

Community Resilience and Cultural Sustainability Survey (15 Questions)

by Stefan Pasti, Founder
The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative
www.cpcsi.org
(10 pages; April 2, 2022)

Introduction

Even if we--collectively--succeed in limiting Global Heating to 1.5°C, there will be many serious disruptions ahead, associated with both our efforts to adapt to what kind of habitats and resources we must have to achieve Zero Carbon, and Sustainable BioDiversity--and our efforts to adapt to an increasing array of other emergencies and challenges (see Question #3) (--i.e. one way or another, there will be significant changes in energy accessibility; food production; transportation options; migration and displacement; the nature of local, regional, and international economies; employment opportunities; water accessibility; waste disposal; etc.).

We need to think about the people we will need to cooperate with in our local communities, and how likely it is that our fellow human beings will think carefully, act honestly, work diligently, and have compassion for their fellow human beings for the duration of the emergencies.

Hopefully, the 15 questions in this survey can contribute to re-defining and clarifying our understandings about community resilience, cultural sustainability--and what will be necessary for us to “hold together” during what could be *decades of cultural transformation*.

Notes:

- a) The Appendix has Resources for Further Reading and a summary statement of the CPCS Initiative Vision.
- b) Organizations and communities of people often use questionnaires and surveys to increase awareness, and build consensus for collective action.
- c) These questions are not copyrighted, and can be used by anyone without attribution, to achieve perspective and more beneficial results in their community, or anywhere.

Community Resilience and Cultural Sustainability Survey

1. Home Territory

- a) Please name one (1) village, town, or city which is your “home territory” [i.e. where you have the most significant personal reasons for making your home, and living many years of your life... (even if you are not currently living there)].
- b) Please list your five (5) most significant personal reasons for your choice of “home territory”--and then rank them as most significant, next most significant, etc., using 1 as most significant, 2 as next most significant, and so on.

2. Definition of “the good life”

- a) Please describe your definition of “the good life”--including both those parts of “the good life” which you already have, and those parts of “the good life” which you still hope to attain (placing each part in the category “have” or “hope”, accordingly).

3. Basic Core Values for Societies and Cultures

- a) Which of the two sets of basic core values (below) for societies and cultures around the world have become so common that many of us accept such as inevitable--

Truth, Virtue, Love, and Peace?

or

Violence, Greed, Corruption, and Overindulgence?

- b) According to your understanding, how did societies and cultures become that way?
- c) What percentage (estimate from 0% to 100%) of the society or culture *you currently live in* is built on each of the eight (8) core values above?

Examples: Truth (in my culture? 28%); Corruption (in my culture? 64%); Peace (in my culture? 15%)

4. Evaluating Community Resilience

[Note: this question has many serious implications, and may take some time, and careful consideration, for participants in this survey to answer--as in give estimates regarding Community Resilience Planning. And yet... we really must think about these questions, and discuss these matters in local meetings--everywhere. There are many unprecedented challenges ahead--all of which will directly or indirectly impact Global Heating mitigation and achieving Sustainable BioDiversity, and all of which are either Emergencies in themselves, or will require urgent attention during the unprecedented cultural transformation which we must make in the coming decades.]

15 Very Serious Challenges Ahead

[Note: for more details and evidence about most of the challenges listed below, see Section B in ["Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?"](#) (147 pages; April, 2021) and ["Unprecedented Challenges Ahead--December, 2021"](#) (2 pages)]

Global Heating and Climate Emergency

Cultures of Violence, Greed, Corruption, and Overindulgence

Beginning of 6th Extinction Event

Global Inequities (Ex: gender inequality; Ex: water footprint, eco-footprint, carbon-footprint inequality)

Cycles of Malnutrition, Disease, and Death

Toxic Air Pollution and Toxic Waste

Radioactive Waste Disposal

Basic Health Care and Education Accessibility

Basic Electricity Accessibility (including mini-grid, micro-grid, and off-grid)

Migration and Displacement (related to Climate Change, violent conflicts, persecution, etc.)

Water Shortages

Sanitation Issues (water quality; sewage treatment; etc.)

Reducing Cyber Threats

Misinformation and Media Literacy

Marginalization of Wisdom and Compassion

Please choose three statements (one from each of the three categories below)--

which most closely represent **your view** of **your community's plans** to mitigate or resolve each of the 15 Very Serious Challenges listed above. Then write the letter associated with the category, and the letter associated with your choices, next to the challenges listed above.

[Ex: Cultures of Violence, Greed, Corruption, and Overindulgence Rc, Pd, Cc]

Resources (R) (category)

- a) I believe we have more than enough resources to resolve this challenge.
- b) I believe we have sufficient resources to resolve this challenge.
- c) I am not sure if we have enough resources to resolve this challenge.
- d) I am sure we do not have enough resources to resolve this challenge.

