# Doing well by doing good: the investment story of the 21st century

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he Global Commission on the Economy and Climate.









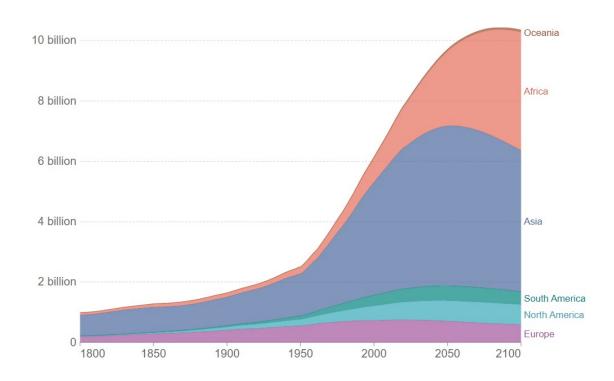




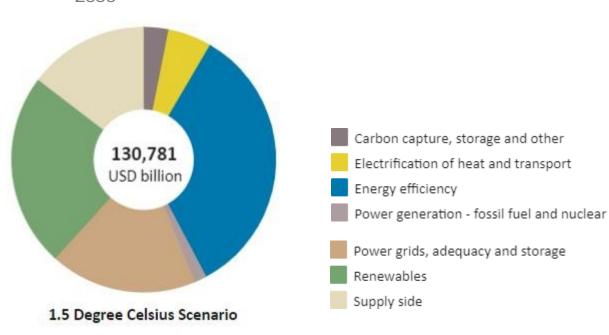
#### Why the next three decades are critical (1)

Historic demographic transitions, rising investment needs, intense technological progress

World population by region, projected to 2100



Cumulative global investment needs to 2050



Source: UN / Our World in Data

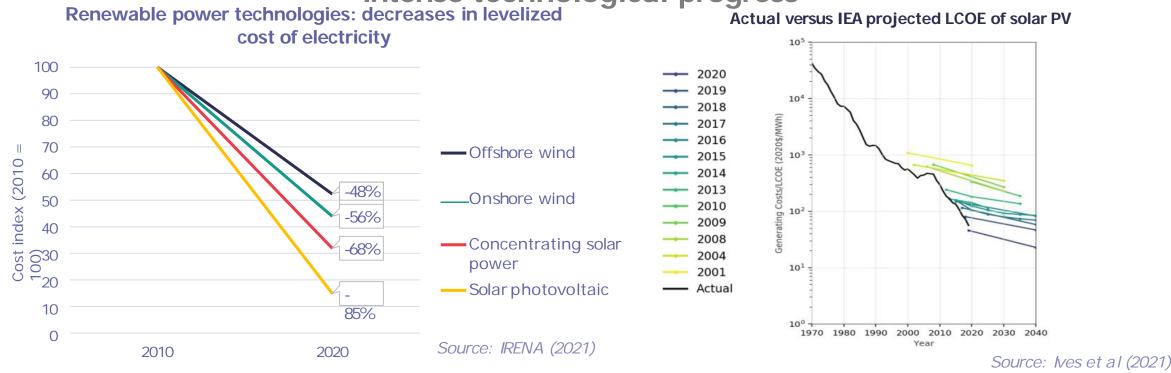
Source: IRFNA 2021





#### Why the next three decades are critical (2)

Historic demographic transitions, rising investment needs, intense technological progress



Renewables with storage now competitive (without subsidy or carbon price in much of the world). In 2020, solar/wind was the cheapest form of new power generation in countries representing over 70% of GDP (SYSTEMIQ, 2020).

Capital costs for renewables continue to fall much faster than those for conventional technologies. Strong increasing returns to scale in technologies and in discoveries. Much of it unanticipated.



