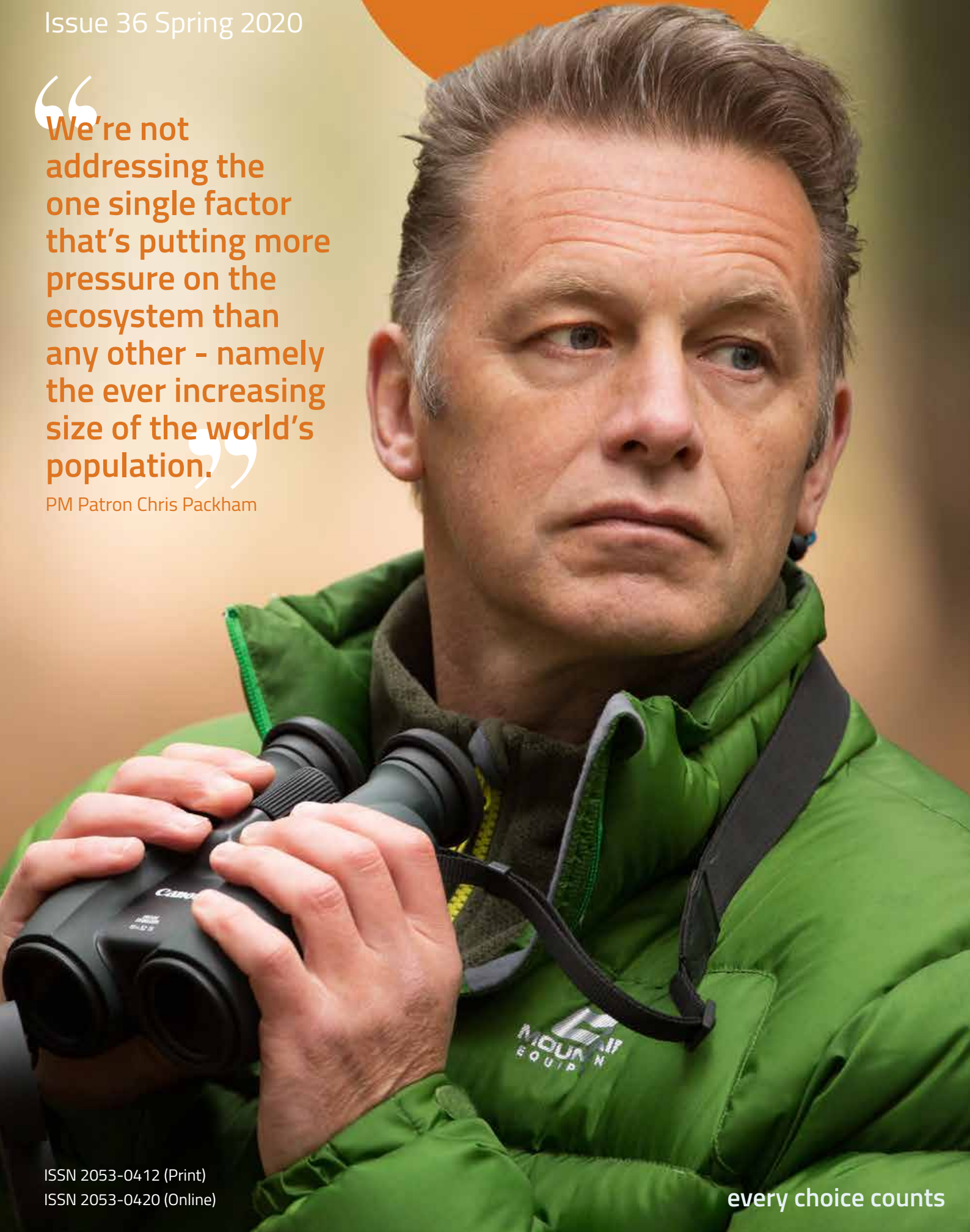


# POPULATION MATTERS

Issue 36 Spring 2020

“We’re not addressing the one single factor that’s putting more pressure on the ecosystem than any other - namely the ever increasing size of the world’s population.”

PM Patron Chris Packham



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## About Population Matters

Population Matters is a UK-based charity working globally to achieve our vision of humanity co-existing in harmony with nature and prospering on a healthy planet. We drive positive action through fostering choices that will help achieve a sustainable human population and regenerate our environment. We promote positive, practical, ethical solutions – encouraging people to choose smaller families and inspiring people to consume sustainably – to enable everyone to enjoy a decent quality of life whilst sustaining the natural ecosystems upon which all life depends. We support human rights, women's empowerment and global justice.

Population Matters is a registered charity in England and Wales (1114109) and a company limited by guarantee in England (3019081) registered address 135-137 Station Road, London, E4 6AG. Population Matters is the working name of the Optimum Population Trust

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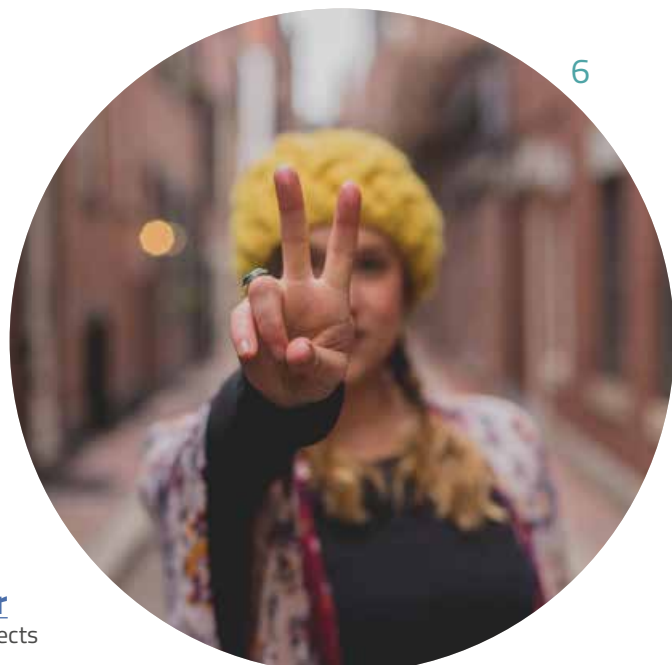
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**WORLD  
POPULATION  
THIS ISSUE  
7,777,712,388**

As we prepared to print, the UK Government advice regarding COVID-19 resulted in significant changes to working practices. We apologise if you're receiving this a little late.



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# From the Director

## Tackling the trickiest subjects

© Florence Blondel



Our patron Chris Packham wasn't the only influential public figure talking openly, honestly and compassionately about population over the last few months (BBC2 Horizon, 7.7 Billion and Counting (p16)). Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change from 2010 to 2016, called for people, especially in developed countries, to think about the size and impact of their families whilst speaking on [BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour](#) in February. During the interview Christiana Figueres was asked by presenter Jane Garvey, "Is it grossly irresponsible to have more than 2 children?" To which she replied, "In a developed country definitely".

It's significant to hear the person acknowledged as being the architect of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change, promoting the available responsible choices individuals can take in a rich, developed country like the UK - alongside the collective actions and urgent changes that are rightly demanded of corporate and political actors. Our messages and concerns are gaining traction, getting aired on mainstream media, by key players and influencers.

