



Laudato Si'

Caring for
Our
Common
Home



**LAUDATO SI'
MOVEMENT**
Formerly Global Catholic Climate Movement

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Prayer for Unity



Gray Panthers are not extinct

Live Laudato Si

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THE END IS NEAR, EPA!

NO 2ND CHANCES

JEWISH COMMUNITY SUPPORTS ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE #CLIMATEACTION

Faiths For Climate Action #FaithsForClimateAction

NO NUCLEAR

Be part of the Solution

SAVE THE WORLD

CEART AERÁ ANOIS

Baha'i

Know that every
created thing is a
sign of the revelation
of God



Buddhism

Uproot greed, anger and delusion, not the sacred forests of the Earth.



Christian

What is the kingdom of God like? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden. It grew and became a tree and the birds of the air made their nests in its branches.



Islam

Have you not considered how Allah sets forth a parable of a good word being like a good tree whose root is firm and whose branches are in heaven?



Jewish

When God created the first human beings, God led them around all the trees of the Garden of Eden and said: “See my works how beautiful and praiseworthy they are! Think of this and do not corrupt or destroy my world, for if you do so there will be no one to put it back together.”



Sikh

Air is the Guru

Water is the father

And Earth is the Great

Mother of All



Hindu

I am the fragrance of the
Earth

the heat in the fire.

I am the Lord of all that
lives.



We join with the earth and with each other

To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air



We join with the earth and with each other

To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures

We join with the earth and with each other.

To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

**We join with the earth and
with each other.**

To recall our destiny
To renew our spirits
To reinvigorate our bodies

We join with the earth and with each other.



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TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

To recreate the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children

**We join with the earth and with
each other, as many and diverse
expressions
of one loving mystery,
for the healing of the earth
and the renewal of all life.
Amen.**



Taken from the prayer organised by FaithS For Climate Action, September 2019 Climate Strike, Dublin.



LAUDATO SI'

ON CARE FOR
OUR COMMON HOME



POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

- Released in May 2015
- ‘Laudato Si’: May You be Praised
- Rooted in St. Francis of Assisi’s spirituality)
- All believers and non-believers invited to work together for our common home.



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POPE FRANCIS



ENCYCLICAL LETTER

- Helped by world's top climate scientists, theologians, anthropologists, philosophers, sociologists
- Pope Francis encourages us to:
 - listen to the cry of the earth
 - listen to the cry of the poor
 - reflect on the roots of this crisis



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ON CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME



- **Introductory words**
- **Chapter 1:** “What is happening to our common home?”
- **Chapter 2:** “The Gospel of Creation”
- **Chapter 3:** “The Human Roots of the Ecological Crisis”
- **Chapter 4:** “Integral Ecology”
- **Chapter 5:** “Lines of Approach & Action”
- **Chapter 6:** “Ecological Education & Spirituality”

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Introductory Words

Chapter 1:

What is Happening
to Our Common Home



Laudato Si'



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Introduction to Laudato Si'



Laudato Si' is rooted in the spirituality of St. Francis:

“Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a **sister with whom we share our life, and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us...**”

(Laudato Si', 1)



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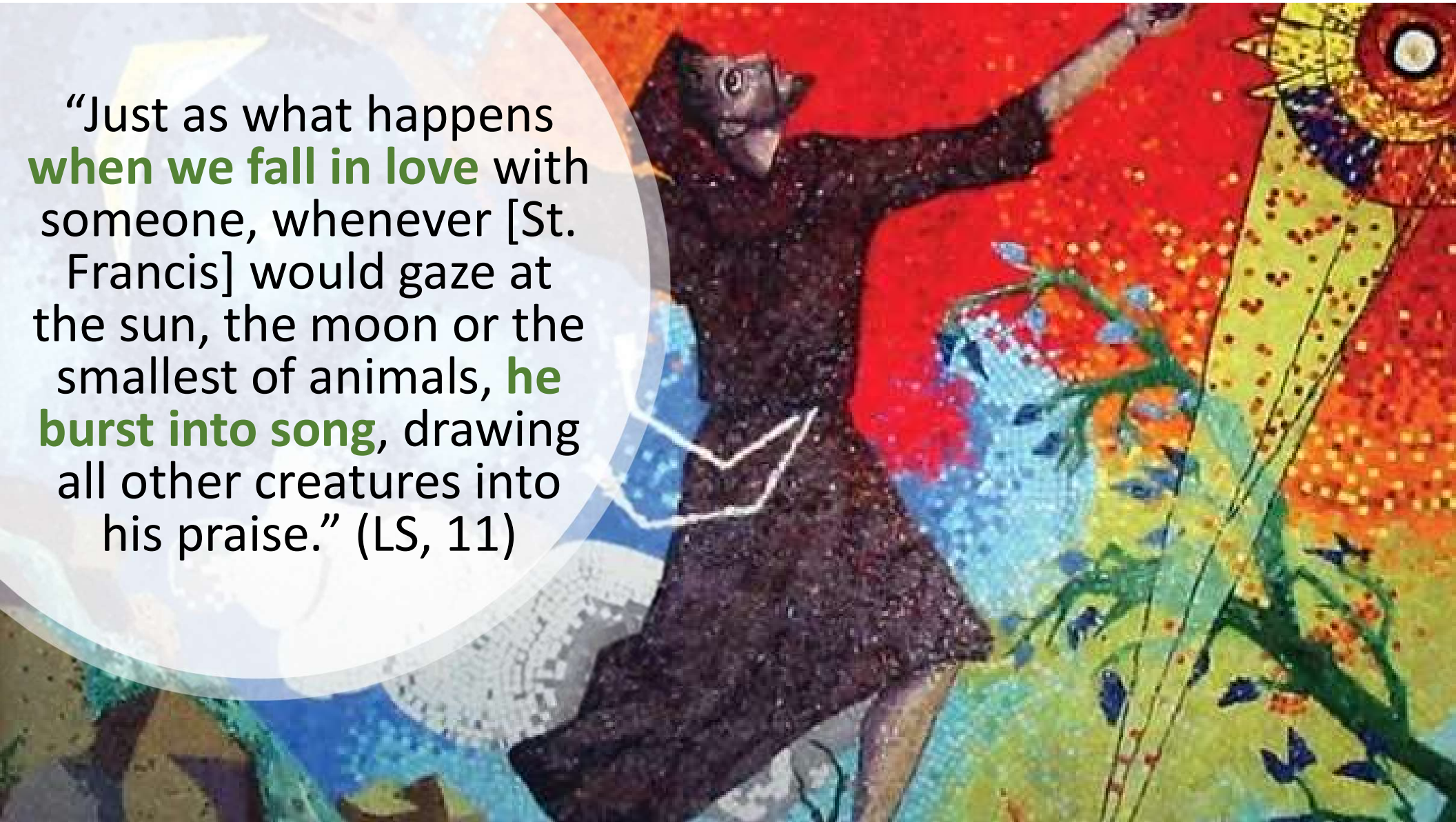


Laudato Si urges us all to listen to the signs of the times in light of the Gospel

Our Sister now cries out to us...(LS, 2)

- **the cry of the earth**
- **the cry of the poor**
- **the science**
- **call of our faith**
- **the youth of the world**

“Just as what happens **when we fall in love** with someone, whenever [St. Francis] would gaze at the sun, the moon or the smallest of animals, **he burst into song**, drawing all other creatures into his praise.” (LS, 11)





“St. Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see **nature as a magnificent book** in which God speaks to us and grants us a **glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness.**”
(LS, 12)





“I urgently appeal for a new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. We need a conversation which includes **everyone**, since the environmental challenge we are undergoing, and its human roots, concern and affect us all”

