

# **Political Economy: the Missing Knowledge of Sustainability Transitions**

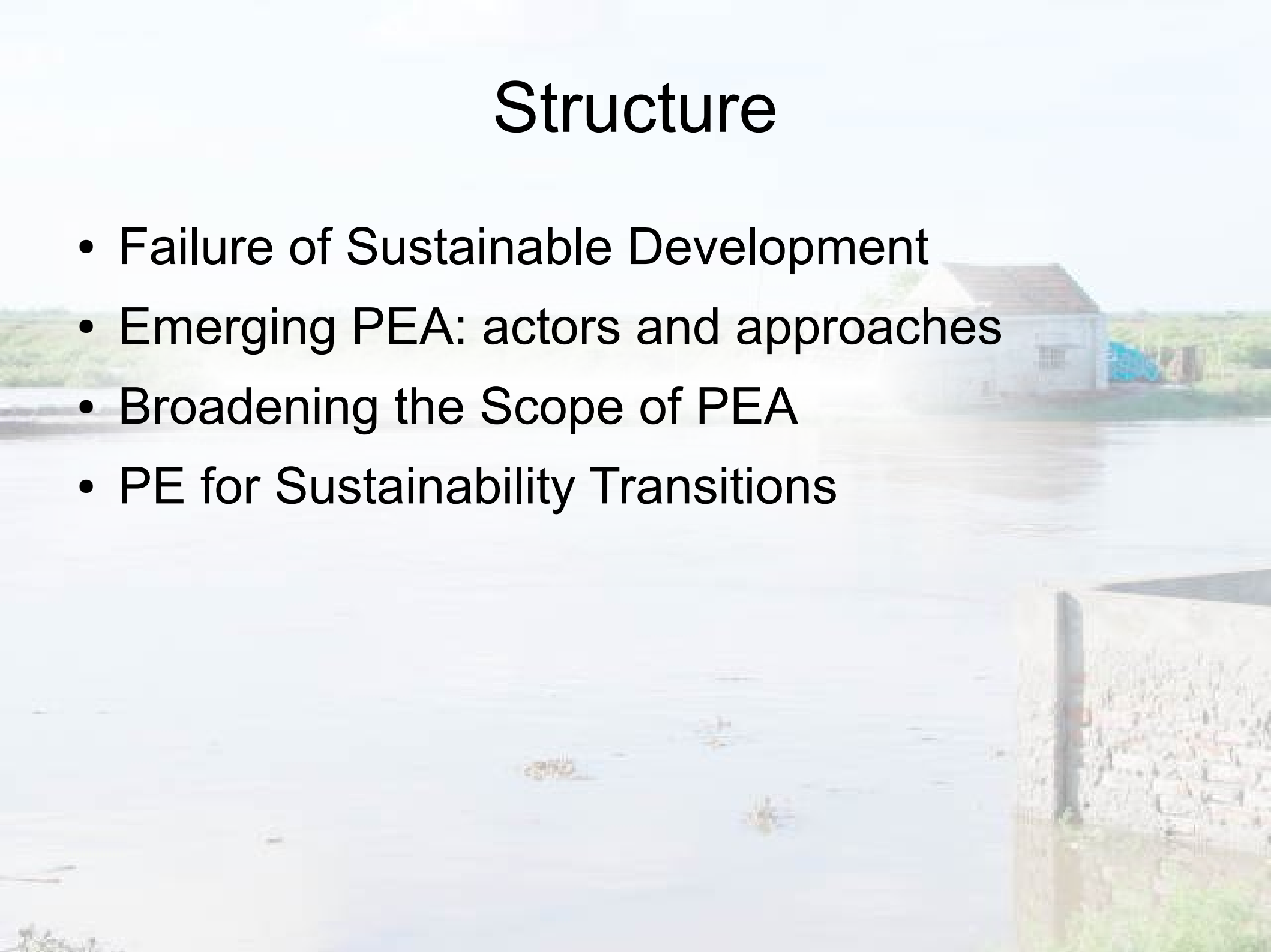
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