

# Welcome to Global Challenge!

PPt A-1 - Intro to Global Challenge

Linked to Reading A-1

But just before we start...

*Are you ready to take down notes?*



*“Many studies show writing notes is a far better method of studying than typing up notes.”*

For full article & [source](#):

And, my suggestion as you watch: **listen up!**



# Intro to Global Challenge(s!)



So, where do we start??

- *Do you think we are in some global mess? How so?*
- *If you think so, is it because are you a pessimist or a realist?*

Some facts, especially the more measurable ones, show **undeniably alarming trends**. From increasing numbers of homeless urban populations to rapid loss of ice sheets, a lot seems to be going wrong... *Other examples of trends?*



[Source](#)

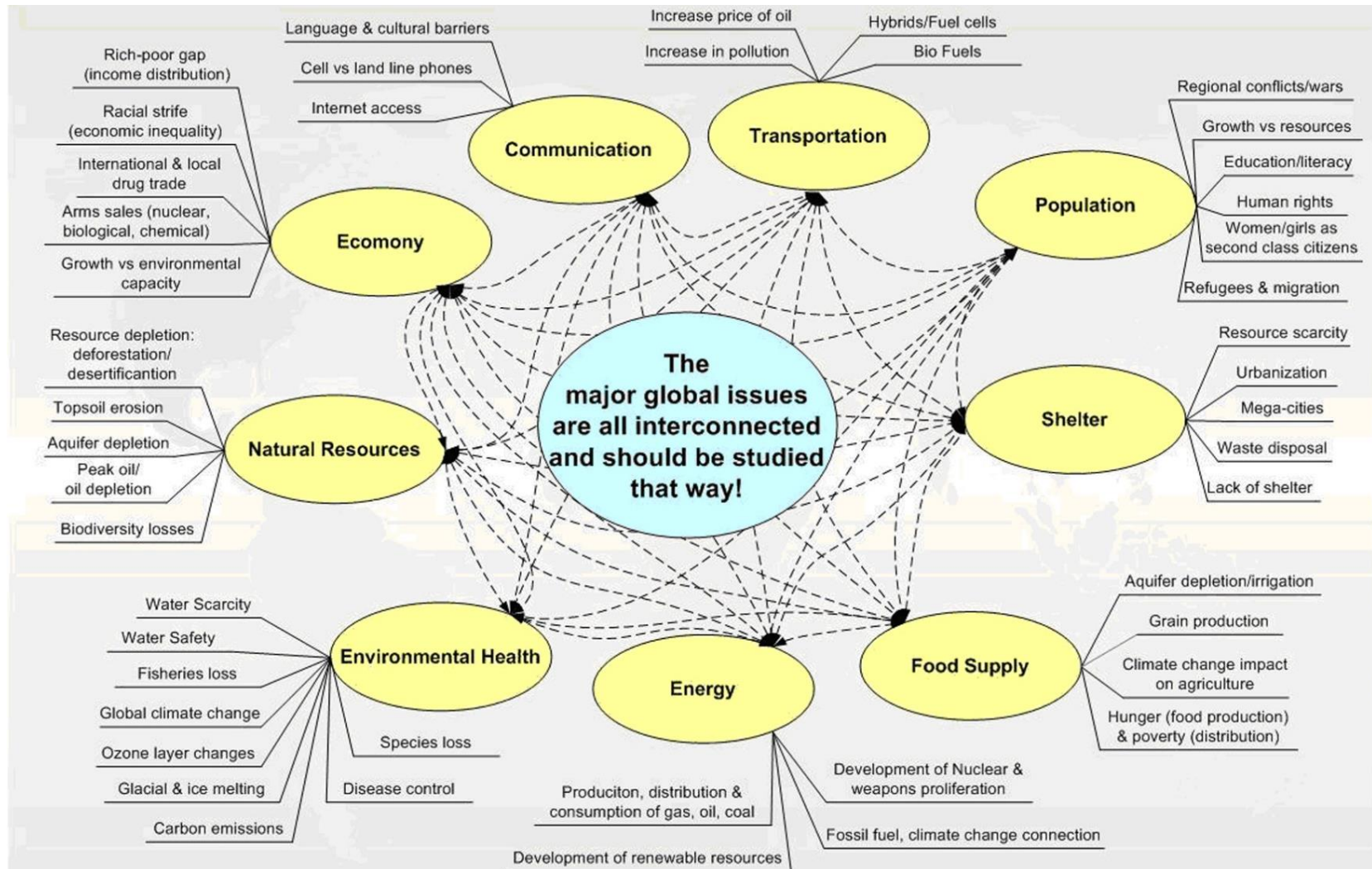
Let's see what Wikipedia\* says when we type "list of global challenges" ...  
*Are you surprised to see not everyone comes up with the same list?*

Keep an eye on Teams next week about collaborative document you will need to contribute to.

