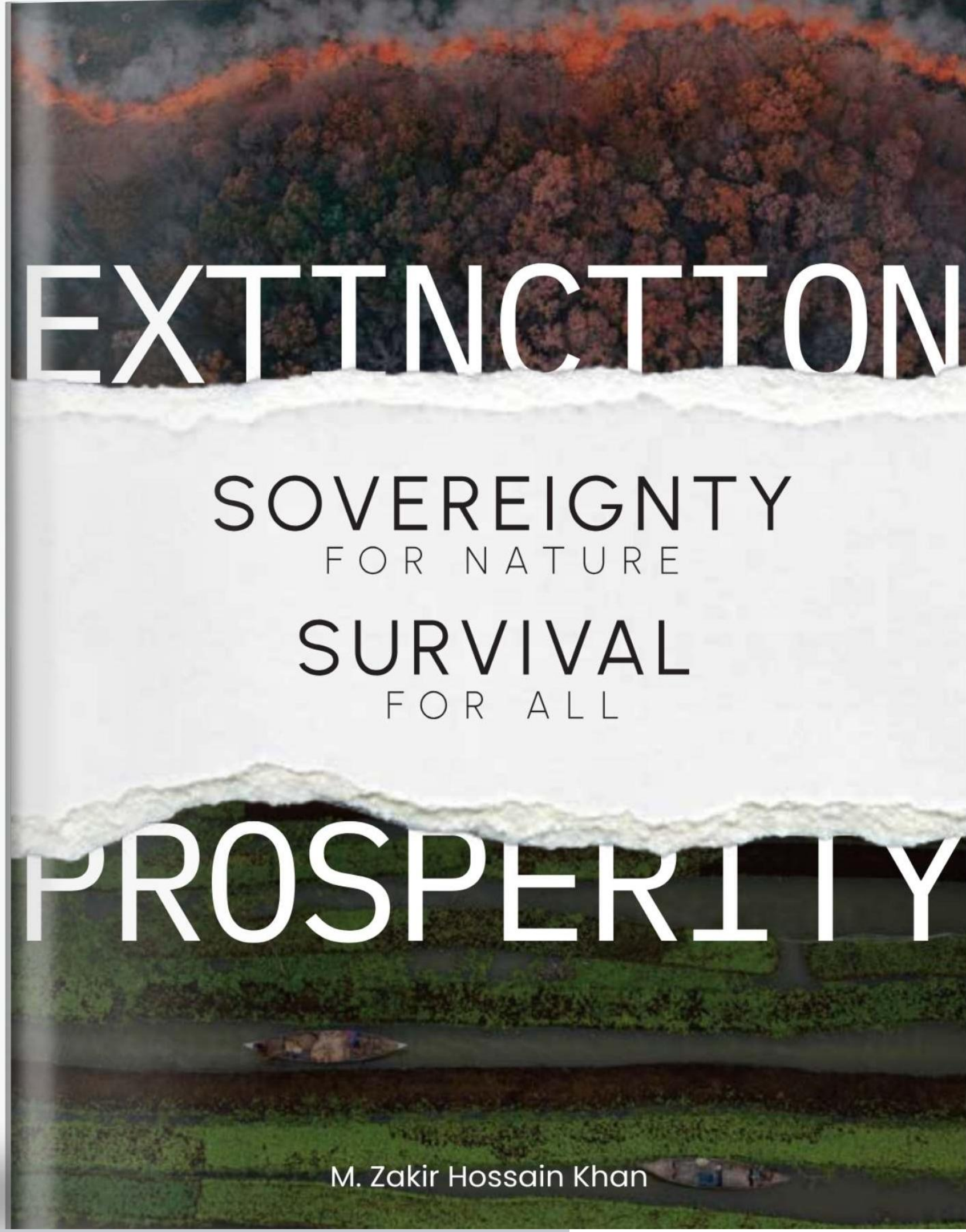




NATURAL RIGHTS LED GOVERNANCE TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sovereignty for Nature

Survival for All

M. Zakir Hossain Khan
**Author & Proponent of Natural Rights Led
Governance**

The Illusion of Progress

Why is the current system failing to protect nature and communities?



Modern economics assumes infinite, self-healing nature



Global agreements focus on pledges, not tangible outcomes



Progress without justice fails to deliver meaningful environmental change

One Planet, Too Many Red Lines

Current growth based economic system is failing to protect nature and communities.

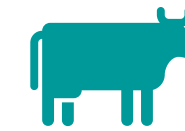
By 2050, around 3 billion people will live in countries under ecological threats



