**Highlights from July/August 2023**

# Greetings to the MAHB Community

**Check out what's happening:**

This year, Earth Overshoot Day fell on August 2. Find out what you can do to push back the date! If you want to know (or even calculate) whether the Earth can fit us humans all in, you'll enjoy Tim Murphy's book *Energy and Human Ambitions on a Finite Planet* (and download it for free). Join Iranian filmmaker Nastaran Rahnama on her journey to where our produce comes from and see what she found in her award-winning documentary Space to Live (includes Paul Ehrlich, Jeff Gibbs, Sofia Pineda Ochoa, Robin Maynard, Michael Kaelo, Brian Kaelo, and Dennis Sonkoi). Watch the video Why We Need an Earth Systems Treaty, and sign the petition. It is not often that mainstream media reports on this issue but in August, Newsweek featured a study by ecologist William Rees on why a major 'population correction' is inevitable this century (audio and full paper also available).

**Read** this month's blogs on who will save the coral reefs of Hawai'i; Jane O'Sullivan's rebuttal of seven common misconceptions around population matters; a GTI contribution on how to become good ancestors; a MAHB dialogue with Julian Cribb where he answers questions around a much-needed Earth Systems Treaty and a blog by artist and architect Kim Tanzer on recovering the walkabout.

Our resources include lessons from evolutionary biology on solidarity with animals; Gen Z's slow consumption movement; a book review of Prof. Paul Ehrlich's *Life--A Journey through Science and Politics* by Stanford Magazine; the (probably) best Degrowth Directory; Nobel laureate Steven Chu's article on the

world economy's pyramid scheme (and why economists and governments don't talk about it); a Stanford report on the dangers of AI (download available); an article on the delusion of decoupling, and charts about the Earth's hottest month so far: July 2023.

**Watch and listen** to Tim Murphy's video on Planetary Limits Perspectives; Nate Hagens' TGS podcast with psychiatrist Iain McGilchrist, and the video on unprecedented heat stress and mass-bleaching on corals across the Americas. Will this be a wake-up call and unite people to act?

Check out the **Arts Section** for the latest What's Next for Earth Community Resilience & Education call (open until September 15) and visit the Community Resilience and Social Justice / Equity / Ownership exhibition.

*Don't forget to check out the latest MAHB announcements here.*

**Not a member of the MAHB yet? Join the MAHB and help transform progressive civil society into an increasingly powerful force for positive change.**

## What's Happening

# Earth Overshoot Day: August 2, 2023

Earth Overshoot Day is the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year. See our dedicated Earth Overshoot Day page: what can you do to push back the date?

## The Science Book of the Decade: Energy and Human Ambitions on a Finite Planet, by Tom Murphy

Can homo sapiens' elevator, also known as Earth, fit us all in? As with my sofa, maybe a bit of calculation is worth saving the trouble of finding out after it's too late. We're past the point of eyeballing it. Our sofa is our population. The restocking fee might be civilization or billions of lives. There are many questions; these questions have answers, whether we find them out or not.

***Read or download Tom Murphy's book Energy and Human Ambitions on a Finite Planet for free** here.*

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# Iranian Filmmaker Goes Where the Mainstream Enviro Left Doesn't Dare

Leave it to a woman who grew up under the patriarchal oppression of Iran to speak truth to the American enviro left now mired in the ignorance of woke doctrine. In her new documentary short, "Space to Live," Nastaran Rahnama offers up the common sense of wildlife biology and human ecology that's too

controversial for green wokesters on the enviro left: Homo sapiens is in population overshoot, and this, in turn, is killing wildlife habitat. *Watch the film featuring Prof. Paul Ehrlich, Jeff Gibbs, Dr. Sofia Pineda Ochoa, Robin Maynard, Michael Kaelo, Brian Kaelo, and Dennis Sonkoi.*

## Video: Why We Need an Earth Systems Treaty

A plan for preserving a habitable Earth for all of humanity and life

***Watch the video and sign the Earth Systems Treaty petition here.***

# Humans Face Major Population ‘Correction’ This Century, Scientist Warns

Humanity could be on the cusp of a civilizational collapse, according to population ecologist William Rees. In November 2022, the global population hit 8 billion. This is more than double what it was in the 1960s. However, while this milestone is a clear indicator of success in public health advancement, it also poses challenges to sustainable development and social and economic progress. In a recent paper published in the journal *World*, Rees warns of a “major population correction” before this century is out.

