

The population of humans that can be supported sustainably on the planet at a reasonable standard of living is below 4 billion

Absolute numbers might not matter

Jacques Emina Be-Ofuriyua, Msc., PhD

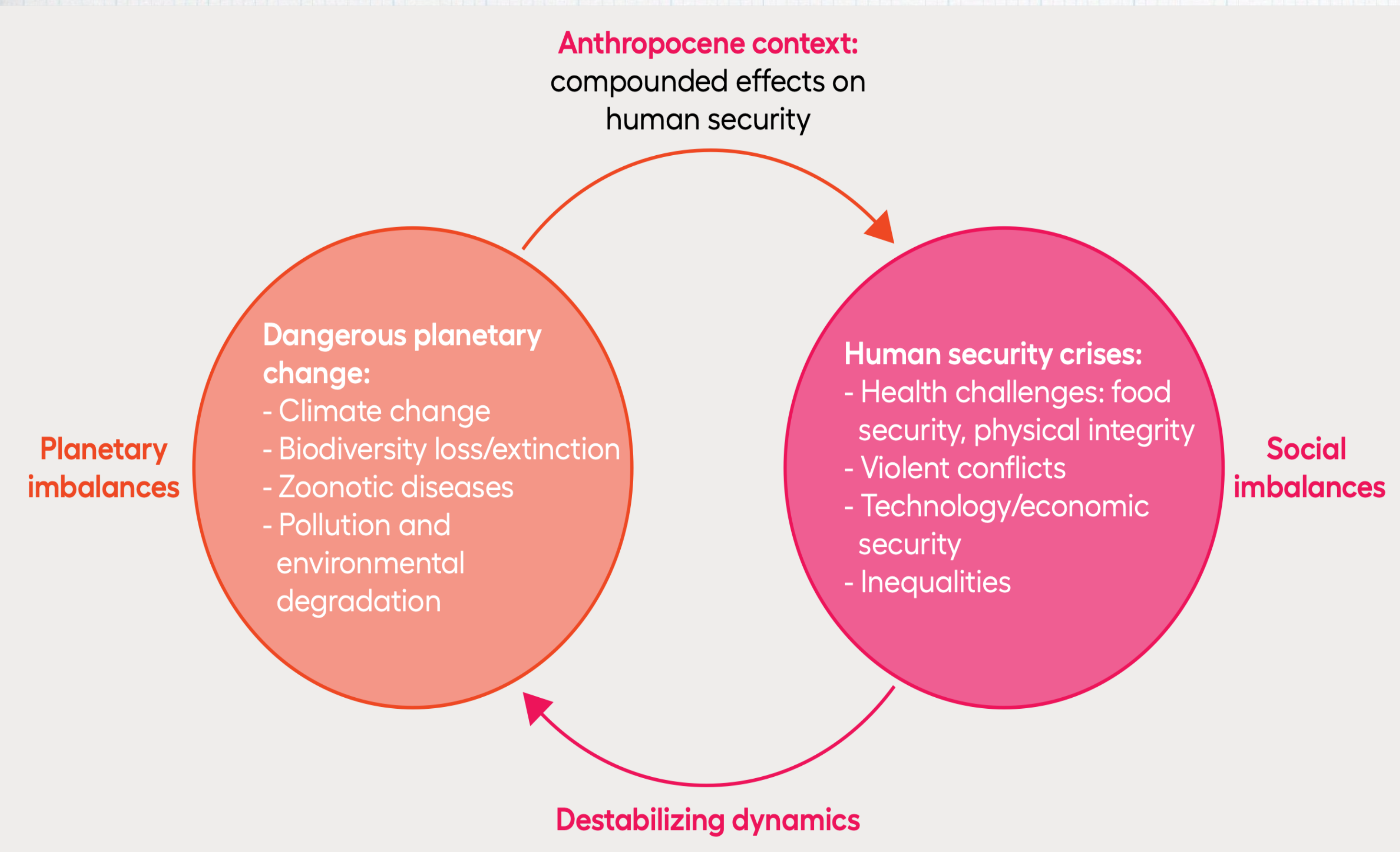
**School of Population and Development Studies
University of Kinshasa
Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

October 18, 2023

Outline

- Background : Fear of Population size
- Why Population size may not matter for sustainable development goals ?
- How to reconcile the fears of demographic numbers with sustainable development?