\*About Wikipedia: it is great to start off a quick research BUT if you want to refer something from there, can you reference Wikipedia? NO, so what do you do? Listen up!

*Why is it difficult to agree with a common list and to agree on what is top priority?*

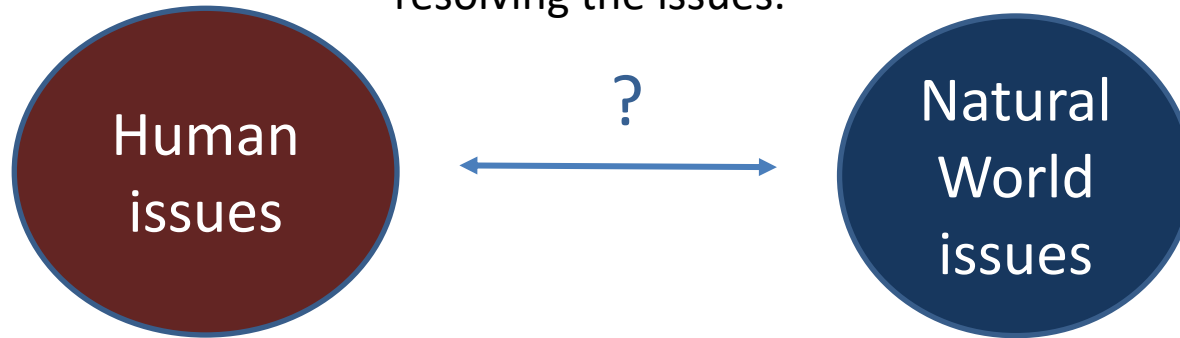
# The interconnection between issues is clear!



[Source](#)

Interconnections, especially between **Human Realms** and the **Natural World** might not seem obvious at first glance. If these connections are not understood or are ignored, so might the **root causes of global issues**.

As a result, so-called solutions risk only serve as “band-aids”, hence not really resolving the issues.



- For e.g.:
- *What would be considered the **cause** of urban poverty at first glance?*
  - *What would be considered the **cause** of deadly floods at first glance?*

To illustrate the above, here a little story of my cousin François and his family in Tahiti... **Listen up and watch!**

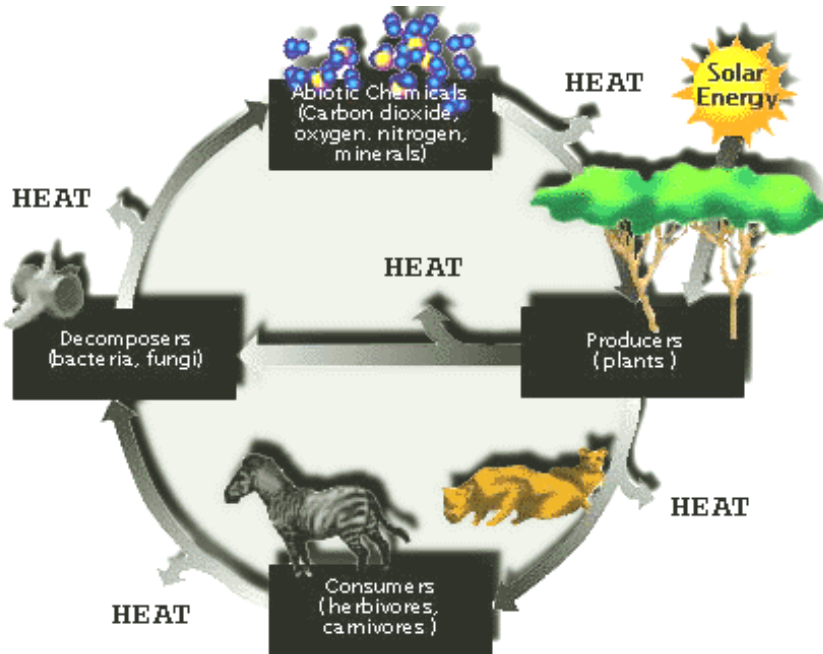
As you can see, basic **Laws of Nature** were ignored and by-passed.



# Human-Environment Relationship: **Cyclic** vs **linear**

Natural ecosystems work as cycles and little is lost. Where humans still live as one with nature, energy and matter still cycle around in healthy ways.

## Energy (and matter) cycle in nature



Humans **CAN** reproduce cycles:  
it's a question of **CHOICE**



- Have humans invented this?



However, all around the world **modern societies** have been and are, more than ever, ignoring cycles and dispose of energy and matter in a linear way.

**Input**  
- resources -



**Output**  
- waste -



**Watch:** [The Story of Stuff](#) (22 min.) - (dates back to 2013 but is still totally relevant today)

**Reflect** in this clip in the light of this Ppt. There is good “food for thought” here!

Now to the concept of **Sustainable Development...**

# Sustainable Development

Development schemes that equally respects the economy, the environment and the well-being of people for generations to come.