## Blogs for this Month

## Who Will Save the Coral Reef Saviors of Hawai'i?

How human shortsightedness kills Parrotfishes and other herbivores that clean reefs

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## Debunking Common Beliefs Around Population Matters

Jane O'Sullivan clarifies seven common misperceptions

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## Cosmo-Local Awareness– Contribution to GTI Forum Big

## History and Great Transition

To become good ancestors, we must understand that our actions today will influence Earth's immense journey for many millennia

## Why We Need an Earth System Treaty–A MAHB Dialogue with Julian Cribb, Council for the Human Future

A legal global treaty could potentially be a major step toward a healthy future for all

## Recovering the Walkabout

Singing a preferred world into being through the act of walking (Art Section).

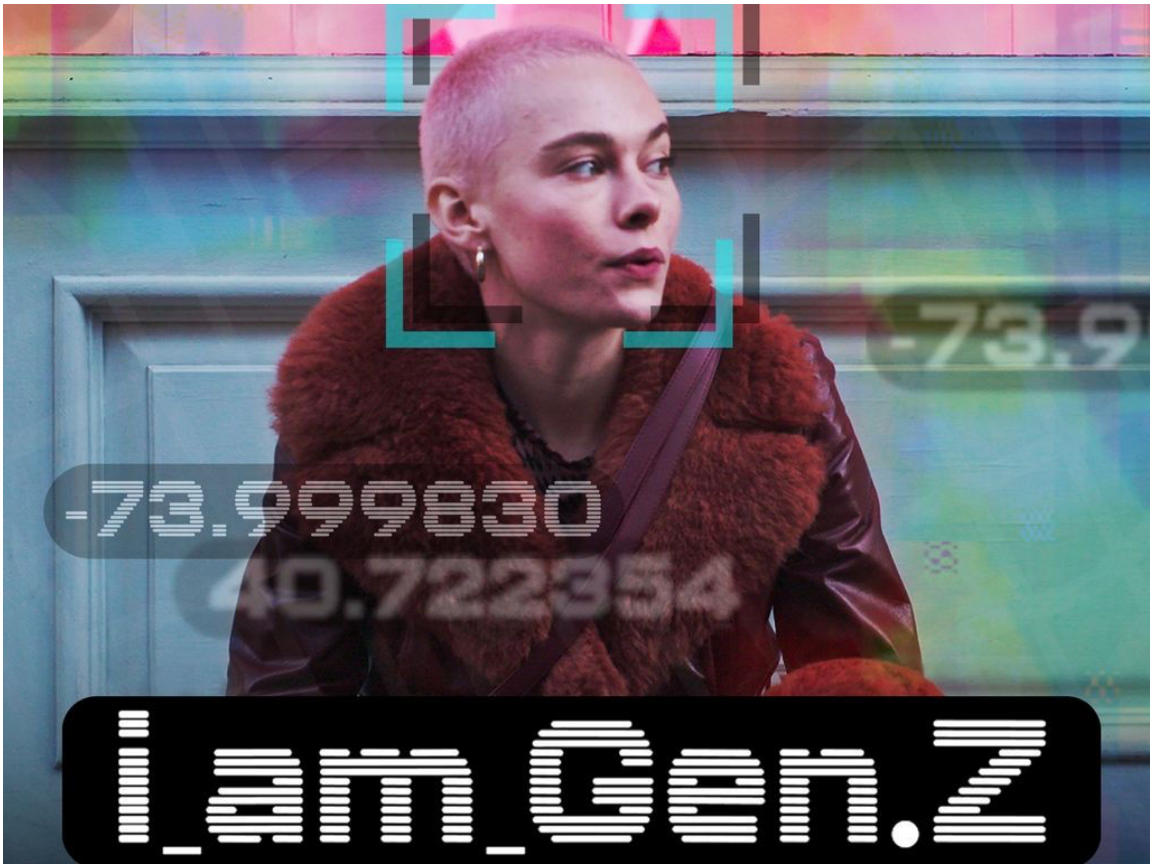
