

Youth Leaders Learning Exchange
Rosina Bierbaum, Chair
Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the GEF
GEF Assembly, Vancouver, August 2023



Welcome to STAP Science Day

Morning:

Youth Leaders Learning Exchange -
- to inspire action

Afternoon:

***Indigenous and Local Knowledge for
greater GEBs***

- case studies from the Arctic
and Amazon



Douglass Neasloss and Coastal First Nations, Spiriti Bear, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation

What is STAP ?

STAP provides independent scientific and technical advice to the GEF Council on GEF projects, policies, and programs.



Shutterstock

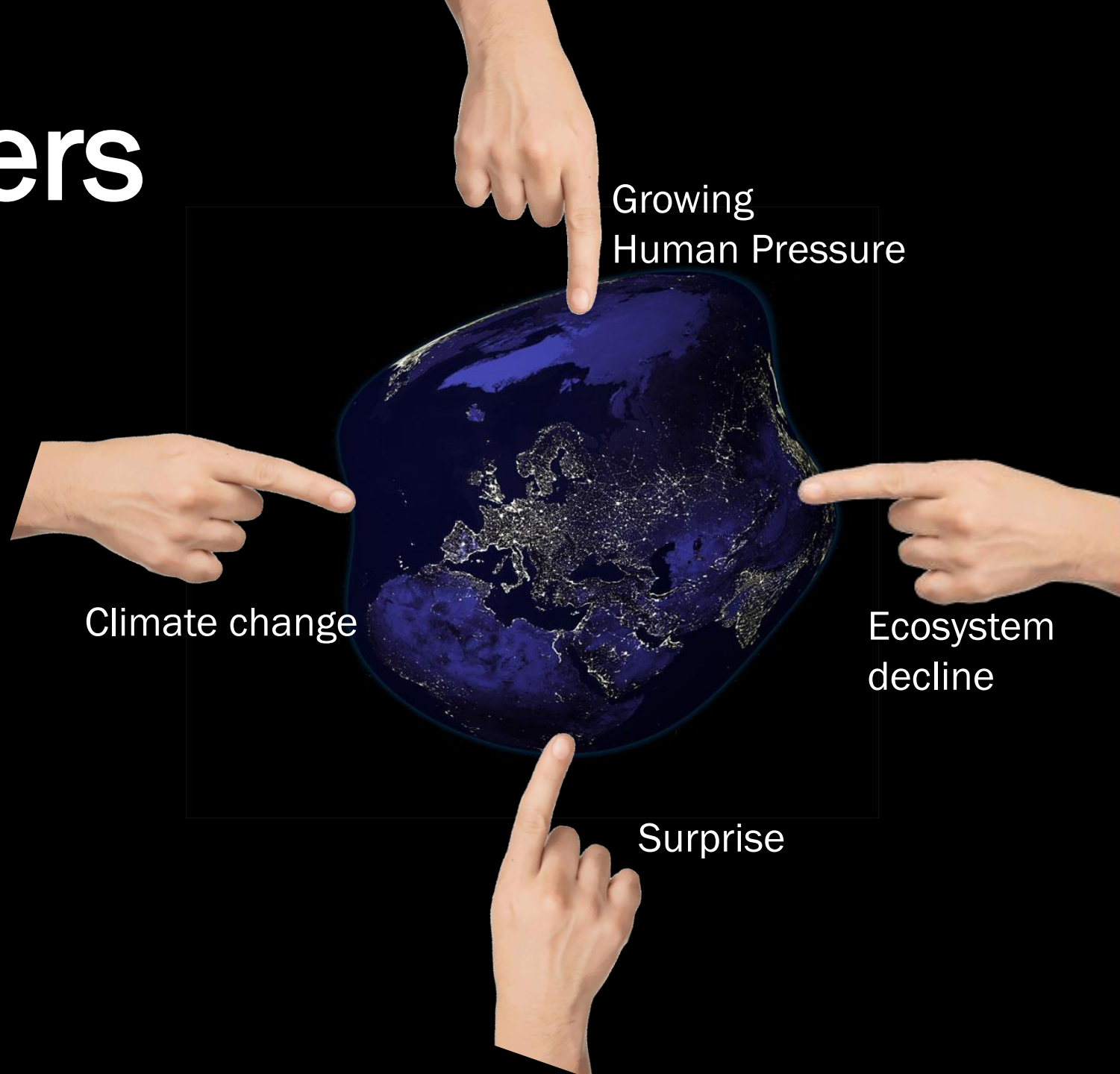
STAP has two main roles in the GEF Partnership

