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Update for January 2023

## Greetings to the MAHB Community,

Welcome to a brand new year and our first newsletter!

**Check out what's happening:** Paul Ehrlich's new book ["Life: A Journey Through Science and Politics"](#), a graphic on the [collapse of insects](#), a new book on [Speciesism](#) (and why this is akin to racism), and a [new art call](#) on how globalization undermines resilience.

**Read** this month's [blogs](#), including a MAHB dialogue with curator, art historian, and author David J. Wagner, and why Green Chemistry must come clean. Our [resources](#) include articles on how a new mining road threatens Sumatra's rainforest, the secret war on natural and children's rights, the importance of modern contraception to achieve a sustainable human population, and a new study that models what happens if currently frozen areas in Antarctica start to thaw.

**Listen** to [Matt Matern's](#) podcast with Paul Ehrlich and the latest TGS episodes with [DJ White](#) on oceans and with [Bill Rees](#) on the fundamental issue of Overshoot.

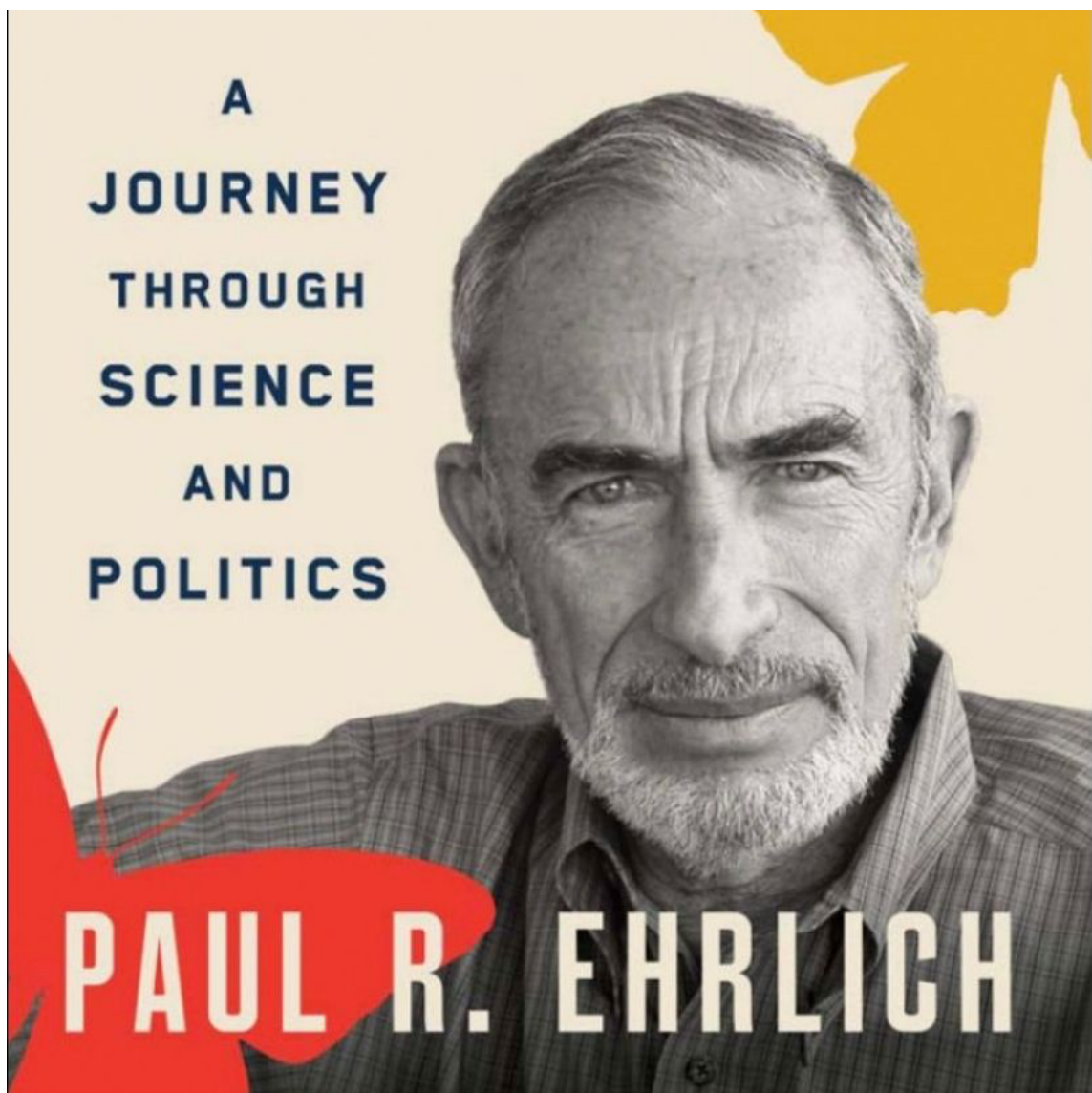
**Watch** the [CBS documentary](#) on the 6th mass extinction, featuring Paul Ehrlich, Tony Barnosky, Liz Hadly, and Gerardo Ceballos.

