

A hand holding a small globe of the Earth against a background of sunlight filtering through green foliage.

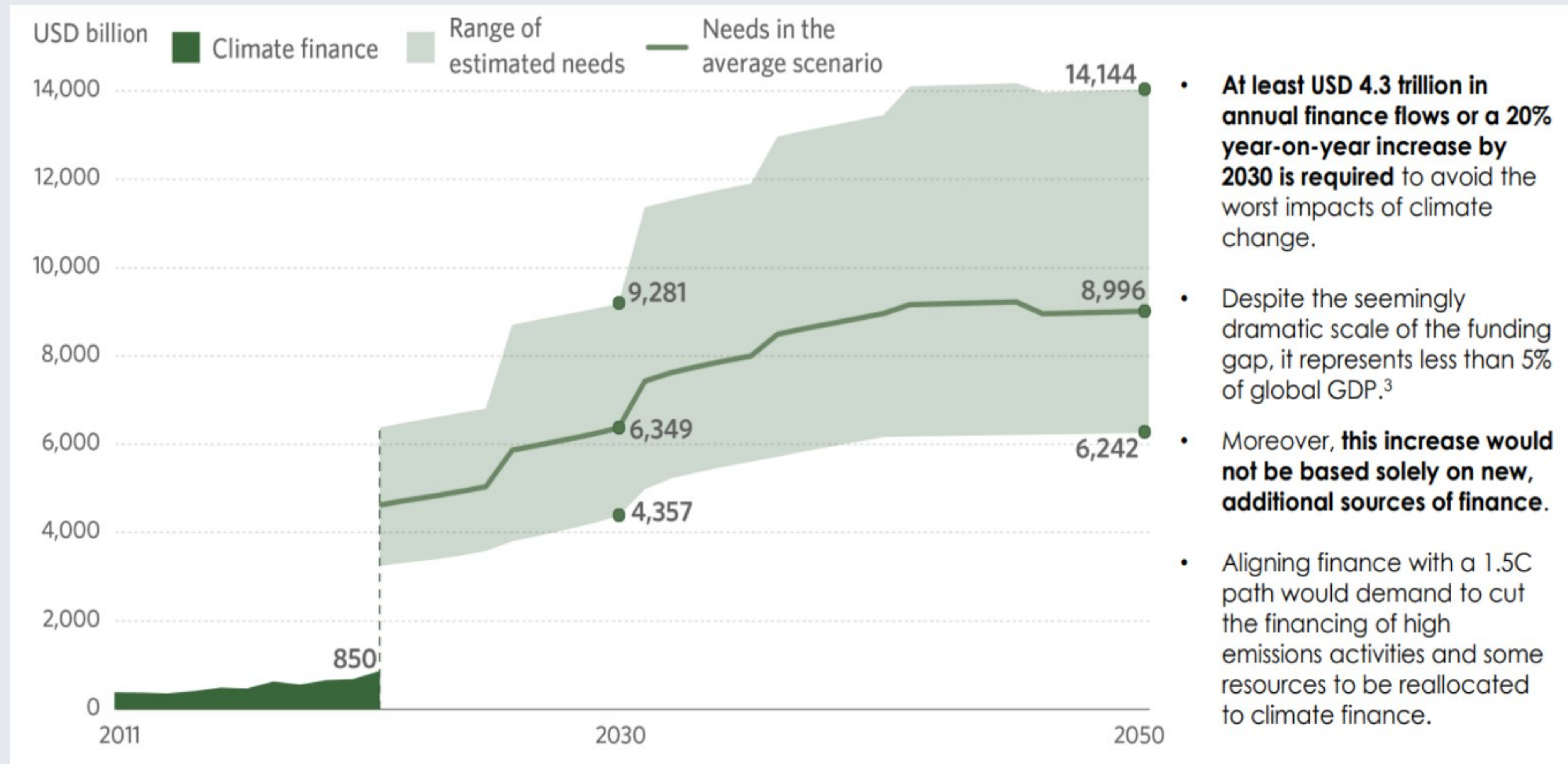
Transition finance and transition progress: Needs for net zero

David Carlin
May 2023

What are our forecasted climate finance needs?

