



Highlights from March 2024

Greetings to the MAHB Community

*Check out the **latest developments**:*

- Despite what some people think, having an [abortion](#) is much safer than giving birth.
- A new [“all-hazards” approach](#) aims to reduce multiple catastrophic threats.
- The [latest response](#) to economists' concerns about falling birthrates.

*Our March **blogs** include:*

- A new sustainability initiative from [Switzerland](#).
- How our "civilization" might look like [once oil runs out](#).
- How [young Canadian climate activists](#) sustain momentum after the wildfires subside.
- What if [Taylor Swift](#) backed the Earth System Treaty?

Resources this month include:

- An article on the extraction of raw materials, which could [rise by 60% by 2060](#) – and the impossibility of making mining "greener".
- A new study finds that policymakers, researchers, and activists in Sub-Saharan Africa endorse [family planning policies](#) that promote environmental sustainability (paper available).
- A study on how [lower economic growth rates](#) may limit global warming to 1.5°C (paper available).

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- An article questioning whether the term "ecosystem services" is [fit for purpose](#) – and for whom.
 - A study finds that the decline of animal biodiversity due to human impacts [endangers ecosystem heterogeneity](#) and human well-being (paper available).
 - A report by the Population Media Center shows that the main [barriers to contraceptive use](#) are fear, rumors, and norms around religion, fatalism, or patriarchy (report available).

Podcasts and videos:

Highlighted in our podcasts and videos section is a discussion featuring renowned vegan chef, entrepreneur, and activist [Miyoko Schinner](#), along with Carter Dillard from the Fair Start Movement, as they delve into topics around sustainability, food justice, and animal rights.

Also, don't miss the conversation between Nate Hagens and astrophysicist [Sandra Faber](#). Can our capability to comprehend the history of the universe and the evolution of life on our planet provide meaning and encourage biophysically and ecologically aligned systems?

Arts section:

Read the art blog "[When Enough is Abundance](#)" and watch the two *Whats Next For Earth* video recordings of artists' presentations - one on "[Meeting Essential Community Needs](#)" and the other on "[Resilience in Major Sectors](#)". Both presentations are based on the Think Resilience course by the Post Carbon Institute.

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

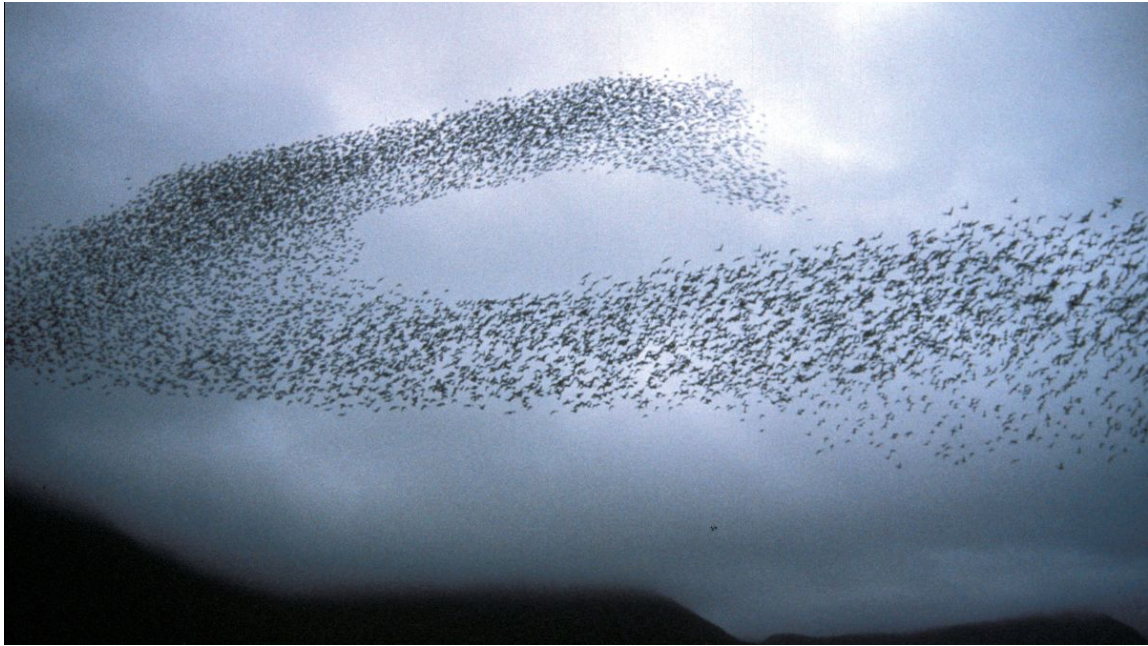
Not a member of the MAHB yet? [Join the MAHB](#) and help transform progressive civil society into an increasingly powerful force for positive change.