(LS, 14)



**How to act?
EVERYONE IS NEEDED.**

“Everyone’s talents and involvement are needed to redress the damage caused by human abuse of God’s Creation” (LS 14)



Chapter 1:

What is Happening to Our Common Home



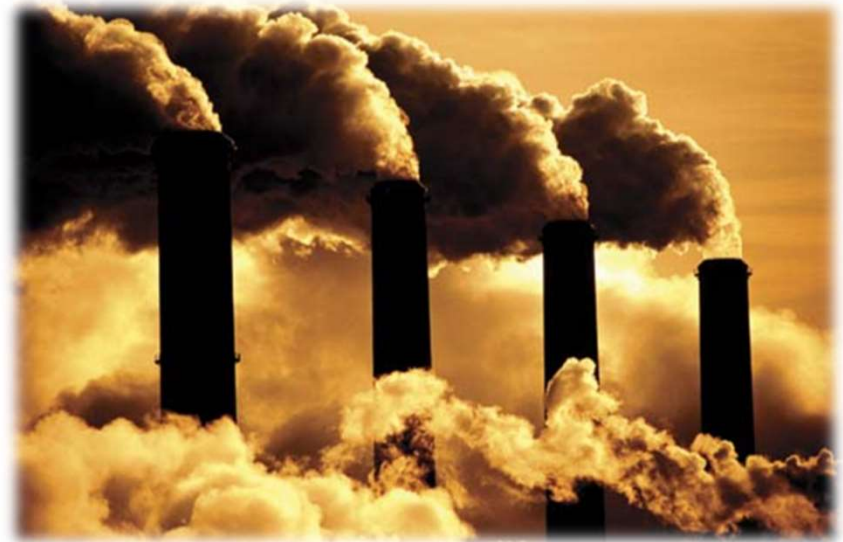
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What is happening to Our Common Home?

“Our goal [is to] become **painfully aware**, to dare to turn what is happening to the world into our own **personal suffering** and thus to discover what each of us can do about it” (LS, 19).



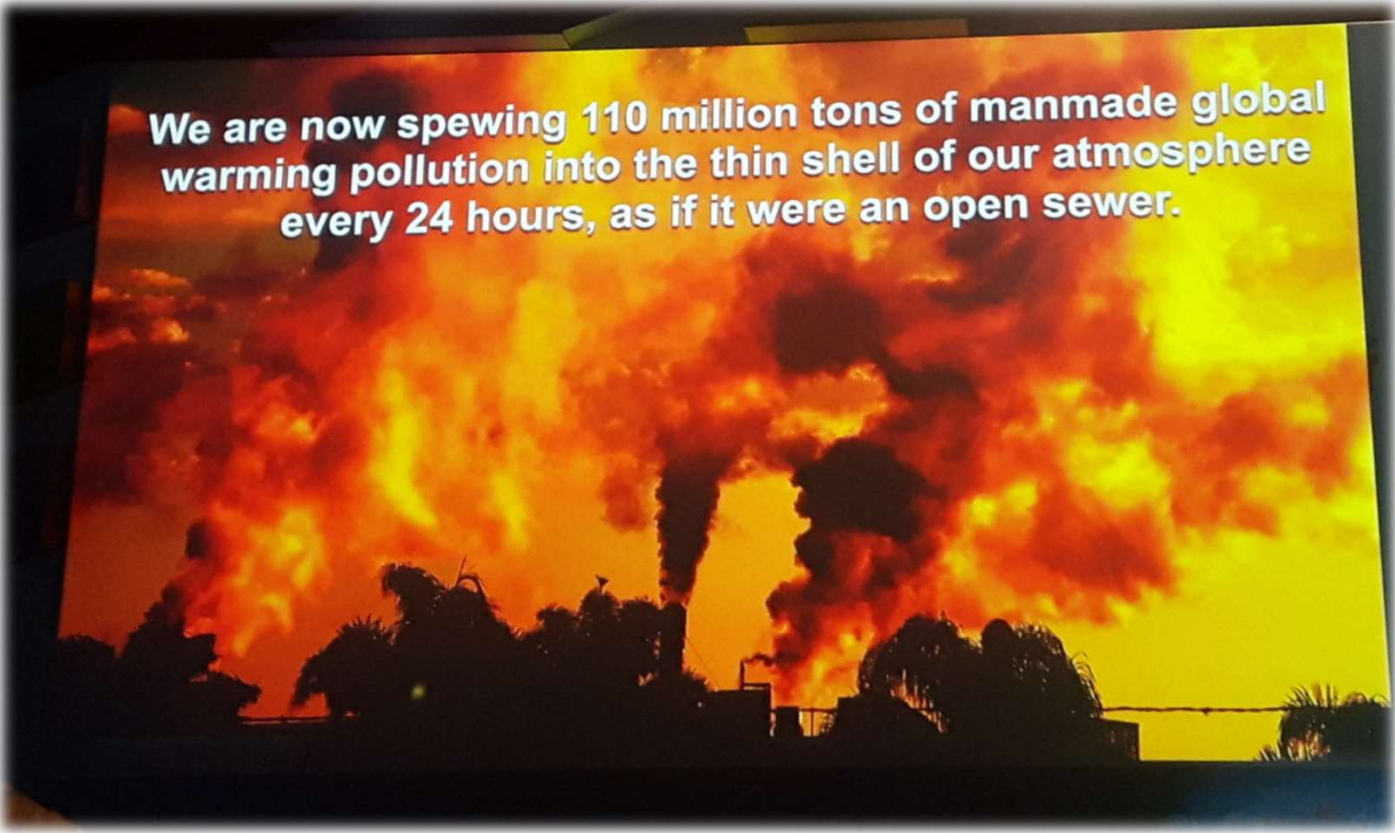
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What is happening to Our Common Home?

- Pollution & climate change
- Throwaway culture
- The Issue of Water
- Loss of Bio-diversity
- Decline in quality of human life & breakdown of society
- Global Inequality
- Weak Responses



