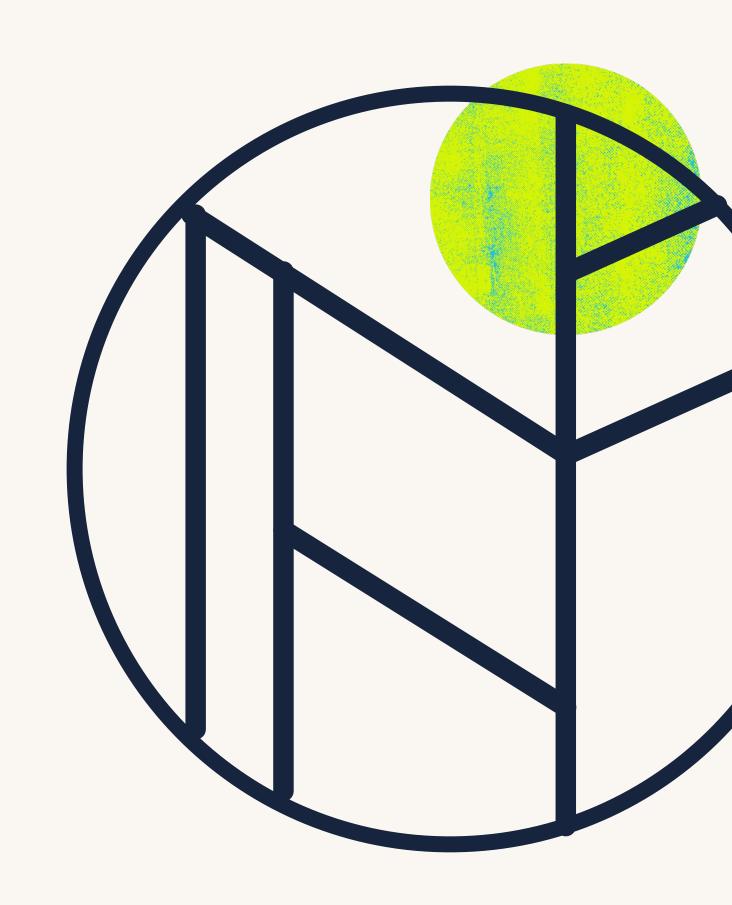
# NIONN FUTURES

SYSTEMIC TOOLS FOR A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY IN THE ISLE OF MAN



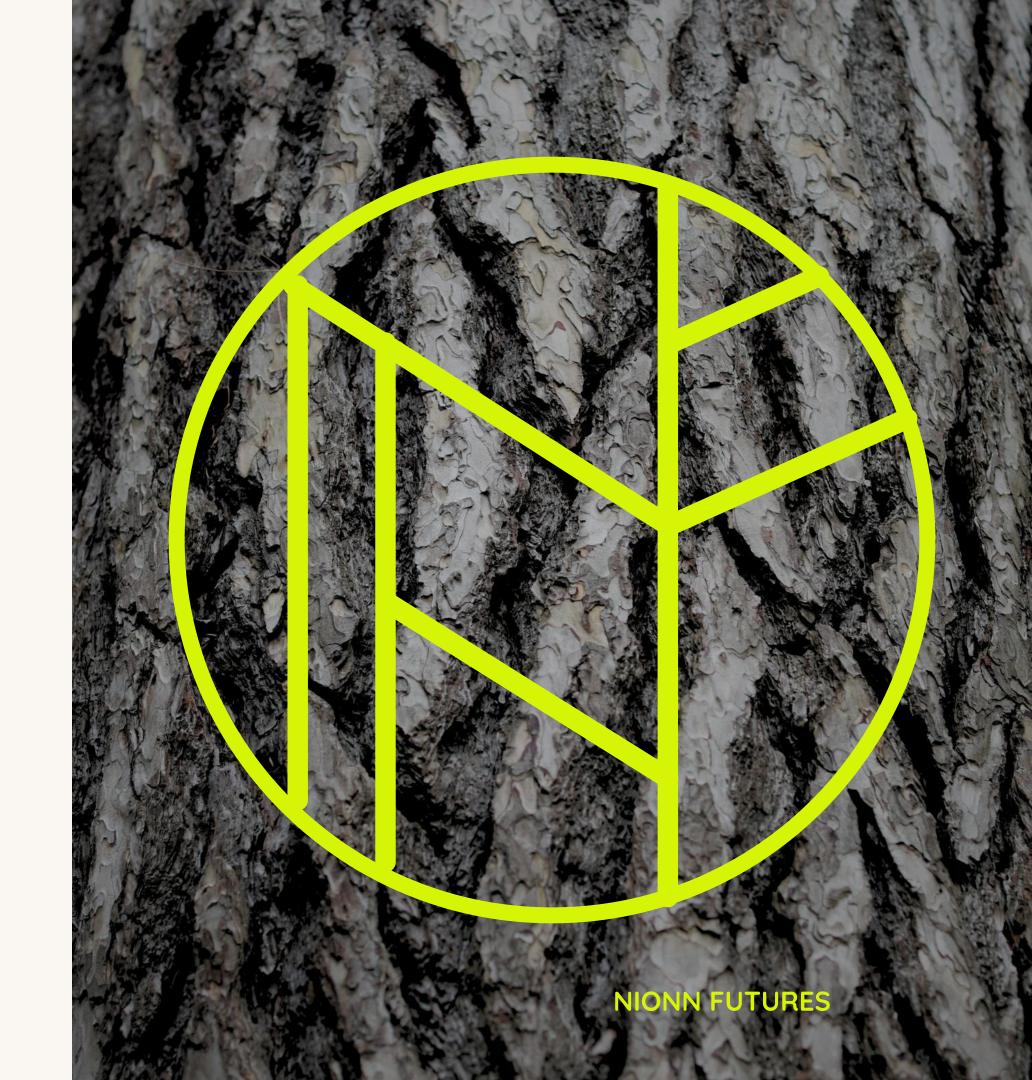




### ICEBREAKER

#### HANDS UP IF YOU THINK:

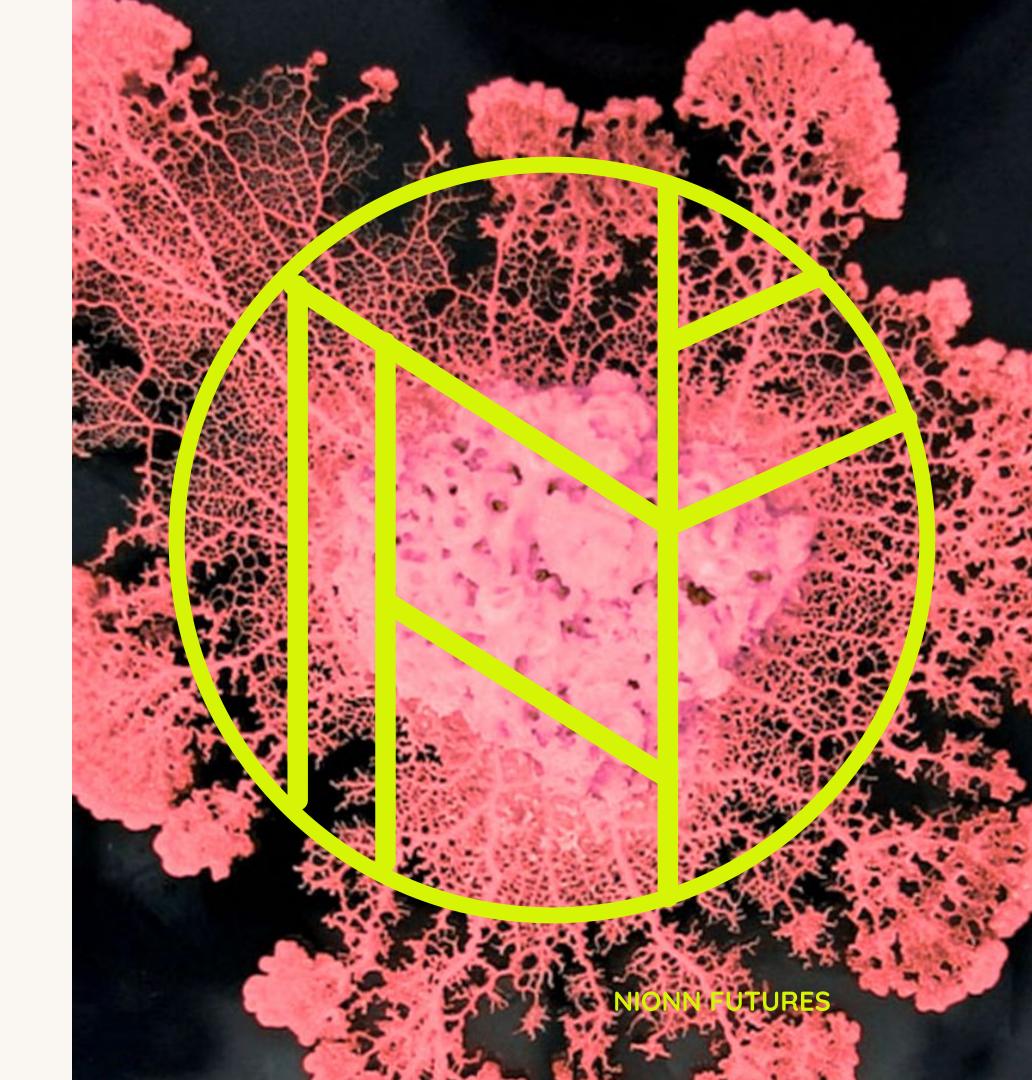
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### ICEBREAKER

#### **HANDS UP IF:**

• You are an economist



# **REIMAGINING OUR BIOSPHERE:** Market ▲ 0.5 ▼ 0.12 Forex ▲ 3.6 ▼ 1.65 Gold ▲ 0.02 ▼ 0.25

### EXPERTS?

Few are considered to be experts on the economy (including us!)

