Population education — promoting awareness about **sustainable** population to benefit **everyone!**

* Pro-life and pro-choice members respectfully agree to disagree in order to promote fair and humane population stabilization.

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### Spring Benefit Gala

George Archibald, Co-Founder of the International Crane Foundation and long-time World Population Balance Advisory Board member, will be featured at a Spring Benefit Gala on Saturday, April 28th, at the Lilydale Pool and Yacht Club, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The evening will include George’s talk, “There IS Room For Cranes on This Crowded Earth,” a buffet, live dinner music, and some lighthearted fun!

Since space at the Lilydale Pool and Yacht Club is limited – and since many people in the birding community are interested in meeting George Archibald, you need to make your reservations within the next few days to assure yourself of tickets. For further details and to register, visit [www.worldpopulationbalance.org](http://www.worldpopulationbalance.org)

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**UN: World lacks enough food, fuel as population soars**

*By Alan Ware*

That alarming headline is from an article about a recent UN report. If population continues exploding, the report concludes that by 2030 the world would “need at least 50 percent more food, 45 percent more energy and 30 percent more water.” All that in just the next 18 years!!

Is this delusional, or what? Earth’s resources are not **sustainably** providing for our current seven billion people. Hundreds of millions are not sufficiently fed now! Millions of acres of global farmland are being degraded or lost to production now! Energy, fresh water, and countless other vital resources are being depleted now! And this report – for political and marketing reasons – sugar coats these many realities with delusional language.

The report comes in time for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, generally referred to as Rio +20, which will take place this summer. The report follows several other UN reports over the past few decades that chronically ignored the 800 pound gorilla in the room – human overpopulation. When we look at the track record of past international pronouncements and summits sugar coating the population crisis, it is hard to avoid the feeling of déjà-vu.

For decades all of them have bemoaned the plight of the planet and devastation and depletion of vital resources. All of them have touted the idea of “sustainable development.” In short, they have slickly deluded the idea of “sustainable development.” In short, they have slickly deluded the idea of “sustainable development.” In short, they have slickly deluded the idea of “sustainable development.” In short, they have slickly deluded the idea of “sustainable development.” In short, they have slickly deluded the idea of “sustainable development.”

It is blatantly obvious that there can be no “sustainable development” without significantly reducing human numbers. We’re trying to live healthy

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**What You Can Do to Work on the Overpopulation CRISIS**

_Become a World Population Balance Member & Torchbearer_

At 7,000,000,000 people, the Earth is overpopulated relative to many of the planet’s finite and declining vital resources. Take positive action to stop overpopulation by helping others understand this CRISIS. Wider understanding is the crucial, first step to solving it. (Continued on page 4)

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**Current Population**

World: 7,001,078,706
U.S.: 313,198,647

as of March 17, 2012
Best Short Overpopulation Video

One Planet One Child brilliantly shows the alarming destruction our swollen human numbers are driving on the planet – our only home.

In this emotional and powerful presentation of five short minutes, we experience compelling and undeniable facts about our crisis. We’re polluting our planet and destroying more habitat. We’re killing off species and losing our rich biological inheritance. We’re overwhelming vital resources and driving many to dangerously lower levels.

By far, the best answer to all these challenges is a smaller population. As Bruce Phillips, producer of One Planet One Child, puts it: smaller population is "the quickest, cheapest and most effective way to reduce our impact on the environment."

Urg all of your friends to view this fantastic and compelling video. And encourage them to urge all of their friends to view it, as well. We have not seen any other short video that so brilliantly captures both the problem of overpopulation and offers a crystal clear path toward the truly humane solution. View it on our Home Page at www.WorldPopulationBalance.org

WPB Member Promotes One-Child Families

Right after we emailed many of you about the One Planet, One Child video on our Home Page, well-known nature photographer, Craig Blacklock, forwarded our information to his friends with the following cover e-mail. He makes many excellent points and states them brilliantly.

Dear friends, family, and colleagues,

All of you who know me know how passionate I am about limiting our offspring to one child. Above is a link to a great new video I hope you will watch and pass along, not only to those who are still of childbearing years, but also to older people, who need to realize that they should also promote small families, rather than asking for more grandchildren.