I. Pollution and climate change

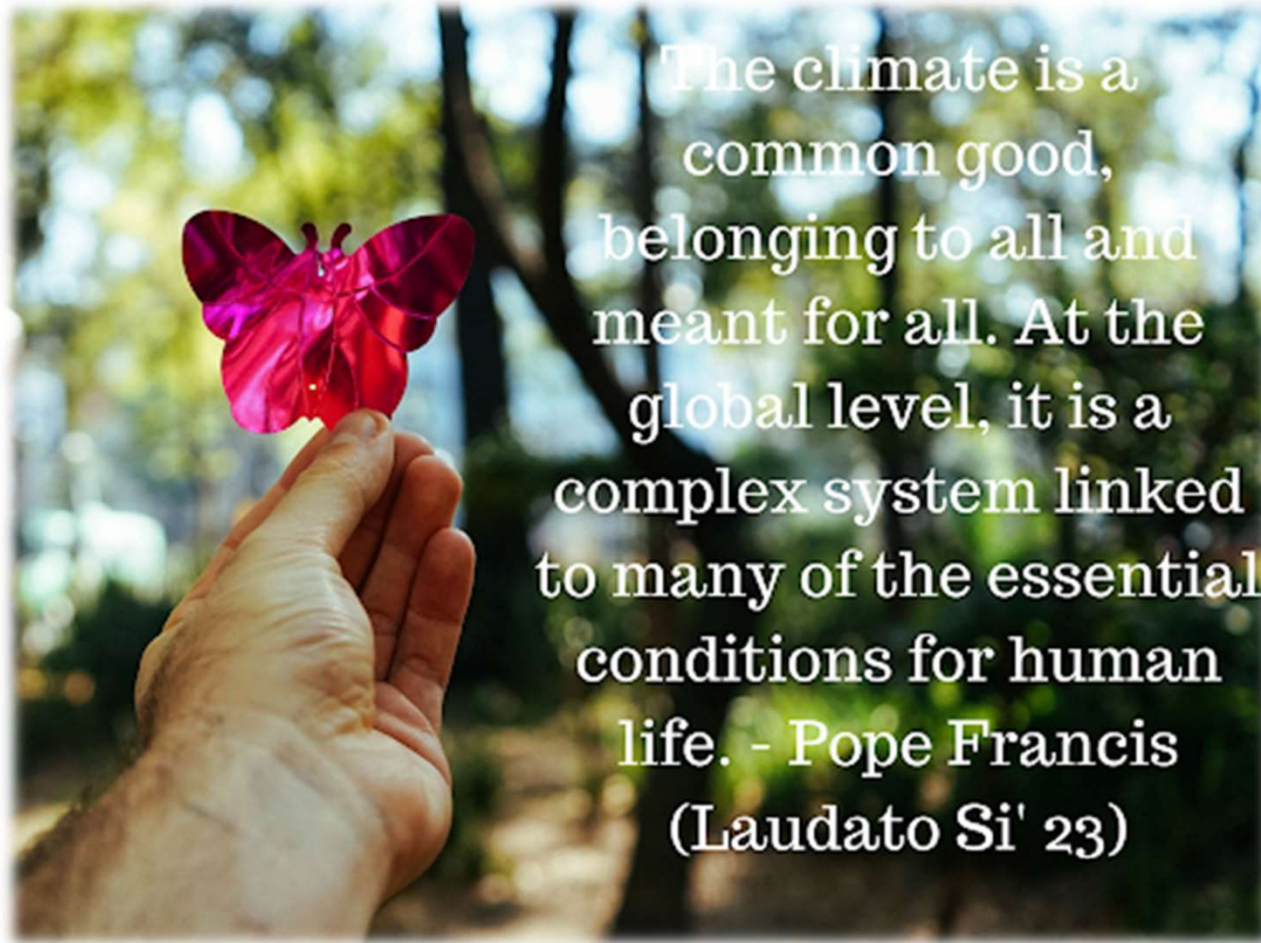


We are now spewing 110 million tons of manmade global warming pollution into the thin shell of our atmosphere every 24 hours, as if it were an open sewer.

“The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth” (LS 21)

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- “A disturbing warming of the climatic system...
- ... aggravated by a model of development based on the intensive use of fossil fuels, which is at the heart of the worldwide energy system.” (LS 23)

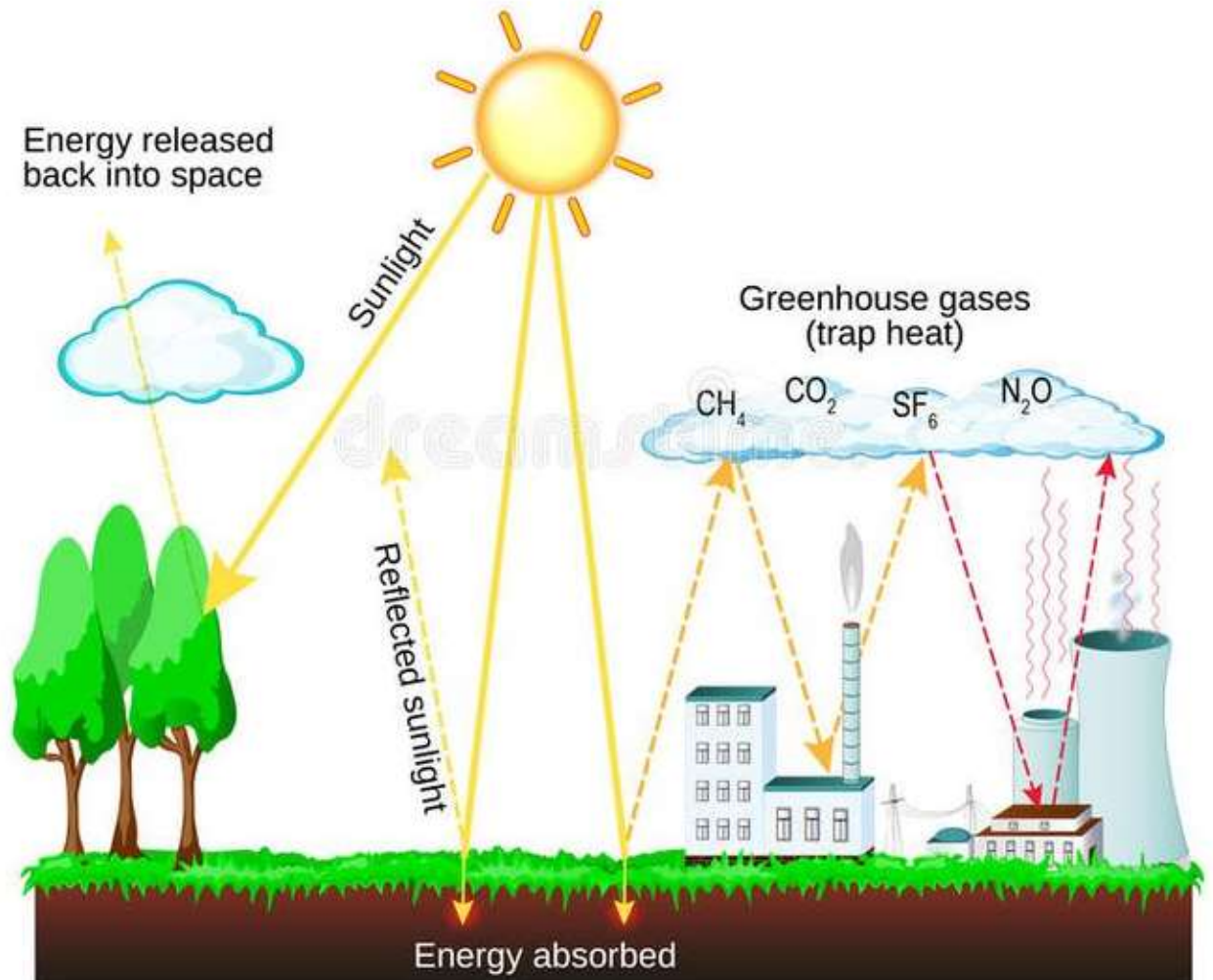


The climate is a common good, belonging to all and meant for all. At the global level, it is a complex system linked to many of the essential conditions for human life. - Pope Francis (Laudato Si' 23)

