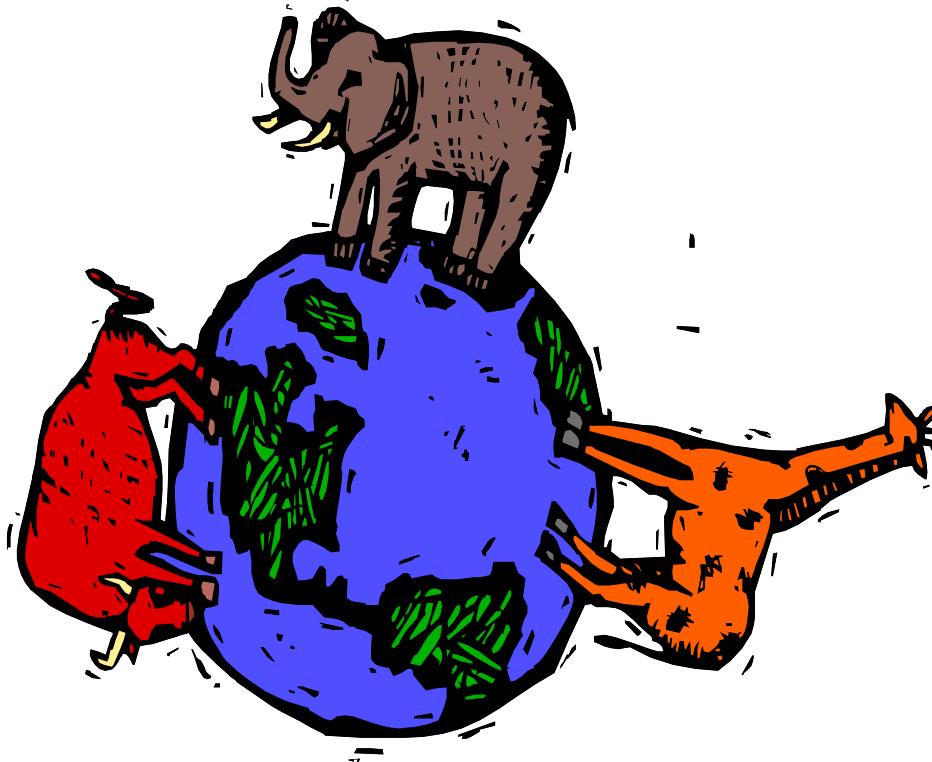


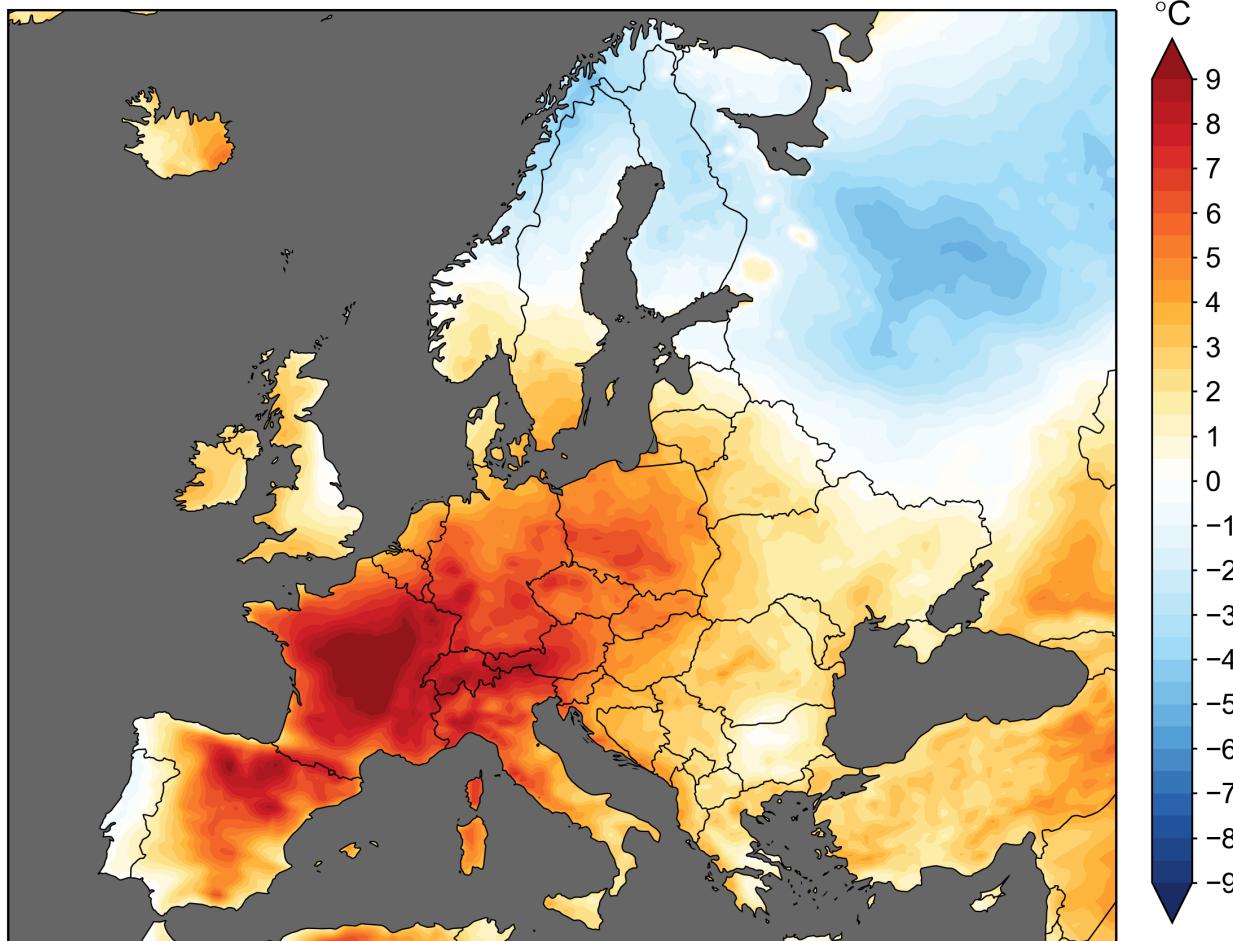
Christianity & Climate Change



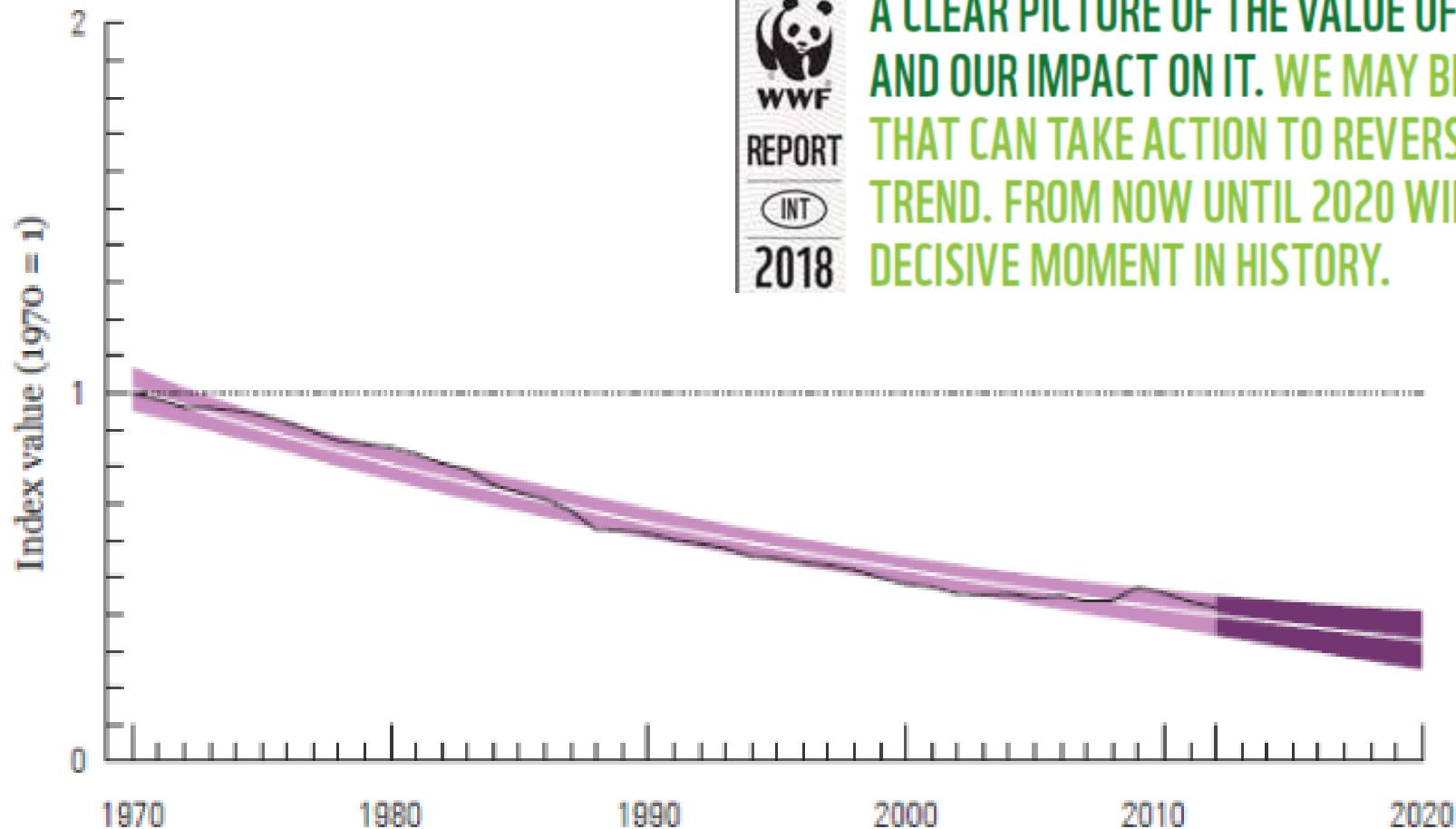
a toxic combination?

Climate Change

Average 2m temperature anomaly for 25-29 June 2019



Biodiversity loss



