

CONVERGE

Equity within Limits.

Introducing the Convergence Mapping System

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What is the CONVERGE project?

- ▶ Title: Rethinking globalisation in light of Contraction and CONVERGEance
- ▶ Funded by the EU (FP7)
- ▶ 4 year research programme (2009-2013)
- ▶ Focusing on the exploration of
'Equity within Planetary Limits'
- ▶ 8 Partner organizations in 5 countries
 - ✓ UK – Schumacher Institute, University of Bristol
 - ✓ Hungary – Szent Istvan University, GreenDependent Institute
 - ✓ Sweden – University of Lund, The Natural Step
 - ✓ Iceland – University of Iceland
 - ✓ India – Social Change and Development (SCAD)



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... *Equity within Planetary Limits...*

Why do we need to talk about Contraction/Limits?

- ▶ The efficiency approach and the greening of production and consumption have not
 - ✓ Led to an overall lower environmental impact;
 - ✓ Increased well-being and life satisfaction (beyond a certain point);
 - ✓ Led to meeting important development targets; and
 - ✓ Evidence is there to prove that planetary boundaries have been transgressed (biodiversity, climate change, nitrogen).
- ▶ So:
 - ✓ *Well-being and the good life need to be re-conceptualized;* and
 - ✓ Planetary limits need to be observed more thoroughly and strictly.



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... *Equity within Planetary Limits...*

Why do we need to talk about Convergence/Equity?

- ▶ Struggle and not enough success in achieving development targets (e.g. Millennium Development Goals)
- ▶ OXFAM (2013):

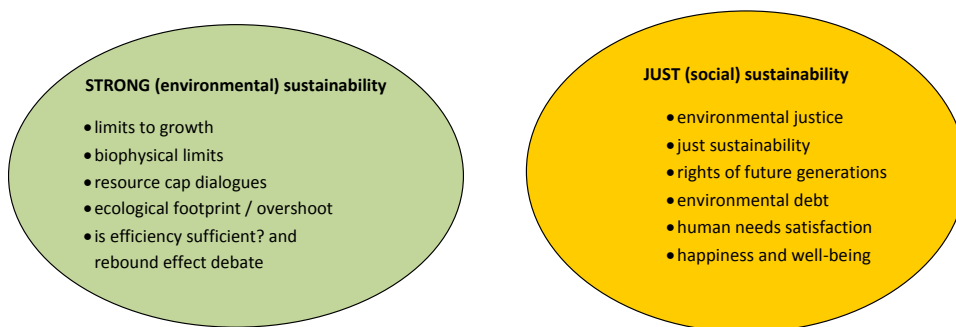
“an explosion in extreme wealth and income is exacerbating inequality and hindering the world’s ability to tackle poverty”
- ▶ Other reasons and evidence:
 - ✓ Environmental quality tends to be higher in more equal countries;
 - ✓ Environmental problems tend to have a disproportionately high effect on the poor;
 - ✓ Regions with low environmental quality and low levels of socio-economic development are more likely become conflict zones;
 - ✓ Sustainability policy calls for re-uniting Environment with Development.



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Two, largely separate fields of theory and practice

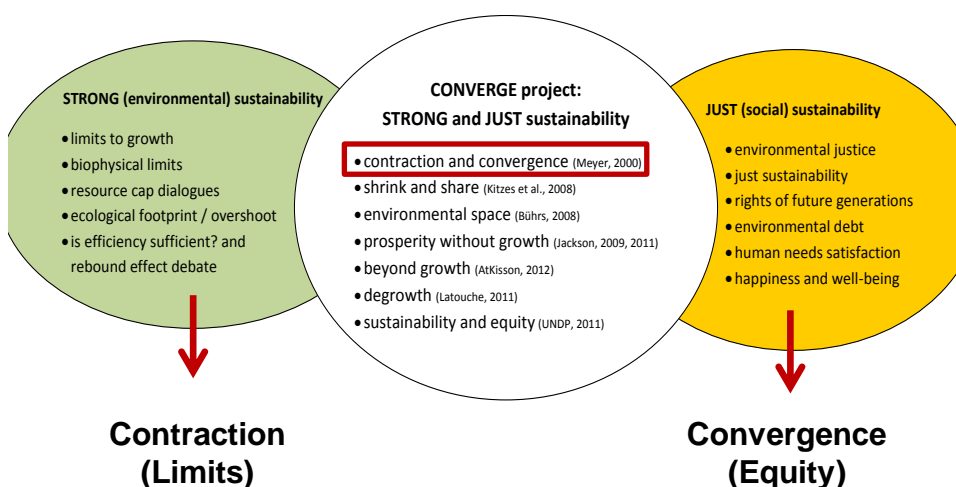


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Where does the CONVERGE project fit?



