

# Presentation to Federal Expert Panel re Environmental Assessment

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# What should federal EA achieve?



Cohesive plan elements  
+ Burden of proof.

Expose and resolve gaps in  
knowledge/planning/  
action/monitoring/control.

Clear trade-off rationale  
by Panel & Cabinet. (More  
than *national interest*).

Public accountability for  
EA results. Credibility  
per professional ethics.

# How do we make federal EA work better?



Science matters  
are validated.

Sciences rely on  
other disciplines;  
incl. govt. depts.

Process to integrate with  
Indigenous Nations &  
locals; not only *consult*.

Assure: Risk inventory  
+ contingency plans  
(incl. staged scope / cuts).  
Assign risk per capability.



Govt role for issues  
beyond proponent role.

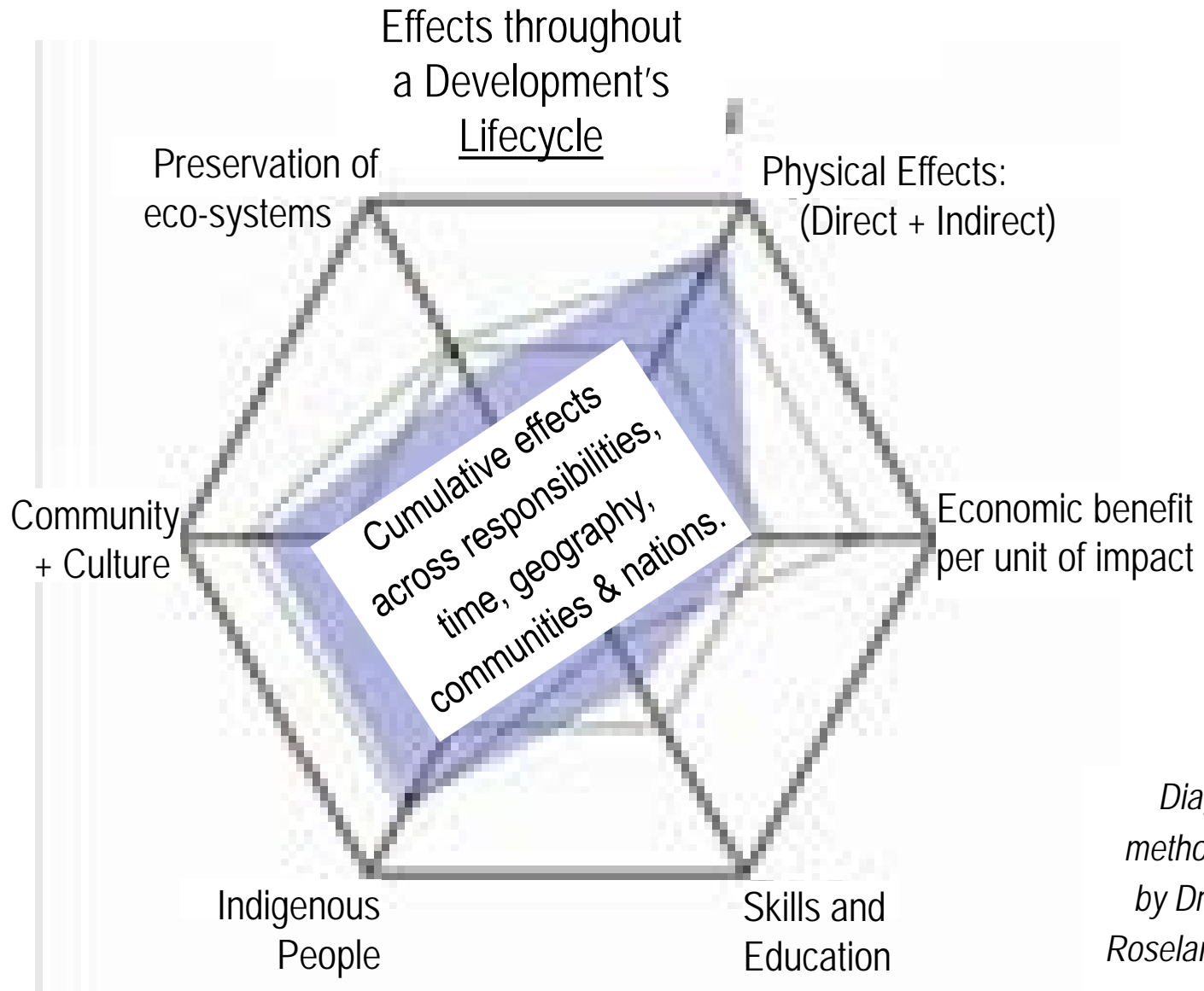
Precautions + far-sight,  
to engage stakeholders, +  
law + govts/ depts/ policy.

