



Two Tools for Working with Sustainable Development in an Integrated Way

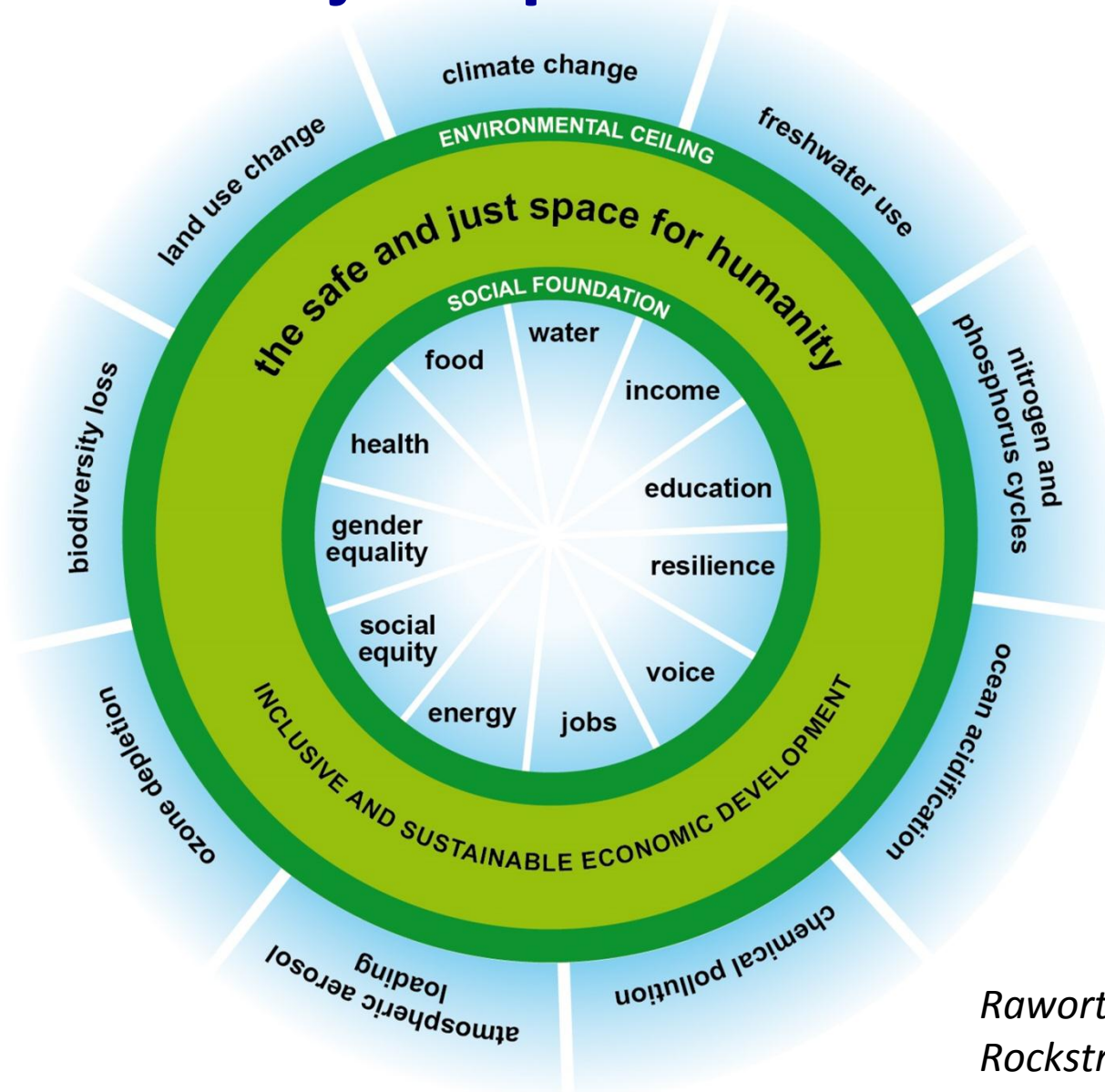
Prepared for presentation to UNDESA-DSD
Working on Integrated Approaches to Sustainable Development
Alan AtKisson, Independent Advisor to UNDESA
27 May 2015

Part 1:

