



International Advocacy

HYBRID 10 WORKSHOP

31 August - 2 September 2022



Lectures 3



EUROPE

Should we stop having children to save the planet?

Emmanuel Pont

Researcher on the relations among ecology, science and politics,
blogger and author of a bestselling book (France)

Should we stop having
children to save the planet?

Emmanuel Pont



Emmanuel Pont

May 27, 2021 · 43 min read · Listen



Population and climate change

Do we have to reduce global population to “save the planet”? Many people say that limiting population size is a priority for environmental sustainability, several organizations have even been created to support this goal, and the debate regularly flares up in the ecologically-minded community. According to some studies, having a child is the worst thing one can do for the climate, by far. As a “green” individual, should one give up on having children, and feel guilty about the ones already born? How can we shed light on the subject and get closer to a rational answer? In this article we will investigate the links between climate¹ and population^{2,3}.

Contents

- What is the state of the world’s population today?
- What can we expect for future population growth?
- How are greenhouse gas emissions distributed?
- How to reduce emissions?
- Should poor countries be helped to complete their demographic transition?

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Emmanuel Pont

FAUT-IL ARRÊTER DE FAIRE DES ENFANTS POUR SAUVER LA PLANÈTE ?

Entre question de société
et choix personnel



Is the human population an
exploding bomb ?



A Sierra Club-Ballantine Book

95¢

01657 • 095

POPULATION CONTROL OR
RACE TO OBLIVION?

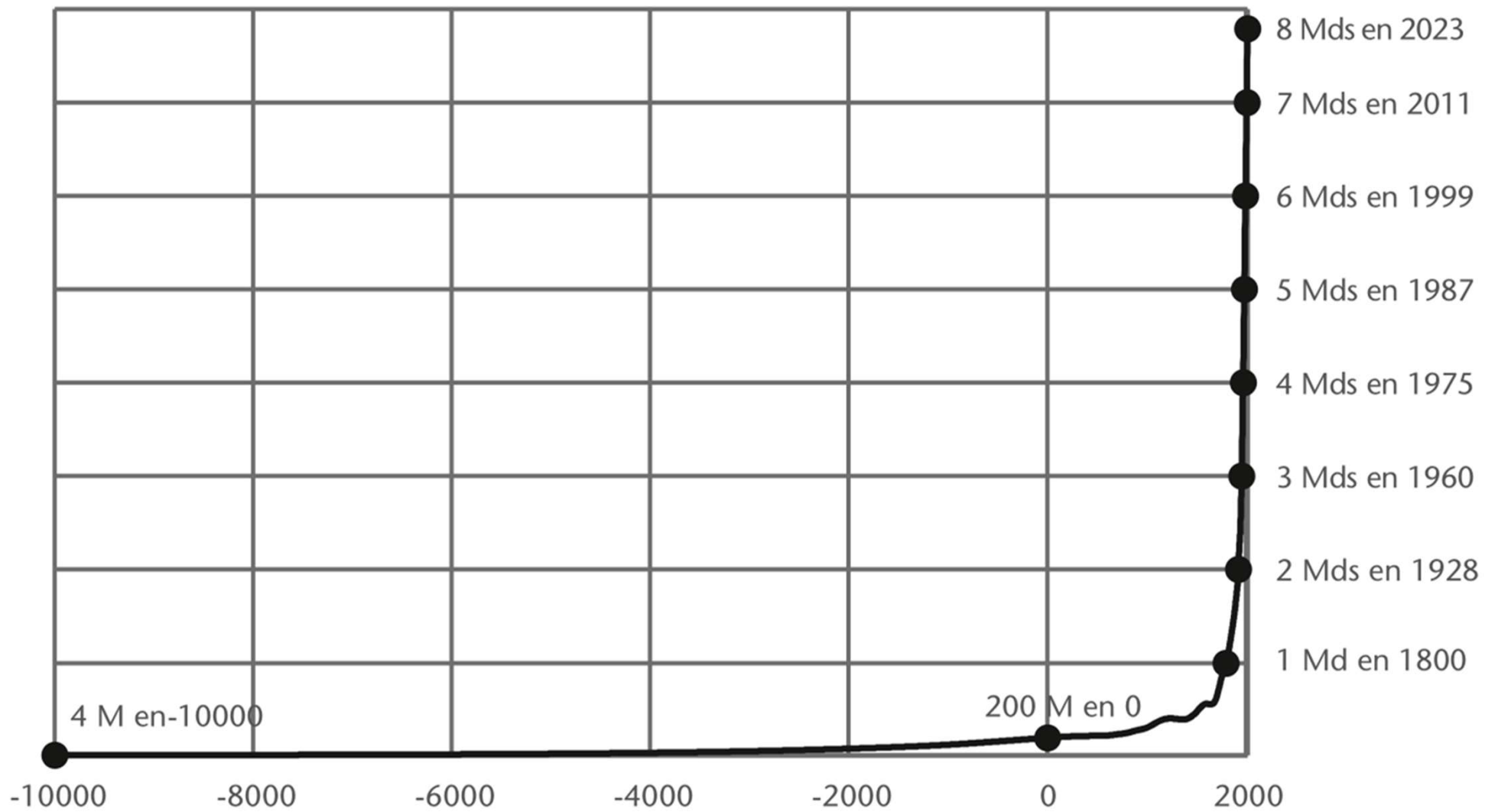
THE POPULATION BOMB

WHILE YOU ARE READING THESE WORDS
FOUR PEOPLE WILL HAVE DIED FROM
STARVATION. MOST OF THEM CHILDREN.

