



Prosperity without Growth

Economics for a finite planet

Tim Jackson
3rd December 2009



Sustainable
Development Commission

People • Planet • Prosperity

- Growth is unsustainable
- De-growth is unstable

$$GDP = Labour \times LP$$



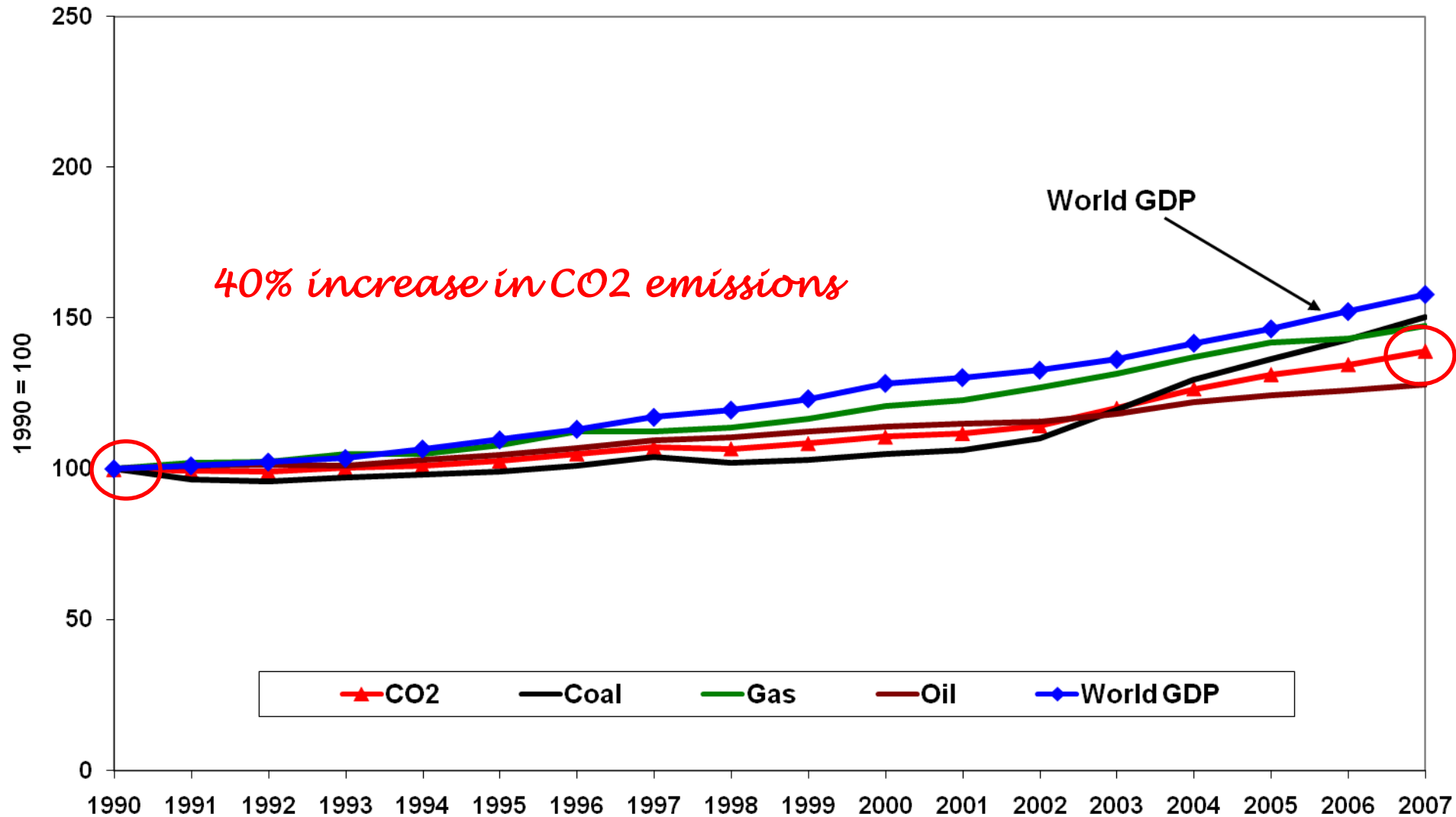
The Dilemma of Growth

Limits to Decoupling



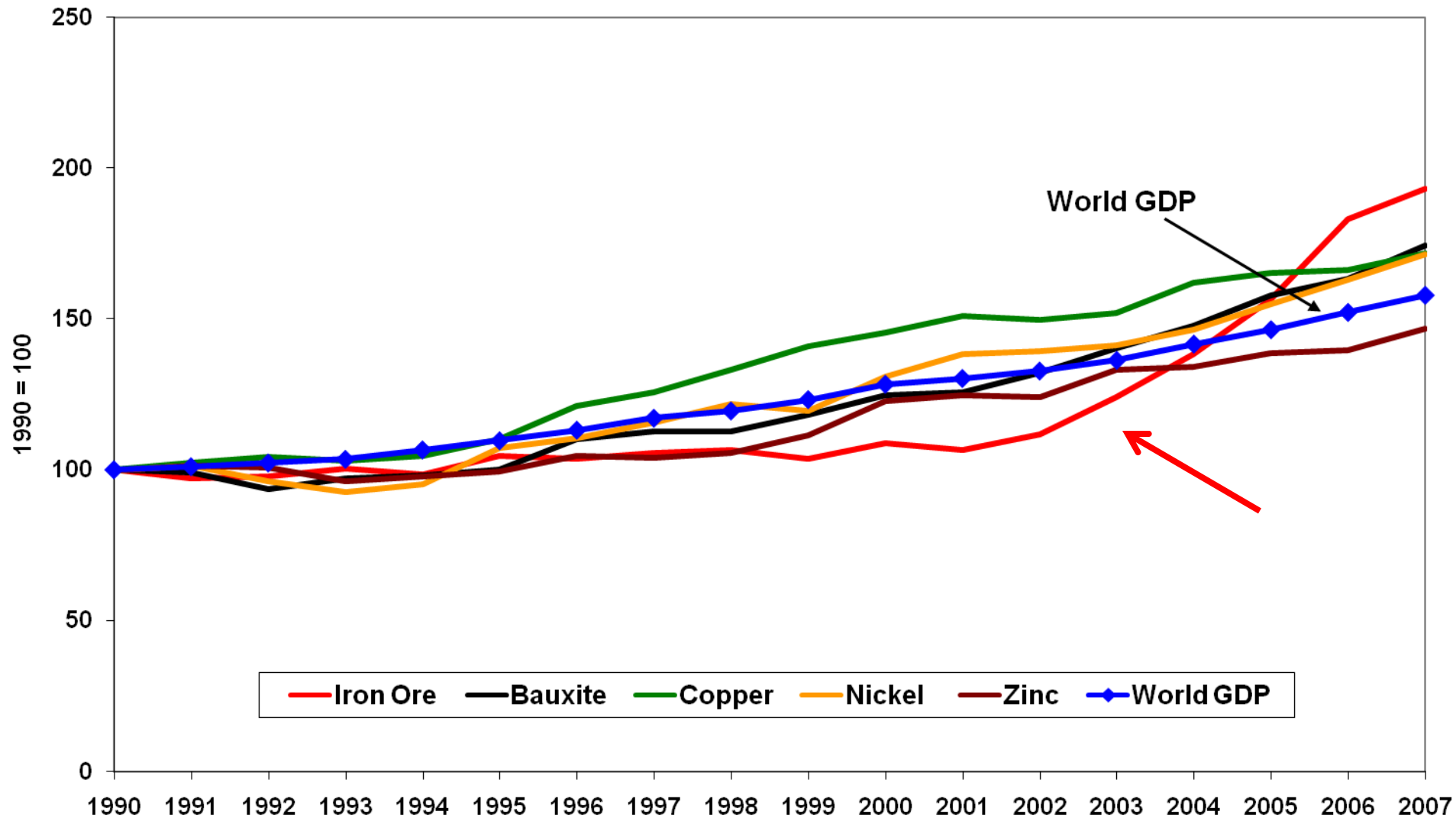
Limits to Decoupling

Source: *Prosperity without growth*, Tim Jackson (London, Earthscan 2009)



