

The logo for 'alternet' features the word in a blue, lowercase sans-serif font. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of a branch with green and yellow leaves and three yellow stars above it.

alternet

The logo for 'eklipse' consists of the word in a blue, lowercase sans-serif font, centered within a circular arrangement of small, multi-colored dots (yellow, green, blue, and grey) that form a ring.

eklipse

A thick, solid orange vertical bar is positioned to the left of the main title.

Transformative Change

Heidi Wittmer and Jiska van Dijk

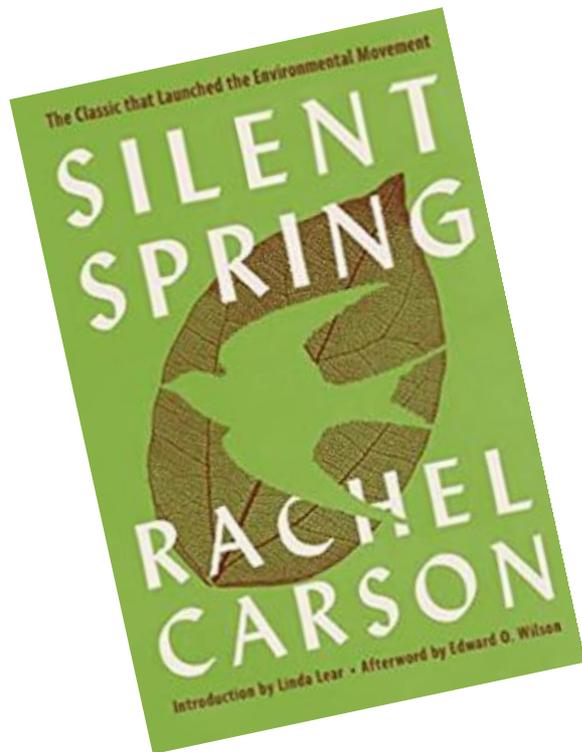
The logo for UFZ features a stylized blue graphic of three curved lines on the left, followed by the letters 'UFZ' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

UFZ

The logo for NINA includes a stylized graphic of a grey triangle containing a blue and orange shape, followed by the text 'NINA' in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and 'Norwegian Institute for Nature Research' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.

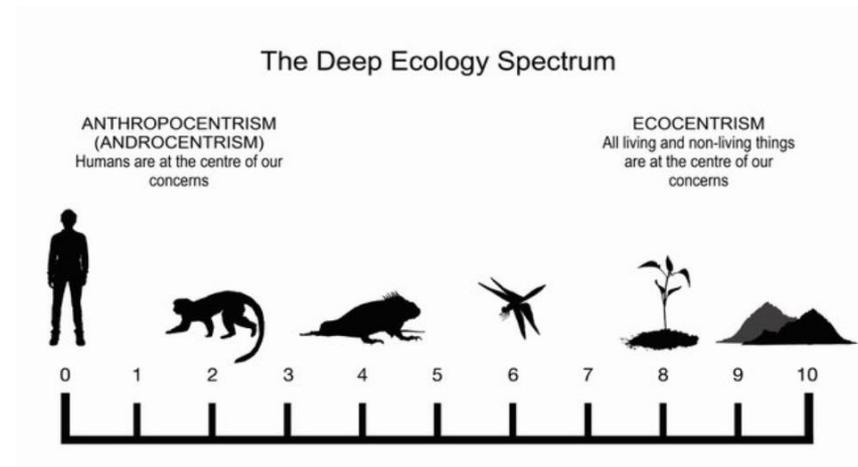
NINA
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research

Similarities and dilemmas



1962

Deep Ecology (Arne Næss, 1972)



The Deep Ecology spectrum (Copyright HR Smith 2014. Reprinted with permission in Smith, & Gough, 2015. Journal of Philosophy in Schools)

