

# A WORLD OF FLOWS, WOES & FOES MIGRATION, CAPITALISM AND CLIMATE BREAKDOWN

Prof John Barry  
Co-director, Centre for Sustainability, Equality and Climate Action  
Queen's University Belfast  
[j.barry@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.barry@qub.ac.uk)  
[@ProfJohnBarry](https://twitter.com/ProfJohnBarry)

# LIFE-THREATENING HEAT WAVE



# 33 MILLION

## This Isn't a Heatwave — It's a Dying Planet

Our Civilisation is Boiling Alive in the Fumes of its Own Waste



umair haque

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# From 'climate change' to 'climate breakdown'



George Monbiot ✓  
@GeorgeMonbiot

Calling this climate change is like calling an invading army "unexpected visitors" - it is an absurdly passive description of an existential threat.  
I call it [#climatebreakdown](#)

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What are the advantages and disadvantages of this framing?

Opinion  
Environment

The Earth is in a death spiral. It will take radical action to save us

*George Monbiot*



@GeorgeMonbiot  
Wed 14 Nov 2018 06:00 GMT

107,646 1,698

Climate breakdown could be rapid and unpredictable. We can no longer tinker around the edges and hope minor changes will avert collapse



# 10 years to save the planet?

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### Final call to save the world from 'climate catastrophe'

By Matt McGrath  
Environment correspondent, Incheon, South Korea

8 October 2018

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Climate change: How 1.5C could change the world

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#### Features



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Moralised panic and hysteria ....or warranted 'call to action'?





*“And so, while the end-of-the-world scenario will be rife with unimaginable horrors, we believe that the pre-end period will be filled with unprecedented opportunities for profit.”*

# Beyond economic growth and capitalism...

## The Earth in 1961



# Beyond economic growth and capitalism...

## The Earth in 1921



# The Problem: Capitalist system is addicted to economic growth....and carbon

Orthodox, undifferentiated economic growth as a permanent feature of the human economy, is a primary policy goal of most governments, desired by most political parties and regarded as 'normal' and desirable by most citizens

However, there is a fundamental contradiction between continuous orthodox, undifferentiated economic growth and environmental, resource and pollution limits of the planet

And....economic growth is no longer improving people's lives in the developed world

And...economic growth manages and requires income and wealth inequality...it does not reduce inequality

And a non-growth orientated capitalism is impossible...an oxymoron





So **we have not come here to beg** the world leaders to care for our future. They have ignored us in the past and they will ignore us again.

We have come here to let them know that **change is coming whether they like it or not.**

The people will rise to the challenge.

And since our leaders are behaving like children, **we will have to take the responsibility** they should have taken long ago.

**GRETA THUNBERG**



# In/Justice and Climate Breakdown

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‘Triple injustice’

- Those who bear the worst effects contribute to the problem least;
- Those who contribute most are best placed to adapt;
- Those who contribute least enjoy least benefits;

Vulnerability cuts across nations: Poverty, ethnicity, gender and class;

