SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Business Sustainability and ESG
Blended Intensive Programme

10th April, 2025

SILESIAN UNIVERSITY
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The Future of our planet…?

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AI promt *„Design a picture of the earth in a thousand/10 000 years“*.

In a thousand years (deepai.org)

In a thousand years (Copilot)

In 10 000 years (Copilot)

Content

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1. Meaning of Sustainable Development

2. Introduction of the global risks

3. The planetary boundaries concept

4. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

5. Measurability of SDGs goals

6. SDGs Good Practices

Source: Copilot (2024), AI promt "*Design an image for Corporate Social Responsibility*"

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What do you think Sustainable Development means?

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1. Meaning of Sustainable Development

The overall **goal** of sustainable development (SD) is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgement of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision making process.

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- But what is sustainability? The definition of sustainability may be taken further and it is widely accepted that to achieve sustainability we must balance economic, environmental and social factors in equal harmony.

- Taking these **three pillars** of sustainability further if we only achieve two out of three pillars then we end up with:

Social + Economic Sustainability = Equitable

Social + Environmental Sustainability = Bearable

Economic + Environmental Sustainability = Viable

- Only through balancing Economic + Social + Environmental can we achieve true Sustainability.

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IISD
International Institute for Sustainable Development

Fifty Years of Progress on Sustainable Development

Video: https://youtu.be/mlnzIwX2fjE

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Why should we be interested in Sustainable Development?

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2. Introduction of the global risks

The 20th edition of the **Global Risks Report 2025** reveals an increasingly fractured global landscape, where escalating geopolitical, environmental, societal and technological challenges threaten stability and progress.

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Global Risks Report 2025

https://www.weforum.org/publications/global-risks-report-2025/

FIGURE C **Global risks ranked by severity over the short and long term**

"Please estimate the likely impact (severity) of the following risks over a 2-year and 10-year period."

Risk categories
- Economic
- Environmental
- Geopolitical
- Societal
- Technological

	2 years	10 years
1st	Misinformation and disinformation	Extreme weather events
2nd	Extreme weather events	Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse
3rd	State-based armed conflict	Critical change to Earth systems
4th	Societal polarization	Natural resource shortages
5th	Cyber espionage and warfare	Misinformation and disinformation
6th	Pollution	Adverse outcomes of AI technologies
7th	Inequality	Inequality
8th	Involuntary migration or displacement	Societal polarization
9th	Geoeconomic confrontation	Cyber espionage and warfare
10th	Erosion of human rights and/or civic freedoms	Pollution

Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025.

2. Introduction of the global risks

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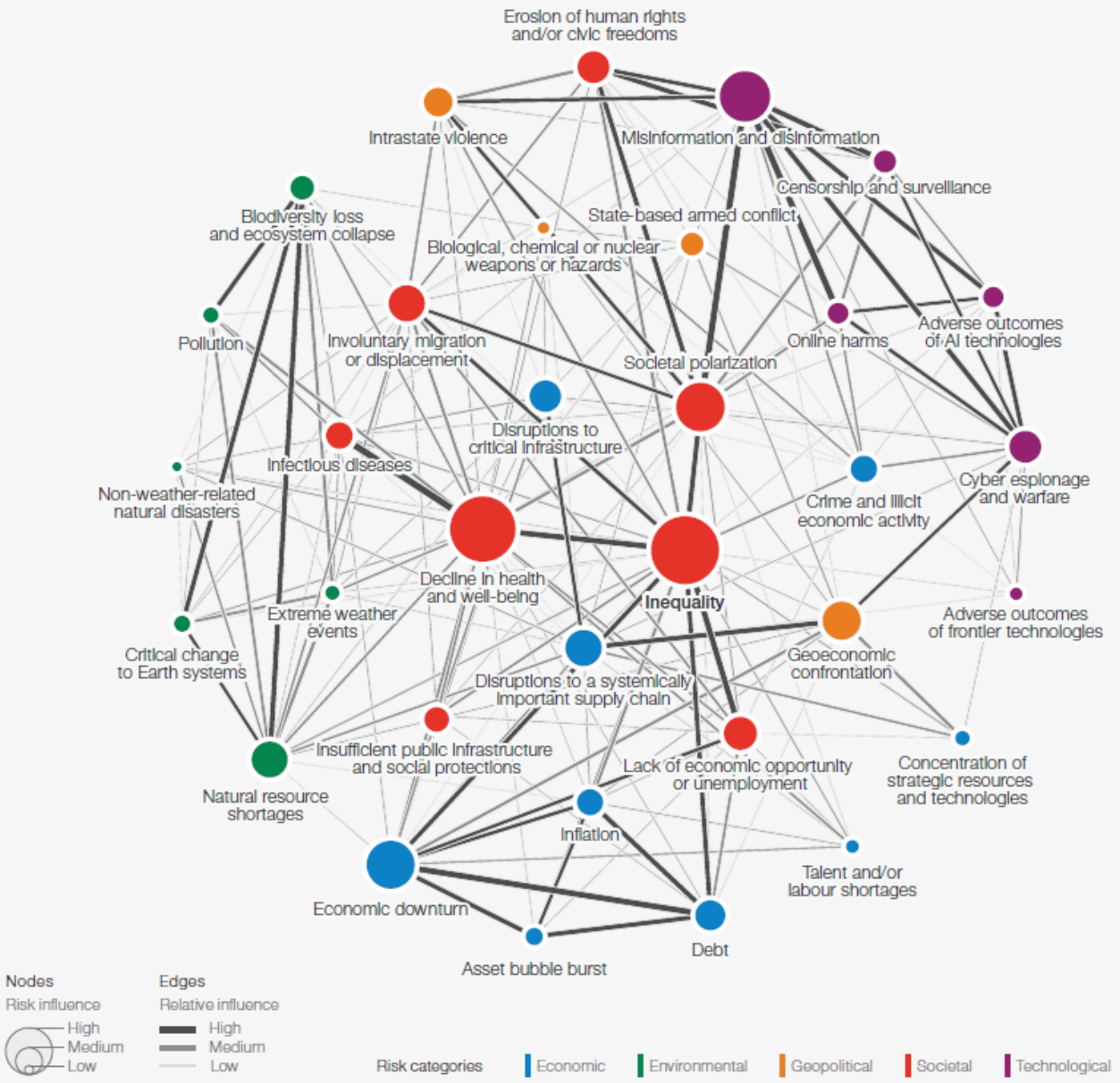
FIGURE D | **Global risks landscape: An interconnections map[3]**



Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025

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2. Introduction of the global risks

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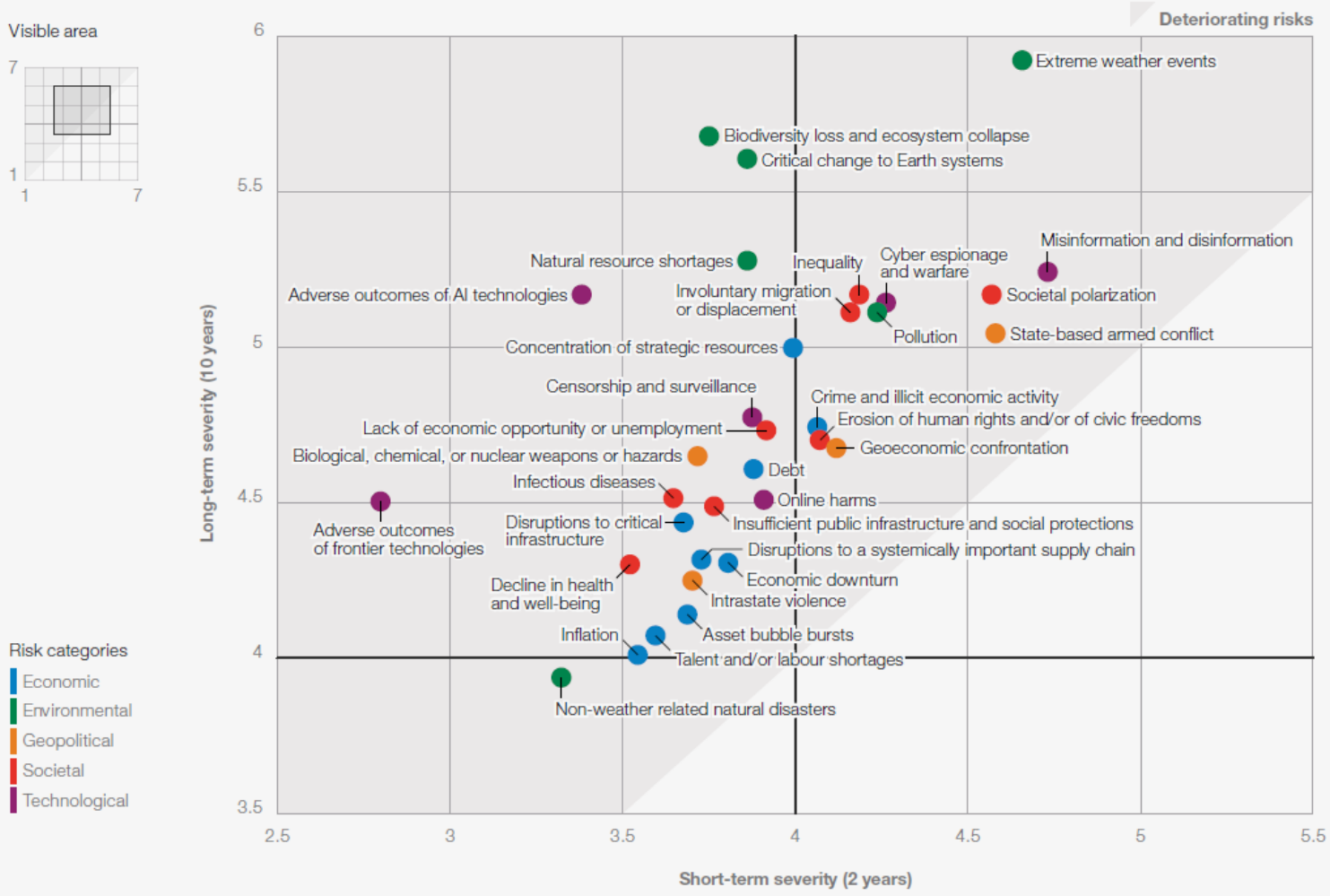
FIGURE E | Relative severity of global risks over a 2- and 10-year period



Source
World Economic Forum Global Risks Perception Survey 2024-2025.

Note
Severity was assessed on a 1-7 Likert scale [1 = Low severity, 7 = High severity].

Why should we be interested in sustainable development?

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Because…

- **Humanity is eroding the biological and physical resilience of Earth's physical systems** by transgressing environmental limits that endanger their functioning: the "**planetary boundaries**" that regulate the Earth system.
- The scientific evidence points to global risks well beyond **climate change**, including the **loss of biodiversity** and ecological functions, **changes in natural land** use configuration, **overuse of both green and blue water**, **overloading of nitrogen and phosphorus**, and widespread **chemical pollution**.

Want to know more?

