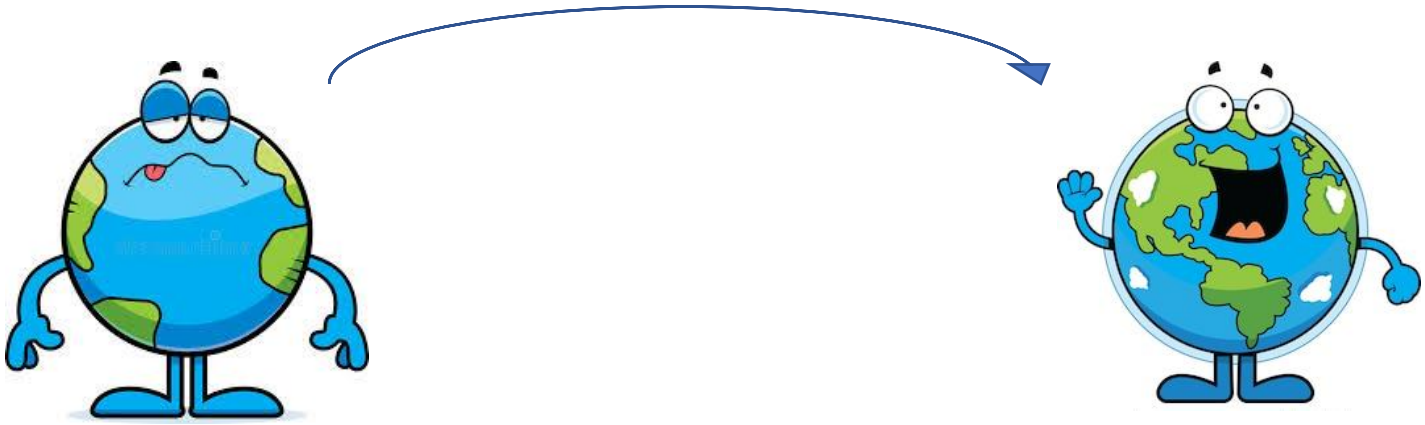
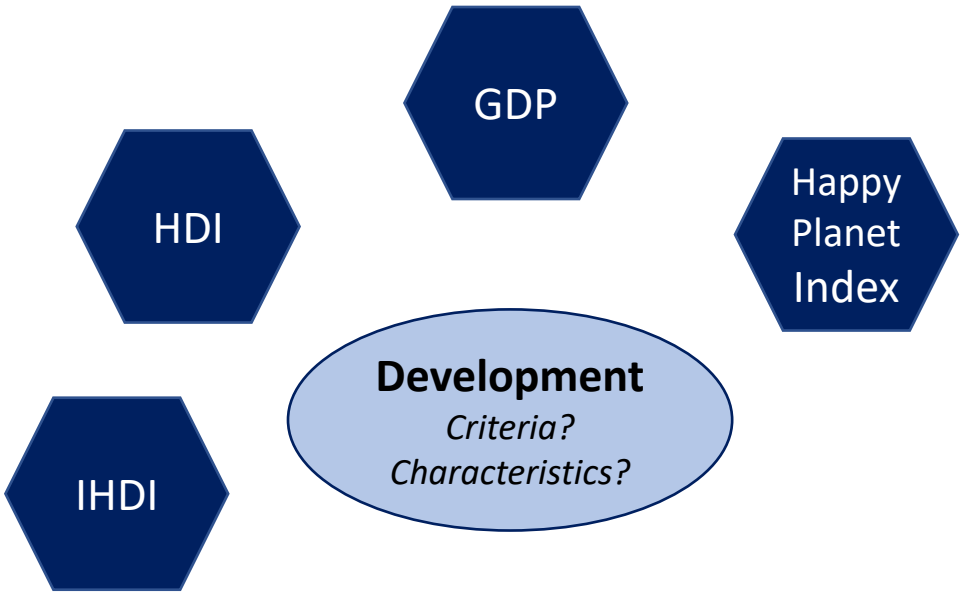
Human-Environment relationships
PPt 2B

Linked to Reading B-4

- What should this route look like?