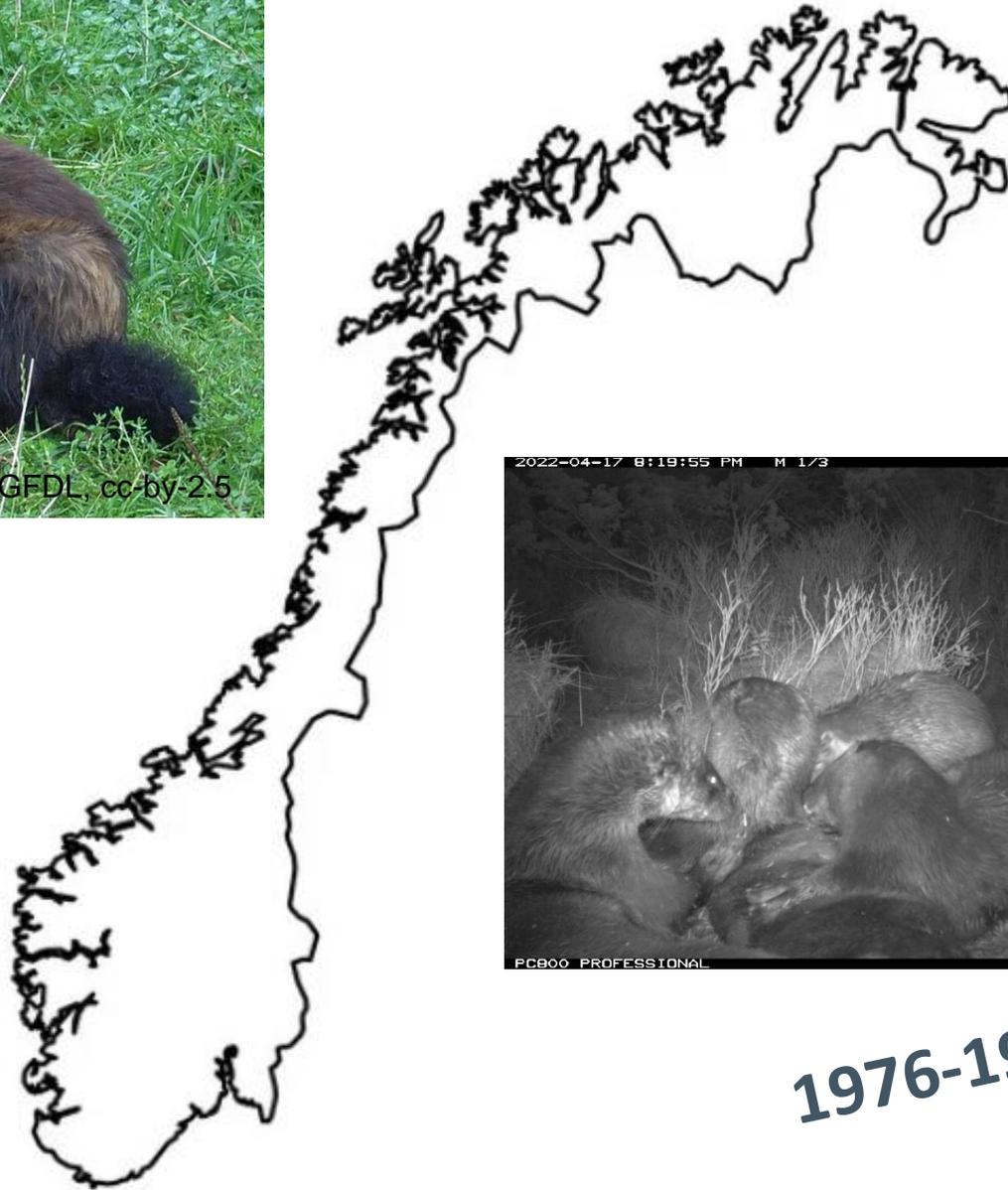


1973





1972-1982



1976-1982



Brundtland report 1987



Earth Summit 1992



**United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification**

Similarities and dilemmas

Lessons learnt?

From Ecosystem Services to Nature's Contribution to People

Buzzwords & Fancy words

Nature Based Solutions, Sustainable production, Green transition

Similarities and dilemmas



Source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/ecosystem-services-mother-natures-gifts-contributions-sander-jacobs/>

Similarities and dilemmas

Can we change?



