

**BALIPARA FOUNDATION**

Assam • India

# **RURAL FUTURES:** **21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY TRANSFORMATION FOR** **THE NATURENOMICS™ CIVILIZATION**

RANJIT BARTHAKUR

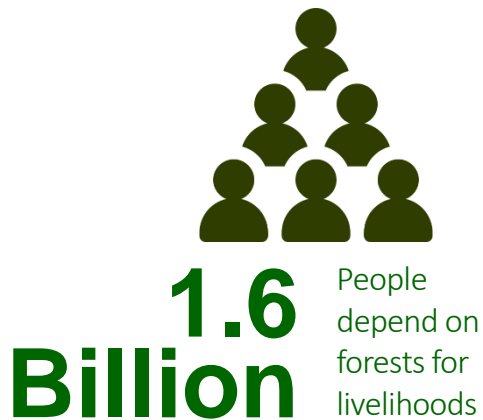
WILD11 – Business Not-As-Usual

21 March 2020

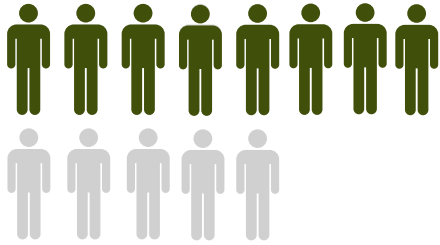
# CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE: THE ECOLOGICAL CIVILIZATION



# THE SCENARIO TODAY



# THE EASTERN HIMALAYAS: OPPORTUNITY



**220 million**

The market potential of the  
Eastern Himalayas



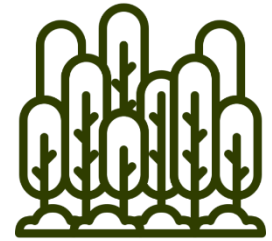
**80%**

Of farmers in the Eastern  
Himalayas are small farmers,  
using low chemical-intensive  
techniques



