



Can we trust AI to solve sustainability?

Roundtable 20TH May 2025



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First Thoughts

Put simply: No, AI will not
solve sustainability for us.

AI will accelerate innovation
in the areas we've already
prioritised.

**If we don't change what we
value, we'll just get more of
the same, faster.**

This means we need
purpose-built AI.



AI is a tool that can
help accelerate
innovation. Change
will happen fastest
in areas where
capital and
investment flows.

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AI may accelerate short term capital growth, climate change and resource extraction.

How can we use it to improve human and environmental development?

What are the social foundations that determine what AI will be used for?

Social

Foundation

Trustworthy AI globally

The seven key requirements that AI systems should meet in order to be trustworthy include **human agency, alongside social and environmental wellbeing.**

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OECD
Values for
AI

Values-based principles



Inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being >



Human rights and democratic values, including fairness and privacy >



Transparency and explainability >



Robustness, security and safety >



Accountability >

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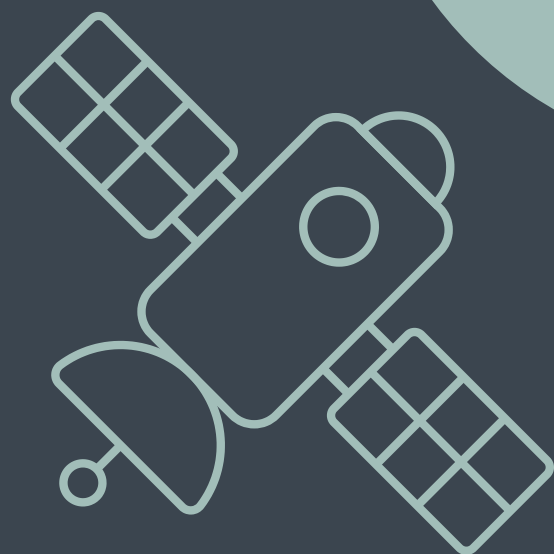
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The inability to monitor biodiversity impacts has long been a barrier to innovation in nature-based solutions.

But AI has shifted the goalpost, leveraging satellite imagery to track rewilding, audit greenwashing claims, and build predictive models for biodiversity credits.

AI makes it possible to track if a company claims that they don't participate in deforestation but actually do.

AI models help us make sense of complexity eg in forecasting.



AI for NATURE

While we can't rely on business alone for sustainability outcomes,
ESG reporting is important for transparency and accountability.

But corporates, consultancies and asset managers are wasting time on data collection and processing.

Insig AI has proven that the use of LLMs can cut reporting time by weeks.

This unblocks people and processes so things are done better.

AI for REPORTING

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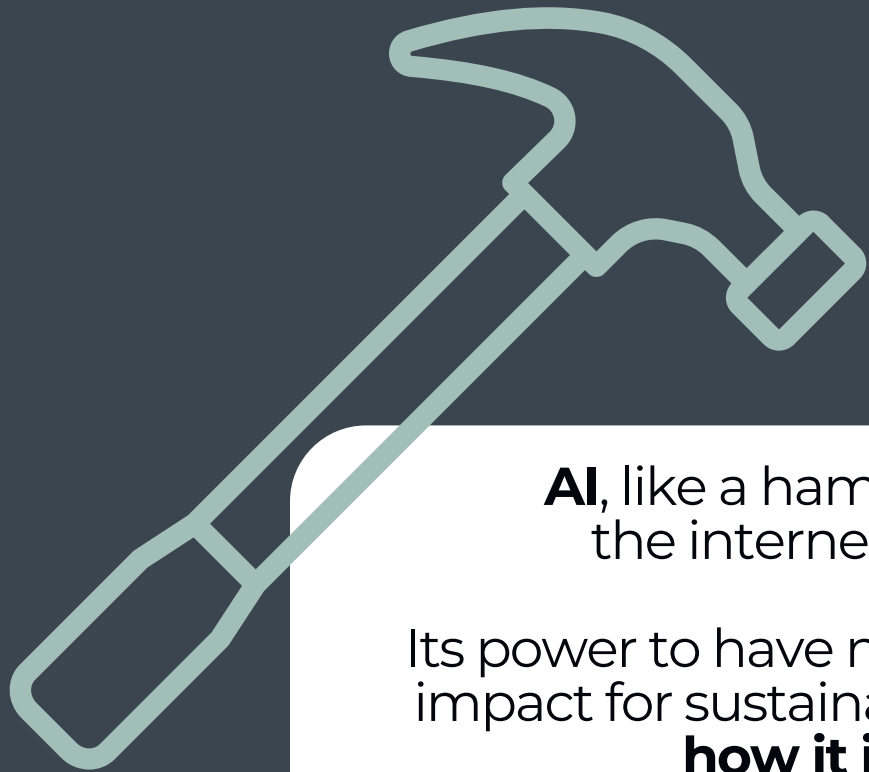
Board level decision-makers need information, context and incentives to have **greater agency and influence** in sustainability.

Climate action projects are often viewed as riskier investments than climate tech ventures. **AI can be a distraction from impactful investment.**

We need **evidence and story-telling** about sustainability to challenge status-quo and change human behaviour. **AI will inevitably play a role.**



Leadership & Investment



AI, like a hammer or even the internet, **is a tool**.

Its power to have negative or positive impact for sustainability depends on **how it is used**.

Our current global economic model is **fundamentally unsustainable**. AI can't fix that.

We need leadership to guide the use of AI to **intentional, practical and innovative** sustainability solutions.

Key Takeaways