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Self-governance in Global Climate Policy

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Based on inter alia:

Self-governance in global climate policy: An essay (2015), 52p. (Research Gate)

Beyond Kyoto, plan B: a climate policy masterplan based on transparent metrics, *Ecological Economics* 68(2009) 2930-37

Europe's electricity regime: restoration or thorough transition. *Int. J. of Sustainable Energy Planning and Management* 5 (2015) 57-68



Overview

- 1. Mysterious support for Paris Agreement**
- 2. Paris Agreement myths: functional or dysfunctional?**
Unfolding some myths:
 - **#1 Unanimity necessary**
 - **#2 Energy tripod mantra**
 - **#3 Emissions Trading sets carbon prices**
- 3. Self-governance**
 - . **Commons and self-governance**
 - . **Applied on global climate policy**
- 4. Concluding considerations**

Mysterious Support for Paris Agreement

Actual Paris Agreement:

Vague, opaque text

+3°C if all intentions fullfil

Mocks science&practice
(Hardin, Ostrom, KPIs)

Policy zombies survive:
• energy tripod mantra
• emissions trade / offsets
prices down to €5 (ETS) /
€0.2 (CER)

Myths

. Unanimity necessary

- . All feel responsible, private corporates lead
- . Voluntarism suffices for mitigation action
- . Paternalism cares for \$100bn aid/year

Propaganda pin



Myths: when are they valuable?

Functional myths

- **connected to reality (facts)**
 - > emerging from reality
 - > feeding back into reality
 - > expanding reality
- **may strengthen actions (“engage the hearts of people”)**

Dysfunctional myths

- **disconnected from reality (facts)**
 - > stick in mirages, deceit
 - > cause conflict and stalemate
 - > end as frustration and apathy
- **paralyze people to act in the right direction**

**Are the Paris Agreement myths:
functional or dysfunctional?**



Myth #1: “Unanimity is necessary”

Positive effects of unanimity

- **boosts the willingness to commit**
(reciprocity: one acts when the other acts)
- **valuable to enshrine new paradigms, commitments**
(for example: UNFCCC in 1992 – Rio World Summit)

Negative effects of unanimity at all price

- **disproportional power for every single party**
- **meagre intersection of divergent interests-goals**
sets → results in vague & opaque Paris Agreement
- **minority views suppressed (by assimilation)**
- **effective action requires spearheads**
- **the actual responsible parties are released from liability and ‘urgent & drastic’ spearhead action**
- **loss of unanimity spoils the process (Trump again)**

Unanimity desirable at the founding of new paradigms
In the executive action phases, imposed unanimity is wrong



Myth #2: “Energy tripod mantra: deployment of renewables, **nuclear power**, carbon capture storage”

Nuclear power position in sustainable low-carbon energy transition

1. Nuclear fission power (today’s technology):
Crucial sustainability criteria are not met
2. Is announced GEN IV more sustainable?
Virtually certain: NO
3. Can announced nuclear fusion bring salvation?
Perhaps, but NOT before 2050 (year of decarbonization done)

If we circumvent Sustainable Development imperatives and Sustainability Assessment results & consider only low-carbon aspect, questions remain:

1. Are flow renewable and nuclear power generation compatible? **NO**
2. Is smart grid development compatible with unflexible large-scale power stations? **NO**
3. Is nuclear power economically competitive? **NO**

Nevertheless: the tripod mantra corrupts IPCC, UNFCCC, EU policy



Myth #3: Emissions Trading sets carbon prices ETS prices before + after December 2015