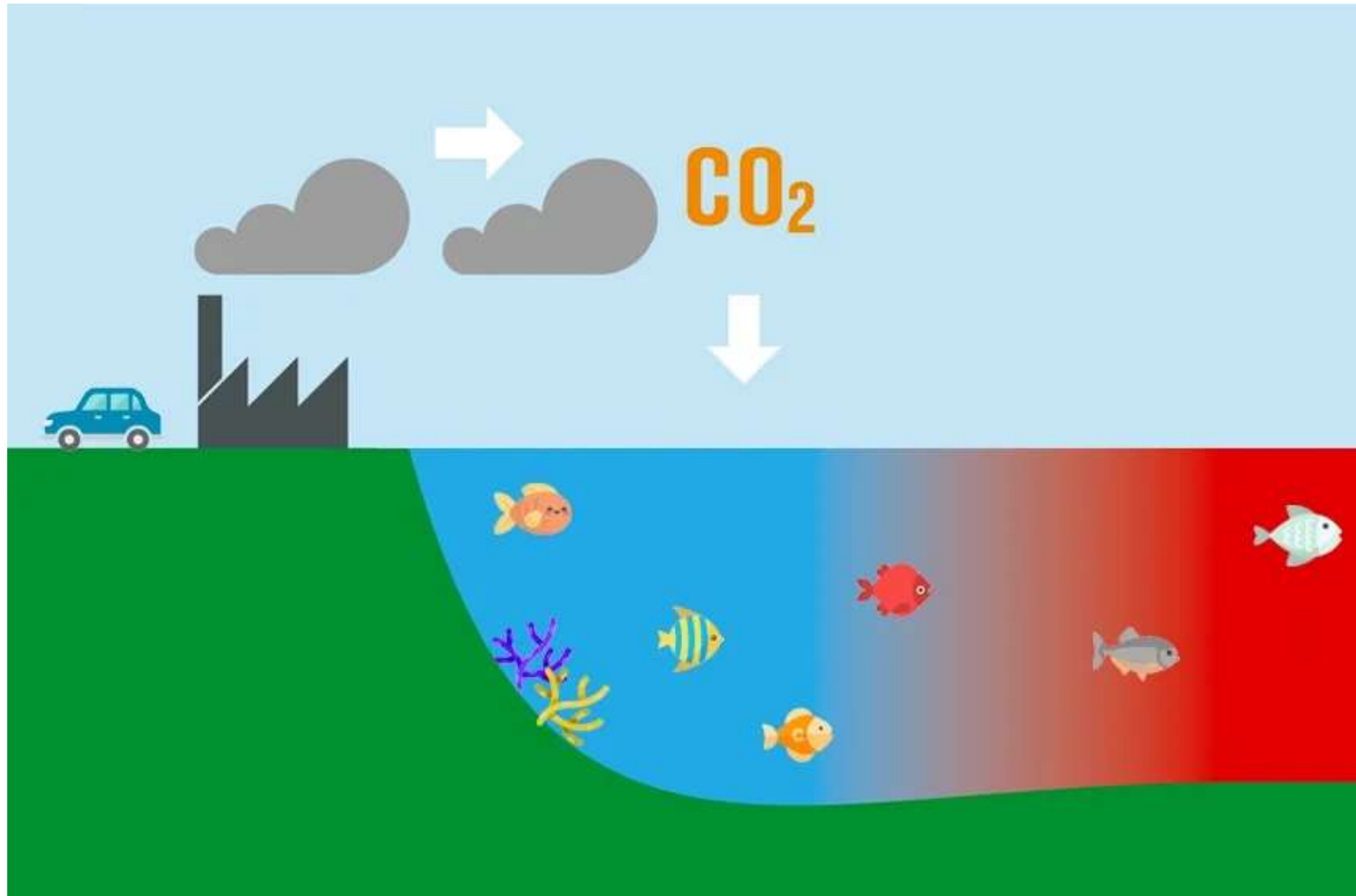
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Greenhouse effect

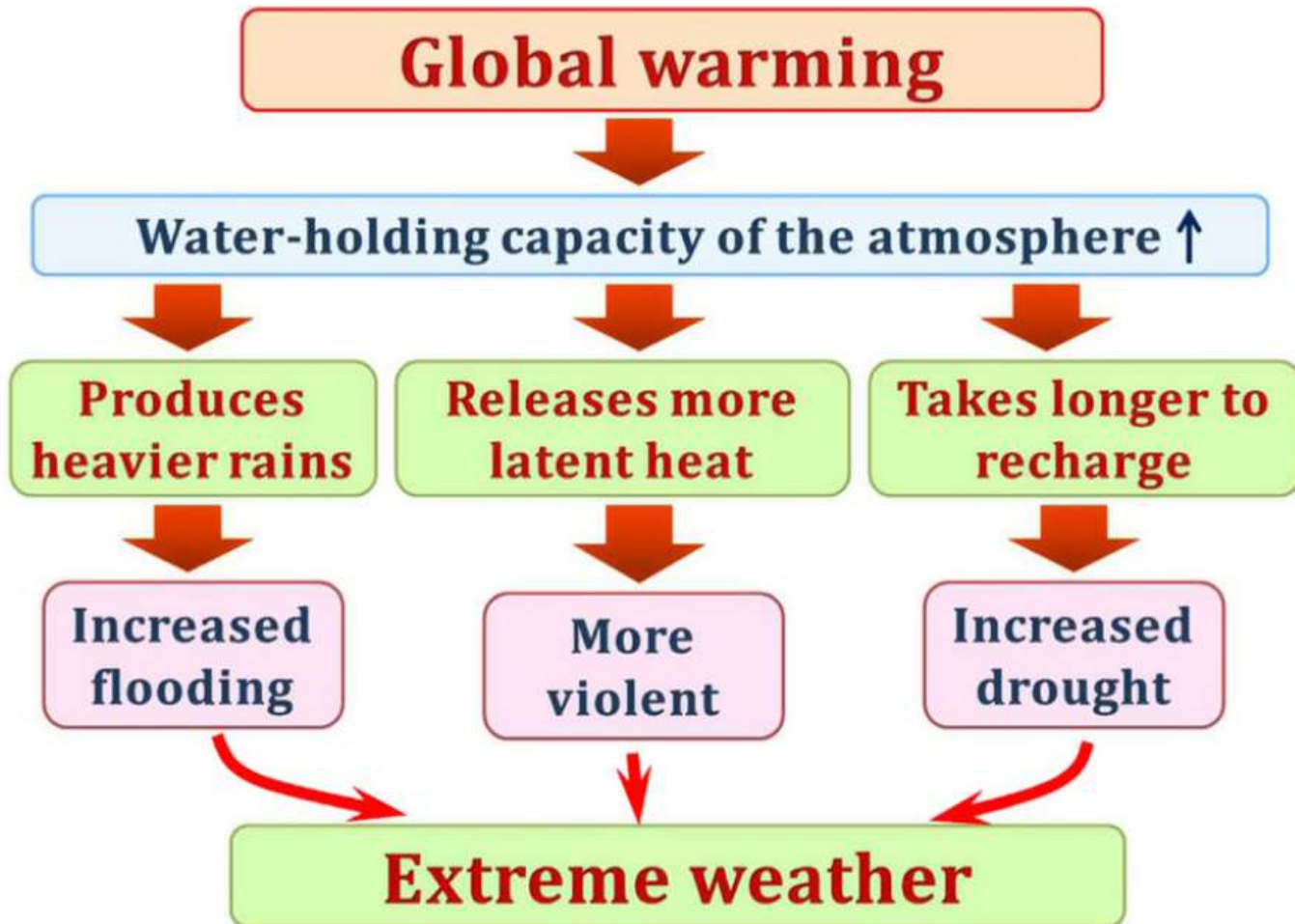
Why Global Warming?