Introducing Kate Raworth and the “Doughnut”



A safe and just space for humanity

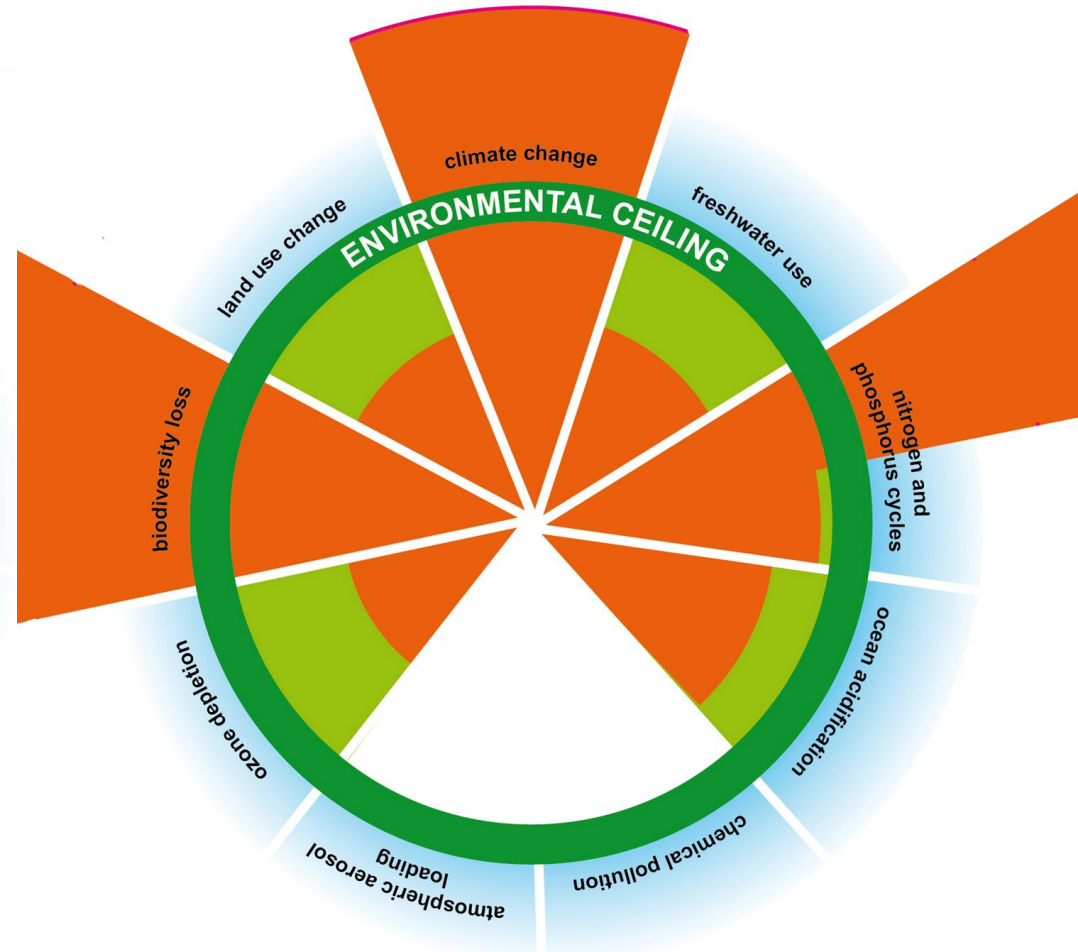
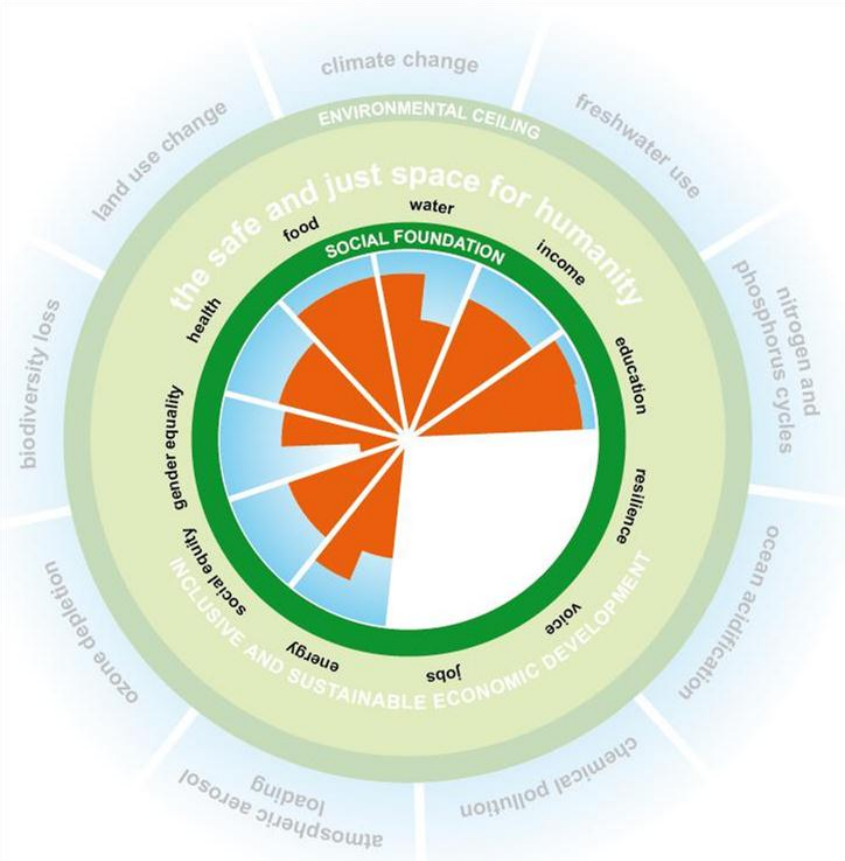