## but we ALL shape it



# Through CHOICE

#### **BALANCING NEEDS + RESOURCES**

#### SCARCITY OF:

- Time, money & energy
- Goods & services
- Natural resources

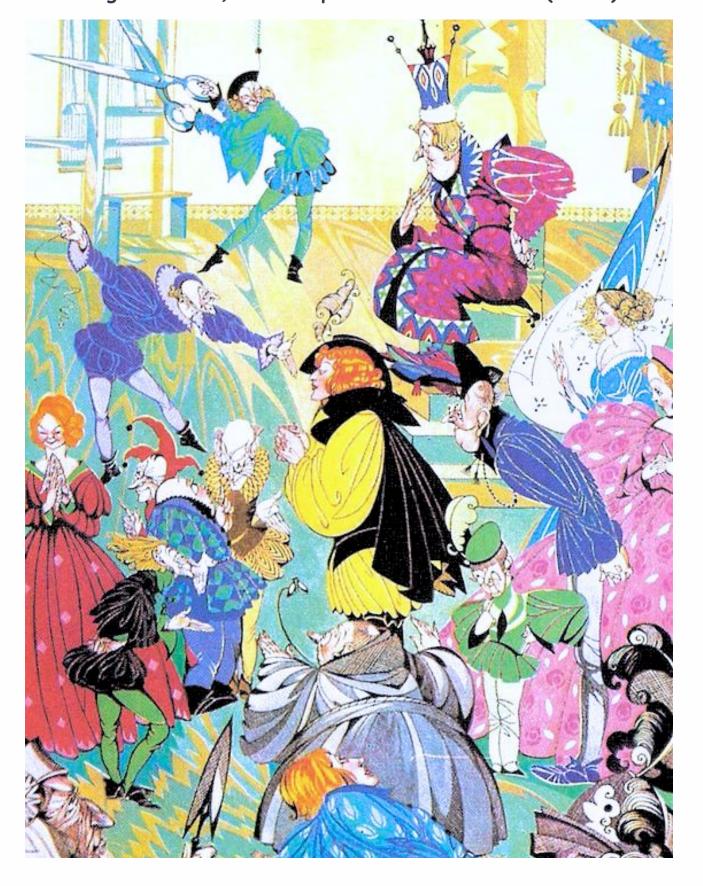


# The Emperor's NEW CLOTHES

#### **BUT HE'S NAKED... ISN'T HE?**

The Emperor's New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen is a story of two swindlers who convince an Emperor that for a huge price they can weave magnificent clothes that are invisible to anyone who is hopelessly stupid or unfit for their position.

Joyce Mercer, "The Emperor's New Clothes" (1900s)



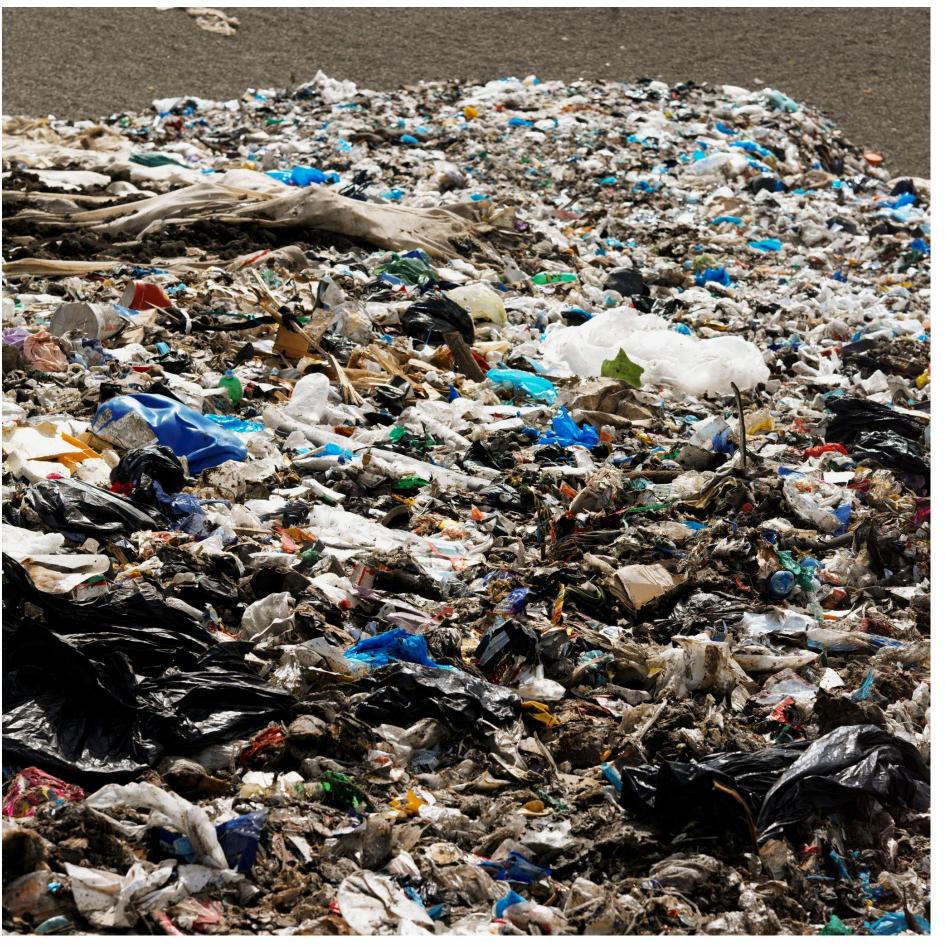


# The Growth PARADOX

#### WHAT IF...

the emperor is the modern economy of the Global North, and their "new clothes" are the promise of endless growth?

Exponential growth inevitably overwhelms finite resources & is **incompatible** with ecological and social integrity.







# WHY A STRONG ECONOMY MATTERS

#### **ON A SMALL ISLAND**

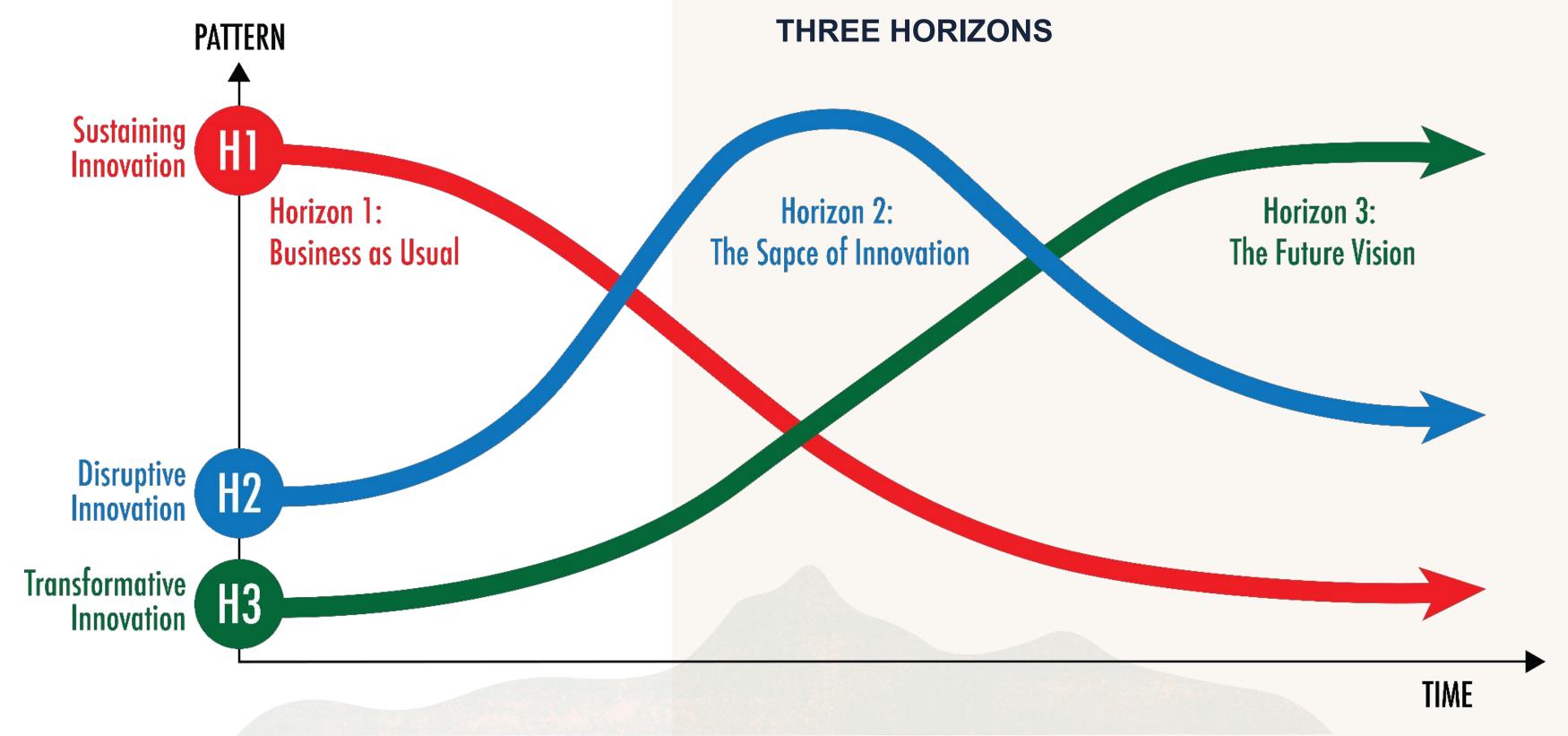
- Builds resilience against global shocks
- Small population = higher per-person cost for services
- Strong GDP keeps imports affordable
- Good jobs & innovation help retain young people in an ageing society
- Economic strength underpins climate resilience (storms, sea level rise)