The South as Sink: Solutions which displace climate problems to the global South



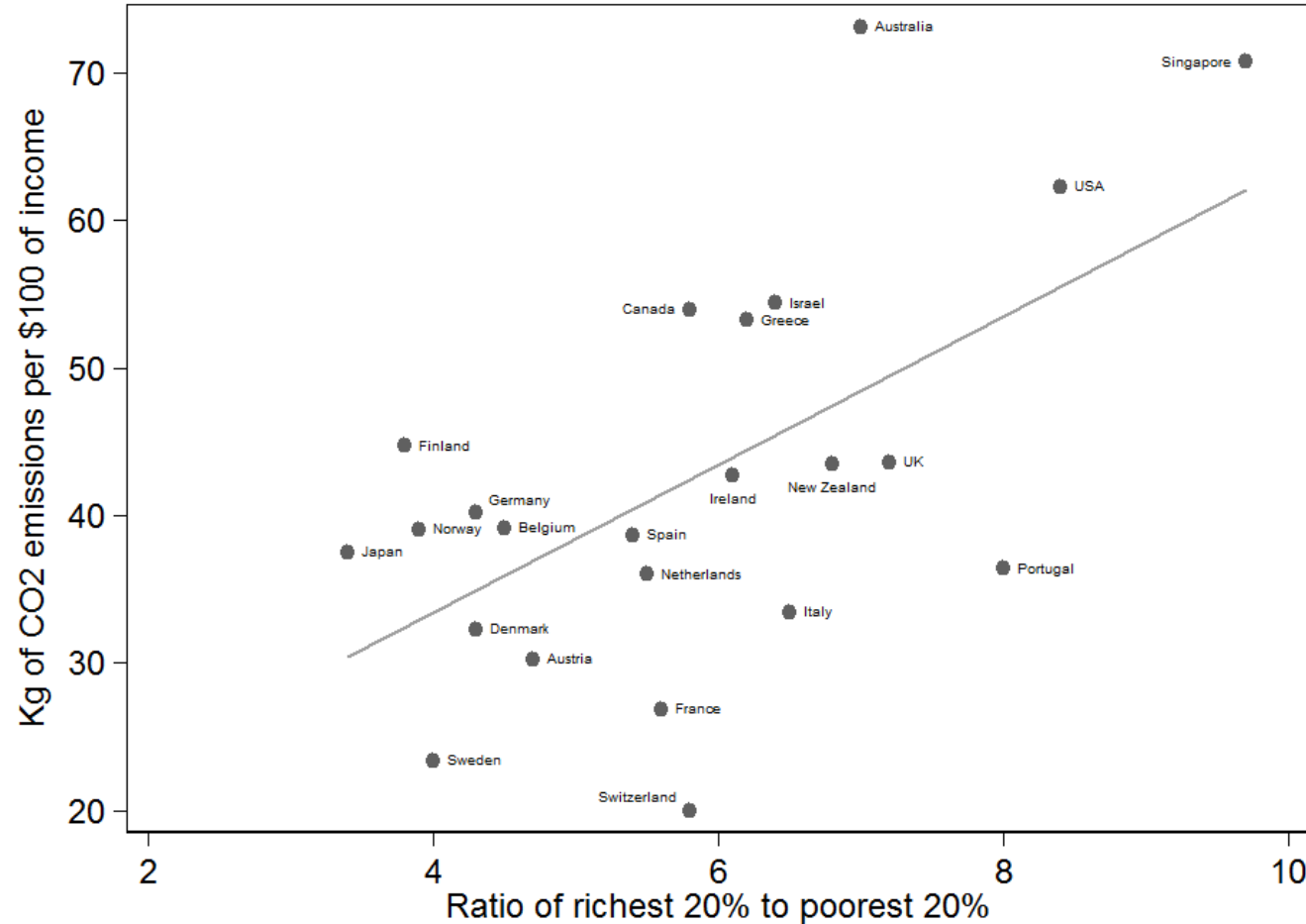


UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

<https://ejfoundation.org/what-we-do/climate/protecting-climate-refugees>



# More Unequal Countries Emit More CO<sub>2</sub>



Danny Dorling, 'Is inequality bad for the environment?'

“From buying stuff to eating meat to wasting water, there is growing evidence that countries with a bigger gap between rich and poor do more harm to the planet and its climate,”

*The Guardian* (4<sup>th</sup> July 2017).

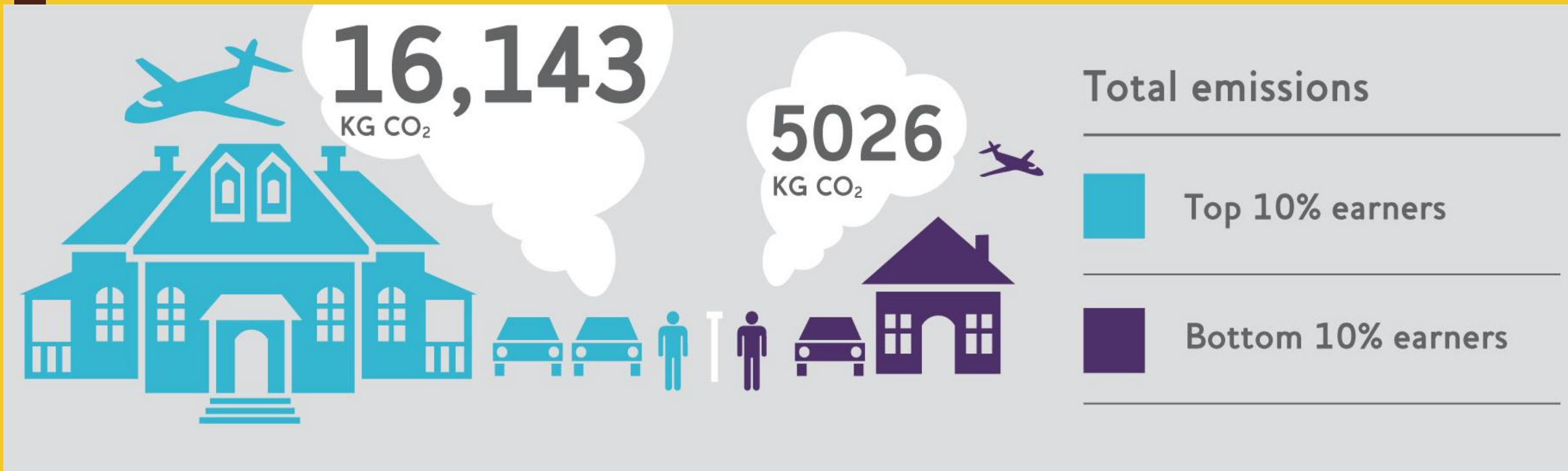
<https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2017/jul/04/is-inequality-bad-for-the-environment>

