

Planetary Health:

Promoting health in the Anthropocene

Presented by

Professor Tony Capon

Director, Planetary Health Platform



Image: [] by Mi Pham on Unsplash

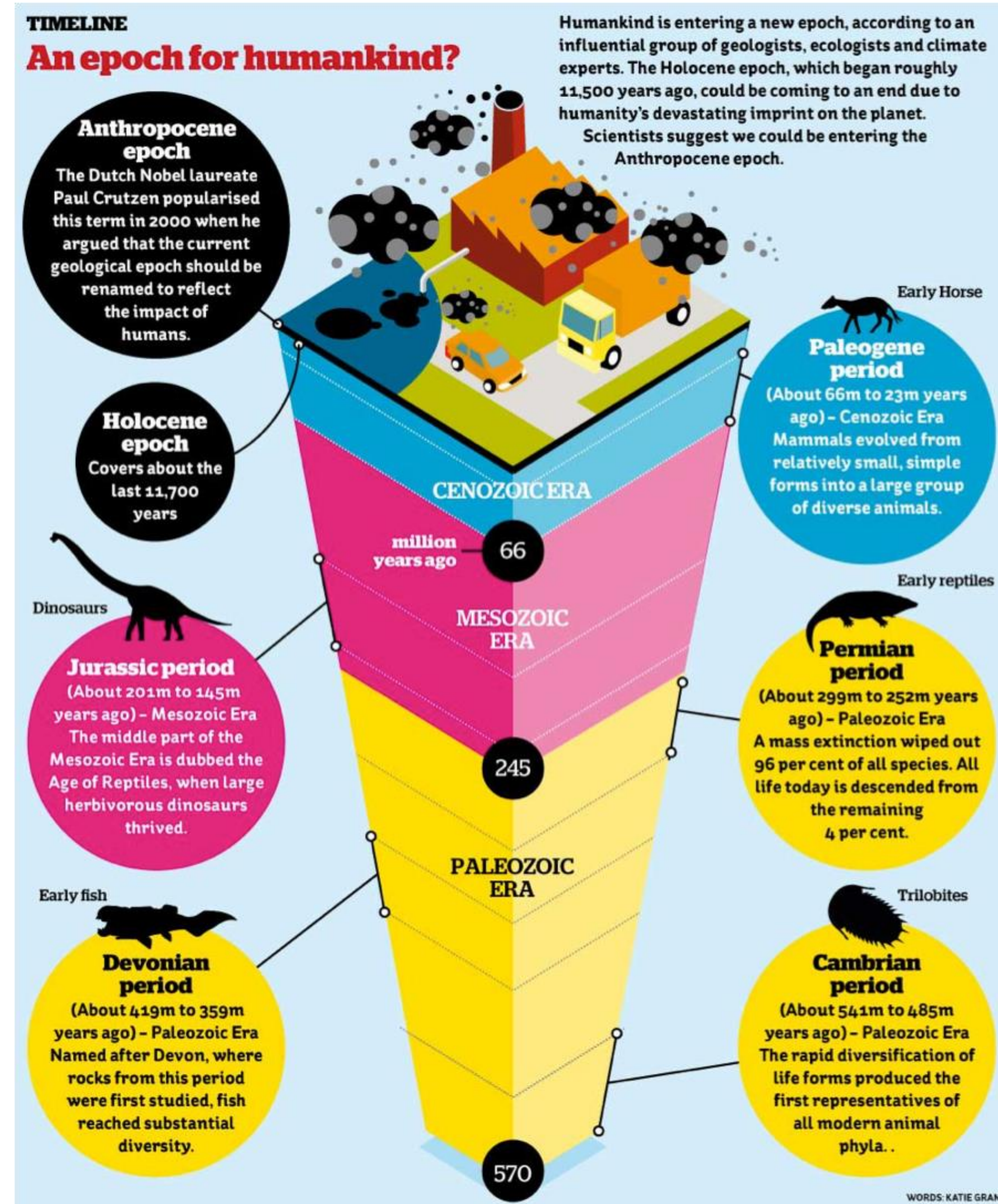


This talk

1. The concept of the Anthropocene
2. The Rockefeller Foundation–*Lancet* Commission on Planetary Health
3. What does this mean for health promotion?



The Anthropocene epoch



<https://vimeo.com/39048998>



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

THE LANCET

Commission on Planetary Health

THE
ROCKEFELLER
FOUNDATION



From public to planetary health: a manifesto

This manifesto for transforming public health calls for a social movement to support collective public health action at all levels of society—personal, community, national, regional, global, and planetary. Our aim is to respond to the threats we face: threats to human health and wellbeing, threats to the sustainability of our civilisation, and threats to the natural and human-made systems that support us. Our vision is for a planet that nourishes and sustains the diversity of life with which we coexist and on which we depend. Our goal is to create a movement for planetary health.

Our audience includes health professionals and public health practitioners, politicians and policy makers, international civil servants working across the UN and in development agencies, and academics working on behalf of communities. Above all, our audience includes every person who has an interest in their own health, in the health of their fellow human beings, and in the health of future generations.

The discipline of public health is critical to this vision because of its values of social justice and fairness for all, and its focus on the collective actions of interdependent and empowered peoples and their communities. Our objectives are to protect and promote health and wellbeing, to prevent disease and disability, to eliminate conditions that harm health and wellbeing, and to foster resilience and adaptation. In achieving these objectives, our actions must respond to the fragility of our planet and our obligation to safeguard the physical and human environments within which we exist.

Planetary health is an attitude towards life and a philosophy for living. It emphasises people, not diseases, and equity, not the creation of unjust societies. We seek to minimise differences in health according to wealth, education, gender, and place. We support knowledge as one source of social transformation, and the right to realise, progressively, the highest attainable levels of health and wellbeing.

Our patterns of overconsumption are unsustainable and will ultimately cause the collapse of our civilisation. The harms we continue to inflict on our planetary systems are a threat to our very existence as a species. The gains made in health and wellbeing over recent centuries, including through public health actions, are not irreversible; they can easily be lost, a lesson we have failed to learn from

previous civilisations. We have created an unjust global economic system that favours a small, wealthy elite over the many who have so little.

The idea of unconstrained progress is a dangerous human illusion: success brings new and potentially even more dangerous threats. Our tolerance of neoliberalism and transnational forces dedicated to ends far removed from the needs of the vast majority of people, and especially the most deprived and vulnerable, is only deepening the crisis we face. We live in a world where the trust between us, our institutions, and our leaders, is falling to levels incompatible with peaceful and just societies, thus contributing to widespread disillusionment with democracy and the political process.

An urgent transformation is required in our values and our practices based on recognition of our interdependence and the interconnectedness of the risks we face. We need a new vision of cooperative and democratic action at all levels of society and a new principle of planetism and wellbeing for every person on this Earth—a principle that asserts that we must conserve, sustain, and make resilient the planetary and human systems on which health depends by giving priority to the wellbeing of all. All too often governments make commitments but fail to act on them; independent accountability is essential to ensure the monitoring and review of these commitments, together with the appropriate remedial action.

The voice of public health and medicine as the independent conscience of planetary health has a special part to play in achieving this vision. Together with empowered communities, we can confront entrenched interests and forces that jeopardise our future. A powerful social movement based on collective action at every level of society will deliver planetary health and, at the same time, support sustainable human development.

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We declare that we have no competing interests. RBe and RBo gratefully acknowledge their Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio joint residency.



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Safeguarding human health in the Anthropocene epoch:
report of The Rockefeller Foundation–*Lancet* Commission on
planetary health

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Prof Anthony Capon

Dr Alex Ezeh

Prof Gong Peng

Prof Sir Andy Haines (Chair)