Broad Terms of Ref. for  
Hearing Panel and for  
final Cabinet roles.

Recognize impacts on /  
from Climate Change,  
in cumulative effects.

Benchmark Collaborations: **Okanagan Basin Water Supply-Demand Project**  
**Partnership on Vancouver Island – Leadership in Water Sustainability**  
**Federal Environmental Assessment Reform Summit**

# Elements of Environmental Assessment



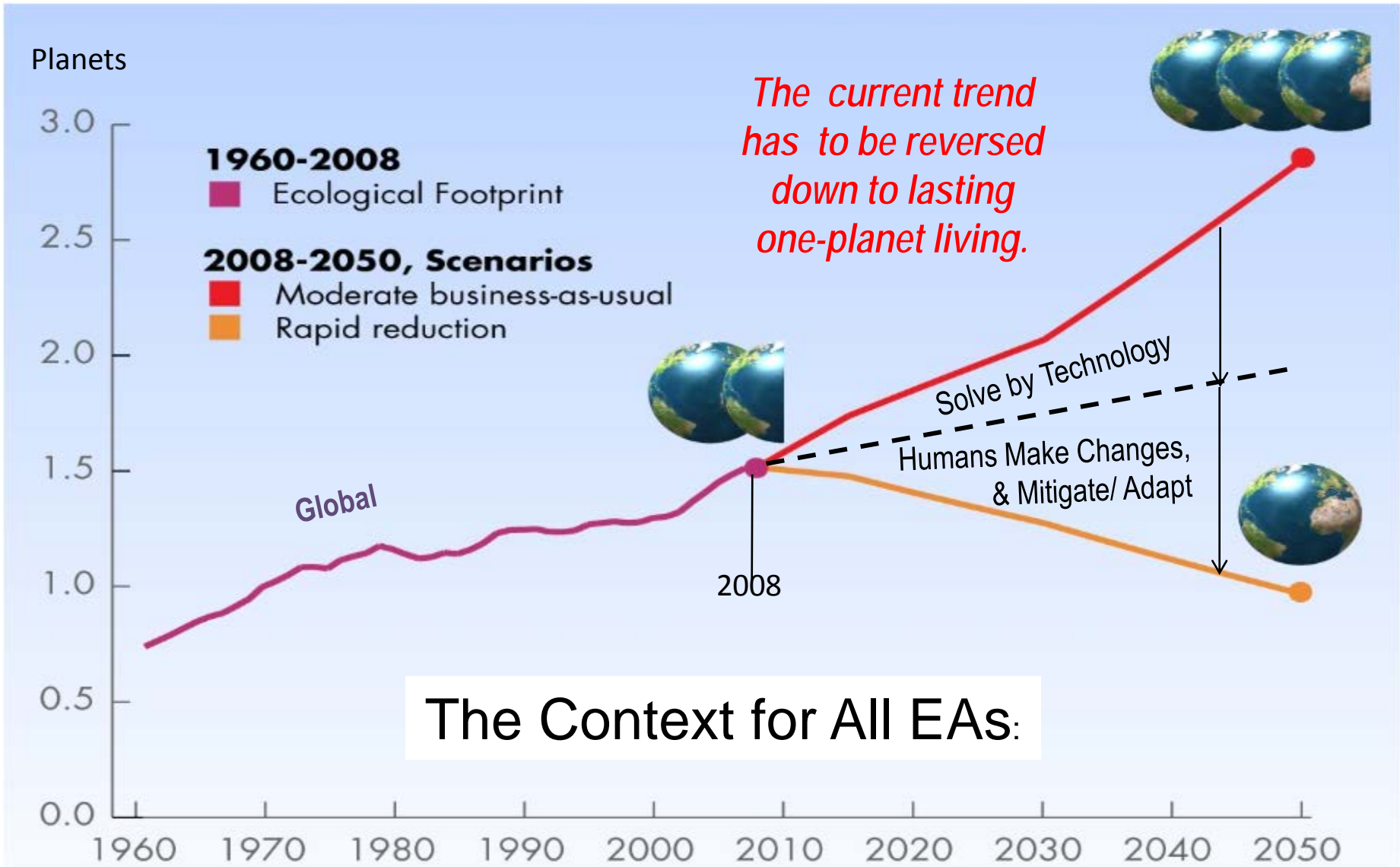
*Diagram methodology by Dr. Mark Roseland, SFU.*

## WHO SHOULD CONDUCT/INTEGRATE THE FEDERAL EA?

### WHO-ALL SHOULD PREPARE EA/ IMPACT STATEMENTS?

- EA Assignments made to the best-suited roles, with scope and capability to reflect project specifics.
- A Government Department conducts or assigns assessments outside the Proponent`s responsibility or influence; (e.g. regional EAs). Proponent pays for some of the added studies?
- An EIS could be jointly planned (what, how and who), and be implemented accordingly, under the oversight of the responsible agency. This may lessen an adversarial process in the eventual hearing.
- The Choice Book has good EIS criteria. If met, and coupled with ethics towards environment and future generations, the EA process should be acceptable.