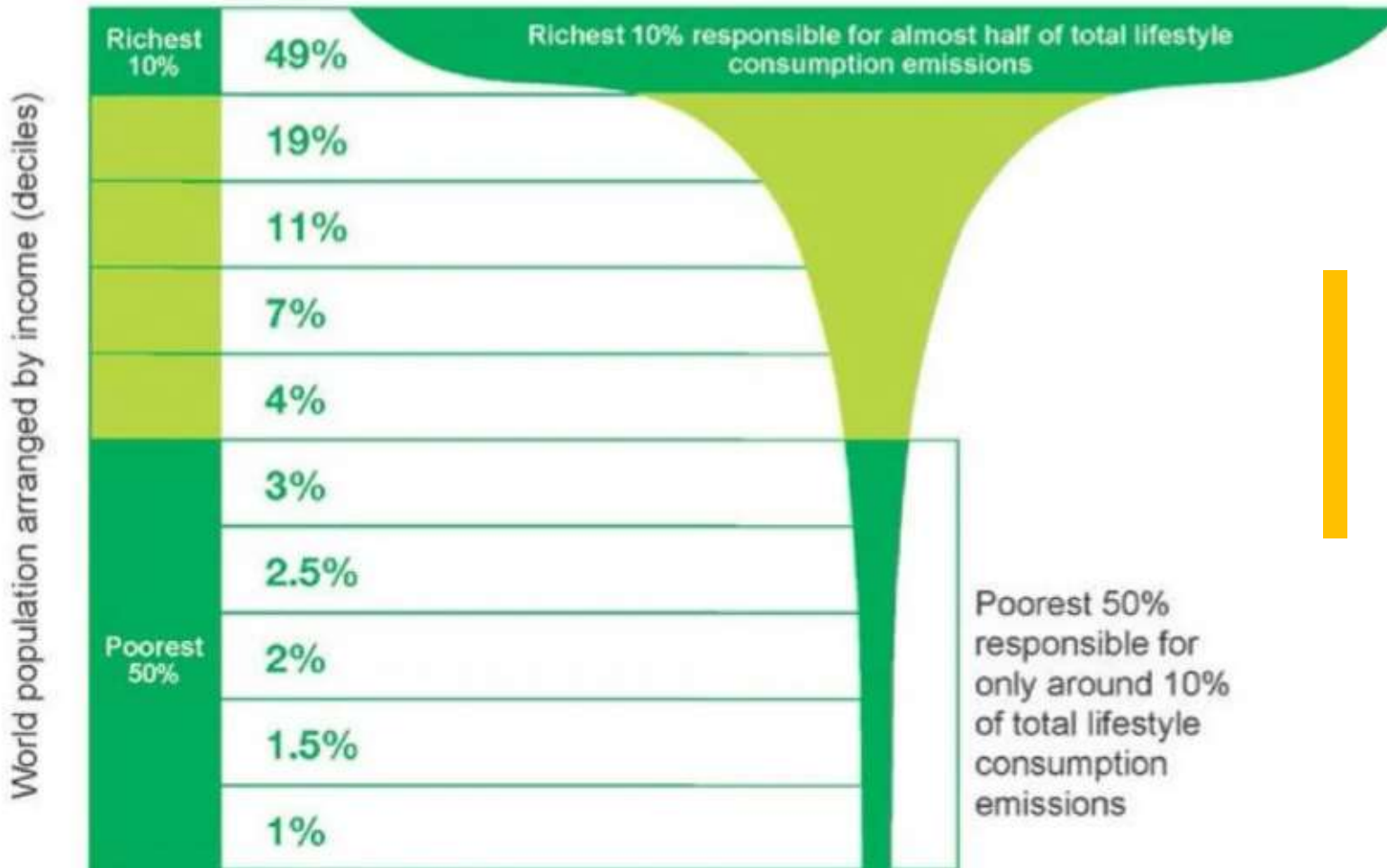
CO₂ effect on the Sea



Floods and droughts?



Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



**Richest 10%
emit 49% of
global CO₂
emissions**

**Poorest 50%
emit 10% of
global CO₂**

Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Ireland emits more greenhouse gases than the 400M poorest people on earth



We produce 1 on these / person / month

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Global Warming Effects – Extreme temperatures



Temperature extremes in China during 2023

2023: A Year of Extreme Weather

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Global Warming Effects - Wildfires



HAWAII DLNR

The shells of burnt out houses and buildings are left after wildfires driven by high winds spread across most of the town in Lahaina on Maui, Hawaii on 11 August

2023: A Year of Extreme Weather

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Global Warming Effects – Intense Rainfalls



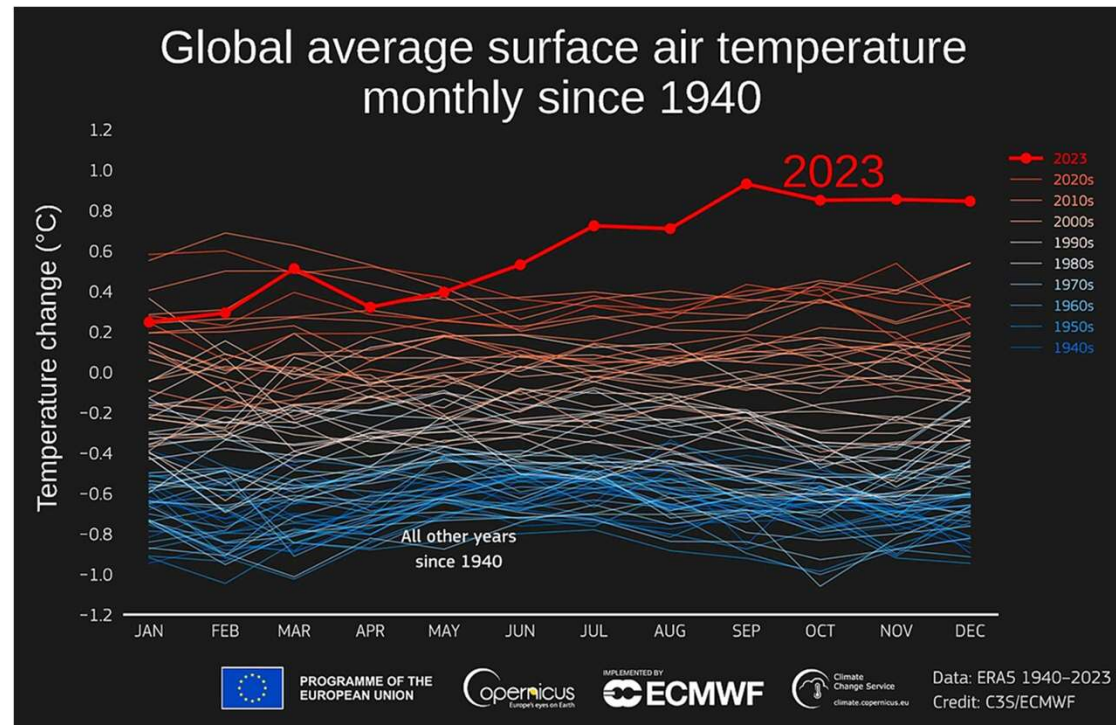
STR/EPA-EFE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Intense rainfall from Storm Daniel in Libya's eastern region caused the collapse of two dams south of the city of Derna, sweeping away entire neighborhoods