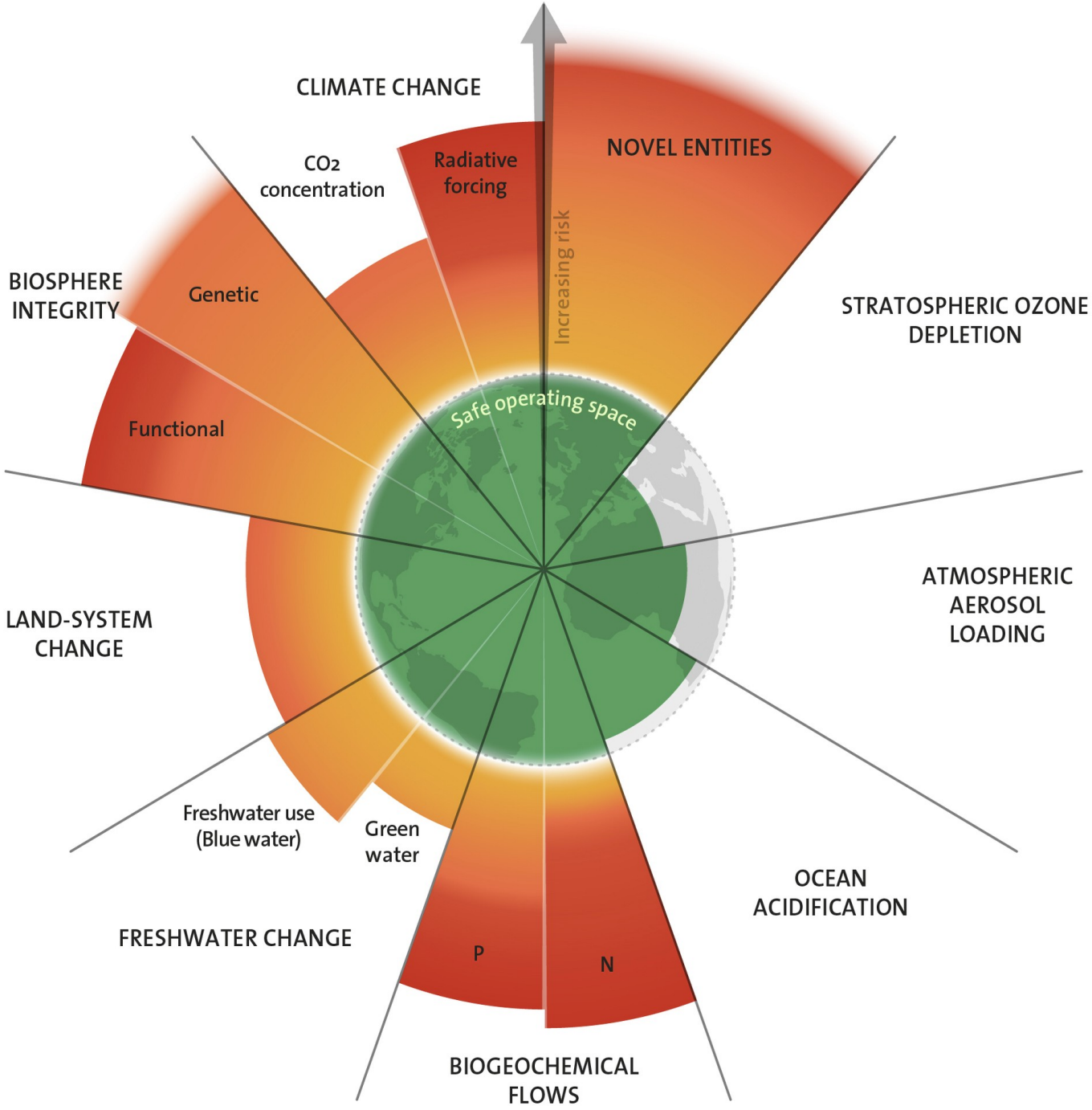
- Climate Change
- Soil Degradation
- Global Warming
- Overpopulation
- Natural Resource Depletion
- Microplastic Pollution
- Ambient (outdoor) Air Pollution
- Generating Unsustainable Waste (The impact of textile production and waste on the environment)
- and more…

3. The planetary boundaries concept

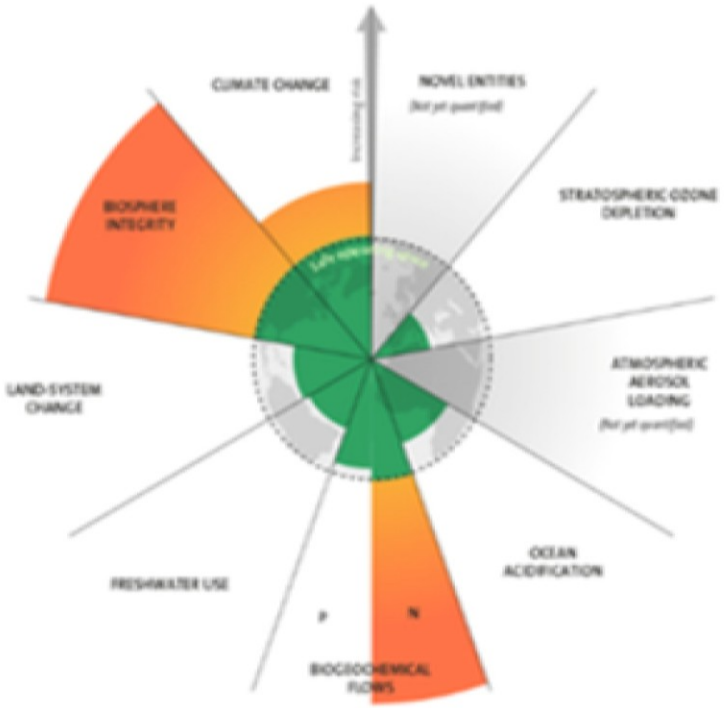
- The planetary boundaries concept presents a set of **nine** planetary boundaries within which humanity can continue to develop and thrive for generations to come.

- In September 2023, a team of scientists quantified, for the first time, all nine processes that regulate the stability and resilience of the Earth system.

- From global warming to the biosphere and deforestation, from pollutants and plastic to nitrogen cycles and freshwater: **Six of nine planetary boundaries are being crossed**, while simultaneously pressure in all boundary processes is increasing, new research published in the journal *Science Advances* shows.

