

Planetary Health Advocacy “Living” Tool

A starting point for advocacy for planetary health balance, climate action, and systems change

“Planetary health is a solutions-oriented, transdisciplinary field and social movement focused on analyzing and addressing the impacts of human disruptions to Earth’s natural systems on human health and all life on Earth.”

— Planetary Health Alliance, 2022

Planetary Health research calls urgent attention to the health cost of environmental degradation and invites deep reflection on the relationship between human, other species, ecosystems and nature wellbeing. The Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research (DIGHR)¹ at York University “regards ecological integrity as a determinant of health worldwide, human activity as pushing ecological limits to a breaking point, and climate change as a fundamental threat to human life.”

This **living tool for Planetary Health Advocacy** honors ancient and contemporary knowledge, centering Indigenous knowledge^{2,3}, and recognizes the colliding crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, systemic inequity, pandemics, and more. It recognizes the need for a decolonial vision⁴ and offers a snapshot of planetary health solutions, serving as a ‘kaleidoscope’ starting point for advocacy amidst today’s converging crises.

The aim of the tool is to foster dialogue, and support action to help safeguard human and other species, ecosystem health and well-being, and advocacy for climate action, systemic change, and justice.

Recognizing pluriversality⁵—diverse worldviews—and the evolving, context, place, and time-specific nature of advocacy, this tool is non-linear, dynamic, and incomplete. Transformative systems change includes economic redesign and reparation beyond finance, and calls for multilateral, transnational and transboundary action.

Created by a project of DIGHR’s Planetary Health research theme with input from DIGHR practitioners and students and others⁶ spanning the globe, cultures, disciplines and generations—including individuals in highly affected countries that contribute the least to the climate

crisis—the tool can help guide planetary health research, health and humanitarian action, and advocacy for students, academic and other institutions.

“This tool can be a ‘zoom out constellation of actors, actions, concerns, and solutions’ to ‘zoom in’ to Planetary Health Advocacy.”

— Dr Courtney Howard, Community Fellow, Planetary Health, DIGHR

In these circles, with thanks and gratitude: we recognize the significance of the circle for Indigenous Peoples: “the circle is a sacred symbol of the interdependence of all forms of life; the circle is a key symbol in Native spirituality...”⁷

The concentric circles represent interrelationships within systems, mirroring patterns found in nature and geometry. They guide us from the center outward.

The **Center** is the goal: a healthy planet, species, and ecosystems, with equity in health, social and economic conditions and gender equity. Indigenous knowledge and leadership is respected and integral, alongside Youth leadership and activism. Actions are intergenerational and include marginalized and excluded individuals and communities e.g. women, refugees, migrants and displaced persons, persons living with disabilities, Two-Spirit and LGBTQI2S+ persons, and others.

The **Action** circle contains some known solutions for planetary health, equity and justice.

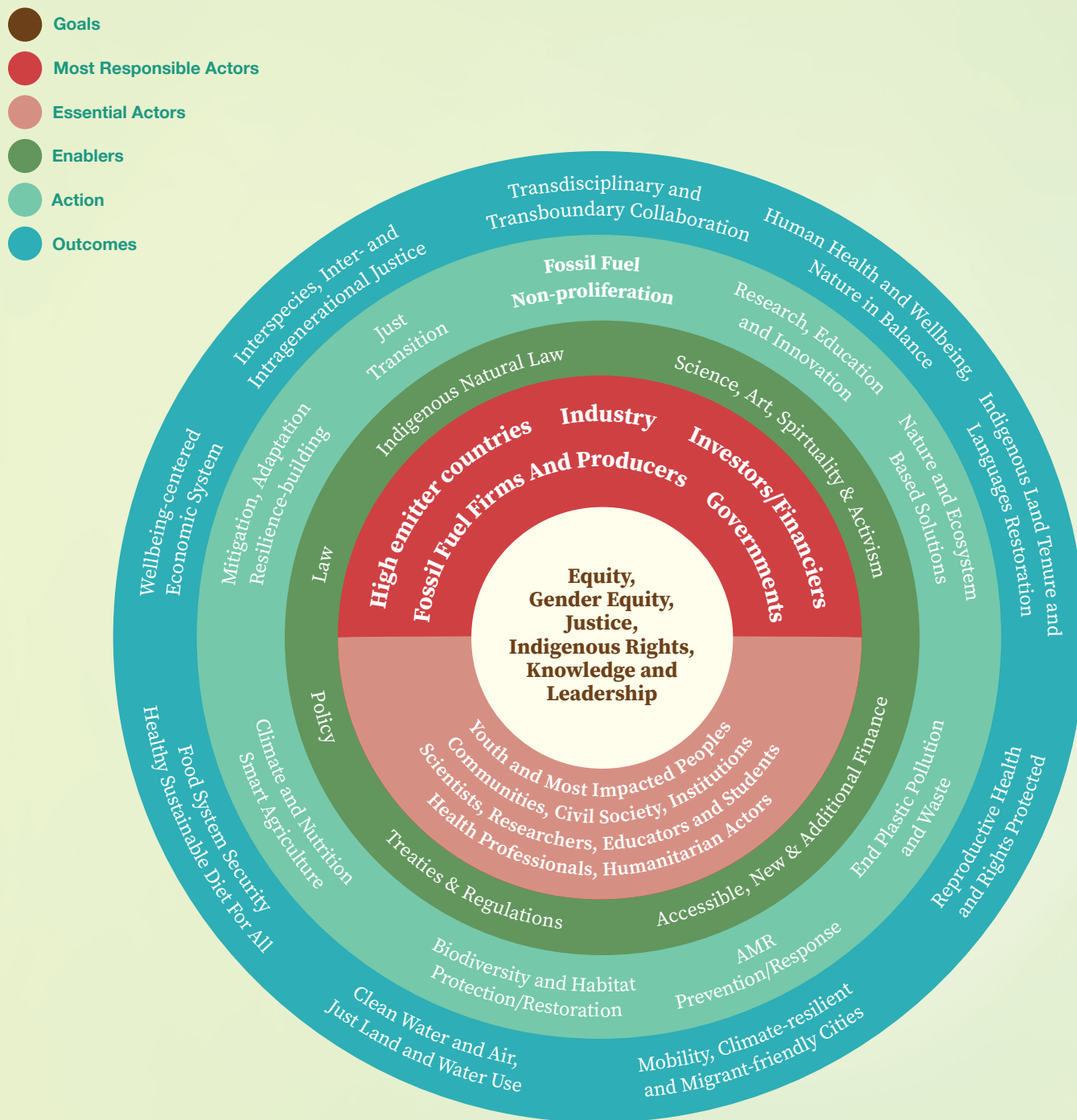
The **Actors** circles highlight those *most responsible* for harm, loss and damages, and thus for urgent action to halt harmful activity, lead on a just transition, and fund mitigation and adaptation action, regeneration, and reparation. Other actors, *essential actors*, many whom are disproportionately impacted persons and communities themselves, are working and advocating across disciplines and the world for change. They also know solutions and their needs.

The **Enablers** circle identifies some elements crucial for planetary health, equity and justice.

The **Outercomes** outer circle outlines some outcomes to be achieved through advocacy, research, collaboration, transformative systems change, fostering planetary health, and a just transition.

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Sources

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