Update for July 2022

Greetings to the MAHB Community

Check out what's happening: July 28 was Overshoot Day. See our new, dedicated Overshoot Day page to find out what we can do to celebrate Undershoot Day by 2050! Also, visit our newly designed What's Happening carousel.

Read this month's blogs and new resources themed around shifting the dial on Overshoot, and find out why we must challenge human-centered worldviews. Paradoxically, this may be the only way to save our species, too.

Listen to Nate Hagens' podcasts with ecologist and conservationist Dr. Gerardo Ceballos and psychiatrist, neuroscientist, and author Peter Whybrow, and check out this month's art section.

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

This beautiful planet

Earth Overshoot Day: July 28, 2022

Earth Overshoot Day **is the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources exceeds what the Earth can regenerate in that year.**

By moving the date 6 days each year, humanity can be out of overshoot before 2050. **But how can we move this date so that Overshoot Day becomes Undershoot Day?** Here are resources, solutions, and visions!

[Paul and Anne Ehrlich: Returning to "Normal"? Evolutionary Roots of the Human Prospect](#)

The decades before 2019 were not normal times. We have simply forgotten the first 300,000 years of humanity. Can we move to a new normal future 2.0, within the biophysical limits of the Earth?

Read Paul and Anne's new article and participate in the discussion at the bottom of the page!

Blogs for this Month

The Value of a Kilowatt

How can we blow up a mountain in West Virginia, destroying landscapes and habitats to make electricity, only to waste it on airconditioning an empty room?

Protecting Nature's Threatened Biodiversity – A MAHB Dialogue with Paula Ehrlich

We need moonshot ambitions to drive humanity - and do something extraordinary.

A World Built on Common Purpose

Women are at the forefront of our cultural remaking. But all good people must work towards a common purpose, come together, and choose to become our better selves.

The Paris Agreement is failing; we need a new approach

A common belief is that we owe a livable planet to other people, especially our children. We imagine a "leave no trace" ethic can preserve a pristine natural habitat to bequeath to posterity. Yet our offspring are part of the problem.

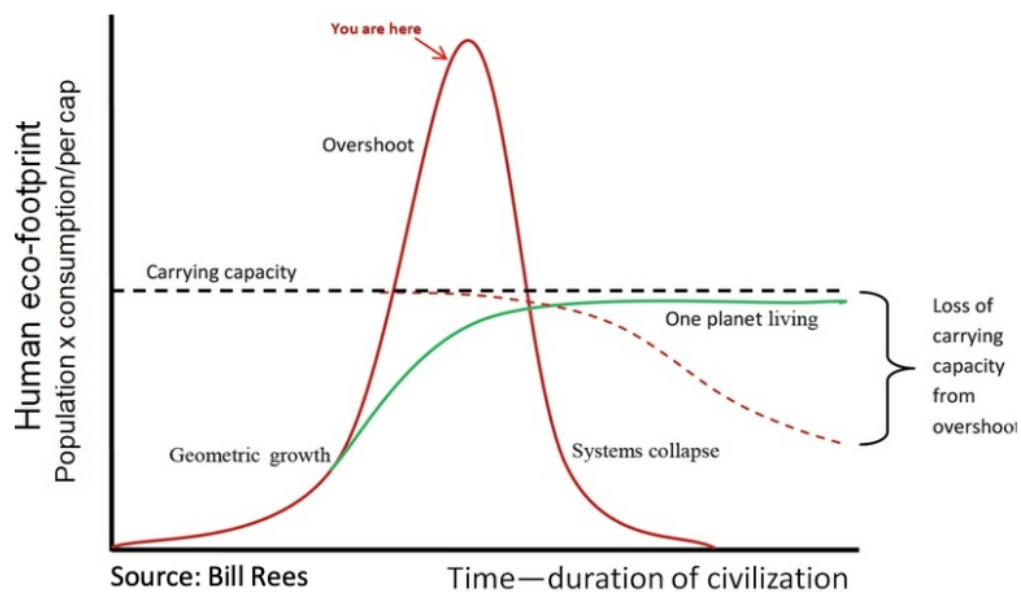---

Read More

Resources

Conservation science still rests on how animals can benefit humans

Key players such as the body of conservation scientists that produces reports on biodiversity for the UN, continue to prioritise human wellbeing above all else. This prioritisation may stem from an anthropocentric culture that

typically considers humans to be separate from and of greater value than other species.

To effectively address our extinction crisis, we need more than merely technical advances or policies that remain mired in anthropocentric assumptions.

Source: Bill Rees

The Climate-Change Trip to Abilene

Climate change is not the biggest problem facing the world. It is a symptom of the much larger problem of overshoot. Overshoot means that humans are using natural resources and polluting at rates beyond the planet's capacity to recover.

The main cause of overshoot is the extraordinary growth of the human population made possible by fossil energy. Concerns about overshoot and population raised more than 40 years ago were dismissed.

[How the living world evolved and where it's headed now](#)

Humans appeared some 300,000 years ago, developed agriculture about 11,000 years ago, and grew rapidly to some 7.8 billion people (and rising) who are now consuming 175% of global bioproductivity. Wealth is unequally distributed, the Earth's mean temperature is on track to increase by 2.6 to 3.9°C, and we are driving species to extinction at unprecedented rates.

Our only hope for a sustainable future will be for us to find a way to overcome our unremitting greed at all levels and to love one another while building social justice.

Podcasts & Videos

The Great Simplification #25 – Gerardo Ceballos: "Will the Ongoing Population Extinctions Lead to a 6th Mass Extinction?"

More recently, awareness of humanity's impact on the natural world has increased. From climate change to vegetation loss, to pollution, the encroachment seems global. But most of these impacts are still framed from the human perspective – still too few people are aware of the ongoing disappearance of the once-abundant and diverse wildlife that we share the planet with.

Here, we meet with the well-known ecologist and conservationist Dr. Gerardo Ceballos, to discuss his new project, Creatures United, and how we can better care about and protect Earth's remaining biodiversity.

[The Great Simplification #26 – Peter Whybrow: "When More is Not Enough"](#)

In this episode, we meet with the psychiatrist, neuroscientist, and author Peter Whybrow.

Whybrow gives us an overview of why humans tend to consume excessively in resource-abundant societies. Why is it difficult for humans to change our ways? Additionally, Whybrow shares pathways for humans to move toward having a well-tuned brain. Listen to the podcast [here](#).

The Arts

A Letter from an Irish Bog

Treading carefully on bogland and remembering Seamus Heaney

Rosalind Lowry also submitted two installations from the boglands art trail to the What's Next For Earth participatory art project calls for Culture Change and Shifting Cultural Stories. Watch the video of the event here.

Contact us at:
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