Needs will vary based on assumptions in the scenario including economic growth, population, technological development, and financial variables

Climate finance in IPCC 1.5 C scenarios



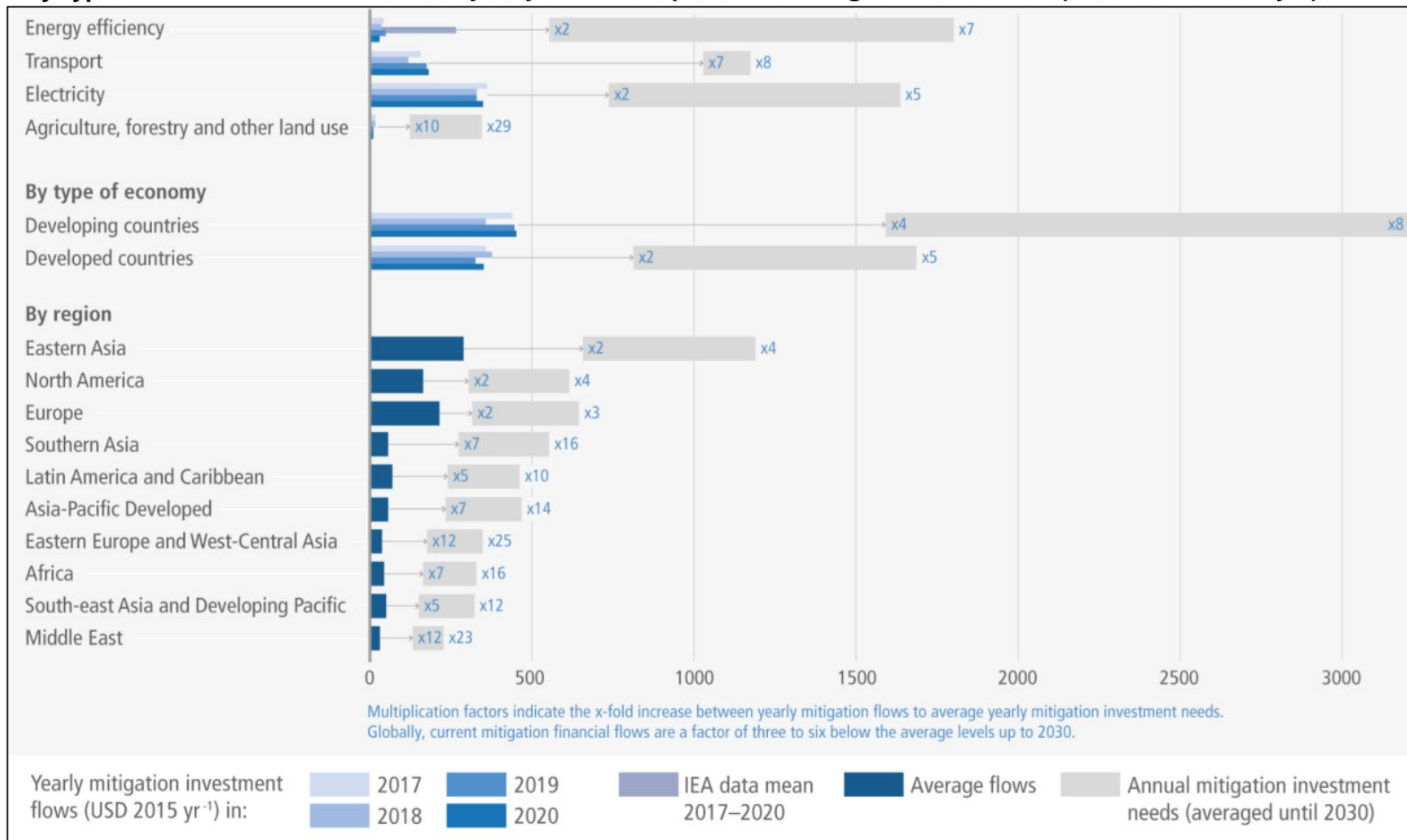
Source: [CPI](#)

How much are we falling short in different sectors and regions?

