

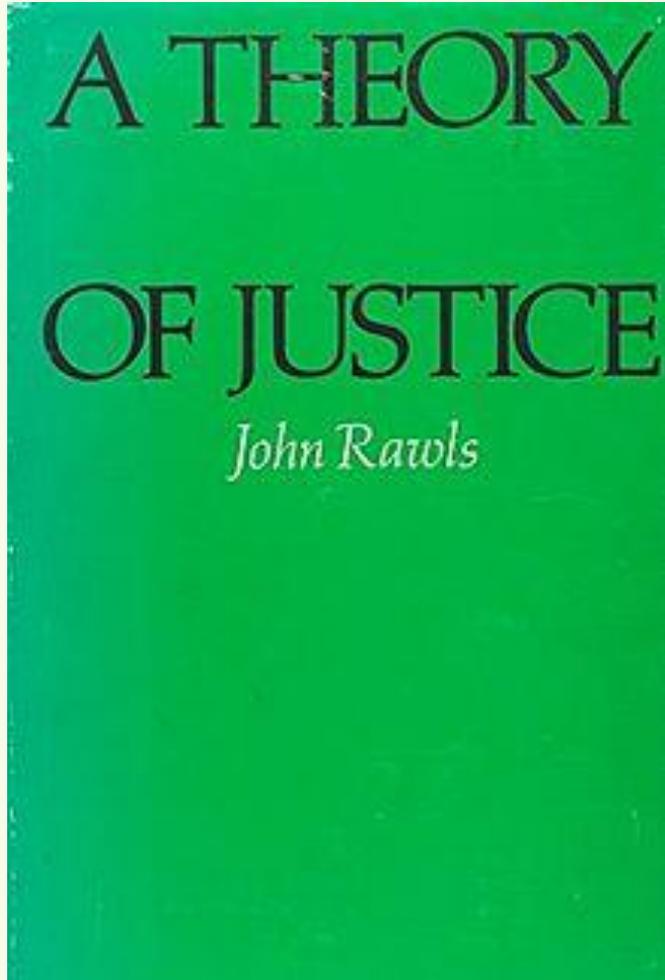
# Faith Based Organisations and Environmental Justice

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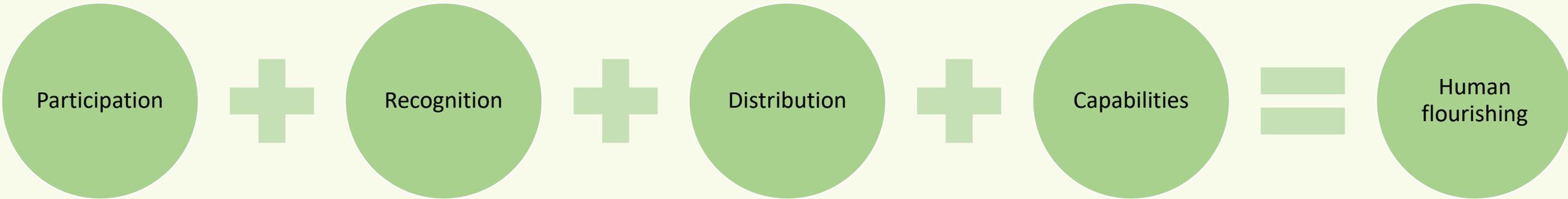
# Justice



“All social values- liberty and opportunity, income and wealth, and the bases for self-respect- are to be distributed equally unless an unequal distribution of any, or all, of these values is to everyone’s advantage”  
(461)

Rawls, J. (1971). *A theory of justice*.

# Justice



“in order to achieve true participation, one must have true recognition, and one must have participation in order to acquire equity; further equity makes participation more possible, and all this seeks to strengthen community capabilities to flourish”

Schlosberg, D. (2009). *Defining environmental justice: Theories, movements, and nature*. Oxford University Press.





“We’re Christians passionate about ending poverty. We work through local churches to unlock people's potential, helping them to discover that the answer to poverty is within themselves. And when disaster strikes, we respond quickly. We won't stop until poverty stops.”



THE GREATEST  
NEED

[Poor communities](#)  
[Marginalised groups](#)  
[Vulnerable adults](#)



LASTING LOCAL  
CHANGE

[The local church](#)  
[Gender and relationships](#)  
[Education](#)



GLOBAL ISSUES

[Conflict](#)  
[Disasters](#)  
[Climate change](#)