US\$ 577B crops at pollinator risk



75% land, 85% wetlands altered



Agriculture drives 70% biodiversity loss



Land use emits 25% GHGs



66% oceans impacted; 90% fish overused



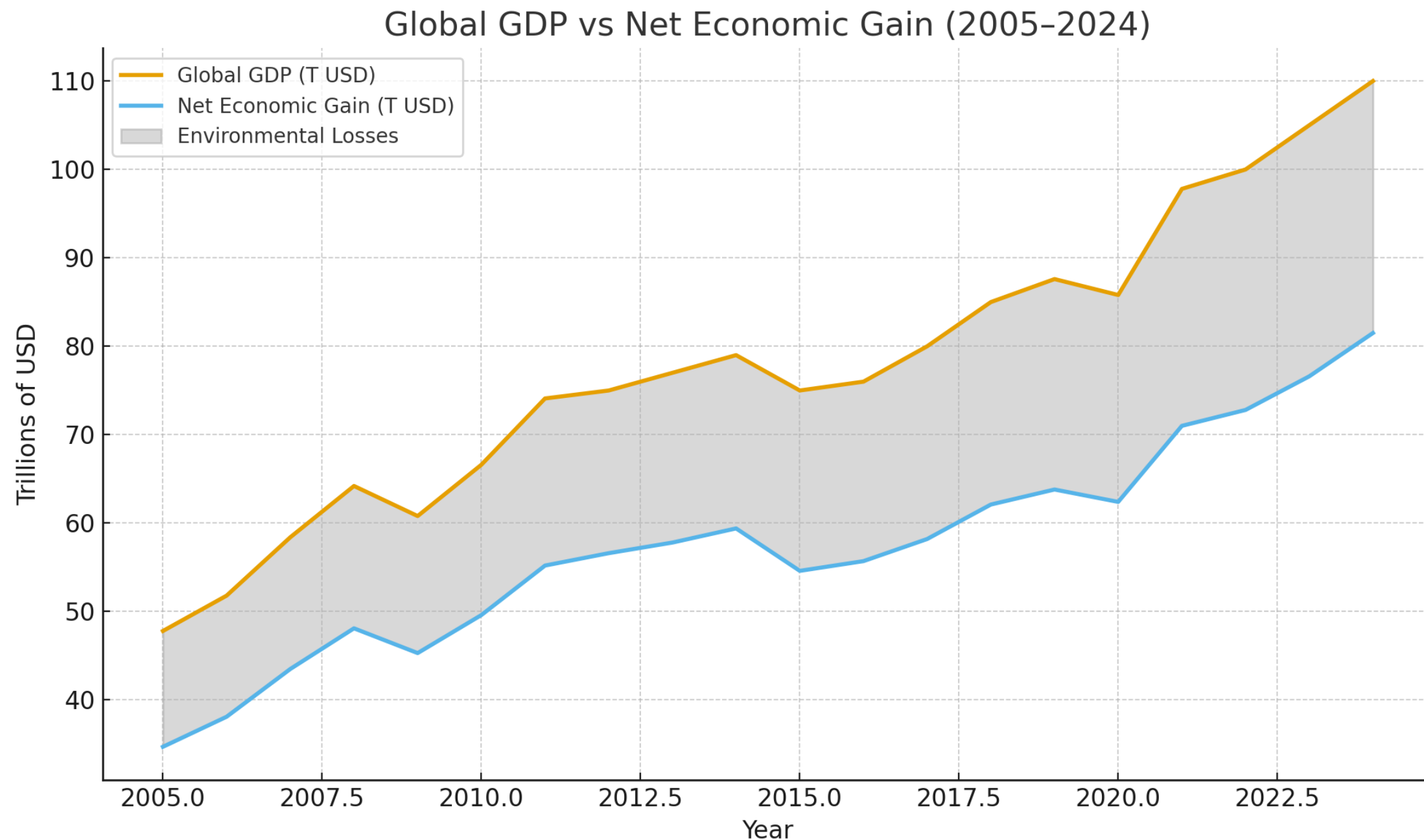
24k of 28k species threatened



60% human infections have animal origins

Growth Looks Good, Reality Does Not.

GDP is Rising, Disasters-linked Losses are Rising Faster!!



Global GDP rose from \$48T → \$110T (2005-2024)

Net gain/GDP declined: 89% → 85%

Gap widened from 11% → 15% of GDP lost

Economic growth increasingly offsets itself through development-led destruction

The Development-Destruction Trap

Extract > Collapse > Borrow > Repeat

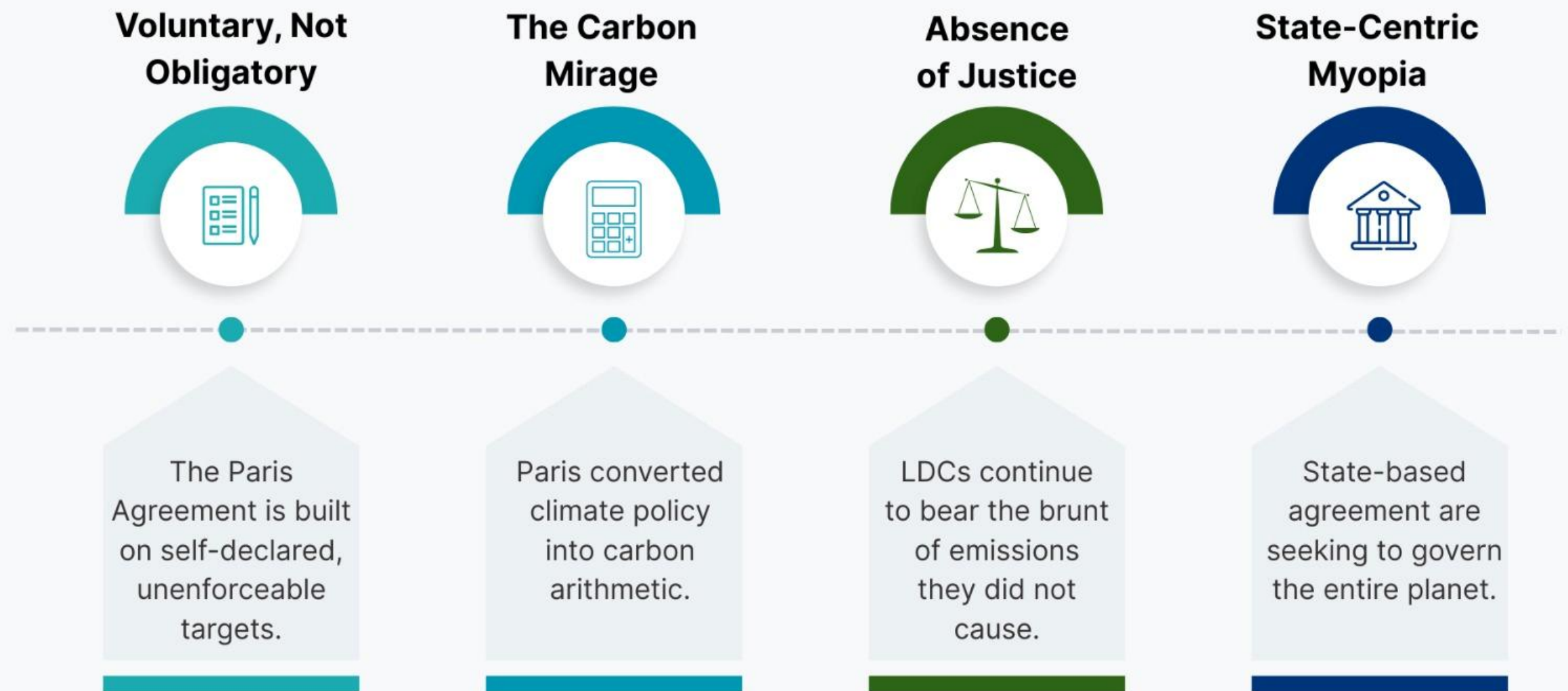
GDP Growth Built on Ecological Loss, Undermines True Prosperity



The Money for Justice Already Exists.
The flows are real; **they just follow the wrong rules and priorities.**

Paris is Waning, and Nature Must Govern

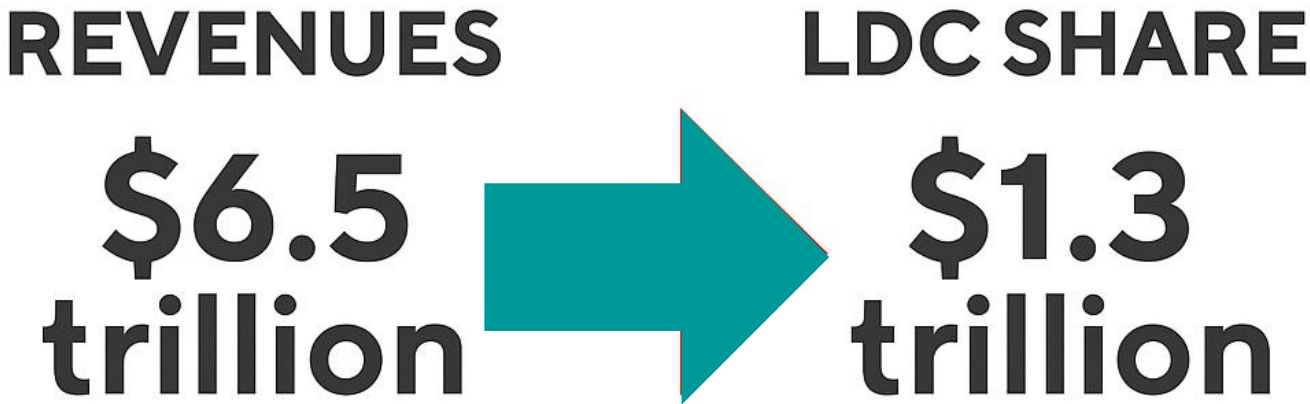
Why Natural Rights Governance Is
the Only Viable Path to Protect
People and Planet



We Do Not Only Need New Projects, We Need New Rules.

