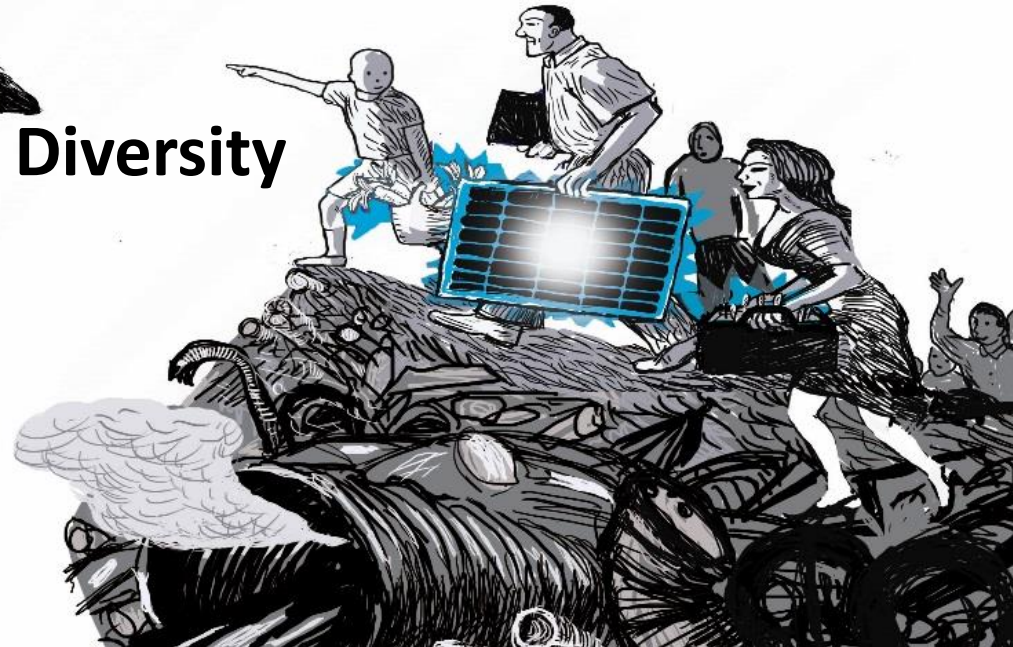




Convention on Biological Diversity *towards transformation?*

Prof.dr. Derk Loorbach

Chexbres, 04-03-2018



Key messages

Biodiversity loss and degradation is a persistent problem inherent to unsustainable development

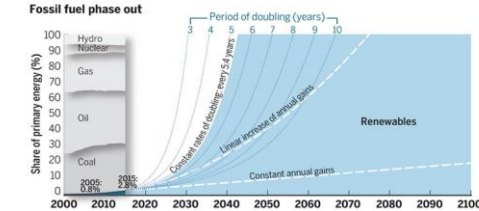
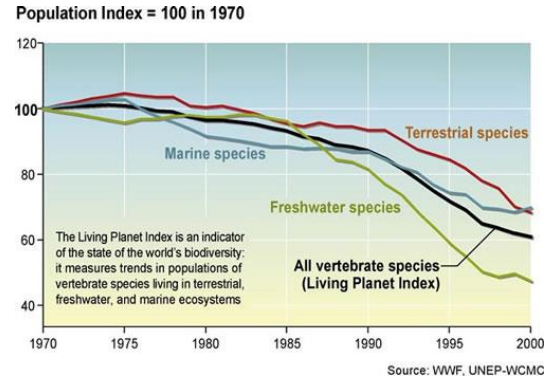
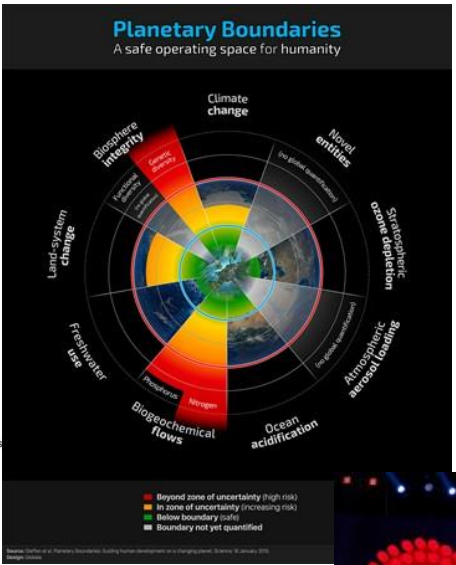
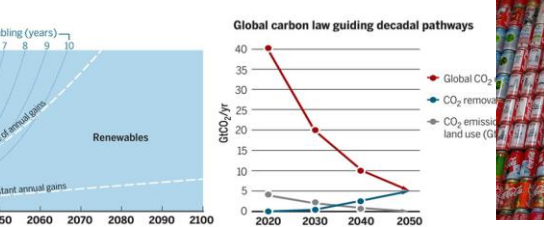
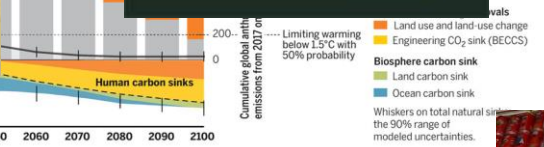
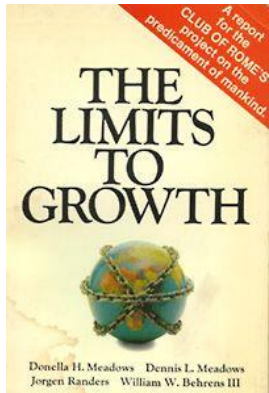
Addressing biodiversity loss and degradation has so far not been able to address the root causes

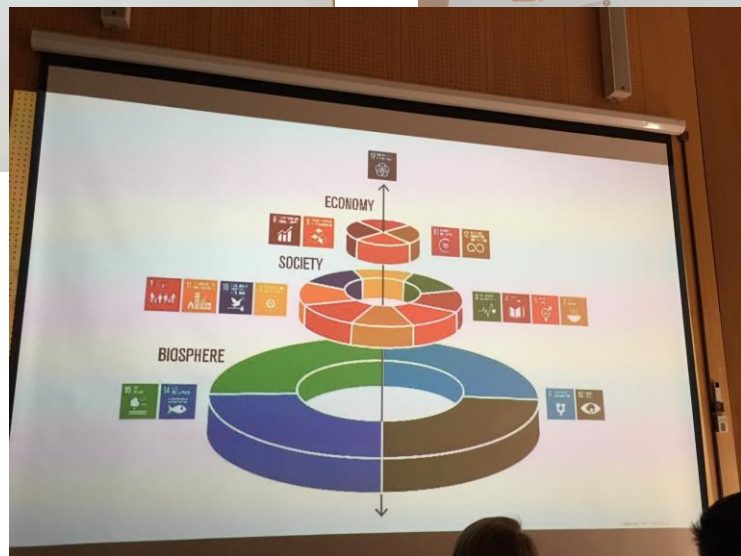
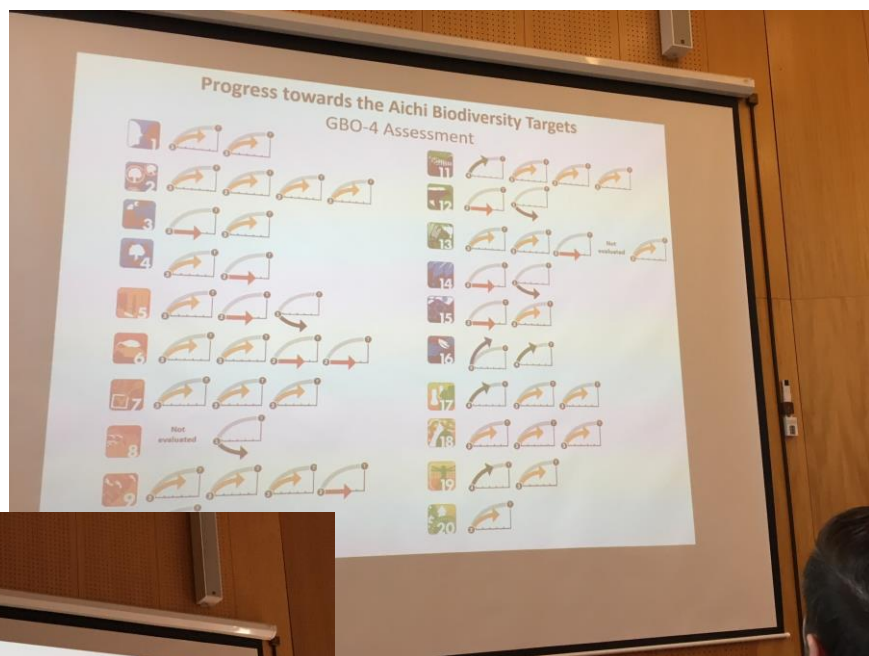
That would imply more structural systemic changes or transitions towards sustainability