2023: A Year of Extreme Weather

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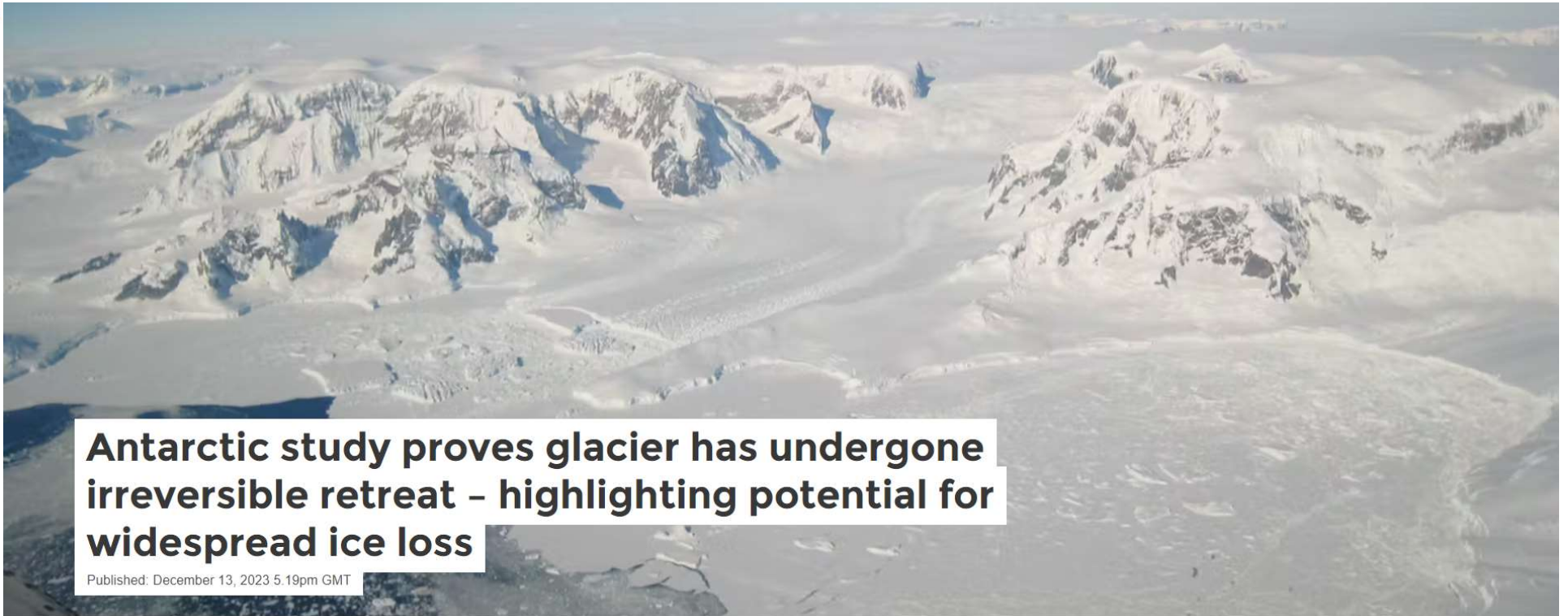
Global Warming Effects – Much higher temperatures



2023: A Year of Extreme Weather

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Global Warming Effects – Melting of Glaciers



Antarctic study proves glacier has undergone irreversible retreat – highlighting potential for widespread ice loss

Published: December 13, 2023 5.19pm GMT

Melting of the west Antarctic ice sheet could raise global sea level by several metres

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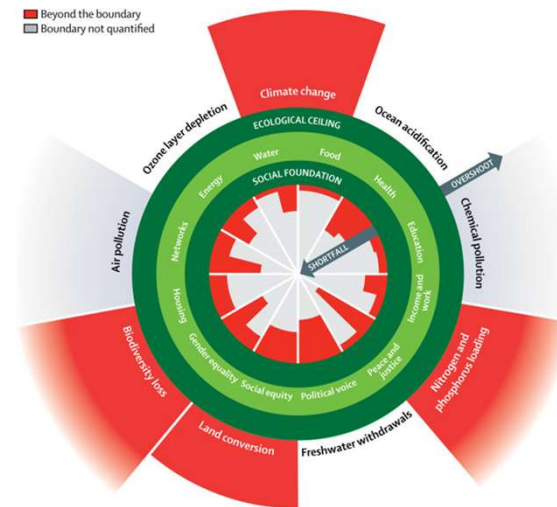
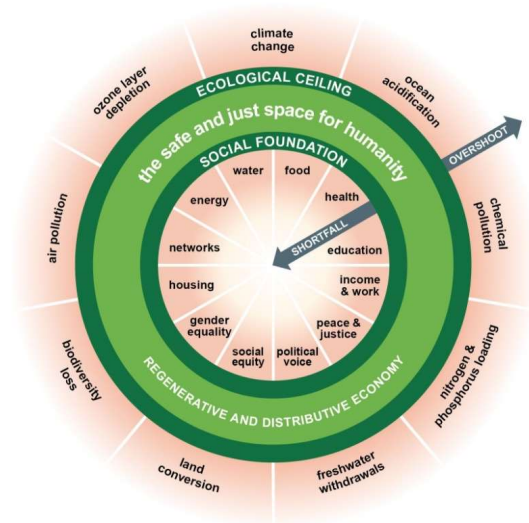
Rising sea levels – Future Disappearance of Cities and Small Island Nations



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Ecological Overshoot of Nations

Ecological Ceiling - **No country** currently meets the basic needs of its residents at a sustainable level



Paris Agreement (2015)

- Legally binding international treaty on climate change
- Adopted at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP21)
- Goal: To limit the temperature increase well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels
- Recent years: To limit global warming to 1.5°C by the end of this century.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Report October 2018

- Dire consequences should the world fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030



CLIMATECOUNCIL.ORG.AU | crowd-funded science information

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II. The Issue of Water



- Lack of water (esp. Africa) (LS 28)
- Poor drinking water quality, polluted (LS 29)
- Privatisation of water (LS 30)
- Water wasted by those who have it (LS 30)
- Drinkable water: human right (LS 30)
- Women, young girls: Forced to have sex in exchange for drinking water

III. Loss of Biodiversity

“It is not enough to think of **different species** merely as resources to be exploited, while overlooking the fact that they **have value in themselves...**”

The great majority become extinct for reasons related to human activity”

(LS 33)



Loss of Biodiversity



Everything is interconnected: Your shared DNA...

- 99.9% shared with chimps
- 85% with a field mouse
- 60% with a banana
- 1/3 with a primrose



ENDANGERED SPECIES IN IRELAND



- Over 20% of species are threatened with extinction in Ireland
- Ireland's 10 most threatened species:



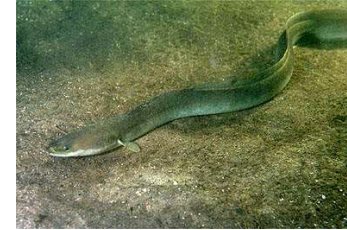
Curlew



Atlantic salmon



White skate



European eel



Thrift Clearwing



Freshwater
Pearl Mussel



Twite



Great Yellow
Bumblebee



Alpine
Saxifrage



Wall
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Global Assessment Report

- **6th largest extinction** since life began 3.8 billion years ago
 - One million species (out of 8 m) threatened
- **Wildlife populations declined by 60% since the 1970s due to human activity**
- **Australia 2019:**
 - Area the size of the UK destroyed by fire
 - 3 billion animals killed or injured

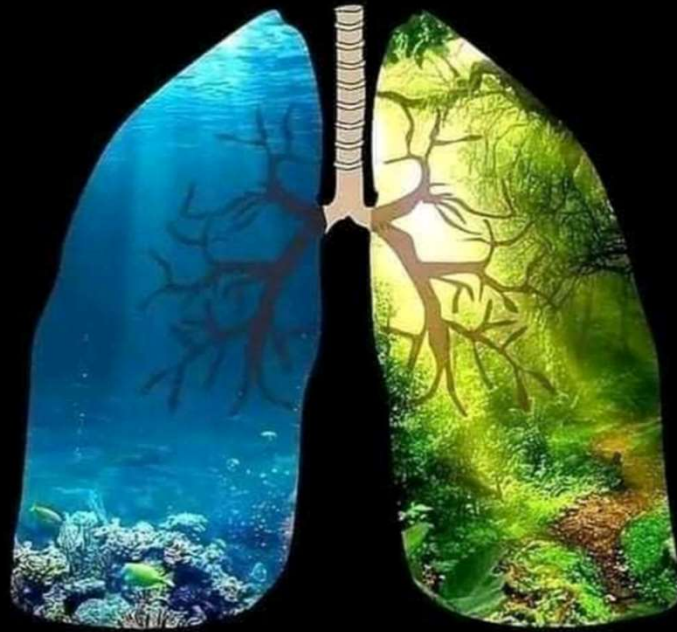


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Global Assessment Report

- Drivers of these extinctions:
 - changes in land and sea use
 - direct exploitation of organisms
 - climate change
 - pollution





OUR PLANET HAS TWO LUNGS ONE IS GREEN
THE OTHER IS BLUE

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IV. Decline in quality of human life, breakdown of society

The call to reconnect:

“We are not meant to be inundated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal, and deprived of physical contact with nature.” (LS 44).