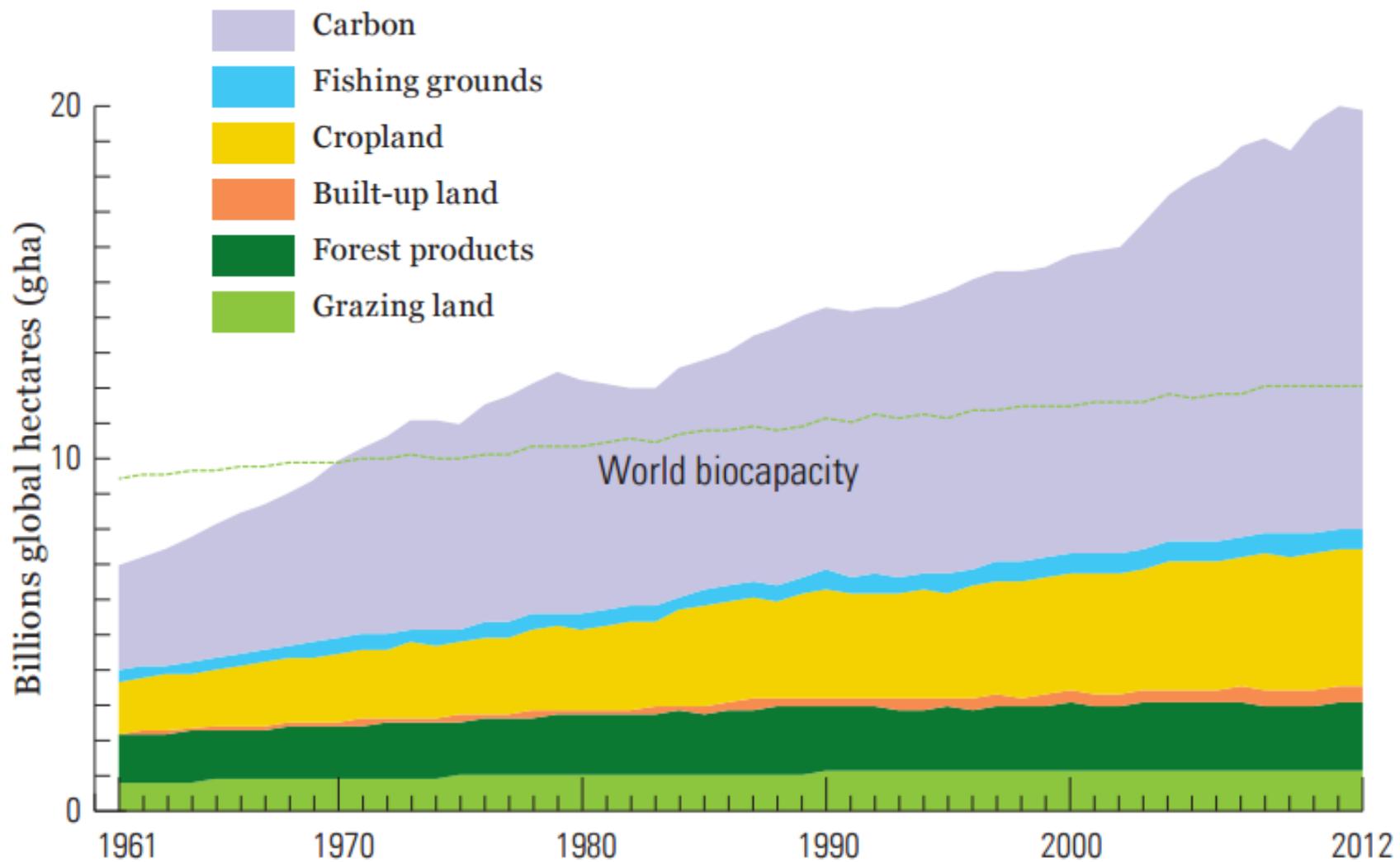
WE ARE THE FIRST GENERATION THAT HAS A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE VALUE OF NATURE AND OUR IMPACT ON IT. WE MAY BE THE LAST THAT CAN TAKE ACTION TO REVERSE THIS TREND. FROM NOW UNTIL 2020 WILL BE A DECISIVE MOMENT IN HISTORY.