EUA closing prices

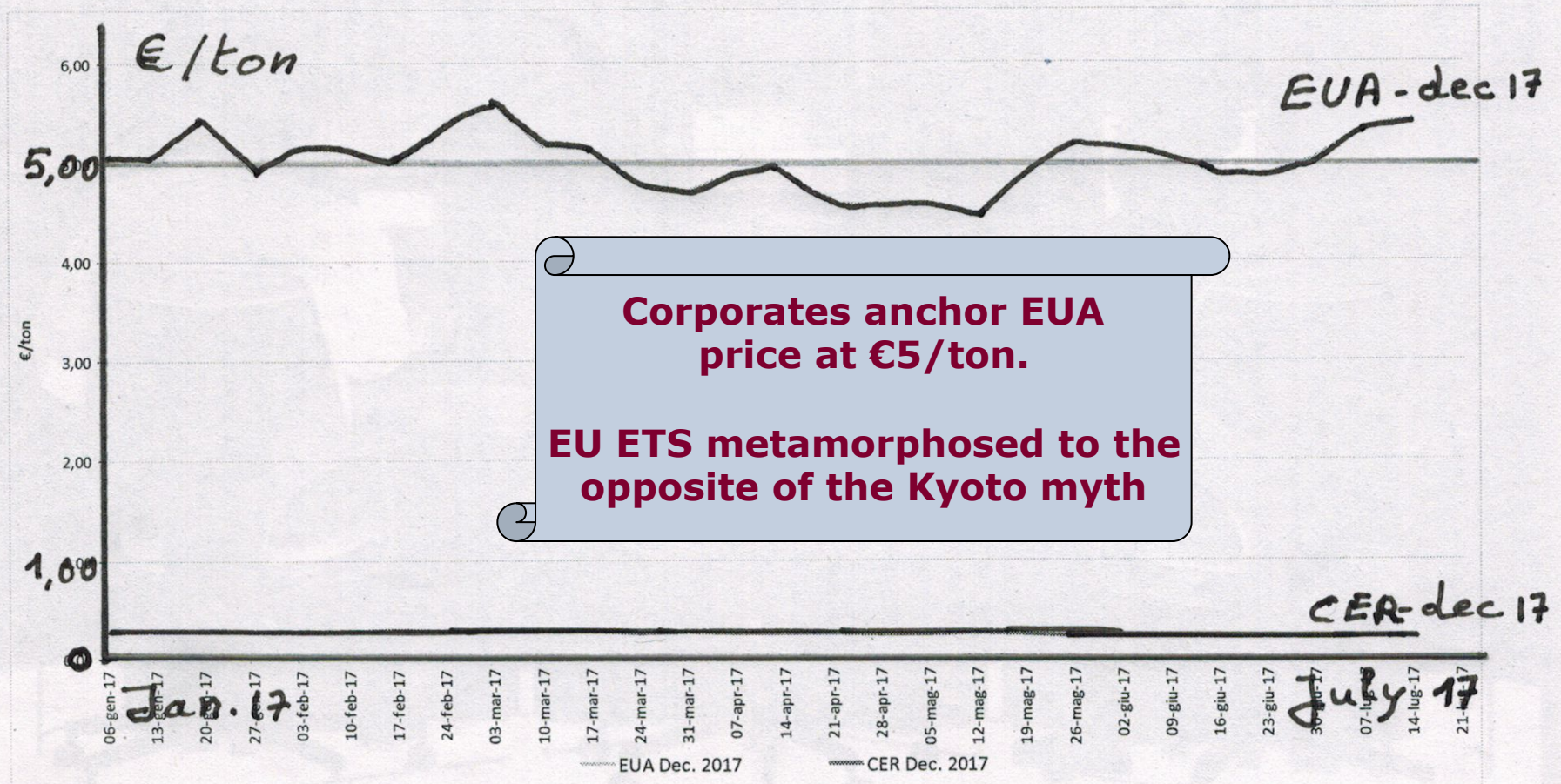
Source: Sandbag



Observed EUA and CER prices (Jan.-July 2017)

Source: ICCG International Climate Policy magazine-47

Front-year EUA and CER prices, 2017 (weekly closure) [2]