Not Short of Money, Short of Rules and Commitment

Source	Assumption	Annual Revenue
Carbon Price (Article 6.0, Paris Aligned)	$\$100/\text{tCO}_2\text{e} \times 65 \text{ GtCO}_2\text{e}$ (global total emissions)	US\$6.5 trillion
Arms Levy (included in total)	10–20% on \$630B arms revenues	\$0.06–\$0.12 trillion
Total potential		≈ US\$6.0–6.6 trillion



Potential revenues from
global carbon-tax for LDC

Existential Threat: A Systemic Crisis Unfolding

Combined collapse of climate stability signals a **systemic crisis threatening all lives**



Ethical considerations **eroded** and **equity ignored**, undermining collective survival



Ethical and equitable governance reforms are **urgently required**, prioritizing ecological and human well-being



Crisis stems not from scientific gaps, but from **failure in governance mechanisms**

Survival window is **dangerously closing**, demanding immediate and just action

Beyond Counting Tons, Governance for Rights. Carbon metrics matter, but so do the rights of people, rivers and oceans are protected.

Nature's Sovereignty: Justice for All Life

Recognizing nature as a self-governing entity, with humans as trustees who uphold Earth's inherent rights through just governance.



Nature Is A Sovereign Entity, Possessing Inherent Rights And A Self-governing Order Beyond Human Control.



Humans Act As Trustees, Entrusted To Protect And Nurture The Earth Rather Than Claim Ownership Over It.



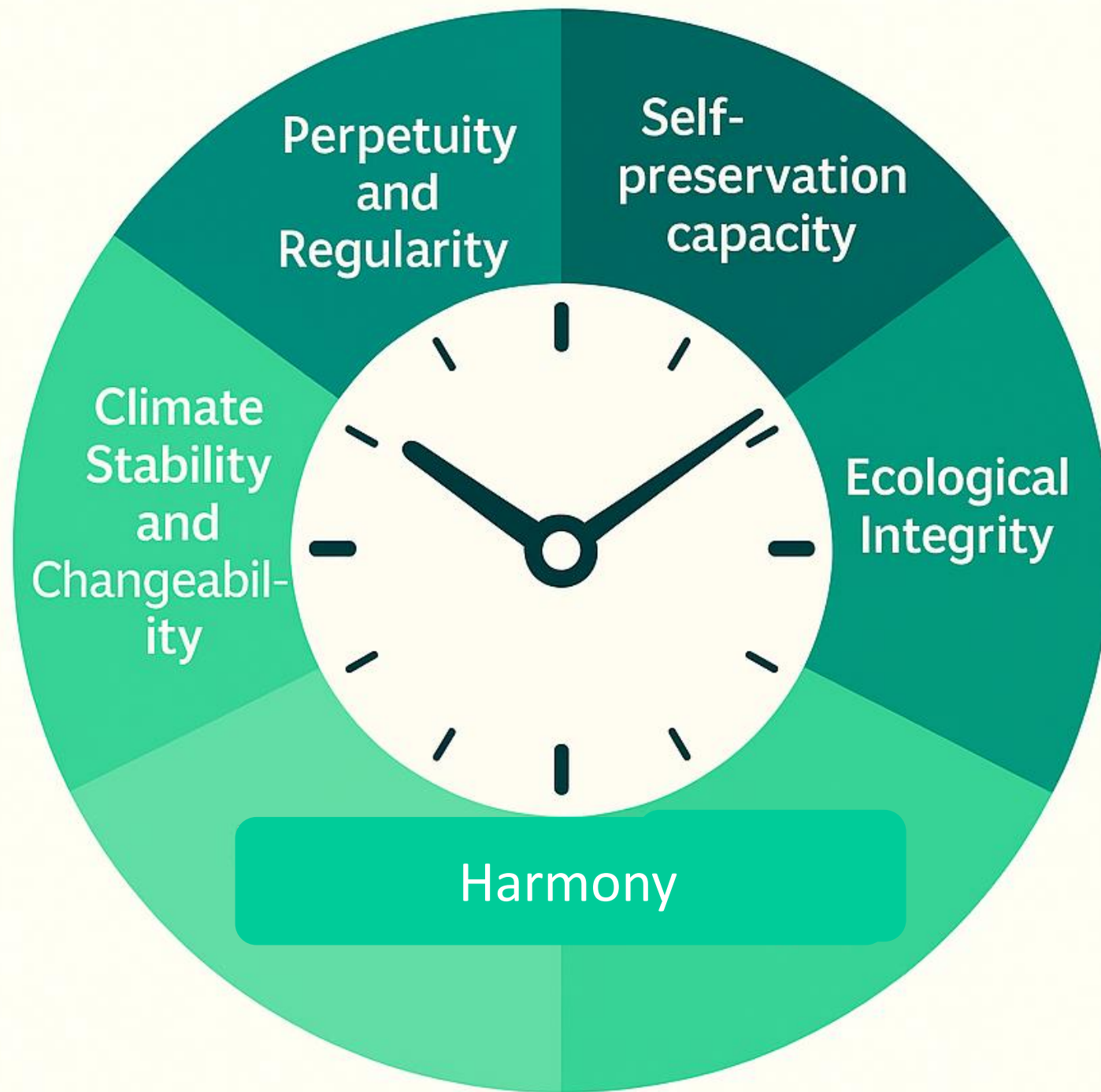
Governance Must Represent The Voiceless Earth By Defending Nature's Rights And Upholding Its Sovereignty.