60% decline in wildlife populations 1970-2016
67% decline projected by 2020

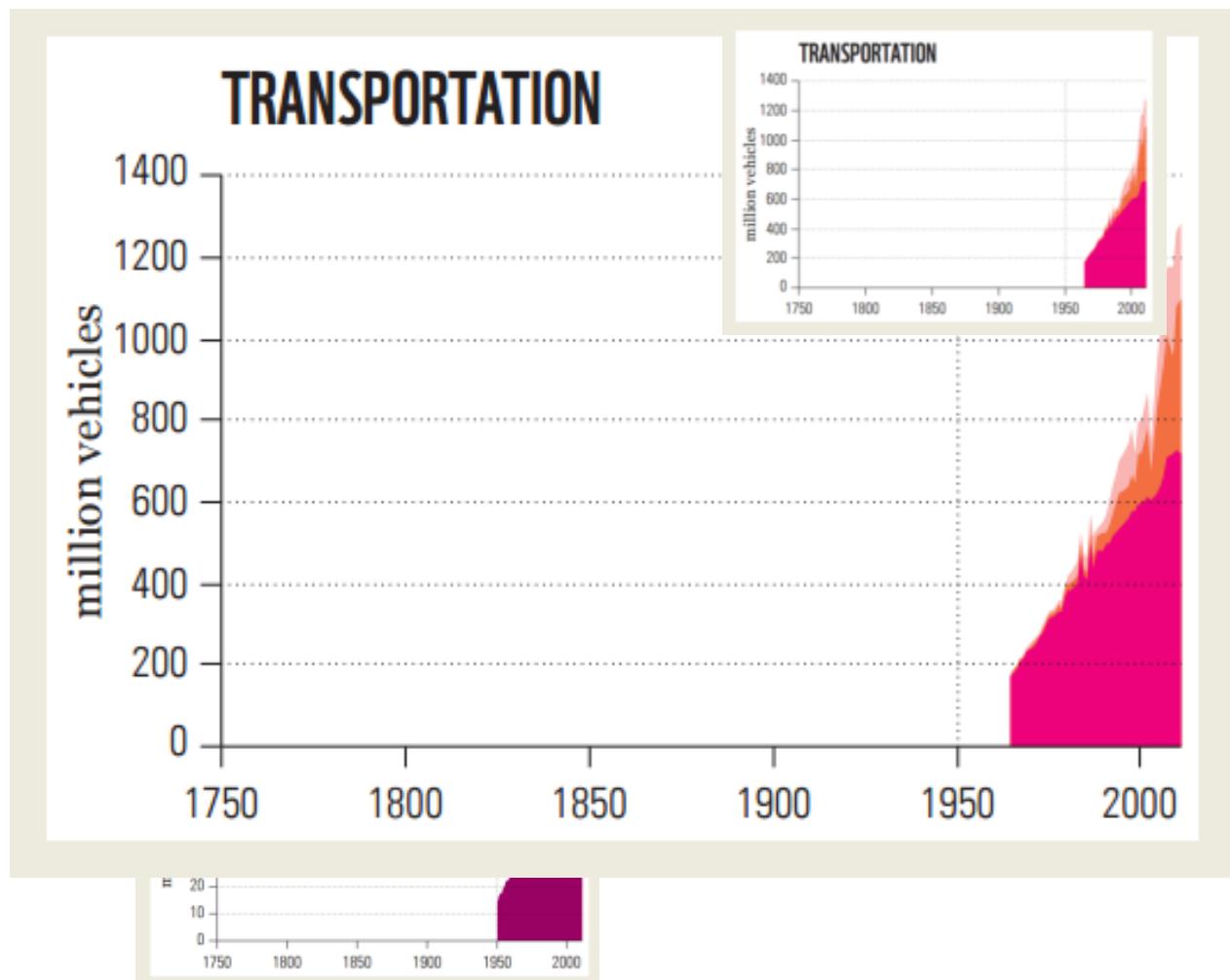
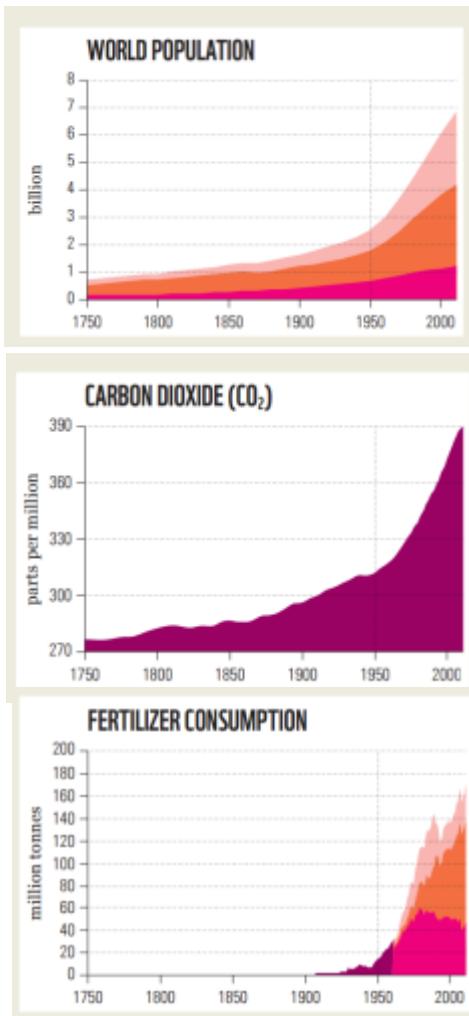
Humanity's exponential impact

- Biodiversity Loss
- Climate Change
- Human Population / Consumption
- Water stress
- Resource Depletion

