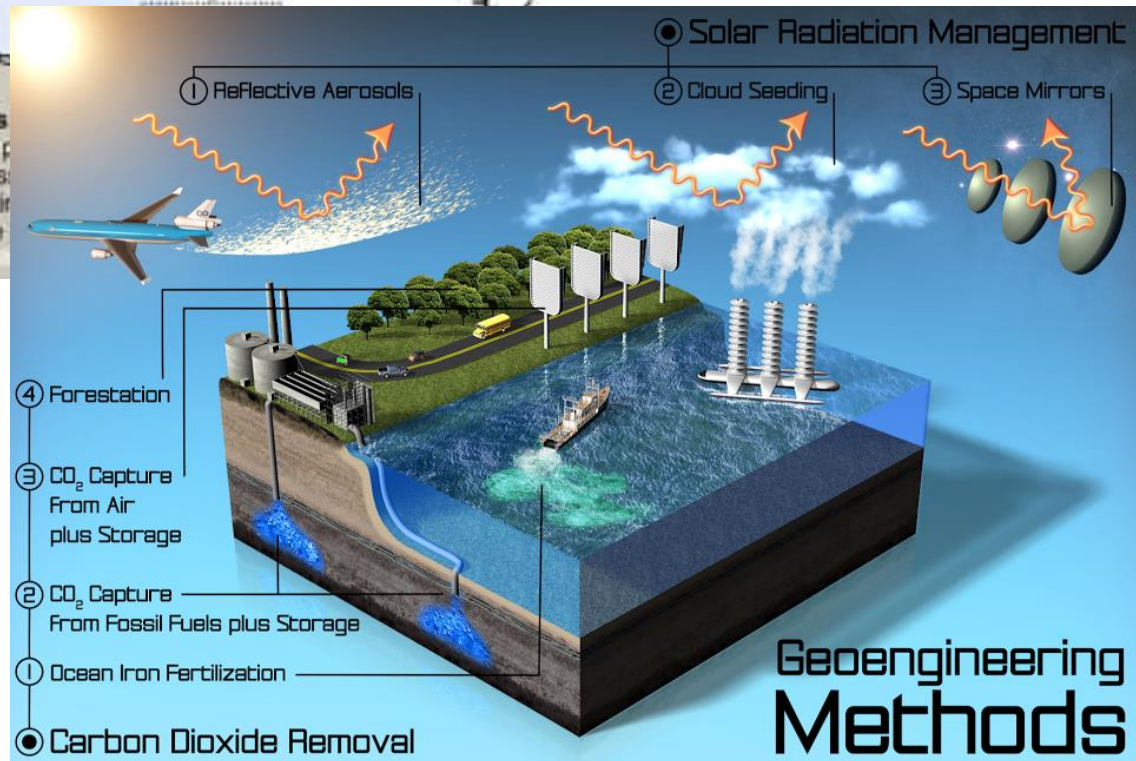
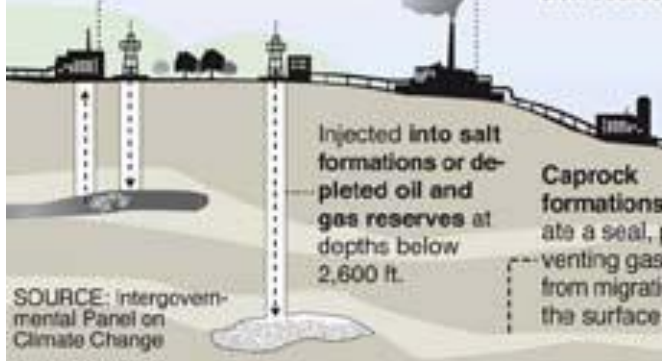
### Technology and theory

Carbon dioxide can be absorbed in coal beds, allowing storage to be effective at shallower depths; also can enhance methane recovery