First, let's recap on last week's themes and tie them to this week's themes…



"The Happy Planet Index measures what matters: sustainable wellbeing for all. It tells us how well nations are doing at achieving long, happy, sustainable lives.
Wealthy Western countries, often seen as the standard of success, do not rank highly on the Happy Planet Index. Instead, several countries in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region lead the way by achieving high life expectancy and wellbeing with much **smaller Ecological Footprints**.
The Happy Planet Index provides a compass to guide nations, and shows that it is possible to live good lives without costing the Earth."
Source

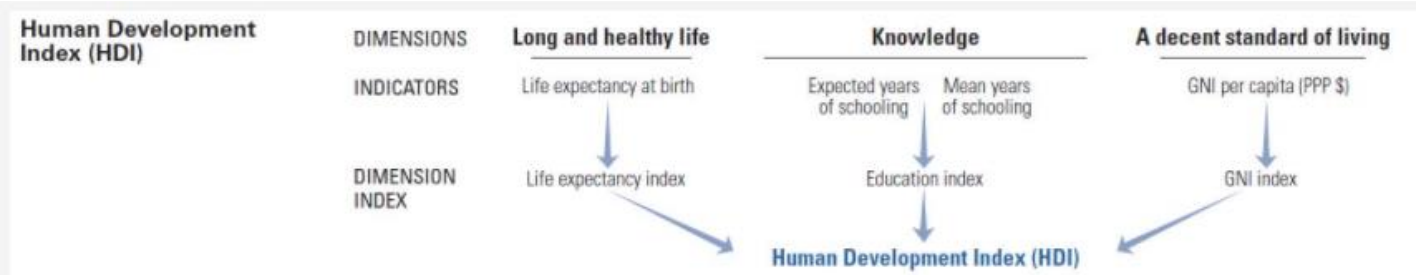
Go to the Happy Planet Index website and answer these questions:

- *What are the 4 criteria with which the HPI is calculated?*

  FYI: Method Paper (to find out how the index is calculated)
- *Play around with the data in its various formats (top left):*
- *Choose 3 countries with very different values.*
- *Can you explain the differences? Do you see a worldwide pattern?*

Standards of Living

“The standard of living dimension is measured by gross national income per capita.**”** Source: UN Development Programme
“The level of wealth and comfort people have in a particular society”
Cambridge dictionary



Quality of Life

“ WHO defines Quality of Life as an individual's perception of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It is a broad ranging concept affected in a complex way by the person's physical health, psychological state, personal beliefs, social relationships and their relationship to salient features of their environment.” **WHO**

- The people of Valuatu have a higher S of L or Q of L in your opinion?

Watch: Vanuatu: Another Kind of Wealth if you haven't already

- Who is best positioned to decide what is good for them and their environment?

Hence: let's go beyond "international development" where foreigners "come to help", even with "bottom-up" approach and with attempts at understanding the local culture.

- What does "going beyond" translates into then?

It means to let people themselves figure out what they or their environment need and listen/act upon to their requests.

I am inviting you to the Fiji Islands, where I experienced, back in 1987, "real" development, low S of L, high Q of L, low footprint and a very healthy physical environment... Listen up!

"World Scientists' Warning to Humanity: A Second Notice"

Source

- *How many scientists signed the World Scientists' Warning to Humanity back in 1992?*
- *What did they warn us about back then?*
- *How any signed the second warning in 2017?*

WORLD SCIENTISTS' WARNING TO HUMANITY

INTRODUCTION Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course. Human activities inflict harsh and often irreversible damage on the environment and on critical resources. If not checked, many of our current practices put at serious risk the future that we wish for human society and the plant and animal kingdoms, and may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner that we know. Fundamental changes are urgent if we are to avoid the collision our present course will bring about.

THE ENVIRONMENT The environment is suffering critical stress:

The Atmosphere Stratospheric ozone depletion threatens us with enhanced ultraviolet radiation at the earth's surface, which can be damaging or lethal to many life forms. Air pollution near ground level, and acid precipitation, are already causing widespread injury to humans, forests, and crops.

Water Resources Heedless exploitation of depletable groundwater supplies endangers food production and other essential human systems. Heavy demands on the world's surface waters have resulted in serious shortages in some 80 countries, containing 40 percent of the world's population. Pollution of rivers, lakes, and groundwater further limits the supply.

person in five lives in absolute poverty without enough to eat, and one in ten suffers serious malnutrition.