**25%**

Intact ecosystems



**60%**

Of forest cover remaining

# NATURAL ASSETS IN NORTHEAST INDIA



Map Source: Global Forest Watch 2019

**28**

Government authorized  
reserve areas

**24%**

Of India's total forest cover  
in 2019

**₹ 527  
Billion**

Potential for a natural capital  
based economy

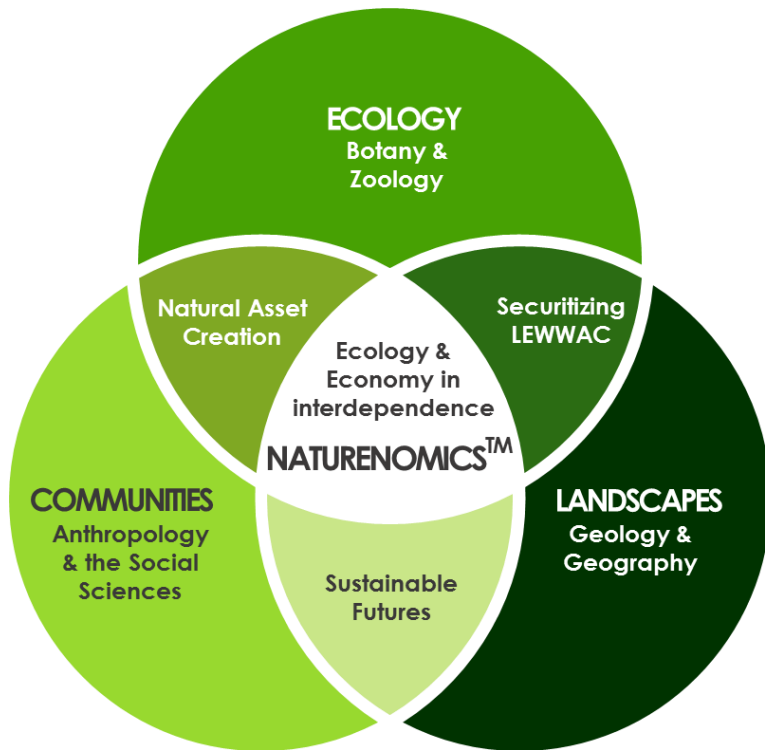
**74%**

Of deforestation in India  
occurred in the Northeast in  
2019

# THE NEED: **DISRUPTING THE SDGS**



# THE NATURENOMICS™ PERSPECTIVE

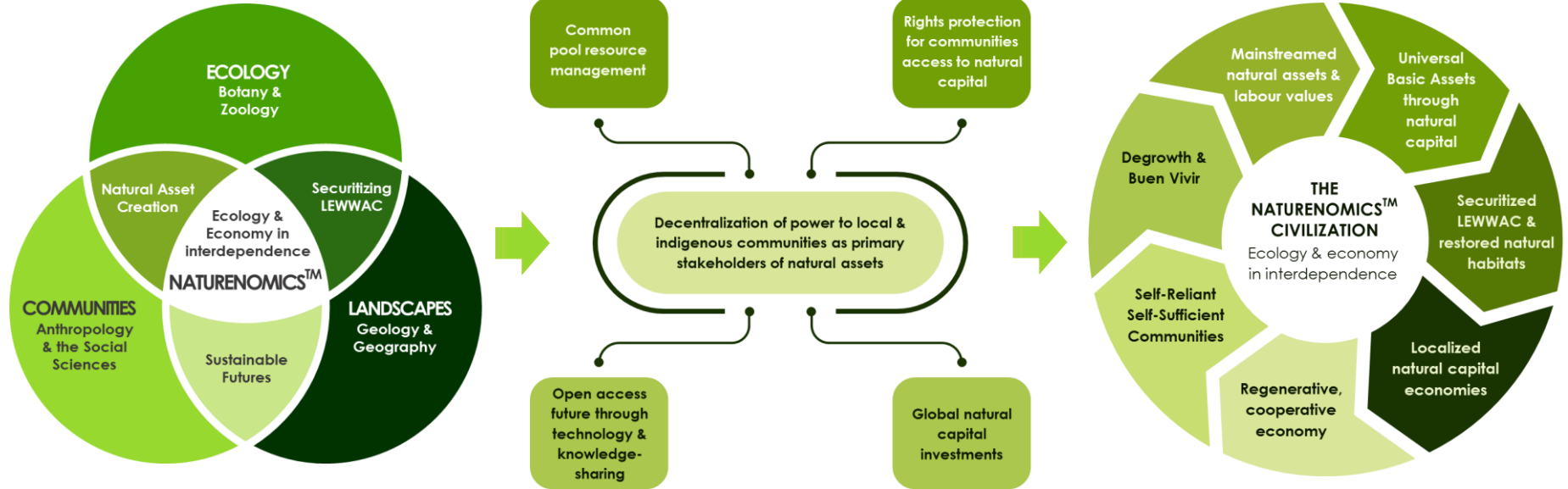


INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

## THE INTERDEPENDENCY OF ECONOMY & ECOLOGY

Visualizing an ecologically regenerative model of economy propelled by natural asset creation, to securitize LEWWAC (land, energy, water, waste, air and carbon), and build sustainable futures in the Eastern Himalayas