What's Happening



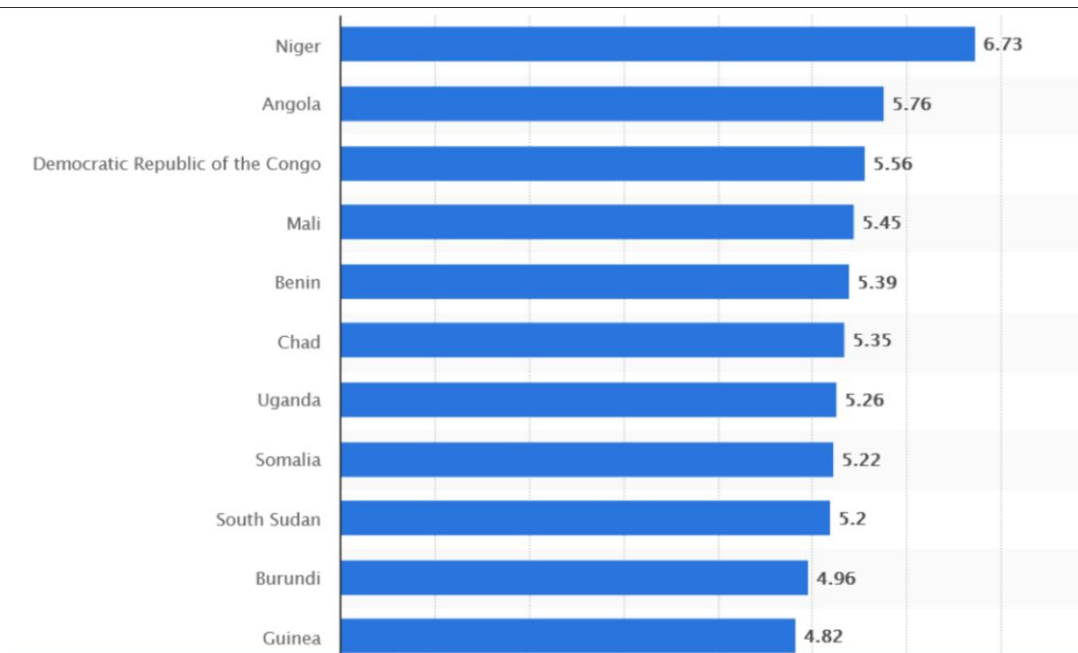
The Truth about Abortion

Despite what some people think, having an abortion is much, much safer than giving birth. Yet, while the physical safety of abortion had long been determined, the world needed to wait more than 30 years to get good scientific evidence about abortion's lack of psychological damage to women.



A new “all-hazards” approach for reducing multiple catastrophic threats

Global catastrophes, whether from nuclear weapons, climate change, pandemics, advanced technologies, or space weather, are interconnected, not isolated. They're influenced by common factors: geopolitical competition, economic growth, and technological progress. The approach to mitigating these threats also overlaps, presenting common challenges and characteristics.



[The Latest Response to Concerns About Low Birth Rates](#)

Many economists worry that low birth rates mean slower economic growth. But a smaller population is what the climate and biosphere need. The climate and biosphere are the essential components that make the world habitable, so they should come first over economic concerns.

Blogs for this Month



A new sustainability initiative of the Swiss People's Party

Why we need level-headed discussions about immigration numbers

Visions of a Post-Oil Civilization

Our carbon-based lifestyle has a built-in expiration date

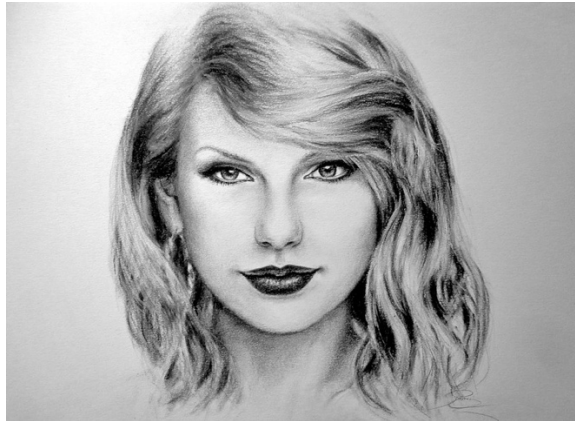


Youth in Climate Action: Tackling the “Afterthought” Mentality

The moment the flames die down,
the next initiative starts

Trump, the Earth System Treaty, and Taylor Swift

I think I've seen this film before (and
I didn't like the ending)



[Read More](#)

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

Resources



Extraction of raw materials could rise 60% by 2060 – and making mining ‘greener’ won’t stop the damage

Since 1970, global material consumption has quadrupled and is predicted to grow another 60% by 2060. Since the 2020s, the combined weight of our human-made structures and transportation methods has been surpassing that of all life on Earth.