From: Wilkinson RG, Pickett KE. The impact of income inequalities on sustainable development in London. A report written on behalf of The Equality Trust, commissioned by the London Sustainable Development Commission, 2010, <http://www.londonsdc.org/lcdc/research.aspx>.



# Responsibilities for emissions

Emissions of the richest 10% of the population are over 3 times higher than those of the lowest 10%. The differences in emissions are particularly wide in relation to private transport, in particular air travel.



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**Guardian sustainable business**

This article is more than 2 years old

## Just 100 companies responsible for 71% of global emissions, study says

A relatively small number of fossil fuel producers and their investors could hold the key to tackling climate change

**Tess Riley**

@tess\_riley

Mon 10 Jul 2017 06.26 BST



52,350



510



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*Jonathan Freedland*



'Yeah but no but': how papers covered MPs to rush through Brexit



Why I worry about marrying women 40 years older



# Oil Corporations

## Unsettled Science

Knowing that weather forecasts are reliable for a few days at best, we should recognize the enormous challenge facing scientists seeking to predict climate change and its impact over the next century. In spite of everyone's desire for clear answers, it is not surprising that fundamental gaps in knowledge leave scientists unable to make reliable predictions about future changes.

A recent report from the National Research Council (NRC) raises important issues, including

Moreover, computer models relied upon by climate scientists predict that lower atmospheric temperatures will rise as fast as or faster than temperatures at the surface. However, only within the last 20 years have reliable global measurements of temperatures in the lower atmosphere been available through the use of satellite technology. These measurements show little if any warming.

Even less is known about the potential positive or negative impacts of climate change. In fact,

“EVEN LESS IS KNOWN ABOUT THE POTENTIAL POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE. IN FACT, MANY ACADEMIC STUDIES AND FIELD EXPERIMENTS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT INCREASED LEVELS OF CARBON DIOXIDE CAN PROMOTE CROP AND FOREST GROWTH.”

EXXONMOBILE, NYT, MARCH 2000



### LETTER

## Assessing ExxonMobil's climate change communications (1977–2014)

Geoffrey Supran<sup>1</sup> and Naomi Oreskes

Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138, United States of America

<sup>1</sup> Author to whom any correspondence should be addressed.

E-mail: [gjsupran@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gjsupran@fas.harvard.edu)

**Keywords:** anthropogenic global warming, climate change, ExxonMobil, disinformation, content analysis, climate communication, advertorial

Supplementary material for this article is available [online](#)

### Abstract

This paper assesses whether ExxonMobil Corporation has in the past misled the general public about climate change. We present an empirical document-by-document textual content analysis and comparison of 187 climate change communications from ExxonMobil, including peer-reviewed and non-peer-reviewed publications, internal company documents, and paid, editorial-style advertisements ('advertorials') in *The New York Times*. We examine whether these communications sent consistent messages about the state of climate science and its implications—specifically, we compare their positions on climate change as real, human-caused, serious, and solvable. In all four cases, we find that as documents become more publicly accessible, they increasingly communicate doubt. This discrepancy is most pronounced between advertorials and all other documents. For example,

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21 July 2017

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23 August 2017

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NAOMI ORESKES  
& ERIK M. CONWAY

'Anyone concerned about the state of democracy in America should read this book'  
AL GORE

## MERCHANTS OF DOUBT

HOW A HANDFUL OF SCIENTISTS  
OBSCURED THE TRUTH ON ISSUES  
FROM TOBACCO SMOKE TO  
GLOBAL WARMING

BLOOMSBURY

## Principles of Climate Justice

Climate Justice links human rights and development to achieve a human-centred approach, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable and sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change and its resolution equitably and fairly. Climate justice is informed by science, responds to science and acknowledges the need for equitable stewardship of the world's resources. In seeking through its mission to realise its vision of a world engaged in the delivery of climate justice, the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice dedicates itself to action which will be informed by the following core principles which it has elaborated.

