

**population
matters**

**for a
sustainable
future**



Population Matters Magazine

Issue 27 Summer 2015

**Sustainable Development Goals:
why is population missing?**

**Findings from our
members survey**

**Ecotourism: protecting
gorillas in Rwanda**

Contents

From the Chief Executive	3
Population Matters news	4
Population groups elsewhere	8
Sustainable Development Goals	10
A new runway for London?	11
Update from PopOffsets	12
Innovations in ecotourism	13
Obituaries	14
Reviews	15
Letters	18

About Population Matters

Population Matters is a membership charity working towards a global population size that can provide a good standard of living, a healthy environment and environmental sustainability. Our activities comprise education, research and policy promotion. We are funded by our members, donations and grants and receive no funding from official or commercial bodies. We welcome new members. Members receive our publications and can take part in our activities. Active members can apply to become guarantor members and vote at our Annual General Meeting. Membership fee rates are available on our website; we are grateful to those who contribute higher fees, donations or legacies. We have a wide range of promotional items, including clothing, cards and briefing sheets, available via our website.

Until 2011, Population Matters was known as the Optimum Population Trust, which remains our registered name. We are a registered charity (no.1114109) and a company registered in England and Wales (no. 3019081). Registered office: 135-137 Station Road, London E4 6AG.

Magazine

This magazine is printed using vegetable-based inks on 100 per cent recycled paper. If you are willing to receive the magazine by email, which reduces our costs and helps the environment, please contact the administrator using the contact details below. Additional copies are available on request; a donation is appreciated. Population Matters does not necessarily endorse contributions nor guarantee their accuracy. Interested parties are invited to submit, ideally by email, material to be considered for inclusion, including articles, reviews and letters. Subjects may include the causes and consequences of, and cures for, unsustainable human population and consumption levels. Submissions should be in Word or equivalent and be accompanied by a brief description of the writer. Publication titles should be shown in italics and a single space used after full-stops. Copy deadlines are 20 June and 20 December and a maximum of 700 words per contribution is requested. Submissions may be edited and the editor's decision is final. Please note that it may not be possible to include all submissions.

This issue was edited by Kate Duggan; proofread by Bay Haseler, Peter Slater, Claire Coveney and Elisabeth Richmond; designed and printed by Printhouse Corporation and distributed by our Administrator, Julie Lewis. If you are interested in helping to produce the magazine, please let us know. If you would like to give us any feedback on the magazine, please contact kate.duggan@populationmatters.org

Contacting us

Population Matters
135-137 Station Road, London, E4 6AG
Tel: 020 8123 9116 www.populationmatters.org

Chair: Roger Martin
roger.martin@populationmatters.org

Chief Executive: Simon Ross
simon.ross@populationmatters.org

Administrator/ Membership Officer: Julie Lewis
julie.lewis@populationmatters.org

Magazine Editor: Kate Duggan
kate.duggan@populationmatters.org

Contacting you

If you do not receive our twice-monthly emailed Update and occasional e-alerts, but would like to, please contact our Administrator.

Encyclicals and elections

Simon Ross, Chief Executive



It is good to hear that the Pope is on message with regards to environmental sustainability. He warns in his first Encyclical that, “We may well be leaving to coming generations debris, desolation and filth.

“The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet’s capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes, such as those which even now periodically occur in different areas of the world.” It is a bit stark, but one knows what he means.

He then asserts, “An awareness of the gravity of today’s cultural and ecological crisis must be translated into new habits.” For us, choosing to have a smaller family, and slowing the population growth that has seen human numbers doubling in the last 50 years, must be part of the equation. Of course, having a small family isn’t a new habit. Already, half of humanity lives in countries where the fertility rate is two or less.

Nevertheless, our view is chided in the Encyclical (para 50), “To blame population growth instead of extreme and selective consumerism on the part of some, is one way of refusing to face the issues. It is an attempt to legitimize the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized, since the planet could not even contain the waste products of such consumption.”

This is a version of the assertion by some that population concern is merely a deliberate diversion from the wickedness of the rich. This is not true, if it ever was. Slowing population growth through family planning, women’s empowerment and small family messaging is not an alternative or competitor to proposals for change promoted in the Encyclical and elsewhere. Family planning and women’s rights are inexpensive, generally accepted and synergize rather than conflict with other initiatives. Of course, the Encyclical’s dismissal of population concern enables it to avoid the thorny issue of the Church’s opposition to artificial contraception.

In the UK, a hard fought election was nominally not about environmental sustainability or population, but health, education, the economy, employment, housing and migration. How many of these ‘bread and butter’ issues are linked to rapid population growth at home and abroad? Growing competition for housing, employment and public services affect quality of life and cost of living. Rising global competition for scarce resources is driving migration and undermining economies. We shall continue to promote our policy goals to the new government. I would like to thank the members who lobbied their candidates – over 40 per cent were reached.

Some of the plans I mentioned in the winter magazine have come to pass. One can now order and pay for our items via the website. Our PR firm Champollion is arranging meetings with key journalists and achieving press coverage. We have more Coordinators and they are proving increasingly valuable. Other plans are well under way. We expect to have our first directed video and first bus advertising campaign in September. Local groups have been equipped with sail flags, tabards and youth cards. Thank you to those who offered to speak; greater numbers make it easier for us to respond to invitations. We have issued several briefings, agreed research projects for the next few months and issued our relaunched Journal of Population Matters.

While population will not be included in the UN-led Sustainable Development Goals process, women’s rights and reproductive health and rights will. The latest biennial UN global population estimates and projections is providing us with ammunition for campaigning. Finally, I look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting and Conference on Saturday 10 October in central London.

Population Matters news

Annual General Meeting and Conference

Our 2015 AGM and Conference will be on Saturday 10 October, in Central London. Our speaker has been confirmed as Baroness Jenny Tonge, Joint Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health. Baroness Jenny Tonge will speak about the rights women must have to control their own fertility, and the benefits that has for society and the future of the planet. Further information about the AGM and Conference can be found on the Events section of our website. Registration details will be sent to members nearer the time.

