The Sustainability Shift

Policy and Institutional Dimensions

Dr Hezri Adnan, FASc

👆 Vietnam

👆 Thailand

Menteri BAPPENAS

Malaysia 👇

The Philippines 👇

Outline of Presentation

1. What is sustainable society?
2. What is the Sustainability Shift?
3. Is the SDGs framework sufficient for the Shift?
4. The case of Malaysia, is it on track to achieve the sustainability vision?
5. How do we 'empower the Sustainability Shift'?
   - Demands on policy and institutions
6. Concluding Remarks
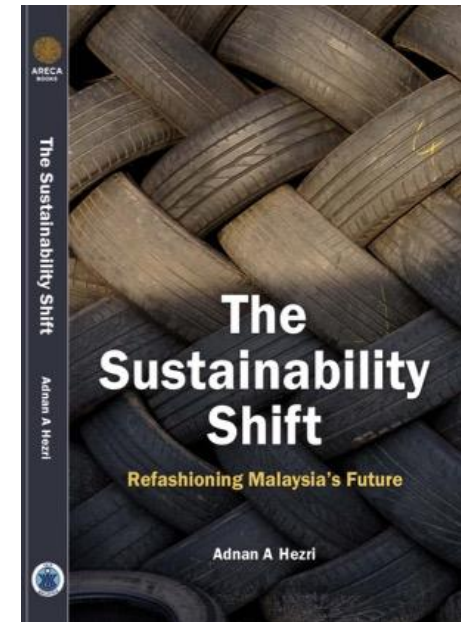
What is a Sustainable Society?

The Past and the Present Societies

PART 1

Society-nature interaction

	Hunter Gatherer Society	Agrarian Society	Industrial Society

	Hunter Gatherer Society	Agrarian Society	Industrial Society
Population Density	0.0025 - 0.115 cap/km^2	<40 cap/km^2	<400 cap/km^2
Total Energy Use per Capita	10 - 20 GJ/cap/yr	40 - 70 GJ/cap/yr	150 - 400 GJ/cap/yr
Use of Materials per Capita	0.5 - 1 t/cap/yr	3 - 6 t/cap/yr	15 - 25 t/cap/yr

The emergence of agriculture and animal husbandry – around 8000 B.C.– altered human societies and their relationship with the natural environment. Agrarian ecosystems replaced natural ecosystems, natural landscapes were transformed into cultivated landscapes.

Haberl et al 2011

... from cultivated landscapes to cities

70% (2050)

45% (2000)

30% (1950)

50% of which are yet to be built

15% (1900)

3% (1800)

(UN DESA, 2012)
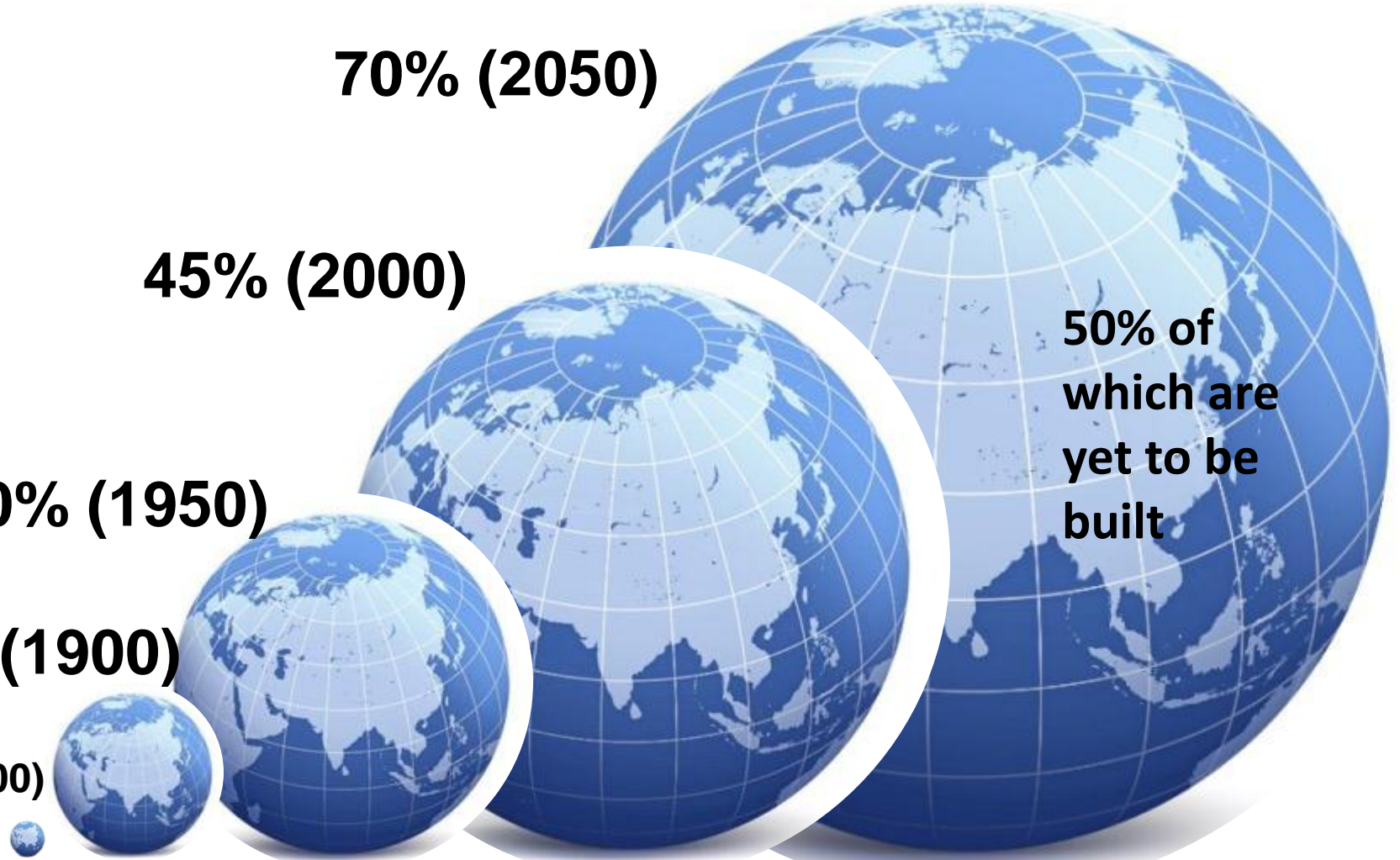
Five hundred years ago the world's annual GDP revolved around $240 billion. By 1820 it reached $695 billion, before climbing to $5.37 trillion in 1950.
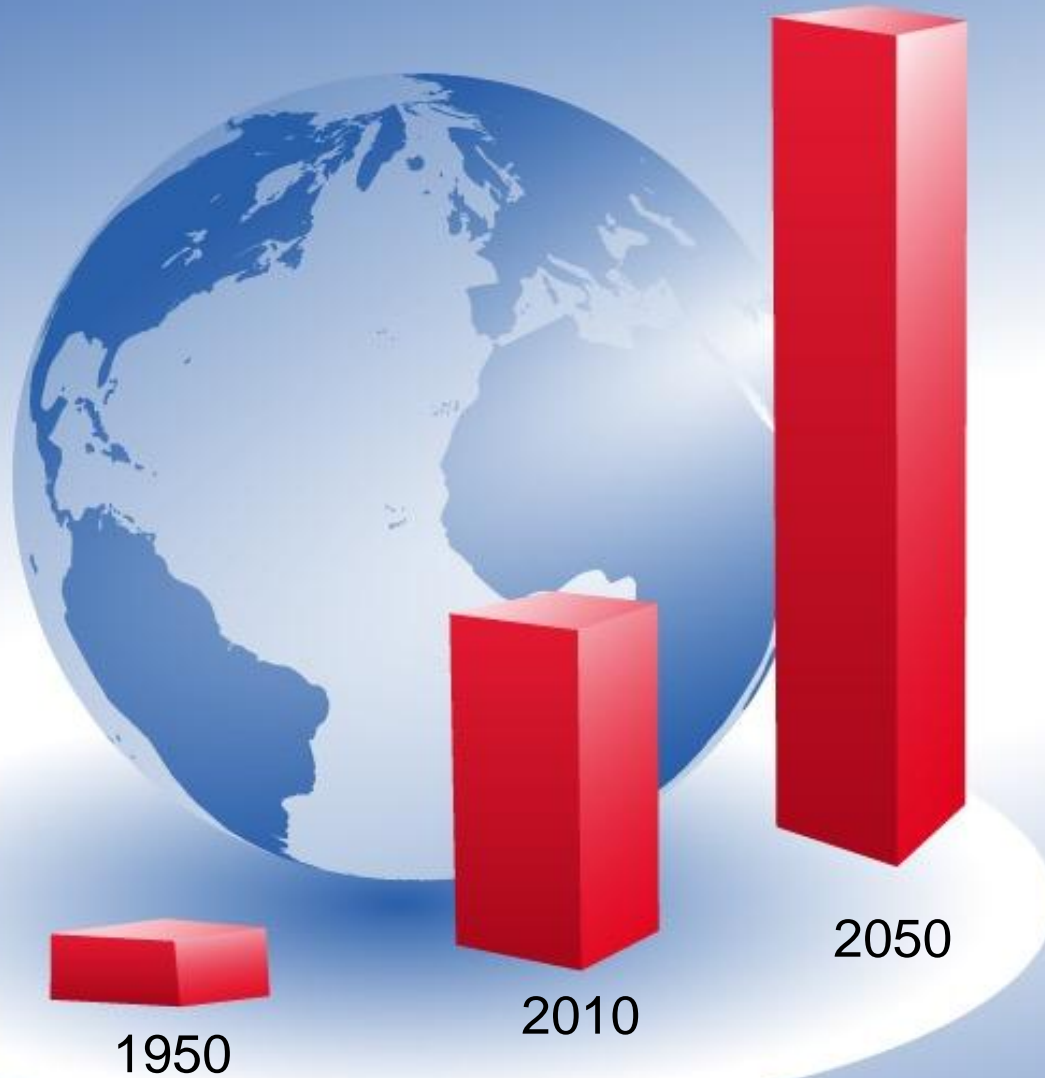
By the late 20th century, the world's economy was about 120 times larger than that of 1500.

