



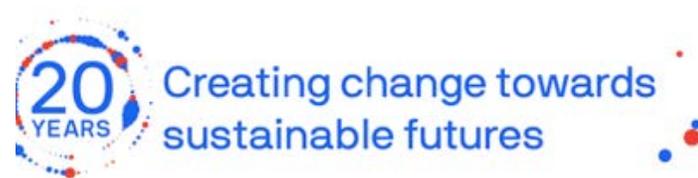
Finding synergies and ‘doing more good’: Environmentally sustainable WASH

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AUSTRALIA



WASH
FUTURES



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Conference 2018

Collaboration for Universal WASH

#WASHFutures18

Towards environmentally sustainable WASH

What do we need to do?



1. 'Do more good' instead of 'do less harm'



2. Focus on synergies and minimize trade-offs



3. Identify and address gaps



4. Transitioning reuse from niche to regime scale



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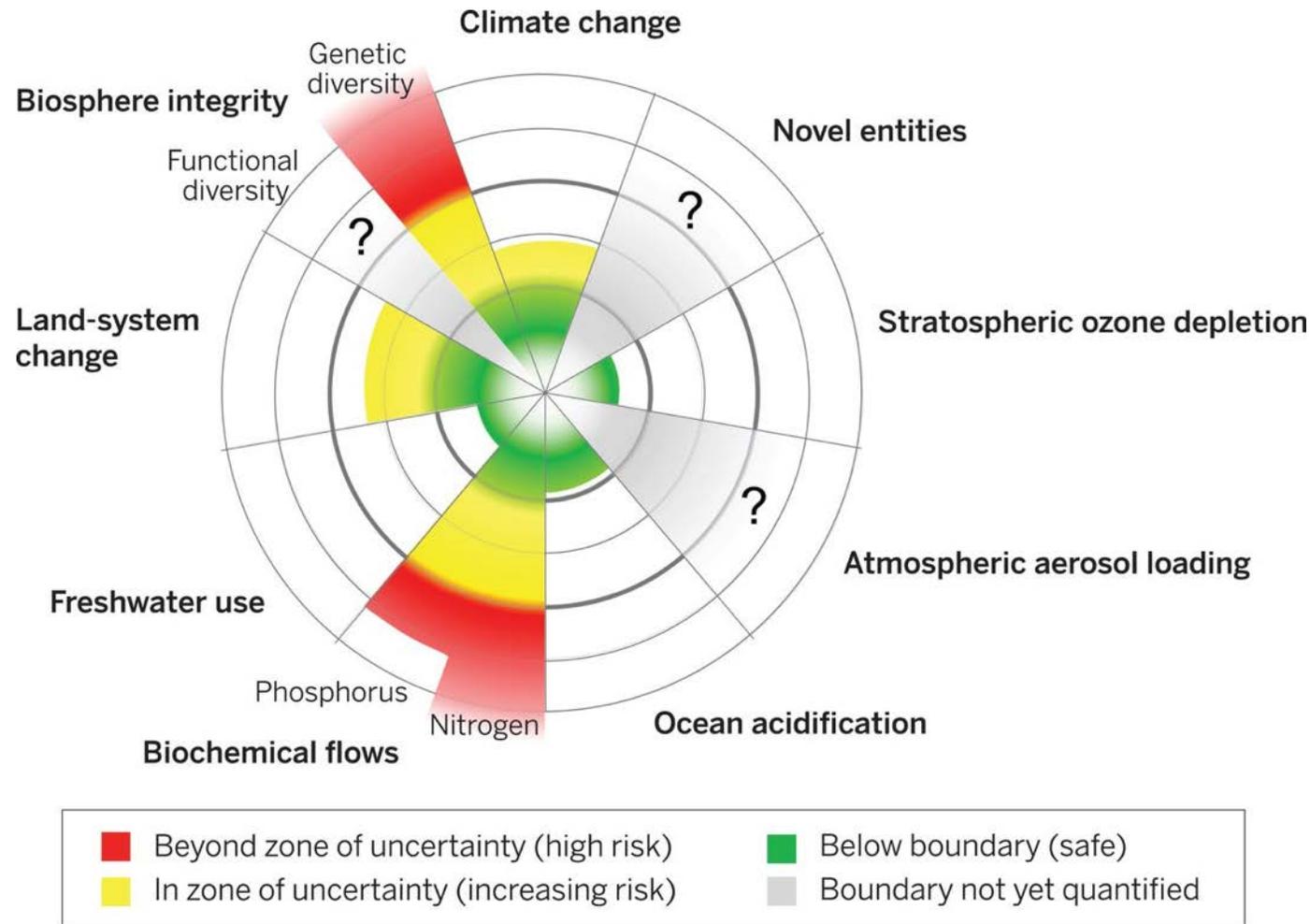
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A guiding framework – planetary boundaries



