

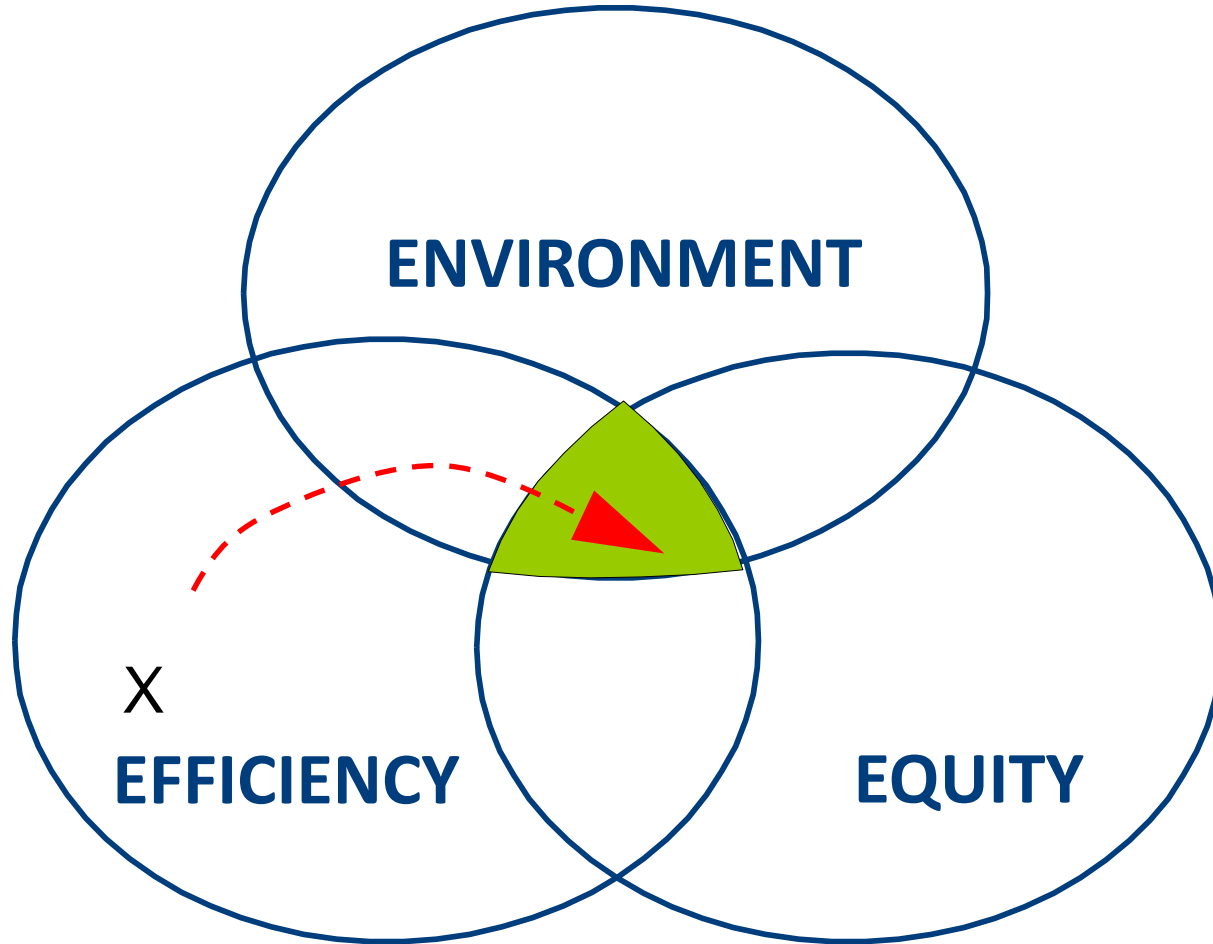
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE WITH SOCIAL LCA?