*Raworth 2012 based on
Rockstrom et al 2009*

We are beyond the boundaries on both sides

Below the social foundation

Over the environmental ceiling



Raworth 2012 based on Rockström et al 2009



Regional doughnuts in China
Dearing et al 2014

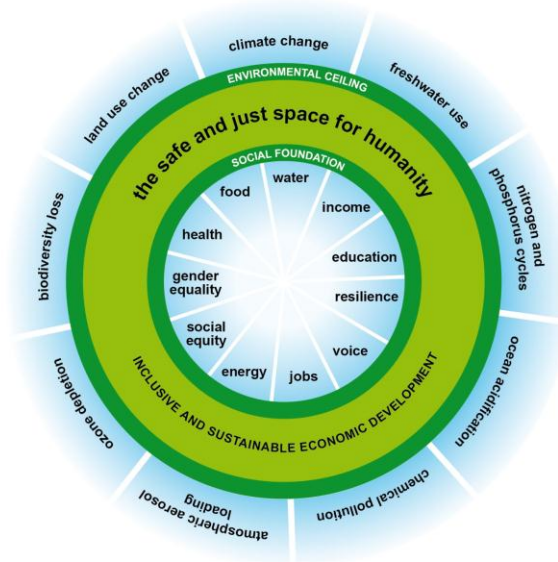
NGOs and academics have started exploring national versions of the Doughnut



