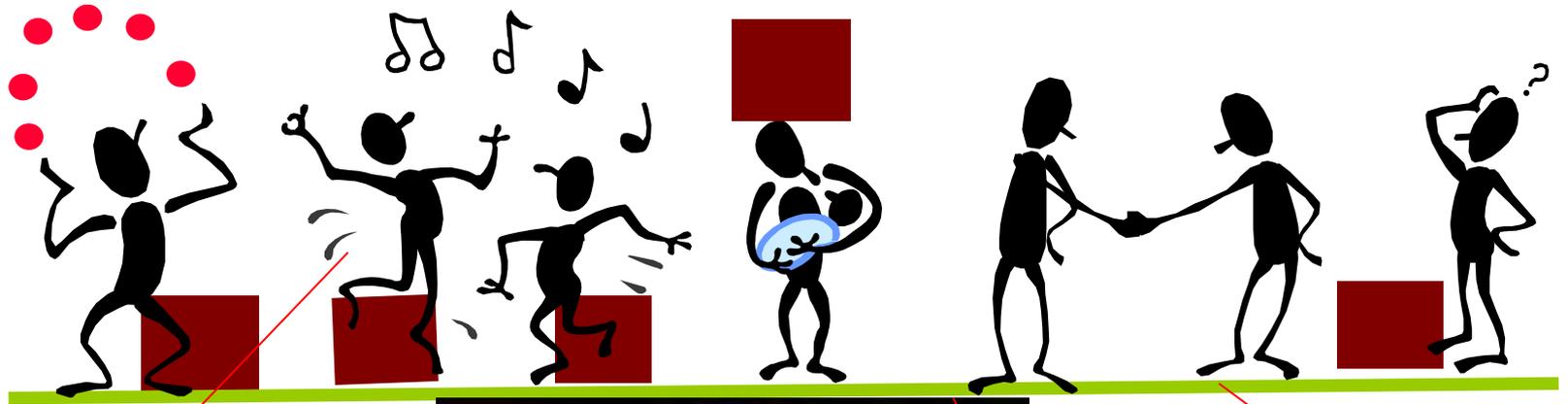




## **Food for thought on Green Economy in the context of SD and poverty eradication**

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# Fair and sustainable economy !



Quality of life

Carrying capacity



Participation  
and  
democracy

Justice

# Global Justice ? Fair use of resources ? Over- and underconsumption



## Social Equity is “basic need”

*“ How almost everything - from life expectancy to mental illness, violence to illiteracy - is affected not by how wealthy a society is, but how equal it is ”*

*Spirit level - Richard Wilkinson & Kate Pickett*



IF YOU KEEP ON THINKING IN THE PILLAR APPROACH MEANS THAT YOU BELIEVE IN CONTINUING ECONOMIC GROWTH, SUPPOSING YOU CAN INVEST PART OF THE FINANCIAL PROFIT IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PILLAR.

BUT EXPONENTIAL ECONOMIC GROWTH (ABOVE A CERTAIN LEVEL) CAUSES ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

AND THOSE PROBLEMS YOU CANNOT SOLVE WITH CREATING MORE MONEY.

It is claimed that the “Green Economy” and “Green Growth” proposed by UNEP, OECD and Europe 2020 is the way out of ongoing economic-, climate-, water- and food crises by restructuring our economies **to simply encourage** and sustain green energy, green growth and green jobs.

A Green Economy is a big **step forward**, but will not **solve on her own** problems of inequity in incomes, access to resources and quality of life, nor tackle pollution from existing industry and environmental degradation.

Promoting Green Economy is not the same as “changing our economy” towards Sustainable Development.