Re-inventing the wheel again

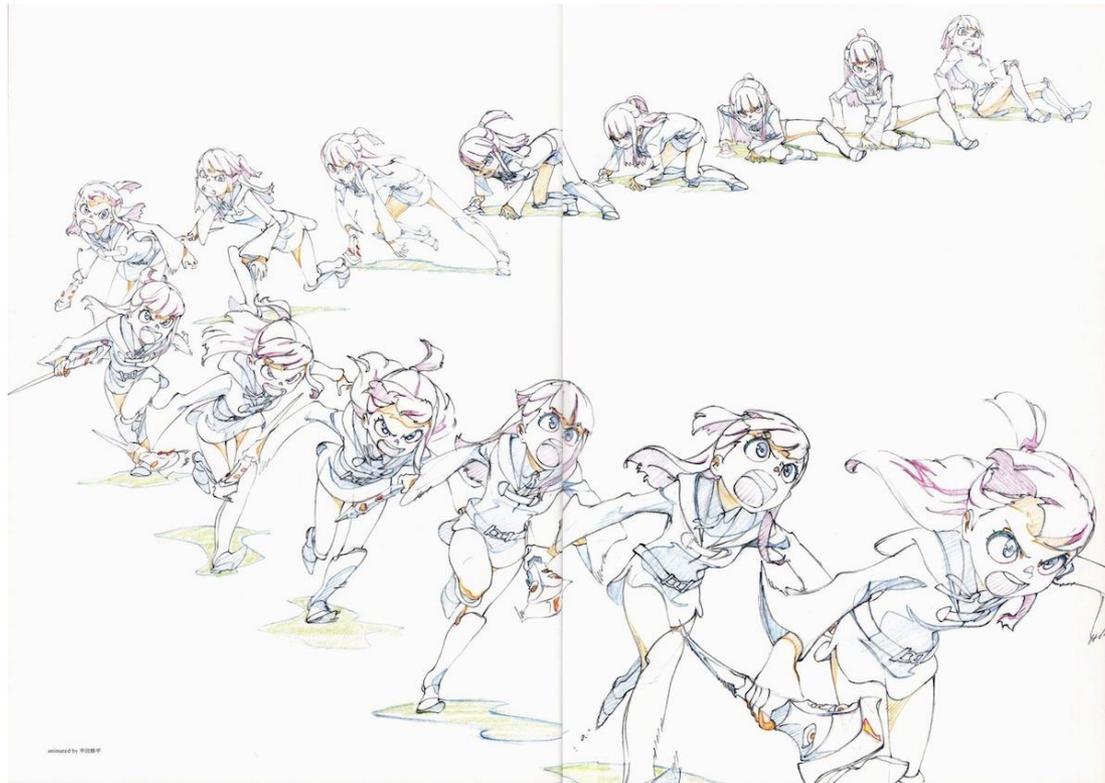
IPCC:

**“transformative rather than
incremental change is
needed”**

Novelty

IPBES defines transformative change as a
**“fundamental, system-wide
reorganization across technological,
economic and social factors, including
paradigms, goals and values”.**

Novelty – Aspirations versus reality



Novelty – Aspirations versus reality

Eclipse request from EU Commission (DG R&I), 2020

**“What can researchers offer to understand
Transformative Change and to translate it into actions,
goals and pathways for the Global Biodiversity
Strategy to 2030?”**

The six guiding principles for Transformative Change



Address Root Causes

- The root causes and underlying/indirect drivers are addressed.

Take Multiple Paths

- No 'silver bullet' solutions or blueprint plans. Multiple efforts are required, through diverse development pathways.

Expand Action Arena

- Actions need to be expanded to encompass multiple areas of the economy and society.

The six guiding principles for Transformative Change



Realise Diverse Co-Benefits

- TC efforts generate multiple trade-offs & co-benefits. Harness the positive co-benefits!

Design Deliberative & Inclusive Processes

- Necessary to incorporate inclusive processes, but TC will generate disagreements and contestation which require inclusion and consideration.

Adopt Proactive Approach to Resistance

- Resistance is an inevitable part of transformative change. Ensure 'just transitions' whilst also overcoming those with a vested interest in the status quo.

SPI interactive
Workshop with
policy makers
and country
representatives



Acknowledging

- **GBF plays a key role and provides a mandate for pursuing policy and strategy at all levels of governance**
- **Call for action for non-state actors as well as subnational and local authorities**

Reflections

- **Workshop not a negotiation arena**
- **Participants eager to hear about target formulation and indicators**
- **Revision of our report conform the outcome of the workshop**



Transformative change for a sustainable management of global commons

Recommendations for international cooperation based
on a review of global assessments and project experience