DR. PAUL R. EHRLICH



Foreword by David Brower—
Executive Director, Sierra Club

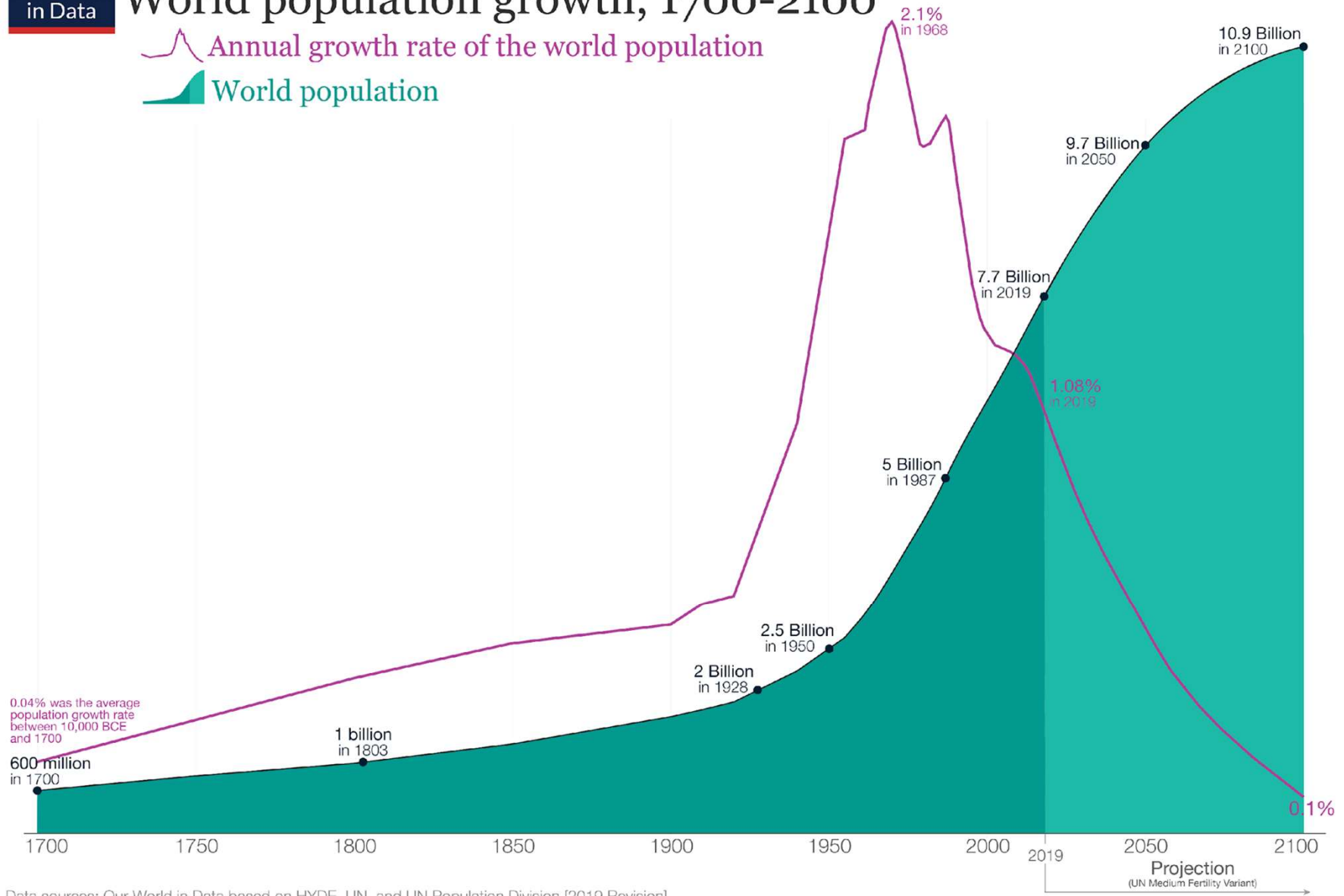


Source : Our World in Data.

World population growth, 1700-2100

Annual growth rate of the world population

World population



Data sources: Our World in Data based on HYDE, UN, and UN Population Division [2019 Revision]
This is a visualization from [OurWorldinData.org](https://ourworldindata.org), where you find data and research on how the world is changing.