- 1 Provide advice**
 - State of science
 - Horizon scanning
 - GEF programming priorities
 - Technical guidance
- 2 Screen projects & programs**
 - GEF full-sized projects
 - Integrated programs

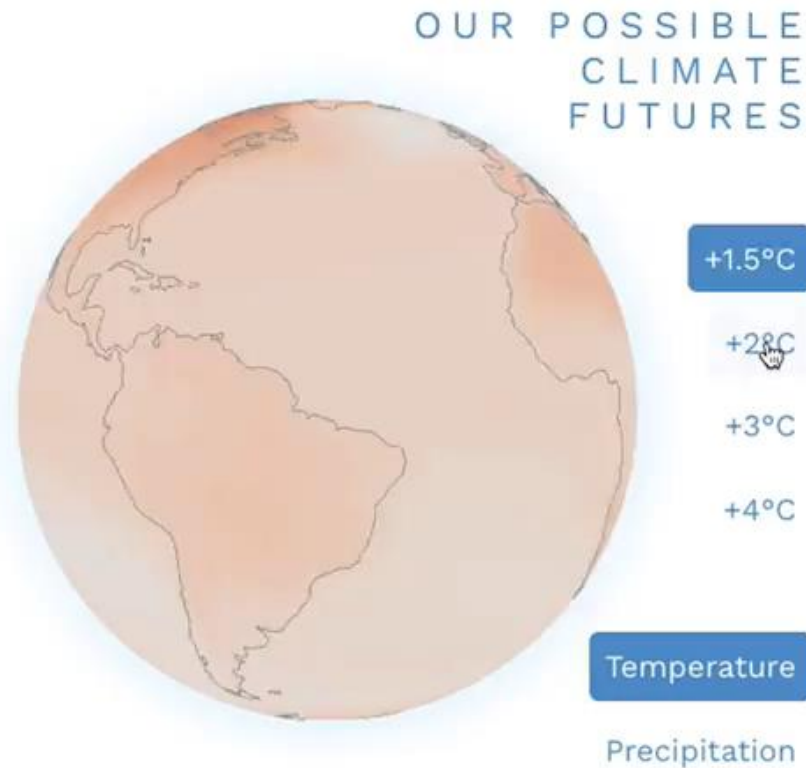


M. Calcari Campbell, Dungeness Crab, Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation

Drivers



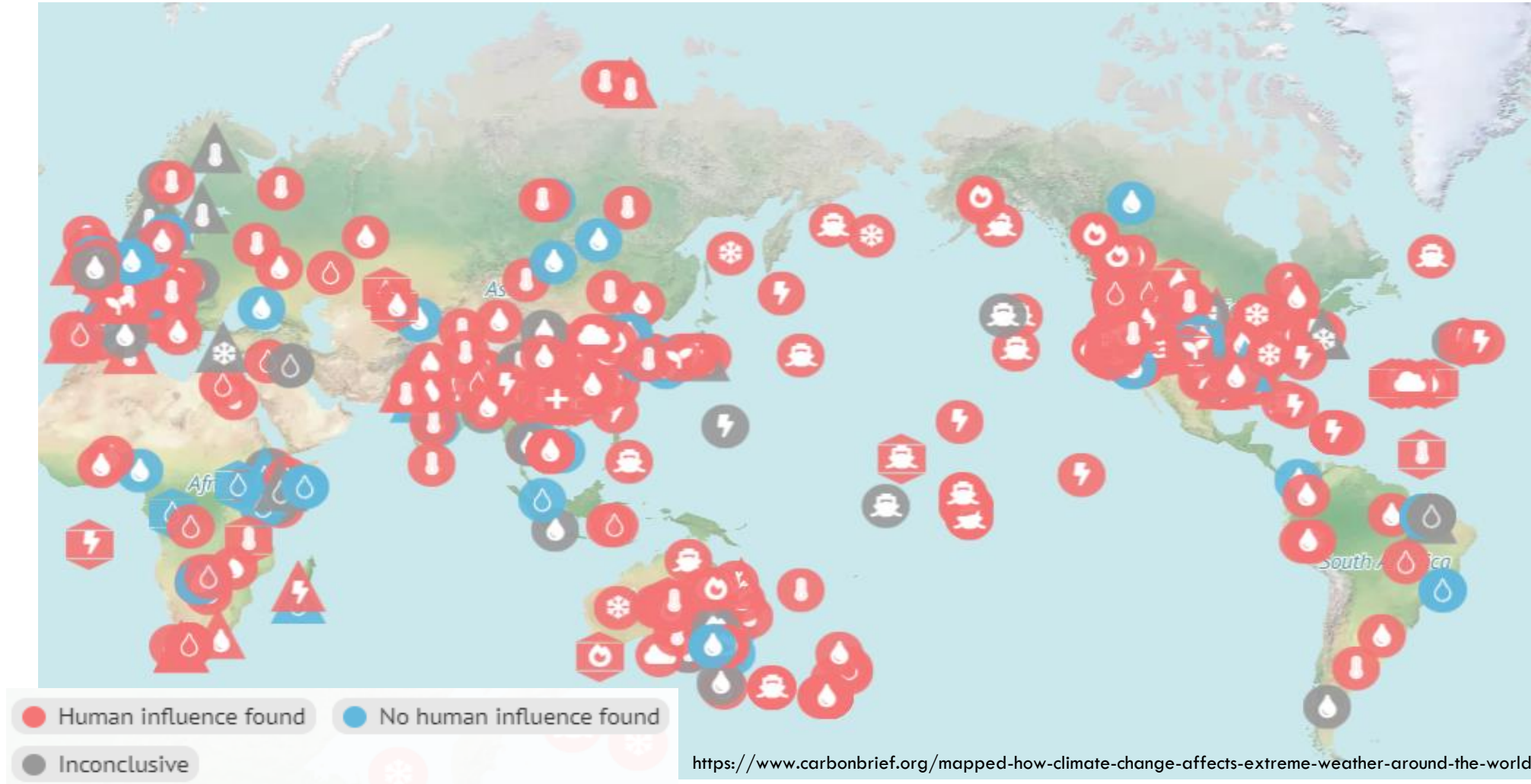
Climate change futures



<https://interactive-atlas.ipcc.ch/>



Extreme weather can be attributed to climate change



Intensifying ecological trends



Land use change

- Loss of ecosystem services, such as filtration of air and water, climate regulation, cultural values



Biodiversity loss

- Continued decline in species number and composition of ecosystems, intactness, connectivity