**Read More**

**Please add your thoughts to the conversations. Previous posts to the MAHB Blog can be found here.**

# Resources

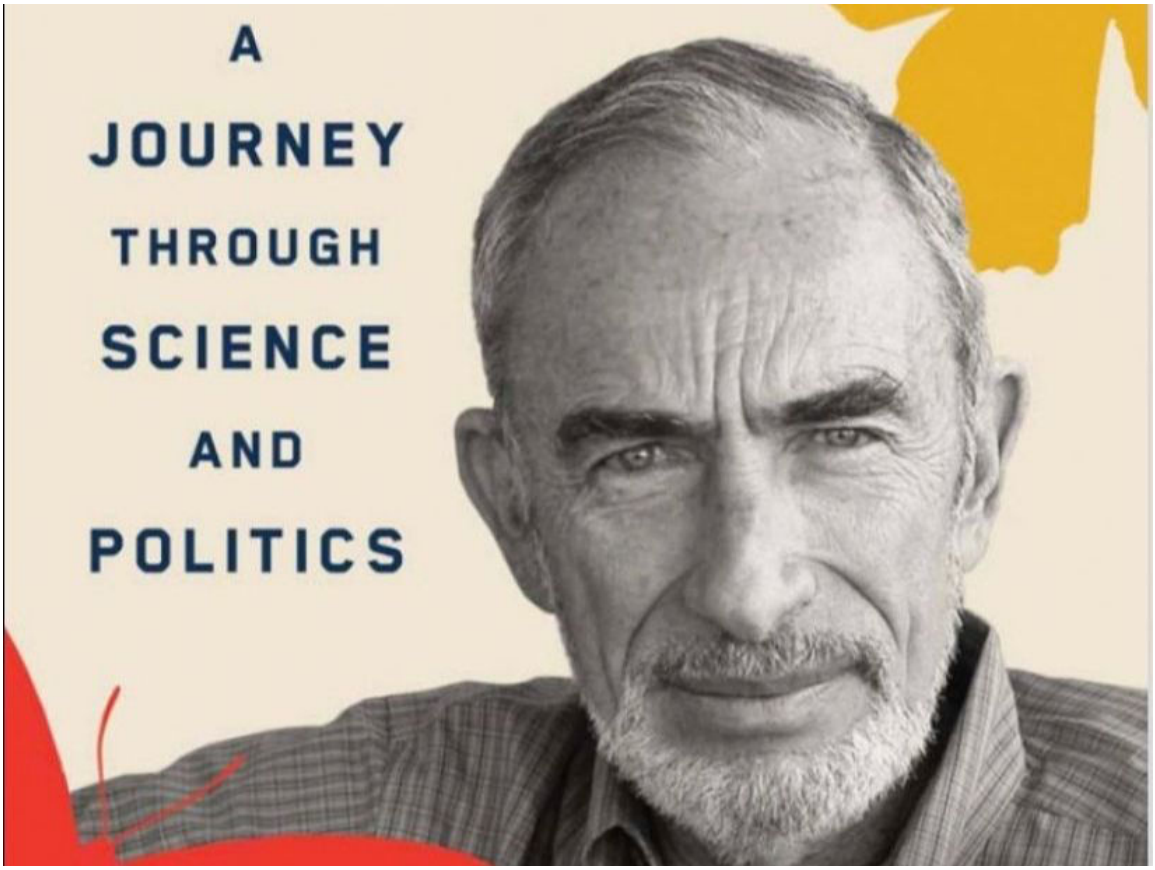
# Lessons from Evolutionary Biology– Solidarity with Animals

In her excellent stage-setting piece for this GTI Forum, Eileen Crist touched effectively on many of the ethical and practical dimensions of our insufficiently realized solidarity with animals. I will suggest a way of understanding why recognition of this solidarity has been so elusive. Western thought in particular does not like it.




# What's Behind Gen Z's Slow Consumption Movement?

Gen Z is questioning their relationship with tech. The #deinfluencing hashtag has been viewed 676.6 million times on TikTok. But what is it? De-influencing is exactly what it sounds like: a new social media movement where creators try to discourage audiences from overconsumption and falling prey to trends.