*Don't forget to check out the latest MAHB announcements [here](#).*

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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



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# New Book by Paul Ehrlich – Life: A Journey Through Science and Politics

**A renowned scientist and environmental advocate looks back on a life that has straddled the worlds of science and politics.**

"Entirely entertaining" — *Kirkus Reviews*

This book is a vital contribution to literature focused on the human predicament, including problems of governance and democracy in the twenty-first century, and insight into the ecological and evolutionary science of our day. It is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding global change, our planet's wonders, and a scientific approach to the present existential threats to civilization. - *Yale University Press*

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## The Collapse of Insects

As a boy in the 1960s, David Wagner would run around his family's Missouri farm with a glass jar clutched in his hand, scooping flickering fireflies out of the sky. "We could fill it up and put it by our bedside at night," says Wagner, now an entomologist. That's all gone, the family farm now paved over with new homes and manicured lawns.

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# New Book: Speciesism in Biology and Culture

## **Speciesism, like racism, imperils humanity and the planet**

With the world's population topping 8 billion last year, it's clear that humans have achieved a unique status in Earth's history. We are the only creature that dominates all other organisms on the planet, from animals and fungi to plants and microbes. It remains to be seen whether humans can retain this dominance as we push the global climate to extremes while driving to extinction the very organisms that we climbed over to get to the top. This new book places part of the blame on an attitude prevalent among scientists and the general public — the false belief that species are uniquely real, and that some species are superior to others.- *Berkeley News*

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What's Next For Earth

# ART CALL

Based on the Think Resilience Course  
by the Post Carbon Institute

## HOW GLOBALIZATION UNDERMINES RESILIENCE

Open until February 28th, 2023

INVITATION TO TAKE PART  
IN [@WhatsNextForEarth](#) ART CALL:  
[GLOBALIZATION](#)

Open until February 28th, 2023

Welcome to the fifth chapter of the Think Resilience course: **Economy and Society**. In this session, we'll explore the economic and equity aspects of our sustainability crises, and how they influence community resilience. *Find out more [here](#).*

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## Blogs for this month



### Move over, Green Chemistry: How to Stop the Greenwashing

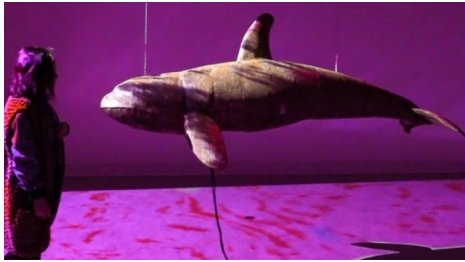
Biotherapy and Science-Wise Principles as preventative strategies that foster the well-being of organisms, including us

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### The Age of Women

The question of whether women should lead humanity in the 21st century is not a question of gender equality or politics, but of our survival





## Visualizations from a Climate Youth

Creating digitalized art for deeper conversations on climate change and ecological issues (also published in the Arts section)

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## The Role of the Arts in Cultural Transformation – A MAHB Dialogue with David Wagner, Art Historian and Author



The journey of a major curator of environmental art and his work with artists including Bateman, Mangelsen, and Smyrniotis

