

Since the end of the Great Famine and the Black Death in 1350, world population has experienced continuous growth.

Total annual births were highest in the late 1980s at about 138 million, and are expected to remain essentially constant at their 2012 level of 134 million per year.

The global population is projected to exceed nine billion by the year 2050.

High population growth has led to a high demand for natural resources to drive the development of sectors that satisfy human need: agriculture, trade, infrastructure, to name a few.

With demand far outstripping supply, world resources have and continue to be exploited unsustainably, leading to dire environmental degradation.

Take the case of freshwater, comprising only 2.5 per cent of the total volume of the world's water. 70 per cent of that freshwater is in the form of ice and permanent snow cover meaning that we have access to only 200,000km3.

It then isn't surprising that demand for water could soon exceed supply.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), estimates that by 2025, 1.8 billion

people will be living in countries or regions with absolute water scarcity.

Meanwhile, some 13 million hectares of the world's forests are lost each year, including six million hectares of primary forests; the most biologically diverse ecosystems on the planet.

Industrial logging, forest conversion for agriculture, firewood collection and forest fires are considered the leading causes of deforestation.

In a nutshell, it is evident that our current use of natural resources is unsustainable, and immediate interventions are needed to curb the situation.

The Green Economy - a means of improving human livelihood, while taking into consideration environmental impacts -

is the most viable way of tackling the problem at hand, not only for current, but also future generations.

A shift towards a green economy begins at an individual level, scaling up to macro economic and global levels.







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