



THERE'S ONLY ONE EARTH...

Winners and Losers. Black to Red. Up and Down. As we arrive into the new year 2022, it's interesting to consider some examples (see also my film series via website www.brockinitiative.org "Winners and Losers – How to turn losers into winners"). How bad is the bad news? Really? According to The Daily Mail and The Times (both 1/12/2021) eleven bird species are "at risk" including Bewick's Swan at -88%, and bird of prey Montagu's harrier at -60%. The "red list" is Birds of Conservation Concern. But it's worth noting that, apart from the Montagu's harrier, all other birds of prey in Britain are increasing – some ten species... with a lot of help from their friends. In the forests of Siberia, "Putin's top cat", the Amur Tiger, has jumped back, through protection, from 330 in 2005 to more than 600 today. Down in South Africa 30 white rhinos were flown in their own private jet to Rwanda in central Africa to establish the species there. Big animals are often difficult to live with, but great whales have increased, seen leaping clear of the sea by two amazed fishermen in northern Scotland (27/11/2021). From the USA to Australia good news can be found. The same day the whale leapt, the Great Barrier Reef sexually exploded with the coral simultaneously releasing billions of sperm and eggs all at once. What a come-back! After years of deadly bleaching. What sort of a year will it be for our only home?



PLANET CRUNCH: The Life (Or Death?) of Planet Earth

Richard Brock

The book – a personal view – so far...Funded by a family legacy, now 3000 have been printed and distributed, free, with COP26 very much in mind.

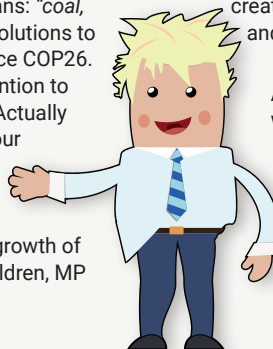
The book, and the three special films (on YouTube and Vimeo) are based on media coverage over the last three years, where the subjects have moved from small items to big headlines, such as COP26 in November. Part of my research included The Times, probably the most respected and well researched newspaper in the country. But, in my personal opinion, totally lacking in one crucial way. Entitled "The Heat is on", this "Earth" supplement of 31 (yes 31) pages hardly mentions the biggest cause of most of the problems and issues. And those include one of Boris Johnson's natty slogans: "coal, cars, cash and trees". He was hoping for solutions to global warming at that really big conference COP26. But not many people seemed to draw attention to the reason for the difficulties we all face. Actually it's us, the number of human beings, and our consumption of the planet. In The Times supplement of 31 pages, there are more than twice (over 60) separate sections without a single specific reference to the growth of human numbers. Boris has at least six children, MP Jacob Rees-Mogg, my MP, has six too,

not exactly good examples, high-end consumers of the future. And on television, the farming Owens family totals 11. Since 2006 world population has grown 20% or by more than 1 billion people, needing more coal in China; causing more rainforests to be felled in Brazil; for cattle to be reared for more meat; or crops as animal feed; to more and more humans, who create more and more traffic in the sky and on the roads.

As Greta Thunberg put it in her direct way at COP26
"No more blah, blah, blah".

Do politicians get the message?

**BLAH
BLAH
BLAH**



FOR YOUR
FREE COPY
SCAN ME!



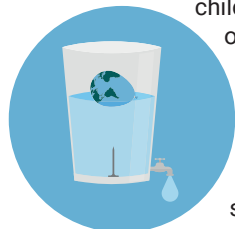


THE FUTURE OF THE SEA

With our increasing numbers come extra pressures, causing tension, as between France and the UK at the time of COP26 in early November. It would seem we are not much good at either controlling our own numbers or managing fish stocks which are, potentially, very sustainable and food for millions of people around the world.

