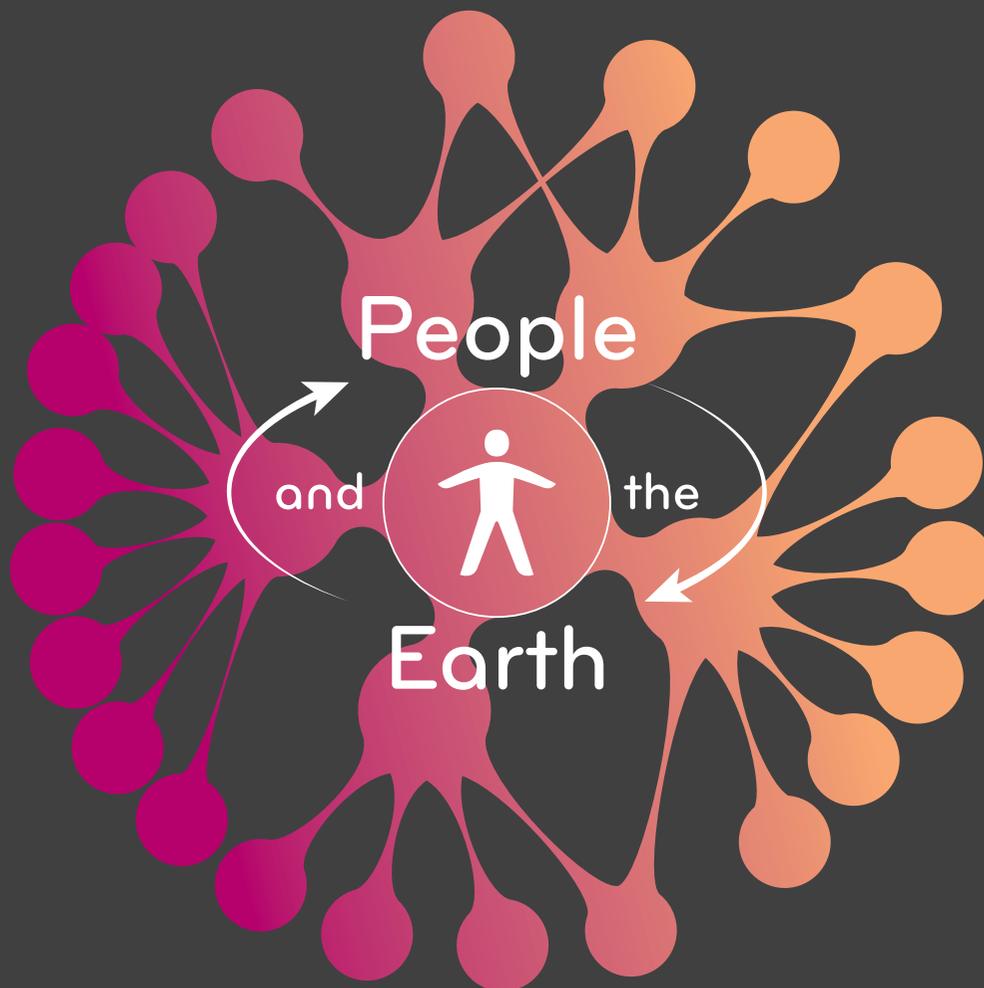




PBL Netherlands Environmental
Assessment Agency



International cooperation for the
Sustainable Development Goals
in 23 infographics

Sustainable development goals

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| End poverty in all its forms everywhere |  | Reduce inequality within and among countries |  |
| End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture |  | Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |  |
| Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages |  | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns |  |
| Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all |  | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |  |
| Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls |  | Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development |  |
| Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all |  | Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss |  |
| Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |  | Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels |  |
| Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all |  | Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development |  |
| Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation |  | | |

Challenges for the
nexus between food,
water, energy, and land

05

Human development
and dependencies
on the Earth

19

43

Exploring new
partnerships
and coalitions

Foreword

This 'storyboard' depicts scenes of human–nature interdependency and cooperation that we need to address in order to attain a more sustainable development. On the one hand, we are harming our natural environment due to growing developmental pressure, while, on the other, we are increasingly recognising that our natural capital must and can be part of the solutions we seek. This interrelationship between People and Earth is at the core of this PBL report. It uses visual representations to communicate the challenges we are facing and the options for making progress towards the objectives of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 2030 Agenda aims for an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable world. The corresponding objectives are laid down in the Sustainable Development Goals. Several of these goals strongly emphasise the

importance of managing the environment and natural resources to further both human development and the well-being of the global population. The issues involved are broad and concern multiple interrelated relationships. But, as the saying has it, a picture is worth a thousand words. With this publication, we hope to have succeeded in conveying straightforward images of some of the relevant global–regional interdependencies driving the basic interrelationship between People and Earth, especially with regard to food, water, energy and land.

The Sustainable Development Goals generate momentum for joint action, not only on the transition towards a more sustainable society in individual countries, but also on forging relationships between economies around the world. The Netherlands, with its open economy built on and shaped by international trade, is

particularly facing the strategic urge to redefine its development within an international context. This could be achieved, for instance, by taking responsibility for improvements in supply chains, for developing relevant knowledge on global challenges and options, and for stimulating the development of globally applicable solutions.

The knowledge, models and tools available at PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency have been the drivers of a close cooperation between PBL and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It gives us great satisfaction to be in the position to impart our knowledge and provide input for enhancing international policies. To underline our fruitful collaboration, we present this storyboard to the Ministry, in the hope that it will inspire and enlighten the discussion on present and future international challenges.

**Professor Hans Mommaas,
PBL Director-General**

Introduction

In 2015, the global community committed itself to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This global agenda for people and the planet aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions by 2030 and works towards an economically, socially, and environmentally sustainable world. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put strong emphasis on the importance of the environment and our natural resources for human development and the well-being of all people worldwide.

All countries, from the most prosperous to the most underprivileged, have agreed to shift their policies onto pathways towards more inclusive and green development. While this is not the first time that countries have made such global commitments, the new 2030 Agenda is different in its universal application and aim for transformation of production processes and consumption of resources. The interwoven nature of the goals and the tight links between people and nations require integrated approaches which are able to make workable connections between various areas of concern (food, water and energy security, natural disaster risk and environmental degradation), stakeholders (governments, businesses, cities and civil society) and governance levels (global, regional, national and sub-national).

Integrated, cross-sectoral and multi-level thinking is therefore crucial to realise sustainable development for present and future generations.

Coupling development goals and environment goals in a single, global policy framework inevitably brings the issue of equity and fairness to the fore. To achieve the 2030 Agenda, a revitalised global partnership for sustainable development is needed. This partnership must cover finance, technology, capacity building, trade, policy coherence, data and monitoring. The 2030 Agenda also recognises that international cooperation is no longer limited to national governments. International partnerships will therefore necessarily depend on global engagement, and on cooperation between governments, civil society, businesses, cities and other stakeholders in order to mobilise necessary efforts and capacities.

The Netherlands is committed to full implementation of the 2030 Agenda – both for the global public good as for its own interests. A small country with an open economy, it has made its living from trading with other countries. For many of its economic activities, such as food production, it depends on natural resources imported from abroad. This connectedness implies a shared responsibility for

sustainable management of production systems. As a low-lying, coastal country, the Netherlands is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and the associated sea level rise, and consequently, it depends on collective international efforts to limit climate change to safe levels.

This book contains stories of international cooperation required to tackle environmental challenges in 23 infographics, grouped into three sections. The first of which deals with trends in economic, social and environmental development, the global challenges, humanity's critical dependence on the Earth and the recently formed global visions and agreements about sustainable development. The second section presents examples of how inclusive and green growth strategies can help achieving the SDGs by contributing to sustainable development in the interconnected areas of food, water, energy and land. The last section illustrates how new partnerships are emerging between governments, civil society, cities, businesses, and financial institutions and highlights the collectively undertaken efforts to make the achievement of the SDGs a reality. A book such as this using infographics is not intended to be comprehensive – its ambition is to enlighten and inspire discussions on ways forward.

Human development and **dependencies** on the Earth

The current geological epoch is characterised by increasing human pressures on the environment. Negative impacts on the natural resource base will become more and more evident if we continue to follow current development pathways. The natural resource base – our natural capital – provides many benefits to humanity including the provision of food, fibre, fuel, clean water and energy, in addition to services such as carbon sequestration, pollination and protection against natural disasters.

Those who depend most on natural resources, developing countries and their poverty-stricken citizens, are also the most vulnerable to local and global environmental changes.

The critical challenge for countries worldwide is to engage in safe and just development strategies to ensure the well-being of the global population, particularly those groups that are most vulnerable. Safe, in order to avoid the negative impacts of global environmental change. And just, in order to ensure

that all people can enjoy access to the resources that underlie human well-being.

The required strategies will also have to take spatial developments into account. With more and more people living in cities and increasing national and international trade, the locations of production and consumption processes are becoming more and more separated. As a consequence, the impacts of production remain out of sight of consumers, and this brings the need for international environmental governance to the fore.

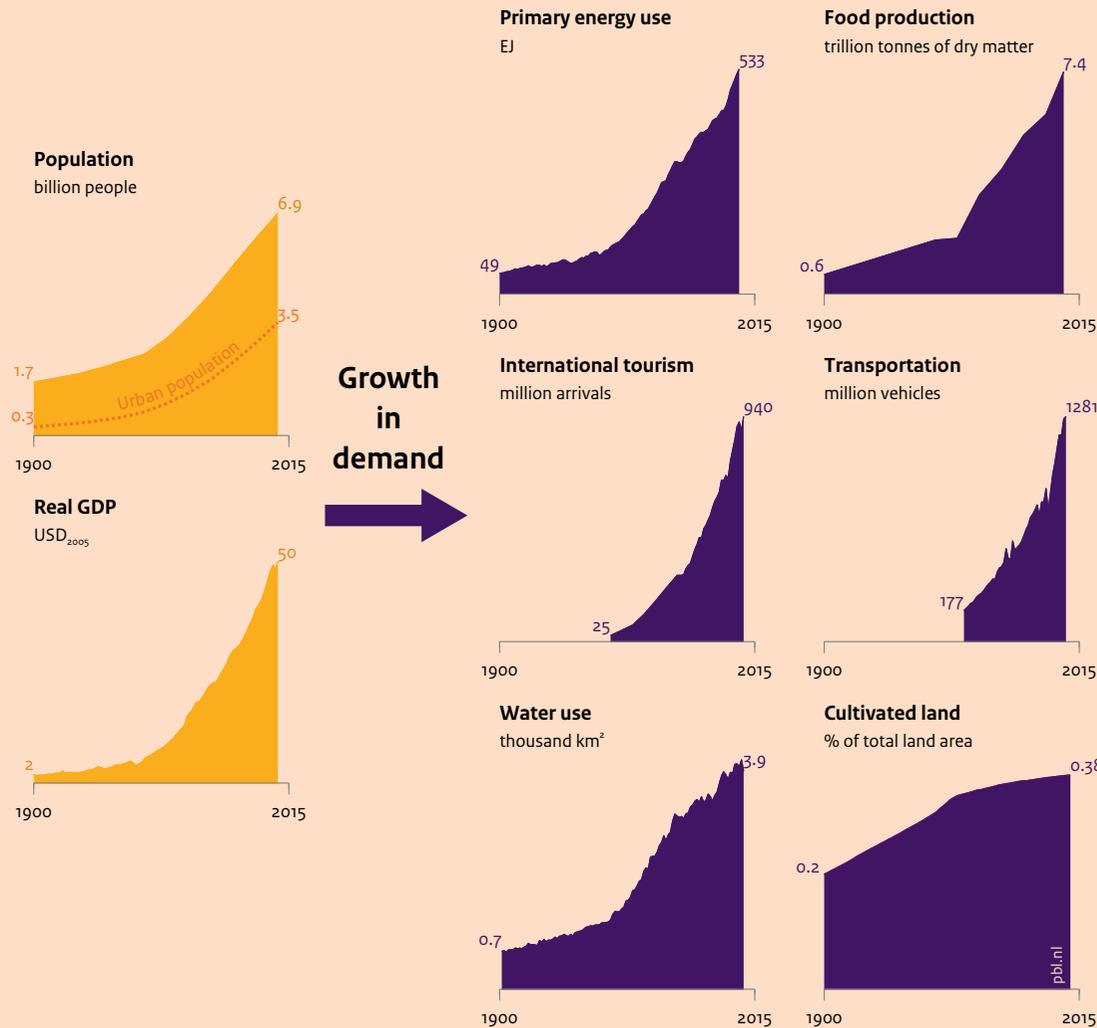
Welcome to the Anthropocene

Trends in human development and environmental pressures

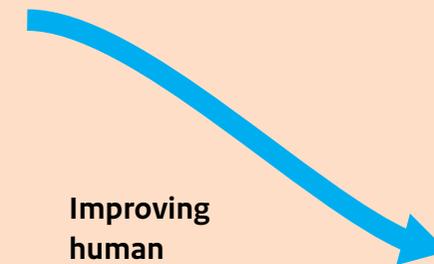
Twentieth century human development has brought the Earth into the Anthropocene, the proposed new geological epoch defined by humanity's impact on the planet.

A sharply increasing population, especially in urban areas, alongside strong economic growth, has resulted in a rising demand for natural resources, including food, water and energy. Although economic growth has improved human well-being, growth in the demand for resources is putting increasing pressure on the environment, though there are major differences between regions.

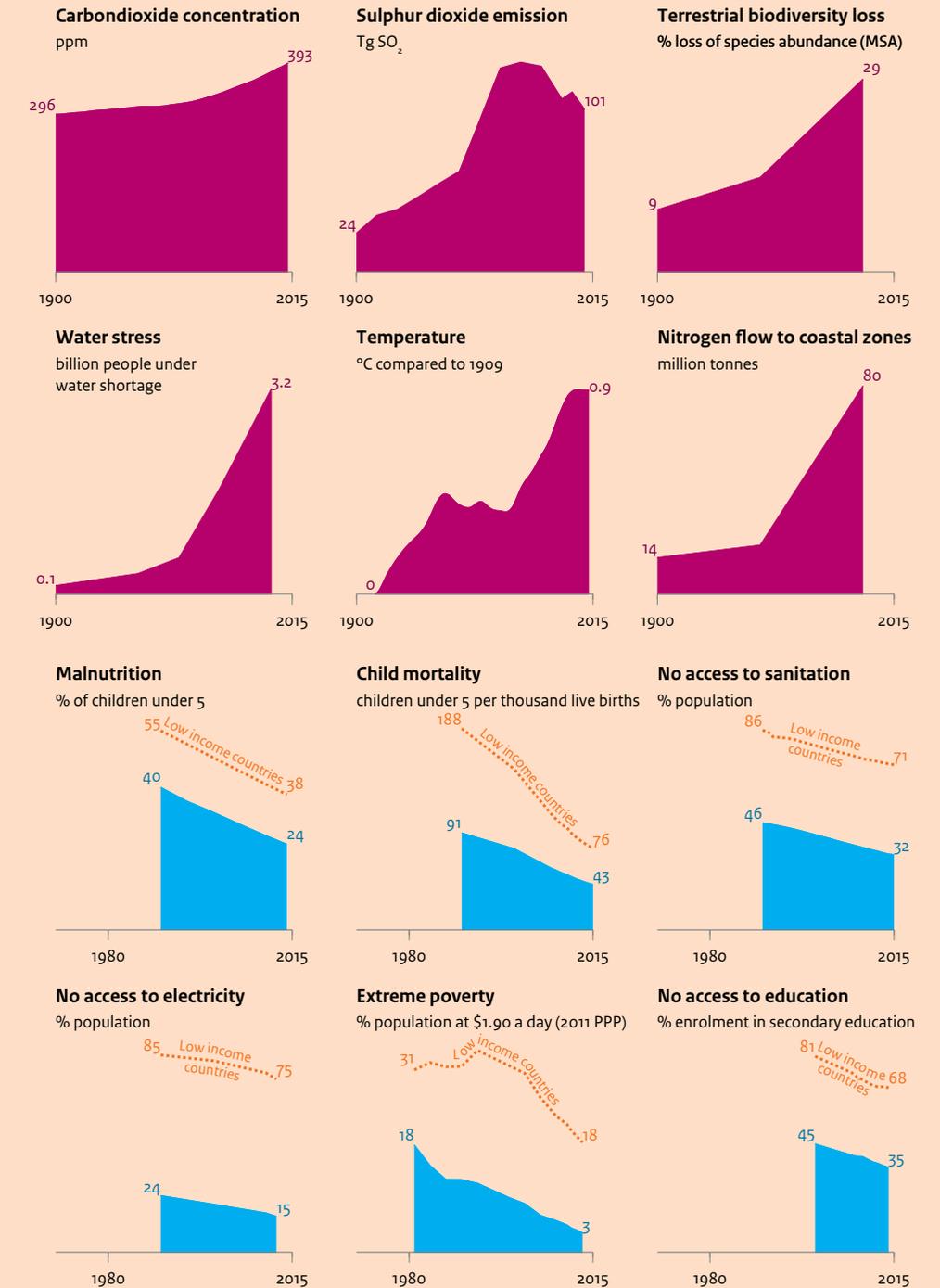
Both human well-being and the environment need to be taken into account, if we are to arrive at a sustainable future. Maintaining the balance between these two domains depends on the way we address and steer growth in production and consumption. An important question is how we support human well-being without compromising the Earth's capacity to provide the resources that human societies need.



Increasing pressures on the environment



Improving human well-being



Earth matters

People depend on the many goods and services that nature provides

The biosphere is valuable to us in many ways, some of which are more easily visible than others. Human beings are an integral part of it and fundamentally depend on the Earth's capacity to provide services for human development and well-being from local community levels to the global level of the biosphere.

The benefits that nature provides are called Ecosystem Services, and they can be divided into several categories. The most visible ones are the provisioning services which deliver the resources we use on a daily basis, such as food and clean water. The Earth also provides us with abiotic resources, such as (renewable) energy and minerals in the soil.

Regulating services, which aid in the delivery of provisioning services, include pollination, production processes taking place in healthy soils, and also less visible processes, such as carbon sequestration. Nature also provides recreational space and carries parts of our cultural history and identity.

However, while the consciousness about our dependency on the Earth and its interlinked ecosystem services is growing, we are still running the risk of dealing with the rapidly rising demand for some resources in ways that may be detrimental to others. Sustainable management of the natural resource base is required to support the future delivery of services to people all over the world.

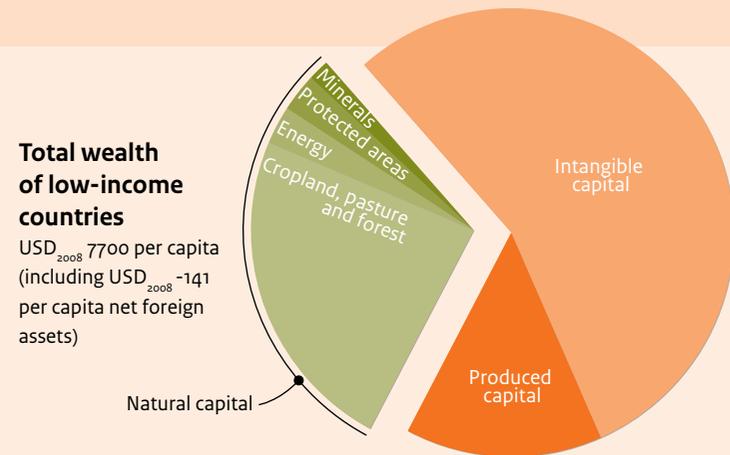
Ecosystem Services: the service that nature provides us

- **Provisioning services**
All tangible material and outputs from ecosystems that can be traded or consumed, such as food, materials and energy sources, both biotic (blue) and abiotic (yellow).
- **Regulating services**
Ecosystem outputs that are not consumed, but that control or modify biotic or abiotic conditions in the environment.
- **Cultural services**
All non-material ecosystem outputs that have symbolic, cultural or intellectual significance.