- *Which of these 3 realms do you think dominate nowadays, globally?*
- *Do you think different realms dominate to different degree in different regions of the world? (I.e. Is it the same realm that dominates everywhere on the planet?)*
- *What would account for the differences between different places?*
- *Do you think this concept of S.D. is achievable?*
- *Can you think of a time and/or a place where/when the balance is/was indeed achieved?*

More recent variations of S.D ↗

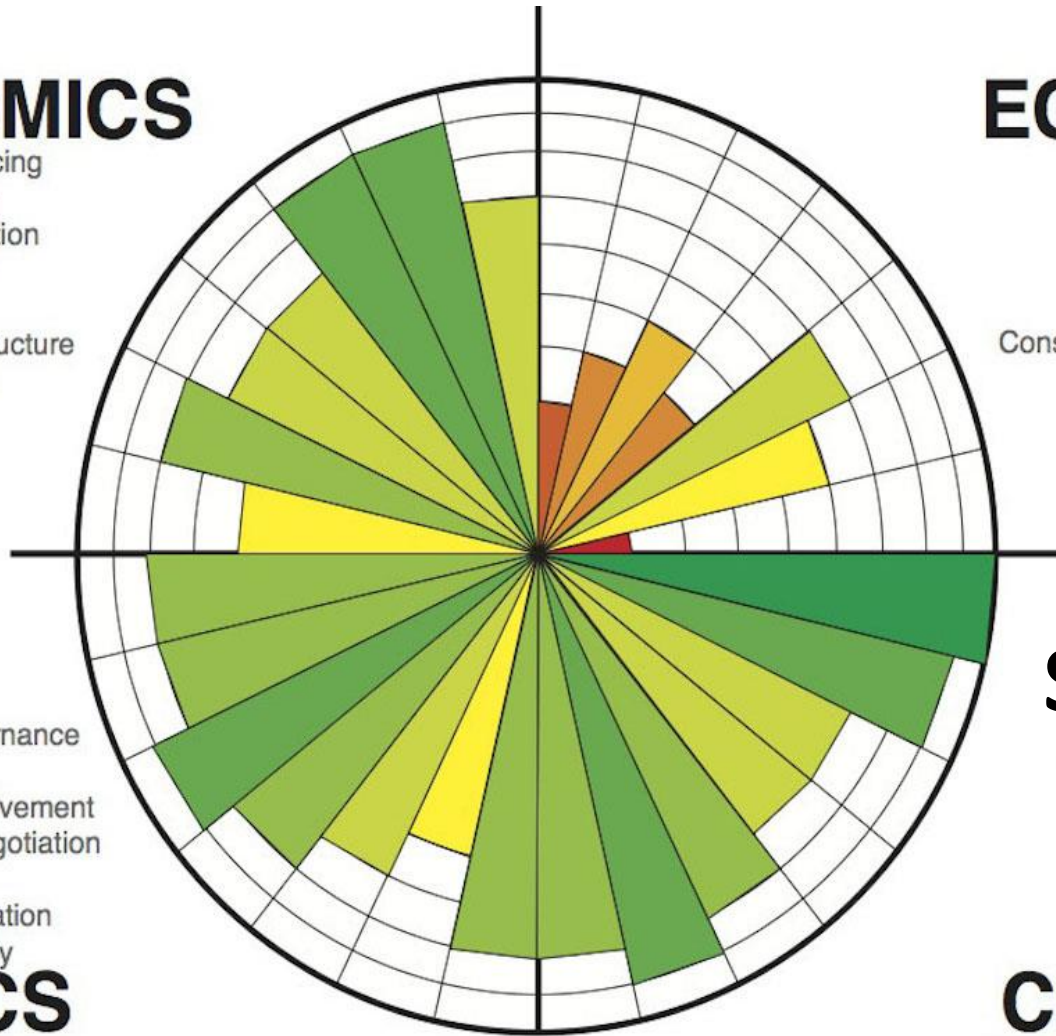
With 4 realms:

## ECONOMICS

Production & Resourcing  
Exchange & Transfer  
Accounting & Regulation  
Consumption & Use  
Labour & Welfare  
Technology & Infrastructure  
Wealth & Distribution

## ECOLOGY

Materials & Energy  
Water & Air  
Flora & Fauna  
Habitat & Food  
Place & Space  
Constructions & Settlements  
Emission & Waste



Organization & Governance  
Law & Justice  
Communication & Movement  
Representation & Negotiation  
Security & Accord  
Dialogue & Reconciliation  
Ethics & Accountability