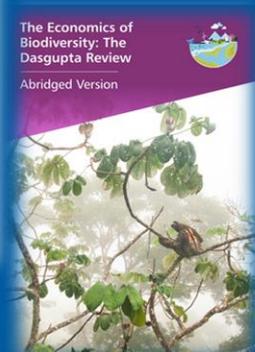
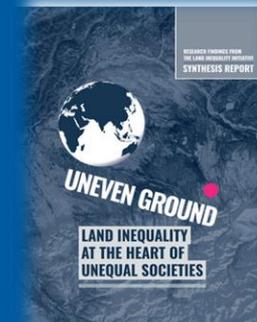
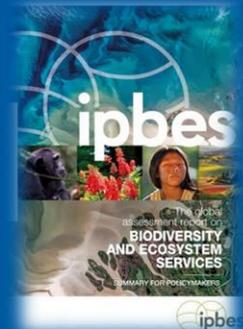
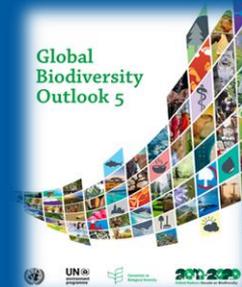
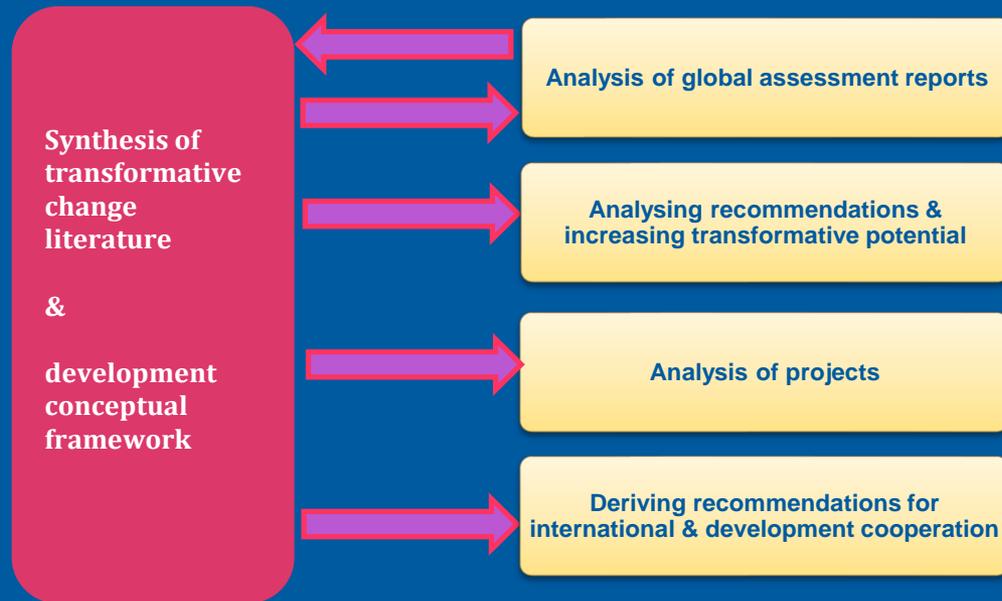
Transformative change: a new approach to governing biodiversity?

Heidi Wittmer, Augustin Berghöfer, Leonie Büttner, Ruchira Chakrabarty, Johannes Förster, Claudia König, Gesche Krause, David Kreuer, Karla Locher, Marcela Munoz, Malte Neumann, Isabel Renner, Julian Rode, Dorothea Schwarzer, Ulrike Tröger, Yves Zinngrebe, Salina Spiering

A publication produced with the support of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development (BMZ) through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

