Agriculture, Finance, and Building a New Economy

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exponential growth is **UNSUSTAINABLE**

Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever in a finite world is either a madman or an economist

- Kenneth Boulding, Economist, Quaker, Co-Founder of General Systems Theory
OVERSHOOT

The global economy now uses up 1.5 times the earth’s capacity to regenerate the natural capital upon which the system and life depends.

- The Global Footprint Network
FACT
If everyone were to live like Americans we would need 5 Earths
Symptom: Soil loss

The Silent Global Crisis:

- Soil loss: 24 B tons per year* (1992)
- CO2 emissions: 28 B tons (2009)
- In past 40 years, 30% of farmland has become unproductive
What's wrong with this picture?

Desired Outcome

Finance

Economy

Planet
THE MOST IMPORTANT CHART IN THE WORLD...
Sustainability in Complex Systems

Source: Bernard Lietaer et al, 2008
A fresh look at Egypt

Source: UN FAO and Oil Drum
Egypt continued…

Egypt : Oil
2009 exports decreased by 26. %

Consumption
Production

net Exports
net Imports


Data: BP Statistical Review 2010  Graphic: mazamascience.com

Source: BP Statistical Review and Oil Drum
Finance is the fuel source,
what we feed GROWS
Driving Capital Upstream
Imagine: resilient regional economies thriving within an interdependent global system