OPPORTUNITY #24

What if we had a responsive centennial plan for the planet?

MAKE IT 100

Beyond the Sustainable Development Goals, Planetary Development Goals are set up and agreed on a rolling 100-year time frame, creating a long-term global cooperation framework for restoring and preserving ecosystems and biodiversity.

MEGATREND
Saving Ecosystems

TRENDS
ESG & Beyond GDP
International Collaboration
Restoration

SECTORS AFFECTED
Agriculture & Food
Data Science, AI & Machine Learning
Education
Energy, Oil & Gas & Renewables
Financial Services & Investment
Health & Healthcare
Insurance & Reinsurance
Metals & Mining
Utilities
Government Services
Professional Services

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

Studies have concluded that humanity has far exceeded what the planet can handle in terms of environmental pollutants and human-made materials such as plastics.[454] The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by the United Nations in 2015, include 17 goals, 169 targets and 231 unique indicators, 92 of which are related to the environment.[455] Looking at humanity's progress against the environmental targets as a whole, 67% are following a positive trend while 33% are showing little change or a negative trend.[456] At the current rate of investment, none of the SDGs will be achieved by 2030.[457]

Between 2001 and 2021, the earth lost just over 435 million hectares of tree cover, which was a decrease of 11% since 2000.[458] In parallel, there has been a 68% drop in mammal, bird, fish, reptile and amphibian populations since 1970.[459] There has been a 14% loss of coral since 2009 due to rising sea surface temperatures,[460] and 150 species go extinct every day – or 10% every decade.[461]

The impacts of climate inaction and non-cooperation can be measured by the likely effects of global warming on economic growth. It is estimated that, with a 1.5°C increase in the global temperate, conditions will be close to indistinguishable from what we see currently. However, warming of 2°C would result in significantly lower projected economic growth (up to a 2% annual decline) for many countries, particularly low-income countries and countries around the equator. The Middle East and North Africa are among the areas that would be most negatively affected by warming of 2°C. For example, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates could expect a decline of approximately 1.8% in their economic growth per capita annually.[462]

THE OPPORTUNITY

Set to be achieved by 2030, the SDGs are not sufficiently long term to enable natural ecosystems to recover or be restored.[463] While ambitious short-term goals are important,[464] stable long-term goals and strategies can provide the certainty and conditions needed for governments and businesses to make changes and investments at the scale required.[465]

A global supranational protection and regulatory system supported by advanced machine intelligence and modelling could set priorities for the planet. It could also define the roles and contributions needed from each country according to economic size and development needs and degree of exposure to climate change and biodiversity loss. Collating highly detailed environmental, meteorological and consumer market data would allow automated systems to calculate impacts and suggest corrections and adaptations in real time.

This system would have two primary functions. Firstly, it would survey the planet, flagging actions or plans with negative long-terms impacts. Secondly, it would empower governments, citizens and businesses to contribute to the intergenerational health of their environment and the earth's natural systems.

BENEFITS

Definition of long-term goals and coordination of efforts so as to achieve and surpass aims.
A means of organising multilateral collaboration and investment.
A set of metrics against which to measure progress.

RISKS

Disconnection between a 100-year outlook and shorter-term government policies and interests around climate change. Perception of the goals as too expensive compared to other more pressing socio-economic challenges.

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