## POLITICS

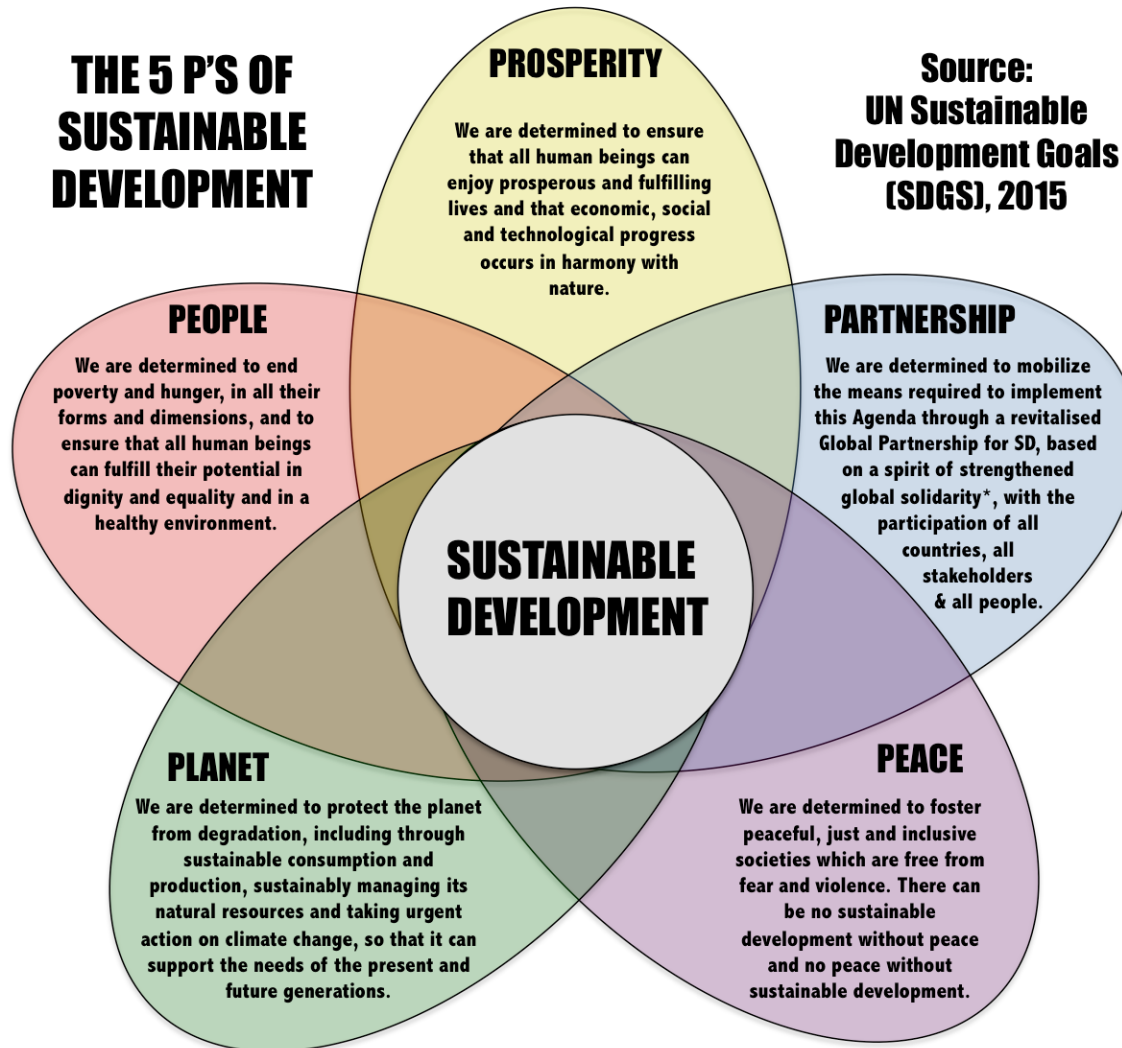
## SOCIETY

Engagement & Identity  
Recreation & Creativity  
Memory & Projection  
Belief & Meaning  
Gender & Generations  
Enquiry & Learning  
Health & Wellbeing

## CULTURE

# With 5 realms:

## THE 5 P'S OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**Source:  
UN Sustainable  
Development Goals  
(SDGS), 2015**

*-Have you heard of the Millennium Goals?*

*- If so, how many are there? Who put them together? When?*



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



# Evolution of the S.D. concept an “intellectual” pursuit

(as opposed to “intuitive”)

- First in 1987 with the Brundtland Report: economy vs Environment: b/c realization of limited resources
  - with the idea of “conservation”: natural parks and wildlife reserves WITHOUT humans
  - with the idea of “future generations”
- Then: from 2 to 3 realms: holistic approach: Natural reserves WITH humans!
  - *Which realm is that?*
- Then, 2012:

“We also reaffirm the need to achieve sustainable development by: promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating **greater opportunities for all**, reducing inequalities, **raising basic standards of living**; fostering equitable social development and inclusion; and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports inter alia economic, **social and human development** while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges.” (UN General Assembly 2012, para. 4)

And...