Transition finance flows and needs by sector and region

By type:

Actual yearly flows compared to average annual needs (billion USD 2015 yr¹):

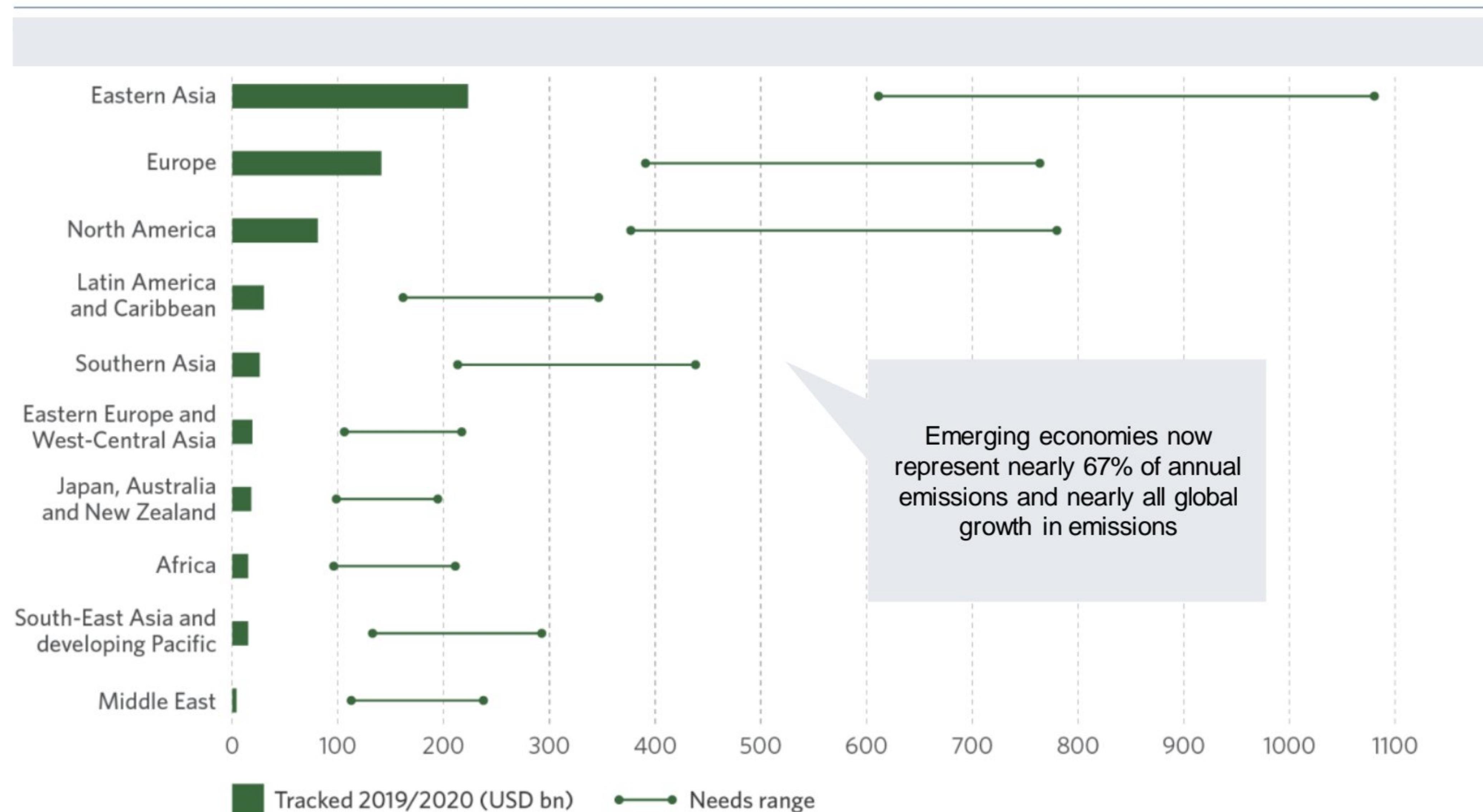


Source: IPCC (2022), Figure 15.4.

Why does regional climate finance matter so much?