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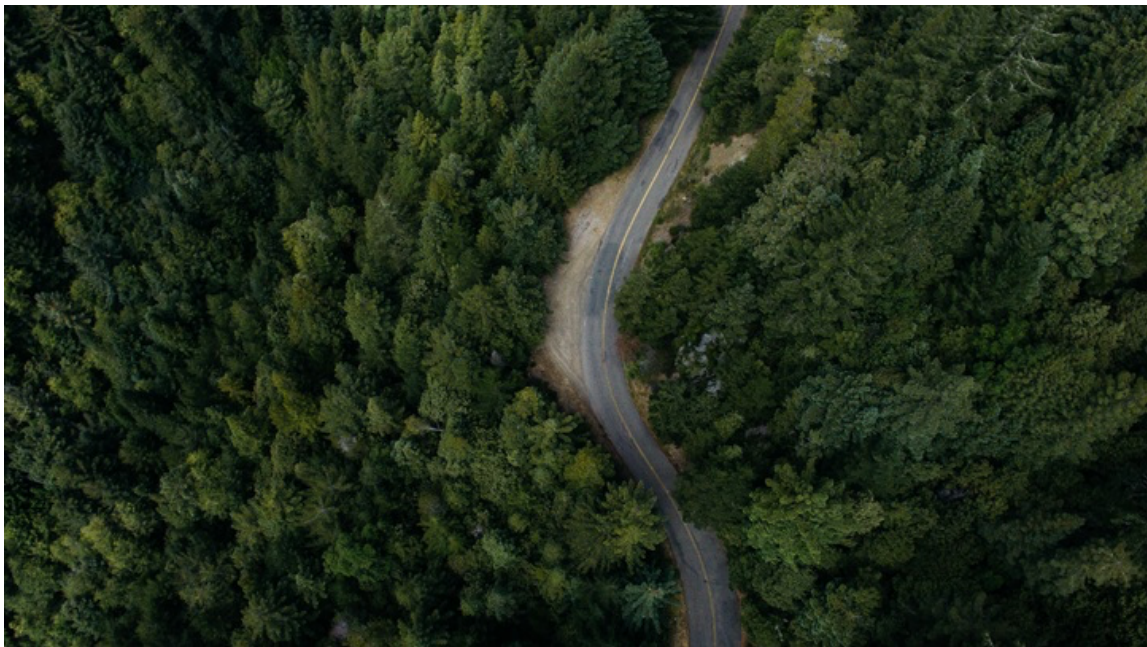


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[Read More](#)

Please add your thoughts to the conversations. Previous posts to the MAHB Blog can be found [here](#).

## Resources



### [Major mining road could be the death knell for Sumatra's lowland rainforests](#)

In October 2019, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry approved the construction of an 88 km-long mining road through the Harapan Forest, an area with outstanding biodiversity values on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia.

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The approval immediately prompted protests from scientists and conservation groups in Indonesia and internationally, as well as from indigenous communities residing within the forest. The road will likely cause significant loss of Sumatran lowland rainforest, a critically endangered ecoregion (*Paper available for [download](#)*)



## Opinion: The Secret War on Natural Rights— and Children

Climate activists have spent years urging the courts to force governments and companies to do more to mitigate the climate crisis, often invoking fundamental human rights as a way to override the political processes that are failing to act. Yet many of these approaches are anthropocentric, rather than what would be

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good for the vast and disparate number of more fragile nonhuman species with whom we share the world.

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## Achieving Sustainable Population: Fertility decline in many developing countries follows modern contraception, not economic growth

The human population is projected to increase by 2.4 billion by 2100, endangering, for example, food security and biodiversity. Population growth depends strongly on the fertility level, the lowering of which is often assumed to

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depend on economic growth. Here we test this hypothesis using data from 136 developing countries, from 1970–2014. (*Paper available for [download](#)*).



## Stanford Researchers Model Thawing at Base of Antarctic Ice Sheet

Across Antarctica, some parts of the base of the ice sheet are frozen, while others are thawed. Scientists show that if some currently frozen areas were also to thaw, it could increase ice loss from glaciers that are not currently major sea-level contributors.

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## Podcasts & Videos



### [A Climate Change with Matt Matern: Paul R. Ehrlich, Stanford Professor Emeritus, Author & President, Center for Conservation Biology](#)

Join Matt for an interview with Paul R. Ehrlich, as they discuss climate change and the dangers of population growth, and the resulting environmental

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catastrophe. Paul is also the author of [Life: A Journey Through Science and Politics](#), a brand-new memoir.



[CBS Documentary: Scientists say planet in midst of sixth mass extinction, Earth's wildlife running out of places to live](#)

A 13-minute documentary with scientists Paul Ehrlich, Tony Barnosky, Liz Hadly, and Gerardo Ceballos

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## The Great Simplification – DJ White: “Ocean Effectivism”

**In this episode, Nate is joined by Eco-interventionist DJ White.** DJ White has been instrumental in successful environmental interventions – primarily for the oceans – for the last four decades. Today he joins Nate to describe how to be effective in change-making and outlines ways that current activist efforts could be improved, and his own experiences with some of Earth’s most intelligent creatures and how these cetacean friends shaped his life’s work.

