

# Sustainability Matters

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Business achieving a tomorrow for tomorrow's children



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## Climate Action Tracker: NZ's Performance is Insufficient

"The independent assessment by the Climate Action Tracker organisation rates New Zealand's climate action as Insufficient in that it would, if matched by other countries, allow global temperature rises between 2 and 3°C. The organisation notes the passage of the Zero Carbon Act is a step forward as a framework for decision-making, but it does not in itself mandate particular emissions reductions.

"The informative graph shows actual performance and projections against various targets and the assessment lists the various commitments New Zealand has made and considers whether our trajectories are consistent with those.

"The assessment dated 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 and its pithy account of our policies, actions – or lack of them – and our sectoral indulgences to agriculture, the methane exemptions and the burden thus put on the rest of the economy are all discussed.

**More:** <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/new-zealand/>

**Source:** Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 5<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## War on Waste and Fight for Planet A

"We're excited about *Fight for Planet A* because the War on Waste series was such a hit across Australia. It shone the spotlight on Australia's waste, with (get ready for some numbers) 3.8 million viewers. And it prompted a whopping 68% of those people – that's about 20% of this country's adult population – to change their behaviour.

"And what's more, people thought about the big picture! They realised what big systemic changes were needed from business and government, and flocked to waste-reduction initiatives. The ABC team counted 452 programs – in community, business, universities, schools and government across Australia – that were influenced by this show.

"That's one show, and a whole lot of positive change! So we're enthused to see the flurry of conversation and action from *Fight for Planet A*. Sign up for our handy toolkit with conversation starters and action resources, have a think about who in your networks will be watching the series – or might like to – and let's turn conversation into action!

**More:** [www.acf.org.au/planet\\_a](http://www.acf.org.au/planet_a) plus [www.uts.edu.au/news/social-justice-sustainability/fighting-war-waste](http://www.uts.edu.au/news/social-justice-sustainability/fighting-war-waste) plus [www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/institute-sustainable-futures/news/evaluating-impact-abcs-war-waste](http://www.uts.edu.au/research-and-teaching/our-research/institute-sustainable-futures/news/evaluating-impact-abcs-war-waste) plus [www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/aronwaste/](http://www.abc.net.au/ourfocus/aronwaste/) and [www.abc.net.au/tv/pdf/WoW%20Impact%20Report%2013June19.pdf](http://www.abc.net.au/tv/pdf/WoW%20Impact%20Report%2013June19.pdf) 51 pages 13.03Mb

**Source:** ACF, 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## The Earth Has Lungs – Watch Them Breathe

We have 3.1 trillion trees – that's 422 trees per person....

**More:** [www.nationalgeographic.com/science/phenomena/2016/03/09/the-earth-has-lungs-watch-them-breathe/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/phenomena/2016/03/09/the-earth-has-lungs-watch-them-breathe/)

**Source:** National Geographic, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2020. 

## Accounting and Climate Finance: Engaging with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

"Following our recent commentary (Charnock & Thomson, 2019), we are calling on SEA scholars to engage with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC synthesise climate research to provide an authoritative evidential basis for national and international climate talks and policies. To date, economics has been the main voice of the social sciences within the IPCC synthesis reports. Yet the IPCC claims this is because other disciplines are not reaching out with their relevant peer reviewed insights.

"The IPCC's 3<sup>rd</sup> Working Group (WG III) is synthesising research on climate finance but have faced serious difficulty in gathering academic work. While the lack of an agreed definition is something the IPCC look to remedy, climate finance often refers to 'the financial resources dedicated to adapting to and mitigating climate change globally, including in the context of financial flows to developing countries.' It is therefore seen as playing an integral part in transforming industries in line with low-carbon transitions, ensuring developed nations support mitigation and adaptation efforts in developing nations, and creating conditions for technological innovation (IPCC, 2014).

