

# **Kokonaisuuksia vai/ja niiden osia**

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# Tekniset ratkaisut – systeemiset muutokset

ympäristötietoisuuden  
vahvistuminen

vesiensuojelun  
vuosikymmen

vesiensuojelusta  
ympäristönsuojeluun

monitieteistä  
ympäristötietoa

ympäristönsuojelun  
globalisoituminen

1970

vesihallitus

1983

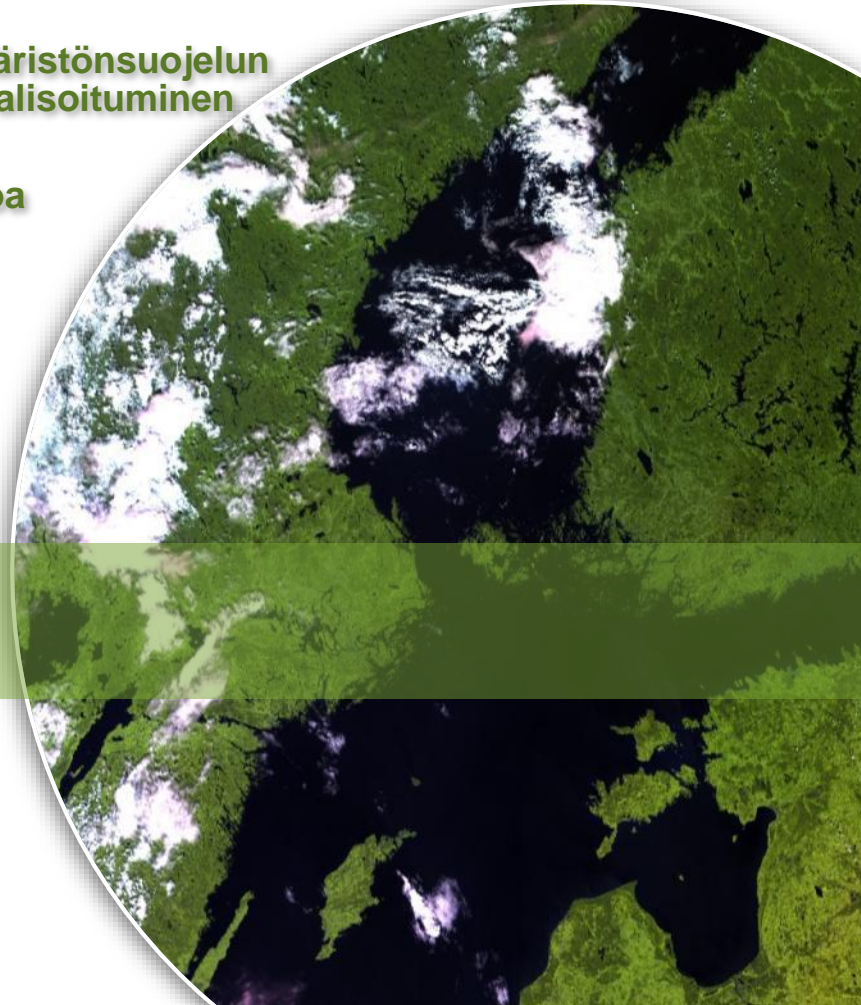
ympäristö-  
ministeriö

1986

vesi- ja  
ympäristöhallitus

1995

SYKE



# FEATURE

## A safe operating space for humanity

Identifying and quantifying planetary boundaries that must not be transgressed could help prevent human activities from causing unacceptable environmental change, argue **Johan Rockström** and colleagues.

Although Earth has undergone many periods of significant environmental change, the planet's environment has been unusually stable for the past 10,000 years<sup>1,2</sup>. This period of stability—known to geologists as the Holocene—has seen human civilizations arise, develop and thrive. Such stability may now be under threat. Since the Industrial Revolution, a new era has arisen, the Anthropocene, in which human activities have become the main driver of global environmental change<sup>3</sup>. This could see human activities push the Earth system outside the stable environmental state of the Holocene, with consequences that are detrimental or even catastrophic for large parts of the world.

