



## **GLOBAL ACTION PLAN INTERNATIONAL**

**Living SDGs:  
organs in a healthy body**

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# Living SDGs

New tools, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN, offer a compass for building healthy circular economies.

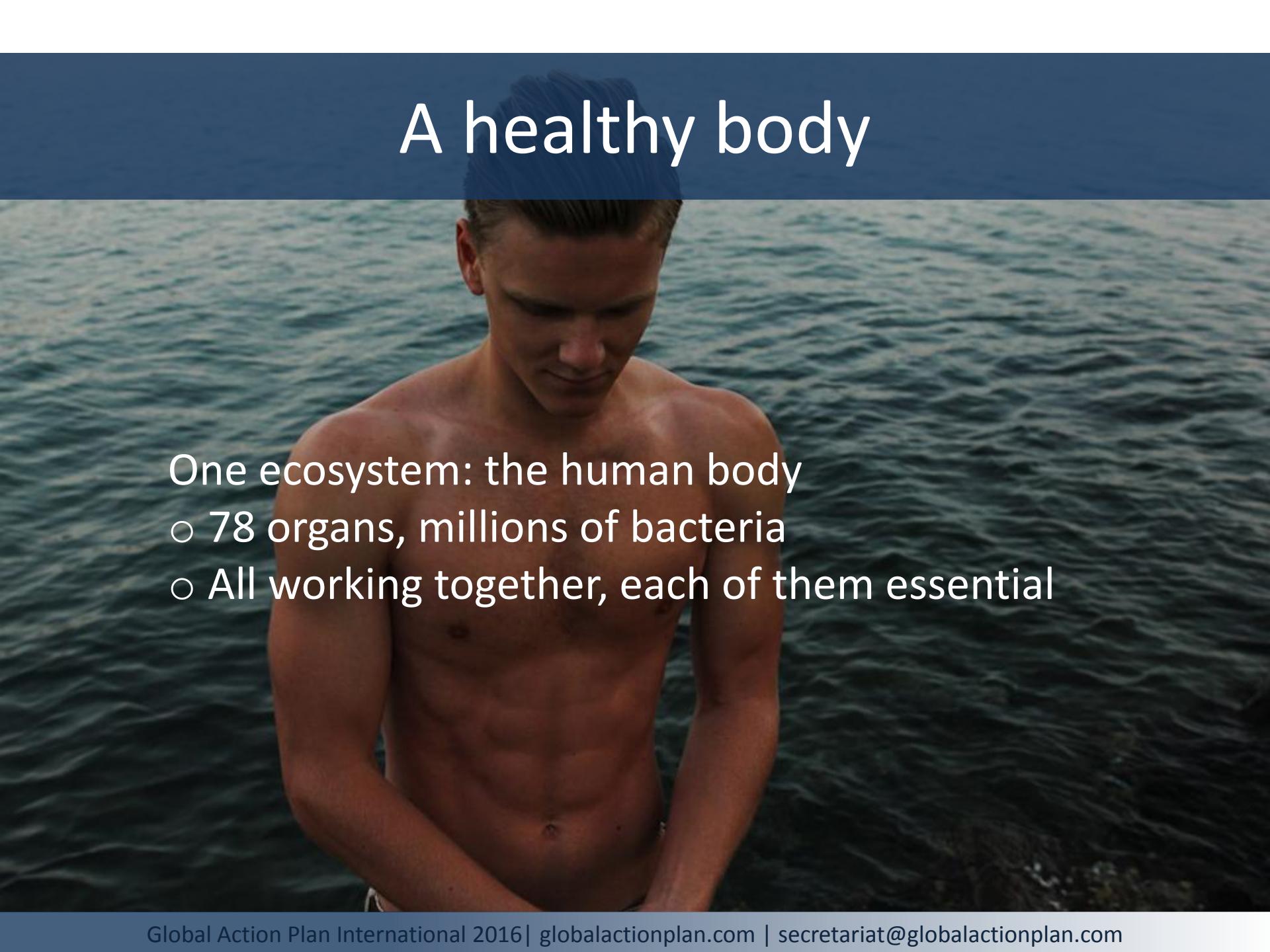
To succeed, we also need a moral compass.

