

# Green sprouts - including sustainability in Herd Health and One Health education

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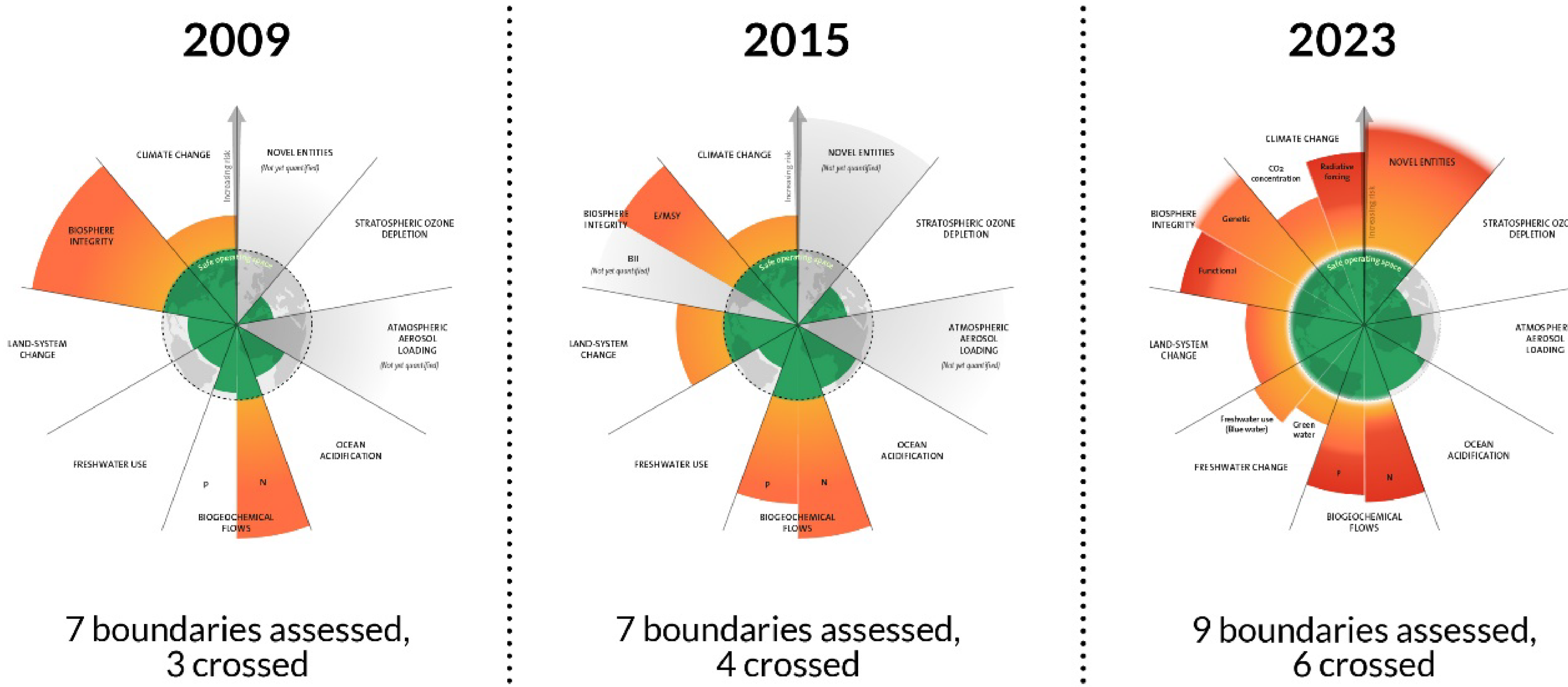


Figure 1: The evolution of the planetary boundaries framework

Credit: Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University. Based on Richardson et al. 2023, Steffen et al. 2015, and Rockström et al. 2009: <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>

## WHY?

Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science requests inclusion of knowledge and competences on green transition and sustainability in all educational programmes. University of Copenhagen has created green centers and finances cross-disciplinary educational initiatives

## HOW?

As an experiment we adapted a 4-week course on Herd Health Consultancy and Veterinary Public Health for students in their final year elective tracks into a course on sustainability for a total of 30 veterinary students in 2023-2024

The planetary boundaries (Fig. 1) and wellbeing economics (Fig. 2) frameworks were introduced to set the scene. The teaching approach was interactive with transdisciplinary project-based learning and open discussions about the current and future animal-based food production – and about the role of the veterinarian in the transitions to come