Roland Clift
Centre for Environmental Strategy
University of Surrey, UK



INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

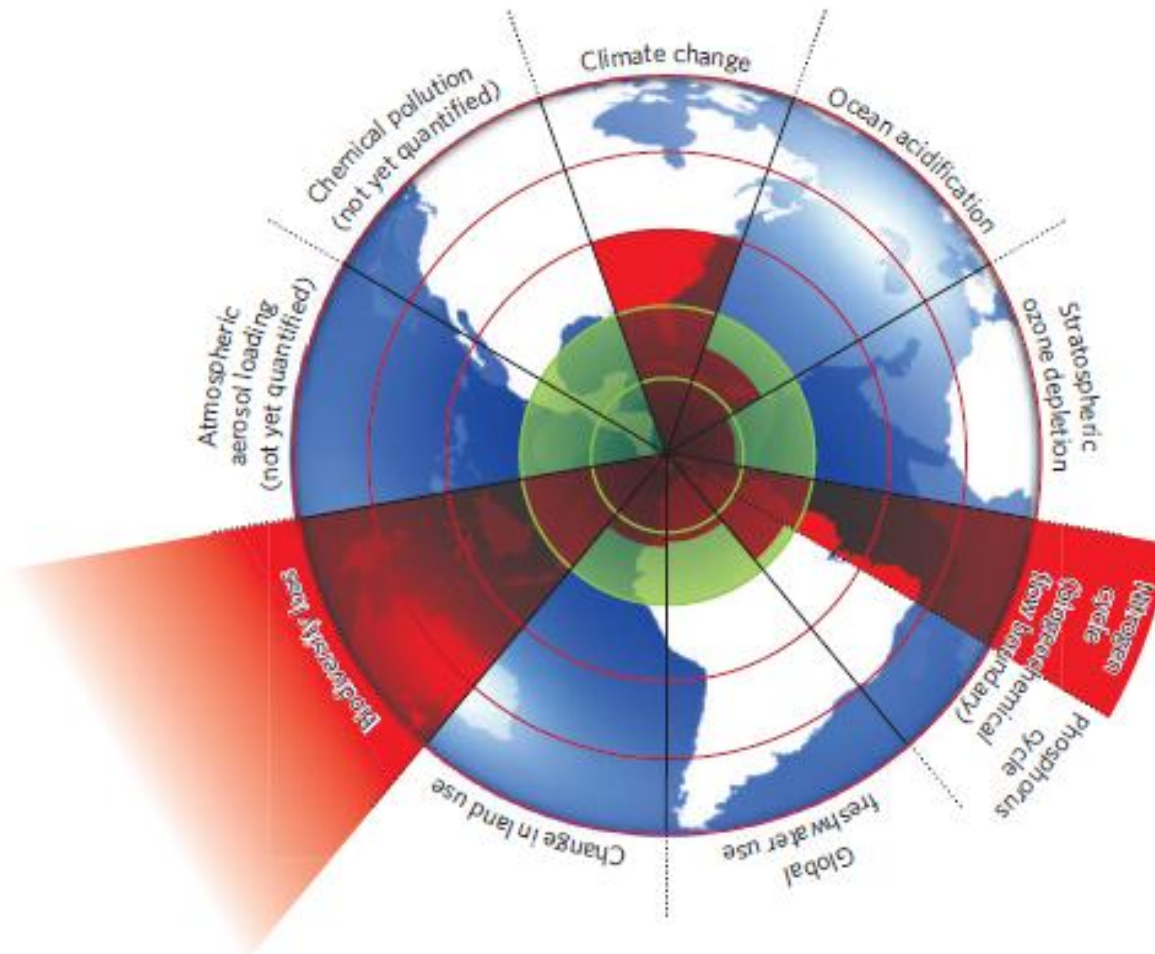


SUSTAINABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA

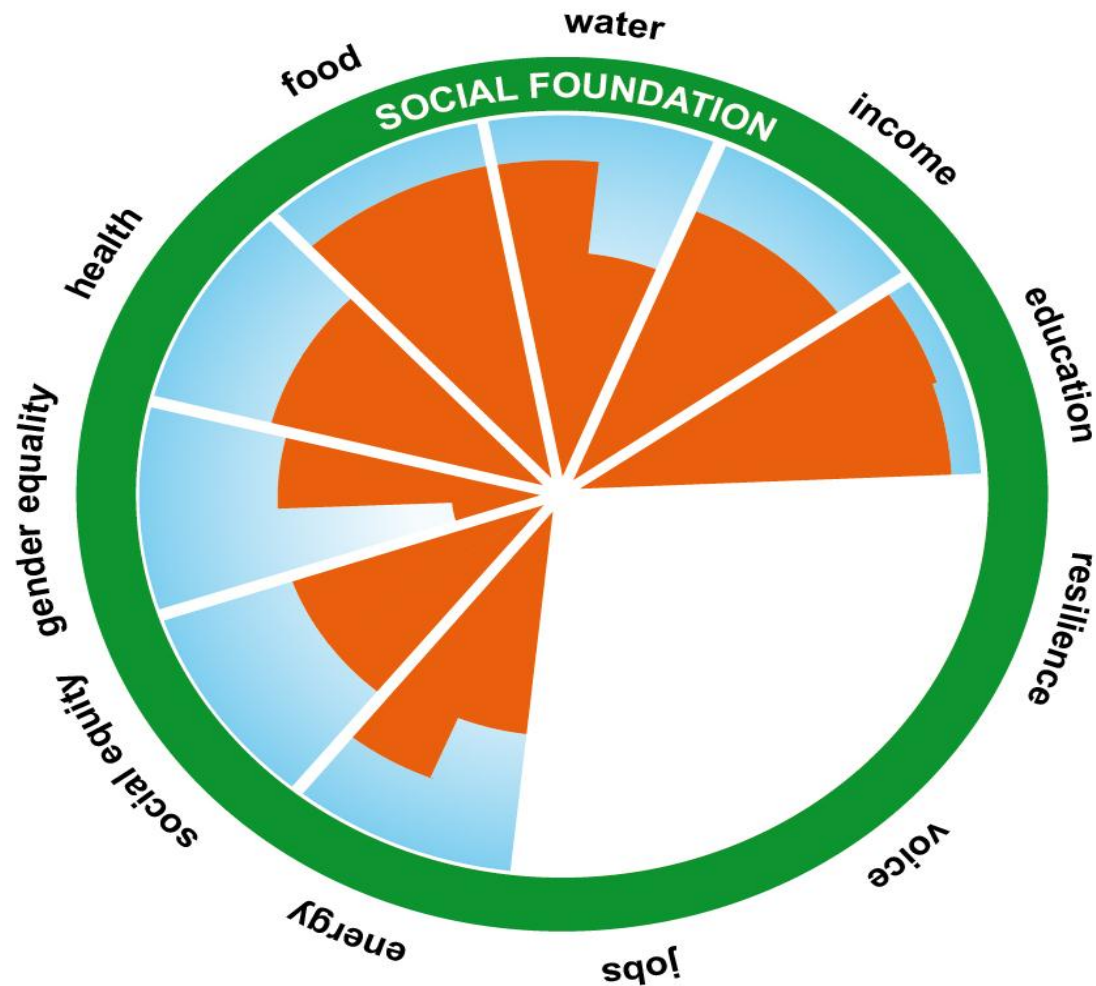
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

