



Highlights from October 2023

Greetings to the MAHB Community

Check out what's happening:

A new, peer-reviewed [paper](#) reveals the behavioral crisis driving ecological overshoot; watch Dave Gardner's [video](#) on how to shrink America's overshoot and read a [book review](#) of Maddalena Bearzi's [Stranded](#) on how to find wilderness in your backyard.

There is also a new [art exhibition](#) on Community Resilience and Education on October 31, hosted by Christina Conklin, Michele Guieu, and Christopher Losa at the Deep Transformation Network.

Read October's [blogs](#) on why we should limit total [food production](#) (hint: we already produce plenty), the cost-effectiveness of [carbon dioxide removal](#) methods (and why the least effective get the most funding), an art piece exploring [feminine artistic practice](#), and an [interview](#) with MAHB Executive Director Joan Diamond on how can we navigate the choppy waters our species has whipped up.

Our [resources](#) include an article on why [plastic recycling](#) is practically impossible; a paper on how a group of older women has taken the [Swiss government to court](#) over its inaction on climate change (includes six lessons for researchers); new links between sustainability, population, and [reproductive ethics](#); how Europe's biggest [river restoration](#) project is making waves; a [UN investigation](#) on whether international investment agreements compromise action on climate change; a paper on how the international community should respond to [water-related conflicts](#) such as the destruction of

the Kakhovkha dam in the Russia-Ukraine war; an article on how [diversified farms](#) can support forest biodiversity (paper available), and a call for conservation biologists to advocate a smaller human population to [protect the Earth's remaining biodiversity](#).

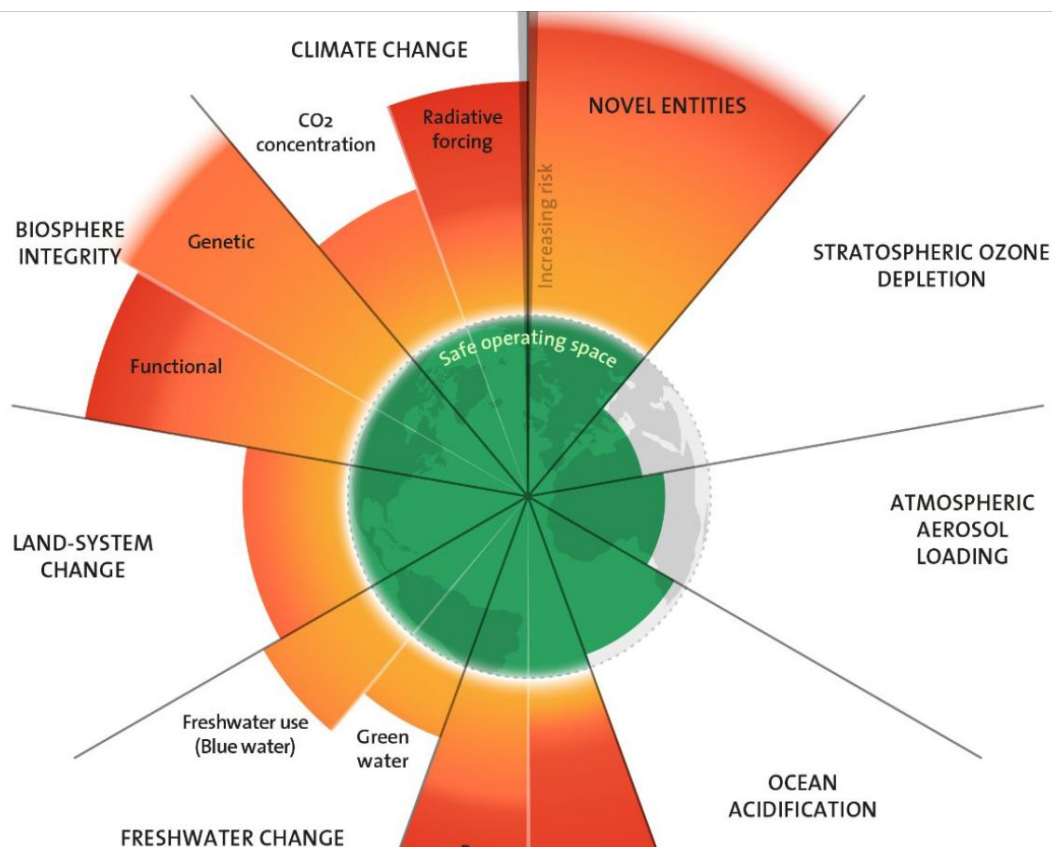
Watch or listen to a *Planet: Critical* podcast with Bill Ryerson on how [TV can slow birthrates](#) and Nate Hagens' podcast with conservation scientist Nick Haddad on the [silent extinction of insects](#)—and why that matters.