# Book Review: The Long Run

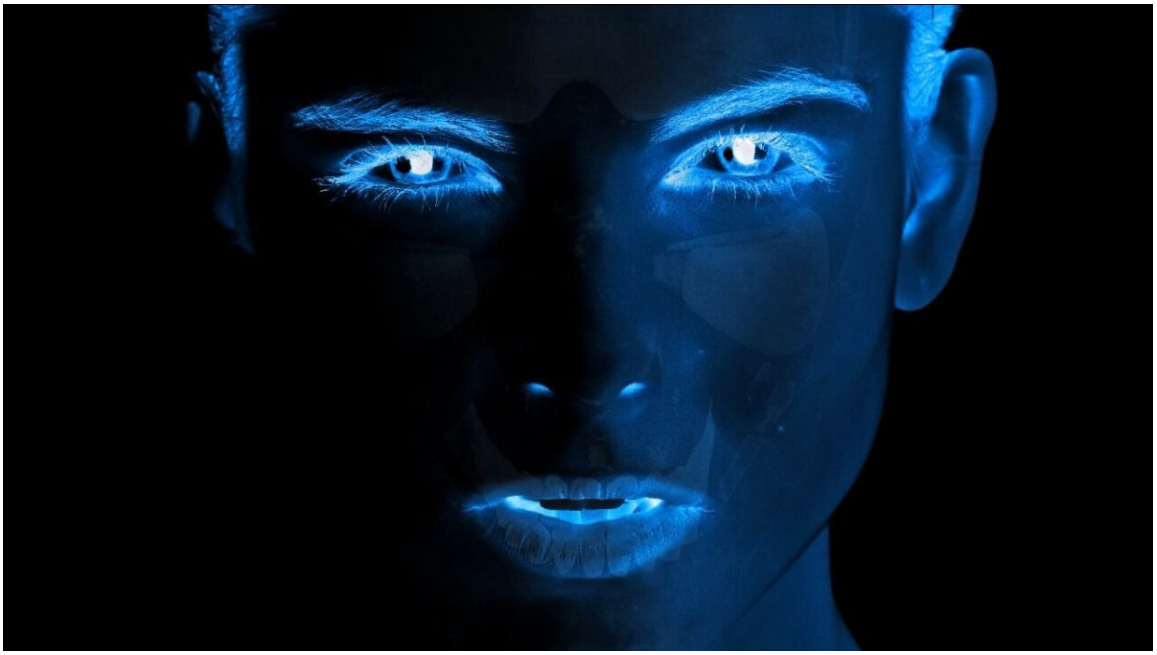
In 1968, Stanford biology professor Paul Ehrlich exploded into international consciousness with The Population Bomb. What to make of it more than a half-century later? Ehrlich expresses some regrets, but he stands on the ultimate point: either address humanity's burden on the Earth by lowering the birth rate or suffer an inevitable rise in the death rate from environmental, agricultural, and societal failings.

# The Best Degrowth Directory

For fast, definitive information about the field of degrowth and its global community, Heliocene recommends the Degrowth Database. Here's why.

# The World Economy Is A Pyramid Scheme, Steven Chu Says

The world economy is based on ever-increasing population, said Nobel laureate Steven Chu; a scheme that economists don't talk about and that governments won't face, a scheme that makes sustainability impossible and that is likely to eventually fail.



# What are the most pressing dangers of AI?

As AI systems are becoming increasingly beneficial in real-world applications, they have broadened their reach, causing more elevated risks of misuse, overuse, and explicit abuse. With more capabilities and integration into societal infrastructure, the implications of losing meaningful control over AI become more concerning.