Taking Natural Capital into account

Natural Capital Accounting integrates natural resources and economic analysis into the system of national accounts that provide a view on a nation's wealth. This expansion gives a broader picture of development progress than strictly monetary measures such as GDP. Such accounts, for example, show that wealth generated in low-income countries depends for more than 30% on natural capital.



The future is now

Global visions and agreements for sustainable development

Challenges relating to sustainable management of natural resources and the promotion of human well-being feature prominently in international discussions and global agreements. Global poverty has not yet been eradicated and environmental pressures are increasing rather than decreasing. The year 2015 was a landmark thanks to the formalisation of five global agreements. The five agreements stress the importance of proportionate contributions by all countries and all actors. They are the culmination of more than 40 years of UN conferences, summits and international agreements, and underscore the growing realisation that an integrated approach is vital for minimising trade-offs and capturing synergies in the broad range of entangled issues of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda conceptualises sustainable development through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, they formulate an ambitious and transformational vision for 2030 that links a broad range of issues with other global agreements, as well as with a series of earlier agreements and conventions, such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010–2011.

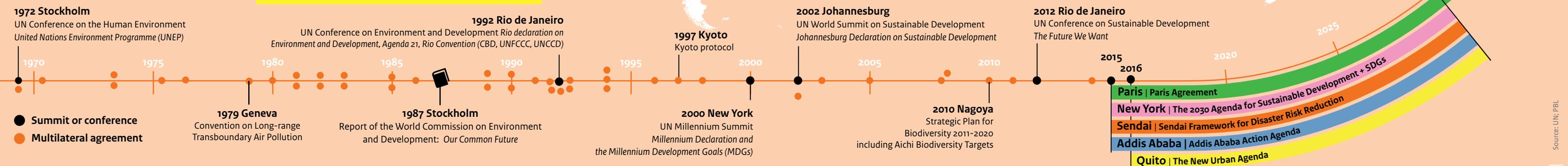
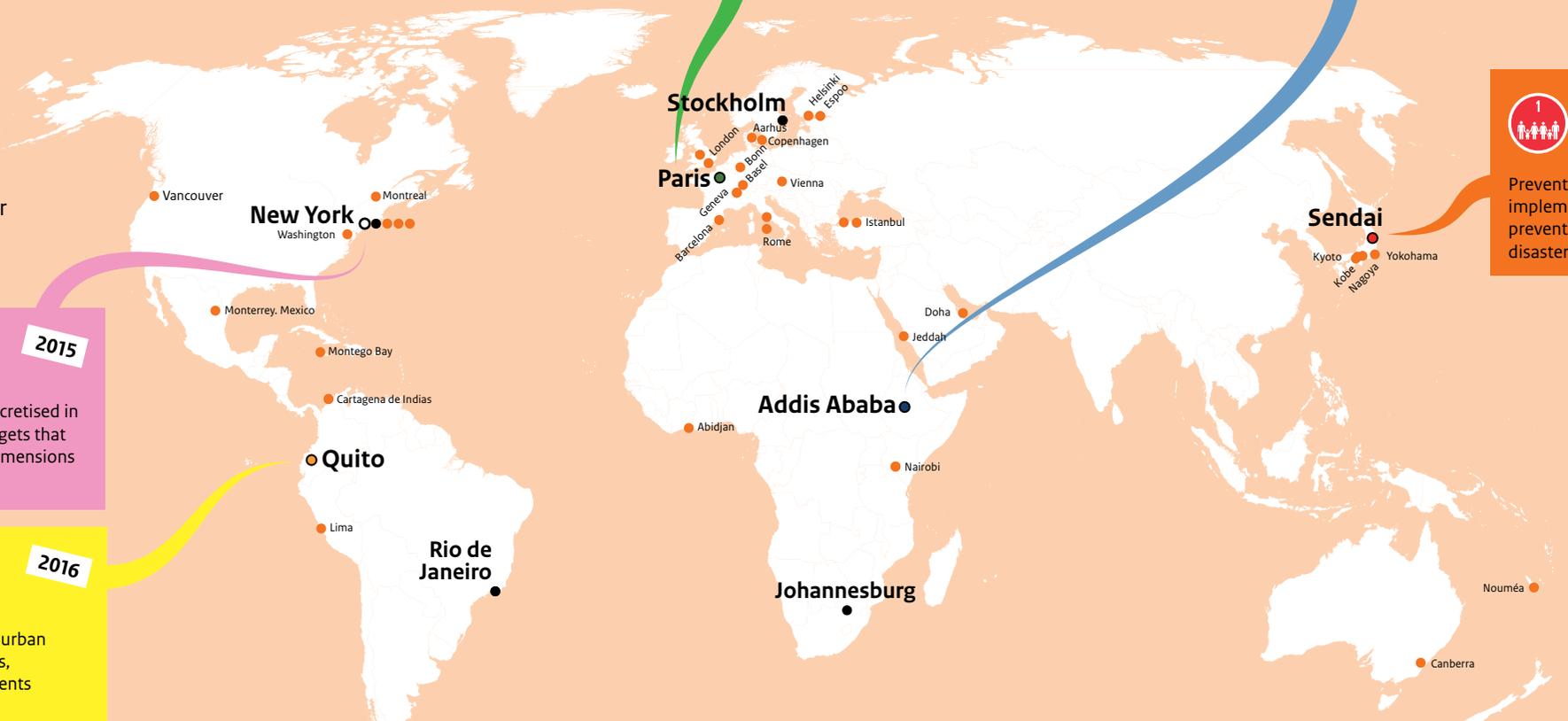
2015
 UN Sustainable Development Summit
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development + SDGs
 A plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, concretised in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development

2016
 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
The New Urban Agenda
 Provides a roadmap setting standards for sustainable urban development globally and implementing various SDGs, particularly SDG 11 'to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'.

2015
 UN Conference on Climate Change COP 21
Paris Agreement
 Strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including by mitigation, adaptation and finance of climate change.

2015
 3rd UN International Conference on Financing for Development
Addis Ababa Action Agenda
 Provides a global framework for financing sustainable development and achieving the SDGs. It addresses all sources of finance, and covers cooperation on a range of issues, including technology, science, innovation, trade and capacity building.

2015
 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
 Prevent new and reduce existing disaster risk through the implementation of integrated and inclusive measures that prevent and reduce hazard exposure and vulnerability to disaster, increase preparedness for response and recovery



Human development in a **Safe and Just Operating Space**

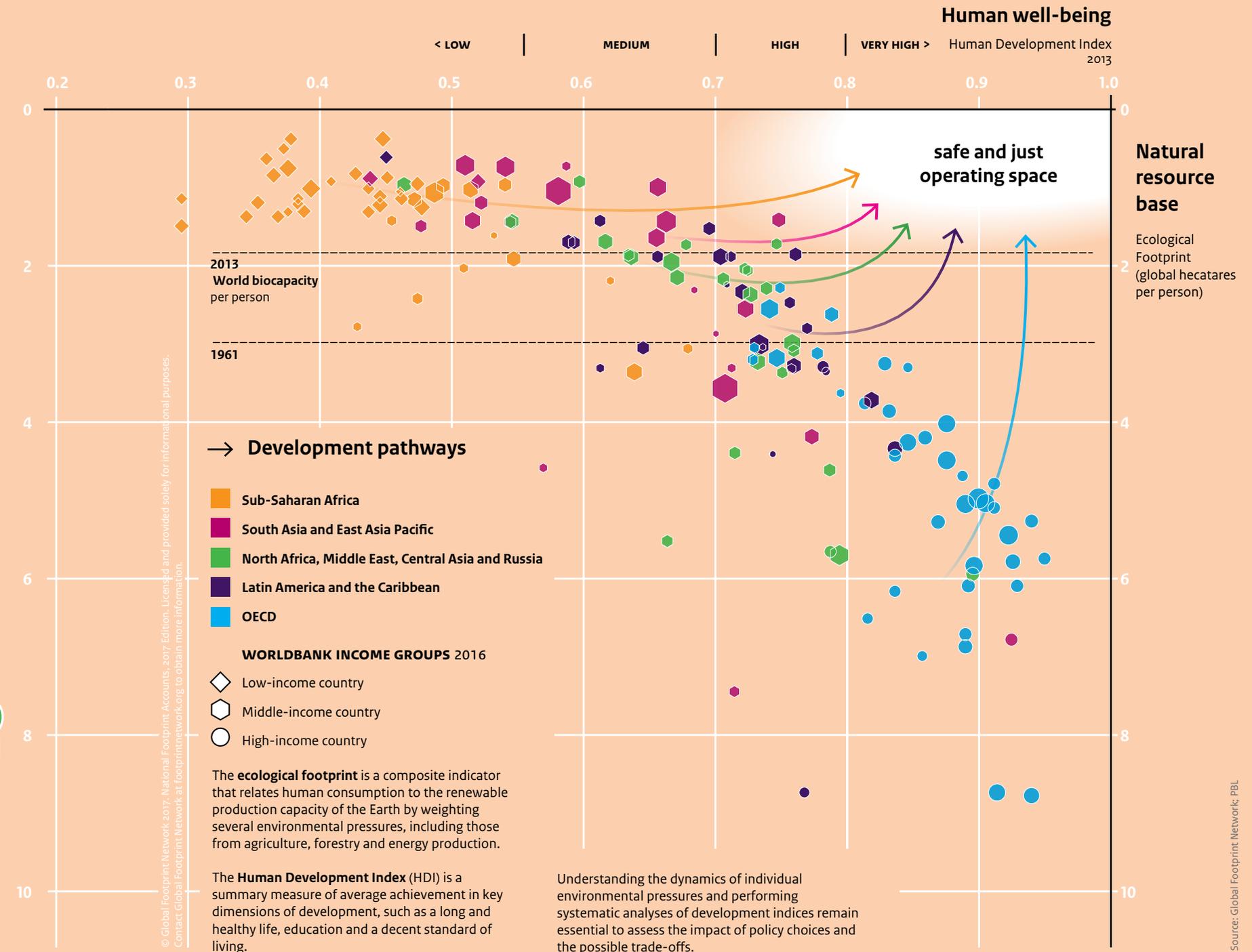
Common but differentiated pathways for development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a global framework that aims to steer towards a safe and just operating space for society to thrive in. A society in which every person has the resources to meet their individual needs and aspirations, while collectively living within the carrying capacity of the planet. The 17 SDGs address the interrelated challenges of eradicating poverty and improving human well-being and social equity, reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities by changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production and promoting sustainable alternatives, and protecting and managing the natural resource base on which people's wealth and well-being is built.

An integrated approach is vital for minimising trade-offs and

capturing synergies between the broad range of objectives it sets out. The challenges differ significantly between countries, depending on their human development level, consumption level, production methods and the resulting environmental footprint. Achieving the SDGs collectively requires differentiated pathways. Low-income countries should significantly improve human well-being and avoid resource lock-ins, middle-income countries should aim for a relative decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, and high-income countries should aim for absolute decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation.

safe and just operating space



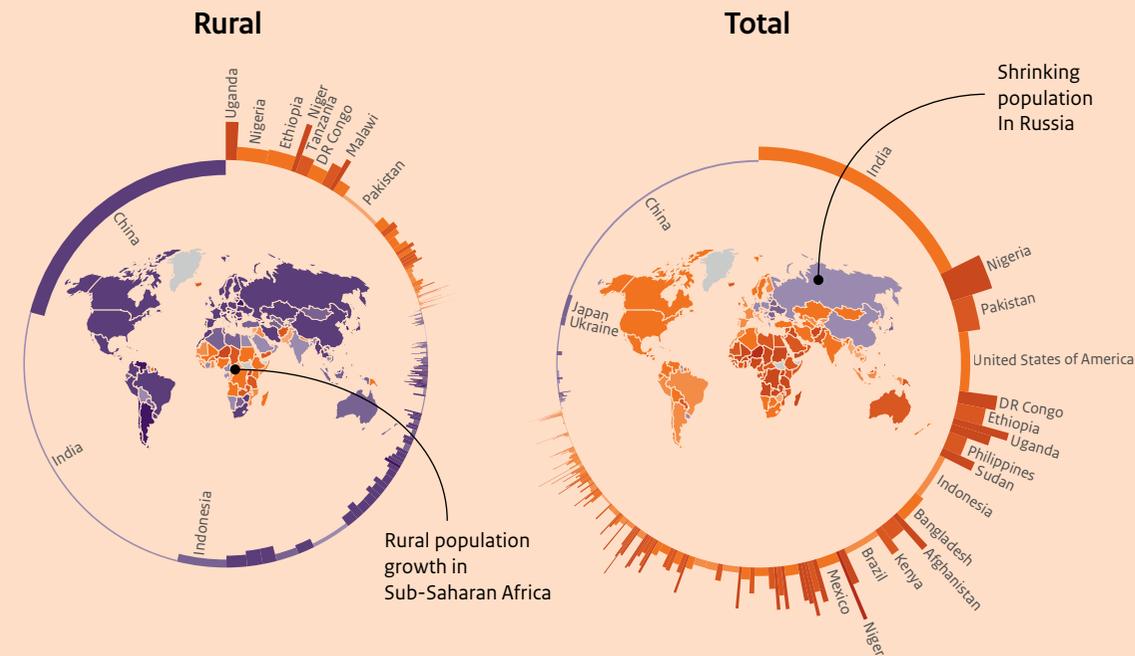
An urbanizing world

Estimates predict the total world population to grow by almost 2 billion people to over 9 billion by 2050. At present, around 50% of the world population lives in an urban environment, and the percentage is also expected to increase, reaching around 70% by 2050. Most of the population growth and the population shift to large cities will take place in developing countries. A dramatic example is

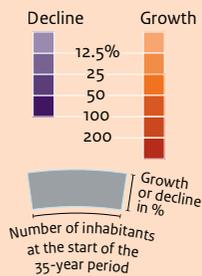
Sub-Saharan Africa, where currently two thirds of all new city dwellers move into informal settlements or slums, and half of these people are expected to remain there in the long term. Worldwide, almost 1 billion people are already living in these informal urban settlements without adequate access to vital infrastructures.

Urbanisation has a formative effect on society and people's quality of life

as well as on the global production and consumption patterns of resources and energy. At the same time, cities are facing the consequences of climate change. It is in cities where most people and assets are at risk of suffering extreme weather events. International agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda confront these challenges.



Population change 2015 – 2050 (Business as usual)



...with strong growth in Sub-Saharan Africa

Benefits and impacts of Dutch international trade

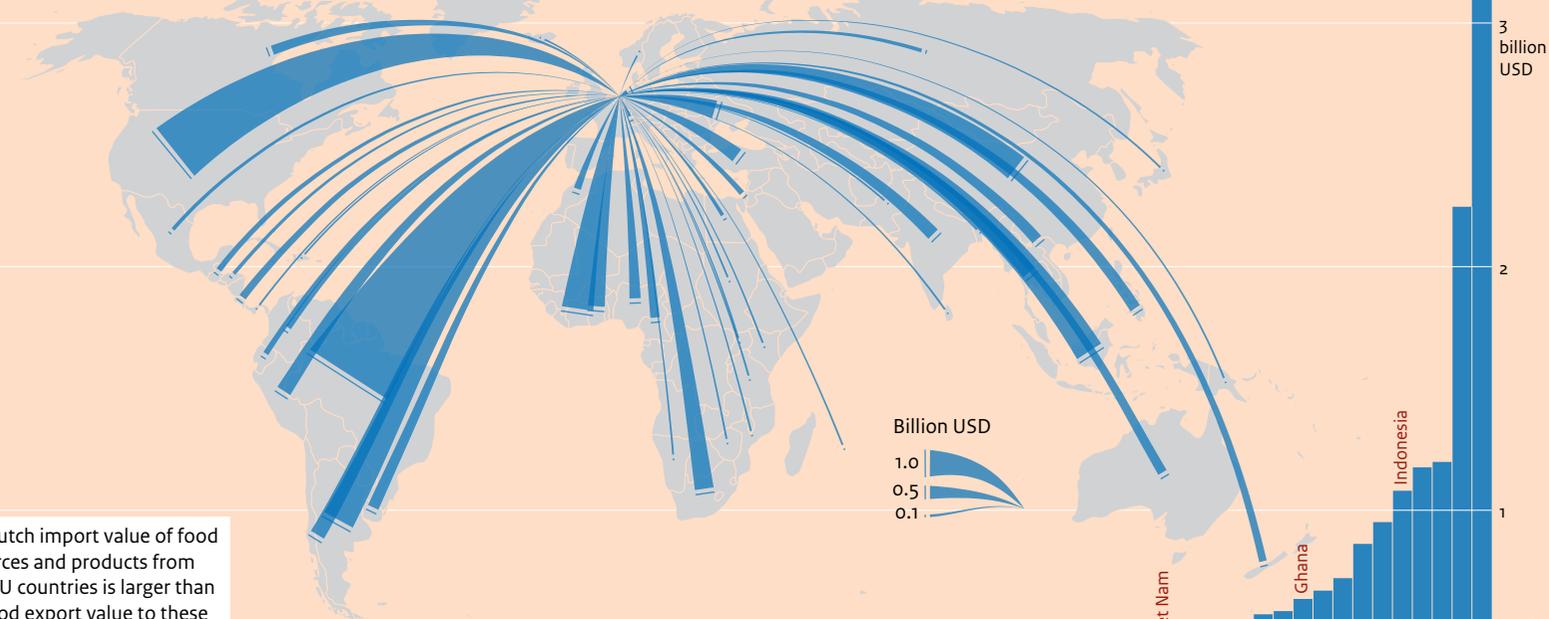
Remote impacts of our economy and taking shared responsibility

Due to globalisation, international trade flows have increased significantly over recent decades. Between 1996 and 2007, imports of goods into the Netherlands increased 7% by monetary value (constant prices). Forests and agricultural ecosystems in remote economies provide the Dutch economy with a range of natural resources. Imported resources are processed into final products that are sold in the Netherlands or to other countries. Our economy is therefore strongly interrelated with economies around the world.

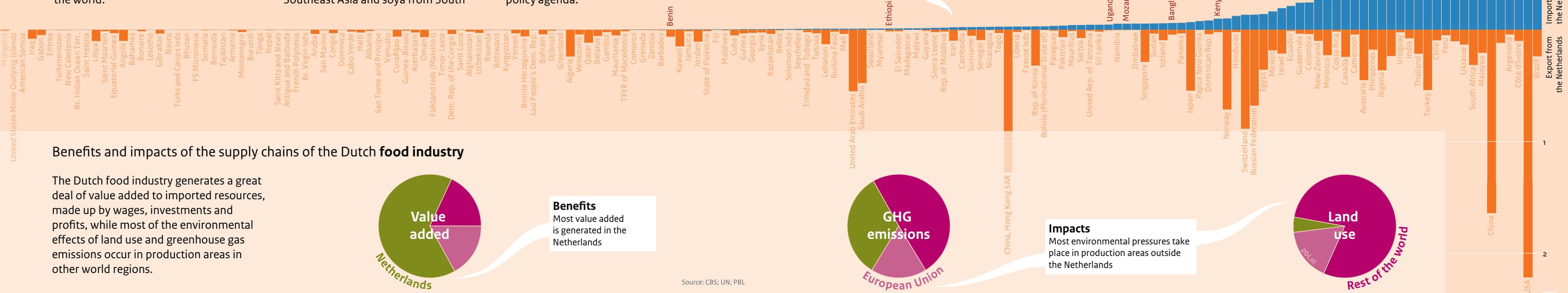
The trade in biotic resources and derived products accounts for nearly 15% of all imports in monetary terms. The Dutch food and feed industry strongly depends on these imports. Non-EU countries provide 40% of the imports in agricultural resource and food products, and after processing, most products are sold on the European market. Cacao, soya and palm oil are the three most important agricultural commodities of tropical origin: cacao mainly comes from Africa, palm oil from Southeast Asia and soya from South

American countries and the United States. As part of their corporate strategies, companies in the Netherlands take shared responsibility for mitigating the impacts elsewhere in the world, caused within their supply chains. This applies especially to the impacts from production processes in countries that have less well-developed environmental legislation and governance. Shaping this shared responsibility is an important part of the Dutch Aid and Trade policy agenda.