New board members

We are pleased to welcome Jill Rawlins and Fiona McKenzie to our board. Jill Rawlins is a public sector change management consultant. She has extensive experience in managing communications teams and departments, and is especially interested in farming, food and child nutrition. Rawlins told us, "There are many organizations concerned about economics, climate change, democracy, human and animal rights, health and housing and so much more. But it all comes down to population and the effect we are having on the planet. I am surrounded on the board of trustees by scientists, lawyers and other top people in their field. After a lifetime in communications, campaigning and promoting ideas and issues, I hope to be able to use their skills and opinions – as well as information and data from any relevant sources – to effectively communicate our messages in a way that works toward achieving change." Fiona McKenzie has a background in investment banking and alternative medicine, and has spent the last decade working on conflict-resolution projects. She told us, "I am involved in Population Matters since we cannot go on the way we are going. Human numbers and activity are already destroying the planet's ecological integrity – running roughshod over myriad other species. But it is not just the environmental damage we're inflicting that should concern us. Equally appalling is how our actions threaten humanity's future prospects."

Online shop

Our new online shop makes it easier for members and supporters to order a wide range of educational materials, along with Population Matters-branded items, such as T-shirts, mugs and bags.

Journal re-launch

Our open-access Journal of Population Matters is now available to read on our website in both illustrated and print friendly versions. The Journal aims to facilitate evidence-based communication of population sustainability related concerns, and promote further research and development within the field. Articles include *Can UK national GDP growth sustain personal GDP growth for a growing population?* and *How quickly will reducing fertility shrink the human population?* We welcome submissions from those whose research, specialisms or experiences are relevant to the Journal's remit. Additionally, we would like to hear from anyone who is interested in becoming involved as a reviewer or proof-reader. Please contact the editor: cheryl.mills@populationmatters.org.

Media profile

Population Matters is now working with Champollion, a communications and media consultancy specializing in third sector organizations and campaigning groups, to help raise our profile in the media and with key stakeholders.

In early 2015, Champollion led a strategy session with a number of board members, staff and members in order to identify key communications objectives, the audiences we are looking to target, and the messages we should be focusing on in the media.

This resulted in us deciding to focus on three areas: environment, housing and public services, which are likely to resonate with politicians and the public. Champollion's work has so far secured us 140 pieces of coverage in the national and local media, including broadcast interviews, online articles and print articles. They have also arranged and facilitated a number of face-to-face meetings between Population Matters and senior journalists on national newspapers.

New UK population estimates released

According to the Office for National Statistics, the UK population rose to almost 65 million by mid-2014, an increase of more than 491,000 since mid-2013. More than 226,000 people were due to natural growth (births minus deaths), and almost 256,000 to net migration (migrants arriving in the UK minus migrants leaving). 5,000 were due to other changes and adjustments; mainly in the armed forces. The number of births occurring in the year to mid-2014 was down 1.9 per cent on the previous year.

Member survey results

Simon Ross, Chief Executive

We listen to our members in a number of ways, including at the Annual General Meeting discussion session, through letters to the magazine and from contact with individual members.

In recent years, we have instituted a formal survey of members, which we first conducted in 2012 and repeated in March this year. The survey covered members' views, activity and characteristics and the results were broadly similar to those of the previous survey. We received responses from more than 400 members; thanks to everyone who responded. As this is only a small minority of our 3,000 or so members, we cannot say for certain that the results reflect the membership as a whole, but they do provide some interesting insights.

Views

Issues which motivate members to be concerned about population include sustainability, resources, wildlife and overcrowding. Most respondents were happy with our dual focus on global and UK issues. Members were comfortable with us campaigning on a range of issues, and expressed a preference for environmental over social ones. They were also comfortable with us proposing a number of solutions, with a preference for those directly affecting birth rates. Parliamentarians, young people and the public were felt to be the most important audiences for our messaging.

Members were broadly satisfied with our activity, but would like to see more media coverage. We have engaged a public relations agency this year and expect that this will indeed increase this. However, we should have realistic expectations: even large charities can struggle to get into the news very often. Most members would also like us to be bolder in our messaging. There is a challenge here: messaging which can seem restrained to members can be seen as controversial by the non-members we are trying to convince. Again, we will work with our public relations agency to ensure our messaging is effective.

Respondents were broadly satisfied with our communications and with the information we provide. Some wanted more summarized 'key facts' on the website and we have started to do this. Members also said that they would like to know more about our activities, even though only a minority said that they had read the annual report and annual review on the website.

We have responded to this desire by giving more focus to our activities in the Chief Executive's regular magazine article and posting more Population Matters news on the website. We are moving generally towards greater transparency and now put our plans and a quarterly activities report on the website, which we announce in the emailed Update. While half of members were happy with opportunities to influence our activities, a significant minority were unsure about how they could get involved. We are providing ever more information about our plans and progress to enable members to comment and are always open to member input, either at the Annual General Meeting or otherwise.

Activity

Almost all members read the magazine and the twice-monthly Update, at least sometimes. A minority visit the website regularly or read the annual report and annual review. Fewer use our social media accounts, such as Facebook and Twitter, which appear to be more attractive to non-members. The overwhelming majority of members responding, who may be the more active members, have promoted the issue with others or donated to Population Matters. Most were willing to either leave a legacy to the charity or consider it, perhaps encouraged by our current free will-writing/revision service. Similarly, most were willing to donate to our PopOffsets carbon offsetting scheme, which funds family planning programmes, or had already done so.

Characteristics

Population Matters has members in more than 30 countries, which we welcome, but the majority live in the United Kingdom and this is reflected in the survey responses. The survey results confirm that we are politically a broad church and that members tend to support a range of other charities and campaign groups. In common with many charities, members tend to be older and less ethnically diverse than the UK population as a whole, certainly when looking at those members who chose to respond. With additional resource, we will be promoting ourselves more strongly to those who are younger or from an ethnic minority, particularly in London colleges.

Conclusions

It is encouraging that members endorse our general approach and only natural that they would like to see more progress. We are confident that a combination of our public relations agency and additional personnel will enable us to continue to increase our profile and influence over the next 12 months.

