Humans can create significantly more value by investing our minds, not just our resources. Systemic change is nonlinear, and often requires time, especially in the context of deep, persistent environmental challenges.

An age-old adage, Quality over Quantity, is especially true for decisions that impact the complex, interdependent systems on which modern life relies. We can no longer afford to proceed as if the outcomes of our decisions are the only things that matter.

Systemic change is underpinned by complex social dynamics. Expanding scale without considering the social and cultural contexts in which interventions occur is like trying to plant a tree in a desert without addressing the underlying ecological conditions. No challenge exists in a silo, and often ecological challenges require social solutions, and vice versa.

We as funders can create adaptive learning models that facilitate the exchange of knowledge and equitable ownership of outcomes. Our evaluation frameworks must reflect the complexity of the problems we are trying to solve, rather than reinforcing the specter of top-down, short-term thinking. To confront global threats and to exchange knowledge, we must support grassroots-driven connectivity. Strategies that will help cool the planet over the long-term are underpinned by complex social drivers.

Sustainable development projects that don't account for heterogeneity are unlikely to be durable. Our future, and the future of the planet, will depend on our ability to shift from breadth over depth, speed over impact, novelty over the tried-and-true, and immediacy over systems change. Rather than a change in outcomes, we must commit to changing the conditions that allow for such outcomes.

To build broad political will that can enact political change, to organize millions against entrenched corporate interests, to ensure a community can sustain a new way of sharing energy: there must be strong relationships, robust coordination, and mutual amplification. Power is central to scale, especially where politics are stacked against the majority. Grassroots strategies that will help cool the planet over the long-term are underpinned by complex social dynamics.

Check out our short video on Reimagining Scale. Visit our website at www.climasolutions.org to learn more.

Six Billion Trees: The world is accelerating towards a global tipping point.

Philanthropy has often taken a narrow view of "scale" when it comes to approaches for growth and these methods falls for what is immediate and tangible, instead of investing in what is scalable in the long-term. Often philanthropy's evaluation frameworks reinforce supremacist assumptions of what's 'right' or successful. Support grassroots-driven connectivity.

Instead of funding the flashy new technology in the news, support these connections when asked to do so. Flexible funding allows grassroots groups to be nimble. Provide unrestricted, long-term funding. Support grassroots-driven connectivity.

LOOK BEYOND NOVELTY.

SUPPORT GRASSROOTS-DRIVEN CONNECTIVITY.

PROVIDE UNRESTRICTED, LONG-TERM FUNDING.

RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF LOCAL KNOWLEDGE.

DECENTRALIZATION, and POWER

REFORM THE POWER STRUCTURES THAT ACTUALLY UNDERPIN HUMAN CRISIS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.

LEGITIMATE LOCAL POWER.

STRATEGICALLY SCALE TO IMPACT.

RESIST CENTRALIZATION.