Rockström et al.
Nature, 2009



A SAFE OPERATING SPACE FOR HUMANITY

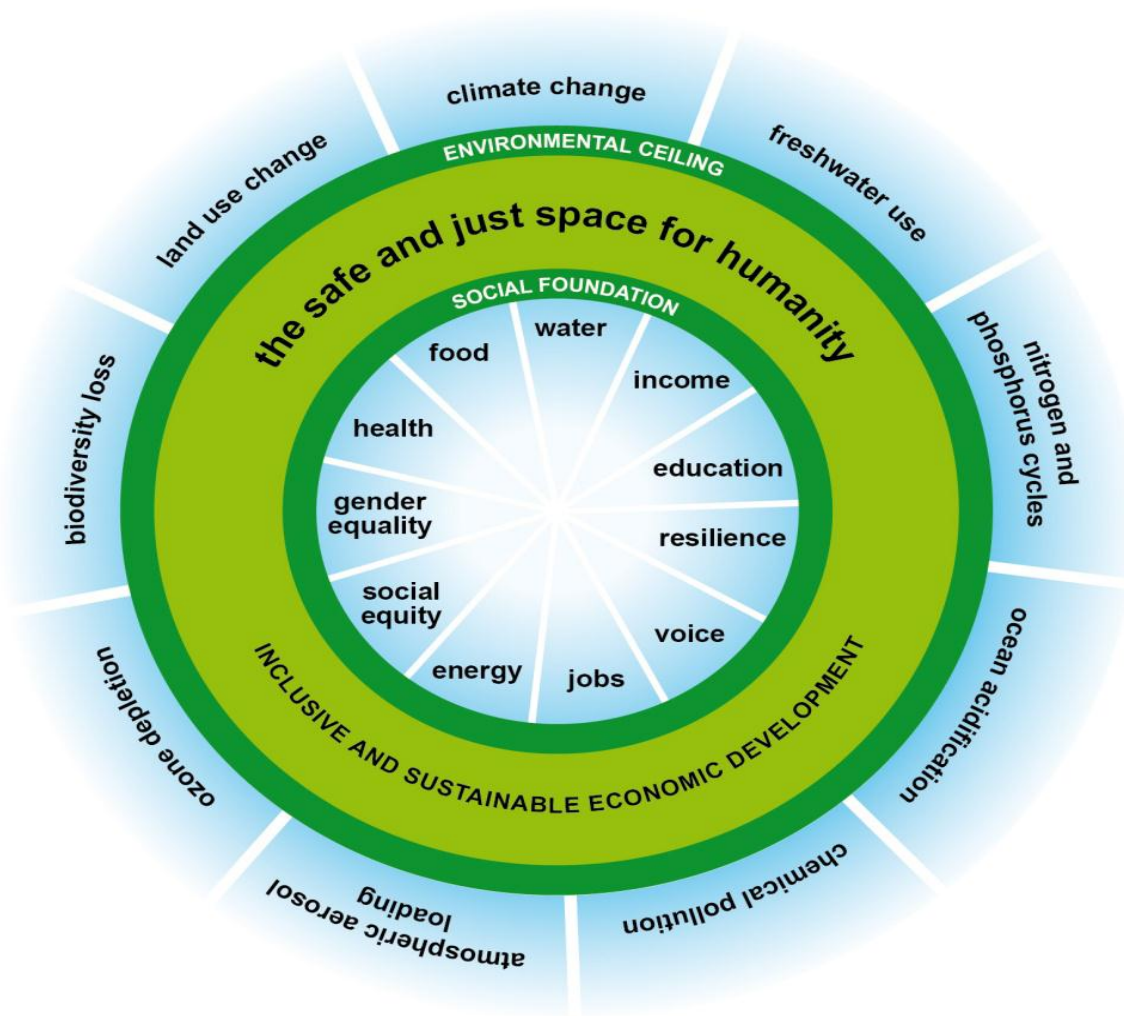
INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014



Falling Below the Social Foundation (after Oxfam)

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA

Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014



A Safe and Just Space for Humanity (after Oxfam)

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

HOW TO APPLY THIS AT THE LEVEL OF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE?

- The purpose of both environmental and social LCA is to improve the performance of supply chains but how similar can the approaches really be?

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA

Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

ENVIRONMENTAL LCA MODELS

are not strictly scientific models: they are not amenable to empirical testing.

This is also a feature of models for

- Risk Assessment

- Economic Policy and Planning

- Operations Research

- etc.

Beware “the fallacy of misplaced concreteness”. Is this acceptable for Social LCA?