### Respect and Protect Human Rights

The international rights framework provides a reservoir for the supply of legal imperatives with which to frame morally appropriate responses to climate change, rooted in equality and justice.

The idea of human rights point societies towards internationally agreed values around which common action can be negotiated and then acted upon. Human rights yardsticks deliver valuable minimal thresholds, legally defined, about which there is widespread consensus. The guarantee of basic rights rooted in respect for the dignity of the person which is at the core of this approach makes it an indispensable foundation for action on climate justice.

### Support the Right to Development

The vast gulf in resources between rich and poor, evident in the gap between countries in the North and South and also within many countries (both North and South) is the deepest injustice of our age. This failure of resource-fairness makes it impossible for billions of humans to lead decent lives, the sort of life-opportunities that a commitment to true equality should make an absolute essential.

Climate change both highlights and exacerbates this gulf in equality. It also provides the world with an opportunity. Climate change highlights our true interdependence and must lead to a new and respectful paradigm of sustainable development, based on the urgent need to scale up and transfer green technologies and to support low carbon climate resilient strategies for the poorest so that they become part of the combined effort in mitigation and adaptation.



## Principles of Climate Justice

<https://www.mrfcj.org/pdf/Principles-of-Climate-Justice.pdf>



## PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT

Article 8.1 Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing **loss and damage** associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.

Yet, in the *Decisions to Give Effect to the Treaty*:

52. Agrees that Article 8 of the Agreement does not involve or provide a basis for any liability or compensation;

2007, the Inuit lodged a claim with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in which they say the impacts of global warming caused by “acts and omissions of the US”, has violated their fundamental human rights.

Loss of ice equates to loss of habitat, means of subsistence, culture.

Violation of humans rights and climate injustice

Key issues

Who or what is responsible – establishing causality and who or what should pay compensation to whom?

# The International Legal Order, vulnerability and protections

Within the context of many migration movements, a diverse group of people move together, and often share the same risks of systematic and significant human rights violations.

Many people on the move today fall outside established legal categories (or fall in and out of categories), but are nonetheless in need of specific protection interventions.

People compelled to move in large-scale, irregular and precarious movements are particularly at risk of harm.

# Global

World population

About 98% of gr

In next 30 years

Internal Displace

“Since 2008, an  
homes by disast  
being displaced

<http://www.internal-displaced-by-dis>

**65.3  
million**

People are  
displaced and  
seeking refuge  
worldwide.

**24**  
people  
every  
minute

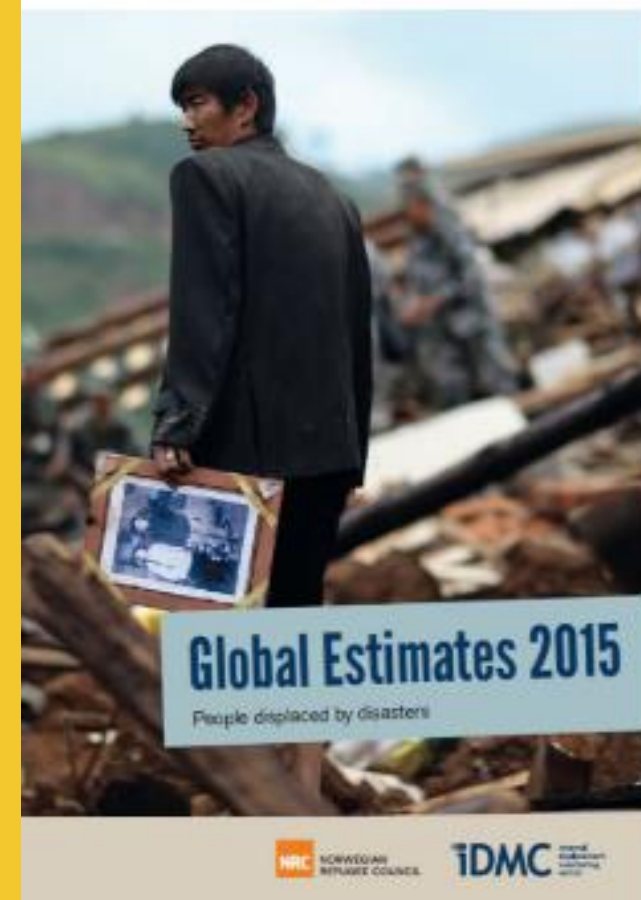
are forced  
to flee  
their home.

**3.7  
million**

People are  
considered  
stateless  
worldwide.