# A VISION FOR THE FUTURE: THE NATURENOMICS™ CIVILIZATION

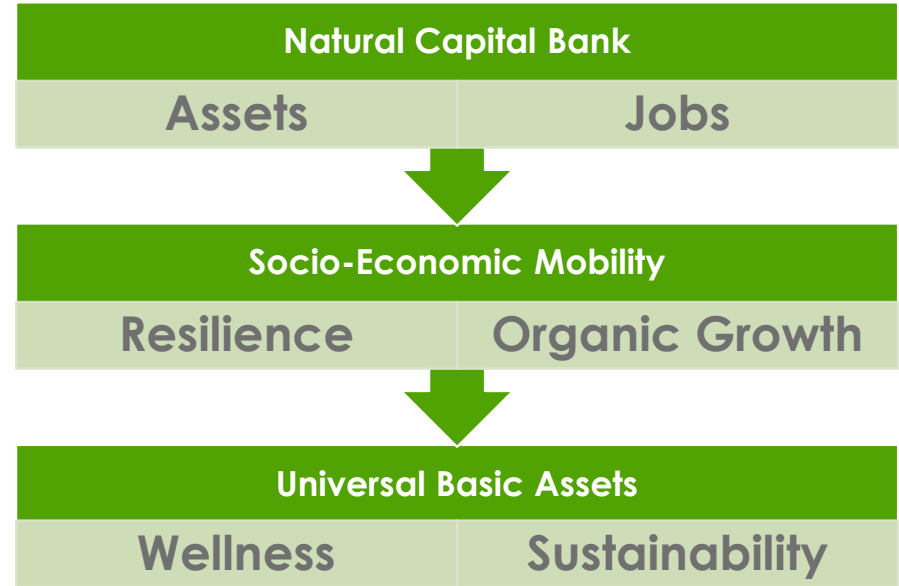




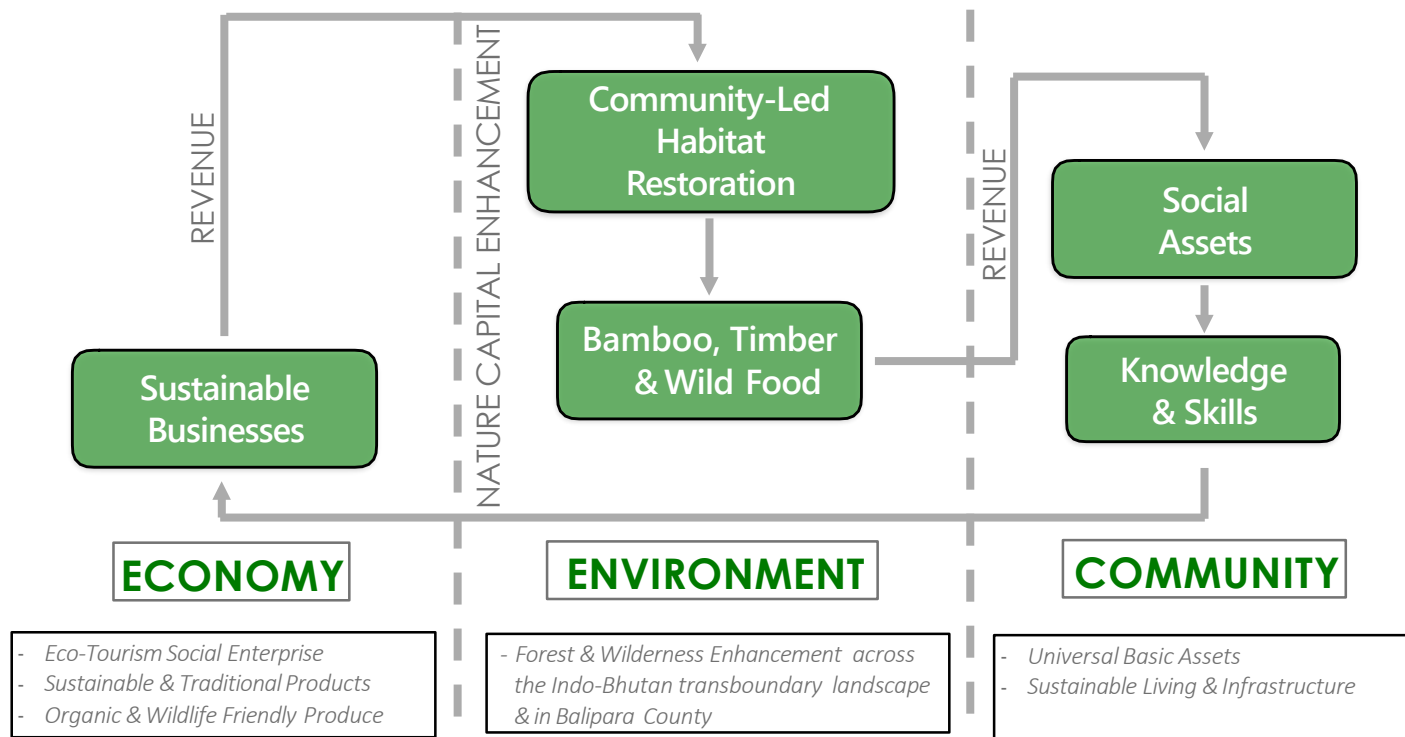
# HOW? THE RURAL FUTURES MODEL



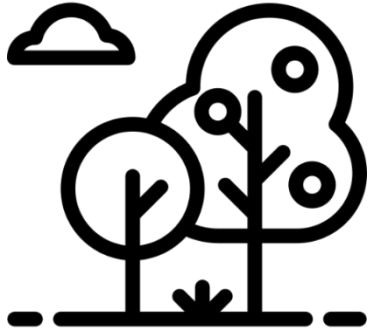
# TRANSFORMING NATURAL CAPITAL



# TRANSFORMING FORESTRY

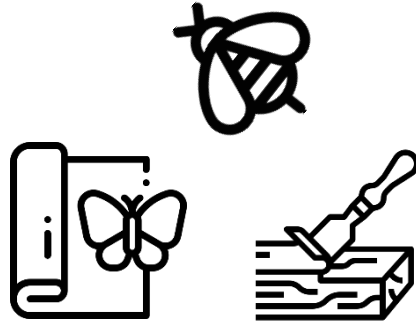


# TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURE



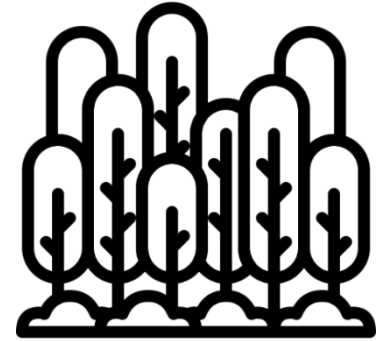
## Agroforestry

Food forests, crop intensification & restoration agriculture through intercropping in tea gardens