As a landscape photographer I’ve seen almost every place I’ve most loved be degraded or lost due to a growing population. This is not only about surviving but what we want our earth to look like — how rich in biodiversity it will remain.

To those who would tell you this is none of their business: They are wrong. Society has a right to expect its citizens to act in ways that do not endanger others. Overpopulation threatens all life on our planet and lowers the quality of life for all humans. As Jane Goodall said, “each additional human compromises the life of all others.”

There are three things I cover in my lectures that the video did not address:

1. The fact that with the young demographics of the world, even if everyone limited themselves to 2 children, total population would continue to grow for years to come. That’s why striving for a one child average is so crucially important.

2. We can continue to increase the quality of life for a lot of people for some time to come, even though it is unsustainable. This gives us a false sense that everything is fine. However, it is being done through the consumption of non-renewable resources, such as fossil aquifers, fossil

(Continued on Page 4)
We Must Have Hope

“I cannot be an optimist, but I am a prisoner of hope.”
– Cornel West

All of us concerned about sustainable population need to transform our thinking. It starts by transforming our language. As Cornel West puts it: “I think any talk about despair is not where you end but where you start. And then the courage and the sacrifice come in, but at the level of hope, not optimism.”

West continues: “Optimism and hope are different. Optimism tends to be based on the notion that there is enough evidence out there that allows us to think that things are going to be better ... whereas hope looks at the evidence and says ‘it doesn’t look good at all. We’re going to make a leap of faith. We’re going beyond the evidence in an attempt to create new possibilities based on visions that become contagious to allow us to engage in heroic actions always against the odds with no guarantee whatsoever.’ That’s hope. That’s hope.”

Both Gandhi and Martin Luther King had many reasons not to be optimistic. But they held strongly to hope. Their efforts were met with intransigent opposition, bigotry and violence. But they created powerfully positive visions of what could be. And these visions became contagious. Millions of others were inspired to take heroic actions against overwhelming odds.

Dr. King never gave in to despair. He never said something like: “Though I abhor overpopulation, I am resigned that it will always be our fate. There’s nothing we can do to change that. That’s just the way it is, and it’s here to stay.”

Now let’s substitute overpopulation in the above: “Though I abhor overpopulation, I am resigned that it will always be our fate. There’s nothing we can do to change that. That’s just the way it is, and it’s here to stay.”

For many years I have heard the above sentiment frequently from good people who are concerned and alarmed about overpopulation. Some add, “You can’t change human nature,” or “I realize overpopulation is the root of all our major problems. But there’s nothing we can do to stop it. It’s hopeless. People won’t change until things get desperate and the world is in chaos.”

It is high time we shed the language of despair and courageously adopt the language of hope.

Do I or anyone else know exactly, step-by-step, how human will successfully and humanely reduce population to two billion? No. But did Gandhi or King know exactly how they and their followers would end British rule in India or dismantle racism in America? No.

Lack of that knowledge is not the problem. Remember, King is the one who said: “There is no human circumstance more tragic than the persisting existence of a harmful condition for which a remedy is readily available.

I have hope … that soon at least one editor at National Geographic Society will break the mental shackles of delusion – that the world can humanely and sustainably provide for seven billion people – and will lead Geographic to tell us the grim truth about overpopulation instead of slickly whitewashing the issue.

I have hope … that one employee of APM and MPR (American Public Media and Minnesota Public Radio) will find the courage to become overpopulation literate and then enlighten fellow employees and the public about this dire crisis and the imperative need to change course.

I have hope … that a young person will rise to the challenge of winning Australian businessman Dick Smith’s million dollar Wilberforce Award by focusing world attention on the reality that our overpopulation and overconsumption are destroying our future.

I have hope … that billionaires like Oprah Winfrey, Bill Gates, Warren Buffett, Ted Turner and others – who have all expressed concern about overpopulation – summon the courage to act on their beliefs.

I have hope … that everyone reading this will find the fortitude to tell all friends and loved ones that evidence abounds that Earth is already overpopulated and that we must drop births to avoid future collapse.