A South African doughnut
Cole, Oxfam 2015



The UK Doughnut
Sayers & Trebeck, Oxfam 2015



Sweden's share of
planetary boundaries
Nykvist et al 2013



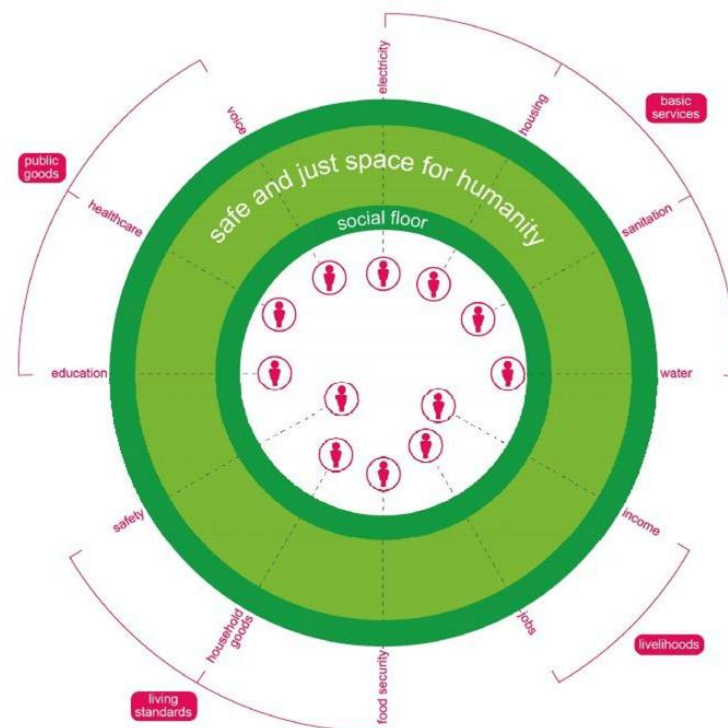
The Welsh doughnut
Sayers, Oxfam 2015



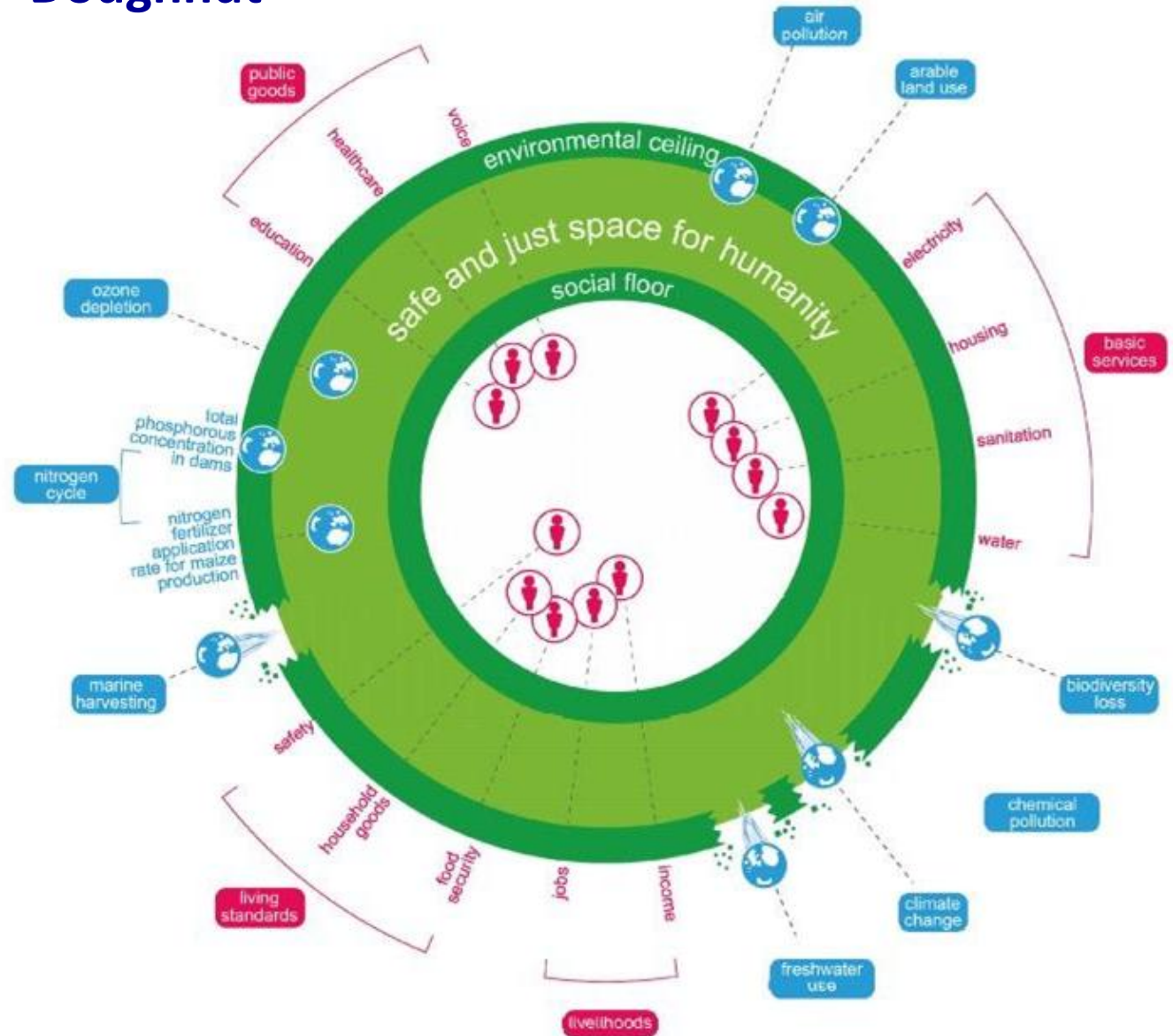
A Scottish doughnut
Sayers & Trebeck, Oxfam 2014

