

# The Eighth Billion

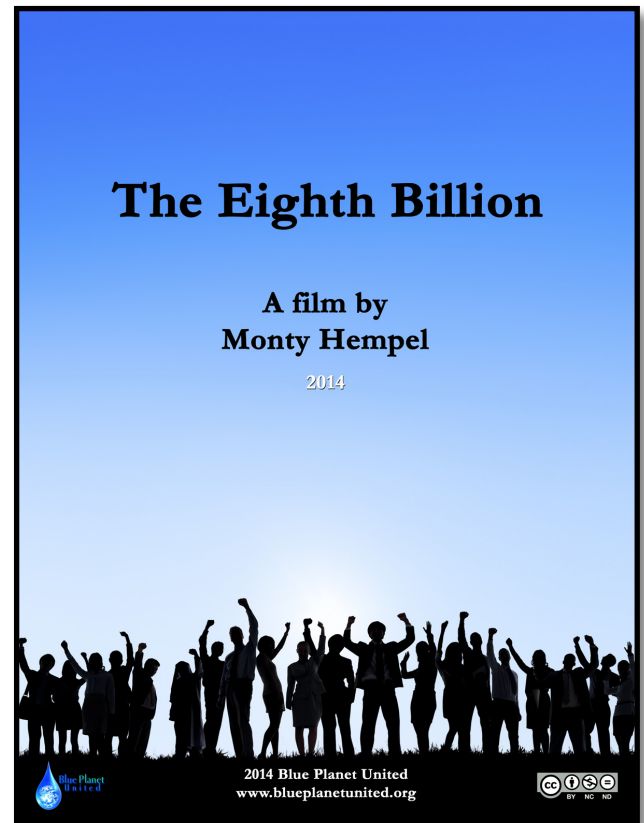
A film by Monty Hempel

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Film Release: August 2014 (running time: 9 minutes)

The exponential nature of population growth shapes life on earth almost as much as gravity or respiration. But because it is so pervasive, it often goes unseen. One hour from now, Earth will show a net increase of more than 9,000 humans, each one needing adequate food, water, shelter, clothing, education, and eventually jobs, not to mention realistic dreams of a better life for themselves and for their future children... and on it goes. Our population currently adds 219,000 people every day. That's a billion every 12-13 years. Will the next billion drive human civilization to a social and ecological tipping point?

*The Eighth Billion* examines the impact of population growth on the health of wildlife and wild places. It also explores the benefits of wildness and natural beauty for producing human enjoyment and inspiration. Wilderness is a form of ecological wealth that, unlike money, is not ours to spend. The quality of our lives and that of future generations depends on efforts to preserve this wealth. Population stabilization and wilderness preservation offer complementary pathways to true prosperity. As imperatives of sustainability, they offer the prospect of a world that is green, prosperous, inspirational, and fair. If we can embrace both pathways, we just might create a world that is worth inheriting!



**Filmmaker's Summary:** *The Eighth Billion* examines the intersection of human population growth and the decline of wild places and creatures. It concentrates on the magnificent landscapes and seascapes that are being irreversibly altered by overpopulation and increasing per capita consumption rates. By capturing stunning images of wilderness and contrasting them with the ubiquitous sameness of poorly planned development, the film provides a sobering look at the hidden costs of 'progress' in a society desperately in need of enduring sources of natural beauty and meaning."

**About the Filmmaker:** *The Eighth Billion* was written, directed, and produced by Monty Hempel, president of Blue Planet United and Hedco Professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Redlands. Hempel is a veteran college teacher and filmmaker, as well as a nationally recognized leader in sustainability and environmental protection. He was the first (interim) president of the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS) and served as a founding board member of the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). Hempel has taught university courses about environmental issues for 30 years and has produced three books and more than a dozen previous films, including the award-winning video, *Spirit of Place*. (2011).

**About Blue Planet United:** Blue Planet United is a public benefit, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that helps people make connections between three defining issues of the twenty-first century: population stabilization, sustainable consumption, and the preservation of wild landscapes, seascapes, and habitat. We create print publications, educational films, and web resources that foster awareness and action to save the last great wild places of this tiny blue planet. Visit us at [www.blueplanetunited.org](http://www.blueplanetunited.org). See the film: <http://vimeo.com/102369639>