Import of resources for the food industry into the Netherlands, from non-EU countries, 2015

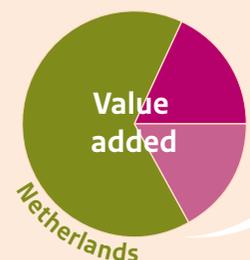


The Dutch import value of food resources and products from non-EU countries is larger than the food export value to these countries.



Benefits and impacts of the supply chains of the Dutch food industry

The Dutch food industry generates a great deal of value added to imported resources, made up by wages, investments and profits, while most of the environmental effects of land use and greenhouse gas emissions occur in production areas in other world regions.



Benefits
Most value added is generated in the Netherlands



Impacts
Most environmental pressures take place in production areas outside the Netherlands



Source: CBS; UN; PBL

Challenges for the nexus between **food, water, energy and land**

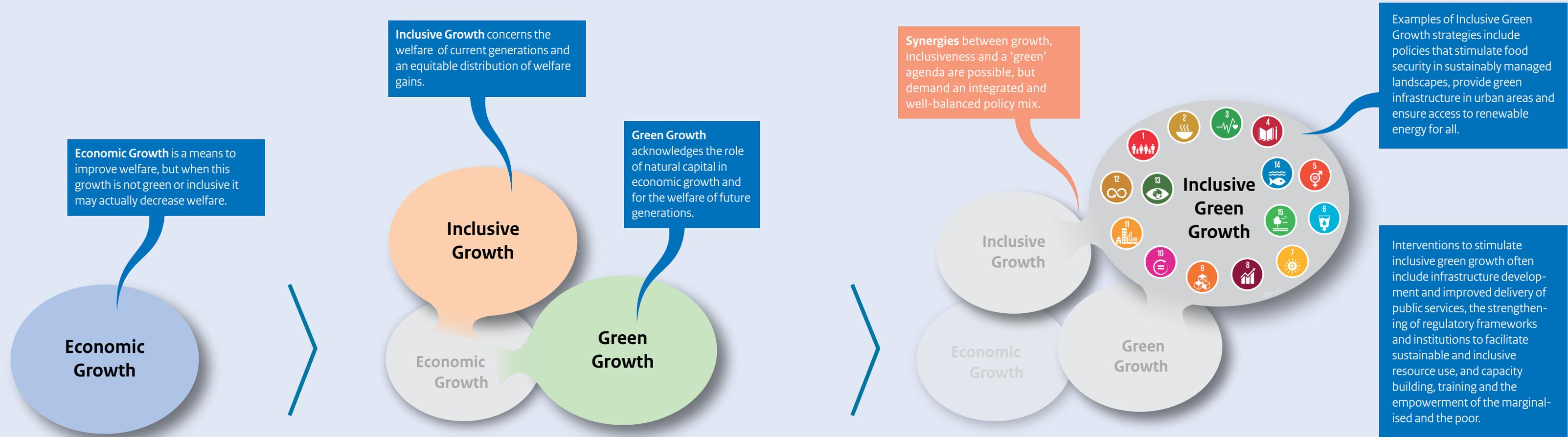
Food, water, energy and land are the main areas of concern where human development and the environment meet and where inclusive and green growth development strategies are most urgently required to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this section, we look at challenges in these areas, and concrete solutions to address them.

The 2030 Agenda emphasises that solutions to issues in relation to food, water, energy and land should not be considered in isolation, but

by capturing synergies between the various demands for natural resources while managing trade-offs. The interrelated nature of these areas of concern is referred to as the environmental nexus. Several infographics in this section focus on Sub-Saharan Africa, as, in this strongly urbanising region, ending hunger and ensuring modern energy for all is most urgent, while also many other future challenges converge here.

Synergies between economic growth, inclusive development and a

'green' agenda are possible, but trade-offs between areas are likely to occur; for instance, reconciling the expansion of areas for food production with the resulting biodiversity loss and carbon emissions following habitat conversion. This means that a balancing of objectives is needed as well as the use of an integrated policy mix. The search for trade-offs, synergies and solutions is illustrated here with the results from modelling studies based on explorative and normative scenarios (see Annex for scenario details).



Achieving Sustainable Development Goals...

Sustainable development implies that growth is both inclusive and green. Economic growth is essential for the alleviation of poverty. Climate change, ecosystem degradation, resource depletion and biodiversity loss illustrate that current economic growth is

not green. Nor is it always inclusive; persistent poverty and inequality in countries with fast growing economies are the very example that economic growth alone is not enough. The poor tend to benefit the least from economic growth, due to unequal access to

assets, opportunities and decision-making processes. Distributing the benefits of economic growth thus often requires institutional change. Stimulating Inclusive Green Growth requires that the market and governance failures underlying current non-inclusive

...through Inclusive Green Growth

and non-green growth pathways are adequately addressed. This implies attention for the factors causing the poorest to be excluded from economic development, and those causing the degradation and depletion of natural capital, including unregulated use of

the commons, underappreciation of the value of ecosystems and ignorance of the future benefits of natural capital use. There is a growing body of evidence of interventions that work. Often, such interventions focus either on better representation and inclusiveness,

or on improved efficiency of resource use and conservation. Attention for both, including the possible trade-offs that may arise between growth, green growth and inclusive growth objectives, is required for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.

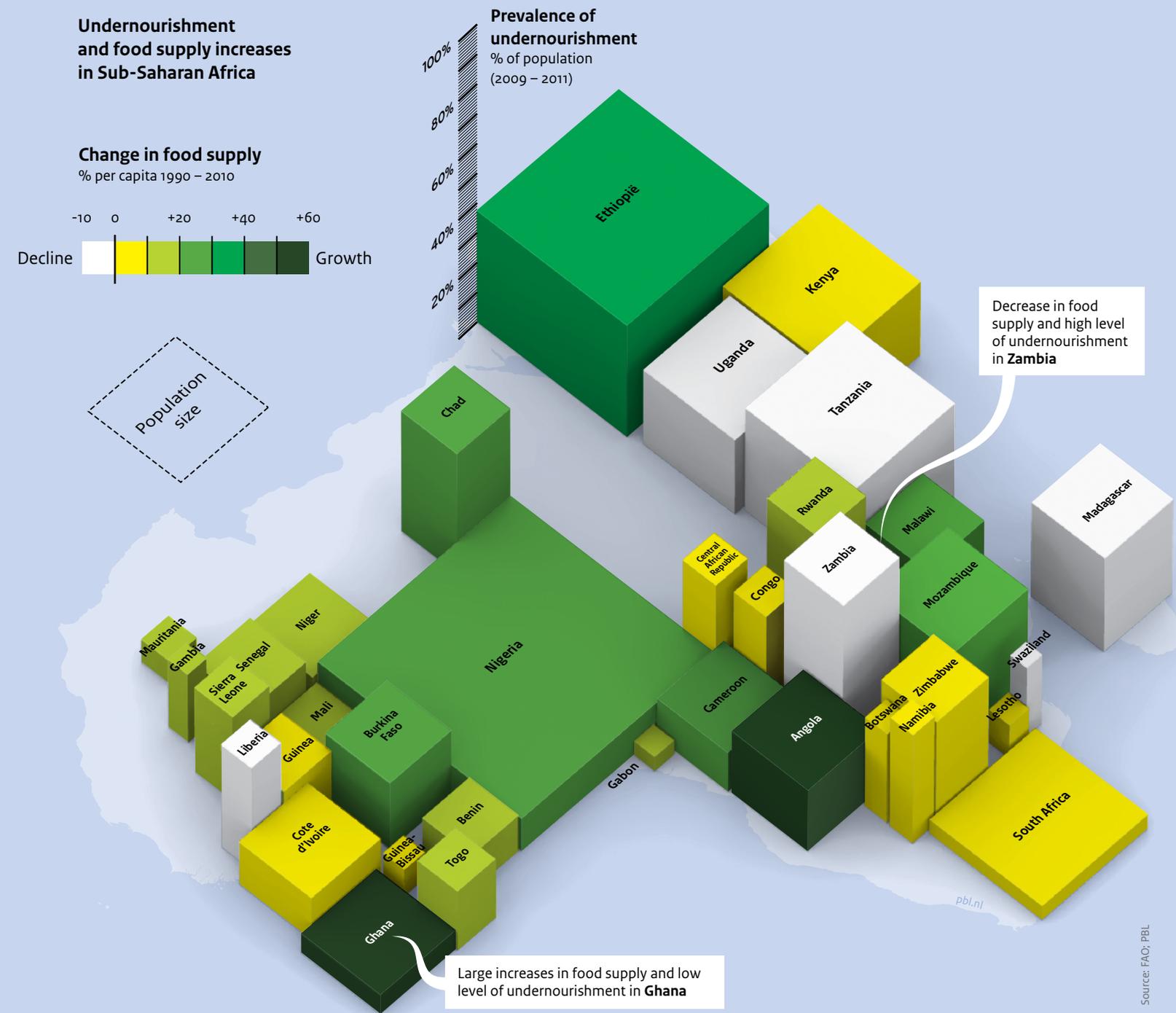
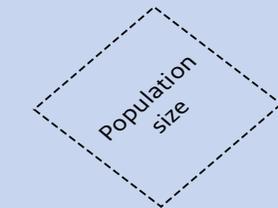
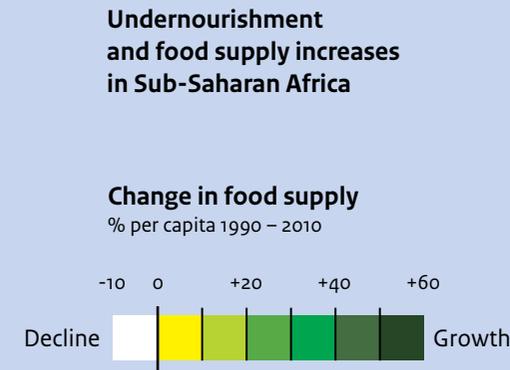
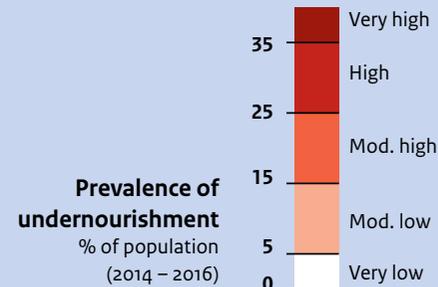
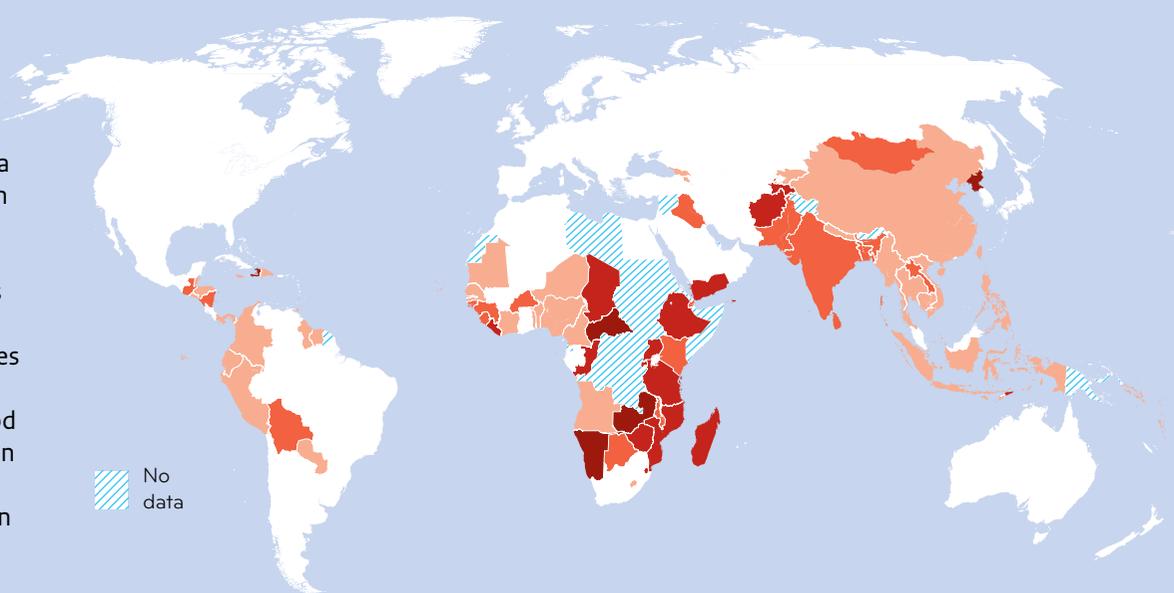
Despite increases in food supply, **hunger persists**

Opportunities for country-specific approaches to free people from hunger

The question of how to sustainably feed the growing global population features high on international policy agendas. Hunger and malnutrition are persistent problems despite the fact that global food production levels are sufficient to feed the world population. Undernourishment means that a person is not able to acquire enough food to meet the daily minimum dietary energy requirements over a period of one year, and hunger is defined by the FAO as being chronically undernourished. Although the Millennium Development Goal to halve the number of people suffering from hunger was reached for the developing world, 795 million people were still undernourished in 2015, of which 28% live in Sub-Saharan Africa.

However, there are glimmers of hope. The average food supply per capita in Sub-Saharan Africa increased between 1990 and 2010, even though the same period saw a high population growth. Importantly, Africa-wide average figures do not express the wide diversity of country-specific accounts. The differences between countries are large, ranging from an 8% drop to a 60% growth in food supply. Moreover, differences exist within countries. Even in wealthier countries, undernourishment is still prevalent, as an

increase in average food supply does not necessarily mean a decrease in hunger. Additional measures beyond agronomic improvements are paramount when facing the challenge of improving food supply and food accessibility for all people. Local and international policies should take a country's context into account. The quality of policies and the efficiency of interventions can be improved by understanding the institutional and local context and enhancing the diagnostic capacity of governments to create inclusive policies for national priorities.



Decrease in food supply and high level of undernourishment in **Zambia**

Large increases in food supply and low level of undernourishment in **Ghana**

Healthy soils, healthy lives

Nutrient deficiencies affect approximately 2 billion people worldwide

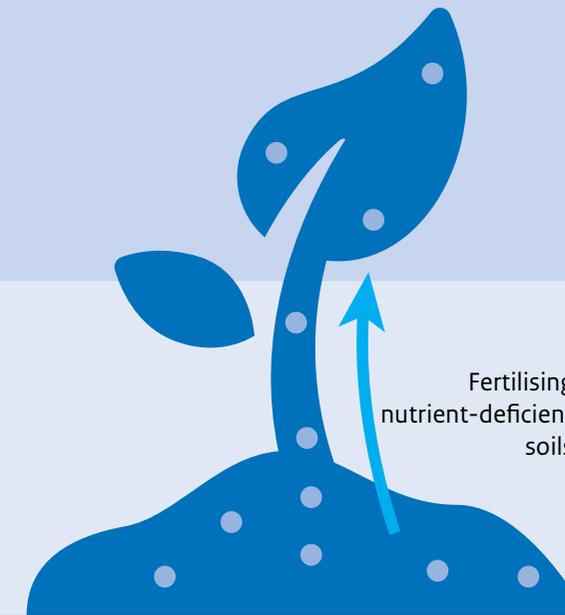
Whereas hunger affects 800,000 people worldwide, malnutrition, or nutrient deficiencies, affects a much larger population. Nutrient deficient soils are one of the major causes of low crop productivity and may affect low nutritional quality of produce. Micronutrient deficiencies are widespread in Africa and have profound societal effects.

One of the causes of dietary nutrient deficiency is a lack of nutrients in the soil. Healthy soils are important for plant growth and for stimulating agricultural intensification. An important factor among the many that influence soil health is the concentration of the macronutrients and micronutrients that are essential for plant growth. In most African soils, these concentrations are low, prompting a renewed focus on the limitations imposed by the lack of micronutrients, such as zinc and boron.

Several options are available to remedy the situation, the most interesting of which are the application of fertilisers, breeding new plant varieties and providing food supplements. The most effective policy response – addressing both low crop yield and malnutrition – is likely to be a mix of these three, though the weight of each may differ substantially from one country to another depending on the severity of the local problems.

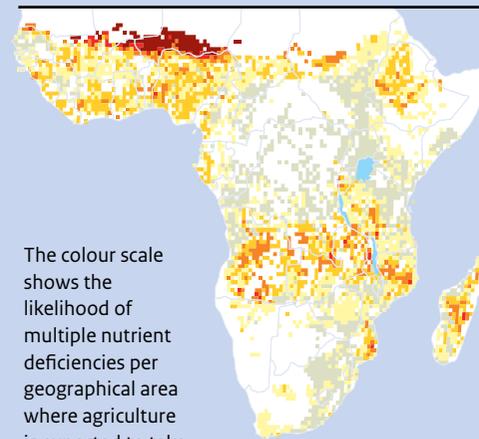
Plant productivity

Nutrient deficient soils is one of the major causes of low crop productivity and, possibly, of low nutritional quality of produce. Healthier soils lead to production increases and larger amounts of nutrients fixed in crops, which are then available for human consumption. Healthy soils may eventually bring down malnutrition.



Micronutrient deficiency

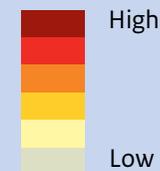
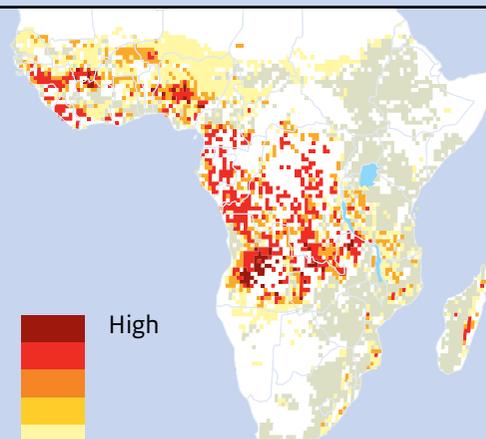
(B, Cu, Fe, Mn and Zn) in the bottom 25% range of each nutrient distribution in Sub-Saharan Africa.



The colour scale shows the likelihood of multiple nutrient deficiencies per geographical area where agriculture is expected to take place until 2050 (Business as usual)

Macronutrient deficiency

(Ca, K, Mg, and N) in the bottom 25% range of each nutrient distribution in Sub-Saharan Africa.



MEASURES

Fertiliser application

The use of fertilisers increases overall soil nutrient concentrations. Unlike widely available macronutrient fertilisers, those providing micronutrients are rarely available on local African markets. To ensure effectiveness of micronutrient fertilisers under varying local soil conditions, they need to be custom-made. But dwindling global reserves may cause problems. Zinc is in scarce supply, and over 90% is used in industrial products, such as cars and electric appliances. The fact that fertilising zinc-deficient soils in Africa may consume up to 3% of the annual zinc supply, highlights the vulnerability of Africa's agricultural sector to supply distortions.

Human nutrition and health

Zinc-intake deficiencies are a prime cause of infant mortality. The element also plays a critical role in the growing brain and cognitive development. Deficiencies of iodine and iron, together with stunting, can contribute to children not reaching full developmental potential.

Plant breeding

When geared towards increasing the relative content of essential nutrients in crops, breeding programs can enhance the bioavailability of essential nutrients in local produce. Although promising, breeding programs take long to produce results and improved varieties have been developed for a few crops only. In addition, plant breeding does not address the issue of low nutrient concentrations in soils.

Food supplements

Deficiencies in human consumption can be offset outside the field of soils and agriculture, through the distribution of food supplements, fortification of commonly purchased foods and awareness campaigns on the benefits of dietary diversity. These initiatives can effectively reduce malnutrition and improve health, but obviously, none targets low levels of soil nutrients and poor crop yields.