**86%**

of the world  
refugees are  
hosted in the  
Global South.

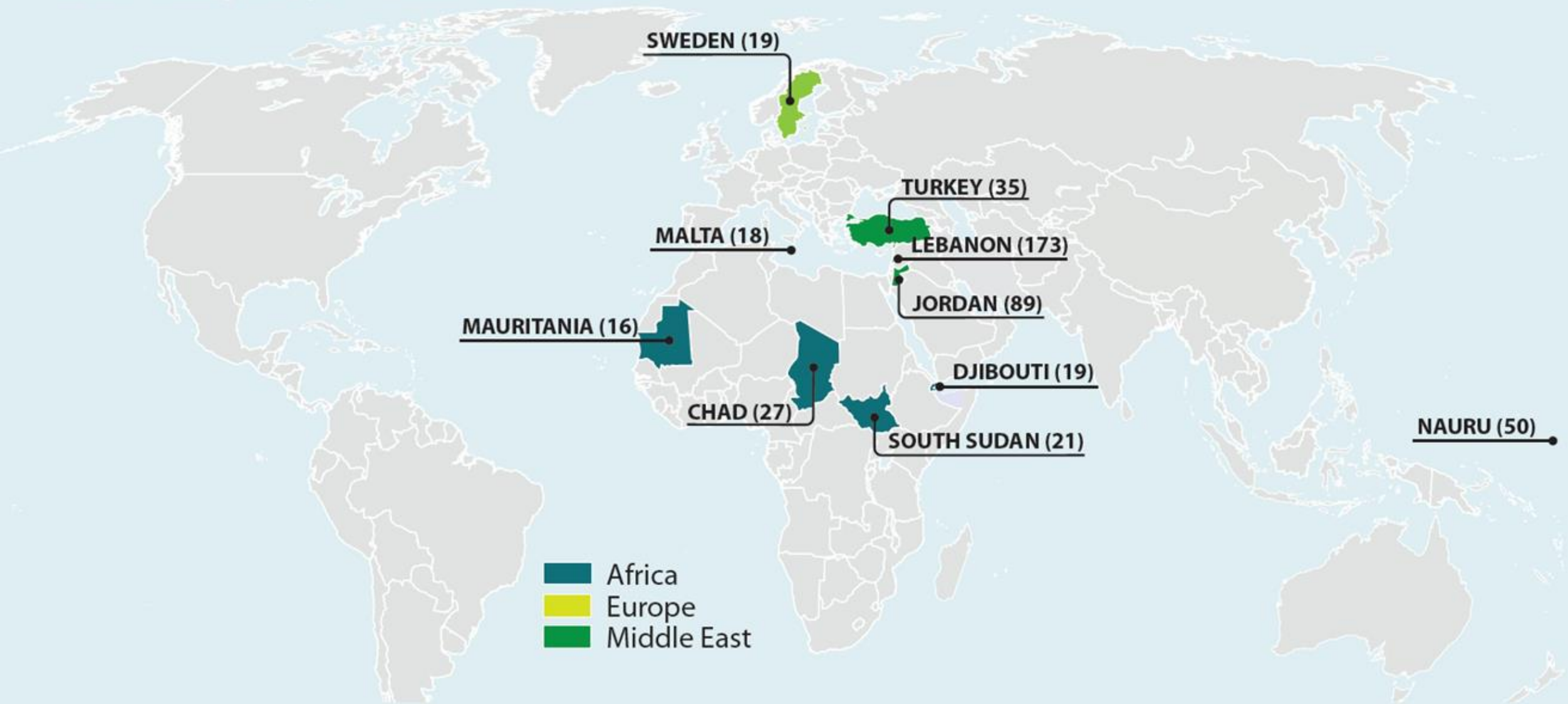


estimates report,

en displaced from their  
ent to one person

tes-2015-people-

## Most Refugees per 1,000 Inhabitants





# What's in a name? Migrant or Refugee?

“In these precarious flows, movement is rarely ‘voluntary’ in the true sense of that term. Refugees fleeing persecution and conflict journey together with migrants fleeing poverty, discrimination and despair.

They are not two different kinds of people; ‘deserving’ and ‘undeserving’. They are all human beings.”

High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein

Presumption of all those moving are ‘refugees’ until established otherwise?

# What's in a name?

In the absence of a universal, legal definition of an international migrant:

“Any person who is outside a State of which he or she is a citizen or national (temporarily or permanently, regularly or irregularly)”

*OHCHR Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders, 2014*

Problem with seeking asylum and protection as a climate refugee is that the *1951 Refugee Convention* requires proving you are threatened with persecution on grounds of race, religion, nationality or by membership of a political or religious group.