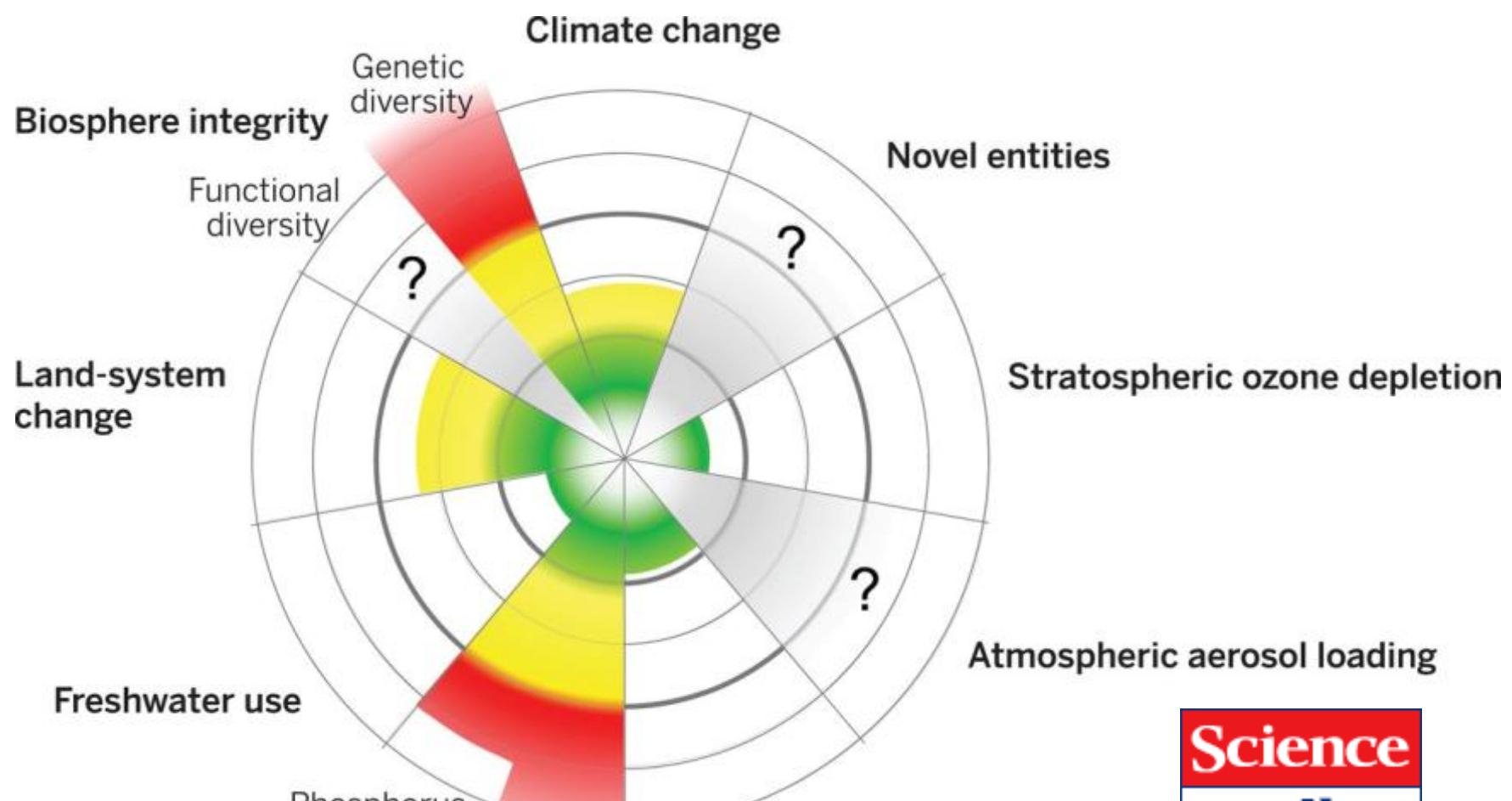
Humanity's exponential impact



Humanity's exponential impact



Planetary Boundaries



Science
AAAS

Will Steffen et al. Science 2015;347:1259855

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ Beyond zone of uncertainty (high risk) | ■ Below boundary (safe) |
| ■ In zone of uncertainty (increasing risk) | ■ Boundary not yet quantified |



Climate Emergency



Christianity & Climate Change: a toxic combination?

- Western Christianity is “the most anthropocentric religion the world has seen”.
- Seeds of environmental destruction in Genesis 1:26-28 which teaches:
 1. Human ‘dominion’ over nature
 2. Humans alone have God’s image



Lynn White Jr.

White, L. T. (1967).
"The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis"
Science Vol. 155, Issue 3767, pp. 1203-1207

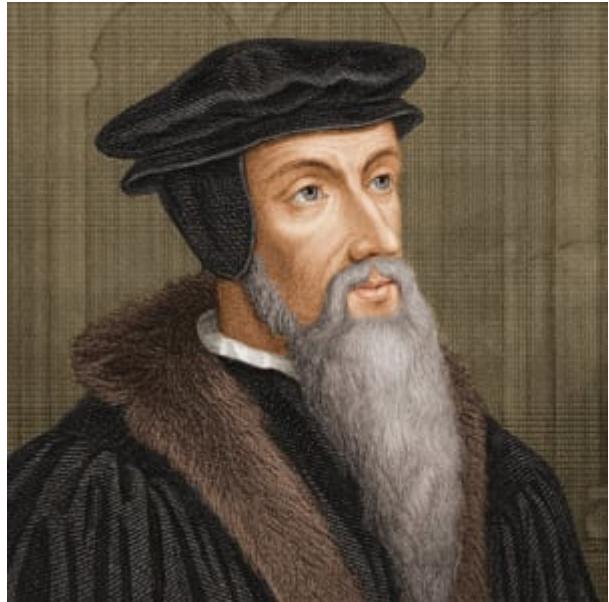
Christianity & Climate Change: a toxic combination?



Origen
185-254 CE

“The Creator, then, has made everything to serve the rational being and his natural intelligence. And for some purposes we need dogs, for example for guarding flocks or herds of cattle or goats or as house-dogs; for others we use beasts to carry burdens or baggage. Similarly the species of lions and bears, leopards and boars, and animals of this sort, are said to have been given to us in order to exercise the seeds of courage in us.”

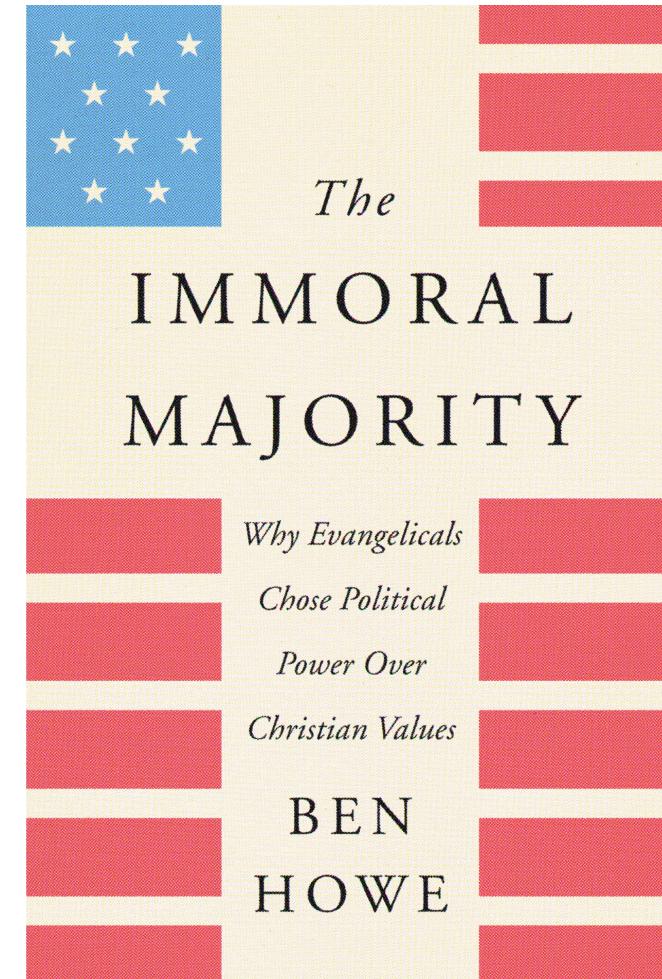
Christianity & Climate Change: a toxic combination?