Brain and cognitive development



Infant mortality

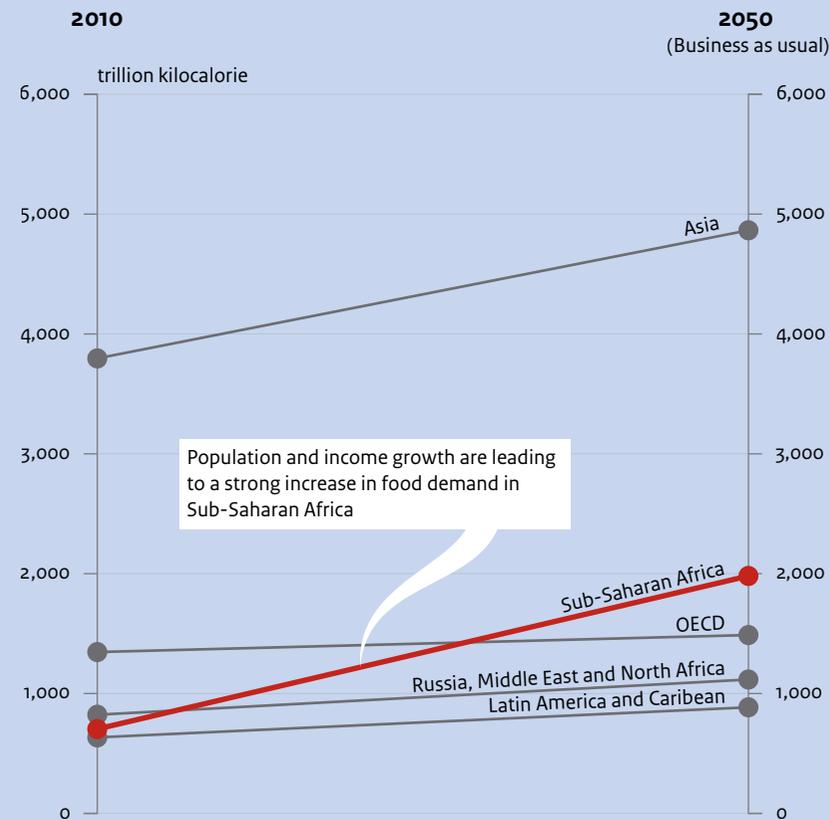
Matching food demand...

Limiting cropland expansion by producing food more efficiently

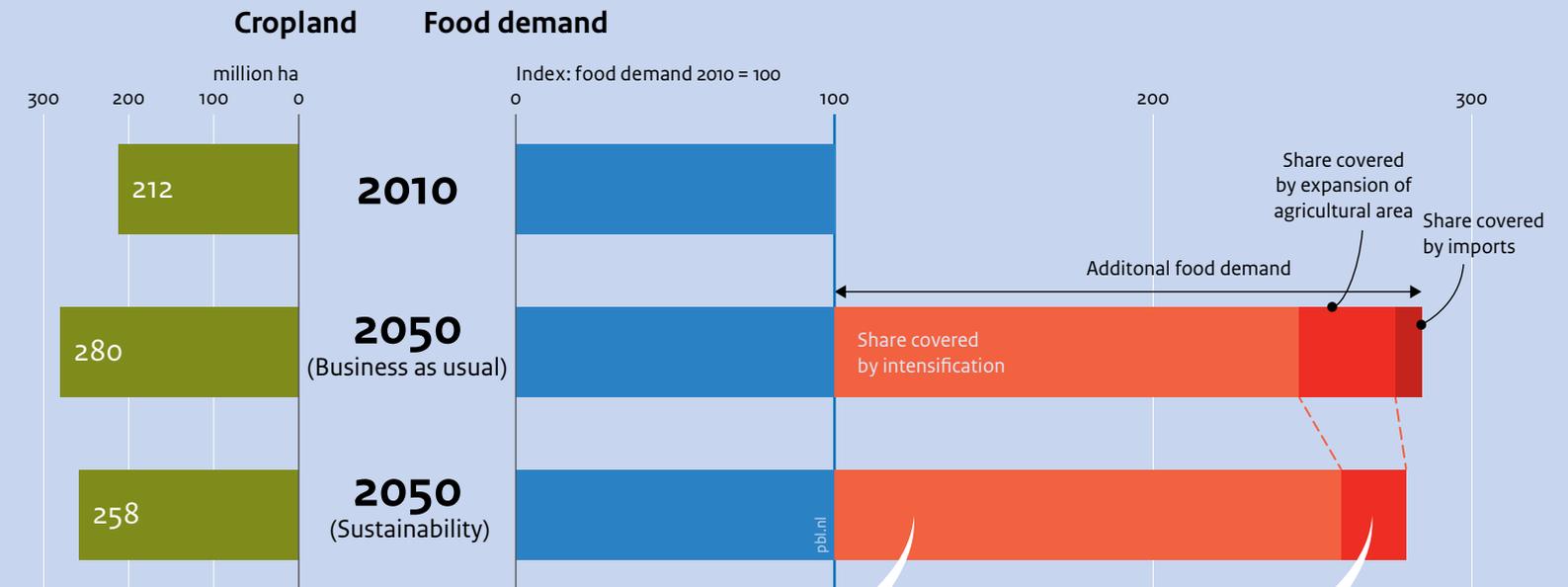
Sustainable Development Goal 2 aims to end world hunger. In the light of the staggering population growth expected for many African countries, the foreseeable increase in productivity will not be enough to meet the resulting food demand in 2050. Unlike the situation in most other regions, expansion of agricultural areas is urgently needed in Sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, SDG 15 aims to halt biodiversity loss, and the desire to meet both SDGs has triggered a heated debate on the trade-offs between them. One way to make these SDGs compatible is to limit further expansion and produce food in a more sustainable manner.

Between 1990 and 2010, the intensification of production practices and the rise in yields in particular were the main drivers of growth in domestic food production in Africa. Agricultural expansion played a minor role in the increases. To continue these positive developments into the future an integrated pathway that serves several SDGs by combining economic growth, reduction of inequality and conservation of natural areas. To end world hunger and simultaneously preserve natural areas, agricultural productivity needs to increase by using resources, such as fertilisers and land, more efficiently and reduce food losses along production and supply chains.

Growing food demand



...and cropland availability in Sub-Saharan Africa



Closing yield gaps

Closing yield gaps is the most straightforward avenue to increase the availability of calories. It refers to the production increase that is attainable when there are no pests or diseases and no limitations on fertiliser use.

Expanding agricultural areas

Cropland expansion occurs mainly at the expense of natural areas. The depiction of Africa as a continent with an immense potential for agricultural expansion needs nuancing. The distribution of potentially available underutilised cropland is highly uneven across the continent. Most of it is located in large, sparsely populated countries (e.g. the Democratic Republic of the Congo), often characterised by weak governance and limited opportunities for economic development.

Too little water

Towards sustainable water supply

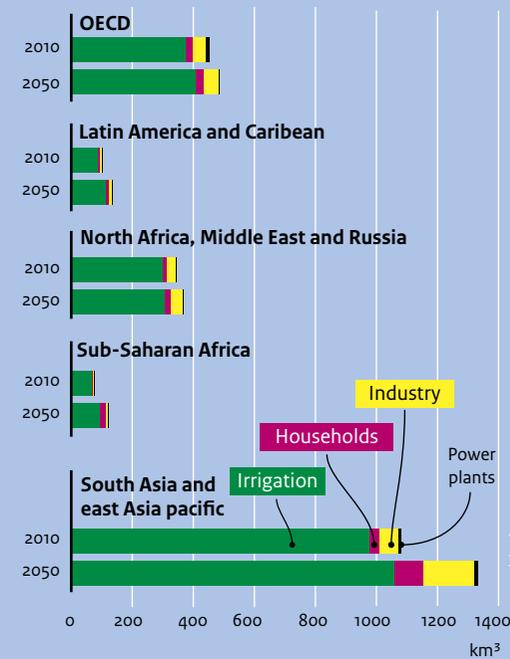
Water is essential for agricultural production, industry, human settlements and natural vegetation. Climate change, which brings higher average temperatures and changing precipitation patterns, combined with increasing competition for water resources, may result in substantial increases in the number of people living under severe water stress. In emerging economies and rapidly urbanising countries, sharp rises in water consumption are expected, mainly due to demands for irrigation and industry. Competition for water between sectors and between countries sharing a river basin may increase.

Expansion of irrigated crop areas and the expected increases in crop yields may not be feasible because of water scarcity. Water is first extracted from

rivers and lakes or stored in reservoirs. When this supply is insufficient, water is extracted from aquifers. In many cases, groundwater depletion is the main driver of land subsidence which causes extensive damage to urban infrastructures and buildings. Land subsidence also increases vulnerability to coastal flooding. In the short term, land subsidence poses a larger threat on coastal and delta cities than rising sea levels.

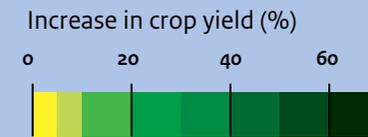
The consequences of water shortages for daily life are unpredictable, and depend greatly on improvements in water management, such as rainwater collection, irrigation efficiency and water storage capacity, and also on changes in crop types and allocation of land and water to agricultural producers.

Water consumption
(Business as usual)

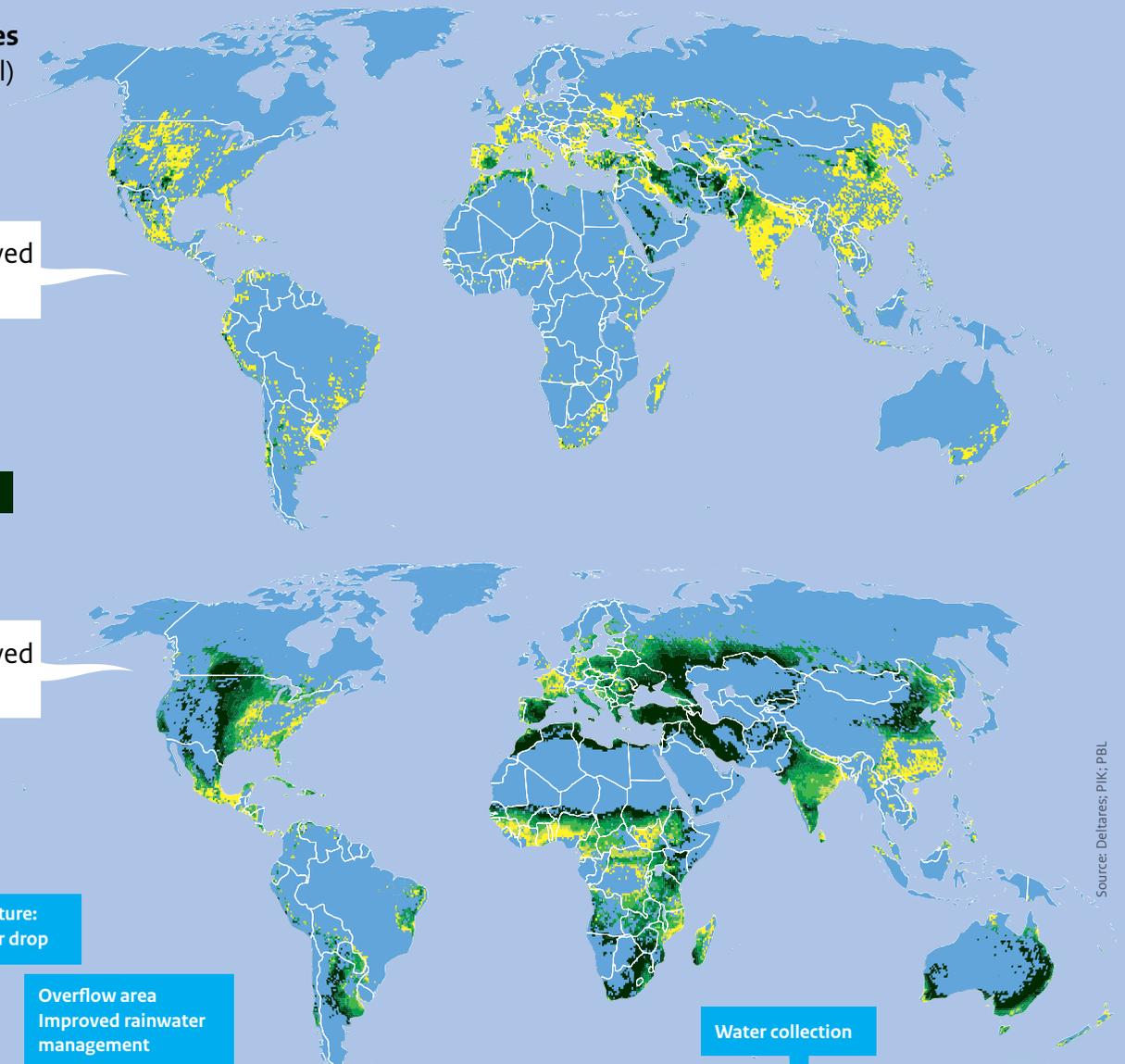


Theoretical yield increases
by 2050 (Business as usual)

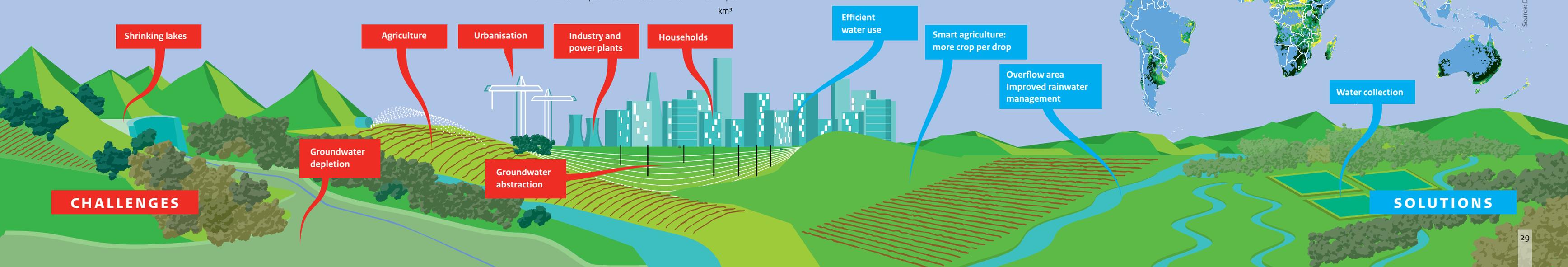
Increase through improved irrigation efficiency



Increase through improved rainwater management



Source: Deltares, PIK, PBL



Too dirty water

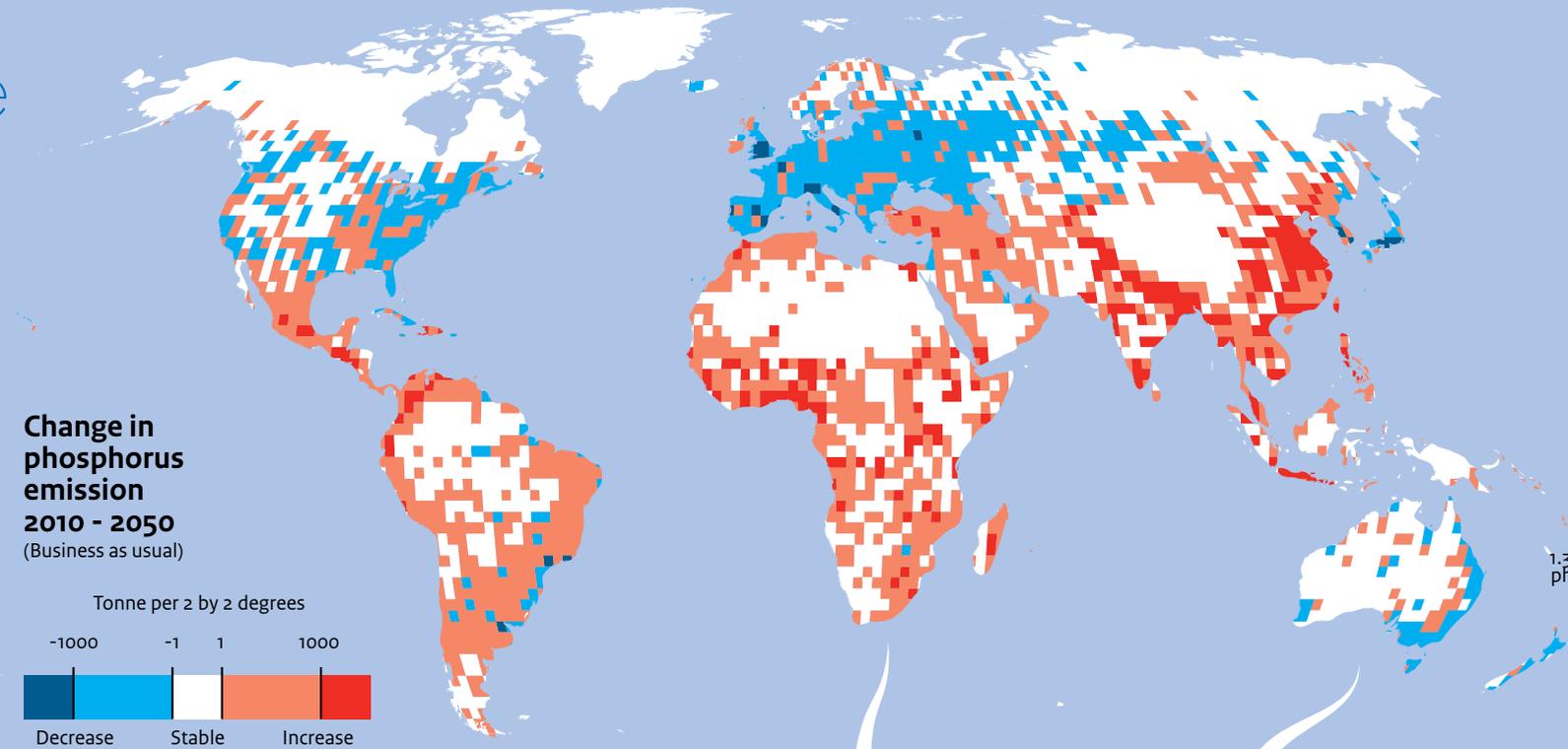
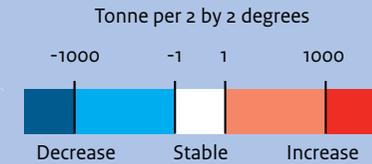
Towards improved waste water treatment

A century ago, the dominant flow for nutrients was their reuse in agriculture. Today, nutrients mostly end up in surface water. This results in eutrophication caused by phosphorus emissions and the subsequent pollution of rivers, lakes and coastal waters.

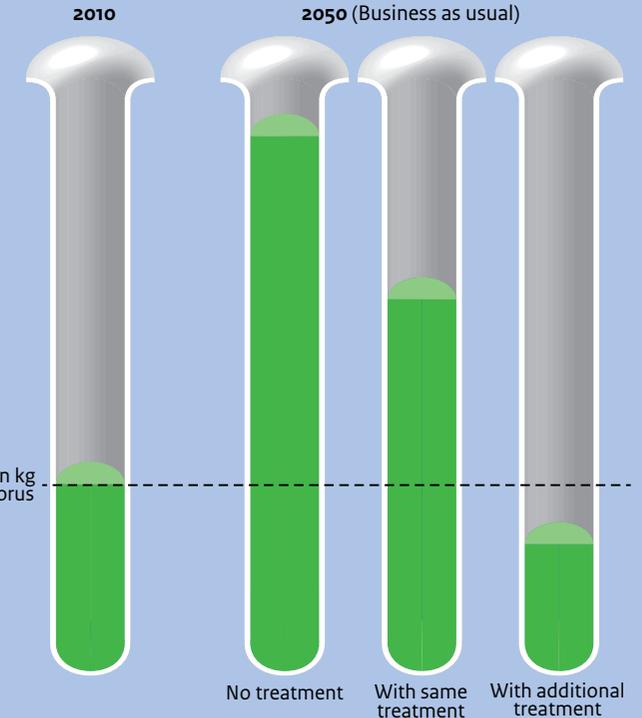
In developed countries, continued investments in wastewater treatment are expected to stabilise and restore surface water quality. However, in developing countries, further deterioration is expected to occur between 2010 and 2050. It is increasingly recognised that the urban water system is best designed, planned and managed in an integrated manner. Wastewater treatment should be part of a larger system, aimed at delivering services to urban dwellers without compromising on sustainability.