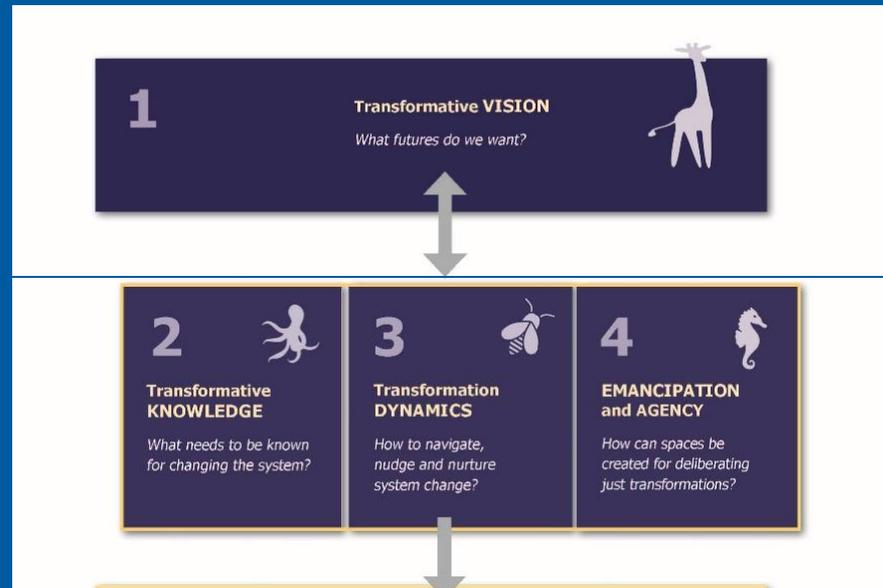
Study and approach

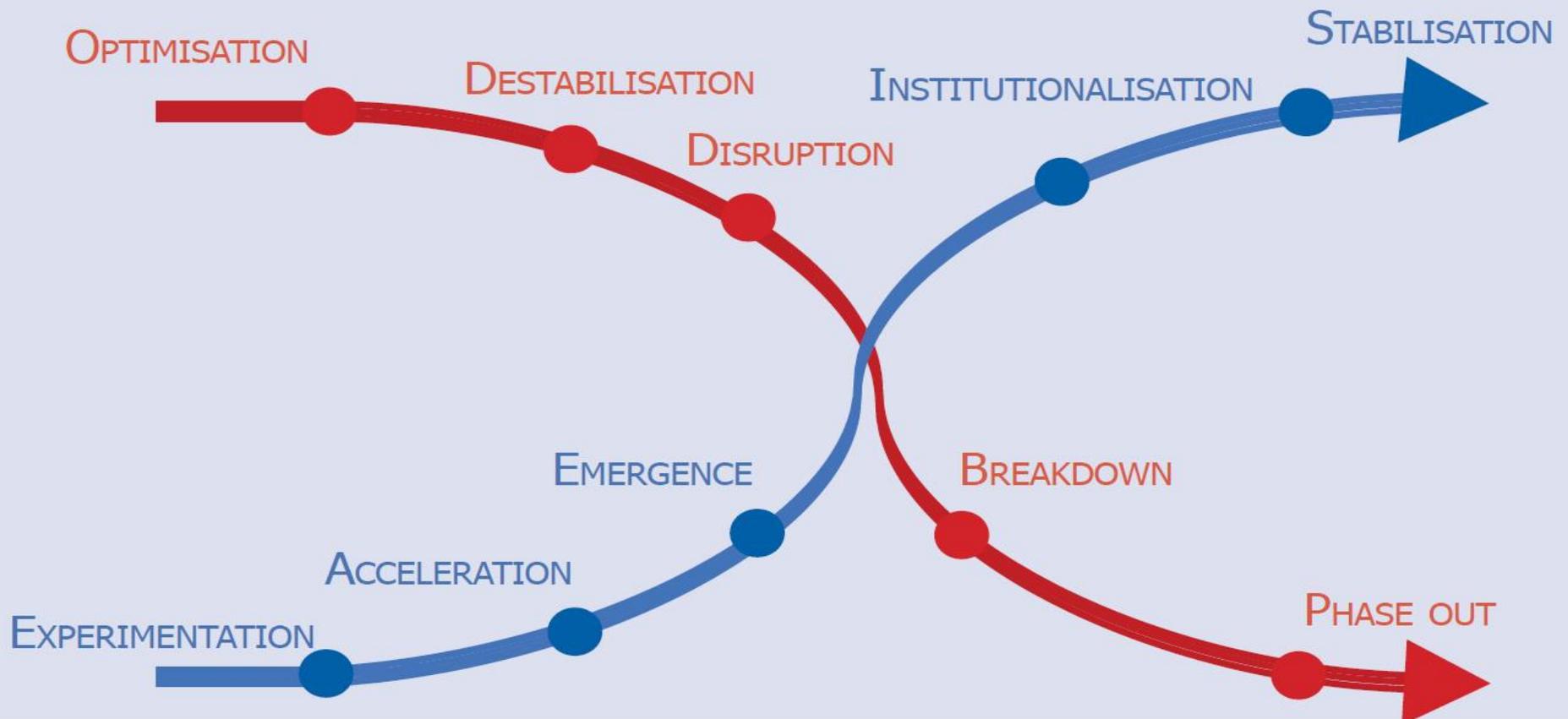
Main question:
How to achieve transformative change for a sustainable management of global commons such as biodiversity, forests and the ocean?



Transformative Change Framework: five building blocks

Coding based primarily on:
Scoones et al. 2020,
Bulkeley et al 2020,
Loorbach & Oxenaar 2018.