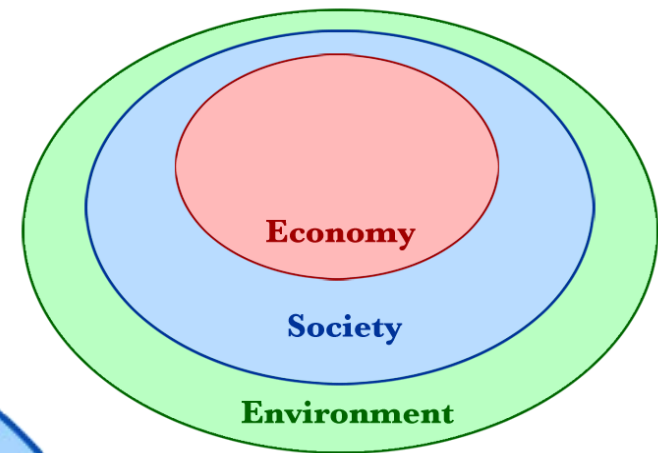
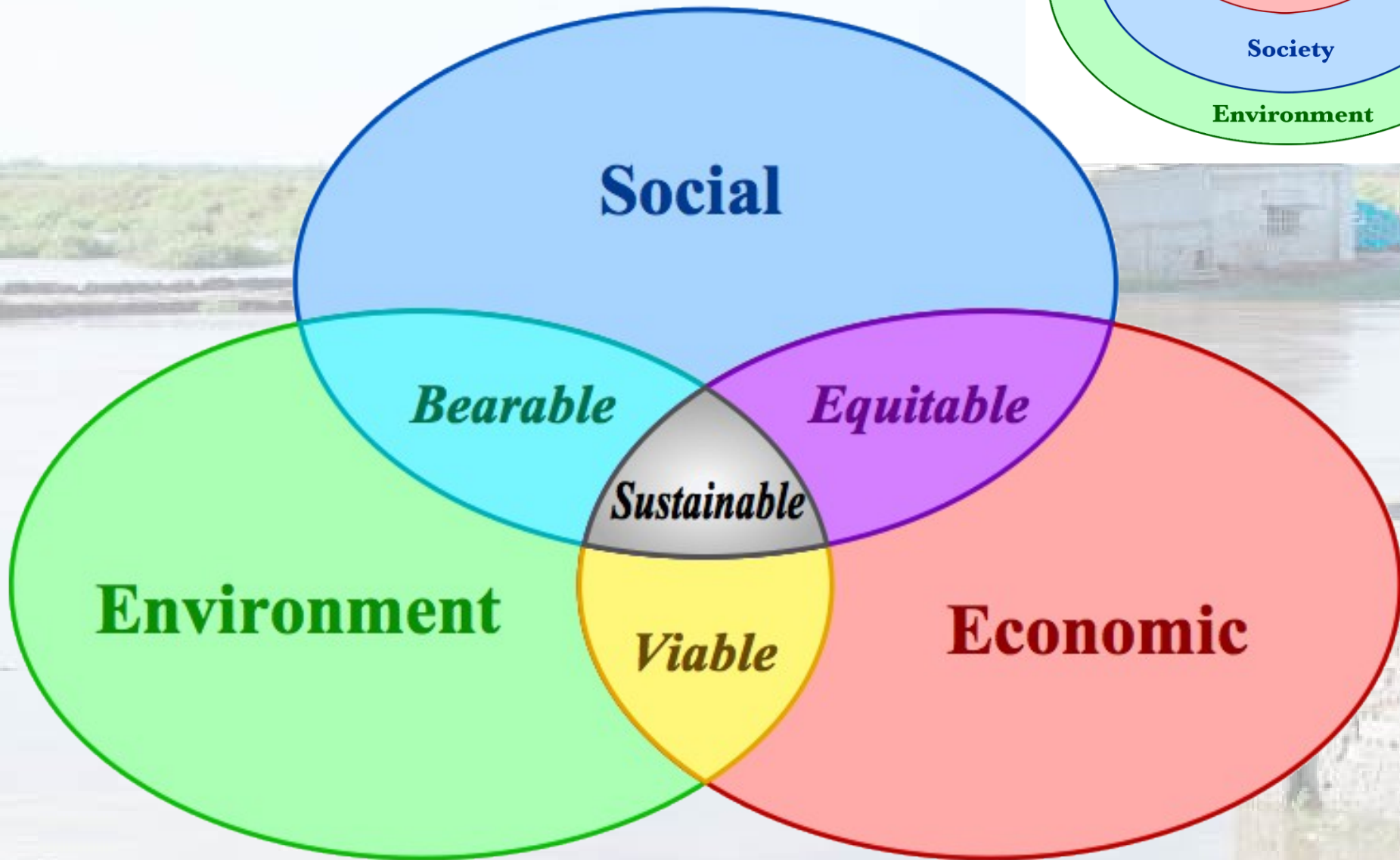
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# Structure