Plans (P) (category)

- a) I believe we have a relevant, practical, and doable action plan for resolving this challenge.
- b) I believe we are taking the steps necessary to develop a relevant, practical, and doable action plans for resolving this challenge.
- c) I am not sure if we know how to resolve this challenge.
- d) I do not believe we know how to resolve this challenge.

Confidence (C) (category)

- a) I am confident we can resolve this challenge
- b) I believe we are moving in the right direction to resolve this challenge.
- c) I am not sure if we will be able to resolve this challenge.
- d) I have no confidence in our ability to resolve this challenge.

5. Large Cities vs. Small Cities, Towns, and Villages

- a) Please consider the following statement--

“It is possible to create, support, and sustain (**large cities**) which can minimize resource requirements, achieve zero carbon emissions, maintain ecological sustainability, maintain a high level of compassion for fellow human beings--and which represent what a significant majority of community residents surveyed would describe as a high quality of life.”

Please choose the phrase below which best represents your response to the above statement with “large cities” in it.

- () I believe it, and there is much evidence to support it
- () I believe it, and there is sufficient evidence to support it
- () I would like to believe it, but there isn’t much evidence to support it
- () It is difficult to believe, with the way things are going now
- () I don’t believe it, there is no evidence to support it

b) Please consider the following statement--

“It is possible to create, support, and sustain (small cities, towns, and villages) which can minimize resource requirements, achieve zero carbon emissions, maintain ecological sustainability, maintain a high level of compassion for fellow human beings--and which represent what a significant majority of community residents surveyed would describe as a high quality of life.”

Please choose the phrase below which best represents your response to the above statement with “small cities, towns, and villages” in it.

- I believe it, and there is much evidence to support it
- I believe it, and there is sufficient evidence to support it
- I would like to believe it, but there isn't much evidence to support it
- It is difficult to believe, with the way things are going now
- I don't believe it, there is no evidence to support it

6. Global Drugs Trade and Global Arms Trade

Please consider the following excerpt from the [“World Report of Violence and Health”](#) [in Recommendation 9” (p. 254)] by the World Health Organization (2002):

“The global drugs trade and the global arms trade are integral to violence in both developing and industrialized countries. Even modest progress on either front will contribute to reducing the amount and degree of violence suffered by millions of people. To date, however--and despite their high profile in the world arena--no solutions seem to be in sight for these problems.”

a) Please choose the phrase below which best represents your response to the following question.

How much daily contact with the treasured wisdom of religious, spiritual, and moral traditions do you feel people in general would need before we would see noticeable progress on the above mentioned problems (the global drugs trade and the global arms trade)?

- a little more
- a lot more
- a profound increase from current levels
- more than is likely to happen
- X additional solutions will be essential to make noticeable progress
- Y have a different view, or a different understanding of our present circumstances

b) If you checked box(es) X or/and Y, please describe below any solutions to the above two problems (global drugs trade and global arms trade) which you feel would be helpful contributions to making noticeable progress on resolving these problems... or describe your different view, or different understanding of our present circumstances.

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances:

7. People, Institutions, etc. Which You Personally Place Your Faith In

[Note: this question may also take participants some time to answer; however, given our circumstances, with all the emergencies we are facing--we need to get into the practice of thinking more carefully about what we are doing... literally, and in the most practical sense....]

During the course of any given day, each of us consciously or unconsciously places our faith in a variety of people, institutions, organizations, businesses, beliefs, principles, practices, commonly agreed upon codes of conduct, etc.

a) Consider carefully the 'things you do in the everyday circumstances of your life'--and then list 10 people, institutions, businesses, beliefs, principles, practices, commonly agreed upon codes of conduct, etc. which you personally place your faith in. Then, please mark or arrange the list so that #1 is the most significant person, institution, etc. which you personally place your faith in, #2 is the second most significant, and so on.

b) Please check the box below which best represents your view of the following statement: "There is a profound and critical need for as many people as possible to be exercising as much love, understanding, and forgiveness as possible--in as many ways as possible."--(and contribute comments)

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| agree | agree in some ways | have different view--
or different way of
understanding our
present circumstances | disagree in
some ways | disagree |

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances:

8. Cultivating Sympathy and Compassion in Your Community

- a) Please name five (5) people who live in your community--who you know personally, and/or who you have been influenced by--who have inspired in you the qualities of sympathy for the suffering of others, and willingness to express compassion in ways which might alleviate some of such suffering.
- b) What does your local community do--specifically, as a community--to nurture, encourage, support, and inspire--to cultivate--such sympathetic and compassionate persons?