“[The SDGs] should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their **inter-linkages** ... We also underscore that SDGs should be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, **global in nature and universally applicable** to all countries while taking into account different **national** realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities ... **Governments should drive** implementation [of the SDGs] with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.” (UN General Assembly 2012, paras. 246-7 ).

Myriam’s reactions to the above & to Reading 1: **Listen up!**

- “Economic progress” – “Economic growth”
- Sustainable growth (?)
- Standards of living...
- Overemphasis on Population Growth...

# Other relevant concepts

Among the goals of S.D. are:

- higher **standards of living**
- better **quality of life**



*What is the difference between these two concepts?*

**Reflect** on your own life: do you have both or one more than the other?

## HDI & IHDI:

**Check** on [Wikipedia](#)

*- What is the difference between these two indicators?*

**Check** [Human Development Report 2019](#) by UNDP – p.22-25.

- Complete the table below (save answers for now) and **reflect** on all the differences you notice.

Country	HDI	IHDI
Canada:		
US:		
Another country of your choice:		

# Other relevant concepts

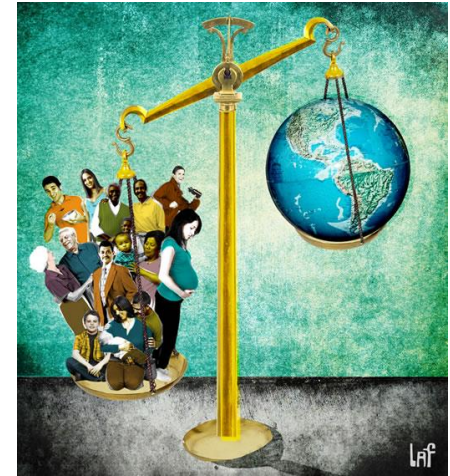
## Carrying Capacity

The capacity of an area to support its population indefinitely without compromising the needs of future generations.

Concept used in many context, from a swimming pool to a natural park.

In geography or environmental studies, in its most simplistic terms, it is about the relationship between **resources** and **population**.

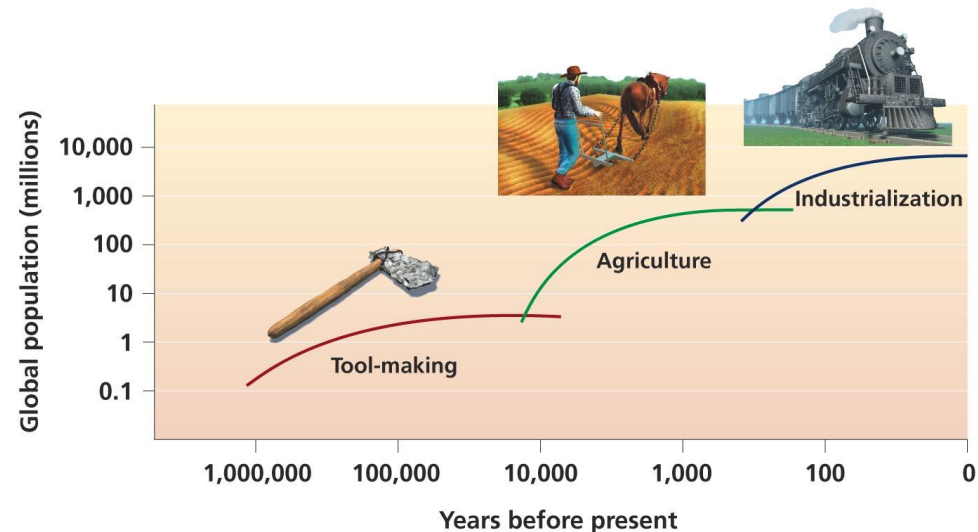
- *What other factors do you think can influence the carrying capacity of a place (region country, the planet)?*
- *Do you think we have reached the earth's carrying capacity?*