REIMAGINING OUR BIOSPHERE: THE CHALLENGE A NEW PARADIGM How can we transition to alternative economic paradigms that reconcile equitable human well-being with ecological sustainability? A shift towards regenerative economies requires us to see beyond the myth of perpetual growth. NIONN FUTURES



#### TOOLS FOR REGENERATIVE CHANGE





# HORIZON 1

#### **TODAY**

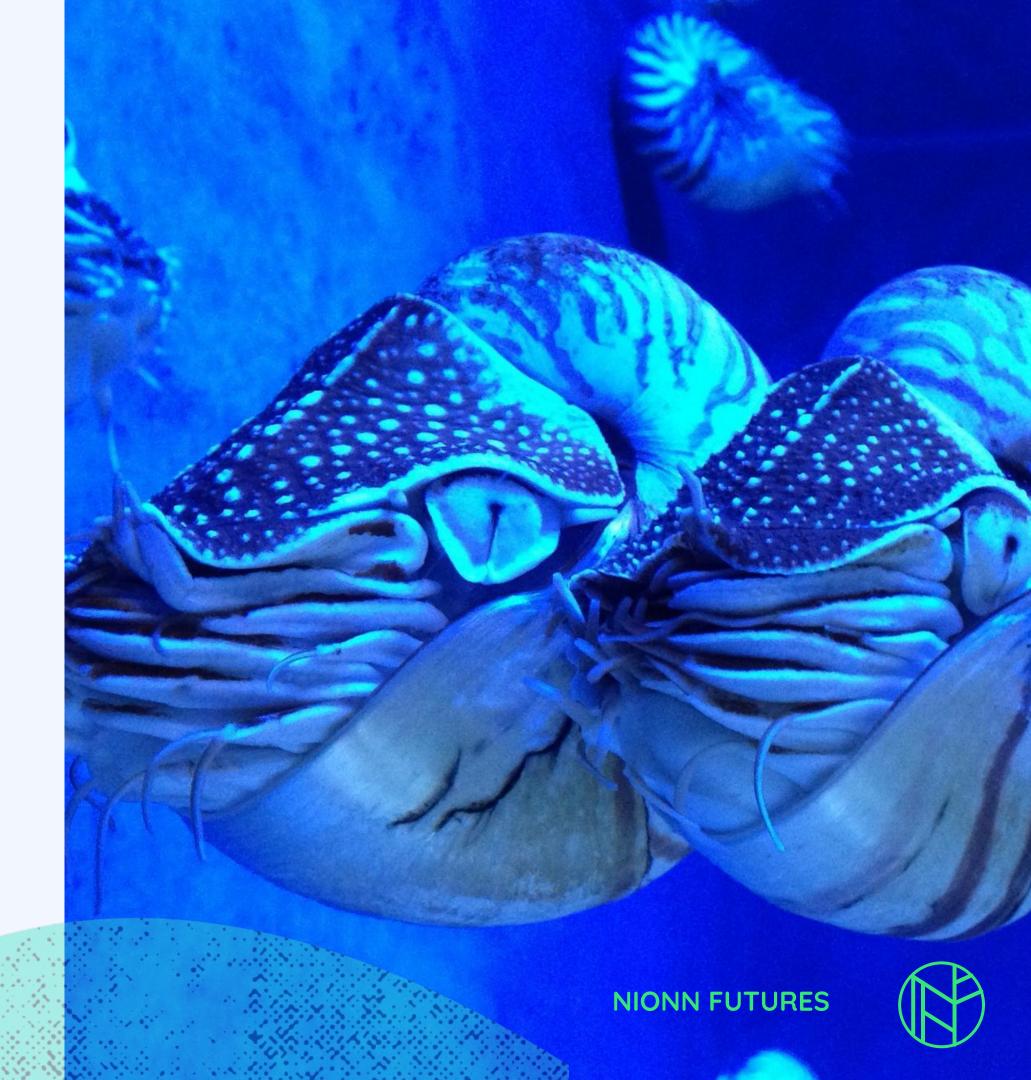
- The dominant system at present
- 'business as usual'
- We rely on these systems being stable and reliable
- As the world changes, aspects of business as usual begin to feel out of place and show signs of cracking



# THE POLYCRISIS

"If you've been feeling confused and as though everything is impacting on you all at the same time, this is not a personal, private experience," ... "This is actually a collective experience."

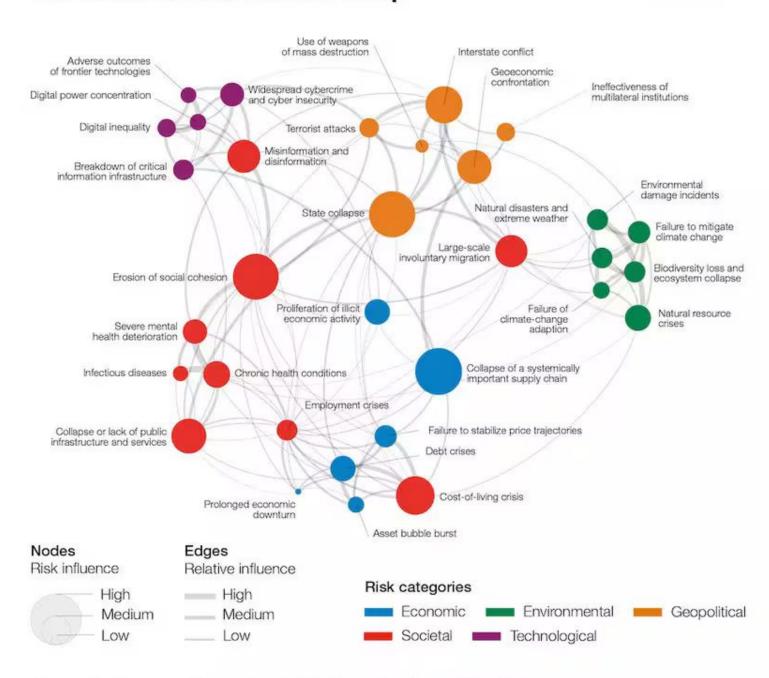
- historian Adam Tooze



Global Risks Report 2023

## Global risks landscape: an interconnections map





Source: World Economic Forum, Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023

# INTERCONNECTED systems

- Complexity
- Reinforcing feedback loops
- Tipping points
- Today's nonlinear problems, need nonlinear solutions







# Turkey ECONOMICS

What if our economy was a bit more turkey?





# TCX-YORK

## **Organising for Transformation**

- REIMAGINING our Biosphere: A Whole-System Game for Change
- Turkey Economy: generosity, reciprocity, abundance
- A good read: Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass











### VISIONING:

#### THE SCIENCE OF THE IMAGINATION

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution. It is, strictly speaking, a real factor in scientific research."

- Albert Einstein, 1931



# HORIZON 3

#### **VISION**

- The long term successor to business-as-usual
- It grows from fringe activity in the present that introduces new ways of doing things that are better suited to the emerging world than the dominant H1 systems
- We can find these "pockets of the future in the present."