Climate finance is falling short in every region but is especially needed to ensure a low-carbon transition and climate resilience in emerging economies

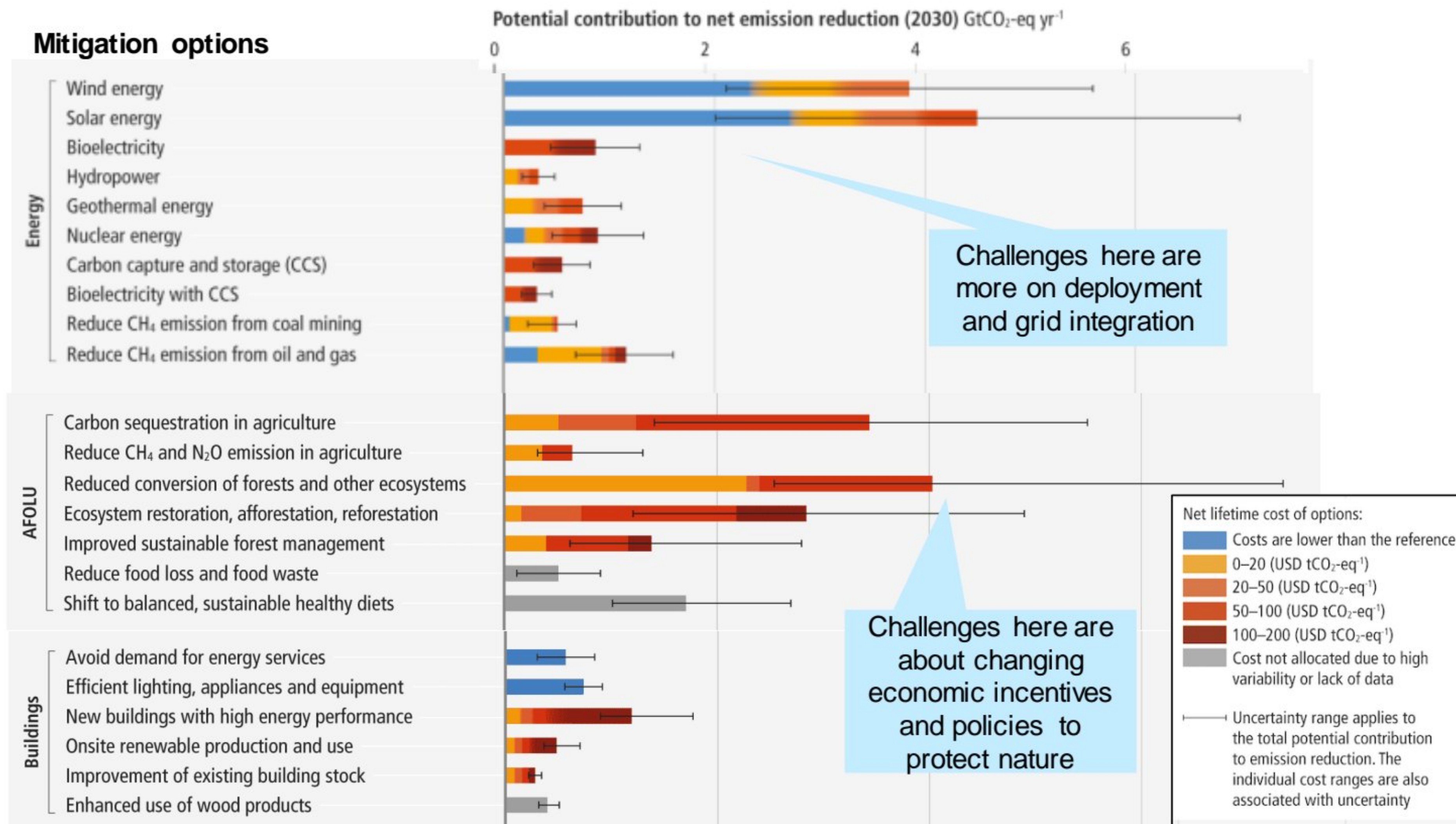
Annual investment needs through 2030 to decarbonize economies