Domain	Dimension	Indicator of deprivation	Current status of deprivation
Basic services	Electricity	Households without access to electricity	24%
	Housing	Households without formal dwellings	22%
	Sanitation	Households without a toilet or ventilated pit latrine	17%
	Water	Households without access to piped water within 200m (>= Reconstruction and Development Programme standard)	5%
Livelihoods	Income	Population living below the national poverty line (R577/month in 2011 Rand)	52%
	Jobs	Broad unofficial unemployment rate (adults aged 15–64 available to work)	36%
Living standards	Food security	Households without adequate food	23%
	Household goods	Households without a refrigerator	28%
	Safety	Households who feel unsafe walking alone in their area at night	64%
Public goods	Education	Adults without more than seven years of schooling (adult illiteracy)	19%
	Health care	Infant (<1 year) immunisation coverage	9%
	Voice	Population who do not feel free to say what they think	16%

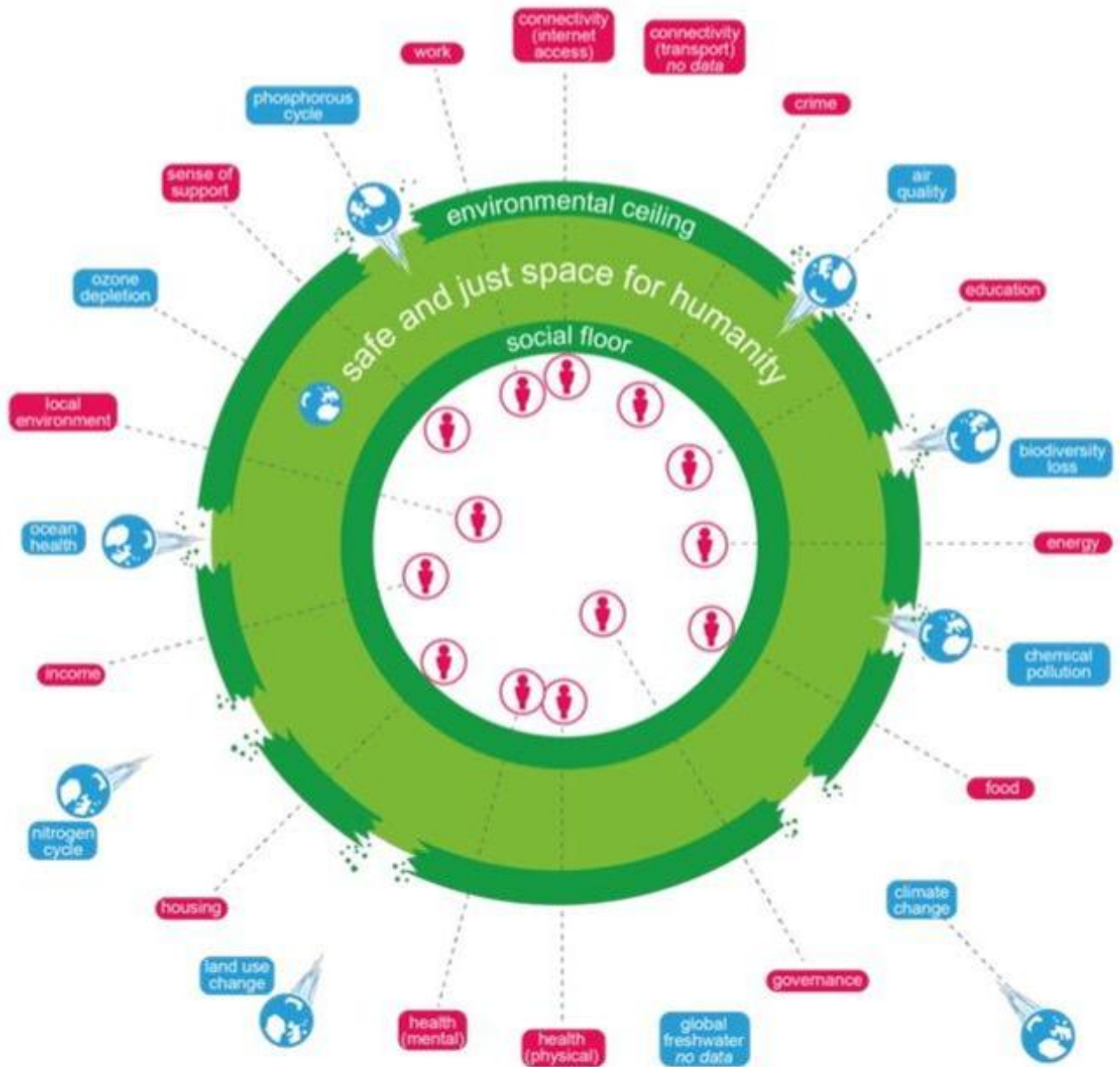
Dimensions of social deprivation in South Africa 2012/13