No more than one or a few decades remain before the chance to avert the threats we now confront will be lost and the prospects for humanity immeasurably diminished.

WARNING We the undersigned, senior members of the world's scientific community, hereby warn all humanity of what lies ahead. A great change in our stewardship of the earth and the life on it is required, if vast human misery is to be avoided and our global home on this planet is not to be irretrievably mutilated.

WHAT WE MUST DO Five inextricably linked areas must be addressed simultaneously:

1. We must bring environmentally damaging activities under control to restore and protect the integrity of the earth's systems we depend on. We must, for example, move away from fossil fuels to more benign, inexhaustible energy sources to cut greenhouse-gas emissions and the pollution of our air and water. Priority must be given to the development of energy sources matched to Third World needs—small-scale and relatively easy to implement.

Source

According to the 2017 document, "Sustainability transitions come about in diverse ways, and all require civil-society pressure and evidence-based advocacy, political leadership, and a solid understanding of policy instruments, markets, and other drivers."

- *What else would you say is required?* (refer to PPt A & previous slides of this PPt)

Watch Scientists' Warning to Humanity & Business as Un-usual with Stuart Scott (min. 0-17:30).

[The second part of the video will be for Part C of our course]

- *Any links with Part A? Feedback, reflections?*

Among these 39 examples of steps the authors of the Warning suggest:

	NOTE: Below are all direct quotes taken from this source.
a	"prioritizing the enactment of connected well-funded and well-managed reserves for a significant proportion of the world's terrestrial, marine, freshwater, and aerial habitats;
b	maintaining nature's ecosystem services by halting the conversion of forests, grasslands, and other native habitats;
c	restoring native plant communities at large scales, particularly forest landscapes;
d	rewilding regions with native species, especially apex predators, to restore ecological processes and dynamics;
e	developing and adopting adequate policy instruments to remedy defaunation, the poaching crisis, and the exploitation and trade of threatened species;
f	reducing food waste through education and better infrastructure;
g	promoting dietary shifts towards mostly plant-based foods;
h	further reducing fertility rates by ensuring that women and men have access to education and voluntary family-planning services, especially where such resources are still lacking;
i	increasing outdoor nature education for children, as well as the overall engagement of society in the appreciation of nature;
j	divesting of monetary investments and purchases to encourage positive environmental change;
k	devising and promoting new green technologies and massively adopting renewable energy sources while phasing out subsidies to energy production through fossil fuels;
l	revising our economy to reduce wealth inequality and ensure that prices, taxation, and incentive systems take into account the real costs which consumption patterns impose on our environment;
m	estimating a scientifically defensible, sustainable human population size for the long term while rallying nations and leaders to support that vital goal"

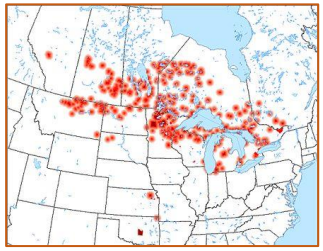
- In which of these would you see Indigenous knowledge fitting?

- Could you think of examples of any of these already happening?

“Sustainable development” & “Sustainability” from an Indigenous Perspective

with Deborah McGregor

Deborah McGregor *is an Anishnabeg and member of the Whitefish River First Nation. She is Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto in the Aboriginal Studies Program and the Department of Geography. Her research focuses on First Nations and environmental issues.*



Anishinaabe Reserves in North America
Source

BTW, this is in APA referencing style

McGregor, Deborah. (2004). Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Sustainable Development: Towards Coexistence. In Blaser, M.; A Feit, H,; McRae, Glenn (Ed.), *In the Way of Development: Indigenous Peoples, Life Projects and Globalization* (pp.72-80). New York: Zed Books.

Full text

I will be reading excerpts from this article which is available online (Full text above).
If you prefer to read it by yourself without hearing me, just skip to about 10 min from now...

While I’m reading, I invite you to watch
The Ojibway Creation Story
(You can listen to the story at your leisure)

The End

P.S. Ignore my reference to “Assignment 1” and to the “Journal” in the recording: this was for Fall 2020.

Bye for now!