Dr Richard Horton

Dr Sam Myers

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Dr Steve Osofsky

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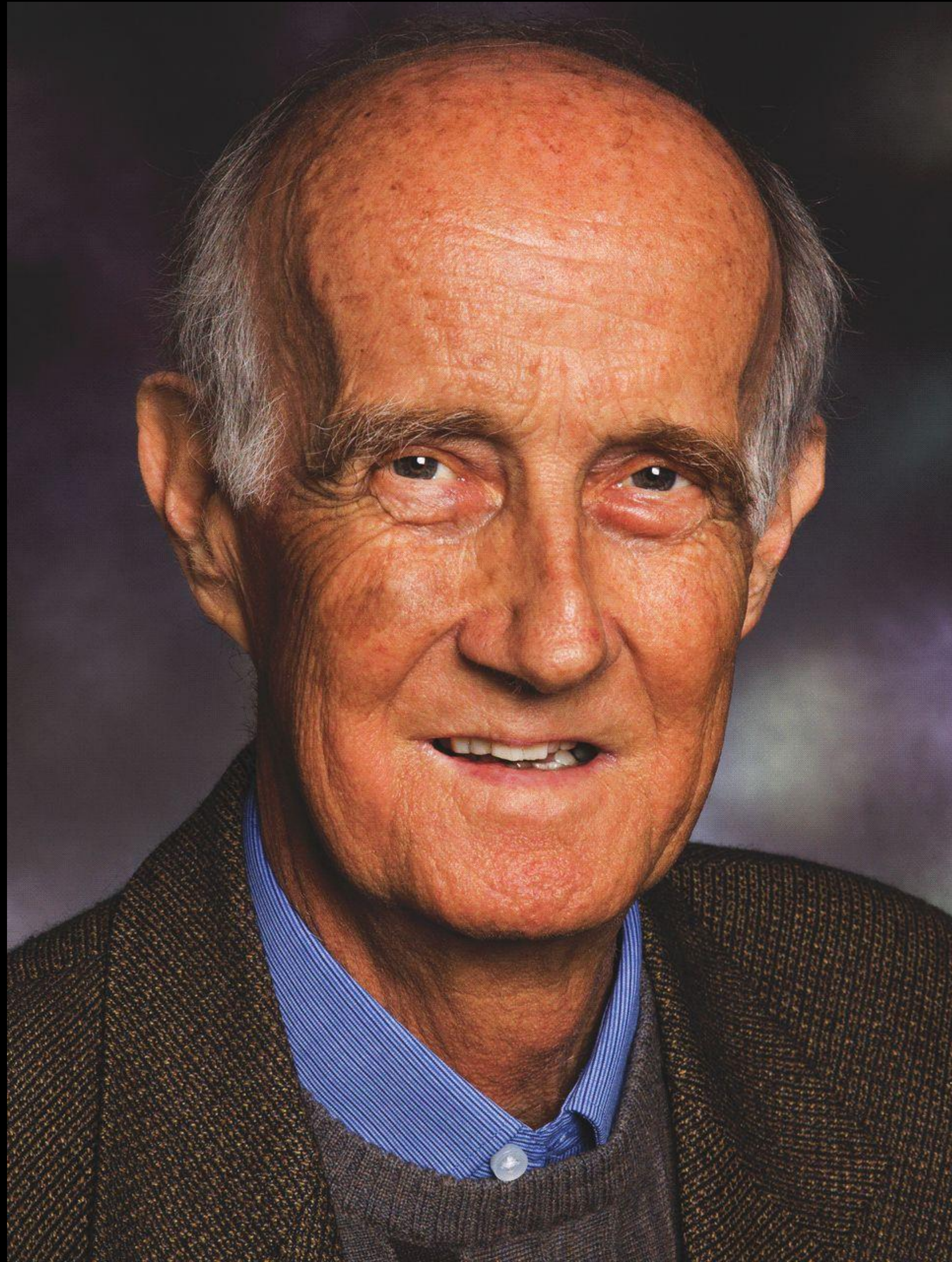
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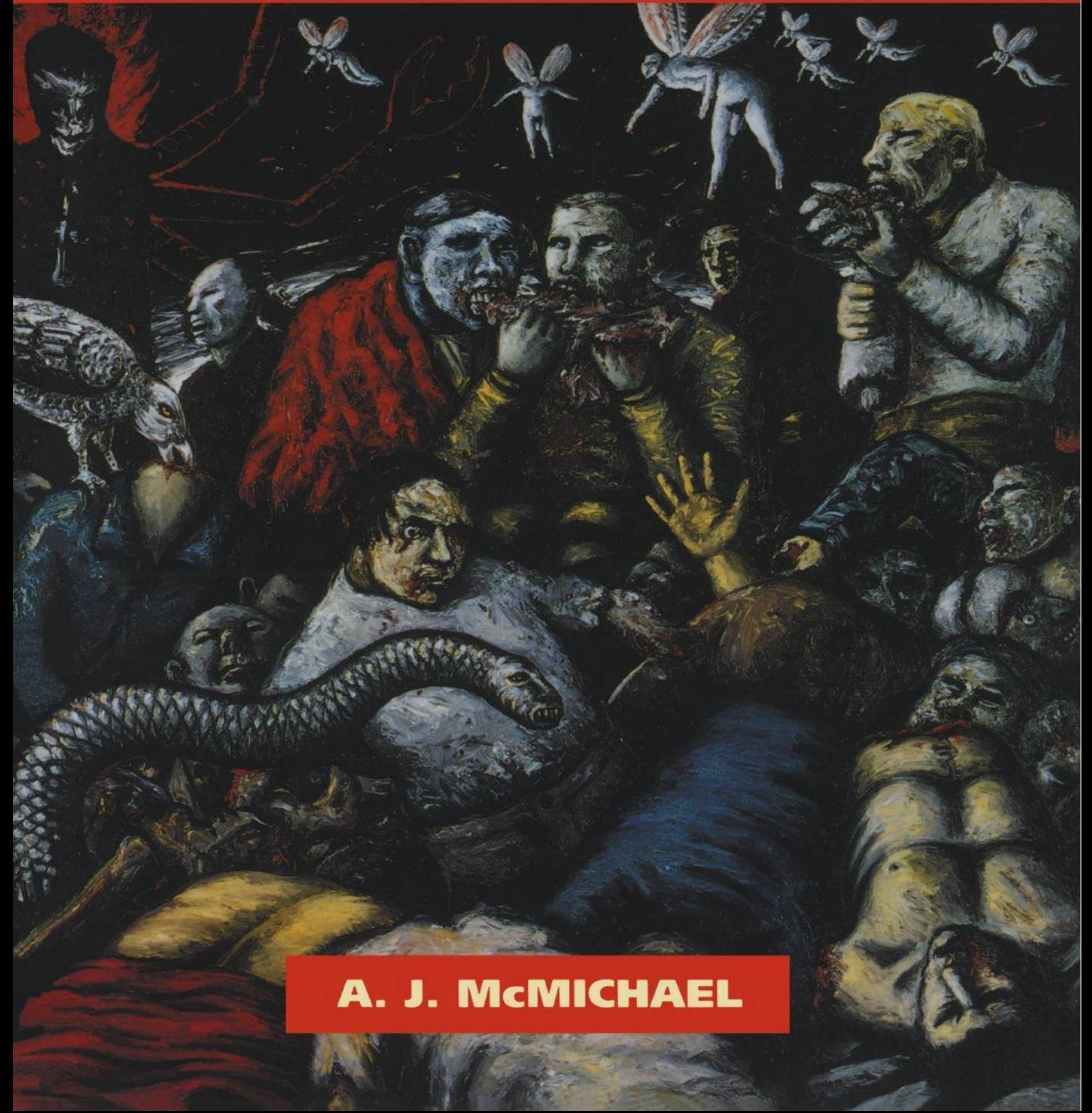
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(Commission Researcher)

Building on previous work including the Brundtland Commission, IPCC, MA, One Health, Eco-Health, CBD,
Tony McMichael