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The Tragedy of the Commons

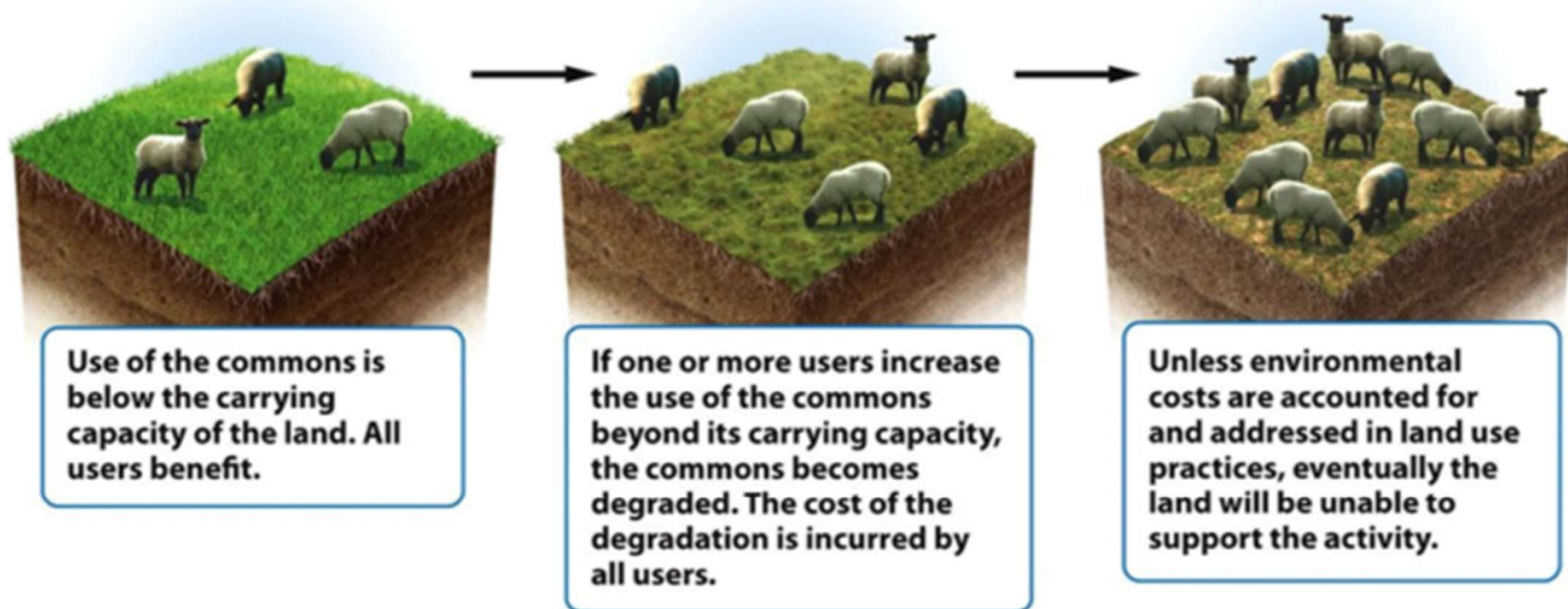


Figure 10.2

Environmental Science

© 2012 W. H. Freeman and Company

Are we “too many” ?
Too many for what ?

It's the year 2022...

People are still the same.

They'll do anything to
get what they need.

And they need
SOYLENT GREEN.

SOYLENT GREEN

MGM Presents

CHARLTON HESTON
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Screenplay by **STANLEY R. GREENBERG**

Based upon a novel by **HARRY HARRISON**

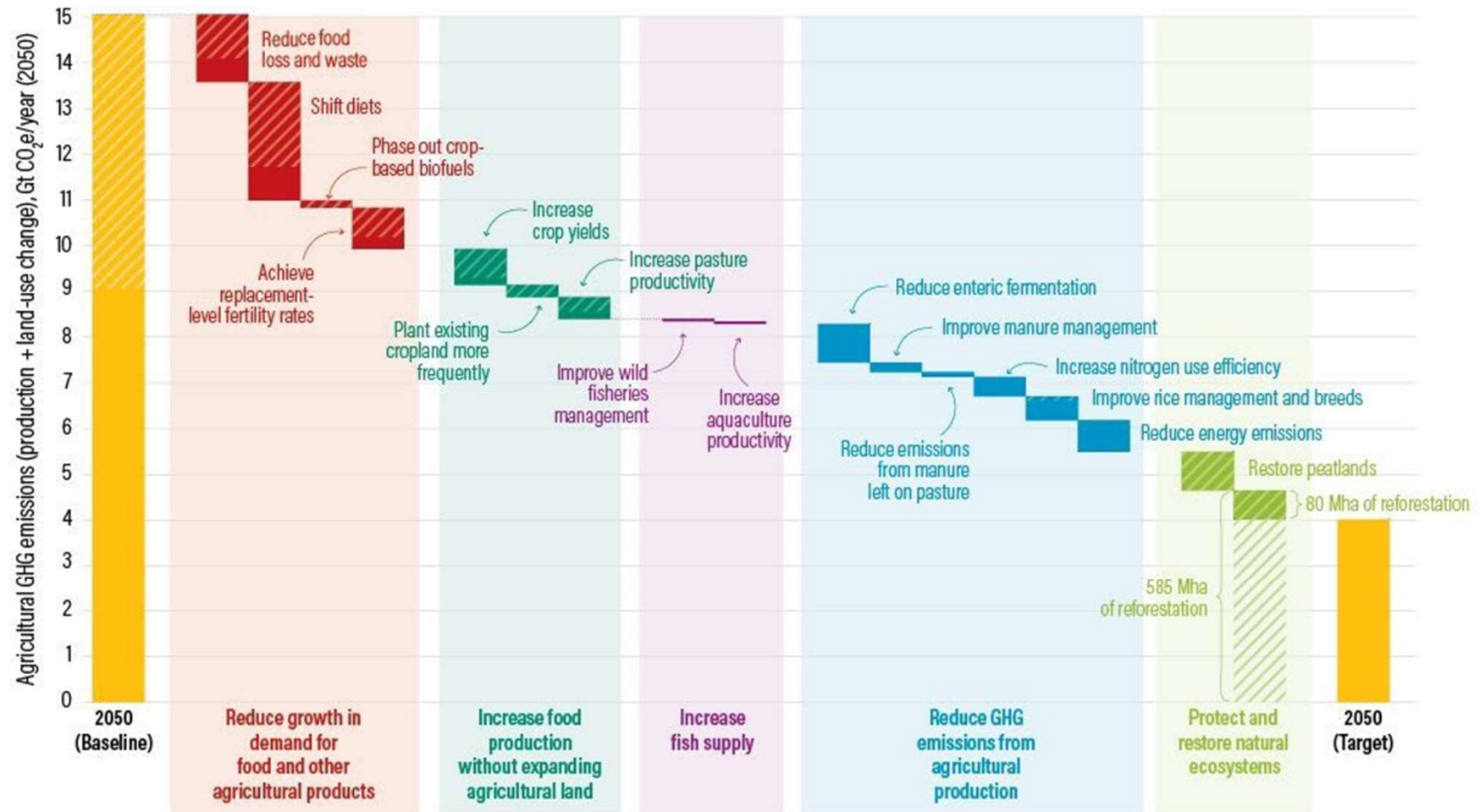
Produced by **WALTER SELTZER** and **RUSSELL THACHER**