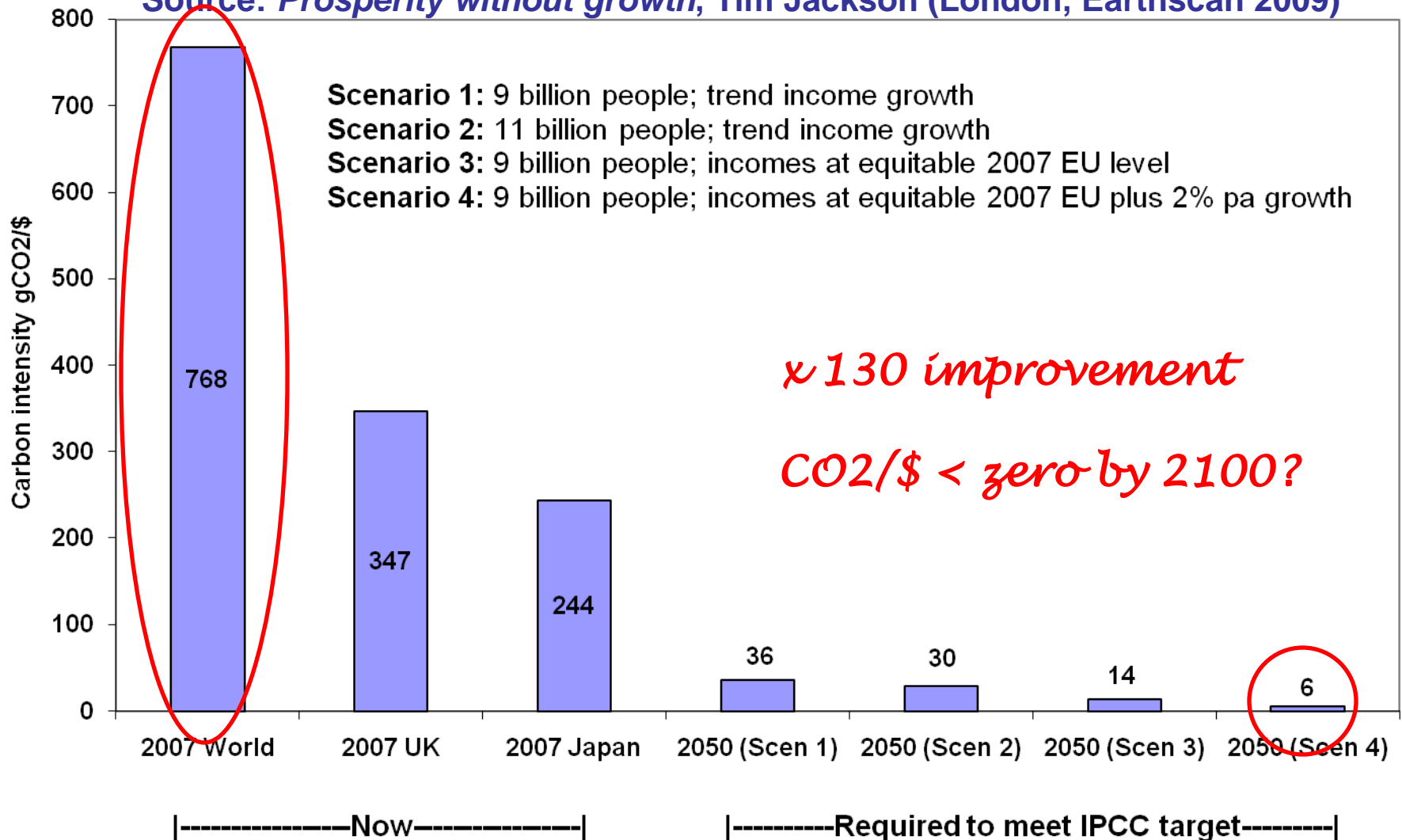
Limits to Decoupling

Source: *Prosperity without growth*, Tim Jackson (London, Earthscan 2009)