During the Holocene, environmental changes occurred naturally and Earth's regulatory capacity maintained the conditions that enabled human development. Regular temperatures, freshwater availability and biogeochemical flows all stayed within a relatively narrow range. Now largely because of a rapidly growing reliance on fossil fuels and



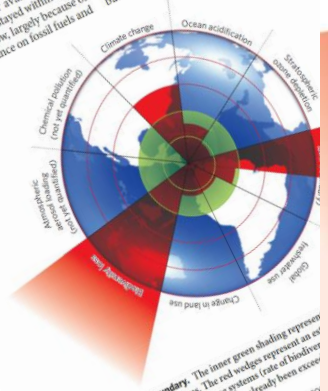
### SUMMARY

- New approach proposed for defining preconditions for development
- Crossing certain biophysical thresholds could have dire consequences for humanity
- Three of nine interlinked planetary boundaries have been overstepped

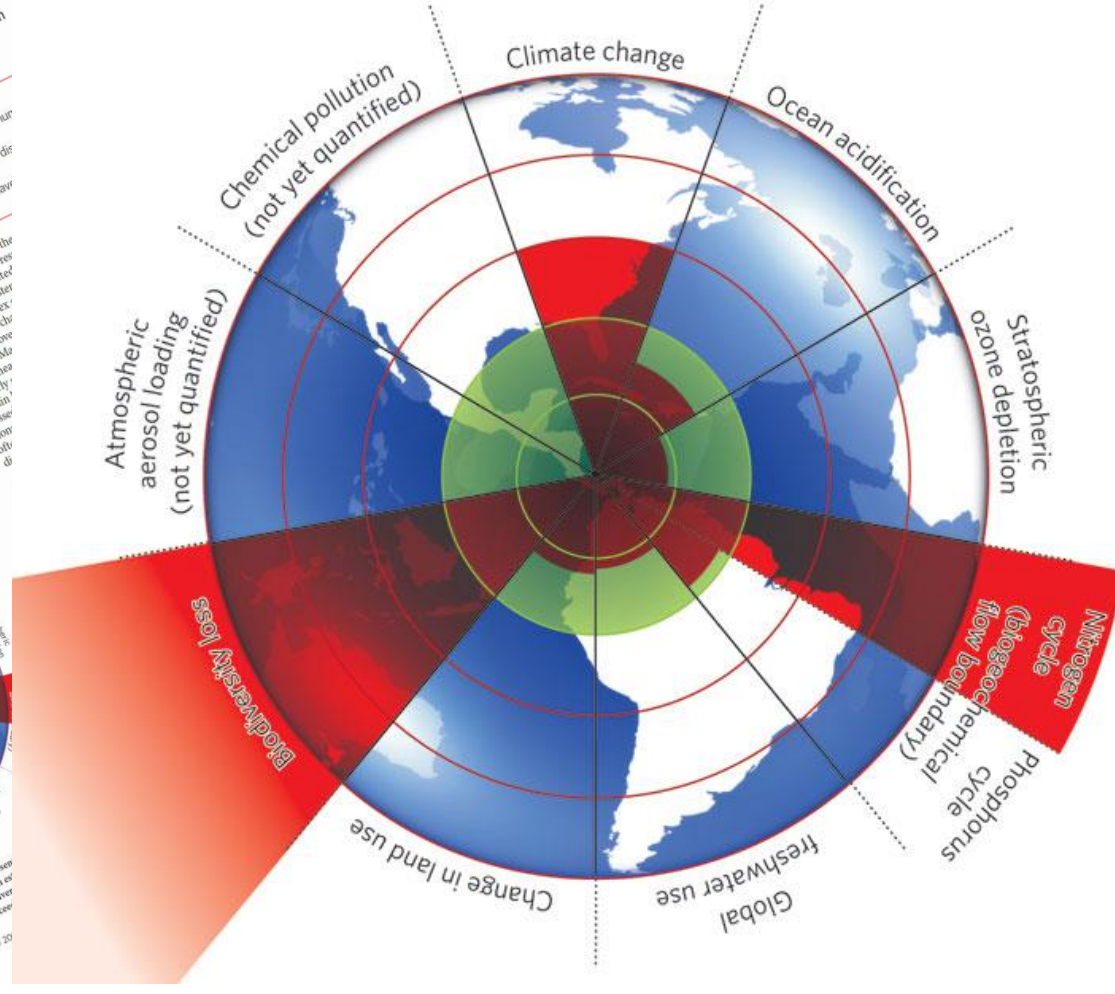
industrialized forms of agriculture, human activities have reached a level that could tamper with the systems that keep Earth in the desirable Holocene state. The result could be irreversible and, in some cases, abrupt environmental change, leading to a state less conducive to human development<sup>4</sup>. Without pressure from humans, the Holocene is expected to continue for at least several thousands of years.