What is the social price? What is the environmental price?

2050

2010

1950

... powered by the growth of the world economy

...planetary change indicators

Source: MEA 2005
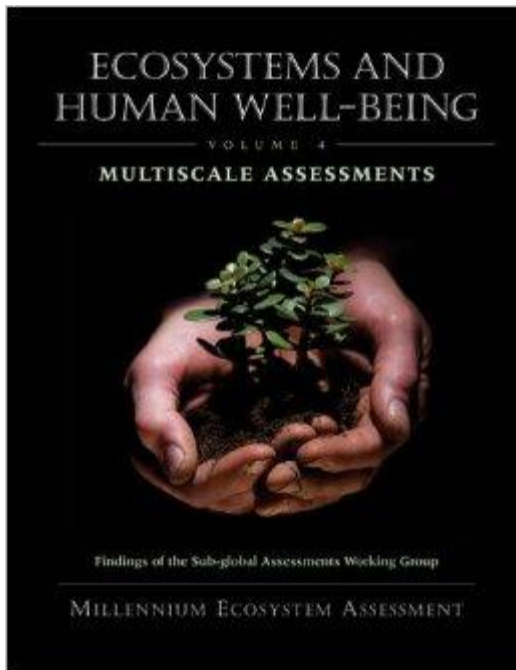
Source: Rockstrom et al 2009

Approximately 60% (15 out of 24) of the ecosystem services evaluated in this assessment (including 70% of regulating and cultural services) are being degraded or used unsustainably.

There is increasing evidence that human activities are affecting Earth System functioning to a degree that threatens the resilience of the Earth System

Planetary Boundaries for Safe Operating Space

The stages of the Anthropocene

Pre-Anthropocene events:
Fire-stick farming, megafauna extinctions, early forest clearing

Anthropocene Stage 1 (ca. 1800 - 1945). Internal combusion engine, fossil fuel energy, science & technology

Anthropocene Stage 2 (1945 - 2010 or 2020). The Great Acceleration, new institutions and vast global networks

Anthropocene Stage 3 (2010 or 2020 - ?). Business-as-usual,geo-engineering, or the Great Transition?

Source: Steffen, Crutzen & McNeill, 2006
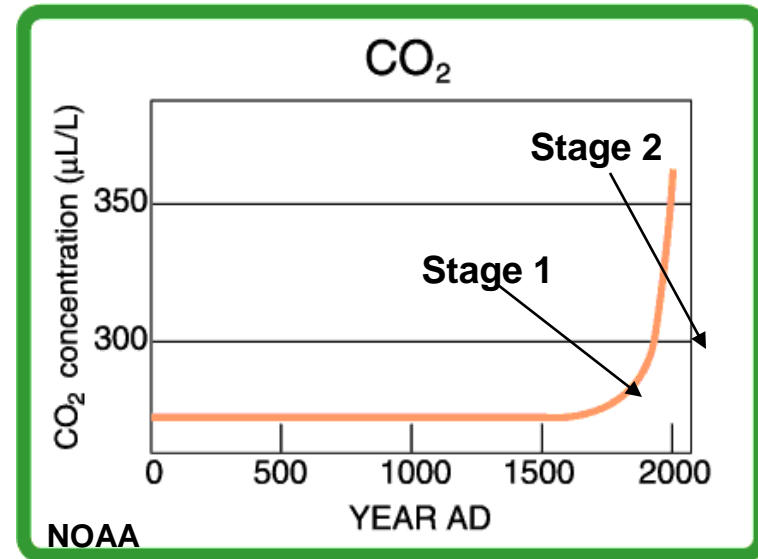
… social inequality indicators

The top 1% controls 46% of world's wealth. —Oxfam

1%

...STILL NOT ENOUGH...

Lower and lowest incomes increasingly left behind

Trends in real household incomes: at the bottom, the middle, and the top, OECD average, 1985 = 1

— Bottom 10%   ■ ■ ■ Bottom 40%   — — — Middle 50-90%   ■ ■ ■ Top 10%

Note: OECD is the unweighted average of 17 countries (Canada, Germany, Denmark, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Sweden and the United States).

Source: OECD Income Distribution Database

WSWS.ORG
World Socialist Web Site

Source: OECD

A paper by the Initiative for Policy Dialogue and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (2013) argues that between 2006 and mid-2013, over 13% of all protests worldwide were mainly about economic inequality
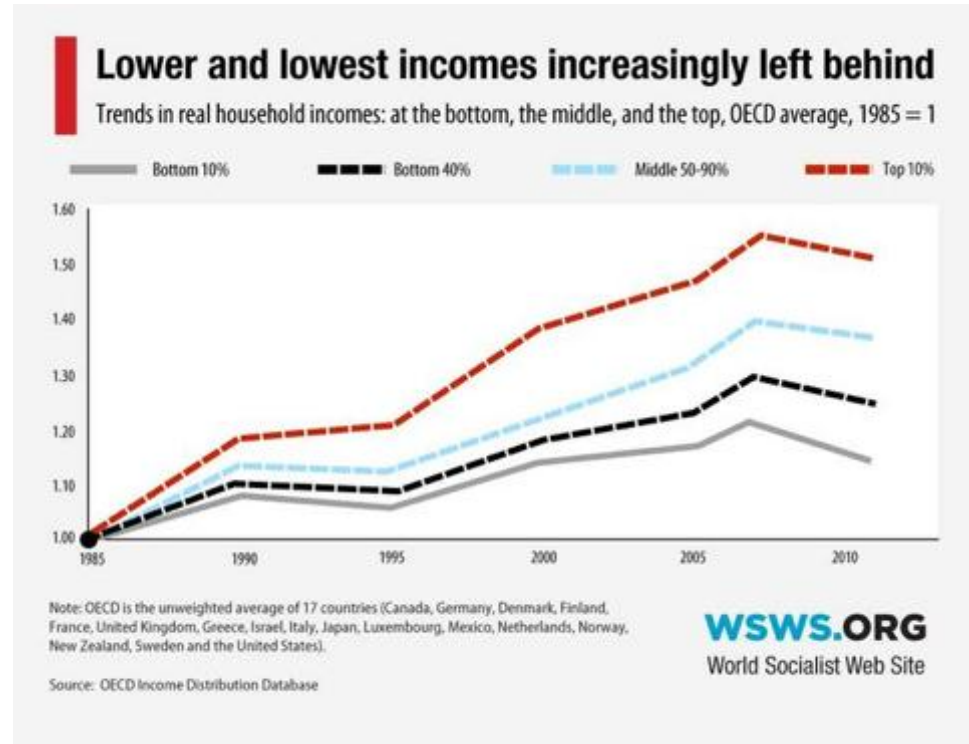
The wealthiest tenth of the population in OECD member countries now earn 9.6 times the income of the poorest 10 percent, up from nine times in the 2000s

The meaning of development changes with time

HOLOCENE
Up to 1800
(for 11,700 years)

ANTHROPOCENE

Hunter Gatherer Society → Agrarian Society → Industrial Society → ? Sustainable Society