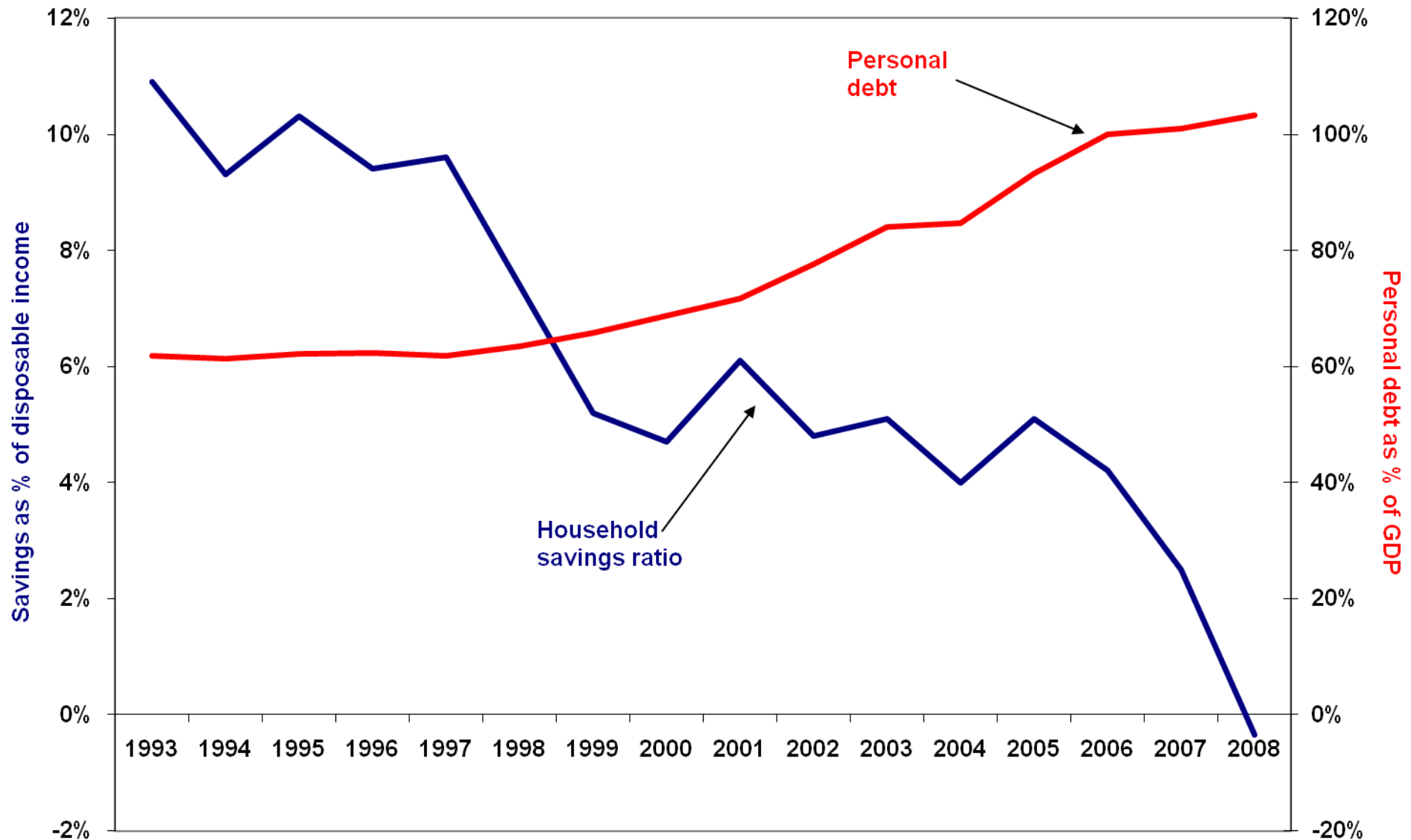


Limits to Decoupling

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The Engine of Growth



A Different Engine of Growth?

$$C + G + I + \underline{X} = \text{GDP} = Y(\alpha, L, K, \textcolor{green}{R})$$

Consumption C
Govt spending G
Investment I
Net export X

Productivity α
Labour L
Capital K
Resources R

A Different Engine of Growth?