Defining a safe operating space for humanity



What do planetary boundaries mean for WASH?

Global freshwater use



7
N

15
P

Nitrogen and phosphorus cycles (biochemical flows)

Biosphere integrity



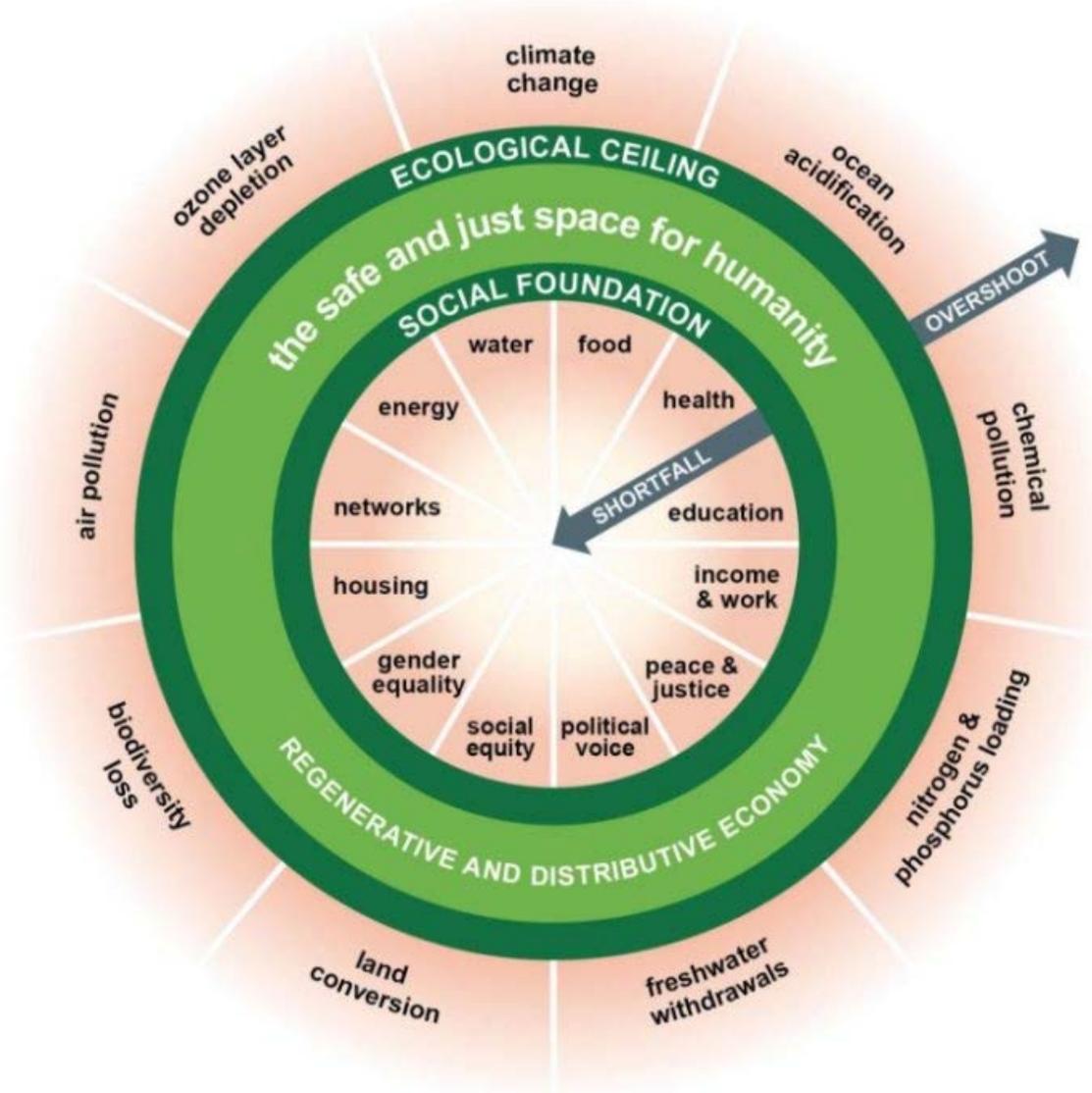
Novel entities



Climate change



Putting rights at the centre – living within the donut



A safe *and just* operating space for humanity

Opportunity for the WASH sector to develop ideas about how to link the 'safe' and the 'just' at the local level



Identifying directions for the WASH sector

- Systematic review of WASH sector literature – 176 sources
- Identified four themes
- Considered themes with reference to planetary boundaries to identify future directions
- Future directions pitched to researchers and knowledge leaders (practice to follow)

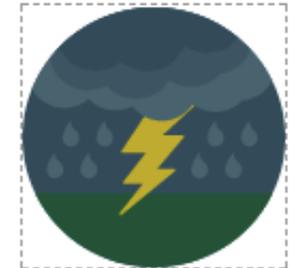


Water security
and IWRM



Development vs
environment

**THEMES in WASH
LITERATURE**



Climate change
and other threats



Opportunities to
contribute



1. Do more good instead of do less harm



What?

- Beyond a minimising externalities approach towards strategies for positive impact
- Examples in cradle to cradle production systems and infrastructure (regenerative)



How?

- Opportunity to shift thinking towards new decision making processes and metrics
- **How** goals are achieved matters as much whether they are achieved
- Links to water security and reuse



2. Focus on synergies and minimize trade-offs



What?

- Reflects the interconnectedness of the SDGs
- Avoiding perverse outcomes, aiming for win-wins