PLANETARY OVERLOAD

Global Environmental Change and
the Health of the Human Species



A. J. McMICHAEL

Hippocrates

circa 400 BC



ON AIRS, WATERS, AND PLACES

HIPPOCRATES



IUHPE

23rd World Conference
on Health Promotion

7-11 APRIL 2019 ROTORUA,
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

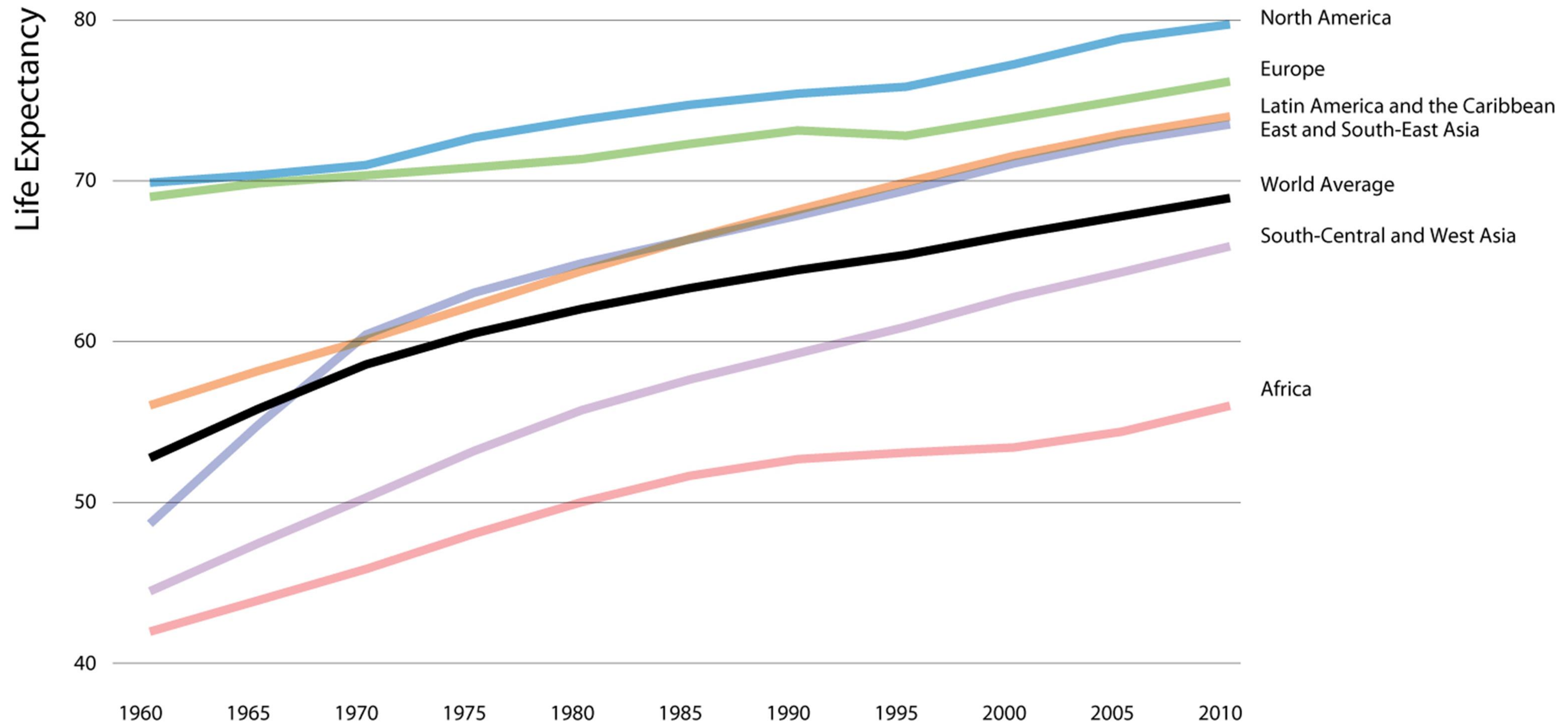
—●— **WAIORA:** —●—

