

WHAT IS A SUSTAINABLE HUMAN POPULATION? (V4)

We all live on a finite planet with finite resources, so the size of a sustainable human population must depend solely on the global average lifestyle or resource consumption.

Clearly, we cannot all consume as much as the most wealthy people on the planet do.

In fact, the 7.7 Billion of us there are now should all be living more like the average Sri Lankan, but instead we are all living more like the average Romanian does.

Like increasing a bank overdraft that cannot be repaid, this situation cannot continue.

Yet, the size of our overdraft from the "bank of natural resources" still increases every year!

Clearly the only solution is to reduce the consumption of the highest consuming people on the planet first, because too many of the poorest people are already suffering deprivation.

Worse still, the world population is still growing by a Billion every 12 years!

Obviously, this growth in demand cannot continue either, so the only solution to this problem is to reduce birth rates to well below replacement everywhere as soon as possible.

If we do not take both these actions together and at the same time now; pretty soon the planet will fail to provide enough resources to adequately support enough of the population. That will cause many arguments and wars over the remaining resources, and ultimately huge human suffering; quite probably a lot worse that caused by climate change!

If everyone lived like this country's people do, a sustainable population would be about this many #

North America (I.e. USA or Canada)	1.5 Billion
Scandinavia	2 Billion
United Kingdom	2.5 Billion
Spain/Portugal	3 Billion
China	3.5 Billion
Romania	4 Billion
Algeria	5 Billion
Albania	6 Billion
Indonesia	7 Billion
Sri Lanka	8 Billion
Philippines	9 Billion
Indian	10 Billion
Kenya/Nigeria	11 Billion
Ethiopia	12 Billion
Madagascar/Zambia	13 billion
North Korea	14 Billion
Pakistan/Bangladesh	15 Billion
Afghanistan/Yemen	16 Billion

Note.

Assuming the UK became completely self-sufficient, a sustainable UK population would be less than 17 million instead of the 67 million it is now. #

Similarly for the USA, a sustainable population would be less than 150 million instead of the 330 million it is now #

Based on Global Footprint Network data 2019, analysed by Bill Dowling in August 2020.