Pollution

- Waste generation, anthropogenic water, land and air pollution, human health effects...

Images top to bottom:

- Shutterstock/WHO African Region
- Deforestation in Indonesia; Ulet Ifansasti/Greenpeace
- Toxic water discharge in Russia; James P. Blair/National Geographic

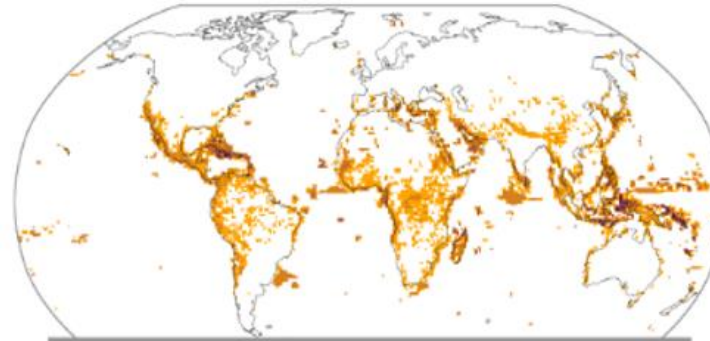
Biodiversity loss



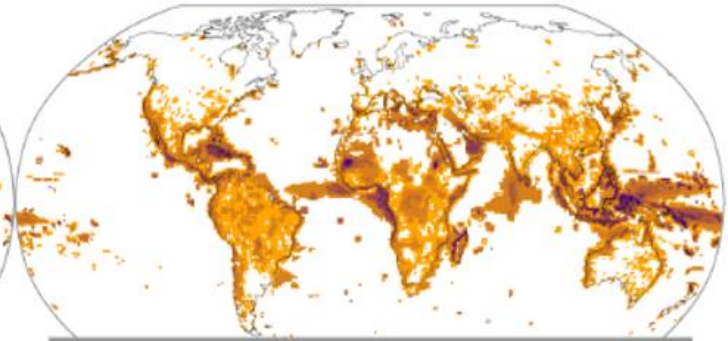
Risk of species losses



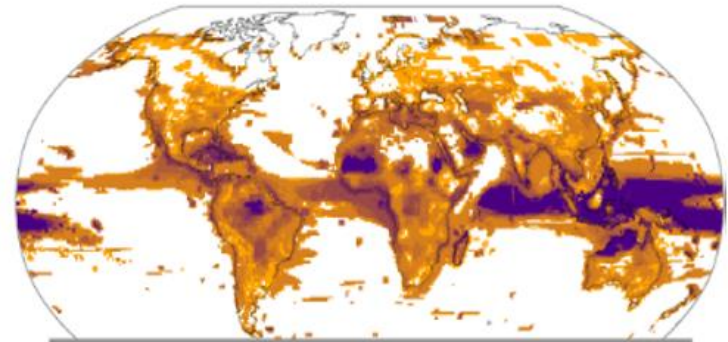
Percentage of animal species and seagrasses exposed to potentially dangerous temperature conditions



1.5°C



2.0°C



3.0°C

Includes 30,652 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, marine fish, benthic marine invertebrates, krill, cephalopods, corals, and seagrasses.