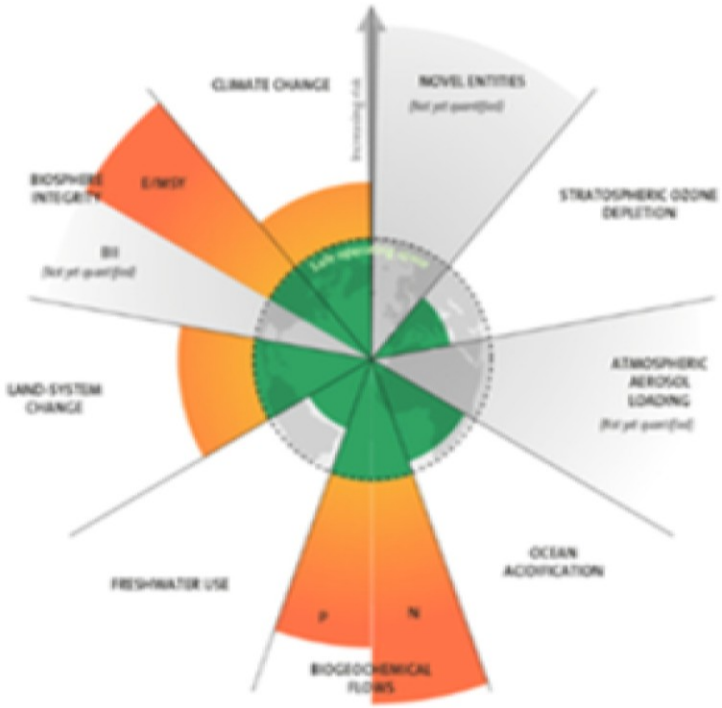


2009



7 boundaries assessed,
3 crossed

2015



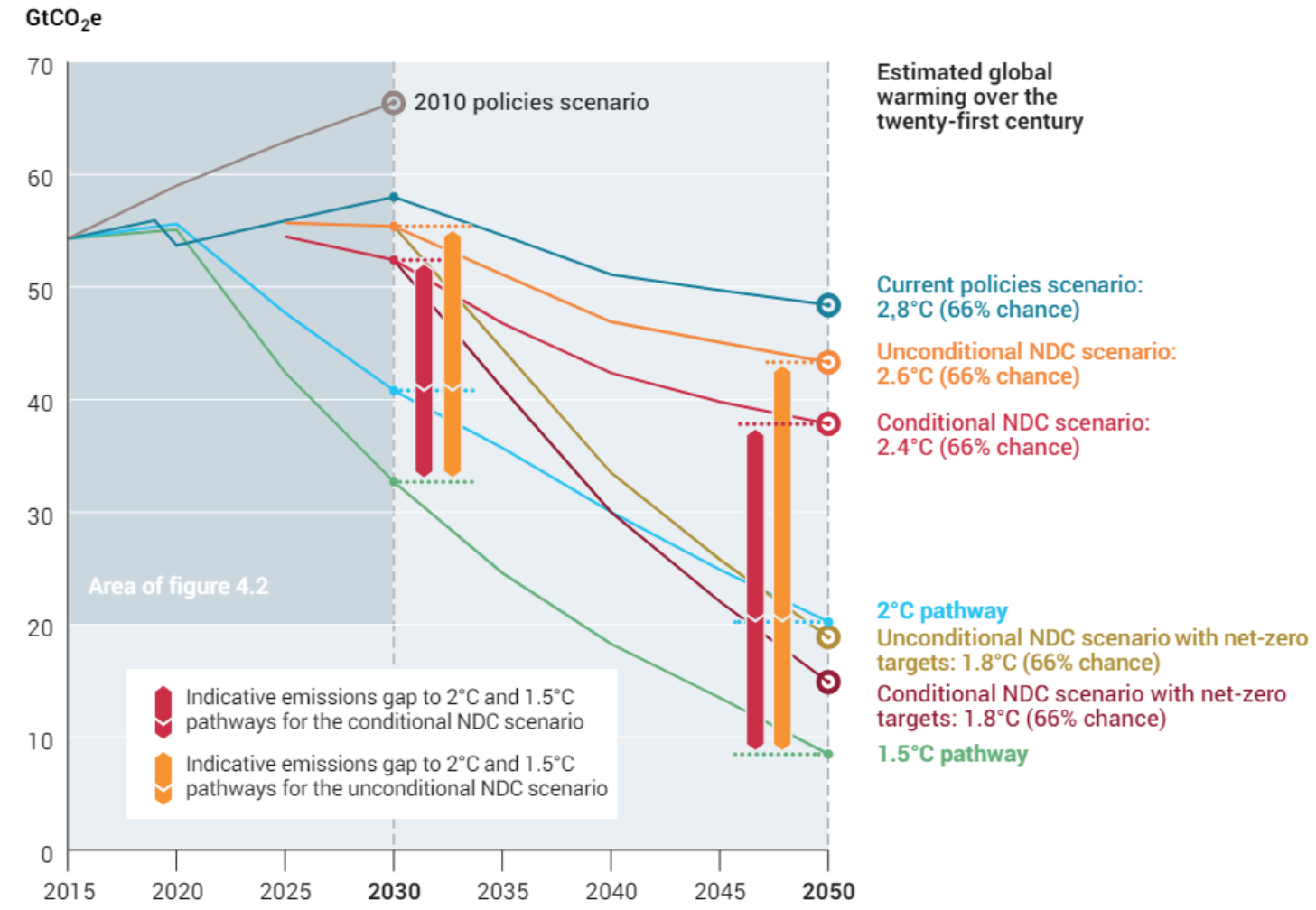
7 boundaries assessed,
4 crossed

2023

9 boundaries assessed,
6 crossed

Source: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Richardson et al. 2023, Steffen et al. 2015, and Rockström et al. 2009)

Projected global warming under alternative policy scenarios



Source: UNEP, Emissions Gap Report 2022

The interconnected environmental, social, and health challenges can be characterized as a **planetary health crisis**, caused by human activities such as industrialization, urbanization, deforestation, and the burning of fossil fuels.

The **consequences** of inaction in the face of this crisis are significant and far-reaching, affecting both the natural systems that sustain life on Earth and the wellbeing of human societies.

3. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Do you know all 17 SDGs?

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all **United Nations Member States in 2015**, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future.

At its heart are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership.

They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

https://sdgs.un.org/goals

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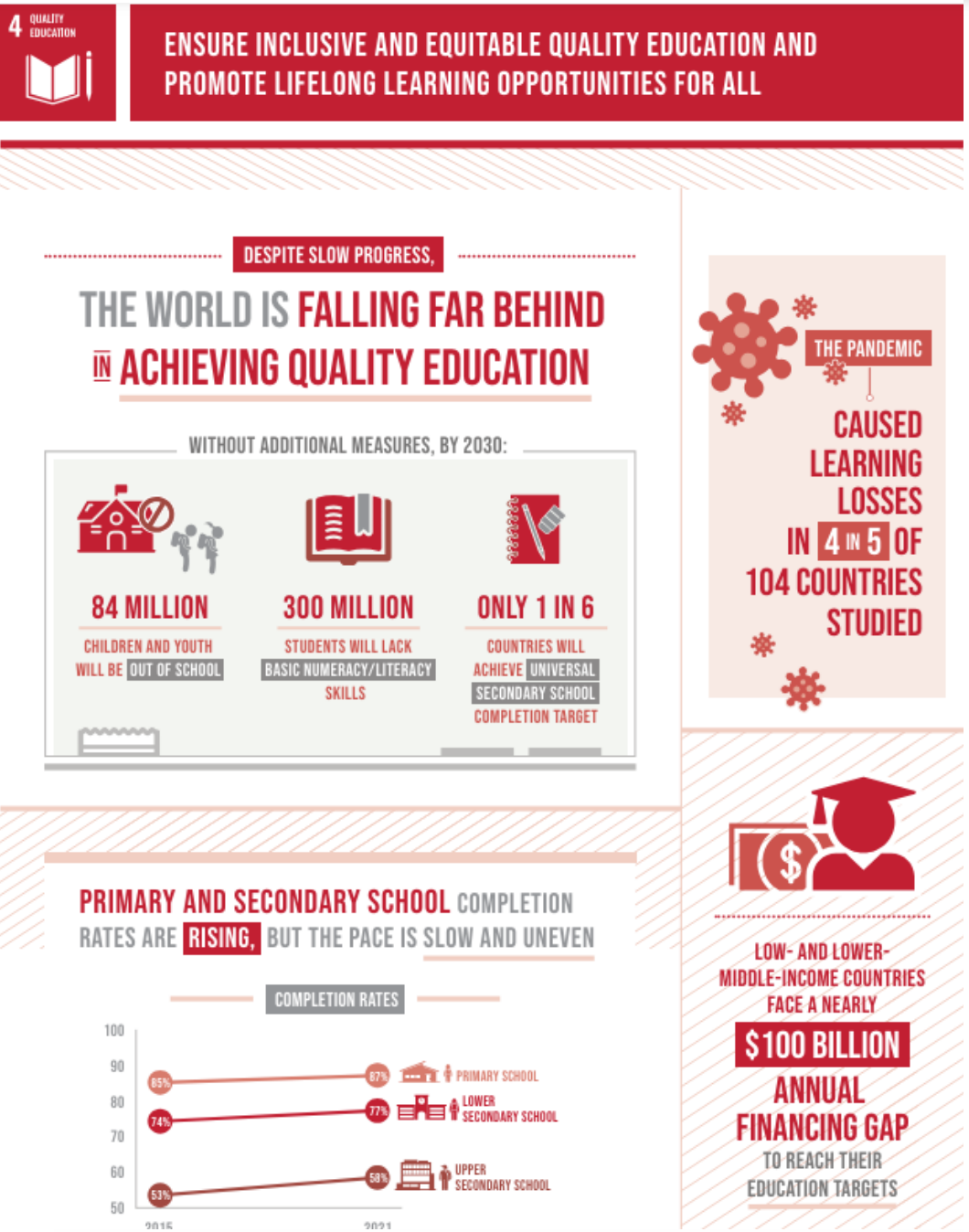
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

