

SECURING A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL

**‘A MANIFESTO TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL’
- A CALL FOR EMERGENCY ACTION**

— A SUMMARY —

SUMMARY

AS GUARDIANS FOR HEALTH AND THOSE WHO ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO SECURING THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET FOR THE WELLBEING OF CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS FOR ALL, WE CALL FOR THE URGENT ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS AT GLOBAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY LEVELS. WITH CURRENT IPCC PROJECTIONS PLACING US ON A TRAJECTORY FOR A 3-4°C TEMPERATURE RISE BY 2100 AND 3-10°C BY 2200, COMBINED WITH THE INCREASING RISK FROM TIPPING POINTS, THAT COULD INCREASE TEMPERATURES AND SEA LEVELS FURTHER, WE STAND AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR PLANET.

Moreover, we are at the crossroads to our very existence, as well as that of the majority of life on this Earth, having already seen an estimated 60% decline of our mammals, birds, fish and reptiles since 1970, with further estimates of nearly one million species at risk of extinction over the coming decades, we stand at the threshold of a sixth mass extinction. Over the next decade we are the generation that holds the responsibility to reverse the epidemic acceleration of carbon emissions and to urgently stabilise the risks from runaway climate change.



“The Planet is Sick – and we all need
to work together to ensure the health
and wellbeing of future generations”

HE Bertie Ahern, Co-Chair of the InterAction Council,
former Taoiseach, Prime Minister, Republic of Ireland

AS GUARDIANS FOR PROTECTING OUR HEALTH AND WELLBEING, NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS, WE ADVOCATE FOR THIS 'MANIFESTO TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL' WHICH CALLS FOR EMERGENCY ACTION, BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING OVERARCHING VISION AND PRINCIPLES:

VISION

To Secure a Healthy Planet now and for the Well-Being of Future Generations.

PRINCIPLES

To place the Health of the Planet and the well-being of current and future generations at the heart of decision making

To act with speed and scale, with the urgent establishment of an Emergency Response mechanism at Global, National and Community levels

MANIFESTO TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL – A CALL FOR EMERGENCY ACTION:

01

SECURITY

A Critical Care Response for the Planet's Health: with the declaration of a Climate and Environmental Crisis and the urgent establishment of an Emergency Response mechanism to ensure the rapid reversal of carbon emissions, the stabilisation of risks from runaway climate change and the protection of vulnerable populations.

03

FLOURISHING

A Flourishing Planet for All: combat denial and eco-anxiety by promoting sustainable wellbeing by maximising multiple health and environmental benefits, including healthy eco-systems, and multi-sector, systems based urban planning and 'One Health for One Planet Education' approaches across the life-course, to create connected communities and cyclical economies, for a flourishing Planet for all.

Security

AIR



04

GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship for a Healthy Planet: every organisation and community to establish a 'Guardian for the Planet's Health' responsible for: Planetary first aid, Emergency responses, Guardianship, Advocacy, Solutions, Unifying action and Sustaining a flourishing planet (PEGASUS); enabled by a Healthy Planet Index.

Guardianship

LAND

Planet

People

Place

WATER

Recovery

02

RECOVERY

Rehabilitation and Resilience: to enhance the recovery of the Planet's Biodiversity and Ecosystems, creating healthy air, water, land and food systems, scaled up through Universal Health Systems for Planet, Place and People.

FOOD

Flourishing

05

COLLABORATIVE

Community and Health Professional Action: everyone can become a community 'Guardian for the Planet's Health' to: protect and strengthen resilience by greening communities; reduce consumption and waste, recycle and use clean energy and transport; walk, cycle and communicate digitally and shift to healthy, planet friendly foods. Community members, including health professionals can lead by example with quality services and promote healthy green communities with resilient families.

OUR PLANET A CRITICALLY ILL 'PATIENT'

If we were to consider our Planet as a Patient, as health professionals we would be seriously concerned about their health and would quickly diagnose that 'Patient Planet' was critically sick. A rapid assessment of the Planet's Health would find an escalating fever with difficulties breathing, a faltering circulation with metabolic acidosis and a toxic status, failing liver and kidney functions, a pale and blotchy skin indicating signs of shock and a rapidly declining mental state. From the perspective of the Planet's Doctor, we would urgently send 'Patient Planet' straight to Critical Care for emergency resuscitation and stabilisation. From an evolutionary perspective, in many respects human systems can be seen as a microcosm of the Earth's living biosphere.