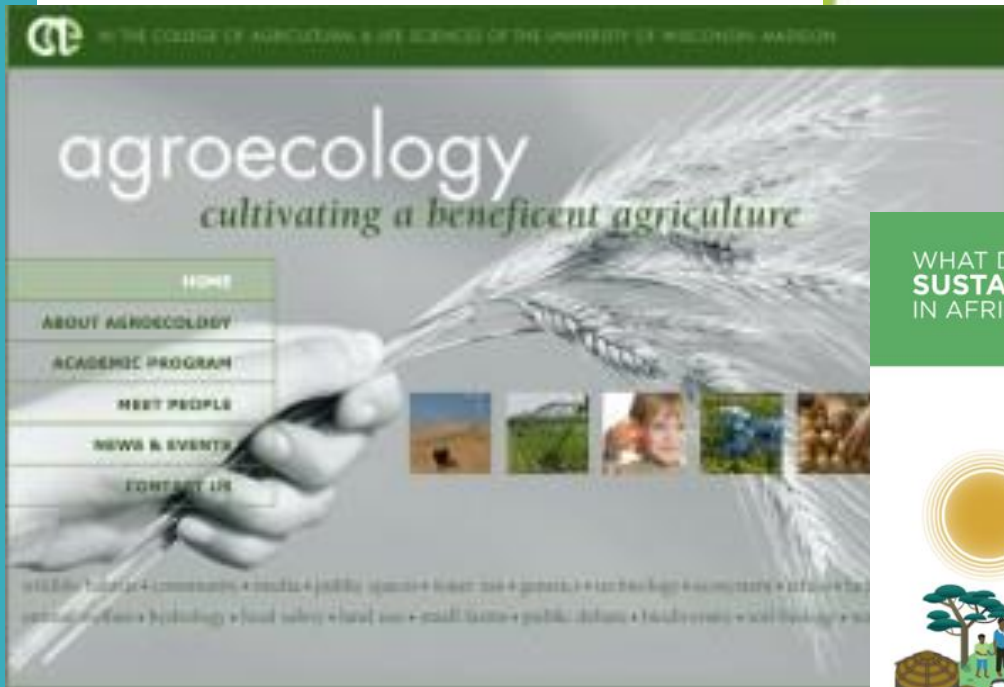
Captured and transported to CCS locations from major emission sources

Dissolved into ocean water below 3,300 ft. through a fixed pipeline or ship

Released via offshore platform to form a "lake" on the ocean floor



# Choices



WHAT DOES **SUSTAINABLE INTENSIFICATION** IN AFRICAN AGRICULTURE LOOK LIKE?

Sustainable Intensification integrates innovations and practices from the fields of ecology, genetics and socio-economics to build environmentally sustainable, equitable, productive and resilient ecosystems that improve the well-being of farms, farmers and families.



To explore the full database of examples, case studies, policy papers and resources, visit:  
[WWW.AG4IMPACT.ORG/DATABASE](http://WWW.AG4IMPACT.ORG/DATABASE)



# Use

- Foster public debate and consensus on managing risks associated with technology development and use?
- Consider alternative economic models

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PRINCIPLE

# 1

Preserve and enhance natural capital by controlling finite stocks and balancing renewable resource flows



