

PRESS RELEASE for Monday, August 8, 2016

Title: OHIAS DECLARES GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY

Prepared statement by Bill Callahan, OHIAS's Founder and Interim Director

San Rafael, CA August 8, 2016 – TODAY is Overshoot Day an initiative of the Global Footprint Network and is the day our global population consumes what is sustainable in the course of a year. It's from this date until the end of the year we run a deficit by borrowing more or less from future generations, a debt we can never repay. The first Overshoot occurred early 1970s just after the first Earth Day (USA) when mostly young people rallied around ending a war, fighting injustice and polluters. This date arrives earlier every year due to global population and consumption growth.

Today, 45 years later our human population is consuming one and a half (1.5) times our planet's finite life-sustaining capacity and will continue growing through the end of this century reaching well beyond 2 times or more. This is an extremely unhealthy situation and possibly a breaking point! This event and others we know serve as a WARNING to be prepared for greatly diminished quality of life due to greatly reduced quality and quantity of our planet's finite life-sustaining capacity.

Many people know this especially in the developed world yet continue doing little to change all-consuming, unsustainable, life-endangering lifestyles, often believing and behaving as though money, science, technology, government and a little more time will save us. Let us recall the words, of Walt Kelly a famous cartoonist who drew a poster for the first Earth Day in 1970 which read, "WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND HE IS US." Walt put his finger squarely on us and yet the situation has only worsened, even though we have learned considerably more about our impact since then, our cause and effect upon the health of planet and all life.

OHIAS believes today, Overshoot Day 2016 is an appropriate day to declare a Global Health Emergency to bring greater attention to our world's unprecedented loss of life-sustaining capacity and the need to transform our lives and communities especially in the developed world from over consuming and wasteful, to significantly more efficient and sustainable around our limited resources as our natural finite world requires. In an effort to reduce our consumption and waste especially at the community level OHIAS has developed a working model of a community benefit cooperative where generally abundant and undervalued community capital (natural, built and human) is recovered and transformed

into high value reuse materials and products while creating new business opportunities and jobs for people seeking wholesome work. The model, a self-sustaining, community benefit cooperative owned and operated by the people will be made available through a Creative Commons license.

For all who might still question the need of a declaration and a community benefit cooperative effort here are a few more specifics of things we know about our world and what we can expect over the next 3 decades. We know that over the last 200 years or so human ambition has produced considerable human progress but at huge cost to our planet's finite life-sustaining capacity. So significant an impact that it's being defining as its own unique geological time (epoch), the Anthropocene, a time in geological history when human numbers and progress were so great its impact altered nature and course of our natural world. Our time is also a time of unparalleled numbers of extinction and scientists are calling it "the sixth great extinction." The last great extinction event was 65 million years ago when the dinosaurs disappeared. Today it's the bees, birds, butterfly's and more that are going extinct. This event alone should be warning enough! Are we not far behind?

In 30 years' global population is expected to grow by 2 billion to 9.4 billion (30% more). Also in 30 years the number of global consumers in emerging economies is expected to grow by 3 billion to 4.5 billion (300% more). There's much more we know that's threatening our health today at our own hands: inequity, great thirst and hunger, terror, conflict and more. All these things are important enough to obligate all to live more responsibly and sustainably, protecting and preserving our planet's health, don't you agree?

If we fail to act responsibly today, you can be assured that future generations will know we failed when we knew the cause and consequences of doing too little and moving too slowly.

There's much work to do, yet little time for the change we need, yet there's great and significant opportunity for people and community. We need to reach out and grasp it before we no longer can.

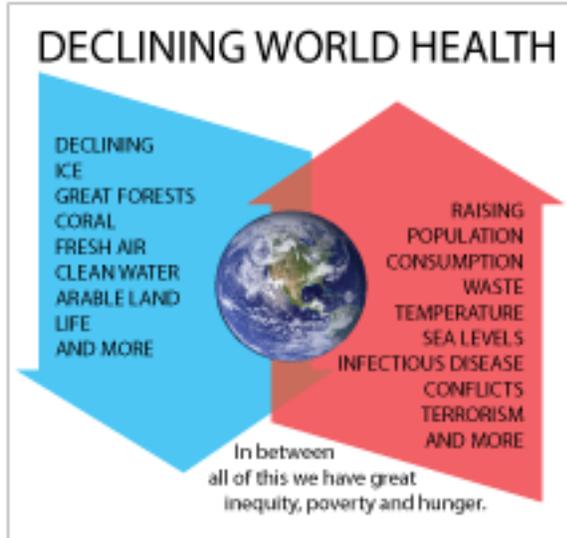
If you agree with this and wish to learn more visit our web site OHIAS.ORG – And please agree with our mission and work, by clicking the AGREE button. It will mean the world for us. Thank you

LINKS:

<http://www.overshootday.org>
<http://www.ohias.org>

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Supporting Graphic:



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