In some respects, humans have inadvertently acted like a cancer, feeding upon resources, and expanding without due regard for the harm we are causing to the rest of our home, Planet Earth. Although there are significant differences in scale and functioning of some of these systems, in terms of appreciating the seriousness of the Earth's failing eco-systems it is helpful to consider the analogies of the Planet's Health with that of Human Systems, as outlined below:

ANALOGY OF THE 'PATIENT AS A PLANET' REQUIRING A CRITICAL CARE RESPONSE

As physicians, we would diagnose an escalating fever with a critical risk of multiple organ failure and send 'Patient Planet' straight to Critical Care:



FEVER

Escalating temperature - 1 Centigrade now, rapidly **rising to 3-4C** by 2100 and 3-10C by 2200 – a temperature of 3-4C is considered a medical emergency and risks fatality in humans



RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

Escalating **carbon emissions** with CO₂ at 411ppm; **air pollution** dangerously high, with 91% of places exceeding WHO guidelines; an estimated 32% of global forest lost since pre-industrial times; increasing **wildfires** and continued **loss of global forests**



CIRCULATORY SYSTEM

33% oceans **harvested at unsustainable** rates; **freshwater scarcity**; oceans 30% increased **acidity**, having absorbed 50% of post industrial carbon emissions and 90% of the excess heat – equivalent to 36C in terms of thermal load, and is **melting ice sheets** and increasing water vapor that creates stronger storm systems



ORGANS

Liver and kidneys - increasing pollution from **heavy metals** and **toxins** and a tenfold increase in **plastic pollution** since 1980; over 85% of **wetlands lost** between 1700-2000 and 50% **coral reefs lost** since 1870s – reducing coastal protection, and earth's ability to detoxify and regenerate



SKIN

Increasing **desertification**, **mudslides**, and **depleted agricultural land** with 23% reduction in productive land due to land degradation; **loss of sea ice** and permafrost with subsequent **methane release**



MENTAL HEALTH

Biodiversity estimated 60% **decline for mammals, birds, fish and reptiles** since 1970 – with an estimated one million at risk of extinction over the coming decades – the rate of loss accelerating and is tens to hundreds times higher than the average in the last 10 million years

THIS MANIFESTO IS IN RESPONSE TO THE GROWING URGENCY OF THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS WE FACE, REFLECTED BY A SERIES OF HIGH LEVEL INTERNATIONAL AND UN REPORTS OVER THE LAST YEAR, SUPPORTED BY AN INCREASING EVIDENCE BASE, (IPCC 2018).

In response to this global threat, and in order to secure our own future well-being, the InterAction Council – a group of former world leaders – have called for fearless leadership, emphasising the need for strengthening responsibility and multi-sector governance for the Planet's health, (The Dublin Charter for One Health, 2017). This Manifesto, recognises and supports existing international mechanisms and efforts to achieve global goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the aspirations of the established Climate Change Commitments, as well as the role of UN and international organisations and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction in building capacity and scaling up responses.

References: IPBES (2019); IPCC (2018); WHO (2016); NASA (2019); FAO (2019); WMO (2019); World Wildlife Report (2018); IUCN (2016); Drawdown (2017); Lewis & Maslin (2018); Kumar & Clark (2016). Note: the Planet = Eco-systems and Biodiversity, including all life forms

DIAGNOSIS AND PROGNOSIS – WILL ‘PATIENT PLANET’ DIE?:

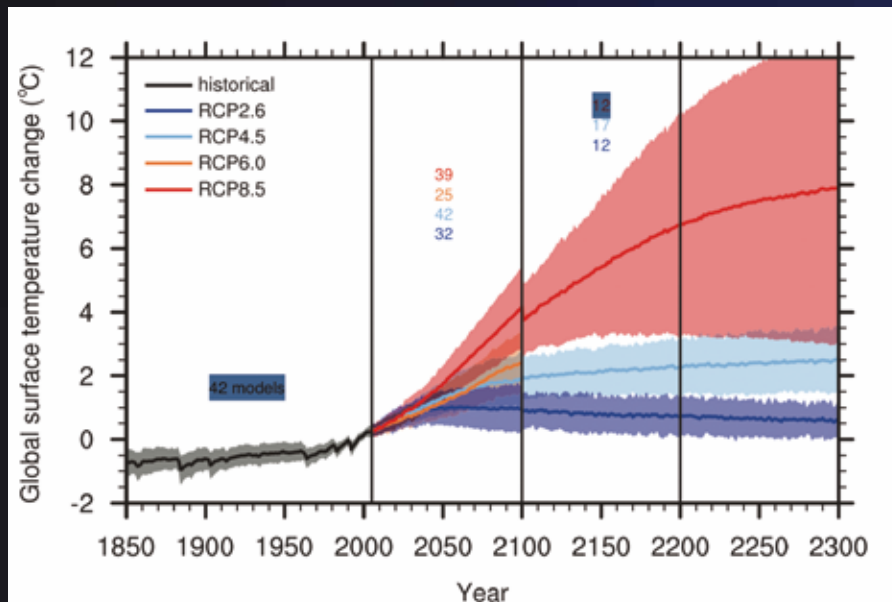
AS THE FAMILY OF ‘PATIENT PLANET’, BEING LED INTO THE VISITOR’S ROOM, OUR KEY CONCERN SHOULD BE – WILL OUR HOME ON EARTH, THE BIOSPHERE, DIE?