### **Donut Economics**

#### Amsterdam, Netherlands

- First city to officially adopt Doughnut Economics (2020)
- Integrated it into housing, climate, circularity, and social inclusion policies
- Developed a "city portrait" linking local and global impacts
- Strong political commitment from city council and mayor
- Involved NGOs, communities and businesses
- Partnership with the Doughnut Economics Action Lab for methodology
- Framed as a post-COVID resilience *strategy* focussed on thriving not austerity





### Circular Economy Act

#### Scotland (2024)

- A mandate on national strategies, targets, and transparent reporting on waste and materials
- Transforms circularity from a voluntary practice into a binding law, supported by investment funds and national programmes
- Framed as both environmental necessity and economic opportunity for jobs, innovation, and resilience
- The legal mandate provides continuity and stability across changing political cycles and priorities





### Debt for nature swap

#### Seychelles (2016)

- \$21.6 million debt converted into long-term marine conservation funding
- 30% of Exclusive Economic Zone designated as Marine Protected Areas
- Blue carbon potential: Mangroves and seagrass store approximately 25 times
   Seychelles' annual emissions
- Ecosystem value: Coral reefs and mangroves provide \$320 million value yearly
   from protection, fisheries, and eco-tourism
- Community involvement and ownership has been at the heart of this project

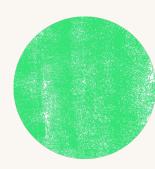


### Iceberg ahead?



#### Beware the H1 seize

Only valuing nature for what it can do for humans is an anthropocentric stance



#### Nature is more than a commodity

We won't change the system unless we allow for a shift in values and beliefs. <u>donellameadows.org</u>



#### Balance speed with caution

This is a crisis and ecosystem service valuation is a fast, tangible way to unlock resources. Biodiversity loss could cost between \$2-4.5 trillion per year globally (Professor Mike Christie, Aberystwyth Business school)



#### Further resources

<u>Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework</u>
<u>IPBES (2019)</u>

#### THE ICEBERG MODEL

Use this tool to help you think more systemically!



#### **EVENTS**

What is happening?

#### PATTERNS OF BEHAVIOR

What trends are there over time?

#### SYSTEMS STRUCTURE

How are the parts related?

What influences
the patterns?

# age

#### MENTAL MODELS

What values, assumptions, + beliefs shape the system?



## INTERACTIVITY

#### More than human thinking

Put yourself in the shoes the species or habitat on your card.

- Think of **one thing** you need from our Biosphere to thrive &
- One thing you can give to support our Biosphere to thrive

Be as imaginative or as literal as you want!



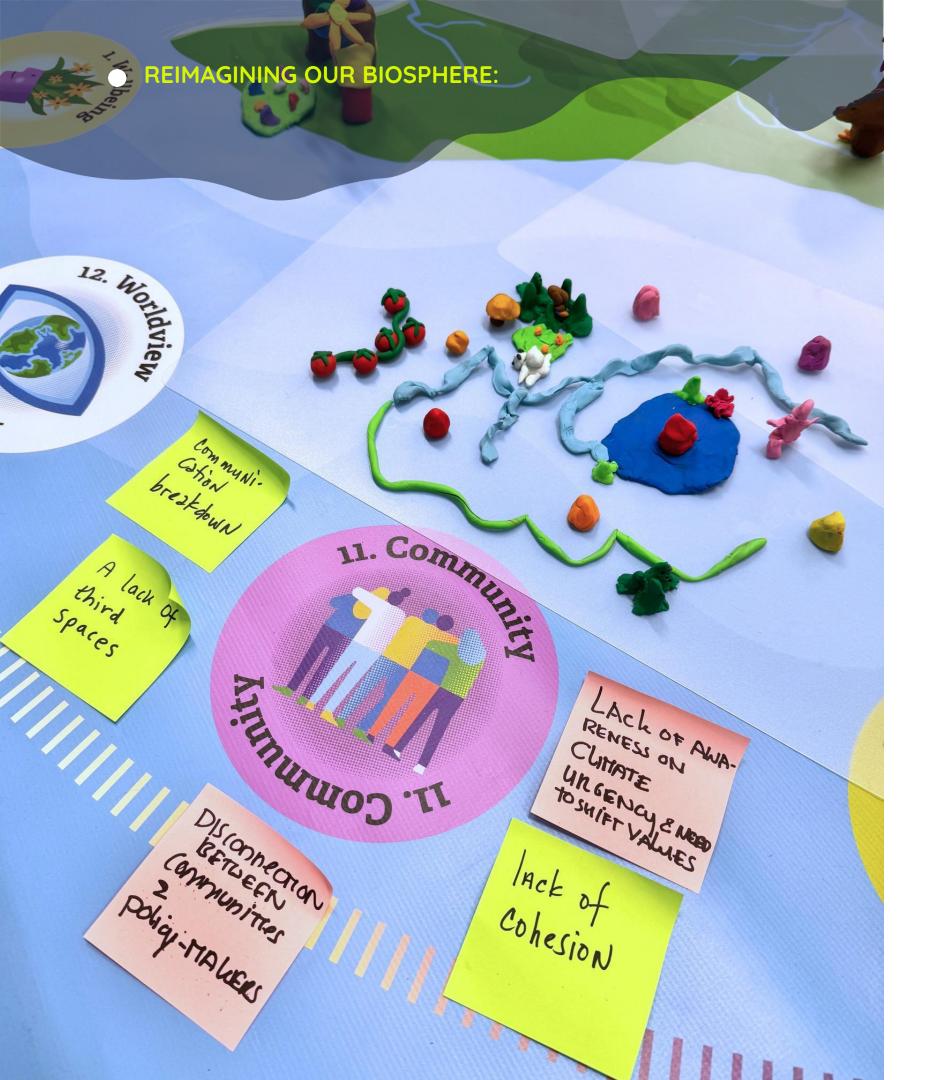


# HORIZON 2

#### **TRANSITION**

- Emerging innovations and activities transitional space of change and tension
- Some of these innovations will be taken up by H1 systems to prolong their life
- Some will pave the way for the emergence of the radically different H3 systems





# OUR MISSION

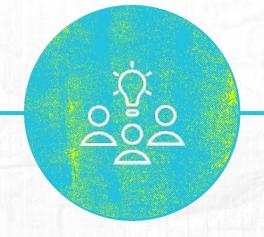
#### WHO WE ARE?

We are a systems change consultancy supporting the reimagining of the future through the lens of regeneration, creativity, and collective intelligence.

We work with mission-driven leaders, organisations and communities to navigate complexity, explore alternative futures, and co-design practical pathways to a more just, resilient, and life-sustaining world.

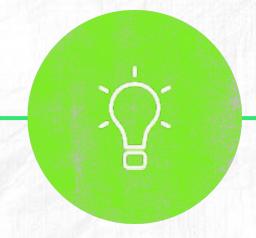


### Our offer



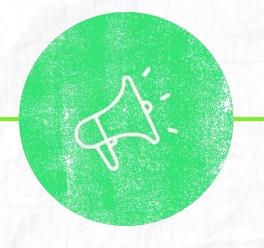
# Inclusive consultation

We use research-based methods to enable deep, inclusive listening across sectors and communities to create a shared vision.



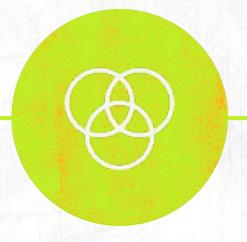
# **Unfurling Imaginations**

We harness creativity, imagination and play to collectively reimagine possibilities for systemic transformation.



# Campaign & project design

We co-design and deliver community led projects & campaigns that drive environmental and social justice.



# **Envisioning** pathways

We transform collective intelligence into visual pathways and stories that inspire action.



### The tools we use

"You cannot change how someone thinks, but you can give them a tool to use which will lead them to think differently."

- R. Buckminster Fuller

systems thinking **Participatory** The wisdom of research living systems Storytelling & gamification

Futures, design &



### Who we are

A collective of change-makers combining over 60 years cross sector experience and specialisms to deliver regenerative systems change pathways



Ali Hodgson

- Regenerative designer, facilitator & creative producer
- Winner of the UNESCO Biosphere
   IOM Award for Engagement



**Charlotte Traynor** 

- Creative strategist, education & engagement professional
- Award-winning, multidisciplinary designer & social entrepreneur



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- Regenerative facilitator for community-led systems change
- Sustainability and behaviour change project manager



## REIMAGINING our Biosphere

- Developed during year-long position as Biosphere Artist in Residence in collaboration with Manx Wildlife Trust and UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, supported by the Isle of Man Arts Council
- Collaborative tool for integrating whole-systems thinking within our biosphere nation, taking into account human & ecological systems
- Gamification of systems change tools









NIONN FUTURES



# Case Study

## REIMAGINING our Biosphere

- Based on World System Mapping
- Tool designed for human / planetary ecosystem understanding
- Contains 12 topics for a whole-systems approach to change
- Demonstrated the many interconnected patterns between these patterns to explore systemic effects





### REIMAGINING our Biosphere

- Won the Biosphere IOM Award for Engagement
- Worked with multiple organisations such as Biosphere Isle of Man and Net Zero
  Isle of Man to develop it for further use as both a public engagement and deeper
  facilitation tool
- Now played with 3500 people on the Isle of Man
- Has since been used and supported by:

















**NIONN FUTURES** 



# Exploring regenerative working for H2

- MSc Sustainability and Behaviour Change Centre for Alternative Technology
- Supporting changemakers operating from within H1
- Using interviews to populate H1 challenges
- Collective intelligence to populate H3 and create H2 pathways



## Clients & Collaborators





























#### Isle of Man:

- Biosphere Isle of Man
- Net Zero IOM
- Manx Wildlife Trust
- Arts Council Isle of Man

#### UK:

- International Futures Forum
- H3Uni
- Helen Hamlyn Research Centre

#### International:

- Center for Research on Patagonian Ecosystems (Patagonia)
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- British Council (Hong Kong)
- Transformations Community (international)
- World Fair Trade Organisation (international)
- DESIS (Design for Social Innovation Towards Sustainability) (Hong Kong)
- Dementia HK (Hong Kong)



# Interactivity (and a prize!)









### Lets chat!

**GET READY TO LAUNCH IN 2026!** 

# NIONN FUTURES

REGENERATIVE CHANGE MAKERS

"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating."

