

Response to final decision: minor revision

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

The referees for this manuscript came to the widest possible range of conclusions from unambiguous rejection to publish without changing a single word. On balance, and particularly in recognition of the purpose of ESD Ideas, which is to concisely present innovative concepts that have not yet been comprehensively explored, the majority of comments found the manuscript to be worthy of publication, subject to minor revisions. The author has already made changes to figure 1 in response to referee comments, particularly RC5. The author has also acknowledged the need to justify the manuscript as one that is focused on positive tipping point dynamics, enabling conditions, feedbacks, issues of ethics, justice and the possibility of unintended consequences, and has made the necessary changes. The author makes reasonable and persuasive explanations for why he has omitted certain concepts - which is unavoidable for such an expansive idea to be explained within two pages.

RESPONSE:

Thank you for handling of the reviewers' comments and the discussion of this manuscript. This has notably helped to improve the final version of this contributions and also further explain the theoretical and empirical research background behind it. It also allowed me to explain the reasons for why some issues were initially omitted, given the purpose and the limited space assigned to ESD ideas. In the new version, most of the comments of the reviewers have been incorporated. In particular, the following main changes have been implemented:

- Figure 1 has been modified, with no arrow at the end, to show that the two valleys correspond to two different basins of attraction depicting two equally plausible future global scenarios (originally the arrow was intended to provide some indication of a 'Safe and Just corridor for people and the planet', as per the Earth Commission).
- The meaning and purpose of this figure has also been further explained, as with regard to the role of population growth, to avoid misunderstandings, and also regarding the relationships between tipping points dynamics occurring at lower levels of social-ecological systems dynamics and those at global systems level.
- Following one of the insightful reviewers' comments the reference by Fath 2007 has been incorporated and its content elaborated to reinforce the idea that in a complex social-ecological system, there are no null / neutral interactions (this also implies that much research is needed to further explore and assess what are negative or positive and in which sense).
- An explanation and several references have been included - based on the potential role of win-win solutions- to explain what could be done when there is a conflict of goals, e.g., between short-term individual interests and long-term collective ones that impede agents' collaboration towards achieving a better-off whole system situation.
- As requested by one reviewer, the new manuscript also provides an improved explanation of the interplay and dynamics -e.g., in terms of the previous enabling conditions and the role of equity, etc- between the lower systems dynamics of tipping points and the potential emergence of a net-positive one at a global scale. Related to this, the new text further emphasises the role of sustainability (and second/third order, and institutional) learning to perpetuate transformative changes derived from net-positive tipping points in social-ecological systems.
- It further underlines the aspirational nature of the framework provided.
- Language and potential typos have been further revised / eliminated and some additional references have been included to respond to various reviewers' comments.

Sincerely,

J. David Tàbara