Directed by **RICHARD FLEISCHER** • METROCOLOR • PANAVISION®

MGM   **PG PARENTAL STRONGLY CAUTIONED**
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13

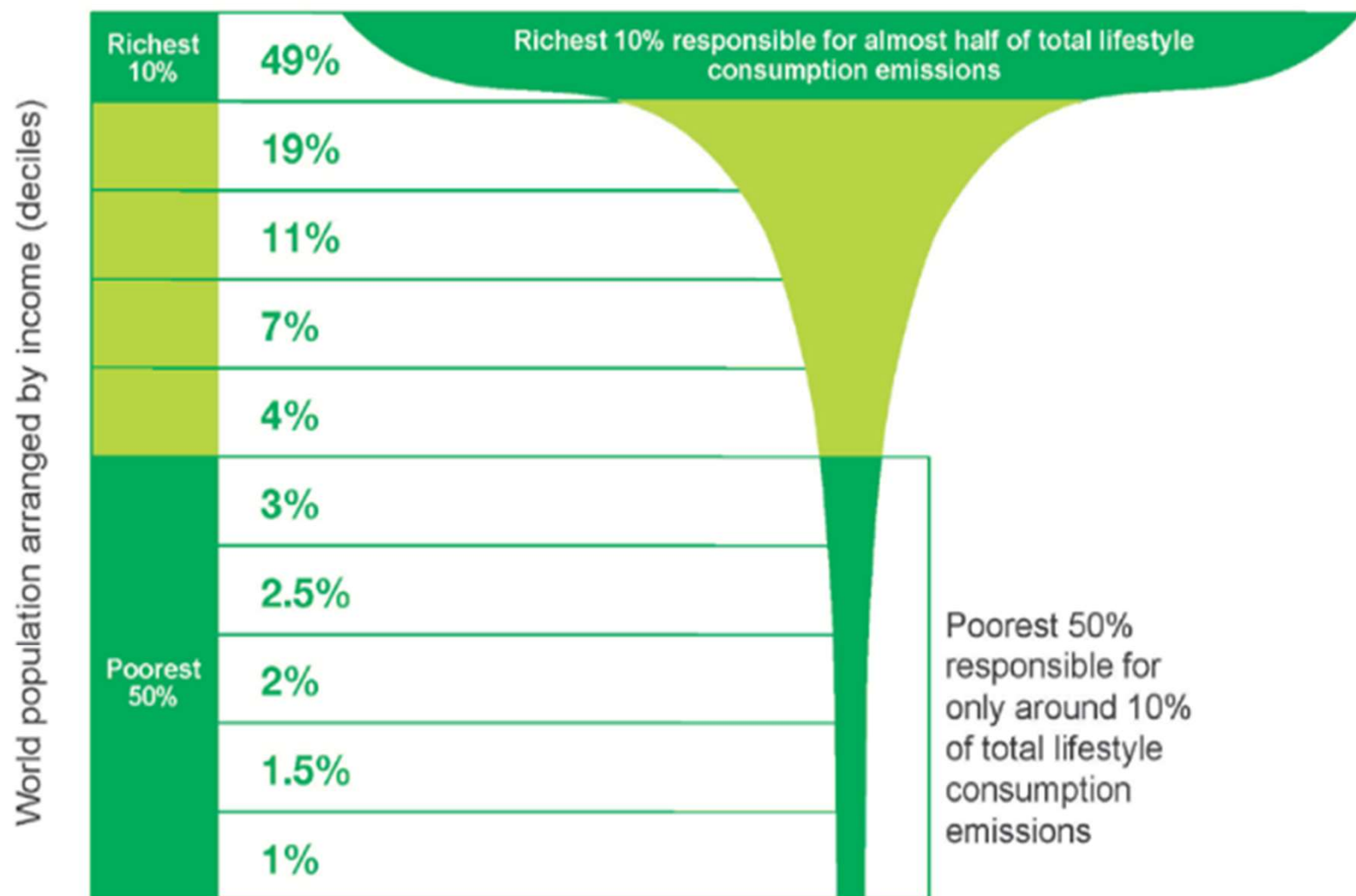


A five-course menu of solutions to feed 10 billion people while keeping global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius



Note: Solid areas represent agricultural production emissions. Hatched areas represent emissions from land-use change.
Source: GlobAgri-WRR model.