Mercantalism   Dependency

NEOLIBERALISM

Rostow's Stages of Growth   Trickle Down   Basic Needs   Structuralism   Human Development
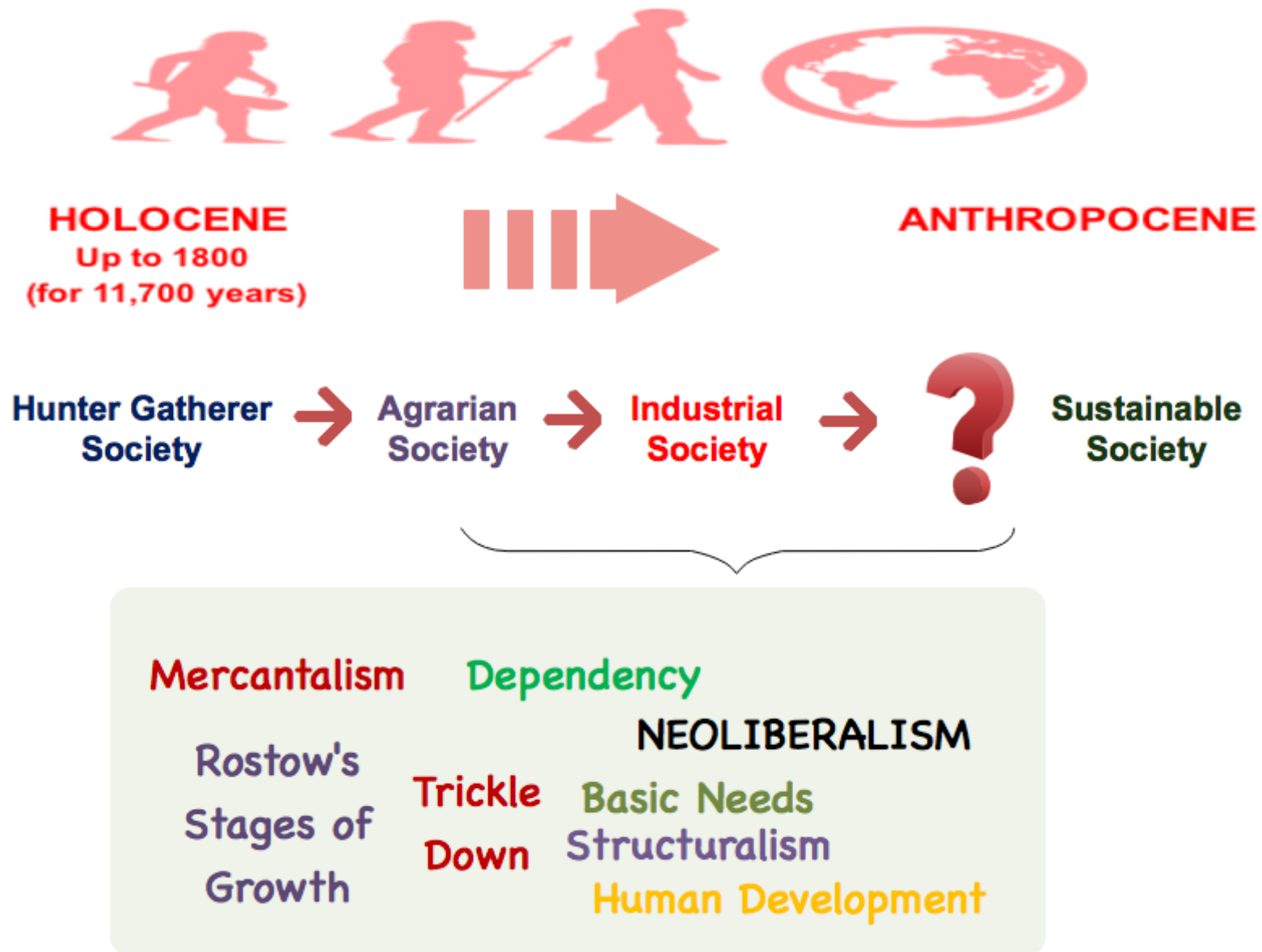
What is a Sustainable Society?
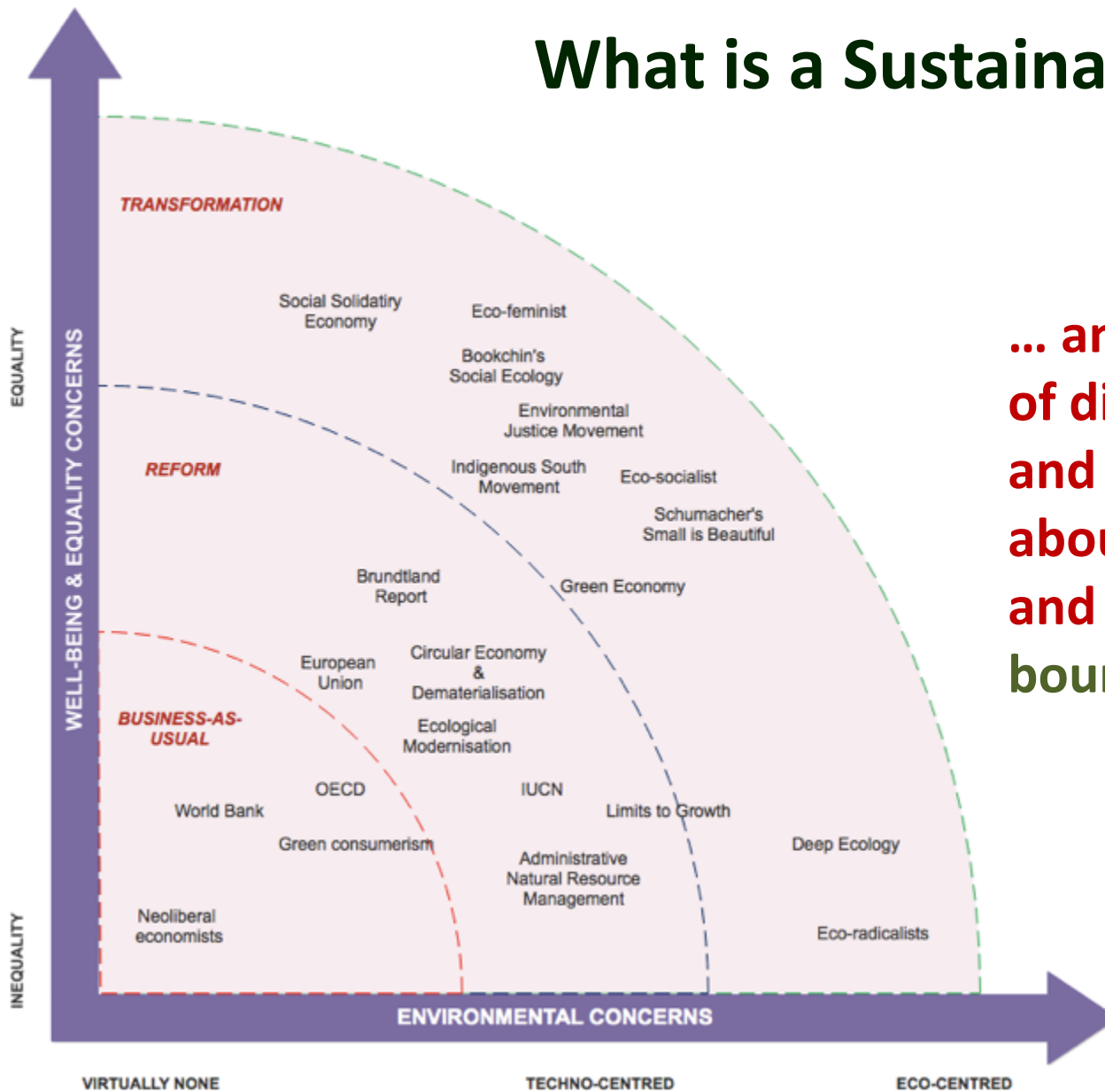
... an amalgamation of diverse positions and arguments about 'social floor' and the 'planetary boundaries'

EQUALITY

WELL-BEING & EQUALITY CONCERNS

INEQUALITY

TRANSFORMATION

REFORM

BUSINESS-AS-USUAL

Social Solidatiry Economy

Eco-feminist

Bookchin's Social Ecology

Environmental Justice Movement

Indigenous South Movement

Eco-socialist

Schumacher's Small is Beautiful

Brundtland Report

Green Economy

European Union

Circular Economy & Dematerialisation

Ecological Modernisation

OECD

IUCN

World Bank

Limits to Growth

Green consumerism

Administrative Natural Resource Management

Deep Ecology

Neoliberal economists

Eco-radicalists

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

VIRTUALLY NONE

TECHNO-CENTRED

ECO-CENTRED

Visual Source: Adapted from
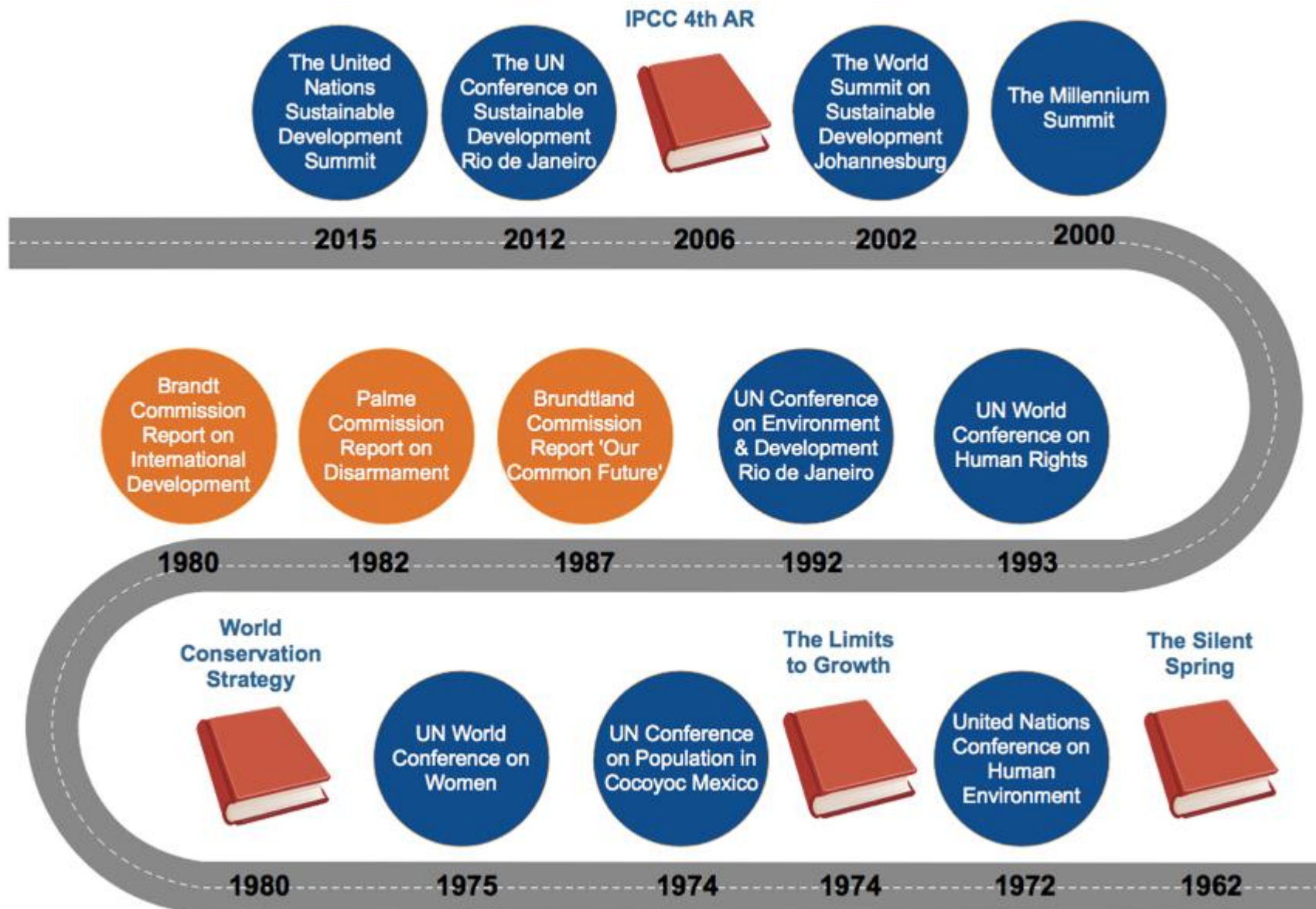keepthegame.wordpress.com

The Sustainability Shift

What does it mean?