“The end for which all things
were created [was] that none
of the convenience and
necessities of life might be
wanting to men”

John Calvin 1509-1564 CE

Christianity & Climate Change: a toxic combination?



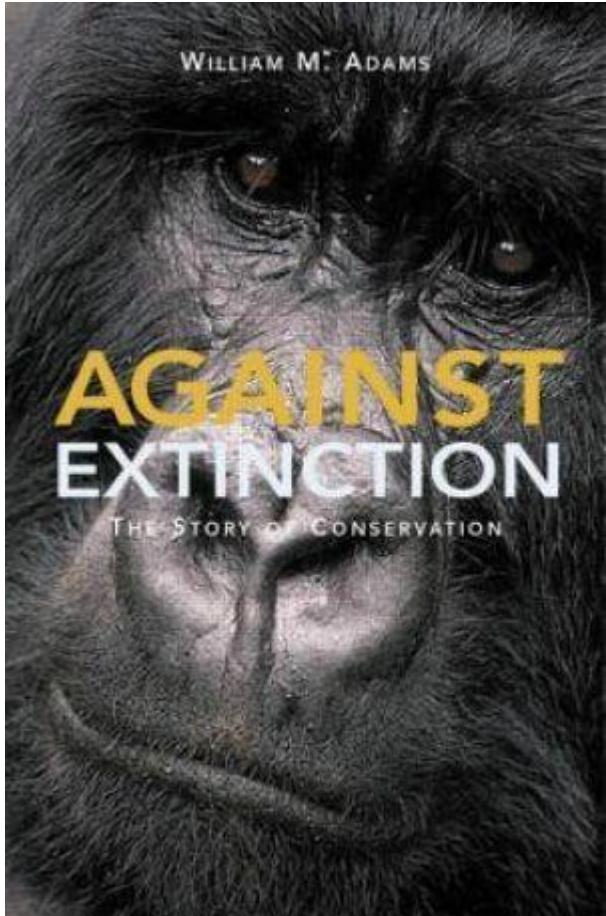
THE DEATH OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

GLOBAL WARMING POLITICS IN A
POST-ENVIRONMENTAL WORLD

BY MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER AND TED NORDHAUS

“Over the last 15 years environmental foundations and organisations have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into combating global warming. We have strikingly little to show for it.

The Death of Environmentalism



“After ten decades of effort,
the threats to nature are not
reduced but redoubled.
The twentieth century saw
conservation’s creation,
but nature’s decline.”

Professor William M. Adams

Environmentalism: “a cause in search of a ‘because’”



The Top Five

5. Local energy generation
4. Treaty beyond Kyoto ...
3. Solar power
2. Faith groups getting active
1. Energy efficiency

“It is time the world’s faith groups reminded us that we have a duty to restore and maintain the ecological balance of the planet.”

Environmentalism: “a cause in search of a ‘because’”



Sustainable development and UK faith groups: Two sides of the same coin?

“There are few sources of authority (let alone wisdom) in addressing these challenges that are not derived from religious or spiritual sources.”



Jonathan Porritt

THE DEATH OF ENVIRONMENTALISM

GLOBAL WARMING POLITICS IN A
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BY MICHAEL SHELLENBERGER AND TED NORDHAUS

“Environmentalists need to tap into the creative worlds of myth-making, even religion, not to better sell narrow and technical policy proposals but rather to figure out who we are and who we need to be.”

How should humans value nature?