Ecological Investment

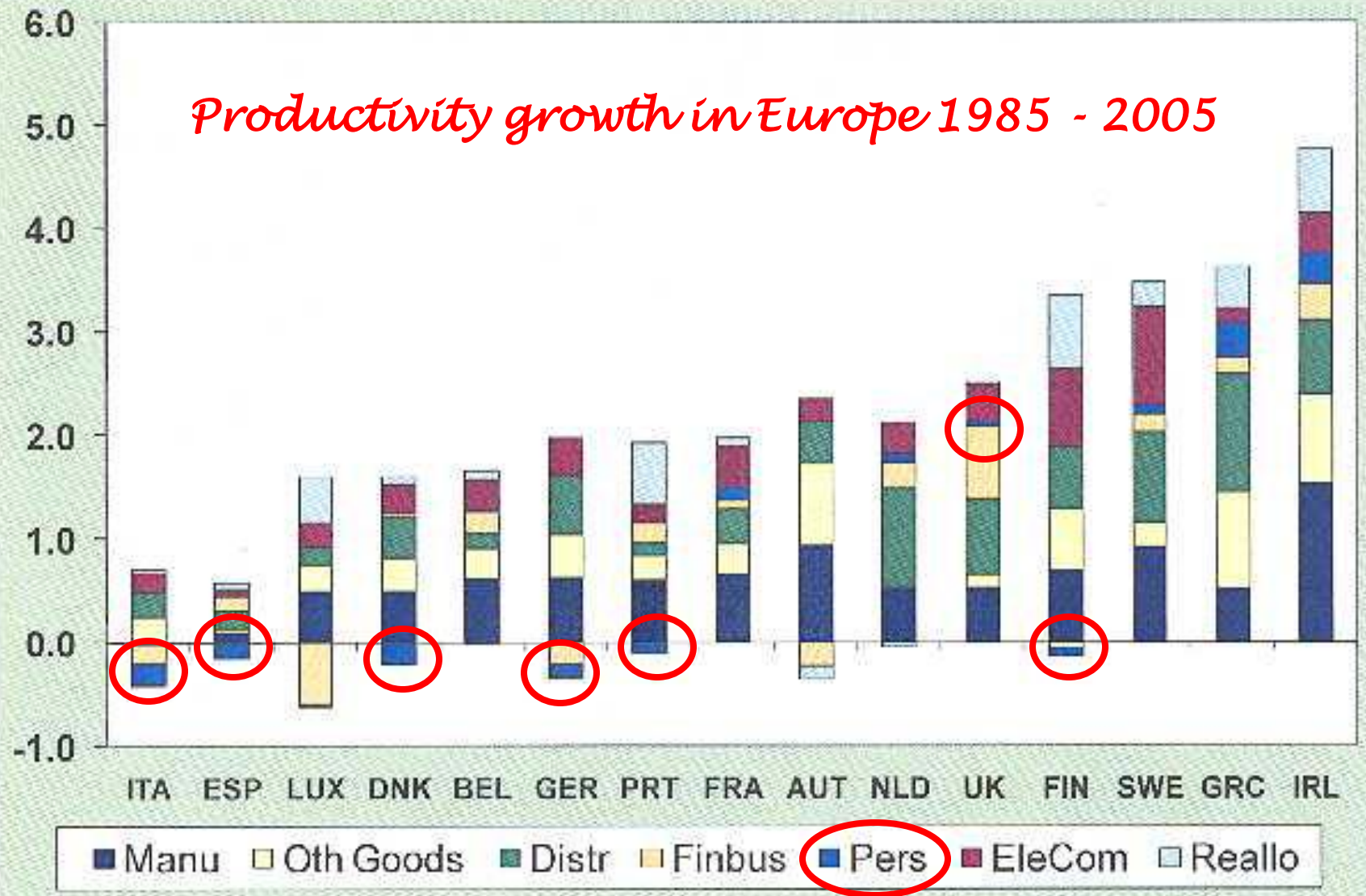
- investment targets
- investment 'ecology'
- productivity /profitability
- financial markets
- role of public sector