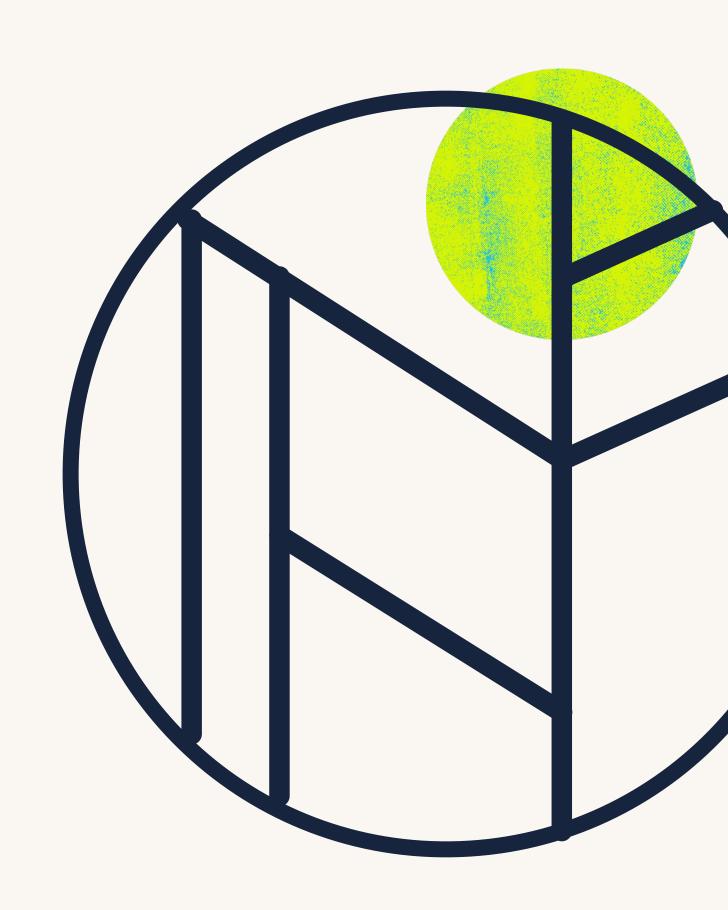
John Schaar

# NIONN FUTURES NIONN ENTURES



# NIONN FUTURES

SYSTEMIC TOOLS FOR A REGENERATIVE ECONOMY IN THE ISLE OF MAN







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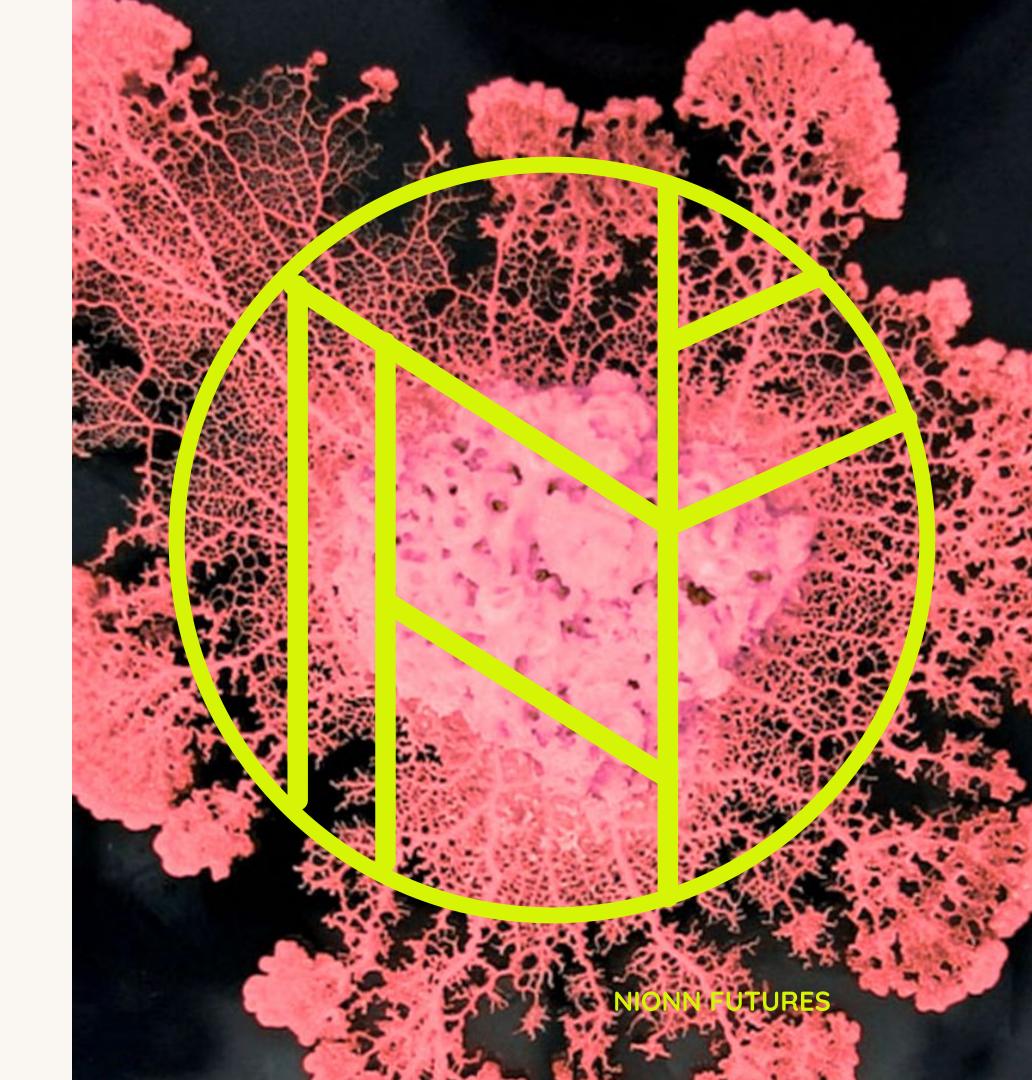
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## Through CHOICE

#### **BALANCING NEEDS + RESOURCES**

#### SCARCITY OF:

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- Natural resources



## Overview ECONOMY

#### **TODAY'S SYSTEM**

- Adam Smith "invisible hand" theory
- Extractive system prioritizing growth, efficiency & profit
- Labour & nature are 'inputs'
- Holocene: assumed markets are fair & resources abundant
- Now in the Anthropocene: finite resources & planetary stability





