



Highlights from January 2024

Greetings to the MAHB Community

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2024!

Check out what's happening: Scientists' Warning recently published a paper on [contraception access](#) and achieving negative human population growth (paper available); a [New York Times](#) article asks whether 2023 - the hottest year on record – signals that global warming is accelerating; look at [Dubai's COP28](#) with the World Resources Institute as they unpack the event, revealing the good, the bad, and the ugly. Also, the US results of the 2024 election will be questioned regardless of the outcome, putting democracy at risk. Get involved in initiatives for restoring [trust in elections](#) and download the how-to guides.

Themes in January's **blogs** include the need for a movement that [unites against shared threats](#) to planetary health and a blog on the benefits of [working fewer hours](#) for a more engaged life. Learn about the challenges posed by [Big Brother](#) and ourselves to freedom of thought, and explore a personal study of the [state of the forest](#) in the art section.

For January's **resources**, we picked a study on [biodiversity loss](#) and its implication for sustainable agriculture (paper available) and a call for bringing [consumption-based emissions](#) to the forefront of discussions. Explore new research on [deforestation, the world's third-largest emitter](#) of carbon dioxide if treated as a country. Engage with a contribution to the Great Transformation Initiative urging the [unlearning of human exceptionalism](#) (full text available), read new research predicting [global warming to exceed 1.5°C this decade](#) (full paper available), and find out how right-wing ideology [promotes pronatalism](#).

This month's **videos and podcasts** include a "Great Simplification" discussion with toxicologist [Dr. Jane Muncke](#) on plastics and food packaging and a Scientists' Warning interview with [Prof. Rupert Read](#), former spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion and co-director of the Climate Majority Project.

Head to the **art section** for a [new What's Next for Earth art call](#) on resilience in the manufacturing, transportation, and building sectors (open until March 15, 2024) and visit the "[Meeting Essential Community Needs](#)" exhibition that offers a unique perspective on community needs through art.

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



Scientists' Warning: Remove the Barriers to Contraception Access, for the Health of Women and the Planet

The world's population reached 8 billion in 2022 and is expected to peak at 10.4 billion in 2086. However, environmental science suggests that human growth on a finite planet is unsustainable and already in overshoot. A recommended target number for humans is 3 billion in competition with all non-human life forms, and we must strive for zero population growth and eventually a decrease.



Earth Was Due for Another Year of Record Warmth. But This Warm?

Scientists are already busy trying to understand whether 2023's off-the-charts heat is a sign that global warming is accelerating. The Earth finished up its warmest year in the past 174 years, and very likely in the past 125,000.



Unpacking COP28: Key Outcomes from the Dubai Climate Talks, and What Comes Next

COP28 began with [a new fund](#) to address the increasingly severe losses and damage vulnerable countries face from climate impacts and [ended](#) with the first international agreement to tackle fossil fuels. But it wasn't all good news.



Trust in Elections

The 2024 election results are expected to get questioned but we can establish trust in our electoral process and each other. Read the *Trust in Elections* guide and get involved.

Blogs for this Month



The Urgent Need for Shared Commitment and Earth System an Treaty

Wanted: A movement that unites people to fight against shared threats

Change Work, Change the World

The potential benefits of working fewer hours are vast



Freedom of Thought is Being Threatened by States, Big Tech,

and even Ourselves

Here's what we can do to protect it

The State of the Forest

A close-up and personal study of
burnt trees (art section)



[Read More](#)

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

Resources



Scientists' warning on loss of insect biodiversity and implications for sustainable agriculture

Climate change is a substantial threat to faunal biodiversity, especially insects, and agricultural production. Insects play a crucial role in providing essential services such as pollination, nutrient recycling, and pest control in agriculture. Therefore, it is crucial to conserve and identify insects to understand their role in ecosystem functioning.



Consumption-based emissions: a new frontier for EU climate policy

In the face of climate challenges, consumers' choices have far-reaching consequences for the planet's health. The EU has yet to fully recognize the associated climate impacts in its policies. Transformative action is crucial.



Commodity-driven deforestation and peatland loss emit more carbon than Germany

If deforestation were a country, it would be the [world's third-largest emitter](#). At COP26 in Glasgow, 145 countries committed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030 but the latest [Forest Declaration Assessment](#) shows we are off track. Almost all tropical deforestation is directly or indirectly linked to [agricultural expansion](#).



Unlearning Human Exceptionalism – Contribution to GTI Forum Solidarity with Animals

Eileen Crist raised important points about the dissonance between the systems that perpetuate violence and the affiliative psychology that allows bonding with animals. How can we make sense of nations of pet lovers who tolerate animal oppression? This can be understood by examining the human psychology of exploitation. To alter our relationship with nonhuman animals, we must unpack the stories we tell about ourselves and how they are embedded in our system.



Global warming in the pipeline

Global warming is expected to exceed 1.5°C in the 2020s and 2°C before 2050, with accelerated impacts on people and nature. This demands a globally increasing price on GHG emissions, the development of affordable clean energy, East-West cooperation that accommodates third-world needs, and interventions with Earth's radiation imbalance. Current political crises are an opportunity for a reset, especially if young people can grasp their situation.



Pronatalism on the Rise to Counter Growing Push for Gender Equality

A new tactic is spreading to promote right-wing ideology, seen in events like the Budapest Demographic Summit and the upcoming Natal conference in Texas, as well as the film "Birthgap." These platforms advocate pronatalism, pressuring women to have more children under the guise of raising fertility rates and fueling concerns about a supposed "population collapse."

Podcasts & Videos



[The Great Simplification – Jane Muncke: “Perils of Plastic Packaging”](#)

Dr. Jane Muncke, a toxicology scientist, joins Nate to discuss the impact of ultra-processed foods and their packaging on our health. Processed food and packaging have evolved over the last century to enhance convenience and efficiency. But what have we sacrificed in return?



Scientists Warning TV: Interview with Rupert Read

Prof. Rupert Read, the former spokesperson for Extinction Rebellion, recently quit his academic career to focus on activism. He is now co-director of the Climate Majority Project. Here, he talks with Dr. Alison Green about his hopes and fears for the UN climate summit in UAE, and why millions of us must raise our voices to demand change. To learn more about the project, visit the [Climate Majority Project](#) website.

The Arts

What's Next For Earth

ART CALL

Based on the Think Resilience Course
by Post Carbon Institute

RESILIENCE IN MAJOR SECTORS

MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORTATION, & BUILDINGS

Open until March 15, 2024

[What's Next for Earth Art Call:
Resilience in Major Sectors
\(Manufacturing, Transportation, and
Buildings\)](#)

You are invited to participate in [@WhatsNextForEarth](#)'s art call, Resilience in Major Sectors (Manufacturing, Transportation, and Buildings), **open until March 15, 2024.**

What's Next for Earth is a participative art project on Instagram that invites artists to respond to a topic reflecting on poly-crises. An online exhibition will be on view on the MAHB and What's Next for Earth websites.



What's Next for Earth: Meeting Essential Community Needs Exhibition

This is the 19th 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.

Artists: Susan Bercu, Ember De Boer, Alison Lee Cousland, Yvonne C. Espinoza, Ries Faison, Diane Farris, Jacqui Jones, Deborah Kennedy, Celia

Kettle, Nancy D. Lane, Rosalind Lowry, Quin De La Mer, Meredith Nemirov, Peggy Rose, Susan Smith, Teresa Stern, Marcela Villasenor, Karen Viola.

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