PART 2

Evolution of development ideas internationally

Popular definition of sustainability

The Brundtland/WCED definition

- "... *development* that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs"

The sustainability model is a challenge to conventional forms of development

- seeks to reconcile the ecological, social and economic dimensions of development, now and into the future
- acknowledges biophysical limits to growth and prizes the preservation of ecosystem services
- agenda of social justice within and across current and future generations

Definitions of sustainability

By 'growth' I mean quantitative increase in the scale of the physical dimensions of the economy; ... By 'development' I mean the qualitative improvement in the structure, design and composition of physical stocks and flows, that result from greater knowledge, both of technique and of purpose

Turner 1988

The core of the idea of sustainability, then, is the concept that current decisions should not impair the prospects for maintaining or improving future living standards... .This implies that our economic systems should be managed so that we live off the dividend of our resources, maintaining and improving the asset base.
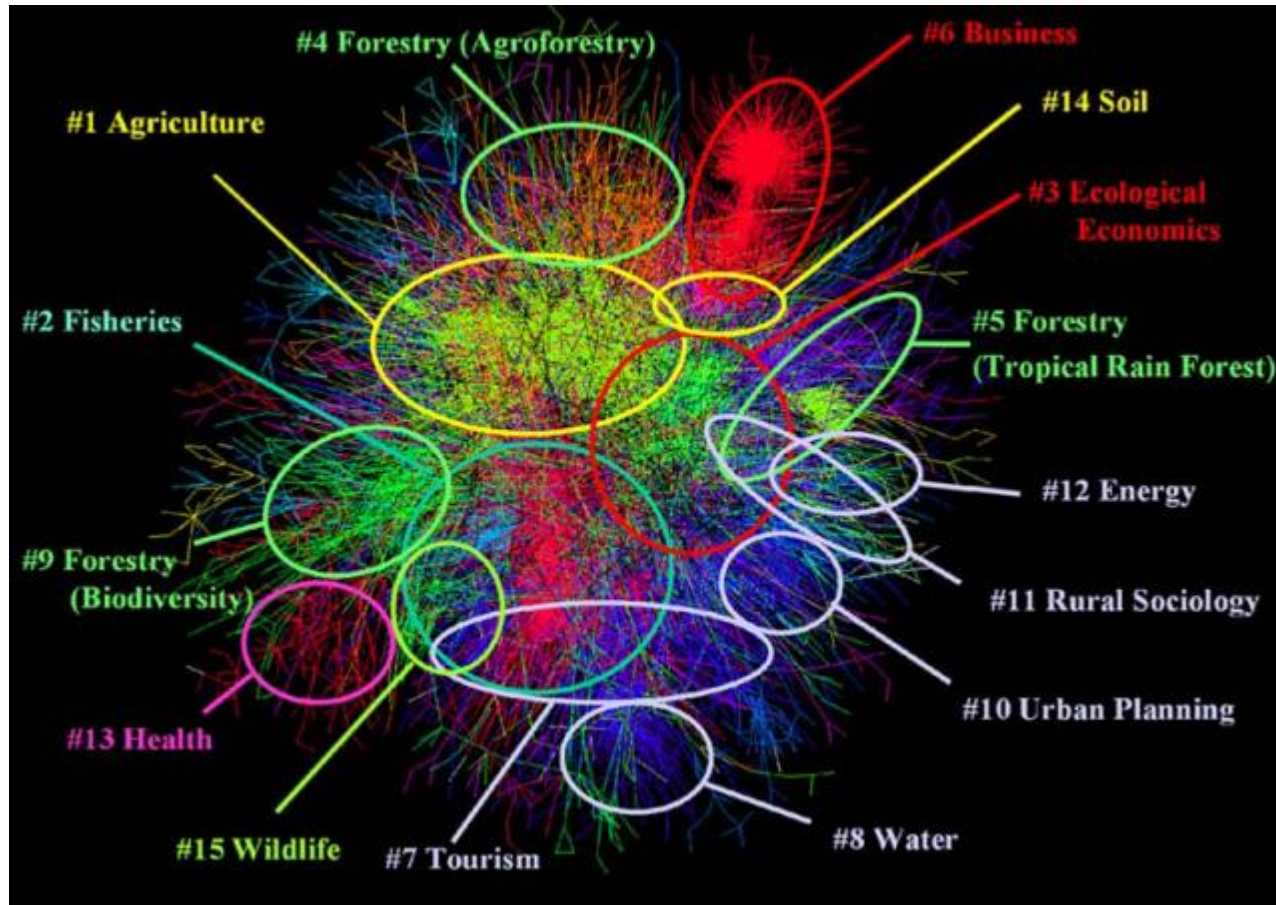
In principle, such an optimal policy would seek to maintain an 'acceptable' rate of growth in per-capita real incomes without depleting the national capital asset stock or the natural environmental asset stock

Herman Daly 1987

Repetto 1985

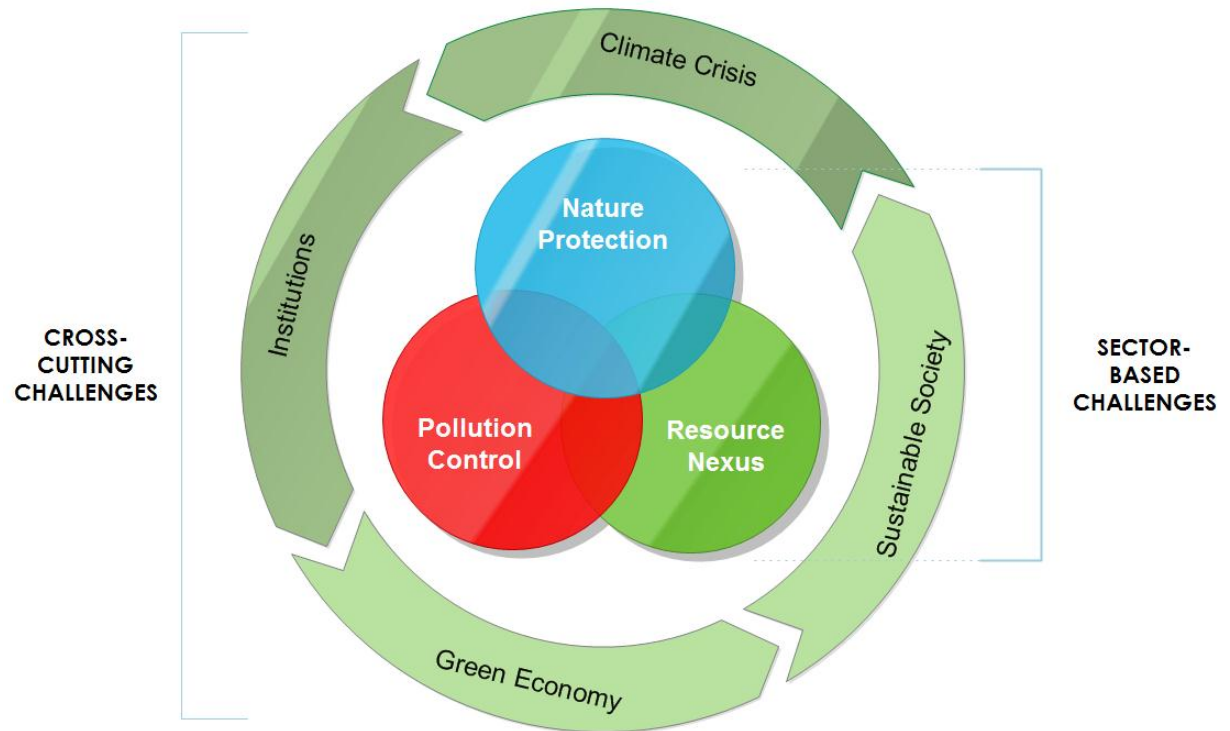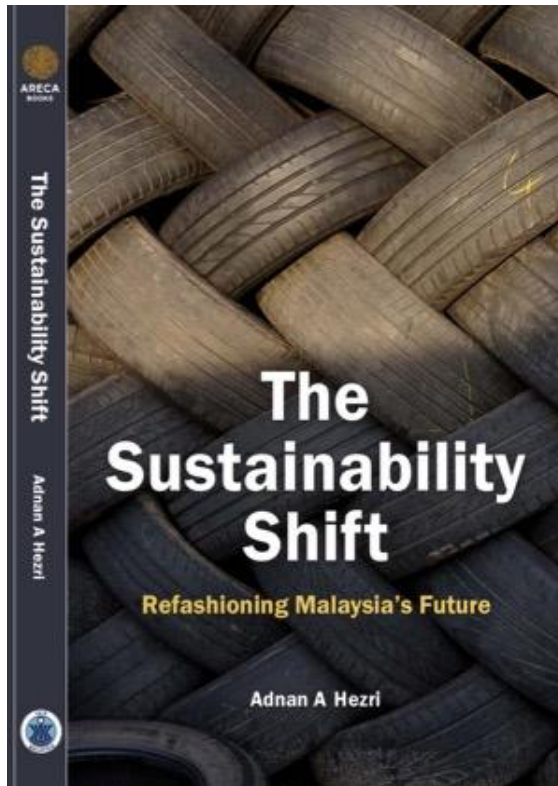**Academic definitions of sustainability**

Sustainability across academic disciplines

Emergence of sustainability science as a discipline or an area of study?