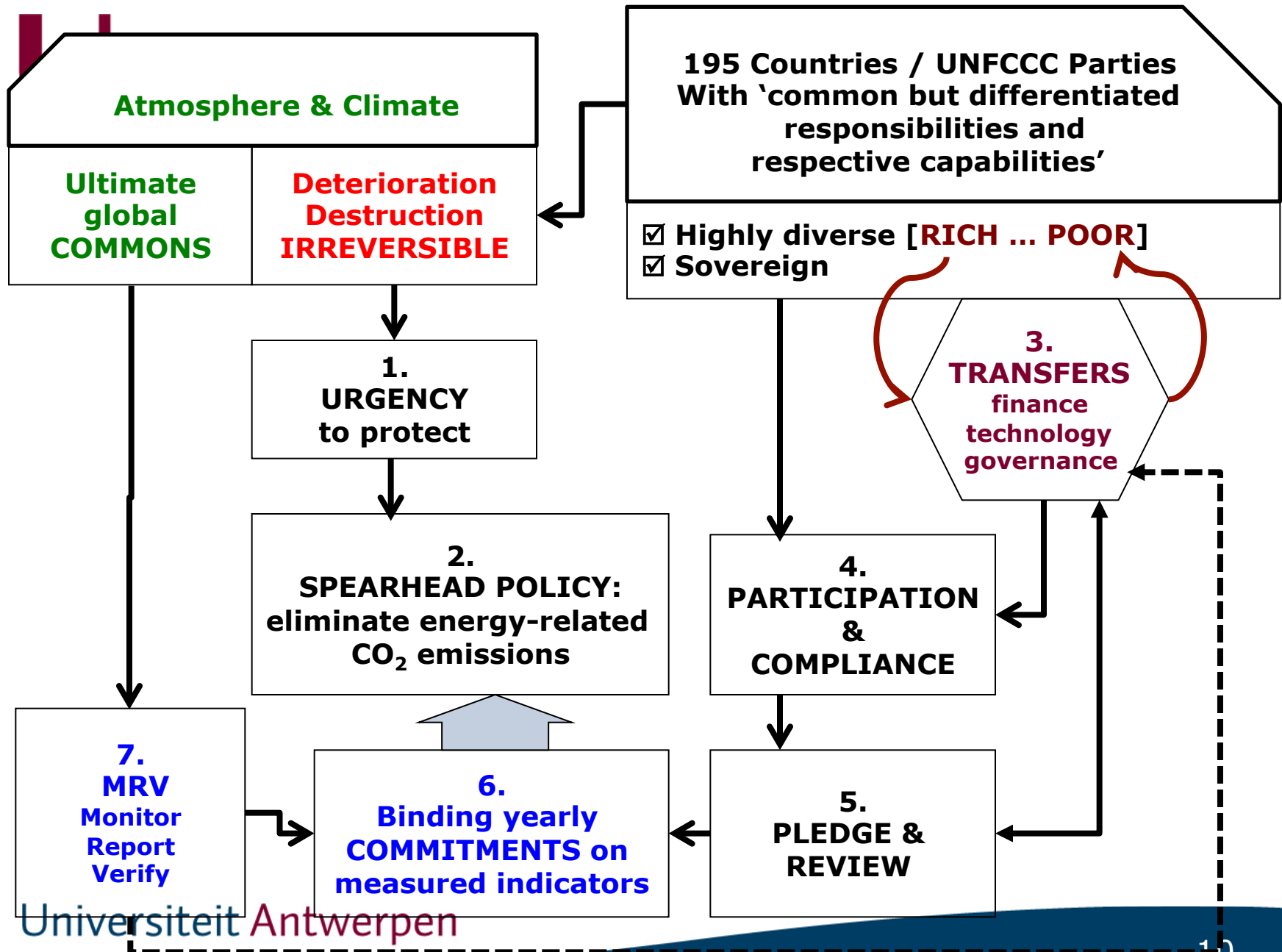
Self-governance of commons

Commons

- Some essential for human survival: climate, atmosphere, ...
- Endangered from inside (free-riding), viz. outside (raiders)
- Protect via government ownership/ruling ⇔ privatize commons
 - Sovereign 'owners-users' cannot be ruled from above
 - Privatize Climate not conceivable (property rights), not desirable