United Nations

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK
A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals



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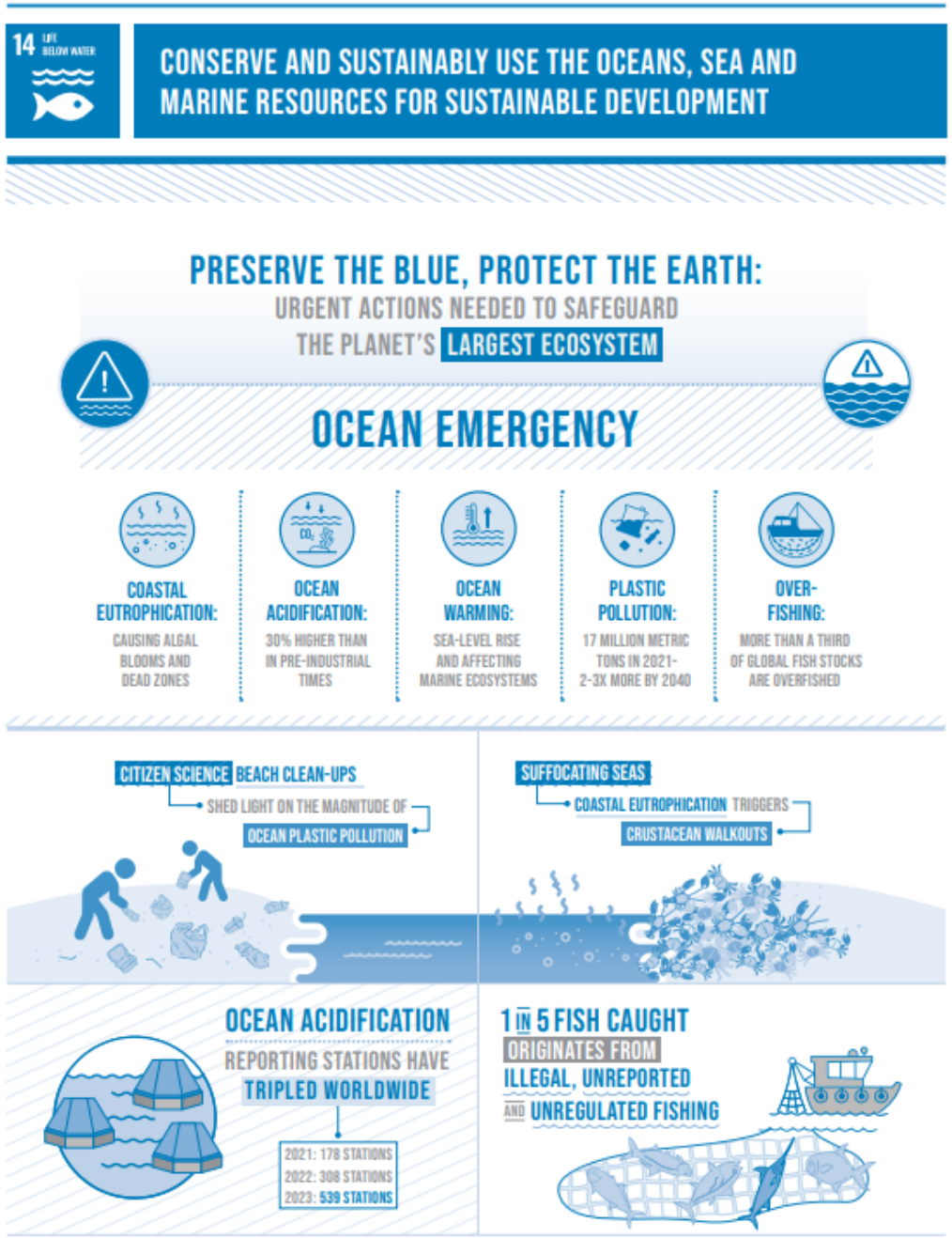
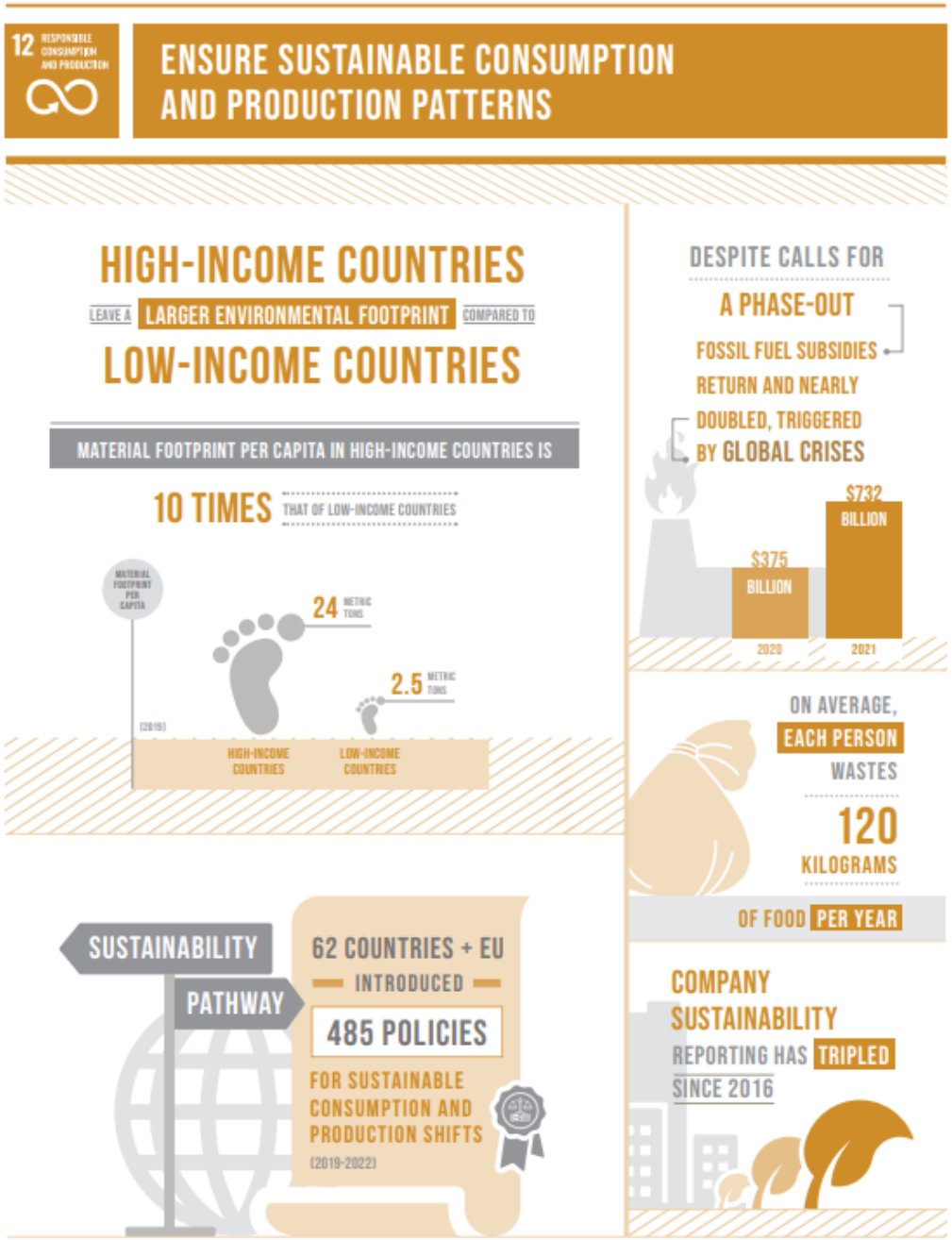
Examples of SDGs 4 and 9, Source: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2023/08/what-is-sustainable-development/