9. Identifying Peacebuilders in Your Community

- a) Please name five to ten (5-10) people in your community who you believe are the most valuable peacebuilders in your community.
- b) Please describe five (5) qualities, skills, experiences, knowledge, etc. which you believe are essential to identifying someone as a most valuable peacebuilder?

10. Trust Among People from Different Faith Communities and Cultural Traditions

Please consider the following statement:

“There will be a noticeable increase in trust among people from different faith communities and cultural traditions (i.e. Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, etc.; Asian, African, Hispanic, American, etc.) in the next 20 years.”

Please choose the phrase(s) below which best represent(s) your view of the statement above.

- would actively contribute to making it happen
- with some assistance it could happen
- it would take a lot of effort to make it happen
- even with a lot of effort it might never happen
- it will never happen
- would actively prevent it from happening

11. Arriving at Working Definitions of “Right Livelihood”

Please consider what ways of earning a living you would identify as “right livelihood.”

Now imagine a local community resource guide relating to employment, apprenticeships, training, and volunteer opportunities associated with “right livelihood.”

And further: imagine a committee commissioned to produce such a “right livelihood” resource guide... and the individuals who make up the committee commissioned to produce such a resource guide...

- a) What background (qualifications, experiences, etc.) would you like such individuals to have?
- b) What local institutions would you consider most appropriate to commission such a resource guide, and oversee its production?

12. Identifying the Most Important Elements of Community Life and Cultural Traditions

Please complete the following statement--in as many ways as you can.

In the best of times, even the most profound challenges can be overcome; for in the best of times, _____ is/are nurtured, supported, and sustained by family, teachers, mentors, elders, and the everyday influences of community life and cultural traditions.

13. If Only There Was a Way....

Please complete the following sentence in as many ways as you believe may help others who will read your responses:

If only there was a way to _____.

14. The Person Who Will Help Me the Most....

Please complete the following sentence in as many ways as you believe may help others who will read your responses:

The person who will help me the most is the person who will _____.

15. How Difficult Are the Challenges Ahead?

“Overcoming the challenges of our times will require fully utilizing all the knowledge, tools, and resources accessible to us for the highest good possible in every area of capacity building (physical, ecological, medical, spiritual, educational, social, economic, technical, political, etc).”

Please check the box (or boxes) which best correspond(s) to the way you view the above statement:

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| agree | agree in some ways | have different view--
or different way of
understanding our
present circumstances | disagree in
some ways | disagree |

Your different view, or different way of understanding our present circumstances:

Appendix

Resources for Further Reading

- 1) [“Global Warming Awareness, Climate Change Awareness, and Climate Emergency Action” A Survey: 1961-2020](#) (240 highlights from reports, websites, articles, books, etc.) (316 pages; November, 2020)
- 2) [“Quick Reference to 10 Key Graphs and Charts”](#) (6 pages) (last six pages from “Survey” in #1 above)
- 3) [“Unprecedented Challenges Ahead--December, 2021”](#) (2 pages)
- 4) [“17 Tweet Series”](#) (on Twitter platform) (summarizes unprecedented challenges and the CPCS Initiative’s “constellations of initiatives” approach to accelerating solution activity)
- 5) [“Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?”](#) (147 pages; April, 2021) (very concise and comprehensive compilation-of-excerpts overview of global challenges--and overview of an array of pathways for accelerating cultural transformation)
- 6) [“What are Cultural and Spiritual Tipping Points?”](#) (Op-Ed, 4 pages, 1273 words; February, 2022)
- 7) [“Becoming a Greater Force Than the Challenges We Are Facing”](#) (6 pages; August, 2021)
- 8) [“Sample List of 231 positive tipping point organizations and institutions”](#) (12 pages; December, 2020)
- 9) [“Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities \(13 Steps\)”](#) (78 pages; May, 2017)
- 10) [“Key Sources of Inspiration”](#) (51 pages; September, 2021)

CPCS Initiative Vision (also at <https://www.cpcsi.org/vision>)

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative believes that priority actions--for urgently and drastically cutting Global Greenhouse Gas Emissions--would be more constructive if they were focused on small cities, towns, and villages, which:

- a) are more sustainable-friendly in the long run
- b) have less complex vulnerabilities
- c) create more emphasis on downsizing and focusing on what basic necessities are most needed
- d) where it is easier to see the results of our actions
- e) where a truly natural circular economy (sewage treatment; food miles; less packaging; zero waste; etc.) is much easier to implement, and more likely to actually happen.

The CPCS Initiative also believes that it is possible for local communities and regions to include the recommendations of the CPCS Initiative (<https://www.cpcsi.org/recommendations>) into their local specific “constellation of initiatives”--and for all continents, countries, regions, and local communities to achieve Zero Carbon in ten years.