Population Matters (PM) doesn't use phrases such as 'grossly irresponsible' or blame anyone, anywhere as to their personal choices. What we do is present the evidence and promote the right, and

opportunity, for people to make informed choices. But to ignore the power and positive impact of individual, informed choice claiming, as some climate campaigners do, that the factor of 'human population has nothing to do with climate change' could be considered as 'grossly irresponsible'. It also threatens to maintain global injustice by downplaying the immediate unmet need of millions of women globally for safe, modern family planning, and therefore the means to decide whether, when and how many children to have or not. Something that should be a fundamental human right. Latest estimates from the United Nations are that [over 230 million women](#) in developing countries cannot currently exercise that choice or right.

Florence Blondel, our Campaigns and Projects Officer, and I met some of those women when we travelled to Nairobi in July to attend the UN's International Conference on Policy and Development (p4). In fact, we spent more time outside the air-conditioned conference centre, meeting with community workers and hearing from young mothers in Nairobi's Kibera slum district. Those young women expressed their wish that they'd had the information and means to avoid unplanned pregnancies in their teens and so stay on at school. They were determined to give their daughters the choice they hadn't had. I travelled on outside the city into rural areas, where I encountered similar stories – but the women I met there

were also acutely aware of climate change, through its disruption of the rainy season, leading to crop-failures. Being able to choose smaller families for them was as essential a development and climate mitigation 'tool' as following more resilient farming practices.

Hearing the experiences of those women was humbling, but also hugely encouraging. Addressing population is not about imposing ideologies or policies upon people, it's about responding to the expressed needs of women, like those we met in Kenya. For people fortunate to live in a rich, developed country, as Christiana Figueres said, it's about making responsible choices and taking advantage of the safe available means for enabling those. All the odder then, to return to the UK and read reports of reactionary movements opposing a woman's right to choose and have control over her fertility – movements growing across Europe and the US. A recent report by the Population Institute found that access to sexual health and reproductive rights across the majority of US states is becoming increasingly restricted. Not because the technology isn't available, but because choice and access are being obstructed by regressive political and ideological forces.

On a lighter note, there's no getting away from the fact that working on and talking about population inevitably means talking about sex! Sex should be consensual, fun, and resulting in a mutual outcome – something our team and volunteers bravely took to the streets of London on Valentine's Day to promote; armed with packets of free vegan condoms and for the boldest, donning a full-body condom-suit (p8). Sex, politics, religion, ideologies – at PM we've chosen to tackle the trickiest subjects. As our Trustee, Anna Hughes, notes in her reflections on her strong, personal decision to be child-free (p10) and more generally on being a population campaigner,

**It's not easy, but we must be brave!**

PM Trustee Anna Hughes

# UN'S INTERNATIONAL POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE AND THE WOMEN LEFT BEHIND

© Florence Blondel



© Sylvain Blondel



"I struggle when I go to the clinics I worked with 20 years ago. The clinics are the same size, the staff the same, but the queues have quadrupled and the women are standing with children on their backs, at their knees, and in their bellies. We need solutions."

Monique Oliff

In November, Population Matters' (PM) Robin Maynard and Florence Blondel attended the [UN's International Population and Development Conference \(ICPD25\)](#) in Nairobi. The conference marked 25 years since the landmark population conference in Cairo in 1994, and provided an opportunity to review progress, or otherwise, in the last quarter century. The Nairobi summit and its agenda were progressive and directed at meeting the needs of the most hard-pressed communities and countries. Opening the conference, Her Royal Highness, Crown Princess of Denmark and Patron for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) stated: "The desired outcome of the ICPD is to give choice to the individual, and choice is very powerful. Informed and real reproductive choices can reduce maternal mortality by reducing the number of pregnancies, the number of abortions and the proportions of birth at high-risk, teenage pregnancies. It also offers a host of additional health benefits, social benefits and economic

benefits: it can help reduce infant mortality, slow the spread of HIV/AIDS, promote gender equality, reduce poverty, accelerate social economic development and protect the environment."

1,250 concrete commitments were made by countries attending, in areas such as increasing budgets to health, enabling access to modern contraceptives and training more midwives. Baroness Sugg, the UK's ministerial representative, pledged £225 million in overseas aid per year up to 2022 for family planning globally, which she stated was a core component of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights. It was great to hear a UK politician on a global stage making the connection between addressing population and environmental issues: "Collectively, we have the potential to reduce unmet need, to empower women and adolescent girls to really advance gender equality, to ensure that the most marginalised are reached and that we are prepared to face some of the biggest challenges we are going to face such as climate change and crisis."

Despite the positives, what was lacking from ICPD25 was an overarching context, perspective or urgency regarding the reality of global human population growth and its impacts. ICPD25 was focused on accelerating the programme of action agreed at the Conference held 25 years earlier in Cairo, which enshrined the framing of the population debate that has held sway for the past quarter of a century. After Cairo, international discussions and policy-making were no longer focused on overall numbers or the impacts of global population growth, but rather addressed exclusively through the lens of reproductive health and women's rights. Putting population action in a human rights context and emphasising the



crucial importance of addressing the unmet needs of young women and girls was absolutely right and necessary. However, simultaneously stripping out and effectively creating a taboo around addressing them in the context of ongoing global population growth was a mistake. Put simply, nowhere near enough progress has been made:

- Our global population has increased by over 2 billion from 5.6 billion in 1994 to 7.7 billion today
- Despite the focus on enabling more women in developing countries to access safe, modern contraception the proportion of women doing so has [only increased by 6%](#) – from 52% globally to 58% today
- The UN acknowledges that [190 million women](#) of reproductive age worldwide who want to avoid pregnancy do not use any contraceptive method
- Nearly 50% of all pregnancies are estimated to be unintended
- [More than 800 women](#) die every day from causes related to pregnancy or childbirth

Coercive ‘population control’ programmes, abusing human rights and targeting particular sectors of society for sterilisation, as characterised by those introduced in China and India, are rightly condemned as abhorrent. But focusing only on those terrible examples ignores the greater number of positive examples of voluntary, non-coercive, choice-based programmes led at community level which have been successful in reducing birth rates and boosting the wellbeing of the individual and country - from Bangladesh to Iran to Thailand. These were dismissed and their achievements in stabilising population growth have been downplayed or ignored in much of the discourse at international policy level. Consequently, the progress being made in slowing and stabilising population growth pre-Cairo stalled and in some cases was even reversed. For all the stated good intentions and efforts, our global population has continued to grow by an additional 80 million people per year. This reframing and closing off of any overt discussion regarding human population growth was evident in the agenda of ICPD25.

Honest and courageous interjections challenging this were made, nonetheless. Ibrahim Thiaw, the Executive Secretary,

UN Convention to Combat Desertification, said “Climate change is a fact; we have to deal with it. The challenge we have in Africa is a growing population and natural resources are shrinking.” David Johnson, chief executive of the Margaret Pyke Trust (MPT) (PM is a partner in MPT’s [‘Thriving Together’](#) alliance of like-minded conservation and population concern organisations) also spoke out:

**“We need to change global conservation policy to make reference to family planning. Global population has grown by two billion since Cairo ICPD. If we remove barriers to family planning, we reduce pressure on the ecosystem.”**

It was notable that these interventions drew applause from the audience.