SYNTHESIS REPORT OF THE IPCC SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT (AR6) – March 20, 2023

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

Pollution creates unjust outcomes

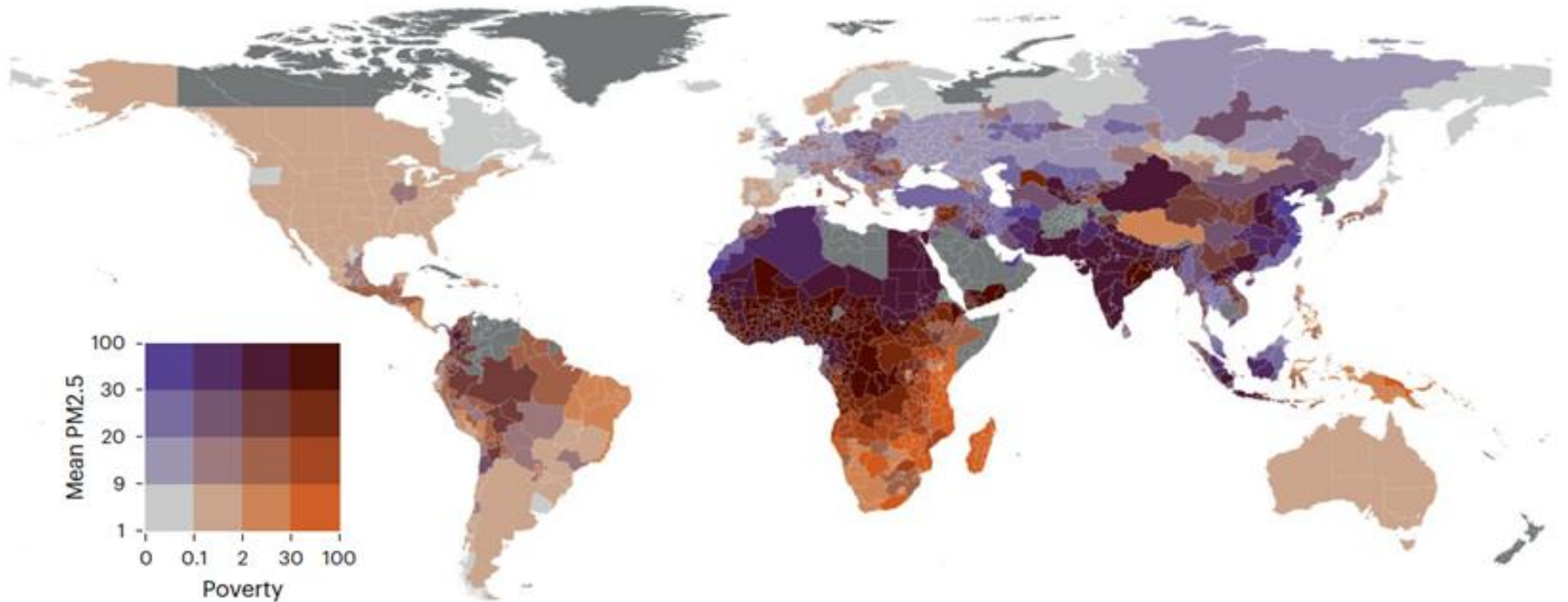


Fig. 3 | Mapping exposure to harm from air pollution. Exposure to air pollution (PM2.5) combined with poverty shows how local boundaries are crossed and how local people may be affected.

Environment is “natural capital”

