



Critical Raw Materials: The global onslaught

2nd Annual CSOs Tailings Conference:

“Reform and resistance in the shadow of a disaster”

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“Critical minerals” lists comparison

- ‘Have’ vs. ‘Want’
- Range of applications/uses
- Gold?

Minerals	North America							Asia and Australia				Europe		South America	
	USA	CAN	AB	ON	QC	SK	YK	Japan	South Korea	India	AUS	EU	UK	Brazil	Chile
Aluminum/bauxite	x	x	x						x		x	x		x	
Antimony	x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Arsenic	x		x								x	x			
Barite/barium	x		x	x				x				x			x
Beryllium	x			x				x		x	x	x			
Bismuth	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Borate/boron								x				x			
Cadmium					x					x					
Cesium	x	x		x	x			x							
Chromium/chromite	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x				
Cobalt	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Copper		x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x		x	x
Feldspar												x			
Fluorspar/fluorine	x	x		x		x	x	x			x	x			
Gallium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Germanium	x	x	x	x			x	x		x	x	x			
Gold														x	
Graphite/carbon	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Hafnium	x		x					x		x	x	x			
Helium		x	x			x						x			
Indium	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x		x		
Iron														x	
Lead									x						
Lithium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Magnesium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x		
Manganese	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x		x	x
Metallurgical coal												x			
Molybdenum		x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x
Nickel	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		x	
Niobium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
PGE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Phosphate/phosphorous	x			x						x		x		x	
Potash		x	x			x				x				x	
REE	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Rhenium								x		x	x				x
Rubidium	x							x							
Scandium	x	x	x	x	x	x				x	x	x			
Selenium				x				x	x	x	x				
Silica/silicon								x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Silver															
Strontium								x	x	x		x			
Tantalum	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
Tellurium	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		x		
Tin	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x			x	x	
Titanium	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Tungsten	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Uranium	x	x	x	x		x	x							x	
Vanadium	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Zinc	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x						x
Zirconium	x		x	x				x	x	x	x				

“Critical” Raw Materials

Critical to whom and for what?

Defined by advanced industrial countries – projected demand

1. Climate crisis (renewable energy transition – electricity generation, transmission, and storage – and electric vehicles)
2. War (weapons)
3. Tariffs (industrial production)

“EVs are here to save the car industry, not the planet.”

– Jason Slaughter, urban planning advocate

What is the offer for producing areas?

No change to extractive, colonial, capitalist model

- Economic opportunity – limited to raw materials and possibly primary processing
- Externalized costs: social, economic, environmental
- Volatile markets – boom-bust development
- Increased pressure on Indigenous and rural communities and environment – in Canada, US, Europe as well as globally – deregulation, extortion, militarization

“Electric cars are not for Africans.” – Tetteh Hormeku

How to respond?

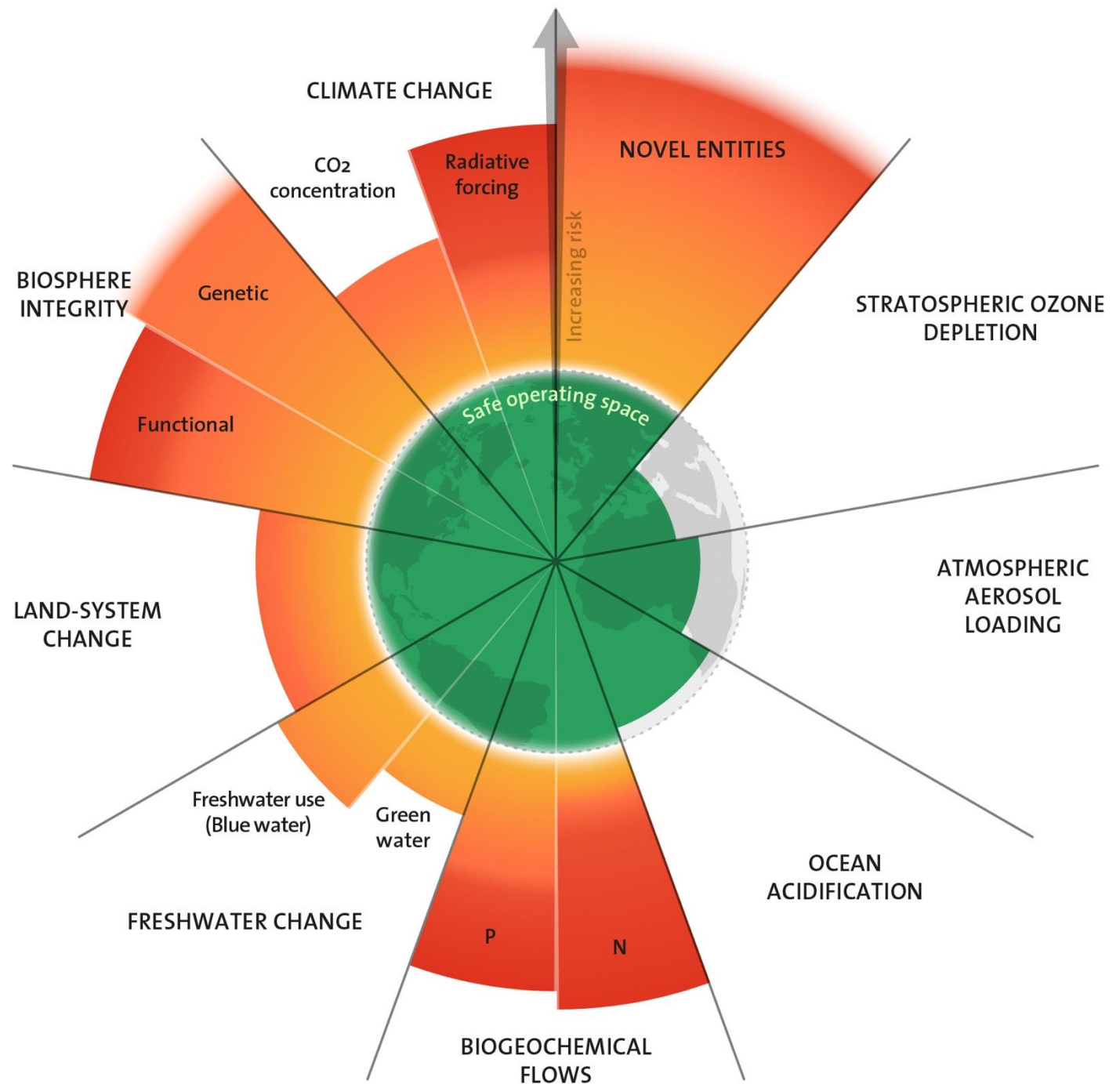
Insist on stronger protections *before* new development is allowed

- Right to say 'no'
- Protect local livelihoods & environment – climate resilience
- Protect water sources
- Tailings and waste rock safety
- Ownership and revenue to cover full costs: depletion of natural resources, full remediation

Planetary Boundaries

(Stockholm Resilience Centre)

Plus human dimensions of polycrisis: inequality, war, migration, disease, etc.



Thank you!



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