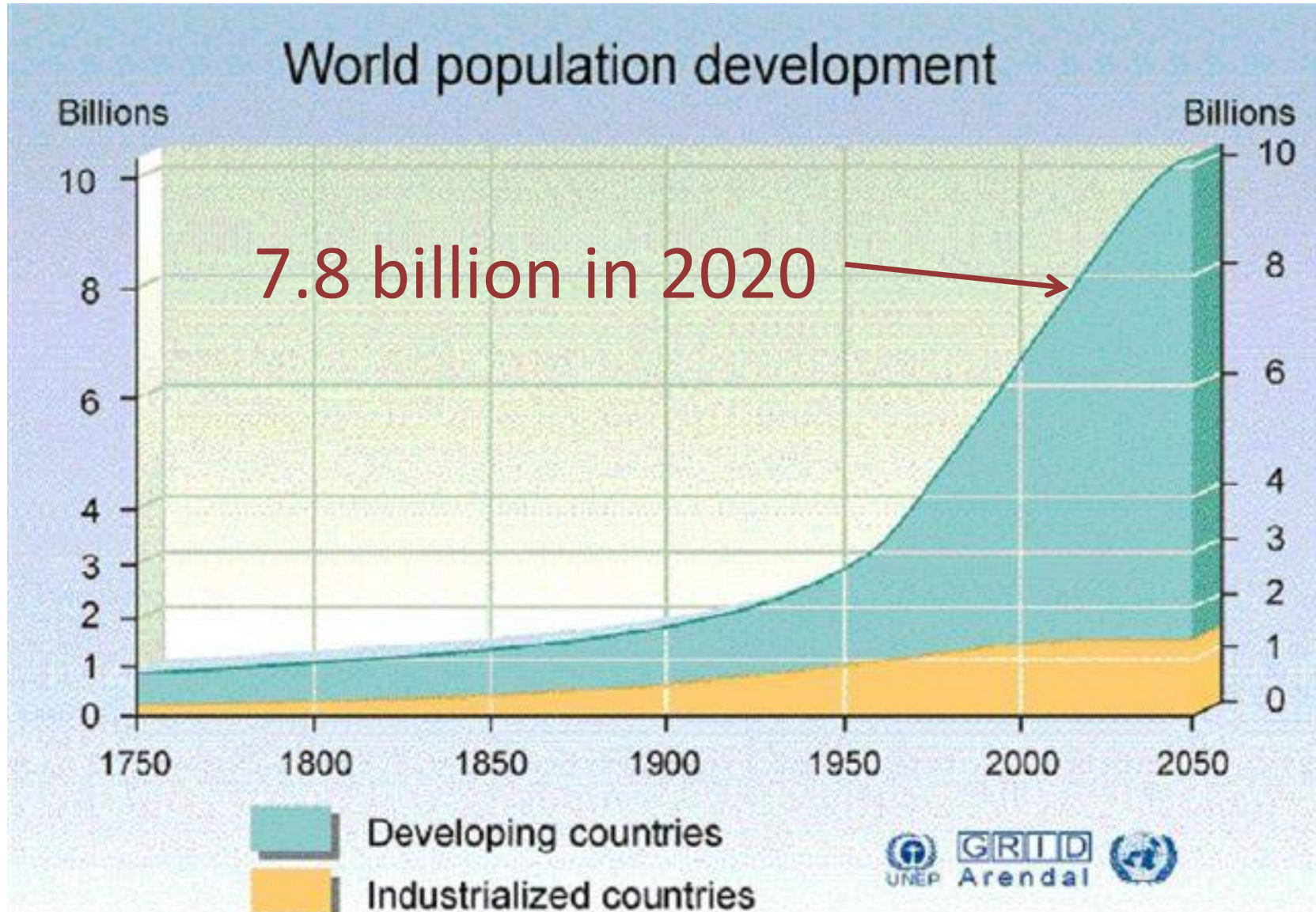
Take a look at this graph:

- *What influencing factor does this graph illustrate?*
- *Can this factor increase CC indefinitely?*
- *What about the well-being of the population? Does these CC increases necessarily implies everyone is has good **quality of life**?*

Therefore, another essential dimension to consider is **resources distribution**.