**More:** [https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special\\_issues/accounting-climate-finance/](https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/accounting-climate-finance/)

**Source:** CSEAR, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Life Cycles – Transitioning to a Circular Economy

"Life Cycle Thinking (LCT) and Circular Economy (CE) are complementary concepts which can help shape a more sustainable world. Circular Economy provides a strategic framework for closed-loop material flows and a gateway to Life Cycle Thinking, whilst Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) complements Circular Economy by assessing environmental impacts, thus providing evidence critical for effective decision-making.

"Interest from government and industry to transition Aotearoa New Zealand from a linear 'take-make-dispose economy' to a circular economy and improve our overall performance as a sustainable society has increased significantly in recent years.

"The New Zealand life cycle community has a key role to play in this transformation, to ensure that the best decisions are made system-wide. It is crucial environmental impacts and burdens are not simply shifted but rather any potential trade-offs are identified. We need to help promote the importance of using Life Cycle Assessment and Life Cycle Thinking in decision-making, system design, and transition work towards a Circular Economy to realise reduced impacts across the economy and society. ...

**More:** <https://lcanz.org.nz/2020/08/03/new-lcanz-white-paper-lca-lct-and-transitioning-to-a-circular-economy/> 6 pages 706KB

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## A Green Recovery – Smart Choices

“Challenging truths and unprecedented opportunities in the way we live and work have been revealed by the coronavirus, and we must address both head on as we reset and rebuild.

“Critical to this is galvanizing political impetus to reduce the most damaging impacts of climate change and boost biodiversity while restarting the economy.

“The ways in which nature and humans are interconnected have been clearly visible during the crisis. ....

“Leading global academics recently fed into a publication from Oxford University that reviewed economic stimulus packages and what will be needed to tackle the economic and environmental needs of an equitable low-carbon transition. The report contained five solid recommendations for policy makers, including: ‘clean physical infrastructure investment; building efficiency retrofits; investment in education and training to address immediate unemployment from COVID-19 and structural unemployment from decarbonisation; natural capital investment for ecosystem resilience and regeneration, and clean R&D investment.’ These recommendations provide sound areas to focus fiscal support — both public and private — that are not just about getting people back to work and restarting the economy, but about a more sustainable reset of the economy and the provision of equitable livelihoods that serve people and maintain the natural environment that we depend on for a healthy life for the long-term.

**More:** <https://sustainability.com/our-work/insights/a-green-recovery/> plus [www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/wpapers/workpaper20-02.pdf](http://www.smithschool.ox.ac.uk/publications/wpapers/workpaper20-02.pdf) 48 pages, 1.39Mb

**Source:** Editor, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Editor:** Authors include Nicholas Stern and Joseph Stiglitz.

## Rapid Mobilisation Playbook to Support Fast-tracking of Construction Projects

“A new resource – the *Rapid Mobilisation Playbook* – has been created to help fast-track government construction projects, says Carolyn Tremain, MBIE Chief Executive and Functional Leader for Government procurement.

“The Playbook has been developed by the Construction Sector Accord in collaboration with New Zealand Government Procurement within MBIE, Aurecon, and through the Accord Forum; a collaborative, cross industry group to support the sector to recover from COVID-19.

“The Playbook is intended to be a practical guide to help government agencies start construction projects including ‘shovel-ready’ projects in a fast and safe way, which protects jobs and helps achieve broader social, cultural, environmental and economic outcomes at this critical time,’ says Ms Tremain.

“It will help organisations and project teams which don't often complete large-scale projects on an accelerated time frame and ensure government construction projects can lend further support to NZ's recovery from COVID-19.’ ....