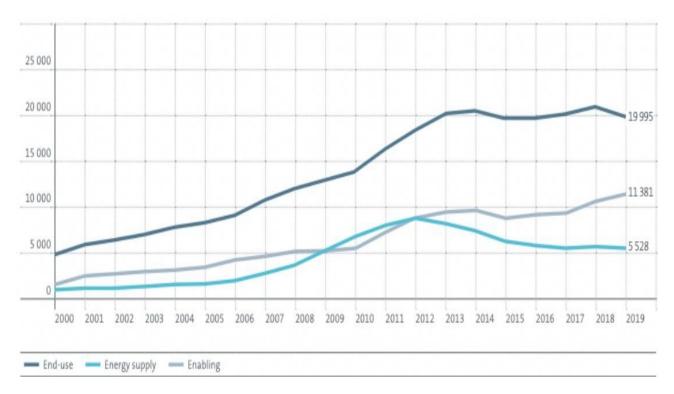


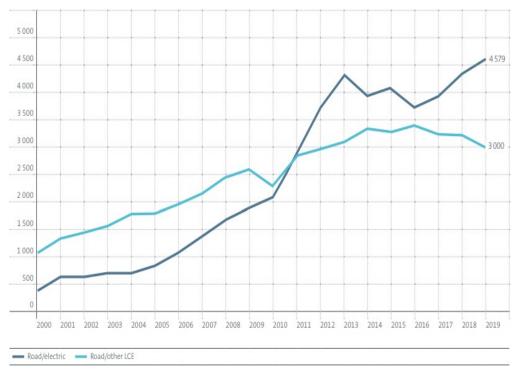
#### Why the next three decades are critical (3)

# Historic demographic transitions, rising investment needs, intense technological progress

Global growth of IPFs in clean energy supply, enabling and end-use technologies, 2000-2019

Global growth of IPFs in electric vehicles versus other LCE technologies for road transportation, 2000-2019





Source: IEA / European Patent Office

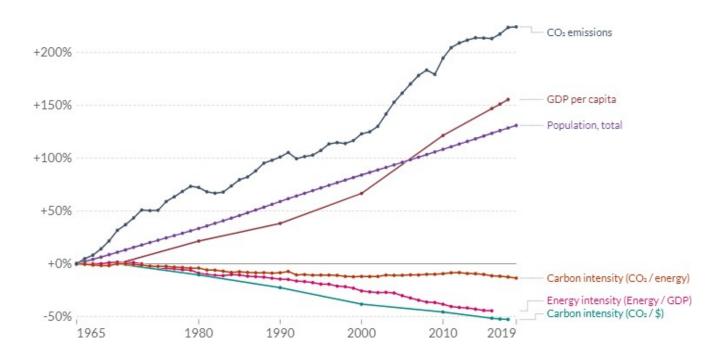




#### Triple challenge:

#### Covid recession & geopolitical tensions & build back better

## World GDP & emissions: % change in the four parameters of the Kaya identity

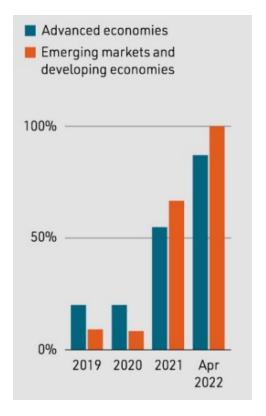


Source: Our World in Data based on Global Carbon Project; UN; BP; World Bank; Maddison Project Database

## THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE



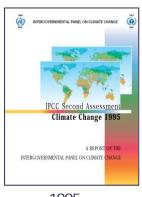
#### Countries with inflation above target

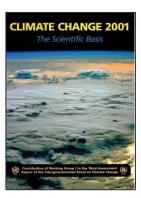


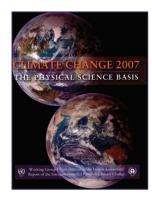
Source: World Bank (2022)

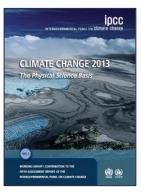
#### Urgency and opportunity of climate action now even clearer (1)





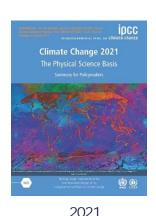






2013





1995 2001 2007

"There is **new and stronger evidence** that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities."

"An increasing body of observations gives a collective picture of a *warming world* and other changes in the climate system."