The most important thing is to protect fisheries for the future. But we are a greedy species, short-sighted, even not protecting MPA's so-called "Marine Protected Areas"; which are not. Scallops are trawled from the sea bed and a fight begins as another natural resource is trashed, to feed those extra mouths, who don't know (or care?) where those creatures come from. That's called overfishing. There are many more humans on the land now and many fewer fish, and scallops, in the sea. Sushi may be fashionable, but it's a big killer too.

If nothing else, COP26 in Glasgow showed how internationally interconnected our (is it "ours"? Our children's?) world has become. That's particularly true



of the wonder-full ecosystems which still survive, though often damaged, but possibly repairable. The worlds of water, both fresh and sea, are vital to all life, from the melting ice of the poles to the tropical coral reefs on the Equator. Global. So when the media revealed how much raw sewage was being poured into the rivers and the sea in the UK the public response was immediate and fierce, inflamed by the knowledge of how much money the big water companies and their shareholders earn. Huge numbers, with nowhere unpolluted with microplastics. The vast majority of Britain's waste water systems were built in the 19th century and designed to accommodate far fewer of us. Not openly referred to, as usual. London's sewer system, for example, was intended for four million people, less than half its current population. The UK's population is expected to grow by a further five million by 2040. Each day a network

of roughly 350,000km collects 11 billion litres of waste water (about 150 litres per person). By 2040 it will rise by 1.4 billion litres. That's a lot of nappies, condoms, sanitary pads, wet wipes – often plastic...and that's, of course, a massive problem. So useful. And you can't uninvent it. Scientists have found a third of fish in the Thames estuary and Firth of Clyde have eaten plastic including nylon and polyester from clothing and fishing nets. Sewage sludge put on farmland gets washed into waterways during heavy rain. And, as our numbers increase, so does the amount of plastic rubbish we chuck out. Researchers found that the total annual plastics load going into the Mediterranean Sea was about 17,600 tonnes of which 3,760 were floating in the sea. Of the total 84 per cent ended up on beaches or on the sea floor. Not exactly contributing to a perfect holiday paradise, where the risk of being poisoned could be high. Part of this potential web of death could be due to one of the biggest drink companies in the world – Coca-Cola. The prestigious current affairs series, Panorama, on BBC1 television at 7.35pm on 25th October 2021 was billed: "Coca-Cola's 100 Billion Bottle Problem"...looks at its promises to cut down on plastic waste, and asks if the company is on track to achieve its pledge to create a "World without Waste". We'll see. How transparent is any "greenwashing"? See also mega-supermarket Lidl with fish and a plastic bottle advert. Coca-Cola recently swallowed sports drinks maker Body Armor for \$5.6 billion (= £4.1 billion).

It's a vicious circle, connecting us with deadly microplastics, the sea, the fish that try to live in it, and human survival.

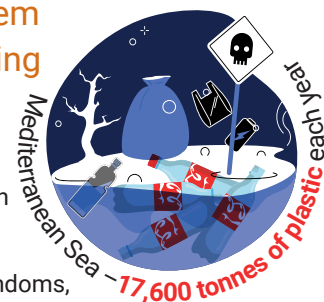


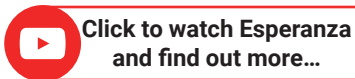
Illustration: weronikakoscien@gmail.com





ESPERANZA – THE MOUNTAIN TAPIR OF HOPE

– a strange large animal, (this is
a young one)...



...a combination of an elephant and
a horse! We reveal the Real Truth
about Our Addiction to Coffee and
Chocolate.

The unstoppable colossus of these two
plants – our world's consumption, in all
its forms, from bean to cup and snack.
Should we be made to feel guilty (yet
again) about something we enjoy? A lot.
With a story from the past up to now,
and into the future we look at the human
impact on the rich biodiversity of Central
America and question the biggest food
companies like Nestlé, Mars, Cadbury,
who claim to be green, on their labels.
But are they? And are we, in our millions,
the basic problem? Plus, now, as COP26
tried to tell us (but hardly mentioned
in perspective) the extra crunch
of climate change. Take
Madagascar for example.