Whilst in Kenya, Robin and Florence also witnessed the reality of inadequate action to support family planning and women’s empowerment for themselves, a world away from the sanitised ICPD25 conference centre. Health activist Monique Oliff arranged for them to meet some young mothers in Nairobi’s Kibera slum (Africa’s largest). Monique works across Africa delivering healthcare and family planning to those most in need. It was humbling and a privilege to meet these young women, almost all single parents in their teens and early twenties. One young mum shared:

**“I wish at 14 I knew what I know now about modern contraceptives, how to plan for a family and women’s empowerment. I would still be in school and not a young mother with an unsupportive man.”**

Monique also took Robin and Florence to rural communities living in the arid lands adjoining the Tsavo National Park. The young mothers they met wished they’d had access to contraception and information before they fell pregnant as teenagers and had to abandon their education. They had another clear reason: climate change. The seasonal rains they formerly relied on are shifting, periods of drought are increasing, and the crops no longer thrive, meaning their farms and modest livelihoods cannot support the number of people they once did. Choosing to have a smaller family here is not a life-style eco-choice, it is a necessity – but one that is still not available to the majority of the women we spoke to.



© Sylvain Blondel



© Florence Blondel

# Empower to Plan: Responding to the unmet needs

**Population Matters** supports NGOs working to provide modern contraception and relationship and sexual health education in their local communities.

Population Matters (PM) is primarily a campaigning and awareness-raising charity, but alongside this essential work we're keen to support like-minded organisations which put our practical recommendations into action. We are, therefore, committed to supporting grassroots NGOs working effectively in their local communities to provide access to both modern contraception, and relationship and sexual health education. Women around the world want to be able to choose how many children to have – and when. Evidence consistently demonstrates that where women are empowered, there's a natural fall in the birth rate. Yet many women – both in developed countries and in the Global South – lack the contraception, knowledge and freedom to take control of their fertility ([PM Iss 35 p10](#)).

[Empower to Plan](#) is all about answering people's needs, not imposing solutions on them. PM supports projects initiated by small NGOs who are well established within their communities. Their understanding of local and cultural sensitivities, and the positive relationships and networks they've built, enable them to achieve more than we ever could. PM has a long term commitment to supporting such grassroots NGOs – over the last ten years, PM has raised and contributed almost £100,000 in support of NGOs working all around the world, from the Philippines to the USA, from Nottinghamshire to Madagascar.

As well as meeting unmet need for family planning, Empower to Plan projects often benefit people and planet in other ways – helping to tackle cultural barriers to women's reproductive rights, providing education for girls and boys or protecting fragile ecosystems and wildlife. As the ICPD25 (p4) highlighted, the unmet need for family planning remains huge in spite of the focus on reproductive health and women's rights dating back to the Cairo conference 25 years ago – less than 60% of women currently have access to safe modern contraception.

## TAKE ACTION!

You can donate online:

[populationmatters.org/empower-to-plan/](https://populationmatters.org/empower-to-plan/)

Or make a cheque payable to Population Matters and send it to Population Matters, 135-137 Station Road, London E4 6AG with a note stating which Empower to Plan project you would like to allocate it to.



© Dayne Topkin\_unsplash



© Wendo Aszed

You can make a difference and be part of this transforming work by donating to one of our current Empower to Plan projects: Jiysi or Dandelion Africa.

**Jiysi** in North Wales delivers one-day contraceptive and sexual health courses to health care professionals who each work with up to 50 young survivors of sexual assault per year; making the reach and impact extensive. Empowering survivors of sexual assault to take control of their futures, their contraception choices and when and if they want to have children ([PM Iss 35 p6](#)).

**Dandelion Africa** Using peer-to-peer training, Dandelion Africa is making a vital difference in remote parts of rural Kenya. It needs your help to reach future decision makers and influencers of marginalised communities. Through Boys for Change, Dandelion Africa is educating young men and boys about the importance of empowering the women in their lives to plan their families ([PM Iss:34 p6](#)).

Help PM empower more women to plan – for their own sake, and for the wellbeing of future generations and the planet that sustains us all. We are constantly looking for projects like these to support, so if you are connected to an effective grassroots project which is delivering access to modern contraception and relationship and sexual health education in its local community please let PM know.



# Population Matters News

## Population Matters joins the International Union for Conservation of Nature

In February, Population Matters (PM) was delighted to become a member of the [International Union for Conservation of Nature](#) (IUCN). Best known for producing the 'Red List' of threatened species, the IUCN is the world's largest and most diverse environmental network, harnessing the knowledge, resources and reach of more than 1,300 member organisations and some 16,000 experts. In its own words, it provides a space "in which diverse stakeholders including governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples' organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges and achieve sustainable development". Its goals of reversing habitat loss, restoring ecosystems and improving people's wellbeing chime exactly with PM, and through our membership we look forward to finding new partners and helping to advance discussion and implementation of population solutions in protecting biodiversity.

## Annual General Meeting

Thank you to all the guarantor members who attended our Annual General Meeting in November. PM has accomplished much in the past year: going global, growing and diversifying our supporter base as well as income sources (more info in the [Annual Report](#)). Following the Board elections, we welcome Rebecca Foljambe and Chris Padley to the [Board](#), and say goodbye to Terry Murphy with gratitude and appreciation. In his two years as Chair, Terry has played an invaluable role in guiding PM through a high-level strategic review and developing our three-year strategic plan.

## Obituary:

Professor Norman Myers, PhD; CMG (Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George); UN Environment Programme Global 500 Roll of Honour; Visiting Fellow at Oxford, Harvard Cornell, Stanford, California, Michigan and Texas Universities; PM Patron.

Born 24 August 1934; died 20 October 2019.

Norman Myers became a patron in 2008 motivated by his concern that increasing human numbers and our impact on the planet and its biosphere, were not only driving mass extinctions of wild species, but would ultimately drive millions of people to become environmental refugees by eroding vital life-supporting ecosystems and destabilising our climate. We are very grateful for Norman's pioneering work and far-sighted support of PM, and we offer our condolences to his family and friends.



"Is it not worthwhile to ensure that our children inherit a world worth living in? A world where population growth has been slowed to zero, with equity and fairness for all citizens on this planet, and where our environments are safeguarded and restored."



## Introducing Sara Parkin as Chair of Trustees What first sparked your interest?

My sustainability campaigning dates back to the 1960s and the lead up to the First UN Earth Summit in 1972. The publication at that time of 'The Limits to Growth' and The Ecologist

Magazine's 'Blueprint for Survival' were unequivocal about the links between rising numbers of people and the degradation of the environment through their soaring demand for material goods on top of basics such as water, food, homes. I got it instantly.

## What changes have you seen in regard to the issue and how it is seen and discussed?

Unfortunately, that integrated understanding of what was happening (and therefore of how to deal with it) faded; Governments set up the UN Environment Programme and their own environment ministries, thus separating the economic implications of curtailing consumption (more people consuming more stuff) from the 'protection of the environment'. Only recently has understanding about the

link between endless consumption of 'stuff' and the inevitable damage to people and the environment taken hold again. The Friday Schools Strike Campaign and other 'reconnectors' like [PM Patrons](#) David Attenborough and Chris Packham have been really important.

## What are the main challenges PM faces as an organisation?

Becoming a highly effective 'activist' organisation promoting the benefits of a future predicated on 'fewer people consuming less stuff' – selling a positive message that engages and mobilises.

## What do you hope to bring to PM as chair?

My learning as a life-long activist for sustainability as an organising principle, a background in green politics, and broad experience in governance and leadership.