The South African “Doughnut” Oxfam 2015



The UK "Doughnut" Oxfam 2015



Sayers and Trebeck
Oxfam 2015

Part 2

Introduction to the VISIS Method

Vision > Indicators > Systems > Innovation > Strategy

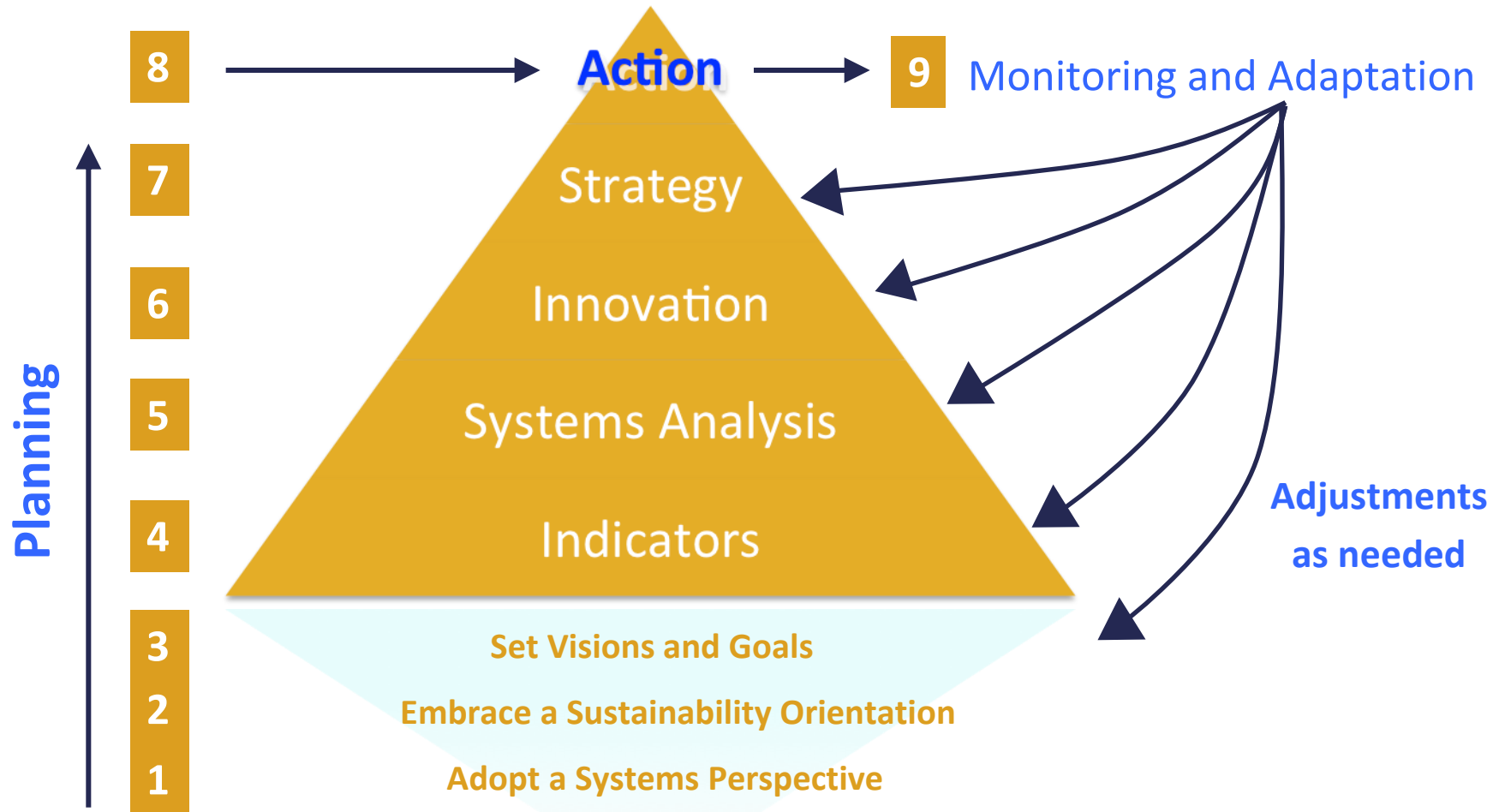
What is VISIS?