While transitions will happen, guiding and accelerating these towards desired futures requires strategic governance

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Erasmus', is located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Persistent unsustainability



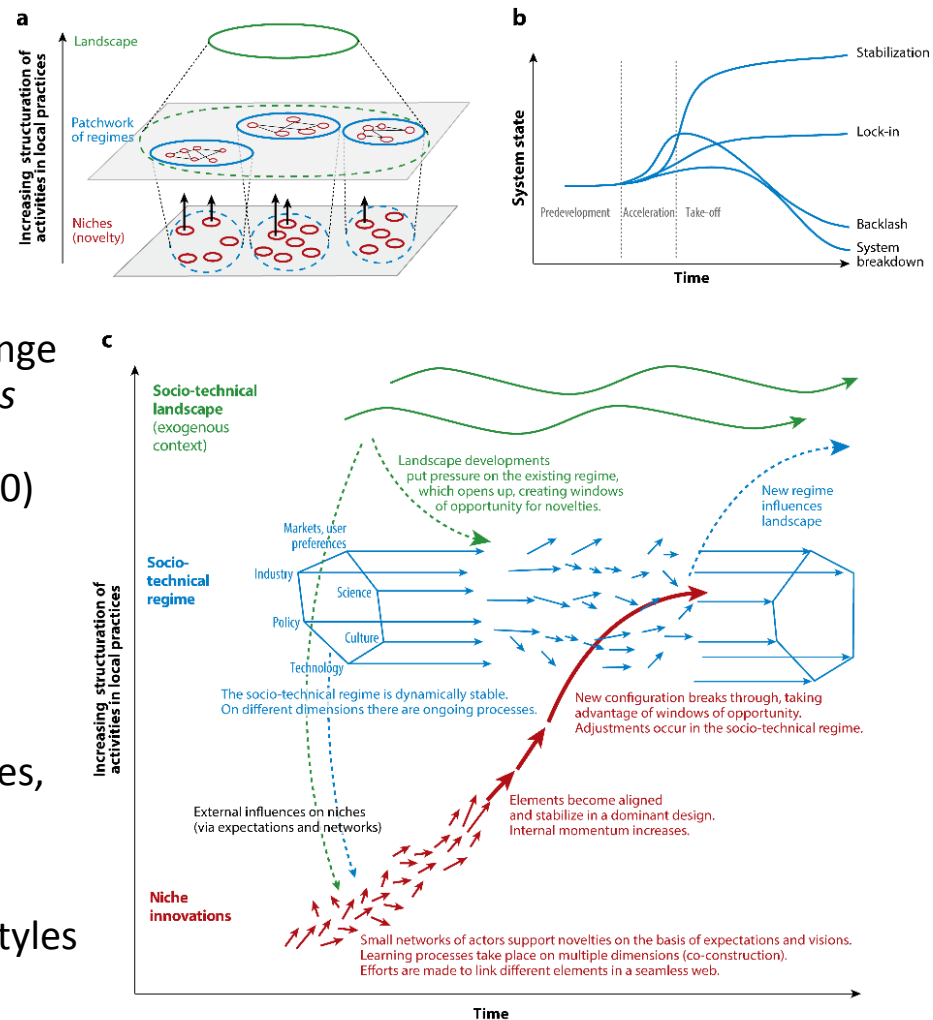


Erasmus

Transitions

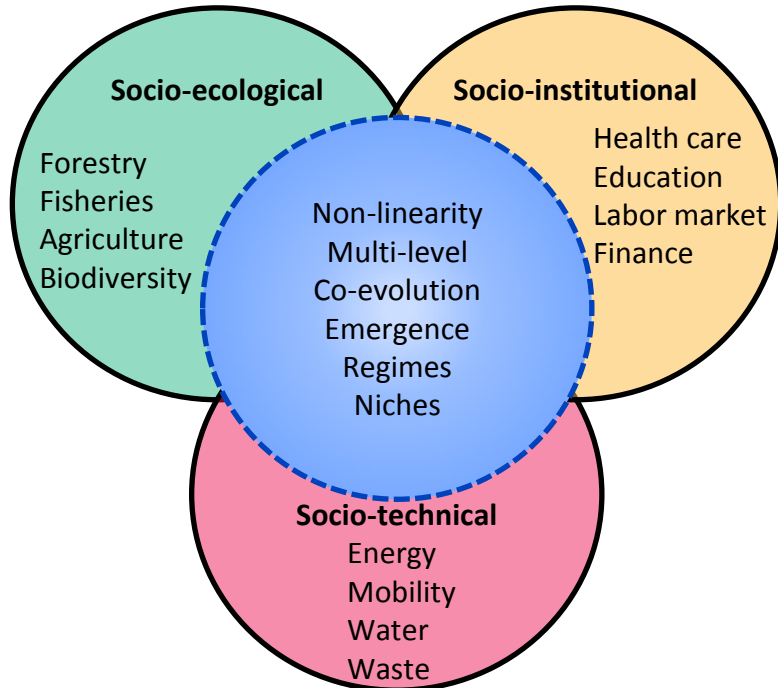
A process of structural, non-linear systemic change in dominant *cultures, structures and practices* (regime) that takes place over a period of decades (Rotmans et al, 2001, Grin et al, 2010)

- cultures:** shared values, paradigms, worldviews, discourses
- structures:** institutions, economic structures, physical infrastructures
- practices:** routines, behavior, action, lifestyles