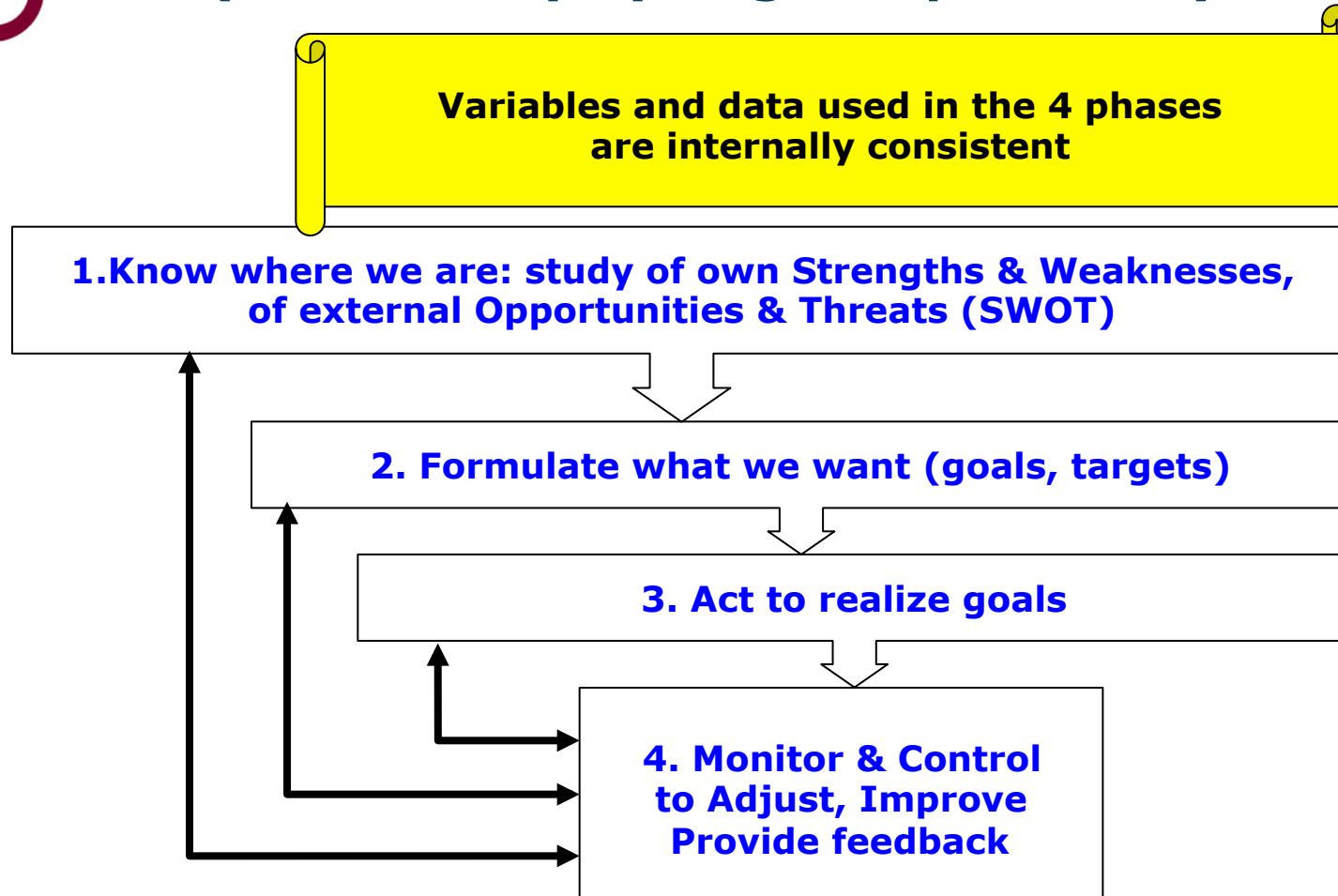
Self-governance of commons: indispensable components [Ostrom]

1. Create new set of self-governing structures and rules
2. Credible commitments by participants
 - enhanced by reciprocity, trust and fairness
 - grows step by step
3. Mutual monitoring, accurate, transparent and regularly
 - yearly feasible for a few, crucial indicators
 - INDC patchworks are non-measurable





Proven logic for strategy set-up (used mainly by large corporations)





Crooked global climate policy

Situation analysis by IPCC know-how assessments

- > policy aspects by Working Group 3 of IPCC
- > emissions by countries study (2014 report, Ch. 6) based on *decomposition analysis (Ehrlich-Holdren, Kaya, Ang)*

e.g., of energy-related CO₂ emissions per person (C_{pp}) in 3 intensity factors

$$C_{pp} = \underbrace{\{\text{€GDP}_{pp}\}}_{\text{wealth}} * \underbrace{\{\text{kWh energy/€GDP}\}}_{\text{energy use intensity}} * \underbrace{\{\text{kg CO}_2 \text{ emitted/kWh}\}}_{\text{CO}_2 \text{ intensity of energy}}$$

This ready knowledge + data are not used in global policy design,

Although necessary & sufficient for constructing the global self-governance regime



Blow up the climate gridlock

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All countries continuously improve three indicators:

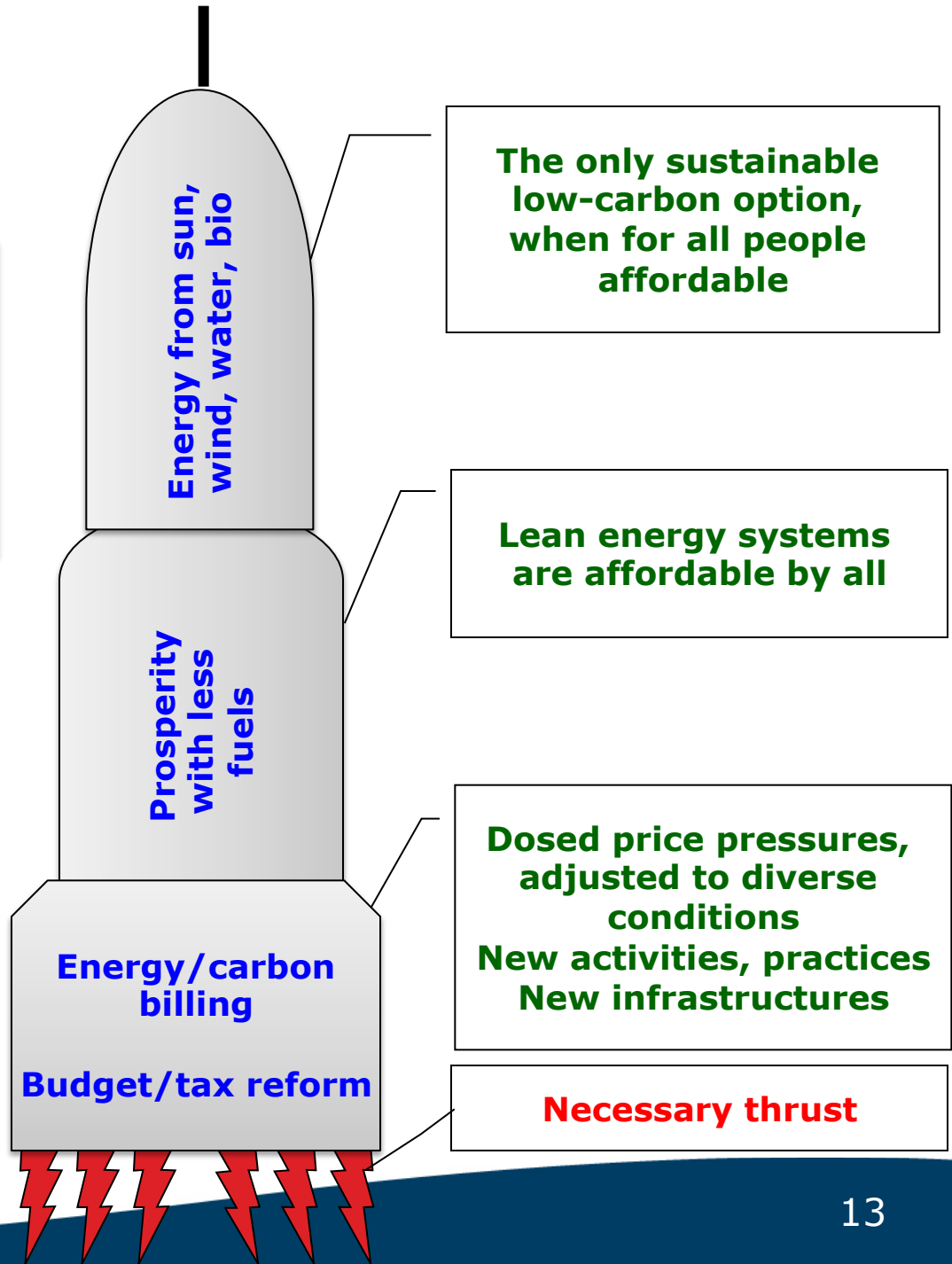
1. Increasing share of RE
2. Decreasing fuel intensity
3. Progressing tax reform

Matches

- ☑ SE4All (UN)
- ☑ Polluter Pays
- ☑ Fairness

Rejects
emissions trading
with offsets

Universiteit Antwerpen





Concluding considerations

1. Societal resolve & action $\neq$ Paris Agreement

- . Citizens, grassroots $\Leftrightarrow$ corporates master minding Paris COP
- . Will corporates deliver where governments fail to save the essential commons 'climate – atmosphere'?

2. Dysfunctional myths paralyze urgent & drastic change

- . Denouncing tricky myths means tough & tedious work
- . Cassandra's warnings are stampeded by Trojan horses

3. Global climate policy

- . Based on myths, voluntarism, paternalism, talk without walk
- . Self-governance is a tightly structured process [Ostrom]
- . Sidelining policy proposals that could function
- . Learn from successful corporate strategic theory & practice
- . Technology is decisive in sustainable energy transition
- . Technology development-deployment: NOT neutral processes