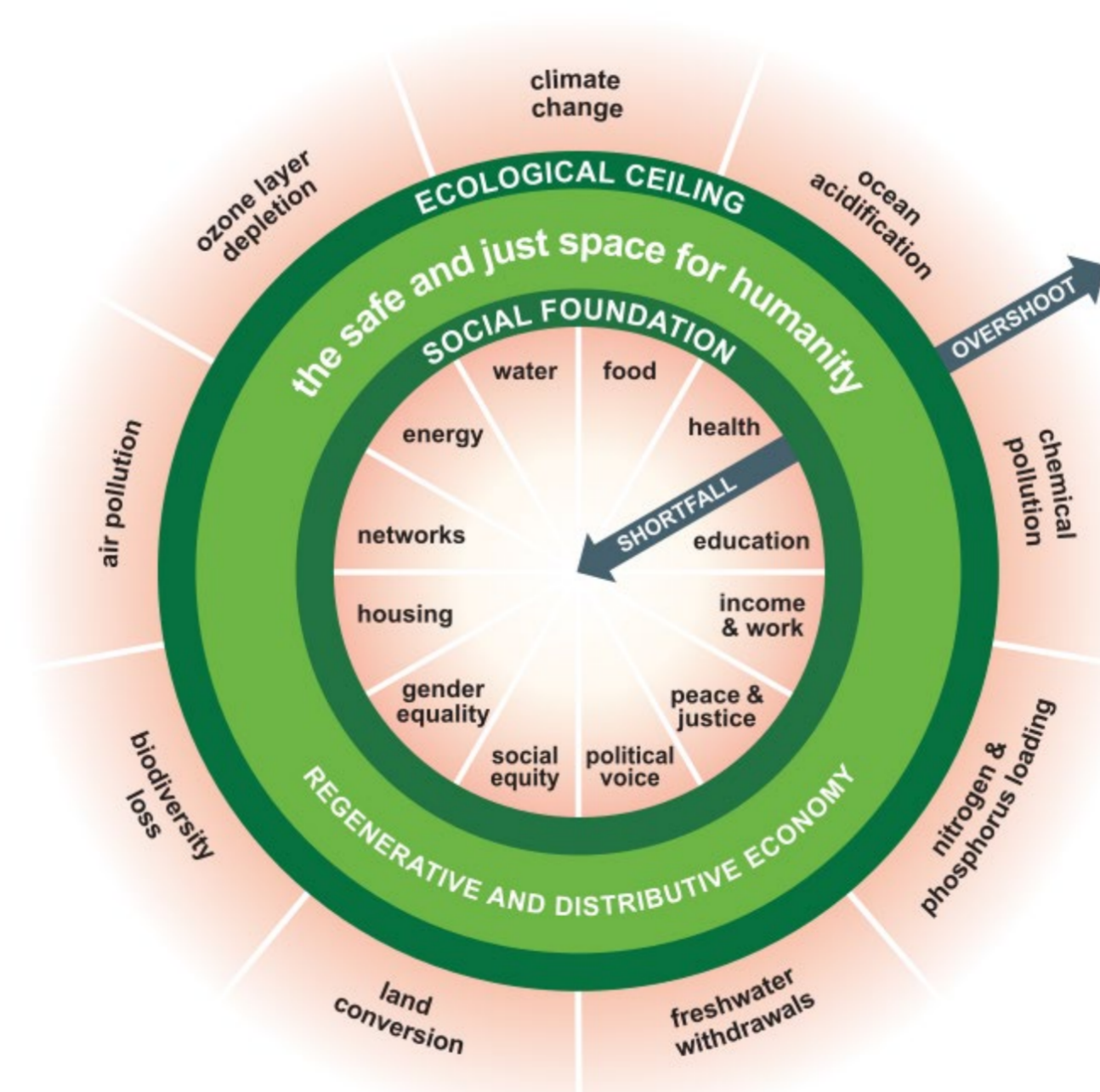


Figure 2: Wellbeing economics

## QUOTE FROM STUDENT

"I entered the course with some skepticism about sustainability. It has always been something that you have heard you have to deal with, but also that it is very intangible, as there are so many aspects".

## COURSE ELEMENTS

**Multi-disciplinary seminars**  
(e.g. anthropological, animal science, geoscience + natural resource management)

**Field visits**  
(e.g. nature conservation projects, abattoir company, farmers' organisations, alternative farms, cattle farmer congress)

**Communication**  
Group dynamics, perspectives, motivational conversations, change talk, conflicts, etc.

**Digital core competences**  
Understanding data sources and flows, practice software coding

**Project work and writing**  
Group reports and peer-feedback  
Presentations and discussion of self-selected sustainability topics, and the role of the veterinarian  
Individual self-reflection write-up

## QUOTE FROM STUDENT

"I realized that in the development of a sustainable future, we as veterinarians have an essential role in influencing and advising farmers in the transition to a more sustainable production as well as research and development in sustainability initiatives. This role will only become greater as the debate in sustainability develops."



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the full course description  
(in Danish)