Ecological Enterprise

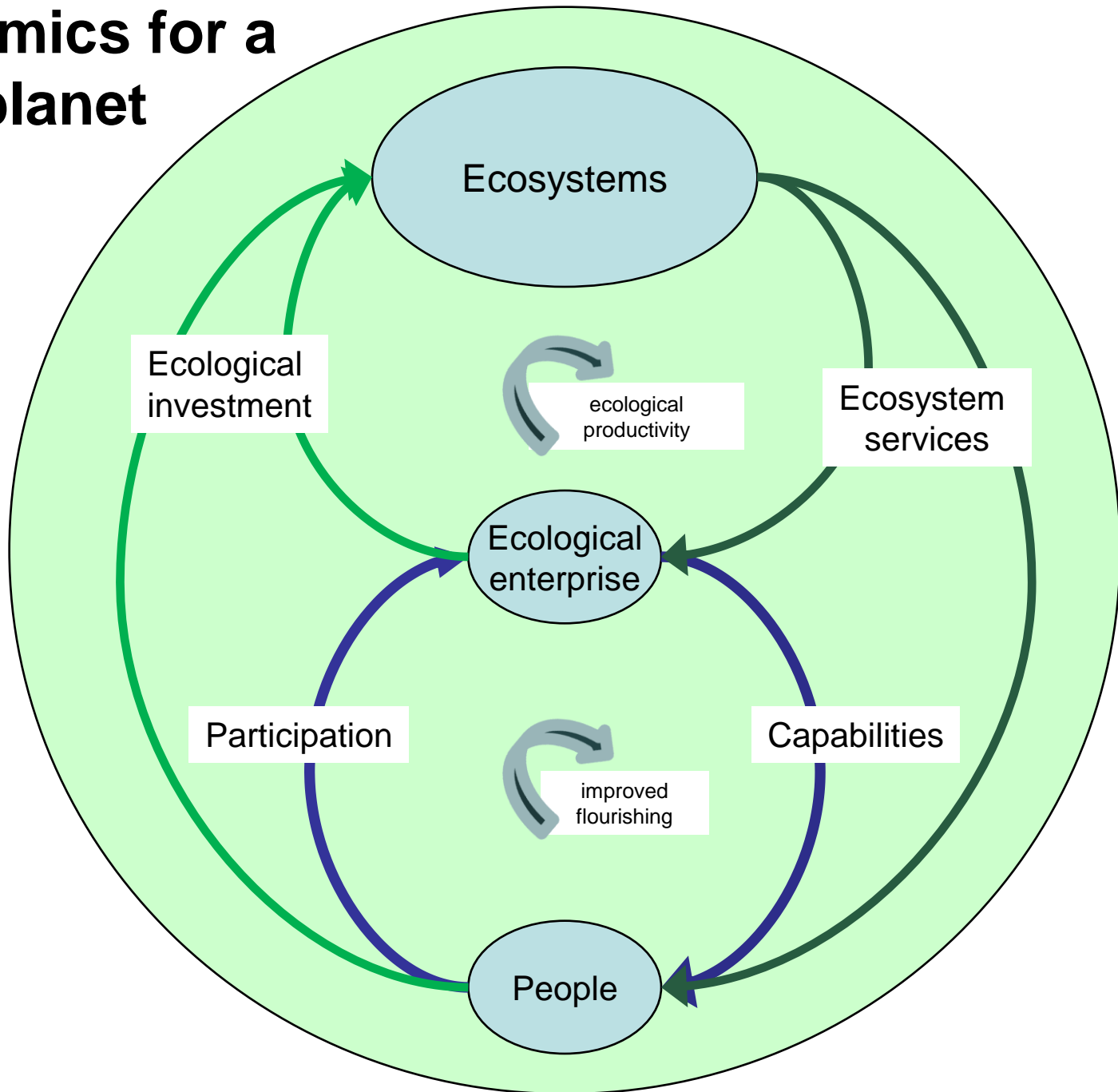
- low carbon/resource light
- service-based
- support flourishing
- provide jobs
- support communities

A Different Engine of Growth?

