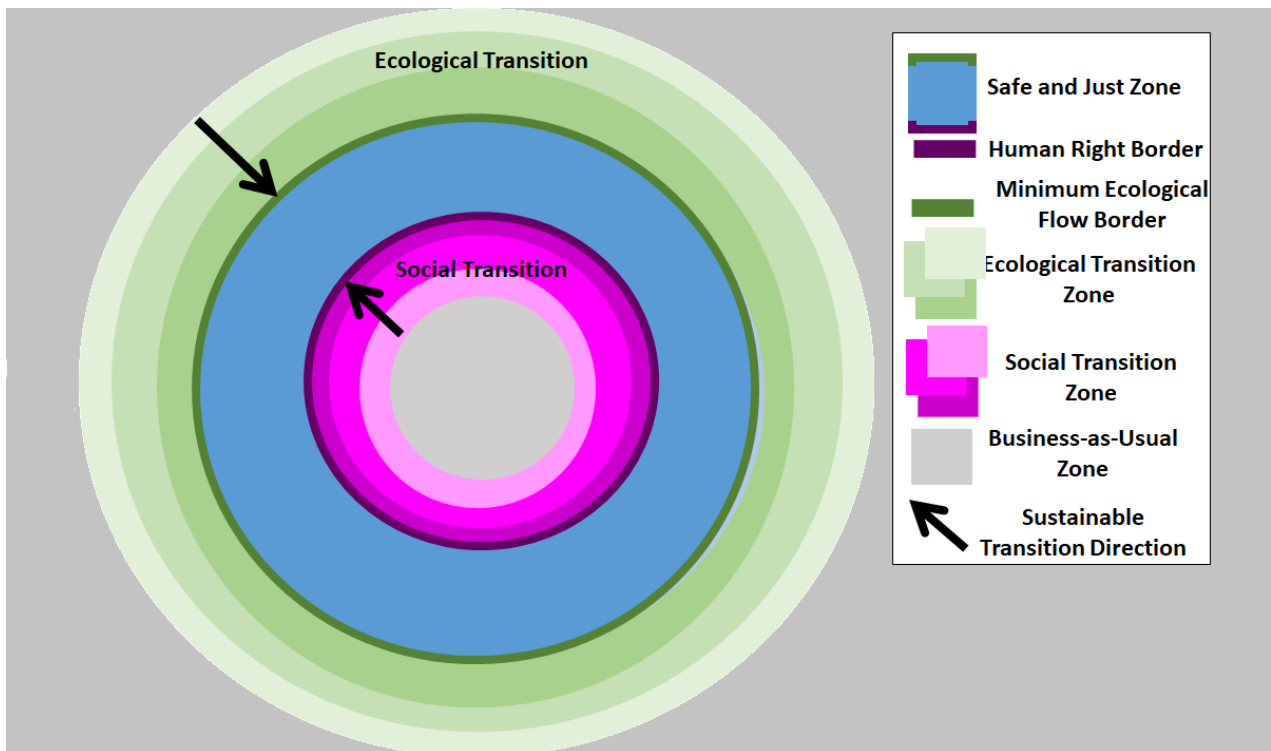


# Doughnut for policy proposals: (water) sector scale

Version 1.0 (August 2021)



## Overview

The doughnut for policy proposals at the water sector scale is a tool created to support policymakers. It aims to analyse what are the elements required in policies to transit towards sustainability with a doughnut economics socio-ecological approach. Mexico City's water sector policies were used as a case study to test this tool. For this tool, there are two main steps: a) understanding of the sustainable scenario of the context with a doughnut economics perspective, b) understanding of the current and missing policy mechanisms required to take the current status quo water system to a system under the terms of a doughnut economics sustainable scenario. For these steps, an evaluation of the theory of change of the policies was done. This evaluation can be replicated and adapted other cases to downscale the doughnut economics at the sector level, and to propose policies with a doughnut economics perspective that uses human rights as its social foundation.



### Why use it?

This methodology is useful for four reasons:

- **Supports policymakers** by applying the doughnut as a scenario to achieve sustainable policy transitions, and then analyses the steps required for these transitions.
- **Uses human rights as the social foundation** of the Doughnut Economics model, that can be contextualized in other contexts and scales.
- **Applies the doughnut at a sector scale level.** It was used for water but it can be applied to other sectors as well.
- **Analyses the Doughnut in a Global South, Latin American, Mega-cities context.** It was used for Mexico City's policies, but some of its characteristics could be useful for similar contexts.