We are constantly reviewing our communications with members and others; for example, we have recently relaunched our Journal. As always, if you have specific requests or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Tally ho!

Mike Wheeler reports on his first year as Local Groups Facilitator.

Distinctive in their white T-shirts, sail flags proudly held aloft, they advanced defiantly along the Embankment, smiling, laughing and waving to 'Joe Public'. In case you hadn't guessed, I'm referring to that small, but growing, band of intrepid Population Matters members who travel to London to take part in marches and rallies. But more about that later...

As I approach the end of my first year as Local Groups Facilitator, I feel that progress in certain areas is helping to promote our cause. In particular, I was keen to see us improve our image, and the supply of Population Matters sail flags and tabards to all local groups has gone a long way towards achieving this. The sail flags come with bases, so they are ideal for use in conjunction with static displays, either indoors or out.

Groups have also been encouraged to open their own bank accounts, making it much easier for them to plan and run events. From personal experience, I know that the Winchester group has received numerous small donations, which would have been impossible to manage without an account. Having their own account has enabled local groups to plan events where an advance payment is required.

One example of this in Winchester has been the purchase and display of a banner advertising UN World Population Day.

So what has been going on for the last 12 months? Sadly the West London group is without a leader, as

Nina Clarke has had to stand down. New groups have been started by John Davies in Huntingdon and Andrew Macnaughton in Scotland. Group activity continues to be as varied as ever, with group members participating in talks, bric-a-brac sales, car boot sales, green fairs and, of course, marches. It is encouraging to see groups supporting each other at events where a single group would otherwise struggle to field enough helpers.

In May, what is becoming the annual mid-year training event for Local Group Co-ordinators took place in London. This is essentially a training session where group leaders participate in a series of workshops. This year's focus was predominantly on recruiting and keeping new members, together with a discussion on a wide range of other topics.

So back to where I started! This report would not be complete without giving a big "Thank you" to all our members who took part in the Climate March on 7 March and the Climate Coalition rally on 17 June. This also gives me the opportunity to thank Elizabeth Wells who did most of the preparatory work behind the scenes. Thank you and well done, Elizabeth.



Climate Lobby

Campaign Co-ordinator Elizabeth Wells took part in the Speak Up for the Love Of...Climate Lobby in London, along with other Population Matters members.

On 17 June Population Matters members gathered together at Westminster in Central London to participate in the Speak Up for the Love Of...Climate Lobby.

Our members participated in the event to lobby their MPs about issues concerning overpopulation in their local constituencies. The timing of the lobby is particularly important within the global context, as world leaders will meet in September to agree on the Sustainable Development Goals, which will shape the future international development agenda.

Before joining up with other people from their constituencies, Population Matters members gathered together outside the Houses of Parliament. They shared ideas about how to convince their MPs to take strong action on addressing the link between unsustainable population growth and climate change.

Almost 9,000 people travelled to London from across the United Kingdom to participate in the lobby, which is thought to be the biggest ever UK lobby on climate change. The majority of MPs came outside to meet their constituents.

Throughout the course of the day, 20 Population Matters members had the opportunity to speak to their MPs – some members managed to arrange one-to-one meetings.

Members also handed out leaflets and badges and spoke about population to other people who were attending the lobby. Many lobby participants visited Population Matters' stall and expressed strong support for advocating awareness about the relationship between population growth and climate change. A few people also commented on Population Matters' sail flags, which were clearly visible above the crowds. It was heartening to meet so many people who were interested and enthusiastic about our policies.

The lobby ended with a rally on Millbank, where we had the opportunity to hear inspiring speeches from a variety of people, including comedian Arthur Smith and Olympic rower Andy Hodge.

We hope that our voices will be heard and remembered by our MPs when they are making decisions about the UK's role in mitigating the effects of climate change.



A global movement

Campaign coordinator Elizabeth Wells gives us a brief insight into the activities of other population organizations over recent months.

Europe

The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health has been conducting Parliamentary Hearings on 'Population Dynamics in the Post-2015 World'. It notes that population dynamics will have a major impact on the achievement of socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable economic development, following the adoption of the sustainable development agenda in September 2015. The promotion of family planning and sexual and reproductive health and rights is key.¹

A recent report for the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) analyzed how easy it is for women to access contraception and family planning advice in 16 EU countries. The Barometer report² found that less than half of the countries examined have

created and implemented a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) strategy with a specific focus on fertility control and access to modern contraceptive choice. Poor political leadership and financial support are common obstacles, and in some countries religious influence presents a barrier.

North America

The Population Institute, which is based in Washington D.C., released its third annual report card on reproductive health and rights in the United States. Despite several setbacks for reproductive health and rights at the state level, overall they have improved over the past year. The report card also revealed that while the teenage birth rate is still high, it is falling, which can be partly attributed to the Affordable Care Act, as it has enabled more women to access affordable reproductive care.³

Population Connection's annual advocacy event, Capitol Hill Days, brought together 200 activists to support universal access to voluntary family planning. Capitol Hill Days 2015 aimed to inspire the next generation of family planning activists to fight for equal reproductive rights and sustainable population growth.⁴

The Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development has collaborated with other sexual and reproductive health rights' organizations, to create a roundtable discussion on the role of an HIV vaccine in advancing women's sexual and reproductive health rights.⁵

Africa

The government of Senegal and its funders, which include the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, are improving efforts to make family planning methods available to women and acceptable to religious and conservative communities within the country. The government has doubled its budget for contraceptives and accepted a national family planning strategy that aims to increase Senegal's contraceptive prevalence rate from 12 per cent to 27 per cent by the end of 2015.⁶

A new study from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has revealed that Sub-Saharan Africa's income per capita could be 25 per cent higher than its current level by 2050. By 2100, it could be up to 55 per cent higher. This growth represents the potential for many countries to graduate from low-income to middle-income status. However, the IMF cautions that such robust growth will depend on how fast infant mortality and fertility rates decline as they influence the speed of transition.⁷