Documenting the Perspectives of Sub-Saharan African Policy Makers, Researchers, and Activists on Reproductive Rights

We present viewpoints from 42 sub-Saharan African countries on the challenges posed by high fertility levels, including societal, environmental, and economic impacts. We find broad support for the integration of population dynamics and reproductive health and rights dimensions at international environmental meetings and as environmental sustainability instruments.



Post-growth: A viable path to limiting global warming to 1.5°C

Existing climate mitigation scenarios assume future rates of economic growth that are significantly higher than what has been experienced in the recent past. In this article, we explore how assuming lower rates of growth, in line with the hypothesis of secular stagnation, changes the range of mitigation possibilities.



Ecosystem services – to whom?

The term 'ecosystem services' is used increasingly in conservation. But does it serve its intended purpose? Nature conservation is increasingly dictated by the economic services a given site can offer, rather than for wildlife's own sake. Exploring how and why this has come about offers profound implications for the future.



More losers than winners: investigating Anthropocene defaunation

Extinctions are pre-ceded by progressive population declines through time that leave demographic 'footprints' that can alert us about the trajectories of species towards extinction. The decline of animal biodiversity due to human impacts is leading to a rapid biodiversity imbalance, endangering ecosystem heterogeneity and human well-being.



[Understanding and Overcoming Bias Against Contraception: The Case for Social Norm Intervention](#)

Women with unmet needs for contraception rarely cite cost, inconvenience, or a “lack of access” as the reason they are not using contraception. Rather, the main barriers to contraceptive uptake are fear, rumors, and social norms related to religion, fatalism, or patriarchy.

Podcasts & Videos



Advocating for Sustainable Food Systems: Insights from Miyoko Schinner (Interview)

Miyoko Schinner is a renowned vegan chef, entrepreneur, and advocate for plant-based living. She's a prominent figure in the vegan community and her insights on sustainability, animal welfare, decolonization, and the culinary aspects of plant-based diets are widely respected. Here, Miyoko Schinner and Carter Dillard from the Fair Start Movement discuss sustainability, food justice, animal rights protection, and other ethical issues.



[The Great Simplification – Sandra Faber: “The Universe and Our Place in It”](#)

Astrophysicist Sandra Faber discusses the universe's development and its moral implications for humanity with Nate. Our unique ability to understand the universe's history and the emergence of life on Earth may give meaning to those seeking it and incentivize biophysically and ecologically aligned systems.

The Arts



When Enough Is Abundance

There was a time after college when I was fortunate to spend a few weeks in a small Umbrian hill town. The recent art call from [What's Next for Earth, "Meeting Essential Community Needs."](#) encouraged me to reflect on an early experience that has informed my life. Though times were not easy for the residents, the warmth of the community and the celebration of seasonal resources made "enough" often feel like abundance.



Artists' Presentation

Meeting Essential Community Needs

With artists: Ries Faison, Diane Farris, Celia Kettle, Nancy Lane, Meredith Nemirov, Peggy Rose, Susan Smith.

Deep Transformation Network - Artists and Creatives Group
Hosted by Michele Guieu - February 27, 2024

Video Recording: Artists' Presentation "Meeting Essential Community Needs"

**Recording of the online event on the Deep Transformation Network from
Tuesday, February 27, 2024.**

Watch the interactive presentation and discussion featuring eight artists contributing to the "Meeting Essential Community Needs" exhibition based on the [Think Resilience](#) course by the Post Carbon Institute.



Discussing the Current Art Call
**Resilience in Major Sectors:
Manufacturing, Transportation, and Buildings**

Deep Transformation Network - Artists and Creatives Group
Hosted by Michele Guieu
March 12, 2024

[Video Recording: “Resilience in Major Sectors” art call presentation and discussion](#)

Recording of the online event on the Deep Transformation Network from Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Watch the discussion inspired by the [Think Resilience](#) course from the Post Carbon Institute. This event centered around the art call that focused on the critical sectors of Manufacturing, Transportation, and Buildings in a world that is navigating challenges of reduced energy and resources.

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