Percentage of CO₂ emissions by world population



Source: Oxfam



POLICY FORUM

CLIMATE CHANGE

Global warming policy: Is population left out in the cold?

Population policies offer options to lessen climate risks

By **John Bongaarts¹** and **Brian C. O'Neill^{2,3}**

¹International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),

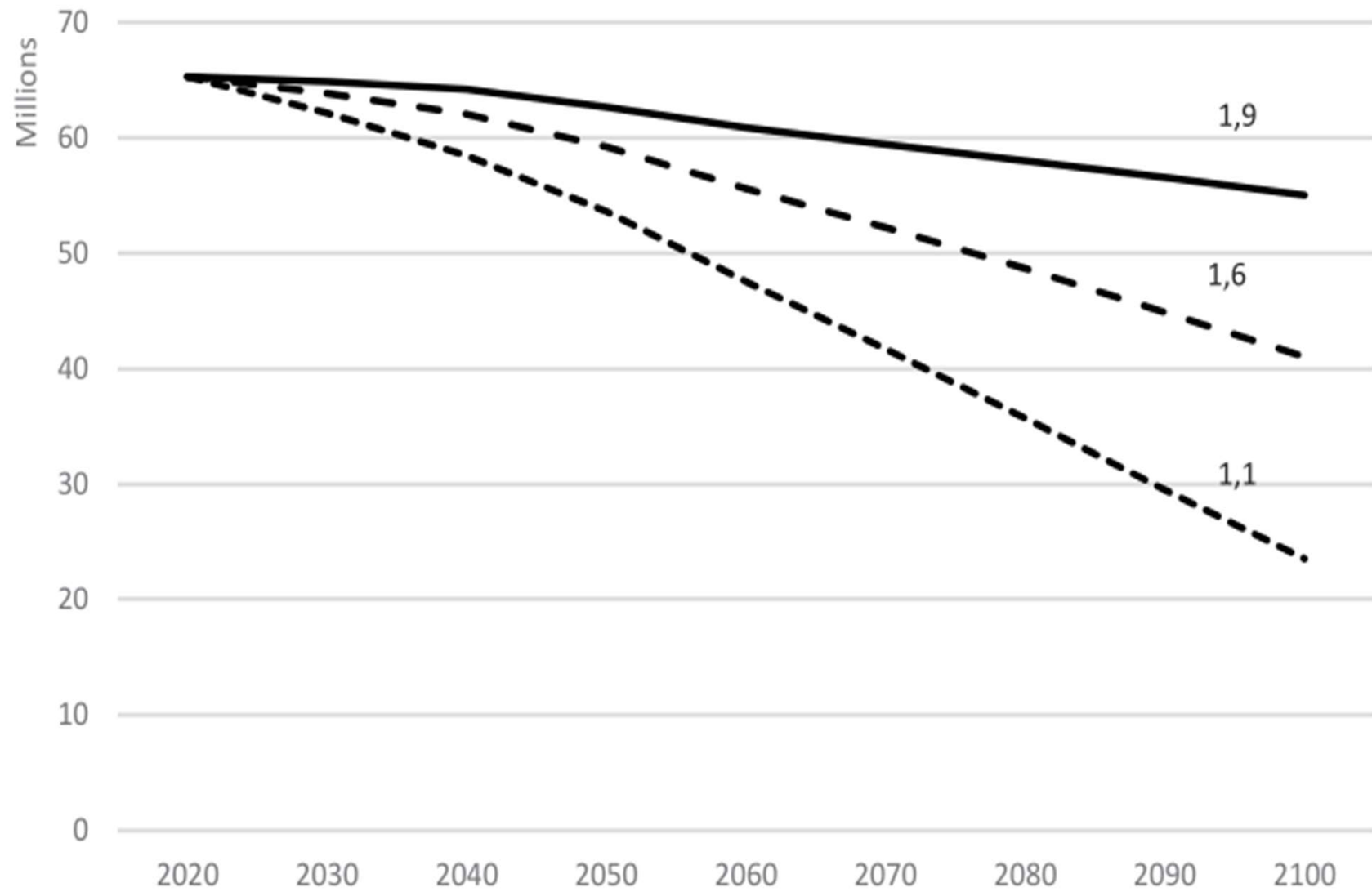
characteristics of climate response options: benefits to both mitigation and adaptation, co-benefits with human well-being and other environmental issues, synergies with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and cost effectiveness. These policies can also enable women to achieve their desired family size, and lead to lower fertility and slower population growth (3). The resulting demographic changes can not only lessen the emissions that drive climate change but