# Circular economy



- There is no such thing as waste
- Living ecosystem
- Mutual benefit and mutual dependency

# A healthy body

A photograph of a shirtless man with short brown hair, standing in the ocean. He is looking down at his chest, which is slightly hairy. The background is a dark blue sea with small waves. The lighting suggests it might be late afternoon or early evening.

One ecosystem: the human body

- 78 organs, millions of bacteria
- All working together, each of them essential

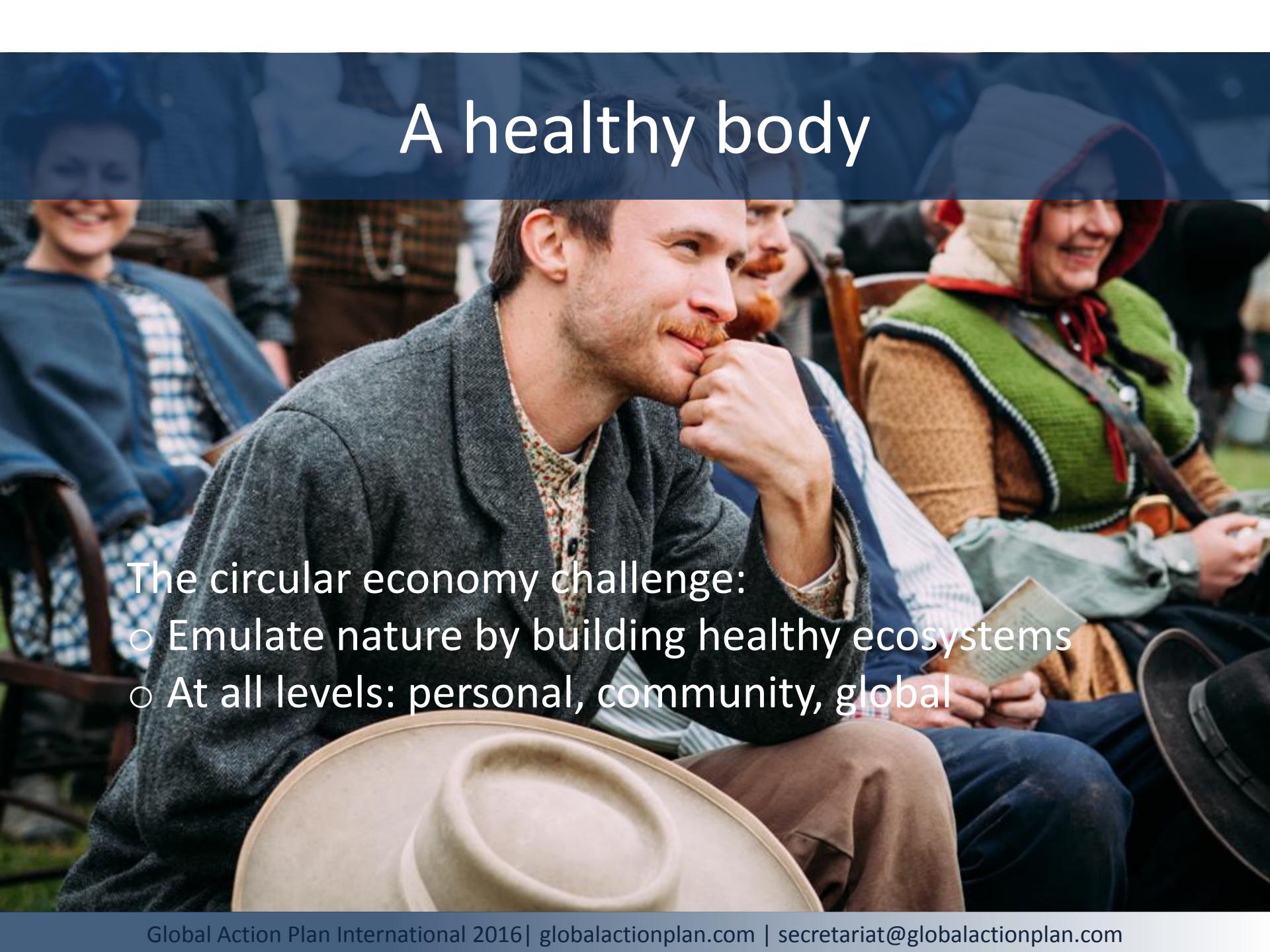
# A healthy body

A photograph of a person performing a fire-breathing act. The person is seen from the back, wearing a light-colored vest over a dark shirt. They are blowing a large, bright stream of fire from their mouth, which is directed upwards and outwards. The fire forms a bright, glowing cone against a dark background. In the background, a crowd of people is watching the performance. The scene is set at night, with some ambient light and other fire sources visible in the distance.

Today's planetary ecosystem is not healthy:

- The whole planet has a fever
- The fever is a symptom, not the disease

# A healthy body



The circular economy challenge:

- Emulate nature by building healthy ecosystems
- At all levels: personal, community, global

# New tools, old precepts

Two tools:

- The SDGs
- The Planetary Boundaries

Two precepts:

- Do as you would be done by
- Do no harm

# New tools, old precepts

A photograph of a person from behind, looking out over a body of water. The person has short, wavy brown hair and is wearing a dark-colored sweater with a light-colored, patterned Fair Isle-style design. The background shows a calm sea and a clear sky.

Do as you would be done by; do no harm

“Make sure that every development is going to produce a better life for your grandchildren.”