Source: Kajikawa 2007

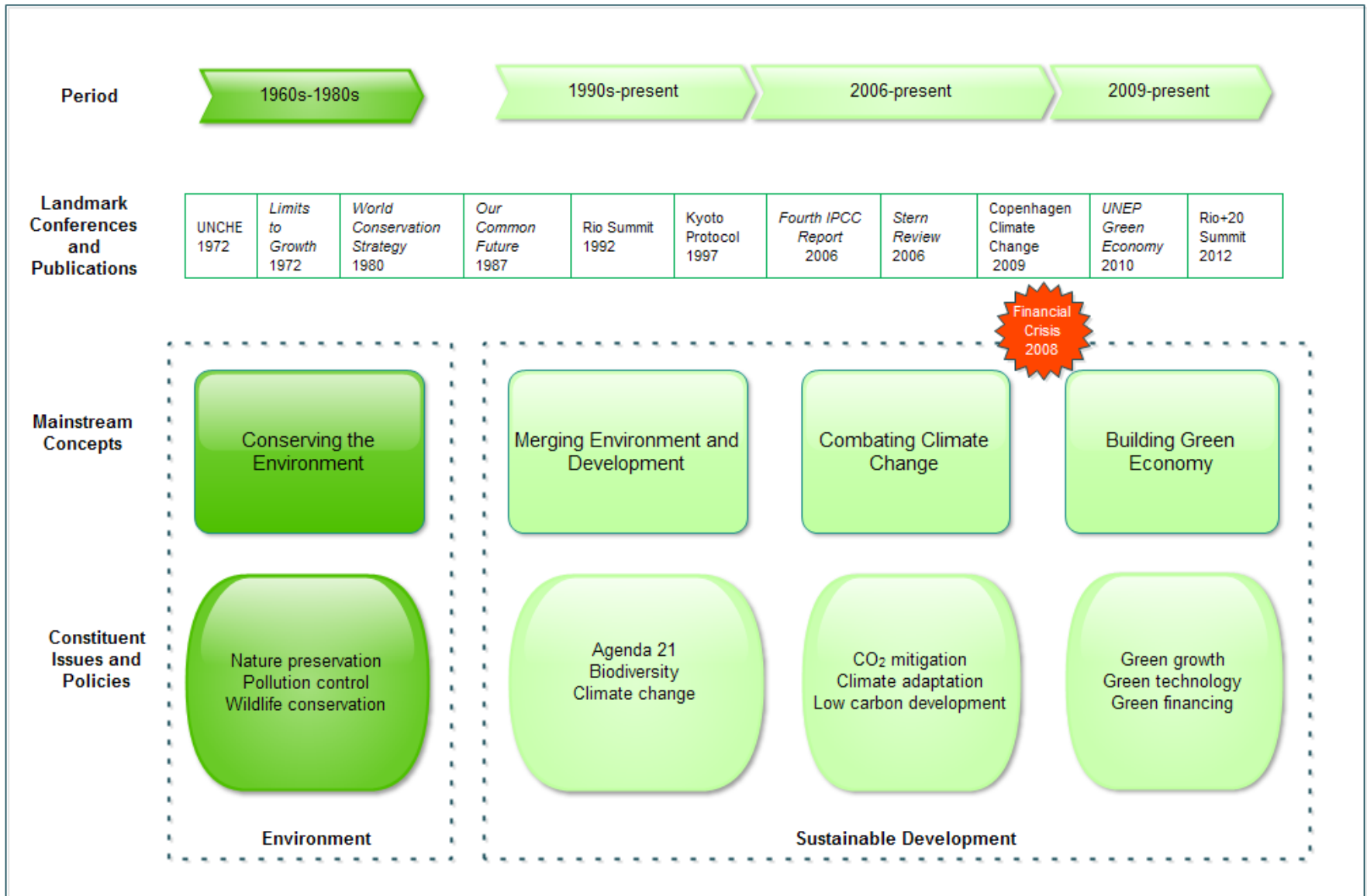# Structure of the Book *The Sustainability Shift*

+ (1) Introduction
(2) On Sustainability
Nine boxes

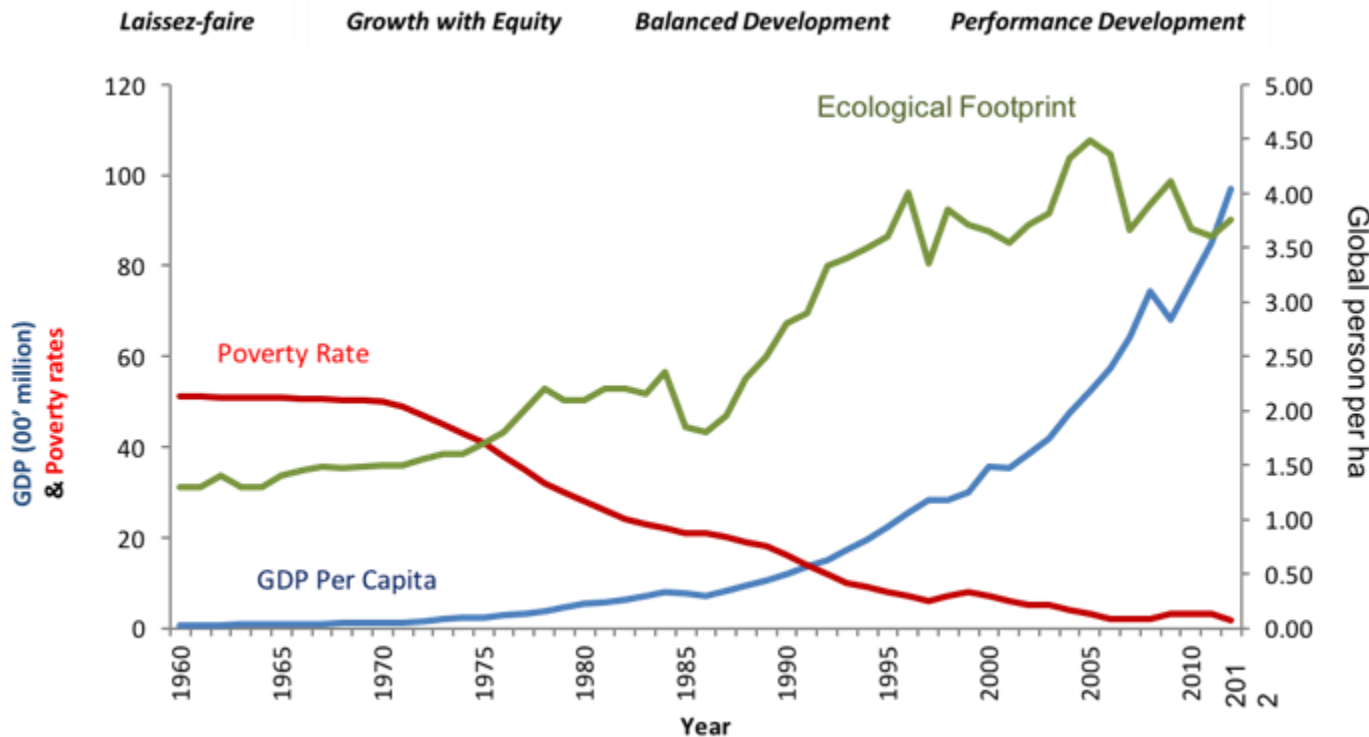# The book promotes three Fundamental Shifts

Environment → Sustainability

Organisation → Institutions

Aspirational Goals → Policy Implementation

Environment VS Sustainability Problems

| Period | 1960s-1980s | 1990s-present | 2006-present | 2009-present |

| Landmark Conferences and Publications | UNCHE 1972 | Limits to Growth 1972 | World Conservation Strategy 1980 | Our Common Future 1987 | Rio Summit 1992 | Kyoto Protocol 1997 | Fourth IPCC Report 2006 | Stern Review 2006 | Copenhagen Climate Change 2009 | UNEP Green Economy 2010 | Rio+20 Summit 2012 |

Financial Crisis 2008

Mainstream Concepts

Conserving the Environment

Merging Environment and Development

Combating Climate Change

Building Green Economy

Constituent Issues and Policies

Nature preservation
Pollution control
Wildlife conservation

Agenda 21
Biodiversity
Climate change

CO_2 mitigation
Climate adaptation
Low carbon development

Green growth
Green technology
Green financing

Environment

Sustainable Development

Malaysia's Sustainability Journey and Challenges

PART 3

Malaysia's Development Profile

| Laissez-faire | Growth with Equity | Balanced Development | Performance Development |

Chart labels: Ecological Footprint, Poverty Rate, GDP Per Capita; Y-axis left: GDP (00' million) & Poverty rates; Y-axis right: Global person per ha; X-axis: Year

MALAYSIA

Population of 31 mil (2015)

Natural resources under state jurisdiction

Area of 330,396 km²

Upper middle income with GNI per capita of USD10,196

- The central idea of sustainability revolves around the convergence of three main pillars of development namely economic, social and environmental.
- The said convergence is yet to take place in Malaysia. Decoupling necessary

The environmental pillar of sustainability is under threat
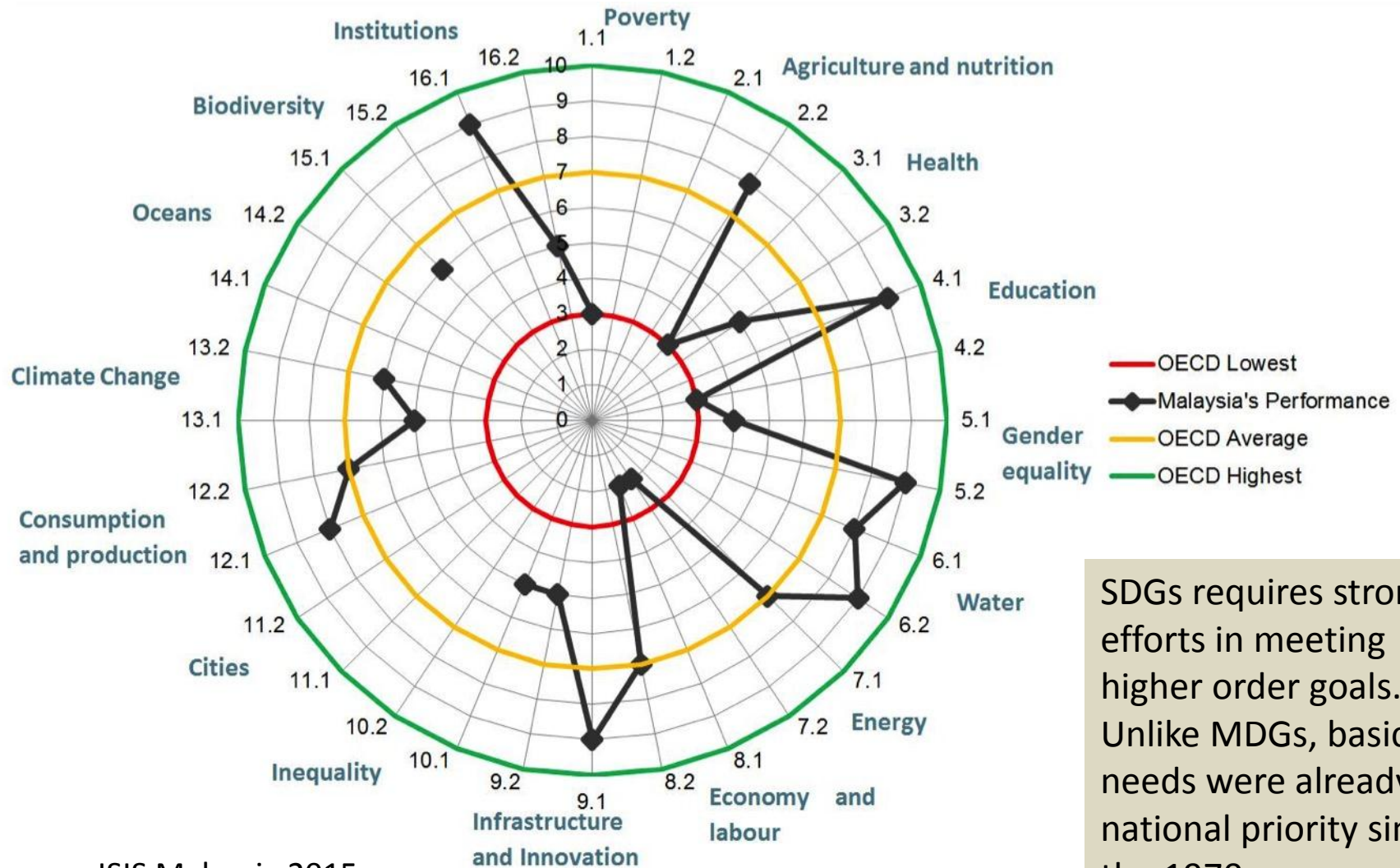
Security alert in a number of areas

TN50 SAFEGUARDS!