## Where do you see PM in five years?

A highly regarded and trusted organisation with a large, well-informed activist membership, attractive to all generations. Members will be leading – in our institutions and localities – in making it normal to consider human numbers and their impact as part of building a sustainable future for all life on Earth. I hope we will be partnering with like-minded organisations in other countries too.

# Show the Love VALENTINE'S DAY

© Sylvain Blondel



## SEX!

It's not easy broaching the subject with anyone, including closest family members. It's even harder to talk to strangers about it on a cold February evening as they're leaving work, keen to get home or grab a drink in the nearest pub. But there I was, on Valentine's Day, giving out condoms and leaflets with a screaming headline, 'Sex is Beautiful' and asking them if they would 'do it for the planet'? No better day to do that than the lovers' day – 14th February! Someone had to be out there and I was glad there were fifteen of us, a good mix of Population Matters (PM) staff and volunteers, from the London and Hertfordshire local groups.

Two members enthusiastically wore our giant attention-raising condom body suits and everyone had leaflets and vegan condoms with PM's Every Choice Counts logo on them with the slogan, 'Do it for the Planet'. We know that choosing to use contraception helps people and planet and whilst sex is beautiful we also recognised other beautiful things like easing the pressure on forests, seas, and resources; cutting CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and giving nature space and room to breathe.

To maintain the beauty we have on planet earth and to curb human population growth Population Matters

Florence Blondel (PM Campaigns and Projects Officer) reports on how PM showed the love for planet and people.

Every February **'Show The Love'** occurs between 5th and 29th. People across the UK join the biggest conversation about climate change, showing their love for the planet and life they want to protect. At PM we decided to show our love on 14th February through promoting one of the neglected solutions in fighting the climate and biodiversity crisis. The condoms are symbolic of all modern contraceptives.

proposes five positive solutions, for the benefit of people and planet:

- ♥ Modern family planning for all
- ♥ An end to poverty
- ♥ Quality education for all
- ♥ Empowerment of women and girls
- ♥ Choosing smaller families

Some choices are easy to make. By choosing contraception, we can protect the beauty of our planet whilst still enjoying the beauty of sex. So as we gave out the condoms, we asked the recipients "Will you?"

I chuckle as I remember Radhika, a passionate volunteer, who kept giving out leaflets without condoms. She ran to me and asked,

"Florence, are we really giving out condoms, are the people taking them?" It was hilarious seeing her giggly but shy facial expression as I told her that was the day's activism, and the 'worst' that could happen was someone saying "No!" which was their choice anyway.

However, we were having constructive conversations with people on that chilly evening, and the next thing I know, she took the basketful of condoms from me

and set off on a gleeful mission. Radhika chose to be childfree with her husband for environmental reasons; she originally comes from India – a country set to topple China and become the world's largest population by 2050.

By the end of the evening we had given out about 700 condoms and leaflets. The volunteers found the evening rewarding:

## Sarah

"It was good fun, had a lot of laughs, and perhaps the conversations will have persuaded several people that the issue is important and they need to think about it. Never an easy message to put across! Thank you for organising it."

## Louise

"I really enjoyed it! This was my very first time doing anything like this – I think it was the wave of energy and enthusiasm everyone brought with them that made it feel less daunting... Thank you for making my first time (I am avoiding obvious puns here!) a fabulous experience and hopefully more people will start taking notice of this significant and logical issue."

At the end of the fun night Sylvain, my husband, came and whisked me off in one of those overly decorated lovers' tuk-tuks, to a Valentine's Dinner. I couldn't resist recruiting him into depositing a few condoms and leaflets in the men's restroom. When we finished dinner and he went back to check, all the condoms were gone!



# BIG BABY CALLS FOR SMALL FAMILIES TO CUT CO<sub>2</sub>

© Rupert Rivett



“From protecting our forests to changing our diets, as a society and as individuals there are many things we need to do to help avert climate catastrophe. One of those is to have an open and rational conversation about our population and our family sizes. If that takes a giant inflatable baby joining the climate strike, I’m all for it.”

PM Patron Chris Packham

supported personal choices to address climate change including: a plant-based diet, living car-free, avoiding transatlantic flights and choosing to have one fewer child. It highlighted how choosing to have one fewer child can be one of the most effective actions we can take as individuals to cut our emissions – especially in the richest parts of the world where our carbon footprints are disproportionately high. We need to make many profound changes as individuals and as a society to tackle climate change. One of those is to recognise the crucial link between increasing emissions and ever more consumers.

At PM we are strong supporters of the widest possible action on climate change. From individual behaviour changes to international measures, this crisis will not be solved unless, in the words of a leading member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “no options are left off the table”. Big Baby acts as a reminder that considering family size and population must be part of the raft of urgent measures we take.

Meet Big Baby, a 7m tall balloon whose job is to highlight the impact of our numbers on the environment. Each of us contributes to global greenhouse gas emissions; Big Baby is filled with recycled medical helium, but if he were filled with CO<sub>2</sub> he would have a mass of 60 kg. In the UK, each one of us is responsible for [nearly 8.34 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year](#) – the equivalent of 139 Big Babies! To coincide with the critical [COP25](#) climate change meeting in Madrid, in December, Big Baby brought a critical message to Westminster: a growing population counteracts the benefits of

other crucial climate actions, and choosing smaller families is vital if we are to ensure that the changes we make are effective and lasting.

With disturbing warnings about our highest ever levels of greenhouse gases and the increased likelihood of reaching extreme global warming, the climate change meeting was the most critical ever. Big Baby generated huge interest from passers-by and featured in many media stories about the climate strike taking place that day. The leaflets Population Matters (PM) distributed

# SMALLER FAMILIES

PM Trustee **Anna Hughes** talks about the importance of reducing the number of feet creating carbon footprints.

© Mat Smith



At the age of 18 I made the decision not to have children. My reasons for this are complex and varied, but it ultimately boils down to concern over the number of people on the planet and my wish not to contribute to a growing population. Since then (despite many people telling me otherwise) I have only grown more certain that I made the right decision. Concerns for the environment have dominated my life and career (having worked in sustainable transport/behaviour change for many years, I am now Director of [Flight Free UK](#)) and I have always maintained that addressing population lies at the heart of solving the climate crisis.

Talking about population is always difficult. Many environmentalists shy away from it for fear of being labelled draconian. We speak of managing a population and instantly thoughts go to China's one-child policy and other oppressive regimes. But we must talk about it. A lot of it is about

consumption – we are currently using more resources than this planet can provide, an estimate of 1.7 Earths. If the entire global population lived as we do here in Europe, we would need three Earths to sustain us. If we all lived as they do in the US, we'd need five. But lowering the amount we each consume must go hand in hand with a smaller population.

**We talk a lot about carbon footprints, but efforts to reduce these can come to nought if we just keep on increasing the number of feet.**

Population isn't just about carbon, or consumption, it's also about logistics. People need food, shelter and water, and more people need more food, shelter and water. The demands of an ever-expanding global population put a massive strain on our finite resources and space. The human population has doubled in the last fifty years; wild animal populations have halved in the same period. We desperately need to address the climate and biodiversity crisis, and in order to do that, we need to address the population issue. David Attenborough says it better than I ever could: "All of our environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people and harder, and ultimately impossible, with ever more people."