## High value secondary businesses

Apiaries, sustainable timber, silk & sericulture



## Natural Asset Regeneration

Community-driven habitat restoration & natural asset management

# THE POTENTIAL: NATURENOMICS™ AGROFORESTRY GRID

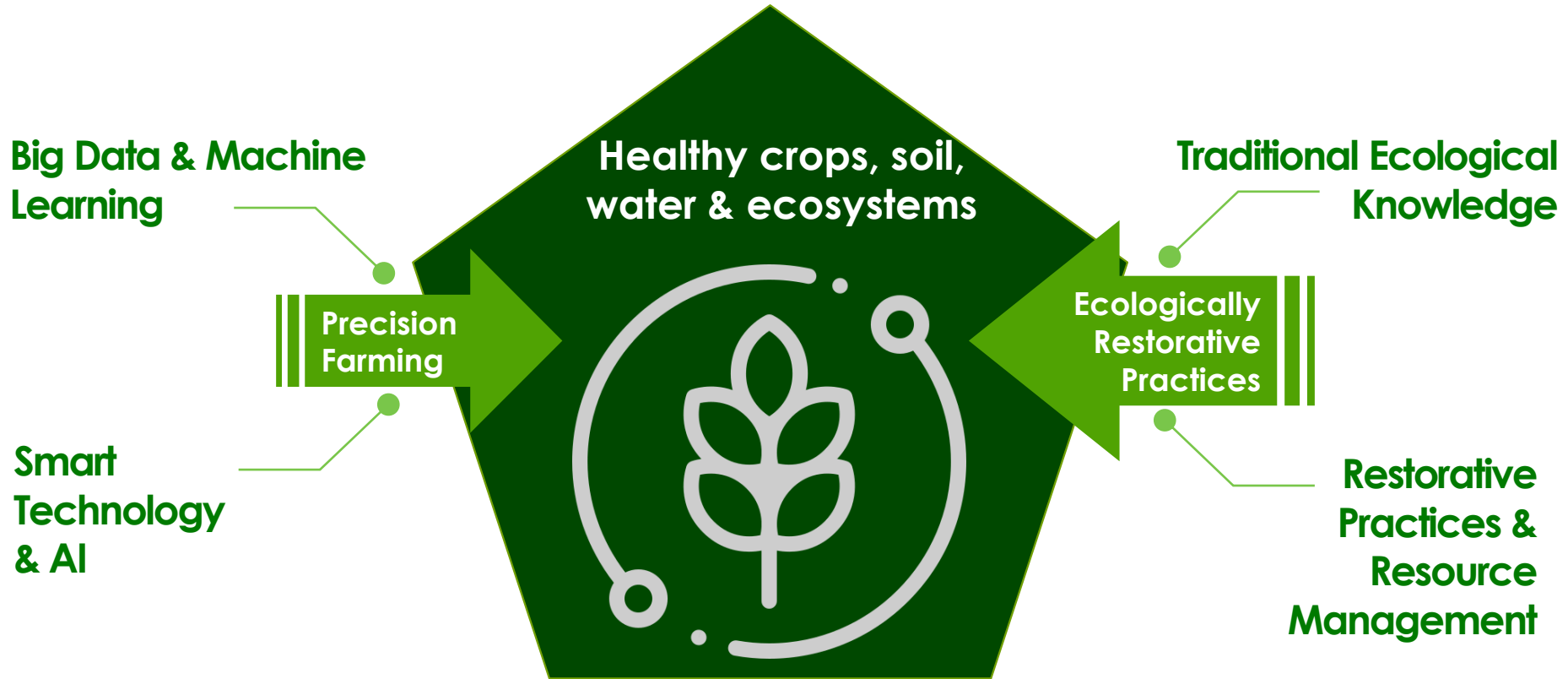


**Completely Integrated Agroforestry**

1. Canopy Layer (large fruit & nut trees)
2. Low Tree Layer (fruits & other horticultural produce)
3. Shrub Layer (tea, berries)
4. Herbaceous Layer (vegetables, medicinal crops, herbs, spices)
5. Ground Cover Crop (fodder crop)
6. Rhizome Layer (root vegetables & produce)
7. Vertical layer (gourds & other climber produce)
8. Fisheries
9. Cattle/Livestock (including dairy produce)

Base image source: *FAO Landscapes for Life report*

# THE FUTURE: AGROECOLOGY & SMART TECH



# TRANSFORMING MINDFUL TOURISM



**Agritourism** — Tea tourism, traditional agricultural cultivation techniques, wildlife friendly food forest farm experiences with birdwatching & biocultural trails, experiencing end to end handicraft production from farm to artisans