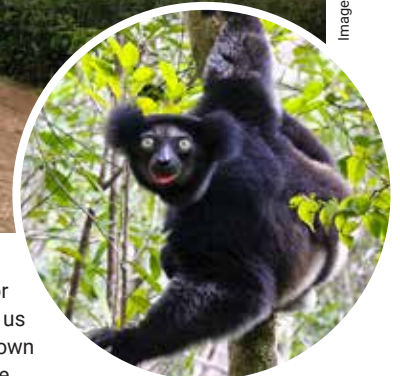


To see Esperanza
visit
<https://brockinitiative.org/esperanza-the-mountain-tapir/>

MADAGASCAR – Forest repair. Possible?

This large island off the coast of East Africa in the
Indian Ocean is/was the home of a unique range
of species, especially lemurs related to monkeys,
and dependent on the forest with its own special
insects, frogs and plants.

People and those rich forests can't live together. If a woman has ten children to
feed, she must cut down the forest to grow rice. And that's the end of the life there
– deforestation on a massive scale, whilst prolonged weather patterns may prove
fatal. After four years without rain, the human population of Madagascar is on the
brink of starvation, "the first climate-induced famine", according to the UN. Like
many poor countries, Madagascar has contributed the least to climate change but
it is one of the hardest hit and has limited resources to deal with the impacts. But
you wouldn't know it from watching a TV programme on the Nat. Geo. Wild channel,
"Madagascar's Weirdest" on 23/5/2021. Over one hour not one single human
being, or evidence of man, was shown. That's quite an achievement with a human
population of over 29 million, a result of human fertile behaviour. So don't believe
Nat. Geo. Wild (or about sharks either!). They also lie (see previous Summer 2021
Newsletter).



Images courtesy of Adobe Stock

I've seen the Madagascar disaster for myself. The
thousands of people have next-to-nothing, nothing, or
nothing at all. Because of climate change caused by us
on the other side of the world. No wonder they cut down
that unique forest to survive. But it's our hands on the
chainsaw. Could COP26 help? One of the pledges (whatever they
mean?) is an attempt to reduce or replant deforestation – an idea that was agreed in
the past but came to nothing. At least some money is promised this time, though in
President Bolsonaro's Brazilian rainforest nothing is certain and illegal logging
seems bound to continue. But, just after COP26 some good news came through for
Joe Biden, the US President. His bill to bolster social care and fight climate change
had been delayed by opposition from centrist Democrats. But it cleared the House by
220-213, however, to cheers from Democrats. Though the package, the linchpin of
the president's ambitious trillion dollar (yes, trillion) Build Back Better Act may not
survive in its current form through the political process. How much money will
actually make a difference out there in the Amazon jungle, original home to the
indigenous people who managed to get to COP26 in Glasgow coping with the
strange world of airlines and airports. Their forest has been turned into pasture for
cattle, or soya for animal feed, the trees felled and exported, illegal gold mined –
with the UK the third biggest buyer of Brazilian gold. A chain of steakhouses
combines the meat with gold leaf wrapped round it – cost £1,450 for the 2kg
Tomahawk steak. We certainly live in a weird world. At one end are the billionaires,
like Bezos, Branson and Musk who play in space, and Gunther, the world's richest
dog, a German Shepherd, with a \$500 million fortune, lives in a \$31 million mansion
and who travels by private jet, often seen as a symbol of (decadent) luxury.





CHEER-YOU-UPPLEMENT

Save the Planet with a Smile!



"A flower is simply a weed with an advertising budget"
(Rory Sutherland)

SPICY MOMENT?

Huge Snake Surprises Shoppers

Helaina Alati was browsing the spice aisle of an Australian supermarket when she came face-to-face with a huge snake. The head of the 10ft-long diamond python emerged through a space in a shelf above the spice jars in the Sydney shop.

"I was in the spice aisle just looking for something to put on my chicken that night so I didn't initially see it because it was curled up way back behind the little jars," Ms Alati said yesterday. "I kind of turned to my right and it poked its head out."