Asia

The Population Foundation of India (PFI) has collaborated with the State Innovations in Family Planning Services Project Agency (SIFPSA) to facilitate an agreement for the Government of Uttar Pradesh in India to revise its state population policy. The agreement is an important step in expanding family planning within the state's policy agenda. The revised policy is expected to address the state's current gap in providing family planning information and services.⁸

PFI has launched its second season of the popular television drama *Main Kuch Bhi Kar Sakti Hoon*, which aims to change attitudes on women's empowerment and the value of girls.⁹

Oceania

In Papua New Guinea, official maternal health statistics, which are now almost 10 years old, reported that 44 per cent of women had an unmet need for contraception. A 2010 report to the PNG Government identified some of the major barriers to women accessing contraception as: a critical shortage of health workers; education; women's lack of status and political voice; remoteness; and cultural taboos. Marie Stopes is now running a weekly family planning clinic, which is frequently full to capacity, at Port Moresby General Hospital.¹⁰

Worldwide

The United Nations Commission on Population and Development held a meeting to address the importance of integrating population issues into sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.¹¹

¹ <http://www.appg-popdevrh.org.uk/Population%20Dynamics%20PRESS%20RELEASE.pdf>

² [http://www.ippfen.org/sites/default/files/Barometer_final%20version%20for%20web%20\(2\)_0.pdf](http://www.ippfen.org/sites/default/files/Barometer_final%20version%20for%20web%20(2)_0.pdf)

³ <http://populationinstitute.org/newsroom/news/view/66/>

⁴ <http://www.populationconnection.org/article/capitol-hill-days-will-bring-hundreds-of-activists-to-washington-dc-to-make-international-family-planning-a-priority-april-10-14/>

⁵ <http://cappd.ca/event/making-the-links/>

⁶ <https://www.devex.com/news/senegal-s-family-planning-challenge-86009>

⁷ <http://mgafrica.com/article/2015-04-28-boom-or-busthow-africas-booming-population-could-either-push-economic-growth-through-the-roof-to-the-trapdoor>

⁸ <http://populationfoundation.in/sites/default/files/India%20case%20Study%20on%20the%20review%20of%20population%20policy.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.populationfoundation.in/news/%E2%80%98main-kuch-bhi-kar-sakti-hoon%E2%80%99-back-season-2-dd-national-after-reaching-out-over-58-million-vie>

¹⁰ <http://www.smh.com.au/world/papua-new-guineas-young-women-desperate-for-contraception-20150509-ggxjvs.html>

¹¹ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/commission/sessions/2015/index.shtml>

Sustainable Development Goals: why is population missing?

Campaigns Coordinator Isabella Coin's work predominantly focuses on the link between population and the environment. She is currently pursuing an MSc in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new set of anti-poverty goals, targets and indicators set up by UN member states to be used over a period of 15 years from January 2016.

The SDGs will replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established in 2000. One of the main differences between the 'new' and 'old' goals is that the SDGs are more inclusive, having been created following an extensive consultation period.

Population Matters has been involved with this consultation process, specifically within the Health and Population Dynamics cluster. The link between population and health is extremely important, and it is indeed a step forward for it to have been addressed. If we consider that most developed countries will or are already experiencing an ageing population, it is increasingly important to provide appropriate health and social care for more and more people. In the case of developing countries, a pressing issue is fertility and family planning. There is an unmet need for contraception in many parts of the developing world, and perinatal care is often unavailable. Put simply, with an ever-increasing population, the costs of universal access to health care will be harder and more costly to implement.

However, it seems simplistic to reduce the impact of population solely to the 'health' aspect of the SDGs. The post-2015 goals address deeply interconnected problems, for which solutions may only be found if we take into account the issue of population growth.

Population growth affects many of the environmental issues the SDGs focus on. With increasing populations, the environment's capacity to withstand degradation is pushed to the limit, and poverty can be exacerbated by a lack of resources or alternative livelihoods. Goal 1, dealing with the eradication of poverty, would certainly be easier to achieve with sustainable population sizes.

A lack of resources can also be a factor in increasing the likelihood of conflict in already vulnerable areas. If we are to ensure the safe access to water and sanitation for all, as Goal 6 advocates, we should be considering the need to curb population growth.

In the developed world, unchecked industrial production methods harm many endangered species' habitats, both marine and terrestrial. An increasing population will demand more resources, and this will endanger the natural habitat of many species. Oceans, containing 80 per cent of life on Earth, are increasingly threatened by overfishing. If population is not taken into account in the SDGs the sustainable use of biodiversity might be put at risk.

Goal 2 calls for the achievement of food security, whilst also promoting sustainable agriculture. With increasing populations, it will be much harder to transition away from polluting and soil-damaging methods whilst also meeting a rising demand for food.

Cities are not immune to the threat of population growth. Due to rural-urban and broader inequalities, cities have historically been attractive migrant destinations. As of June 2014, 54 per cent of the world's population lived in cities, and this percentage is set to increase. If cities and infrastructure are to be up to the task, population dynamics must be taken into account, or Goal 11, "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable", will be much harder to achieve.

Population growth also poses challenges to the achievement of some of the social goals the SDGs set out. If gender equality is to be achieved, birth control should be made widely available; moreover child marriage must be stopped. Working towards the curbing of population growth could work in harmony with these goals, and help to achieve gender equality sooner.

Access to quality education will also be negatively affected by population growth. A bulge in young populations, as is becoming increasingly common in the Global South, will most likely put a strain on the ability of already over-burdened governments and institutions to provide access to good quality schools and universities for all. Where these services and employment are lacking, the

“achievement of a peaceful and inclusive society” (Goal 16) may be imperilled.

While the UN’s focus on sustainable consumption and production is to be welcomed, a failure to account for population dynamics fully in the SDGs will make it much more difficult to achieve the goals.

Does a rising population in London and the South East justify building a new runway?

Sarah Clayton is the Coordinator for AirportWatch, an umbrella movement uniting national environmental organizations, airport community groups and individuals opposed to unsustainable aviation expansion. For more information, visit www.airportwatch.org.uk

After years of deliberations, the Airports Commission has come out unequivocally in favour of a new runway at Heathrow. The Government will comment on whether it accepts the recommendation later this year. It may still opt for expansion at Gatwick. Despite strong and persuasive arguments why a runway should not be built, the chance that it might be has now increased.