Promoting Planetary Health &
Sustainable Development for All



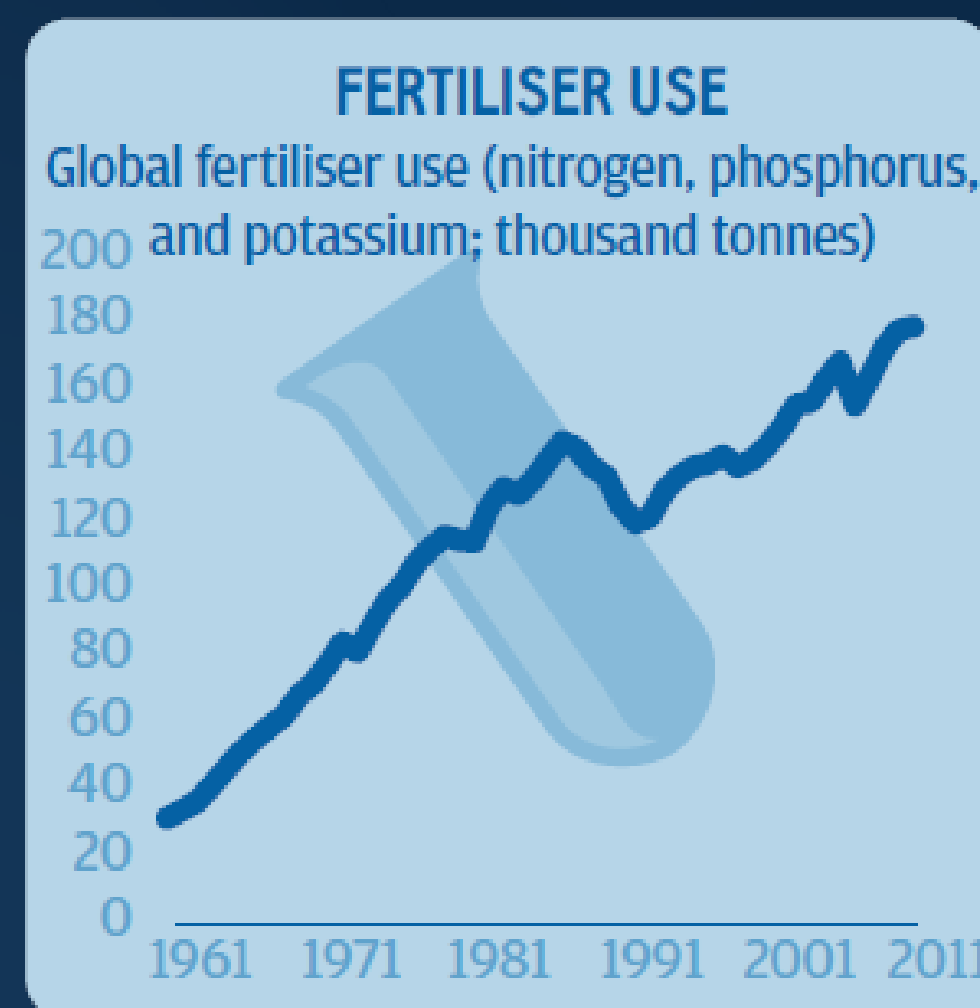
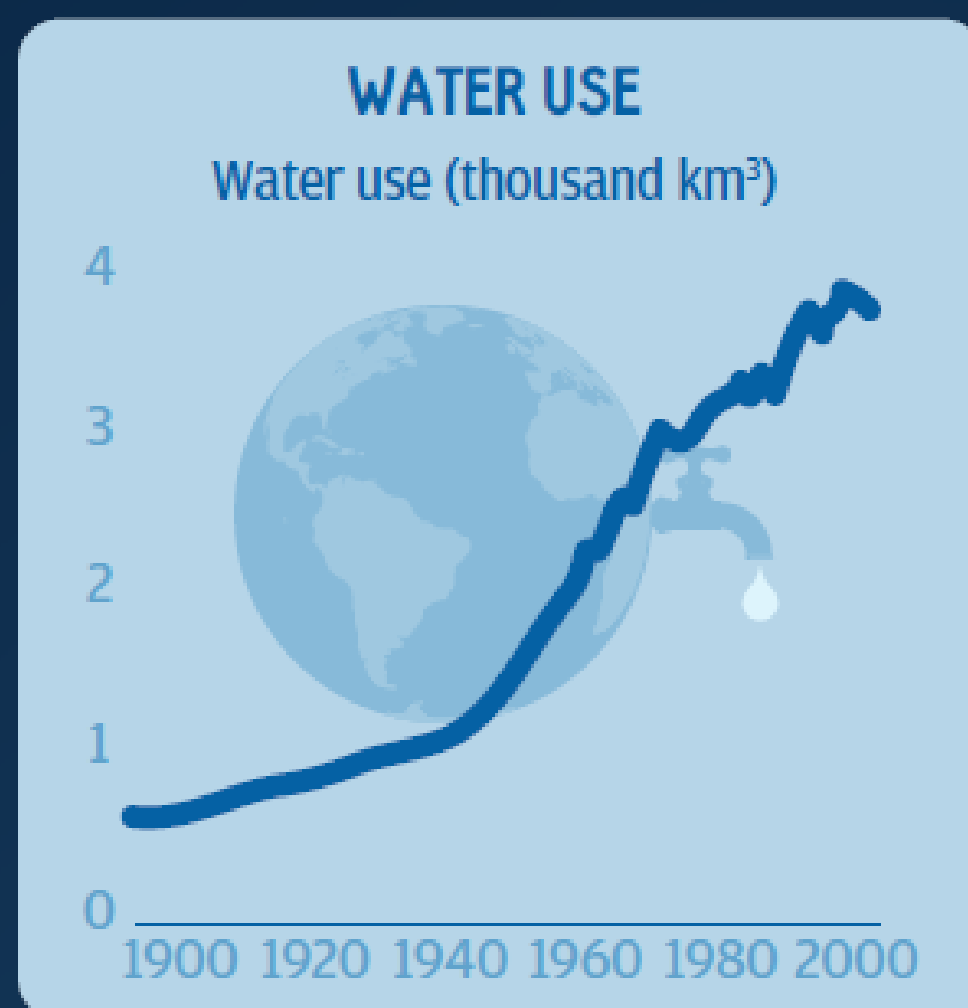
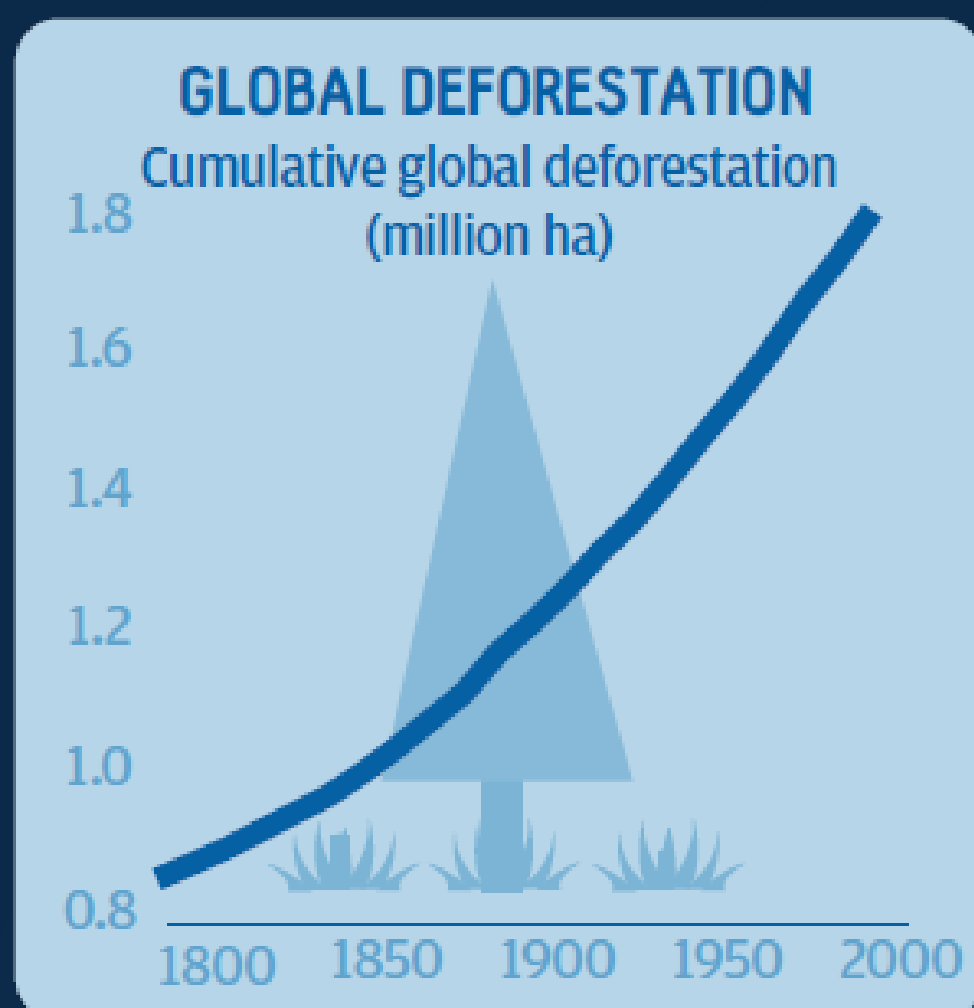
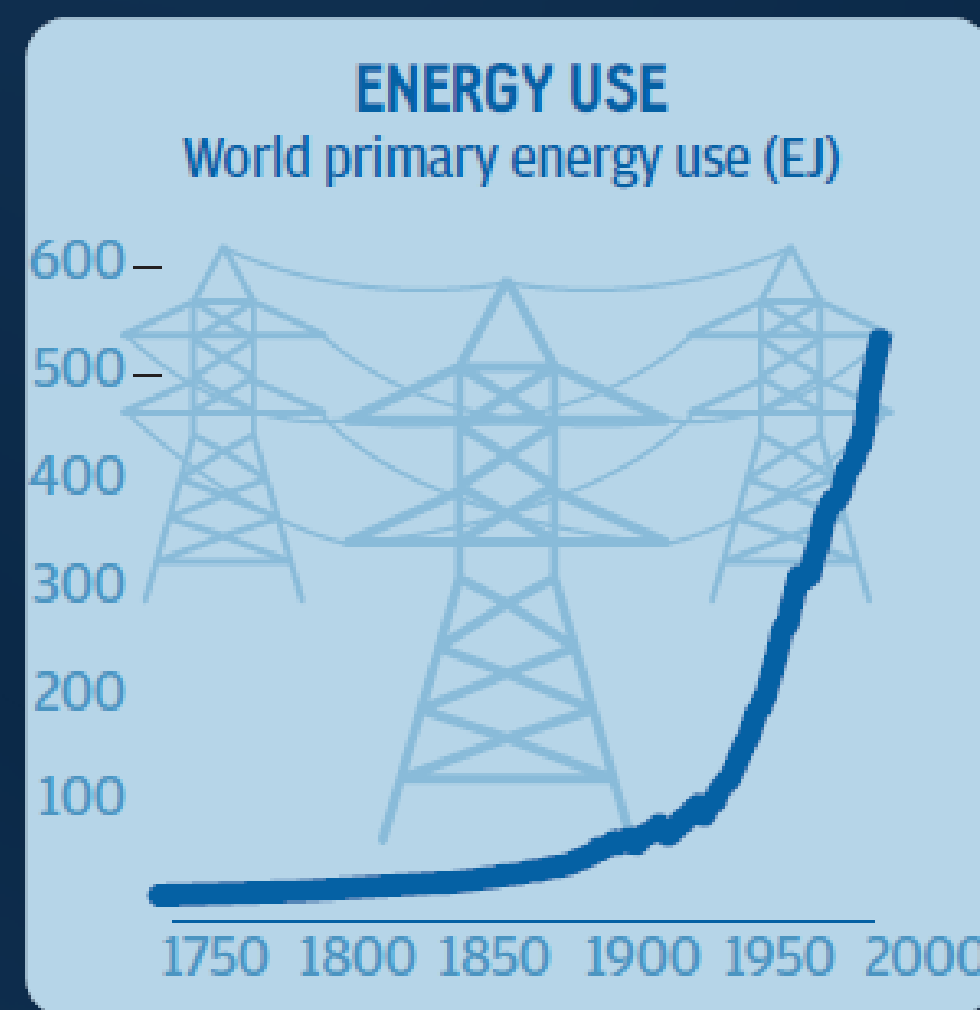
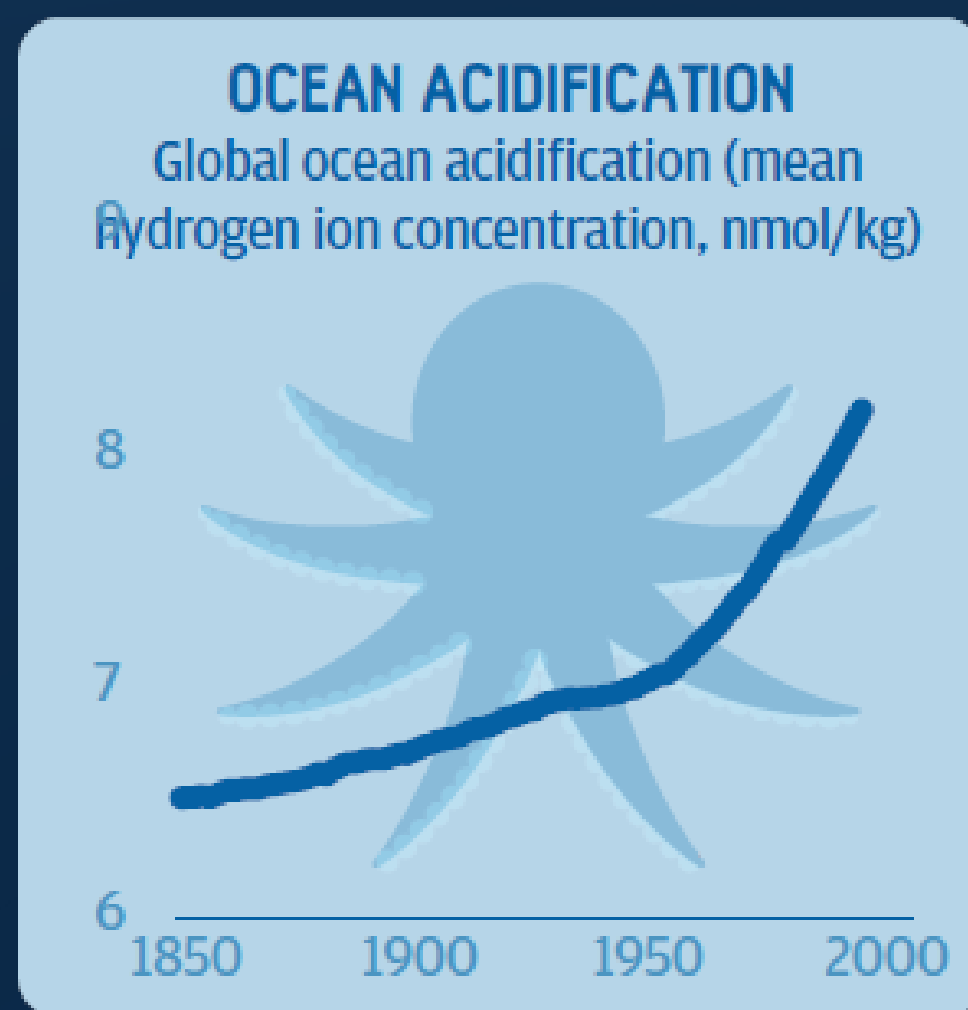
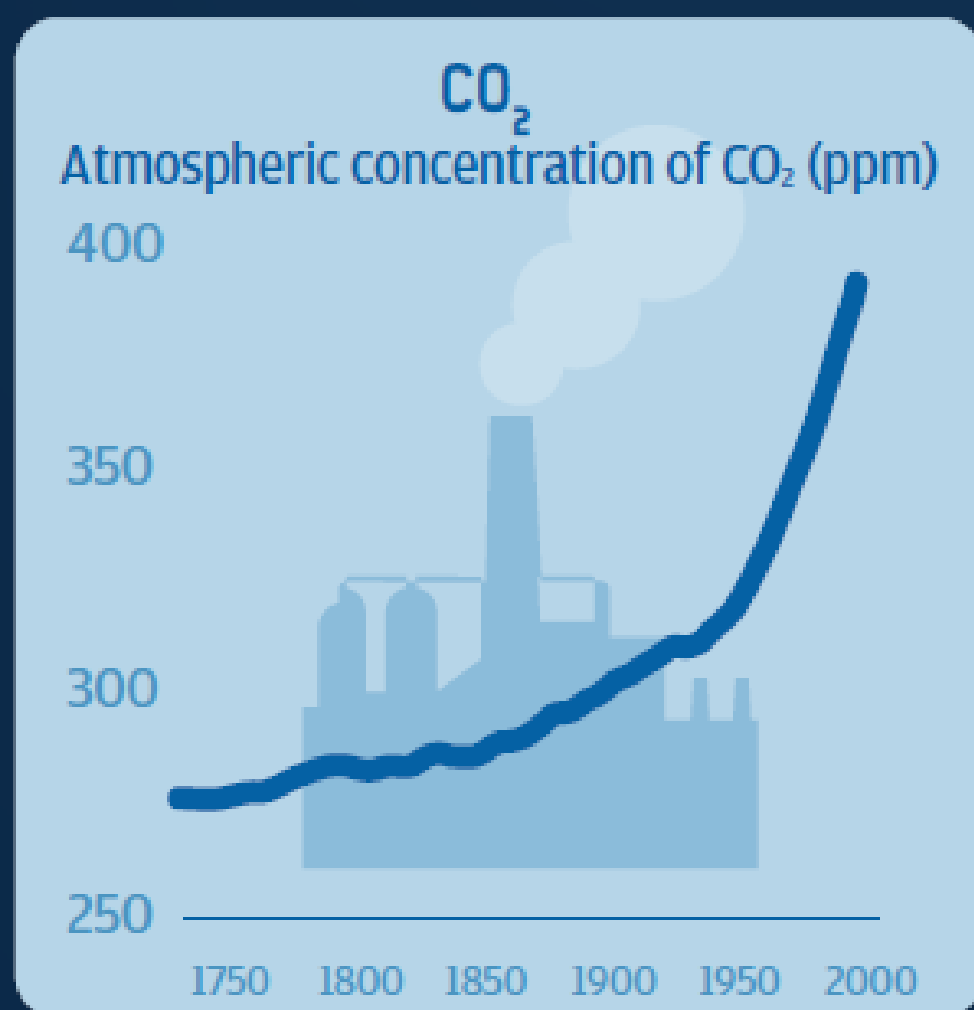
By almost any measure, the human population is healthier than ever before