**More:** [www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2007/S00372/rapid-mobilisation-playbook-to-support-fast-tracking-of-construction-projects.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO2007/S00372/rapid-mobilisation-playbook-to-support-fast-tracking-of-construction-projects.htm) plus [www.procurement.govt.nz/procurement/specialised-procurement/construction-procurement/rapid-mobilisation-playbook/](http://www.procurement.govt.nz/procurement/specialised-procurement/construction-procurement/rapid-mobilisation-playbook/) plus [www.constructionaccord.nz/news/news-stories/rapid-mobilisation-playbook-to-support-fast-tracking-of-construction-projects/](http://www.constructionaccord.nz/news/news-stories/rapid-mobilisation-playbook-to-support-fast-tracking-of-construction-projects/) and [www.constructionaccord.nz](http://www.constructionaccord.nz)

**Source:** Clare Feeney, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020

**Editor:** The templates and tools provided could be of value for other types of projects i.e. not limited to Govt. related work, or projects exceeding \$10M.

## What Comes After What Comes Next

“Join James Shaw, New Zealand's Minister for Climate Change and Green Party co-leader, and some of the world's leading thinkers to explore the big ideas about how we solve the climate crisis and renew our economies and societies in a post-pandemic world.

“Some of the people he chats with are; Christiana Figueres, George Monbiot, Jane Goodall, Joseph Stiglitz, Kate Raworth, Mark Carney and Vandana Shiva.

**More:** <https://podtail.com/en/podcast/what-comes-after-what-comes-next/>

**Source:** Tieke: *ECO Alerts & Events*, 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

**Editor:** Nine talks each of +/- 1hour.

## Julia Gillard says her Government's Carbon Price Proves Climate Policy Isn't 'Too hard'

“Julia Gillard has warned against a feeling of ‘received helplessness’ which policies to reduce greenhouse gases are ‘all too hard’, citing the carbon price legislated by her government as proof climate policy ‘can get done’.

“Gillard, the former Australian prime minister and current Beyond Blue chair, made the comments on Wednesday [5<sup>th</sup> August] in an Australia Institute webinar about the mental health impact of Covid-19 and the need to ‘build back better’ with more early intervention on the other side of the pandemic.

“Gillard said the Covid-19 pandemic had an ‘upside’ in the lesson that expertise and government ‘matter’ but warned of increasing nationalism and the risk a vaccine to coronavirus will not be fairly shared. ... [Long article]

**More:** [www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/05/julia-gillard-says-her-governments-carbon-price-proves-climate-policy-isnt-all-too-hard](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/05/julia-gillard-says-her-governments-carbon-price-proves-climate-policy-isnt-all-too-hard)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## John Elkington: Businesses Should 'Think Like Insurgents' to Spur Green Recovery Efforts

“Many organisations will need to ‘regenerate’ approaches to environmental, societal and economic business models in the wake of the financial damage caused by the coronavirus pandemic, according to Volans' chairman and chief pollinator John Elkington, who has called on companies to ‘think like an insurgent’.

“In a special episode of edie's #SustyTalk video interviews, renowned author, CSR advisor, serial entrepreneur John Elkington discussed the role of businesses in assisting national green recoveries from the coronavirus pandemic. ...

“Elkington noted that any efforts to build back the economy would change markets in the long-run.

**More:** [www.edie.net/news/7/John-Elkington--Businesses-should-think-like-insurgents--to-spur-green-recovery-efforts/](http://www.edie.net/news/7/John-Elkington--Businesses-should-think-like-insurgents--to-spur-green-recovery-efforts/) 25:38

**Source:** edie, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## Energy Storage in Red Bricks

“Red bricks – some of the world's cheapest and most familiar building materials – can be converted into energy storage units that can be charged to hold electricity, like a battery, according to new research. Chemists have developed a method to make or modify ‘smart bricks’ that can store energy until required for powering devices. A proof-of-concept study shows a brick directly powering a green LED light. ...

**More:** [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200811120154.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2020/08/200811120154.htm)

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## ***Floating Coast: An Environmental History of the Bering Strait***

“What is the nature of history when nature is a part of what makes history?” To answer this question, environmental historian Bathsheba Demuth explores the nineteenth and twentieth-century interplay of ideology and ecology in Beringia, the Arctic region spanning modern-day Russia and America.