The environmental, social and economic challenges of either runway are immense. The internal divisions on the issue within the Conservative party and the split within the Cabinet are going to make interesting viewing.

What the debate should be about is whether a new runway is needed at all, or whether it is desirable. Anyone who has been exposed to the relentless advertising by the airports could be forgiven for believing that a new runway is vital for UK business. That is actually very far from the truth. The proportion of business flights is falling, and is at most around 20 per cent. Most flights are for leisure purposes.

Building a runway at Heathrow would mean a huge area of land put under concrete and tarmac. Some 750 homes would be compulsorily purchased for demolition, and another 3,750 people offered financial compensation, as their homes would be badly affected by their proximity to the runway. Valuable areas of green space would be lost forever.

Is the purpose of this runway to maintain the UK’s current position as the key aviation hub for Europe? Or is it to provide runway capacity for the ever-increasing number of people in the London area? London’s population is now approximately 8.5 million people. Boris Johnson has said the number could reach 11 million by 2050. The population of the South East region is some 8.9 million and is also expected to rise.

The six London airports saw a total of approximately 147 million passengers last year, making up around 62 per cent of all the air passengers using UK airports. Research in 2011 showed there is enough existing airport terminal capacity at the London airports for some 190 million passengers per year. Another runway at Heathrow or Gatwick would mean up to 35 million extra passengers could be accommodated.

These figures all show unsustainable rates of growth, both of the numbers of people living in the crowded south east corner of Britain, and the amount of flying that would be done by these people, if a new runway were allowed.

In any one year, around half of UK residents do not fly at all; 22 per cent take one return flight and 11 per cent take two flights. Less than 15 per cent take three or more flights, but that 15 per cent take over 70 per cent of all flights. ABTA data showed Londoners took the most foreign holidays

per person, with 11 per cent of Londoners taking four or more foreign holidays in 2014. It is for these very frequent fliers that a new runway would be built – not for the average person.

There is no VAT on air travel, and no fuel duty is charged. If air travel cost a realistic amount, comparable to other modes of transport, the demand would be far lower. And no new runway would be needed. Something Population Matters has repeatedly pointed out is the environmental impact of the rising human population, not only due to sheer numbers but the consumption level and carbon emissions per capita. By the ever-increasing numbers of people in the

South East, and high carbon lifestyles, we are accelerating our environmental footprint.

Flying is perhaps the single way in which an individual most increases their carbon footprint. A rising population brings social and environmental challenges. Allowing, and indeed encouraging, yet higher per capita use of fossil fuels by boosting the number of flights people in the UK take can only make this worse. There is a very real threat that, with an additional runway, not only will UK aviation not meet its own carbon target, but it will jeopardize the chances of us meeting the UK's national carbon target too.

Helping others to have smaller families

John Charnock-Wilson, Managing Director of PopOffsets

PopOffsets provides funding for family planning services across the globe. A recent beneficiary was the Utah Population & Environment Coalition, a not-for-profit organization in the United States that works to raise public awareness about the environment, sustainability and population in Utah. Utah has a small population (2.8 million) but a high birth rate — 43 per cent above the US average. The grant made by PopOffsets covered half the cost of a \$600 intrauterine device (IUD) for 27 uninsured, low-income women. IUDs are popular contraceptives, as they are long lasting and reliable, but reversible. Being able to reliably avoid pregnancy has a significant positive impact on women's lives, and that of their existing children. However, for women without health insurance, an IUD is often far too expensive.

The US has the highest per capita carbon footprint of any large country and its population is growing at the rate of 0.7 per cent a year, so avoiding an unwanted pregnancy in the US has a greater impact on carbon emissions than it does anywhere else. The grant from PopOffsets has the potential to save the equivalent of 85,000 tonnes of CO₂.

The Utah Population & Environment Coalition told PopOffsets, "Thanks again for this important partnership, as we work to enable women to time and plan their pregnancies, and to improve health outcomes on multiple levels for children, women and families in Utah. Many of the women were parents already and very much did not want to have more children. There was also a subgroup of young single women who were not ready or able to care for a child. But for all of the women, they will be able to avoid pregnancy for up to 12 years due to your generosity."

PopOffsets is funded by people who want to offset their carbon emissions by providing family planning services. Worldwide, more than 200 million women have an unmet need for contraceptives¹, which contributes to 85 million unwanted pregnancies a year². If you would like to help women to avoid unwanted pregnancies, please consider offsetting your carbon emissions through PopOffsets: www.Popoffsets.org



¹ <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2014.00393.x/pdf>

² <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1728-4465.2014.00393.x/pdf>



Innovations in ecotourism

James Rowen has a degree in Wildlife Conservation from the University of Kent.

We are all aware that increases in consumption have placed higher demands on resources, leading to conflicts and the erasure of natural habitats. The public are also aware that politicians do not have the resources or the willpower to find long-term solutions. However, there are innovative projects that are seeking to make a difference.

Costa Rica is well-known as an ecotourism destination. The National Park system helps to protect approximately 20 per cent of the country's land surface area and two areas have been declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. However, many people do not know of an additional scheme, which has protected more land than the designated protected area system. In the last decade, local people in places such as Sarapiquí on the Caribbean Coast have paid more for water than previously; this money is given to farmers as part of a government programme. Those pastoralists are awarded economic incentives to allow their pasture lands to revert to natural habitat, thus ensuring the protection of the hydrological cycle and purified water and soil. More people in Costa Rica now have clean water for ablutions and consumption; the farmers have a guaranteed source of alternative income; and the forest is protected. There are fewer water-borne

illnesses, and the watersheds are monitored frequently. As with most developing nations, the population of Costa Rica is expected to increase in the next few decades. However, the protected areas and designated water catchments will assist with the challenges of a demanding, consuming population.

