

GLCb2020
Environmental
threats and security

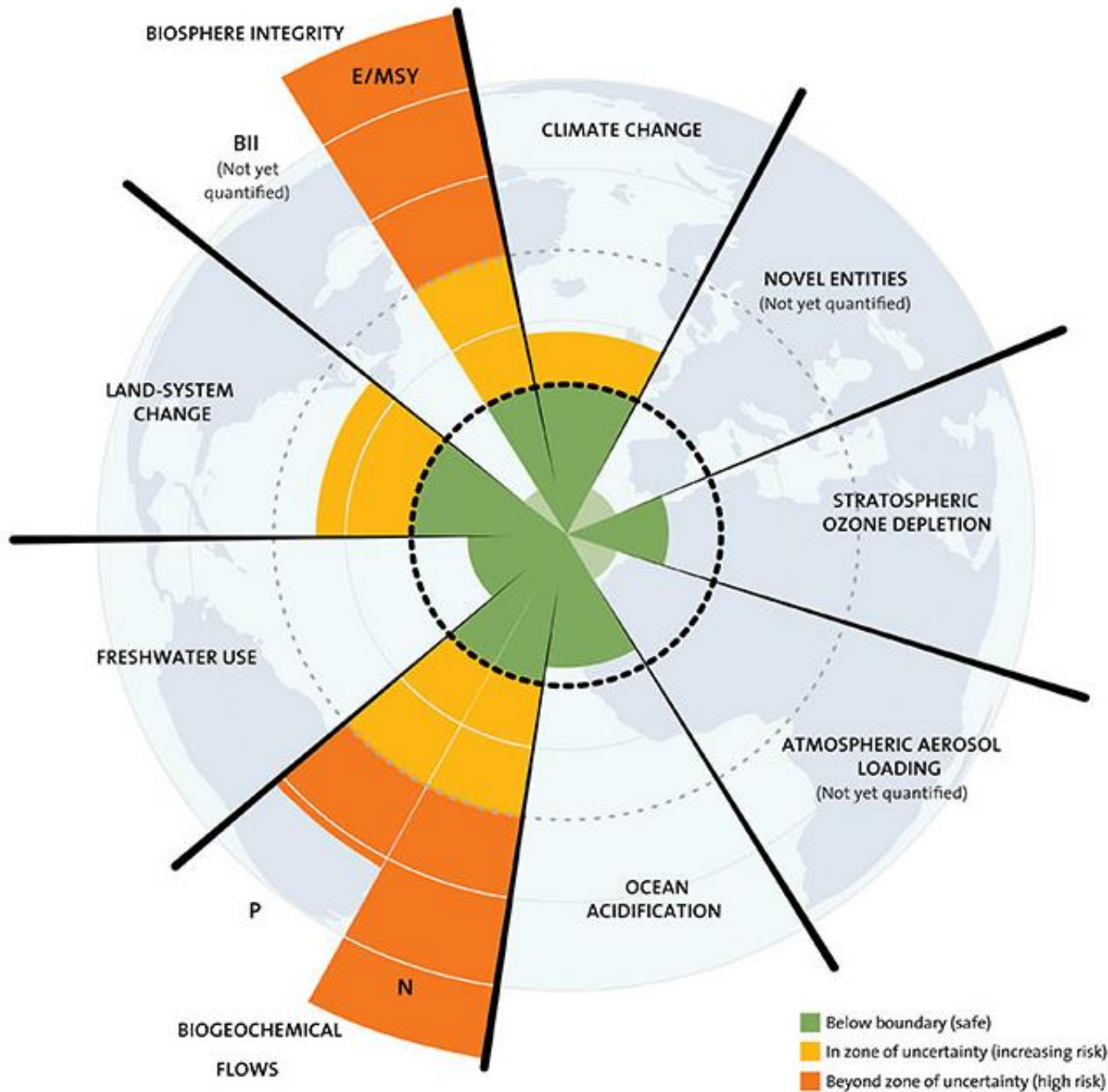
Environmental problems
and why it is difficult to
solve them

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Agenda

- Environmental problems...
- ...and why it is difficult to solve them
- (and perhaps how they could get solved)



Past environmental problems

- Conservation of natural resources (fisheries, seals, polar bears)
- Pollution (e.g., case of Love Canal)

Main global enviro problems and associated international treaties

- Climate change

- UNFCCC (1992); Kyoto Protocol (1997)

- Stratospheric ozone layer

- Vienna Convention (1985); Montreal Protocol (1987)

- Transboundary air pollution

- Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979); subsequent protocols

- Biodiversity loss

- Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Cartagena Protocol (2000), CITES (1973), Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)

Main global enviro problems and associated international treaties (cont.)

- Deforestation

- No international treaty; informal coordination through the UN

- Desertification

- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994)

- Persistent organic pollutants (POPs)

- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2001)

- Toxic waste

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1989)

The Tragedy of the Commons

- Garrett Hardin, “The Tragedy of the Commons”
- Shared resources + individuals acting in self-interest = resource depletion

Solution?

1. Clearly defined boundaries;
2. Rules for the use of common resources;
3. Channels for community decision-making;
4. Effective monitoring;
5. Increasing scale of punishment for those who repeatedly break the rules;
6. Cheap and easy mechanisms for conflict resolution;
7. Self-determination of the community

<https://wcw2021.iasc-commons.org/teaching-the-commons-video-contest-finalists/>



Questions?