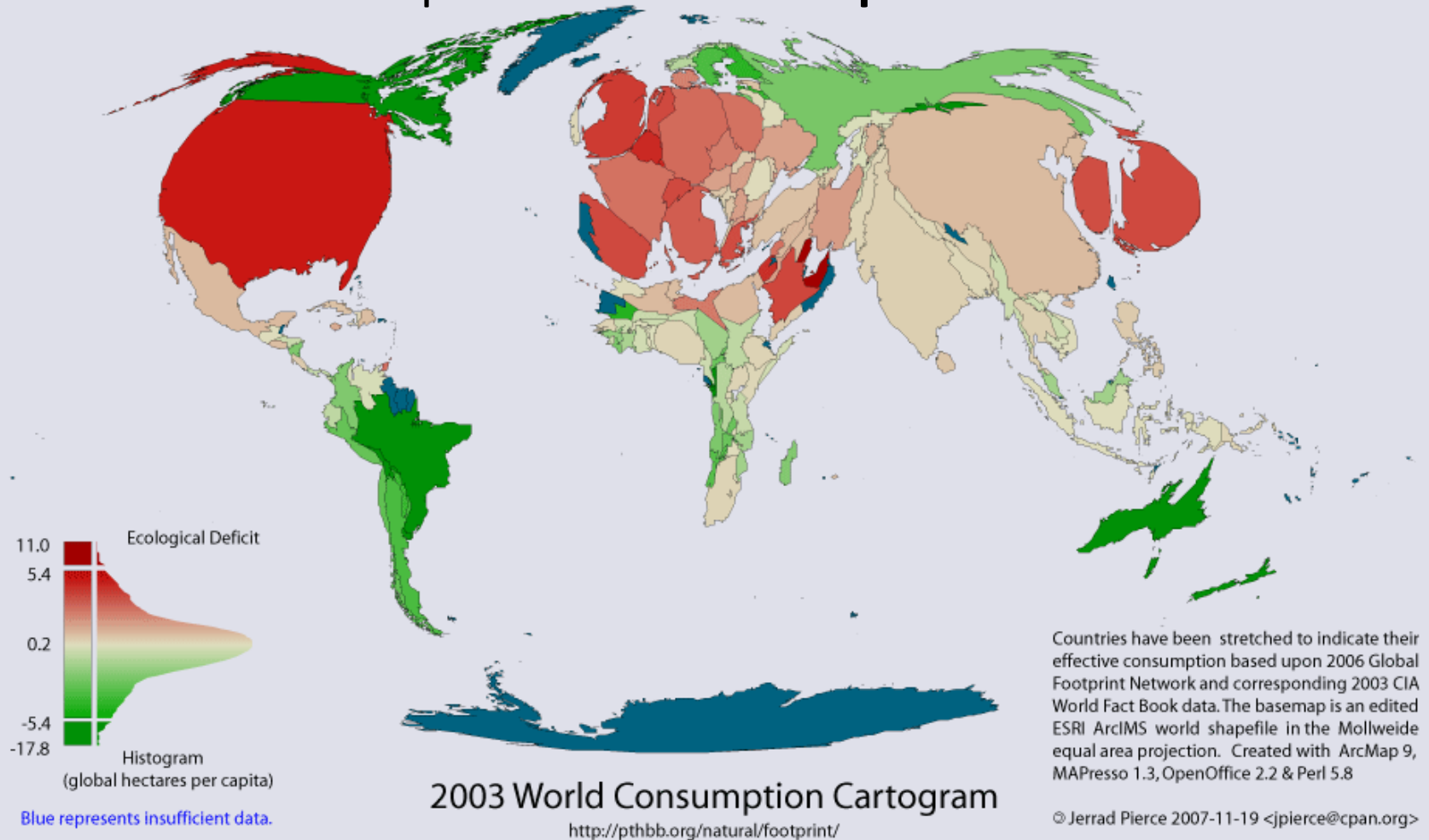


Of course there are issue with **population growth**...



... but have a look at this map :

## Population vs Consumption



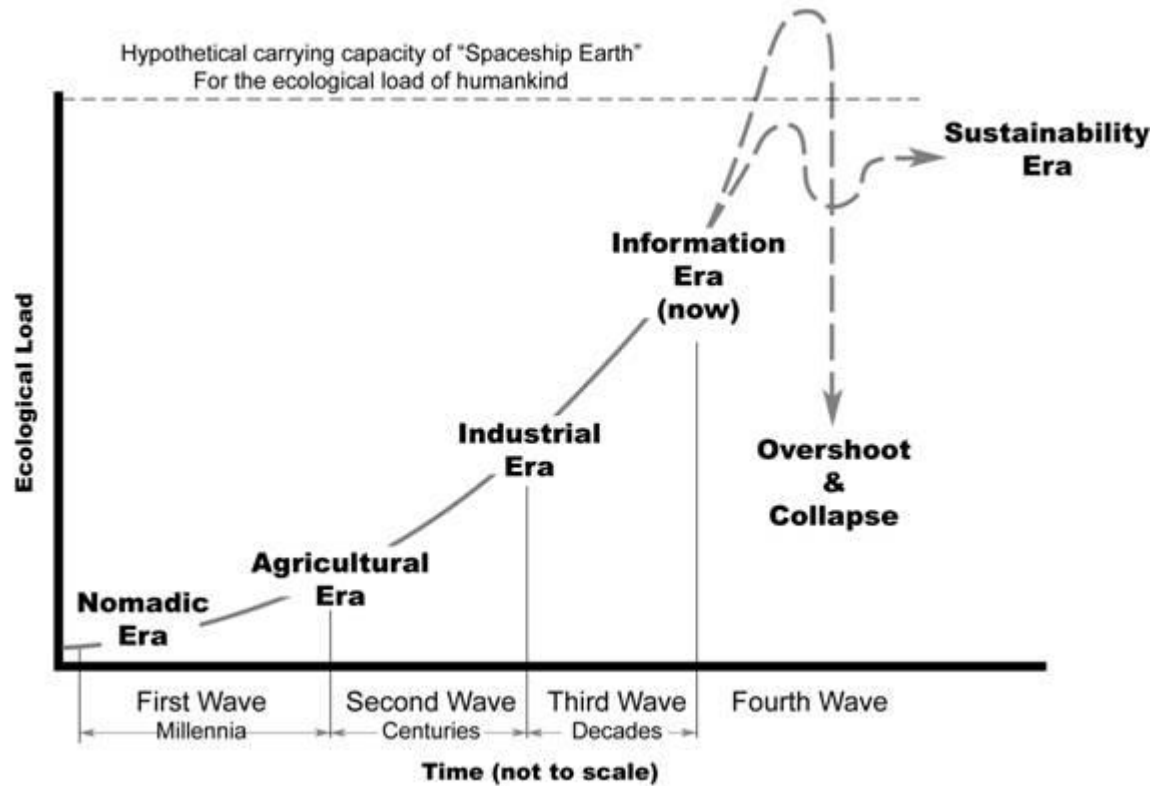
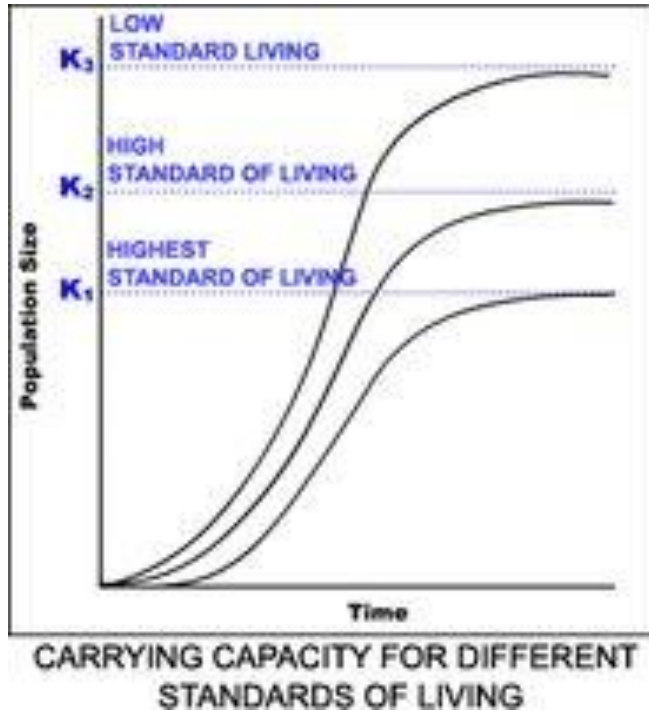
- What is a key term in the caption on the right?