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Examples of SDGs 12 and 14, Source: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2023/08/what-is-sustainable-development/

5. Measurability of SDGs goals

Discover….

From this report you can:

- View Rankings & Scores
- Explore Interactive Maps
- Analyse Country Profiles
- Try the Data Explorer
- Download Report and Materials

Methodology of this report
https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/methodology#a-3-methodology-overview

Source: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/
https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/map

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Sustainable Development – Dashboard Rankings

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT | Chapters | Rankings | Interactive Map | Country Profiles

Rank	Country	Score
1	Finland	86.35
2	Sweden	85.70
3	Denmark	85.00
4	Germany	83.45
5	France	82.76
6	Austria	82.55
7	Norway	82.23
8	Croatia	82.19
9	United Kingdom	82.16
10	Poland	81.69
11	Slovenia	81.34
12	Czechia	81.26
13	Latvia	80.99

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT | Chapters | Rankings | Interactive Map | Country Profiles

14	Spain	80.70
15	Estonia	80.46
16	Portugal	80.22
17	Belgium	80.04
18	Japan	79.87
19	Iceland	79.54
20	Hungary	79.53
21	Slovak Republic	79.35
22	Switzerland	79.30
23	Italy	79.29
24	Netherlands	79.21
25	Canada	78.83
26	New Zealand	78.81
27	Moldova	78.81
28	Ireland	78.72

Countries are ranked by their overall score.

The overall score measures the total progress towards achieving all 17 SDGs.

The score can be interpreted as a percentage of SDG achievement.

A score of 100 indicates that all SDGs have been achieved.

Source: https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings

WORLD – Overall Performance SDGs

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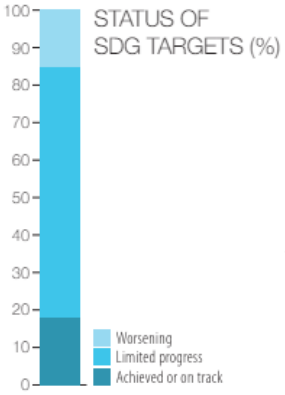
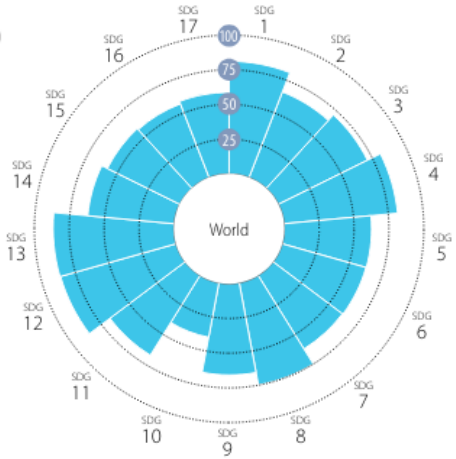
OVERALL PERFORMANCE