Source: [CPI](#)

Major opportunities for cost-effective decarbonization exist in the growth of solar and wind power

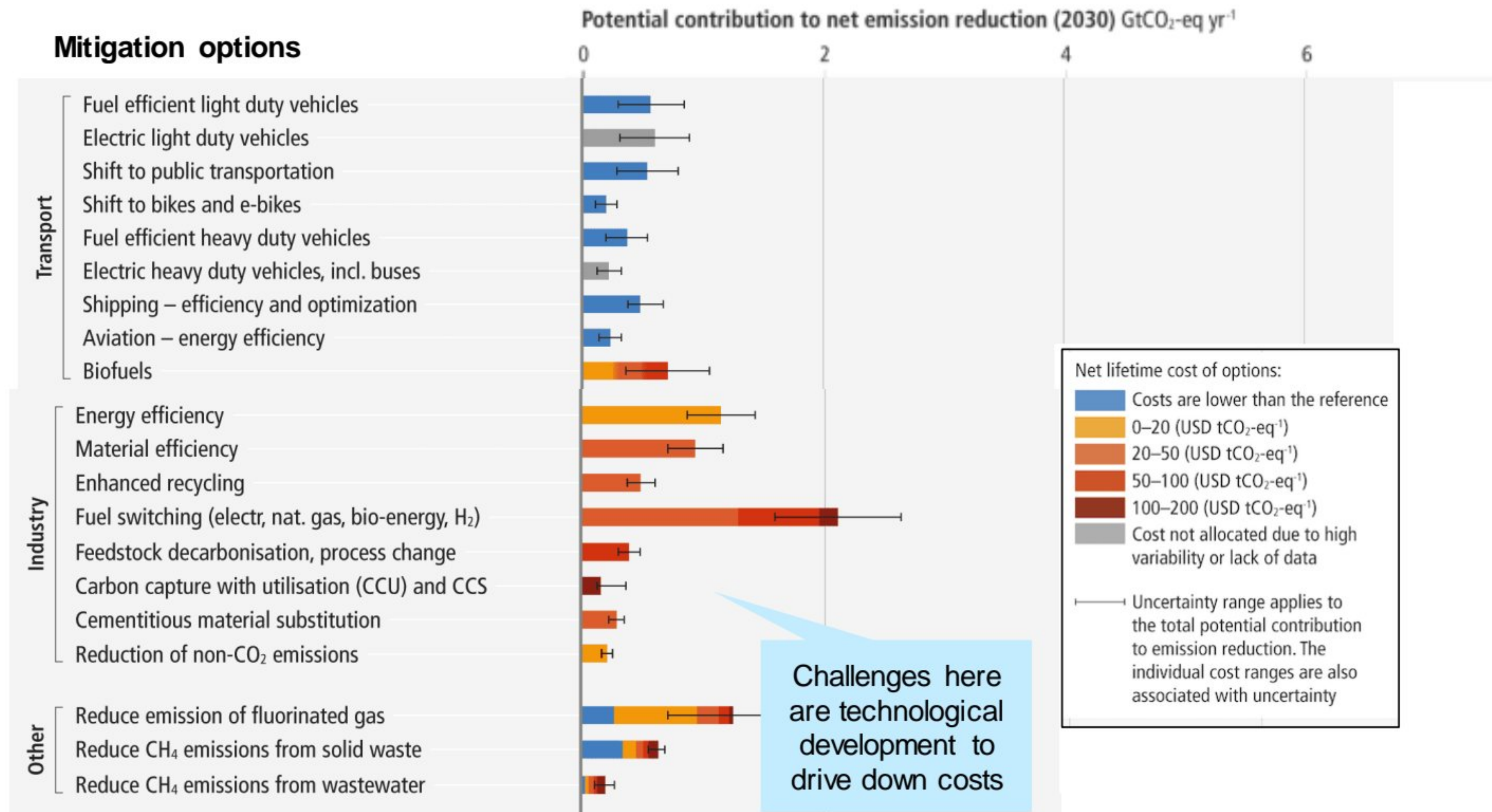
Full decarbonization will demand increased climate financing and technological innovation and economies of scale



