

CONVERGE

Equity within Limits: introducing Convergence Mapping and initiatives with Contraction as well as Equity processes

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What was 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 István 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 (3 out of 9: 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, often separated fields of theory and practice

STRONG (environmental) sustainability

- limits to growth
- biophysical limits
- resource cap dialogues
- ecological footprint / overshoot
- is efficiency sufficient? and rebound effect debate

JUST (social) sustainability

- environmental justice
- just sustainability
- rights of future generations
- environmental debt
- human needs satisfaction
- happiness and well-being

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Where does the CONVERGE project fit?

STRONG (environmental) sustainability

- limits to growth
- biophysical limits
- resource cap dialogues
- ecological footprint / overshoot
- is efficiency sufficient? and rebound effect debate

CONVERGE project:

STRONG and JUST sustainability

- contraction and convergence (Meyer, 2000)
- shrink and share (Kitzes et al., 2008)
- environmental space (Bühns, 2008)
- prosperity without growth (Jackson, 2009, 2011)
- beyond growth (Atkisson, 2012)
- degrowth (Latouche, 2011)
- sustainability and equity (UNDP, 2011)

JUST (social) sustainability

- environmental justice
- just sustainability
- rights of future generations
- environmental debt
- human needs satisfaction
- happiness and well-being

**Contraction
(Limits)**

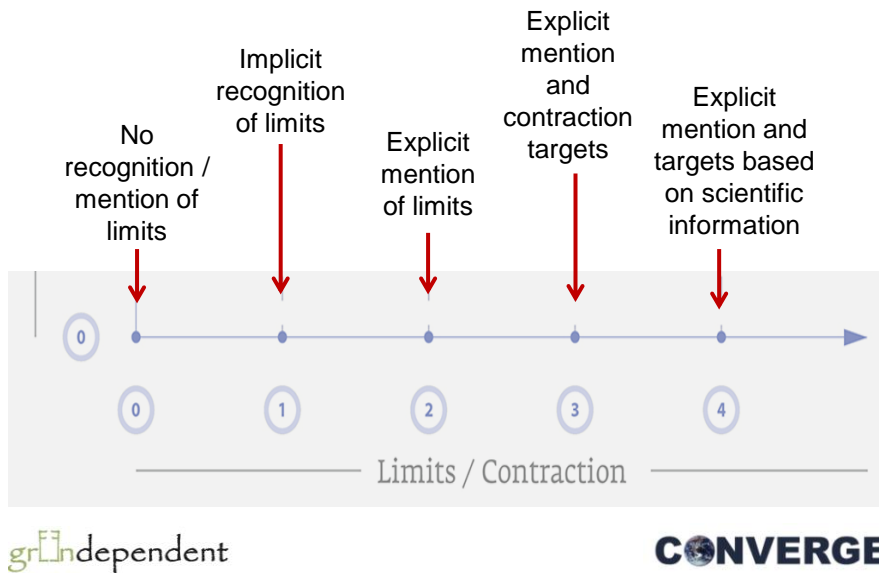
**Convergence
(Equity)**

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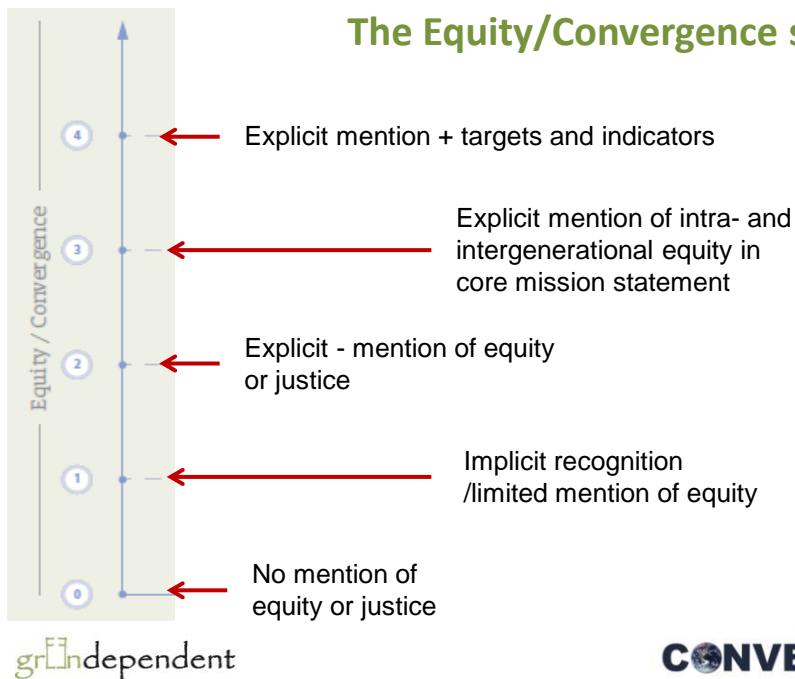
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The Limits/Contraction scale