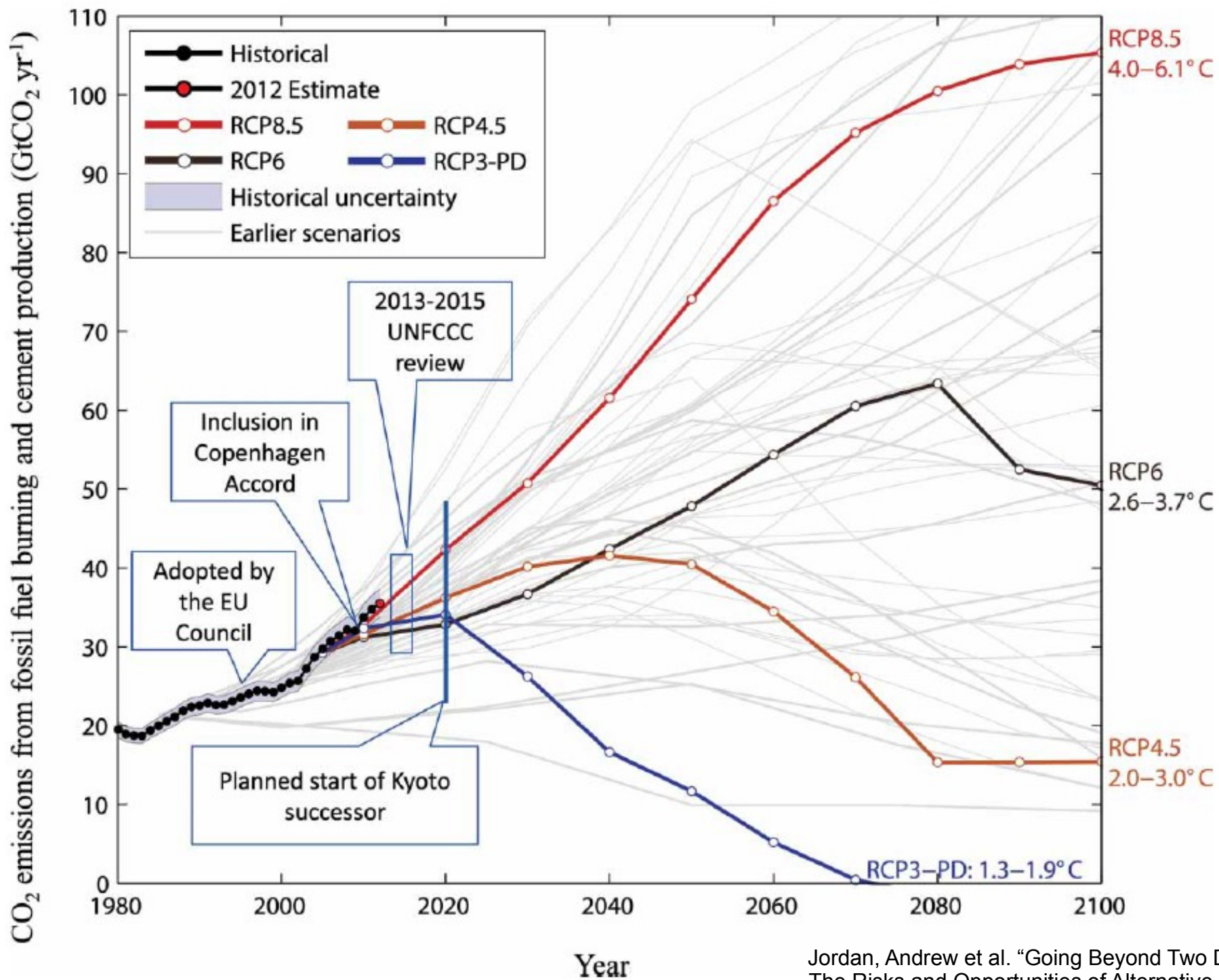
- Failure of Sustainable Development
- Emerging PEA: actors and approaches
- Broadening the Scope of PEA
- PE for Sustainability Transitions