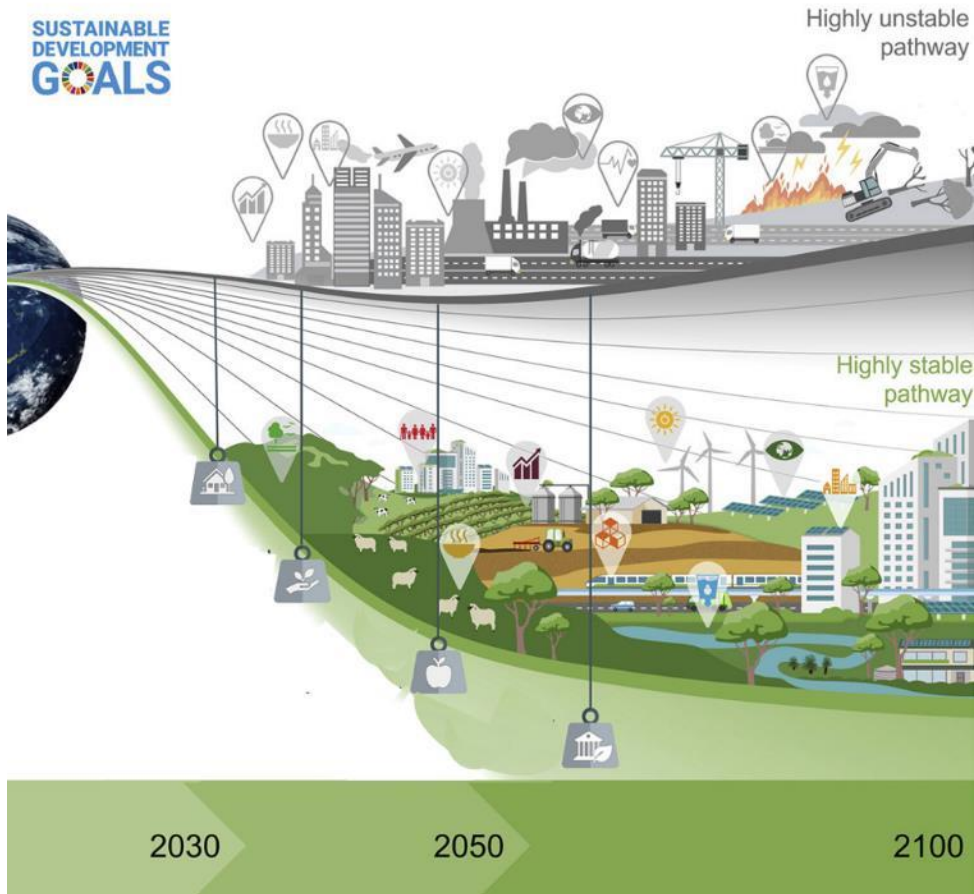


\$44 trillion of economic value generation – more than half of the world’s total GDP is dependent on nature

