Planetary Health
How do we want to shape our future?

#TalkAboutPlanetaryHealth
1 billion people in extreme poverty

1 billion rich people

Source: Pixabay
1 billion people in extreme poverty

1 billion rich people

Source: Pixabay
1 billion people in extreme poverty

1 billion rich people

Ecological footprint

Health

Source: Pixabay
1 billion people in extreme poverty

Pollution
Climate change
Biodiversity loss

1 billion rich people

Ecological footprint

Source: Pixabay
1 billion people in extreme poverty

1 billion rich people

GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Health

Ecological footprint

Source: Pixabay
Ecological footprint

1.5°C

2°C

Health

Source: Pixabay
Crisis = Threat AND Opportunity

"Climate change is the biggest global health threat of the 21st century."

The Lancet 2009

"Tackling climate change could be the greatest global health opportunity of the 21st century."

The Lancet 2015

Source: www.thelancet.com/climate-and-health
Biodiversity loss

Pollution

Stress Burnout

Pandemics

Chronic diseases

Climate change

Source: Pixabay
Common roots

→ Common (win-win) solutions

Source: https://sharingcitiesalliance.knowledgeowl.com/help/copenhagen

Source: www.daserste.de/information/wissen-kultur/w-wie-wissen/ernaehrung-136.html

Source: https://pixabay.com/de/photos/photovoltaik-photovoltaikanlage-2138992
Planetary Health

1. Our lifestyle is making us ill and is destroying the planet.
2. Healthy people can only exist on a healthy planet.
3. We must initiate a civilizational transformation for planetary health.

Why should I care about climate stability?

Healthy relationship between humans and Nature

Why should I care about biodiversity?

Planetary Health

1. Our lifestyle is making us ill and is destroying the planet.
2. Healthy people can only exist on a healthy planet.
3. We must initiate a civilizational transformation for planetary health.

Healthy planet

Healthy relationship between humans and Nature

Healthy societies
Healthy food systems

Healthy health systems

Healthy planet

Healthy relationship between humans and Nature

Healthy societies
Healthy food systems
Healthy health systems
Healthy living environments
Healthy mobility
Healthy production & consumption patterns
Healthy planet
Healthy societies
Healthy relationship between humans and Nature
Healthy food systems

Healthy health systems

Healthy living environments

Healthy mobility

Healthy production & consumption patterns

Healthy planet

Healthy societies

Healthy relationship between humans and Nature

Policy for planetary health

Education and science for planetary health
Problems can never be solved with the same mindset that created them.
Great Transformation

Flagship Report

World in Transition
A Social Contract for Sustainability

Source: WBGU report “World in Transition” 2011, fig. 3.4.1, from Grin, Rotmans & Schot 2010, based on Geels & Schot 2010
Wir sind hier, wir sind laut, weil ihr unsere Zukunft klaut.

London

Quelle: Thomas Katan

Berlin

Quelle: Public Domain

Quelle: Sabine Gabrysch
WHO MANIFESTO

Prescriptions and Actionables for a Healthy and Green Recovery FROM COVID-19

World Health Organization

Given the interconnected nature of climate change, loss of biodiversity, land degradation, and air and water pollution, it is essential that these problems are tackled together.

Human well-being, now and in the future, depends on a healthy planet.

Transforming humankind’s relationship with nature is the key to a sustainable future.
Source: WBGU report “World in Transition” 2011, fig. 3.4.1, from Grin, Rotmans & Schot 2010, based on Geels & Schot 2010
The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how vulnerable we are and how closely connected we are with Nature. Health cannot be taken for granted. Do we take the prerequisites for healthy living seriously enough? Or are we, as a civilization, systematically jeopardizing our health?

Healthy people as part of a healthy planet Earth

In recent decades, as prosperity has increased, human health has improved worldwide; yet not everyone has benefited. In poorer population groups, infectious diseases and maternal and child mortality still cause a great deal of avoidable suffering. Increasingly, however, the gains in prosperity are themselves having a negative impact on health: on the one hand as ‘too much of a good thing’ through the over-consumption of food and the displacement of physical activity from everyday life, on the other as harmful side effects in the form of air pollution and environmental toxins. As a result, lifestyle diseases such as overweight, diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory diseases are on the rise worldwide.

Last but not least, our resource-intensive way of life, with its immense emissions of greenhouse gases, the destruction of natural habitats and increasing pollution of land and sea, has led to a planetary crisis. It threatens the natural life-support systems on Earth and thus the health of all people. Heat waves, disastrous floods and pandemics drastically demonstrate to us that our society is dependent on functioning ecosystems and a stable climate. The planetary crisis could furthermore threaten the cohesion of our societies and overburden healthcare systems.

But the crisis also gives us an opportunity to rethink our idea of prosperity and progress, to break habits and make our societies fairer, more sustainable and healthier. Because the increasing environmental and health problems often have common roots, synergies can be found in approaches to solving them. We are at a crossroads. Society, business and politics must assume responsibility and initiate a comprehensive transformation that leads to healthy human life on a healthy planet.

The WBGU is currently working on the interconnections between health and global environmental change and would like to put forward three assertions and ten sets of questions for discussion.

1. Our lifestyle is making us ill and is destroying the planet.
2. Healthy people can only exist on a healthy planet.
3. We must initiate a civilizational transformation for planetary health.

FYI: German launch: 2 Feb 2022, 3pm
Additional information


- WBGU newsletter registration to keep up to date: https://www.wbgu.de/en/service/newsletter-registration

- Press contact, comments and suggestions to: Benno Pilardeaux bpilardeaux@wbgu.de

- Slides licence (free to use with attribution and indicated changes): CC BY-SA 4.0; https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/

- Further talks and resources by Sabine Gabrysch: www.pik-potsdam.de/members/gabrysch