A mere 3-4°C increase in a human body is considered a medical emergency and can be fatal – what are the consequences for Patient Planet’s Biosphere, and ultimately our own fate?

The worst extinction in history, during the Permian epoch, occurred approximately 250 million years ago, at a temperature range of 8-10°C from our pre-industrial levels, and is referred to as ‘the great dying’ where: 96% of marine species died out – from acidic oceans and loss of oxygen, along with 70% of land species, including most of the planet’s trees, insects, plants and microbes being made extinct; (Penn et al, 2018).

Based upon our current temperature trajectories of 3-4°C by the end of this century, if we carry on with business as usual, by 2200, as can be seen by the IPCC chart below, we are projected to have an average global temperature increase of between 3-10°C – placing us in range of creating another ‘great dying’ extinction event.

Global surface temperature changes from 1850- 2300 (IPCC, 2018)



Aside from the future risk of our Planet’s Biosphere largely dying from such a mass extinction, with the consequent impact that will have upon all of life’s future existence, we should be seriously concerned by the rapid rate of our current loss of biodiversity, where on average an estimated 60% of mammals, birds, fish and reptiles studied have declined since 1970, (Living Planet Report, 2018). Whilst the UN recently estimated that nearly one million species, which represents 1 in 4, are at risk of extinction over the coming decades, (IPBES, 2019). Our shrinking biodiversity, due to expanding urbanization and modern farming methods, have led to the rapid decline of species that are critical to our food eco-systems, including insects, pollinators, worms, bacteria and fungi, is of particular concern for our own future global food security, (FAO, 2019).

A CRITICAL CARE RESPONSE

A quick assessment of ‘Patient Planet’s’ critical state of health would warrant urgent resuscitation and stabilisation in a critical care unit. This should involve a rapid reduction of carbon emissions over the next decade, including actively sequestering carbon to lower key drivers of increasing temperatures. Stabilisation of ocean temperatures and acidity may also be required. The UN recently declared that we have to reduce global carbon emissions by 45% by 2030, in order to keep to within safe limits of 1.5°C, with a target of zero emissions by 2050. This will require urgent and large-scale action with an estimated annual investment of 2.5% of global GDP to rapidly reduce carbon emissions, including carbon capture (IPCC 2018).

Whilst ‘Patient Planet’ is in critical care, we also need to rapidly stabilise risks to escalating temperatures and multiple organ failure. The IPCC provides a robust global scientific consensus on where there is relative certainty on climate change, (IPCC, 2018). Meanwhile, there is mounting evidence, based upon geological records and current observations about the potential risks from tipping points and feedback loops, (Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2018). Tipping points, such as escalating wildfires, are where relatively stable earth systems reach a threshold that creates rapid shifts to another state, for example, as happens with the cascading effects of shock and multi-organ failure in human systems that can cause rapid death.

The Stockholm Resilience Centre, (2018) recently released a report on the risks of tipping points that could cascade into further positive feedback loops and result in a runaway ‘hot

house Earth’ scenario. This could push us suddenly out of the -1°C to +1°C range we have experienced over the last 800,000 years, that has provided relatively stable conditions for human civilisation to develop in, and potentially result in global average temperature rises this century of 4-5°C with sea level rises of 10-60 metres. Based upon past geological epochs, we already know that certain tipping points have occurred at our current carbon emission levels and that many have occurred within the range of 1-3°C increases in global temperatures. This is why we need to act now - in order to prevent catastrophic and irreversible changes.

