

# Seeds of the Good Anthropocene

www.goodanthropocenes.net

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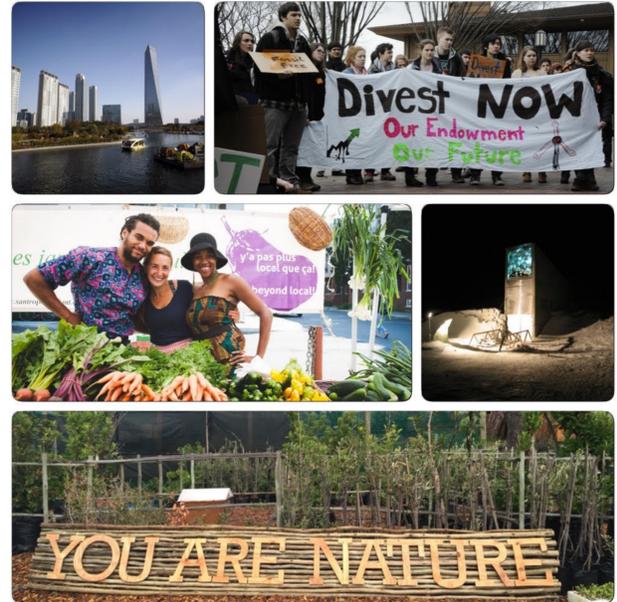
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## MOTIVATION

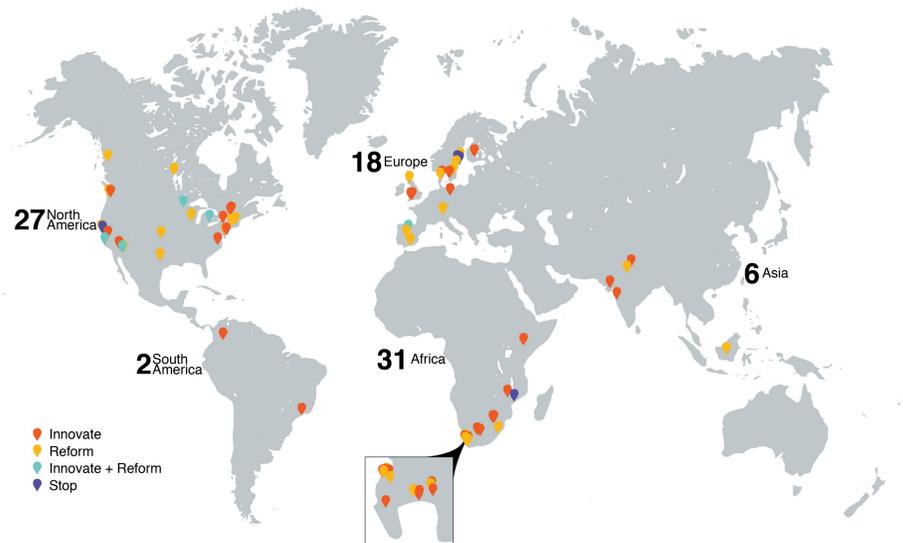
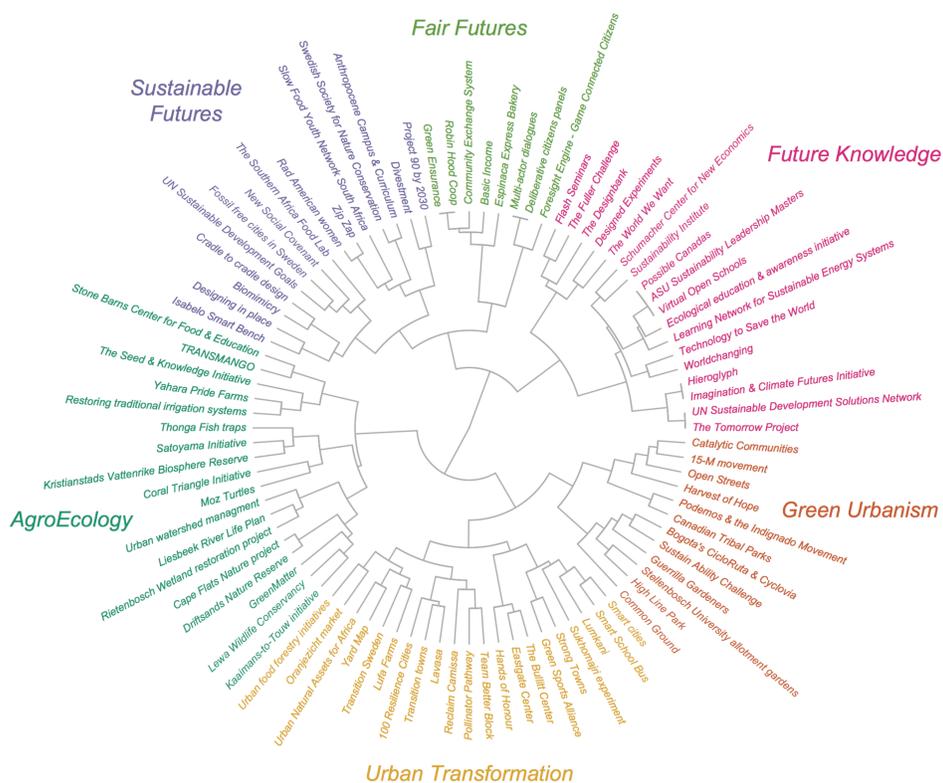
We aim to counterbalance current dystopic visions of the future that may be inhibiting our ability to move towards a positive future for the Earth and humanity. We will do this by soliciting, exploring, and developing a suite of alternative, plausible “Good Anthropocenes” – positive visions of futures that are socially and ecologically desirable, just, and sustainable. We expect that any “Good Anthropocene” that emerges will be radically different from the world as people know it today. Yet we also know that these futures will be composed of many elements already in existence, which we call “seeds”, which could combine in unique and surprising ways to create an almost unimaginable future.