Belize is developing ecotourism opportunities around designated protected areas along the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef, the second largest barrier reef in the world. These economic opportunities form a part of the Natural Capital Project, which aims to balance conservation efforts with the necessity of future development in fisheries and infrastructure. The project was discussed in the recent Living Planet Report from the World Wildlife Fund. The report cites development figures and the benefits of fisheries and tourism to local people: in 2007 alone, tourism revenue represented between 12 and 15 per cent of Belize's Gross Domestic Product. The report cited data which demonstrated the approximate protection value of reefs and mangrove forests for the country; it suggested that US \$231-347 million equivalent of damage was averted by the protection against storm surges and erosion of marine and littoral habitats.

In southern Rwanda, locals have developed a strong regional economy centred on mountain gorillas. The Volcanoes National Park, made famous by Dian Fossey, her book and the eponymous film *Gorillas in the Mist*, is one of a very small number of places in which one can find the Eastern gorilla (*Gorilla berengui*) in the wild. Tourists pay nearly US \$400 for the privilege of seeing one. With the development of hotels and other tourism attractions, the gorillas can generate more than US \$2 million per annum. Some of this goes to local communities and some funds anti-poaching patrols within the country and elsewhere. Local people are trained as rangers and guides, and educational and medical facilities have been funded. The local population not only has a better quality of life, but the birth rate is likely to fall thanks to family planning initiatives and education for women and girls. What is more, the mountain gorilla population is increasing.

The projects outlined above allow people to systematically develop and use environmental resources in an intelligent and thoughtful way – an interwoven but non-blending (biologists might call it sympatric) equilibrium, in which human and environmental gain is considered within the same paradigm.

After decades of telling others what to do in relation to the environment and population, soon it may well be the less-developed nations who will be discussing our inability to take serious action to manage human populations and to protect local environments. It is time for all to heed the message of Costa Rica, Belize and Rwanda – act today to support tomorrow.



An obituary of Valerie DeFillipo

Founding Executive Director of Family Planning 2020 (FP2020), Valerie DeFillipo, died in Washington, D.C. on 16 April. The following is an extract from the obituary released by FP2020 and the United Nations Foundation.

Valerie DeFillipo's visionary leadership and advocacy in family planning helped better the lives of women and girls around the world. Valerie's impressive career spanned many decades, and her accomplishments speak for themselves: In her nearly two years at the helm of FP2020, she rallied the community and sowed the seeds of innovation and entrepreneurship that have enabled the initiative to flourish into a strong and dynamic global movement.

Her vision and leadership have left an indelible imprint on the lives of women and girls around the world. Unafraid to speak out when others could not, Valerie never wavered in her passion and determination to ensure that every woman and girl have the same access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, no matter where they live. She brought this vision to FP2020.

"Valerie was a respected champion in the international family planning community, whose enthusiasm and leadership helped build FP2020 into the strong movement it is today," said United Nations Foundation President and CEO Kathy Calvin. "We will be forever grateful for the transformational advocacy and programmatic leadership to ensure all women have choices, and their rights are respected and upheld."

Yet Valerie is remembered not just for her professional legacy. She was also widely regarded as a mentor and a friend whose empathy and warmth touched not only the women whose lives she endeavoured to support, but also her colleagues. Many of the people she worked with over the years became dear friends throughout her career.

“Valerie was truly an inspiration to each and every one of us and we will miss her greatly,” said FP2020’s interim Executive Director, Beth Schlachter. “As we mourn the untimely loss of a much-loved colleague

and friend, it will serve as a daily reminder to work even harder to ensure her legacy is upheld and that family planning remains a permanent fixture on the global health agenda.”

Reviews

Patricia Miller. **Good Catholics, The Battle Over Abortion in the Catholic Church**

University of California Press, 2014
ISBN: 978-0520287532

Max Kummerow

This book offers a fascinating insight into a long battle within the Catholic Church that spilled over into American politics. Miller makes it clear that, throughout the past century, the Church has been split on sexual and women’s issues. She tells the story of organizations and individuals who have battled for the beliefs and moral choices of those Catholics who accept and practice contraception, and believe abortion rights are a matter of individual conscience.

Her main argument revolves around the idea that the Church’s long campaign against contraception is more about suppressing women and less about Catholic morality and theology. Indeed, many well-respected Catholic theologians disagree with the Church’s stance on contraception.

The Church has spent tens of millions of dollars lobbying (often successfully) against family planning and abortion rights, notably in US state and local elections, US congressional and presidential campaigns and at UN Conferences on the status of women and population control. The Catholic Church has held back world family planning programmes at a policy level, including most recently its partially successful opposition to insurance coverage for family planning in the Affordable Care Act.

Changing the Catholic Church’s stance on birth control and abortion remains an important challenge and a key to the future of the Church itself.

Meghan Daum (Ed). **Selfish, Shallow, and Self-Absorbed**

Picador Books, 2014
ISBN: 978-1250052933

Madhukar Shivajirao Dama

In this collection of essays, Meghan Daum brings together 16 literary luminaries to each present their reasoning on their decision to live childfree. The collection makes an interesting read, as every chapter casts a new light on a topic that is rarely discussed openly. Daum argues that, “People who want children are all alike. People who don’t want children don’t want them in their own ways.” The essence of her argument is that an individual’s decision to live childfree is not a crime, either against society or the future generations that will never come. One in every five women, or one in every four women with a university-level education, never give birth.

Sugrid Nunez argues against the widespread belief that, “Any person who marries but rejects procreation is unnatural,” while Jeanne Safer explains that, “I don’t really want to have a baby. I want to want to have a baby.”

Many authors discuss their own childhoods, and how they were made to feel responsible for their parents’ failures, leading them ultimately to decide not to procreate themselves.

The authors make a mockery of the long held myths about the ills of childfree life, summed up nicely by Geoff Dyer, “Not having children is seen as supremely selfish, as though the people having children were selflessly sacrificing themselves in a valiant attempt to ensure the survival of our endangered species, and fill up this vast and under populated planet.” I do not think the authors are selfish, shallow or self-absorbed. On the contrary, they are brave enough to take a clear stand on how they want to live their lives.