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IV. Decline in quality of human life, breakdown of society

Laudato Si' talks about the

ecology of daily life:

- what we surround ourselves with
- community green spaces or lack of
- time in nature
- challenges of urban and rural communities



V. Global Inequality



SEEKING
HUMAN
KINDNESS

“The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects



“The gravest effects of all attacks on the environment are suffered by the poorest” (LS 48)

“A true ecological approach (...) must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (LS 49)

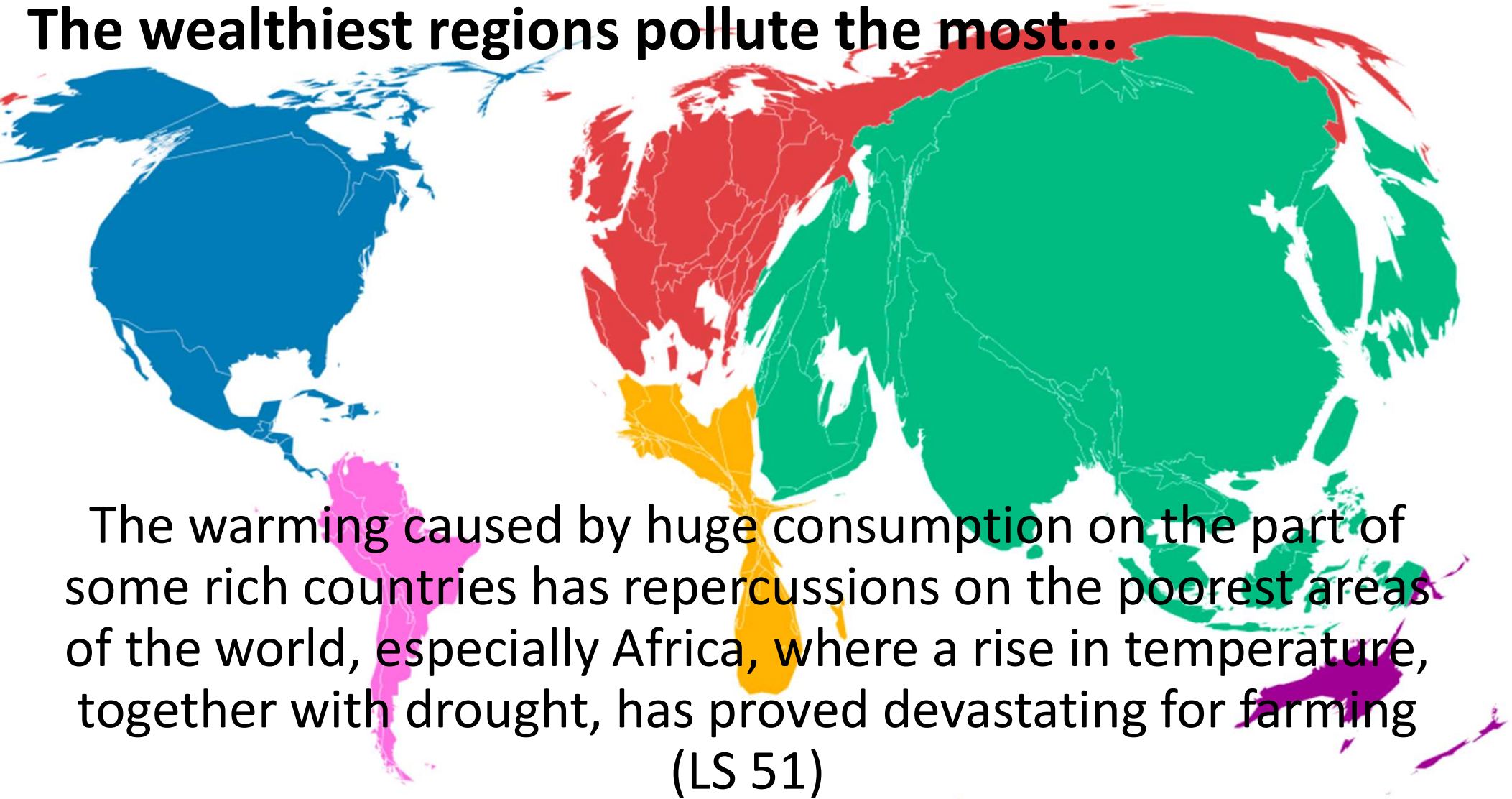


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“To blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues” (LS 50)

The wealthiest regions pollute the most...



The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming

(LS 51)