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Connecting Environmental and Social Sustainability: The Convergence Mapping System

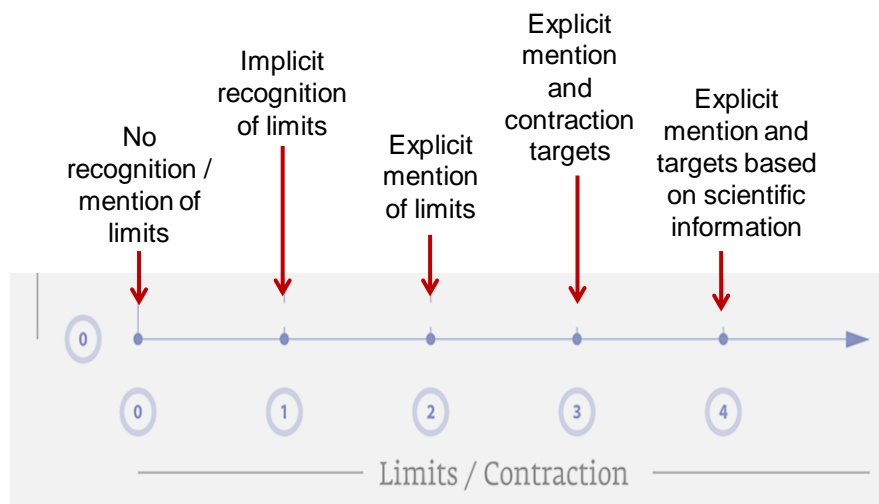
- ▶ A tool to help show how organizations/projects/policies etc. address the double imperative of
 - ✓ living within Earth limits/planetary boundaries,
 - and
 - ✓ sharing resources more equitably.



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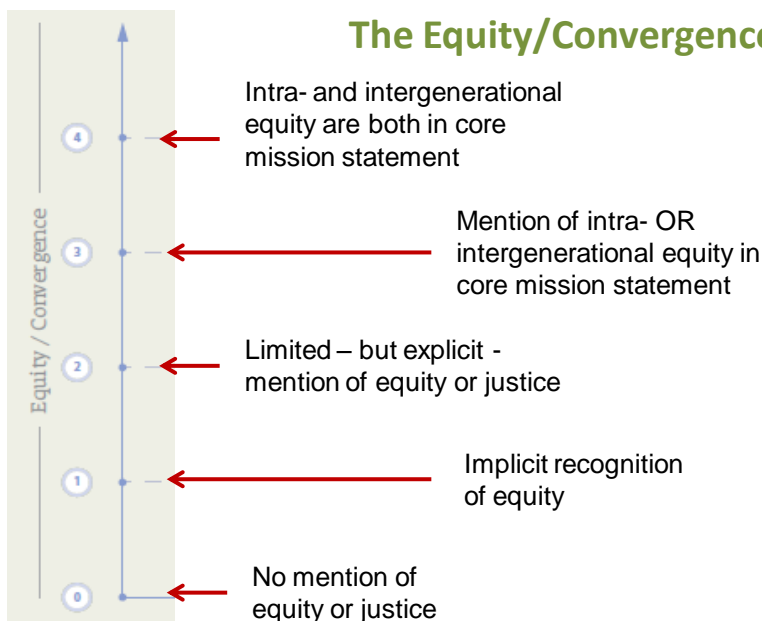
The Limits/Contraction scale

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The Equity/Convergence scale

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Evaluation/Mapping methodology

- ▶ Research aim:
 - ✓ identify and analyze initiatives illustrating contraction and convergence from around the world,
 - ✓ through them show how contraction and convergence works in practice (if at all), and
 - ✓ to illustrate variety.
- ▶ Mapping system '*emerged*' during the research as we needed to find a way to see how very different initiatives addressed the issue of Limits/Contraction and Equity/Convergence
- ▶ What did we look at?
 - ▶ Documents of the initiatives (strategy, mission statement, reports, etc.)
 - ▶ Website
 - ▶ Materials published by the initiative
 - ▶ Materials published on the initiative
 - ▶ (interviews)
 - ▶ (initiative reviewing the outcomes)

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Example 1: The Gödöllő Climate Club

*** community ***

- ▶ What is it about?
 - ✓ Low-carbon [community group](#)
 - ✓ Initiated to provide support for individual action
 - ✓ Members decided to become more active in larger community: seed swaps, presence at community events, etc.
- ▶ Convergence elements:
 - ✓ Contraction targets
 - ✓ Sharing of knowledge and Participatory processes



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The Gödöllő Climate Club



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Example 2: Covenant of Mayors (I, HI)

* policy *



- ▶ What is it about?
 - ✓ European Commission Policy initiative
 - ✓ Each signatory city makes a commitment to reduce its CO₂ emissions beyond the target of 20% by 2020.
 - ✓ Requires that cities submit a Sus. Energy Action Plan (SEAP)
 - ✓ Measures involve local transport, public and private buildings, renewable energy sources
- ▶ Convergence elements:
 - ✓ Contraction targets
 - ✓ Participatory processes