From a critical care perspective, a full risk assessment would be undertaken, with urgent mechanisms put in place to stabilise ‘Patient Planet’ in order to reverse and prevent thresholds being crossed that could lead to further escalating temperatures and ecosystem collapse.

WE NEED TO ACT WITH SPEED AND SCALE: A CRITICAL CARE RESPONSE TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL

Critical Care Response:

Resuscitation
Stabilisation
Diagnosis
Treatment
Recovery
Rehabilitation
Prevention
Promotion




Actions (urgent):

Security - a ‘Critical Care Response for the Planet’s Health’
Recovery - Rehabilitation and Resilience

Actions (long-term):

A **Flourishing** - Planet for All
Guardianship - for a Healthy Planet
Collaborative - Community and Health Professional Action



AS GUARDIANS FOR THE PLANET'S HEALTH, WE CALL FOR AN URGENT MULTI-SECTOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE MECHANISM TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ORDER TO STABILISE RISKS AND SECURE THE HEALTH OF THE PLANET FOR THE WELLBEING OF ALL NOW AND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IN ORDER TO SECURE THE PLANET'S HEALTH, AS HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND AS THOSE DEDICATED TO THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS AND AS ADVOCATES FOR THE 'MANIFESTO TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL', WE CALL UPON EVERYONE, TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND TO TAKE EMERGENCY ACTION AND TO JOIN US IN BECOMING 'GUARDIANS FOR A HEALTHY PLANET'.

A MANIFESTO TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL A CALL FOR EMERGENCY ACTION

01 SECURITY

A Critical Care Response for the Planet's Health

Declare a Climate Emergency: at global, national and local levels to reflect the required urgency and speed needed to address the critical condition of the planet's health; drawing upon lessons from the health sector, establish an international multi-sector emergency response.

Resuscitation: at scale, reduce carbon emissions and ocean temperatures and acidity.

Stabilisation: identify key risks and impacts from potential tipping points and co-ordinate responses at scale and speed to stabilise them; diagnose and develop a longer term treatment plan for the planet's health and map the populations most at risk in order to target and scale up adaptation responses.

02 RECOVERY

Rehabilitation and Resilience

Healthy Air- Water- Land - Food Eco-Systems: Enhance the recovery of the Planet's Biodiversity and Eco-Systems, including:

- **Air** – rapid investment in clean energy and transport systems
- **Water** – restore healthy ocean and coastal environments, enhance nature based solutions for clean water and sanitation systems
- **Land** – restore healthy habitats including those for pollinator species, reverse desertification, enhance reforestation with indigenous trees
- **Food** – reduce food waste and excess consumption, enhance plant-based healthy foods and clean cooking

Scale up Universal Health Systems for Planet, Place and People:

Scale up multi-sector systems responses for healthy air, water, land and food eco-systems that also promotes human health, whilst strengthening, at scale: environmental health, climate change and sustainable systems, emergency preparedness; improve access to reproductive and sexual health services; enhance violence prevention and mental health services to increase population resilience, including that of migrants and those impacted by disasters.

03 FLOURISHING

A Flourishing Planet for All

Promote Sustainable Well-Being: with a focus on actions that primarily benefit the health of the planet, whilst maximising co-benefits for human well-being, including: transformation to cyclical economies to account for impacts upon the planet's health with green infrastructure and urban planning, sustainable homes, green spaces and sustainable transport systems to enhance active transport and promote bio-diversity.

Create Connected Communities: enhance digital communities and multi-sector systems based 'One Health One Planet Education' across the life-course for sharing knowledge and innovation and scaling up innovative solutions; enhance early years nature based education, create healthy eco-communities by promoting ecological volunteering; engage young people in community design and development; increase green cultural and learning spaces; celebrate diversity and bio-diversity; promote creativity and secure sustainable well-being for all.

04 GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship for a Healthy Planet

Establish a Healthy Planet Index – place the primacy of the Planet's Health in decision making and monitoring processes through the development of a Planetary Health Index with accountability to the well-being of future generations, in order to drive the scale and speed of action required and identify and intervene with risks to the Planet's Health.

Guardians for a Healthy Planet: every organisation and community to establish a 'Guardian for the Planet's Health' responsible for:

- **Planetary First Aid** – place the Planet's Health at the centre of decision making to secure the well-being of future generations
- **Emergency Response** – co-ordinate and communicate urgent action to address our Climate Emergency
- **Guardianship** – protect our Planet's Health from risks and promote the well-being of future Generations
- **Advocacy** – for science based decisions and nature-based responses
- **Solutions** – educate oneself and others on environmental challenges and innovative solutions for the Planet's Health
- **Unify** – act for the well-being of all on this planet, and enable rapid and proportionate collaborative action
- **Sustain** – hope and inspire action to create a flourishing planet for all.