“Demuth left the Midwest to work as an apprentice to a Gwich’in sled dog musher. Here, above the Arctic Circle on the Canadian–Alaskan border, daily life eviscerated Demuth’s idea of a static natural world separate from humankind. Now a participant in the energy conversions of a landscape constantly fluctuating between scarcity and surplus — of temperature, light, and resources — Demuth began to wonder: how is power exchanged between humans and the inhabited landscapes that support them, and what transformations occur in these exchanges? ...

**More:** <https://orionmagazine.org/review/floating-coast/> plus [www.goodreads.com/book/show/41817544-floating-coast](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41817544-floating-coast) 2019. US\$27.95, 416 pages.

**Source:** Orion, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## **Jeanette Fitzsimons Climate Action Grant**

“To honour Jeanette and what she stood for, we are establishing new Climate Action Grants. Each year we will offer two grants of up to \$5000 each to a young person or a youth organisation who wish to innovate, promote and implement things that Jeanette worked on and are promoting the good stuff and stopping the bad stuff as reflected in Our Climate Declaration.

“We will offer two grants of up to \$5,000 each, to a young person/s (under 30) or youth organisation, with a project which is targeted at climate action – and aligned with one or more of Jeanette’s and Our Climate Declaration’s goals.

“These will be awarded each year to a young person or organisation of young people working within their community, who wish to innovate, promote and implement the sorts of things that Jeanette believed in and are reflected in the Our Climate Declaration Goals, ...

**More:** [www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/the\\_jeanette\\_fitzsimons\\_climate\\_action\\_grant](http://www.ourclimatedeclaration.org.nz/the_jeanette_fitzsimons_climate_action_grant)

**Source:** Our Climate Declaration, 14<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2020.

## **Dam Built by Women Saves Families**

“In a makeshift cotton face mask and long green dress, Anna Mbalula, 67, waters vegetables in a garden in Rumwanjiva with about 15 other women in Mwenezi district in Masvingo province. Mwenezi, located 500-odd kilometres from Zimbabwe’s capital city, Harare, is a vast swathe of land prone to severe droughts.

“Millions of Zimbabweans are going hungry, hit by a triple whammy of climate change, poor governance and the coronavirus pandemic.

“Yet in the face of starvation, Mbalula and her community have a reliable source of food, thanks to a plan made among 200 women six years ago. ....

“The works lasted for more than six months, Sekai Mubatagore, a 42-year old housewife remembers....

“Now, the dam provides water to irrigate the Rumwanjiva nutrition garden, a 1 hectare arable plot. Some 112 households in the surrounding area grow vegetables here. A neighbouring field produces fodder for livestock. ...

**More:** [www.climatechangenews.com/2020/07/29/women-built-dam-saved-families-man-made-starvation/](http://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/07/29/women-built-dam-saved-families-man-made-starvation/)

**Source:** *Climate Home News*, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020.

## ***Hope in Hell: A Decade to Confront the Climate Emergency***

“Climate change is the defining issue of our time – we know, beyond reasonable doubt, what that science now tells us. Just as climate change is accelerating, so too must we – summoning up a greater sense of urgency, courage and shared endeavour than humankind has ever seen before.

“*The Age of Climate Change* is an age of superlatives: most extreme this, biggest that, most costly ever. The impacts worsen every year, played out in people’s backyards and communities, and more and more people around the world now realise this is going to be a massive challenge for the rest of their lives. In *Hope in Hell*, Porritt confronts that dilemma head on. He believes we have time to do what needs to be done, but only if we move now – and move together. In this ultimately optimistic book, he explores all these reasons to be hopeful: new technology; the power of innovation; the mobilisation of young people – and a sense of intergenerational solidarity as older generations come to understand their own obligation to secure a safer world for their children and grandchildren.