Source: Loorbach & Oxenaar 2018

Transformative Change Framework: five building blocks

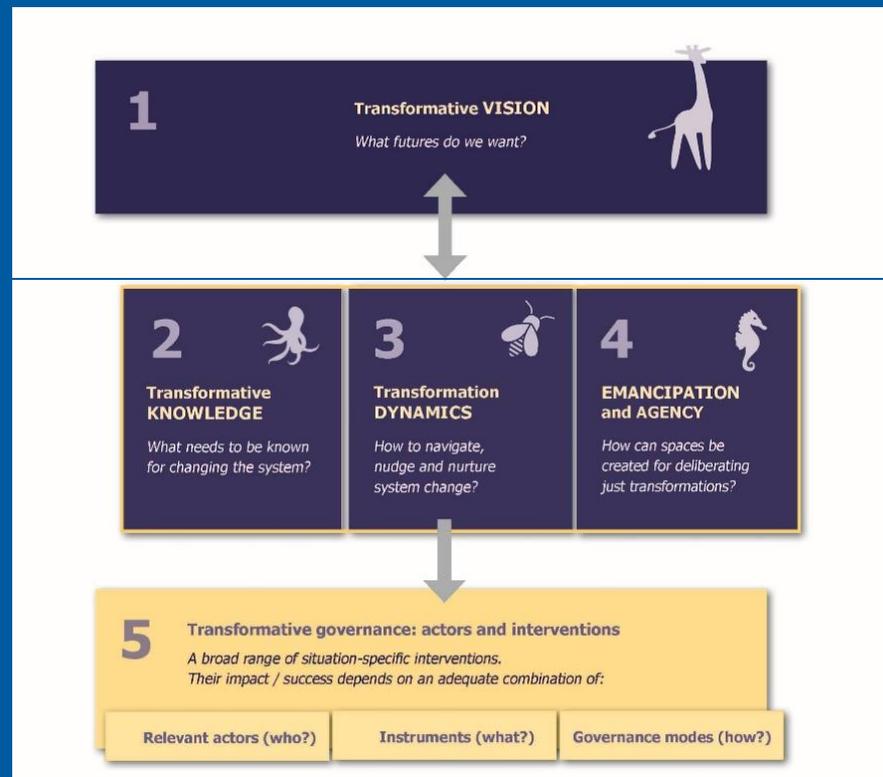
Coding based primarily on:
Scoones et al. 2020,
Bulkeley et al 2020,
Loorbach & Oxenaar 2018.

Transformative Governance:

(IPBES Global Assessment chapter 6)

Informed, Integrated, Inclusive,
Adaptive

& Accountable (our addition)



Global commons: main challenges

Biodiversity:

- Production & consumption pattern \longrightarrow land & resource use \gg biophysical capacities („1.6 planets“)
- Biodiversity loss reinforces social inequality \longrightarrow reinforces biodiv loss
- Protection (global commons) lacks determined, integrated & multilateral responses

Forests:

- Halt deforestation & forest degradation esp. of natural forests, high loss rates
- Main driver is land conversion, mainly for agriculture

Oceans:

- Planning fails to deal adequately with interconnectedness of marine ecosystems
- Excessive resource use and harmful discharges
- Fragmented governance

Central messages from global assessments:

In summary mean that we need to:

- significantly reduce total resource use & waste, a globally more balanced & much less resource-intensive satisfaction of human needs \implies reduce consumption in the global North
- production without unaccounted social & ecological costs \implies reduce impacts & internalize remaining costs
- reduce socio-economic inequalities (access to resources & securing a fair distribution of benefits) \implies self-determined choices & a life in dignity for all
- safeguard and restore critical elements of global commons \implies regeneration

Main findings:

1. Transformative vision & narratives:

A set of compelling narratives is needed to outline & motivate the way forward

- *Reframe established economic & political paradigms,*
- *new strategies to satisfy our needs*



2. Transformative knowledge:

Enable co-production of transformative knowledge by deliberative approaches

3. Transformation dynamics:

Measures to support phasing out & to address resistance

4. Emancipation & agency for transformation:

Rights-based approaches enable agency



Transformative governance: actors & interventions

Change the rules to re-organize the playing field: making supply chains accountable, finance regulation, right to a healthy environment, ...

Structure of recommendations

Germany (and other countries) can support transformation for global commons by addressing three different yet mutually enhancing tasks:

1. 'Transform in Germany and within the EU'.
2. 'Forge international policy for transformation'.
3. 'Practice development cooperation which supports transformation in other parts of the world'.