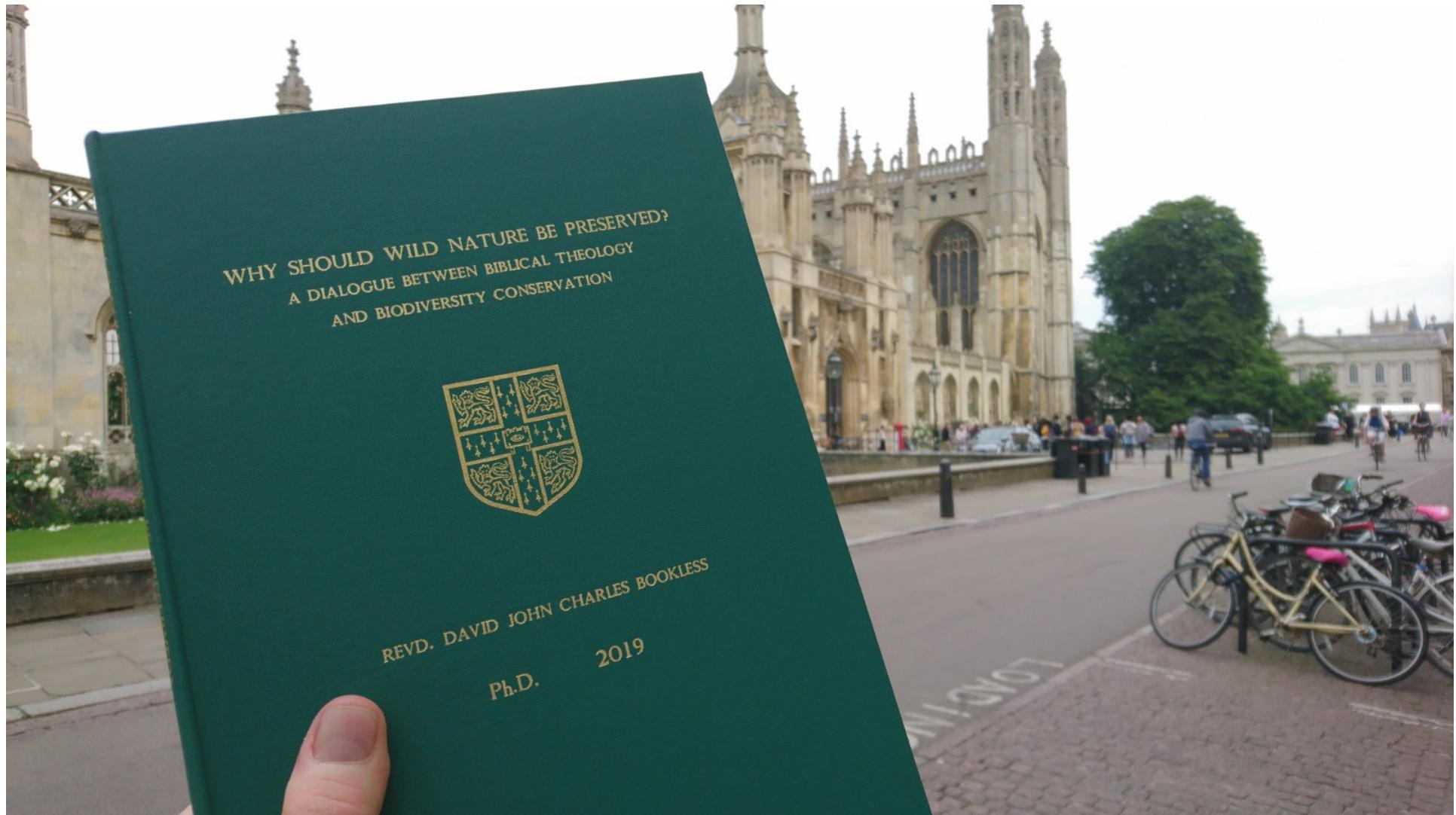


1. Nature for itself
2. Nature despite people
3. Nature for people
4. People and nature

Mace, G. M. (2014). "Whose Conservation? Changes in the perception and goals of nature conservation require a solid scientific basis." *Science* 345 (6204): 1558-1560

Why should wild nature be preserved?

A dialogue between Biblical Theology & Biodiversity Conservation



Christianity & Climate Change: a toxic combination?

“more science and more technology are not going to get us out of the present ecological crises until we find a new religion or rethink our old one.”

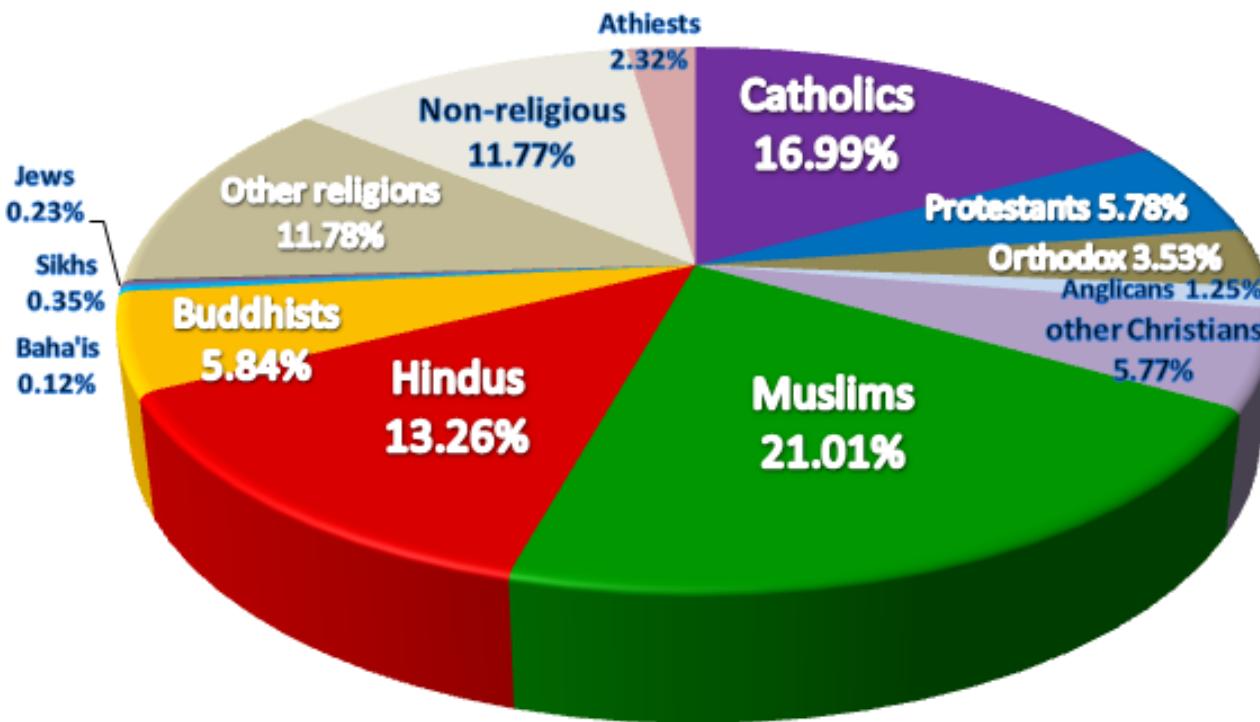


Lynn White Jr.

White, L. T. (1967).
"The Historical Roots of our Ecologic Crisis"
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Religion is still relevant

World Religions by percentage (2007 est.)



Globally, 82% say religion is important in daily life

Religions have material resources

“The mainstream faiths
are often important
owners of land and major
investors.”

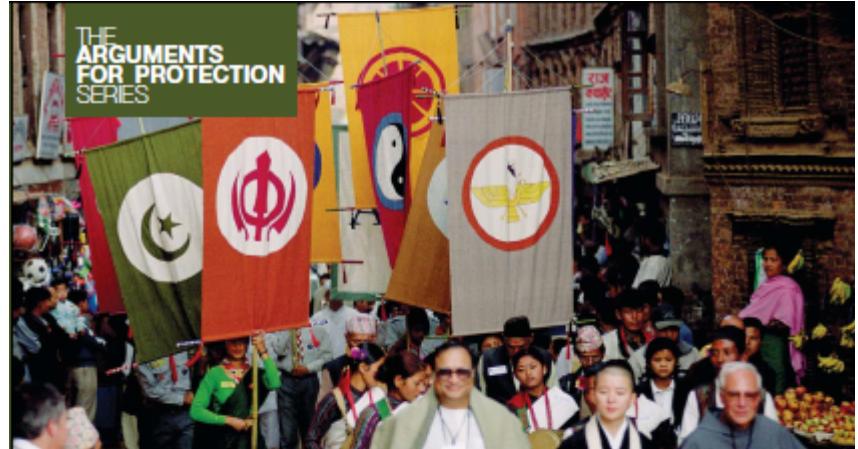
WWF, 2005



3iG

THE INTERNATIONAL
INTERFAITH
INVESTMENT GROUP

Sacred sites & Biodiversity Hotspots



Beyond Belief



Linking faiths and protected areas to support biodiversity conservation

A research report by WWF, Equilibrium and Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)