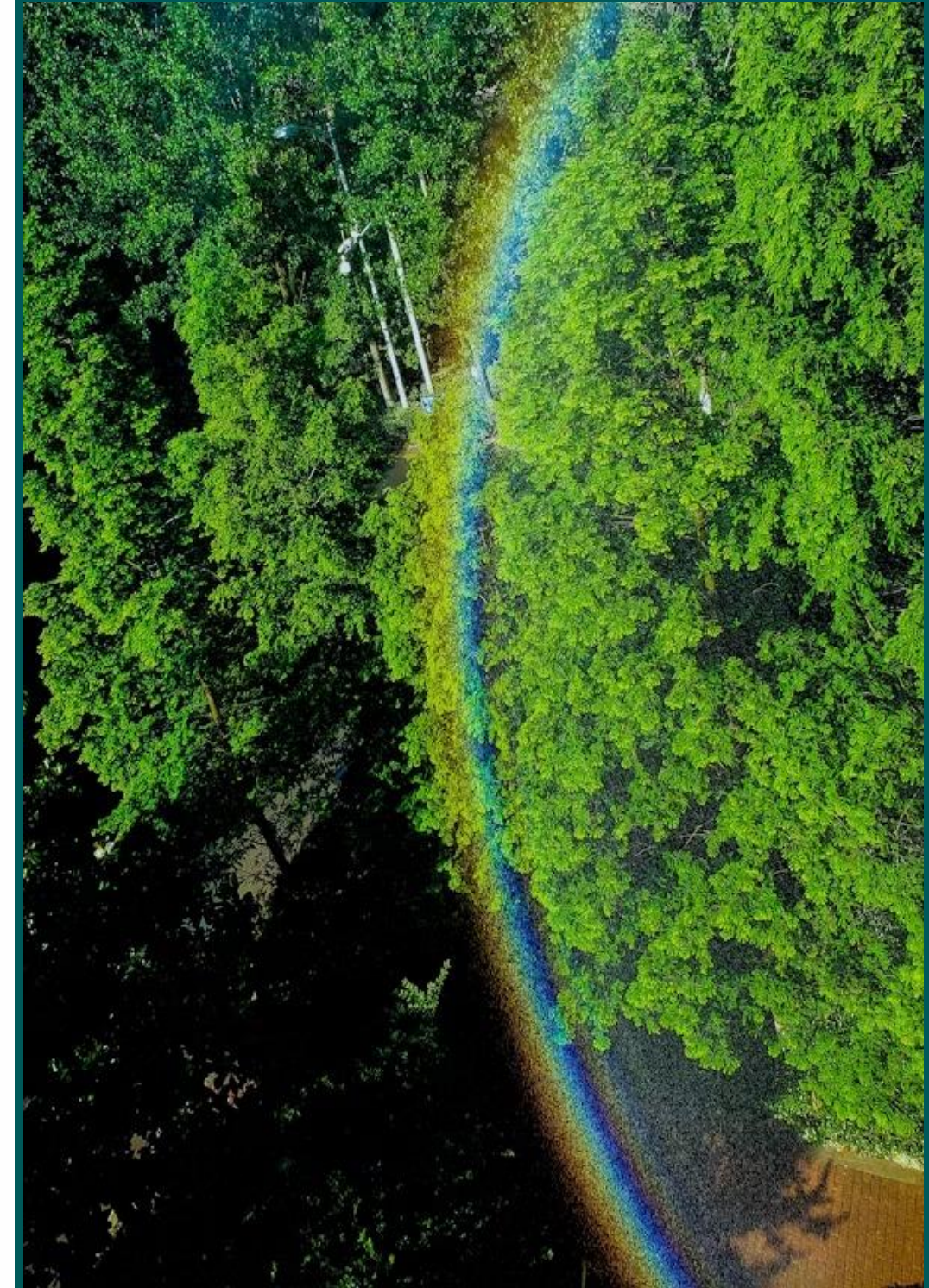
This Principle Underpins **Nature Justice**, Ensuring All Life And Ecosystems Are Valued Intrinsically And Protected.

What If Nature is The Sovereign, Not Just Us?

Human are trustees of law, finance and policy, not owners of Earth.



Prime Determinants of Nature's Sovereignty



Natural Rights Precede Human Law

Upholding Nature's Moral and Legal
Sovereignty for All Life

Natural rights exist before human laws, granting every species the right to **exist, evolve, and regenerate**

Violating these rights is both a **moral and legal breach** extending responsibility to the entire planet

Justice must expand beyond humans to **encompass all life forms and ecosystems**

Governments and society must **respect and protect nature's rights** as fundamental principles

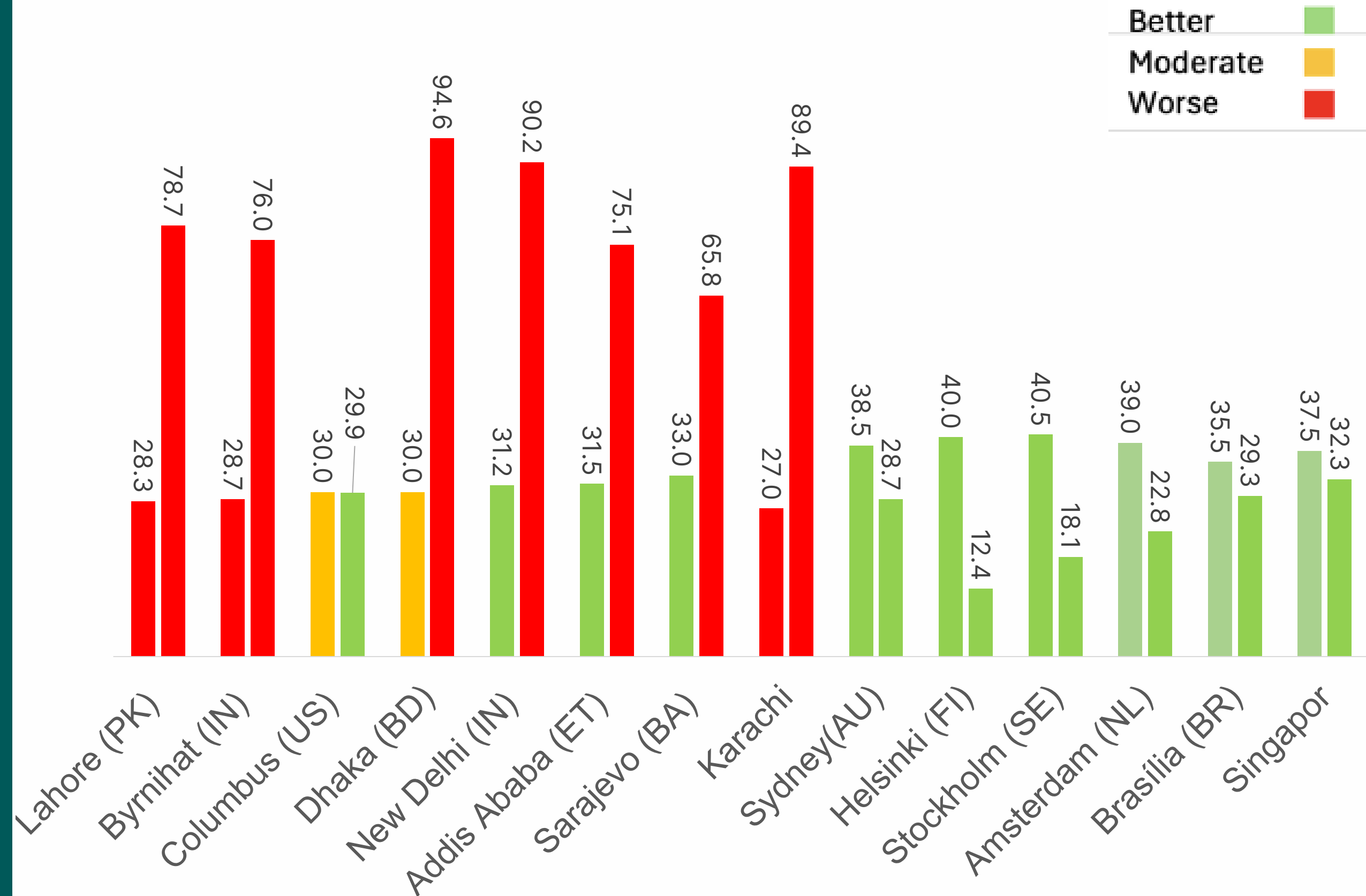
Upholding Natural Rights Pillars

Every river, forest, coastline and mountain we protect is a shield for someone's home and future.