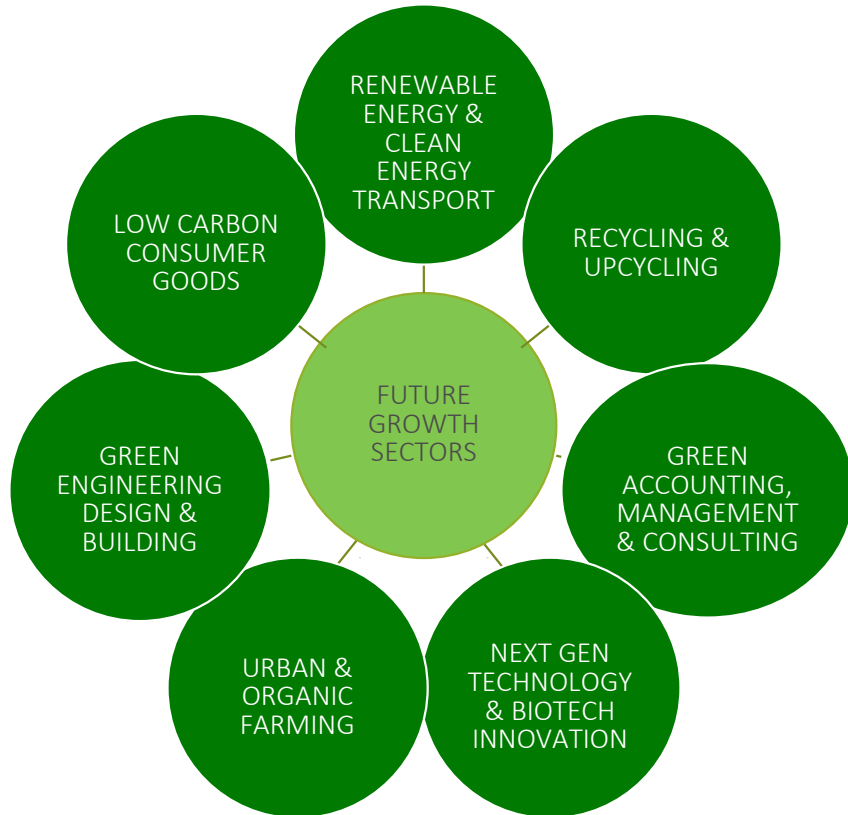


**Community-owned tourism** Homestays, profit-sharing models with land-owned by communities and resorts managed by 5 star hotel chains, capacity building to develop hospitality skills

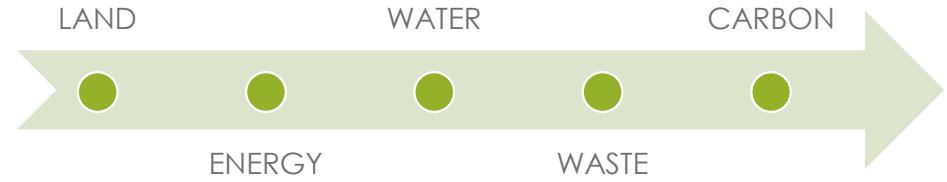


**VR experiences** — Experience world heritage sites & national parks, adventure sports (skiingmountain-climbing), traditional artisans through virtual reality platforms as a taster for tourism in the Eastern Himalayas