Background: Fear of population size



Population as Scapegoat

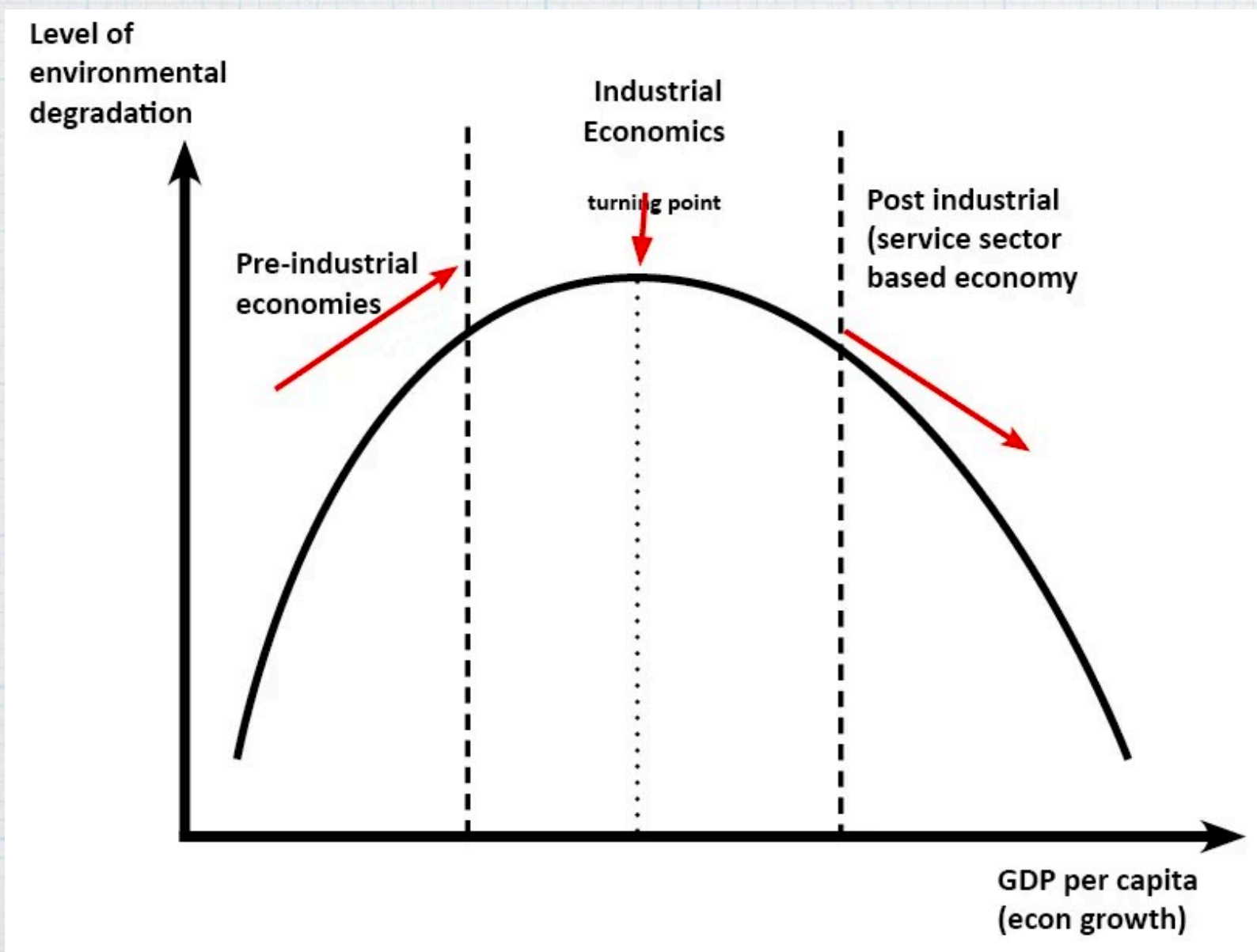
- From Malthusians to Neo-malthusians
- Easy answer to hide incompetence, poor governance and/or lack of will to solve problems :
 - Overloaded infrastructure
 - Climate crisis, biodiversity losses
 - Insecurity
 - Economic instability, hunger and security threats
 - Socioeconomic Inequality.

Source: United Nations Development Programme (2022)

Population size might not matter

Social inequality and inequity

Continent	Population (2023)X1000	Density (P/Km ²)	World Population Share (%)	GDP/USD billion	GDP share (%)	Index
Asia	4,753,080	153	59.1	40,248	38.1	64.5
Africa	1,460,482	49	18.2	2,995	2.8	15.4
Europe	740,434	33	9.2	24,881	23.6	256.5
North America	604,183	28	7.5	31,319	29.7	396.0
South America	439,719	25	5.5	4,068	3.9	70.9
Oceania	46,005	5	0.6	2,002	1.9	316.7



