Summary of

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative

by Stefan Pasti, Founder of The CPCS Initiative at www.cpcsi.org
(4 pages; February 29, 2024)

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative provides research and analysis for critical challenge alerts; and research and support for collaborative problem solving, community education, and citizen peacebuilding initiatives which seek to maximize citizen participation, and accelerate solution-oriented activity.

One of the Most Critical Crossroads in the History of Life on Planet Earth

1) The Climate Emergency

The Climate Emergency Era has begun, and it is not currently known how long it will last, *or if it will end.*
[Reference: "Global Warming Awareness, Climate Change Awareness, and Climate Emergency Action--A Survey: 1961-2020" (240 highlights) (316 pages; November, 2020) Compiled and Edited by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator, The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative www.cpcsi.org]

2) 6th Extinction

a) "Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history--and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating, with grave impacts on people around the world now likely…."
b) "… around 1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history."
[from article "UN Report: Nature's Dangerous Decline 'Unprecedented'; Species Extinction Rates 'Accelerating'"--about the new report from The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (May 6, 2019) (paragraphs 1 and 10)]

3) Human Morality

We are at one of the most critical crossroads in the history of life on Planet Earth… and human nature, with its flaws and shortcomings throughout the ages, is now being asked to look at itself a little more closely than before.
[Reference: "Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?" (147 pages; April, 2021) Compiled and edited by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Resource Coordinator The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative www.cpcsi.org ----with supplemental copy "Table of Contents" (13 pages) as Executive Summary (Section B: Concerns about the Leanings of Human Aspirations; Section C: *"The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions…."*)]

<u>The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative Vision</u>

The 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:

1) are more sustainable-friendly in the long run
2) have less complex vulnerabilities
3) create more emphasis on downsizing and focusing on what basic necessities are most needed
   and
4) where it is easier to see the results of our actions
5) where a truly natural circular economy (sewage treatment; food miles; less packaging; zero waste; etc.) is much easier to implement, and much more likely to actually happen
6) where wisdom and compassion are more *native*, and can be better nurtured, supported, and sustained (*as they are in their natural habitat*)

<u>*Out of* and *Into*</u>

The CPCS Initiative focuses on building pathways *out of* excessively complex cultural landscapes --and the associated "social and environmental externalities" [see "61 Indicators of a Convergence of Unprecedented Challenges" (3p; Jan., 2023)]--and *into* smaller right livelihood habitats, where many of our challenges can be resolved at the same time. Here are four examples of how the *out of* and *into* could happen [with an emphasis on finding **5-10 small progressive towns** ("2,355 jurisdictions in 40 countries have declared a climate emergency. Populations covered by jurisdictions that have declared a climate emergency amount to over 1 billion citizens." link) **to model the approach**, and then say "Look what they did…"]

1) https://www.cpcsi.org/constellations-of-initiatives-approach , [which is also p. 16-20 in "Triggering Positive Social, Environmental, Economic, and Cultural Tipping Points" (20p; Sept., 2022)]
2) Table of Contents (13 pages) for "Do We Have Moral Compasses We Can Rely On?" (147 pages; April, 2021) Section C: *"The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions…."* (also comprehensive summary: Section B: Concerns about the Leanings of Human Aspirations)
3) "1000s of "Positive Tipping Point orgs —> Global Clearinghouse risks/solutions = Hub support for *local* #Ed #CivilianClimateCorps #SelectiveBuying #ConscientiousObjector #SmallerHabitats #EmergencySharing #Peace = limiting #GlobalWarming in #10years" = **6 tweet thread** also at https://twitter.com/StefanPasti/status/1729569216427130994
4) "Growing Wisdom and Compassion in Small Communities (13 Steps)" (78 pages; May, 2017)

Opportunities for Universities, Colleges, and Community Colleges
re Exponentially Accelerating Solutions Action in the Climate Emergency Era

1) assist in facilitating and providing clear guidance on key fields of activity (food systems, water scarcity, migration, housing; land rights, biodiversity; civic engagement; peacebuilding; emergency assistance, etc.)

2) accelerate **Civilian Climate Corps** into key fields of activity

3) create curriculum resources, classes, workshops, and teacher training to maximize the identification of challenges and solutions during **LOCAL** Community Visioning Processes
(and other **local**stakeholder engagement, collaborative problem-solving approaches)

4) accelerate the training of organizers and facilitators for **local** collaborative problem-solving

5) demonstrate how all the investments of time, energy, and money (the "votes") each of us make in our everyday circumstances become the larger economy. People from every variety of circumstances can learn how to wisely cast such "votes"

6) make better use of teachings which inspire and encourage people to:

    a) sacrifice personal desires for the greater good of the whole

    b) find contentment and quality of life while using less material goods and ecological services

    c) support community life and cultural traditions which "bring to the fore how many good people there are, how many ways there are to do good, and how much happiness comes to those who extend help, as well as to those who receive it"

Thus, The CPCS Initiative believes that it is possible for local communities and regions to include the recommendations of the CPCS Initiative into their local specific "constellation of initiatives"--and for all continents, countries, regions, and local communities to limit the number of negative tipping points which are triggered to a minimum in ten years.

Equally Important—About

The Community Peacebuilding and Cultural Sustainability (CPCS) Initiative also is an effort to apply the accumulated wisdom now accessible to us towards the general goal of integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life--and towards the specific goal of generating practical responses to the challenges of our times.

Resources

1) "Key Sources of Inspiration" (51 pages; September, 2021) Thirty-one key sources of inspiration for my own personal service work, each followed by corresponding entries, inspirational excerpts, and links
2) "An Arrangement of Quotations from 'Sathya Sai Speaks' (Vol. 1-15)" (301 pages; 1997, 2006)
Vol. 1-15 are collections of discourses by Sri Sathya Sai Baba (1926-2011) during the years 1953-1982.
(5 page Table of Contents)

Concluding Comments

"… there are truths which none can be free to ignore, if one is to have that wisdom through which life can become useful. These are the truths concerning the structures of the good life and concerning the factual conditions by which it may be achieved…."
[From "General Education in a Free Society, The Harvard Committee (1945)]

Human morality is not a constant--it is not something which is the same throughout the centuries of human existence; and thus it is something which can become degraded or raised up, depending on the leanings of human aspirations.