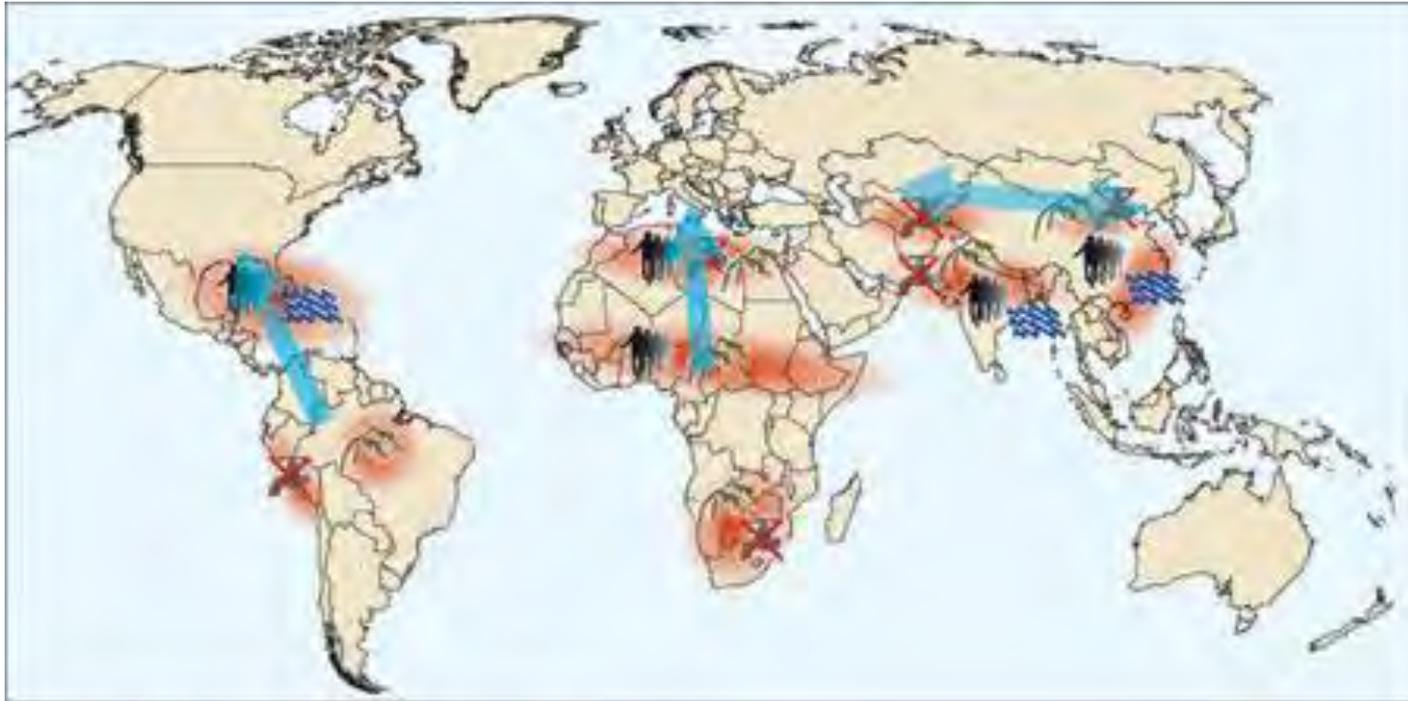
***Business as usual***  
**Economy**  
  
=  
**unsustainable**

—————→  
**??????**  
**How do we  
organise  
a total  
transition**  
  
←————

***Green Economy***  
  
**Promoting  
green  
products**

**Need for sustainable societies –  
not only “green” consumers**

# (unequal) growth : and (unequal) consequences



Conflict constellations in selected hotspots



Climate-induced degradation of freshwater resources



Climate-induced decline in food production



Hotspot



Climate-induced increase in storm and flood disasters



Environmentally-induced migration



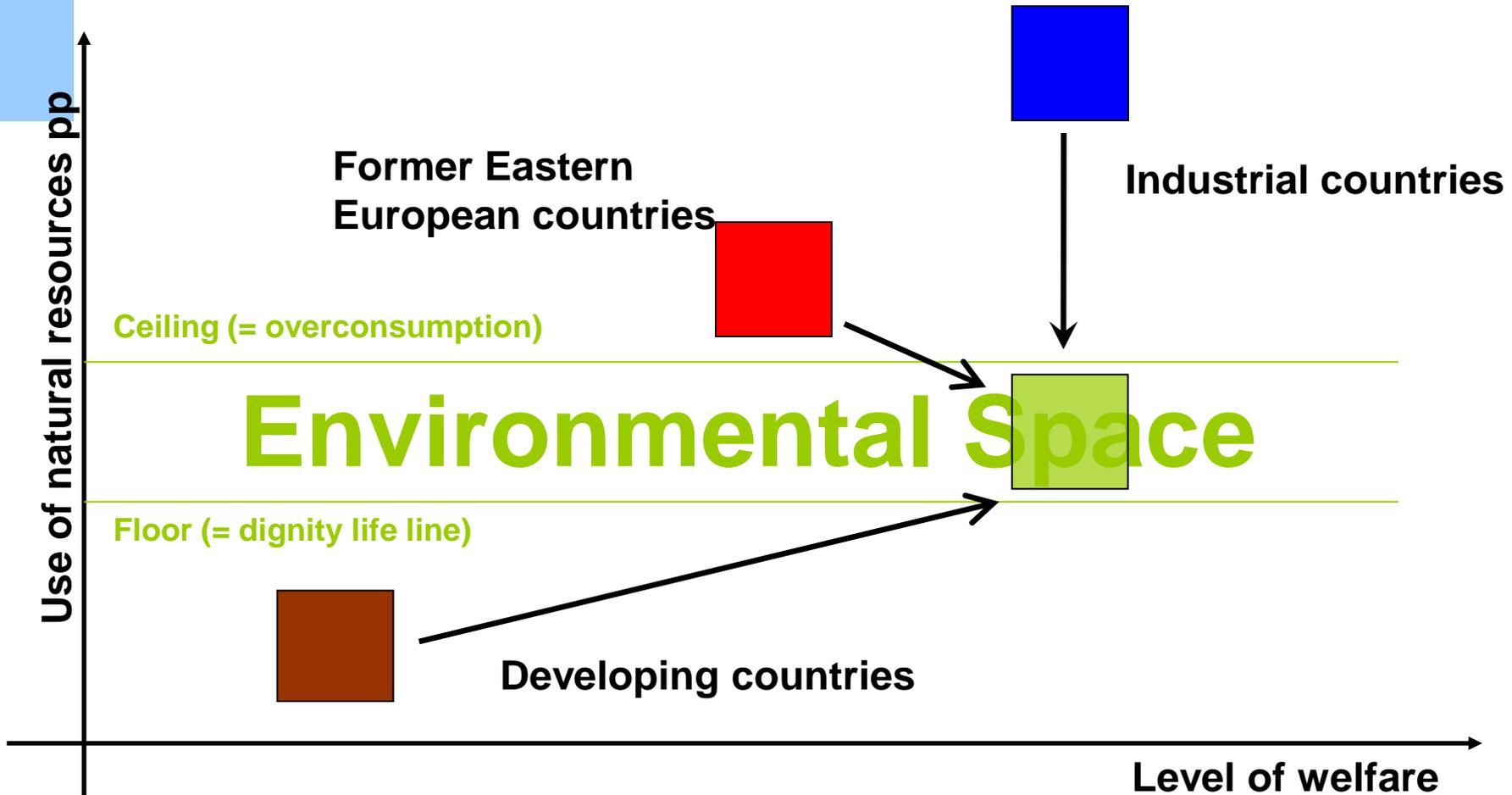
Main trajectories

General consensus that Social Equity has to be part of the Green Economy.

As we are already living globally beyond our environmental limits, we cannot keep on growing (for increasing the cake to share). We need to start thinking of **redistribution of resources and wealth.**

=> Poverty eradication by (extreme) wealth reduction

# Contraction and Convergence



## Recognising limits

- Our global economy is already going **far beyond the limits** of the carrying capacity of the planet.
- We are using too much of our natural capital, and any businessman knows: if you start **eating your capital**: **bankruptcy** will soon follow....



- There is an urgent need to cut down the use of natural resources in absolute amounts.
- Technical solutions (eco-efficiency) will not be enough..

**=> sufficiency**

## How ?

- Recognising and establishing the limits : resource and emission caps, strong reduction targets (in absolute amounts),
- Fiscal reforms (taxing the bads, not the goods),
- Product norms (energy and resources standards)
- Alternative indicators (“beyond GDP”)
- Contraction and convergence (“wealth reduction”)
- Tackling income inequalities (maximum salaries)
- Strengthen and invest on social capital and social innovation
- Investment in public goods

- Dismantling the culture of consumerism, instead of promoting (green) consumerism
- Sharing available work
- Urban planning which allows sustainable transport, local shops and food production, open spaces, .. (local agenda 21)
- Education: integrate SD in curricula at all levels
- Allow real civil participation (not consultation after the decisions are made.. :-)
- Put human values at the heart of every policy

=>

Show **leadership** and design **long term visions**, go beyond single and end-of-pipe solutions

Stop the rat race....