WORLD SCORE



AVERAGE PERFORMANCE BY SDG

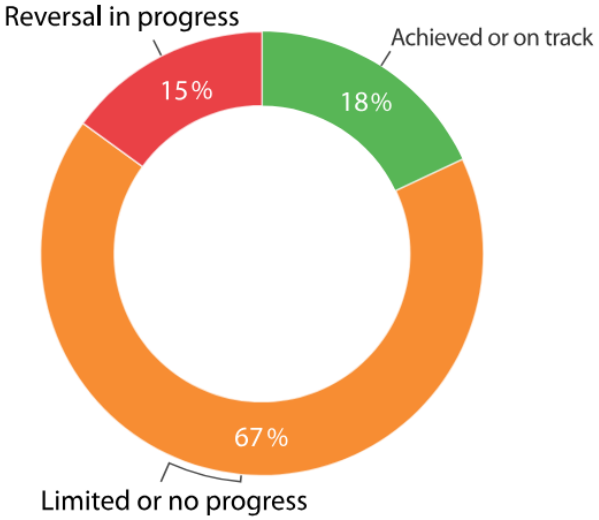


SDG DASHBOARDS AND TRENDS

Major challenges
Significant challenges
Challenges remain
SDG achieved
Information unavailable
Decreasing
Stagnating
Moderately improving
On track or maintaining SDG achievement
Information unavailable

Note: The full title of each SDG is available here: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/sustainabledevelopmentgoals

Status on individual SDG targets at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda



Source: Authors' analysis

The world's top five countries in terms of SDG targets achieved or on track, and those with the greatest percentage of targets showing a reversal in progress

The 5 countries with the largest number of targets achieved or on track	The 5 countries with the largest number of targets showing reversal in progress
Denmark	Myanmar
Czechia	Venezuela, RB
Estonia	Papua New Guinea
Latvia	Yemen, Rep.
Slovak Republic	Lebanon

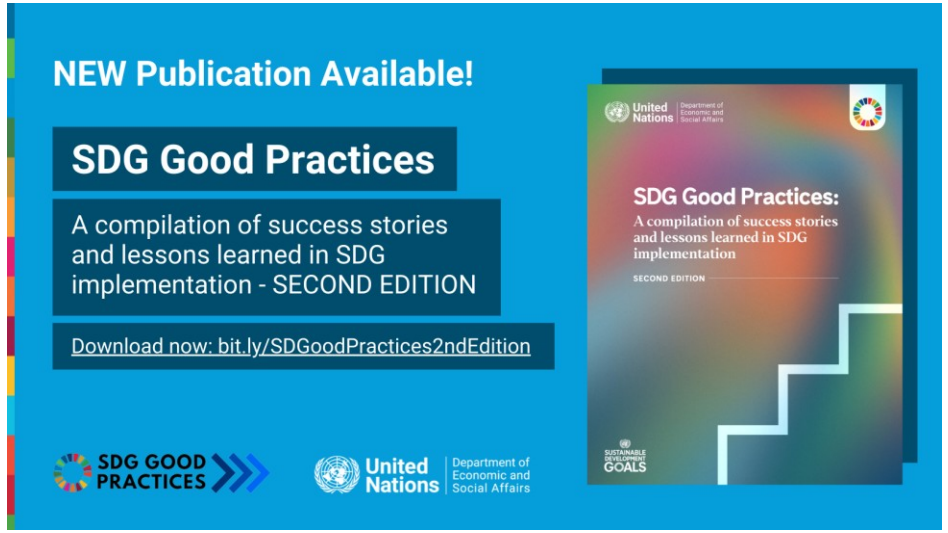
Source: Authors' analysis

Source: SDSN,(2023) https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2023/sustainable-development-report-2023.pdf

6. SDGs Good Practices

Discover….

SDG GOOD PRACTICES



Source: https://sdgs.un.org/sdg-good-practices

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SDGs Good Practices

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EU External Investment Plan (EIP), including the European Fund for Sustainable Development

- Implemented by the European Commission to help generate jobs, growth and prosperity in countries neighbouring the EU and in Africa. This investment helps to bridge the gap between Available financing and the financing needed to create jobs, to boost growth, and to meet the other SDGs.
- The European Fund for Sustainable Development has allocated €3.5 billion through the Plan for grants for blending projects, financing 181 in total. This should bring in about €32.6 billion in overall investment.

Partnership for Action on Green Economy

- PAGE is a global partnership which unites five United Nations agencies, namely UNEP, the ILO, UNDP, UNIDO and UNITAR. Total contributions US $87m.
- The partnership provides integrated and holistic support to countries on eradicating poverty; increasing jobs and social equity; strengthening livelihoods and environmental stewardship and sustaining growth; ensuring coherence; and avoiding duplication of efforts

…And more….visit https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/SDGs%20Good%20Practices%20-%20second%20edition%20-%20FINAL%20FEB092022.pdf

Source: SDGS UN, https://sdgs.un.org/sdg-good-practices

SDGs Good Practices - examplex

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4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Engineer Girls of Turkey

UNDP Turkey Country Office | Turkey

Engineer Girls of Turkey (EGT) Project concentrates on developing a private sector driven gender equality mainstreaming program to promote female students participation in engineering professions, and empowering female engineering students. The project evolves around three main components: (1) formulating of an analytical framework to show obstacles and developing of a long-term evaluation plan; (2) implementing a support program for both female engineering students and high school students and (3) developing institutional inclusive work models to adopt and advocate gender sensitive approach.

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/sdg-good-practices

Key Takeaways

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

Chinmay Jadhav
Senior Writer, Forum Agenda

Share:

This article is part of:
Sustainable Development Impact Meetings

Listen to the article 4 min listen

OUR IMPACT

What's the World Economic Forum doing to accelerate action on Forum Institutional?

- The World Economic Forum's Sustainable Development Impact Meetings took place this week.
- Here's just a snapshot of some of the discussions and key talking points.
- Visit wef.ch/sdim22 to learn more and watch sessions back.

Leaders from across industries and sectors gathered for our Sustainable Development Impact Meetings this week.

The meetings were convened at the same time as the United Nations General Assembly and brought together leaders from business, government, civil society, and innovators and entrepreneurs to address some of the biggest challenges facing us all.

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The World Economic Forum s Sustainable Development Impact Meetings…

Visit:
https://www.weforum.org/stories/2022/09/key-takeaways-sustainable-development-impact-meetings/

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What are you taking away from the lecture?

0 / 0

RE-OPEN

WHAT ARE YOU TAKING AWAY FROM THE...

3/3

Homework…

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Use the infographic and visualize today's lecture!