Unified Natural Rights Index (UNRI) of Most Polluted Cities

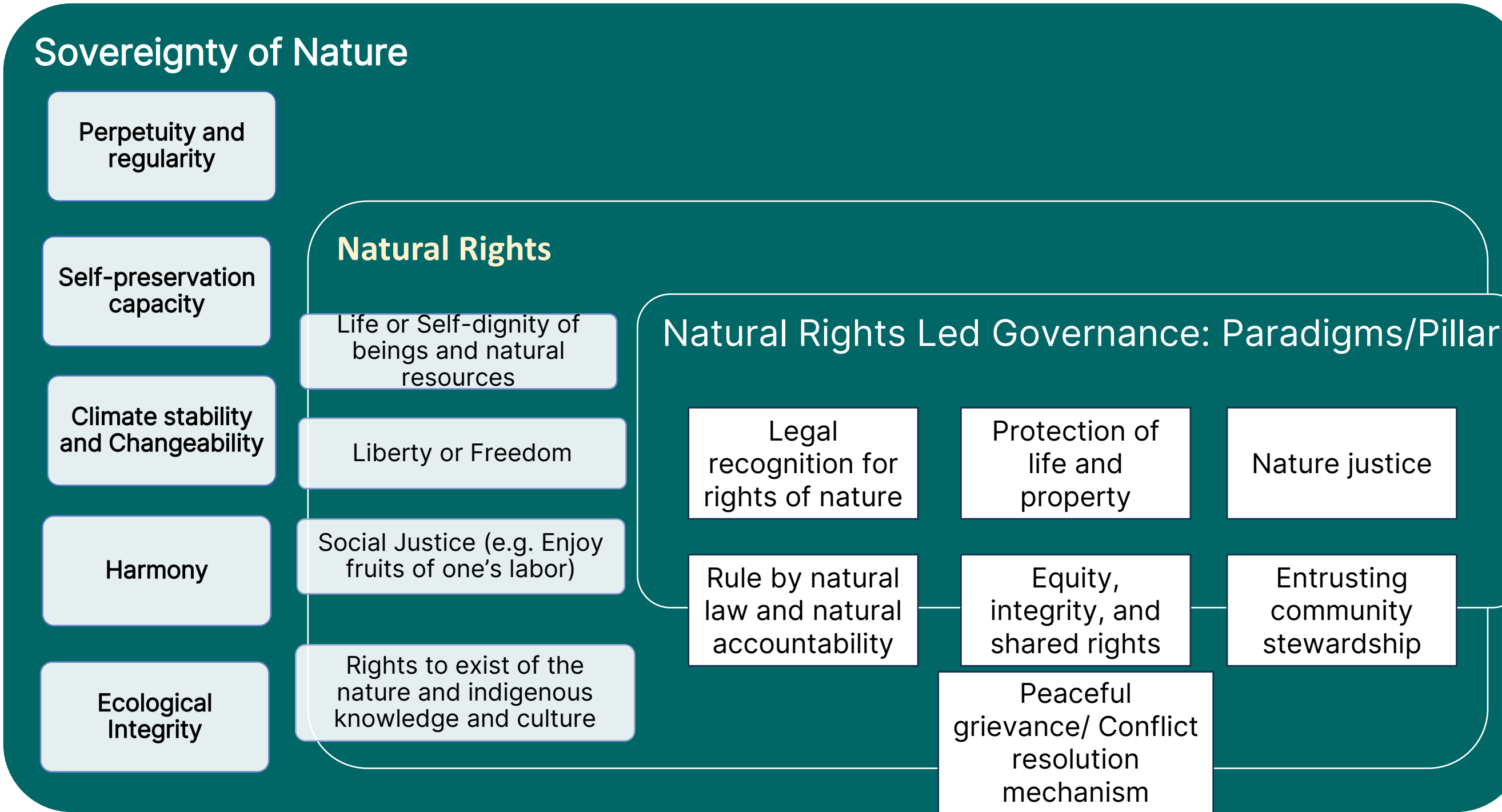
Where air is unbreathable, Natural Rights collapse, pollution reveals governance failure



NRLG Framework: Constitutions and Contracts
only stand if the living Earth beneath them
survives.

Nature's Sovereignty and Paradigms of NRLG

Transform society by shifting to
regeneration, stewardship, and ecological
harmony



Seven Paradigms of NRLG

Transform society by shifting to
regeneration, stewardship, and ecological
harmony



**Legal Recognition
for Rights of Nature**

Codifying the rights of ecosystems to exist,
thrive, and regenerate within national and
international legal systems.



**Protection of
Life and
Property**

Preservation of people and their assets
from harm, risk, or loss.



**Nature
Justice**

The act of aligning human actions with
natural laws.



**Rule by Natural Law
and Natural
Accountability**

A stringent system of accountability that
ensures justice-based outcomes, driven by
nature-based knowledge and guidelines.

Seven Paradigms of NRLG

Transform society by shifting to regeneration, stewardship, and ecological harmony



**Equity, Integrity,
and Shared Rights**

Form the pillars on which rests the system of Natural Rights governance, centered on humans and nature .