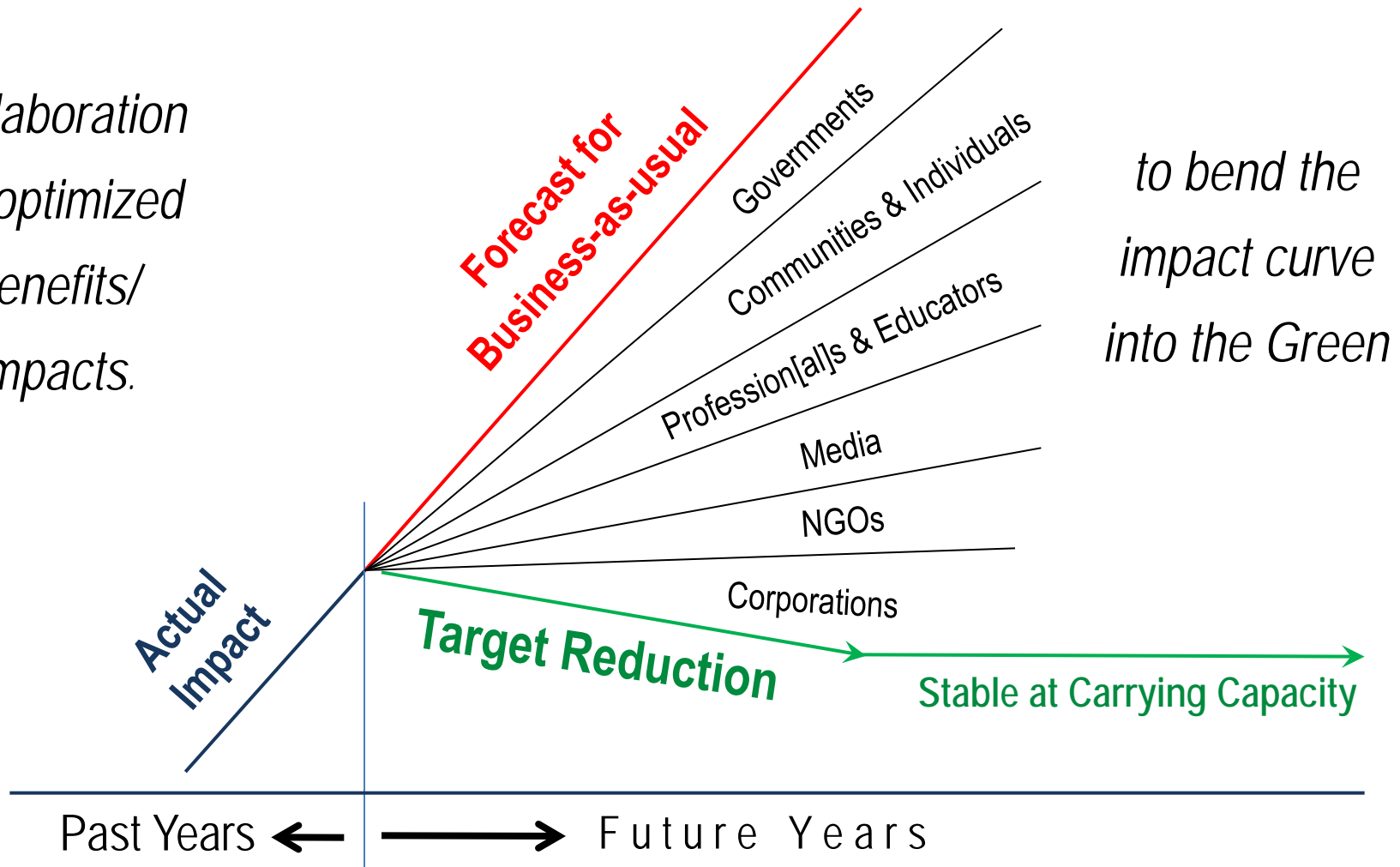
# Carrying Capacity Gaps: Ecological Footprint Trends



See Global Footprint Network, World Resources Institute and others

# EA or Sustainability Assessments help *integrate* Governance, Influence, Plans & Action

*Collaboration  
for optimized  
benefits/  
impacts.*



*to bend the  
impact curve  
into the Green*

# Pitch for an Elevator Ride

Much of China has severely contaminated air, water and land from their economic miracle.

This was put ahead of the intended environmental values and well-being. Life expectancy is dropping!

Canada, although less threatened, should make certain of a strong EA process in the face of our many challenges.