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014

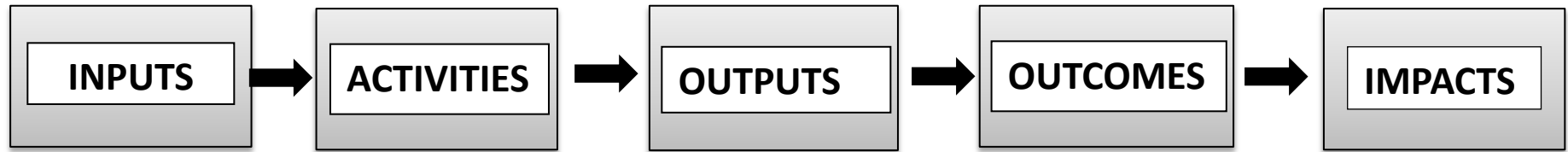
Environmental LCA frames the assessment in terms of “bads” - i.e. resource inputs and environmental impacts

whereas

Social LCA should see supply chains as channels by which benefits can flow back from the “consumer” to the other agents in the chain.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA

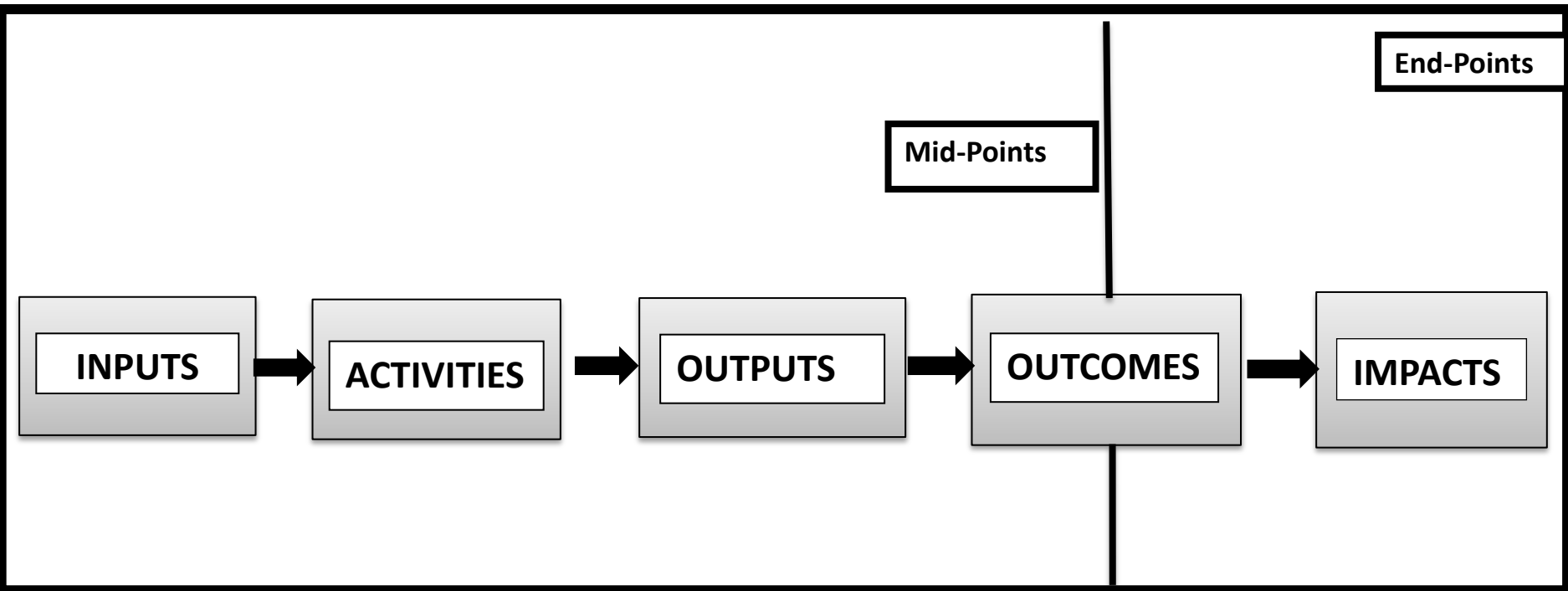
Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014



Measuring and Improving Social Impacts
(Epstein and Yuthas, 2014)

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SOCIAL LCA

Montpellier, 19-21 November 2014



SOCIAL AND ENVIRONEMENTAL LCA

COMPARISON

eLCA is predictive and (usually) cannot be verified empirically

Whereas

sLCA requires empirical measurement. Analysis of “social hot-spots” can help to prioritise data collection but cannot substitute for field investigation.