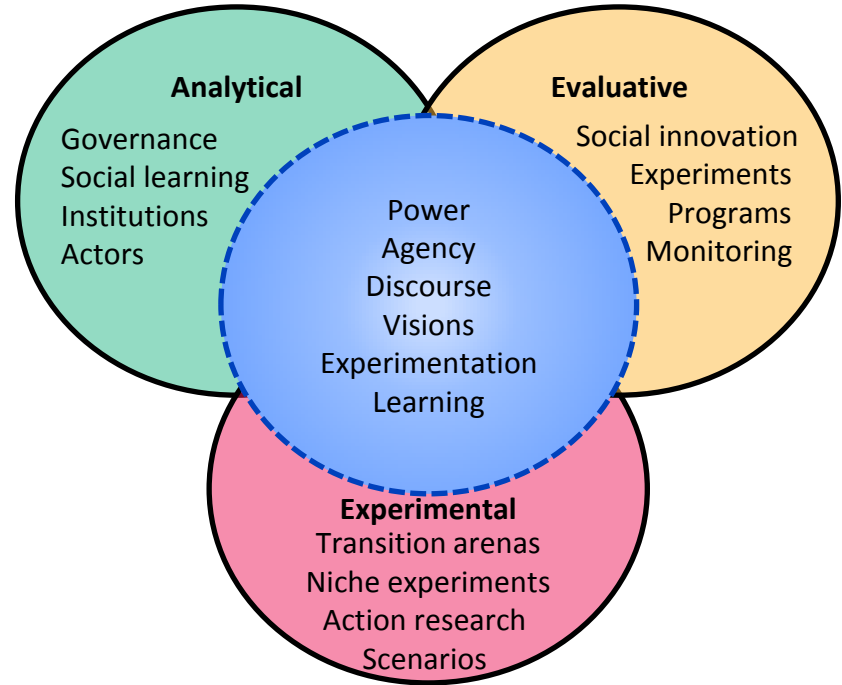




Sustainability Transitions Research

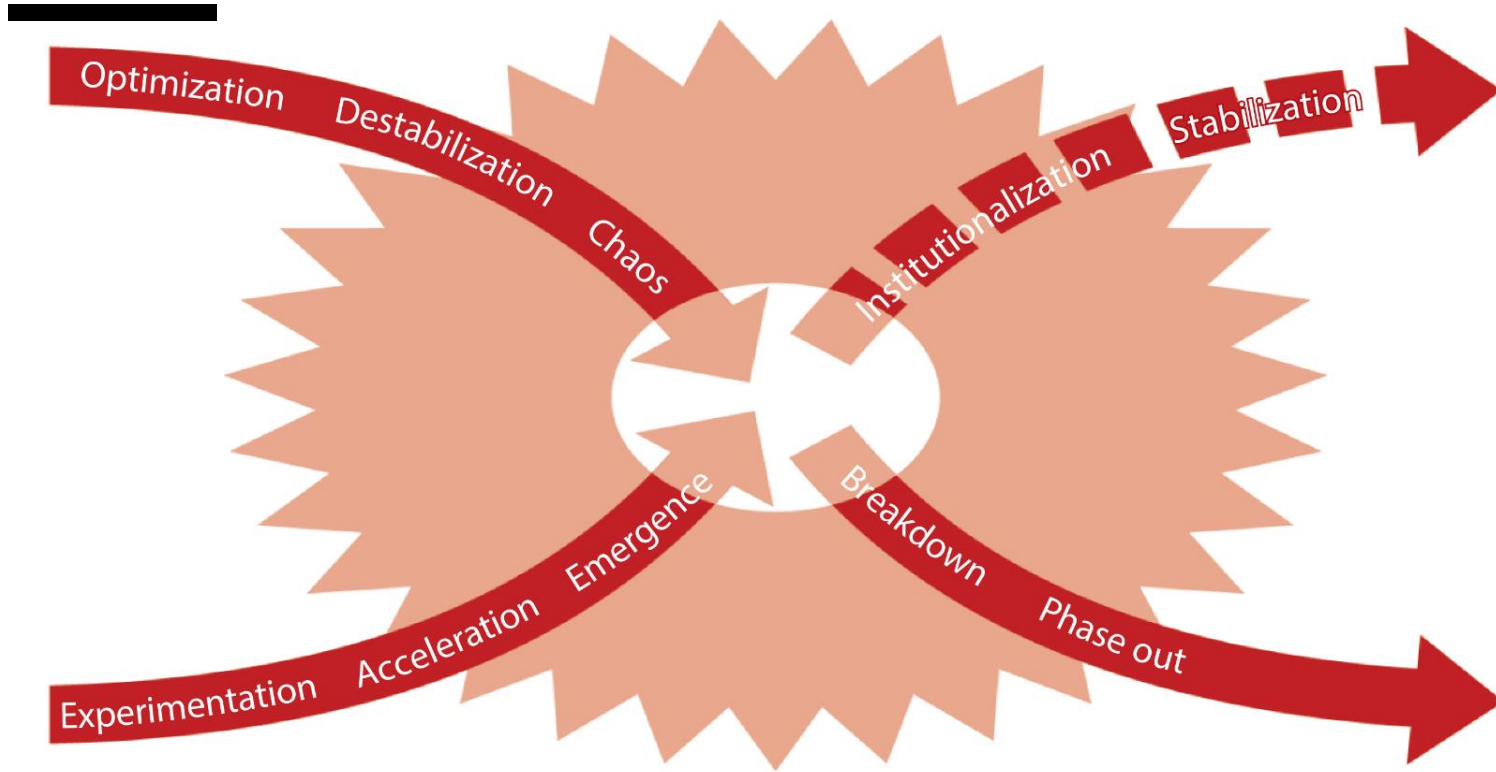


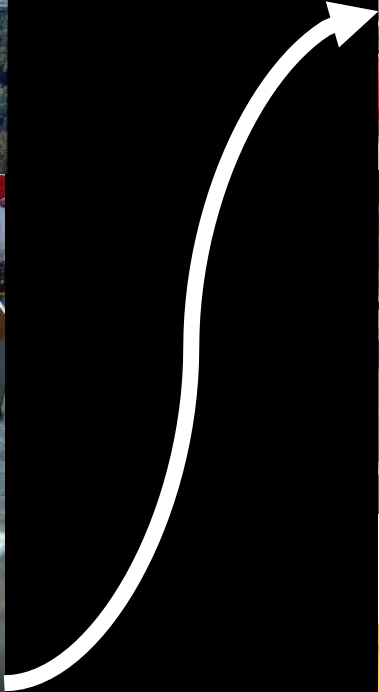
Research perspectives

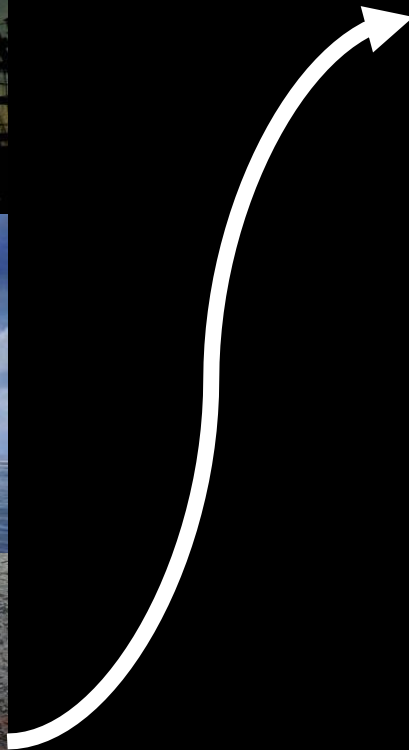


Governance approaches

Ezafus







A biodiversity regime?

- Science and policy process aimed at decreasing biodiversity loss instead of drivers and causes
- (Similar to climate change) a regime has thus developed around understanding and mitigating symptom of unsustainability
- This regime is already moving to destabilization by engaging more with economic, social sciences and transformation
- The way forward is engaging with new ideas and niches and recombining core strengths with new ideas and strategies