An option for improving wastewater quality is to combine wastewater collection with wastewater treatment to avoid the discharge of untreated wastewater and contribute to the reuse of nutrients in agriculture. Wastewater treatment plants can be upgraded to include tertiary treatment systems with new technologies that enable the removal of 95% or more of the nutrients contained in the effluent. For rural areas, promising options may be on-site sanitation and better management of faecal sludge. International agreements are important incentives for countries to invest in wastewater treatment to improve water quality downstream.

Change in phosphorus emission 2010 - 2050
(Business as usual)



Effects of treatment
on emissions from households to surface water



No water treatment while cities are expanding | Water treatment is improving | Closed system connected to advanced treatment system | On-site sanitation

Sewerage system releasing to surface water | Sewage not separated from storm drains | Human health in cities | Threat to aquaculture, tourism, fishery and industry

CHALLENGES

Water pollution | No water treatment

SOLUTIONS

Source: PBL

Too much water

Towards better flood protection

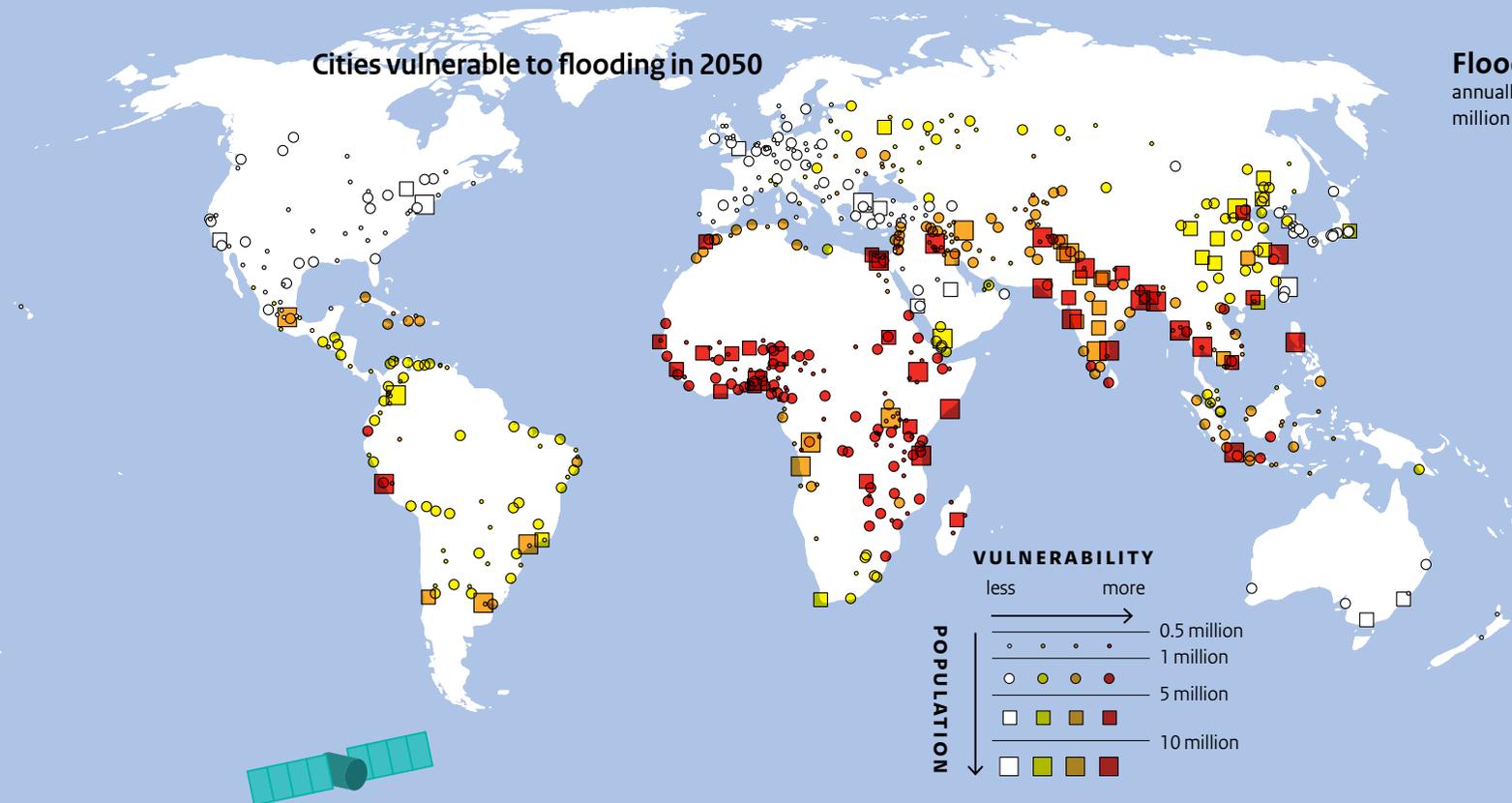
It is estimated that, by 2050, the number of people living in flood-prone areas will be 1.3 billion, or around 15% of the global population, assuming business-as-usual developments. As urban areas expand, hundreds of trillions of dollars worth of infrastructure, industrial plants, office buildings and homes will be increasingly at risk from river and coastal flooding, particularly in Asia. Vulnerability to flooding is unevenly distributed over the formal and informal parts of cities and in most cases, the poorest part of the population occupies the areas with the highest levels of risk. In the context of environmental justice, public authorities

face the challenge of improving the level of protection against flooding without increasing inequality among citizens with regard to flood risk.

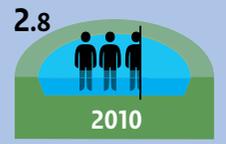
Applying integrated flood protection measures can strongly reduce both the number of people and the economic value that is at risk in case of flooding. There are a large number of potential measures for reducing urban flood risk. These do not only involve levees, storm surge barriers and dams, but also flood-proof construction methods, spatial development, warning and evacuation systems and disaster and recovery plans. An integrated flood risk strategy should be based on a careful

exploration of options, taking into account various types of measures.

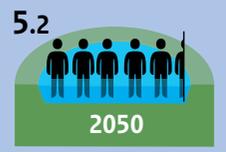
Spatial planning (where to build) and the design of the built-up area (how to build), are powerful instruments for reducing water-related risks and climate-related risks in urban areas. There are many ways to position water-related policies in the urban environment, at various scales, and with many actors involved in the planning and implementation. They require close cooperation between the various social actors and a clear division of responsibilities between government and its different bodies, private companies and individual citizens.



Flood risks in cities
annually exposed urban population million people



At protection level 1:100 years, 2.8 million people are exposed to flooding

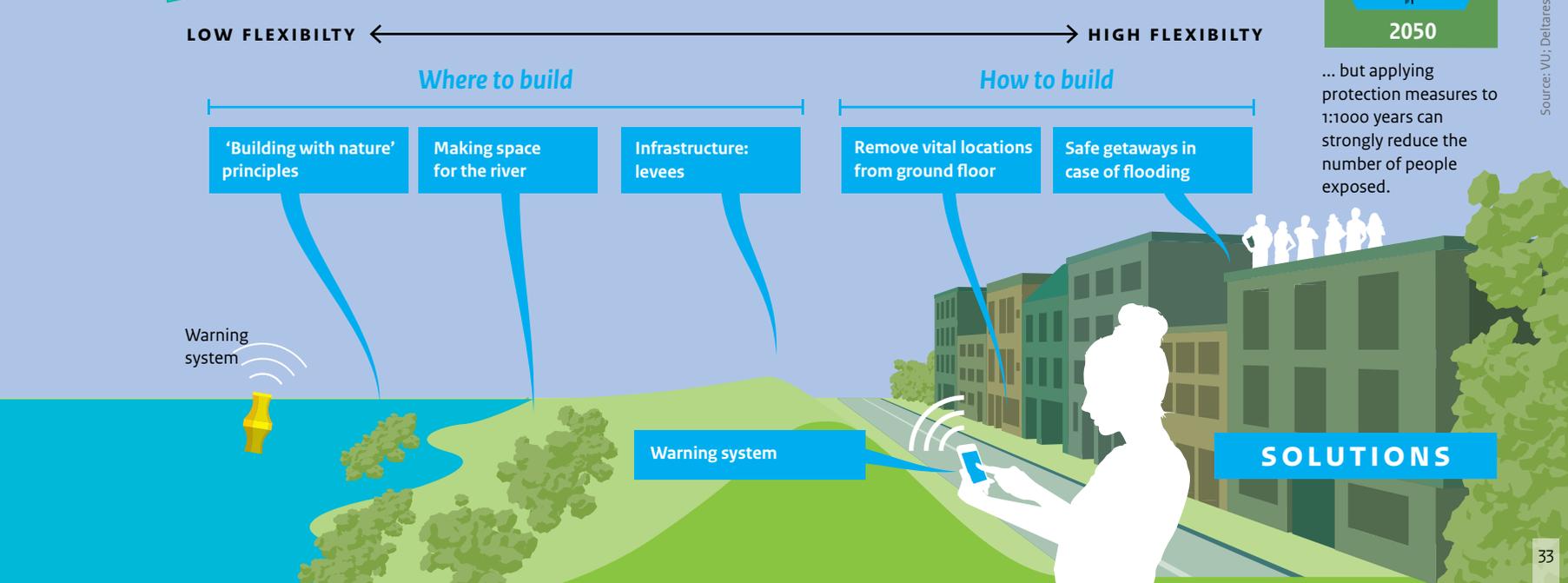
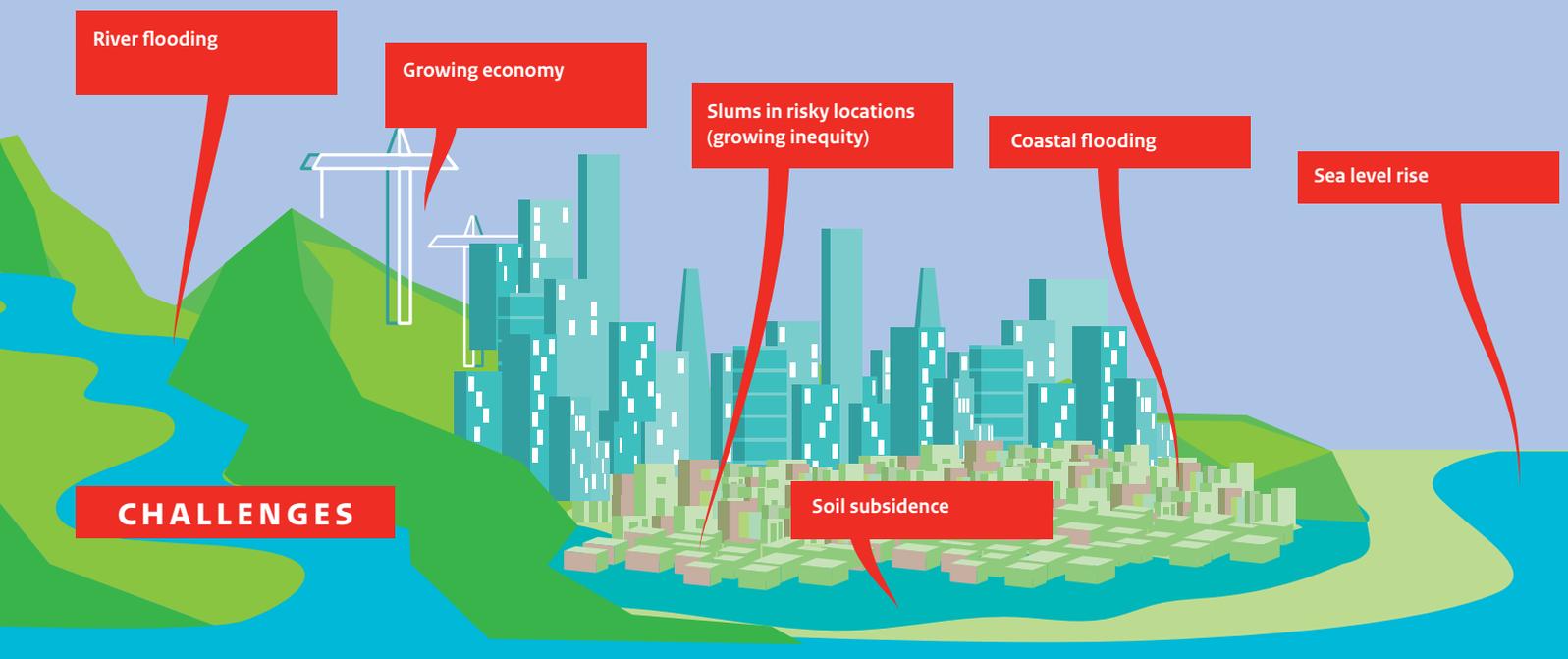


Assuming the same protection level, the number of people exposed will almost double...



... but applying protection measures to 1:1000 years can strongly reduce the number of people exposed.

Source: VU, Deltares, PBL



Towards Universal Electricity Access in Sub-Saharan Africa

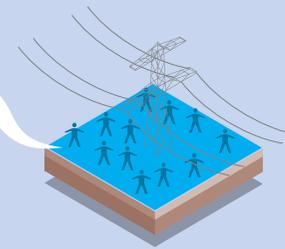
The role of off-grid electrification in rural development

In Sub-Saharan Africa, two out of every three people – more than 600 million people in total – currently do not have access to electricity. Improving electricity access is an essential component of enhancing human development, by means of, for example, enabling greater use of technologies for irrigation and water pumping, creating employment, enhancing the conditions for study, work and leisure, and for the provision of modern health services and better educational services. Concerns about climate change should not hamper the efforts to provide universal electricity access in Sub-Saharan Africa, as the impact on global greenhouse gas emissions is negligible.

As about half the population of Sub-Saharan Africa lives

within 50 km of an existing electricity network, on-grid electrification is a feasible option for improving access. However, in sparsely populated rural areas, far from the electricity network, off-grid systems, which include mini-grids and stand-alone systems, can provide electricity at lower costs than the conventional grid, especially when power consumption is low. The choice for off-grid technology strongly depends on local resource availability and electricity demand of the local community. With low household consumption levels, solar home systems are the most cost-effective off-grid electrification technology. At higher levels of consumption, mini-grids powered by solar, diesel, or small hydropower can be the most cost-effective.

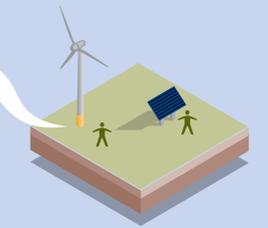
Central grid system
Large-scale power plants and high voltage power lines



Mini-grid system
Off-grid power plant, wind farm or solar farm



Stand-alone system
Wind or solar installation connected and operated by end-user



Least-cost electrification system to achieve universal electricity access in Sub-Saharan Africa, in 2030

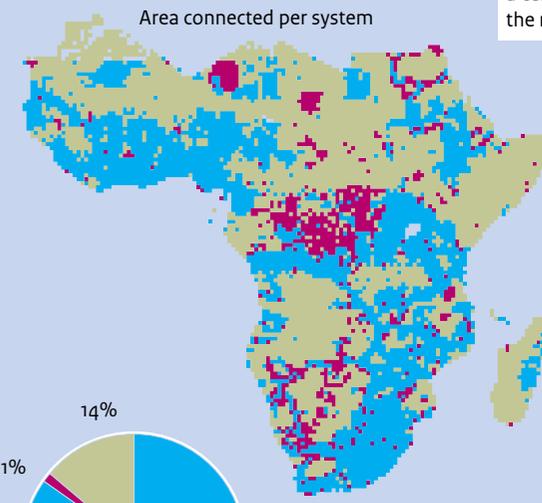
Business as usual with universal electricity access

Low electricity consumption
4.5 kWh per household, per year

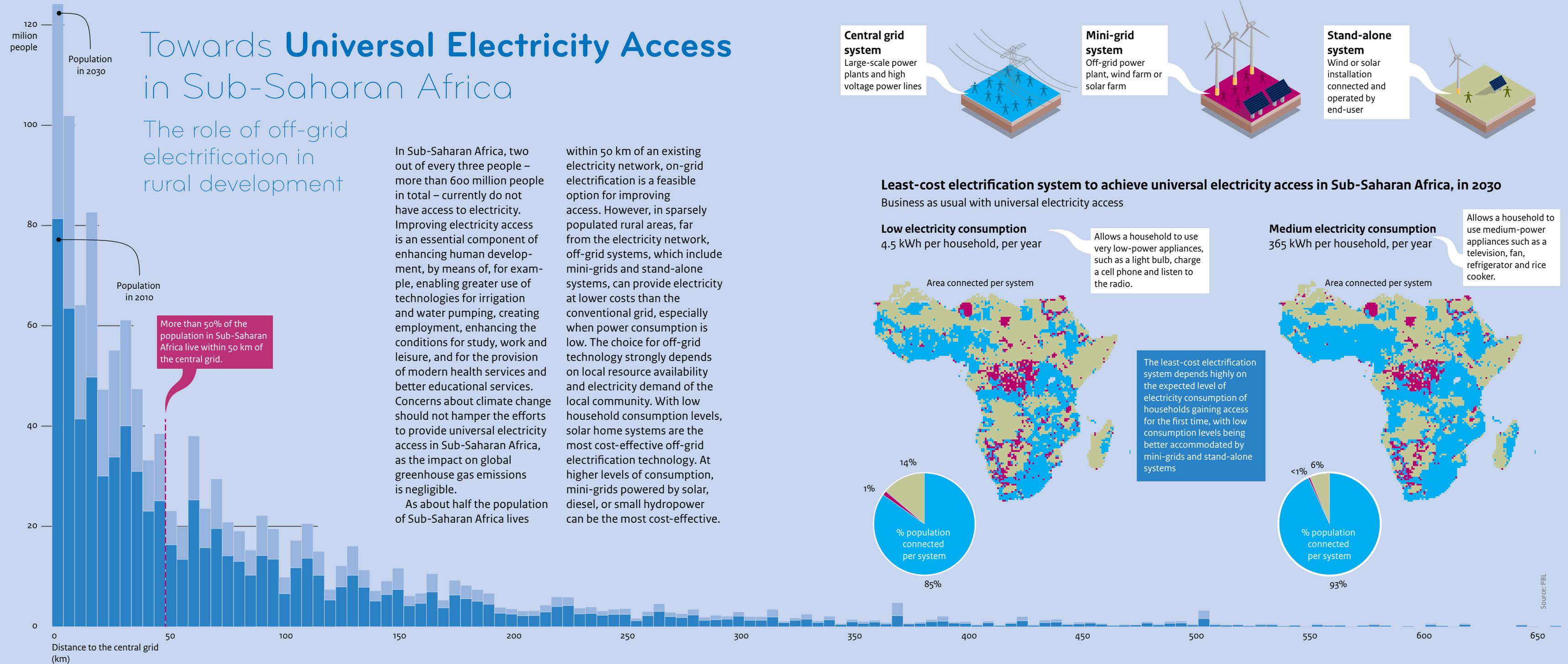
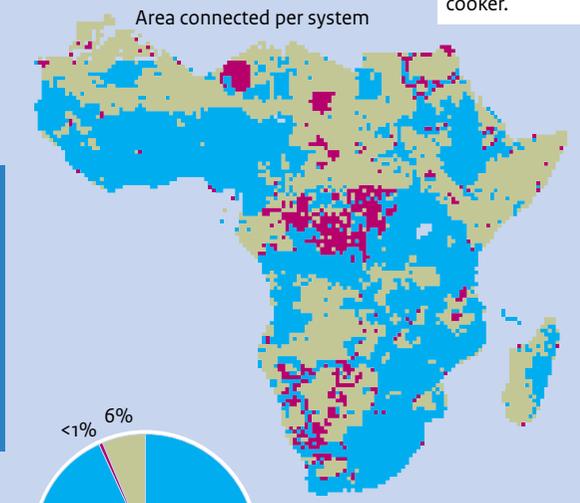
Allows a household to use very low-power appliances, such as a light bulb, charge a cell phone and listen to the radio.

Medium electricity consumption
365 kWh per household, per year

Allows a household to use medium-power appliances such as a television, fan, refrigerator and rice cooker.