Ms Alati, who coincidentally is a trained snake catcher, said the snake's head came within 8in of hers. "I have a background in snakes so I was pretty calm about it. It definitely shocked me a little bit," she said. The supermarket chain, Woolworths, confirmed that a "slippery and rare customer was spotted in the spice aisle" at a branch in Glenorie in Sydney. It said staff "reacted quickly and calmly to cordon off the area". (The i 19/8/2021)

Spoon-billed Sandpipers

A 10-year project to give one of the world's rarest birds a 'head start' in life has staved off the threat of extinction. In 2010, an estimated 120 to 150 breeding pairs of spoon-billed sandpipers were in existence, but since the project began a decade ago, 205 chicks have been released into the wild in the Russian Arctic, some of which have now had their own chicks, and even 'grand chicks'. (The i 2/10/2021)



Carrot/Student/Exam

When we sat at our desks for biology O-level in 1964, a carrot was placed on top of each exam paper (Letters, 19 October). A classmate munched hers while waiting for the exam to start. We turned our papers over to find the first question: "Dissect this carrot and explain its structure." 🤔🤔🤔
Annie Bullen, Wildhern, Hampshire
(The Guardian 20/10/2021)

Sexy Lichen

A team from the National Trust has carefully removed a large patch of lungwort from the oak and reattached it to new trees using wire mesh, staples and eco-friendly glue, and rubbing its reproductive parts directly on bark in efforts to help it survive. (The i 20/11/2020)



How To Calm A Duck

James represented his regiment in sailing and skiing and came first in the British Army on the Rhine orienteering championships in 1983. He was also a competitive swimmer, winning a farmyard duck in a swimming regatta in Baltimore, Co Cork, chasing down the bird after it had been released into the bay by the local priest. The bird was meant for the winner's pot but James spent a ten-hour drive back up the east coast of Ireland playing it classical music. A kind-hearted figure, James said it was the only way of keeping the duck calm on the back seat. (The Times 9/10/2021)

Big Trip

A bar-tailed godwit has been tracked flying more than 8,100 miles non-stop from Alaska to Australia, a new record for a continuous flight by a land-bird. The bird, which was fitted with a tiny satellite device, left Alaska on 17 September for its summer breeding ground in New Zealand.



However, it was driven off course by strong winds over the Pacific, and eventually made landfall 500 miles north of Sydney on 27 September. It has now joined other godwits in New Zealand. Thank godwit. (The Week 20/11/2021)

Goodnight Vienna

Sir, The problem of hinting to guests that it was time to leave in our house (letters, Nov 23 & 24) was solved by our African grey parrot shouting "Night, night thank you" when he felt it was getting late. It always worked. John Pendray, Marseilles
(The Times 25/11/2021)

Weatherman's Dog Takes Viewers By Storm

Canada. A weather reporter's dog became a star after he walked into a Toronto news studio as his owner was broadcasting. Storm, a mini goldendoodle, wandered around the backdrop of weather graphs and an animated map of North America as Anthony Farnell stuck to his task and gave a two-and-a half minute bulletin. "Yes, Storm is in the building," he told viewers of Global News. (The Times 1/9/2021)

A Girl's Best Friend

The actress Sherrie Hewson writes in Yours magazine about a glamorous old friend of her mother's. "The most beautiful blonde," she says, "tall, elegant and quite aloof." And with four very shapely legs, for Frau Frau was an Afghan hound. Hewson says the pair used to travel in a convertible Mercedes, her mum driving (one assumes) and Frau Frau beside her. "From the back they looked like two fabulous models," she writes. This confused one chap in a sports car who pulled up beside them at a traffic light and wolf-whistled. "They both turned round at the same time," Hewson says, "and the bloke got the shock of his life as Frau Frau barked loudly at him." (The Times 7/10/2021)



