

# Sustainability and beyond

## applying a systemic perspective

Developing and operating a sustainable business is crucial for atNorth as we operate in a world of finite resources and growing socio-economic pressures. For us, this means continuously reducing our environmental impact, acting responsibly and deliberately, and contributing positively to the communities and ecosystems we are a part of.

This is not an easy task. Scaling a business – particularly critical digital infrastructure – brings complex trade-offs and dilemmas related to sustainability, regeneration and long-term impact. It also brings business opportunities to differentiate and innovate.

We must continue to align our business with global sustainability objectives while expanding our focus beyond 'doing less harm' towards creating positive, regenerative outcomes. This report outlines the steps we are taking towards this, and the challenges we face along the way.

## The big picture and why it matters

According to the Stockholm Resilience Centre, seven out of nine planetary boundaries are currently transgressed, and shortfalls have been identified on all social foundations at a global scale. The planetary boundaries framework identifies nine interlinked systems critical for maintaining the stability and resilience of Earth. These thresholds define the safe operating space for humanity. The social foundations identify 11 boundaries for human needs – needs that should be met while staying within planetary boundaries.

The current path humanity is on is neither sustainable nor safe. We all play a vital role in helping to rebalance our planetary ecosystem – from governments to corporations and individuals.

Companies must raise their ambitions and, more importantly, their actions to ensure a safe operating space where social foundations are met, enabling a sustainable world where humankind and nature can thrive.