Source: IPCC (2022),

Different sectors may be easier or harder to reduce emissions in

Transportation already has multiple cost-effective mitigation options, whereas industry will prove harder



Source: IPCC (2022),

Tailwinds and headwinds for transition financing

Geopolitics, economics, technological change, policy choices, and societal action all have influences on the speed and scope of transition finance

Tailwinds

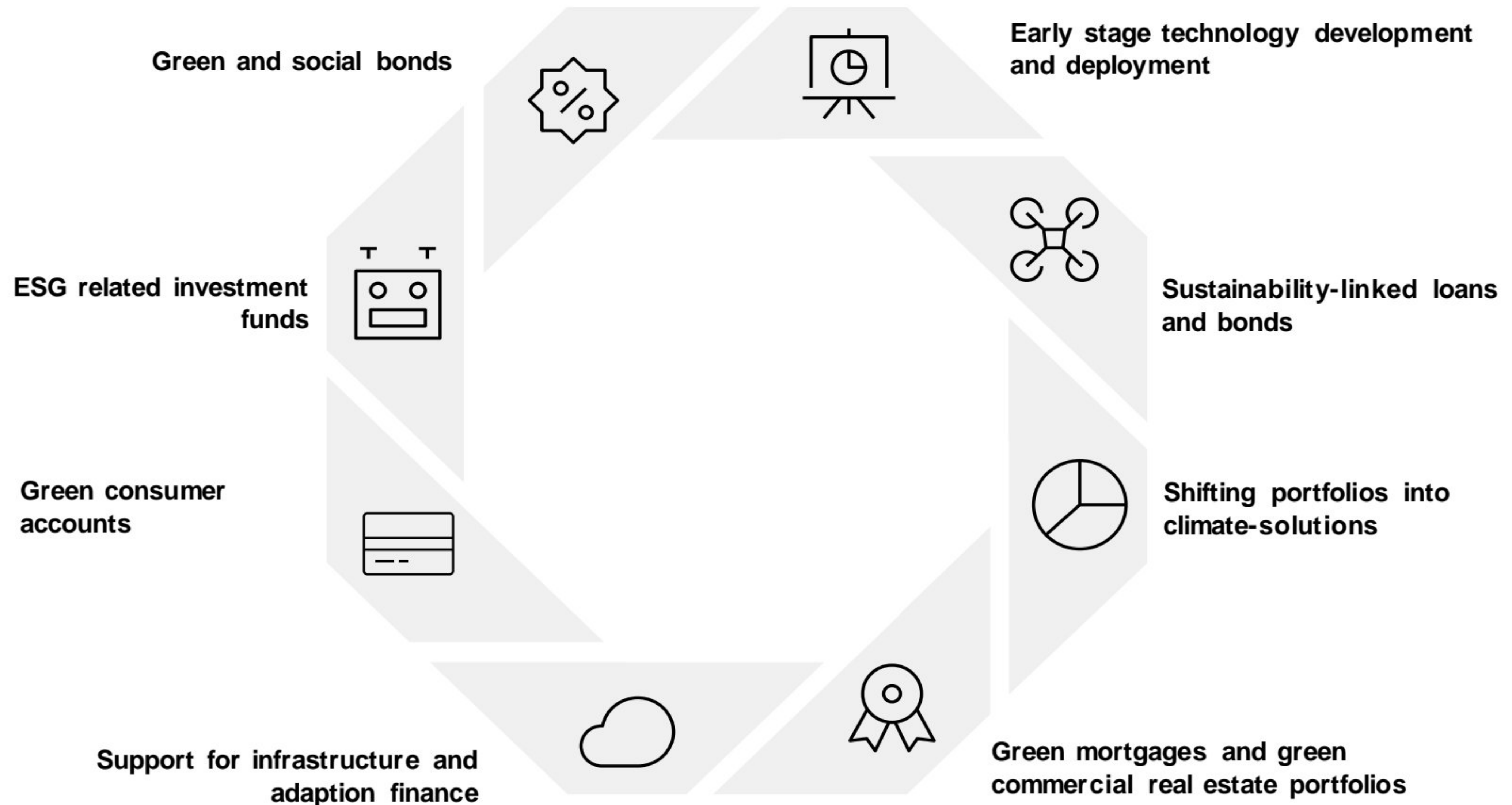
- Transition finance has reached record levels (nearly 1 TN USD) and clean energy finance has achieved parity with fossil fuel investment
- Transition finance remained robust amid COVID and the Russian invasion of Ukraine
- Most financing for the deployment of new generation capacity is directed at low-carbon sources
- Renewable energy systems are already outcompeting fossil fuel assets on cost in many parts of the world
- Continued deployment has led to economies of scale and further cost falls for batteries, solar, wind, and other green technologies