**Peaceful Grievance
or Conflict Resolution
Mechanism**

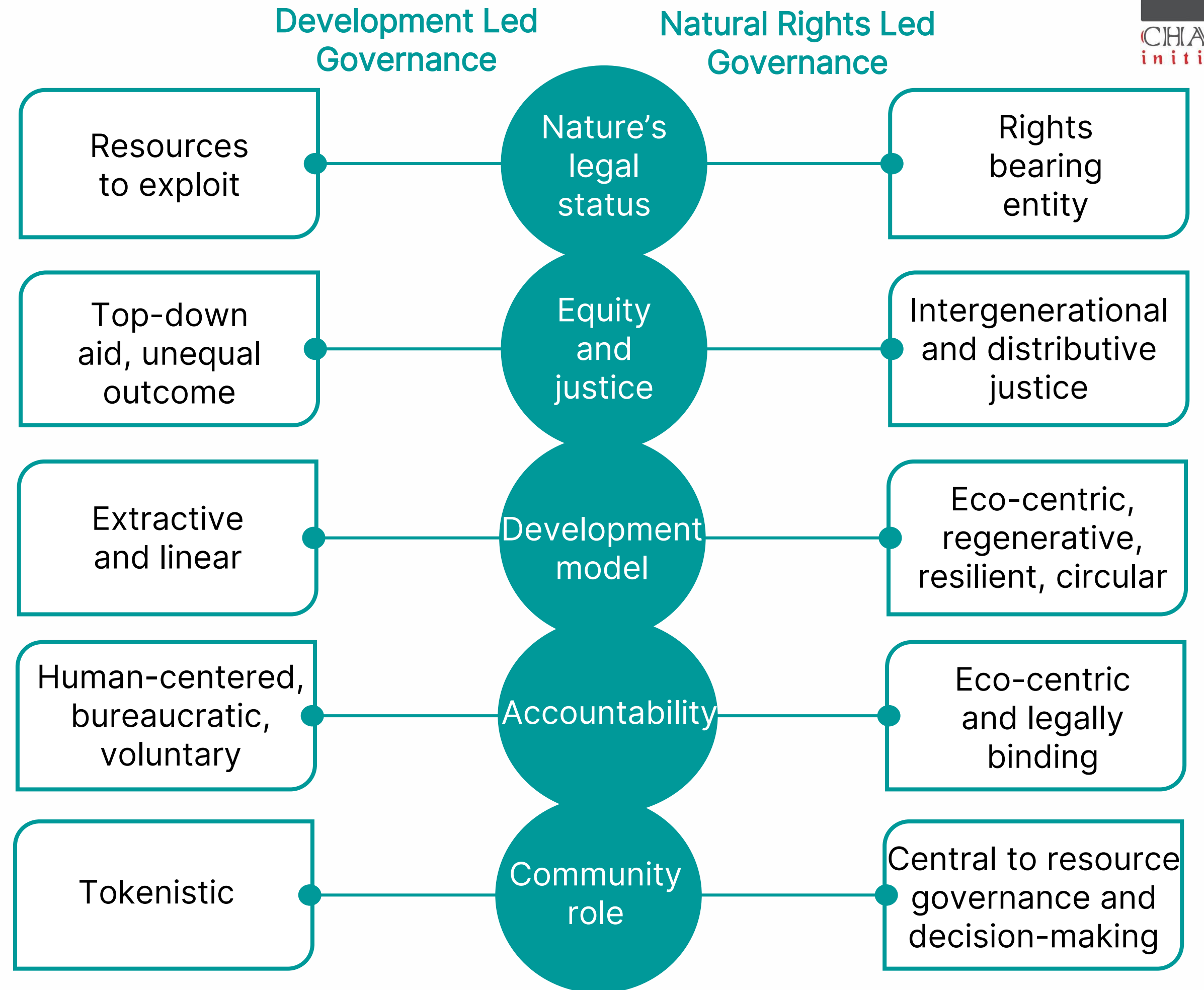
Seeks to resolve natural resource-related disputes and governance imbalances through non-violent, inclusive, and equitable means.



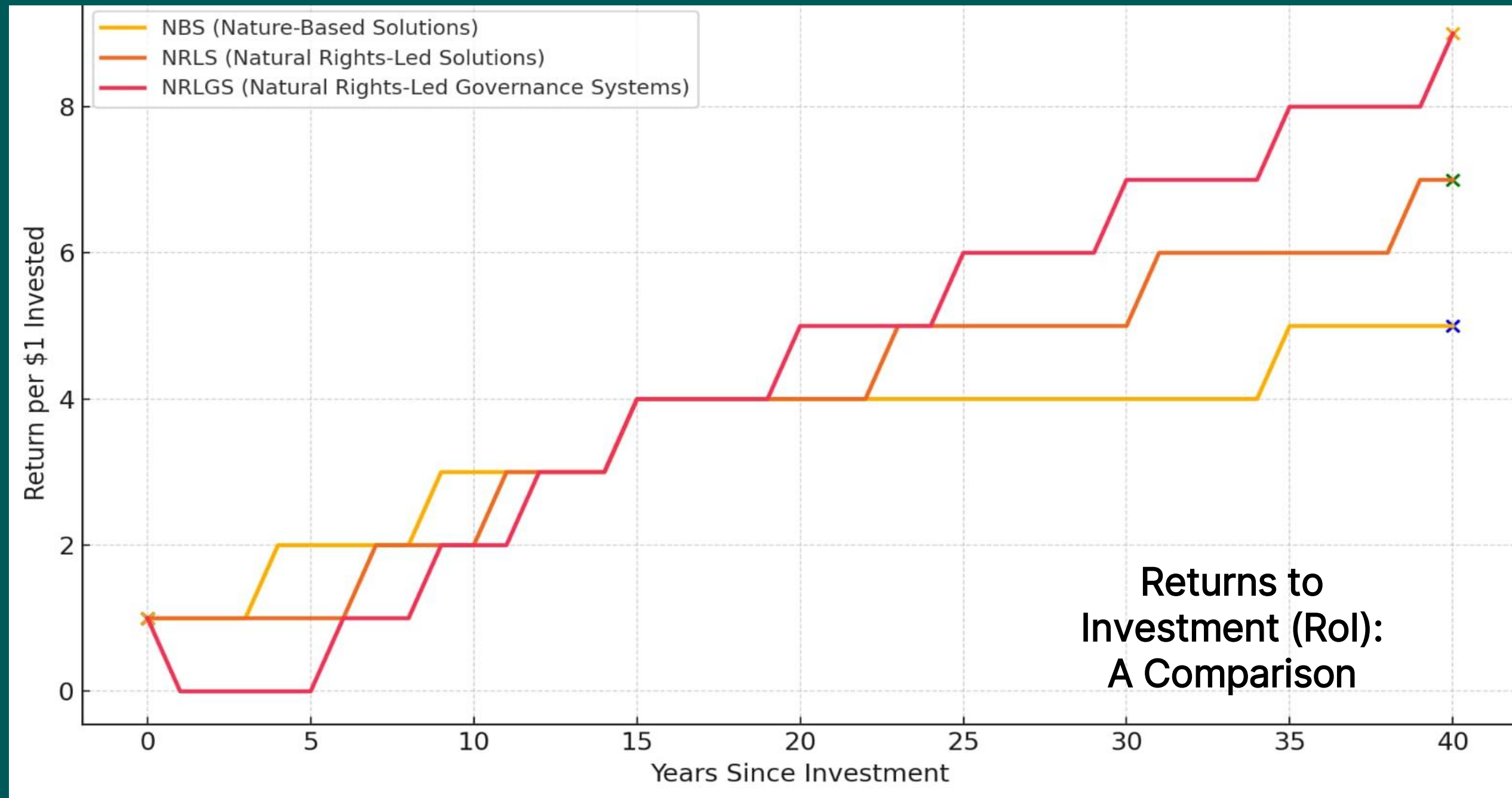
**Community
Stewardship**

Harness a strong sense of community, emphasizing collective responsibility of all inhabitants to maintain the welfare of community and the planet.