## APPROACH

The seeds of alternative good futures already occur in many places around the world. Identifying where these elements of a Good Anthropocene currently exist on the planet, and understanding how and why they occur, can help us envision how people might help these seeds grow into new, positive futures for the Earth and humanity. It is essential that we gather seeds from a diversity of disciplines, worldviews, values, and regions, even if we cannot hope to be represent all the great initiatives out there. Seeds are being solicited specifically from different communities of research and practice around the world, and more openly through this blog platform. The outputs of our project include a growing database of seeds for analysis, a story-telling blog, scenarios and games, as well as academic and popular articles.

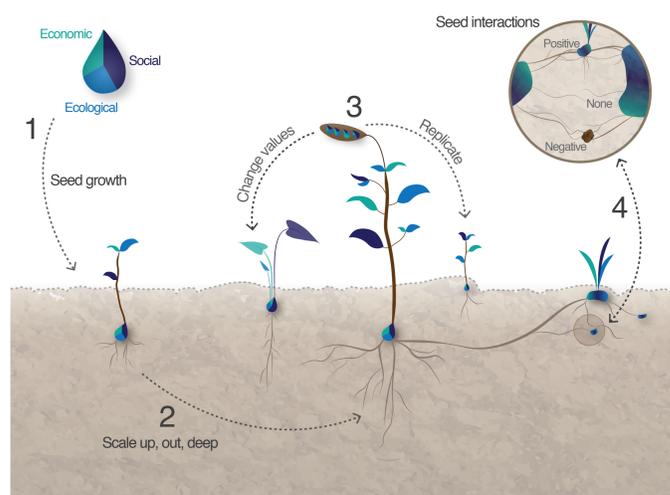


**Above.** Examples of seeds, clockwise from top-left: 1. Songdo Smart City, South Korea 2. Divestment movement rally, USA 3. Svalbard Global Seed Vault, Norway 4. Greenpop nursery, South Africa 5. Santropol Roulant, Canada



**Above.** The number of seed clusters that adopt different approaches. Clusters of seeds are presented based on traits that define social domain, anthrome, Anthropocene challenge, and social-ecological type.

**Above.** The geographic location of the first 100 initiatives in the seeds of a good Anthropocene database and their pathways of impact (innovate, reform, innovate and reform, or stop bad practices). Not all 100 seeds are visible since some overlap in location, whilst another 16 seeds were global, and so did not have a specific regional location.



**Left.** Seeds of a Good Anthropocene. (1) Initiatives, alone or in combination, that improve social, ecological, or economic dynamics within a particular setting arise, grow and thrive and (2) begin to have transformative impact beyond initial localities and sectors as they spread. (3) Seeds may be replicated, or otherwise influence existing values. (4) Importantly, the emergent attributes of those seeds, or interactions between seeds, influence the development of new innovations, spawning next-generation seeds that may have very different characteristics to those of the founder seed.