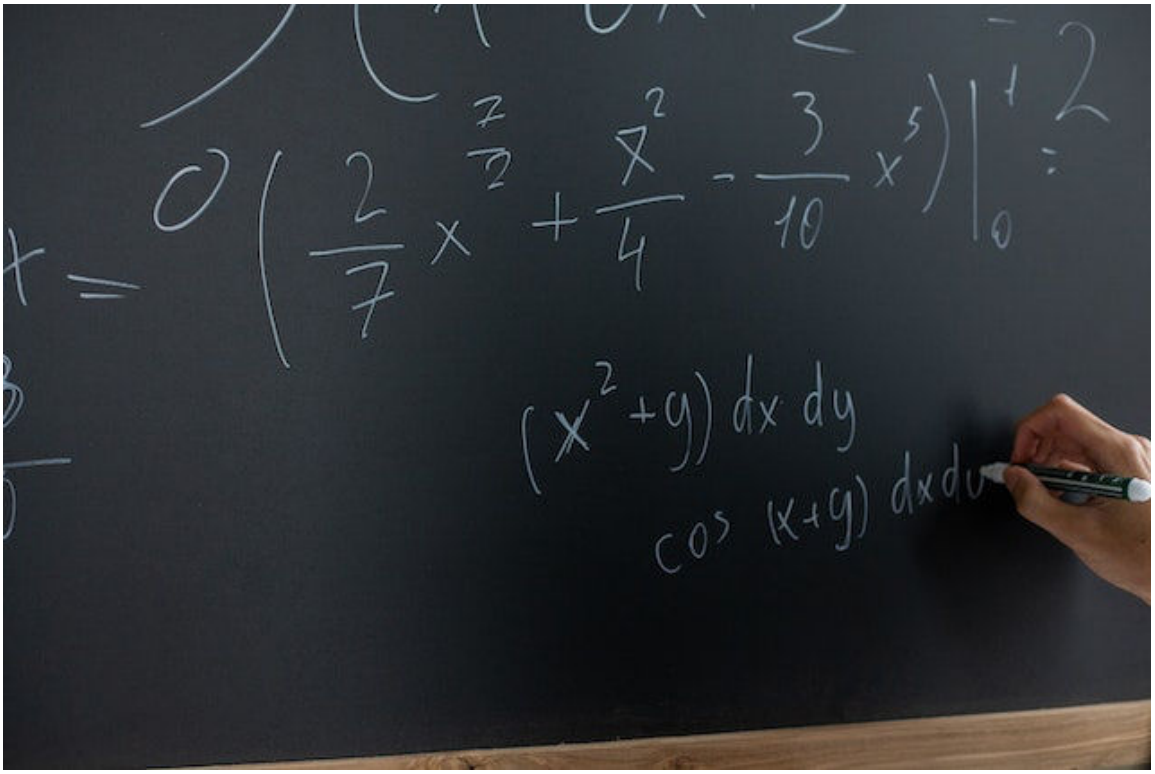
# The Decoupling Delusion: Rethinking Growth and Sustainability

Even supposedly “green” technologies such as renewable energy require materials, land, and solar exposure, and cannot grow indefinitely on this (or any) planet.

## Earth’s hottest month: These charts show what happened in July and what comes next

From wilting saguaros in Arizona and hot-tub-like temperatures off the coast of Florida to increased heat-related hospitalizations in Europe and agricultural losses in China, last month felt unusually hot. It was, and there’s more to come.