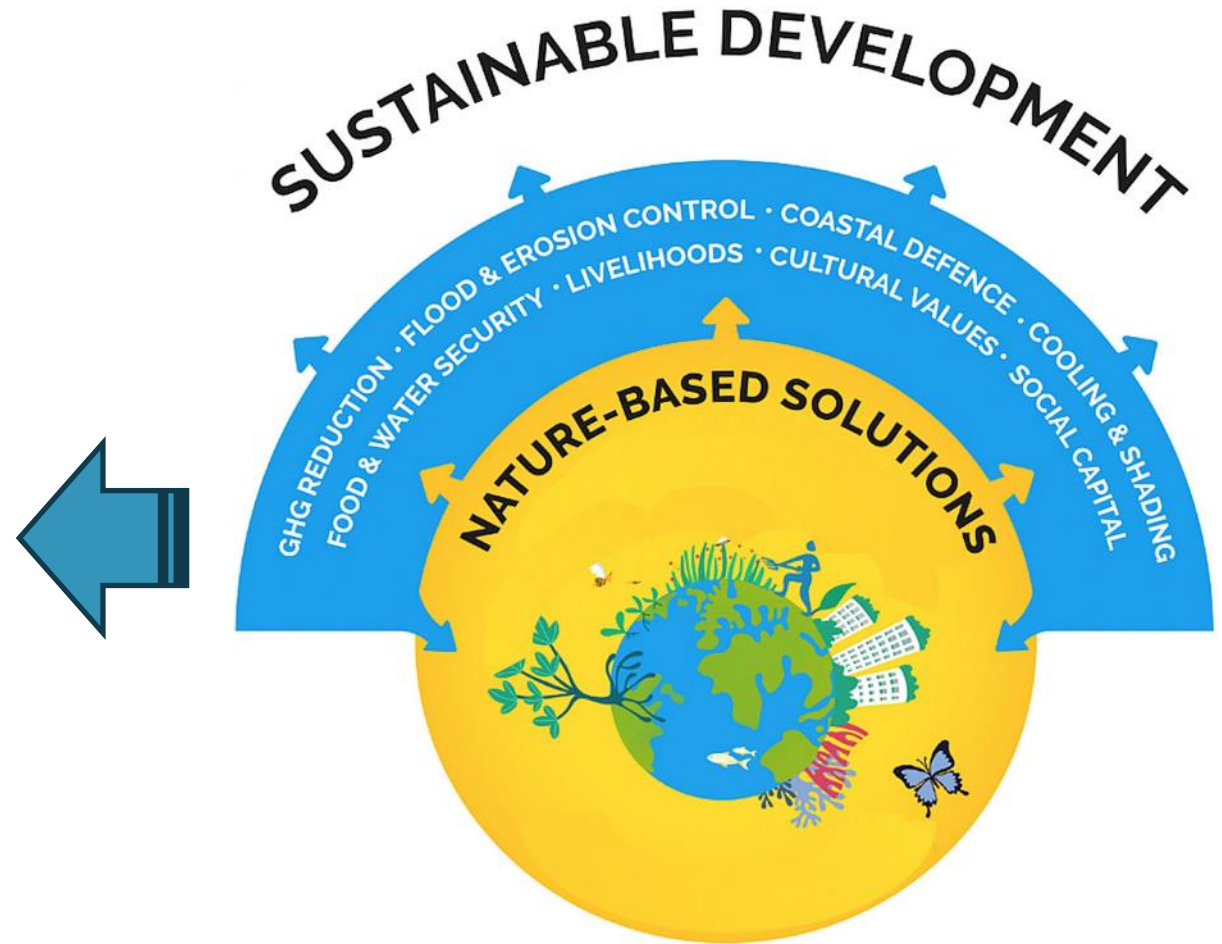
WEF, 2023



Nature-based solutions can assist reach goals



Source: "Early systems change necessary for catalyzing long-term sustainability in a post-2030 agenda"



Source: "Getting the message right on nature-based solutions to climate change"

Great momentum to take climate, nature-positive actions

- Drumbeat of science
- Impacts are being felt and are expensive
- Attribution of climate change impacts on extreme events
- Climate change can't be solved without nature; biodiversity can't be preserved without slowing climate change
- Cost of clean energy and renewables dropping
- Cities, states, & countries are taking action
- Businesses are responding and taking risk seriously
- Investment community is activated!



World Economic Forum Global Risk Reports

	1	2	3	4	5
2020	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Natural disasters	Biodiversity loss	Human-made environmental disasters
2021	Extreme weather	Climate action failure	Human environment damage	Infectious diseases	Biodiversity loss
2022	Climate action failure	Extreme weather	Biodiversity loss	Social cohesion erosion	Livelihood crises
2023	Failure to mitigate climate change	Failure of climate change adaptation	Natural disasters	Biodiversity loss	Large-scale involuntary migration

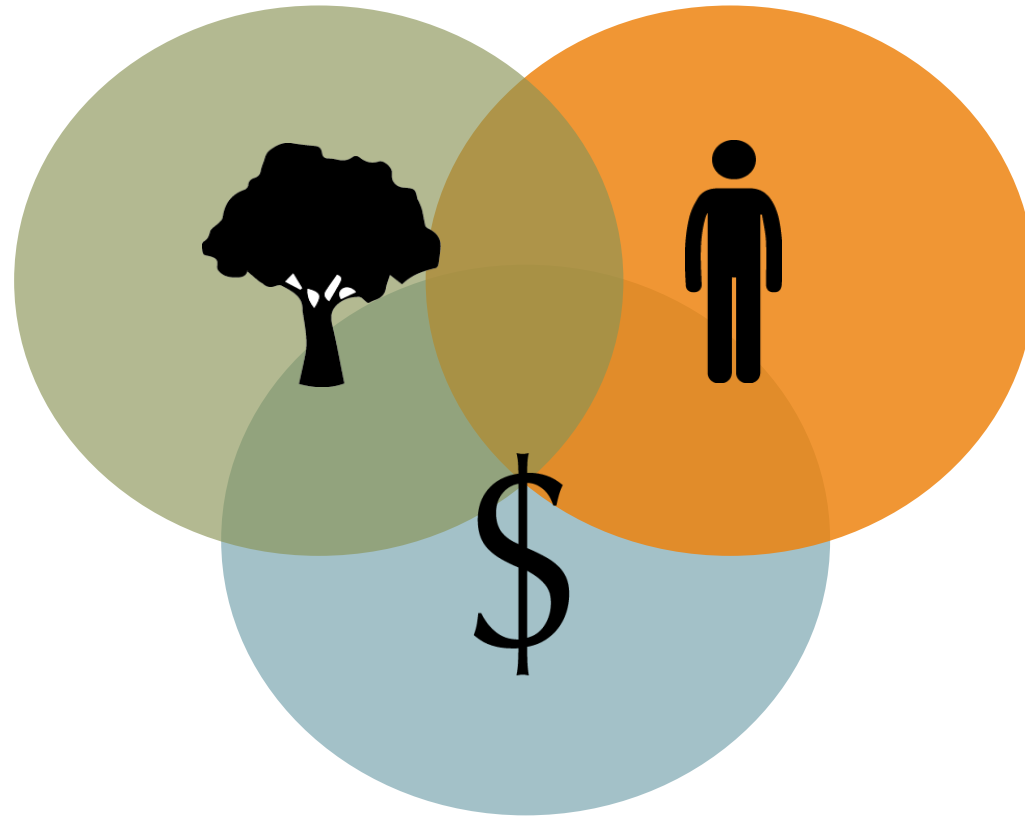


Global risks ranked by severity over the long term (10 years)

https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risk_Report_2020.pdf
https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2021.pdf