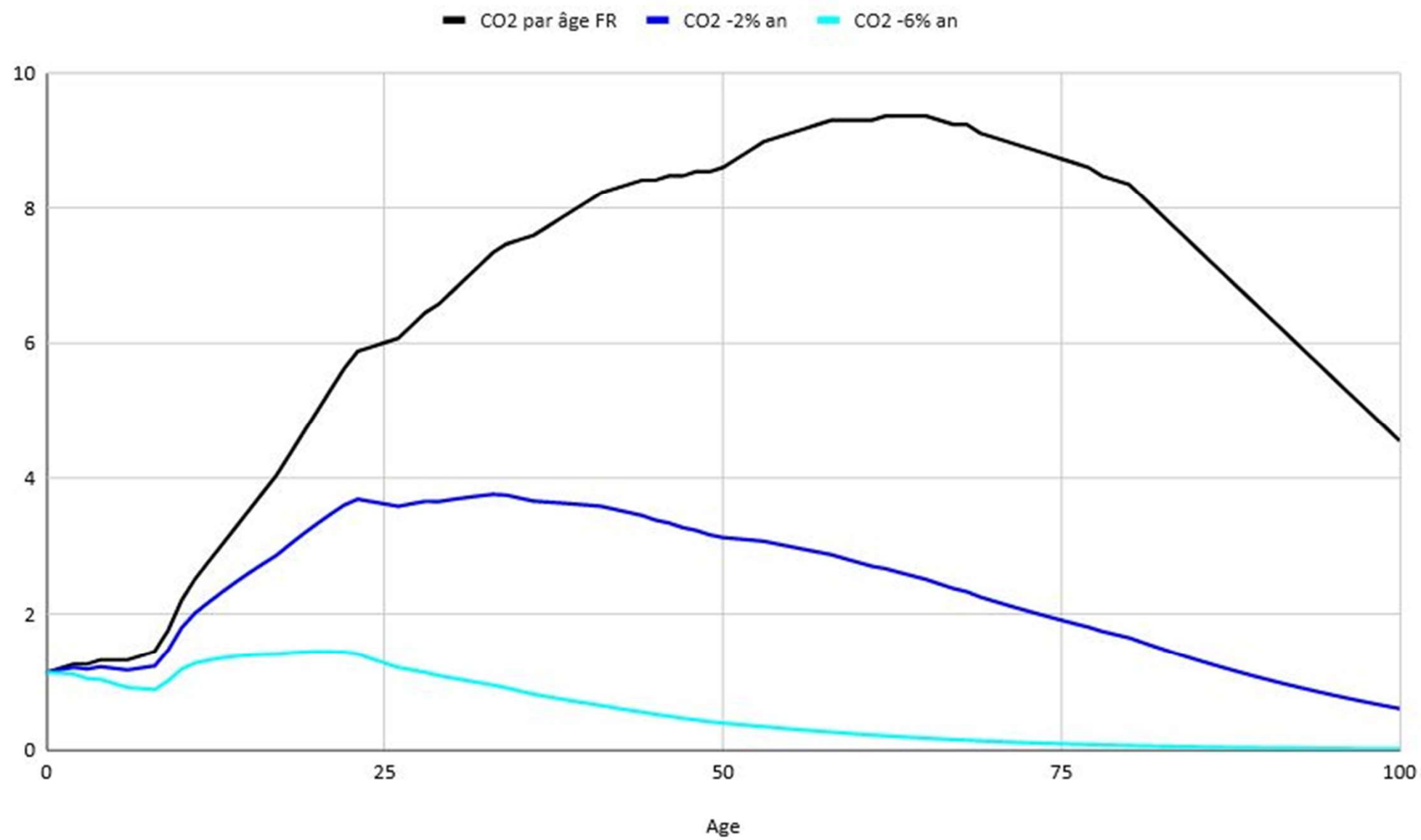
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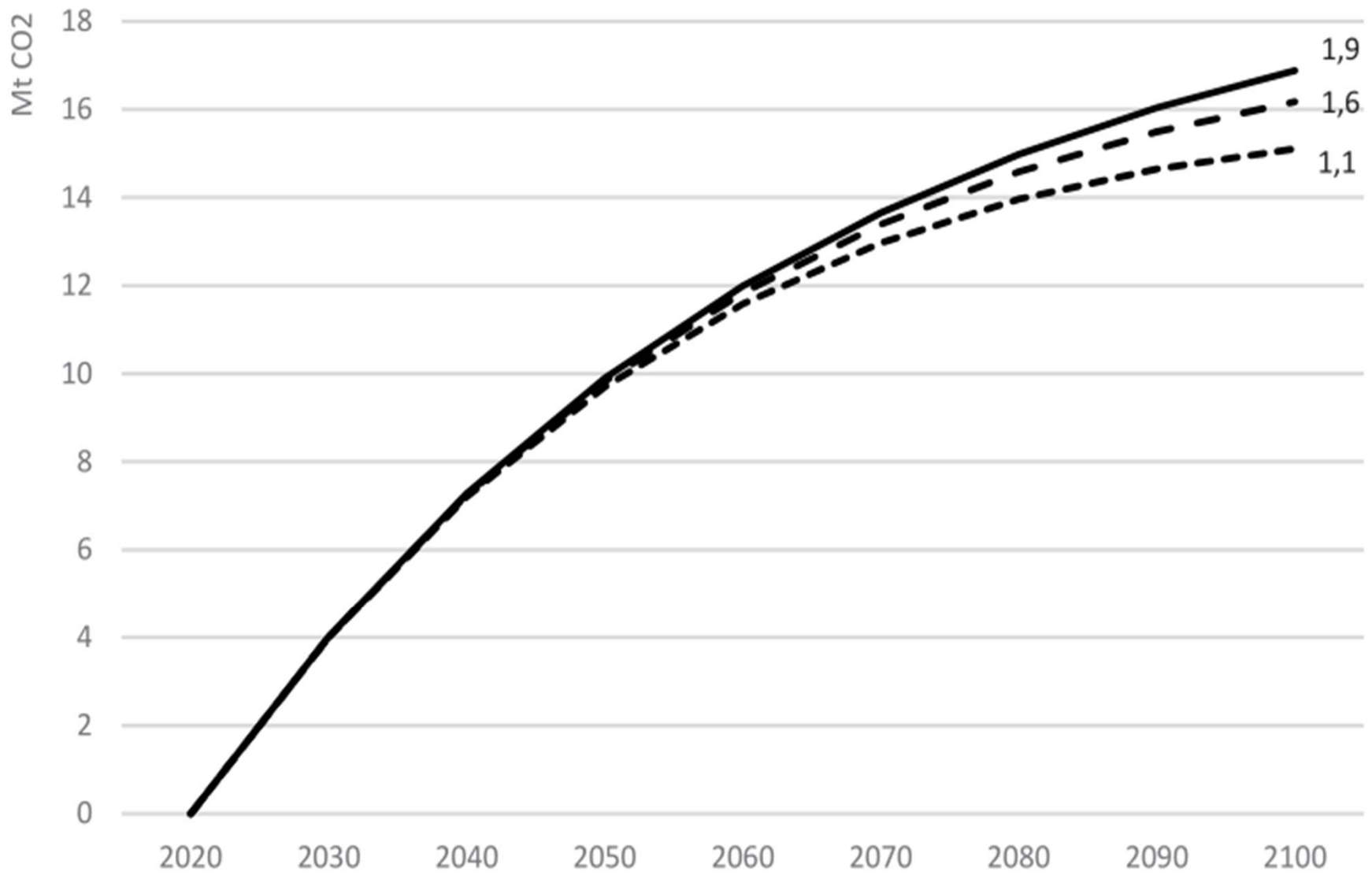
Would reducing human
population be ecologically
useful ?