The least-cost electrification system depends highly on the expected level of electricity consumption of households gaining access for the first time, with low consumption levels being better accommodated by mini-grids and stand-alone systems



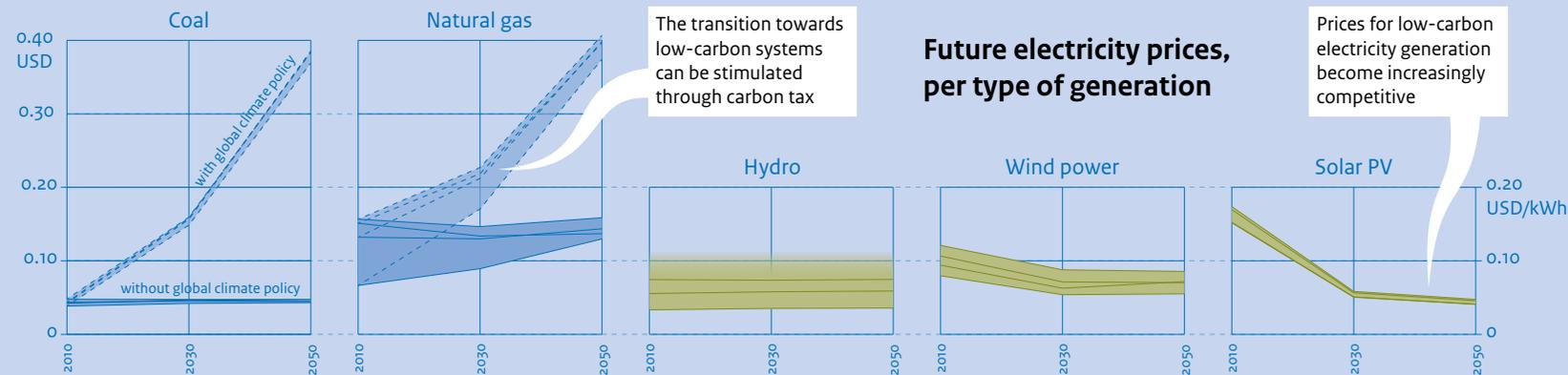
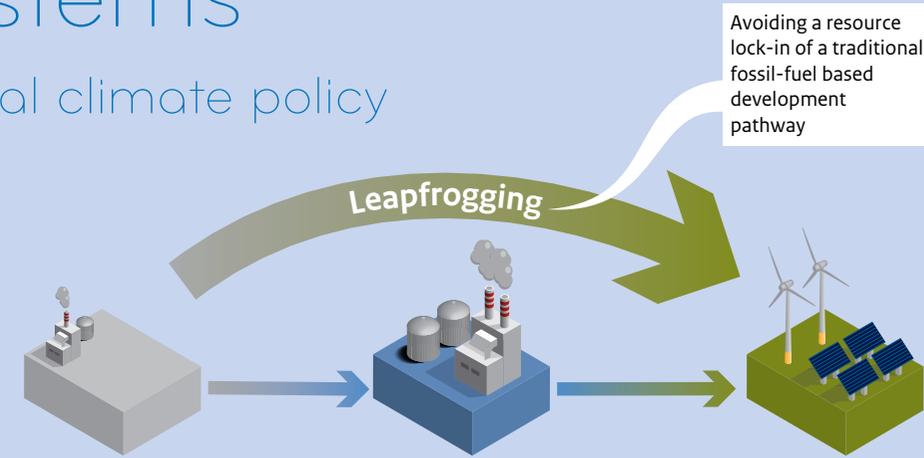
Leapfrogging towards low-carbon electricity systems

Consequences of global climate policy

The Sub-Saharan African electricity system is still in its infancy. The current production capacity can only meet around 35% of the projected electricity demand for 2030 and less than 15% of the projected demand for 2050. Nevertheless, Sub-Saharan Africa is richly endowed with both fossil and renewable energy sources, which can easily accommodate the projected electricity demand. Coal is abundant in southern Africa, and several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have large natural gas reserves. The potential for renewable energy production is huge, with options for solar photovoltaic energy in Sub-Saharan Africa, large and small-scale hydropower in eastern and central Africa, and wind power particularly in eastern Africa.

Being a laggard not only comes with challenges, but also opens up opportunities; as a large part of the generation capacity still needs to be built, Sub-Saharan Africa can benefit from the global renewable energy revolution to leapfrog to electricity systems dominated by renewable energy. Over the last few decades, the costs of the related technologies have decreased significantly, largely driven by innovation

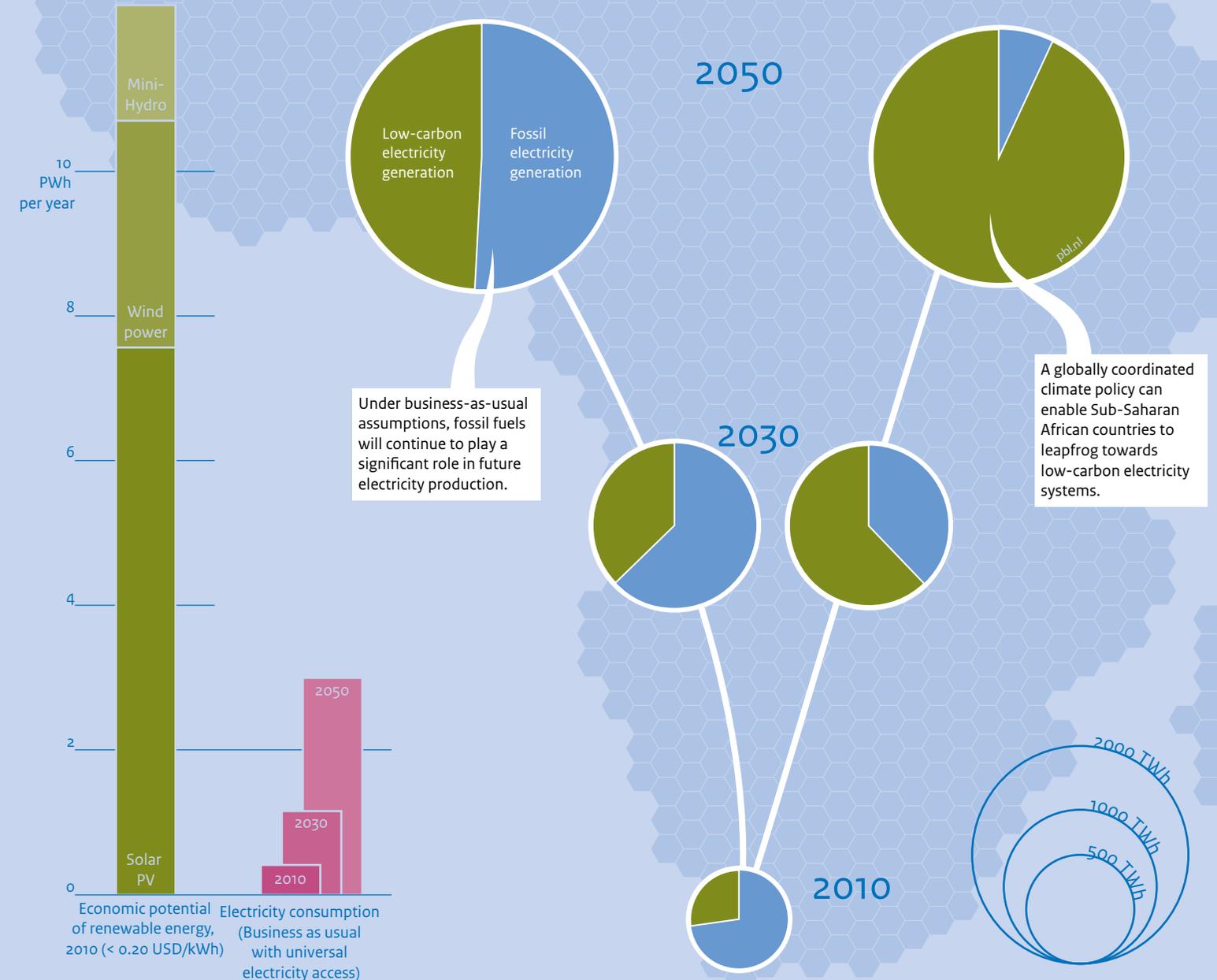
and renewable energy policies in emerging economies and OECD countries. This trend is expected to continue in the future. Pricing carbon emissions makes renewable energy technologies even more competitive, due to the resulting rise in fossil fuel prices. This policy option makes it possible to combine increased electricity access in this developing region with mitigating climate change.



Electricity generation

Without global climate policy

With global climate policy



Combining human development with biodiversity conservation

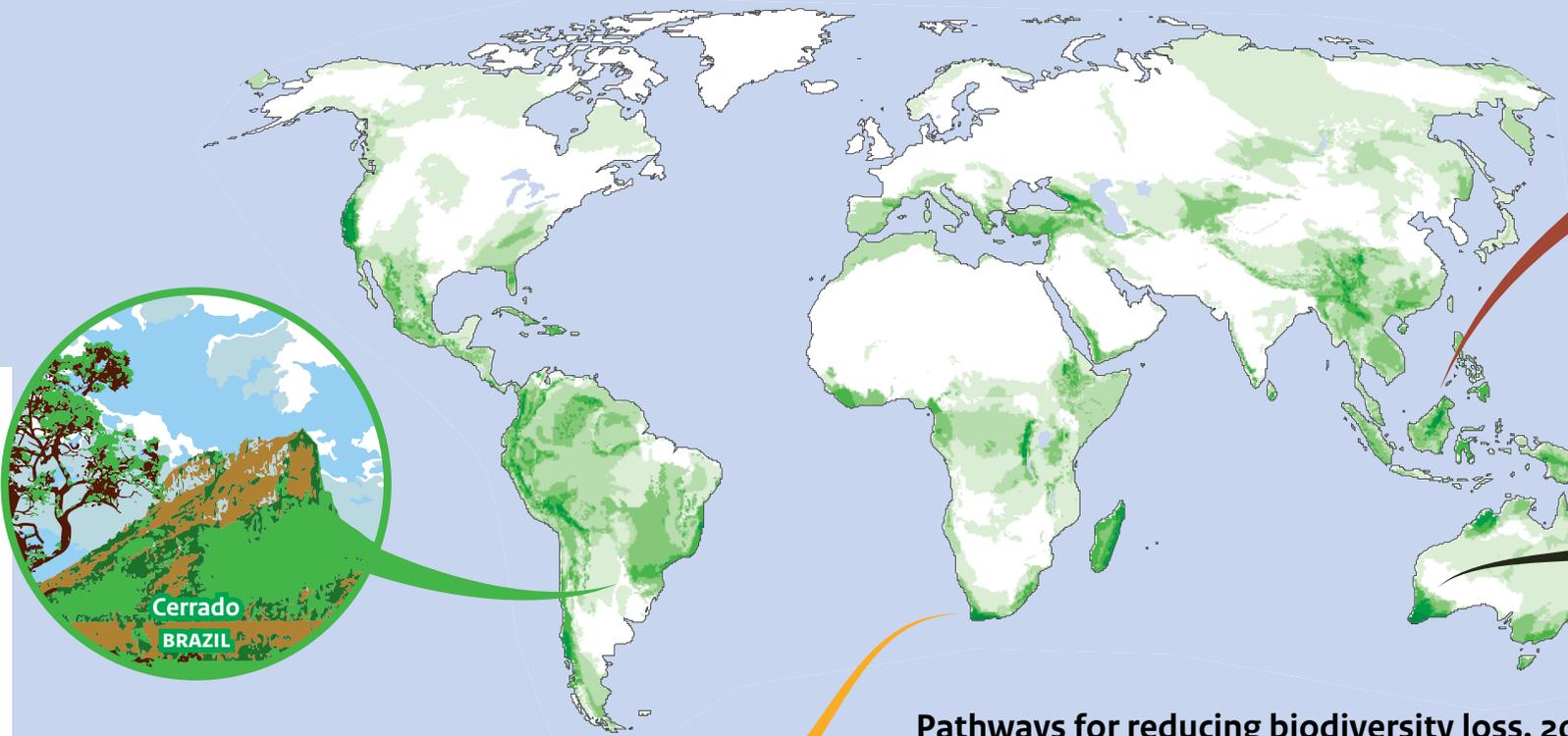
Engaging production sectors to bring multiple SDGs within reach

If current trends in population and wealth growth continue, the increasing demand for food, wood, water and energy will have negative consequences for biodiversity worldwide. Most pressures causing this loss can be attributed to production sectors. To address and mitigate these pressures, businesses need to become aware of their impact on biodiversity, and of the economic risks of losing natural capital and its benefits. Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns in production sectors is therefore an important strategy for attaining the targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Integrated development pathways with the potential to bring several SDGs within reach are wanted. They need to serve the CBD targets: halt global biodiversity loss, halve the rate of natural habitat loss (CBD-Aichi target 11), and expand the protected areas network (CBD-Aichi target 5). The pathways should also serve SDGs in other domains, such as eradicating poverty and hunger, providing access to safe drinking water and modern types of

Hotspots of biodiversity
The aim of Aichi target 11 is to protect 17% of all ecosystem types to cover a representative share of Earth's diversity in life forms. Priority maps for biodiversity indicate where the major hotspots for biodiversity worldwide are found, and where land-use planning should be guided primarily by biodiversity concerns.

energy generation, and limiting the mean global temperature increase to 2 °C by 2100. Options for production and consumption of food, feed, fibres and fuel, along with energy generation and measures for climate mitigation form the central part of solution packages that are built around pathways for alternative future development. In all pathways, hotspot areas of highly valued biodiversity should be prioritised and given the status of protected areas.



Pathways for reducing biodiversity loss, 2050



SPARING
Global Technology
Pathway achieves the 2050 targets with a focus on optimal large-scale global technological solutions, such as **intensive agriculture** and a high level of **international coordination**.

- Increase agricultural productivity
- Mitigate climate change
- Expand protected areas

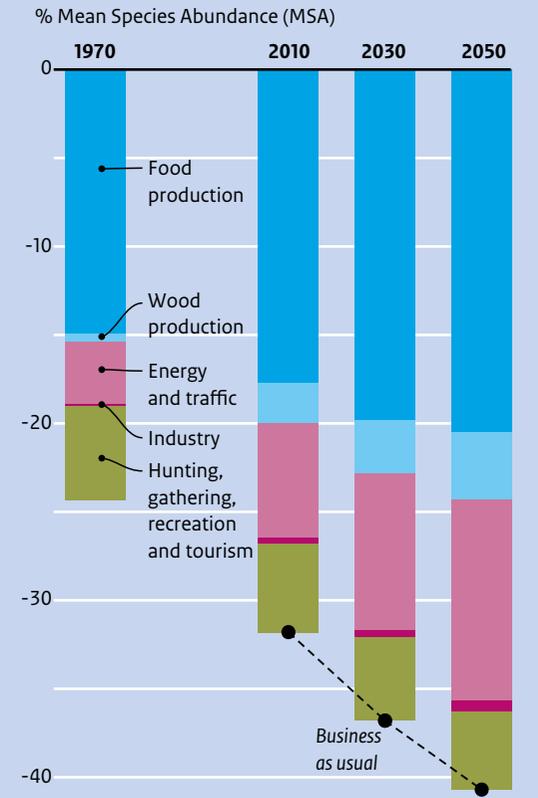
SHARING
Decentralised Solutions
Pathway with a focus on **regional priorities** and local ecology-friendly technologies. Agriculture is interwoven with **natural corridors**.

- Increase agricultural productivity
- Reduce infrastructure expansion
- Expand protected areas
- Mitigate climate change

CARING
Consumption Change
Pathway with a focus on changes in human consumption patterns, most notably by limiting meat, reduce waste, and a less energy-intensive and material-intensive lifestyle.

- Mitigate climate change
- Expand protected areas
- Increase agricultural productivity
- Reduce consumption and waste

Causes of terrestrial biodiversity loss attributed to production sectors



Source: WCMC, PBL

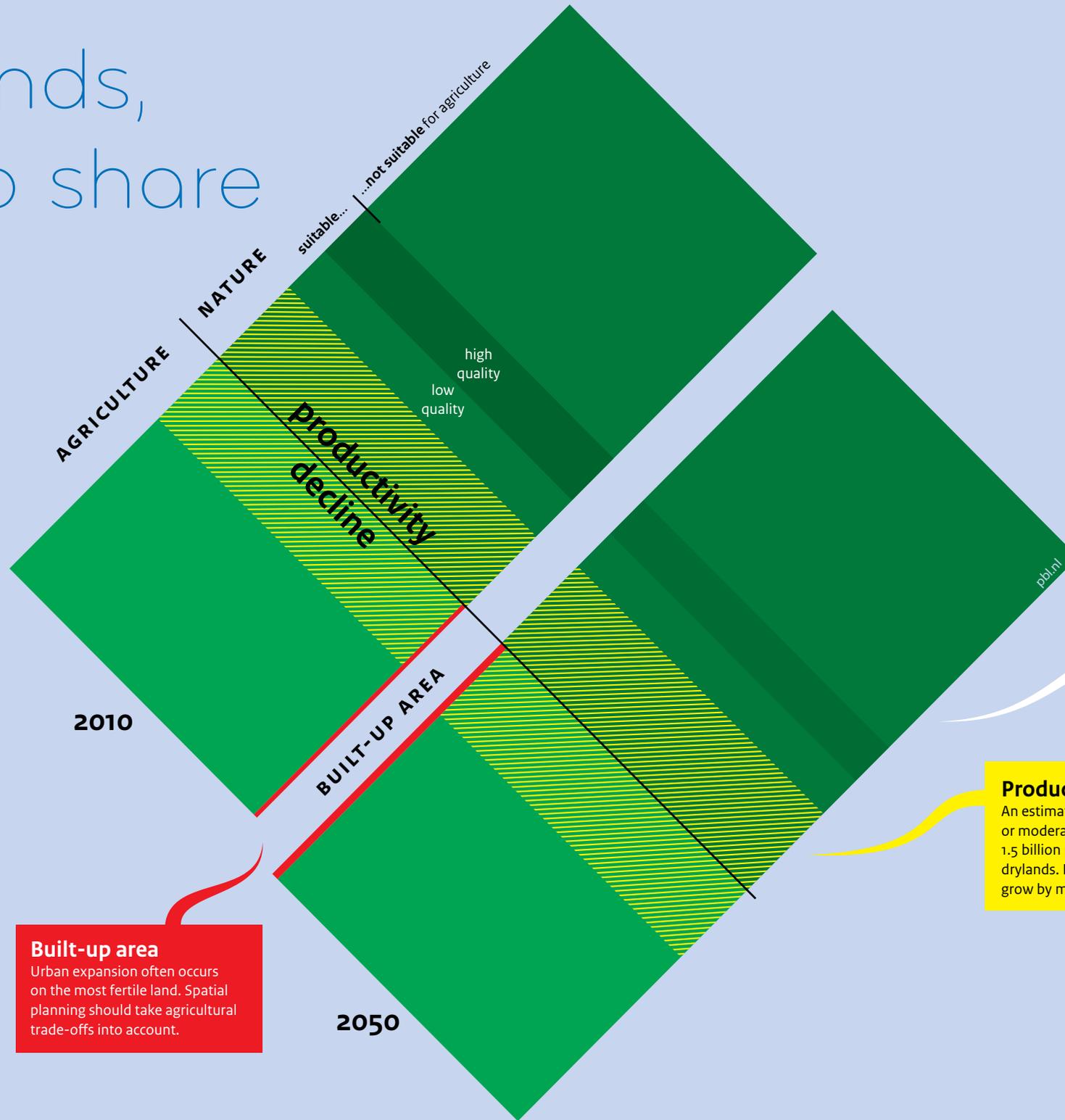
High demands, little land to share

Competing claims on a common resource

Land, in terms of surface area and the quality of soils and vegetation, is essential for the provision of food, fibre, energy and water, for conserving biodiversity and for regulating climate. Fertile land, suitable for agriculture, is abundant in some countries and scarce in others.