That's right!



[source](#) & definition

# Other ways of look at Carrying Capacity:



Think back at [The Story of Stuff!](#)

*- How important is sustainability then?*

# Toward Solutions

Current economic model (BAU)  
or  
Revamped economic system?



Economic growth

stream towards



- *Have you ever heard of the parallel concepts of **Minimalism** or **Simplicité volontaire** (in French)*

\* BAU: Business as usual

# Toward Solutions

## Large-scale, top-down or Small-scale, local, grassroots initiatives?

E.g.: COP 21



E.g.: Lufa farms in Montreal



NOTE: Some initiatives have started small and have grown in scope and vice versa.

*- Can you think of local initiatives for human or environment well-being in your neighbourhood or city?*

\* COP: Conference of Parties

# Toward Solutions

## High-tech innovations?

or

## Local/traditional practices (TEK)



Or

**Mixing the old and the new!**

Watch: [New York Innovators](#)

\* TEK: Traditional Ecological/Environmental Knowledge, also referred to as IK (Indigenous Knowledge)

# Worldviews and avenues toward solutions



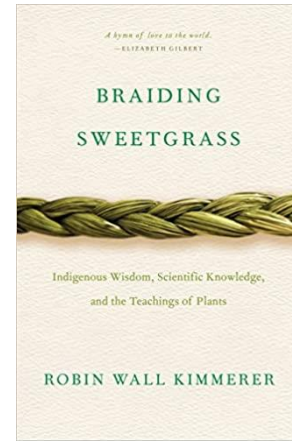
The solutions we come up with will also depend on your **worldviews**. The big issue here is that not all worldviews are getting the same attention or are even perceived as worthy to be considered.

Perhaps more problematic is the fact that the globally predominant worldview at the moment is the “**Western**” **worldview** (life revolving around material wealth) which is the exact same one that amplified the contemporary global issues in the first place...

*- What aspects of your life correspond to Western views?*

## In Robin Wall Kimmerer's words:

- “In the Western tradition there is a recognized hierarchy of beings, with, of course, the human being on top—the pinnacle of evolution, the darling of Creation—and the plants at the bottom. But in **Native ways of knowing**, human people are often referred to as “the younger brothers of Creation.” We say that humans have the least experience with how to live and thus the most to learn—we must **look to our teachers among the other species for guidance**. Their wisdom is apparent in the way that they live. They teach us by example. They’ve been on the earth far longer than we have been, and have had time to figure things out.”



Source (and for more of her powerful quotes):  
[Braiding Sweetgrass](#)

Watch: [The Indigenous world view vs. Western world view](#) (6 min.)  
[Shawn Wilson](#) further explains (focus on first 10 min. of video)

*- What aspects of your life correspond to Indigenous views? (What aspects of your ancestors lifestyles still remains part of your life?)*

# How this course is design