Head to the **Arts Section** for the [What's Next for Earth Community Resilience and Education Exhibition](#) that opened this month.

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



Academic paper reveals the behavioral crisis driving anthropogenic ecological overshoot

A ground-breaking [peer-reviewed paper](#) details how modern human behavior is causing us to consume our natural resources at rates faster than they can be replenished while also creating waste above what the Earth can assimilate. It also outlines the actions needed.



[Dave the Planet: Wake Up, America](#)

Dave Gardner envisions a future where our children can live decent lives with clean, healthy air and water, no poverty, and plenty of joy and fulfillment. But we have work to do. Watch the video [here](#).



[In Stranded, Ocean Conservationist Finds Solace, Science, and A Call to Action in Everyday Nature](#)

Book review: LA-based marine biologist Maddalena Bearzi charms and galvanizes in a new book that invites readers to embrace and defend the quotidian wilderness in our backyard.



**Community Resilience & Education
Exhibition - Artists' Presentation (Part 2)**
with Jacqui Jones, Peggy Rose,
Susan Smith, Teresa Stern, Kim Tanzer,
Karen Viola, and Gordon Wood.

Deep Transformation Network - Artists and Creatives Group
Hosted by Christina Conklin, Michele Guieu, and Christopher Losa

October 31, 2023

"Community Resilience and Education" – Artists' Presentation

**Deep Transformation Network –
Artists and Creatives Group**

Hosted by Christina Conklin, Michele Guieu, and Christopher Losa

Community Resilience and Education – Artists’ Presentation PART TWO –
Tuesday, October 31 2023.
12:00 pm to 1:30 pm PACIFIC time – Online

[THE LINK TO THE EVENT IS HERE.](#)

Blogs for this Month



[A Case for Limiting Total Food Production for Human Consumption](#)

It is neither necessary nor sustainable to continue increasing food production to feed a growing human population

The Cost-Effectiveness of Carbon Dioxide Removal Methods



Climate restoration looks achievable but the least effective methods get the most funding



Entanglement and the Inner Feminine as Artistic Practice

How to reframe the traditional masculine modes of thinking, doing, and making

The Shaky State of Life on Earth, What Has Gone Wrong, and What We Can Do to Correct Our Course



Geoffrey Holland interviews Joan Diamond about existential threats and possible solutions

[Read More](#)

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

Resources



Recycling plastic is practically impossible – and the problem is getting worse

The vast majority of plastic people put into recycling bins is headed to landfills, or worse, according to a report on the state of plastic recycling in the U.S. The amount of plastic that is turned into new things has fallen to new lows of around 5 percent and is expected to drop further as more plastic is produced.