→ *How to overcome the ambition and implementation gap?*

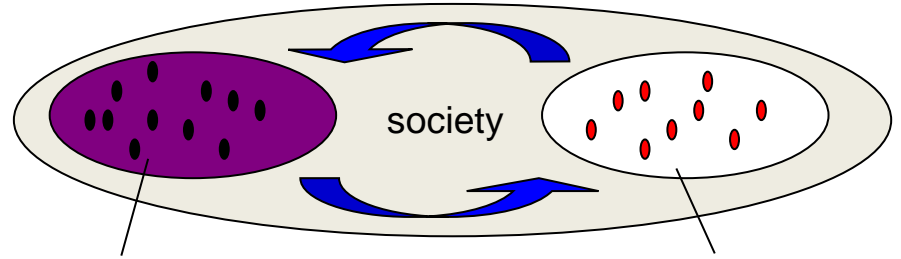
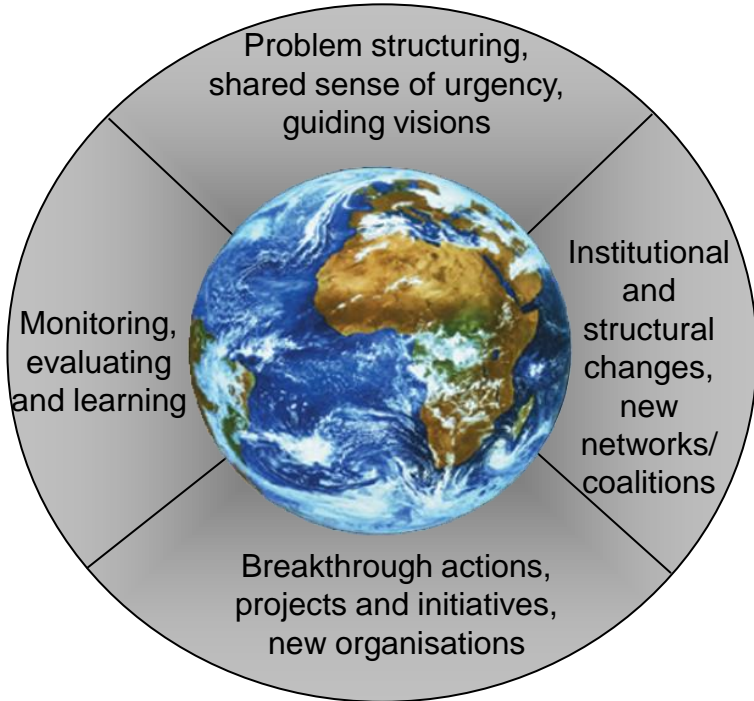


Transition governance principles

- **Content dictates process and vice versa:** *transition as objective*
- **Multi-level approach:** *engage with dynamics across societal levels*
- **Selective participation:** *differentiate between change agents and incumbents*
- **Back casting scenarios:** *envisioning and scenarios as instruments for change*
- **Adaptive strategy:** *multiple goals and solution pathways*
- **Learning-by-doing and doing-by-learning:** *experimenting and reflexivity*

Transition Governance

radical changes in small steps



Regular policy arena

- short term
- mainstream
- incremental improvement
- problem solving

Transition Arena

- long term
- change agents
- transition
- problem searching

Transition agendas Circular Economy

Five transition processes involving different stakeholders to formulate transition targets, pathways and actions

Food and biomass, construction, consumer products, plastics, manufacturing

High level policy commitment to long-term transition: reduce, replace, refurbish, reuse and recycle



Prioritaire ketens/sectoren





Surinam in transition?

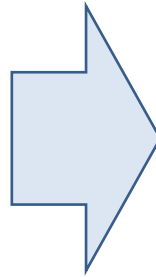
Current regime:

culture: comfort zone, social norms/pressures, growth, dependent,

structures: big government, strong social infrastructures, weak institutions, infrastructures,

practices: hosselen, accepting, escaping, surviving

From colonial to mining now in transition to consumption society.



Transition to ideological politics and professional bureaucracy

HRM, digitalisation and land rights, independent parliament and civil service

Transitions to sustainable energy, mobility and food

Finance, infrastructure, behavioral change, legal frameworks

Transitions to positive health, inclusive education and social economy

New courses, action based education, international exchange

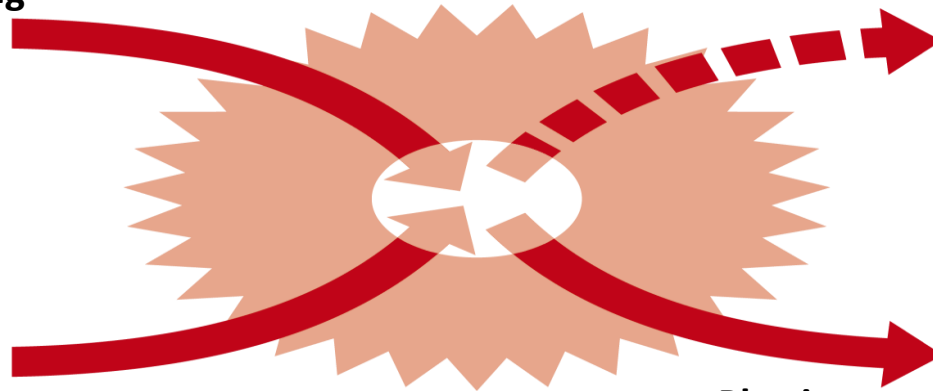
Transition experiments with local initiatives, public debate, linking to global networks, nature based solutions, natural capital projects etc.

Erasmus

Transition governance mix: top-down, bottom-up and phase-out

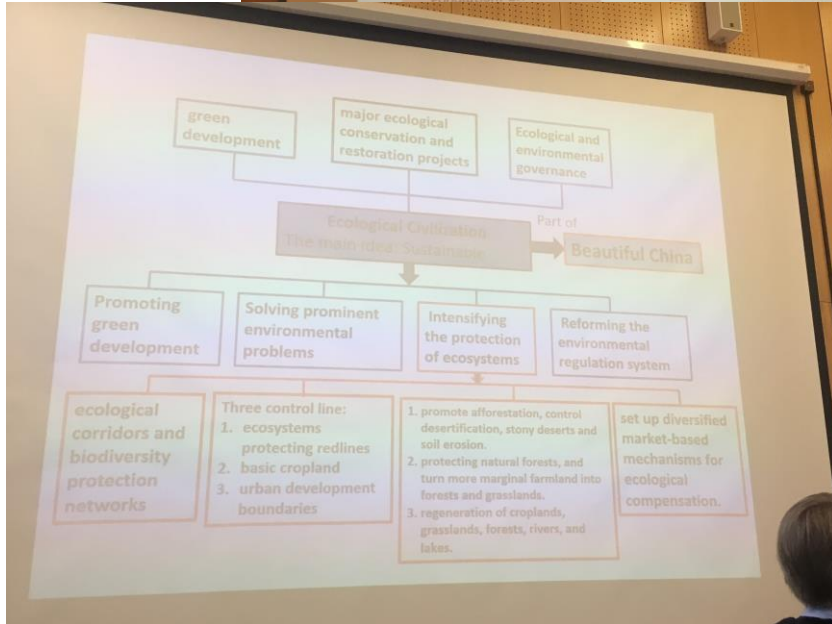
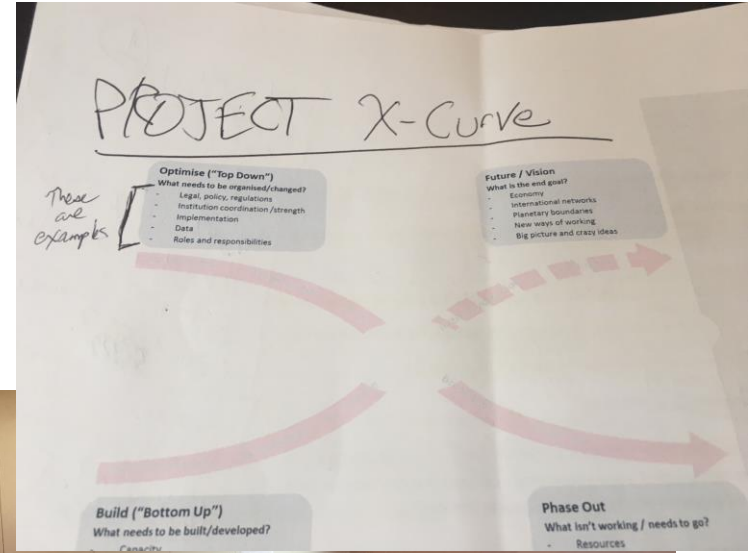
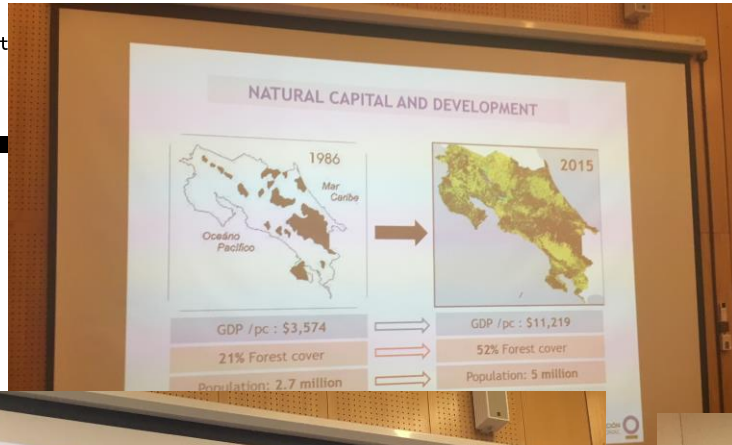
Pricing externalities, regulations,
changing subsidies, investment strategies,
goal setting

Adjusting and
learning



Finding, connecting and empowering
niches: clean tech, sustainable production,
new diets, sustainable lifestyles, ...