German policies and Germany's role in the EU	Germany's role in international cooperation	German Development Cooperation
Strengthen regulatory approaches & certification processes	Regulate global supply chains	Tie support to implementation of SDGs
Support implementation of European Green Deal	Assert primacy of human & environmental rights law	Strengthen sustainable and green finance
Engage in societal debate & strive for new alliances	Support design of post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Intensify successful multi-stakeholder partnerships
***	***	***



Table 9.1: cont.

Recommendations applicable in all three roles		Ambition Direct or (indirect) contribution to global ambitions for transformative change				Can be used to phase-in sustainable / phase-out unsustainable practices	Contributions to SDGs	
		Ensure production without external costs	Reduce socio-economic inequality	Safeguard & restore global commons	Enable responsible consumption			
Recommended measures	Description							
Engagement and partnerships								
	Intensify multi-stakeholder partnerships and use them for motivating and advancing broader system change	Why: Multi-stakeholder partnerships (e.g., private sector and civil society) function much more effectively with continued support and orientation. German involvement in such partnerships – inter alia in the forest and marine sector – has contributed to substantial results in tackling complex challenges. How: Intensify commitment to long-term multi-stakeholder partnerships (as an essential governance structure) based on best-practice partnership pathways.	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	IN + OUT	
	Support alliances for responsible production and consumption	Why: Achieving sustainable patterns of consumption and production is critical for decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation. It also offers opportunities for the Global South in terms of new markets and more welfare-generating management of the global commons. It needs concerted efforts across sectors and from all parts of society. How: Create and support spaces for experimentation, and upscaling both domestically and globally. Entry-points include the support of international and local platforms for action-oriented collaboration and of social alliances between producers and consumers. For example, support the actors that aim for alternative food systems to unite, the fragmented governance and work with them to identify and remove misaligned incentives.	(+)	(+)	(+)	+	IN + OUT	
Knowledge for transformative change								
	Fund international, inter- and disciplinary research initiatives on transformative change	Why: Transformative knowledge is the type of knowledge needed to challenge the status quo, break with path dependencies and to devise innovative solutions. How: Dedicate research funding and international research partnerships to an explicit transformative change research agenda. Target initiatives that seek concrete solutions for achieving the four ambitions identified with a strong focus on delivering transformative knowledge and action. Support research in partner countries and the inclusion of local and traditional knowledge.	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	IN + OUT	
	Support leadership and capacity building	Why: The ability of individuals, leaders, organizations and societies to rethink economy and society and to initiate and perform transformative changes needs to be empowered. How: Support future leaders and potential change agents from all countries to develop critical competencies and provide opportunities and platforms for international exchange in working environments also beyond political summits. Align education and training formats offered through development cooperation to include transformation knowledge and skills. Foster (development of) formats for deliberating on needs, attitudes and values, on organizational culture and change management experiential formats and make sure that youth plays a key role.	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	IN + OUT	
	Incubate social innovations	Why: Social change needs innovation and experimentation to develop new narratives and mindsets, to change the relations between civil society, government and market and to challenge and alter institutions. How: Support physical and mental spaces for learning and discussion and a culture of experimentation. Help to spread ideas across policy and thematic areas, support young change makers and networking. Priority topics could be building a sharing economy, or transforming diets to reduce per capita consumption of meat, fish and animal products adapted to the cultural context.	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	IN	
	Support the exchange of transformative knowledge	Why: Knowledge on transforming systems is scarce and scattered. How: Strengthen global learning through development and international cooperation, e.g. by providing support to initiatives that promote knowledge and innovation exchange. This includes the dissemination of transformative knowledge from Germany and the EU and likewise learning from successes elsewhere.	(+)	(+)	(+)	(+)	IN + OUT	