Biblical Wisdom

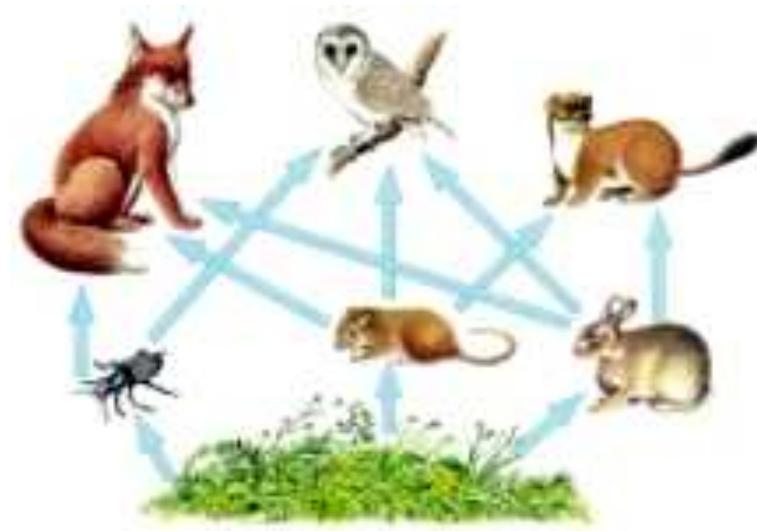
Values & Virtues for a Sustainable Future

- **Interdependence:** we're in this together
- **Vocation:** an eccentric orientation
- **Wholism:** seeing the big picture
- **Localism:** rootedness and 'incarnation'

- **Wonder:** the capacity to receive as gift
- **Humility:** createdness & creatureliness
- **Restraint:** enough is enough
- **Faith, Hope & Love:** the indivisible trinity

Faith-based Wisdom

Interdependence: Community of Creation



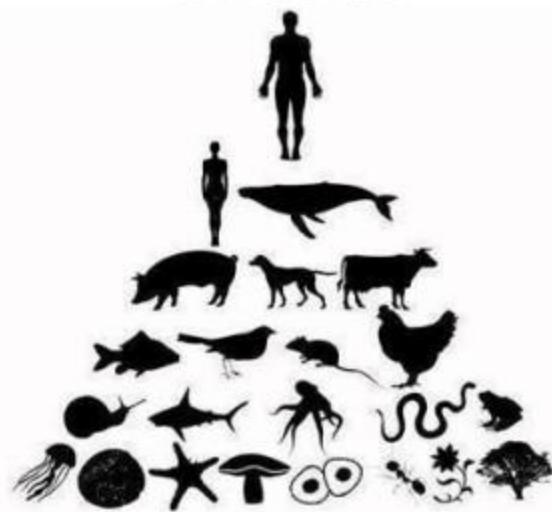
Psalm104:10-31

Wonder at the beauty, integrity and intricacy of nature
'People within nature'

Faith-based Wisdom

Vocation: An Eccentric Orientation

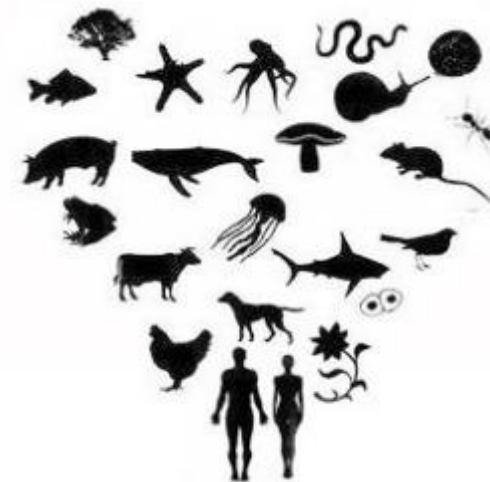
EGO



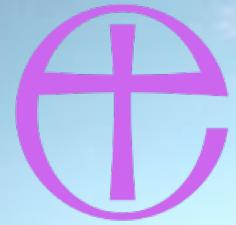
ECO



THEO♪



knowing our place in serving and preserving



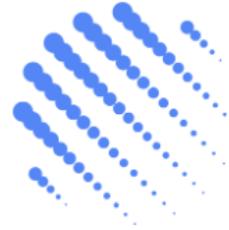
THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Environment Working Group





THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Transition
Pathway
Initiative

- Co-founded by the Church Commissioners
 - £4trillion under management
 - Assesses companies' low-carbon future
 - Uses shareholder power to challenge

Investors shine spotlight on coal groups over climate change risk

Church of England leads group of funds urging miners to demonstrate emission cuts



US utilities under pressure to cut emissions further

Lag behind European rivals creates long-term investment risk, study finds



God-given vocation: Climate Science

The New York Times

Opinion

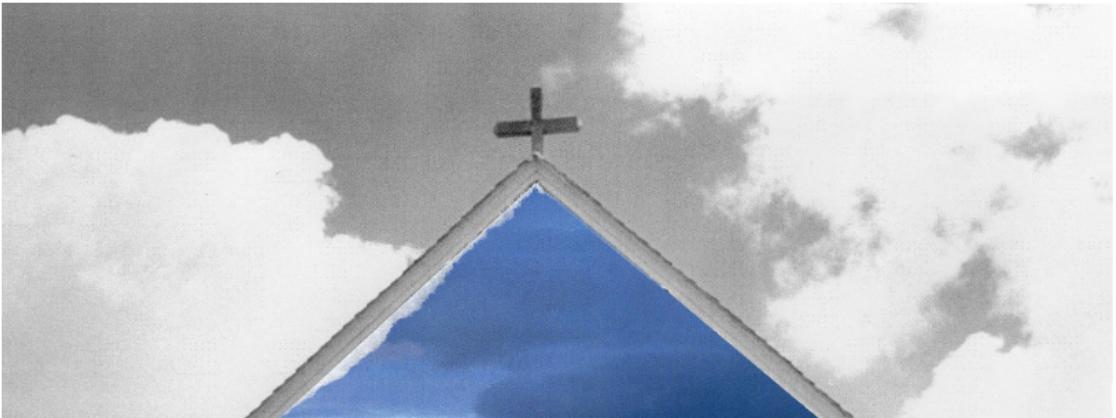
I'm a Climate Scientist Who Believes in God. Hear Me Out.

Global warming will strike hardest against the very people we're told to love: the poor and vulnerable.

By Katharine Hayhoe
Dr. Hayhoe is a professor and co-directs the Climate Center at Texas Tech University.

Oct. 31, 2019





Professor
Katharine
Hayhoe

Faith-based Wisdom

Wholism: Seeing the big picture



Creation



Fall



Israel



Jesus



New Creation

The Bible from beginning to end

Faith-based Wisdom

Wholism: Seeing the big picture



“oikos”

Restraint: respecting planetary boundaries

Faith-based Wisdom Wholism: Seeing the big picture

5 Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. **6** Marry and have sons and daughters; Increase in number there; do not decrease. **7** Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile.