(World Bank, 2011)





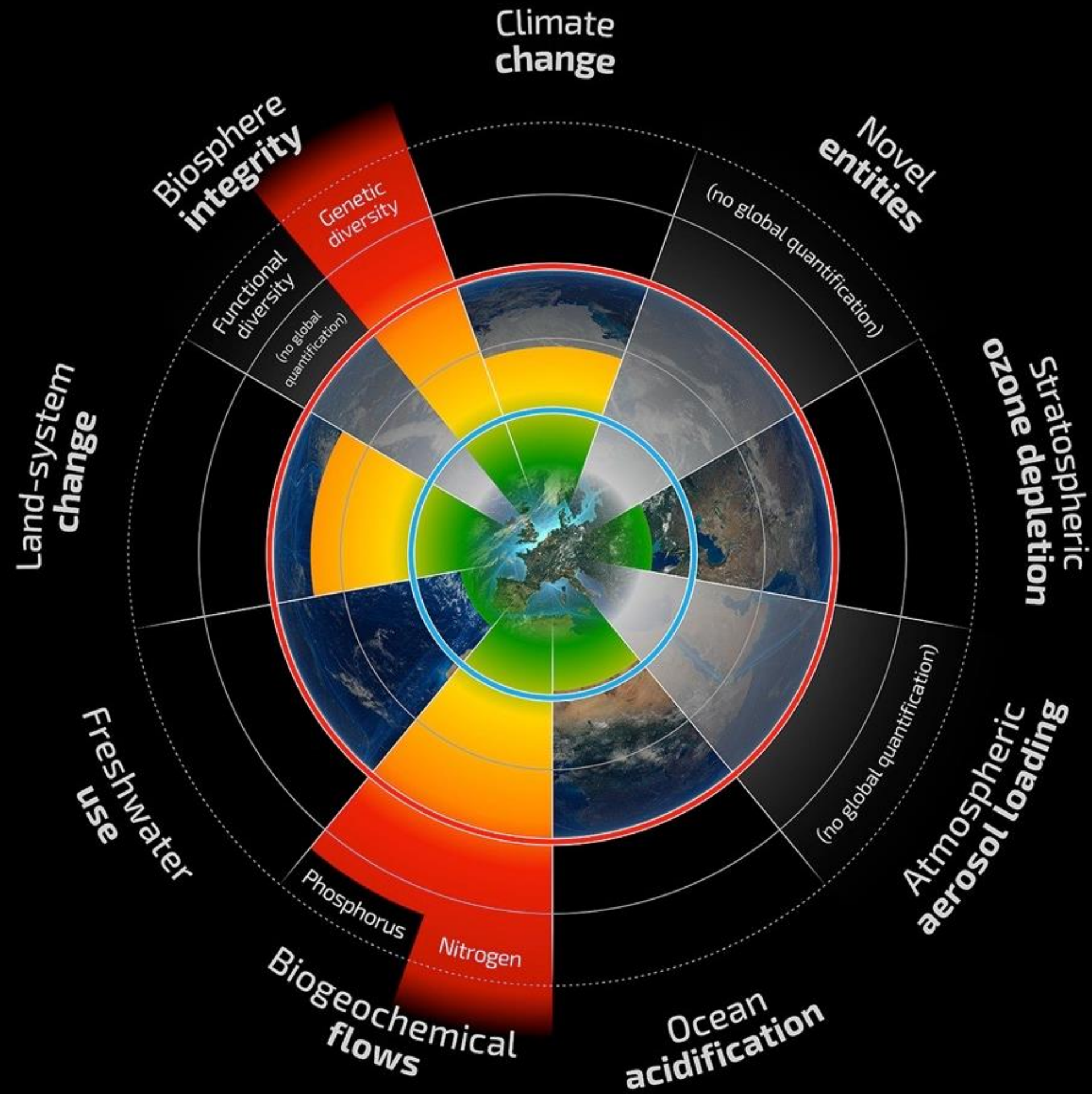
But in achieving this, we've exploited the planet at an unprecedented rate





Planetary boundaries

(Steffen et al Science 2015)





What is Planetary Health?

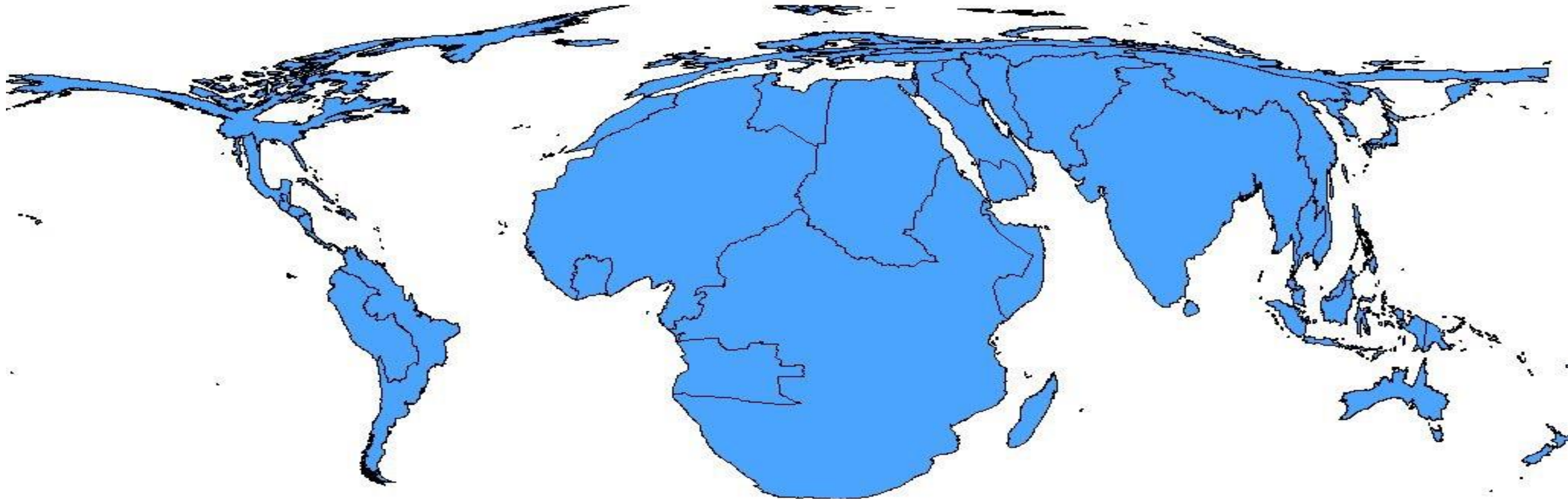
“ Put simply, planetary health is the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends. ”



Planetary health is a social justice issue

Mortality Impacts of Climate Change: Year 2000

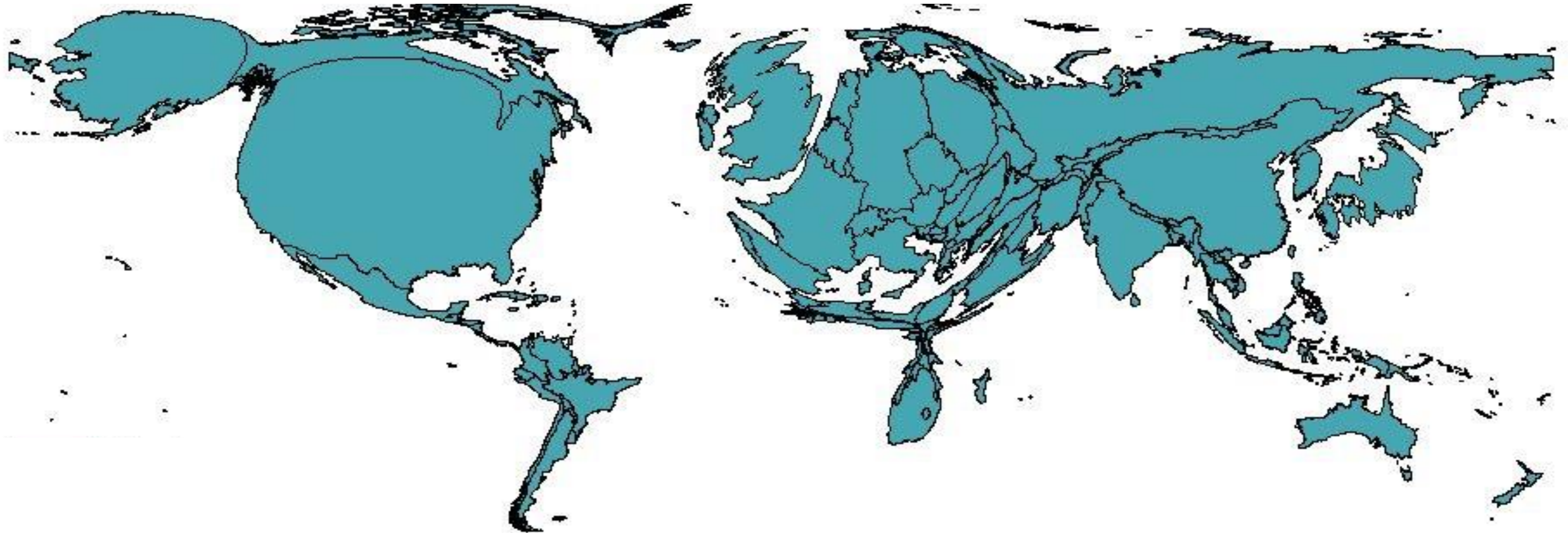
Estimated annual deaths due to climate change:
malnutrition (~80K), **diarrhoea** (~50K), **malaria** (~20K), **flooding** (~3K)



14 WHO regions scaled according to estimated annual death rates
due to the change in climate since c.1970

(Patz, Gibbs et al, 2007: based on McMichael, Campbell-Lendrum, et al, 2004)