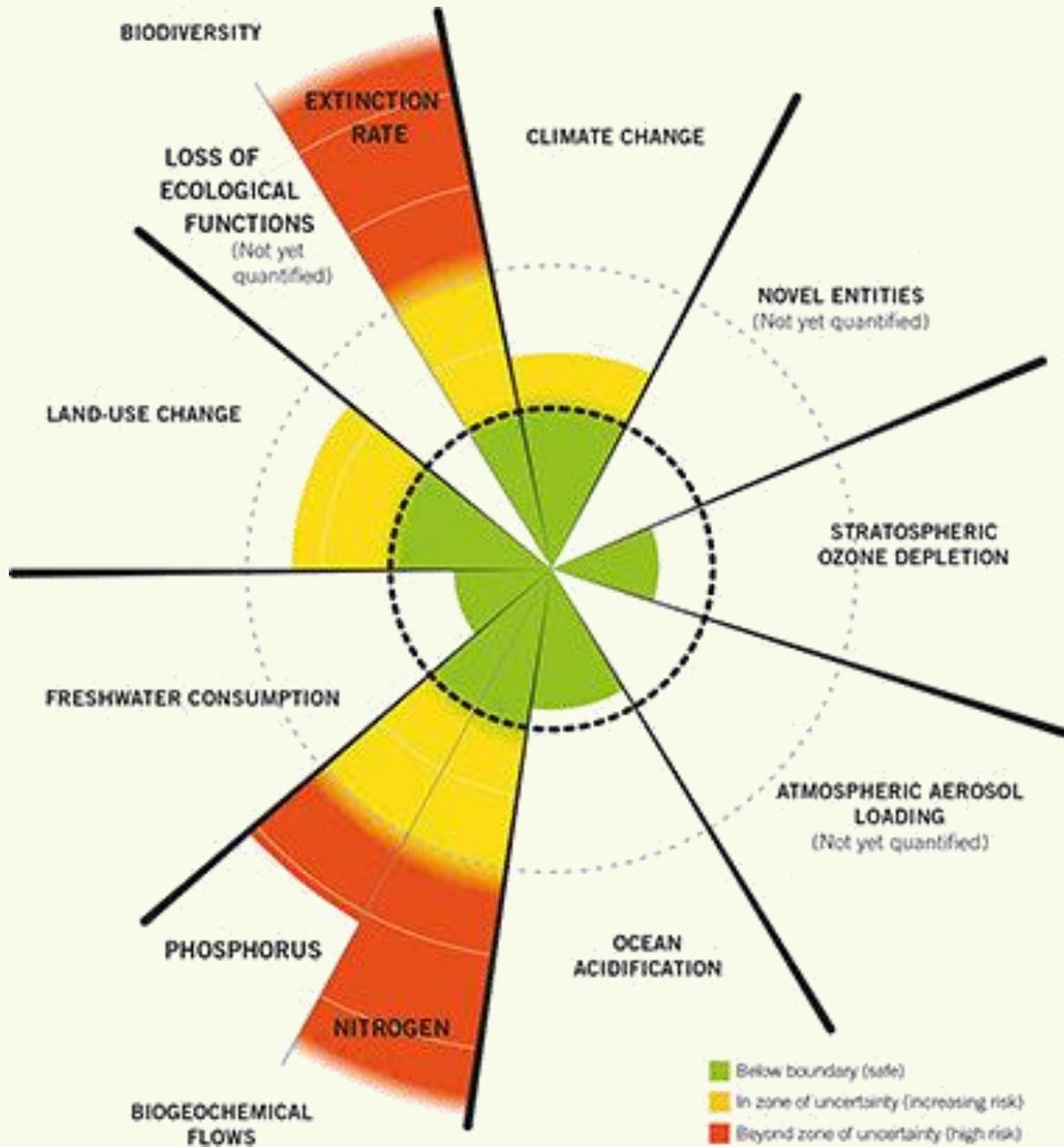


LIFE'S ESSENTIALS

[Hunger](#)  
[Clean water and toilets](#)

“I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10)

# Planetary Boundaries





“All around the world Christians pray “Give us today our daily bread” yet while we pray, a third of all food produced is never eaten. This unnecessary grow-and-throw cycle comes at a big cost for people living in poverty, making climate change worse and leading to more droughts, floods and less reliable rain. This makes it harder for people in poverty to feed themselves. Jesus shows us another way to live. Together we can break this wasteful cycle by pledging to Renew Our Food today”



# tearfund

Jesus offers another way to live



“Gather all the pieces, let nothing be wasted” (John 6:12)

# A Rocha

“A Rocha is a Christian nature conservation organization, our name coming from the Portuguese for ‘the Rock’, as the first initiative was a field study centre in Portugal. A Rocha projects are frequently cross-cultural in character, and share a community emphasis, with a focus on science and research, practical conservation and environmental education.”





A Rocha



“If humanity was not going to be harmed by environmental mismanagement, would we still care for the planet?”

# A Rocha

Psalm 19: 1 “the heavens declare the **glory of God**; the skies proclaim the work of his hands”

Genesis 1 “and God saw that it was **good**” (declared 6 times before humankind created)

Deuteronomy 10:14 “to the Lord your **God belong** the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it”

Colossians 1:16-17 “for by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or ruler or authorities: **all things were created by him and for him**”



# A Rocha



Genesis 1:26 “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and **let them rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth...”

Genesis 2:15 “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it and take care of it**”



# A Rocha



# Fieldwork Objectives

1. How do the FBOs perceive the environment?
2. How do the FBOs conceptualise justice?
3. How are these influenced by their Christian faith?
4. How does this inform their pursuit of environmental justice?
5. What impact is their work having on the local communities they work in?

# The significance of faith in addressing environmental issues



“We face a true planetary emergency. The climate crisis is not a political issue, it is a moral and spiritual challenge to all of humanity”

Al Gore

In

Kong, L. (2010). Global shifts, theoretical shifts: Changing geographies of religion. *Progress in Human Geography*, 34(6), 755-776.

# Uniqueness of faith groups to address environmental issues

- Religion as a social institution
  - International, national and local contexts
  - Widespread and interlinked
- Religion as a belief
  - Theologically inspired values and behaviours

Thanks for listening!

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