**More:** <https://sustainable.org.nz/sustainable-business-events/hope-in-hell-a-decade-to-confront-the-climate-emergency/> plus [www.goodreads.com/book/show/52591099-hope-in-hell](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52591099-hope-in-hell) and [www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018757915/sir-jonathon-porritt-a-decade-to-confront-the-climate-emergency](http://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/afternoons/audio/2018757915/sir-jonathon-porritt-a-decade-to-confront-the-climate-emergency)

**Source:** SBN, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## **Ice Rinks – a Surrogate for Measuring Changing Climate**

“This [USA] study conducted linear and change-point analyses of historical trends since 1942 in the length and number of days suitable for skating on backyard rinks in the ‘Original Six’ National Hockey League cities of Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Montreal, New York, and Toronto. Analysis is based on the relationship between ambient air temperatures and the probability of skating, using thresholds identified through the RinkWatch citizen science project. In all cities, coefficient estimates suggest the number of high-probability skating days per winter is declining, .....

“Future monitoring of outdoor rinks provides an opportunity for engaging the public in identification of winter warming trends that might otherwise be imperceptible, and for raising awareness of the impacts of climate change. ...

“Research suggests people take the risks of climate change more seriously if they have directly experienced an extreme weather event; for those that have not, being provided with locally relevant examples of the actual or potential impacts is helpful in making a connection ....

**More:** <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cag.12640>

**Source:** *NY Times*, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**Editor:** Perhaps other surrogates could also be useful.

## **Wonders of Nature’s Seagrass**

“On an island in Denmark, Henning Johansen is restoring a 300-year-old tradition, placing thick, heavy bundles of silvery seaweed atop old homes. BBC News says Johansen is finding a market as he revives seaweed thatching. ‘[Eelgrass] is a very interesting material’, he said, ‘because it won’t burn; there’s so much salt in the straw.’

“What I really wanted to drive home was this is a really good form of natural installation, she said, explaining with this type of installation you don’t need a vapour barrier, ...’

**More:** [www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200805-denmarks-300-year-old-homes-of-the-future](http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200805-denmarks-300-year-old-homes-of-the-future)

**Source:** National Geographic, 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

## 9 Out of 10 Australians Don't Think Mobile Data Contributes to Carbon Emissions

"New research from Australian telco Belong has found approximately 8% of Australians realise mobile data is a contributor to carbon emissions. Yet it is estimated mobile data networks in Australia cause more than half a million tonnes of CO2 every year.

"In recognition of this impact, which is equivalent to the CO2 emissions from someone flying between Melbourne and Sydney more than three million times in a year, Belong has become Australia's first accredited carbon neutral telecommunications provider – with all operations and services certified 'carbon neutral' at no extra cost to its customers.

"Interestingly, new research has found an estimated one in every two Australians does not understand what it means to be 'carbon neutral'. ...

"Belong's research has also shown 62% of Australians agree changes in behaviour, in response to COVID-19, have given them confidence in the ability to make the changes needed to address climate change.

"The visible benefits we have seen in recent months have demonstrated our behaviours have a very tangible impact. Each Australian should be equipped with the knowledge and confidence to make better choices for our planet'. ...

**More:** [www.ecovoice.com.au/9-out-of-10-australians-dont-think-mobile-data-contributes-to-carbon-emissions/](http://www.ecovoice.com.au/9-out-of-10-australians-dont-think-mobile-data-contributes-to-carbon-emissions/)

**Source:** *eco-Voice*, 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## The Surprising Reasons Why Climate Change Facts are Ignored

"Picture yourself giving nearly the same speech hundreds of times, filled with rock-solid facts, detailed charts, and impassioned moral pleas. Despite years of these efforts, you're hoarse and exhausted and can't shake the sense that people still aren't listening.