Regenerate      Substitute materials      Virtualise      Restore

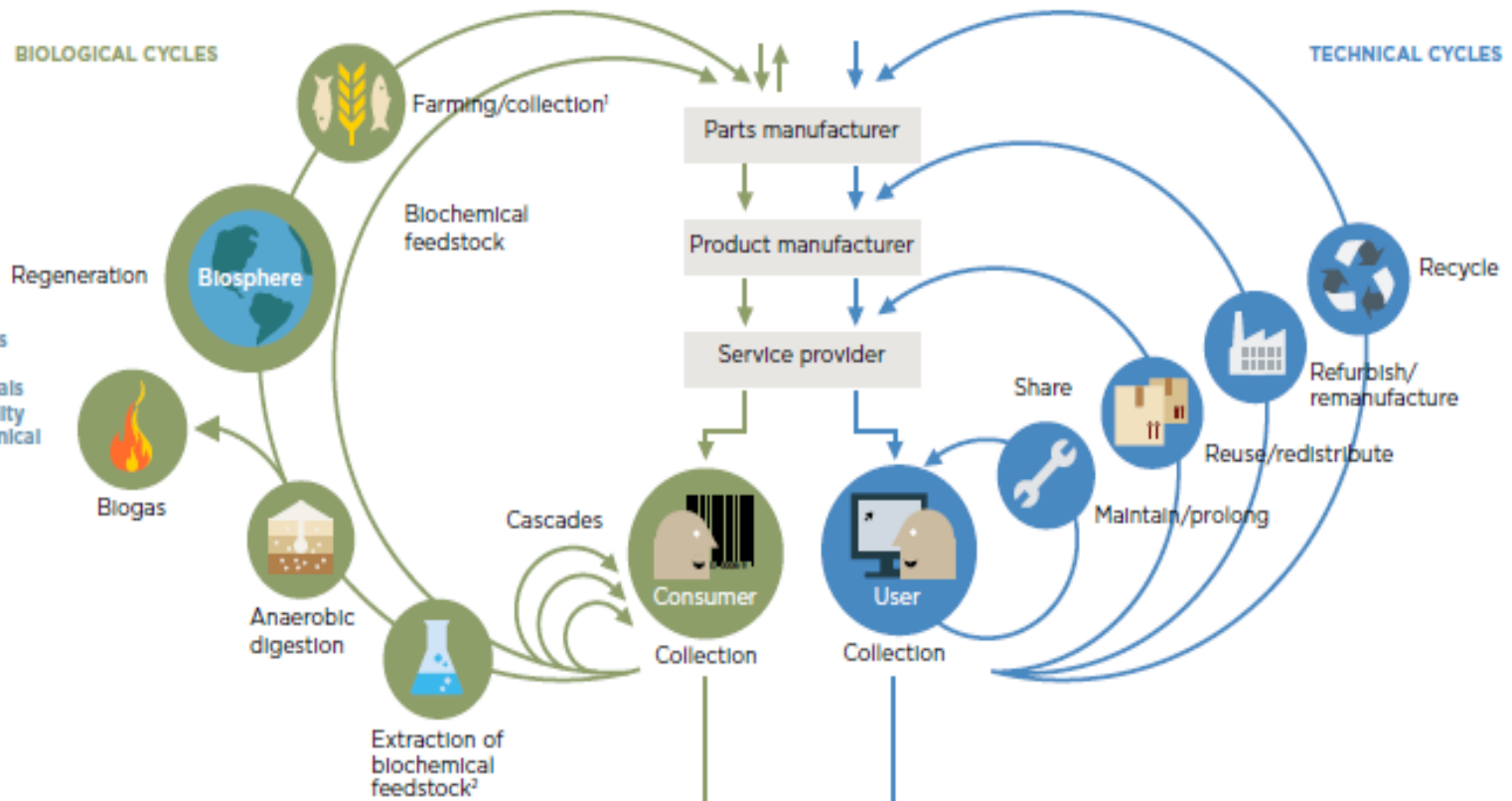
Renewables flow management

Stock management

PRINCIPLE

# 2

Optimise resource yields by circulating products, components and materials in use at the highest utility at all times in both technical and biological cycles



PRINCIPLE

# 3

Foster system effectiveness by revealing and designing out negative externalities

1. Hunting and fishing

# Innovation

- Agree the most urgent technology innovation needs and co-ordinate research agendas and funding

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# TECHNOLOGY FACILITATION MECHANISM

UNITED NATIONS INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FORUM

ONLINE PLATFORM



# TECHNOLOGY BANK



World Health Organization

Global Health Observatory

# Innovation

- How do we agree the most urgent technology innovation needs and co-ordinate research agendas and funding?
- More emphasis on collaboration as an alternative to competition

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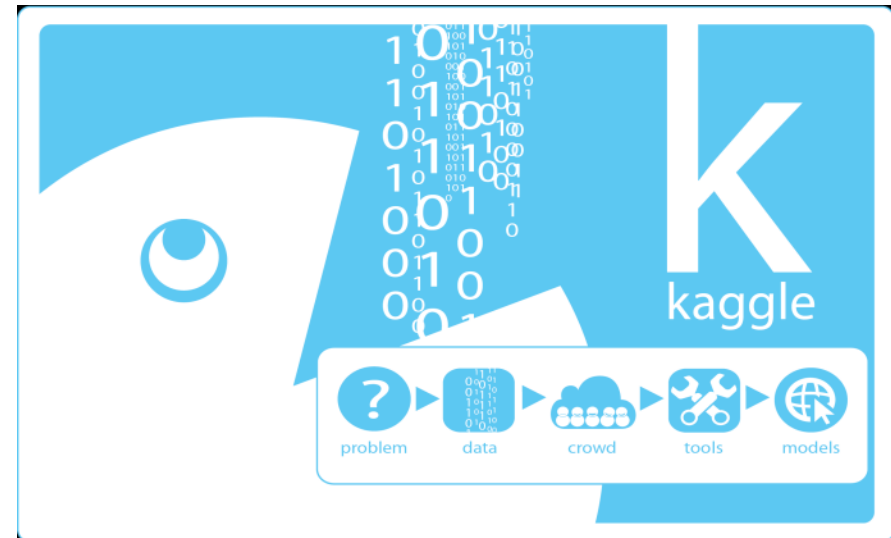
# Open Source Malaria

- 1) First law: All data are open and all ideas are shared
- 2) Second Law: Anyone can take part at any level of the project
- 3) Third Law: There will be no patents
- 4) Fourth Law: Suggestions are the best form of criticism
- 5) Fifth Law: Public discussion is much more valuable than private email
- 6) Sixth Law: The project is bigger than, and is not owned by, any given lab. The aim is to find a good drug for malaria, by whatever means, as quickly as possible.

<http://www.thesynapticleap.org/node/343>



Landing page:  
<http://opensourcemalaria.org>





# Innovation

- How do we agree the most urgent technology innovation needs and co-ordinate research agendas and funding?
- More emphasis on collaboration as an alternative to competition
- Accept and support a more entrepreneurial role for governments

Technology as if people and planet mattered



**Setting direction where market signals are too weak**

**Investing where risks, complexities, or costs are too high for the private sector to act alone.**

**Changing the rules to reward value addition and penalise parasitic and product-less behaviour by corporations.**

**Move from de-risking for private investors to the sharing of risk and reward**

# THE ENTREPRENEURIAL STATE



Debunking  
Public vs. Private  
Sector Myths



MARIANA MAZZUCATO