Cumulative Emissions of Greenhouse Gases

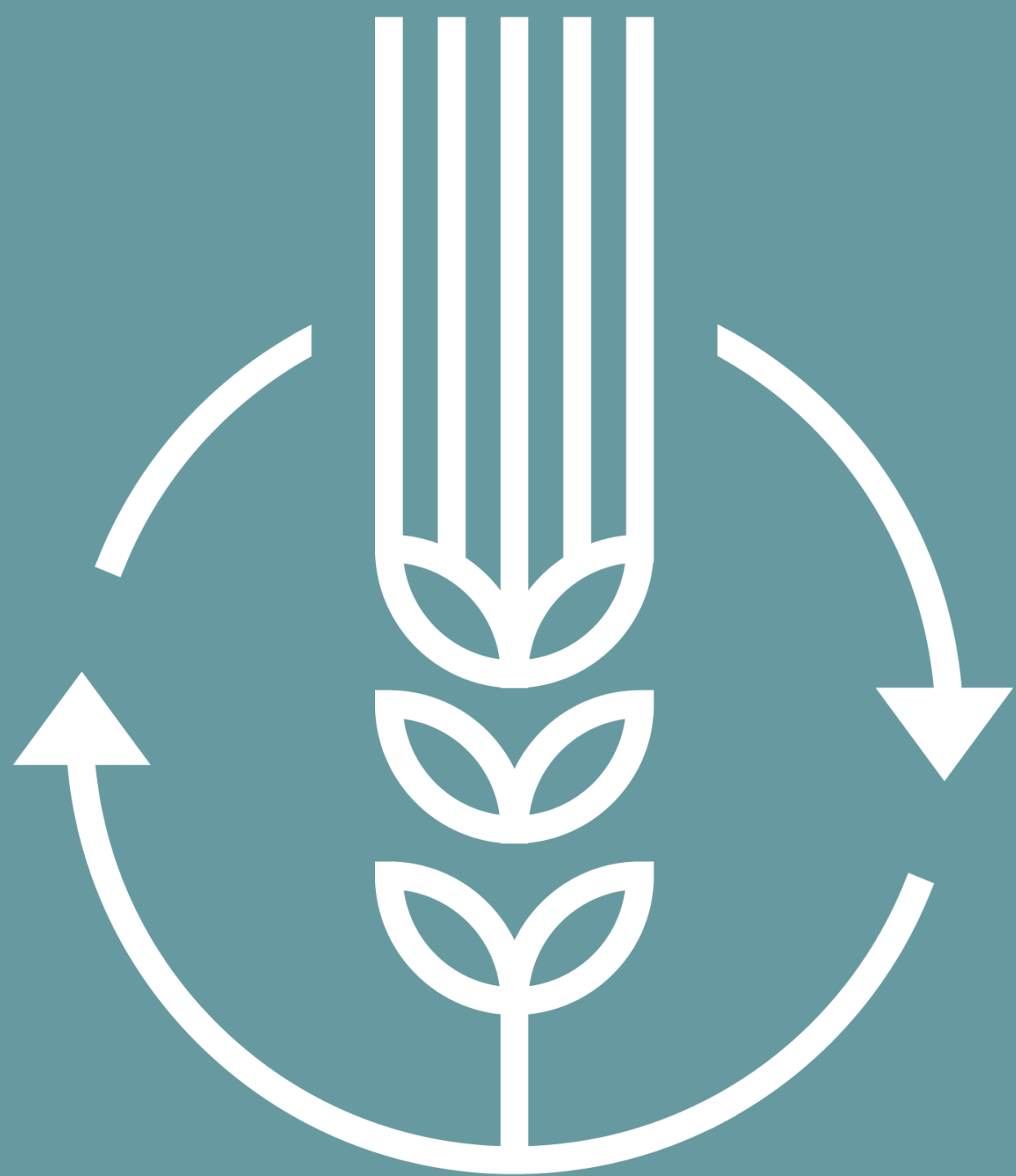


Countries scaled according to cumulative emissions (billions of tonnes CO₂-equivalent) up to 2002.

(Patz, Gibbs, et al, 2007)



Meeting the challenges



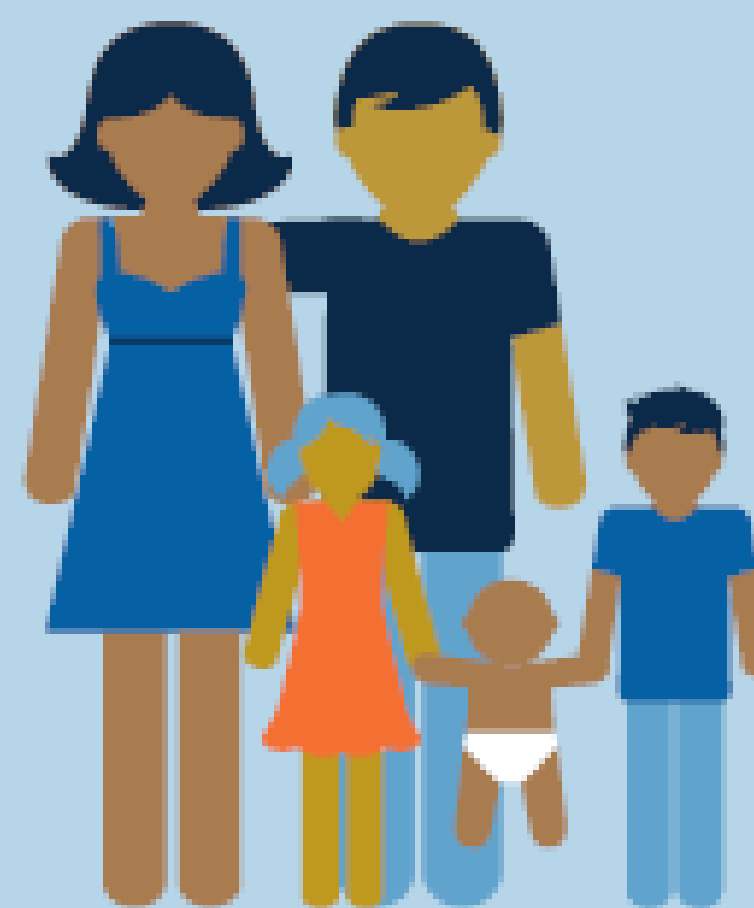


Increasing access to modern family planning

More than 200 million women who want to avoid pregnancy are not using effective contraception

Access to family planning could cut maternal deaths by around 30%

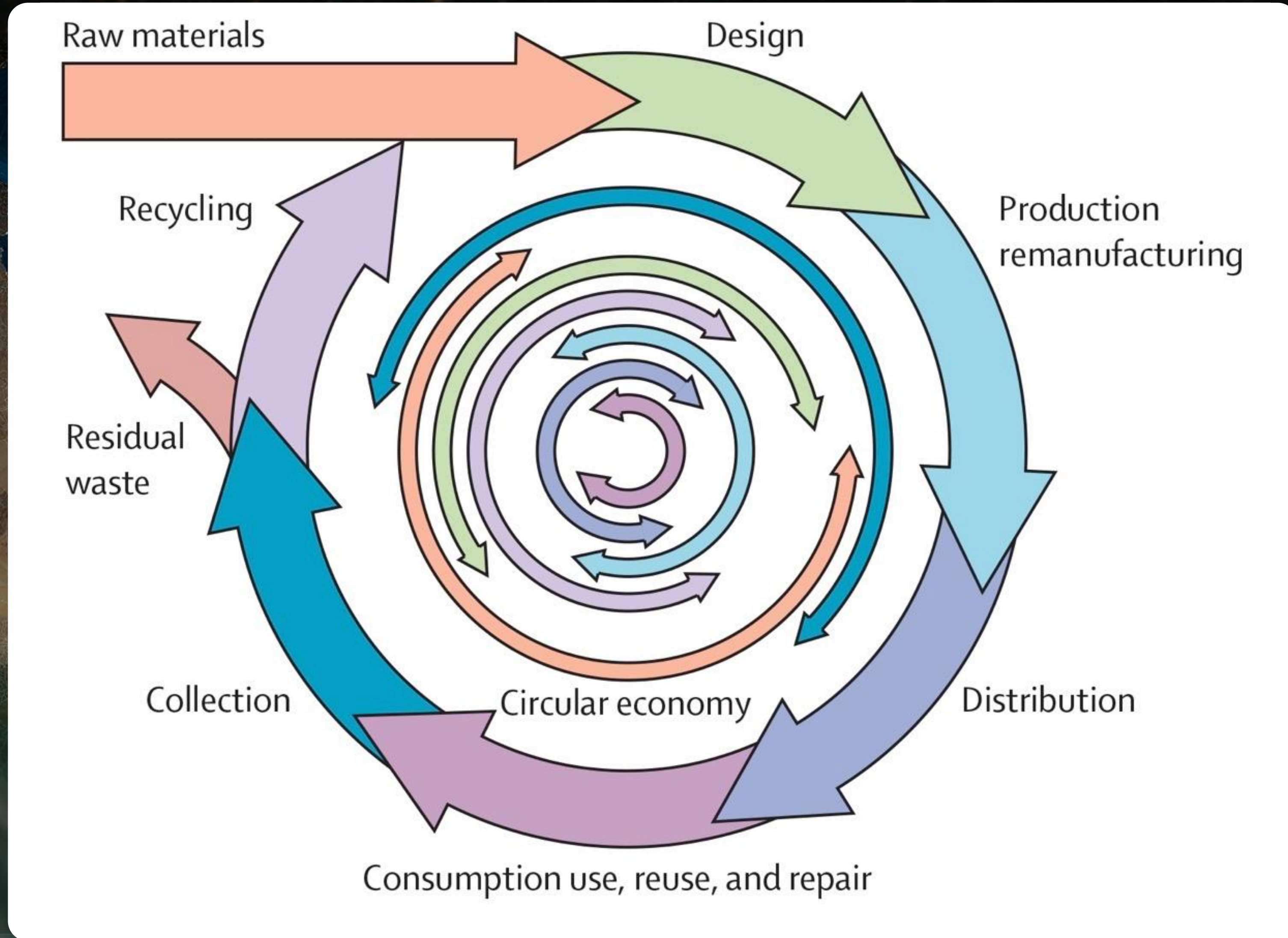
FAMILY PLANNING



Meeting the needs for modern contraception in low-income countries would cost only an additional \$5.3 billion per year



Circular economy





Solutions lie within reach and require a redefinition of prosperity to focus on quality of life and improved health for all, together with respect for the integrity of natural systems

- Conceptual challenges: failures of imagination (e.g. genuine progress measures)
- Governance challenges: failures of implementation (e.g. wellbeing of future generations)
- Research and information challenges: failures of knowledge (e.g. transdisciplinary research)



<http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/planetary-health>





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO POVERTY 	2 ZERO HUNGER 	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER 	15 LIFE ON LAND 	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



HEALTH IN THE SDG ERA



ISSUE BRIEF

United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

PLANETARY HEALTH

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and meeting UNDP's vision to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities and exclusion, requires new ways of working: identifying co-benefits across targets, encouraging effective cross-sector action, and ensuring policy coherence.

Planetary Health, a new trans-disciplinary field, calls for simultaneously safeguarding human health and the natural systems that underpin it. Its focus is more expansive and holistic than traditional environmental health, bringing to the forefront inter- and intra- generational equity dimensions and calling for integrated approaches to address social, environmental and economic impacts of increasing pressures on our planet.

Key Facts

- Climate change could push 100 million people into poverty by 2030. Between 2030 and 2050, it is expected to kill an additional 250,000 people annually, from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress.
- In 2012, almost one quarter of global deaths were attributed to unhealthy environments. Of the 12.6 million deaths, children and the elderly were disproportionately impacted.
- The increased frequency of natural disasters is a clear threat to health particularly for women who accounted for 70–80% of fatalities in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, and 91% in the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh.