Guardian sustainable business

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

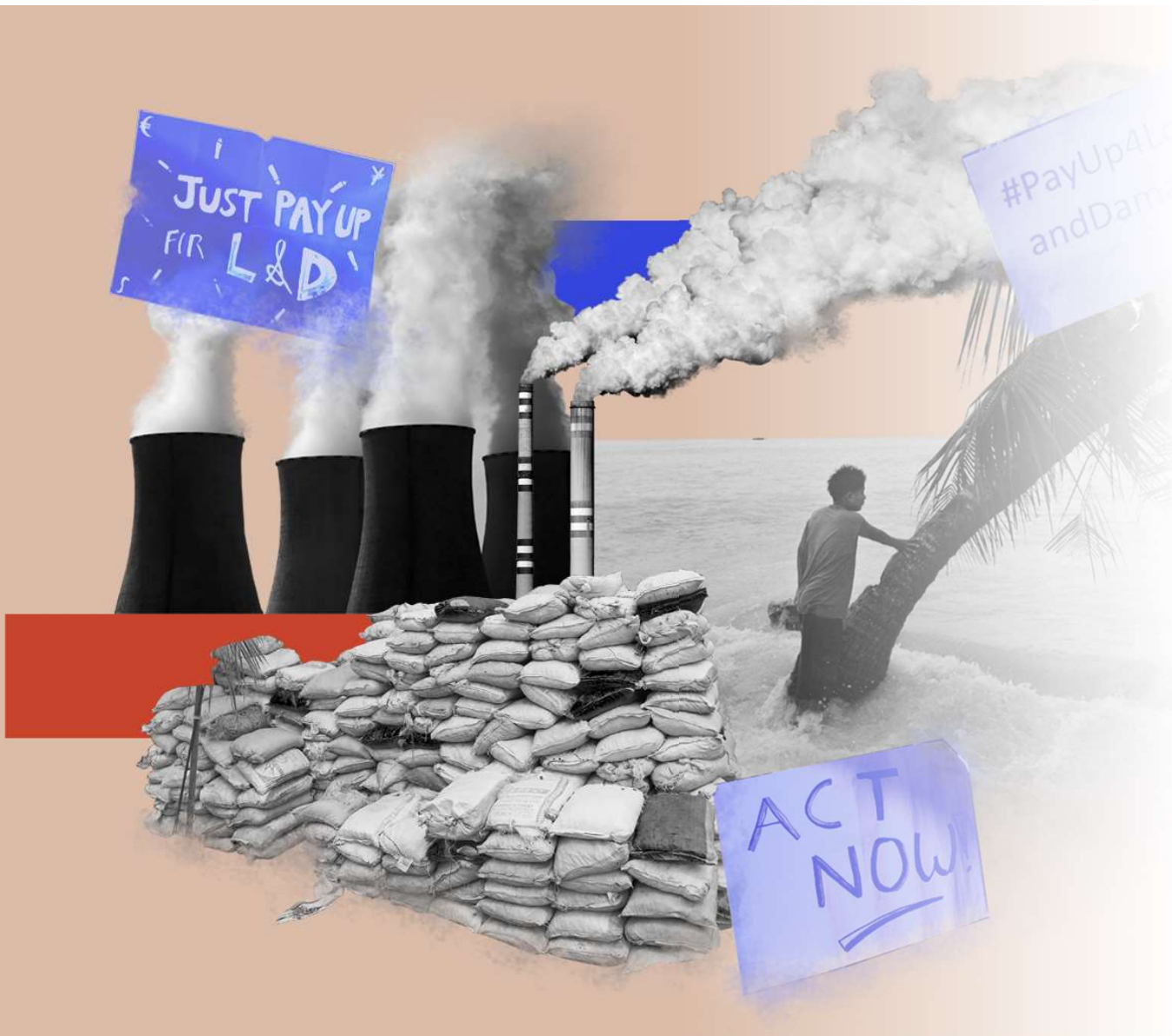


- Developing countries, where the most important reserves of the biosphere are found, continue to fuel the development of richer countries at the cost of their own present and future.

(LS 52)



- The developed countries ought to help pay this debt by significantly limiting their consumption of non-renewable energy and by assisting poorer countries to support policies and programmes of sustainable development. (LS 52)



- We need to strengthen the conviction that we are one single human family.

(LS 52)

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

‘We had 200 goats and one donkey. We also grew sorghum. Our home was built from mud walls and had two rooms – enough for us all. We were happy and settled and could afford items and the upkeep of our children. But everything changed when the **drought** came three years ago. The drought took our **livelihoods**.’

(Ambiyo)



VI. Weak Responses



It is remarkable how weak international political responses have been. The failure of global summits on the environment make it plain that our politics are subject to technology and finance (LS 54)

VI. Weak Responses



Consequently the most one can expect is superficial rhetoric, sporadic acts of philanthropy and perfunctory expressions of concern for the environment, whereas any genuine attempt by groups within society to introduce change is viewed as a nuisance based on romantic illusions or an obstacle to be circumvented (LS 54)

Abated emissions

Suggested by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) as an efficient technology for offsetting their CO2 emissions:

It would take them 343 years to capture CO2 emissions they will produce in the next six years.

(Report by Global Witness)



UN Climate Change Conference (COP28, Dubai 2023)



Agreement on:

- Loss and Damage Fund for poorest countries
- Transitioning away from fossil fuels (first time even mentioned at a COP)



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UN Climate Change Conference (COP28, Dubai 2023)



However:
Weak agreement (very small amount of money for the damaged caused, and not phasing out of fossil fuels yet!) and with loopholes



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VII. A variety of opinions

A wide-angle photograph of a vast solar farm. The solar panels are arranged in neat, parallel rows that recede into the distance. The panels are a deep blue color with a grid of white lines. In the background, there is a line of green trees under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

“Hope would have us recognise that **there is always a way out**, that we can always redirect our steps, that we can always do something to solve our problems.” (LS, 61)

**What can we do to Live Laudato Si?
“Truly much can be done!” (Pope Francis)**

Spend more time in nature. Notice the trees, wildlife, sounds, smells, the soil, air, sky.... Reconnect.

‘The divine and the human meet in the slightest detail in the seamless garment of God’s creation, in the last speck of dust of our planet’ (LS 9).



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In 2018 Irish Bishops Conference, Church of Ireland and many Irish religious orders publicly commit to divesting from fossil fuels.



Faith Organisations

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Irish Catholic Church to divest from fossil fuels

Updated / Friday, 24 Aug 2018 09:01

The Church will divest from the top 200 oil and gas companies by reserves within five years

The Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference has announced that it's to divest from fossil fuels.

Church of Ireland to end investments in fossil fuel companies

'Divestment from all fossil fuels is the right thing to do'

© Fri, May 11, 2018, 21:13

Patsy McGarry



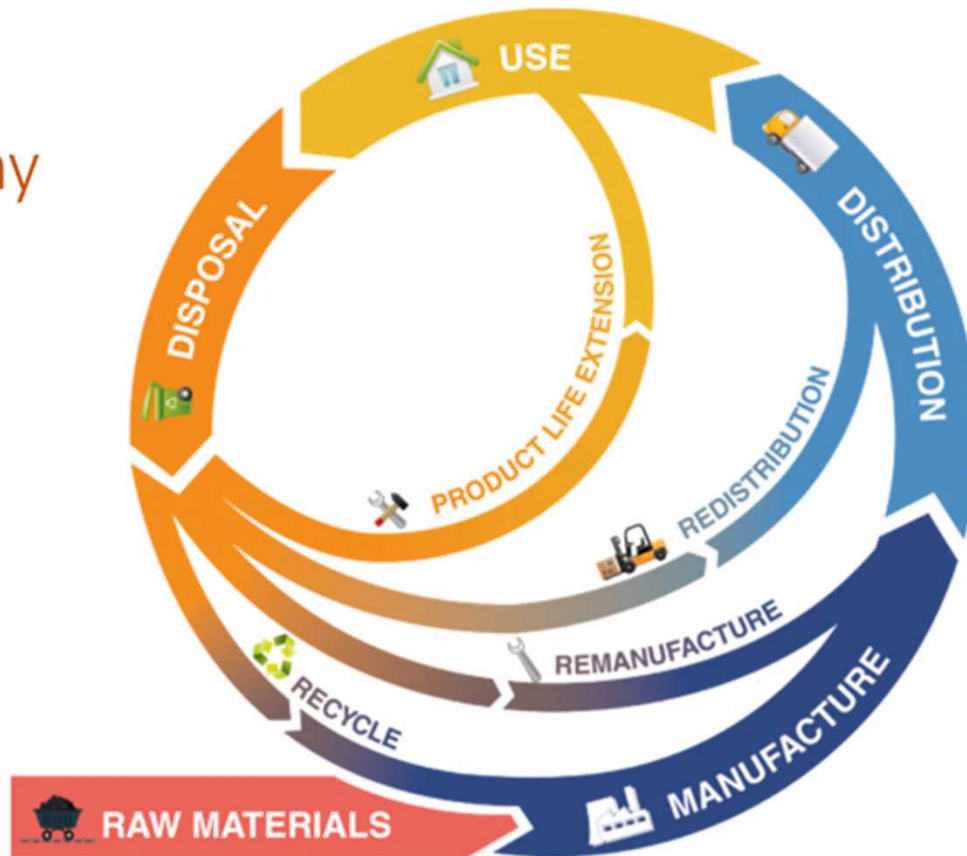
The Church of Ireland has made a significant advance to end its investments in all fossil fuels at its General Synod in Armagh.

It voted to exclude fully companies with a turnover of greater than 10 per cent from fossil fuel production, by 2022.

As part of its ethical stance in climate change the church has made a major shift in its investments over the past seven years from fossil fuels towards renewable energy and forestry. In 2011, its investment funds exposure to fossil fuels was at 10 per cent and by this year it is down to 2.5 per cent.

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Circular Economy



“We must move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy,”

Pope Francis, World Day of Prayer for Creation 2019

Questions for reflection:

- What words / phrases have stayed with you from your reading of the introduction to *Laudato Si'* and chapter 1?
- What struck you?
- What surprised you?
- What gives you hope?
- What did you find challenging?
- Was there any particular part that you found helpful?
- Where do you see / hear the 'cry of the earth' in your own community / country? Eg. plastic pollution
- Where do you hear the 'song of the earth'?
- Other thoughts, reflections, comments?