Development Led Governance Vs. NRLG



Nature First Does Not Mean Wellbeing Last!



Traditional Economics	Economics of NRLG
Exploits nature for growth	Regenerates nature as growth
Measures output	Measures balance
Prioritizes capital	Prioritizes continuity of life
Centralized and extractive	Decentralized and restorative
Values profit	Values well-being and equity

- NBS peaks early, rewards speed
- NRLS overtakes by year 20, rewards balance
- NRLGS compounds highest long-term, rewards endurance.

- Old economics asks, “How much can we take?”
- NRLG asks, “How much can we sustain?”

Rebalancing the Scales: From Exploitation to Renewal

Concrete steps to transform governance and finance for ecological justice



Legal Reform:
Constitutionalize Nature's Rights To Protect Ecosystems Through Law



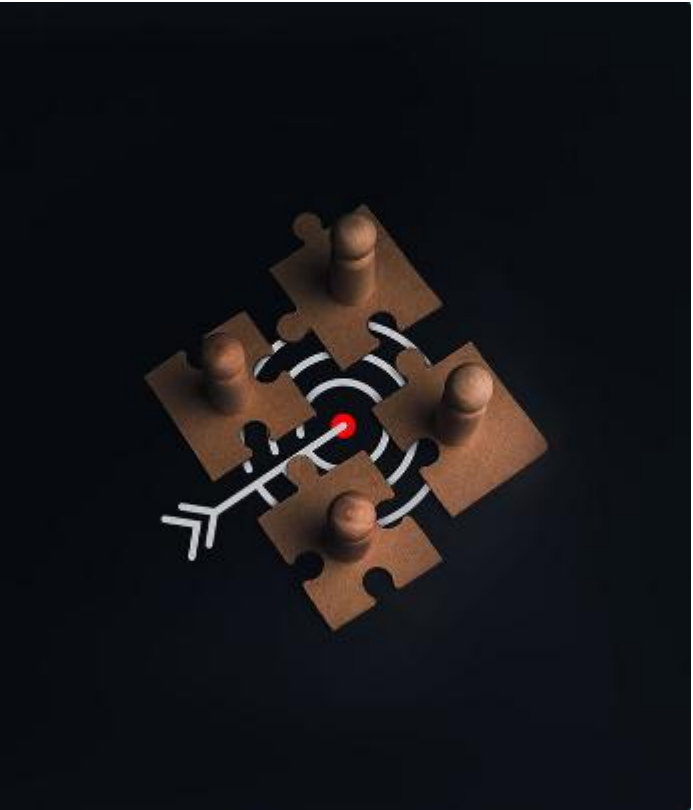
Institutional Shift: Embed Environment Into Governance And Planning Frameworks



Economic Change: Tax Pollution And Incentivize Regeneration For Sustainable Growth



Cultural Renewal: Reconnect Ethics With Ecosystems To Foster Respect And Stewardship



Together, These Pathways Form A Comprehensive Approach That Drives Lasting Ecological Governance And Societal Transformation

Rebalancing the Scales: From Exploitation to Renewal

Justice is not charity,
it's fiscal intelligence



Environmental care is not a
luxury, it is the foundation of
resilience

Prosperity is not a rising
graph, it's a living balance



Hope for a Better Future through Natural Rights Led Governance

Audacity of Hope

This perspective transforms despair into **actionable optimism** for a just, regenerative future.

Embracing **nature's sovereignty** offers humanity its final hope and a path to a sustainable future.

Hope is the courage to act amid crisis, inspiring bold transformation.

Combining **law, finance, and faith** creates powerful tools for renewal and resilience.

Governance must shift focus from endless growth to prioritizing the vitality of life.

16TH NOVEMBER 2025



NRLG

YOUTH AND INDIGENOUS VOICES RISING FOR NATURE'S SOVEREIGNTY

Today we took Natural Rights Led Governance to the beach. 🌿

Indigenous leaders, local communities and young people stood together by the water to say one thing clearly: nature has the right to exist and be happy, just like us. Their smiles are our reminder of what we are fighting for at COP30.

#NRLG #NaturesSovereignty
#YouthForNature #IndigenousVoices

Enforcing Natural Rights-Led Governance



- Communities anchor Nature's sovereignty.
- National mechanisms formalize and reinforce these rights.
- Regional and global cooperation support cross-border protection.

Implementing Natural Rights-Led Governance



Community stewardship is the heartbeat of NRLG implementation.

- Practice land rituals and utilize traditional knowledge.
- Ensure legal recognition of nature through local guardianship and rights-based approaches.
- Grassroots advocacy to empower communities defend ecosystems.

Natural Rights in Practice: Global Precedents and Outcomes

1st country to
recognize nature as a
rights-bearing entity
in its Constitution

Ecuador

Outcome

Trustees can sue for
violation of nature's
rights

Recognized the
Whanganui River
as a legal person

New Zealand

Outcome

Centers Indigenous
stewardship and
codifies ecosystem
sovereignty

High Court
declaration of rivers
as living entities

Bangladesh

Outcome

Treats rivers as
victims of harm and
mandates active state
protection

Constitution gives
right to sue on
behalf of
ecosystems

Kenya

Outcome

Strong community-led
environmental justice
rulings grounded in
constitutional rights