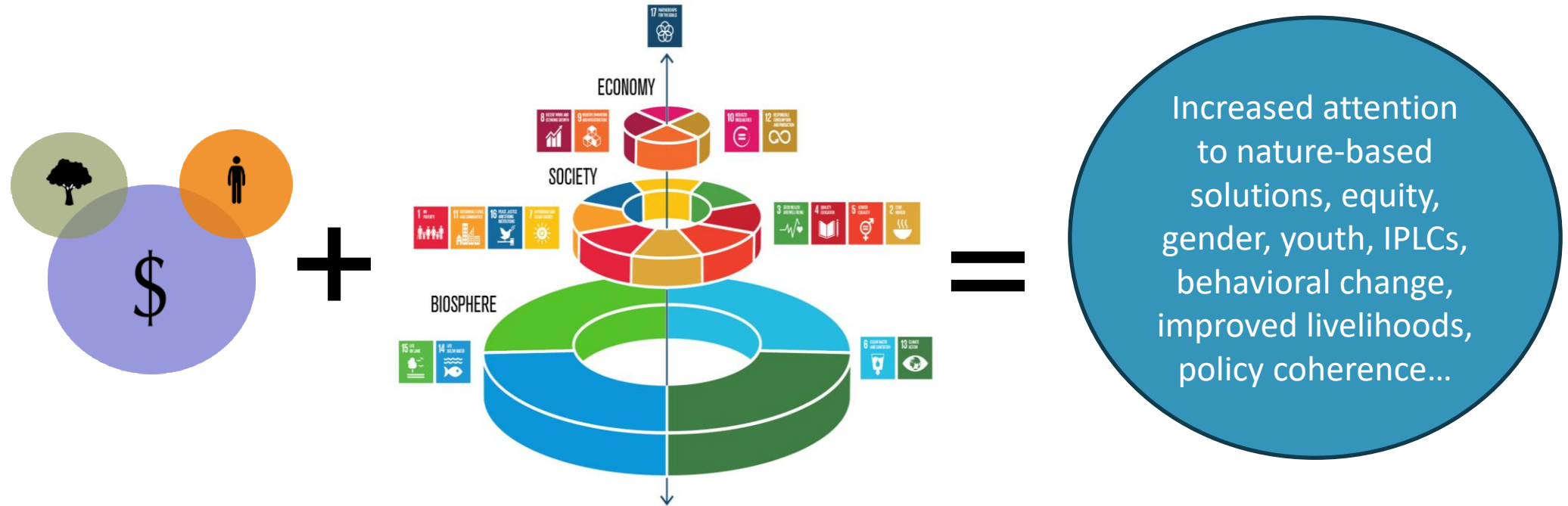
https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_The_Global_Risks_Report_2022.pdf
https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Global_Risks_Report_2023.pdf

The 3 inter-dependent facets of sustainability



Source: J. Rockstrom

The world is responding...



Source: J. Rockstrom

Science doesn't have all the answers!