‘Human ecology’ as a way of understanding patterns of human health; alongside ‘epidemiology’ as a core method in health promotion

STEPHEN BOYDEN

THE BIOLOGY OF
CIVILISATION

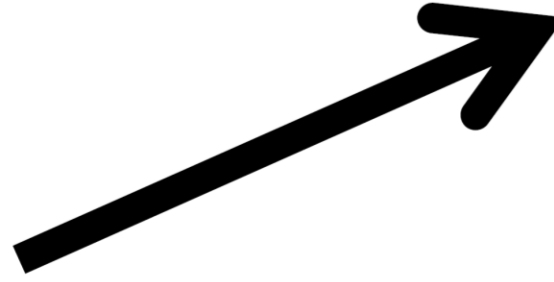


understanding

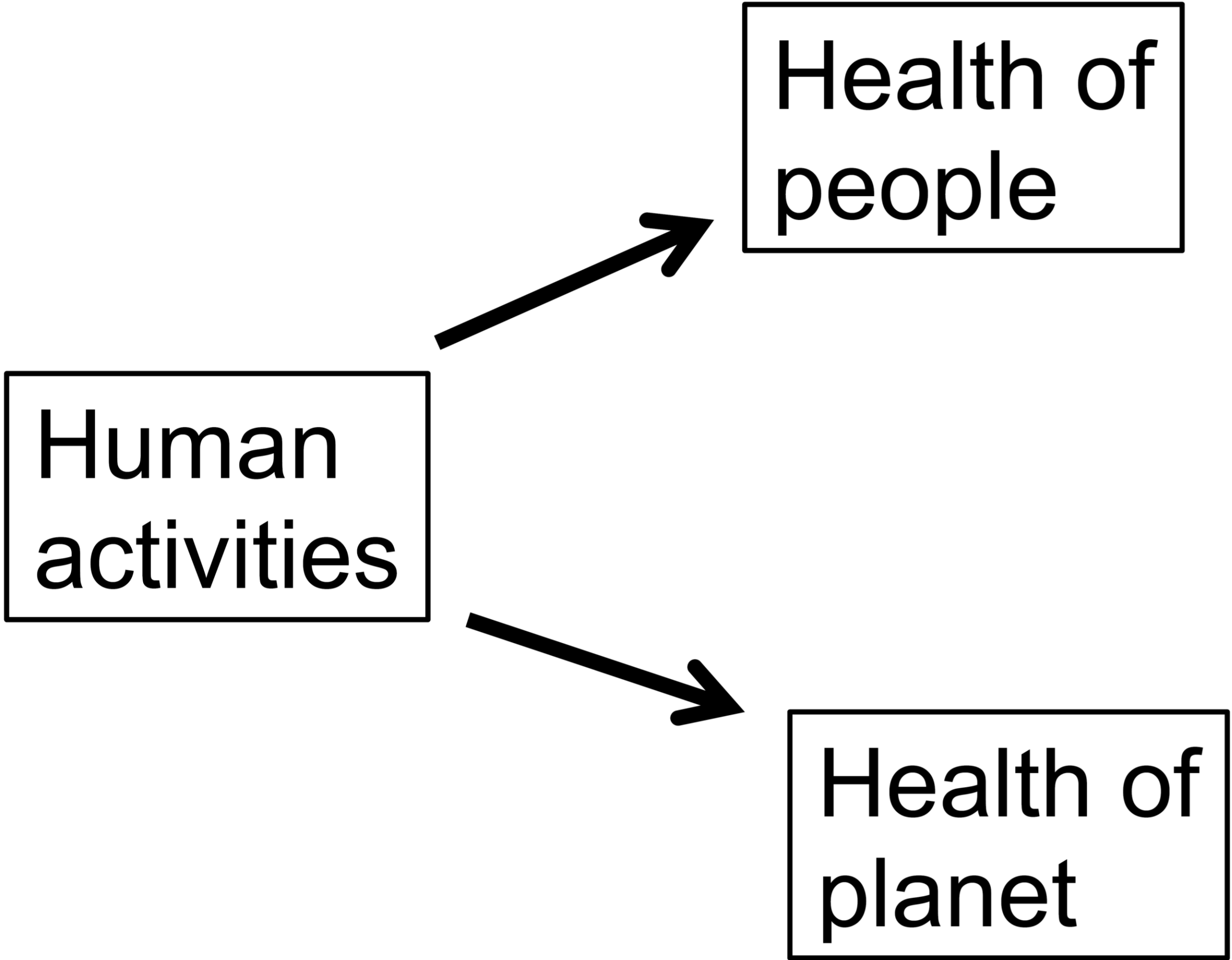
human culture as

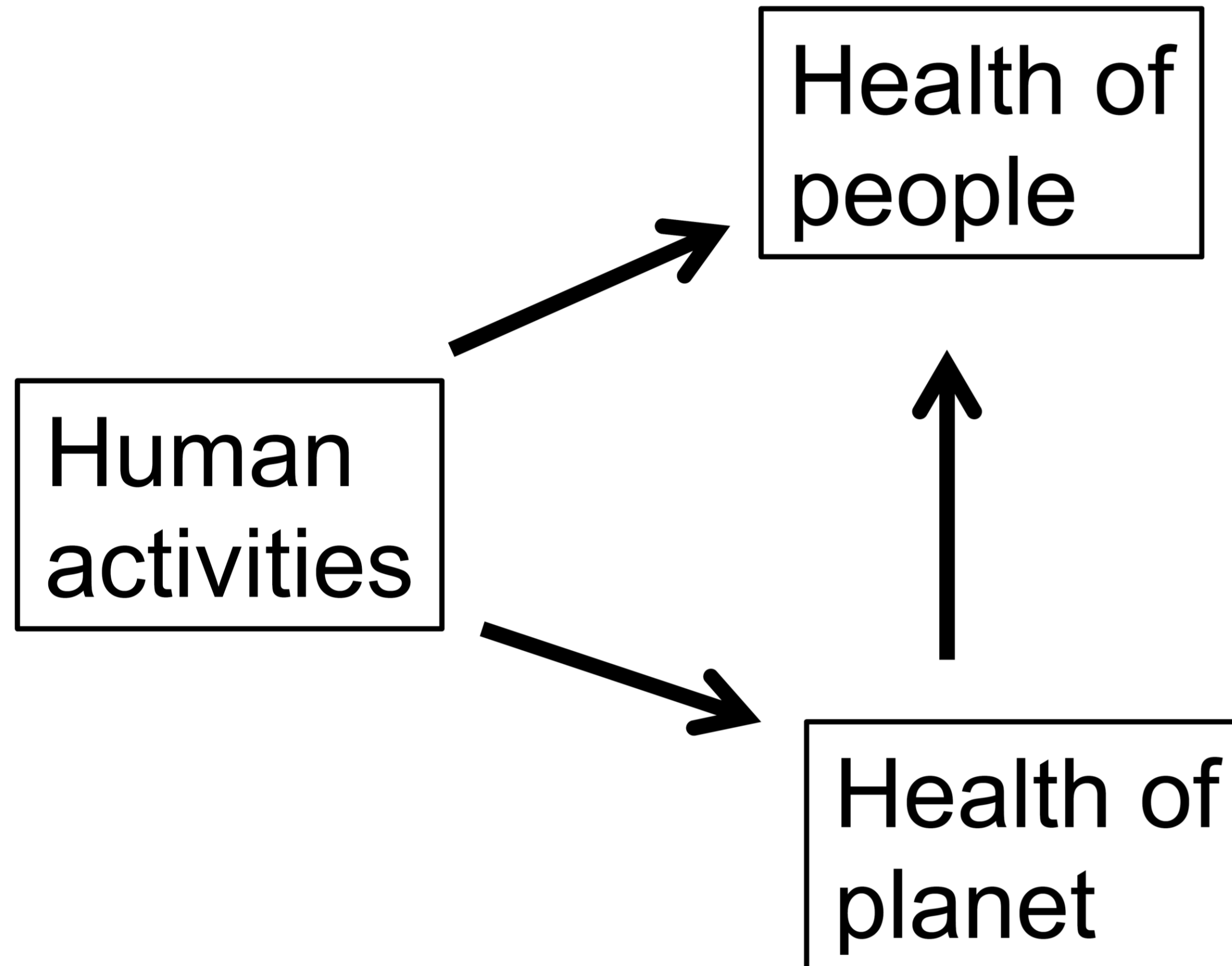
a force in nature

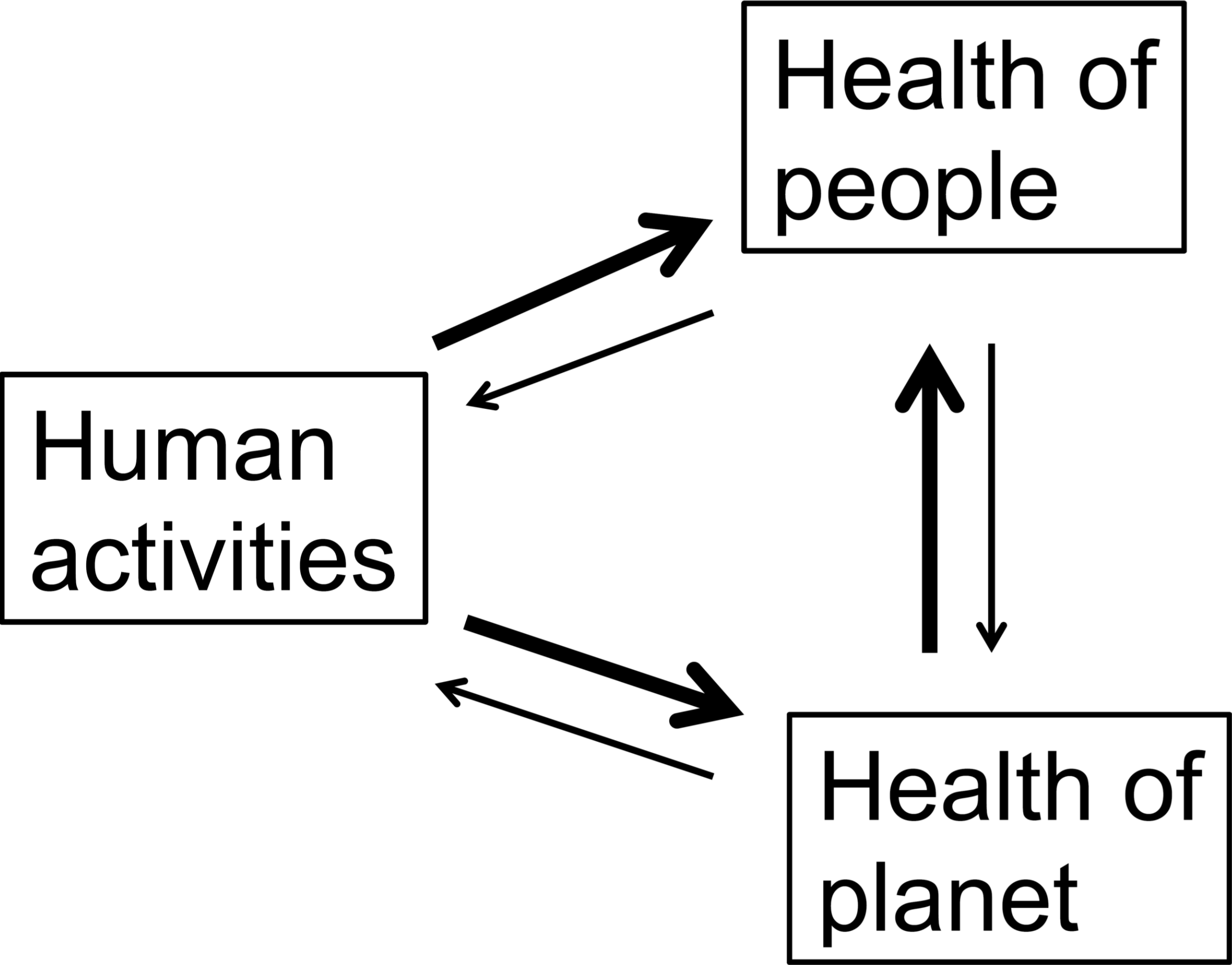
Human
activities



Health of
people

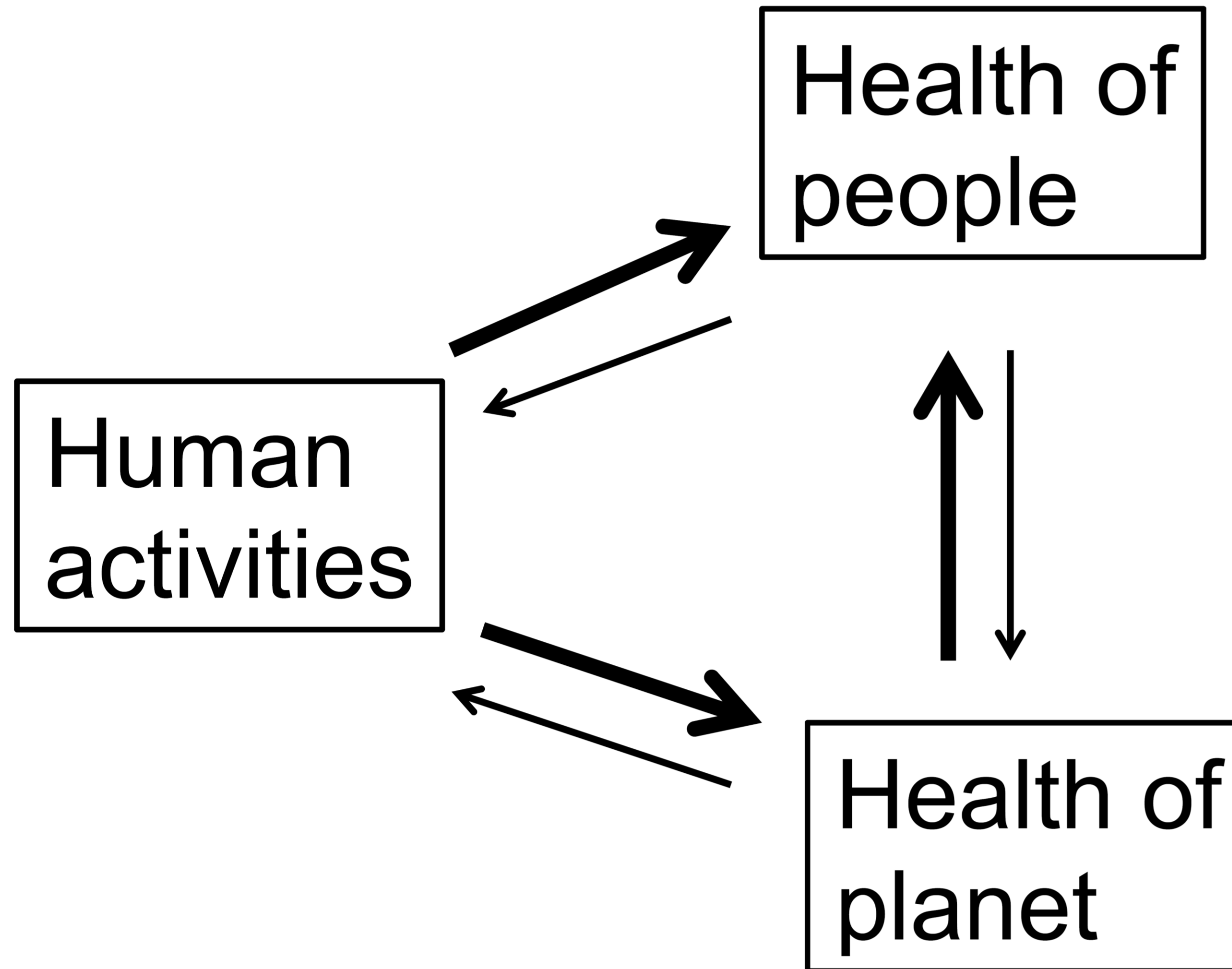






Boyden's Biosensitivity Triangle

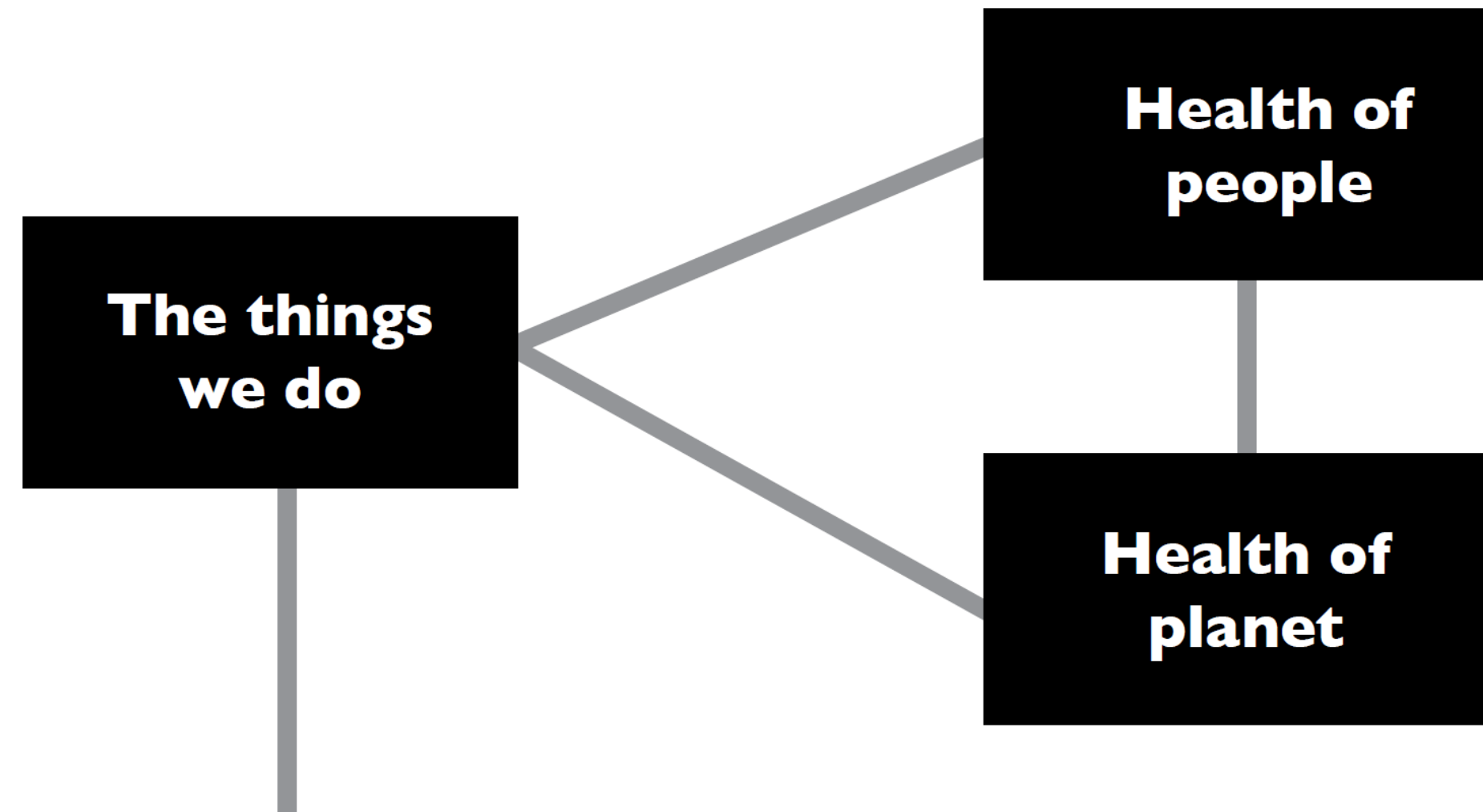
<https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/bionarrative>



PLANETARY HEALTH

A CULTURAL TRANSFORMATION

Planetary health is about safeguarding the health and wellbeing of current and future generations through good stewardship of Earth's natural systems, and by rethinking the way we feed, move, house, power and care for the world



How we manage ourselves to leave no one behind
values, education, regulation, economic system

The big five pathways



Our future depends on the health of the natural world

Promoting health in the Anthropocene

How should we (IUHPE) respond?

1. Intergenerational health equity ('Leaving no one behind')
2. An eco-social approach: an approach that recognises the ecological, economic and social foundations of health
3. Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK)

In sum, we need to bring a 'planetary consciousness' to health promotion education, research, policy and practice

A 'full' enlightenment: moving beyond the partial one in the Northern Hemisphere in the 17th and 18th centuries

Kia Ora!