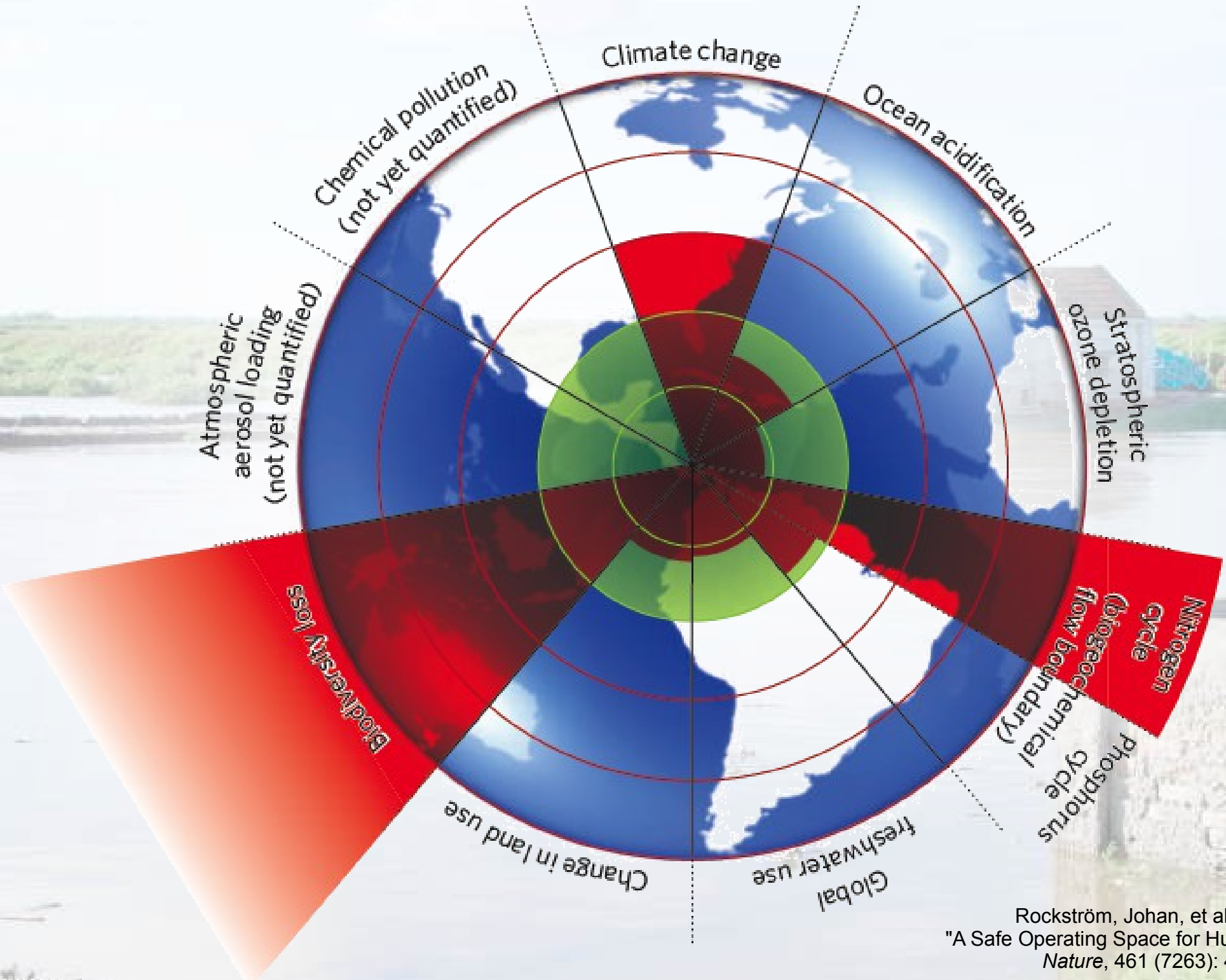
# Sustainable Development



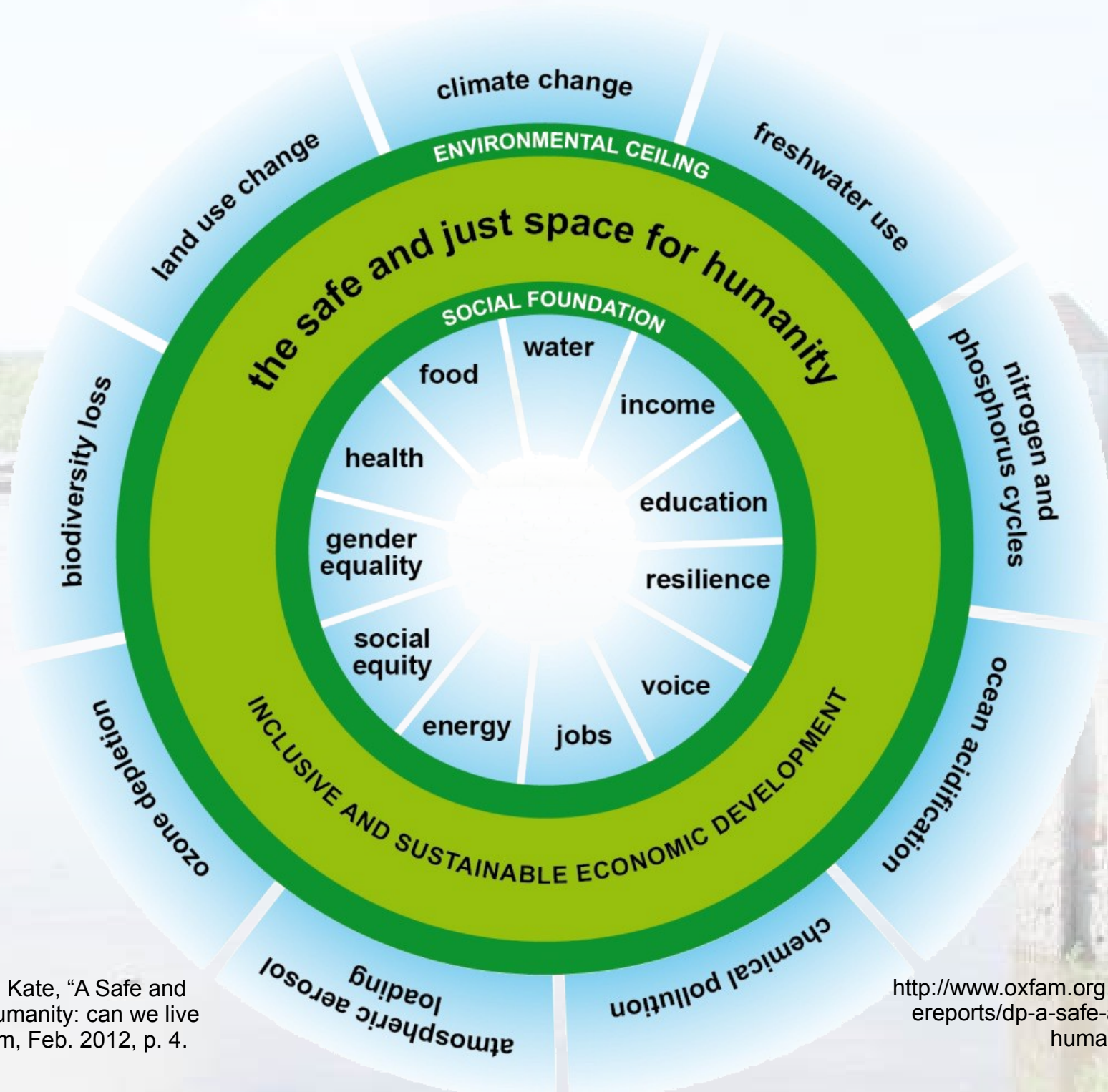
Source: World Conservation Union



Jordan, Andrew et al. "Going Beyond Two Degrees? The Risks and Opportunities of Alternative Options." *Climate Policy* 13, no. 6 (November 2013): 751–769.