Current trends suggest there will be increasing demands on land. More people and growing wealth require more land for the production of food, fibre and bio-energy, for urban settlement and for afforestation for the mitigation of climate change, while an increasing demand for nature conservation areas reduces the amount of land available for other purposes. The difficulty of balancing these competing claims on land are further exacerbated by climate change and land degradation that reduce productivity of the land.

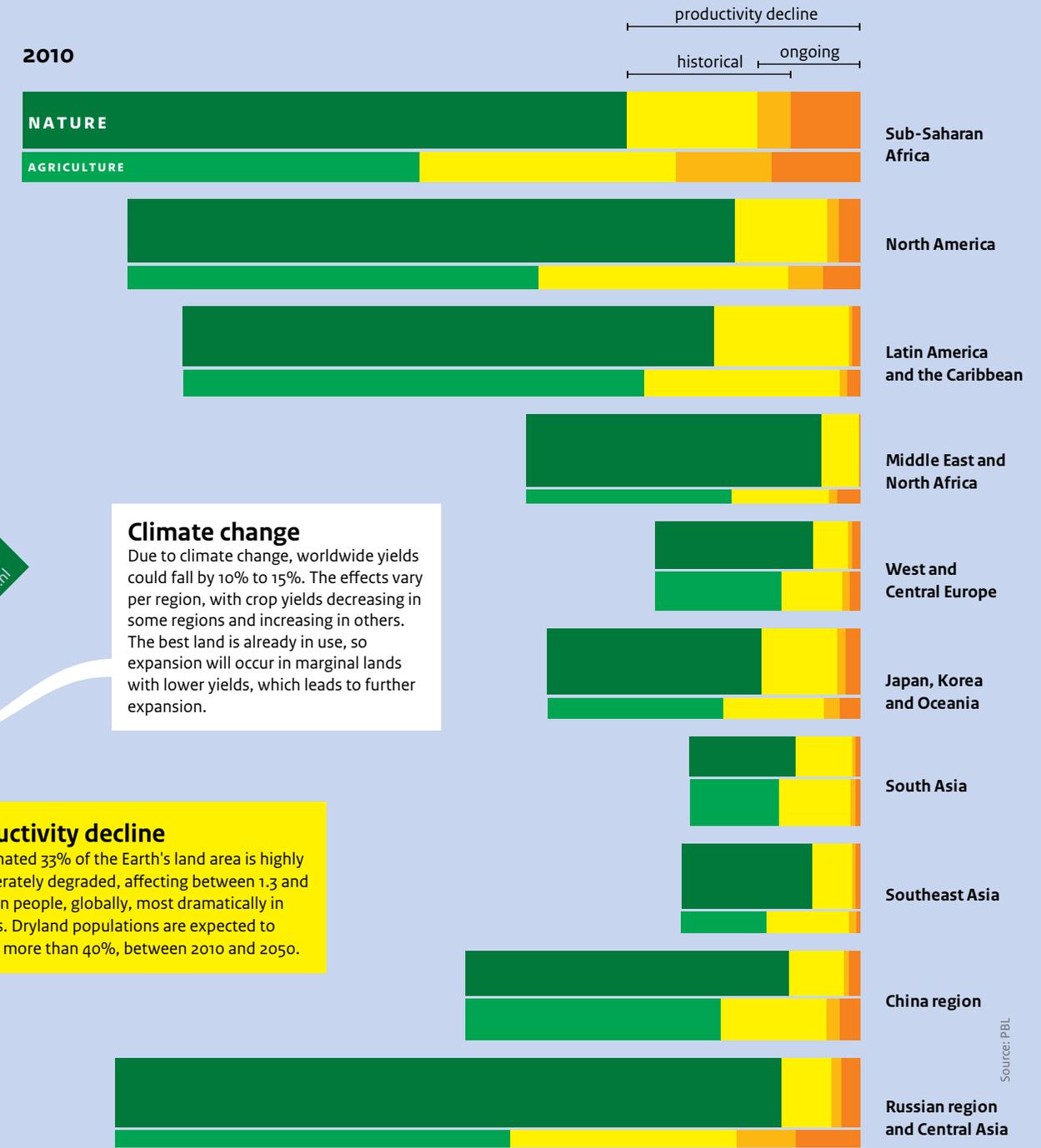
The sustainability of future land use depends primarily on effective land management, including land-use allocation and access to land. The scope of land management is mostly local or national, whereas land itself has increasingly acquired a global dimension, through trade, foreign investment and global concerns about climate change, food security and nature conservation. Despite these emerging challenges, there is reason for hope. Improving the sustainability and efficiency of land-use management could connect many of the SDGs.



Built-up area
Urban expansion often occurs on the most fertile land. Spatial planning should take agricultural trade-offs into account.

Productivity decline
An estimated 33% of the Earth's land area is highly or moderately degraded, affecting between 1.3 and 1.5 billion people, globally, most dramatically in drylands. Dryland populations are expected to grow by more than 40%, between 2010 and 2050.

Climate change
Due to climate change, worldwide yields could fall by 10% to 15%. The effects vary per region, with crop yields decreasing in some regions and increasing in others. The best land is already in use, so expansion will occur in marginal lands with lower yields, which leads to further expansion.



Source: PBL

Exploring new partnerships and coalitions

The sustainability challenge is too large to be managed alone. If we want to ensure a good quality of life, including sufficient and affordable food, water, energy and natural resources for the future, then we need to mobilise all the creativity available. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs call for cooperation and multi-actor partnerships worldwide, on and between all levels in order to realise more inclusive and greener development pathways. This idea is addressed specifically in SDG 17 which aims to ‘strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development’.

The concept of the energetic society is useful here – the idea that there are lots of innovative businesses and citizen initiatives which aim to transform society and make sure it progresses towards a more sustainable future. We see manifestations of this emerging trend in international sustainable development in the form of efforts made by engaged citizens, responsible businesses initiatives, knowledge networks and civil society organisations, amongst many others. These actors and initiatives show an unprecedented learning ability, creativity and capacity for rapid response. Governments can tap into this potential, supporting and exploiting it to attain shared objectives.

This section illustrates some of the arenas of global sustainable development where new concepts for coalitions and partnership building are emerging. These arenas include food systems, international supply chains, landscapes and finance systems, each with their own multi-actor and multi-level governance structures. Whether these new coalitions and partnerships will be able to effectively and successfully respond to the development challenges is an urgent question. Creating a stimulating enabling environment is a specific challenge for governments to safeguard the long-term public interests in this new governance landscape for sustainable development.

Addressing the Sustainable Development Goals through **partnerships**

Opportunities and conditions for successful partnerships

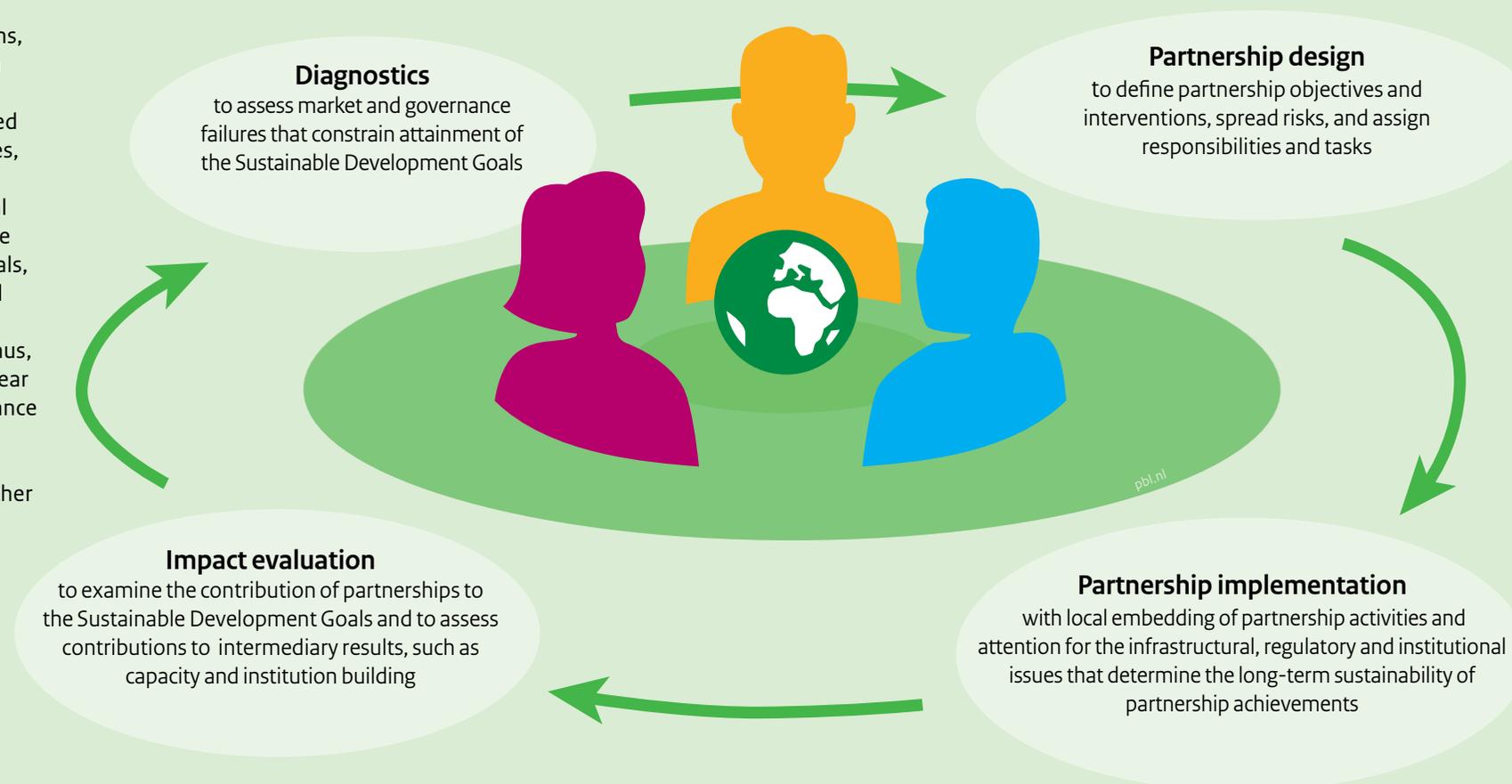
The use of partnerships in international cooperation is increasing. In a globalised world, national governments lack the influence, capacity and mechanisms to coordinate actions across different levels and therefore cannot effectively stimulate sustainable development. Partnerships have the potential to combine the efficiency of the market, the regulatory capacity of the public sector and the social representation of civil society organisations. In fact, revitalising global partnerships is itself one of the sustainable development goals.

Stronger civic and private-sector engagement should not be understood as the public sector withdrawing from these policy areas. Neither the private sector nor civil society has the capacity, or incentives, to tackle the market and governance failures that constrain the attainment of the sustainable development goals. For example, without infrastructure development, initiatives to enhance agricultural productivity are not sustainable. Similarly, if water use is unregulated,

initiatives to promote sustainable use of water resources fall short. And if marginalised stakeholders are not represented through local institutions, efforts to stimulate inclusive growth are doomed to be short-lived.

Partnerships are generally expected to deliver on development challenges, but there is mixed evidence about whether they will succeed. For global partnerships to effectively contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, issues on a local level must be linked to the global level, and public and private interests must be aligned. Thus, effective partnerships start with a clear diagnosis of the market and governance failures that need to be tackled, and follow a design that clearly assigns risks, responsibilities and tasks. Further requirements are that partnership activities are strongly embedded in the local situation, which ensures that context-specific knowledge is available and that outcomes are evaluated, including the contribution of the partnership to the sustainable development goals.

Connecting partnership capacity and challenges



 **Civic**

Civil society, including NGOs
Civil society is often represented in partnerships by global NGOs which do not necessarily represent local interests. When there are no institutions representing stakeholder interests, partnerships may need to invest in local institution and capacity building to ensure inclusive outcomes for the long term.

 **Public**

Public partners or governments
The role of public partners is often limited to funding, whereas for guaranteeing public outcomes it is important that public partners are more actively involved. Since, for global donors, it is difficult to guarantee local outcomes, it is crucial that the public objectives of the partnership are defined clearly, the partnership is accountable and local government is somehow involved.

 **Private**

Private partners or businesses
A private partner may be a local business organisation or a multinational, both with very different interests in joining a partnership. It is important to acknowledge such differences. In fact, the main objective of many partnerships is to link businesses to each other in global supply chains.

Towards resource-smart food systems

Using partnerships to link production areas to urbanising regions

In urbanised regions, food systems have grown more complex, due to the growing distance between primary producers and consumers. Crucial natural resources, such as soils and

ecosystems are often not managed sustainably or efficiently enough to be able to produce sufficient amounts of food. Furthermore, a significant part of the production is lost, due

to inadequacies in storage, processing and transport to cities. Farmers, who manage most of the food production and distribution systems are often aware of the challenges, but not in a position to introduce improvements. Typically, the main causes for this are a lack of access to good quality inputs (such as seeds, fertilisers and water), a lack of access to urban markets, and low and unstable food prices.

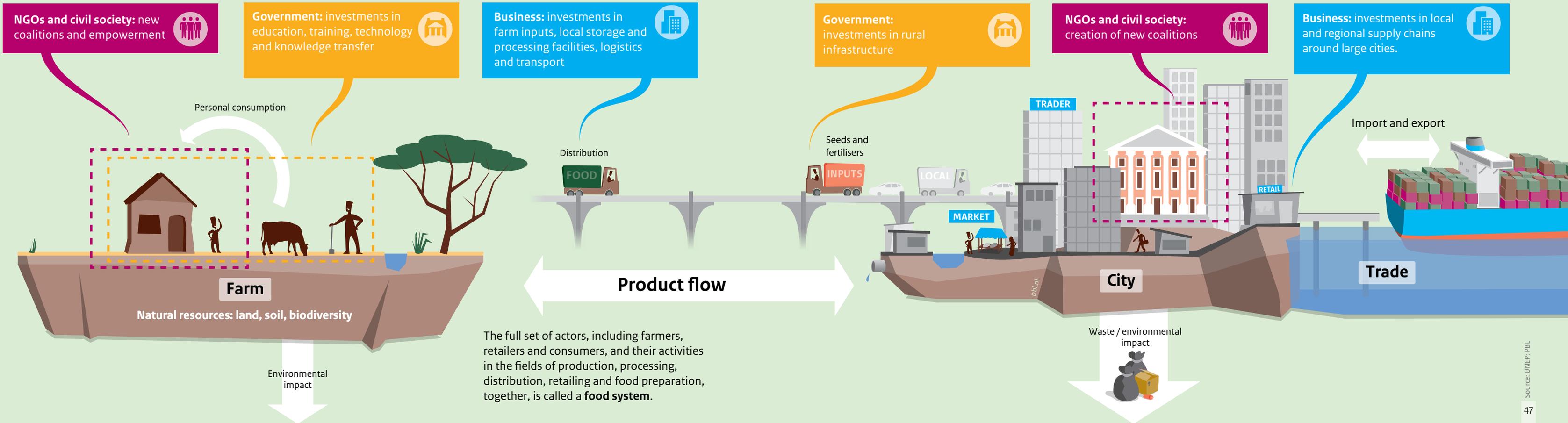
Therefore, a shift towards resource-smart food systems is necessary. These are food systems which do not compromise the environmental basis and deliver food security, support livelihoods and ensure

human health for future generations. In resource-smart food systems, natural resources are managed sustainably and efficiently. The produced food is used efficiently with low levels of food losses and food waste. These food systems also make a positive contribution to human health, for instance, by discouraging the consumption of ultra-processed foods.

To promote resource-smart food systems, coalitions and partnerships can be created to bring the required capacities together. Businesses such as retailers and food companies should invest in local and regional supply chains around large cities. This involves

supplying inputs to farmers, setting fair prices, and creating adequate storage and processing facilities. Governments should create a proper enabling environment for farmers with attention for good rural infrastructure, knowledge transfer and education, and the creation of a fair and accessible legal system which enforces land tenure rights. NGOs should stimulate beneficial developments by having a positive-critical role towards both governments and private actors, defining local standards for sustainable production and creating new coalitions, for instance through the establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms.

Food systems: activities and actors



Voluntary market standards drive sustainable production and consumption

Cooperation between supply-chain actors is required for scale-ups

Enhancing the sustainability of international supply chains is an important target of Dutch foreign policy. The main objective of the Dutch Aid and Trade agenda is, 'together promoting industry in developing countries, corporate social responsibility and international investment'.

There are a multitude of voluntary initiatives that try to achieve sustainable trade in timber and in agricultural resources, such as coffee, cacao, fish, soya and palm oil. Businesses and NGOs together have established platforms for defining market standards for sustainable production and trade, and logos have been introduced to inform consumers, such as Fair Trade and UTZ Certified for coffee and cacao, RTRS (Round Table on

Responsible Soy) for soya, and FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) for timber. By using these standards to certify their supply chains, companies may contribute to several SDGs, such as eradicating extreme poverty, encouraging sustainable economic development and protecting biodiversity.

From the year 2000 onwards, the market share of sustainably produced commodities has increased considerably in the Netherlands, thanks to the joint efforts and cooperation between companies, sector organisations, and civil society, with the Dutch Government playing a supporting role. Market shares of sustainably produced resources are also significant in other countries, but in production regions the adherence to standards for making

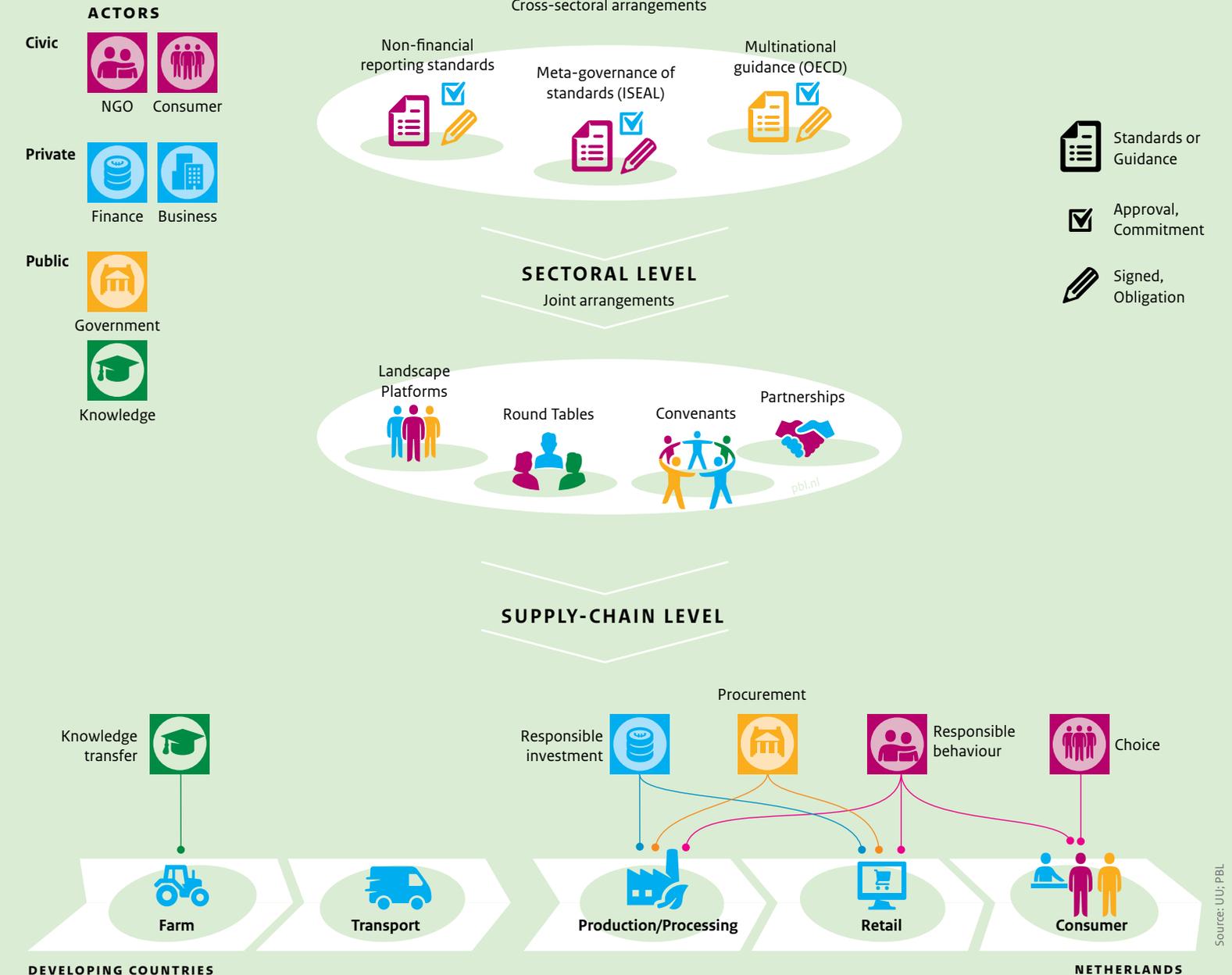
production more sustainable is much lower.