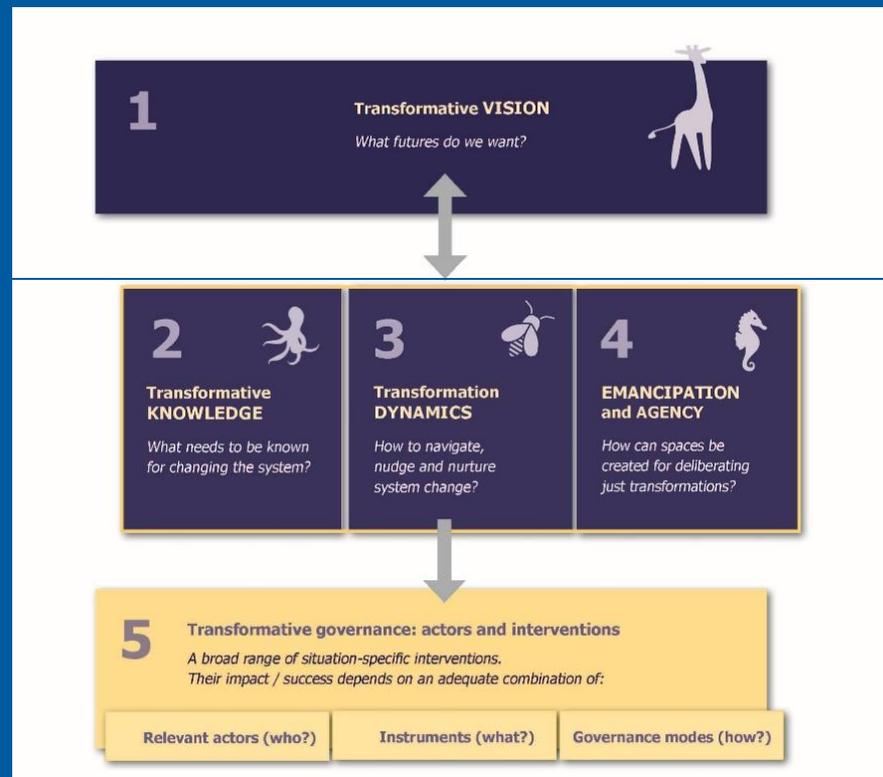
Applying the framework as

Analytical tool – analyse a program, situation, country or a system concerning transformative change –

Evaluation tool – evaluate (transformative) governance interventions

Design tool – identify instruments to increase transformative potential - BioFrame

In a new IKI with TNC we are using it for project planning & to specify activities



Transform (top down)

OPTIMISATION

1 Invest in technology

DESTABILISATION

2 Promote corporate social & environmental standards

3 Raise consumer awareness (nutrition campaigns)

DISRUPTION

4 End harmful subsidies

5 Establish regulations to internalise »true cost of food«

INSTITUTIONALISATION

6 Hold companies liable along entire agri-supply chain

7 Set up policy framework for sustainable food sovereignty

8 Strong international accountability

Envision and adapt (ideas for phasing in)

2 Diagnose political economy of agri-sectors; develop strategies to tackle resistance

Vision
Live in dignity for all, SDGs achieved

EVOLVING NARRATIVES

Understand how to change the system (Transformative Knowledge)

3 Reflexive monitoring

EMERGENCE

5 Reshape finance

4 Support regional circular economy

3 Shift funding & technical support to sust. intensification

ACCELERATION

EXPERIMENTATION

1 Pilot sustainable agri-food systems

2 Pilot sustainable supply chains

2 Support small scale diversified farming

1 Support farmer seed systems

3 Support consumer / producer cooperatives

5 Societal dialogues & transition arenas

BREAKDOWN

6 Training & retraining

7 Globally apply restrictions on agri-pollutants

8 Divestment from conventional agro-industrial business models

PHASE OUT

9 Financial support for stranded assets

Phase out the unsustainable elements

Transformative Ambitions as guidance

- Production without external costs
- Reduce inequalities (access & benefits)
- Safeguard, restore & allow recovery of global commons
- Balanced and responsible consumption

Outcome
Resilient agri-food systems provide healthy food for all & safeguard global commons

Build (bottom up) a sustainable agri-food system

Build emancipatory agency

Thank you for your attention!

Please find the report & more information at:
<https://www.ufz.de/global-commons/>



← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 <https://www.ufz.de/global-commons/index.php?en=48164>

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1. Transformative vision & narratives:

based on clear sustainability conditions

What futures do we want?

2. Transformative knowledge:

What needs to be known for changing the system?

3. Transformation dynamics:

How to navigate, nudge & nurture system change?

4. Emancipation & agency for transformation:

What is the role of bottom-up agency?

Transformative governance: actors & interventions

A broad range of situation-specific interventions. Their impact / success depends on an adequate combination of:

The right actors (who?)

Agents of change

Agents expected to create resistance

Affected actors

Instruments (what?)

Suitable instruments:

- Transform
- Envision and adapt
- Build new institutions
- Phase out

Enabling conditions

- Institutional space
- Knowledge
- Organisational structure
- Capacities

Governance modes (how?)

Inclusive

Informed

Adaptive

Integrated

Accountable