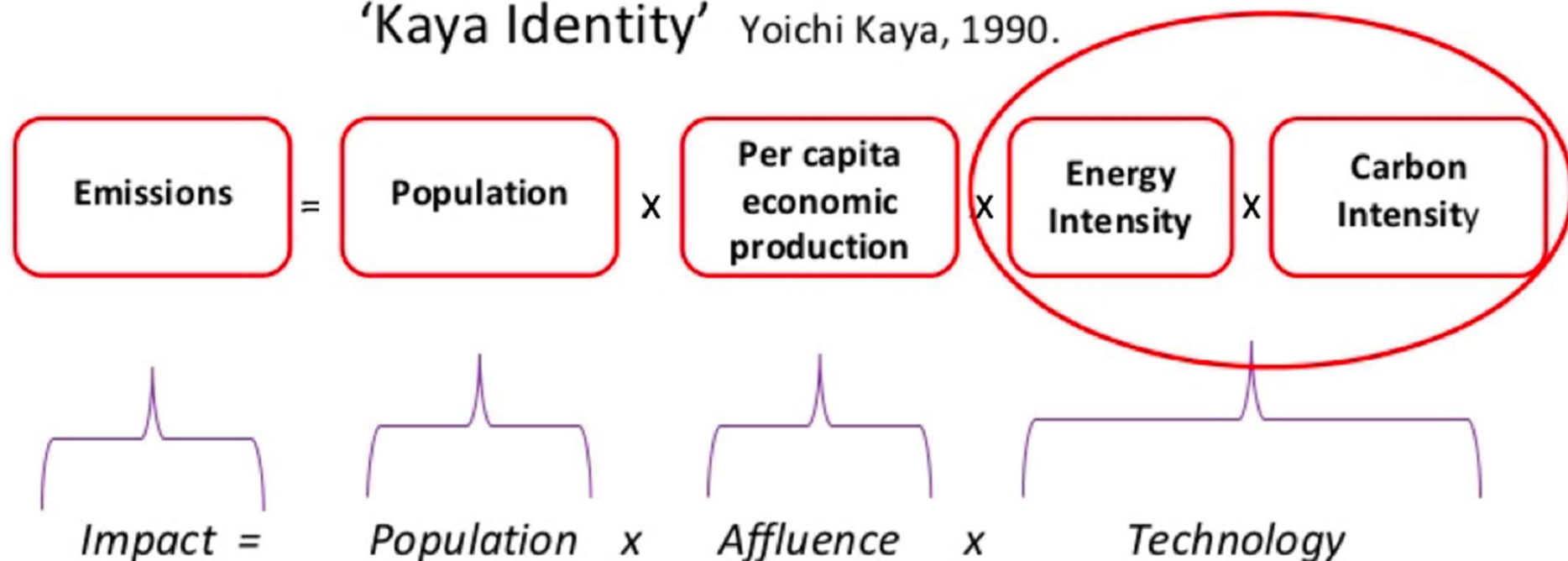
由得社創生容異湖甘水同築







'Kaya Identity' Yoichi Kaya, 1990.