- Third IPCC Assessment Report, 2001

"It is *unequivocal* that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land."

"Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe."

- Sixth IPCC Assessment Report, 2021

"The world faces **unavoidable** multiple climate hazards over the next two decades with global warming of 1.5°C. Even temporarily exceeding this warming level will result in **additional severe impacts**, some of which will be **irreversible**."

"People and ecosystems least able to cope are being hardest hit."

-IPCC, February 2022





#### Urgency and opportunity of climate action now even clearer (2)

Factbox: Nearly 560,000 still without power in Florida after Hurricane Ian

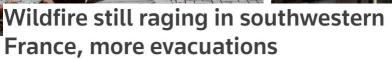


Heatwave: Fires blaze after UK passes 40C for first time

○ 19 July • 
 □ Comments

**UK heatwaves** 





Reuters





e in the village of Wennington on the outskirts





Droughts, Ukraine war push global grain stocks toward worrying decade





low



#### Why has progress been slow?

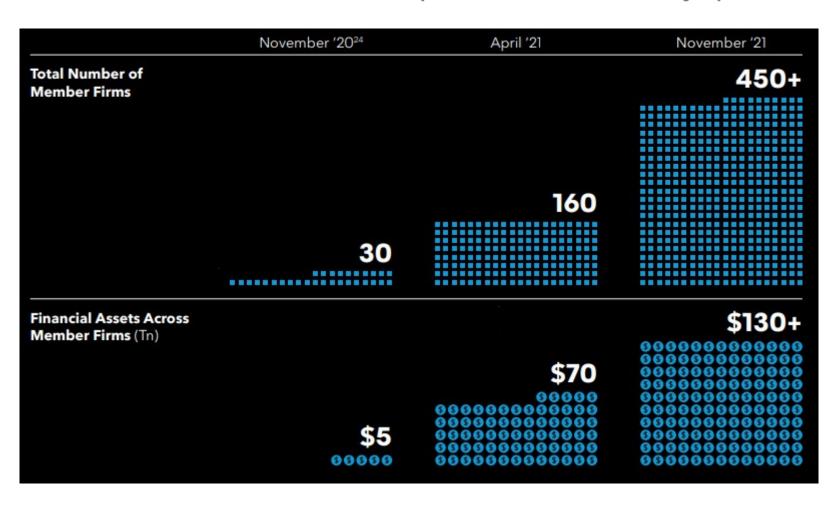
- The **politics** have moved forward & backwards: From financial crisis & Euro area crisis to Paris agreement, to Trump presidency, to China, EU & US converging on climate. Politics now again in tension following Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- The **economics** need to adapt: Market failures need to be addressed. Relative prices are distorted (e.g. subsidies for fossil fuel industries, environmental & health externalities of pollution and inter-generational justice not factored into prices)
- The political economy needs to change: Governments remain dependent on fossil fuel revenue, trade associations lobbying in support of vested interests. Belief that there is a trade-off between economic growth and climate action.
- The **institutions** and **infrastructure** are not fit for purpose: Need to improve energy markets, disincentivise high-carbon infrastructure investment and R&D.





#### Rare moment in time: 'the financial stars align'

GFANZ and race to zero membership and the financial assets they represent



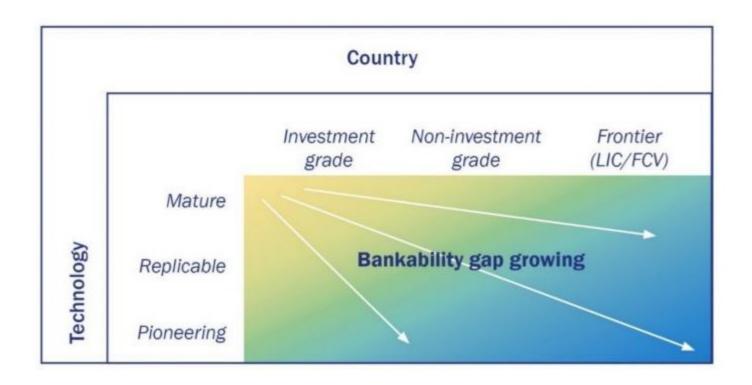
Source: GFANZ progress report





#### But finance fails to connect to needs

Bankability gap at the geographic and technological frontiers



Source: Blended Finance for Scaling up Climate and Nature Investments, GRI (2022) https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Blended-Finance-for-Scaling-Up-Climate-and-Nature-Investments-1.pdf