Issues of intersectional injustice – race, gender, sexuality, age etc.

# Case Study – Syrian refugee crisis and climate breakdown

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Environment Climate change Wildlife Energy Pollution

Climate Consensus - the 97%

Climate change

## Study finds that global warming exacerbates refugee crises

Higher temperatures increase the number of people seeking asylum in the EU

John Abraham

Mon 15 Jan 2018 11:00 GMT

992 120



▲ Farmers ride in their tractor in the drought-hit region of Hasaka in northeastern Syria on June 17, 2010. Photograph: Louai Beshara/AFP/Getty Images

The refugee crisis - particularly in the Mediterranean area - has received large amounts of new attention in the past few years, with people fleeing from Syria and entering the European Union emblematic of the problem. There has been some research connecting this refugee problem with changes to the climate. In particular, the years preceding the Syrian refugee crisis were characterized by a severe drought that reduced farm output and led to economic and social strife there.

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# Case study – New Zealand ‘climate refugee visa’ proposal - I



## New Zealand considers creating visas for climate change refugees

Words by  
Gavin Haines

January 9, 2018  
Environment  
Society

**A**s climate change forces people from their homes, New Zealand is pondering the creation of a visa for climate ‘refugees’ from Pacific islands

Plans are being drawn up by the government in New Zealand to create a new visa for climate change refugees. If implemented, it would be a world-first.

James Shaw – the Green party leader made climate change minister in the new Labour-led coalition government – said it was considering introducing “an experimental humanitarian visa category” for Pacific Ocean islanders who find themselves displaced by rising sea levels.

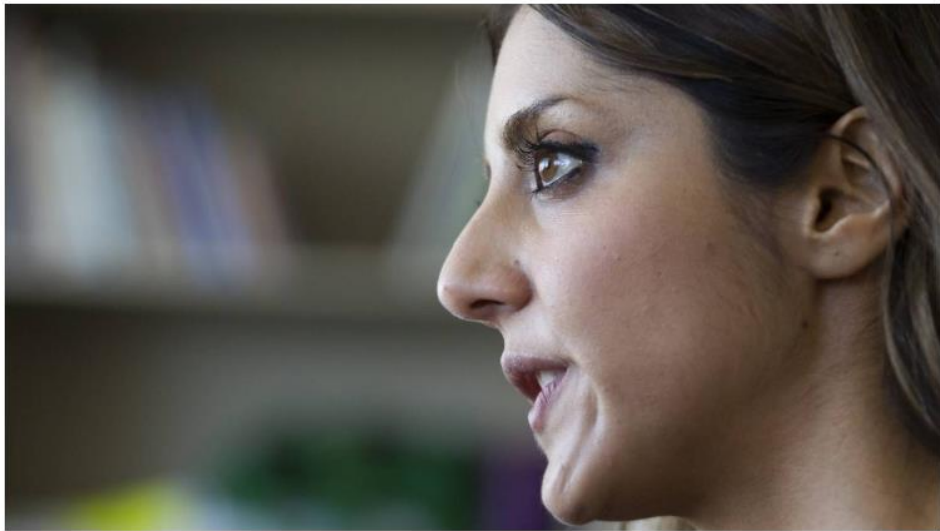
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The Green Party announcement came after the New Zealand immigration and protection tribunal rejected two families from Tuvalu who applied to become refugees in New Zealand due to the impact of climate breakdown.



# Case study – New Zealand ‘climate refugee visa’ proposal - II



ROSS GIBLIN/STUFF

Green Party immigration spokesperson Golriz Ghahraman said the proposal remained Green Party policy, but required a different approach than initially considered.

Green Party immigration spokesperson Golriz Ghahraman said it was still party policy, but research on the ground showed a visa was likely unsuitable to address climate migration.

Among issues to consider were self-determination for Pacific communities, which warranted a collective solution rather than an individualised visa approach.

"The climate migration issue looks like it's much broader than us coming up with a visa ... Tuvaluans want to continue to be Tuvaluans.