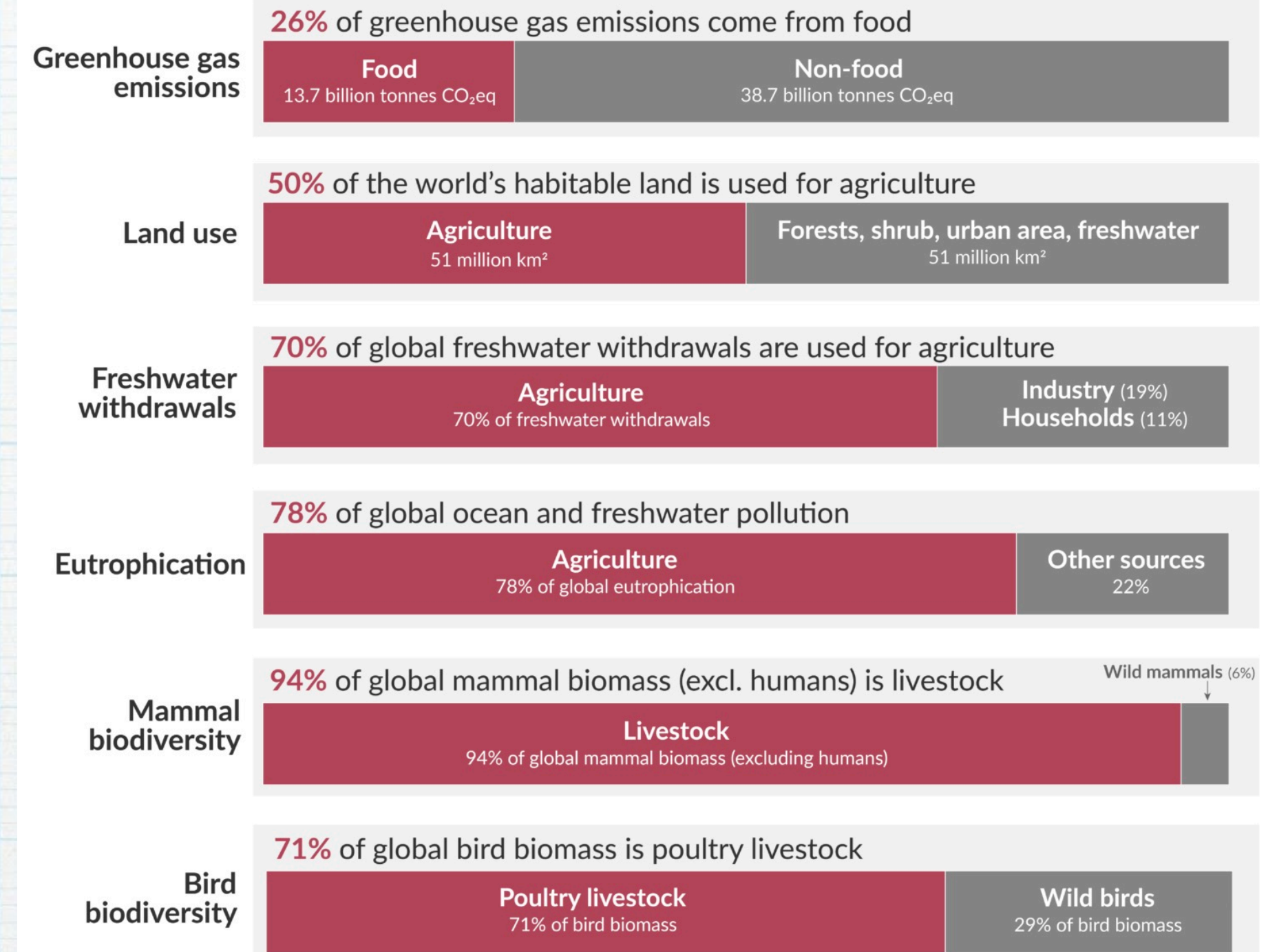
Global Cost of Corruption: 5 % of World Gross Domestic Product (3 Billion)

Unsustainable production and consumption:

- In 2011, about 1.3 billion tons per year of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted
- Environmental damage often arises from economic processes

The environmental impacts of food and agriculture

Our World in Data



Data sources: Poore & Nemecek (2018); UN FAO; UN AQUASTAT; Bar-On et al. (2018). OurWorldinData.org - Research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems.

Licensed under CC-BY by the author Hannah Ritchie. Date published: November 2022.

Source: <https://ourworldindata.org/environmental-impacts-of-food>

Demographic numbers and sustainable development

- Promote sustainable urbanization because half of the global population lives in urban areas, 75% by 2050
- Harnessing digital and technologies dividends to improve:
 - Governance
 - Access to health services, education, employment and renewal energy
 - Reduce inequalities et poverty
- Universal social protection with adequate benefits
- Expanded access to sexual and reproductive health-care services underpins individual
- Promote choice and the realization of intentions for childbearing
- Accelerating gender equality
- Accelerate the Transition to sustainable food production systems, cleaner production processes
- Promote conscious lifestyle changes affecting consumption preferences and behavior, greater resource efficiency and corporate responsibility
- Global solidarity and partnerships