1954
9.5 mil ha

1969
8.0 mil ha

1972
7.4 mil ha

1990
6.2 mil ha

2000
6.0 mil ha

2010
5.79 mil ha
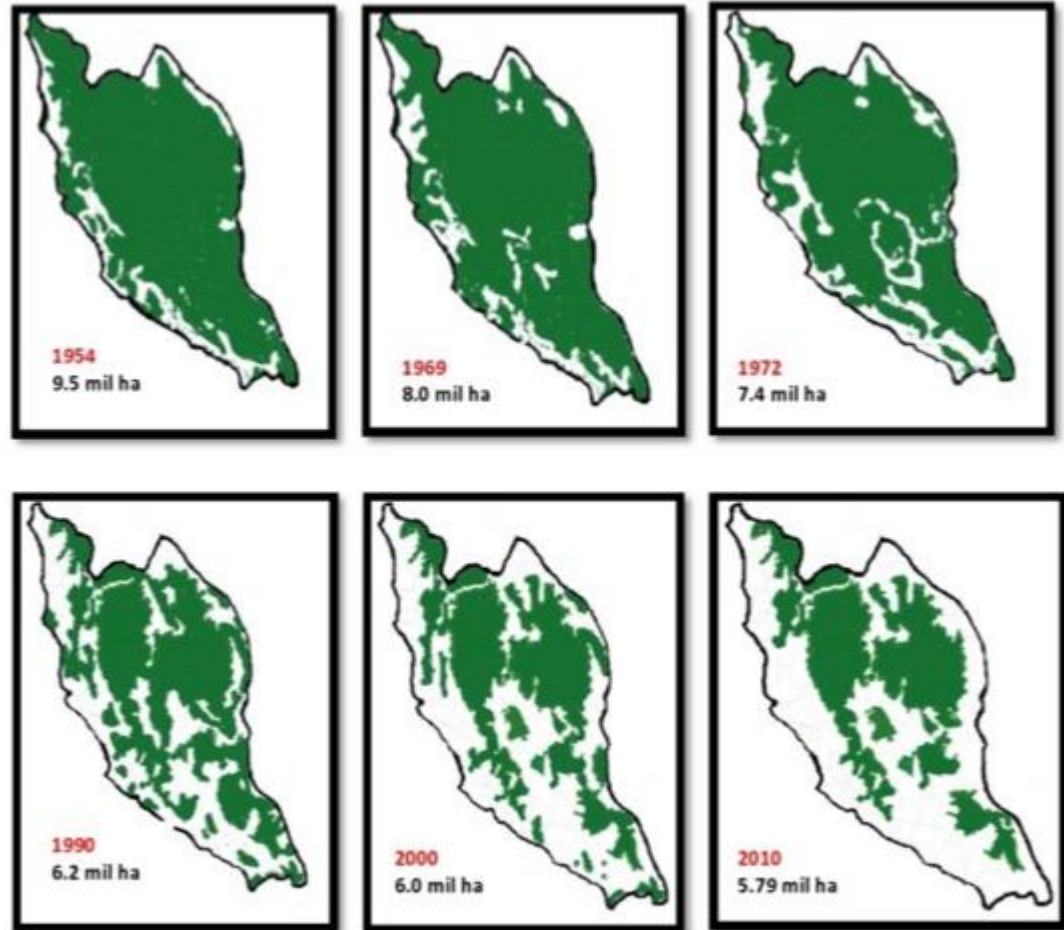
Source:Adapted fom Aiken & Leigh 1982

Peninsular Malaysia is currently left with only four fragmented and disconnected large islands of forests

A Snapshot of Malaysia's SDGs Performance

SDGs requires strong efforts in meeting higher order goals.. Unlike MDGs, basic needs were already a national priority since the 1970s

Source: ISIS Malaysia 2015

Government Position:

SDGs Mirror the New Economic Model and 11 Malaysia Plan

Sustainable Development Goals

New Economic Model

11th Malaysia Plan

Social

Environment

Economy

Inclusivity

Sustainability

High Income

Anchoring Growth on People

Source: EPU 2016

Governance Structure of SDG Roadmap

Establish direction for SDG implementation, set national agenda and milestones and prepare reporting to UN High Level Political Forum

UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

Formulate SDG Roadmap, monitor progress of targets, identify issues and report to National SDG Council

NATIONAL SDG COUNCIL
(as part of the National Action Committee)
Chaired by PM

STEERING COMMITTEE
Chaired by Director General of EPU

Identify indicators for each goal of SDG, develop and implement programmes and report progress to Steering Committee

Working Committee 1

Working Committee 2

Working Committee n
Cluster-based

Source: EPU 2016

Proposed Working Committees - cluster based

Working Committee INCLUSIVITY	Working Committee WELL-BEING	Working Committee HUMAN CAPITAL	Working Committee ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES	Working Committee ECONOMIC GROWTH
• **Goal 1** : No Poverty • **Goal 2** : Zero Hunger • **Goal 5** : Gender Equality • **Goal 10** : Reduced Inequality	• **Goal 3** : Good Health & Well-being • **Goal 16** : Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	• **Goal 4** : Quality Education	• **Goal 6** : Clean Water and Sanitation • **Goal 7** : Affordable and Clean Energy • **Goal 12** : Responsible Consumption and Production • **Goal 13** : Climate Action • **Goal 14** : Life Below Water • **Goal 15** : Life on Land	• **Goal 8** : Decent Work and Economic Growth • **Goal 9**: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure • **Goal 11** : Sustainable Cities and Communities • **Goal 17** : Partnerships for the Goals
Lead: EPU	Lead: EPU	Lead: EPU	Lead: EPU	Lead: EPU

Each Working Committee will be represented by members from the private sector, NGOs, CSOs and academia

Is Malaysia on SDG track? Some implementation gaps

National Consultation for Rio+20

Policy Coherence

Governance

Human Capacity

Monitoring & Evaluation

To focus on Malaysia's implementation readiness to support the proposed Goals and Targets on Sustainable Development for Post-2015 Development Agenda in line with the Rio+20 outcomes.

Source: National Readiness Assessment of SDGs for Malaysia, 2015. ISIS &UNDP 2015