## WHY Economy Matters

#### **ON A SMALL ISLAND**

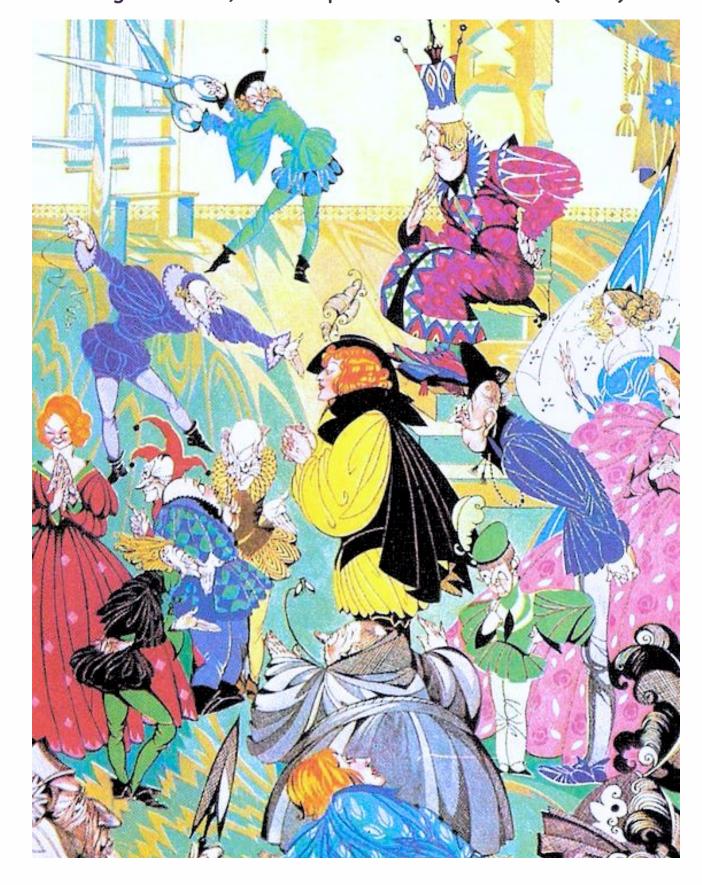
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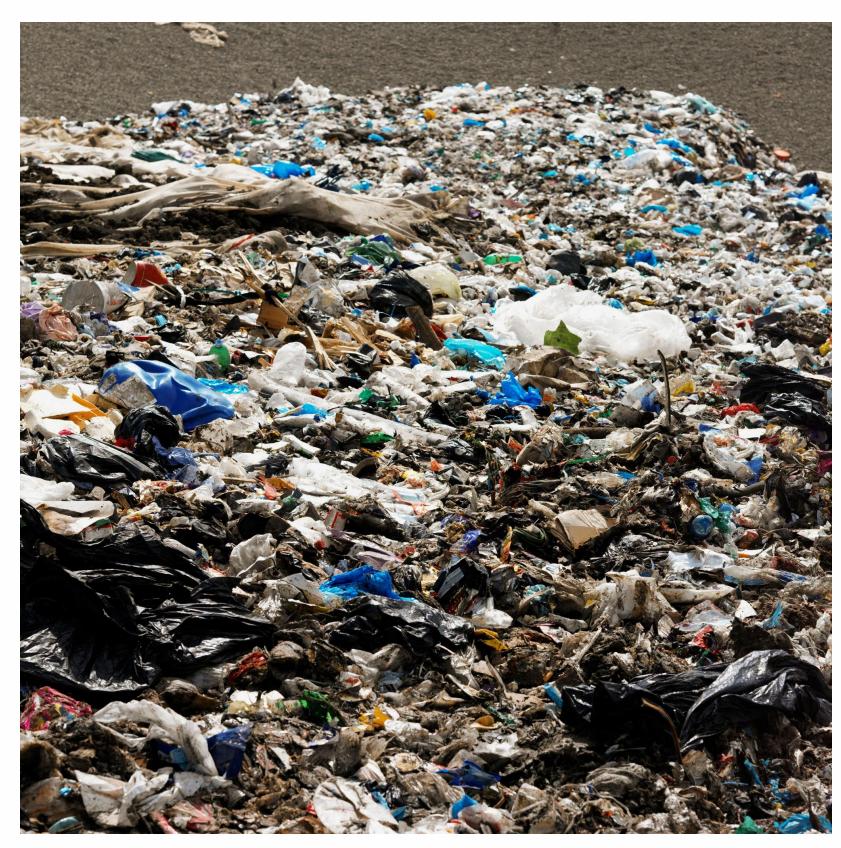
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Exponential growth inevitably overwhelms finite resources & is **incompatible** with ecological and social integrity.

A shift towards regenerative economies requires us to see beyond the **myth of perpetual growth**.





## This POLYCRISIS

#### **DEMANDS A NEW PARADIGM**

- Our challenges today are different to times gone by
- They are less visible, geographically displaced, potentially even more catastrophic
- Multiple, interconnected problems amplifying each other
- They are called 'sticky', or 'wicked' problems. There is no one size fits all approach to solving them

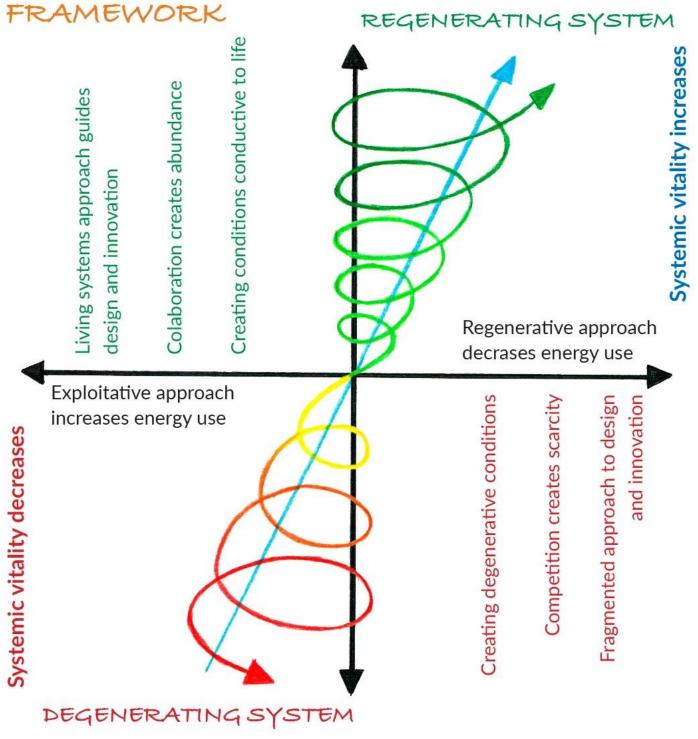


### WHAT IS A

#### **REGENERATIVE ECONOMY?**

- An approach that goes beyond sustainability
- Creating systems that actively restore & renew natural & social systems
- Puts living systems at the centre of everything
- Creating conditions conducive to all life

#### THE REGENERATIVE DESIGN



Source: Designing Regenerative Cultures, 2016 - www.danielchristianwahl.com; Graphics: www.flaviagargiulo.com

Image: from Designing Regenerative Cultures by Daniel Christian Wahl

#### Regenerative

Appropriate participation and deisgn as nature.

#### Reconciliatory

Reintegrating humans as integral parts of nature.

#### Restorative

Humans doing thing to nature.

#### Sustainable

Neutral point of not doing any more damage.

#### Green

Relative improvements.

#### Conventional practice

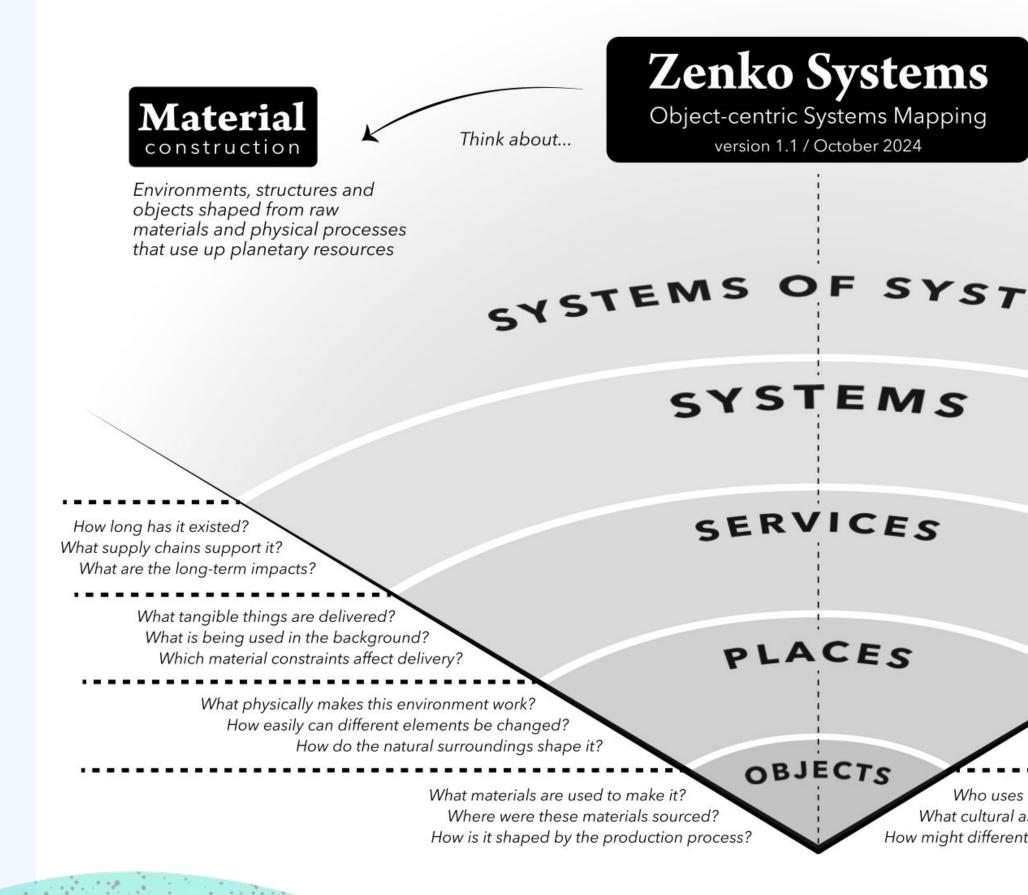
Compliants to avoid legal actions.

