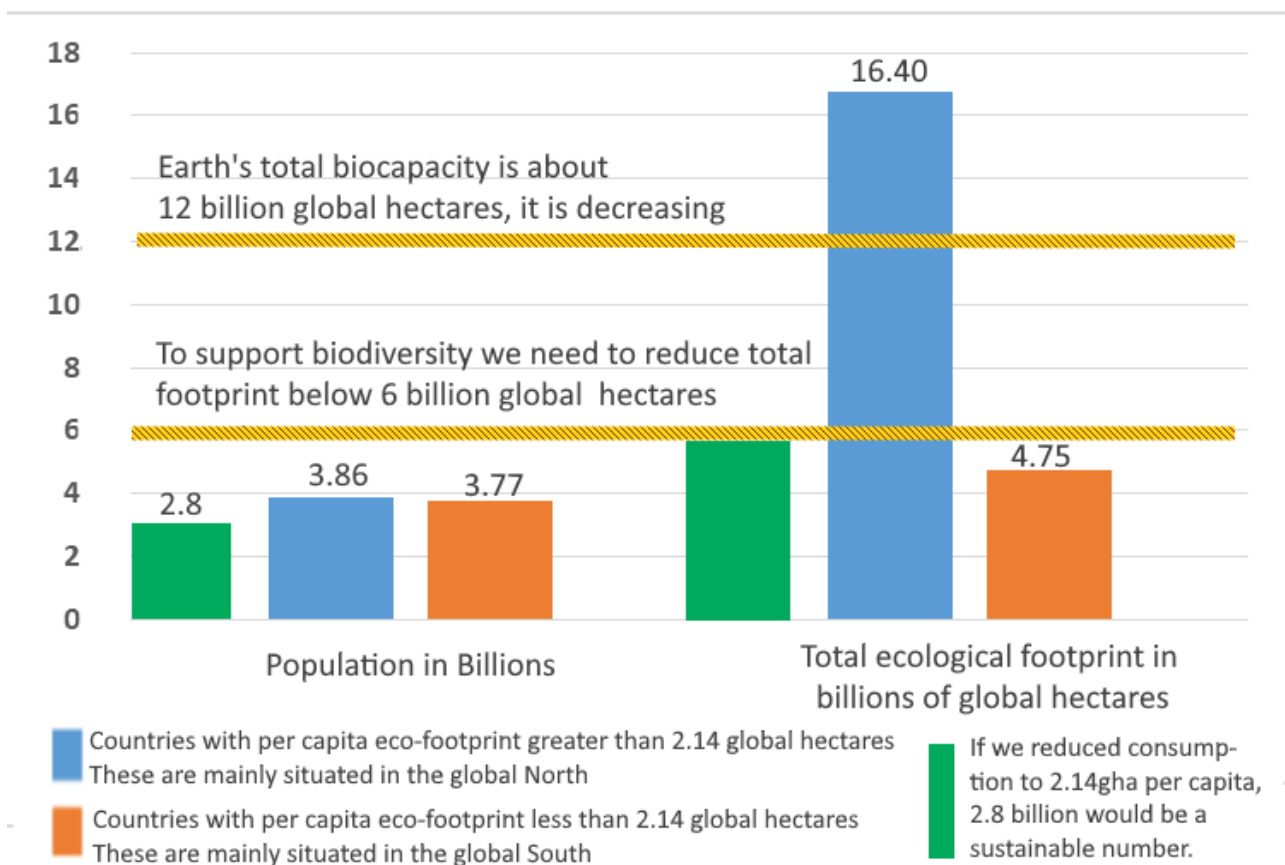


The Charter for Ecological Justice will serve as a global peace treaty, inspiring global collaboration and mutual aid on a level never before achieved by humanity. The most powerful uniting factor is the recognition that if we care at all about our wellbeing, and that of our children, our children’s children, and all the lives to come, we shall empower and advise young adults not to venture into parenthood until there is a global ambition to eliminate ecological overshoot. We are currently operating at nearly twice the biocapacity of Earth, this is an unsafe situation for all of life on Earth.

The data from the Global Footprint Network for 2018 has been analysed in the chart below. In 2018 humanity were using about 21 billion global hectares; there are only about 12 billion available. This phenomenon is very dangerous, it is called [ecological overshoot](#) and it gives rise to high extinction rates and ecosystems collapse. Nothing has been done to address this problem since then. Research¹ suggests that 2.14 global hectares per capita should normally be adequate for a person to enjoy a fulfilled life. The bar chart clearly demonstrates the ecological injustice that exists between the Northern and Southern hemisphere. The hypothetical columns in green, show very clearly the severe level of overpopulation that exists. Even if we succeed in substantially reducing our global ecological footprint per capita to an average of 2.14gha, we still need to voluntarily reduce our population to 2.8 billion in order to release half the available biocapacity for biodiversity.

Data From the Global Footprint Network, relates to 2018
All figures are in billions



¹ <https://overpopulation-project.com/reconciling-human-demands-with-planetary-boundaries/>

The Charter for Ecological Justice serves as a recognition that we do not wish to repeat the mistakes of World War II, or in fact any war. Wars arise when humanity chooses to fight over resources, in some cases the resources in dispute are human resources. 'Religious' wars come into this latter category. In WWII we saw how tribalism or racism can combine with economic pressure and peer-pressure to procreate to result in eugenics, where one race is favoured over another.

With the escalation of climate and ecosystems collapse we are now seeing a build-up of global economic pressures, with continued peer-pressure to procreate, and racist groups emerging. For example, the overturning of the [abortion laws](#) in the USA, the banning of [Stop Having Kids](#) from Instagram. The use of peer-pressure to procreate was used by Golda Meir when Israel was first established; some of her [xenophobic remarks](#) are well-documented. Eugenics and peer pressure to procreate both represent the unhelpful belief that one's own gene pool is superior to others.