- An **open-source methodology for inter-disciplinary collaboration** in the context of sustainable development
- A **sequence of steps** used in analysis and capacity development processes:

Vision > Indicators > Systems > Innovation > Strategy

** “VISIS” was originally called “ISIS”. A “Vision” step was usually included as part of the process. The name was changed to VISIS in 2014 to recognize this more explicitly, and to avoid confusion with ISIS or ISIL, the militant group operating in Iraq and Syria.*

Theoretical Basis: The Sustainable Development Planning & Action Cycle*



*Source: AtKisson, *The Sustainability Transformation*, Routledge/Earthscan, 2010 (and other sources).
Note that this is a variation/expansion on the widely used “Plan-Do-Check-Adjust” planning cycle.

Vision and Indicators

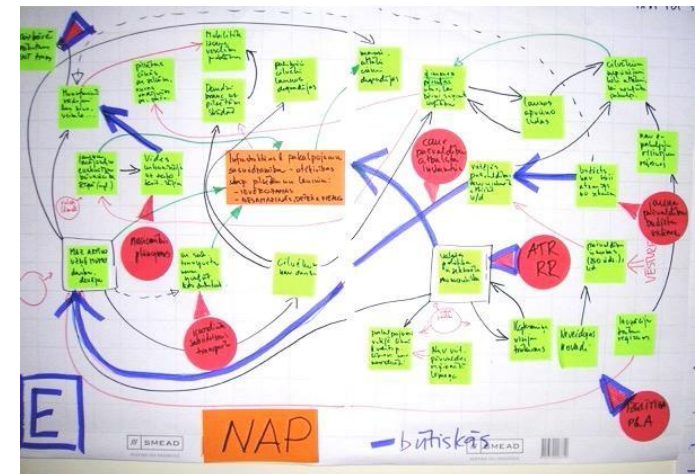
- **VISION:** Initial vision or goal statement
- **INDICATORS:** Gathering data, both formal and informal, on trends and issues working for and against progress toward the vision and/or goals.
 - Using multi-disciplinary teams or consultation processes, covering all aspects of sustainable development
 - Using a framework to cluster the indicators
 - Using formal data/indicators when available
 - Use informal/subjective knowledge of prevailing trends, when formal data is not available



The Sustainability Compass

Systems Analysis

- Multi-disciplinary teams review the indicators and look for cause-and-effect links, including chains of cause-and-effect. This part can take many forms:
 - Discussion to identify important causes and drivers of change, and to share other systemic insights
 - Group sketching to illustrate important links and webs of connection between issues
 - Formal systems modeling



Innovation (Identifying System Interventions)

- Identification of options, interventions, changes that can be made at key “leverage points” (entry points) in the system. Options can (and should) include *many* types of innovation, including:
 - Policy change
 - Institutional and process change
 - Introduction of new technologies
 - Changes in information flows
 - Capacity and skill development
 - New goals and targets



For an excellent and complete treatment of this part of the process, see Meadows, “Leverage Points: Places to Intervene in a System,” paper available for free download from the Donella Meadows Institute (dated 1997):

<http://www.donellameadows.org/archives/leverage-points-places-to-intervene-in-a-system/>

Strategy

- Framing of implementation options.
This part of the process:
 - Can make use of any useful strategic planning tool
 - Should consider all the elements required for successful implementation, including any necessary changes in institutional arrangements or organizational culture
 - Leads to a coherent “Theory of Change”

NOTE:

VISIS processes can be used for *planning* or for *training and capacity building*.