This is a topic that splits an audience, understandably – deciding to have fewer (or no) children is not the same as deciding to eat less meat or not to fly on holiday. This is a life-changing

and emotional decision with potential repercussions on the relationships with those around you. I get criticisms that I'm selfish and some people think I must be judging others who have families. But that's not true. This is a personal decision made with awareness of what having a family and particularly having a large family means.

None of this means I don't like children – I have nieces and nephews who I care deeply about, and I do find myself worrying for their future. The effects of the human race's impact upon the planet are becoming more evident in terms of a changing climate and the degradation of our natural resources. I fear that my nieces and nephews will have a very difficult life ahead of them unless we can take effective measures to address our environmental problems.

Of course, everyone should be free to choose the size of their family, but we need to be aware of the impact that our choices have upon the planet and on the future of the human race. I would argue that someone who has a large number of children has not made an informed choice because having a large family, especially here in the West, contributes a huge amount to over-consumption,



© Caleb Jones\_unsplash

## TAKE ACTION!

Listen to the Radio 4 phone-in: Would you stop having kids to save the planet?

[bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dj9n](http://bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dj9n)

For more information about small families visit:

[populationmatters.org/smaller-families](http://populationmatters.org/smaller-families)



resource-use and carbon output. I was on Woman's Hour recently talking about this, with Dr Sarah Harper from the Oxford University Gerontology Department. It was a good show, and I'd recommend you listen to it. Encouraging and enabling people to choose small families, including being child-free, is at the heart of Population Matters' work. For most of us our family is the most important thing in our lives and the decision about what sort or size of family to have is deeply personal. PM has received [dozens of stories](#) from people, revealing their compassionate, thoughtful and deep commitment to their choice regarding family size.

By choosing to have smaller families we can live within the finite means of our planet, reduce the pressure on the Earth's resources, protect the natural world and ensure that there will be enough of everything we need for everyone – something we all have a right to.



© Jennifer Araujo - unsplash

**"My wife and I are both aware of the extreme environmental challenges faced by our planet and wanted to be part of a responsible collective that mitigates this impact by having a small family. We adore our daughter, she brings us so much pleasure because we appreciate her. A small family is like a glass of good wine – enjoyable and something to be savoured!"** Simon from the UK

## Planet Earth Matters

# PEOPLE MATTER

Choose to make a difference to future generations by donating to Population Matters

Population Matters is working globally to achieve a vision of humanity co-existing in harmony with nature and prospering on a healthy planet.

Every choice counts, so we promote positive, practical, ethical [solutions](#), encouraging people to choose smaller families and inspiring people to consume sustainably – to enable everyone to enjoy a decent quality of life whilst sustaining the natural ecosystems upon which all life depends. We support human rights, women's empowerment and global justice.



© The Jane Goodall Institute - Bill Walbauer

**"This organisation, Population Matters, is so very important because this is one of the most important issues that we face today. We can't go on like this – we can't push human population growth under the carpet."** PM Patron Dame Jane Goodall

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Or donate online: [populationmatters.org/donate](https://populationmatters.org/donate)

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Registered Charity no: 1114109 Registered Company no: 3019081. All donations will be spent achieving Population Matters' goals, in the UK or globally. Wherever it will be most effective, that is where it will be used.

## Family Planning 2020 Initiative

Established in 2012, the goal was to increase the number of women using modern birth control by 120 million by 2020.

The latest [FP2020 progress report](#) revealed that only 53 million additional users have been reached so far. European governments have specific commitments to support sexual and reproductive health (SRH) in developing countries, yet the number of women with an unmet need for contraception is still over 230 million, demonstrating a persistent funding shortfall.

A new [report by Countdown 2030](#) Europe shows that Europe spent a total of €845 million on global SRH and family planning in 2018 – an overall increase of 5% compared to 2017. The analysis reveals that the UK spent the most – almost €204 million, followed by Norway, the Netherlands,



© Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition, unsplash

and Sweden. However, the report notes that “Opposition to SRH in Europe has significantly increased in recent years with the expansion of right-wing populist movements.” The rise of regressive policies is sadly not restricted to Europe and has endangered women’s lives across the world. The US Government’s 2017 [Global Gag Rule](#), for example, caused a \$150 million funding shortfall just in its first year. Population Matters attended the Nairobi Summit in November 2019 <sup>(p4)</sup> which acknowledged the urgent need to empower women and girls. Countries must strengthen existing commitments to meet funding shortfalls and push back against the harmful policies that seek to restrict women’s bodily autonomy.

## Wildlife Habitats Crumbling Under Weight of Human Footprint

A new study shows that the majority of land-dwelling vertebrate species are now under intense human pressure due to population growth and land use change.



© Ivana Cajina, unsplash

meaning the land has been significantly altered from its natural state. For more than 3,000 of these species, their entire habitats are exposed to this degree of damage, signifying a high risk of extinction. Out of all vertebrates on land, amphibians were shown to be worst affected, with almost half of species having no portion of their range free from intense human pressure.

Last year’s [landmark UN report on the global state of biodiversity](#) estimated that a shocking one million species are now threatened with extinction. The report clearly identified human population growth as an “indirect driver” of biodiversity loss, fuelling direct drivers such as habitat destruction and overexploitation. It noted that halting the sixth mass extinction requires urgent transformative change which addresses both direct and indirect drivers. The report revealed that a staggering three-quarters of land areas and two-thirds of marine areas have been severely damaged by human activity.

Biodiversity is meant to be protected by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), an international framework similar to the more well-known Convention on Climate Change. The CBD [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#), which aimed to slow extinctions and habitat loss before 2020, have not been met; with human population expected to grow by an additional three billion people by the end of the century, the erosion of life on Earth will worsen unless we drastically change our trajectory.

### TAKE ACTION!

Please contact your government to ask for human population to be included in the post-2020 CBD framework. For a sample letter visit: [populationmatters.org/campaigns/population-and-convention-biodiversity](https://populationmatters.org/campaigns/population-and-convention-biodiversity)

The latest Journal of Population and Sustainability is a special issue on biodiversity. You can read it here: [jpopus.org/issues/vol-4-no1/](https://jpopus.org/issues/vol-4-no1/)

The [study](#), published in *Global Ecology and Conservation*, examines the human footprint across a wide range of factors to establish the impact on more than 20,000 species of mammals, birds, and amphibians. For 85% of all species assessed, more than half of their habitat is under ‘intense human pressure’,



# 70 is the New 65

## A New Way Of Looking At Population Ageing.

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measuring ageing and its implications for society. Thanks to increasing longevity, a 70-year-old man today has a RLE of 15 years – the same RLE of a 65-year-old in 1997. Fewer people aged between 65 and 85 report poor health today than in the past. Although more people are living longer, the proportion expected to die within the next five to fifteen years has not increased anywhere near as significantly.

**Our perceptions of “old age” need to change – more healthy people over 65 means more people contributing to our society.**

A [new analysis](#) by the UK Office for National Statistics shows that estimating the remaining life expectancy (RLE), rather than counting years lived, could be a better way of

For instance, many people now work past the current state pension age – the most cited reason is ‘not yet feeling ready to retire’. This delayed retirement trend is helping to counteract

the negative economic effect of an increased proportion of older people.

Population ageing has caused concern among governments due to its potential dampening effects on economic growth and increased strain on public services such as healthcare. However, these concerns are often exaggerated. Older people also make key contributions to society through volunteering and caring for grandchildren ([PM Iss:35 p13](#)) and previous studies have shown that fears of population ageing are usually unfounded. People living in ageing societies generally do better economically, socially, and environmentally than people in fast-growing countries with a high proportion of young dependents. It is time for policymakers to embrace population ageing as a stepping stone towards a better future for people and planet.