Phasing-out fossil fuels,
perverse economic incentives,
overconsumption, pollution, waste



Future / Vision

- Work dynamically across scales and time rather than hierarchical
- Institutionalized natural capital assessment/accounting to align policy and business interests/goals
- Build on strength of conservation but complement with prevention
- Concrete and easy to communicate targets, less reporting more results
- Build the economic case with business community
- Biodiversity as critical issue for finance ministries (resources, risk, externalities, economic stability, ...)
- Smallholders and big stewards of biodiversity
- Human right and nature right reinforce each other
- Mobilize communities around political pressure points
- Connect to faith based organizations, include civil society, labor unions, SMEs
- Facilitate diffusion, scaling, replicating, institutionalizing
- Indirect approach targeting high impact points and supporting transformative agency

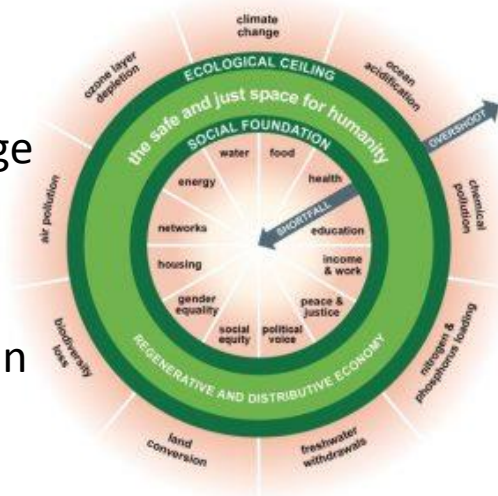
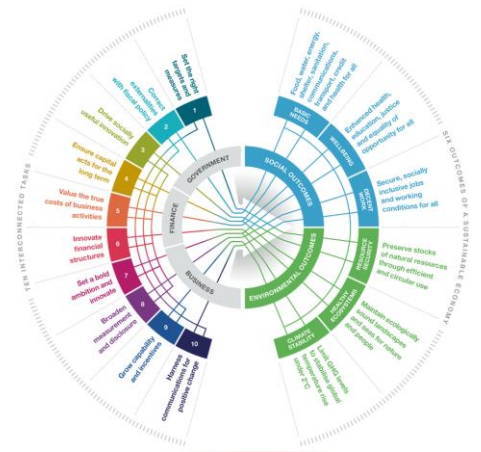
Challenges of sustainability transitions in biodiversity relevant economic sectors

By definition specific to national contexts in terms of existing regimes, dynamics and potentials

Need to build up governance capacities to facilitate and knowledge basis to structure and guide

In developed countries escaping lock-in versus shifting pathways in developing countries

→ *How to close the ambition and implementation gaps?*



Erasmus

CBD to support sustainability transitions?

Platform to connect science and governance for transformation

bringing scientific knowledge to countries to identify transition
persistence and potentials

supporting development of national/sectoral transition
strategies/pathways and potentials

synthesizing national ambitions and implementation agendas

Mediating between institutional/formal and transition governance

Bringing in new methods, processes and expertise

Points for discussion

Do you recognize the understanding of the Biodiversity regime and its focus on symptoms rather than causes?

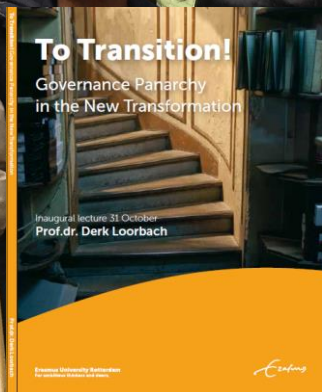
Do you share the sense of urgency for more fundamental change and feeling that momentum for transition is building?

Do you have examples of path-dependencies and lock-ins that prevent more fundamental changes?

How do you reflect on your own role and position in supporting the biodiversity agenda

Erasmus

drift for transition



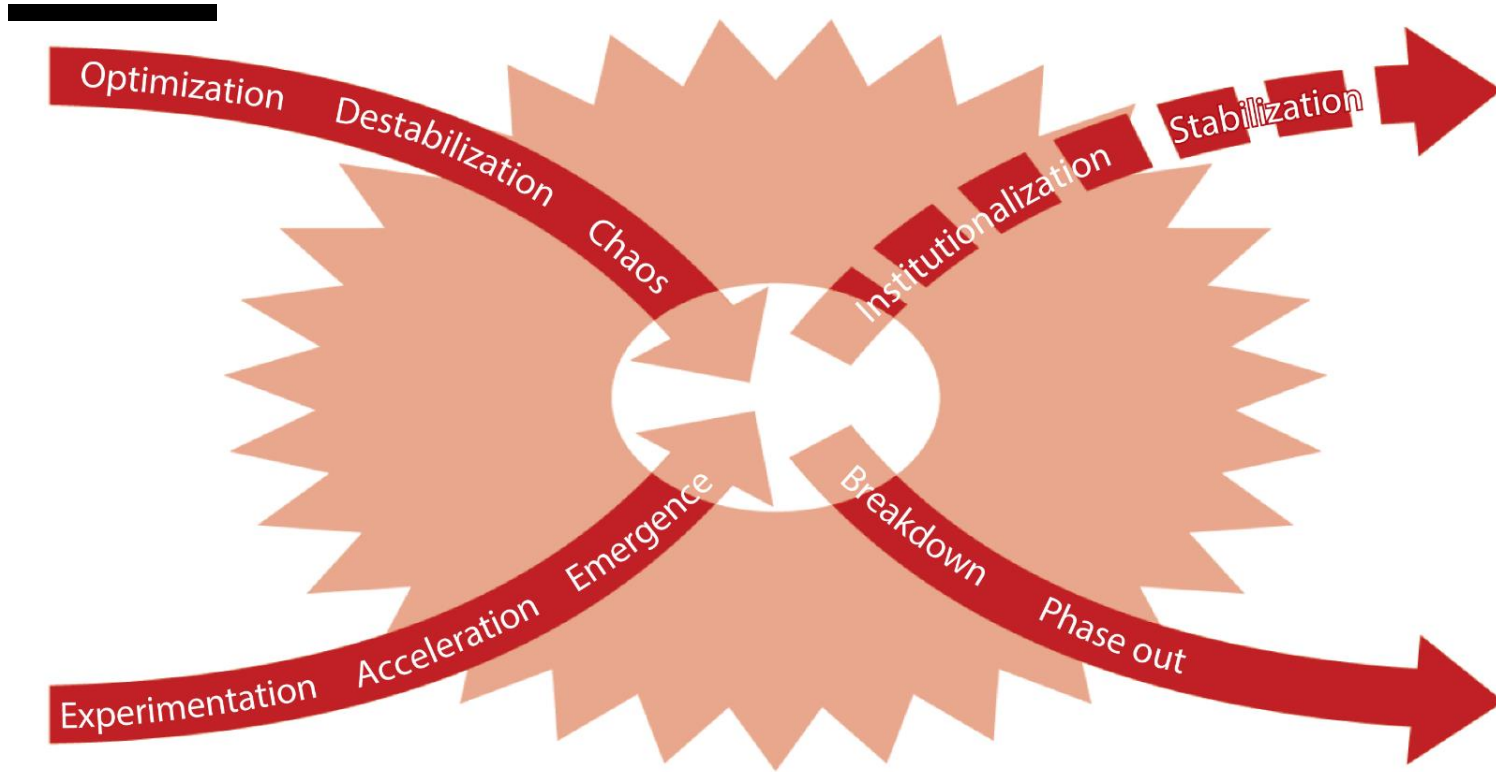
For more information and publications:

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www.drift.eur.nl

www.twitter.com/drk75

Erasmus



Emerging new narratives and visions?