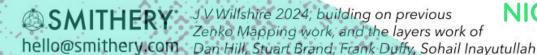


## Tools for REGENERATIVE

#### **CHANGE**

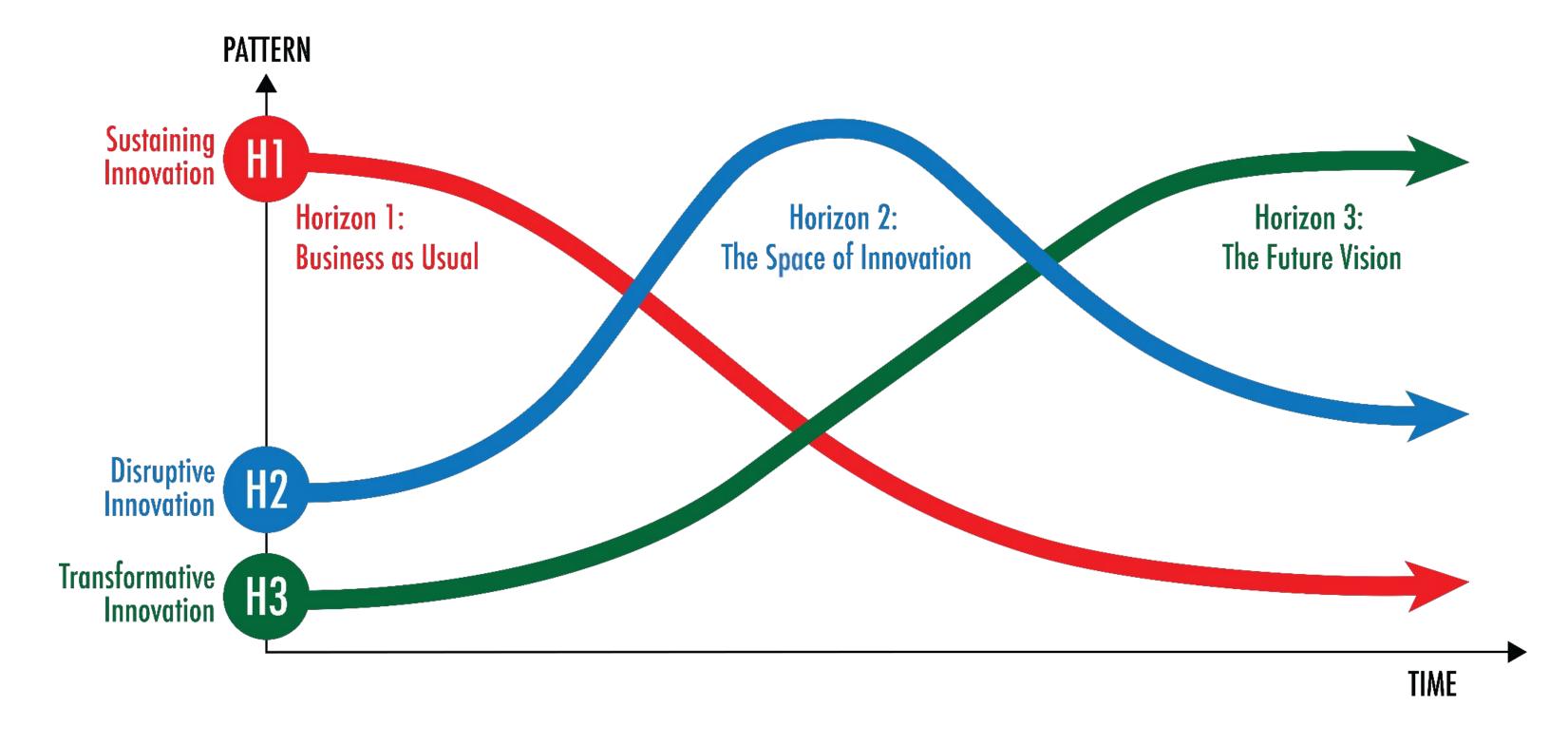
- Collaborative & participatory decision making
- Conversation on divisive & complex topics
- Seeing beyond the existing paradigm











### ThreeHORIZONS



**NIONN FUTURES** 

## Horizon ONE

#### **TODAY**

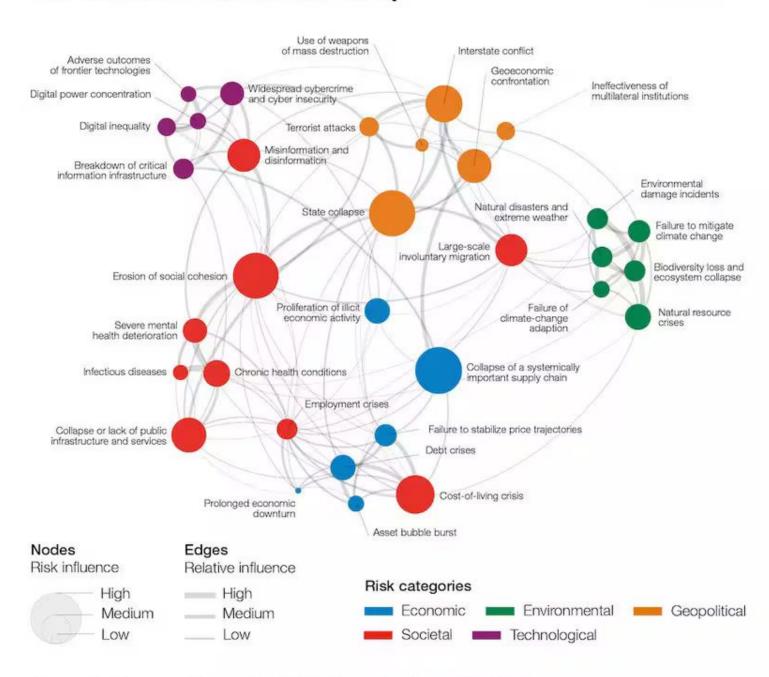
- The dominant system at present
- 'business as usual'
- We rely on these systems being stable and reliable
- As the world changes, aspects of business as usual begin to feel out of place and show signs of cracking
- Is Smith's economics & growth for growth's sake still working?



Global Risks Report 2023

### Global risks landscape: an interconnections map





Source: World Economic Forum, Global Risks Perception Survey 2022-2023

## INTER-CONNECTED systems





## Horizon THREE

#### **VISION**

• The long term successor to business as usual

 It grows from fringe activity in the present that introduces new ways of doing things that are better suited to the emerging world than the dominant H1 systems

• We can find these "pockets of the future in the present"





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WHAT IF OUR ECONOMY WAS A BIT MORE TURKEY?





## -YORK

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### INTERACTIVITY

#### MORE THAN HUMAN THINKING

Put yourself in the shoes the species or habitat on your card.

- Think of **one thing** you need from our Biosphere to thrive &
- One thing you can give to support our Biosphere to thrive



Be as imaginative or as literal as you want!



## Horizon TWO

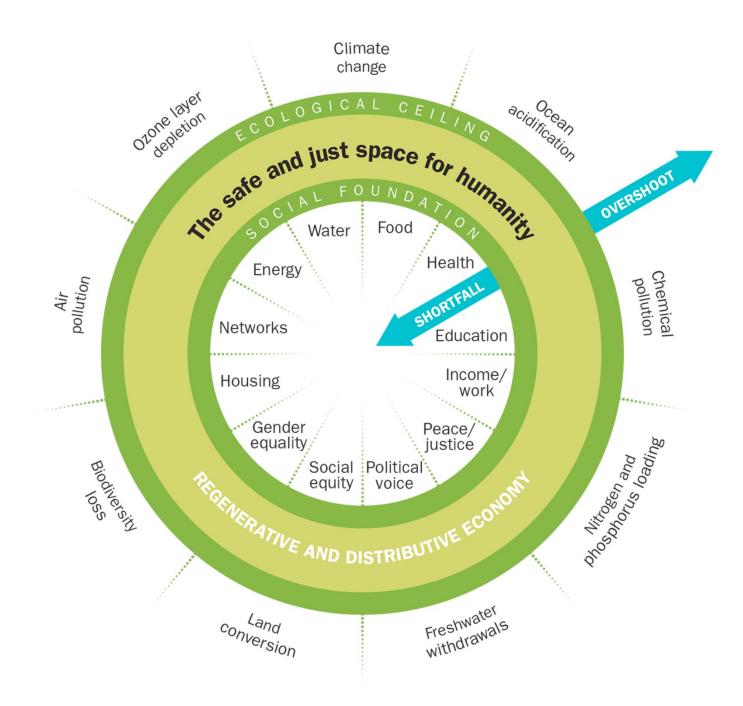
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 Emerging innovations and activities – transitional space of change and tension