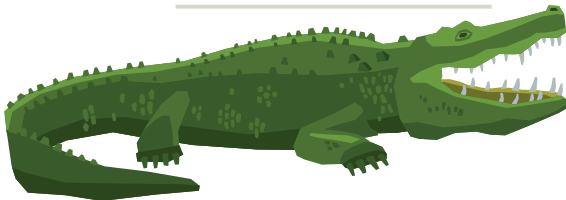
Snail

It's late at night and a man is getting ready to go to bed when he hears a knock on his door. He opens it and looks down to see a snail. "Yes," it says, "I'd like to talk to you about buying some magazine subscriptions." Furious at being disturbed, the man rears back, kicks the snail as hard as he can and storms off to bed. Two years later there comes another knock. The man answers and again finds the snail, who looks up at him and says, "What the f*** was that all about?"
(The Sunday Times 26/9/2021)



Give Me A Sign...

Sign in Jim Corbett National Park in India, overlooking the Ramganza River "This river is inhabited by hungry crocodiles. Swimming is prohibited. Survivors will be prosecuted"... that means "Private Swimming. Danger. Crocodiles. Those that are not eaten will be arrested."





Farmer Sends Remote Ewelogy For His Aunt

Australia. A farmer who was prevented by lockdown from going to his aunt's funeral paid tribute to her by arranging his sheep in the shape of a heart. Ben Jackson, from Guyra in New South Wales, used grain to entice the sheep then filmed them with a drone and sent the video to his family in Brisbane to play at the funeral. It was shared on Twitter and watched by thousands. (The Times 26/8/2021)

Dogs Help To Sniff Out Storm Petrel Colony

Specially trained dogs have sniffed out a colony of Britain's smallest seabirds on a Scottish nature reserve. Storm petrels were found breeding on the Isle of May in the Firth of Forth for the first time in the summer. But with the dogs' assistance, the location and extent of the colony has now been confirmed.

(The i 28/10/2021)

Street Dog Boji Is A Hit With Istanbul's Metro Commuters

A train-hopping street dog has been fitted with a microchip to track its way across Istanbul after it became a fixture on the morning commute.

Boji is a regular sight on buses and metro carriages, with Turks giving him a stroke or a pat as he tours the city.



Officials, who have all but adopted the popular pooch, say they have fitted Boji with a device to record his urban journeys, and have also given him several vaccinations to keep him safe.

The data so far has shown that Boji travels for up to 18 miles a day on public transport, passing through 29 stations.

The dog has amassed a considerable online following, with accounts on Instagram and on Twitter, where he has more than 50,000 followers.

(Daily Telegraph 6/10/2021)

Bat Swoops In To Win Bird Of The Year Award

A bat has won New Zealand's 2021 Bird of the Year competition, ruffling the feathers of some birders.

It is the first time that the country's only native land mammal has been included in the contest, in which it was voted the winner in an online poll.

A total of 56,733 votes were cast after a two-week campaign, making it the biggest competition in Bird of the Year's 16-year history.

"I think I'm going to be fired," said Laura Keown, a spokeswoman for Forest and Bird, an environmental group which runs the annual contest. The campaign to raise awareness and support for this little flying furball has captured the nation.

"A vote for bats is also a vote for predator control, habitat restoration and climate action to protect our bats and their feathered neighbours."

Ben Paris, a senior conservation adviser at Auckland Council, who is described as "New Zealand's Batman", said the long-tailed bat – known as pekapeka-tou-roa in Maori – was entered in to the competition to "help people get to know them, and their story has flown around the world".

However, the win has infuriated some bird-lovers who branded it a "total farce". Some said it was a stunt to rescue the mammal's reputation amid the Covid pandemic.

The competition has attracted controversy in the past, with allegations of rigged polls, voter fraud and even Russian interference in 2019, but the organisers denied foul play.