The Equity/Convergence scale



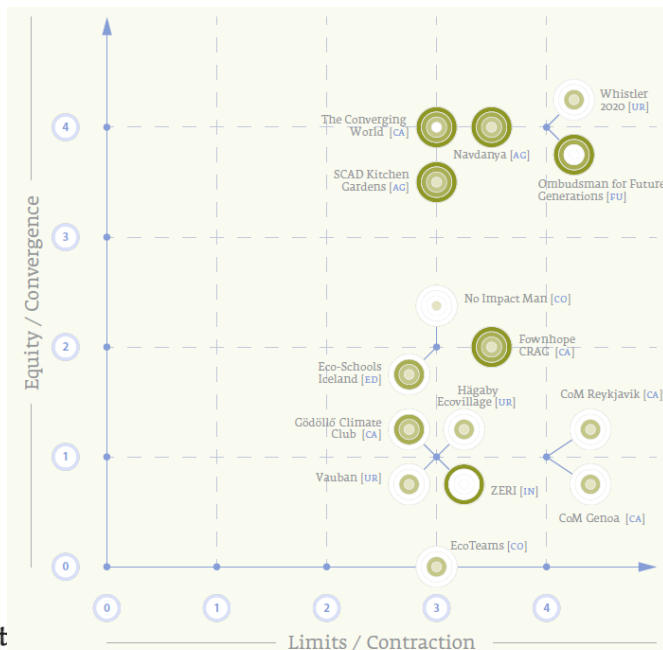
Mapping methodology

- ▶ Our research aim was:
 - ✓ to identify and analyze initiatives illustrating contraction and convergence from around the world,
 - ✓ through them show how contraction and convergence works in practice, 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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Initiatives that performed well on the contraction scale



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Example 1: Fownhope CRAG

*** community ***

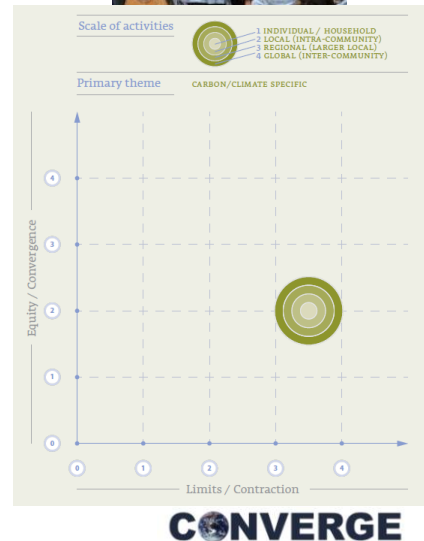
► What is it about?

- ✓ Low-carbon community group (used to be member of CRAG network)
- ✓ Initiated to reduce individual/household footprint
- ✓ Members are also active in the local and larger community: presence at community events, etc.
- ✓ More global efforts (the Gambia, energy cooperative)

► Contraction elements:

- ✓ Contraction targets to sustainable footprint
- ✓ Actively seeking for local sustainable energy production options

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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

► Contraction elements:

- ✓ Contraction targets (based on inventory)
- ✓ Monitoring processes set up

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Example 3: SCAD Kitchen Gardens

*** developing country ***

What is it about?

- ✓ Lift people and communities out of poverty and fight effects of climate change
- ✓ Establishing organic kitchen gardens and planting fruit trees since 2008
- ✓ Environment, health/nutrition, income generation

Contraction elements

- ✓ Explicit effort to recognize limits and protect resources
- ✓ Some indicators used: CO₂ sequestered, food miles reduced, etc.

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Example 4: FRANK Water

*** business ***

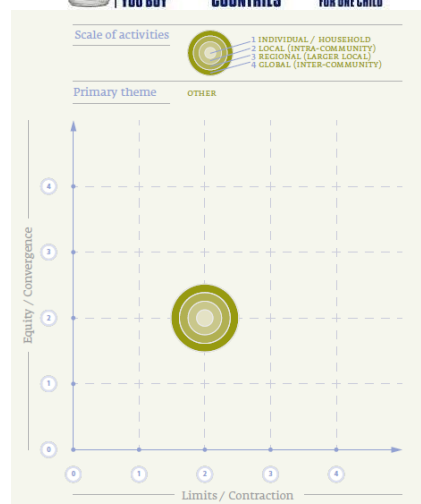
What is it about?

- ✓ UK based company and charity (2005)
- ✓ Focuses on sale of 'ethical' bottled water in the UK
- ✓ profits go to fund new clean water facilities in India
- ✓ Aware of environmental sustainability issues and phasing out sales of bottled water in favour of free-fill scheme

Contraction elements

- ✓ Bottling only local water
- ✓ Shipping and selling locally
- ✓ Restoring public drinking fountains

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Examples of contraction targets and monitoring processes

	FOWNHOPE CRAG	SCAD KITCHEN GARDENS AND FRUIT TREE AFFORESTATION
Contraction target	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract carbon footprint (aim is by 10% annually, but it is a voluntary target) In the longer run contract to sustainable per capita allowance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere
Target based on available (scientific) information about planetary resource limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, according to the CRAG movement, the sustainable per capita allowance would be 0.5 ton / capita / yr with current population levels and technology . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No
Indicator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carbon footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of trees supplied Number of trees planted Survival rate for planted trees Amount of CO₂ absorbed by planted trees
Process used to measure progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual carbon footprint calculation using Fownhope CRAG's own calculator developed based on the general CRAG calculator . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual calculation and monitoring of indicators
Do they use other indicators?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, related mostly to specific projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, various types
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of trees planted in 350 trees project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of seed packets distributed Amount of vegetables harvested Min. 300 grams of vegetable and 85g fruit intake for a minimum period of 6 months 25% reduction in malnourishment in target villages in the next 5 years

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How could this mapping system/tool be used?

- ▶ In sustainability evaluation and reporting
- ▶ Development of organizations and mapping development
(*there is a guidebook available for this*)
- ▶ 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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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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

Project website: www.convergeproject.org

Contact email:

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