

61 Indicators of a Convergence of Unprecedented Challenges

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(4 pages; January, 2023)

The Climate Emergency and the Sustainable BioDiversity Emergency are only two indicators of a convergence of unprecedented challenges, happening now. I have included evidence from very responsible and trustworthy sources for such a convergence in many of the papers I have compiled and edited, over many years.

Examples of Related Papers (all accessible on the homepage of www.cpcsi.org)

- 1) [“Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?”](#) (147 pages; April, 2021)
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- 2) [“17 Tweet Series as a Document”](#) (10 pages; June, 2020)
- 3) ["Invitation Package for Possible Board of Advisors"](#) (589 pages; November, 2013)
([Table of Contents](#))
- 4) ["IPCR Critical Challenges Assessment 2011-2012: Summary Report"](#) (444 pages; January, 2012)
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The 61 point list of “social and environmental externalities” (p. 2-4 below) is from the introduction to [“Large Cities are Not Sustainable--and will not help us get to Zero Carbon ASAP”](#) (148 pages; May, 2022). Supporting evidence for most of these challenges--from very responsible and trustworthy sources--can be found by key phrase searches in the “Large Cities...” paper, and the “Do We Have Moral Compasses....” paper (above).

The meaning of “social and environmental externalities” which I am emphasizing here is from a UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) document “Towards a Green Economy...” (2011), cited below.

“Most economic development and growth strategies encouraged rapid accumulation of physical, financial and human capital, but at the expense of excessive depletion and degradation of natural capital, which includes the endowment of natural resources and ecosystems. By depleting the world’s stock of natural wealth--often irreversibly--this pattern of development and growth has had detrimental impacts on the wellbeing of current generations and presents tremendous risks and challenges for the future. The recent multiple crises are symptomatic of this pattern. *Existing policies and market incentives have contributed to this problem of capital misallocation because they allow businesses to run up significant, largely unaccounted for, and unchecked social and environmental externalities.*” (my italics and underlining)

[From “Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication” United Nations Environment Programme, (2011) (at https://docs.google.com/gview?url=http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/126GER_synthesis_en.pdf&embedded=true) (in Introduction, see section “An Era of Capital Misallocation”--insufficient numbering, see the first and second pages of the introduction)]

1. Climate Emergency
2. Sustainable BioDiversity Emergency (key word “ecosystems”)
3. Marginalization of the Treasured Wisdom associated with religious, spiritual, and moral traditions
4. cultures of violence, greed, corruption, and overindulgence
5. the ever increasing World Population [as of October 13, 2022 = 8,004,560,500
[re <https://www.theworldcounts.com/challenges/planet-earth/state-of-the-planet/world-population-clock-live>]
6. the end of the Fossil Fuel Era
7. megacities (cities with populations over 1 million) are running massive ecological deficits
(resource consumption and waste discharge...in excess of locally/regionally sustainable natural production and assimilative capacity)
8. Global Inequities
9. cycles of malnutrition, disease, and death
10. the continued exploitation of flaws and weaknesses in human nature, fragile ecosystems, and already significantly depleted natural resources
11. Deterioration of trust/confidence in institutions responsible for guiding public discourse
12. loss of social and spiritual cohesion
13. significant, largely unaccounted for, and unchecked **social and environmental externalities**
14. misinformation, other more trivial information, and “siren song” of multiple entertainment venues
15. television violence
16. commercialism on television
17. moral decay
18. physical decadence
19. global drugs trade
20. global arms trade
21. uncharted territory, in the most complex cultural landscapes ever created
22. Planetary Life Support Systems are unravelling
23. our planet is flashing red warning signs of systems failure
24. The health of ecosystems on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever
25. Food Loss and Food Waste-- About 1/3 of the food produced in the world for human consumption every year; approximately 1.3 billion tonnes gets lost or wasted.
26. Transport emissions

27. 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure (GPA = C-)
28. ...the unpaid and underpaid care work done primarily by women and girls around the world
29. There are an estimated 35 million tons of hazardous materials managed annually in the United States
30. In low-income countries, over 90% of solid waste is mismanaged
31. one highly toxic chemical--something that kills large fish quickly and we think is probably found on every single busy road in the world.
32. Some 827,000 people in low- and middle-income countries die as a result of inadequate water, sanitation, and hygiene each year
33. ... 393 million of the civilian-held firearms, 46 percent, are in the United States, which is more than those held by civilians in the other top 25 countries combined.
34. global ad spend growth of 5.8% in 2021, amounting to USD 579 billion.
35. The top five meat and dairy companies emit more greenhouse gases than ExxonMobil, Shell, and BP
36. More than 8 million tons of plastic end up in the ocean every year
37. (In the U.S.) Commercially spent nuclear fuel is stored at reactor sites where the electricity was generated. High-level radioactive waste and spent fuel from national defense activities is stored at several DOE managed sites. While this temporary storage is safe in the near-term, we need a sustainable, long-term solution
38. As of 2015, 29 percent of people globally suffer from lack of access to safely managed drinking water
39. There is a water main break every two minutes, and an estimated 6 billion gallons of treated water lost each day in the U.S
40. Forcibly Displaced--as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order
41. The interplay between climate, conflict, hunger, poverty and persecution creates increasingly complex emergencies
42. more than \$40 trillion of sovereign debt in global markets at any given time
43. key drivers of emissions such as economic growth and population growth.
44. Mapping the PFAS contamination crisis: New data show 2,854 sites in 50 states and two territories.
45. There are currently 770 individually listed chemicals and 33 chemical categories covered by the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Program.
46. ... more than 90% of the world's young people – 1.8 billion children – are breathing toxic air, storing up a public health time bomb for the next generation.
47. Nearly two-thirds of the 500,000 deaths of infants documented were associated with indoor air pollution, particularly arising from solid fuels such as charcoal, wood, and animal dung for cooking.
48. Today, 1.42 billion people--including 450 million children--live in areas of high or extremely high water vulnerability. (UNICEF, 2021)

49. Today, 1 in 4 people--2 billion people--around the world lack safe drinking water. (WHO/UNICEF 2021)
50. Almost half of the global population--3.6 billion people--lack safe sanitation. (WHO/UNICEF 2021)
51. The 14 percent of energy used in the food system to move goods from farmer to consumer is equal to two thirds of the energy used to produce the food.
52. Earth's environmental degradation, including the loss of precious topsoil and forest cover, the encroachment of deserts, the depletion of fisheries and aquifers, the loss of habitat and the extinction of species, etc.
53. the glaring and increasing disparity between rich and poor leading to exploitation, poverty, and the associated regimen of malnutrition and over-population
54. the disintegration of families, communities, even entire cultures
55. unrestrained urbanization resulting in social alienation, displacement, and feelings of disconnection with the natural world
56. the dimming of a sense of spiritual awareness and purpose
57. \$546.2 billion spent worldwide on alcoholic beverages in 2021
58. \$465.76 billion of worldwide gambling revenues in 2020
59. Are you loyal to the truth?
60. When pressure is brought to bear upon you to lower your standards, are you prepared to resist it?
61. toxic waste