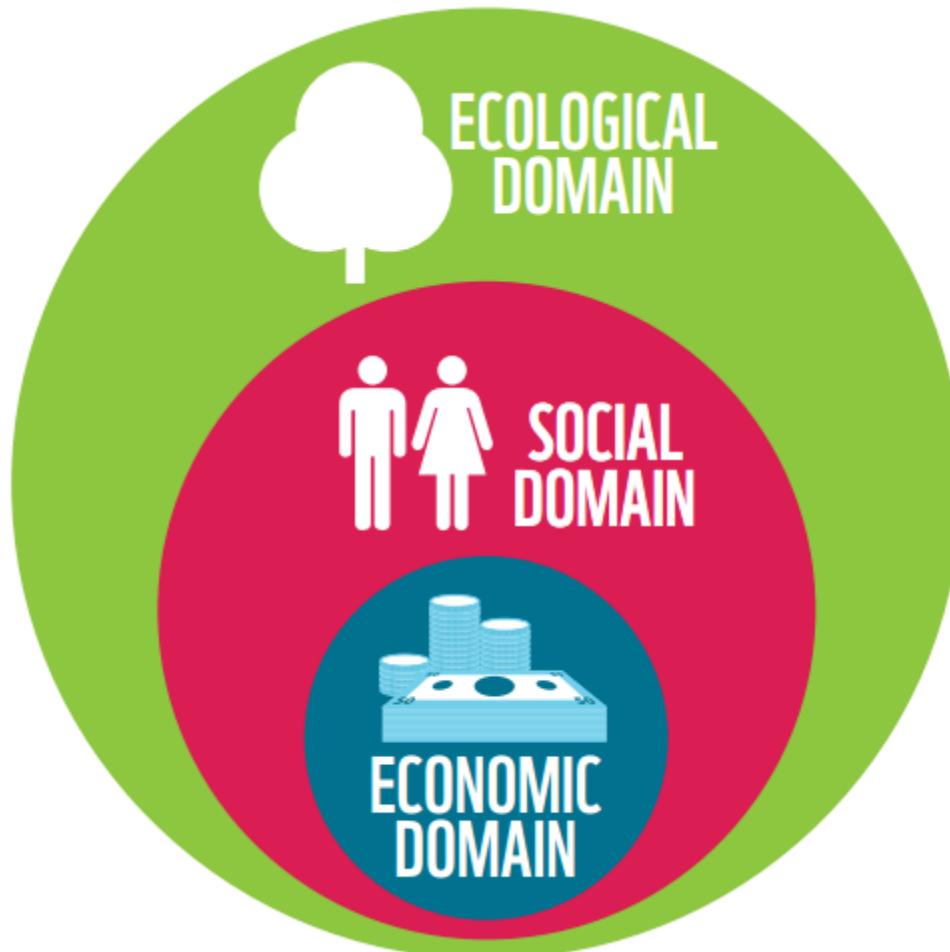
Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.' ... **11** For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11

Transformation of ...
ecological / social / economic & political / spiritual

Faith-based Wisdom

Wholism: Seeing the big picture



Faith-based Wisdom

Localism: rootedness and ‘incarnation’



“Any tree without roots
will cause damage.
It’s the same with a child.”
Pardeep Singh Rai

Faith-based Wisdom Localism: rootedness and ‘incarnation’



INTERNATIONAL
ROCHA
Conservation and Hope

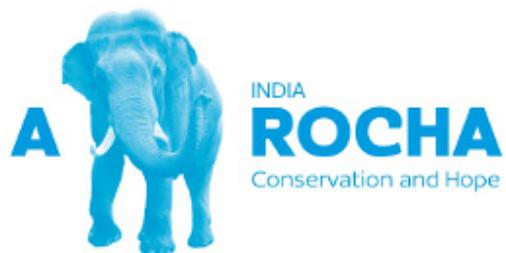
www.arocha.org

Faith, Hope and Love in tangible form



KENYA
ROCHA
Conservation and Hope









GHANA
ROCHA
Caring for God's Creation

Atewa forest Bauxite? Biodiversity?



70 critically endangered species

Richest forest for butterflies in West Africa

Species rich: 1,000 plant, 230 bird, 50+
mammal

Water supply?

- water supply for 5 million people

Faith-based Wisdom Values & Virtues for a Sustainable Future

- **Interdependence:** we're in this together
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-
- **Wonder:** the capacity to receive as gift
 - **Humility:** createdness & creatureliness
 - **Restraint:** enough is enough
 - **Faith, Hope & Love:** the indivisible trinity

Wonder: receiving the world as a gift



Humility: learning from nature

Jeremiah 8:7 “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord.”

Humility leading to Lament



Restraint: Contentment with enough



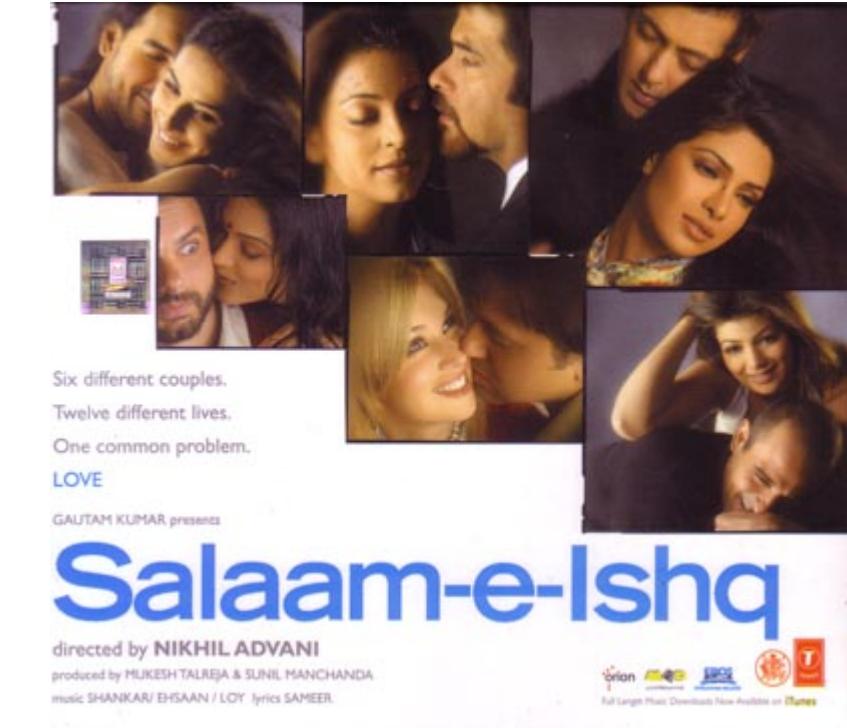
- find others to keep you on track
- take one step at a time, and don't punish yourself!
- food ... energy ... transport ... waste ... simplify!

Hope: God's commitment to Creation

“Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything ...” Acts 3:21

“I am making everything new.” Revelation 21.5

“The creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay.”
Romans 8.21



“It’s a fact of future truth”

“The earth is
the Lord’s ...



... and
everything in
it.” Psalm 24.1