Family planning – to relate population to world resources – is possible, practical and necessary. Unlike plagues of the dark ages or contemporary diseases we do not yet understand, the modern plague of overpopulation is solvable by means we have discovered and with resources we possess. What is lacking is not sufficient knowledge of the solution but universal consciousness of the gravity of the problem and education of the billions who are its victims.”

The problem is, nearly everyone concerned about overpopulation lacks hope! Is my hope rational, given current evidence? No, probably not. But neither was Gandhi’s nor King’s.

I am inspired by many things Gandhi said, including “First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, then you win.” With regard to our sustainable population campaign, powerful opponents constantly ignore, ridicule and fight us. But, we are right, and they are wrong. We have facts, information and overwhelming evidence that support our alarm. They have their misinformation, prejudices, and ignorance.

I am hopeful about humanely stopping overpopulation. I began working on the issue forty years ago. I am more hopeful than ever before that we seven billion people will successfully reduce world and national population to truly sustainable levels. We will do it by dramatically reducing births so that total population will begin declining – back toward one to two billion people – to balance with Earth’s vital resources.

Armed with hope, we will win! I implore and challenge you to join me in this, the most crucial of all human undertakings – achieving a truly sustainable human population.
MAN SWARM
and the Killing of Wildlife
Book by Dave Foreman

Human overpopulation is the main driver behind the biodiversity crisis: the greatest mass extinction since the dinosaurs; the scalping of hundreds of millions of acres of forest and other key wildlife habitat; and atmospheric pollution and unprecedented weather and climate changes.

Blacklock (Continued from page 2)

fuels, and over-fishing and over-logging. At the rate we are going, those resources will be nearly depleted within our children’s lifespans.

The world can support around 2 billion on renewable resources. Thus, the only sane and moral path is to attempt, through a lower birth rate, to reach 2 billion before the non-renewable resources run out. This is basic math. As the linked video points out, limiting families to one child puts us on that path.

(3) The good news! Raising a single child is less expensive and less time-consuming than raising a larger family. This means more quality time with the family and child, a better education, and the magnification of the family’s wealth each generation.

My parents had one child, me, and I turned out just fine because I had a great childhood. My wife and I also have one child who is an exceptional student and person (as her teachers acknowledge), in part, because we have had time to be good parents.

Limiting your family to one child should be looked upon as an opportunity to help assure that the next generation will be better educated and better off than the previous one. And, most importantly, one child families will preserve a world filled with natural beauty and wonder.

Craig Blacklock owns Blacklock Photography Galleries in Moose Lake, MN, is President of Blacklock Nature Sanctuary, and currently is a Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota’s Center for Spirituality and Healing, where he is working on nature videos for health care and business applications.

You can visit his Gallery online at www.blacklockgallery.com/index.php

UN Report (Continued from page 1)

lives on a dying planet. We seven billion are killing and destroying much of our global home, and we must stop deluding ourselves that this is not leading to catastrophic consequences.

The sooner the U.N. and other well-meaning organizations acknowledge these stark realities, the sooner humankind will climb on board to actually address the overpopulation crisis and work together to create a truly sustainable planet.

Alan Ware is Senior Research Fellow at World Population Balance.

(Continued from page 1)

Become a World Population Balance Member and Torchbearer

WPB Member:
1. Receive informational mailings and e-mails.
2. Make a contribution in any amount.
   (10 – free; box of 100 – $10 to cover printing and shipping)

WPB Torchbearer:
1. Become a member.
2. Use the information in the Torchbearer Kit when you write to or talk with family members, friends, and others about this CRISIS. Use the Wall Street Journal article “Population bomb: 9 billion march to WWIII” (see article on page 5) as a basis for discussion of the CRISIS with them. Also give them a sheet of additional information that impresses you – with critical facts illustrating the CRISIS.
3. Use your kit information to contact elected officials and media people to inform them of the realities of our Overpopulation CRISIS.
4. Aim to recruit many new Torchbearers over time.
5. As a Torchbearer, contribute a significant amount to WPB (suggested $100 or more annually).

To register as a WPB Torchbearer, either detach and mail the below form or sign up and contribute on our website.

Yes, I want to be a World Population Balance Torchbearer.