*VISIS capacity building session
Aqaba, Jordan, 2013*

Case Study: Belize (1)

Background

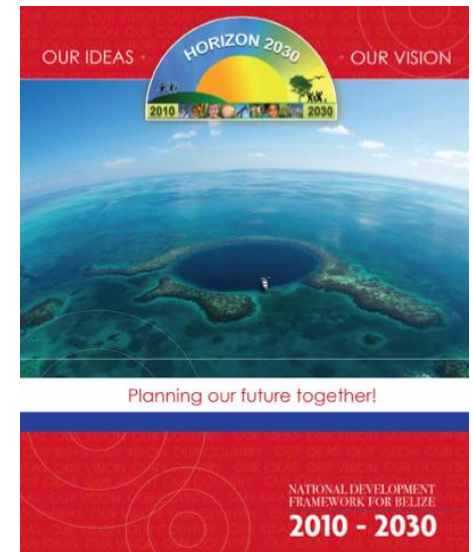
- A UNDESA team consisting of Inter-Regional Advisor Seleshi Bekele Awulachew and Independent Advisor Alan AtKisson began working with the Belizean government in early 2014, in partnership with the UNDP country office and the Belizean government
- The original goal was the **development of a new national sustainable development strategy**



Case Study: Belize (2)

How VISIS was used

- VISIS was used “behind-the-scenes” to support the UN team’s approach
- VISIS was used to **structure the stakeholder consultation meetings**, the questions asked, and the results gathered from bilateral and multi-stakeholder conversations
- THE VISION** in this case was already set: Belize has a national development vision called Horizon 2020, and also wants to be in harmony with the SDGs



Case Study: Belize (3)

INDICATORS: During the consultations, Belizean officials and stakeholders were asked about **key issues and trends** they observed as being of special or critical importance. Also, such trends were mentioned spontaneously. These were later extracted from the discussion notes and recorded under the “Indicators and Trends” section of the resulting worksheet.

SYSTEMS: Insights on **key cause-and-effect linkages** also emerged during the consultations. These were also extracted and highlighted on worksheets with special notation (see example on next page).

Also, Belizean policy documents were analyzed for their key indicators and systems insights.

Case Study: Belize (4)

Example: “Indicators” and “Systems” part of the VISIS analysis

Key Drivers, Indicators, Issues, and Trends Discussed (with Belize Min. of Agriculture):

- *Rising pesticide use*
- *Excessive land clearance*
- *Uneven regulatory compliance and enforcement*

Systemic Linkages Identified, Stressed, or Described:

Illegal immigration from Guatemala into rural lands >> Rising unregulated pesticide use >> Increasing pesticide residues >> Spike in cancer rates (*informally observed by health officials)*

Who else has used VISIS?

- **International Training Programs for government officials** financed by **Swedish SIDA** (contracted through Niras, Inc.)
- **Universities** (university sustainability programs) in Sweden, Canada, Thailand, Indonesia, Russia, Australia, and other countries
- **Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)** — staff is formally trained in the VISIS method and licensed to use a set of tools connected to it, called *Accelerator*
- **Private sector corporations** (as part of their executive training and sustainability strategy development) including e.g. Levi Strauss & Co. (US), National Bank of Indonesia, Al-Sayer Group (Kuwait)

VISIS Resources

The Sustainability Transformation (AtKisson, Routledge/Earthscan, 2010)

“Pyramid 2030”, a free resource with a simplified workshop manual (which seeks to promote engagement with the SDGs)
See <http://Pyramid2030.org>

The *Accelerator* tools (based on the VISIS method)
See <http://AtKisson.com/tools>

Building a VISIS “Pyramid” with water officials in Botswana, 2013





Thank You

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