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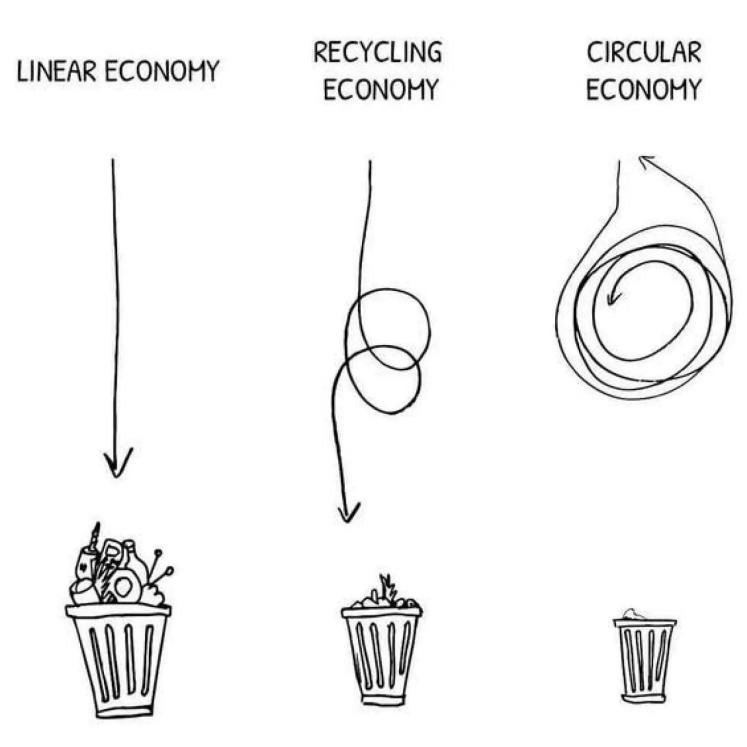
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#### **AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS**

- First city to officially adopt Doughnut Economics in 2020
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NIONN FUTURES



## Case Study CIRCULAR ECONOMY ACT

#### SCOTLAND, 2024

- A mandate on national strategies, targets, and transparent reporting on waste and materials
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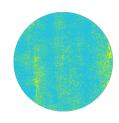
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- Community involvement and ownership has been at the heart of this project



## Iceberg AHEAD?



**BEWARE THE H1 SEIZE** 



NATURE IS MORE THAN A COMMODITY

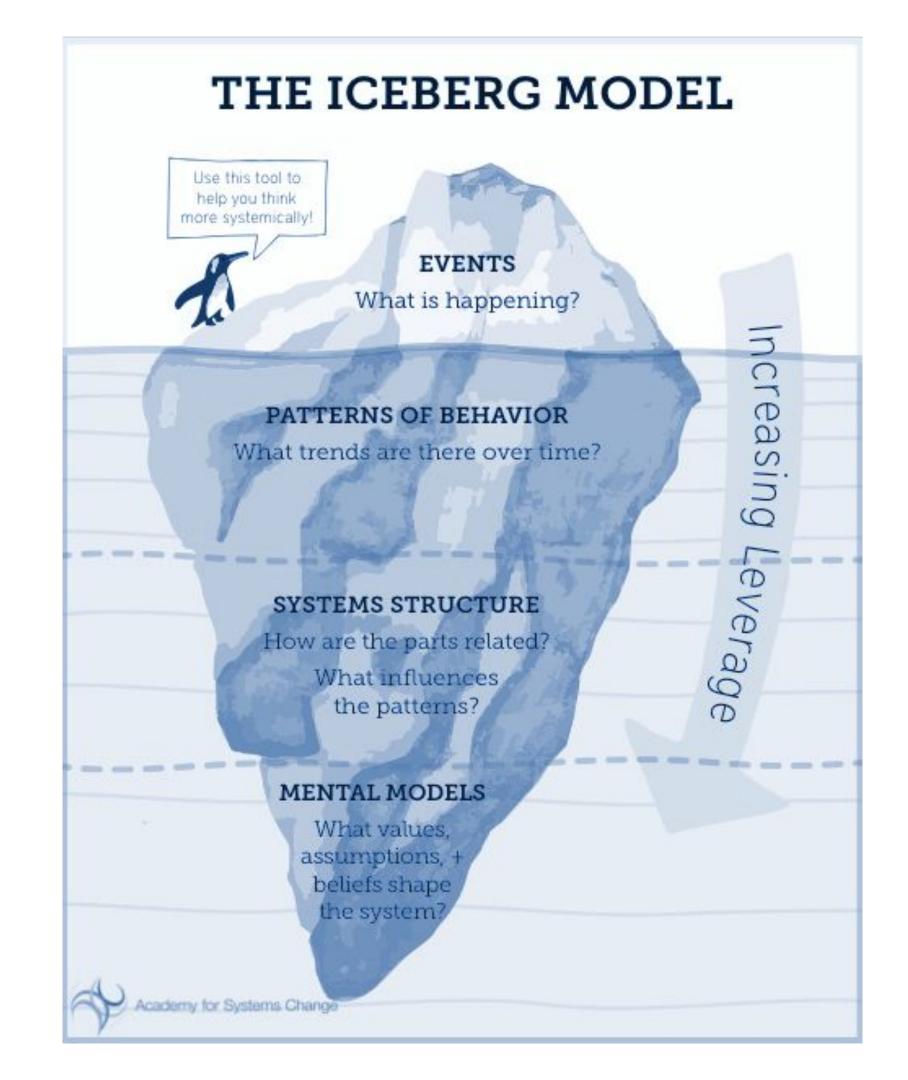


**BALANCE SPEED WITH CAUTION** 



#### **FURTHER RESOURCES**

- Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
- <u>IPBES (2019)</u>



## Why are WE

### Talking to you about all this?

Based on 60 years of cross sector collective experience, from NGO, to creative industries and corporate ESG, the complex world of systems change, is the only thing that makes sense anymore.

We are building **NIONN FUTURES** in response to an urgent need for regenerative, systemic change



#### WHO we are cross-sector, multidisciplinary regenerative changemakers



Ali Hodgson

- Regenerative designer, facilitator & creative producer
- Winner of the UNESCO Biosphere
   IOM Award for Engagement



**Charlotte Traynor** 

- Creative strategist, education & engagement professional
- Award-winning, multidisciplinary designer & social entrepreneur



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SYSTEMS THINKING **PARTICIPATORY** LIVING SYSTEMS RESEARCH STORYTELLING & **GAMIFICATION** 

FUTURES, DESIGN &







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- Collaborative tool for integrating whole-systems thinking within our biosphere nation, taking into account human & ecological systems
- Based on gamification of World System Mapping
- Won the Biosphere IOM Award for Engagement
- Now played with 3500 people on the Isle of Man













### Clients & Collaborators













sixty years of arts, culture and creativity for everyone.















#### Isle of Man:

- Biosphere Isle of Man
- Net Zero IOM
- Manx Wildlife Trust
- Arts Council Isle of Man

#### UK:

- International Futures Forum
- H3Uni
- Helen Hamlyn Research Centre

#### International:

- Center for Research on Patagonian Ecosystems (Patagonia)
- Enable Foundation (Hong Kong)
- British Council (Hong Kong)
- Transformations Community (international)
- World Fair Trade Organisation (international)
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- Dementia HK (Hong Kong)



## This is not a new CONVERSATION

#### **BUT IT IS AN URGENT ONE**

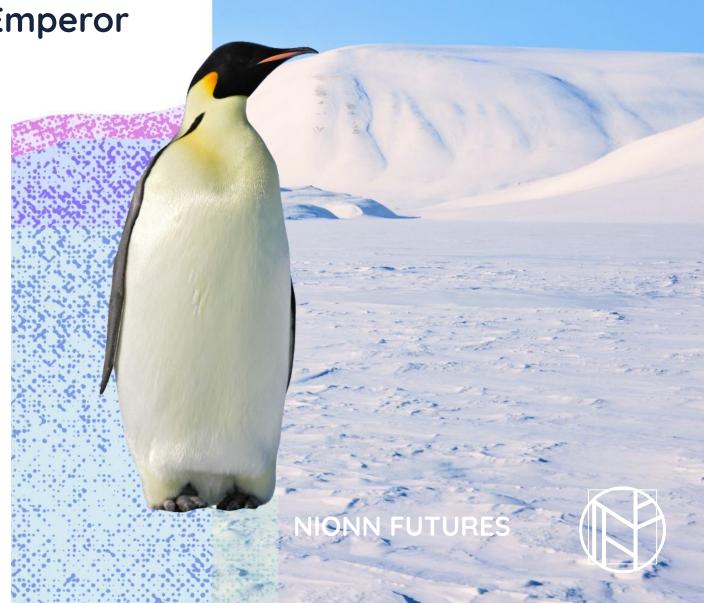
- Economy feels overwhelming & beyond our individual control & expertise
- Feels like a system that can't be changed
- BUT our aim today has been to leave you with hope that with the right tools and processes no topic is too complex or sticky for collective action for good



# THE ECONOMY is everyone's business

Never be afraid to be the young boy pointing out that the Emperor

is NAKED!



## INTERACTIVITY

and a chance to win...!

Name one small action or idea you'd like to see take root on the island to grow a regenerative economy for future generations.



HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY, BUT IT IS A PREREQUISTITE FOR PROGRESS - Paul Wellstone



"The future is not some place we are going, but one we are creating."

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# NIONN FUTURES NIONN FUTURES