Signed: .......................................................... Please print clearly.
Name(s): ..........................................................
Street Address: ..............................................
City-State-Zip: ..................................................
E-Mail Address: ..............................................
Phone(s): ........................................................ Enclosed: $ ..
Return to World Population Balance, PO Box 23472, Minneapolis, MN 55423
Or donate securely at www.WorldPopulationBalance.org Phone: 612-869-1640
SAN LUIS OBISPO, Calif. (MarketWatch) — Sshh. Don’t tell anyone. But “while you are reading these words, four people will have died from starvation. Most of them children.” Seventeen words. Four deaths. That statistic is from a cover of Paul Ehrlich’s 1968 provocative “Population Bomb.”

But global population will just keep growing, growing, growing. Why? The math is simple: Today there are more than two births for every death worldwide. One death. Two new babies.

Bomb? Tick-tick-ticking? Or economic bubble? Population growth is a basic assumption hard-wired in traditional economic theory. Unquestioned. Yes, population is our core economic problem. Not a military problem. But the bigger this economic bubble grows, the more we all sink into denial, the closer the point of no return where bubble becomes bomb, where war is the only alternative.

Yes, folks, ultimately population growth is an economic nuclear bomb, tick-tick-ticking a silent countdown to global disaster. In denial, we march a self-destructive path to WWIII.

Simple math: One death + two births = America’s poison pill

Worldwide population doubled to 3.5 billion between the Great Depression and the Great Society. One generation, from the ‘30s to the ‘60s when “The Population Bomb” was published. Since the ‘60s, we’ve doubled again. This year global population shot past seven billion. Two billion living in poverty, surviving on less than two dollars a day. We do live in a globalized economy. And the math is simple: One death, two births.

Warning: This economic bomb will not stop tick-ticking any time soon. Why? Scientific American said population is “the most overlooked and essential strategy for achieving long-term balance with the environment.” No wonder Bill McKibben, author of “The End of Nature,” warns: “Act now, we’re told, if we want to save the planet from a climate catastrophe. Trouble is, it might be too late. The science is settled, and the damage has already begun.”

We’re on suicide watch and yet population control, the world’s No. 1 economic issue in “off the table.” Why? Last year Mother Jones made it abundantly clear why. In “The Last Taboo,” columnist Julia Whitty asked: “What unites the Vatican, lefties, conservatives, and scientists in a conspiracy of silence? ... Population.” That hot-button issue ignites so many powerful reactions. Politicians won’t touch this third rail.

Our denial is a massive “conspiracy of silence.” Yes, we’re all in this global self-destructive conspiracy. Families love making babies. Economists obsess about their population-growth assumption. Stockholders demand earnings growth. Wall Street is insatiable. Corporate CEOs shoot for quarterly targets to get ever bigger bonuses. The global Super Rich see population growth as opportunities to increase their wealth, widening the wealth gap. We’re all in this rat race together, in a “conspiracy of silence.”

Population is the key economic power driving all economic issues

Yes, you can forget “Peak Oil.” Forget global warming. Forget debt, deficits, defaults. Forget commodities, scarce resource depletion. Forget all other economic, political, military problems. Yes, forget all of them. None of them matter … if our leaders fail to deal with the world’s out-of-control population bomb. Nothing else matters. Nothing.

Still, the silence is deafening. We’re trapped in this deafening “conspiracy of silence.” Neutered. Blind to this suicidal path, incapable and unwilling to face the greatest single economic challenge in history. Won’t wake up till it’s too late.
Why? Deep in our hearts we see no acceptable universal solution. So we wait … until this economic bomb stops tick-tick-ticking. Explodes in our faces. Till the wake-up call, a total economic collapse. Till then, the silence is deafening. We stay in denial. Waiting.

This article, starting on Page 5, is excerpted from a longer article at http://www.marketwatch.com/story/population-bomb-9-billion-march-to-wwiii-2011-06-28?pagenumber=1

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP STOP OVERPOPULATION: GO TO OUR WEBSITE AT www.WorldPopulationBalance.org AND DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE, PRINT IT, AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO PEOPLE YOU KNOW. OR, IF YOU PREFER, CALL US AT 612-869-1640, AND WE WILL SEND IT AS A PDF FILE THAT YOU CAN PRINT DIRECTLY OR A TEXT FILE THAT YOU CAN COPY AND PASTE INTO AN E-MAIL MESSAGE.