# TRANSFORMING WORK



## LEEWAC-CENTRIC



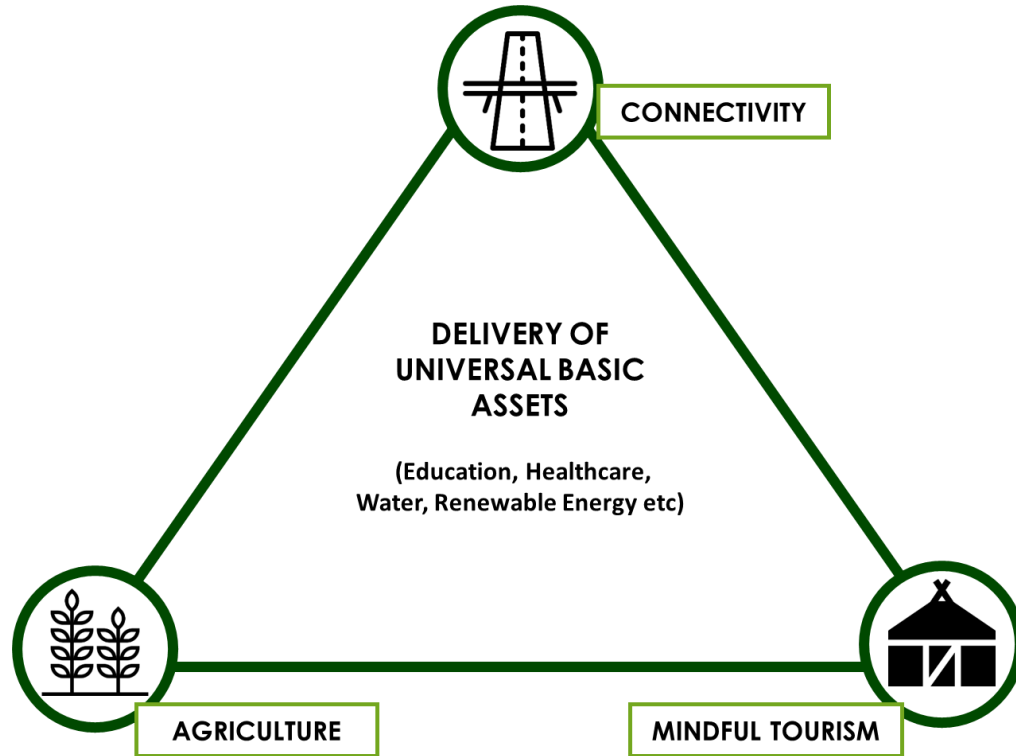
## THE GREEN ECONOMY IS THE NEXT SUNRISE INDUSTRY

- 1.2 billion jobs depend on a healthy environment
- 18 million jobs can be created in total in the renewable energy sector by 2030
- 6 million jobs for the circular economy
- Organic farming requires 20% more workers than conventional industrial farming

Source: ILO *World Employment Social Outlook 2018: Greening with Jobs* & OECD *Employment Implications of Green Growth* (2017)



# TRANSFORMING ECONOMY



# THE ENVIRONMENT POSITIVE ECONOMY



**Evolving to adapt for  
the future**

Renewables (Solar,  
Wind, Hydrogen)

Agroecology &  
smart farming,  
together

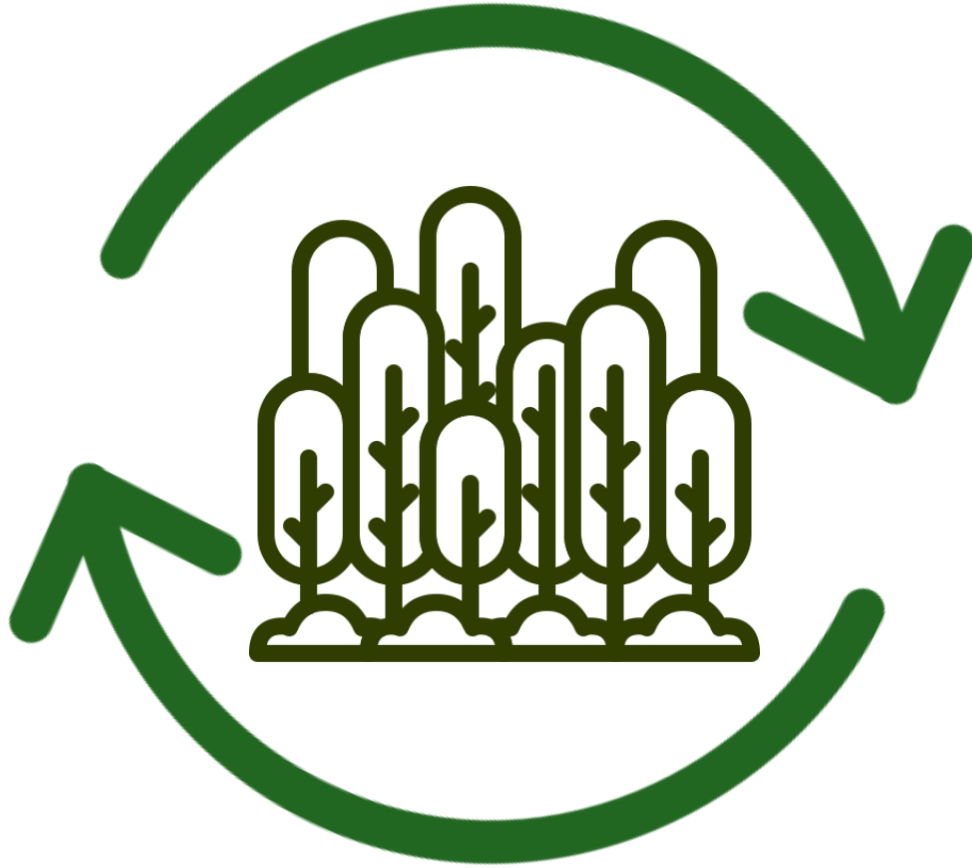
**NATURAL ASSET  
REGENERATION &  
ENHANCEMENT**

Water Management

Waste management



**Building resilient  
communities & economies**



**OUR  
FORESTS,  
OUR FUTURE**



THANK YOU