"It's a very hollow feeling', Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, a Democrat from Rhode Island, told journalists after giving his 200<sup>th</sup> speech on climate change on the Senate floor in 2018. He felt like he was talking to an 'empty chamber'. His addresses, detailing the rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, the climbing costs of floods and wildfires, and the flow of 'dark money' to block climate legislation, had become a weekly tradition, but there wasn't much evidence the hundreds of hours he spent on them had changed his fellow senators' minds.

"While only a sixth of Americans dismiss the scientific consensus that the planet is heating up, a larger chunk — one-third — still doubt humans are responsible. Two new studies dig into the reasons why so many people resist accepting the facts on climate change and offer some insight into how to talk to them about our overheating planet in a way that might be more compelling. The takeaway: Evidence alone isn't enough. ....

**More:** <https://grist.org/climate/the-surprising-reasons-why-people-ignore-the-facts-about-climate-change/>

**Source:** *Carbon News*, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

**Editor:** Emotive are more persuasive than factual. 

## Greenpeace Wins 12-year Campaign for Registration as a Charity

Charities Registration Board had wrongly declined application.

**More:** [www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/press-release/greenpeace-wins-high-court-charity-case-appeal/](http://www.greenpeace.org/new-zealand/press-release/greenpeace-wins-high-court-charity-case-appeal/)

**Source:** *Tieke: ECO Alerts & Events*, 12<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020. 

## ARA Reporting Awards 2020

"In the lead up to entries for the 2020 awards opening on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 ARA have provided a practical guide and other insights to previous awards.

"Australasian Reporting Awards exists to improve continually the standards of reporting. Reporting, the annual report especially, is an essential mechanism of accountability, a vital element in the governance process.

"Techniques of good reporting evolve over time but the fundamentals remain constant. Good reporting requires an open willing attitude, attention to detail and accuracy, a sensitivity and responsiveness to stakeholders, a willingness to put in the effort to communicate effectively and a commitment to achieving and improving upon standards.

"The ARA guidelines change over time reflecting experience and expectations. The guidelines are not about following a formula and ticking boxes. They are about identifying areas of information which, in ARA's experience, are important for readers.

"The challenge for the person preparing the report is to interpret that information for their own organisation's peculiarities and communicate it in a way which is effective for their stakeholders.

There are various classes of awards and they take into consideration use of GRI guidelines. The awards have been operating for 70 years.

**More:** [www.arawards.com.au](http://www.arawards.com.au)

**Source:** *SBC Weekly Pānui*, 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 

## Climate Action in the Product Lifecycle

"Consumer demand for sustainable products is growing; 48% of Kiwis have switched to a product or service that is more sustainable\*.

"So how can you keep pace with evolving stakeholder demand and embed climate action in your product cycle?

"Join experts from Toitū Envirocare, Lion Co and Fonterra to discuss:

- An overview of a robust product lifecycle assessment (LCA) process
- How to identify opportunities for reduction and efficiency in your product lifecycle
- How a Toitū carbonzero certified product can enrich your sustainability narrative and reach a new customer base

"\*2020 *Better Futures Report* by Colmar Brunton

**When/Where:** 12:30 – 1:30pm Mon 24<sup>th</sup> August; webinar

**More:**

<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/3015967567431/WNIVggYjRGQWiuafYtmTGpQ>

**Source:** Ashish Kundalkar, Toitū, 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2020. 

## NCSE Art Contest: Colors of Science

"We are witnessing a planet in transformation – from extreme drought and rainfall to rising seas and sinking land to the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and systemic racism. Sharing science through art offers opportunities for expression and can illuminate new ways to experience and interact with the Earth. Art can help us see science, and its role in environmental decision-making, with fresh eyes and a new perspective, inspiring creativity and forging new paths to solutions for some of our most challenging issues. ....

**Close:** Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 11:59 pm EST, USA

**More:** [www.ncseglobal.org/ncse-art-contest](http://www.ncseglobal.org/ncse-art-contest)

**Source:** NCSE, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 