GAP 1
Overarching Vision on Sustainable Development

GAP 2
Policy integration approaches to mainstream sustainable development

GAP 3
Effective use of instruments linking policy to action

GAP 4
Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development

GAP 8
Public awareness

GAP 7
Lack of Technical Capacity to address challenges

GAP 6
Community Participation

GAP 5
Multi-stakeholder Partnerships

GAP 9
Evidence based policy and decision-making

GAP 10
Sustainable development database

GAP 11
Monitoring and Evaluation System for the SDGs

Proposed Counter Measures
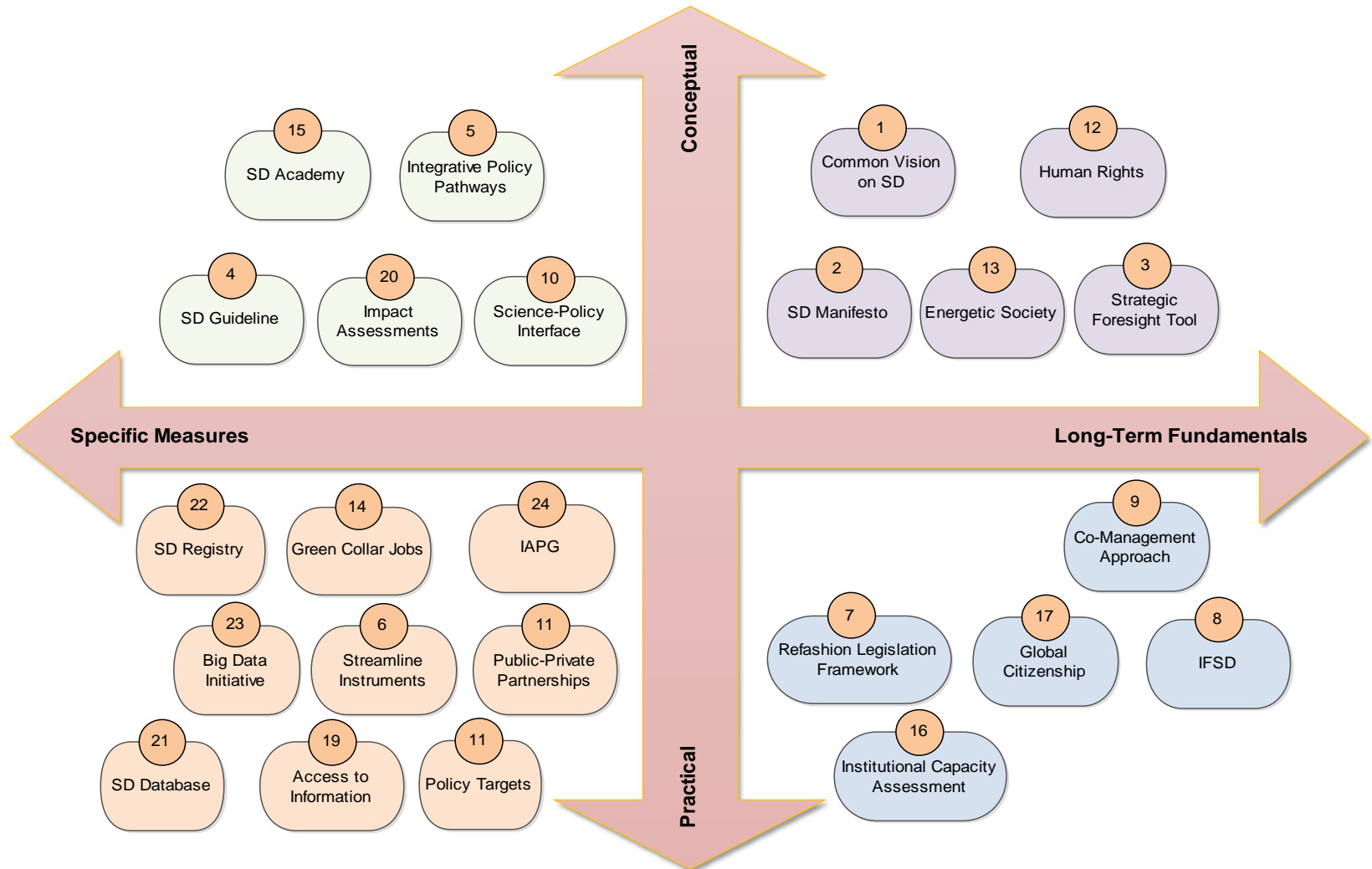
Who Will Implement the Counter Measures?
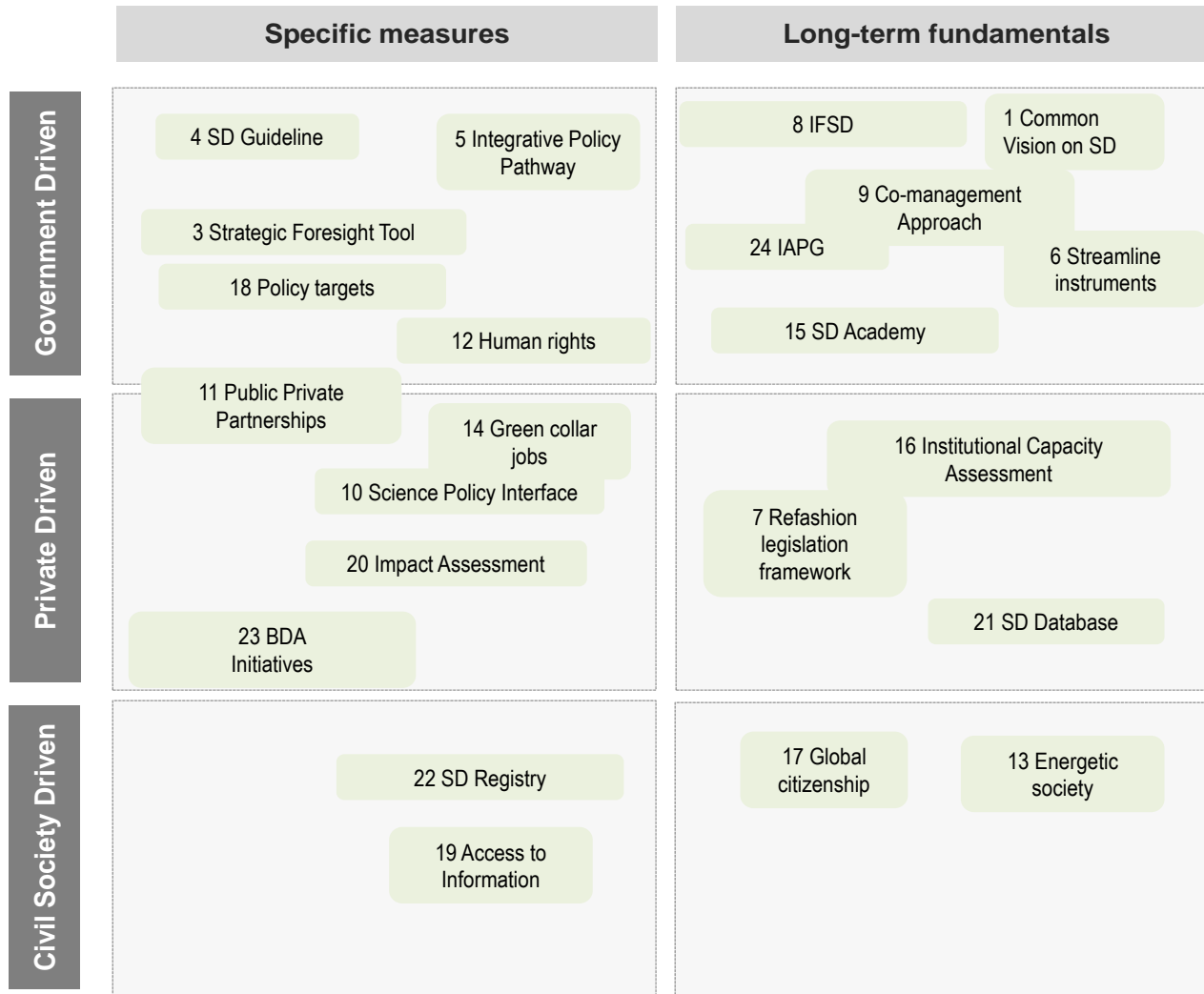
	Specific measures	**Long-term fundamentals**
Government Driven	4 SD Guideline • 5 Integrative Policy Pathway • 3 Strategic Foresight Tool • 18 Policy targets • 12 Human rights	8 IFSD • 1 Common Vision on SD • 9 Co-management Approach • 24 IAPG • 6 Streamline instruments • 15 SD Academy
Private Driven	11 Public Private Partnerships • 14 Green collar jobs • 10 Science Policy Interface • 20 Impact Assessment • 23 BDA Initiatives	16 Institutional Capacity Assessment • 7 Refashion legislation framework • 21 SD Database
Civil Society Driven	22 SD Registry • 19 Access to Information	17 Global citizenship • 13 Energetic society

The SDGs Framework
Is it sufficient for the Sustainability Shift?

PART 4

Sustainable Development Goals

Vietnam

Thailand

Menteri BAPPENAS

Malaysia

The Philippines

Explosion of SDG-related activities

GOVERNMENTS AND UNITED NATIONS
– policy statements
– Presidential decrees
– National roadmaps/plans
– changing policies
– ministries' administration
– stakeholder collaboration platforms
– commissions
– voluntary reporting
– country partnerships

CIVIL SOCIETY
– rewriting the rules of how civil society engage
– emphasis on connection, tools for partnering
– Goal 16 is seen as crucial
– Citizen science through Apps

BUSINESS
– firms acknowledging SDGs as a source of strategic advantage
– Gates Foundation, Unilever, Business and Sustainable Development Comission
– Finance: Dutch pension fund manager has $225 million in investments for six of the SDGs, Credit Suisse impact investments
– Leading initiatives like Breakthrough Innovation and niche intervention the Oslo Manifesto

RESEARCH & EDUCATION
– usage of system modelling to tackle wicked complexity of SDGs e.g. IIASA's World in 2050 program
– Big Data Analytics and supercomputing to search for pathways to transformation
– Hardwiring SDGs into children education and worldview
– Exposure of school children to SDGs
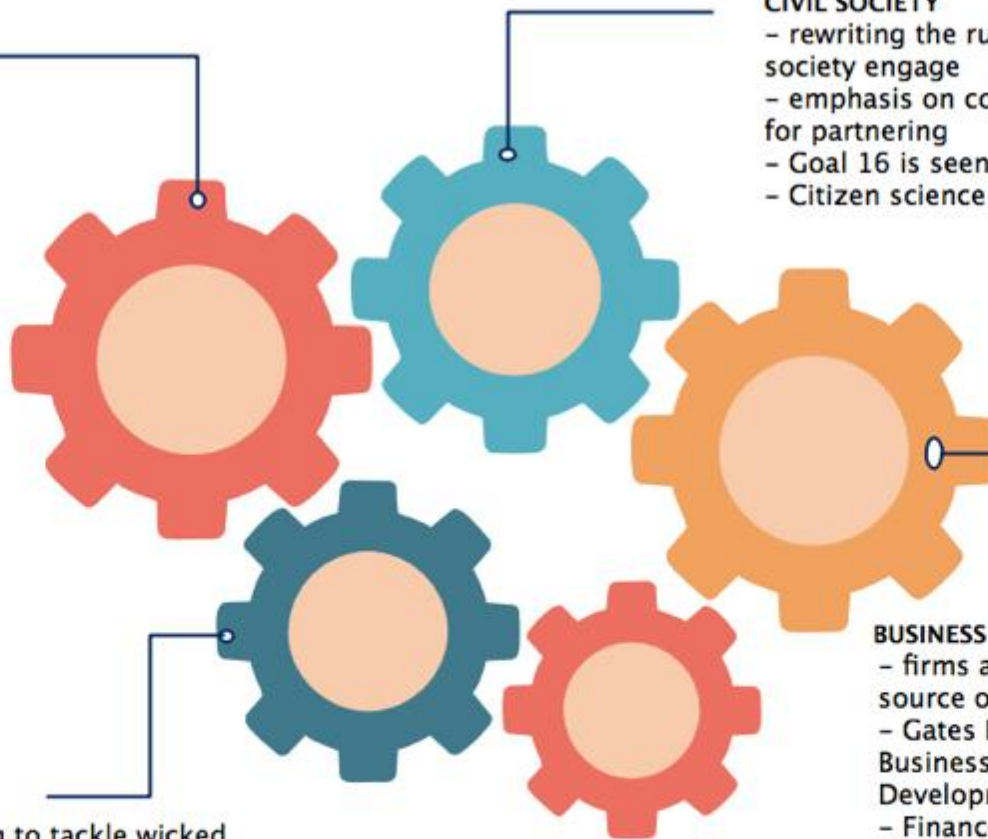
	MAINTENANCE	RETROFITTING	RENOVATION
POLITICAL RECEPTIVENESS TO SDGs	Low	Medium	High
EXTENT OF POLICY CHANGE	Instrument Tinkering	Policy Experimentation	Policy Renewal and Program Reform
UTILISATION OF SDGs	**Political Use** SDGs justify existing development pathways without any policy change envisioned	**Conceptual Use** SDGs encourage cross-sector interaction with limited support/vision for transformative change	**Instrumental Use** SDGs catalyses a sharp break from how policies are conceived, developed, implemented

Unpacking the '2030 Transformation Agenda'

"We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind."