Behavior towards sustainability

Erosion of social cohesion

Environmental activism

Polarization

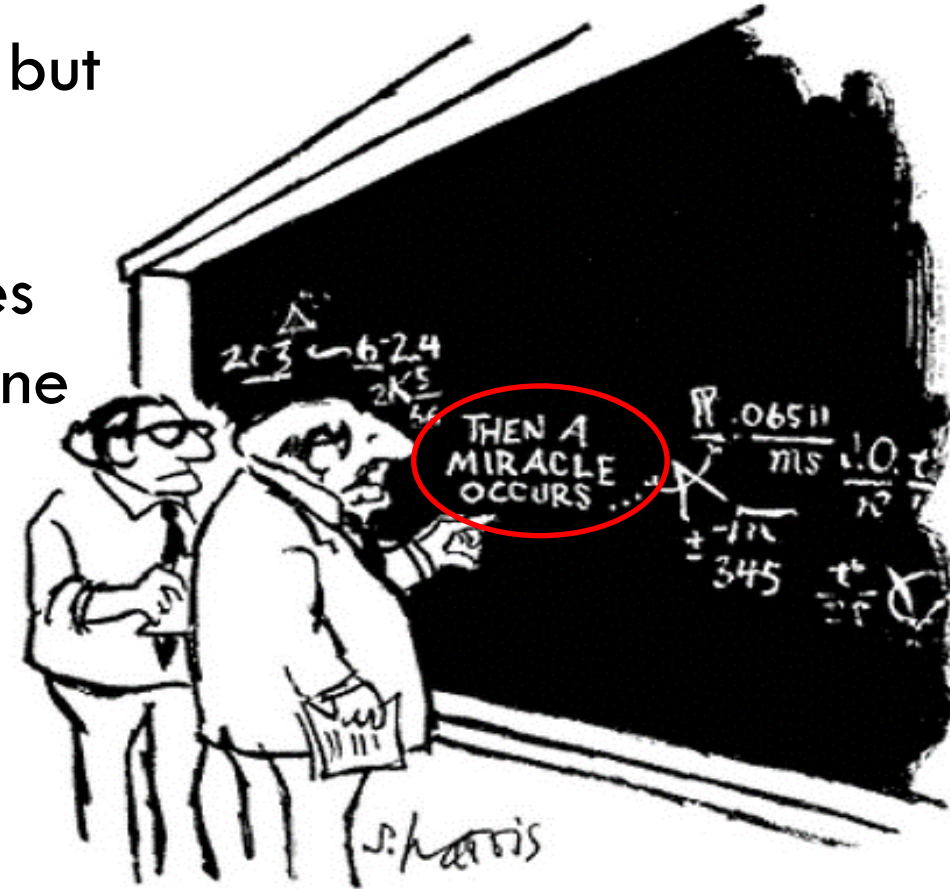
Youth influence

Backlash on equity, diversity, & inclusion

Emerging role of women,
Indigenous peoples/local knowledge

Behavioral Change

- Many GEF projects assume behavioral changes, but this is often implicit
- Projects are more likely to succeed if communities are deeply engaged from the beginning to define goals and outcomes
- Changes must be rooted on social and gender values and norms



"I think you should be more explicit here in step two."

Source: Google image search

Policy coherence

GEF is committed to “policy coherence” because it:

- creates synergies
- helps manage trade-offs
- avoids damaging behaviors
- ensures environmental benefits are not undermined



Involvement of communities in decision making



Livestock market, Ethiopia. www.icarda.org

Initial analysis suggested:

1. Focus is on land degradation
2. Natural resource management (NRM) pursued

With community involvement:

1. Scales to weigh sheep
2. Form farmer empowered co-operatives
3. Have access to microfinance for the co-operatives
4. Link co-operatives/sellers directly to buyers

Knowledge management – adding it all up!

- Is more than information management
- Is part of a continuum from *learning* → *uptake* → *impact*
- Need a ‘learning culture’ and ‘systems thinking’



Great Bear Rainforest Agreements

- Established in 2006, Great Bear Rainforest Agreements **first** Project Finance for Permanence!
- Brings together First Nations of the North Pacific Coast, federal and provincial governments
- Led to conservation, employment, empowerment of youth, food security, and more



You are agents of change!

World Food Forum 2023 will champion youth leadership in agrifood systems transformation to accelerate climate action

16-20 October 2023 global events in Rome to include the WFF Global Youth Forum, the FAO Hand-in-Hand Forum and the FAO Science and Innovation Forum



Transforming agrifood systems is a central part of the global climate solution, and young people are at the heart of it. ©FAO/Alessandra Benedetti

From macroeconomics to opera: Here's the Young Global Leaders Class of 2023



Meet the YGL Class of 2023

25-27 April 2023

Key Takeaways from the Youth & the SDGs Online Consultation

Young People's Proposals for the 2023 SDG Summit



naaee

Youth Innovation Challenge



Youth Innovation Challenge 2023: Saving Our Seas!

Deadline extended—Apply by July 31!



Youth Innovation Challenge

Home / Youth Initiatives / Water Solutions for Sustainable Development

Water Solutions for Sustainable Development

The 2023 Youth Innovation Challenge, hosted by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, invited North American youth, aged 18 to 30, to propose innovative solutions that address and respond to critical issues related to water.

This 7th annual challenge, under the theme *Water solutions for sustainable development*, encouraged dynamic and creative young leaders to participate in actions, innovation, and transformation on issues relating to water.



[HLPF 2023 Side Event] Youth engagement for systemic transformation at the SDG-Summit: Implementing the Global Sustainable Development Report call to action

Fri 14 Jul 2023, 1.15 pm

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Related

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Share



WHO Youth Council



Photo: M. Calcari Campbell, Kitsoo/Xai'xais Nation



Photo: M. Calcari Campbell, Kitsoo/Xai'xais Nation

Thank you!