# 11,000 Scientists Call for Population Action to Prevent Catastrophic Climate Impacts

The [Scientists’ Warning of a Climate Emergency](#), a paper signed by more than 11,000 scientists from around the world, was published at the end of 2019.

It warned of “untold human suffering” unless governments take urgent action to tackle the climate crisis, including ending and reversing population growth. The statement, which received extensive media coverage, highlights the significant climate impacts of the interrelated increases in human populations, meat and fossil fuel consumption, deforestation, air travel, and emissions. The authors call for six “bold and drastic transformations” relating to energy, food, pollution, nature, economy and human population to avert the worst effects of climate change.

The paper states: “The world population must be stabilised—and, ideally, gradually reduced—within a

framework that ensures social integrity.” To achieve this, the authors propose “proven and effective policies that strengthen human rights while lowering fertility rates”, including removing barriers to family planning and achieving full gender equity, especially relating to education opportunities for girls. This is not the first Scientists’ Warning calling for action on population. The [World Scientists’ Warning to Humanity of November 2017](#) ([PM Iss:33 p12](#)), endorsed by more than 20,000 scientists, also identified “continued rapid population growth as a primary driver behind many ecological and even societal threats” and listed necessary and globally beneficial policy measures to reduce fertility.



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## TAKE ACTION!

### CALL ON LEADERS TO ACT

Write to your political representatives and demand that they act, details available here:

[populationmatters.org/campaigns/scientists-warning](https://populationmatters.org/campaigns/scientists-warning)

# SHUTTING US UP: Population Decomposing



Continuing our series considering and deconstructing the 'Six Silencing Discourses' set out by Professor Diana Coole, University of London, **Alistair Currie** tackles Population Decomposition.

## THE SIX SILENCERS

These six arguments shutdown discussions regarding population.

### Population Shaming

Advocating the stabilisation or reduction of population is evidence of, or motivated by, morally reprehensible characteristics.

### Population Scepticism

Population growth is no longer a worry as birth rates are levelling off and the global population will stabilise during this century.

### Population Fatalism

Population may be a problem but there is nothing we can do to fix it.

### Population Declinism

Fertility rates are below 'replacement level' in many countries so we must have higher birth rates to support pensions and health services for the elderly.

### Population Decomposing

A concentration on demographic detail has diverted attention away from the environmental impact of total human numbers.

### Population Growth

Economies thrive with more people, increasing productivity and consumption, so we need more people not fewer.

While the meaning and relevance of ideas like 'population shaming' and 'population scepticism' are fairly apparent, Prof Diana Coole's fifth '[silencing discourse](#)' is harder to immediately figure out. Essentially, 'population decomposing' is the process in which the overarching idea of population and the number of human beings is replaced by attention to its components, such as individuals and families, and trends such as ageing or urbanisation. The result is that a holistic sense of the impact of the problem is lost, and the very idea of planning and management of population as a whole can come to be seen as crude and even politically dangerous.

Following the publication of *The Population Bomb* in 1968, written by Population Matters (PM) Patron Paul Ehrlich, there was increasing recognition that the decision to have children couldn't just be seen as a uniquely personal concern, but as having an impact on those around us. However, in the 1980s and 90s, a greater focus on individuals and individualism arose in politics, economics and the social sciences, including in the academic discipline of demography. In many respects a good thing, but that cultural change also led to "big picture" analysis being seen as outmoded, and a false perception that an interest in mass phenomena was evidence of disregard for individual people and their needs and rights.

One example of this perception in action was the consensus that emerged from the

[International Conference on Population and Development](#) in Cairo in 1994. On a basic level, the 'Cairo Consensus' is clearly right. It centred on the idea that it is a fundamental right of the individual to "decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of children" and it highlighted that the best means of achieving this reproductive autonomy was to establish "gender equality and equity, the empowerment of women, the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility". In the light of forced sterilisation programmes in India and elsewhere, and China's one child-policy, it is entirely understandable that Cairo delegates wanted to make a clear statement that 'population control' through coercion was wholly unacceptable. Similarly, Cairo was absolutely right to stress the vital importance of sexual and reproductive health and rights and women's empowerment – as ends in themselves and protection against the abuses of patriarchal cultures, societies and governments.

However, the narrowed focus on families and the individual set up a false opposition between individual rights and concern about the impacts of population. This was not simply a problem for population advocates – it had real world consequences as we also examine in the ICPD 25 article (p4). Despite the fact that women's empowerment is recognised as amongst the most effective means of reducing





fertility, the lack of emphasis on active family planning programmes in the ‘Cairo Consensus’ had a damaging effect on resource mobilisation and service delivery. Steven Sinding, former head of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, has described the years between 1994 and 2008 as “dark ones” for the international family planning movement. While some countries did take great strides in the provision of family planning and children’s services,

“the overall effect was a reduction in the priority given to contraception, a plateauing or even a slight rise in birth-rates in some places”. Steven Sinding

Shockingly, the general decline in priority given to lowering fertility rates was evident in the complete absence of family planning from the UN’s Millennium Development Goals. (The [Sustainable Development Goals](#) which replaced them do endorse family planning, but not yet population.)

Another aspect of population decomposing identified by Professor Coole is a perception that a changing world makes the number of real, living human beings less relevant. In the developed world, as fewer people work in and experience traditional industries, the obvious environmental costs of industrial production – slag heaps, smokestacks and the like – have

also disappeared from view and been replaced with offices, distribution centres, and data centres. The idea of the disembodied “knowledge economy” provides the illusion of a weightless and virtual economic system, and a sense of technological progress wiping out the messy impacts of human beings and their demands. The reality is, of course, that developed societies still have large populations of physical human bodies who possess growing amounts of material stuff, such as cars, washing machines, computers etc. and require material services from the physical world. (And, of course, as Judy Ling Wong observes (p18), the environmental impact of their production is often outsourced to poorer countries, making it less tangible to us, and much more tangible to others.)

The idea that technology will fix all environmental problems and make the limits set by finite resources obsolete is seductive, but very dangerous. Technological progress is real, but it isn’t predictable, reliable or uncomplicated. US President Nixon declared “war on cancer” almost fifty years ago, but despite immense

expenditure and scientific effort and genuine progress in fighting many forms of cancer, it remains one of the developed world’s major killers – second only to heart disease in the US, in fact. Chemical fertilisers have hugely increased crop yields, but contributed to pollution and fossil fuel use. We haven’t fixed traffic jams with flying cars or ended housework with robots – speculations are not solutions.

Indeed, when it comes to materials, greater technological efficiency usually increases their use, instead of decreasing it. As it becomes easier to produce or extract a material, the price goes down and as a result, demand goes up. The same occurs with efficiency of technology. Faster and smaller microprocessors have, to give the obvious example, allowed us to reduce the size of mobile phones from the classic 1980s house-brick to effectively as small as we want, while magnifying their ability to perform services like paying bills and watching cat videos. The result is a lot more mobile phones.