Explore publications…

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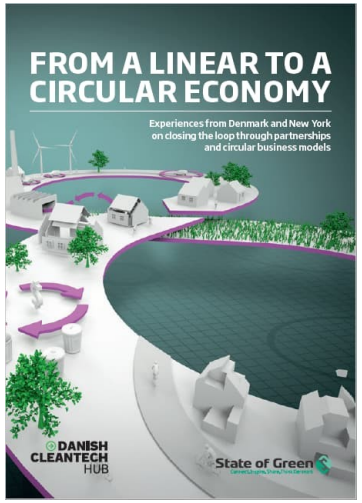

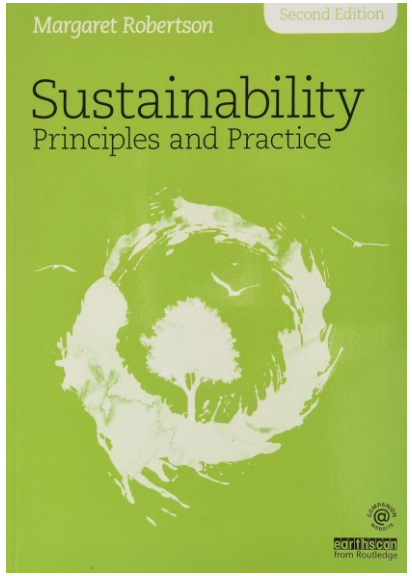

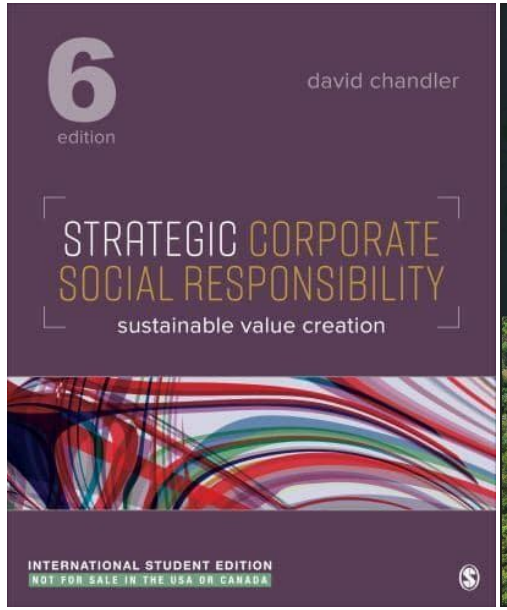

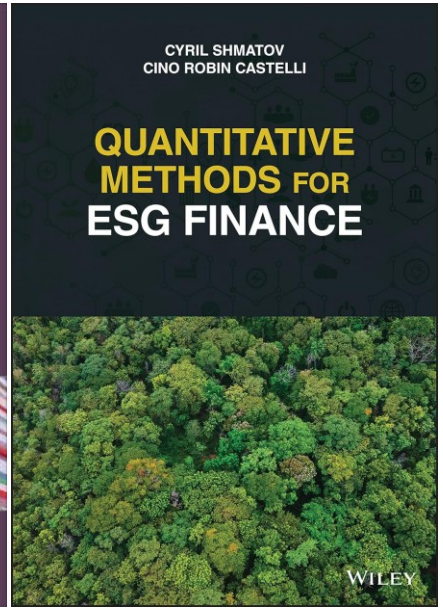

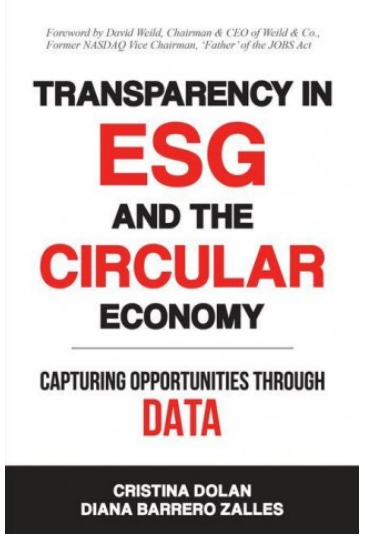

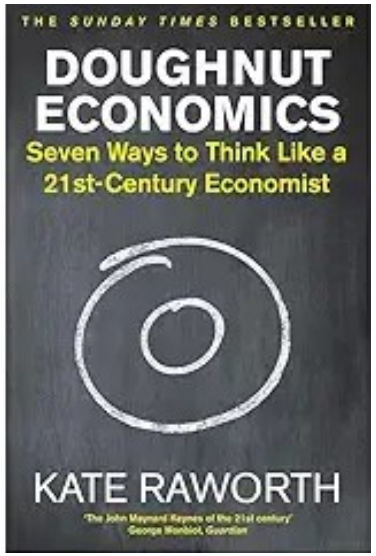

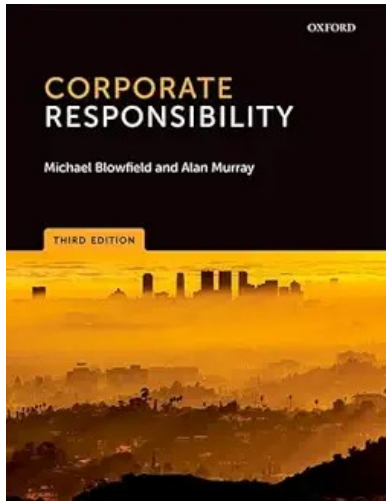

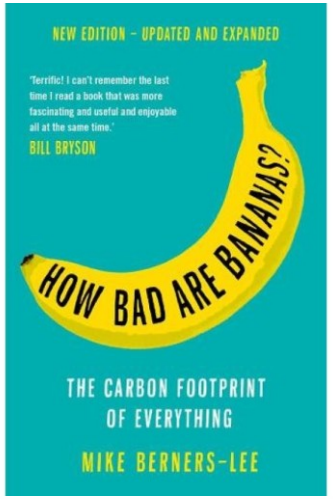

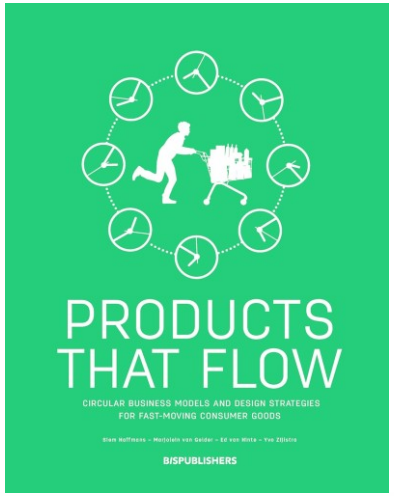

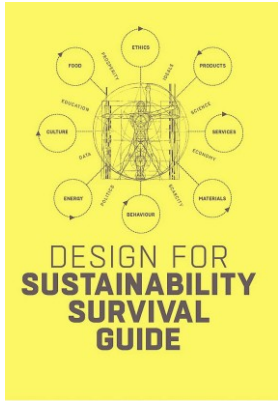

Thank you for your attention

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