Productivity growth in Europe 1985 - 2005



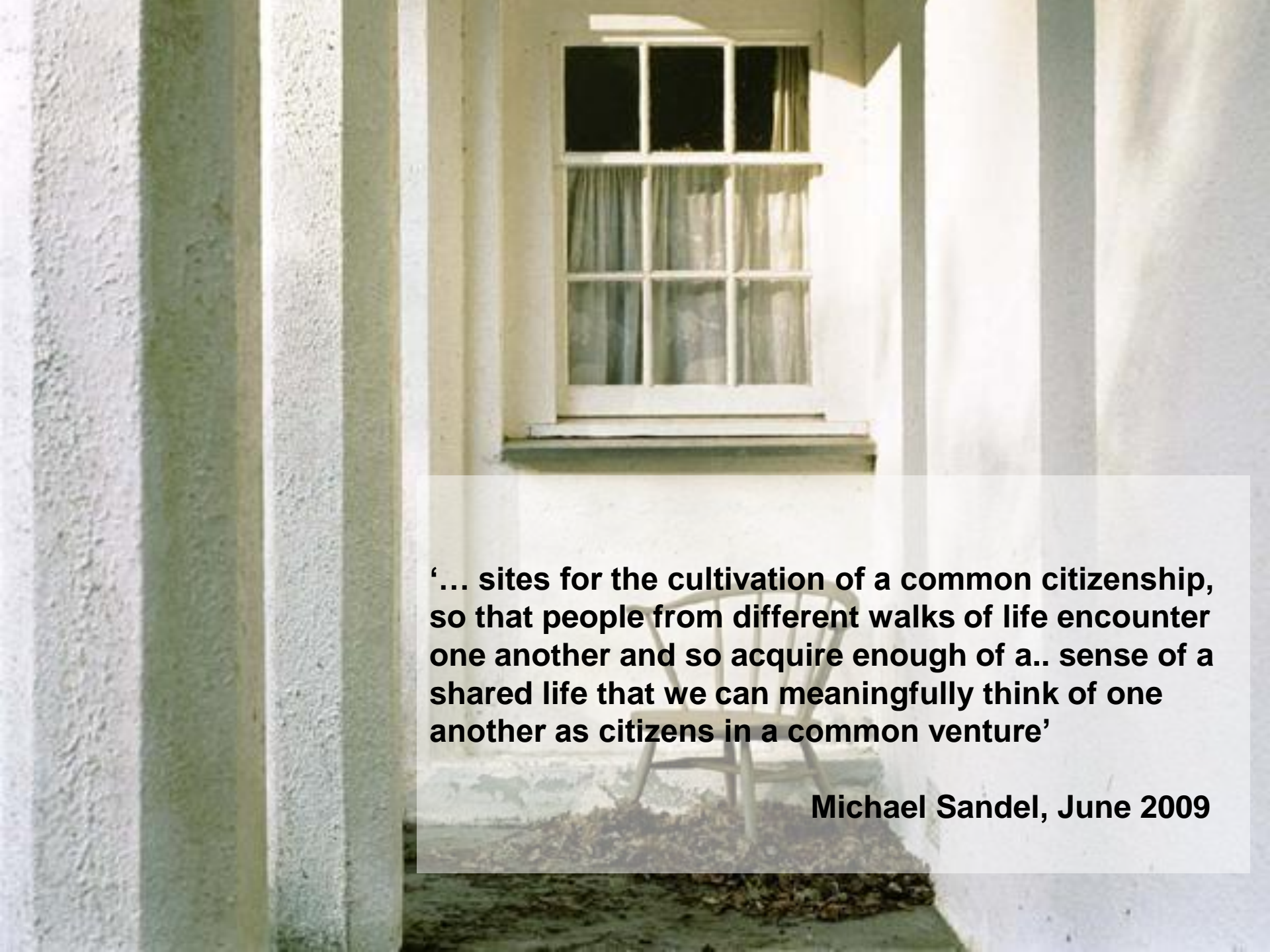
Economics for a finite planet



Flourishing – within limits

More Leisure &
Entertainment Upstairs

- beyond consumerism
- an 'alternative' prosperity
- the importance of participation
- building capabilities
- investment in public goods

A photograph of a white building with a six-pane window. A wooden chair is visible on a porch in front of the window. The scene is captured in a slightly desaturated, vintage style. The window has a white frame and a small ledge below it. The chair is a simple wooden design with a curved back. The porch is made of concrete or stone. The building's exterior is white with some texture. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

‘... sites for the cultivation of a common citizenship, so that people from different walks of life encounter one another and so acquire enough of a.. sense of a shared life that we can meaningfully think of one another as citizens in a common venture’

Michael Sandel, June 2009

Ecological Footsteps



Establish the limits
Fix the economics
Change the social logic

Ecological Footsteps



Establish the Limits

1. Establishing clearly defined resource/emissions caps
2. Fiscal Reform for Sustainability
3. Promoting Technology Transfer and Ecosystem Protection

Fix the Economics

4. Developing the macro-economics of sustainability
5. Investing in public assets and infrastructures
6. Increasing financial and fiscal prudence
7. Improving macro-economic accounting

Change the social logic

8. Sharing the work and improving the work-life balance
9. Tackling systemic inequality
10. Measuring capabilities and flourishing
11. Strengthening human and social capital
12. Reversing the culture of consumerism

‘The crisis doesn’t only make us free to imagine other models, another future, another world. It obliges us to do so.’

President Sarkozy, September 2009

‘The Government welcomes the SDC's contribution to the public debate on sustainability and economic growth... Government officials will continue to engage with the SDC and others on the issues the report covers.’

HMG response to EAC, June 2009

**<http://www.earthscan.co.uk/pwg>
<http://www.prosperitywithoutgrowth.org>**