A 2017 study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology confirmed this. It looked at 57 common goods and services, including polyester fibre, laser diodes and crude oil, and found that despite technological improvements in almost all cases, there was not a single case of ‘dematerialisation’ – an overall reduction in the amount of materials used. And when it comes to demand, there’s another vital component: more people need (and want) more stuff. Being interested in the big picture doesn’t mean neglecting or trampling on individuals. Proposing ethical, practical population fixes doesn’t mean ignoring the potential of other solutions, like technology. We all recognise that our problems are multi-faceted and complex, but if we’re to meet the challenges we face in the decades ahead, we cannot afford to ignore the big picture of population growth, or stay quiet on the role of positive, empowering actions to fix it.

## TAKE ACTION!

### SIGN THE PETITION

Urge the United Nations to act on population for a reasonable chance of meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

[populationmatters.org/urge-un-act-population](https://populationmatters.org/urge-un-act-population)



# Population Matters' Patron Chris Packham

## 7.7 Billion People and Counting

"More people, more consumption, more climate change; more people, more consumption, less wildlife."

In a powerful [BBC documentary](#) Population Matters' (PM) patron Chris Packham examined the challenges of population growth, making an impassioned plea for "the elephant in the room" to become a core part of the environmental debate. In conversation with Sir David Attenborough, Chris made a point of noting that both he and Sir David are patrons of PM because it's the only organisation making the connection between human population growth and the accelerating environmental crisis of which climate change is the current, most obvious manifestation. Packham calls the trio of climate change, biodiversity loss and population growth a "sphere of destruction".

The programme prompted an outpouring of positive responses including over 1,600 new PM supporters. Global population has doubled during Chris' lifetime, and tripled in the lifetime of Sir David. With the Earth's resources and ecosystems struggling to cope with our current population of 7.7 billion, the UN expects us to add another 3 billion by the end of the century unless action is taken. In a wide-ranging and personal journey, Chris witnessed the effects of overpopulation, consulted experts and discussed the issue with members of his own family. He visited the Brazilian megacity of Sao Paolo (population: 20 million) where he learned about water shortages. He climbed the rubbish dumps of Lagos, where population is skyrocketing. His concerns about how it contributes to poverty and environmental problems in Nigeria amplified those made by Nigerian campaigners when we joined them in Lagos for [World Population Day](#) last year ([PM Iss:35 p8](#)).

"If you were to give me a wish, it would be the immediate emancipation of women all over the planet. In every example looked at, it significantly reduced the birth rate and improved the quality of life for both the woman and the family."

As Chris points out, our environmental impact is a product of our consumption and our population, with each multiplying the effect of the other. He challenged those of us in the developed Global North, talking about our – and his own – unsustainable consumption, and the profound responsibility we bear to address our own choices.

"We're using up more than our fair share of the Earth's resources. It only works because others are under-consuming. We are the principal consumers and the onus is on us to cut back to balance their increase, and they are quite rightly able to aspire to that increase."

This is why PM encourages people to live sustainably, but also to think carefully about how many children they have. Choosing a smaller family ([p10](#)) is one of the most effective things that people in high-income countries can do to reduce their impact and demands on our finite planet.





# Population Matters' Patron Sir David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet

A remarkable new film "[Sir David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet](#)" has been produced by Silverback Films and WWF, it was due to be shown on Thursday 16 April 2020 at the Royal Albert Hall. It will be broadcast live to cinemas across the UK as well as the Netherlands, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland, with screenings to follow in Australia and New Zealand. Sir David will be joined live on stage by special guests for a discussion on some of the prevalent issues raised in the film.

In his 93 years, Attenborough has visited every continent on the globe, exploring the wild places of our planet and documenting the living world in all its variety and wonder. He has also seen first-hand the monumental scale of humanity's impact on nature. Last year Population Matters (PM) reported on our behind-the-scenes efforts to strengthen the references to human population growth as a key driver in accelerating climate and broader ecological emergencies in the joint Netflix WWF-UK 'Our Planet' series ([PM Iss:34 p15](#)).

We were pleased to see our patron Sir David Attenborough, the narrator, introduce each episode by stating that:

"...over the past 40 years since man first landed on the moon, the population of wild animals has more than halved, whilst over the same period our own human population has more than doubled..."

This new full-length feature film encapsulates the earlier series, setting out the challenges humanity must address and the opportunities and solutions for doing so. We'll see if its producers have had the courage and intellectual honesty to give Sir David the freedom and airtime to articulate what he's previously said so succinctly and eloquently:

"All environmental problems become easier to solve with fewer people, and harder and ultimately impossible to solve with ever more people."

Intellectual honesty because there's a growing body of science underpinning Sir David's dictum. For example, a [report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#) (IPBES), published last May, highlighted human population growth, alongside consumption and technology as the drivers behind biodiversity loss and climate change:

"In the past 50 years, the human population has doubled, the global economy has grown nearly 4-fold and global trade has grown 10-fold... changes to the direct drivers of nature deterioration cannot be achieved without transformative change that simultaneously addresses the indirect drivers."

In other words, we must address human population growth. Given that widening body of scientific underpinning, might it seem superfluous to suggest courage is a necessary attribute for anyone prepared to talk openly and honestly about population? But presenting the facts about the inconvenient truth of human population does require courage – as it can provoke negative reactions from people who've simply misunderstood the wholly positive motivations of anyone who raises the issue and the available, positive solutions benefitting people and planet. It can also draw hostile fire from those who intentionally mischaracterise any form of population concern to suit their own ideological agendas. There's no doubt as to the intellectual honesty or courage of Sir David, we'll see if those qualities have permeated through to the programme makers!

As we prepared to print the UK government advice regarding COVID-19 resulted in the event being postponed until later in 2020. You can keep informed about it here: [www.attenborough.film](http://www.attenborough.film)





# Everything PM does is focused on the love of people

## Alistair Currie in conversation with Judy Ling Wong

Young people have a hunger to protect the environment – let's talk about population. They're ready for it.

Alistair and Judy met at the end of February and it quickly became clear that for Judy, addressing our environmental challenges is about far more than facts and figures and simple prescriptions. For her, it is about understanding underlying patterns and dynamics, and always about engaging with what motivates and inspires people.

Population is a complicated and multi-faceted issue. To help ensure that we at Population Matters (PM) say and do the right things, we have an [Expert Advisory Group](#), consisting of people from across the world with expertise and insights on issues such as climate change, biodiversity, women's empowerment and environmental ethics.

Among those experts is an artist and a poet, Judy Ling Wong. Judy came to the UK from China in 1972 and her work in community arts projects led her to become concerned about the lack of engagement by ethnic minorities in environmental activism. She helped to establish the [Black Environment Network](#) (BEN) in 1987, later becoming its director and since 2011 has been its Honorary President. In the decades since BEN was founded she has been an articulate and forceful advocate not just for our planet, but for a human-centred, inclusive and holistic approach to protecting it.



© Tim Marshall\_unsplash

### I first asked her what sparked her involvement in environmental campaigning.

**JLW:** I am from China and coming to the West was actually quite a shock. I found the individualism here very difficult. So I became a community artist working with communities, asking them what they wanted to work on and surprise-surprise, the environment came up. Some people we talked to said to us, to be ethnic minority is to be environmental. You find that the poorest people are already doing things the environmental middle class want to do to save the planet, like recycling, reusing, saving things, using as little as possible.

**Judy's work with community groups and experience as an immigrant showed her how the mainstream environmental movement and people from ethnic minorities were framing the problems and solutions in different ways. While she found the environmental movement far more open to inclusion than many other sectors in the 1980s, BEN had much work to do in changing expectations.**

"The best thing about this project is that our bare feet are once more upon our mother, the earth."