(The i 2/11/2021)

Brothers' Sweet Escape From Leopard Attack

India. Two brothers escaped from a leopard by throwing a birthday cake at it. Firoz and Sabir Mansuri were on a motorbike going to a party for Firoz's son in Madhya Pradesh state when the animal shot out of a field. It was gaining ground when Sabir hit it with a box carrying the cake before the animal ran off. Moral: always carry a cake on a motorbike on the way to a birthday party.

(The Times 2/7/2021)



Bear Cub Knocked Out After Shopping Trip

United States. A bear cub has been tranquillised and released into the wild after strolling through a Los Angeles supermarket. The bear which weighed about 120lb, was filmed sniffing around a branch of Ralphs in the San Fernando Valley and then walking out of the front door. Officers of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife found it hiding under a trailer near by. (AP)

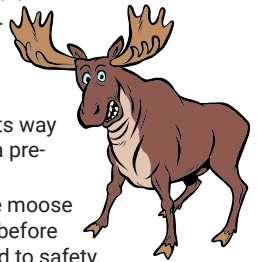
(The Times 11/8/2021)

Moose On Loose Takes Crash Course At School

A moose that crashed through the window of a primary school in Saskatchewan, Canada, achieved worldwide fame when a photo swept across social media (Charlie Mitchell writes).

The two-year-old, 350kg creature is seen looking dazed among shards of glass having smashed its way in to join 14 children in a pre-school session.

Officials said the female moose made her entrance just before 9am. The pupils were led to safety. "It was scary. The staff did an amazing job of taking care of students," said Veronica Baker, of Saskatoon Public Schools. Wildlife officers tranquillised the animal then took her back into the wild to join the province's 48,000 other moose (mooses?).



For those of (great) old age, it was sad to learn that Don Everly of the famous and influential Everly Brothers died at the age of 84. You may not know that Don once had a solo pop slot on radio singing commercials for a brand of rat poison. Moral? Never give up.

STUFF

We get through/use up an amazing amount of "stuff", much of which we probably don't want, let alone need.

For Christmas, a jumbo jet landed full of Sony PlayStation 5s consoles. More flights arrived at Heathrow later and yet more are planned to feed the apparently insatiable demand, as a fleet of articulated lorries distribute the PS5s around the UK. And that's just one example. The front page of The Daily Express: "£5bn SPENDING SPREE...NOW THAT'S A MERRY XMAS". Inside the words are "bonanza", "joy of shopping", "record high", "festive spree", "splurge". Apart from the actual money cost, one has to ask what is the cost to the planet, and its future? There is a limit to the extent that it can support us, and be sustainable in the long term. And increasing human numbers add to the pressure on the planet. It does look like "Planet Crunch" as in The Sun newspaper of 2nd November 2021:-

Black Friday
=
Black Planet

At COP26 Sir David Attenborough left world leaders on the verge of tears yesterday in a moving speech that saw Joe Biden lead a standing ovation.

The US President leapt to his feet to applaud the veteran environmentalist.

Sir David, 95, told the room filled with the planet's most powerful men and women how the world had changed before his eyes during his decades of reporting on the natural world.

He urged them to inspire action now for a better world for the next generation.

The TV star and climate hero told them: "In my lifetime, I've witnessed a terrible decline. In yours, you could and should witness a wonderful recovery. That desperate hope is why the world is looking to you and why you are here".

In a stark warning, he said humanity was already in trouble, countries in danger of being flooded completely, or running out of food.

He asked: "Is this how our story is due to end - a tale of the smartest species doomed by that all-too-human characteristic of failing to see the bigger picture in pursuit of short-term goals?"

Natasha Clarke, The Sun 2/11/2021



21 million Britons receive at least one unwanted gift each Christmas.



wildlife
W&L
winners and losers
how to turn losers into winners



Wildlife filmmaker Richard Brock says:

“ There is still time to save the planet.
My **WILDLIFE WINNERS AND LOSERS** series
is my contribution.

Now it's your turn. Watch these free films. Choose from
100+ films of different lengths to inspire you to take action.

They're free to watch and share with as many people as possible.
Use the series to give you ammunition to help save the planet.

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