## Humanitarian visa proposed for climate change refugees dead in the water

Thomas Manch • 18:29, Aug 29 2018



FIONA GOODALL/GETTY

Children jump off a shipwreck into a lagoon in Funafuti, Tuvalu. The small South Pacific island nation of Tuvalu is striving to mitigate the effects of climate change: rising sea levels of 5mm per year since 1993, well above the global average, are damaging vital crops and causing flooding in the low lying nation at high tides. (file photo)

# UNHCR, THE ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

UPDATED VERSION, October 2015

## 1. WHY IS CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER DISPLACEMENT A CONCERN TO UNHCR

UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres has staunchly and consistently advocated for States to take the issue of climate change seriously and expressed his view that this is a mega-trend that will compound others, such as food and water insecurity and competition over resources. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has observed that climate change will, in combination with other factors, drive more displacement in future. States have begun exploring the legal gap regarding people who might cross borders as a result, but who would not be covered by the 1951 Refugee Convention.

### 1.1 CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTERS AS DRIVERS OF DISPLACEMENT AND CONFLICTS

The IPCC gathers thousands of scientists from all over the world and provides a clear and up to date view of the current state of scientific knowledge relevant to climate change. For the first time, in its fifth assessment report in 2014, IPCC Working Group II, which considers the vulnerability and exposure of human and natural systems, explicitly recognized that "Climate change over the 21st Century is projected to increase displacement of people" and "can indirectly increase risks of violent conflicts in the form of civil war and inter-group violence by amplifying well-documented drivers of these conflicts such as poverty and economic shocks".<sup>1</sup>

#### Impacts of Climate Change on Displacement

- Major extreme weather events have in the past led to significant population displacement, and changes in the incidence of extreme events will amplify the challenges and risks of such displacement.
- Many vulnerable groups do not have the resources to be able to migrate to avoid the impacts of climate change.
- Migrants themselves may be vulnerable to climate change impacts in destination areas, particularly in urban centers in developing countries.
- An increasing incidence and changing intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change will lead directly to the risk of increased levels of displacement.

#### Climate Change and Armed Conflict

- Some of the factors that increase the risk of violent conflict within states are sensitive to climate change (e.g. low per capita incomes, economic contraction, and inconsistent state institutions).
- Poorly designed adaptation and mitigation strategies can increase the risk of violent conflict.
- People living in places affected by violent conflict are particularly vulnerable to climate change.
- Conflict strongly influences vulnerability to climate change impacts.

<http://www.unhcr.org/540854f49.pdf>

Rather than calling for a new binding international convention on cross-border disaster-displacement, UNHCR supports an approach that focuses on the integration of effective practices by States and (sub-) regional organizations into their own normative frameworks and practices in accordance with their specific situations and challenges.





"Many climate displaced people, and others, will experience a form of forced migration, but they will not meet the established definition of a refugee. They will be migrants. We must resist attempts to classify all forced migration as a matter for the refugee compact. Instead we must ensure that we protect the rights of climate displaced people. "

Mary Robinson, President Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice, Informal dialogue for stakeholders, Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, New York 15 March 2018



From....

Fiat justitia  
ruat caelum



Let justice  
be done

THOUGH THE

HEAVENS  
FALL

William Watson, 1601 AD

To...

Climate Justice is  
needed because  
the heavens are  
falling?

# The Great Replacement



and anti-(climate)  
rope

But sometimes linked to  
acceptance of reality and  
severity of the climate  
crisis

Climate crisis now  
integrated into eco-fascist  
thinking such as the 'Great  
Replacement'

# What Is Eco-Fascism, the Ideology Behind Attacks in El Paso and Christchurch?

Fears of climate change, immigration, and overpopulation are driving a new wave of violence.

BY LUKE DARBY

August 7, 2019

The El Paso shooter named his manifesto "An Inconvenient Truth," presumably after Al Gore's 2006 climate change documentary. "The decimation of the environment is creating a massive burden for future generations. Corporations are heading the destruction of our environment by shamelessly overharvesting resources," he wrote. "If we can get rid of enough people, then our way of life can be more sustainable." He also blamed America's consumer culture for environmental damage:

The hardening of borders as 'climate policy:

France's borderline fascist National Assembly party

Hungary's president, Viktor Orban, is calling for aggressive climate change action specifically to stop migration.



# ‘Migration with dignity’

Adapting to climate impacts – migration with dignity – i.e. not disorderly, irregular movement of peoples

Adapting and mitigating climate breakdown – ‘just energy transition’ (later seminar)

Link between the ‘just transition’ discourse of ensuring workers and communities affected by the retiring of the carbon energy system are not disproportionately disadvantaged – they can ‘migrate with dignity’ to other jobs for example – and policies and proposals for climate displaced peoples to move elsewhere without the negative experience of being ‘climate refugees’ – i.e. being agents not ‘victims’

And in both cases without violation of fundamental human rights or bearing an unfair burden of the costs of adaptation nor mitigation to climate breakdown