**JLW:** One of the contributions is through cultural visions. For example, the West has taken the words 'Mother Earth' and interpreted it as something very simple, which is that the earth feeds you so she is your mother. But if you work with ethnic minorities, you see how much more powerful and inspirational the concept is. For example, a Bangladeshi group BEN worked with in Kings Cross in the 80s wanted to grow vegetables. At the end of the project, we did the usual evaluation asking, what was the best thing about your project? What the Bangladeshi women said really blew us away: "The best thing about this project is that our bare feet are once more upon our mother, the earth." So you can see how deeply connected people are. The sense of contact is visceral, it's spiritual, it's emotional. People who have that kind of attitude towards the earth cannot harm the earth by choice. If you go back far enough, every nation – including the UK – was that close to the earth at one time.

#### Repeatedly, Judy returns to the theme of interconnectedness.

**JLW:** We all know that we connect but the huge problem is simple and basic – the inability to share. The inability to share is destroying the world. We are a world of plenty, we have technology, we have food, but we refuse to share. That is creating all our problems. I'm interested in Population Matters because population matters need to be highlighted, and when you highlight them you see that one of the problems is poverty and inequality. Nations are so rich but they're unable to see themselves helping the poorer nations. Meanwhile, the reason so many countries are polluting is due to providing the West with cheap goods. We refuse to pay for the process that makes them able to be environmentally friendly. If we want that, pay them! It's as simple as that. We're exporting, and blaming others for, the problems we cause.

#### Again, she comes back to human beings:

**JLW:** Any family given half a choice would like to see their children treasured, loved and given everything they want. I think the basis of Population Matters is that. Not just in the

economically undeveloped world but in our world – we don't talk enough about how we should treasure children. We should treasure them in such a way so that children are wanted and planned and everything they need is provided for. That's why organisations like Population Matters are so important. We need to highlight and make the rich countries understand that we're all threatened and we need to share. By giving people the resources, lifting them out of inequality, concentrating on women's health and ability to make choices, supporting them and having social attitudes that do that. If we do these things there's a much better future for children and the planet. The lowering of the population is so important for the climate – but completely linked to the love of people. I think that is the message that we've got to talk about. It's not about control, it's about recognising the urgency of the change, unlocking the resources that we have to the right areas and then getting what we need in order to survive.

**Judy is in no doubt about the gravity of our situation and the need for urgent action but she is a positive presence with a belief in people's ability to make changes.**

**JLW:** Young people have a hunger to protect the environment – let's talk about population. They're ready for it.

#### Of those who are resistant, she stresses the importance of dialogue, listening and understanding:

**JLW:** You start where people are. Even if they are against you or not with you, you have to start where they are.

**For me, as a population campaigner, her last words were the most inspiring, beautifully articulating the positive vision that motivates all of us who work at PM.**

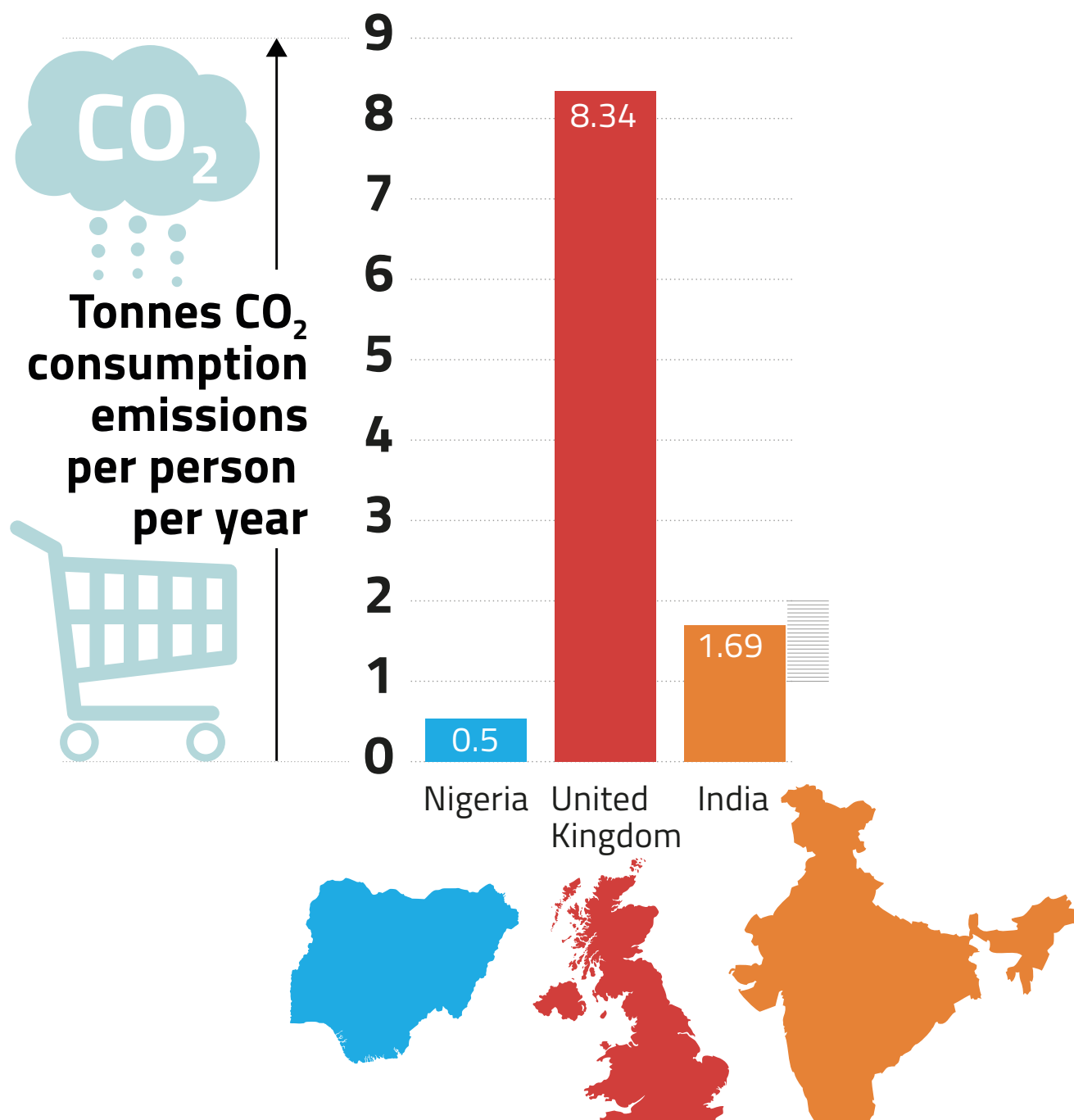
**JLW:** The major thing to say is that

everything Population Matters does, as I see it, is actually focused on the love of the human being, its quality of life and its survival into the future.



# CONSUMPTION MATTERS!

**IN THE UK WE CONSUME  
MORE THAN OUR FAIR SHARE  
DRIVING HIGH EMISSIONS**



Consumption-based emissions take into account CO<sub>2</sub> emissions occurring anywhere in the world attributed to the country in which goods and services are consumed.

Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> consumption emissions per person in 2017.  
Data from [globalcarbonatlas.org/en/CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions](https://globalcarbonatlas.org/en/CO2-emissions)