## Podcasts & Videos

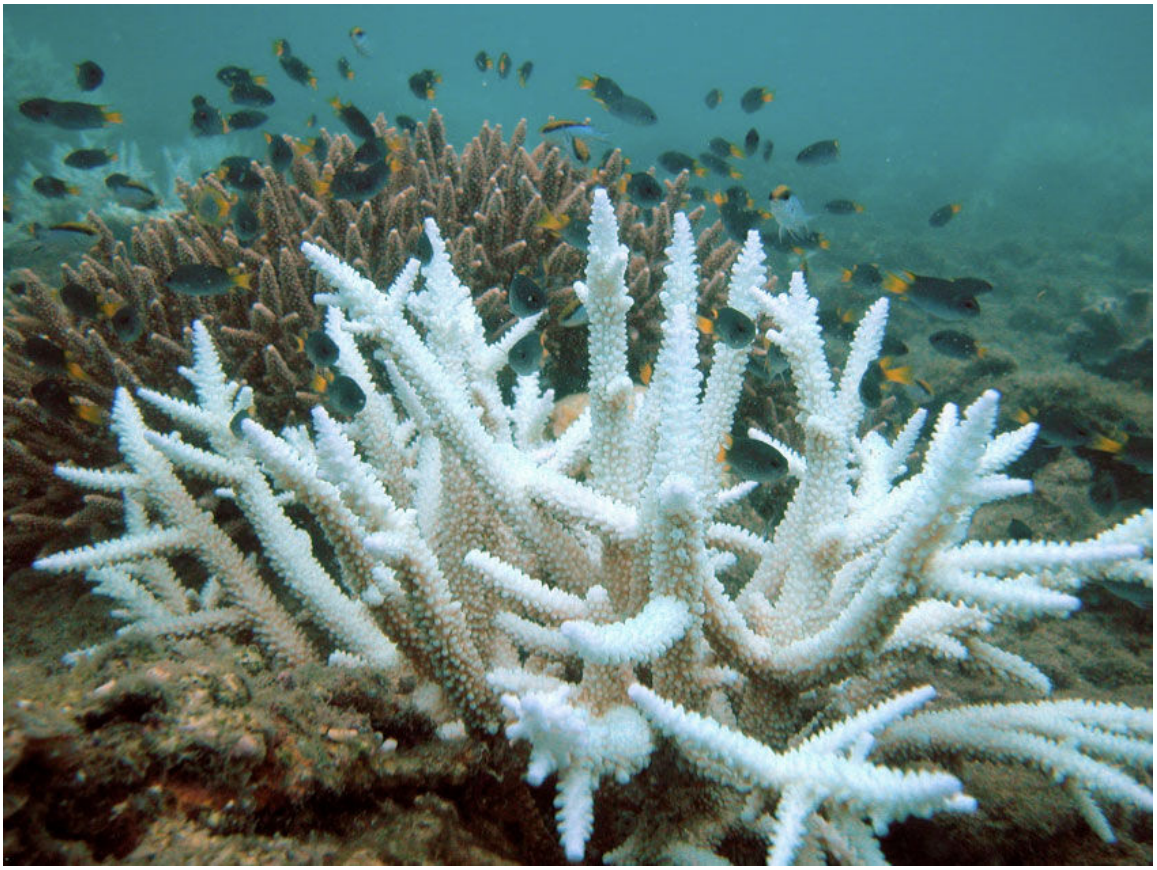



# Do the Math: Using physics and estimation to assess energy, growth, and options

How could I pack 20 years of learning, 'Do the Math' writing, and recent perspectives into a one-hour talk for my physics/astrophysics colleagues and students just beginning their professional journeys? How could I have the biggest impact without coming off as being nuts?

# The Great Simplification–Iain McGilchrist: “Wisdom, Nature, and the Brain”

In this episode, scholar and psychiatrist Iain McGilchrist joins Nate to discuss how modern culture teaches and encourages us to use/not use the two lobes of our brains. What happens when humans become imbalanced in using these two critical functions? Have we divided the Earth into pieces to be optimized rather than a whole to be stewarded?



# ‘Huge’ coral bleaching unfolding across the Americas prompts fears of global tragedy

Scientists stunned by unprecedented heat-stress event say they can only hope it ‘motivates and unites people’. Corals across several countries are bleaching and dying en masse from unprecedented levels of heat stress, prompting fears that an unfolding tragedy in Central America, North America, and the Caribbean could become a global event.

## The Arts

# What's Next for Earth Art Call: Community Resilience and Education

Remember that you are invited to participate in @WhatsNextForEarth's art call **Community Resilience and Education, open until September 15, 2023.** What's Next for Earth's art calls follow the Think Resilience free online course by Post Carbon Institute.

# What's Next for Earth: Community Resilience and Social Justice / Equity / Ownership Exhibition

Visit the works of the **featured artists** from the 17th What's Next for Earth online exhibition: *Kirsten Aaboe, Marie Cameron, John Cloake, Alison Lee Cousland, Yvonne C Espinoza, Ries Faison, Diane Farris. Hillary Irene Johnson, Jacqui Jones, Deborah Kennedy, Michalina Klasik, Nancy D Lane, Doris Langer, Rosalind Lowry, Meredith Nemirov, Brenna Quinlan, Peggy Rose, Susan Smith, Kim Tanzer, and Marcela Villasenor.*

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