– Peter Thomson, President of the United Nations General Assembly

# New tools: SDGs

The SDGs  
as a checklist

13. Climate  
Change

14. Oceans &  
Seas

15. Ecosystems &  
Biodiversity

1. End Poverty

2. End Hunger

3. Healthy Lives

4. Quality Education

6. Water and Sanitation

5. Gender Equality

10. Reduce Inequality

16. Justice & Peace

17. Global Partnership

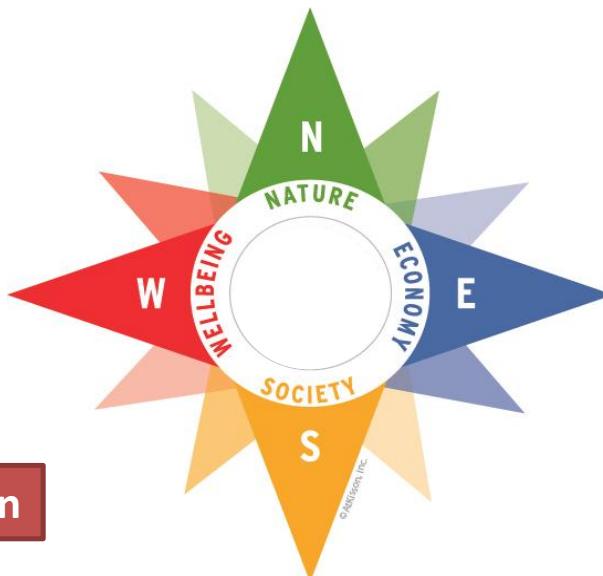
7. Energy for All

8. Inclusive Growth & Jobs

9. Industry & Innovation

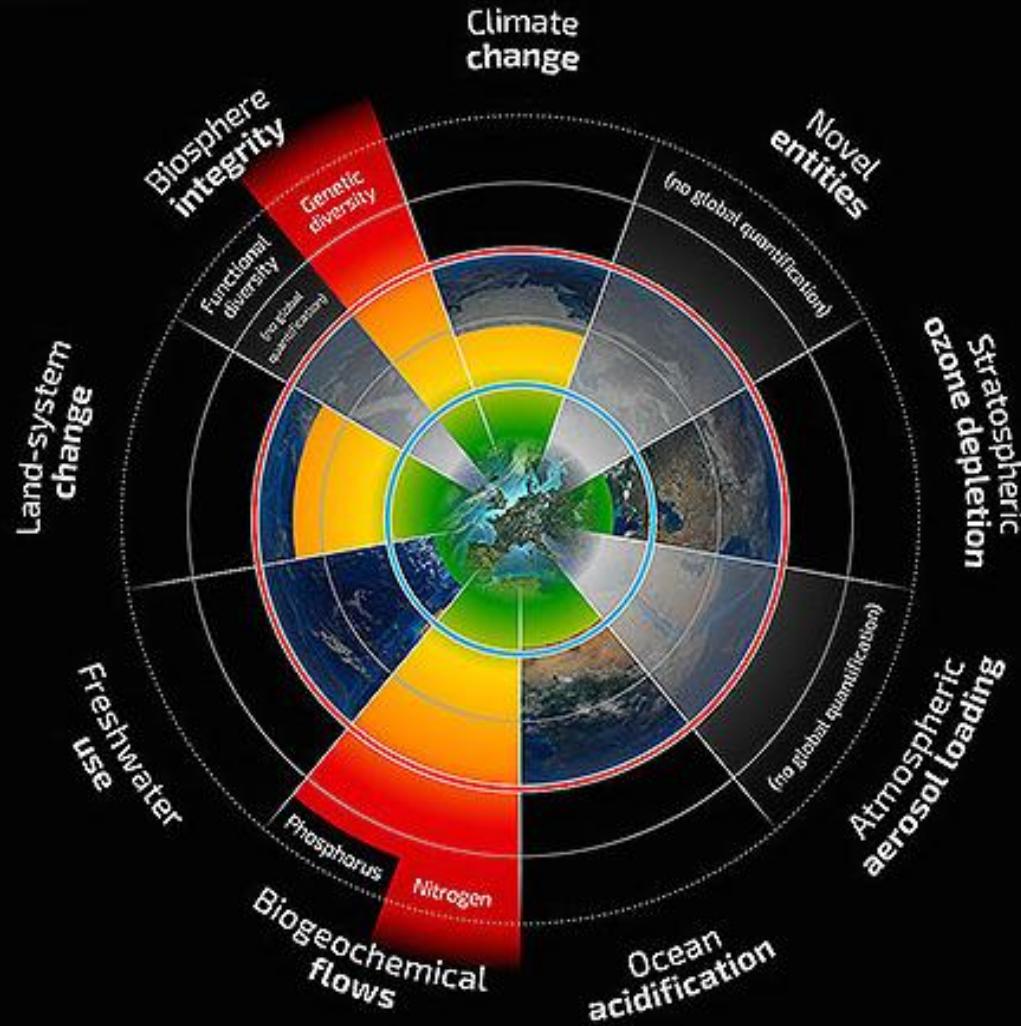
12. Consumption & Production

11. Sustainable Cities



# New tools: Planetary Boundaries

- Planetary boundaries
- Quantify how we would like, or need, to be 'done by'
- For the Northern points of the compass, Nature
- A basis for more honest and realistic EIAs



# A moral compass

- Just another Environmental Impact Assessment?
- Impossible to foresee all impacts
- A reason for not trying?
- Or a question of moral responsibility?

# Emulating natural ecosystems

- Synergy: partnerships
- Symbiosis: mutually beneficial commercial and other solutions
- Individual and organizational learning
- Innovation, experimentation – emergence



# Transformation

*As a caterpillar  
becomes a butterfly...*



A circular economy is *not* an extension of what we already know

Create a radically different social context from which a more healthy body can emerge

# Transformation

**Not talk but action.**

**No more space for procrastination, pettiness,  
or feuding.**

**Flexibility within known boundaries.**

**New learning platforms.**

# Transformation

Charting a course to circular economies carries a *moral responsibility*

- To search for symbiosis and synergy
- To respect planetary boundaries
- To embrace radical change in support of emerging new systems



*Safe transition calls for all our intelligence and integrity*



**GLOBAL ACTION PLAN  
INTERNATIONAL**

**Thank you!**

A global leader in sustainable behaviour change

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