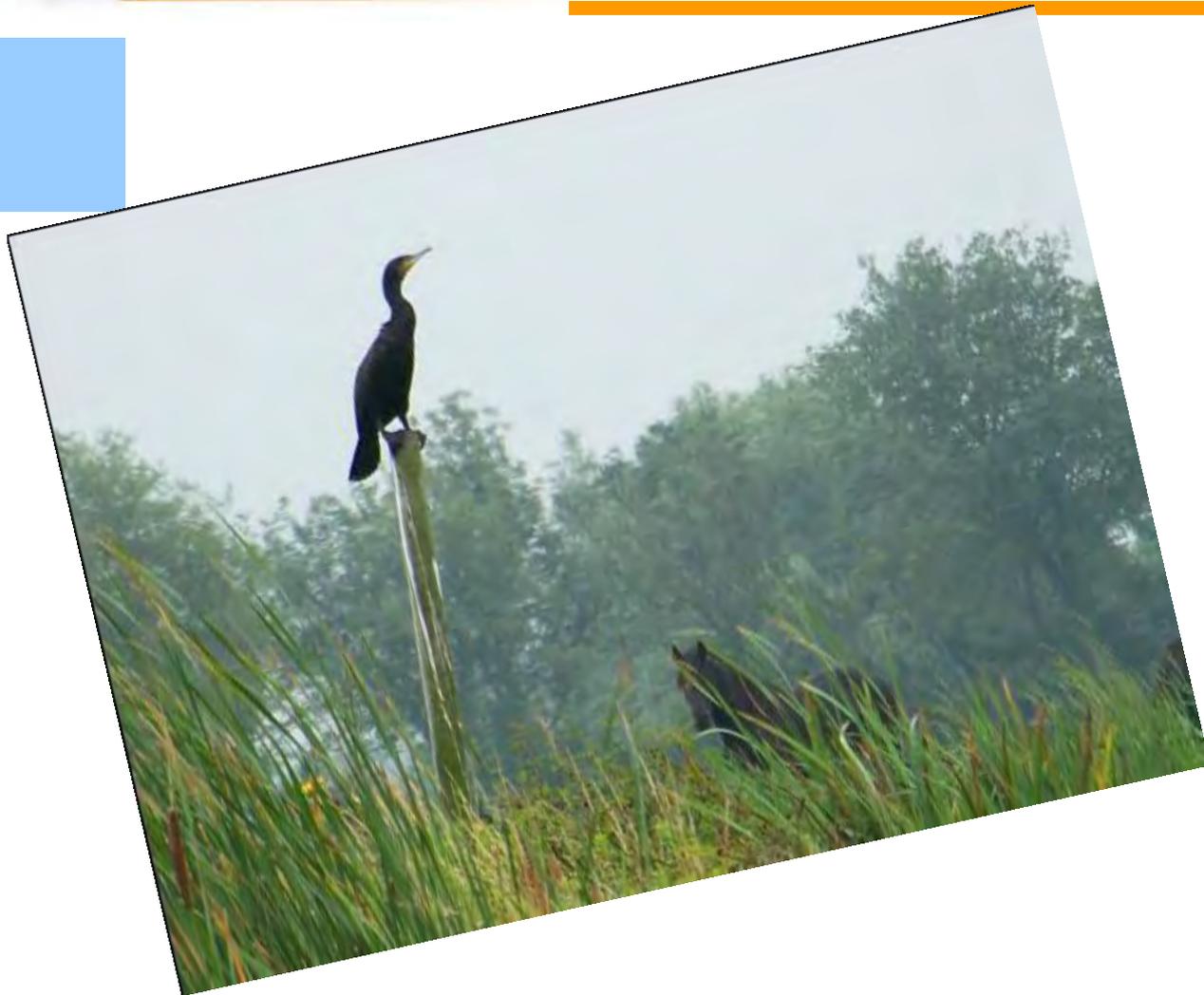


'RAT RACE'

Achieving a green and sustainable economy: what are the best strategies for achieving this and which stakeholder can play which role ?

How to realise fair distribution of the use of resources and absorption capacity for waste (incl CO<sub>2</sub>). How to avoid that “resource justice” becomes an empty concept ?

How to implement the idea of "limits to growth" and "prosperity without growth" within the Green economy debates ?



Thanks for  
your attention  
!

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