Headwinds

- Rising interest rates make transition finance more expensive
- Windfall profits from high fossil fuel prices have left producers less dependent on financial institutions
- Geopolitical and economic tensions have made coherent international policy coordination harder between actors such as China, the US, and EU
- Limited transition finance is flowing from the developed world to developing economies, and costs can be prohibitive for available capital
- Most new fossil fuel infrastructure is being built in developing economies, where it creates a high risk of fossil fuel lock-in

What are green opportunities for financial institutions?

The net-zero transition presents opportunities for innovation across products and markets

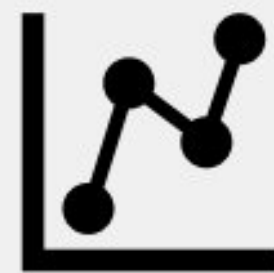


Are we seeing firms pricing in the transition?

Climate is beginning to be considered by financial actors in their decision-making processes, but both risks and opportunities have a long way to go to be fully “priced in”

Where evidence

According to the TCFD 2022 Status Report, **transition risks** are more likely to be priced into financial markets than **physical risk**



Changes in cost of capital seen in sectors such as coal



2/3 of investors report factoring climate risk information into valuations



Increasing number of firms are committing to net zero and interim targets

However, pricing **does not fully reflect climate risks**, nor has it driven capital fast enough into **low carbon industries and developing economies**



Too little capital is flowing into low-carbon investments in emerging economies, and costs are too high



Financing of fossil fuels remains robust and valuations remain high



Limited strength and coordination of government climate policies

The TCFD found that 66% of investors were factoring climate risk disclosures into the way they value investments.

Thank you for your attention!

If you have any questions about this content or questions on climate and environmental risks, please do not hesitate to reach out!



David Carlin

Head of Risk

UNEP FI

David.Carlin@un.org