In 2022 there was an extra clause added to the Human Rights declaration, stating our right to a healthy environment. Humanity have been exceeding the biocapacity of Earth for decades, this is causing ecosystems to collapse. This means that none of us are living in a healthy environment. When someone gives birth to a child, that child's right to a healthy environment is not met; that child is immediately embroiled in the ongoing mass extinction event. The proposed wording for the charter is provided below; it is inspired by the insights from the $I=PAT^2$ equation and Lucia Tamburino's research which suggests that a consumption level averaging 2.14 global hectares per capita, coupled with a voluntary reduction in family sizes would be a helpful global ambition.

This 'Charter for Ecological Justice' seeks to inspire a new emotional maturity³ within the human race. This new era will be characterised by increasingly selfless behaviour both individually and collectively in the face of escalating existential threats. To this end, it recognises that our environmental impact is a product of our population size and the way that we utilise our affluence and technology. Henceforth we shall collectively and individually aspire to combine our free-choice, affluence and technology to redress the ecological imbalance, which is escalating the sixth mass extinction. All nations will collectively aspire to reduce their ecological footprint to less than half of the biocapacity available within their borders, as determined by the Global Footprint Network data. Globally, education and empowerment goals will prioritise the symbiotic relationships between ecological footprint, ecological balance, and the urgent need to release more than half of the biocapacity of the planet to sustain the needs of wildlife and biodiversity. Human intervention in wildlife populations will be discouraged unless an invasive species is deemed to be a serious threat to either local or global eco-systems. The Charter recommends that communities work towards living within the biocapacity of their borders. The ecological footprint of 2.14⁴gha per capita is a guide for a fulfilled life within a healthy ecosystem. Local targets for average footprint will need regular reviews to equitably reflect changing global and local circumstances.

The UN Charter for Ecological Justice seeks to inspire a peaceful global aspiration to ensure that everyone is granted maximum mitigation from the existential threats that now face us all from climate breakdown and ecological collapse. It seeks to encourage the spirit of global Ubuntu, where we recognise that any good fortune is more fully appreciated when it is shared within the community. Unlike the materialism seen in today's societies which are focussed on financial profit and self-interest, Ubuntu motivates selfless acts, like reparation.

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_%3D_PAT Environmental Impact = Population * Affluence * Technology

³ <https://medium.com/@barbarawilliams1/cultural-causes-of-climate-injustice-b59fb7d7f6de>

⁴ <https://overpopulation-project.com/reconciling-human-demands-with-planetary-boundaries/>

The Charter for Ecological Justice will inspire a global ambition to shrink the global GDP in an equitable manner, resulting in an even distribution of ecological resource use globally. The steps suggested below will alert the general public to the need for GDP Degrowth in the over-developed countries, and will encourage direct involvement from everyone in the ongoing mindset shift to move from the growth mindset into the reverse gear⁵:

- Democracies are advised to establish an all-party government, working with the civil services to share ideas and responsibilities for ‘scaling-down’ strategies.⁶
- UN General Assembly to consider ratifying the ‘UN Charter for Ecological Justice’⁷
- Governments can sign up to become a ‘Wellbeing Economy government’⁸.
- Use fiduciary funding⁹ to finance Universal Basic Provision to facilitate Degrowth.
- Private and public institutions do internal reassessments, to identify and dismantle any work processes that are unjustified in the context of urgent GDP Degrowth
- Publicly expressed remorse for past unwise practice, is helpful from any institutions.
- Governments to call for emotional maturity and resilience from citizens, urging them to collaborate peacefully towards the global objective of rapid Degrowth.
- Universities can use methods like the Participatory Futures model¹⁰, to break the perpetuation of past mistakes; establishing revised ethics to assist Degrowth; the younger student voice needs to drive these discussions, not the entrenched staff.
- Mainstream media, social media, arts and culture all collaborate in a process of experimentation and evolution, working to build emotional resilience to face our man-made tragedies with courage, resolve and humility.
- Public education exercise, explaining about the three key drivers of ecological damage (I=PAT)¹¹, and the urgent need to redeem our ecological overshoot¹².

Europe are signalling that the shift into post-growth thinking is gaining momentum, by hosting a ‘Beyond Growth’ conference in May 2023¹³. In December 2022 the European Trade Union Institute hosted ‘A Just Transition Beyond Growth’¹⁴.

This summary has been prepared for Head of States in advance of a paper that is currently undergoing peer-review: ‘Scientists Warning proposes a Roadmap to Ecological Justice’.¹⁵

⁵ <https://poemsforparliament.uk/etui> European Trade Union Institute ‘Beyond Growth’ conference

⁶ <https://poemsforparliament.uk/democracy> Paul Smith author of ‘Rescuing Democracy’ offers his book free

⁷ <https://poemsforparliament.uk/framework> Initial proposal for the UN Charter for Ecological Justice

⁸ <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/wego> so far Scotland, Wales, Iceland, Finland and New Zealand

⁹ <https://medium.com/@barbarawilliams1/fiduciary-funds-for-global-ubuntu-ef4c5eb3e2f1>

¹⁰ <https://foresightprojects.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/26/participatory-futures-integrating-public-voices-in-futures-thinking/> Participatory Futures

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/I_%3D_PAT

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecological_overshoot

¹³ <https://www.beyond-growth-2023.eu/about-beyond-growth/> Beyond Growth conference in Europe.

¹⁴ <https://poemsforparliament.uk/etui/> A Just Transition Beyond Growth, European Trade Union Institute

¹⁵ <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4366187> Preprint version of the Roadmap to Ecological Justice