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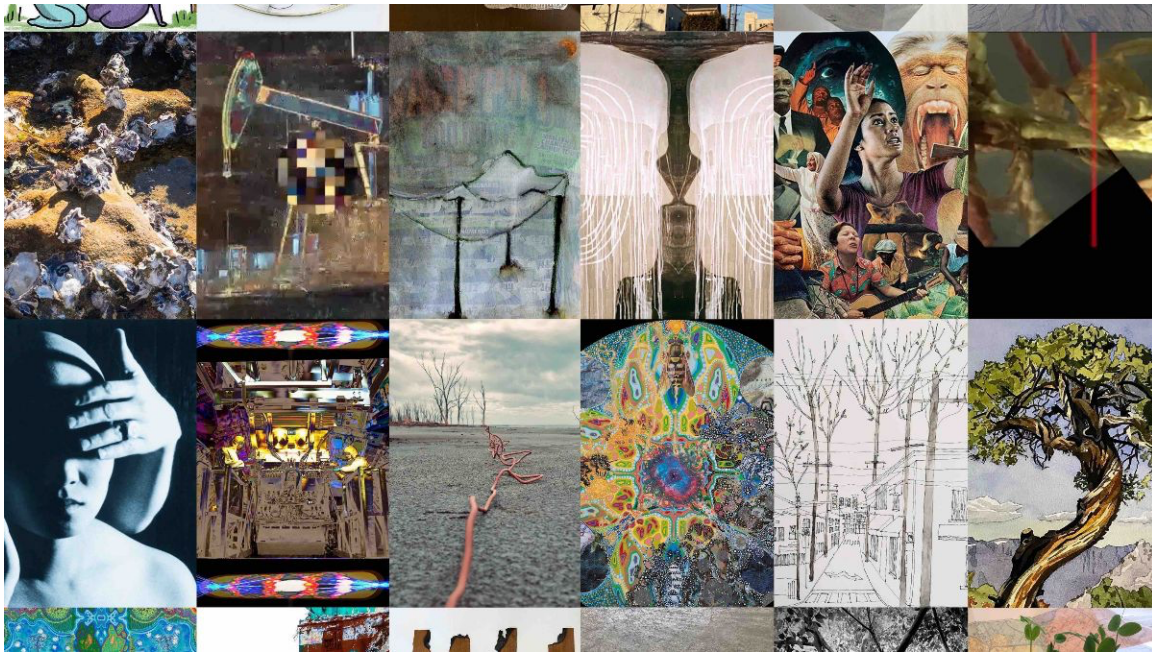


## The Great Simplification – William E. Rees: “The Fundamental Issue – Overshoot”

In this episode, Nate is joined by systems ecologist William E. Rees. Professor Rees outlines why most of the challenges facing humanity and the biosphere have a common origin - ecological overshoot. Bill also unpacks “the ecological footprint” - a concept that he co-created, that measures the resources used by a given population. He also describes his experience as a leading thinker in public policy and planning and the challenges he's faced working in a system that (so far) rejects such premises.

**The Arts**





## What's Next for Earth: Building Community Resilience Exhibition

This is the 14th What's Next for Earth online exhibition based on Think Resilience, a free online course written by Richard Heinberg and produced by the Post Carbon Institute. To respond to this art call, we asked the artists to sign up and watch the course. The transcript of the lesson "Six Foundations for Building Community Resilience" is [here](#). This exhibition ends the fourth chapter of the course: Resilience Thinking.

Artists include: **Kirsten Aaboe** (US), **Christina Conklin** (US), **Alison Lee Cousland** (Australia), **Yvonne C. Espinoza** (US), **Ries Faison** (US), **Michele Guieu** (US), **Deborah Kennedy** (US), **Nancy D Lane** (Australia), **Rosalind Lowry** (Ireland), **Mona Naess** (Norway), **Meredith Nemirov** (US), **Terri Hugues Oelrich** (US), **Ana Martinez Orizondo** (US), **Quin de la Mer** (US), **Brenna Quinlan** (Australia), **Susan Smith** (US), **Kim Tanzer** (US), **Andrea Ruedy Trimble** (US), **Marcela Villasenor** (US), **Eileen Wold** (US), **Gordon Wood** (US), **Anne Yoncha** (US). Visit the exhibition [here](#).

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