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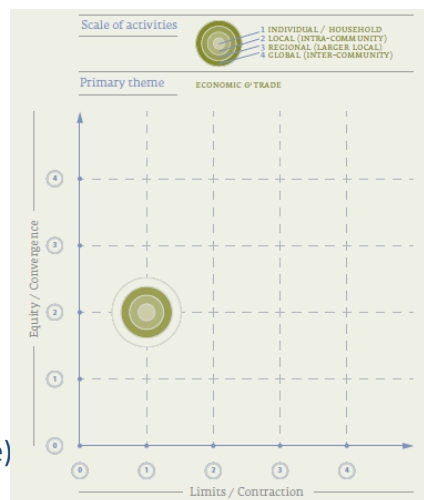
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Example 3: The Grameen Bank

*** business ***

- ▶ What is it about?
 - ✓ Microfinance bank in Bangladesh
 - ✓ Overcome the lock-in effect of poverty
 - ✓ Peer pressure to support pay-back
- ▶ Convergence elements
 - ✓ Socio-economic empowerment
 - ✓ Explicitly seeking to empower the poorest people of society
 - ✓ 16 Decisions (clean env., family size)



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How could this mapping system/tool be used?

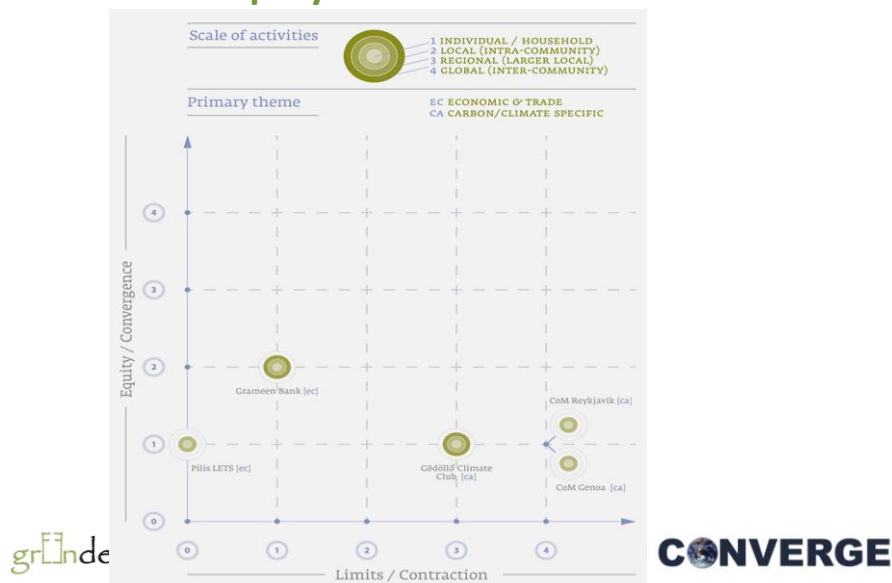
- ▶ In sustainability evaluation and reporting
- ▶ Development of organizations (!) and mapping development
- ▶ In education, e.g. for awareness raising
- ▶ Use in community processes, planning, etc.
- ▶ Evaluate research proposals/projects/project outcomes
 - ✓ Do they help society live within Earth limits/planetary boundaries?
 - ✓ Do they contribute to increasing equity?
- ▶ Use in research, e.g. for identifying further good examples

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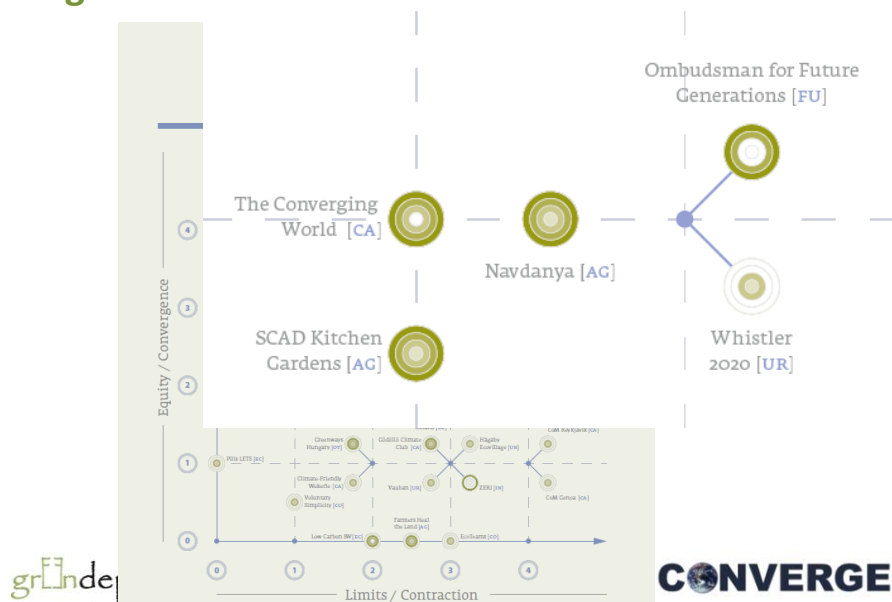
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Finding development paths to better address Limits and Equity



High 'scores' on both scales



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

THERE IS AN ELECTRONIC **CONVERGE** BOOK AVAILABLE
WITH CASE STUDIES AND THEIR ANALYSIS:

Project website: www.convergeproject.org

Contact email:

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