'If mutually reinforcing actions are taken and trade-offs minimized, the agenda will be able to deliver on its potential' (Nilsson et al. 2016)

How?

- Ensure achievement of access targets doesn't undermine IWRM and environmental sustainability goals
- Win-wins: integrated urban water management, water-energy-food nexus, multiple-use water systems
- Realising the human rights to water and sanitation



3. Address gaps in our current focus



What?

- Planetary boundaries lens highlights gaps in our thinking
- Climate change mitigation, novel entities, biosphere integrity, water use efficiency



How?

- Considering novel entities as part of wastewater and excreta management
- Water efficiency – losses, technologies, behaviour change (especially urban)

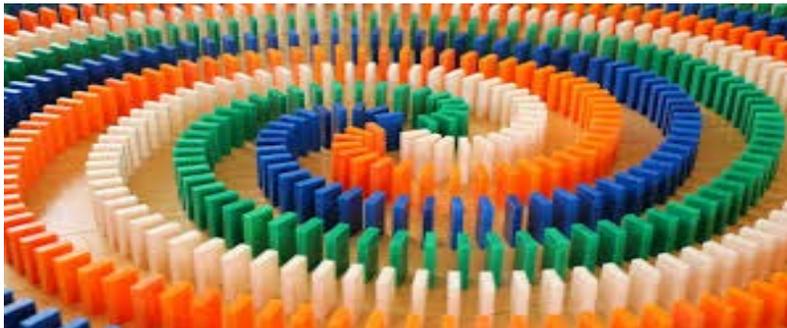


4. Transitioning (scaling up) reuse



What?

- Capitalizing on environmental and food security opportunities from wastewater/excreta reuse
- Strategies from transition studies



How?

- Reframing reuse as a necessary transition towards sustainability
- *Co-evolution* – working closely with government at multiple levels
- *Tipping innovation's cascade* – prioritising actions that can trigger larger changes



What more could we be doing?



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2. Focus on synergies and minimize trade-offs



3. Identify and address gaps



4. Transitioning reuse from niche to regime scale

Thank you

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Read more at goo.gl/bvwcsu