## CULTURE

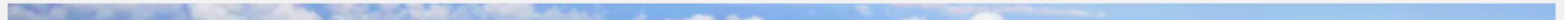
# Kiribati Prepares for 'Migration With Dignity' to Confront the Ravages of Climate Change

BY KAYLA WALSH ON 15/07/2017 • [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

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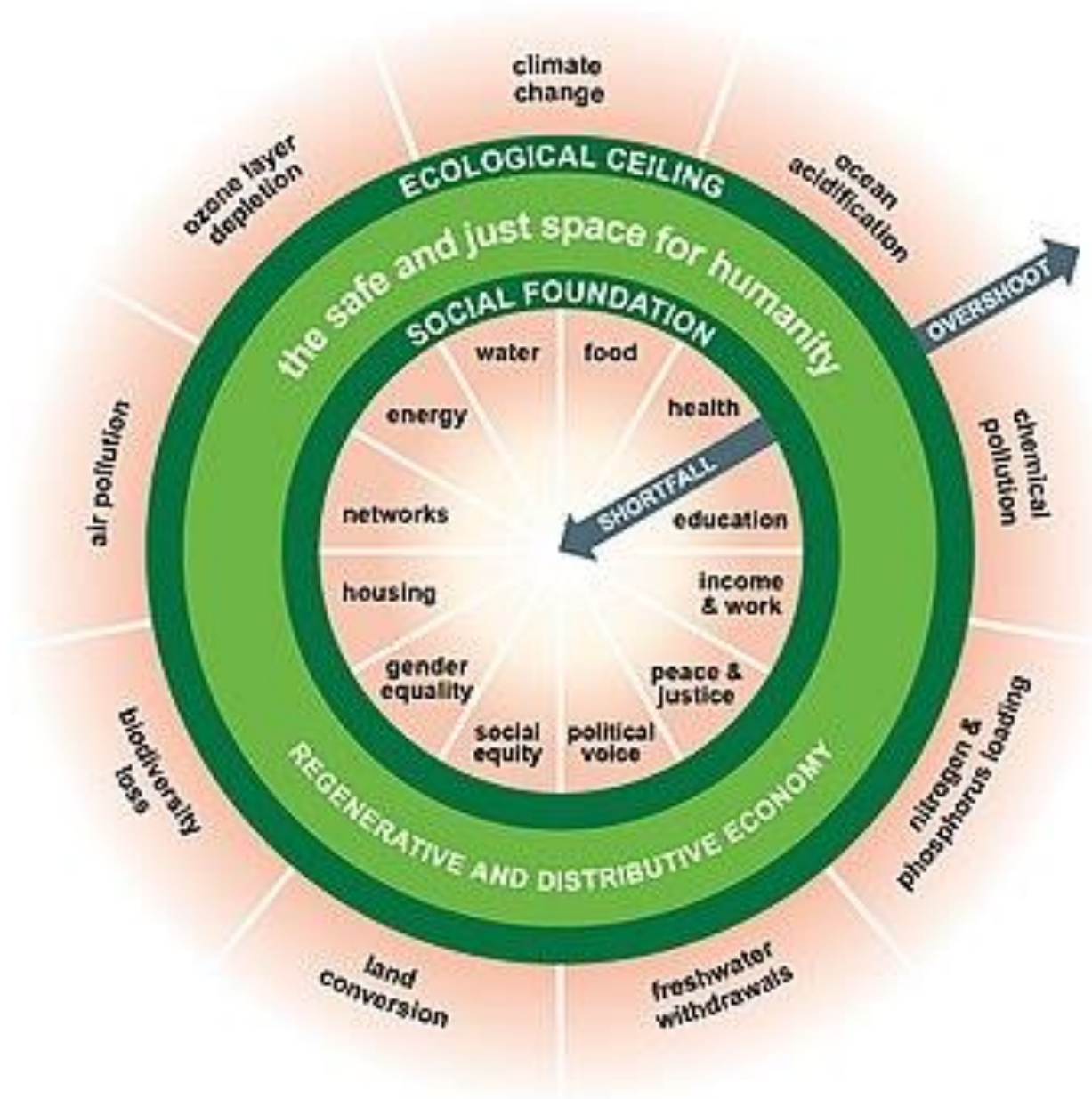
The Republic of Kiribati is experiencing *baki-aba*, or 'land hunger', as its population grows and atolls shrink.



WE ARE NOT DROWNING  
WE ARE FIGHTING!!







‘A Safe and Just Operating Space for Humanity’

Kate Raworth

A sustainable future as one beyond carbon, climate resilient and beyond capitalism