### Planetary boundaries

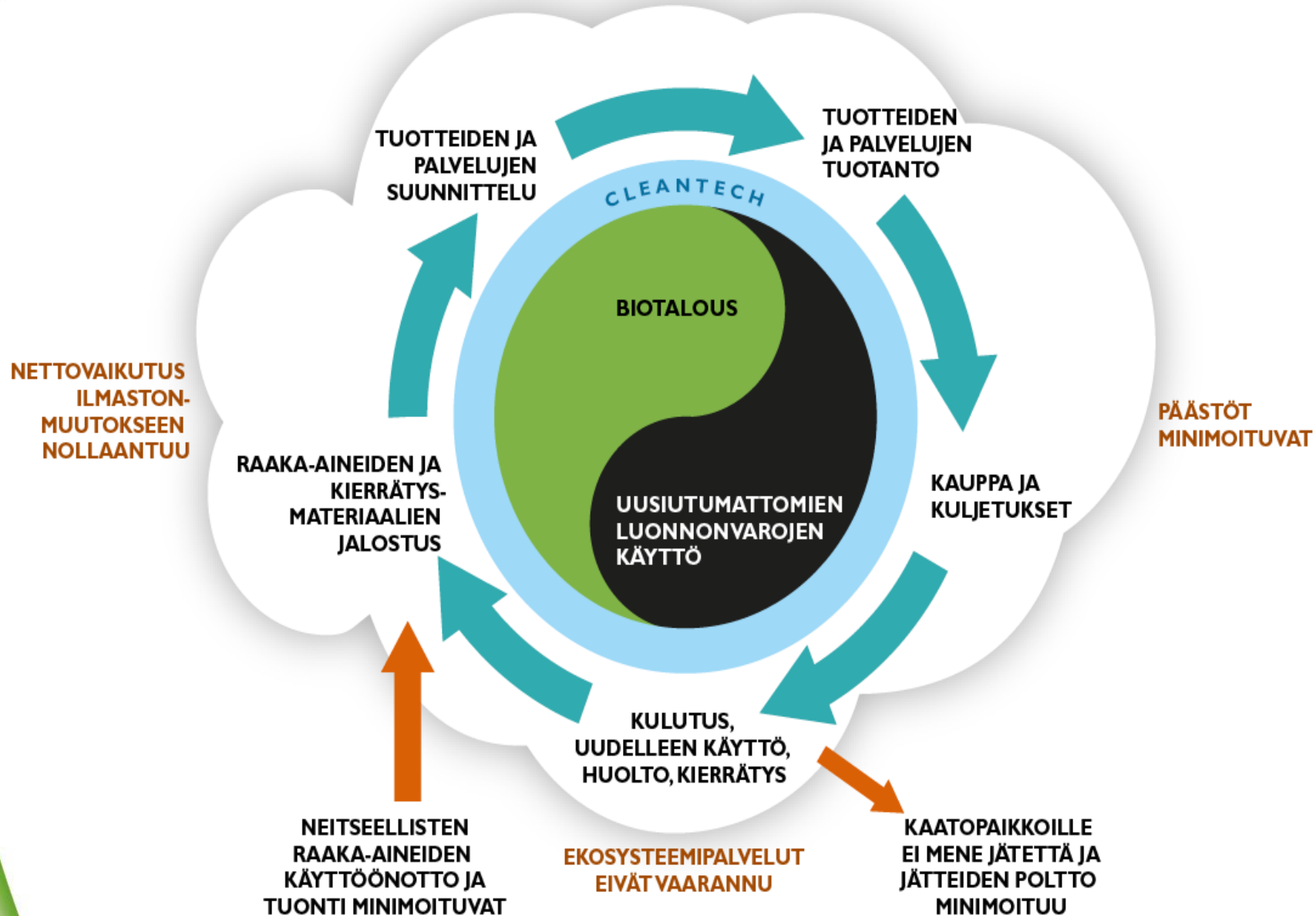
To meet the challenge of maintaining the Holocene state, we propose a framework based on planetary boundaries. These boundaries define the range of variability for humanity with respect to the Earth system and are associated with physical complex Earth systems. This will prove difficult to do smoothly to diversify the rate. More certain, however, is that some of these boundaries have already been exceeded.



**Figure 1 | Beyond the boundary.** The inner green shading represents safe operating space for nine planetary systems. The red wedges represent an exceedance of each variable. The boundaries in these systems have already been exceeded. Interference with the nitrogen cycle<sup>5</sup> has already been exceeded.



# HIILINEUTRAALI KIERTOTALOUS



**Lämpimät kiitokset rautaisten osaajien kasvattamisesta ja erinomaisesta yhteistyöstä!**