Conserve what is still there and work even more aggressively and effectively on a global and national scale on this.

Transform societal regimes from unsustainable towards operating within ecological boundaries (not only agriculture, fisheries and forestry but also energy, mobility, water management, healthcare, construction etc.).

Regenerate degraded ecosystems, unsustainably developed areas, develop regenerative business models and the human connection to nature

Many promising niches and momentum

New technologies

renewables, digital platforms, mobile technology, GIS, satellite data,
electric mobility

New approaches

natural capital, translocal diffusion of social innovation, agroecology,
circular economy, sustainable fisheries/forestry

New structures

platforms, social enterprises, impact investment, cooperatives,
networks, citizen science, civil movements

Four groups

1. Convention process and institutional regime;
2. Dominant narratives and discourse around biodiversity;
3. Emerging technological niches;
4. Emerging new narratives/practices/social innovations, partnerships and coalitions

Main questions

What is the current dynamic and where did it come from?

What is its transformative potential?

Where do you want it to go?

Top Down/Regime

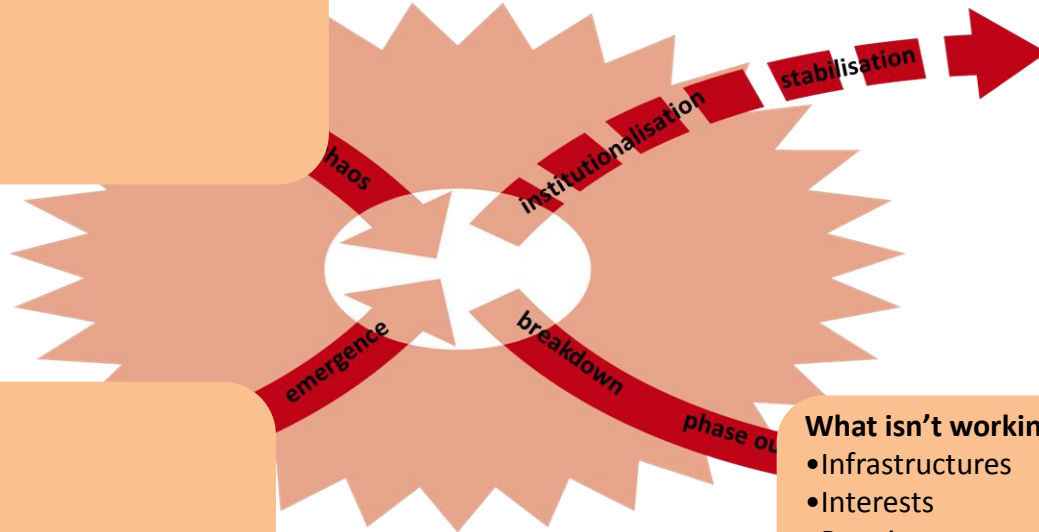
- Economic conditions
- Rules and regulations
- Institutions and interests
- Roles and responsibilities
- Discourses and beliefs

Bottom Up/Niche

- Technologies
- Lifestyles
- Social innovations
- Capacities
- Networks

What isn't working / needs to go?

- Infrastructures
- Interests
- Practices
- Technologies



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What structures need to change? ("Top Down")

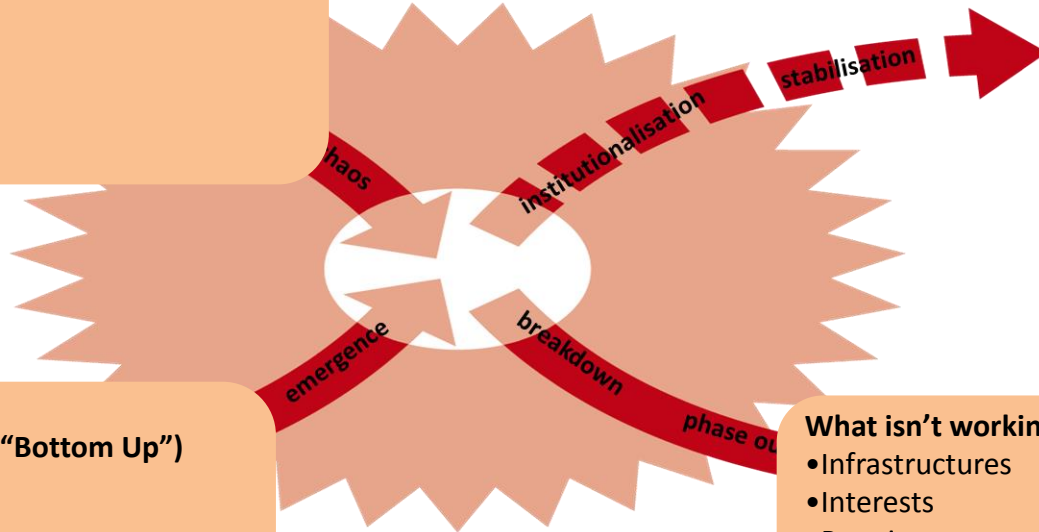
- Economic conditions
- Rules and regulations
- Institutions and interests
- Roles and responsibilities
- Discourses and beliefs

What needs to be built ("Bottom Up")

- Technologies
- Lifestyles
- Social innovations
- Capacities
- Networks

What isn't working / needs to go?

- Infrastructures
- Interests
- Practices
- Technologies



Trafim

What structures need to change? (“Top Down”)

- Economic conditions
- Rules and regulations
- Institutions and interests
- Roles and responsibilities

Future / Vision

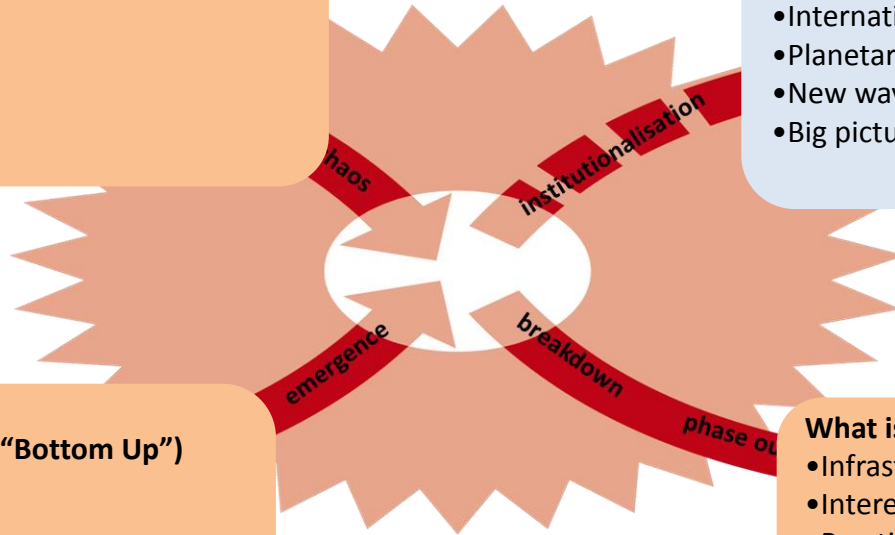
- What is the end goal?
- Economy
 - International networks
 - Planetary boundaries
 - New ways of working
 - Big picture and crazy ideas