IPAT Equation Ehrlich and Holdren 1970s



The individual decision dilemma

Carbon footprints

Damian Carrington
Environment editor

[@dpcarrington](#)

Wed 12 Jul 2017 05.45

BST



1405

Want to fight climate change? Have fewer children

Next best actions are selling your car, avoiding flights and going vegetarian, according to study into true impacts of different green lifestyle choices



Most viewed



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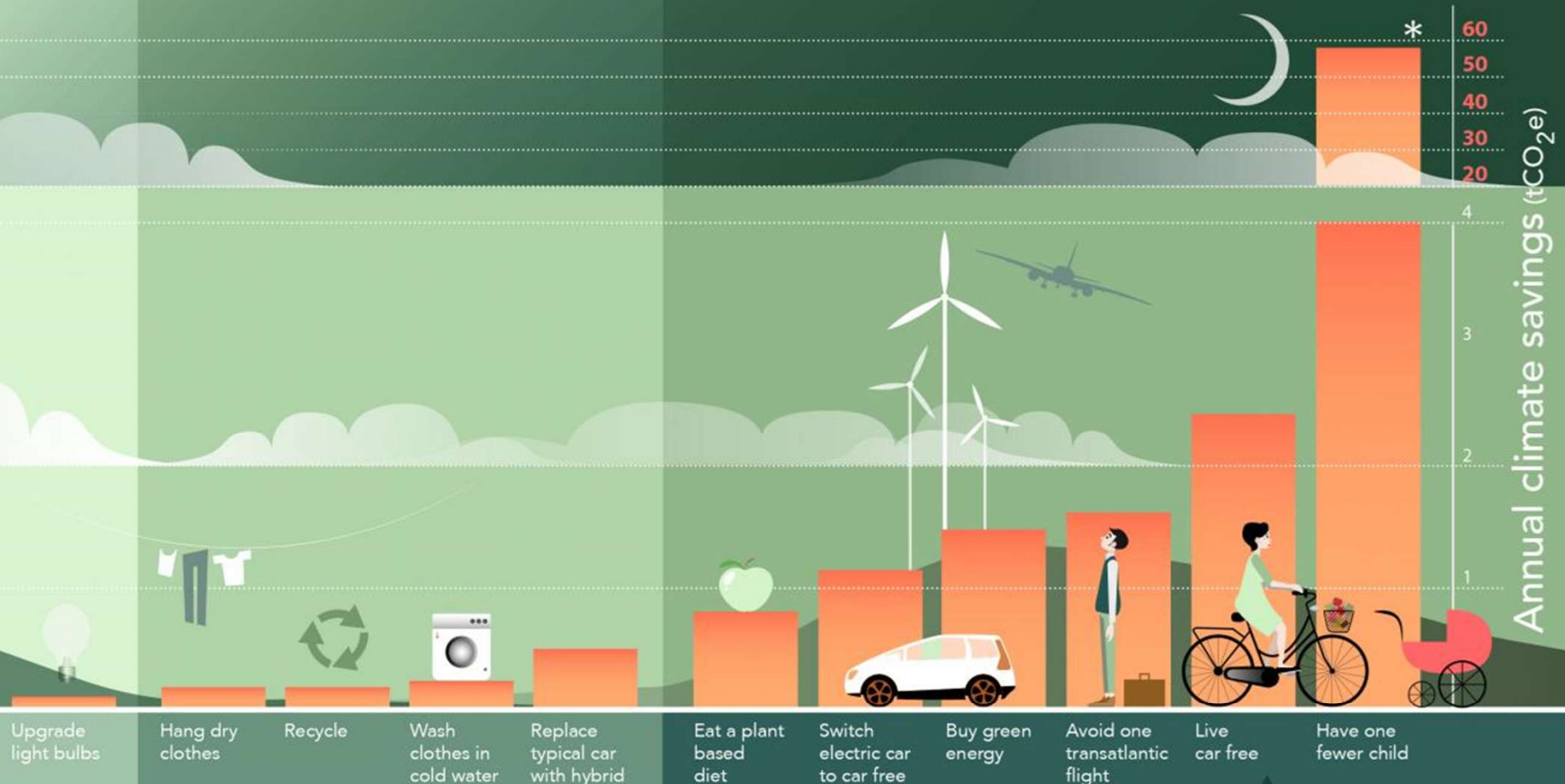


More than 40% of Americans think civil war likely within a decade

Personal choices to reduce your contribution to climate change

* Cumulative emissions from descendants; decreases substantially if national emissions decrease.

Average values for developed countries, based on current emissions.



Low Impact

< 0.2 tCO₂e

Moderate Impact

0.8-0.2 tCO₂e

High Impact

> 0.8 tCO₂e

x Lifecycle analysis <> carbon heritage

x Emissions hypothesis

x Fertility hypothesis

x Category

x Responsibility

A climate scientist explains why it's still okay to have kids

Some say you shouldn't have children in the era of climate change. Don't buy it.

By Sigal Samuel | Apr 29, 2021, 11:40am EDT

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**FUTURE
PERFECT**

Finding the best ways to do good.

MOST READ

In 2017, climate scientist Kimberly Nicholas coauthored a **study** trying to answer this question: What are the most effective changes you can make to your lifestyle if you want to reduce your carbon footprint and help save the planet?

She found that for individuals in high-emitting countries, choices like flying less, driving less, and eating less meat are all helpful. But there's another lifestyle choice that is much more effective over the long term: having fewer kids.

Yet in her new book, ***Under the Sky We Make***, Nicholas says that if you really want to be a parent, you should go ahead and have kids anyway.