### Who is it for?

This tool is useful for:

- **Policymakers** interested in sustainability policy transitions, with a Doughnut Economics socio-ecological approach. It can serve to define a sustainability transitions criteria for a policy evaluation, or as a case study to apply the doughnut economics model for policies.
- **Sustainability Advocacy Agents** that would be interested in promoting and operationalizing ways for sustainability transitions. This doughnut scenario tool can give the sustainability gaps missing in policy that could be advocated for. It would also allow for seeing gaps for possible governance projects for sustainability transitions.
- **Researchers/Consultants** interested in understanding: a) Methodologies to downscale the Doughnut Economics Model at a Sector Level, b) Water challenges in urban settings, c) Sustainable scenario for Mexico City's water sector.



### How long does it take?

The amount of time allocated to this tool, will **depend on the level of detail to which the policy proposals want to be given.** For this reason, it depends on the amount of time given to the analysis of: a) the sustainability scenario, b) the possible mechanisms to reach this scenario, and c) the feasibility of these mechanisms. It can take a shorter or longer time to develop.

**This tool has already been used in the thesis research project for a duration of six months.** This period was chosen as it was the one given to develop the thesis component from the MSc in Environmental Sciences, Policy and Management from the Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Program MESPOM Consortium (Lund University, Central European University, University of Manchester, and University of the Aegean).



### How many people is it for?

It is useful for a **sector analysis in the urban scale**. For this, it requires only an individual for the research analysis, but it requires the collaboration of relevant policymakers of the sector's context delimitation, as well as academics and practitioners that understand the legal and ecological challenges of it.

This project was delimited to collaboration with other five relevant participants: two local policymakers, two biologists, and one lawyer/politician. The form in which this collaboration was made included interviews from the researcher to the relevant participants.

As said previously, the number of people would depend on the in-depth analysis required. If it's possible it would also be better to include multiple relevant-stakeholders perspectives, and also increasing their ways of participating in the project. This would increase the understanding of the sustainability scenario challenges and opportunities, and of the feasibility for the proposals.



### What materials do you need?

There are three types of materials that you require:

- Information for the sustainable scenario based on a doughnut socio-ecological perspective:
  - For the social foundation:
    - Legal Framework - Updated Legal Framework regulating the sector's human rights. (e.g. human right to water regulation)
  - For the environmental ceiling:
    - Science-based and/or official ecological goals of the sector (e.g. minimum water flow of the basins).
- Information about the sector's characteristics in that context:
  - For the social foundation:
    - Indicators that show the measure in which the rights have been guaranteed.
  - For the environmental ceiling:
    - Indicators that show the measure in which the ecological goals have been reached.
- Information to understand the policies - Updated Sector Policies of the Sector in that context.
  - Policy documents.
  - Budget.
  - Relevant Stakeholder Interviews.



### What does the facilitator need to know or be able to do?

There are three steps that the facilitator must do (by individual or collective research):

- 1) **Model the sustainability scenario** for that sector's context with the doughnut economics perspective. For this, it is required that the facilitator finds qualitative and/or quantitative indicators of what the social foundation and ecological boundary would mean for that sector's context. This would be based on the planetary boundaries applied to the scale, and the human rights applicable to the sector.
- 2) **Define the status quo** of the sector's system, by defining what is the current sector's situation and comparing the situation according to the previously mentioned indicators.
- 3) **Understand what the current policy logic** is to transit the current situation to the sustainability's scenario, and what are the missing mechanisms within this logic. The current policy logic is referred as the policy's theory of change in the thesis project.
- 4) Find **alternative feasible/policy mechanisms** that can be used and selected by policymakers to fill these policy logic gap to transit towards sustainability in this sector's context.



### Acknowledgements

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Moreover, this project was developed after an understanding of the sustainable water challenges learned from my internship experience in Water Secretariat of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

Finally, I would like to thank UNAM's Faculty of Law, for having given me the tools for the legal understanding that allowed me to understand the legal challenges to downscale the Doughnut Economics Model.



## Links

This tool is developed in this MSc thesis publication, by testing it with Mexico City's water sector case:

<https://lup.lub.lu.se/student-papers/search/publication/9062319>

All references are included there.

Main complementary materials for the tool include:

- Gertler, P. J., Martinez, S., Premand, P., Rawlings, L. B., & Vermeersch, C. M. J. (2010). Impact Evaluation in Practice. The World Bank. <https://doi.org/10.1596/978-0-8213-8541-8>
- Jann, W., & Wegrich, K. (2017). Theories of the policy cycle. In Handbook of public policy analysis (pp. 69–88). Routledge
- Raworth, K. (2017). Doughnut Economics—Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist. Random House Business Books.
- Vedung, E. (2012). Six models of evaluation. In Routledge Handbook of Public Policy. Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203097571.ch29>
- Wright, D., & Meadows, D. H. (2008). Thinking in systems. Earthscan.