BUILDING AWARENESS THAT WE ARE OVERPOPULATED IS THE CRUCIAL, FIRST STEP TO SOLVING OUR OVERPOPULATION CRISIS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INITIATIVE AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.

Public Radio Initiative

By Alan Ware

During the past year we have sent several letters to leaders at Minnesota Public Radio requesting that they cover ALL the facts about the world’s overpopulation crisis.

So far they have refused to engage substantively with us or take our suggestions about knowledgeable experts to interview on their programs. Instead, they continue to feature people who perpetuate the ongoing delusional viewpoint that we can somehow grow ourselves out of our ever-expanding crisis. Of course, this will not work, and we hope that MPR leaders soon wake up to these realities and begin covering the overpopulation crisis with courage and candor.

As a result of their stonewalling, some of our supporters have already either dropped their MPR financial support or significantly reduced it.

MPR needs to make the link between the world’s – and Minnesota’s – current challenges and overpopulation pressures; feature speakers who have a clear understanding of the danger of overpopulation; and bring balance to the discussion whenever they host optimistic ideologues.

We will continue to request that they take seriously their responsibility. They need to cover all the facts about overpopulation and its impact upon: declining resources, alarming loss of species/biodiversity, and rising poverty, misery, suffering and early death in many parts of the world. If they truly are public radio, they need to actually do what former Vice President, Walter Mondale, declared on Gary Eichton’s final program: “An adequate news outlet … needs to have reporters that can go out and dig stories. It needs the courage to report stories that are explosive and difficult to deal with. And it needs to take seriously its role as an educator to allow the citizens to know what's going on.”

While MPR may have a reputation of digging into some stories, they are failing miserably on the single most important story in the world today, our crisis of overpopulation – in the world and in Minnesota! By lacking the courage to dig into this story, they are perpetuating and reinforcing the mainstream delusion that population is not the major crisis of our time on the planet.

If we fail to humanely solve overpopulation, all our noble efforts on other problems – all our efforts! – will be for naught. All other problems will be overwhelmed by too many people and too few resources resulting in worldwide misery, suffering, starvation and early death. Each of us must hold MPR’s feet to the fire and help them see the blunder of their ways.

We need your signature on future WPB letters to MPR leadership requesting that they cover all the facts instead of glossing over the grim realities of our situation. Before we send MPR a letter we will send you a draft so that you can decide at that time whether or not you want to stand up as a co-signer.

Alan Ware is Senior Research Fellow at World Population Balance.

Being Fruitful Without Multiplying

We continue to receive appreciation from people around the world about the sermon WPB president, David Paxson, jointly delivered several months ago with Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian, Senior Minister at Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Minneapolis.

You can still listen to it at worldpopulationbalance.org after you click on “Being Fruitful Without Multiplying.”

Please encourage your friends to listen. Also, if you would like an electronic copy of “Being Fruitful Without Multiplying” please send us an email at office@worldpopulationbalance.org.
Distinguished Board of Advisors

We are proud to have the following distinguished people on our Board of Advisors, and we appreciate their ongoing support to help bring about a truly sustainable human population on the planet.

George Archibald – Co-Founder, International Crane Foundation
Albert A. Bartlett – Professor Emeritus of Physics, U. of Colorado
David Bengston – Ecological Economist and Adjunct Professor, U. of Minnesota
Ulf S. H. Christiansen – Norwegian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates
Dr. Vijoya Dasgupta, M.D. – Physician, State of Wisconsin
Lowell Erdahl – Bishop, St. Paul Area Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (retired)
Richard Flint – Attorney and conservationist
Richard Grossman, M.D. – Practicing obstetrician and gynecologist
Thomas Hale, M.D. – Author and medical missionary in Nepal
Hugh Illis – Renowned botanist, conservationist, and early proponent of population reduction, U. of Wisconsin (retired)
Sister Marlys Jax – Assisi Heights Catholic Community
Jim Klobuchar – Writer, author, and adventurer
William G. Milliken – Former Governor, State of Michigan