An Urgent Call to Action



1 Defending nature's rights means defending life itself



2 COP 30 must mark the pivotal shift from a carbon-focused agenda to justice-centered governance



3 Stop managing the planet as property; reclaim our belonging to Earth



4 Embrace nature's sovereignty to protect all life and secure humanity's future

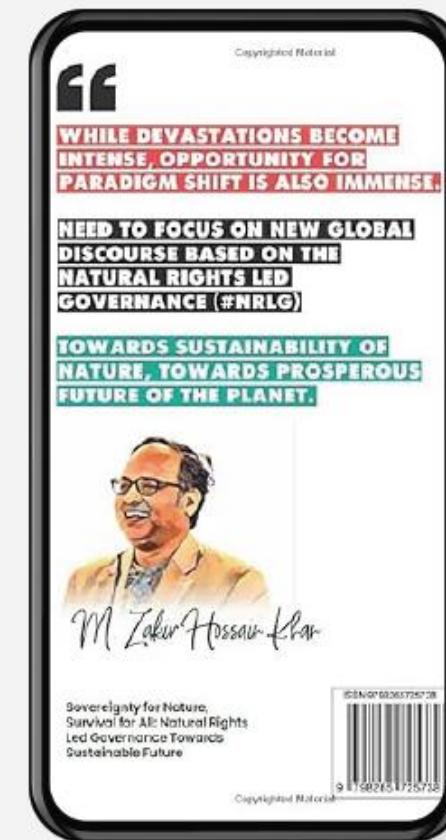
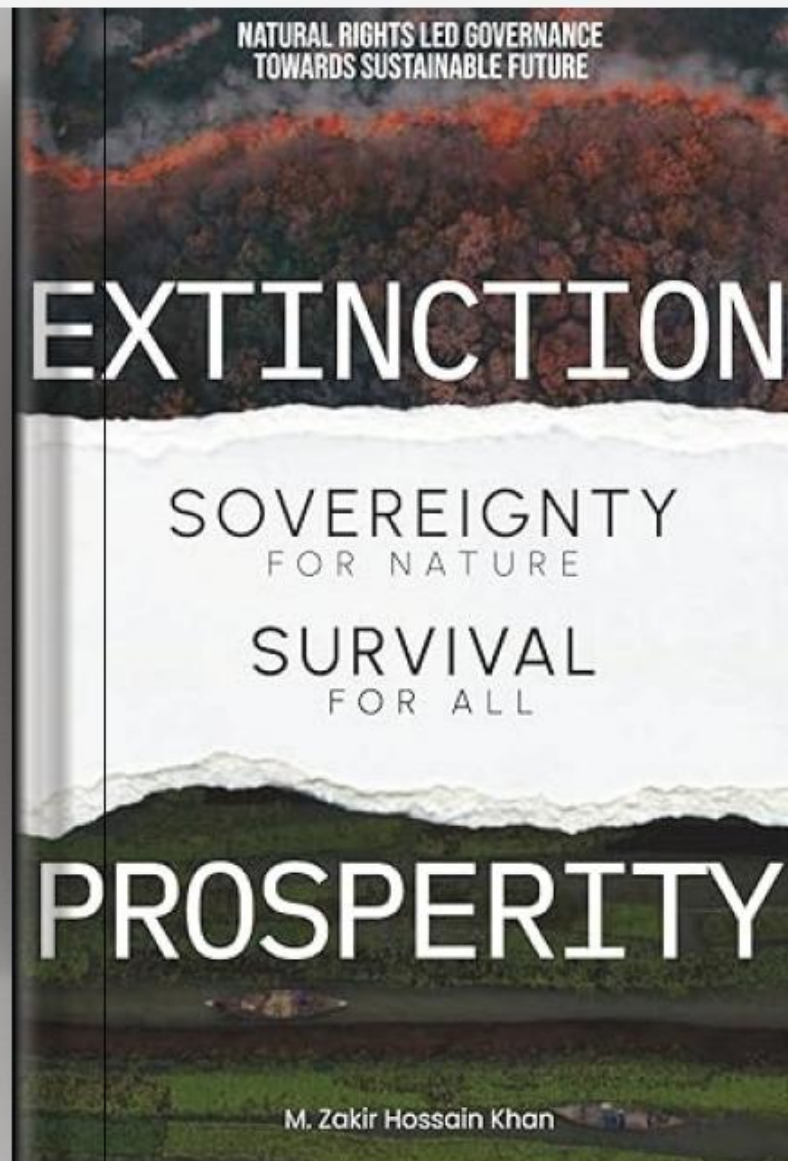
Under NRLG, prosperity is not
a rising graph. It's a living
balance.



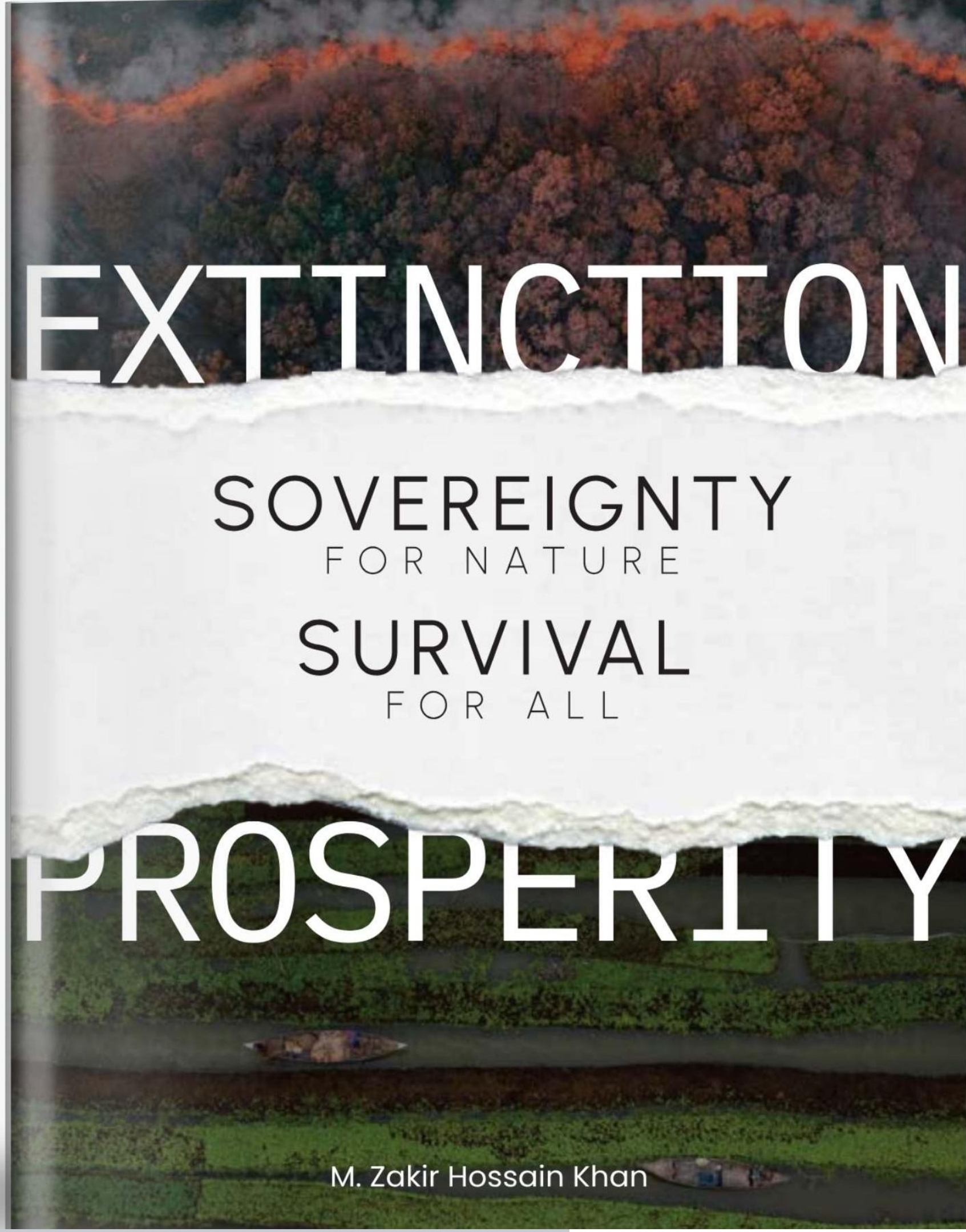
EXCLUSIVE ON AMAZON
GET IT NOW



10/27/2025



Thank You



NATURAL RIGHTS LED GOVERNANCE TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sovereignty for Nature
Survival for All

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