UNGA 2015

"...the SDGs are about as likely to result in progress as beauty pageant contestants' calls for world peace"

Easterly 2015

"For all the rhetorical flourishes regarding the potential of the private sector to transform development,...there are serious impediments to this being the transformative process that many envisage."

Scheyvens et al 2016

"The world has rightly paid attention to achieving an integrated agenda in the SDGs, however imperfect this achievement may have been **in the first iteration** of such transformative agenda."

Stafford-Smith et al 2016
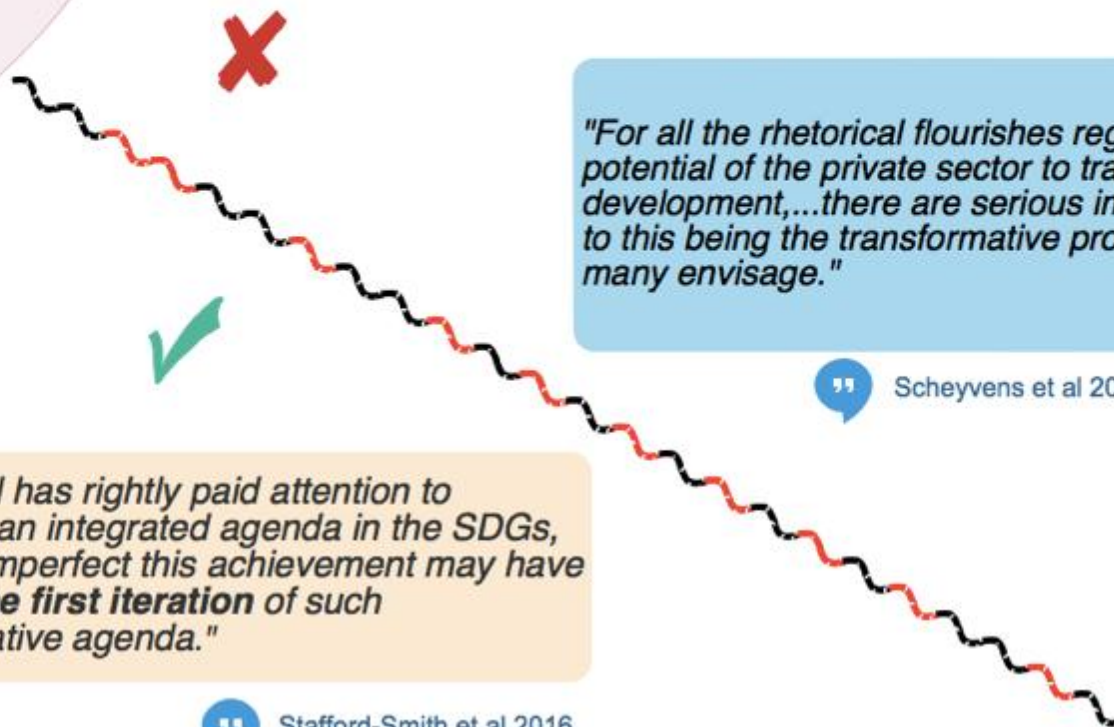
Unpacking 'transformation'

... avoiding "cockpitism'

"Top down steering by governments and intergovernmental organisations alone can address global problems. In view of the limited effectiveness of intergovernmental efforts and questions about the capacity of national governments to affect change, the SDGs need to <u>additionally mobilise new agents</u> of change such as businesses, cities and civil society. To galvanise such broad set of actors, multiple perspectives on sustainable development are needed that respond to the various motives and logics of change of these different actors"

Hajer, Nilsson et al. 2015. *Sustainability*

Transformative change checklist

- Is the intervention framework ambitious than the mere continuation of current trends?
    - e.g. The target has already been achieved
- Will the achievement of the goal/target result in more sustainable outcomes domestically and contribute globally?
- Does the goal/target address the root causes and drivers of unsustainability?
- What are the forms of integration strategies put in place, tools used and their transformative quality in the policy cycle ?

How to empower the Sustainability Shift
Demands on Policy and Institutions

PART 5

An integrative agenda towards sustainability

Integration between economic, social and environmental policies and programmes

Integration between diverse actions of stakeholders and actors

social floor

SDGs

planetary boundary

Integration between goals to instrument and action

Integration between global agenda to national and local contexts

The Shift is a Long-Term Agenda
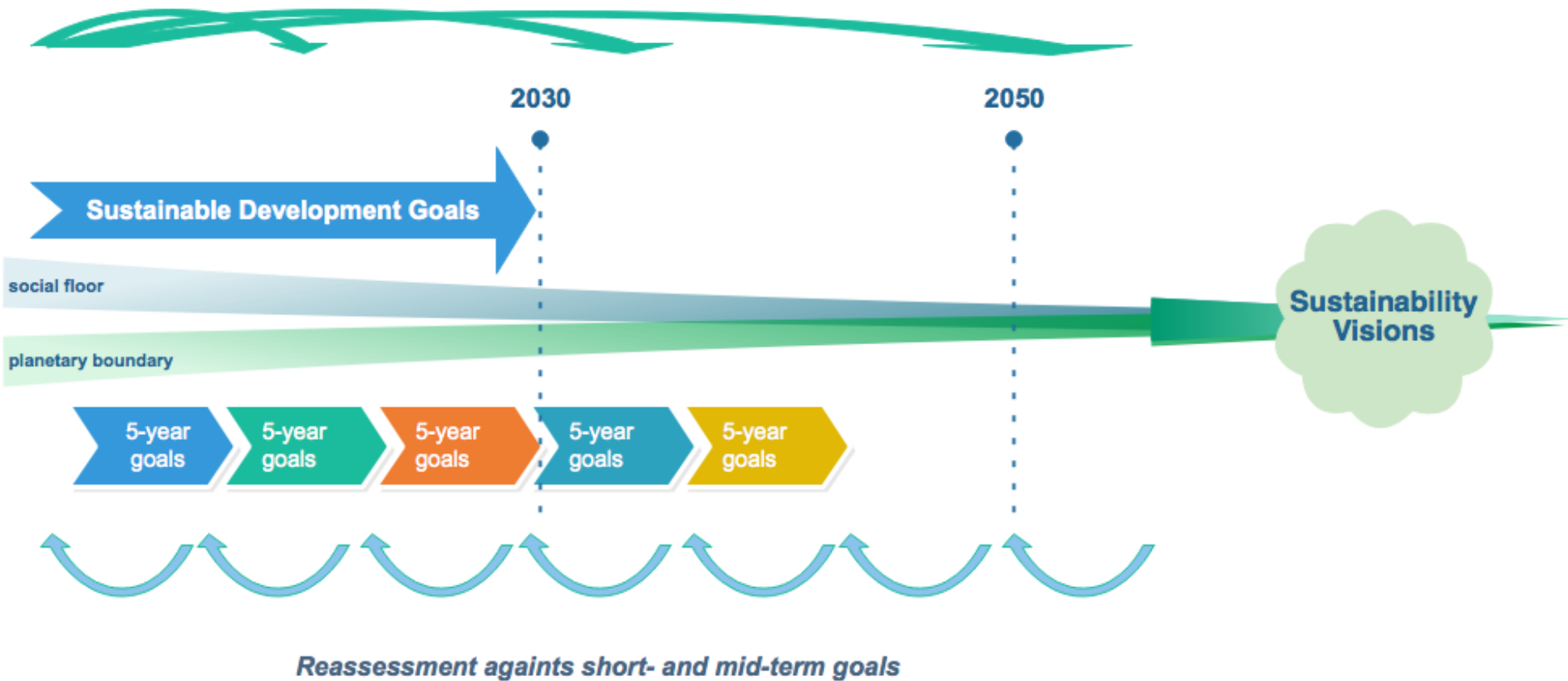
... *a gradual process of societal change in which socio-economic and environment objectives converge towards the sustainability visions*

Concluding Remarks

PART 6

Concluding Remarks

- Unpack the meaning of transformation and the Sustainability Shift despite diverse experiences among countries
  - Deep. Systemic. Sustainable
- Appropriate diagnostic work can help adapt and tailor SDG-oriented policy design
  - SDGs as an 'educational' and 'instrumental' transformation tool
- Build a policy learning strategy with SDG interventions

A comprehensive discussion on Malaysia's quest for sustainability is available from a recent book:

Thank You for Listening

For feedback please E-Mail:
hezri.adnan@anu.edu.au or
hezriadnan@gmail.com
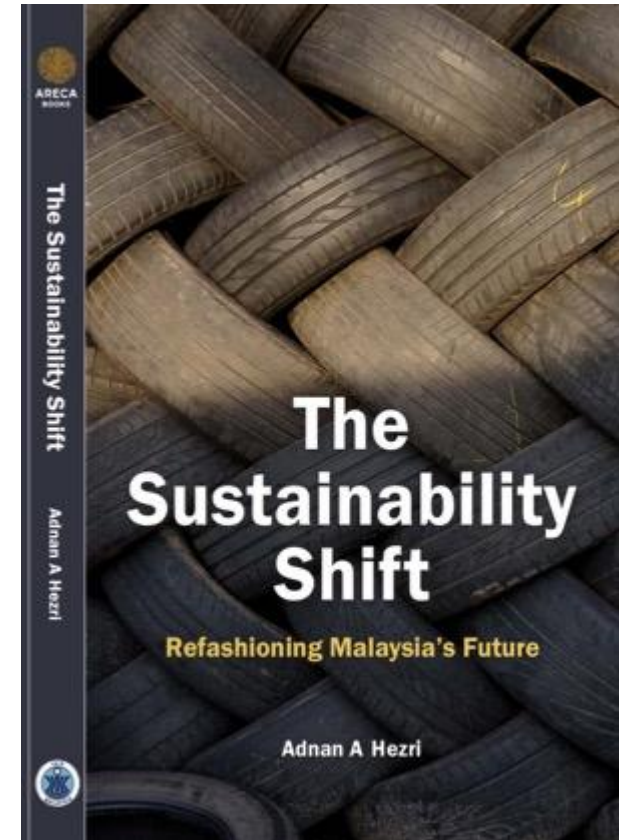
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