Former Advisory Board Members

Roger Bengston – Businessman and historian
Norman Borlaug – Nobel Peace Prize laureate and “father” of the Green Revolution
Nina Leopold Bradley – Director, Aldo Leopold Foundation
Walter Breckenridge – Professor and Director of the Bell Museum of Natural History, U. of Minnesota
Tessa Bridal – Businesswoman and author
John B. Davis – Former College President and School Superintendent
Gwen Frostic – Poet, naturalist, printmaker and publisher

Population and Resource Facts Cards

A few months ago several of you asked us to put together some clear facts about population and resources that people could have at their fingertips. Below is the business card handout we created. They have proven to be very popular, and we are filling requests for them from around the country. They easily fit into a pocket, purse, or wallet. If you would like some mailed to you, please contact us or call us at 612-869-1640.

Population & Resource Facts

7 BILLION NOW ... DOUBLED IN 45 YEARS
9,000 ADDED PER HOUR (NET GAIN = BIRTHS – DEATHS)
OVER 200,000 ADDED PER DAY – AS TOTAL FARM-LAND, FORESTS, FRESH WATER, FISH STOCKS, VITAL MINERALS, & OTHER RESOURCES DECLINE
FARMLAND ... DROPPED BY HALF / PERSON SINCE 1960
WATER ... DROPPED BY HALF / PERSON SINCE 1960
FOREST ... DROPPED OVER HALF
OIL ...4 BARRELS BURNED / BBL DISCOVERED
POPULATION ALREADY ABOVE SUSTAINABLE LEVEL

World Population Balance

Contribution, Membership, & Change-of-Address Form

Please detach and return this form with your tax-deductible contribution. Make checks payable to World Population Balance and mail them to World Population Balance P.O. Box 23472 Minneapolis, MN 55423 U.S.A.

If there are mistakes in your name and address on the back of this form, please make corrections. Also, please add phone(s) and e-mail address(es). Thank you.

Sign up your friends or relatives for a free year’s subscription!

Thank you.

Please print clearly.

Name(s):
Address:
City, State, ZIP:
Phone(s):
E-mail:

____ $1,000 Stabilization Sponsor  ____ $35 Member
____ $100 Supporting Member  ____ $____ Other

We welcome your contribution at any level.
The exciting new feature-length film, *GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth*, looks at our addiction to growth – both consumption and population.

Sprinkled with many light and humorous moments, it shows us that the old paradigm of “Growth = Prosperity” is no longer true. Predicating our future on endless growth, we create more problems than we solve. And we are destroying the planet in the process.

We’re approaching the end of growth. Will we embrace it or go down fighting? From Las Vegas to Atlanta, Mexico City to Mumbai, the White House to the Vatican, *GrowthBusters* takes us on a whirlwind tour of growth mania. It’s *Wild Kingdom* with a twist: the cameras are turned on humanity as our own survival skills are examined. *GrowthBusters: Hooked on Growth* looks into the psychology of denial and crowd behavior. It explores our obsession with urban and economic growth, and our reluctance to address overpopulation issues head-on. This documentary holds up a mirror, encouraging us to examine the beliefs and behaviors we must leave behind – and the values we need to embrace – so our children can survive and thrive.

In November we hosted two showings of *GrowthBusters* followed by stimulating discussion about the film and our future on the planet. *GrowthBusters* is available on DVD and Blu-ray. This film is a non-profit project possible only with the help of enlightened supporters like you. Order the film or fine out where it’s showing in your area at [http://www.growthbusters.org/](http://www.growthbusters.org/).

**Three Join Advisory Board**

We are delighted and honored to add three more people to our Board of Advisors – Jim Klobuchar, Hugh Iltis, and Camilo Mora.

Jim Klobuchar is a Minnesota journalist, author, and travel guide. He wrote for the Minneapolis Star Tribune for three decades and has authored more than 20 books. He now writes an occasional column for the Christian Science Monitor.

Hugh Iltis is Professor Emeritus of Botany at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is best known for his discoveries in the domestication of corn (maize). Iltis was an early proponent of population reduction and a champion of preserving endangered and threatened habitats to preserve biodiversity.

Camilo Mora is Professor of Geography, University of Hawaii. He is a global expert on biodiversity and how human encroachment on habitat is driving species loss on the planet. See Page 7 for a list of all Advisory Board members.