Paul Collier. Exodus: How Migration is Changing Our World

Penguin Books, 2014
ISBN: 978-0195398656

Peter Graystone

The author is professor of economics at Oxford University, and one of an international family. In this very readable book, Collier attempts to break the taboo on the informed discussion of migration that exists among members of the liberal elite. He makes the points that taboos exist to, “protect a sense of identity by shielding people from evidence that might challenge it,” and that, “official pronouncements have forfeited the trust of ordinary citizens by a continuous litany of complacent reassurance.”

He notes that migration from poor to rich countries is accelerating as diasporas grow. As diversity and cultural differences increase, there is a risk that mutual regard and co-operation within a society will weaken. Happiness stems from social, rather than economic, values: a sense of national identity has proven vital in bonding people together and encouraging empathy towards others.

Collier argues that the long-term economic benefits of mass immigration are trivial. The arguments that immigrants will offset ageing populations or are necessary to fill skill shortages are shown to be without foundation. A short-term economic boom is not worth the cost of complex and prolonged social problems. It is the immigrants who are the big winners from migration, and there are political and economical effects on the home countries (brain drain and the remittances they send home).

He concludes that migration to date has not had significant adverse effects on host societies, but that migration will accelerate to the point where there are such effects – unless meaningful controls are put in place.

Ed Conduit. Unsustainable Population

Smashwords, 2014
ISBN: 978-1310341786

Claire Coveney

Every element of the first few pages of this little iBook on population incites panic; from the image of a baby balancing precariously on a line of petrol cans, to the line in the prologue which bleakly states that the “possibility of reversing warming is getting ever more remote.”

However, there’s a lot more to this little book than fearmongering. In less than 100 pages Conduit tackles the science and repercussions of excessive carbon emissions; the increasing lack of resources; the decline of plant and animal life due to intensive cultivation; migration and conflict; and women’s rights. All very scary and overwhelming issues, but considered in a way that is easy to understand, extremely topical and, surprisingly, not entirely negative.

Conduit’s picture of a world that could hold 10 billion people is, however, almost as chilling as the suggestion that the species might die out before then due to the effects of overpopulation, “It would be a hotter, stormier world with many of today’s animals only to be found in zoos or film records.”

This realistic insight into our future is easier to relate to than pages of data detailing how the planet is already experiencing the effects of climate change. With news reports frequently focusing on how obesity is on the rise and that rates of population growth in many countries are actively decreasing, these tiny alterations in temperature are not likely to change the minds of optimists who believe that the planet can continue to accommodate us at the current rate of growth.

According to Conduit, the more immediate threat comes from migration. He considers how population growth has exacerbated anti-immigration feelings worldwide and was one of the prompters of the Arab Spring, as well as the recent wars in Iraq and Syria. He also touches on the topical disasters involving ‘boat people’, where emigrants are so desperate that they flee war-ridden countries via overcrowded boats. As relevant and important as these issues are, I believe they are too ambitious to tackle in such a short publication, and felt that this chapter noticeably raised more questions than answers.

This is a small criticism, however, of what is essentially a very successful and ambitious justification of why the issue of sustainable population should be high on every political agenda. For anyone who is unaware or unsure of the main issues surrounding the need for population awareness, this is a very good place to start.

Ona Radtke. *We are on a Major Course of Clarification*

Books on Demand, 2015
ISBN: 978-3734741562

Max Kummerow

The thesis of this book is that, “The majority of problems in our diverse human communities could be solved somewhat easily through a reduction of the number of people living on this planet...It certainly is a difficult task...but it is not an impossible one.”

Radtke died in 2009. His book is incomplete, with fragments of writing appended. Few ideas in this book are new, what is interesting is the way they are stated so clearly and powerfully, combining logic and spirituality in a grand vision.

His message is that we need to talk about population, have a democratic conversation and come to decisions about how many people are too many for ecosystems to support. We need to talk about what kind of earth we want to live on. Why do humans think they can keep on increasing numbers on this small and exhaustible, fragile planet? He is stating the obvious, but it is nevertheless ignored by most.

I like Radtke’s vision connecting a reduction in population, to mindfulness, spiritual awakening, ecological literacy, social justice, peace, a real ‘upgrading’ of human society and experience. Better lives would be enabled by smaller populations and less resource scarcity.

I’ll finish with a quote, “We must stop treating people who question growth as hostile to life.”

Philip Cafaro. *How Many is Too Many?*

The University of Chicago Press, 2015
ISBN: 978-0226190655

Matthew Nayler

The immigration debate is characterized by two groups. One argues for widespread benefits (economic dynamism; cheap goods and services) and limited costs (to some receiving communities and occupational groups). The opposing camp argues for concentrated benefits (the corporate sector) and diffuse, but significant, costs (lower wages; costlier housing; pressure on public services). Cafaro is firmly in the

second camp, and adds another diffused cost: an environment damaged by population growth.

As an environmentalist, the author proposes reducing United States immigration from its current 1.3 million per year to around 300,000, allowing the US to continue to take asylum seekers plus some family reunification or specific job-skill migrants. As a professor of philosophy, he then tackles the likely objections: the rights of economic migrants to improve their lot; the more equitable distribution of the Earth’s resources which results; the artificiality of borders.

Cafaro sees the entire American progressive agenda as undermined by immigration: the distribution of income and wealth; workers’ economic security; racial equality; the balance of political power between corporations and citizens. Yet it is an issue progressives and environmentalists prefer to duck. Perhaps the debate would be improved by their renewed involvement. With the costs and benefits hard to quantify, prejudice has free rein, and we all know who rushes in where angels fear to tread.

Tom Butler. *Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot*

ORO Editions/Goff Books, 2015
ISBN: 978-1939621238

Kate Duggan

Overdevelopment, Overpopulation, Overshoot has been published to support Global Population Speak Out – a campaign to raise awareness about the problems caused by a growing population.

This visually stunning book highlights the “ecological and social tragedies of humanity’s ballooning numbers and consumption” in pictures. Nature’s wonders are juxtaposed with scarred landscapes, famine, pollution, factory farming, crowded cities and battling crowds. Images are both starkly beautiful and disturbing. Each turn of the page reveals another bleak tableau. Many of the images are harrowing – it is hard not to be shocked at the scenes of mankind’s brutality.