#### How can the rest of the financial system re-align itself?

What can finance ministries do?: Correcting market failures: economic toolkit of subsidies, taxes (e.g. on carbon), incentives, direct public investment

What can central banks do?: Embed climate variables in macro modelling, green prudential policy (e.g. transition plans and stress tests), responsible investment of portfolios

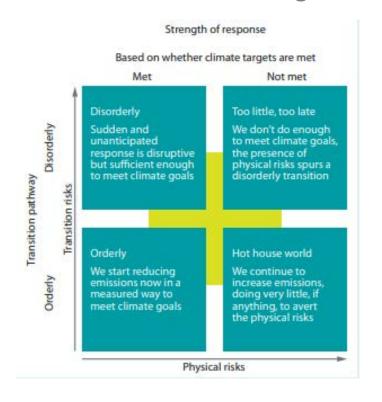
What can development banks do?: Derisking, concessional finance, issuing sustainable bonds, supporting sustainable capital markets





#### Data challenges: an excuse for inaction?

When balancing the need for robust and comprehensive data against the opportunity cost of inaction, central banks should be cognisant of the risk that acting early with imperfect information could be less costly than acting only once stronger data standards have emerged.



Source:

https://www.ngfs.net/sites/default/files/medias/documents/ngfs\_monetary\_policy\_operations\_final.pdf





### The good news: strong public pressure to address crisis, particularly from young people

## Climate Change and Future Generations Lawsuit in Colombia: Key Excerpts from the Supreme Court's Decision

10-18-21 | WORLD CHANGING IDEAS

#### I'm a student activist: Here's how we pushed Harvard University to finally divest from fossil fuels

After years of pressure, the university announced it would remove oil, gas, and coal from the investments of its \$53 billion endowment. One of the members of the student organization who worked on the campaign explains how—and why—they fought the country's richest school.

There's no Planet B

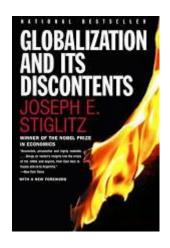
'Historic' German ruling says climate goals not tough enough

Judges order government to strengthen legislation before end of next year to protect future generations



#### Climate action and its discontents?







# Parliament 'misled' over cost of net zero target, say Conservative MPs

Having scrutinised data used by the government's advisory body, a group of Tory backbenchers believe their financial calculations are flawed



#### Not only about managing risk, also about more attractive economies

Understanding the co-benefits - and linking through them climate action to issues that the public care about - can help policy-makers prioritise policy options that have a greater chance of public support for such changes (in the face of occasional public opposition to the transition)

- Sustainable investments are not only about managing risk, but can also lead to a more attractive form of development compared with the dirty paths of the past.
- Health: Better air quality from reductions in pollution; Healthier diets; increased wellbeing from access to energy efficient homes
- **Economic:** Savings on fuel bills (especially for energy importing countries; improvements in productivity through reduced traffic and better health
- Social: Reduced fuel poverty and inequality; protection from energy price increases
- Resilience: Reduction to dependence on fossil fuel; improved energy and water

  Grantham' onflict over access to resources

#### The growth story of the 2020s



Source: https://www.ft.com/content/a4cf5b10-17ad-42a9-9a3d-f678f3d443da

To leaders in China, India and Australia who are yet to deliver 2030 targets, I say this: it is in your economic self-interest to accelerate your shift from coalbased electricity and start to address your looming transport emissions. The green economy is the **growth story of the 2020s**: 35m new green jobs are expected by 2030. -Christiana Figueres, UNFCCC **Executive Secretary 2010-16**