

A SUSTAINABLE WORLD POPULATION

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Indices of resource depletion and other indicators inimical to sustainability, such as pollution, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration and mean temperature of the Earth's surface, are all proportional to population and mean gross domestic product (GDP) *per capita*. In order to combat the imminent threat of a catastrophic collapse of our present way of life, it would therefore appear that either population or mean GDP/capita must be drastically reduced. This paper focuses on the first possible remedy. A counterargument to population reduction is the notion that third way exists, namely a vast improvement in the effectiveness of resource utilization, an idea that certainly has merit; it is proposed that the more brains there are on Earth, the more abundant the emergence of new transformative technologies for achieving that third way. Evidence for the link between population and creativity is critically examined. One corollary of that link is the desirability of diminishing human body size. The appalling global epidemic of obesity scrutinized in this light.