What needs to be built (“Bottom Up”)

- Technologies
- Lifestyles
- Practices
- Capacities
- Networks

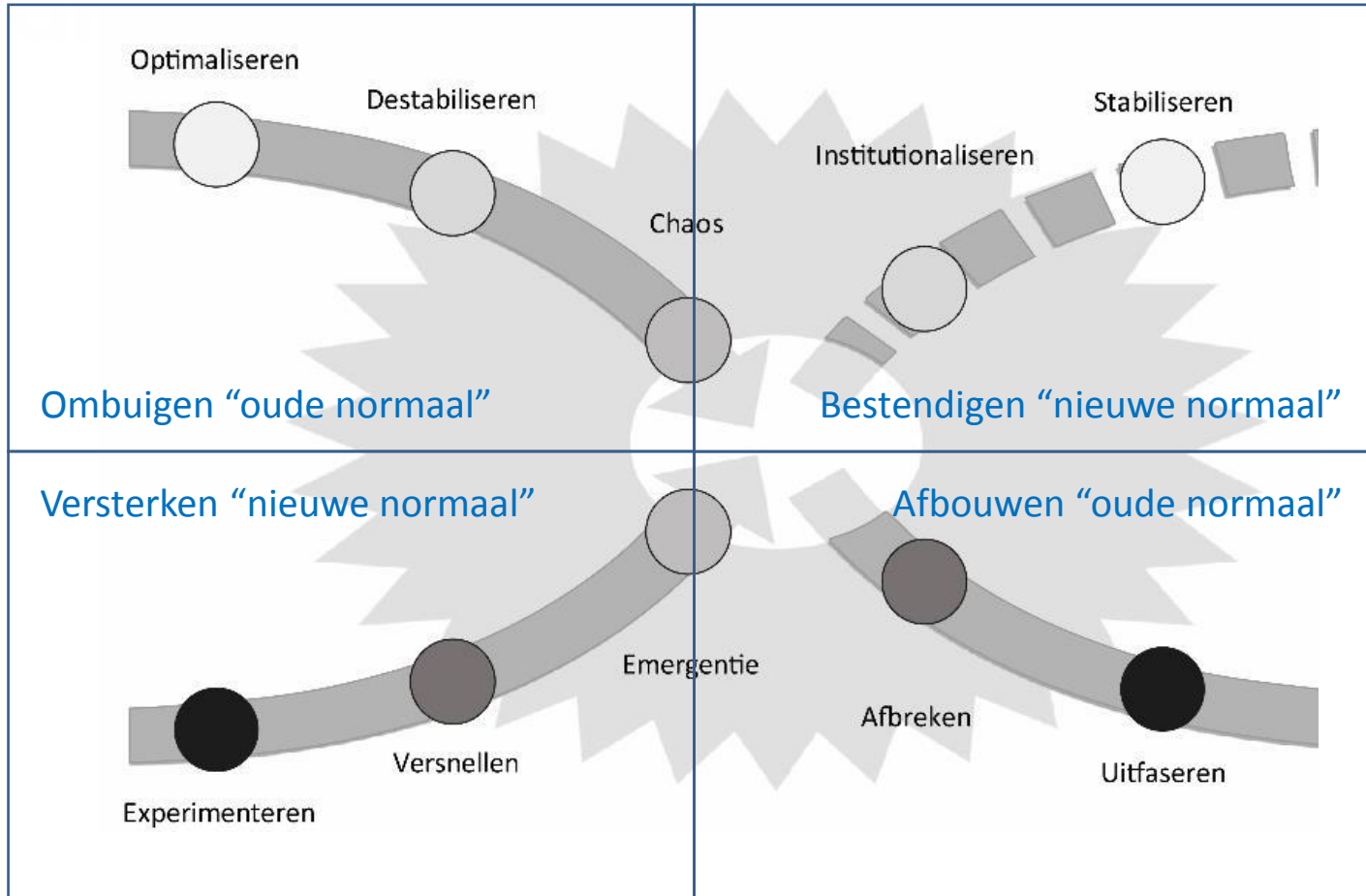
What isn't working / needs to go?

- Infrastructures
- Interests
- Practices
- Technologies



Trafim

Dynamiek van transitie *interventies*



What structures need to change? (“Top Down”)

- Elimination of harmful subsidies
- Pesticides and agricultural policy
- Education and population growth
- Value (ecosystem) services
- Corporate culture and roles
- Psychology of decision making/makers
- Sourcing solutions connecting global to local
- Reconnecting causes and effects
- Structure of COPs (broader engagement)
- Incentives supporting status quo
- Simpler targets and goals
- Better data and measurement
- Natural capital accounting standards/standardized

What needs to be built (“Bottom Up”)

- Seeing biodiversity as national asset
- Platforms for translocal collaboration and change
- Relate biodiversity to needs of people
- Communicating around biodiversity and need
- Politicize convention (process) bottom up
- Make it a critical development issue
- Define what is possible
- Integrated institutional access/frameworks
- Find local engagement issues to connect with top down
- Institutionalise interdepartmental work (coffee meetings)
- Rally around shared concerns and resources
- Social cohesion between local communities on global scale
- Connecting and mobilizing platforms
- Allow for diversity and different speeds
- Learning together across concrete cases

Future / Vision

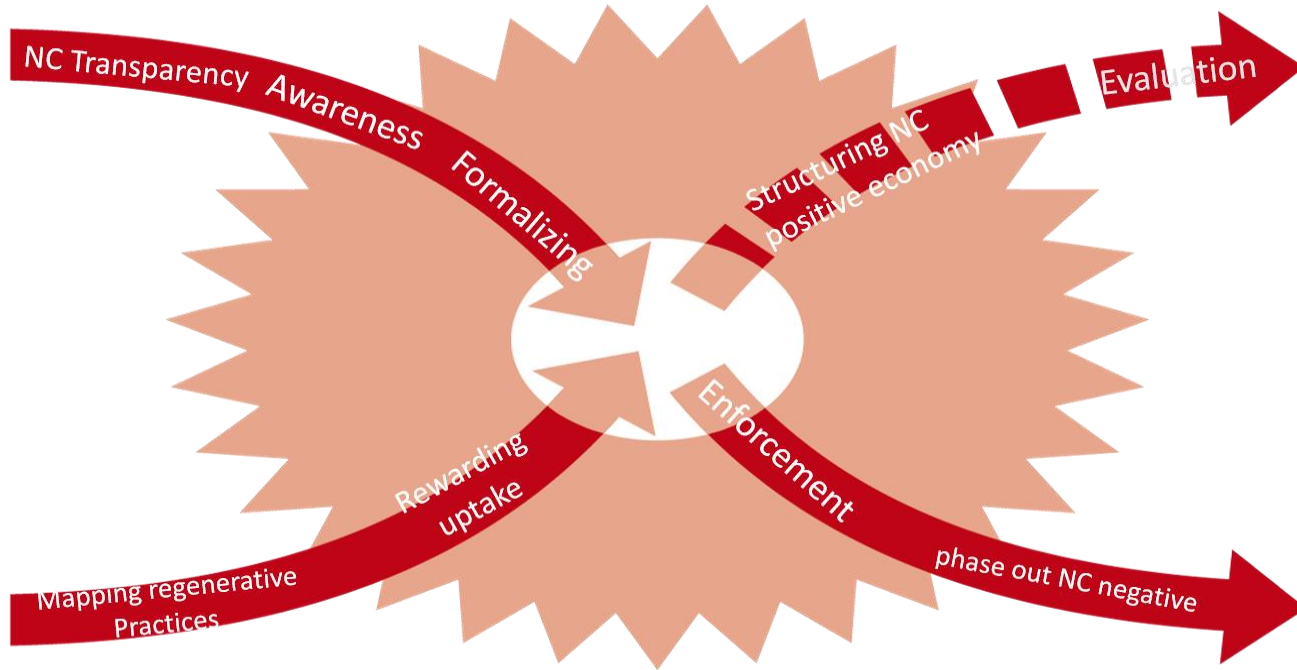
- Solutions preventing negative biodiversity impacts
- Biodiversity doesn't only have biodiversity solutions
- Work dynamically across scales and time rather than hierarchical
- Institutionalised natural capital assessment/accounting to align policy and business interests/goals
- Build on strength of conservation but complement with prevention
- Biodiversity is political
- Concrete and easy to communicate targets
- Less reporting more results (transparency and accountability)
- To change everything you need everybody
- Biodiversity matters
- Build the economic case with business community
- Others (business, ...) communicate on biodiversity
- Biodiversity as critical issue for finance ministries (resources, risk, externalities, economic stability, ...)
- Smallholders and big stewards of biodiversity
- Human right and nature right reinforce each other
- Mobilize communities around political pressure points
- Connect to faith based organisations
- Include civil society, labor unions, SMEs
- Facilitate diffusion, scaling, replicating, institutionalizing
- Change by stealth
- Indirect approach targeting high impact points and supporting transformative agency
- Empowering others