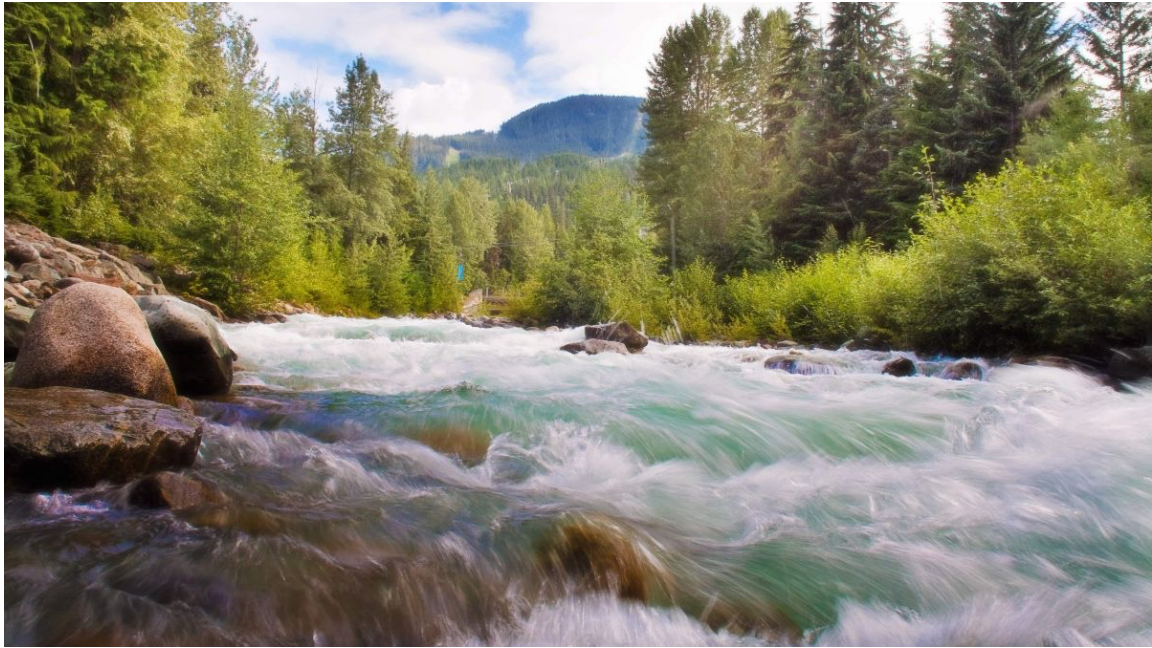
How science bolstered a key European climate-change case

A group of older women in Switzerland has taken the government to court over its inaction on climate change. Our experience in preparing evidence for the case offers six lessons for researchers.



Sustainability, population, and reproductive ethics

This paper explores the links between sustainability, population, and reproductive ethics because sustainability goals and population matters both imply ethical commitments. The critical analysis concludes that the reproductive ethics of small families, ideally one-child families, as a new global ethical norm, should be promoted.



[‘This is what a river should look like’: Dutch rewilding project turns back the clock 500 years](#)

Europe’s largest river restoration is making changes across the entire landscape, bringing benefits to wildlife and people. “You have to sell your story,” says Frans Schepers, managing director of Rewilding Europe, who was leading the largest river restoration project in Europe.



UN investigates impact of investment treaties on human rights

A United Nations special rapporteur on human rights and the environment explores whether international dispute mechanisms compromise action on climate change and development—and how that can change.



Rivers and Water Systems as Weapons and Casualties of the Russia-Ukraine War

The Ukraine-Russia war has led to extensive attacks on water resources and infrastructure, such as on dams in the Dnipro river watershed, with severe impacts on humans, ecosystems, energy, water supply, and irrigation, including the destruction of the Kakhovkha dam, one of Europe's largest. How should the international community respond to water-related conflicts?



Farms that create habitat key to food security and biodiversity

Diversified farming is an important complement to forest protections for reversing the decline in tropical biodiversity. Stanford researchers found that over 18 years, smaller farms with varying crop types – interspersed with patches or ribbons of forest—sustain many forest-dependent bird populations in Costa Rica, even as populations decline in forests.



Overpopulation is a major cause of biodiversity loss and smaller human populations are necessary to preserve what is left

We encourage conservation biologists to advocate for smaller populations through improved access to modern contraception and explicit promotion of small families. Long term, smaller human populations are necessary to preserve biodiversity in both less developed and more developed parts of the world.

Podcasts & Videos



Mainstreaming Behaviour Change— Bill Ryerson

The human population is a problem—tackling it through education isn't. Rachel Donald, author and host of Planet: Critical and its associated podcast, interviewed Population Media Center's President and Founder, Bill Ryerson.



The Great Simplification–Nick Haddad: “Insects–A Silent Extinction”

Here, Nate is joined by Professor Nick Haddad, a conservation scientist focusing on butterflies and other insects. The overlooked degradation of butterflies, beetles, bees, ants, ladybugs, and countless other species ripples across our local and global ecological functions—from a loss of bird populations to a reduced ability to grow food. What can we do to help insects rebound as quickly as possible and strengthen the health of everything else?

The Arts



What's Next for Earth: Community Resilience and Education Exhibition

The Online Exhibition opened October 6, 2023

This is the 18th What's Next for Earth online exhibition based on Think Resilience, a free online course written by Richard Heinberg and produced by Post Carbon Institute. WNFE follows the course, one lesson per art call. To respond, we asked the artists to sign up and watch the course. This exhibition is part of the fifth chapter of the course Economy and Society.

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