This is not an enjoyable coffee table book; it is a wake-up call to humanity – a call to action that is almost impossible to ignore.

Other books that you may be interested in include:

- Dr Kerryn Higgs. *Collision Course - Endless Growth On A Finite Planet*, MIT Press, 2014

- Graham Stull. *The Hydra*, Ribbit Books, 2015
- Dave Foreman. *Man Swarm and the Killing of Wildlife*, Ravens Eye Press LLC, 2011
- Steve Oxley. *Humanity's Drive*, self-published, 2013
- Graeme Robin. *Is The World Full Yet?*, self-published, 2015

We are working to add additional book reviews to our website. If you would like to review a book, please do get in touch with kate.duggan@populationmatters.org

Letters

The Population Puzzle

Bill Deller

The startling statistics of population growth are real, indisputable and at a local level we experience the effects every day. Yet politicians have no policy on population – national or international. There is a need for a new and radical approach.

Much of world governance takes place in a secular framework, with the belief that man/woman has only one life on earth and the achievements of that one life represent the totality of accomplishment for that individual. Children are a form of life extension or immortality.

An alternative approach is found in Eastern religions which have a fundamental belief in reincarnation; individual souls can develop through successive incarnations. An individual's life path is a succession of challenges; the response to each challenge determines whether life proceeds on an upward path (good karma) or a downward path (bad karma). Thus the doctrine of reincarnation provides encouragement for behaviour that contributes to a sustainable world. There is no need to achieve immortality through having offspring. Having more than two children can be seen as damaging to world ecology, and bringing bad karma. Developmental assistance could be limited to countries that followed such guidance.

The message for the ordinary man or woman, or for politicians responsible for population policy, is that in each successive incarnation they may experience a planet that is increasingly packed with people and increasingly unpleasant!

Response to sustainability letter

Janet Graham

If Ristead Mulcahy (Population Matters Magazine, Feb 2015, Letters) thinks that I am going to reduce the quality of my life so that others can indulge in quantity of human life then he can think again. I am 59 years old and have no children. It is glaringly obvious that it is too late for humanity to save itself from the on-coming catastrophe. Not only has humanity already trashed the forests, oceans, climate, wildlife, fresh water sources etc, but no politician and few people seem prepared to even acknowledge the problem. Quite the opposite – there is endless moaning, by governments and the media, that there are not enough babies! Consequently, the ridiculous proposals Ristead Mulcahy outlines (me – live in a community? No way!!!) would not make an iota of difference. Population Matters seems to consider that if we just wait for developing nations to develop (empower women) and developed nations to de-develop (reduce consumption) then all will be well. Unfortunately it will be far too little and far too late. And, anyway, it quite simply isn't going to happen.

Local action

John Davies

Significant development is underway, made up of housing, business development and large road alterations. I have a 'grade A battle' to get a local council to consider how proposed development fits in with governmental targets on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and long-term sustainability. The problem is on several levels, including that local government officials reject the issue as "political", or say it's not within their remit. There is a huge gap in knowledge on environmental issues and often a great reluctance to learn. So, what do we do? What are our practical, measurable and effective responses? Local group action, supported by central office, is the key.

- Use existing targets on GHG emission levels and then drive councils to prove that the developments will lead to a reduction compatible with national and local targets.

- Housing: local data is of key importance, e.g. questions such as, “How much of the new housing will be taken up by local people?” and “What exactly is the eco footprint of the housing?”, “What next? Using population growth projections, where will the next lot go and how many will there be?”
- Job creation: “How many to local people?” “What is the GHG assessment on the jobs?”, “What will be the effect on house prices?”

Armed with this data we have a weapon to challenge planning and raise public awareness. It also gives us a good ‘stick’ to use with the local MP. Of course we should continue giving talks and trying to recruit and raise awareness. However, until we have a measurable impact on the present pell-mell charge into more of the same, we are not having any effective impact at all.

Destruction of Civilization

Jason G. Brent

(This letter is a condensed version of a paper. Please visit www.jgbrent.com to read *Destruction of Civilization* in full.)

The Nobel Laureate Dr. Henry W. Kendall said, “If we don’t halt population growth, with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity...and will leave a ravaged world.”

There are two ways that the human population can be reduced. The first way, which no one desires, is by war, with or without weapons of mass destruction, disease, starvation and other horrors. Let there be no doubt, if humanity does not take the appropriate steps to reduce population intelligently, there will be war to obtain the resources necessary for survival. Almost every war, since humanity evolved from the ape, was in some manner related to the need for resources.

The second means by which the human population can be reduced, the intelligence of humanity, can be subdivided into two methods: a) Voluntary action/family planning, and b) Coercive population control in a manner similar to the actions taken by China.

Humanity must consider, evaluate, discuss and debate coercive population control. Anyone who opposes a discussion about the risks, benefits and problems of both coercive population control and family planning/voluntary population control has the obligation to all of humankind to show why refusing to do so is more beneficial to humankind than a rational discussion. Discussion means words and not weapons. I cannot think of a single reason why failing to discuss the problems would be beneficial. I cannot think of a single reason why discussion would be harmful and I can think of many reasons why failing to have an appropriate discussion would not only be harmful, but lead to the elimination of the human species.

Chief Executive’s response: We do not think that coercive population control, i.e. imposing large fines on those having a certain number of children, is necessary or desirable. Fertility rates have fallen to or below replacement level in many countries through a combination of women’s empowerment, the effective provision of family planning and, sometimes, smaller family messaging. That approach has widespread support amongst charities, governments and the public, but needs promoting more vigorously. By contrast, imposing fines on parents whose family exceeds a certain size has very little support. There is indeed a likelihood that promoting such an approach would taint and undermine more generally accepted approaches.

Please note that, due to space constraints, letters have been edited in some instances.

Please help to promote our work by passing this magazine on once you have finished reading it.

We also have a wide range of promotional items available, including clothing, cards and briefing sheets.

Please visit www.populationmatters.org for details.



for a
sustainable
future



RECYCLED
Paper made from
recycled material
FSC® C013218