

Sierra del Divisor National Park, Peru

## Preserving our tropical forests

“Reaching a CO<sub>2</sub>-equilibrated world without the beauty of our natural ecosystems wouldn’t be a world worth living in”.



**Lima/London, December 2023** -. It seems evident, almost intuitive: to invest in carbon emissions reductions and carbon capture is the most important defy of humanity in the next seven decades. We should focus all our efforts on renewable energy and technological carbon capture.

*J.C Gonzalez Aybar*

If we have read Bill Gates book on how to win the climate challenge and his numerous interviews on the subject, we are definitively convinced. And Bill is not wrong. He is quite right.

However, we could win the climate challenge, and still, be stuck with a shitty state of the world: polluted water, polluted oceans, extreme climate events -other than warming-, degraded land, desertification, severe rural poverty, acute migration crisis and urban collapse, high crime, among many other pity social and environmental issues.

Just try to imagine the stability of our political systems and social contract, in the west and in the east, north and south of the equator line, in liberal democracies, hybrid systems or one-party states. You’ll be terrified by the images transiting through your mind. It’s not about democracy or autocracy, every political system, already under high stress, would collapse in a world where our natural ecosystems also collapse. There is no way out.

The climate challenge is big, but it’s becoming bigger and unsolvable by our rapid and massive destruction of our natural ecosystems, principally our rainforests and our oceans. Even if new technological solutions appear at an unprecedented scale and pace, if we keep destroying our natural ecosystems at the same time, the arrival line will always be several miles ahead of us. We won’t make it. It’s mathematical. The numbers don’t add up.

More importantly, imagine we could make it by a technological miracle: we may make it to the climate solution arrival line just to find a dead world, equilibrate in CO<sub>2</sub> but unlivable for human beings and most fauna and flora, with none or with extreme low quality of life.

### Reimagining the beauty of our world

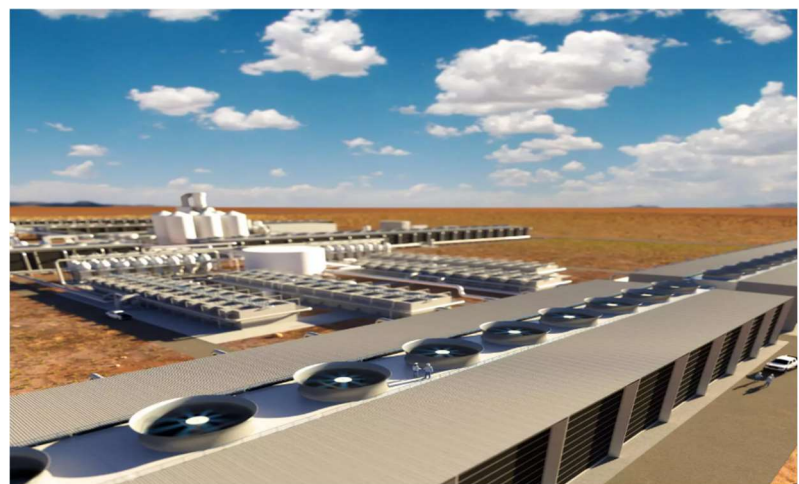
“*Man shall not live by bread alone*” it has been thought for centuries. Beauty shall be added to what humanity necessarily needs to have a meaningful life. And the beauty of nature is unmatched.



*La corniche near Monaco, Claude Monet (1884)*

Reaching a CO<sub>2</sub>-equilibrated world, having destroyed the beauty of our natural ecosystems, our rainforests, our oceans, our glaciers, and our mountains, won’t be a world where I would like my children to live in.

I assume that’s the case for you, too. But maybe I’m wrong. Maybe it’s an air con world, with trillion trees monocultures, numerous direct air carbon capture facilities in our new very large and very sunny deserts and electric vehicles for all what you really like. And I respect that, but I beg to differ.



*DACCs facility, imagined (from Airbus website, <https://shorturl.at/oGKRX>)*