

# Introduction

The emerging field of polycrisis analysis offers novel insights on the complex and systemic nature of the world's intersecting problems. Its findings are generally bleak. The more we investigate, the more densely interconnected, mutually reinforcing, and structurally entrenched our problems seem to be. Knowledge about their depth and complexity is crucial for effective action, but insufficient.

If polycrisis analysis ends there, it risks becoming just another exercise in “doom-casting,” or worse, an excuse for fatalistic complacency. Fortunately, it has more to offer. As a crucial next step, the field must translate its understanding of polycrises into actionable strategies to alleviate them. This Report explores how to do so. It suggests ways in which polycrisis analysis can build on existing approaches to systemic change to help chart positive pathways to better futures.

The first section considers the sorts of systems changes required to avoid, mitigate, and navigate through polycrisis, highlighting the dual nature of crisis as harmful disaster and opportunity for transformation. The second section examines the progression between three prominent approaches to understanding systems change: leverage points, tipping points, and multi-systemic stability landscapes. Each approach improves upon shortcomings of the others but faces its own limitations for addressing polycrisis. Building on these approaches, the final section explains how underused tools like Cross-Impact Balance (CIB) analysis can advance the search for *positive pathways* by identifying alternative possible equilibria in global systems.