What isn't working / needs to go?

- Complex non integrative targets
- Institutional silo culture
- Non disruptive communications
- Complex messages
- Only targeting biodiversity community
- Mismatch population growth and institutional frameworks
- How we determine our targets
- NDC approach?
- Mainstreaming?

afms

Natural capital approaches as transition instruments



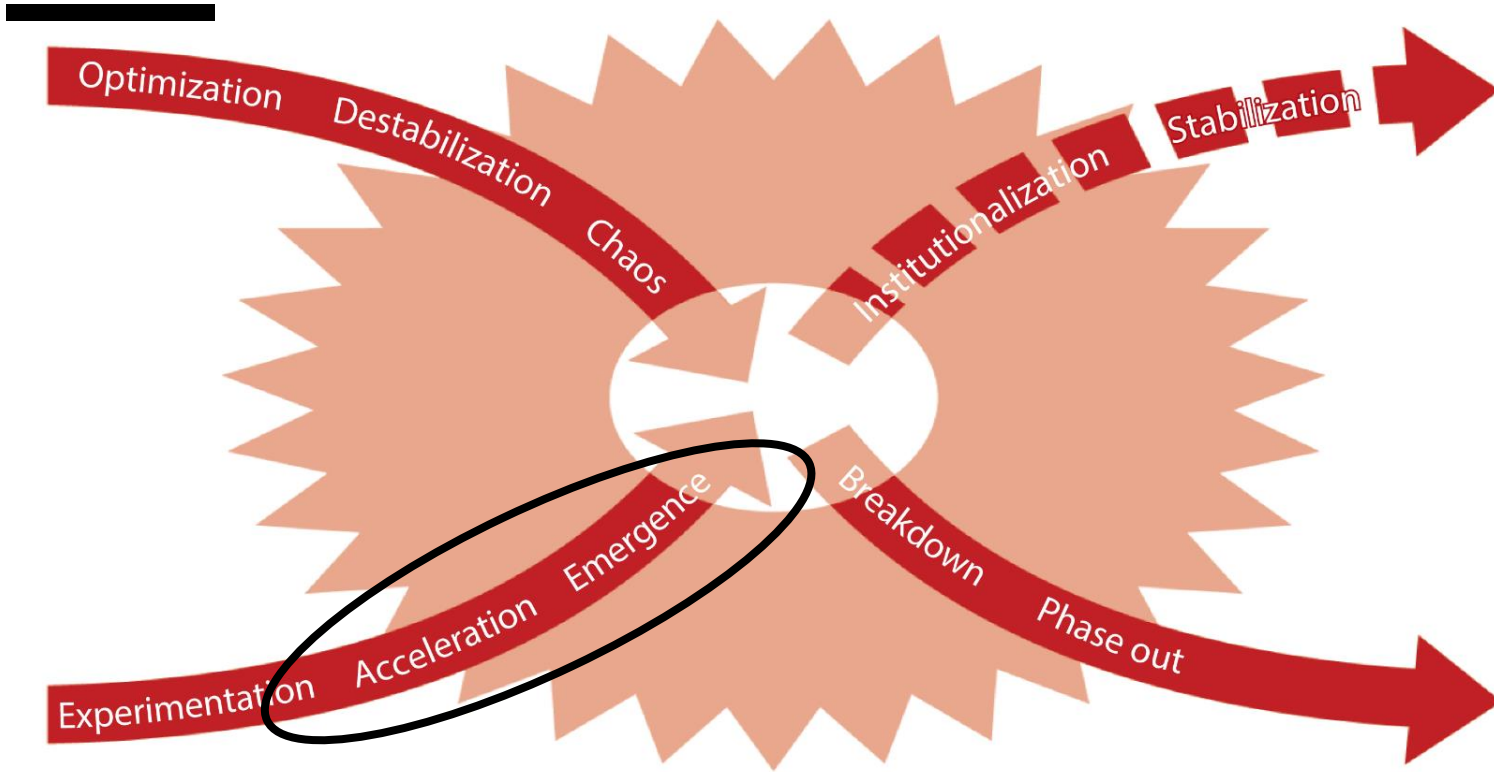
Enabling factors for sustainability transitions

Institutional space: political commitment to sustainability transitions is needed, including support for creating operational capacity and institutional legitimacy to work with natural capital approaches

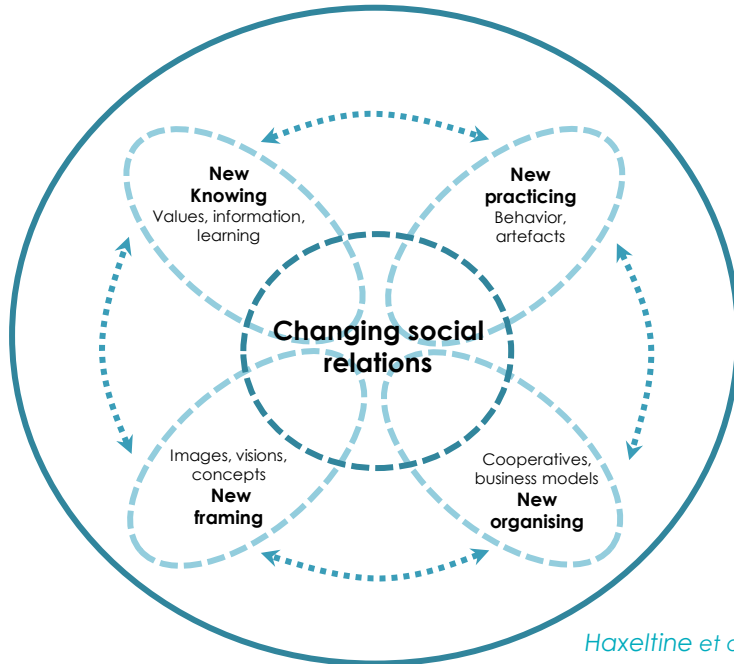
Knowledge: knowledge about the possibilities, different methods, and previous experiences with the implementation and use of natural capital approaches, and (access to) knowledge about the implementation context is required.

Organizational structure: policy officials need to be able to exchange, collaborate, and provide and ask for support in effective ways across departments and government levels.

Capacities: to be able to identify change and change agents, to work with a diversity of actors, to be able to challenge incumbent ideas and interests, and to creatively adapt methods and tools to different contexts requires specific skills and capacities.



Translocal diffusion of transformation



Haxeltine et al. 2016