There are several barriers to scaling up sustainable consumption and production and realising inclusive impacts, such as high costs for producers, a lack of local finance and knowledge, insufficient global demand, and the absence of a level playing field in consuming countries. These barriers call for businesses, NGOs and governments to jointly develop solutions that can support local and global governance levels, and be applied across sectors. Governance arrangements are required at farm, company and landscape levels, in and across production sectors, in trade and distribution, and finally at the global level where both national governments and intergovernmental institutions operate.

Market shares of certified, sustainably produced natural resources



Levels of supply chain governance



Finding shared solutions at landscape level

The landscape approach provides a platform for all stakeholders

The landscape is the level on which our current and future global challenges converge. In pre-industrial, primitive or traditional landscapes, the use and conservation of available natural resources appears to have been balanced, most likely due to lower population densities, a deeper sense of community within human settlements and a locally based food production system.

Increasing globalisation and technological development have accelerated

Pre-industrial landscape



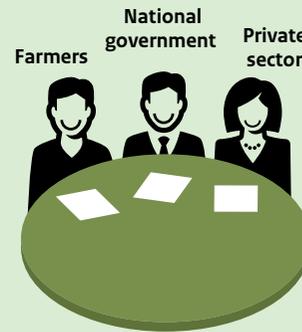
the integration of producers into global supply chains, bringing economic development to many rural landscapes, for example, the emergence of palm

Growth-without-limits landscape

Increasing incomes could improve food security and health care.



oil production landscapes in Indonesia. However, agricultural expansion and growth do not necessarily lead to inclusive and green development.



But land is used intensively for production, risking biodiversity loss and soil degradation.

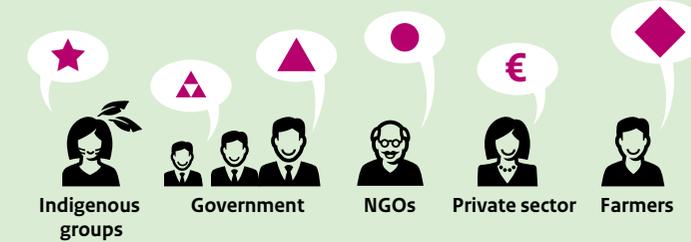


Short-term gains prevail. Benefits and losses are unequally distributed.

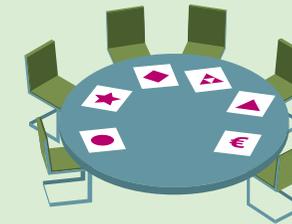


Inclusive and green growth

The stakeholders...



... negotiate, explore and plan...



... to implement a shared design...



...that is aimed at inclusive and green growth

Finding the right landscape configuration can help to achieve many SDGs, simultaneously.



In many cases, large-scale agricultural development has gone hand in hand with land-related conflicts, the violation of indigenous population rights and the degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Today, landscapes are seen as the spatial scale on which many different stakeholders, from global to local, need to cooperate. The spatial boundary of a landscape approach is often determined by an issue, benefit or risk that is commonly acknowledged by different stakeholders in a certain area. Local balancing of competing interests, sharing benefits and mitigating perceived collective risks are prerequisites to achieving multiple SDGs simultaneously.

The landscape approach aims to find a shared solution. It involves local, regional and sometimes even international negotiations between many diverse stakeholders, including farmers, NGOs, indigenous communities and governments. Creating an enabling environment and a platform that provides a level playing field for all stakeholders is considered a priority for the government.

Bridging the **finance gap**

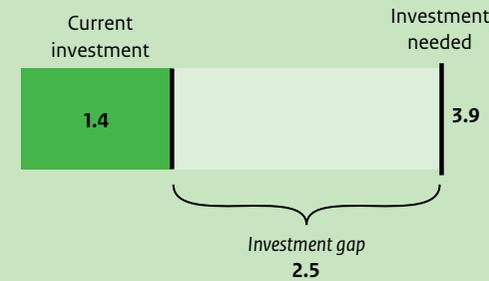
Coordinating finance for on-the-ground implementation

The annual investment gap for reaching the SDGs in developing countries stands at an estimated USD 2.5 trillion. In response, world leaders have agreed to cooperate under the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. Confronting the decrease in governmental funding for collaborative development projects, this agenda emphasises the importance of domestic revenue mobilisation and private sector co-financing.

However, encouraging private sector investment in green growth areas, such as ecosystem restoration and renewable energy, is proving to be difficult. Long term returns and uncertain risks play a large role and the institutional setting is often not favourable. Due to a lack

Estimated annual investment needs for the SDGs in developing countries

(trillions of US dollars)



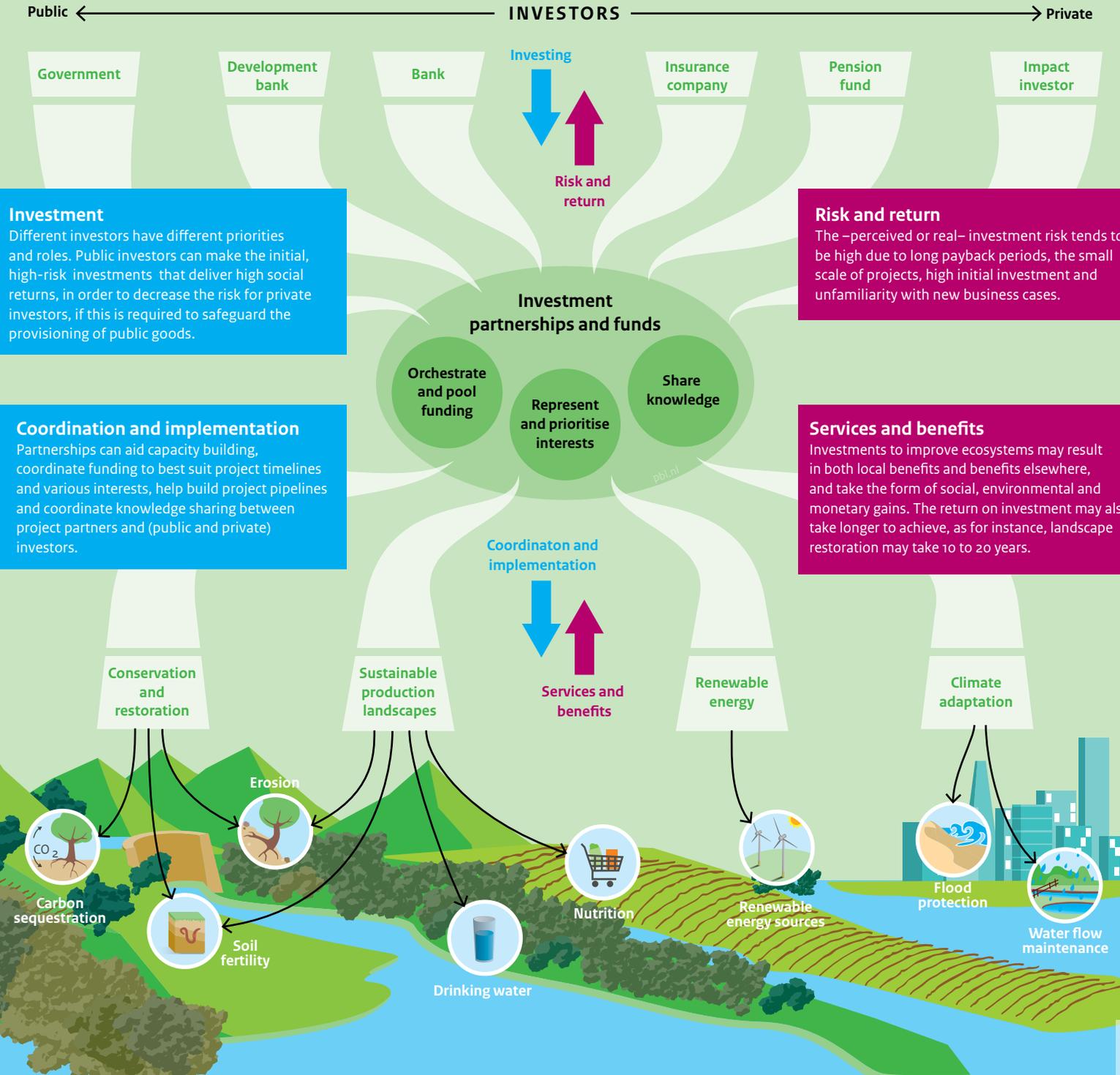
of intermediary regulatory institutions, supply and demand for financing is not coordinated, leading to increased transaction costs. Altogether, this results

in a gap between available finance and required project investment on the ground.

Bridging the finance gap requires investment partnerships to pool and manage financing and to create a knowledge sharing environment to reduce uncertainties and perceived investment risks. Many initiatives, such as the Dutch Good Growth Fund, are designing innovative ways to finance sustainable development, though public sector commitment remains key. After all, important benefits from reaching the SDGs are non-monetary and long-term, and only public funding can safeguard long-term public benefits, for both current and future generations.

Domestic revenue mobilisation

A sound tax base is key for economic development and growth. Domestic revenue mobilisation is the idea that countries generate their own public funding to finance sustainable development. This requires institutional capacity to collect taxes and manage public resources effectively, but it also demands international cooperation to combat tax evasion and illicit financial flows. For example, by introducing a land tax, the tax base could be increased, thus, increasing government revenue. At the same time, if designed properly, such land tax could help improve land-use efficiency and income distribution, though this requires that land rights are well-defined and that certain land uses are exempt from taxation.



The emerging **governance landscape** for sustainable development

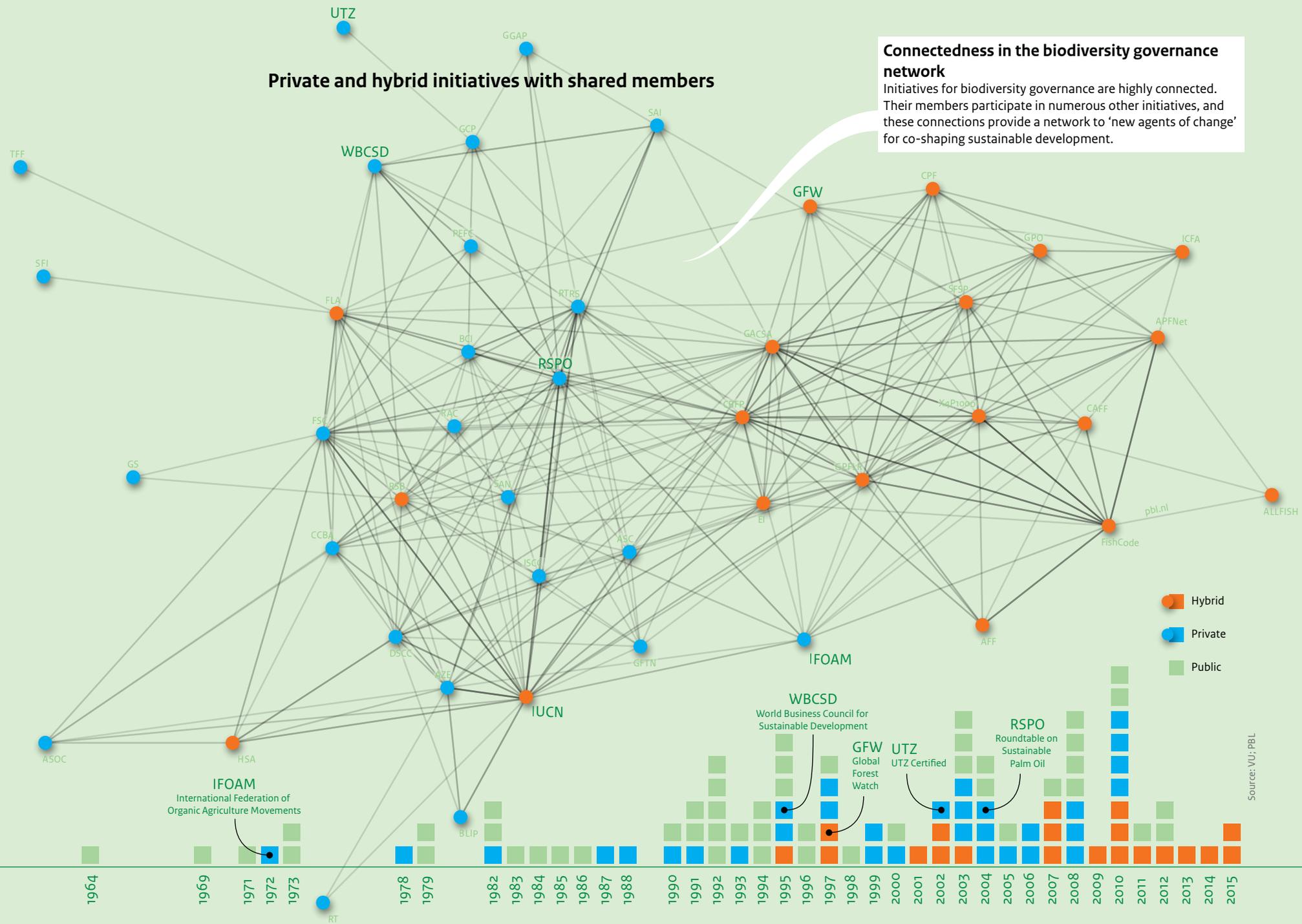
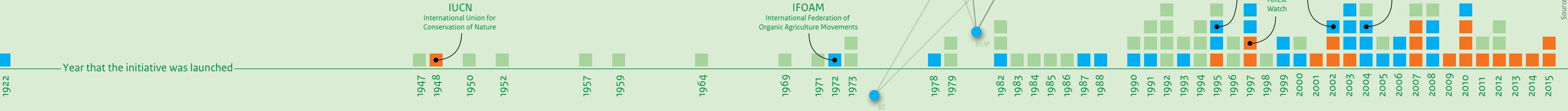
New agents of change are appearing in governance structures for the SDGs

New forms of multi-actor governance have emerged in the field of global sustainable development. Businesses, civil society, and engaged citizens increasingly collaborate in multi-actor initiatives. In the 1990s, these actors were still considered outsiders, lobbyists or observers, but since then they have progressively taken on a more active role to become 'new agents of change', both within and outside multilateral negotiations.

among a plethora of public and private actors that collaborate in a network of institutions, on various levels. This landscape has been characterised as a 'distributed or polycentric global governance landscape' in which private actors fulfil various governance functions, including the setting of standards, networking, policy implementation and finance.

This change is illustrated here for biodiversity governance. The trend in actor participation and connectedness in different initiatives show how the governance landscape has changed. Common for all initiatives is the lack of proven impacts, which reflects the inherent

difficulty of measuring them. To build on and stimulate such multi-actor networks, governments need to create the right conditions for societal initiatives to develop, learn and deliver on public goals. The role of such an enabling and facilitating government involves: positioning on targets and objectives, creating the right infrastructure, rewarding frontrunners, setting dynamic regulations, choosing the right financial instruments for behavioural change, and organising monitoring and feedback. Continuous reflection on the progress of these components will help governments to increase their effectiveness towards achieving the SDGs.



Annex

Using scenarios to explore development pathways

This book uses results from scenario studies carried out by PBL and its partners. Scenario analyses can help in exploring future development pathways by incorporating assumptions about key future uncertainties. The scenarios used are plausible descriptions of future developments, based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about key relationships and driving forces (e.g. population growth, economic development, rate of technology change). These scenarios are used in the integrated assessment model IMAGE, to make future projections with respect to food, water, energy and climate (Stehfest et al., 2014).

Various sets of scenarios were used. The first set consists of the Shared Socio-economic Pathways or SSPs (Van Vuuren et al., 2017; Doelman et al. forthcoming). The SSPs characterise overall development, based on detailed projections of key determinants of global environmental change and social development, including population growth, economic growth, technological change, level of environmental protection, and level of cooperation between countries and regions. They describe future pathways spanning uncertainties in two dimension: societal challenges to adaptation to climate change and societal challenges to mitigation of climate change. While they

are designed for climate change research, they are broad enough to serve as a general framework to assess a range of possible futures for other environmental and developmental challenges. Two SSPs were used for this book.

The SSP2, or 'Middle of the Road' scenario, defines the continuation of trends typical of recent decades, with some progress being made towards achieving development goals, a slowing down of the historical rates of resource and energy consumption, and slowly decreasing fossil fuel dependence. This scenario is used as a business-as-usual scenario for the infographics on urbanisation

(pp. 14–15), nutrition, agricultural land use and expansion (pp. 24–25, 26–27), water use, waste water and flooding (pp. 28–29, 30–31, 32–33), electricity access and generation (pp. 34–35, 36–37), and land degradation (pp. 40–41). For some of these infographics, specific interventions were included, in addition to the SSP2 development, to explore the effect of policy measures; for instance, to assess the effects of climate policy on electricity generation in Sub-Saharan Africa (pp. 36–37), and of new measures in water treatment and sanitation on phosphorous emissions from households to surface water (pp. 30–31).

The SSP1, or 'Sustainability' scenario, defines trends consistent with a greener growth paradigm, i.e. a more inclusive development respecting environmental boundaries. This scenario makes 'reasonably ambitious' assumptions about achieving improvements in resource efficiency and human development, and about citizens' preferences regarding

consumption and production patterns within the energy and land-use systems. This is the scenario used for the infographic on agricultural land use and expansion (pp. 26–27).

For the infographic on biodiversity loss and conservation (pp. 38–39), another set of scenarios was used (see Kok et al., 2014; PBL 2012). This set includes a business-as-usual scenario and three so-called pathways, specifically designed to simultaneously address biodiversity concerns as well as a range of long-term human development and environmental concerns. As in the SSPs, the business-as-usual scenario assumes that basic socio-economic mechanisms continue to operate in the same fashion and no specific new policies are introduced to meet sustainability goals. It assumes a continuation of current trends, including the gradual introduction of new technologies and the involvement of businesses and civil society in decision-making, while economic inequalities remain.

In addition to the business-as-usual scenario, the set includes the following alternative pathways:

Global Technology (also called Sparing) achieves the 2050 targets with a focus on optimal large-scale technological solutions, such as intensive agriculture and a high level of international coordination.

Decentralised Solutions (also called Sharing) achieves the 2050 targets with a focus on regional priorities and ecology-friendly technologies. Energy, food and wood are produced locally or regionally and agriculture is interwoven with natural corridors.

Consumption Change (also called Caring) achieves the 2050 targets with a focus on changes in human consumption patterns, most notably by limiting meat intake per capita, by ambitious efforts to reduce waste in the agricultural production chain and by adopting a less energy-intensive and material-intensive lifestyle.

Data and references per spread



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Colophon

People and the Earth is the result of a joint effort by many people

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graphics Beeldredactie PBL and Frédéric Ruys (Vizualism)

production and English language editing PBL Publishers

layout Textcetera, The Hague

printing Xerox/OBT, The Hague

© PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Hague, 2017

isbn 978-94-92685-02-5
publication number 2510

Parts of this publication may be reproduced, providing the source is stated, in the form: PBL (2017), *People and the Earth. International cooperation for the Sustainable Development Goals in 23 infographics*, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, The Hague.

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2017