05 COLLABORATIVE

Community and Health Professional Action

Advocacy and Leading by example:

- **Guardians:** Become Guardians for the Planet's Health and a community advocate – anyone can become a Guardian for a Healthy Planet
- **Efficient:** Use clean renewable energy sources, insulate buildings and provide accessible community based and digital services
- **Recycle:** Dispose of medical waste, plastics, refrigerators and air-conditioners responsibly
- **Protect:** Patients from extreme weather events and have emergency plans and processes in place
- **Green:** Plant trees around health centers to protect against heatwaves, flooding and to create healthy environments

Patient Advice, Services and Prescriptions:

Healthy Food: Encourage a shift to healthy plant based foods, reduce food waste and excessive energy consumption

Physical Activity: Encourage physical activities like gardening, walking and cycling

Green Activity: Prescribe Green Volunteering, kitchen gardens, community conservation and tree planting

Resilient Families: Provide accessible Maternal and Child Health services, including reproductive and mental health services

Quality Services: Reduce over prescribing and over investigation, enhance public health with preventive approaches that empower patients.

This Manifesto is endorsed and supported by the following organisations:

This Manifesto is a collaborative initiative by the InterAction Council, a group of former Heads of Government, co-chaired by HE Bertie Ahern from Ireland and President Obasanjo from Nigeria. It builds upon collaborative action in response to the InterAction Council Dublin Charter. The Manifesto has been developed with and endorsed by the following organisations in response to the increasing evidence of the urgency required to address our growing global climate and environmental crisis:

InterAction Council

www.interactioncouncil.org

World Federation of Public Health Associations

www.wfpha.org

World Psychiatric Association

www.wpanet.org

World Organisation of Family Doctors – Working Group on the Environment

www.globalfamilydoctor.com/groups/WorkingParties/Environment.aspx

International Federation of Environmental Health

www.ifeh.org

International Union for Conservation of Nature, Urban Alliance

www.iucn.org/news/secretariat/201809/iucn-launches-global-alliance-greener-cities

NCD Alliance

<https://ncdalliance.org>

Commonwealth Medical Association

<https://commonwealthdoctors.org>

Commonwealth Centre for Digital Health

<https://cwcdh.org>

Commonwealth Local Government Forum

www.clgf.org.uk

Commonwealth Royal Society

www.thercs.org

Commonwealth Association of Science, Technology and Mathematics Educators

www.castme.online

Commonwealth Human Ecology Council

www.checinternational.org

Commonwealth Association of Museums

www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/

Commonwealth Association of Planners

www.commonwealth-planners.org

One Young World

www.oneyoungworld.com

International Federation of Medical Students Association

<https://ifmsa.org>

Planetary Health Alliance

<https://planetaryhealthalliance.org>

Salzburg Global Seminar

www.salzburgglobal.org

Engineers for Social Responsibility Inc

<https://sites.google.com/site/test4esr/>

Welsh Commission for the Well-Being of Future Generations

<https://futuregenerations.wales>

Faculty of Public Health, UK

www.fph.org.uk

The National Institute of Public Health, Denmark, University of Southern Denmark

www.sdu.dk/en/sif

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

www.cieh.org

School of International Futures

www.soif.org.uk

Foundation for Democracy and Sustainable Development

www.fdsd.org

Association of International Accountants

www.aiaworldwide.com/home

World Health Summit

www.worldhealthsummit.org

Islamic World Academy of Sciences

www.iasworld.org

Arab World Association of Young Scientists

www.arabways.org/index.php/arabways-news/item/114-arabways-the-first-platform-for-young

A DIGITAL PLATFORM FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH SYSTEMS FOR PLANET, PLACE AND PEOPLE AS A COMMON GOOD TO SECURE A HEALTHY PLANET FOR ALL, IS BEING TAKEN FORWARD AS A HUB OF THE COMMONWEALTH CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HEALTH, IN COLLABORATION WITH SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY, AS PART OF THE NEXT STEPS REQUIRED TO FACILITATE AND ENABLE COLLABORATIVE ACTIONS OUTLINED IN THIS MANIFESTO:

https://cwcdh.org/documents/CWCDH_Southampton_Hub_Brochure.pdf



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