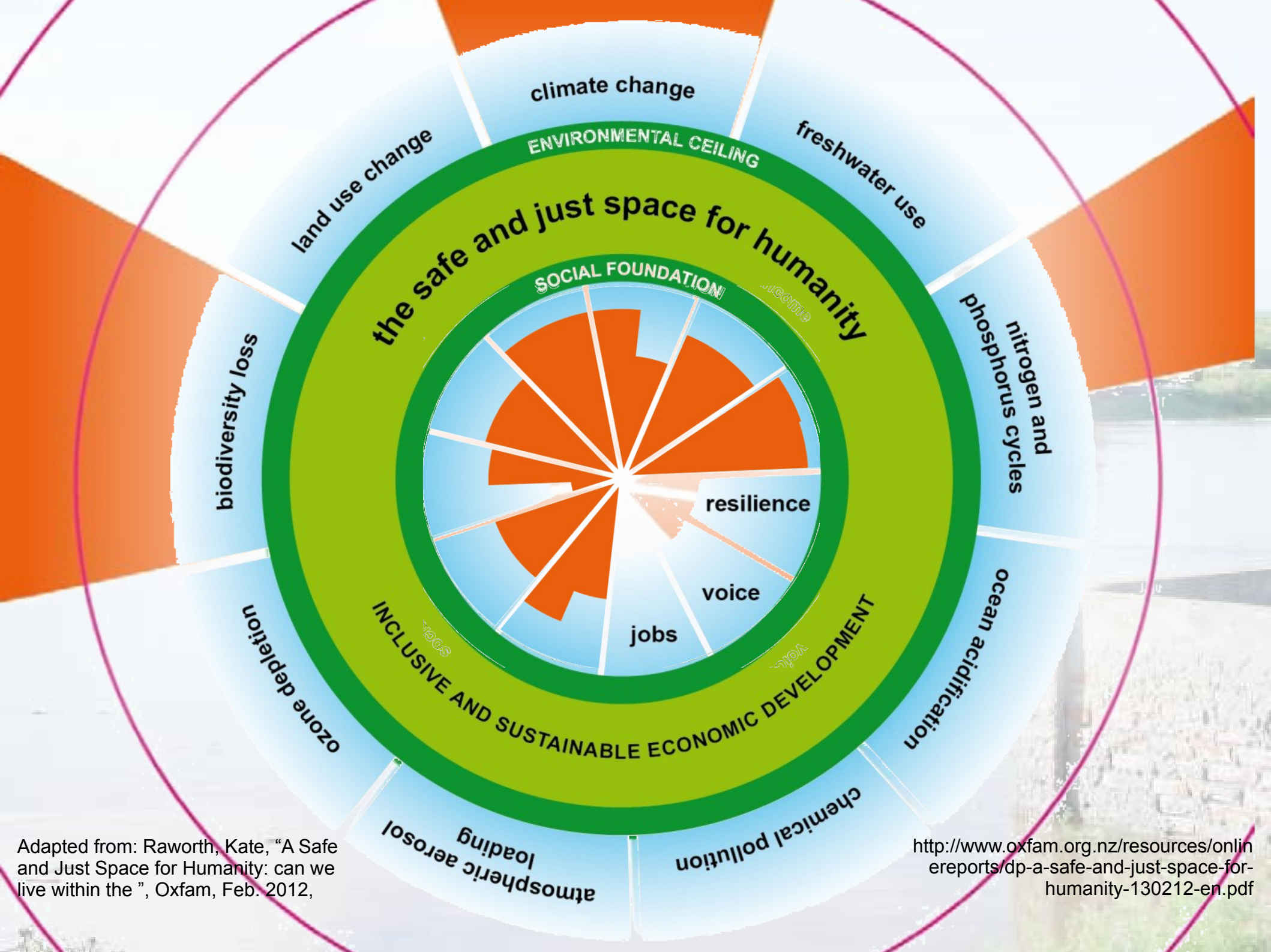


Rockström, Johan, et al. (2009),  
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*Nature*, 461 (7263): 472-475.



Source: Raworth, Kate, "A Safe and Just Space for Humanity: can we live within the ", Oxfam, Feb. 2012, p. 4.

<http://www.oxfam.org.nz/resources/online-reports/dp-a-safe-and-just-space-for-humanity-130212-en.pdf>



Adapted from: Raworth, Kate, "A Safe and Just Space for Humanity: can we live within the ", Oxfam, Feb. 2012,

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# Little Results so Far

- 25 years of SD discourse has...
  - Confronted 2 wedges in  $I = PAT$ 
    - The T of technological decoupling
    - And the A of lifestyles
  - As technical and “capacity building” solutions to poor implementation
- But that fails to see bigger obstacles
  - In the ignorance of political-economic power
  - Which we need to better understand and act



# “Emerging” PEA

- Mapping actors
  - PEA for broad development strategies
  - And specific sectors

- Definition:

“Political economy analysis is concerned with the interaction of political and economic processes in a society: the distribution of power and wealth between different groups and individuals, and the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time.” (Collinson 2003: 3)

# Approaches in PEA

- Politics of aid recipients <sup>6</sup>
  - Build on consensus and opportunities
  - Identify “champions” and “drivers of change”, create incentives and shape reformers
  - Build critical mass of reformers
- Politics of donors having intellectual and institutional barriers <sup>9</sup>
- Focus on politics...
  - of development implementation
  - not of design

# Broadening PEA

- Development concept as political struggle
  - Interests are structural
  - Resistance to change beyond incentives
  - Actors to take sides more explicitly
  - Need open development agendas
- PE is therefore
  - A tool of analysis
  - But also of engagement

# PE for Sustainability?

- Challenging context
  - Scope and structural interests
  - But PEA more accepted in development practice
- Taking PEA further for sustainability
  - Acknowledge and analyse struggles
  - Develop policy support tools
  - Mobilize a “coalition of the willing”
  - Expose and question growth and development

# References

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